



**Chag
Sameach**

LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR A
FUNDRAISER AND SOME LAUGHS



**Men's
Council
Second Night
Seder**
(see page 4)

COMEDY NIGHT WITH JOHNNY LAMPERT

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH, 7-10 PM

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY

FOOD, DRINKS, AUCTION

TICKETS \$150

*The Road to Learning Never Ends
With great joy we invite you to celebrate
with us as we become B'nai Mitzvah*

Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 5:30pm

Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY

Celebratory oneg to follow at 7:30pm

Judi Arner Brown Marjorie Bruckman Robin Davies-Small Susan Davis
Anne D'Orazio Elizabeth Hirsch Ward Carol Klein David Klein Evelyn Klein
Jennifer Lemberg Elaine Libman Lin Shapiro

SERVICES

Friday, April 3

FIRST SEDERPlease note there will be not be a
Shabbat Service tonight

Saturday, April 4

**SPIRITUAL LIFT AND PASSOVER
SERVICE** in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study

11:00am **FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER
SERVICE**

Friday, April 10

10:00am **PASSOVER AND YIZKOR
SERVICES**5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS**
in Atrium6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in
Sanctuary

Saturday, April 11

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study

11:00 am **SERVICE**

Friday, April 17

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS**
in Atrium6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in
Sanctuary

Saturday, April 18

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study

11:00 am **SERVICE**10:30am **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:**
Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Smith5:30pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE:**
Bar Mitzvah of Charles Gluck

Friday, April 24

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS**
in Atrium6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in
Sanctuary

Saturday, April 25

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study

11:00 am **SERVICE**10:30am **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:** B'nai
Mitzvah of Caitlin Barotz and Jenna
Ginsburg

Thursday, April 30

5:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Salsberg

Making the Connection...**CLERGY****Rabbi Shira Milgrom**

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Rabbi Tom Weiner

RabbiTom@nykolami.org

Cantor David Rosen

cantordavid@nykolami.org

Rabbis Emeriti

Lawrence W. Schwartz*

Maurice Davis*

Mark L. Winer

Cantor Emeritus

Raymond Smolover

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of blessed memory*MAY CONNECTION DEADLINE****April 20, 2015**

Congregation Kol Ami

A Reform Synagogue

(914) – 949-4717

www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union of Reform Judaism

Talking about Drugs and Alcohol—at Kol Ami

“My 22-year old son David is tall, handsome, bright and charming. He is also an alcoholic and a drug addict. David was brought up in a Jewish home in Queens, active in Jewish causes.

He discovered an interest in drinking, as we learned recently, when he was ten years old. He developed a growing affinity for alcohol over the next few years and added marijuana and other drugs during his last two years of high school. When he slept overnight in the dorm to ostensibly study, he was actually engaging in drugging and drinking. David was kicked out of two schools and eventually graduated with a GED diploma.

During his adolescence we thought he suffered from personality disorders and sent him to a succession of psychologists. David was able to fool them just as he fooled us. There is no more adept liar, we learned, than an alcoholic or drug addict. The relations between my wife and myself were often strained due to David, with each of us accusing the other of being responsible for his behavior. The anguish was sometimes unbearable. We tried to hide David’s problems from our other children and from our extended family but without great success.”

“Awake you sleepers from your sleep and you slumberers from your slumber. Search your deeds, every one of you.” (Maimonides). It is well known that as difficult as it is to wake up someone who is sleeping, it is nearly impossible to wake up someone who is pretending to be sleeping. We live with the illusion that we in the Jewish community are not alcoholics, that we are not addicts – but we are. One out of twelve of us abuses alcohol or drugs or prescription medication. And for each of us who abuses, another fifteen people are directly affected. “Nearly two-thirds of all Americans have friends or family who have struggled with addiction.” (Harvard School of Public Health 2006 “What does America think about addiction prevention and treatment?”)

All the above was excerpted from a Yom Kippur sermon I gave a few

years ago. Since that time, Kol Ami is now thankfully the host of a regular AA meeting. It meets weekly on Tuesdays, at 5:45 in the evening, in the Chapel in the Woods. And now, finally, we will be host to an Al-Anon meeting at Kol Ami—for families and friends of people struggling with addictions. The meetings will be Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30pm in the Chapel in the Woods. The first meeting is in a few weeks—April 15th. That 5:30–6:30 time spans the end of the afternoon Religious School session, and the beginning of the Upper School session. We hope that families—parents or teens—who would benefit from this gathering will make use of it. If you need assistance supervising children from 6:00–6:30, please talk to me.



When I first set out to learn more about alcoholism and drug addictions, I thought I would be learning about people in recovery. I didn’t realize that I would be learning from people in recovery. I have learned about faith, about courage, about honesty.

“Since most of us suffer alone, it really can feel like a miracle to find a place where you are welcomed and loved just as you are. Whether you are homeless, whether or not you have teeth, whether you have murdered someone, whether you are the life of the party, awkward, angry, black, white, transgender, just out of jail, a movie celebrity... these people share honestly about their suffering and this honesty is the language of recovery

This is also the language of a compassionate, honest and courageous community.

Shi-

The Fifth Question: Why is this YEAR Different from All Other Years?

Dear Kol Ami Friends,

We are in the season of the Four Questions. Yet, this year it’s so important that we add . . . The Fifth Question: Why is this YEAR Different from All Other Years?

Why is this YEAR different from all other years? This year, during elections for the World Zionist Congress, Jews around the world ask a different question: What is the relationship that we, as a Jewish people, have with the people of Israel?

As we celebrate the exodus from Egypt, we also celebrate our ability to sit together as Jews, free to worship as we choose, fully engaged citizens of this wonderful country, with all the rights and privileges that our citizenship guarantees. Ironically, for Reform Jews in Israel, this is not the case. From the freedom to marry to reading from the Torah, our brothers and sisters, from Metula to Eilat, continue to fight today for the very things that we celebrate tonight. Not an exodus from Egypt or escaping bondage, but for the right to be Jews in the holy land of our ancestors.

Why is this YEAR different from all other years? It is different

because our fight for freedom continues, and we have the opportunity to make a difference. By voting for ARZA – Representing Reform Judaism in the World Zionist Congress elections, we can end the strife for Jews in Israel who share our values. We can stand up for those Jewish values we hold dear: pluralism, equality, and freedom. While thankfully we have escaped the persecutions in Egypt, we are obligated as Jews to continue our journey to a land whose promises remain unfulfilled.



So, for each of us who celebrate freedom, let us be that mighty hand and outstretched arm that continues to work for religious freedom for all in Israel.

Vote to stand up for our Jewish values at www.reformjews4israel.org. So, when we say Next Year in Jerusalem, we do so knowing we each played our part in fighting for an Israel in which all people are truly equal.

Wishing you a Sweet and Meaningful Pesach,

Th

SAVE THE DATE MAY 19, 2015 | 7:00 P.M. MOVING THE NEEDLE

THE JEWISH COMMITMENT
TO HEALING THE WORLD

With
Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Congregation Kol Ami
AND
Rabbi Jonathan Blake
Westchester Reform Temple

Moderated by
Ruth W. Messinger
President of AJWS

JCC-OF MID-WESTCHESTER IN SCARSDALE, NY

Kol Ami Men's Council/



**A Second
Night Seder
for the Kol
Ami Family**

Saturday, April 4

The ceremonial Haggadah telling of the story begins at 6:00pm, followed by a full traditional Seder dinner at about 7:00pm. Please contact the menscouncil@nykolami.org to check on availability and for more details.

Matzah—How Much is Enough . . . Dayenu?

Ah...the first taste of matzah. We all look forward to that first night of Passover. We break the middle matzah...we hide it for the Afikoman. We tell the story of our people and we make the motzi and savour that first bite of our bread of affliction. It's crunchy, yet melts in our mouth. And when we spread a little homemade charoset on that baby, forget about it! Doesn't get much better than that!!

Somehow, by the third or fourth day of Pesach, the novelty of that first savory bite of matzah turns into a feeling as if we were eating cardboard. All of a sudden, the matzah seems to taste stale. It's chalky, dry and how many times can you spread jam on it or turn it into "Matzah Pizza"? Isn't it enough that we ate matzah during the first two nights of Pesach? Have we not learned our lesson? Have we not retold our story of slavery and understood the purpose of eating the Jewish version of a cracker?

It's not like matzah has many health benefits...At 1g of fibre per piece, it is definitely not the superfood of the month.

So where did the commandment to eat matzah for seven days come from?

The commandment to eat matzah appears ten different times in the Torah. Nine of these tell us that we should eat matzah for seven days while the 10th time actually only says we should eat matzah for 6 days. "Six days you shall eat unleavened bread" (*Deuteronomy 16:8*).

While it seems that Torah commands us to eat unleavened bread for either 6 or 7 days, the rabbis teach us that the only actual obligation we have to eat matzah is on the seder night itself. For Reform Jews or those living in Israel this means one night and for all others who live in the Diaspora, two nights would be appropriate. Joseph Caro, author of the *Shulchan Arukh*, further instructs us that the minimum amount of matzah we must eat should be the equivalent to two small pieces the size of two olives (approx. 0.9 oz). If one adheres to the practice of eating the "Hillel sandwich" then another two small pieces would be required to fulfill that obligation.

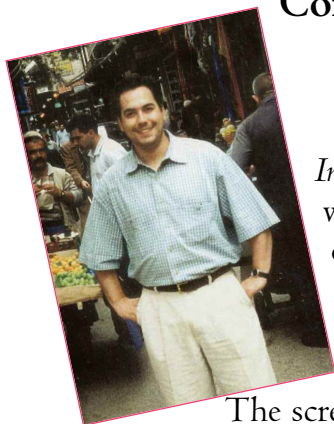
Now that we have a better understanding of the requirement of how much matzah we are actually supposed to eat, why do we continue to "stuff" ourselves night after night with this Jewish delicacy? Like the rest of the year, many of us have a weakness and tend to indulge in consuming certain food items that are not always good for us. On Pesach, matzah seems to fill that "void," it fills us up (temporarily, like many other foods) and does not always leave us with a pleasant feeling. Matzah becomes our "go to," our "crutch", if you will. as we complain that on Passover there is "nothing else for us to eat."



Indulgence at any time of the year is an unhealthy proposition. It satisfies an external need or want, but does not ultimately satisfy a craving. We often forget (as we do the rest of the year) that there are many things that we are permitted to eat on Passover. Just as we clean the chametz from our homes, on Passover we have the opportunity to cleanse our bodies and be reminded of all the wonderful bounty of fruits and vegetables that is available to us. Appropriately, Pesach always falls in the spring - the time for plant growth, the time to begin tending to our own gardens to produce the foods that God ultimately intended for us to eat and provide us with sufficient nutrition.

On this Pesach, may we all remind ourselves that there is more to the holiday than matzah. Matzah remains our bread of affliction and reminds of us slavery, but as the Haggadah teaches us, we are now free. We have the ability to explore and to try new things. We have the opportunity to embrace and enjoy all the bounty that grows on our land that will continue to sustain us and everything that inhabits our earth for many generations to come.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach Pesach,



Come to the screening of the film

In Our Son's Name

on Wednesday, April 29, 6:30pm

In Our Son's Name is an intimate portrait of Phyllis and Orlando Rodríguez, whose son, Greg, dies with thousands of others in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The bereaved parents choose reconciliation and non-violence over vengeance and begin a transformative journey that both confirms and challenges their convictions.

The screening is open to the High School and adult communities and will be followed by a discussion of the film led by White Plains resident, Phyllis Rodriguez, whose journey of reconciliation and forgiveness is the subject of the film.

For more information please contact Staci Krantz @ (914) 949-4717 x I03 or visit Congregation Kol Ami's website www.nykolami.org

Congregation Kol Ami Presents the



Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

High School-Aged Teens come and enjoy some amazing food, amazing company,
and most of all, amazing talent!

Space is limited and reservations are a must! Sign up now to reserve your spot!

Please submit payment of \$10.00 per person to: Josh Rosenthal

If you are interested in performing or to sign up, please contact Josh @
JoshRosenthal@nykolami.org

NFTY-NEW YORK AREA REGION SPRING KALLAH

APRIL 24-26

AT THE URJ EISNER CAMP, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

FOR TEENS IN 8 – 12TH GRADE.

SIGN UP TODAY!

WWW.NFTY.ORG/NAR/EVENTS/SPRING

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Planned Giving, Howard Geller,
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Inter-Faith Outreach, Julie Carran,
Carol Mencher,
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Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack,
Ginny Ruder,
KolAmiCares@nykolami.org

From Our President

I hope that you all are having an enjoyable Pesach and that you're not too tired of matzoh already! This year, the story of the Exodus and the settling of the land of Israel is especially timely. The Israel of today is far more pluralistic than at any time in its history, but pluralism does not necessarily result in equality. Progressive Jews (including Reform Jews) still do not have all of the same rights as our Orthodox counterparts. Women, while having won some important victories lately, are still not treated the same as men and face continued discrimination.



Photo by Mariela Melamed

But you have the opportunity to participate in an election that can bring about change. The World Zionist Organization (WZO) is the umbrella organization of the world Zionist movement. Its members include organizations from all spectrums of the Jewish world, including ARZA, the American Reform Zionist Association. Most of us at Kol Ami are members of ARZA, but we rarely utilize the benefits of this membership. We have the chance to change that. The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is the highest legislative body of the WZO and it is holding its elections now until April 30. There are 145 seats in the WZC that are open to the American Zionist Movement (AZM), of which ARZA is a part. Confused? That's understandable. The bottom line is that we have an opportunity to make sure that our progressive, Reform voice is heard.

Why bother? As the ARZA website says "The composition of the WZC has both financial and policy implications in Israel, as resources are directed to recipients in Israel based on the power each party holds within the Congress, and the policy positions of those parties. In short, these elections are the strongest way for American Reform Jews to promote and encourage the ideals of justice, equality and democracy in Israel itself and help build the kind of Jewish state we all know is possible."

What does Reform Judaism stand for as it relates to the WZC? ARZA's website continues: "Women's Rights & Gender Equality—We strive to create a world in which gender equality is the rule—where men and women can pray, work and live together as equals deserving of the same respect and honor. Religious Equality. We envision and work for a society in which all denominations are treated fairly and with respect, and all of us are seen as Jews, regardless of our level of observance. Peace—lasting peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the surrounding Middle East region is possible through a commitment to a two-state solution. Although the road may seem long, we are building the path to that peace every day."

How can you vote? There are several options. You can go to www.reformjews4israel.org/about-us and vote directly from the ARZA website. We will be providing several more opportunities to vote at Kol Ami, such as during Religious School on Sundays. Keep an eye out for more opportunities to vote! There is a \$10 charge to vote that goes to defray the cost of the election process. Please make sure that you take a couple of minutes to vote in this incredibly important election.

As you may recall, the Board of Trustees is inviting the entire Congregation to one Board meeting each quarter. We had approximately a dozen congregants attend the first meeting and we look forward to welcoming all of you at the next open Board meeting on April 16. The Board meeting starts at 8:00 and will be held in the Chapel. There will be an opportunity for any congregant to address the Board at the beginning of the meeting on any non-personnel issue. We hope to see you there.

Blame

Making a Difference: *Planned Bequests—A Gift for Generations*

Many members of Congregation Kol Ami have had a connection with this congregation for decades. Thanks to the incredible generosity of so many of you—of all ages and at all stages of life—Congregation Kol Ami remains a dynamic, vibrant entity, with a stellar Clergy, Administration, a beautiful new Sanctuary and programs for everyone.

You have attended weddings and welcomed babies into the Jewish world; your children have celebrated Bar and Bat Mitzvahs; your children and grandchildren have grown up in the Early Childhood Program, Religious School and Youth Programs. At funerals of loved ones and friends, we have celebrated and honored life. You have prayed at High Holidays led by our incomparable clergy. Shabbat Synaplex, Passover Seders, Purim Spiels, Adult Education, have filled your lives with joy, connection and meaning. There is something for everyone at Kol Ami, regardless of age and interest, and innumerable congregants have given considerable time and energy to create this community.

There is one more thing we can do to insure that Congregation Kol Ami continues to thrive, and that is to establish a Planned Giving program. Planned Giving is a unique form of giving that should not be confused with other kinds of gifts. As you may know, the Annual Fund supports the annual operating budget; the Capital Campaign supports special projects such as the recent renovation of the Sanctuary. Planned Giving allows for the establishment of an Endowment Fund—The Legacy Fund, to ensure the future financial stability and security of Congregation Kol Ami, and the continuation of this vibrant community.

Why should you consider Planned Giving, or naming an organiza-

tion as a beneficiary of your estate? After your heirs are taken care of, a Planned Bequest perpetuates what you believe in, the organizations that you value, the ideals you have lived by, and your wishes for the future. It provides *Tzedakah*; the peace of mind and personal satisfaction that comes from knowing that the legacy you have worked to create will reflect your values and be distributed according to your wishes.

When making or considering a Planned Bequest naming The Legacy Fund as a beneficiary of your estate, you are expressing your wish to:

- Have Congregation Kol Ami continue its remarkable dedication to Jewish spiritual, educational, cultural and social fulfillment for generations to come;
- Create a legacy during your lifetime that embodies your commitment to Judaism and your ideals for Jewish community and life;
- Explore potential tax and other benefits, which should be discussed with your attorney or estate planner.
- Know that the significance of your lives continues to bless our world even beyond your days on this earth.

Each month, a Planned Giving column in *The Connection* will discuss topics regarding the importance of wills; how to get started; issues to consider and discuss with your families and attorneys. We encourage you to contact Evelyne Klein, Chair, Planned Giving Committee at 914-761-7659; or Jess Lorden, Executive Director at 914-949-4717 ext. 101, with any questions.

Please note that all information and inquiries will be kept in the strictest of confidence.



Come One, Come Two, Come Three, Come All!

ECP's Annual Family Math Night

for Families with Young Children 3 years – K
with **Amy Goldstein**, our **Math Magic Teacher**

Tuesday, April 28 • 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Join us for Pizza and Salad at 6:00, followed by a Program Introduction at 6:15

Games from 6:30-7:30

RSVP by Friday, April 24 to nanblank@nykolami.org

For Planning Purposes RESERVATIONS ONLY. No Walk-Ins Please!

Join us for an exciting evening of math exploration through a variety of hands-on activities. Families will rotate through math stations where volunteers will introduce math activities fun for both parent and child. Go home with a goody bag of math games to play at home, as well as practical ideas to weave mathematical thinking into everyday life with your child. Whether you loved or hated math as a student, you will love watching your child gain confidence and proficiency with numbers in a fun, engaging way.

From the Religious School

Imagine you are a parent with two children-- Shira (age 18mo.) and Tommy (age 6). Here's how a typical Saturday at the Kol Ami Annual Retreat might go for your family:

- 5:45 Wake up to screaming that binkie is on the floor.
- 5:50 Wash it. Throw it in crib. Lay down.
- 5:57 Wake up because kid in room next to you is screaming that binkie is on the floor.
- 6:02 Get a bottle from the small refrigerator in your room and stick it in Shira's hand.
- 6:05 Tommy opens the front door and announces, "It's time to play!"
- 7:00 Meet all other groggy moms and dads for a stroller walk by the lake in an attempt to get Shira back to sleep and not have Tommy wake up the rest of the camp. Shhhhhh!
- 7:15 Notice how gorgeous the sun looks over the lake and think it might be a good day after all.
- 8:00 Breakfast (Wow, they have dried cheerios, oatmeal, eggs, and coffee. And a coffee-to-go cup? Woohoo!!)
- 8:05 Upon seeing all of the other kids at breakfast, Tommy decides he wants to try the bunk tonight and spend the day with super cool counselors. Bye Tommy.
- 9:00 Success, Shira is sleeping in the stroller. You attend Shabbat services by the lake while your husband keeps an eye on the stroller and reads the *New York Times* in a lawn chair.
- 10:00 Drop off Shira in the Children's Center. You leave when she is distracted and eating, errr, playing with, Lego.
- 10:05 Yoga. Ommmm.
- 10:50 Grab more coffee to go.
- 11:00 Peek in on Shira who could not care less that you've walked in the room and, instead, is insisting that she make another handprint on a giant banner.
- 11:02 You do an art project with Avi. It's gorgeous and you can't believe you did it.
- 12:00 Pick up Shira and feel guilty you haven't missed her. You take her to the dining hall for lunch.
- 12:03 Shira runs up to Tommy and gives him a big hug. Tommy is now covered in dirt and paint and yells "Hi mom" from afar.
- 1:00 Take Shira to watch her brother walk a low tightrope obstacle course with the other kids.

- 1:30 Return Shira to the Children's Center. Feel less guilty because, after all, she's socializing with all the other kids. Right?
- 2:00 Doubles tennis with new friends
- 3:00 Take a shower and rest. Feel completely awkward that you have time to yourself in the middle of the day. Walk around your room wondering what you are forgetting to do.
- 4:00 Community Softball Game. You decide you don't want to play but you enjoy watching and chatting with people on the sidelines.
- 5:30 Cocktail (or COKEtail) Party. Need we say more?
- 6:00 Pick up Shira who is reaching out her hands yelling "I want Felice!"
- 6:15 Attend Improv Night with the entire camp. (No mistake, this is after the cocktail party. Hilarious.)
- 7:15 Dinner. You are pleased that you can find plenty to eat despite your intolerance to dairy and your attempt to not completely blow your diet this weekend. And there are no dishes to wash!
- 8:00 Drop off Tommy's stuff in the bunks and ask him if he's changed his mind. He says "no" and "please stop hugging me." You get a glimpse of him as a teenager. Oy.
- 8:10 Go back to room and put Shira to bed in the crib. Thank the babysitter (paid Kol Ami babysitters available) for watching her and you sneak out to attend the campfire.
- 8:30 Join in singing both Jewish and mainstream songs. Roll your eyes at your husband who is playing guitar and thinks he's Mick Jagger.
- 8:45 Make smores. Drink beer.
- 9:00 Realize you have had one of the best days of your life. You've made new friends, found time for yourself, and your entire family was happy and fulfilled. You are sad the day is coming to an end.

Join us. Relax. Unplug. Enjoy.

This family snapshot of the Kol Ami retreat was provided by a REAL Kol Ami mom. Names have been changed.

Felice



Retreat Registration Now Open!

The 2015 Kol Ami Retreat will take place from June 12-14, 2015, at Circle Lodge in Hopewell Junction, NY. Please note this a different weekend than usual. Interested in volunteering to help make the 22nd Retreat an amazing weekend, with friends and family of all ages, that you'll never forget?

To register, click on the link:

<https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/retreat2015>

Want to support the Retreat but are unable to attend or volunteer? Your donation, of any amount, to the newly-created Retreat Fund is the perfect way to support this Kol Ami tradition.

From the Director of the Early Childhood Program

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 ended March with our spring **Early Childhood Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children**. Bobby Doowah was here to entertain us and it was a wonderful evening from start to finish! If you missed it we hope you'll put us on your calendar for next year.

We really enjoyed our **Annual 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 delighted our families with our version of the Passover story—it was truly a wonderful morning from start to finish.

Later on this month we will be hosting three wonderful events. The first on Tuesday, April 14th at 7:30, you can join

us for an **Evening with Julie Ross, MA**, a well-known and well-regarded Psychologist, Family Therapist, and Author. Ms. Ross will be speaking on *How to Listen (even when your child doesn't talk)*. I hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful evening. See page 17 for more details.



The second event is on Sunday, April 19th from 1:30-3:00. All Princesses and Pirates ages 2-5 are invited to ECP's **Annual Princess and Pirate Soiree!** Wear your favorite costume and bring a new princess or pirate costume or accessories to be donated to the Little Princess Project. It will be an afternoon of fun and crafts and one you will surely not want to miss. Please see page 16 for more details.

Finally, join us for **Family Math Night** on Tuesday evening, April 28th from 6:00-7:30 for children ages 3-K and their parents. We'll have pizza and ice cream and lots of Math fun! Please see page 8 for more details.

Next time you're at Temple, please don't forget to stop by!

Nan



Kol Ami Early Childhood Program

Warm, Nurturing and Enriching

Registration for 2015-2016 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 Program for 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 and tour today • Nan Blank, Director, at Ext. 107

Ritual Riches: Passover—When Is It and How Long Does It Last?

Why do Passover and Easter occur within a few days of each other...except when they don't?

A former senior rabbi at Kol Ami (when it was still JCC of White Plains) would always answer a congregant's question "When is Passover?" by saying "The 15th of Nisan." That may be a correct answer, but it is not very helpful to most of us. Passover commences on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Nisan and lasts for seven days in Israel or eight days in the Diaspora except that Reform and Reconstructionist Jews only observe it for seven days wherever they are. In Judaism, a day commences at dusk and lasts until the following dusk, thus the first day of Passover only begins after dusk of the 14th of Nisan and ends at dusk of the 15th day of the month of Nisan, which typically falls in March or April. Passover is a spring festival, so the 15th day of Nisan begins on the night of a full moon after the northern spring equinox. To ensure that Passover did not start before spring, the tradition in ancient Israel held that the first day of Nisan would not start until the barley was ripe. If the barley was not ripe, or various other phenomena indicated that spring was not yet imminent, an extra month (Adar II) would be added. However, since at least the 4th century, the date has been fixed mathematically.

Diaspora Jews historically observed the festival for eight days, and most still do. Reform and Reconstructionist Jews and Israeli Jews, wherever they are, usually observe the holiday over seven days. The reason for this extra day is due to enactment of the ancient Jewish sages. It is thought by many scholars that Jews outside of Israel could not be certain if their local calendars fully conformed to practice of the Temple at Jerusalem, so they added an extra day. But as this practice only attaches to certain (major) sacred days, others posit the extra day may have been added to accommodate people who had to travel long distances to participate in communal worship and ritual practices; or the practice may have evolved as a compromise between conflicting interpretations of Jewish Law regarding the calendar; or it may have evolved as a safety measure in areas where Jews were commonly in danger, so that their enemies would not be certain on which day to attack.

In ancient Israel, the start of the ecclesiastical new year for the counting of months and festivals (i.e. Nisan) was determined by reference to Passover, which is on the 15th of Nisan, (Lev. 23:4–6) corresponding to the full moon. As Passover is a spring festival, it should fall on a full moon day around, and normally just after, the equinox. If the twelfth full moon after the previous Passover is too early com-

pared to the equinox, a leap month is inserted near the end of the previous year before the new year is set to begin.

The day most commonly referred to as the "New Year" is Rosh Hashanah (literally "head of the year"), which actually begins in the seventh month of the ecclesiastical year. On that day the formal New Year for the counting of years is observed. This is the civil new year and the date on which the year number advances.

Easter is linked to Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In many languages, the words for "Easter" and "Passover" are identical or very similar.

Easter and the holidays that are related to it do not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian calendar, which follows the cycle of the sun. Instead, the date for Easter is determined on a lunisolar calendar similar to the Hebrew calendar. The First Council of Nicaea (325 C.E.) established two rules, independence of the Jewish calendar and worldwide uniformity, which were the only rules for Easter explicitly laid down by the Council. No details for the computation were specified; these were worked out in practice, a process that took centuries. In Western Christianity (as opposed to the Eastern Orthodox religions), Easter is defined as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (defined as March 21st regardless of its actual astronomical occurrence) always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25, inclusive.

Since Passover does not have to be on a Sunday, it can fall between 1 and 7 days before Easter and this is what happens in most years. However, every now and then, Easter falls almost one full month before Passover because of the way the two formulas for calculating Passover and Easter relate to each other. In the first 20 years of this century, the two holidays are four weeks apart in 2005, 2008 and next year (when Easter will be on March 27, 2016 and Passover will be on April 23). In all the other years in this period, Passover will precede Easter by a few days. It can be noted that the years in which Easter precedes Passover by almost a month are always a Jewish leap year, when the extra month is added. The converse is not true; not every Jewish leap year will have the two holidays a month apart.

David Gravitz

Shabbat and Havdalah with Friends

Imagine...coming to Friday night services and then going to a congregant's house for an intimate dinner afterwards; or saying good-bye to Shabbat on Saturday evening with dessert and drinks in a congregant's home. This is what Shabbat and Havdalah with Friends are all about.

In order for these popular get-togethers to continue, we need more host families.

If you are interested in hosting a Shabbat with fellow congregants please contact Ilene Miller at ilenemiller@nykolami.org or 949-4717 x115.

The next shabbat dinner will be hosted by Patty and Bert Wohl, Friday, April 17
Please contact Ilene Miller to sign up.



MAY 1, 2015

Friday evening schedule:

5:00 pm

Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen and special guest Pianist Peggy Reich

5:30 pm

Shabbat -in- the -Woods for families with young children (newborn - kindergarten); 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 IN ADVANCE)

7:30 pm

Tzedakah sandwich making and arts and crafts

8:00 pm

Supervised sports and games with Coach Steve for children in grades K-6

8:00 pm

THE MAIN EVENT

9:30 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

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GUESTS...

Explorations in Jewish Music with Peggy Reich

"Come and enjoy concert Pianist Peggy Reich, who will take us on a musical journey of Torah and our traditions through the beautiful sounds of our Steinway Baby Grand piano. Ms. Reich began her piano studies at age 5 at The Hoff Barthelson Music School in New York, and continued through her teens with Baruch Arnon of the Juilliard School of Music. With increasing dedication to her music, she enrolled in the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and studied under Menahem Pressler (The Beaux Arts Trio) and Dr. Joseph Rezits, eventually being awarded a degree in piano performance.

The Main Event

Two Villages that Changed the World -

Yemin Orde Israel and Agahozo Shalom Youth Village - Rwanda

Yemin Orde (Israel) and Agahozo Shalom Youth Village (Rwanda) are two inspiring initiatives for at-risk youth that have gone beyond the hopes and dreams of their own beginnings. Join us for an evening with Dr. Chaim Peri, one of the world's great educational visionaries, together with leadership of Agahozo Shalom.

ASL Interpretation upon Request 

*For further information, contact Ilene Miller
at 914-949-4717 x115/imillerkolami@gmail.com or visit www.nykolami.org*

**CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI,
252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 NO LATER THAN APRIL 29TH**

"Quiet Conversation Dinner" Adults Only

Adults _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

"Community & Family Dinner"

#Adults _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

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

#Children 5 and under _____ = N/C

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Seating is planned 2 days in advance. Last minute requests cannot be guaranteed.

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Name/s & Ages _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Please seat me with _____

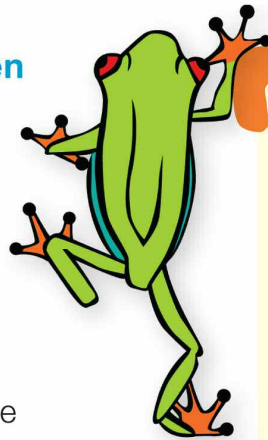


Congregation Kol Ami's Summer Session

Building a Community of Friends One Family at a Time

Kol Ami's Summer Session has been nurturing young children and their families for over 40 summers.

Groups are staffed with our own experienced Early Childhood Staff. Our 3's and 4's program is staffed with a 1:6 ratio. We have 2 well-equipped outdoor shaded playgrounds and in case of inclement weather, we also boast a large indoor play space. Our day includes an array of indoor and outdoor activities. All of our indoor play takes place in air-conditioned spaces.



Summer Fun for Incoming 2's

An array of fun
2 days a week

Look at Me I'm 3!

Daily special activities,
3 or 5 days a week

Wow I'm 4 & I Can Stay for More!

A 5 day program built
for sheer fun

**Call or write us today for a brochure at
914-949-4717 x107 or nanblank@nykolami.org**

We'll bring the sunshine, you bring the towel!



Nominations for 2015 – 2016 Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Officers to be Elected

(for a one-year term expiring in 2016)

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| President | Hank Rouda |
| Treasurer | Jonathan Litt |
| Secretary | Rachel Eckhaus |

(for a three-year term expiring in 2018)

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Vice President | Ellen Kurtz |
|----------------|-------------|

Continuing Vice Presidents

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Gerri Sommers | term expiring 2017 |
| Lori Abrams | term expiring 2016 |

Trustees to be Elected

(for a three-year term expiring in 2018)

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Jennifer Labovitz | David Okun |
|-------------------|------------|

Continuing Trustees

(to be re-elected for a second term expiring in 2018)

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Howard Geller | Jonathan Litt |
| Howard Klein | Scott Musoff |
| Evelyn Klein | |

(term expiring in 2016)

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Susan Arovas | Betsy McCormack |
| David Cole | Judy Sarch |
| Laura Green | Steve Salzinger |
| Ellen Kurtz | Elizabeth Ward |
| Elaine Libman | |

(term expiring in 2017)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lori Abrams | Lisa Hochman |
| Jack Berger | Liz Ilberg |
| Susan Davis | Andrew Levenson |
| Rachel Eckhaus | Hank Rouda |
| Linda Forman | Gerri Sommers |
| Michael Goldban | Leslie Wiesen |

Retiring from the Board

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jeffrey Gelfand | Gene Kava |
| Adam Gluck | Jess Lorden |

Nominating Committee

Ronnie Cohn and Mark Seiden, Co-Chairs

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Susan Arovas | Margie Lewis |
| Kevin Cohen | Debbi Marcus |
| Andrew Falk | Daryl Moss |
| Michael Goldban | |

*Please join us
at the Annual
Meeting of the
Congregation
Tues., May 12, 2015
at 8:00 pm.*

*Watch the mail for
further details.*

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 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.

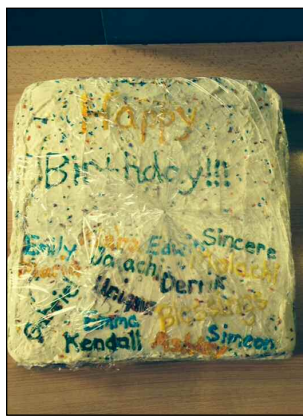
Section 4. Additional nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least 25 Members, and delivered to the chair of the Nominating Committee or any Officer of the Congregation at least 20 days before the annual meeting of the Congregation. In the event of additional nominations, a list of all nominees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

ECP Families Sponsor March Coachman Birthday Party

On Sunday, March 8th, Hilary Cooper, Susan Friedfel and Marc Tuchman, and their children hosted our March birthday party at The Coachman Family Center. The sponsor families were also joined by Felice Miller Baritz, our Religious School Director.

Entertainment was graciously donated by Judy Harris of Balloon Magic, who produced spectacular balloon creations for the kids. The Coachman children were wowed by the transformation of balloons into monkeys climbing trees, colorful fish, beautiful butterflies, and a host of superhero characters. The children were also engaged in crafts that were overseen by our sponsor families. One of our sponsors' teenage daughters led the kids in the decorating of birthday crowns and picture frames. The birthday children enjoyed adorning their crowns with jewels and stickers.

They worked together with our sponsor families to pose for pictures that were then developed as the kids were busily decorating their



frames. With our sponsors' assistance, each birthday child inserted a picture of themselves into their decorated frame and left with a memorable keepsake from their party. The Coachman children led their new friends from our Kol Ami community in several rounds of party games. The party concluded with everyone singing "Happy Birthday" as they gathered around a homemade cake with every Coachman child's name represented. One little girl squealed with delight when she saw her name spelled out on the frosted cake.



As one of our sponsors stated, "I would encourage all Kol Ami families to have this wonderful experience! Helping kids at the Coachman celebrate their birthdays not only gives back to really deserving kids and families, but enriched our lives as well. Having our own kids see the disparity between what we have and what others struggle to provide for their own families hopefully puts things in perspective for our kids."

If you are interested in sponsoring a birthday party at the Coachman or would like to contribute to the Coachman Birthday Party initiative in other ways, please contact: Diane Litvak (dmilitvak@me.com), Alison Adler (aadler3@verizon.net) or Annie Rotberg (annie.rotberg@gmail.com).

We are in need of sponsors for the parties planned for July 12th and August 9th.

YOU can make a difference!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are hosting new friends from the Coachman Family Center for a Bar-B-Q

on Sunday, May 24th at 5:00pm at Congregation Kol Ami

If you are willing to help with set-up, serving, games for children, or clean-up, please contact Jess Lorden at jessicalorden@nykolami.org or (914) 949-4717 ext. 101

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Hear Ye, Hear Ye - Calling all Princesses & Pirates for ECP's Annual Princess & Pirate Soiree!

*Sunday, April 19th
1:30 - 3:00*

ADMISSION: A
new princess or
pirate costume or
accessories to be
donated

Don't miss out on a
special appearance by
Cinderella
and
*The Great Charlini,
the Pirate!!*

Special Activities:
Crafts
Make-up
Balloon Animals
Selfies with a
Princess or a Pirate
Snacks & More...

Congregation Kol Ami's Auditorium - 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY

All 2-5 years olds and their families are welcome!!

All costume donations will be made to The Little Princess Project.



"To help support the efforts of The Little Princess Project, a homegrown charity effort started by Amy Sapirstein and her two daughters, Blakely & Keaton; for admission into the party we ask that you bring a NEW dress up outfit (i.e.: princess dress, shoes, tiara, wands, superhero, priate, etc) for a boy or a girl. Through the efforts of The Little Princess Project, these outfits, are cutely packaged and donated to organizations that help less fortunate children such as Hope's Door and The Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Thank you for supporting this effort!"

How to Listen *(Even When Your Child Doesn't Talk)*

The Early Childhood Program of Congregation Kol Ami

Invites You to an Evening with



Julie Ross

Tuesday Evening, April 14

7:30—8:45 pm

Most parents want to hear how things are going at school, what their children's friends are up to, how they like their teachers at school, but what happens when your child clams up? Or seems angry with you and won't communicate? Or is talking nonsense? Children sometimes answer questions about "how was your day" with a monosyllabic "fine" and parents are left wondering what there is to listen to! Other children, when trying to communicate problems, will scream and yell and parents aren't sure they even want to listen anymore!

Free and open to everyone!

Have You Voted in the 2015 World Zionist Congress Election Yet?

A VOTE FOR THE ARZA SLATE IS A VOTE FOR:

- Women's Rights & Gender Equality: We strive for an Israel in which gender equality is the rule – where men and women can pray as they wish and work and live together as equals, deserving of the same respect and honor.
- Religious Equality: We envision and work for a society in which all denominations are treated fairly and with respect; an Israel in which all of us are accepted as Jews, regardless of our level of observance.
- Two States; One Path to Peace: Lasting peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the surrounding Middle East region is possible through a commitment to a two-state solution. Although the road may seem long, we must pursue the path to that peace every day.

A VOTE FOR THE ARZA SLATE IS A VOTE FOR:

- An egalitarian, pluralistic, peaceful vision of Judaism in Israel

A VOTE FOR THE ARZA SLATE IS A VOTE FOR:

(Here are some of the names on the ARZA slate that you might recognize)

Rabbi Peter Berg - Senior Rabbi - The Temple Atlanta, Georgia
Rabbi Angela Buchdahl - Senior Rabbi, Central Synagogue New York, NY
Yael Dadoun - Principal/Educator, Temple Beth Shalom Miami Beach, FL
Rabbi Rick Jacobs - President, Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi Jonah Pesner - Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi Scott Weiner - Senior Rabbi Temple Israel New Rochelle New Rochelle, NY

**VOTE NOW at www.reformjews4israel.org
 VOTING ENDS APRIL 30, 2015**

COMMUNICATING WITH YOU IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US

To enable us to communicate with you and yours,
please print clearly when completing the form below:

Member 1 Given Name (e.g. Jessica): _____

Member 1 Preferred Name (e.g. Jess): _____

Birthday: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Profession: _____ Work Phone: _____

Firm Name and Address: _____

Member 2 Given Name (e.g. Jessica): _____

Member 2 Preferred Name (e.g. Jess): _____

Birthday: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Profession: _____ Work Phone: _____

Firm Name and Address: _____

Child 1: _____ Child 2: _____

Birthday: _____ Birthday: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Child 3: _____ Child 4: _____

Birthday: _____ Birthday: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this form.

The information you provide will be updated in our database and used for our phone directory.

Please return the completed form to Staci Krantz at Stacikrantz@nykolami.org or by fax to 914-946-8143.

If you prefer you may drop off the form in the Temple office.

Questions? Please call Staci Krantz at 914-949-4717, ext. 103

THREE GREAT URJ CAMPS AND A SUMMER THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

EISNER AND CRANE LAKE

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM CAMPS



- 
- Strengthen Jewish Identity, Self-esteem and community
 - Swim, ski or splash in our lake or pool
 - Skilled coaches and certified instructors teaching fantastic sports, arts and activities
 - Great campers & counselors who return summer after summer



- 45-minutes north of Boston at the Governor's Academy
- Robotics, Earth Science, Game Design, 3D Printing, and More
- Professional instructors, great counselors, and a warm community

eisnercranelake.urjcamp.org
scitech.urjcamp.org



Kol Ami Cares

Opportunities for Volunteering

Providing endless opportunities for connection and caring in times of joy and in times of sorrow.

Kol Ami Cares Offers a New Program

We are happy to announce that our volunteers are now available to assist mourners with preparations for shiva. At your request, a congregant will wait at your home to accept food deliveries, make coffee, set out paper goods and plastic ware, place a pitcher of water and paper towels outside the front door (as is customary for people returning from the cemetery to wash hands before entering the home) and be a friendly face to greet mourners who return before you do.

For arrangements, please contact Jess Lordon in the front office
or

Ginny Ruder 914-589-5283 ginnyruder@gmail.com
Betsy McCormack 914-960-9390 betsymc@aol.com

KOL AMI SINGERS

It's a mitzvah to bring an hour of music, companionship and smiles to those in need.

Schnurmacher Nursing Home, 12 Tibbits Avenue, White Plains

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Questions? Please contact Murray Shapiro, 946-7789

COOKING FOR THE HOMELESS

Members have been participating in this program for many years. Newcomers are welcome. Drop in ready to lend a hand on Sunday and Monday mornings. Food is prepared in our kitchen and driven to a local shelter.

Contact Laura Green greenlg@mac.com (Mondays) Nancy Marcus larrymarcus@aol.com (Sundays)

Sundays at 11:00 am: Apr 26, May 3

Mondays at noon: Apr 13, June 1

Looking for a Mitzvah Project?

Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity for Your Family?

Look no further than our own congregation!

Kol Ami Cares can help. We can match you with an older congregant who would love to get to know you and your family. Several of our members are home-bound or have no relatives nearby and would greatly benefit from a meaningful connection with you.

Visit as often as you can—bring a game, puzzle, story to share. Celebrate a Shabbat dinner together, offer a ride to services, develop a lasting relationship that will enrich your lives.

Maybe your extended family lives out of town. By “adopting a grandparent” perhaps you and your children can fill a void in your own lives—hear stories from the old country, pick up some Yiddish, gain insight into World War II, learn to cook homemade mitzvah ball soup.

Please give this idea some thought and decide if it is right for you. We would be happy to meet with you and help you get started.

Ginny Ruder, ginnyruder@gmail.com

Betsy McCormack, betsymc@aol.com

*Join us as we
Remember the Holocaust
at our
Yom HaShoah Service
Wednesday, April 15th
7:30pm
Main Sanctuary
Everyone is welcome*

Weekly Torah Portions for April

Week ending April 4, 2015

Parashat Bo (Chol Hamoed Pesach) Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-10

This chapter is re-read during Passover as it relates the story of the final plague and the Exodus from Egypt. It includes God's instructions to the Israelite people regarding the laws of the Passover offering and the commandment to "observe this as an institution for all time."

Week ending April 11, 2015

Parashat Shemini I Leviticus 11:1-23

Shemini refers to the eighth (*shemini*) day of the ordination ritual. The priestly ordination of Aaron and his sons is described. When Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu offer "alien fire" to God on their own initiative, a fire from God consumes them.

Week ending April 18, 2015

Parashat Shemini II Leviticus 11:23-47

In this segment of *Shemini*, the dietary laws concerning which animals are fit and which are unfit for consumption are described. The *parasha* concludes with a rationale for being holy and distinguishing between the impure and the pure.

Week ending April 25, 2015

Parashat Metzora Leviticus 14:1-15:33

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



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM:

Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund

Kol Ami's Women of Reform Judaism (Sisterhood) is involved in many facets of the Temple's life. We are proud that for many years, we have been able to recognize our graduating high school seniors in June when we award scholarships. To be eligible, students must have become Bat/Bar Mitzvah, been Confirmed, attended our Religious School through 12th grade, and performed community service. Our financial support of these students is made possible through donations to our Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund. We invite you to contribute to this worthy cause.

The Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund is named in loving memory of Barbara Gruber who was an active member and leader of our congregation. Among her many contributions to our community, she was a President of our Sisterhood, co-chair of many of our Holiday Boutiques, and the manager of the Judaica Shop. Barbara was married to Matt Gruber, the Executive Director of our synagogue for many years, and a resident of White Plains where they raised their three children.

In order for us to continue this valuable program, the Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund requires replenishment through contributions. Donations in any amount are welcome and can be made to honor an individual, to commemorate a meaningful experience, or "just because". Acknowledgement will appear in Kol Ami's *Connection*.

Checks may be written to "The Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund", WRJ, and mailed to Sisterhood, c/o Congregation Kol Ami or left in the Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood drawer in the Temple office. Any questions may be addressed to either Mimi Rogowsky at (914) 522-2723, miriambrogowsky@optonline.net, or Sheryl Brady at (914) 761-8345, sxbrady@verizon.net.

Thank you for your support!

Sheryl Brady

Judy Sarch

Rachel Eckhaus

Prospective Member Open House

Sunday, April 19, 2015

9:30am

Kol Ami Atrium

**If you have friends or neighbors
who are Synagogue shopping...
Please invite them to join us!**

Adult Education

Please read more about offerings for the whole year in our Adult Ed brochure or visit our website, nykolami.org, and click on Adult Education to view an even more detailed brochure.

Spiritual Journeying Groups

Mussar Classes

*facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax,
Spiritual Care Coordinator,
Westchester Jewish Community Services*
Mondays, Apr. 13, May 18
12:30—2:00 pm

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.

Contact Rabbi Wax at pwax@wjcs.com or 914-761-0600 x149 to register.
Schulman Chapel in the Woods

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Group

The group meets every Thursday morning (except for holidays), 9:30-10:45, in the Chapel in the Woods. Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection.

Contact *Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW*, and certified meditation teacher, at WJCS, 914-761-0600 ext. 148, for further information. Free of charge, donations accepted, no prior experience required.

Current Events

with Beth and Gene Kava

Each session will provide an opportunity to examine a current issue in depth, beginning with an overview of the issue. Participants will examine issues, through various perspectives, using readings, video or a guest speaker.
Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in Room 20
Apr 6 & 20, May 4 & 18

Weekly Torah Study: Parashat Hashavua

Friday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 am
Room 20

Meets every Friday except when temple is closed. Led by Kol Ami Members

Prophets Seminar

Mondays, 7:30 pm

The bible chronicles the history of the Hebrew people from approx. 740 BCE to 520 BCE through the eyes and hearts of the prophets, from Isaiah to Malachi. Who are these men? How do they see their world? What are their messages; are they relevant today? We will explore these questions and more. Contact Paul Davis at paullawrencedavis@yahoo.com

Parenting Workshops

First Friends:

an ECP Program for Toddlers 13–22 months
(accompanied by a parent or caregiver)

This program runs from October–December and January–April and provides a wonderful segue to our Early Childhood Program and to our Kol Ami. If you have a toddler and you're looking to make some new friends what are you waiting for? Maybe the time is right to think about joining us! For more information and membership details please call Nan Blank, ECP Director at 949-4717x107

Cuddles and Conversation

with Susan Davis, LCSW

For parent/grandparents and babies 2 to 14 months. Bring a mat or blanket and small toys for your child.

Meets twice a month on Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:00am.

Questions - please call Nan Blank in the ECP office at 914-949-4717x107

Sunday Parenting Group

with Susan Davis, LCSW

Raising resilient, self reliant children— a morning discussion group for parents focusing on a variety of parenting issues and stresses.

Meets the 1st Sunday of the month
9:15 - 10:45 am

Adolescent Parenting Workshops

with 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.

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

Grandparenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW

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

Meets the 1st Monday of the month
9:15 – 10:45 am

Women in Transition

Are you attempting an adjustment to a major life change? Join us in an interactive discussion group. Topics to be discussed include: retirement, widowhood, aging, changing relationships with adult children, and other life transitions.

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room.

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Led by Kol Ami Members

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sheila Sturmer at sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah

Second year of a 2 year course with Rabbi Shira Milgrom. This course includes study of Jewish beliefs and practices, conceptual introduction to holidays, life cycles, rituals, new friendships and the art of asking good questions.

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 pm
Apr 14

Kol Ami Reads/Book Club

Meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year.

9:15 am, Room 20, Main Building
For more information call Doris Dingott at 289-0869

Mah Jongg & Bridge

Open To All: Experienced and Novice
Wednesdays 10:30 am in the Kol Ami Atrium
Email Wendy Roos Wendyroos1@aol.com to be added to the email distribution

Westchester Adult Jewish Education at Kol Ami:

A discussion of Jewish Ethics.
with Dr. Carol Diamant

For more information please contact Nina Lubin, WAJE Director at 914-761-6309 or waje@wjccouncil.org

Free University

Start a study group, discussion group or seminar at Kol Ami. Cover any topic that falls under the broad umbrella of Reform Judaism. Contact Paul Davis at paullawrencedavis@yahoo.com with your ideas for leading a study group or if you would like to join the currently planned study group on the prophets.

Women's Roundtable Breakfasts

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship.
Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am
Apr 1, & May 6

Kol Ami Women's Oasis at Home

Next session: Apr. 26
Section IV: Be Still and Know (Psalm 46:10)
with Rabbi Pamela Wax,
WJCS Spiritual Care Coordinator
Chapel in the Woods

Adult Education *continued*

Wise Aging - Part 2

Registration required; all are welcome, but space is limited and preference is given to those who attended Part 1.

Thursdays, through May 14, 2015,
11:00 am-12:30 pm.

This 8 week program is a continued exploration and discussion of the developmental tasks and opportunities life offers to those of us 60 yrs. and older.

Topics will include but are not limited to:

What Now? *Becoming More of Our Selves and Who We Want to Be*

Relationships Now (continued from Part 1): *Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Release*

Losses and Gains: *The Offerings of This Stage of Life*

Legacy and Stewardship

THE discussion: *What is life? What is death? Beliefs, hopes and fears*

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Contact Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW
rrosenblum@wjcs.com

This program is free of charge to synagogue members. Suggested donation for non-members: \$100-\$180.

Kol Ami Reads

The Boys in the Boat

by Marilyn Robinson
April 1, 2015

All Our Names

by Dinaw Mengetu
May 6, 2015

Gilead

by Marilyn Robinson
June 3, 2015

All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15am in Room 20.

Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively.

For further information,
contact Doris Dingott, 289-0869,
DLDingott@gmail.com or
Elaine Cohen, 725-0248,
elwilco@verizon.net

MITZVAH KNITZ

**We will be meeting on
Thursday, April 16,
from 11:00 am
to 1:00 pm.**

Join us.

Knitters of all skill levels
are welcome.

For further information,
call Elaine Cohen,
725-0248 or
elwilco@verizon.net

Hebrew Classes for Adults*

Pending sufficient enrollment

Hebrew Classes for Adults

with Emily Fields

Sunday mornings at 9:00 am

Beginners Hebrew: 9:00 am

Advanced Beginners: 10:00 am

Intermediate Hebrew: 11:15 am

Cost: \$175

Please contact Emily at
efgraph@optonline.net
if you are interested or
require additional information

Intermediate/Advanced

with Alice Seidman

Conversational Hebrew, grammar,
vocabulary, reading, and translating
current Israeli publications.

An informal learning environment.

Sundays, 9:30 am

Contact Alice Seidman
at 953-8455
for further information
free of charge

Mah Jongg

For more than 4 years, a group of women, younger and older, members and non-members, have met in the Kol Ami atrium to play mah jongg. What began as a small group of 4 women has grown to 20 or more each Wednesday. A passerby might think we are merely playing a game, a game that started in China, came to America, and by 1920 was sold at Abercrombie and Fitch, and kept alive by Jewish women in the United States.

But we are engaging in much more than playtime. The act of sitting together, week after week, month after month, year after year has allowed us to forge friendships and connections that would otherwise have been improbable. Several of our players have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Some are widowed. Some live with chronic illness. We share stories, listen compassionately and do what we can to support each other through difficult times.

We have experienced the loss of a dear friend, who suffered a stroke and recently died. She taught us to persevere, having been widowed twice, and at age 90, drove from the city every Wednesday to play mah jongg with us. We listen as one member tells of her teenage years in Hungary hiding in the forests from the Nazis. She turned 89 this month and finds time for mah jongg between zumba and attending the symphony.

Some have said that meeting every Wednesday to play mah jongg is the highlight of their week. Several of our players are seniors living on their own; many of us are empty nesters. Just a few have children still at home and seek parenting advice from those that have 'been there/done that.' For the past two years, Margie Arsham, Wendy Roos and I have organized a mah jongg luncheon that raises money for Kol Ami. It is our way of giving back to the temple that provides us with coffee and cookies, a welcoming home and the opportunity to carry on this tradition that our mothers and grandmothers started.

Betsy McCormack

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 7:45am Round Table Breakfast 9:00am KA Reads Book Club 9:45am WAJE 10:30am Mah Jongg | 2 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 11:00am Wise Aging 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 3 OFFICE CLOSED EREV PESACH—FIRST SEDER | 4 PESACH – SECOND SEDER SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00am FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER SERVICE 5:00pm KA BRO SECOND SEDER |
| 5 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | 6 9:15am Grandparenting 11:00am Current Events 7:30pm Prophets Seminar | 7 | 8 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30am Mah Jongg | 9 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 11:00am Wise Aging 12:00pm Teen Parenting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting | 10 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM PASSOVER AND YIZKOR SERVICES 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary | 11 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 12:00pm RS HS COFFEE HOUSE AND TALENT SHOW |
| 12 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | 13 12:00pm Cooking for the Homeless 12:30pm Mussar Class 7:30pm Prophets Seminar | 14 11:30am Women in Transition 6:30pm 8th Grade Rehearsal 7:30pm KA BRO Meeting 7:30pm Pirke Avot Study Sessions 8:00pm ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH | 15 YOM HASHOAH 10:30am Mah Jongg 4:00pm 4th-6th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:30pm 7th-12th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 7:30pm COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH SERVICE 7:30pm 8th GRADE- LED COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH SERVICE | 16 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wise Aging 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 11:00am Mitzvah Knits 7:00pm Men's Council - Ranger Game Viewing Party 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting | 17 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:00pm 3rd GRADE SHABBATON SLEEP- OVER 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary | 18 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 10:30am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Smith 5:30pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Charles Gluck |
| 19 8:30am 3rd Grade Jewish Museum 9:00am 2nd Grade Torah Project 9:00am K-6th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:00am RS Committee Meeting 9:30am Open House 11:00am Or Chadash | 20 11:00am Current Events 7:30pm Prophets Seminar | 21 7:30pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal 7:30pmP irke Avot Study Sessions | 22 9:45am WAJE 10:30am Mah Jongg 4:00pm 4th-6th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:00pm 5th GRADE YOM HAZIKARON/ HAATZMAUT PRO- GRAM 6:30pm 7th-12th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | 23 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wise Aging 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 7:00pm YOM HAATZ- MAUT EVENT 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 24 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:00pm 2nd GRADE FAMILY SHABBAT & DINNER 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary 7:00pm 3rd Grade Sleepover | 25 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 10:30am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: B'nai Mitzvah of Caitlin Barotz and Jenna Ginsburg 12:00pm SHABBAT LUNCHEON & STORYTELLING |
| 26 8:00am 5th Grade Museum of Jewish Heritage 9:00am 3rd Grade Dig at Kol Ami/Art with Avi 9:00am K-6th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:15am Women's Oasis 11:00am Cooking for the Homeless | 27 7:30pm Prophets Seminar | 28 7:30pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rehearsal 7:30pm Pirke Avot Study Sessions | 29 9:45am WAJE 10:30am Mah Jongg 4:00pm 4th-6th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:30pm 7th-12th GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL | 30 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wise Aging 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 5:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Juliet Salsberg 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | | |

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