



Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson

KEREM SHALOM Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 1.3 – April 2021

Upcoming Special Events

From Near Destruction to A Second Life How 1564 Czech Torahs Survived the Holocaust A Program in Recognition of Yom Ha-Shoah

L.E.D.* Series 2021

Sunday, April 11 from 4 pm – 5:30 pm

Yom HaShoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day—will be observed this year on April 8th. Join us to honor the memory of those who perished during the Holocaust as we witness a remarkable survival story: how 1564 Torahs from Czechoslovakia were saved, restored, and distributed to synagogues around the world. These Torahs are now in the UK, Europe, Israel, South America, South Africa, and the U.S...and one is housed in the Ark at Kerem Shalom.

Hear and see the full story through a video — *The Messenger* — produced by Michael Shocket, who brought us *Music Speaks* last November. Rosalie Gerut, Kerem Shalom's cantor, will speak to the importance of Yom HaShoah prior to the video screening. Following the video, Michael Shocket will have a conversation with two women involved with the Torah scrolls project: Lois Roman, a U.S. Trustee of the London-based Memorial Scrolls Trust, and photographer Sheila Pallay who took photos of many of the synagogues where the Torahs had belonged. There also will be time for Q & A.



*Kerem Shalom Torah (against a background of the Czech Torahs before repair)***

Where does the story begin? In 1942 the Nazis decided to liquidate communal and private Jewish property. All Jewish communities were instructed to send the contents of

their synagogues to the Jewish Museum in Prague. More than 40 warehouses were used to store artifacts, Judaica, Torah scrolls, books, and Jewish memorabilia. It is widely believed that the Nazis planned on showcasing these Jewish treasures in what was to be called The Museum of the Extinct Race after all the Jews had been exterminated.

How do we account for the incredible survival of the 1564 Czech Torah scrolls—most found tattered and torn, some with messages or commemorative notes inserted in them? Although badly damaged, they were brought back to life.

Join us as we remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust during the week of Yom HaShoah.

**L.E.D. = LEARN, EXPLORE, DISCUSS – Shed a little light.*

*** Torah cover by Colleen Humphreys. Photo of the KS Torah by Leah Ferrante. Thanks to Todd Weinstein for his help designing this image.*

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Youth Aliyah: A Life-Changer for At-Risk Young People in Israel

A Program In Recognition of Israel Independence Day

L.E.D.* Series 2021

Sunday, April 25 from 4 pm – 5 pm

Learn how three Hadassah-supported Youth Aliyah villages have achieved impressive results in resetting the lives of the neediest and most marginalized young people in Israel, many of whom are Jewish, from diverse backgrounds including Ethiopian, Russian, Bedouins and Eritrean refugees. Stories of success abound and provide hope for the future:



- Ethiopian-Israeli Eli Mantson dropped out of school at age 12 to help support his impoverished family. Now he's a lawyer paying it forward. Youth Aliyah helped make it happen.
- At the age of 12, Louis fled Eritrea--on foot--to avoid conscription in the Eritrean army. He walked all the way to Israel, and now is a world-class runner for Israel.

Since the earliest days of the Nazi regime, Youth Aliyah has rescued children and put them on a path to a better future. Both young immigrants living alone in Israel and at-risk native Israelis have come to Youth Aliyah Villages, where they are provided with counseling, education, vocational training, supportive services, and much more.

Carol Goodman Kaufman, former Hadassah Chair of Youth Aliyah and current Chair of Youth Aliyah's B'nai Mitzvah project, will describe how Youth Aliyah has achieved its remarkable success as well as the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Join Kerem Shalom and our co-sponsor, Nashoba Valley Hadassah, during the week in which we celebrate Israel Independence Day for this compelling and uplifting story that speaks to Israel's resilience and its future.

***L.E.D.** = LEARN, EXPLORE, DISCUSS – Shed a little light.

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)



"Thanks to Rosalie and the AP Committee members who have worked so hard during the pandemic to provide us with wonderful adult programming online. It has enabled members of the congregation and other friends to come together in new ways. People gather virtually to share information and to learn more about one another than we did in the rush of our daily lives in pre-Covid times. We have been given the unexpected gift of intimacy in a time when we are forced to be physically separated."

Upcoming Special Class

Reclaiming the Psalms - From Poetry to Prayer

With Rabbi Jamie Kotler and Rabbi Sonia Saltzman



**6 sessions: Tuesdays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
March 23 – April 27**

For KS Members and Non-Members.

Psalms have been a source of courage, comfort and celebration in the Judeo-Christian tradition for centuries. They form a large portion of our liturgy. The difficult poetic language has made them increasingly inaccessible to modern, liberal Jews, and our relationship with them has become tenuous. As the COVID pandemic has tightened its grip on us, more people have wanted to explore these ancient texts as an aid to expressing our feelings and emotions. This class is aimed at helping us re-engage with psalms, exploring the beauty of their poetry, and experimenting with them as a source of spiritual connection and personal prayer.

\$120 for KS Members; \$180 for non-KS members (10% discount for couples)

Contact: Rosalie@Keremshalom.org

Please make tuition checks out to Kerem Shalom and mail to:
Kerem Shalom / P.O. Box 1646, Concord, MA 01742 / Attention Rosalie
Hope to see you soon!

The following groups (with the exception of Torah Conversations) are facilitated by the Director of Adult Programming, Rosalie Gerut. Contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org for additional information.

Shabbat Shalom Group

Fridays, 11 am – 12 pm for Kerem Shalom Members.

We explore spiritual connections from the mind, heart and soul through song, prayer, meditation, and the inspirational messages of our weekly Torah commentaries. Let's deepen our relationship with YHVH and the spiritual world.

"The Shabbat Shalom group, held every Friday morning is a unique preview and glimpse at the weekly Torah portion. Wonderful sharing together in spirit, song and meditation touches all of our hearts and souls."



Art by Yorem Raanan

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

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Rosh Chodesh (Beginning of the Month) Group

Mondays, 10 – 11:30 am

An invitation to **Women Members** of Kerem Shalom.

Come and join a friendly and supportive group of women to explore topics based on Judaic wisdom that are relevant to our lives. (No previous knowledge needed.)

"[Among other topics,] this group celebrates the matriarchs in the Torah and explores the role of women in our Jewish history. In the course of spirited discussion and personal reflections, often stimulated by a Torah story, we share our perspectives on womanhood as it has evolved through time, seeking a better understanding of where we are today and where we would like to be in our Jewish lives."

April 5, May 3, June 14



Art by Yorem Raanan

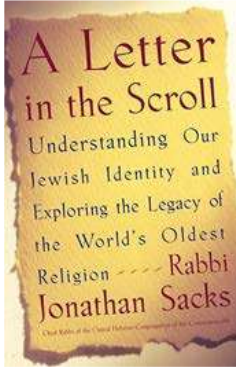
Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

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Spiritual Study & Share Group

Mondays, 10 – 11:30 am for KS Members and their Friends

As we read and share our responses from a variety of Judaic sources (in English) we deepen our knowledge, consciousness, and connections with one another. On April 12 we will be discussing Chapters 5-8 of *A Letter in the Scroll, Understanding Our Jewish Identity and Exploring the Legacy of The World's Oldest Religion* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.



"Our conversations take us to individual journeys exploring and listening to our souls in a very supportive community. I love this group as I know that each session leads us to new fulfilling and passionate conversations about our soul and spirituality."

"Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul [our first book] is probably not a book I would have read on my own. But discussing it in a small group was an amazing experience."

April 12, May 10, June 14

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)

Soulful Seeking Group

Wednesdays, 10 – 11:30 am for KS Members

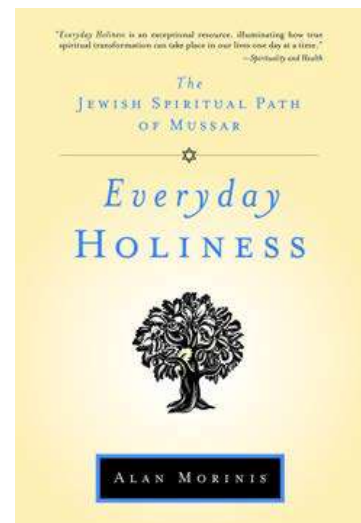
Join us for monthly meetings to read and discuss ideas that are meaningful and life transforming. On April 28 we will discuss pages 45-74 of *Everyday Holiness, The Path of Mussar* by Alan Morinis.

"Spiritual studies lead us to expanding our horizons through our conversations during which we include personal experiences and share communal insights. So uplifting! I cannot say enough about this group and our leader."

April 28, May 26, June 23

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)





*KS Torah cover by Colleen
Humphreys*

Torah Conversations Group

Saturdays, 8:45 – 9:45 for KS Members and Non-Members
Please ARRIVE EARLY. We start promptly.

Each Shabbat morning, a group of Kerem Shalom members gathers for Torah Conversations. No prior knowledge of Torah or Hebrew is required to participate in our Torah Conversations, although attendees are asked to read the week's parasha (Torah portion). Most read English translations, and many read one or more commentaries as well.

The group members take turns facilitating the discussion, which typically flows back and forth between trying to understand the embedded meaning of the weekly Torah parasha and connecting it to questions that have contemporary relevance in our lives, within the Kerem Shalom community and beyond. Each person's voice is welcomed. We have also created an ever growing list of resources that group members have found useful. We welcome all who would like to join us in our endeavor to bring a regular practice of Jewish Torah Study to our community, whether you commit to weekly participation, or more occasional participation.

Questions? Contact Colleen Humphreys: torah-conversations-info@keremshalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)

For Kerem Shalom Men

Kerem Shalom Men's Group

Over 15 years ago, the first KS Men's Group was formed. Composed of eight to ten members, our group has witnessed one another's transitions from fathering children at home, job and career changes, eldercare, and other life transitions. Meeting for two hours every other week at one of our homes, the group's rules are simple: no unsolicited advice and share what you are moved to say. The current group's members are in their late fifties and sixties. The benefits have been substantial for each of us. The simple witnessing of one another's journey has turned into long term friendships.

If this of interest to you, get in touch with George Peabody:
mens-group-info@keremshalom.org

Interested in forming a Men's Group?

Members of the current group would be glad to help form one or more new groups for men in younger age groups. Reach out to George if you're interested. We can help you form a group that works.

Marla's Corner

Featuring surprising tidbits of information about Kerem Shalom staff and members, compiled by our very own Marla Richmond.

In answer to March's question regarding the identity of a community member who has performed wing-overs, loops and barrel rolls in an airplane,

...
It's none other than **Rabbi Sam**! Ask him about it!

April Question

Which member of the Kerem Shalom community has been in the Oval Office while George W Bush was president?

The answer will be revealed in the May newsletter

Wellness Programs

Support Group for People Facing Health Challenges

Third Wednesday of the month, 10 – 11:30 am, for KS Members



Art by Yorem Raanan

This group provides an environment where people living and thriving with health challenges can make meaningful connections with each other. We can exchange information on resources, be ourselves and support one another. We find ourselves feeling nurtured emotionally, spiritually (and with humor too).

Why go through difficulties alone when you have a pillow of support right here at Kerem Shalom? If this speaks to you or you have questions, please contact Rosalie: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

April 21, May 19, June 16

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)

Morning Meditation with Cheryl Steinberg

Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:15 am for KS Members and Non-Members

This class is great for anyone who would like to learn to meditate as well as those already meditating who would like the support of others. The class is based on Insight Meditation and offers instruction and learning around the practice. Contact Cheryl if you have any questions:

meditation-with-cherly-info@keremshalom.org



Art by Yorem Raanan

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)

Laughter Yoga with Susan Phillips

Tuesdays, 7 – 7:45 pm for KS Members and Non-Members.

The practice of Laughter Yoga is a way to generate our own laughter without relying on jokes. We practice easy and fun group laughter exercises, with short breaks of deep belly breaths, and end with guided relaxation. In this way, we stay centered in our body and breath and connected to each other through contagious giggles and warm appreciation.

Susan Phillips, M.Ed., Certified Integrative Health Coach and Laughter Yoga Teacher

Please contact Susan at laughter-yoga-info@keremshalom.org for the Zoom link.



Evening Meditation with Scott Sancetta

Wednesdays, from 6 – 7 pm for KS Members and Non-Members



We are a group of KS members and friends, meeting at Kerem Shalom (and now on Zoom) since January 2017. We spend an informal hour, early Wednesday evening, with 30 minutes of meditation and 30 minutes of chatting and connecting. Some of us have meditated for years, some of us are new.

Please consider joining us. Contact Scott for the Zoom link: meditation-with-scott-info@keremshalom.org

Literary Groups

Support for Your Writing Project

This group meets the last Monday of the month from 4 – 5:30 pm for KS Members

This group is open to folks who are working on a book or other writing projects. We provide peer support, ideas and feedback to assist members to bring their projects to fruition.

“If you know you want to write it - why not try?”

Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org for more information.

[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)



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Kerem Shalom Book Groups

We offer 2 different book groups for KS Members

Jewish Content Book Group with Jane Appell

Meets monthly, Wednesday mornings, normally at 10:30 am

Next meeting: Wednesday April 14 at 11am – ***The Lost Shtetl: A Novel*** by Max Gross

For May: Wednesday May 19 at 10:30am – ***A Conspiracy of Paper*** – by David Liss

To join, contact Jane Appell at jewish-content-bookgroup-info@keremshalom.org

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Meets monthly, evenings

Next meeting Thursday at April 15, 7:30 pm – ***Caste: The Origins of our Discontent***
by Isabel Wilkerson

To join, contact Pat Sills, bookgroup-info@keremshalom.org. Current members will receive an email a week before the meeting to confirm attendance and receive a Zoom link.

Musings from Chelm

A Jewish couple in London won twenty-million pounds in the lottery.

They bought a magnificent mansion in Knightsbridge and surrounded themselves with all the material wealth imaginable.

They decided to hire a butler. They found the perfect butler through an agency, very proper and very British, and brought him back to their home.

The day after his arrival, he was instructed to set up the dining table for four, as they were inviting the Cohens to lunch. The couple then left the house to do some shopping.

When they returned, they found the table set for six.

Perplexed, they asked the butler why it was set for six when they had expressly asked him to set it for four. The butler replied -

"The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Blintzes."

***I Want to Go to Jail!* by KS member Pam Swing & Elizabeth Dabanka (Brandeis '20)**

Performed on Zoom by members of Kerem Shalom, October 25, 2020

[Stream it now!](#)



Cast and Crew

Carol Barron	Narrator
Nancy Kaplan	Katharine Morey
Cherry Muse	Rosa Roewer
Liz Coolidge	Lucy Daniels
Deena Whitfield	Alice Paul
Calla Kahan-Fagan	Martha Foley
Rosalie Gerut	Betty Gram
George Peabody	Police Commissioner, Clerk of Court, Father
Scott Sancetta	Officer, Judge, Sheriff
Pam Swing	Director
Marla Richmond	Stage Manager
Amanda Mujica	Costume Designer
Colin Murphy	Technical Assistance

Last fall, ten members of Kerem Shalom began to meet once a week by Zoom. We were rehearsing for a virtual performance of Pam Swing's suffrage play, "*I Want to Go to Jail!*" The play depicts an event that happened one hundred years ago in Boston. A group of suffragists, including Pam's grandmother, picketed President Wilson in front of the Massachusetts State House and ended up in jail. All sorts of shenanigans happen in jail - but you can find out for yourself.

Earlier in the spring, we had planned to put the play on live; needless to say, the pandemic squashed that idea. We had a lot of fun putting this Zoom production together, and are delighted to share it with you.

So, sit back, relax and enjoy the show! <https://player.vimeo.com/video/497040020>

For up-to-date info on all the happenings at Kerem Shalom, see the *KS Weekly News* (emailed each Thursday), the [KS website](#), and [website calendar](#).

Words of Wisdom from Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who faced and emerged from numerous challenges during her lifetime and came through with flying colors. She is an inspiration.

“So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune”

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Special Thanks

To KS member and artist extraordinaire, **Ilana Manolson**, for her beautiful illustration of Kerem Shalom/Vineyard of Peace; to **Jill Cote** and **Scott Sancetta** for the many hours they spent editing and formatting along with **David Luberoff**, **Sue Wolff**, **Jody Kotkin** and **Robyn Barabe**; to **Rabbi Darby Leigh** and **KS President Deena Whitfield** for their support of this effort; to **Diane Fulman**, **Nancy Sokol** and **Carol Barron** for their contribution to writing and editing; to **Marla Richmond** for creating “Marla’s Corner” and to **the AP Committee** for their assistance in creating these offerings: **Elaine Allen**, **Jane Appell**, **Carol Barron**, **Diane Fulman**, **Carole Greenfield**, **Marla Richmond**, **Nancy Sokol**, **Kitty Stein**, **Sue Wolff** and to **KS Board VP Scott Sancetta** for his patience and good humor with this challenging effort. Finally, I offer my deep, heartfelt thanks to all these terrific folks and to Kerem Shalom for giving me the opportunity to create and direct Adult Programming.

- Rosalie Gerut



Kerem Shalom is committed to making our programs accessible to all members of the community. [Click here](#) for more info on inclusion at Kerem Shalom.