

Join the National Havurah Committee &  
*havurot* from across the Mid-Atlantic region for the

# NHC Chesapeake Havurah Retreat!



March 21-23, 2008  
Shabbat Tzav & Shushan Purim



Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center — Reisterstown, Maryland



Individuals, families, and *havurot* of all ages will gather to sing, pray, eat, relax, and learn together.

Over the course of the weekend, we will explore our connections to the *places* and communities in which we live.

[WWW.HAVURAH.ORG](http://WWW.HAVURAH.ORG)

**National Havurah Committee  
Chesapeake Havurah Retreat**

Return address: c/o Leah Staub  
251 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Baltimore, MD 21211



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The NATIONAL HAVURAH COMMITTEE is a diverse and vibrant network of individuals dedicated to Jewish living and learning, community building, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). More than 300 adults and children attend the annual NHC Summer Institute, which one first-time attendee described as "slightly closer to heaven on earth than other places I've been before." Throughout the year we hold regional weekend retreats in New England, the Chesapeake Region and Canada. The NHC also provides resources to individuals, *havurot*, and the Jewish community at large, including the newsletter *Havurah!* and an internet discussion forum. [WWW.HAVURAH.ORG](http://WWW.HAVURAH.ORG)

# Belonging

## A Neighborhood to Pray In: Visions of American Jewish Community

Adam Gordon (*Kol Tzedek*)

In this session, we will read from two texts: the Conservative movement's (in?) famous 1950 ruling that it is legally permitted to drive to synagogue that opened the gateways for many Jews to move to the suburbs, and the Lubavitcher Rebbe's 1969 ruling that it is impermissible for the Lubavitchers in Crown Heights, Brooklyn to leave the neighborhood for the suburbs. We will use these texts to talk about how the physical boundaries and spiritual experience of Jewish community relate to one another.

*Adam Gordon is a civil rights lawyer and co-founder of The Next American City, a quarterly magazine about the future of American cities and suburbs. He serves on the NHC board, has taught at two Institutes, and is part of several new urban Jewish communities in Philadelphia.*

## Insider Citizen? Outsider Immigrant? Both? or Neither?

Jessica Shimberg

Are you upset about immigration issues? Do you feel that Jews have "made it" and are no longer outsiders? Have lingering questions about the role of the Exodus in your life? Participate in a lively discussion that will center on conflicting identities we hold as Jews as simultaneously insiders and outsiders, natives and immigrants. We will look at examples from Ancient Jewish history, modern Jewish history, and contemporary American society.

*Jessica Shimberg is a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is the former Director of Outreach and Education at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago. She has studied children's literature and its impact on identity formation and thinks it happens with adults and books too.*

# Local Connections

## Tuv Ha'Aretz

Jesse Bacon (*Rose Crown Minyan*)

Hazon's Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program enables the Jewish community to support local, sustainable agriculture by committing to purchase an entire season of produce from a local organic family farm. In this workshop, Jesse will share about his involvement in an effort to bring this program to his synagogue and about the ways that his interests in Judaism and local food became intertwined.

*Jesse Bacon is a teacher and new father who*

*has always loved eating and being Jewish. It was only later that he discovered that these two things had something to do with each other, and that both would be enhanced with a deeper relationship to local food cultures.*

## Putting the Tzedek Back in Tzedakah: Jewish Involvement in Faith-Based Organizing

Adam Gordon (*Kol Tzedek*)

Faith-based organizing engages thousands of congregations throughout the country in social change efforts, engaging people who may not have any background in politics or community involvement in building powerful relationships to improve their communities. Despite the fact that this organizing model was developed by Saul Alinsky, a Jew in Chicago, Jewish involvement in these efforts has historically been low. This session will discuss why such organizing may provide a particularly strong and sustaining way for Jewish communities to engage in tzedakah.

*Adam Gordon (see bio above).*

## Discover Pearlstone's Kayam Farm

Kayam Farmers

On Sunday morning, work on a Jewish organic farm, helping with early spring planting. Experience Jewish agricultural laws directly, with your hands in the dirt!

*The Kayam Farm is an organic farming project designed to provide fresh produce to the Jewish communities that gather at Pearlstone, and to serve as a resource for Jewish environmental education.*

# Rootedness

## HaMakom: A Place for Place—The Dialectical Dynamics of the Concept of Space in Jewish Thought

Leslie Smith Rosen (*Chevrei Tzedek*)

While other civilizations waxed and waned, for the Jews, one place - indeed one city - became the iconic portal between the Eternal and the temporal. At first, the other divinities were usually space-specific; the Hebrews insisted then on transcendence; and when the world turned toward an all-transcendent understanding of the deity, the Jews insisted on the importance of the specific here (and now). The G-d who was once called *HaMakom* (the Place) became more portable than stable. The history of that G-d's people is in large measure about the struggle to gain and regain place, the struggle to hold on to place without losing self and soul. We'll explore the places of our lives, both as individuals and as members of a people.

*Leslie Smith Rosen has been musing about the place of place for as long as she can remember.*

*born in Tehran, she grew up in Chad, France, Switzerland, and suburban Maryland. A Jewish educator for a quarter century, she was the founding head of the Aleph-Bet Jewish Day School in Annapolis and is a founding teacher and administrator for the Shoshana S. Cardin High School in Baltimore, where she teaches Jewish philosophy, English, history, and drama.*

## How Awesome is This Makom! A Journey into Embodiment

Holly Shere (*Olney Kehila*)

Our bodies are the sacred vessels through which we experience the world around us and the spaces which we inhabit. Being at home in our bodies enlivens and deepens our availability to the gifts in our lives and to the places we find (and make for) ourselves. In this experiential session, we will cultivate tools to for grounding and presence in our daily lives through sensory exploration, awareness practice and gentle movement.

*Holly Shere is Spiritual Leader of Olney Kehila Congregation, Education Director of Yavneh on the Hill, and co-founder of Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute, reclaiming and innovating models of embodied, earth-honoring Jewish spiritual leadership. Holly is completing her training as a Somatic Experiencing practitioner.*

## Home Tunes: Singing About Place and Community

Sarah Beller (*Tikkun Leil Shabbat*)

From "This Land is Your Land" to "Mah Norah Hamakom / How Awesome is this Place," songs evoke, explore, and extol our connections with place and community. Come sing Jewish and secular songs using the songsheets provided, or bring a song to share! Everyone's welcome.

*Sarah Beller is a Masters student in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University in Washington, DC. In her free time, she writes songs and sings as an alto in Coral Cantigas, a Latin American choir.*

## Know G-d in All of Your Ways: An Introduction to Jewish Meditation

Jacob Staub (*Dorshei Derekh*)

The practice of meditation has been a Jewish spiritual discipline for many centuries. Its objective is to promote an awareness of the divinity and *kedushah* (sanctity) of every moment and every place. This workshop will serve as an introduction for those unfamiliar with the practice and as a place for those who wish to sit and meditate in community to do so.

*Rabbi Jacob J. Staub is Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Spirituality at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where he founded and directs the program in Jewish Spiritual Direction. He is co-author of Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach.*

## Ongoing Creation

### Aggadot From Where We Are

Alan Scott Belsky (*Tikkun Leil Shabbat/ Moishe House Silver Spring/ Ohev Sholom*)

2008 is the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Sefer HaAggadah* (The Book of Legends), a collection of thousands of stories from the Talmud and throughout rabbinic literature. Beginning at next year's Institute, members of the NHC community will be studying *Sefer HaAggadah* for two years, reading a little bit each day and sharing thoughts on a collaborative weblog: "*Sefer HaBloggadah*" ([bloggadah.blogspot.com](http://bloggadah.blogspot.com)). Some participants have begun a "pre-game show," blogging new, creative *aggadot* based on the weekly Torah portion. In this workshop, Alan will facilitate the writing and sharing of our own *aggadot*, informed by the historical background, themes, and literary styles of classical *aggadah*.

*Alan Scott Belsky was an Everett Fellow at the NHC Summer Institute in 2007 and is excited to be one of the early participants in the Sefer HaBloggadah project, even when he has writer's block. From his home base at the Moishe House Silver Spring, he shul-hops across the DC area on Shabbat and works as an aviation cartographer during the week.*

### Where You Hang Your Words: A Look at Home and Community through the Eyes of Jewish Poets

Russ Agdern (*Kol Zimrah*)

The ideas of home and community are decidedly complicated. Through the lenses of Diaspora, ghettos, and assimilation, explore the words of Jewish poets as they tackle their relationship to place.

*Russ Agdern is a semi-retired professional troublemaker turned troublemaker trainer in, er, training. He's also a Jewish poet who's constantly wrestling with community. You can find him on a picket line, running a get-out-the-vote operation, davening at Kol Zimrah, or on stage behind a microphone with his notebook in hand.*

### Shabbat Sing

Judith Geller (*East Bank Havurah*)

Pour your heart out through song—or just come to enjoy the sounds! All are welcome to come learn new songs for Shabbat and enjoy singing old favorites. We'll have song sheets as well as *benschers*. Remember, "If you can talk, you can sing; if you can walk, you can dance!"

*Judith Geller is mother of Jakob and Rebekah, lead singer for Charm City Klezmer, member of the vocal trio Swing States Road Show, member of East Bank Havurah and a full-time psychotherapist.*

In addition to facilitated sessions, resources will be available for **open text-study** throughout the weekend.

## Meals

In keeping with NHC tradition, we will share vegetarian meals. Pearlstone's food service is Glatt Kosher under the supervision of Star K. We'll serve Fair Trade Certified™ coffee, tea and sugar. Please discuss any special dietary needs with the retreat planners in advance.

## Kids & Teens

Children and teens are full participants in the NHC community and are welcome at all Retreat gatherings, meals and services. During each class session time, Jewish educators will provide childcare and "Kids' Havurah" activities for children ages 2-5 and 6-12. Please discuss care of infants and those requiring special facilities with the retreat planners in advance. Children and teens may choose to attend some of the sessions together with their parents. Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah teens are particularly invited to attend the adult sessions.

## Shabbat

*A spirited, soulful Kabbalat Shabbat and maariv begins our weekend. Friday evening continues with dinner, singing, and study.*

On Shabbat morning, we would like to celebrate a diversity of *davening* (prayer) styles while also praying together as a community. We will gather for a **traditional egalitarian service and full Torah reading**, with options throughout to experience alternatives in adjacent rooms, including **Yoga for Every Body**, a lively **Torah discussion**, and a **Musaf walk** around the campus.

*Shabbat afternoon will bring lunch, more sessions (hiking, learning, singing, exploring!), a traditional egalitarian mincha (afternoon service) and maariv (evening service), and a community-wide havdalah (ceremony to separate Shabbat from the rest of the week).*

## Celebration 🎵

Send out the Shabbes Queen with a Saturday night **Contra Dance** and **Klezmer Jam!** Dance, play instruments, listen, relax, schmooze. Find some gems at the **Jewish Book & Judaica Swap** between dances.

## Minyan

We will gather for breakfast and then morning *minyanim* (prayer groups):

### Sunday Morning Minyan

or

### Yoga

Cathy Myrowitz (*East Bank Havurah*)

An hour of moderate yoga postures for those with some yoga experience. Please bring mats if you have them.

*A yoga practitioner for 19 years, Cathy trained in Ahimsa Yoga (the yoga of lovingkindness) with Tejal Murray of the Ahimsa Yoga Center, formerly the Yoga Centre of Baltimore.*

*We'll attend one more session before hitting the road. The retreat will wrap up mid-morning Sunday, before lunch.*

## Getting there

We'll be gathering at the Pearlstone Retreat Center, nestled in the rolling farmlands of Reisterstown, Maryland. The center is minutes from Baltimore, 1.5 hours from the DC metro area and 2 hours from Philadelphia (give or take depending on traffic). It is 30 minutes from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. Directions to 5425 Mt. Gilead Rd: [www.pearlstonecenter.org/pages/thecamp.html](http://www.pearlstonecenter.org/pages/thecamp.html)



## Come for the day...

"Commuters" are welcome to attend all or some of the retreat without staying overnight at Pearlstone. We ask that you let us know which meals you plan to attend. Please see the registration form for details, or contact [chesapeake-retreat@havurah.org](mailto:chesapeake-retreat@havurah.org).

## ... or stay the night

Most of us will be staying in hotel-style rooms, which are connected to the dining and meeting areas by a covered walkway. These rooms each have two queen-size beds and private bath. (A rollaway twin bed can add a fifth sleeping space to these rooms.) We will also have access to four heated cabins set back from the site in "Fidler's Grove," each of which sleep up to nine. These have twin beds, some bunked, and may be ideal for several families with kids, or for a group of friends or students.

A **twelve-step meeting** (for those struggling with or impacted by addiction) will take place on each day of the retreat.

Participants at last year's NHC Chesapeake Retreat hailed from havurot, minyanim and other congregations across the Mid-Atlantic (and beyond):



- Adas Israel Traditional Egalitarian Minyan DC
- Adat Shalom MD
- Baltimore Chavurah MD
- Beth El-Keser Israel of New Haven, CT
- Chizuk Amuno of Baltimore, MD
- Columbia Jewish Congregation MD
- DC Beit Midrash DC
- DC Minyan DC
- Dorshei Derekh of Mt. Airy, PA
- East Bank Havurah of Baltimore, MD
- Fabrangen DC
- Fabrangen West of Vienna, VA
- Hadar of New York, NY
- Hill Havurah DC
- Highland Park Minyan NJ
- Jews in the Woods
- Jewschool.com blogosphere
- Kehila Chadasha
- Kol Zimrah of New York, NY
- Mesorah DC DC
- Minyan Merkaz of Philadelphia, PA
- Olney Kehila MD
- Ruach Minyan DC
- Silver Spring Egalitarian Minyan MD
- Takoma Park Havurah MD
- Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El Havurah PA
- Tifereth Israel Congregation DC
- Tikkun Leil Shabbat DC
- Washington Square Minyan of Brookline, MA
- West End Synagogue of New York, NY
- Young Israel of West Hempstead NY
- Zoo Minyan DC

## Volunteer!

- I can help coordinate carpools in advance.
- I can help at the registration table Friday
- I can help with cleanup Sunday.
- I can help move chairs when needed.
- I can help with the book/Judaica swap.
  
- I can read Torah.
- I can read Haftarah.
- I can lead a service: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Something else I'd like to offer:

More at [chesapeake-retreat@havurah.org](mailto:chesapeake-retreat@havurah.org)

# Join us! Register by February 18:

**Register by February 18, 2008** to guarantee your space and avoid the late fee. All fees must be received in advance and are not refundable. We cannot accept "on-site" registrations.

**Arrival Information:** Try to arrive at Pearlstone on Friday, March 21 between 4 and 6 pm to register and settle in. *Kabbalat Shabbat* services will begin around 6:15 pm, with dinner to follow. (Candle lighting is at 7:03 pm.) If you're going to arrive after dinner, please let us know in advance. More information will be sent upon receipt of your registration. The retreat ends on Sunday morning a little bit before noon.

Registrant 1 \_\_\_\_\_, Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant 2 \_\_\_\_\_, Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Teen \_\_\_\_\_, Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child/Teen \_\_\_\_\_, Age \_\_\_\_\_

Minyan, havurah, or other *kehillah* (Jewish community), if any: \_\_\_\_\_

We will confirm your attendance by email unless you check the box below.

I don't use email. Please send a printed confirmation and directions by mail.

Please check all that apply:

I/one of my children has special dietary or accessibility requirements.  
Please attach a note describing any special requirements you or your family will have.

I would like to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

Place a \* by the names of any two people on this form who'd like to share a queen-size bed.

We would prefer to be housed in one of the cabins in "Fidler's Grove" (all twin beds).

I can offer a ride to \_\_\_\_\_ people from my area. Have them email me.

I need a ride. Please connect me with someone from my area who might offer me a ride.

I would like to reserve a FREE exhibit table space for sharing information or selling items on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (business or organization) at Saturday evening's "mini-shuk."

<b>Fee Schedule for Participants</b>		
Adult, NHC Members	\$245	
Adult, not NHC Members ♦	\$270	
Student/Senior Citizen/Low-Income	\$165	
Teen, Bar/Bat Mitzvah thru High School	\$135	
Child, Ages 6 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah	\$120	
Child, Ages 1-5	\$60	
Private Bedroom Surcharge	\$65	
Full commuter participant* (3 or more meals)	\$145	
Partial Commuter participant* Check 1-2 meals: \$30 ea: <input type="checkbox"/> Fri dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Sat lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Sat dinner \$12 ea: <input type="checkbox"/> Sat bf <input type="checkbox"/> Sun bf	\$ _____	
<b>Subtotal</b>		
♦ Optional Individual NHC Membership	\$40	
♦ Optional Family NHC Membership	\$80	
Late Fee (after February 18)	\$18	
<b>Total</b> payable to Nat'l Havurah Committee Chesapeake Retreat		



To register, send form with check to:

NHC CHESAPEAKE  
HAVURAH RETREAT  
**c/o Blaine Saito**  
2401 Calvert St NW #708  
Washington DC 20008