



Peterborough Havurah Newsletter



Issue No 17
20 May 2009 / 26 Iyyar 5769

Steering Committee: John Halper, Allen Hollander, Daniella Yitzchak,
Maude Salinger, David Levene
Spiritual: Allen Hollander, Nancy Harowitz
Tikkun Olam: Grisel Levene, David Levene, Liz Halper
Finance: Liz Halper, Jeffrey Crocker

Newsletter Editor and Web Master: John Halper jhal@jdassoc.com

Web Site: www.peterboroughhavurah.org

Recent Events:

- **Friday, January 9th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat at the Hollander's.**

Many members were out of town or otherwise committed that evening so we had a very small group for the Erev Shabbat (Allen Hollander was the leader and John Halper was the congregation). We recited some prayers and talked about whatever came to mind. It was a pleasant evening; just ask everyone who was there.

- **Saturday, January 24th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering at the Halper's - PBS Film: "anti-Semitism in the 21st Century".**

The Havurah met on Saturday, January 24th at the Halper's in Greenfield to view and discuss the PBS program: "anti-Semitism in the 21st Century". The PBS program was very well done and the topic was timely. It delves in part, into the genesis of anti-Semitism in the Muslim world and lends some insight into the minds of today's Palestinians. It's a subject we can't turn our backs on.

The large group that night watched the PBS film and we had a lengthy discussion on the subject of anti-Semitism, how it shows its ugly head in New Hampshire and what's being done to counter it here.

- **Friday, February 13th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat**

The Erev Shabbat scheduled for the Moon / Yitzchak's on February 13th was postponed due to the birth of their son three days earlier...ok, we'll let you get away with it this time. See the article about Negev Levi Moon in the "Other News about Our Members" section.

- **Saturday, February 28th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering at the Bieber's - Jeff Fladen's presentation on the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.**

The Havurah gathered at the home of Paul and Elaine Bieber in Fitzwilliam on February 28th to enjoy a pot luck dinner, Havdalah and listen to Jeff Fladen, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire give an informative presentation on what the Federation is all about. 'Thanks' to Jeff and the Bieber's.



Rabbi Sarah, Paul Bieber and Jeff Fladen



Rabbi Sarah leading Havdalah



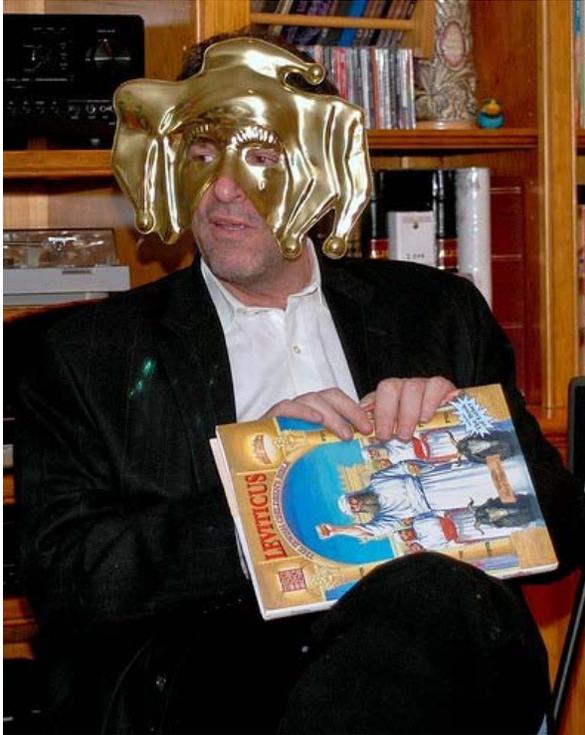
Liz Halper holding the Havdalah candle



Jeff Fladen, Executive Director, JFNH

- **Saturday, March 14th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering at the Levene's - Purim Party**

The Havurah's annual Purim party was held at the Levene's on March 14th. It was our usual raucous event; to wit these photos:



...so Allen put on his mask to begin reading the Megillah and then he had to...



...assure Negev that he (Allen) doesn't always look like that.



...see what a pretty, smiling face can do.



...ahh, the 'party' side of Grisel



darn, I wanted the red kippah!



Rob is reading the part where Ahasuerus orders all "beautiful young girls to be presented to him"

• **Saturday, April 11th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Seder at the Nubanusit Neighborhood Common House.**

We had our third annual Peterborough Havurah Seder on April 11th at the Nubanusit Neighborhood Common House in Peterborough. 'Thanks' to Carol Kraus for arranging to have it there and to those who volunteered many hours of their time making the Seder a big success again:

- Liz Halper - Liz coordinated the Seder, picked up food at the Butcherie in Brookline, MA and helped with the setup among other tasks. Thanks for pulling it all together Liz.
- Allen Hollander - Allen led the Seder with his combination of spirituality, story-telling and just plain fun we've all come to love.
- Elaine Bieber - Elaine was the Chief Matzo Ball Soup Maker (Elaine, it was fantastic), helped with the setup and purchased the paper goods.
- Maude Salinger - Maude made a wonderful brisket and helped with the setup.
- Grisel Levene - Grisel made a great chicken and helped with the setup.
- David Levene - David's mom made a brisket and David helped with the setup.

Thanks guys...without all your efforts the Seder could not have been a success...and thanks to everyone else who brought such wonderful food.

This was our largest Seder to date...over thirty members and guests came to enjoy the evening and enjoy they did! In addition to the traditional Seder elements that we all love, we were treated to the first ever Passover Rap written by Rob Fox's mom and aptly performed by Rapper Rob himself. Also not to be missed was the first-ever Peterborough Havurah Dayenu Conga-line.

Back by popular demand was the Annual Seder Play, this year starring:

Rob Fox	Narrator
Allen Hollander	Announcer
Jane Wisan	Hebrew 1
Paul Bieber	Hebrew 2
Jacob Hollander	Pharaoh
David Baum	Minister
Liz Halper	Slave
Maude Salinger	Princess
Sy Lilienfeld	Moses
Nancy Harrowitz and August Watters	God
Tzofi Klinghoffer	Aaron

The Seder went late into the evening and we lost count of the wine glasses. Thanks to David Levene for helping with the picture-taking.



Allen leads us through the Haggadah



...performing our parts in the play



Liz played the 'slave' (no comment)



...and here's Moses



Negev's first Havurah Seder



the tables looked great!



Another first...the Peterborough Havurah Dayenu conga-line



"You hit that gong one more time and..."



who could forget Rapper Rob!

The Monadnock Ledger-Transcript covered our Seder and included some photos in the paper...more great exposure for the Havurah.

- **Friday, May 8th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat at the Hollander's - Ayelet Binstock's presentation on Israel.**

We had a special Erev Shabbat on May 8th at the Hollander's in Peterborough. Allen led the service and gave an interesting D'var Torah after which Ayelet Binstock, an Israeli sabra, gave a talk on living in Israel and her experiences in the U.S. this year. Ayelet is the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's shlichah (emissary) from Israel this year.

It was interesting and eye-opening to hear Ayelet's views on the secular and religious sides of Israel and how her year in the U.S. has changed her. She had considered herself more of a secular person, but the year here has actually made her more religious. Thanks to Allen and Ayelet for a very interesting evening and to Nancy for bringing the 'turtle Challah'



Ayelet and Allen



the 'turtle' Challah



Ayelet answers questions about life in Israel and her year here in the U.S.



part of the group that evening listening to Ayelet's presentation

Upcoming Events:

- **Saturday, May 23rd, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering at the Halper's - August Watters will lead a discussion on "The History of Jewish Music".**
- **Friday, June 12th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat at the Lilienfeld's - Daniella Yitzchak will lead, Carol Kraus will do the D'var Torah.**
- **Saturday, June 27th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering at the Crocker's - Rabbi Beth Davidson of Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester will lead a discussion on "The Talmud...What is it, Why Study it?"**
- **Friday, July 10th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat at the Hollander's.**
- **Saturday, July 25th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering (host TBA) - Harriet Robbins daughter Rabbi Debbie Robbins will lead the Havdalah service and tell us about her congregation in Texas. Zach Levene will present a slide show of his recent Taglit trip to Israel.**
- **Friday, August 14th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat at the Seidman / Robbins (leader TBA).**
- **Saturday, August 22nd, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering (host TBA) - Joe Steinfield, a Boston attorney and columnist for the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, will lead a discussion on "Growing Up Jewish In New Hampshire".**
- **Saturday, September 12th, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering (host and topic TBA)**
- **Saturday, October 3rd, 2:00 PM - Havurah Succot Celebration at the Halper's.**
- **Friday, November 13th, 7:00 PM - Erev Shabbat (host and leader TBA).**
- **Saturday, November 21st, 6:00 PM - Havurah Gathering (host TBA) - Rabbi Sarah Rubin of Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene will lead a discussion (topic TBA).**
- **Saturday, December 19th, 6:00 PM - Havurah's Chanukah Party.**

Other News about Our Members:

- **Brit Milah at the Moon/Yitzchak's.**

James Moon and Daniella Yitzchak announced the birth of their son, Negev Levi Moon, born on February 10th at 9:40 AM. Negev came into the world at 7 lbs and very happy to be in the company of two wonderful parents. A Brit Milah ceremony was held at the Moon / Yitzchak's on Tuesday February 17th. Havurah member, Dr. Jeffrey Boxer was the Mohel and Rabbi Micah, formerly of Congregation Ahavas Achim, officiated. James and Daniella asked a number of family members and friends to do some readings and Rachel Halper played

“Morning Has Broken” on the flute. Mazel Tov to James and Daniella...we are very excited for you. Here are some photos from the event (sensitive parts excluded).



- **Graduations**

Mazel Tov to our high school and college grads! Best of luck in your future endeavors.

- Ben Waters - George Mason University, Magna Cum Laude (B.A. Global Affairs) - Ben will be attending the University of Pennsylvania Law School in the fall.
- Rachel Halper - ConVal High School - Rachel will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall as an art major.
- Jeffrey Halper - Springfield College (B.A. Emergency Medical Systems management) - Jeffrey has a full-time position with American Medical Response in Springfield, MA as a Paramedic.
- Rachel Moore - ConVal High School - Rachel will be attending Dean College in Franklin, MA in the fall as a dance major.
- Emily Moore - University of Rhode Island, Summa Cum Laude (B.A. Art History & Classics) - Emily will be attending graduate school at Brwn Mawr in the fall studying for a PhD in Archeology.

- **August Watters Conducts a Sightsinging Course at the Mariposa Museum**

August Watters, Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music, is leading the Mariposa Museum's Sightsinging class that began on May 12th. This series of weekly sightsinging workshops is designed to help singers mentally hear written music. Singers with fluent sightsinging skills are better able to envision the sounds of written music, relying less on memorization and singing with greater accuracy and confidence.

- **Some 'Art News Tidbits' from Jane Kronheim**

Jane was asked by the Harris Center to design awards for the Junior Solar Sprint which is based on the use of recycled materials, taking place May 27th at Adams Playground in Peterborough. Jane is creating what she calls the "Golden Hubcap Awards" in 7 categories. Come to the Junior Solar sprint and see how clever these kids can be with their use of recycled materials and solar energy!

Also, Jane currently has a folk art exhibit of 11 pieces at Sabra Restaurant on Union Street across from the Green Line in Newton Center, Mass. The show will be up thru June or beyond! Tell your friends in Mass. to enjoy the Israeli-Lebanese cuisine and see Jane's art. All pieces are for sale! Just ask Ellie Serafim, the proprietor!

- **Zach Levene in Israel on Birthright Trip**

Zach Levene is currently in Israel on a birthright trip and will give a slide presentation of his trip at the Havurah Gathering on July 25th. We're looking forward to it Zach.

- **Nancy Harrowitz Presented a Lecture at the Casa Italiana in New York City**

Nancy Harrowitz presented a lecture at the Casa Italiana, an Italian cultural society in New York City on April 22nd. The title of the lecture was "Remembering in Order to Forget: Giorgio Bassani's A Plaque in Via Mazzini". It was about Holocaust commemoration in a short story of Bassani's and his theory that monuments can do the remembering for us, so that we can put up the monument in order to forget the painful past. Nancy's lecture was mentioned in the 4/27 edition of the New Yorker magazine. She is a professor at Boston University and teaches Italian Literature and Holocaust Studies.

- **Liz and Rachel Halper had Roles in ConVal High School's Musical Production**

Two Havurah members again played important roles in ConVal High School's spring musical production. This year it was the musical comedy "Once Upon A Mattress". Rachel Halper was a member of the cast and previously had a starring role in ConVal's 2006 performance of "Working" and had roles in the 2007 production of "Rank" and last year's performance of "Bye Bye Birdie". Liz Halper was the co-director of the show again this year and has been instrumental in the success of ConVal's productions for the past few years.

- **‘Get Well Soon’ to Carole Allen**

Carole was hospitalized at Monadnock Community Hospital and at Brigham & Women's Hospital for a few days in March because of a MRSA (antibiotic resistant infection) that resulted from chemotherapy treatments. Her chemo treatments have been stopped until that has cleared up and it appears as though her cancer may be stable at the moment. Carole is currently taking a hiatus from her work at the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript. Our best wishes to Carole for a complete recovery.

- **Rachel Halper’s C-Span Award-Winning Documentary**

Rachel Halper helped produce a nationally acclaimed documentary (ok, that's an exaggeration), starring our own Florence Goldman (that's not an exaggeration).

Rachel and two of her ConVal High School classmates produced a short documentary for one of their classes last semester and then entered it in C-Span's "StudentCam" contest. Florence Goldman was one of the local residents interviewed on-camera and the production was chosen as one of the 75 winners from more than 1000 entries. It's about 7 minutes long and you can see it at www.studentcam.org. Click on "StudentCam 2009 Winners" near the upper-left portion of the home page. Then navigate down to the "Honorable Mention Winners" and find the 'High School' section. Rachel's video is entitled "Fuel: The Solution is Here Today". It's in the second row below the 'High School' heading.

- **John Halper Nominated by the Havurah to Receive the Shem Tov Award**

John Halper has been nominated by the Havurah to receive the Shem Tov Award at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire’s Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7th.

- **Rick Sirvint and Roberta Gordenstein Announce the Birth of their Grandson**

Rick Sirvint and Roberta Gordenstein announced the birth of their new grandson, Andrew William, born on Feb. 26 to their daughter and son-in-law, Shelley and Jon Casciano, in Little Rock. Mazel Tov to Rick and Roberta!!

- **Matt Levene’s Apparel Company**

David and Grisel Levene’s son Matt is the co-founder and President of a new Internet-based apparel company “DirtyNastyApparel”. Matt’s web site says: “Dirty Nasty Apparel is a next generation clothing line, which blends quality design and innovation. Each product is created on the merging principles of function, comfort, and style. Our apparel is built to a high quality standard, with the finest materials and design techniques. The brand represents not only a product, but also a devotion to our global community and its improvement.” The web site is located at <http://dirtynastyapparel.com>.

Hey Matt...when are you finding time for your school work?

Steering Committee:

The Havurah's Steering committee met on April 27, 2009 and following is a summary of what was discussed.

- Member mailing list has been sent out. (No further action required).
- The calendar for the remainder of 2009 was discussed (see the "Upcoming Events" section in this newsletter). Assignments were given out to various members of the Steering Committee to contact potential guest speakers.
- Requirements for JFNH's "Shem Tov" award were reviewed and it was decided to poll the Havurah for nominations. David Levene agreed to compile the results.
- Continue our outreach efforts through listings in the local media, Chambers of Commerce, local events, local media coverage of our events (e.g. the Ledger-Transcript's recent coverage of Passover), Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and Ahavas Achim's Bulletin. Maude will follow-up with the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce. John will follow-up with Jeff Crocker regarding the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce. David Levene will contact the Ledger to see if they'll run an article about the Havurah in general (it's history, goals, etc.). Maude will follow-up with the Mariposa Museum.
- Provide resources for support in times of life transitions. We added 'Jewish Education' to the list. Grisel Levene offered to put the list of resources together and Daniella Yitzchak offered to work with her on it. David Levene has already furnished a list of Mohelim. Daniella has experience with ritual support in times of death; it was also noted that Wendy Boxer has similar experience.
- Potential Havurah trip to Israel in 2010. John Halper will contact his sister-in-law who sets up trips to Israel and is the person who setup JFNH's recent trip to Israel. It was noted that the trip should not be setup during school breaks or during the period when birth-right trips are scheduled.
- Possible participation in the National Havurah Committee Summer Institute (send a representative and/or get our name on the t-shirts again?). John will get the full brochure and let the Steering Committee know the costs.
- Grisel Levene indicated that she would like to turn over the Tikkun Olam Chairpersonship and give someone else a chance to lead the committee.

Any Havurah member is invited to attend Steering Committee meetings. Contact John Halper for the location of the next meeting.

Tikkun Olam:

- **Meal Deliveries:**

Our Tikkun Olam Committee coordinated meal deliveries to the Moon / Yitzchak's in March to give them a break from meal preparation while they're tending to their new-born.

- **Food Bank:**

Here's the latest list of items from Grisel Levene that have been requested by the Peterborough Food Bank. Please remember to bring items from the list to our Havurah gatherings for donation to the food bank in the Havurah's name. You can also get in touch with Grisel at grisel@worldpath.net.

Peanut Butter
Jam / Jelly
Kidney Beans
Cream of Chicken Soup
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Tomato Soup
Jello Gelatin
Bath Soap

- **Thanks for your Support**

The Conval School District social work group had identified an elementary school female child in need of a number of items. Havurah members stepped up to the plate and provided all these items: winter boots, snow pants, winter coat, pants, shirts, underwear and socks.

- **Tzedakah Box**

We have a Tzedakah box at our Havurah gatherings. Be sure to put a donation in it if you can. The Tikkun Olam committee will give us some additional suggestions as to possible recipient organizations for our donations.

Life Transitions Resources

The Havurah is proposing to provide resources and ritual support for its members and the Monadnock Jewish Community in general when life transitions occur. Some of these events could include:

- Births
- Deaths
- Bris
- Yahrzeit
- Bar / Bat Mitzvahs
- Jewish Education
- ...and other Jewish needs and issues

We will need volunteers to:

- Research where the resources can be obtained.
 - Compile a list of rabbi's in Southern New Hampshire and nearby Massachusetts that would provide support for the specific life transition. This would include details on what each one could provide, when and where they can be reached, etc.
 - Compile a list of publications, professionals and organizations relevant to the specific life transition.
- Provide the resource yourself if possible.
- Become educated in at least providing immediate support (what steps to take) when an event occurs if you're not in a position to provide continuing support yourself.

For example, David Levene, an ob/gyn at Monadnock General Hospital, has volunteered to create and maintain a list of certified Mohels who can perform a Brit Milah.

If you would like to volunteer to provide a resource yourself or do some research on where a specific resource can be obtained when needed, please us know. Email John at jhal@jdhassoc.com.

Also, please let John know if you have any other thoughts in general relating to the idea of the Havurah providing life transition resources and support.

Upcoming Jewish Holidays and Celebrations

The following holidays begin at sundown on the day before the day shown.

- Shavuot Friday, May 29, 2009
- Tish'a b'Av Thursday, July 30, 2009
- Rosh Hashanah Saturday, September 19, 2009
- Yom Kippur Monday, September 28, 2009
- Succot (1st day) Saturday, October 3, 2009
- Chanukah (1st day) December 12, 2009

Etz-Ron:

The Peterborough Havurah has joined the affiliate program of the Etz-Ron company. Etz-Ron is located in Israel and sells handcrafted wooden Judaica and original gifts. By joining their affiliate program, the Havurah will receive a 12% commission on any purchases made on the Etz-Ron web site by Havurah members.

The Etz-Ron web site is at <http://www.etz-ron.com> and it looks like they have some nice products. I am not personally familiar with Etz-Ron, so I'd welcome your comments if you do order from them.

If you buy something on the Etz-Ron web site you must write the word "AFFIL" and "Peterborough Havurah, 35 Old Bennington Rd., Greenfield, NH 03047 USA" in the note section of the web site for the Havurah to receive the commission. Etz-Ron emphasized that the address for the Havurah must be correct.

If you do buy something, please let me know so we'll expect a commission to arrive. I'll let the Havurah know whenever we receive a commission. If you've purchased something and you don't hear me mention the commission, be sure to let me know so I can follow up on it.

Dues:

Dues statements were sent out on April 30th. If you didn't receive the statement, please contact our Finance Committee at liz@brailsfordco.com.

Membership List

If you have not sent in your membership form or if you have changes to make, please complete the form on the next page and Email it back to me or snail-mail it to me at:

John Halper
35 Old Bennington Rd.
Greenfield, NH 03047

Our Web Site

The address of our web site is www.peterboroughhavurah.org and the User Name is "havurah" (lower-case letters). All pages of the site except the first page are password-protected; please Email me at jhal@jdassoc.com for the password.

To keep the web site interesting, we'll need articles and other tidbits of information from you! Please get in touch with me at jhal@jdassoc.com if you'd like to contribute something to the web site.

Shalom,

John

Please complete this page **ONLY** if you have not sent it in to me before
or if you have changes to make.

Peterborough Havurah - Member Information

>> Please Print <<

Today's Date	
First <u>and</u> Last Name(s) of Adults	
First <u>and</u> Last Names <u>and</u> Birthdates of Children	
Street Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Home Phone (include area code)	
Cell Phone (include area code)	
Email Address(es) (very important)	