



# You're Jewish.... ...it's Christmas.... What do you do?

Come to  
The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual New England *Havurah!* Retreat

December 15-17, 2006

Craigville Conference Center, Cape Cod, Massachusetts  
Sponsored by the *National Havurah Committee*

A SPIRITUAL WEEKEND OF HEALING, HOLINESS,  
TORAH, ARTS, AND "REPAIRING" THE WORLD



## YOU'RE JEWISH.....IT'S CHRISTMAS ????

Come to The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual New England *Havurah!* Retreat

National Havurah Committee  
New England *Havurah!* Retreat  
c/o 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 6-12, 2007, 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>.

## Craigville Conference Center

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.

### Welcome Shabbat and Chanukah

**A blaze of candles** and a musical Carlebach-style *Kabbalat Shabbat* begin the weekend. Friday evening continues with dinner, singing, meditation, and study. On Saturday, take time for **joyful prayer**, or **walk** on the beach, **learn** accessible texts from the Torah and the Talmud, **make music** and **sing** new songs, **apply Jewish values** to issues of social justice and **create** Jewish artwork.

#### HEALING

##### Letting Others Hear the Real You: The Jewish Path to Finding Your 'Authentic Voice'

The Song of Songs urges, "Hashmi'ini/Let me hear you!" From the shores of the sea to the Psalms and beyond, singing is a central metaphor for spiritual connection - in praise and lament, in triumph and sorrow. We will use our own voices as well as those which sing in Jewish texts to explore how singing connects us with our selves, with each other, and with the Divine.

*Minna Bromberg is a second-year rabbinical student at Hebrew College, with a PhD in Sociology and a certified teacher of Jewish Meditation.*

##### Breathing the Light: A Guided Meditation

This session will include a discussion of guided meditation on Jewish themes, preceded and followed by guided meditations. One guided meditation will focus on Psalm 23, which is often chanted on Shabbat afternoon, and the other will focus on the theme of overcoming darkness with light, and what that has to do with Chanukah.

*Joseph G. Rosenstein is a member of the Highland Park (NJ) Minyan and author of Siddur Eit Ratzon ([www.newsiddur.org](http://www.newsiddur.org)). He is a founder and former chair of the NHC.*

##### The Rain in its Season: Love vs. Fear

The second paragraph of the Shema is problematic. It asserts both Divine reward and punishment, and presents a theology that many cannot accept. Reform & Reconstructionist prayerbooks omit or replace the selection. But this Torah passage can lead us to fruitful discussion of the relationship between God and Israel, between individual and community, between love and fear. We will use Rabbinic sources to help us explore this controversial text.

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

#### HOLINESS

##### Connecting to the Divine

We will explore a variety of ways that Jews pray. We will discuss why, when, and how we pray. We will examine the ways in which traditional prayer has served us and how seemingly new techniques are evolving.

*Rayzl Feuer is a Spiritual Director, Bibliodramatist, Dance Midrashist, davening leader, and "Mashpiah Ruchanit" She has served on the staff of the Jewish Renewal Retreat Center, Elat Chayyim and is the founder of PNAI shORe, a Havurah on the shoreline of Connecticut.*

##### Hallel

Hallel is recited on festivals (including Chanukah) and Rosh Chodesh (beginning of each month), and reflects the joy that we experience on festive occasions. In this session we will study the psalms of Hallel (Psalms 113-118) and focus on their major themes. We will use the translation and commentaries in the presenter's Siddur Eit Ratzon ([www.newsiddur.org](http://www.newsiddur.org)).

*Joe Rosenstein teaches this session. (See bio at left.)*

##### Honoring our Teachers?

*Pirkei Avot* the Jewish "Sayings of the Ancients," instructs us to credit our teachers when we repeat their teachings. Today, emerging wisdom among some of the new independent *minyanim* is to minimize the role of individual teachers, founders and cultural producers. Does giving attribution (or not) affect our teachers, our students, or the content being taught? We'll explore and contrast these holy tensions in both Jewish and Islamic sources.

*Benj Kamm is a frequent Havurah teacher. He is completing a degree in Middle East Studies at Brown University.*

#### TORAH

##### BEIT MIDRASH: Talmud Study with texts available in Hebrew and English so that all may access the original sources.

##### Part One: Shaping Our World

How should we shape holy places, communities, and our world, inspired by our highest visions and concepts? We will explore the delights and dangers of world-making as seen by traditional rabbinic text.

##### Part Two: Conceiving the World to Come

What is the "World to Come" in rabbinic tradition? How should we conceive of a World Yet to Be, and how do we get there? Can and should Olam Ha-Ba be part of our thinking? In this session, we'll try to find out.

These two independent sessions are offered as a mini-series with a continuous theme - providing an opportunity for an extended Beit Midrash (rabbinic study-hall) experience featuring both paired learning and group discussion. You may attend either or both sessions.

*Jonah Steinberg is the Director of Talmudic Studies at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, in Newton, MA., and is a founder of its Summer Beit Midrash program.*

##### Chanukah and Other Miracles of Eight

What is so "special" about the number "eight" for the days of Chanukah? We'll be exploring relevant texts, as well as insights and anecdotes from participants.

*Carl Woolf's spiritual practices range from music-making to davening, meditation and movement. He is a member of Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA.*

##### Torah Study You'd Never Do in Sunday School

Did Bible "heroes" have X-rated stories? Learn what your teachers never mentioned!

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

## Intelligent Design: A Jewish View – Does it Match Yours?

Evolution has become the focus of the culture wars in the United States. Why do religious people make such a fuss over it? What have been Jewish responses to challenges from science generally, and Darwin specifically? Why do some Orthodox Rabbis favor Intelligent Design and others oppose it? Why did the great Rav Cook celebrate evolution?

*Solomon Mowshowitz (Mosh), a student of Talmud, has been a leading Havurah teacher for over two decades.*

## “REPAIRING” THE WORLD

### “Sahar Hogein,” A Jewish Approach to Fair Trade

Learn how to apply standards of fairness taught by the great Jewish sages in support of “fair trade,” an innovative approach to commerce that ensures that those who pick the coffee we drink at kiddush, who gather the cocoa in our chocolate Chanukah “gelt,” who harvest the sugar in our hamentashen, or who embroider our kippot, are paid living wages, given a voice in their work, and afforded an opportunity to improve their lives. Participants at this workshop will also be able to partake of the world's first Fair Trade Chanukah gelt via a farmers' cooperative in Ghana.

### What Lessons Does Chanukah Hold About Dealing With Climate Change?

For many American Jews, this Chanukah will be marked with rituals for responding to the climate crisis. The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) invites Jews to replace their lightbulbs, “one for each night,” with compact fluorescents, which use dramatically less energy. The Shalom Center's “Beyond Oil” Campaign invites Jews to regard the story of the oil for one day that lasted for eight as a model for the conservation of fossil fuels. Learn what Jewish and interfaith groups are doing about climate change, and what you can do in your own community.

*Joelle G. Novey is with Co-op America, which encourages consumers to take “economic action for a just planet,” including supporting fair trade. She is a member of the havurah Tikkun Leil Shabbat in Washington DC.*

## Talmudic Guidance to Social-Justice and Human-Rights Projects

What can we learn from Jewish texts about social justice and human rights? This session will share ancient insights which are often unexpected but always up-to-date!

*Chloe Safier is the Young Adult Social Justice Coordinator at Boston's Jewish Community Relations Council.*

## ARTS and MUSIC

### Drawing in the Chanukah Lights

In this session, we will look at the Chanukah story and other sources about light and create a small piece of artwork that “reflects” our insights and text study.

**This class has a materials fee of \$5 payable when you register for the retreat.**

*Susan Eiseman Levitin is an artist and teacher from Worcester, MA. Her work includes murals and painted silk tallitot.*

### “Hiddur Mitzvah” – “Elevating” the Observance of our Commandments

This workshop will use simple techniques to decorate a container to be used as a tzedakah box or etrog holder. We will use faux painting and/or decorating with collage. Experience not required.

**This course has a materials fee of \$15 payable when you register for the retreat.**

Bring any photos or papers or other items you want to use for the collage.

*Kathy Hart is a silversmith/Judaica artist in Southboro, MA. Her commissions include work for The Jewish Museum in New York, temples and private collections.*

**Note: These two “arts” classes will not be scheduled at the same time, so participants may take both.**

### B'Shir Mizmor: A New Experience in Chanukah Songs

We will survey and sing many Chanukah songs and learn how this music today reflects the complex Jewish world of the 20th century in which it originated. We will be using proofs of a new book of Chanukah songs, *B'Shir Mizmor*, designed to replace those stained, crinkled song sheets people have carried around for years.

*Jacob Merlin is finishing his degree in Judaic Studies at Brandeis University.*

## 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 (bio at left) facilitates.*

**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.

**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!

## 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.

**Guided Study to This Week's Torah Portion:** 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.

### Koneh Shamayim Va'aretz: Jewish Body-chanting Chi-gung

**Carl Woolf** leads this liturgically-inspired Jewish Chi-Gung mind-body meditation. We include internal awareness of energy movement, as well as the circulation of “kavvanot” such as Holiness, Connection, Peace, etc.

**Sunday Morning Chanting Prayer Service.** Rayzl Feuer leads a morning service filled with chanting, meditation, movement, and silence.

**REGISTRATION**

**Register by November 27, 2006** 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 6, 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 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** (programming + room + meals)

|  | Cost  | # | Total   |
|--|-------|---|---------|
| Adult, Over Age 29, NHC Members            | \$240 |   |         |
| Adult, Over Age 29, Non NHC Members        | \$260 |   |         |
| Adult, College Student or thru Age 29      | \$160 |   |         |
| Child, Bar/Bat Mitzvah thru High School    | \$145 |   |         |
| Child, Ages 6 thru Bar/Bat Mitzvah         | \$115 |   |         |
| Child, Ages 0 to 5                         | \$ 50 |   |         |
| Private Bedroom Surcharge                  | \$ 75 |   |         |
| Towel/Linen Rental                         | \$ 10 |   |         |
| Kathy Hart Class Materials Fee             | \$ 15 |   |         |
| Susan Levitin Materials Fee                | \$ 5  |   |         |
| SubTotal:                                  |       |   |         |
| "Rural" Subsidy (25% see below)*           |       |   | (     ) |
| SubTotal:                                  |       |   |         |
| Optional "Insurance" (10% of Subtotal)     |       |   |         |
| Optional Individual NHC Membership         | \$ 40 |   |         |
| Optional Family NHC Membership             | \$ 80 |   |         |
| Late Fee (after November 27th)             | \$ 25 |   |         |
| <b>Your Tax-Deductible Contribution **</b> |       |   |         |
| Total Payment:                             |       |   |         |

\* "Rural" subsidy: thanks to a special subsidy, participants who live in area codes 413, 603, 802, or 807 may deduct 25% from their fees.

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

| How can you help at the retreat?  | How can we help you?   |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Registration   | <input type="checkbox"/> I need a ride. Tell me who from my area can give me a ride.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Shabbat Morning services (which parts?)<br><input type="text"/>               | <input type="checkbox"/> I have special dietary or accessibility requirements: <b>(Please attach a note describing any special arrangements or requirements you may need.)</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read Torah   | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to share a room with:<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read Haftarah  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give a D'var Torah   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead Minchah  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead Sat. Night Maariv  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead Havdalah   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Saturday night Cabaret  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead Traditional Sunday Morning Minyan  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can offer a ride to <input type="text"/> people from my area. Have them call me. |  |

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

|              |                      |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 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](mailto:ne-retreat@havurah.org) or visit the NHC Web site at <http://www.havurah.org>.