



January 2023
Vol. 45, Issue 3

Hakol • הקול

These are the Names

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

“And these are the names of the children of Israel who came to *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) with Jacob....” So begins the book of Exodus, which we enter this month. In Hebrew the book is called *Sh’mot*, “Names,” a title which comes—as is the case with all of the Five Books in Hebrew—from one of the first words of the book’s first portion. In this case, “And these are the *names*...”

On the one hand the name *Sh’mot* is simply one word at the very beginning of the book. The name we use in English, Exodus, seems a much better fit for the book’s entirety. The Exodus gives birth to the People and leads to the receiving of Torah and the journey toward the Promised Land. On the surface, the title “Names” bears little connection to the content of the book as a whole. After all, the names in question belong to people, Jacob’s sons, whose death is announced in the very first verses of the book. Each of those people is already long gone by the time the book’s story begins in earnest. “Names,” however, reminds us that while the narrative tells of the specific people leaving Egypt, those who came before them are still very much at the heart of the story.

We each have parts of ourselves that did not originate with us. Much of who we are, in fact. Not simply from our parents, but generations in the making—yearnings, fears, struggles. This is not to deny our own agency, but rather to understand our



The Mt. Tabor Havurah held a neighborhood open house for eighth night of Chanukah.

gifts and our obstacles in the context of larger cycles of becoming. I’m consistently grateful for this awareness, as it helps me understand my own healing and growth as a continuation of the healing and growth my ancestors were, for any number of reasons, unable to do or could only take so far.

As with the individual, so with the collective. In recent years, more of us have become aware of how we carry the trauma of past generations within us. As a Jewish community, in particular, this understanding is essential. But for each of us, whether we are Jewish or not, our striving to live healthy lives, and our pursuit of justice and healing in the world, is greatly served by our understanding the ways in which we carry the

trauma of past generations within us.

Just as the generation of the Exodus bore within themselves the lives of those who went down to *Mitzrayim*, so do we carry within and amidst us generations past. We are both sustained and burdened by the ways they found to survive and thrive. “Names,” in this light, becomes a reminder that these lives of ours encompass more than we know, and what we heal is not for us alone.

Whether we know each specific name or not, the awareness of ancestral life and legacy can connect us not only with past generations, but more fully with ourselves and one another. May we turn toward this understanding with care and heartfelt attention.

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](#).

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B'nei Mitzvah

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

Jan. 14

Tevi Sánchez

Child of Sandy Bacharach

Feb. 4

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Cohort

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

January 20

Havurah Website Calendar

Weekly Email

Contribution Deadline

Tuesdays by Noon

Misheberach List Form



Condolences

Joe Reynolds, brother-in-law of Julie Hastings and Oren Kosansky, passed away Dec. 21.

Tributes

High Holidays Contributions

Mark Lenetsky, in memory of Ben and Shirley Lenetsky.

Doris Kertzner, in honor of the Kertzner Family.

Tikkun Olam Fund

Judi and Martin Soloway, in memory of my mother, Fannie Chazanow.

Linda Zuckerman, in memory of my parents, Lou and Harriette Zuckerman.

Adult Education Fund

Reena Lewis, in memory of my beloved father, Roland Lewis.

Reena Lewis, in memory of my beloved mother, Rachel Lewis.

General Contributions

Nancy Spigal, for Havurah.

James Hipsher, in memory of Debbie Alvarez.

Erica Kass, in honor of Evan King, for

your help in our new home purchase. Gigi Pomerantz, in memory of Enid Shames.

Leatrice Kaplan, in memory of Bernard Kaplan.

Cemetery Fund

Suzanne Pickgrobe, in memory of Al- len and Mildred Pick.

Vicki and Alan Rotstein, in memory of Leora Werner.

Havurah Endowment Fund

Adela Basayne, in memory of my mother, Eleanor Babat.

Eve Berry, in memory of Leora Werner and Ari Goldschmidt, two lives taken too soon. May their memories be a blessing!

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Marsha and Lee Miller, in honor of Beth, Andy, Ben, Daphne and Sarah Shreve.

TIKKUN OLAM

Darmani Family Enjoys Thanksgiving in PDX

Afghan Family Support Group

By Michael Rice

The Darmanis, with the help of the Afghan Family Support Group, and with their own energetic initiative, continue to build their home in Portland. Zakrullah's work as an employment specialist with the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO) now includes training new staff. Horia is looking forward to starting two English classes at Portland Community College in January.

In November, Zakrullah, Horia, and baby Zoya had their first Thanksgiving in Portland. Robin Deweese and her family hosted the Darmanis and many friends, sharing conversations with guests from three continents.

In December, Zakrullah, along with Beka Feathers, Lauren Fortgang, Bob Brown and Michael Rice, joined a phone meeting with members of Senator Ron Wyden's staff. As part of our advocacy for passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act, Zakrullah spoke about his own family's experience reaching the U.S., having a path to residency with his Special Immigrant Visa. He added strong comments about the needs of thousands of Afghans on Humanitarian Parole status that will end in two years. The Afghan Adjustment Act, at the time of this writing still mired in Congress, would provide a path to residency for those who fled in 2021 after the fall of Kabul.



Top: The Darmani family joined many guests for Thanksgiving at Robbin Deweese's table. Below: Baby Zoya and Horia, right, pose with Robbin during dinner.

Donate to the new Havurah Refugee and Immigrant Fund
The fund is tax-deductible.

Havurah & Reparations: A congregational journey

By Kathy Gordon and Bob Brown

The issue of not providing reparations for African Americans has been around for a long time. A House Resolution to study the issue of reparations, HR 40, has been stalled in Congress since 1989. Meanwhile, several states and municipalities have devised varied and creative programs to at least partially compensate their black citizens for the injustices they have experienced.

For some time, Reconstructing Judaism has been creating a resolution for reparations. Havurah and other member congregations are voting to adopt the resolution (see insert). This past year, Reconstructing Judaism shared with its member synagogues two distinct curricula about reparations. A group of Havurah's Racial Justice Committee reviewed both curricula and chose one titled "The Stolen Beam," which came from the Jewish community in Amherst, Mass. Last spring, we held a small class of about seven people where we organized a pilot session of the curriculum to gain experience and to evaluate the curriculum for a larger class. Over the course of several months, the small committee revised and improved the curriculum, based largely on feedback from participants. The result is a new and improved product titled Havurah Shalom Reparations Curriculum.

Starting in October, we held a five-week class. Fifteen people participated, including the three facilitators. The class was a hybrid, with about a quarter of participants on Zoom. Based on participant feedback and our own experiences, the class was deemed lively and relevant.

The first four sessions are almost

Racial Justice Committee

entirely secular. The course offered an opportunity to study and reflect on writings and interviews with prominent thought leaders on the topic of reparations for Black Americans as a path to restorative justice. One key objective was to gain a more accurate historical narrative about intentional government policies that led to the enormous wealth gap that exists between Black and white citizens. We explored the lack of equity in housing and education and the over-representation of people of color impacted by the criminal justice system. The first four classes were facilitated by members of the Racial Justice Core Team.

The fifth class was led by Rabbi Benjamin and looked at the issue of reparations through a Jewish lens. As with all the other sessions, there were opportunities for small group breakout sessions as well as large group discussions. During the final class, we took time to discuss possible next steps on the issue of reparations, and we developed several ideas about how to move the issue forward on a local level.

Reconstructing Judaism suggested several objectives for offering this class. Two of these were to explore this topic as Jewish Americans and wrestle with our role in the repair AND to explore options/opportunities for reparations in our local community. Class organizers took these objectives to heart in planning each class. One class member, Jennifer B., had this to say in her evaluation:

Reconstructing Judaism

In 2020, the Reconstructing Judaism Tikkun Olam Commission decided on its mandate: to focus on the single issue of racial justice. The Commission formed the Resolution and Policy and Movement Trip working groups. This working group decided that they would create a movement-wide Reparations Resolution. A draft Reparations Resolution was developed over the next two years. The draft was reviewed extensively by the Commission and review comments were solicited from various sources including the RJ Board of Governors. The working group was diligent and thoughtful in addressing comments and suggestions. In July 2022, the draft resolution was sent to all RJ congregations for approval. The draft resolution was approved by the congregations. The draft now goes to the RJ Board of Governors for their approval. [You can view the draft resolution here.](#)

"My continued commitment to a lifelong learning process to better understand racism is finding a new avenue with the gift of learning in the Havurah community. Our class was composed of very open-minded, willing participants, ready to explore the hard stuff in a safe, supportive environment. I am very grateful for the opportunity to further my learning in a setting that was conducive to conversation, reflection and developing ideas."

The Reparations Class will be offered again in the spring, and we hope many of you will consider learning and exploring with us.

LIMUD Hebrew Corner

By Racheli Ross and Jana Hopfinger

Song of the Month
יוצא לאור by Ehud Banai

לְצֵאת לְאוֹר

Welcome to our first **פְּנֵת עֵבְרִית Hebrew** corner. We decided to start this new “corner” with the expression **לְצֵאת לְאוֹר**. So **בואו נצא לדרך** (let’s get on the road)....

The two words in the expression are: **לְצֵאת** “latzet” and **לְאוֹר** “la’or”. The word **לְצֵאת** means to go out, or exit. The word **לְאוֹר** means to the light. So literally speaking the expression means to go out into the light. The two meanings of the expression in modern Hebrew are “to come to light” and “to be published.”

The first word **לְצֵאת** is the infinitive of the root **א.צ.א**, in **Binyan Kal/Pa'al**. The same root word is used not only to mean to go out, leave, or exit, but also when used in the gerund form in **Binyan Hif'il**, **הוֹצֵאָה**, can mean an expense, a publication, or the act of taking something out. Moreover, there are numerous expressions in Hebrew with the word **א.צ.א**, for example: **יוֹצֵא דִּפְּן** (different), **יוֹצֵא לְפֶעֶל** (comes true or happen), **מְגֵדוֹ יוֹצֵא** (gets very excited), and of course **יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם** (Exodus). A few other ways the root word is used in modern Hebrew are to go out with someone, to have a bowel movement, and to have a slip of the tongue. Such a versatile word!

The word **אוֹר**, light, is of course one of the first words in **Bereshit**:

וַיֵּאמֶר — Genesis 1:3 / **בְּרֵאשִׁית פֶּרֶק א' פְּסוּק ג'**
וַיְהִי אוֹר אֶלֶהִים יְבִי

Interestingly, the word for literacy in Hebrew is **אוֹרְיָנוּת** from the word **אוֹרְיָתָא** which is Torah in Aramaic and is derived from the same root, **אוֹר**, making literacy and knowledge related to light.

A quick search of the expression **לְצֵאת לְאוֹר** led us to find the following two instances it is mentioned in the Tanach:

זַעַף יְהוָה אֶשָׂא כִּי חָטַאתִי לָךְ עַד אֲשֶׁר יָרִיב רִיבֵי וְעִשָׂה / Micah, 7:9 — מִשְׁפָּטֵי יוֹצִיאֵנִי לְאוֹר אֲרָאָה בְּצִדְקָתוֹ מִיבֵה, פֶּרֶק ז', פְּסוּק ט'

מִגְלַה עֲמֻקּוֹת מִפִּי הִשְׁקֵךְ נִיצַא לְאוֹר צִלְמוֹת — איוב, פֶּרֶק יב, פְּסוּק כב / Job, 12:22

We are not biblical experts in any shape or form, but our understanding is that its meaning in both examples is to come to light, or to leave the darkness and bring to light, to reveal. How fitting for our Portland winter, when it’s dark at 4:30 pm and yet slowly the light is coming back to our lives, revealing more of each day.

The other meaning of the expression is “to be published” and refers to the act of publishing a written piece such as a poem, a short story, a book, (or maybe a short essay in the “**Hakol**”).

We’d like to end with a few recommendations. First, listen to the song **יוֹצֵא לְאוֹר** by Ehud Banai, one of Racheli’s favorite Israeli musicians. But most importantly, ask yourselves what **יוֹצֵא לְאוֹר** means to you now that you know the literal meaning of the words. What other questions do you have? Bring them to light and maybe even publish them.

לְהִתְרְאוֹת,
רַחֵל רוֹס וְגִנָּה הוֹפִינְגֶּר

LIMUD

Book Group has a ticket to *Paradise*

Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2021. He is only the second Black African to have received this honor. The Swedish Academy praised Gurnah for his “uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.”

Published in 1994, *Paradise* tells the story of a boy growing up in Tanzania in the early twentieth century. The story is told through the eyes of Yusuf, a gentle boy taken at the age of 12 as an indentured servant to pay off his father’s debt. From the simple life of rural Africa, Yusuf is thrown into the complexities of precolonial urban East Africa—a fascinating world in which Muslim black Africans, Christian missionaries, and Indians from the subcontinent coexist in a fragile, subtle social hierarchy. Through the eyes of Yusuf, Gurnah depicts communities at war, trading safaris gone awry, and the universal trials of adolescence. Then, just as Yusuf begins to comprehend the choices required of

**January Book
Led by David Newman**

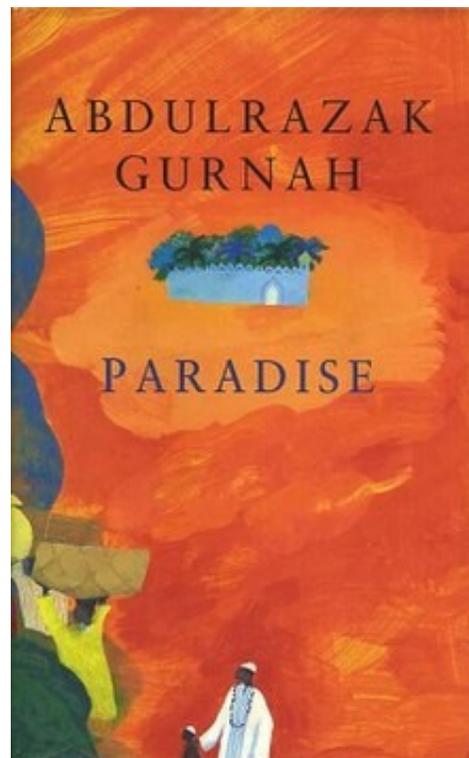
Paradise

by Abdulrazak Gurnah
Fiction, 247 pages

**Tuesday, Jan. 24
Zoom Room Bet**

him, he and everyone around him must adjust to the new reality of European colonialism. The result is a page-turning saga that covers the same territory as the novels of Isak Dinesen and William Boyd, but does so from a perspective never before available on that seldom-chronicled part of the world.

“*Paradise* is at once the story of an African boy’s coming of age, a tragic love story, and a tale of the corruption of traditional African patterns by European colonialism... It is an evocative portrait of Africa on the brink of change,” writes The New York Times Book Review, “less



a political indictment than a poignant meditation on the nature of freedom and the loss of innocence, for both a single sensitive boy and an entire continent.”

Discussion led by David Newman. Nonmembers welcome. RSVP for Zoom info.

Celebrate Refugees & Immigrants at Special Kabbalat Shabbat

By Michael Rice

Havurah will celebrate our fourth Refugee and Immigrant Shabbat on Friday, February 3, 2023. We are partnering with HIAS, originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, who provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers around the world and advocates for their fundamental rights so they can rebuild

**HIAS Shabbat
7:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 3
Havurah Shalom
and Zoom Room Aleph**

their lives.

Along with themes offered by

HIAS, we will hear teachings and stories about our community’s engagement with refugees and immigrants in Portland.

Rabbi Benjamin will lead the service on Shabbat Be-Shallah—the flight from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and Mi-K’mokhah, the Song of the Sea. As in Exodus, refugees and immigrants today face challenges and times for celebration.

LIMUD

Next I/P Film Discussion: 'Out in the Dark'

7 pm, Sunday, Jan. 22 — Zoom Room Bet — [RSVP](#)

The Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee is continuing its film series with a Zoom discussion of **Out in the Dark**, an award-winning 2012 Israeli romantic drama that explores an illicit gay relationship between a Palestinian student, Nimr, and a Jewish Israeli attorney. The discussion will be led by two members of the I/P Committee.

The discussion will take place online in Zoom Room Bet.

As with previous discussions, please watch the film in advance. Out In The Dark can be seen on Kanopy, the free streaming channel available through the Multnomah County Library and most other public libraries in the country, and on Amazon Prime.

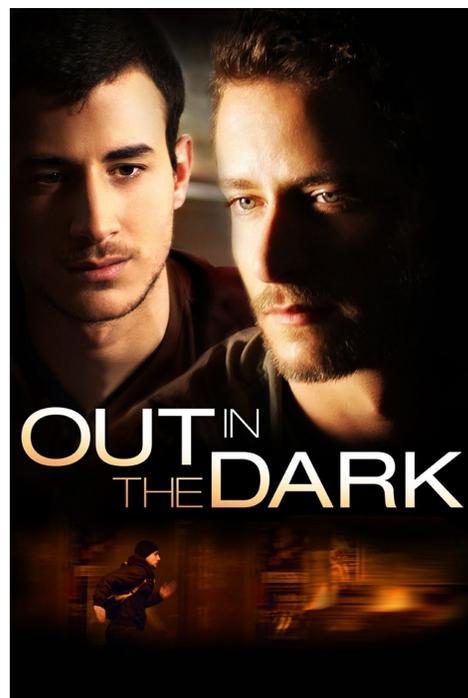
Israel/Palestine Committee

[Here is a link to the trailer.](#) The [New York Times writes](#): “Even though the plot defies credibility at several points, ‘Out in the Dark’ is gripping, and Nimr’s tearful exile from his family breaks your heart.”

This is the second of three film discussions slated for this winter.

The first, *The Other Son*, resulted in a terrific conversation—mostly centered on identity: Does it come from upbringing or genetics? The same has been true for earlier film discussions—interesting and respectful.

These discussions are open to all Havurah members—regardless of



your involvement with, or interest in, the troubling circumstances in Israel/Palestine.

Come to ongoing Havurah gatherings!

Weekly Torah Study

Saturdays, 9 am, Zoom Room Bet & In Person

Join Havurah for a community-led study session of the weekly Torah reading before each Shabbat service.

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturdays, 10 am, Zoom Room Aleph & In Person

All are welcome at our Shabbat services, including b'nei mitzvah services. Upcoming b'nei mitzvah are listed below and on the website calendar.

Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

Tuesdays, 12 pm, Zoom Room Bet & In Person

We gather mostly via Zoom to find moments of quiet and shalom in a welcoming space. Various styles of Jewish meditation are explored. No meditation experience necessary. All are welcome to drop in. Led by Rabbi Benjamin, Adela Basayne, or Nancy Becker.

Morning Minyan

Wednesdays, 8:30 am, Zoom Room Aleph & In Person

For all who want a regular prayer practice and those saying Kaddish.

Mahjong Group

1 pm, first and third Mondays — Havurah Shalom

Mahjong is a fun, social activity that

builds community, encouraging new friendships and cementing old ones. Please don't hesitate to join us!

Book Study: Finding The Mother Tree, Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

5:30 pm, first and third Mondays, beginning Nov. 7 — Zoom Room Bet

We'll meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, until we finish Suzanne Simard's inspiring and illuminating exploration of the complex, interdependent world of trees. Join us whenever you can. For information, contact Michael Heumann, Havurah Climate Action Team.

[RSVP here](#)

JANUARY EVENTS

Antisemitism and Israel-Related Speech

11 am, Sunday, Jan. 8 — [RSVP for Offsite Zoom](#)

The Joint Israel Commission of the Reconstructionist Movement will present a webinar on “Antisemitism and Israel-Related Speech.” The speakers include authors of two essays expressing contrasting views on an April 2021 public statement of Reconstructing Judaism on the International Holocaust Remembrance Association’s definition of antisemitism and Prof. Amos Goldberg (Hebrew University) a co-author of the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism.

MLK Day Celebration at Havurah

12 pm, Monday, Jan. 16 — [RSVP](#)

Join the Racial Justice Committee & Rabbi Benjamin for Havurah’s first family-friendly event to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! There’ll be music, poetry, learning activities, time for reflection, and opportunity to think about how our values as Jews help us continue the fight for civil rights. And pizza for lunch, too! (Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to order.) Recommended for ages 10 and up.

Palestinian Voices

8 Sessions from Jan. 11 to March 17 pm, Wednesdays — Havurah Shalom — [RSVP](#)

Led by Joel Beinin. A selection of Palestinian voices in their own terms—unmediated by Western or Israeli media or organizations with a political agenda—using a selection of films, poetry, prose, and music (and depending on Covid conditions, food). We will include well known figures like Edward Said, Ghassan Kanafani, and Mahmud Darwish as well as representatives of the youthful generation of feminist authors,

Judaism And The Wilderness:

A Brief Escape With Northern Exposure

2 pm, Sunday, Jan. 29 — Havurah Shalom — [RSVP](#)

This January we can all use a respite from elections and politics and holidays. Northern Exposure was something of a “fish out of water” 1990s television program about a Jewish doctor from New York—Joel Fleischman—who finds himself in a very remote town in Alaska as a way of paying off his medical school loans. The program was about life and love and grief and community and ethnicity, filled with such interesting characters. It discussed environmental issues in a way which was unique for television in that time and has actually been discussed in various articles in scholarly journals.

And it explored Judaism creatively and sincerely, never gratuitously.

This will be a two-hour “class” in which we will watch one of the episodes from the show’s fourth season—“Kaddish for Uncle Manny”—and explore together some of these themes. In this episode Fleischman’s uncle in New York has died, and Fleischman goes on a journey to find ten male Jews in Alaska to say Kaddish.

Led by Steven Goldberg.

such as Hala Alyan, Farah Chamma, and Rafeef Ziadah. The emphasis throughout is on cultural expression rather than historical narrative or political analysis. However, to provide a common point of departure, we will begin with a film that surveys the history since British Mandate Palestine (1922-1948) to about 2000.

Tot Shabbat

10:30 am, Saturday, Jan. 21 — Havurah Shalom — [RSVP](#)

Young children (0-5) and parents celebrate with singing, movement, blessings, and storytelling.

Seeking God’s Face: An Overview of Mystical Judaism

4 Sessions from Jan. 23 to Feb. 13 7 pm, Mondays — Location and Modality TBA — [RSVP](#)

In this four-week introductory class, we will delve into the history

of Jewish mysticism, sample ancient Kabbalistic texts and contemporary mystical writings, become acquainted with Hasidic rebbes and their enduring stories, and explore selected mystical concepts and practices.

Led by Tivona Reith, Rabbinic Chaplain and Mashpiah Ruchanit.

Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation

Tuesdays, noon in Zoom Room Bet

We gather to find some moments of quiet and shalom. All are welcome.

שלום

AVODAH

Please share in our joy as Havurah Shalom's
Adult B'nai Mitzvah group is called to the Torah.
Parashat Beshalach

825 NW 18th Ave, Portland, OR 97209
or via Zoom
(meeting ID 604 560 503, passcode 5472)

Saturday, February 4, 2023
13 Sh'vat 5783
10 AM PST

Alexis Nasdor-Jones Baghdadi • Fran Berg • Amanda Elliston • Lesley Isenstein •
Ericka Kimball • Megan Koler • Michelle Lamanet • Matthew Nelkin • Karen Polinsky
• Ellen Regal • Jennifer Rousseau • Beth Segal • Rachel Shimshak • Brady Snyder •
Liza Springgate • Sharon Stern • Justin David Strom • Susan Ungar • Mara Zusman

Please RSVP on the Havurah calendar by January 19.
After services, please join us for a luncheon sponsored by the B'nai Mitzvah group,
with the help of the Havurah Community and our friends and family.

Regular Services at Havurah

All are welcome at our 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 will also take place at this time.

Morning Minyan

Wednesday Mornings, 8:30-9 am

Kabbalat Shabbat

Monthly, and now features nosh beforehand and
an optional 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.

CHANUKAH

The Chanukah Party was Awesome!

From the Organizers:

We really appreciate the following volunteers and staff for making our Chanukah celebration such a fun, vibrant, and sweet event:

- Susan Brenner and Joel Schipper for spearheading the music part of the evening and the following fabulous musicians: Roger Brewer, Judi Soloway, Estee Segal, Barbara Ruben, Nancy Chesler, Charles Blanke, Aaron Kahn, and Miriam Reshotko.
- Buff Nedb Neretin for bringing her Chanukah story (bottom, right).
- Buff Nedb Neretin and Mimi Epstein for procuring food items, Elianne Lieberman and Becky Seel for serving the food, and our paid kitchen staff Aliza and Piper for prepping and serving the food and doing immaculate kitchen cleanup after!
- Beth Shreve and Sarah Shreve for crafts table planning and coordination, and Julie and Mica Hastings for helping staff those tables (shown middle, right). We also know there were others who stepped up whose names we do not know—thank you!!
- Lee and Maia Gordon for space setup, table adornment, and hanukkiah setup, as well as being generally available for many other tasks!
- Elianne Lieberman for spearheading the various Climate Action tables, and the following volunteers who staffed the swap meet, community solar and shelter donation tables: Marianna Grossman, Karen Boyer, Adela Thompson, Karen Erde, and Lou Stagnitto. If there were others involved with this, thank you also!
- Ben Walters, Patricia Schwartz, Cindy Merrill and Stacy Hankin for serving as greeters.
- Havurah staff Adela Basayne and Rachel Pollak for facility support, tech support, communications support, and general moral support for the planning committee!
- Tivona Reith, Susan Brenner, Joel Schipper, Elianne Lieberman, and Cindy Merrill for overall planning.



AVODAH & LIMUD

High Holidays Report: How Did We Do? What's Next?

We are delighted to share that nearly 2,000 people gathered in the warm circles of our High Holidays offerings, both in person and online. What a joy to have welcomed so many members and guests, new and old, to our observances. We know that many, many people had powerful positive experiences of connection, renewal, insight and kavannah during the holidays. We are so grateful for all who helped foster these life-renewing experiences. They ignite our intentions and fuel the work of our hands and hearts throughout the year.

Since the holidays, our planning team has been gathering input and studying which aspects of our program worked well and which components will require more attention in the coming year. We hope to grow the numbers of our planning team and continue our mission of developing the best high holiday programming possible for our community.

Key areas we are reflecting on include: attendance, fundraising,

[Read the High Holidays Report](#)

High Holidays Planning Committee

teen engagement, programming, service and music leadership, budget, childcare, and additional holiday planning. These are addressed in various ways in the linked report.

Examples:

The hybrid model. With the strong attendance both in person and streaming, the hybrid model isn't going away any time soon. So we will assess how best to continue to improve the quality of streaming.

Volunteering. Despite our growth

in membership, volunteerism has not kept pace with our needs. And those new machzors are so very big and heavy! Essential tasks are being done by fewer hands, taking more time and straining the capacity of volunteers and our already overburdened professional staff. We will examine how to boost volunteering.

We have collected input from service leaders, committee members, volunteers, staff – and those few (only 59!) people who responded to our High Holidays survey – into a [report](#). If you wish, take a few minutes to read this short document. It will inform our work over the coming months so that next year's holidays can be even better. If you have further input or questions, send them to info@havurahshalom.org. That's also where you can send your name if you are interested in joining our High Holidays planning team. It's a great way to contribute your skills and energies to a very diverse and complex set of challenges that have deep impact on our congregation.

Spotlight on Havurah's Library

The Havurah Shalom Library is managed by Marjorie Bennett. It supports Havurah members in our pursuit of learning as follows:

- ✦ Support for staff and students of current and forthcoming Havurah educational programs, classes, and workshops
- ✦ Support for the creation of new classes
- ✦ Support for informal study of Jewish knowledge, practice, and heritage
- ✦ Exposure to current Judaic issues, thinking, and literature
- ✦ Books (fiction, non-fiction, reference)
- ✦ Media (music CDs, cassette tapes, videos)
- ✦ Periodicals (Commentary, Hadassah, Hakol, Jewish Life, Jewish Woman, Moment)

Library Search: The Havurah Shalom [library catalogue is available online](#) and searchable by author, title and subject.

Teens invited to plan & attend events

The Teen Engagement Committee has a standing meeting on the first Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8 pm in Zoom Room Heh. The committee is looking for adults and teens in Grades 7 to 12 who want to help plan and participate in social events with other Havurah teens. Participation in the Havurah Middle/High School programs is not required. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 3.

HADRACHA

Candidates Sought for 2023 Steering Positions

Get in touch for job descriptions, more info

Havurah's Nominating Committee has begun work to identify candidates for joining the Steering Committee in July 2023. The following positions will be filled through this process. All have two-year terms, except for the Vice President, who serves a four-year term.

- Vice President
- Corporate Secretary
- Avodah (Religious Life) Cluster Lead
- Kehillah (Community) Cluster Lead

We are looking for members who want to be more involved in our collaborative governance structure and work closely with other Steering members, committee chairs, and Havurah staff. Havurah's choice of the term Steering Committee is a deliberate one. We want our leaders to STEER the ship and help guide our growing community as members do the work to fulfill our mission and conduct congregational business in line with our values.

With the exception of the Vice President, all positions are for a two-year term running from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. The Vice President is asked to make a four-

Nominating Committee

year commitment, which will consist of one year as Vice President, two years as Co-President and one year as Immediate Past President.

The Nominating Committee is happy to connect with any members who want to see the job descriptions for Steering roles or are interested in being part of the Steering Committee. Please contact one of us—Eve Berry, David Kertzner, Julia Lager-Mesulam, Debbi Nadell, Aaron Pearlman, Estee Segal, Ben Walters and Deborah Wise—via the [Membership Directory](#) for more info.

Havurah's Nominating Committee is a permanent committee. Our By-Laws spell out the requirements for the Nominating and Election process, including establishing the Nominating Committee and setting time periods for notifications.

We typically meet twice a year to identify positions to be filled, potential candidates, and our timeline. Nominating Committee members call to speak with prospective nominees and help guide them through the process.

If you want to learn more about serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Debbi Nadell.

We want our leaders to STEER the ship and help guide our growing community.

Havurah Hiring New Staff Member

Job Description

Participation and Publications Coordinator at Havurah Shalom Salary range – \$40,000- 45,000

Description: Havurah Shalom is a vibrant, diverse, participatory Jewish community steeped in spirituality, learning, and acts of social responsibility. If you enjoy working with an amazing dedicated and collaborative team, this is the opportunity for you. The Coordinator helps facilitate Havurah's participatory, communal, and spiritual ethos among prospective, new, and longstanding members. This position also creates, edits, and manages internal and external communications and databases.

Qualifications: BA in a related field + 2 years of experience in non-profit or membership organization or 3 years of experience in non-profit or membership organization.

Compensation: Full-time, benefited position including: Medical, dental, generous PTO, retirement benefits when eligible. Hybrid after onboarding.

To Apply

Find the full job description [here](#). Please send resume and cover letter to

adela.basayne@havurahshalom.org

HADRACHA

Gratitude to Havurahniks

By Ben Walters
Steering Past-President

Gratitudes by Ben Walters

In January, the winter season has begun, and our celebrations of the hanukiyot light are behind us. The first snowfall of the season has already occurred. Slowly, gradually, but with certainty, daylight is lengthening. We've noted the passing of another year with the turning of the secular New Year. Let us be grateful for the welcoming warmth of our community. There are too many people and groups to thank each individually. Here are just some examples of the contributions to Havurah for which we give thanks:

To Susan Brenner, Joel Schipper, Elianne Lieberman, Tivona Reith, Cindy Merrill, Beth Shreve, Rachel Pollak, and Adela Basayne for helping to plan the Chanukah community celebration on Dec. 18.

To Joel Bettridge, Steve Birkel, Karen Westerman, Curtis Shipley, and Rachel Pollak for serving on the Cybersecurity team and their ongoing efforts to review Havurah's potential cyber risks, and evaluating various steps for addressing those risks.

To David Fuks and Nancy Becker for assisting on the Feasibility Work Group for the Campaign for Havurah.

To Teri Ruch for her many and varied contributions to Havurah in supporting administrative work in the Havurah office. Teri—your talents will be missed!

To Adela Basayne, Joel Bettridge and David Kertzner for acting above and beyond in responding to the drain back-up in the kitchen and foyer, taking immediate steps in getting things dried out and identifying how the backup may have occurred.

To Debbi Nadell, Sam Sirkin and Adela Basayne for their work on finalizing the Long Range Plan.

To Loree Devery, Rachel Plotinsky, and Richard Goldenberg for their continued work on evaluating county health updates.

To Jen Litwin, Annie Goldberg, Ted Scheinman, Astrid Cañete, Cassandra Sagan, Sandy Ramirez, and Jacob Berger for planning, organizing and holding a well-attended Havurah Welcome Get-together.

To the many, many persons not specifically mentioned for their contributions of time and energy to Havurah—Thank You! We acknowledge and value all of your contributions and participation. Havurah exists as a community because of contributions from many individuals, in whatever form these are given.

If there are any appreciations you think should be mentioned in the future, please contact Ben Walters (email listed in the member directory – please put “Gratitude” in the subject line.).

Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration

Second Fridays of the month, through May

We're gathering in person to welcome Shabbat. All are welcome! These monthly celebrations will be held on the second Friday, from October through June. A light, pre-service oneg will be followed by a spirited, all-ages service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward for those who wish to stay.

6 pm Light Snack
6:30 Service (Join us remotely in Zoom Room Aleph)
7:30 Dinner

RSVP for dinner. Please consider a suggested donation of \$15 for the meal, in recognition that the actual cost for food and preparation is \$30. Thank you. *RSVPs are not needed for the service or snack!*

Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed! [Sign up to volunteer here.](#) Contact Marni Glick or Sally Hersh for more information.

RSVP for
Jan. 13 Dinner

