



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 5.5 – May/June 2025/5785



Shavuot, 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.*

Good and Evil in Jewish Thought

A series of Hebrew College classes led by Rabbi Neal Gold at Kerem Shalom



Dates: Four Tuesdays: May 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Location: In person at Kerem Shalom

Cost: \$80 for KS members; \$180 for non-members

At the heart of the religious quest lie fundamental questions of good and evil. How can God tolerate a world where evil exists? Where does evil come from? What are the foundations of Jewish ethics? What does Jewish history teach us about the meaning of suffering and counteracting evil with good?

This class will be offered in collaboration with Tamid of Hebrew College Adult Learning. Please [Register Here with Hebrew College](#).

Payment:

- KS members should pay \$80 **directly to KS** ([click here](#)).
- Non-members should arrange direct payment (\$180) to Hebrew College.
- Financial assistance is available.

Neal Gold teaches and writes about Jewish texts, Israel, and intersections between Jewish life and the contemporary world. He is the Founder and Director of A TREE WITH ROOTS, a blossoming platform that offers online Jewish learning and Jewish community for hundreds of students around North America and overseas.

Neal is a sought-after Visiting Scholar for synagogues and Jewish communities. He is adjunct faculty at Hebrew College, and also teaches in the College's [Me'ah program](#), courses of study that empower adults to understand Judaism on a deeper level. He also is the spiritual leader of [Am HaYam—The Cape Cod Havurah](#) in Orleans, MA.



Growing Older in Community

Continuing the series for Kerem Shalom

Across the Ages and Stages of Life

Growing Older in Community with Kerem Shalom

Kerem Shalom has hosted several successful “Growing Older” events this year. Two more are upcoming in May and June (see listings below)

In addition, you can:

- Check out the [list of topics and ideas](#) that we may explore during the Growing Older series.
- Send in your suggestions and requests, ask questions or make comments.

Email the planning group at growingolder@keremshalom.org

Thank you to the following people who have been part of the planning group for the initial six month series: Rabbi Darby, Rosalie Gerut, Jane Appell, Carol Barron, Iris Barten, Diane Fulman, Karen Gaylin, Carolyn Gold, Nancy Kaplan, Marla Richmond, Scott Sancetta, Nancy Sokol, Debbie Whitestone, and Sue Wolff.

Ongoing Small Group: Growing Older in Community

Wed May 21, Wed June 18

Time:

- 9:45 – 10am – schmooze
- 10 – 11:30am – meet, share, discuss, inspire

Location: In person at KS

(KS Members only)



This self-directed group met for the first time in April and had a wonderful meeting. We explored how each of us is unfolding into our later years, finding new self-expression and contribution. Each month we will choose a different topic.

Note that you do not need to go to all meetings. Although our relationships build, the topics are independent.

Please [RSVP here](#) to let us know if you can make it to either the May or June meeting, or to join our email list.



Aging – Aren't We All? (Part 2) with Rabbi Darby Leigh

Wed May 28

Time:

6:00 - 6:30pm : snacks and schmoozing

6:30 - 8:00pm : program

Location: In person at KS

Rabbi Darby will be leading Part 2 of Growing Older in Community: "Aging—Aren't We All".

"As Kennedy famously said, 'ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.' Last January we got together and studied what Jewish sources have to teach us about the community's obligations towards its elders. In the second part of this study, we will explore what Jewish sources have to teach us about elders' obligations to the community.

Ultimately Judaism is a relational tradition and sometimes it is in the process of thinking through our own obligations and how we can continue to contribute and make a meaningful impact that keeps our hearts and spirits vibrant, whatever our age. This promises to be an engaging opportunity to learn and study together about issues that will impact us all. I look forward to the opportunity to learn together."

--Rabbi Darby Leigh

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

Update from the Antisemitism Awareness Team

from Marc Girolimetti

On Sunday, March 23, State Representative and Kerem Shalom member **Simon Cataldo** spoke to an engaged audience at KS, including members of Congregation Beth Elohim, about his activities in the State House related to antisemitism. After enjoying a wonderful breakfast, which provided a great opportunity to meet and connect with fellow attendees, the group gathered in the sanctuary for the presentation.

Simon provided an in-depth look at the efforts behind the Commission to Combat Antisemitism, on which he serves as Co-Chair alongside State Senator John Velis. The Commission has garnered widespread support as it works to implement the Biden Administration's strategy on combating antisemitism. He discussed in detail the infamous hearing involving the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), which prompted strong statements from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Governor Healey condemning the MTA's actions.

The event concluded with a lively Q&A session, addressing both national and local issues. We learned that the Commission is set to make comprehensive recommendations to address antisemitism across various legislative areas, including education.

The event was co-sponsored by the Kerem Shalom Antisemitism Awareness Team and the Adult Programming Committee. **Please look for future events** from the Antisemitism Awareness Team **and join us**, as they allow us to continue the dialogue and work towards solutions.



Members of the Antisemitism Awareness Team (Carol Greenfield, Miriam Zarchan and Deena Whitfield) with Representative Simon Cataldo

Update from the KS Immigration Task Force

from Karen Belinky

The KS Immigration Task Force has been supporting an Afghan refugee family for **almost four years**. Please [read here](#) about the many ways we have supported this family, and how well they are all doing.

We've **accomplished so much**, but there is much more we can do for this family and for other refugee families whose circumstances are difficult in these times.

Email Karen Belinky and Hope Rubin at immigration@keremshalom.org to become involved and learn how you can help.

Spotlight

In this issue, we feature a letter from Rabbi Darby Leigh.



From Rabbi Darby



Dear Hevre (Friends),

As many of you know, I serve on the executive committee of the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis (MBR). In March we drafted a statement on **“Fighting Antisemitism and Protecting Civil Rights.”** Given the issues involved, I thought many of you would like to read—and possibly share—that statement, which now has been signed by many local rabbis. [The statement is here.](#)

As always, I am here for you. If a conversation could be useful to you, please don't hesitate to be in touch and let me know. We are all in this together.

Kindness & Shalom,
Rabbi Darby Leigh

Marla's Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue's question

Did you get the clue from the March/April newsletter? The Dancing King visiting from Portugal? It's Akiva, Jane Appell's grandson. Ask her about it! She's got lots of photos.



May/June Question

Which member of the KS community played in a college wind ensemble that had a performance conducted by Aaron Copeland? Mr. Copeland was very fussy about how a piece he had written should be played.

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 **Aging**, many of them from a **Jewish** perspective: *Getting Good at Growing Older, Wisdom for Growing Older, Estate Planning, and more*



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 usually in person at a private home.

Next Meetings

June 10, 12:30pm. We Would Never by Tova Mirvis

July 8, 12:30pm. Going Home by Tom Lamont

August 12, 12:30pm. By Another Name by Jodi Picoult

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills
Meeting monthly



Next Meetings

May 20, 12:30pm - *Lovely One: A Memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson

June 24, 10:30am – *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood

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. We also are happy to share non-art-related events and accomplishments from members.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Spring – Photo by Iris Barten

ART

KS member **Cynthia Katz**

- has work in the Griffin Museum of Photography's show Elemental Blues: Contemporary Cyanotypes at their Downtown Crossing site, Lafayette City Center Passageway, April 1-June 30.
- Her piece "Standing at Ease" was selected by the Griffin Museum of Photography as part of the International Birthday celebration for Anna Atkins, for Expanded Cyanotypes: New Directions in Cyanotype Making March 16-April 30.
- Cynthia welcomes visitors to her studio during the Umbrella Arts Center Open Studios May 3 & 4, noon to 5:00 PM at 40 Stow Street, Concord, Studio 307.
- Cynthia is honored to be a part of these, and always for your support.

KS member **Jill Goldman-Callahan**

- will be showing some new paintings at the Three Stones Gallery in Concord center in their May show, Persophene's return.
- Jill will be holding Open Studios at the Umbrella Arts Center, May 3 & 4, noon to 5:00 PM at 40 Stow Street, Concord, Studio 303.
- She welcomes you to visit her updated website, with thematically-arranged series at Jillgoldman-callahanstudio.com .

MUSIC

KS members **Celia Shneider**, **Marion Levenstein** and **Robert Karr** will be performing as part of the next Concord Orchestra concert: *Dreaming With Your Feet*, featuring music by Kurth, Mozart, Marquez and Respighi and the young artist concerto competition winner (Jihye Yun, violin).

- Saturday May 31 8:00pm (7:15 pm pre-concert recital)
- Sunday June 1 2:30pm (1:45 pm pre-concert recital)

Tickets are available at concordorchestra.com.

Resources

Do Jews Believe in Angels? <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/angels/>

Shavuot: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/category/celebrate/shavuot/>

The Jewish practice of blessing natural phenomena:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-earth-as-a-source-of-wonder/>

Leisure



Nature Walk

Dates: May 4, June 1

Time: Likely early afternoon

Place: To be decided by the walkers

The Adult Programming Committee is sponsoring spring walks on two Sunday afternoons (weather permitting) to mingle with old friends, meet new friends and savor the joy of the springtime wonders that emerge in this beautiful place we have the fortune to call home.

Please join us – all welcome. Contact Rosalie (Rosalie@keremshalom.org) to participate, and to suggest your favorite walking locations.

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 - 12pm - 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.



Art by Yorem Raanan

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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

An invitation to **Women Members** of Kerem Shalom

First Monday of each month,

NEW TIME → 5:00pm ←

Location: Zoom

Led by Rosalie, Director of Adult Programming

Next meetings: May 5, June 2

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 Hebc 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

Health & Comfort for Mind, Body and Soul

Insight Meditation with Cheryl Steinberg

For KS Members and Non-Members

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 if you have any questions:
meditation-with-cherly-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.