

kehillath Shalom nemsletter JUDAISM eply rooted. Boldly relevant,

Rabbi's Reflections

How Do We Manifest Joy Today?

BY RABBI LINA ZERBARINI



In May of 2020, my mother suddenly became unable to walk or communicate. She was agitated, mumbling to herself. A trip to the emergency room revealed a urinary tract infection. This was two months into the pandemic, and visitors were not allowed. But mom has Alzheimer's, and when she was admitted, I was permitted to stay with

Unexpectedly, this was a very joyful experience. Our time together was sweet. I was able to care for my mom when she was most vulnerable (and thank God, her condition was easily treatable Art Green, יה-וה/YHVH means being, existence, and she was not suffering). There was no place for me to go (it was covid, and I couldn't even leave her room), so I was fully present with her.

Sukkot is about finding joy dafka in the acknowledgement of fragility and vulnerability. It is not always comfortable in the sukkah (too hot, too cold, bugs) and it can blow over (and mine has!) at any moment. This theme of Sukkot has taught me much in recent

I have found, to my surprise, that joy is being open to whatever is real. Some of my most fully joyful moments have come in times that are not happy. In grief. With both parents having dementia, there has been a lot of sadness (and loss and helplessness and anger), and I have often tried to block the hard feelings or fix my parents' suffering or my own. But when I allow myself to just be with what is real, even with feelings I am afraid of or don't like, I find beauty and meaning and comfort and even joy.

This is because, as I learned from our teacher reality. When I allow myself to be fully present to what is, I connect with All that Is. Presence, mine and God's, is holy.

I do find joy in more typically expected places as well – in the awe of nature and in connections with loved ones – but perhaps because the joy I have found in those feelings I have feared is surprising, these moments are deeply .זמן שמחתי The openness of the Sukkah to the sun and the rain and the stars is the openness of my heart. �

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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88265226225? pwd=MoZVcHlRWEZjeElod1VNajJ6UlNzUTo9

Isabel's Interviews: Rita Fenderson

As you can see from my Heading, I have decided to turn my column into interviews with our congregants. Unfortunately, we are limited to only a few Newsletters a year. If I don't get around to interviewing you this year, there are always further issues next year. You can always volunteer to be interviewed or make a suggestion as to who you'd like me to interview.

When I asked Rita Fenderson if she'd like to be interviewed, her

first reaction was that everyone already knows her. I assured her that we'd like to learn more about her and that there may be some of us who don't know her at all.

With no further ado, let me introduce you to Rita Fenderson, a long time member of KSS.

ISABEL: Do you remember when you joined KSS? If not, how many years have you been a member?

RITA: My daughter, Rachel, who is a member, was 5 years old. My son, Randall, was 2, and my third child, Ross, wasn't even born yet. He's now 43. You do the math. All of them have been Bat and Bar Mitzvahed at KSS. One time when we were called to the Torah for a special occasion, we were three generations at the Bimah. That was a very proud moment.

ISABEL: I know you attend Books and Bagels meetings. Do you have a favorite book or could you recommend one?

RITA: *Schindler's List* was very good. There were 27 people at my house for the meeting and I had to bring in my garden chairs.

ISABEL: Can you think of something that you are very proud of?

RITA: When my daughter got married it was very special. It was a traditional ceremony conducted by Rabbi Schwartz. Her husband is an otolaryngologist (ENT) affiliated with the Huntington Hospital. When her wedding was announced in *The New York Times*, the article included information about my husband, Ralph, being elected as the president of the medical staff of Huntington Hospital. I was also very proud of Ross for being accepted into Dartmouth. That was a very good year.



ISABEL: Where were you born and raised?

RITA: I was born in Berlin in a Jewish hospital. The only Jewish hospital in Berlin. Professor Geheimrat Doktor Strauss was a very famous doctor at the hospital. I don't know what happened to him, but I think he probably managed to get out of Germany in time. So many people were reluctant to leave.

ISABEL: When did you leave Berlin?

RITA: I was 17. The year was 1953.

ISABEL: How did you manage to survive?

RITA: My mother was not recognized as a Jew, because she converted to Judaism when she married my father. The Nazis viewed me as a *Mischling*. That saved my life.

ISABEL: Where did you go?

RITA: I came to the United States under the sponsorship of my uncle who lived in White Plains where I completed my senior year at White Plains High School. From there I attended the Newark Beth Israel School of Nursing in Newark, New Jersey. I had applied to other nursing schools, but because I had only been in this country for one year and did not know English very well, no other school accepted me. I did most of this all on my own, because my uncle, who was my sponsor, had decided to go back to Germany. Three years later, I received my nursing degree and worked at the East Orange VA Hospital, where I met my husband. I also attended Seton Hall University and then went on to earn my BS degree in nursing at Adelphi University.

ISABEL: How else did you use your nursing skills?

RITA: I was a public health nurse in Suffolk County. After that, I became the office manager in my husband's private practice, until he decided to close the office.

ISABEL: What is your favorite sound?

RITA: I'm more visual. I like to travel. I've gone to very many places, including Russia and India. However, the most important trips were the few I took to Israel.

ISABEL: What is your least favorite sound? RITA: I don't like the sound of sirens. They re-

mind me of air raids. ❖



Sunday, October 29th

Apartment Tour - 11 am

One Hundred Years Apart:

How a 19th century German-Jewish immigrant & a 20th century Chinese immigrant relied on their communities during hard times.

Lunch at Katz's Deli or Essex Market

Walking Tour - 2pm

Outside the Home:

How Lower East Siders shaped and were shaped by their neighborhood over the 19th and early 20th Centuries

\$30 per person + lunch & transportation rsvp to rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org

Kehillath Shalom Synagogue

Do Men and Women Read Torah Differently?

Rosh Chodesh: Welcoming the New Month

Sunday, October 8@10am

How does your experience of gender impact your experience of life?

RSVP to Rabbi Lina for location

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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 Feast of the Rejoicing of the Law at the Synagogue in Leghorn, Italy. Solomon Alexander Hart, 1850. Jewish Museum.

Lunch & Learn

The God Equation by Michio Kaku

The Quest for a Theory of Everything

Beginning October 5 @ 12:30 pm on Zoom

Our next book will be Michio Kaku's The God Equation.

"The epic story of the greatest quest in all of science — the holy grail of physics that would explain the creation of the universe — from renowned theoretical physicist and author of *The Future of the Mind* and *The Future of Humanity."*

This is not a theological book, despite the title. It's an exploration of how the world works, scientifically, and the search for one theory that ties it all together.

Here's the author introducing the book: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1GO1HPLp7Y Here's a review from Scientific American.

For our first class, we will read the Introduction and Chapter 1: Unification.



Get Out the Vote Letter Writing Campaign

Tuesday, October 3@7 pm in the Rabbi's Sukkah

for more information: lewittesh@oldwestbury.edu

BURGERS, BOOK, AND NEW MEMBERS

BBQ, Yay!! On Friday evening, September 8, forty members of the congregation gathered to welcome Shabbat and then, with either vegan or beef burger in hand, celebrate our return and each other in anticipation of the upcoming High Holidays. It felt like home to see Michael Koenig return as grill master, alongside Mindy Isacoff in charge of the vegan grill. We are most appreciative of all those whose contributions filled the buffet table and our plates...delicious in every way.

We're very happy to announce that we've been in conversation with Bonnie Siegler, co-author with Helene Stapinski of the highly acclaimed best seller *The American Way: A True Story of Nazi Escape, Superman, and Marilyn Monroe*. Bonnie, who became a Bat Mitzvah here at KSS, is daughter to Founding Members Helen and Steve Siegler, and her book tells of Helen's family's escape from Nazi Berlin and their pursuit of the American dream, with appearances by Marilyn Monroe, Joe DiMaggio, Superman, Billy Wilder, and more. We have secured a date for an author book signing hosted by KSS on April 10 at The Next Chapter bookstore in Huntington. We will remind you again before then, but meanwhile, save the date.

We are delighted to welcome two new members: Stan Katz, who has been with us for some time on Zoom for Lunch and Learn classes as well as in person on several occasions; and Debra Heller, joining us as a Zoom member from Millheim, Pennsylvania. ❖



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 MAN, 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 skaggswalsh.com. ❖

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The Gifts Received

GENERAL FUND

ROSALIE SHAFFER, for the yahrzeit of STANLEY SHAFFER

BARBARA HELLER, in memory of INEZ WACHTEL

SONDRA SOMIN, in memory of EVELYN BOTKIN

KATHY & MIKE SOLOMOWITZ, for High

KATHY & MIKE SOLOMOWITZ, for High Holiday Yizkor

ROSALIND KAPLAN, for Yahrzeit JACK & MARIE KORN, in support of the Membership BBQ

צדקה Vicki & David Schwartz, in memory of Evelyn Botkin

GAIL SACHS & BILL MACMILLAN, for healing energy in honor of DINAH MARK'S recovery

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rose Osterberg

HIGH HOLIDAY FLOWERS

JACK & MARIE KORN

Lois Hass

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Yizkor Service 10 am

Torah Portion: <u>Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17;</u> Numbers 29:35-30:1

Laws regarding temple offerings, tithing, loans, treatment of the needy, slaves, Passover, etc. "You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Torah Study 10 am

Meditation Service 11:15 am

Torah Portion: Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8

Creation, Adam and Eve, the Tree of Knowledge, the expulsion from Eden, Cain and Abel. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Shabbat Service 10 am

Israel Forum 11:15 pm

Torah Portion: Noach, Genesis 6:9-11:32

Noah, the Ark, the Flood. God makes a covenant with Noah never to destroy humanity and the earth again.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Candlelighting 6 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Torah Study 10 am

Luncheon to follow

Torah Portion: Lech Lecha, Genesis 12:1—

17:27

The origins of the Jewish people. Abraham and Sarah; Lot; God's Covenant with Abraham; the birth of Ishmael; circumcision is ordered by God for Abraham, his people, and all their descendants as a sign of the Covenant with God. ❖



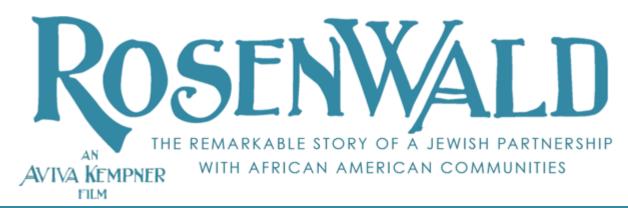
EXPLORING JUDAISM: MORE THAN JUST THE BASICS

October 2023 — June 2024

Looking to delve into the study of Judaism to learn more than just the basics? Join Rabbi Rena Blumenthal in this 16-session Reconstructionist-inspired program of Jewish immersion and learning. This program is perfect for those looking to convert to Judaism, new to Judaism, wanting a refresher, or looking for a way to kick-start their next steps in Jewish learning and practice.

Please reach out to Rabbi Lina at rabbi@kehillathshalomsynagogue.org to learn more about this opportunity.

More information about this program can be found here: bit.ly/ExploringJudaism *



Co-sponsored by Kehillath Shalom

CINEMA ARTS CENTRE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7 *PM*

Rosenwald is a documentary on the incredible story of how businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald joined with African-American communities in the South to build schools for them during the early part of the 20th century. This historical partnership as well as the modern-day attempts to maintain or reconfigure the schools is a great dramatic story, yet too little-known.

Julius Rosenwald, the son of German-Jewish immigrants, rose to become one of the wealthiest men in America, as well as a beloved humanitarian. More about him and the film can be found <a href="https://example.com/here.c



Movies & Munchies bagels & books God of the Diano **Wednesday, October 18** 7:30 pm

God of the Piano is the 2020 directorial debut of Israeli director Itay Tal. It tells the story of Anat, a concert pianist who has never been able to



reach her father's exacting musical standards. He is a genius, a celebrated classical music composer. Anat's family is competitive, musically accomplished, and worships musical greatness above all else. Their hope of producing a musical prodigy rests on Anat's unborn son. When Anat's baby is born deaf, she cannot accept it and

resorts to extreme measures to ensure that her child will be the composer her father always wanted. This is "an elegant, disturbing, and remarkably potent family drama... closer to that of a psychological thriller."

Watch the trailer here.

Widely available in Nassau and Suffolk libraries.

Please view this film at home at your leisure and join us on Wednesday evening, October 18, at 7:30 pm, (hopefully) at the home of Lois Hass. RSVP to 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.

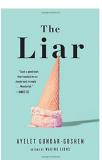
Make donations, pay for special events, pay dues no checks, no stamps, no fees. Log into your bank account, find Zelle, and send to kehillathshalom@optonline.net.

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

Easy as aleph, bet, gimel! ❖

We started our year with an enlightening discussion of Yousef Bashir's The Words of My Father, a look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the other side, so to speak. Special credit to Liz Sabo, for sharing her family's experiences, and many thanks to Dalia Rosenthal for hosting in her trademark style.

On October 15 we will be discussing *The Liar*, by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen. Lies take life in this



novel about a young Israeli girl who finds power in deceit. Nofar, age 17, is working in an ice cream shop when an encounter with a customer results in the police asking if she was sexually assaulted. She lies and says yes. This lie snowballs into an unstoppable force, garnering media attention and sweeping up friends and family members along with it as Nofar

struggles with her growing guilt and her fear of rejection if she comes clean.

Our schedule for the rest of the year is:

November 19 — Departure Stories, by Elisa Bernick

December 17 — The Dressmakers of Prospect *Heights*, by Kitty Zeldis

January 21 — The Prime Ministers [Menachem Begin], by Yehuda Avner

February 18 — The Thread Collectors, by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman

March 17 — Catskill Culture, by Phil Brown

April 14 — The Living and the Lost, by Ellen Feldman

May 19 - The American Way, by Bonnie Siegler and Helene Stapinski

June 23 — Signal Fires, by Dani Shapiro

We hope to return to all in-person meetings this year, with Zoom available. Watch TWAKS and your email for further 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. *



The Israel and Jewish Affairs Committee Presents

A Series of Forums and Discussions

THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL







Update and Report from Israel and the Middle East Saturday, October 21, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Reasons for Founding the Modern State of Israel

Saturday, December 2, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

The Prime Ministers, by Yehuda Avner, pp. 345-695 (M. Begin) Sunday, January 21, 10 am, Joint Session with bagels & books

What would Menachem Begin say about today's Israel and the Likud Party?

Israel and the Middle East: What American Media Don't Tell You Saturday, April 6, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

Significant Events Before May 14, 1948 and the Brilliant Israeli Declaration of Independence

Saturday, May 18, Services at 10 am, Forum at 11:15 am

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



Friday evenings, 6:00

(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





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



October 2023 Tishri/Cheshvan 5784



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Morning Gathering Tuesdays and Fridays 8 am	7 pr In th	Out the Vote n ne Sukkah at bi Lina's		Lunch & Learn The God Equation 12:30 pm	Candlelighting 6 pm 6:09	Shemini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah Service with Yizkor 10 am Kiddush to follow
8	10	*	11	12 MICHIO KAKU	13	14
Rosh Chodesh Group 10 am Do Women Read Torah Differently?		rd Meeting) pm		Lunch & Learn The God Equation 12:30 pm	Candlelighting 6 pm	Torah Study 10 am Meditation Service 11:15 am
					5:58	
15 16	17	,	18	19	20	21
Bagels & Books 10 The Liar	No r		Movies & Munchies 7:30 pm God of the Piano		No morning gathering Newsletter Deadline Candlelighting 6 pm 5:48	Shabbat Service 10 am Israel Forum 11:15 am
22 23	24	2	25	MICHIO KAKU	27	28
					Candlelighting 6 pm	Torah Study and Luncheon 10 am
					5:38	
29 THEREST 30	31	j	1	2 Sunch	3	4
Tenement Museum Trip				Lunch & Learn 12:30 pm Rosenwald At Cinema Arts 7 pm	Soup Shabbat 6 pm 5:29	No scheduled service
5 FALL BACK 6	7	***************************************		9 Sunch	10	11

