



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום

May 2023
Iyar/Sivan 5783

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

Rabbi's Reflections

Snapshots from the Pilgrimage

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



From March 16 – 19, Scott and Eva Ash, Howard and Deborah Globus, and I joined nearly 200 others on Reconstructing Judaism's Reckoning Together: A Pilgrimage Towards Racial Justice. The Pilgrimage brought us to important sites in Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham, and Atlanta. In each place, the significant places and people with whom we interacted left deep impressions.

SNAPSHOT:

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, aka "The Lynching Memorial." It is a grey day, and misting. The grounds are beautiful – grass and flowering trees. And then I come to a sculpture of men, women, and children, chained, anguished, reaching for each other. The beauty of the grounds becomes jarring, when faced with the horror of the reality



of what I am here to acknowledge.

The center of the Memorial is the 800 rust-colored steel rectangular monuments. Each represents a county in which people were lynched. The name of the county and state is inscribed on top,



and the names of each victim with the date of their murder below. Initially, the monuments rest on the ground, but as I turn a corner, they are suspended from the ceiling, hanging just above eye level. As a body hanging from a tree. Surrounded by all of these monuments, I catch my breath.

At the end of the memorial, the same 800 monuments are laid on their sides, in alphabetical

(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)

Snapshots from the Pilgrimage

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order by state, and I realize they are in the shape of coffins.

Back on the bus, we say kaddish.

SNAPSHOT:

THE LEGACY MUSEUM: FROM ENSLAVEMENT TO MASS INCARCERATION, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

The Museum is constructed of five historical sections: Slavery, Reconstruction, Lynching, Segregation, and Mass Incarceration – plus a Reflection Room and Art Gallery. In each section, there is a theatre. In the Lynching Theatre, I watch as a community unveils a historical marker memorializing a victim of racial terror. A woman is crying, and her tears seem to reflect both the deep pain of the past and the hope of the moment that finally acknowledges the reality of history.



Leaving the Museum, I am awed by the depths of suffering and the extraordinary persistence, faith, and hope experienced and demonstrated by the Black community. This sense is only reinforced as the trip continues.

SNAPSHOT:

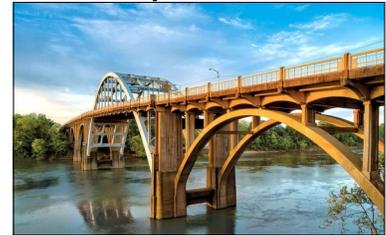
A church in Selma, Alabama. We are meeting with JoAnne Bland, who recounted her experience growing up in Selma. By the time she was 11 years old, she had been arrested thirteen times that are documented. She marched on Bloody Sunday, only to get brutally beaten, tear gassed and hit by policemen on horses with billy clubs. Her activism is not over; she continues her work.

Selma is a city of declining population and great poverty. Most storefronts are empty. A tornado struck in January, causing damage to many buildings. Ms. Bland is organizing and raising money to preserve and memorialize the civil rights history of Selma, bring economic and cultural revitalization to the city and its residents, and prepare the next generation of activists to continue the fight against racial injustice and voter suppression. She has been working for more than sixty years for her community and her country. It is an honor to be in her presence.

SNAPSHOT:

THE EDMUND PETTIS BRIDGE, SELMA, ALABAMA

We cross in silence, and, in my head, I hear the words of the song: “we are standing on holy ground.” The bridge is smaller than I’d imagined, but the sanctity it holds is overwhelming.



SNAPSHOT:

TEMPLE EMANU-EL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Bishop Calvin W. Woods speaks to us after lunch. Bishop Woods founded the Alabama Movement for Civil Rights in the 50s with the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Jr., and in the 60’s, worked closely with Dr. King until he drove King to the airport for his final trip to Memphis. His activism led to arrests and beatings by police. And yet, Bishop Woods is a joyful man. He welcomed us warmly, with song, saying that there have always been white people in the movement. He has every reason to be bitter, and he is not. He is another example of one who has experienced and witnessed the worst and yet still believes in possibility. Bishop Woods will be 90 in September, may he live and be well.

SNAPSHOT:

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Sunday service. Ebenezer is celebrating its 137th anniversary. As we enter, there are many greeters and ushers. They welcome us with enthusiasm and warmth and genuine smiles. It is an honor to attend this historic church that was once pastored by Dr. King. Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock is the Senior Pastor and he is leading the service – but not preaching; the rabbi of The Temple is preaching today. The congregations have regular pulpit exchanges and partnerships. Rabbi Berg acknowledges our presence in the balcony by noting that we have traveled from all over the country to Ebenezer, only to hear a rabbi preach!

As a part of the exchange, The Temple’s choir is singing with the church choir. And they sing a rousing song called *Up to the Mountaintop*, composed by Rabbi Micah Lapidus. You can watch the whole service and listen to the song [here](#), at 26:45. Micah is accompanying the choir on guitar – and I

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Snapshots from the Pilgrimage

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worked with him at Yale, when he was right out of college. The Jewish world is very small!



After the service, the greeters thank us for coming, as though we honored them by our presence. I was honored to be there, with them.

At Ebenezer, and throughout the trip, I felt that I was participating in a holy act. And I was. A

pilgrimage is not just a trip. One definition of pilgrimage is: “a journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion.” We were not tourists. We were traveling to sights made sacred by the blood and resistance and faith and hope of many Americans.

I honor the pain and suffering and am inspired by the hope and belief of so many in possibility of achieving the vision of the founding document of this country: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These basic truths are grounded in Torah, that all people are created *b’tzelem elohim*, in the image and likeness of the Creator.

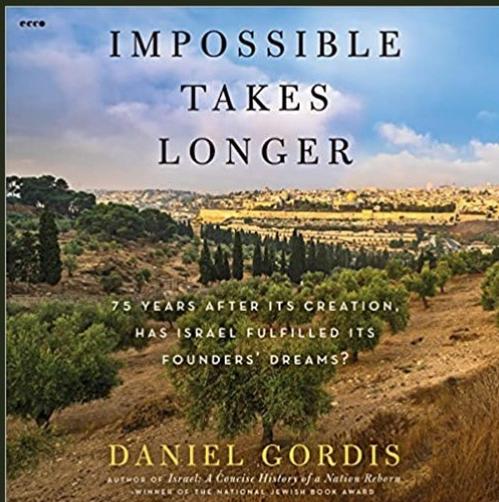
All of us who made the pilgrimage are witnesses and, as such, will live with what we heard and saw. I pray that these experiences will guide our actions.

There may be other congregational trips to these sites; if you are interested please let me know. ❖

KSS WANTS YOU!

We are seeking volunteers for all of our committees. Whether you have been a member for many years, or have just joined us recently, we can use your help in many different capacities to ensure Kehillath Shalom meets all of our members’ needs. Would you like to be a part of our board? We currently need a Recording Secretary to finish out this year until July 31, 2023. Longevity is not required. If you have ideas about rituals, including Shabbat services and holidays, fundraising, and the operation and security of the building, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Other committees include Membership, Programming, and Torah School. We also have a Committee for Racial Justice, and Israel Connections and Jewish Affairs. As it has been said, “It takes a village,” or in this case a congregation. Feel free to contact Bev (631-806-5124, bevycd@aol.com) or Gail (516-508-1978, GailatKSS@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.





Lunch & Learn

Impossible Takes Longer Israel at 75

Thursdays@12:30

Begins 5.11.23@12:30 by Zoom



In 1948, Israel's founders had much more in mind than the creation of a state. They sought not mere sovereignty, but also "a national home for the Jewish people," where Jewish life would be transformed. Did they succeed? The state they made, says Daniel Gordis, is a place of extraordinary success and maddening disappointment, a story of both unprecedented triumph and great suffering.

We will read Gordis' perspectives and share our own.

Click [here](#) for more information about the book and for purchasing options. Also available in the library.



Nedaber Ivrit!
Let's Speak Hebrew!



Conversational Hebrew group forming
All levels welcome

Contact Dinah if you would like to participate
dinahmark4@gmail.com

Wednesdays @ 1 pm in person only

ISRAEL 75 LIVE with Joel Chasnoff



Huntington Jewish Center

May 2, 2023
7:30pm

Huntington Community's Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration!



Temple Beth El
of Huntington

LIVING IN THE LAND OF MILK AND FUNNY

FREE

What's so funny about Israel? How about...everything! In *Living in the Land of Milk and Funny*, comedian Joel Chasnoff introduces audiences to the oys and joys of Israeli life, everything from supposedly English-speaking tour guides to government-sponsored Ulpan Hebrew classes and the culture shock he experiences as an *oleh hadash* (new immigrant). Unlike many Jewish comics, Joel bases his humor on real experiences and a deep love for Judaism and Israel, a love that shines through in performance.

Shavuot: Revelation & Transformation

learn, sing, pray, connect, remember, break bread
May 27@10 am@the Rabbi's



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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. ❖

Welcoming Shabbat Service and

Rosh Chodesh Group

Shavuot, Ruth, Naomi, and the Divine Feminine

Friday, May 19, 6:30 pm

Join us for a service that welcomes Shabbat and explores the feminine figures in the traditions of the day and the season: the Shabbat Queen, the Shechinah, Ruth, and Naomi.

THE SECOND NIGHT SEDER



Photos by PETER GOLLON

Caring & Sharing

We announce with sorrow the passing of longtime Kehillath Shalom member Fredarica Friedman. Our deepest condolences are extended to her family and friends. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may you know no more sorrow.

Words of comfort may be sent to Robert Friedman, 90 South Road, Port Washington 11050. The family has requested that donations in her memory be made to Kehillath Shalom.

The Gifts Received

GENERAL FUND

IRA GOODMAN, in memory of BEATRICE MARK
 JANET LONDON & JERRY KREINCES, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

BEVERLY MANNIX, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

LOIS HASS, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

DOLORES WEINBERG, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

JUDY DAVIS & MORT KISSEN, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

JUDIE GARDNER, in memory of beloved brother

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF, in loving memory of ROBBIN FLEISHER and in memory of BEATRICE MARK

CAROL BLOOMGARDEN, for yahrzeit

BARBARA KREMEN, for Passover

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BARBARA HELLER, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

RABBI'S SALARY SUPPORT

GAIL SACHS, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

ISABEL ZINMAN, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

ILEEN & MICHAEL KOENIG, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

DONATION OF STAMPS

ISABEL ZINMAN



IF YOU NEED A REPLACEMENT

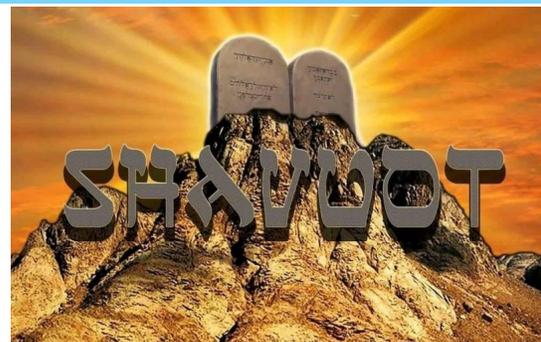
TAX DONATION LETTER

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT

KEHILLATHSHALOM@OPTONLINE.NET

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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! ❖

CRJ: The Pilgrimage Forum

The Friday Night Forum on April 21 featured five people from our congregation who journeyed to the South together to travel what is known as the Civil Rights Trail. They came as part of the “Reckoning Together: A Reconstructionist Pilgrimage Toward Racial Justice.” In three whirlwind days they visited Montgomery, Selma, Birmingham, and Atlanta.

Attending by Zoom, I took six pages of notes, and want to share just a few highlights with you on behalf of the Committee for Racial Justice.

A particularly chilling moment for me was when Rabbi Lina showed the photo she took as the bus drove past the Montgomery Alabama statehouse where, on January 14, 1963, then-Governor Wallace stood on the steps and said, “I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny...and I say...segregation now...segregation tomorrow...segregation forever.”

The tour included a visit to the National Center for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, with its immense installation leading visitors into the brutality at the heart of lynching. What distinguishes murder from lynching, we learned, is that the latter requires the presence of a representative of the state – a police officer, a government official. <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial>

Equally stirring were reflections of the walk across Selma’s Edmund Pettus bridge. There’s nothing remarkable about it, we learned: it is neither long nor scenic, just another iron bridge across the Alabama River that residents drive across multiple times a day. But has a big bow; that is, it’s steep on either side. As a result, the marchers on Bloody Sunday (March 7, 1965) couldn’t see what would meet them on the other side until they were high on the crest, and even then, they couldn’t see the forces massed on the other side until it was too late. There was no turning back: behind those in the vanguard, led by Representative John Lewis, were hundreds of others.

One of the marchers was an eleven-year-old girl, JoAnne Bland, who was there with her older sister. Both were beaten and arrested. Ms. Bland told our group, when asked what drew her to the march that day, that she used to stand outside the local luncheonette, her face pressed to the glass, watching white girls her age twirling on the stools at the lunch counter, knowing she couldn’t step inside.

There’s a debate, we learned on Friday night, about whether to rename the Pettus bridge in honor of Representative John Lewis, to honor his bravery, his sheer physical courage in leading the walk across that bridge, or to leave its current name. Look up Edmund Pettus. On Wikipedia you will learn that he was a US Senator, a general in the Confederate Army, that “After the war, he was politically active in the [Ku Klux Klan](#), a domestic terrorist, racist and antisemitic organization, serving as a [Grand Dragon](#)...” “The bridge was named for him, in part, to memorialize his history, of restraining and imprisoning African-Americans in their quest for freedom after the Civil War.”

We learned so much more during the Forum, and I want to thank those who spoke. You seared your experiences into my heart and I won’t forget your recollections. Thanks to all who attended in person as I couldn’t. I had goosebumps the entire time. There is much work to be done.

bagels & books

Our April book, *The Other Einstein*, by Marie Benedict, received mixed reviews, issue being taken with the author’s premise that Albert Einstein’s first wife, Mileva, came up with the Theory of Relativity, rather than the Nobel Prize-winning physicist himself. However much truth there is in that, and we agreed that that is unknowable, there was general agreement that it was an interesting read.

Our May 21 book is *The Vanished Collection*, by Pauline Baer de Perignon, the author’s account of her attempt to find out what happened to her family’s art collection, including works by Renoir, Monet, Degas, Tiepolo, and more. Along with her many discoveries about her family’s history, she reconsiders what the family’s long-abandoned Jewish heritage means for her. *Publishers Weekly* said, “This page-turner will delight art history and mystery fans alike.”

For the rest of the year, we will read:

June 25 — *A Bend in the Stars*, by Rachel Bar-enbaum

As of this writing, we are undecided as to whether we will be in person or Zooming, so be sure to watch TWAKS and email for info. ❖



Roberta Israeloff

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



Memories After My Death: The Story of My Father, Joseph "Tommy" Lapid, by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid
SUNDAY, November 20, 10 am

Joint Session with **bagels & books**

Israel and the Middle East: What American Media Don't Tell You
Saturday, December 17, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

A Special Forum from the Israeli American Council (IAC) Summit 2023 in Austin, TX
Saturday, January 21, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East
Saturday, March 25, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Ten Years of Forums: What We've Learned and What's Next
Saturday, May 6, 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, 6:30

(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



May 2023 Jyar/Sivan 5783



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am

2



3

Living in the Land of
Milk and Funny
HJC 7:30 pm



4

Conversational
Hebrew with Dinah
1 pm



5

Lunch & Learn
Jewish Humor
12:30 pm



6

Soup Shabbat
6:30 pm



Tefilah 10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am

7:36

7

8

9



Lag B'Omer
Board Dinner
6:30 pm
Board Meeting
7:30 pm

10



Conversational
Hebrew with Dinah
1 pm

11



Lunch & Learn
Impossible Takes
Longer
12:30 pm

12



Candlelighting
On Zoom
6:30 pm

13



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am
Torah School

7:43

14



Mothers Day

15



16

Committee for Racial
Justice
7:30 pm

17



Conversational
Hebrew with Dinah
1 pm

18



Lunch & Learn
Impossible Takes
Longer
12:30 pm

19



Welcoming Shabbat
Service and Rosh
Chodesh Group
6:30 pm

20



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am
Meditation Service

Food Drive

7:50

21



Bagels & Books
10 am @KSS
The Vanished
Collection
Food Drive

22

23

24



Conversational
Hebrew with Dinah
1 pm

25



Lunch & Learn
Impossible Takes
Longer
12:30 pm

26



Candlelighting
On Zoom 6:30 pm

27



Shavuot Study and
Festival Service with
Yizkor at Rabbi Lina's
10 am

7:56

28

29



Memorial Day

30

No Morning
Gathering

31

No Conversational
Hebrew

1



Lunch & Learn
Impossible Takes
Longer
12:30 pm

2



Soup Shabbat
6:30 pm

3



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am
Learners' Service

4



Adult Ed.
10 am—noon

5

6



Board Meeting
7:30 pm

7



Conversational
Hebrew with Dinah
1 pm

8



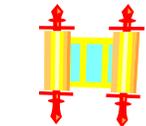
Lunch & Learn
Impossible Takes
Longer
12:30 pm

9



Candlelighting
On Zoom 6:30 pm

10



Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am

8:06