



June 2022  
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# Hakol • הקול

## Shema Yisrael: Paying Attention

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

My friend and colleague, Rabbi Darby Leigh, has a powerful [video](#) in which he recites the Shema in American Sign Language. Rabbi Darby is deaf, and the word *shema* means “listen” or “hear.” So he begins his explanation of translating the prayer into ASL by asking: “What does it mean for me, as a deaf person, to be instructed to *listen*?” Instead, he represents the word *shema* with the sign for “pay attention.”

For all of us, whether we have the ability to hear or not, this teaching is an essential reminder that when Torah tells us to listen (or see, for that matter) it is not speaking about the physical sense. It is calling us to a deeper, more vital kind of “listening.” A paying attention—to the other who is before us, to the world that is around us.

The Shema is often considered to be our central prayer, an embodiment of Torah. As Rabbi Ira Stone teaches, “The heart of Torah is to awaken us to our obligation to the other.” Sometimes our obligations to the other are clear. Sometimes it is only through sustained and careful attention that we are able to discern how we are needed, in our intimate lives and in our world.

This month we celebrate the festival of Shavuot. In ancient times our early summer harvest festival, for the rabbis it became the day on which we experienced—and annually reenact—the revealing of Torah. It is a time of year in which we are asked to pay attention, and to discern where and how we are obligated.



On May 22, volunteers stack boxes containing Havurah Shalom’s old machzorim (High Holidays prayer books) to the site of our new genizah. The genizah, a resting place for sacred texts that can no longer be used, occupies a plot at the Havurah cemetery. Over thirty people attended a service led by Rabbi Benjamin dedicating the genizah and blessing the burial of the books.

Our families, our communities, this world needs us. This season of revelation is a time to recommit to paying attention for the sake of those needs.

The Torah tells of how the People stood at the base of Mount Sinai and collectively received the words of Torah. A midrash, the more expansive telling of the rabbis, describes how each individual at Sinai heard the revelation in the unique voice that they needed to hear. For some, it was a demanding call to wake up; for others it was gentle and comfort-

ing. Another teaching tells of how no words were actually uttered—only the single, virtually silent letter Alef. I love that midrash because it feels so true. Sometimes we are called in demonstrative and clear fashion. Sometimes it is much more subtle, much more in need of attention and discernment. That is the life practice that Shavuot calls us back to, a life practice so necessary right now, as always.

May we each be strengthened in our capabilities to pay attention in all the ways we need to.

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## B'nei Mitzvah

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

June 4

**Arianna Gamage**

Child of Emily Weltman and  
Jake Gamage

June 18

**Noah Shine**

Child of Sarah and Greg  
Shine

Please join us in celebration  
and welcome her to our com-

## Condolences

**Margaret Elin**, mother of  
Jane Elin, passed away May  
12.

**Bob Epstein**, husband of Mi-  
mi Epstein, passed away May  
29.

# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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**Hakol Contribution Deadline**  
June 17

**Misheberach List Form**

**Weekly Email**  
**Contribution Deadline**  
Tuesdays by Noon

## Tributes

### General Contributions

Jason Labinger, with thanks to the Spir-  
itual Life and Bikkur Holim commit-  
tees for honoring my mother's  
memory and my entire family with  
the creation of the Karen Labinger  
Misheberach List.

Nathan Cogan, in memory of my par-  
ents' yahrzeits.

Barbara Simon, in honor of my mother,  
Sarah Simon, and her 100th birthday.  
And in memory of my father, Meyer  
Simon.

### Building Fund

Bija Gutoff, welcoming our new grand-  
daughter, Goldie Rose Jaffe Cannon,  
who joins her lucky parents, Nadia  
and Sara, and her sweet big brother  
Noah.

Linda and Michael Evans, in memory of

Lilly Evans.

### Educator's Discretionary Fund

Jeffrey Gottfried, in memory of Henie  
Gottfried, mother of Jeffrey and Bob  
Gottfried, bubbie of Miriam and Ben-  
na Gottfried.

### Adult Education Fund

Debby Nadell and Steve Birkel, in  
memory of Bob Epstein, in apprecia-  
tion for all Bob gave to the communi-  
ty over more than 40 years.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Roberta Schmalz, in memory of our  
loving mother, Lilly Evans.  
Ted Scheinman, in appreciation to Stacy  
Hankin and Ben Walters for inviting  
me to a wonderful Pesach Seder. It  
was a very meaningful gesture.

## Havurah Simchas

**Roy Pulvers and Deborah Mandell**  
are pleased to announce the marriage of  
their daughter, Evan Pulvers, to Harri-  
son Norman on April 20, 2021.

**Roy Pulvers and Deborah Mandell**  
are pleased to announce the birth of  
their granddaughter, Anika Violet Pul-  
vers, on May 12, 2022.

**Jules and Joan Drabkin** are happy to  
announce that their daughter Remy  
Drabkin is now the mayor of McMinn-  
ville, Oregon.

### Have a happy announcement?

Email it to  
info@havurahshalom.org



# TIKKUN OLAM



Havurahniks joined Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action at a protest in front of a Chase Bank in downtown Portland. Rabbi Benjamin was a speaker and Beth Hamon led the group in song.

## Climate Actions with HCAT Soothe the Soul

By Harriet Cooke and HCAT

There is nothing like being active in solutions to take the edge off anxiety about climate change. Havurah Climate Action Team has been involved in helping congregations put solar panels on synagogues, supporting Shade Equity in Portland, and joining Jewish Earth Alliance for national updates and letter writing campaigns. We've gotten sublimely grounded in an outdoor birding adventure and *Becoming Rooted* book study, and we continue to educate ourselves through film discussions and more.

During Passover, we joined *Dayenu.org* for a demonstration at the downtown Chase bank, Chase being the largest funder of the fossil fuel industry. Rabbi Benjamin spoke about the holiness of creation and music was led by Havurah's Beth Hamon. With signs and a letter reminding Chase that the IPCC report says we have only 3 years to begin halting the rise in emissions, we called for divestment from fossil

### **Havurah Climate Action Team**

fuels **NOW**, and reinvestment in clean renewable energy and sustainable agriculture that significantly helps draw down emissions.

We can all help by calling Chase CEO Jamie Dimon, (212) 270-1111, and demand that he withhold support for fossil fuel expansion, begin to phase out existing fuel investments *immediately*, release targets for 2030 or sooner, and pressure them to invest in a Green renewable energy future.

It is one thing to shake our fists at the largest banks that are the major funders of the fossil fuel industry. It is another thing to look at our own banks, credit cards and investments, and close our accounts and move our money. It is especially hard if our credit card is connected to something we value, like mileage plus points for flights to visit loved ones

that sadly, increase emissions. When we move our money, we can tell the banks why—because of Climate Change.

In May HCAT hosted a two-day teaching on the many ways we can individually contribute to lowering our emissions, including teachings about how and where to move our money. These meetings have been recorded.

We all need to do our part. I try and do one thing each month, from moving my bank account to a bank nearby that invests in renewable energy, to shifting my credit card to a new credit union I can get to by bike, to working with a new financial advisor at the credit union who is passionate about sustainability investments.

Sunday, June 19, at 7 p.m. HCAT will be hosting a follow-up meeting to share successes and challenges and support each other through the process of moving our money and shifting our behaviors to more climate-friendly ways of living. We hope you can join us!

## Maria and Carlos: A Major Update

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### **Sanctuary Committee**

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A milestone in their quest for a permanent home in the US has arrived for Maria and Carlos, Guatemalan asylum-seekers being sponsored by Havurah. Ever since arriving in this country and applying for asylum, they have been waiting for the opportunity to make their claim to a judge; to explain why they made the difficult decision to flee their homeland and embark on a dangerous journey to the US. Now that day is just a bit closer: Maria and Carlos recently received the date for their Master Calendar Hearing.

A Master Calendar Hearing is the first type of hearing in an immigration case. At this preliminary hearing, Maria and Carlos will meet with the immigration judge, who may ask basic questions about their identity, nationality, and date of entry to the US. (If requested, an interpreter will be provided.)

The judge will also provide information about the judicial process and give Maria and Carlos the opportunity to correct any misinformation in their file. At the end of the hearing, the judge will give Maria and Carlos information about the date and time of their next hearing—at which they will formally make their case for asylum.

Members of the Sanctuary Committee will accompany Maria and Carlos to the Master Calendar Hearing.

## Join the Conversation

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Tabitha and Adam St. Bernard-Jacobs and the Anti-Racism and Belonging Workgroup

We hope you have seen information in emails or Hakol inviting you to be part of our anti-racism and belonging work. Some of you have already participated in a group and we so appreciate your openness to be part of this journey with us. We will continue to share information over the coming months inviting all Havurah members to embark with us on gaining a better understanding through small group conversations of how anti-racism and belonging shows up within the congregation.

These will be opportunities for all members of our community to share and to listen. The groups are structured by self-selected shared identity as explained below. If you are not able to join the group that you feel is the best fit for you because of the timing, **please let us know here** and we will follow up with additional ways for you to take part in this process.

Please see information below on self-selecting for the group that most closely matches your identity. We have received some questions about the groups, and how people should select.

Within racial justice work, it is common to create and make space for racial affinity groups so that white people's learning doesn't come at the pain/expense of BIPOC folks' life experiences, so you will see that we have already held small group options for BIPOC and multi-racial families to create those spaces.

You will also see some groups for

### **Anti-Racism and Belonging Workgroup**

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people to select based on staff, lay leadership and teaching roles within the community. The thinking behind those groups was to create spaces where there are shared experiences that might lead to a more focused conversation on more specific topics because of the relationship individuals in that group may have to how Havurah currently operates.

The important thing is that individuals should self-select for the group that most closely matches your identity. You may feel a connection with several different groups, and in that case, the choice is yours. If you feel that more than one group represents your identity and that your contribution would be different based on the group setting, you are welcome to select and attend more than one.

**Here is the link to the dates and times for the conversation groups.** You'll notice that not all the RSVP links are open right now. The RSVP link for each group will be live about 4 weeks before the group will be held. Meetings will be held in Havurah Zoom rooms, and you will receive an email after you RSVP, as well as a reminder email a few days before the day of your meeting.

For more information on this project, as well as some background on the meeting facilitators, Tabitha and Adam visit

**[www.havurahshalom.org/anti-racism](http://www.havurahshalom.org/anti-racism)**.

# HADRACHA

## 2022-2023 Budget Preview: Transition to Future

By Shari Raider, Treasurer, and  
Loree Devery, Co-President

On June 12, we will come together as a community to approve the proposed 2022-23 budget. This budget—a collaborative effort that involved input from Staff, Steering, Finance, and committee chairs—represents a transition into our future. It is a recognition that we have grown significantly over the past several years—to our current level of over 500 families. Now it's time to reinforce our foundation of staff support so that Havurah can continue to be a thriving, participatory community.

**Reinforcing Staff Support.** The bulk of this year's budget increases are related to hiring staff positions recommended to Steering by the Staffing Task Force (the Staffing Task Force recommendations are summarized in this Hakol article). These recommendations build back 1.5 FTE in staffing we lost, add 1.5 FTE additional staff, include some independent contract hours for communications and IT work, and continue the promise to view our staffing through an equity lens.

In this budget the start dates of the new hires are staggered through the fiscal year. This is both a budgetary consideration and a current staffing capacity consideration. This staggered approach gives us time to flush out the details of the new staff positions, undertake the hiring pro-

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### **Finance Committee and Steering**

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cess for those positions, and then onboard the new people. It also gives us time to continue to build out our roadmap to a sustainable financial future.

**Dues increase to balance the 2022-23 budget.** It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee and Steering to recommend a balanced budget to the congregation for your approval. To balance the 2022-23 budget, Steering approved a 5% increase in dues (a \$12 per month increase for our highest dues-paying category). This felt like a reasonable and fiscally-responsible increase in light of budget needs and the fact that it has been three years since we have implemented a dues increase. Of course we understand that this may feel difficult to some. One of our dearest values at Havurah is that money should never be a barrier to participation. Everyone gives within their own capacity.

#### **What about future budgets?**

We were able to present a balanced budget this year by staggering the start dates for incoming positions and paying for some of next year's expenses from an operating surplus we accrued in 2021-22. In future budgets, we won't be able to do that

and in order to balance future budgets, we need to launch a fundraising campaign to support our building and staffing needs. Steering recognizes the increased urgency around fundraising and has allocated \$20,000 from our 2021-22 surplus to hire a capital campaign consultant.

We have started meeting with fundraising professionals within Havurah to lay a foundation for our campaign and will be putting together a leadership team in the coming weeks.

**Final thoughts.** We want to end by sharing a few words from a powerful drash that Sacha Reich gave at a Steering Committee meeting last March (Parshat Vayakhel). It resonates with this moment. On the heels of the invocation of Shabbat, the people are called “to attend to the prompting of their heart” and to contribute treasure, time and skill. The outpouring is overwhelming. A fully participatory community. This is Havurah.

**Questions.** All members are invited (indeed encouraged!) to attend the Congregational Meeting on June 12 at 10 am in Zoom Room Aleph, where the full budget will be presented and questions can be answered.

If you have specific questions before then, please reach out to Shari or Loree, contact info in the Havurah Directory.

### **Congregational Meeting, Sunday, June 12, 10-12 pm, Zoom Room Aleph**

We will present the proposed budget, the proposed changes to the Bylaws, and discuss other topics of importance to the congregation.

**RSVP**



## What Has the Staffing Task Force Been Up To?

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

### Staffing Task Force

As you may remember, in January Steering approved the creation of the Staffing Task Force, per the recommendations from Governance 2.0. Governance 2.0 was a group that gathered information from Steering, Staff and other leaders about how our not-so-new governance structure was working.

One of the themes that emerged from that conversation was validation that we have significant current gaps in staffing that need to be addressed.

The high-level goal of the Staffing Task Force is **to assess the staffing needs to support our congregation and make short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations to Steering for positions to be hired and/or reconfigured.**

The Staffing Task Force has met since January and includes:

- Adela Basayne – Program Director, Staff representative
- Oren Kosansky – Vice-President, Steering liaison
- Shari Raider – Treasurer
- R.E Szego – Shabbat School parent and participant of Governance 2.0
- Alanna Silverman – longtime member who is professional HR director
- Julia Lager-Mesulam – Governance 2.0 participant and former president involved in the former Staffing Task Force that hired our Program Director

To date we have reviewed materi-

als and recommendations from Governance 2.0, the Life of a Member project, Staff recommendations for staffing scenarios, and have met with representatives from the Music Committee and Rabbi Benjamin. We

We are still in the process of defining these exact positions: what their exact responsibilities will be, their titles and who they will report to. As we continue to work through these details, we will be reaching out to those groups and people named [here].

have plans to meet with representatives from the B'nei Mitzvah Committee, Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Rachel Pollak and Carrie Kirschner. Other stakeholders we intend to meet with include:

- Welcoming Team
- Neighborhood Groups
- Avodah
- Spiritual Life
- Teri Ruch
- Karen Westerman
- Transparency and Inclusivity

Through our discussions we have identified the following gaps:

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

- Operations – Human Resource functions
- Financial tracking and processes

Since we are in the budget process currently, we made a provisional recommendation to Steering to hire three positions for fiscal year 2022-23, which begins July 1. This recommendation builds back staffing we have lost and adds one additional position.

We recognize that we made this provisional recommendation prior to meeting with all stakeholders but plan to do so as this process moves forward.

We recommend that these positions be hired in a staggered timing so as to allow for the capacity of staff and committee members to conduct interviews, do hiring, onboard and integrate these new staff into Havurah.

We are still in the process of defining these exact positions: what their exact responsibilities will be, their titles and who they will report to.

As we continue to work through these details, we will be reaching out to those groups and people named above.

If you have questions or input you would like to share, reach out to any one of the Staffing Task Force members.

# 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. There are many opportunities ~ What is right for you?

## HavuraHoods

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to help that doesn't take much time? HavuraHood Captains bring their neighbors together for Shabbat and holiday gatherings, carpooling, welcoming new members, and more. Contact Stefanie Hausman.

## Teen Engagement

If you are a parent of a teen or a teen yourself, consider joining the new Teen Engagement Committee to help post-b'nei mitzvah members continue to be involved. Goals are to support program staff for teen-related activities and to support and encourage teens to plan and implement their own activities. Contact Andy Waxman.

## Kabbalat Shabbat Onegs/Dinners

Remember our sweet (pre-Covid) Kabbalat Shabbat services with dinner before and oneg after? This fall we'll start services earlier, with a simple oneg and a relaxed dinner afterward. We need two co-chairs as our current chairs step back but are available for consultation and advice. Contact Rachel Shimshak.

## Safety Trainings

The Safety Committee wants to ensure that people from all parts of Havurah (Shabbat School, Adult Education, Shabbat morning services, etc) participate in safety trainings. We welcome your leadership in reaching out to schedule these trainings. Contact Joel Bettridge.

## B'nei Mitzvah

As our congregation grows and Covid continues to shape the way we gather, the B'nei Mitzvah Committee welcomes new committee members to support families through the b'nei mitzvah life cycle experience. If you're interested in helping, please complete this form: [bit.ly/BneiMitz](https://bit.ly/BneiMitz). Questions? Contact Amanda Coffey.

## Transparency & Inclusivity

The Transparency & Inclusivity Committee ensures continued transparency of governance decisions to enhance communication between members and leadership – and among members – so every congregant feels valued. This leads to greater membership engagement and promotes inclusivity. We meet monthly, but if committee membership isn't your preference, there are opportunities to work on specific projects. Contact Janice Kettler.

## Gesher (Bridge)

Are you passionate about Havurah's guiding values of egalitarian participation, spiritual openness, diversity, inclusivity, and participatory self-governance? Do you take the wide and long view of things? Havurah's Gesher (Bridge) Committee needs you! Gesher is a consultation team that keeps an eye on the larger principles underlying Havurah. We meet irregularly and work collaboratively with other committees to help them do their work the "Havurah way." Contact Shelley Sobel or Herman Asarnow.



# HADRACHA

## Join T&I Committee to Make a Difference!

Interested in joining a vibrant and relevant committee? This committee's purpose is to ensure continued transparency of governance decisions to allow for greater communication between members and leadership—and among members—so that every congregant feels valued. We believe this leads to greater membership engagement and promotes inclusivity. We meet monthly (currently via Zoom), and we also have opportunities to work on specific projects. Contact Janice Kettler through the Havurah directory for more information.

The committee was formed in 2018. We are proud of the work we have done and continue to do:

- Developed Transparency and Inclusivity Guidelines for the Congregation, which consists of A Framework for Transparency,

### ***Transparency and Inclusivity Committee***

A Framework For Intentional Inclusivity, and Inclusivity Considerations When Planning An Activity/Event.

- Actively implemented the Guidelines by encouraging committees to use the means of communication that we have (e.g., weekly emails through Hineinu, the monthly Hakol newsletter) to make outreach more expansive and include all Havurah members in recruitment efforts/offerings to increase participation.
- Supported the Steering Commit-

tee to make the budget process more transparent by getting more information to the congregation well before the annual June congregational meeting where the budget is approved.

- Reviewed Steering Committee notes to ensure transparent/clear communication. If you would like to read current or past minutes, [follow this link.](#)
- Answering your questions! We serve as an avenue within Havurah to help members find the answers to questions or concerns that you are wondering about. Email them to [transparency@havurahshalom.org](mailto:transparency@havurahshalom.org). We will anonymously answer your question in Hakol. Everyone in our community benefits from this clarity.

## New and Prospective Member Afternoon at Havurah

Attendees at the May 15 Welcoming Committee event met members and committee and cluster representatives. Originally planned for a park, rain brought everyone to the building instead, where nosh was had and friends were made. Here Anne Goldberg addresses attendees to welcome them warmly to the community.





# Havurah to Give Torah a Temporary Home

By Julia Lager-Mesulam

A torah scribed in Ponidel, Lithuania, in the 1800s will travel to Portland from New Jersey in late May and make Havurah its home for at least seven years. Plans are in the works to welcome this torah on Sha-vuot.

This torah belongs to my mother, Naomi Lager, and father, Robert Lager, of blessed memory. This torah was in Ponidel until 1903, when it was brought to New York City. In the early 1900s, when Jews left Eastern Europe, they brought village torahs with them on their journey. My great grandfather, Zvi Borodovko, of blessed memory; grandfather, Isidore Borodovko, of blessed memory, and Great Uncle, Shmuel Moshe, of blessed memory, all read from this torah on their b'nei mitzvah over one hundred years ago.

For almost two decades, no family members read from this torah until my niece read from it at her bat mitzvah in 2001. All of my parents' grandchildren have read from this torah at their b'nei mitzvah. My mother, one of my sisters, and I also read from it at Eli and Ari's bar mitzvah. Some of you who attended Eli and Ari's bar mitzvah many years ago may remember that this torah traveled here from Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor, New Jersey.

### Why 7 years?

It was always important to my parents that this torah always be in a congregation where one of us was a member. As it turns out, my mother and neither of my sisters are currently members of a synagogue. Since Steven, Eli, Ari and I are members, Havurah will provide a home for the Torah for at least seven years. If after seven years no one else in my family is a member of a synagogue, Havurah will continue to provide a home for it, unless of course we move.

It is very meaningful for me to have this torah become part of Havurah. I appreciate all at Havurah



Top: The Lager Family Torah was recently placed in Havurah's ark, its new home for now. Bottom: The Lager Family Torah visits Havurah Shalom several years ago at Eli Mesulam's bar mitzvah with Steven and Ari Mesulam, Julia Lager-Mesulam and Naomi Lager following.

## High Holidays Update: Mark Your Calendars

### ***Meet Your Friends, Roll Up Your Sleeves and Make Your Mark***

By Bija Gutoff

Have you ever worked with your neighbors to plan a block party? Or with your children's school to organize a fundraiser? Have you marched for a cause, roused voters for a campaign, thrilled to election night results? Collected food for a pantry or put on your gloves and planted trees?

Projects like these are meaningful and invigorating. They can be messy and demanding, too. They deepen our bonds. They inspire us. We create something from nothing, and we are transformed.

Preparing for our Havurah High Holidays has always had a similar magic, only more so: months of effort yielding a great communal uplift and, for individuals, transcendent moments of genuine insight, purpose, and growth.

Our community draws closer as we work together to erect our sacred tent at the Tiffany Center. We are

conscious of readying ourselves as well as our space.

This is powerful medicine. There's

**So let's get started!  
Let's each of us begin  
to imagine—and  
plan—for the fall  
holiday cycle.**

no better remedy for the depletion many of us have felt during the pandemic than each of us rising to the challenges of this shared undertaking. So let's get started! Let's each of us begin to imagine—and plan—for the fall holiday cycle. Close your eyes for a moment, or pick up a pen. It's late September; kids are back in school; the air is alive with the rhythms of renewal and return. How do you see yourself joining in, recharging your batteries with vibrant Havurah connections, making your

mark on our uniquely uplifting communal endeavor?

Maybe you see yourself greeting people and keeping them safe? The usher and security teams will welcome you. Maybe you have an artistic eye? The people who arrange flowers, hang banners and decorate our space would love to tap into your talents. Maybe you're handy with tech, audio, video, zoom – your skills will be greatly appreciated. Your strong back, your shlepping, your organizational abilities, your singing, your service leadership, your writing, your leyning: we need you.

Maybe you're new and you picture yourself learning these or other tasks alongside old hands who can show you the ropes—and who will welcome your ideas. Maybe you're one of those old hands, ready to summon your years of experience to launch a crew of willing beginners. Whoever you are, whatever your

*(Continued on page 11)*

### **We Will Gather In Person for High Holidays**

This year we are planning for a full return to the Tiffany Center for our High Holidays cycle. For decades, we have hosted the elevating, open services we are known for there, in downtown Portland. We have gathered there for Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah, Erev Yom Kippur, and Yom Kippur, when our congregation swells beyond the capacity of our own building. We aim to do so again this year.

And, in addition to these in-person celebrations, we will offer high-quality streaming video for members, guests, and friends who live far away who wish to join our services from home.

The planning is ambitious and complex, taking into

account safety, security, capacity, access and inclusion—and how this year's holiday traditions will be the same, and different, from prior years. And, if our leadership decides that in-person gathering is too risky due to changing pandemic conditions, we will pivot to virtual services for all in order to keep our community safe.

Meanwhile, it is a delight to envision a robust return to communal life, where we see and know and support one another, where our bonds are strengthened, where we live connected. Between now and September you will find holiday updates in each Hakol, so watch this space. And if you have questions, please contact info@havurahshalom.org.

# Celebrate Shavuot with Text Study & Cheesecake

## Tikkun Leyl Shavuot Na'aseh V'Nishma: On Discernment and Obligation

*Saturday, June 4, 9-11pm (or later)  
Zoom Room Aleph  
Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin*

For our Tikkun Leyl Shavuot this year, we will begin with the moment at Sinai when the People declared, “We will do and we will listen.” Going deep into that verse and many responses to it over the generations, we will explore how we each, as progressive Jews today, understand and experience the nature of discernment and obligation. To what do we each feel obligated in our lives and the world, and how do those obligations emerge and endure?



## *Shavuot Service Followed by Oneg*

*Sunday, June 5, 10-12 pm  
In Person at Havurah  
and in Zoom Room Aleph*

We will celebrate Shavuot with a morning service, including Yizkor and a short Torah service, and we will also welcome a new Torah to Havurah Shalom, lent by the Lager Family. Afterward, enjoy an oneg with simple dairy (and non-dairy!) treats!

## High Holidays, cont'd: Make Your Mark

*(Continued from page 10)*

experience, your time and ideas and energy are invaluable.

Please take a minute now to add the dates of the High Holidays cycle to your calendar. Block out some of your time—before, during, and immediately after—to join one (or more) of our many teams of volunteers who transform ordinary space into sacred space and ordinary time into sacred time.

You will experience the joy and adventure of re-engaging and re-awakening—alongside people you will come to know better—as you help prepare our rich offerings. You'll find a list of volunteer needs and instructions in the sidebar to the right.

Whatever you are feeling—ready to meet your new community, a little nervous or shy, eager to reconnect with people you have been missing—

### **High Holidays Planning Committee**

you are warmly welcome. Join in! We are all a bit rusty after two years without in-person services, so we will need everyone to offer what they can.

And remember, Havurah is open right now. We are finding our way home. We are using our building again, holding classes and meetings and b'nei mitzvah again, celebrating holidays again. Check out our [calendar](#) for everything that's going on in the coming weeks and in preparation for the High Holidays, which begin with Elul in August.

This is how we return. This is how we renew our bonds. This is how we move forward—together. Welcome!

## High Holiday Volunteering

**Once you've set aside time to work with other Havurahniks to make High Holidays happen, what's next?**

In mid-August, the High Holidays Packet will be sent digitally, with all the schedules and other info you may need. It will include a link to an online volunteer sign-up featuring jobs and the times people are needed for them. Here are a few:

Stage supplies at Tiffany Center • Arrange flowers • Service space set-up • Service Usher • Teen Break Room Attendant • Family Service help • Move equipment to storage or back to Havurah • Pack up machzorim • Help build sukkah • Break fast set-up/clean-up • Safety volunteer

Consider what works for your interests and schedule, then sign up! Questions? Reach out to Rachel Polak ([rachel@havurahshalom.org](mailto:rachel@havurahshalom.org)).



# AVODAH

## Birkat Ha-Gomel Remarks from Deborah Eisenbach-Budner

*In early May, Deborah and Steve Eisenbach-Budner survived a fire that severely damaged their home. On May 15, the Havurah community gathered to say the Birkat ha-Gomel, a prayer said upon surviving a deadly ordeal.*

*The following are Deborah's partial remarks from that ceremony, with a link to the full text. The link is only viewable to members who are signed in to the website. Transcription is thanks to Adela Basayne.*

I have many thoughts right now but not so many clear sentences. I can say this.

Thank you for being here with us,

### **Read Full Remarks**

**Must be a signed-in member.**

now, in the myriad ways you are. Thank you for being here, in this room, in the past, in times of simcha. Thank you for being here in the future.

An unending thanks to my sisters Miriam and Rebecca, who have been right with us, side by side, the last 10 days, and to Carrie, Benjamin, Adela and Rachel who are not only picking up my job right now, in one of the busiest times of the year, but

also taking care of us.

Being alive and here with you right now is a gift beyond words.

\* \* \*

As we move into the Shema I am struck as always by the main concept of echad—oneness, unity, interconnectedness. Listen up.... My sense of connection is deeply strengthened by the caring and tangible embrace of this community. The vulnerability, fear, aloneness, rage and confusion accompanying this experience for me is mitigated by your love and compassion.

## New weekly, hybrid Torah study begins

With David Dropkin's enthusiasm and leadership, the Spiritual Life Committee is offering a new learning experience on Zoom and in person.

Every week, we will study the weekly Torah portion together. There is an amazing wealth of material for us to explore and so there will be lots of topics to discuss. Discussion is important. In this interactive undertaking, participants will share their thoughts and insights and help us all learn more about the weekly parsha.

It is our hope that you will share your interpretation of what the text says to you. Or you can simply

### **Spiritual Life Committee**

come and learn and take in all that is shared by others. It may be helpful for you to read the parsha beforehand, but it's not required.

We plan to hold Parsha Study at 9:00am on Saturday mornings, an hour before the Shabbat service begins.

Come in person or join us in Zoom Room Bet. Check the Havurah website calendar or watch Hineinu for updates.

### **Regular Services at Havurah**

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 may also take place at this time.

#### **Morning Minyan**

Wednesday Mornings, 8:30-9 am

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat**

Monthly. Check calendar for schedule

All are welcome at services. The Spiritual Life Committee also welcomes any who would like to join in on planning and leading services.

## **Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation, Tuesdays, noon to 1 pm, at Havurah Shalom and 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

# AVODAH

## Introducing the Karen Labinger Misheberach List

By Sam Sirkin, Tivona Reith,  
Fran Berg

As co-chairs of the Spiritual Life and Bikkur Holim/Visiting the Sick committees, we have been working for some time now on a transparent and accessible way for Havurah members to submit names to be read during the Misheberach (healing) prayer.

With approval from Steering, we created a request form that has been tested by members of several committees, and in May we sent a standalone email to the Havurah community inviting all members to use the form during a three-month pilot program.

The form is linked from several pages of Havurah's website now and can be found in the drop-down menu under "Services" after

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### ***Spiritual Life and Bikkur Holim committees***

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you log in as a member. It will also be included in each Hineinu and Hakol. If you need help logging in as a member, the office is happy to help.

We named the list of names created through the form in honor of Karen Labinger, of blessed memory, a longtime Havurah member who lovingly collected the names of people to read during the Misheberach. To keep the list manageable for service leaders, we are asking that people only submit the names of Havurah members and relatives, but everyone attending our services will be invited to say the names of additional peo-

ple during the Misheberach.

At the start of each week, a designated member of the Spiritual Life Committee will collect the names submitted the week before and prepare a list for service leaders to read during the Misheberach in the coming week. Information submitted through the form will only be shared with Rabbi Benjamin, Bikkur Holim, Spiritual Life, and/or Lotsa Helping Hands.

During the "pilot" phase of this project we will be trying everything out in real time and looking for input on anything that doesn't work or could be improved.

And we will work on the processes for managing the list and reading names. If you have questions or comments during this time, please use this form to give us your feedback.

## May Healing Be Done for All

As our lives begin to go back to what we consider "normal," we are also more exposed to the elements and a higher chance of getting COVID and like viruses. We are aware that there could be some of our Havurah community members who might be dealing with Covid, whether with mild or no symptoms, or hit hard and long. We also want to acknowledge other health challenges among our community. So, at this time as we roll into the season of spring, we share excerpts below from the poem "Inviting Healing" and add our own prayers and blessings for refuah shleimah, complete healing for all. —*Fran Berg and Tivona Reith, co-chairs, Bikkur Holim/Visiting the Sick*

Let me invite the energy of life  
Into my limbs,  
Into my chest,  
Into my heart.

Let me invite this well of healing  
Into my breath,  
Into my blood,  
Into my spirit.

Infinite Divine of old,  
Healer and Guide,

You have blessed me with life,  
Days of hope and yearning.  
Bless me with Your healing power.  
Lead me back to  
A life of wholeness and peace.

—From "Inviting Healing" by Alden Solovy, from *Jewish Prayers of Hope and Healing*

If you or another Havurah member is ill and would like a call, a card, or a visit, let us know. Our contact information is in the Havurah directory.

# Book Group Has Love of a Good Read

Winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature, Alice Munro is perhaps the greatest short story writer since Chekhov. Her fluid and seamless movement of time and perspective has revolutionized the genre and influenced countless short story writers. What she achieves in a 30-page short story far exceeds in depth and complexity what many novelists struggle to accomplish in 500 pages. Her economy of words is breathtaking.

Munro's stories tend to be about ordinary people doing ordinary things, and yet coming to the end of a Munro story leaves the reader with the sense of awe that comes with having witnessed the profound. Alice Munro has a genius for entering the lives of her characters and capturing the passions and contradictions that lie just below the surface.

In *The Love of a Good Woman*, she takes mainly the lives of wom-

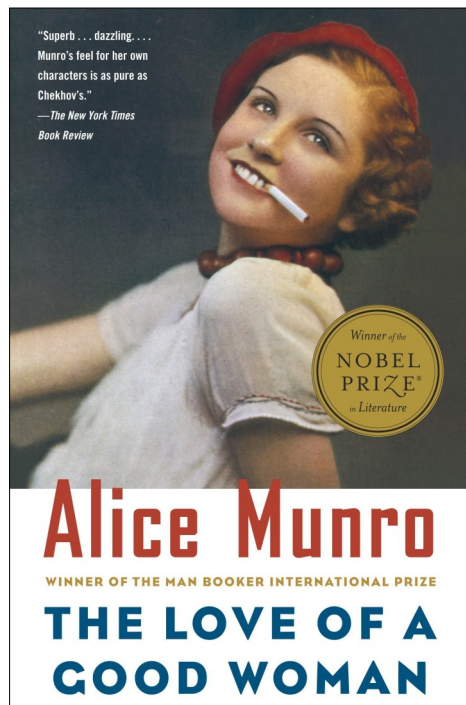
## June Book

### *The Love of a Good Woman*

by Alice Munro  
Fiction/Novel

**Tuesday, June 28**  
**Zoom Room Bet and In Person**

en—unruly, ungovernable, unpredictable, unexpected, funny, sexy and completely recognizable—and brings their hidden desires bubbling to the surface. *The Love of a Good Woman* is not as pure and virtuous as it seems: as in her title story it can be needy and murderous. Here are women behaving badly, leaving husbands and children, running off with unsuitable lovers, pushing everyday life to the limits, and if they don't behave badly, they think sur-



prising and disturbing thoughts. If you have not read Munro, you are in for a real treat.

Discussion led by David Newman in Zoom Room Bet.

## Last in Fest: 5 Broken Cameras Retells Difficult Story

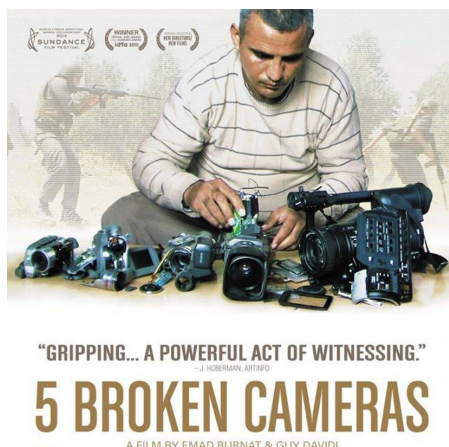
By Elinor Gollay  
Israel/Palestine Committee

The Havurah I/P committee continues its discussion series of three Israeli documentaries with a final event on June 12:

**Sunday, June 12 at 7 pm: 5 Broken Cameras** (2011), 94 minutes. Discussion to be led by Sue Abrams and another person to be named.

[Watch trailer here](#)

Please watch the film on your own prior to the discussion. All the films we watch are available free through your county library system—sign up with your library card



on kanopy.com. The first two are available for a fee through Amazon Prime.

The discussion will be for Havu-

rah members only. We encourage you to invite your Havurah friends to join us. Please look at the calendar to see if we have decided that the discussion can be hybrid: Zoom plus in person.

Additional information about the films, directors, etc. will be added to the [Israel/Palestine Committee Portal](#), including information about the two discussions that took place in May. Please check periodically.

For additional information on these films and discussion series, please contact Lee Gordon or Elinor Gollay. (Note that committee co-chair Elinor Gollay will be out of the country until June 8.)



# LIMUD



In May, Shabbat School sixth graders and their families celebrated a siyyum, a celebration of completion. It was a chance to reflect on their years learning and growing together, and to celebrate their accomplishment. Parents provided students with their own Havdallah candles and the students made spice bags to give to caregivers. While the siyyum marked a completion, it also marked the transition for some families to a b'nei mitzvah year, as well as a chance to reflect on the completion of their class talit, which will be used at future b'nei mitzvah.





## HADRACHA

# Gratitude to Havurahniks

**By Miriam Reshotko**  
**Steering Past-President**

This morning I attended the gathering at Havurah for the Eisenbach-Budner family along with many other Havurahniks. Hearing Deborah's and Steven's words and saying Birkat Hagomel, the blessing of gratitude for survival, we were all reminded of the fragility of life, and the importance of community. We are appreciative of all the efforts and gestures, large and small, that have built the strong foundation and structure of our kehillah, which stands stronger than any "brick and mortar" building can. It is essential that we take time to enunciate our thanks for these contributions. We are so grateful...

To Katherine McDowell, for working on updating the Havurah Bylaws to add a Recording Secretary position to Steering, in addition to some general clean-up on outdated language.

To Nancy Becker, who is stepping down after many years as our Fundraising committee chair. Nancy has helped progress Havurah's fundraising efforts immensely and is responsible for encouraging a culture of generosity while staying true to Havurah's values. We are grateful that Nancy will still be leading the Legacy giving program.

To Evan King, for their years of service as the Havurah representative to the Reconstructing Judaism Plenum, and to Jacqueline Zapp-Albin for stepping up to take their place! Thanks for keeping us connected to our movement!

To Melisa Crosby, Havurah member and ELL (English Language Learning) teacher in Rockwood, for contacting the Sanctuary committee about volunteers and

to the eight members who stepped up and are now paired with eight ELL students, tutoring them in English.

To Elianne Lieberman, member of the Havurah Climate Action Team, who led an Earth Day hike to Smith and Bybee Lakes.

To Ken Lerner, who continues to lead the Hadar Song Circle on the first Monday of each month.

To Sam Sirkin, Fran Berg, and Tivona Reith, for working on the Karen Labinger Misheberach Portal. And special thanks also to staff member Teri Ruch for her attention to detail and dedication to getting the Portal ready for launch. Truly a team effort!!

To Karen Westerman, for cleaning and getting drip holders for the Shabbat candlesticks.

To Michael Wall, who is responsible for giving the exterior of the Sanctuary emergency exit door and the trash room door fresh coats of paint!

To all the Havurahniks who have surrounded the Eisenbach-Budner family with all kinds of support, both physical and spiritual, in their time of need. And to the Eisenbach-Budner family for letting us in and giving us the opportunity to hold them up.

And to all those many, many tasks, groups, and specific people who were not mentioned, thank you! We value your participation and contributions, however that may look. If there is something you would like mentioned, please send it to Miriam Reshotko (email listed in the member directory—please put "gratitude" in the subject line) to be included next month. Looking forward to continuing to gather more frequently in person, and grateful for the opportunities and various modalities of getting together!

## PRIDE IN THE PARK KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE AND DINNER

**JUNE 17 AT COLUMBIA PARK**  
**SERVICE AT 6, DINNER AT 7**  
**BYOB AND SHABBAT CANDLES**

**RSVP HERE**

**A FUN EVENING FOR THE FAMILY!**  
**CATERED BY LAUGHING PLANET**  
**DINNER IS GRATIS**

# JUNE 2022

Up-to-date information including Zoom rooms, event descriptions and any changes in plan can be found on the [website calendar](#).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 <i>Iyar 28</i> Yom Yerushalayim 43rd Day Omer</p>	<p>30 <i>Iyar 29</i> 44th Day Omer <b>Admin-Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed for Memorial Day</b> 7:00pm (HYB) Literature and Trauma</p>	<p>31 <i>Sivan 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th Day Omer 12:00pm (HYB) Jewish Mindfulness &amp; Meditation 7:00pm (ZM) New Committee Chair Orientation</p>	<p>1 <i>Sivan 2</i> 46th Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah 7:00pm (ZM) Drash and Service Workshop</p>	<p>2 <i>Sivan 3</i> 47th Day Omer</p>	<p>3 <i>Sivan 4</i> 48th Day Omer 10:00am Brnei Mitzvah Run-through 8:36pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>4 <i>Sivan 5</i> Erev Shavuot 49th Day Omer Bamidbar 9:00am (HYB) Parsha Study 10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Arianna Garmage 9:00pm (ZM) Tikun Leyl Shavuot 9:37pm Candle Lighting</p>
<p>5 <i>Sivan 6</i> Shavuot - 1st Day 10:00am (HYB) Shavuot Service 9:37pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>6 <i>Sivan 7</i> Shavuot Yizkor 1:00pm (IP) Mafjiong Group 5:30pm (ZM) "Braiding Sweetgrass" Book Study 7:30pm (HYB) Song Circle 9:46pm Havdalah</p>	<p>7 <i>Sivan 8</i> 12:00pm (HYB) Jewish Mindfulness &amp; Meditation</p>	<p>8 <i>Sivan 9</i> 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 7:00pm (IP) Conversational Hebrew Class Party</p>	<p>9 <i>Sivan 10</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Sivan 11</i> 8:41pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>11 <i>Sivan 12</i> Nasso 9:00am (HYB) Parsha Study 10:00am (HYB) Community Minyan 10:30am (ZM) Tot Shabbat 9:49pm Havdalah</p>
<p>12 <i>Sivan 13</i> 10:00am (ZM) Congregational Meeting 7:00pm (ZM) "5 Broken Cameras" Film Discussion</p>	<p>13 <i>Sivan 14</i> 7:00pm (HYB) Literature and Trauma</p>	<p>14 <i>Sivan 15</i> 12:00pm (HYB) Jewish Mindfulness &amp; Meditation 6:30pm (ZM) Steering Meeting</p>	<p>15 <i>Sivan 16</i> 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 12:00pm Bar Mitzvah Run-through 7:00pm (HYB) Adult Brnei Mitzvah Summer Session</p>	<p>16 <i>Sivan 17</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Sivan 18</i> 6:00pm (IP) Pride in the Park Kabalat Shabbat 8:44pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>18 <i>Sivan 19</i> Beha'alotcha 9:00am (HYB) Parsha Study 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Noah Shire 2:00pm Private event (tent.) 9:52pm Havdalah</p>
<p>19 <i>Sivan 20</i> <b>Admin-Father's Day</b> 11:00am (IP) Marching in the Pride Parade</p>	<p>20 <i>Sivan 21</i> 1:00pm (IP) Mafjiong Group 5:30pm (ZM) "Braiding Sweetgrass" Book Study</p>	<p>21 <i>Sivan 22</i> 12:00pm (HYB) Jewish Mindfulness &amp; Meditation</p>	<p>22 <i>Sivan 23</i> 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 5:30pm (ZM) Forum on the Global Refugee Crisis</p>	<p>23 <i>Sivan 24</i></p>	<p>24 <i>Sivan 25</i> 8:46pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>25 <i>Sivan 26</i> Shabbat Mevarchim Shlach 9:00am (HYB) Parsha Study 10:00am (HYB) Community Minyan 9:54pm Havdalah</p>
<p>26 <i>Sivan 27</i> 10:00am (ZM) Anti-Racism &amp; Belonging Conversation Group for Past Presidents 11:30am (ZM) Anti-Racism &amp; Belonging Conversation Group for Steering Committee Members</p>	<p>27 <i>Sivan 28</i></p>	<p>28 <i>Sivan 29</i> 12:00pm (HYB) Jewish Mindfulness &amp; Meditation 7:00pm Book Group: The Love of a Good Woman by Alice Munro</p>	<p>29 <i>Sivan 30</i> Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 8:15am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>30 <i>Tammuz 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 4:30pm (ZM) AllieRocker Happy Hour</p>	<p>1 <i>Tammuz 2</i> 8:45pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>2 <i>Tammuz 3</i> Korach 9:00am (HYB) Parsha Study 10:00am Brnei Mitzvah of Megan Rose and Elijah Moss 9:53pm Havdalah</p>