



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

April 2024
Adar II/Nisan 5784

 **RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM**
Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

Rabbi's Reflections



Judaism Is About Freedom

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI

On Passover, we sing: עבדים היינו, היינו, אתה בני בני חורין / בני חורין / *Avadim hayinu, hayinu, atah b'nai horin, b'nai horin*. We were slaves, now we are free. Listen [here](#) for the melody.

Passover, which begins on Monday evening, April 22, is called זמן חרותנו / *Z'man Heruteinu* – the Festival of Our Freedom. As the Haggadah tells us: “In every generation a person must see themselves as if they themselves were personally freed from Egyptian bondage.”

Judaism is about freedom.

This might surprise some of us – think of all the restrictions that have come down to us: no shrimp or lobster or cheeseburgers! No bread on Passover and no driving on Shabbat. How is Judaism about freedom?

The Sefat Emet, Rabbi Yehuda Leib Alter of Ger, wrote:

The purpose of all the commandments, both positive and negative, that were given to Israel, is so that every person of Israel be free. That is why the liberation from Egypt comes first [before the giving of the Torah].

Torah then teaches the soul how to maintain its freedom....

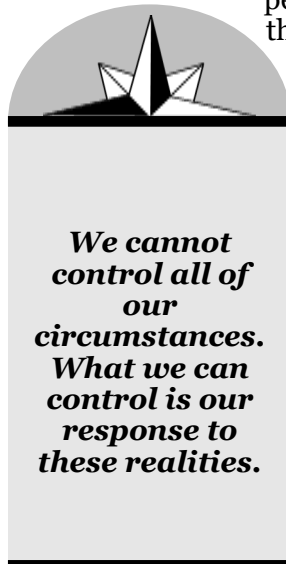
Jewish practice is not an end in and of itself; its purpose is to help us grow and become fully the people we can be. The Sefat Emet believes that mitzvot, which he calls “counsels,” teach us detachment and promote the longing for freedom. What kind of freedom?

Viktor E. Frankl wrote in *Man's Search for Meaning*: “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.”

The Sefat Emet continues:

“A Jew has to be free in soul, in body, and in all he or she has...”

We cannot control all of our circumstances. We are going through difficult times; many of us personally, all of us with the Israel-Hamas War and the forthcoming presidential election here in the US and the rise in totalitarianism around the world and climate change and more.



We cannot control all of our circumstances. What we can control is our response to these realities.

(Continued on page 2)

One link, One Meeting ID#, for MOST KSS meetings!

Meeting ID#: 882 6522 6225

Password: 046 425

By Phone: 1 646 558 8656

or click this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265226225?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265226225?pwd=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnzUT09)

[pwd=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265226225?pwd=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnzUT09)

Judaism Is About Freedom

(Continued from page 1)

What we can control is our response to these realities.

We see in our ancestors what *not* to do. Just days after crossing the sea on dry land, the Israelites want to escape freedom and return to slavery. Their fear keeps them from moving forward.

Finally, from the Sefat Emet:

“This is the purpose of the entire Torah. That is why the rabbis read ‘engraved on the tablets’ (Ex. 32:16), as though it said ‘freedom on the tablets’ [in Hebrew, *harut*, engraved, and *herut*, freedom]. ‘The only free person,’ they added, ‘is the one who is engaged in Torah,’ for Torah teaches a person the way of freedom.”

On the second night of Passover, we begin to count the Omer – counting 49 days toward Sinai and the receiving of the Torah. These days are a time when we might consider what we are getting free from and what we are moving toward.

Maybe we’re too attached:

to our phones

to the expectations and judgment of others

to our own unreasonable expectations of ourselves

Perhaps we could grow toward:

becoming our authentic selves

greater openheartedness and compassion

living with acceptance of the reality in which we find ourselves

Rabbi Sharon Brous wrote, “the idea that it’s possible to move from slavery to freedom and from darkness to light and from despair to hope – that is the greatest Jewish story ever told.” And it is a story that we offer to the world. Freedom for us and freedom for all.

!חג חרותינו שמח / *Hag heruteinu sameach!*

Happy Festival of Freedom! ❖

PASSOVER!

SHABBAT!

MATZO BREI!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27



MOVIES & MUNCHIES

Aviva My Love

Wednesday, April 17

7:30 pm

Aviva My Love is an engaging and warmly humorous Israeli film which won six awards at the Israeli Film Academy, including Best Film.

It tells the story of Aviva, a hard-working Israeli woman living in Tiberias, where she works as a cook in a hotel. Her real passion is writing, which is extremely difficult for her to fit into her drama-packed life. The needs and desires of her family and those around her constantly thwart her attempts to write. Aviva’s successful sister manages to get Aviva introduced to a famous, arrogant writer who instantly recognizes her brilliance and promises to groom her for success. But things don’t quite go as planned. This “incident-packed tale is marbled with black humor, but Israeli gumption triumphs by default.”



Watch the trailer [here](#).

The DVD is widely available in Nassau and Suffolk County libraries. Watch at home at your convenience and then join us for a lively discussion and yummy munchies!

NOTE: There is a different film, called just plain *Aviva*. That’s not the right one.

We will be meeting at the home of Lois Hass on Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 pm.

RSVP LoisH4@aol.com, 516-364-0265 or DoloresW324@aol.com, 631-643-2645. ❖



SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Tuesday, April 23

6 pm

Isabel's Interviews: Alan Wachtel

ISABEL: How long have you been a member?

ALAN Wachtel: 49 years. When my kids were 7 and 5, my first wife Ruth went temple shopping.

Upon meeting Vicki Schwartz, who was the membership chairperson, Ruth decided this was the right place for her family. At that time KSS had a congregation of about 180 families. The rabbi was Lloyd Tannenbaum, the founder of KSS.

ISABEL: Where were you born and raised?

ALAN: I was born in Port Hope, Ontario, but raised in Corona, Queens. We moved from Ontario when I was about 4 years old. Originally, my father worked for Dupont and when they downsized he had to move the family to the US. When World War II broke out, he tried to enlist in the army. Due to his age and the fact that he had a family, the army disqualified him. Instead, he worked in the Kearny, New Jersey shipyards and schlepped every day from Queens using public transportation, including a ferry over the Hudson.

My father was one of ten children, one of whom died during a failed Communist takeover of the Hungarian monarchy in 1920-21. He was the only family member to emigrate to this hemisphere. After WWII, he didn't know if any of his family had survived the Holocaust. During my summer vacation, when I was 11, he took me with him to Europe in 1949 to search for his family. My parents were multi-lingual, changing languages when they didn't want me to know what they were saying until I picked up the language and they changed again a few times. So I had some Yiddish, German, and Polish, which enabled me to help my father in his search. In the pre-Internet era, searching was not easy. We visited relief organizations and all of the concentration camps in West Germany: Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Buchenwald, Flossenberg. Survivors would leave notes in Yiddish, Polish, German, etc. by the hundreds on bulletin boards in the camps indicating where they had gone when leaving. We looked everywhere and eventually found two of his sisters living with their families on the same street in Munich, and through them found out about a third sister living in Magnitogorsk, USSR. One of my aunts had been back to their home town before Germany invaded the USSR and had found out that the rest of the



family, approximately fifty people, had all been shot in the forest outside their town by the Einsatzgruppen. After we returned home, my father was able to bring one sister and her family to the US later that year and the other one and her family two years later. He did get the one in the USSR out to the US after another three years, but that's a long story.

ISABEL: What was your education?

ALAN: I graduated from Jamaica High School and commuted from my parents' apartment in Flushing to CCNY, where I earned a degree in electrical engineering and was a member of ROTC. I also secured a job at General Precision Laboratories working on air traffic control systems that kept my position open for me after I was called to active duty in Berlin in the Corps of Engineers as a second lieutenant. It was before the Berlin Wall was erected. Mind you, ROTC did not train me to be a civil engineer, so I had a lot to learn. I was in Berlin for eleven months and served the rest of my two-year obligation in New Jersey. When I finished my military duty, I returned to my job at GPL and attended night school at CCNY to receive a master's degree in computer engineering.

ISABEL: Now tell me a bit about your family.

ALAN: When I came off active duty, I returned to GPL. The head of the department started his own company which eventually relocated to North White Plains. It was named ESS GEE after its founder, Samuel Gershon Cohen. I met Ruth there. I worked on the second floor, while she worked on the first floor in marketing. We had a whirlwind courtship. I proposed three months after we met and we married six months later. While working for ESS GEE, I was still in the Army Reserve and my unit was activated for a few months during the Cuban Missile Crisis to participate in the blockade of Cuba.

The company went bankrupt, and I moved to Long Island because of the limited job opportunities in Westchester. I landed an interesting position, a "black job" at Fairchild Camera & Instruments in Syosset. I was not allowed to reveal anything about this classified work. I had to be very careful at home not to divulge any national secrets. Payroll was paid by a government man who arrived with a bag of money. There was no tracea-

(Continued on page 4)

Isabel's Interviews: Alan Wachtel

(Continued from page 3)

bility of money or funds. We all had phones in lockboxes with red lights on top of them. I could only speak to a caller, who would identify himself as somebody I knew. This was in the heart of the Cold War and we were working on NSA satellite equipment that sent imaging information to the ground. The satellites would eject the capsules by parachute. Film then was of much higher resolution than a television camera; we were able to see the brand of cigarettes the Russian soldiers were smoking from an altitude of 110 miles.

After a couple of years I moved to another company, Sanders Associates. It was a very rewarding and exciting experience. I was a member of a think tank, the Advanced Product Development Group. I developed a large scale microfiche storage system that government libraries and banks were buying for their records. I have the patent for the DVR, but the rights were owned by Sanders, so I only received \$1.00 for the patent. While working there, I was activated again by the Army to fight in Vietnam for less than a year. When I returned, I resigned my commission from the Army because Ruth and I now had a child and she felt that I might not be as lucky if recalled again. I left when the company relocated. Subsequently, I was Director of Engineering for ONTEL, producing PCs, and then started a division for General Instrument for computerized processing of bills and payments for insurance companies, utilities, and department stores. My longest tenure was with Honeywell, 22 years, the last thirteen as VP of International with 400 employees in sales, manufacturing, and engineering roles in thirteen countries, doing business in another 35 countries as well.

ISABEL: How many children did you have with Ruth?

ALAN: We had two children, Adam and Heidi. Ruth passed away in 1978 from cancer.

ISABEL: How did you meet Inez?

ALAN: I attended a singles group at Temple Beth El, where Inez was a member. I went because I was interested in another woman [there], but ended up talking to Inez for the entire evening. Inez had two children, David and Beverly. It turned out that our children were classmates. We didn't know this until our third or fourth date. After about two bumpy years together, the family became fully integrated and all the children were our children moving forward. We married in 1980.

ISABEL: I'm aware that you like adventure and enjoy traveling.

ALAN: Everything I did was a protest against my overprotective mother. Once I was on my own, I lived on the edge. When I was in the army, I jumped out of airplanes. I enjoy mountain climbing. It was a lifelong passion. When I was 12, I saw the movie *The White Tower* with Lloyd Bridges and Glenn Ford, based on a book by James Ramsey Ullman. I devoured all his books about mountain climbing, made a pact with myself that this is what I wanted to do. When I grew of age, I climbed everywhere, including in the Andes, before I married Ruth, and with Ruth, everywhere possible: New Hampshire, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, California, Oregon, Washington. Inez was initially afraid of heights, but she overcame it. When I met her, she wouldn't even climb a chair to change a lightbulb. Before we were married, I introduced Inez to climbing in Acadia National Park in Maine. She got over her fear and became an avid climber, climbing all over the US, including Alaska, and Canada. We even climbed in the Alps in Switzerland.

We've gone white water rafting everywhere possible. White water rafting in Alaska is quite daunting; the water temperature is 33°.

I am also an avid backpacker, carrying my tent and sleeping bag on my back, and love to kayak.

I also raced sports cars at Lime Rock and Thompson, Connecticut, and in Bridgehampton until after I was married to Ruth. I stopped because she was just too fearful for my safety to watch.

ISABEL: What is your favorite noise?

ALAN: Rock music. I love to dance.

ISABEL: What is your least favorite noise?

ALAN: Chainsaw noise. When I do tree cutting, I wear headphones.

ISABEL: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

ALAN: I run 2-3 miles every day.

I joined the choir of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Corona at age 10 because my best friend was a member and they needed someone who could hit a high C (the Monsignor didn't care that I was Jewish). My mother would have greatly disapproved. I told her I was going out to play every time I had to attend Mass or rehearsal. I was with the choir until my voice cracked at puberty. ❖

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue Community Seder

April 23rd, 2024
6 pm

April 23rd, 2024
6 pm

Join with friends and family for song, storytelling, celebration, and delicious food.

Adults: \$54

Children 5-17: \$27

Children under 5: Free

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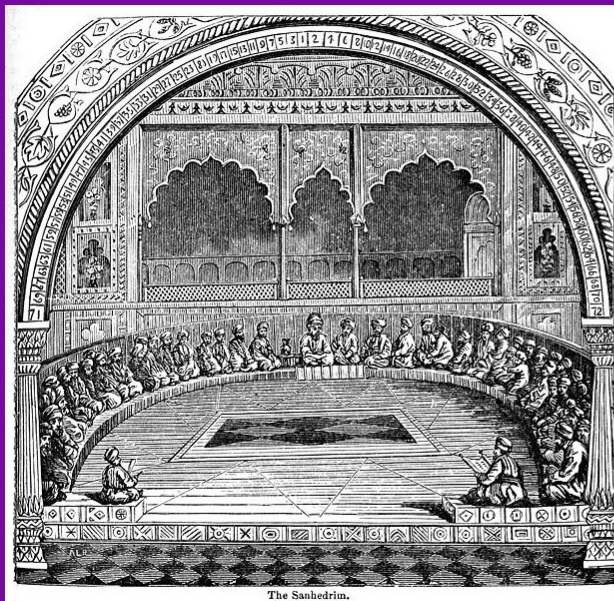
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Roberta Israeloff

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SUBCOMMITTEE OF SOCIAL ACTION

If you would like to know more about a particular committee — what it does, how much time it entails, or anything else — please contact the people above. Asking for more information does not commit you to anything! But it could lead to a rewarding experience, working with others to strengthen and grow our community. ❖



Lunch & Learn First Century Judaisms

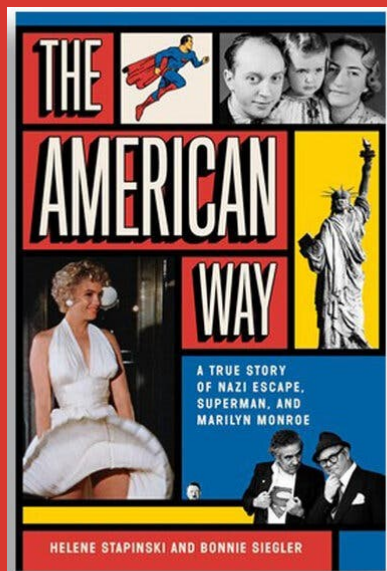
Thursdays@12:30
Begins 4.18.24
by Zoom



What did Judaism look like in the First Century of the Common Era?

Where did Jews live? What did they believe? Where did they worship and study and work? Who were their leaders?

Join us to learn about this very dynamic period of transition for our people.



KSS and The Next Chapter

We will be hosting a reception for Bonnie Siegler, who will be reading from and signing her best-selling book, *The American Way*, based on the experiences of KSS member Helen Siegler and her family

Wednesday, May 22, 7 pm

The American Way: A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe, received rave reviews from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many others when it was published last year. A last-minute escape on the eve of *Kristallnacht*, that famous Marilyn Monroe scene, the creators of Superman, and the horrors of the Holocaust are all to be found in the pages of this not-to-be-missed book.

Please join us at The Next Chapter, 204 New York Avenue, for this very special event.

SHABBAT SERVICES

We will continue our Torah Study of Prophets. How far we get each Shabbat depends entirely on how the discussion goes. We are into I Kings, the reign of Solomon, and the building of the First Temple.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Candlelightings 6 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Shabbat Service 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Shemini*, [Leviticus 9:1–11:47](#)

Moses tells Aaron of God's requirements for sin offerings. Two of Aaron's sons are destroyed because they didn't follow God's instructions. The rules of kashruth are described.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Torah Study 10 am

Shabbat Service 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Tazria*, [Leviticus 12:1–13:59](#)

Rules of ritual uncleanliness and purification following childbirth. Rules of ritual uncleanliness pertaining to skin disorders such as leprosy, burns, and baldness.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Shabbat HaGadol

Torah Study 10 am

Meditation Service 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Metzora*, [Leviticus 14:1–15:33](#)

More about ritual uncleanliness, including the earliest known description of house mold; and rules involving menstruation.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Shabbat Service 10 am

Followed by Matzo Brei Luncheon

Torah Portion: *Shabbat Chol Hamoed*, [Exodus 33:12–34:26](#), [Numbers 28:19-25](#)

God agrees to Moses' plea to "personally" lead the people and gives Moses a further insight into the nature of God. The covenant is renewed, including, in 34:18, the commandment to observe Passover. God explains to Moses burnt offerings, meal offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, offering of ordination, and the sacrifice of well being.



Shabbat Dinner@the Rabbi's House

May 3@6





It's time for the annual
Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Passover Service & Matzah Brei Luncheon



4.27.24

Join Kehillath Shalom Synagogue for a Shabbat Passover service followed by cooking and eating. Hands-on learning for kids and adults. Share your family's favorite recipe for matzah brei. All are welcome! Non-members welcome. Free. Contact 631-367-4589 for RSVP and questions.

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

**Rosh Chodesh:
Welcoming the New Month of Iyar
May 5@10 am**

REFLECTIONS FROM ISRAEL

BY DALIA ROSENTHAL

What an incredible week sharing love and support for our Israel. I am an Israeli, born and raised, with family living there, and have experienced many educational and volunteer programs. This recent trip was most a most emotional and painful but exhilarating journey. So much to share and to be thankful for....

One of many special moments was visiting...Moshav Ge'a. Moshav Ge'a is a small community of approximately 220 families, located nine kilometers from the Gaza border, which unfortunately suffered significant losses during the October 7 attack. I was introduced to Omer, a resident of the moshav, by [Judy Davis]. Omer is a Civil Engineer who works in Tel Aviv, an hour's drive from the moshav. Twice a week he takes turns with other residents guarding the moshav from potential attacks. Their need was great, and we wanted to help. Omer suggested that we bring donations of some of the essentials needed for safeguarding the moshav as well as dolls, toys, puzzles, and more for the nursery and kindergarten children. I was fortunate that so many friends



Omer and his family



Dalia at Moshav Ge'a nursery school

and colleagues helped, purchasing anything and everything from night vision binoculars, shoulder and knee pads, flashlights, dolls, puzzles, markers, and more. With a second suitcase filled with our donations, I was excited to visit Omer at the moshav.

Of the many moments that touched our hearts during

our visit, one of the most precious was visiting the nursery and kindergarten classes on Friday afternoon and welcoming Shabbat with them, singing songs, and distributing the gifts. The love and joy of these beautiful children warmed our hearts and made all the schlepping so worthwhile. We enjoyed lunch with Omer's wife Tal, his two beautiful little girls, and his father-in-law.

From these moments of joy and hope, a visit to the moshav cemetery brought us back to the pain of loss and the reality of the war. We observed a moment of silence for two young female soldiers, members of the moshav, who died during the October attack. We brought the highs and lows, the hope for the future and the sadness of loss with us as Omer drove us back to Tel Aviv to my niece Orit's house, where we shared a beautiful Shabbat dinner with my family. ❖



Dalia with Moshav Ge'a kindergarteners

AND A THANK YOU FROM MOSHAV GE'A

For everyone that helped us to gear up as the Moshav security team, thank you very much. We are now getting closer to our goal to keep us safe.

Dalia and Barbara came also to meet our children in the kindergarten and preschool, brought them toys and sang songs with them. It was a very powerful visit and I welcome everyone from all the shuls to come and visit us. I will update everyone soon about the life in the Moshav and our latest news.

Omer

The views expressed in by-lined Newsletter articles represent the views of the writers and may not reflect those of the entire Kehillath Shalom Synagogue community.

We welcome the free expression of ideas from different perspectives and will consider all submissions for publication.

Purim!

Featuring the Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Megillah!



And there was pizza and hamantaschen too!



Our Purimspiel cast l to r: RON SABO (Narrator), ARLENE FELL (Hatach), VICKI SCHWARTZ (Esther), DAVE SCHWARTZ (Ahasuerus), ALAN WACHTEL (Haman), BARBARA HELLER (Vashti), BEV MANNIX (Options), PETER GOLLON (Mordechai)



Photos by Lois Hass and Barbara Kremen



Registration now open!!!

Mission to ISRAEL

To share our pain, to find healing together and to rekindle a sense of hope

THE ITINERARY

May include (subject to change):
Visit to the Gaza Envelope;
Volunteer opportunities;
Conversations with freed hostages, journalists, and Israelis (Jewish and Arab);
Shabbat in Jerusalem



Use QR Code to access more info or click [HERE](#)

A FIVE-DAY TRIP TO HEAR, HUG & HELP

- bear witness to events that have taken place on and since Oct 7th
- hear from Israelis re: the affect on their lives
- understand where the people of Israel stand - in hurt, healing and in hope

DATES: MAY 20TH - MAY 26TH

(Leaving US)

(Return)

COST: \$2885 (\$3495 for single occupancy)

- airfare additional
- Registration closes May 2, 2024

TO REGISTER: bit.ly/Hunt2Israel

INTERESTED IN MORE INFO? CONTACT RABBI LINA ZERBERINI

631-367-4589

rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org

Israel Must Defeat Hamas

BY JUDY DAVIS

Hamas repeatedly emphasizes that its sole purpose is the destruction of Israel and its replacement with a “theocratic state based on Islamic law (Sharia).” A member of Hamas’s political bureau expressed its commitment to multiple massacres, saying “Operation al-Aqsa Flood (the October 7 massacre) is just the first time and there will be a second, a third, a fourth...We must teach Israel a lesson and we will do this again and again.”

Obviously, Hamas has no interest in peace with Israel but there is also no mention of building a better life for the people of Gaza.

Even the organization once believed to be the humanitarian arm of the UN in Gaza, UNRWA, has joined Hamas in its promotion of hatred and terror rather than the welfare of its citizens.

UNRWA is actually preparing current and future generations to be terrorists. It does this by providing UN-funded educational materials, teachers, and camp counselors who steep Palestinian children, those living in Gaza or under the Palestinian Authority, in poisonous hatred of Jews and Israelis. These children have been taught not merely to passively hate but to actively murder Jews. They are even taught to willingly sacrifice their own lives to do so. Thus, UNRWA must be seen as a very serious threat, not merely to the mental health of Palestinian children, but also to peace in the region.

A chilling example may be found in Palestinian summer camps. Rather than serving as places where children can learn swimming, sports and crafts, these camps are vehicles for the transmission of Hamas’s genocidal objectives. Their “goal...is to instill the spirit of Jihad and fighting... [and] lay the foundations for building a broad popular army.”

Instead of learning to take turns, play fairly and, above all, “be kind,” Palestinian kids are learning to “fire machine guns, crawl through tunnels and beneath barbed wire, handle rocket launchers and plant mines. [They are also] taught kidnapping techniques for capturing Israeli soldiers...[and] how to use knives as murder weapons.” The lessons in UNRWA’s Palestinian schools contain similar content.

The “camp activities” described above, except for gang rape, beheadings and mutilation, were actually enacted by Hamas on October 7. Palestinian children, who accompanied adults, including

UNRWA teachers, during this murderous assault, received a real life rather than hypothetical lesson, witnessing the horrors with their own eyes.

As this example illustrates, Hamas’s singular preoccupation with destroying Israel supercedes concerns for its children. In fact, Hamas wields the suffering of Gazan children as one of its most powerful weapons against Israel.

Hamas knows that images of wounded and dying children filling news screens across the world provide potent leverage, manipulating world sympathy to pressure Israel and its allies into surrendering to Hamas demands. Pro-Palestinian, antisemitic demonstrations are erupting in many cities throughout the world. Jewish teachers and students at universities and even high schools as well as pro-Israel speakers are being physically threatened. Pro-Palestinian and/or antisemitic anti-Zionists, terribly misinformed about the situation in Gaza, are placing “ceasefire” resolutions on hundreds of American city council and school district agendas that have nothing whatsoever to do with Israel or Gaza.

As the Israeli author and journalist, Yossi Klein Halevi, put it, Hamas has successfully “weaponized compassion.”

In contrast to the media’s embrace of the Gaza story, the situation in Israel is rarely presented by American media. We are not told that Israel has been under constant bombardment or that 300,000 Israeli citizens have had to evacuate their homes in border cities. In addition, another 300,000 soldiers and reservists on active duty are absent from their daily jobs, placing a great strain on the Israeli economy. And these hardships are intensified by the ceaseless worry for the welfare of the hostages cynically hidden in the hell holes of Gaza.

Apparently, Israelis have not learned to weaponize compassion.

The gruesome events of October 7 were only the beginning. Hamas has been preparing for this moment since taking power over Gaza in 2006. It has created the now famous network of tunnels that successfully protect Hamas while leaving civilians above ground to fend for themselves. It will do anything to win, if not now, then next time or the time after...

President Biden is calling for a ceasefire

(Continued on page 13)

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Israel Must Defeat Hamas

(Continued from page 12)

which would, hypothetically, improve the condition of Gazans. It is equally likely that a ceasefire would enable Hamas to retrench and fortify its hold over the Gazan people.

Imagine the truly unimaginable; after all, what happened on October 7 was once truly unimaginable: Imagine that Hamas convinces America and its allies to withdraw support from Israel to try to force it to stop fighting. Worse, imagine Hamas fulfills its promise to brutalize Israel into annihilation.

The monomaniacal Hamas Charter clearly declares the purpose of its existence is obliteration of Israel. It literally has no other purpose. Having met that goal, if Israel no longer exists, who will it turn to next?

A premature ceasefire is a victory for Hamas. For the sake of the children – of Gaza, of Israel, of the region – Hamas must be uprooted. Israel must be given support to finish the war. ❖

bagels & books

Phil Brown's *Catskill Culture*, our March selection, served as the springboard to a discussion that was not, as usual, a critique and analysis of the book, but rather a thoroughly enjoyable trip down Memory Lane. Almost all of us had spent time in "the Mountains," and the recollections of the hotels, the food, the people, the activities, the sounds, and more flew thick and fast. Many thanks to Dolores Weinberg for her hospitality – it was so good to be face to face!

On April 14 we will be discussing *The Living and the Lost*, by Ellen Feldman. The story of siblings Millie and David, who escaped Germany after Kristallnacht, explores different inherited historical narratives about what happened under the Nazi regime, why it happened and what people did or could or might or should have done to counter the juggernaut. Set in Berlin shortly after WWII, with flashbacks to 1938, this novel resonates today with disturbing themes about the heritage of hatred.

For the rest of the year, we will be reading:

May 19 – *Signal Fires*, by Dani Shapiro

June 30 – *The American Way*, by Bonnie Siegler and Helene Stapinski

NOTE: We have switched the May and June books. Bonnie Siegler and Helene Stapinski were originally scheduled to appear at The Next Chapter in April, where we would have had the opportunity to hear them talk about and have them sign our copies of *The American Way* before our own discussion. They will now be at the bookstore on May 22, so we've pushed that book into June. Also note our June date has changed and will be a week later than originally scheduled.

Watch TWAKS and your email for location and Zoom info, and please join us for any and all books that interest you (Coming just once is fine!), as well as for bagels, lox, coffee, and other goodies, as well as stimulating discussion on a Sunday morning. ❖



The Gifts Received

CARING COMMUNITY

ADAM BRODSKY

LYSA PEGLER MORGAN, in memory of MARYLYN ZERBARINI

DISHWASHER

IRA GOODMAN

VICKI & DAVID SCHWARTZ

ALAN WACHTEL

GENERAL FUND

SCOTT & EVA ASH, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

JUDY DAVIS & MORT KISSEN, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

LOIS HASS, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

STAN & JOANN KATZ, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

ILEEN & MICHAEL KOENIG, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

BEVERLY MANNIX, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

VICKI & DAVID SCHWARTZ, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

AUDREY TEICH & MINDY ISACOFF, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

DOLORES WEINBERG, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI

BETTE SCHNEIDERMAN, in memory of MARYLYN MARIA ZERBARINI, with warm wishes and condolences to Rabbi Lina

JUDY DAVIS & MORT KISSEN, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

IRA GOODMAN, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

LOIS HASS, in loving memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

VICKI & DAVID SCHWARTZ, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

AUDREY TEICH & MINDY ISACOFF, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN

DOLORES WEINBERG, in memory of MORT & MILLIE WILLEN



RABBI'S SALARY SUPPORT

STUART FEINHOR

ABBY STAMELMAN HOCKY & ERIC HOCKY, with love

BEVERLY & CRAIG SPEAR, with heartfelt sympathy to you. May the memories of your beloved mother warm your heart and soul.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IRA GOODMAN

MICHELLE LASER -- May her memory be for a blessing. Love, Michelle, Howard, Arielle, Maddi, & Tawney



Caring & Sharing

We mourn the loss of two remarkable men in the past month.

Our deepest condolences are extended to RABBI LINA and her brother JOHN, to SARAH, LIORA, and YAEL, and to DINAH on the loss of their beloved father, grandfather, and father-in-law, DONALD ZERBARINI, a scant month after the loss of his beloved MARYLYN.

Devout and highly active with his church and community, he is remembered for his integrity in all affairs, but, even more so, for his family, it is his kindness, fun, and laughter that remain above all. May his memory be for a blessing.

We extend our condolences as well to the Wilen family on the loss of our long-time KSS member MORT WILLEN, a mere eighteen days after MILLIE's passing.

Mort served as a Suffolk County Family Court judge, and later, as Acting State Supreme Court Justice, where he made history in 1986 by awarding custody of a 13-year-old boy to his gay father, the first case in New York State, and probably one of the earliest in the country, to grant an openly gay parent custody of a minor child. In a panel discussion here at KSS for Pride Shabbat several years ago, Mort said that that decision was the one he was proudest of in his entire legal career.

Remembered by his family as warm, caring, and hilarious, may his memory be for a blessing.

The Israel and Jewish Affairs Committee Presents
A Series of Forums and Discussions
THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL



Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East

Saturday, October 21, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Reasons for Founding the Modern State of Israel

Saturday, December 2, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

The Prime Ministers, by Yehuda Avner, pp. 345-695 (M. Begin)

Sunday, January 21, 10 am, Joint Session with **bagels & books**

What would Menachem Begin say about today's Israel and the Likud Party?

Israel and the Middle East: What American Media Don't Tell You

Saturday, April 6, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Significant Events Before May 14, 1948 and the Brilliant Israeli Declaration of Independence

Saturday, May 18, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Moderated by Kehillath Shalom member Nissim Yeheskel, Israeli native and frequent visitor.

Let's Light Candles Together



Friday evenings, 6:00

(When nothing else is scheduled)

We'll share, sing, and bring Shabbat peace.

Join Zoom Meeting by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/88265226225>

Or Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225,

Password 046 425

We will learn, study, share, pray.
As usual, come for Torah Study or Service or Both!

Join Zoom Meeting by computer:
<https://zoom.us/j/88265226225>

Or phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225,

Password 046 425

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue



**Shabbat Morning
Torah Study 10 am
Service 11:15 am**

Morning Gathering Stillness, Meditation, Blessings

Morning Gathering: Tuesday & Friday Mornings at 8 am

Establish a strong, centered, calm foundation for the day.

Join Zoom Meeting by computer <https://zoom.us/j/788752335>

or by phone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225, Password 046 425



April 2024

Adar 2/Nisan 5784



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

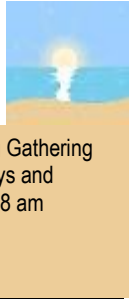
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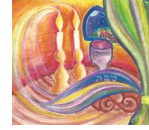
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6



Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am



Candlelighting 6 pm



Shabbat Service
10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am

7:05

7



Rosh Chodesh Group
10 am

8

9



Board Meeting
7:30 pm

10

11

12



Candlelighting 6 pm

13



Torah Study 10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

7:12

14



Bagels & Books
*The Living and the
Lost* 10 am

15



Newsletter Deadline

16

17



Movies & Munchies
Aviva My Love
7:30 pm

18



Lunch & Learn
First Century
Judaisms
12:30—2 pm

19



Candlelighting 6 pm

20



Torah Study 10 am
Meditation Service
11:15 am
Shabbat HaGadol

7:20

21



B'Dikat Chametz

22



First Seder

23



Second Seder
Community Seder
6 pm

24

25



Lunch & Learn
First Century
Judaisms
12:30—2 pm

26



Candlelighting 6 pm

27



Shabbat Service and
Matzo Brei Luncheon
10 am

7:27

28

29



Pesach Festival
Service and Yizkor
10 am

30

1

2



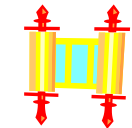
Lunch & Learn
First Century
Judaisms
12:30—2 pm

3



Shabbat Dinner @
the Rabbi's House
6 pm

4



Torah Study 10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

7:34

5



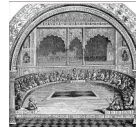
Rosh Chodesh Group
10 am
Yom HaShoah
Service 7:30 pm

6

7

8

9



Lunch & Learn
First Century
Judaisms
12:30—2 pm

10



Candlelighting 6 pm

11



Torah Study
Followed by
Luncheon 10 am

7:42