



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום



RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

December 2022
Kislev/Tevet 5783

Rabbi's Reflections

Israeli Elections: Fighting for What We Love

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



Last month, Israel held its fifth elections in four years. After having a couple of governments in which right and center parties shared leadership, last month saw the election of right and ultra-right parties. Likud, headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, won the most seats. Likud is center-right, and has, at times, including recently, created unity governments with center-left parties. This time, Likud allied itself with far-right and religious parties, leading many Israelis to raise concerns about civil rights for minorities of all types.

Shortly after last month's election, I had the opportunity to be with Rabbi Mikie Goldstein, who is Senior Director of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel and director of Religious Services for the Masorti Movement (the Conservative movement in Israel; *Masorti* means "Traditional"). He shared his deep concern for well-being of non-Orthodox streams of Judaism. In Israel, religious programs and services are often funded. It has only been recently, and after much struggle, that non-

Orthodox Jewish programs have received any support. Given the strength of the religious parties, which include a politician who has called Reform Judaism "a fake religion," the threat to continued support is real.

*It is possible that Israel is
not immune to the global
wave of populism and
authoritarianism.*

Recent weeks have seen calls for changes to the 1950 Law of Return that states: "The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of the exiles." It left open the definition of who is a Jew, and amendments to the law followed. In 1970, a Jew was defined as one who was born to a Jewish mother (the traditional

halachic/legal definition) or converted, while not being a member of another religion. In addition, the Law of Return was extended to anyone who has a Jewish parent or grandparent, and anyone whose spouse has a Jewish parent or grandparent.

As part of coalition negotiations with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, the Religious Zion-

(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=MoZVcHlRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnZUT09)

[pwd=MoZVcHlRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnZUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265226225?pwd=MoZVcHlRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlnZUT09)

Israeli Elections: Fighting for What We Love

(Continued from page 1)

ism party, Shas, and United Torah Judaism are demanding changes to the Law. Their first demand is to remove the law's "grandchild clause" which states that anyone with a Jewish grandparent is eligible to immigrate to Israel. Instead, the religious parties want to limit immigration to those with at least one Jewish parent.

In addition to canceling the "grandchild clause," the religious parties are also demanding to only recognize Orthodox conversions for purposes of citizenship. This would mean that those who converted through the Reform or Conservative movements would not be eligible to make aliyah. Israel has accepted Reform, Reconstructionist, and Conservative conversions for citizenship purposes (if not for Jewish status) since 1989.

New members of the incoming coalition have called for a rolling back of LGBTQ rights. Bezalel Smotrich, the head of the Religious Zionist party, identifies himself as a "proud homophobe." Incoming ministers are calling for an end to Pride Parades, cutting of funding to support programs for LGBTQ youth, once again permitting conversion therapy, and the return to Israel as a "normal" country by not tolerating public support of the LGBTQ community.

In addition to Jewish religious and sexual minorities, many are concerned about the current government's relationship to non-Jewish Israelis. More than one-fifth of Israelis are Arab citizens. The new Knesset includes members whose rhetoric often focuses on the alleged security threat posed by Arab Israelis and suggests real limits to their role in Israel, in the words of one: "It's time that we returned to being the masters of the house over our own country."

It is possible that Israel is not immune to the global wave of populism and authoritarianism. It is impacting the United States, and countries in Europe, South America, Asia – why not Israel? Just as concerns about weakening democracy are on our minds here, so, too, on the agenda of new members of Knesset are legal reforms that would undermine the independence of the Supreme Court and attorney general, making both more beholden to the government.

There is much about which to be concerned – including the impact that such a government will have on relationships with Jews and others throughout the world. But there are many in Israel who will fight for the Zionism of the signers of the Israeli Declaration of Independence:

The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the In-gathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

My friend Rabbi Avi Rose (in 2007, he and his husband became the first Israeli citizens to have their same-sex marriage certificate from abroad recognized in Israel) said after the election: "We can't be complacent anymore. The privilege of complacency has come to an end. That has to be the message of this election. You have to fight for what you want."

Israel is a land, a state, a people, that I love. This is a time to deepen connection – not to pull away. I am thrilled that Kehillath Shalom members will travel to Israel in February. It's not too late to join us! We will see, learn, talk to people, and experience for ourselves what many have only heard about from afar.

In the words of Psalm 122:

Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem;
May those who love you be at peace.
May there be well-being within your
ramparts,
peace in your citadels.
For the sake of my kin and friends,
I pray for your well-being;
for the sake of the house of the Holy
One our God,
I seek your good. ❖



Jerusalem Pride Parade, 2021.

The Jerusalem Post, Tzvi Ioffre

From the Presidents

The December Dilemma

BY BEV MANNIX

Have you ever noticed that when you wake up on July 5th, suddenly “it’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas?” TV commercials start advertising the latest technology in Christmas lighting and trees. Christmas merchandise starts creeping into stores. There is such an abundance of commercialism surrounding the holiday that many Jewish people, including myself, feel we have to compete with our Christian brethren when it comes to gift giving for our children.

And then there is all that controversy over wishing folks “Happy Holidays.” I personally ask people what they celebrate before offering a holiday greeting so as not to say the wrong thing. I have found that most salespersons in stores or anywhere I go, though, will just wish me a Merry Christmas. And of course there is that one news station that will remain nameless, that says every year we are killing Christmas by using that non-denominational greeting of Happy Holidays. On the other hand, Jon Stewart replied many years ago on the Daily Show that if you walk around New York City in December it is literally throwing up Christmas.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that a tree is not a religious symbol but a cultural practice. In other words, Christian cultural practices such as Christmas trees in public places are not religious but secular. Does this support America as a Christian nation and the rest of us are being alienated? The same holds true for a menorah in public spaces when placed next to a tree. It is then a secular symbol. Do you remember when a tree was set on fire not too long ago outside of the Fox TV studio? They wanted the perpetrator to be charged with a hate crime in addition to vandalism and arson. They went so far as to claim it was an attack on Christianity. So what

happened to the ruling that a tree is a secular symbol?

In some communities they justify a public tree by placing blue and white ornaments on it or hanging dreidels from the branches. But the bottom line to me is that a Jewish symbol is being placed on a Christian symbol. I for one find this insulting.

Another pet peeve of mine is when folks say Chanukah comes early in a particular year. Actually, it is always the 25th of Kislev. No Jewish holiday comes early or late according to the Jewish calendar.

I seem to always get excited when I see a Chanukah display, however small, in a store or public space. Of course, those feelings are overpowered by all the Christmas items. When my daughter first moved to Chicago, she excitedly called me to let me know a large menorah was in Lincoln Square next to the Christmas tree. Just recently I was shopping in a Hallmark store in Farmingdale and felt that same gratification that a few menorahs and blue and white paper goods were displayed at the end of an aisle. But it should be the norm to see Chanukah items, as well as other religions’ symbols in New York or Chicago and not a pleasant surprise. I guess this will always be a dilemma for the Jewish population. And given the climate of the present Supreme Court, Christmas trees will

probably always be considered secular or cultural symbols that should be enjoyed by everyone. Kaye Bender Rembaum, Attorneys At Law best summed it up in 2013 by stating, “The rules of kindergarten work best: treat everyone fairly and treat them as you would want to be treated. In the meantime, please pass the latkes and eggnog.” ❖



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



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

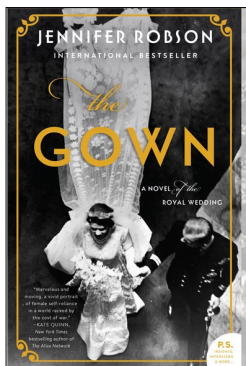
So, follow this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/11-2202419 or go directly to AmazonSmile. You will be guided through a series of easy steps to help you select **Kehillath Shalom Synagogue** as your designated organization. Every time you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon sets aside a small percentage of its proceeds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

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

bagels & books

Our November joint session with the Israel Committee, featuring a discussion of *Memories After My Death*, Yair Lapid's biography of his father, Joseph "Tommy" Lapid, was, in the words of one participant, our "best Nissim collaboration ever." Another participant called Nissim's job "outstanding" and the book and discussion "informative and enjoyable." Written in the first person, as if Tommy Lapid had written it himself, the book is a fascinating read about a remarkable man, and gave us all insights into aspects of Israeli life that were unfamiliar to most of us. Highly recommended, and many thanks again to Nissim for his informative presentation and for being so insistent that we read it, despite the limited number of copies available.

Our December 18 book is *The Gown*, by Jennifer Robson. In post-war London, still struggling with rationing and other hardships, Ann Hughes and Holocaust survivor Miriam Dassin, embroiderers working for couturier Norman Hartnell, are chosen to help create Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown. In 2016 in Toronto, Heather Mackenzie seeks to unravel the mystery of the priceless embroideries left by her grandmother. "[A] gripping portrait of the aftermath of a war too often romanticized."



For the rest of the year, we will read:

January 22 — *The Choice*, by Edith Eva Eger

February 19 — *The Oracle of Stamboul*, by Michael David Lukas

March 19 — *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*, by Menachem Kaiser

April 16 — *The Other Einstein*, by Heather Terrell

May 21 — *The Vanished Collection*, by Pauline Baer de Perignon

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. ❖



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COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Commack Corners

(se corner of
Jericho Turnpike & Commack Road)

Monday, December 19

7 pm

Latkes, donuts, dreidels,
chocolate gelt, music, and more!

All welcome! Bring your kids!



Kehillah Shalom

GAMES NIGHT

Saturday, December 24

7:30 pm

Let's play some games!



Challenging games

Silly games

Old games

New games

Bring your favorites to teach others



EVERYONE IS WELCOME — KIDS, GRANDKIDS, FRIENDS

Not just Sorry, Monopoly, or Battleships!

Exploding Kittens!

Cards Against Humanity!

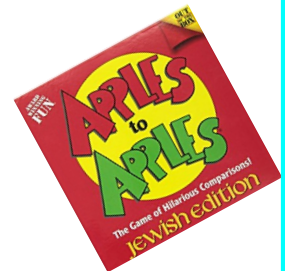
Apples to Apples, Jewish edition!

And more!



BRING A DESSERT OR BEVERAGE

RSVP a MUST! abbyparis@aol.com



SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Soup Shabbat 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Learners' Service

Torah Portion: Vayetze, Genesis

28:10—32:3

Jacob's dream. Jacob marries Leah and Rachel.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Meditation Walk at Target Rock 10 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 16

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Tefilah 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

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 23

Haukkah Potluck, Games, and Candlelighting 6:30 pm



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Bat Mitzvah of Talia Aguirre

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 30

No Candlelighting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

No scheduled service

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. ❖



Hanukkah Celebration!

Lights & Laughter & Latkes
Bring Food to Share

Friday, 12.23@6:30 pm



**KEHILLATH
SHALOM
SYNAGOGUE**

The Gifts Received

GENERAL FUND

JUDY WINARD, in memory of ANNA PEARLMAN

AUDREY TEICH, in memory of ANN PISA-RELLI, mother of KARIN SABBETH

LOIS HASS, in memory of ANN PISA-RELLI, mother of KARIN SABBETH

SUE MCGUIRE, in memory of FRED WEINBERG

SUE MCGUIRE, in memory of her beloved mother, RUTH RIFKIN

SUE MCGUIRE, in memory of her beloved mother-in-law, EVELYN MCGUIRE WALSH

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BARBARA HELLER, in memory of ANN PISA-RELLI, mother of KARIN SABBETH

SHAREN LEIBOWITZ, in appreciation for the use of the chuppah poles for the wedding of BARBARA HELLER's granddaughter



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 kehillath-shalom@optonline.net.

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

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖



MOVIES & MUNCHIES

The Last Suit

Wednesday, December 21

7:30 pm

On Zoom

The Last Suit (El Último Traje) is a heart-warming comedy/drama directed by Pablo Solarz.



We meet Abraham Bursztein, an 88-year-old Jewish tailor living in Argentina, who needs something to live for. He believes he will find it in Poland. Abraham runs away from Buenos Aires and his children who want to place him in a nursing home. He will try to find his old friend who saved him from death at the end of World War II. Abraham desperately wants

to keep his promise to return some day. One critic wrote, "Pablo Solarz' script is a multi-layered masterpiece."

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

We will be meeting (on Zoom) on Wednesday evening, December 21 at 7:30 PM. Log-on info to follow; watch TWAKS and your email.

The DVD is available in Nassau and Suffolk county libraries, and on Tubi. Watch at home at your convenience and then we will join together to share our thoughts.

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

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. ❖

MEET THE BAT MITZVAH

Our December 24 Bat Mitzvah, Talia Aguirre, is the daughter of Karin Sab-beth (Scott Bauman) and David Aguirre (Marissa Aguirre). An eighth-grader at Northport Middle School, she shares her homes with pets Dexter, Moon-pie, Molly, Floyd, Socks, Milo, Alcott, Lt. Dan, and Maggie. In her free time, Talia enjoys cooking, creating art, spending time in the woods, reading, making and listening to music, watching old movies and listening to old radio stories, and applying makeup and learning new techniques. Her favorite food is strawberries, and her favorite Broadway show is *Dear Evan Hansen*. Favorite movies are *The Goldfinch*, *Juno*, and *Girl, Interrupted*; and favorite books are *The Red Tent*, *The Goldfinch*, and *When You Reach Me*.



Talia is choosing to become a Bat Mitzvah to connect with her culture, her ancestors, and her birthright. Her Mitzvah Project is an interview with *New York Times* columnist Jessica Grose about her grandparents, who survived the Holocaust.

We encourage all our members to come to Shabbat services on December 24, either in person or on Zoom, to support Talia and celebrate with her and her family on this important, joyous simcha.

Mazel Tov, Talia! ❖

Nedaber Ivrit! Let's Speak Hebrew!

**Conversational Hebrew Group Forming.
All levels welcome.**

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





Suffolk Y JCC Celebrate Israel at 75 Community-Wide **Jerusalem** **LEGO® Build**

You're invited to help build one of the
LARGEST REPLICAS of Jerusalem all out of LEGO®!

100,000 LEGO Bricks!
400 Square foot Build!
Lead by a Master Lego Builder and Architect
Family Fun for EVERYONE!

Sunday, **December 4**, 2022 | 1:30-4:00 pm

\$10 per builder or \$40 per family
Space is limited.

Reserve your spot today!

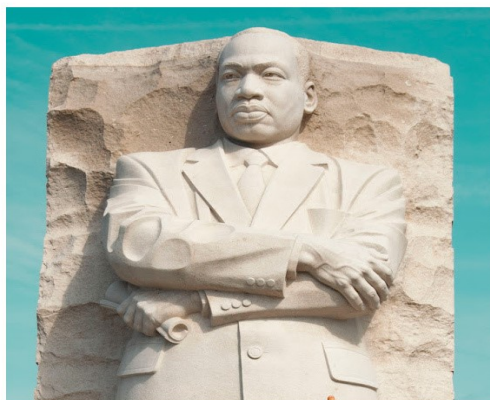


Thank you to our Community Partners: B'nai Israel Reform Temple, Oakdale ■ Chabad of Mid-Suffolk, Commack
Dix Hills Jewish Center ■ East Northport Jewish Center ■ Huntington Jewish Center ■ Kehillath Shalom Synagogue, Cold Spring Harbor
North Shore Jewish Center, Port Jefferson Station ■ Melville Jewish Center ■ Temple Beth David, Commack
Temple Beth El of Huntington ■ Temple Beth Torah, Melville ■ Temple Isaiah, Stony Brook ■ The Chai Center of Dix Hills

Questions? **Sheila Goloboy**, 631.462.9800 x151 | sgoloboy@syjcc.org



74 Hauppauge Rd, Commack, NY
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Save the Date!

**Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr.
Day of Service**

Monday, 1.16.23
Details TBA



**KEHILLATH
SHALOM
SYNAGOGUE**

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

The Reasons for Founding the Modern State of Israel

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, April 29, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

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



Lunch & Learn

Kaplan, Democracy, & Social Justice

Thursdays@12:30

Begins 11.3.22@12:30 by Zoom



In 1945, Mordecai Kaplan echoed FDR in saying that America had proven to be an “arsenal of democracy.” He was a believer in and optimist about American democracy’s potential to enable the flourishing of the Jewish community as both Americans and Jews. Today, many Americans are concerned that the strength of the arsenal is waning. In this class, we will explore Kaplan’s teachings as well as contemporary Jewish approaches to how our community can strengthen and be strengthened by democracy.

COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

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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. ❖

Let's Light Candles Together



Friday evenings, 6:30

(When nothing else is scheduled)

We'll share, sing, and bring Shabbat peace.

Join Zoom Meeting by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/88265226225>

Or Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225,
Password 046 425

We will learn, study, share, pray.
As usual, come for Torah Study or Service or Both!

Join Zoom Meeting by computer:
<https://zoom.us/j/88265226225>

Or phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225,
Password 046 425

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue



**Shabbat Morning
Torah Study 10 am
Service 11:15 am**

Morning Gathering Stillness, Meditation, Blessings

Morning Gathering: Tuesday & Friday Mornings at 8 am
Establish a strong, centered, calm foundation for the day.
Join Zoom Meeting by computer <https://zoom.us/j/788752335>
or by phone: 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 882 6522 6225, Password 046 425



December 2022

Kislev/Tevet 5782



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1



2



3



Lunch & Learn
Kaplan, Democracy,
& Social Justice
12:30 pm Zoom

Soup Shabbat
6:30 pm

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

4:08

4



5

6

7

8



9



10



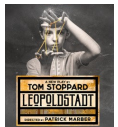
Lunch & Learn
Kaplan, Democracy,
& Social Justice
12:30 pm Zoom

Candlelighting
6:30 pm on Zoom

Meditation Walk @
Target Rock NWR
10 am

4:07

11



12

13



14

15



16



17



Lunch & Learn
Kaplan, Democracy,
& Social Justice
12:30 pm Zoom

Candlelighting
6:30 pm on Zoom

Tefilah 10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am

4:09

18



19



20



21



22



23



24



Lunch & Learn
Kaplan, Democracy,
& Social Justice
12:30 pm Zoom

Hanukkah Potluck,
Games, and Candle-
lighting 6:30 pm

Torah Study 10 am
Tefilah 11:15 am
Bat Mitzvah of
Talía Aguirre
Game Night 7:30 pm

4:12

25



26

27

28

29

30



31



No candlelighting

No scheduled service

4:16 New Year's Eve

1



2

3

4

5



6



7



Lunch & Learn
12:30 pm

Soup Shabbat
6:30 pm

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

4:23

New Year's Day