



October 2023  
Vol. 46, Issue 1

# Hakol • הקול

## Slowing Down: Practicing and Sharing Delight

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

*What follows are excerpts from Rabbi Benjamin's talk on Erev Rosh Hashanah 5784, adapted by Rabbi Benjamin.*

Gloria Mark, a professor of information science at UC Irvine, researches how people use computers. She and her colleagues found that the average length of time spent on a single task is only 47 seconds. Ezra Klein, who wrote about Mark's findings, called this "an acid bath for human cognition."

It's an acid bath, as well, for human happiness and well-being. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel writes: "[Humanity] will not perish for want of information; but only for want of appreciation. The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living."

In this same spirit, Ross Gay, in *Inciting Joy*, describes his poetry workshops at the university where he teaches, contrary to more conventional, critique-based models, in this way: "Wondering together again and again and again...an endeavor of unfixing, of dismastery, of community-supported bewilderment, is the practice."

In order to wonder, we must slow down. We must pause our racing from one task to the next, our unending attempts to get things done or right, and at times simply be, just where and how we are. In Gay's *Book of Delights*, one of his essays is entitled, "Loitering." To loiter, for Gay, is praiseworthy. In the eyes of



On the first day of Rosh Hashanah 5784, Havurahnik children rose to the bima for the Children's Aliyah.

society, however, those words "imply being unproductive. Which leads to being, even if only temporarily, nonconsumptive, and this is a crime in America, and more explicitly criminal depending upon any number of quickly apprehended visual cues." Which he elucidates, though I trust we can all infer what they are, various indicators of race and class.

There's a striking connection in Jewish tradition between time and delight. One of the Hebrew words for delight is *oneg*. If you're familiar with it, it's probably because you know the phrase, *oneg Shabbat*. Which refers most commonly to the eating and schmoozing we do after prayer, but means simply, "the delight of Shabbat." How telling that the most common usage of this word for delight is connected to a day that is all about slowing down.

Because I don't know if we can experience delight when we're preoccupied with getting things done, or anxious about how much we're not getting done, rather than giving our full attention to the one thing we're actually doing in any given moment, or the person or people we're actually with. I wonder how much delight—or simply connection or aliveness—I miss out on because I, like many of us who live very privileged lives, still feel like I am a slave to time.

I wonder what it might look like to reorient our relationship to time. How can we live, even in the midst of the world of doing, with more of a practice of wonder and delight? And how do we nurture our delight in a way that moves us to extend it to everyone else we can? May we each find ways to do so in the year to come.

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# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

825 NW 18th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209-2333  
503.248.4662  
havurahshalom.org

### Hakol Contribution Deadline

Thursday, October 19  
(third Thursday)

### Weekly Email (Hineinu)

Contribution Deadline  
Tuesdays by Noon

### Havurah Website Calendar

### Misheberach List Form

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

## 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:

October 21  
**Nathan Zahm**  
Child of Jill and Zachary Zahm

October 28  
**Leo Seidman**  
Child of Stefanie Miller and Adam Seidman

Please join us in celebration.

## Chag Sameach! Sukkot and Simchat Torah

**Sukkot** (Sept. 29 to Oct. 6): Come be in our Sukkah in the Havurah Courtyard. Feel free to ask staff, if they are onsite, for the Luluv and Etrog

**Simchat Torah:** Come to Havurah or join online to celebrate Simchat Torah from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Saturday, October 7. Music, dance, song, reading, aliyot: *Rejoicing in the Torah!* **RSVP** and learn more.

## Condolences

**Marvin Ungar**, brother of Stephen Ungar, brother-in-law of Susan Ungar, uncle of Cara Ungar and great-uncle of Enzo and Hugo Gutierrez, passed away on September 20.



# SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

## Sukkot

**Come be in our sukkah for Sukkot**, a holiday that began at sunset on Sept. 29 and continues until nightfall on Oct. 6.

Our sukkah has been lovingly constructed and beautifully decorated by Havurahniks. Feel free to ask staff, when they are onsite and available, for the Lulav and Etrog (or bring your own if you have them)!

*Havurahnik helpers will be tearing down the sukkah on the morning of Monday, Oct. 9. [Click here](#) to join in this vital and mighty undertaking.*



Havurahniks at our Shabbat School—kids and adults—gather within Havurah's sukkah and wave the lulav and etrog during Sukkot.

## Simchat Torah

**Come down to Havurah in person or show up online to celebrate Simchat Torah together from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Saturday, October 7. [RSVP](#)**

**All are welcome!** Join us for a family-friendly and joyous celebration featuring music and dancing with the Torah! Simchat Torah means "Rejoicing in the Torah." On Simchat Torah, we celebrate the conclusion of our annual Torah reading cycle and the beginning of another. We read the last Torah portion, then the first chapter of Genesis, remembering that the Torah is a circle of life that never ends. On Simchat Torah, we sing and dance with the Torah. As many people as possible are given the honor of carrying a Torah scroll, and as many people as possible are given the honor of an aliyah (reciting a blessing over the Torah reading). Children are called up for an aliyah, too. Torah brings sweetness to the lives of all of us! And we will have food and Israeli dancing!

- **Havurahniks**, you can [click here](#) to sign up for a Simchat Torah Celebration volunteer shift. Thanks!
- **Havurah teens and families**, if your Havurahnik teen can take a shift at the Simchat Torah craft table, please [email Tamara Lindemann](#) ASAP to let her know. Havurah teens have been signing up to help younger Havurahniks make crafts—a yad, a little Torah, and a flag to wave. More teen helpers are needed—and all are appreciated.

*Both **showing up for (in person or online)** and **helping out at** our Simchat Torah Celebration increase the joy and vitality of our holiday gathering and add to our community's vibrancy. Chag Sameach!*

## KABBALAT SHABBAT

# Kabbalat Shabbat Returns Friday, October 13!

**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).

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 **October 13 Kabbalat Shabbat**. Shifts start at 15 minutes.



Havurah musicians lead our community in song at a Kabbalat Shabbat service in June of 2019.



# HADRACHA

## Campaign for Havurah – Feasibility Study update and next steps

By Loree Devery,  
Immediate Past President, and  
Chair of the Feasibility Study  
Work Group

As we reported several times last year, a fundraising campaign Feasibility Study was conducted over the six-month period between January and June 2023. Rose City Philanthropy was retained as a consultant to assess the potential for raising \$8.9 million to both expand our building and grow our staff as follows:

- Building Expansion Fund of \$5.9 million to renovate the first floor of our building and add a second floor.

### Steering Committee

- Staff Expansion Fund of \$3 million to add new staff positions and meet our personnel needs.

In conducting the study, Rose City Philanthropy interviewed some members directly and oversaw a community-wide survey of all Havurah members who were not interviewed. In June 2023, they reported their key findings and recommendations to the Steering Committee.

Here is [a link to the PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Steering Com-

mittee in June. This PowerPoint is a summary of the full Feasibility Study Report. (If any member would like a copy of the full Report, please email me to request it. My email address is in the Havurah Directory.)

**What did we learn?** The “bottom line” of the study was that Havurah is not yet ready to launch an \$8.9 million campaign. Rose City Philanthropy did find that Havurah members mostly supported expanding the staff but were not ready for a building expansion without more information and a clearer rationale.

For both the staff and building

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Greetings and Gratitude from Our New Finance Manager

By Shari Raider,  
Havurah Finance Manager



Shalom, Havurah! I greet you with my new hat on, that of Finance Manager.

My family has been part of the Havurah community since the early 2000s. Over the years, I have participated in many delightful and meaningful ways: I taught in the Shabbat School; co-chaired the Sanctuary Committee; and sat on Steering for four years as your Treasurer.

On July 1, I became a member of Havurah's incredible staff. I was hired as the congregation's first ever Finance Manager. With this hat on, I lead the organization's finance and accounting operations, partner in the financial planning process, and work collaboratively across the organization to support the delivery of our mission and core values.

Over the past 30 years, I have been responsible for the financial health and sustainability of several organizations and am excited to be putting my skills to work at Havurah.

I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months to come. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to Karen Westerman (Finance Volunteer extraordinaire) and Debbi Rabidue (our incredible bookkeeper) for sharing their valuable time and expertise with me.

Please note that Karen will continue to be your contact for any questions about dues adjustments.

With Gratitude,

Shari

# HADRACHA

## ***Continued: Campaign for Havurah – Feasibility Study update and next steps***

*(Continued from page 5)*

expansion, Rose City Philanthropy found that the community wants to be more engaged and informed about why we need to do this, and how. We also need to work on fundraising infrastructure and diversifying operating revenue beyond dues.

We want to express our huge appreciation to the Havurah members who gave feedback in the interviews and the survey! It has really helped clarify what we need to focus on. Details in the full report give us optimism about the potential success of a large campaign. We learned that Havurah is a “high” philanthropic priority for many members, and that we could likely raise a substantial amount now – even before we have fully publicized or launched a “campaign.” The “comment” sections of the interviews and survey also provided us with substantial feedback and questions about both the building expansion and staff expansion efforts. Again, thank you!

**What have we done since June when this Study came out?** An Executive Committee for the Campaign for Havurah has been established. Rachel Shimshak, Herman Asarnow, Alexis Baghdadi, and Dave Rosenfeld have stepped up to serve on the Executive Committee, which will lead the Campaign through the next phas-

es. Co-President, David Kertzner, and I will work with the Executive Committee and serve as liaisons to the Presidents Team and Steering.

The Executive Committee is moving forward on several fronts, including:

- Analyzing the questions and concerns that were raised in the Feasibility Study interviews and Community-wide Survey and ensuring that we are prepared to address those issues.
- Identifying “cohorts” within Havurah to meet with, engage with, and seek advice from – we want to hear from our members directly.
- Evaluating the potential and viability of our technological fundraising infrastructure.
- Working with Finance Committee on establishing a Grants Working Group to explore grant opportunities for Havurah.
- Working with the Finance Committee to explore the possibility of a Building Assessment to support building expenses.
- Collaborating with the work being done by Steering on our “Participatory Model” and increasing meaningful engagement across our community.
- Identifying potential members to work on the Communications Committee, which will hone our message and report on the pro-

gress of the Campaign.

- Determining “next steps” with respect to professional Campaign Counsel.

**What happens now?** The Executive Committee is working to lay a solid foundation and assess the viability of our messaging and objectives. Over the next several months, we will engage more deeply with Havurah members, hear ideas and objections, share our vision, and build momentum.

It is too early to know *exactly* what our ultimate fundraising campaign will look like or how big it will be, but we do know that we need to move forward. We need to move forward with *some* nature and size of a Staff Expansion Fund. We need to move forward with *some* nature and size of building improvements. Our community has grown. Our staff is growing. Our building needs to meet our expanding needs. Exactly what will depend on the work of the next few months, and the ongoing ideas and input of our amazing community. We look forward to figuring it out!

If you have any questions about this, please reach out to any of the members of the Executive Committee. I am also always available to answer questions and provide you with additional information.

## Book Group to visit microcosm of 20th Century Jewish life

During the heyday of the kibbutz movement, several leftie communities formed in California and New Jersey to practice the Kibbutz life-style, sort of. Kenneth Kann is an oral historian who interviewed more than 200 of the former members of the Petaluma commune (Obviously before Petaluma gentrified). He presents the three generations talking about being radical chicken ranchers, their Yiddish cultural life, and their intense political commitments and conflicts. By juxtaposing often opposite views of the same situation, the interviews come alive, and on the whole, it's pretty amusing and also an honest look at a radical Jewish community.

Discussion led by Holly Hoffnung. Nonmembers welcome. [RSVP](#) for Zoom info.

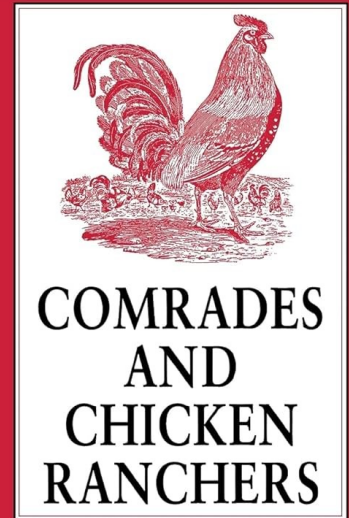
### October Book Led by Holly Hoffnung

#### **Comrades and Chicken Ranchers: The Story of a California Jewish Community**

by Kenneth L. Kann

Nonfiction, 336 pages

**Tuesday, October 24, 7 pm**  
**Zoom Room Bet**



*The Story of a California  
Jewish Community*  
KENNETH L. KANN

**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](#), which you can also access by going to: HavurahShalom.org > Committees > Limud (Learning) > Book Group.

## Occupation 101

For eight Mondays, starting on October 16, Joel Beinin will offer "Occupation 101" in person at Havurah Shalom from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Participants in this course will examine the Palestinian territories Israel conquered from Jordan and Egypt in the June 1967 War – the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. What are the ideological and practical mechanisms that sustain the occupation? How did they come into existence? How does the status of the three territories differ? Is the occupation temporary? Can it be separated from the political regime that prevails inside Israel's pre-1967 borders?

For six of the weeks, class members will watch a film on their own before class. We will begin each class with a 30- to 40-minute introduction to the historical context of the film, then discuss the film and the related issues it raises. Please read before the first class, "[A Short History of Annexation](#)" (click on the link to go directly to the online text) prepared by the Joint Israel Commission of Reconstructing Judaism and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, especially pp. 4-13.

Go to the Havurah Shalom calendar to sign up (or click [here](#) and scroll down to Register).



## ***Israelism*: Film Screenings, Online Panel Talk, and a Future Havurah Film Discussion**

By Elinor Gollay

Our High Holidays were a time for all of us to come together through Sarah and Hagar, and, among other things, face the current situation in Israel/Palestine. Grappling with the current situation and our more complete history can be jarring, difficult and contentious. There are many issues and perspectives to consider. The Israel/Palestine Committee is committed to helping our congregation learn more and support one another through this learning, the first step in contributing to tikkun olam in Israel/Palestine.

As part of our on-going educational efforts, we encourage congregation members to watch the film *Israelism*. This thought-provoking film explores ways that most Ameri-

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### ***Israel/Palestine* Committee**

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can Jews grew up learning myths about the founding of Israel and the people who inhabited the land. The film follows the experience of a young Jewish woman who had the courage to seek truth, and the discouraging response she received from her Jewish community.

Click [here](#) to see the trailer for *Isrealism*. Click [here](#) to register for a panel discussion about *Isrealism* taking place on Sunday, October 15. Note: After registering for the October 15 panel discussion, you will be sent a link to watch a virtual screening of the film *Isrealism* in advance of the panel discussion.

The online salon, organized by

Voices from the Holy Land, features several expert speakers – including Peter Beinart, whom many Havurah members recently heard speak. Here is the panel: Eric Axelman, filmmaker, co-founder of Tikkun Olam Productions; Simone Zimmerman, Jewish American activist, co-founder of IfNotNow; Lubna Alzaroo, instructor at University of Washington specializing in settler colonialism; and Peter Beinart, editor-at-large at *Jewish Currents*, professor of journalism at CUNY and publisher of *The Beinart Newsletter*.

The Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee has been working with the *Isrealism* filmmaker to bring the film to Portland. We expect there to be at least one local Portland showing. The Israel/Palestine Committee plans to host a discussion on the film, at some point after a local screening.

Birders took a look during a Havurah Elul activity led by Cindy and Andrew Merrill, Birding at Bybee.





## Reflections on Elul: New Passion for Palestinian Justice Work

By Dale Oller

I am grateful to Havurah Shalom to have been able to study with Professor Joel Beinin, as he educates us about the lesser-known history of Israel and Palestine. Havurah's Book Group has also tackled understanding the plight of the Palestinians through poignant book choices. A recent program and article by Peter Beinart stirred my passion to personally do more to help the Palestinians, *Teshuvah: A Jewish Case for Palestinian Refugee Return*. Rabbi Benjamin led a very meaningful session in which about 40 congregants of Havurah shared personal reactions to Beinart's words. A newly forming committee in Havurah is looking at Israeli/Palestinian Justice. All of these opportunities have started what I hope to be more personal education and advocacy in order to promote long overdue justice for the

Palestinians.

A recent trip to the South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia provided for me personally a connection to the Palestinian Nakba. I had always thought of the Nakba as an "event," translated as "A Catastrophe" or "The Catastrophe." Yet, as I walked through the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial in Yerevan, something struck me. The 1915 Armenian Genocide, in which 1.5 million men, women and children were killed, was an "event" never to be forgotten. However, in my travels through Armenia and Azerbaijan, and reading the recent op-ed by Nicholas Kristof on the "genocide by starvation" of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, I saw a comparison with the Palestinian Nakba. Both are not isolated "events," but an ongoing "process." The Nakba is an ongoing process that continues today.

A favorite quote by Viktor Frankl

stirs me: "When we are no longer able to change the situation...we are challenged to change ourselves."

The Israeli government and many people of Israel are complicit. We too are complicit unless we speak up and take action. This is a challenge to change, which I offer myself and others.

Barack Obama's statement about the Days of Awe resonated with me:

"The Days of Awe are a time to ask of ourselves something only we can control: the strength to do better. To be better. To make the world we live in a kinder, more peaceful place. To hear in the sacred shofar blast, a call from within to change."

As we move beyond the Days of Awe, I encourage others to consider a meaning of Teshuvah to include The Right to Return for Palestinians. We need to stand strong to speak out and advocate for Palestinian justice.



Everything is neater and more organized since David Lewis and Jack Lazareck built us a shelf in the bima closet!

## News from Havurah's Climate Action Team

By Elianne Lieberman and Judi Soloway

### *It's Not Too Late to Participate in the Temperature Tapestry Project!*

As part of Elul programming, Havurah's Climate Action Team (HCAT) led the initial meeting of the "Temperature Tapestry Project," a fiber art work that tracks the yearly temperature during different times in history. When finished, this work will be a visual representation of our warming climate. Prior to the meeting, HCAT purchased the colored yarn we'll use to record daily temperatures, in five-degree Fahrenheit increments. As a group, we collected the daily high temperature data for Portland using the Jewish Calendar years of 1940/41, 1954/55, 1968/69, 1970/71, 1983/84 and 2022/23. We assigned the yarn colors to each five-degree increment and decided that each day would equal a quarter of an inch. We met again a week later to start working with the yarn. Currently there are six participants helping to create what will become an art/science installation to be displayed at Havurah when it is completed. We're looking for more people who like to knit, crochet or weave to join us. Most of the work is done independently, with monthly check-ins to share our progress. Depending on interest we may meet in person or on Zoom to create a

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### HCAT

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"tapestry circle."

Contact [Judi Soloway](#) for questions or to join.

### *Dayenu Launches New Campaign on October 4*

HCAT recently affiliated with Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, joining the Rose City Dayenu Circle. Dayenu's mission is to secure a just, livable and sustainable world for all people for generations to come by building a multi-generational Jewish movement that confronts the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. It is led by a group of dynamic and diverse younger Jews who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in organizing.

Dayenu's model is to gather in small local groups to work on national campaigns and to take local action of the groups choosing. In September, the Rose City Circle met for Shabbat Picnic in the Park, to welcome long time and new members. We also carried the Dayenu banner in the recent Youth Climate Strike to support the youth.

On Wednesday, October 4 at 5 pm Pacific time, Dayenu will be launching their new campaign "to

protect critical investments in climate, jobs and justice, make sure the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) money goes where it's needed most and make sure these funds deliver tangible benefits that inspire even bolder climate action." We will be working together to ensure that the IRA money is distributed as intended—to those who are affected the most by climate change. [Register](#) to learn more about this campaign.

Contact [Judi Soloway](#) for questions or to join.

*(Hakol editor note: While this Oct. 4 virtual campaign launch date has now passed, you can still register to learn more about Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action campaign opportunities.)*

### *Citizens Climate Lobby Monthly Calling*

Here is an easy way to help Congress pass good climate legislation that is easy to and takes only two minutes a month. Go to [this website](#), click on the Call Congress box, and follow the directions. Our elected officials say they want to hear from us. Calling after hours and leaving a voice message makes Elianne feel good.

# HAVURAH SHALOM

## Tributes

### High Holidays Contributions

Tammy Kramer, in honor of Rabbi Richard Schachet.

Anthony Bencivengo, in honor of Fanni Jacobsen.

Adele and Jack Thompson, in memory of our parents Armella & Jack Thompson and Evelyn & Gam Diamond.

### Spiritual Life Fund

Monica Moriarty and Bill Kwitman, in memory of my mother, who taught us so much.

### Tikkun Olam Fund

Frances Payne Adler, in memory of Sybil Gordon Payne.

### Refugee and Immigrant Fund

Marjorie Gans Walters and Philip Lewis Walters, in memory of Robert William Gans, 1911-2004, my father.

### Youth Education Fund

Garry and Judith Kahn, in honor of Abraham Cogan.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Terry Glickman, in memory of Ruth and Al Glickman.

Roberta Michaels and Donald Toomim, in memory of Sara Michaels, Roberta Michaels' grandmother.

Roberta Michaels and Donald Toomim, in memory of Herbert Michaels, Roberta Michaels' dad.

Harriet and Richard Steinberg, in memory of Jessica Steinberg, daughter of Richard Steinberg and step-daughter of Harriet Steinberg.

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

Joan and Dave Weil, in memory of Gene Appel.



## 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 pages 12 to 14 of this issue of Hakol, you'll find the work of two such artists—**Jane Levy Campbell** and **Eliana Temkin**. Future issues of Hakol are set to include the reflective artworks of our other Havurahnik contributors.



# HAVURAH SHALOM



Jane Levy Campbell  
*Bumper Crop*  
Mat Watercolor, 22x30



# HAVURAH SHALOM



Eliana Temkin  
*Tree of Life*  
Acrylic, White  
Posca Pen on uneven  
mat board  
substrate



# HAVURAH SHALOM

Jane Levy Campbell  
*Hillside Bench,*  
*Hoyt Arboretum*  
Watercolor, 22x30



Jane Levy Campbell  
*Harvest Time,*  
*Patton Valley Looking East-NE*  
Watercolor, 22x30



## Gratitude

By Loree Devery,  
Immediate Past-President

Our congregational theme this year is *havurah* – to connect or join. The explanation of the theme reminds us that, through all the ways we each participate, we are creating a Havurah in which each human strand is valuable, unique, and necessary. Our deep gratitude this month to the many, many Havurahniks – the countless “human strands” – who stepped up to participate by contributing to our collective community. We thank you for your service to Havurah, which helps us all connect.

Our thanks and gratitude to the following members and groups:

**David Lewis** for stepping up to co-chair the IT & Cybersecurity Committee

**Karen Westerman**, who has provided Havurah IT Committee with steadfast direction and guidance for many years. Her leadership has enabled it to evolve into the robust capability it is today.

**Joel Bettridge** and **Rachel Pollak** for coordinating and organizing the Safety and Security training sessions in August and September. They were informational and well-attended.

**Denny Karas** for taking on the responsibility of doing the maintenance work at our building.

**Yshai Boussi, Luz Canate, Cindy Casama, Becky Chiao, Andrea Sanchez, and Karen St. Clair** of the Anti-Racism & Belonging Committee for working with Tabitha St. Bernard-Jacobs on a process to address harm when it happens within our community.

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### Steering Committee

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**Rachel Shimshak**, whose energy and determination on the Executive Committee for the Campaign for Havurah has been crucial in getting started what’s going to be a big and powerful engine. We are grateful for all who’ve signed up to lead this task.

**Wendy Rudman** for her tireless work over the years reconciling Havurah’s bank accounts.

**Fran Weick** for agreeing to be the co-chair of Gesher, **Herman Asarnow**, who has been the co-chair for several years and is stepping down, and **Shelley Sobel** for her continued leadership in the role of Co-Chair of Gesher.

Gratitude to **our incredible staff** from the Staffing Task Force and all Havurah!

**High Holidays Gratitudes.** Our High Holidays depend on the commitment and dedication of countless Havurah members who donate their time so that we all can enjoy a meaningful experience. Thank you to *all* Havurahniks who stepped up to volunteer for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

**Everyone** who served in one of the **over 350 volunteer positions open across High Holidays**, doing things like setup, ushering, being a safety monitor, greeting people at the doors, moving and staging supplies, setting up for dinner, checking people in at dinner, bringing food for childcare, keeping an eye on the teen

room, setting up and cleaning up break fast, putting supplies away at Havurah, building the sukkah, and much, much more.

High Holidays Core Team members **Sacha Reich, Bija Gutoff, Carolina Martinez** and the stellar “Expanded Team” including representatives from across Havurah’s leadership clusters: **Susan Abrams, Michael Anderson-Nathe, Alison Asarnow, Joel Bettridge, Michelle Bobowick, Wendy Castineira, David Dropkin, David Kertzner, Ericka Kimball, Elianne Lieberman, Jennifer Litwin, Gloria Halper, Stefanie Hausman, Jana Hopfinger, Julia Lager-Mesulam, and Tivona Reith.**

**Sacha Reich** for her devotion and superpowers in once again bringing us into these spiritually potent High Holidays.

**Rachel Pollak** for holding a million details with aplomb and making all the machinery underneath run smoothly.

**Bija Gutoff** for her creativity and care in nurturing High Holidays communications.

**Ericka Kimball** for shepherding and improving our survey process.

**Miriam Reshotko, Ericka Kimball, and Betsy Tighe Fogelman** for leading our sweet Tashlich.

**Steven Mesulam and Rachael Duke** for musically uplifting the Wee Jews on Rosh Hashana.

**Alicia Jo Rabins and Hannah Treuhaft** for creating and leading the Rosh Hashana Family Service.

**Tara Anderson** for cheerfully stepping into every last-minute task as well as making sure we can find

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## Continued: Gratitude

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information we need.

**Volunteers** who brought delicious food for the **Second Day Rosh Hashanah potluck** at Havurah, nourishing a grateful congregation, and everyone who helped plate, set up and run the potluck.

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And, as always, to the many members who took on the many, many tasks not mentioned here – *thank you!!* We value your contribution and participation, however that might look. Each of you is valuable, unique, and necessary.

If you have a gratitude you would like shared in Hakol, please reach out to me (Loree Devery) directly. My email is in the Havurah Directory.

