



November 2022  
Vol. 45, Issue 1

# Hakol • הקול

## *A Community In Which Everyone Belongs*

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

Meditation teacher Tara Brach speaks about “severed belonging.” She’s naming the experience in which, by virtue of wounds we’ve endured, we lose a sense of belonging in our lives, absorbing messages that we are less worthy than others.

I’ve been contemplating this notion in light of our internal anti-racism efforts at Havurah, since we’ve been using this language of “belonging.” The phrase “severed belonging” wisely names the fact that something essential is being denied us through those wounds and messages. Fundamental to an anti-racist (and anti-oppression) worldview is the understanding that some people’s access to belonging is denied systemically, through collective structures and conditions.

At Havurah, by virtue of living in the society we do, we have to intentionally work to avoid mirroring those conditions of severed belonging and exclusion that exist all around us. The process that our consultants, Tabitha and Adam St. Bernard-Jacobs, have been guiding us through is aimed at perceiving more clearly how these dynamics manifest within Havurah, in ways that hurt our community members.

Through the 10 small groups they facilitated between April and September, as well as some responses shared in writing and direct conversation, Tabitha and Adam heard from 114 Havurah members. To all of you who’ve participated in the process so far, thank you. We now

all have the opportunity to hear from Tabitha and Adam, as they present their report to us on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 10 to noon, in Zoom Room Aleph. Please be there if you can, and look out for an email soon that will include a written report as well.

If you feel unclear about the nature of this process, or even why we’ve initiated it, please come on Nov. 6 and learn. What we glean from this phase will guide us into the next phase. Whatever that looks like, these are essential steps for us to take as we work toward becoming a community in which everyone belongs. Obviously, that work extends beyond race, but we cannot move toward fuller belonging without engaging wholeheartedly in building an anti-racist organization. To quote Tabitha and Adam again, from the March Hakol: “The goal of

our work is to identify issues that encourage and/or hinder belonging among congregants, particularly BI-POC members. Ultimately, the hope is to identify guideposts for—and a path to—a more equitable community.”

One of the things I love most about Havurah is how thoughtful and inclusive we are. My hope in this process is that we will be able to honestly encounter ways in which that inclusion doesn’t always extend to everyone. I believe and trust that we have the heart and dedication to meet these truths and respond to them in ways that move our Jewish community and Jewish lives into clearer alignment with our values. Through that work, we more fully become the community we aspire to be.

Please join me on Sunday the 6th.



The Havurah grounds are kept beautiful by volunteers who come to gardening parties such as the one that took place Oct. 24, to get us ready for fall!

**Havurah Shalom:** Our mission is to provide a vibrant, diverse, participatory Jewish community steeped in spirituality, learning, and acts of social responsibility. As we enact our mission, we are guided by [these values](#).

### Havurah Shalom Staff

**Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi**  
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**Adela Basayne, Program Director**  
adela@havurahshalom.org

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deborah@havurahshalom.org

**Carrie Kirschner, Youth Education & B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator**  
carrie@havurahshalom.org

**Rachel Pollak, Office & Facilities Manager**  
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### B'nei Mitzvah

Havurah will call to the Torah the following B'nei Mitzvah:

Nov. 12  
**Aleeza Stein**

Child of Talia and Daniel Stein

Nov. 26  
**Zeke Stein**

Child of Katie Liebler and Dan Stein

Please join us in celebration and welcome her to our community. Mazel tov!

# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

825 NW 18th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209-2333  
503.248.4662  
havurahshalom.org

**Hakol Contribution Deadline**  
November 18

[Misheberach List Form](#)

**Weekly Email Contribution Deadline**  
Tuesdays by Noon

### Regular Services at Havurah

All are welcome at our weekday services on Wednesday mornings and at our Friday and Saturday Shabbat services. Our [website calendar](#) provides dates and times for each.

Check the calendar for adjustments  
All services are hybrid, taking place at Havurah Shalom and in Zoom Room Aleph.

### Community Minyan

Saturday Mornings, 10-12 pm  
B'nei mitzvah take place at this time.

### Morning Minyan

Wednesday Mornings, 8:30-9 am

### Kabbalat Shabbat

Monthly, and now features nosh beforehand and a dinner afterward. Check calendar for schedule and to RSVP.

The Spiritual Life Committee also welcomes any who would like to join in on planning and leading services. Our community Shabbat services are lay-led and rely on a core of volunteers with Rabbi Benjamin. If you are interested in learning more about how to plug in, please contact the Havurah office.

### Condolences

**William Klein**, uncle of Larry Reichman and in-law of Jenn Louis, passed away Sept. 10.

**JoAnne Williams**, mother of Cam Williams, mother-in-law of Enie Vaisburd, and grandmother of Daniel and Jonathan Williams, passed away Sept. 3.

**Richard "Dick" Heitz**, father of Nancy Weintraub, father-in-law of Frank Weintraub, grandfather of Ben Weintraub, great-grandfather of Emmett and Eli Weintraub, passed away Oct. 1.

**Leora Lily Werner**, wife of Benjamin Werner, mother of Asa and Lilah Werner, daughter of Shera Sinell, step-daughter of Andrew Ehrlich, passed away Oct. 28.

**Ari Ronel Goldschmidt**, son of Michele and Robert Goldschmidt, brother of Ian and Lee Goldschmidt, passed away Oct. 28.



# HADRACHA

## Staffing Task Force: Now Hiring for New Position

We last reported on our activities in June. As a reminder this group began meeting in January 2022 and includes:

- Adela Basayne - Program Director, Staff Representative
- Oren Kosansky - Co-President, Liaison to Steering
- Shari Raider - Past Treasurer, Finance Committee Member
- R.E Szego - Shabbat School Parent and participant of Governance 2.0
- Alanna Silverman - longtime member who is a professional HR director
- Julia Lager-Mesulam - Governance 2.0 participant and former Havurah President involved in the former Staffing Task Force that hired our Program Director

[The Madricha] supports the youth education and B'nei Mitzvah programs.

We spent our initial months reviewing information from Governance 2.0, the Life of a Member project, staff recommendations for staffing scenarios, and spent time with staff and various stakeholder groups within Havurah.

Through all of that review and many conversations, we identified the following gaps:

- Administrative Support for Rabbi and Program Director
- Membership
- Music
- B'nei Mitzvah Support
- Programming for Youth/Post

### Staffing Task Force

B'nei Mitzvah

- Operations - Human Resource Functions
- Financial Tracking and Processes

We requested three positions in the current budget, which was approved, and the hiring and upcoming positing will be inline with our requests timeline and dollar amount.

We are happy to report that we have modified and increased hours to our former ACE, Assistant Coordinator of Education, to include B'nei Mitzvah support. This position is called Madricha (Guide) and is held by Carrie Kirscher, who has been Havurah's ACE for many years. This position supports the youth education and B'nei Mitzvah programs. The position is supervised jointly by the Education Director and the Program Director. The Madricha works in consultation with the Office and Facilities Manager, the Rabbi, the B'nei Mitzvah Committee, the Shabbat School co-chairs, the Middle School/High School Committee, and other relevant committees.

Next, we modified Havurah's Membership and Communications

position and are now calling it Participation and Publications Coordinator. This position will act as the administrative coordinator to facilitate Havurah's participatory, communal, and spiritual ethos among prospective, new, and longstanding members. This position will work closely with relevant committees and staff. This position also creates, edits and manages internal and external communications and databases. An interview committee has been formed, which will be led by Adela and the position will be posted by the time you read this update. We hope to have it in place by January.

Now we have moved our energies toward a position that we have not yet created a title for but which will fill the gap and take work off staff and members that impact our human resources and fiscal areas of Havurah. This position will not duplicate our Treasurer role but will partner with that person as well as the Finance Committee, Steering and Staff. We will be meeting with staff and other key stakeholders who will partner closely with this position as we develop the job description.

After this position we will move our energies towards the music position and administrative support needs.

If you have questions or input, please reach out to anyone on the Staffing Task Force.

B'shalom,

Julia Lager Mesulam, Shari Raider, Alana Silverman, R.E. Szego, Oren Kosansky, Adela Basayne

## Meeting the Needs of Our Growing Community

### Steering votes to recommend second floor

By Loree Devery  
Havurah Co-President

This article is an adaptation of the comments I shared on Erev Rosh Hashanah when I had the honor of addressing the community. I identified some of the challenges we face, while also recognizing the extraordinary breadth of opportunities and support we find at Havurah. I shared the steps Steering is taking to meet our needs—voting to recommend a building expansion project and raise funds for staff expansion.

- Our theme this year is Teshuvah – returning. Returning to what is – not what was. What “is” now at Havurah?
- Havurah is growing. We have nearly 500 member families now, 120 of whom have joined since March 2020, and though some members have left, too, our net growth curve has exceeded all projections.
- The Havurah building is stretched at the seams and struggling to meet our needs.
- Havurah is understaffed—with too few people to serve our growing congregation.

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### Steering Committee

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But even as we confront these realities, we also celebrate that Havurah is amazing.

- Our Youth Education programs are serving more families that ever.
- Through our Sanctuary Committee, Havurah continues to sponsor Maria and Carlos and we recently welcomed the Darmani family into our community.

Because of our  
growth, we need to  
invest in our future if  
we are going to  
continue to thrive.

- We are doing internal work around anti-racism and belonging, and we recently formed the Racial Justice Committee.
- We have an ongoing commitment to combatting climate change and working on poverty and homelessness issues.
- Our Neighborhood groups have re-grouped and re-energized—creating yet another opportunity for community and connection.
- The Book Group reads, the Welcome Committee welcomes, Adult Learning students learn, the Alte Rockers rock it, our mu-

sicians make music, and Lotsa Helping Hands helps a lotsa.

- We regularly have Mindfulness & Meditation, Weekly Torah study, Wednesday Morning Minyan, youth and adult B’nei Mitzvah, Community Minyans, and Contemplative Shabbats.

The list goes on and on. What are we returning to? This amazing, loving, creative Havurah Shalom that astounds and inspires us.

But, as you have heard me say in Hakol and at our Congregational Meeting—Havurah is at a turning point. Because of our growth, we need to invest in our future if we are going to continue to thrive as an inclusive and participatory community.

In September, the Steering Committee voted to recommend that we add a full second floor to our building. We also looked at what investment we need to make to meet our future staffing needs. We are now poised to hire a capital campaign consultant to assess the feasibility of this “Campaign for Havurah”—a substantial fundraising effort that will address both our building and staff expansion needs.

You will be hearing a lot more about all of this in the months to come, but it is very exciting to share with you that Steering is taking the steps we need to move forward with this effort. In the context of Teshuvah, we are returning to what is and we are moving forward toward our next incarnation as a community.



# HADRACHA

## Anti-Racism Consultants to Present Findings, Recs

**10 am to noon**  
**Sunday, Nov. 6**  
**Zoom Room Aleph only**

Our consultant team, Tabitha and Adam St. Bernard-Jacobs, facilitated 10 small groups between April and September, and in total heard from 114 Havurah members. This Sunday they will present what they learned with us, share some ideas for actualizing the learning, and give some opportunity for reflection. What we

[Link to Written Report](#)

glean from this listening phase will guide us into the next phase of our antiracism efforts, so please join us to learn and be part of it.

[Rabbi Benjamin has recorded a special invitation to the gathering.](#)

## Our Return/Teshuvah brings joy and new challenges

**Staff, volunteers,  
community help us  
support each other  
at Havurah**

**By Karen Ballard**  
**Kehillah Cluster Lead**

One of the duties of a Steering Committee member is to write an article for our monthly newsletter, HaKol (The Voice). This is my second time around. We're kind of on our own here on choice of topic, within our own sensibilities of the task.

After several days of noodling to no avail, I'm going with our annual congregational theme of Teshuvah—Return.

Our Return this year started off

### *Steering Committee*

with a bang—High Holiday services back at the Tiffany Center, Shabbat School and High School classes, a Kabbalat Shabbat dinner, and many other IN PERSON activities.

This is a Big Return indeed—and yet, as we return, we are stepping into what Is Now, not what Was Before. Our Return Now means continual monitoring of health measures. We now provide hybrid services and meetings, to protect both the community and the individual.

Our Return Now to Havurah recreates the space we had for communal prayer and contemplation. We are blessed to have sacred space to

find God, return to our “best selves,” and search for answers to help repair the world.

Our Return finds each of us at a different place in our Teshuvah. We are fortunate to have a community who will help support us as we each find our way. We are fortunate to have a rabbi who helps lead us, an education director who helps school us, and staff who help connect and support us. We are fortunate to have many volunteers who create a structure for our community, and do the necessary work to maintain the community.

Let us recognize humbly that the whole of Havurah is indeed greater than the sum of our parts, and may our community prosper in doing Teshuvah this year.

PS: [A great article for those who want to read a little bit about Teshuvah](#)

**Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation, Tuesdays, noon to 1 pm,  
in Zoom Room Bet**

We gather to find some moments of quiet and shalom. All are welcome.  
Led by Rabbi Benjamin, Adela Basayne, or Nancy Becker.

שלום

## The “Stretchiness” of a Bitter/Sweet Return

By Bija Gutoff

**Note:** *In the December issue of Hakol, we will share what we learned about our High Holidays offerings based on data we gathered and your survey responses.*

When I arrived early at the Tiffany Center for Rosh Hashanah, that echoey, high-ceilinged room was already starting to buzz with people greeting each other, musicians tuning up their instruments, seat-savers calling out, “Over here!” I had that feeling you get disembarking at an airport in a long-unvisited country. The space itself perked up my sense-memories. I heard the sounds of a language I spoke, but my vocabulary was rusty.

I looked for friends and exchanged a few longer-than-usual hugs. Those squeezes said, “Yes, we are here.” I noticed other friends by their absence, feeling little stabs of concern when I scanned the places where they usually sat. Were they ok?

During the service my pandemic-attuned awareness was soon overloaded; it was a bit of a blur. Afterwards, what stayed with me was the freshness of our being together again—it was sparkly, alive.

Too, I felt that our homecoming contained some sandpapery grit, real and raw. Everyone was changed. We wore our experiences of the last two-and-a-half years in our voices, our faces, our postures, our hair, our hands that gripped more tightly or shook a little, our smiles less automatic and more heartfelt. We did not take one another, or the moment, for granted.



### High Holidays Planning Committee

I realize now that the pandemic instilled in me a more elastic sense of community. Walking into the Tiffany Center I didn’t think, as usual, “This is us,” but rather, “This is some of us.” I was keenly aware of how we extend beyond that room. That some people were participating online, in Portland and elsewhere. That others were not able to participate. That some of our extended community had died since we last gathered in person for High Holidays. They were with us, too. I felt stretched by this awareness—more flexible, ready to include more, better able to snap back to the moment.

I saw that elasticity on the bimah, when more people than ever came up to be honored and blessed. I felt that stretchiness as our service leaders welcomed new members—our family has grown, mazel tov, make the circle bigger! I witnessed it in

the multiplicity of voices sharing drashot, song, prayer, reflection, leadership—multi-colored threads weaving a stronger and more beautiful fabric.

By the time I returned for Yom Kippur, a day that often pulls me toward feelings of guilt and insufficiency, I felt a simple gladness. Just to be in that stretched physical and virtual space with whoever was there—whether in body, spirit, or memory. It was warm with our connections to one another, deepened during the pandemic. People drawn together by the light our community is kindling.

As the day wore on, the intensity swelled and the sense of our shared purpose grew more visceral. The tasks ahead—both personal and communal—are as real as it comes. But my body felt light, aware that each person near me also carried a portion of the charge. And aware that the energy we create together is joyful. Despite the masks on many faces, we had become more transparent to one another. I felt grateful for our community that showed up, and will return, again and again.





## KEHILLAH

# *Now You Know: HavuraHoods*

### *Neighborhoods Committee*

**By Elianne Lieberman**

In the beginning:

It was 2019. Members of the Kehillah and Makom clusters came together with this goal: find an additional way for Havurah members to connect with each other. Something beyond what we normally do, connecting through activities like Shabbat School or Wednesday Morning Minyan. They noted: the congregation has grown tremendously in the past seven to ten years and members live throughout the Portland metropolitan area and beyond. They wondered, "What if connections could be made between members who live near each other?"

The goal would be simple: create social, emotional, and spiritual connections among neighbors. Neighbors could carpool to Havurah

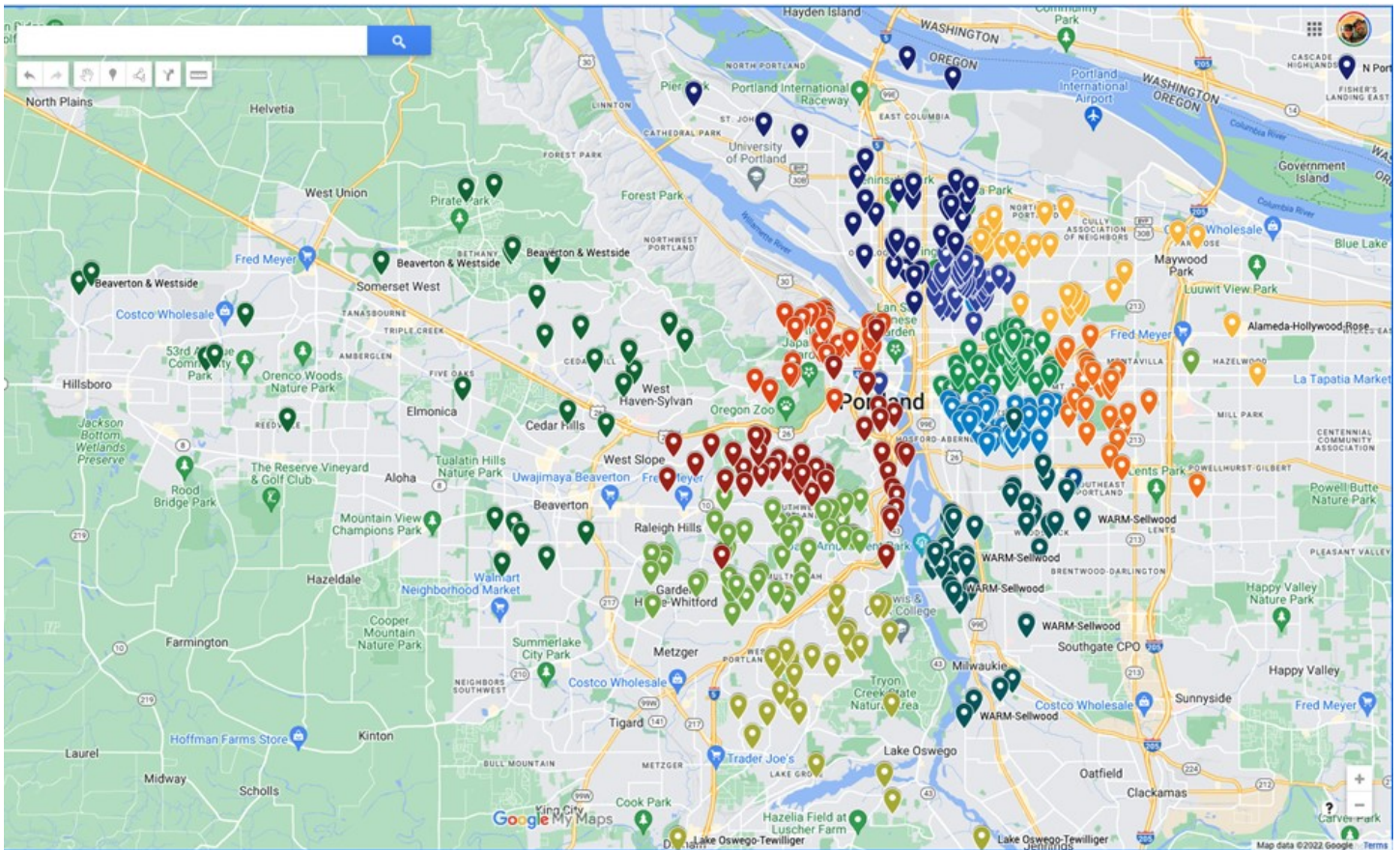
*(Continued on page 8)*



Havurahniks created community within their neighborhoods this fall on a Washington Park outing and at Tashlich in Laurelhurst Park.



# KEHILLAH



This map shows where Havurah households live and who they live near, allowing HavuraHoods to create neighborhood groups. The people in the groups can then communicate, gather, and build local community. The key on the next page shows neighborhood names and captains.

## *All About HavuraHoods, con'd*

*(Continued from page 7)*

events, support each other if one of them experienced a death, injury, or illness, or gather for a Shabbat meal.

They designed 26 small neighborhood groups each consisting of 18 to 22 households, wrote a job description for the “captains” who would be each neighborhood’s point people, and recruited the captains.

Thus, Havurah Neighborhoods, or HavuraHoods, were born. The program was just rolling out in 2020—when Covid hit.

Fast forward to summer of 2022, and it was time to evaluate and rein-

vigorate the program. The results: combine some neighborhoods so there are only 12, get the word out so everyone in Havurah knows that the HavuraHoods exist (hence this article), recruit captains to fill the vacancies.

And what have neighborhoods been up to? Whatever suits their needs and wants. Doing Tashlich together, serenading the neighbors, eating brunch together, walking in Washington Park, providing a porch to collect items for The Common Good Project, planning a Chanukah potluck, enjoying each other’s com-

pany. “Dinner was a rousing success,” one captain reported. “We want to continue our new friendships.”

Want to know where your Havurahood is? And who are the captains? Find out on the map on the following pages.

If you are interested in being a neighborhood captain (you make of it what you want it to be), or have questions about the job, contact Stefanie Hausman. If you have an idea for your Havurahood, reach out to your captains.













**Key on Next Page**



# KEHILLAH

## All About HavuraHoods

This key identifies the neighborhood groups shown on the previous page. The captains of each group facilitate communication, activities, and coordination when needed from the Welcome Committee, which organizes HavuraHoods. Want to do a thing with your Havurah neighbors? Contact your neighborhood caption for help or advice! Want to be a captain? Contact Stefanie Hausman.

HavuraHood	Captains
 Alameda-Hollywood-Rose City	Jenni Besen Amanda Davidowitz David Dropkin
 Beaverton & Westside	Anita Haeems Cindy Merrill Beth Shreve
 Belmont-Laurelhurst	Ellen Regal [CAPTAIN NEEDED] (Laurelhurst West)
 Hawthorne-Division	Stefanie Hausman Jane Elin
 Irvington	Estee Segel Sarah Shine Michelle Bobowick
 Lake Oswego-Tewilliger	Jeannie Teitelman Sue Abrams Lawrence Hipshman Ted Scheinman
 Mt Tabor	Amy Lennon Stacy Hankin Seth Kaplan
 Multnomah-Hillsdale	Larry Jacobson Janice Kettler
 N Portland-Sabin-SW Wash	Gloria Halper [CAPTAIN NEEDED] [CAPTAIN NEEDED]
 NW Portland-Pearl	Abigail Webb Kate Loggan
 SW Hills & South Waterfront	[CAPTAIN NEEDED] [CAPTAIN NEEDED]
 WARM-Sellwood	Allan Cordova Sacha Reich

## KEHILLAH

# Back in the building? Grab a nametag!

By Stefanie Hausman  
Welcome Committee Lead

"A good name is more desirable than great riches, a good reputation than silver and gold." —Proverbs 22:1

If you've been back at our building lately, you may have noticed some people wearing wooden name tags, while others are still using sticker name tags. Well, all adult members have a Havurah wooden name tag! This was an effort by the Welcome Committee, ironically just launched days prior to the pandemic lockdown! And now that we've gotten used to seeing people's names and faces in boxes on the Zoom screen, we can have this same magic in person!

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### Welcome Committee

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If you have not yet used your name tag, you should be able to find it in one of the alphabetized boxes in the coat room. Extra magnets are there too—or feel free to grab a lanyard if that's your preference. Once you use

your name tag, you can alphabetize it on the back board by the restrooms. If you'd like to customize your name tag with your preferred pronouns, for example, feel free to grab a sharpie and write on the sticker (preferably not on the wood).

Since new nametags have not been printed since 2020, Rachel and Adela will be printing name tags for all new and new-ish members in November. Please wait to hear from them instead of requesting one—your nametag is on its way!

## Learn all about Medicare with the Alte Rockers

### *Expertise provided*

5 pm, Monday, Nov. 7  
Zoom Room Bet

Are you struggling deciding about whether you should change your Medicare Insurance? We are being bombarded with all sorts of information, but perhaps we can share our experiences with different policies to make better decisions.

We will meet to share our experiences on Zoom at Havurah. Hopefully, we will have an insurance broker joining us to clarify the issues. Contact Ted Scheinman for more information. Brought to you by the Alte Rockers. [RSVP](#)

## RSVP for Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, Nov. 11, 6 pm Light Snack — 6:30 Service — 7:30 Dinner

A family-friendly oneg followed by a spirited, all-ages service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward for those who wish to stay. All are welcome! [RSVP here](#) (Below: A 2019 Kabbalat Shabbat service.)



## TIKKUN OLAM

# End of Shmita Year Brings Renewed Energy

By Adele Thompson

Following an unusually long year, with an early Rosh Hashanah 2021 (5872 in the Jewish calendar) and a late one this year, the shmita year (sabbatical for the land) was completed at Sukkot. Thematically integrated programming, which even included a shmita email for questions (rarely used), was a new experience for Havurah's Climate Action Team (HCAT), and the many Havurahniks who joined us.

We began the year by studying the traditional biblical restrictions on foods and farming but opted for a modernized more comprehensive experience. We honored the land and its produce by encouraging support of local sustainable agriculture. We celebrated Earth Day by bird watching at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Mindful of the environment, we chose to buy less stuff, trading out-grown books and toys at two Chanukah giveaways. With a mending party, we opted to repair our torn clothing instead of discarding it, doubtless a first for those darning their socks on Zoom. With the leadership of the Poverty and Homelessness Committee, we shared the gleanings of our wardrobes by collecting winter clothing to give.

We held two very comprehensive programs about smarter purchasing and recycling at the individual scale, addressing the doubts we all have about whether personal actions matter.

We studied ways to put our money to better use through investments in ethical, environmentally informed financial instruments, and we offered follow-up advice and support

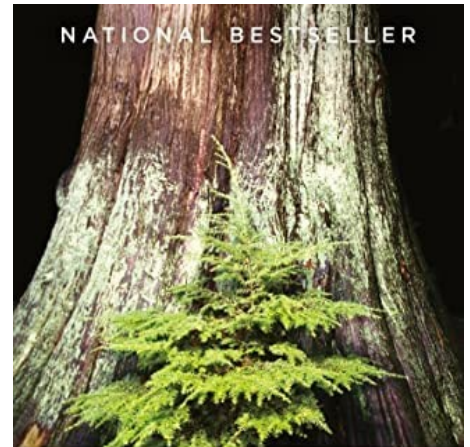
We Are Starting a New Book

First and Third Mondays, 5:30 pm, Zoom Room Bet

The hallmark of HCAT's book studies is that we take our time. Meeting on the first and third Monday of each month, **5:30-6:30**, until we finish the book, we read manageable chunks and share our reflections with a partner before engaging in a group discussion.

This has worked well for managing busy lives, and if we can't make it to all the sessions.

Join us **Nov. 7** to begin discussing *Finding the Mother Tree*, *Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard. RSVP on Havurah's calendar. Read the Intro and Chapters 1-2.



**FINDING THE  
MOTHER TREE**  
Discovering the  
Wisdom of the Forest  
**SUZANNE SIMARD**

"Elegantly detailed . . . deeply personal. . . A testament to Simard's skill as a science communicator." —The New York Times

### Havurah Climate Action Team

for making these big economic changes.

We cared for ourselves too. There were two evenings for relaxing by sketching and other crafts. Professionally led discussions helped build resilience for facing the climate crisis.

We considered questions of land ownership with the aid of a course led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah member/journalist/author Rebecca Clarren. And at the Reconstructing Judaism National Conference, two HCAT members addressed how con-

gregations might begin to embody their values.

If you missed any of these activities, contact us at [shmita@havurahshalom.org](mailto:shmita@havurahshalom.org) to see if we have a recording or handouts from a program.

Some of the activities are now ongoing, such as the rewarding book group, and there are plans to repeat popular ones, like the Chanukah giveaway.

Strengthened by this broad array of shmita experiences, we are moving into the rest of the cycle, seven sets of seven shmita years that lead to a Jubilee year, a year which includes setting all slaves free. Living with deeper awareness, we hope to be prepared for the next shmita year in 5789, just 6 years away.



# *Darmani family settles in with new job & car*

By Michael Rice

### *Afghan Family Support Team*

As the Havurah community celebrated the New

Year at the Tiffany Center or on Zoom, we heard Margie Rosenthal make an important ask from our Afghan Family Support Group. Zakrullah Darmani needed a reliable, affordable car as a condition for his employment at IRCO, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, where he has worked since July.

IRCO supports immigrants, refugees and other community members to become self-sufficient ([irco.org](http://irco.org)). As an employment specialist, Zakrullah supports IRCO clients with resume skills, job searches, and interview appointments.

Able to work from home two days a week, Zakrullah urgently needed a car to take on the full scope of his IRCO responsibilities.

Thanks to the deep generosity of the Havurah community and logistical help from Lauren Fortgang and Karen Sherman, Zakrullah now drives a 2012 Toyota Camry and has AAA auto insurance. Zakrullah is learning Portland's interesting traffic patterns with the help of Siri, who he says, with a smile, gets him everywhere he needs to go.

The family is also eager to explore the greater Portland area. Last weekend, Zakrullah took Horia and baby Zoya to Multnomah Falls. Zakrullah also plans to teach Horia to drive.

Meanwhile, Fran Berg, Robbin Deweese, and Karen Sherman share time visiting Horia, Zoya and Zakrullah weekly. The Afghan Family Support Group also continues to meet weekly to coordinate financial and other assistance to the family. Zakrullah has said, "I would never have expected to receive help from a group such as yours."

Zakrullah and Horia feel at home in their apartment. However, we also know they are deeply concerned and



Zakrullah Darmani in his car, which will help him take on the full scope of his responsibilities at work and allow his family to explore the greater Portland area.

anxious to help their extended families still in Afghanistan.

Our community's generosity has sustained the Darmani family in their first months in Portland. The Darmanis and the Afghan Family Support Group thank everyone. With the Havurah Refugee and Immigrant Fund now in place, financial donations to help the Darmanis are tax-deductible. We look forward to keeping you updated on Darmani family news.

**Donate to the new Havurah Refugee and Immigrant Fund**

The fund is tax-deductible.



## News From the Streets: P/H Drives Successful

By Marcia Sutttenberg

The Poverty and Homelessness Committee extends a big thanks on behalf of Rose Haven and the Common Good Project. Over the High Holidays we collected dozens of boxes of food and clothing for these two programs. All items are already being distributed to homeless folks in need.

We also sponsored a community discussion of needs, services available, volunteer opportunities, and general concerns and issues related to the needs of homeless folks.

A number of participants suggested we have another gathering to talk about some of the important policy and program ideas that are currently being proposed by our local and state politicians related to emergency shelters, camping, and building more affordable permanent housing. Before we can get behind advocating for any of these proposals, it was suggested we have more education and discussion about what is important to our community. The Poverty and Homelessness Committee will be following up on this suggestion and expects to sponsor another community discussion.

Some heartfelt sharing at this event:

"The housed and unhoused are two different cultures with different needs—reserve judgement."

"When someone is talking and it makes no sense—it's their reality in their head. Just listen, let them feel heard."

"People become homeless for all kinds of reasons."



Donations from Havurahniks are delivered down the street to Rose Haven, a day shelter for women and kids that the Poverty and Homelessness Committee is partnering with.

### Poverty and Homelessness Committee

Two members shared stories of taking leftovers to a camp: when interacting about the food (leftover bagged break fast food from this year), a person receiving the food asked, "Are my social skills okay?" The other member made 30 sandwiches with her Thanksgiving leftovers and brought those to a camp saying that one understanding of Tikkun Olam is that we're obligated to participate in the face of need even if we may not finish the work

Questions or interest in working on Homeless issues? Please contact our committee chairs Gloria Halper or Steve Rudman.

### P/H Partners

[Portland Homeless Family Solutions](#) empowers homeless families with kids for long-term housing.

[Interfaith Alliance on Poverty](#), a volunteer-driven advocacy group. Come to 1st-Thursday meetings with speakers addressing issues of homelessness and poverty.

[The Common Good Project](#), founded by Havurah member Jenn Louis, distributes supplies for basic needs, and employs our homeless neighbors to clean and maintain public streets.

[Lift Urban Portland](#) provides food and supports low-income residents in NW and downtown Portland.

[Rose Haven Day Shelter](#) is for women, kids, & marginalized genders experiencing homelessness and poverty. RoseHaven is in our NW neighborhood, only blocks from Havurah, and it provides opportunities for youth volunteer projects.



# HAVURAH IN PICTURES



Shabbat School celebrates Havdallah on Oct. 8, led by Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Education Director.



Havurahniks celebrate Tashlich at Westmoreland Park with music and spontaneous dancing.



Shabbat School Grade 6 serves dinner at Doreen's Place, a homeless shelter, on Oct. 9.





Jacob Goldfeld, left, and David Lewis work hard to construct our sukkah on Oct. 9. It came up beautifully with the help of many hands, and skach for the roof was donated by Shelley Sobel.



The torah scroll was unrolled and the end and beginning were read in celebration of the beginning of the reading cycle.



The Havurah shofar blowers wake us all up at Rosh Hashanah.





Above, Cindy Merrill leads Israeli dancing at Simchat Torah, while bottom, left, Barbara Slader leads Tashlich at Cathedral Park on Oct. 2. Bottom right, the Alter Rockers took over the sukkah on Oct. 13. They left it still standing.





# New committee for Havurah teens brings community

## Teen Engagement Committee

On Sunday Sept. 18, approximately 25 Havurah teens, grades 7 to 12, gathered at Sellwood Park for a pizza party. Touch football, frisbee, cornhole and hanging out occurred and fun was had.

The event was sponsored by the Teen Engagement Committee, whose focus is to support Havurah teens, allowing them to hang out and socialize in a semi-structured safe environment.

The committee is looking for teens who are interested in getting involved to help plan other events. **All 7th- to 12th-graders please join us for our second Havurah Teen Event on November 13, 12:30-3:00 for a Bowling Pizza Party at Superplay (9300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy).** A \$10-\$15 contribution per teen participant will help toward the cost of bowling, food, drinks and arcade tickets, and scholarships will be available.

Parents of teens can look for an invitation email and announcements in Hinenu in the coming weeks. Parents can add their teen's email and phone number information to the membership directory via the Havurah Shalom website so information can be sent to them directly.

Right: Teens enjoy pizza and the open air at Sellwood Park at the first Teen Engagement Committee event, Sept. 18.





## LIMUD

### Book Group Explores Ways to Peace in Israel/Palestine

Several members of the Portland Jewish community met and were impressed by Jonathan Kuttat last year (even if they did not necessarily agree with him).

Kuttat explains that the two-state solution (that he supported) is no longer viable. He suggests that any solution be predicated on the basic existential needs of the two peoples, which he discusses in exceptional detail.

He formulates a one-state solution that challenges both Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. This book invites readers to begin a new conversation based on reality: two peoples will need to live together. Separation is no longer possible or

**November Book**  
**Led by Joel Beinin**

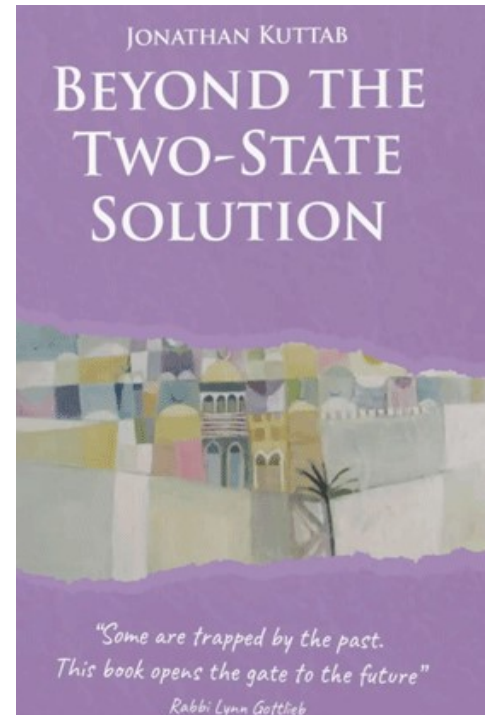
#### **Beyond a Two State Solution**

by Jonathan Kuttat  
Nonfiction, 110 pages

**Tuesday, Nov. 22**  
**Location TBA**

A free copy of this book  
is [available for download here](#).

(for some) desirable. Discussion led  
by Joel Beinin. Nonmembers wel-  
come.



## **SAVE THE DATE for Scholars in Residence**

**Learning will focus on  
anti-racism and  
Mussar; RSVPs open  
Nov. 7; look for email**

By happy circumstance, we invited our scholars in residence this year, Rabbi David Jaffe (virtually) and Yehuda Webster (in person) from the Inside Out Wisdom and Action Project (IOWA)\*, before we knew the date of the consultants' report. What good fortune for us. Havurah is seeking to become a truly anti-racist organization, through classes, committee work, the Anti-Racism and Belonging discussion groups, and the upcoming (Nov. 6, 10 am, Zoom Room

**Rabbis David Jaffe  
& Yehuda Webster**  
**Nov. 19-20**

Aleph) report from the facilitators of those groups, which will lead us into next steps.

Yehuda and Rabbi David will bring us integrating teaching and practice directly related to two things Havurahniks have been learning about since 2020: anti-racism and Mussar.

Mussar is the method of studying and strengthening character traits, called middot, through Jewish texts, self reflection, meditation, hevruta (partners), and va'ad (small group) support.

You may have encountered Mus-

sar through one of Rabbi Benjamin's Sacred Action classes, through reading R. Jaffe's book (Changing the World from the Inside Out) or the work of Alan Moranis.

Yehuda Webster and David Jaffe will be with us for Havdalah, Saturday night, and then all day Sunday. We'll do Mussar practices and learn about Dismantling Racism from the Inside Out, with time for meeting together panim el panim (face to face), and lunch.

**Watch your email Monday, Nov. 7, for more program details and RSVP for sessions and meals.**

\*The IOWA Project work helps social changemakers develop Jewish spiritual practices and connect to Jewish spiritual wisdom. [More about Inside Out](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Tributes

### General Contributions

Katherine McDowell and Ken Lerner, in memory of Selma Lerner.

Hannah Ferber, in honor of the Havurah Shalom community opening up services to non-members. Thank you!

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in memory of our parents, Dave and Millie Berlin and Eddie and Pauline Siegman.

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in honor of our children, Ingrid Siegman, Tara Siegman, and Drew Siegman.

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in honor of our grandchildren, Josh Welter, Aaron Siegman, and Elana Siegman.

Edy Dorsen, in memory of my mother Pearl Pripas and husband Michael Dorsen.

Pam and Gary Sultany, in memory of Dr. Robert (Bob) Epstein. May his memory be a blessing. Our condolences to the Havurah Shalom community, Bob's wife Mimi Epstein, and sons Mark and Neal Epstein and their families.

### Adult Education Fund

Miryam and Roger Brewer, in memory of my dear friend, Anne Lebwahl.

### Religious Articles Fund

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in

memory of Jessica Steinberg, daughter of Rick Steinberg, stepdaughter of Harriet Steinberg.

### Tikkun Olam Fund

Lou Savage, in memory of Herb and Adele Savage.

### High Holidays Contributions

Hanna T. Siegel, in honor of Eden Siegel-Lukin, in honor of your stellar Torah service. Brava! Shana Tova!

Janice and Mark Kettler, in honor of everyone who had a hand in returning us to the Tiffany Center and making these High Holidays extra special and inclusive.

Marcia Klotz, in honor of beautiful and moving High Holy Days, with gratitude.

Maxine Schwartz, in honor of Rosella and Yale Katz.

Daniel Lenski, in honor of Alice Honig (my 94-year-old grandma in Syracuse, New York).

Monica Moriarty and Bill Kwitman, in honor of all the hard work of Havurah members and staff to make High Holidays happen.

What a blessing!

Frances Payne Adler, in memory of Sybil Gordon Payne.

### Havurah Endowment Fund

Lisa and David Ellenberg, in memory of Harold Ellenberg.

Mimi Epstein, in memory of Sylvia Epstein (mother of Bob Epstein). Carol and Sy Chestler in memory of Bob Epstein.

Carol and Sy Chestler, in memory of my mother, Golda Chestler; my father, Sidney Chestler; and my brother, Herb Chestler.

### Building Fund

Dale Oller, in honor of Dave Weil's birthday.

Fran Berg, with a big thank you to all the people who worked on the kitchen small remodel project for the past 2+ years with me: Phil Walters, Joan Peck, Rachel Pollak, Jennifer Kolman.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Beth Kaye, in appreciation for Rabbi Benjamin's kindness and warmth.

Margie and Elden Rosenthal, in honor of Dave Weil's 80th birthday!

Les Schwartz, in memory of Helen Schwartz.

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Gussie Goldfine, mother of Harriet Steinberg, mother-in-law of Rick Steinberg.

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Jessica Steinberg, daughter of Richard Steinberg, stepdaughter of Harriet Steinberg.



## New Series: The Journey to Die For

The Ma'Avar Committee will be hosting an education series about the different stages of life, from health to illness, aging and end of life at 7 pm on Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19,

Feb. 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, and July 20. The series will be offered in a hybrid format. Join us at Havurah Shalom or in Zoom Room Bet.

7 pm, Thursday, Nov. 17  
Havurah & Zoom Room Bet

Rabbi Benjamin will open the series with a talk on Jewish rituals in death and dying at the November meeting.

**RSVP**

## Gratitude to Havurahniks

**By Ben Walters**  
**Steering Past-President**

This year's High Holiday services and gatherings manifested Havurah's theme for the new year—Teshuvah—or returning. Actively engaging in Teshuvah can lead to re-discovering our generous selves, remembering our deeper aspirations, and turning to one another in new ways.

In returning to community in person, we should acknowledge gratitude for the wonderful contributions which made gathering in community engaging, warm, welcoming, and supportive.

As there are too many people and groups to thank each of them individually, what follows are some examples of the contributions for which we give thanks:

To the Havurah staff and the many volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to make these High Holiday services happen.

To Sacha Reich for the tremendous commitment of time and energy, for managing all the various aspects of High Holiday services, for communicating with all service leaders, making sure all aspects are filled, and everyone is on the same page.

To Rachel Pollak and Adela Basayne and all the volunteers for all the behind the scenes organizing in setting up the Tiffany Center.

To Sacha Reich, the rest of the High Holidays Committee, and all the many service leaders, for beautiful and meaningful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in person at the Tiffany Center and streamed online.

To Buff Neretin and the other Zoom facilitators.

To Andrine de la Rocha, Howard Patterson, and Diane Chaplin for their daily Shofar blasts during the entire month of Elul, together with messages of intention (kavanot), and for hosting the Zoom gatherings during the Days of Awe—Text, Talk and Teshuvah.

To all those who participated in organizing the Rosh Hashanah gathering (A Sweet New Year for You) at Sellwood Park on Sept. 25.

To everyone who organized and participated in the Rosh Hashanah Family Service at Peninsula Park on Sept. 26 and Tashlich at Cathedral Park on Oct. 2.

To all those who participated in organizing and leading the Westside-Beaverton Tashlich at Foothills Park on Sept. 26 and the Southeast Tashlich at Laurelhurst Park on Oct. 3.

To those who organized the activities of song and re-

membrance at the Havurah Cemetery on Oct. 2.

To the many service leaders who led and leyned over the holiday cycle, and to all those who offered drashot throughout the High Holidays. Special call outs to Sam Sirkin for facilitating onsite, and to Margie Rosenthal for her wonderful musical leadership. To those who organized the Yom Kippur Family Service. To the Havurah Climate Action Team for their leading the Tikkun Olam discussion during the Yom Kippur break.

To Heidi Bader and Megan Koler for organizing the brown bag break fast on Yom Kippur, as well as those who contributed food and assembled the bags.

To everyone who participated in organizing and volunteering for the Simchat Torah Celebration on Oct. 17, and to Cindy Merrill for her dance lessons.

To the Poverty and Homelessness Committee for organizing two very successful donation efforts for Elul and the High Holidays Tzedakah collections.

To Michael Heumann for leading the Braiding Sweetgrass discussion by Zoom.

Gratitude for all those supporting the work of the Staffing Task Force, including Hank Kaplan and Liz Joffe.

Many thanks to Steve Katz for representing Havurah on the Federation's Climate Team and for taking the lead on the solar panel project.

To Fran Berg and Karen Erde, who are cycling off the Geshet Committee. Fran's untiring organizational skills and energy and Karen's good judgment will be greatly missed, though we know that other Havurah groups will benefit as Fran and Karen direct their volunteering to them.

To Robert Trachtenberg and Loree Devery for opening up their home and hosting a Bonim gathering with Rabbi Benjamin.

To Sarah Shine and J.D. Kleinke for their service to Havurah as the co-chairs for the Music Committee.

To Joe Sullivan and Michael Heumann for the quick turnaround in their technical review of the environmental conditions report for the First Immanuel site lease.

To the many persons who contribute their time and energy to Havurah who have not otherwise been specifically mentioned—Thank You! Havurah exists as a community because of each of your many contributions, in whatever form these may be given.

If there are any appreciations you think should be mentioned in the future, please contact Ben Walters.



# BACK PAGE

## **Where is the calendar?**

Staff is doing a test run of Hakol without the calendar usually found at the back. We'd love [your feedback](#).

Havurah Shalom events, gatherings, services, classes, updated schedule information, office closures, Jewish holidays and more can always be found online on our website at <https://www.havurahshalom.org/calendar>. We hope you will bookmark it and join in on the events that are added there throughout the month.

## **Which Zoom Room is that in?**

You can also find location information for events by clicking into their entries on the calendar! And that's where you'll be able to RSVP too!

