

# THE CONNECTION

Volume 7 ♦ June 2017

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

• cocktails • games • sports • relax • eat • yoga • arts crafts •

...to art

...to nature

...to relaxation

**kol ami**  
**retreat**  
Circle Lodge  
JUNE 16 ~ 18, 2017

...to fun

...to learning

...to friends

...to Shabbat

...to Kol Ami

and *unplug* 

...to music

...to family

• shabbat • music • field games • play • schmooze • movies •

• hiking • discussion • basketball • campfire • frisbee • cocktails • biking • games • eat •



RETREAT 2016



# CONGREGATION KOL AMI

## CONGREGATION KOL AMI A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

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∞ of blessed memory

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**Friday Evening Services**

Shabbat in the Woods for Families with 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*

**Lift Your Shabbat - Saturday Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom**

*Chapel in the Woods*

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

9:00am Coffee and community

9:30am Torah Study

11:00am Shabbat Services

**WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR JUNE**

**Week ending June 3, 2017 *Parashat Naso* Numbers 4:21-7:89** The second *parasha* in the Book of Numbers completes the census with a counting of the Levitical families and a description of their responsibilities in the portage of the Tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting. The *parasha*'s concluding section begins with the Priestly Blessing, which is recited at the end of Kol Ami's *Kabbalat Shabbat* services, and ends with a list of the offerings brought by the tribal heads for the ceremony of the dedication of the Tabernacle.

**Week ending June 10, 2017 *Parashat B'haalot'cha* Numbers 8:1-12:16** In this *parasha* God instructs Moses to appoint elders to share the burden of ruling the people and settling their many issues. The *parasha* concludes with Aaron and Miriam saying disparaging things about their younger brother Moses. As a result, Miriam is struck with a skin disease, manifested as white, itchy scales. Aaron appeals to Moses, who offers a prayer to God on his sister's behalf.

**Week ending June 17, 2017 *Parashat Sh'lach L'cha* Numbers 13:1-15:41** This week's *parasha* continues the story of the Israelites wandering through the desert. Moses sends twelve emissaries to scout out the land of Israel. Only two, Joshua and Caleb, return with a message of hope. The other ten spies report that the land is filled with giants, and the people react to their terrifying account with fear and panic. As a result of this behavior, the members of this generation will not be allowed to enter the "promised" land and will wander the desert for another 38 years.

**Week ending June 24, 2017 *Parashat Korach* Numbers 16:1-18:32** Four rebels hatch an ill-fated "coup-d'état" against the leadership of Aaron and Moses in this week's *parasha*. Two dreadful punishments await the rebels: for Dathan, Abiram, and their group, the earth bursts asunder, swallowing them. For Korach and his followers, fire and plague bring death and havoc.

## WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

### Week ending July 1, 2017

**Parashat Chukat Numbers 19:1-22:1** This week's *parasha* begins with the death of Miriam - Moses' & Aaron's sister - at Kadesh. When the people complain that they have no water to drink, God instructs Moses to take his rod & order a rock to bring forth water. In his anger against the cantankerous people, instead of ordering the rock to produce water, Moses strikes the rock with his rod. As a result of this action, God tells Moses that he will not be allowed to lead the people into the Land of Israel. This responsibility will ultimately be given to Joshua. Moses' brother Aaron dies at Mount Hor and Aaron's son, Eleazar becomes his successor.

### Week ending July 8, 2017

**Parashat Balak Numbers 22:2-25:9** In this week's *parasha*, Balak, the king of Moab, persuades the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites so that he can defeat them and drive them out of the region. However, when Balaam speaks, he blesses the Children of Israel instead, and prophesies that Israel's enemies will be defeated, saying "*Ma Tovu, ohalecha Ya-akov, mishk'notecha Yisrael* – How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." The *parasha* ends with God punishing the Israelites with a plague when an Israelite man consorts with a Moabite woman. The plague ends when Pinchas kills them.

### Week ending July 15, 2017

**Parashat Pinchas Numbers 25:10-30:1** The *parasha* begins with God rewarding Pinchas for his actions with a covenant of peace for all time, and continues with the taking of a second census. Moses allocates the land to each tribe according to its size. The daughters of Zelophehad appeal to Moses to inherit their father's land since their father died leaving no sons. God confirms their claim and instructs Moses to change the laws of inheritance. The *parasha* concludes with a description of the sacrificial ritual for all festival occasions.

### Week ending July 22, 2017

**Parashat Matot-Masei Numbers 30:2-36:13** In the first part of this double *parasha* the laws for making vows are described; and Moses agrees to allow the tribes of Gad and Reuben to stay in the land east of the Jordan rather than enter the land of Israel, as long as they lend their support in settling the promised land. *Masei* recounts the forty years of journeys (*mas'ey*) that the Israelites have made since leaving Egypt. The Book of Numbers concludes with Moses providing instructions for conquering the land of Israel, defining its borders, and dividing it among the tribes.

### Week ending July 29, 2017

**Parashat Devarim Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22** *Devarim* is the first *parasha* in the Book of Deuteronomy, which begins a series of speeches by Moses to the Israelites as they are preparing to enter the Land of Israel. In this *parasha*, Moses, who will not be allowed to enter the land of Israel & will die in Moab, reminds this generation that they are about to take possession of the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He recounts the route of travel and the challenges, chastisements, and triumphs that occurred along the way.

### Week ending August 5, 2017

**Parashat Va'Etchanan Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11** In this *parasha*, Moses' appeal to God to allow him to enter the Land of Israel is again denied. Moses continues his oration to the people, reminding them of the covenant at Sinai and the Ten Commandments, and exhorting them to follow the laws given by God. Specific areas of the land are set aside to serve as cities of refuge for those who commit unintentional homicide.

### Week ending August 12, 2017

**Parashat Ekev Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25** Moses continues to tell the Israelites that, if they maintain their covenant with God by observing all the commandments, God will make them fruitful and victorious over their enemies; and reminds them of the times that the Israelites disobeyed God's commandments and the consequences that befell them. Moses continues by saying that the land will flow with milk and honey if the people obey God's commandments and teach them to their children.

### Week ending August 19, 2017

#### **Parashat R'eh Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17**

In this week's *parashah*, the people are instructed on how they are to enter and live in the land of Israel, and on the behavior expected of them once they have settled there. Rules about sacrifices, tithes, and care for the Levites are discussed, along with regulations for slaughtering and eating meat.

### Week ending August 26, 2017

#### **Parashat Shoftim Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9**

The Israelites remain on the plateau of Moab, across the Jordan River while Moses communicates God's prescriptions and proscriptions for governance. The *parasha* opens with the command to appoint judges and the regulations for choosing a leader, including a warning that this leader should follow the laws of Torah faithfully.



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## **A LEGACY...**

Everyone wants to leave some proof that they lived and that they made a difference by the way they lived, that their values are transferred to following generations.

By participating in The Legacy Fund of Congregation Kol Ami, you are ensuring that the synagogue that has enriched you and your family's identity by engaging everyone's entire person – sometimes for generations – can provide the same Jewish joy, spirit, and education for all those who follow.

In financially supporting the future of Kol Ami with a Legacy, you will have the satisfaction that some of your assets will be distributed to reflect your principles.

Leaving a Legacy is not complicated. You can talk to a Financial Advisor to determine the best way for you to include a Legacy in your estate. There is no minimum amount required in naming Congregation Kol Ami as a beneficiary in your estate.

For information contact Evelyne Klein: 914-761-7659, [evelyneklein29@gmail.com](mailto:evelyneklein29@gmail.com); or Judi Brown: 646-206-4547, [gojustjudi@gmail.com](mailto:gojustjudi@gmail.com).

## **WHAT IS A LEGACY?**

- ♦ A Legacy supports the organization that has made a difference in the lives of you and your family.
- ♦ A Legacy to Congregation Kol Ami will ensure that the synagogue will continue to enrich generations to come through Jewish education, spiritual life and joyful celebrations.
- ♦ A Legacy making Kol Ami a beneficiary in your estate can be determined with a financial advisor.
- ♦ A Legacy does not require a minimum amount.

### **For information contact**

Evelyne Klein: 914-761-7659, [evelyneklein29@gmail.com](mailto:evelyneklein29@gmail.com);  
or Judi Brown: 646-206-4547, [gojustjudi@gmail.com](mailto:gojustjudi@gmail.com).

## B'NAI MITZVAH

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



Maya Schnier, daughter of Sallie and David Schnier, will be called to the Bima on June 10, 2017. Maya is

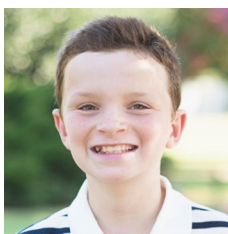
currently in the seventh grade at Louis M Klein Middle School in Harrison. She plays soccer, tennis and lacrosse. She spends her summers in her favorite place Camp Pontiac ! Maya is thoughtful, caring and enthusiastic. She shines in every room she walks into.



Emma Baumgarten, daughter of Rachel and Evan

Baumgarten, and older sister to Reid will be called to the torah as a bat mitzvah on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> 2017. Emma is a seventh grader at Edgemont Junior High school where she loves to play basketball, learn French, and be with friends.

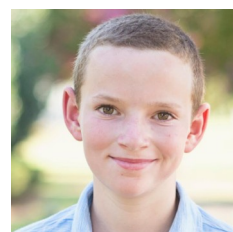
She also enjoys dance and baking. Emma also has a passion for environmentally friendly activities. For her bat mitzvah project she continues to raise money and awareness about the need for clean water sources in poor communities of Africa. She's extremely excited to share her special day with friends and family.



Micah Perkins Arenstein, son of Rachael and Moshe,

twin brother to Noam and big brother to Dafna, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 17, 2017. Micah is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Scarsdale Middle School where he plays travel soccer, wrestles and is working towards his second dan black belt in tae kwon do. For Micah's Mitzvah Project he volunteered with Backyard Sports Cares assisting as a

peer coach in the soccer program serving youth with special needs. He is looking forward to reading from the Torah and celebrating with friends and family from near and far.



Noam Perkins Arenstein, son of Rachael and Moshe, twin brother

to Micah and big brother to Dafna will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 17, 2017. Noam is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Scarsdale Middle School where he is on the travel soccer team, fences and has a black belt in tae kwon do. For Noam's Mitzvah Project he has volunteered for the SPCA of Westchester click training and fostering dogs. He is looking forward to having his family from Israel attend the service.



## A Message From Our Rabbi

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM



### SPAIN – BEAUTY AND LAYERED SECRETS

Things were looking pretty bad for the Jews about 1500 years ago. Rome had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 70, and with the Second Commonwealth of the Jewish People. Jews were thrown into exile, or sold as slaves on the Roman market. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, and restrictions and persecution against the Jews only intensified. By the year 500, only half a million of Jews were left in the world, down from 10 million. If you were a betting person, you'd probably not be betting on this people.

But then something very lucky happened. Mohammed was born in Saudi Arabia in 622, and by the 700's, Islam had become a major conquering religion. The Muslim armies swept across North Africa in the early 700's, conquering the countries of North Africa and sweeping up into the Iberian peninsula (Spain). And the Jews followed in their wake. Muslims remained in control in Spain until the expulsion of Jews (and then Muslims) by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. The Jewish community would remember those 700 years as The Golden Age of Spain. Under Muslim sovereignty, arts and intellect flourished. Greek thought came back into Europe through Arabic. Jews,

Muslims and Christians studied philosophy, the sciences, mathematics, poetry and medicine.

More than 500 years since the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, Sephardic Jews continue to speak Ladino (the Spanish-Hebrew language of their communities) and sing Shabbat songs to Spanish melodies. The tastes, rhythms, sounds and rituals of this richly beautiful culture continue to animate Jewish life today.

But Christian Spain did everything possible to eradicate any memory of its Jewish and Christian past. Traveling as a Jew today in Spain is to feel both the power of that shadow and to peel back the layers of the Spanish Jewish story. This coming year, adult education is focused on the culture of the Jews of Spain – with music, scholars, poetry and kabbalah.

And we are traveling to Spain in March of 2018. March 5-14 – nine glorious days of beauty, mystery, courtyards and late night drinks. For more information, you can click [here](#) or talk to Shira.

With wishes for a summer of replenishment, joys and reasons for gratitude,

Shira

Join me in a trip through the layered centuries of Spanish Jewish history. Intoxicating orange blossoms, the sounds of fountains, the tastes of late night wine on cobblestone streets. Senses, secrets and stories. The flip book ([http://static.arzaworld.com/Flipbooks/Congregation\\_kol\\_ami\\_spain\\_march\\_2018/files/assets/basic-html/#1](http://static.arzaworld.com/Flipbooks/Congregation_kol_ami_spain_march_2018/files/assets/basic-html/#1)) brings you to the itinerary. The last page of the flip book has the links to registration and more information. March 5-14, 2018!

**we are going to SPAIN**

**MARCH**  
5 - 14, 2018

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**\$4,025** air & land

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JEWISH HISTORY - SECRETS, STORIES AND BEAUTY

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- 1 group transfer and assistance to and from the airport
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- Meals: breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Portage at the hotels

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## A Message From Our Rabbi

### RABBI TOMWEINER



Annual Meeting 2017

By way of annual message, I actually want to express gratitude for a sacred gift that I'm not sure that you realize you have given to me, to Shira and to David. And that is, for want of a better name, "The best seats in the house."

From the bema, without even turning our heads, we get to see when good friends walk in the door of the sanctuary; we see the looks on your faces when you seem troubled or sad; and we see the big smiles as you bring something joyous into this sacred space.

At Yizkor on Yom Kippur, when you are all in the midst – with eyes closed – of visiting with someone you've lost, during that journey, your faces are magnificently expressive.

And I don't know that you realize how much you convey as a congregation when you are engaged with what we're saying; elevated and transported by the music you were singing; sometimes your expressions let us know how connected you are to what's all of us together; just as it's not too difficult to tell when the words of a sermon are hitting home – and when they're not. That's a good thing.

But there's much more to this gift of "The best seats in the house" than when we're standing at this lectern.

- ◆ Do you know how amazing it is to be holding a baby this close, and staring into their beautiful little eyes at the moment of the naming? Even if they spit up on you.
- ◆ Or to be just inches away from the faces of the proud parents?
- ◆ Do you know how special it is to stand right next to a bar or bat mitzvah and look over their shoulders and feel the anxiety rush from their bodies, as the pride and relief rush in at the moment they finish their last aliyah?

Just as it's a gift when we sit with you when your closest family gathered in our study's, the day before a funeral - to have you share from your hearts and your guts the stories of your loved one. The laughter and the tears mingle together as you tell your stories, some of which will be repeated publicly the next day, and the others that stay just with family.

It's a sacred privilege to sit with you.

Just as it's a privilege to be in the front seat of the limousine on the way back from a funeral as you express with each other

incredible gratitude for those who came to stand with you beside the grave or who's making the sandwiches for your *shiva*.

And do you know how much fun it is to sit around the table with your high school kids as they share their passions, their anger at the world we screwed up and the ways they're gonna fix it? They seem to forget that there is an adult in the room, and with their guard down, they share their struggles and pains with each other, and then their classmates take care of them. And they dream together a lot. And they laugh - - a lot.

Speaking of "the best seat in the house," what could be better than standing under the *chuppah* and staring into the eyes of two wonderful people getting married, watching their faces closely at the sacred moment that their souls become forever intertwined?

And what might at times seem to be the most exhausting and emotional and sometimes tense moments of discussion at 11PM at a Board of Trustees Meetings (or even later at Executive meetings) . . . it's often it is in the midst of that respectful tumult that the most sacred decisions are made of Torah over the dollar; and of compassion over practicality.

In the midst of the great journey of his life, Jacob went to sleep in the desert, using a simple rock for a pillow, in a place he thought was quite ordinary. During that night he encountered the ladder with its angels going up to heaven and back down to the earth.

That place he thought so ordinary?; it was the very Gate of Heaven.

The Torah says, "When Jacob awoke the next morning out of his sleep, he said: 'Surely God is in this place; and I knew it not.'"

As your Rabbis and Cantor, in the midst of this wonderful journey, we have learned that when we sit with you, wherever we sit with you together, God is indeed in those places. And we know it.

Thank you.

Tom



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## A Message From Our Cantor

### CANTOR DAVID ROSEN



It is hard to believe that another school year has almost come and gone and we are on the brink of another warm and sunny summer season. As the temperature heats up, we look forward to a little more family time, warm

summer nights and wonderful music!

I am pleased to announce two wonderful musical events that will take place in July and August that will put a little sizzle into your summer plans...

On **Thursday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**, bring your picnic dinner and a blanket as you relax with a little "Bluegrass" on the "green grass." Our own Matt Turk, along with his incredible acoustic five piece band, celebrates the music of Jerry Garcia. "**Deadgrass**" has performed in a variety of hot venues throughout Westchester and the New York area. Their music is infectious and some of the improv solos are truly spectacular. Tell your family and friends and bring them to Kol Ami for a beautiful night under the stars. No RSVP is required and there is a suggested \$20 donation (per family).

Switching musical genres, nothing heats up a summer Saturday night better than the steamy and sultry opera, **Carmen**. On **Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**, **Opera Breve**, founded by its artistic director, **Lenora Eve**, will present an abbreviated and updated version of Bizet's hit Opera. Yours truly, will sing the role of Escamillo (The

Toreador) and Lenora Eve will act as Narrator from the perspective of a therapist analyzing the pitfalls of obsessive love.

The production will also star mezzo soprano **Caroline Tye** as Carmen. Caroline is no stranger to Kol Ami having recently performed at an Explorations in Jewish music. She will also be our new Alto soloist for the High Holidays this coming fall. A cast of nine will grace our stage and will be accompanied by piano and a small chamber ensemble.

Opera Breve's mission is to introduce the world of opera to those who may have never been to one, as well as to those who have embraced opera for many years. Come join this innovative and passionate telling of a classic story. Full of lively and familiar tunes as well as a passionate love triangle and murder. It is sure to be a magical evening!!

Tickets will be available both in advance and at the door. Stay tuned for details.

If you are interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring one or both (or even part of one) of these events, please contact me directly at [cantordavid@nykolami.org](mailto:cantordavid@nykolami.org).

I hope to see you this summer for some wonderful musical programming right here at Kol Ami!!

Happy Summer,

Cantor David



## A Message From Our ECP Director

### NAN BLANK



All of us here at the Early Childhood Program find it incredible to believe that on June 15<sup>th</sup> we will say farewell to another wonderful year. It was a year filled with fabulous experiences, fantastic opportunities for learning and terrific memories. It was a year we can all be very proud of. In fact, it's hard to say who had

more fun; the children, our staff or our families!

This year would not have been possible without our incredible ECP Staff and I want to take this opportunity to thank Laura Abramsky, Paula Altneu, Jackie Barrett, Erica Baker, Jen Benalt, Erica Berger, Cheryl Bernstein, Lisa Beyer, Jen Boxer, Stacy Brodsky, Lauri Carey, Meredith Cohen, Susan Epstein, Allison Fiore, Elisa Goldman, Jackie Kay, Debbie Klein, Lisa Lawrence, Joele Levenson, Dorian Nerenberg, Julie Rabinowitz, Jodi Ruzumna, Barbara Schwartz, Gerrie Schwartz, Ivy Shapiro, Sharon Sohl, Jen Strassler, Barbara Weiner, Debby Yablow, Debbie Youngstein and Cindy Ziemann and our ECP Chair Cindy Musoff and Executive Board Liaison Susan Arovas for their tremendous dedication and support of the Early Childhood Program. I also want to thank my two new Co-Administrators Tracey Schweber and Lisa Cohen who have worked tirelessly alongside me this year. Our Congregation is truly blessed to have these fabulous women at the helm.

I also want to thank our parents and Temple volunteer community who worked tirelessly on our **Family Photo Day**, **Parent Cocktail Parties**, **Turkey Trot**, **Chanukah Party**, **our Family Concert afternoon**, **our Sukkot Dinner and Crafts evening**, **our Shabbat Dinner**, **our Book Fair chaired by**

**Sara Elkin**, **our Purim Carnival**, **our Passover Play**, **Speakers Series**, **Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration**, **our Couples Evening Chaired by Liz Ilberg**, **Emily Campbell**, **Danielle Gecht**, **with help from Lisa Bernstein**, **Hope Stevens**, **and Aimee Atkinson**, **our Bring your Favorite Guy to School Day**, **Family Fun Day**, **and our Yearbook Chaired by Sara Elkin**, **with the assistance of Emily Campbell**. With your support and dedication our year was filled with excitement and fun; together, we continue to *Build a Community of Friends One Family at a Time* and for this I am truly thankful.

This year through the hard work of our fundraising chairs and a number of large donations, Liz Ilberg, Emily Campbell, and Danielle Gecht were able to raise enough funds to completely renovate our Courtyard Playground.

Our enrollment for next year is just about full and we are delighted! We are already planning our curriculum and programming for our 2's, 3's, 4's and Pre-K's and it all promises to be very exciting.

Finally, I want to thank our Congregation, the Board of Trustees, Jess Lorden, Madiha Tubman, Ilene Miller and the entire office staff, and Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Rabbi Tom Weiner and Cantor David Rosen for their unending support of our nursery school and all that we do!

It continues to be my greatest pleasure to come to work each day and to be part of such a vibrant community. Thank you for the opportunity to help build a "*Community of Friends*". I wish you all a healthy, and relaxing summer filled with warm memories and contented smiles.

Be well,

Nan

## Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

### June 2

Mitzvah Day with the Children from the Center for Learning in New Rochelle

### June 4

11:30am - 2:00pm  
Family Fun Day

### June 7

ECP Annual Truck Day

### June 14

11:00am  
Annual School Picnic

### June 15

4's and Pre-K Friendship Ceremony

### June 20

First day of Camp

Congregation Kol Ami ECP  
Welcomes the community to our

# Annual Family Fun Day!!!!

Sunday, June 4, 2017

11:30-2:00pm

RAIN OR SHINE



**Lots of family fun including:**

**Lunch**

**Coach Steve**

**Arts & Crafts**

**The Ice Cream Man**



**and new this year....**

**INFLATABLE BOUNCE HOUSES!!!!**



Any Plans for Wednesday Evening, July 12<sup>th</sup>?

Well we've got just the thing!

Join us at our Family Movie Night!

**WE WILL BE SHOWING**

# MOANA

Bring a blanket for your family  
And we'll bring the Pizza, Salad and Ice Cream

5:15 for Dinner

5:45 Movie

7:30 Ice Cream/Ices and Home

Join us for a wonderful evening of family fun!

Let us know you'll be coming by filling in the form below or reserving your place  
By calling Nan in the Early Childhood office at 949-4777 x 107

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of People: \_\_\_\_\_

Rain or Shine  
Everyone is Welcome

CONGREGATION KOL AMI WELCOMES YOU TO



# Shabbat in the Woods

*A Service in Story and Song for Young Families*

Join us for our  
Shabbat in the Woods Service

Followed by a Family Picnic (Rain or Shine)



Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

It's Easy! You bring a picnic dinner, drinks and a blanket for your family  
We bring the Watermelon and Cookies

Shabbat at 5:30

Dinner at 6:00 and

Singing and Dancing with Shmulik

Everyone is Welcome!





## CONGREGATION KOL AMI early childhood program

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

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

### First Friends: A Toddler Program

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

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

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

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

**Call for an appointment today  
Nan Blank, Director, at 914.949.4717, Ext. 107**



## A Message From Our President

### HANK ROUDA



This is the toughest and easiest of the over 40 columns that I've written as President of this incredibly special congregation. It's the toughest because it means saying goodbye to you all in this role, a role that I truly respect and have thoroughly enjoyed doing for the last four years. It's the easiest

because I have no agenda, no money to raise, nothing to ask for or to, subtly, suggest that there's something that you might want to do. It's just me telling you how I feel. Mostly, I feel blessed. Blessed to have been given the opportunity to make a difference in a place that has become way more than just our spiritual home. Blessed to have developed relationships that will transcend this role and this time. Blessed to have been able to make a small difference in the way that people feel about our temple. This has been, without a doubt, one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

It's common to look back and evaluate a tenure like this by focusing on accomplishments, on things. We've had plenty of those over the past four years and we can all be very proud of them. I could spend the rest of this column just listing them, but I don't think that really represents the best way to look at how we got to where we are now. Rather, I'd like to focus on a feeling. The Board and those closest to me will, at this point, probably be ready to scream "relational", but, while that's part of it, the feeling that I'm focused on is "connectedness". I truly believe that the way that people feel connected to this community has grown and been enriched. From the calls that you receive from the clergy when you have a *yarzheit*, to the opportunities to do for others, like our friends at the Coachman Family Center, to the birthday blessings the first of each month, to more opportunities to socialize with each other outside of temple, such as on Broadway, to the more modern and personal language in our new High Holy Day *machzor*, to even more opportunities to learn with and from each other, to lighting Shabbat candles together and then greeting

everyone before *L'cha Dodi*. There are so many ways that people have connected and continue to connect to Kol Ami and we are constantly searching for even more. What is your "Entrance to Kol Ami"? Whatever, whenever and wherever it is, you know that someone is there to greet you.

I've gone to a lot of Presidents Roundtables and seminars over the past few years and I listen to the complaints and problems that my colleagues raise. In many ways, they're similar to ours (no one has enough money, security is an increasing concern, etc...). And everyone has a congregation that they feel (rightfully so) is special. And then I talk to people who belong to many of those same congregations after they've come to a service or a program at our temple and they reinforce what we all know – Congregation Kol Ami is a truly special place. Yes, it's the clergy and the staff and the educators and the lay leaders. But, mostly, it's all of you. I want to thank you for giving me the honor of leading you for the past 4 years and for letting me be part of your lives. I have been blessed by all of you and I hope that I was able to give back a small portion of the love and respect that you have given to me. I want to thank you for the honor that you have bestowed upon me by allowing me to be such an integral part of the life of this congregation that my family and I so deeply cherish. I am proud of what we have accomplished and I look forward to being a part of our future. So, in Hebrew, I could say *shalom*, but instead of saying goodbye, I'll say *l'hitraot*, I'll see you again soon.

Hank



**5 SYNAGOGUES OF WHITE PLAINS  
ISRAEL ACTION COMMITTEE**

## **Celebrate Israel Parade Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>**

The five synagogues of White Plains will be marching in the Celebrate Israel Parade.

*We will assemble at Section 12W - West 52nd St between Fifth and Sixth Avenue, and go on at 1:45 pm. Plan to be there by 1:00 pm. T-shirts will be available.*

Contact phone: Jack Berger 914-374-5417.

For supporters/spectators: Parade time: 11 am – 4 pm

Route: Fifth Avenue 57th – 74th St



To register to march in the parade, contact any of the organizers listed below:

Bet Am Shalom, Alan Septimus, [alan@aseptimus.com](mailto:alan@aseptimus.com)

Congregation Kol Ami, Jack Berger, [jicchak@aol.com](mailto:jicchak@aol.com)

Hebrew Institute of White Plains, Dean Ungar, [deanungar1@gmail.com](mailto:deanungar1@gmail.com)

Temple Israel Center, Jonathan Flaxer, [jflaxer@golenbock.com](mailto:jflaxer@golenbock.com)

Young Israel of White Plains, Moshe Mirsky, [mzmjfb@aol.com](mailto:mzmjfb@aol.com)

## A Message From Our Executive Director

### JESS LORDEN



One of the exhilarating moments of my life.... Definitely a bucket list item.... this is how I would describe my recent participation in the Religious Action Center's (RAC) Consultation on Conscience and my experience lobbying our representatives on Capitol Hill.

From April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>, I had the privilege of joining Lori Abrams, Ronnie Cohn, Daryl Moss, Betsy McCormack and Leslie Wiesen as part of the Kol Ami delegation attending the RAC Conference. The RAC, led by Jonah Pesner, is an arm of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose mission is to pursue social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, DC. It is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism and is supported by the URJ's member congregations. Our High School students recently reported on their own RAC experience at a Kabbalat Shabbat service. This year's conference was the largest ever, with over 800 attendees. The unifying theme, "Tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now," originated with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The message of the first day of the conference, which included plenary sessions and workshops, was standing together in challenging times. Key understandings that I left with include: (i) it is time to build the world we want; (ii) it is not about what we say, but what we do; and (iii) pursue peace while pursuing justice.

The second day of the conference began with a moving service including a newly composed

social justice song and discussions led by Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center and Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism. After lunch we engaged in a conversation on rights, race and justice featuring Reverend Cornell Brooks, President and CEO of the NAACP; Piper Kerman, Activist and author, *Orange is the New Black*; and Michael Waldman, President, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School. Following the discussion, we began to prepare for our lobbying sessions with issue briefings. The third and last day of the conference began at the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue with a dialogue including members of Congress and Rabbi David Saperstein, Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy to the Union for Reform Judaism and Religious Action Center and Director Emeritus of the Religious Action Center. After the morning session, we proceeded to lunch in the Senate Dining Room and then headed over to the Capitol where we had the privilege of meeting with representatives of Senator Chuck Schumer's office followed by a meeting with staffers of Congresswoman Nita Lowey. We adhered to the recommended approach: (i) discuss the import of the issue, including supporting statistics, to our country, state and local area; (ii) use Jewish texts to provide support for our position according to our Jewish values and tradition; (iii) share a personal story to ensure the issue resonates; and (iv) make the ask - what action are we requesting. We focused on the issues of immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship, and comprehensive criminal justice reform.

I left "the Hill" hopeful and energized. Activism can make a difference. Those in Congress are under immense pressure and recognize the will of the majority. In addition, I learned that our focus on social justice has been too narrow. Social Justice has three pillars: direct service; activism; and advocacy.

Direct service, what we have called social action, addresses an immediate need. I would give Kol Ami a grade of an "A" in this arena. We created a Food Pantry when we realized hunger was an issue in our community. We had a coat drive when we realized friends from the Coachmen Shelter needed coats. Twice a year we have feasts for Coachmen families. These are but a few examples. Activism includes initiatives such as taking two buses to Washington, DC for the March on Washington, creating the Rapid Response Network and organizing the Not in our Towns rally, hosting our weekend of advocacy, and creating our *Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof* newsletter. Our grade in this area is improving but is not where I would like us to be. Advocacy is where I think we would score the lowest. Advocacy includes lobbying at the local, state, and federal level as well as sending postcards and letters to our elected officials to express our views and concerns. Our teens visit "the Hill" regularly, but most of us have not been active, in an organized manner. While direct service certainly feels good, advocacy will lead to the greater systemic-level change that is needed.

So, what is my ask – what would I like us to

do? I would like Congregation Kol Ami to be among the congregations which join in the reform movement's vision for social justice. I hope we will sign a Brit Olam which is a covenant with our world, a collective response to the suffering to which we are bearing witness. The Brit Olam we have been asked to sign calls for us to act in solidarity with vulnerable communities, to build relationships across lines of difference in our local community, to act at the local, state, and/or federal levels to address the root causes of injustice through advocacy, and to participate in the RAC's Urgency of Now campaigns. In addition, I am hopeful that we will activate a social justice task force and select a few issues on which we can focus while being flexible enough to respond to new issues as they arise.

History has shown the power of congregations and our clergy to bring about change. As Rabbi Hillel said "If not now, when? If not us, who?" I hope you will join me!

Wishing you a wonderful summer.  
Best regards,  
Jess



Lori Abrams, Leslie Wiesen, Betsy McCormack, Ronnie Cohn, Jess Lorden and Daryl Moss



## A Message From Our Religious School Director

### FELICE MILLER BARITZ



Another school year is over! There has been so much going on in our school... we have been VERY busy! I spend a great deal of my time working with teachers, talking to parents and children... Listening. Honoring the stories of our community, the goal of our school is to construct meaning, *Jewish Meaning*, through inquiry, and discovery. It's not enough to just teach Torah, or Hebrew, or prayer.

We want our children to experience these things. What we want them to learn is how to make these things a meaningful part of their own lives. So we work to build these experiences into the learning that takes place in our building. Over this past year, we celebrated holidays together, read and discussed books, completed wonderful art projects with Candice, sang with Cantor David and Itamar and danced with Shmulik. We shared in all kinds of special activities through our grade level learning. If you've never seen one of the beautiful Yads our 7<sup>th</sup> graders create in preparation for becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you should! They're magnificent!

"We have continued to build on our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Shabbaton program. I really enjoy spending this special time with our kids. I love the experience of taking a group of our children away for the weekend and sharing Shabbat with them. Standing in the woods, eyes closed, we recite the Sh'ma together... We are hoping with the addition of a new Director of Youth Engagement, we will continue to grow and expand our informal educational opportunities.

Learning to read Hebrew and to pray is one of the objectives many of our families have when they enroll their children in our school. This year we continued to refine our Hebrew learning goals. We dedicated more time, both in the classroom and in the Sanctuary to learning and practicing our prayers. I am so pleased by what I see and hear. Our children are learning to read and decode Hebrew with greater confidence. They are spending time praying and exploring the meaning of our prayers.

I am always exploring new ways to better engage our students in Jewish learning. We are continually refining, changing and updating our programs and pedagogy. The goal is always to better meet the needs of our students and their families. By responding to the unique needs of our community, we hope to stimulate the type of engaged and connected learning that will lead to a long-term commitment to Jewish learning and living.

We will provide opportunities for our learners to frame their Jewish learning in ways that will impact their knowledge, their actions, their beliefs and their feeling of being part of the larger Jewish community.

We made a concerted effort through our amazing lay leaders, to become more involved in reaching out to our school families and creating opportunities for people to get to know one another. Parents organized and hosted Religious School events and everyone who participated really enjoyed the chance to meet and spend time with other members of our Kol Ami community. We will continue to work to build this type of outreach and create more opportunities for the members of our school community to connect. If you have ideas, let us know!

Religious School registration is open! If you had a child attending our Religious School in grades K-6, your child's registration will automatically be rolled over for next year. You will receive a bill for Religious School soon. If you have a child going into **grades 8-12, you must complete an online registration** form! [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the online school registration.

Pam and I will be in the office all summer, preparing for another school year. Please reach out with any questions you may have... or stop by to say hello! Wishing everyone a summer of rest, adventure and family!

***Enable us, God, to behold meaning in the chaos of life about us  
and purpose in the chaos of life within us.  
Deliver us from the sense of futility in our striving toward the light  
and the truth.  
Give us the strength to ride safely through the maelstrom of  
petty cares and anxieties.  
May we behold things in their proper proportions  
and see life in its wholeness and its holiness. (Adapted, Mordecai Kaplan)***

Fondly,

Felice



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

### ***We want your kids!***

If you are registering a ***new student*** in our Religious School, please complete our online registration form! Go to <https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/schoolregistration>

***If your child is entering 8th - 12th grade next year... you must complete the online registration form.***

*If you have a child who has been enrolled in our school and is entering 1st-7th grade next year, there is no need to complete a new online form, unless your info has changed. We will automatically roll over registration for you.*







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## **“Restoring a Torah, and a Family, in Sydney Australia”**

### **(Here’s what can happen when you pursue Jewish genealogy)**

by Susan J. Gordon

One day before the Presidential election last fall, my husband Ken and I found ourselves in a modern Orthodox synagogue outside of Sydney, Australia. Our decision to vote in advance and fly almost 10,000 miles from home to witness the installation of my late great-uncle Jacob’s restored pre-Holocaust Torah had been pondered for weeks until we concluded that really, we had to be there!

The Torah was already on the bimah when we entered. Ken and other male relatives were invited to “ink in” the final letters, which they did proudly. After the ink had dried, the Torah was rolled up, wrapped in its mantle, and topped with a majestic silver crown. Singing and dancing men crowded around it joyously, lifted it up, and prepared to bring it to its new home in the Ark.

While the story of Jacob’s Torah is heart-warming and uplifting, it is not simple. I heard it first, 15 years ago, from my elderly second cousin, Eva, who was Jacob’s oldest grandchild. We were sitting in the living room of her Tel Aviv home, barely half a mile from the beaches by the Mediterranean Sea, but more than 1300 miles away from her birthplace in Budapest, and decades away in time.

“Before the war,” she began. We both knew *which* war - the war in Europe, the war in which millions of Jews were murdered, including members of our family. She continued: “My mother’s father, Jacob, was the president of the Kazinczy synagogue in Budapest, and sometime in the 1930’s he had donated a sefer Torah to it.”

Eva was in her 80’s and had been sharing many stories with me about her life before and during World War II. She was well-educated, bright, honest and straightforward. She told her stories without embellishment or exaggeration.

As we sat together in two comfortable armchairs, I glanced at a tall bookcase crammed with books written in English, Hebrew, Hungarian, German and French, and thought about how much Eva always loved to read. Books had been her lifeline and escape many times, from the terrors surrounding her long ago. In late fall, 1944, as Allied bombs fell on Budapest, she had crouched in a corner of her quaking apartment and read Thomas Mann’s [The Magic Mountain](#). Food and water were

terribly scarce, but books were always there. Now, she placed a bowl of Clementines and dried dates on a nearby coffee table and offered them to me. I smiled, shook my head no, and she continued.

Shortly before the Germans invaded Budapest in March, 1944, and subsequently shut down all Jewish houses of worship, prescient members of Jacob’s synagogue removed all the Torahs from the Ark, hid and buried them... somewhere. Over the next nine months, bombings, lootings, shootings and raging fires brought massive destruction and many deaths. By mid-October, “there was no order, only madness and chaos,” said Eva. When the Soviets drove out the Nazis early in 1945, “we accepted the fact that the Torah was lost.”

By then, Jacob, his second wife Klara, their 18-year old daughter, Suzi, and, possibly, one or two older children had emerged from hiding and were living in a small apartment. Eva was there when a Hungarian Nazi soldier walked in, with a rucksack on his back. She recalled how fearful everyone was, especially when the soldier asked, specifically, for Jacob.

“‘Yes?’ my grandfather whispered, knowing a Jew’s life was very cheap in those days,” she told me.

The soldier insisted on speaking privately to Jacob, and then confessed that he, too, was a Jew and his uniform was a disguise. Next, he opened his sack, pulled out the sefer Torah, and presented it to Jacob, saying, “I found it and kept it for you.”

“Jacob didn’t live much longer,” said Eva, “But at least he could hold his Torah. Later on, it was brought to Israel.”

After Eva told me this story, I saw the sefer Torah in a synagogue in Ramat Gan, where it was stored with other Torahs no longer kosher because of small imperfections and damages. Neither I nor my Israeli cousin, Avi, who accompanied me, could find any errors. A congregant who assisted us concurred. But he also reminded us that just one non-kosher letter in a Torah scroll can make the entire scroll non-kosher. Even so, we were pleased. It’s not perfect, we thought, but it was rescued and saved, and it is here, in Israel.

However, we did notice that one of the four wooden Torah handles was different from the others. While they were light in color, smooth and plain, this one was definitely older, made of darker wood, with deeply etched, decorative lines. Encircling the roller plate was a silver band engraved with the letter, “M.”

---

Why an “M?” I wondered. “Why not a “J” ... for Jacob? Or a “Y,” for Yacov?”

Maybe the ‘M’ is for Moshe, our great-grandfather,” Avi suggested. “Since he and the whole family were originally from Zbaraz in Galicia, it’s likely that’s where the Torah really came from.” That made sense. After we researched immigration records and other historical documents, Avi and I were also were pretty sure that in 1923, when Moshe left Zbaraz with my grandfather Aaron, they stopped in Budapest on their way to America. Surely, Moshe would have entrusted his Torah to Jacob, his eldest and most religious son.

Eventually, I wrote about all this in BECAUSE OF EVA: A Jewish Genealogical Journey, published in spring 2016. In it, I explained why and how mysteries in my family’s past prodded me to delve into World War II and Holocaust history. My entire search had been motivated by curiosity and my need to repair branches on my family tree that had been broken by war, immigration, my grandparents’ marital separation and my parents’ divorce. I also raised questions about the accuracy of old family stories that we can no longer prove or disprove.

A few months later, Danny, a second cousin I never knew, read my book in Sydney, Australia, and learned the location of his grandfather Jacob’s Torah. Danny also told his mother, Suzi, about it. She is the only child of Jacob who is still alive; even today, she remembers the dark days of 1944.

Sometimes, writers receive unexpected pay-offs when their words spur readers into action. Here’s what happened:

Forthwith, Danny flew to Israel and arranged for the Torah to be restored. After that, it was brought to Central Synagogue in Bondi Junction, a suburb of Sydney, for a ceremony called a “*Hachnasat*” - the installation of a Torah scroll.

Suzi says that Jacob’s children gave him the sefer Torah as a birthday gift in 1935, when she was about 9 years old. She assumes that it was new, but was it? Or was it Moshe’s “old” Torah that had been repaired and made kosher for Jacob?

One of the trickiest parts about recording family histories is the difficulty (and sometimes, impossibility) of confirming *what really happened* in the past. As most of us know, what one person remembers to be true is not, necessarily, another person’s recollection. We like to think we recall everything correctly; after all, we were there, we should know. But sometimes, what we remember is only a small part of a much larger picture, what we have been told by others, or what we wish had happened. We like to think our memories are crystal clear... but they aren’t. The event we recall might not have

happened *that way*.

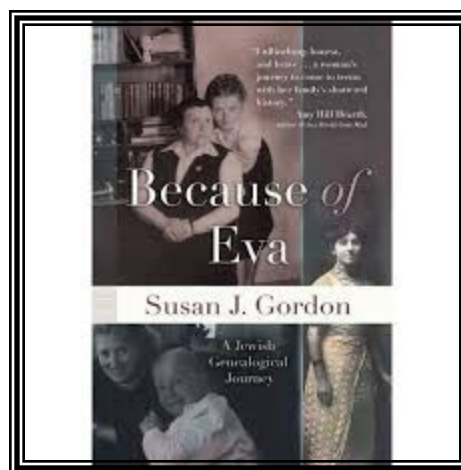
Probably, when Eva told me about the Torah, she knew more than she said. I didn’t ask her if it was new, or where it came from. Now, I wish I had. But Eva’s stories about the war years came fast; when she finished one, she quickly moved on to another. It was like opening windows on a long-shuttered room.... So I didn’t ask Eva anything else about the Torah, because I thought, this is its history.

The *Hachnasat* of Jacob’s (or Moshe’s?) Torah was celebrated on Suzi’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last November. “Nothing is more treasured than a Torah scroll, which is the heart of every synagogue,” said Rabbi Levi Wolf of Central Synagogue. “We celebrate the homecoming of a pre-Holocaust Torah that escaped, survived, and is reborn.”

The Torah had been beautifully restored, but now all the wooden handles were encased in silver. The “M” was gone.

As I watched the Torah being carried from the bimah to the Ark, I thought - We will never know for sure this Torah’s beginnings, but that’s okay, for this is not just a story about the past, it’s also a story of who we are now. Here is the Torah, brought back to full life in a synagogue, and that is a very good thing.

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## Women of Reform Judaism (Kol Ami Sisterhood)

### Count and Be Counted

As I write this article, the parasha coming up is B'midbar, the beginning parasha of the Book of Numbers. It begins with God saying to Moses, "Take a census of the whole Israelite company by the clans of its ancestral houses, listing the names, every male, head by head. You and Aaron shall record them by their groups, from the age of twenty years up, all those in Israel who are able to bear arms." (Numbers 1:2-3).

By the time you read this, the Sisterhood will have taken its own census of its female members, head by head, celebrating our numbers with our Membership Dinner and special guest speaker, congregant Dr. Mimi Leibman, leading a discussion on "Dealing Effectively with Change."

And if you are not yet counted among our sisters, it is never too late! We continue our accounting with our end of year meeting and pot luck dinner coming up this summer as we review our Sisterhood successes and how we have counted in the life of Kol Ami this past year. From donations to the ECP playground and the Temple fundraiser, we have counted. Our underwriting of

the bouncy castle for the Coachman Family Center Barbeque counted. Our annual Ladies Night Out at the Irish Bank, a Passover Tasting, Wine and Wisdom Havdalah, and Purim baskets all counted too! And our High Holiday Food Drive certainly counted, not just for Kol Ami, but for the wider community. Of course our Sisterhood traditions – the Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund for graduating Religious School seniors, the Friday Night Onegs, underwriting the Kol Nidre cellist, gifts for B'nai Mitzvah, and greetings for the Confirmation Class – they count too! And at our final events of the year, we will start looking ahead to how we will make ourselves count for Kol Ami in the year to come.

So please join our numbers and be counted among the Sisters of Kol Ami, the Women of Reform Judaism. Let us count you and count on you, and help us count for our continued contributions to the life of Kol Ami.

Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus Stacey Matusow

**ATTENTION ALL CONGREGANTS!**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL**

**Holiday Shopping Spree!**



**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**  
**9am - 3pm**

If you are interested in participating as a vendor in this year's event, please contact Jill [jetdomino@optonline.net](mailto:jetdomino@optonline.net) or Marsha [marshageller@gmail.com](mailto:marshageller@gmail.com) by June 15<sup>th</sup> for more information

 **WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM** | Stronger Together



# **Congregation Kol Ami**

## **Invites you to LGBTQ+ Pride Shabbat**

### **Friday, June 2, 2017**

**6:15 pm**

**Guest Speaker Max Antman**



### **LGBTQ Advocacy in a New Political Climate**

Max Antman is currently a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center. He works as an advocate on Capitol Hill on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose 900 congregations across the United States encompass 1.5 million constituents. His legislative work focuses on LGBTQ+ equality, immigration, judicial nominations and Native American issues.

In this work Max authors press releases, opinion editorials, statements, action alerts, blog posts, speeches, talking points and memos connecting Jewish teachings to legislative issues in order to educate and mobilize our constituency.

Max also leads conferences for 2,000 high school students, including planning and facilitating educational programming and preparing students to lobby their members of Congress on the issues of LGBTQ+ equality, judicial nominations and economic justice.

Previously Max worked as a Legislative Staff Intern for the Illinois House of Representatives Democratic Caucus. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Max also has extensive experience in the Reform Jewish camping world.

Max Antman is an engaging, knowledgeable and brilliant advocate and speaker. We are very fortunate to have him with us.

**THIS SERVICE IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

CONGREGATION KOL AMI \* 252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE \* WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 \* 914.949.4717 \* [WWW.NYKOLAMI.ORG](http://WWW.NYKOLAMI.ORG)

# FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



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

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

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—Matthew J. Fiorillo,  
Owner & Funeral Director



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*Cremation*  
WITH  
**CONFIDENCE**  
GUARANTEE

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# WE WELCOME A SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY TO WHITE PLAINS!

THE WHITE PLAINS/SCARSDALE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT GROUP



The White Plains/Scarsdale Refugee Resettlement Group, led by Congregation Kol Ami, applied with HIAS to host a Syrian refugee family in December 2016. Recently, the group was notified that a **family of five** was granted access to the US and that we would be the host!

We need your help in providing the resources to sustain this family through their transition to self sufficiency over the next 12 months.

## Community Volunteers from:

- \* Congregation Kol Ami
- \* Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emmanu-El
- \* Students for Refugees Club at SHS
- \* Other committed volunteers

For more information contact:  
[susanhopedavis@hotmail.com](mailto:susanhopedavis@hotmail.com)

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

### Give Generously!

We need to raise enough money to support refugee families through their transition to self sufficiency.

- Rental Apartment (up to 12 months)
- Groceries & Misc.
- Transportation
- New Mattresses
- Utilities
- Clothing and Necessities, etc.

### I want to donate . . .

#### BY CHECK:

Congregation Kol Ami  
C/O Madiha Tubman  
252 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606

Make Checks payable to:  
**Kol Ami Refugee Resettlement Fund**

#### ONLINE BY CREDIT CARD (3% service fee):

[CLICK HERE](https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/refugeefund)

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



# GIVE BLOOD

Semi-Annual

## Kol Ami Blood Drive

Tuesday June 6, 2017

3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

## At Temple Bet Am Shalom

295 Soundview (around the corner from Kol Ami)

### Give the GIFT OF LIFE

This is the semi-annual Kol Ami Blood Drive  
co-sponsored with Temple Bet Am Shalom.

We urge participation by temple members during this semi-annual blood drive. You don't need to make an appointment.

### Think About These Reasons to Give Blood

- \* There is great satisfaction in knowing you've made a difference in the lives of others
- \* As a blood donor you are an anonymous hero to somebody
- \* "Pay it forward" if you have had a loved one or acquaintance receive blood in an emergency or when needed in surgery
- \* It's a donation that only costs a little time
- \* There is no substitute for blood; there is only one source – YOU
- \* Make sure blood will be available when someone needs it

### Bring a photo ID

For those who have never given, you will be surprised how easy it is. No one likes needles, but can't you endure a small bit of discomfort to save a life? Remember to eat well and have plenty of fluids prior to your giving.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 with written parental/guardian permission) and weigh 110 pounds. If you have specific questions about your donor eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900 or log on to [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org) and click on Donate Blood. Or for information call David Klein, Men's Council Blood Drive Chair at 761-7659.

*"For the life of all flesh—its blood is its life." Leviticus 17:14*

*"Whoever saves a life, as if saves an entire world." Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5*

**YOU can save lives.**

## Kol Ami Doctors and Nurses Needed

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

## Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Kol Ami Cares

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

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

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

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

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

### A. Comfort the Bereaved

I would like to

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

### B. Visit the Sick

I would like to

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

### C. Share Knowledge

I would like to

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

### D. Support our Neighbors

I would like to

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

### E. Provide Transportation

I am available to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Social Action

### **Cooking for the Homeless**

In the Kol Ami kitchen  
Sundays at 11:15am  
June 11

### **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, June 28th at 2:30pm**

The Osborn  
Theall Road  
Rye, 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



### Kol Ami & the Coachman A wonderful partnership!

So much Tikum Olam has been spread to the Coachman this Spring!

#### Birthday Parties!

The Ivler and Geller families sponsored our April birthday party complete with arts & crafts, pizza, cake and gifts for the birthday children. Danny Bernstein of Backyard Sports organized team building fun and games.

In May, upcoming Bat Mitzvah, Rachel Klein, (and mom Jodi) sponsored our Mitzvah Morning to make goody bags and birthday cards for the May party, which was sponsored by the Schwartz, Herbsman and Baker families. Rachel and her friends helped maximize the fun by organizing a slime project and baking cone cupcakes to decorate with the kids. Spencer Danzig and Jeremy Adler led the kids in sports and games.

#### Mothers Day Project!

Sara Blotner continued her annual tradition of organizing a Mother's Day project around our Religious School Day of Chessed. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders assembled and decorated special gift bags for the Coachman moms with donations of toiletries and perfumes contributed by our congregants.

#### BBQ!

Our annual pre-Memorial Day BBQ was a big success! It was another great collaboration with Jay Hack at the helm and many others pitching in to help with cooking, entertaining and kicking off the start of summer with our Coachman guests.

Our community continues to demonstrate how caring and creative it is through the sharing of time, talents and energy to spread some sunshine and cheer to our Coachman friends. It's a wonderful partnership that brings good feelings to all who participate.

### Thank you to all our volunteers!

Alison Adler & Lisa Hochman  
Coachman Committee Co-Chairs



# Adult Education

## Spiritual Journeying Groups

### Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00pm  
Final class: June 19

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

### Women in Transition

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

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

### Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

Now entering its 6th year -

Newcomers Always Welcome!

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45am

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

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

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

#### Programs include:

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

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

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## GATHER AND STUDY

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**Congregation Kol Ami and  
Dr. Pierre Darmon Present**  
**“Disaster Strikes. Now What?  
How to Recover?”**  
Monday, June 5  
7:30pm

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

Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:45 pm  
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.

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

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
June 5, 19

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

### **Kol Ami Book Club**

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20  
Meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year. Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively.  
For more information contact Doris Dingott at 289-0869 or DLDingott@gmail.com

June 7th: “A Pigeon and a Boy” Meir Shalev  
July 5th: “All I Know is Love” Judith Frank  
Aug. 2nd: “The Sympathizer” Viet Thanh Nguyen

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## PARENTING GROUPS

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### **Parenting Teens Workshops**

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month  
12:00pm  
Next session June 1  
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 June 5  
Susan Davis, LCSW

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

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## ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

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

Sundays at 10:00am  
Conversational Hebrew, grammar, vocabulary, reading, and translating current Israeli publications. An informal learning environment. (Contact Alice Seidman at 953-8455 for further information). Free of charge



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## The Arts: Music & Drama

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### **Congregational Choir**

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm

For High School Students and Adults

Cantor David Rosen and

Lenora Eve, Accompanist

### **Fun and Games**

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#### **Mah Jongg**

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Kol Ami Atrium

Email Betsy McCormack

(Betsyrmc@aol.com)

for information

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## Summer Movies at Kol Ami

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Wednesday, July 12th

ECP Movie

"Moana"

RSVP Required

~~~~~

Wednesday, July 26: "Lion"

Wednesday, August 16: "Hidden Figures"

7:30pm

## Contributions



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

To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices

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

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

**Donors' Address:**

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

**Send donation acknowledgement to:**

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

**Amount Enclosed:**

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

### Funds

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

## June 2017 Calendar

### Thu Jun 1

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

### Fri Jun 2

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service  
Pride Shabbat with Guest Speaker Max Antman

### Sat Jun 3

Shabbat Lift -  
9:00am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00am Coffee, and community  
9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am: Shabbat Services

### Mon Jun 5

9:15 am - Gandparenting  
11:00 am - Current Events  
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar  
7:30 pm - Dr. Pierre Darmon - Disaster strikes. Now what? How to recover?

### Tue Jun 6

7:30 pm - Israel In the News

### Wed Jun 7

9:00 am - KA Reads Book Club  
10:30 am - Mah Jongg

### Thu Jun 8

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

### Fri Jun 9

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

### Sat Jun 10

Shabbat Lift - 9:00am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00am Coffee, and community  
9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am: Shabbat Services  
10:30 - Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Maya Schnier  
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of Emma Baumgarten

### Sun Jun 11

11:15 am - Cooking for the Homeless

### Mon Jun 12

12:00 pm - Cooking for the Homeless

### Tue Jun 13

11:30 am - Women in Transition

### Wed Jun 14

10:30 am - Mah Jongg

### Thu Jun 15

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation

### Fri Jun 16

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

### Sat Jun 17

Shabbat Lift - 9:00am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00am Coffee, and community  
9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am: Shabbat Services  
10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: B'nai Mitzvah of Mi-

cah and Noam Arenstein

### Sun Jun 18

Father's Day

### Mon Jun 19

11:00 am - Current Events  
12:30 pm - Mussar Class  
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

### Tue Jun 20

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

### Wed Jun 21

10:30 am - Mah Jongg

### Thu Jun 22

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation  
11:00 am - Wise Aging

### Fri Jun 23

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

### Sat Jun 24

Shabbat Lift - 9:00am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00am Coffee, and community  
9:30am Torah Study  
11:00am: Shabbat Services

### Mon Jun 26

7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

### Wed Jun 28

10:30 am - Mah Jongg

### Thu Jun 29

11:00 am - Wise Aging

### Fri Jun 30

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



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

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