



The NHC's 19th Annual New England *Havurah!* Retreat

December 16 – 18, 2005

Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

**JOIN US FOR A STIMULATING SHABBAT OF MUSIC, HEALING,
AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Welcome Shabbat

A spirited, musical, Carlebach-style *Kabbalat Shabbat* begins our weekend. Friday evening continues with dinner, singing, meditation, and study.

Learn and Study

This year's sessions range from courses in new rituals, new songs, accessible texts from the Talmud and the Psalms, to Jewish music and meditation. For full details, see inside.

Enjoy Craigville

Craigville Conference Center is a collection of quaint 1890's style Cape Cod houses and picturesque village lanes, located on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic at Craigville Beach. The Center has nature preserves and ponds on either side. It is located approximately three miles west of Hyannis, MA. Accommodations are simple, uncrowded, and comfortable. Single rooms are available. Meals are kosher, dairy / fish.



National Havurah Committee New England *Havurah!* Retreat

c/o Steve Lewis
25 Ellison Road
Newton, MA 02459



Address correction requested

The *National Havurah Committee* is a diverse, non-denominational network of people and communities committed to celebrating Judaism and enhancing their Jewish lives. The NHC holds an annual week-long summer Institute (August 7-13, 2006, at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, NH), sponsors regional retreats, and serves as a resource center for *havurot* nationwide. Visit our web site at <http://www.havurah.org>.

HEALING

The Spiritual Universe and the Dynamics of the Soul

The first session will focus on our understanding of the word "soul", exploring Jewish views from ancient and medieval sources. Your personal views are important.

The second, independent session will focus on one perspective on the Spiritual Universe. Once the key ideas are reviewed, we will discuss the meaning of the soul in modern religious life.

Matt Thomases has been a soldier, investment banker, business executive, sculptor, and political activist. This workshop is based his book, The New Judaism: A Transdenominational Statement of Faith recently published by XLibris

BEIT MIDRASH: Ruin and Redemption - What's at Stake in Halakha (Jewish Law)?

Part One: *Halakha* Responds to Tragedy
Part Two: Responding to Tragic *Halakha*

Our theme will be the conception of *halakha* (Jewish Law) as it emerges from classical rabbinic sources and reaches into our own lives. The first session explores the path of *halakha* as an effort to make spiritual sense in a broken world. In the second, we will address the challenge of making new Jewish sense in moments when *halakha* itself seems dysfunctional, broken, and unfortunate.

These independent sessions are offered as a mini-series with a continuous theme - providing an opportunity for an extended Beit Midrash (rabbinic study-hall) experience. You may take either or both sessions.

Texts will be available in Hebrew and English, so that all may have access to the original wording.

Jonah Steinberg is the Director of Talmudic Studies at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, and a founder of its Summer Beit Midrash program. Jonah trained under talmudist David Weiss Halivni at Columbia University, where he received his doctorate in 2003. He has taught at the Jewish Theological Seminary, University of Judaism, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

TIKKUN: An Experiential Musical Meditation

Experience the healing vibrations of music and sound embracing the profound and vital energy of the creative soul. Rahel creates a musical environment that inspires personal and community reflection, exploration, spiritual connection, and peace.

Rahel is a soulful songwriter who performs original Jewish music. She resides in NH.

The Power of Water: Psalm 93

Water is a powerful image in biblical literature and Jewish tradition. We will look at Psalm 93 as a poem and a *midrash* (teaching).

Aliza Arzt has been a member of Havurat Shalom for most of her life. There she has been a leader in creating Siddur Birkat Shalom. She is an expert Torah reader.

Who by Water: Thinking about God at Times of Disaster

How do we understand God's role at times of disaster? How do we maintain a connection with God then and afterwards? This session will be an open discussion on how we confront obstacles to our prayer.

Joe Rosenstein is a meditation teacher, member of the Highland Park Minyan, and editor of Siddur Eit Ratzon. He is a mathematics professor at Rutgers University.

HOLINESS

Praying for Rain

This session will explore the prayers for rain in the Siddur that are each recited only once a year. These include the prayer for rain (but not too much rain!) on *Shmini Atzeret* and the prayer for dew on *Pesach*.

Joe Rosenstein leads this session. See bio above.

Images of Holiness

How is "Kedushah" (holiness) portrayed in Jewish liturgy? This workshop will look at some of the images, words and music used to illustrate the concept of holiness.

Shira Belfer holds a Master of Sacred Music and the Degree of Cantor from HUC-JIR.

New Moon/Ancient Wisdom: A Rosh Chodesh Workshop

We will explore the history and significance of Rosh Chodesh, the celebration of the new moon(th). According to Jewish legend, the women of Israel were given Rosh Chodesh as their own unique holiday. Today, although there are exclusive women's Rosh Chodesh gatherings, men who would like to share in this time honored tradition are invited to attend. Through didactic and experiential methods participants will begin to see how the observance of this monthly holiday can enrich their lives.

Rayzl Feuer is a Spiritual Director, Bibliodramatist, Dance Midrashist, teacher and davenen leader. She is the founder of PNAI shORe, a Havurah on the shoreline of Connecticut.

TORAH

Heavenly Torah

Abraham Joshua Heschel's book, "Heavenly Torah" is said to have been his magnum opus. Heschel views the rabbinic world as divided between the two schools of Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Ishmael and outlines the competing world views in this massive book. We will sample selections from this book using the new English translation by Gordon Tucker.

Louis Rieser is the rabbi at Congregation Eitz Hayim in Derry, NH, and is a published author of several articles on Talmud Study.

Our Role in Revelation: Human Interpretation or Angel's Kiss?

The revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai is one of traditional Judaism's most fundamental claims. But what exactly did the rabbis believe was revealed there and what are the implications for Judaism today? We will explore a series of classical *midrashim* (Rabbinic stories) that portray changing, and often surprising, ideas about the role of human beings in shaping divine revelation.

Elizabeth Richman is a rabbinical student, and a co-chair of the NHC 2006 Summer Institute.

Bible Stories

You Didn't Learn in Sunday School

Come hear the unusual adventures chronicled in the books of the prophets.

Ronnie Levin, with a graduate degree in Bible, is a long-time Havurah teacher.

Elijah: The Prophet who Never Died

Elijah the Prophet comes to every Passover Seder and every *bris* and we sing to him every Saturday night as we say farewell to Shabbat. Why is Elijah favored with all these invitations, and is he someone you'd really like to have at your party? We'll look at how Elijah appears (and disappears) in the Bible and in Midrash and become more familiar with this frequent guest.

Marga Hirsch is the Program Director at Har Zion Temple outside Philadelphia and teaches in the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Parent Education Program.

Flying "Nuns" (the Hebrew Letter) and Other Torah Oddities

Look at a Torah scroll and you'll see Hebrew (actually Assyrian) letters and various kinds of blank spaces between the letters, lines, or in the middle of a line. In some places, you'll also see other symbols such as dots and big upside down Nuns. What do these symbols mean and how did they get there? What is their spiritual meaning for us?

Solomon Mowshowitz (Mosh) is a frequent Havurah teacher.

Listen Up!

The six-word exhortation of the Shema is a cornerstone of Jewish ideology. But what does the phrase mean? E.g., is 'one' Mystic Oneness or one in number? Bring and share your insights and interpretations.

Carl' Woolf is an expert on spiritual practices including music-making, davening, meditation and movement.

Torah Study

We will have two informal study sessions on the week's Torah portion, one of which is an alternative to the traditional Torah reading during the Shabbat morning service. Hebrew is not required.

Justin David is the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton, MA, a center of Jewish life in Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley.

ARTS

Jewish Art and Artists

"You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above or in the earth below." (Exodus 20:4) In this workshop we will explore and discuss Jewish Art from biblical times to the present with some biblical references and lots of examples. Bring a piece of your own artwork for this discussion if you wish.

David E. Levine is a painter and printmaker. Currently, his work is represented in the exhibit "The Next Generation" in the Museum of Biblical Art, NYC. In 1995, he created the well-known outdoor historical portrait of the Boston Jewish Community on the side of Kupel's Bagel Bakery in Brookline, MA.

Rock with Ruach!

Want to kick up your Jewish music experience? Discover the hottest new melodies of today's most influential composers and recording artists of contemporary Jewish music. Discuss how and when to introduce these new settings and the impact these modes have on our worship experience. Feel free to record this session.

Steve Meltzer is a song leader and music educator who has performed at the URJ Biennial, CAJE & the Garden State Jewish Festival. His L'chah Dodi was published in the recently released Shabbat Anthology III by Transcontinental Music. Steve has a CD of original Jewish tunes, Rock With Ruach!

Songs of Hope, Joy, and Peace

Sing songs with Jewish themes – new, old, rounds, and chants – as we try to find that place of transcendence that so often eludes us. If you'd like to teach a song, bring at least 10 copies.

Lauren Rose is a mathematics professor at Bard College whose passion is singing in harmony. She has lead singing workshops at numerous folk festivals and Jewish events.

Melodies for the Third Meal

We will sing melodies customarily sung on Saturday afternoon during *Seudah Shlishit* (the third meal). Bring songs to share.

Joelle Novey lives and celebrates grassroots Jewish community in Washington DC.

SPECIAL WEEKEND HAPPENINGS

A Children's Program for young children (ages 2-5) will be provided by experienced personnel. Special Judaic programming for ages 6-12 is also scheduled. Please discuss care of infants and those requiring special facilities with the conference planners in advance. Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah children are invited to attend the adult sessions.

Art Exhibit: Bring your pieces of "Jewish Art" to display over the weekend, and tell us about them in David Levine's class!

Hiding and Seeking: View this powerful documentary about one family's exploration of faith and tolerance after the Holocaust, as children are reunited with the righteous gentiles who hid their parents during the war.

Doing Judaism with Older Children: As our children grow up, our focus shifts from providing meaningful teaching experiences to sharing our Jewish lives as peers. This can profoundly change our feelings about our Judaism and our practices. Aliza Arzt leads a discussion of these topics for older and adult children.

Saturday Night Cabaret: Share your special talents at Saturday night Cabaret. Anything goes - Jewish content is optional. Indicate on your registration form if you'd like to participate. Start working on your limericks for the annual limerick contest.

Jewish Folk Music Jam Session. Sing, dance, play instruments, listen, relax, shmooze, glow at an informal jamboree. Klezmer, Hasidic, Israeli – your favorite songs on request!

Chi-gung: Jewish Body-chanting. Carl Woolf leads a session of liturgically-inspired mind-body meditation and movement. We include internal awareness of energy movement, as well as the circulation of *kavvanot* such as Holiness, Connection, and Peace.

"Kol Zimrah" Style Sunday Morning Service. In the style of the *Kol Zimrah* havurah in New York City, Ben Dreyfus leads this Sunday morning service featuring exuberant harmony, acoustic guitar and percussion. Bring your favorite siddur and your voice.

REGISTRATION

Register by November 28, 2005 to guarantee your space and avoid the late fee. All fees must be received in advance and are not refundable. With an additional payment of 10% "insurance," fees may be applied to a future NHC Retreat or Institute in the event that weather or serious illness prevent you from attending this year. We regret that we cannot accept "on-site" registrations.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION: Try to arrive at Craigville on Friday afternoon, December 16, between 2:00 and 3:45 pm to register and settle in. Candle lighting is at 3:45 pm. An Orientation session follows; Kabbalat Shabbat services begin at about 5:15, and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. If you're going to arrive after dinner, let us know beforehand, and we'll save you some. A full schedule, directions, and packing information will be sent upon receipt of your registration. The retreat ends on Sunday morning at noon.

To register, complete the form below and send it, with your check, payable to National Havurah Committee New England Retreat, to NHC New England Retreat c/o Steve Lewis, 25 Ellison Road, Newton, MA 02459.

Registrant 1 Name	Registrant 2 Name
Day Phone:	Day Phone:
Eve Phone	Eve Phone
Email	Email
Home Address	Home Address
Children's Names and Ages:	

We will confirm your attendance and send directions by email to the address above unless you check the box below.

- I don't have email. Please send a printed confirmation and directions by US Mail.

Fee Schedule

	Cost	#	Total
Adult, Over Age 25, NHC Members	\$225		
Adult, Over Age 25, Non NHC Members	\$250		
Adult, College Student or thru Age 25	\$150		
Child, Bar/Bat Mitzvah thru High School	\$115		
Child, Ages 6 thru Bar/Bat Mitzvah	\$105		
Child, Ages 0 to 5	\$ 50		
Private Bedroom Surcharge	\$ 65		
Towel/Linen Rental	\$ 10		
SubTotal:			
Western MA Subsidy (50%)*			()
SubTotal:			
Optional "Insurance" (10% of Subtotal)			
Optional Individual NHC Membership	\$ 36		
Optional Family NHC Membership	\$ 72		
Late Fee (after November 28)	\$ 25		
Your Tax-Deductible Contribution **			
Total Payment:			

How can you help before the retreat?	How can you help at the retreat?
<input type="checkbox"/> Help organize Torah readers	<input type="checkbox"/> Help with Registration
<input type="checkbox"/> Help Kasher the kitchen Friday morning (stay Thurs. night at Craigville on us!)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead an Orientation Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Bring a video with a Jewish theme to share on Saturday night	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Shabbat Morning services (which parts?)
<input type="checkbox"/> Help arrange rides for participants	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Torah
	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Haftarah
	<input type="checkbox"/> Give a D'var Torah
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Minchah
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Sat. Night Maariv
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Havdalah
	<input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Saturday night Cabaret
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Traditional Sunday Morning Minyan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Closing Ceremony

* Participants from Western Massachusetts who live in the 413 area code may deduct 50%, thanks to a generous grant from the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation**.

** Your tax deductible contribution enables us to offer subsidies to those who might otherwise not be able to attend the NHC New England Retreat.

Please attach a note describing any special arrangements or requirements you may have.

To help us with planning, please list four sessions you'd most like to attend.

- I need a ride. Tell me who from my area can give me a ride.
- I can offer a ride to people from my area. Have them call me.
- I have special dietary or accessibility requirements. (Please specify.)
- I would like to share a room with

Registrant 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Registrant 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

For more information or to help out, please contact the Retreat Co-Chairs, **Steve Lewis** (617 332 3496) or **Mark Frydenberg** (781 893 7312) or e-mail us at ne-retreat@havurah.org, or visit the NHC Web site at <http://www.havurah.org>.