



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 5.4 – Mar/Apr 2025/5785



Crossing the Red Sea, by Yoram Raanan

**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 vaccinated and have appropriate boosters. [CLICK HERE](#) for the latest policy.

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

Upcoming Special Events

Continuing the series for Kerem Shalom

Across the Ages and Stages of Life

Growing Older in Community with Kerem Shalom

The recent L.E.D. talk “Getting Good at Getting Older” by Rabbi Laura Geller generated a lot of enthusiasm. We are following up with these **next steps**:

- A moderated discussion of Rabbi Geller's book - Sunday Mar 9 (see listing below)
- Small group meetings - beginning Thursday Mar 13, 2025 (see listing below)
- A list of some upcoming opportunities at KS for intergenerational connections.
- We plan to share the video of the L.E.D. talk in a future KS Weekly News.
- Watch the Weekly News for additional events!

Opportunities for Intergenerational Experiences

- Shabbat Morning B'nai Mitzvah services.
- Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner, March 7, 5:45-7:15 pm, followed by Erev Shabbat Services 7:30 - 9 PM
- Purim Mitzvah Masquerade, Sunday, March 16, 1:00-2:30 pm, Preteen, teen, and adult volunteers needed!
- Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner, April 4, 5:45-7:15 pm, followed by Reggae Shabbat Services 7:30 - 9 PM
- Fentanyl Awareness with BirdieLight, Wednesday, March 12-7:00 – 8:30 pm Parish Hall, First Parish in Concord.
- A Purim cooking class with Hila, open to ages 14 and up, (see listing below)
- Second night Passover Seder, Sunday April 13. Watch for details from KS.

Some Potential Future Steps

- Workshops making use of [The Conversation Project](#) or similar tools to clarify end-of-life wishes and become ready to talk about them with loved ones.
- Book group discussing *Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older* by Rabbi Dayle Friedman.
- Small groups working on decluttering, downsizing, writing Ethical Wills, etc.
- Learning about Jewish end of life practices; and local burial options.
- Support for those caring for loved ones, children, grandchildren, friends.
- Sharing lived experiences across the stages of getting older. For example, finding purpose, making housing choices, depending on others, etc.
- Exploring possibilities for developing a Synagogue Village Network.

If you do not already have a copy of *Getting Good at Getting Older*, you can get one at half-price from KS (\$10 - let Rosalie@keremshalom.org know you would like a copy). The KS Library has copies to borrow, as does the Minuteman Library Network. It is also available to buy as an ebook.

Questions or comments? Email the planning group at growingolder@keremshalom.org

Israel, Gaza & the Middle East: October 7 Until Now

Moderated by David Hoffman

Sunday Mar 2

Time: 10:00am – 12pm

Location: In person at KS

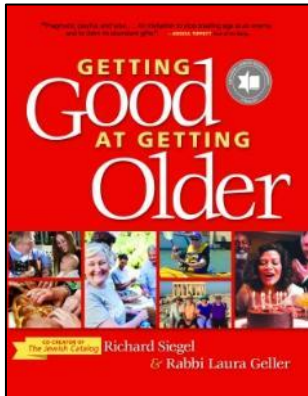
(KS Members only)



Many of us have been experiencing multiple emotions and thoughts about events in the Middle East since the attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023. This program will allow all of us to speak about whatever is on our minds regarding the current conflict. While this war has roots in a long history, we want to offer a safe place for people to talk about what has happened over the last year plus since October 7. The conversation will be facilitated by David Hoffman, long time KS member and mediator.

We need your [RSVP](#) by Thursday, February 27, 2025, but please respond early so we can send you materials to review prior to the program.

Please join us as we break bread and ponder together. Email Israelconversations@keremshalom.org with any questions.



Getting Good at Getting Older - A Book Discussion

Sunday, Mar 9

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Location: In person at KS

(KS Members only)

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with this very practical book by reading the brief introduction to each of the six sections, and Chapters 10 and 11, “Acquiring for Yourself a Friend” (The title is from *Pirkei Avot* 1:6), and “Finding or Creating a Community.”

If you do not already have a copy of *Getting Good at Getting Older*, you can get one at half-price from KS (\$10 - let Rosalie@keremshalom.org know you would like a copy). The KS Library has copies to borrow, as does the Minuteman Library Network. It is also available to buy as an ebook. Copies may be available at this event.

Please [RSVP](#)

Some Discussion prompts:

- How are you relating to growing older? What are your hopes? Your fears?
- “What Matters Most” for you at this point on your journey? (Referencing Atul Gawande’s book, *Being Mortal, What Matters Most*, rather than *What’s the Matter.*)
- What do you long for in our synagogue community as we grow older together?
- Without needing to make a specific commitment at this time, consider in what ways you might be willing and able to contribute to our Growing Older in Community with Kerem Shalom initiative.

Ongoing Small Group: Growing Older in Community

Thursday Mar 13

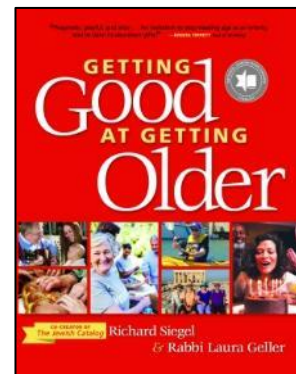
TIME 4:15 – 5:45pm

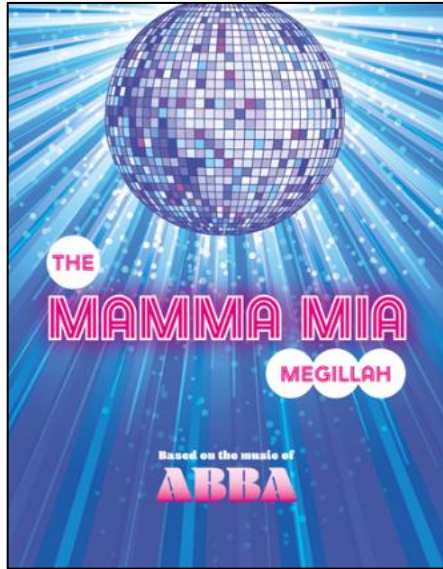
Location: In person at KS

(KS Members only)

This is the kickoff session of what we hope will become **one or more ongoing groups**, focusing around aging in general, or specific topics that participants choose. Schedules to be determined by participants. Come explore together, and give and receive support as we grow older in community.

Please [RSVP](#)





KS Adult Purimshpiel: Mama Mia Megillah-The Music of Abba

Friday, Mar 14
7:00pm – Nosh and Mingle
7:30pm – The SHPIEL!
Location: In person at KS

Join us for our annual Purimshpiel - this year with an Abba theme! Rabbi Darby will begin the festivities with a welcome and then enjoy desserts and light refreshments, followed by our Purimshpiel starring our great KS actors!

Bring friends, and feel free to wear a costume at our fun evening for adults!

RSVP to ap-registration@keremshalom.org by **March 11**

A Conversation about Antisemitism with State Representative Simon Cataldo

Sunday, Mar 23

Time:

Light breakfast: 9:30-10:30am

Program: 10:30am-12pm

Location: In Person at KS **AND** on Zoom

(For KS & Temple Beth Elohim members only)

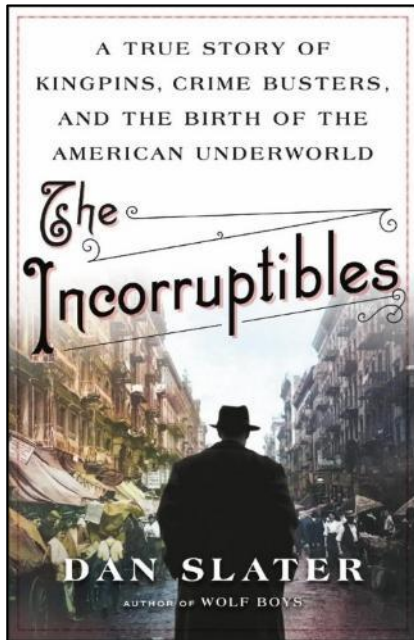


Join us for a Conversation about Antisemitism with State Rep. (and proud KS member!) Simon Cataldo. He will discuss his work as the co-chair of the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism. Rep. Cataldo is the co-chair of the nation's and Commonwealth's first Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism. He represents portions of Acton, Chelmsford, and Concord (his hometown) and all of Carlisle. Prior to running for office, Rep. Cataldo served as a special education teacher in Harlem, then as a federal anti-corruption prosecutor with the U.S. Justice Department. ... [READ MORE](#)

To attend **in person**: Please [RSVP](#) by Thursday, March 20 so that we can plan food accordingly.

To attend **via Zoom**: [REGISTER HERE](#)

This event is co-sponsored by the Kerem Shalom Antisemitism Awareness Team and the Adult Programming Committee.



The Incorruptibles: A True Story of Kingpins, Crime Busters, and the Birth of the American Underworld

L.E.D.* series with the author, Dan Slater

Sunday, Mar 30

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Location: In Person at KS

The Incorruptibles is about the Jewish immigrant underworld of New York's Lower East Side, and the efforts by a small group of reformers to eradicate it. Published to wide acclaim last summer, *The New York Times* called *The Incorruptibles* "unrivaled" and chose it as an editor's pick. *The New York Post* wrote that it's "required reading." And *The Wall Street Journal* described it a "a deeply reported

and fluidly written corrective to what life was like on those mean streets."

Those attending the program will learn how organized crime depended on corrupt police, judges, and politicians. Dan Slater also will explain the connection between the vices plaguing the Lower East Side, the spread of antisemitism in the country, and the backlash against Jewish immigration.

A graduate of Colgate University, New York Film Academy, and Brooklyn Law School, **Dan Slater** was a former legal affairs reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and has written for many publications including *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *GQ*, and *The New Yorker*. One of his earlier books, *Wolf Boys* was named by the Chicago Public Library as the best book of the year in 2016 and is being adapted for a TV series. And here's another important credential: **Dan is the nephew of Kerem Shalom member Faye Speert.**



Copies of *The Incorruptibles* will be available for purchase at our program at a discounted price (\$25) and can be signed by Dan.

RSVP to ap-registration@keremshalom.org by **March 27**

* L.E.D. = Learn. Explore. Discuss.

Special Event in Remembrance of Yom Ha-Shoah Holocaust Reparation and the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

with Dr. Monika Moyrer, US Program Director - ASF



Sunday, Apr 27

Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm

Location: On Zoom

To honor and remember Yom Ha-Shoah, Dr. Monika Moyrer will share her experiences as a program director for [Action Reconciliation Service for Peace](#) (*Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e.V* [ASF]).

For over 60 years, ASF has been firmly committed to remembrance, reconciliation, and peace. The organization was founded after World War II in Germany as a sign of atonement and solidarity with people and countries that suffered most from the unprecedented Nazi crimes.

Every year, ASF sends approximately 120 volunteers to various countries in Europe, Israel, and the USA. They accompany survivors of the Shoah and Nazi forced labor, care for people with mental disabilities, assist staff in memorials and archives, and support various social projects. In addition to our 12-month program, each year ASF offers special summer service projects, approximately 2 weeks in duration, on topics relevant to our service mostly in Eastern and Central Europe. Projects include clean up and maintenance of abandoned Jewish cemeteries, rehabilitation of facilities for people with disabilities, archival work, programs against right-wing extremism, and programs of encounter with immigrants, refugees and other excluded groups.



ASF partners with Jewish communities, churches, museums, and memorial sites as well as with organizations that provide social services for the elderly, disadvantaged youth, minority groups, refugees, or people with disabilities.

ASF supporters believe that a path for understanding and dialogue opens up when we closely cooperate with individuals and partner organizations that share our mission. Thus, volunteer service is peace service.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Cooking with Hila with Hila Krikov*

Cost: \$40

Open to anyone 14 years or older (bring your grandkids!)

Location: In person at KS

Monday Mar 24, 6:45 - 8:00pm, Matzah Recipes: In this class, you'll turn store-bought matzah into three unexpected treats—burekas, croutons, and a chocolate snack. You'll leave with a tray of freshly made goodies to enjoy at home!

Please plan to stay 10-15 minutes extra to finish baking.

>> Register and pay by **Mar 20**.

A minimum of 6 participants is required. (The maximum is 8).

Checks can be mailed to Kerem Shalom, PO Box 1646, Concord, MA 01742

Register: AP-registration@KeremShalom.org

** Hila, one of our wonderful Hebrew School Reimagined teachers, is the founder of [Sweet Tahini](#), sourcing plant-based frozen desserts*



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



Halleyluyah – Photo by Rosalie Gerut

Marla's Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue's question

Did you guess who was given a free lunch in a New York deli after performing the Heimlich maneuver on a fellow nosher? It was our own **Scott Newman**, Director of Education & Engagement at KS.

Ask him about it!



Mar/Apr Question

What member of the KS community has a grandson who lives in Portugal, but is the KS Dancing King? The grandson is named for a famous rabbi. Two extra points if you know the name of both the KS grandmother and the grandson!

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

Visit and read the **latest books on Israel** – currently in their own special section.

Read or borrow books on **Judaism and Aging**: *Getting Good at Growing Older*, and *Wisdom for Growing Older: Finding Your Grit and Grace Beyond Midlife*.

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

Meetings are sometimes on Zoom, sometimes in person.

Next Meetings

Mar 11, 12:30pm - *The Incorruptibles: A True Story of Kingpins, Crime busters and the Birth of the American Underworld* by Dan Slater

Meet the author at KS on Mar 30 (See listing above under Special Events)

April 8, 12:30pm - *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall of an American Organized-Crime Boss* by Margaret Fox (Meeting in person at a private home).

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills
Meeting monthly

Next Meetings

Apr 1, 10:30am - *James* by Percival Everett



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

KS Members in the Arts

We welcome news of any interesting projects you would like to share with the community. This is one of the many ways we get to know each other better.

MUSIC

The *Concord Chamber Music Society* (KS member **Nancy Sokol**, president) concludes its season with two upcoming concerts. On Sunday March 9, Wendy Putnam (violin) and Vytas Baksys (piano) will perform at the Maxwell Auditorium in Lexington featuring pieces honoring the American Spirit. On Sunday April 13, the Juilliard String Quartet will perform at the Concord Academy.

Tickets may be purchased at: concordchambermusic.org

KS member **Celia Shneider** will be performing as part of the next *Concord Orchestra* concert: *American Heritage*, featuring music from Leonard Bernstein, Mozart, Sousa and others.

- Saturday March 29, 2025 8:00pm (7:00pm pre-concert conductor talk)
- Sunday March 30, 2025 2:30pm (1:30pm pre-concert conductor talk)

Tickets are available at concordorchestra.com.

ART

KS member Jill Goldman-Callahan

- Jill is having a solo show, [*Interior Almanac*](#), at the Village Works gallery at the Wellness center, 525 Massachusetts Ave., West Acton MA through Mar 25
- Also, Jill will welcome visitors to her studio during the *Umbrella Arts Center Open Studios* May 3 & 4 at 40 Stow Street Concord, Studio 303

Two paintings by KS member **Elaine Allen**



Tranquility



Sunrise at Bluefish Rock

Leisure

KS Women's Walk

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

Tuesdays at 2:00 or 2:30pm

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



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

Shabbat Shalom Group

Led by Rosalie and group members

Fridays

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

10:45am - 12:00pm - 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 weekly Torah readings, group members find themselves developing warm friendships and continuing to find deeper meaning in their lives.

If you are interested in joining, please contact 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,

NEW TIME → 5:00pm ←

Location: Zoom

Led by Rosalie, Director of Adult Programming

Next meetings: Mar 3, Apr 7

We welcome you all!

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

"The opportunity to participate in our Rosh Chodesh group has often been an inspiration for women to join Kerem Shalom. Being in the monthly sessions led by Rosalie is an educational, spiritual, and interpersonal experience that enriches our lives. Rosalie presents a valuable teaching about the meaning of each month, including the history, holy days and holidays, customs and practices. As relevant to our lives today, we appreciate how each month has a place in our communal spiritual path and our personal journeys. Feeling the presence of the *Shechinah* with us, we respect the holiness of our gatherings. We share in conversations that enhance our own awareness and create a sacred space for deep connection with ourselves, one another, and our community. We welcome you to be with us."

- Iris Werbalowsky Barten

"Rosalie Gerut's Rosh Chodesh group is the reason I decided to join Kerem Shalom. The group explores meaningful, universal themes and how these are related to our personal, interpersonal, and spiritual lives. Group members feel a sense of safety and belonging, and actively listen to one another with kindness and compassion."

- Lisa E. Freed

"Rosh Chodesh has opened a whole new world for me, primarily because of Rosalie. We always begin by introducing ourselves with our Hebrew names and those of our mothers, grandmothers, as far back as we can go. This immediately places us in a Jewish space in which we are conscious of what our ancestors have given us and continue to give us. Then Rosalie presents us with Jewish history and commentaries for each month which we put in the context of our personal lives. Our discussions are lively, caring and supportive. I am grateful for Rosalie's inspiration which guides us each Rosh Chodesh to appreciate how studying our ancient teachings can be applied to our modern lives."

- Leslie Gardner

[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

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 as well as other sources, and accessed easily via the Hebcad calendar app.

As a guide for discussion, along with reading the parasha, the group chooses one collection of weekly commentaries. For the current year, 5785, it will be Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Commentary. 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.



- 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, with the exception of some holidays.
- NOTE: The in-person meeting schedule may be revised from time to time, so be sure to check the calendar on the KS website for the most up to date meeting format.
- Conversations about the week's parasha begin promptly at 8:45am and end at 9:45am. For general conversation, the Zoom room is opened at about 8:35, and the library at about 8:30.
- 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

For KS Members and Non-Members

Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00pm ← **New Offering**

Location: In person at KS

(no meetings Mar 3 or 10)

Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00am

(Zoom opens at 8:45am to schmooze)

Location: Zoom



Please join us for weekly 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 **before attending in-person**, or if you have any questions:

meditation-with-cheryl-info@keremshalom.org

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Tuesday morning Zoom

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"; to **Sue Wolff**, for spearheading the Growing Older series; and to **the AP Committee** for their assistance in creating these offerings: **Carol Barron, Diane Fulman, Karen Gaylin, 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.