



kehillath shalom newsletter

קהילת שלום



RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM
Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

February 2025
Shevat 5785

Rabbi's Reflections



Tu BiShevat is Here!

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI

ט"ו בשבט הגיע חג לאילנות

Tu BiShevat higia, chag la'ilanot!

Tu BiShevat is here, the holiday of the trees!

Tu BiShevat falls on, naturally, the 15th of the month of Shevat (ט= 9, י= 6) which, this year, coincides with February 17. The Fifteenth of Shevat is first mentioned in the Mishnah as Rosh HaShanah for the Trees, essentially a tax day for fruit-bearing trees. This "holiday" was transformed in the fifteenth century by the Kabbalists of Tzfat, who created the Tu BiShevat seder and who saw in the tree the symbol of divine manifestation in the world.

In more recent years, Tu BiShevat has become an opportunity for connection to the Land of Israel and to the environment. Due to my own proclivities, I have been drawn to the day as the kabbalists interpreted: as a moment to more fully connect with the flow of energy from the Source of All as experienced through the fruits of the physical world.

But this year the world is literally

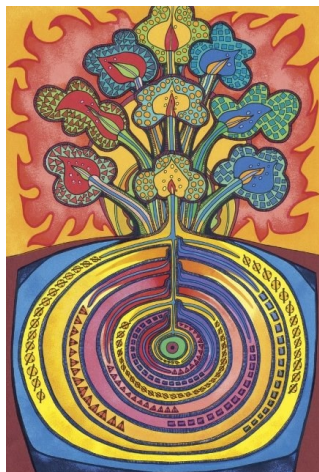
on fire. We all watched with horror as entire neighborhoods went up in flames in Los Angeles. At our sister congregation, Kehillat Israel in Pacific Palisades, all three rabbis lost their homes, as did more than 300 families. One of my brother's dear friends is among those members whose home is gone; [this article](#) in *The Forward* recounts their experience, providing a snapshot of the devastation of that community; the whole town is gone.

As is Altadena. It's hard to imagine the totality of that loss.

And it's not just fires. In September, Hurricane Helene killed more than 241 people and caused tremendous destruction in western North Carolina, killing at least 104 people and causing tremendous destruction. While Appalachia has historically been impacted by hurricanes, Helene brought one and a half times more moisture to western North Carolina than in *any* prior recorded event in the region. Several towns were entirely wiped out.

The New York Times reported that

(Continued on page 2)



Art by David Friedman of Tzfat, Israel

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)

Tu BiShevat is Here!

(Continued from page 1)

“an international team of scientists estimated that the storm dumped 10 percent more rain than a similarly extreme storm would have done in cooler times. As it roared ashore, its winds were about 13 miles per hour more intense. And the ocean waters from which the storm drew energy were around 2.3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer.”

This is what living on a warming planet/warmed planet looks like: more frequent and intense weather, including fires, flooding, drought, etc. We are living in a climate that has already changed.

Yet the new administration opposes any attempts to address the issue and, in fact, rejects the concept entirely. On his first day in office, the President signed a number of executive orders gutting US efforts to slow or reverse climate change.

Jakir Manela of Adamah, the largest Jewish environmental organization in North America, wrote: “All things in life come to an end: people and plants and animals, relationships and communities, jobs and presidencies and governments and empires and civilizations. Rocks and mountains and streams. Even the sun has a shelf life. Nothing lasts forever.”

How to deal with this difficult reality? He invites us to:

Trust the Grief. We are strong enough to face the truth of this time and wise enough to learn from it, to change our behavior, to grow through crisis.

Pray. For rain in Southern California. For hearts and minds to change.

Have Faith. Give Thanks. The outpouring of love, support, and mutual care in Los Angeles has been beautiful. And we learn from nature, from G!d’s Creation, that death and loss are inextricably interwoven with rebirth. Always there will be rebirth, always something new will come....that’s what Tu BiShevat is about too, coming soon: the nascent spring, first blossoms, sap rising amidst the dark and cold. Like the precious return of loved ones to their families. Like the end of war and the prayer for peace.

Come Together.

I invite you to join us on **Tu BiShevat** for our annual **Seder and Luncheon on Shabbat morning, February 15**. We will practice these suggestions, giving voice to our sadness, praying for change and for strength to act, deepening our own faith and that of each other as we join together in care and love and hope. ❖

Book Open House!



Take Home a Book!
Friday, 1.31: 9:30 - 1:30
Sunday, 2.2: 10:30 - 1:30





Tu BiShevat Seder & Shabbat Celebration

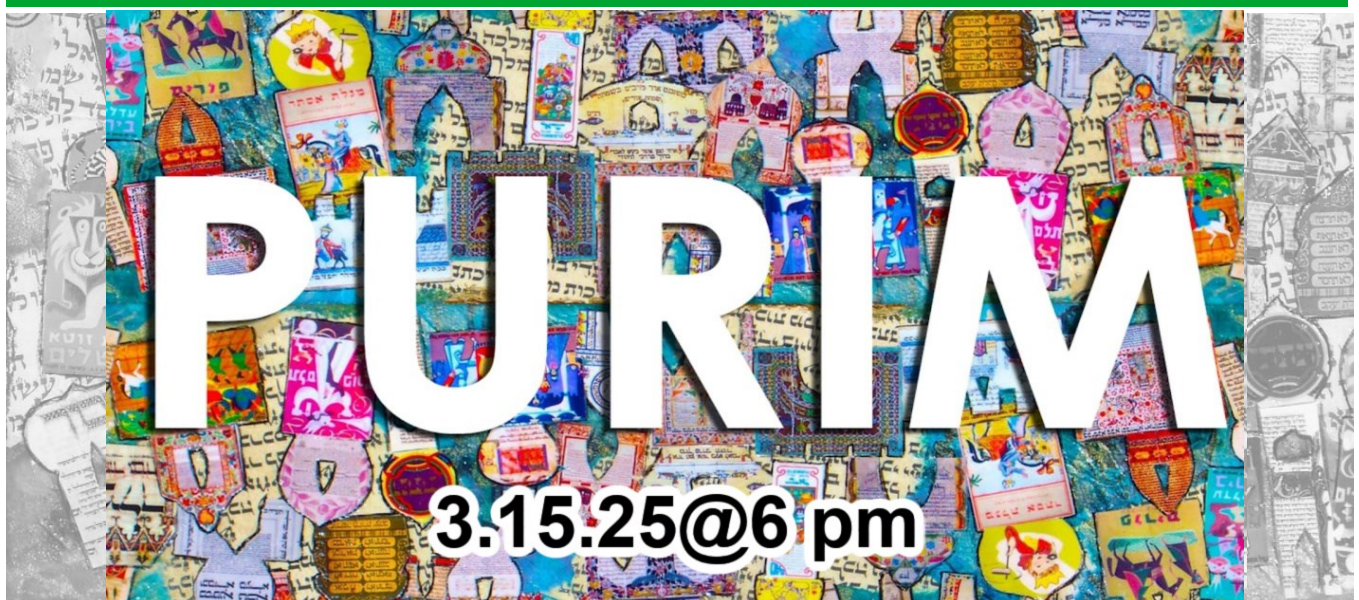
Shabbat 2.15.25
10 am
in-person & by zoom

Tu BiShevat is: Trees
Tu BiShevat is: the Environment
Tu BiShevat is: Israel
Tu BiShevat is: New Life
Tu BiShevat is: Fruit of the Tree and Fruit of the Vine
Tu BiShevat is: For All of Us!

Tu BiShevat Seder & Luncheon

Conversation, Song, & Planting
(please bring cardboard tp or paper towel rolls)
We'll Share Lunch Together - Please Bring a Dish

RSVP to rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org by February 13th.



Soup Shabbat

2.7.25@6 pm

**Conversation, challah
friendship & song**

Join us for Shabbat songs & prayers, conversation.

Rabbi Lina brings soup, challah, and dessert - you bring yourself!

And, if you like, salad or fruit or a sweet.

RSVP by Wednesday, February 5 to rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org.

COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIP	Barbara Heller	bjhdm1@aol.com
RITUAL	David Schwartz	DavidSchwartz210@gmail.com
	Abby Pariser	abbyparis@aol.com
FUNDRAISING	Abby Pariser	abbyparis@aol.com
	Scott Ash	ashs3@verizon.net
ISRAEL CONNECTIONS & JEWISH AFFAIRS	Judy Davis	JDavis4727@aol.com
HOUSE	Cliff Broffman	cliffbroffman@gmail.com
SECURITY	Alan Wachtel	alanwac1@gmail.com
CARING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING & COMMUNICATIONS	Scott Ash	ashs3@verizon.net
RACIAL JUSTICE	Roberta Israeloff	r.israeloff@gmail.com

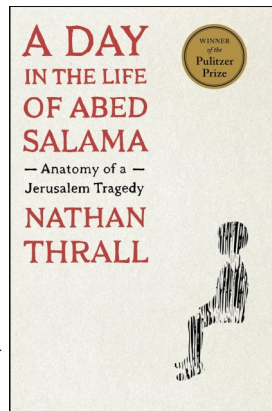
SUBCOMMITTEE OF SOCIAL ACTION

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. ❖

bagels & books

Our January discussion of *Kantika*, Elizabeth Graver's fictionalized account of her grandmother Rebecca's life, met with near-universal approval and high praise. We explored family history, the boundaries between reality and imagination, and our own backgrounds, in some ways directly related to the Levy family's. Both the written and audio versions had different enriching material to offer. Definitely a book to recommend.

Our February 16 selection is the Pulitzer Prize winner, *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*, by Nathan Thrall. This indelibly human profile of Abed Salama, a Palestinian phone company worker and political activist, on the day when his five-year-old son was in a traffic accident near Jerusalem, opens a unique window onto the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The book offers a new understanding of the tragic history and reality of one of the most contested places on earth. Best Book of the Year: *The New Yorker*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *The New Republic*.



For the rest of the year, we will be reading:

March 23 — *Leaving Eastern Parkway*, by Matthew Daub

April 27 — *Künstlers in Paradise*, by Cathleen Schine

May 18 — *Altneuland*, by Theodor Herzl

June 22 — *The Wind Knows My Name*, by Isabel Allende

Watch TWAKS and your email for location and Zoom 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. ❖



MOVIES & MUNCHIES

One Week and a Day

Wednesday, February 19

7:30 pm

At the home of Lois Hass

One Week and a Day is an “incredibly tactful” debut tragicomedy (2016) by Israeli writer/director Asaph Polonsky. It is an unusual comedy about loss and grieving which takes place after two parents try to find the answer of what to do the day/days immediately following observing their seven days of shiva. As the film follows these characters, it becomes an unexpected quirky comedy. We don't witness tear-gushing sadness. *One Week and a Day* gradually “crescendos with the beauty of unexpected compassion, all while recognizing the stark reality that life goes on, no matter who dies.” In most movies about loss and grief, you expect the characters to cry. In this story about loss you wait for them to laugh. This movie ultimately concerns one's attitude about life.



The trailer is available [here](#).

The DVD is widely available in Nassau and Suffolk libraries, as well as streaming free on Kanopy, which is available through your library. Watch at home and then join us for a lively discussion.

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



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 (4589)! It won't work!

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖



Lunch & Learn

Tomer Devorah The Date Palm of Deborah begins January 2



Ethics and mysticism are often seen as entirely separate realms of religious life. The former deals with our conduct in this world and our relationships to other people, whereas the latter strives for transcendence into the divine realm to have a direct experience of God. A unique text by the 16th century kabbalist Rabbi Moshe Cordovero combines the two to forge a program of "kabbalistic ethics" based on the principle of Imitating God. The text can be found [here](#), at Sefaria.org.

Opt In for KSS Texts

As you probably know, from time to time we send texts about upcoming events and current announcements. Because of new regulations, it is necessary for **everyone** to opt in again to receiving texts, *regardless of how long you have been a KSS community member.*

What you need to do: Text the word **YES** to **87447**. That's it! Going forward you will continue to receive KSS texts of exciting news and urgent announcements.

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 Isabel Zinman/631-412-3561
isabelzinmankss@gmail.com
Recording Secretary Abby Pariser/631-271-5774
abbyparis@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary Beverly Mannix/631-806-5124
bevycd@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/631-220 3452
fell31@yahoo.com
Office Manager 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>

SHABBAT SERVICES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Shabbat Service 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Bo*, Exodus 10:1-13:16

The last two plagues: locusts and the slaying of the first-born. The first Passover and the departure from Egypt.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Soup Shabbat 6 pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Torah Study 10 am

Shabbat Service 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *B'shallach*, Exodus 13:17-17:16

The parting of the Sea of Reeds. The *Song of the Sea*. God provides manna, including double portions for Shabbat.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Tu BiShevat Seder & Luncheon 10 am

Torah Portion: *Yitro*, Exodus 18:1-20:23

Moses sets up a system for settling disputes, relieving himself of some of the burden of moral guardianship. The Israelites arrive at Sinai. God tells Moses and Aaron to ascend the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Torah Study 10 am

Meditation Service 11:15 am

Torah Portion: *Mishpatim*, Exodus 21:1-24:18

Moses ascends Sinai, spending forty days and nights there, and receiving the law. Many important laws are mentioned in this section and the holidays of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot are established.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Candlelighting 6 pm

The Members Brunch

Sunday, February 23

11:30 am



Ready for a mid-winter pickup? Feeling house bound? Missing seeing each other in person, instead of on Zoom? We're coming together for a late morning event.

Mark your calendar and join us for an elegant brunch and good company.

RSVP to kehillathshalom@optonline.net or 631.367.4589 by Tuesday, February 18.

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



Israel at War: Summary and What's Next

Saturday, November 16, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Israel and the Middle East: What American Media Don't Tell You

Saturday, December 14, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East

Saturday, February 1, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Israel and the Middle East: What American Media Don't Tell You

Saturday, March 8, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Joint Session of bagels & books and The Israel Forum
***Altneuland (Old New Land)*, by Theodor Herzl**

Sunday, May 18, 10 am

Note: This book is available free online at <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/quot-altneuland-quot-theodor-herzl> and <https://archive.org/details/TheodorHerz/AutneulandTevAviv/page/n1/mode/2up>. It is also available on Amazon.

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.

By Zoom

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

Join us on Zoom
if you can't come in person

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

February 2025

Shevat 5785



Sun

Mon

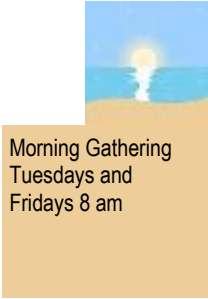
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Morning Gathering
Tuesdays and
Fridays 8 am

1



Shabbat Service
10 am
Israel Forum
11:15 am

2

3

4

5

6



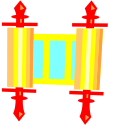
Lunch & Learn
12:30—2 pm
Tomer Devorah

7



Soup Shabbat 6 pm

8



Torah Study 10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

5:01

9

10

11



Board Meeting
7:30 pm

12

13



Lunch & Learn
12:30—2 pm
Tomer Devorah

14



Candlelighting 6 pm

15



Tu BiShevat Seder &
Luncheon 10 am

Newsletter Deadline

5:09

16



Bagels & Books
10 am
*A Day in the Life of
Abed Salama*

17



Presidents Day

18

19



Movies & Munchies
7:30 pm
A Week and a Day

20



Lunch & Learn
12:30—2 pm
Tomer Devorah

21



Candlelighting 6 pm

22



Torah Study 10 am
Meditation Service
11:15 am

5:18

23



Members' Brunch
11:30 am

24

25

No Morning
Gathering

26

27

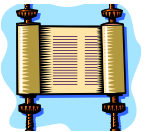
No Lunch & Learn

28



No Morning
Gathering

1



Torah Study 10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

Candlelighting 6 pm
5:26

2

3

4

No Morning
Gathering

5

6

No Lunch & Learn

7



No Morning
Gathering

8



Torah Study 10 am
Shabbat Service
11:15 am

Candlelighting 6 pm
5:34