



# kehillath shalom newsletter

# קהילת שלום

June 2023

Sivan/Tammuz 5783



RECONSTRUCTING  
JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

## Rabbi's Reflections

# This Summer in Jerusalem!

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



And Tel Aviv, and Tzfat, and Haifa, and Kfar HaOranim, and.....

Before Mother's Day, Dinah called Marcella Sharist, her "second mother" in Holon. Then she spoke with the rest of the family – her "little brother" Moishale, his wife, and their kids. They all said: when are you coming?

In 1961, the Marculescus (as they were then known) arrived in Israel. They were sent to Kiryat Shmona, a small community on the Lebanon border. Kiryat Shmona was a "development town," a newly built community used to settle immigrants, principally from Yemen and Romania, then later from North Africa, especially Morocco. At the time, the town was a muddy outpost. Beatrice, who had dressed 3-year-old Dinah in a white dress for the auspicious occasion of arrival to Israel, cried.

The next morning, Dinah's dad, Juju (pronounced *Yoo-zhoo*), went out to look around and heard a man calling: does anyone know Juju Marculescu? He replied, I am Juju Marculescu!

The man had been sent by Juju's sister to bring the family to her in Tel Aviv. They were out of Kiryat Shmona after one night!



The balconies of the Sharists' and Marks' building in Holon.

Some days later, the Marculescus were exploring Holon, looking at neighborhoods to settle. As they passed in front of a building, voices called from the balcony: Romanians? The Sharists told them there was an available apartment in the building and invited them upstairs to look and visit. From this moment, they were family.

When the Sharists said to Dinah, when are you coming?, I said, let's go! When previously discussing our summer plans, I had said: I am tired. I want to sit by a lake for a week. I do not want to schlep.

But going to Israel is different. I do not go to Israel as a tourist (despite my tourist visa), but as a pilgrim, as a returnee, as a friend. I lived and studied in Israel for extended periods on several occasions and had neighborhoods I knew, stores I shopped at, synagogues I attended, routes I walked regularly. I long to retread those paths

*(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)**

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# This Summer in Jerusalem!

(Continued from page 1)

down memory lane, visit with teachers and friends and colleagues, see what has changed, and learn new things.

But going to Israel is a feeling beyond the specialness of returning to a place I lived and loved. We tend not to call Israel “the Holy Land” in our regular conversation, but I find it to be just that. Not holy because a divine being pointed a heavenly finger at this patch of the globe and declared it so (although, who knows?), but holy because, as the Israeli Declaration of Independence begins: *the Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.*

Holy because our ancestors walked the same ground, because we can even see the things they built and touched hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

Holy because of all the love and prayers our people poured into it, praying for the peace of Jerusalem, saying: next year in Jerusalem, donating their meager coins to support those living there, even well before there was a state.

Holy because people speak Hebrew, the language of our ancestors! Because they follow the Jewish calendar. Because the culture (and the food!) of Israel reflects the diversity of its inhabitants – Jews from all over the world and Palestinians and all those who come to Israel to pray and study.

Holy because it has been a refuge for our people.

Holy because of the extraordinary people who live there, taking full responsibility the Jewish people for the first time in nearly 2000 years.

Holy because of the beauty, from the mountains of Tzfat, where the prayers of Jewish mystics seem to hover in the air like fog, to the coastline of Mediterranean Sea, to the waterfalls of Ein Gedi, to stark landscapes of the Judean and Negev deserts.

These words might seem startling in the difficult times in which we live. Israel, like many places, including the US, seems to be going in a terrible direction: more nationalism, more racism, more religious coercion. The possibility of two states on that plot of land claimed by two peoples seems to be a vanishing hope.

Despite this reality, or perhaps even because of it, I am thrilled to go. It is a place I love. And so, as with loved ones, I want to maintain connection, even when I do not always agree with the choices they make. Even when their choices leave me anxious and afraid.

In Jewish tradition, when we haven’t seen a friend in a year, we say a blessing: Blessed is the one who raises the dead. Not because we thought our friend was dead and now we know they are not, but because our friend brings to life something that is only activated in that relationship.

Israel, the Holy Land, has a deep place in my heart. I look forward to its enlivening. ❖

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## 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? 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, [bevyd@aol.com](mailto:bevyd@aol.com)) or Gail (516-508-1978, [GailatKSS@gmail.com](mailto:GailatKSS@gmail.com)). We would love to hear from you.



# How I Got Here

BY BEV MANNIX

As I complete my second year as co-president, I realize that I have been a member of KSS for ten years. Looking back, I began to reflect on how I got here. I am the original wandering Jew, which is so fitting since my maiden name is Moses and it has taken about forty years for me to get to this point.

When I was looking for a synagogue for my son to start his Jewish education, I joined a small Orthodox shul. I will admit this was largely based on their membership fee, which was much lower than the Reform and Conservative synagogues in my neighborhood. The preschool program was fine but I was uncomfortable attending High Holiday services. My then-husband did not attend and even though Matt was only about 4 years old, he wanted to go with me. I was told he had to sit on the other side of the *mechitzah* (curtain separating men from women) with the men. I was not happy with this. Matt cooperated without making much of a fuss but he wanted to be with me and did not want to attend services the second day of Rosh Hashanah. I left Matt home with his dad and I attended the rest of the High Holiday services alone. After Matt finished up that year of preschool Jewish education, I did not join again and I did not take part in any Jewish community.

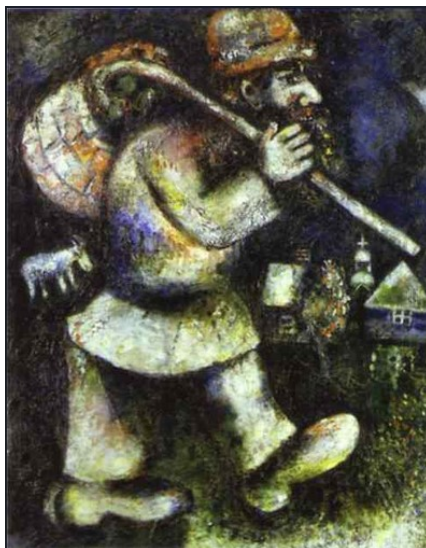
When Matt reached age 9, I realized I had to get him involved in a Jewish educational program. I had no thoughts or knowledge about Torah or any holiday services other than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. My choice of synagogues again was based on cost, and the Reform temple started a year later than the Conservative synagogue. Matt did enjoy his Hebrew school experience and Sara was also an eager participant when she began. I did not get involved in any committees or attend any holiday services other than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As time moved along and I was now separated from my husband, I thought I would see what was going on at my synagogue. My kids were old enough to be home by themselves and I started

taking some of the adult education courses that were offered. The instructor told me about a Torah study group that was separate from the Saturday morning Shabbat service, which was just for the B'nai Mitzvah families and their guests. I found the Torah study group very interesting, and the services were lay-led by the participants in the group. We each took turns leading the *parshah* discussion and the service. I became more and more involved at that Temple, attending Friday night services each week, and other holiday services throughout the year. I joined several committees including membership, oneg, mitzvah day and eventually became the chairperson of each of them.

During this time, I met John and we were married by the rabbi at Milleridge Inn because that congregation would not allow me to get married in the synagogue since John was not Jewish. This bothered me as I was so active and my children had both continued their Jewish education up to twelfth grade. I even wrote a letter to the rabbi but was told it was board policy with no exceptions; it was suggested that I propose to the board a vote to change the policy at the next congregational meeting the following year. The rabbi also told me he doubted it would even pass. I did have a lovely wedding and two weeks later I ran into the rabbi in Costco. I was quite dismayed when he could not remember my name. It was then that I decided I was ready to leave that synagogue and move on.

I Googled synagogues within a half-hour drive from my home. Now I really became a wandering Jew "trying out" different synagogues from Chabad to a small *chavurah*. In each case I did not feel connected or that I fit in. Every synagogue I called gave me basic information and what the dues would be. That was all. But when I left a message at Kehillath Shalom, a very nice lady named Barbara, the membership chairperson, called me back. We talked for a long time and it turned out we were in the same profession



*The Wandering Jew, Marc Chagall, 1925*

(Continued on page 4)





## **Kehillath Shalom Synagogue**

### **Pride Shabbat Service & Presentation**

### **Our Youth & Our Schools**

**Friday, June 23@6:30 pm \* in-person & zoom**  
**info: [rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org](mailto:rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org)**

Questions of LGBTQ identity and children are in the media every day, but we rarely hear perspectives of youth and those who work with them. How are young people relating to issues of gender and sexual identity? How are schools supporting them, or not? Join us to hear from people in schools every day.

#### **Speakers:**

**Eric Rubin Perez, Guidance Counselor, NYC Board of Education and Parent, Huntington Schools. Co-Founder, Huntington Family Pride**

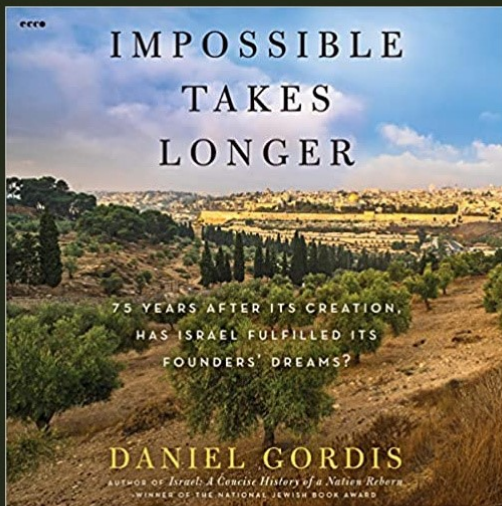
**Talia Aguirre, Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Grader, Harborfields High School. Member Kehillath Shalom Synagogue**

## How I Got Here

*(Continued from page 3)*

and knew some of the same people. She invited me to come to a High Holiday service and said I should look for a tall person. Of course, that is almost everybody compared to me! Everyone was so friendly and I noticed that so many folks were given honors during the service. That really impressed me. It seemed at my old synagogue that honors were given only to a select few. Barbara invited me to many functions throughout the year and each time I felt very welcomed by the congregants. It turned out I knew one of the congregants from a support group I had been in years ago and I had connections to another congregant from my job. It was *bashert*, and the following autumn I became a member of Kehillath Shalom.

I joined the Ritual Committee and told the chair, Gail, I was a good worker bee but did not want to chair anything. The next year I became co-chairperson with Gail. I joined a few other committees, got more and more active, and now ten years later Gail and I are co-presidents. This wandering Jew took a long journey to get here and I am so glad to have ended my search at Kehillath Shalom Synagogue, where everybody knows your name. ❖



## **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](mailto:dinahmark4@gmail.com)**

**Wednesdays @ 1 pm in person only**



# MEET THE BAT MITZVAH: KAILEN LEVITT

KAILEN STOVER LEVITT, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 17, shares her home with Mom Wren and Dad Josh, big brother Jacob, and dog Buttercup. She is just finishing 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School. Her favorite activities are singing, dancing, acting, and golf, and she recently performed in the musical *Matilda* in the role of Mrs. Wormwood (Matilda's mother.) Her favorite food is artichokes.

For her Mitzvah Project, Kailen is making and selling these gorgeous hand-made soaps; proceeds will be donated to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, a cause very dear to her heart. These beautiful soaps are \$5 each, two for \$9, and if you would like to decorate your bathroom and support Kailen, you can contact Wren at [levittw7@gmail.com](mailto:levittw7@gmail.com).



Mazel tov to Kailen and the entire family! ❖

## COMMITTEES AND CONTACTS

### MEMBERSHIP

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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. ❖

# The Gifts Received

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

ROBERTA ISRAELOFF

## HIGH HOLIDAYS CANTOR

GAIL SACHS

## GENERAL FUND

RITA & RALPH FENDERSON, for the yahrzeit of her beloved father, GEORG JULIUSBURGER

GLENDA KUPERSMITH, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

DINAH MARK, in memory of her beloved father, JOSEPH MARK

JUDITH WINARD, in memory of SANFORD WINARD

DOLORES WEINBERG, for Spring Clean-up and Landscaping

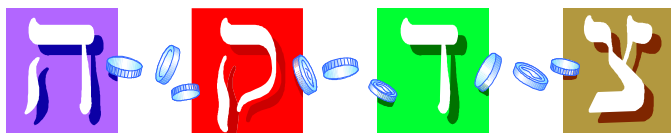
VICKI & DAVID SCHWARTZ, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

RITA & RALPH FENDERSON, in memory of BEATRICE MARK

RITA & RALPH FENDERSON, in memory of FREDDIE FRIEDMAN

## ISRAEL CONNECTIONS/JEWISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUDY DAVIS & MORT KISSEN, in memory of her beloved son, HOWARD M. DAVIS



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATION  
MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 PM

Election of Officers

Budget Approval

Other Business

This is Your Community!

Come and Make Your Voice Heard!

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[rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org](mailto:rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org)

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IF YOU NEED A REPLACEMENT  
TAX DONATION LETTER  
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT  
[KEHILLATHSHALOM@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:KEHILLATHSHALOM@OPTONLINE.NET)

## 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](mailto:kehillathshalom@optonline.net).

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

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖

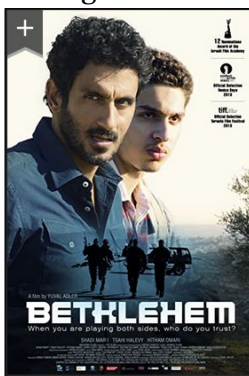
## MOVIES & MUNCHIES

### *Bethlehem*

**Monday, June 26**

**7:30 pm**

Please join us for our June Movies & Munchies discussion of *Bethlehem*, directed by Yuval Adler, which tells the story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant. Shuttling back and



forth between conflicting points of view, the film is a raw portrayal of characters torn apart by competing loyalties and impossible moral dilemmas, giving an unparalleled glimpse into the dark and fascinating world of human intelligence.

*Bethlehem* received the Israeli Film Academy's awards for Best Film, Best Director, Best

Screenplay, Best Supporting Actor, Best Casting and Best Editing, and was nominated in six additional categories as well. Additional awards were received at several international film festivals.

"A tightly wound, clock-ticking thriller." *Variety*

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

We will be meeting on **Monday** evening, June 26 at 7:30 PM. Note **Monday**, not our usual Wednesday! We are tentatively planning to meet in person; watch your email and TWAKS for details.

The DVD is available in Nassau and Suffolk county libraries, and may be rented for \$2.99 on Amazon. Watch at home at your convenience and then we will join together to share our thoughts.

RSVP [LoisH4@aol.com](mailto:LoisH4@aol.com), 516-364-0265 or [DoloresW324@aol.com](mailto:DoloresW324@aol.com), 631-643-2645. ❖

## RABBI AWAY JULY 9-31

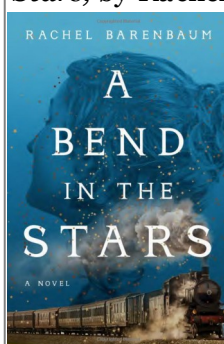
Rabbi Lina will be away from July 9-31. In Israel!

During that time, if you should need the services of a rabbi, contact our Office Manager, Pam, at [out.n.about@juno.com](mailto:out.n.about@juno.com), [kehillathshalom@optonline.net](mailto:kehillathshalom@optonline.net), or 631-367-4589. She will have emergency contact information.

## bagels & books

There were almost universal positive responses to our May book, Pauline Baer de Perignon's *The Vanished Collection*, and we had a lively discussion touching on the Holocaust, family heritage, memories, and more. Additionally, we had the pleasure of a hybrid in-person/Zoom session at KSS, with a potluck brunch. Thanks to Barbara Kremen for handling the tech end, and to Dolores Weinberg (as usual) for background info, and to Arlene Fell for additional background and for finding two excellent videos.

Our last book of the year will be *A Bend in the Stars*, by Rachel Barenbaum. In 1914, Russia was



on the brink of war, and Albert Einstein was on the brink of proving his theory of relativity. Intertwining these two threads, the novel centers on physicist Vanya Abramov and his sister, Miri, one of Russia's first female surgeons. It is somehow a history of science, a story of injustice, a romance novel, and an adventure tale all at once. *The New York*

*Journal of Books* said, "It is impossible to read this book without thinking about the current resurgence of anti-Semitism and distrust of science we are witnessing today."

We expect to be meeting in person on June 25 at 10 am; watch TWAKS and your email for further information.

As usual, we will be meeting over the summer to select our reading list for the coming year. Our general guidelines are that books be "by Jewish authors and/or of Jewish interest." If you would like to suggest titles for our consideration, please email Dolores, [doloresw324@aol.com](mailto:doloresw324@aol.com) or Arlene, [fell31@yahoo.com](mailto:fell31@yahoo.com) with your suggestions. ❖



## July Dates to Note

July 1	No Shabbat Service
July 9-31	Rabbi Lina away
July 11	Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
July 16	Rosh Chodesh Group
July 26	Tisha b'Av with other congregations
	Morning Gathering July 7 only
	No Lunch & Learn in July



# SHABBAT SERVICES

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Soup Shabbat 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

*We will continue learning Samuel this month, but it is impossible to know ahead of time exactly what we will be reading on a specific Shabbat.*

Tefilah 11:15 am

Learners Service

Torah Portion: *Naso*, Numbers 4:21—7:89

God gives Moses instructions to take a census of the Gershonites and Merarites. Aaron is to inform them of their duties to the Tent of Meeting. Moses is to remove any “unclean” members of the camp. God tells Moses the punishments for violations of certain laws. Finally, Moses and Aaron are given a prayer to bless the Israelites.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Torah Study (Prophets) 10 am

Tefilah 11:15 am

Torah Portion:

*Beha'alotcha*, Numbers 8:1—12:16

God tells Moses to set the Levites apart. The people begin to voice discontent and Moses tires of the burden of leadership. God sends quail to satisfy the people, but

then sends a plague for their greed.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Candlelighting on Zoom 6:30 pm

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Torah Study (Prophets) **9:30 am**

Tefilah 10:30 am approximately

Bat Mitzvah of Kailen Levitt

All congregants are encouraged to attend and celebrate the Bat Mitzvah!

Torah Portion: *Beha'alotcha*, Numbers 8:1—12:16

God tells Moses to set the Levites apart. The people begin to voice discontent and Moses tires of the burden of leadership. God sends quail to satisfy the people, but then sends a plague for their greed.



## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

Pride Shabbat 6:30 pm

Our Youth and Our Schools

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Meditation Walk at Target Rock NWR

Torah Portion: *Korach*, Numbers 16:1—18:32

A rebellion, led by Korach, questions Moses' and Aaron's leadership. The earth opens and swallows the leaders of the rebellion.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30

No Candlelighting ❖

## Rosh Chodesh Group

# WELCOMING TAMMUZ

**Tuesday, June 20 @ 7:30 pm on Zoom**

Deborah Globus and Eileen Gruber will host our monthly gathering of support and connection.

## 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





# June 2023

## Sivan/Tammuz 5783



Sun

Mon

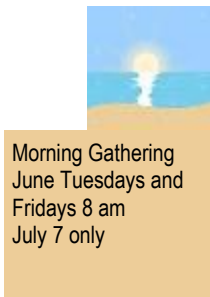
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



Morning Gathering  
June Tuesdays and  
Fridays 8 am  
July 7 only

4



5

Adult Ed.  
10 am—noon

6



Board Meeting  
7:30 pm

7



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

8



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

8:01

11



Seekers & Dreamers  
Concert with  
Janice Buckner  
4—6 pm

12

13

14



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING  
7:30 pm

Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

15



Lunch & Learn  
*Impossible Takes  
Longer*  
12:30 pm

16



Candlelighting  
On Zoom 6:30 pm

17



Torah Study 9:30 am  
Tefilah 11:15 am  
Bat Mitzvah of  
Kailen Levitt

8:09

18



Fathers Day

19

20



Rosh Chodesh  
Group 7:30 pm

21



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

22

23



Pride Shabbat  
6:30 pm

24



Meditation Walk at  
Target Rock NWR  
10 am

8:11

25



Bagels & Books  
10 am  
*A Bend in the Stars*

26



Movies & Munchies  
7:30 pm  
*Bethlehem*

27

28



Conversational  
Hebrew with Dinah  
1 pm

29

30



No Candlelighting

1



No Shabbat Service

8:11

2

3

4



Independence Day

5

6

7



8



Torah Study 10 am  
Tefilah 11:15 am

8:10