



March 2024  
Vol. 46, Issue 6

# Hakol • הקול

## Godwrestling, Our Birthright

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

In my twenties, as I was rediscovering Jewish life, one of the kernels of Torah that drew me in was Jacob's wrestling. The fact that he couldn't defeat the angel but still refused to let him go really spoke to me. He stays in the struggle until he receives a blessing, in the form of a new name: *Yisra'el* — Israel. His birth name, *Ya'akov*, "heel-grabber" perhaps, represents the morally ambiguous life he'd lived to that point. This new name, "Godwrestler," signifies a transition: he will face what life hands him head on. As I was seeking meaning in my own life, this text invited me into a practice of courageous encounter. Jewish life, it was saying, didn't shy away from struggle or discomfort.

The classic commentator Rashi offers this: "It shall no longer be said that the blessings came to you through supplanting and subtlety but through noble conduct and in an open manner." To Rashi, Jacob is entering a chapter of greater integrity and nobility. I would argue, in fact, that there is nobility in the struggle itself, precisely in our commitment to grapple with rather than avoid.

This practice of wrestling — with meaning, with difficult questions — is something I still so appreciate about Jewish life. It's also one of the things I love most about Havurah, that we embrace ambiguity and don't settle for simplistic answers to big questions.

We are in a time of big questions. Questions about peoplehood and



Havurahniks paddled at last October's Westwind Retreat.

nationhood, about Jewish and Israeli history and identity and how they've encountered and clashed with the histories and identities of Palestinians. These questions are not new, of course, but the post-October 7 reality has intensified them. One of my highest hopes for Havurah is that we are willing to be in the struggle with those questions. That we don't shy away from the difficulties or complexities, but — with care and openness — face them directly and grapple with them together.

I imagine that some of you are uncomfortable with the ceasefire statement recently adopted by our steering committee. I want to share in this context that, to my mind, the statement embodies this practice of wrestling. I've heard far too many Jewish leaders offer facile explanations for why the Israeli military must continue an assault that has

devastated Gaza — killing tens of thousands and rendering half a million facing famine. Havurah's statement proclaims that a different path is both possible and necessary. Questions about how to respond to October 7 are not easy ones, but that doesn't mean we must accept what is being done as inevitable. To those who would rather we not have said anything, or would want us to have said it differently, I invite you to be in touch with me or other leaders so that we can wrestle with these questions together.

From the individual *Yisra'el*, of course, came *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel, and *Am Yisrael*, the People of Israel — the collective who wrestles, who pursues integrity and nobility through the struggle. My hope for Havurah is that, in this fashion, we continue to embrace our birthright as *Yisra'el*.

## Havurah Shalom Staff

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

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

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

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

**Shari Raider, Finance Manager**  
shari@havurahshalom.org

**Tara Anderson,  
Participation & Publications  
Coordinator**  
tara@havurahshalom.org

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

## Havurah Simchas

**Email happy  
announcements to:**  
info@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](#)

Thursday, March 21

[Weekly Email \(Hineinu\)](#)

[Contribution Deadline](#)

Tuesdays by Noon

[Havurah Website Calendar](#)

[Misheberach List Form](#)

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

## Mazel Tov!

Barbara Gundle is thrilled to announce the arrival of her new granddaughter, **Audrey Alexis Gundle**, born February 12, 2024. The proud and happy parents are Aaron and Jacoba Gundle.



## B'nei Mitzvah

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

March 2

**Samual Pomerantz-Roll**

Child of Karen Pomerantz & Ian Roll

April 13

**Kai Berkson-Klaus**

Child of Lorissa Klaus & Mark Berkson

Please join us in celebration and in welcoming them as members of our community.

## Condolences

**Nancy Cummings**, mother of Dith Pamp, mother-in-law of Eli Fabens, and grandmother of Ramona Fabens, passed away on January 24 in Massachusetts at the age of 69.

**Genevieve Reiss Russo**, beloved sister of Jacob Reiss, sister-in-law of Betty Reiss, aunt of Rebecca Reiss and Jessie Reiss Kerstetter, great-aunt of Natasha (Tasha) Raish, Isaac Kerstetter and Eliza Kerstetter, passed away January 27 in Rochester, New York.

**Stanley Harold Ungar**, brother of Stephen Ungar, brother-

in-law of Susan Ungar, uncle of Cara Ungar, great-uncle of Enzo and Hugo Ungar-Gutierrez, passed away on February 8.

**Helen Gold**, aunt of Jenn Louis, passed away on February 8 in Florida.

**Dayle Prinstein**, beloved sister of Janice Kettler, sister-in-law of Mark, aunt of Adam and Brian, died on February 11.



# CELEBRATIONS

## Join Our Next Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration: Friday, March 8

**Kabbalat Shabbat Celebrations:** Our monthly Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations take place on the second Friday of each month, October through May. *6 pm Oneg, 6:30 Service, 7:30 Dinner (the dinner requires registration and is presently full for March 8; see below for info on getting on the waitlist or cancelling).*

***Helping Out at the Celebration:*** Havurahniks, can you help out at the March Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration? Volunteering at Kabbalat Shabbat can be a nice way to connect with other Havurahniks, and many helping hands are needed to make Kabbalat Shabbat a success each month.

[Click here](#) to explore available volunteer shifts, which start at just 15 minutes.

***Oneg and Service:*** The oneg (6 pm) and service (6:30 pm) do not require an RSVP/registration. All are welcome.

***Getting on the Waitlist for the March 8 Dinner:*** Go to [the event page](#) for the March 8 Kabbalat Shabbat to learn how to get on the waitlist for the dinner.

***Cancelling Reservations for the March 8 Dinner:*** If you registered for the March 8, 2024 dinner and have since determined that you (or anyone in your party) won't be able to make it, please email Tara Anderson ([tara@havurahshalom.org](mailto:tara@havurahshalom.org)) as soon as possible. Please include "March 8 Dinner Cancellation" in the subject line of your email. Please also make sure to list the names of all people who are canceling in your party.

*Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations are family friendly and open to all.*



### A Tot Shabbat at the End of March

***10:30 am to 11:30 am, Saturday, March 30  
at Havurah Shalom***

Young children (0-5) and parents celebrate with singing, movement, blessings, and storytelling. All are welcome. [RSVP](#)

Young children participate in a Tot Shabbat of yesteryear.



## CELEBRATIONS

# Celebrate Purim at Havurah!

Saturday, March 23

6 pm to 8 pm

### Calling All Megillah Leyners!

If you would like to chant a few verses from the Megillah this year, **please email Rabbi Benjamin** ([benjamin.barnett@havurahshalom.org](mailto:benjamin.barnett@havurahshalom.org)).

### Purim Playtime, a Four-Session Class

*7 pm to 8:15 pm, Mondays, February 26 to March 18 — Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Aleph*

For all ages! This class is for anyone who has ever wanted to stage a play. As a group we'll figure out how to retell the story of Queen Esther dramatically in a way that's relevant for our times, and then perform that play on Purim for the Havurah Shalom congregation. Over four sessions, we'll explore what makes good theater, how to write a script and a song, and then turn our crazy ideas into a fully staged production. Actors, writers, artists, and musicians, no matter what your age or experience, this is your chance to show off your talents, create a captivating theater experience for your community, and have fun! Taught by Karen Polinsky. **Contact Karen Polinsky with any questions. Join in the class at any point. RSVP**



Young Purim enthusiasts celebrate at Havurah.

This year's Purim celebration will take place at Havurah Shalom on the evening of Saturday, March 23.

## The Kitchen Kvetch Restates Her Case

By Adele Thompson

We have been thinking about a skill needed in most conventional fields, especially teaching: talent for repetition. Not just rote repetition, but patient, flexible, insightful, and resourceful delivery. Two truths drive this. First, for most of us, repetition is key to learning—learning new words, new subjects, or grasping an idea well enough to build something new onto it. And the more ways teachers can explain the material, the more likely they are to connect with most of their students. Second, inevitably, new people will arrive. Or some students were not attentive or were not there at all. They missed some stuff. And naturally, each class will be replaced with the next, which also has to learn these things. Key the repeats.

This is a long way to say that today's essay is a replay, a review, repetitious to some, but

clearly indicated from questions we have been receiving and observations we have made.

At Havurah, we recycle the same materials you put in the blue bin at home (i.e., cardboard, dry paper, aluminum foil, steel cans, plastic jugs and tubs). Rinse jugs and drain them. Clean most of the food dregs from tubs and disposable foil pans. No plastic lids or plastic bags in recycling.

Compost the food waste. However, unlike at home, we don't compost paper goods; you can take pizza boxes home to your green bin if, like the kvetch, you dislike throwing them in the trash.

Check beverage containers for Oregon deposits, now on more types of containers than ever. Please ask kids not to flatten cans. We have a new option for these deposit-bearing containers, Bottle Drop, benefitting Trash for Peace/Common Good. Started bags are kept under the sink

(empty the cans there) that is next to the clothes washing machine and new bags are on the kitchen shelf. You are invited to take a bag home if you don't have an established system. Drop full bags at a Bottle Drop depot or put it in the Havurah basement and let me know it's there.

Run all dishes, platters, water pitchers, anything that was used or handled, through the dishwasher. Then put them away. Turn off electric appliances you used including the oven, coffee makers, and dishwasher.

Recycling posters and other instructions are taped around the kitchen if you like visual reminders. If you have hired a caterer or have friends helping out, ask them to follow these procedures. They are part of their agreement with Havurah, and what the City expects us to be doing.

This was very didactic. Sometimes the straight story is best. Thank you.

### *From the Havurah's Transparency & Inclusion Committee:*

A question came to our committee from a congregant regarding Havurah's dues structure: "Why does our current dues structure ask single congregants to pay more than half the cost of a dual membership? The current structure informs single congregants that the expectation of them is greater proportionally than that of coupled peers, when research shows that it is more expensive for a single person to meet essential living needs."

Response from a representative of the Finance Committee: "The dues structure was in place before any of us came on to Finance. A sub group of Finance will be exploring alternate dues structures and attending a call on Feb. 21 through Reconstructing Judaism."

# HAVURAH SHALOM

## *Safety Corner*



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*Makom (Place) Lead Joel Bettridge and Secure Community Network Regional Security Director Jessica Anderson touch base before the Guardian training that took place Sunday at Havurah.*

Jessica helped us think about how to be both welcoming and vigilant, and we discussed what to do when a safety concern arises at the building. Before the presentation, about two dozen attendees had a chance to nosh and socialize. In an informal poll afterward, everyone agreed they felt better prepared to handle safety problems at the building than before the training!

**We'll have a similar nosh and learn training at Havurah Shalom on Sunday, April 7, at 12:30 pm to learn about Countering Active Threats. [RSVP](#)**

—

And here's another upcoming safety training, taking place this Monday evening over Zoom:

### **BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness**

*7 pm, Monday, March 4 – Zoom by [RSVP](#)*

Build observation skills and learn to recognize and react to various situations in your everyday life – from going to synagogue and dropping off children at school, to going to the gas station or an ATM. The course will cover the basics of situational awareness and how to help protect yourself, your family, and your community. Taught by Jessica Anderson, Secure Community Network Regional Security Director.

## The Grief of Two Fathers and the Infinitely Multi-faceted

Bassam is a Palestinian Muslim who was imprisoned by Israeli officials for seven years. Rami is a Jewish man who was born in Israel and married into a well-heeled family that has some social capital in Israeli politics. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their lives, from the roads they are allowed to drive on to the schools their children attend to the checkpoints, both physical and emotional, they must negotiate.

But their lives, however circumscribed, are upended one after the other: first, Rami's thirteen-year-old daughter, Smadar, becomes the victim of suicide bombers; a decade later, Bassam's ten-year-old daughter, Abir, is killed by a rubber bullet from an Israeli soldier. She is taken to a hospital. The doctors feel she can survive if she is transferred to a better hospital. Due to the roadblocks, traffic, and bureaucracy, her ambulance is delayed for over an hour. She arrives at the new hospital where she dies not long after.

Rami and Bassam had been raised to hate one another. And yet, when they learn of each other's stories, they recognize the loss that connects them. The two men come together, across the animosity and violence of their respective home nations, over a shared desire to spread a message of education, understanding, and the end of Israel's occupation of Palestine. Together they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace. These two men travel the world calling for the end of the Occupation and the fighting between Israel and

### March Book Discussion Leader Marjorie Walters

**Apeirogon**  
by Colum McCann

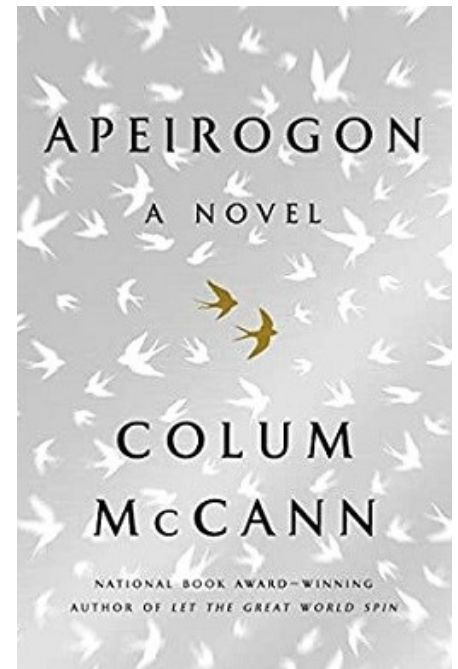
Fiction, 496 pages

**Tuesday, March 26  
7 pm to 8:30 pm  
Havurah Shalom and Zoom  
Room Bet**

Palestine. Their one small act starts to permeate what has seemed an impermeable conflict for generations.

Colum McCann met Bassam and Rami on a trip with their non-profit organization, Narrative 4. McCann was moved by their willingness to share their stories with the world, by their hope that if they could see themselves in one another, perhaps others could too. With their blessing, and unprecedented access to their families, lives, and personal recollections, McCann began to craft *Apeirogon*.

It is worth noting that an apeirogon is an infinitely sided object. It may seem an odd title for the book. McCann uses historical records and interviews to reconstruct the story of the two men, their lives, and the lives of their family, which is the central story. McCann also includes many relevant historical events, anecdotes, quotes, and myths. There



are numerous references to literature, cinema, and philosophy. He emphasizes the interconnection of everything and everyone. Something that seems to have two sides—the continual fighting between Israel and Palestine—is complex and infinitely-sided.

Ultimately, *Apeirogon* is a timely novel about war, violence, grief, forgiveness, and the human connection between everyone despite our differences. The novel expands to cross centuries and continents, stitching together time, art, history, nature, and politics in a tale both heart-breaking and hopeful. The novel received positive reviews and was longlisted for the Booker prize in 2020.

Discussion led by Marjorie Walters. Nonmembers welcome. **RSVP** for Zoom info.

### **Havurah Book Group Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 7 pm to 8:30, Zoom Room Bet**

The Havurah Book Group will be holding its annual meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend as we consider possible changes in choosing books, scheduling discussions, and anything else book group related.

**Please RSVP for the Havurah Book Group's Annual Meeting by emailing [Stacy Hankin](#).**



## Understanding October 7, 2023

**By Joel Beinín and Rabbi Benjamin**

Rabbi Benjamin and Joel Beinín will offer a three-session course on “Understanding October 7, 2023” – the Hamas attack on Israel and Israel’s response. The class will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 7 pm; Tuesday, March 17 at 3 pm; and Thursday, April 4 at 7 pm, with all sessions taking place in person in the Sanctuary at Havurah Shalom. Registration is via the Havurah Shalom calendar. (The three classes are intended as a single unit.)

This class will offer space for peo-

ple to express their personal feelings about the events. We will have the opportunity to read and respond to testimonies from Israelis and Palestinians about their experience of the events. How can we handle our shock and fear as Jews for ourselves and our families and friends in Israel while making space for similar feelings of Palestinians as Israel has devastated the Gaza Strip? We will explore the historical context of the events of October 7.

How did Hamas come to be the ruling power in the Gaza Strip? What was the relationship between Hamas and Israel during the 16

years of the Israeli-Egyptian siege on Gaza?

How should we as a Jewish community respond to these events going forward? Can we uphold the equal value of all human life while acknowledging Israel’s structural oppression of the Palestinian people?

Integrated into our examination of this moment, we will engage with a variety of Jewish texts: on grief and loss, on holding multiple truths, and on questions of fundamentalism and fixed views. [Register/RSVP](#).

## Our Havurah Library: Which Anne Frank?

**By Marjorie Bennett,  
Havurah Library Lead**

The Havurah Library’s tattered paperback copy of *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* was published in 1993 and acquired by us in 1999. It was time to replace it. Simple, in the internet age: search, click, it will be delivered to my door in a few days. Instead, I found myself going down an historical rabbit hole - and you can come with me.

Two versions of the diary were recovered from the secret annex: the original day-to-day entries as she wrote them (version A), and a ver-

sion that Anne was revising for publication after the war (version B). The version that her father, Otto Frank, published in 1952 was an amalgamation of the two, with some strategic editing by Papa (especially of passages about Anne grappling with her emerging sexuality and entries about her difficult relationship with her mother) (version C). In 1989, *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition* was published, which presents the three editions side-by-side for comparison. In 1993 we got *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Definitive Edition*, which adds to version C the bits Otto Frank left out, and is

about 30% longer than the original version C. And finally (so far), in 2003 there is *The Revised Critical Edition*, containing versions A, B, and C, her additional writings (short stories and such), and the latest scholarly research about Anne’s life.

Although tempted by the revised critical edition, in the end, I ordered two copies of *The Definitive Edition*. All of which is to say, if you read the book a while ago, or if you read our Library’s copy recently, there is new material you have never read. You might want to check it out.

I also ordered the graphic novel version, because why not?



# HAVURAH SHALOM & MORE

## HCAT Book Group: Bring Your Own Climate Book Event

***5:30 pm, Monday, March 4 — Zoom Room Dalet***

*All are welcome! Please join!* The HCAT Book group will be meeting in a one-time Bring Your Own Climate Book format. This will be a group for each person to have a little time to share out something relevant to climate protection that we have read. We will meet in Zoom Room Dalet. All are welcome to join. [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#)

## Understanding October 7, 2023

***Thursday, March 14 (7 pm), Sunday, March 17 (3 pm), and Thursday, April 4 (7 pm) — Havurah Shalom***

This will be a three-part class, **Understanding October 7, 2023**, taught by Joel Beinin and Rabbi Benjamin in person at Havurah Shalom. Learn more at the [\*\*Havurah calendar/RSVP page\*\*](#) for this class and in the “Understanding Octo-

## Havurah Music Jams Continue: Second Mondays! - [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#) for March

Come play together in community! Bring your enthusiasm and your instrument! **The March Music Jam—is Monday, March 11 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Havurah Shalom in the Pardes classroom.** The jams will continue monthly on the second Monday of the month. Song sheets will be provided and include a mix of country, folk, Jewish folk, liturgical, and popular music. Bring your instrument, your voice and your enthusiasm! [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#) for the March 11 Music Jam.

## A Concert of Songs from Freedom: The Untold Story of Moses *A new musical by Havurahnik Chari Smith to be performed at the EJC*

This rousing rock musical revitalizes the iconic story of Moses and illuminates the experiences of those around him—from his mother’s heart-wrenching sacrifice to an aspiring Pharaoh’s arrogant ambitions. This world-premiere concert performance features a selection of songs that will take you on a journey of love, loss, and liberation.

*Performances will be at the (Eastside Jewish Commons, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, Oregon):  
Sunday, April 14, at 4 pm and Sunday, April 21, at 4 pm.*

**Tickets on sale March 1: [\*\*tickets here\*\*](#), (\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. **Learn more about the musical [\*\*here\*\*](#).****

*Freedom* performances are a part of the Fertile Ground Festival of New Works, a citywide Festival taking place April 12 to 21 throughout Portland and surrounding areas. Fertile Ground presents “acts of creation,” produced by local organizations and independent producers. More information from Fertile Ground [\*\*here\*\*](#).

# TIKKUN OLAM

## Meeting This Moment: Join IMlrj and the Asylum Seekers Solidarity Collective

*Mutual aid, organizing,  
and accompaniment*

As a Sanctuary Congregation, we have walked alongside a Guatemalan family seeking asylum, helped to support an Afghani family as they establish themselves here, protested unlawful detention in the prison system, and lobbied local and federal governments to improve the legal reality for refugee and asylum seekers. **Given the current crisis that exists for asylum seekers who are arriving in Portland, it is time to once again tap into Havurah's deep and caring network.**

Portland, and Oregon more broadly, has seen an increase in asylum seekers arriving without a sponsor, friend, family, or other support in the region. Asylum seekers are in a legal immigration process - they make long journeys often on foot to request asylum, which is safety in a new country due to fear of persecution, and are released into the U.S. to continue their case. They do not have access to resettlement services (unlike refugees) and, though Oregon has free legal assistance for asylum seekers, due to wait lists and slow government processes, it usually takes longer than one year to re-

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### Sanctuary Committee

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ceive work authorization, and many years to receive a decision and stable status.

**The Asylum Seekers Solidarity Collective** was formed in 2023 to try to address some of the immediate needs of families and individuals when they first arrive in Portland. There is great need for emergency shelter (hosts), navigation support (translation & transportation), and ongoing advocacy and organizing. Havurah members, Natalie Lerner and KellyAnn Cameron, along with IMlrj, are taking the lead on organizing this collective.

Each week members of the collective are notified of the current needs for housing, translation, transportation, advocacy, donations and more. To be part of this small piece of welcome and mutual aid, please email [asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com](mailto:asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com) and join the Asylum Seekers Solidarity Collective.

### How Our Community Can Help

**Add your name and share with networks:**

[asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com](mailto:asylumsolidaritypdx@gmail.com)

### Offer Time/Space/Solidarity:

Accompany folks in accessing existing services and navigating the area, open your home to asylum seekers for any length of time, support other mutual aid efforts, and more.

**Donate Money:** to the [IMlrj Sanctuary Fund](#) to pay for hotel stays, cell phones and other necessities while people are waitlisted for services and trying to stabilize.

**Provide Advocacy:** Contact **County & City Officials** to increase funding for emergency shelter and long term housing for all families, including migrant families. Contact **State Legislators** to support HB4159, any additional funding for asylum seekers & housing, and ensure removal of barriers to homeless services for migrant communities.

Questions or comments? Please contact [Kathy Gordon](#), co-chair of the Havurah Sanctuary Committee.

## Interfaith Alliance on Poverty First Thursday Lunch Zoom Talks

*12 pm, Thursday, March 7 (and every first Thursday of the month) – [RSVP for Zoom info](#)*

The guest speaker for March is Dr. Jessica Gregg, Chief Medical Officer of Foris Health. Foris Health is one of Oregon's largest treatment centers for individuals with drug and alcohol addiction. Dr. Gregg will speak on the specifics of the local problems of substance abuse, the intersection with poverty and homelessness, treatment gaps, and updates on Measure 110. **Do you have questions about the IAP First Thursday talks? Contact Havurahnik [Sue Abrams](#).**

## Shabbat School Program Evaluation

By Michelle Bobowick

For many members at Havurah, our participatory community begins with our cooperative Shabbat School.

I am thrilled to present the first Havurah Shalom Shabbat School Program Evaluation Report; here is [the link](#). The evaluation consisted of three different surveys in which quantitative and qualitative data was collected from parents/teachers and students. “Results demonstrate that families are building Jewish community and increasing their sense of Jewish identity.”

It also identifies challenges, and then proceeds to outline strategies and opportunities to address these areas. Many strategies to improve the challenges identified will be in

### *Limud Cluster*

place for the 2024-2025 Shabbat School year. Examples of the changes to come include: increase in training requirements specifically for new teachers to Shabbat School; further development of education and support for classroom management issues; designation of the most complete and best lesson plans from the Curriculum Treasury; redesign of the initial teaching team meeting; and provision of developmentally appropriate lesson plans for each grade.

For many students and families, the Shabbat School participatory community continues into the year of B’nei Mitzvot. It is heartwarming

to see how the Shabbat School community supports one another at the Bar or Bat Mitzvah shabbat morning service - passing out Siddurim and T’nachim; standing underneath the handmade class tallit; and participating in the service. This highlights how Shabbat School fulfills the primary goals parents desire for joining Havurah’s cooperative education supported by the findings in the evaluation: “building Jewish identity and Jewish community, connecting with cultural aspects of Jewish life and learning Jewish traditions.”

The evaluation demonstrates Havurah’s commitment and efforts to maintain our values of a participatory community and also be responsive to the needs of our families now.

A tremendous thank you to all who participated and helped out!



Havurahnik Stella Reid became a Bat Mitzvah.



# HADRACHA

## Annual Leadership Development Retreat Held at Havurah

On February 4, the Leadership Development Committee hosted Havurah's Annual Leadership Retreat, a gathering for Steering Committee members, Havurah cluster and committee heads and other Havurah leaders, and Havurah staff.

*Are you interested in taking on more responsibilities in our community? Explore opportunities to get involved by reviewing the "Havurahnik Help Wanted" insert in the two pages below.*



Havurahniks considered Havurah values at the recent Annual Leadership Retreat.



## Havurahnik Help Wanted

Community is an enduring value of Havurah. These are just some of the ways to be engaged in building our community—what ways are right for you?

### DESIGN COMMITTEE

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

**Contact [Joan Peck](#) or [Marcia Suttenger](#).**

### SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Safety Committee is looking for (1) a new co-chair and (2) new committee members who can participate in Havurah's ongoing safety initiatives. No experience in safety issues is necessary. The goal of this committee is to help make safety matters at Havurah something the whole community takes ownership of.

**Contact [Ben Walters](#).**

### BIKKUR HOLIM (VISITING THE SICK) COMMITTEE

The Bikkur Holim Committee welcomes interested Havurah members who would like to support Havurahniks in need of healing.

**Contact [Fran Berg](#) or [Tivona Reith](#).**

### HISTORY COMMITTEE

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

**Contact [Marian Rhys](#).**

### TRANSPARENCY/INCLUSIVITY COMMITTEE

The Transparency & Inclusivity Committee is looking for people to brainstorm, envision, strategize, plan, or talk with congregants. Your input is needed as we work on improving the transparency and inclusivity of our communication systems. We'll start with brainstorming about HaKol and delve into developing a committee charter template as a resource for those who are considering the formation of a committee. Come join us.

**Contact [Elianne Lieberman](#).**

*Havurahnik Help Wanted continues on next page.*

## Havurahnik Help Wanted (*cont.*)

### LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Lifelong Learning Committee is looking for new leadership to help arrange and organize adult education classes and events. You don't need to be a teacher or participant in the classes. You just need to have a passion for making sure we have a variety of classes offered throughout the year.

**Contact** [Joel Beinin](#) or [Eve Berry](#).

### IT (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY) & CYBERSECURITY COMMITTEE

The IT and Cybersecurity Committee is looking for new members to help participate in Havurah's ongoing cyber security issues and advise on IT policies, procedures, and other related matters. Members with a background in tech are especially encouraged to join this committee and use their expertise to help shape Havurah's decisions in these crucial areas.

**Contact** [Steve Birkel](#) or [David Lewis](#).

### GESHER COMMITTEE

Are you someone who likes to step back and consider the broader perspective? The Gesher Committee wants YOU! We offer consultation to committee members and staff to help community projects embody the core values of Havurah. These are rich discussions and help us engage in participatory governance and planning. If you are a new Havurah member, we encourage you to think about joining the Gesher Committee; fresh eyes often bring fresh perspectives.

**Contact** [Shelley Sobel](#).

### HAVURAH CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (HCAT)

With the new normal of extreme hot summer days and wildfire smoke, we are all affected by the climate crisis. Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT) meets monthly and online as needed, to educate and support one another in tangible actions and political advocacy to address solutions. We are reaching out to Havurahniks of all ages and welcome new members to our team! We enthusiastically want to hear your thoughts and vision for actions! Please join us via Zoom on fourth Mondays from 5:30 to 7 pm. Check the Havurah calendar for details/confirmation.

**Contact** [Elianne Lieberman](#) or [Harriet Cooke](#).

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Welcome Committee is looking for welcomers and co-chairs. What better way to be part of our thriving community than to help share about all the great spiritual, religious, educational, cultural, and social offerings at Havurah and welcome new members! We strive to meet once a month. Join us to help create a welcoming place for all. We look forward to talking about this opportunity with you!

**Contact** [Wendy Castineira](#).

For the most up-to-date information on *Havurahnik Help Wanted* requests from Havurah groups and committees, go to [havurahshalom.org/helpwanted](https://havurahshalom.org/helpwanted).

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

# TIKKUN OLAM

## A Tu B'Shvat Seder Amidst the Trees

Havurahniks held a Tu B'Shvat ("New Year of the Trees") Seder at the end of January. Led by Harriet Cooke, the event was hosted by the Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT), who hold their monthly meeting next on Monday, February 26 (and every fourth Monday) in Zoom Room Gimel.

As HCAT describes in their entry for the Havurahnik Help Wanted pages, above: "We are reaching out to Havurahniks of all ages and welcome new members to our team! We enthusiastically want to hear your thoughts and vision for actions!"



[Harriet Cooke](#), co-chair of HCAT along with [Eliane Lieberman](#), smiles with Tu B'Shvat Seder participants.

Folks joined for a planned hike near Tryon Creek on the way to the Tu B'Shvat Seder.



## Gratitudes to Havurahniks!

**By Loree Devery,**  
**Immediate Past President**

As we move into the month of March, we are grateful for lighter days, warmer weather, and changing seasons. We are always grateful to the Havurah members and staff who brighten our days and keep our community humming along. Here are some specific people we thank for their recent contributions of time and energy.

Thanks to **Chris Coughlin** for representing Anti-Racism & Belonging at the recent Leadership Retreat.

Thank you, **Loree Devery**, for your relentless intentionality in moving forward the Campaign for Havurah.

Gratitude for the contributions of **Sacha Reich, Sarah Shine, Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Rabbi Benjamin, and Nancy Becker** at the Leadership Retreat.

Thank you to **Alana Silverman** for her work on the Staffing Task Force as she steps down from attending regular meetings. We appre-

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### *Steering Committee*

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ciate that she will continue to share her expertise by assisting in reviewing documents and providing focused feedback.

Thanks to **Ken Lerner, Jon Balgley, Bob Brown, and Kiel Moses** for organizing Movie Night and to **Kathy Gordon** for writing the Hakol article about it.

Thank you **David Lewis, David Newman, and Sally Goldman** for your work on behalf of the Palestinian Justice group.

Gratitude to the volunteer teachers of the Lifelong Learning Committee – from last fall to the present: **Tivona Reith, Rabbi Joey Wolf, Joel Beinin, Willa Schneberg, Fran Payne Adler, Andrine de la Rocha, and Anna Mafchir.**

Thank you to our book discussant

and facilitators, including **Harriet Cooke, Holly Hoffnung, Maude Naroli, David Newman, and Beth Kaye.**

Appreciation to **Marjorie Bennett** for her four years of volunteer service to the library as the chair of the Library Committee.

Gratitude to the Kehilah Cluster committee leads who participated in the Leadership Retreat, and to **Marni Glick, Sally Hersch, and Sharon Klin** for their continued support of Kabbalat Shabbat dinners.

And to the many Havurahniks not mentioned here, who regularly or occasionally volunteer your time and skills to our community, thank you! We value your participation and contributions, and we couldn't do it without you. If there is someone you would like mentioned, please email me, [Loree Devery](#).





# HAVURAH SHALOM

## Tributes

### Adult Education Fund

Lois and Ben Bronfman, in memory of Genevieve Reiss Russo, sister of Jacob Reiss, and sister-in-law of Betty Reiss.

Dale Oller, in memory of the Dayle Prinstein, sister of Janice Kettler.

Dale Oller, in memory of Earl Oller.

Dale Oller, in memory of Sidney Oller.

Dale Oller, in memory of Marc Andre Tobin.

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

### Library Fund

Susan Brenner, in memory of Leatrice Brenner, my mother.

### Campaign for Havurah Fund

Mimi Epstein, in memory of my beloved father.

### Refugee and Immigrant Fund

Joan and Dave Weil, in memory of Genevieve Reiss Russo, Jake Reiss' sister.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Bob Brown, on behalf of Andrew and Lela: with so much appreciation and thanks to Rabbi Benjamin for the thoughtful, spiritual, and meaningful Brit (baby naming) for Samir Rainey Winterman Brown.

