



November 2023
Vol. 46, Issue 2

Hakol • הקול

Eilu Va'eilu: Holding the Tensions within Ourselves

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

There is a classic text about a dispute between the rabbinic schools of Shammai and Hillel, which ends with a heavenly voice announcing: “*Eilu va'eilu* — these *and* these — are the words of the living God.” While the ruling in that case sides with Hillel, “*eilu va'eilu*” represents the core Jewish principle that positions in tension with one another can both contain truths, even as we often need to choose one or the other.

In these days, *eilu va'eilu* has been resonating strongly within me. Literally, within me. While certainly it can and must be applied to dialogue with each other, I feel the tensions between various truths in my own heart and mind as well. Clearly, I hold positions. And I feel clarity about them in this moment. But that doesn't mean I do so without also feeling the pull of voices that in some ways exist in tension with them. This is one of our profound challenges: honoring multiple truths in a society that mistakes certainty for wisdom, and demonization for moral clarity.

For instance, I feel profound solidarity with the agony and fear that I know Israelis are experiencing right now. And I'm moved by the need among some of us to simply connect with fellow Jews who feel similarly shaken and afraid by the horrors of October 7 and the intensification of antisemitism in its wake.

I hold all that alongside my conversation with Nael, a man from Gaza who has had 39 family members killed since October 7. While I rec-



Havurahnik Shabbat School families joined together for Havdalah under our Havurah Shalom sukkah during Sukkot this year.

ognize how strong the need is for an Israeli response to Hamas' massacre and kidnappings, I hold that recognition in tension with the realities of the current response. The realities of so many families like Nael's, which become more catastrophic each day, as they endure the brutal violence being unleashed upon them. As I've already shared, for me those realities lead to supporting an immediate ceasefire, including a return of all Israeli hostages. To many Jews, this view is seen as disloyal. But I don't compromise one bit of my love for Israel and the Jewish People to arrive there. I reject the framework that says one thing must be discarded for another to be true. *Eilu va'eilu*. (I feel even clearer in that position because I've heard no compelling explanation of Israel's long-term plan for safety and stability down this path.)

I've had some difficult conversations over these past few weeks. With some of my closest loved ones, with colleagues, with some of you. The most meaningful ones, in which I feel relationships deepening even amidst disagreement, are those in which I sense a mutual willingness to acknowledge the tensions within ourselves.

For some of us, beholding those tensions may be too much right now. Please care for yourselves. To the extent to which you are moved and able to hold them, find trusted friends with whom to do so with. I'm here as a conversation partner, and other Havurah leaders extend that invitation as well. May we courageously accompany one another through this heartbreaking time.

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Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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[Hakol Contribution Deadline](#)

Tuesday, November 21

[Havurah Website Calendar](#)

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

[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.

Shabbat: Saturday Mornings

Weekly Torah Study
9 am, Saturdays, Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Bet
An in-depth look at the weekly Torah reading, led by congregants. No prior knowledge or study is necessary.

Shabbat Morning
10 am, Saturdays, Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Aleph
All are welcome at our Shabbat services, including b'nei mitzvah services.

B'nei Mitzvah

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

November 11
Sidney Epstein
Child of Dorothy Epstein and Juan Cagampang

November 25
Matan Carroll
Child of Keren Rosenblum and Justin Carroll

Attending Events via Zoom with Havurah Shalom

Many events at Havurah take place on Zoom only or through a hybrid of in person and Zoom. Event pages on our calendar state the name of any Zoom room to be used (or if there is a special Zoom room).

How can Havurah members find Zoom login info for an event? **Option 1:** Look for Zoom room info at the end of every issue of *Hineinu* (our weekly newsletter) within your email inbox and go to the correct Zoom room for your event. **Option 2:** Log in to your Havurah account on our website, click on the Contact tab, go down to Zoom Meeting Rooms, and find the Zoom room login info for the event you want to attend. **Option 3:** RSVP for events to be emailed any Zoom login info. (*Note: Non-members may need to RSVP or, for some gatherings, reach out to our front office in advance to get Zoom info.*)

CELEBRATIONS

Come join for our Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration: *Friday, November 10*

Kabbalat Shabbat Celebrations—a family-friendly oneg followed by a service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward. Our monthly Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations take place on the second Friday of each month, October through May. *6 pm Oneg, 6:30 Service, 7:30 Dinner.* All are welcome!

Want to join for the dinner portion? Please be sure to [register for dinner](#) in advance (and before space fills up). **Just joining for the oneg or the service?** No need to register for that. *(You can also join the service at 6:30 pm via Zoom Room Aleph. Log in to the Havurah website, click on the Contact tab, and go to Zoom Meeting Rooms to find Zoom Room Aleph log-in info.)*

Havurahniks, thank you to all who have signed up—and all who will be signing up—to volunteer at this upcoming celebration. [Click to learn how](#) to help out at our **November 10**

Save the Date: Hanukkah at Havurah Shalom *Sunday, December 10 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm*

Come celebrate Chanukah together! Bring yourself, bring friends, bring family! All are welcome! Fun for adults and children alike!



Havurahniks celebrated together at a Hanukkah gathering past.

In other holiday/Shabbat news, there's a **Tot Shabbat this Saturday, November 4** at Havurah Shalom from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

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

HAVURAH SHALOM

You're a Havurah Member – Now What?

Maybe you are a newer Havurah member, or maybe you have been around for a while and are still curious about how the community is structured and how to engage:

What does Havurah have to offer me? Where can I find other Havurah members involved in areas I feel passionate about? How do I join a committee, lead a Shabbat service, gather with musicians, find out about Tikkun Olam activities? How are decisions made and what does the Steering Committee actually steer?

For the answers to these and other questions, join our upcoming discussion with other new and not-so-new members to learn more about the inner workings of Havurah. Find out what issues the community is currently facing. Think about how you can connect with the congregation. Ask questions you have about Havurah and how you can find your place.

Members of the Leadership Development Committee look forward to meeting with you on **Thursday, November 9th from 7:00 – 8:30pm at the Havurah Shalom building** for conversation, answers and refreshments. All Havurah members welcome. [RSVP here \(Havurah 101\).](#)

The Kitchen Kvetch Tries Redemption

By Adele Thompson

Drumroll please! The blue bags for collecting cans and bottles are finally here. They are labeled and will be redeemed to benefit Trash for Peace and the Common Good Project, nonprofits with links to Havurah. At this moment we are still figuring out details: the best place to keep new bags, partially filled ones, and full ones and the main people responsible for delivering filled bags to a Bottle Drop Depot. Answers will be ready soon.

This project began when the Kvetch saw how many beverage containers were being discarded after b'nei mitzvahs and other parties. Giving them to a "canner" or redeeming them for yourself or another nonprofit are honorable choices. We are offering an alternative. We would be happy if those who want to participate take bags home, and

grateful if anyone interested in dealing with filled bags lets me know ([click Adele Thompson](#) and log in for contact info).

The New Year gives us a reason to revisit some favorite themes, although as you know, the Kvetch hasn't needed a reason to repeat herself. Our rich and diverse programming can also be environmentally friendly when our attention matches our intentions. While trying to see what went wrong after some unfortunate experiences, the Kvetch found a wealth of suggestions on the Web for making large events climate smart. Unsurprisingly, they all start with planning and communication. We will try to model this at upcoming events.

The green bin in the garbage closet has looked pretty good recently, with food waste nicely contained in Bio bags. More frequent pickups have helped, but the biggest change comes from using double bags.

Please remember to "take two."

Getting back to the kitchen, which is never far from the Kvetch's mind, we encounter truths concerning cleanup. This is tough because when folks are tired, they want to get done quickly but they may be unsure of their footing in the kitchen. Encouraging your team to rotate jobs helps ensure that they will become proficient. At a minimum, put things away safely and neatly. Figure out destinations for leftovers. Scrape food scraps into the compost can. Coffee grounds and teabags are compostable, too. Tie the Bio-bags and take them to the green bin in the garbage closet. Fruit flies will be disappointed, but please rinse juice bottles. Then drain them for a few seconds so paper in the blue recycling bin stays dry. The rain has returned, and we hope you also are able to stay dry. Once again, we thank you for your time.

High Holidays: A Renewable Resource

By Bija Gutoff

Many of us see the pandemic in terms of *before* and *after*. While the virus has not gone away, we are grateful to be able to resume much of our normal *before* activity – while also being keenly aware that now, *after*, our sense of what's normal has changed for good.

Before and after.

We gathered at High Holidays in a way that felt more like our robust Havurah *before* holiday experience, and today I am especially grateful for that blessing. How rich and sweet it was to be together once again, to sing and pray, to speak and listen, to reflect privately on our deepest longings and to share communally our largest aspirations.

How fitting, too, that we happened to introduce at the holidays our new congregational **theme** for this year, that it says what it says, and that during the holidays we had the opportunity to experience what it feels like to be connected in the ways our theme describes.

Before and after.

It has only been a few weeks, and yet the last notes of the shofar seem to echo across a great canyon. Because just as our season of reflection and rejoicing was ending, October 7 happened. And our community, freshly reinvigorated from our renewed connections with ourselves, one another, and the divine, was shocked – electrocuted – into yet another *before* and *after*.

Most of us know someone who is or was directly affected by the Hamas attack on Israel. And we are all affected. There are no degrees of separation. Yet each of us has had an intensely personal, intimate experience, and each of us continues to have our own deeply felt response to the days that have followed. The suffering of certainty – the knowledge of a person or family's death, injury, terror – is multiplied by the suffering of uncertainty – the lack of knowledge of the fate of a loved one who has not been heard from. To say that emotions are running high and hot does not begin to describe what we are feeling.

As a member of the High Holidays core planning team, I intended to offer a recap – how it went, what we loved, what we will work to improve next year. And our team will share those insights at another time. But for right now, instead, I've been struck by how prescient are the words of our theme, and how urgent is the call to regard one another with the caring and respect that is central to our Jewish tradition and our notion of what binds a community together.

At the High Holidays we had the precious opportunity to recharge our batteries. For that we are grateful. And immediately after, that stored energy was powerfully drawn upon. We now have the equally precious opportunity to put into practice the intentions, aspirations and connections we formed during that season of song and silence.

May we remember that this is a renewable resource, like the sun and the wind and the waves, the great natural force that gives us life – our ability to choose, and to hold hands while we are doing so.

October: Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, and the Rains Began

By Harriet Cooke and Elianne Lieberman

Heat stressed trees hungrily drink water and are revived. Some leaves don't make it, turn brown and die back. There are more dried leaves this year on my Chinese dogwood, but as the rains fall and gentle October weather progresses, the living leaves begin to transform into a raucous spectacle of bright orange, revived green, and brilliant shades of red. It will make it this year. Though some of my native plants are drying out and dying.

My love for trees and forests brought me to a late September protest/rally at the World Forestry Center. I was joined by other members of HCAT and Havurah, as we stood outside the annual conference ~ *Who Will Own the Forests*. While Wall Street corporations debated how to maximize profits inside cozy conference rooms, we stood in the sometimes-pouring rain, in solidarity with over 200 people from 350PDX, The Pacific NW Forest Alliance, and Native people from the Indigenous Environmental Network. We chanted loudly, heard talks by The Coast Range Association, Indigenous grandmothers and drummers, had theatrical performances, and joined in song, sometimes leading songs and prayers as members of Havurah in solidarity with our Forests Over Profit community.

The following day Elianne and I

Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT)

attended an alternative conference. Here we listened to presentations on alternatives to corporate forestry and how we could become more involved. We will keep the Havurah community updated as we learn about ongoing opportunities.

November HCAT Updates:

HCAT November Climate Action Book Group:

Kimberly Nicholas writes, "We all have 5 climate superpowers that will make a difference."

1. Consumer: we can change our habits in flying, driving and meat consumption— Changing industries over time.

2. Investor: we can move our money to banks that don't support fossil fuel projects. How we spend our money makes a difference too.

3. Professional: we can follow climate science based practices.

4. Role-Model: in person and on social media, we can lead by example; talking about actions we have taken such as insulation & heat pumps.

5. Citizen: Vote. Support organizations. Contact your elected representatives.

HCAT's November book discussion is focused on Prof. Nicholas' *Under the Sky We Make*. Join us via Zoom on November 13 ([RSVP](#)), November 27 ([RSVP](#)), and/or December 11 ([RSVP](#)) at 5pm to read through the book in chapters/sections. Questions? Contact [Michael Heumann](#).

HCAT Hosting November Rumble on the River Event:

Thursday, November 16 - HCAT will host another Rumble on the River at Havurah and on Zoom ([RSVP](#) if you'd like Zoom login info when it becomes available). Rumble events explore different aspects of the dire safety and climate issues of the nearby Critical Energy Infrastructure hub and actions that will help remedy the problems. November's event will focus on the upcoming DEQ decision regarding Zenith Energy's air quality permit and getting strong public input. In addition to a panel discussion we'll have comment writing opportunities. **Doors open at 6 pm for tabling and snacks. The program begins at 6:30.**

Click for [an event flyer](#) for this Rumble on the River event.

If you would like to be updated about political action opportunities and other climate related events, [email Elianne Lieberman](#) to join the HCAT list.

Learn about Chevra Kadisha

7 pm to 8:30 pm, Tuesday, November 7 – Zoom Room Gimel

The **Ma'avar Committee** is hosting an evening discussion with **David Lewis** and **Greg Potter** on the ritual and practices of Chevra Kadisha. A chevra kadisha is a group who perform the traditional Jewish ritual of preparing individuals for burial. [RSVP](#)

AVODAH

Rosh Chodesh Tov! New Moon Rituals

By Andrine de La Rocha

*Whoever says the blessing over the new moon in its time,
it is as if that person welcomes the presence of the Shekhinah.*
- Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 42a

In ancient times two witnesses confirmed the appearance of the new moon, bonfires were lit on hilltops to transmit the news of the new month from hill to mountain until all knew it was *Rosh Chodesh*. Our connection with the sky, earth, fire and water were and are fundamental to our spiritual tradition, as is blessing the new moon and marking cyclical time. We are gathering (on Zoom in the winter) to celebrate each new moon and invite these cycles into our lives, hearts and bodies. Each month is affiliated with a Hebrew letter, tribe, plant, body part and *netivah* (path or way of being).

In mid-October we welcomed *MarCheshvan*: the letter *nun*, Manasseh, Cedar tree, stomach, and *Mekonenet* - the mourning one. There is much to mourn right now and the keening of the *Mekonenet* is transformational at this time.

On Tuesday, November 14, we will transition into the month of *Kislev* where we dream into the darkness and kindle lights. We will learn about the letter *samech*, tribe of Benjamin, Olive tree, right hand, and path of the *Ba'alat Ov* - the Shamaness. All are welcome as we cycle through the year with learning and ritual. Attendance is open all year; drop in as you are able. May you be renewed, as the moon is renewed!

[Rosh Chodesh Tov Registration](#)



The moon passed between the sun and the earth during the eclipse on October 14. (Photo by Chris Pietsch)

TIKKUN OLAM

Havurah's Racial Justice Comm.: Two Upcoming Events

By Kathy Gordon & John Balgley

Havurah Racial Justice Committee's Book Group Discussion: *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith

7 pm to 8:30 pm, Sunday, November 12 – Havurah Shalom

Come for a lively discussion! *How the Word is Passed* illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view—like in downtown Manhattan, in which the brutal history of the trade of enslaved peoples has been deeply imprinted. Clint Smith's book is a landmark work of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in understanding our country.

Aim to read the book (*How the Word is Passed*) beforehand for this book group discussion. Questions? Contact [Kathy Gordon](#) or [Barbara Gundle](#) with questions.

Please [RSVP/register](#) as soon as possible for this book group discussion.

Racial Justice Committee

Racial Justice Committee, Movie Discussion: *Selma*

6:30 pm, Sunday, December 3 – Zoom Room Bet

Join the Racial Justice Committee for a discussion of the movie *Selma*. Please watch the film ahead of time; it's currently streaming on Amazon Prime, also available for rent or purchase at a modest price.

Summary: Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination was still rampant, making it very difficult for Blacks to register to vote. In 1965, the city of Selma, Alabama became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery. Their efforts culminated with President Johnson signing the Voting Rights

Act of 1965.

While the movie is rated PG-13, and young people are welcome, parents should consider watching the movie first to decide whether the realistically depicted violence would be too disturbing for your children at this time.

Questions? Contact [Kathy Gordon](#). Please [RSVP/Register here](#). We will provide you with discussion questions in advance.



On Saturday, October 15, Havurahniks came together for a Gathering for Prayer and Support.

Poems read at the Havdalah gathering included, among other readings, “Revenge” by Taha Muhammad Ali, “The Diameter of the Bomb” by Yehuda Amichai, and “Horror in Israel and Palestine” by Valarie Kaur.

We also said the prayer Oseh Shalom, transliterated here:

Oseh Shalom bim'ro'mav.

Hu ya'aseh shalom alei'nu, v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei tevel, v'imru Amen.

HAVURAH SHALOM

Havurahniks of all ages came together for Simchat Torah (*Rejoicing in Torah*).



AVODAH

Havurah Music Jams begin again!

After a number of Jam sessions this past year, planners are launching a monthly instrumental Jam session.

When: Second Monday of the month, starting Monday, November 13th.

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 PM

Location: Pardes Room at Havurah Shalom (take a left and then another left after you enter the Havurah building from the Courtyard).

Come play together in community! Bring your instrument and your enthusiasm. Song sheets will be provided and include a mix of folk, Jewish and popular music.

RSVP for the November 13 jam session [here](#). And look to the [Havurah calendar](#) for info on future sessions (second Mondays at 7 pm at Havurah Shalom in Pardes).

—Your Jam Planning Team,

Sharon Klin, Joel Schipper, Nancy Chestler, Julie Walcer, Margie Rosenthal and Sacha Reich



Havurahniks engage in a music jam session.

Book Group reexamines story of two powerful women

Brunhild was a foreign princess, raised to be married off for the sake of building an alliance. Her sister-in-law Fredegund started out as a lowly palace slave. And yet—in sixth-century Merovingian France, where women were excluded from noble succession and royal politics was a blood sport, these two iron-willed strategists reigned over vast realms, changing the face of Europe. Yet after the queens' deaths—one gentle, the other horrific—their stories were re-written, their names consigned to slander and legend. In *The Dark Queens*, award-winning writer Shelley Puhak sets the record straight. *The Dark Queens* offers proof that the relationships be-

November Book Led by Maud Naroll

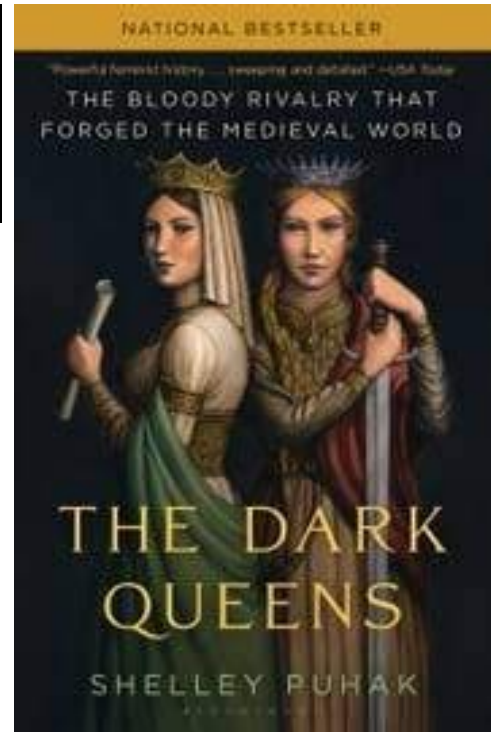
The Dark Queens
by Shelley Puhak

Nonfiction, 384 pages

Tuesday, November 28
7 pm to 8:30 pm
Zoom Room Bet

tween women can transform the world.

Discussion led by Maud Naroll.
Nonmembers welcome. [RSVP](#)
for Zoom info.



Want to see the Havurah Book Group's 2023-2024 schedule, read blurbs for each book, and learn more about the group? Visit the [Havurah Book Group webpage](#).

Update on the Film *Israelism*

By Elinor Gollay

These are extremely difficult times for us as Jews – whatever our position towards Israel/Palestine might be. Many of us are filled with anxiety, fear, anger – and worry. We published an article in the October Hakol about the film *Israelism*. Although it was produced prior to the current crisis, the Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee still encourages congregation members to watch the film. It provides potentially useful perspectives on what many young American Jews are feeling – and

Israel/Palestine *Committee*

doing. For some of you it might provide a useful context for current actions and activities. Here is a [link](#) to the trailer and the website for the film.

Although we were hoping that there would be an in-person showing of the film, at this point none is scheduled. There are, however, two ways to view the film virtually online. On November 5, there will

be a Virtual Screening with IfNotNow, one of the organizations featured in the film. On November 12, there will be another screening. Details and RSVP information will be shared through the [Israelism website](#).

Please note that the online salon discussing the film that we mentioned in the October Hakol was postponed in response to the crisis in Israel/Palestine. If a Portland in-person showing is scheduled, we will let Havurah members know. As there is no in-person showing scheduled now, we are not presently planning to host a discussion of the film.

HAVURAH SHALOM

November Poetry Events at Havurah Shalom: Reading/Discussion & Workshop

(Reading/Discussion) *The Naked Room*, by Willa Schneberg: A Synthesis of the Life of a Poet and Psychotherapist with Discussant Frances Payne Adler

7 pm to 8:30 pm, Tuesday, November 7 – Havurah Shalom and Special Zoom Room

In this time of mental health crisis among youth and adults, as well among the houseless, Willa's new poetry collection, *The Naked Room*, illuminates such issues pertaining to mental health. These are poems of the unconscious, the dreamscape, the despondent, the unmoored and the mortal. [RSVP](#)

(Workshop) Discussing and Writing Poems of Strong Emotional States

7 pm to 8:30 pm, Tuesday, November 14 – Havurah Shalom

We will read and discuss poems by masters who have written about strong emotional states, such as Anne Sexton, Robert Lowell, Hannah Bloch, Edward Hirsch, Yehuda Amichai and Ross Gay. Handout will be provided. We will write first drafts, and share what we have written or discuss our process. Led by Willa Schneberg. [RSVP](#)



Our much appreciated Havurahnik sukkah decorators posed for the camera.

Award Winning Children's Books at the Havurah Library

By Marjorie Bennett

Every year the Association of Jewish Libraries presents the Sidney Taylor award to "outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience." Now you can check out this year's winners in the Havurah Library.

For picture books: *The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs* by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal. Thirty-five years after Nazis destroyed her beloved shtetl of Eishyshok, Poland, Yaffa Eliach recovered thousands of precious photographs preserved by relatives and survivors to recreate her community at the US Holocaust Memorial Mu-

seum in Washington, DC.

For middle grades: *Aviva vs. the Dybbuk* by Mari Lowe. Aviva and her widowed mother live next door to their synagogue in rooms above the mikvah, rumored to be haunted by a dybbuk only Aviva can see. This inside look at a close-knit Orthodox community explores changing friendships, antisemitic vandalism, and the many ways of dealing with grief.

For young adults (i.e., teens): *When the Angels Left the Old Country* by Sacha Lamb. Uriel the angel

and Little Ash the demon have been Talmud study partners for centuries. When a shtetl girl goes missing, they journey to America to find her. This brilliant, queer historical fantasy novel richly depicts the immigrant experience and tells an ageless tale of love, justice, and friendship.

You will also find these 2023 Sidney Taylor Honor books: *The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda* by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran Yogev; *Sitting Shiva* by Erin Silver, illustrated by Michelle Theodore; *Ellen Outside the Lines* by A. J. Sass, a middle-grade story about the adventures of an autistic girl on a class trip to Barcelona.

Spotlight on Havurah's Library

The Havurah Shalom Library is managed by Marjorie Bennett. Our Library is inside the Havurah building, toward the west side (take a left after you enter the building from the Courtyard). The Library supports Havurah members in our pursuit of learning as follows:

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

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

HAVURAH SHALOM

Cassandra Sagan
Pathways of Connection
Watercolor, acrylic ink,
acrylic on watercolor
paper (8 x 8)

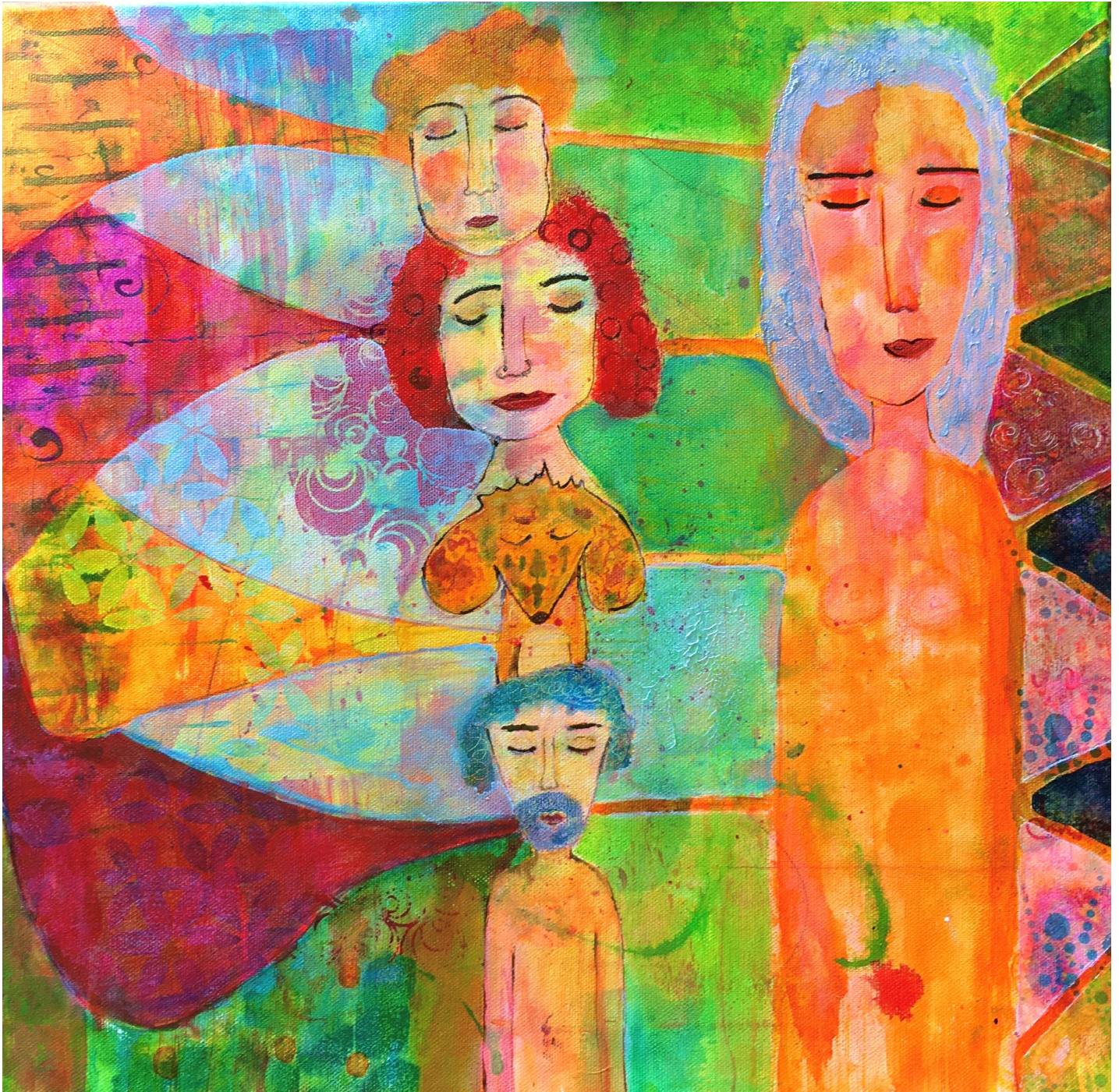
Reflections

Our community was fortunate enough to have several talented Havurahnik artists submit works in response to Havurah's call for artistic reflections as 5783 drew to a close and we approached the Days of Awe. On the following pages of this issue of Hakol, you'll find the work of one such artist: **Cassandra Sagan**. Future issues of Hakol are set to include the reflective artworks of our contributors who haven't already been featured here.



HAVURAH SHALOM

Cassandra Sagan
Meditation on Connection
Acrylic on canvas (18 x18)



HAVURAH SHALOM



Cassandra Sagan
Connect
Acrylic on Acrylic
Paper (8.5 x 13)

Cassandra Sagan—Artist Statement

I've been a cultural creative and an educator my whole life, mostly as a Poet in the Classroom and singer/songwriter. I created my first visual art piece approximately twelve years ago, a mosaic Tree of Life shower. From there I started doing more reasonably-sized pieces and love to immerse myself for hours. I never plan my artwork, instead I build intuitive layers from a movement/emotion/theme/or an idea I'm pursuing, and when an image appears, I draw it out. I've shown my work through ORA Northwest Jewish artists, at MJCC, Neveh Shalom, and EJC. And of course my online gallery, Facebook.

Gratitudes to Havurahniks

By Loree Devery,
Immediate Past President

With the High Holidays behind us, we are quickly moving into a year full of programs, activities, education, and services. Yet, even as we rejoice in coming together in community with our fellow Havurahniks, we may now find ourselves feeling sad and heavy as the situation in Israel and Gaza unfolds.

So often at Havurah we can find the large, warm areas where we sit together in pleasant agreement. In this time of crisis, many may feel that strong disagreement is making it hard to find peace and respite within our havurah. I am grateful that our spiritual and lay leaders remind us that being in a community sometimes requires courage and compassion, and that our way through this depends on our being able to continue to behold one another with trust and care.

Here are some gratitudes that were received from some of our committees and cluster leads for volunteer contributions made by members last month. Of course, there are many members who do so much, and this list is just an example of some of the volunteer efforts for which we give thanks.

From the Anti-Racism & Belonging Committee – thanks to **Becky Chiao, Cindy Casama Gerber, Yshai Boussi, Karen St. Clair,**

Steering Committee

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From the Kehillah Cluster – Thanks to **Adele Thompson** for her volunteer work packaging food from the Yom Kippur breakfast to be distributed to those in need; thanks to **Ted Scheinman** for continuing to bring Alta Rockers together.

And to all of those many groups, volunteers, and specific people who were not mentioned here – thank you! We value your participation and contributions; however they may look. If you have an “appreciation” or “gratitude” that you would like to share, contact me directly at [Loree Devery](#).



HAVURAH SHALOM

Tributes

General Contributions

Kate and Jossi Davidson, in honor of my father, Paul Sachs.

High Holidays Contributions

Stephen Lebwohl, in memory of Anne Lebwohl.

Shirley Nord, in honor of the Nord family.

Anthony Bencivengo, in honor of Lawrence Frank Bencivengo Sr.

Lewis Cohen, in memory of Lawrence and Shirley Knutt.

Lori Schmall, in honor of Marilyn Falchook.

Louise Treadway, in memory of Arnold Block.

Henry Bernton, in honor of Xavier Engle.

Susan Swank, in honor of Lillian and Murray Aisley.

Courtney and Anthony Vengarick, in honor of Judy and Bill Herzberg.

Cherilyn Harris, in memory of my granddaughter McKala C. Parker.

Adult Education Fund

Miryam and Roger Brewer, in memory of my dear friend, Anne Lebwohl.

Tikkun Olam Fund

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in honor of our grandchildren, Josh, Aaron and Elana Siegman.

Refugee and Immigrant Fund

Robbin and Jan DeWeese, in loving memory of Robbin's father, Dr. Julius E. Isaacson, Jr.

Building Fund

Linda and Michael Evans, in memory of Hyman Evans.

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Roberta Schmalz, in memory of our beloved Grandmother, Hilda Siegel.

Les Schwartz, in honor of Helen Schwartz.

Lee Miller, in memory of Marsha Miller.
Samuel Teitelman, in memory of Rebecca Teitelman.

Susan Fierberg, in memory of my father, Stephen Fierberg.

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in memory of our parents, Dave & Millie Berlin and Eddie & Pauline Siegman.

Roberta Schmalz, in memory of our beloved father, Hyman Evans.

