

THE CONNECTION

Volume 5 ♦ February 2017

CONGREGATION KOL AMI'S ANNUAL BENEFIT

HEART & SOUL

FEATURING CANTORS
DAVID ROSEN
MO GLAZMAN
SHIRA ADLER
TRACEY SCHER
AND
LENORA EVE

A CONCERT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017
252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE, WHITE PLAINS

7-8 pm Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
8 pm Concert & Live Auction
10 pm Dessert & Coffee, Raffle Drawing

TICKETS

Overture 7-11pm <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 pp Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres, Concert, Dessert & Coffee	Encore 8-11pm <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 pp Concert, Dessert & Coffee	Heart & Soul Sponsor <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Concert, Dessert & Coffee PLUS a Reserved Table for 4 People
---	--	---

REGISTER ONLINE AT EVENTS.ORG: www.events.org/KOLAMI01
OR send a check payable to Congregation Kol Ami

PLEASE RESPOND BY FEBRUARY 1, 2017

***SPECIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE...
SEE PAGES 11-14***



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

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

RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

CANTOR

David Rosen

Executive Director • Jess Lorden

Religious School Director • Felice Miller Baritz

ECP Director • Nan Blank

President • Hank Rouda

RABBIS EMERITI

Lawrence W. Schwartz ∞

Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

COMMITTEES...

Premium Dues, Ellen Kurtz, Elizabeth Ward,

PremiumDues@nykolami.org

Food Pantry, Pam Millian, Pantry@nykolami.org

Calendaring, Rachel Eckhaus, BoardSecretary@nykolami.org

Adult Learning, Jennifer Lemberg, AdultEd@nykolami.org

B'nai Mitzvah, OPEN BnaiMitzvah@nykolami.org

College Youth, Stacey Matusow, CollegeYouth@nykolami.org

ECP, Cindy Musoff, ECP@nykolami.org

Green Team, Bonnie Hagen, GreenTeam@nykolami.org

Israel, Jack Berger, SupportIsrael@nykolami.org

Religious School, Jen Labovitz,

ReligiousSchoolParents@nykolami.org

Youth Groups, Karen Reynolds, YouthGroup@nykolami.org

Marketing, Leslie Wiesen, Marketing@nykolami.org

Inter-Faith Families,

WelcomeInterfaithFamilies@nykolami.org

Men's Council, Adam Hutter, MensCouncil@nykolami.org

Leadership Development, Michael Elkin, Lisa Borowitz,

LeadershipDevelopment@nykolami.org

Membership, Adrienne Pollak, Dana Ross,

Membership@nykolami.org

Retreat, Genna Farley, Retreat@nykolami.org

Worship, Sheryl Brady, Worship@nykolami.org

WRJ Sisterhood, Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus,

Stacey Matusow, Sisterhood@nykolami.org

Annual Fund, David Okun, AnnualFund@nykolami.org

Budget and Operating, Jeff Gelfand,

OperatingBudget@nykolami.org

Capital Budget, OPEN

CapitalBudget@nykolami.org

Digital Communication, Judy Sarch,

Webmaster@NYKolAmi.org

Dues Review, Martin Kahn, DuesReview@nykolami.org

Facilities, David Seicol, FacilitiesCommittee@nykolami.org

Personnel, OPEN Personnel@nykolami.org

Planned Giving, Howard Geller, Evelyne Klein,

PlannedGiving@nykolami.org

Social Justice, Jess Lorden, Laura Wilker,

Socialjustice@nykolami.org

Spring Fundraiser, Lori Abrams,

SpringFundraiser@nykolami.org

Coachman Family Center, Allison Adler, Lisa Hochman,

HelpTheCoachman@nykolami.org

Inclusion, Marci Frankenthaler, Beth Tomkiewicz,

Inclusion@nykolami.org

Inter-Faith Outreach, Julie Carran,

InterfaithOutreach@nykolami.org

Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack, Ginny Ruder,

KolAmiCares@nykolami.org

SHABBAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday Evening Services

Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families

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

Atrium

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

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

6:15 pm

Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Chapel in the Woods

Take My Hand...

Shabbat for all Generations

OUR RE-IMAGINED SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE

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

Chapel in the Woods

8:45am: Coffee, tea and kibbutzing

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

9:45am: Family Oneg with bagels and snacks

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

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

WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Week ending February 4, 2017 Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16 This *parasha* begins with a reiteration of God's challenge to Pharaoh to change his behavior while at the same time making it more difficult for him to do so. It concludes with the freeing of the Israelites from bondage. God tells Moses and Aaron that the people must remember how God freed them from bondage.

Week ending February 11, 2017 Parashat B'shalach Exodus 13:17-17:16 Pharaoh finally releases the Israelites from Egypt, only to change his mind again and chase after them with a force of 600 chariots. God parts the waters at the Sea of Reeds, and the Israelites are freed from slavery once and for all. The Egyptians who are pursuing them are drowned as the Sea of Reeds once again closes. The liberated Israelite slaves celebrate once they are safe on the other side, and are led by Moses' sister Miriam in singing and dancing *Mi Chamocha*.

Week ending February 18, 2017 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 25, 2017 Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18 The word *mishpatim* means "case laws." This week's *parasha* continues the presentation of Divine legislation (the Torah) and includes many decrees - comprising civil, criminal, and cultic regulations. The *parasha* ends with a covenant ceremony on Mount Sinai.

Shabbat Across the World at Kol Ami International Pot Luck Dinner



Sponsored by the Kol Ami Membership Committee
Friday, March 3rd, 2017 ~ Following Shabbat Services

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 a dish (*entrée, side or dessert*) that pays tribute to your family heritage or reflects your cultural sensibility. Or, just bring something your family loves to eat!! Make sure there is plenty to share!!

For those of you who would like to join us for a fun, social, and tasty evening, but are unable to bring food or wine, we ask for payment of \$18 per adult (*kids eat free!!*).

Questions? Contact Dana Ross (917-742-4831 - djross914@optonline.net) or Adrienne Pollak (914-582-7995 - Adrienne@cyburban.com).

=====

CLIP & RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN FEB 27TH

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

Tell us what you're bringing!! We will follow up for more detail to ensure we are able to disclose allergy-contents.

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

Prepared food should be enough to serve 8 or more; wine should be 1 or 2 bottles

Main dish _____

Side dish _____

Dessert _____

Wine (circle) RED WHITE

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

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

Purim

Saturday, March 11th, 2017

Adult Drama Club Musical Purim Spiel
Esther A Persian Musical:

A PURIM SPIEL PARODY OF "HAMILTON"

7:00pm Purim Service
Megillah Reading
Purim Spiel: Esther a Persian Musical:
A Purim Spiel Parody of "Hamilton"

8:30pm Hamantashen Dessert

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

The Children's Purim Carnival will take place on Sunday, March 12th from 9:30am - 12:00pm. Details to follow!

**THE
SISTERHOOD
GIFT
SHOP
AT KOL AMI**

OPEN SUNDAYS: 9-11
SOME WEDNESDAYS 4-6
or see Kay and Staci in the office

Kids Giant Matzah Ball
Inflates up to 19"



Passover Begins Sundown
Monday, April 10th

Yad B' Yad Family Shabbat of Inclusion & Dinner

*Please join the Yad B' Yad students
as they share special learning and help lead
the Shabbat service on*

Friday, February 3rd


Service begins at **6:15PM**
Dinner immediately after

~ RSVP by January 17th ~

*Simply reply to this email
with all the names of those who will be coming*

Cost: \$18.00 per person Additional guests are \$18 per adult
No costs for Yad B' Yad students
(checks payable to Congregation Kol Ami)

PLEASE let us know if you cannot attend!



B'NAI MITZVAH

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



Genna Alyssa Handel, daughter of Richard and Susanne Handel and older sister to Julia, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 4, 2017. Genna is a 7th grader at Eastchester Middle School. For her Mitzvah project, Genna has been involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. As co-captain of her relay team, she and her teammates raised over 10K dollars in an effort to raise awareness and money to help find a cure for cancer. The cause is one close to her heart as Genna has had many close relatives afflicted with the disease. In addition to her commitment to her Relay for Life team, Genna is active in both her school and community. She performs in school-based theatre productions, plays the saxophone in her school band, takes private piano lessons, participates in girl scouts, and plays soccer for her town recreational league.



Jesse Max Formica, son of Stephen and Dena Formica and brother to Samantha, Lauren and Harley, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 4, 2017. Jesse is in 7th grade at White Plains Highlands Middle School. Jesse spends most of his free time playing hockey for the White Plains Plainsmen and Modified team. In the summer Jesse attends Camp Kanawana in Mont St Sauveur, QC. and spends time in Montreal to practice hockey and spend time with his family. Jesse also plays lacrosse and enjoys swimming and biking. In school Jesse continues to excel as a student and enjoys social activities with his peers. Jesse has worked hard studying for his Bar Mitzvah and is looking forward to spending this special day with his family and friends.

A Message From Our Rabbis



RABBI SHIRA MILGROM

BAREFOOT – FROM MOSES TO MYANMAR

It is the week of the inauguration, and the weekly Torah portion is Shemot, the opening chapters of the book of Exodus. A fugitive from Egypt, Moses becomes a shepherd in the land of Midian. Herding his flock one day, Moses comes upon an unusual sight – a bush aflame. Spontaneous combustion isn't unusual in the heat of the desert, but Moses lingers for longer than usual – long enough to notice that the bush is not being consumed in the flame. When God sees that Moses has taken the extra time to look and to notice, the voice of God calls to Moses from within the flame.

“Moses! Moses!”

“Here I am – *hineini*.”

“Remove your shoes from upon your feet, for the place upon which you stand is holy ground.”

David and I spent the first two weeks of January in Southeast Asia, in Myanmar. One must remove shoes and socks before entering any temple or pagoda or any shrine containing a

Buddha image. We spent probably half the trip barefoot. So much of Myanmar/Burma is holy ground! Buddha images are tucked into niches, carved out of caves, standing or reclining on mountaintops, inside temple ruins from the 11th century and in living monasteries and temples built only recently. In all these places, our feet were in contact with earth, sometimes in slippery caves, sometimes on dusty roads, sometimes traversing rushing water. The sense of the sacred permeates everything – reminders of holiness are everywhere.

Our Torah texts note that Moses took the time to look. Amazing, wondrous things happen all around us (like life itself), but we are too busy to notice. Thousands of years after the Torah, British poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote (from “Aurora Leigh”):

“Earth is crammed with heaven
And every common bush afire with God
Only he who sees takes off his shoes
The rest sit ‘round and pluck blackberries.”

Holy ground is wherever we notice the mystery of life, whenever we find a way to bless life – in courage, in honesty, in gentleness, in compassion, in protest, in love, in joy.

Shira

RABBI TOM WEINER



ONE? OR THE OTHER? OR MAYBE BOTH??

It was a bit of an odd feeling at Kol Ami a couple of weeks ago when we had two very different and important experiences unfolding: well over 100 congregants made the significant journeys to Washington and New York City for the Woman's March; just as hundreds gathered in

our Sanctuary in the morning and evening for B'nai Mitzvah celebrations. Such very different and emotionally conflicting experiences.

Now, why in the world would I put that historic march in our country's life in the same thought as that historic celebration in of these two 13 year olds' families? Because that is the reality of our lives now and for the foreseeable future. On one hand, we have to interrupt the usual flow of our lives to speak up, gather, advocate and become involved in the direction of our nation. Yet, on the other hand, the usual celebrations of life and its many beautiful moments are even more important and vital to keep and observe.

Working to uphold the freedoms and values of the United States becomes even more poignant when considered alongside the worship and celebrations of our families and synagogue community. One informs and is strengthened by the other. It is a Jewish value to fight for the freedom of other religious communities; it is a Jewish value to fight for rights of the women and men in our communities; it is a Jewish value to protect and safely embrace the LGBT souls in our midst and in our towns; it is a Jewish value to organize to ensure that hatred is NOT tolerated IN OUR TOWNS.

And it will continue to be a sacred value that as we do the organizing, fighting and advocating that we continue to do celebrate with our 13 year olds, dance at our weddings, sing on our holidays, and immerse ourselves in joyful study of our Torah.

May we go from strength to strength.

Fondly,

Tom



A Message From Our Cantor

CANTOR DAVID ROSEN

**ESTHER A
PERSIAN
MUSICAL: A
PURIM SPIEL
PARODY OF
"HAMILTON"**

Perhaps one of the greatest Broadway shows of our time, this groundbreaking multi-award-winning musical is the story of founding father Alexander Hamilton, whose ambition drove him from the position of Caribbean outsider and bastard child to American war hero and George Washington's right-hand man. In the process, Alexander Hamilton powerfully shaped America as we have come to know it -- and gave us all a template for what it means to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and realize the American Dream.

In 2016, *Hamilton* received a record-setting 16 Tony nominations, winning 11, including Best Musical, and was also the recipient of the 2016 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album and the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Realizing that the waiting time to see this incredible show is quite long, many people have become familiar with the music and have already begun putting on their own productions before seeing the show itself. Cantor Jamie Marx, a

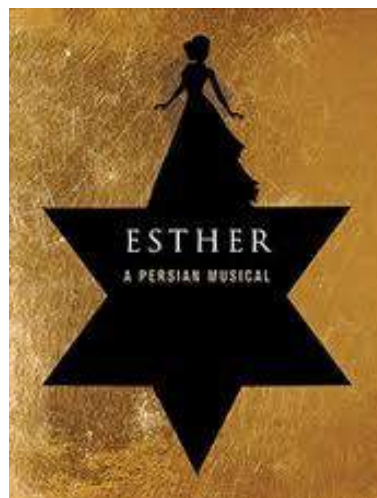
talented and ambitious musician and screenplay writer, has adapted the music of *Hamilton* into a brand new Purim Spiel Musical. Congregation Kol Ami, along with other congregations across the country will premiere this spiel for Purim, on **Saturday evening March 11, 2017.**

Thanks to our talented production crew, Ellen Flaks, Lenora Eve and choreographer Jill Staffin, we are making this production come to life. For those that have seen "Hamilton," you know that the cast is un-traditional and this is one of the factors that makes it so engaging and appealing. This year's spiel is also un-traditional in its casting and you will see many members of our younger generation, starring in this year's performance. Just to give you a sneak peek, you will see people like Melissa Cohen as Esther; Eliot Adler as Mordechai, Julia Staffin as Vashti and Jonathan Rothschild as Haman. The production will also feature Leni Glauber as King Achashverosh and Steve Brady as a minister as well as many other talented performers that are a part of this year's production.

I hope that you will not miss this incredible show and celebration of one of our most joyous holidays. Mark your calendars, become familiar with the music, tell your family and friends and get the camera ready!!

Warm regards,

Cantor David



A Message From Our ECP Director

NAN BLANK



***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 1st 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 Thursday evening February 2nd the ECP is hosting a Grand Prix Fundraiser evening for couples. The event's focus is to raise funds to renovate our Courtyard Playground for more interactive and integrative play – a re-energized space for our students. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our amazing chairs and committee, Liz Ilberg, Emily Campbell, Danielle Gecht, Lisa Bernstein, Hope Stephens and Aimee Atkinson, a brand new play space will be installed in early April.

On Friday, February 3rd we will be hosting our annual Caregivers 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!

Thursday, 9th the whole day will be set aside to celebrate Tu B'shevat. Here at our Early Childhood Program all of our 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.

Wednesday, February 15th the nursery school will be sponsoring our annual *Share the Love Kol Ami ECP 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 in early June 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 new art supplies for their school. It was a wonderful morning for everyone and we look forward to the childrens' visit again this year.

On Tuesday, February 28th our 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's will participate in our tenth 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...***

Love,
Nan

Calling All Children of the Early Childhood Program and Their Families

Please Join Us At Our Annual



Come enjoy breakfast-style baked goods and more made by your children
Nourish your body and spirit since all proceeds go towards helping children at the
Center for Learning in New Rochelle

Even buy a recipe book to be able to create these goodies again at home!

Wednesday February 15, 2017

9:00-9:45 in the Auditorium

All items are nut free

Please note that every child must be accompanied by an adult for the entire event

Delicious, Nutritious, Mitzvahlicious!!

Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

February 2nd
7:00-10:00PM
Grand Prix Couples Event ECP

February 20-24
Closed for Winter Break

Wednesday, February 15
9:00-9:45am
ECP Bake Sale

A Message From Our Executive Director



JESS LORDEN

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

On Saturday, January 21st, I joined 110 folks who rode on two buses from Congregation Kol Ami to march alongside nearly a million and a half other people in the Women's March on Washington. This was one of more than 500 marches in cities around the United States (more than a dozen Kol Ami members marched in the New York City rally). Our group was comprised of men and women, husbands and wives, mothers and daughters, and friends. It was empowering to be surrounded by so many people who share the same view and beliefs and to be a part of history. One day people will talk about the march and we can say that we were there. We marched for ourselves, for each other, and for those who could not be there. Kol Ami means "the voice of my people". I am proud that as individuals and as a group that we chose to have our voices be heard.

I believe my schedule for the day was typical of most.

2:30AM: The alarm clock sounded.

3:00AM: Arrived at Kol Ami. Thrilled to see about 20 cars already there.

3:15AM: The buses arrived. We checked in everyone and the buses were loaded

3:45AM: We departed Kol Ami and started our trip to Washington, DC. to the sound of Carole King singing "I feel the Earth Move Under My Feet" (note: If you've traveled with Shira, you know she always selects perfect music to start each day!)

8:15AM: We arrived at RFK Stadium, parked the buses and started walking towards the Rally, which was scheduled to start at the intersection of Independence Avenue and 3rd Street, SW. Some rode the Metro, most of us walked. Miraculously, as we walked towards the rally, I found Sarah (our daughter), Patty (my cousin), and a few of Patty's friends who joined us.

10:00AM: We made it past the Capitol Building (which looked glorious with the large American flags hanging from the top) to the rally. We were in the midst of a sea of people (it turned out that the sea was comprised of approximately 1.4 million marchers). It became apparent that we couldn't keep our group of 100+ together so we split up into smaller groups ensuring everyone marched with a buddy.

Noon: We made our way as close to the front of the rally as we could and then left the area to get a hot drink and a bite to eat.

1:30PM: We walked back to Independence Ave and 3rd Street, SW to join The March. We stood in the same spot for quite some time, moving forward only about ½ a block. Soon we learned that The March had been cancelled since the streets were too full with marchers. After learning this, we turned around and decided to follow a group of several thousand marchers walking up Constitution Avenue.

3:00PM: We marched and chanted our way to the White House. After a quick photo op at the White House, we started our walk back to RFK Stadium

5:15PM: Standing in a circle in front of our two buses, we participated in a moving Havdalah service with our friends from Kol Ami and new friends who joined us for the day.

5:45PM: Then, we began our ride back home.

11:00PM: We arrived back at Kol Ami tired but feeling incredibly motivated and empowered.

The March was peaceful and the marchers were determined to be heard. I hope that by sharing my experience I painted a picture of what it was like to participate.

Some of the creative signs we saw at the Women's March on Washington included:

- ◆ Diversity + Freedom = America the Beautiful
- ◆ Girls just wanna have FUNdamental Rights
- ◆ A woman's place is in the revolution
- ◆ Make America kind again
- ◆ Woman's Rights = Human Rights
- ◆ I Can't Believe I Am Still Protesting This S!*@
- ◆ We are Defenders of Human Rights
- ◆ I'm with Her (with arrows pointing in all directions to the surrounding women)
- ◆ Love, not Hate, Makes America Great
- ◆ Make America Greater....Respect Women
- ◆ Reunite for Women's Rights - We Support Justice For All
- ◆ We Will Not Be Silent

....and my three favorite humorous signs:

- ◆ "Thou Shall Not Mess With a Woman's Reproductive Rights" – Fallopian 1:20
- ◆ Susan B. Pissed
- ◆ We Shall Overcomb

The chants we shouted while marching were also telling. Here is a sampling:

- ◆ Caller: Tell me what democracy looks like!

- ◆ Answer: This is what democracy looks like!
- ◆ Women call: My body, my choice!
- ◆ Men reply: Her body, her choice!
- ◆ We are the majority!
- ◆ We will not go away...welcome to your first day!
- ◆ Say it loud, say it clear...immigrants are welcome here!

As we walked along the streets of DC, no matter how far, or in what direction you looked, the streets were filled with marchers. Speaking at The Women's March in Boston, Senator Elizabeth Warren said, "We can whimper, we can whine, or we can be here to fight back." The Torah provides "Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof". This means "Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live." Scholars teach that the word "Tzedek" is repeated as justice must be pursued in a just manner.

I know what I have already chosen to do. What about you?

Fondly,

Jess



Social Justice: Kol Ami Marches for Women's Rights



Social Justice: Kol Ami Marches for Women's Rights



A Message From Our President

HANK ROUDA



I've thought a lot about our community and why it

means so much to me over the past couple of months. I've made no secret of my feelings that we, as a society, have significant challenges facing us. While the recent election and the campaigns that preceded it seemed to highlight these issues, they did not cause them, nor were they

invention of the myriad candidates and their supporters. Rather, the issues have existed for quite some time, some more visible and evident than others.

But, as I said, I've been thinking a lot about our community in specific. While we have many shared values, we are not monolithic in our views on the world. Come to any meeting or study session and you'll be able to see that! But, underlying those differences is a shared sense that we can make the world, our country, our towns and our synagogue a better place.

Immediately after the election, several disparate and unrelated groups sprang into action. The results have been seen over the last month in very dramatic fashion. We've traveled on 2 very full buses to Washington, D.C. (and individually to marches in NYC and elsewhere) to demand that women's rights be protected. We formed and are actively participating in a group that states unequivocally that mistreatment of any group will not happen here – NOT IN OUR TOWN. And we spent time together in a variety of workshops to focus on how we can move forward, no matter what your starting point.

These and more opportunities like them which will come over time, are important and focus us on the work ahead. It is not enough to complain and to protest; we must engage in positive action that brings about the type of change that is meaningful to those who do not have a voice or whose voice

was unheard for too long.

But we must also be there for each other. I've spoken and written countless times about the beauty and strength of this community. How we are there for each other in the "best of times and the worst of times." We now have the chance to care for each other again. That we will is not something about which I worry.

We have two tangible opportunities to support different aspects of our community this month. The ECP Grand Prix Fundraiser on February 2 and the Congregational fundraiser – Heart & Soul. The ECP fundraiser will raise money for the upgrading of the interior playground. The evening will feature cocktails, dinner, a silent auction, raffle draws and remote control car races. You can get more information from the ECP office or the fundraiser Chairs – Danielle Gecht and Liz Ilberg.

The Congregational fundraiser is a little earlier than normal so that we can all participate in a fantastic musical experience. There are two ways to enjoy the evening – "Overture" and "Encore." All who attend will be able to enjoy the raffle, live auctions, coffee, dessert, and, the highlight of the night - we will be blessed with a concert led by our own Cantor David Rosen and Lenora Eve, featuring Cantors Shira Adler, Mo Glazman and Tracey Sher. Those who participate in the Overture will also enjoy cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres. This is an evening that you will not want to miss! You can get more information from the office or the event chairs – Lori Abrams and Gerri Sommers. I hope that you will all take the time to ensure that our community is supported, both financially by attending these events, and emotionally by simply being there for each other as you have been countless times before and will be countless more times.

L'shalom,

Hank

A Message From Our Religious School Director

FELICE MILLER BARITZ



We're sleeping over! At the temple! In sleeping bags! REALLY? Friday evening, January 13th we had our 7th annual Third Grade Shabbaton. We began our evening together at Shabbat Services. After the service, the Third graders, along with teachers, madrichim and me (no parents!) had Shabbat dinner together. Then, under the

supervision of our amazing teachers, the Third grade students were put into teams and ran all over the building for our Great Israel Scavenger Hunt! After all the running and screaming, we settled in for snacks and a movie. After the movie... most of us actually slept! We woke up Saturday morning to a special pancake breakfast followed by a Shabbat hike through our beautiful woods. In the middle of the woods we paused in silence and then sang the Sh'ma. It was a fantastic experience together. At the closing circle, all the children talked about making new friends and they're all excited that next year they will be going away for our 4th grade retreat weekend.

Now it's February... the cold, dark, SHORT month! Even so, there is lots of activity in our school. 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 3rd. Our 4th graders will share Havdallah with their families at their Havdallah Hispanica, a celebration of the history, music and dance of the Jews of Spain on February 4th. Our 6th Graders will lead a Shabbat morning service on February 11th as they continue their journey toward becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Our new "First Taste ~ A Year of Jewish Stories" is successfully providing our pre-school children with an intro to Kol Ami Religious School. Once each month, a group of 4/5 year olds meets with Sara Elkin for songs, stories, projects and more. It's delightful!

Our Religious School Parent Network held their first parent event of the year – a fun evening of

cocktails and yummy food at Copacabana in Port Chester. It was a lovely evening of socializing together! If you missed this event – keep an eye out for the next opportunity! Thank you to Adriane Klein for planning and organizing the evening!

The Challah Fairy is coming to Kol Ami! Arrive empty-handed and go home with two yummy, delicious Challah to bake at home or freeze. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for a parent (or grandparent) and child experience. The cost is \$36 for two challot per adult/child pair. RSVP to religiousschoolparents@nykolami.org

For 4 days during the February break, Shira and I will join J-Teen Leadership in leading a teen/parent Civil Rights Journey. We will travel to Georgia and Alabama and meet with people who participated in many of the important events of this challenging time in our history. It is a powerful and moving experience. I look forward to sharing feedback about our journey.

Knowing we will emerge from the long dark days of February into the lengthening days of spring, Purim will be here before you know it! Our weekly Gold Standard will continue to keep you up-to-date on programs and activities in our school.

Fondly,

Felice



Kol Ami's Religious School invites you to a
Parent & Child Challah-Baking Workshop

Sunday, February 12, 2017 ~ 11:15 am to 1 pm

Led by Chanalee Fischer a.k.a. The Challah Fairy!

Arrive empty-handed and go home with two yummy, delicious, challahs to bake at home or freeze, fresh for Shabbat or when you want them!

The Challah Fairy will talk about challah baking, its role in our history, why it's an important ritual, and how much fun is it to do! She will teach us how to make the dough, braid the challah dough strands, and bake it to perfection.

This is an amazing opportunity for a parent (or grandparent) and child to have fun working together.

Cost: \$36 for two challot, per adult/child pair

Register now: Checks can be made out to Congregation Kol Ami and left in the Parent Network Mailbox in the main office **by February 5th.**

Please RSVP

religiousschoolparents@nykolami.org with names of participants.

See you there!!!

For questions, please contact Alison Gilmore at alisongilmore@hotmail.com

Women of Reform Judaism (Kol Ami Sisterhood)

The “Call On Me” Sisterhood

As this article is being written, the parasha is Sh'mot, the beginning of the Book of Exodus. In this parasha, Moses encounters “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 Adonai saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses! Moses!’ He answered, ‘Here I am.’” (Exodus 3: 2 – 4). God then tells Moses that God will send Moses to Pharaoh and that Moses shall free God’s people, the Israelites, from Egypt. After arguing with Adonai about his suitability to be the leader of the people, Moses heeds the call. And the rest is history.

History and heeding the call are perfect themes for this month’s reflections on our Sisterhood. A few years ago, the WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism, formerly known as National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, NFTS) celebrated their 100th anniversary. Carrie O. Simon heeded the call of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism, URJ) to become the first NFTS President on January 21, 1913, during an historic period in the struggle for women’s rights. 156 delegates from 52 Sisterhoods attended the first NFTS Board of Directors meeting; they, too, answered the call along with Eleanor Schwartz, the first Associate Director of NFTS and Jane Evans, the first Executive Director.

Over the course of the 20th century, WRJ was at the forefront of social action and change in both Jewish and secular venues. In the tumultuous early years of the century, WRJ:

- *embraced relief efforts during World War I;*
- *defended the needy during the Depression;*
- *brought German rabbinical students to the U.S. after Hitler closed the doors of Jewish academies;*
- *advocated for refugees and displaced persons before and during World War II;*

- *defended the right of Jews to resettle in Palestine after the war; and actively participated in the formation of the United Nations and its Charter.*

Although marred by war and rioting, the ‘50s and ‘60s were also a time of prosperity and growing membership for the organization, as well as increased organizational commitment to science and human rights. Support for the United Nations Decade for Women brought forth many important resolutions of social activism. NFTS became particularly involved in supporting the UN Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

[In the 21st century,] WRJ continues to be devoted to a broad spectrum of Jewish and humanitarian causes and furthers the teachings and practices of Reform Judaism. Its diversified activities include projects supporting:

- *religious and family education;*
- *strengthening Jewish identity in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union;*
- *the growth of Progressive Judaism in the State of Israel;*
- *inter-group relations; and a wide range of social justice and women’s issues. (wrj.org)*

We like to tell the story that when one of our co-Presidents had a death in her family, our Kol Ami Sisterhood arranged for some food to be delivered to her home, where the family was sitting shiva. The order had been taken over the phone, and when the package arrived, the enclosed card was signed “from **The Call On Me Sisterhood**”! After a good laugh, we all agreed that it was an apt name for our group (and as you have read above, an apt appellation for our parent organization, WRJ, as well). Indeed, when we have been called upon to serve our synagogue, we have done so eagerly and with love.

When we have been needed, we have been there. Whether it is organizing the High Holiday Food Drive, helping to underwrite the production of a congregational music CD, funding the Kol Nidre cellist, providing Shabbat onegs, planting trees in Israel, sending out the Purim shalach manot, helping to organize rides and food for our sisters and other congregants in need, and a host of other initiatives too many to enumerate, we have heeded the call. And not only have we responded when needed, we are initiators and innovators, moving forward in new and novel directions. Kol Ami women, we call on **you** to join us and be a part of the "Call On Me" Sisterhood!

Addendum: Also in Sh'mot (Exodus 2: 4-8), Miriam took the initiative to watch over her baby brother, Moses, as he floated down the Nile in a

basket, not just standing idly by on the sideline and giving up, but actively approaching Pharaoh's daughter with the ingenious (and audacious! idea) that the baby's mother should nurse the infant. And one woman helped change history. History and heeding the call were what Saturday, January 21 was all about; the idea of one woman on Facebook turned into an entire movement as women (and men, but especially women) joined together in Women's Marches all over our nation and the world. I was proud and privileged to be with other Kol Ami congregants in Washington D.C. as we, like Miriam, will not sit it out but with audacity, faith, and courage, say and do what needs to be said and done to ensure the positive future of our nation and our people.

Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus Stacey Matusow

Save the dates!
MARCH MADNESS RETURNS
Please join us for a Ladies Night Out on
Sunday, March 12th at 5:00
(previously scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th),
Details to follow.
~and~
Tuesday March 28th for our annual
Passover Tasting at Kol Ami

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



Mishloach Manot – Purim Baskets

Share the Mitzvah of Purim

Purim has four mitzvot: sending Mishloach Manot (gifts of food), giving to the needy, hearing the Megilah and enjoying a feast. Please join us this year in sharing this delicious tradition by sending Mishloach Manot through our annual Purim basket fundraiser. Our Purim baskets are full of delicious sweets, treats and of course, hamantaschen and are \$12 a greeting.

Sending Purim greetings (and contributing to tzedakah at the same time!) is a great way to celebrate Purim while letting friends, family and even teachers know you are thinking of them.



Here is how it works . . . Each household that is sent a greeting receives one basket with a card listing the names of all those who sent Purim greetings. You can even include a personal message with your greeting. You also have the option of having us automatically reciprocate for you to anyone who sends you a basket. You just must already be placing an order and we will bill you later.

While you are at it, think about checking off the option to send a greeting to a homebound person from our congregation. You can also purchase additional baskets for your own use at just \$18 each.

We deliver! . . . Your basket will arrive the week of March 6th in time for Purim. We will deliver to White Plains, Scarsdale, Hartsdale, New Rochelle, Rye and Rye Brook. Those living in other towns will be asked to come to Kol Ami to pick up their baskets if we can't get enough volunteers to deliver.

We make it easy for you. . . Just click the link below, it already contains your user name and password. When finished you will have the option to pay by check or credit/debit card. It's very easy and we are here to help you if you have any difficulties.

Nuts? Our Hamantashen are nut free but not our chocolates. If you need us to substitute candy for chocolate please let us know as soon as possible.

Place your order today by visiting <https://www.purimproject.com/comsend/Member/MemberStep1.asp?f=1>

If you have any questions, would like your name changed or need some extra help with ordering on-line, please contact Judy Sarch [via email](#) or phone at 565-2128.

Deadline is Sunday February 19th

Ritual Riches: The Counting of the Omer

Counting Days and Making Days Count

Judaism teaches us that holiness is bound to the concept of the sacredness of time. For example, *Shabbat* is observed every seven days and the beginning of each new year is celebrated on *Rosh Hashanah*.

Parashat Emor, names and describes each of these sacred times - *Shabbat*, *Rosh HaShanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and the Pilgrimage Festivals of *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, and *Sukkot* (Leviticus 23:1-44). Time becomes a holy thing, and the "normalcy" of time — of one day being no different than any other — is forever differentiated by the weekly Sabbath and by these special festive days. Leviticus 23:9-14 describes the *mitzvot* of the "Counting of the Omer" (*Sefirat Ha'omer*) marking the period between *Passover* and *Shavuot*.

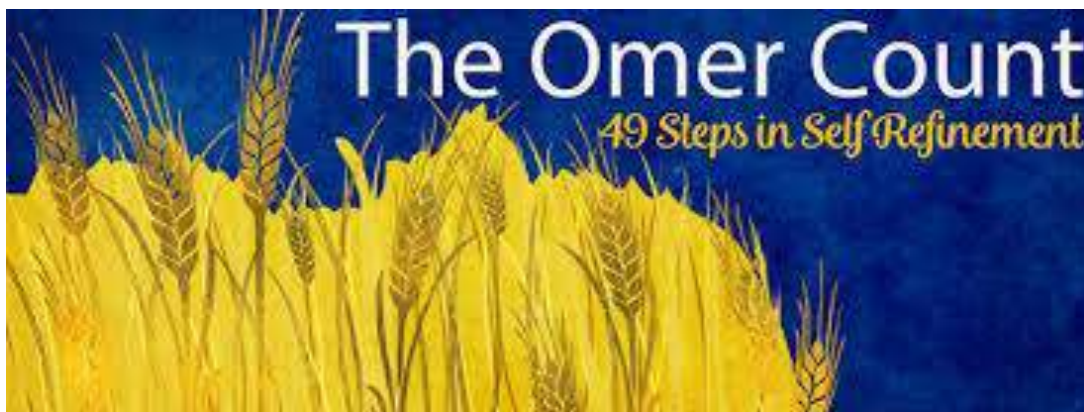
According to Biblical tradition, we were to bring the first sheaf of barley (*omer*) to the Temple, along with other gifts, as a sacrifice. "And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of elevation offering—the day after the Sabbath—you shall count off seven weeks (49 days) culminating on the 50th day with the celebration of *Shavuot* (Leviticus 23:15–16). The *Kabbalists* give us another interpretation, citing the great potential for inner growth and improvement of one's own personal character

through a system of associating each week of the Counting of the *Omer* with one of seven attributes. This year, the Counting of the *Omer* begins on Tuesday, April 11th and ends the evening of Tuesday, May 30th with *Erev Shavuot*. The members of the Worship Committee invite you to help us with Kol Ami's own counting of sacred moments. We invite you to share your own special moments that will occur between April 11th and May 29th. It can be as general as the opening of the baseball season, or as specific as your 10th wedding anniversary.

Please send your thoughts to Ellen Bittner, Lisa Borowitz, Sheryl Brady or Maggy Weber at omer@nykolami.org before March 17th. Please include your name, email address & telephone number, along with the date, & the event.

We will be sharing these special moments in a daily email to the congregation throughout the period of the Counting of the *Omer*, ending on May 29th. Then, please join us at Kol Ami's *erev Shavuot* service at 7:00pm on May 30th, and celebrate the confirmation of our 10th grade students at *Shavuot* morning services 10:00am on May 31st.

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



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

"Life's Journeys" by Susan Ross

"Kindness"

Life's journeys often involve various acts of kindness. The word, "kindness," is bandied about a lot, especially during this time of year. One must be careful, when bestowing kindness, so that you do not lose yourself in any misunderstandings or expect more in return than is given.

For some, kindness may imply a compromise or a weakness, for you maybe giving up something of yourself to accommodate others. Some examples might be: giving up a seat to a stranger but standing for hours; loaning money to a friend but waiting years for repayment or volunteering for a job but seeing others get credit.

So, how does kindness become a positive quality? That is when an action or a word emboldens another to achieve feats that were unimaginable. Your gesture of kindness gives another faith in the ability to function far more than thought possible.

Kindness, in the truest sense, should never be one-sided, for it loses its impact and quality of life. A perfect example of kindness being "two-sided" was highlighted in an eloquent sermon by Rabbi Shira Milgrom at Congregation Kol Ami. Both participants

benefitted from this experience, one for his generous gesture and Rabbi Shira for a memory that has lasted for over fifty years.

As the story goes, when Rabbi Shira was very young, her family was involved in a major traffic accident in Beersheba, Israel. Fortunately, two Israeli soldiers aided the family members, who were not seriously hurt, though their car was "totaled."

However, Rabbi Shira was shaken by the accident and was crying quite loudly. The two soldiers, looking at the crying child, evaluated the situation differently. One soldier saw a frightened child, with tears streaming down her face, while the other soldier saw a young child with a bad cold.

How kind and generous of this soldier to see a young child's tears in a positive way.

For some members listening to this story, as part of the sermon on kindness, the soldier exhibited God's "...constant miracle of kindness."

For Rabbi Shira, now an esteemed rabbi and a gifted storyteller, it is a story worth telling to remind us that kindness is a blessing, when all parties become one in spirit. Kindness should always be part of a life's journey.

Kol Ami Doctors and Nurses Needed

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

FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



Top row, L to R: Roy Watkins, Matthew J. Fiorillo, Joshua Lanza.
Front row, L to R: Jenna Triano, Megan O'Lea, Therapy Dog: Lulu

Family owned and operated since 1932, Ballard-Durand Funeral and Cremation Services has been serving families for over 80 years.

As a family, we will care for your family with the dignity and respect your faith demands and that you deserve.

We appreciate that every family is unique and we will tailor our services to meet your specific needs.

“As a father, I know family is everything. I understand the importance of treating your family with respect and compassion during your hour of need.”

—Matthew J. Fiorillo,
Owner & Funeral Director



www.BallardDurand.com
Matthew J. Fiorillo, CFSP • Owner/ Funeral Director

Ask about our
Cremation
WITH
CONFIDENCE
GUARANTEE

White Plains | 2 Maple Avenue | (914) 949-0566

Elmsford | 72 East Main Street | (914) 592-6300

©2016 MJC Marketing

Do You Agree With Any Of The Following?

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

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

For information contact Evelyne Klein at 914.761.7659, PlannedGiving@nykolami.org or Judi Brown at 646.206.4547, gojustjudi@gmail.com.

Kol Ami is a community that makes incredible things happen.

Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kol Ami Cares Co-Chairs

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

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

Kol Ami Cares

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

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

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

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

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

A. Comfort the Bereaved

I would like to

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

B. Visit the Sick

I would like to

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

C. Share Knowledge

I would like to

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

D. Support our Neighbors

I would like to

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

E. Provide Transportation

I am available to

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

Name _____

Email _____

Day Phone (cell) _____

Home Phone _____

- ☐ I am able to drive myself to programs.
- ☐ I need a ride to programs.

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

**Please return completed forms
to the Kol Ami Office
Go to www.nykolami.org for program details**

Social Action

Cooking for the Homeless

In the Kol Ami kitchen
Sundays at 11:15am:
Feb 12, Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, June 11
and
Mondays at 12:00pm:
Feb 27, Mar 6, Apr 3 & 24, May 22, June 12

The Cabin Group

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon

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

Mitzvah Knitz

Together we'll knit afghans, caps for Israeli
soldiers and more.
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
10:30am

The Kol Ami Singers

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

Wednesday, February 8th at 2:30pm

The Grove Rehab at Valhalla
61 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, NY

KOL AMI PANTRY

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

COACHMAN CORNER

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

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

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

COACHMAN CORNER

Coachman Corner

Spreading Tikum Olam in our Community



Jennifer Bloomgarden, Gabi Maxwell and Lindsey Friedel along with their children Jonah, Maddie and Olivia, sponsored the December birthday party. Fun and games were lead by Spencer Danzig and Topsi Turvi Yogi. Rabbi Shira provided extra hands and smiles to spread good cheer.



Aimee, Mike, Max and Abigail Florin sponsored the December Mitzvah Morning and organized a crew of helpers to make enough goody bags for the December and January birthday parties. The Kroin Family is sponsoring the next Mitzvah Morning on February 5th. Join us!



Our January birthday party was sponsored by Marc Tuckman & Susan Friedfel and their children Jonathan, Abigail & Rachel along with Brett Mercer & Shelly LeWinter and their children Sophie & Mackenzie. Fun and games were lead by Spencer, Connor and Allison Danzig.



Our committee also baked, bought and assembled cookies in beautifully decorated bags for a holiday cookie swap.

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

Coachman Committee Co-Chairs:

Alison Adler - aadler3@verizon.net

Lisa Hochman - lisahochman@mac.com

Adult Education

Spiritual Journeying Groups

Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, June 19
(fee for Kol Ami members \$72, \$100
for non-members)

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

Women in Transition

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

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

Women's Roundtable Breakfast*

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am
Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3
With Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

Now entering its 6th year -

Newcomers Always Welcome!

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 am

Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and the heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection. No meditation experience necessary.

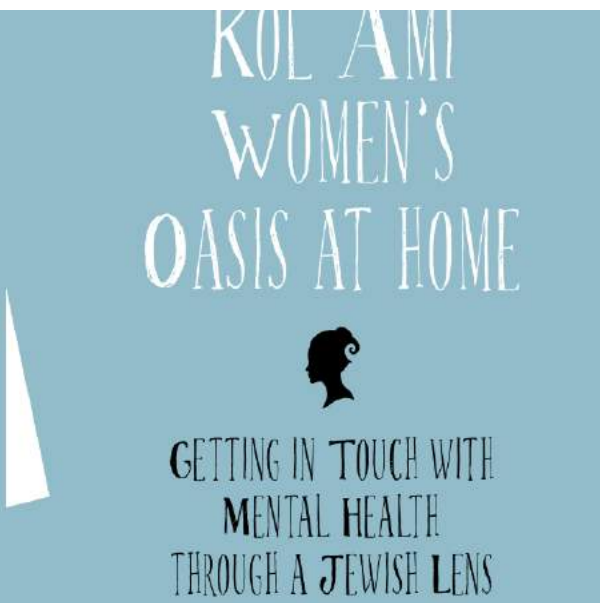
Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, and certified meditation teacher. WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami

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

Programs include:

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

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



Design by Souptionary

GATHER AND STUDY

NEW THIS YEAR!

God: A Biography

Thursday evenings

7:30 - 9:00pm

(except where otherwise noted)

Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Feb 9, Feb 16, Mar 9, Mar 16, Mar 30, May
30 - Shavuot Tikkun (9:00-10:00pm)

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

NEW THIS YEAR!

Israel in the News with David Gravit

Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:45 pm

Feb 7, 21; Mar 7, 21;

Apr 4, 18;

May 2, 16; June 6, 20

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

Wisdom of the Sages at Kol Ami

Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 pm

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

All are welcome.

With Rabbi Tom Weiner

Current Events with

Beth & Gene Kava

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Feb 6, 27, Mar 13, 27, Apr 10, 24,

May 8, 22, June 5, 19

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

Weekly Torah Study:

Parashat Hashavua

Friday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 am

Led by Kol Ami members

Kol Ami Book Club

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20

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

Feb 1st: "The Zoo Keeper's Wife"

By Diane Ackerman

For more information contact Doris Dingott at
289-0869 or DLDingott@gmail.com

Prophets Seminar

Mondays 7:30 pm

Prerequisite-curiosity

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

PARENTING GROUPS

Parenting Teens Workshops

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

Next session February 2

Susan Davis, LCSW

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

Grandparenting Workshops

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

Next session February 6

Susan Davis, LCSW

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

ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

Beginner Hebrew with Emily Fields*

Sundays at 9:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

Shabbat Sings

Hebrew prayers and songs

Learn the Service in Hebrew

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

Sundays at 10:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

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

+++++

Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew

with Alice Seidman

Sundays at 10:00am

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

ARE American Jews LOSING THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY?



Since George Washington promised Jewish Americans the full privileges and protections of U.S. citizenship, Jews have flourished in America as nowhere else in the world. But has that come at the expense of their Jewish identity? Richard Rubin argues that while most American Jews have been "Americanized," they continue to be shaped by Jewish history, culture, and religion in ways that affect everything from their social attitudes to their child-rearing methods to their voting patterns. This "fusion" of American values with Jewish ones has created a "hybrid" Jewish identity that American Jews must cultivate and pass on to future generations.

"A must-read for anyone interested in the past and future role of Jews in American life, and in the impact of American culture on Jewish life."

- Robert Pack, Distinguished Senior Professor at the University of Montana

www.jewishinamericabook.com | Available on Amazon

PARK
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHING

The Arts: Music & Drama

**Welcome to Kol Ami's
Winter Jewish Film Festival**
~Screening of Israeli films and films with
Jewish Content~
Moderated by Roger Seti
Selected Monday evenings at 7:30 pm
February 13 "A Price Above Rubies"
March 13: "The Denial"

Congregational Choir
Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm
For High School Students and Adults
Cantor David Rosen and
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

Or Chadash (A New Light) Choir for children in Kindergarten through 6th Grade

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

FUN AND GAMES

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

Life Cycles

CONGRATULATIONS

- ◆ To Katy and Neil Goldman on the birth of their daughter, Julia Malin Goldman
- ◆ To Samuel and Alie Hershey on the birth of their son Jacob (Jack) Hershey
- ◆ To Janet and Mark Hershey on the birth of their grandson, Jacob (Jack) Hershey
- ◆ To Lauren Sarna Pugach and Brandon Pugach on the birth of their son, Liam Asher Pugach
- ◆ To Gabi and Matthew Maxwell on the birth of their son, Liam Maxwell

IN MEMORIUM
Leonard Lauten

CONDOLENCES

- ◆ To Jonathan Goldstein, on the death of his father, Michael Goldstein
- ◆ To Robert Goldstein on the death of his brother, Michael Goldstein

- ◆ To Sara Blotner and Allison Rose on the death of their uncle, Michael Goldstein
- ◆ To Stuart Lang on the death of his mother, Joyce Lang
- ◆ To Debby Yablow on the death of her sister, Bonnie Cohen
- ◆ To Jessica Yablow on the death of her aunt, Bonnie Cohen
- ◆ To Barak Stockler and Jared Fischer on the death of their grandfather, Peter Fischer
- ◆ To Dana Sherman on the death of her father, Benson Sherman
- ◆ To Edith Lauten on the death of her husband, Leonard Lauten

WE WELCOME NEW CONGREGANTS

- ◆ Adam and Andrea Russin
- ◆ Danile Pfeffer and Heather Landau
- ◆ Ted Kessler and Judy Weinberg
- ◆ Linda Kligman
- ◆ Barbara Rass
- ◆ Nancy Merahn

We gratefully acknowledge your generous contributions

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- ◆ In appreciation, from Myra Oltsik
- ◆ In appreciation, from Roseanne and Paul Klein
- ◆ Bonnie and Eric Eilen
- ◆ In memory of Gladys Goldmann, from Stephanie Levine
- ◆ Bonnie and Daniel Tisch
- ◆ In honor of Jacquie's Bat Mitzvah, from the Kizer Family
- ◆ In support of the Ethiopian project, from Alison and Michael Blue
- ◆ In support of the Ethiopian project, from Ronald and Gail Nathanson

RABBI TOM WEINER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- ◆ In appreciation for support, from Dorothy and Harvey Cohn
- ◆ Robin Cohen
- ◆ In memory of Marion Sheff, from Barbara Block
- ◆ In memory of Ken Block, from Barbara Block
- ◆ In loving memory of my husband, Abe Landau, from Jo Landau
- ◆ In honor of Eva's Bat Mitzvah, from Betsy and Stanley Weiner

CANTOR DAVID ROSEN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- ◆ In appreciation, from Dorothy and Harvey Cohn
- ◆ In appreciation, from Donna Joseph
- ◆ In appreciation, from Jeffrey Kornstein
- ◆ In appreciation, from Dorothy and Dana Sherman and Family

BIENNIAL FUND

- ◆ In honor of Lisa Borowitz, from Jo Landau

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

- ◆ In honor of the birth of Julia Malin Goldman, daughter of Katy and Neil Goldman, from Sara and Michael Elkin

FUND FOR THE NEEDY

- ◆ In appreciation, from Barbara Shore
- ◆ In honor of Barbara Block's, "Special Birthday", from Ellen Bittner
- ◆ In honor of Maurine Schribman's, "Special Birthday", from Ellen Bittner
- ◆ In honor of Patty Wohl's, "Special Birthday", from Ellen Bittner
- ◆ In honor of Patty Wohl's birthday, from Jess and Dave Lorden

- ◆ In honor of Alan Steinfeld, from David Elcott
- ◆ In honor of her mother, Rosalind Oltsik's 95th birthday, from Myra Oltsik
- ◆ In appreciation from, from Jean and Henry Pollak

KOL AMI CARES FUND

- ◆ In honor of her mother, Rosalind Oltsik's 95th birthday, from Myra Oltsik

KOL AMI FOOD PANTRY

- ◆ In appreciation, from Linda A. Ellis
- ◆ In loving memory of Harry Mason, from Michael and Sandra Mason

KOL AMI FUND

- ◆ In appreciation, from Carol and Michael Raden
- ◆ In loving memory of her mother, Sadie Seaman, and her sister, Gladys Statman, from Jo Landau
- ◆ In appreciation, from Sheila and Jeffrey Britz
- ◆ In honor of Mark and Andrea Seiden, from Florence Glazer
- ◆ In loving memory of Bonnie Cohen, sister of Debby Yablow, and aunt of Jessica Yablow and Elyssa Szoke, from Sheila and Jerry Rothman and Family
- ◆ In appreciation of his daughter, Jamie's memorial service, from Jeffrey Kornstein
- ◆ In loving memory of Robert Biederman and Nathan Schifrin, from Carol Schifrin
- ◆ In loving memory of Fanny Papush, from Harvey Papush
- ◆ In loving memory of Vide and Lou Wiggs, from Grace Wiggs
- ◆ In loving memory of Sarita Hart from, William Hart
- ◆ In appreciation of Shira Milgrom, from Noam Elcott

MUSIC FUND

- ◆ In honor of her mother, Rosalind Oltsik's 95th birthday, from Myra Oltsik

PETCHEK MUSIC FUND

- ◆ In honor of Cantor David Rosen's new CD, "Shabbat in the Woods", from David and Karen Cole

RABBI DAVIS CONFIRMAND FUND

- ◆ In loving memory of his father, Robert A. Goldwater, from Robert D. Goldwater

RETREAT FUND

- ◆ In appreciation, from Genna Farley

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"/> Synaplex Circle Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Audrey Greenberg Scholarship Fund (provides ECP tuition assistance for families in need)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kol Ami Cares Fund (supports activities of the Caring Community Program)	<input type="checkbox"/> WRJ Sisterhood Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates).	<input type="checkbox"/> Men's Council Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities Fund (supports youth-related programs, scholarships and trips)
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Fund - Cantor David Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Discretionary Fund - Rabbi Shira Milgrom	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Kraver College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college students)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Discretionary Fund - Rabbi Tom Weiner	<input type="checkbox"/> Petschek Music Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Program Fund (supports teacher education and student scholarships)	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Fund (supports special projects as determined by the Religious School Committee)	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 <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 Confirmants (10th graders)	

February 2017 Calendar

Wed Feb 1

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

Thu Feb 2

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation
11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages
12:00 pm - Parenting Teens
6:00 pm - Purim Spiel Rehearsal

Fri Feb 3

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service
6:15 pm - Yad B'Yad Shabbat (Shabbat of Inclusion)

Sat Feb 4

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study
10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: B'Nai Mitzvah of Genna Handel and Jesse Formica
4:00 pm - Religious School Grade 4 Havdalah Hispanica

Sun Feb 5

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School
11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir

Mon Feb 6

9:15 am - Gandparenting
11:00 am - Current Events
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar
7:30 pm - Dr. Pierre Darmon - How to Use a Computer Safely

Tue Feb 7

7:30 pm - Israel In the News
7:30 pm - Sisterhood Executive Meeting

Wed Feb 8

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

Thu Feb 9

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation
11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages
6:00 pm - Purim Spiel Rehearsal
7:30 pm - God: A Biography with Shira Milgrom

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

Sat Feb 11

Tu BiShvat
Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study
10:15 am - Religious School Grade 6 B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #2 - Family Shabbat
7:00 pm - Annual Kol Ami Benefit. Heart & Soul: A Concert Celebration

Sun Feb 12

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

Mon Feb 13

7:30 pm - Kol Ami Movie Nite - "A Price Above Rubies"

Tue Feb 14

11:30 am - Women in Transition

Wed Feb 15

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

Thu Feb 16

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation
11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages
6:00 pm - Purim Spiel Rehearsal
6:30 pm - God: A Biography with Shira Milgrom

Fri Feb 17

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

Sat Feb 18

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

Sun Feb 19

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Mon Feb 20

OFFICE CLOSED

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

Wed Feb 22

10:30 am - Mah Jongg
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Thu Feb 23

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation
11:00 am - Wise Aging
11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages
6:00 pm - Purim Spiel Rehearsal

Fri Feb 24

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

Sat Feb 25

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

Sun Feb 26

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Mon Feb 27

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



CERINI & ASSOCIATES

LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Connected to your governance...
connected to your constituents...
connected to your mission



3340 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Bohemia, NY 11716
(631) 582-1600 • www.cerinicpa.com



**Weddings Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Special Events**

Disc Jockeys . Emcees . Lighting Decor .
Event Design



PLATINUM
ENTERTAINMENT DJs

Phone: 914 921-6234
Email: platinumdjny@gmail.com
Web: www.platinumdjny.com

GAMBELLI'S
WINE AND SPIRITS

WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK

drink thoughtfully

GAMBELLIWINE.COM

914.468.6777



THE FACE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

BRIGHT ENERGY SERVICES / ATLANTIC WESTCHESTER

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

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

WWW.ATLANTICWESTCHESTER.COM • 347.470.7090 • WWW.BRIGHTENERGYSERVICES.COM