



Havurah: Connecting

חבורה

At the heart of the word Havurah is ḥaver, friend. Its root means connect or join – knots we tie, words we compose, joints anchoring a structure, friendships that sustain us. Aligned with our grassroots origins, through all the ways we each participate today, we are creating a Havurah in which each human strand is valuable, unique, and necessary.

We are re-learning to connect and creating new ways of doing so. And we are re-examining what it means to belong. We treasure the bonds that unite us, recognizing that some need to be strengthened while others need to be loosened as we honor who we each are and who, together, we are becoming.

Havurah Shalom
Reconstructionist Community
5784 | 2023-2024 Program



Holidays



Selihot	<i>Saturday, Sept. 9</i>
Rosh Hashanah	<i>Friday-Sunday, Sept. 15-17</i>
Yom Kippur	<i>Sunday-Monday, Sept. 24-25</i>
Sukkot	<i>Friday-Friday, Sept. 29-Oct. 6</i>
Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)	<i>Saturday, Oct. 7</i>
Simhat Torah Celebration	<i>Saturday, Oct. 7</i>
Chanukah Celebration	<i>Sunday, Dec. 10</i>
Tu B'Shvat	<i>Thursday, Jan. 25</i>
Purim Celebration	<i>Saturday, Mar. 23</i>
Passover	<i>Monday-Tuesday, Apr. 22-30</i>
Passover Minyan (Yizkor)	<i>Tuesday, Apr. 30</i>
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	<i>Tuesday, Jun. 11</i>
Shavuot	<i>Tuesday-Thursday, Jun. 11-13</i>
Shavuot Yizkor	<i>Wednesday, Jun. 12</i>

Steering Committee

David Kertzner & Oren Kosansky, Co-Presidents
Keren McCord, Vice President
Loree Devery, Immediate Past President
Jenni Besen, Treasurer
Katherine McDowell, Corporate Secretary
Anita Haeems, Recording Secretary
Sarah Wetherson, Avodah (Spiritual Life) Cluster Lead
Wendy Castineira, 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
Rachel Pollak, Office & Facilities Manager
Shari Raider, Finance Manager
Tara Anderson, Participation and Publications Coordinator
Carrie Kirschner, Madricha: Youth Education & B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator



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. To join us online, email info@havurahshalom.org.



Kehillah



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

Committees

Families with Young Children

We support programs for families with young children, such as Shabbat in the Pool.

History

Our work is to share Havurah's collective memory, experience, and foundational mission and values, which continue to guide and sustain us, by preserving the historical documents and artifacts of our community.

Lotsa Helping Hands

We provide opportunities for members to support each other during difficult times with rides, meals, and visits.

Kabbalat Shabbat Dinners

We organize congregational Kabbalat Shabbat dinners to bring people together.

Neighborhoods

We develop networks to link Havurah members for intergenerational neighborhood gatherings for Tashlich, Chanukah, Shabbat dinners, seders 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.

Social Groups

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.

Movement

Reconstructing Judaism

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



Hadracha



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. We model 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, Gesher, 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.



Tikkun Olam



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.

Committees

Havurah Climate Action Team (HCAT)

Inspired by Jewish values and wisdom, HCAT promotes taking action on climate through education, events, training, and collaboration with other organizations. Our activism includes the personal and political, what we can do as individuals, and partnering with coalitions working toward climate solutions. We welcome new members to our monthly committee meetings to share ideas and energy and support one another.

Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG)

Havurah Shalom is a member organization of MACG, which does broad-based community organizing, using a relational model, around issues impacting the larger community. MACG Action Teams are focused on health equity, climate change/environmental justice, access to mental health services, and partnering on issues affecting the local indigenous community. MACG regularly offers training for leadership and organizing skills. Havurah's MACG Core Team is the primary interface between Havurah and the other 25 MACG member organizations.

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 organizations that we believe reflect the values held by the Havurah community. We support

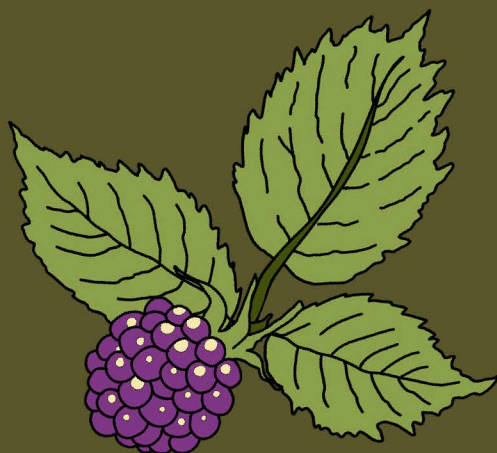
organizations through volunteer time, financial donations, and advocacy work.

Havurah: A Sanctuary Congregation

The Sanctuary Committee engages in advocacy and direct service work in support of immigrants and refugees. Our advocacy work is strengthened by our relationships with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ), the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest (JCIJ-NW), and HIAS. As a community we are walking alongside a Guatemalan family seeking asylum, an Afghan family building a new life in the US, and several Ukrainian refugees escaping war. We invite you to join us as we welcome the stranger.

The Havurah Racial Justice Committee

This committee acts as an umbrella encompassing two scopes of work. First is individual education/reckoning, where we educate ourselves through readings, webinars, and conversations about race and white supremacy. Second is 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.





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 snack followed by a spirited, all-ages service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward for those who have preregistered. All are welcome! 6 pm Snack, 6:30 Service, 7:30 Dinner, Oct. 13; Nov. 10; Dec. 8; Jan. 12; Feb. 9; Mar. 8; Apr. 12; May 10

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

We will join congregations nationwide in dedicating our Shabbat services to honoring refugees and asylum seekers. 7 pm, Feb. 2

Saturday Mornings for Everyone

Shabbat Morning

Led by community members and Rabbi Benjamin, this service includes davening, Torah reading, and discussion. 10-12 pm, Sept. 30; Oct. 7, 14; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 9, 23, 30; Jan. 20; Feb. 3, 24; Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr. 6, 20; May 18; Jun. 1, 15, 15, 29; Jul. 13, 27; Aug. 3, 17

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, Sept. 23; Jan. 6; May 4

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, Oct. 14; Nov. 4; Dec. 9; Jan. 20; Feb. 24; Mar. 30; Apr. 20; Jun. 1

Discovering Shabbat Morning: Learners' Minyan

This upbeat, interactive service focuses on the structure, key themes, and prayers of the morning service. Especially for families with youth in Grades 5-7. 10:30-12 pm, Dec. 2; Mar. 16

Family Shabbat for Shabbat School Families

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

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

Weekly Torah Study

An in-depth look at the weekly parsha, led by congregants. No prior knowledge is required, and all participants are welcome to share their thoughts. 9-10 am, Saturdays

Rosh Hodesh Tov! Gender-Inclusive New Moon Ritual

A gender-inclusive New Moon group, learning and celebrating each Rosh Hodesh with ancient and contemporary ritual. Open to any and all genders, inviting each to connect with our closest heavenly body, the Moon. 7 pm, Oct. 16; Nov. 14; Dec. 13; Jan. 11; Feb. 10; Mar. 11; Apr. 8; May 9; Jun. 6; Jul. 7; Aug. 5; Sept. 4

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 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.

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. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8

B'nei Mitzvah Logistics Workshop

Go over the building logistics for the day of your b'nei mitzvah with Carrie Kirschner, the B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator. 7:30-8:30 pm, Wednesday, Nov. 1

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 Staff and the B'nei Mitzvah Committee. 10-12 pm, Sunday, Feb. 25

B'nei Mitzvah Drash and 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. 6

Whose B'nei Mitzvah Is It Anyway?

Parents explore the hopes and fears that inspire, inform, and complicate the planning process. Led by Adela Basayne. 3:10 pm, Saturday, Apr. 6

B'nei Mitzvah Event Planning 101

We will break the b'nei mitzvah event planning process into manageable steps. Led by Chari Smith. 7-8:30 pm, Thursday, May 2

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., 12 pm, Thursday, Sept. 21

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

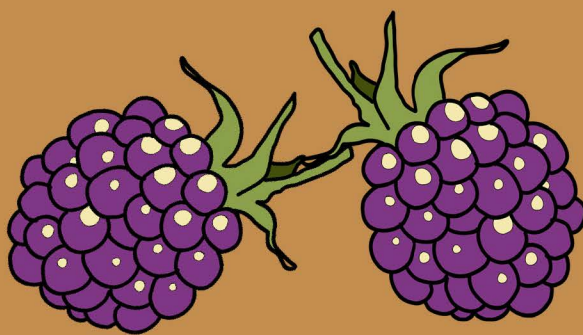
This successful series will continue monthly with panel discussions and presentations that address the transitions we make in life from health to illness, aging, and end of life. Dates TBA

Annual Cemetery Beautification Day

To beautify our cemetery, please bring garden implements and wear appropriate clothing. 1-3 pm, Sunday, May 19

Bereavement Support

The Ma'avar Committee periodically offers a grief process support group for Havurah members.



Makom



The Makom (Place) Cluster supports, sustains, and develops a safe and welcoming home for Havurah's community through the Information Technology, Gardening, Design, Safety and Building Maintenance committees.



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 on Saturdays; Sept. 30; Oct. 14, 28; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 9; Jan. 6, 20; Feb. 3, 10, 24; Mar. 9, 16; Apr. 6, 20; May 4; Summit May 18

Middle School (Grades 7-8)

6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays; Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29; Dec. 6, 13; Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31. Grade 8 will also meet Oct. 11.

High School (Grades 9-12)

6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesdays; Oct. 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29; Dec. 6, 13; Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar. 6, 13, 20

Affinity Groups

Teen Engagement Committee

The Teen Engagement Committee fosters our post b'nei mitzvah youth to participate in monthly activities and meetings. We promote youth involvement in the larger Havurah community by partnering with other groups.

Israel/Palestine Committee

The Israel/Palestine Committee's overriding goal is for Havurah members to engage with the complicated issues of Israel and Palestine and enable open, respectful, and meaningful discussions.

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. 19; Oct. 24; Nov. 28; Dec. 26; Jan. 23; Feb. 27; Mar. 26; Apr. 30; May 28; Jun. 25; Jul. 23

Tuning In to Jewish Texts

We will spend two months tuning in to specific passages from four genres of Jewish texts: TaNaKH (Bible), Rabbinic Literature (Midrash and Talmud), Medieval Commentary (Rashi, ibn Ezra, Nachmanides) and Mystical (Kabbalistic and Hasidic). Led by Rabbi Joey Wolf. 7:30 pm, Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 31; Nov. 21, 28; Dec. 5, 12

Occupation 101

We will explore the military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip through film, lectures, and discussion. We will ask questions about the declared purposes, political and legal foundations, impact, and future of the Occupation. Led by Joel Bein. 7 pm, Mondays, Oct. 16, 23, 30; Nov. 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11

The Naked Room: A Synthesis of the Life of a Poet and Psychotherapist with Discussant Frances Payne Adler

Willa Schneberg's new poetry collection, *The Naked Room*, illuminates today's mental health crisis using poems of the unconscious, the dreamscape, the despondent, the unmoored and the mortal. Reading followed by Q&A. With Willa Schneberg and Fran Payne Adler. 7 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 7

What Chappened to Chanukah?

We'll look into the contentious historical roots of Chanukah—religious pluralism, fanaticism, nationalism, spiritual renewal, cultural and gastronomical adaptation to name a few!—and how the holiday evolved over time, in different communities. We'll explore how we can interpret Chanukah in rituals and meanings that speak to us today. Led by Deborah Eisenbach-Budner. 12:30 pm, Wednesdays, Nov. 8, 15, 29

Workshop: Discussing and Writing Poems of Strong Emotional States

We will read and discuss poems by masters who have written about strong emotional states, such as Sexton, Lowell, Bloch, Hirsch and Gay. We will write first drafts of our own and share what we have written or discuss our process. Led by Willa Schneberg. 7 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 14

Sacred Music of Moroccan Jews

Through lecture and song, Neveh Shalom's Cantor Eyal Bitton will examine elements of Moroccan sacred music—synagogue song, cantillation of sacred texts, the piyyut (liturgical poetry), and life cycle songs—bringing to life the rich religious and musical culture of Morocco's Jews. 7 pm, Tuesday, Dec. 5

Right Where I Am: Writing for Everyone

Welcome to all writers, new and experienced, looking to explore this time in your lives. Limit eight participants. Led by Bija Guttoff. 3 pm, Sundays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

Making Loss Matter

Rabbi David Wolpe's "Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times" explores loss of home, dreams, self, love, faith, and life. Our class sessions will explore each from a variety of traditional and contemporary Jewish sources and other practices. Led by Tivona Reith. 7 pm, Mondays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12

Letter by Letter: Using the Alef-Bet for Self-Knowledge

Dive deep into Hebrew letters to illuminate new channels of understanding Time, Space, Body/Soul and more. Hebrew knowledge not required; bring curiosity and an open heart. Led by Andrine de la Rocha. 7 pm, Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6

Ceramic Seder Plate Workshop

We will learn new and traditional elements of the seder plate from around the world, then design and hand-build our own using elements meaningful to you and your family. Led by Anna Mafchir. 6:30 pm, Thursdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

Leading Saturday Services

Come to sing; learn to lead! Ken Lerner will teach the Shabbat morning music of the Birchot HaShachar (morning blessings) and P'sukei D'zimra (verses of praise). Hebrew reading is helpful but not essential. 7 pm, Tuesdays, Feb. 20, 27; Mar. 5, 12

Purim Play Time!

Ever wanted to stage a Purim play? Actors, writers, artists, and musicians, no matter what your age or experience, this is your chance to show off your talents, create a captivating theater experience for your community, and have fun! Led by Karen Polinsky. 7 pm, Mondays, Feb. 26; Mar. 4, 11, 18

Experience the Omer: Making it Count!

The Omer is an ancient tradition marking time between the Exodus from the Narrow Place to the Expanse at Sinai. Explore tools and practices to facilitate your own learning and experience from Liberation to Revelation. We will have an intro class followed by half-hour check-ins, one for each Sefira. Led by Andrine de la Rocha. 7 pm, Tuesdays, Apr. 9 (Intro), 23 (Chesed), 30 (Gevurah); May 7 (Tiferet), 14 (Netzach), 21 (Hod), 28 (Yesod); Jun. 4 (Malchut)

Kabbalah and Hasidism Through the Life of Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

Using Buber's "The Tales of Rabbi Nachman," we will look at the life of Rabbi Nachman, his teachings, and his profound stories. The class will involve some meditation and journaling to help us reflect. Led by Harriet Cooke. 7 pm, Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23

Upcoming Spring Class

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett will teach a class Wednesdays starting February 2024. Keep an eye on our weekly Hineinu and monthly Hakol newsletters for announcements.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah

Interested in expanding your Jewish literacy skills, confidence, and sense of connection with Judaism? Want to enjoy this process with others and celebrate your Jewish learning in our community? Join a group of adults who will begin a 2.5-year learning adventure this winter. Contact Deborah Eisenbach-Budner by mid-October.