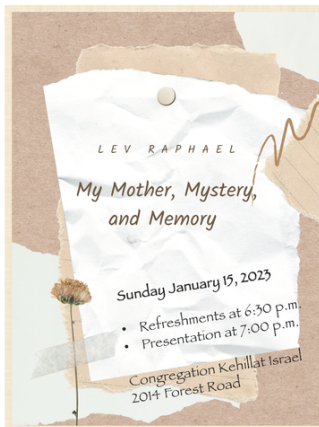


Congregation

Kehillat Israel



Following his mother's death, Lev Raphael began an odyssey of discovery to find out who his mother, a Holocaust survivor, actually was both during and following the war years. He will share the secrets he uncovered with us. His talk will conclude with a reading from his latest published essay written in her memory.



Lev Raphael is a leading figure in American Jewish Literature and the author of twenty-seven books including *Dancing on Tisha B'Av*, *Writing a Jewish Life* and *My Germany*. His work has appeared in fifteen languages and he has done invited talks and readings in nine different countries.

Saturday Service Schedule - 10:00 am

January 7, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

January 14, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Sim Shalom

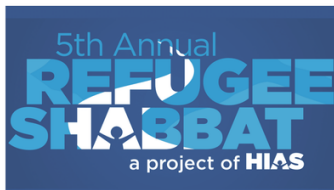
January 21, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

January 28, at KI and on Zoom - Sim Shalom

In this issue:

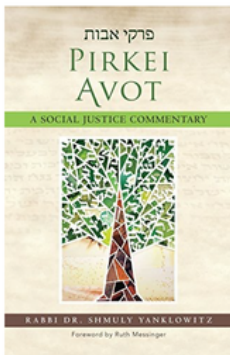
Page 3 - Rabbi Column **Page 4 - Klvunim & Learn Torah Trope**
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SAVE THE DATE SZ-KI SHABBATON FEBRUARY 10 & 11 2023



WITH
Kivunim and
Shaarey Zedek
Religious School
Families

Social Justice and Jewish Wisdom



Pirkei Avot is the urtext of Jewish practical wisdom. In many ways, the words of Pirkei Avot were the first recorded manifesto of social justice in Western civilization.

Join Rabbi Matthew on **Sunday January 8 at 4 pm** to explore this ancient text together.

We are using the new *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* by Shmuly Yanklowitz (CCAR Press 2018), which approaches the text through a lens of contemporary social justice and moral philosophy, engaging with both classical commentators and modern thinkers. It is suggested that you purchase this edition to get the most out of our discussions.

From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

Dear Friends,

Did you know that there is more than one New Year's day on the Jewish calendar? Everyone knows that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, but the earliest rabbinic text, the Mishnah, records three more! There's Tu Bishvat (the 15th of Sh'vat), which is the New Year for the tithing of the fruit of trees (i.e., Jewish Earth Day!). There's the 1st of Nisan, which is the New Year of Kings (and is the New Year for months). And there's the 1st of Elul, which is the New Year for the tithing of animals. The calendar is starting to look a bit crowded there, but as good Jews living in two civilizations, we also have January 1!

I suppose this calls for making a New Year's resolution! What should our congregational resolution be for this year?

A couple of possibilities come to mind for me. One is that we resolve what we wish to do about our physical location. We are in a time of transition, which brings with it anxieties, but we should take courage that choosing a new direction may open up new opportunities for change and growth.

Another is that we resolve to align our congregational priorities with the priorities established by Reconstructing Judaism. The current top priority for the movement is to become an anti-racist movement. To that end, the movement has taken a number of steps, including hiring Rabbi Sandra Lawson as Director of Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Reconstructing Judaism is also in the process of approving a resolution on reparations. Our KI board was among the 47 Reconstructionist congregations that voted to approve it. Perhaps some of you also saw the announcement about the movement-organized trip to Montgomery, Alabama in March, "Reckoning Together: A Reconstructionist Pilgrimage Towards Racial Justice."

May the year 2023 open up for us blessings for communal growth and strength.

Klvunim

Klvunim Newsletter January 2023



As we sail into 2023, Klvunim is full of learning and fun. The past month has been full of exploration. Kitah Bet has been learning about Jewish folklore through a role-playing game that Sarah Fox-Long created. The children are taking part in an adventure at a Midwestern Jewish day school that has magical things afoot.

Meanwhile, in Kitah Gan/Alef, children have begun to read about the Jacob story arc. It just so happens that all our students are first born children! After reading the first part of the story, the children were excited to act out the drama. In addition, we had tons of fun practicing the Hanukkah blessings in preparation for the holiday.



We had a wonderful opportunity to put our learning about Israel into practice as Sarah went to Israel over winter break. As part of her trip, she invited all students to write a note with a prayer or wish for her to place at the Western Wall/Kotel. The students were excited to hear about Sarah's trip and to think of what they would write on their notes.

As we look forward to what's next at Klvunim, one big thing that we're preparing for is the Shabbaton with Shaarey Zedek. Scheduled for February 9 and 10, the weekend will be an opportunity for our two communities to gather and celebrate Shabbat together. Stay tuned for more details!

Learn Torah Trope with Gail Richmond

Gail Richmond will be hosting a class to teach KI members Torah trope. The class will start January 5th and be held on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm at KI. If the weather is bad, class will be shifted to Zoom.

Gail has kindly agreed to offer this class free of charge in exchange for a promise to help out with either a Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Kippur Torah reading. Please respond by January 1st to Nicole Ellefson if you are interested, nicole.ellefson@gmail.com

Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie
Friday January 13th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Featuring Ody Norkin singing Yedid Nefesh and Rabbi Matthew playing klezmer



Through a Reconstructionist Lens – with Rabbi Matthew

Interested in exploring Jewish learning, prayer, God, and how to think Jewishly about the issues of our day?

Join Rabbi Matthew for the ultimate Reconstructionist introduction to Judaism class. *Exclusively for KI members (and prospective members).*

Israel and Progressive Zionism Zoom only
Saturday January 21 at 4 pm

This is not your average basic “informational” or “how-to” class! This innovative adult education series, developed by Reconstructing Judaism, asks important questions of us even as it offers a wonderful entry point to learning. It teaches that Jewish life is as much about creating meaning as it is about responding to tradition.

Learn and discuss a wide range of topics monthly with Rabbi Matthew. Join for any or all of them! This class features engaging video interviews with knowledgeable speakers and other materials that are provided to class registrants in advance of each class. Once you’ve looked at the background material, simply join Rabbi Matthew for a group discussion on that month’s topic, and let’s learn together!

Upcoming topics include:

- Racial Justice (Feb 18)
- Economic Justice (Mar 18)
- Building Community (Apr 15)

SOUP AND SCHMOOZE NEWS from Arlene Sharkey

Changing of the Guard: We would like to welcome Stephanie Kaufman as KI's Soup and Schmooze's new coordinator, and to thank Arthur Slabosky for his previous efforts in that position. Yasher koach, Arthur!

We are excited to announce the first Soup and Schmooze of 2023. LEV RAPHAEL, well known author and speaker, will be coming to KI on Sunday evening, January 15th, for a presentation entitled "My Mother, Mystery, and Memory." His talk will focus on the role his mother played in his career and how he's honored her in his fiction and creative nonfiction--how she inspired him. We will meet at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall at KI, and Lev will speak at 7:00 pm. Please bring some wonderful desserts to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

LEV RAPHAEL is a leading figure in American Jewish Literature and the author of twenty-seven books including *Dancing on Tisha B'Av*, *Writing a Jewish Life and My Germany*. His work has appeared in fifteen languages and he has done invited talks and readings in nine different countries.

Great Books

Good morning and an early Happy New Year. The next session of the Great Books group will be on Monday, 16 January, at 2:00 PM, at KI. We will continue to follow KI Covid protocols. We will be returning to the *Best American Short Stories 2015* text, edited by T.C. Boyle, discussing the next two stories: "Jack, July," by Victor Lodato and "Sh'khol," by Colum McCann.

Take care and be well. Alan Posner

Hadassah Book Club

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:00 pm Zoom

Mrs. Everything by Jennifer Wiener. Fiction.

Two sisters grow up in Detroit in the 50s and 60s.

Their lives unfold against the background of free love and Vietnam,
Woodstock and women's lib. Rec. Liz Morley.

Discussion Leader: Ellen Pollak



THANK YOU
for your support!

General Fund

The Louis Berkowitz Family Foundation

Jack and Terri Love

Ms. Shirleey Harris in honor of Robin Willner
Elaine and Joel Axelrod for welcoming Mark and his
family to KI

Social and Cultural

Lonnie and Karen Barnett

Daniel Glickman Memorial Fund

Doug Moffat

Fundraising for KI through Amazon

Shop Smile Amazon and earn money for KI. The link below will take you directly to smile.amazon.com and you can shop and support KI. We will earn .5% of your purchase. Look us up as - Kehillat Israel Lansing Michigan - and shop. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1918632>

Kroger fundraising to earn money for KI

Members can sign up by searching for Congregation Kehillat Israel and connecting KI to their Kroger plus card. Our account number is nv535. You can go to the Kroger Community Funds home page for instructions. Copy and paste this link to your browser or click : <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> KI will earn a percentage of your purchases. No cost to you.

Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 pm Zoom

Board of Directors

Doug Moffat – President – 2024

Kirsten Fermaglich – Executive VP – 2024

Susan Morris – Secretary – 2023

Leon Puttler – VP for Finance – 2023

Ody Norkin – VP for Facilities – 2023

Richard Block/Gail Richmond – VP for Religious Affairs – 2024

Arlene Sharkey – VP for Education – 2024

Liz Harrow – VP for Programs – 2023

Robin Willner – First Trustee – 2024

Judy Spanogle – Trustee – 2023

Emily Schnurr – Trustee – 2024

Stuart Braiman – Trustee – 2023

Michelle Loree – Trustee – 2023

Neil Gordon – Past President

WE HAVE ADDED MORE DATES TO OUR TORAH & HAFTARAH SIGN-UP

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1273RVz5LmC8EDS3O3mvdvU-PkZUMrzWpFH-0y/Sl68/edit?ts=604a403d#gid=0> to sign up to give a dvar or chant Torah/haftarah. If you don't see the date you want on there, please reach out to kikath-erineb@gmail.com.

Zoom Gabbaim for Shabbat Services - If you are comfortable using Zoom (or would like to learn more), please contact Judy Spanogle at kikatherineb@gmail.com (this is open to teens as well as adults).



January Yahrzeits

Daniel Allen, 8 Tevet, January 1

John Russo, 9 Tevet, January 2

Delcie Juran, 9 Tevet, January 2

Arnold Werner, 13 Tevet, January 6

Alex Heideman, 17 Tevet, January 10

Jose Velarde, 25 Tevet, January 18

Judy Horowitz Shulman, 2 Shevat, January 24

Shelli Rochelle Elstein, 6 Shevat, January 28

Sara Bladen, 9 Shevat, January 31

Happy

BIRTHDAY

Joanne Bass

Claudia Holzman

Sheryl Kahn

David Lipsitz

Sean Pager

Leon Puttler

Betty Seagull

Robin Willner

Fran Yelon

Howard & Eileen Heideman

Bud and Judy Shulman

*Happy
Anniversary*



The Essential Guide to KI's Website Navigation www.kehillatisrael.net

Happy 2023! This is a good year to get to know the benefits of KI's website.

There are many "need to know" items you can find on the website. KI's announcements, calendar of events, adult education programs, school information, service information, community programs, member section, and how to contact KI's office and staff.

January's Topic

Member Section

Member Section link. Click on the member section in the white box below or copy and paste this link to your browser.

<https://kehillatisrael.net/member-section/>



There is so much helpful information in the member section of our website. *NO Password* required. If the website is asking you for a password you will need to clear the page or website "cache" on your device. If you do not know how to do this please call Katherine at 517-882-0049 for help.

Do you want to read a past D'var Torah? See who is serving on the board of directors? Find the Kiddush Sign up Form? Look for Yizkor Information? Sign up for Service Leader or Kiddush Coordinator? Find a link to KI's You Tube page or Venmo donation information?

You can find all of this information and much more by visiting KI's member section on the website. Just click the link above or the link in the body of the newsletter email.

Happy Surfing!