



KEEPING IT SACRED

ACCESSIBLE • RELEVANT • EMPOWERING



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2022

TOGETHER, WE'RE #KEEPINGITSACRED

SHALOM!

shalom!

2022 was a year where Keeping It Sacred went from strength to strength!

In May of 2022, we acquired a Torah from three congregations in the midwest who had merged and found themselves with 27 Torahs altogether. We lovingly brought it into our community- and as appropriate, the Torah mantle reads: Shalom! Hello!

Then, in July, the Center for Rabbinic Innovation (CRI) recognized our cutting-edge community and determined it wanted to nurture our growth by naming me a CRI Fellow. This provides me with a community of rabbis selected for our out-of-the-box thinking, nationally-recognized experts, and resources to help scale our work.

Then, just before Hanukkah, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) named Keeping It Sacred its newest member community. In doing so, we join progressive congregations everywhere invigorating Jewish life-helping one another to think more creatively, and benefitting from a vast array of resources. These developments helped us claim our space in the national landscape of Jewish life.

Our new website helped our community expand with over 256 new members from all over the world. Over 2,300 reservations were made for our programs, with our weekly newsletter being read a total of 17,411 times. People are thirsty for Torah and community and intellectual exploration of life's biggest questions, and our community is a great source for that! What's more is that members have shared stories of enjoying time with and supporting one another outside of official Keeping It Sacred program time. These relationships are meaningful and varied in so many important ways.

While we have been growing in the national and international arena, our new Keeping it Sacred community headquarters in Los Angeles have rooted us in a vibrant and well-resourced local community, as well.

We are now poised to develop with and encourage communities all around the world from our new home base. We are scaling thoughtfully and with great excitement and with the financial help from so many contributors.

Together, we are sharing this community locally, nationally, and internationally. Together, we're #keepingitsacred...

Enjoy!
Rabbi Hester Miller
Founder, Keeping It Sacred



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BUILDING THE TEAM

Keeping It Sacred is powered by a brilliant and dynamic staff of individuals who are in this work with full hearts. Individually, each brings music, vision, technical skills, creativity, spirituality, and joy. Together, they keep Keeping It Sacred moving forward. Get to know members of the team below.



Molly Flanagan is our talented Digital Media Manager. She uses her Film Studies degree from Wellesley College to provide digital media and technical support to all of our 230+ programs.



Kimberly Dueñas is a seasoned international Jewish educator passionate about wellness and Founding Team Member at Jewtina y Co. She led our transformative Rosh HaShanah Second Day Service.



Jeffrey Silverstein is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion. He brought his passion for Jewish life and learning to the. Keeping It Sacred community by co-leading our monthly Shabbat Services as well as other holiday observances.



Elizabeth H. Lange served as Cantorial Soloist with Keeping It Sacred this High Holy Day season, bringing her passion for ritual observances and deep musical knowledge to our community. She is an attorney who has practiced securities law in Massachusetts and named a Super Lawyer “Rising Star.”



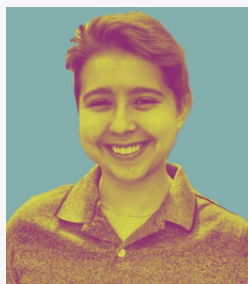
Tori Greene is passionate about creating spaces for exploration and belonging. She brought her guitar and song-leading experience to curate soulful and uplifting musical selections for our Hanukkah celebration this year.



Joanie Leeds is a Grammy winning musician who co-led our Open Door Interfaith Intergenerational Passover seder.



Rabbi Heather Miller is the founder of Keeping It Sacred. She is committed to Inspired leadership, deep text study, meaningful ritual practice, the unwavering pursuit of justice, and sacred community building.



Ilan Tamir led the technical aspects of our robust High Holy Day season, intentionally designing our Keeping It Sacred services as warm, welcoming, innovative and transformative sacred spaces.

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY

BY THE NUMBERS

3,057 UNIQUE

Website visitors (↑ 122%)

783 INSTAGRAM

Followers (↑ 225%)

547 FACEBOOK

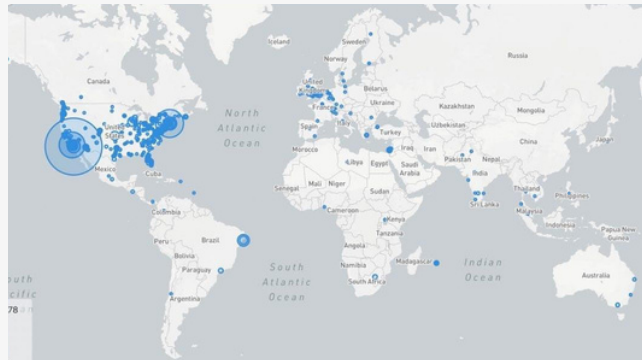
Members (↑ 683%)

390 NEWSLETTER

Weekly readers (↑ 144%)

103 YOUTUBE

Subscribers (↑ 258%)



In 2022, Keeping It Sacred (KITS) saw a great increase in both our communal reach and the strength of our bonds. In addition to our membership across the US, Canada, Brazil, Wales, England, South Africa, and Hong Kong, we welcomed new members from Israel, Switzerland, France, and the Philippines. Our social media outreach has mushroomed as well with some big numbers showing that our reach has expanded and so has engagement. We are truly a community with no geographic boundaries. And our bonds are strong!



IN THE NEWS



In the wake of the shootings in Colleyville, Buffalo, Uvalde, and Laguna Woods, Keeping It Sacred was recognized for leading efforts to hold sacred space for reflection and healing. News outlets also noticed our part in celebrating the historic 50th anniversary of Women in the North American Rabbinate. Rabbi Miller also penned 19 articles for My Jewish Learning's Daily Dose of Talmud series, appeared in the new Wellesley College Siddur, wrote two entries in two new books being published in 2023, and produced 52 newsletters which were opened a total of 17,411 times in the year. We are in the news and being noticed!



SACRED MOMENTS



Keeping It Sacred holds sacred space for lifecycle events, and this year we were able to host 22 lifecycle events including many weddings, b-mitzvahs, baby namings, and funerals, not to mention all the times we prayed with people during every one of our 52 healing circles and in private moments. Lifting up the sacred in these tender moments truly infuses life with depth and meaning.



HOLIDAYS

BY THE NUMBERS

49 DAYS COUNTING

the Omer on Facebook

29 ELUL DAYS

observed on Instagram

16 HOLIDAYS

observed

12 SHABBAT

services hosted

11 TIMEZONES

gathered together



Sacred time is experienced as we encounter each holiday. Keeping It Sacred has expanded to offer programming for each of the major Jewish holidays, the last shabbat of each month, and a host of other holy days observed in interfaith communities (like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, PRIDE celebrations, and Transgender Day of Remembrance). We have begun to host programs in a hybrid (online and in-person) format and are thrilled by the way every participant has enjoyed inclusion.



LEARNING TOGETHER

BY THE NUMBERS

2,253 TICKETS

Reserved

365 PAGES

Of Talmud discussed

205 EDUCATIONAL

Programs

147 PARTICIPANTS

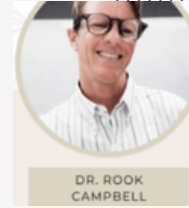
Enrolled in Talmud

66 PARTICIPANTS

Enrolled in Access Judaism Programming

11 TIMEZONES

Participated in learning

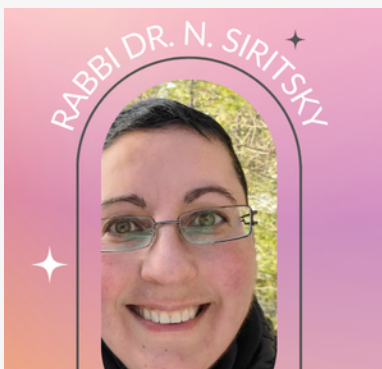


The heart of Keeping It Sacred is our focus on study. Our members span the full spectrum of learning, from completely new to Judaism to retired rabbis. And each participant is also invited to share the experiences from their own lives. To study in a diverse community yields truly breathtaking insights. This year, not only did we host our regular Talmud Study sessions and our signature Access Judaism program, but we also hosted our new Torah of the Heart series featuring creative and engaging rabbinic scholars from across the world, and a celebration of the history of Women Clergy in the Jewish and Episcopalian Traditions.



Women Clergy in the Jewish and Episcopalian Traditions

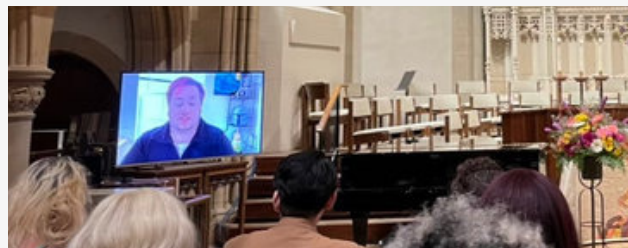
Join The Rev. Susan Russell (All Saints Church, Pasadena) and Rabbi Heather Miller (Keeping It Sacred) over the course of three sessions to discuss women clergy in their respective religious traditions: Jewish and Episcopalian, to honor the 50th Ordination anniversary of Rabbi Sally J. Priesand.



PURSUING JUSTICE



Torah is meant to be studied for the sake of action. And at Keeping It Sacred, we bring the values of human dignity and global wellness to life through our social action. In 2022, the KITS community built upon our longstanding relationships with community organizers and participated in several actions and programs including the National Council of Jewish Women's annual Repro-Shabbat, the Poor People's Campaign against gun violence, and several actions calling out white supremacy with the Black Jewish Justice Alliance of CLUE, and Black Lives Matter. Our Rosh Chodesh Racial Justice Book Review also met with Patrisse Cullors to discuss her most recent book.



PARTNERSHIPS



INTERFAITH & COMMUNITY VIGIL

MEMORIAL DAY May 30, 2022
Monday, 10:00am - 12:00pm
200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles,
CA 90012 (City Hall West)

SPEAKERS (diversity-impacted community members):
 Dr. Melina Abdulhadi
 Rev. James Lawson
 Pastor Cue Jim Martin
 Dr. Nareh Claveros
 Rabbi Aryeh Cohen
 Hyacinth Lee
 & More...

Ecumenical and interfaith community vigil in honor of lives stolen at the Buffalo, Laguna Woods and Uvalde shootings; all victims of white supremacist ideology & gun violence.

CLUE **BEND THE ARC** **SCC** **Black Jewish Justice Alliance** **PACI PRESBY**
CREATING JUSTICE **SOUTH COAST** **GHACHA** **HODG** **LA VOICE** **BEING THE CHURCH** **ONE REACH** **Nefesh** **laane** **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** **Founders MCC** **ICM Fundador**



Keeping It Sacred is committed to working with a wide variety of organizations to enhance our programs and expand our reach. In 2022, Keeping It Sacred partnered with countless community organizations to uplift interfaith understanding, to memorialize the dead, to highlight annual celebrations, and to enhance offerings and services in the community.



INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY NETWORK

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18
8:30 am-9:30 am

IN THE SPIRIT OF MLK

Special Guest Speaker
Congresswoman
Karen Bass



SACRED VOICES

Here's a sampling of what people are saying about us:

<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>I don't know what the opportunity to engage in KITS would be worth, but \$1 million is the minimum.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>The KITS Community is a place of intersection between Torah and our lives.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>The KITS Community is a place of (personal) development.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>KITS is a community I can learn from.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>
<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>So often I have seen others engage in Jewish life. At KITS, I'm like, “now it is my time!”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>I value the friendships, the connections formed through the KITS Community.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>I love the back and forth discussions; hearing about different lives, sharing our insights.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>THE KITS community transmits the important feelings of acceptance, belonging, warmth and love.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>
<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>KITS is a community that always makes room for everyone.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>Here, you are welcome whether you know Jewish stuff or not, whether you are Jewish or not.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>At KITS, no question is stupid, and every opinion is respected.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>	<p>“WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:</p> <p>Engaging in the KITS Community is like when you get something that tastes really good, and then you find out that you got the top rated dish by the #1 chef.”</p> <p>THE KITS COMMUNITY IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WELLNESS. FIND MORE AT KEEPINGITSACRED.COM/UPCOMING-1</p>

To support our work, please visit:
www.keepingitsacred.com/our-future