



March 2022  
Vol. 44, Issue 6

# Hakol • הקול

## Making Our Mishkan Whole

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

There's a wonderful Hasidic teaching I've shared before about the construction of the mishkan, the portable sanctuary our ancestors carried in the wilderness. It's from the Ishbitzer Rebbe, who teaches that at first, each builder focused only on their own skills and gifts, seeing those as most important. Later they saw how everything they brought and did fit together perfectly, realizing how much they had depended on each other. That moment, when each person's gifts were recognized as essential, the Ishbitzer teaches, is when the mishkan became whole.

I've returned to this teaching lately, with a twist: A true mishkan—a sacred and inclusive space—is one in which each of us is invited to show up not only with our gifts, but also with our own particular needs. This has become more pronounced to me amid this moment of the pandemic. As we begin to gather in person more fully at Havurah, it is clear that there is a wide range of needs among us.

For many, being together in person does not yet feel safe, or feels safe in only the most protected settings. For some, being in community by video is working. Or even if not ideal, is preferable to being in person and potentially exposed to the virus.

For others, the need to be in physical community is strong. While we want to be safe and protected from COVID, we are ready to balance that with our emotional and spiritual need to be physically together.



The Sanctuary at Havurah Shalom stands empty and waiting in this undated file photo.

This all means that for some of us, there will be choices made at Havurah that do not feel cautious enough; while for others, there will be times when we are being unnecessarily cautious. This is inevitable. It will be part of this journey we are on. So let's make room for it, as a piece of what it means to honor our commitments to each other and to this community.

Havurah's COVID Management Team, at every decision point, weighs our collective needs. We carefully and intentionally consider the safety and well-being of Havurah members and of our community as a whole. So if you feel safe gathering in person, I hope you will jump at opportunities emerging over these weeks and months, and trust that we are taking serious precautions. And

for those of you not able or comfortable to come into the building yet, please know that leadership is also engaged in upgrading our technology so that we can continue to provide remote access for all who need it. I hope we will emerge into this next phase with a proliferation of modalities, an expanding notion of the ways in which we can build community.

In our wandering through the wilderness of this time, we carry a variety of needs and desires. We each will have moments when ours are met, and other moments when they are less so. In all those, may we hold in mind and heart others' needs alongside our own, trusting that in doing so we help to make this mishkan truly inclusive, sacred, and whole.

## Havurah Shalom Staff

**Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi**  
benjamin@havurahshalom.org

**Adela Basayne,**  
**Program Director**  
adela@havurahshalom.org

**Deborah Eisenbach-Budner,**  
**Education Director**  
deborah@havurahshalom.org

**Carrie Kirschner, Assistant**  
**Coordinator of Education**  
ace@havurahshalom.org

**Rachel Pollak, Office &**  
**Facilities Manager**  
rachel@havurahshalom.org

## Condolences

**Edith Brissey**, mother of Lisa Ellenberg and mother-in-law of David, passed away Feb. 4.

**Helen Sherwin**, mother Joan Peck, grandmother of Adam Peck and Alison Peck Rosenfeld, passed away Feb. 6.

**Loretta St. Clair**, mother of Karen St. Clair, passed away Feb. 11.

**Isabelle Jean Cooke**, mother of Harriet Cooke, passed away Feb. 16.

## B'nei Mitzvah

Havurah will call to the Torah the following Bat Mitzvah:

**March 12**

**Isla Pomerantz-Roll**

Child of Karen Pomerantz and Ian Roll

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

# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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

Content is contributed by members of Havurah or aggregated by the editor. News, updates, photos and features are welcome from all but may be subject to content and space considerations. Email the editor, Rachel Pollak, with any questions. Find contribution [links here](#).

**Hakol Contribution Deadline**  
March 18

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

## Tributes

### General Contributions

Joan and Dave Weil, in memory of Lisa Ellenberg's mother and Harriet Cooke's mother.

Joan and Dave Weil, in memory of Joan Peck's mother and Karen St. Clair's mother.

Peter and Briana Rosenbaum, in honor of Noah Rosenbaum's bar mitzvah.

### Havurah Endowment Fund

Mimi and Bob Epstein, in loving memory of Harry Monoker, Mimi Epstein's father.

Julia Lager-Mesulam, in memory of my father, Robert Lager, on his 8th yearzeit.

### Prayerbook Fund

Alixé Dancer, in memory of John Schroeder.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Nancy and Frank Weintraub, in memory of Robert Rosenberg, Sarah Rosenberg's father.  
Marjorie Gans Walters, in memory

of my mother, Elinore Golden Gans.

Jacqueline Zapp-Albin, in honor of Abe's b'nei mitzvah.

### Adult Education Fund

Maud Naroll, in honor of the Book Group.

### Spiritual Life Fund

Melissa Solomon, in honor of Nathan Kirschner.

### Library Fund

Susan Brenner, in memory of Leatrice Brenner. She loved libraries.

### Tikkun Olam Fund

Dale Oller, in memory of my nephew, Marc Andre Tobin; my uncles, Sidney Oller and Emery Zidell; and my mother, Shirley J. Oller-Jaffe.  
Dale Oller in loving memory of my husband, Earl Oller.

### Educator's Discretionary Fund

Jacqueline Zapp-Albin, in honor of Abe's b'nei mitzvah.

## New Learning Opportunity for Racial Justice Allies

By Kathy Gordon

The Racial Justice Committee of Westminster Presbyterian Church is partnering with other communities of faith, including Havurah, to bring a nationally renowned speaker to Portland Thursday through Saturday, April 21 to 23.

Dr. David Campt, founder of The Dialogue Co., will present several workshops. Dr. Campt is a respected expert in inclusion and equity, cultural competence, civic engagement and intergroup dialogue. A large focus of his work has been on anti-racism. He has authored many books and created the White Ally Toolkit Initiative. Dr. Campt has been featured by several prominent media outlets and has partnered with The White House, the U.S. military, global corporations, as well as many faith-based groups.

For a fuller picture of Dr. Campt, [visit his website](#).

The series of trainings in Portland will include:

A virtual keynote address some-

PRICING Attend all 3 events for \$140	Standard	Offering Support	Accepting Support
Keynote	\$20	\$30	\$10
Part I Training – 3.5 hours	\$80	\$100	\$60
Going Deeper – 3.5 hours	\$60	\$70	\$50

### Racial Justice Committee

time early April to encourage participation in the weekend event

An in-person keynote, which will be the same as the virtual keynote (offered the evening of April 21)

An in-person 3.5-hour training from the Ally Conversation Toolkit (same content offered the morning and afternoon of April 22)

A Going Deeper, 3.5-hour training that will delve further into effective ally-ship skills (offered on April 23)

Information about how to register will be forthcoming. If you are interested in being a more effective ally in racial situations, or if you want to

gain skills in having difficult conversations, we encourage you to consider attending at least some of the events offered by Dr. Campt.

For questions or to express interest in attending: Please contact Kathy Gordon. More information will follow.

There is a sliding scale price for each of the separate trainings, which can be found below. Westminster is carrying the bulk of the already reduced fee for bringing Dr. Campt to Portland.

Havurah, along with several other faith-based groups, has agreed to encourage as much participation as possible from our members. Financial hardship should not be a barrier to attending. Contact Kathy Gordon or Bob Brown for scholarship information.

## Opportunities grow in the spring, with the trees

By Harriet Cooke

The trees of the world and the forests of the Pacific Northwest in particular play a critical role in mitigating climate change. Tu B'shvat, our yearly celebration of trees in the middle of winter, inspires us to be involved in protecting and restoring our Oregon trees. Mid-winter through early spring are crucial times for both tree planting and political action. When the sap begins to rise, our window of time opens up

### Havurah Climate Action Committee

for these essential opportunities to help our forests, our urban trees and our communities.

In late January I joined one of many planting outings with Friends of Trees (FOT). We were restoring a grassland with native plants, part of urban forest restoration.

There I met a director of FOT who shared their intention and certain obstacles to help increase the urban tree Canopy in east Portland, an area that is a relative tree desert. Without tree cover, summer temperatures increase dramatically in the streets and in the homes and apartments of those who either don't have air conditioners or can't afford the extra utility costs of trying to cool down. Growing the urban tree canopy in this region of Portland is a critical

(Continued on page 4)



# TIKKUN OLAM

## News From The Streets: From the Poverty and Homelessness Committee



Metro has awarded my new project a \$5,000 grant to implement garbage and refuse collection and disposal. The funding was exhausted within one-and-a-half weeks and employed about 12 homeless individuals, paying them \$20 per hour as day labor. Eight tons of garbage was removed from three sites, and about 65 bags of garbage were collected off smaller streets. More funding has been requested. Stay tuned!

—Jenn Louis



## Opportunities to help the trees this spring, con'd

(Continued from page 3)  
part of climate justice.

Fast forward to Feb. 1, the short legislative session, with important bills to protect and improve the management of Oregon forests, as well as bills to allow renters to purchase and install air conditioners and to help cover the costs of heat pumps for our most vulnerable citizens.

Our Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT) helps us stay updated and involved on these bills as well as national climate policies. We keep each other informed on city issues and

Mid-winter through early  
spring are crucial times  
for tree planting  
and political action.

show up at hearings when it matters.

You can join us, or sign on to our Creating Climate Solutions listserv to receive updates on timely actions to protect our forests, build climate resilient communities, and join us in this critical work that needs our advocacy and our voices. We also host

monthly mental health support groups related to climate and other issues, and have periodic mending circles.

To sign onto our listserv, please email [info@havurahshalom.org](mailto:info@havurahshalom.org). And if you can, join us for our Zoom meeting the first Tuesday evening of each month. Email [shmita@havurahshalom.org](mailto:shmita@havurahshalom.org) for info.

Thank you, from Harriet Cooke and HCAT! With special thanks to Havurah's Kehillah (meaning community) Cluster and their sharing of Tu B'shvat tree planting opportunities.

# AVODAH

## Attention Music Lovers, Song Leaders, Instrumentalists

By Ken Lerner

Last October, Havurah began a shared musical learning experience based on a program designed by Joey Weisenberg ([sample his music here](#)) and the Rising Song Institute. We started with a pilot study group of about 10 folks who wanted to deepen their connection to communal song and niggunim (wordless melodies).

The initial group met monthly at Havurah to learn and sing together, with very positive responses from participants. When the Omicron variant became more of a concern, we decided to stop singing together until the spring, in the hope that Covid concerns might become less worrisome and more manageable by then. We are looking to singing together again in April.

Our Song Circle is now opening the group to others who wish to join

### *Havurah Song Circle*

and sing together. This is an opportunity for those who are interested in being a part of a vibrant process for learning and sharing music as well as growing personal leadership techniques. We had been meeting at Havurah on the first Monday evening of the month from 7:30 to 9 pm, but we will be sure to discuss our meeting time once more when we gather again to find the most convenient time for the most people. As the days lengthen and the weather improves, we may even find opportunities to sing together outside unmasked.

The Rising Song program is a guided self-study with access to a library of Joey's music videos, writ-

ten materials and short instructional videos. All are aimed at widening our exposure to Jewish nusach while stimulating thought about where melodies come from, what role they play in elevating prayer, as well as how to teach and strengthen community singing, and much more.

Along with your commitment, there is a cost: it's \$18/month, per person. This cost, which will be the responsibility of individual participants, allows access to Joey's wide library.

Cost should not be a deterrent. Limited subsidies will be available. Our hope is that from this nucleus of participants, we will grow and inspire new music and musicians within our community.

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact me (via email or phone from the directory) with any questions or requests for more information.

## Honor Asylum Seekers at Upcoming Services

The 4th annual HIAS Refugee Shabbat will take place on the weekend of March 4-5. What does HIAS do for refugees? For more than 130 years, HIAS has been helping refugees rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. Ensuring the safety of refugees and helping them thrive. Advocating for U.S. and international policies that protect all refugees.

### **HIAS Refugee Kabbalat Shabbat**

HIAS Refugee Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, March 4, 6:30-8:15 pm – In Person and in Zoom Room Aleph ([RSVP](#))

Please join Rabbi Benjamin and the Sanctuary Committee on Friday, March 4, as we dedicate sacred time and space to refugees and asylum seekers. We will speak aloud our commitment to welcoming the stranger and our dedication to working towards safety for all communities.

We will gather both in person and in Zoom (Room Aleph). [An RSVP is required if you would like to join in person](#). Our Covid guidelines now allow for 60 people in the Sanctuary.



### **HIAS Refugee Shabbat**

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 am – Zoom Room Aleph (online only)

We will join congregations nationwide in dedicating our Shabbat services to honoring refugees and asylum seekers.



## Book Group explores childhood perceptions

The God of Small Things is equal parts a perfectly paced mystery story, family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama. Set in 1969 in Kerala, India, against a background of sexual, racial and caste conflict that seethes around it like a threatening ocean, it centers on a dysfunctional family.

What is different about this novel is that it is largely told from the perspective of the children who witness and experience the events unfolding around them.

Children see the details that adults have forgotten to notice and at the same time overlook and misinterpret what seems so obvious to us grownups.

Through the eyes of the seven-year-old twins Esta and Rachel, we see the fragilities, contradictions, pettiness and cruelty of the adult world. It is a testament to Roy's artistry that she so convincingly creates the inner life of her child characters. Infused with wisdom, the children's view is never oversimplified or romanticized.

Winner of the 1997 Booker Award, this brilliantly plotted story uncoils with an agonizing sense of foreboding and inevitability. Roy

### March Book

#### *The God of Small Things*

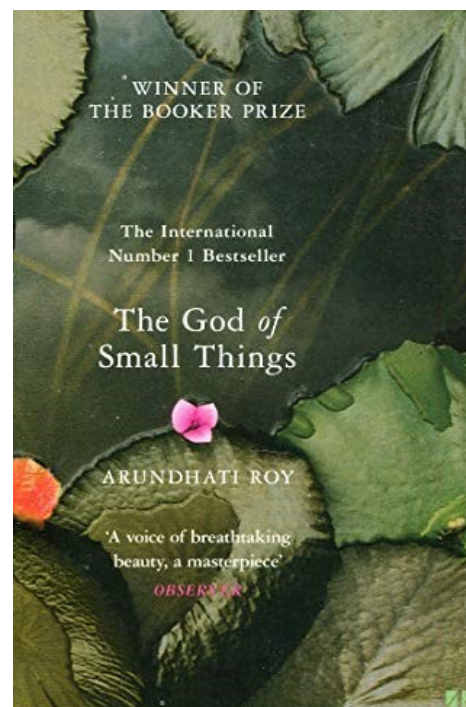
by Arundhati Roy  
Fiction/Novel, 321 pages

**Tuesday, March 22**  
**Zoom Room Bet**

moves us backwards and forward in time in a rhythmic dance that slowly reveals the hidden heart of the story.

The non-linear plot contributes to its dream-like quality, as does the writing itself. Slipping back and forth between the boundaries of prose and poetry, the language of the God of Small Things is lush, playful and mesmerizing. Roy's clarity of vision is remarkable, her voice original, her story beautifully constructed and masterfully told. That this is a debut novel is just one of many remarkable things about this extraordinary work of fiction. No less a writer than John Updike had this to say about it:

Roy peels away the layers of her mysteries with such delicate cun-



ning, such a dazzling adroit shuffle of accumulating revelations, that to discuss the plot would be to violate it. Like a devotionally built temple, The God of Small Things builds a massive interlocking structure of fine intensely felt details. A novel of real ambition must invent its own language, and this one does.

Discussion led by David Newman in Zoom Room Bet.

## Chanting and Hebrew in March

### Lev Tahor Chanting Circle

Tuesday, March 29, 7 pm – In-person and in Zoom Room Bet ([RSVP](#))

Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin. We'll gather in community for an evening of contemplative practice, chanting interspersed with silence, guided by teachings from the tradition. Everyone is welcome. While we will still be on Zoom for those who wish, we will also gather in the sanctuary. If you are interested in being present in person, please contact Rabbi Benjamin at benjamin.barnett@havurahshalom.org.

### Basic Hebrew Conversation

Thursdays, 7 pm, March 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5 (Party!) – In Person at Havurah ([RSVP](#))

Let's have a party in Hebrew!

We will spend five classes learning and practicing our conversational Hebrew while planning a party. And for the last class, we will hold a party and celebrate together.

Hebrew level required: Basic reading and writing (can read and write single words and short sentences), and a vocabulary of about 50 words or more.

## Budget Is a Yearly Dive Into Our Needs and Values

### Steering Update

By Shari Raider  
Treasurer

In February, we began our budgeting process for the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Every year we build a balanced budget (income equals expenses) as a roadmap for the coming year. This cycle gives us the opportunity to delve into our values, analyze our programs and decide how we want to continue to spend our money. Creating a budget takes time, energy and vision and involves the whole community.

The process begins with cluster Leads, committee chairs, staff and Steering analyzing what has happened historically and what we envision for our future. This analysis becomes the foundation for the 2022-2023 budget. All these stakeholders submit a budget for their area/program.

The Finance Committee collects these budgets to create one overall budget, reviews it and makes recommendations to Steering. Then Steering reviews the budget carefully and makes a final recommendation. Each line item of the operating budget will be reviewed multiple times before it goes to the congregation for final approval.

As you can see from the charts, membership dues provide almost 85 percent of Haverah's revenue. The remainder comes from program & building fees, fundraising and funds transfers. Many Haverahniks make donations/tributes to our funds, which contain dollars used for spe-

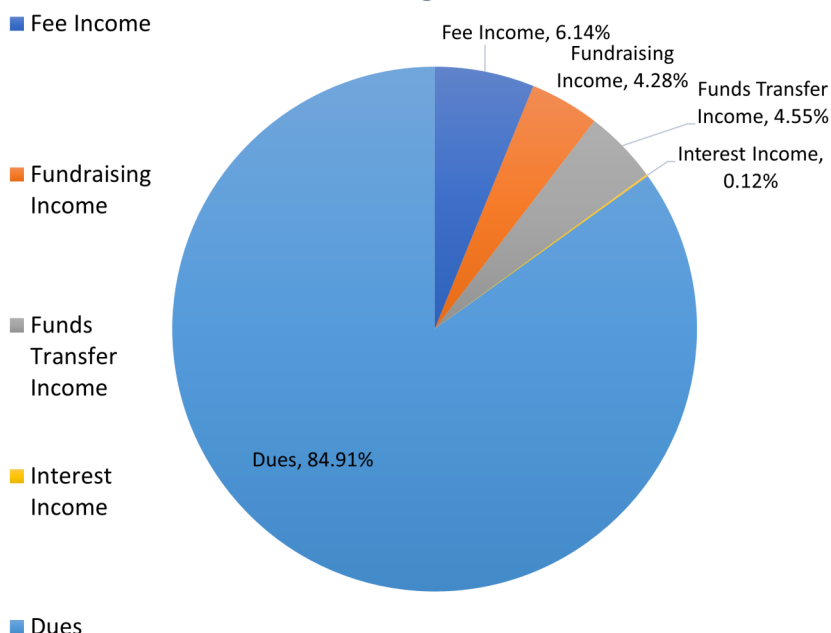
cific purposes (i.e. Tikkun Olam Fund, Music Fund, Building Fund, Endowment Fund, etc). When appropriate, we transfer monies from the funds to the operating budget; this then becomes another income source for the operating budget.

The money brought in is then spent on administration, personnel, programming, fundraising, occupancy and governance. At times, we need to make choices when expected expenses outpace expected income. If this happens, discussions occur about either bringing in more money through increasing dues, charging or increasing fees for cer-

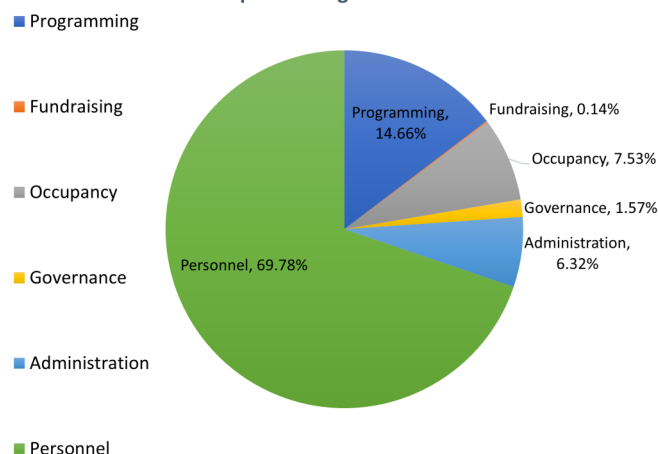
tain programs, fundraising or looking for areas in which expenses can be decreased. For this coming fiscal year, Steering will be exploring how to sustainably add more staffing into our budget.

We do this process together over many months, culminating in June, when the congregation votes to approve the budget for the new fiscal year. If you have any questions about the 2022-2023 budget process please contact me.

Income Budget 2021-2022



Expense Budget 2021-2022



# HADRACHA

## What we learned about Havurah decision-making

By Debbie Nadell, Adela Basayne,  
Shelley Sobel

### **Leadership Retreat Report**

Jewish history is filled with tales of rabbis and scholars arguing for months or even years about the meaning of a particular word or line in Torah. Many of us have heard about the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai, whose debates helped form Jewish practice and ethics. We picture a small room with many bearded scholars wearing dark robes and hats, poring over scrolls, and discussing each word for days on end.

The 'House of Havurah' keeps this tradition alive in slightly more modern ways – through discussions of the Torah portion at a Shabbat minyan or b'nei mitzvah, in many engaging youth and adult education classes and as a fundamental part of our governance structure, and most notably through how we make decisions at Steering and other committee meetings.

At our recent Leadership Retreat, close to 80 committee chairs, Steering members, and Havurah staff spent time articulating how our decision-making process works and what the strengths and weaknesses are with our approach. Most of our committees operate on a consensus

decision-making method—we discuss, argue, convince, and then discuss some more. Participants in the retreat shared their experiences making decisions in their committees and shared some of the following in small group discussions.

Our process can feel tedious and slow. We sense that we aren't always able to move quickly when issues arise. Yet when we ask Havurah members to think about an issue or solve a problem, the creative solutions and different perspectives can open us to resolutions that are stronger because of the time spent together.

We honor each other when we really listen. We can pull in disparate voices. We feel that our voice is heard by others. We can include those who may have specific knowledge or experience in the area where we are struggling to make a decision. And we are rewarded with the knowledge that our decisions reflect the collective thought of many people and we are building new relationships and strengthening

existing ones along the way.

We do sometimes run into situations where the more inclusive process of making decisions isn't a good fit. In March 2020, as the world quickly shut down, our staff jumped in with a number of decisions about closing our building and shifting programs to be remote. In this crisis, we needed rapid decision-making and the staff recognized that our usual method of consensus would not work.

After the first several months of the Covid era, decision-making shifted to reflect what we more generally see at Havurah. The Covid Management Team, led by Co-President Loree Devery, was organized to include input from leaders, staff and experts in epidemiology and public health. Havurah members have had opportunities to give input through open forum meetings and surveys.

All this discussion has enabled us to establish guidelines for reopening our building that reflect what leaders and members agree on and we are able to move forward knowing that we have been inclusive and respectful in making these decisions. We may have abandoned the dark robes and hats, but our decision-making process keeps the House of Havurah firmly rooted in Jewish tradition.

## Thank You, Evan!

### Reconstructing Judaism Plenum Rep Stepping Down

Evan King has served as the Havurah Plenum Rep (this time) with the Reconstructing Judaism (RJ) Plenum for the past three years. We take this time to express our great appreciation for their bringing the Havurah perspective and voice to the efforts of RJ to address the issues of the day, both internal movement discussions and thoughts on the movement's relationship to the world.

As they step down from this position, we welcome any who might consider exploring the opportunity of becoming the Havurah's liaison to the larger community of Reconstructing Judaism. Contact Evan King or Shelley Sobel (see Havurah Directory).





## The Mitzvah of Welcoming Just Takes Practice

By Fran Weick

I believe all members of Havurah can be proud to be part of a group that engages in the intellectual and spiritual work of creating a transparent, inclusive and welcoming community.

The Transparency and Inclusivity Committee sometimes hears from members, both new and older members choosing to reconnect, that they do not feel welcomed at services or other gatherings and therefore do not feel included. And at the same time many of us speak of Havurah as a “welcoming community.” How do we reconcile these two different views of Havurah? Are there everyday practices we can all follow to make everyone feel welcomed?

The art of small talk is a practice we can learn and an important skill in creating a culture of welcoming and inclusion. San Francisco-based rabbi and educator Ruth Adar teaches

### **Transparency and Inclusivity Committee**

es that small talk is a way to fulfill the mitzvot of hospitality and kindness by making someone comfortable at synagogue gatherings. Here are a few tips:

**Introduce yourself**—Hi, I’m Ruth—have we met? Maybe add one or two other pieces of information about yourself—how long you have been a member or what neighborhood you live in.

This information gives the person an easy comeback—Hi Ruth, I’m Ann and this is my first Friday night service.

Since you introduced yourself, this is the time to **ask additional questions** so Ann knows you are interested in learning more about her. Nice

to meet you Ann. What made you come to Havurah this evening?

You do not need to speak to this person for the entire gathering. Before you leave try to **introduce Ann to another member so the “welcoming” can continue**. Be sure to say that you enjoyed meeting Ann and you hope to see her again at another community event. This overture could help her feel more included and perhaps return to Havurah.

Small talk is not a small skill. Some of us are very good at it and for some of us it takes practice. Either way learning the practice of small talk could make all of our experiences at Havurah feel more welcoming and inclusive.

*(Adapted from Audacious Hospitality, the Union of Reform Judaism’s focused effort on Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.)*

## A Place That Belongs to All of Us: We are Coming Home

By Adela Basayne  
Program Director

Our Beit Knesset has been Havurah Shalom’s home since the late 1990s. We renovated two video warehouses over two years. Before we came to our building, for two decades we were a congregation of wandering Jews, holding services, classes, meetings and Shabbat School in each other’s homes, rented churches and the MJCC.

When we came to live in our building, many Havurahniks worried how our priorities might be forced to change as owners rather than renters. Over time, as we cared for

the space and made it holy, as we enacted hiddur mitzvah (the blessing of making ritual objects beautiful), we came to discover that having a physical space to call Havurah had many surprising gifts. This is our makom (place): our sanctuary, our kitchen, our chairs, our courtyard. How marvelous it has been, and how comfortable, to know where to find supplies on shelves—tablecloths, candlesticks, holiday supplies.

During the long months of the pandemic shutdown, the building has been lonely, I think. Missing our voices, our laughter and tears, our songs, both our formal and our informal meetings, our celebrations.

Missing our rituals and spiritual practices. Missing our love, our longings and gratitudes, our prayers.

As more events are scheduled in person, and we return to our makom, some of us slowly and hesitantly, some of us feeling impatient with how long it’s taken to get here, I hope we’ll each take a moment to say the Shehechianu prayer, or the prayer of thanks that is in our hearts, as we cross the threshold of our Havurah home. Then, let’s reacquaint ourselves with the space, where things are and how things work, so we can all be responsible for it. Breathe a sigh of relief as the building enfolds us. We’re home.

## Consultants On Board to Support Anti-Racism Work

The Anti-Racism and Belonging Workgroup is excited to introduce the consulting team that will be working with Havurah to launch the first phase of our anti-racism work.

As we have shared in previous articles, we had conversations with nine consulting teams, some local, some national, and some with experience working with Jewish communities. Five teams ended up submitting proposals. The ARB workgroup reviewed all the proposals using a set of criteria

about what experience and skills were most relevant.

The workgroup unanimously agreed that Tabitha and Adam St. Bernard-Jacobs best met the criteria and were the best fit for Havurah. We are very excited to share their bios and an initial message from them.

Members of the Anti-Racism and Belonging Workgroup include Michael Anderson-Nathe, Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, Bob Brown, Chris Coughlin, Alanna Hein, Maria Lisa Johnson and Karen St. Clair.

### ***A Message from Tabitha & Adam St. Bernard-Jacobs***

We are honored to be working with Havurah Shalom to help gain a better understanding of how synagogue members view and approach anti-racism within the congregation. The goal of our work is to identify issues that encourage and/or hinder belonging among congregants, particularly BIPOC members. Ultimately, the hope is to identify guideposts for—and a path to—a more equitable community.

In partnership with the Havurah Shalom Antiracism and Belonging Workgroup, we will lead information-gathering processes to help expand the vision and deepen the impact of this internally-focused work. As part of that process, we plan to engage in small group conversations with congregants, providing opportunities for you to share your experiences as members and your hopes for the future (more information on this will follow). We view this as a partnership, where we will learn from you as the experts of your own experiences, in order to inform our recommendations. The values that ground us include:

- a focus on relationship-building with the Havurah Shalom community
- moving at the speed of these relationships
- providing clarity while accepting a possible lack of conclusion
- open communication and a commitment to listening

We lean into the intentional and process-driven nature required of antiracism work as we reject a quick, results-driven approach. We look forward to helping Havurah Shalom grow into the future with care, belonging, and *kehillah* (community).

**Tabitha St. Bernard-Jacobs** (she/hers) is a Trinidadian-American artist, organizer and writer of [Raising Anti-Racist Kids](#).

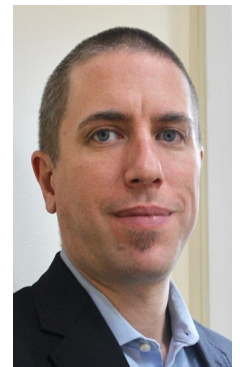
She is the founder of Tabii Just Strategies, a consulting firm focused on dismantling racism and creating equitable systems with an approach that targets sustainable, long-term change. She is a member of [Kolot Chayeinu's Race Working Group](#). Tabitha is a founding organizer of Women's March. She currently serves as a senior advisor after serving as Deputy Executive Director of Program. She also led the team that organized the historic 2018 National School Walkouts. Tabitha was recognized as one of Glamour Magazine's 2017 Women of the Year, and one of 200 Women Who Will Change The Way You See The World (book). Tabitha is raising two kids with her favorite human, Adam.



**Adam St. Bernard Jacobs** (he/him) is a peace educator, nonprofit leader, and proud parent. He was the founding Executive Director of Kids Creative, an arts education program in NYC, and currently leads fundraising efforts at a national education nonprofit. He helped found

an elementary school in the Bronx and sits on organizing committees working to dismantle white supremacy. Adam has co-led multiple white caucus groups in Jewish and non-Jewish spaces. He has degrees in International Politics, Peace Education, and Talmud

and Rabbis. He is also a children's performer musician, performing as Mr. Clown in The Dirty Sock Funtime Band, and was a regular on Nick Jr.



# HADRACHA

## Collect Signatures to Reduce Gun Violence in OR

By Barbara Gundle

Last month's Valentine's Day marks the fourth anniversary of The Parkland High School shooting. We remember other tragedies at Columbine, Sandy Hook, Tree of Life and the Pulse Nightclub. In our own community, shootings at Clackamas Town Center, Reynolds High School and Umpqua Community College claimed multiple lives. It is long past time to say "enough."

The Havurah Shalom Steering Committee recently voted to become a sponsor of the Lift Every Voice Oregon (LEVO) interfaith coalition, working to gather signatures to put two common-sense gun safety measures on the ballot this November. Many progressive congregations, including Beth Israel and Augustana Lutheran, plus activist organizations such as Ceasefire and Moms Demand Action, are also sponsors and the list is growing.

These measures are IP 17 and 18.

### Member-Led Activism

They propose common-sense legislation that is, surprisingly, not on our law books already. IP 17 would require a more comprehensive license to own a gun, including field instruction and a limit of 10 rounds for ammunition magazines. IP 18 would ban all future manufacture and sales of semiautomatic assault rifles.

As a sponsor of this coalition, we are being asked to organize as many volunteer signature gatherers as we can. 140,000 signatures are needed by July 8. Our work must begin.

If you want to start right now, [go to the LEVO website and register to be a signature gatherer](#). Let them know you are a Havurah member. When you are registered, you will start getting all their announcements. There is an online training you can

do on your own, or you can attend the next group training on Thursday, March 3, at 6 pm. The campaign staff and their attorney will be participating and can answer any questions you may have about either collecting signatures or the initiatives themselves.

We will also be having an informational Zoom meeting for Havurah volunteers on Sunday, March 13, at 11 am (the clock springs forward the night before); watch Hineinu for more details. Barbara Gundle, Katherine McDowell and Kristine Munnich are heading up this effort right now, but more people are needed and welcome to join.

With Omicron subsiding and spring arriving, this outdoor, Covid-safe activity is something most can do; if we each spend just one to two hours a week, we will make a lot of progress toward our goal. The time is now; the need is great.

Contact Barbara Gundle for questions.

## LIMUD

### REMINDER: *Conversations About Israel/Palestine Continues in March*

**Wednesday, March 9** – Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, "Rethinking Israel Education: Teaching Jewish Kids to Think Critically about Israel/Palestine"

**Wednesday, March 30** – Rabbi Ari Lev Fornari, "Becoming an Abolitionist: Antiracism and Antizionism"

The Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee is co-sponsoring this national series that presents a range of perspectives on Israel/Palestine issues.

Each session will be led by a Reconstructionist rabbi and will be recorded.

Each one-and-a-half-hour Zoom session is free and will include a lecture and discussion. They will take place from 5 to 6:30 pm Pacific Time. Each session will stand on its own and people can pick and choose those that are of interest.

**Please Note:** The speakers have been staying online continue the conversation with participants. In addition, we have been and will continue

to set up an informal post-session Zoom conversation immediately following the lecture for us to continue the discussion amongst ourselves for about 30 minutes. Please let Lee Gordon know if you want to receive the link for the post-session discussions.

For more details including sign-up information, visit [the Israel/Palestine Committee Portal](#). If you have any questions, please contact Lee Gordon or Elinor Gollay, Israel/Palestine Committee co-chairs.



# HADRACHA

## Gratitude to Havurahniks

Did you notice the hints of spring last month? Did you get out and enjoy the sunshine? We are lucky to have so many members who brighten and energize our community (like the sun ☀); to name a few, we are grateful–

To Shelley Sobel, Debbi Nadell and Adela Basayne, who worked really hard planning the Annual Leadership Retreat and helped make it a great success! Kudos to them!

To everyone who attended and participated in the many connecting and collaborative conversations at the Annual Leadership Retreat.

To Fran Berg, who coordinated delivery of lunches to retreat participants and to all the volunteers who delivered the food.

To Linda Appel, for stepping up to manage sending out condolence cards to members who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We are grateful to Linda for being willing to coordinate this important mitzvah.

To Sam Sirkin, for his leadership on initiating a mishebeirach prayer portal idea and moving it forward.

To Julie Hastings, for representing the B'nei Mitzvah Committee at the Leadership Retreat

To Susan Brenner, for reinventing the b'nei mitzvah mentor program and for matching families and mentors!

To the Geshar members who gave organizational support to the Annual Retreat!

To all the Havurahniks who have signed a Declaration of Intent to include Havurah in their wills.

To those who have stepped up to work on data analysis and writing/editing the data from the member survey, which will inform our long range plan.

To Evan King, who will be stepping down as liaison to Reconstructing Judaism, for several years of service in that role.

To Tara Anderson, who has been fabulous helping the Israel/Palestine Committee create and manage [the committee portal that contains information about current and past activities](#).

A special thank you to Joel Beinin, who has stepped down as a co-chair for the Israel/Palestine Committee. His contributions to this committee as it launched have been incredibly important and we are grateful that he will continue to work actively with the committee–albeit as a member rather than co-chair.

To Jack Lazareck and David Lewis, for fixing up the sanctuary cabinet doors, which have been out of alignment.

To Fran Berg and Susan Lazareck, for cleaning out the areas of the kitchen slated for renovation, and to Deborah Eisenbach-Budner for creating space in the coat room.

To all the people from the Tikkun Olam committees who did the pre-work and participated in the Leadership Training event.

To Jon Balgley and Kristine Munholland, who wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee testimony for two bills that the Racial Justice Committee is supporting.

To Julia Lager-Mesulam, for always helping get things done.

To Kathy Gordon, who has consulted and provided ideas to make the Racial Justice Committee successful.

To all who attend the meetings of the Racial Justice Committee, facilitate, take notes, provide reflections and tech support and to those who engage in honest and thoughtful discussion as we move through this important work.

And to all those many, many tasks, groups, and specific people that 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 more to be grateful for!

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

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <i>Adar II 26</i> 10:00am Brnei Mitzvah: Beginning the Journey/Date Selection	28 <i>Adar II 27</i> 7:00pm Israel Since 1948	1 <i>Adar II 28</i> 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 5:15pm Becoming Rooted Book Group 7:00pm Judaism's Magical Practices	2 <i>Adar II 29</i> 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Middle School 7:00pm The True Cost of Free Land 7:00pm In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah	3 <i>Adar II 30</i> Rosh Chodesh Adar II 7:00pm Writers' Workshop (for Non-Writers)	4 <i>Adar II 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Adar II 5:44pm Candle Lighting 6:30pm HIAS Refugee Kabballat Shabbat	5 <i>Adar II 2</i> Pekudei 10:00am HIAS Refugee Shabbat 3:00pm Shabbat School 5:30pm Grade 5 Keshilah Night 6:53pm Havdalah
6 <i>Adar II 3</i>	7 <i>Adar II 4</i> 7:00pm Israel Since 1948 7:00pm Transforming Policy with Jewish Values	8 <i>Adar II 5</i> 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 5:00pm Rose Haven Open House 5:15pm Becoming Rooted Book Group 6:30pm Steering Meeting	9 <i>Adar II 6</i> 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Middle School 7:00pm High School 7:00pm In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah	10 <i>Adar II 7</i> 7:00pm Writers' Workshop (for Non-Writers)	11 <i>Adar II 8</i> 5:53pm Candle Lighting	12 <i>Adar II 9</i> Parshat Zachor Vayikra 10:00am Isla Pomerantz-Roll 3:00pm Shabbat School 7:03pm Havdalah
13 <i>Adar II 10</i> Grade 3 Transition Project	14 <i>Adar II 11</i> 7:00pm Israel Since 1948	15 <i>Adar II 12</i> 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 5:15pm Becoming Rooted Book Group 7:00pm Judaism's Magical Practices	16 <i>Adar II 13</i> Taanit Esther Erev Purim 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm High School	17 <i>Adar II 14</i> Purim 7:00pm Writers' Workshop (for Non-Writers)	18 <i>Adar II 15</i> Shushan Purim Hakol Deadline 7:03pm Candle Lighting	19 <i>Adar II 16</i> Taziv 10:00am Community Minyan 8:12pm Havdalah
20 <i>Adar II 17</i>	21 <i>Adar II 18</i> 7:00pm Israel Since 1948	22 <i>Adar II 19</i> 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 5:15pm Becoming Rooted Book Group 7:00pm Book Group: The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy	23 <i>Adar II 20</i> Reconstructing Judaism Convention 8:30am Morning Minyan	24 <i>Adar II 21</i> Reconstructing Judaism Convention	25 <i>Adar II 22</i> Reconstructing Judaism Convention 7:12pm Candle Lighting	26 <i>Adar II 23</i> Shabbat Mevarchim Parshat Parah Shmini Reconstructing Judaism Convention 10:00am Text & Torah: Parah Shemini 8:21pm Havdalah
27 <i>Adar II 24</i> Reconstructing Judaism Convention	28 <i>Adar II 25</i> 7:00pm Israel Since 1948	29 <i>Adar II 26</i> 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 5:15pm Becoming Rooted Book Group 7:00pm Lev Tahor Chanting Circle	30 <i>Adar II 27</i> 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm High School 7:00pm In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah	31 <i>Adar II 28</i> 4:30pm AlterRocker Happy Hour 7:00pm Basic Hebrew Conversation	1 <i>Adar II 29</i> 7:00pm Kabballat Shabbat Service and Writers Workshop Oneig 7:21pm Candle Lighting	2 <i>Nisan 1</i> Rosh Chodesh Nisan Parshat Hachodesh Tazria 10:00am Discovering Shabbat Morning: Learners' Minyan 10:30am Tol Shabbat 3:00pm Shabbat School 8:30pm Havdalah