



March 2023  
Vol. 45, Issue 5

# Hakol • הקול

## *A Day Like Purim*

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

There are teachings, dating back to antiquity, which link Purim and Yom Kippur. One midrash (rabbinic imagining) says that in a future time all our festivals will be abolished except for those two. And the Vilna Gaon, a prominent 18th Century scholar, suggests, through a play on words, that Yom Ha-Kippurim (another name for Yom Kippur) is “a day (Yom) like (K’)Purim.

On the surface these two holidays seem like quite a strange partnership. Yom Kippur is austere: we refrain from eating and drinking and physical pleasure, and traditionally we wear simple, white garments. Purim is indulgent: we eat and drink and wear wild, colorful costumes. Yet the sages point us toward a deep thread that connects them, toward essential truths that they each, in their own way, can help reveal.

On Purim the garments we dress up in are indeed very different from what we wear on Yom Kippur. But the masquerading can be understood as a means through which we reveal something deeper about who we are. The truth is that we are always masking in some way or another. Making a mockery of how we present ourselves can remind us how much we do this all the time. What are the masks I wear every day that hide a truer, more authentic self from emerging? And isn’t this right in line with the sacred work of Yom Kippur, the culmination of our Days of Teshuvah? In that case, the stripping down to the essence is more explicit. We strive to name as clearly



Feb. 12, leaders of our participatory community representing Steering, the clusters, committees, and individuals who are or want to be active in Havurah gathered for the Annual Leadership Retreat to learn more about each other’s work, reflect on our anti-racism efforts, explore partnerships with each other, and plan for the coming year. Above, Rabbi Benjamin addresses the group. Those wishing to explore deeper participation in Havurah may wish to attend the Havurah 101 meeting (page 20) or contact Debbie Nadell or Eve Berry of the Leadership Development Committee.

as we can the truth of what we have done and who we have been, in order to shed that which is false, that which obstructs our purest, most generous selves from manifesting. In both cases we seek to reveal that which has been hidden or covered over. The very name of the story we tell on Purim, *Megillat Esther* — the Scroll of Esther — is understood in tradition to imply *megaleh hester*: “revealing the hidden.”

In their unique ways, Purim and Yom Kippur also ask us to encounter the uncertainty of life. The name *Purim* means “lots.” In the Purim story we face chance and randomness, the upending of an order we assume can be relied on. *Pur* is what

Haman drew in deciding when to kill the Jews. It is that which leaves our existence hanging in the balance. And *pur* is also the reality underlying Unetaneh Tokef, the prayer at the heart of Yom Kippur, when we declare, “Who will live and who will die?” Like Purim, Yom Kippur drives home the uncertain, contingent nature of life.

Put together, revealing the hidden and encountering the uncertain, we are asked on both days, in both seasons, to hold things less tightly. So on this Purim, may joy and celebration be a means to shed some of what masks our truest selves and to loosen that which impedes genuine growth and renewal.

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

### Havurah Shalom Staff

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

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

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

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

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

# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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

**Hakol Contribution Deadline**  
March 17

**Havurah Website Calendar**

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

**Misheberach List Form**

### Condolences

**Marsha Miller**, mother of Beth Shreve, mother-in-law of Andy Shreve, and grandmother of Ben, Daphne and Sarah, died Feb. 24.

**Lizzie Hecht Zackheim**, daughter of Miriam Hecht and Ivan Zackheim, died Feb. 15.



### B'nei Mitzvah

Havurah will call to the Torah the following Bat Mitzvah:

March 4

**Elena Sagazio**

Child of Denise Rosenthal  
and Peter Sagazio

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

### Regular Services at Havurah

All are welcome at our services.  
Our [website calendar](#) provides dates and times for each.

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

#### Community Minyan

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

#### Morning Minyan

Wednesday Mornings, 8:30-9 am

#### Kabbalat Shabbat

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

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

# TIKKUN OLAM

## Taking Action Together to Repair the World

By Judi Soloway and Elianne Lieberman

On Monday, Feb. 13, three Havurahniks got together (on Zoom) for Havurah's Climate Action Team's (HCAT) new monthly program: **Taking Action Lunch Bunch**. They spent the hour schmoozing, noshing and sharing news on actions they could take to make a difference in the Climate Crisis. A good time was had by all. Actions were taken right then and there. It's so much more fun and easier to do this work in community with old friends and new.

Do you have emails you want to send, postcards to write, calls to make for social/racial/environmental justice, homelessness, reproductive rights or other Tikkun Olam issues that are your passion? You are all invited to join us again on **Monday, March 13, at noon**. No matter what issue you are working on. Don't worry if you don't have an action to take. We'll share. Come on your lunch break, bring your lunch and hang out for conversation and inspiration!



In February, HCAT met with Senator Wyden's staff to discuss upcoming climate legislation.

### Havurah Climate Action Committee

Taking Action Lunch Bunch is happening the second Monday of each month. [Please RSVP if you are planning to join us.](#)

This is a hybrid event, and we'll need to know who is going to be on

### Taking Action Lunch Bunch

12 pm, Monday, March 13  
Zoom Room Heh

Second Mondays  
of the month

[Please RSVP](#)

Zoom and who will be coming to Havurah.

## 'A Better Catastrophe' Author Visiting Havurah

**I Want a Better Catastrophe**  
7 pm, Tuesday, April 11 at Havurah Shalom — [RSVP](#)

Please join Havurah Climate Action Team for a book signing and talk with environmental activist Andrew Boyd, author of *I Want a Better Catastrophe: Navigating the Climate Crisis with Grief, Hope, and Gallows Humor*. The book and event

### Havurah Climate Action Committee

are about facing the situation we're in with bravery, humor, and acceptance of the myriad feelings.

The book follows four possible scenarios for our future that have

been envisioned by the Post-Carbon Institute, two disastrous, others more promising.

With interviews by leading biologists and spiritual leaders, Boyd helps us choose our path forward with a realistic outlook that matches grief and terror with active hope and humor.

The event will be in person for book signing and discussion.

## Bolted Gates in the Land of Blessings

By Rabbi Joseph Wolf  
Rabbi Emeritus

Right-wing terrorism in Israel is nothing new. A state that has continually ceded its legitimate democratic governance to people who view lands on which Palestinians live as their biblical inheritance, and that has given in to ultra-nationalists for decades, has allowed it to happen. It grieves us that the society we once imagined as a light unto the nations has turned a blind eye towards half the population it governs. Just as poisonous is for American Jews to witness a corrupt Israeli prime minister who is doing everything he can to control Israeli courts; it's a nightmarish proposition, especially if we imagine we should keep quiet about it.

Is there any one of us who believes that the settler violence that just occurred in Huwara is unrelated to the erosion of Israeli democracy?

I say this to any and all American Jews: We can't live with it, and why should we? We know what the words of the Jewish state's national anthem mean. We understand how gallantly our ancestors moved heaven and earth to make a dream come true, and that sometimes moving heaven and earth caused suffering. And, even in those hard times before there was a state, when they jumped on the bandwagon (because of the idealism and hard work it inspired), there were still many who questioned whether this path to statehood was a mistaken change in course. Who were we to take the reins of power? After all, our cul-

ture's sacred texts cautioned against "pressing too hard for the Messiah." Surely, we wouldn't fall into the trap of power politicians – like all the others.

Well, the Jewish messianists have arrived, even if we failed for years to notice it.

Every morning I daven, in Psalm

שבחי ירושלם את ד',  
הללי אלהיך ציון כי חזק  
בריחי שערך ברך בניך  
“Praise God,  
Jerusalem; adore your  
God, Zion. For God has  
fortified the bolts of  
your gates and blessed  
your children in your  
midst.” I contemplate  
these terms daily. Even  
more, since I have lived  
there, I can envision what it means  
within the neighborhoods of the holy city, and elsewhere in the land, to feel safe and loved in a place whose language I can call my own. Maybe you do too, if you have lived there, or have taken a quiet walk on a Shabbat afternoon, or listened to the sound of doves cooing at dawn in the countryside? Or maybe you have relatives and friends who work hard, even do social justice work, or who simply live good lives there? And you worry – and you know *they* worry too all the time, because they live in a place in which, although they may claim to feel secure, their young ones at the age of seventeen exchange ploughshares for swords.

The Malbim, a commentator and rabbi who moved around eastern Europe throughout the nineteenth century from place to place (it seems

that he rubbed people the wrong way) was on to something about this verse in Psalms I quoted above. He said that the phrase about the children being blessed “in your midst” stands *in exception* to what comes before it, namely, the fortification of one's gates. The poetry has a spiritual and political rhythm. In other

Is there any one of us  
who believes that the  
settler violence that  
just occurred in Hu-  
wara is unrelated to  
the erosion of Israeli  
democracy?

words, he might be understood to be saying, in today's terms, that even in the case where a prime minister declares that he wants you to be able to “punch back” at people we perceive as threatening us, a society

that ultimately chooses to take care of all of its children will reap blessings. No one should say *my* children and not yours.

This is a radical reading – by a traditionalist. However, it rings true, as does the opposite conviction: that a society that abides state terror and the oppression of half its people cannot continue to prosper. I take no joy in writing this column, and you certainly know I have experienced the opprobrium of many in the past, who didn't take any joy in me pointing out what is awful for all of us who grew up at one time or another loving Israel. But if there was ever a time for us to express our sadness and revulsion in response to the decisions of those who chart this path for the Jewish state, it is now.

—Rabbi Joey

## COMMUNITY

# Centering Compassion in Midst of Tragedy

By Karen Mitzner and David Lewis  
Havurah Members

Not long ago, a leader in the Portland Jewish Community justifiably decried a lethal attack on Jews in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Neve Yaakov. The murders occurred near a synagogue, where people were worshipping at Friday night services. The violence was described, entirely without context, as a “horrific terrorist attack.”

We acknowledge that the Jewish leader who used this designation was in the position, as all Jewish leaders are, of speaking to people who have suffered so much trauma throughout history, and continue to do so. We first need to extend our compassion to him and the Jewish community.

Nevertheless, the assumption behind the use of the word “terrorist” here seems to be that state violence on the part of Israel is acceptable use of force, and that the violent resistance on the part of Palestinians—who have consistently been denied a state—is beyond the pale of civilized behavior.

If we reframe the discussion from one of violence by evil-doers to one of empathy and compassion for both sides, other realities come into focus.

The Palestinians are an indigenous

people whose lands have been wrested from them by Jewish people escaping the horrors and agonizing trauma of European pogroms and the Holocaust. *Each side* in this tragic struggle has become *increasingly traumatized by violence on both sides*, violence that is disproportionately deployed by Israel because of her military might.

The fact that the Neve Yaakov attack against Jews was presented in isolation and without context seems to say that only Jewish lives matter, which the Jewish leader in Portland does not actually believe.

The immediate context is that a sixteen-year-old Palestinian who turned out to be playing with a toy gun was killed by Israeli police two days before, and that the day before, eleven Palestinians were killed, including a 61-year-old woman.

Moreover, the omission of context creates the impression that this was an act of evil that came out of nowhere, and that, therefore, there is nothing anyone can do about it. According to reports in *Haaretz* and the *New York Times*, the grandfather of the gunman, after whom he was

named, was stabbed nine times by a Jewish settler twenty-five years ago. No one has ever been brought to account for the grandfather’s murder. Now Ben-Gvir is head of the Israeli Ministry of Security. For many years he had a portrait of Baruch Goldstein, who murdered Muslim worshipers in the tomb of Abraham, hanging in his home.

This larger context for the attack in Neve Yaakov can help us to develop compassion and empathy for

the Palestinian who committed the murders as well as for his Jewish victims.

In the end, neither Jews nor Palestinians are going away from the land we all revere. Until all those lives are regarded as sacred, until we mourn the loss of any of them

equally, neither people will be secure.

The only questions are how can we learn to hold one another with compassion for all the trauma and suffering on each side and how can we develop real strategies for healing?

Demonizing one another will only lead to more bodies to bury.

If we reframe the discussion from one of violence by evil-doers to one of empathy and compassion for both sides, other realities come into focus.

## Outside the Frame coming to Havurah

### Poverty and Homelessness Committee

3-5 pm, Sunday, May 7 at Havurah Shalom — [RSVP](#)

Havurah's Poverty and Homeless Committee is hosting a program at Havurah featuring the nonprofit Outside the Frame. For the past seven years, Outside the Frame has trained over one hundred homeless and marginalized youth "to be directors of their own films and lives." Their films have screened in various Portland venues. In 2018, they received the Best New Nonprofit in Portland award.

Founder and executive director Nili Yoshi, originally from Tel Aviv, may be known to some of you as a former teacher in Havurah High. For her work with Outside the Frame, Nili received Oregon Media Production Association's Commitment to Good Award. She and a few of the youth who work with Outside the Frame will join us to discuss their projects. We hope to see you there

[Click here for more information](#) about Outside the Frame.

## Food Drive for Common Good

By Jenn Louis  
The Common Good Project

The Common Good Project's pantry is getting low! Please help us stock up for the next few months. Food supply is low for many relief organizations and there are more and more hungry people in our communities.

**Here are some ways you can contribute:**

1. Visit our [Amazon wish list and choose something](#) that you would like to contribute.
2. Collect items from friends and neighbors and contact Jenn Louis for a drop-off
3. Contribute with a financial donation via Vemno: @jennlouis or @trashforpeace, or at trashforpeace.org. Please make sure to note that the donation is for The Common Good Project!

These are items distributed to people, in addition to a hot meal. These items should be easy to eat (no cooking facilities) and open without a can opener and soft (lots of dental issues).

Canned fruit (with pull tops)

Canned vegetables (with pull tops)

Beverages: Gatorade, juices, sodas

Granola bars/bars of any sort

### Poverty and Homelessness Committee

Oatmeal, instant

Chips or popcorn

Any stew or hearty item (with pull tops)

Cookies, crackers, chips and snacks

Nuts

Dried fruit

Sippable vegetables (like for little kids)

Applesauce (no glass)

Candy (big sweet teeth out there!)

Nut butter (no glass)

Jelly (no glass)

Honey

Shelf-stable milk (dairy and non-dairy- not powdered, please)

Powdered chocolate milk mix

Instant soups and foods (ramen is a favorite)

Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

## *Reparations Resolution Approved by RJ Board*

The Reconstructionist movement has adopted a [Resolution on Reparations](#), making a commitment to “supporting and advocating for institutional, local and federal legislation and policies that specifically address the need for reparations.”

The resolution is a [call for communal and national teshuvah](#), an opportunity for repentance, utilizing a Jewish framework to speak with moral authority on an issue of profound importance to American society and global efforts for justice.

Specifically, the resolution calls for the movement to “work for a national reckoning in the United States” and calls on all groups affiliated with the movement, including communities located outside of the United States, “to engage in deep reflection on the ways we have participated in or benefited from racial injustice.” The resolution acknowledges generational harm and trauma inflicted upon BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities and the myriad ways American prosperity was “built on oppression and white supremacy.”

The resolution urges the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass [House Resolution 40](#), the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals on a national scope involving the federal government. HR 40 was first introduced in 1989 by the late U.S. Representative John Conyers in 1989. The measure still has not received a full vote.

---

### ***Racial Justice Committee***

---

“With this resolution, our organization and our communities are drawing on Jewish teachings on accountability and repair and are heeding the voices of people of African descent. We are taking a moral stand, calling upon our American government and our society to reckon with, and begin to atone for, our troubled history. This includes 400 years of chattel slavery and the legacy of Jim Crow as well as mass incarceration and the persistence of systematic racism,” said Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., president & CEO of Reconstructing Judaism.

By design, the democratic, values-driven process leading to the resolution’s passage took close to two years.

It involved the primary bodies of the Reconstructionist movement, including Reconstructing Judaism, the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and the nearly 100 affiliated Reconstructionist communities. In the summer of 2021, Reconstructing Judaism held a [movement-wide day of learning](#) on the issue of reparations. In March 2022, at Reconstructing Judaism’s Convention, the [Tikkun Olam Commission](#) first introduced the draft resolution, invit-

ing discussion in the larger movement. In the ensuing months, many Reconstructionist communities examined the resolution and explored a range of moral, historical and practical issues.

At the Dec. 11 meeting of the [Plenum](#), representatives of Reconstructing Judaism’s affiliated congregations and *havurot* overwhelmingly approved the measure. In early 2021, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association—a separate nonprofit from Reconstructing Judaism—led the way in passing its own [reparations resolution](#).

Following the Plenum vote, the RRA’s board endorsed the language of Reconstructing Judaism’s resolution. The last step came Jan. 22 when Reconstructing Judaism’s board of governors voted to adopt the resolution.

The Union for Reform Judaism [adopted a resolution on reparations](#) in 2019.

The work on the resolution has been part of the organization’s overall work on racial justice. In June 2021, Reconstructing Judaism adopted a set of [11 racial justice commitments](#), guiding the policies and programming of the movement. Those commitments are helping to bring to life a [strategic plan](#) that calls on the organization to “join and lead Jewish efforts to dismantle systemic racism, and to advance racial diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Reconstructionist movement.”

# LIMUD Hebrew Corner

## *Mask (Masecha)* מַסְכָּה

By Racheli Ross  
and Jana Hopfinger



Purim is starting soon and Jews around the world are going to celebrate by reading Megilat Esther, making noise, and wearing costumes and masks. The word for mask in Hebrew, מַסְכָּה, has two meanings in the Tanach. The first, mentioned in Exodus 32, verse 4, is from the root נ.ס.כ and means molten, as the molten calf the Israelites and Aaron made in the desert:

וַיִּקַּח מִיָּדָם וַיַּצֵּר אֹתוֹ בְּחֹרֶט וַיַּעֲשֶׂהוּ עֵגֶל מַסְכָּה

This he took from them and cast in a mold, and made it into a molten calf

The second meaning of the word is covering, as mentioned in Isaiah, 28, verse 20:

כִּי־קָצֵר הַמָּצָע מִהִשְׁתַּרְעַ וְהַמַּסְכָּה צָרָה כִּהִתְכַּפֵּס:

The couch is too short for stretching out, and the cover too narrow for curling up

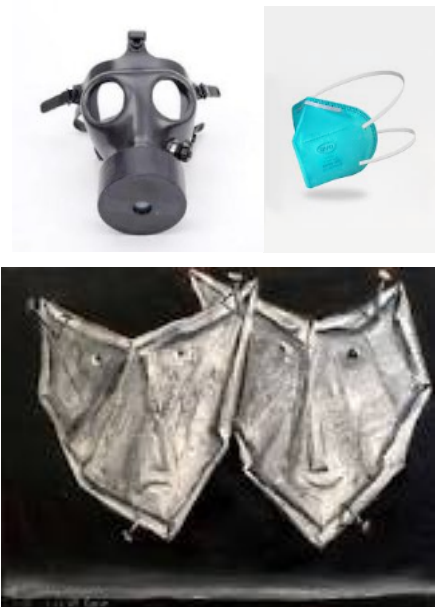
We also read that the word Masecha when used for face covering is most likely influenced by the Latin word Masca. Moreover, the tradition of wearing costumes and masks in Purim was started by Italian Jews in the Middle Ages who were influenced by local costumes and carnivals. Nevertheless, there are many connections between hiding behind a mask and the story of Purim. Esther was hiding her true identity from King Achashverosh, Mordechai was hiding who he truly was, Haman was hiding his true intentions, and God was hiding, by not being mentioned throughout the entire Megillah.

These days the word Masecha has new connotations. In the '90s during the Gulf War, people talked about and wore gas masks and we all know what it means to us since the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to end with a [link to some Israeli art by Yosel Bergner](#) who included masks in many of his paintings (one example below) and a [short song for Purim](#) about masks.

חג פורים שמח!

Racheli and Jana,  
רחלי וג'נה



# Book Group Reads 'Body of Water'

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi sets her blazing new novel, "A Girl Is a Body of Water," in the conflicted nation of her adolescence: 1970s Uganda, under the brutal rule of dictator Idi Amin. In her twelfth year, Kirabo, a young Ugandan girl, confronts a piercing question that has haunted her childhood: who is my mother? Kirabo has been raised by women in the small village of Nattetta—her grandmother, her best friend, and her many aunts, but the absence of her mother follows her like a shadow.

Complicating these feelings of abandonment, as Kirabo comes of age she feels the emergence of a mysterious second self, a headstrong and confusing force inside her at odds with her sweet and obedient nature.

Seeking answers, Kirabo begins spending afternoons with Nsuuta, a local witch, trading stories and learning not only about this force inside her, but about the woman who birthed her, who she learns is alive but not ready to meet. Nsuuta

**March Book**  
**Led by David Newman**

## **A Girl is a Body of Water**

by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

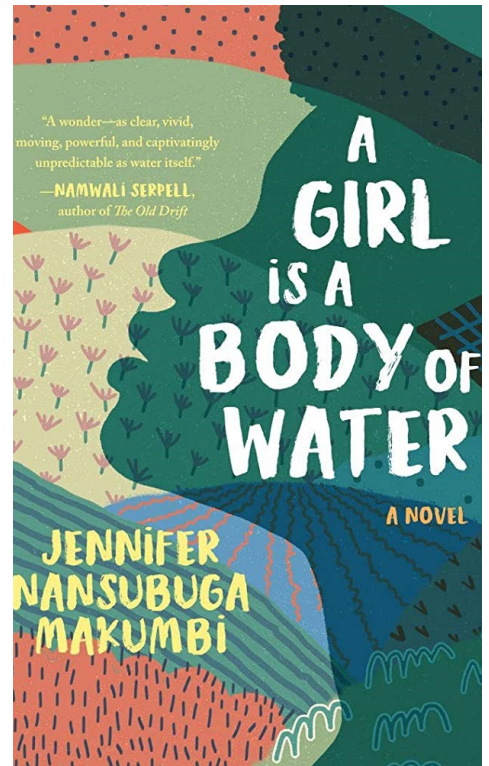
Fiction, 545 pages

**Tuesday, March 28, 7 pm**  
**Zoom Room Bet**

also explains that Kirabo has a streak of the "first woman"—an independent, original state that has been all but lost to women.

Kirabo's journey to reconcile her rebellious origins, alongside her desire to reconnect with her mother and to honor her family's expectations, is rich in the folklore of Uganda and an arresting exploration of what it means to be a modern girl in a world that seems determined to silence women.

Makumbi's unforgettable novel is a sweeping testament to the true



and lasting connections between history, tradition, family, friends, and the promise of a different future.

Discussion led by David Newman. Nonmembers welcome. [RSVP for Zoom info.](#)

## **Adult Ed at Havurah: Fun & Rewarding**

The Life Long Learning Committee is developing and planning classes for Fall 2023 (beginning after High Holidays) through Spring 2024. We depend on our congregants to share their knowledge and skills with others. Classes are offered in person and virtually. Broadly speaking, they can be categorized as experiential, cultural or spiritual. Many of us have benefited from the expertise of our congregant teachers over the years who have dedicated their time and energy to enlighten us. Many of you who are reading this possess special experience or wisdom. Please perform an inventory of your special abilities and consider sharing your knowledge with the rest of us. Although teaching positions are not paid, you will be rewarded by eager students who are respectful, well behaved and eager to learn. If you want to talk through an idea for a class or learn more about the nitty gritty, please contact Joel Beinin or Eve Berry. We are ready to assist you.

## **Book Group Annual Meeting**

**7 pm, Tuesday, March 14**  
**Zoom Room Bet**

The Havurah Book Group will be holding its annual meeting this month. Anyone is welcome to attend as we consider possible changes in choosing books, scheduling discussions, and anything else book group related (including, of course, snacks if we start meeting in person). Please RSVP to Stacy Hankin.

## AVODAH

# A New Way of Doing HiHo

The High Holidays Planning Team is pleased to let you know that we will be working in a new (old!) way to organize our next High Holidays cycle.

We are inviting more people into the production of this large endeavor so that the work can be distributed more evenly among the members of a larger team. It has become clear that the small team model we relied on during the pandemic is not sustainable. So we are returning in full force with a Havurah-style barn-raising approach.

Our next High Holidays effort will have the energy, creativity and broad community participation we are known for.

So if you are an organized self-starter with a taste for big, impactful projects that draw our

### High Holidays Planning Team

entire congregation together, we warmly welcome you to join us. Our many hands will make light work. One example of a role we need to fill is a leader of programming for families with young children. In addition, there are many other ways to contribute.

Whatever your interest or expertise, please email Sacha Reich to step up. (Even if you volunteered to join our planning team earlier, please email Sacha; some names were lost during the survey compilation.)

Thank you.

## MAKOM

### Door Code to Change March 10

The entry code to the outdoor keypad is set to change Friday, March 10. The code for the alarm inside the building will not change.

As always, all members will retain access to the building. You will be emailed the new code on Thursday, March 9. The email will contain just the new code, without context, to be sure the email on its own will not be useful to anyone but the member who receives it. An email explaining this in more detail will also be sent.

Additional notices will be included in Hineinu.

Please remember not to share the code with any nonmembers, including family members outside your household, friends, vendors, or former members. This is essential for our community's continued safety.

Questions? Please contact [Rachel Pollak](#), Office and Facilities Manager.

## Nourish your soul, nourish your body!

### Lunches and Noshes Committee

#### By Susan Brenner Lunches and Noshes Co-Lead

After a long hiatus, the lunch after Shabbat morning minyan has returned to Havurah Shalom! We began offering meals in late January and they've been a great success. Now after a morning of song, prayer and Torah, you can enjoy a nourishing kiddush lunch with your fellow daveners. We even have begun singing *z'mirot* (songs) and the *birkat ha mazon* (blessing of the food), led by Barbara Slader and others after lunch.

Bring your family and stay for lunch; child care is available. Here's an idea- 5th and 6th grade families looking to gain more familiarity with the service could now attend the minyan, have lunch, and go play at the park afterward. There's no need to RSVP for lunch; just show up if it feels right for you that day.

The lunches are organized by a dedicated crew of Havurah volunteers, who source the food items and are reimbursed afterward. A paid kitchen staff person takes care of the set-up and, most importantly, the clean up. If you'd like to be part of the team who bring brings in the food, please contact Susan Brenner. We welcome your participation.

With the addition of these lunches, every Shabbat morning at Havurah Shalom will include some nourishment to cap the morning's prayer and Torah. What a great way to enjoy Shabbat!

## An Update on the Campaign for Havurah

By Loree Devery  
Havurah Co-President

In the December Hakol, I wrote an [article about the Campaign for Havurah, which outlined our needs and our vision](#). As we have been sharing with you consistently in recent years, our building, staffing, and dues have not kept up with our growth. To continue to fulfill our mission, we need to invest in Havurah.

The Campaign for Havurah (which will undoubtedly adopt a snazzier name soon!) is a fundraising campaign to address our building and staff expansion needs. In December, we shared estimates for the building expansion expenses and staff expansion expenses. We also let you know that we were embarking on the Feasibility Phase of the campaign and that we would keep you updated on our progress. This article is that update.

### What is happening in the Feasibility Phase?

After reviewing responses to our Request for Proposals, we selected and retained a fundraising consulting team—Rose City Philanthropy—to help us assess the scope and timing of the campaign. Since

mid-January, Havurah's Feasibility Work Group has been meeting with Rose City Philanthropy every week as we move forward with them on assembling the information and data they need to conduct a Feasibility Study.

The current expectation is that feasibility interviews will start next month and continue for six to eight weeks. After that, Rose City will compile what they've learned and be ready to report out their findings and recommendations by mid-June of this year. Ideally, we will have infor-

### Feasibility Work Group

mation to share at our annual Congregational Meeting.

### What are our fundraising goals?

In the past month, we have taken a hard look at the fundraising estimates we shared in December. After doing that work, we adjusted our fundraising goals. We now estimate that Havurah will need to raise about \$8.8 million to build a second floor on the building, create a Staff Expansion Fund to subsidize increased personnel costs, and cover the costs of the campaign.

### Building Expansion Expenses will

**likely be over \$5 million.** As you know, in September, the Steering Committee voted to recommend adding a second floor above the offices and classrooms of our current building – adding about 3500 square feet to our footprint. The price tag when we received the estimate two years ago was \$3 million. We learned that we needed to add 30% to that amount to cover inflation and another 30% to cover “soft costs” – architect expenses, design costs, permits, etc. The total we are now looking at is just over \$5 million. [Here is a link](#) to that updated estimate.

### The Staff Expansion Fund will likely need to be about \$3 million.

We can't just raise dues immediately to cover our anticipated staffing increases – the increase would be too steep. Our numbers aren't set in stone, but under our current projec-

tions, personnel costs will rise over \$300,000 per year by the 2024-25 fiscal year and continue to rise after that.

- Next fiscal year, 2023-24, we will be tapping into our Excess Reserves to cover increased personnel costs and balance the budget.
- After that, we will be drawing down monies from the Staff Expansion Fund to cover personnel expenses. It is the Staff Expansion Fund that will subsidize our personnel costs as we slowly raise dues over time.
- Under our “medium-best-case” scenario, we need to raise \$3 million in a Staff Expansion Fund.

**Other campaign costs will be about \$800,000.** We learned that our Campaign Budget needs to include a healthy contingency amount (10% of the construction budget), expenses for communications and events, funding for a campaign consultant, and possible temporary staffing. The price tag for these expenses totals about \$800,000.

**This fundraising work is the foundation for our future.** How lucky are we to have these “problems” of growth and expansion as we move out of the pandemic era? These are good problems to have. Our path forward is ultimately a fulfillment of our mission. It is putting Havurah on sound financial footing so we can continue to provide a vibrant, diverse, engaged Jewish community. Havurah Leadership takes our responsibility very seriously and we are working very hard to get this right. The Feasibility Phase work is an example of how we are moving forward thoughtfully and prudently on this fundraising path.

## MAKOM

# *The Kitchen Kvetch Returns with Pizza Problems*

**By Adele Thompson**  
**Kitchen Kvetch**

Chaverim, it's been years! COVID and remodeling meant no kitchen, no focus for these thoughts, no column in Hakol. The kvetch has missed you. But here we go again.

We revisit a classic subject, because our Purim party will begin with pizza. What do you remember about pizza boxes?

A trip to the garbage closet offers one answer. The green bin says no pizza boxes. The big garbage bins are labeled "Pizza boxes here." The kvetch sees this as a last resort, the lemming approach—everything goes over the cliff to the landfill. We shudder.

But there is a "hack" we can use

to our advantage. Most of you use blue and green bins skillfully at home. While blue bin guidelines are the same at Havurah, green bins are different. Your family's pizza boxes, autumn leaves, paper napkins, and food waste are taken from your private yard debris bin to a local compost facility. In contrast, commercial green bins are intended for food waste, only food. This food goop goes from the green bin to an "anaerobic digester." Non-food items are not included. Commercially speaking, therefore, the instructions are correct and the boxes are garbage.

Since the kvetch has written before about reasons for sending less garbage to Arlington, you will not be surprised to learn we think the

pizza situation presents an opportunity to reduce our environmental footprint.

We can take pizza boxes home, then take a moment to look inside. (Remove the plastic umbrella and paper lining.) If it is entirely clean, dust out the cornmeal and recycle the cardboard in the blue bin so it can be made into paper again. If the lid is clean, separate and recycle that part. Put the greasy portions into your green bin.

We know you are smart caring people who will volunteer for Purim and other major pizza occasions.

We should rest now. Next time you could help choose our subject. Maybe deposit-bearing cans? Send suggestions to the kvetch.

## COMMUNITY

# *Looking for ASL Signers and Shabbat Friends*

**By Amy Wachspress**

I'm a new member of Havurah Shalom looking for likeminded souls for a couple of things. Perhaps you are interested.

First off, I want to find other congregants who know ASL. I'm hard of hearing, nearly Deaf. My hearing aids help but in many environments I struggle to hear. I have met two people in the congregation who know ASL so far and one who knows what's called "signed English." If you sign, please contact me so we can connect at services and events. I am an intermediate signer, still learning, eager to practice. It would be amazing to have a group

of signers within the congregation to sign with me at events.

Secondly, I would like to host a monthly group to meet at my home in Oregon City to celebrate Friday night Shabbat together with brief ritual and a potluck dinner. OC is some distance from the shul so it's a schlep for me. It would be lovely to be able to meet in community here at my home. If you live near OC and want to participate, please contact me. I'll work on figuring out details. I especially want to welcome young people and young families with small children. My home is child friendly.

Here is a little about myself. I'm a senior but not yet fully retired. I

work as a grant writer. I grew up in an observant Conservative Jewish family. My husband of 40 years is not Jewish. We moved to Oregon from Ukiah, California, in 2021 to get away from fires and drought and be near our grandchildren who live in Portland. We raised our three children on 40 acres of remote forest. I like to cook delicious healthy vegetarian food. In the summer I have a magical garden in my little yard. Our home is a lovely location for a monthly Shabbat.

So I think you are supposed to contact me through the Havurah Shalom directory. I hope you will.

Sincerely, Amy Wachspress

## Activities Planned for Joint Memorial

By Elinor Gollay  
Israel/Palestine Committee Co-Lead

April is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Israel. In recognition that the establishment of Israel as a state is not just a source of great pride for Jews but also of great pain for Palestinians, the Israel/Palestine Committee is planning events around the **Joint Memorial** conducted by two Israeli organizations: Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace, and Combatants for Peace.

The eighteenth annual memorial will be broadcast on **April 24 at either 10:30 or 11 am, Pacific Time**. In the past it has attracted tens of thousands of viewers around the world.

The American Friends of Combatants for Peace is putting together discussion materials for this year's event. Their website states:

"Israel and Palestine have each established a national day of remembrance wherein they mourn the consequences of the decades-long conflict with one another. Israelis mourn on **Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day)** and Palestinians on the **Nakba (Day of Catastrophe)**. The narratives that the Palestinian and Israeli communities hold are vastly different: the two sides understand the history and the politics in two distinct ways. In mourning together, we seek not to equate these narratives, but rather to establish that essential

---

### Israel/Palestine Committee

---

In mourning together,  
we seek not to equate  
these narratives, but  
rather to establish that  
essential similarities  
remain between these  
two sacred days.

similarities remain between these two sacred days. We remind ourselves that occupation, oppression and violence are *not* inevitable. When we learn to understand and respect each other, we become able to forge a just peace."

The following link has an hour-long recording of last year's event and a list of sponsors—including the Reconstructionist Rabbinic Association.

They anticipate a similar group of supporters this year. The I/P Committee is going to ask the Havurah Steering Committee to approve sponsorship this year.

[Link to Last Year's Joint Memorial](#)

Please keep an eye on the April Hakol and Hineinu for updates on these I/P Committee events:

- **A Pre-Joint Memorial Discussion:** We will discuss why this Joint Memorial is important. We will provide information about the organizations that are supporting the event. And we will discuss what is happening in Israel at this perilous moment—including the attacks on the sponsoring organizations. We anticipate that this meeting will take place at the end of March/beginning of April (before Passover).
- **The public broadcast of the Memorial on April 24:** View live or view the recording available later that day. Details when available.
- **A Post Joint Memorial discussion** of reactions to the event—tentatively Sunday evening May 7—to enable people time to view the recording if they are unable to watch the live broadcast.

We have not yet decided which, if any, parts of our Joint Memorial activities will be open to friends and family outside of Havurah or limited to Havurah members.

If you would like to assist, or have any ideas about the planned activities, please feel free to be in touch either with Lee Gordon or Elinor Gollay, co-chairs of the I/P Commit-

# PURIM CELEBRATION



MARCH 6 6PM

MUSIC

PIZZA

COSTUMES

MEGILLAH READING

HAVURAH AND ZOOM

## LIMUD

### *Shabbat School Enrollment Begins Soon; Deadline May 1*

By Carrie Kirschner  
Madricha; Youth Education and  
B'nei Mitzvah Program  
Coordinator

Enrollment in Havurah Shalom's Shabbat School for 2023-24 will be under way soon. We are currently planning for next year's Shabbat School, our cooperative Jewish education program for children and families. If you or somebody you

---

#### *Shabbat School*

---

know has a child entering grades K-6 in the autumn of 2023-24 and are considering participation in Shabbat School, please note that **May 1 is the enrollment deadline** for Shab-

bat School, with families being members of Havurah Shalom by **April 23**. Please read all about [Shabbat School on the Havurah Shalom website](#) for more information about the community.

After that, contact [Deborah Eisenbach-Budner](#), Education Director, or [Carrie Kirschner](#), Madricha; Youth Education and B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator.

## All About Donating Books

By Marjorie Bennett  
Havurah Librarian

### Book Donations Policy

Perhaps you are downsizing, or just making room on your bookshelves for new books, and you see a few Jewish books that you don't need any more, and you think, "I'll bet the Havurah Library could use those!" In most cases that is inaccurate. Space is very limited in the library, and the items we add are usually either new publications that expand our holdings in targeted ways, or books that relate to current classes or interests of the congregation. If you want to donate books that fit these criteria, please email Marjorie Bennett with the titles, authors, and a brief

description of the books. I will let you know if the library can accept the books. As always, thank you for thinking of the library.

### Juvenile Fiction

Our juvenile fiction books have outgrown the shelves devoted to them, and in the process of shuffling them around we've separated the Middle Grade and Young Adult fiction. In the Young Adult section readers will typically find teenage protagonists, themes relating to coming of age or defining one's individuality, and romance.



## Spotlight on Havurah's Library

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

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

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

## Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration

Second Fridays of the month, through May

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

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

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

Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed! Contact Marni Glick or Sally Hersh for more information.

**RSVP for**  
**March 10 Dinner**







# A PAINT & DECORATE PARTY

for 7th-12th grade Havuraniks

Join us at the Havurah Annex as we do a preliminary painting of our new *Teen Room*, and brainstorm ways to make it a welcoming and cozy space. Wear appropriate clothing. Oh, and there will be pizza and drinks too!



**SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH  
FROM 5-7PM**

# HAVURAH TEENS EDITION

Information for Teens 7th-12th and their families

## **Painting Party** **Sunday, March 12th** **5-7pm**



We have been given the go-ahead to decorate a "teen room" in the Annex. Join us for preliminary painting, plus pizza, and discussions (share your ideas on how to make this new space a place for YOU).

## **OH WHAT A NIGHT!**

After a spontaneous location change, we ended up at the Havurah Annex. We had a great showing for our first Havurah Teen Party with a game room, a dancing room with the DJ Saul, a gaga room and delicious Dairy Hill ice cream sundaes. Check out the photos below.

## **LASER TAG** **IN APRIL**



Be on the lookout for information about our next Teen Havurah outing.

## **Teen Engagement Committee**

Please join us for our next meeting

**Tuesday, March 7**  
**7-8pm**

**Zoom Room Hey.**

The committee's purpose is to support and encourage Havurah youth in 7th-12th grade to plan, develop and implement activities for teens by teens. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month and are looking for teen organizers and parent participants.

# FEBRUARY TEEN PARTY



## Teen Engagement Off to A Great Start

**By Michelle Bobowick**  
**Limud Cluster Lead & Member of**  
**Teen Engagement Committee**

More than a year ago, a group of Havurah members (Eve Berry, Galit Reily, Alan Cordova, Keren McCord, Ben Anderson-Nathe, Tamara Lindemann, Andy Waxman, Michelle Bobowick, and David Dropkin) and Havurah teens (Moriah Cordova and Sylvie McCord) came together to create a Teen Engagement Committee. This committee was officially created in early summer 2022 to help post-b'nei mitzvah youth members remain connected to one another and involved with Havurah.

As many of you know, the b'nei mitzvah is a pivotal transition in the lives of our children. They have spent many a Saturday amongst their circle of peers attending Shabbat School, and many continue on with their b'nei mitzvah cohort. It is one of the many steps our youth take along their path to developing their own unique Jewish identity.

After their b'nei mitzvah, while they straddle childhood and young adulthood—a truly dynamic time—we want our youths to know that our door is always open to them. And we want our parents and caregivers to know that we as a community are here providing additional guidance and structure to our adolescents. For many of us, this may bring to mind standing at the last Shabbat School Havdalah service with our 6<sup>th</sup>-graders or perhaps standing underneath the tallit of a b'nei mitzvah teen, a moment when many of us felt great appreciation for our Havurah Jewish community.

### Teen Engagement Committee

Some of our youth may attend Jewish summer camps, participate in Jewish youth groups, or attend their school's Jewish affinity group. The committee's activities can easily be combined in conjunction with what some teens are already connected to, and/or to provide an opportunity to continue to participate in a Jewish community with their peers.

Havurah has been offering a Havurah Middle and High School program on Wednesday evenings that includes a social dinner together followed by classes taught by paid teachers. The Teen Engagement Committee hopes to offer additional activities and programming to foster ongoing connection with Havurah. We aspire for this committee to be youth-led such that the Kehillah (Community), Avodah (Spiritual), Tikkun Olam (Social Action), and Limud (Educational) events are driven by youth requests, and eventually supported and planned by youth leaders.

So far, the Teen Engagement Committee has hosted an outdoor end of summer gathering at a park; a bowling and arcade outing; and a teen night with gaga ball, dancing and ice cream. Upcoming events that are planned include: **A Paint and Decorate Party at the Havurah Annex (with pizza) on Sunday, March 12; a collaboration with Tivnu for a Teen Reconstructionist Weekend March 17-**

**19; and a Laser Tag event early this spring.** We have also had more teens join our meetings.

We have requests to balance some social activities, along with opportunities to have teen-led discussions and organized Tikkun Olam events. This committee has and will continue to bring an anti-racist lens to our work and events. We are looking into having a youth from Sunrise Pdx Movement come meet with our teens. In addition, we are in conversation with Tikkun Olam members to identify specific opportunities and trainings that are geared towards and appropriate for youth.

The Teen Engagement Committee is chaired by Andy Waxman and Tamara Lindemann, and has several members actively involved including Anna Mafchir, Naomi Granek Brown, Elise Granek, David Dropkin, and Michelle Bobowick.

- If you are a parent or guardian of a youth in grades 7 to 12, please share with your teen about what is happening.
- If a teen would like to be contacted directly via text about events, please email one of the chairs of our committee.
- If you are interested in being on the committee, and or you know a teen who would like to be on the committee, please contact one of the chairs:
  - o Andy Waxman, Teen Engagement Co-Chair
  - o Tamara Lindemann, Teen Engagement Co-Chair
  - o Michelle Bobowick, Limud Cluster Lead

# HADRACHA

## Tributes

### High Holidays Contributions

Elaine and Dick Friedmar, in memory of Elizabeth Zackheim.

### Adult Education Fund

Dale Oller, in loving memory of Shirley J. Oller-Jaffe.

Susan (Shoshi) Stahl, in honor of Tivona Reith's Jewish Mysticism Class.

Nancy Blum Wasserman, in honor of Matthew Nelkin's B'nei Mitzvah.

### Tikkun Olam Fund

Carol Gelfer and Joe Sullivan, in loving memory of Daniel Gelfer from the Gelfer/Sullivan family.

Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles Donald and Ellen Rebhun Family Charitable Fund, in

memory of Donna Pearlman, sister of Janice Kettler.

### Educator's Discretionary Fund

Joan and Dave Weil, in honor of the B'nei Mitzvah class of 2023—You were an inspiration to all of us. Mazel Tov!

### Building Fund

Loree Devery and Robert Trachtenberg, in honor of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah cohort and the beautiful community celebration.

### General Contributions

Racheli Ross and Josh Ross, in honor of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class—Congratulations to all of you!!

Dale Oller, in memory of Emery

Zidell.

Dale Oller, in memory of Marc Tobin.

Dale Oller, in memory of my beloved husband, Earl Oller.

Tivona Reith and Henry Werch, in honor of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah group and their sacred commitment of ruach and koach.

Yvonne Cohen, in honor of Justin Strom.

Roberta Michaels and Donald Toomim, in honor of Fran Berg and the Adult B'nei Mitzvah cohort.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Stefanie Hausman and David Frost, in memory of Donald Ira Hausman, father of Stefanie Hausman.

## *Perplexed? Havurah 101 has all the answers*

### What questions do you have about Havurah and how things happen?

Have you ever wondered what a cluster is? Why do we have a Steering Committee instead of a Board of Directors? How do we decide on our annual budget? How can I get more involved? How are events planned?

To all new or newish members who have these questions and others, this is the event for you!

Two upcoming Havurah 101 sessions—one in person and one on Zoom—will provide a snapshot of our history and answer many of your questions.

Join members of the Havurah Leadership Development Committee by RSVPing for one of the sessions below. We look forward to helping you better understand our unique community and the ways we are all able to support each other in our participatory culture. All members are welcome to come!

#### In Person at Havurah Shalom

7 pm, Monday, March 13

[RSVP](#)

#### Zoom Room Bet

7 pm, Tuesday, March 21

[RSVP](#)

## Gratitude to Havurahniks

In the meantime, thank you to the many, many people who contribute time, expertise, helping hands, and love to our participatory community. See you next month!