



Programs

Events

Activities

Celebrations

Belonging

# **Kehillath Israel** **Program Guide**

5785 | 2024-2025

Rejoice, Learn, and Grow...With Us

# Welcome!

We greet 5785 with heartfelt prayers that it will be a better, safer, more hopeful year for our beloved people and for all people of good faith.

This program guide offers you an overview of the array of KI programs, initiatives, and celebrations you can look forward to this year. It also gives you a good sense of our priorities. What we value. What we're here for. At KI, our efforts to meet your needs remain ongoing, as we seek to deepen Jewish commitments and bring our tradition to life.

This year, in particular, we seek to repurpose our current plight from pain to promise. Bringing this to pass won't be simple. But, as our beloved State of Israel has had to learn, achieving security and acceptance, while striving to be a beacon of global goodness and healing, aren't given or to be taken for granted. Rather they're ideals that expect constant discipline and diligence.

We're here to help. And we know you are too. And we can hardly wait to get to know each other better in the New Year. Am Yisrael Chai.

**Rabbi William Hamilton**

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# Belonging/Membership

The prospect of your joining KI means a lot to us. We want to make doing so as simple as possible. Our Sustaining Share model invites you to set your own contribution level. We do offer guidelines, but we very much want you to determine a financial level that fits best for you. Please contact our Main Office 617.277.9155, email [Suzanne@congki.org](mailto:Suzanne@congki.org) or visit [congki.org/belonging](http://congki.org/belonging) to get your questions answered. Welcome to our KI Family!

## New Member Shabbat

December 7

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to all who recently began to call KI home!

## Prospective Members

KI strives to be an inclusive, traditional synagogue, promoting a Judaism that's intellectually alive, morally powerful, and personally transforming. Whether you're new to the area, a long-time local, or somewhere in between, we hope you consider joining KI's ever-widening circle.

## Library of Gratitude

For more than a quarter century, KI has embraced sending our entire membership a volume of exceptional quality, in the spirit of deep gratitude, to help enrich our inner lives. This year's selection, *Stand-Up Nation*, tells the yet untold story of Israel's heroic capacity to be a source of help and blessing to the wider world.

## Bonus This Year

Because this has been such a challenging year for our people, we've decided to add an additional *Library of Gratitude* selection — one that reminds us of who we are and what we're fighting to preserve as Jews, today as we have throughout our 4,000 year history. Rabbi Yitz Greenberg's recently released *The Triumph Of Life*, centers us, as responsible agents, copartners in bringing Godliness into today's world.

## Leadership Development

At KI, we prioritize leadership development. Much of what we do best is generated and sustained by our lay leaders. This was most evident, for example, during the COVID years when we delivered more than 7,500 Kiddush lunches to people's homes. If you're interested in getting more involved, please be in touch with Judy Wurtman, our Membership VP ([Membershship@congki.org](mailto:Membershship@congki.org)), or Barnet Kessel our Executive Director ([Barnet@congki.org](mailto:Barnet@congki.org)), who will be delighted to help.

## Circles of Shared Interest

Some enjoy knitting. Others prefer softball. Some are musical. Others are artistic. And some just love to get together to talk about issues of the day. New circles of connection are always in formation. We look forward to your becoming a part of one that speaks to you.

# Israel

Israel's well-being is at the beating-heart of all we do at KI. Our commitment to our People's restoration in our ancestral home reaches back to our synagogue's founding. It runs deep and reaches far and wide into virtually every arena of congregational life.

Care for Jews, by Jews, as Jews, is a Kehillath Israel priority. Never more so than now. Join us as we lend our willing hearts and hands to our sacred task of upbuilding Zion as a beacon of hope and brighter futures for all humankind.

## Guest Speakers

Barely a week went by last year when we didn't host a speaker from or about Israel. We'll keep this up. One reason why first-hand accounts matter so much, is to keep us close to the real lives of Israelis — their worries and wishes.

## Daily Nourishment

Ever since the brutal attack of October 7, Rabbi Hamilton has been sharing a Daily Letter that speaks to our spirits and our hearts. Sometimes it includes concrete steps and projects that bring us together. And sometimes it draws from our ancestor's surplus of wisdom and spiritual guidance. As long as the hostages remain in harmful captivity and the daily attacks on our people continue, his letters will too. You can sign up and read past letters at [congki.org/dailyletters](http://congki.org/dailyletters).

## Initiatives

KI continues to mobilize to respond to particular needs and participate in time-sensitive efforts. As we collected gear to support specific Northern Front units through our dear friend Sapir Weizman last winter, we stand ready to respond and provide as best as we can.

## Visits

As we've shared in CJP sponsored Missions, we hope to join a December 22-29 volunteer mission with the JNF. Look for announcements and details on how you can join Rabbi Hamilton and other KI leaders in Israel this winter.

## Communal Gatherings

KI has a proud legacy of hosting historic rallies, celebrations, and memorials for Israel. Now as ever we actively participate wherever opportunities to demonstrate our loyalty are invited — from Washington DC to Downtown Boston.

## Friday Night Guests

Every few weeks during Friday Night's Got Shabbat Dinner, we welcome accomplished Israelis to share from their experiences. Often fellows at local universities, we're so grateful to Ruth Kaplan for arranging these special visits.

## College Support

We're as committed as ever to finding fresh ways to support Jewish collegiates throughout our region in expressing their love for Israel and Zionism's blessings.

## Activating Prayer

KI's Prayer for the House of Israel, which we've prayed several times each day since last October, prioritize three different things:

1. bringing our beloved Hostages back where they belong,
2. asking for compassion for those of all beliefs and backgrounds who are suffering in this war being waged by our enemies, and
3. a decline in the rising contempt for our people. May all three of these profoundly worthy yearnings soon be realized.

“ We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown, and when strawberries bloom in Israel. We hate war. We do not rejoice in victories. ”

**Golda Meir**

## Activating our Prayers for Israel

Wednesday, October 9 at 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Inspired by partner minyanim, this evening warmly invites those especially seeking ways to channel their passion for bringing the Hostages back where they belong. Varieties of prayers will be presented and processing in smaller groups will imagine more helpful ways and means forward.

## Jewish Resilience: Antisemitism and Emotional Well-Being

Hadassah Margolis's Groups are always nourishing and personally inspiring. This group aims to support those seeking to support our Jewish State.

## Our Third Commonwealth

You can be at the forefront of helping to write our vision's next chapter. It will, no doubt, build upon bi-continental Jewish life between Israel and North America, as well as championing the most effective ways to deepen Jewish commitments. We can't wait to hear your ideas!

## Stand-Up Nation

This year's *Library of Gratitude* selection arrived in your home prior to October 7th's painful anniversary. We hope it will invite a dynamic new appreciation for Israel's continued capacity to bring light and hope and promise into a world so worthy of such spiritual goods.

# Shabbat

More and more, people are joining us for communal prayer. This is particularly evident on Shabbat. Perhaps it's due to the desire for togetherness, perhaps as a refuge from social technology, whatever the motivations may be, Shabbat at KI keeps getting more lively and more nourishing.

## KICKS

Every Friday night, KI Community Kabbalat Shabbat (KICKS) brings fresh energy into our welcoming of Shabbat. As dynamic as our signature lay-led experience has been since its founding 14 years ago, KICKS is as strong as ever, providing a community of warmth and welcome that lifts our spirits and stirs our souls.

## Got Shabbat

Every single Friday night, without exception, KI delights in providing a catered Shabbat meal — with you as our special guest. Bring your friends. All are welcome! Get to know, up close and personally, why community connections continue to strengthen each week at KI. Often, you'll find Israeli guests sharing moving testimonials at dinners too.

## Cuddle Up Shabbat

Especially for families with children age 7-and-under, join us monthly as we cuddle up and get cozy with a Shabbat blanket as a tablecloth, dinosaur puppet friends, and joyous Shabbat songs and prayers. Afterwards, there's always a family-friendly dinner that often joins the Got Shabbat community.

## Vibrant Shabbat Mornings

Our prayer spaces and corridors buzz with prayerful song, learning, and joy every Saturday morning. KI's Sanctuary brims with learning and hums with liturgy each week. It's a welcoming setting for those who are spiritually curious and theologically thirsty.

You'll also find several additional prayer-communities of excellence on our 384 Harvard Street Campus every week. Around every corner and on every floor, we encourage you to discover powerful Shabbat experiences provided by Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Washington Square Minyan, Minyan Shaleym, and our most recent new community Alumot. It's all part of our Campus Vision that promotes a dynamic ecosystem of engagement. Make new friends and learn new ways to celebrate and learn together.

## Toddlers To Teens

Young people of all ages feel at home at KI every Shabbat.

## Babysitting

9:15 am – 11:30 am

Drop-off babysitting is available on Shabbat morning, offered by Washington Square Minyan.

## Nitzanim

Our weekly youth service for children ages 5-and-under, Nitzanim is led by a combination of parent volunteers and teen staff. Children and their families celebrate with song, prayer, and movement, and then join the Sanctuary to help us conclude services. Many families like to stay for lunch with the community in the Social Hall.

## Minyan Atid

Our youth service for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade, or ages 5-10. It includes Shabbat tefillot, Torah learning, and age appropriate activities. Afterwards, they join us in the Sanctuary to lead concluding prayers and then for Kiddush lunch.

## Children in The Sanctuary

Our youngest children are always welcome in our Sanctuary with their grown ups. We want them to feel at home. A children's corner with quiet toys, books, and games helps to make their visits especially joyous.

## Kiddush

Noontime Kiddush has become a great place to meet new people and connect with good friends. Often including songs and blessings after the meal, wintertime also features games and extended programming into the afternoon.

## Daily Minyan

A source of pride and locus of commitment we hope you'll visit and tell your friends who may need to find a warm, inclusive "community of prayer."

## Weekday Worship

KI's Chapel convenes 3-times Daily gender-inclusive Services (also available online).

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Monday – Friday</b>
8:00 am	7:00 am
12:20 pm (online)	12:20 pm (online)
7:00 pm	Friday afternoons at Candles

## Mincha and Rabbi H Learning Prior to Havdalah

A gem of a time every Shabbat afternoon, join us for Torah reading, prayer, singing, learning with Rabbi Hamilton and Havdalah — all within 60 minutes from dusk until twilight.

## Melave Malkah

Recently described as one of the best new additions to Boston's Jewish scene, monthly song-filled Saturday nights with Jacob's Ladder are not to be missed. Come by. Give it a try. You'll be glad you did and leave a lot more inspired to take on a new week.

# KI Preschool

Our storied Judge Lewis and Mrs. Goldberg Preschool is experiencing historic growth — doubling in size this year. In the heart of Coolidge Corner, we provide a stimulating and challenging play and discovery-based curriculum taught by warm, nurturing early childhood professionals in a developmentally appropriate environment. We're a multicultural diverse community in which all backgrounds are celebrated and welcome.

Our curriculum blends both secular and Judaic programming, providing a range of hands-on learning experiences while appreciating each child's individual needs. Our high quality program prepares children for the social-emotional and intellectual demands of their future education while providing families with a uniquely caring, Jewishly-diverse and multicultural community. Together we partner with parents to raise happy, healthy, and self-confident children.

## Morning Core Program

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**15 months – 2.9 years:** Toddler Program 2, 3, or 5 days

**2.9 – 5 years:** Preschool Program 5 days

We believe that children learn through play. In our classrooms, both inside and outdoors, we provide an environment that is rich in play opportunities. Our learning spaces invite and encourage exploration and discovery. Teaching staff support children as they practice social skills by helping them enter into, sustain, and enhance play, and practice cooperation skills as they learn to share, take turns, negotiate, and compromise.

We believe each child is developmentally unique and learns at a different pace and style. Our broad-based curriculum includes, but is not limited to: literacy, music, drama, creative movement, art, science, math, social studies, technology, Judaics, problem solving, creative thinking, social and moral development, and fine motor and large skill oriented motor activities. We want children who graduate from KI Preschool to be ready for continued learning.

## Optional Programs

**Early Birds:** 8:00 am – 9:00 am

For Parents who need an earlier start.

**Extended Day:** 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

For toddlers and young preschoolers, this is usually nap time.

For our older preschoolers, students participate in a variety of programs including Puddlestompers (nature exploration), KI Storytellers (a mix of literacy and drama), Gymnastics with Jenn, Super Soccer Stars, and art.

**KI Cooldown:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Students spend more time outside or in our indoor space, have snack, and wind down in classrooms.

**KI Summer Camp:** (8 weeks)

8:30 am – 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, or 5:00 pm

Students and children from the community enjoy a themed and relaxed summer camp atmosphere.



# Kehillath Israel Religious School (KIRS)

KIRS is at the heart of KI's community of learners. Our mission is to inspire joy and a sense of wonder in Judaism, touching the heart of every student with love and belonging. To be a place where students look forward to coming and learning each week.

In our school, which is for Kindergarten – 7th grade students, children are exposed to a variety of subject areas, with our core curricular goals including tefillah (prayer), Torah, Hebrew Language, Jewish Holidays, and values. We encourage and inspire our students to gradually become active participants in our religious services and enthusiastic celebrants of our tradition.

Our bi-weekly meetings include Hebrew Reading Groups and Zman Kehillah, or community time. In Hebrew Reading Groups, students are broken into smaller groups of 4-6 students, to focus on Hebrew reading skills. This begins with letter recognition and phonics in the younger grades, and progresses to Torah and Megillah reading in the older grades. In Zman Kehillah, students have opportunities to learn experientially, through music, art, cooking, and field trips.

## **Kindergarten and 1st Grade**

Thursday afternoons, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

## **2nd through 5th Grade**

Monday and Thursday afternoons, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

## **6th and 7th Grade**

Thursday afternoons, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

## **KIRS Shabbat**

Three times throughout the year, our community will be honored with the presence and leadership of our Religious School students on Friday nights. As a part of the KIRS curriculum, students learn most of the tefillot (prayers) of Kabbalat Shabbat, and they will enthusiastically lead this service. Families are invited to stay for a KIRS Shabbat Dinner afterwards, whether or not your child is enrolled in KIRS.

“ Judaism is founded on human faith and divine promise that they world can be perfected. ”

**Rabbi Yitz Greenberg**

# Learning

Growing-in-love with Jewish life can feel magical. Settings for learning are among the most vivid sights where this kind of magic happens. Dozens of occasions for weekly learning, personalized study, and special guest-teachers are at the heart of KI's uniqueness. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote: "There is joy in belonging to Israel, to God, and in being able to taste heaven in a sacred deed."

## Jews By Choice

KI is proud to have become a vital center for dozens of learners going through conversion to Judaism each year. Their passion for Jewish learning and being excites ours!

## Mishna

Monday through Friday at 12-noon

Rabbi David Starr, Congregation Mishkan Tefila's Rabbi, teaches Mishna-in-a-Minute online. It's a fun group, featuring lively discussion. Join us.

## Doodles

Tuesdays at 9:00 am

Leann Shamash brings her unrivaled blend of creativity and openness-to-text to the weekly Torah portion. Join us.

## Four Weekly-Torah Sessions

Rabbi Hamilton strives to bring lessons from the weekly Torah portion to life each week:

**Friday** 8:00 am

**Saturday** at afternoon services

**Sunday** at 12-noon

**Monday** 6:20 pm

## Accessible Prayer

Wednesday or Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm

Bruce Weinstock's periodic Prayer Book Learning series are always rewarding, especially for those who are newer to traditional Hebrew liturgy.

## Mini-Series With Yael

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm

Rabbinical Student, Yael Marans, has become a favorite weeknight teacher at KI. Look for announcements of her seasonal 4-part learning series.

“ I am blessed to be a voyager on an ancient pathway. ”

**Rachel Cowan**

# Gateways to Culture

## Scholars In Residence

### Rabbi Yitz Greenberg

November 22-23 Shabbat

Rabbi Greenberg's visits from Jerusalem are always a treasure. Join us for this one when he'll be teaching us from his vital new book *The Triumph of Life* which is our *Second Library of Gratitude* selection.

### Fmr. JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen

January 3-4 Shabbat

We're honored to welcome back Arnie as he'll be teaching us from his deeply personal new book: *Seeking the Hiding God: A Personal Theological Essay*.

## Distinguished Guest Lectures

Among the many favorite speakers you can look forward to greeting this year:

Aviva Klompas

Liel Liebowitz

Susie Listfield

Michael Oren

Einat Wilf

Douglas Murray

## Customized Learning

KI is abuzz with one-on-one learning. From skill acquisition to exchanging dynamic new ideas, KI is a place where everyone grows! If you're looking for a good-fit study partner, please be in touch with Rabbi Hamilton.

## Performances

Our Cultural Programs flow from our commitments to Judaism, Israel, and building a holy community. We host a variety of concerts, screenings, and dance performances throughout the year, complementing our broader array of monthly lectures and author visits.

You'll meet performers from Israel and throughout the Jewish world. Our Encounters Series explores meeting points between Jewish musical culture in regions of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin-America.

### Upcoming Programs include:

#### November 17, 2024

Shabbat Across Early Modern Europe: Jewish Baroque Music, performed by Longy Viol Consort.

#### January 26, 2025

Israeli flute and piano duo, Amir Milstein and Alon Yavnai.

## Israeli Dancing

Weekly Monday evenings encircle our ever-widening circle with Israeli dancing. Give it a try!

## 20s-30s

KI's 20s/30s cohort is growing by leaps and bounds this year. Hundreds are showing up for events. New committees are in formation. It's a real team effort! KI delight in giving young professionals throughout Greater Boston a sense of purpose and pride in their Jewish identity. From singles to couples, professionals and students. All are welcome! Join us and tell your friends. It's super easy.

### Monthly Friday Night Dinners

More than 100 joined us last month. Be sure to join us next time!

### Shabbat Socials

Monthly casual home-hosted hangouts on Shabbat afternoons.

### Cider in the Sukkah

September 22, 2024

Hot cider under the stars with YALA of USCJ.

### Wine Tasting

November 10, 2024

Partnering with our good friends at Moishe House Brookline.

### Hanukkah First Light

December 25, 2024

Also partnering with YALA and USCJ.

## Young Families

### PJ Library Hooked on Books Book Club

Book Club isn't just for adults anymore! This monthly meeting is targeted towards 3-4 year olds, and young children learn to love reading and Judaism at the same time! Through reading a story, making a craft project, and meeting other local families, children and their families get to experience the joy of PJ Library.

### Children's Shabbaton

This year we are excited to announce a Children's Shabbaton in December. This will be an opportunity for children of different schools and backgrounds to come together and feel the joy of Shabbat. Friday night will include child-led joyful prayer and Shabbat dinner. Then we will gather again in the morning for breakfast and spend the entire Shabbat day praying, eating, learning, and playing together. The full day of programming will be offered for a wide range of ages.

### Holidays for Children

Holidays are a really special time at KI for everyone, but especially for children. Some highlights of our Jewish year if you're young include the Model Sukkah Contest, the Annual Gelt Drop on Chanukah, the Purim Puppet Show and Party, and the Children's Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

## Teens

We are so excited to welcome Josh Ull, KI's Teen Engagement Coordinator this year. Monthly Shabbat-based programs will feature learning, volunteering to build Sukkot, and tools to support Israel and cope with anti-Semitism.

### **B'nai Mitzvah**

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is not only a significant moment in the life of the child, but we also aim to make it a meaningful celebration for the whole family. Through our Bnai Mitzvah Seminar, private tutoring, and one on one meetings with our Director of Family Engagement and clergy, families are encouraged to customize their child's simcha to the needs and personality of their child. It is common for Bar/ Bat Mitzvah to read Torah, haftorah, and present a Dvar Torah in front of the community.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Seminar**

To enrich the Bar/Bat Mitzvah learning process, students participate in our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminar once a month. In these sessions, participants and their families learn texts, build community, and develop understandings of what it means to become a Jewish adult. Participants discuss relevant topics such as to whom we are responsible to in and beyond our own communities, as well as learn skills such as wrapping tefillin and leading services. This year of learning typically begins with a Sukkot family dinner and ends with a Shavuot family dinner.

## Caring

At KI, we've always known that our prayers need to become more than lip-service. We reliably look for ways to add our willing hearts and extend our willing hands to meet needs, provide assistance, and help however we can.

### **Afghani Families**

In recent years, KI has been instrumental in adopting four different Afghani families, enabling them to settle in our area, transform their lives, and look forward to brighter futures.

### **Family Table**

We continue to step up to meet the growing food-security needs of many throughout Greater Boston.

### **Lots of Helping Hands – Meals, Needs**

We take care of our own too. At times of delight and distress, preparing a warm meal goes a long way.

### **Brookline-Wide Ways To Help (Inspo-Expo)**

KI took the lead by creating an ingathering event, a science fair for good-deed projects happening throughout Greater Brookline. Even more impressively, bringing good-deed projects to the wider community has continued at a weekly booth at the Farmer's Market.

# Spiritual Arts

Amidst our uncertain and anxious times, music is one of the most beneficial art forms. It can ventilate and soothe, cleanse and elevate our spirits, pick up where commentary and analytics leave us off.

Now as ever before, we treasure the ways spiritual arts, rooted in KI's commitment to traditional liturgy and our sacred texts, can stir our spirits and smooth our paths, guiding our steps into the New Year 5785.

## Jacob's Ladder Saturday Nights

The very first chance you'll get to check out the monthly magic of Melave Malka with Jacob's Ladder will be under the stars, in the Sukkah on October 19th. Don't miss it and bring your friends!

## Seudah She'leesheet

May 10: **Beni Summers**

June 14: **Jessica Kate Meyer**

These most-special end-of-Shabbat festive Shabbatot that'll feature learning, storytelling, and song-filled Shabbat afternoon meals. It all culminates with an especially energetic Havdalah. We like to schedule these as we enter the Springtime, when Shabbat is getting longer and when hope is reaching further.

## Hanukkah January 1st Celebration

Bring in 2025 with the beaming eighth-light of Hanukkah. Join us at KI for a musical celebration that will radiate hope for safer and kinder times as we conclude the first quarter of the 21st century.

## Spiritual Artist in Residence: Eitan Kantor

January 9-11, 2025

Our own gifted Director of Spiritual Engagement, Ariel Wyner, welcomes Eitan Kantor from Denver's Hebrew Educational Alliance to KI. Look for details about what promises to be an exceptional series of programs and an unforgettable Shabbat weekend.

## HADAR Presents: Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz

March 7-8, 2025

KI and our Campus are thrilled to host what promises to be an unforgettable Shabbat Zachor with HADAR's sensational Director of Tefillah and Music, Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz. We'll be joined by folks from throughout the region. We hope that'll include you and your friends!

## Lag B'Omer Ezekiel's Wheels with Jacob's Ladder

Our annual outdoor Lag B'Omer celebration will be exceptional this year, as Jacob's Ladder welcomes to town the Klezmer band Ezekiel's Wheels. Complete with BBQ and fun for the whole family, we look forward to seeing you there.

## Multi-faith Bridge-Building

Theological bridge-building is faithfully enhanced by spiritual music. We look forward to building upon the multi-faith gatherings we love to host and participate in. Look for announcements this year of these important opportunities to inspire more hopeful days ahead.

# Volunteering

## Yachad Involvement

Weekly opportunities to volunteer to support Yachad programming lift everyone's spirit!

## Support Groups

Hadassah Margolis continues to bring her gifts to support groups, particularly in response to rising-tides of anger and hostility against our people. Look for news announcing the next group and give it a try!

## Hallah Visits

We look forward to establishing Friday deliveries and personal visits later this Fall.

## Whatever's Up Ahead

Just as we responded to COVID (vaccinating Holocaust Survivors) and October 7 (providing winter clothing for relocated Israeli families) we stand ready to mobilize to meet whatever the year ahead has in store. And we know we can count on you!

## MLK-Heschel Bridge Plans

KI's proud history included 1966 major addresses from both Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. In the near future, we're excited to dedicate the bridge connecting the 2Life portion of our Campus with our Sanctuary Foyer. It will signal a whole new era of Black-Jewish bridge-building works to advance the greater good.

# Support Our Vision

## Join Us

Your affiliation with KI makes everything you find in this Guide possible.

## Project-Based Giving

Sharpening this year's annual giving will feature specific projects we're working to strengthen:

1. Got Shabbat sponsorship
2. Sanctuary Pew Dedications
3. Chumash collection enhancement

KI offers many ways to honor loved-ones and cherish memories. Sanctuary Windows and plaques elegantly eternalize family and friends, and dedicating a pew-bench is a most special way to say thank you. For more information on how to participate in this form of bestowing honor, please be in touch with our Main Office or Gordon Bennett our VP for Development.

“Serving others is one of the pillars upon which Judaism rests.”

**Lynn Schusterman**

# Holidays

## Sukkot

We look forward to being with you, in joy, within any of our many Campus Sukkot this year. Our teens are eager to help you build your own Sukkah. And our younger children look forward to participating in the Model Sukkah Contest. This is also the first of three Festivals (including Passover and Shavuot) when we take a moment to honor a member of our community who lends noteworthy strength and support to our Daily Minyan. Sukkot is such a special time for ingathering, to meet and make new KI friends.

Our flex-friendly campus enables multiple Sukkot dining settings. In addition to our main Sukkah in our Perlmutter Garden, we also provide specially arranged Sukkah dining settings in our Preschool Playground and in the inner-Courtyard of our 2Life Brown Family House.

## Simchat Torah

Unlike any other observance we've ever known, we'll look to Joshua's charge from the prophetic reading of the day, as we strive to 'be strong and of good courage.' KI maintains a lovely custom of honoring life-long leaders and brand-new ones this day, as we complete the Torah and begin it anew.

This year's observance will be appropriately solemn even as we strive, together with campus partner minyanim, to imbue it with the joy that some sought to deny us and prevent us from being able to experience. May the memories of those so-ruthlessly taken, forever be for blessings. Am Yisrael Chai.

## Hanukkah

Special events from the opening light, the night of December 25, through a special closing celebration on the night of January 1, 2025.

An annual favorite is our Religious School Gelt Drop and Party. From the same rooftop where we hear the concluding sounds of the Shofar each Fall, Hanukkah's winter lights invite the joyful showering of sweet-chocolate gelt.

## Purim

Always a favorite at KI, we look forward, again this year, to being led by our youth. Our campus is abuzz with Megillah readings, fun costumes, Purim afternoon meals, and generosity to vital organizations that provide food for the hungry in Israel (Leket), and Yad Chessed, such a terrific organization that continues to rise to meet the growing needs among Greater Boston's Jewish community.

As in recent years, we partner with Israeli-based friends to bring Mishloach Manot into homes in Israeli communities, as they do the same for us. And don't miss the annual favorite puppet show for the kids!

“ Judaism is about sanctifying life. ”

**Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**



## **Passover**

We strive to make sure everyone has a place around the Seder table. Often this features hosting Seder or Second Seder on our Campus. Look for details this Spring. You can also look forward to an annual Teen Takeover in our Sanctuary prior to the Seder, when you'll be treated to timely takes on the Four Questions.

An important aspect of every Festival observance at KI involves striving to make historic lessons timely. This applies to kindling lights in our world, every Friday night and on Hanukkah. And there's no time of the year when we take this more seriously than on Passover, when we seek to reduce suffering and redeem hope.

## **Holocaust Havdalah Testimony**

A special KI custom for many years, we always try to conclude our Passover observance with an invitation to a Survivor to share their story with our community. Doing so is particularly meaningful since Holocaust Remembrance Day follows mere days after the Festival ends.

## **Lag B'omer**

Enjoy music, picnics, and lots of warm companionship as we embrace Springtime. This year with energetic music that will lift our spirits as we count the Omer up to Shavuot's Sinai revelation.

## **Shavuot**

An annual peak-highlight, not-to-miss, Community-wide program, we hope you'll count yourself among 600-700 of your friends for another amazing Dusk-to-Dawn Tikkun partnering with dozens of organizations and featuring 30-40 sessions through the night. Children's and Teen Tikkunim also brim with enthusiasm. There's something for everyone. Be sure to join us!

Sunrise outdoor services, following our Community-wide Tikkun are a unique annual gem. And our teens move front and center, as they do throughout our Holiday celebrations, to teach and bring Torah to life.

## **Israel Memorial Day**

The weight of losses over the past year in particular requires new ways to pray, to remember, and to honor loved ones who gave their lives that Israel might continue to live and thrive.

## **Israel's 77th Birthday**

Having remembered the fallen, we rise to celebrate our generation's historic blessings. KI is honored to often host these important dates of New England's Consul of Israel Observances.

# Campus Vision

Our vision to furnish an ecosystem of Jewish engagement, that promotes the practice of partnership and celebrates the achievements of kindred organizations, is well on its way to its next phase. A more advanced and advancing one to be sure. It aims for more compelling answers to questions like: Who am I? and What am I called to do? Sharing our Campus with communities and agencies that know who they are and what they're here to do remains a deep honor which we cherish.

## **Congregation Mishkan Tefila**

A storied New England Conservative synagogue with a bright future.

## **New England Yachad**

A leading organization for adults with Disabilities, our New England chapter is a nationwide leader.

## **Washington Square Minyan**

A dynamic independent minyan community that continues to grow and invigorate Jewish life.

## **Minyan Shaleym**

One of Brookline's original egalitarian minyanim, most-excited to welcome newcomers.

## **Alumot Minyan**

New to our Campus, Alumot Minyan, is a welcoming Modern Orthodox community that positively adores intellectual curiosity.

## **Center Makor**

A center for Boston's Russian Jewish community, enhancing Jewish life and culture. All are welcome!

## **2Life Communities**

A national-leader in retirement living, with dignity, in communities that are shaped and led by their residents.

## **Bakey**

A worldwide leader in Babka, KI is proud to be a host-site for this Israel-based bakery. It's delicious!

“A Jew is asked to take a leap of action rather than a leap of faith.”

**Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel**

# Campus In-Action

## **Tuesday afternoons at Mishkan Tefila**

Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm

More and more folks are filling the beautiful Mishkan Tefila Lounge, playing Mahjong and deepening friendships. Stop by and see how an otherwise quiet Tuesday afternoon brightens with warm companionship.

## **Washington Square Minyan Chevrutot**

Saturday mornings 10:30 – 11:00 am

Chevrutot is WSM's innovative and engaging program for kids grades K-12. Middle schoolers get matched with kids in grades K-2 to learn parsha and tefillah in fun ways, and high schoolers are matched with kids in grades 3-5 to learn parsha, tefillah or mishna. KI's excited to join this terrific new way to activate learning for teens and children during the High Holidays this year.

## **Yachad**

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 4:00 – 6:00 pm

New England Yachad is such an active and inviting Campus partner. Adult volunteers act as “peer participants” alongside Yachad members, adults with disabilities, in performing arts classes. Lots of folks from another Campus partner 2Life Communities regularly participate in these quality recreational programs.

## **Bakey and Rabbi Hamilton Hangouts**

Monday evenings 6:20 – 7:00 pm

Bakey provides complimentary refreshments to all who share in Rabbi Hamilton's weekly Monday evening Hangout among friends. Lively discussions reliably draw upon an insight from the week's Torah portion, as we meet in the 2Life Brown House Welcome Space of our Campus. Newcomers are most welcome!

## **Center Makor – The Resonating Earth**

Sunday, October 27 at 5:00 pm

Our valued partner, Center Makor, brings excellent programs and concerts to the primarily Russian speaking Jewish community of Greater Boston. Whether promoting support for the people of Ukraine, or adding festive spirit to every Holiday season, as this post-Holiday Event promises to do, newcomers are always welcome!

## **2Life Communities**

The Brown House actively practices partnership with KI and all who make up our Campus. KI maintains office space within their Office Suite and we gratefully and consistently make use of multi-purpose spaces, indoors and outdoors, from their Courtyard to their Rooftop Deck.

## **Campus Security – Shom'rim!**

The need for heightened measures to ensure our safety has produced a welcome outcome: a fast growing collection of volunteers, coming from all of our Campus partners, who help make our spaces more secure, vibrant, and graciously welcoming. You're invited to join our team!

# Leadership

## **Rabbi William Hamilton**

Mara D'atra

## **Barnet Kessel**

Executive Director

## **Ariel Wyner**

Director of  
Spiritual Engagement

## **Lisa Redisch**

Director of  
Family Engagement

## **Katie Miller**

Director of  
Early Childhood Education

## **Anna Winestein**

Director of Programs

## **Carly Calbreath**

Family Education Associate

## **Josh Ull**

Teen Engagement Coordinator

## **Suzanne Steele**

Office Manager

## **Peter Lefkowitz**

President

## **Nathaniel Margolis**

Executive VP

## **Geraldine Acuna-Sunshine**

VP At-Large

## **Gordon Bennett**

VP Development

## **Michal Gasco**

VP Security

## **Ahitza Gonzalez**

VP Social Action

## **Shari Lecker**

VP Administration

## **Jeffrey Lorch**

VP Adult Education

## **Jay Morris**

VP Facilities

## **Aliza Saivetz-Glasser**

VP Early Education

## **Nathan Shpritz**

VP Finance

## **Josh Spector**

VP Avodah/Ritual

## **Aron Unger**

VP Communication

## **Amy Weiss**

VP Youth Education

## **Judy Wurtman**

VP Membership



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