

P.O. Box 568
Andover, Ma 01810-0010
978.494-2042
www.havuratshalom.org

HAVURAT SHALOM

A Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation

Dear Friends of Havurat Shalom:

We would like to extend a warm welcome from Congregation Havurat Shalom for this coming year!

We are a community dedicated to providing a Jewish identity for its members in a manner that is relevant to our contemporary lives. We include people from a variety of life situations, backgrounds, and political and religious perspectives. We are a participatory, inclusive group committed to exploring Jewish life and ideals

We offer a variety of activities and events to support this philosophy. Some of our highlights:

High Holy Days

Our Rosh Hashanah service will be at the Old Town Hall (Andover Town House) in Andover Center on Thursday, September 21st at 10:00 AM. The Yom Kippur service will be at the same location on Saturday, September 30th at 10:00 AM.

Shabbat Services and Other Holidays

Shabbat Services are typically on the first Friday of the month. **Our first Shabbat service will be on Friday, September 8th at Christ Church in Andover.** A calendar of our other services and events is listed on our website. We try to be consistent with dates, but things could change, so please check your e-mail frequently, as it is our primary vehicle for communication, and also refer to our website at **www.havuratshalom.org**. Shabbat services begin at 7:00 pm, preceded by Pizza with Rabbi Karen at 6:00 pm (5:30 set-up.) Please note: We do need assistance setting up and cleaning up after these services. Please bear in mind that we are a volunteer organization and we will be unable to continue to provide these wonderful experiences for you and your family unless EVERYONE pitches in.

New This Year...

In 2017, we formed a Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee, where Havurat Shalom members can join together to address social justice issues that they are concerned about through collective action. The first work of the Committee was to develop a Havurat Shalom Statement of Values that expresses our inclusive identity and commitments as a community, which was adopted at the Annual Meeting in June. We look forward to having more regular meetings starting later in the summer—there's a lot to talk about and a lot to do! For more information or to join the Committee contact Jeff Gross, jmgross1@gmail.com.

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood is a great way for the women of the congregation to connect with one another. We support the congregation and community in various ways, but mostly we get together for fun! We meet 4-6 times per year, and, as a group, determine the events and activities in which we would like to participate. We have gone to shows, taken field trips, enjoyed brunches, hosted speakers, participate in book groups, and had fun at holiday get-togethers. We have also sponsored congregation-wide events, and have donated portions of our collective dues to help support Havurat Shalom initiatives and various community causes.

Hebrew School

Our Religious school has openings for the fall! Our Hebrew School is for children in the third through sixth grade and meets once a week. The curriculum includes Hebrew language training, cultural education, and holiday celebrations. Our costs are comparatively low, especially if your family has a Havurat membership! If you are interested in the Hebrew School, please contact Dena O'Neil at denasjoy@hotmail.com. Phone: 978-806-6209.

Jumping into Judaism (K through 2nd grade.)

This class meets once a month, and offers a wonderful introduction to Judaism through stories, games, and crafts. Please note that an enrollment of 6 children will be required in order to run this class.

Optional Hebrew School Donation

We have included, on our membership form, an option to make a voluntary contribution to our Hebrew School. The Hebrew School is a vital part of our community, and it is important that it be sustained and nourished! It serves as a vehicle for teaching our children the rich traditions of our culture and heritage, and it is one of the primary reasons why new families join our congregation and help us grow. The Hebrew School is set up to be “self-funding.” However, on occasion, there are times when funds run low and the school could use our help. Again, this contribution is absolutely voluntary and separate from your dues.

New York Jewish Heritage Trip – 2018!! Date TBD - Join Rabbi Karen and your Havurat Shalom friends for a fun-filled, “short hop” trip to “The Big Apple” – NYC!! We'll explore some great museums and sites, visit the Lower East Side, feast on New York, Jewish cuisine, (i.e. NY deli's and REAL bagels!) and much, much more! Stay tuned for more details!

Communication

You will be placed on our e-mail notification list for receiving periodic e-updates. E-mail is our main vehicle for communication, so please be sure to check your e-mail frequently.

This year, we also instituted a new form of communication, our Havurat Shalom Listserv (Technically an eMail List.) The Listserv can be electronically distributed by members who would like to inform fellow congregants about items and events that are not strictly Havurat Shalom-related business, but that may be of interest to others. Examples of Listserv communications may include social action events, articles, etc. Members of the congregation may opt out of receiving Listserv communication. The Listserv is not officially affiliated with Havurat Shalom and does not necessarily express the official sentiments of Havurat Shalom. It is simply a format to give our congregants a “voice.”

New Members...

We actively seek new member families and individuals. Mindy Rakusin, our membership chair, will be glad to speak with those who are considering joining. She also has material on the Reconstructionist Movement, which she will be happy to send along.

A final note....

We are a very transparent organization. Your/our money goes to renting space, paying for mailings/phone line/website, for donations – Tzedakeh, and for our wonderful Rabbi. There is no paid administrative staff. We are all volunteers. Please think of why you are interested in joining this Jewish community, and try to find some way of giving back, through volunteering. Volunteer opportunities are listed on the membership form. For all but three or four jobs, everything is much less than an occasional hour commitment. If you have an idea for an activity, such as going on cultural trips, going to events, bringing in speakers, participating in social action and fund raisers, holding Jewish cooking classes, or anything else, ask us about how we, together, can make that happen. If you have ever been disappointed in an organization's ability to do something that you think is good, here is your chance to make our Havurat what you want!

Joining Havurat Shalom and Membership Registration/Payment

Enclosed is a membership form. Included on the form are committees and groups you can join, as well as holiday celebrations in which you can assist. We welcome new board members. The Board of Directors usually meets twice a year to discuss and to decide issues related to the congregation, including finances, calendar, social action and donations, school issues, outreach and organizations, events, support of members, etc. Discussion is often held on-line, as a topical issue may need resolution in a timely manner.

If you sign up for a committee or for an event, thank you! You will be contacted by the individual responsible for that activity.

Our dues are extremely affordable! Current dues - \$325, which includes a contribution towards our Tzedakah fund. (Sisterhood dues, \$18, is separate, and donations to the Hebrew School are separate as well.) Please complete the registration form and return it, along with your dues, to our Membership Chair, Mindy Rakusin, by September 15th. Although we request full payment upon joining, you may, should your financial situation dictate, pay in installments (we ask that you pay the installments quarterly (or monthly under special circumstances,) as we do not turn away anyone for lack of funds. You may also pay on line (See our website to pay on line.) **If you do pay on-line, please remember to print out a membership form on the website, or to use the enclosed form, and send it to Mindy or to our PO Box. That way, our records will be accurate.**

Membership List

At the request of some of our members, we will, on an as-needed basis, share our membership list for specific purposes. However, on our enclosed membership form, you can “opt out” of this list so that your contact information will NOT be included.

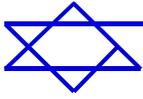
The list is NOT for solicitation purposes. It is simply so that members can more easily communicate with one another on a personal level. **PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU RESPOND TO THE ITEM UNDER COMMUNICATION ON THE REGISTRATION FORM, AS IT PERTAINS TO THIS LIST.**

Again, welcome to Havurat Shalom. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Ben Kellman
President
978-806-7654
Benwa1syh@yahoo.com

Mindy Rakusin
Membership Chair
508-641-8227
mrakusin@verizon.net

Karen Landy
Rabbi
617-780-0764
klandy0616@aol.com



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2017 – 2018 Registration Form

MEMBER INFORMATION (please print):

Name:
Street Town, State, Zip:

Phone:
E-mail:

PARTICIPATION:

1. I would like to join/participate in the following (Please Check):

- Social Action Committee Sisterhood School HS Board Tzedakeh
 Sunshine (Life Events Recognition)

2. Celebrations/Holidays for which I would like to help (Please Check):

- Shabbat (Indicate Date: _____) Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur
 Community Passover

HEBREW SCHOOL DONATIONS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE):

Please consider supporting our Hebrew School. 100% of your voluntary contribution will be used for paying our teachers or renting space. Membership contributions supplement our active fund raising efforts allowing the school to remain on a solid financial footing while providing tuition scholarships as needed. Parents diligently keep costs controlled-- one hour of teaching time is \$50. Last year, we held 26 ninety minute classes for each of our Bet and Gimmel students, and 8 introductory Jumping Into Judaism classes for youngsters.

Every contribution is greatly appreciated! (Check box and/or Complete)

Amounts: \$18 \$25 \$36 \$50 Other _____

COMMUNICATION (Please circle your choice)

I **would/would not** like to have my contact information appear on the membership contact list.

RETURN THIS FORM TO MINDY RAKUSIN, WITH CHECK FOR ANNUAL DUES OF \$325.00, PAYABLE TO HAVURAT SHALOM. (Note-SISTERHOOD DUES OF \$18 AND HEBREW SCHOOL DONATIONS ARE ADDITIONAL, VOLUNTARY FEES, BUT MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO ONE CHECK.)

Mindy Rakusin, 24 Spruce Road, North Reading, MA 01864
For additional information, contact Mindy at: mrakusin@verizon.net
You may also pay on line at www.havuratshalom.org

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU HAVE PAID ON LINE