

Congregation *Kehillat Israel*



The KI Board of Directors at its December meeting voted to call a Special Meeting for March 10 at 5:00 pm to vote on the possibility of co-location with Shaarey Zedek. Details and more information will be sent to you in the coming weeks. While we hope that as many as possible will attend in person, we will make arrangements for people to attend and vote by Zoom.

Adult Ed with Rabbi Matthew

"The Heretic: Why an 18th Century Opponent of Rabbinic Authority Matters Today". Saturday January 20 at 4:30 PM. Join Rabbi Matthew for a discussion of this Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations podcast featuring Jay Michaelson, a rabbi, journalist, scholar, LGBTQ activist and meditation teacher, who shares his thoughts on the contemporary relevancy of the heresy of Jacob Frank. Please listen to the podcast in advance of our discussion (<https://evolve.fireside.fm/35>), and read the accompanying essay found there, "The Allure of the Antinomian...or, How Jacob Frank Seduced Me."

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From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

In January, we begin reading from Exodus. The conclusion of the book of Genesis imparted a reassuring message that Jewish life in Egypt was decent. The Israelites settled in verdant Goshen, acquired land, and were fruitful and increased greatly. But as a new chapter opens in Israelite life with the book of Exodus, we learn that there arose a “new Pharaoh” whose attitude towards the Israelites was distinctly hostile. It was a surprising and unexpected development.

It strikes me that, perhaps for the first time, American Jews wonder if their secure status in this country is in danger of being abruptly undermined. Being a Jew in America in January 2024 feels very different from what it felt like just a few years ago. In conversations I have had with others, it has been impressed upon me that many are now feeling that the seamless integration of their Jewish and American identities has become disrupted. Some are feeling vulnerable and exposed in their Jewishness in a way that they could not have imagined would occur in America. The recent news of the rash of bomb threats that swept across the country and affected over 400 synagogues only underscores the point. There may not have been an actual physical threat, but for many communities the hoax did add to a feeling of destabilization.

We must remember, however, that we live in a community in which we are blessed with a great deal of support. Local and federal law enforcement agencies are in constant communication with us and are monitoring our safety. We are blessed with the support of an interfaith community that cares for our well-being. And if we take this opportunity to become even more engaged with Jewish community, we will find resources of strength and joy to carry us forward.

Saturday Service Schedule - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

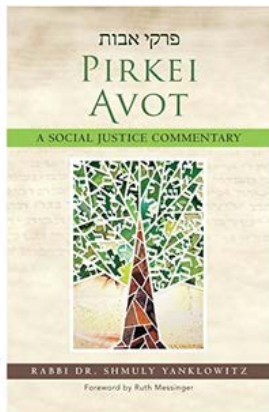
January 6, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with
Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

January 13, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with
Rabbi Matthew - Lev Shalem

January 20, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with
Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

January 27, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom -
Lev Shalem

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 14 at 4:30 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.

A former member of KI, Nicole Kemeny, daughter of Katy and Gabor (z"l) Kemeny, has started an online petition that I would like to commend to your attention. She is calling for Elon Musk to have to testify to the United States Senate regarding the antisemitism that he has helped to stoke on his online platform X (formerly known as Twitter). I have already signed her petition.

[Here is the link: https://chng.it/Skbczztj2z](https://chng.it/Skbczztj2z)

-Rabbi Matthew

Rabbi Liaison Committee

Reminder: The Rabbi Liaison Committee focuses on the relationship between the Rabbi and the Congregation.

The committee can be reached at rabbiliasoncommittee@gmail.com (that's 'rabbi liaison committee' - but without any spaces - @gmail.com)

The 3 committee members -- Betty Seagull, Elizabeth Morrisseau, and Lonnie Barnett -- are the only ones that have access to this email box. For those that would like to reach this committee but prefer not to e-mail, you can approach any committee member during KI events. Or you can reach either Betty or Lonnie at the following phone/text numbers.

Betty Seagull: (517) 664-1844

Lonnie Barnett: (517) 927-3628

THANK YOU
for your support!

General Fund

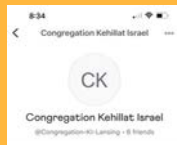
Neil Gordon and Anna Pegler Gordon - in honor of Ody Norkin, David Wiener, Katherine Booker and Doug Moffit for keeping KI's boiler working.

Elaine Axelrod



Paypal donate button is up and running on our website. Copy and paste the link below or scan the QR code to donate to KI

Here is our venmo information if you would like to give via venmo



Klvunim



As the secular year drew to a close, we began a few new areas of study. With the entire group, children began studying Genesis 18: 1-6 to continue the story of Abraham where he greets the three angels. Given the nature of this parsha, we are pairing text exploration with the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim. Older and younger have buddied up to study the text, build their visions of the events, and act out scenes of how they could welcome a stranger in their own lives. The picture shows an older child collaborating with a younger child to build Genesis 18: 1-2.

On Sundays, young children continue their work with the text by listening to the parsha and discussing it. We also spend time working to learn about the Hebrew Alef-Bet through interactive exercises that involve touch, movement, and recitation of familiar prayers, such as the shema. The picture shows two children working to use pattern blocks to copy words from prayers or to form their names.



On Wednesdays, Kitah Bet children have just finished up their ritual hack kits where they made items for their own ritual use based on traditional items from Jewish practice. The two pictures show children using air-dry clay to create ritual items and children painting their boxes to hold the items they have imagined and made as part of this unit.



At the close of December, Sarah F-L headed to Israel to help bring in crops. She went as part of a Birthright effort to provide agricultural labor in the face of shortages during the Gaza war. While she was away, she sent regular updates to the kids



via WhatsApp. Through these pictures and videos, we enjoyed meeting her Jewish colleagues from around the world and learning how they picked Tinkerbell peppers at a kibbutz outside of Tel Aviv. Children laughed and joked when asked to determine what caused damage to a pepper, were excited to see Argentinian and Scottish Jewish people, and took a trip to the Kotel with Sarah. We're so fortunate to have Sarah as a role model for our children! The picture shows one of the Tinkbell peppers that was damaged. (Spoiler alert-- a bird did it.) When school resumes after break, we're planning to have a special Sunday of learning all about life on Kibbutz!



Safety Committee

\$2118 was donated for security at KI. The board of directors and safety committee will look into KI's security needs.

We would like to thank Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kristin Stroble, and Rev. Dawn Christenson for sending KI a portion of the offering taken at the Interfaith Gathering of Solidarity and Hope to be used towards KI's security costs.

Following the bomb threat at Shaarey Zedek, LPD Captain Pratl told the security committee that LPD "will continue to monitor these incidents while conducting extra patrols." You should know that Katherine has had a checklist of steps to follow in the event of a bomb threat, and we are following up with LPD and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit to formalize our procedures for responding to a bomb threat. We are also looking into FEMA's library of disaster management procedures for useful material.

As usual, be aware of your surroundings whenever you visit KI. If you see something unusual, tell someone. Let LPD help sort things out - it's their job to be there when we need them.

Great Books

The next Great Books session will be on Monday, 15 January, at 1:30, at KI. We will be discussing the first few entries in one of our new texts, *The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story*: The Introduction by the editor, John Freeman; "The Lesson" by Toni Cade Bambara; "A Conversation with My Father" by Grace Paley; and "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" by Ursula K. Le Guin. Happy New Year and be well.

Alan Posner



Hadassah Book Club

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 24, 2024, on Zoom at 1PM. We will discuss *The Saturday Morning Murder: A Psychoanalytic Case* (Michael Ohayon Mysteries, No. 1) by Batya Gur. Translated from Hebrew. The novel is a hair-raising mystery with details of the psychoanalytic community in Jerusalem and a vivid picture of Israeli Life. Discussion Leader is Claire Berkman.

Enjoy your reading! See you on the 24th!

Lois

Member News

Rabbi Matthew's drop-in office hours are on Sundays from 11-1 and on Wednesdays from 3-5. Appointment times outside of drop-in hours may be arranged by emailing Rabbi Matthew at Kl rabbim@gmail.com. Rabbi Matthew's regular work schedule is on Sundays, Wednesdays, and most Saturdays. Congregants can generally expect responses to non-urgent matters on one of those days. The rabbi will be available outside of his regular work schedule for urgent matters. In case of emergency, please phone Rabbi Matthew at (517) 582-4155.

KI's Bikkur Cholim - If you know of any KI member who is ill or injured please inform either Rabbi Matthew at kirabbim@gmail.com or 517- 582-4155 or Robin Willner at ronit24@sbcglobal.net of KI's Bikkur Cholim so that we may provide help and support as needed. Please let Rabbi Kaufman know if you or someone in your family is in need of special prayer support.

KI building hours of operation - Wednesday , Thursday, and Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please call for appointment 517-882-0049.



Yahrzeits

Jose Valarde, 25 Tevet, Januaray 6

Judy Horowitz Shulman, 2 Shevat, Jan 12

Shelli (Rochelle) Elstein, 6 Shevat, January 16

Sara Bladen, 9 Shevat, January 19

Chris Linz, 12 Shevat, January 22

Gary Crakes, 12 Shevat, January 22

Matilda Post, 17 Shevat, January 27

Mark Levy, 18 Shevat, January 28

Robert Echt, 20 Shevat, January 30

Ruth Fox, 20 Shevat, January 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joanne Bass
Sheryl Kahn
Sean Pager
Leon Puttler
Betty Seagull
Robin Willner
Fran Yelon

HAPPY
Anniversary!

Howard & Eileen Heideman
Bud and Judy Shulman

Monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday January 10, 7:00 pm AT KI

Board of Directors

Doug Moffat – President – 2024

Kirsten Fermaglich – Executive VP – 2024

Marc Speiser - Secretary - 2025

Leon Puttler – VP for Finance – 2024

Ody Norkin– VP for Facilities – 2024

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

Arlene Sharkey – VP for Education – 2024

Liz Harrow – VP for Programs – 2024

Robin Willner – First Trustee – 2024

Alene Dixon - Trustee - 2025

Emily Schnurr – Trustee – 2024

Brian Kalt - Trustee - 2025

Neil Gordon – Past President

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

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1273RVz5LmC8EDS3O3mvdvU-PkZUMrzWpFH-0ylSl68/edit?ts=604a403d#gid=0> (copy and paste into your browser) sign up to give a dvar or chant Torah/haftarah. If you don't see the date you want, please reach out to kikatherineb@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).

The KI Kiddush -- an easy KI volunteer job. Only you can keep our KI Kiddush going.

To sign up to be the host of our volunteer KI kiddushes please do the following:

- 1) Go to <https://kehillatisrael.net/>
- 2) Click on "Member Section"
- 3) Click on Kiddush Sign-up Form
- 4) Pick a date when you can help out as the kiddush coordinator.

Easy job -- set up the social hall, defrost a challah from the freezer, bring a dozen bagels, and clean up after kiddush.

Contact Kate Farley at katefarley246@gmail.com

Community Events



INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN MAH JONGG

Are you interested in learning how to play Mah Jongg?

Mah-Jongg is an interesting, social, stimulating, and fun rummy type game. If you would like to learn to play, please join us on Sunday, January 14, 2014 at 2pm in the social hall of Congregation Sharrey Zekek in East Lansing. Instructors will be available to teach you to play both "friendly" and/or money types of Mah Jongg.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE RSVP by January 10.

ROBIN WILLNER
517-332-3722
Ronit24@sbcglobal.net

OR

ROSLYN COVEY
517-230-6065
roslyncovey@att.net

