

# January 2019 Newsletter

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## Portland's UnShul

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Happy New Year

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### **A Message From Board President Rivka Gevurtz**

#### **A New Year of Possibilities**

I'm not one for new year's resolutions which end up tarnished before the month is out. But this secular holiday does call forth a reboot of our Rosh HaShanah hopes and dreams. Just as our digital world gets an upgrade, this winter time allows us to look again at our aspirations and, in a version 2.0, to reimagine the

possibilities.

For those of us at As the Spirit Moves Us, and Portland's UnShul, we are looking forward to settling into a routine, with our services now in a rhythm of NE Portland on the 2nd Saturday of the month and the SW services continuing at Rabbah's on the 3rd Saturday. And, with launching our Zoom link, we look forward to folks joining us digitally, whether because you are far or cannot join us in person. With this new innovation, we are opening up a new membership level; associate members get access (live or pre-recorded) to video of services, twice a month, for \$20/month.

Did you know it has been shown that belonging to a congregation adds between 4-5 years to your life? By building community, and connection to our values, we do our bodies good! Are you ready to resolve for your body, your spirit and your UnShul community?

If you are ready to dedicate your learning, justice-seeking and, yes, financial contributions to growing our community, contact me at:

[UnShulRivka@asthespiritmovesus.com](mailto:UnShulRivka@asthespiritmovesus.com)



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## ***A Bissel Torah From Our Rabbah***

As we do at this time every year, our Torah journey takes us from the end of Breishit (the book of Genesis) to the beginning of Shmot (the book of Exodus) THIS is the moment that

For me, the UnShul continues to be a place of deep learning and meaning where I feel renewed and restored, seen and uplifted. What are your places and who are your

Exodus). This is the moment that embodies our High Holy Day theme. Genesis is the Gestation story of the people Israel and Exodus is both our birthing and our liberation story.

You can see the multiplication of our cells in Genesis. At first we are only Avram and Sarai and by the time Jacob travels down to Egypt we are dozens and dozens strong. You can see the cohesion and definition of our characteristics shift from the amorphous and unsure (perhaps embryonic) first parents who made so many questionable decisions in their dealings with rulers of other people and with Hagar and Ishmael to the coalescence of spiritual power, practical wisdom and righteousness we see in Joseph as he fends off famine and forgives the unforgivable with his brothers. From an undetermined mass of cells to a fully formed and perhaps even awakened being, ready to start a new way of being.

But birthing is hard. It is hard for us, and it was hard for our ancestors. We do not move from a state of cohesion to a state of spectacular freedom and power. We learn that we must journey through a long and devastating period of degradation. Over 400 years of slavery before we can show up as empowered humans.

As we leave Breishit and enter

your places and who are your people?

What has this year's season of coalescence taught us about the dangers and the potential of the world around us, and how best to respond to that? For me as I recall the flipping of 40 Congressional seats into the hands of those who share Torah's values of compassion and welcoming the immigrant and ensuring that all can eat and have health care, I see enormous potential.

I am heartened and inspired and sooo grateful to the many organizations who are coalescing to shift the tide and prepare the way for birthing a new kind of nation, including the Portland Spirit Led Justice Alliance which I hope you will all join! [HERE!](#) I also see the ongoing treatment of children seeking refuge in our country, the militarized response of what some are calling the Exodus of people coming to our borders and I know that we are nowhere near birthed yet.

And again I am heartened and inspired and grateful for all who work to birth a new kind of America. What about you? Where do you take succor and what are you grateful for?

*B'ahava uvracha, with love and*

Shmot we have the opportunity to pause and reflect. How has this year's season of gestation formed us, strengthened us, connected us with others who will love, comfort and journey with us?

*blessing as we step into the  
contractions,*

Rabbah D

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## New Membership Option

Through the wonders of modern technology we are inviting out of town folks and others who can't be physically present to drink from the well of our joyous prayer and learn from Rabbah D'vorah and our whole community through our deep Torah discussions.

Starting in January we will be Zooming our twice monthly (2nd and 3rd) Shabbat morning services live! You can be with us, even if you can't be in the room. We start at 10 am and end at 12:30 pm, and we will also be saving the services on a link so you can access it at any time.

We would so love to have you join us! If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, we are offering it for just \$240 a year donation, which comes out to only \$10 per service. You can pay via PayPal with a monthly recurring donation of \$20 or a one time payment (<http://bit.ly/2uFu9N1>) or by sending a check made out to **As the Spirit Moves Us** sent to Rabbah D'vorah at 3651 SW Custer Street, 97219,

In addition to sending your payment, email us to confirm your intent, so we will be sure to send you the Zoom information for our first Zoomed service: January 12, 2019.

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**Rabbah D'vorah will be having hip surgery the end of January. We look forward to seeing everyone in January for our regularly scheduled programming - stay tuned for updates in case Rabbah's health requires any changes in this month's activities.**

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## WHAT IS UPCOMING?

**Shabbat Morning Service**  
**Saturday, January 12th, 2019**  
**10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Central Lutheran Church 1820**  
**NE 21st Street PDX 97212**

*\*This space is accessible in all ways—front entrance, gathering room, bathroom.*

Lyrical, musical, joyful, meaningful, heart opening, transcendent—all words used to describe Shabbat morning davenning with Rabbah D. On Second Saturdays we lift our voices in prayer together from 10-12 and then dive deeply into meditation and mystical Torah study from 12-12:30. Together we will open Judaism's deep well of wisdom through the lens of the Zohar, Sfat Emet, and other mystical commentators. If you yearn for a beautiful Shabbat morning service in an intimate environment, this service is for you. Can't wait to see you!

*Michael Sasnow will be joining us on guitar and drum and will lead us in several kirtan prayers of his own composition*

**Shabbat Morning Service**  
**Saturday, January 19th, 2019**  
**10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**3561 SW Custer St PDX 97219**

Join us at the home of Rabbah D'vorah!

*\*This space has two steps at its entrance after a walkway with an incline to the door, but we have a portable ramp that converts it into a wheelchair accessible entryway. The bathroom does not have grab bars.*  
Lyrical, musical, joyful, meaningful,

**Friday Night With the Rabbah**  
**Friday, January 25th 2019, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

*\*This apartment building is fully accessible, in the entry, elevator and bathrooms.*

At the home of Emery Olsen after a virtual candle lighting, we will gather in beloved community to learn a little, sing a little, talk a lot and eat a beautiful meal.

Please bring the following according to last name:

A-E: Entrée (fish or vegetarian)  
F-G: Gluten free dessert  
H-M: Entrée (fish or vegetarian)  
N-O: Vegetable side dish no dairy  
P-S: Salad  
T-Z: Wine or Juice

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***Vigils, marches and gatherings are popping up every week! Stay tuned via this newsletter and/or:***

- Our [Facebook page](#) has the latest news and updates
- [Keep up with the latest Spirit Led Justice Alliance Action Alert HERE!](#)
- Or sign up to receive the Portland Spirit Led Justice Alliance Weekly Action Alert right to your email [HERE!](#)

heart opening, transcendent—all words used to describe Shabbat morning davenning with Rabbah D. On Third Saturdays we lift our voices in prayer together from 10-12 and then explore the Torah portion from 12-12:30 using the lush foliage outside the windows. This service integrates one of the best qualities of our previous Torah hikes and elevates our intraconnectedness with nature and all of Creation. And once again, if you yearn for a beautiful Shabbat morning service in an intimate environment, this service is for you. Can't wait to see you!

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**Want to support Portland's UnShul? Donate using our PayPal link:**

<http://bit.ly/2uFu9N1>

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## Fundraising and Friendraising

The UnShul is an inspiring, truly grassroots community that works on a small budget to pay for only the essentials needed: a few bills and the small salary of our Rabbi, someone we can be proud to call our leader in faith and social justice. But, we are much larger than the support we give to our leaders, we are a growing community of individuals who are each pouring our love and energy into something larger that in turn feeds us all. The donations we give bolster our community, but they also have the power to bolster our individual spirits. There are a lot of things we **have to** pay for in our lives. The UnShul is one important way we can exercise empowering **choice** in where we spend our money. Paying into the UnShul which then in turn pays us back tenfold in spiritual growth and mutual support is exponentially beneficial to you, our community and the intersecting communities to which we belong. If you haven't joined as a congregational member yet, reach out and make it official!

**Visit our website to join and learn more:**

<https://www.asthespiritmovesus.com/unshul/>

**Make a donation today!**

<http://bit.ly/2uFu9N1>





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**NOTE: Replies to this email do not go to Rabbah D'vorah. If you want to connect with Rabbah D personally, please write to her at [RabbiDebra@asthespiritmovesus.com](mailto:RabbiDebra@asthespiritmovesus.com)**

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