



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

December 2023
Kislev/Tevet 5784

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

Rabbi's Reflections

Am Yisrael Chai

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



A few weeks ago, I was on the Long Island Railroad coming back from Manhattan and a woman spoke to me as she was getting off our train.

She asked (in Hebrew): "Aren't you afraid to wear a *kippah* with everything that's going on?"

I answered: "It makes me want to be more Jewish, even more visible."

We are in hard, and historic, times.

Nearly thirty years ago, I worked for the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia and organizations would organize security briefings for the High Holidays. Some congregations would hire armed guards. Some of us on staff would shake our heads: there had never been an attack on a synagogue in the United States during services; why were communities wasting money and frightening congregants by sending the message that they were under attack?

Sadly, this is no longer true. Synagogue security is now a real concern for all of us. At Kehillath Shalom, we now keep our doors locked and are in the process of making our building a "harder tar-

get," thanks to funding from the Department of Homeland Security (and the hard work of our committee members).

We are witnessing a global surge in antisemitism. While some of it manifests through violence, much more is through the bias and language that we see on social and other forms of media, from politicians, and in the streets. Self-protection is not only defensive, it can also be proactive – standing up to the hate we see by writing to our elected officials, to news outlets, and responding to words and acts of hate.

Self-defense is one type of resistance, important but not the only one.

Pride in who we are is another. When others tell us we should not exist or that we are a negative force in the world, we can resist by connecting to the beauty and wisdom of our people and our tradition. Pride is spiritual resistance.

I saw a sign from last month's March for Israel in DC that read:

When they go low, we go CHAI!



(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)

Am Yisrael Chai

(Continued from page 1)

While hiding has been necessary at times in history for our physical safety, we will not continue to be a people without our practices and the maintenance of our connections to each other.

Continuity as a people is not the only reason to value Judaism; our traditions and our community bring us strength as individuals.

Last month, nearly thirty of our members gathered at the Golden Dolphin Diner in Huntington Village in a show of appreciation and support for the owner who displayed Israeli flags and images of the Israeli hostages captured by Hamas. (See photo on p. 7.) This gathering was moving for all participants, nourishing not only the body but also the spirit. We are personally supported when we come together.

A few of us have gathered regularly since the COVID lockdown to begin the day with prayer and song and meditation. We find it helps remind us of our intentions of who we want to be and how we want to behave in the coming day and offers us a calm foundation. We continue because this practice is both meaningful and helpful.

I learn from Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum that *joy* is an act of resistance. Our joyful engagement in being our full selves is an act of defiance before those who would like us to cower or lead small lives or disappear.

Hanukkah begins, as it always does, on the 25th of Kislev, which this year falls out on Thursday evening, December 7th. Hanukkah is about the opposite of shrinking: its mitzvah is “publicizing the miracle,” *pirsumei nisa*. While one account of the miracle of Hanukkah is the well-known story of the oil that lasted for eight days, the words of the liturgy recount the (many) miracles this way:

For the miracles, for the redemption, for the mighty deeds, for the deliverances and for the wars that You performed for our ancestors in those days at this season.

In the days of Matityahu, son of Yochanan the High Priest, the Hasmonean and his sons, when the evil Greek kingdom rose up against Your people Israel to make them forget Your Torah and to turn them away from the statutes of Your will — You, in Your abundant mercy, stood by them in their time of distress, You defended their cause, You judged their grievances, You avenged them. You delivered the mighty into the hands of the weak, many into the hands of the few, defiled people into the hands of the undefiled, the wicked

into the hands of the righteous, and insolent into the hands of diligent students of Your Torah. And You made Yourself a great and sanctified name in Your world. And for Your people, Israel, You performed a great deliverance and redemption unto this very day. Afterwards, Your sons entered the Holy of Holies of Your Abode, cleaned Your Temple, purified Your Sanctuary, and kindled lights in the Courtyards of Your Sanctuary, and designated these eight days of Chanukah to thank and praise Your great Name.

The miracle of Hanukkah is that we stood up to attempts to destroy us – not physically, but spiritually and communally – and succeeded. We, though but a small minority, managed not to be erased by the Syrian-Greek empire-builders (or the Romans, or the Crusaders, or the Germans, or anyone else). As *The Partisan Song* says: *mir zaynen do*: We are still here.

Tradition says that we publicize the miracle by placing the *Hanukkiah* in our windows, so that it is visible to passers-by. Further, we should make sure to light while there are still people out and about. Hanukkah is about being openly celebratory of who we are.

In these challenging times, I invite you to lean in to your Jewishness.

Perhaps this means wearing your Jewish star or taking on a new practice: saying *shema* when you get up or go to sleep, or saying a blessing over eating, or lighting Shabbat candles.

You might join with your KSS community in some of the many opportunities for Jewish engagement and exploration:

Join us for Candlelighting on Fridays at 6 pm.

Join us to study the texts of our culture: we are now reading about King David in Torah Study on Shabbat mornings.

Join us for our annual Hanukkah Potluck Celebration, Friday, December 8 at 6 pm.

Come talk to me about what your resistance might look like – there is nothing more interesting and exciting to me that helping people explore their Jewish identity!

In these challenging times, let us support each other and build up our strength. /י עם ישראל חי/ *am yisrael chai*: the People of Israel Live! ❖

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Soulful Shabbat

Meditative Walk at Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

In Case of Rain,
Meet@KSS
12.23.23@10am



COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Heller
Audrey Teich

bjhdmt@aol.com
aktcsw@aol.com

RITUAL

David Schwartz
Abby Pariser

sailrman@optonline.net
abbyparis@aol.com

FUNDRAISING

Abby Pariser
Scott Ash

abbyparis@aol.com
ashs3@verizon.net

ISRAEL CONNECTIONS & JEWISH AFFAIRS

Judy Davis
Cliff Broffman

JDavis4727@aol.com
cliffbroffman@gmail.com

HOUSE

Alan Wachtel

alanwac1@gmail.com

SECURITY

Judy Avidor

javidorkss@gmail.com

RABBINIC LIAISON

PROGRAMMING &

COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Globus
Scott Ash

DeborahGlobus@hotmail.com
ashs3@verizon.net

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Eileen Gruber

Eileen.Gruber@gmail.com

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. ❖

Isabel's Interviews: Nate Jerrold

This month I had the pleasure of conversing with Nate Jerrold. I hope you'll enjoy this interview and discover new and interesting things about him. I hope you'll be as impressed with him as I am.

ISABEL: How old are you?

NATE: I'm ten and a half. My birthday is on April 18. I want to have my Bar Mitzvah on my birthday because it falls on a Saturday.

ISABEL: What do you like best about KSS?

NATE: All the people. One of my favorite people is Rabbi Lina. She's fun to be around, energetic and positive. I enjoyed being with the people who helped raise the sukkah at her house.

ISABEL: Besides Rabbi Lina, is there anyone else you look up to?

NATE: Dwayne Johnson. He's an American actor and film producer. He's cool and named his company Seven Bucks because he had lost his money only to have \$7.00 left. His motto is: Blood, Sweat and Respect. His other slogan is: Hardest Worker In the Room.

ISABEL: Do you play sports?

NATE: I'm on an ice hockey team for the town of Oyster Bay. I also play lacrosse for a team in Plainview. I play roller hockey in Bethpage.

ISABEL: What school do you go to?

NATE: I'm in the fifth grade at Plainview Old Bethpage Middle.

ISABEL: Do you have a favorite subject?

NATE: Yes, math.

ISABEL: What do you want to be when you grow up?

NATE: A pro ice hockey player. I'd like to play defense because that's the position I now play.



ISABEL: What's your favorite sound?

NATE: The sound that ice makes when you skate on it.

ISABEL: What's your least favorite sound?

NATE: When metal scrapes against metal.

ISABEL: What's your favorite meal or food?

NATE: Mac and Cheese and pizza.

ISABEL: Do you take classes with Rabbi Lina? What days do you meet with her?

NATE: We meet every Wednesday afternoon.

ISABEL: What do you learn?

NATE: We read Torah stories and I learn from synagogue children's textbooks.

ISABEL: Is there anything you'd like to add or want people to know about you?

NATE: Nope, I think that's it.

ISABEL: Thank you, Nate. I think the congregation will enjoy reading about you this month. ❖

Welcome to Our New Members

ANDREW CHARLES ANDREA LOHMAN, of Northport, referred by Karin Sabbeth.

We are delighted that you have chosen to become part of our Kehillath Shalom family and hope to see you around on Shabbat, at Candle-lighting, at Bagels & Books, on Zoom or in person, and at any of our many other activities. ❖

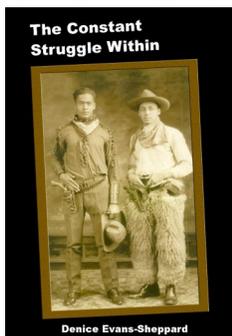
Committee on Racial Justice

CRJ is sponsoring two special events to commemorate MLK Weekend 2024.

Sunday night, January 14, 5 pm

Dinner at the synagogue with special guest speaker Denice Evans-Sheppard, Executive Director of the Oyster Bay Historical Society. Ms. Evans-Sheppard will talk about the history of African Americans on Long Island, a history she has lived as well as studied: in 1865, her great-great grandfather, David Carll, built the house in which she now lives.

Ms. Evans-Sheppard is also CEO and founder of “Whispering Spirit Cultural Tours” that highlight the historical contributions of Indigenous and African American communities to the thriving maritime industries on both Long Island’s North and South Shores. She is also the author of *The Constant Struggle Within*, a moving story of her family’s history on Long Island.



Our observance of MLK Weekend continues on **Monday, January 15**. For our Day of Service, from **10 am – 12 noon** we will again make food for the clients served by Helping Hands Rescue Mission. More details to follow.

Please try to join us for both of these events.

As well, on December 15th, Rabbi Lina will participate in “Don’t Blame Poor People: A Conference Addressing The Structural Causes of Poverty on Long Island and in New York State... A Call for Understanding and Action.” It will take place at the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center on Hauppauge Road in Commack. Register by December 8. [Click here](#) for more information:

To conclude our monthly report, [click here](#) to learn more about Long Island’s own Museum of African History.

Stay well, and stay involved,

David Schwartz, Barbara Heller,
Hedva Lewittes, Gail Sachs,
and Roberta Israeloff



Games Night & Potluck

Join us for the Kehillath Shalom Traditional Christmas Eve Games Night and Potluck Dinner Sunday evening, December 24 at 6 pm.

Bring your favorite games! Bring a dish to share!

Bring friends, neighbors, family members, and anyone who wants to share a fun night together.

RSVPs are MANDATORY!

RSVP to Abbyparis@aol.com by Wednesday, December 20.

Sunday, December 24 @ 6 pm



Hanukkah Celebration!

Lights & Laughter & Latkes

Friday, 12.8@6 pm



**KEHILLATH
SHALOM
SYNAGOGUE**

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

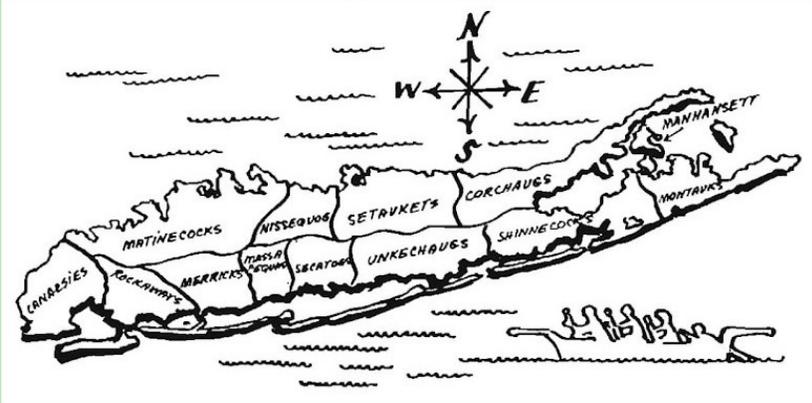
We will light the torches and our own menorahs. Bring your favorite latkes for our yummiest latke contest (if you like) and something to share.

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Rosh Chodesh: Welcoming the New Month of Tevet December 10@10 am

We gather monthly to support each other and connect to our heritage and traditional wisdom. We will meet the 3rd day of Hanukkah, explore the role of women in the Hanukkah story, and share some traditional Hanukkah delicacies. RSVP to Rabbi Lina.

Lunch & Learn: Indigenous Long Island



**Begins
12.14.23@12:30
by Zoom**



Who lived on this land before we did?

Join us to learn about the history and cultures and current realities of the peoples who preceded us on “fish-shaped Paumanok.”

Begins 12.14.23.

Season of skinny candles

by Marge Piercy©



A row of tall skinny candles burns
quickly into the night
air, the shames raised
over the rest
for its hard work

Darkness rushes in
after the sun sinks
like a bright plug pulled.
Our eyes drown in night
Thick as ink pudding

When even the moon
starves to a sliver
of quicksilver
the little candles poke holes
in the blackness.

A time to eat fat
and oil, a time to gamble
for pennies and gambol
around the table, a light
and easy holiday.

No disasters, no
repentance, just remember
and enjoy. The miracle
is really eight days
and nights without trouble.

SHABBAT SERVICES

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Shabbat Service 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Vayishlach*, Genesis 32:4–36:43

Jacob wrestles with the angel, who changes his name to “Israel.” The rape of Dinah. Jacob returns to Canaan, where God tells him a nation will grow from him, and will live in the land God gave to Abraham.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Hanukkah Festival and Potluck Dinner 6 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

No scheduled service

Torah Portion: *Vayeshev*, Genesis 37:1–40:23

Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and imprisoned by Potiphar’s wife. He interprets the dreams of two other prisoners.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Torah Study 10 am

Shabbat Service 11:15 pm

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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Meditation Walk at Target Rock NWR 10 am

Torah Portion: *Vayigash*, Genesis

44:18–47:27

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Jacob and his family travel to Egypt. God promises Jacob to redeem Israel from Egypt, foretelling the Exodus.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

No Candlelighting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

No scheduled service

Torah Portion: *Vayechi*, 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. ❖



KSS at the Golden Dolphin on November 13, in appreciation of owner Peter Tsadilas’ support for Israel.

From front left, around the table to front right: DINAH MARK, BARRY & ARLENE FELL, ABBY PARISER, PETER GOLLON, RON & LIZ SABO, BERNICE & JOE LUKEN-CELENTANO, MARGARET LAWN, JANET LONDON, JERRY KREINCES, CHRIS RUSSELL, BARBARA HELLER (standing), SUSAN EISNER, NISSIM YEHEKEL, JUDY AVIDOR, BRIAN MEYER, CAROL VALENTE, ALAN WACHTEL, LOIS HASS, BEVERLY & CRAIG SPEAR, GLENDA KUPERSMITH, AUDREY TEICH, MINDY ISACOFF
Apologies if we left anyone out!

Many many thanks to RABBANIT DINAH, who very generously picked up the entire tab!



Friendships and Community

An exploration of how friendships are sustained and sustaining throughout adulthood.
With KSS member Hedva Lewittes.

Sunday, January 7 @ 1 pm
Ben's Koshers in Woodbury

You are cordially invited to join us on Sunday, January 7, 2024, when KSS member Dr. Hedva Lewittes will explore how friendships are sustained and sustaining throughout adulthood. She will consider how community creates a space for friendships to develop and how these relationships in turn build community.

Dr. Lewittes is a Professor Emerita at SUNY Old Westbury where she taught Psychology and Education. Her article, "Just Being Friendly Means a Lot," appeared in the journal *Women and Health*. Recently she presented "Women's Friendships" at an International Conference on Aging and Social Change. Her personal essay, "In Transition, Not Seeking for Now," was published in the 2023 book *Gray Love*. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Come join us and invite your friends for food for thought and food to enjoy.

Ben's Koshers Deli, 7971 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury

January 7, 2024, 1 pm

Soup, sandwiches, all the trimmings (or salad) , coffee/ tea and rugelach

Prix fixe \$25

The Gifts Received

RABBI'S SALARY SUPPORT

GAIL SACHS

JUDY DAVIS & MORT KISSEN

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

LOIS HASS

Laser, in honor of MADELEINE LASER & TAWNEY HALL's marriage on November 5

LOIS HASS, in appreciation of your support during this difficult time

ISRAEL CONNECTIONS/JEWISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

VICKI WILSON, in honor of RABBI LINA and the beautiful ser-

mon she delivered on October 13

GENERAL FUND

MINDY ISACOFF & AUDREY TEICH, in memory of SUSAN EICHNER's siblings, ROANA RATNER and JERRY EISNER

LOIS HASS, in memory of SUSAN EICHNER's siblings, ROANA RATNER and JERRY EISNER

SCOTT & EVA ASH, in memory of SUSAN EICHNER's siblings, ROANA RATNER and JERRY EISNER

ALAN WACHTEL, for High Holidays

JUDY WINARD, in memory of ANNA PEARLMAN

ISABEL ZINMAN, for stamps for office

JANET LONDON & GERALD KREINCES, in memory of INEZ WACHTEL

BEVERLY MANNIX, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS

ELLEN LAMBERT, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS

BARBARA HELLER, in memory of SUSAN EICHNER's siblings, ROANA RATNER and JERRY EISNER

(Continued on page 10)

Rabbi Lina Zerbarini/203-915-4786
rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org

President

Vice-Presidents Judy Avidor/516-449-8521
javidorkss@gmail.com
 Alan Wachtel/631-897-5638
alanwac1@gmail.com

Treasurer Howard Globus/646-752-4620
hglobus@it-on-demand.com

Financial Secretary Barbara Heller/516-671-9571
BJHDMT@aol.com

Recording Secretary Abby Pariser/631-271-5774
abbyparis@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary Barbara Heller/516-671-9571
BJHDMT@aol.com

Past Co-Presidents Beverly Mannix/631-806-5124
bevycd@aol.com
 Gail Sachs/516-508-1978
GailatKSS@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Arlene Fell/631-423-3370
fell31@yahoo.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>

bagels & books

Our November selection, *Departure Stories: Betty Crocker made matzoh balls (and Other Lies)*, by Elisa Bernick, was the springboard for a lively discussion of families, Jewish communities, and Jewish identity. Although not what any of us would call an enjoyable read, the book opened a door into Jewish-American life outside the large Northeastern Jewish communities where most of us grew up.

In our December 17 selection, *The Dressmakers of Prospect Heights*, by Kitty Zeldis, described as “gripping historical fiction,”



three women whose lives are bound by a secret history are forced to make irreversible choices in order to survive. Moving from nineteenth-century Russia to the brothels of New Orleans in 1910, and landing in New York City in the 1920s, the author compels us to examine what it truly means to be someone’s mother or someone’s child, and whether we can ever be forgiven for the mistakes of our past.

Our schedule for the rest of the year is:

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. ❖



The Gifts Received

(Continued from page 9)

ALAN WACHTEL, for the yearzeit of ROBERTA RUTH WACHTEL

MINDY ISACOFF & AUDREY TEICH, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS

BARBARA HELLER, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS

DONALD KAPLAN, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS. May Phil’s memory be a blessing.

MICHELE GOLDFELD, in memory of PHILIP WERBLE, brother of LOIS HASS



QUESTIONS NEEDING ANSWERS

BY JUDY DAVIS

Remember Ukraine? Remember television commentators wearing flak helmets and vests with the word “PRESS” written boldly across their chests, bombs flashing in the distance, brave reporters and their camera men/women forced to move to a safer place? Houses bombed to rubble with once beloved dolls or bicycles blown to the ground signifying the flight of families from the horrors of Russian invasion...

Now, we hear of Ukraine as a potential casualty in a Congressional tug of war.

The flak-helmeted, vest-wearing PRESS moved, briefly, to Israel. CNN was surprisingly sympathetic to the suffering of Israelis. The shocking degree of barbarism visited upon young Israelis at a music festival, abducting hostages, butchering families still asleep in their kibbutzim was enough to hold the reporters’ attention until...

Israel began bombing Gaza. Once again, the exploding missiles, the buildings reduced to rubble, the suffering children...” If it bleeds, it leads.”

Now that the world’s attention has shifted to the plight of Gazans, what’s going on *within* Israel? Did you know that the entire country is still under bombardment? Both last week and this, speaking to cousins in different parts of the country, our conversations were interrupted by sirens sending them into shelters.

What do you imagine is happening to the survivors of those horrible assaults in southern Israel? Did they simply leave their bloody houses, step over body parts of their own loved ones and evacuate? Where are they now? How are they coping? Is the “humanitarian crisis” only in Gaza? What about traumatized Israelis who have been evacuated to Eilat? Can you return to a once happy home that became an abattoir? Can anyone possibly survive this kind of trauma? Does anyone care?

And what do you imagine about those who are waiting for hostages to return? What nightmares infiltrate every moment of their lives as they envision their babies, children, parents and friends

held in dank tunnels, in the hands of Hamas, fiends who have amply demonstrated their profound capacity for hatred?

Why doesn’t the U.N. insist that Hamas allow the Red Cross to see the hostages? Why isn’t the international community demanding that the Red Cross be allowed to do this? If this were any other country but Israel, the Red Cross would have already arrived!

There are discussions about the “day after” referring to the rebuilding of Gaza at the end of the war. Meanwhile, right now, Israel’s economy is being held together by duct tape. Three hundred and fifty thousand soldiers are not working at their usual jobs. Those who are still working are taking pay cuts while filling in for missing colleagues.

Even the organizations

that led forty weeks of well-behaved anti-government protest demonstrations instantly mobilized to re-organize their “army” of volunteers. The demonstrators are now providing services and supplies to plug in gaps throughout the country.

Every Israeli has joined these efforts. My seven-year-old cousin packed 300 boxes of food with her mom and others in their church group. My friend’s son, an attorney, took a half day course and is driving a truck. His wife, a doctoral level biologist, is picking tomatoes and their daughter, a student, is planting cucumbers.

Yes, there is a lot of talk of Gaza’s “day after.” Well, Israel will also have a “day after.” More than one Israeli relative has told me, “The next time you come, Israel will not be the same.”

Are any of us the same?

As a psychologist, member of a “helping profession”, how do I comprehend what happened on October 7? What conceptual framework would help me grasp how people can gleefully rape and slaughter? As an American, as a Jew, my foundations have been fractured.

We are being warned not to watch videos of October 7 because “you can’t unsee” what you

***Meanwhile, right now,
Israel’s economy is being held
together by duct tape.***

(Continued on page 12)

QUESTIONS NEEDING ANSWERS

(Continued from page 11)

have seen. We also can't "unknow" what we are only beginning to know. And we need to know it, lest our protective vigilance fail again, as it did on that day.

But there is a psychological price we pay to live with the knowledge of people, like Hamas and others, who are driven to commit abhorrent acts. Our foundations crack. We lose faith, we lose trust. And yet, as humans, as Israelis, as Jews, as Americans, somehow we aspire to retain our own humanity in the face of the inhumanity of our enemies.

The day after, the world will be a better place for the people of Gaza if they *choose* to learn to live without hatred, if UNRWA stops creating textbooks and summer camps to instruct children in cruelty. The world will help Gaza rebuild its home and maybe this time terrorists won't be there to destroy it.

Israel, ever resilient, will also have a "day after" and will restore itself with pride and ingenuity as it always has. However, the psychological price for a life-affirming people has already been immense and will echo unto future generations. Families of Holocaust survivors know this well.

Those Israeli soldiers, brave youngsters and reservists, know they are walking into the lion's jaws. They know who they are fighting and what they are fighting for. The rest of us must also learn that lesson. ❖

Israel Affairs Committee Chair Judy Davis is a regular blogger for [The Times of Israel](#), one of Israel's leading news websites. This essay appeared there on November 17.



Golden Dolphin Diner placemat

MOVIES & MUNCHIES

Golden Voices

Wednesday, December 20

7:30 pm

On Zoom

Please join us for our December Movies & Munchies night, Wednesday, December 20.

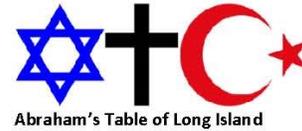
Golden Voices is a charming and bittersweet Israeli film directed by Russian emigre Evgeny Ruman. Main characters Victor and Raya Frenkel are "golden voiced" actors in their sixties. They built a shared career as the Soviet Union's most beloved film dubbers, but as the USSR collapses, the Jewish couple must emigrate to Israel and reinvent themselves. They get very little by way of support and are unable to find "golden voices" jobs. Problems ensue. The difficulty and pain of cultural displacement, of mid-life changes, and of loneliness are portrayed with a winning sense of comedy so that the film's darker moments never bear down with crushing heaviness. "It is light and breezy on the surface and actually happens to deal with weighty themes."

The film is widely available in Nassau and Suffolk libraries, as well as on Amazon Prime, Kanopy, and Hoopla. Watch at home at your convenience and then we will join together to share our thoughts.

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

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





Don't Blame Poor People: A Conference Addressing The Structural Causes of Poverty on Long Island and in New York State... A Call for Understanding and Action

**December 15, 2023 8:00AM-3:30PM
Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center
74 Hauppauge Road, Commack**

**Please Register by December 8th Registration fee \$35, pay if you can.
NO REGISTRATIONS AT THE DOOR. Register using [this link](#).**

Conference Program

Opening Plenary: *Poverty Amid Plenty: An Overview of the Structural Causes of Poverty on Long Island and in NY State*

Breakout Sessions:

- ❖ *Racism in Housing and Educational Segregation*
- ❖ *Stereotyping the Poor in Public Policies: Welfare Work Rules*
- ❖ *Environmental Devastation and Poverty*
- ❖ *The Lack of Affordable Quality Child Care*
- ❖ *Broken Criminal Justice System and Poverty*
- ❖ *Disparities in Health Care*
- ❖ *Military Spending and Poverty*
- ❖ *Low Wages, Stolen Wages, Union Busting and Poverty*
- ❖ *The Critical Shortage of Affordable Housing*
- ❖ *Broken Immigration Laws and Poverty*

Closing Plenary: *Action Steps: A Panel of Advocates*

We have assembled outstanding speakers. You can read the full conference program [here](#)

Rabbi Lina will be giving the Closing Plenary Address.

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



December 2023 Kislev/Tevet 5783



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

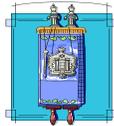
Fri

Sat



Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am

3 4

1  2 

Candlelighting
Shabbat Service
10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am
4:08

5 6 7 8 9

 Hanukkah
First Candle

 Hanukkah Potluck
6 pm
Hanukkah
Second Candle
4:07

 No scheduled service
Hanukkah
Third Candle

10  11  12  13  14  15  16 

Rosh Chodesh Group
10 am

Board Meeting
7:30 pm

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Lunch & Learn
Indigenous Long Island
12:30 pm
Hanukkah
Eighth Candle

Last Day of
Hanukkah
Candlelighting 6 pm
Newsletter Deadline
4:08

Torah Study
10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

17  18 19 20  21  22  23 

Bagels & Books
*The Dressmakers of
Prospect Heights*
10 am

Movies & Munchies
Golden Voices
7:30 pm

Lunch & Learn
Indigenous Long
Island
12:30 pm

Candlelighting
6 pm

Meditation Walk at
Target Rock NWR
10 am

4:11

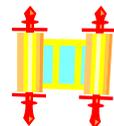
24  25 26 27 28 29  30 

Games Night and
Potluck Dinner
6 pm

No candlelighting

No scheduled service

4:15

31  1  2 3 4 5  6 

New Year's Eve

New Year's Day

Candlelighting
6 pm

Torah Study
10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am
4:21