



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 2.2 – November/December 2021/5782

Kerem Shalom's Congregational Theme for the Year
"Renewing Creation"



"Creation" by Israeli artist Yoram Raanan

Welcome to our varied offerings.

Programs are on Zoom only unless otherwise noted.

You can always find the latest offerings at: <https://keremshalom.org/adult-programming>

Upcoming Special Events

L.E.D. Presents...

The Space Torah: An Extraordinary Journey into Outer Space*

Sunday, December 5 from 3:00 – 4:30pm

**At Kerem Shalom
and on Zoom**

In 1996, NASA astronaut Dr. Jeff Hoffman brought a small Torah scroll on board Space Shuttle Columbia. On Shabbat, while orbiting Earth, he read from the book of Genesis, "In the beginning God created heaven and the earth."

We invite you to join the Kerem Shalom community on Sunday, December 5, to watch an inspiring documentary, Space Torah, about Hoffman's journey into outer space. After the screening, Hoffman and KS member Alan Lightman will discuss the many dimensions explored in the documentary—religious, spiritual, scientific, educational and personal.

Rachel Raz, an educational consultant and the documentary's executive producer, will moderate the discussion. There will be time for questions from the audience (adults and children, both live at KS and over Zoom).

Following the program, which ends at 4:30, we will light the menorah and celebrate Chanukah together.

Jeff Hoffman, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT, became a NASA astronaut in 1978. He participated in five space missions and performed four spacewalks, including the initial repair/rescue mission for the Hubble Space Telescope. He was the first Jewish American to journey into space.

Alan Lightman, Professor of the Practice of the Humanities at MIT, is a novelist and essayist (author of 25 books), a distinguished physicist, and humanitarian. In 2003 he



Space Torah - A Film by Verissima Productions
spacetorahproject.com



Dr. Jeff Hoffman

Dr. Alan Lightman

founded the Harpswell Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower a new generation of women leaders in Cambodia and the developing world.

Both Hoffman and Lightman have received numerous accolades and awards - many for their extensive creative work at the intersection of the sciences and the humanities. This is the first time these two professors, pioneers in their fields, have appeared together to discuss the issues and ideas raised in the film and the subject of Judaism and spirituality in the era of space travel.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Zoom session

KS members only: If you are considering **attending in person**, you **must** email ap-registration@keremshalom.org

**An L.E.D. - Learn, Explore, Discuss - Program at Kerem Shalom*

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*



View of the destroyed interior of the Hechingen Synagogue the day after Kristallnacht. - The US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Dr. Adolf Vees

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.

Salon Series with Dr. Suzanne Koven

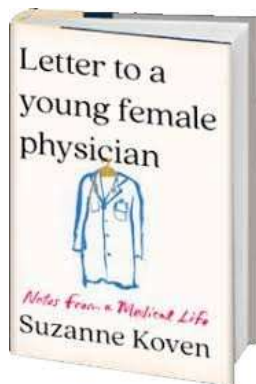
Sunday, November 21 from 10:30 to 11:30 am

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

Anyone wishing to join late and listen to previous class recordings, please contact

Rosalie@KeremShalom.org



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.

Coming Next Year



Broth Hour with Rabbi Ari Abelman and Susan Phillips

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 – 11:30am

Welcome to Kerem Shalom's first 2022 Broth Hour with Kerem Shalom members and **hospice workers**, Rabbi Ari Abelman and Susan Phillips

Registration will be available soon on the [KS website](#)

Rabbi Ari Abelman grew up in Lexington MA and became interested in the rabbinate after many years of living in, loving, and leading Jewish communities. He discovered chaplaincy work while in rabbinical school, and finds great meaning working in hospice care and accompanying people during some of the most profound and difficult moments in their lives. He is also the husband of Rabbi Sam, KS's Director of Congregational Learning.

Susan Phillips grew up around the Boston area. Her work life has included teaching, counseling, and Integrative health coaching. Her most cherished role has been primary caregiver for her father and her Aunt Sophie. During their poignant and sacred final days, she was deeply affected by the caring, supportive presence of hospice volunteers. In an effort to pay their kindnesses forward, she feels privileged, for the past few years, to work as a Hospice Volunteer Companion at Care Dimensions. Susan and her husband Ray have been active members of Kerem Shalom since 2015.

Member Spotlight

Local Artist and KS Member Cynthia Katz's prints are featured at *Sun Stone Studio* in Concord through December 30, 2021.

Artist's Reception: Thursday November 11, 5:30 – 7:00 pm .

<https://www.threestonesgallery.com/sun-stone-studio>



To see more of Cynthia's beautiful work, visit [her website](#).

Many of the events and activities at Kerem Shalom are brought to you by a team of dedicated volunteers, the **Adult Programming Committee**.



*From top left: Rosalie, Scott Sancetta (VP), Diane Fulman, Carol Barron
Marla Richmond, Jane Appell, Nancy Sokol, Elaine Allen,
Kitty Stein, Carole Greenfield and (not pictured) Sue Wolff*

We welcome suggestions for future Spotlights

You? Other KS members? Groups? - Contact Rosalie@keremshalom.org

Things to be Grateful For

Colin Powell: The General Who Spoke Yiddish

The late Colin Powell, former US Secretary of State and retired four-star general, was born in Harlem in 1937 to Jamaican immigrant parents and moved to the Bronx with his family. As a teenager, he worked at Sickser's Baby Equipment Store in a predominately Jewish immigrant neighborhood. The primary language spoken in the store was Yiddish.

After Powell worked a few seasons, the toy store's owner, Jay Sickser, pulled him aside. Powell reported Sickser saying: "Nu, come listen, I want to talk ... Collie, you're a good worker, love having you in the store, you're part of the family but you can't stay here ... you're smart, go get your education, and make sure you move on."

Powell remained in touch with the Sickser family for the next 50 years and remained a figure in the Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. Powell never stopped speaking Yiddish, and would use Yiddish phrases with Jewish staff at the Pentagon. During a visit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he struck up a conversation:

“Men kent reden Yiddish,” said Powell (We can speak Yiddish.)

Shamir was reportedly stunned (Yiddish was his second language).

Powell asked: “Don’t you understand?”

For more see this fascinating article: <https://forward.com/news/476825/colin-powell-jewish-yiddish-bronx/>

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 the October question, **Nancy Kaplan** was a member of Chinook (along with her husband, **George Peabody**.) Can you identify their younger selves in this photo?



November Question

What member of the KS community attended Andover Tractor Trailer School to learn to drive an eighteen wheeler? Hint: their handle was Deen-O-Mite.
(Check out the upcoming January edition for the answer)

Judaic Studies Groups

All Judaic Studies groups are facilitated by the Director of Adult Programming, Rosalie Gerut.

Shabbat Shalom Group

Fridays (on Zoom)

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 YHWH 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."

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

First Monday of each month, on Zoom, 10 – 11:30 am

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

Questions? 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

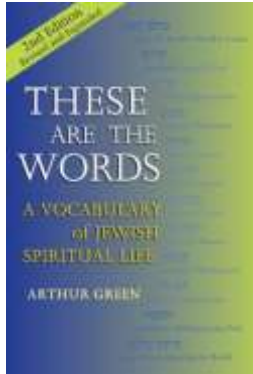
Spiritual Studies

Monthly on Mondays, (on Zoom)

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.

We are 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.

Reflecting on the group's reactions to the study of YHWH, new KS Chaverim* member Susan Banker shared these thoughts:

YHWH is in the stillness of quiet.

YHWH is in the elusiveness of unknowingness.

YHWH is in the being of existence.

YHWH is in the energy of eternity.

Monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of the month

Next meetings, November 8, December 13

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

** For information on becoming a Chaverim (long distance) member of Kerem Shalom please contact our administrator, Robyn@KeremShalom.org*

Soulful Seeking Group

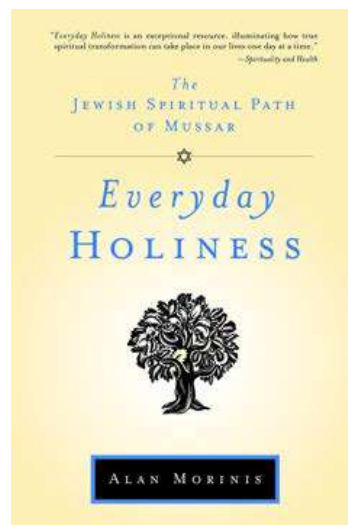
**Monthly on Wednesdays, (on Zoom)
10 – 11:30 am for KS Members**

Join us for monthly meetings to read and discuss ideas that are meaningful and life transforming. We are currently reading and discussing *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."

Next meetings: November 24, December 22

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org
[REGISTER HERE](#) or on the [KS website](#)



Wellness Programs

Support Group for People Facing Health Challenges

**Third Wednesday of the month, (on Zoom)
11:00 am – 12:00 pm, for KS Members**



Art by Yorem Raanan

This group offers an opportunity for people living with a variety of health challenges to explore ways of living with these challenges. Together, we are nurtured emotionally, spiritually and with humor as we listen to each other, let each other be who we are, and exchange information on resources. A whole different way of experiencing life's major challenges emerges.

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

Next meetings:

November 17 with **SPECIAL GUEST, RABBI DARBY LEIGH** – all are welcome
December 15

[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 on Zoom, 9:15 – 10:15 am for KS Members and Non-Members

Please join us 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.

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 on Zoom, 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, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, on Zoom and at KS
For 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 in person and on Zoom

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

**** Jewish Content Book Group ****

Hosted by Jane Appell

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



November 9 - *The Rabbi Who Prayed with Fire* by Rachel Sharona Lewis
December 14 - TBA

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



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

Hosted by Pat Sills

Meeting monthly, evenings

Next meeting: Thursday December 16 at 7:30pm
In Person at Kerem Shalom

We will discuss ***Paradise*** by Abdulrazak Gurnah

To join, or for details on future books, contact Pat Sills bookgroup-info@keremshalom.org. Current members 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? We gather to support and inspire each other and overcome procrastination.

We meet on the last Monday of the month at 4:30 pm
Next meetings: November 29 and December 27
Bring your project or your curiosity and Join us!

If you are interested please contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org



*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** for her 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.