

AHC Havurah Newsletter

Volume 19- January 2019

Shalom Chevarim (Friends),

We would like to extend a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to you all. It has been some time since our last Newsletter. We hope you all had a blessed Christmas season and that you are off to a good start in your new year.

Our Havurah in St. Louis has not met at all this year because David and Kathleen Moss have been mostly out of town caring for Kathleen's brother in California. Please keep Tim in your prayers.

Recently we have been getting an increase in the number of requests on Facebook and email for Havurah groups in specific locations. Since we have so few groups at this time we have been encouraging these folks to start their own. We realize this can be a daunting project. The featured article is a quick guide on how to start a Havurah. We hope this is helpful to many of you. We would love to encourage more groups.

Also, as we get ready for Lent, Passover, and Easter we would like to encourage you to celebrate Passover with a Seder in the Light of Christ, at some point during Lent with friends and family using the Seder published by the AHC. We have used this in our home and also with large groups in Churches. All those who attend are blessed and amazed at the connection between Judaism and Catholicism; between the Passover and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You can have a Seder with some folks that might be interested in taking this further and meeting on a regular basis in a Havurah.

We continue to pray for all of you out there who receive this Newsletter and for all those who attend a Havurah regularly. Our hope this year is that many more of you will be able to find or start a Havurah group in your area.

And as always, please remember to support the Association of Hebrew Catholics with your prayers and with your shekels. We need both to continue this important work of God.

Father Elias Friedman, St. Edith Stein, and Our Lady of the Miracle, pray for us.

Shalom in Yeshua through Miriam,

Ken and Flora Wilsker
Ahc.havurah@yahoo.com

Quick Guide to Start a Havurah

We want this to be a practical guide to start a Havurah. So many folks have contacted us in the past to ask us if there are any active groups in a particular location and since there are only a few havurot (plural for havurah) we have to tell them no. We always say you can start your own and then there is silence. So we want this to be a guide to those of you who are being led by the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) to start a group but don't know where to start.

First, let's dispel a common misconception. You do not have to have more than 2 or 3 people to start and you do not need the permission of your Pastor unless you are planning to use the Church to meet. You can start in your own home with 2 or 3 of your friends who have an interest and passion to study the Jewish roots of our faith along with praying together.

Second, it can be very informal if it is in your home. You can have something on any night. We have ours in St. Louis on Friday night and incorporate some Sabbath prayers but you can choose any night that is convenient for your group. You can also choose a morning or afternoon to meet if that fits the groups convenience. It's also good to include a nosh (snack) or a meal if possible. Next, decide how often you are going to meet. Once a month is most common and fits into most schedules. You can add to the frequency of meetings as you are able.

Third, start with prayer. You can use the Liturgy of the Hours. This practice comes right out of Judaism so this is a great place to start. Then you can choose to read a book or shorter essay together. Take turns reading and discussing the material. There are many books and articles on www.hebrewcatholic.net that you can choose from. You can also choose to read a shorter article from the Hebrew Catholic publication. These shorter articles can be read in one meeting and can give those attending a sense of the mission of the AHC and your Havurah.

Fourth, incorporate the celebration of the Jewish Feasts. They can all be celebrated in the Light of Messiah. You can find ideas for these celebrations again on the AHC website. We have found that celebrating a Seder meal and Hanukkah are two holidays that are easy to invite others to and from these new guests you will be able to add to your group and also possibly attract those in your Parish who have some Jewish ancestry and many who are just excited about learning the Jewish roots of Catholicism.

Fifth, you can arrange a visit to a Jewish museum or a Jewish book fair in your area when they come up. The new Havurah in Florida is arranging a group visit to the Holocaust museum in their area together.

Lastly, we recommend that you all subscribe to the AHC publication, Hebrew Catholic and the AHC Havurah Newsletter. We strongly recommend that all become affiliated in some way with the work of the AHC. The AHC needs your prayer and financial support if we are to continue to provide materials and support of your efforts.

We are available by email and phone to help you get started. We are also considering using some online technology to meet as a group for discussion and prayer together. We might even be able to do an online Havurah this way for those who are not able to meet physically together. More on this in later newsletters.

We hope to hear from many of you out there and may God bless your efforts to reach Hebrew Catholics and all in the Church who want to learn more about their Jewish roots.

Ken and Flora Wilsker
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News from the Diaspora

Thanks for all of you who sent in updates. We know that Yeshua is moving in your midst and we thank you all for your faithfulness. We wish you every blessing from Yeshua through Miriam.

St. Edith Stein Havurah in St. Louis, MO

As we previously mentioned above we have not met this year yet. But we are planning an evening together on Feb 9 at the Wilsker's to reconnect and talk about what we want to do in the coming months together. It is likely that David and Kathleen will remain in California to care for Kathleen's brother so we will want to talk about what we can do in their absence so we can keep us all together. We are sure God will lead us towards with a good plan.

Ken and Flora Wilsker for David and Kathleen Moss

From The Almond Blossom Havurah in British Columbia, Canada

Hi Ken and Flora,
Hope you are well.
Contact info remains the same.
To-day we are having a Tu B'Shevat Seder- condensed.
We are reading The Bride at present and we gave a copy to our parish priest.
Shalom
Gail.

Florida West Coast Havurah

Dear Ken and Flora,

—We continue to be grateful for the opportunity of opening our home to share the glorious saving message of Messiah Yeshua and the Jewish Roots of our Catholic faith, to a diverse group of Jews and Gentiles-including believers and others, not quite there yet.
Our mostly bi-monthly Eruv Shabbat Havurah is currently using Dr Brant Pitre's wonderful book, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary. Additionally, our group's study is aided by Dr Pitre's excellent bible commentary, A Catholic Introduction to the Bible, co-authored by Dr John Bergsma.
In his book, Dr Pitre challenges us to look ever more attentively at the sacred page as he takes us on a journey back in salvation history to discover that hidden in the "old" is revealed a brilliant mosaic of

types and shadows- not only of Messiah- but also of the holy family, Miriam ha Kadosha and Josef ha tzadik!

Shalom in Messiah!

Stan and Pat Mermelstein

Light of Prayer Havurah in Minnesota

Greetings Ken and Flora,

We are doing well in Minnesota, preparing for the cold we will be getting next week with -20 temps.

We are starting the year out with reading Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary. The plan is to read it over the year and discuss a chapter or less at our monthly meetings.

We also continue to have 1/2 hour videos from Day of Discovery or others on Israel or Jewish topics at each meeting. We also plan to have a Sedar in April.

There also has been some interest about the Jewish roots of our faith and have added a couple of new members to our group.

Blessings and Shalom,

Tammy

Light of Prayer Havurah

The latest from the Fellowship of St. Joseph Havurah in Toronto

See below

Update from Bnei Miriam Havurah in Tasmania, Australia

Please keep Brother Gilbert and this Havurah in your prayers. They are dealing with some wild fires close by and are in need of prayer for protection for all. Hopefully we will hear from them directly on the next newsletter

From the Light to the Nations Havurah in Houston, Texas USA

Shalom Ken and Flora,

I'm happy to report the Light to the Nations havurah is back in swing this year. This past December a group of us met up in Houston for fellowship at one of the local restaurants. Deidre and I had the privilege of welcoming Rob Wilson and his wife. Both Rob and his wife made the trip up to Houston from Corpus Christi that weekend. Our group had very engaging discussions during the evening, and look forward to continuing our reunions in the future. My hopes are that one of the havurah's contacts in Austin can similarly make it into town for the next reunion. I plan on hosting the next reunion sometime in February, and will see if we can host them more routinely.

I'll keep you updated as the year progresses,

-Jorge

ASSOCIATION OF HEBREW CATHOLICS TORONTO



*Havurat Yosef
HaTzaddik*

The Fellowship of St. Joseph

Tuesday 7 - 9 PM

Jan. 15, 2019

Blessed Trinity Church
3220 Bayview Avenue, Toronto



Dr. Nathan Gibbard

Director of Ryerson Catholic Campus Ministry

“I am Joseph, your Brother”

Catholics think of Jews and Catholics as brothers in some sense of the term. Yet, only within the last 100 years has an understanding of the relationship of Jews and Catholics as brothers been worked out in any depth. A fraternal relationship is not without some tension. This talk will present the history of the 'brother' metaphor in understanding Jewish-Catholic Relationships as a framework for dialogue and understanding.



Please Join Us - All Welcome

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