



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 2.1 – September/October 2021/5782

Kerem Shalom's Congregational Theme for the Year
Renewing Creation



"Creation" by Israeli artist Yoram Raanan

Welcome to our varied offerings.
All programs are on Zoom only until and unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Special Events

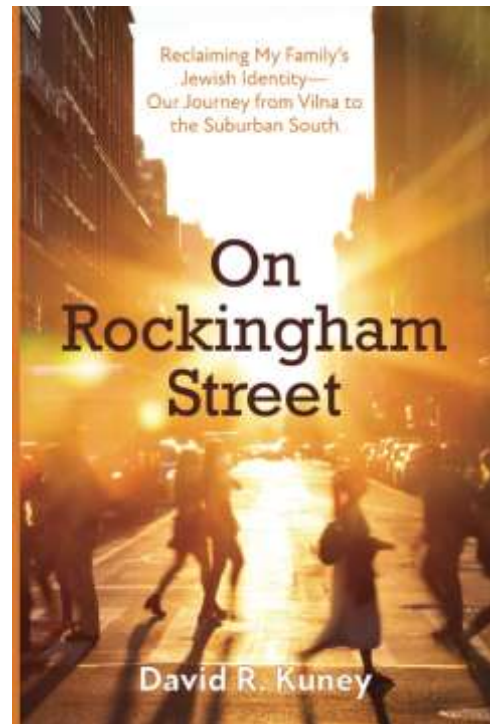
Is American Jewry Hanging by a Thread?

L.E.D.* Series 2021/2022

Sunday, October 3, from 10:30 to 11:30 am

Consider these discouraging statistics about Jewish identity in America today. A Pew Research Report, issued in May 2021, observed that 27% of U.S. Jewish adults do not identify with the Jewish religion. They consider themselves to be Jewish ethnically, culturally, or by family background, and have a Jewish parent and/or were raised Jewish. But in answer to what current religion they are, they respond as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular” rather than as Jewish. Among Jewish adults under 30, an astonishing 40% describe themselves this way.

In an L.E.D. program on October 3rd, **David Kuney**, author of the engrossing intergenerational memoir, “**On Rockingham Street**”, will provide an important perspective on the challenges posed by the Pew Report.



Kuney's book weaves his family's journey from Vilna to the suburban South with the reality of how Jewish learning and practice are challenged by the struggle of immigrants and their offspring to become assimilated into American life. He explores what it means to be Jewish in America today and how Judaism can survive. Kuney focuses on how the younger generation might best find relevance and meaning in Judaism and whether Jewish literacy and Jewish education need new, creative impetus and direction.

David Kuney is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center and practiced law for over 46 years. For the past twelve years, he has been actively involved in Jewish education and literacy. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and has previously served on the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Adat Shalom Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland.

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

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

L.E.D. - Surprise Guest!

Sunday, December 5

You will NOT want to miss December's *out-of-this-world* L.E.D. presentation. Watch this space. Details will be revealed...



New York to Nairobi - An Educator's Journey

Broth Hour

With KS Member Julie Davidson

Sunday, October 17, from 10:30 to 11:30 am

From professional theatre director to creator of a vocational program in rural Kenya, **KS member Julie Davidson** has had many interesting life experiences which she will share with you in her upcoming Broth Hour. Her latest passionate venture, **Nyamboyo Technical School**, which she co-founded with Jones Obiria of Kenya, is a vocational school providing free education including English language, professional skills training, and nutrition for 100 students. She will tell of her work in Kenya, the beauty and hardships of the country, and the challenges she faced in bringing this project to fruition.



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

Make-Your-Own Fused Glass Mezuzah!

Sunday, October 24

Family Workshop: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Adult Workshop: 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Materials Fee: \$36/project (+ \$40 to get a kosher mezuzah scroll)

This workshop is **in person at Kerem Shalom**

Learn about the mezuzah and why we hang it on our doorframes, and make your own beautiful mezuzah of fused glass to hang in your own home or to give as a gift. You'll also discover the meaningful connection between broken glass and the creation of the world in this arts workshop - no experience necessary! With guest artist **Sasha Kopp**.



Spaces are limited!

RSVP by October 15: Rabbi Sam Pollak: learning@keremshalom.org

Sasha Kopp - <https://www.sashakopp.com/fused-glass>

Remembering KRISTALLNACHT*

Sunday, November 7, from 10:30 to 11:45 am

With Kerem Shalom member Johanna Glazer

In remembrance of Kristallnacht, KS member Johanna Glazer will present a talk about the lessons we can learn from the “Night of Broken Glass”, the importance of teaching young people about traumatic events in our history, and connections to our world today. Johanna has taught Social Studies at Concord-Carlisle High School for 25 years. She entered teaching driven by an interest in Holocaust education and currently teaches a course entitled “Dictatorship and Democracy.” Johanna strives to help students gain a greater understanding of democracy, justice, and the power of their own voices against oppression and injustice today.



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

** On the night of November 9, 1938, violent anti-Jewish demonstrations broke out across Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia. Over the next 48 hours, violent mobs, spurred by antisemitic exhortations from Nazi officials, destroyed hundreds of synagogues, burning or desecrating Jewish religious artifacts along the way. Acting on orders from Gestapo headquarters, police officers and firefighters did nothing to prevent the destruction. All told, approximately 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses, homes, and schools were plundered, and 91 Jews were murdered. An additional 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Nazi officials immediately claimed that the Jews themselves were to blame for the riots, and a fine of one billion reichsmarks (about \$400 million at 1938 rates) was imposed on the German Jewish community.*

The Nazis came to call the event Kristallnacht (“Crystal Night,” or, “The Night of Broken Glass”), referring to the thousands of shattered windows that littered the streets afterwards, but the euphemism does not convey the full brutality of the event. Kristallnacht was a turning point in the history of the Third Reich, marking the shift from antisemitic rhetoric and legislation to the violent, aggressive anti-Jewish measures that would culminate with the Holocaust



*View of the destroyed interior of the Hechingen synagogue the day after Kristallnacht.
The US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Dr. Adolf Veas*

Salon Series with Dr. Suzanne Koven

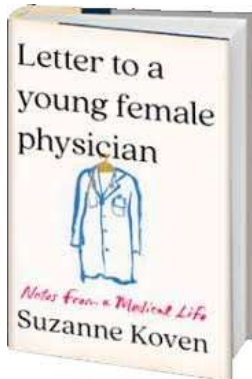
Sunday, November 21 from 10:30 to 11:30 am

Our guest speaker is Kerem Shalom member and former President, Dr. Suzanne Koven

In 2017, Dr. Koven published an essay describing the challenges faced by female physicians, including her own personal struggle with "imposter syndrome"—a long-held secret belief that she was not smart enough or good enough to be a “real” doctor. Accessed by thousands of readers around the world, Koven’s book “**Letter to a Young Female Physician**”^{*} has evolved into a deeply felt reflection on her career in medicine and she will be sharing her thoughts with all of us.



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



** “[Letter to a Young Female Physician] is a warm and wry epistle, the endless and near-perfect email you wish your mother, your mentor and your therapist would sit down and type out together.”*
- Laura Kolbe, The Wall Street Journal

Upcoming Special Classes

Ruth - Creating a Future, Renewing Faith

With Rabbi Jamie Kotler

5 sessions: Tuesdays

10/12, 10/19, 10/26; 11/2, 11/9

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

\$125 for Kerem Shalom members; \$180 for non-members

Location: Zoom

Registration and payment due by September 30
(checks made out to Kerem Shalom, P.O. Box
1646 Concord, MA 01742 - attention Rosalie/AP)



The Book of Ruth speaks to the power of women to create and shape their world through love - a love so healing that it mends their lives. It also creates a virtuous circle of love that begins to heal the world they inhabit. It is an inspirational story - a despised foreigner rising to become the progenitor of King David and the future Messiah. Yet the means Ruth and Naomi employ in their efforts are sometimes quite troubling. Join us for this five session course, during which we will examine the difficult and complex journey Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi take from tragedy and exile to joy and redemption.

RSVP: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Tradition on Screen: Divergent Images of Jewish Traditional Life in Film

With Dr. Jacob Meskin

5 Tuesdays

11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

\$165 - generous financial aid available

Location: Kerem Shalom via Zoom

Open to all learners

Hosted by Kerem Shalom



This Hebrew College sponsored course involves screening **popular American and Israeli movies** in order to study a complex and profound issue in Jewish life today. This issue is the fundamental tension between the lives and attitudes of modern Jews, and the lives and attitudes of traditional religious Jews (also sometimes referred to as hareidim, ultra-orthodox, or hassidim). Designed as the first of two courses (each may be taken separately), this course focuses on films that offer starkly different depictions of traditional Jewish life. In particular, these creative films will help us attend to deep conflicts over issues such as individual self-expression, family, the value of communal life, and the experience of romance and love. Students will screen the films on their own before class; important clips will be shown in class. Carefully chosen academic readings, and short stories will be provided each week, both for background on that week's film, and to enhance the experience of viewing it.

[REGISTER HERE](#) (link to Hebrew College)

For more information, contact Marilyn Stern at meah@hebrewcollege.edu



KS Member Elaine Allen performs “Wexford Carol” with the St. John Flute Ensemble
[Listen and Watch the Video](#)

Special thanks to KS Member George Peabody for creating this video.



KS members Charlene Huston and Larry Bernstein, and their adorable dog, Daisy,
in their new home state: New Mexico!
Indeed, the Land of Enchantment for their exciting new beginning!
They had a vision and they made their move happen!
We are so glad they are still with us!

We welcome suggestions for future Spotlights – You? Other KS members?
Contact Rosalie@keremshalom.org

The following groups (with the exception of Torah Conversations) are facilitated by the Director of Adult Programming, Rosalie Gerut.

Shabbat Shalom Group

Fridays

10:30-10:45 am - informal check-ins (optional)

10:45-12:00 - meaningful discussions of the Torah parsha

12:00-12:30 pm - open time for conversation (optional)

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.



Art by Yorem Raanan

"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."

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

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

Rosh Chodesh (Beginning of the Month) Women's Group

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

Monthly on Mondays, 10 – 11:30 am

September 20, October 4 and continuing on the first Mondays of the month

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.)

We explore monthly themes of the Jewish calendar and discuss their meaning to us as women.



Art by Yorem Raanan

Contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

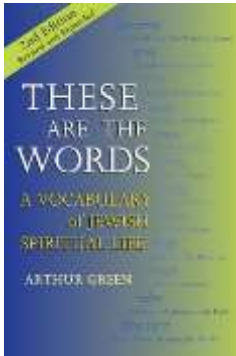
[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)

If you would like to participate in an evening Rosh Chodesh, please contact
Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Spiritual Studies

Monthly on 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 October 18, we will begin reading, *These are the Words: A Vocabulary of Jewish Spiritual Life*, 2nd edition, by **Rabbi Arthur Green**.

"In this revised, expanded, highly readable, enlightening and entertaining new edition of "the ultimate Jewish primer," one of the greatest spiritual teachers of our time takes readers - Jews and non-Jews alike - on a historical and spiritual journey through Judaism." – Amazon.com

"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."

Monthly meetings take place via Zoom on the second Monday of the month (with the exception of October)

October 18, November 8, December 13

Questions or to register, Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Soulful Seeking Group

Monthly on Wednesdays, 10 – 11:30 am for KS Members

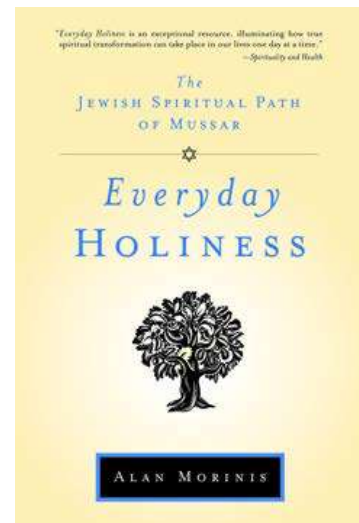
Join us for monthly meetings to read and discuss ideas that are meaningful and life transforming. On October 27 we will discuss chapters 15-16 of *Everyday Holiness, The Path of Mussar* by Alan Morinis.

"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."

Subsequent meetings: November 24, December 22

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

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





*KS Torah cover by Colleen
Humphreys*

Torah Conversations Group

Next Meeting:

- Saturday October 2, 8:45 – 9:45 am
- In celebration of Simchat Torah!
- Future dates will be announced – watch your Weekly News!

for KS Members and Non-Members

Please ARRIVE EARLY. We start promptly.

On Shabbat mornings, 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](#)

Marla's Corner (Who Knew?)

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

In answer to our May/June newsletter question about an Apprentice Falconer, it is our new Administrator, **Robyn Barabe**! Ask her any questions about animals!



Robyn, with the Owl she CAUGHT trying to snack on her chickens!

October Question

What member of the Kerem Shalom community was a member of "Chinook", a **Japo-Jewish-Celtic-Blues-Hawaiian** Band (featuring a Japanese flutist and 8 stringed instruments, and specializing in "musical whiplash") that toured South Dakota?

The answer will be revealed next month

Wellness Programs

Support Group for People Facing Health Challenges

Third Wednesday of the month, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 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 Kitty Stein: 781-259-9264, or Rosalie: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

September 22, October 20, November 17, December 15
(Stay tuned for date with special guest, Rabbi Darby Leigh)

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

If you would like to participate in an evening group, please contact
Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Insight Meditation with Cheryl Steinberg

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

Please join us **beginning on October 5th** for weekly Tuesday meditation sessions with Cheryl Steinberg. This class is great for any of you who would like to learn meditation and 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.



Art by Yorem Raanan

Contact Cheryl if you have any questions:
meditation-with-cheryl-info@keremshalom.org

[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



First Fall session: **Tuesday, September 14**

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 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.

Meeting on Zoom (and also in person starting September 29)

Contact Scott for the Zoom link or to attend in person:

meditation-with-scott-info@keremshalom.org

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.

Literary Groups

Kerem Shalom Book Groups

We offer 2 different book groups for KS Members

**** Judaic Content Book Group ****

Hosted by Jane Appell

Meeting monthly on **Tuesdays at 12:45 pm**

October 12 - we will discuss **The Tunnel**, by A.B. Yehoshira

November 9 - **The Rabbi Who Played with Fire** by Rachel Sharona Lewis

December 14 - TBA



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

**** Kerem Shalom Book Group ****

Hosted by Pat Sills

Meeting monthly, evenings

Next meeting: Thursday evening, October 7

Book: **Apeirogon** by Colum McCann

To join, or for details on future books, 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.



KS Writing Group

Are you working on a project and need to focus but are having trouble finding the time? Let's gather to support each other and overcome procrastination.

If you are interested please contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org to arrange the best dates and times for this group.

Things to be Grateful For

Joy and Renewal

In the midst of too many unhappy reports of stress in our natural environment, some hopeful news on **the resilience of the magnificent sequoia tree**. Sequoias, among the largest trees in the world, can live thousands of years. A miraculous thing about the sequoia tree is its reproductive process. The heat of forest fires actually enables sequoia cones to release their seeds and germinate. Although recent fires took out large numbers of mature trees, some of the recently destroyed sequoias have now produced seedlings. We can hope that are, at least in part, enough seedlings to begin to replenish the forest.

At this time of renewal, it is worth contemplating how each of us can preserve what is important about our individual and collective heritage and ask ourselves how best to sow seedlings of growth for future generations.

- *Thank you! to Jane Appell and the Shabbat Shalom Group*

A Little Humor

Moishe Goldberg was heading out of the Synagogue one day, and as always Rabbi Mendel was standing at the door, shaking hands as the Congregation departed. The rabbi grabbed Moishe by the hand, pulled him aside and whispered these words at him: "You need to join the Army of God!" Moishe replied: "I'm already in the Army of God, Rabbi." The rabbi questioned: "Then how come I don't see you except for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?" Moishe whispered back: "I'm in the secret service."

Covid times: While social distancing I struck up a conversation with a spider... seems nice...

He's a web designer.

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](#).

Special Thanks

To KS member and artist extraordinaire, **Ilana Manolson**, for her beautiful illustration of Kerem Shalom/Vineyard of Peace; to **Scott Sancetta** for the many hours he spent editing and formatting; to **David Luberoff**, **Sue Wolff**, **Jody Kotkin** and **Robyn Barabe** for patient, thorough reviews and support; to **Rabbi Darby Leigh** and **KS President Deena Whitfield** for their ongoing support; to **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.