



Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 5.1 – Sept/Oct 2024/5785



Wishing you all a Good, Sweet New Year

(Image from [Cazenove](#))

**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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Policies for COVID-19 and other Respiratory Infections

Masks are currently optional for all events at Kerem Shalom. In-person attendees should be fully vaccinated and boosted.

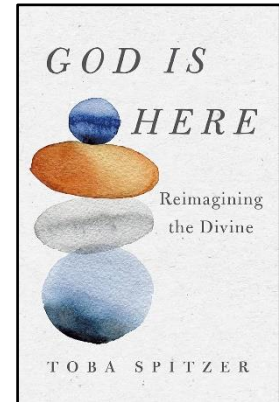
[CLICK HERE](#) for the latest policy.

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

Spiritually Preparing for the *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe/High Holy Days)

With Rabbi Darby Leigh

Discussing *God is Here – Reimagining the Divine* by Rabbi Toba Spitzer



Sunday, Sept 22, 2024

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: In-person at KS

Additional (optional) Zoom sessions:

Wednesday, Sept 25, 6:30 – 7:30pm

Monday, Sept 30, 6:30 – 7:30pm

(The in-person session will serve as an in-depth introduction to the book. The follow-up Zoom sessions will be a discussion of some further chapters.)

An Introduction to this offering, from Rabbi Darby

The month of Elul on the Hebrew calendar begins at sundown on Tuesday Sept 3rd with Rosh Hodesh Elul and continues through to Rosh HaShannah and the first of Tishrei at sundown on Wed Oct 2nd.

Throughout this month of Elul, it is our task to be engaged in a process of deep , introspection and reflection on who we have been over the past year, and who we want to become during the upcoming year. Jewish tradition refers to this process as “Teshuvah.” “Teshuvah” is also understood as “return.” Ideally, at this time of year, we are returning to the core of who we are, and returning to the path of living in accordance with our highest values and aspirations for who we want to be and how we want to be in this world. For many people Teshuvah is also understood as a return to Gd, or to living on a path in accordance with Gd’s will.

The liturgy of the High Holy Days in particular is replete with personified metaphors for the Divine as a King, as a Judge, as a discerner, and so on. We are also taught that during the month of Elul Gd is “closer” to us and even more accessible.

I am deeply aware that for many folks at Kerem Shalom, this particular metaphor and concept of Gd is an impediment to spiritually accessing many of the lessons, teachings, stories and prayers of not only Elul and the High Holy Days, but also of Jewish life, ritual, and wisdom all year round.

We are so fortunate that my colleague and friend Rabbi Toba Spitzer has published a book called “GOD IS HERE – Reimagining the Divine.” In this work, Spitzer examines how metaphors function in our cognition and then examines a few

of the numerous metaphors for Gd in the Torah and in Jewish textual tradition. In this examination Spitzer hopes to help us bridge the gap between the powerful and relevant teachings of Judaism and our own hesitations and reservations about ideas of Gd.

My hope is that by exploring this work together we will create a path for ourselves to an even deeper, and more meaningful experience of Elul, of the Days of Awe, and of the entire year cycle beyond.

*Kindness & Shalom,
Rabbi Darby J. Leigh*

Some copies of the book will be available in the KS library.
Please register by sending an email to: ap-registration@keremshalom.org

The High Holy Days – A Brief Reading

For those who would like to learn more about the upcoming High Holidays, here is a guide to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the days in between, from My Jewish Learning.



<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-high-holidays/>

Upcoming Special Events

Israel Since October 7th Update, with Rabbi Jamie Kotler

Sunday Sept 8
10:30am – 12:00pm
Location: Zoom



Rabbi Jamie Kotler is well known to Kerem Shalom, initially as a fellow Meah student, and later as a beloved teacher. Her unique perspectives on Israel come from her experiences living, studying and visiting Israel as well as her understanding of its ancient and contemporary history, her Rabbinical training, and her family's journey from Europe after the Shoah. Jamie is in close contact with Israeli friends and relatives, and regularly follows Israeli Hebrew news channels to keep abreast of events.

After October 7th, Jamie participated in a volunteer 10-day mission to Israel, providing extra hands and support in the Gaza Envelope. She also recently participated in a 9-day Community Leadership Program at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Jamie Kotler will share her understanding of Israel's trajectory since October 7th, the ways in which Israeli lives have been impacted, and their hopes and fears for their future.

All are welcome to join. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Brunch and Stories in the Sukkah

Sunday Oct 20
Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Location: In Person at KS
Audience: Adult Kerem Shalom members



Join us for a potluck brunch in the sukkah. We will share stories and things we have learned about Sukkot, as well as memories of meaningful times we have spent in natural surroundings. Please bring a healthy dish to share with others (meat- and nut-free); gluten-free items (labeled as such) would be welcome as well as other baked goods.

Please register by sending an email to: ap-registration@keremshalom.org

Singing A New Song Together: The New History of Jewish-Christian Relations

A Joint Class with West Concord Union Church

With Dr. Jacob Meskin, Rabbi Darby Leigh and Rev. Hannah C. Brown

Dates: Six Sundays in Sept and Oct

Session 1: In person at West Concord Union Church

Sessions 2-5: On Zoom

Session 6: In person at Kerem Shalom

(See the KS Weekly News for dates, times and enrollment info)

Rabbi Darby and The Rev. Hannah C. Brown, Pastor of the West Concord Union Church along with Hebrew College Senior Lecturer Dr. Jacob Meskin, are offering a class on Christian-Jewish relations to members of KS and the WCUC.

Thoughtful Jews and Christians stand at a rare moment in the early twenty-first century. Recent developments point to a future that might be very different from what was often a sad and tragic past. For example, the famous declaration “Nostra Aetate”, issued by the Catholic Church in 1965, offered a new and sympathetic perspective on Jewish-Christian relations. In addition, fascinating advances in scholarship by both Jewish and Christian researchers, have invited all of us to re-imagine, in radical ways, the complex emergence of what we now call “Christianity” from its original matrix -- namely the Judaism of the first century of the common era.

These and other developments promise new hope for those of us who seek to repair the complex and often tragic history of Jewish-Christian relations, and who look forward to Jews and Christians living side by side, in their respective faiths, as friends and allies who have much to learn from each other.

In this unique six-session course, members of Congregation Kerem Shalom and members of the West Concord Union Church will join together as a group to study both the often-painful history of Jewish-Christian relations, and the exciting new insights and paradigms that may help us learn from the past and begin to forge a different future. As we get to know each other in our ongoing dialogue, we will be working together to understand what happened in the past, why it happened and, above all, how grasping the deep reasons behind past events may help to liberate us to envision a better future together. We will be joined in our conversations on several occasions by Rabbi Darby Leigh and Reverend Hannah C. Brown.

Here are some of the topics we will study together: the Jewishness of Jesus; the essential role of Paul and the relationship between his teachings and Judaism; the nature of Rabbinic Judaism; Church doctrine and theological ideas about Jews in the Middle Ages; the Crusades; the Reformation and the Jews; modern European attitudes toward the Jews; Vatican II and the Jews; contemporary reflections on Jewish-Christian relations.

Introduction to Torah Chanting

with KS member Celia Shneider

Thursdays: Sept 12, 19, 26; Oct 10, 17, 24

Time: 10-11:15 AM

In person at KS

Cost (total for 6 sessions): \$60 for KS members (subsidies available); \$100 for non-members

This 6-session class will introduce you to the ancient art of Torah Chanting. About 1300 years ago, the Masoretes of Tiberia developed a system of Te'amim, or trope, which gave melodies and phrasing to the Torah readings. You will learn some of the 25 symbols and their melodies so you can be on your way to becoming a Torah chanter.

Prerequisites: Ability to read Hebrew and keep a tune.

Text: *Chanting the Hebrew Bible* by Joshua Jacobson, Student Edition, The Jewish Publication Society.

Celia Shneider is a long-time member of KS. She has studied Torah chanting at Hebrew College and has chanted for numerous b'nei mitzvah celebrations.

Contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org if interested (an evening class may be arranged if there is sufficient interest)

Upcoming and Proposed Classes

Jewish Themes in Pop Music

Winter 2024

Location: Zoom

In this innovative presentation, Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum will delve into selections of popular music that relate to Jewish themes, including music by Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.

Dates and more information will be available in the Nov/Dec AP Newsletter.

Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum is the Dean and Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought at The London School of Jewish Studies. More about Rabbi Zarum can be found [here](#).

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

Grandparenting Through a Jewish Lens

Spring, 2025

This course, following a curriculum developed by Hebrew College, will be offered in the spring. [Click here](#) for a description of the course contents.

Contact Rosalie@KeremShalom.org to express your interest or for more information

Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah

For those who have not had this experience, and for those who may wish to repeat it with deeper understanding as an adult, Rabbi Darby Leigh will be your guide.

If interested, please contact Rosalie@keremshalom.org

ASL (American Sign Language)

If you are interested in a course in ASL, please contact Rosalie (Rosalie@keremshalom.org)

Additional Resources

Modern Midrashim by Women in the Wake of October 7 A podcast with Tamar Biala

Tamar Biala has been collecting and editing modern women's midrashim for over 20 years and has published them as part of the "Dirshuni" series. When she lived in this area, Tamar was a deeply appreciated teacher of many classes at Kerem Shalom. She now lives with her family in Israel and sent us this gift of two recent podcasts, for listening at your convenience:

Part 1: <https://bit.ly/CWJpod21>

Part 2: <https://bit.ly/CWJpod22S>

Me'ah: A 2-Year Course in Judaic Studies Through Hebrew College

Starting Sept 4!

If you are interested in learning more about Judaic history and teaching, the Me'ah course is a fulfilling journey. In four sections over two years, faculty from Hebrew College will cover Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval, and Modern times. Kerem Shalom has hosted 7 of these courses over 14 years, with much acclaim from participants. This program begins in early September, hosted by Hebrew College, in person at Hebrew College or on Zoom.

To learn more visit:

<https://hebrewcollege.edu/programs/meah>

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

The Antisemitism Awareness Team and the Democracy Festival in Concord



Here are some [additional photos](#) from the event

The Antisemitism Awareness Team (AAT) participated in the Democracy Festival in Concord on June 8th. The festival was held at the First Parish Church, with members of the AAT engaging people who stopped by the KS table in meaningful discussions about antisemitism.

The AAT has been meeting since early 2022. Initial programming focused on educating ourselves and the larger KS community about antisemitism. This past year we have joined with over 200 synagogues nationwide in Kulanu, a program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation

League (ADL) designed to help educate, identify and address antisemitism in our communities.

This coming year we will continue participating in Kulanu. In addition to providing guidance to the Antisemitism Awareness Team, Kulanu will be organizing educational opportunities for our synagogue through a wide selection of webinars. These programs will be advertised through KS's communication network.

The AAT has also begun exploring ways to increase a sense of allyship with other community organizations, such as churches, police and school departments and our town DEI commission. We anticipate developing new initiatives as part of this ongoing effort.

Finally, the AAT is planning to offer a program specifically designed to address best ways to facilitate dialogue in the context of emotionally charged and polarizing conversations.

If you would like to join the committee or learn more about our work, please contact us at antisemitism-awareness@keremshalom.org

Marla's Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue's question

Did you know which of the cast members from our Purimspiel missed rehearsals to go to Hawaii and swim with the whales?

It was our own Jeff Hutt. Ask him about it!



Sept/Oct Question

What member of the KS community is the founding partner of a company that recently was awarded the prestigious Ruth Silman Award to honor its work in sustainable energy? This KS member has also served the community as a long-time board member.

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 Library

We are continuing to spotlight books on the history of Israel which are located on the shelf under the large, artful image of Jerusalem in the adult library.

We also have books written by KS members on the shelf under the Israel books.

The library is open whenever Kerem Shalom is open.

Please visit, browse, borrow!
(and please return books so that others can access them)



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 Meeting

Sept 10 - *Fervor* by Toby Lloyd – In-person lunch at 12:30, followed by discussion. Details will be sent to attendees. A Zoom link to be provided for those who wish to join remotely.

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills
Meeting monthly



Next meetings

Tue Oct 1, 10:30am - *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
Thu Nov 21, 10:30am - *Necessary Trouble* by Drew Gilpin Faust

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



KS Writers' Workshop

We offer meetings to share our in-process writings. Currently we are discussing works of fiction, non-fiction, as well as a screenplay. This supportive group works together, helping make all of our dreams come true. Dates and times are decided by participants.

Contact: Rosalie@keremshalom.org

Marla's Cookbook



As a project that has arisen within the KS Writers' Workshop, Marla Richmond is compiling a book of recipes that have been passed down over generations. She requests your help:

"Do you have a recipe that comes from your mother or bubbe or aunt or friend? It is often found in a tin box with lots of other recipes on index cards or hand written on an envelope or... I am writing a cookbook of recipes that have been handed down through the family. I will acknowledge all accepted recipes. Recipes are preferably Kosher, but it is amazing what one can do to replace traif ingredients. Please send recipes you have tried with a photo

*of the original recipe and a copy that can be read to
marla.richmond@comcast.net.*

Send it with love and humor.

Look for a notice of taste testing coming soon!"

Thanks!

Marla

KS Members in the Arts

The Concord Chamber Music Society (**Nancy Sokol**, President) will initiate its 25th season with a concert at 3:00, September 22nd at the Concord Academy Performing Arts Center featuring the Jupiter String Quartet playing works by Beethoven, Agocs, and Schubert (<https://www.concordchambermusic.org/>).



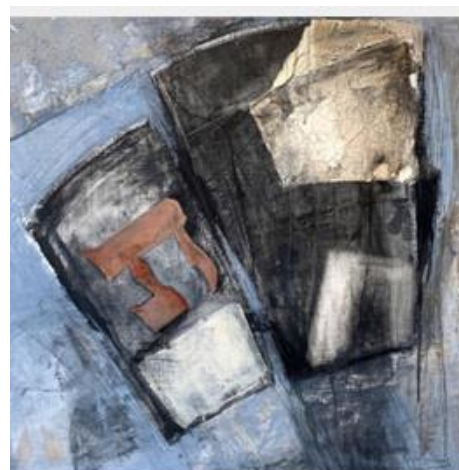
KS members **Celia Shneider**, **Marion Levenstein** and **Rob Carr** will perform in the next Concord Orchestra concert at 51 Walden St., Concord on Saturday, October 19th at 8pm, and Sunday, October 20th at 2:30pm. On the program will be Brahms's Academic Festival Overture, and Beethoven's 2nd Symphony, among other pieces. Tickets are available at concordmaorchestra.com

KS member **Jill Goldman Callahan** has two upcoming shows:

Annisquam Studios New Cold Wax Paintings, August 11-Sept 30, 35 Leonard St, Gloucester, MA and The Bedford Library: Solo Show Sept 6-November 6th, 7 Mudge Way Bedford MA

Jill offers us a special High Holiday work of art:

“At Yom Kippur we wish our loved ones to be inscribed in the Book of Life. I have always been fascinated by the idea of this book. I wondered what the markings looked like? Rabbi Kushner said that Gabriel was told to put a mark, the Hebrew letter Tav, on both the foreheads of the wicked and the righteous. Here I have marked the page with a Tav.”

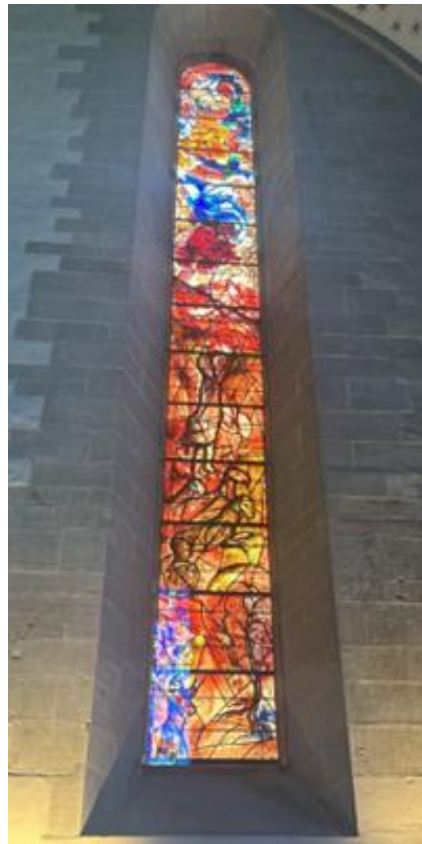


On October 18 and 19 Concord Piecemakers will hold a Quilt Show at St. Matthew's Church in Acton. KS member **Marla Richmond** will exhibit a quilt and sell her famous pin cushions.

Elaine Allen has begun painting. Here are two examples of her creations showing Warner's Pond, Concord (top) and, Vermont (bottom)



Jane Appell has shared her photos of Chagall's work, taken during her recent travels in Zurich, Switzerland.



Check out <https://www.lucasglassdesign.com/blog/2019/5/26/on-site-chagall-windows-at-zurichs-fraumunster-church> for more info on Chagall's Zurich stained glass).

(Chagall also made church windows for Reims Cathedral and St. Stephen's Church in Mainz, Germany.)

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

KS Women's Walk

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

Tuesdays at 2:30

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



Mah Jongg

Would you like to play Mah Jongg?

We meet **in person** at Kerem Shalom

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



Judaic Studies in Community

Learning About Important Events in the Jewish Calendar with KS cantor Rosalie Gerut

Starting November 2024

Location: Zoom

KS members only

Dates will be published in the Nov/Dec AP Newsletter

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 be familiar with Hebrew.

We will meet monthly, starting in early November. Please let us know your preference for dates and times so that we can schedule this to meet your availability.

Contact: Rosalie@KeremShalom.org

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](#)



Art by Yorem Raanan

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

Led by Rosalie, Director of Adult Programming

Next meetings: Sept 9, Oct 7

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!

"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



Art by Yorem Raanan

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

Torah Conversations Group

Saturdays, 8:45 – 9:45am

Location: Zoom, except for the last Saturday of each month which meets in the KS Library

For KS members and non-members

NOTE: Zoom sessions open 8:35, KS sessions open 8:30, for general conversation



KS Torah Conversations is an ongoing conversation group that meets each Shabbat morning. We welcome you to join us!

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.

As a guide for discussion, along with reading the parasha, the group chooses one collection of weekly commentaries. For the current year, 5784, the group has been reading [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. The group will be choosing another collection of commentaries for 5785.

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.

The group meets each Shabbat morning, with rare exceptions, as long as there are two or more of us who are available to meet.

The in-person meeting schedule may be revised, so be sure to check the calendar on the KS website for the most up to date meeting format.

For Zoom, use the link on the KS website calendar.

Contact for further information:

Colleen Humphreys, torah-conversations-info@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-cherly-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 **Jody Kotkin** and **Robyn Barabe** for their consistent support and PR; to **Rabbi Darby Leigh**, **KS President David Luberoff** and **the Executive Committee** for their ongoing support; to **Diane Fulman** for researching and organizing our L.E.D. sessions; to **Marla Richmond** for creating “Marla’s Corner”; and to **the AP Committee** for their assistance in creating these offerings: **Carol Barron, Diane Fulman, Carolyn Gold, Carole Greenfield, Marla Richmond, Scott Sancetta, Nancy Sokol, Sue Wolff** 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



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.