



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

November 2023
Cheshvan/Kislev 5784

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

Rabbi's Reflections

Bringing the Light

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



These words were offered on Friday, October 13, at the Community Kabbalat Shabbat – With Israel in Our Hearts, co-sponsored by Kehillath Shalom, Chavurat Emet, Huntington Jewish Center, and Temple Beth El.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ הָאֲרֶץ הָיְתָה
תֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ וְהַשָּׁד עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם

In the beginning, as God created the heavens and the earth - the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep (Gen. 1:1-2).

This week, we begin the cycle of Torah reading for the year – beginning with creation.

The Me'or Eynayim Rabbi Menachem Nachum of Chernobyl (1730-1797) is very direct about the *why* of creation:

“The whole point was that ... there be “a greater light that emerges from the darkness” (Eccles. 2:13).”

Rabbi Art Green expands: We are here to make for more light in the world, **to bring forth greater light out of the darkness**. This is why Y-H-W-H (a rabbinic name for God) reduced the infinite light, placing some of it inside each

human soul, so that there be a physical creature who would understand how to seek out the light and re-connect it to its Source.

This week we have seen the worst evil. Hamas terrorists have perpetrated against our people savagery and destruction that is beyond imagination to grasp.

And we have responded by bringing the light.

It is Shabbat, which the Sages called “a taste of the world to come,” an opportunity to envision how we might live beyond the brokenness of the day-to-day realities. This week, we have seen the worst that the world can give. Tonight, on Shabbat, we will recount the stories of those who brought the best.

A few stories:

On Monday night, a Haredi man arrived at JFK with a \$500,000 credit card and paid for the plane tickets for anyone who showed him a reserve duty callup notice. He ended up paying for 250 tickets.

This anonymous man brought the light.

On Shabbat, Inbal Liberman, 25, a security coordinator in the southern Israel kibbutz of Nir Am near the Gaza border, quickly sprang into ac-

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

Bringing the Light

(Continued from page 1)

tion when she heard sirens go off early Saturday as the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched deadly, surprise attacks on the Jewish state. As the sirens echoed, Liberman also heard strange, unusual noises, prompting her to take the lead on arming a small team of residents with weapons. “The electricity cut out because of the bombs [from Gaza], and she instructed not to restore the power so that no one could open the gates [to the kibbutz].” The father added, “The neighborhood watch group was already assembled and she made the decision to give them weapons and station them.” They fought a battle against Hamas terrorists for hours until the army showed up. No one at Kibbutz Nir Am died.

Inbal Liberman brought the light.

A testimony from the music party in Reim: The only reason we got out of there was the guy in the picture, Yousef, a Bedouin Arab from here in the south. Even with terrorists firing on him from all directions, he didn't even think of driving away and leaving us alone. He waited and collected whoever he could on the way. Among them were wounded people that he took to the nearest hospital.

Yousef brought the light.

Rob Rosenthal, with the American Friends of Magen David Adom reports: In normal circumstances, ambulances from the United States would be sent to Israel by ship, said, Israel's nonprofit emergency medical system. The trip usually takes six weeks. He said: “We raised money so fast that we can't process it. Since Saturday we've exceeded \$13 million, and that's just online.” On Wednesday, the group was organizing a chartered plane to fly seventeen new ambulances to Tel Aviv in eleven hours.

Donors to Magen David Adom brought the light.

Even corporations:

Disney donated \$2M

Comcast donated \$2M

Paramount donated \$1M

To humanitarian aid, including Magen David Adom, in Israel.

This week, corporations are bringing the light.

A message on WhatsApp:

Nachi Gordon @gordon770

Many families in the south have lost their homes.

Two anonymous donors from the United States paid for 160 families to stay in the Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem.

The families showed up to the lobby and couldn't believe their eyes.....it's full of formula, diapers, clothing, food and entertainment for the children. All FREE.

Because that's what family does!

These donors brought the light.

Another testimony on WhatsApp:

Zale Newman

One of my rabbis saw an announcement asking for people to host families from the south.

He called 45 minutes later and the guy said you're way too late, we already found everyone a place.

He asked how many families it was. He said it was about six thousand.

They found places for six thousand families in 45 minutes.

These hospitable Israelis brought the light.

In New Jersey: women started a breast milk fundraiser for babies who no longer have mothers. In three hours they raised more than 1000 lbs of breast milk which will be on its way to Israel to be distributed to those in need.

These nursing mothers brought the light.

The son of journalist Nir Gontarz was at the music concert in Reim. Amir called his dad who tried, alone, to rescue him. When he couldn't get close, he noticed a photo of Maj. Gen. (res.) Yair Golan on one of the Arabic social networks - Golan had taken arms and a uniform for himself and headed south. Gontarz called Golan who told him: “Send me his location and I will bring him to you.” And he did.

Yair Golan brought Amir and a friend home – and brought the light.

And further, a number of elected officials sent Gontarz messages of congratulations on WhatsApp, but only one picked up the phone: The Arab-Israeli MK Ahmad Tibi.

Ahmad Tibi brought the light.

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Bringing the Light

(Continued from page 2)

These are just a few stories of thousands of Israelis, Jews, and others all over the world showing their caring for Israel and Israelis.

So much light is shining in the darkness.

The second verse of *Bereshit* continues:

וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם :

A *ruach Elohim* – spirit, wind, breath, of God hovers over the water.

This *ruach Elohim* is within us.

The churning waters of chaos, of fear, of uncertainty of what the future, even the next moment will bring.

וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם :

How is it within us?

Later in our portion, the Torah imagines God forming the human out of the humus and:

וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפָּיו נְשִׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ

חַיָּה :

God blew the *nishimah* – the breath of life into the human and the human became a living *nefesh*,

being.

Ruach, neshamah, nefesh – these are all words for soul.

The divine breath, soul, itself was breathed into us and resides there. At this time, our work is to manifest that bit of divine soul within.

Later in our portion, Cain asks God: הֲשִׂמְרָ אֶחָי אֶנְכִּי ?

We know that the answer is yes. We are our family's keeper.

All of these light-bringers – among whom are each of you - know that.

Our purpose in life, the purpose of creation, is to bring light from the darkness, which we do by caring for each other.

יְהִי אֹר

Let there be light. ❖

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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. ❖

Isabel's Interviews: Dolores Weinberg

This month I had the pleasure of conversing with our own DOLORES WEINBERG. Many of you know DOLORES quite well, while others might not. Either way, I hope you'll enjoy this interview and discover new and interesting things about her. It was a joy to write.



ISABEL: How long have you been a member?

DOLORES: 35 incredible years. We joined after meeting KSS president, Steve Shapiro, in Florida. After being a member for a week, I also became a board member. After joining Harriet Koppal's Caring Community Committee I became very active. I know you asked who I admire and try to model myself after: Harriet Koppal is that most fabulous example of a smart, kind and strong woman. I loved her dearly and still miss her every day. She headed our group as we ran concerts, held comedy and talent nights, had all kinds of parties, made and delivered Purim bags, and so much more. This committee was so very significant because it was the source of our incredible Bagels and Books! I can't even think of everything we did. I'm hoping that everyone thought our events were great community fun.

ISABEL: Where did you grow up?

DOLORES: I was born in 1943 in Brooklyn, but grew up in Queens. After we moved to Hollis Hills I got very sick and our doctor came to our house. He took one look at me and told my dad "Take her to the ER, immediately." In December of 1951 doctors made house calls. Thank goodness! At age 8 I was in a coma for two days. When I awoke we were told I was a juvenile diabetic and had to stay in the hospital to regulate my insulin shots. At that time, I was still pretty much Italian (with a Romanian Jewish father) and I twisted my doctor's arm to get me home for Christmas. My parents were always concerned about my health so I grew up with one unbreakable rule: no sleepovers, including a college dorm. It led me to attend Queens College. And, it was exceptionally *bashert*, because that is where I met my husband, Fred.

ISABEL: When did you convert?

DOLORES: December 7, 1963. When I showed Fred's wonderful mother my engagement ring her

comment was, "It's lovely. The rabbi will see you tomorrow night at 7." I hugged her and we laughed. Orthodox Rabbi Joseph Wise and I worked on my conversion for eight months - and it included him driving me to the Bronx Mikvah. And, I did it with my whole heart- for myself and her!

ISABEL: What degrees did you

achieve?

DOLORES: My Common Branches Degree let me teach K-6. I was a 6th grade student teacher at PS 68 in Manhattan and just slid into my career when I took over for a 6th grade teacher who had to take maternity leave. In 1964 NYS teachers were automatically certified without a Masters. However, I wanted to be a different kind of educator, and I contacted Queens College to help me find another type of position. They had an early childhood job available in Temple Israel in Great Neck. I was hired with the stipulation that I get 'early childhood' certified. I took those courses at Adelphi. I also was taking evening graduate courses at Queens College.

While I was teaching at Temple Israel, Fred's boss mentioned that Temple Beth El Great Neck needed a Saturday Kindergarten teacher and I was hired there, too. We had moved to Great Neck so Fred could walk to the LIRR and I could be close to my schools. Both were on the same block. Then in May of 1965, my mom saw an ad for a nursery teacher/director in my Queens neighborhood synagogue, Hollis Hills Jewish Center. I was surprised when I got that job from the Hebrew school director; but I also had to get approval from the congregation's president. It was a wildly coincidental thing...because I had lived ten houses away from him and was frequently his three daughters' babysitter. I taught at HHJC and directed other summer camps for years until we "got" our children.

'My' HHJC school is still running 50+ years later. I'm really thrilled about that.

ISABEL: I remember you telling me that your children are adopted. Would you like to comment further?

DOLORES: We could not have children so we adopted. And, now at the age of 80, I look back

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Isabel's Interviews: Dolores Weinberg

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and laugh at the Louise Wise Agency because they denied us saying that "I would not be healthy enough to raise a family." We privately adopted 4-day-old Nancy in Florida. And, I was so nervous that I had "morning sickness" and threw up on the plane. We adopted our daughter Jill two years later in Texas. She was only 2 days old, but I was already a veteran mom. We were sooo very lucky.

ISABEL: Any fantastic childhood memories?

DOLORES: I loved sports and played stick and punch ball with the neighborhood boys right in front of my house. I called them "my gang."

I was *always* chosen last. I gleefully say, my team usually won. Fred liked to say he married me because I didn't throw or catch like a girl. Those games and his comment were pure JOY for me!!!

ISABEL: You are the research person for Bagels and Books. That takes a lot of work, always giving us background information about the book of the month. How did you find yourself in that position? You do a fantastic job.

DOLORES: Well, thank you! I always did *some* personal research about our books. At many discussions, I found myself bringing my notes. Now, I am the "unofficial moderator." It's been an extremely, deeply needed blessing for me over these last two years!

ISABEL: What words would describe DOLORES?
DOLORES: I'm talkative, nery, and I feel like my *neshama* is filled with lovingkindness.

ISABEL: What is your least favorite sound?
DOLORES: Anything too loud...unless I choose to play it that way.

ISABEL: What is your favorite sound?
DOLORES: My favorite sound is the adagio of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. I took piano lessons and played it often. Once I got home from the hospital, my parents granted me one wish – I chose to stop piano lessons. I really preferred to play punch and stickball.

ISABEL: What is your favorite food?
DOLORES: Growing up, my Italian mother had to make the family favorite once a week. It was garlic sautéed in olive oil over linguine with parsley. (You can't have garlic without parsley.) I love to cook that at the drop of a hat. And while I do eat meat and fish, my preferences are usually vegan.

ISABEL: As always, it is a pleasure to talk to you. Thank you.

DOLORES: You're more than welcome. ❖

LOOKING FOR A NEW OIL COMPANY?

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 skaggsvalsh.com. ❖

IF YOU NEED A REPLACEMENT
TAX DONATION LETTER
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT
KEHILLATHSHALOM@OPTONLINE.NET



Hanukkah Celebration!

Lights & Laughter & Latkes

Friday, 12.8@6 pm



**KEHILLATH
SHALOM
SYNAGOGUE**

Join us for our annual celebration of the Festival of Light!

We will light the torches and our own menorahs. Bring your favorite latkes (if you like) and something to share.

CRJ: What We Have Been Up To

We had a very successful postcard writing campaign: nearly 250 postcards were written by our members to urge voters in Virginia to vote in the upcoming November 7 election. We worked with two non-partisan organizations: Reclaim Our Vote, a grassroots organization that focuses on increasing voter turnout, and The Center for Common Ground, an organization that “... **educates and empowers voters of color in voter suppression states.**”

Some of us gathered in person, colored-pencils in hand, to write postcards; some of us wrote our postcards at home. Now that we been in contact with Center for Common Ground, we will be able to run new writing, texting, and phonebanking campaigns for the 2024 elections. Great thanks to all who helped make this happen.

Looking ahead:

Please join us for a special movie night at the Cinema Arts Center to watch *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*. Co-sponsored by Kehillath Shalom, Temple Beth El, and the Cine-

ma Arts Center, this documentary tells the incredible story of how businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald joined with African-American communities in the South to build schools during the early part of the 20th century. Aviva Kempner’s film will be screened on **Thursday evening, November 2, at 7 pm.**

We are also planning an inspiring program to celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in January that will include a speaker and dinner. Flyers with details will be available soon.

Click [here](#) for more about the documentary.

Community news:

Plans have been launched to create a Huntington African American Museum. The project received approval from the Huntington Town Board last April. A site has been chosen for the museum that will focus specifically on individuals who helped shape the town, including Samuel Ballton, Peter Crippen, and poet Jupiter Hammon, who worked at Joseph Lloyd Manor. ❖

SHABBAT SERVICES

We will continue our Torah Study of Prophets, starting this month with 2 Samuel 1:1. How far we get each Shabbat depends entirely on how the discussion goes.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Soup Shabbat 6 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

No scheduled service

Torah Portion: [Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17](#);

[Numbers 29:35-30:1](#)

Laws regarding temple offerings, tithing, loans, treatment of the needy, slaves, Passover, etc. "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Shabbat Service 10 am

Veterans Day Forum with KSS veterans 11:15 am

Torah Portion: [Chaye Sarah, Genesis 23:1–](#)

[25:18](#)

The death of Sarah. Abraham purchases the Cave of Machpelah as a burial site. The marriage of Isaac and Rebecca. The death of Abraham.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Torah Study 10 am

Meditation Service 11:15 pm

Torah Portion: [Toldot, Genesis 25:19 – 28:9](#)

Isaac marries Rebecca; Jacob and Esau are born. Esau trades his birthright to Jacob, and Jacob receives his father's blessing.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

No Candlelighting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

No scheduled service

Torah Portion: [Vayetze, Genesis 28:10–32:3](#)

Jacob's dream. Jacob marries Leah and Rachel. ❖

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Sunday, November 12, 10 am @ KSS

Kislev

Rosh Chodesh:
Welcoming the New Month

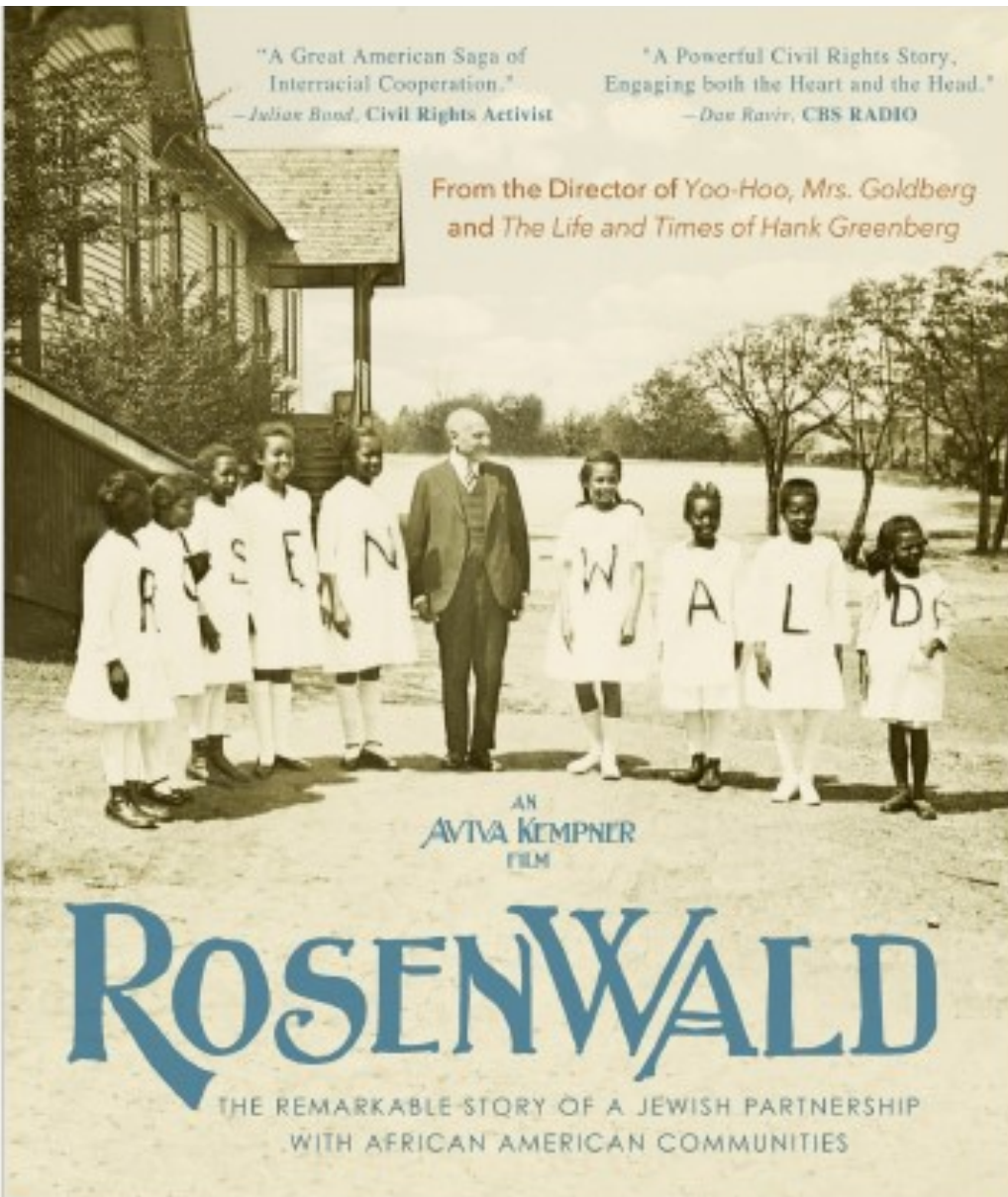
We gather monthly to support each other and connect to our heritage and traditional wisdom.

This month is Golda Meir's *yahrzeit* (8 Kislev) — we will learn about Golda, her work, and her legacy.

"A Great American Saga of
Interracial Cooperation."
—Julian Bond, Civil Rights Activist

"A Powerful Civil Rights Story,
Engaging both the Heart and the Head."
—Dae Ravis, CBS RADIO

From the Director of *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*
and *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*



Screening presented with
Kehillath Shalom Synagogue & Temple Beth El
With in-theater Zoom Q&A with
director Aviva Kempner

Thursday, November 2nd at 7:30 PM
at the Cinema Arts Centre
423 Park Ave Huntington



CINEMA
ARTS
CENTRE



KEHILLATH
SHALOM
SYNAGOGUE



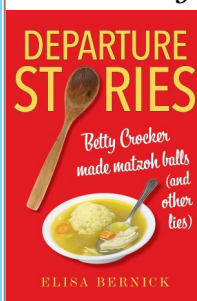
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bagels & books

Our November 19 selection will be *Departure Stories: Betty Crocker made matzoh balls (and Other Lies)*, by Elisa Bernick. The author grew up “different” (i.e., Jewish) in a white, Christian, Minnesota suburb during the 1960s and early 1970s. She explores how the invisible baggage of place and memory, Minnesota’s uniquely antisemitic history, and the cultural shifts of feminism and changing marital expectations contributed to her family’s eventual implosion. “Alternately heartbreaking and hilarious.”



Our schedule for the rest of the year is:
December 17 — *The Dressmakers of Prospect Heights*, by Kitty Zeldis

January 21 — *The Prime Ministers [Menachem Begin]*, by Yehuda Avner

February 18 — *The Thread Collectors*, by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman

March 17 — *Catskill Culture*, by Phil Brown

April 14 — *The Living and the Lost*, by Ellen Feldman

May 19 — *The American Way*, by Bonnie Siegler and Helene Stapinski

June 23 — *Signal Fires*, by Dani Shapiro

We hope to return to all in-person meetings this year, with Zoom available. Watch TWAKS and your email for further 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. ❖



Do You Zelle?

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 kehillathshalom@optonline.net.

Note: Do NOT Zelle to the office phone! It won't work!

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖

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

November 2023

Cheshvan/Kislev 5783



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Morning Gathering Tuesdays and Fridays 8 am</p>			1	<p>Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm Rosenwald At Cinema Arts 7 pm</p>	<p>Soup Shabbat 6 pm</p>	<p>No scheduled service</p>
<p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>Daylight Saving Ends</p>		<p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>Election Day</p>		<p>9</p> <p>Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Candlelighting 6 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Shabbat Service 10 am Veterans Day Forum 11:15 am</p>
					4:22	
<p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Group 10 am</p>		<p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:30 pm</p>		<p>16</p> <p>Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Candlelighting 6 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Torah Study 10 am Meditation Service 11:15 am</p>
					4:15	
<p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>Bagels & Books Departure Stories 10 am</p>		<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No candlelighting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No scheduled service</p>
					4:11	
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Candlelighting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Shabbat Service 10 am Israel Forum 11:15 am</p>
					4:08	
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm</p> <p>Hanukkah First Candle</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Hanukkah Potluck 6 pm Hanukkah Second Candle</p>	<p>9</p> <p>No scheduled service</p> <p>Hanukkah Third Candle</p>
					4:07	