

April 13th, 2018/28th of Nisan, 5778

SHABBATON SCHEDULE:

Friday evening services

Kabbalat Shabbat **7:00 PM** (NOT 7:30 PM)

7:30 PM Oneg and potluck (come even if you don't bring food)

While we eat, there will be a program led by RRC student rabbis Janine Jankovitz Pastor and Sarah Barasch-Hagans:

“Taking a Trip to Chelm: Humor and Absurdity On Our Journey Into Social Justice”

Using Isaac Bashevis Singer's stories of the Wise Fools of Chelm as a starting point, we will explore how being imaginative and playful can lead us to a more hopeful place and help us handle difficult issues with creativity.

After the program, you are invited to stay and sing *zemirot*, Shabbat songs.

Saturday morning beginning at 10:00 am

There will be Shabbat services with lively singing, reading from the Torah and Haftarah, and a brief meditation during the service.

This is Rohingya Justice Shabbat across the country. We will engage in some learning and text study about the persecution of this minority and explore meanings of the concept of *silence* which comes up in our Torah portion.

We will enjoy a potluck Shabbat lunch together around **12:00 pm** followed by a walk or stroll around the area.

2:00 PM After lunch, clean-up and a stroll, we will have a guided chant and meditation session with Jane Barg followed by those who would like to engage in Torah yoga with Rabbi Diana. Please bring a mat if you have one, but there are a few extra at the synagogue.

If there is enough interest, after we take an afternoon break and dinner on our own, we will re-gather for Havdalah.

***Feel free to drop in at any time. If you enter during a period of meditation or yoga, please take care to enter quietly.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Dear chevreh,

A survey released yesterday on Yom HaShoah revealed that many American adults lack basic knowledge about the Holocaust. [<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/12/us/holocaust-education.html>] Thirty-one percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials aged 18-34, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust and forty-one percent of Americans, and 66 percent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was. This is disturbing to read for Jewish people both because we lost one third of our people, and because as a world, we are clearly not heeding “Never Again”, as terrible suffering, oppression and killing are happening in multiple places around the world.

This weekend, several Jewish organizations* are highlighting the plight of the Rohingya people, an ethnic and religious minority who are being horrifically persecuted in Burma (Myanmar) by Burmese forces. Tomorrow as part of Shabbat morning, we will learn about their plight and study some Torah which connects us to our charge as Jews to stay awake and act in the face of oppression.

Another loss that we must not forget, along with the six million Jewish people, is the loss of an entire thriving culture, the incredibly diverse lives of Eastern European Jews. I went to Poland many years ago as part of a Pardes trip, the yeshiva in Jerusalem in which I studied. I visited and witnessed not only death camps but many large cities and small towns where Jews lived. I explored the remains of synagogues and learned about the populations who lived there for centuries. One reason I feel so drawn to Eastern European Jewish history, the Yiddish language and klezmer music, is knowing that my ancestors lived in those lands for 1,000 years.

This week, I found it moving to read Imam Abdullah Antepli's account of encountering the Shoah. The self-titled "recovering anti-Semite", currently the Chief Representative of Muslim Affairs at Duke University, has visited and spoken at Philadelphia and Bucks County Jewish communities numerous times. His 2011 piece "A Day of Deep Sorrow: An Imam's Reflections on Yom HaShoah by Imam Abdullah Antepli" shows that an outsider can sometimes grasp and articulate the enormity of a tragedy by reflecting it back to the people who experienced the loss.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/imam-abdullah-antepli/imam-reflection-on-yom-hashoah_b_856074.html

Even if you are from a Sephardic, Mizrahi, or other Jewish background, have joined the Jewish people as an adult, or are a fellow traveler, the Ashkenazic tradition is part of the history of the Jewish people, so we all bear this loss as a people. It is incumbent upon us both to mourn who and what we have lost, and to familiarize ourselves with the civilization which was destroyed and the cultural, liturgical and textual remnants which are still thriving.

One opportunity to do so is come next Saturday evening to the KHN Klezmer music and dancing event (feel free just to listen!) and enjoy world class Klezmer music in Jewish Eastern European style with some post-Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Israeli dancing thrown in to celebrate Israel's 70th.

I look forward to seeing you this evening and tomorrow.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana

*The Jewish Rohingya Justice Network is a consortium of Jewish NGOs advocating for the rights of the Rohingya. Members include American Jewish World Service, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Union for Reform Judaism, HIAS, Anti-Defamation League, Jewish World Watch, JACOB, T'ruah, Reconstructing Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Rabbinical Assembly, Hebrew College, The New York Board of Rabbis, Uri L'Tzedek, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, The Shalom Center.

**I would like to remind you that I am available to speak and meet with you. I have found that setting individual times with people rather than having specific office hours has worked wonderfully these past few years. My email is: rabbidianamiller@gmail.com and my phone number is: [215-804-6626](tel:215-804-6626).