



May 2022
Vol. 44, Issue 8

Hakol • הקול

In Solidarity with the Stranger

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

As I write, we're in the midst of Pesach, a season of recalling that our ancestors were outsiders and suffered the dehumanizing cruelty often inflicted upon people considered to be so.

Jewish tradition demands that we reference that collective memory, not just on Pesach but always. It is from that memory, our knowing the experience of the *ger*—the stranger, the outsider, the one often marginalized and targeted—that Torah links its commandment for us not to oppress such a person.

Clearly, though, Torah doesn't stop at *not oppressing* the stranger. And while we speak often of "welcoming" the stranger, Torah goes even further, to love. Just as we are told to love our neighbors, and to love God, we are instructed to love the *ger*.

In our culture, we often have a limited notion of what the word love means, and this mitzvah is a beautiful expression of how we are meant to embody it.

This is a love that is rooted in our genuine yearning for others—even people we do not know—to be safe and free and well. It manifests through concrete acts of care and support.

You may have seen the article last month about Havurah's decision to sponsor an Afghan family who will be settled in Portland. The Havurah members investing time and energy into leading this effort are putting the Torah's instruction to love the stranger into concrete action. That



Ramona Fabens (daughter of Dith Pamp and Eli Fabens) celebrates her first Passover, wearing a hand-knit yarmulke from Havurah's Welcome Committee.

group, part of our Sanctuary Committee, has been doing their homework and learning a lot, from local and national agencies and from other folks in Portland engaged in supporting an Afghan refugee family. They have discerned how to move forward in a way that will most effectively meet the needs of the family we ultimately sponsor.

Our job then, as a community, is to make sure the resources are there. If you are able to donate money for this effort, you can do so [here](#). And please stay tuned to Hakol and Hineinu for further information as well as other ways to support and get involved.

When the Torah speaks of loving the stranger, I think it is akin to

what we call solidarity. When we act in solidarity with others, we are perceiving and honoring the fullness of their humanity. We are working to uphold their rights to safety and freedom and well-being. In solidarity there is mutuality.

Ultimately, this is not about us doing something for others. It is about us playing our part in a collective reshaping of the world, so that the rights we all share are guaranteed for each of us.

See page 5 for more on the Afghan Family Support Fund or donate now, below:

DONATE TODAY

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B'nei Mitzvah

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

May 14
Ari Strom

Child of Natalie and Justin Strom

May 28
Sasha Blau
Child of Holly Telerant
and Rob Blau

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



Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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

Hakol Contribution Deadline
May 13

Weekly Email
Contribution Deadline
Tuesdays by Noon

Tributes

General Contributions

Rick Raetz, in honor of the yahrzeit of my mother, Helen Raetz.

Educator's Discretionary Fund

Doug Miller, in memory of Ellen Meyer.

Buff Medb Neretin, in memory of my father, Aaron Neretin. "May we never stop learning."

Library Fund

Miryam Brewer, in memory of my father, Lou Senensieb.

Marjorie Gans Walters and Philip Lewis Walters, with many happy memories of my mother, Dorothy Walters. Loving mother, grandmother, mother-in-law and friend to many. Always with a book in hand.

Tikkun Olam Fund

Judi and Martin Soloway, in memory of my brother, Leon Chazanow.

Sanctuary Fund

Anna Palermo, in honor of Barbara Gundle.

Youth Education Fund

Harriet Cooke, in honor of my father's yahrzeit.

Havurah Endowment Fund

Adela Basayne and Nick Iliinsky, in memory of Beloved Pop, Henry Sherman Basayne.

Building Fund

Doug Miller, in memory of Mort Miller.

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Lester Steinberg.

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Pearl Steinberg.

Stephen A. Katz, in memory of Laura (Leah) Stemple Katz.

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Linda Mariano, sister of Harriet Steinberg.

Robin Flamm, in memory of Eric Simon Flamm.



TIKKUN OLAM

HCAT Presents Events for a More Sustainable World

Easy Drop-Off for Hard-to-Recycle Plastics

*Sunday, May 15, 10-12:30 pm,
Mittleman Jewish Community Center*

Calling all plastic straws, forks and spoons. Plastic bags, bottle caps and bread ties. Plastic cups and #1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 containers. Styrofoam and unwanted electronics too.

The Jewish Federation is sponsoring a plastics recycling event for certain plastics, Styrofoam and electronics.

Drop off your plastics at the parking lot of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. All items must be clean, dry and sorted. Items that can be put into curbside recycling bins will not be accepted. The cost to recycle each grocery bag or 5-gallon container of sorted plastics is \$3; recycling Styrofoam costs \$3 per

Havurah Climate Action Team

39-gallon garbage bag.

Questions? Contact Elianne Lieberman. [Click here for a detailed list](#) of what will be accepted at the event.

Climate Sustainability Actions We Can Each Take

*Tuesdays, May 10 and May 17,
7-8:30 pm in Zoom Room Bet*
– [RSVP](#)

Get the low-down on the simple, easy and effective steps to take that together will make a difference towards a healthy and sustainable world. In this two-session class, Ste-

ve Katz and Carolina Martinez, who have done the research and walk the talk, will share a whole range of easy actions you can take. The list may seem long, but just like walking up a mountain, you take one step at a time.

The discussion will include: what can be done around the house, in the kitchen, office, health and beauty choices; ways to grocery shop, commuting, fashion choices, how to go paperless, how to sustainably purchase baby and child items, socially responsible banking, how to approach gifts and special occasions, technology choices, and general lifestyle actions.

You will come away with a plan of actions that are doable on a consistent basis for you as an individual and for family. You don't even have to take notes. Slides and resources will be shared.

This program will be recorded.

LIMUD

Film Viewing & Talk: *The Worst Thing*

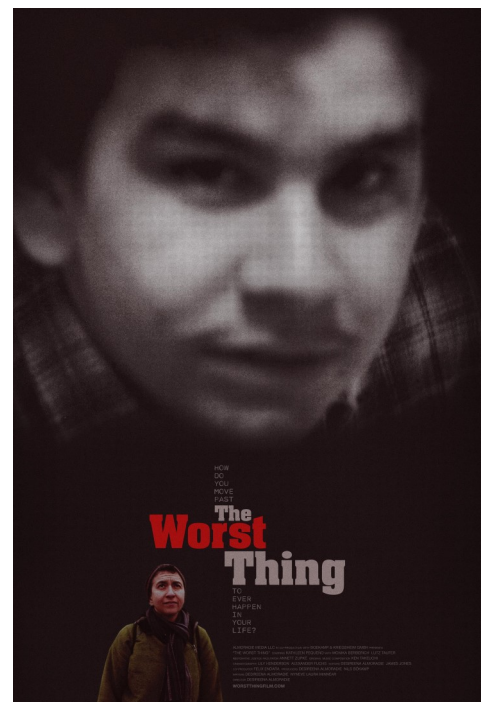
**May 19, 5 pm, at Havurah
and on Zoom – [RSVP](#)**

In 1985, Kathleen lost her brother Eddie, an American soldier, at the hands of the Red Army Faction (RAF), a German leftist terrorist organization. Now, decades later, she decides to seek out the group responsible for his murder. "The Worst Thing" (German title: "To Germany, With Love") follows Kathleen as she travels to Germany to make peace with aging former members of the

RAF. A crime story and a psychological drama, the documentary unfolds through the eyes of filmmaker Desireena Almoradie, Kathleen's childhood friend.

As Kathleen searches for some form of connection with former terrorists, memories are retold, intentions are uncovered, and remorse and redemption manifest in unexpected ways.

Kathleen and the filmmaker, Des, will be joining us virtually after the movie.



TIKKUN OLAM

All Havurahniks invited to join conversation groups

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

We hope you have seen information in emails or Hakol inviting you to be part of our anti-racism and belonging work. We will continue to share information over the coming months inviting you to embark with us on gaining a better understanding of how anti-racism and belonging shows up within the congregation, through small group conversations. These will be opportunities for all members of our community to share and to listen. The groups are structured by self-selected shared identity. Great intention has been taken to also find dates and times that are convenient for each group. If you are not able to join your desired group, [please let us know here](#) and we will follow up.

Please see information below on self-selecting for the group that most

Anti-Racism and Belonging Workgroup

closely matches your identity. We have received some questions about the groups, and how people should select. Within racial justice work, it is common to create and make space for racial affinity groups so that white people's learning doesn't come at the pain/expense of BIPOC folks' life experiences, so you will see small group options for BIPOC and multi-racial families to create those spaces.

You will also see some groups for people to select based on staff, lay leadership and teaching roles within the community.

The thinking behind those groups was to create spaces where there are shared experiences that might lead to a more focused conversation on

more specific topics because of the relationship individuals in that group may have to how Havurah currently operates.

The important thing is that individuals should self-select for the group that most closely matches your identity. You may feel a connection with several different groups, and in that case, the choice is yours.

[Here is the link to the dates and times for the conversation groups.](#) You'll notice that not all the RSVP links are open right now. The RSVP link for each group will be live about 6 weeks before the group will be held.

Meetings will be held in Havurah Zoom rooms, and you will receive an email after you RSVP, as well as a reminder email a few days before and the day of your meeting.

[Visit this page for more information on this project and Tabitha and Adam.](#)

AVODAH

Your creativity & leadership needed for Elul! May 10 deadline

Elul is the month preceding Rosh Hashanah, a time of reflection and spiritual preparation. For the last couple of years, Havurah has offered activities then with the aim of educating, aiding reflection, and building community. We will do this again this year and invite you not only to participate in activities but offer activities of your own!

Elul goes from the evening of Aug. 27 to the day of Sept. 25. Past activities have included classes on forgiveness, Israel and collective responsibility, cooking, and how to construct your own shtiebel; meditation and chanting; film viewing and discussion; anti-racist journaling; and music performances. We have had special member-led services, meditation and chanting.

This year we will use Elul itself as a theme. Some starting points for thinking about Elul are: reflection, preparation for the High Holidays, taking stock of one-

High Holidays Planning Committee

self (cheshbon hanefesh).

Whatever ideas you have for offerings, please submit them for review by the High Holidays Planning Committee and for inclusion in the Elul promotional materials, which will be coming out a little earlier this year. The submission deadline is **May 10**.

To submit: email info@havurahshalom.org with the title of the activity, a short blurb, your preferred date and time (between Aug. 27 and Sept. 25), and Zoom/in person preference. Thank you!

TIKKUN OLAM

Detention installation provides a moving narrative

Sanctuary Committee

During the last weekend of March, a number of folks from the Sanctuary Committee had the chance to view Greg Constantine's powerful pop-up: **Seven Doors Stories of Immigration Detention**.

The walls on the inside of a 26-foot truck were transformed into a gallery space and featured photographs and stories of trauma and resilience, fear and separation, as well as resistance and solidarity.

Also inside the truck was a 24-foot map consisting of photographs and data of nearly 60 detention centers across the US, showing the geography of our country's extensive immigration detention system. Audio points in the map share the voices of individuals talking about immigra-



tion detention in the US. These voices are of people formerly detained and people who have been detained and then deported, along with family members, immigration lawyers and individuals working as volunteers in visitation programs or detention hotlines.

Greg makes the invisible visible,

reminding us all why we must continue our work to dismantle this inhumane system.

We are working with Greg to create more opportunities for Havurahniks to interact with his work. In the meantime, for a taste of the show, visit the [Seven Doors' website](#).

Helping Resettle Afghan Refugees

Havurah will be partnering with Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) to help resettle an Afghan family in Portland. Since August 2021, over 70,000 Afghans have been resettled in the United States, and about 180 families are now temporarily housed in Portland.

Please join members of the Sanctuary Committee in donating to our Afghan Family Support Fund. While LCSNW will place the family in permanent housing, Havurah's direct fundraising will help support the family's other needs. (At this time, your contributions are not tax-deductible.)

[DONATE TODAY](#)



Photo by [Scott Webb](#) on Unsplash.

AVODAH

Setting Our Sights on the Tiffany Center, Sept. 25

Our Havurah community is finding its way home. We are beginning to change the patterns we have had to adopt in the past two years, to loosen our restrictions and separations, to reconnect in person and rebuild communal life at our shul in Northwest Portland. You may have already been back in the building for a meeting, class or service. But maybe you're still participating via Zoom. Each of us is in a different place with regard to the resumption of communal life.

That's why it may feel somewhat uncertain or premature to plan now for our upcoming High Holidays cycle, which begins in five months. But we must plan, and we are planning—ambitiously.

What's ambitious about our plan? In order to strengthen and fortify our communal bond, we are preparing for a full return to the Tiffany Center. In addition to our traditional in-person gathering, we will make high-quality streaming video available to allow members and community members who prefer to join from home, and friends who live outside the Portland area, to access our High Holidays services.

Our preparations are complex. Your High Holidays Planning Committee is wrestling with questions around safety, security, capacity, access and inclusion. We recognize that this year, a smaller number of people may opt to come down to the Tiffany Center in person; the choice to do so will not be right for everyone. And if pandemic conditions deteriorate dramatically, requiring our leadership to decide that our



Havurahniks and other community members gather in person in 2019 for Yom Kippur services at the Tiffany Center. The congregation plans to return there after having been away for two years during the pandemic, conditions allowing.

High Holidays Planning Committee

plan to gather in person is too risky, we will do what we have done before: pivot to virtual services for all, to keep our community safe.

In the meantime, to quote from the most recent COVID Management Team update, “As a community, we are adjust[ing] our focus from “How do we gather safely?” to “How do we reintroduce ourselves to communal life with lovingkindness and respect for the choices of others?” This is at the core of our planning: not just the logistics and technology of organizing a series of gatherings, but the real reason we gather in the first place, whether in person or online: to see and know

and support one another, to live connected.

During the month of Elul, which begins on Aug. 26, we will have abundant opportunities to gather in person and virtually; we intend for these gatherings to further ease us back into in-person communal life, building momentum towards Rosh Hashanah and the full High Holidays cycle.

May we, like our gardens, emerge, grow strong, and blossom back into community. On Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 25 at the Tiffany Center, when we witness our mighty community gathered, nothing short of the ingathering of the exiles, may our resounding Sheheḥiyanu lift the roof.

Questions or concerns? Contact us at info@havurahshalom.org.

—Your High Holidays Planning Committee

TIKKUN OLAM

Havurahnik-led program expands into trash clean-up

By Jenn Louis
The Common Good Project

We want to send you an update on The Common Good Project. After one-and-a-half years of operating a street outreach project, and being very supported by Havurahniks, a new element, street clean-up, has been added!

We have conducted a beta test and found the project to be very successful. Metro has given us a grant, allowing us to pay homeless neighbors to clean up several sites in Northeast/North Portland. In one week, we cleared just over 10 tons of garbage, plus about 65 bags in smaller sites.

We are teaming up with Trash for Peace, another Havurahnik(!), and applying for larger grants to make this a full-time operation. Stay tuned for more and contact Jenn Louis with any questions. She needs volunteers!



Poverty and Homelessness Committee



Volunteers serve the city by collecting trash off the streets in these photos provided by Jenn Louis, who runs the Common Good Project. More volunteers are sought! Contact Jenn for information.

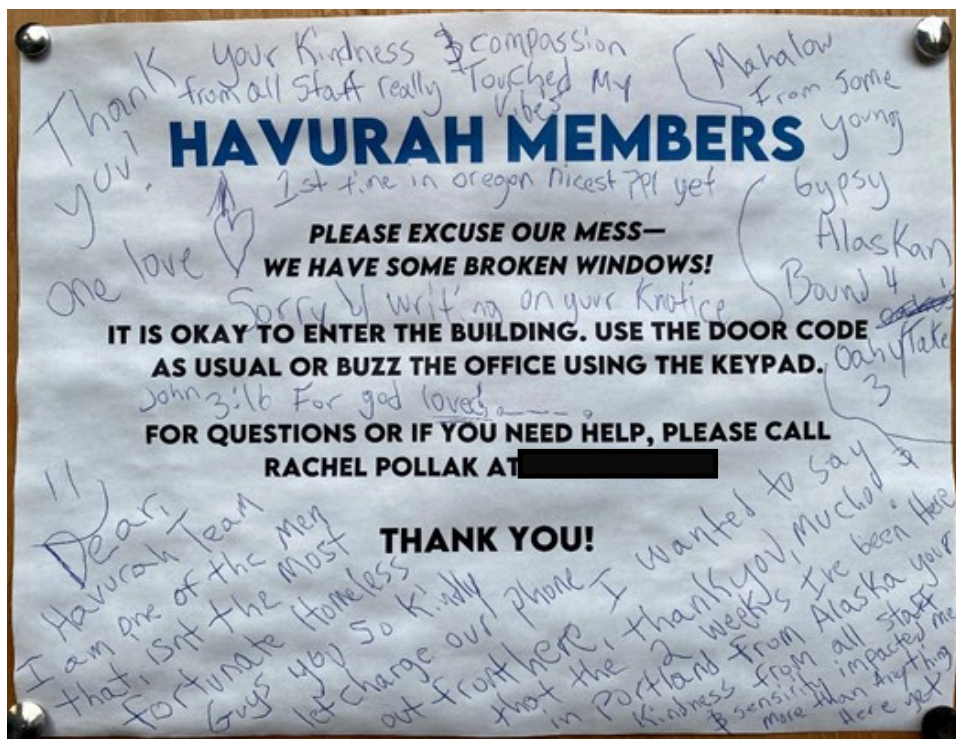
Taskforce has had its eye on the courtyard

Courtyard Taskforce

Those visiting Havurah may have noticed that our courtyard is sometimes a bit messy with trash, sometimes very neat. Indeed, our beautiful space is not exempt from the challenges the rest of our Northwest neighborhood and the city face. In order to keep the space as clean and safe as possible, representatives from the Garden, Design, Safety, and Poverty/Homelessness committees, as well as staff, came together last spring to identify problems and solutions for the courtyard. We met again this March to review the decisions we implemented and found them to be satisfactory.

Havurah Shalom's courtyard is an open-entry space where folks in the neighborhood, mostly homeless people, often stop for a bit of rest and to charge their phones. Some leave trash behind, while others will pick it up for us. The latter tell us they are grateful for the chance to charge in peace.

To understand this population more, the Courtyard Taskforce consulted with Street Roots and Rosehaven, a day shelter for women and children down the street. We learned more about homelessness specifically in our neighborhood, and ways to be good neighbors while maintaining boundaries. One suggestion we have implemented was to hire a frequent courtyard visitor to come clean up three times a week. You may have seen other articles about our courtyard steward, Joseph. He continues to be a valued member of



Anonymous notes on a door sign at Havurah: "Thank you! Your kindness & compassion from all your staff really touched my vibes." — "First time in Oregon, nicest people yet." — "Mahalo from some young [—] Alaskan bound for Oahu." — Dear Havurah Team, I am one of the men that isn't the most fortunate homeless guys you so kindly let charge our phone out front here. I wanted to say thank you mucho! 2 weeks I've been in Portland from Alaska your kindness from all staff & sensitivity impacted me more than anything here yet."

our community.

What other mitigation methods do we have? Our janitors clean up trash as well. For human waste, we call a professional clean-up service. For needle removal, we have developed a protocol for safe disposal. We would love to train other members in this short and easy process.

Beyond clean-up, and into relationships, we have installed a sign welcoming people and identifying us as a spiritual center, and asking people to help keep our space beautiful. Additionally, having friendly, casual interactions with people in the courtyard promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect and increased safety for everyone.

Speaking of safety, we have installed bright LED lighting and our DHS grant is allowing us to install video cameras in the courtyard. Soon, Havurahniks will be invited to safety trainings on situational awareness and other topics to help us be more confident.

The Courtyard Taskforce also discussed the possibility of installing a gate to prevent people from entering the courtyard. Ultimately, our recommendation is that Havurah wait for decisions around building expansion before discussing a gate again.

Please be in touch with [Rachel Pollak](#), the office and facilities manager, with any concerns or questions.

Holding Steady: A COVID Management Update

By Loree Devery
Steering Co-President

The COVID Management Team met earlier this month to review the COVID Safety Gathering Guidelines for Havurah (adopted March 9) in light of decreased COVID risk in our community. We analyzed the rules and protocols that are currently in place and asked ourselves whether they are sufficiently clear and flexible to move us forward in the current conditions. We concluded that—though a few minor revisions were needed—our current Guidelines should serve our community now and into the foreseeable future.

What are the current Guidelines? Both our current Guidelines (as updated in April) and a link to the *Safety Requirements for Individuals in the Building* can be found on the Havurah website's COVID-19 page [here](#).

Under our current Guidelines, the “general rule” is that symptom-free individuals ages 5 and older who are fully vaccinated or have a negative COVID test may be in the building—masks optional. There are some exceptions to this general rule for Shabbat School students, but as of this writing there are only two more Shabbat School sessions remaining. There are further details in the Guidelines, but this “general rule” is a good summary.

Is the CMT disbanding now that COVID is on the decline? No. The volunteers and staff who have navigated the ups and downs of the pandemic these past two years will remain in place, meet as needed, and be available to respond to

COVID Management Team

changing circumstances. While we are confident that the Guidelines we have in place will serve us well, we also understand that things can change quickly, and we will be ready to respond if they do.

We did have one departure from the CMT in the past few weeks. Dr. Joe Sullivan will no longer be serving on the CMT as he turns his talent and attention to pursuing other volunteer work in the international arena. The CMT is grateful to Joe for his contributions to this group and to the entire Havurah community.

Did the CMT make *any* changes to the Guidelines? No revisions were made to the rules for congregants and guests. We reviewed our current Guidelines and concluded that they should serve us well going forward – unless and until circumstances change. On the CMT's recommendation, the Steering Committee did update the guidelines covering unvaccinated staff in order to align those rules with the rules we are applying to congregants and visitors, but that was the only amendment made to the Guidelines that were implemented last month.

What about the rise of BA.2 Omicron variant cases? Although Covid cases are expected to increase in the near future due to the spread of the BA.2 variant, hospitalizations are not projected to increase to a level approaching prior waves and

there is growing evidence that second boosters are making a positive difference in protecting older adults from serious infection. The CMT encourages eligible members of the Havurah community to be fully vaccinated and boosted in order to protect yourselves and others.

What now? Now we start living in the new “normal.” A “normal” that includes both in-person gatherings and remote access. A “normal” where some of us who gather in person will choose to remain masked and keep our distance while others will choose to remove masks, hug and eat with others. As a community, we adjust our focus from “*How do we gather safely?*” to “*How do we reintroduce ourselves to communal life with lovingkindness and respect for the choices of others?*” The CMT will continue to assess safety concerns, but we hope that those will begin to fade into the background as we return to in-person gatherings and acclimate ourselves to sharing physical space again.

Though not a CMT focus, it is important to recognize here that our staff and lay leadership are actively engaged with questions about how to move forward from here—embracing the fact that some things will go back to how they were, while other things will continue to evolve. Havurah's hope and commitment is to operate in as inclusive a way as possible.

Questions or concerns? Please reach out to us by email at info@havurahshalom.org. Your email will be shared with the entire group and a member of the CMT will get back to you.

LIMUD

Festival to be powerful journey

By Elinor Gollay

We are slaves to many things. From Passover through Shavuot, we are called to wake up to awareness of our narrow places, and transcend them. Sometimes that narrow place is the full awareness of our own Jewish story.

The Havurah I/P Committee invites you to join us on a powerful journey through a spring Zoom discussion series of three Israeli documentaries.

Sunday. May 1, 7 pm, *1948: Creation & Catastrophe* (2017) 85 min. Discussion led by Lee Gordon and Harriet Cooke in Zoom Room Bet [Trailer](#)

Monday. May 23, 7 pm, *The Law in These Parts* (2011) 100 minutes. Discussion to be led by Fran Payne Adler and Lois Bronfman, location TBA [Trailer](#)

Sunday. June 12, 7 pm, *5 Broken Cameras* (2011) 94 minutes. Discussion to be led by Sue Abrams and TBA, location also TBA [Trailer](#)

Israel/Palestine Committee

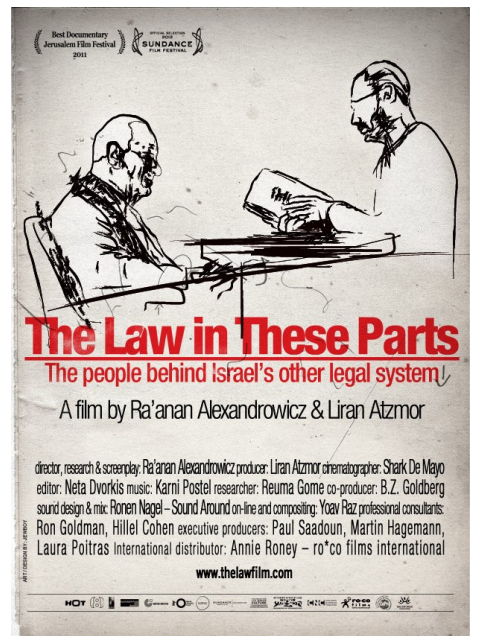
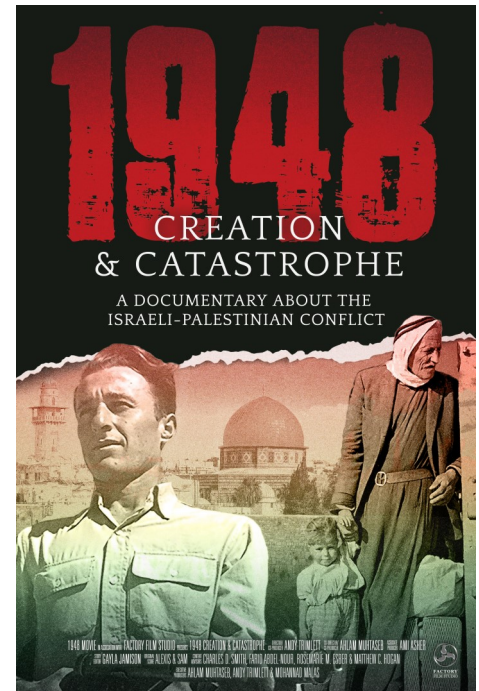
Please watch the film on your own prior to the discussion. All the films are available free through your county Library system- sign up with your library card on kanopy.com. The first two are available for a fee through Amazon Prime.

These discussions will be for Havurah members only. We encourage you to invite your Havurah friends to join us.

Please note that although the May 1 event will be Zoom only, we are going to reassess prior to each event to determine if we will go hybrid--in person and Zoom. This information will be on the Havurah Calendar, in Hineinu, and on [the Israel/Palestine Committee Portal](#).

Additional information about the films, directors, etc. will be added to the Israel/Palestine Committee Portal.

Please check periodically. Questions? Contact Lee Gordon or Elinor Gollay.



Reconstructionist series on Israel/Palestine ends May 11

Reconstructionists Expanding Our Conversation About Israel/Palestine will end with one final session on Wednesday, May 11, followed by open conversation from 5 to 6:30 pm.

The Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee is cosponsoring this national series that presents a range of perspectives on Israel/Palestine issues. Each session has been led by a Reconstructionist rabbi. The sessions have been recorded and can be viewed later by those who register. For more details, including sign up information, [visit the Israel/Palestine Committee Portal](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Lee Gordon or Elinor Gollay, Israel/Palestine Committee co-chairs.

Asking Thoughtful Questions About Hybrid Learning

By David Kertzner

What a joy to be in our building again!

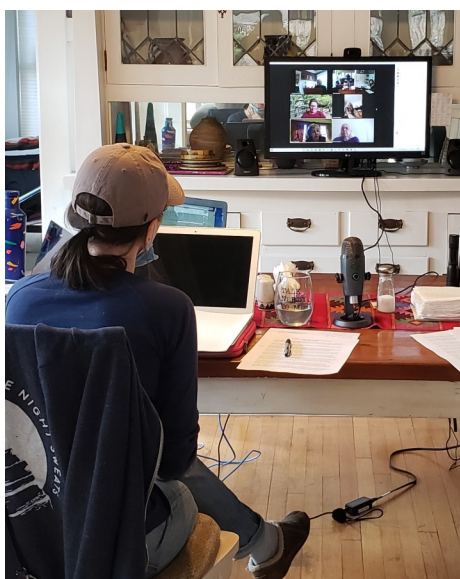
On Friday, April 1, for the first time in three years, I led the Writers Workshop Oneg from the sanctuary with five readers, twenty congregants, and three more readers and twenty-five attendees by Zoom. A week later, I joined forty people for a lively Kabbalat Shabbat service, and the next morning, I attended a bar mitzvah. Three in-person services, all with Zoom access.

Today, writing as a member of the Lifelong Learning Committee, I've been tasked with gathering ideas on the hybrid model (in-person services or classes, plus Zoom access for others) so that we can better understand how adult education programming might work, going forward. Your input matters!

Some observations from my week:

- Efforts of our staff and community members to help us learn the technology to facilitate our activities since 2020 will be one of the unsung, consequential stories of Havurah's history.
- Family and friends around the world participated joyfully in the April 9 bar mitzvah. The energy in the sanctuary was ecstatic. Several readers appeared by Zoom on a big screen set near the Bima.
- From the sanctuary, the Zoom screen drew regular attention, even as the Rabbi spoke or when a reader was at the Bima. This was also true at my Writers Group sessions, with seven of us

Lifelong Learning Committee



The first hybrid meeting of the Writers Workshop took place at David Kertzner's house, with some attending on Zoom.

at a table in my home facing two Zoom participants on a monitor.

- Our recent community survey made clear that people want continued hybrid programming. One member describes this period as an intensive phase of experimentation with learning technology, as we cope with the still fluid pandemic.
- Some teachers have noted how challenging it is to lead sessions in a Zoom environment.
- Havurah has purchased equipment to facilitate hybrid events, which I understand will allow us to initiate hybrid meetings with just 'one-click'. I'm not sure

what that means!

- The 'x' factor is the virus. We are grappling with all we have learned about science, fear, our needs as a community and as individuals, and the urgency of action around justice, equity and inclusion.

How to move forward feels as consequential as ever.

Which brings me to my father, a mathematics professor for 30 years and the best teacher I ever knew. Dad spoke at my mother Doris' 80th birthday gathering and talked about how he would ask his college students to read the mathematics textbook on their own. "But," he said, "when you read a textbook, you have questions. So, I started every class by asking what were their questions. Today, I want to talk about Doris. But first, let me ask," Dad paused, "what are your questions?"

"How did you two fall in love?" asked Arlene – the first of many questions leading to an afternoon of love and family learning.

Today, we are creating a Limud 'textbook' to understand best practices for navigating our hybrid learning and spiritual environments. What are your questions?

Here are two of mine:

- How do you define access in the context of limud (learning)?
- How does technology increase or limit access, widen or deepen access in our hybrid model?

The Lifelong Learning Committee wants your input. **Share your thoughts with me by email** (find me in the membership directory)!

Book Group reads a *Beloved* classic

Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a spell-binding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past.

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*. Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself *Beloved*, Sethe's terrible secret ex-

March Book

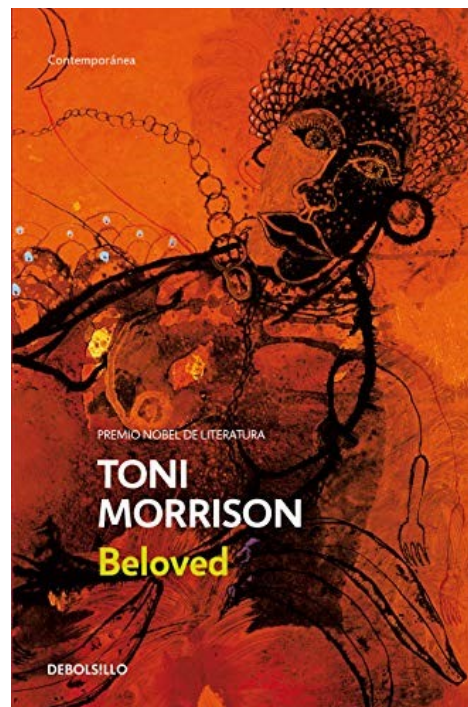
Beloved

by Toni Morrison
Fiction/Novel

Tuesday, May 24
Zoom Room Bet

plodes into the present.

Morrison's writing is direct, powerful and always creative. Her command of the language is truly staggering. Combining the visionary power of legend, the unassailable truth of history and the creative of a master story teller, Morrison's unforgettable novel is one of the great and enduring works of American literature. If you have never read it, or if you have read it a dozen times,



this novel has much to offer the reader.

Discussion led by David Newman in Zoom Room Bet.

Havurah Book Group to go hybrid, offer book copies in library

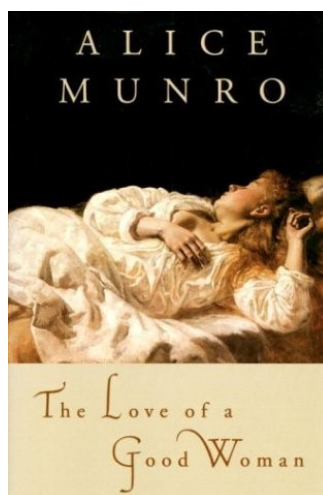
By Marjorie Walters and David Newman
Book Group Co-Chairs

Havurah's Book Group will be concluding reading and discussing last year's books in a few months. As usual, we will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month (May 24, June 28 and July 26) from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

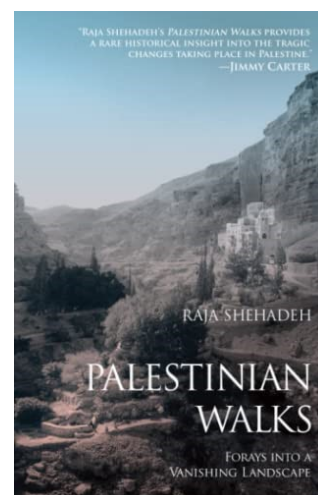
In response to your answers to the recent Havurah survey, the group is making two changes for the upcoming year. First, we will purchase used copies of the scheduled books, and they will be available for members to borrow. The Book Group has a labeled shelf on the north side of the Havurah library. There is a checkout sheet to complete whenever you borrow a book.

Second, we are hoping that starting in May, you can participate in the monthly discussion either in person or by Zoom. We hope this hybrid approach will provide additional opportunities for those who are interested in joining. You will receive confirmation about this change as we approach May 24.

June Book
The Love of a Good Woman
By Alice Munro



July Book
Palestinian Walks: Forays into a Vanishing Landscape
By Raja Shehadeh



KEHILLAH

An Afternoon in the Park with New and Prospective Members

Sunday, May 15, 4-5:30 pm at Wallace Park (NW 25th & Raleigh; meet at the shelter) – [RSVP](#)

The Welcome Committee invites new and newish faces to an afternoon at the park for the New & Prospective Member Afternoon in the Park—a chance to get to know each other and Havurah! Come and meet other new and prospective members and some long-time members too! Ask questions about

Havurah, and be ready to have some fun!

It'll be a get-together full of storytelling, kibbitzing, and noshing—a warm, casual event to get to know more about our community and its dynamic, interesting members. The Havurah Welcome Committee will be there to help facilitate!

[RSVP so we know how much food to bring and so we can plan for childcare.](#) The event is free of course, and all ages are welcome. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. We hope to see you then!

—The Havurah Welcome Committee

Art by Cassandra Sagan



HADRACHA

Gratitude to Havurahniks

By Miriam Reshotko
Steering Past-President

As we observe all that is going on across the world, particularly in war-torn Ukraine, we are aware of the stark contrast to our privileged, safe and comfortable lives. As we remember our individual and collective journeys from narrow places into freedom (which are continual and ongoing), we remember all that we are thankful for. We are so grateful...

To Maria Lisa Johnson, for her insightful questions that help keep the Anti-Racism and Belonging committee on track, and to Adela Basayne for her knowledge of our community and support to the AR&B work.

To Judy Steinberger and Fran Weick, for their work chairing the Transparency and Inclusivity for the last few years. From noticing the need for more transparency and inclusivity at Havurah, to forming a committee and executing on its charter, their work has truly helped Havurah be a more welcoming community. We are grateful that this work will continue, albeit under new leadership.

To all of the members who recently stepped up to co-chair a committee (Stacy Hankin and Julie Walcer, among them), and to those who are temporarily helping lead committees that currently have no co-chairs.

To all the data crunchers working on the survey results for the Long Range Plan; we are grateful to all of you for contributing to the future visioning of our community.

To Nancy Weintraub, who is stepping down as co-chair of the Kabbalat Shabbat team; Nancy has done a heroic job as co-chair. We thank her also for continuing to serve on the committee.

To Diane Chaplin and the Spiritual Life committee, for helping to organize a Yom Ha'Shoah service in conjunction with four other West Coast congregations.

To Monica Moriarty, for her single-handed replanting of the four tree beds on our borders; they look beautiful. Thanks so much, Monica!

To Joan Peck, for her design support, and Phil Walters, for his continued overall support of the kitchen renovation.

To all those who attended the garden committee's successful work party on April 3; the shul gardens are much improved, just in time for more in-person gatherings.

To the Tikkun Olam Cluster, especially Beka Feathers, Adele Thompson, Harriet Cooke and Sue Danielson, for their collaborative effort to provide meaningful resources for Passover to our community.

To Jane Rice, Margie Rosenthal, Beka Feathers, and other members of the Refugee Core Team, for the research, thoughtfulness, and proposal to Steering about supporting an Afghan Refugee family.

To Jenn Louis, a shout-out of gratitude for her hard work, creativity and caring nature from those Poverty and Homelessness committee members who volunteer regularly with the direct service Common Good Project program that Jenn started.

And to all those many, many tasks, groups, and specific people that were not mentioned, thank you! We value your participation and contributions, however that may look. If there is something you would like mentioned, please send it to Miriam Reshotko to be included next month. Looking forward to gathering more frequently and grateful for the opportunities and various modalities of getting together!

AVODAH

Lev Tahor Chanting Circle

Thursday, May 26, 7 pm, Havurah and in Zoom Room Bet

Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin. We'll gather in community for an evening of contemplative practice, chanting interspersed with silence, guided by teachings from the tradition. Everyone is welcome.

Discovering Shabbat Morning: Learners' Minyan

Sixty people attended this service in person and 6 on Zoom on April 2. Rabbi Benjamin led the interactive service focusing on the structure, key themes and prayers of the morning service, especially for families with youth in Grades 5-6 and those hoping to become b'nei mitzvah. Megan Koler is honored with an aliya in the photo to the right.



MAY 2022

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

Havurah Shalom

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Nisan 30</i></p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Iyar 15th Day Omer 1:00pm (IP) Mah Jongg Group Meeting 7:00pm (ZM) "1948: Creation & Catastrophe" Film Discussion</p>	<p>2 <i>Iyyar 1</i></p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Iyar 16th Day Omer 7:00pm (IP) RJC Meeting 7:30pm (HYB) Song Circle</p>	<p>3 <i>Iyyar 2</i></p> <p>17th Day Omer 12:00pm (ZM) Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00pm Climate Action Team Meeting</p>	<p>4 <i>Iyyar 3</i></p> <p>Yom Hazikaron 18th Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 6:30pm (ZM) Conversation Group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color) Youth (ages 14-24) 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah</p>	<p>5 <i>Iyyar 4</i></p> <p>Yom HaAtzmaut 19th Day Omer 7:00pm (IP) Basic Hebrew Conversation 7:00pm Bnei Mitzvah Event Planning 101 (ZM)</p>	<p>6 <i>Iyyar 5</i></p> <p>20th Day Omer 8:06pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>7 <i>Iyyar 6</i></p> <p>21st Day Omer Kedoshim 10:00am (HYB) Community Minyan 10:30am (ZM) Tot Shabbat 3:00pm (IP) Shabbat School 9:15pm Havdalah</p>
<p>8 <i>Iyyar 7</i></p> <p>22nd Day Omer Admin-Mother's Day</p>	<p>9 <i>Iyyar 8</i></p> <p>23rd Day Omer 7:00pm (HYB) Literature and Trauma</p>	<p>10 <i>Iyyar 9</i></p> <p>24th Day Omer 12:00pm (ZM) Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 6:30pm (HYB) Steering Meeting 7:00pm (ZM) Sustainability Actions We Can Each Take</p>	<p>11 <i>Iyyar 10</i></p> <p>25th Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah</p>	<p>12 <i>Iyyar 11</i></p> <p>26th Day Omer 7:00pm RJC Meeting</p>	<p>13 <i>Iyyar 12</i></p> <p>27th Day Omer Hakel Deadline 6:30pm (HYB) Kabbalah Shabbat Gathering 8:14pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>14 <i>Iyyar 13</i></p> <p>28th Day Omer Emor 10:00am Bar Mitzvah of Ari Strom 3:00pm (ZM) Shabbat School Summit 9:23pm Havdalah</p>
<p>15 <i>Iyyar 14</i></p> <p>Peasach Shenit 29th Day Omer 10:00am (ZM) Conversation Group for BIPOC and Multiracial Families 4:00pm New & Prospective Member Afternoon in the Park</p>	<p>16 <i>Iyyar 15</i></p> <p>30th Day Omer 7:00pm (HYB) Literature and Trauma</p>	<p>17 <i>Iyyar 16</i></p> <p>31st Day Omer 12:00pm (ZM) Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation</p>	<p>18 <i>Iyyar 17</i></p> <p>32nd Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 6:30pm (ZM) Conversation Group for BIPOC and Multiracial Families 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah</p>	<p>19 <i>Iyyar 18</i></p> <p>Lag B'Omer 33rd Day Omer 5:00pm (HYB) "To Germany: With Love" Film Showing and Talk 7:00pm (HYB) Sanctuary Meeting</p>	<p>20 <i>Iyyar 19</i></p> <p>34th Day Omer 8:22pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>21 <i>Iyyar 20</i></p> <p>35th Day Omer Behar 10:00am (HYB) Community Minyan 9:31pm Havdalah</p>
<p>22 <i>Iyyar 21</i></p> <p>36th Day Omer 1:00pm Annual Cemetery Beautification Day</p>	<p>23 <i>Iyyar 22</i></p> <p>37th Day Omer 7:00pm (TBA) "The Law in These Parts" Film Discussion</p>	<p>24 <i>Iyyar 23</i></p> <p>38th Day Omer 12:00pm (ZM) Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00pm Book Group: Beloved, by Toni Morrison</p>	<p>25 <i>Iyyar 24</i></p> <p>39th Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah</p>	<p>26 <i>Iyyar 25</i></p> <p>40th Day Omer 4:30pm (ZM) AllieRocker Happy Hour 7:00pm (HYB) Lev Tahor Chanelling Circle</p>	<p>27 <i>Iyyar 26</i></p> <p>41st Day Omer 8:30pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>28 <i>Iyyar 27</i></p> <p>Shabbat Mevarchim 42nd Day Omer Bechukotai 10:00am (HYB) Bar Mitzvah of Sasha Blau 5:00pm Tent Private Party 9:39pm Havdalah</p>
<p>29 <i>Iyyar 28</i></p> <p>Yom Yerushalayim 43rd Day Omer</p>	<p>30 <i>Iyyar 29</i></p> <p>44th Day Omer Admin-Memorial Day. Office Closed for Memorial Day. 7:00pm (HYB) Literature and Trauma</p>	<p>31 <i>Sivan 1</i></p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Sivan 45th Day Omer 12:00pm (ZM) Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation</p>	<p>1 <i>Sivan 2</i></p> <p>46th Day Omer 8:30am (HYB) Morning Minyan 7:00pm (HYB) In-Depth Torah Study: Parshat Beshalah 7:00pm Drash and Service Workshop 7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Meeting</p>	<p>2 <i>Sivan 3</i></p> <p>47th Day Omer</p>	<p>3 <i>Sivan 4</i></p> <p>48th Day Omer 8:36pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>4 <i>Sivan 5</i></p> <p>Erev Shavuot 49th Day Omer Bamidbar 10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Arianna Gammage 9:37pm Candle Lighting</p>