



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT SYNAPLEX!

Friday, February 27, 2015

Featuring:

Explorations in Jewish Music: "A Time for Singing"

Come and join Cantor Tracey Scher and our own Cantor David Rosen as they explore some of the incredible sounds of the season. From twists on your favorite holiday melodies to the beautiful music that surrounds the falling of the snow, prepare to enjoy this refreshing hour that will warm your toes and soothe your soul!

The Main Event: Screening of "Girl Trouble"

Come see an intimate award-winning PBS documentary by directors Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko. The film goes beyond the statistics and chronicles four years in the lives of three teenage girls struggling to free themselves from San Francisco's complex and flagging juvenile justice system. Q&A and discussion following the screening with "Orange is the New Black" star, Alysia Reiner.

See Page 9 for Reservation Form.

SAVE THE DATE

Purim, March 4th, 2015

Adult Drama Club Musical Purim Spiel

"You Can't Stop the Spiel—A Broadway Megillah"

Come enjoy your favorite cast of characters as Broadway meets Shushan in this 21st century blockbuster. You will enjoy music with a lyrical twist from some of your favorite shows including: Wicked, Avenue Q, Camelot and Hairspray! Tony hopefuls include: "Everybody's a Little Bit Jewish" and "Defying Depravity."

We hope that you will join us for this toe-tapper, sing-a-longable show for the entire family! Megillah reading, carnival, Purim heroes (sandwiches), and activities for all!

See page 16 for more details.

PLEASE NOTE: the Cushman Road entrance to the temple DOES NOT get plowed when it snows. For your safety, please use the main entrance on Soundview Avenue.

SERVICES

Friday, February 6

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS** in Atrium
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 7

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**

Friday, February 13

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS** in Atrium
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 14

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**

Friday, February 20

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS** in Atrium
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 21

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**

Friday, February 27

5:00pm **SYNAPLEX**
 5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS** in Atrium
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 28

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**

The Open Meeting of the Nominating Committee

will be held on
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm
 in the Chapel

Chairs:

Ronnie Cohn and Mark Seiden
Immediate Past Presidents

Board Members:

Michael Goldban Susan Kohn

Non-Board Members:

Kevin Cohen Andrew Falk
 Margie Lewis Debbi Marcus
 Daryl Moss

Weekly Torah Portions for February

Week ending February 7, 2015

Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

Yitro, also known as Jethro, is Moses' father-in-law. He observes the toll that Moses' leadership of the Hebrews is taking and advises Moses to delegate some of the responsibility and authority. In this *parasha*, the people find themselves at the base of Mount Sinai after several weeks of wandering. This is the site where God presents Moses with the Ten Commandments.

Week ending February 14, 2015

Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

This *parasha* continues the presentation of Divine legislation (the Torah). The word *mishpatim* means "case laws" and many such decrees—comprising civil, criminal, and cultic regulations—are detailed in this chapter. A covenant ceremony on Mount Sinai concludes this week's *parasha*.

Week ending February 21, 2015

Parashat Teruma Exodus 25:1-27:19

Parashat Teruma describes the construction of the Tabernacle. God gives meticulously detailed instructions regarding the elements and design of the Tabernacle, particularly the Holy Ark. Each individual is asked to contribute towards its building materials and furnishings as he or she is motivated.

Week ending February 28, 2015

Parashat T'tzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10

The rituals surrounding the priests and sacrifice are described, and the obligations of Aaron and his sons are enumerated in *Parashat Tetzaveh*. This *parasha* has the distinction of being the only *parasha* in the last four books of the Torah in which the name of Moses does not appear.

February Is From *Febrile* (Fever)

There is a reason that Mardi Gras, Carnavale and Purim all fall in the months of February and March. Spring is on its way, and so is spring fever. Deep down and way back, all these holidays share an ancient source, that of Mother Earth coming back to life, and the celebration of (the earth's) fertility—and in particular, a celebration of the body of a woman. Purim, too? Yes—but that story is for another time.

For now, let's focus just on the craziness of mask and disguise, masculine and feminine. Biblical law prohibits cross-dressing. ("A woman must not put on man's apparel, nor shall a man wear woman's clothing". *Deuteronomy* 22:5) I acknowledge that there are many Biblical laws whose literal interpretation we do not accept, others that are not relevant, and still others that run counter to our ethical sensibilities. Even so, it is particularly curious that on the holiday of Purim, the laws against cross-dressing are deliberately reversed. (Whew!, says I, who has been Charlie Chaplin, Edward Scissor-yads, among others.)

Purim is a holiday of masquerade, and all is not as it seems. The wise king turns out to be foolish; the shy maiden ends up courageous (not to mention sexy). So much is over-turned on Purim.

Though Purim is fantasy, something about it touches the center of our psyche. What masks do we wear? What identities remain hidden? What combination of male and female are cloistered within each of us?

February and March bring us two exceptional Synaplex evenings—and Purim, as well. February 27th will see the screening of a PBS documentary, *Girl Trouble*—on three adolescent girls struggling to find themselves in the juvenile justice system, while demolishing the stereotypes (the masks) of juvenile delinquents. The Q&A following the film will be moderated by *Orange is the New Black* star, Alysia Reiner.



Wednesday night, March 4th, is Purim. Carnival, Carnavale, Masquerade, the whole thing. You don't want to miss it.

The March Synaplex, Friday night March 20th, brings us to the heart of masquerade, identity and gender. What happens if we are a man in a woman's body, or a woman in a man's body? How do we find and reclaim ourselves? Our speaker is Zackary Drucker, artist in her own right and co-producer of the series, *Transparent*. Zackary will speak about the intersection of being trans and Jewish.

For all of us, I hope we will have the chance to reflect on the masks we wear and the people we want to be.

Shi

The Bible or Science? Creation or Evolution? *What's a Jew to Think?!*

It used to be only an occasional thing when someone would ask, "What do we Jews believe, the creation story in Genesis or science and evolution?" It's a natural question that would pop up into most thoughtful peoples' minds at some point. But, sadly, in the last few years more and more people will ask, "Do we believe in science or the Bible?"

A couple of decades ago it was mostly a casual question. People would study evolution in school, notice that it differed from the creation story they heard in Hebrew School, and so they'd ask. Sadly, as fundamentalist religious thinking has wormed its way into the national political scene, what was once an interesting philosophical and theological conversation between kids and parents and rabbis and teachers has become a hot potato, a political, red/blue issue. It's no longer only in the Bible Belt and other regions of fundamentalist thinking. Increasingly many of our own kids are challenged in school by fellow students and sometimes teachers, to choose belief in one OR the other.

Creation or evolution? You know what, as far as I'm concerned it's a silly question. And it's not a very Jewish question either. To ponder the value of each and consider how they co-exist is a valid and worthwhile Jewish conversation. But to have to take sides? To feel that you need to declare that one is right and the other wrong? That's not a

Jewish approach. Actually, for the majority of Jews in the world, it's kind of a dumb question. There's a long tradition of Jewish thinkers—from the Talmud to Maimonides to the present—who see the Torah as "presenting a spiritual account of why the world came into being and what our role is in it."



The Torah teaches us why the world was created, as well as guiding us in our relationship to this creation. Torah can help us understand our responsibility as human beings vis-à-vis the other creatures of the world, and even our responsibility to the planet itself. It is ancient and magnificent poetry that helps us to grapple with the spiritual, mystical and pure awesomeness of this universe.

So, if you are a young person fascinated by the science of evolution and enthralled by the beauty of the Torah's sacred story of the creation, know this: Judaism invites you to be a caring and spiritual Jew, captivated by the wisdom and poetry of Genesis, as well as a Nobel Prize winning scientist in the field of evolution. Genesis OR science? There's plenty of room for both. Go for it!

Shi

Curling with the Cantor

Growing up in Canada, there is a general assumption that one should play hockey or at the very least be an avid hockey fan. Whether you are part of the Leaf/Habs rivalry or you fancy the Canucks, there seems to be an expectation that you sit on one side of the boards or the other.

Slightly embarrassed, I am ok to admit that I am not really a hockey fan. I have been to a couple of games, and while I find them interesting, the sport has never really captured my attention in a meaningful way. The truth is that winter sports in general have never been something that have spoken to me. I don't ski, snowboard, or create snow sculptures. I do, however, love to curl.

Curling has become much more popular in recent years as both a winter sport and as a wonderful social opportunity to gather together with friends and colleagues. First invented in Scotland in the 16th century, curling has become an international past-time over the past five decades. Curling is a "team" sport in every sense of the word and this is probably why many companies have used it as a professional development tool in an effort to break the ice and build relationships between employees.

The first time I curled was when I was in middle school. It was part of a winter activity elective and I thought I'd give it a whirl. I was somewhat apprehensive to try this sport as I was never good on the ice, and while I enjoyed baseball, this was nothing like swinging a bat. What I remember liking most about curling was that the game is an equalizer between generations, gender and people of various athletic ability. You could be

an Olympic track star, but not be able to hold a broom to a 75 year old experienced curler.

I was fortunate enough to find curling again in my life about 7 years ago, when I was invited by a colleague to join an "interfaith clergy curling league." Every Monday, 40 or so of us would gather at the Avondale Curling Club in Ajax, Ontario and forget about our busy lives, as we took to the ice. The friendships and bonds we developed with each other being on that ice together were just as, if not more, enjoyable than the curling itself.

Have I convinced you to try it yet? If I have, that's wonderful... and if not, I urge you to come out and curl with us on Saturday March, 21st from 1-4pm at the Ardsley Curling Club. While I would love to have as many people as possible at what I hope is the first of many outings, the maximum number of curlers we can have is 24 at one time.

All you need is the desire to try something new and fun...

Please see page 10 for all the details. Oh, I almost forgot...don't forget to wear warm clothing!

Looking forward to seeing you on the ice!



Thanks For The Memories. . . by Jane Friedberg

A big THANK YOU to those who joined me at my farewell service, and who shared their thoughts in the beautiful book that I will treasure forever. In addition thanks to those who took the time to send me thoughtful letters and cards, or dropped by my office to wish me luck. I am so lucky to have been a part of this wonderful congregation.

For those of you who missed my retirement service, here are a few excerpts from my farewell speech...

It was one of my first weeks on the job as the new Executive Director of the, then JCC of White Plains. Two older gentlemen came into my office and wanted to rent space for a Variety Show in July. I checked the temple calendar and finding nothing happening on the date requested, I filled out the necessary paperwork and took their deposit. Only later did I find out that "Variety Show" was a code word for something else.

On the appointed date in July I arrived at the temple to find the parking lot filled with RV's. Someone on my staff while laughing said, "Jane there's an elephant in that RV." "Come on," I replied, "are you kidding?" "No. I swear there's an elephant. Go look." Oh my god there was an elephant, and in addition, there were several monkeys, a camel, and some dogs.

"Well," I thought to myself, "that's it, I might as well start packing up my office right now." The show's manager said, "Don't worry if the elephant doesn't fit through the front doors—it can't be in the show." I said, "Someone get a tape measure. Measure the elephant and measure the doors." "I think it will work," said the elephant keeper, as the elephant walked right through the front doors. "I promise you nothing will happen," the manager kept saying. "This is a perfectly trained elephant."

I won't keep you in suspense. As they say in Show Business, "the show must go on." And it did.

It was an adorable one ring circus, the monkeys roller skated, the dogs danced, the elephant blew her nose with a hankie, and as promised the elephant did not do what I was worried about.

There were two performances that afternoon. At the end of the first show I had a meeting with then-President John Laemle who came into my office with a strange look on his face. "Jane," he said, "I had a glass of wine with dinner tonight and I guess I drank more than I thought because as I came through the social hall I thought I saw an elephant in the Auditorium." "Really?" I said. He never knew.

So here is a little bit of what I have learned in the last 22 years. Kol Ami is gifted with a talented and dedicated staff. A staff that is willing to take chances on new and innovative ideas to keep Kol Ami a vibrant congregation, connecting its members to Judaism in dynamic and unique ways. Events like The Trials of Abraham and King David are good examples of this. These two events made the richness of Torah come alive for the hundreds of people who attended.

Coupled with the work of the staff are the many member volunteers who give hours of their time to help support bringing our programs and ideas to life. As Hillary Clinton wisely said, "It takes a village."

In closing I want to wish Jessica Lorden much happiness in her role as the new Executive Director. I hope that she enjoys it as much as I have. Jess, I have one piece of vital information that I forgot to give you. It doesn't matter what temperature you set the thermostat at in the Sanctuary. Someone will always be TOO HOT OR TOO COLD.

From Our President

I hope that everyone is surviving the cold and that you've taken some time to come to Kol Ami to share in the warmth of our community. And I especially hope that you were one of the over 300 people who were with us on Friday, January 16 as we honored our retiring Executive Director, Jane Friedberg. It was a truly wonderful night as we celebrated all that Jane has meant to us over the past 22 years. When you see Jane, ask her about the elephant! And stop by the office when you're at the temple and welcome our new Executive Director, Jess Lorden. She's excited about meeting everyone and continuing the wonderful traditions started by Jane and her predecessors.

The big focus of the officers and the Board at this time of the year is the budget. Believe it or not, during our Leadership Development program, one of the two most popular programs is on the budget as the participants are fascinated to learn that there is so much that they had no idea about. So, I thought that I would give you a little background on the budget process and what the budget actually contains. Don't worry, this won't require an advance accounting degree or a job at one of the Big 4 accounting firms. Rather, it just requires an interest in the financial health of our congregation.

The process starts at the end of the year when our Treasurer, Jonathan Litt, recruits a group of volunteers to help him research and put together the budget. This year the committee includes Jeff Gelfand, Howard Geller, Martin Kahn, and Andrew Levenson. These dedicated volunteers meet with the staff, Department Heads and Clergy to figure out the revenue that each department will generate over the coming year, as well as the expenses that they will incur. All of these numbers are then compiled into two components of the budget – Revenue and Expense.

The next step is for the Revenue Budget to be presented to the Executive Committee. We review the numbers and the assumptions on which those numbers are based. Once we've refined the Revenue Budget, we submit it to the Board at the February meeting. It's at this time that dues are set for the coming year. When the Board has approved the Revenue side, we now know exactly how much each department can actually spend in the coming year.

The budget team then takes those numbers and refines the Expense Budget by once again meeting with staff, Department Heads and the

Clergy to fine tune each expense item. The process then repeats itself for the Expense Budget. At the end of the March Board meeting, we have the Budget that we then send out to the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting.



Photo by Mariela Melamed

So, why did I tell you all of that? I wanted to give you a sense of the process so that you can understand the real story. The real story is what's in the Budget itself. So, here are the critical parts of the Budget that are easy to miss. While the total Revenue for this year (2014/2015) is projected to be \$4,007,100, only \$1,768,975 of that is dues. That's only 44% of the total! So, where does the rest of the revenue come from? Our schools account for 41% of our total revenue, most of which comes from the ECP. The remaining 15% comes from other sources of revenue, such as fundraising (the Annual Fund only brings in 4% of our total revenue and that's the second most that we've ever raised!), facilities rentals, and miscellaneous fees. And where does the money go? The two biggest categories of expenses are personnel (i.e., salaries and benefits) and building expenses (i.e., maintenance and utilities). And most of these expenses are fixed or out of our control (i.e., utilities), so there is little improvement that we can make on the Expense side. We do take whatever steps we can to cut down on our expenses, such as rebidding our liability insurance this year which saved us over \$15,000!

Where that leaves us is with a budget that is balanced but is subject to the vagaries of items outside of our control (i.e., fuel costs and the harshness of the winter). The Board constantly evaluates our financial condition and looks for ways to improve it. Clearly, any increase in donations and other fundraising will act as a buffer. That is why our Premium Dues initiative is so critical to our financial well-being, as it's a way for you to contribute to our financial stability while receiving a myriad of benefits. We welcome your comments once you receive the budget for next year, and I hope that this background gives you a greater understanding of the process and final product.

L'shalom.

Handwritten signature: Hame

SAVE-THE-DATE!

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?
Contact Genna Farley at Genna.Farley@gmail.com.

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 Religious School

February... the cold, dark, SHORT month! Even so, there is lots of activity in our school. Grade level book club discussions have begun and Family Shabbats are well under way. Join us as we welcome in the Shabbat of Inclusion with our Yad B'Yad students at services on Friday, February 6th. Our 6th Graders will lead a Shabbat morning service with their families as they continue their journey toward becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, February 28th. Everyone is always welcome at any Shabbat service. Join us!

Even though it seems like Purim is ages away, it's right around the corner! Purim baskets are on sale, and a great way to celebrate this wonderful holiday and share the joy with family, friends and teachers! Our Purim Carnival will take place on Wednesday, March 4th with games, activities, a community shpiel and the reading of the Magillah. An evening not to be missed!

Over the February break, Tom, Josh and I will be leading a group of 18 high school students on a trip of learning, service and adventure in Costa Rica. Stay tuned for stories and pictures from what promises to be an amazing trip.

Our weekly newsletter, *The Gold Standard*, is emailed home every week and filled with info about what's happening in our school. *The Gold Standard* is also posted on the Kol Ami facebook page, so if you haven't yet "liked" us, please check it out.



With the possibility of winter weather always in the background, please remember you can check for weather related closings on our website at www.nykolami.org and remember, if there is snow, the back driveway and parking lot (off Cushman Road) is closed.

Our school is filled with learning and exploring! If you haven't gotten involved in anything lately, stop in and visit our monthly Religious School Committee meeting. The February meeting is Sunday, Feb. 8th. Joining our school committee is a great way to learn about all the amazing things going on in our school and hopefully will inspire you to get involved!

Felice



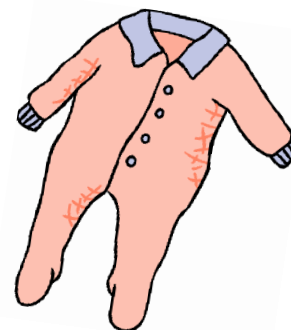
The Early Childhood Program of Congregation Kol Ami Invites all families with young children to A Havdalah and Sh'ma Pajama Party!



Join Nan Blank, Rachel Edelson and
Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Saturday Afternoon, February 7, 2015
4:30 – 5:30 PM

Enjoy the Sweetness of Havdalah with Family and Friends!
Crafts, Family Learning and Snack

Come in your Pajamas!



Admission: Please bring a new pair of Children's Pajamas to be donated to the local family shelter.

Reserve your place today by calling Nan Blank at 949-4717 x107 or email nanblank@nykolami.org

From the Director of the Early Childhood Program

*Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
It comes right back to you...*

And that's just what we're learning everyday in the ECP! February especially is filled with wonderful opportunities in the ECP to share our love.

Beginning on February 2nd and extending throughout the entire month, our families will have the opportunity to donate new items for infants and toddlers including bottles, formula, baby food, shoes, and clothing. Our collection will be donated to the homeless shelters in Westchester at the end of the month. If you would like to partner with us, please drop off any of these much-needed items in the cradle outside the ECP office anytime during the month.

On Tuesday, February 3rd we will be sponsoring a wonderful program through the generosity Sara and Michael Elkin, one of our ECP Family's. Former Captain Luis Carlos Montalvan and his Service Dog, Tuesday, will be talking with our 4's and 5's about understanding and accepting people with disabilities. Mr. Montalvan will be reading his book, *Tuesday Tucks Me In*, to the children and answering questions they will have for him and Tuesday, too!

On **Wednesday, February 4** the whole day will be set aside to celebrate the holiday of **Tu B'Shevat**. Here at our Early Childhood Program all of our 2's, 3's, 4's, and Pre-K children will participate in a morning of holiday related activities culminating with a Tu B'Shevat Seder, where we will taste fruits and drink juices in 4 different shades to represent each season.

On **Friday, February 6th** we will be hosting our annual **Caregiver's Shabbat**. This is always a wonderful way to start our month of giving.

All of our families' caregiver's are invited to join us for Shabbat to enjoy our songs and prayers with us and of course the delicious Challah that we bake!



Wednesday, February 11th the nursery school will be sponsoring our annual **Share the Love Mitzvah Bake Sale**. The Bake Sale will take place in our Auditorium from 9:00-9:45 am and the entire Kol Ami community is invited and encouraged to join us for coffee and treats. The monies earned from this event are used for our Mitzvah Morning Project to be held at the end of May this year with the preschool children from The Center for Learning of New Rochelle. Last year we invited the Center's 3 and 4 year olds to come and play with us. Each of the children who came to visit received a new book, made a new friend, and enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat. We were also able to buy their school two new tricycles for their playground. It was a wonderful morning for everyone and we look forward to the children's visit again this year.

On **Thursday, February 26th** our 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's will participate in our eighth annual **Book Swap**. Each child brings in 2 books to share—they can pick one from the selection to keep and the rest of the books are donated to the shelters in our area.

February promises to be our month of sharing, caring, learning, and holiday fun!

*It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it close and you won't have any,
Lend it, spend it, give it away,
It comes right back to you...*

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: *Shemot*

We are now reading from the book of Exodus in the Torah, *Shemot*, in Hebrew. *Shemot* means “names”. The beginning of the book lists the names of the descendants of Jacob, then tells the story of Moses. Moses first encounters God at the burning bush.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Yitro, in the wilderness of Saini. The Torah says:

An angel of God appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. [Moses] gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. Moses said, “I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn’t the bush burn up?” When God saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush: “Moses! Moses!” He answered, heneini, “Here I am.”

At first, it was an angel of God in the burning bush. Moses stopped and looked. In an odd way, he stopped and smelled the roses. He noticed the bush and the flame, and wondered why it didn’t turn to ashes. In my mind, God then liked what he saw and God, not the angel, called to Moses. And Moses responded to that call. God instructed Moses to take off his shoes as he is standing in a holy place. God identifies God’s self as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This passage tells us to remember to stop, look and listen. Try to notice even the littlest things.

Among the topics discussed at the URJ Biennial in December, 2013, was one on the Pew Judaism Survey, specifically regarding religious affiliation and temple membership. One of the speakers talked about going to different congregations in the L.A. area when she first arrived in the city. She had been to several temples where no one acknowledged her. When she talked about a congregation where she was welcomed, her voice had joy in it at the telling. She was noticed and welcomed. I know we try to do that here at Kol Ami. However, we also need to notice when someone who you expect to see isn’t here. Notice a smile or a frown, a slight emotion in someone’s voice as they’re speaking, or their silence.

Moses later asks for God’s name. God says, “Ehyeh asher ehyeh”. In many Torah commentaries, this phrase is never translated. When it is, translations include: “I am that I am,” or “I will be what I will be.” It is almost Shakespearean: “What’s in a name?” So the book begins with *Shemot*, names, but later, God’s name doesn’t matter.

Do our names matter more than God’s? Whether one says “God” or “Allah” or “Adonai” or “HaShem”, we all know about whom we’re taking. The name doesn’t matter as much as what it represents to us. But with people, it’s different.

When I was growing up, I hated my name, last and first. My mother loved music, and chose “Myra” after Dame Myra Hess, a British pianist. It was too different, and Dame Hess meant nothing to me. And with my last name, too hard for others to spell and pronounce, it made me feel . . . less.

As Jews, we also receive a Hebrew name. My Hebrew name is Malka Chaya, after my mother’s mother and grandmother. Unlike my legal name, I always liked this Hebrew name. It means, “Queen of Life,” and connected me to people who meant something to my mother, and to the Jewish people as a whole.

During a baby naming, we often hear the stories of how the parents decided on the English and Hebrew names. But that’s often the last time we hear it. I don’t think I know the Hebrew names of most of my Jewish friends. Many of us don’t have Hebrew names that can be easily guessed from English names. Even so, you can’t assume that the Hebrew name for someone named Adam is Adam. In fact, my nephew’s name is Adam but his Hebrew name is Shimmon, after my grandfather. When asked about giving a child a Hebrew and English name, my grandfather, a rabbi, said you could name your child Ishkabibble if you wanted. That wasn’t the name by which he’d be called to have an Aliyah or read from the Torah.

As I matured, I appreciated that I was the only “Myra Oltsik” around. But mispronunciations still bother me, because, I think, those mispronunciations make me feel less important. I’m sure I’m not the only one who feels this way. Our names are how we are noticed and recognized by other people.

What if, at some future event, instead of putting our regular names on name tags, we put our Hebrew names. We could ask people for the stories their parents told at their naming, and make a closer personal connection to one another. We can make all our names, our *Shemot*, important, noticing our fellow congregants at the same time.

Our job as people and congregants is to stop, smell the roses, and call a rose, a rose.

This article was written by Myra Oltsik.

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



FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Friday evening schedule:

5:00 pm

Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen and special guest Cantor Tracey Scher

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

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GUESTS...

Explorations in Jewish Music

A Time for Singing

Come and join Cantor Tracey Scher and our own Cantor David Rosen as they explore some of the incredible sounds of the season. From twists on your favorite melodies to the beautiful music that surrounds the falling of the snow, prepare to enjoy this refreshing hour that will warm your toes and soothe your soul!

The Main Event -

Screening of "Girl Trouble"

Come see an intimate award-winning PBS documentary by directors Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko. The film goes beyond the statistics and chronicles four years in the lives of three teenage girls struggling to free themselves from San Francisco's complex and flagging juvenile justice system. Q&A and discussion following the screening with "Orange is the New Black" star, Alysia Reiner.

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

ASL Interpretation upon Request



CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI
252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606
NO LATER THAN FEB 25, 2015

SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING
SYNAPLEX EVENTS...
March 20 & May 1

"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 = \$ _____

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Name/s & Ages _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

Please seat me with _____

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



The Membership Committee
Presents:

CURLING WITH THE CANTOR

A fun Afternoon on the Ice for
the Competitive Man



Saturday March 21st, 2015

1-4pm

Ardsley Curling Club

100 North Mountain Drive

Dobbs Ferry, NY 10503

Cost: \$60 includes instruction, game, all equipment and lunch!

Max space of 24 participants---first come first serve!

Please RSVP to Cantor Rosen at

cantordavid@nykolami.org or Gary Zambardino at

gzambardino@aol.com by Tuesday March 3, 2015





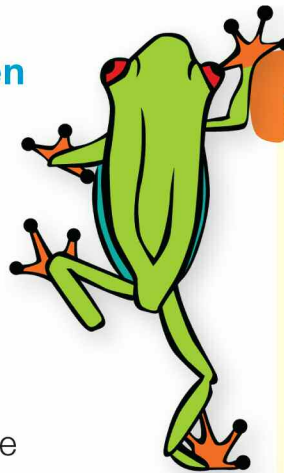
SUN AND FUN

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!



The Early Childhood Program Invites Everyone to Join Us at Our Annual Share the Love Mitzvah Bake Sale



Wednesday, February 11th from 9:00-9:45 in the Auditorium

"There's a Mitzvah we like to do. You can learn to do it, too. Just some baked goods is all it takes, for you to do the Bake Sale Bake — bake, bake, bake, bake, bake."

All Treats: \$1.00 The Morning: Priceless!

Everyone is Welcome! See you there!

Kol Ami's High School Youth Group (KATY) MIDNIGHT RUN Saturday, February 28, 2015 AND Saturday, March 28, 2015

WE NEED YOUR HELP! ALL High School-Aged Teens Welcome!

Please donate the following for the Homeless:

4 cans of Coffee; Bottled Water (2 cases); 150 coffee cups with lids; 150 spoons;
5 (28 oz. jars) Peanut Butter; 3 (32 oz. jars) Jelly; 100 Fruit Cups; 100 Juice Boxes; 100 granola bars;
120 Large / Oversized Brown Sandwich Bags

Food items should be high protein, non-perishable, and in unopened packages

Clothing

Sleeping bags, Winter Jackets (L/XL, dark colors preferred), Jeans (size 32-40 & above) Tube Socks, Jockey-style underpants (32-42), women's briefs, Shoes (sizes 9 & above- hiking boots & sneakers), Men's & Women's sweatshirts & sweaters (L/XL), Tshirts (M-XL any color), dress shirts, ski gloves/knit hats/scarves (dark colors), new socks, long underwear (large sizes), belts, backpacks

Toiletries

Small sized items only: Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, washcloth, razor, shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm or moisturizer, feminine hygiene products; 50 gallon-sized zip lock bags

Please drop off donations by Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Kol Ami.

Donations may be placed in the collection bin located in outside the Youth Director's office just past the Rabbis' Study. Any questions? Please contact Director of Youth Engagement,
Josh Rosenthal: josh@nykolami.org, (914) 949-4717 x11

ECP Families Sponsor First Monthly Coachman Birthday Party

If you've ever had a birthday party, you know how special it feels to be celebrated and embraced by family and friends. Our Kol Ami community came together in January to remind the children at the Coachman Family Center that every birthday is reason to celebrate with the warm wishes of our extended family.



On Sunday, January 11th, ECP families Sharon and Jeff Cohen, Maggie and Michael Winter and their children sponsored our first monthly birthday party at the Coachman Family Center. Our sponsors decorated the room and provided pizza, juice and cake for 40 children. Toshindo Karate donated an interactive demonstration of karate punches,

kicks and training exercises. The Karate Master shared inspirational words about practice, hard work and the value of dreams. He ended his demonstration by assisting the birthday children in cutting the cake with his sword.

The Cohen and Winter children enjoyed handing out goody bags and birthday gifts. As the party ended, one of our sponsors asked her young son what they should do with his Superman gloves that were being admired by one of the Coachman children. After a brief moment of reflection, this thoughtful young boy from within our community decided to leave the gloves behind for his friend to wear until perhaps they meet again.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts, supplies and time for this inaugural party. This was a true community effort, reflected in the pictures but we would like to specifically thank our sponsor families: Jeff and Sharon Cohen, and Michael and Maggie Winter for their contributions and Annie Rotberg for her support; Toshindo Karate and Karate Master Don LaMattina for the entertainment; Rachel Eckhaus and Strauss Paper for the party supplies; Felice Miller Baritz, Susan Arovas and Jen Labovitz for their help with gift collection, wrapping and goody bags; Nan



Blank and the ECP community for their gift drive; the Religious School children who made birthday cards and goody bags and helped wrap gifts; and the broader Kol Ami community who so generously donated gifts and gift cards.



If you are interested in sponsoring a party at the Coachman or want to be more involved in this initiative, please contact: Diane Litvak (dmlitvak@mac.com), Alison Adler (aadler3@verizon.net) or Annie Rotberg (annie.rotberg@gmail.com). We would also welcome donations of the following items as we prepare for future parties.

- New gifts for children aged 3 -15
- \$25 gift cards for teens
- Birthday themed gift wrap and curling ribbon
- Small, clear, cellophane bags to be used as goody bags
- Individually wrapped candy and decorative stickers for inclusion in goody bags

There are designated Coachman Birthday Bins in the lobby at the entrance to the Religious School. Gift cards may be left with Jess Lorden in the main office or Felice Miller Baritz in the Religious School office.

YOU can make a difference!



You Are Invited

For our 1980s
"B'nai Mitzvah Throwback"
ECP Fundraiser

Thursday, February 5, 2015
at 7:30pm
in the Atrium

Cocktail Attire

Hors d'oeuvres
Carving Stations
Cocktails
Dessert
Dancing

Congregation Kol Ami
252 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY
10606
914.949.4717
xt. 107

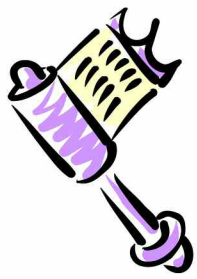
Shabbat and Havdalah with Friends

We can all agree that "Shabbat and Havdalah with Friends" has been a resounding success. In order to keep this wonderful tradition going we need more hosts and hostesses!

Please contact Ilene Miller at imillerkolami@gmail.com
or 949-4717 x115 to select a date to host a meal!

**The next Shabbat dinner is at the home
of Lisa Borowitz on Friday, March 6th.**

Please contact Ilene Miller to sign up.



Celebrate Purim by sending a Purim greeting to friends AND family



Proceeds support the Kol Ami Religious School
and charities supported by the Kol Ami
Women of Reform Judaism.

Sending Purim greetings and contributing to tzedakah at the
same time is a great way to celebrate Purim and let friends,
family and teachers know that you are thinking of them.

*Access to the Purim Project website has been emailed
and baskets will be delivered the week before Purim.
Order deadline is February 9th*



Sample Purim basket. Actual basket may vary.

Need help, have questions, didn't get your email?
Contact Judy Sarch at 565-2128 or email JudySarch@gmail.com

Wednesday March 4th, 2015 Purim

Adult Drama Club Musical Purim Spiel
"You Can't Stop the Spiel"

Fun for all ages...

- * Carnival, games, face painting, crafts and activities for all!
- * Purim Heroes (sandwiches)
- * Purim Service and Megillah Reading
- * Israeli Dancing with Shmulik

Hamantashen

Come in
Costume!

Carnival tickets will ONLY
be sold
at the Carnival
\$1.00/ticket
Don't forget to bring cash!

5:00-6:30 pm

- ◇ Purim Heroes (sandwiches)
- ◇ Carnival

6:30ish

- ◇ Purim Service
- ◇ Megillah Reading
- ◇ Purim Spiel: **You Can't**

Stop the Spiel

8:00 pm

- ◇ Israeli dancing with Shmulik
- ◇ Hamantashen

Instead of groggers, please bring a box of pasta to shake and donate!!

RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER ARE REQUIRED!

Please complete and return the form below
to the main office no later than March 1st

Adult Name/s _____
Children's Names/Ages _____
Phone # _____ Email Address _____

#Guests (all ages) for Purim Dinner @ \$10 each _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

SNACKS & CARNIVAL TICKETS to be PURCHASED SEPARATELY at the CARNIVAL

Shabbat Across the World Pot Luck Dinner



at Kol Ami

Friday, March 13th, 2015

Following Shabbat Services

Sponsored by the Kol Ami Membership Committee

Join us for a family friendly international pot luck dinner.
It promises to be a fun and flavorful evening for all!

There are many ways to contribute -- bring something that pays tribute to your family heritage or reflects your cultural sensibility. Just make sure there is plenty to share. Questions? Call Susan Davis at 948-4763 or at susanhopedavis@gmail.com or Lisa Hochman at 834-1555 or lisahochman@mac.com. For those of you who would like to come and enjoy without bringing wine or a homemade dish -- we ask for \$18 per adult (kids eat free).

CLIP & RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN MARCH 10TH

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Names &

Ages _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

I will bring one of the following (fully prepared, ready to serve & in a disposable container).

Main dish _____ enough to serve 8 or more

Side dish _____ enough to serve 8 or more

Dessert _____ enough to serve 8 or more

Wine (red or white) _____ 1 or 2 bottles

To busy to cook? Enclosed is my check for \$18 per adult. Kids eat for free

Total # Adults: _____ Total # Kids: _____ Total Amt Enclosed: \$ _____

VOTE ARZA

REPRESENTING REFORM JUDAISM IN THE 2015 WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ELECTIONS

From January 13th through April 30th, 2015 – the World Zionist Organization will hold open voting for all Jews to help shape its agenda, including issues affecting both Diaspora Jews and the state of affairs in Israel. The World Zionist Congress is the highest legislative body of the World Zionist Organization, which provides a forum for all the world's Jews to come together and deliberate about critical issues.

Every Jew has the opportunity to vote for the platform that most aligns with their personal views.

A VOTE FOR ARZA-REPRESENTING REFORM JUDAISM IS A VOTE FOR:

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.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Efforts to achieve lasting peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the Middle East region should be pursued and should reflect the principles and values of the Reform Movement.

A CALL TO VOTE

VOTE!

Visit ReformJews4Israel.org and we'll help you cast your vote for ARZA-Representing Reform Judaism in the WZO elections. By voting ARZA in the 2015 World Zionist Organization, you're taking the first step in shaping an equal, egalitarian and secure Israel for all.

SPREAD THE WORD

Spreading the word about the 2015 World Zionist Organization elections will be critical to our success. Share this flyer or email a link to ReformJews4Israel.org to your family and friends so they can learn more, vote, and help shape tomorrow's Israel today.

Voting occurs from January 13th through April 30th, 2015. A processing fee is \$10.00 USD (\$5.00 USD for anyone under 30) and offsets the cost of conducting the election. Requirements to register to vote: 1. You must be Jewish, 2. You must be 18 years or older by June 30, 2015, 3. You must be a resident of the United States.

VISIT REFORMJEWS4ISRAEL.ORG TO VOTE TODAY.



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

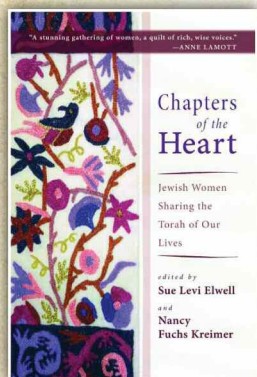
eisnercranelake.urjcamp.org
scitech.urjcamp.org

Torah reflects
on the past,
interprets today,
and envisions
our future.

Kol Ami Women's Oasis at Home

Realize the
relevancy of
Jewish text in
the context of
our everyday lives.

Stepping off from here...



Chapters of the Heart

Jewish Women Sharing the
Torah of Our Lives

*edited by Sue Levi Elwell and
Nancy Fuchs Kreimer*

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 • 7:30-9:30pm

Section I: All the Days of Our Lives (Psalm 27:4)

with Rabbi Shira Migrom

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sunday, December 7, 2014 • 9:15-11am

Section II: From the Narrow Places (Psalm 118:5)

with Dr. Ellen Umansky, *the Carl and Dorothy
Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies and Director
of the Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies
at Fairfield University, CT*

SCHULMAN CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

Thursday, March 5, 2015 • 7:30-9:30pm

Section III: Opening the Gates (Psalm 118:19)

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sunday, April 26, 2015 • 9:15-11am

Section IV: Be Still and Know (Psalm 46:10)

with Rabbi Pamela Wax, *WJCS Spiritual Care
Coordinator*

SCHULMAN CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

Register for the Oasis at Home Series Today

- ☐ Four sessions \$60
- ☐ Individual sessions \$18
- ☐ Session 1 - Tuesday, October 21, 2014
- ☐ Session 2 - Sunday, December 7, 2014
- ☐ Session 3 - Thursday, March 5, 2015
- ☐ Session 4 - Sunday, April 26, 2015

Books will be available for pick up in the Rabbi's
study starting on 9/1.

Refreshments will be served at each session.

TO REGISTER: Please print this flyer and return
with a check payable to KOL AMI. Mail to
Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue,
White Plains, NY 10606.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

For further information,
call Jill Abraham 472-5806
or Lauri Carey 472-8076.



Sisterhood invites you to attend our

Tu B'Shevat Seder

February 3rd, 7:30pm

Kol Ami

Learn, be inspired, snack on delicious nuts and fruits, and drink 4 cups of wine as we celebrate the holiday of the trees. Examine how food connects us to Jewish tradition, to the earth, to other people and to ourselves.

R.S.V.P.

by January 30th

www.NYKolAmi.org/Sisterhood

There is no charge but we must have your R.S.V.P.
so we know how much food to prepare





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 mitzvah.

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 need one or more of these services or would like to be included in our database of volunteers, please contact 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.

The Osborne, Theall Road, Rye, NY

Wednesday, February 11, 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: Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 26, May 3

Mondays at noon: Feb 2, Mar 2, 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 homebound 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



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM — *Gratitude*

The following is the opening prayer that was recited a couple of weeks ago during our Sisterhood Board meeting:

"God of our ancestors, we thank you for granting us life in this time and place. We thank you for the happy circumstance of being American Jewish women; for living in this blessed country where we have the freedom to worship openly without the fear of interference or reprisal; the freedom to live as Jews and to impart to our children the traditions and rich heritage of our people."

We yearn for the day when all peoples – women and men, Jews and non-Jews – enjoy the rights and opportunities which we American Jewish women exercise every day of our lives in this time and place." (modified from "Covenant of the Heart Prayers, Poems, and Meditations from the Women of Reform Judaism")

This time and place—in these difficult times, in light of the terrible terrorist attacks in France and additional threats in many other European nations—we are grateful for the many blessings we are privileged to enjoy in the here and the now. But there are other reasons for gratitude as well, reasons that are eternal and recurrent and seasonal. And we are entering a season during which we express our gratitude for renewal and

nature and trees, which we mark with the holiday of Tu B'Shevat.

Tu B'Shevat occurs this year on February 4th (beginning the evening of February 3rd). Its name is derived from the date on which it is celebrated and literally means the 15th of (the Jewish month) Shevat. Although, as this is written, we have a weather forecast of up to two feet of snow, Spring is coming to Israel. Tu B'Shevat connects us to Israel, celebrates the natural world, and provides us with an opportunity to express gratitude for the fruits of the earth, for everything that grows, and for the splendor of this intricate and varied universe in which we live.

The Tu B'Shevat seder is a tradition that was developed by the Kabbalists and is modeled on the Passover seder. We invite our women of Kol Ami to participate in Sisterhood's Tu B'Shevat seder on the evening of February 3rd. Come learn about this special holiday and enjoy eating fruits from four special categories and drinking four cups of wine or juice which will shift in color from white to dark red, reflecting the changes in the seasons. Special blessings, readings, and music will round out a very special evening.

Sheryl Brady

Judy Sarch

Rachel Eckhaus



Westchester's Outstanding Day Camp In Scarsdale, New York

A SUMMER TRADITION FOR 87 YEARS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 3-13

For Information, call (914) 949-8857, or visit our website at www.camphillard.com

- Full Day Programs for children ages 3 to 13
- Mini Day Program for 3 and 4 year olds
- Outstanding swim program in 7 heated pools designed for children
- Variety of team & individual sports taught by experienced instructors
- Performing and Creative Arts programs for all ages
- Many special events and activities
- Air-conditioned transportation and lunch and snacks provided daily

One Family

Four Generations

Established 1927

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, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, 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
Feb 9 & 23, Mar 9 & 23,
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

Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24, 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 11:00 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

Lunch and Learn in New York City

with Rabbi Tom Weiner

Issues ancient and modern with texts,
ancient and modern.

Fall, Winter and Spring session.

Dates and locations to be determined.

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

Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, & May 6

Welcome to Kol Ami's Winter Jewish Film Festival

Screening of Israeli films and films with Jewish content. Moderated by Roger Seti

February 9 at 7:30 pm

The Green Prince

Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of a top leader in Palestine's militant Hamas movement, spends a decade working as a mole for Israeli intelligence. In this gripping true-life drama, Yousef lives each day in immediate danger of torture and execution.

Kol Ami Reads Book Club

Officer and the Spy

by Robert Harris

February 4, 2015

The Boys in the Boat

by Daniel James Brown

March 4, 2015

Gilead

by Marilyn Robinson

April 1, 2015

All Our Names

by Dinaw Mengetu

May 6, 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, Feb. 19,
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

Adult Education *continued*

As a follow up to the Standing Room Only workshop on Forgiveness (Letting Go - from Yom Kippur afternoon) please join us for the two remaining workshops with the same gifted teacher and psychologist, Dr. Mimi Leibman

February 13

Dealing Effectively With Your Anger

March 6th

How to Talk so People Will Listen and Listen so People Will Talk

Dr. Mimi Leibman is President of the Staff Development Institute. Previously she was Co-Director of the Human Relations Institute of White Plains and the Assistant Director of Professional Development for the Yonkers Public Schools. Dr. Leibman received her B.A. from Brooklyn College and her Ph.D. in psychology from the City University of New York.

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

COMING IN MARCH!

MOVERS AND SHAKERS: Men and Women Who Made a Difference in American Jewish Life, 1800-1950

For more than three hundred and fifty years, there have been individuals whose actions have helped shape the course of American Jewish history. This three week session will focus on six such individuals: religious leader, author, and publisher, Isaac Leeser; educating pioneer, Rebecca Graetz;

Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, architect of Reform Judaism in America; Rabbi Kaufmann Kohler, author of the Reform movement's first major ideological statement of belief, the 1885 "Pittsburgh Platform"; banker, businessman, and philanthropist, Jacob Schiff; and

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, communal activist and Zionist leader.

Sunday Mornings, Mar. 8, 15 and 22 • 9:30—11:00 am • Schulman Chapel in the Woods

Dr. Ellen M. Umansky, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies, Fairfield University, CT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00am 1st Grade Book Club 9:00am K-6TH GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:15am Parenting Group 11:00am Or Chadash 11:00am Cooking For The Homeless 11:30am Teen Madrichim Institute	2 9:15am Grandparenting 12:00pm Cooking For The Homeless 7:30pm Prophets Seminar	3 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 7:30pm SISTERHOOD TU'B'SHVAT SEDER	4 7:45am Round Table Breakfast 9:00am KA Reads Book Club 9:45am WAJE 4:00pm 4TH-6TH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	5 12:00pm Teen Parenting 6:30pm Purim Spiel/Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00am Torah Study 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:00pm YAD B'YAD & PEER MENTOR FAMILY SHABBAT & DINNER 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	7 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 4:30pm HAVDALLAH IN PJs
8 9:00am 5th Grade Book Club 9:00am K-6TH GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:00am RS Committee Meeting 11:00am Or Chadash	9 11:00am Current Events 12:30pm Mussar Class 7:30pm Winter Movie-Screening of "The Green Prince"	10 11:30am Women in Transition 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 7:00pm Open Nominating Meeting 8:00pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah	11 9:45am WAJE 11:00am Mah Jongg 4:00pm 4TH-6TH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	12 9:30am Jewish Meditation 6:30pm Purim Spiel/Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting	13 10:00am Torah Study 11:30am DR. MIMI LEIBMAN WORKSHOP 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	14 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY ECP CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED	17	18 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:45am WAJE 11:00am Mah Jongg	19 9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Mitzvah Knits 6:30pm Purim Spiel/Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00am Torah Study 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	21 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
22 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	23 ECP REOPENS 11:00am Current Events 7:30am Prophets Seminar	24 12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 8:00pm Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah	25 9:45am WAJE 11:00am Mah Jongg 4:00pm 4TH-6TH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School	26 9:30am Jewish Meditation 6:30pm Purim Spiel/Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting	27 10:00am Torah Study 5:00pm SYNAPLEX 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	28 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 10:00am 6TH GRADE FAMILY SHABBAT, BRUNCH & B'NEI MITZVAH WORKSHOP 7:00pm Midnight Run

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to remember...**



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to remember.**

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**March
Connection Deadline
February 18, 2015**

Congregation Kol Ami
A Reform Synagogue
(914) 949-4717

*A Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism*

Rabbis

Shira Milgrom
328-4549

Tom Weiner
684-6991

Cantor:

David Rosen

Exec. Director:

Jessica E. Lordan

Religious School

Director:

Felice Miller Baritz

ECP Director:

Nan Blank

Program Manager:

Ilene Miller

President:

Hank Rouda

Rabbis

Lawrence W. Schwartz*

Emeriti:

Maurice Davis*

Mark L. Winer

Cantor Emeritus:

Raymond Smolover

**of blessed memory*



C O N G R E G A T I O N

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