

Hadracha (Governance) is responsible for steering Havurah Shalom and ensuring that our decision-making processes are in line with our values and mission. Hadracha empowers and supports staff and committees and models collaborative governance that strives to operate with equity, transparency, and inclusivity. The Hadracha cluster supports sustainability throughout Havurah and endeavors to be future-looking as we lead and guide our community forward. The committees and cohorts within Hadracha include Steering, Finance, Fundraising, Transparency & Inclusivity, Personnel, Nominating, Geshet, Leadership Development, Anti-Racism & Belonging, and Cemetery. Hadracha also includes the Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and Recording Secretary positions and the Jewish Community Relations Council Representative.

Hadracha



The Havurah Racial Justice Committee acts as an umbrella encompassing two scopes of work. First, individual education/reckoning, where we educate ourselves through readings, webinars, and conversations about race and white supremacy. Second, social justice organizing, in which we work on specific issues related to social justice, which can include working with outside organizations already doing similar work. While we center racial justice in all areas of our work at Havurah, the Racial Justice Committee strives to explore, deepen, and promote these efforts in our congregation.

Poverty & Homelessness

Poverty and homelessness continue to be major issues in Portland. We believe it is vital that Havurah continue to educate our community and be an active advocate in the ongoing goal to reduce the hardships, isolation, loneliness, and violence experienced by those who face unaffordable housing, wage inequity, racial/sexual discrimination, and mental and physical disabilities. The Poverty & Homelessness Committee supports the work of many nonprofit

Havurah Shalom is a MACG member organization. MACG does broad-based organizing for issues that impact the larger community. To be effective as community organizers, MACG offers leadership and organizer training to its member organizations. Havurah's MACG Core Team is the primary interface between Havurah and the other 25 MACG member organizations. Current MACG action teams include health equity, climate change/environmental justice, and partnering with our local indigenous community on issues affecting them. This committee acts as an umbrella encompassing two scopes of work. First, individual education/reckoning, where we educate ourselves through readings, webinars, and conversations about race and white supremacy. Second, social justice organizing, in which we work on specific issues related to social justice, which can include working with outside organizations already doing similar work. While we center racial justice in all areas of our work at Havurah, the Racial Justice Committee strives to explore, deepen, and promote these efforts in our congregation.

Committees

Our Tikkun Olam (Social Action) work seeks to be a force for healing in the world by focusing, organizing, and engaging the Havurah community in social justice work that positively impacts our community and the communities we work with.

Tikkun Olam



Alter Rockers
We are a group of retirees (and non-retirees!), who want to socialize and have fun. We meet for movies, museum trips, happy hour, trivia nights, and more.

Mah Jongg
Longtime players and beginners meet for mah jongg games.

Reconstructing Judaism
The Reconstructing Judaism liaison for resources of RJ to Havurah and representing Havurah's needs and opinions at RJ plenums.

History
We preserve historical documents and artifacts of our community to share our collective memory and experience.

Families with Young Children
We support programs for families with young children, such as Tot Shabbat and Shabbat in the Pool.

Neighborhoods
We develop networks to link Havurah members for intergenerational neighborhood gatherings for Tashlich, Chanukah, Shabbat dinners, seeders and more.

Welcome Committee
We provide a warm welcome to new and prospective members. We host welcome teas, call new members, and inspire all Havurah members to be intentionally welcoming.

Kabbalat Shabbat Dinners
We organize congregational Kabbalat Shabbat dinners to bring people together.

Committees

Our Kehillah (Community) goal is to infuse our community with welcoming, relationship building, and generosity across generations and among new and longtime members.

Kehillah



Teshuvah: Returning

תשובה

Teshuvah—repentance, though literally return—is the core practice of our most sacred season. It is also a foundational practice of our lives. The gates of teshuvah, say the sages, are always open. We can always choose to turn toward learning and growth, toward acknowledging harm, making amends, and holding each other lovingly accountable. We return seasonally, daily, hourly.

Teshuvah means discovering our most essential and generous selves, remembering our deepest aspirations, and coming back to one another in new ways. As we return to community in person, each of us at our own pace, we can embrace this moment as one of genuine teshuvah.

We return to what is, not what was. How will we move forward toward our next incarnation—as individuals, as communities, and as a society? What must we bring with us, and what do we need to leave behind?

Reconstructionist Community 5783 | 2022-2023 Program

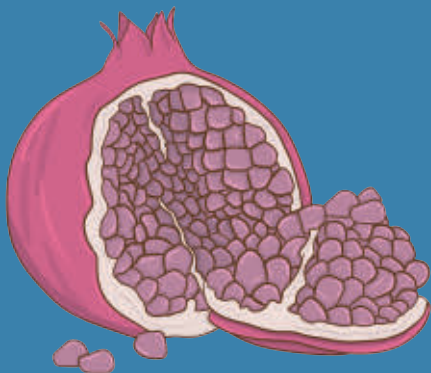
Steering Committee
Loree Devery & Oren Kosansky, Co-Presidents
David Kertzner, Vice President
Ben Walters, Immediate Past President
Jenni Besen, Treasurer
Katherine McDowell, Corporate Secretary
Anita Haeems, Recording Secretary
Cindy Merrill, Avodah (Spiritual Life) Cluster Lead
Karen Ballard, Kehillah (Community) Cluster Lead
Michelle Bobowick, Limud (Education) Cluster Lead
Bob Brown, Tikkun Olam (Social Action) Cluster Lead
Joel Bettridge, Makom (Place) Cluster Lead

Havurah Staff
Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi
Adela Basayne, Program Director
Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Education Director
Carrie Kirschner, Youth Education & B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator
Rachel Pollak, Office & Facilities Manager



Havurah Shalom
825 NW 18th Ave
Portland, OR 97209
havurahshalom.org
 Find us on Facebook

Additional special events may be scheduled in the future, and dates in this brochure may change, so please check our calendar at havurahshalom.org for updates and to confirm the mode (in person, hybrid, Zoom-only) of any event you plan to attend. Changes in gathering policy will be announced on our website and email communications. To join us online, email info@havurahshalom.org.





Avodah



Our Avodah (Spiritual) work strives to help each community member find their own path to meaning and connection through Jewish practice.

Services & Spiritual Practice

Check online calendar for updates. Childcare is available at our services.

Friday Evenings

Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner & Service

A family-friendly oneg followed by a service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward. All are welcome! 6 pm Oneg, 6:30 Service, 7:30 Dinner, Oct. 14; Nov. 11; Dec. 9; Jan. 13; Feb. 10; Mar. 10; Apr. 14; May 12

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

We will join congregations nationwide in dedicating our Shabbat services to honoring refugees and asylum seekers. 7 pm, Feb. 3

Saturday Mornings for Everyone

Community Minyan

Led by community members and Rabbi Benjamin, this service includes davening, Torah reading, and discussion. 10-12 pm, Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 8, 15; Nov. 19; Dec. 10, 24, 31; Jan. 7, 21, 28; Feb. 11, 25; Mar. 18; Apr. 1, 8; May 20, 27; Jun. 3, 17; Jul. 1, 15, 29; Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26

Contemplative Shabbat

We will chant verses and spend time in silent prayer or meditation, then connect through Torah discussion and share blessings. Led by Rabbi Benjamin. 10-12 pm, Oct. 1; Jan. 7; May 13

Saturday Services Especially for Families

Tot Shabbat

Young children (0-5) and parents celebrate with singing, movement, blessings, and storytelling. 10:30-11:30 am, Sept. 10; Oct. 15; Nov. 19; Jan. 21; Feb. 25; Mar. 18; May 13; Jun. 17

Discovering Shabbat Morning: Learners’ Minyan

This interactive service focuses on the structure, key themes, and prayers of the morning service. Especially for families with youth in Grades 5-7. 10-11:30 am, Nov. 5; Apr. 22

Family Shabbat

Fabulous morning of singing, storytelling, and Torah learning. Especially for families with youth in Grades K-6. 10:30-12 pm, Mar. 11

Wednesday Morning Minyan

For all who want a regular prayer practice and for people saying Kaddish. 8:30-9 am (8:15 start on Rosh Hodesh)

Spiritual Practice

Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

We gather once a week for quiet and spiritual reflection. For folks with all levels of meditation exposure and experience. 12-1 pm, Tuesdays

Lev Tahor Chanting

We gather in community for an evening of contemplative practice, chanting interspersed with silence, guided by teachings from the tradition. Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin. Dates TBA

Weekly Torah Study

An in-depth look at the weekly parsha, led by congregants. 9-10 am, Saturdays

Music & the Music Committee

Havurah’s music is member led, inclusive, and inspiring. Many parts of our liturgies and celebrations are led by members. Havurah has inspired members to compose beautiful works that have become a part of our congregational heartbeat.

The Havurah Shalom Music Committee works with both experienced and aspirational musicians to deepen the musical resonance of our services, and to develop special music events, artist-in-residence programs, and other opportunities to explore how music can inform and enrich everyone’s communal and personal Jewish life.

Lifecycles

B’nei Mitzvah Family Programs

Families will be told in advance which workshops they should attend.

B’nei Mitzvah Cohort

Youths being called to the Torah this year will build community and ask, “What does being Jewish and becoming bar, bat, or b’nei mitzvah mean to me?” Led by Rabbi Benjamin. 6:45-8 pm, Wednesdays, Oct. 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9

B’nei Mitzvah Planning Logistics

A walk through the B’nei Mitzvah Handbook with Carrie Kirschner, Havurah’s Madricha, or Youth Education & B’nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator. 7 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 pm

B’nei Mitzvah: Beginning the Journey/Date Selection

This workshop for parents will focus on the rite of passage itself and the date-selection process. Led by Rabbi Benjamin, Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, and the B’nei Mitzvah Committee. 10-12 pm, Sunday, Feb. 26

Drash & Service Workshop

Rabbi Benjamin will guide students and parents in responding to the text with their own questions and walk through the Shabbat morning service. 7 pm, Thursday, Jun. 1

Whose B’nei Mitzvah Is It Anyway?

Parents explore the hopes and fears that inspire, inform, and complicate the planning process. Led by Deborah Eisenbach-Budner and Laura Orgel, psychologist and child/family therapist. 3:10 pm, Saturday, Apr. 29

B’nei Mitzvah Event Planning 101

We will break the event planning process into

manageable steps. Led by Chari Smith. 7-8:30 pm, Thursday, May 4

Healing, End of Life

High Holidays Cemetery Gathering

We gather to remember our loved ones, led in song and remembrance. Havurah Cemetery, 5656 SW Humphrey Blvd. 1 pm, Sunday, Oct. 2

Monthly Educational Series: “The Journey to Die For: Improving the Quality of Your Life”

The Ma’avar Committee will conduct an educational series about the different stages of life, from health to illness, aging, and end of life. 7 pm, Nov. 17; Dec. 15; Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Mar. 16; Apr. 20; May 18; Jun. 15; Jul. 20

Annual Cemetery Beautification Day

To beautify our cemetery, please bring garden implements and wear appropriate clothing. 2 pm, Sunday, May 21

Refa’einu (Heal Us) Healing Circles

These circles provide sacred space and time to focus on healing and wholeness through contemplative teachings, chant, guided and silent meditations, and prayer. Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin and others. Dates TBA

Bereavement Support

The Ma’avar Committee will provide a professionally led bereavement support group for members. Dates TBA

Drop-in Grief Support Groups

The Bikkur Holim and Ma’avar committees support Havurah Shalom members grieving a death. Dates TBA



Limud



Our Limud (Learning) goal is to inspire and empower members of all ages through engagement with Torah while building community through Jewish learning.

Youth Education

This program gives children a foundation for lifelong Jewish learning and engagement while integrating parents and children in a caring Jewish community.

Shabbat School (Grades K-6)

3-5:15 pm on Saturdays; Oct. 8, 15; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 10; Jan. 7, 21, 28; Feb. 11, 25; Mar. 4; Apr. 8, 15, 29; May 13

Middle School (Grades 7-8)

6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays; Oct. 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30; Dec. 7, 14; Jan 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1

High School (Grades 9-12)

Oct. 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30; Dec. 7, 14; Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22

Adult Learning

Book Group

The Havurah Book Group is a venue for discussion of complex, controversial issues. We encourage members to engage one another through sharing ideas and knowledge. Books chosen by the group are discussed in monthly meetings. Members come to discussions that interest them. 7 pm, Tuesdays, Sept. 20; Oct. 25; Nov. 22; Dec. 27; Jan. 24; Feb. 28; Mar. 28; Apr. 25; May 23; Jun. 27; Jul. 25

Creative Writing Sessions

Writing prompts and short writing sessions will get your creative juices flowing in this non-judgmental environment open to writers and non-writers alike. Participants can (optionally) develop a piece from the workshop and share it at a reading at the end of the session. Led by Yuvi Zalkow. 7 pm, Thursdays, Sept. 29; Oct. 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8, 15

Intermediate Hebrew

Practice Hebrew and learn new vocabulary by listening to Israeli songs and watching video clips. We will discuss lyrics, make connections to different topics, and practice using the new vocabulary through games and conversations. Led by Racheli Ross. 7 pm, Thursdays, Oct. 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8

Defining Jewish Identity: Communal Responses to Interfaith Marriage & Families

Starting with biblical texts and finishing with contemporary responsa from a variety of Jewish movements, we will explore how Jewish communities have defined Jewish identity and the boundaries of who is a Jew in response to interfaith families. Led by Sarah Liebman. 8 pm, Thursdays, Oct. 27; Nov. 3, 10

What is Reconstructionism?

A three-part series on the history, beliefs, and practices of the Reconstructing Judaism movement with which Havurah Shalom is affiliated. Led by Rabbi Maurice Harris, Associate Director for Thriving Communities and Israel Affairs Specialist at Reconstructing Judaism. 5 pm, Wednesdays, Oct. 26; Nov. 2, 9

Art of the Hamsa

We will study the history and meaning of the hamsa symbol and its part in Jewish life and culture. Then we will design a piece for our homes from clay, mixed media, drawing, painting, or fabric. Led by Carolina Martinez. 3:30 pm, Sunday, Nov. 6

Music of Jews of the Middle East and North Africa

A m \ddot{a} qam is an Arabic and Ottoman Turkish musical mode used in Mizrahi and Sephardic Jewish communities. We will learn historical background, hear it live on the oud, and even sing and play it together on instruments. Led by Channing Dodson. 2 pm, Sundays, Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13

Voices and Visions

Let’s explore Jewish identity and philosophy through contemporary art! The Grinspoon Foundation (of PJ Library fame) asked contemporary artists to visually interpret key quotations from great Jewish thinkers. The results are rich and thought-provoking. Led by Sarah Liebman. 11 am, Sunday, Dec. 4

Tallit Class

We will learn how the tzitzit, or fringe, of a tallit transforms a simple cloth into a sacred garment. And then you will create your own tallit by tying the tzitzit, learning the meaning of the gematria wound and knotted into the holy fringe. Led by Laine Barbanell Schipper. 1 pm, Sundays, Dec. 4, 18

Design Your Own Chanukah Card!

Create beautiful Chanukah cards to give to friends and loved ones! We will look at various Chanukah symbols to discern what we want to adorn our cards with and use colored pencils to illustrate them. Led by Carolina Martinez. 3:30 pm, Sunday, Dec. 11

Palestinian Voices

A selection of Palestinian voices in their own terms—unmediated by Western or Israeli media or organizations with a political agenda—using a selection of films, poetry, prose, and music (and depending on Covid conditions, food). Led by Joel Beinín. 7 pm, Wednesdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; Mar. 1

Seeking God’s Face: An Overview of Mystical Judaism

Delve into the history of Jewish mysticism, sample ancient Kabbalistic texts and contemporary mystical writings, become acquainted with Hasidic rebbes and their enduring stories, and explore selected mystical concepts and practices. Led by Tivona Reith. 7 pm, Mondays, Jan. 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13

Learn Trope

This beautiful, ancient system is a treat to learn and inspiring to sing. Learn everything you need to become a proud leyner (Torah chanter). Led by Ken Lerner. 7 pm, Thursdays, Feb. 16, 23; Mar. 2, 9, 16

Finding Your Way In to Jewish Ritual and Practice

We will be riffing on tradition with the freedom that comes with Reconstructing Judaism. Sam Sirkin will share his approach to making Jewish practice accessible while allowing participants to share their experiences. We will also reflect on a few pieces by thinkers such as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Art Green. Led by Sam Sirkin. 7 pm, Mondays, Apr. 10, 17, 24

Knitting Kippot Class

Learn to make a kippah like the ones the b’nei mitzvah class is wearing! This class is for knitters who have intermediate knitting skills and a desire to get to know other knitters in the community. Led by Marsha Green. 10 am, Sundays, Apr. 16, 23, 30

Conversational Hebrew Through Song

Join us in learning beginner-level Hebrew through children’s and other simple songs. In class, we will practice the new vocabulary in games and conversations, and at home you’ll listen to a premade playlist to help you learn the words while singing along. Led by Racheli Ross. 7 pm, Thursdays, Apr. 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18

Grappling with White Nationalism as Jews

Through readings, writing prompts and discussion, this class will explore and help us grapple with where Jews fit, as individuals and as a community, on the minority/majority and oppressed/privileged continuums. Please bring your openness to new ideas and your capacity to engage in experiential learning. Dates TBA

Reparations: An Opportunity to Learn, Discuss, and Act

Offered by the Havurah Racial Justice Committee, this 5-session class will help us gain a more accurate historical narrative about intentional government policies that led to the wealth gap, the lack of equity in housing and education, and the over-representation of people of color in the criminal legal systems. Jewish values and texts will be integrated throughout. 5 sessions in the spring, dates TBA. For more information, contact TikkunOlam@HavurahShalom.org. 5 sessions in the spring. Dates TBA

Sacred Action: Spiritual Practice for Community and Justice Work

In these cohorts, we engage with Jewish spiritual wisdom and practices that nurture and guide our efforts in community and for a more just and loving world. In trusted community, we explore middot, or “soul traits”—through practice, study, and reflection—and examine how they manifest in our relationships and actions. Cohorts meet for several weeks, with direction for ongoing practice in between sessions, including connection with a learning partner. Contact Rabbi Benjamin if you are interested in participating. Dates TBA



Makom



The Makom (Place) Cluster supports, sustains, and develops a safe and welcoming home for Havurah’s community through the Information Technology, Gardening, Design, Long-Term Space Planning, Kitchen, and Building Maintenance committees. In addition, the Safety Committee promotes safe practices and enhances our community’s knowledge and skills with regard to safety and security through regular trainings for staff and members.