



July 2023
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Hakol • הקול

A Season of Baseless Love

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

As you may well know, Pride events in Portland were moved to July this year. You can find details [here](#), including information about the parade on Sunday the 16th, which many Havurahniks and others in the Jewish community will be marching in.

The move creates an interesting alignment with the Jewish calendar. Pride weekend will arrive at the end of the month of Tammuz, during a mournful period traditionally known as “the three weeks.” Those weeks culminate in Tisha B’Av, the 9th day of the month of Av, understood to be the date marking the destruction of both Temples, as well as several other calamities that have befallen our ancestors. So on the one hand, this alignment could be an opportunity to more publicly acknowledge the harm that has been done and continues to be leveled against the LGBTQ+ community. We mourn the loss of life, freedom, and dignity; we mourn ongoing oppression and marginalization.

But Pride is not a season of mourning. It is one of affirmation and celebration. In this light, the alignment with our calendar offers a different direction. In the tradition it is explained that the Second Temple was destroyed because of *sinat ḥinam*, “baseless hatred.” From within our own people toward one another, that is. Which is a problematic explanation, but one that also offers a powerful lens through which to mark this time. Looking around at our society today, as was the case



Havurahniks pose with Havurah’s banner at a past Portland Pride Parade.

back in those days, it is not hard to find examples of senseless hatred. Perhaps all hatred is senseless. But there are manifestations of it that feel so heartless and cruel—when acting with care or at the very least acceptance would threaten no one. The rash of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ legislation being advanced right now, threatening and harming the lives of so many young people and so many people in general, rings of *sinat ḥinam*.

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook taught: “If we were destroyed, and the world with us, due to baseless hatred, then we shall rebuild ourselves, and the world with us, with baseless love—*ahavat ḥinam*.” So Pride this year comes in a moment which calls for baseless love. Which feels just right. Though the term “baseless” makes it sound like something extraordinary. As if we would otherwise need a reason for choos-

ing love. But that choice—to choose love, to choose mutual care and solidarity—is the most reasonable, the most wise.

Rav Kook’s teaching is a call for this season. This season of Pride, and this season of Av, which leads into our season of returning, repair, and renewal. Also an auspicious moment in which to ask what a practice of *ahavat ḥinam* might look like in our lives and our community. Not in spite of, but specifically in response to the *sinat ḥinam* we face right now. So may we each find the power of that baseless love welling up from within us. And may our LGBTQ+ siblings among us feel surrounded and buoyed by it.

(Note from Havurah: Contact Adela Basayne, Havurah Program Director (503-248-4662, ext. 6, adela@havurahshalom.org) to become the Havurah Pride Parade organizer or to just join up with other Havurahniks marching with our banner on July 16th.)

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Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Hakol Contribution Deadline
Thursday, July 20 (*third Thursday*)

**Weekly Email (Hineinu)
Contribution Deadline**
Tuesdays by Noon

Havurah Website Calendar

Misheberach List Form

Havurah Shalom: Our mission is to provide a vibrant, diverse, participatory Jewish community steeped in spirituality, learning, and acts of social responsibility.

Condolences

John Campbell, brother of Katharine Cahn and Bill Campbell, died on May 31.

Arlene Hoffman, grandmother of Elisabeth Ceppi and great-grandmother of Benjamin Bettridge, died on June 19.

Your caring thoughts and prayers are welcome.

B'nei Mitzvah

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

July 8

Marissa Keys

Child of Rachell and Patrick Keys

July 22

Quinn Mafchir-Werth

Child of Anna Mafchir and Andrew Werth.

Please join us in celebration.

Tributes

Refugee and Immigrant Fund

Dr. Simon Kipersztok, in memory of my beloved father Yacob Kipersztok.

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Alanna Hein And Evan King, in memory of Elizabeth Bowles and Chandra Marston.

Sarabeth Lukin, in honor of the bat mitzvah of Avna Siegel-Lukin.

Building Fund

Ericka and Ben Kimball, in honor of Fran Berg for sharing her mahjong skills and wisdom.

Rachel Shimshak and David Barenberg, in honor of Alexis

Baghdadi's graduation from the University of Oregon Executive MBA program!

Spiritual Life Fund

Monica Moriarty and Bill Kwitman, in memory of our grandfather David Kwitman.

General Contributions

Elayne and Len Shapiro, in honor of the 100th birthday of the fabulous Shirley Sachs, mother of Kate Davidson.

Lou Jaffe, in memory of Harry Jaffe.

Educator's Discretionary Fund

Dale Oller, in memory of Earl Oller.



Havurah Shalom

HADRACHA

The 5784 Congregational Theme is...

havurah חבורה

At the heart of the word havurah is *haver*, friend. Its root means connect or join – knots we tie, words we compose, joints anchoring a structure, friendships that sustain us. Aligned with our grassroots origins, through all the ways we each participate today, we are creating a Havurah in which each human strand is valuable, unique and necessary.

We are re-learning to connect and creating new ways of doing so. And we are re-examining what it means to belong. We treasure the bonds that unite us, recognizing that some need to be strengthened while others need to be loosened as we honor who we each are and who, together, we are becoming.

How can each of us nurture and be nurtured by the bonds that form Havurah today?

Voices of Our Community: Please Offer Your Reflections

Once again, all Havurah members are invited to share your reflections as we re-enter the holy season of return. You may reflect on our congregational theme (above) or offer your perspective on where and how you are in this time of pausing, noticing, taking stock, repairing, forgiving. (These reflections in the past have been called mini-drashes.)

You can send in your insights in any medium – words (prose or poetry, written or recorded), song, video or art you have created. (Please keep writings under 400 words and recordings under three minutes.)

Especially if you have never thought to partici-

pate, you are warmly welcome to share your reflections with our community. We value your contributions. When you take the time to offer your thoughts, we get to know each other better.

We enrich our holiday observances with a greater diversity of voices. And this year we will also share these voices of our community via our website and Hakol, so they will be available beyond services.

If you wish to discuss your ideas or receive editing support, please contact Rachel Pollak or Rabbi Benjamin.

Send your completed submission to Rachel Pollak (rachel@havurahshalom.org) by **Wednesday, August 23**, with the subject line *Reflection 2023*.

Havurahnik Help Wanted

Community is an enduring value of Havurah. A great way to enrich your experience of community, meet new people, and make a meaningful contribution to our synagogue is to volunteer for roles in Havurah's committees and groups. Here are just some ways to build Havurah's community.

This list was last updated on June 30, 2023. For future updates, see: HavurahShalom.org/HelpWanted.

To view the contact information of any contact person in this list, just click on their name and log into your Havurah account.

HAVURAH AT PRIDE (PORTLAND PRIDE PARADE – SUNDAY, JULY 16)

Havurah Shalom will again be showing up for the Portland Pride Parade alongside the Jewish Federation of Portland. We are seeking an organizer (a Havurah member who can bring our banner to the parade and coordinate with Havurahniks that day), as well as Havurahnik march participants, who just want to march together in the Pride Parade, which begins downtown at 11 am on Sunday, July 16. Please reach out if you're interested in joining with your fellow Havurahniks in any of these ways. Contact Adela Basayne, Havurah Program Director (adela@havurahshalom.org, (503) 248-4662, ext. 6).

BUILDING MAINTENANCE TEAM

The Havurah Building Maintenance Team Needs Volunteers! Are you a DIYer? Enjoy small fix-it projects? Now that the Havurah building has fully reopened, we want to revive the Building Maintenance Volunteer Team. The team supports the Havurah Office & Facilities Man-

ager Rachel Pollak in an ad hoc way to handle small maintenance tasks and repairs to the building when needed. Large or complex projects are handled by paid contractors. Reach out to Debbi Nadel about this opportunity if you are interested in joining the team. Contact [Debbi Nadel](#).

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Safety Committee is looking for (1) a new co-chair and (2) new committee members who can help with safety trainings for Havurah, which would include recruiting participants and attending trainings. Contact [Joel Bettridge](#).

BIKKUR HOLIM (VISITING THE SICK) COMMITTEE

The Bikkur Holim Committee welcomes interested Havurah members who would like to support Havurahniks in need of healing. Contact [Fran Berg](#) or [Tivona Reith](#).

GESHER (BRIDGE) COMMITTEE

The Geshet Committee is looking for a video editor for an orientation video for Havurah Shalom. We have recorded numerous interviews with members and gathered Havurah music and other materials. Help bring to life a compact orientation video featuring members explaining Havurah's values and what they most prize about our community. Reach out to learn more and to tell us how

you might be the videographer to bring this project to life. Contact [Herman Asarnow](#).

LIKE-A-MOTH TEAM

The Like-a-Moth Team is looking for Havurahniks to help plan a fun storytelling, music, and Havurah community event. We aim to begin planning in June or July and to hold the event in November (or late fall/early winter). Contact [Fran Berg](#).

DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Design Committee is seeking new committee members. The work of the Design Committee includes anything that affects the beauty and spirit of Havurah's building, including art, furnishings, colors, window coverings, lighting, flooring, and gates. We usually meet on an as-needed basis for creative brainstorming and more. Contact [Joan Peck](#) and [Marcia Suttentberg](#).

HAVURAH CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (HCAT)

HCAT hopes to work together with Havurahniks of all ages, including middle schoolers and high schoolers, in addressing the climate crisis. We enthusiastically want to hear your thoughts and support your vision and action. Come join us! Contact [Elianne Lieberman](#) or [Harriet Cooke](#).

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HADRACHA

Havurahnik Help Wanted, Cont'd

TRANSPARENCY AND INCLUSIVITY COMMITTEE

The Transparency and Inclusivity Committee is looking for new committee members: people who like to brainstorm, envision, strategize, plan, and talk with other congregants. Havurah is a diverse community, and our committee is stronger by having people with different experiences and perspectives working together. Contact [Elianne Lieberman](#).

WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Welcome Committee is looking to add more Havurahniks to the team. We would love to have you join our fun group, whose primary mission is to welcome new members into the community and help them learn more about offerings at Havurah and ways to get involved. Being on this committee is a wonderful way to get to know other Havurah members and help create a welcoming space for all. We aim to meet once a month. We look forward to talking with you about this opportunity! Contact [Jen Litwin](#).

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee is looking for Havurahniks interested in becoming committee members and taking on special projects, such as compiling a history of Tikkun Olam projects Havurah has participated in over the years (which might involve looking through old photographs and identifying people and events as well as reading through old newsletters and excerpting interesting tidbits) and other project ideas you might aspire to pursue. You could form a team of two or three people for a topic/area or work independently. Contact [Marian Rhys](#).

B'NEI MITZVAH COMMITTEE

The B'nei Mitzvah Committee is seeking (1) a new co-chair and (2) a new committee member to fill the role of Mitzvah Project Mentor. The role of the Mitzvah Project Mentor will be to support families as they develop b'nei mitzvah projects and will include fostering collaborations between members of the Tikkun Olam cluster and b'nei mitzvah youth. Contact [Amanda Coffey](#).

Havurahniks, for the most **up-to-date information** on *Havurahnik Help Wanted* requests, go to havurahshalom.org/helpwanted.

Want more support in getting involved? Contact Tara Anderson, Havurah Participation & Publications Coordinator, at tara@havurahshalom.org or (503) 248-4662, ext. 4.

AVODAH

Tisha B'Av (The Ninth of Av) Service at Havurah

7 to 8 pm, Wednesday, July 26, Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Aleph

We will hold a brief evening service with readings and contemplation about the losses we've experienced during the pandemic, and the meanings we can make of loss as a community. Your contributions are welcome! Email adela@havurahshalom.org.



COVID Safety Guidelines Updated

Loree Devery, Co-President

The Havurah Shalom COVID safety guidelines have been updated.

- The vaccination/testing requirement has been removed.
- Weekly testing for unvaccinated staff has been removed.
- Post-COVID isolation requirements now point to the CDC guidelines.
- Post-COVID mask removal guidelines now point to the CDC guidelines.

The updated Havurah COVID Safety Guidelines (6-15-2023) can be found on our website [here](#).

Longer Explanation:

On the recommendation of the COVID Management Team, the Havurah Steering Committee has updated our COVID Safety Guidelines to eliminate the requirement that members be vaccinated or take an antigen test within 24 hours of at-

Steering Committee

tending a Havurah activity. In addition, Steering removed the requirement that unvaccinated staff be tested weekly.

The COVID Management Team has also updated the Safety Guidelines to point members to CDC isolation requirements and CDC guidelines on post-COVID masking. There are links in the guidelines to the CDC guidance on these issues. The Havurah COVID Management Team has consistently looked to the CDC for guidance in developing our policies and practices. The CDC guidance is scientifically and clinically sound and referencing you to these guidelines is an efficient and effective method of pointing you—our members—to this resource.

We are reminded by the medical doctors on the COVID management team that this change in Guidelines

does not mean that COVID is no longer a threat, but it signals that we are now in a different phase of our response. Vaccination requirements have all but disappeared in most institutions and settings. This change is consistent with the lifting of most COVID vaccine mandates. But, of course, if circumstances change down the road, we can revisit and revise our guidelines.

Feel sick? Stay home!

The Havurah COVID Safety guidelines still specifically state that individuals experiencing the recent onset of COVID symptoms (fever, chills, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, cough, shortness of breath) should *not* participate in Havurah activities. In other words, we are continuing to follow the general rule – Feel Sick? Stay home!

If you have any questions or concerns about the updated Guidelines, reach out to me, Loree Devery. My phone number and e-mail are in the Havurah Directory.

HAVURAH HAPPENINGS



Left: Havurahnik Sacha Reich poses with Rabbi Benjamin at the Song of Miriam Brunch, where Sacha was honored by the Jewish Women's Round Table for her outstanding volunteerism.

Far left: Havurahniks enjoy the bounty of the Shavuot dessert potluck and smorgasbord offerings.

New Steering Members Start July 1

By Debbi Nadell

This month we are welcoming three new members to the Havurah Steering Committee. Keren, Sarah and Wendy all bring a commitment to serving the community as we go through changes related to our growth, integrate new staff and processes, and look for new ways to continue living our Havurah values.

Keren McCord, Vice-President



Keren is originally from Georgia and moved to Portland in 1997 to attend graduate school. Keren and her husband Craig have two children – Josie (21) and Sylvie (18) will both be studying at the University of Oregon in the fall. The family has been active at Havurah for 22 years.

Keren has worked at OHSU for 18 years as an oncology social worker. She works with patients and families

Nominating Committee

impacted by blood cancers and bone marrow transplants. She also co-chairs the ethics consult service for OHSU and serves on the workplace violence and debriefing committees.

Keren and Craig were part of the Dorot cohort that was convened by Rabbi Joey and led by Hank Kaplan and Bruce Shafer in the early 2000s. The group participants were young couples and families who spent a year being immersed in Havurah traditions and history. They formed strong bonds with each other and with the community, and many have held leadership positions in the years since.

Keren has also been involved with Shabbat School, served as a co-chair of the Ma'avar Committee, and partnered with Hank Kaplan over the past few years to lead Bonim—a new cohort based on the Dorot model.

Keren says, “I love Havurah. It has carried me and my family through both joyful times and painful ones. I have met some of my closest friends through this community. I feel that it is my time to give back. I have thought about being on Steering for a long time, but the circumstances in my life did not align with my ability to serve. I feel that I am finally at a place where I have the bandwidth to be on Steering.”

Sarah Wetherson, Avodah Cluster Lead



Sarah has been a Havurah member for more than 25 years. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, she has made Portland her home for 29 years. Sarah and her husband, Mark Kreider, and son, Isaac Bechtel, have strong connections at Havurah, many developed as Isaac went through Shabbat School with a strong cohort of families.

Sarah works as a policy analyst with the Oregon Health Authority, staffing the Medicaid Advisory Committee. At Havurah, she has been involved with the Racial Justice and Spiritual Life Committees.

Sarah was pleased to be asked to join Steering – “I was asked by the right person for the right position at the right time.”

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Fundraising at Havurah: Unique and Special

By Nancy Becker

For many years Havurah didn't do much fundraising. In fact, we were proud that we didn't. Our needs were met by member dues and the occasional gift or bequest. The exception was during the time of finding a building to be our home and for a few years afterward. Raising money for the building was a long, complicated, and intense process filled with incredibly creative ideas.

So, what did we do and how did we do it?

Long story short, we raised several million dollars—for purposes of acquiring and remodeling our building—in a unique and creative way. There are lots of ways to show support for Havurah and money is only one of them. This concept has guided us.

We practiced, and still do, “No Plaque Judaism,” meaning that gifts are anonymous.

Really anonymous. No plaques or public recognition. A recent example: we had a nonmember donor who gave several thousand dollars to buy new Machzors, and we had to tell him that there would *not* be a sticker inside each book nor would his name be read out at High Holidays. He was okay with it, but it did cause a bit of a stir!

Similarly in line with our practice of keeping gifts anonymous, when we raised money for this building, literally only one person knew who gave how much, and he is incredibly protective of that information.

Everyone is urged to contribute according to their means—and thus to feel part of the community. For the building fund, we had 100% participation: every single member unit contributed something. It wasn't easy; it took a lot of committed volunteers. Everyone rolled up their sleeves and helped in whatever way they could. But we did it, and we came out stronger and with deeper relationships because of it. Gifts of all sizes are celebrated equally. Everyone was thanked, no matter what the size of the gift. Some people gave \$10 to the effort.

We didn't take out a mortgage, so no banks were involved. Several members made short term loans, also anonymously. All were paid back or forgiven.

This whole process contributed mightily towards a sense of a shared future and a shared responsibility for the building. Rather than leaving some members feeling one up or one down, everyone was part of the effort. It was incredible and really fostered a sense of “we are in this together.” The Reconstructionist movement noted it and recognized the uniqueness of our approach. In fact, they were amazed!

Our fundraising efforts aren't fancy or well developed or typical. So much so that we don't even really have a standing fundraising committee—which is highly unusual in the world of synagogues—but this has worked for us. Let's hope that we continue these practices and customs and continue to be the wholistic community that we all love. There is, as well, work to do ahead!

HADRACHA

What Is a Brit Kavod and Why Do We Need One?

By Herman Asarnow

Living in America in this moment, we are aware of how ugly much of the political dialogue has become. We seem to have lost the ability to disagree without villainizing, othering or demonizing the person or group on the other side of the argument. This type of disrespectful and derogatory speech became somehow more “acceptable” under the previous U.S. administration; sadly, some of this atmosphere of derogatory speech has leaked into our congregation.

With over 500 members, Havurah Shalom is made up of individuals with different opinions, some of them strongly held. This is good! If we all held the same beliefs, Havurah would not be the dynamic and interesting congregation that it is—in fact, it would be a rather bland place without the opportunities to

Gesher Committee

learn, explore and debate the often hard questions we face as a community. We appreciate direct and open dialogue, as long as we treat each other respectfully and debate issues without making it personal.

In our community, there is no place for disparaging or offensive speech. We do not want any statements or comments, whether in person or by email or made even “just in passing,” to cause emotional harm to our members.

We need to do better when communicating with each other, no matter how passionate or emotional we are on a certain topic. Sometimes this becomes tricky to do, especially with matters that are emotionally charged and close to the bone, such

as racial justice and Israel/Palestine.

The Gesher committee believes we need to have a “Brit Kavod” or a “Covenant of Respect” for all types of communication in every aspect of our community.

Recognizing that there have been efforts to kick-start the process of creating such a contract for members in the past, we would appreciate input from anyone who has considered this issue or would like to contribute to such a document.

It’s important that we have a Brit Kavod in place in order for members to have some guidance and to feel safe in expressing their beliefs without fear of being ridiculed, disrespected or wanting to leave Havurah because it doesn’t feel like a place where it is okay to disagree.

(The chairs of the Gesher Committee are [Herman Asarnow](#) and [Shelley Sobel](#).)

Cont’d New Steering Members Start July 1

Wendy Castineira, Kehillah Cluster Lead



Wendy was a part of the Adult B’nai Mitzvah group in 2015. She is familiar to many at Havurah from playing several different roles in Purim Spiels. She has also been involved with Shabbat School, Havurah Middle School, holiday services and gatherings, Kabbalat Shabbat, and other events.

Wendy is originally from New York. Her husband Manuel is from Cuba and shared the story of making his way to the United States as a young man with students in Manny’s (23) and Michael’s (20) Shabbat

School classes. Wendy and Manuel moved to Portland in 2000 and have been members at Havurah since 2007.

Wendy retired in 2022 after 33 years in the federal government. She worked in property services and management, focusing on contract negotiations and land acquisition.

Wendy says, “I love being part of a vibrant, egalitarian Jewish community and look forward to making new friendships, strengthening ties, and deepening my personal commitment to Havurah.”

Proposals Due July 6

Lead an Elul Activity

Summer is just beginning, but by mid-August we will start our journey into the High Holy Days with a wide range of Elul activities. Elul has become our time to gather and learn in preparation for the more focused reflection of the Days of Awe. We come together to cook, pray, make art, create holy spaces at home, and discuss ideas, books, and films.

Did you know that **any Havurah member** can propose, design, and lead a class or activity during Elul? Whether you have never considered doing this or have taken this work on many times before, you are welcome. And right now is the perfect time to explore the ways you may contribute to Havurah's 2023 Elul programming. We already have many great offerings, **but we are looking for more.**

Here are examples of activities we hope people will step forward to lead:

- Cooking classes for families, children, and adults
- Studying passages on *teshuvah* by famous rabbis
- Creating *kedusha* (holiness) at home
- Discovering ways to pray during the week and during the holidays
- Discussing films
- Creating *yizkor* (remembrance) rituals or memorials with photos, art, music, or writing

These are suggestions to get you thinking. **We want to hear your ideas!** We are ready to provide you with whatever support you need to feel welcome in becoming Elul programming leaders.

Please contact [Carolina Martinez](#), Elul Program Lead (initially via email, and after that, via Zoom or your chosen form of communication) to discuss class and activity ideas and to get support in submitting your proposals. If you have logistical questions, please contact Rachel Pollak (rachel@havurahshalom.org).

Check out [our Havurah Elul 2023 programming website](#) to get answers to frequently asked questions, learn about our Elul vision, see a collection of example Elul programming ideas, and access the submission form for Elul class and activity proposals. (*Note: The submission deadline for Elul 2023 class and activity proposals is **July 6, 2023.***)

Re-envisioning Shabbat Morning

By Susan Brenner

The Friday night liturgy includes the prayer *V'shamru*, which ends with the words, *uvayom hashvi'i shavat vayinafash*. On the seventh day God ceased and drew a breath of rest. Since the word *vayinafash* draws from the root *nefesh*, a word for soul, we could also translate this as God was “re-souled.” What an amazing concept! For us, Shabbat is a stopping time to rest, refresh, and reconnect with our souls.

As we move from Friday evening to Shabbat morning, we engage deeply with prayer, Torah, blessings and other rituals, all followed by a communal lunch with generalized schmoozing. One of the great blessings of this morning is when a young person is called to the Torah and becomes a b'nei mitzvah.

Ideally, this moment would take place with a full complement of community members present to support and welcome the young person as a full-fledged member of the congregation. However, what tends to occur is that the service is mainly attended by extended members of the b'nei mitzvah family along with their friends from all walks of life. Yet, where are the regular Shabbat morning attendees? Why don't they come to a service that features a b'nei mitzvah? Is it perhaps because

they feel like they're attending a private party rather than a communal experience? Maybe these regulars do not have a personal connection to the family—perhaps they have never even seen them?

To address this and other issues, over the past year Rabbi Benjamin initiated a series of meetings with some members of the Spiritual Life Committee (SLC) and the B'nei Mitzvah Committee (BMC) to discuss how to make the Shabbat morning service in which a young person is becoming a b'nei mitzvah feel more like a blessing cocooned within a service, rather than a stand-alone separate event quite unlike the Community Minyan. He referred to these discussions as “Re-envisioning Shabbat morning at Havurah Shalom.”

One main idea that emerged from this working group was to get more of a fluid crossover of attendees between the community minyan and the b'nei mitzvah service, so that the two are not as separate and different. The goal is to have more 'regulars' attend b'nei mitzvah Saturdays as well as to have more families attend community minyan Saturdays.

Over a period of many months, the group agreed on some initial adjustments that should help create a more unified Shabbat morning ex-

perience, beginning with the upcoming b'nei mitzvah cohort.

We'll rename the services by calling them all Shabbat Morning. When there is a b'nai mitzvah, or a baby naming, or an aufruf, the name will be Shabbat Morning with B'nei Mitzvah of XYZ, Shabbat Morning Baby Naming of XYZ family, etc.

We'll bring back the practice of reserving an aliyah honor for a community member when there is a b'nei mitzvah.

For the majority of the service, the b'nei mitzvah will sit with their family and/or tutor in the main seating area, not up on the bima.

We'll encourage families to print their thank yous in the paper program, and have the b'nei mitzvah make a short statement on the bima expressing gratitude while referring people to the program for more specifics.

The leader/leyner sign up chart will include more slots for davening short sections of the service. This will encourage more people to take on roles in the service.

These are some of the changes among others we discussed that will aim toward making Shabbat morning—with its prayer, Torah and blessings—become a more communal experience in which all feel welcome and included.

Shabbat Shalom!

LIMUD

Book Club examines fissures in the American dream

Winner of the 2017 PEN/Faulkner award for fiction, this debut novel tells the story of Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem who has come to the U.S. to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for a demanding senior executive at Lehman Brothers, an executive whom Jende is eager to please and whose wife even offers Neni temporary work at their summer home in the Hamptons. With such opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future. However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and his wife notice cracks in their employers' façades. When the financial

July Book
Led by David Newman

Behold the Dreamers

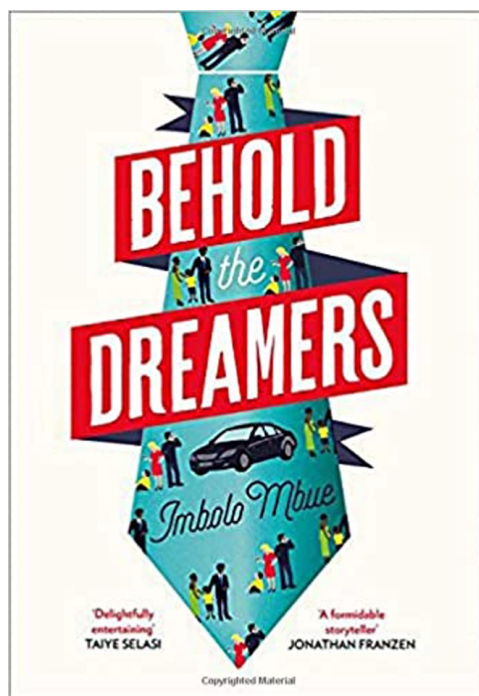
by Imbolo Mbue

Fiction, 400 pages

Tuesday, July 25, 7 pm
Zoom Room Bet

world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, all four lives are soon dramatically upended and Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.

Discussion led by David Newman.



Nonmembers welcome. [RSVP](#) for Zoom info. (For more on the book

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.

July: 2023: Issue 6

HAVURAH TEENS EDITION

Information for Teens 7th-12th and their families

Teen Engagement Committee

We need your and your teen's help in keeping the momentum going as, together, we develop engaging opportunities for them to connect.

First Tuesday of the month from 7-8 in Zoom Room Hey

NO JULY MEETING

Please join us on AUGUST 1st

Help us support our youth in building community.



Ice Cream Social & Mural Making

Help us design and decorate the Havurah Teen room in the Annex.

Check Hieninu for RSVP details

Sunday, July 30th 3-5pm

**High
Holidays
2023**

Do you have fun decorating and making a space feel comfy? We would love teen helpers to make our High Holiday Teens Room a homey space to hang with snacks, activities and more. If you are interested, email annamafchir@gmail.com and we will add you to the list.

UPCOMING EVENT

Now on July 16: An Intimate Afternoon with Author and Playwright David Fuks

Exciting news! The postponed short story reading by Havurah member and author/playwright David Fuks will take place Sunday, July 16. Co-sponsored by Havurah, Next Generations Group and Oregon Jewish Museum and Holocaust Resource Center, the program will now also feature the premier reading of David's play "For Love."

"It's an honor to be asked to share some of my short stories and the one-act play together in one afternoon," David says. "Both readings are strongly influenced by my experience as a child of Holocaust survivors. And writing for me serves as a personal catharsis. My hope is that the themes can be appreciated by audiences as well."

About the play: "We are very fortunate to have Sarah Lucht, an equity actress and instructor at the Portland Actors Conservancy as the director of "For Love," David says. "Sarah has cast Erin Jackson and Tyler Hunt as actors in the 45-minute one act. Both are accomplished professionals and graduates of the conservancy."

David Fuks' short stories have been published in "Drash," a Jewish literary review. His story "Distinctions" was awarded Top Prize in American Fiction Number 17 by New River Press in 2019. His play, "Invisible Friend," received a stage reading in Portland's 2019 Fertile Ground Festival.

David's life as a child of Holocaust survivors is deeply reflected in his writing. "When I was a boy," David recalls, "I remember seeing a Sunday comic's character who always had a raincloud over his head. That shadow was the image I had of being in a survivor's family when I was young. Discovering my voice as a writer, and later as a performer, has helped me to come out from under that cloud and into the light of understanding my parents, their peers and their history."

His father was in the Lodz Ghetto, then survived five years imprisoned in Buchenwald. His mother was enslaved five years in Oberalstadt, a labor camp near Prague. They were married after the war and spent four years in a displaced person's camp in Landsberg, Germany. David was born and raised in Detroit and came to Portland in 1974. In addition to being an author, playwright and actor, Fuks was a leader in Oregon's human service community for over 40 years. He retired as CEO of Cedar Sinai Park in 2015.

He is a speaker for the Holocaust Speakers Bureau of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, and a member of the Next Generations Group and Havurah Shalom.

"David shares the much-needed messaging about survivors and their descendants that keep memories alive and relevant. He weaves fact with creativity to reveal the impacts of the Holocaust on descendants and within their families," says Sue Wendel coordinator of the Next Generations Group. "Both humor and poignancy are artfully expressed in his short story readings and in his one-act play. It is sure to be a meaningful and enjoyable afternoon for all."



An Intimate Afternoon with Author and Playwright David Fuks

Please register [here](#).

When: 2-4 pm, Pacific Time, Sunday, July 16

Where: Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18th Ave., Portland, and on Zoom (It will also be recorded for posting on YouTube.)

Cost: There is no charge to attend. A donation of any amount to any of the sponsors is greatly appreciated.

This event is co-presented by [Next Generation Group](#), [Havurah Shalom](#), and [Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education](#).

Space and Safety at Havurah Shalom

By Joel Bettridge,
Makom Cluster Lead

The ongoing challenge posed by Havurah's building location near downtown and the national rise in antisemitism has many of us on edge. With those concerns in mind, it was understandable that we heard from members shortly after the recent [New York Times feature](#) on the Secure Community Network (SCN), which is the primary security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Members expressed an interest in learning more about our partnership with SCN, and we know from recent conversations and meetings that members have questions about safety at Havurah more broadly as well. Therefore, we want to take a moment to provide an overview of the approach Havurah has taken to security and the concrete measures we have enacted to make sure our building and community are safe.

Importantly, our approach has been holistic, encompassing building safety, policy review and development, staff and membership training, medical incident and earthquake preparation, as well as cyber security. This approach requires preparing for known risks, building institutional resilience, developing relationships with key community partners, such as SCN, and building capacity for our membership to take ownership of our safety, as we are the ones who will respond first to any threat.

Havurah's building remains a key point of focus. To follow up on the successful DHS grant from several years ago, we asked SCN to undertake a new security assessment this past spring and we applied for a second DHS grant based on its recommendations (awards are announced in the fall). The report confirmed that the changes we made to the building, and the policies we enacted—such as keeping the building locked at all times and limiting building access to a single point of entry—significantly improved its security; the recommendations are a way to further strengthen our security posture, extend facility resources (like cameras and lights around the building) and reduce known risks.

As many of you already read in an article several months ago, Havurah Shalom began a partnership with Ground Score earlier this year and this partnership continues to be an important part of our holistic safety plan. Ground Score has helped us develop policies for the Courtyard, its regular cleanings help keep Havurah's grounds welcoming and safe, and the Ground Score team continues to be a resource to help staff and other Havurahniks competently manage our space and engage with our unhoused neighbors with knowledge and compassion.

For our upcoming High Holidays, Havurah developed a plan for an expanded safety team (Shomrim, or guardians) that will help us make all members and visitors feel welcome and safe while allowing us to re-

spond to disruptions and other incidents quickly, including cardiac events and those needing de-escalation. This plan emerged out of a collaboration between Havurah leadership, staff, the Anti-Racism & Belonging committee, and the SCN.

We hope as well that the trainings for greeters and ushers that are part of the High Holiday Safety Plan will serve as the foundation for developing a community-wide Incident Response Group, which will consist of Havurahniks who take part in the regular SCN trainings that will occur throughout the year.

We have also taken concrete steps to maintain a proactive cyber security strategy, develop an annual evacuation drill exercise for Shabbat School, purchased a new AED and first aid kits, stocked earthquake and medical supplies, and created an emergency communication plan.

While this list does not cover everything we have done around safety, we hope that highlighting the steps most important to members' sense of well-being and safety give you confidence to fully participate in the life of Havuarh.

We are eager as well to have more folks involved, especially those who are interested in safety training and cyber security. If you are interested to know the details of any of these particular items, or want to get involved with any of them, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Polak (rachel@havurahshalom.org) or Joel Bettridge (makom@havurahshalom.org).

Havurah Switching to Renewable Solar Energy

By Michael Heumann

Havurah Shalom is switching to renewable solar power for our electricity! We are seizing the opportunity to “go solar” even though we will not be putting solar panels on the roof of our building anytime soon. We signed up with Community Solar to begin receiving 80% of our electric power through the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative (OCPC). The Solar Harvest power array, in Eastern Oregon, is the latest project of OCPC. Under a 2016 law, community solar projects owned by non-profit solar providers like OCPC are able to sell subscriptions for shares of their projects. The electricity generated is then sold to the electric utility, which then credits our account for

Havurah Climate Action Team

our portion of the power. In doing this, Havurah is reducing its carbon footprint (which is important for the environment) while also helping the utility reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and saving the congregation money. By joining community solar, we will be reducing our monthly energy bill by 8 to 10%. That means the congregation can use these several thousands of dollars a year for other Havurah priorities. Access to community solar is not only available for congregations, it is also avail-

able to individual customers of PGE (Portland General Electric) and Pacific Power who choose to move to renewable energy to power their home, apartment, condo, or business. Not everyone can install solar panels on their roof, but they can still benefit from this renewable source of energy. Congratulations to Havurah!

To help find, compare, and sign up for community solar projects in your area, go to Energy Sage’s [Community Solar Marketplace](#) and enter your zip code.

If you would like to learn more about community solar, contact Havurah members [Steve Katz](#), [Michael Heumann](#), or [Steve Birkel](#) or visit [the community solar section of PGE’s website](#).

P/H to Host Courtyard Ice Cream Social

Havurahniks & Houseless Neighbors invited

By Marcia Sutttenberg

The Poverty and Homelessness Committee has decided to do a face-to-face social gathering in our courtyard for Elul.

The courtyard has been the focus of a number of Havurah committees over the last year. As we have returned to the building post-pandemic, there have been efforts to ensure its beauty and safety for all who come to our building.

This has included houseless neighbors who often come to the courtyard to rest on our benches and charge their phones. And yes, there has been

Poverty & Homelessness Committee

some abuse: garbage and some inappropriate behavior. And sometimes our congregants have been uncomfortable seeing people they did not know, or understand.

We have hired a great nonprofit, Trash for Peace, to come and regularly clean. We have posted rules of behavior, we have offered some educational programs about homelessness to our congregation.

There seems to be a spirit of mutual respect evolving, and our staff have done a terrific job in getting to know folks, while also being clear about our building needs and appropriate boundaries.

As a way of saying thank you to all

who appreciate and respect our courtyard space and to help us to recognize each other’s basic humanity, we have decided to have a simple ice cream social where people can sit together and enjoy a treat. Not to discuss social problems, not to offer service, just to share with folks who so often can feel invisible – a small way of gaining understanding for all who attend. We believe this event is in the spirit of Tikum Olam and Teshuvah.

So please consider joining us on Sunday, August 27 from 3-5 pm. Bring your children or grandchildren. Enjoy a dish of ice cream with a diverse group of people who all appreciate the special environment our courtyard offers.

For more info, please contact [Marcia Sutttenberg](#), [Steve Rudman](#) or [Gloria Halper](#).

TIKKUN OLAM

Catching Up with Maria and Carlos - Celebration Time!

Sanctuary Committee

By Kate Haas

As the school year winds down and summer begins, it's time to catch up with Maria and Carlos, Guatemalan asylum seekers being sponsored by Havurah.

A major milestone was reached for the family in June, when Carlos—who arrived in Oregon at 16, speaking limited English—graduated from Beaverton High School. He will continue working this summer and will attend the Rock Creek campus of Portland Community College in the fall, with his tuition covered by the Oregon Promise, a state grant that helps pay community college costs for recent high school graduates.

Maria is doing well at her job, where she is valued for her kindness and work ethic. She and Carlos were both chosen as Employees of the Month recently at their respective workplaces.

Maria and Carlos have moved to a larger apartment, where they are happy to have more space. They are still waiting on a hearing date for their asylum claim, a process that can take many months.

The Core Team of Havurahniks who have been working with the family since their arrival meets monthly. To get involved, contact [Kathy Gordon](#) or [Robert Trachtenberg](#) of the Sanctuary Committee.



Maria and Carlos on Carlos' high school graduation day.

Donate to the Havurah Refugee and Immigrant Fund

The fund is tax-deductible.

Ben Walters Signs Off with Gratitude

By Ben Walters
Immediate Past-President

Steering Committee

This is my final Gratitude article. Over the past year, writing these reviews has reminded me, again and again, of the vast range of ongoing volunteer activities at Havurah. Havurah members step up over and over to contribute in ways too numerous to recount. As usual, there were too many activities in the past month to list. Here are just a few examples of how Havurah members gave their time and energy:

Appreciation to Ericka Kimball and Julia Lager-Mesulam for their work on the Havurah community healing project.

Gratitudes to Julie Walcer and David Kertzner for providing music at the Congregational meeting.

Appreciation to Loree Devery, Oren Kosansky and David Kertzner for planning, organizing and hosting a successful Congregational meeting, attended by approximately 55 congregants in-person at Havurah and over 40 virtually.

Gratitudes to Rachel Shimshak and Herman Asarnow for providing updates for the Congregation on the Feasibility study and the upcoming Campaign for Havurah, and to Nancy Becker for providing background on the “Havurah” approach to fundraising.

Appreciation for Karen Westerman giving an overview on the Havurah’s proposed 2023-24 budget.

Gratitudes to all the Havurah members who participated in a robust discussion of the proposed budget before voting unanimously to approve the proposal.

Appreciation to Joel Bettridge, Marjorie Walters, Phil Walters, Fran Berg, Sandy Ramirez, Sandy Wolkoff, Debbi Nadell, Elinor Gollay, Dennis Siegman, and Greg Potter for serving as greeters during the Congregational meeting.

Gratitude for the Feasibility Study Work Group, con-

sisting of Loree Devery, Rachel Shimshak, Herman Asarnow, Nancy Becker, David Fuks, and David Kertzner for working over the last 9 months on the Havurah Fundraising Feasibility Study to inform future

fundraising efforts. Appreciation also to Shari Raider, who worked on the work group for its first few months before departing due to timing conflicts.

Gratitude for Alanna Hein agreeing to be part of a group focusing on anti-racist educational opportunities at Havurah.

Appreciation to Ted Sheinman, Miriam Reshotko and Lee Gordon for their efforts to support Ukrainian refugees.

Gratitude to committee chairs for answering the call for descriptions and dates for content to go into Havurah’s Community Brochure.

Appreciation for Avodah committee chairs in facilitating spiritual and ritual activities for Havurah.

Gratitude for Andrine de la Rocha starting a new inclusive Rosh Chodesh group open to everyone.

Gratitude to Michael Evans, Miriam Reshotko, and Carrie Kirschner for persisting in coordinating the B’Nei Mitzvah date selection process.

Gratitude to the Garden Committee for their successful work party on May 28th.

To all those many other individuals and groups not specifically mentioned for their contributions – our thanks to each of you. Havurah exists through the contributions of time and energy of our many volunteers. This of course includes each of you and your many and various acts of *tzedakah*. If you have any appreciations you think should be extended, please contact Loree Devery (email listed in the member directory – please put “Gratitude” in the subject line.)

As for me, thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been my honor and privilege.