כרם שלום
Kerem Shalom



Vineyard of Peace
by Ilana Manolson

KEREM SHALOM

Adult Programming Newsletter

Volume 7.2 – Nov/Dec 2026/5787



Happy Chanukah

Artwork 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. We recommend that in-person attendees be vaccinated and have appropriate boosters. CLICK HERE for the current policy.

Upcoming Special Events



Science and Religion: Searching for Truth

An L.E.D. Three-part series program with Alan Lightman and Rabbi Darby Leigh



First session: Sunday Dec 6
10:30am – 12:30pm
Location: In person at KS
Please RSVP by Dec 3

Science and Religion: Searching for Truth is a three-session program featuring provocative discussion among eminent scientists and religious leaders, including Rabbi Darby Leigh and KS member and MIT Professor of Humanities, Alan Lightman.

Discussants will explore how both science and religion aim to explain the world we inhabit - how their perspectives and methodologies to examine knowledge and truth converge and diverge. With engaging presentations by renowned scientists known for their ability to explain complex concepts and esteemed leaders of different faith traditions, attendees will be challenged to ask questions, question their beliefs and open their minds to new perspectives on finding truth.

The series is an expansion of a widely-acclaimed KS presentation in March of 2026, and has been awarded a generous supporting grant from the program Scientists in Synagogues, sponsored by Clal – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

Please also plan to join us for the second and third dates in this series, Feb 7 and Apr 4, 2027.

Read more about this special series HERE.

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

Experience a special opportunity to learn with members of four co-sponsoring congregations as Rabbi emerita Yael Levy, founder and rabbinic director of the organization 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 in person at KS. Her presentation will relate to her newly published book, *Psalms, Ancient Songs for These Times*. An informal, dessert reception will follow. To attend on Zoom, CLICK HERE.

Saturday, Nov 7, 10:30am, 4:00 - 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, entitled "Waters of Salvation: an exploration of psalms and a call to the expanse".

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.

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. Read more about Rabbi Levy HERE.

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

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

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Upcoming Offerings



Growing Older in Community - Group Discussions

Date: Third Wed of each month:
Nov 18, Dec 16
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

SEE IMPORTANT UPDATES below

What Matters: Planning for Illness and/or the End of Life

Necessary Paperwork or Catalyst for Reflection, Self-knowledge, Connection, and Depth?

with Michele Bograd, PhD, End-of-Life Doula



Part 2 of the two-part series:
Nov 16
6:30 - 8:00pm
In person at KS only
Light refreshments served afterwards

Many people have not completed advance directives for when illness or end of life approaches, or if they have, they did so long ago. Without the loving and sometimes hard conversations about what matters to you, and up-to-date documents, people are too often unprepared for illnesses and/or the dying process. While the focus of workshop presenter Michele Bograd, PhD's work is on end-of-life, whether solo or partnered, everyone 18 and older should have these documents and review/revise them across their lifespan.

In this series of workshops, Michele will weave together a nuanced and informative introduction to the many aspects of Healthcare Advance Directives, including Healthcare Proxy (who will speak for you when you can't speak for yourself) and Living Wills (what you want, or don't want) and more.

READ MORE

IMPORTANT UPDATES:

(1) Unfortunately, the Zoom and recording did not work for Part 1 on Oct 26. We're working on scheduling a repeat of the two part series. Please be patient, and watch your GOIC email, the KS Weekly News and Website for updates.

(2) Part 2 of the workshop, Nov 16 will be interactive and builds on Part 1. If you attended on Oct 26 in person, or you tried to attend on Zoom, watch your email for followup information.



Choosing How and Where To Live As You or Your Loved Ones Grow Older

with Karen Wasserman, Director of Your Elder Experts

Monday Dec 14
6:30 – 8:00pm
In person at KS and on Zoom
Light refreshments served afterwards

We will discuss:

- Options for living from aging in place to retirement communities.
- How family, social and financial resources influence our decision making.
- How to gauge the timing for accessing supports and or moving.

Please RSVP
To attend on zoom, REGISTER HERE

***Karen Wasserman**, LICSW, has worked with older adults and their families for the past 30 years. Karen started Your Elder Experts, the Care Management program at Jewish Family and Children's Services, in 1999 and has managed its growth into one of the Greater Boston Area's leading Care Management practices*

Read more about Karen and this offering HERE.

Chanukah 5787

Latkes & Laughter: KS - Concord Celebration



Wednesday, Dec 9
5:00 pm
INSIDE the Harvey Wheeler Community Center
1276 Main Street, West Concord

Join Kerem Shalom and the Town of Concord for our sixth annual Chanukah celebration!

Details HERE



Chanukah Community Dinner and Celebration

Friday, Dec 11
6:00 – 8:30pm
In person at KS
Dinner: 6:00 – 7:00pm
Programming: 7:00 - 8:30pm

No firm details yet (check the Weekly News), but it's going to be amazing!

Kerem Shalom News

Update from the Antisemitism Action Team

The KS Antisemitism Action Team (AAT) members are committed to learning, and educating the community, about antisemitism in today's world as well as actions we can take to combat it. We sponsor events such as book discussions, classes, and guest speakers, and join in local community actions as ways to accomplish these goals.
CLICK HERE to learn more.

Here's a note from Carole Greenfield on current and future plans of the AAT. It is addressed to the AAT members, but will be of interest to all.

Rosalie's Notebook

Read this fascinating article from My Jewish Learning about the diverse **Jewish perspectives on the nature of God**, from biblical to modern thought, highlighting theological and mystical developments.



And here is an inspiring article from Rabbi Simon Jacobson and the Meaningful Life Center on how to **manifest miracles with your attitude**.



Soulful Visitations

Dear KS folks and friends,

Over the years I have heard some deeply touching stories by people who have lost loved ones and friends, and also received some amazing unexpected messages. 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. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sending love and blessings,

- 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 September's mystery person? The KS community member who has been arrested TWICE for protesting inhumane conditions in an ICE detention center?

If you guessed LilyFish Gomberg, our Director of Congregational Learning, good on you! LilyFish is one of those special people who act on their beliefs.

She was told "if you step over here we will arrest you!" If you know Lilyfish, you know what happened! Ask her about it!

Nov/Dec Question

What member of the Kerem Shalom community walked the *El Camino de Santiago* across Spain right after college graduation? This pilgrimage is looong, over 200km!

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

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, Nov 10, 10:30am – *Hill of Secrets* by Galina Vromen



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

KS Members in the Arts

VISUAL ARTS

Jill Goldman beautifully expresses Jewish concepts through painting. This recent painting is part of her "Tikkun Olam" series



She invites us to visit her and other talented artists at the Umbrella Arts 2026 Winter Market in Concord, Dec 4 – 6.



Marla Richmond's beautiful hand-stitched and embroidered quilt, "I learned Embroidery at my Mama's Knee", hung in a recent Concord Piecemakers show.

"*The quilt is made up of 20 pieces of denim. Not just denim, but used jeans. Each one has a wildflower from Missouri hand embroidered on it. I used cotton yarn to crochet it together. It was shown at the Concord Piecemakers Quilt Show in October. Over 200 hundred people attended. The most exciting thing for me was seeing people that didn't know me taking pictures of my quilt!*"

MUSICAL ARTS

KS members, including **Marian Levenstein,** will be performing in the Concord Orchestra's upcoming concert, Restless, on Dec 4 & 5.

LITERARY ARTS

Jane Appell has been finding her voice through poetry. Here is an enchanting recent poem about Elul, closings and openings.

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 temple 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.