



January 2023  
Tevet/Shevat 5783

# kehillath shalom newsletter קהילת שלום



RECONSTRUCTING  
JUDAISM  
Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

## Rabbi's Reflections

# A Response to Hate

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



This year, Abraham's Table, the Long Island multi-faith organization, is planning a variety of activities during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend on this weekend that would have been Dr. King's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are calling the commemoration: Becoming A Beloved Community...A Long Island Interfaith Response to Hate.

The mission of Abraham's Table Long Island is "to create a spirit of common heritage, peace, and cooperation while respecting the uniqueness of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions." Since coming to KSS, I have participated annually in Abraham's Table's MLK commemorations. This year's commemoration is more extensive in response to increased hateful rhetoric and incidents. Hate is again on the rise, across the United States and here on Long Island.

Despite the fact that many hate crimes go unreported, U.S. Department of Justice data show that in New York State hate crimes rose by 31 percent between 2018 and 2020.

- In April of this year, the ADL reported that New York State led the nation in antisemitic acts.

- In late July, vicious antisemitic flyers were distributed on lawns in Rockville Centre.
- On July 4, a firebomb was thrown at a sacred symbol in front of Fatima Al-Zahra Mosque in Ronkonkoma.
- In February, a Bayport man was charged with sending dozens of hate-filled letters to Long Island LGBTQ organizations.

- In January, a Long Island couple faced hate-crime charges after they verbally harassed a Black family.

When the Nazis unleashed their reign of terror against

Jews, most of the key faith leaders in Germany at that time were silent. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was one of the few Germans who denounced Nazi hatred of the Jews. Pastor Bonhoeffer said this of Nazi hatred: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." As *Time* magazine reported in an article commemorating Kristallnacht, "The Holocaust didn't start



(Continued on page 2)

**One link, One Meeting ID#, for MOST KSS meetings!**

**Meeting ID#: 882 6522 6225**

**Password: 046 425**

**By Phone: 1 646 558 8656**

**or click this link:**

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

# A Response to Hate

(Continued from page 1)

with killing; it started with words.”

I write this on the first night of Hanukkah, when my colleagues across faith and ethnic groups are reaching out to send wishes of blessing to the Jewish community, in much greater numbers than I have seen in the past. It is quite heartwarming and comforting. These are colleagues whose communities have seen increased hate speech directed against them, as well. On Long Island, we know that we need to come together. The only way to fight hatred is through solidarity.

Another German Lutheran minister, Martin Niemöller, wrote words that are so familiar that they might seem cliché:

First, they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist  
Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist  
Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist  
Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew  
Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me

Despite the familiarity of the words, we should not tune them out. We must care for the vulnerable other both simply because they are vulnerable, and also in our own interest. Some have said to me, why focus on other communities when ours is in need? And especially when some of the hatred is coming from the other communities?

A world that is unsafe for Asian Americans, or Black Americans, or Muslim Americans is also unsafe for Jews. Hillel spoke to this almost two thousand years before Niemöller:

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?  
And when I am for myself alone, what am I?  
And if not now, then when?

We must understand: there's no such thing as “Black antisemitism,” in the same way that there is

no such thing as “Jewish racism.” There is racism and there is antisemitism, and these affect and implicate all of us. None of us are immune, and we work to overcome and raise awareness of the pervasive biases in our environments and to repair the systemic inequities in our society. We must be for ourselves, and we must be for each other.

In 2010, I had the opportunity to bring Calvin Ramsey's play, *The Green Book*, to Yale University. The play illustrates the complications and complexity of African-American life during the Jim Crow era and presents a dramatic intersection of the lives of a Holocaust survivor and an African-American salesman. It takes its title from *The Green Book*, published 1936-1963, which listed roadside accommodations that served African Americans.

Over twenty years ago, Calvin brought *The Green Book* back to the public arena. His children's book, *Ruth and the Green Book*, inspired the Academy Award-winning film, *The Green Book*. He reached out to me a few months ago and I am pleased that he will be coming to KSS on MLK Weekend. He will be in conversation with us over dinner on **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**. He will speak with us about his play and the real people who inspired its characters. [RSVP to me](#) by Thursday, January 12. RSVP essential! On Monday morning, he will offer a reading and conversation about *Ruth and the Green Book* in conjunction with our MLK Day of Service. Following his presentation, we will be making a meal for the guests of Helping Hands Rescue Mission. Program begins at 9:30 am; [RSVP to me](#). This will be one of many opportunities offered by the Abraham's Table community that weekend.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has always spoken deeply to me, as an American. King did not despair of what America could be. Even in times of racial terror, violence, segregation, and inequality, he believed we could be better and we could do better. He believed we could become a “beloved community.” In this, he echoes the Hebrew prophets, and Jewish tradition, which tells us it is forbidden to despair and calls us to work to build a better world.

Last month, I was in Washington, DC, for the first time in a long while and had the opportunity to see the [MLK Memorial](#) for the first time. As I

(Continued on page 3)



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From the Co-Presidents

# Looking Back, Looking Forward

BY GAIL SACHS

**FIRST, LET ME WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND JOYOUS 2023!**

This year, I am looking forward to working with all of you to make significant strides in our shared goal. Our Jewish calendar and its observances are designed to encourage warmth, happiness and positivity in our lives as Jewish people and families. A major purpose of our synagogue is to encourage these so important aspects of life in our synagogue community. Please help this happen by participating as much as possible in all our synagogue programs.

First, let's celebrate all our KSS accomplishments of 2022: our holiday celebrations; Shabbat services and Torah study; our ongoing Bagels & Books, Movies & Munchies, Rosh Chodesh, and Lunch & Learn programs; several B'nai Mitzvah; Israel Forums; CRJ movies, Meditation Walks, Zoom Candlelighting, and more, plus special events such as Trivia Night, the Membership Cooking Event, the Welcome Back Sha-bar-beque, Adult Ed classes, food drives, and our Broadway trip to see Tom Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt*, to mention a few. I hope you all found time to partici-

pate in at least some of these events; we truly had something for everyone.

In the new (secular) year, just in January we have:

5 — a new topic in Lunch & Learn, "Torah of the Mothers"

8 — Adult Ed, Jewish Prayer, Part 2

14 — *The Green Book*, a dramatic reading

16 — MLK Jr Day of Service

24 — the Board's first Strategic Planning Workshop

28 — Shabbat Meditative Service

29 — Membership Cooking Demonstration

More to come every month!

Plus, of course, all our regular happenings: Shabbat services and Torah study, Candlelighting, Morning Gathering, Soup Shabbat, Bagels & Books, and Rosh Chodesh.

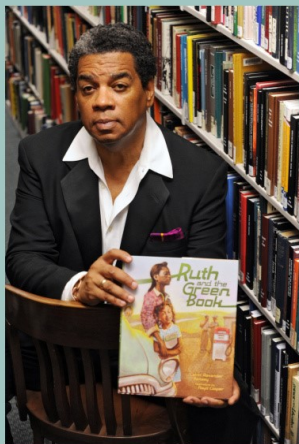
Kehillath Shalom has so much to offer: give yourself a gift for the new year and take part in some of our enriching and enlightening events. ❖

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## A Response to Hate

(Continued from page 2)

approached it, I saw the carving of his figure out of stone. Behind his figure, there are two large stones flanked by marble with many of his famous quotes. Walking around, I did not understand the large stones. They had no words on them and were generally uncarved. As I walked around, I came to the back of the stone out of which King is carved. On its side is written: "out of the mountain of despair a



**The Green Book:**  
**A Dinner Conversation with**  
**Calvin Alexander Ramsey**  
**Sunday, January 15th@5 pm**



stone of hope." This quote is from the speech King gave at the March on Washington in 1963: "We will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope." And from the back, it is clear that the stone from which King's figure is carved, came from the two large stones behind it. Truly, from despair, came hope. May we be inspired, once again, to hope, and to act, for all of us. ❖

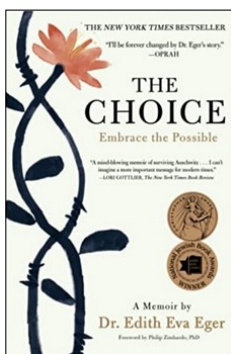
***RSVP essential to Rabbi Lina by Thursday, January 12***



# bagels & books

Jennifer Robson's *The Gown*, our December book, met with near-universal approval. The lively discussion touched on personal stories of the war years, needlecrafts done by many of us, wedding gowns we have known and worn, as well as deep speculation as to the motivations of characters in the story. All in all, an excellent session.

Our January 22 selection is *The Choice*, by Edith Eva Eger. More than a memoir by a Holocaust survivor and psychologist, this book is an exploration of the healing potential of choice. "It is a work of art. It gave me goosebumps, the kind that grace you in transcendent moments of appreciating a Mozart sonata, an Elizabeth Barrett Browning sonnet, or the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel." A National Jewish Book Award winner.



For the rest of the year, we will read:

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. ❖



Roman amphitheater at Beit She'an, Israel

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## The Gifts Received

### GENERAL FUND

BARBARA FEDER-MURDOCK  
SCOTT, EVA, & DANIEL ASH  
MARIE & JACK KORN

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MARIE & JACK KORN, music for tea

### RABBI'S SALARY FUND

SCOTT, EVA, & DANIEL ASH

### LANDSCAPING

MARIE & JACK KORN



# SHABBAT SERVICES

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Soup Shabbat 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Learners' 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.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion: Shemot, Exodus 1:1—6:1

The enslavement of Israel; birth and early life of Moses, up to his return to Egypt to free his people.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

Welcoming Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Tefilah 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 am

Torah Portion: Vaera, Exodus 6:2—9:35

God tells Moses and Aaron to free the Israelites. The first eight plagues.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Meditation Service 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. ❖



## Lunch & Learn Torah of the Mothers

**Begins 1.5.23@12:30 by Zoom**



Proverbs 1:8 says: Heed, my child, the *mussar* (teaching, discipline) of your father, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother.

What is the Torah of the Mother? Is it different from the Torah of the fathers?

This class will explore women's traditions in Judaism – folk traditions, theologies, prayers, practices. Is the Judaism that was passed on by your mother any different than what you inherited from your father? Do you wonder if your grandmothers or great-grandmothers had practices that have been lost?

Begins January 5@12:30. Not for women only.

## **Adult Ed: Jewish Prayer, Pt. II**



What is Jewish Prayer?  
Is there a difference between  
Prayer and Liturgy?  
How do you pray?  
How would you like to pray?

**Sunday, January 8, from 10 - 12**

Do you pray? How does your prayer overlap, if at all, with “services”? What did the rabbis have in mind when they created Jewish liturgy? How might it express the prayers of your soul?

Traditional Jewish liturgy is like going to the Philharmonic – the more you know about it, the more you get out of it. And we must continue to reconstruct it – what are we called to do to make our prayers sing?

Join us on Sunday, January 8 from 10 – 12 at KSS or on Zoom for the second section of our year-long study on Jewish Prayer & Liturgy.

## **Cooking Demo & Tasting**

**Sunday, 1/29 @ 2 pm**

Once again we are happy to announce the return of Amanda Greenawalt, the home chef who, last year, demonstrated cooking techniques and prepared delicious treats that we were all able to sample and enjoy. In addition to sharing the recipes, she regaled us with little-known cooking tips.

What will she cook for us this time? Look for the announcement.

Lighten the winter gloom and join us. We are limiting the number of in-person attendees to twelve in order to maintain safe spacing. RSVP to the office to save your space.

There will be a \$10 registration fee to cover food costs.





Abraham's Table of Long Island

*"Come together and listen." Genesis 49:2*

**Abraham's Table of Long Island Invites Your Participation In:**



## **BECOMING A BELOVED COMMUNITY... A LONG ISLAND INTERFAITH RESPONSE TO HATE**

**Martin Luther King Weekend - January 13-16, 2023**

*In Dr. King's Beloved Community "all forms of bigotry ... will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood."*

Abraham's Table of Long Island has formed an interfaith coalition - already numbering some 50 congregations and organizations - that are planning activities during MLK weekend 2023 responding to rising hatred on Long Island.

Participating congregations and organizations will be offered a toolkit with a menu of activities that can be selected for MLK weekend, including interfaith prayers, reflections, sermon notes and readings for bulletin inserts or group discussions about:

- Understanding and Responding to Hate Crimes
- How to Combat On-Line Hate
- How to Identify and Overcome Implicit Bias
- Ways to Fight Hate
- How to Love a Hateful Person
- A Guide to a Non-Judgmental Approach of Conversation
- Resources to Help Children Cope with Hate

If you would like to join this Beloved Community coalition and receive a copy of the toolkit, please contact Richard Koubek, Chair of Abraham's Table, at: [rkmicahli@gmail.com](mailto:rkmicahli@gmail.com) or call 631-499-6725

## *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](mailto:kehillath-shalom@optonline.net).

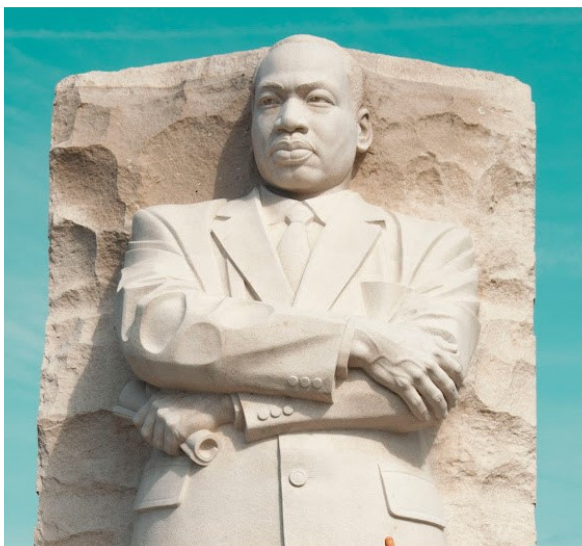
**Note: Do NOT Zelle to the office phone! It won't work!**

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖

## *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](http://skaggsvalsh.com). ❖



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

**Monday, 1.16@9:30 am**



MLK Day was established to be a national day of service: “a day on, not a day off.” Join us at KSS to learn and to do. We will begin with a reading and conversation with Calvin Alexander Ramsey, author of *Ruth and the Green Book*, followed by preparing soup, sandwiches, and cupcakes for Helping Hands Rescue Mission’s Tuesday lunch program. RSVP to Rabbi Lina. Children and adults welcome.



**Nedaber Ivrit!  
Let's Speak Hebrew!**



**Conversational Hebrew group forming  
All levels welcome**

**Contact Dinah if you would like to participate  
[dinahmark4@gmail.com](mailto:dinahmark4@gmail.com)**

**First class Wednesday, January 4 @ 1 pm @ KSS  
In-person only**



# Tu BiShevat Seder

**Shabbat, February 4 @ 10 am**

**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 Service & Seder: Shabbat, February 4@10 am**

**Kehillath Shalom Synagogue**

## **Soup Shabbat**

**Songs, Soup, Friendship  
First Fridays**



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

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



# Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Wednesday, January 25

7:30 pm

## Rosh Chodesh: Welcoming the New Month

Welcome the Month of Shevat with an exploration of the power and importance of friendship in our lives. We will view the documentary short *Chavruta: A Drummer's Bat Mitzvah*. By Portland, Oregon-based filmmaker Jodi Darby, with drummer/ecologist Lisa Schonberg and musician/Torah teacher Alicia Jo Rabins, CHAVRUTA follows Lisa and Alicia as they trade rock drum lessons for Torah chanting lessons in a feminist project combining ritual, study and art, culminating in Lisa's adult bat mitzvah.

### COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

MEMBERSHIP	Barbara Heller	<a href="mailto:bjhdm1@aol.com">bjhdm1@aol.com</a>
	Audrey Teich	<a href="mailto:aktcs1@aol.com">aktcs1@aol.com</a>
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	Scott Ash	<a href="mailto:ashs3@verizon.net">ashs3@verizon.net</a>
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RACIAL JUSTICE	Roberta Israeloff	<a href="mailto:rsis@optonline.net">rsis@optonline.net</a>

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



# January 2023

## Tevet/Shevat 5783



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 2



New Year's Day

3

4



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

5



Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

6



Soup Shabbat  
6:30 pm

7



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

4:23

8 9



Adult Ed  
Jewish Prayer, Part 2  
10 am—noon

10



Board Meeting  
7:30 pm

11



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

12



Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

13



Candlelighting  
6:30 pm on Zoom

14



Torah Study 10 am  
Tefilah 11:15 am

4:30

15 16



Dinner with Calvin  
Ramsey 5 pm

Newsletter Deadline



Reading and MLK  
Day of Service  
9:30 am  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day

17

18



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

19



Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

20



Welcoming Shabbat  
Service 6:30 pm

21



Tefilah 10 am  
Israel Forum  
11:15 am

4:38

22 23



Bagels & Books  
*The Choice*  
10 am



Rosh Chodesh  
Shevat

24



Strategic Planning  
Board Discussion  
7:30 pm

25



Rosh Chodesh Group  
7:30 pm  
Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

26



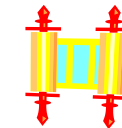
Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

27



Candlelighting  
6:30 pm on Zoom

28



Torah Study 10 am  
Meditation Service  
11:15 am

4:46

29 30



Membership Cooking  
Demo 2 pm

31

1



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

2



Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

3



Soup Shabbat  
6:30 pm

4



Tu B'Shevat Seder  
10 am

4:55

5 6

7

8

9



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

10



Lunch & Learn  
Torah of the Mothers  
12:30 pm

11



Candlelighting  
6:30 pm on Zoom

12



Torah Study 10 am  
Tefilah 11:15 am  
Learners' Service  
(Religion & Science  
Week)

5:04