

## NHC WINTER RETREAT 2016 REGISTRATION FORM

**NATIONAL HAVURAH COMMITTEE  
NEW ENGLAND WINTER RETREAT  
CAMP RAMAH, PALMER, MA  
DECEMBER 16-18, 2016**

Studying Torah and celebrating a musical Carlebach-style Kabbalat Shabbat service begin our weekend together. Friday continues with dinner, singing, and study sessions. On Saturday and Sunday, participate in spirited prayer, walk at the lake, study accessible texts, learn and sing new songs, stretch your body and your mind.

Camp Ramah in New England is located just outside of Palmer, MA, a few miles north of exit 8 off the Mass. Turnpike. It is about 75 minutes from either Boston, MA or Hartford, CT, 90 minutes from Albany, NY or Providence, RI, and about 3 hours from New York City.

The site includes an indoor recreation facility, lakefront, and wooded walking paths, informal lounges, seminar rooms, a state-of-the-art Beit Midrash complex, a Judaic library, and a prayer space. Accommodations are simple, comfortable, and fully winterized. Single rooms and "motel-style" rooms are available. Meals are kosher, with vegetarian options.

Courses are scheduled on Friday night, Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. A Saturday night talent show and musical programs with singer/song writer Rahel Limor complete the weekend. A final schedule will be available when you arrive. The retreat ends after lunch on Sunday. Visit <http://havurah.org/institute/ne-retreat/> for details and complete course descriptions.

**\*Course Preferences.** To assist in scheduling, please list the numbers of four courses that each registrant would most like to take. A final schedule will be provided when you arrive. (See reverse side for brief course descriptions.)

**\*\*Insurance.** With an additional "insurance" payment of 10%, fees may be applied to the next NHC Winter Retreat in the event that weather or serious illness prevents you from attending.

**To register,** complete this form and send it, with your check, payable to NHC New England Retreat, c/o Steve Lewis, 25 Ellison Road, Newton, MA 02459. We cannot accept on-site registrations. **Please return your form by November 21 to avoid the late fee.**

**Questions? Contact your retreat co-chairs:**  
Steve Lewis 617-332-3496  
Mark Frydenberg 781-893-7312  
[ne-retreat@havurah.org](mailto:ne-retreat@havurah.org)

<b>Registrant 1's Name</b>
<b>Day Phone</b>
<b>Evening Phone</b>
<b>Email</b>
<b>Home Address</b>
<b>*Course Preferences</b>
<b>Registrant 2's Name</b>
<b>Day Phone</b>
<b>Evening Phone</b>
<b>Email</b>
<b>Home Address</b>
<b>*Course Preferences</b>
<b>Names and Ages of Children</b>

- I would like to share a room with: \_\_\_\_\_
- I need a ride \_\_to / \_\_from the Retreat.
- I can offer a ride to \_\_\_\_ people from my area. Have them call me.  
From where? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_
- We will confirm your registration by email unless you check the box below.
- I don't have email. Please send a printed confirmation by US Mail.
- If you have special dietary, accessibility, or other requirements, please include a note describing your needs.

### FEE SCHEDULE – REGISTER BY NOV 21 TO AVOID THE LATE FEE

Program, Room, and Meals Fee	Cost	#	Total
Adult, Over Age 29, NHC members	\$195		
Adult, Over Age 29, non-NHC members	\$225		
Adult, College Student or thru age 29, NHC members	\$125		
Adult, College Student or thru Age 29, non-members	\$155		
Child, Age 2 through High School	\$ 65		
Child, Ages 0 to 1	\$ 0		
Private Bedroom Surcharge	\$110		
"Motel-type" Suite (limited avail.) Surcharge	\$175		
Towel/Linen Rental	\$ 14		
Commuter's Program Fee	\$ 95		
Commuter's Meal Fee (per person per meal)	\$ 15		
<b>Subtotal:</b>			
<b>**Optional Insurance ( +10% of Subtotal)</b>			
Optional Individual NHC Membership	\$ 40		
Optional Family NHC Membership	\$ 80		
Late Fee (after November 21)	\$ 25		
<b>Tax-Deductible Contribution</b>			
<b>Total Payment:</b>			

### VOLUNTEER

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Friday Registration<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help coordinate Torah Readers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help arrange rides<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help make phone calls or assist with logistics before the retreat<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help with Kids' Program<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help with Closing Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Services<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friday or Saturday Afternoon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Shabbat Morning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Ma-ariv or Havdalah<br><input type="checkbox"/> Read __ Torah or __ Haftarah<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Tell us!) _____ |
|---|---|

**1 DO OUR PETS HAVE SOULS?** Do animals have souls and minds? Descartes and the civilization that followed him emphatically say, no! Looking at the Torah, the early midrash, and early Christians of the Antiochean school, we will explore our love the non-human and for Nature itself.

*David Seidenberg is a Rabbi and author of "Kabbalah and Ecology: God's Image in the More-Than-Human World."*

**2 AN EYE FOR AN EYE: JUSTICE IN CASES OF PERSONAL INJURY** Leviticus 24 claims that those who inflict physical injury on another should be punished "an eye for an eye." We will explore one rabbinic response to this text.

*Miriam-Simma Walfish is a doctoral student in Talmud at Harvard.*

**3 A PSALM FOR ALL OCCASIONS: "ADONAI IS MY SHEPHERD"** Psalm 23 is recited on the wildly disparate occasions of funerals and Shabbat. What is this Psalm really about? How do specific words reflect the meaning of the psalm? How does one psalm serve two such different occasions?

*Aliza Arzt is a member of Havurat Shalom.*

**4 TORAH FOR "FLESH AND BLOOD"** This workshop will explore instances where the rabbis describe Torah as having effects on the physical bodies of those who engage with it.

*Miriam-Simma Walfish is director of Boston's Teen Beit Midrash program.*

**5 THE ART OF SPIRITUAL EATING** Why does the type of food we eat matter? Beyond kashrut, this workshop examines the practical and spiritual implications of cooking and eating.

*Cherina Eisenberg received her Rabbinical ordination through ALEPH, and serves as Cantorial Soloist and Adult Educator at Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA.*

**6 REBBE NACHMAN ON FAITH AND MUSIC** Rebbe Nachman teaches about transcending words and concepts, and embracing melody, in order to alleviate crises of faith, and to experience the Void in a holy way rather than in existential anguish.

*Carl Woolf teaches mystic meditation.*

**7 ETERNAL VS. EPHEMERAL** How can we ephemeral humans hope to have any relationship with the eternal God? We will

explore 3 texts and discuss what the answers do for us as individuals and as a people.

*Aliza Arzt is a long-time teacher at NHC retreats.*

**8 BIBLE STORIES YOU DIDN'T LEARN IN HEBREW SCHOOL** We will read several totally compromising texts from the Torah and the Prophets.

*Ronnie Levin holds a graduate degree in Bible.*

**9 RESPECTING THE SOURCES OF LIFE** A common theme unites some of the puzzling mitzvot and verses: respect for the sources of life. We will also see what's missing from halakhah that is implicit in these verses, and look toward a renewed ethos of sustainability.

*David Seidenberg is creator of neohasid.org. He lives in Northampton MA.*

**10 THANKFUL BEFORE YOU** We'll study and daven prayers of praise and thanksgiving, and then write our own.

*Rachel Barenblat is author of 70 faces: Torah poems (Phoenicia, 2011) and Open My Lips (Ben Yehuda, 2016), among others.*

**11 FOUR WORLDS AND TEN SFIROT** Hesed, G'vurah, Netzach, Hod: Learn how the ten Divine Emanations are not only the way that God relates to the world and the world relates to God, but how they are also a lens through which we can get insights into our relationships and how we walk through life.

*Susan Gulack is an explorer of the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical worlds through prayer and study, art and music.*

**12 OBSTACLES TO BELIEVING IN GOD** We will discuss our obstacles to believing in God, and talk about the characterizations of God in which we find it difficult to believe.

*Joseph Rosenstein is a former chair of the National Havurah Committee.*

**13 REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN GOD** We will discuss our reasons for believing in God, and will talk about the characterizations of God in which we find it possible to believe.

*Joseph Rosenstein is the author of Siddur and Machzor Eit Ratzon (newsiddur.org)*

**14 JEWISH APPROACHES TO ANGELS** Angels figure prominently in the Jewish canon, Jewish liturgy and theology. We will explore a breadth of authentic approaches to Jewish

angelology for harvesting and spiritual deepening.

*David Evan Markus received his rabbinic ordination from ALEPH and serves as co-Rabbi of Temple Beth-El of City Island, New York, NY.*

**15 LET IN THE LIGHT: A HANUKAH WORKSHOP OF INNER LIGHT** Inspired by Rav Kook, this experiential workshop encourages you to look within your body to discover where your inner light is stored. Discover a simple routine that showcases the ancient healing modalities of QiGong, Jin Shin Jyutsu, and meditative breathing.

*Cherina Eisenberg is a certified energy healer. Her website is [www.cherinaeisenberg.com](http://www.cherinaeisenberg.com)*

**16 BE "TAMIM" (WHOLEHEARTED) WITH YOUR GOD, VS "V'AHAVTA" (LOVE) YOUR GOD** Deuteronomy/ Dvarim 18:13 calls on us to "Be wholehearted with your God." What does it mean to be "wholehearted?" and how does it compare to the command in Deuteronomy 6:5 to "love" your God. Tease out what this quintessential verse can mean and how we might design our personal practice to fulfill this commandment.

*Rayzl Feuer is a Mashpiah Ruchanit (Spiritual Counselor) who leads the "PNAI shORe" Havurah on the shoreline of Connecticut.*

**17 THE SHEMA AND THE MYSTICAL ASCENT OF ISAAC THE BLIND** We will study and experience the mystical practice of Isaac the Blind, who used the Shema as a mystical ascent.

*Rachel Barenblat serves as rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, MA, and as co-chair of ALEPH. Find her online at [velveteenrabbi.com](http://velveteenrabbi.com).*

*David Evan Markus serves as co-chair, with Rachel Barenblat, of ALEPH.*

**18 METAPHORS OF PREGNANCY** Look at original Hasidic texts that develop metaphors of pregnancy in connection with the interaction between humans and God.

*Carl Woolf's interests include music-making, davening, movement and text-study.*

**19 NEEDLE FELTED KIPPOT** Make a needle felted Kippah. A \$5 materials fee is payable to the instructor.

*Susan Gulack is a rabbi and chaplain from Albany, NY.*