



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 6.3 – Jan/Feb 2026/5786



***Tu B'shvat* by Michoel Muchnik**

**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. We recommend that in-person attendees be vaccinated and have appropriate boosters. [CLICK HERE](#) for the latest policy.

Upcoming Special Events

Do You Zentangle?

With Marla Richmond

4 Tuesdays: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3

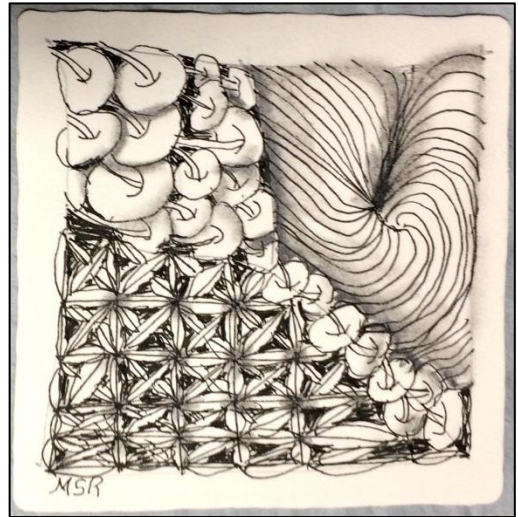
10:30am – 12pm

Location: In person at KS

Could you use some time to just doodle? Sit with like-minded people and make beautiful drawings? Come to our class!

Zentangle is a form of drawing and meditating. Taught by Marla Richmond, Certified Zentangle Teacher, we will sit and learn easy ways to draw lines to enhance our tiles. You don't need to know how to draw (I don't!) and you won't have erasers, you will fill in spaces to please yourself. It is easy and fun. Bring a spirit of adventure and your reading glasses. Talking and laughing is allowed, actually encouraged. People who have taken this class find themselves drawing tangles years later. Come join us! You get an hour to yourself!

Please [RSVP by Jan 10](#)



Salon Series – Featuring KS Authors Lessons in Coming and Going

Sunday, Jan 18

10:30am – 12pm

Location: In person at KS

From the ragged roads of Afghanistan to forbidden Lhasa, Tibet to the sacred waters of the Ganges at dawn, Rusty Glicksman's story captures three decades of daring adventure and spiritual seeking across the East. [Kirkus Review](#) called it "A superb travelogue... a luminous memoir".



Many of you will remember **Rusty Glicksman** from classes with Rabbi Ullman, KS meditation and other KS events. Rusty, a **Kerem Shalom** member until he passed away in **2021**, is survived by his wife, Rita Volya.

Rusty left behind a **complete, unpublished book** - a moving travelogue/ memoir/spiritual journey. Rita has shepherded his work through editing and publication, and what a wonderful book it is! Rusty weaves together his embodiment of the 1960s spirit of protest, his deep-seated Judaism and his fascination with India and eastern spirituality.

Join Rusty's friends for readings from [Lessons in Coming and Going](#) followed by a discussion of some of the themes that Rusty explored and how they bear on our own lives. Through the beautiful book that he left us, get to know a little about Rusty and his life adventures, and become inspired on your own spiritual journey.

Light refreshments will be served

Please [RSVP here](#) by Jan 15

Wellspring – Havdalah Concert

Saturday, Jan 24

Doors open: 7:30pm

Concert: 8:00pm

Location: In person at KS and on Zoom

Join us in welcoming the week of Shabbat Shira, Shabbat of Song, with Wellspring, a participatory Havdalah Concert at Kerem Shalom, featuring Interim Cantorial Soloist Molly Bajgot and musical guests Anat HaLevy Hochberg, Batya Levine, Richie Barshay, and Yoni Battat.

Like a wellspring, song, music, and communal singing is a place that we can continuously return to to reinvigorate our spirits, to reenergize our senses, and to fortify our hearts for confronting a deeply challenging and broken world. Together, our song leaders will lead us in original compositions designed to ground us, uplift us, and generate joy.

- Beverages and light snacks will be available before and after the concert.
- This event is open to all and can be attended in person or via Zoom.
- Everyone is welcome!
- ASL is available upon request.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS HERE](#)

Payment: Donations \$18-72+, NOTAFLOF (no one turned away for lack of funds)

[Purchase Tickets](#)

[Register for Zoom](#)

[Sign up to Volunteer for the Concert](#)



Facing History and Ourselves

Standing Together Against Bias & Hate: An Introduction to Confronting Contemporary Antisemitism



Tuesday, Jan 27

6:00 – 8:00pm

Location:

Concord-Carlisle High School
500 Walden Street, Concord
(in-person only)

Join us at the Concord-Carlisle High School, Learning Commons (Library) to discuss how to recognize, respond to, and counter antisemitism in the community.

Presented by [Facing History & Ourselves](#) with co-sponsors: [Concord Public Schools](#), [Concord-Carlisle Regional School District](#), [Concord Carlisle Adult & Community Education](#), [Concord Carlisle Human Rights Council](#), [Town of Concord DEI Commission](#), and Kerem Shalom.

Through this session, we will look at the following questions:

- How and why does antisemitism persist in communities today?
- How are current manifestations of antisemitism connected to the past?
- How can community members respond to antisemitism when they encounter it?

Our goals for the evening are to:

- Establish a shared foundational understanding of contemporary antisemitism; - Explore the current forms of antisemitism and process how antisemitism impacts individuals and communities
- Engage with resources to increase knowledge of both historical and contemporary antisemitism.

[More information here](#)

Neshama

Salon Series with children's author and KS member, Marcella Pixley

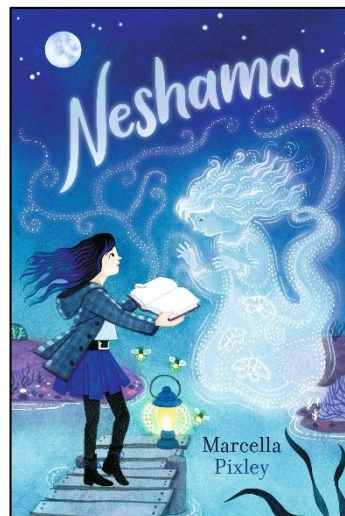
Including a discussion with Marcella and Rabbi Darby

Sunday, Feb 1

10:30am – 12pm

Location: In person at KS

Come join award winning author and KS member Marcella Pixley in a reading and conversation about her new novel in verse, [Neshama](#) (Candlewick Press), which tells the story of eleven year old Anna Fleischman who has the ability to speak to the spirits of her ancestors.



In this special Salon Series event, Marcella will read from her novel, discuss her writing process, and lead a discussion about why we need books for children that explore Jewish identity and intergenerational memory.

This event will include prompts for any aspiring writers who are interested in finding inspiration in their own family stories: What would your ancestors say to you if they could? What poems would they write? What bravery would they bring? How would this communication change your life?

It will also include a **thoughtful discussion with Marcella and Rabbi Darby** at the end of the event where we will make connections to Judaism and to our own memories and experiences.

Please [RSVP](#) by Jan 29

Protecting Yourself Online: Workshop on Security and Privacy with Sandy Carielli

Sunday Feb 8

10:30am

Location: In person at KS

In November, Forrester Research Vice President & Principal Analyst and Kerem Shalom member Sandy Carielli delivered a highly informative and practical presentation entitled Myths and Facts About Protecting Yourself Online. The strong response for a follow-up from those attending has led to this workshop:



In this workshop Sandy will provide answers to the following questions: Do you know where the privacy and security settings are for the most important apps and websites that you use? Are you making use of them?

Security and privacy settings are rarely enabled by default and can be hard to find. In this session, you'll have an opportunity to look at the security and privacy settings in some of the apps that you use and decide which settings you want to activate. Sandy will walk participants through the settings on a few widely-used sites and apps, assist individuals with answers about their other apps, and offer set up help so participants can go through other apps on their own.

Even if you were unable to attend the first session led by Sandy, you'll want to join us for this valuable hands-on workshop presentation. Please bring your laptops, iPads, or phones.

[Please RSVP](#) By Feb 5

Questions? Email ap-registration@keremshalom.org

The Miraculous from the Material

An L.E.D* program with author and KS member Alan Lightman

Sunday, Mar 8

10:30am-12pm

Location: In person at KS

Save the date – details forthcoming

Alan's Presentation will be followed by a conversation with Alan and Rabbi Darby

* Learn. Explore. Discuss. - Shed a little light.



Growing Older in Community

Continuing the series for Kerem Shalom

Across the Ages and Stages of Life

Growing Older in Community with Kerem Shalom

The KS Growing Older in Community initiative fosters connections and support amongst KS members as we explore, share, learn, and grow older together.

We aim to offer a combination of member-led group conversations, classes, workshops, plus a print and digital resource collections in the KS library, with relevance for those in their later years. Concurrently, we aim to expand and deepen intergenerational connections.

Questions? Want to participate? Email the planning group at growingolder@keremshalom.org



Creating a Legacy From Everyday Life With Claire B. Willis

Wednesday, Feb 18

10:30am – 12pm

**Location: In person at KS
(Snow date, Feb 25)**

As we grow older, many of us wonder how we will be remembered, what difference our life has made and what values and wisdom we have to pass onto our loved ones. Most of us have prepared a legal will to distribute our belongings after we die, but few of us have considered leaving a spiritual/ethical will, a record of who we are, our values, our wisdom and stories.

Following the presentation, Claire will offer an optional short writing workshop to help participants get started. At the end of our time together you will leave knowing how much you have to offer as well as having many handouts and resources to help you get started.

Claire Willis is a clinical social worker who has been working with end of life, bereavement and people living with life altering diseases for over 30 years. She is the author of two books - Lasting Words: A Guide to Making Meaning Toward the Close of Life and Opening to Grief; Finding Your Way from Loss to Peace. This work led many of her clients to consider what kind of legacy they would like to lead so she has offered a workshop - Creating a Legacy From Everyday Life - to a variety of places all around the country, to small and large groups, at national seminars and conferences and in local non-profits. Claire is one of the skilled [Life-Legacies](#) facilitators.

Suggested donation, \$18

[Please RSVP](#) by Feb 15. Your RSVP will help us plan for the workshop.



Growing Older in Community - Group Discussions

Date: Third Wed of each month:

Jan 21

Feb 18 - No group meeting – see instead the special program with Claire Willis (above)

Time:

9:45 - 10am - Schmooze

10am - 12pm - Meet, Share, Discuss, Inspire

Location: In Person in the KS library

KS Members Only

This discussion group has been meeting monthly since March 2025, exploring how each of us is unfolding into our later years, and finding new self-expression and contribution. Each month we choose a different topic.

January's topic: Patience.

If you are new to this group, please [RSVP HERE](#) for Jan 2026

Special Offering

Dirshuni: Israeli Women Writing Midrash

With Tamar Biala

Dates: Six Thursdays: Jan 15, 22 & 29;
Feb 5, 12 & 19

Time: 12 – 1pm

Location: Zoom



Tamar Biala was a deeply appreciated teacher at Kerem Shalom while she was living in the area. She acknowledged our participants for contributing to the contents of one of her books (Dirshuni). She has been living in Jerusalem and just contacted us about a course she is now offering and is welcoming us to join.

From Tamar: "Dear beloved friends. Here is an invitation to join me, for a mini series of 6 study sessions on women's midrash written after Oct 7. This series will be special because I'll be hosting some of the midrash writers, inviting them to share the personal stories that had them write their midrashim and teach them with me.

For more details or to register, [click here](#)

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

Kerem Shalom News

Israel Conversations Planning Group

From JoAnn Simon

The Israel Conversations Planning Group has been hosting **discussion sessions facilitated by Dan Terris**. Before each session, the participants are asked to read an article or two or listen to a podcast about Israel and the greater Middle East and we discuss our reactions. **Sessions are open to all KS members:**

Tuesdays: Jan 13, Feb 17 and Mar 3

7:00pm

KS Members only

[REGISTER HERE](#)

We have also hosted two **sessions mediated by David Hoffman on having difficult conversations** to help us build resilience and confidence as we confront emotionally fraught issues around Israel and its neighbors. Our final session will be held on:

February 22 at 10am

In person at Kerem Shalom

KS Members only

We plan to show the Oscar winning documentary *No Other Land* which chronicles events in an area of the West Bank. The discussion following the film will again be mediated by David Hoffman. Watch the Weekly News for more details. Please join us!

KS Immigration Task Force

From Sue Viskin

Over four years ago we welcomed two young Afghan women, Razia and Taiba, to our community. The Immigration Task Force is still active in supporting them. A year ago Taiba's husband joined her. Within that year Kamran has found a job, got his driver's

license, purchased a car and learned much about life in the US. He has taken the lead in trying to improve their lives.

Recently Kamran remarked how his vision of the US and reality are not the same. Life in the US isn't as easy as he imagined. People work hard, long hours and things cost plenty. He along with Razia and Taiba are figuring out their budget; with all of them working hard. They had hopes for a larger apartment with more amenities, but they realize that their apartment is comfortable and affordable.

Razia and Taiba are used to their jobs, but the jobs are not very interesting and they aren't working with many English speakers. To get ahead they need to improve their English skills. It is a challenge for them to find the time to study while working. We will continue to help them explore options.

Our support helps them navigate our complicated health care system, taxes, and immigration issues. In spite of the fear of changes and arrests within immigrant communities, they go on with their lives. We wish continued growth for them in the year ahead.

Rosalie's Notebook



Combatting antisemitism and spreading Jewish joy in New York's theater industry

Read about how a new organization is making a big difference.

[Read the article here](#)

The Jews of Italy

Do you know that Jews likely lived in Rome starting in the 3rd Century BCE?

[Full article here](#)





The Star of David

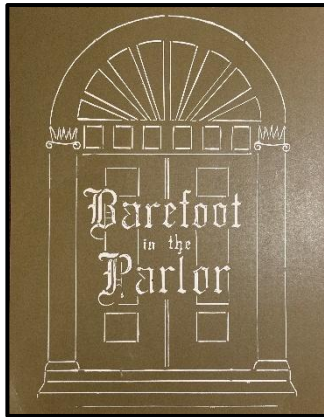
It is a symbol of both Judaism and Israel... *and*, it was adopted *much* more recently than you might think.

[Read more here](#)

Marla's Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue's question

Did you guess who is the secret artist who had a silk-screening business as a high school student? It's Scott Sancetta. He still loves arts and crafts.



Jan/Feb Question

What member of the KS community has had a poem published in the Journal of the American Medical Association? They got some interesting responses, too!

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

KS Spotlight

Celebrating Kerem Shalom Member **Sue Wolff**

Growing Older in Community

Sue Wolff has been a member of Kerem Shalom since 2014. In those years, she has been instrumental in much of what makes KS run behind the scenes: Communications, event planning, website and financial stuff, and participation in multiple committees; Adult Programming; Communication Task Force (2019); Legacy Giving; High Holy Days; and several others. She has been on the Board of Directors since 2020. Sue has participated in several of the spiritually oriented groups at Kerem Shalom and became a Bat Mitzvah with the 2017 B'nai Mitzvah group.



Recently Sue stepped out of the shadows and made an even bigger contribution. She seeded and has been the driving force behind the **Growing Older in Community with Kerem Shalom** initiative. Honoring the memory of her parents, she planted seeds for this initiative, the growth of which has been nourished by the enthusiastic engagement of the KS community. Numerous community-building fruits have already been enjoyed, with more soon to be harvested!

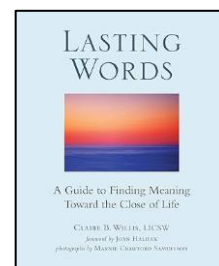
We are grateful for all that Sue Wolff has given to us - hidden and overt - over the years. Thank you, Sue!

Sue wishes to acknowledge and express gratitude to the current and former members of the Growing Older Planning Committee: Jane Appel, Iris Barten, Daine Fulman, Karen Gaylin, Nancy Kaplan, Marla Richmond, Scott Sancetta, Nancy Sokol and Debbie Whitestone, as well as Rabbi Darby and Rosalie Gerut.

Kerem Shalom Library

Visit and read **books on Israel**.

Read or borrow books on **Growing Older**, many of them from a **Jewish** perspective. Coming soon to the library is *Lasting Words* by Claire Willis (image to the right). In February, Claire will be teaching "Creating a Legacy from Everyday Life" at Kerem Shalom



The library is open whenever Kerem Shalom is open.

Please visit, browse, borrow!

(please sign out books, and return them so that others can access them)

Special thanks to our volunteer librarian, **Nanci Bell**, who spends many hours maintaining the KS collection.

Literary Groups

Kerem Shalom Book Groups

We offer 2 different book groups



"Concord" © 2020 by Thomas McKnight, all rights reserved



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.
Upcoming meetings are in person in the KS library.

Next Meetings

Jan 13, 12:30pm. *The Trade Off* by Samantha Greene Woodruff

**Feb 10, 12:30pm. *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans*
by Catherine Grace Katz**

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills

Meeting monthly

Next Meetings

January 15, Thursday, 7:00pm
***The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjam Kamali**

February 12, Thursday, 7:00 pm
***My Friends* by Fredrik Backman**



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

KS Members in the Arts

Many of us find it especially enjoyable to attend concerts and artist shows in which KS members have an active role. It's fun to greet others at these events. We also have introduced ourselves to those we've seen at services or KS programs but don't personally know. So, we've benefited from enjoying a rewarding cultural activity while also building new connections and reinforcing existing ties with our community. We hope to see you at some of these events listed in our newsletters!

KS Member **Marla Richmond** has a quilt in the American Quilter's Society "50 States in Stitches" competition. Her quilt is entitled "I Love That Dirty Water".

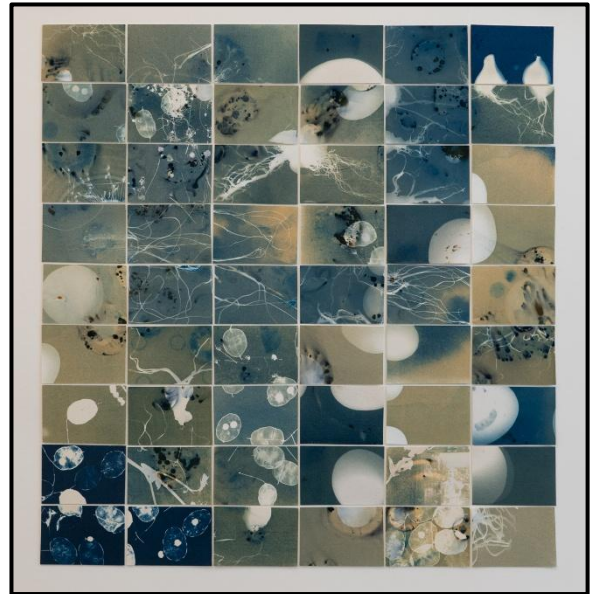
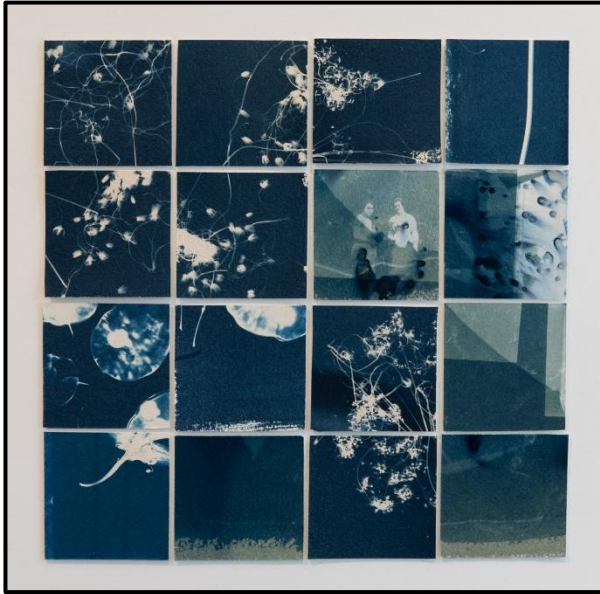


Here is a beautiful piece from **Jill Goldman-Callahan**. Part of a series sourced from the seven days of creation, it is based on the phrase "G-d created light and separated it from darkness, calling them Night and Day".

This striking work was made with cold wax, white oil paint and charcoal dust, on stone paper adhered to a wood panel.

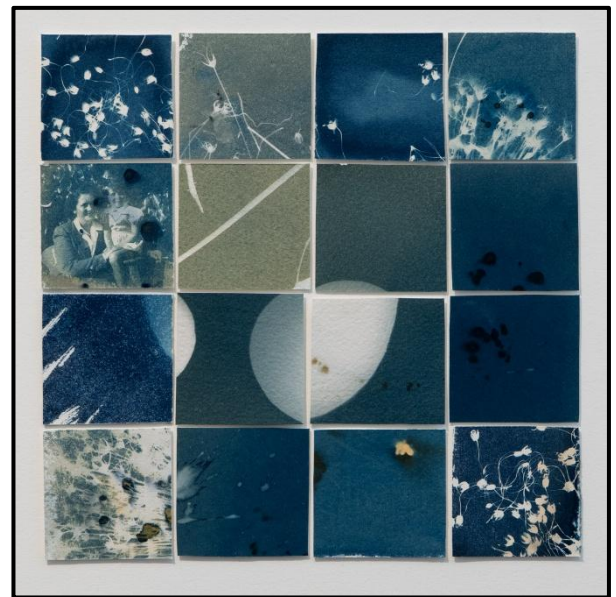
See more of Jill's work at her website:

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



Member **Cynthia Katz** has recently created a body of work called “Almost Gone”. These works include old family photos, many of the people unidentified.

Read more about this stunning series [here](#).



We welcome news of any creative arts you are involved in and would like to share with the community.

Leisure



Nature Walk

Dates: TBD

Time: Likely early afternoon

Place: To be decided by the walkers

The Adult Programming Committee is offering walks to mingle with old friends, meet new friends and savor the joy of the natural 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

KS Members only

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

Second Monday of each month,

Time: 5:00pm

Location: Zoom

Led by Rosalie, Director of Adult Programming

Next meetings: Jan 12, Feb 9

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. We share in conversations that enhance our own awareness and create a sacred space for deep connection with ourselves, one another, and our community."

- 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. 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. "Not yet" members are welcome, too

The Torah Conversations Group is on a temporary hiatus in early 2026.

For further information, contact 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, 8:45 – 9:45am

(Zoom opens at 8:30am 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-cheryl-info@keremshalom.org

REGISTER HERE for the Tuesday morning Zoom

Kerem Shalom Men's Group

New members invited!

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 **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 in Community initiative; and to **the AP Committee** for their assistance in creating these offerings: **Carol Barron**, **Diane Fulman**, **Carolyn Gold**, **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.