



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

June 2022

Sivan/Tammuz 5782



RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

Rabbi's Reflections

Lessons From My Parents

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



The observances of Mother's and Father's Days in May and June have me thinking about *Avot*, literally, in Hebrew, parents, (and also ancestors). A section of the Mishnah, known as *Pirkei Avot*, Sayings of the Fathers/Parents, is a series of short verses of advice, ethics, and wisdom. Thinking about my *avot* brings a few of these ancestors' sayings to mind.

My father is known to be a man of integrity. In his final professional position, at a major investment firm, he was asked to recommend a stock that he did not feel comfortable endorsing. When he refused to comply with the request, he was fired. But that was not the end of the story, or of the job. Many of his colleagues in the industry called his company in protest. Some of them must have had leverage, and his position was restored to him.

This verse applies to him:

Rabbi Shimon said: There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty, but the crown of a good name supersedes them all. (*Avot 4:13*)

My mom, despite having advanced Alzhei-

mer's, is the warm, kind person she has been her whole life. She smiles at people and laughs and leans in to give and receive kisses. She speaks very little, but she thanks her caregivers after they bathe and dress her.

She used to quote her father, my sweet grandfather, who would say, "If you don't have anything nice to say about someone, don't say anything at all." Another piece of good advice I got from her was, "Don't put it down, put it away."

This verse applies to her:

Shammai used to say: make your [study of the] Torah a fixed practice; speak little but do much; and receive each person with a pleasant countenance. (*1:15*)

When I was a child, my parents and a group of their friends sponsored a family of Vietnamese refugees. It was not as easy as they thought it would be. They anticipated that the people would live in our homes for a couple of weeks, and that the larger community would pitch in and help them find housing and work. But there was little help, and the process took months. But the friends worked together and eventually the adults

(Continued on page 2)



Marylyn and Don Zerbarini

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=MoZVcHRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UINzUT09)

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

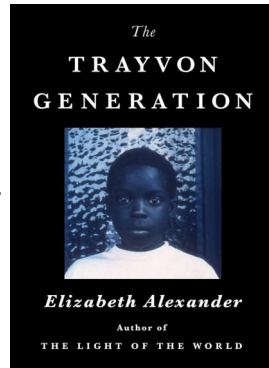
Committee on Racial Justice

“...Black people were largely brought to this soil in the category of property. In the eyes of the law we were three-fifths human. Out of this status, we became the seers who have continuously articulated the problem, the hope, and the possibility of America. We have expressed the core of what it is to be human and to aspire to better enact that humanity... There is no progress without generations working together. And there is no North Star without vigorous creativity to imagine it for us and mark where it lights the way.”

With this, Elizabeth Alexander, writer, poet, and president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation closes her newest book, *The Trayvon Generation*. It's a short, illustrated collection of essays, and I recommend it. It is not always easy to read – important books rarely are – but it is deeply moving, provocative, and worth reading.

Have a healthy and invigorating summer; we'll see you again in the fall.

Roberta Israeloff, Chair
Gail Sachs
Barbara Heller
Dave Schwartz
Rabbi Lina Zerbarini



Lessons From My Parents

(Continued from page 1)

got employment and children went to school and they found a house and were able to build lives in the US. Today, most live in Houston and the child of the boy who lived with us is a doctor.

A few years after that, a friend of my dad's lost their house and they, too, came to live with us for a time. (That was harder).

This verse applies to them:

Yose ben Yochanan of Jerusalem used to say: Let your house be wide open, and let the poor be members of your household. (1:5)

I am grateful for the lessons of my parents. And I know that I am lucky to have had parents who taught me what to do, and not just what not to do (although there's that, too, of course). So this verse applies to me:

One who learns from their friend one chapter, or one *halakhah*, or one verse, or one word, or even one letter, is obligated to treat them with honor....(6:3). ❖

bagels & books special event

sunday, june 26, 10 am

with *concealed* author

esther amini

**Shavuot Service with Yizkor
Song, Service, Sharing, Potluck
June 5@10 am@the Rabbi's**

**RSVP to Rabbi Lina please! So we'll have enough food for all!
And you can come just for lunch (around 12:30), too!**

Double Your Impact!

Kehillath Shalom Announces An Exciting Opportunity!

*An anonymous member of the Kehillath Shalom community
wants to inspire you with a challenge.*

What Does This Mean?

It means that every dollar donated, starting June 1,
up to a total of \$5000, will be matched.

Donate \$36; our Challenge Donor will match it with \$36.

Donate \$100; our Challenge Donor will match it with \$100.

When we raise \$5000 as a community by the end of the challenge on July 15,
we will have helped Kehillath Shalom Synagogue to the tune of \$10,000.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Here's Why Our Challenge Donor Has Taken This Extraordinary Step

“Kehillath Shalom Synagogue has been our Jewish community since our children were in pre-school. The shul made ‘being Jewish’ and ‘doing Jewish’ easy, warm, and friendly.

“We first came to the open, free High Holidays services with our kids and their grandparents before we actually joined. There was never any pressure, but the *tam*, the flavor, was so different from the stiff and formal ‘temple’ we grew up in, it encouraged us to become part of Kehillath Shalom.

“We are offering the Challenge Match to Kehillath Shalom members and friends to help keep the congregation in good standing.”

Donations may be made by clicking [here](#).

NOTE: All donations made through this link will count towards the challenge, including *yahrzeits* and other honors.

Send checks, marked “Challenge” to:

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue
58 Goose Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

A Problem Too Painful to Look At

BY GAIL SACHS

In a recent *Jewish Journal* David Suissa named an anxiety many Jewish leaders are experiencing:

On one hand, there's real excitement about how digital technology has kept so many communities connected and has expanded global reach.

But beneath that excitement, I noticed a simmering anxiety that has become difficult to confront: How permanent is the lingering reluctance to enter enclosed spaces like synagogues? Has the amazing convenience of online technology led to new habits that will be hard to shake?

The killer quote:

The synagogue world is now faced with two extremes — the miracle of digital versus the trauma of dwindling attendance. They both feed off each other, and together represent a threat to the future viability of many synagogues, especially those that were already struggling.

David is not alone in his worries. It is an inter-faith activity. There have been several oft-tweeted, oft-Facebook-posted articles from the Christian world asking the same questions.

One of my favorites is “My Church Doesn't Know What to Do Anymore,” by Elizabeth Felicetti, in *The Atlantic*.

I don't know how to make this work. After a year of trying to assure people that we were still the church even when we weren't in the same room, I don't know how to convince them now of the importance of gathering in person. I know that if they are watching from home, fancier churches all over the country offer much slicker streamed services than our suburban church with its secondhand camera and duct-taped tripod. And no matter what we do, it isn't going to work for someone. A few families have started attending larger churches with more — or less — restrictive masking policies. I also know that kids' sports, held outdoors, have fewer restrictions, and that returning to a church habit

after 20 months away gets harder with each passing Sunday.

This is what I think is going on.

Many of us long to be back together with each other in worship.

But, for many worshippers, what started as a necessity — watching services online — has now become a preference.

Why get dressed and drive to a place of worship, when you can sit there in your sweats or bathrobe and watch it from the comfort of your home?

In short, many of us have become liturgical couch potatoes.

Now that they can come back to live, in-person worship, why aren't they?

Because the pandemic is not the only trend responsible for somewhat empty pews. America has

been increasingly secularizing.

So, you have a perfect religious storm.

COVID told people: You can't attend worship services in person.

The zeitgeist told people: You didn't want to go to services, anyway.

Are we about to have a religious reboot?

Perhaps. But increasingly we sense it will not be the way it was B.C. — Before COVID. Not only because of COVID, but because the spirit of the times demands something, well, different.

More than fifty years ago, the late Leonard Cohen (whose fifth *yahrzeit* we recently observed), put it this way, diagnosing the spiritual condition of the Jews of Montreal:

The community was like an old lady whose canary has escaped in a storm, but who continues to furnish the cage with food and water in the convinced hope that the canary will come back. There are those who would teach that this optimism is religion.

The Jews are the canary that has escaped in a storm — of COVID and apathy.

If we want people to come back, then it will

Many of us have become liturgical couch potatoes.

(Continued on page 5)

The Gifts Received

GENERAL FUND

JUDITH WINARD, in memory of SANFORD WINARD

HEDVA LEWITTES

STAN & JOANN KATZ

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF, in honor of the birth of our grandson, AKIVA FLEISHER

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF, in honor of the birth of BARBARA HELLER's great-grandson, ZACH

VICKI & DAVID SCHWARTZ, in memory of BRUCE "BUCK" FELL, brother of BARRY FELL

DOLORES & FRED WEINBERG, in memory of DENNY TAVE

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

BARBARA KREMEN

JOAN & HARVEY

ABRAMOWITZ

RITA FENDERSON

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF

ISRAEL CONNECTIONS

JUDY DAVIS

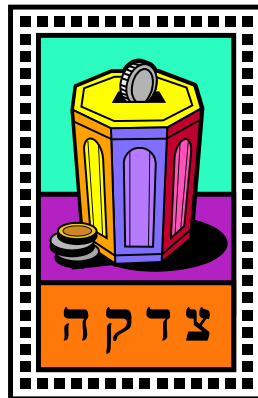
RABBI'S SALARY SUPPORT

BAGELS & BOOKS, in honor of RABBI LINA's Honorary Doctorate from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Remember to use Amazon Smile and make sure Kehillath Shalom is your designated charity when shopping on Amazon! ❖

Make Challenge Grant Donations HERE.

Or Zelle to
kehillathshalom@optonline.net,
marked "Challenge"



MOVIES & MUNCHIES

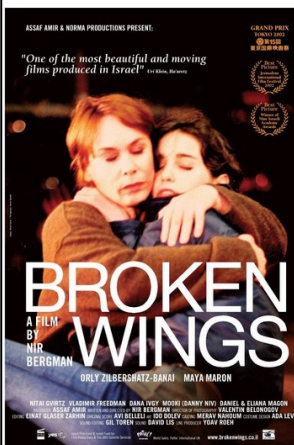
Broken Wings

Wednesday, June 22

7:30 pm

On Zoom

Broken Wings, a 2002 film by Israeli director



Nir Bergman, is set in Haifa and Tel Aviv. It is not about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nor Middle Eastern politics. Instead, it is a close look at an Israeli mother and her four children dealing with a personal catastrophe who are suddenly cast into a life they were ill-prepared to live. It is a family drama with a universal message, and we are drawn into feeling that

their fate really matters. *Broken Wings* "has heart and a poetic soul."

The DVD is available in Nassau and Suffolk County libraries, and Tubi TV for free with ads.

Click [here](#) to watch the trailer.

We will be meeting (on Zoom) on Wednesday evening, June 22 at 7:30 PM. Log-on info to follow; watch TWAKS and your email.

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

A Problem Too Painful To Look At

(Continued from page 4)

need to be for something more filling than that old bird seed and water.

Rabbi Lina, the "Fun" raising Committee, the Ritual Committee, Membership, Israel Connections & Jewish Affairs, the Committee for Racial Justice, Bagels and Books, Movies and Munchies, etc., have all created wonderful programs so far this year. WERE YOU THERE? A survey will be coming out soon asking what you are looking for in KSS. Please tell us what you want.

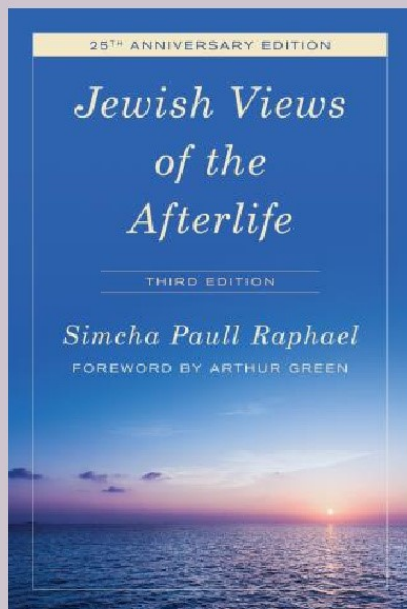
Resource: *Forward*

Do you want to go on a Congregational Trip to Israel?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO ISRAEL WITH KSS NEXT YEAR?

We could go as early as November or (more likely) February-March (likelihood of good weather both times) and could tailor it around some schedules, e.g., school breaks, if relevant. If so, please be in touch with Rabbi Lina and tell her your interest, timing, and how many people. We'd need about 20 to make it work. Friends and family welcome!



Lunch & Learn Jewish Views of the Afterlife

Begins 6.2.22@12:30 by Zoom

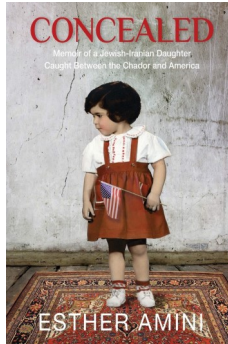


bagels & books

A small group had mixed reactions to our May selection, Helene Wecker's *The Hidden Palace*, the sequel to *The Golem and the Jinni*. Two of us really liked it, one didn't, two hadn't read it, and one was less than halfway through it. Nonetheless, it was an interesting discussion, focusing not so much on the plot as on the motivations and portrayals of various characters, as well as touching on history, linguistics, feminism, and how a story set in the past can still have much to relate to today.

We are delighted to announce that we will be joined at 10 am on June 26 by Esther Amini, author of *Concealed: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America*.

Amini is the daughter of Persian Jews who had emigrated from Iran's holiest Muslim city, and who struggled to maintain their traditions, threatened by American freedoms. In a house in Queens where books and learning were for boys and a daughter was expected to acquiesce to an early, arranged marriage, she focused on what she stood to gain by resisting, and also came to realize what she stood to lose.



A Barnard graduate with a degree in art history, Amini, in addition to having been published in *Lilith*, *Elle*, *Tablet*, and *The Jewish Week*, to name just some, is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. *Concealed* is her first book.

We encourage all KSS members to join us for this very special session, even if you aren't a B&B regular and haven't read *Concealed*. Bring your own bagel, lox, and coffee, or whatever Sunday morning treat you'd like and RSVP to Barbara Kremen, bskhere@yahoo.com. Many thanks to Janet London for arranging this special Bagels & Books event. **Please be prompt!**

We will be meeting over the summer to select our books for the coming year. We look for books by Jewish authors and/or of Jewish interest, both fiction and non-fiction. You do not have to be a B&B regular to recommend a book. If you've read something you think we might be interested in, please send your suggestions to Dolores Weinberg, doloresw324@aol.com or Arlene Fell, fell31@yahoo.com. ❖

Rabbi	Lina Zerbarini/203-915-4786 rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org
Co-Presidents	Beverly Mannix/631-806-5124 beverlymannix@gmail.com Gail Sachs/516-508-1978 GailatKSS@gmail.com
Vice-Presidents	Judy Avidor/516-449-8521 javidorkss@gmail.com Alan Wachtel/631-897-5638 alanwac1@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ileen Koenig/631-757-9602 koenigj631@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Barbara Heller/516-671-9571 BJHDMT@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Jennifer Sturza/516-384-4918 jdsturza@optonline.net
Corresponding Secretary	Carole Valente/576-938-3833 holycanoli@optonline.net
Newsletter Editor	Arlene Fell/631-423-3370 fell31@yahoo.com
Caring Community	Barbara Malleck/631-421-3268 Audrey Teich/ aktcs@aol.com
Office Secretary	Pam Fosella/631-367-4589 out.n.about@juno.com

Published by Kehillath Shalom Synagogue
58 Goose Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor NY 11724
Office 631-367-4589 Fax 631-367-3167
kehillathshalom@optonline.net
<http://www.kehillathshalomsynagogue.org>



Rabbi Lina Zerbarini receiving her honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of Reconstructing Judaism, Sunday, May 22.

Screenshot by Lois Hass



Survey on Jewish Identity and Mourning in Reconstructionist Communities

On April 9, we had a guest at Shabbat services, C. Lynn Carr, who is a member of Bnai Keshet, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Montclair, New Jersey, as well as a Professor of Sociology at Seton Hall University (<https://www.shu.edu/profiles/clynn carr.cfm>). She is studying how Reconstructionist community members engage with Jewish practice and identity, with an emphasis on mourning traditions. She's interested in learning from a diversity of people, with varying religious backgrounds, in and around Reconstructionist communities, about how they understand Jewishness, how they have experienced mourning in their communities, how they respond to mourners in their congregations, and why they did or did not recite the mourner's kaddish, sit shiva, or visit mourners.

To assist in this ethnographic study, Dr. Carr has launched an anonymous online survey, *Mourning in and Around Jewish Reconstructionist Communities*, and has asked us, as well as other Reconstructionist congregations she is visiting, to publicize the survey and encourage our members and friends to participate.

Survey participants do not have to be current, formal members of a Reconstructionist community, and they do not have to

identify as Jewish to participate, but they do have to have – or to have had in the past – a formal or informal connection to a Reconstructionist community. Survey participants are also asked to be 18 years or older to participate.

The survey should take 15 minutes or more to complete, depending on how much you engage with the open-ended questions. Once you begin the survey, if you need, you can pause it, and pick it up again later. When the research is complete, Dr. Carr will provide a summary report to Reconstructing Judaism and any other Reconstructionist community who requests it. The data will also be used for academic publication(s). If you agree, please use the following link to complete the survey and to refer others: https://shu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3OD99Ek3GHdPUdU.

Ed. Note: I filled out the survey, and it was interesting. I encourage you to do the same, and share it, if appropriate, to friends and family who meet the criteria. That would include former members, adult children, and friends who have joined us for High Holidays or other events. They don't necessarily have to be Jewish. — AF

COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIP	Barbara Heller	bjhdmt@aol.com
RITUAL	David Schwartz	sailrman@optonline.net
	Abby Pariser	abbyparis@aol.com
FUNDRAISING	Abby Pariser	abbyparis@aol.com
	Scott Ash	ashs3@verizon.net
ISRAEL CONNECTIONS & JEWISH AFFAIRS	Judy Davis	JDavis4727@aol.com
HOUSE	Cliff Broffman	cliffbroffman@gmail.com
SECURITY	Alan Wachtel	alanwac1@gmail.com
CARING COMMUNITY	Audrey Teich	aktcsw@aol.com
TORAH SCHOOL	Jen Sturza	jdsturza@optonline.net
COMMUNICATIONS	Scott Ash	ashs3@verizon.net
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. ❖

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue Pride Shabbat Potluck, Service & Presentation

Say Gay: Fighting Anti-LGBT Legislation

Speaker: Reg Calcagno

Deputy Campaign Director, Human Rights Campaign

Friday, June 17@6:30 pm@KSS, 7 pm by Zoom

info & rsvp: rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org

Reg Calcagno (he/they) is an experienced community organizer, activist, and policy and legal analyst. He is a skilled political strategist with over a decade of experience working on integrated advocacy campaigns at national and state organizations including the ACLU and the HRC. Calcagno's work focuses on advancing civil and human rights and democracy, with specialized expertise in intersectional LGBTQ+ campaigns. Calcagno considers it his personal life mission to create pathways to action that minimize gatekeepers and raise the voices and visibilities of those most directly impacted. Calcagno received a B.A. in Government and Women and Gender Studies from Skidmore College and a juris doctor from University of Illinois at Chicago School of Law.



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



SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Torah Study 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Bemidbar, Numbers 1:1–4:20*

God tells Moses to take a census to determine how many men over the age of 20 can serve as warriors. Over 600,000 are counted, not including the Levites, who are placed in charge of the Tabernacle.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

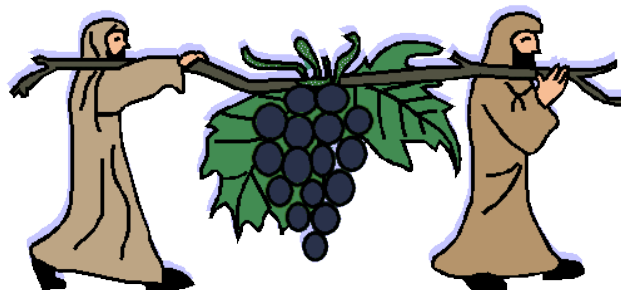
SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Torah Study 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Naso, Numbers 4:21–7:89*

God gives Moses instructions to take a census of the Gershonites and Merarites. Aaron is to inform them of their duties to the Tent of Meeting. Moses is to remove any “unclean” members of the camp. God tells Moses the punishments for violations of certain laws. Finally, Moses and Aaron are given a prayer to bless the Israelites.



FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Pride Shabbat Potluck and Service 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Torah Study 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Beha'alotcha, Numbers 8:1–12:16*

God tells Moses to set the Levites apart. The people begin to voice discontent and Moses tires of the burden of leadership. God sends quail to satisfy the people, but then sends a plague for their greed.

Friday, JUNE 24

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Meditation Walk at Target Rock 10 am

Torah Portion: *Shelach, Numbers 13:1–15:41*

The chiefs of the Twelve Tribes are sent to check out the land of Canaan. After forty days they return, reporting that it is a “land of milk and honey,” but also that it is inhabited by powerful people. More dissidence occurs, and God establishes the laws of retribution. ❖

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Soulful Shabbat

Meditative Walk at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

6.25.22@10am



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



June 2022

Sivan/Tammuz 5782



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am



2

Lunch & Learn
Jewish Views of the
Afterlife
12:30 pm



3

Candlelighting
On Zoom 6:30 pm

4



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

8:02



5

6

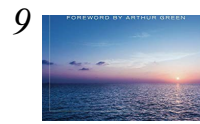
Shavuot Service
and Luncheon
At Rabbi Lina's
10 am
RSVP



7

8

Board Meeting
7:30 pm



9

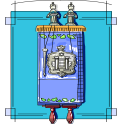
Lunch & Learn
Jewish Views of the
Afterlife
12:30 pm



10

Candlelighting
On Zoom 6:30 pm

11



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

8:07

12

13

14

15



Annual Congregation
Meeting 7:30 pm



16

Lunch & Learn
Jewish Views of the
Afterlife
12:30 pm

17

Pride Shabbat
Potluck And Service
6:30 pm

18



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

8:09

19



20

Father's Day

21

22



Movies & Munchies
7:30 pm



23

Lunch & Learn
Jewish Views of the
Afterlife
12:30 pm



24

Candlelighting
On Zoom 6:30 pm

25



Meditation Walk at
Target Rock NWR
10 am

8:11

26



Bagels & Books
10 am
Concealed

27

28

29



30

Lunch & Learn
Jewish Views of the
Afterlife
12:30 pm

1

2



No scheduled service

8:11

3

4



Independence Day

5

6

7

8

9



Torah Study 10 am
Meditation Service
11:15 am

8:10