



*Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson*

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 7.1 – Sep/Oct 2026/5787



Shanah Tovah

**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 current policy.

Upcoming Special Events



Sukkah Decorating & Brunch!!!

Sunday Sept 27
10:30am – 12:30pm
Location: In person at KS

Join us as we come together as a community to help decorate the Sukkah. Members and guests of **all ages** are welcome.

To make sure we have enough bagels, please [REGISTER](#) by Thursday, Sept 24.

Salon Series: Move Over Mona Lisa With KS Member Peggy Levitt

Sunday Oct 18
10:30am - 12pm
Location: In person at KS



Most people agree that the world benefits when a broad range of art and literature are represented in our classrooms, libraries and museums. Why, then, do we still value culture and ideas produced in the West more than what is created by the "Rest?" In her new book, *Move Over, Mona Lisa: Reimagining What We Read, Look at, and Learn*, Peggy Levitt describes the inequality pipeline which keeps arts, writers, and thinkers from getting their fair share as well as the remarkable people who are working to dismantle it.

Join us for this special Salon Series. Read a [glowing review](#) of *Move Over, Mona Lisa*.

Please [RSVP](#) by Oct 15

Peggy Levitt is Chair and Professor of Sociology and the Mildred Lane Kemper Chair of Sociology at Wellesley College. She is also a co-founder of the [Global \(De\)Centre](#).

Inter-Congregational Shabbaton

Kerem Shalom has joined with several local congregations for “An Exploration of Psalms” With Rabbi Yael Levy



Nov 6, 7 and 8, 2026

Experience a special opportunity to learn with members of four co-sponsoring congregations as Rabbi emerita Yael Levy, founder and rabbinic director of the website [A Way In](#), leads us in spiritual Exploration of the Psalms. Her teachings offer "a way in" to spiritual practice and awareness that address universal issues. People of diverse faiths are welcome; psalms are not exclusively Jewish.

Friday Nov 6, 7:30pm at **Kerem Shalom**, Concord - Rabbi Levy will participate in the Shabbat service. Her presentation will relate to her newly published book, *Psalms, Ancient Songs for These Times*. An informal, dessert reception will follow.

Saturday, Nov 7, 10:30am, 4:00pm and 6:00pm at **Congregation Beth El, Sudbury** - Rabbi Levy will participate in Shabbat morning services. Her teachings will be based on her new book on the psalms. We will then enjoy a festive, oneg lunch. At 4:00 pm, she will give a meditative presentation, followed by Havdalah.

Sunday, Nov 8, 1:00 pm at **Temple Beth Torah, Holliston**, in collaboration with *Temple Etz Chaim, Franklin* - Rabbi Levy will offer a presentation including poetry, meditation and teachings. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration information (in most cases, both in-person AND on zoom) will be available in the next AP Newsletter and in the Weekly News.

About **Rabbi Yael Levy**:

A graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbi Levy worked with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She co-leads retreats, is writing an online mindfulness guide to weekly Torah portions and has written several books. She is a spiritual mentor to rabbinical students. Named one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" by the Jewish Forward, Rabbi Levy creates online teachings, unique, contemplative, Shabbat and holiday services and Jewish mindfulness classes.

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 Growing Older in Community (GOIC) initiative fosters connections and support in our KS community as we explore, share, learn, and grow older together.

We offer member-led conversations, classes, workshops, and a growing collection of resources in the KS library. We also aim to expand and deepen connections across the generations.

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

Upcoming Offerings



Growing Older in Community - Group Discussions

Date: Third Wed of each month:

Sept 16, Oct 21

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. All members are welcome. Questions? Contact growingolder@keremshalom.org

Watch the Weekly News for programs in October and November

GOIC planning for the fall is in process. Save the Dates: **Monday evenings Oct 26 and Nov 16, 6:30-8:00 pm.**

Want to be on the *Growing Older in Community with KS* mailing list? Let us know: growingolder@keremshalom.org

Classes in Judaic Studies

Read the Torah and Learn Hebrew With Natasha Shabat

Six Wednesdays,
Starting Oct 14
11:30am – 12:30pm
Location: Zoom

Would you like to learn to read biblical Hebrew, or hone your existing skills? Experienced teacher Natasha Shabat is offering us a **six-lesson series**. Each lesson will focus on the weekly Torah portion, and use *The First Hebrew Primer* as a reference.

Cost:

Kerem Shalom members: \$120 for the six week session.

Non-members: \$180 for the six week session.

Please register early, by Monday Oct 5,
as the class requires a minimum number of students to run.

Questions, or to register, email rosalie@keremshalom.org



Possible Upcoming Class Series With Dr. Jacob Meskin



Jacob Meskin is a greatly appreciated teacher of Judaica. Many of us at Kerem Shalom have enjoyed studying with him.

Jacob has offered to teach a class for us and would love to know what topic(s) that you would like to focus on.

Please let us know if you would enjoy studying with Jacob, and include a list of topics that interest you.

Email: rosalie@keremshalom.org

You might also want to consider one of the many classes (by Jacob and others) at [Hebrew College](http://HebrewCollege.org).



High Holidays

With Rosh Hashanah approaching, you may appreciate this: [Get to Know the High Holidays](#), from My Jewish Learning.

The High Holy Days are a special time at [Kerem Shalom](#).

Please try to make one or more services. Be a part of this exceptional time of year: [Services for 5787](#).



Jews and MUSIC!

Music has always been an integral part of Judaism, both religiously and culturally. Relish these interesting resources.

If you have *GBH Passport*, you can watch [Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy](#). The accompanying article (see link) is also pretty interesting.

My Jewish Learning has assembled a [fine collection of articles](#), some with music, on Jewish Music.

One of these highlights the fascinating [neo-Hasidic music of Shlomo Carlebach](#) – an article plus a video with his unique music.

My Jewish Learning *a/so* has a free **Guided Listening Journey**. Download [Jews and Broadway](#). Dig in! Enjoy!

And finally, discover how the Hebrew Bible appears in the [music of Dolly Parton](#).

On another note (😊)...

Get to know Golda Meir.

[Israel's first female prime minister](#) took the nation through an existential crisis, but requested no eulogy and asked that no institutions be named after her.



Soulful Visitations

Contribute your dreams and visitations to Rosalie's book on visits from passed loved ones. *Soulful Visitations* welcomes the inclusion of your true-life experiences:

Dear KS folks and friends,

Over the years I have heard some deeply touching stories by people who have lost loved ones and friends. As a child, I too received a dream which stayed with me throughout my life. I feel that these unexpected events have deeply touched the folks who have received them and I would very much appreciate hearing from those of you who have had such experiences. My hope is to create a book of these visitations that can uplift others who have lost loved ones and friends. I look forward to hearing from you and send love and blessings for the New Year

- Shanah Tovah, Rosalie@Keremshalom.org

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

Marla's Corner, or Who Knew?

Last issue's question

Did you guess June's mystery person? The clue was: *What member of the KS community took a polar bear plunge into chilly water (with a strong current) off a boat in **Glacier Bay, Alaska**? The member's partner was not foolish enough to try it!*

Did you guess **Janet Spillert**? If so, you were right! Janet jumped into **40-degree ocean water**, with glaciers floating by, while Alan looked on. Ask her about it!



Sept/Oct Question

What member of the Kerem Shalom community was arrested TWICE for protesting inhumane conditions in an ICE detention center?

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

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.

Until specified otherwise, meetings are at 12:30pm at KS.

Next Meetings

Oct 13. – *The Jew Store*, by Stella Suberman

Nov 10 – *The Postcard*, by Anne Berest

Dec 8 - *Antisemitism: An American Tradition*, by Pamela S. Nadell

Jan 12, 2027 - *Hotel Cuba*, by Aaron Hamburger

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

Kerem Shalom Book Group

Hosted by Pat Sills
Meeting monthly

Next Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 15, 10:30am – Culpability by Bruce Holsinger

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



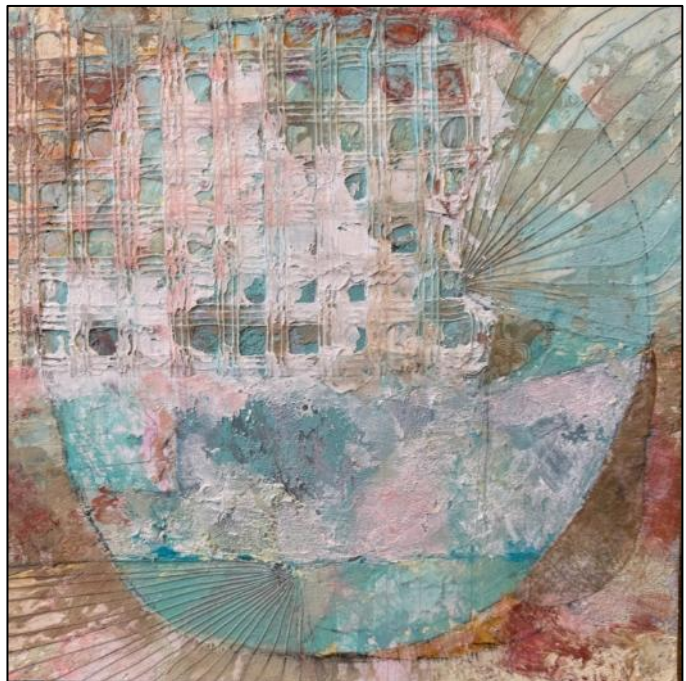
KS Members in the Arts

VISUAL ARTS

Jill Goldman is interested in expressing Jewish concepts through painting. This recent painting is entitled “Tikkun Olam”

If any adults would like to take a **six week fall painting class** with Jill Goldman-Callahan, she is teaching at the Umbrella Arts on Wednesday nights starting **Sept 23**. Here is the info link:

<https://theumbrellaarts.org/class/fall-adults-spontaneous-textural-painting>





Elaine Allen's lovely artwork of Obidos, Portugal captures the atmosphere of this historic hill town that Elaine recently visited.

MUSICAL ARTS

KS members **Marty Plotkin, Robert Karr and Marian Levenstein** will be performing in the Concord Orchestra's fall concert, [Dancing in Disguise](#) on Oct 17 & 18.

LITERARY ARTS

KS Member **Jane Appell** has had a poem accepted for publication in [The Ekphrastic Review](#), to be released on Sept 11. The poem, *Big Fish*, was inspired by her father and a Winslow Homer watercolor.

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

Leisure



Nature Walk

Dates: TBD, *when the weather improves*

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

good 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](#)

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 Jonathan Aibel**, **President Emeritus 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**, as well as incoming president **Jonathan Aibel** 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.