



Food for Thought
Saturday,
September 17th



What's so special about Saturday, September 17th?

YOU CAN HAVE A FABULOUS NIGHT OUT!

- ☑ Enjoy a delicious gourmet meal and engaging dinner conversation
- ☑ Connect with old friends and meet new ones in an intimate setting
- ☑ Listen to an exciting and intriguing speaker representing the arts, entrepreneurship, adventure travel, sports, popular culture, or other provocative topics
- ☑ Celebrate being together with others from Kerem Shalom for our first post-COVID fundraiser
- ☑ Support the quality programs that make Kerem Shalom so distinctive and special, while providing access to all who want to participate

IT'S A ONE-OF-A-KIND EVENT

When you join us for Kerem Shalom's fall fundraiser, Food for Thought, you will experience all the above in the home of one of seven gracious hosts from our community. The following pages describe the backgrounds and topics of the seven speakers.

Get ready to be informed, entertained, and delighted—all in a setting that enables you to ask questions and converse with the guest speaker.

Please select your top 3 choices for speakers/hosts. We will do our best to fill your first choice but, in the event that's not possible, we will try to place you with one of your other choices.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN...SPACE IS LIMITED...
REPLY NOW!**



The Dinners

#1 - The Journey from Academia to Video Games: An Insider's Look at the Video Game Industry

Speaker: Ian Davis
David and Karen Gaylin, Concord

#2 - Lessons from a Serial Entrepreneur

Speaker: Peter Hewitt
Linda and Steve Kanner, Lincoln

#3 - Telling Your Life Story

Speaker: Suzanne Koven
Yonina and Andy Goorno, Concord

#4 - My Moment in the Quiz Show Spotlight

Speaker: Ben Sloat
Rebecca Muse-Orlinoff and Justin Teman, Concord

#5 - Trekking at 60 to Everest Base Camp

Speaker: Amir Viskin
Miriam and David Zarchan, Concord

#6 - What Makes CFPL's Special Collection So Special?

Speaker: Anke Voss
Tracey and Brad Guth, Concord

#7 - From a City Kid to an Olympic Luge Racer

Speaker: Erin Warren
Nina and John Englander, Acton



Dinner # 1

The Journey from Academia to Video Games: An Insider's Look at the Video Game Industry

Speaker: Ian Davis

Hosts: David and Karen Gaylin, Concord

Ian Davis received his PhD in Robotics from Carnegie Mellon in 1996 and set out to work on AI and virtual characters in video games. After working at Activision from 1996 to 1999 as Technical Director, he founded Mad Doc Software, an independent game developer for PCs and gaming consoles. In addition to owning and running the studio, he directed a number of the studio's hit games.

In 2008, Mad Doc Software was acquired by Rockstar Games. Ian is currently Studio President for Rockstar New England, a Rockstar Games studio, where he has worked on a number of Rockstar hits, including *Bully: Scholarship Edition*, *Red Dead Redemption*, *Max Payne 3*, *Grand Theft Auto 5*, and *Red Dead Redemption 2*. *Grand Theft Auto 5* has become the best-selling and most highly-reviewed game of all time.

Ian will talk about his journey from academia into games, the variety of careers that exist in video games, the role of games in our culture, and how he became responsible for AI and "combat choreography" for the biggest video games in the world.





Dinner # 2

Lessons from a Serial Entrepreneur

Speaker: Peter Hewitt

Hosts: Linda and Steve Kanner, Lincoln

Peter Hewitt studied Industrial Design at the Rhode Island School of Design in the 80s. After graduation, Peter moved to New York and established himself as an independent designer, developing concepts, designs, and partnering with such companies as Danske international, Crate & Barrel, Estee Lauder, and the Museum of Modern Art.

In 2003 Hewitt founded Tea Forte, growing it into a premier Tea brand distributed in over 35 countries. Along the way, hard lessons were learned about the liabilities of becoming an international food brand, and the brutal realities of partnering with China. Tea Forte was acquired by Sara Lee.

Hewitt founded FreshCut Paper in 2021 after reading about the heavy carbon footprint of the imported flower industry on a hunch that people would accept paper flowers in lieu of living ones if the presentation was good enough and the company delivered on its green mission. The bet paid off. FreshCut Paper is growing rapidly.

Peter will talk about his various ventures and why hunches and persistence matter.





Dinner # 3 *Telling Your Life Story*

Speaker: Suzanne Koven

Hosts: Yonina and Andy Goorno, Concord

Suzanne Koven received her BA in English Literature from Yale and her M.D. from Johns Hopkins. She also holds an MFA in Nonfiction from the Bennington Writing Seminars. She is a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School and has practiced primary care internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital for over 30 years.

In 2019 she was named inaugural Writer in Residence at Mass General. Her essays, articles, blogs, and reviews have appeared in The Boston Globe, The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, Psychology Today, NewYorker.com, The L.A. Review of Books, The Virginia Quarterly, STAT, and other publications. Her essay collection, Letter to a Young Female Physician, was published last year.

At the dinner, Dr. Koven will draw on a wealth of experience as both a prolific writer and writing teacher to describe how you might write (for film or audio record) a memoir for yourself, your family, or the public. She will emphasize how to begin when it feels overwhelming.



JEOPARDY!

Dinner # 4 *My Moment in the Quiz Show Spotlight*

Speaker: Ben Sloat

Hosts: Rebecca Muse-Orlinoff and Justin
Teman, Concord

Ben Sloat was born in New York and is half Jewish and half Taiwanese. He attended UC Berkeley and SMFA/Tufts, and was a 2009 Fulbright Scholar to Taiwan.

Ben's art work has been shown internationally including at such venues as the Havana Biennial, Cuba; Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Denmark; American Cultural Center, Taipei; Radium Art Center, South Korea; and Gallery 126, Ireland. He has been the director of the MFA in Visual Arts program at Lesley Art Design in Cambridge since 2016.

But Ben's story doesn't end there. Ben was recently a contestant on Jeopardy! with the host, Mayim Bialik. Having watched the show since he was a child, this was an exciting experience, but quite different from what he expected. He'll share the details of what it's like to be a Jeopardy contestant as well as his overall impressions, and possibly ask one or two of his most challenging questions.





Dinner # 5 *Trekking at 60 to Everest Base Camp:* *Thoughts on Travel and Discovery*

Speaker: Amir Viskin

Hosts: Miriam and David Zarchan, Concord

Amir Viskin, who was born on a communal farm in Israel, grew up in Mexico and returned to Israel to earn a degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the Israel Institute of Technology. He was introduced to the joys of photography by his father, a movie producer. In 1989 Amir emigrated to the United States.

Amir has studied photography at the Griffin Museum of Photography and at the deCordova Museum. He has shown his work in group and juried shows at the Griffin Museum, at libraries in Lexington, Concord and Watertown and the Jewish Art Collaborative.

It was his interest in the beauty of nature as well as his love of trekking that inspired Amir to undertake his journey in the Himalayas. Amir looks forward to sharing his photographs and stories of his adventures in the Himalayas.





Dinner # 6

What Makes Concord Free Public Library's Special Collection So Special?

Speaker: Anke Voss

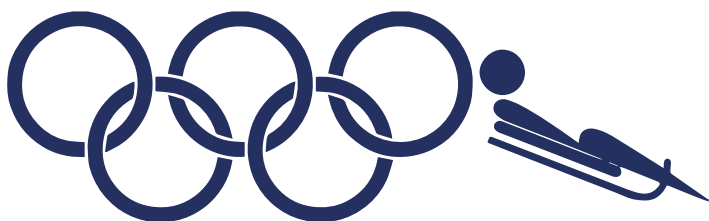
Hosts: Tracey and Brad Guth, Concord

Anke Voss became the Curator for the William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library in 2019. She holds a BA in history, and an MA in U.S. Political, Social and Women's History, as well as a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. Her work experience spans both university and public libraries.

Concord Library is best known for its collection of books but, from its founding in 1873, art has had a special place within the library. Munroe, the library founder, initially intended that the library host an art museum and, to that end, the library began taking in major art pieces. Today, Special Collections holds over 200 works of art, including sculptures, paintings and lithographs from a wide variety of artists from Concord and beyond.

Anke will share images of some of the most significant pieces, while revealing anecdotes about the impressive art archives housed in the Special Collection that emphasize Concord's history, people, and culture.





Dinner # 7 *From a City Kid to an Olympic Luge Racer*

Speaker: Erin Warren

Hosts: Nina and John Englander, Acton

Two-time luge Olympian (94' and 98'), Erin is currently President of the Board of Directors of the US Luge Association as well as Vice President of the US Luge Foundation. As an athlete, Erin finished 6th in the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and was part of the history-making USA Luge team that won the first Olympic Medals for the USA in luge.

Erin serves as the General Manager for the Rakuten In Store Network, where she is responsible for building the most rewarding online to offline consumer offer network. A marketing veteran with 25 years of experience in the industry, she earned her MBA from Babson College's Franklin W. Olin Graduate School of Business.

Erin will talk about her journey from Somerville, where she grew up, to the Olympic Games as an Olympic Luge Racer. She'll discuss the sport, the equipment and the life of an Olympian. She'll also discuss her current role as President of USA Luge, where she leads the sport for our country as well as efforts to expand gender equity globally within the International Luge Federation.



Things to Know

What is the cost to attend Food for Thought?

The cost is \$180 per person.

Because every Kerem Shalom event is an opportunity to celebrate the many ways all our members contribute to the community, our generous event sponsors have created a limited pool of tickets which will be available at a discount. If you would like to participate in Food for Thought at a reduced rate, please contact Robyn Barabe at ksadmin@keremshalom.org.

Why this event at this cost?

Membership dues do not cover all of Kerem Shalom's operating expenses. In order to pay our brilliant and dedicated staff and keep the lights on, we need to fund raise. Food for Thought gives members of Kerem Shalom the opportunity to come together for a unique event while raising necessary funds.

OK, we know COVID is still around so...

Out of respect for our hosts and speakers, please take a COVID rapid test 24 hours before attending one of the Food for Thought dinners.

Allergies & other sensitivities

Do you have food allergies or other sensitivities (cats, dogs) that your host should know about? Please indicate them when filling out the back of the enclosed envelope.

How and when to RSVP

Please fill in the necessary information on the enclosed, stamped envelope and drop it in the mail ASAP. We need RSVPs by **August 29**.

Thank You to our Sponsors

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David Orlinoff and Cherry Muse

Elizabeth Sackton and Liz Coolidge

Shabbat Shalom Group (in Honor of
Rosalie Gerut, who gives us food for thought)

And to the Steering Committee

Diane Fulman

Carolyn Gold

Susan Brager Murphy

Cherry Muse

Debbie Simon

Deena Whitfield