



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 4.2 – Nov-Dec 2023/5784



*"Jerusalem Menorah" by Israeli artist Yorem Raanan
(A painting for Chanukah!)*

**Welcome to our varied offerings,
brought to you on Zoom, in person, or both (“hybrid”) as noted.**

*Brought to you with Creativity, Calmness, Commitment and Camaraderie by your
Adult Programming Committee*

You can always find the latest offerings at: <https://keremshalom.org/adult-programming>
and check out the *KS Weekly News* (emailed each Thursday),
for the most up-to-date information.

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***Mask Policy**
Masks are currently optional for all events at Kerem Shalom. Attendees should be fully
vaccinated and boosted.
[CLICK HERE](#) for the latest policy.

*We stand with and pray for our sisters
and brothers in Eretz Yisrael.*

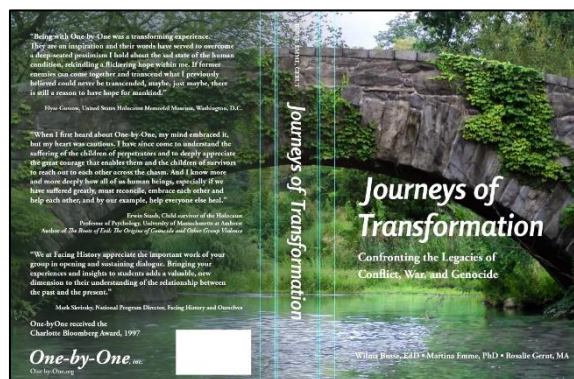
Upcoming Special Events

Journeys of Transformation In Remembrance of Kristallnacht (Pogrom Night)

Sunday Nov 5
Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm
Location: Zoom

Presentation by members of One-by-One of personal stories, art, films, and music from their newly published book, *“Journeys of Transformation: Confronting the Legacies of Conflict, War & Genocide”*. For the past 30 years, One-by-One has brought together three generations of people impacted by the Shoah (Holocaust) and the Nazi regime for deep, authentic dialogues based on the Judaic concept of tshuvah. The impact of this work has spread and some stories from other parts of the world are included as well. We are honored to be able to share our work with you.

[REGISTER HERE](#)





Spirituality and the Law

A special Broth Hour with Kerem Shalom member, David Hoffman, Esq.

Sunday Nov 19
10:30 – 11:30am
Location: Zoom

KS member David Hoffman has an unusual perspective on the law. Since 2008 he has taught courses at Harvard Law School, including the course on Mediation. He is a founding member of the Boston Law Collaborative, where he is a mediator, arbitrator, and attorney. David also has served as staff counsel for the ACLU of Massachusetts.

He brings special insights to his field involving the deeper dimensions of law practice that address questions such as:

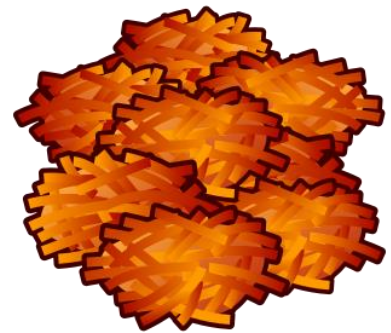
- Do lawyers have a duty to serve the totality of their clients' interests, including those that are emotional or spiritual?
- Can serving others in the role of a lawyer be spiritually rewarding?

David will discuss his personal journey to find ways of connecting his law practice to spiritual practice. Join us for the opportunity to hear how one lawyer reconciles spiritual values with the dictates of professional responsibility.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Adult Cooking Class Series: Chanukah With Hila*

Date: Mon, Nov 27
Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm
Cost: \$40 / person
Location: In person at Kerem Shalom



Let's get ready to celebrate Chanukah with eight (yes, eight!) distinct latkes, one for each night. We will make savory and sweet versions; some are pan-fried, some perfect when baked; some are flourless, a few vegan; along with several flavorful dips. The menu will include rosti (sweet potato

latkes), aruk (Irqi herb latkes), Oran & Ella's sweet potato latkes (the flag dish from the iconic coffee house in Tel Aviv), beet latkes, and sweet cheese latkes. Some recipes will be demonstrated by the instructor, others will provide participants with a hands-on experience. A taste of each dish will be served throughout the class, or will be packed to take home. Limited to 8.

RSVP to Dani Rader: community-engagement@keremshalom.org

* *Hila Krikov, one of our wonderful Hebrew School Reimagined teachers, owns and operates her own Middle Eastern food company, [Sweet Tahini](#)*

Commentaries on Women's Midrashim

With Tamar Biala

Date: Tues, Nov 28

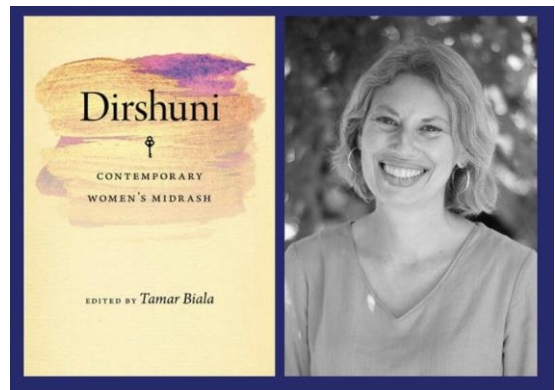
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Cost:

\$25 / Kerem Shalom members

\$40 / non-members

Location: Zoom



How might women have told their stories if they were central characters in the Judaic tradition?

Tamar Biala teaches contemporary women's midrashim in various batei midrash, rabbinical schools, and adult education programs in the United States and Israel. She co-edited volume one of the Hebrew-language edition of Dirshuni with Nehama Weingarten-Mintz and, in 2018, published volume two.

Tamar Biala, now based in Israel, was one of our favorite teachers at Kerem Shalom, We are thrilled to have her back with us by Zoom.

She presented two sessions of this series in October, and offers this third session in November. We will focus on Mamzerim today - who are they, why do they suffer so much and what can be done to ease their pain? We will read several Women's Midrashim that come up with good answers for these issues.

To register, contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Please drop off or send your check to:

Kerem Shalom, P.O. Box 1646 Concord, MA 01742 attention: Rosalie.



Can Community Newspapers Survive... and Thrive?

LED* Series 2023-2024

With Betsy Levinson, editor of *The Concord Bridge*

Sunday Dec 3
10:30 – 11:30am
Location: Zoom

Betsy Levinson is well-positioned to provide insights into what makes community newspapers indispensable. In recent years, she has been part of a movement to retain the vitality of local newspapers. Levinson has spent a large part of her 20-year career covering local news, writing and editing for *The Concord Journal*, *The Littleton Independent*, *Concord Patch* and other community papers before financial constraints forced the near-total closure of local news.

That changed, in Concord at least, in 2022. As founding editor of the nonprofit *The Concord Bridge*, Levinson and her colleagues were motivated by a lack of local coverage and accountability to the public. She will describe how she and a group of other civic-minded citizens came together to fill the void in local coverage in Concord. She also will offer her perspective on key strategies--such as turning to a nonprofit model--that could succeed in other communities across Massachusetts, and the decision that the news would be available to every household free of charge to unite the community.

Recent research shows that one way to increase voter activity and to decrease polarization is to inject community news into people's lives.

Join us on December 3rd to learn why the shutdowns and disappearance of community newspapers are not inevitable and why it is critically important to preserve this invaluable local resource.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

* LED = LEARN, EXPLORE, DISCUSS – Shed a little light



Health Care Reform: Past Present and Future?

LED* Series 2023-2024

**With Jonathan Gruber, Ford Professor of Law and
Chairman of the Economics Department at MIT**

**Sunday Dec 17
10:30 – 11:30am
Location: Zoom**

Join us to hear one of the nation's leading experts on health care policy provide his perspective on what's wrong with healthcare in the U.S. and how we can fix it.

Dr. Gruber has been an influential voice in health care reform for several decades. From 2003-06 he was a key architect of Massachusetts' health care reform effort. In 2006 he received the American Society of Health Economists Inaugural Medal for the best health care economist in the nation aged 40 and under.

During 2009-10 he served as a technical consultant to the Obama Administration and worked with both the Administration and Congress to help craft the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In 2011 he was named one of the top 25 Most Innovative and Practical Thinkers of Our Time" by Slate Magazine. In both 2006 and 2012 he was rated one of the top 100 most powerful people in health care in the U.S. by Modern Healthcare Magazine. In 2020 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Dr. Gruber's latest book is entitled Jump-Starting America: How Breakthrough Science Can Revive Economic Growth and the American Dream (with Simon Johnson).

You won't want to miss Dr. Gruber's insights on health care reform.

[REGISTER HERE](#) by Dec 15

** LED = LEARN, EXPLORE, DISCUSS – Shed a little light*

Interested in Joining our Kerem Shalom Community?
Did you know that long distance memberships are available for people
who live out of the area?

Find out more: <https://keremshalom.org/join-us/>

Why not drop Robyn, our administrator, a note? ksadmin@keremshalom.org

KS Spotlight

Shabbat Shalom



The Shabbat Shalom group recently held a lovely gathering at the Colonial Inn on Monument Street in Concord.

Standing left to right: Meryl Schwartz, Susan Banker, Iris Barten, Jane Appell, Elaine Allen, Helene Simon, Carolyn Gold, Susan Phillips, Rosalie Gerut

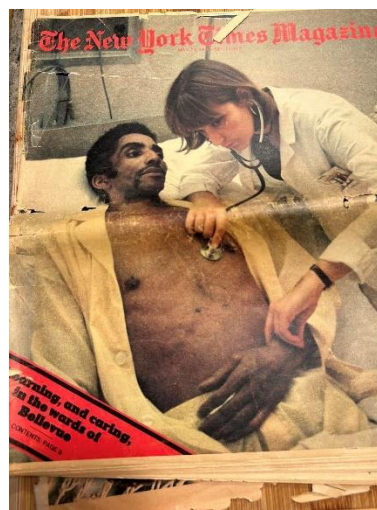
Seated left to right: Marla Richmond and Leslie Gardener (missing - Nancy Sokol)

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

Marla’s Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue’s question

Did you guess who was on the front of the *Sunday New York Times Magazine*? It was our own Dr. Nancy Sokol! She was a third-year medical student at NYU/Bellevue Hospital and the subject of a feature article by Joyce Maynard on medical education. Ask her about it.



Nov/Dec Question

Which member of the KS community is the great-grandchild of a Swiss immigrant who built a bakery in New York? This baker entered a contest to make the inauguration cake for the President of the United States. He won the contest...And John Fitzgerald Kennedy loved the cake!

People ask me, **where do I find all these stories?** I tell them, "I ask." The next comment is **how do I find such unusual people?** I think everyone has a story that people are going to say, "no, they really didn't do that?" What is your story? Let me know and I will be delighted to inform the entire congregation!

Marla: adult-programming-committee@keremshalom.org

Kerem Shalom News

Update on the KS Immigration Task Force by Sue Viskin

We will soon mark two years since the US left Afghanistan and the events that led to the huge influx of Afghan refugees into our communities.

For over a year, Razia and Taiba, the two young sisters we continue to support, have settled into a rented apartment in Waltham and into a routine. They both work at a nearby Whole Foods Market. Our wonderful Task Force volunteers have helped them with the issues that are part and parcel of American life: health insurance, appointments, banking, shopping, getting around, gaining English proficiency, and improving their social network.

With the help of a pro-bono attorney and countless hours from our volunteers, Taiba and Razia have recently been granted asylum!

We continue to provide some financial support and are looking for volunteers to drive them to occasional appointments.

For more information, or to get involved, email immigration@keremshalom.org

Antisemitism Awareness Team Programs

Antisemitism Awareness Team members are committed to educating themselves and the community about antisemitism and actions we can take to combat it. We sponsor events such as book discussions and guest speakers as ways to accomplish these goals. New members are always welcome to join our team. If interested, send us an email at antisemitism-awareness@keremshalom.org.

Recently, the congregation was accepted into the Kulanu program of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Kulanu (Hebrew for “all of us”) is an annual program dedicated to empowering congregations to address antisemitism and hate in their communities through education, community engagement, and advocacy. We are already reaping the benefits of this program.

- Kerem Shalom co-sponsored the **Walk Against Hate**, organized by Congregation Beth Elohim and Kulanu. Several members of Kerem Shalom participated in this remarkable show of allyship and support. Kerem Shalom member and State Representative Simon Cataldo was a featured speaker. Photos of the vigil at KS after the 2018 Tree of Life shootings were prominently on display.



- Join Kulanu congregations from across North America for a virtual learning session and text study marking Kristallnacht, featuring Rabbi David Wolpe, ADL's Rabbinic Fellow. This session will reflect on the events of Kristallnacht through the lens of Jewish thought leaders and foundational texts, offering hope in the face of rising antisemitism and hate today.

Kristallnacht:

Finding Strength and Inspiration through Reflection and Learning

Thursday, November 16, 2023

7:00 pm

Co-sponsored by Kulanu and the Anti-Defamation League

More details [here](#)

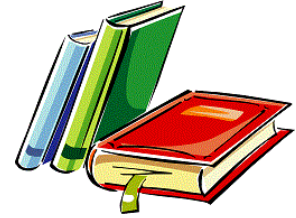
[REGISTER HERE](#) (link to ADL event)

- **A program on antisemitism for teens** in JLOFT ((Jewish Learning Opportunities for Teens) will take place on **March 10**. A presentation on antisemitism will also be presented at KS shabbat services on **May 3**.

We hope that all of you can join us for at least one activity! Please reach out to us. We would love to hear from you.

Kerem Shalom Library

Did you know that Kerem Shalom has a wonderful library? Books are available for loan on a wide variety of aspects of Judaism, both fiction and nonfiction, as well as books by KS member authors.



The library was renovated this past summer, with the generous help of Ted Barten.
Please visit, browse, borrow!

Literary Groups

Kerem Shalom Book Groups

We offer 2 different book groups



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Jewish Content Book Group

Hosted by Jane Appell

We discuss books with Jewish content or themes

Meeting monthly on the

2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm

Meetings are sometimes on Zoom, sometimes in person.

Next meetings

Nov 14 – *My Friend Ann Frank: The Inspiring and Heartbreaking True Story of Best Friends Torn Apart and Reunited Against All Odds* by Hanna Pick-Goslar
(In addition, we will read *The Diary of Ann Frank*)

This meeting will be an in-person pot luck lunch at the home of Barbara Bender,
14 Larch Road, Acton, MA

Dec 12 – *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.
Location TBA, possibly at the home of Susan Sewall in Lincoln. Watch for update.

[Click here](#) for notes on Sept's discussion of *The Woman Beyond the Sea* by Sarit Yishai-Levi

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills
Meeting monthly, evenings



Next meetings

Wed Dec 6, 7:00pm - *The Fortunes of Jaded Women*, by Carolyn Huynh

Tues Jan 9 - *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett

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? We gather to give kind, helpful support to each other and overcome procrastination.

Monthly dates and times arranged by the participants.

If you are interested, please contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Kerem Shalom Members in the Arts

Celia Shneider, Marian Levinstein and Robert Karr will play with the Concord Orchestra, 51 Walden Street, on Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2 at 8:00 PM.

Continuing with the romantic theme, "Love Lingers", Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet is on the program as well as Jennifer Higdon's "Blue Cathedral", and Jeff Beal's "The Paper Lined Shack" with Ann Moss, Soprano.



Portal – Mixed Media – 16x16

Jill Goldman Callahan is happy to be a featured artist at The Three Stones Gallery, 32 Main Street, Concord, MA from Oct 18 - No 26.

"Jill Goldman-Callahan presents abstract paintings utilizing natural pigments, resulting in works more akin to a peaceful echo".

<https://www.jillgoldman-callahanstudio.com/>

Jill's paintings are featured alongside the work of her partner,
Bob Callahan



Saggar Ancestral Totems

If you are involved in the arts and would like to share your recent exhibit or performance in this newsletter, please contact Rosalie@keremshalom.org

Leisure



Readers' Theater

Come and enjoy being “on stage” and reading an adaptation of the Isaac Bashevis Singer story: “Shlemiel the First” for the KS community. This will be a version (without music) of the performances that were presented at the American Repertory Theater. No memorization required.

Interested? Contact Rosalie@keremshalom.org for more information.



KS Women's Walk

A group of KS women are walking along neighborhood trails or (when conditions require) safe local sidewalks.

Tuesdays at 2:30pm

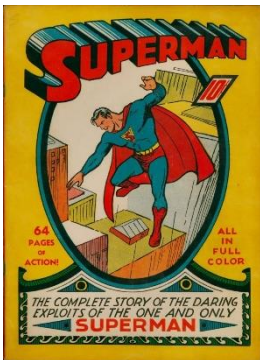
Contact: Karen Belinky via Rosalie: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Mah Jongg

Would you like to play Mah Jongg?

We will meet **in person** at Kerem Shalom

Contact KS Member Nanci Bell:
mah-jongg@keremshalom.org



Did you Know...

Superman was created by two young Jewish men from Cleveland?. [Read more here](#)

Judaic Studies in Community

Unless otherwise noted, all Judaic Studies groups are facilitated by the Director of Adult Programming, Rosalie Gerut.

Shabbat Shalom Group

Led by Rosalie and group members

Fridays

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

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

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

Location: Zoom

Adult members of KS who are interested in exploring messages of the Torah in depth are invited to join this group. Through sharing personal experiences and reactions to the Torah readings, group members find themselves developing warm friendships and continuing to find deeper meaning in their lives.

Questions? Contact Rosalie at Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Spiritual Studies

Second Monday of each Month

10:00 - 11:30am for KS Members and their friends

Location: Zoom

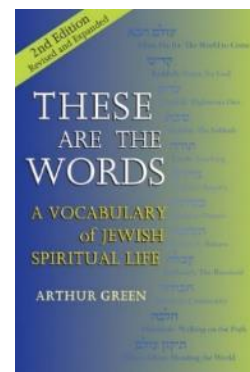
“Dr. Arthur Green, one of the greatest spiritual teachers of our time, explains the meaning, history and origin of over 150 core Hebrew words. The basic vocabulary of Jewish spiritual life is explained with humor, insight and relevance to guide you on a historical and spiritual journey through Judaism.”

- Amazon.com

As we read and share our responses, we deepen our knowledge, consciousness, and connections with one another. Join us - it's not too late!

Next meetings: Nov 13, Dec 11

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



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

An invitation to **Women Members** of Kerem Shalom
First Monday of each month, 10:00 – 11:30am
Location: Zoom

Next meetings: Nov 6, Dec 4

We welcome women from both Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds.

Would you like to learn a bit more about the Jewish holidays that appear each month and how we can connect to their meanings? You don't need to have a background in Judaic studies or even be familiar with Hebrew. The group is held in English and the friendly, supportive participants find it to be a warm, interesting and inspiring experience. Join us and find out!



Art by Yorem Raanan

“A group of women enter the room or Zoom. A candle is lit. We greet each other by our 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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

If you have questions, please contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

Torah Conversations Group

Saturdays, 8:45 – 9:45am

For KS members and non-members

Location: Mostly Zoom; in person at Kerem Shalom the last Saturday of each month



KS Torah Conversations is an ongoing conversation group that meets each Shabbat morning. No prior knowledge of Torah or Hebrew is required to participate, although attendees are asked to read the week's parasha (Torah portion). Most participants read English translations. The parasha can be read online at [Sefaria](https://www.sefaria.org/) as well as other sources.

Each year, the group chooses a collection of commentaries to read and use as a guide for discussion. For 5784, along with the parasha, the group will be reading and discussing the weekly section in [Talks on the Parasha](#) by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. Some participants also enjoy reading from a wide range of other commentaries, many of which are on our resource list.

Torah Conversations members take turns facilitating the discussion. The conversations typically flow back and forth between trying to understand the embedded meaning of the weekly parasha and connecting it to questions that have relevance in our lives. Each person's voice is welcomed.

Rabbi Sam Pollak, Director of Congregational Learning, serves as our Clergy Advisor. He will study with us and facilitate our conversations on the second Shabbat of the month in 2023-2024/5784, including Nov 11 (Chayei Sarah) and Dec 9 (Vayeshev-Chanukah).

The group meets each Shabbat morning, with rare exceptions, as long as there are two or more of us who are available to meet. Currently we meet on Zoom except for the last Saturday of the month when we meet in-person in the KS library. We begin our parasha discussion promptly at 8:45 AM and end at 9:45 AM. For more general conversation before and afterwards, the Zoom room is opened at about 8:35, and the library at about 8:30, and often extends for a few minutes after the closing prayer of Torah Conversations.

We welcome you to join us any Shabbat morning.

For Zoom, Register via the link on the KS website calendars.

Contact Colleen Humphreys for further information:
torah-conversations-info@keremshalom.org

Spiritual Inspiration

Tuesday Mornings

Dates: Carolyn will contact you to arrange dates once there are a group of interested participants

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

For KS members and non-members

Location: Zoom

Cost: Voluntary contribution to KS Adult Programming



KS member and Certified Spiritual Director (CSD) Carolyn Gold is offering a series of six small group virtual meetings to listen to your inner selves, align your lives to what you hear, and experience what's sacred around you. Using quotes and poetry from religions and different philosophies to open to the mystery in our lives, we will move out of our heads and into our souls.

The purpose of Spiritual Inspiration is to find your truth, your own unique path to follow. There is no map. Know in your heart when you arrive, as did Abram (Genesis 12:1-17).

The Facilitator: Carolyn Gold, CSD, wants to share the spiritual inspiration she received through her spiritual direction program, the individual and group spiritual direction work she has done for the last five years, her twenty years of Torah study and several years of Buddhist reading.

Our small group will be spiritual companions, providing deep listening and deepening questions to help us “embrace our wandering,” as our ancestors did in the desert. Spiritual companions help us penetrate the surface of life and find our utmost truth. (Thomas Merton: Podcast 8) As Moses said, “Truth is not in the heavens...it is in your mouth and on your heart for you to live it. (Deuteronomy: 30:12-14).

Participants: Four individuals seeking to experience life in deeper ways.

Participants' Role: Opening sharing and deeply listening to what is inside yourself. Help others to do the same with questions that help them go deeper. We have the freedom not to fix or repair anyone else.

You will need a journal and a commitment to attend all six sessions.

Testimonials From past group members

- “It’s so meaningful, profound and deep. We are all so open; Carolyn’s facilitation and small group size helps this happen.”
- “The material (poems, quotes, exercises) touches me inside.”
- “Each two-hour session is beautiful. Each one helps me see myself.”

Contact Carolyn Gold with questions or interest in participating, Contact Carolyn via Rosalie: Rosalie@keremshalom.org

Insight Meditation with Cheryl Steinberg

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:00 am
(Zoom opens at 8:45 to schmooze)
For KS Members and Non-Members
Location: Zoom



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](#)

Kerem Shalom Men's Group



Are you interested in joining or starting a men's group? For over two decades, a small group of men connected with Kerem Shalom have been meeting regularly to witness each other's challenges, joys, and sorrows. Participants are happy to talk with Kerem Shalom members who might be interested in joining this group or starting a new one.

When this group began, its members were in their late 40s, a challenging, heads-down life stage for many men. Members are now in their 60s and 70s, a life stage with new challenges related to work, health, relationships, and family. The group explores these themes in semi-structured, confidential, and non-judgmental conversations which are "advice-free unless asked." Work, children, partners, the man's "role" as caregiver, and adventures are all grist for this mill. And while this is not a religious study group, religious and spiritual experiences are sometimes discussed.

If there is sufficient interest, members of the current group are more than happy to help a new group get underway, then step back and let that group evolve.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the current men's group or in starting a new one, please contact George Peabody at mens-group-info@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 **Nancy Sokol** for her contribution to writing and editing; to **David Luberoff, Jody Kotkin** and **Robyn Barabe** for their consistent support and PR; to **Rabbi Darby Leigh, KS President Mark Stein** and **President Emerita 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, Carol Barron, Diane Fulman, Carole Greenfield, Marla Richmond, Nancy Sokol, Scott Sancetta** and **Board VP Jane Appell** for their patience, creativity and good humor. 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



The Adult Programming Committee fondly and gratefully remembers **Kitty Stein**. Kitty – your contribution to Adult Programming and to each of us as individuals is immeasurable. We will always remember you with love and gratitude.



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.