



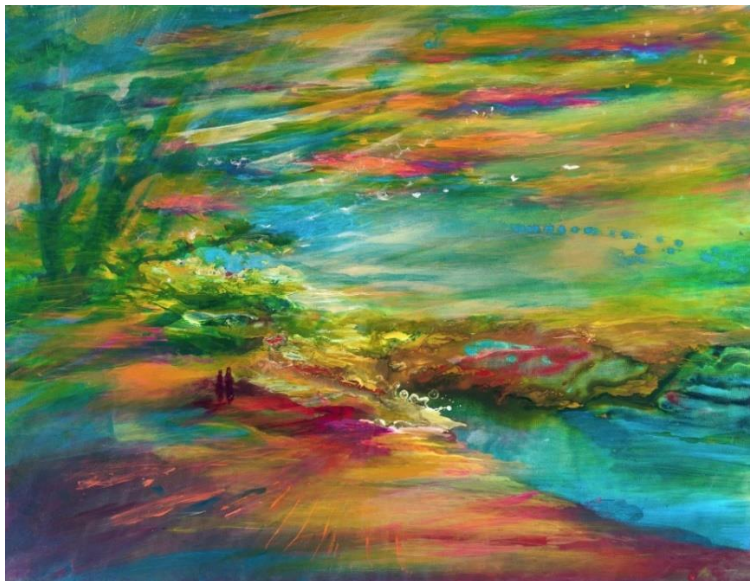
*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 2.3 – January/February 2022/5782

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>

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Upcoming Special Events

Broth Hour with Rabbi Ari Abelman and Susan Phillips

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 - 11:30 am

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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 Pollak, 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.



Special Event In Honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

Sunday, January 16, 10:30 – 11:30 am

Martin Luther King Jr. was born 93 years ago this week, and his work continues. Join members of the Racial Justice Task Force as they share their insights regarding racial injustice in America today, and what we can do about it.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The Pearl and the Flame: A Journey into Jewish Wisdom, Ecological Thinking and Healing in a Fragmented World

Salon Series with Rabbi Natan Margalit, Ph.D



**Sunday, January 23
3:00-4:00 pm**

Woven through with stories of the author's journey from a secular upbringing in Honolulu to Orthodox Judaism in Jerusalem, and back to his own spiritual path, Natan's new book, *The Pearl and the Flame* brings a new integration of ecological thinking and core Jewish concepts. This new integration puts Judaism at the forefront of our struggles against current crises such as climate change, the culture of addiction, and social fragmentation.

Rabbi Natan Margalit, PhD, is a scholar with 30 years of experience in teaching, writing, organizing and congregational leadership. He has taught at Bard College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Hebrew College Rabbinical School, and now is chair of the Rabbinic Texts Department at the Aleph Ordination Program. He is also Director of the Earth-Based Judaism track of the A.O.P., and is founder of the non-profit Organic Torah. He lives in Newton, Massachusetts with his wife and two sons.

"This book distills a lifetime of serious thinking about both Judaism and ecology. Margalit reads and dialogues equally well with Wendell Berry and the Rabbi of Piasecne. A fresh and inspiring perspective for the special times in which we live."

Rabbi Arthur Green, Rector, Hebrew College Rabbinical School,
author, *Judaism for the World*

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Antisemitism: Then and Now

with Charles Gallagher, S.J. and David Shribman

Wednesday, January 26

7:00 pm

Free

The Concord Museum, in partnership with Kerem Shalom and Hadassah, invites the greater Concord community to a program on the history of antisemitism in America. Join Boston College historian, Charles Gallagher, S.J., as he discusses his new book, [Nazis of Copley Square](#), chronicling a crucial missing chapter in the history of the American far-right. He will be joined by former editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette, David Shribman, whose paper won a [Pulitzer Prize in 2019](#) for its coverage of the tragic shootings at the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill.

This program is being held **online only***. Donations are encouraged to support the Concord Museum's Education initiatives.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

* *Previously announced as online or in person*

Racial Justice Task Force Presents

A Discussion on Allyship* Through a Jewish Lens

Sunday, January 30, 2022

1:00 pm

Watch your KS Weekly News for additional details and registration information for this important, thought provoking discussion.

* *Allyship: The state or condition of being an ally; supportive association with another person or group. Specifically: such association with the members of a marginalized or mistreated group to which one does not belong.*

Special Broth Hour

with **KS member Honore Weiner**
in honor of **Jewish Disability Awareness
and Inclusion Month**



Sunday February 13
10:30 – 11:30 am

Honore Weiner, Ed.D, CCC-SLP, will be sharing her experiences working with children with hearing loss and her thoughts about the challenges they face. Dr. Weiner has dedicated her career to assuring the best outcomes for children with hearing loss, working in clinical and school settings providing direct care, consultation, program development, and workshops for parents and professionals. She was program administrator for the CASE Collaborative Program for Hearing Impaired for over 30 years and currently consults to the Minuteman Arc Early Intervention in Concord and the New England Consortium on Deafblindness

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Curing Cancer: Where We Are and What it Will Take to Succeed

L.E.D.* Series 2021/2022

with **Dr Jesse Boehm**

Sunday, March 6
10:30 – 11:30 am

Cancers are composed of millions of tumor cells with molecular changes that bestow upon them the ability to grow and spread. Prior to the genomic revolution of the mid 2000s, we knew little about the nature of these molecular changes, so winning the war on cancer was impossible. In this public seminar, Dr. Jesse Boehm will discuss how technological revolutions of the past decade including genomics, CRISPR gene engineering and patient engagement via social media are now providing a roadmap to foster the success of cancer precision medicine, and how new forms of collaborative enterprises between formerly competitive organizations are templating new structural models for the scientific enterprise underpinning this cancer research revolution.



Dr. Jesse Boehm is the Chief Scientific Officer of Break Through Cancer and principal investigator at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. His laboratory at MIT works on creating new patient-powered, open-source solutions to discover novel therapeutic targets for rare and underrepresented tumors. He received his undergraduate degree from MIT and his Ph.D. in cancer biology from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School. Jesse grew up in Concord, attended CCHS and Hebrew school at Kerem Shalom and now lives in Wellesley MA with his wife and two sons.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

Megillah on the Roof

Saturday March 19
7:00 pm (COVID permitting)

Two years ago, the KS Drama Group prepared a presentation of “Megillah on the Roof – A Purim Musical,” with a live band. THAT obviously didn’t happen, so with fingers crossed they are again hoping to present this funny, entertaining retelling of the Purim story.



Look for updates in the March Newsletter and in the KS Weekly News

Special Temple Project

Join KS to Create Our Hope and Healing Quilt

Sunday, February 6

1:00-4:00 pm

In Person at Kerem Shalom

Unleash your inner artist, whatever you think of your artistic talent – no experience needed. **We will create quilt squares** with markers, embroidery, photo transfer, stitchery...

Last year, we started on a project to create a quilt to express how the COVID pandemic affected us. The Ruderman Foundation has generously provided a grant to Kerem Shalom to cover our costs. Now we get to gather together, prepare our squares, and complete the creation of a work of needle art that will allow us to reflect on and process our collective experiences.

Please join Marla Richmond and other KS members on Sunday, February 6th to make your quilt blocks. Come with your ideas and energy, but experience is not needed. We will have people to assist you in creating and finishing your block.

This project represents our congregation coming together in difficult times. Be part of it!

Contct Marla in advance (ap-registration@keremshalom.org) to let her know that you are planning to attend.



Upcoming Special Classes

Tradition on the Screen II: Challenges and Joys of Traditional Jewish Life in Film



with **Dr. Jacob Meskin**

Dates: Five Tuesdays: 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8 , 3/15

Time: 10:30 am -12:30 pm

Cost: \$165, generous financial aid is available

Designed as a free-standing companion course to Tradition on the Screen I (each may be taken separately), this course screens films that explore the profound personal experiences, and struggles, of those living traditional Jewish lives today. Using the films and readings this course tries to articulate -- from the "inside" -- the thoughts and feelings of traditional Jews as they face both wrenching dilemmas, and truly joyous moments. Some of the topics taken up in the films include spirituality and faith, the experiences of women, the challenges faced by gays and lesbians, dealing with other religions, and the struggle to believe in God after the Holocaust. 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

Hosted by: Kerem Shalom

Registration: [REGISTER thru HEBREW COLLEGE](#)

Questions: Contact Marilyn Stern: mstern@hebrewcollege.edu

Profiles in Leadership and Resilience: Exploring Biblical, Rabbinic and Jewish Historical Personalities

with **Rabbi Benjamin Samuels**

Dates: Five Tuesdays, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19,
4/26

Time: 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Cost: \$165, generous financial aid available



Art by Yorem Raanan

This series seeks to find inspiration and uplift in the narratives of Jewish personalities whose encounters with life's challenges serve as enduring lessons in leadership and resilience. Over the course of five sessions, we will interactively study the biblical personalities of Abraham and Sarah; the rabbinic personalities of Rachel and Rabbi Akiva; and Beruria and Rabbi Meir; and the Jewish historical personalities of Moses Maimonides, Gluckel of Hameln and Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Each session represents a study in the courage and determination, and our study of all of them together will help us discover and strengthen our own hidden resources of leadership and resilience.

Open to all learners.

Hosted by: Kerem Shalom

Registration: [REGISTER thru HEBREW COLLEGE](#)

Questions: Contact Marilyn Stern: mstern@hebrewcollege.edu

Member Spotlight

Your **Kerem Shalom Board of Directors and Staff**
Dedicated people working hard for all of us



From top left: Deena Whitfield, Kerem Shalom President; Rabbi Sam Pollak, Director of Congregational Learning; Elisabeth Sackton, President Emerita; Robyn Barabe, Temple Administrator

Jan Huber O'Callaghan, Member at Large; Ted Barten, Treasurer; Rosalie Gerut, KS Cantor & Director of Adult Programming; JoAnn Simon, VP of Governance
Sue Wolff, Member at Large; David Luberoff, Clerk and VP of Communications; Scott Sancetta, VP of Adult Programming; Nancy Kaplan, Family Engagement Specialist

Michelle Kahan, VP of Education; Matt Daniels, VP of Development; John Langell, VP of House; Mark Stein, VP of Development
AND (to top it off)... Rabbi Darby Leigh!

To learn more about these great folks, visit
<https://keremshalom.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>

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

Things to be Grateful For

The butterflies are back! **Annual migration of monarchs** shows highest numbers in years. The annual winter monarch butterfly migration, which has seen steep declines in recent years, seems to be making a comeback. Biologists are encouraged and confused by the trend.

Read in NPR: https://apple.news/AGPcBJf8_TVmy3W2qIOFkA

Amazing! Seeds of Rebirth and Renewal for Tu B'Shvat

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/reel/video/p09m0v4x/extinct-tree-from-the-time-of-jesus-rises-from-the-dead>

Marla's Corner (Who Knew?)

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

The answer to the November/December question:
What member of the KS community attended Andover Tractor Trailer School to learn to drive an eighteen wheeler?

It's **President Deena Whitfield!** Ask her about it!

January Question

Which member of the Kerem Shalom Community organized a meat boycott in 1973 to protest the rising price of meat and met with Congressional leaders in Washington D.C. to further the cause?

(Check out the upcoming March edition for the answer)

Judaic Studies Groups

Unless otherwise noted, all Judaic Studies groups 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)



Art by Yorem Raanan

We explore spiritual connections from the mind, heart and soul through gentle prayer, meditation, and the inspirational messages of our weekly Torah commentaries.

“In discussing the Torah portion Miketz (Genesis 41:1 - 44:17), members of the Shabbat Shalom group were struck by parallels between our world today and Joseph’s prophetic interpretation of the Pharaoh’s dream. Joseph foresaw seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. We recognized that, for many, it has been too easy to focus on increasing their abundance without recognizing the famine for others on earth, or the rapid degradation of the planet as we know it. Like Joseph who planned to stockpile food to distribute in times of famine, we need to preserve resources and focus on the long term good of all.”

“Thank you to Rosalie and to all our Shabbat Shalom sisters for nurturing our communal spiritual consciousness.” - Jane Appell

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

An invitation to **Women Members** of Kerem Shalom
First Monday of each month, 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

“A group of women enter the room or Zoom. A candle is lit. We greet each other by our Hebrew names and invoke the names of our mothers and grandmothers. We meditate and stretch for a moment. Then we discuss the Hebrew month: holidays or lack thereof; star sign; what is happening with planting, growing and harvesting on many levels. It is calm and quiet. This group of women may never have discussions like this anywhere else. But here we are safe and attached to our history. Jewish women together celebrating our commonality.”

- Group Member Marla (Miriam) Richmond

Next meetings: February 7, March 7

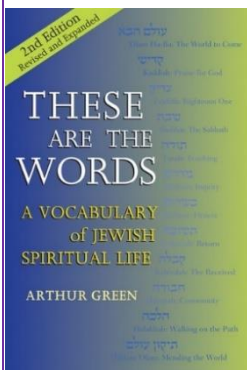
Questions? Contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

Spiritual Studies

Second Monday of each Month
10 – 11:30 am for KS Members and their friends



We are reading *These are the Words: A Vocabulary of Jewish Spiritual Life*, 2nd edition, by Rabbi Arthur Green. The meanings of Hebrew words that are often heard in prayers and teachings are explained in interesting and engaging ways. As we read and share our responses, we deepen our knowledge, consciousness, and connections with one another.
Join us – it's not too late!

“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

Next meetings: January 10, February 14

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

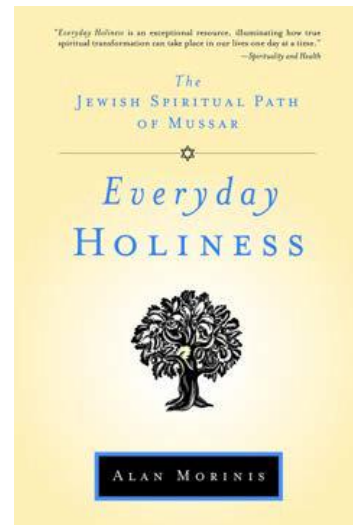
Soulful Seeking Group

**Fourth Wednesday of each Month
10 – 11:30 am for KS Members and their friends**

Join us for monthly meetings during which we delve into aspects of life such as patience, gratitude, generosity, truth and many others. We find ourselves inspired to engage in meaningful and life transforming discussions through the writings in *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.”

- Susan Banker, KS Chaverim* Member



Next meetings: January 26, February 23

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

Torah Conversations Group

**Saturdays, 8:45 – 9:45 am
For KS members and non-members**

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 parsha (Torah portion). Most read English translations, and many read one or more commentaries as well.



Group members take turns facilitating the discussion, which typically flows back and forth between trying to understand the embedded meaning of the weekly Torah parsha 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.

Periodically we invite members of our staff or larger community to help facilitate the discussion. On **January 8, 2022, Rabbi Sam will be joining us.**

All our meetings are currently held exclusively on Zoom. **The link to each week's meeting, as well as the parasha, can found on the Kerem Shalom's [website calendar](#)**

Wellness Programs



Support Group for People Facing Health/Life Challenges

**Third Wednesday of the month
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
for KS Members**

This group offers an opportunity for people living with a variety of health/life challenges to be nurtured emotionally, spiritually and with humor. As we listen to each other, exchange information on resources and just be who we are, 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: January 19, February 16, March 16

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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](#)

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 KS Members and Non-Members



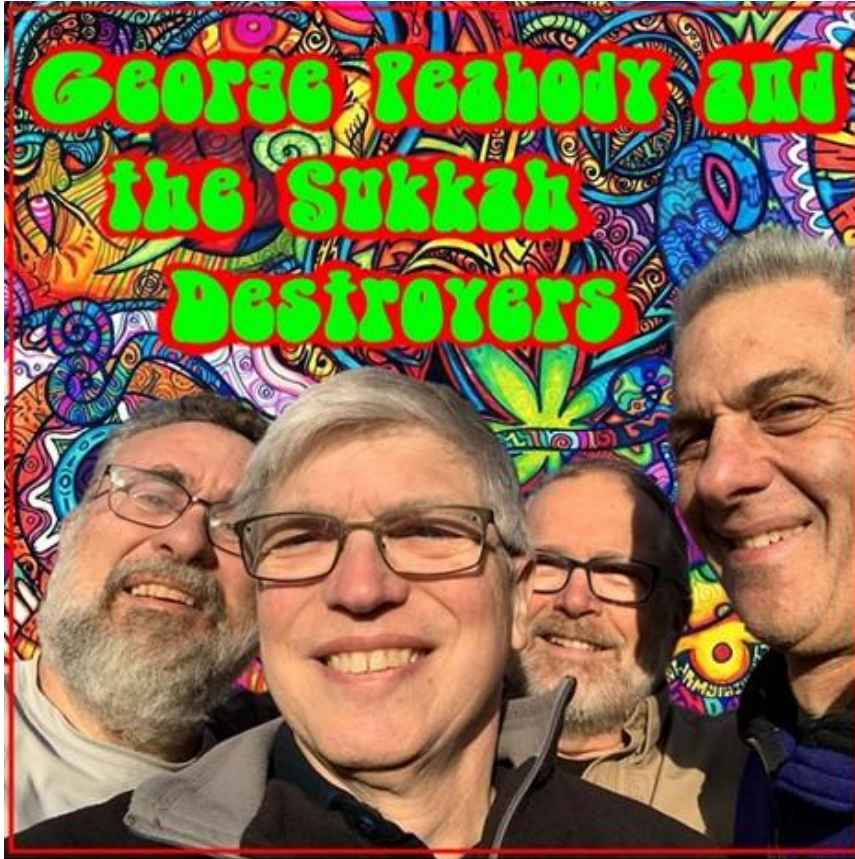
We are a group of KS members and friends, meeting at Kerem Shalom and on Zoom since January 2017. We spend an informal hour, early Wednesday evening, with 30 minutes of meditation and 30 minutes of chatting and connecting. Some of us have meditated for years, some of us are new.

Please consider joining us.
Meeting in person* and on Zoom

Contact Scott for the Zoom link or to attend in person:
meditation-with-scott-info@keremshalom.org

** Not all meetings take place at Kerem Shalom – contact Scott before showing up*

Kerem Shalom Men's Group



Featuring aging folk rock musician fans and **De-Constructionist Jews**: David Luberoff, Drew Hession Kunz, George Peabody, and Larry Peltz. (Their faux-album cover at left, after a particularly challenging sukka destruction)

Since members of the men's group also were the core group that put the Sukkah up in the first place, it's only fair to say that the "**Sukkah Destroyers**" were the progeny of a similar group called "George Peabody and the **Sukkah Deployers.**" 😊

It's time to form another Men's Group. We began together when we were all in our late Forties, a challenging, heads-down life stage for many men. Now in our Sixties, we've witnessed one another's challenges, joys, and sorrows. The relationships we've formed have become strong ties, valuable because, in this age of Zoom and digital association, we are truly known to one another. And we enjoy and appreciate each other's company.

There are many ways for Men's Group to operate. The model we've used is "advice free unless asked", non-judgmental, and confidential. It works. All of life's breadth is open for sharing. This is not a religious study group although religious and spiritual experience may be a topic. Work, children, partners, the man's "role" as caregiver, adventures are all grist for this mill.

If anyone is interested in starting a new group, we are ready to assist with participation and guidance. We'll help a new group get underway and will then step back. Reach out to me, george.peabody@gmail.com , if you would like to explore the idea.



New! - KS Weekly Walk

For mental & physical health during COVID how about a KS weekly walk on Sunday mornings or afternoons along neighborhood trails. Interested? (Nothing to lose) contact: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

New! – Online Mah Jongg

Would you like to play Mah Jongg online?

Contact KS Member Nanci Bell:
melvil@comcast.net



Literary Groups

Kerem Shalom Book Groups

We offer 2 different book groups



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Jewish Content Book Group

Hosted by Jane Appell

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



January 11 - *The Mathematician's Shiva* by Stuart Rojstaczer

February 8 - *The Jade Lily* by Kirsty Manning

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 January 27 at 7:30pm

In Person at a member's home (TBA)

We will discuss *Paradise* by Abdulrazak Gurnah

To join, or for details on future books, contact Pat Sills
bookgroup-info@keremshalom.org.



KS Writing Group

Are you working on a project and need to focus but are having trouble finding the time? Are you a novice who would like to try writing? We gather to support and inspire each other and overcome procrastination. Bring your project or your curiosity.

We meet on the last Monday of the month at 4:30 pm

Next meetings: January 31, February 28

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 spends 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 work with our volunteers to create new and exciting offerings for our adult members.

- 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.