

THE CONNECTION

Volume 68, No.7 • April 2016

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI IS NOT JUST A PLACE
WE ARE A COMMUNITY
THAT MAKES INCREDIBLE THINGS HAPPEN**

**KICK-IN FOR KOL AMI's
FIRST ONLINE FUNDRAISER.
EVERY SINGLE GIFT COUNTS.**



KICK-IN for Kol Ami and take part in our first ever crowdfunding campaign starting on April 25!
What's crowdfunding?
(A fancy shmancy title for online giving)

**We have 18 days to reach our goal.
Every single gift counts.**

Kick-in Online between April 25th and May 12th
and gift \$18 or more at

[www.crowdrise.com/
kick-in-for-kol-ami1](http://www.crowdrise.com/kick-in-for-kol-ami1)

KICK-IN ONLINE BEGINS APRIL 25

2016 SPRING BENEFIT

KOL AMI's GOT TALENT!

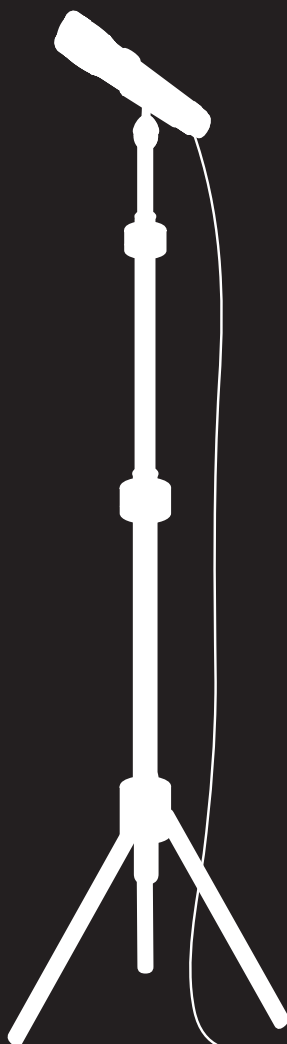
**FOOD | OPEN BAR | TALENT SHOW
RAFFLE | LIVE AUCTION**

**THURSDAY
MAY 12, 2016**

**FOOD + COCKTAILS 7-8 PM
TALENT SHOW 8PM
LIVE AUCTION**

**SONG | MUSIC | DANCE
COMEDY**

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI
252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE
WHITE PLAINS**





CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue • White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 • www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

Cantor • David Rosen

Executive Director • Jess Lorden

Assistant Executive Director • Ilene Miller

Religious School Director • Felice Miller Baritz

ECP Director • Nan Blank

President • Hank Rouda

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Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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KolAmiCares@NYKolami.org

SHABBAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday Evening Services

Shabbat in the Woods for Families with Young Children

A service in story and song

5:30 - 6:00pm *in the Atrium*

Followed by Shabbat crafts, light supper & supervised childcare

6:15 - 7:15pm *in the Gallery*

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

6:15pm *in the Main Sanctuary*

No service on Friday, April 22nd, first night of Passover.

Saturday Morning Services

Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods

9:00am Coffee and Community

9:30 -11:00am Study

11:00am Shabbat Service

Passover and Yizkor Services

Friday April 29

10:00am

Chapel-in-the-Woods

**SERVICES TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN BUILDING
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR APRIL

Week ending April 2, 2016

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 9, 2016

Parashat Tazria Leviticus 12:1-13:59 *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.

Week ending April 16, 2016

Parashat Metzora Leviticus 14:1-15:33 This *parasha* continues the discussion of the laws pertaining to 'uncleanness' that was begun last week in *Tazria*. *Metzora* contains descriptions of 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.

Week ending April 23, 2016

Parashat Bo Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-10 (1st day of Passover) By God's mighty hand, our ancestors fled the house of bondage and were brought to "a land flowing with milk and honey." As a reminder of God's redemption, we are instructed to eat only unleavened bread during Passover. Furthermore, the text tells us to explain to our children, "It is because of what God did for me when I went free from Egypt." The Hebrew word for explain, *v'higgadta*, has the same root as Haggadah, the book from which we read on Passover. In doing so, each year we fulfill the sacred obligation to tell this story to our children.

Week ending April 30, 2016

Parashat Acharei Mot / Leviticus 16:1-17:16 We return to the book of Leviticus this week. In this *parasha*, God speaks to Moses after the death of Aaron's two sons, who were killed for coming too close to the presence of God. This *parasha* also delineates the duties that the head kohein must perform on Yom Kippur, as well as the laws for fasting and atonement.

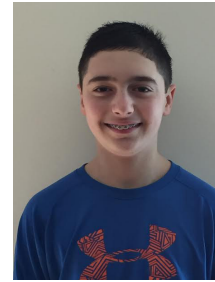
We will be celebrating the following children becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah this month! Mazal Tov!



Simon Worth, son of Lisa Hochman & Kevin Worth and brother of Eli, will be called to the Torah on April 16. Simon is a 7th grader at Hommocks Middle School and loves baseball, boating, fishing and spending time outside. He also enjoys spending time with family and hanging out with friends. Simon loves dogs, especially Dunkin. His mitzvah project is to help with birthday parties at the Coachman Family Center.



Sally Jean Weiss, daughter of Carolyn and Eric Weiss and sister of Henry Weiss, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 2, 2016. A seventh grader at Edgemont Jr/Sr High School, she participates on the softball and field hockey teams. Spending her summers at Buck's Rock Performing and Creative Arts Camp has enhanced Sally's appreciation of the sleep-away camp experience. For her mitzvah project, she is raising money for an organization that provides summer camp scholarships to children in need.



Brandon Harris Epstein, son of Susan and Peter Epstein and brother of Jared Epstein, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 9, 2016. Brandon is a seventh grader at Briarcliff Middle School. Brandon enjoys playing tennis, baseball, running track and spending time with his family and friends. For his mitzvah project, Brandon has helped run the entertainment at birthday parties at The Coachman Family Center. The Coachman is a family homeless shelter in White Plains. He is also going to donate sporting equipment to The Coachman which are the centerpieces at his Bar Mitzvah.



Natalie Samara Schonfeld, daughter of Julia and Mark Schonfeld and sister of Audrey Schonfeld, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 9, 2016. Natalie is a seventh grader at Scarsdale Middle School. She enjoys playing tennis and piano, skiing and cooking. For her mitzvah project, Natalie is collecting tennis equipment and clothing for Play Tennis Ghana, an organization that helps at risk youth in Ghana develop life skills through tennis. Natalie is looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with her family and friends.



Zane Eli Borenstein, son of Shragit Glazman and Steven Borenstein and older brother of Noah Borenstein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 16, 2016. Zane is a seventh grader at Solomon Schechter of Westchester Middle School. His passions include hockey, guitar and fishing. He has incorporated his love for music in his Mitzvah project which consists of playing guitar for the inpatients at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and donating musical instruments to their music therapy program. Zane is very excited to celebrate this special milestone with his family and friends.



Thank You!!

To Our
Shabbat in My Home - Come Say Shalom
 2015 - 2016 Hosts
 For your
Gracious Hospitality

<i>Lori and Rob Abrams</i>	<i>Joelle and Andy Levenson</i>
<i>Sue and John Baer</i>	<i>Elaine and Steve Loewengart</i>
<i>Myrna Barzelatto</i>	<i>Joan Pachner and</i>
<i>Laura Green and</i>	<i>Richard Newman</i>
<i>Steve Christianson</i>	<i>Hank and Jean Rouda</i>
<i>Susan and Paul Davis</i>	<i>Deborah Rubin</i>
<i>Rachel Eckhaus</i>	<i>Joyce Hoffman and</i>
<i>Bonnie and Eric Eilen</i>	<i>Harold Selden</i>
<i>Sara Elkin</i>	<i>Linda and George Shapiro</i>
<i>Linda and Dan Foreman</i>	<i>Elizabeth and Andrew Ward</i>
<i>Dana Ross and Adam Hutter</i>	<i>Rabbi Tom Weiner</i>
<i>Evelyne and David Klein</i>	<i>Leslie Wiesen</i>
<i>Jen and Jon Labovitz</i>	<i>Lisa Hochman and Kevin Worth</i>
<i>Marcia and Jeff Lange</i>	



Shabbat in My Home – Come Say Shalom

Become a Shabbat Host and Continue the Cycle of Connection!!

Hosts are encouraged to invite congregants they know along with those they don't (yet) know well to share a Shabbat dinner. Our goal is to include as many people as possible in order to increase and deepen connections within our community. We are thrilled that guests of prior Shabbat in My Home dinners have been inspired to "pay it forward" by hosting their own Shabbat dinners. Dinners can be for families, couples or singles. Traditional or casual fare – the choice is yours! Include at least one congregant you would like to know better. There is one remaining date scheduled this year: April 15, 2016. Interested in being a host or a guest?

Contact Susan or Lisa, co-chairs of the Membership Committee:
susanhopedavis@hotmail.com or lisahochman@mac.com

*** Hosts receive a goody bag from the Membership Committee.***

**** See photos of prior Shabbat in My Home dinners on the bulletin board outside room 20. ****

Don't miss seeing Kol Ami go GREEN on Friday April 15th 2016 Please join us for our first ever Green Shabbat!



Following services, enjoy a sustainable and delicious ONEG featuring some of the best local and organic food around. White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald will be among the elected officials joining us for the evening. We're trying to go zero waste at our Green Shabbat! You are encouraged to bring your own reusable plate, utensils, and cup in an effort to reduce our garbage contribution that evening. However, there will be biodegradable plates, utensils, and cups available for your use as well.

We look forward to going Green with you on April 15th!

A Message From Our 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 (for the 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 livingroom 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.

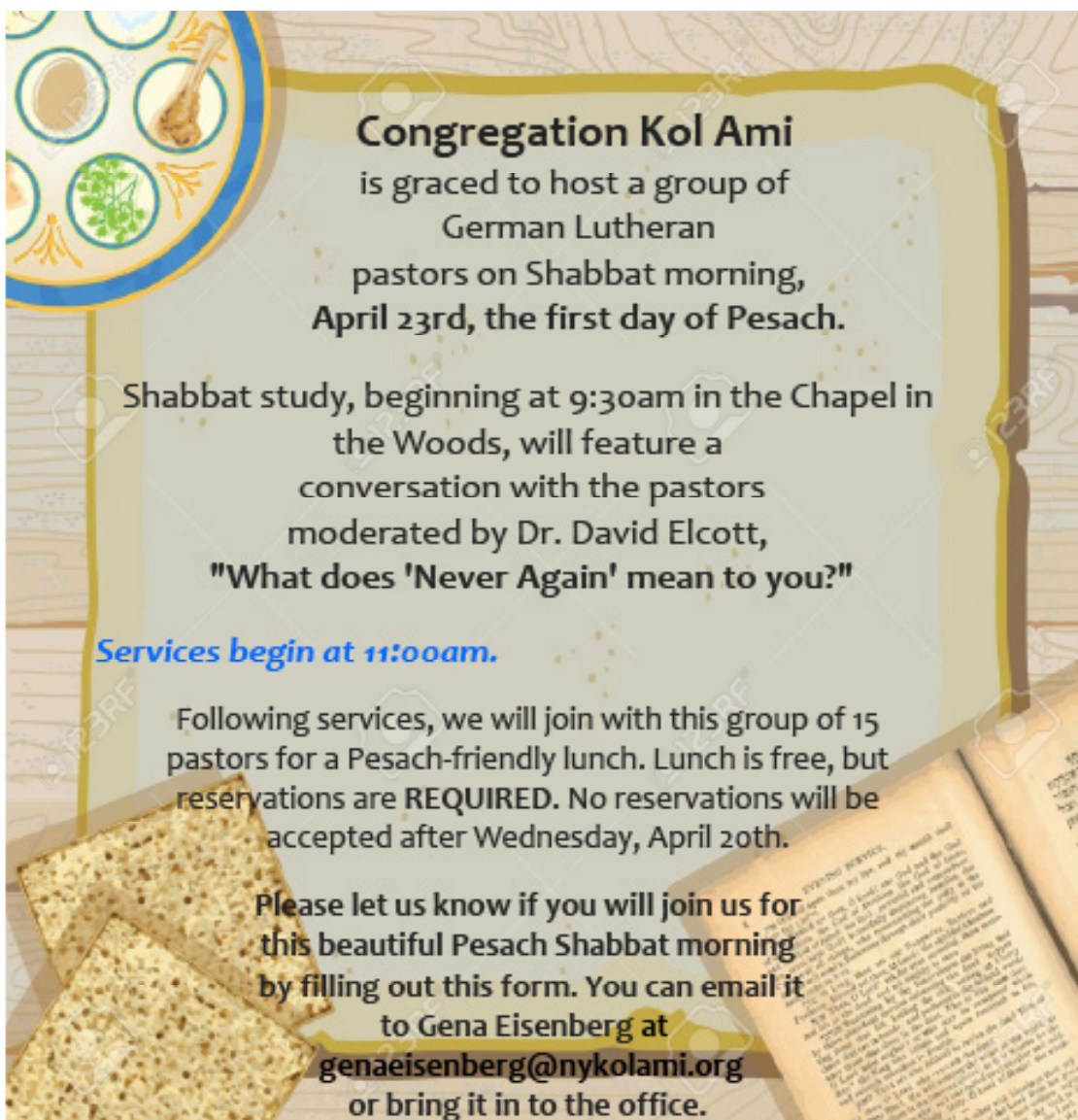
Tell the story: Use your haggadah. Add stories (I’m happy to share my favorites), add freedom songs you know (“thanks” to our own American history of slavery and freedom, American traditions are filled with music you know – from gospel to folk to rock to Broadway musicals.)

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 to our Seder plate and talk about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers – ciw.org.)

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

Love,
Shira



Congregation Kol Ami
is graced to host a group of
German Lutheran
pastors on Shabbat morning,
April 23rd, the first day of Pesach.

Shabbat study, beginning at 9:30am in the Chapel in
the Woods, will feature a
conversation with the pastors
moderated by Dr. David Elcott,
"What does 'Never Again' mean to you?"

Services begin at 11:00am.

Following services, we will join with this group of 15
pastors for a Pesach-friendly lunch. Lunch is free, but
reservations are **REQUIRED**. No reservations will be
accepted after Wednesday, April 20th.

Please let us know if you will join us for
this beautiful Pesach Shabbat morning
by filling out this form. You can email it
to Gena Eisenberg at
genaeisenberg@nykolami.org
or bring it in to the office.

PLEASE CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM NO LATER THAN **APRIL 20TH**
TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI: 252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606

+++++
April 23rd Speaker/Lunch

Name/s _____

Phone # _____ **Email address** _____

Total # Guests: _____

A Message from our Cantor

DAVID ROSEN



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 us feeling as if we were eating something more like 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 says we should only eat matzah for 6 days.(Deuteronomy 16:8).

Whether the number is six or seven, the rabbis teach us that the only actual obligation we have to eat matzah is on the seder night itself. 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 (me included) 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. 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 and to produce the foods that God ultimately intended for us to eat to live a healthy and balanced life.

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 our difficult past, but as the Haggadah teaches us, we are now free. We must celebrate this freedom. 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.

May this wonderful time of bounty be an opportunity to share joyous times with family and friends....

Chag Sameach!

Cantor David Rosen

PURIM

2016 ~ ~ 5776



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 digging in our new Outdoor Classroom and enjoying our innovative play space and all that it has to offer. We have also started to work in our Gardens getting the beds ready for planting.

We have already begun to get ready for Passover. The 2's have been busy planting Parsley 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 Rabbi's Shira and Tom and Cantor David will delight our families with our version of the Passover story – truly a must see for all!

This month we will be welcoming our spring speaker Jamie Glowacki – The Pied Piper of Poop. Ms. Glowacki, a Social Worker and mom as well as an internationally recognized potty training expert will be speaking on Tuesday evening, April 12th beginning at 7:00pm. Jamie's well-known book, *Oh Crap! Potty Training – Everything Modern Parents Need to Know to Do It Once and Do It Right* will help you build the confidence you need to potty train quickly and effectively. I hope many of you will take advantage of this wonderful evening and join us – please remember everyone in our community is welcome to attend. Please see our flyer in this Connection for more details.

At the end of the April our new Community Sandy Playground will be installed and we are all very excited!

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

Love,
Nan

ECP EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Tuesday, April 12

An Evening with Jamie Glowacki Potty Training Expert


Wednesday, April 20

ECP Play and Passover celebration
10:30-11:30 am

Thursday, April 21

ECP closes for Passover and school vacation
– reopens May 2

JAMIE GLOWACKI
The Pied Piper of Poop and the author of
Oh Crap! Potty Training



Jamie loves to talk poop!
She is an internationally recognized potty training expert. She has devoted the last 7 years of her life to all things potty and there isn't a situation she has soon!
Her book is NOT theory but has been tested, tried and true on thousands of parents. Her book is less of a method and more of a "what to expect when potty training."

No child does this the same!
Dividing the process into 6 easy and quantifiable "blocks of learning", Jamie helps parents feel confident about what

their child is learning and how to move onto the next step.
*Resistance *Inability to poop on the potty *avoiding power struggles* daycare* what to look for in readiness*night time training* regressions. All of this and more.
This is the book to build every parents confidence in potty training quickly and effectively.
Jamie is available for speaking engagements and workshops. Visit jamieglowacki.com for tons of resources, including experts for 1:1 potty plans.

Dr. Ted E. Bear Visits the ECP Children at Kol Ami





CONGREGATION KOL AMI early childhood program

building a community of friends one family at a time

**Warm, Nurturing and Enriching
Registration for
2016-2017 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 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 today
Nan Blank, Director, at Ext. 107**



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!



A Message from Our President



HANK ROUDA

I have a confession to make – I think that the programs and events that we have at Kol Ami are fantastic! I know, that's a real shock to hear that the President of the temple thinks that we do great things. Of course, that doesn't make it any less true. But of all of the programs that we offer, I'm especially partial to one – the Retreat.

Why the Retreat? They won't let me take up this entire issue of *The Connection* to give you all of the reasons, so I'll just have to settle for a few.

The People – If you're thinking that the Retreat isn't for you, guess again. We have every group in the temple represented. We have children from the ECP, tweens, teens, college age young adults, slightly older young adults, parents of young children, middle aged and people of a more mature age. We have large families, small families, singles and couples. Most importantly, we have a large group of people who enjoy spending a couple of days together laughing, playing, studying, praying, singing, eating, creating and forging new relationships.

The Program – Our fantastic committee, led by Genna Farley, who has been going to the Retreat since she was one of those "much younger children", has put together a program that will satisfy everyone's needs and tastes. If you want to be creative, last year's favorite event is returning – Cake Wars. If you want to learn, we have a series of programs taught by all 3 of our clergy and your fellow congregants. Need to relax? How about yoga or a massage? Or just need some downtime? Then join us in an Adirondack chair on the beach and enjoy quiet conversation or take the time to just read a book (or take a nap).

The Feeling – The Retreat really wraps up in one weekend what we love about our community. The sense of togetherness extends through the weekend from the time that we first arrive and have Shabbat dinner and services together to the final circle where people share their most favorite moments (the most poignant of which are often said by our children). It's easy to say that it's "multi-generational", but that doesn't convey how the generations learn, pray, play and just hang out with each other. Everyone finds their place (their Entrance to Kol Ami) and their pace.

Thanks to the generosity of one of your fellow congregants, we are once again able to reduce the price on the weekend. You can't make it for the entire weekend? No problem, as you can come for a day if that works better for your schedule. And for parents of younger children, as always, we will have activities for them so that you can spend as much (or as little) time together as you and they want. Most importantly, they can sleep in the children's cabins (totally supervised).

If these aren't reason enough for you, come up to me, Shira, Genna, or any of the other members of the Retreat Committee and we'll be glad to tell you why this is such a phenomenal event. We hope that you'll join us and "unplug and reconnect" with so many of your fellow congregants for an unforgettable weekend. See you at Circle Lodge over Memorial Day!

But before we get to the Retreat, we have the joy of celebrating Pesach. I hope that you all have a place to go for seder for first, and, if you celebrate, second night. If you do not and you would like to find a home in which to celebrate, please contact the temple office. Jean and I wish you a zissen Pesach!

L'shalom
Hank

**Please Join us at the
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2016
at 8:00 pm.**

**Watch the mail for
further details.**

**Nominations for 2016-2017
Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

Officers to be Elected

(for a one-year term expiring in 2017)

President Hank Rouda

Treasurer Jonathan Litt

Secretary Rachel Eckhaus

Vice Presidents (for a three-year term expiring in 2019)

Susan Kohn Arovas

Scott Musoff

Continuing Vice President (term expiring in 2017)

Gerri Sommers

New Trustees to be Elected (for a three-year term expiring in 2019)

Judi Brown

Danielle Gecht

Bonnie Hagen

Elizabeth Mayeri

Pam Millian

Jeff Rothschild

Trustees to be Elected for a Second Term (for three years expiring in 2019)

Susan Kohn Arovas

David Cole

Betsy McCormack

Steve Salzinger

Continuing Trustees

(term expiring in 2018)

Howard Geller

Evelyne Klein

Howard Klein

Jennifer Labovitz

Jonathan Litt

David Okun

Scott Musoff

(term expiring in 2017)

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Susan Davis

Rachel Eckhaus

Linda Forman

Michael Goldban

Lisa Hochman

Liz Ilberg

Andrew Levenson

Hank Rouda

Gerri Sommers

Leslie Wiesen

Retiring from the Board

Laura Green

Ellen Kurtz

Elaine Libman

Judy Sarch

Elizabeth Ward

Nominating Committee

Ronnie Cohn and Mark Seiden, Co-Chairs

Adam Gluck

Jennifer Labovitz

Judy McEvoy

Adrienne Pollak

Elizabeth Ward

Michael Welling

David Seicol

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 as 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.

cooking • hiking • eat • yoga • campfire • frisbee • discussion • biking • shabbat
• art

cocktails • games • sports • relax • eat • gifts craft
yoga •

...to art

...to nature

...to relaxation

kol ami
retreat
Circle Lodge
MAY 27 ~ 29, 2016

...to fun

...to learning

to friends

...to Shabbat

...to Kol Ami

and **reconnect**
...to family

unplug

RETREAT 2016

May 27-29

Back to Memorial Day Weekend

DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Join our Kol Ami Community for
the experience of a lifetime.

Young, Old, Families, Singles

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Thanks to generous donations
by members of our congregation the
price has once again been
significantly reduced
so that all can experience this
priceless weekend.

Come for the weekend or
just for one day!

More information and Registration at

www.NYKolAmi.org

Call us at 949-4717

A Message from Our Religious School

FELICE MILLER BARITZ

Spring has sprung! So happy to look out my office window and see the beginning buds and wash of green on the trees. I'm happy to have the additional hour of daylight too! April is a packed month in our Religious School! Lots of great programs coming up – our 3rd grade will have their archeological dig, our 2nd grade families will create beautiful Torah covers for the Torah scrolls the children have been working on all year and there are Family Shabbat programs and holiday celebrations still to come too! Make sure you check the calendar, read our weekly “Gold Standard” and check out our Kol Ami facebook page to keep on top of all the wonderful things going on this Spring!

I just returned from an amazing journey. A group of Kol Ami teens and parents joined teens and parents from around Westchester and the Organization JTeen Leadership on a truly powerful service learning trip down to Georgia and Alabama. Our goal was to learn about Civil and Human Rights. We had the opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of people who participated in the early part of the Civil Rights Movement and heard stories from people about growing up in the segregated South. We met freedom riders and

folks who were part of the marching and protesting that were central to the Civil Rights Movement. We visited many of the famous sites of the movement and learned about the ongoing advocacy and education that is ongoing in the South. We also did community service work... at the Alabama Disability Resources Center and the Clarkston Community Center. It was intense and amazing. Uplifting and depressing. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn together and explore the meaning of freedom and liberty in our 21st century world. To see where we've come from and how far we still have to go. It is my hope that this amazing trip will become another wonderful regular addition to the travel and service learning we provide for our kids and families. Another way for us to participate in Tikkun Olam – the repair of the world.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fondly,
Felice



A Message from Our Executive Director

JESS LORDEN



Peace. Tolerance. Understanding. Co-existence. Patience. Respect. These are key among the messages which Kol Ami Controller Madiha Tubman shared during her brilliant presentation for the Women's Oasis on March 6, 2016. Madiha's discussion had such a profound impact on those present that I asked Madiha to prepare an excerpt of her presentation for this month's Connection which can be read below.

Madiha joined the Kol Ami family in 1992. Madiha is a devout Muslim and Peace Advocate. After 9/11 Madiha began to speak publicly about her faith presenting deeply personal and compelling accounts of clashes and connections between Jews, Muslims, and others. Madiha is a rare jewel who gives so much to our community. If you don't know Madiha, I am confident that after reading this article you will wish to stop by to meet her.

Excerpt from Madiha's Presentation...



Faith, truth, knowledge, love and respect.... These are important foundations for all humanity to possess for with such traits the world would be a better place for you and me....and for generations to come - L'dor V'dor... Today we live in an extremely complicated and uncertain world. Our world is synonymous with violence.... the news is besieged with brutality, savagery, sadism, barbarity and so forth. The media feeds us with a lot of unpleasant news which we unfortunately ingest and digest and later echo that which we have been fed without bothering to find out the TRUTH. The uglier the story, the more publicity, more commercials and viciousness ensues. But what happened to knowledge? Why can't we, through research and fact finding, learning and inquiring, find out what the truth is before we perceive to condemn a person, a race or a religion? Aren't we just as guilty as the media... There is an African proverb that states 'Ships don't sink because of water around them, ships sink when

water gets inside them'... Don't allow what you hear to weigh you down, to the contrary, know your facts so the truth will set you free from forming ideas that are false and misleading.

Islam is a religion of 1.6 billion people... If Muslims are terrorists, then we have 1.6 billion terrorists, myself included. Wouldn't this world be in more serious trouble and your lives in danger being that you have a Muslim terrorist amongst you? I would imagine so. Personally I am fed up with this single most dangerous story that keeps repeating over and over again. I call it a single most dangerous story because Islam and its followers have become a people of mistaken identity. Ours is a single-sided story that starts with the word Terrorism and ends with Extremism, and or Fanaticism and or Fundamentalism..... If we repeat a story for so long, we tend to eat, live and eventually believe it to be true. That's the danger of a single story... Coincidentally this same fate applies to people of the Jewish Faith. My belief is that Jews just like Muslims are misunderstood. Why are Jews hated and are target of such fervent animosity? Similarly, to Muslims, it's largely due to ignorance. Sadly, many in this world believe that Judaism and Zionism are identical. It is due to this misunderstanding which concludes that the entire Jewish people is responsible for the actions of the "Zionist Government" and the world crisis that emanates from it. When one tries to clarify that they are as opposite as day and night and that Jewish people have existed for thousands of years prior to the creation of the State of Israel, which incidentally is less than 100 years old, it makes absolutely no difference. They fail to understand that these are two different philosophies; one a religion and the other a political movement. Jews are known to be wealthy, hardworking and successful people. People actually admit that they hate Jews because they possess such successes and power which they then use to control the world we live in. The unity of the Jewish people is a bigger issue. I remember my father-in-law once said he wishes people of African descent were like the Jewish people because anywhere a Jew is, he is united with fellow Jews by Israel. Incidentally if some of you don't know, Liberia was the first country in Africa to recognize the State of Israel under the Presidency of Tubman. It saddens me to see how quick people derive to certain conclusions without knowing facts. What they fail to see is that Jews faced persecutions, discriminations and expulsions throughout the world in different times for generations and even though they are the 'chosen people' they suffered nonetheless.

How could a presidential candidate insult, humiliate and preach divineness using detestable language that incites violence? Threats to close borders by erecting walls to keep people from entering this country are absurd. Branding Muslims as terrorists and making toxic statements to keep them out of America is preposterous. What is forgotten is that once upon a time, the Jewish people suffered from closed immigration gates. A time when many were fleeing from persecution and oppression at the beginning of the 20th century and later again during WWII while fleeing from Nazi Germany. A lot of countries refused them entry including this great nation of ours. Why open old wounds for those caught in similar situations? Might I remind ourselves that this is a nation that was founded by immigrants and built by slaves, my son's ancestors... the land of the free that became the home to brave men and women who entered it in search of freedom and those held in bondage fought for their freedom. As a Muslim, I am tired of condemning terrorist attacks carried out by inherently violent people who've hijacked my religion. I am tired of condemning these attacks because the people who commit these barbarous acts are Muslims by name but not by faith... Why should I be apologetic for something I nor the majority of Muslims have nothing to do with. A true Muslim does not take an innocent life. Islam teaches us that 'he who kills an innocent soul is as if he killed the whole of humanity and he who saves an innocent soul is as if he saved the entire human race'.

What Islam teaches is tolerance...An entire chapter in the Quran speaks of this ... Basically it states you are free to worship whom you wish to worship and vice versa I will worship whom I wish to worship. An attack on one faith is an attack on all faiths. Islam has no violence in it.... It is a religion like any other religion that is used by a few of its 'followers' to translate a sentence here and a sentence there to form what they deem is God's command to kill non-Muslims. I challenge you to take any book for that instance...Take a few sentences from a few chapters and you have yourself an entire paragraph which you then could use to suit your purpose and prove your point.

Every time an act of terror or shooting occurs, Muslims closely watch the news with extreme trepidation praying that the suspect is not Muslim. This is not because these terrorists are likely to be Muslim but rather because in the instances where they happen to be, we see amplified mass media coverage and extreme unjustified hatred towards Muslims. Every religion has perverts and psychopaths. ISIS is as much Islamic as the KKK is Christian...Don't they have a cross, don't they do everything in the name of Christ? The KKK believe that Christ compels them to lynch and kill black people. Can one really argue that the KKK is a Christian organization? I know better and I say No..The KKK has nothing to do with Christianity. Unfortunately, these psychopaths are everywhere.... There are people like this in the Jewish Faith that have nothing to do with Judaism, in Hindu faith who also have nothing to do with Hinduism and so forth. The man who confessed to killing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, wasn't he an extremist? Yet, did we hear the term Jewish Extremist used to describe him even though he confessed to the killing in order to halt the Middle East peace talks? No he was described as a Jewish Law student turned assassin. I guess being a non-Muslim he didn't deserve to be branded a terrorist... I must admit these double standards really frustrate me and other Muslims.... Here are a few other examples for you to consider. Dylan Roof, a White Supremacist who allegedly tried to start a race war by killing 9 African Americans in Charleston, SC. Jared Lee Loughner, who in 2011 tried to assassinate US Representative Gabrielle Giffords and in the interim shot 18 others six of whom he killed. Robert Duggart who allegedly plotted to attack an entire Muslim community in New York. Were all these men charged with terrorism? Not quite. Yet, anytime a Muslim is arrested for a crime, rest assured his religion becomes guilty...AN ISLAMIST is what we hear. Fox News unfortunately says that 'Not all Muslims are terrorists but all terrorists are Muslims. A recent study conducted since 9/11 shows that far right wing extremists here in the United States have killed more than 48 innocent people from 2001 - 2015 compare that to the so called Jihadists who killed 26 during the same period. I remember not too long ago Nelson Mandela was labeled a terrorist. Why, because he was fighting for Justice and equal rights for his country of South Africa. Time and time again I am left speechless when the word "terrorist" is never used when the suspect in a terrorist attack is a non-Muslim. I am tired of the "mentally disabled" excuse being recycled when the suspect in these attacks is Caucasian. It does not help us as a people to constantly point fingers at each other. Remember if you point a finger at someone, the remaining four fingers are pointing right back at you. What we can do is to help and assist each other. Respect one another and agree to disagree on opinions and only argue facts if we know what they are. It does not pay for someone to argue that Islam is a religion that preaches and promotes violence if he or she never picked up the Quran to read and understand its message. What we can do is learn from one another.

So how did we get to this crossroad that intersects Xenophobia with Racism and Islamophobia with Antisemitism that eventually led to a super highway called Islamic Terrorism? I will not deny that terrorism is a real threat, it definitely is. However, it is extremely incorrect to associate the words "Islam" and "terrorism" when literally all the facts implore you to do otherwise. The only way that we as Americans can defeat terrorism at home and across the world is by accurately targeting its root causes. It is time that we begin addressing terrorism on an educated and factual level. Blaming Mosques for radicalizing the youth is nonsense. Mosques are places of worship. People congregate to pray and interact with their community just like we do here at Kol Ami. Studies have shown that the majority of Muslims who attend mosques are less likely to become radicalized. So where do these young people get radicalized. THE INTERNET. Young Muslim men and women are angry at being attacked and singled out. When they have no place to turn to, they become introverts; they withdraw and alienate themselves from society. The internet becomes their place of refuge and while surfing for all the wrong things and for all the wrong reasons, they finally find what they are looking for to express their anger.... As an American Muslim, I plead with you to deeply consider the facts mentioned here the next time you see a news headline or read about Muslims and terrorism. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". We cannot allow the disparity in media coverage to blind us from the facts and turn us into hateful people, we are smarter than that.

There was a time, not so long ago, when Muslims were afraid to be identified for fear of retaliation post 9/11. Some of us were brave enough to speak up, softly and carefully, choosing the right words at all times, to explain that those who attacked America were not true Muslims, and that Islam condemns the killing of people, that what is assimilated with Islam by the media is foreign to us Muslims, for we do not know this Islam of Terror, that we only know Islam of Peace. I stood proud to speak of my religion of peace, the inclusive religion, the religion of love. When asked if I was afraid to speak up, my response was to the negative. Because if not me, WHO would? And if not now, WHEN. When will an opportunity such as this present itself again. All I knew was the truth needed to be said and the truth needed to be heard. I seized upon this chance, where I would be able to reach across hundreds of people to set the record straight. I accepted the invites and allowed no fear to cripple nor stop me. I only allowed Allah to guide and protect me. I kept it simple, I kept it short, I taught and learned along the way, and together, we all left satisfied; I for having accomplished a difficult task of being able to teach people across all walks of life who heard and understood me, and they for finally understanding Islam which by its own unique name meaning 'salaam' was in fact a religion of peace. I received countless calls and emails, some confessing ignorance and thus apologetic for having misunderstood Islam and others just thanking me for having had the courage to stand up and speak, not preach and convert. Today, it makes me so proud, that New York City, the very city that was attacked by so called Extremists on September 11, 2001, is observing Muslim Holy Days. I take pride to know that I am among the hundreds of Muslims, who made this possible...when people hid, I was honored to defend my

I pray that God will continue to bless us all with the kindest of hearts that will see through the evil that divides us so we may continue to find the goodness that will unite us. God is full of love and compassion. Why can't we emulate that love and be compassionate towards one another? Let us pray that God will lead us all to that righteous path and keep us there forever. You and I can start paving the way and allow others to follow by telling the truth about what we know to be factual in Islam and Judaism. Let's be ready to set the record straight when an opportunity presents itself and allow the truth to seep through he who longs for it. Let us learn from one another and respect each other so we may make this world a better place for all humanity to co-exist peacefully ...Let us use our voices for kind words, our ears for compassion, our hands for charity, our minds for truth and our hearts for love. Let us seek knowledge, embrace faith, be truthful, love one another and respect each other. Let the eternal light of love beam on us all. Let us continue to build circles of friends and break down barriers of hatred. Salaam, shalom, may peace be upon us all. Ameen

M a d i h a T u b m a n

The final Women's Oasis at Home session will take place on Sunday, April 17 in the Chapel in the Woods from 9:15-11:00 a.m.

To culminate a year of of discussion and exploration about "A Women's Perspective on Global Crisis", Kol Ami welcomes Hannah Weitzer, Program Director at Global Nomads Group where she develops and implements civic engagement programs and partnerships in the Middle East, Pakistan, Afghanistan and beyond. The Oasis group has followed a path starting with a Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, a Muslim woman who teaches about the Holocaust to Rabbi Shira Milgrom sharing the struggles and strengths of biblical women who influenced their societies viewpoints at time when women had little voice. We continued with an intimate conversation with Madiha Tubman about what it is really like to be a Muslim woman in America today, and the collective responsibility we have to understand and respect diversity. Our group wanted to know how we can be part of a changing world view that will connect us rather than divide us. Hannah will talk about the success Global Nomads Group has uniting world youth through virtual exchange, which fosters direct, personal connections, despite geographical distance. She will illuminate one path that is leading towards resolution and peace.

Women of Reform Judaism

KOL AMI SISTERHOOD 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, miriamrogowsky@optonline.net, or Sheryl Brady at (914) 761- 8345, sxbrady@verizon.net.

Thank you for your support!

Sheryl Brady

Rachel Eckhaus

Stacey Matusow

**For the most up-to-date information,
please visit us at www.NYKolAmi.org**



We Have a Fresh Look! Shop New Jewish Gifts and Judaica at the Sisterhood Gift Shop

We love bringing you meaningful Judaica and Jewish gifts that fit your personal style and proudly share traditions with friends and family. Our goal is to be your first-thought when it comes to buying a Holiday Item or Jewish Gift for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Wedding, New Baby or Hostess Gift.

LOOK FOR NEW GIFTS COMING IN APRIL TO THE MAIN CASE

Jewelry • Mezuzahs • Seder Items • Hostess Gifts

Patronizing our gift shop allows the Sisterhood to provide financial support for many community, educational and religious programs at Congregation Kol Ami.

Besides, it's just cool to support your temple

**HOURS: WEDNESDAYS: 4-6 and SUNDAYS: 9-11
or by appointment with Kay in the office**

Ritual Riches

Barbara & Stan Selbst's Jewish Family Observance

Barbara grew up in a Jewishly aware but not particularly observant family in New York City. She went to Sunday School at Temple Emanuel. She and her family were friendly with Rabbi Nathan Perelman.

Barbara was heavily influenced by her grandmother who attended services virtually every Friday night, mostly at Temple Emanuel. Barbara got Chatham College to change their non-alcoholic policy for one night so she could organize a Seder.

I grew up in a traditional Conservative background in Philadelphia. My level of observance varied but I was always Jewishly connected and liked observance.

When we were first married, we belonged to Temple Emanuel. When we moved to White Plains, we began to shop for a synagogue. We both enjoyed going to Services and still do.

For the first few years, we could not relate to any of the three congregations that were within walking distance from our house.

We joined the JCC when Rabbi Davis arrived, greatly influenced by the advice given by Rabbi Perelman who said, "If you join for yourselves it will be meaningful to everyone in your family. If you join for your children it will be meaningful to no one."

In the early years of our marriage, I would occasionally make Kiddush on Friday night but it did not keep us from going out with friends.

After we moved to White Plains, Barbara got involved with a group of women who were supporting the National Jewish Hospital of Denver, now the National Jewish Health. The group decided to host a fundraiser on a Friday night.

I was uncomfortable about going to a Jewish fundraising event on Shabbat but under peer pressure did. I and many others were uncomfortable and unhappy.

When we got home, I said that we are running around every night and that is not good for us or our children. We agreed that one night a week, obviously Friday, we would stay home for dinner and attend Services, which we often did. Thus began our Friday night observance.

In the years our four children were growing up, I never knew how many people would be at Shabbat dinner, as the kids all knew they could invite their friends, whether they were Jewish or not.

Dinner included lighting candles, making Kiddush and motzei and a big meal. Over time, we added birkat HaMazon, the grace after meals.

Maybe the real attraction is Barbara's Jewish cooking traditions. There is nothing better than her chicken soup, stuffed chicken or brisket. All of our children have adopted Barbara's recipes.

At the suggestion of a neighbor, we began building a Sukkah. There are many pictures of Kol Ami members dining in our Sukkah. Hanukah had its own customs. The largest Seder we remember was about 25. Others were not much smaller.

We are pleased to say that our four children all married Jews, all belong to synagogues and are active on whatever level. All of our children and grandchildren have visited Israel, some for extended periods.

We look forward to our youngest granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah in May. She is the youngest of our nine grandchildren.

Some of our children are more consistent in their Shabbat observance, mostly around Shabbat dinner. All do it from time to time.

Like many Jewish families, Seder is a major holiday as are the High Holidays and Hanukah. A couple of our children have built Sukkahs.

Whenever the 19 of us are together, regardless of the reason, we always have Shabbat dinner with all the rituals.

We feel blessed that our family is carrying on our Jewish heritage.

This article was written by Stan Selbst. Ritual Riches is a monthly column written by members of the Worship Committee. We hope you find these articles interesting and informative.

Kol Ami Cares

Opportunities for Volunteering

Providing 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 for families in mourning, 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 through many other activities of mitzvot.

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.

Also, within our Kol Ami community are older congregants who 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.)

In addition, Kol Ami Cares 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 is looking for congregants who have room at their Seder table the first night of Passover, Friday, April 22. Please let Betsy or Ginny know how many people you can include at your Seder table, where you live and whether children are welcome.

**Ginny Ruder (ginnyruder@gmail.com) and
Betsy McCormack (betsymc@aol.com)**

Social Action

Cooking for the Homeless

In the Kol Ami kitchen

Sundays at 11:15 am:

Apr 17, May 22

and

Mondays at 12:00 pm:

Apr 4, May 2, June 6

The Cabin Group - Alcoholics Anonymous

Weekly (closed) Tuesday meetings at 5:45 pm in the Schulman Chapel in the Woods

AL-ANON

Weekly (closed) Thursday meetings at 7:30 pm in the Schulman Chapel in the Woods

Mitzvah Knitz

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

Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month.

April 5 at 10:30 am

The Kol Ami Singers

Accompanied by Paul Schwarz, we sing at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Join us as we bring a little sunshine to the residents and make a difference in their lives. For information, call

Murray Shapiro 914-946-7789

Wednesday, April 27th @ 2:30 PM

The Grove At Valhalla (formerly the Hebrew Home)
61 Grasslands Rd (Near the Meadows Residence)
Valhalla, NY

**REMEMBER CONGREGATION KOL AMI
IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

**SOCIAL ACTION AT KOL AMI CONTINUES
THROUGH YOUR PLANNED GIVING.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
EVELYNE KLEIN: 761-7659**

Kol Ami Food Pantry Hours

Kol Ami Food Pantry is open to serve our congregants, staff and guests of both.

The Pantry is located in the entrance of our gymnasium and is open Sundays 9:30am - 10:30am, Tuesdays 9:30am-11:00am and Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

Gift cards, private ordering and delivery is also available. For information, gift cards, private ordering/delivery contact Jess Lorden, 914-949-4717 ext. 101.

COACHMAN CORNER

We are thrilled to be working closely with 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

Tutoring support

Monthly Birthday Parties for children up to 14

Separate teenage birthday outings

Thanksgiving Feast at Kol Ami

Memorial Day Bar-B-Q at Kol Ami

Knitting blankets for the Coachman children

We welcome all Kol Ami members to join us in these initiatives!

COACHMAN BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Let's hear it for the Girl Scouts! On Sunday, March 13th, Troop 1991, under the leadership of our own Jaime Lieber, came together to throw a fun-filled birthday party for the kids celebrating March birthdays at the Coachman Family Center.

The girl scouts (with help from the Lieber and LeWinter/Mercer families) wrapped birthday presents, assembled goody bags, decorated birthday cards and organized party crafts to entertain the Coachman kids. Everyone feasted on pizza, party snacks and (of course) birthday cake. Also on hand was Felice Miller Baritz, Director of Kol Ami's Religious School, who worked her magic engaging the lit-tlest Coachman kids to make everyone feel very loved. Eliot & Jeremy Adler assisted the Lieber & LeWinter/Mercer families (Jaime, Hal, Eli-ana, Stuart, and Shelly, Bret, Sophie & MacKenzie) to ensure everyone had fun. Simon Worth, fulfilling his mitzvah project goals in anticipation of becoming Bar Mitzvah, played with the children and helped serve up pizza, drinks and cake.

Danny Bernstein from Backyard Sports along with his helper, Spencer Danzig, entertained the kids with balloon tosses and simple games to remind the kids of the importance of team camaraderie and friendship.

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: Alison Adler (aadler3@verizon.net).

Please consider sponsorship of a future Coachman birthday party and join us in spreading Tikun Olam by bringing joy to the Coachman children and demonstrating that every life is worth celebrating. We have the following dates available:

June 12th

October 9th

July 10th

November 6th

August 7th

December 11th

September 18th



YOU can make a difference!

Alison Adler



FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016

Friday evening schedule :

5:00 pm

Explorations in Jewish Music with Cantor David Rosen and special guest Shira Adler performing "Songs of Freedom", celebrating the songs of the Jewish people throughout history.

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 IN ADVANCE)

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.

The Main Event

Dr. Mehnaz M. Afridi, "The Shoah Through Muslim Eyes"

Muslim Scholar, Looking to "Speak the Truth," Teaches the Holocaust and Islam

Dr. Afridi is Assistant Professor of Religious studies and Director of Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College. She is committed to interfaith work, contemporary Islam and Holocaust education. She teaches a variety of courses on Islam, world religions, genocide studies, and contemporary Islamic Literature.

Her articles have appeared in edited books such as; Sacred Tropes: Tanakh, New Testament, and Qur'an as Literature and Culture, Not Your father's Anti-Semitism: Hatred of the Jews in the 21st Century. Her recent articles include; "Gurdwara Sikh Killings: Domestic or Global Taxonomy of Terrorism?" in *Sikh Formations* and "The Role of Muslims and the Holocaust" in *Oxford Handbooks Online*. She is the co-editor of a book entitled: "Orhan Pamuk and Global Literature: Existentialism and Politics", and she is working on her forthcoming book, "Shoah through Muslim Eyes". She has presented at Capitol Hill for the Tom Lantos Foundation on "Islam and Anti-Semitism" and she has a podcast on "Voices of Anti-Semitism" for United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, DC.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, raised in Europe, and Middle East, she brings with her a multicultural perspective.

For further information, please contact Ilene Miller at 914.949.4717x115/ ilenemiller@nykolami.org or visit our website at www.nykolami.org

CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 6TH TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI: 252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606

"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 = \$ _____

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT
SYNAPLEX EVENT...
May 13**

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Name/s & Ages _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE OPEN SEATING FOR DINNER THIS MONTH

ENGAGE AND LEARN

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

Coffee, Clergy and Conversations – Five ECP mornings with Sara Elkin & Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Thursdays, 9:15-10:30am

Session V: May 5: Creating a Love of Israel

Current Events with Beth & Gene Kava

Current Events

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30pm

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

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.

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship.

With Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am

April 6

The featured speaker will be Anne Fitzsimmons, White Plains Police Chief. Promoted to this position in February of this year, Chief Fitzsimmons is the first female Police Chief in White Plains. Other "firsts" in Anne's 36-year career with the WPPD include being one of the first women assigned to regular patrol duties and being the first woman to achieve the rank of captain in the WPPD. Chief Fitzsimmons is particularly proud of developing the WPPD's response to domestic violence.

Other characteristics which make the Chief unique include that she is Native American Indian, a breast cancer survivor, a devoted wife and loving mother of two adult children, both of whom have followed Anne's path to service. Chief Fitzsimmons, a long-time friend of Kol Ami, looks forward to an engaging dialogue with us.

Kol Ami Book Club

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20,

April 6

"Department of Speculation", by Jenny Offill
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

Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

April 11, May 2, June 6

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 or 914-761-0600 x149 to register.

Women in Transition

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month,

April 12, 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 sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

Now in its 5th 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.

A Women's Perspective on Global Crisis

Kol Ami's Oasis at Home presents deeply personal and compelling accounts of clashes and connections between Jews, Muslims and others.
Sunday, April 17 at 9:15am

Prophets Seminar

Mondays 7:30 pm

By studying the book of Jeremiah, we will be examining the history surrounding the Babylonian exile as well as the prophet Jeremiah himself. Jeremiah reveals the psychology of the prophet. He lays bare his sorrow. The primary text will be Jeremiah, part of the Soncino Books of the Bible series, interpretations by Heschel, Buber and others will be examined. Prerequisite- curiosity.

Hebrew Classes for Adults

Beginners Hebrew with Emily Fields*

Sundays at 9:00 am

NEW CLASS! Learn the Service in Hebrew with Emily Fields*

Sundays at 10:00 am

(For Advanced Beginners who can slowly read Hebrew)
Master the melodies and the Hebrew prayers.

Intermediate Hebrew with Emily Fields*

Sundays at 11:15 am

\$150 per semester/10 classes for above 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.

PARENTING GROUPS AT KOL AMI!

Sunday Parenting Group

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
April 3 at 9:15am
Susan Davis, LCSW

Parenting Teens Workshops

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
April 7 at 12:00pm
Susan Davis, LCSW

Grandparenting Workshops

Exploring intergenerational experience and Jewish wisdom as we share the challenges and opportunities of grandparenting.
Meets the 1st Monday of the month
April 4 at 9:15am
Susan Davis, LCSW

The Arts

Congregational Choir

Thursdays 7:45 - 9:30 pm

For High School Students and Adults

Cantor David Rosen and Lenora Eve, Accompanist

Or Chadash (A New Light)

Children in kindergarten through 6th Grade

Sundays at 11:00am (when Religious school is in session)

Cantor David Rosen and

Lenora Eve, Accompanist

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Email Betsy McCormack (Betsymc@aol.com)

for information

JACOB BURNS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2016 Westchester Jewish Film Festival at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY from March 30 to April 20, 2016

This year the Westchester Jewish Film Festival features 34 films from Israel and around the world—both documentaries and narratives—along with a rich slate of guests.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to:

<https://burnsfilmcenter.org/series/westchester-jewish-film-festival-2016/>

Noam Katz LIVE in Concert at Congregation Kol Ami

A FAMILY CONCERT, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION
FROM OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A Great Event for the Whole Family!

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2016

(rescheduled from January 24th)

11:00am

Rabbi Noam Katz is one of the most exciting young voices in contemporary Jewish music. He has brought his high-flying energy and soulful melodies to Jewish and interfaith audiences across North America, Africa and Israel. For your listening pleasure log onto www.noamkatz.com.

pizza lunch provided

This event is free and open
to the community!

252 Soundview Avenue - White Plains, NY - 914.949.4717 - www.nykokami.org



Please Join Us for a
Community Conversation and Screening of
the Award-Winning Feature Film

NO LETTING GO

Followed by a Q&A with Randi Silverman
Writer/Producer

Based on a true story of a Westchester family, this film is a poignant and compelling drama following one family's journey as they discover that their child suffers from a mental health disorder.

Wednesday, May 25, 2016
7:00pm

Congregation Kol Ami
252 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

SEATS ARE LIMITED
TICKETS ARE FREE
DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!

Check out this trailer:
www.nolettinggomovie.com/trailer

CONGREGATION
KOL AMI



Starring Kathy Najimy (The Gelfin), Janet Hubert (The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air), Myra Benson (Orange Is the New Black), Michael Biehn (Desperate Housewives), Neale Vassili (The Last Film Festival), Neale Hall (Spotlight), and introducing Cheryl Adkins (Illness) and Neale Silverman (Illness) portraying Timothy.

Contributions



CONGREGATION

KOL AMI

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). 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"/> Social Action 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"/> Synaplex Circle Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates).	<input type="checkbox"/> Men's Council Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> WRJ Sisterhood Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Cantor David Rosen's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities Fund (supports youth-related programs, scholarships and trips)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Draver College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college students)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership)
<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)	Plaques and Remembrances <input type="checkbox"/> Yahrzeit Plaques \$750 <input type="checkbox"/> Tree of Life Leaf \$180 (Available in Gold, Silver and Copper)
<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers and Landscaping Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Retreat Fund	Giving Opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg <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 2016 Calendar

Fri Apr 1

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service
8:00pm Friday Night Services
101 with Rabbi Tom Weiner

Sat Apr 2

Shabbat Lift
9:00am Coffee & Community
9:30am Study
11:00am Service
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:
Bat Mitzvah of Sally Weiss

Sun Apr 3

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School
9:15am Parenting
10:00am Kol Ami Got Talent Auditions
11:00am Or Chadash Choir
11:30am CPR Training
11:30am Shevat Achim

Mon Apr 4

9:15am Grandparenting
11:00am Current Events
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Tue Apr 5

10:00am WAJE
10:30am Mitzvah Knits
7:30pm CPR Training

Wed Apr 6

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

Thu Apr 7

9:30am Jewish Meditation
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages
12:00pm Parenting Teens
7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Fri Apr 8

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

Sat Apr 9

Shabbat Lift
9:00am Coffee & Community
9:30am Study
11:00am Service
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:
Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Schonfeld

5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service:
Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Epstein

Sun Apr 10

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School
11:00am Noam Katz Concert

Mon Apr 11

12:30pm Mussar class
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Tue Apr 12

10:00am WAJE
11:30am Women in Transition
7:30pm WRJ Sisterhood Meeting
& Passover Tasting

Wed Apr 13

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

Thu Apr 14

9:30am Jewish Meditation
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages
11:00am Wise Aging
7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
8:00pm Board Meeting

Fri Apr 15

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service
followed by a GREEN ONEG
7:30pm RS Gr. 2 Shabbat Family Dinner
7:30pm Friday Night Services
101 with Rabbi Tom Weiner

Sat Apr 16

Shabbat Lift w/Grade 3 Family Shabbat
9:00am Coffee & Community
9:30am Study
11:00am Service
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:
Bar Mitzvah of Simon Worth
5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service:
Bar Mitzvah of Zane Borenstein

Sun Apr 17

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School
9:15am Women's Oasis
11:00am Or Chadash Choir
11:15am Cooking for the Homeless

Mon Apr 18

11:00am Current Events
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Tue Apr 19

10:00am WAJE
11:00am Mitzvah knits

Wed Apr 20

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

Thu Apr 21

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

Fri Apr 22 OFFICE CLOSED NO SHABBAT SERVICES

Passover First Seder

Sat Apr 23

Shabbat Lift
9:00am Coffee & Community
9:30am Study
11:00am Service
Passover Second Seder

Sun Apr 24

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Mon Apr 25

7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Wed Apr 27

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
10:30am Mah Jongg

Thu Apr 28

9:30am Jewish Meditation
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages
7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting
7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Fri Apr 29

OFFICE CLOSED

10:00am Yizkor Service
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods (No Crafts)
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

Sat Apr 30

Shabbat Lift

9:00am Coffee & Community
9:30am Study

"The one name to remember...
When it's time to remember."



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