

At this year's KS Chanukah Potluck Dinner Party
Bring your ...

home-made Chanukah
(Chanukah menorah)!

For our FOURTH ANNUAL
**HOME-MADE CHANUKIAH
CONTEST & SHOWCASE!**
Friday, December 23rd, 6 PM




**Mostly Music Shabbat service with
Michael Silbert & Rosalie Gerut
follows at 7:30 pm**

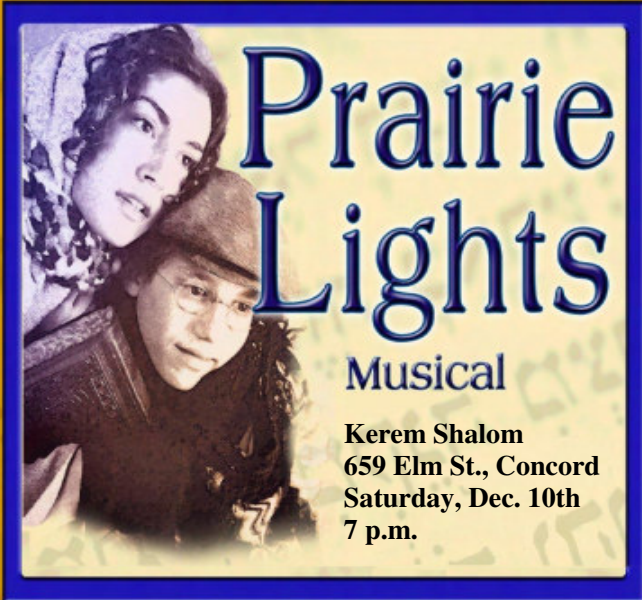
(Read lots more on page 6)

Book Fair
Monday, Dec. 5th, noon to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 8th, noon to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11th, 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (during
Holiday Preschool)

Please plan to stop in and do some holiday shopping and
support our library at the same time.



Chelm Productions presents The Kerem Shalom Players in




**Prairie
Lights**
Musical

Kerem Shalom
659 Elm St., Concord
Saturday, Dec. 10th
7 p.m.

Tickets: Adults - \$10, Children 12 and under -\$5

**The Kerem Shalom
Progressive Dinner**



Mark your calendars now
for the Progressive Dinner,
January 28, 2012

Kerem Shalom's 24th annual Progressive Dinner is
Saturday, January 28th. *Hors d'oeuvres* are served at
Kerem Shalom from 6:30 'til about 8 pm. Then we
break up into prearranged groups of eight or ten to have
dinner at members' homes. This way you can sit down
and really get to know some Kerem Shalom folks in a way
that is not possible at many other events. We put new and
prospective members with existing members whenever
possible. The evening is planned for each guest to bring a
part of the meal, which is coordinated by the host family.
Sometimes the host family prefers to prepare the entire
meal and guests bring the wine.

(Continued on page 6)

From the Rabbi

— Michael Luckens

I love Chanukah, it's light in December's early darkness and it's hopeful prophetic teaching about peace: "Not by might and not by power but by *ruach* or spirit." Zechariah's Haftorah message, so resonant and relevant, reminds us what to value and what to work for in our communities and in our world. The message of peace is reinforced later by Moses Maimonides in his Mishneh Torah. The Rambam teaches that if a person has the means to purchase either Chanukah or Shabbat candles, they must light the Shabbat candles since they represent *shalom bayit*, peace within the home. The Chanukah candles on the other hand are to be placed on the windowsill so as to publicize the miracle of the holiday. The Shabbat mitzvah of nurturing loving relationships takes precedence over the *mitzvah* of acknowledging God's place in the miracles of Chanukah.


We are fortunate. We don't have to make such choices. We can transcend the darkness every Friday night and on each of the eight Chanukah nights by lighting the candles, filling our homes with joyful song and good food, and giving thanks for having reached these moments of life.

Soon we will light the Chanukah candles, affirming religious freedom and the miracle of light. Try turning off all the lights before you kindle each candle. Pause after each one and see what a difference the light of one candle can make in the darkness. Here is an opportunity to talk about our inner light and spirit and how we can share these with others, especially now when so much of the conversation all around us is about consumerism and material things and greed. There is power in candlelight and song, simple gifts, and sincere gratitude for warmth in winter and the love of family and friends.

On one or more days of Chanukah consider giving gifts of food to a pantry or clothes to a shelter or flowers to a nursing home or hospital, which you can deliver as a family and in so doing make a personal human connection. Designate one night as book night and add to your family's library of good books. Read Jewish stories to each other on another night by the light of the candles. Create a spiritual thread to run through these 8 days and nights. Feel the sense of connection with Jews all over the world who are celebrating Chanukah and spreading light. Connect that thread to the other threads that you are constantly adding to your life's glistening spiritual fabric. And keep weaving and doing *mitzvot*, for yourselves and for others, throughout the year and throughout your lives.

A likhtekn Chanukah/A Light-filled Chanukah!
Rabbi Michael Luckens

Annual Community Chanukah Sing-Along



Wednesday December 21
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
at **Debra's Natural Gourmet**
98 Commonwealth Avenue,
West Concord.



Volume: XVII
Kerem Shalom
P.O.Box 1646
Concord, MA 01742
Tel: 978-369-1223
Fax: 978-371-8072

Issue: 4

Michael Luckens, Rabbi
Rosalie Gerut, Cantor
Pat Lukens, Ed. Director
Joan Perlman, Asst. Ed. Dir.
Nancy Kaplan, Fam. Educator
Judy Samuelson, Administrator
George Peabody, President
Michael Silbert, Rabbinic Intern

<http://www.keremshalom.org/>

Affiliated with the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts

The Grapevine is the monthly newsletter of Kerem Shalom (Vineyard of Peace), distributed to members and friends of the congregation.

The editor is Batya Olsen, 978-371-3009. Contributions are due before the 15th of the month preceding publication and may be sent to the synagogue address. Articles are accepted early. Facsimiles can be sent to 978-246-5921. Text can be electronically mailed to batyaolsen@gmail.com.

Dear Friends,

As I write this on November 20, every single space at Kerem Shalom is in use. All the classrooms, the social hall, the Library, the sanctuary, and the lobby. Adult education discussions, a Hanukkah workshop, Holiday pre-school, a T'ai chi class, a rehearsal for the upcoming Prairie Lights performance (see below), and an Interfaith families meeting are taking place. The parenting workshop is having its third meeting. Bat and bar mitzvah tutoring is happening in the rabbi's office and the sanctuary. Parents are talking, reading, and working while they wait for their children.

Kerem Shalom is one very busy place and that's absolutely how it should be.

Welcome Judy Samuelson, Our New Temple Administrator!

I would like to welcome Judy Samuelson who started working at Kerem Shalom on Monday, October 31. Judy is an experienced Office and Project Manager. She has previously worked in the marketing and communications industries and comes to us with glowing recommendations. She's taken a quick and capable grasp of Kerem Shalom's administrative workload and we are very excited she's joined us. Judy lives in West Concord, has high school aged children, and will be at Kerem Shalom four days each week, including Hebrew School hours on Mondays and Thursdays. Please take a moment to introduce yourself if you're in the building during office hours. Judy is very enthusiastic about her new position at Kerem Shalom, and we'd like to make her feel right at home.

Adult Education. One of the leading ways Kerem Shalom's activities express themselves is through the Adult Education programming we offer. Under Rosalie Gerut's hand, our adult programming has expanded to include a rich set of lifelong learning opportunities, activities for Health and Wellness, a book club, the Rosh Chodesh women's group and more. Go to the website for more details. There is richness in study, in learning, in community. As I said during my Rosh Hashanah speech (and I do apologize for its length) family and community are the new wealth. Come discover some of those riches through our adult education programs.

Thank you to our Volunteers. We are blessed by a growing cadre of volunteers who have stepped up to experience for themselves the satisfaction of making community through the giving of their time and talents. Community happens when we show up. It strengthens when we take the next step of sharing our effort with others.

This month, I'd like to thank some of those who have made that choice. And notice that many of the steps offered are straightforward, one-time gifts of time. So, thank you to Sheryl Tatelman who coordinates Helper Families and stocks Kiddush Cups, Cynthia Katz, Jan Huber O'Callaghan and Batya Olsen for coordinating Chanukah packages for our KS college students, Doreen Bowe-Shulman, Kitchen Maven, Susan Brager Murphy who coordinates donations to JFCS, Nancy Burnham for managing our bi-weekly payroll, Mary Jane Weinstein and Dari Dee who will be building supervisors and ushers for some upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Hannah Bloch who will be coordinating the tickets and refreshments for Prairie Lights on December 10.

Other people who have stepped forward to lend a hand include

President's Message

— George Peabody

Jen Brock, Jacquie Daitch, Debbie Hoff, Tammy Clark, Jill Maxwell, Walter Kasell, Cherry Muse, Debbie Whitestone, Wendy Gross, Alana Nelson, and Rochelle Steinberg.

And then there are the House folks, the volunteers who look after our lovely building, addressing all of the tasks that need attention both inside and around the building. This indomitable crew includes VP of House Jonathan Aibel who is doing a splendid job dealing with the widest possible range of issues – from personnel, to HVAC, to complex questions of plumbing. He's assisted by mentor Allan Spillart, and others lending their hands including Bob Leandro, Mark Brock, Rob Vrablik, Janice Rosenberg, and Mary Rose Scozzafava.

A sincere thanks to all of our community-making volunteers. You do make all the difference.

Prairie Lights Glows Once More on Our Stage. A holiday season delight and one that's moving toward tradition status is the play *Prairie Lights*, directed by our own Rosalie Gerut. *Prairie Lights* is a great story with strong music that delivers a terrific time for audience and players alike. Come to experience the warm glow of *Prairie Lights*, laugh, and listen to some great voices raised in song. The performance is Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are just \$10 and kids under 12 are \$5.

Hey, Gotta Spare PC? Kerem Shalom's very small fleet of five PCs is, to use a nautical metaphor, taking on water and in danger of sinking. We need new computing capabilities to stay afloat. But we don't need the latest, greatest, fastest and most stylish. We need (at least) three used PCs, under two years of age, to update our systems. Do you have a PC around the house that's not getting much, or any, use? If it's not too long in the technothooth, we'll take your under-utilized machine, erase everything on it, install new software and give our professional staff some tools that don't come from the hunter-gatherer era of computing. If so, let me know (George.peabody@gmail.com).

Brotherhood Launched. Not every Kerem Shalom event happens at Kerem Shalom. A very startled bartender at the Colonial Inn found himself serving 33 Kerem Shalom members who showed up for the (first) organizational meeting of the Kerem Shalom Brotherhood. It was a great turn out with more events in the works, the first to be at Kerem Shalom member Wade Rubenstein's new ice cream (and more) shop *Reasons to Be Cheerful* in West Concord.

A financial update will be included in next month's Grapevine.

Until next time, all best wishes for a very Happy Hanukkah and the holiday season.

Warmly,

George Peabody

Kerem Shalom president

Two Family Table Appeals:

1) I am looking for a volunteer to deliver KS's collection of pasta and tuna to the Family Table food pantry in Waltham on **December 11th**. The volunteer will be responsible for picking up the pasta and tuna at KS next week and delivering them to the pantry between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. that Sunday.

2) We are badly in need of both **tuna** and **whole wheat pasta** to meet our monthly commitment to Family Table. For the September, October, and November drop-offs, I have had to use cash donations to meet the minimum amount we need to supply and that cash is running out. Please think about this and make a note --- If you will be at KS for a meeting, services, movie or workshop, or can remember to send either pasta or tuna when your child comes to Hebrew School, it would be a big help in meeting our commitment.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for December 11, contact Susan Brager Murphy at 978-263-5403 or SJB.Murphy@verizon.net.

Thank you.

Social Action News

A huge thank you to Kerem Shalom Members and Staff for Participating in the Holiday Cheer Project!

The Holiday Cheer Project is an outreach program for children receiving services from the Voices Against Violence program and is administered by the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) in Framingham, MA. Please visit their website at www.smoc.org. Over the years, Kerem Shalom has provided hundreds of needy children with NEW toys and clothing for the holidays through the Holiday Cheer Project. This year alone, 55 children will receive just what they wanted due to your generous sponsorship!

THANK YOU!

Andrea Fidler and Dorene Bowe-Shulman

Apology

There was a mistake with my Linked In system...It contacted everyone on my e-mail list to join my linked in account. I have not authorized this and I apologize if you were contacted. This was not my intention. Thank you. Rosalie Gerut

THANKS TO ALL for Mitzvah Day ONE
- see page 14.

Interested in forming an interfaith group?

There is one longstanding interfaith couples group at Kerem Shalom which generally meets monthly. Members share challenges as parents and as interfaith families. Over time we have found that making a commitment to a support group has strengthened and helped us navigate and celebrate our interfaith families. We have deepened our friendships over the years which has strengthened our sense of community at KS.

We will be hosting an open meeting of our interfaith group on

Dec 18 from 10:30am to noon. We'll be happy to share with interested couples what we have learned about supporting one another. If there is sufficient interest, a new interfaith couples group can be created.

So we can anticipate the level of interest and any childcare needs please respond to Sally Thompson, swthompson1@verizon.net or Nancy Kaplan, familied@keremshalom.org by December 12th.

חג אורים
שמחה!
!שמחה!

Happy Chanukah!





From the Education Director -Pat Lukens

A great way to teach your children about all things Jewish, and to learn some more yourself, is to read books with Jewish protagonists, Jewish events and Jewish themes in them. We have an outstanding collection of Jewish literature for children (and adults) at Kerem Shalom. And we'll be having a book fair the week of December 5th. Here are some thoughts from our library:

Bone Button Borscht by Aubrey Davis – Ms. Davis takes the familiar Stone Soup story and puts a Jewish twist on it. Perfect story for preschoolers through primary grades.

The Friday Nights of Nana by Amy Hest – Follow Jennie through preparing for a traditional Shabbat dinner – this book will open a great conversation about what is important about celebrating Shabbat and how to do that in your family with your traditions. Ideal for preschoolers through primary grades.

Meet Rebecca by Jacqueline Greene – if your daughter is entranced by American Girl Dolls, introduce her to Rebecca and learn together through her books about the Jewish American immigration experience.

When I Left My Village by Maxine Rose Schur – This fictional story is about an Ethiopian Jewish boy who makes the long dangerous journey to Israel and starts a new life. A read aloud for older primary grades and great for kids up through 6th grade.

Samir and Yonatan by Daniella Carmi – This young adult story begins to explore the Israeli/Palestinian issue from the perspective of two boys, one Palestinian and one Israeli. This could start some great dinner conversations!

Hello, America by Livia Bitton-Jackson – A vivid story of immigration to America after WWII. The book also gives a good look at New York City in the 1950's. Appropriate for middle school and up.

I have noticed over the years that holiday books fly off the shelves but many of our great Jewish culture books go unread. It would be wonderful to have all these books dog-eared from many readings! And, please let me know when you read one that sparks a great conversation in your family and we'll be sure to pass it along!

Weather Cancellation – We printed the policy last month. If you are unsure, please refer to the School Overview Page on www.keremshalom.org. The cancellation information is at the end.

School Schedule Reminder

The last day of class before December break will be Thursday, December 15th. We will resume classes on Monday, January 9th. Most teachers will be sending home an assignment over break – so be sure to check for it!

Grade 4 Scrapbooking Project

The Grade 4 Jewish Identity Scrapbook project will be assigned in December. Interested parents are invited to meet with Pat Lukens on Dec. 5 or Dec. 8th at 5:40 PM – for a quick tutorial in how to support your child with this wonderful project.

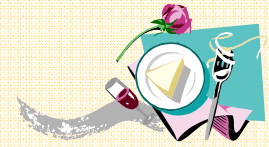
(Progressive Dinner continued from page 1)

This is one of Kerem Shalom's most popular adult events and we always have a large crowd. We hope you will be there: line up your baby-sitter and don't miss it. Please fill out the form below and return it by January 15th. We hope you will strongly consider hosting this year. It's a great time! Please contact Wendy Taubes (whrt@aol.com) or Greig Greenwald (greig@jhu.edu, 781-879-2142) if you are interested in attending or hosting.

It will be a wonderful evening so please reserve early. This is always a very popular social event and all adults are welcome. Bring along any prospective members.

KEREM SHALOM'S 24th ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, January 28, 2012



Please print out and fill in this response card and mail it by January 15, 2011 to:
Progressive Dinner, Kerem Shalom, P.O. Box 1646, Concord, MA 01742. or RSVP with the information requested below to Wendy Taubes (whrt@aol.com) or Greig Greenwald (greig@jhu.edu, 781 879 2142)

Names: _____

Phone (with area code): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- ◇ I (we) will host a dinner at my (our) home for _____ other people.
- ◇ I (we) cannot host but _____ of us will attend the dinner.
- ◇ I (we) have special dietary restrictions: _____
- ◇ I (we) would like to make hors d'oeuvres (without shellfish or pork) for the cocktail party. It will be: _____

(Please note if any foods contain nuts or nut oils.)

(Continued from page 1)

Everyone is invited to bring (in addition to:

1. tuna and whole wheat pasta for JF&CS's Family Table,
2. your chanukiah from home with 4 candles ready to light,
3. your potluck dish to share &
4. your appetite for KS's latkes and song)



5. **your own HOMEMADE Chanukiah!**

Be creative... The SKY is the limit!

We will showcase our chanukiot on a display table for all to enjoy. Every chanukiah will be a winner.

Your candles don't have to be candles—think pencils, pipe cleaners or pretzels, marshmallows, macaroons or matchstick cars —this does not have to be a working menorah.

We will have a category for every menorah— including tastiest (salty, sweet, savory..), most Maccabean, funniest, friendliest, most musical, most recyclable, most natural, most miraculous, bumpiest, most animated — **try to stump the judges!**

Prizes (dreidels, gelt, latkes & applesauce, of course) **for all!**


RSVP for DINNER 18th to Nancy Kaplan - familyed@keremshalom.org



December 2011

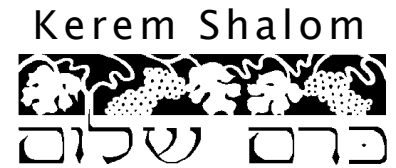


Kerem Shalom's Calendar is also online at <http://www.keremshalom.org/> and clicking on the Calendar tab at the top of the page.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>HEBREW SCHOOL = בית ספר SCHOOL MINYAN = בית ספר * BOOK FAIR = </p>				<p>1 9 am Yoga</p> <p>4 pm בית ספר 8 pm Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought - Judson</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 pm Grades 5 & 6 Shabbat dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service w/ M. Silbert</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Service Jeffrey Berlowitz Bar Mitzvah 7:30 pm KS Film Festival Making Trouble</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 11:30 am Prairie Lights rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4 pm בית ספר 5 pm Beginning Hebrew with Natasha Shabbat 5:40 pm Scrapbooking with 4th Grade parents 7 pm Chanukah Learning w/ M. Silbert</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:15 am Portrait of Israel - Lowenthall 12:30 pm Jewish Content Book Club</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:15 am Torah Study with Rabbi Alan Ullman 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga</p>	<p>8 9 am Yoga</p> <p>4 pm בית ספר * 5:40 pm Scrapbooking with 4th Grade parents 6:30 pm Prairie Lights Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Service w/ M. Silbert</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Service David Freedman Bar Mitzvah 7 pm Prairie Lights - the Musical</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 9:45 am Holiday Preschool 10 am Parenting Class w/ N. Margalit 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4 pm בית ספר 5:45 pm Kehillah 5 pm Beginning Hebrew with Natasha Shabbat 6:30 pm Parent Holocaust Program</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:15 am Portrait of Israel - Lowenthall</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:15 am Torah Study with Rabbi Alan Ullman 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga</p>	<p>15 9 am Yoga</p> <p>4 pm בית ספר 5:45 pm Kehillah 7:30 pm Book Club</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30 pm Concord Park Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 pm PJ Tot Shabbat w/ N. Kaplan 7:30 pm Mostly Music Shabbat Service M. Silbert, R. Gerut</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>10:15 am Portrait of Israel - Lowenthall 1st night of Chanukah</p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>6:30 pm Community Chanukah celebration @ Debra's Nat. Gourmet 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga 2nd night of Chanukah</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am Yoga</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>3rd night of Chanukah</p>	<p>23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>6 pm Chanukah potluck dinner 7:30 pm Mostly Music Shabbat Service M. Silbert, R. Gerut 5th night of Chanukah</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>5th night of Chanukah</p>
<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 6th night of Chanukah</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>7th night of Chanukah</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>10:15 am Portrait of Israel - Lowenthall 8th night of Chanukah</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9 am Yoga</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind	2	3 10:15 am Portrait of Israel - Lowenthal	4 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga	5 9 am Yoga	6 7:30 pm Shabbat	7
8 9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 10 am Parenting Class w/ N. Margalit	9 4 pm בית ספר 7:30 pm Board Meeting	10	11 7:30 pm Meditation/ Jewish Mysticism w/ N. Margalit 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga	12 9 am Yoga 4 pm בית ספר	13 3:30 pm Concord Park Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat	14 10 am Young Children's Shabbat with Nancy Kaplan
15 9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 4 pm Torah Study with Rabbi Alan Ullman	16	17	18 7:30 pm Meditation/ Jewish Mysticism w/ N. Margalit 7 pm Therapeutic Yoga	19 9 am Yoga 4 pm בית ספר	20 7:30 pm Shabbat	21
22 9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 9:45 am Holiday Preschool	23 4 pm בית ספר	24	25 7:30 pm Meditation/ Jewish Mysticism w/ N. Margalit	26 9 am Yoga 4 pm בית ספר 5:45 pm Kehillah	27 7:30 pm Shabbat	28 6:30 pm Progressive Dinner
29 9:30 am Tai Chi -R. Elkind 10 am Parenting Class w/ N. Margalit	30 4 pm בית ספר 7 pm B/M Workshop - IF parents of 6th graders	31			HEBREW SCHOOL = בית ספר	

Adult Programs –From Rosalie Gerut

New Programs you can join:

A Portrait of Israel Today

Tuesday mornings, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., December 6, 13, 20, 27, and January 3. with Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal

There are limited openings for this class. Please contact:

Rosalie@keremshalom.org

WEEK ONE: The Israeli Political System: What are the main parties? How does the Israeli political system differ from our American two-party system and why has it led to so many different impasses? How might the system be reformed and will it be reformed?

WEEK TWO: Religion in Israel: What role does religion play in the daily lives of Israeli citizens? Who are the "Haredi" and how have they achieved their present political power? How Jewish are Israelis? What are the present tensions between Orthodox and secular Israelis?

WEEK THREE: The Demographics of Israel: Who are the Israeli people? What are the basic components of Israel's minority populations particularly Israel's large Arab population and how are their rights protected under Israeli laws? What demographic challenges lie ahead if the Palestinian-Israeli conflict remains unsolved?

WEEK FOUR: The Protectors of the Jewish State: The Israel Defense Force, Aman (military intelligence), the Mossad (external security), and Shin Bet (internal security.) What are their extraordinary successes and what are their painful failures?

WEEK FIVE: Israel's Economy: The miraculous achievements and the formidable challenges ahead. What are the recent street demonstrations - 400,000 strong - all about?

These programs will be presented by Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal, the recently retired National Senior Advisor to the American Jewish Committee. Dr. Lowenthal's wide-ranging experience includes serving a tour of duty in the Israeli army, teaching English and American Literature at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and offering a variety of courses in the Greater Boston area on Jewish history, film, literature, and humor. Dr. Lowenthal received his Ph.D. in English from New York University. The se-



ries is offered in partnership with Sage Educational Services.

Costs will be determined by the number of students enrolled.

Torah Study with Rabbi Alan Ullman

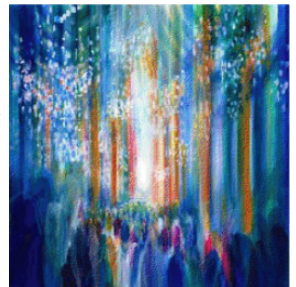
Sundays 4:00-5:30 p.m., January 15, February 5, February 19, March 4, April 1, and May 13



Rabbi Alan Ullman brings Torah to life by facilitating dynamic interaction and questioning of text, enabling us to view Torah in its ancient context as well as in its relevance to our lives today. Rabbi Ullman helps us to see the wisdom of Torah as a way to guide our own spiritual journeys and to find the sacred in our everyday lives. A brief text is introduced at the beginning of each class and no previous knowledge or experience is required. Pre-registration is required – contact Rosalie. Costs are determined by the number of students. Special discounts for KS members and couples.

Meditation/Modern Jewish Mysticism

with Rabbi Natan Margalit
4 Wednesday night sessions,
7:30-9:00 p.m., January 11, 18, 25
and February 1, Costs are determined
by the number of participants



We will combine the actual practice of meditation with study and discussion of Jewish mystical thought from the 18th century to the present day. The two modalities compliment each other, as the meditation opens and helps focus our minds, and the study enriches the meditation experience.. We will especially be examining the meditation techniques and the thought of Rabbi Kalonymous Kalman Shapiro, the "Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto." His progressive and innovative ideas on education and psychology form the perfect counterpart to his meditations.

Natan Margalit was raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, studied Anthropology at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, made aliyah, and studied for many years in Israeli yeshivot. He received rabbinic ordination at The Jerusalem Seminary in 1990 and earned a Ph. in Talmud from U.C. Berkeley in 2001. He has held teaching

(Continued on page 10)

Full descriptions of Kerem Shalom's Adult Programming can be found on <http://www.keremshalom.org>. Click on the Adult Programs tab on the top of the page. You may contact Rosalie Gerut at Rosalie@keremshalom.org for further information.

(Continued from page 9)

positions at Bard College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in Boston. Natan is spiritual leader of The Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, in Western Connecticut. He is President of Organic Torah, inc. a non-profit organization which fosters holistic thinking about Judaism, environment and society. He has written and taught for many years on Judaism and the environment, innovative approaches to Jewish texts, Jewish mysticism and spirituality, and gender and Judaism. He lives in Newton, MA with his wife Ilana and sons, Nadav and Eiden.

RSVP: Rosalie. Costs to be determined by the number of attendees

Therapeutic yoga for a happy back

Susan Chormann is offering another 6-week series on Wednesday nights 7-8:15 p.m.

This yoga class is slow, deep, gentle and fun with lots of focus on relieving back pain, proper alignment and de-stressing.

Pre-registration is required. Please send a check for the series amount to Susan Chormann 13 Piper Road, Acton, MA 01720 to reserve your space. Yogaworks@gmail.com Tuition: KS members \$60. Drop-in \$12, Non-members \$90 Drop-in \$16. Please RSVP

Yoga with Susan Chormann

Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Now in it's 7th year! This class is great for beginners as well as seasoned yogis and provides a safe, supportive place for you to stretch, laugh, unwind and discover your inner brightness and joy. Newcomers and drop-ins warmly welcomed. Questions? Contact Susan Chormann at Yogaworks@gmail.com KS members \$10 Non-members \$15.

Hebrew for Adult Beginners

with Natasha Shabat
Mondays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

This 10-week course is for true beginners as well as those who already have a little previous experience with the Alef-Bet and want to solidify their knowledge of the Hebrew letters and vowels. Taking this course is an important first step for all students whatever your goal is.

By the end of this course you'll be able to read any Hebrew text aloud with confidence and proper pronunciation. "Repeat customers" welcome! Text: Learn Hebrew Today: Alef-Bet for



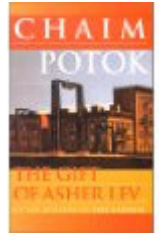
Adults

<http://www.amazon.com/Learn-Hebrew-Today-Alef-Bet-Adults/dp/0807404837/>

Kerem Shalom Jewish Content Book Club

Next meeting: December 6 at 12:30 p.m.

Open to all. The book to be discussed is *The Gift of Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok, the sequel to *My Name is Asher Lev* since we found the first one easy to read and it stimulated a lot of good discussion. New members welcome. RSVP: Jane Appell <jappell@verizon.net> (coordinator)



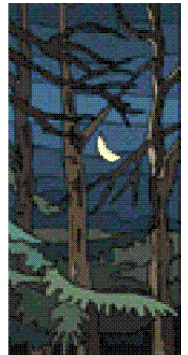
Kerem Shalom Men's Group

The Men's Group is an ongoing discussion group open to members and other men who are interested in open sharing and support from other men. If you are interested in joining, or just have questions, please call Bruce at 978-456-3141.

Invitation to All Kerem Shalom Adult Women Rosh Chodesh

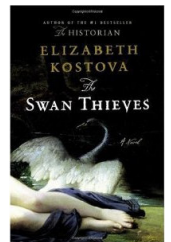
Sunday, December 11th 7:30-9:00 PM

The Rosh Chodesh group will meet on Sunday December 11th from 11:00-12:30. Come for coffee and bagels and a discussion about the difficulties and dilemmas of the December holidays and the ways in which we can create meaningful Hanukkah celebrations for ourselves and our families. Please RSVP by Friday December 9th to Elizabeth Tragash etph@juno.com



Kerem Shalom Book Group

Our next meeting is at 7:30 pm on Thursday evening, December 15, at Kerem Shalom We will discuss *The Swan Thieves* by Elizabeth Kostova. In this novel, psychiatrist Andrew Marlow searches for reasons why his patient, gifted artist Robert Oliver, tried to destroy a painting in the National Gallery of Art. Marlow and two other characters share the telling of the story. Marlow's investigation of Oliver's life and art leads him to France and a correspondence between two artists in the 1800s. For more information about the book, check



(Continued on page 11)

the Amazon and Minuteman Library network sites. Several copies of the book are available from the library network. We will also finalize our first 2012 meeting date and choose a new book for it.

If you would like reminders and the most accurate news about the Book Group's meetings, please send your email address to Pat Sills, at pat.sills@verizon.net. About a week before each meeting, Pat will send a reminder and a request that you RSVP if you will attend. The meeting will be held only if a minimum number of people can come. Hope to see you in December.

A New Matchmaking Service

Have a skill you'd like to share? Or perhaps a task you need help with? Great at computers? Handy with a hammer? We are starting a new service to match people who have these skills with those in the community who might need some help. If you are interested in participating, send your needs and abilities and we'll try to make a match!

Contact JoAnn Simon at joann_simon@yahoo.com

**H C
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KEREM SHALOM FILM FESTIVAL

Join us for a fun night in film

MAKING TROUBLE:

3 Generations of Funny Jewish Women

Saturday, December 3rd ~ 7:30 pm, \$10 per person



Making Trouble: 3 Generations of Funny Jewish Women, tells the story of six of the greatest female comic performers of the last century: Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner, and Wendy Wasserstein.

The movie (85 minutes) will be followed by discussion & desert. Ice cream and frozen yogurt by "Reason to Be Cheerful" & Cupcakes by "Sweet Grace."

Hosted by four of today's funniest women — Judy Gold, Jackie Hoffman, Cory Kahaney, and Jessica Kirson — it's the true saga of what it means to be Jewish, female and funny.

"What is it that makes funny Jewish women so funny...and so Jewish? Is it a nose wrinkled just so, accompanied by a devilishly sexy grin or a jolting and sarcastic punch line? Is it the acerbic humor of generations of immigrant and first-generation women who fought for a place in America with their brains and their wit, and at the same time needed to make a living? Making Trouble celebrates three generations who, for all of the reasons above, successfully went from vaudeville and the Yiddish theatre to Broadway, from Ziegfeld's Follies to Saturday Night Live." -San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: "Empowering, side-splitting laughs ..." – Kansas City Jewish Chronicle

"Hilarious and instructive..." – Bay Area Reporter

"More please!" – JewSchool

"...the film is like a standing ovation for performers who have earned one." – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Online

" This is a seriously funny film... Rich in entertainment history, the film uses interviews with experts, scholars and entertainers as well as archival material and rare film and television clips to bring to life these female comedic legends." -

JewishBoston.com

CREDITS: Film and image provided by The National Center for Jewish Film

AWARDS: BEST DOCUMENTARY/ AUDIENCE AWARD Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival (2007)

SPECIAL MENTION Jewish Experience Award/ Jury Prize, Jerusalem International Film Festival (2007)

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Rosalie Gerut, Director of Adult Programming

Bob Rosenbaum, Coordinator KS Film Series

Family Ed News Family Educator, Nancy Kaplan

Spreading the Light During Chanukah

What a wonderful gift we give to our children when we help them reach out to those in need during Chanukah. In his book, [Becoming a Jewish Parent](#), Daniel Gordis writes: “Despite our rather common conception of Chanukah as a holiday for children, it is really a time for serious reflection, for serious adult engagement with fundamental Jewish questions. For the rabbis, Chanukah became a holiday about survival, about the spirit overpowering the sword, about goodness overcoming evil, and about the few—if their cause is just—ultimately vanquishing the many.

For our children, the message about Chanukah ought to be just that: Judaism is partly about a voice that reminds the world of the power of the weak. It is our tradition’s way of reminding us that we can rededicate ourselves to being the blessing of which God spoke to Abraham. “Just as we survived as a powerless minority,” we cry out to the world, “so, too, can you.” How many of our kids have thought about Chanukah in that way? How many of our kids get sufficient reminders that part of what it means to be a Jew is to reach out and support powerless minorities with compassion and understanding?”

At all ages and stages in our family’s development we can engage our kids in the conversation around helping those less fortunate. Regularly visiting elderly or infirm relatives or friends, donating to the local food pantry, or better yet, delivering the food to the recipients, or serving them dinner, volunteering time in a pet shelter socializing the animals, all of these endeavors bring light into the lives of other living beings. Involve your children in discussion around the causes your family

supports. Help your kids find appropriate projects to contribute tzedakah to.

During Chanukah, try to dedicate some part of every night as “Family Night.” After all, the name Chanukah means “Dedication” (after the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem). Enjoy cooking—and eating — *latkes* and *soufganiyot* (jelly donuts), other foods cooked in oil, to recall the miracle; games (*dreidel*, and its many variations, or any favorite family games), telling and reading stories, and gazing at the lights—of the menorah, the night sky and the holiday season in our neighborhoods.

I look forward to seeing you all at our **Community Chanukah potluck dinner on Friday, December 23rd at 6 p.m.** All kinds of sweet surprises await us, including *latkes* with applesauce and sour cream, and *gelt*—which KS will provide in abundance! Our 4th annual **MAKE-YOUR-OWN CHANUKIAH** contest is your invitation for creative fun—see the details of our contest on page 4 and the poster in our atrium at KS. **RSVP to me by Dec 19th** for the dinner so we’ll know how many *latkes* to prepare. We’ll light our *chanukiot* (bring yours from home), sing blessings and share dinner— followed by a sing-along and presentation of our Home-made *chanukiot*—and MORE singing and prayers to welcome Shabbat at our **Mostly Music Shabbat service at 7 :30 p.m.**

And come to our **2nd night celebration and sing-along** with KS’s Mostly Music ensemble at **Debra’s Natural Gourmet**, on **Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m.** Song sheets & *latkes*.

Concord Park Happening

Kabbalat Shabbat Services at Concord Park with Nancy Fridays, 3:30-4:30 PM Dec 17th and Jan 13th

Ease into the spirit of Shabbat, learn a little Torah, and join us for Shabbat services, challah and conversation with the wonderful residents at Concord Park. KS members of all ages are invited. I would love to teach you how to assist or lead services at Concord Park.

Pajama TOT SHABBAT Service!

**Friday December 16th
6:30 PM**

Come in your PJ’s and slippers,
Bring your toothbrush.
Cuddly animals
and blankies welcome.

GET READY FOR CHANUKAH— our Festival of Lights !

Families with young children are warmly invited to join Nancy for our Tot Shabbat service. We’ll celebrate Shabbat together with blessings over candles, grape juice and challah, and with music, movement and *midrash* (story) about Chanukah.

Our Tot Shabbat services are joyful and embodied. Geared for families with pre-k to early elementary age kids, the teachings are accessible to children and parents as well. After our service, families are invited to stay and enjoy an *oneg* Shabbat together; quiet activities will be provided for your little ones.

Bring your friends!

Wishing you a light-filled, happy Chanukah!

To RSVP or ask about Family programs please contact
Nancy Kaplan at familyed@keremshalom.org 978-369-5780



A holiday musical called "incisive and poignant"
by the Chicago Sun-Times
and "affirming and family-friendly"
by the Chicago Tribune

Prairie Lights

December 10th at 7^{pm}

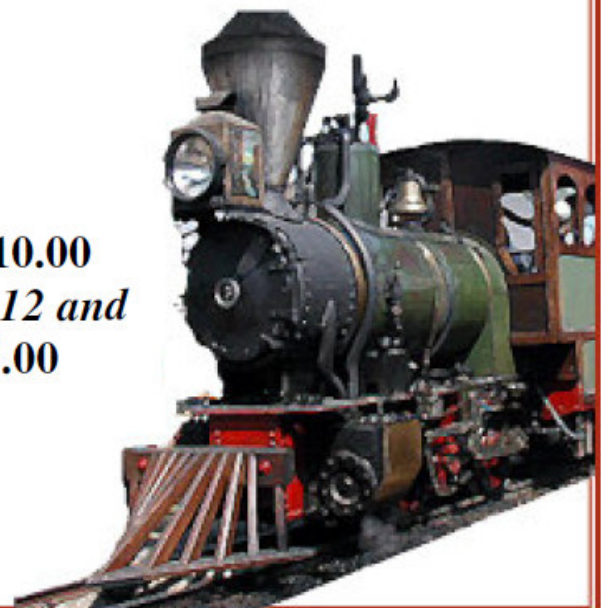
A production featuring members of
the Kerem Shalom players

Book by SUSAN LIEBERMAN
Music by ROSALIE GERUT
Lyrics by DAVID RUSH

"Prairie Lights" is a family holiday musical set in a tiny Nebraska town in 1905. When an orphan train arrives in Wellspring, bringing a Jewish brother and sister along with other orphaned youths, no one is ever the same.

For more information contact **Rosalie Gerut**
rosalieg@comcast.net

Tickets:
Adults \$10.00
Children 12 and under \$5.00



Kerem Shalom



659 Elm Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-1223

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OUR Mitzvah DAY ONE— a heartfelt THANK YOU! to all our volunteers

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed citizens to change the world. Indeed, it has never been done otherwise." -Margaret Mead.

In its tenth year Mitzvah DAY ONE is now a well-subscribed, much anticipated, highly populated, volunteer-run event that our membership is proud of: a day on which we experience the power of a community effort towards *Tikkun Olam*, healing the world. *Tzedakah*, righteous giving, *Gemilut Chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, and social action, all are aspects of *Tikkun Olam*. With over 200 members participating and some 30 volunteers either running projects or assisting at Mitzvah Day, your commitment made all the difference. Thank you to everyone! Here's a look at what OUR small group of committed citizens accomplished:

- Fully restocked the Open Table Food Pantry with over 100 bags of groceries brought by Mitzvah Day participants, with 14 members restocking the pantry
- Raised \$600 through the *Big Tsimmes* lunch concession...which paid for the groceries...that our cooking team used on Mitzvah Day to prepare dinner for 100 guests — and eight more volunteers served that dinner at Open Table in Maynard the next evening. We were also able to donate \$150 and enough meat for the main course for a future meal for Open table with the proceeds from our lunch at Mitzvah Day.
- Made pumpkin centerpieces for all individuals and families attending Open Table's Mon/Thurs dinners, to enjoy and take home
- Provided 6 Thanksgiving turkeys to needy Jewish families w/ donations to the Turkey Tzedakah fund for JF&CS Family Table
- Provided 13 weeks of nutritious hot meals for patients with AIDS, ALS and other life-threatening illnesses with \$800 in Thanksgiving pie purchases from Community Servings, PieInTheSky.org
- Recruited volunteer reading tutors for children at Green Meadow for an hour a week through the Jewish Coalition for Literacy and donated 4 boxes of books to their school library
- Decorated and assembled 24 plant pots containing healing teas, lotions, amaryllis bulbs for forcing, & folded paper cranes w/ "prescriptions for healing" for breast cancer patients receiving therapeutic services at the Healing Garden in Harvard MA
- Collected and donated winter coats for every child and adult living in Somerville Homeless Coalition's shelters
- Donated a carload of household goods to Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts
- Donated 8 units of blood to Emerson Hospital's Blood Donor Center
- Sponsored 57 needy children for the Holiday Cheer Project and Voices against Violence /South Middlesex Opportunity Council
- Made holiday cards for inmates in Concord's prison and donated a box of books to the prison library
- Sewed 40+ polar fleece hats for sick and needy children at the Grow Clinic
- Knitted and knotted blankets for needy children for Project Linus
- Supported student Tzedakah projects: COLLECTING art supplies, books and toys for Horizons for Homeless Children and Hope For Creativity; new socks for Operation Sock Drop and mittens, gloves, scarves & hats for Warm Hands, Warm Hearts; books for Friends of Acton Library, snacks for the Open Table School lunch bag program- & decorating the bags; SELLING sweets to support Emerson Hospital's pediatric intervention team, reforestation efforts in NH & Israel, AccesSportAmerica, dog treats for Buddy Dog; beads and crafts for Project Have Hope; water and bath scrubs for building a well in a third world country
- Learned about and recruited volunteers for the Nature Connection, a Concord non-profit organization that brings educational and therapeutic nature-based programs to people whose access to the natural world is limited
- Stuffed packets for Hadassah's Cancer Awareness Education in local high schools—and purchased greeting cards for Hadassah
- With our purchases of handcrafted jewelry, supported the women of Utatlan, Guatemala through Maya Skills with founder, civil rights activist and author Julio Cochoy

(Continued on page 15)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Why I'm Thankful for Mitzvah Corps at Kutz

by **Samantha Dresser, MSW**

Program Director, Mitzvah Corps at Kutz

As Thanksgiving approaches, we prepare to spend time with our families and reflect on the things we appreciate in our lives. I personally am grateful for having had the opportunity for the past 5 summers to be a part of the Mitzvah Corps program at Kutz. Each summer, 200 teens from all over the country come together in Warwick, New York to attend the URJ Kutz Camp. Kutz is also home to the Mitzvah Corps program, which welcomes teens from all over the country who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders into the camp community for a fun, safe and inclusive Jewish camping experience.



Mitzvah Corps is truly a transformative experience that allows campers to spend time in a welcoming teen community where they can create Jewish relationships, pursue their interests, and build on their connection to Judaism, with all of the supports necessary for each individual to have a successful experience. What I am truly thankful for is not just the opportunity we are able to offer our campers with special needs who might not otherwise be able to have a Jewish camping experience, but the way that these amazing teens enhance the whole of the Kutz community. They are peer-mentored by teens participating in the Mitzvah Corps major, which provides another group of teens the opportunity to learn the skills of working with special needs populations and inclusion. Each person at camp is impacted.

As a Movement, by facilitating special needs camping and inclusion opportunities, we are fostering the development of inclusive, welcoming, empathic, open and caring Reform Jews of the future. And for our campers, we send the message, which unfortunately is not sent enough in many other venues, that they are truly valued and appreciated. We all have a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, and for that, I am thankful.

If you know a teen with Autism Spectrum Disorder who is interested in the Mitzvah Corps program at Kutz, please visit the Kutz Mitzvah Corps program site for participants. If you know a teen who would like to begin developing their own personal skill set of working with special needs populations and peer inclusion, please visit the Kutz Mitzvah Corps program site for teen mentors.

The URJ Camps offer a variety of special needs camping and inclusion options. For more information, visit the URJ Camps special needs page.

Camp Tevya hosts a Tevya Talk



Selecting a summer camp that is the best match for your child is an important decision. Please join with other families in your area to learn about what makes Camp Tevya, a Jewish co-ed overnight camp for children entering grades 3 - 10, an amazing home to many generations of children. While we can't take you on a traditional summer tour, we can bring a tour of our camp to you.

All interested families are invited to come meet our new director, some of our staff and some current campers to learn about Tevya's programs and our unique community.

Join us Thursday, January 19th, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the home of the Horwitz/Foster Family. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Mindee Meltzer, Director, at mmeltzer@cohencamps.org or 508-881-1002.

(Continued from page 14)

- Supported artisans from Safed, Israel and our school w purchases of Chanukah, Havdalah and Shabbat candles
- Supported AJWS's "Fighting Hunger From The Ground Up" campaign and EQUAL EXCHANGE Coffee Cooperative with our purchases of Fair Trade Coffee and chocolate
- Replaced light bulbs in our building at KS
- Donated cell phones to DVVAP - to enable victims of domestic violence to be able to dial 911- a lifeline to the help they need
- Donated eyeglasses for distribution to needy individuals through the Concord Lions
- Five KS members cleared invasives from a trail in Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge
- Five KS members harvested 200 lbs of collards at Linden Tree Farm for Field of Greens Food For Free Program for area shelters

Mitzvah Day 1 was a great start to a Mitzvah Year!

***Let's keep it going!
THANK YOU-TODAH RABAH!***

***LOOK FOR upcoming
SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAYS
w/ Social Action chairs
Sally Edwards & JoAnn Simon***

The Grapevine
 Kerem Shalom
 P.O.Box 1646
 Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Change Service Requested

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**Happy
 Chanukah**