

# THE CONNECTION

Volume 7 ♦ April 2017



*Thank you*  
**Hank Rouda**

Please join us for a Cocktail Reception in honor of Hank's dedication and leadership throughout his terms as President

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Reception and Program: 6:30pm – 8:00pm  
Annual Meeting: 8:00pm

## Passover at Kol Ami

See pages 5, 6, & 7

## Shavout Confirmation Service

See page 22

Synaplex, Featuring Sayed Kashua,  
Creator of the Hit Israeli Reality Show,  
"Arab Labor" Friday, April 28

See page 29



# CONGREGATION KOL AMI

## CONGREGATION KOL AMI *A REFORM SYNAGOGUE*

252 Soundview Avenue • White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 • [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

### RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

### CANTOR

David Rosen

**Executive Director** • Jess Lorden

**Religious School Director** • Felice Miller Baritz

**ECP Director** • Nan Blank

**President** • Hank Rouda

### RABBIS EMERITI

Lawrence W. Schwartz ∞

Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

### CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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### Friday Evening Services

Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families

**5:30 - 6:00pm** A service in story and song for families with young children

*Atrium*

**6:15 – 7:15 pm** Shabbat crafts, light supper & supervised childcare

### Kabbalat Shabbat Services

6:15 pm

*Main Sanctuary*

### Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom  
*Chapel in the Woods*

**Take My Hand...**

**Shabbat for all Generations**

### OUR RE-IMAGINED SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE

Designed to involve school-aged children, inspire parents and grandparents, and integrate the beauty and soul of our Lift service. Bring your own family - children, aunts, uncles, grandparents - or come join hands with your extended Kol Ami family.

### Chapel in the Woods

**8:45am:** Coffee, tea and kibbutzing

**9:00am:** Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all

**9:45am:** Family Oneg with bagels and snacks

**10:30am - 12:00pm:** Torah Study, debate and discussion

Begin your activity-filled weekends with friends, family, fun, song, and meaning! Come as you are...

# lift your shabbat

*Saturday Morning Torah Study  
With Rabbi Shira*

Join Rabbi Shira and fellow congregants in our beautiful Chapel in the Woods on Saturday mornings. Step away from the chaos of the week and bring in the warmth and reflection of Shabbat that Torah Study can offer for the week ahead.

**new schedule begins april 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**9:00am coffee & community**

**9:30am torah study**

**11:00am shabbat services**

*Come for all, or part, of the morning, Bring your curiosity!*



## WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR APRIL

### Week ending April 1, 2017 Parashat Vayikra

**Leviticus 1:1-5:26** We begin the third book of the Torah, *Vayikra* (Leviticus), with a description of five types of sacrifices that are offered in the Temple. Voluntary offerings are burnt offering, meal offering, and the sacrifice of well-being. The sin offering and guilt offering are mandatory for those individuals who have committed certain offenses.

### Week ending April 8, 2017 Parashat Tzav

**Leviticus 6:1-8:36** *Tzav*, the second Torah portion in Leviticus, continues with the regulations for sacrifices, and then outlines the ritual of priestly ordination for Aaron and his sons.

### Week ending April 15, 2017 Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach - Parashat Ki Tisa Exodus

**33:12-34:26** The *parasha* for the Sabbath of the intermediate days of Passover describes one of the more exciting moments in the Torah - the closest encounter anyone in the Torah has with God. Following the sin of the Golden Calf and Moses' advocacy for the people, Moses makes a personal request. He asks to see God. While we have read that God, in the form of a cloud, regularly meets with Moses "face to face" in the Tent of Meeting; in this context, Moses requests to see God's *kavod*, a term usually translated as "honor." The thirteen attributes of God, among

them that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness, are also set forth.

### Week ending April 22, 2017 Parashat Shemini

**Leviticus 9:1-10:20** *Shemini* refers to the eighth (*shemini*) day of the ordination ritual. The priestly ordination of Aaron and his sons is described. A fire from God consumes Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, when they offer "alien fire" to God on their own initiative. The *parasha* also stipulates the dietary laws concerning which animals are fit and which are unfit for consumption; and concludes with a rationale for being holy and distinguishing between the impure and the pure.

### Week ending April 29, 2017 Parashat Tazria-

**Metzora - Leviticus 12:1-15:33** This double *parasha* is concerned with various types of unclean conditions. *Tazria* begins with a discussion of defilement and purification following childbirth, and continues with a discussion of *tzara-at*, which denotes a variety of skin rashes and blemishes. *Metzora* contains descriptions of other forms of uncleanness, which are thought to refer to various molds or mildews that could discolor surfaces of fabric or stone, and the laws concerning the purification of clothing and houses.

## Do You Agree With Any Of The Following?

- ♦ Kol Ami has been there for me in times of sorrow and joy
- ♦ Kol Ami has challenged me intellectually
- ♦ Kol Ami has enriched me at High Holy Days and Shabbat Services
- ♦ Kol Ami has delighted my senses with its music
- ♦ Kol Ami programs have allowed my family to grow spiritually and as Jews
- ♦ Kol Ami is my second home

If you do, then please consider including The Legacy Fund of Congregation Kol Ami as a beneficiary of your estate.

For information contact Evelyne Klein at 914.761.7659, [PlannedGiving@nykolami.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@nykolami.org) or Judi Brown at 646.206.4547, [gojustjudi@gmail.com](mailto:gojustjudi@gmail.com).

*Kol Ami is a community that makes incredible things happen.*



### **Seder Ideas For The Whole Family**

The Haggadah transforms us into storytellers; we are the feeders of history. We enlighten, impart, lead, and illuminate one another with lively discussions and creative Seders. Passover is an exquisite opportunity to tell the stories of our people, to remind ...

Passover is an exquisite opportunity to tell the stories of our people, to remind ourselves that the journey to freedom is ongoing and to inspire each other to acts of courage.

**We can do all this with joy and song! We are pleased to share resources for your Passover Seder. Chag Sameach! The following readings, videos, and songs may be accessed by visiting the homepage of our website at [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) and clicking on “Seder Ideas For The Whole Family”**

The best Passover story ever, “The Reminder,” written by Molly Cone. It captures the essence of the holiday without ever mentioning the word “Passover.”

A reading titled “The Fifth Child – the one who cannot ask.” This reading recalls the experience of the Holocaust/Shoah – and provides a different ritual for the Cup of Elijah.

An article titled “Ten Tips for a Great Seder.” Written by Dr. Ron Wolfson in the mid-80’s, this writing features – in its opening – a Seder at our home (Shira and David) with our four young children, when we were still living in California. Now that we have grandchildren, we once again make a huge tent in the livingroom and dress in costume. We are happy to share ideas with you. The ten tips that follow his introduction are all his – and they are good.

A [Shalom Sesame episode](#) (8 minutes) of an Ethiopian Jewish family celebrating Pesach in Israel.

An ethereal, beautiful [shadow play \(video\)](#) of the story of Moses, Egyptian bondage and the passage to freedom.

“20 Things to do with Matzah” – a funny/silly song video.

“Les Matzarables” – adorable video.

“Dayenu” - fun music video by Maccabeats

A Passover songsheet.





**Congregation Kol Ami**  
is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a  
**Pop-Up Seder**  
on Tuesday, April 11th, the second day of Pesach.  
6:00PM

Bring your own Passover meal and we will provide the matzah,  
Seder plate, wine, beverages, and dessert.  
The seder will be led by our congregant, Lisa Borowitz.

**Reservations are REQUIRED and cannot be  
accepted after Wednesday, April 5th.**

Please let us know if you will join us for  
this no-frills Pesach Seder  
by filling out this form. You can email it  
to [Hillarybarnett@nykolami.org](mailto:Hillarybarnett@nykolami.org)  
or bring it in to the office.

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PLEASE CLIP & RETURN RESERVATION FORM AND PAYMENT NO LATER THAN **APRIL 5TH**  
TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI: 252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606

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Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Guests (members) @\$18 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # Guests (non-members) @\$36 = \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



## PASSOVER begins April 10

Visit the Sisterhood Judaica Shop for Passover

Passover is soon upon us and we want to be sure everyone has the opportunity to celebrate the holiday. If you would like to join a Seder, please contact either of us and we will find a place for you. Also, if you have an available seat to offer at your Seder, please let us know.

## B'NAI MITZVAH

We will be celebrating the following children's B'nai Mitzvah at these services.  
Mazal Tov!



Lily Ritterman-Peña, daughter of Susan Ritterman and Matthew Peña and sister of Clara, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 1, 2017. Lily is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Ardsley Middle School. She loves spending her summers at Camp Netimus and acting in the school musicals. Lily is a member of the Ardsley Outcast jazz band and the Creative Editor of her school's arts magazine. For Lily's Mitzvah Project, she is planning an art project fundraiser for the Coachman Family Center. In addition to these accomplishments, Lily is a kind, caring person.



Jenna Musoff, daughter of Cindy and Scott Musoff and younger sister to Dani and Jamie, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 8th, 2017. Jenna is a seventh grader at The Windward School. For her Mitzvah Project, Jenna volunteers weekly at Blythedale Children's Hospital where she spends time talking to, playing with and getting to know the patients. Jenna has found the time spent with Blythedale patients very worthwhile and intends to continue volunteering after her Bat Mitzvah. Jenna enjoys playing golf, basketball and lacrosse. She loves her friends, her family, her dog Rosie, and Netflix.



Owen Hudson Strier, son of Wendi and Todd Strier and younger brother of Jacob, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Owen

is a seventh grader at Edgemont Junior High School. For his Mitzvah Project, Owen has been donating his time at Paws Crossed Animal Rescue in Elmsford N.Y., walking the dogs and helping to socialize the cats for adoption. Owen enjoys playing tennis, lacrosse, soccer and skiing. Owen is looking forward to his Bar Mitzvah and sharing the special day with family and friends.



Molly Einstein, daughter of Mark Einstein and Francine Hughes and sister of Ella Einstein, will be called to the Torah with her other sister,

Willa, on April 22, 2017. Molly is in 7th grade at Highlands Middle School in White Plains, NY. Molly is on the White Plains Travel Soccer team and plays the trumpet. For her Mitzvah Project, she worked with the Westchester SPCA volunteering for a number of their events for homeless and abused animals. Molly is looking forward to enjoying this special day with her family and friends.



Willa Einstein, daughter of Mark Einstein and Francine Hughes and sister of Ella Einstein, will be called to the Torah with her other sister, Molly, on April 22, 2017. Willa is in 7th grade at Highlands Middle School in White Plains, NY. Willa is on the White Plains Travel Soccer team and plays the piano and clarinet. For her Mitzvah Project, she worked with the Westchester SPCA volunteering for a number of their events for homeless and abused animals. Molly is looking

forward to enjoying this special day with her family and friends.

Andrew Graham Knecht, son of Kristi



and Steven Knecht and younger brother to Sydney, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 29, 2017. Andrew is a seventh grader at Edgemont Junior High School.

For his Mitzvah Project, Andrew volunteered weekly at a soup kitchen in Mt. Vernon, NY for Community Services Associates. Andrew also prepared and delivered sandwiches to people in need for the Life Progressive Services Group, also in Mt. Vernon. Andrew loves playing basketball, baseball, soccer and golf, and enjoys spending time with his family and friends both at home and at Camp Echo Lake.



Ellie Raff, daughter of Kerry Blinder and Joshua Raff, and sister of Charlotte Raff, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 29, 2017. She is a seventh grader at Scarsdale

Middle School. For her Mitzvah Project, she has been volunteering in the White Plains Hospital Center for Care. In her free time she enjoys skiing and playing tennis as well as spending time with her family and friends.



## A Message From Our Rabbi

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM



Eat, Play, Live –  
Essential Storytelling

The title of the record-breaking, best-selling book, “Eat, Pray, Love” has spawned numerous riffs. Driving in the San Fernando Valley in early March, I saw advertisements for a local food festival that read, “Eat,

Play, Live!” Author Elizabeth Gilbert traveled to Italy, India and Indonesia to discover these truths, but we only need travel to the nearest Passover seder to experience them. More Jews (and increasingly non-Jews) celebrate Pesach, more than any other Jewish holiday. Why? Its story is clear – and we know how to tell it. We don’t tell it by preaching or lecturing. We tell it through drama and sensual experience, a drama in which each of us is an actor and participant.

The story? We were once slaves – and we were freed – and we must remember that so that we can make possible a world where someday no one is a slave, where everyone is free.

**Eat:** We taste the bitterness of slavery with maror/ horseradish (use slices of the real horseradish root; leave the jar stuff for the gefilte fish.) We dip fresh vegetables into salt water, to taste the tears of suffering – and the tears of joy (liberation is surely reason to cry for happiness.)

**Play:** Since our own children were little (and now with our grandchildren), we turn our living room into a desert tent (a huge circular piece of fabric, or parachute, suspended from above.) Pillows, cushions and rugs cover the floor, along with drums, tambourines and guitars (and anything else guests might add.) Guests are invited to come dressed in Bedouin costume (as we will be). Copper trays are covered with hors d’oeuvres, dates, nuts, raisins.... Kids are free to lie on pillows, adults to sit on couches - and we begin to tell the story of slavery and redemption.

**Tell the story:** Use your haggadah. Add stories (I’m happy to share my favorites), add freedom songs you know (“thanks” to our own American history of slavery and freedom, American traditions are filled with music you know – from gospel to folk

to rock to Broadway musicals.)

**Live:** The world is still not perfect. Slavery exists everywhere, from the tomato fields of Florida and New Jersey to the sweat shops of China to the global market in human trafficking. Find a cause you care about – and make it a part of your seder. Empower yourself and others to do something about it. (We add a tomato our Seder plate and talk about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers – ciw.org.)

### TWO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: WAYS TO INSPIRE US TO ACT IN THE WORLD

#### THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) has prepared a Passover supplement

[https://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/hias\\_2017\\_haggadah\\_supplement.pdf](https://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/hias_2017_haggadah_supplement.pdf)

**My favorite part:** “Soon we will recite the words ‘*Arami oved avi*’ - (my ancestors were wanderers) as we retell the story of our people’s exodus from Egypt. These words acknowledge that we have stood in the shoes of the refugee. Today, as we celebrate our freedom, we commit ourselves to continuing to stand with contemporary refugees. In honor of this commitment and against the backdrop of terrible restrictions on refugees, we place a pair of shoes on the doorstep of our home to acknowledge that none of us is free until all of us are free and to pledge to stand in support of welcoming those who do not yet have a place to call home.”

#### MAZON – A Jewish Response to Hunger.

**Add a fifth question to the four of Ma Nishtana:** Why on this night are so many people going hungry? **(See [mazon.org](http://mazon.org) for further resources)**

The point of being Jewish is not to be Jewish; survival is not enough. The point of being Jewish is to become more aware of life’s blessings, to celebrate God’s gifts of life with gratitude, blessing and joy, and to increase life and love and freedom in this world.

For a Pesach of meaning and joy, of inspiration and blessing,

Shira

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## A Message From Our Cantor

CANTOR DAVID ROSEN



### **Favorite Passover Recipes from Cantor David**

The inspiration for this month's article comes from a request I received from our beloved President, Hank Rouda. He recently asked me for a few recipes for some dishes that he tried at my house. As many of you know, who are friends with me on Social Media, I sometimes get into the habit of posting culinary creations that come directly from my kitchen. While I am not a professional chef, I have taken various cooking classes over the years and love to cook in my spare time. Nothing makes me happier than preparing a good dish from scratch with fresh ingredients and then watching others enjoy it. Many of you have been requesting recipes from me and I have been reluctant to share them, mainly because I don't really have the time to write them down!

As Passover approaches, I am beginning to salivate as I start to imagine tasting some of my favorite dishes. I thought that I would share with you, two of my favorite recipes for the holiday. These ones are not "my" creations (I promise to share some of those in the future).

They are, however, some of the best recipes I have found for these dishes. They add that extra something that will have you and your guests wanting more and "oohing" and "aahing" once they get a look and taste of what you have created. The truth is, you don't have to wait to Passover or only create these dishes on Passover, but it's a good time to start!!

Happy Eating!

Cantor David

### **Emeril Legasse's Passover Brisket**

**YIELD:** About 8 servings

#### **INGREDIENTS**

One 6-pound brisket  
1 head garlic, cloves peeled  
1 quart beef stock (unsalted or low-sodium)  
3 tablespoons vegetable oil  
4 cups sliced onions  
1 cup ketchup  
1 cup chili sauce  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons Emeril's Original Essence  
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste  
1 teaspoon onion powder  
1 teaspoon garlic powder

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Preheat the broiler to high.  
Using a paring knife, make slits all over the brisket and stuff with garlic cloves. Place the brisket in a baking dish or casserole and broil until browned on top, about 10 minutes. Remove the baking dish from the oven, turn the brisket, and return the dish to the oven until the brisket is browned on the other side, about 10 more minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Add enough beef stock to the casserole to come up 1 inch on the sides, cover with foil, and bake 1 hour.  
While the brisket is cooking, heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until caramelized and most of the liquid has evaporated, about 20 minutes; reserve.  
Add the remaining ingredients to a small bowl and stir to combine; reserve.  
Remove the baking dish from the oven after 1 hour and arrange most of the onions on top of the brisket and the rest around it. Pour the ketchup mixture over and around the brisket. Cover and continue to cook until the meat is very tender but not falling apart, about 3 more hours. Remove the brisket to a carving board and slice. Serve the sliced brisket with the pan juices alongside. (The brisket is better if made a day in advance; simply reheat covered in a low oven.)

## Huevos Haminados (Sephardic Jewish-Style Eggs)

- ◆ 6 eggs
- ◆ 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- ◆ 1 teaspoon salt
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon ground coffee(optional) or 1/2 teaspoon tea leaves (optional)
- ◆ 3 -4 yellow onion skins, the outer layers (the more, the better!)
- ◆ 1 - 2 garlic cloves, chopped (optional)
- ◆ 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- ◆ 1 teaspoon
- ◆ Vinegar

### Directions

1. Place all ingredients into a pot or crock pot, and cover well with lukewarm water.
2. Bring water to a boil, cover and reduce the heat to very low. Cook for at least 5 hours or (preferably) overnight. As water evaporates, more can be added.
3. After the eggs have been cooking for several hours, you can gently tap the shells with a spoon to crack them, and continue to cook. This will cause a beautiful marbled color to form on the egg whites.
4. Drain the eggs, rinse the shells and refrigerate until ready to use.

## California Charoset

| Measure       | Ingredient                         |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 large       | Avocado -- peeled and diced        |
|               | Juice Of 1/2 Lemon                 |
| 1/2 cup       | Almonds -- sliced                  |
| 1/3 cup       | Raisins                            |
| 4             | Seedless Dates                     |
| 2             | Figs -- or prunes                  |
| 1             | Whole Oranges -- peel and Sections |
| 2 tablespoons | Apple Juice                        |
| 2 tablespoons | Matzah Meal                        |

Toss the avocado and lemon juice in a bowl and set aside. In a processor or blender, place the almonds, raisins, dates and figs and process until coarsely chopped. Add the orange peel and sections and process briefly to combine. Add the avocado and process just one or two seconds more. Transfer to a glass bowl and gently fold in the apple juice and matzah meal. Cover with plastic wrap and store



## A Message From Our ECP Director

**NAN BLANK**



Spring has officially arrived at the nursery school. It's on everyone's face and in everyone's step; the children have literally blossomed over the winter months and it shows in every part of our Early Childhood Program,

from their artwork, to the games they are playing, to the activities they are engaging in and in the friendships they are forming. Spring is here and the warmth and sunshine of the April sun is a welcome reminder that if spring is here summer can't be far behind!

We've been outside exploring and enjoying our innovative Outdoor Classroom and all the opportunities that it has to offer. We have also started getting our garden beds ready for planting.

We are deep into our Passover preparations. The 2's have been busy planting Parsley, and making Matzah Covers, and the 3's, 4's and 5's have been writing their classroom Haggadah, making Kiddush cups, Seder plates, Matzah covers, Charoset and Macaroons. We have also been practicing for our Passover play! That's right, all of our 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's along with our incredible teaching staff and Rabbis Shira and Tom and Cantor David will delight our families with our version of the Passover story – truly a must see for all!

During our Passover school break our center playground will be completely renovated into an interactive play space and we are all very excited. Next time you're at Temple, consider stopping by to see our newest addition!

Love,

Nan



## Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

**Friday, April 7th  
10:30-11:30am  
Passover Play**

**April 10th - 18th  
ECP Closed. Will re-open Wednesday,  
April 19th**





## CONGREGATION KOL AMI early childhood program

*building a community of friends one family at a time*

# Warm, Nurturing and Enriching Registration for 2017-2018 is Now Open

### First Friends: A Toddler Program

2, 3, 4 and 5 – Day 2's • 3, 4 and 5 – Day 3's • Morning 4's

Full & Half-Day 4's • Extended Day Programming for 2's, 3's, & 4's

A Step Ahead! Our Pre-K program designed for children turning 5 from September through December.

**See for yourself – nothing takes the place of a personal visit.**

**Call for an appointment today**

## A Message From Our President

### HANK ROUDA



If you've looked through the rest of this issue of *The Connection* instead of heading straight to this column (as I'm sure that you normally do), I hope that you saw the announcement from the Nominating Committee of the slate of officers and Trustees for next year. Mark and Ronnie and the rest of the Committee did another fantastic job of ensuring that our leadership will continue to remain

strong for many years to come. If you read their report, you know that I will be stepping down as President at the end of June after 4 years. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I thank all of you for making it such a wonderful experience. But I'll have more to say about that in my last article in June. I want to congratulate Susan Kohn Arovas and Scott Musoff on their selection to be the Co-Presidents of this truly special community. I don't believe that we could have found two better candidates than Scott and Susan and I'm supremely confident that they will do a fantastic job!

There are so many great things happening at Kol Ami. One of the most important tasks that the Board undertakes at this time of year (or at any time) is to create the budget for the next fiscal year, which starts on July 1. I know, you read the word "budget" and you want to skip to the end of the article, but I hope that you'll continue reading anyway. Why? Because the creation of the budget speaks to who we are as a community and the things that we value, and sets out what is going to be possible for us to accomplish in the coming year.

This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> budget on which I've worked at Kol Ami and each one has been uniquely challenging. We are constrained in our budgeting due to a variety of factors, including a large amount of fixed costs and limited fundraising. As is the case with most organizations like ours, our fixed costs primarily relate to personnel. There is little that we can do to affect any change in these costs. Our building costs are also somewhat intransigent, but we have taken some steps to reduce them. For instance, our recent energy efficiency improvements have dramatically reduced our electric usage, coupled with a decrease in our per kWh costs, have resulted in lower electric bills. However, we still must pay off the costs of these improvements, so, at best, this is a wash for the next 3-4 years. We have also reduced our fuel oil rates, so that our

overall energy expenditures have decreased, but not enough to offset the other increases in our expense budget.

As I have mentioned in my High Holy Day remarks, our dues only pay for about 43% of our total budget (which, this year will be about \$4.4 million). One of the ways that we bridge this gap is through our fundraising. I know that it seems like there's always another fundraiser, but the simple fact is that we cannot survive without these efforts. Yet, no matter how much we reinforce this concept, our fundraising still remains challenging. Yes, we had the most successful Annual Fund ever this year (thank you!), with a total amount raised of \$166,290 from 266 families. Yet, when compared to other temples who are comparable to us in size, we raise far less! I was reading a note from the President of one congregation who said that they were close to their goal but needed a little more to reach their \$2,000,000 goal! That's a temple that has a culture of giving, which is an attitude to which we must aspire.

At the same time that our expenses are mostly fixed and our revenue growth is limited, we have some new or different needs in this year's budget. We are hiring new people for the Assistant Executive Director and Clergy Assistant positions, so we need to budget for these roles based on a realistic understanding of the market. We are also working on an upgrade to our Youth Director position so that we will have a Director of Youth Engagement, which will be a far more encompassing role (with a larger salary to match), because it is essential to our future that we have a strong youth program. And finally, we are continuing to enhance our security systems and processes so that we can continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our congregants, children and guests.

As you can see, the coming year is going to be a difficult budgetary year. At the same time that our revenues remain relatively flat, our expenses (and our needs) continue to grow. The Board has approved a balanced budget, but we will all have to work together to ensure that we accomplish this goal. As with the building of the Tabernacle described in the book of Exodus, it's up to all of us (not just a small group of us) to provide for the needs of this community. I have the utmost confidence that we will do just that.

L'shalom,

Hank

## A Message From Our Executive Director

### JESS LORDEN



Recently, Dave shared with me that his favorite holiday is Passover. I believe one reason is that Dave loves brisket and he associates Passover with having brisket. But, the primary reason Passover is Dave's favorite holiday may be tied to the fact that Dave is the leader of our Seder. Dave's understanding of the cadence of a Passover Seder, and Judaism as a whole, has given him a depth of understanding, and appreciation of his own Catholic faith that he would not otherwise have obtained.

Passover is also one of my favorite holidays. I used to believe it was because Passover seemed to be the most family-centric of holidays -- filled with more traditions in my family than any other holiday. But, perhaps Passover is my favorite holiday because the freedom which Passover represents resonated with me before I understood words like social justice.

Recently I read that "to be free of a narrow consciousness is the invitation of Passover." Passover is about freedom not just from slavery, but from those things that constrain us, individually and collectively, from being fully alive, from feeling safe, from being welcomed, from feeling appreciated. Perhaps, the story of our exodus from Egypt and of our flight from oppression is a unifying metaphor of the civil rights movement and more specifically of inclusion here at Kol Ami.

Being married to a non-Jew, I am most familiar with religious inclusion. My cousin Jon recently had a successful kidney transplant after suffering from a genetic kidney disease. Just hours into his recovery at Georgetown Medical Center Jon sent Dave and me a text message. The text message included a photo

of a crucifix over a doorway and was accompanied by a message which said "Over my room door. Gramma Carr is watching over me!!!" This is a little background that will explain the photo and message:

Dave's grandfather passed away shortly before our wedding. Dave's grandmother, known to everyone as Gramma Carr, travelled to our wedding with Dave's parents. At the wedding, Gramma Carr met all of my relatives. While she liked everyone, she fell in love with my cousin Jon who came to Long Island for the wedding. (This was a big deal for Dave's gramma since she never traveled anywhere as she was happiest to be with her family at her home in Binghamton.) She was able to meet all of Dave's new relatives from my side of the family at the wedding. She absolutely fell in love with my cousin Jon who was very young and helped my Dad do yard work. Over the years, Gramma Carr frequently asked for general updates about my family, but in particular, updates about Jon. Fast forward about a dozen years and Jon went to Ithaca College. During the four years Jon traveled from his home in Maryland to upstate New York, he would stop in Binghamton to stay the night. Of course, he stayed at Gramma Carr's home - in the room Dave's family referred to as the "holy room" since it contained vivid religious images including a large painting of the crucifixion over the bed. Although Jon was raised in an observant orthodox Jewish home, he was never bothered by these stays in the "holy room." Truth be told, Jon and the "holy room" became an ongoing family joke. Cousin Jon and Gramma Carr had an unbreakable bond. Over time, the legend of the 'holy room' grew and Jon would often say that 'he was a better man' for having survived the 'holy room'!

Dave's Catholic grandmother embraced my entire Jewish family long before interfaith marriage was common and phrases like "interfaith inclusion" were used. I was reminded of this feeling of inclusion and belonging when Jon thought of Gramma Carr after his surgery, even though it has been 18 years since she passed away.

Like Gramma Carr, our congregation has been welcoming and inclusive of our interfaith couples and the non-Jewish spouses who are raising their children as Jews; and of all of those of different faiths who worship with us. We also welcome members of the LGBTQ community and those with a wide range of physical or learning abilities. We embrace all those who we do not know, but I was recently reminded that Jews of color make up a growing portion of the Jewish population, and I asked myself if we have really been welcoming of Jews of color.

Passover is about our exodus from slavery and becoming free of the things that lead us to think in a small way. Accordingly, Passover should lead us to perform acts of tikkun olam – repairing the world. As I prepare for Passover this year, I am going to try to focus more on how I, and we as a congregation, can repair the world. How we can recommit to building bridges to connect seemingly different communities. How we can truly welcome those who have not traditionally been part of our community.

Freedom, liberation, and exodus from Egypt did not come without courage, disruption and surprises.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Fondly,

Jess

**Join Congregation Kol Ami's Delegation at the  
URJ Religious Action Center's  
Consultation on Conscience in Washington DC  
April 30 – May 2, 2017**  
**Be a part of this powerful movement working with  
other Reform congregations from the US & Canada**  
***Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof***  
**For more information & to register contact Ronnie  
Cohn ([rcofar@aol.com](mailto:rcofar@aol.com)) or follow this link  
<http://www.rac.org/consultation-conscience-2017>**



**Nominations for 2017-2018  
Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9, 2017**

**Officers to be Elected**  
(for a one-year term expiring in 2018)

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Co-Presidents | Susan Kohn Arovas and Scott Musoff |
| Treasurer     | Jonathan Litt                      |
| Secretary     | Rachel Eckhaus                     |

**Vice Presidents**  
(to complete the three-year term expiring in 2018)

Judi Brown

(to complete the three-year term expiring in 2019)

David Okun

(for a three year term expiring in 2020)

Lisa Hochman

**New Trustees to be Elected**  
(for a three-year term expiring in 2020)

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Kevin Cohen      | Michael Elkin |
| Jennifer Lemberg | Michael Zweig |

**Trustees to be Elected for an additional Term**  
(for three years expiring in 2020)

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Jack Berger      | Rachel Eckhaus  |
| Linda Forman     | Lisa Hochman    |
| Elizabeth Ilberg | Andrew Levenson |

**Continuing Trustees**  
(term expiring in 2018)

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Howard Geller | Evelyne Klein     |
| Howard Klein  | Jennifer Labovitz |
| Jonathan Litt | David Okun        |
| Scott Musoff  |                   |

(term expiring in 2019)

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Susan Kohn Arovas | Judi Brown      |
| David Cole        | Danielle Gecht  |
| Bonnie Hagen      | Liz Mayeri      |
| Betsy McCormack   | Pam Millian     |
| Jeff Rothschild   | Steve Salzinger |

**Retiring from the Board**

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Lori Abrams     | Susan Davis   |
| Michael Goldban | Gerri Sommers |
| Leslie Weisen   |               |

**Nominating Committee**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Ronnie Cohn and Mark Seiden, Co-Chairs |                   |
| Sharon Cohen                           | Erik Klein        |
| Evelyne Klein                          | Jennifer Labovitz |
| Margie Lewis                           | Adrienne Pollak   |
| Eric Staffin                           |                   |

**Congregation Kol Ami  
Article VII  
Nominations**

**Section 1.** A Nominating Committee shall be appointed each year by the President with the consent of the Board of Trustees at its November meeting. The Committee shall consist of nine members: at least five members shall not be present Trustees.

**Section 2.** The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of prospective Trustees and Officers to be voted on by the Congregation at its next annual meeting. The slate shall be presented to the Secretary for the publication in the April issue of the Connection. No member of the Nominating Committee or any member of his or her family unit may be nominated to be a Trustee or Officer.

**Section 3.** At least 75 days prior to the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee shall hold at least one meeting open to the Congregation. Notice of the time and place of the open meeting will be published in The Connection or will be mailed to each Member by first class mail not less than 10 days before the open meeting date.

**Section 4.** Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least 25 Members, and delivered to the chair of the Nominating Committee or any officer of the Congregation at least 20 days before the annual meeting of the Congregation. In the event of additional nominations, a list of all nominees will be sent by first class mail to each Member at least 10 days before the annual meeting.

## A Message From Our Religious School Director

FELICE MILLER BARITZ



With Spring comes planning, cleaning and the feeling of newness. I love the springtime. As we all begin to look out for those first hints of green, the extra daylight gives everyone the expansive sense of time. In the Religious School this time of year also begins the feeling of racing toward the finish line. In only a couple of months, the school year will be over... and

there's still so much we want to do! I hope that as all the distractions of springtime begin to pull you and your children away, you remember all of the important things we have going on here at Kol Ami.

After the April break, after months of learning and preparation, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will lead our community in remembering the Holocaust at our Yom HaShoah service on Wednesday evening, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited to join us for what will be a moving and meaningful service.

I'll keep everyone posted on all our ongoing programs and activities. Our weekly newsletter, The Gold Standard, is emailed to our school community each week and is also available on the Kol Ami facebook page. As we continue to do the work of building a joyous community of learning for our children, your ongoing input, inspiration and support are what make it real. Religious School registration for next year will begin soon. Let your friends know! If you know of someone in our community who may be interested in learning more about our school, please have them call me.

Our annual Kol Ami Retreat will take place on a NEW DATE. Join us the weekend of June 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss this amazing weekend of connection and community! It's also Father's Day weekend... and what a wonderful way to celebrate our families together!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Pesach!

Felice



# ROSH HODESH: IT'S A GIRL THING!

High School Girls  
**Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!**  
Come celebrate the new Hebrew month with some girl time at Kol Ami!

**When:** Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Who:** 11:15-12:30 Keshet (Hebrew for Rainbow) Peer facilitated group for all LGBTQ teens and allies  
12:30-2:00 Rosh Hodesh monthly gathering for 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls.

**What:** The opportunity to talk about the things that matter...

**Where:** Room #20

**Theme:** Come as you are! (Wear comfy clothes and get ready to relax and recharge)  
**Eat:** Pizza! (provided by Kol Ami)

**RSVP:** [RavLaurie@gmail.com](mailto:RavLaurie@gmail.com)

---

**The 8th Graders  
of Congregation Kol Ami  
welcome the community to join  
together as we honor the memory of  
those who perished in The Holocaust**

*Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
at 7:30pm  
Yom HaShoah Community Service  
in the Main Sanctuary*



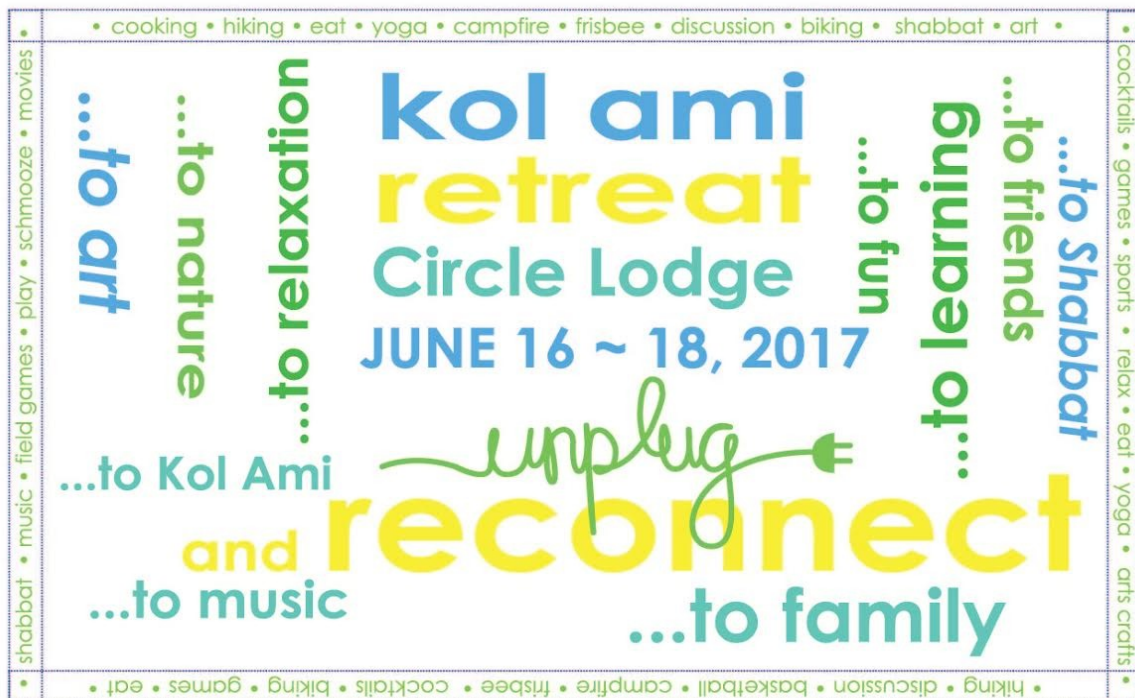
**Wednesday, May 3rd**

**6:00pm: Pizza Supper**

**6:30pm: Screening of "Screenagers"**

*Screenagers* is about about the impact of the digital age on children and how to help families minimize harmful effects and find balance.

Details to follow.



## ***LAST TWO CHANCES!***

**Don't miss the opportunity to participate  
in Kol Ami's Community Art Project  
*Expressions of Hope***

**Friday evening, May 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday morning, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

Your individual expressions of hope, your individual voice,  
will become part of an art installation at the entrance to Kol Ami.  
*Only with your participation can we successfully represent who we are as a community and truly  
represent the "voice of our people."*

**The workshop will be presented throughout the evening and morning  
Before, during and after services and as part of our Religious School Day of Chesed**

**~~Workshops will take place in the ATRIUM~~**

No artistic talent needed!

Appropriate for people ages 6 and up.  
We will have "stained glass" coloring activities to occupy  
young children while parents participate.

Thank you to those who already participated in this workshop.  
Your meaningful contributions to the project will be a part of the installation.



## Women of Reform Judaism (Kol Ami Sisterhood)

### Our Offerings of Well-Being

The parasha, as I write this article, is Vayikra. In this first section of Leviticus, we find instructions for different kinds of sacrifices. One type of rite described is the voluntary sacrifice of well-being, Zevach Sh'lamim (Leviticus 3:1-17). This sacrifice is distinguished by the festive meal eaten by the donor and the guests, subsequent to the offering made on the altar and the priests being provided with their share.

I have just returned from the Kol Ami Sisterhood Passover tasting and recipe exchange. The sense of well-being among more than 30 Kol Ami women was palpable as we all enjoyed the offerings of delicious Passover foods contributed by all who were there. Each of us looks forward to contributing new foods at our own seder tables as we recreate our favorites from the shared recipes. Learning was a part of the evening, along with socializing and lots of eating, as Karen Rosner shared with us her knowledge of and insights on impact investing.

And just a couple of weeks ago, more feelings of well-being were shared at our post-Purim Ladies Night Out held at the Irish Bank in Hartsdale. Approximately 40 sisters joined together to schmooze and just enjoy each other's company along with delicious food and drink.

In Sisterhood, we strive to sanctify our lives and gratitude for well-being through friendship, volunteerism, community, and yes, gathering together around food. In that spirit, we wish you all a zissen Pesach.

Sheryl Brady

Stacey Matusow  
Rachel Eckhaus





## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM Kol Ami Sisterhood

Confirmation will be held on Tuesday, May 30th. On that day, our tenth grade Religious School students, listed below, will participate in the Shavout Confirmation Service, dedicating themselves anew to the values of our faith. We rejoice with them and their families on this special occasion.

Sending a personal, simple greeting is traditional for this milestone, delivering the good wishes of the sender and providing the warm pleasure of being remembered to the recipient. Each confirmand will receive a booklet of greetings which will make for a wonderful keepsake. This form contains the name of each confirmand and the option to create a personal greeting or choose from several pre-made greetings.

The deadline for sending a greeting is **Monday, May 15th**. We hope you will participate in this meaningful project. Please visit:

<https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/confirmation2017> to send your greetings.

. . Thank you.

Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus Stacy Matusow  
Co-Presidents, Kol Ami Women of Reform  
Judaism

p.s. If you are a parent of a confirmand please feel free to share this form with friends and family outside of Kol Ami.

### 2017 Confirmands

Emma Adler  
Maddy Brew  
Charlotte Brown  
Sara Frankenthaler  
Ben Garelick  
Eva Gilbert  
Ari Greenberg  
Ben Hostetter  
Rayna Litt  
Matthew Rothman  
Jake Sherwood  
Becca Sparer  
Julia Staffin  
Jacob Strier  
Rachel Weisglass  
Eli Worth

**"Jewish Journeys" has expanding its horizons to include journeys of various types and destinations. No matter the journey - personal or professional, brief or in depth, spiritual or secular - travel of any kind enriches the mind, body and soul.**

"Kabbalat Shabbat Services"

By Susan Ross

What is the essence of Kabbalat Shabbat Services at Congregation Kol Ami? For many members, services serve as journeys for spiritual discoveries.

Some come to be with family and friends; others appreciate the sermons and music, while many enjoy beautiful religious experiences. No matter the reason, we attend to "repair the world" in our own ways.

Perhaps, Rabbi Shira said it best in a recent sermon, when describing Esther's qualities. She used a "magical word" that applies to any relationship or situation.

A relationship or situation, be it religious or secular, is a delicate balance of interests and concerns, whereby people come into your life for a reason. Some enter briefly, while others stay a lifetime. Either way, you are better for those times together.

The word that Rabbi Shira used suggests serenity yet sparkles with potential merriment, infers hope but conveys peace and means happiness and delight. The word captures the essence of Kabbalat Shabbat Services.

That word is JOYFUL!

Indeed, Kabbalat Shabbat Services are truly joyful in our all-encompassing tabernacle. Members and their guests are inspired by uplifting sermons by the rabbis and captivated by glorious music sung by Cantor David.

Most of all, with eloquence and simplicity of words at services, we are reminded that to have joyful encounters in our lives, we should treat yesterday as a memory, tomorrow as a mystery and today as a gift. Joyful, the core of Kabbalat Shabbat Services and Congregation Kol Ami.

## **We Point With Pride**

### JERALD SETI

Jerald Seti, the son of Roger Seti, was honored by the Westchester Jewish Council on March 15, 2017. He was awarded the 22nd Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award.

The award honors those who make their communities stronger through the work that they do in many ways. Named in memory of Julian Y. Bernstein, a selfless community leader, the ceremony highlighted the enormous efforts of volunteers in different Westchester Jewish Council member organizations.

Jerald Seti is involved with the Westchester Klezmer Program, as a director and board member, since 2004. The Westchester Klezmer

Program is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes intergenerational community service through klezmer musical performances at nursing homes, libraries and various community events.

Jerald's love of music and his dedication to community service have benefited countless people who have performed together and created lasting memories for those involved in his programs and events. He is grateful to the program's members who volunteer their time and talent to ensure its success.

Jerald lives in Dobbs Ferry with his wife, Gayle and are the proud parents of two adult sons, Eric and Evan. Roger Seti is doubly proud of his son's honor and contribution to the mitzvah of community service.

# FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



Top row, L to R: Roy Watkins, Matthew J. Fiorillo, Joshua Lunza.  
Front row, L to R: Jenna Triano, Megan Davis, Therapy Dog: Lulu

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—Matthew J. Fiorillo,  
Owner & Funeral Director



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## Kol Ami Doctors and Nurses Needed

We would like to create a list of doctors and nurses who would be willing to be "on call" at Kol Ami during the High Holy Day services. If you would be willing to assist a congregant in need of medical assistance during the High Holy Days (at whichever service you typically attend), please email Staci Krantz at [Staci.Krantz@nykolami.org](mailto:Staci.Krantz@nykolami.org) with your name and cell phone number. Jess, with support of Dr. David Cole and Dr. Jack Berger, will organize the group and follow-up with you.

## Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering

Kol Ami Cares provides endless opportunities for connection and caring in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Some of the ways in which our volunteers support the Kol Ami community include:

We call bereaved families, prepare a home for shiva, help, lead or participate in shiva services for families in mourning.

Several of our congregants no longer drive or have difficulty getting to services and special events. Kol Ami Cares maintains a database of members willing and able to provide transportation as needed. Offering a ride even once in a while is hugely appreciated.

Within our Kol Ami community, older congregants would welcome a visit in their homes. Many do not have family living nearby and would appreciate the company.

Please join our growing list of members who spend time with our housebound congregants. (B'nai Mitzvah students may choose this activity as a Mitzvah Project.)

Kol Ami Cares prepares and delivers meals to our members recovering from illness or surgery. We welcome anyone who can provide a meal for those unable to shop or cook for themselves or their families.

If you or anyone you know can benefit from our assistance, please contact us immediately. Thank you so much to our wonderful volunteers.

### ***Kol Ami Cares Co-Chairs***

Ginny Ruder - [ginnyruder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyruder@gmail.com) 914-589-5283  
Betsy McCormack - [betsyrmc@aol.com](mailto:betsyrmc@aol.com) 914-960-9390

**Please complete the form on the next page if you would like to be part of Kol Ami Cares.**

## Kol Ami Cares

*The key is caring. Once a week, once a month or just one day.*

**Kol Ami Cares provides endless opportunities for connection and caring in times of joy and in times of sorrow. We call bereaved families, help, lead or participate in shiva services, visit the sick and connect with the homebound. We also work to support the larger Westchester and world communities by knitting for our troops, preparing food for the hungry and many other activities of mitzvot.**

**At the heart of a caring community is fulfilling these "sacred obligations" without measure:**

- To perform acts of love and kindness
- To welcome the stranger
- To visit the sick
- To console the bereaved
- To make peace when there is strife

**We hope you can contribute in one of the following ways (starred \* items require at least one training session prior to participation):**

### A. Comfort the Bereaved

I would like to

- ☐ Provide a post-funeral meal or help set up the home for a shiva visit
- ☐ Help during a shiva period (e.g. childcare, telephoning, shopping or participating in a shiva service)

### B. Visit the Sick

I would like to

- ☐ Visit congregants in their homes \*
- ☐ Visit congregants in the hospital \*
- ☐ Telephone congregants who are homebound or ill
- ☐ Offer help (e.g. transportation, food, shopping)

### C. Share Knowledge

I would like to

- ☐ Read to those with limited eyesight
- ☐ Sing with a chorus in nursing homes
- ☐ Help tutor students after school
- ☐ Provide computer support

### D. Support our Neighbors

I would like to

- ☐ Knit for our troops, babies and others
- ☐ Cook for the homeless shelter
- Sunday 11-12:30\_\_ Monday 12-1:30\_\_ Either \_\_
- ☐ Focus on other Mitzvah programs in which I am interested
- Name of Program \_\_\_\_\_

### E. Provide Transportation

I am available to

- ☐ Drive to/from Temple on Friday Shabbat Service
- ☐ Drive to/from Temple on Saturday Morning Shabbat Service
- ☐ Drive to/from Temple for Adult Education Programs or Special Events

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone (cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am able to drive myself to programs.

☐ I need a ride to programs.

☐ ***I would like to help in the administration of Kol Ami Cares.***

**Please return completed forms  
to the Kol Ami Office  
Go to [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) for program details**

## Social Action

### **Cooking for the Homeless**

In the Kol Ami kitchen

Sundays at 11:15am:

Apr 2, May 7, June 11

and

Mondays at 12:00pm:

April 24, May 22, June 12

### **The Cabin Group**

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Weekly (closed) Tuesday meetings

5:45pm

Schulman Chapel in the Woods

### **Al-Anon**

Weekly (closed) Thursday meetings

7:30pm

Schulman Chapel in the Woods

### **Mitzvah Knitz**

Together we'll knit afghans, caps for Israeli soldiers and more.

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

10:30am

### **The Kol Ami Singers**

Join us at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as we sing songs, accompanied by Paul Schwarz. Bring a little sunshine to the residents and make a difference in their lives.

**Wednesday, April 19th at 2:30PM**

**THE BRISTAL**

**305 North Street**

**White Plains**

## KOL AMI PANTRY

Our Kol Ami Pantry, housed in the entry room of our gymnasium, is now open for our congregants, our staff, and guests of each. Our hours of operation are: Sunday 9:30AM - 11:00AM, Tuesday 9:30AM-11AM and Thursday 6:00PM-7:30 PM. If receiving food from our Pantry would help you at this time, please visit our Pantry and permit us to assist you. If you are able to make a financial donation to help us purchase food for others, we welcome your assistance as well. Operating the Kol Ami Pantry enables us to feed the hungry within our own community and promotes healthy living and social responsibility among our congregants and staff.

## COACHMAN CORNER

We are thrilled to be working closely with new friends at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains. Our relationship began in the summer of 2014 and has flourished since that time. The projects include:

- Providing school supplies throughout the year
- Providing sports equipment
- Providing baby toys and equipment
- Providing books
- Providing tutoring support
- Monthly Birthday Parties for children up to 14 and separate teenage outings
- Thanksgiving Feast at Kol Ami
- Memorial Day Bar-B-Q at Kol Ami
- Knitting of blankets and providing them to the Children of the Coachman
- Providing winter coats
- Providing gift cards for the holidays

**We welcome Religious School families to join us on these initiatives!**

## COACHMAN CORNER



### Coachman Corner

Spreading Tikum Olam in our  
Community



The Lieber family and the White Plains Girl Scout troop 1991 sponsored the March birthday party. They transformed the community room into a festive and colorful party space. The girl scouts organized craft projects for the children and Spencer Danzig, representing Backyard Sports ran the team building games and activities. Everyone feasted on pizza, snacks and a birthday cake. The girl scouts chose and wrapped each birthday gift and made goody bags for all the partygoers. Hosting the March party for the second year in a row, Jaime Lieber noted what a great way this is to commemorate National Girl Scout Day by showing the girls how they can spread love and kindness to others in need.

**Let us know if you are interested in donating  
to and/or participating in projects to benefit  
the Coachman Family Center.**

Coachman Committee Co-Chairs:  
Alison Adler - [aadler3@verizon.net](mailto:aadler3@verizon.net)  
Lisa Hochman - [lisahochman@mac.com](mailto:lisahochman@mac.com)



## WELCOME TO SYNAPLEX!

2016-2017

APRIL 28, 2017

**Friday evening schedule:****5:00 pm**

Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen and special guest Idan Santhus. Having been born and raised in the Middle East, Idan manages to bring together elements from several different musical styles and blend them into a wonderful amalgam that bears his unique identity. Israeli native, Idan Santhus is a Saxophonist, Flautist and Composer who has been residing in NY since 2001.

**5:30 pm**

Shabbat-in-the-Woods for families with young children, followed by supervised childcare, light supper & Shabbat crafts

**6:00 pm**

Unwind with hors d'oeuvres

**6:15 pm**

Shabbat Services

**7:15 pm**

Shabbat Dinner (**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN WED, APRIL 26TH**)

**7:30 pm**

Tzedakah sandwich making

**8:00 pm**

THE MAIN EVENT

**9:15 pm**

Relax at the end of a long day and week with dessert and coffee

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DINNER**

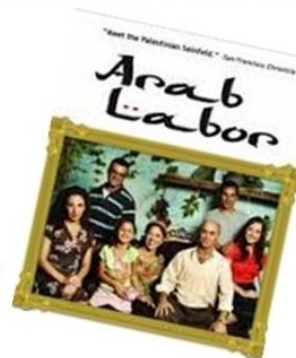
ASL INTERPRETATION PROVIDED  
UPON REQUEST



**Sayed Kashua, Creator of the Hit Israeli TV Show, "Arab Labor",  
on Cultural Criticism Through Humor**

Sayed Kashua is a Palestinian citizen of Israel, author, and journalist born in Tira, Israel, known for his books and humorous columns in Hebrew. Kashua is the author of three novels: *Dancing Arabs*, *Let it Be Morning*, and *Second Person Singular* (all published in English by Grove Atlantic). Kashua is winner of the prestigious Berstein Prize. Kashua also writes a satirical weekly column in Hebrew for the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz. In a tongue-in-cheek style, Kashua addresses the problems faced by Arabs in Israel, caught between two worlds. He is the writer and creator of the hit Israeli TV show "Arab Labor," now in its fifth season. In 2004, Kashua was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize in Literature. His novel *Dancing Arabs* has been made into the feature film, "Borrowed Identity", and premiered in 2014 at the Telluride Film Festival.

Kol Ami has created a virtual library, where we post articles or readings that congregants might want to read before or after learning with our speakers. If you would like to access readings from Sayed Kashua please visit our website at [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org), and click on the tab "LEARN", scroll down and click on the tab labeled "Virtual Library".



**For further information, contact Ilene Miller at 914-949-4717 x115/  
[ilenemiller@nykolami.org](mailto:ilenemiller@nykolami.org) or visit [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)**

**CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO  
CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
(252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606)  
NO LATER THAN WED., APR 26TH**

**"Community & Family Dinner"**

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#Children/teens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#Children 5 and under \_\_\_\_\_ = N/C

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Name/s**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Name/s & Ages**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email address**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Adult Education

### Spiritual Journeying Groups

#### Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm  
Apr 24, May 22, June 19  
(fee for Kol Ami members \$72, \$100  
for non-members)

This workshop will introduce Mussar practice through tikkun middot ("repairing ourselves from the inside out"), so that we can act with greater compassion, kindness, and love in our homes, friendships and work. Facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS. Please contact Rabbi Wax at [pwax@wjcs.com](mailto:pwax@wjcs.com) or 914-761-0600 x149 to register.

#### Women in Transition

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month,  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Are you attempting an adjustment to a major life change? Please join us in an interactive discussion group. Topics to be discussed include but not limited to: retirement, widowhood, aging, changing relationships with adult children, and other life transitions. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Sheila Sturmer at [sturmshela@gmail.com](mailto:sturmshela@gmail.com) or 914-391-1227

#### Women's Roundtable Breakfast\*

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am  
Apr 5, May 3  
With Rabbi Shira Milgrom  
Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship.

### Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

#### Now entering its 6th year - Newcomers Always Welcome!

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 am  
Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and the heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection. No meditation experience necessary. Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, and certified meditation teacher. WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami.

**Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW**, is our Partners-in-Caring liaison from Westchester Jewish Community Services, one of the largest social services agency in Westchester. WJCS, a non-sectarian agency, provides a wide variety of psychosocial programs and services to children, adults, families and special populations in our Westchester community.

#### Programs include:

- ◆ Geriatric care management and other senior programs
- ◆ Jewish Spiritual Healing Center: services for individual and families facing serious illness
- ◆ The Autism Center: residences for developmentally disabled adults individual bereavement counseling and support groups
- ◆ CENTER LANE: a center for the LGBT community....and much, much more.

As our congregation's liaison to WJCS, Ruth (an experienced clinical social worker and psychotherapist) can assist synagogue members in assessing and meeting challenging life situations by providing brief counseling, accessing needed resources and making appropriate referrals. Ruth also leads the Thursday morning Jewish Mindfulness Meditation group. Ruth can be reached directly through email ([rrosenblum@wjcs.com](mailto:rrosenblum@wjcs.com)) and phone (914 761-0600 ext. 148).



# KOL AMI WOMEN'S OASIS AT HOME



## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Kol Ami Oasis at Home stretches further to bring information and insight about a variety of mental health issues and how they impact women. Our distinguished and inspiring discussion leaders will explore various topics from all angles-historical, spiritual, and practical.

**Register for the Oasis at Home Series today**  
**Refreshments will be served at each session.**

Please print this flyer and return it  
with a check payable to Kol Ami.

Mail to: Congregation Kol Ami  
252 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Four sessions \$60  
(Individual sessions \$18)

☐ Session 1: Sunday, November 13, 2016  
☐ Session 2: Tuesday, January 31, 2017  
☐ Session 3: **NEW DATE: APRIL 23rd, 2017**  
☐ Session 4 Sunday, April 23, 2017

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

**9:15-11:00 a.m. at the Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods**  
 Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS  
*From Where Does My Help Come: Confronting Mental Illness--  
 dealing with our own mental health and the associated stigmas.  
 What role does stress play in our lives?*

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017**

**7:30-9:30 p.m. at the home of Jill Abraham**  
 Rabbi Shira Milgrom  
*Depression and Anxiety in Women and  
 What We Can Learn from Our Foremothers*

**NEW DATE: APRIL 23rd, 2017**

**7:30-9:30 p.m. at the home of Lauri Carey**  
 Rabbi Shira Milgrom  
*Eating Disorders- Who? What? When? Where? Why?*

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**9:15-11:00 a.m. at the Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods**  
 Rabbi Fredda Cohen, Westchester Chaplain for the New York  
 Board of Rabbis, and an educator at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue  
*Women as Caregivers -- honoring our parents and  
 finding our own spiritual resources*

For further information contact  
 Jill Abraham 472-5806 or [jill.sa2@verizon.net](mailto:jill.sa2@verizon.net)  
 Lauri Carey 472-8076 or [lauricarey@hotmail.com](mailto:lauricarey@hotmail.com)

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## GATHER AND STUDY

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### **Congregation Kol Ami and Dr. Pierre Darmon Present**

#### **"You just brought that shiny new computing device home - Now what?"**

We will cover steps to prepare  
your new device for use.

**April 3rd at 7:30pm at Kol Ami**

Please RSVP to Staci Krantz at  
stacikrantz@nykolami.org by Thursday, March 30

#### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

#### **God: A Biography**

Thursday evenings

7:30 - 9:00pm

(except where otherwise noted)

**Rabbi Shira Milgrom**

**May 30 - Shavuot Tikkun (9:00-10:00pm)**

A study of the Hebrew Bible as a biography of  
God. How does God change or develop  
throughout the books of the Hebrew Tanakh?  
This fun, intriguing, eye-opening look at our Bible  
is based on the book by Jack Miles, *God: A  
Biography*. Participants should purchase the book  
in hard copy or on a kindle  
(the paper back has very small print.)

#### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

#### **Israel in the News with David Gravitz**

Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:45 pm

Apr 4, 18; May 2, 16; June 6, 20

Each session will feature in-depth discussion of  
news items regarding Israel, both within Israel  
and regarding Israel's relations with other  
countries and with diaspora Jewry. History and  
geography will be featured where appropriate and  
occasionally guest speakers, both from within  
and outside Kol Ami, will be invited.

### **Wisdom of the Sages at Kol Ami**

Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 pm

Lively discussions of the world and our lives  
based on some of the most provocative and  
fascinating texts of Jewish learning.

All are welcome.

With Rabbi Tom Weiner

### **Current Events with Beth & Gene Kava**

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Apr 10, 24,

May 8, 22, June 5, 19

Each session will provide participants an  
opportunity for in-depth examination of a current  
issue of the day. Participants will examine issues,  
through various perspectives, using readings,  
video, or a guest speaker.

### **Kol Ami Book Club**

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20

Meets the first Wednesday of every month  
throughout the year. Come whether you've read  
the book or not; the discussion is always lively.

For more information contact Doris Dingott at  
289-0869 or [DLDingott@gmail.com](mailto:DLDingott@gmail.com)

**April 5th "The Storied Life of AJ Filkry"**  
**by Gabrielle Zevin**

### **Prophets Seminar**

Mondays 7:30 pm

*Prerequisite-curiosity*

We will study Deutero-Isaiah and  
Ezekiel. Ezekiel speaks of a return to the land  
after the Babylonian exile and the renewal of the  
covenant about which Jeremiah spoke.  
Deutero-Isaiah speaks of the Jewish future, a  
time when we shall be "a light unto the  
nations." We will examine the history and events  
surrounding their lives. Interpretations by  
Heschel, Buber and others will be examined.



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## PARENTING GROUPS

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### **Parenting Teens Workshops**

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month  
12:00pm

Next session April 6  
Susan Davis, LCSW

Discussion of a range of parenting issues related to adolescence, including physical and emotional development, trust and control issues, and staying connected in the midst of the turmoil and separation.

### **Grandparenting Workshops**

Meets the 1st Monday of the month  
9:15am

Next session April 3  
Susan Davis, LCSW

Exploring intergenerational experience and Jewish wisdom as we share the challenges and opportunities of grandparenting.

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## ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

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### **Beginner Hebrew with Emily Fields\***

Sundays at 9:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

### **Shabbat Sings**

### **Hebrew prayers and songs**

### **Learn the Service in Hebrew**

(For Advanced Beginners who can slowly read Hebrew) with Emily Fields

Sundays at 10:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

Please contact Emily at  
efgraph@optonline.net to register or if you require additional information.

### **Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman**

Sundays at 10:00am

Conversational Hebrew, grammar, vocabulary, reading, and translating current Israeli publications. An informal learning environment. (Contact Alice Seidman at 953-8455 for further information). Free of charge.

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## The Arts: Music & Drama

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### **Congregational Choir**

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm

For High School Students and Adults  
Cantor David Rosen and  
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

### **Or Chadash (A New Light)**

### **Choir for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade**

Sundays at 11:00 am  
(when Religious School is in session)  
Cantor David Rosen and  
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

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## FUN AND GAMES

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### **Mah Jongg**

Wednesdays at 10:30 am  
Kol Ami Atrium  
Email Betsy McCormack  
(Betsyrmc@aol.com)  
for information



## Contributions



Congregation Kol Ami is grateful for the many donations that you give both in honor of joyous occasions and in memory of beloved family and friends.

To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices

clearer, a donor form is printed on the back of each monthly newsletter. Donor forms are also available in the Main Office and on our website ([www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)). We thank you for the generosity that goes into each of these donations!

**Your name(s) as you would like it to appear in our newsletter:**

**Donors' Address:**

**Occasion:** ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In honor of: Name as you would like it to appear in our newsletter:

**Send donation acknowledgement to:**

(Please remember, acknowledgements are sent for contributions of \$18 or more. A listing will be posted as you would like it to appear in the newsletter for any donated amount.)

**Amount Enclosed:**

Please indicate your choice below and mail this form and a check to Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. If you are interested in planned giving opportunities, please call the temple office at 914-949-4717.

### Funds

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kol Ami Fund (our general fund)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Synaplex Circle Fund   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audrey Greenberg Scholarship Fund (provides ECP tuition assistance for families in need) | <input type="checkbox"/> Kol Ami Cares Fund (supports activities of the Caring Community Program)                          | <input type="checkbox"/> WRJ Sisterhood Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates).       | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Council Fund  | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities Fund (supports youth-related programs, scholarships and trips)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Fund - Cantor David Rosen  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Discretionary Fund - Rabbi Shira Milgrom   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Kraver College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college students)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Discretionary Fund - Rabbi Tom Weiner  | <input type="checkbox"/> Petschek Music Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Program Fund (supports teacher education and student scholarships)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Fund (supports special projects as determined by the Religious School Committee) | <b>Plaques and Remembrances</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yahrzeit Plaques \$750<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tree of Life Leaf \$180<br>(Available in Gold, Silver and Copper)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers and Landscaping Fund   | <input type="checkbox"/> Retreat Fund  | <b>Giving Opportunities</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Religious School Sunday Morning Bagel Breakfast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund for the Needy (provides assistance to those in need)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund for the Confirmands (10th graders)   |   |

# April 2017 Calendar

## Sat Apr 1

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
 9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
 9:00 am - Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Lily Ritterman Pena  
 9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
 10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Jason Siglag

## Sun Apr 2

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
 11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir  
 11:15 am - Cooking for the Homeless  
 11:15am - Keshet (LGBTQ Teens and Allies)  
 12:30pm: Rosh Chodesh Group

## Mon Apr 3

9:15 am - Gandparenting  
 7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar  
 7:30 pm - Dr. Pierre Darmon - You Just Brought that Shiny New Device Home, Now What?

## Tue Apr 4

7:30 pm - Israel In the News

## Wed Apr 5

7:45 am - Women's Roundtable Breakfast  
 9:00 am - KA Reads Book Club  
 10:30 am - Mah Jongg  
 4:00 pm - 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
 6:30 pm - 7th-12th Grade Religious School

## Thu Apr 6

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation  
 11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages  
 12:00 pm - Parenting Teens

## Fri Apr 7

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
 6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Apr 8

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
 9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
 9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
 10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Musoff

## Sun Apr 9

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

## Mon Apr 10

OFFICE CLOSED - Passover First Seder

## Tue Apr 11

OFFICE CLOSED - Passover Second Seder

## Wed Apr 12

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

## Thu Apr 13

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation  
 11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages

## Fri Apr 14

OFFICE CLOSED - Good Friday  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
 6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Apr 15

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
 9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
 9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
 10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study

## Sun Apr 16

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

## Mon Apr 17

OFFICE CLOSED - Passover Day 7  
 10:00 am - Passover/Yizkor Service

## Tue Apr 18

10:00 am - Mitzvah Knits  
 7:30 pm - Israel In the News

## Wed Apr 19

10:30 am - Mah Jongg  
 4:00 pm - 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
 6:30 pm - 7th-12th Grade Religious School

## Thu Apr 20

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation  
 11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages

## Fri Apr 21

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
 6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Apr 22

LIFT YOUR SHABBAT - Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Shira in the Chapel  
**NEW SCHEDULE**  
 9:00am - Coffee and community  
 9:30am - Torah Study  
 11:00am - Shabbat Services

10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: B'nai Mitzvah of Molly and Willa Einstein  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar

Mitzvah of Owen Strier

## Sun Apr 23

9:00am: 1st Grade Synagogue Tour  
 9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
 9:00 am - Women's Oasis  
 11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir  
 11:15am - Keshet (LGBTQ Teens and Allies)  
 12:30pm: Rosh Chodesh Group

## Mon Apr 24

Yom HaShoah  
 11:00 am - Current Events  
 12:00 pm - Cooking for the Homeless  
 12:30 pm - Mussar Class  
 7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

## Wed Apr 26

10:30 am - Mah Jongg  
 4:00 pm - 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
 6:30 pm - 7th-12th Grade Religious School  
 7:30 pm - Religious School Grade 8 Community Yom HaShoah Service

## Thu Apr 27

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation  
 11:00 am - Wise Aging  
 11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages

## Fri Apr 28

5:00 pm - Synplex  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
 6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Apr 29

LIFT YOUR SHABBAT - Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Shira in the Chapel

## NEW SCHEDULE

9:00am - Coffee and community  
 9:30am - Torah Study  
 11:00am - Shabbat Services

10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Raff  
 5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Knecht

## Sun Apr 30

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
 9:00am: 5th Grade Yom Hazikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut Program for K-6  
 9:45am: Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration  
 10:00am: 2nd Grade Torah Project  
 11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir



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Front Row, Left to right: Tina Michell – Energy Analyst, Bright Energy Services; Bud Hammer – President, Atlantic Westchester; Bonnie Hagen – Chief Operating Officer, LEED AP+, Bright Energy Services  
Middle Row, Left to right: Brian Hoffmann – Chief Engineer, CEM, Atlantic Westchester; Nelson Gallardo – Project Manager, Bright Energy Services  
Back Row, on ladder: Tom Burbank – Project Manager, EIT, CEM, Atlantic Westchester

Atlantic Westchester, an HVAC company in Bedford Hills, and Bright Energy Services, an energy efficiency company in White Plains, have aligned to become one of the area's leading commercial energy efficiency providers. Both award-winning firms have a long-standing commitment to energy-efficient building solutions. This strategic partnership has resulted in tens of millions of dollars in value to clients from reduced utility costs, the securing of financial incentives, and enhanced building operating systems. Services include energy auditing, LED lighting and controls, HVAC, solar, building management systems, local law and energy code compliance, LEED and Energy Star certification, benchmarking, sub-metering, commissioning, procurement, and more.

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