



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

December 2021
Kislev/Tevet 5782

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

Rabbi's Reflections

The Melody of the Maccabees; The Harmony of Joseph

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



There's an irony to the Hanukkah story.

The tale of the Maccabees is one of Jewish zealots resisting assimilation imposed not only from without (Antiochus prohibiting Temple service and Jewish practices and requiring offerings to pagan gods) but also accepted and promoted from within:

In those days certain renegades came out from Israel and misled many, saying, "Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles around us, for since we separated from them many disasters have come upon us."....So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, according to Gentile custom, and removed the marks of circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant....

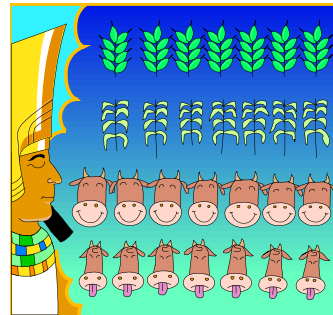
And Mattathias and his friends went around and ...forcibly circumcised all the uncircumcised boys that they found within the borders of Israel. They hunted down the arrogant, and the work prospered in their hands.

From the perspective of the books of the Maccabees (the text above is from 1 Maccabees 1 & 2) and rabbinic tradition, Hanukkah is the story of the triumph of the "weak against the mighty, the few against the many, the pure against the im-

pure, the righteous against the wicked, and Torah scholars against the insolent."

And often, we see Hanukkah as a narrative of freedom of religion – which the Maccabees did not actually support.

Curiously, there is a counter-melody sung during the Hanukkah season: the story of Joseph. Always read during Hanukkah, the portion Miketz



recounts Pharaoh's dreams of skinny cows and fat cows and full and shriveled ears of grain and Joseph's interpretation of the dreams and subsequent elevation to vizier. Pharaoh gives Joseph his ring, jewelry, new clothes, a chariot, and also a new name and a wife! Joseph is completely transformed from a "Hebrew youth" he was at the start of the portion into an Egyptian ruler. When his brothers come to him for grain, he is entirely unrecognizable to them.

(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?
pwd=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UINzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265226225?pwd=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UINzUT09)

The Melody of the Maccabees; The Harmony of Joseph

(Continued from page 1)

While the main melody of the holiday sings a song of commitment to a Judaism unsullied by outside influences, the tune of the harmonics is different.

Joseph lives in Egypt, far from his roots. He does not have friends or family nearby to share, celebrate, or observe his heritage. Unlike his father and grandfather, he does not marry someone from his clan. He becomes fully a part of Egyptian society – a powerful political leader and son-in-law of a religious leader.

Our story is much more like Joseph's than like that of the Maccabees'. The Maccabees seem to be religious extremists. Remember, they broke into Jews' homes and forcibly circumcised the sons whose parents had chosen not to circumcise. I am sure they closed the gyms as well.

Joseph, however, lives in "two civilizations," as Kaplan might have said. He does not isolate from the society in which he lives yet remembers his culture. He learns the language and customs of his new home and also gives his sons Hebrew names. And as many of us will join family and friends in their celebration of Christmas, Joseph probably attended ritual observances led by his father-in-law the priest.



We can be fully American – which might mean appreciating the beauty of (tasteful, my bias) Christmas lights and participating in "Secret Santa" at work or school and attending "holiday" parties and even *Messiah* sings – and also fully Jewish. Our Jewish expression might mean making Hanukkah into a bigger celebration than it ever was or is anywhere else so that our kids and grandkids don't feel left out (inflatable lawn dreidels, anyone?). Or it might mean making a beloved traditional recipe or sharing family stories.

Inter-marriage and assimilation are not a threat to the Jewish people. Joseph's ability to speak to Pharaoh and work with his leaders enabled the survival not just of Egyptians, but of the nascent Jewish people. Later, Moses, Prince of Egypt, raised by Pharaoh's daughter, whose life is saved by his Midianite wife who circumcises their child (non-Jewish women raising Jewish children have a long history!) leads us out of slavery, into freedom, and to Sinai and Torah.

We have always loved other people. We have always integrated and adapted. We evolve in response to our circumstances. This is the secret not only to our endurance, but to our flourishing. The Maccabees may be the melody we know, but Joseph is the harmony we live. ❖



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.



AmazonSmile is Amazon's charitable portal. All of the items found via AmazonSmile are identical in quality and price to those you would find at Amazon. The big difference is that Amazon will donate a portion of each eligible purchase to your charity of choice.

So, follow this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/11-2202419 or go directly to AmazonSmile. You will be guided through a series of easy steps to help you select **Kehillath Shalom Synagogue** as your designated organization. Every time you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon sets aside a small percentage of its proceeds for Kehillath Shalom Synagogue. Then, every quarter, KSS will receive its digital deposit.

For questions, please contact Scott Ash at ashs3@verizon.net.

From the Presidents

Every Penny Counts

BY BEVERLY MANNIX AND GAIL SACHS

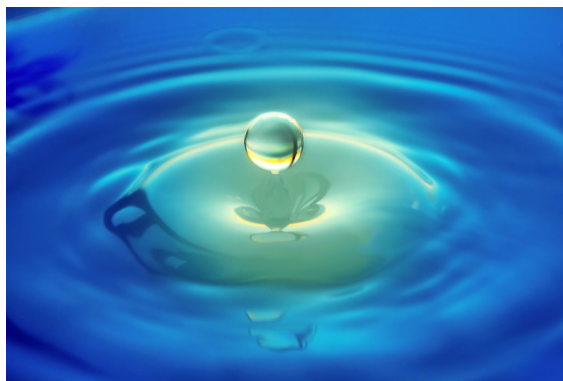
There are many ways to get involved with Kehillath Shalom Synagogue and donating is always a great way to support our shul and the programs that we offer. We know that there are a lot of options at the synagogue, and it is perhaps difficult to decide which way to go. Several worthy funds have been established for specific purposes over the years. We suggest our Synagogue General Fund which offers flexibility in providing funds wherever the need is greatest. The generosity of our members can keep our synagogue alive and the building in good condition.

As we come to the end of 2021, it is time to think about last minute tax deductions. We would like to remind you of the upcoming deadlines for Year End Giving.

Deadline for Mutual Funds: December 1st

Deadline for Stocks and ETFs: December 15th

Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31st each year to exclude that amount from income.



While we have made great strides these difficult past two years, there is still much we can accomplish. Every penny has as great importance as individual drops make up an ocean. ❖



GAME NIGHT

Join us to celebrate Shabbat and Jewish community on *Nittel Nacht*, a Yiddish term for Christmas Eve. There was a time when, fearful of danger on Christian holidays, Jews stayed in and played games. Join us in games for fun and community, not fear. Bring your own to play together, and some food to share. RSVP to the office, 631-367-4589, kehillathshalom@optonline.net, by December 22.



Hanukkah & Havdalah!

at Kehillath Shalom
Flames & Friends
Song & Simchah!

Saturday, 12.4@5:30 pm
rsvp welcome!



Light the Torch Menorah, Make Havdalah, Connect With Friends!

Crafts and Fun (With Fire!) in the Parking Lot

Pick up your Hanukkah Gift Bag

RSVP required to the office (kehillathshalomsynagogue@optimum.net, 631-367-4589),
or register [here](#).

COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIP	Barbara Heller	bjhdm1@aol.com
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	Scott Ash	ashs3@verizon.net
ISRAEL CONNECTIONS & JEWISH AFFAIRS	Judy Davis	JDavis4727@aol.com
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SECURITY	Alan Wachtel	alanwac1@gmail.com
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TORAH SCHOOL	Jen Sturza	jdsturza@optonline.net
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RACIAL JUSTICE	Roberta Israeloff	rsis@optonline.net

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. ❖

Bowling Party!



WHEN: Sunday, December 12, 4:30—6:30 pm

WHERE: Bowlero Melville, 895 Walt Whitman Road, Melville

WHO: Kehillath Shalom members and friends

COST: \$ 38.00 per person, including children age 4 and up

WHAT DOES THAT INCLUDE?

Unlimited bowling from 5 to 6:30, unlimited cheese pizza and soda, bowling shoe rental, and lots of fun

Make your reservations by December 9 by clicking [here](#).

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

Candlelighting 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Torah Study 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Miketz*, Genesis 41:1–44:17

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams and is placed in charge of the court. His brothers come begging for food in the famine. Joseph recognizes them, but they do not recognize him.

Hanukkah and Havdalah 5:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Candlelighting 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Tefilah 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

Analysis of the Threats and Challenges Faced by Israel

Torah Portion: *Vayiqash*, Genesis 44:18–47:27

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Jacob and his family travel to Egypt. God promises Ja-

cob to redeem Israel from Egypt, foretelling the Exodus.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Torah Study 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Vayeichi*, Genesis 47:28–50:26

The dying Jacob gathers his sons and enumerates the tribes. He dies in Egypt and is returned to Canaan for burial in the Cave of Machpelah. The death of Joseph.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Shabbat Potluck Game Night and Candlelighting 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Meditation Walk at Target Rock 10 am

Torah Portion: *Shemot*, Exodus 1:1–6:1

The enslavement of Israel; birth and early life of Moses, up to his return to Egypt to free his people. ❖



Zoom Quick Reference Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Morning Gathering		8 am			8 am	
Torah Study & Tefilah						10 am
Candlelighting					6:30 pm	
Lunch & Learn				12:30 pm		

Zoom Meeting ID for most events 882 6522 6225, Password 046 425

MAKING SACRED DECISIONS AT THE END-OF-LIFE

Sunday, January 23 @ 10 am

Most of us will not be blessed, as Moses was, to die "by the kiss of God," at the fullness of our strength, without frailty or illness or pain. The aging and dying process will offer choices to many of us — how much treatment and what kind? How to respond when the quality of our lives is no longer tenable? What are our options after death? These questions can be hard to face, but they are part of our experience of life. Making thought-through decisions in advance can help us and our families when we face these difficult realities.

RSVP required.



B'YACHAD

RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM TOGETHER

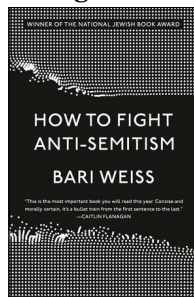
CONVENTION • MARCH 23-27, 2022

Click [here](#) for more info and registration.

bagels & books

Our November discussion of Emuna Elon's novel, *House on Endless Waters*, was one of our best ever. There was universal acclaim for every aspect of the book: the quality of the writing, the historical background, the multiple depths of the story. The conversation was lively, analytic, and illuminating on many levels. Thanks as always to Dolores Weinberg for introductory research, to Barbara Kremen for use of her Zoom account, and to Arlene Fell and Abby Pariser for the follow-up emails with images of some of the art and locations that were integral to the story.

On December 19 we will be discussing *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, by Bari Weiss. A hatred that was, until recently, reliably taboo in the US is migrating toward the mainstream, amplified by social media and a culture of conspiracy that threatens us all. Weiss delivers an urgent wake-up call to all Americans exposing the alarming rise of anti-Semitism in this country—and explains what we can do to defeat it. A National Jewish Book Award winner.



For the rest of the year:

January 16 — *The Lost Shtetl*, by Max Gross

February 20 — *What We Will Become: A Mother, a Son, and a Journey of Transformation*, by Mimi Lemay

March 20 — *The Book of Lost Names*, by Kristin Harmel

April 24 — *The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties that Helped Create Modern China*, by Jonathan Kaufman

May 22 — *The Hidden Palace: A Novel of the Golem and the Jinni*, by Helene Wecker

June 26 — *Concealed: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America*, by Esther Amini

Until further notice, we will continue Zooming on Barbara Kremen's account at 10 am Sundays. Bring your own bagel, lox, and coffee, or whatever Sunday morning treat you'd like and please join us for any books that interest you. RSVP to Barbara, bskhere@yahoo.com. ❖



MOVIES & MUNCHIES

The Attack

Wednesday, December 15

7:30 pm

On Zoom

Please join us on Wednesday evening, December 15, at 7:30 as we discuss *The Attack*.

The Attack, directed by Lebanese-born Ziad Doueiri, is a combination of many elements: a love story, a murder mystery, and a politically-charged argument. It involves a highly respected Palestinian surgeon working in an Israeli hospital in Tel Aviv and his wife's "other life." It has been called "a delicately executed thriller which balances its political baggage with unflagging suspense." This is a must-see movie!



Available in Nassau and Suffolk County libraries, and on Kanopy, tubi, and Amazon Prime (\$3.99).

Watch the trailer [here](#).

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

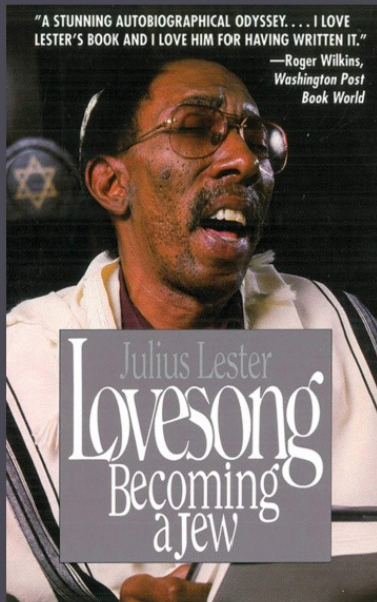


Hanukkah at the Kotel.

ROSH CHODESH GROUP

Sunday, December 5 @ 10 am

The story of Judith is associated with Hanukkah, because she was a strong and courageous hero, like the Maccabees. And, because of her, we'll make cheese — vegan and regular. All are welcome; RSVP to Rabbi Lina required.



Lunch & Learn

Lovesong by Julius Lester

Begins 12/16/21@12:30 by Zoom



LOOKING FOR A NEW OIL COMPANY? Do You Zelle?

Skaggs-Walsh, KSS' heating oil supplier, gives us cash thank-yous if you sign up with them and say Kehillath Shalom Synagogue referred you. Our first two referrals, ABBY PARISER and PETER GOLLON, and JANE KÜNSTLER and CLIFF BROFFMAN, earned us \$100 each. The third referral is worth \$200! Will you be the one? Referrals #4 and 5 would also earn us \$100 each, and #6 would be another \$200, and so on.

Contact Skaggs-Walsh at 516-227-3700, or skaggswalsh.com. ❖



KSS can now receive payments through Zelle, the quick, convenient, no-fee online payment system used by Bank of America, Capital One, Chase, Citi, and many other banks.

Make donations, pay for special events, pay dues — no checks, no stamps, no fees. Log into your bank account, find Zelle, and send to kehillath-shalom@optonline.net. **Note: Do NOT Zelle to the office phone! It won't work!**

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel!

Membership Brunch

On November 7, about a dozen KSS-niks gathered at the shul, along with several Zoomers, for a cooking demonstration by Chef Amanda Greenawalt. She prepared vegetarian mini-frittatas and roasted lemon-garlic potatoes, showing and explaining some professional tips and tricks along the way. Even the experienced cooks among us learned something, and the surprise gadget hit of the morning was Amanda's double-decker potato masher.

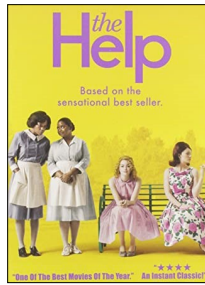
Many thanks to AMANDA for giving her time and sharing her expertise, to BARBARA HELLER (who just happens to be Amanda's grandmother), BERNICE LUKEN-CELENTANO, and CAROLE VALENTE for organizing this delightful event, to DEB GLOBUS for managing the tech end, and to ARLENE FELL and BARBARA KREMEN for pitching in with set-up and clean-up. ❖



Committee on Racial Justice

What we learned and talked about in November...

We enjoyed a spirited discussion of the 2011 movie *The Help*, based on the novel of the same name. We shared our experiences with people of color who share our lives, our reflections on racism in the south and north, and thoughts about what has changed and what hasn't.



We learned at November's Huntington Anti-Bias Task Force meeting that racist and antisemitic incidents are still occurring, deplorably, in our town.



At our last committee meeting, quoting from the Minutes, "We met

and scratched our heads over the usual issues of attendance, publicity, too many competing activities for too few people, Covid in-person restrictions that would make an in-person meeting with the Muslim mosque not feasible, long range goals, coalition activity and finally, 'What can/shall we do next.'" Lots to ponder. If you have ideas, please let us know.

Our Committee sent a donation to help support ERASE Racism's November gala and received this note:

Thank you for your support as we enter our 20th year of strengthening fair housing laws, advocating for equity across Long Island's segregated schools, and working to erase structural racism.



All these issues are still cry out for attention and support.

To close, although you are reading this in December, we are writing it on Thanksgiving eve and gratitude is on our mind. As our synagogue's representative to the larger Huntington and Reconstructionist communities, pledging to join ongoing efforts to create a more fair society, we are grateful to our synagogue community for supporting our work.

Best wishes,
CRJ



THE GIFTS RECEIVED

GENERAL FUND

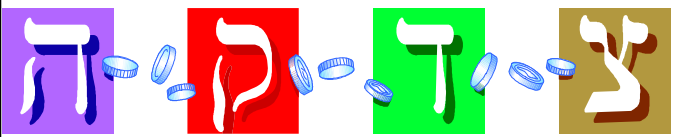
THELMA GOLDBERG, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of ETHAN GOLDBERG

ALLAN VANN

HIGH HOLIDAYS

ALAN & INEZ WACHTEL

TODAH RABAH!



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



The War of Return: How Western Indulgence of the Palestinian Dream Has Obstructed the Path to Peace, by Adi Schwartz and Einat Wilf

Joint Session of **Bagels & Books** and The Israel Forum

SUNDAY, October 17 / 10 am

Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East

Saturday, November 13 / Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15

Analysis of the Threats and Challenges Faced by Israel

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

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

Saturday, February 12 / Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15

Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East

Saturday, March 26 / Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15

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

LUNCH & LEARN

The Jew in the Lotus

By Rodger Kamenetz

Beginning October 7

12:30—2 pm

On Zoom (click [here](#) for link)



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

For half a century and more, Kehillath Shalom Synagogue has played a role in the lives of generations of Jewish families. Through their work and their resources, the congregation's pioneers made it possible for KSS to thrive and to survive for the generations to come. That work continues as does the opportunity to keep Kehillath Shalom active and vibrant for those who will come through its door tomorrow after tomorrow.

In the spirit of *L'Dor v'Dor* ("From generation to generation"), join those who have made a provision for Kehillath Shalom in planning for the future through their estate and financial planning. Your gift can help assure the long-term viability of the synagogue.

You can contribute by:

- ★ Making a bequest to Kehillath Shalom in your will
- ★ Making Kehillath Shalom a beneficiary of your retirement 403(b) or 401(k) account
- ★ Making Kehillath Shalom a beneficiary of your IRA or of your IRA's yearly Minimum Required Distribution

If you need more information, have questions, or would like to speak with someone from the Fundraising Committee about KSS' Long Term Planning options, please call the office at 631-367-4589 or email AbbyPariser@gmail.com. ❖



Let's Light Candles Together



Friday evenings, 6:30

(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



December 2021

Kislev/Tevet 5781



Sun

Mon

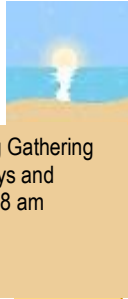
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am

1



2



3



4



Lunch & Learn
The Jew in the Lotus
12:30 pm

Candlelighting
6:30 pm

Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am
Hanukkah Havdalah
in the Parking Lot
4:08 5:30 pm

5



6

Rosh Chodesh Group
10 am

7

8

9



Lunch & Learn
The Jew in the Lotus
12:30 pm

10



Candlelighting
6:30 pm

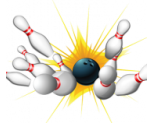
11



Tefilah 10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am

4:07

12



Bowling Party
4:30—6:30 pm

13

14



Board Meeting
7:30 pm

15



Movies & Munchies
The Attack
7:30 pm

16



Lunch & Learn
Lovesong
12:30 pm

17



Kabbalat Shabbat
6:30 pm

18



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

4:09

19



Bagels & Books
How to Fight Anti-Semitism 10 am

20

21

22

23

24

Shabbat and Potluck
Game Night
6:30 pm

25



Meditation Walk at
Target Rock NWR
10 am

4:12

26

27

28

29

30

31



New Year's Eve

1



No scheduled service

New Year's Day

4:17

2

3

4

5

6



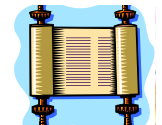
Lunch & Learn
Lovesong
12:30 pm

7



Soup Shabbat
6:30 pm

8



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah School
Workshop
4:24