



"So how would we live

if we genuinely understood

that our existence

is interdependent?"

# Heeding the Call of the Shema

From the Rabbi

by Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

he Shema is a twice daily reminder of our interconnectedness. YHWH - All that Was, Is, and Will Be — is One: All life is connected. Have we ever felt this more profoundly than right now? Certainly not in such a concrete way. This pandemic demands that we apprehend how each of our lives impact one another's. Of course, this goes beyond physical health. Socially, economically, and spiritually, our lives are interconnected. For us to be well as a society and as a

planet, we must attend to everyone's health, safety, and freedom. This was just as true before COVID-19 and will be just as true after it. In stark fashion, this crisis is waking us up to this truth and the consequences of neglecting it.

So how would we live if we genuinely understood that our existence is interdependent?

Certainly, with greater compassion and courage, less concerned with our own health and security alone without addressing oth-

We would live with enhanced appreciation for those doing essential work of any kind. And for all who strive to support themselves and their families, we would demand just compensation and protections, such as living wages, paid sick leave, access to unemployment insurance, and universal health care

We would be much less complacent about challenging the injustice of systems which prioritize wealth, power, and whiteness.

We would not stand idly by while anyone was treated as dispensable.

Yes, we can learn from this crisis. We can realize these and other vital lessons. But it will take our working together. Because there are many people in power working to squash these aspirations at every turn. And this is not new. The fact that, for a wealthy, democratic nation, we were as ill-designed as we were to meet this crisis is not a matter of happenstance. In many

> rights and protections to large portions of our population. This legacy continues and will only intensify if not challenged.

One of my resources right now is the podcast Scene on Radio. (Some of you may have heard their amazing second season, "Seeing White.") This season, "The land that never has been yet," explores U.S. democracy

from our founding to the present, illustrating how its limited parameters are not coincidental, but the product of intentional policies in every generation. As we move through and emerge from this pandemic, we will effectively demand enhanced democracy, or we will suffer its opposite.

There are powerful movements fighting for the latter, so our work is cut out for us. But I keep returning to Mordechai's challenge to Esther: "Who knows? Perhaps it was for a moment like this one that you ascended to the crown." Perhaps this is the moment in which we achieve a more inclusive democracy, one aligned with our interdependence. Right now, in solidarity with all who yearn for safety and freedom, let us heed the call of the Shema.

ways the U.S. was built and sustained through policies denying

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**Hours of Operation** 

Monday – Thursday

The office will be closed until further notice. You can still reach staff during these hours.

Friday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

June Hakol Submission Deadline

Monday, May 18

To find the form, click the "Submit" tab on Havurah's website at havurahshalom.org.

Email
Submission Form

tinyurl.com/ HavShaNL Hineinu has replaced the weekly email.

To find this form, click the "Submit" tab on Havurah's website at havurahshalom.org.

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Hakol is Havurah's monthly newsletter that is edited, designed, and (usually) printed in-house by Havurah staff. Cover photo taken by Brad Pector.

# Gratitude

by the Steering Committee

his has been a unique month and one where we have so many people to say thank you, we appreciate you, we are grateful for your contributions and our community is blessed to have your presence. We went from being a community that was interacting with each other in person one day to a community that is connected virtually the next. Our initial gratitude is to the incredible Havurah Staff: Rabbi Benjamin, Deborah, Adela, Brad, Rachel and Carrie, who did an incredible amount of work to transform Havurah into a virtual community. You did so during a chaotic time filled with many unknowns and fear. You lead us through this transition while holding on to our values of being welcoming and inclusive and created more opportunities for us to connect.

Steve Birkel and Karen Westerman for stepping into the role of our Crisis Team to address our IT needs which have allowed us to be connected. And to Michael Heumann who has lent us his public health expertise to guide us in decision making that was sound and based in science.

To all the Service leaders for learning how to navigate Zoom while leading inspirational services. A special thank you to Sam Sirkin. For those who stepped up to lead services especially those that were provided new programming which gave us even more opportunities for our community to connect at a scary time.

To the B'nei Mitzvah families who showed grace and flexibility during this time and to those students who truly rose to the occasion. Mazel Toy!

To the Bikkur Holim group who made approximately 440 calls by 25 members in a week! Those calls were appreciated and hold up our value of being a community that truly cares

about each other in hard times and in good. A special thank you to Tivona Reith for working with Rabbi Benjamin closely on this and for your leadership.

To Susan Lazareck who along with Rabbi Benjamin is connecting people who are able to help with errands to those who need help. Thank you, Susan, for your time and energy to connect our members in this way during "normal" times and especially now as we have more members who are isolated.

To all the committees who factored in our new reality into their work and how best to meet the needs of Havurah through their skills and expertise.

A special thank you to the four new Garden Committee members who showed up and gave their all these are: Shari-Beth Nadell, Megan Koler, and Ben and Rachel Tevelow. And a special thanks to five-year-old Owen Tevelow what was a fantastic helper.

Thank you to all those helping to get the Slack Neighborhoods up and running and to the Captains who have agreed to lead their neighborhoods.

To all those who offered their homes for virtual Seders and created opportunities for connection during Passover.

Thanks to Debbi Nadell for organizing the Personnel Committee and to all who attended that very productive meeting.

To everyone who has participated in our Zoom services and activities, and to those who taught others how to navigate Zoom so they could participate. In March alone we had 138 Zoom events with a total of 1,950 participants – all of those events included 99,862 minutes. That is a lot of connections! We have much to be grateful for even during this chaotic time. Thank you everyone!

Steering

#### Committee

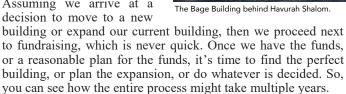
# **Bad Timing**

by Tom Berg

# for a Good Opportunity

n April's issue of Hakol, Rachel Shimshak described the excellent work being accomplished by the Long-Term Space Committee forecasting Havurah's space needs and

exploring high level options to meet those needs. With the emphasis on Long-Term, the expectation of the committee is that the process of formulating and implementing a plan will take several years. Why so long? Well, ideally, the building plan will dovetail with the next round of Havurah's long-range planning, which is just getting underway now. A decision this consequential requires serious discussions with the entire community, which may take considerable time. Assuming we arrive at a



What if we were given a cart before the horse was even born? In late February, the committee learned of a unique opportunity: the entire Bage building, directly behind Havurah on NW 19th and NW Kearny, may be available for purchase. About half the building is currently unoccupied, with the remainder currently leased to tenants. This has the potential of being a wonderful opportunity – a chance to expand our space,

> without having to move. We might even be able to continue renting the space to others while we consider future expansion plans and assemble the necessary funds for any remodeling. As you can imagine, the financial obligation is sigstable of times, accelerating process described above would be a monumental challenge. The comthat won't commit us but take to act on this unique opportunity. Along with

nificant. Even in the most mittee is reviewing options will identify what it would Havurah leadership, we

will walk down the road with a measured pace and see where it leads us.

The committee is working to determine how to best get your feedback on this opportunity. They are considering several options to get the best feedback possible. This includes whether to conduct a poll of the congregation via email link, request email input, or even schedule a large Zoom call to create a method to spread the information we have and engage a discussion of the decision options that face us. Stay tuned!

# Book Group: The Tattooist of Auschwitz

by Heather Morris

## Tuesday, May 26, 7 pm

his recently published novel

tells the extraordinary tale of Lali Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, and forced to tattoo numbers onto the arms of thousands of incoming prisoners. At the camp, Sokolov met a Slovakian girl, and they fell in love. Some of the book's critics have questioned whether some things actually happened. The Sokolov of the novel is an anxious but

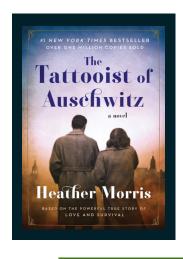
rather noble hero, who helps many of his

fellow prisoners. Yet in an interview he

did in 1996, he comes across as an im-

Zoom room assignment found on the Havurah calendar via the website

mensely likable opportunist, whose genius seemed to be finding every angle in any situation. There's no doubt he really helped many prisoners. He also said he traded black market goods with many guards and his commandant. Peter Black, a former senior historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, said that prisoners who "were in a position to help people, were also in a position to hurt people." To keep their positions, he said, "they had to accept that duality." — NY Times Review. Discussion led by Phil Walters.



# The Metro Housing Ballot Measure Explained

by Steve Rudman on behalf of the Poverty & Homelessness Committee



avurah Shalom's Steering Committee and the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty have endorsed Metro's Measure 26-210, which is on the May 19 ballot. The measure would provide supportive housing services in our region, but what is that exactly and why Metro?

Our own Steve Rudman, co-chair of the Poverty and Homelessness Committee, offers some clarity. Steve has worked on affordable housing issues for over 35 years. His last official position was as the Director of Home Forward (previously Housing Authority of Portland) and before that was the City of Portland's Director of Housing and Community Development.

#### What is Measure 26-210 in a nutshell?

The measure will raise about \$250 million annually over a tenyear period through a marginal income tax of 1% on households with income over \$200,000 (\$125,000 for individuals) and a business profits tax of 1% (small businesses with gross receipts under \$5 million are exempt). The funds will be collected with oversight at the Metro level and allocated to each county to be used for supportive services for our region's most vulnerable populations. The initial focus will be on chronically homeless households.

#### Why is this measure important?

This can be a gamechanger in addressing homelessness. It takes a housing-first approach, recognizing that people need to have a safe, secure place to live before they can focus on improving situations that led to their long-term homelessness. Measure 26-210 complements housing construction capital bonds passed in Portland in 2017 and Metro in 2018 by funding key services that enable more vulnerable households to live in these new housing opportunities. It offers resources necessary to tailor solutions (one size does not fit all) by providing flexible supports, such as health care, mental illness counseling, alcohol and drug treatment, rent assistance, and case management services, to see that families get what they need.

# So the bonds will provide housing units, like the Vibrant! Apartments, and Measure 26-210 will help folks to stay in these units successfully?

Exactly. Metro's proposed measure is the nexus between affordable housing and homelessness. Because of the tight housing market in recent years, we've seen a steady rise in the number of people experiencing long-term, chronic homelessness, many of whom struggle to maintain stable housing in a market with rising rents. We've seen more evictions and a significant growth in the number of people sleeping outside, in vehicles, or in emergency shelters.

#### Why have this through Metro?

Before Covid-19, homelessness was the highest rated issue in all three counties. All three governments asked Metro to do this. We need services through a regional lens to reinforce the existing services in the counties, and to provide more funds and more flexibility. This pandemic underscores the need for these services.

#### Has there been enough time to work out the plan for how to raise the funds and what the money would be used for?

Yes. This money won't be allocated until FY 2021-22, and the flexibility in the plan allows each county to direct funds to a variety of nonprofits, with Metro oversight. This is the first time in my career that we would have this comprehensive approach, over a span of time that allows us to work out the complexities and truly make a significant investment in vital services to those among us who are experiencing homelessness.

# If you could wave a magic wand, what would you like to see happen help alleviate poverty and homelessness in our community?

I would like to see housing as a basic right. I would like to be in a city, a region—a nation—where all people have a safe, decent place to live. That's not the hand we've been dealt, but it is our responsibility to do the best we can with the hand we have

Learn more through Metro's website:

tinyurl.com/metro4PDX

Take the "Vote Yes" Pledge through HereTogether:

tinyurl.com/takethepledgeVOTEYES

The "Vote Yes" campaign is asking people to put a lawn sign in their yard to raise visibility. Please sign up for one, or you can volunteer in another way here:

tinyurl.com/HTsignupPDX

# Beyond COVID-19



# Can This Angel of Death Help Transform Our Economy, Healing the Climate and Alleviating Social Injustice Crises?

by Harriet Cooke

s I write this article, we are in the fourth week of social distancing, approaching our festival of Pesach in two days. Over 10,000 U.S. residents have died of COVID-19. Over 74,000 have died worldwide. Air and car travel have been slashed. Coal powered industry dramatically cut, only now beginning to resume in China, the center of global industrial activity. By some accounts, global carbon emissions during this time dropped 25%, a number that was previously unimaginable.

Our Passover story includes an Angel of Death, a requirement to get us out of our enslavement from Mitzrayim, the narrow place.

Our Climate crisis grows, its threats looming large, powered by our slavery to an economic system driven by fossil fuels and unsustainable material growth.

Our collective care for each other through this pandemic has changed our economic behavior. Putting the teachings of our Prophets over profits, we made a world-wide decision to shut down the economy and preserve lives. We then enacted policies to help many workers whose incomes have vanished, to be sustained during this time. Policies that support workers rather than corporate heads, with amounts of financial support we previously thought was impossible. And we reach out and help each other who are insufficiently, or not yet supported by the state.

Behind the backdrop of this temporary health crisis and these temporary, but profound economic relief measures, is a system that drove us to the climate crisis in the first place, and one that is ready to take the lead again when this crisis is over.

There is another opportunity that is waiting. Climate Justice advocates and scholars have proposed a Green New Deal, a vision of an economic transition that can take us from our pre -COVID-19 reality to a sustainable and socially just one. It currently sits in the House as HR109 <sup>1</sup>, a resolution needing to amass support for this first step in transforming our profit driven economy to a Prophet driven economy, one that cares for all people and all of creation.

A Green Stimulus<sup>2</sup> proposal has also evolved out of our current crisis, a long-term stimulus plan that fits within the goals of a Green New Deal.

In these days, while many of us are slowed down from our usual frenetic lives, please check out HB109 and the Green Stimulus, and join the conversations and the advocacy.

And please put August 2020, date TBA (COVID-19 permitting), for our rescheduled Climate Action Fair on your calendars, for now an HCAT Elul offering.

Stay safe. Be well. Reach out as you can. Keep learning. And may we all move through this narrow place as One.

<sup>1</sup>**HR 109:** tinyurl.com/HR109green

<sup>2</sup> Green Stimulus article: tinyurl.com/greenstimulus2

In the coming month,
Havurah Shalom will call to the Torah
the following B'nei Mitzvah:

#### May 2

Gautam Josse
Son of Anita Haeems

#### **May 23**

Orion Segal
Son of Estee Segal and Gabe Adoff

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

#### **Condolences**

Carl Darling, father of Ben Darling-Budner, father-in-law of Rebecca Darling-Budner, and grandfather of Amira Darling-Budner, passed away April 3.

Hal Cohen, brother of Jen Litwin, brother-in-law of Seth, and uncle of Jesse and Spencer, passed away April 5.

Reuben Gutoff, father of Bija Gutoff, grandfather of Nadia Cannon, great-grandfather of Noah Jaffe Cannon, passed away on April 6.

Richard Price, son of Mildred Price, brother of Hilde Price-Levine, brother-in-law of Michael Levine, and uncle of Dorit Price-Levine, passed away April 7.

Yetta Chaiken, grandmother of Ethan Chessin, grandmother-in-law of Susannah Reese, great-grandmother of Frank and Ira, passed away April 8.

Maurice Mesulam, father of Steven Mesulam, father-in-law of Julia Lager-Mesulam, grandfather of Ari and Eli Mesulam, passed away on April 23.

## **Tributes**

#### **General Contributions**

Katherine Schneider, in honor of Joel Beinin.

Leatrice Kaplan, in memory of my brother, Bertram Auerbach.

Leatrice Kaplan, in memory of my husband, Bernard Kaplan.

#### **Cemetery Fund**

Stefanie Hausman and David Frost, in memory of my dear friend, Ellen Meyer, on her 10th yahrzeit. We miss you!

#### Spiritual Life Fund

Katherine McDowell and Ken Lerner, in memory of Margaret McDowell.

#### Prayerbook Fund

Doug Miller, in memory of Mort Miller.

Doug Miller, in memory of Ellen Meyer.

Sivia Kaye, in memory of Bernard Kaye.

Yvonne Cohen, in honor of Elliot Strom in celebration of his recent Bar Mitzvah.



The Zoom Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Strom, above and right

#### **Havurah Endowment Fund**

Stefanie Hausman and David Frost, in gratitude to the Havurah leadership and staff (Rabbi Benjamin, Deborah, Adela, Rachel, and Brad) for your support and creativity you've shown our community during these challenging times.

Arleen Slive and Dick Mastbrook, in honor of Liz Schwartz and Susan Lazareck. Thanks for shopping.

Arleen Slive and Dick Mastbrook, in honor of Steve Birkel and Shari-Beth Nadell. Thanks for the technical help.

Arleen Slive and Dick Mastbrook, in honor of Rachel Pollak. Thanks for help and patience.

#### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Stefanie Hausman and David Frost, in loving memory of my mom, Helene Hausman-Brottman, on her first yahrtzeit.

Roberta Schmalz, in memory of Lilly Evans.



#### **Events**

## Class with Rabbi Benjamin

## Radical Amazement, Radical Concern: Teachings for this Hour from Abraham Joshua Heschel

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 7pm

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was a radical, in theology and in action. Born into esteemed Hasidic lineage in Poland, he ventured beyond that world, while maintaining his piety, to immerse in scholarship and culture and the pressing issues of his day. In 1939 he was rescued from Europe, and spent the rest of his life living and teaching in the U.S. His work integrated intellectual rigor with love of tradition, and he called for intimate spiritual attention alongside moral public action. In these sessions we will explore excerpts of his work on topics including empathy, freedom, and responsibility, as well as awe and appreciation. Please RSVP by May 3 on the Havurah calendar. There will be a reading sent out before each class.



#### **Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (two parts)**

## Through the Gate of Praise: Love and Fear, Intimacy, and Retreat

In partnership with Temple Emek Shalom in Ashland with Rabbi Joshua Boettiger of TES & Rabbi Benjamin

Thursday, May 28, 10 pm

We often understand praise to mean heaping accolades upon a Divine being. But perhaps praise in the deepest sense is a singing from the heart, whether in grief or joy. We will explore texts ancient and contemporary expressing praise and inviting us into reimagining its relevance in our lives. RSVP to this late night session on the Havurah website calendar.

Friday, May 29, 7 pm

We will begin with a short and sweet Shabbat service led by Rabbi Benjamin, followed by a poetry reading and discussion at 7:30 pm featuring poems on this year's congregational theme — Hineinu: We are Here. RSVP via the Havurah calendar on the website.

Zoom Meeting Room info will be posted on the Havurah calendar on our website at havurahshalom.org.

# May 2020

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47th Day Omer 10:00am POSTPONED: Shabbat School Class Reps Meeting 3:00pm POSTPONED: New Member Spring Tea 7:00pm Film Discussion: The Human Element	18th Day Omer	Yom Hazikaron 19th Day Omer 12:00pm Counting the Omer: Spiritual Practice for Precarious Times 7:00pm Book Discussion Group: Rising Out of Hatred 7:00pm Rethinking Israel/Palestine	Yom Ha'Atzmaut 20th Day Omer 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Havurah High 7:00pm Havurah High 7:00pm POSTPONED: Dr. Avivah Zomberg Lecture	21st Day Omer 10:00am Last Thursday Witness - IMIrJ I.C.E. Vigil 12:00pm CANCELED: Conflict and Sexuality in Yiddish Poetry 5:00pm Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation 6:30pm Bedtime Stories	22nd Day Omer 10:00am Bar Mitzvah Rehearsal 7:30pm Kirlan Shabbat 8:01pm Candle Lighting	23rd Day Omer Achrel Mot-Kedoshim 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Gautam Josse 9:10pm Havdalah
3 ////////////////////////////////////	4 <u>Invar 10</u> 25th Day Omer 3.00pm Class with Emily Simon	26th Day Omer Birthday (English) of Brad Pector 12:00pm Counting the Omer. Spiritual Practice for Precarious Times 7:00pm HCAT Meeting 7:00pm Rethinking IsraeliP alestine	27th Day Omer 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Radical Amazement, Radical Concern	7 ( <u>N/ar 13</u> 28th Day Omer 5:00pm Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation 6:30pm Bedtime Stories	8 Pesach Sheni 29th Day Omer 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:09pm Candle Lighting	30th Day Omer Temor 10:00am Community Minyan 10:30am Tot Shabbat 3:00pm Shabbat School 9:19pm Havdalah
10 <u>lyyar16</u> 31st Day Omer Admin:Mother's Day	11 <u>!///sr 17</u> 32nd Day Omer 3:00pm Class with Emily Simon	Lag B'Omer 33rd Day Omer Hakol Deadline 12:00pm Counting the Omer. Spiritual Practice for Precarious Times 6:30pm Steering Meeting 7:00pm Rethinking Israel/Palestine	34th Day Omer 8:30am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Radical Amazement, Radical Concern	35th Day Omer 5:00pm Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation 6:30pm Bedtime Stories	36th Day Omer 6:00pm Dorot Shabbat 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:18pm Candle Lighting	37th Day Omer Behar-Bechukotiai 10:00am Community Minyan 3:00m Shabbat School Summit 9:27pm Havdalah
17  38th Day Omer 1:00pm Annual Cemetery Beautification Day	18 <u>Inyar 24</u> 39th Day Omer 3:00pm Class with Emily Simon	40th Day Omer 12:00pm Counting the Omer. Spiritual Practice for Precarious Times 7:00pm Israeli and Palestinian Literature	20 /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /// /	21 /// // // // // // // // // // // // /	Yom Yerushalayim 43rd Day Omer 7:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:26pm Candle Lighting	Shabbat Mevarchim 44th Day Omer 44th Day Omer Bamidbar 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Orion Segal 4:00pm Private Bar Mitzvah Party 9:35pm Havdalah
24 Sivan 1  Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th Day Omer 7:00pm Zenith Energy Discussion	46th Day Omer Admin:Memorial Day Office Closed for Memorial Day	47th Day Omer 12:00pm Counting the Omer: Spiritual Practice for Precarious Times 7:00pm Book Discussion Group 7:00pm Israeli and Palestinian Literature	27 48th Day Omer 8:30am Morning Minyan	Erev Shavuot 49th Day Omer 10:00am Last Thursday Witness - IMIrJ I.C.E. Vigil 5:00pm Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation 8:31pm Candle Lighting 10:00pm Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	Shavuot - 1st Day Office Closed for First Day of Shavuot 7:00pm Shavuot Gelebration 8:32pm Candle Lighting	Shavuot  Shavuot  Yizkor  10:00am Community  Minyan  4:30pm Family Shavuot Celebration 9:41pm Havdalah
31 Sivan 8 10:00am Song of Miriam Awards Banquet - Cancelled 3:00pm Bonim	1 Sivan 9	2 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00pm HCAT Meeting	3 <u>Sivan 11</u> 8:30am Morning Minyan	4 Sivan 12 5:00pm Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation	5 Sivan 13 8:38pm Candle Lighting	6 Nasso 10:00am Text and Torah: Pirkei Avot 9:47pm Havdalah

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