



May 2023
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Hakol • הקול

Counting Each Human Life

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

I was quite moved reading a recent article by Jeneen Interlandi, a Colombian-American journalist, about how many births and deaths in the world go uncounted. The article, “The Lifesaving Power of... Paperwork?,” which appeared in the New York Times, explained the devastating consequences of these logistical gaps for millions of people in poor, and particularly rural, communities around the world. As I read the article, I kept thinking about the instances in Torah in which the People are instructed to take a census. Like other teachers, I often reflect on why counting people is so prominent in Torah. While the census itself is bureaucratic and dry, we sense that there is a deeper significance, that counting the People suggests something essential about our obligations to one another.

This deeper thread rings true in light of the picture that Interlandi paints. For the consequences of not counting people are very often a matter of survival. She writes about an indigenous woman in Colombia, Marleny, whose baby experienced complications shortly after being born on their reservation. When she and her husband, Andrés, eventually made the two-hour trek to the town of Villagarzón, the hospital there refused to see the baby until he had a civil identification or registration number. They were sent to the registrar’s office, then back to the hospital, where a different nurse said to try the notary’s office. They went



In April, the Third Grade Shabbat School class made clay depictions of the Esau and Jacob Torah story.

home that day because they didn’t have money to stay in Villagarzón. After returning to Villagarzón a third time, they were fortunately connected with a community health worker from Colombia Rural Vital. It’s one of many initiatives started around the world to improve birth and death registries, as part of a campaign, [#CountingEveryone](#), started by the nonprofit Vital Strategies. By their estimate, around two billion people do not have birth certificates, and only half of the world’s 60 million or so deaths each year are meaningfully recorded. As Interlandi writes, “The consequences of this failure are manifold and frequently dire.” She explains, for example: “Bangladeshi widows can’t secure land rights or survivor benefits without the means to register their spouses’ deaths. Rwandan street children can’t attend school or access the legal economy because they lack valid birth certifi-

cates. And young girls across Southeast Asia can’t extract themselves from forced marriages without a way to prove their own ages or identities.”

For Marleny and Andrés, as well, the consequences were dire. While they received crucial support from Colombia Rural Vital, it was too late. Their baby, who very well could have been saved had the hospital in Villagarzón provided care right away, died before he was three months old.

In light of this tragedy, I consider the second verse of the Book of Numbers, which we’ll begin this month. God tells Moses to take a census of the People — literally, “*Lift the head* of the whole Israelite community.” To count someone is to lift up their identity and existence, to honor their inherent value. May we know a world in which each human life counts.

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Havurah Simchas

**Have a happy
announcement?**

Email it to
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Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

825 NW 18th Ave.
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Hakol Contribution Deadline
May 19

Havurah Website Calendar

**Weekly Email
Contribution Deadline**
Tuesdays by Noon

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.

Condolences

Jane Bentley, mother of Rachel Malmon, mother-in-law of Daniel Malmon, grandmother of Noah and Caleb, died April 11.

Maureen Froman, mother of Monica Froman-Reid, mother-in-law of Daniel Reid, and grandmother of Stella and Miles Reid, died April 9.

B'nei Mitzvah

Havurah will call to the Torah the following Banot Mitzvah:

May 6

Sarai Fairchild

Child of Merriah Fairchild and David Rosenfeld

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

Tributes

High Holidays Contributions

Doug Miller, in memory of Mort Miller.

Educator's Discretionary Fund

Dale Oller, in memory of my Aunt, Min Zidell.

Doug Miller, in memory of Ellen Meyer.

Building Fund

Harriet Cooke, in gratitude for Ken Lerner's trope class. Thank you Ken!

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Pearl Steinberg, mother of Richard Steinberg and mother-in-law of Harriet Steinberg.

An Earth Month Full of Opportunities to Learn & Help

By Steve Katz and Harriet Cooke

The period of time from the second night of Passover to Shavout marks the counting of the Omer. In biblical times this was the time of ripening of the wheat. Forty-nine days of tension filled us as we hoped and prayed for a bountiful harvest that would sustain us for the year to come.

On April 14, the sixth night of counting the omer, HCAT sponsored an event about our climate crisis that shared this anxious state of mind. We hosted a presentation by Andrew Boyd, author of *I Want a Better Catastrophe, Navigating the Climate Crisis with Grief, Hope, and Gallows Humor*. The event was in person and on Zoom. It was well attended and has been recorded.

Boyd took us through his journey of anxiety, as well as the stages of grief that accompanied his years of climate activism. Using a 15-foot banner, he walked us through the challenging states of mind as he grappled with the reality of our climate predicament and how to respond to it.

Boyd's book includes interviews with eight prominent climate scientists, sociologists, and indigenous teachers, seeking to understand how they build their path of hope in our

Havurah Climate Action Team

Get Involved with HCAT

**I Want a Better Catastrophe,
with Author Andrew Boyd**
Tuesday, April 11: [Recording Here](#)

Electrify Everything
3 pm, Sunday, April 23 — Havurah
Shalom and Special Zoom Room
— [RSVP](#)

**Book Group: Reading “A Better
Catastrophe”**
5:00 pm, First and Third Mondays
— Zoom Room Bet — [RSVP](#)

Monthly HCAT Meetings
5:30 pm, Fourth Monday of the
month — Zoom Room Gimel

terrifying situation.

HCAT has begun a discussion of this book that continues on the first and third Mondays of the month, 5-7 pm in Zoom Room Bet. Everyone is invited to join us whenever you can make it. See Havurah calendar for details.

As April was Earth Month, we followed Andrew's presentation with an *Electrify Everything* event, April 23. Eli Spivak and Brian Stewart shared the nuts and bolts of how to begin electrifying our homes and transit. Tabling included solar panels and community solar opportunities. If you missed the event, keep your eyes posted for future talks at Havurah and within Portland.

At our monthly HCAT meetings, we share our successes and challenges with the process of working to transition our homes and lives, as well as our Havurah synagogue.

Marianna Grossman shared her stories of upgrading her electric panel and replacing her gas furnace and water heater with electric heat pump alternatives. She also installed an induction stove on the path to eliminating fossil fuel from her home. She buys green electricity from PGE because her roof is not suitable for solar PV. This is just one example by a member of HCAT demonstrating the bountiful harvest that awaits us as we embrace electrification of our daily lives.

Join us for a monthly meeting if you have questions, for our book group if you are wrestling with the emotions around climate catastrophe, or if you have an idea for an event to share with our larger com-

'Directors of their own lives'

Outside the Frame comes to Havurah

Poverty and Homelessness Committee

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

Havurah's Poverty and Homelessness Committee is hosting a program featuring the nonprofit Outside the Frame, which for seven years has trained over 100 homeless and marginalized youth "to be directors of their own films and lives." Their films have screened in various Portland venues. In 2018 they received the Best New Nonprofit in Portland Award.

Founder and Executive Director Nili Yoshi, originally from Tel Aviv, may be known to some of you as a former teacher in Havurah's high school.

For her work with Outside the Frame, Nili received OMPA's Commitment to Good Award.

She and a few of the youth she works with will join us to discuss their projects and discuss homelessness in Portland. We hope to see you there.



Members from Outside the Frame perform at Oregon Symphony, showcasing a piece they wrote alongside films they have produced. They were awarded best young artists by the Schnitzer Foundation.

TIKKUN OLAM

Creating a space for Palestine advocacy at Havurah

1:30 pm, Sunday, May 21 — Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Bet

— [RSVP](#)

Thanks in part to the dedicated work of the Havurah Israel/Palestine committee, many of us have become more aware of the inhumane treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli government. With this awareness we have become increasingly uncomfortable and frustrated with some of Israel's policies. Jews know what it is like to be oppressed. Given our history, it is understandable that we yearn for a place where we feel confident of our safety. We were taught to believe that Israel exists as a sanctuary for Jews, where we will never be oppressed. But now we are learning that the cost of that sanctuary is the suffering and displacement of another people. For many of us, this is no longer acceptable.

Havurah has a long history of social justice advocacy. The congregation has advocated for racial justice, climate justice, LGBTQ rights, immigration reform, prison reform, and many other social justice causes. For many of us, this commitment to social justice is one of the things about our community that we are proudest of. However, the cause of Palestinian human rights has long been a third rail at Havurah, and for most other Jewish institutions. We believe that it is time for this to change. While we currently have an Israel/Palestine Committee at Havurah, this is primarily a space for learning, not advocacy.

On March 26, a group of approximately twenty Havuraniks met to discuss what role we, as members of a Jewish congregation, can take in encouraging and helping Israel/



Palestinians and Jews together resist the eviction of the inhabitants of Masafer Yatta (South Hebron Hills). Photo credit: Center for Jewish Nonviolence.

Palestine Advocacy

Palestine to be a place of equality, justice, dignity, and security for all its people. At the meeting, we agreed that Havurah needs a new committee, under the umbrella of Tikkun Olam, to work towards that goal.

We understand that at Havurah there is plenty we disagree about. This is especially true with regard to Israel/Palestine. However, there is plenty we can agree on. Nobody at Havurah disputes that Palestinians have the same basic human rights as Israeli Jews. Opposing home demolitions, the military detention of chil-

dren, collective punishment, the expropriation of Palestinian land, and the need to end the military occupation of the West Bank are areas where we believe there is broad consensus at Havurah. Our advocacy work will focus on these areas of consensus.

Please join us in person at Havurah or in Zoom Room Bet on May 21 at 1:30 pm for an organizational meeting to discuss that mission for this new proposed Tikkun Olam Committee on Israel/Palestine Advocacy (name still to be determined) and next steps.

At the meeting we will also hear a report from Havurah member Harriet Cooke who will be traveling to Palestine on a delegation with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence earlier in the month.

Sharing our Pilgrimage Experiences

Racial Justice Committee

2 pm, Sunday, May 14 — Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Bet — [RSVP](#)

By Karen Sherman

Over the past few years, many of us have been deepening our understanding of racial injustice through extensive reading. In March, four Havurahniks had the opportunity to move from words and pictures on a page to a tangible experience as we participated in *Reckoning Together: A Reconstructionist Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice*. Bob Brown, Barbara Gundle, Denny Karas, myself (Karen Sherman), and two hundred others from all over the country traveled to the Deep Southern states of Georgia and Alabama that were at the heart of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

We met two veterans of the movement. One told us her recollection of “Bloody Sunday” in vivid detail and the other, at age 89, led us in song (and dance). We stood on the street corner where Rosa Parks set the Montgomery Bus Boycott into motion. We reverentially crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, the site of Bloody Sunday. At the six-acre National Memorial for Peace and Justice, a memorial to thousands of lynching victims, we were horrified and heartbroken to witness the over 800 hanging, rusty steel coffin-like slabs that represented lynching victims.

We met the more distant past head-on at the Equal Justice Initia-



Top: Members of the BIPOC Cohort of the Reconstructing Judaism Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice welcome Shabbat with candlelighting. Below: Hanging steel slabs at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice show the names of countless lynching victims.

tive Museum in Montgomery, housed in a former slave market. There we witnessed ghost-like pro-

jections representing the recently enslaved calling out to us, searching

(Continued on page 8)

Photos from the National Memorial of Peace and Justice



In March, four Havurahniks visited, among other historic locations in American Civil Rights history, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The memorial “[uses sculpture, art, and design to contextualize racial terror.](#)” These pictures were taken by Barbara Gundle. You can learn more about the four Havurahniks’ experiences at 2 pm, May 14, at Havurah Shalom or in Zoom Room Bet. [RSVP.](#)

TIKKUN OLAM

Sharing our Pilgrimage Experiences

(Continued from page 6)



for loved ones. As the museum connected the legacy of slavery to today's mass incarceration, we also listened to recordings of former prisoners talking to us about their cases and conditions in jail.

We will be sharing our experiences, reactions, and ideas for some next steps, as well as many more details about the journey, at a special event Sunday, May 7, at 2 pm. You will have a chance to speak to us and each other, as well as express interest in a possible future Havurah pilgrimage. Please direct questions to Karen Sherman. We hope to see you there.



Above, from left: Bob Brown, Karen Sherman, Barbara Gundle and Denny Karas pose for a photo during the Reconstructing Judaism Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice.

Below, Bob Brown (left) and Reconstructing Judaism's Tressa Grauer (center) spend a moment with JoAnne Bland, a lifelong civil rights worker and co-founder and former director of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Ala.

Campaign for Havurah Survey is Coming Soon

By Loree Devery
Havurah Shalom Co-President

Havurah is about three months into our 5-month Feasibility Study process for the Campaign for Havurah and the next step is a community-wide survey, which will be distributed in early May. As we have let you know in our recent Hineinu articles, we want to hear from *a//* Havurahniks as we assess the feasibility of our upcoming Campaign for Havurah. This will be an opportunity to have your voice heard.

Background. The Campaign for Havurah is a fundraising campaign to address our building and staff expansion needs. The Steering Committee has recommended that Havurah add a full second floor to our building and that we create a Staff Expansion Fund which would allow us to add new positions to meet our personnel needs. An article outlining our needs and our vision was published in Hakol in December 2022, and [can be found here](#).

Last fall a Feasibility Work Group was formed, and this winter Havurah retained a professional fundraising consultant – Rose City Philanthropy – to conduct a Feasibility Study. The study will help us assess the scope

Steering Committee

and timing of the campaign. An article about the Feasibility Phase of the campaign was published in Hakol in March 2023, and [can be found here](#). In January we met with Havurah staff; in February we worked on campaign messaging; and in March and April we conducted some one-on-one Zoom interviews. Now we are getting ready to launch the community-wide survey.

The Community-wide Survey. Havurah's Feasibility Work Group has worked with Rose City Philanthropy to design and distribute the survey. This confidential survey will be emailed to you from Rose City Philanthropy, and they will maintain your anonymity in compiling the results. The information gleaned from this survey will supplement what we're learning from the Zoom interviews being conducted. This will give us a more complete picture of Havurah's capacity to fulfill our fundraising objectives. If you are one of our members who participated in a Zoom interview, you won't receive this survey.

Is there anything else I should know? The survey is *not* a solicitation. Your answers will be anonymous, not linked to you, and not shared individually with Havurah. We will only see compiled results. Rose City Philanthropy is working under a strict confidentiality agreement with Havurah Shalom and will not be using your names or email addresses for any purpose other than transmitting the survey.

What next? We will let you know when to look for an email from Rose City Philanthropy with a link to the confidential survey. You will have about a week to fill it out and that information will be in the introductory email.

Thank you! Thank you in advance for putting this on your radar and being ready to take the survey when it arrives in your email. Every member counts and your input matters!

The more Havurahniks we hear from, the better our information. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey or our feasibility study process, please contact me, Loree Devery.

My contact information is in the Havurah Directory.

HADRACHA

Havurah Holidays: Volunteers Make Them Happen!

By Shelley Sobel and
Miriam Reshotko

How does a congregation gather its members to celebrate the Jewish Holidays? Besides the High Holidays, for which there is a strong and dedicated committee, there's Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Shavuot, Sukkot and Passover. At Havurah, we have organized ourselves many different ways over the years.

For a long time, Havurah had a Holiday Committee. As we grew, it became clear that it was too large a responsibility to have one group of people plan for all the holiday celebrations. We tried forming smaller mini-teams; a pair of leaders to help organize the planning for a particular holiday. Both the Holiday Committee and the mini-teams worked for a time, but neither approach proved sustainable.

Volunteerism is a continuing challenge. At Havurah, we have a Cluster/Committee structure that provides a base for *ongoing* program planning. Holidays are a one-time-a-year program event that needs attention for the several months leading up to the holiday and more concentrated energy on the day of the event.

The range of volunteer tasks includes considering ritual, planning a program with appeal across the age spectrum of the congregation, publicity, the logistics of set-up, shepherding the program, and clean-up. **Volunteering one year does not oblige a member for the following year, so each year each holiday entails a call-out for volunteers.**

The most recent approach to planning for congregational holidays has been to ask the Clusters to take

2023-24 Holidays at Havurah

Simchat Torah

Limud
(Learning)

Chanukah

Kehillah
(Community)

Tu B'Shevat

Tikkun Olam
(Social Justice)



Purim

Avodah
(Spiritual Life)

Shavuot

Hadracha
(Governance)

Sukkot

Makom (Place)

Passover will be fostered by the Program Staff.

Gesher Committee

turns planning a holiday in a two-year cycle. The idea was that different Clusters would give different perspectives on how we engage in each holiday and that the two-year cycle would allow teams to have some experience with the planning to draw on in the second year. It was hoped that by sharing planning resources (in the model of Shabbat School) there would be more sustainability built into the process.

Three years into this model, the Cluster Leads re-evaluated and recommended that the Clusters be allowed to pick the holiday that they are planning, allowing them to extend beyond the two-year cycle planning the same holiday. For the

planning year 2023-2024, the committees in the six Clusters will be: Simchat Torah for Limud, Chanukah for Kehillah, Tu B'Shevat for Tikkun Olam, Purim for Avodah, Shavuot for Hadracha, and Sukkot for Makom. Passover will be fostered by the Program Staff.

The call-out for volunteers remains a significant challenge for this (or any) model to work. What do we do when members don't volunteer? The congregation can't "skip" a major holiday observance and as a member-driven congregation, we are not structured to have staff assume this responsibility. **Cluster Leads can only sustain this model with members stepping up and helping.** We need the support of ALL MEMBERS regardless of whether you are part of a Cluster or not.

When you see the call-out for holiday planning volunteers – help create the celebration!

Fox and Our Monsters

By Rabbi Joseph Wolf
Rabbi Emeritus

In the last few years, have you heard about an old friend or a relative who fell for a conspiracy theory? Did it seem to you as if they were contaminated—or in the grip of a malicious force?

Plenty has been written about the deleterious aspects of a major news network serving up a diet of lies day in and day out. Fox's subservience to hucksters and con artists is by now well established. In this case, the \$787 million settlement of a defamation lawsuit should serve as a warning not just for the business itself, but as an opportunity for the society that consumes this stuff to take stock. What binds people to lies? How does the soul of a society become so enfeebled that we let a democracy fail? There's something subliminal about the way we process truth, especially when there is so much frightening information we try to keep at bay. Acquiring knowledge is much like taming a monster.

As the brilliant young novelist Ocean Vuong has written, "A monster is not such a terrible thing to be. From the Latin root *monstrum*, a divine messenger of catastrophe,

then adapted by the Old French to mean an animal of myriad origins: centaur, griffin, satyr. To be a monster is to be a hybrid signal, a lighthouse: *both shelter and warning at once.*" [Italics mine]

It's easy to understand how we may find a political theory compelling, or be riveted to a news network that promulgates alternative facts, similarly to the way that a shelter welcomes one in during turbulent times. After all, we can feel helpless in the face of a global climate change, and we despair that the rich are getting richer, while impoverished multitudes flee their homes. The imagery of rafts at sea floats up at night. It's all monstrous, true enough, because we receive the message that we ought not to trust the politicians. We are forewarned, and Fox exploits the fears that loom up.

Sophocles said it: "No man delights in the bearer of bad news." But what makes news even worse is when it manufactures grievance and blame, and cycles false evidence and quackery. It's bad news, when people in need of succor become suckers.

The biblical "scoundrel" comes to mind in a period like this one. There's no contemporary equivalent

term for it, but let's just say that the scoundrel flourishes in the bath of mendacity and profit. There's always someone trying to sell you something, but there's a buyer too.

In this regard, Proverbs 13:14-17 speaks to us:

"The instruction of the wise person is the fount of life, enabling one to avoid deadly snares. Good sense wins favor; the way of treacherous people is unchanging. Every smart person acts with knowledge, but a scoundrel exposes one's stupidity. Harm befalls a wicked messenger; a faithful courier brings healing."

Fox and others, in the age of the Internet and ChatGPT, won't be going away.

But perhaps, in our craving for simple solutions to our problems, we'll watch out for monsters and wicked messengers. Journalistic standards should count for something. "Good sense" should prevail. Vuong's insight about the "hybrid signal" is well worth thinking about some more. That we all want some good news is not up for debate, but we should take care that the message, the story we hear from others and repeat, is one that will set us on a course to heal. That's on *us*.

—Rabbi Joey

CELEBRATIONS

Shavuot is Coming!

Join us at Havurah on May 25 for a night of potluck celebration and a night of learning.

Desserts will begin at 7 pm and Learning/Tikkun Leyl Shavuot will begin at 8 pm. Bring a dairy dessert, or some other sweet noshing, or just yourself! Watch for additional details in Hinenu! [RSVP here](#)

Chag Sameach!



Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration

Second Fridays of the month, through May

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

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

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

Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed! Sign up at the link here or contact Marni Glick or Sally Hersh for more information.

RSVP for
May 12 Dinner



LIMUD

After the Joint Memorial: Looking Ahead with Hope

7 pm, Sunday, May 7 — Havurah
Shalom and Zoom Room Bet —
[RSVP](#)

We urge those who have not already watched the Joint Memorial live or recorded [to watch the recording](#) before attending the discussion.

In recognition that the establishment of Israel as a State seventy-five years ago is not just a source of great pride for Jews but also of great pain for Palestinians as well as many Jews, the Israel/Palestine Committee has organized two events around the Joint Memorial Day Ceremony. On April 2, we hosted an introduction to prepare people to attend the livestream or recorded Joint Ceremony.

The May meeting is a follow-up to the Joint Ceremony. We will solicit reactions, including exploring both the importance of a joint Israeli-Palestinian event that acknowledges the pain both peoples have experienced, while also recognizing the

Israel/Palestine Committee

enormous power differential that exists between the Jews and Palestinians in Israel. We will discuss what activities, if any, people would like the I/P Committee to undertake next in response to the Joint Ceremony.

The Joint Ceremony, organized by Combatants for Peace and The Par-

ents Circle Families Forum, is the largest Israeli-Palestinian jointly organized peace event:

"The narratives that many Palestinian and Israeli communities hold are vastly different. In mourning together, we seek to challenge the status quo and

set the foundation for a new reality based on mutual respect, dignity, and equality for all. We seek not to

equate narratives, but rather transform despair into hope and build bridges of compassion. We remind ourselves and society that occupation, oppression, and violence are not inevitable."

The organizers of the Joint Ceremony explain that "Israel and Palestine have each established a national day of remembrance wherein they mourn the consequences of the decades-long conflict with one another. Israelis mourn on **Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day)** and Palestinians on the **Nakba (Day of Catastrophe)**... The choice to hold the event on the same day as Israel's Memorial Day aims to relay a message to both sides, calling them to recognize the joint pain and hope, and to try and prevent the next victims from this fate."

This year the **Havurah Steering Committee has approved sponsorship** of the Joint Memorial, along with a \$250 donation. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have watched past ceremonies.

For questions or to **help with the May 7 meeting**, please contact Elinor Gollay, coordinator of the Joint Memorial Working Group of the Israel/Palestine Committee.

The Israeli-Palestinian
Memorial Day reminds
everyone that war is not
a predetermined fate,
but only a human
choice.

— Parents Circle
Family Forum

Annual Cemetery Beautification Day Sunday, May 21, 2-4 pm

To beautify our cemetery, please bring garden implements and wear appropriate clothing.

Havurah Cemetery, 5656 SW
Humphrey Blvd.



Book Club heads into post-Revolution danger

A story of a Jewish family during the Iranian Revolution. In the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution, rare-gem dealer Isaac Amin is arrested, wrongly accused of being a spy. Terrified by his disappearance, his family must reconcile a new world of cruelty and chaos with the collapse of everything they have known. As Isaac navigates the terrors of prison, and his wife feverishly searches for him, his children struggle with the realization that their family may soon be forced to embark on a journey of incalculable danger.

Discussion led by Mischa & Salomé DuPont. Nonmembers welcome.

The Book Group met March 14 to discuss how we function, book selection, participation, and more. You can [read the minutes here](#). Among our decisions: We affirmed the current practice of balancing fiction and non-fiction offerings. Offerings may also focus on topics of interest to

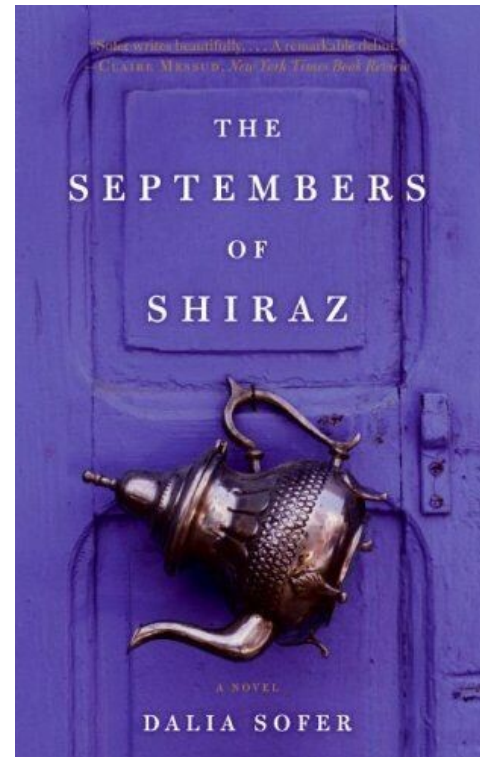
May Book
Led by Mischa & Salomé
DuPont

The Septembers of Shiraz
by Dalia Sofer

Nonfiction, 368 pages

Tuesday, May 23, 7 pm
Havurah and Zoom Room Bet

the congregation, including environmental and social justice, and similar topics. The group noted that there are other groups at Havurah who are reading and discussing these types of books too. The group also recognized that offerings have included (and should continue to include) different Jewish perspectives from around the world. Starting in May, hybrid will be the default format, with the discussion leader having the



option to choose in person or Zoom only.

Want to know more about Book Group? Please [visit the webpage](#).

End April with David Fuks' Storytelling & Memories

An Afternoon with David Fuks: Short Stories from a Child of Holocaust Survivors

Co-sponsored by Havurah Shalom and Next Generations Group

2-3:30, Sunday, April 30, PST — In Person and Zoom Room Bet — [RSVP](#)

An afternoon of readings of short stories by author, playwright and Havurah member David Fuks. Da-

vid, a child of Holocaust survivors, has said, "Those of us who were raised in families of Holocaust survivors have learned that each individual survivor was unique in both their experience during World War II and in their struggle to make a new life in a world that could never fully comprehend who they were and what they



saw.

"We, their children, have labored to try to understand our parents' history while also seeking our own path in contemporary society."

Next Generations Group, founded in 2011, is dedicated to serving Portland, Oregon-area descendants of Holocaust survivors, child survivors, and refugees, and friends in the community who want to help keep their stories and lessons alive and relevant. The group meets for social, educational, and service projects.

More information at nextgenerationsgroup.wordpress.com

HAVURAH TEENS EDITION

Information for Teens 7th-12th and their families

Teen Engagement Committee

Parents of teens this is for you.....and your teen. Mark your calendars

First Tuesday of the month from 7-8 in Zoom Room Hey

May 2nd

June 6th

July's date TBD

Join us in supporting our teen Havuraniks in building community. We would love to hear teen voices as we continue to develop engaging opportunities for them to connect. Bring your teen along.

Tikkun Olam - Mitzvah Projects

For their Mitzvah Project, Quinn and Roger, students in the current 7th-grade cohort chose to bake for the Common Good Project. So far they and friends from their cohort have baked and packaged up chocolate chip cookies, brownies, and Hamentaschen for a few local houseless communities. Come the Jewish New Year we plan to provide this fun Tikkun Olam opportunity for all Teen Havuraniks



Learn more about the *Common Good Project* on the Havurah website.

Another 7th grader, Sarai, has been volunteering with the Immigrant Mutual Aid Coalition, (IMAC) a local non-profit that provides mutual aid for 500+ immigrant families each month, striving to reduce health disparities and equity gaps in our communities.

Starting in November, Sarai delivered 65 boxes of diapers, (a three months supply) that her mom's business collected. Since then each month, she has gone and helped organize and prepare supplies before the families arrive to hand out clothes and food.

They especially need sizes 4-6 diapers. If you are able to donate, please make deliveries to Sellwood Community House (1436 SE Spokane St, Portland, OR 97202.



Learn more about the IMAC and ways to contribute on their website.

TEEN ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

You may be wondering what we've been doing.....

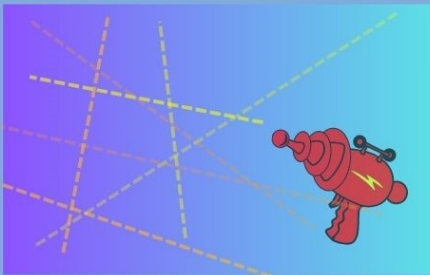


February

We had our first party at the HavurAnnex.

March

We painted the first layer of the walls in the new Teen Room at the annex.



April

We gathered for a game of laser tag. Photos of the fun in the next issue.

.....Well we were wondering the same about you.

May

If you haven't been to any of the events above we hope to see you at our May shindig. Keep an eye open for details in the next Hakol.

Hebrew Corner

Torah תורה

By **Racheli Ross**
and **Jana Hopfinger**

This word
needs little in-
troduction.

and **Horah** (הורה).

Some interesting phrases with the
word are:

Jews around the world read it in
small portions all year, every year:
Torah, the first five books in the Ta-
nach. Some consider the word to
mean the entire Jewish teachings
and laws. But did you know that in
modern Hebrew it also means a the-
ory or a doctrine?

For example, **Torat**
ha'evolutzia (תורת
האבולוציה) and **Torat**
ha'histabrut (תורת
ההסתברות) are the
evolution theory and
the probability theo-
ry, respectively.

The root of the
word is **Yud—Resh—**
Yud (י.ר.י) and is the
same one making
the words for teach-
ing, teacher, and
gave orders: **Hora'ah**
(הוראה), **Morah** (מורה)

Ze Lo Torah Mi'Sinai: “It’s not the
Torah from Sinai”, meaning it’s not
that complicated (זֶה לֹא תוֹרָה מִסִּינַי).

Kol HaTorah Al Regel Achat: “The
whole Torah on one foot”, meaning
in short, or in sum-
mary (כָּל הַתּוֹרָה
עַל רֶגֶל אַחַת) and is
derived from [this
story](#).

**Finally, we want to
wish you Chag
Matan Torah
(Shavuot) Sameach!**

—Racheli and Jana



Picture: [Moses Mosaic
in the Jewish Quarter](#),
CC BY 2.0 by Wiki-
media Commons user
zeevveez

Stepping Back in Time...



Monica Froman-Reid and Daniel Reid recently traveled to Europe, where one of their stops was Girona, a small medieval town near Barcelona. Girona was an important city in the history of Catalan Jews and the hometown of Moshe ben Nachman. Monica and Daniel had the opportunity to visit the Jewish museum there, featured here. [You can see the rest of the photos here.](#)

Gratitude to Havurahniks

By Ben Walters
Immediate Past-President

Writing this in April, we have enjoyed the last few bites of matzah, grateful to have gathered with family and friends for seders. I've appreciated a few days of warmer, sunny weather after a period from March to April with over seven inches of rain and predictions that Portland could get more rain this April than even last year. But the plants have been appreciating the precipitation.

I have also been thinking the many varied ways in which Havurah members are involved in individual and collective journeys in seeking to take individuals and the community from dark, narrow places into the light of freedom, whether by meeting refugees at the Portland Airport, leading book discussions, volunteering at Kabbalat Shabbat, identifying and connecting with parking opportunities in Havurah's neighborhood, and many other activities too numerous to list. In that vein, let's acknowledge Havurah's volunteers and their generosity. Here are some examples of contributions from Havurah members:

Appreciation to Katherine McDowell and Joel Bettridge for stepping up to support Havurah staff by identifying and implementing steps to put security measures in place.

Appreciation to Adele Thompson, Harriet Cooke, and others from the Tikkun Olam Cluster who provided great Pesach resources and connected people to partici-

Steering Committee



pate in a number of seders.

Appreciation to Michael Anderson-Nathe for serving as a liaison from ARB to the High Holidays Planning Committee.

Appreciation to Michael Heumann and the Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT) for all the important event planning and organizing in April.

Appreciation to Keil Moses, Karen Sherman, and Kathy Gordon for planning a series of educational sessions about Reparations beginning in April.

Appreciation to Susan Rosenthal, Beka Feathers, Kiel Moses, and Sandy Ramirez for their exploration of BIPOC-led organizations that the RJC will explore to devel-

op meaningful partnerships.

Appreciation for everyone who participated in the process of hiring Tara Anderson as Havurah's new Participation & Publications Coordinator (Welcome Tara!).

Appreciation to Alana Hein, Oren Kosansky, Adela Basayne, R.E. Szego, Shari Raider, Karen Westerman, Rachel Pollak and Debbie Rabidue for all of their input to the Staffing Task Force on the Havurah Finance Manager job description.

And to all those many other individuals and groups not specifically mentioned for their contributions of time and energy to Havurah – a special Thank You! Havurah thrives because of the nurturing of our volunteers through their many and various acts of *tzedakah*. If you have any appreciations you think should be mentioned, please contact Ben Walters (email listed in the member directory – please put “Gratitude” in the subject line.)