The Connection



Volume 63, No. 10 * Sivan / Tammuz 5772 * June 2012

Mazel Too to our 2012 Confirmands



Photograph courtesy of Deja Vu Studios/DV North Studios, Scarsdale NY 914 725 7700

FRONT ROW, from left side of photo: Sarah Milian, Randi Eisenpress, Maya Melamed, Maia Leeds, Alison Clark, Jackie Tames, Hallie Carmen, Jasmine Lerner, Rachel Okun, Carly Stracher

BACK ROW, from left side of photo: Felice Miller Baritz, Rabbi Tom Weiner, Tyler Staffin, Nathan Flaks, Andrew Cukierwar, Mark Colbran, Gabriel Darmon, Eli Jacobowitz, Jordan Lewis, Noah Jacobowitz, Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Cantor Mo Glazman

SERVICES

Friday, June 1

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday, June 2

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE:

Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Shah in Chapel

Saturday, June 8

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Sunday, June 9

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Main Building

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:

Bar Mitzvah of Avery Salsberg in Chapel

5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE:

B'not Mitzvah of Arianna Bakst and Eliana Litos in Main Building

Friday, June 15

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday, June 16

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel

9:00 am Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:

B'nai Mitzvah of Daniel Garelick and Sadie Mazzola in Main Building

Friday, June 22

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday, June 23

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel Coffee and community

9:00 am Coffee and Study
11:00 am SERVICE

Friday, June 29

5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday, June 30

9:00 am

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel Coffee and community

9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE

REMINDER: Tisha B'Av services will be held on

Saturday, 7/28 in the evening.

Kol Ami's Inclusion Committee

This committee is here to assist any member or visitor with concerns about accessibility, a specific disability or inclusion in our activities. Please contact any one of us to hear your concerns or suggestions.

Gene Kava, esqesk@aol.com Donna Klein, dklein@donnakleinassociates.com or Rachel Feld-Glazman, rachel.feld-glazman@nyumc.org.

Weekly Torah Portions for June

Week ending June 2, 2012 Parashat Naso Numbers 4:21-7:89

The second portion in the Book of Numbers completes the census with a counting of the Levitical families and the enumeration of their responsibilities in the porterage of the Tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting. The parashah's concluding section begins with the Priestly Blessing, 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 9, 2012 Parashat B'haalot'cha Numbers 8:1-12:16

In this parashah, God instructs Moses to appoint elders to share the burden of ruling the people and settling their many issues. The parashah 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 16, 2012 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 people react to the terrifying account of the other ten spies with fear and panic. As a consequence for their behavior, the members of this generation will wander the desert for another 38 years and will not be allowed to enter the "promised" land.

Week ending June 23, 2012 Parashat Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

Four rebels hatch an ill-fated "coup-d'état" against the leadership of Aaron and Moses. Two dreadful punishments await the rebels: for Dathan, Abiram, and their group, the earth bursts asunder, swallowing them. For Korach and his band, fire and plague bring death and havoc.

Week ending June 30, 2012 Parashat Chukat Numbers 19:1-22:1

Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron dies at Kadesh. When the people complain that they have no water to drink, God instructs Moses to take his rod and order a rock to bring forth water. Moses strikes the rock with his rod, in anger against the complaining people. As a result, God informs Moses that he will not be allowed to lead the people into the Land of Israel. Aaron dies at Mount Hor and his son, Eleazer becomes his successor.

From Our Director of Membership and Development



What began as a dream is now a reality. Nearly a year ago we celebrated our beloved Rabbi Shira Milgrom and Dr. David Elcott's twenty five years at Kol Ami. This evening was also the kick off of our L'Dor Va'Dor

Capital Campaign to restore and renovate our sanctuary, grounds and parking lot. I am sure that most of you are aware that the sanctuary has been decommissioned and construction has begun. We have raised over 4 million dollars to date! We are most grateful to all who have donated.

Our Sanctuary belongs to all of us. Reaching our goal requires the participation of everyone in our Temple family. Every pledge and gift is important and appreciated. Gifts can be made over 5 years, enabling everyone to give mean-

ingfully and generously. Our hard-working Capital Campaign Committee members, led by Andrea Seiden, will continue to contact every congregant



in our community so that all will have an opportunity to contribute. Please call me at 949-4717 ext. 115 or email me at Janethershey@nykolami.org regarding your support. I look forward to hearing from you!

Janet

From the Religious School Principal



It is hard to believe it's time to say goodbye for the summer! Another school year has flown by. All year we've been busy with new programs, activities and

lots of learning.

Our Religious School Committee has successfully run several fundraising projects (Rosh Hashanah honey, Purim baskets, and Passover candy) and funds from all these programs help to support our school and our synagogue. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who make these projects and programs a reality for us all. I urge all of you to continue to show your children that their Jewish education matters in the most active way. Being a part of what happens at Kol Ami communicates this better than any words ever will. As we transition to new leadership on our Religious School Committee, we extend our appreciation and thanks to Amy Mauer Litos and Stuart Sorell for their leadership and service.

We've successfully completed hands-on learning for our holiday celebrations, numerous field trips and special art projects and an amazing quantity of enriching programs. Our children have danced, sung, and celebrated together. We continue our work together to help all our families build Jewish lives, and we learn how to build a life of meaning for ourselves and our children. Thanks to continued support from UJA and contributions from private donors, our Yad B'Yad program for teens with developmental challenges will continue for our 6th year. We continue to work to provide the opportunity for all Jewish children to have access to a quality Jewish educational experience. Please speak with us if you or someone you know needs support in order to accommodate their child in our school

The pilot year of our new 7th grade model for learning, "Mesorah – Choosing your Commitment" has concluded with wonderful feedback from students and parents. We are excited to

continue and to expand on the success of this new way of providing Jewish learning to our students and their families.

Online registration is now open. Please go to our website at www.nykolami.org and click on the link to register your child for Religious School for next year. We will continue to accept registrations through the summer, so spread the word about the wonderful things happening here!

We will work through the summer to improve and enrich our curriculum, prepare teachers and clean and organize our school for a new year.

When we return in September, we'll be in our new Sanctuary! Watch the progress of our construction on our facebook page!

Wishing everyone a summer filled with joy, adventure and rest!

Felice & Alix

Ritual Riches: Tisha B'Av

Traditionally, Tisha B'Av (Hebrew for the ■ 9th day of the month of Av) is observed as a fast day. It occurs in July or August of our calendar. It is a day for remembering and for grieving and mourning over the destruction of the Temple, first by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE, and the second time by the Romans in 70 CE. The Babylonians looted the Temple's treasures and the Israelites were forced into exile in Babylonia. Where magnificent buildings once stood, only rubble and ashes remained. All was lost. There was no food, no water, no work, no government, no leaders, no hope. The prophets of the exile believed that destruction was punishment by God, not abandonment. Isaiah wrote, "Tell Jerusalem to take heart, proclaim unto her that her time of service is accomplished, her guilt paid off." (Isaiah 40:2). And so it was. About 50 years later, King Cyrus of Persia defeated the Babylonians and permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. The Second Temple lasted more than 500 years, even longer than the First Temple, which lasted more than 400 years. The Jewish nation was reborn.

In the imagination of the Israelites and the Jews, which has been macerated by the memories of many national disasters, Tisha B'Av has become the symbol - the day into which is poured many of the disasters that have befallen the Jews over the last 2,500 years. The Mishna added several related tragic events to the litany of the woes remembered on Tisha B'Av. These were the Bar Kochba revolt in 135 CE, the butchery of his followers by the Romans three years later,

and finally the "plowing up" of Jerusalem by the emperor Hadrian.

During the Middle Ages other disasters were added to the list: the death of the ten martyrs (including Rabbi Akiva) at the time of Hadrian's persecution, the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290 and from Spain by Queen Isabella in 1492, the massacres carried out during the Crusades and by the maniacal Rindfleisch (an early German prototype of Hitler in 1298. The assassination of the Archduke in Sarajevo, which started World War I, also occurred on Tisha B'Av.

Tisha B'Av has all the characteristics of shiva. For a full 25 hours, from sundown to nightfall, traditional Jews will not bathe, eat, drink, laugh, listen to music, wear leather, or beautify themselves. As they enter the synagogue, they take off their shoes and seat themselves on low stools or on the floor. Frequently the decorative curtain over the ark is removed and replaced by black cloth. The only light in the synagogue comes from the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light), except for the dim light used to read from the bima. The Book of Lamentations, one of the five megillot, or scrolls, in the Bible is chanted in a subdued minor key. Its stirring dirges were more likely composed by eyewitnesses to the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE. Neither a tallit not tephillin are worn during the morning prayer service on Tisha B'Av.

In addition, kinnot (liturgical elegies) of medieval composition are often recited. These poems, outpourings of the millennial grief of the Jews, are compensated for by a noble Job-like melancholy. One of the most affecting of these dirges tells about the prophet Jeremiah, who makes an impassioned plea to the three Patriarchs, the four Matriarchs, to Moses and Aaron and to other eminences beseeching that they intercede with God on behalf of desolated Zion and afflicted Israel.

It is customary on Tisha B'Av for traditional Jews to pray besides the graves of their ancestors and of illustrious rabbis. They repeat the prophet Jeremiah's plea to God to hasten Israel's restoration and to rebuild Zion in the days of the Messiah. When that happy day occurs, the Talmudic Sages comfort us, then Tisha B'Av will be transformed from a day of mourning into a day of rejoicing. Tisha B'Av cannot be observed on Shabbat, for the joy of the Sabbath overrides the grief of the destruction of the Temple. When the 9th of Av falls on Shabbat, Tisha B'Av is observed on Sunday, the 10th of Av.

Early Reform Jews did not observe Tisha B'Av. They considered its commemoration anachronistic in the modern age. For about the last 20 years, Congregation Kol Ami has observed Tisha B'Av with a light supper on Erev Tisha B'Av, followed by study and a late service including the reading of the Book of Lamentations.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel and the creation there of a Jewish homeland and a dynamic Jewish society, many other Jews have ceased observing Tisha B'Av.

David Gravitz

Tisha B'av Service Saturday, July 28, 2012

Please join us for a light pre-fast supper at 7:30 pm Followed by study at 8:15 pm and the service

From The Director of The Early Childhood Program

All of us here at the Early Childhood Program find it incredible to believe that we will say farewell to another wonderful year on June 15th. 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, Andrea Altshuler, Barbra Barsky, Cheryl Bernstein, Lisa Beyer, Lauri Carey, Sharon Douglas, Rachel Edelson, Susan Epstein, Allison Fiore, Jill Fodiman, Toby Friedman, Elisa Goldman, Debbie Klein, Lisa Lawrence, Jen Levy, Razi Lissy, Nancy Mariani, Betty Moallem, Julie Rabinowitz, Barbara Schwartz, Gerrie Schwartz, Sharon Sohl, Jill Staffin, Jen Strassler, Alysa Vasapolli, Barbara Weiner, Debby Yablow and Cindy Zieman as well as our ECP Chair Cindy Musoff and mentor Ellen Bittner for their tremendous dedication and support of the Early Childhood Program. 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 Days, Parent Cocktail Parties, Turkey Trot, Chanukah Parties, our Family Concert Afternoon, our Shabbat Dinners, our Lending Library, Purim Carnival, our Model Seders, Speakers Series, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, The Princess and Pirate Party, ECP Casino Night, our Family Fun Day, our Yearbook and our Garden Project – a feast for the eyes and the soul. 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.

We are delighted that our enrollment for next year is just about full! Next year, our newly established Pre-K program: A Step Ahead! under the fabulous direction of Jill Staffin and Julie Rabinowitz will welcome a class of 15 children! We are already planning the curriculum and programming for our 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's and it all promises to be very exciting. Finally, I want to thank our



Congregation, the Board of Trustees, Jane Friedberg and the entire office staff and Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Rabbi Tom Weiner and Cantor Mo Glazman for your unending support of our nursery school and all that we do. A special thanks to Kol Ami's Director of Development, Janet Hershey, for her support and guidance to the ECP.

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.

B'Shalom, Nan



First Friends is an ECP program for Toddlers 13-22 months

(accompanied by a parent or caregiver)

building a community of friends one family at a time

Take a look and see what it's all about! We begin with a welcome circle and explore our day by cooking our snack, practicing fine motor play with puzzles and toys, oatmeal and water table play, and music and movement fun. Besides the regular ECP teacher, a social worker visits each month to stay and play so that any shared concerns or questions parents may have can be discussed.

This program runs from mid-October to June and provides a wonderful segue to our Early Childhood Program and to our Temple. Membership to the Temple is included with this registration*

If you have a toddler and you're looking to make some new friends what are you waiting for?

Maybe the time is right to think about joining us!

*For more information and membership details, please call Nan Blank, ECP Director at $949-4717\times107$.

Congregation Kol Ami Early Childhood Program



Drop in and be part of our new group...

Mommy Talk!

Designed for moms and infants 2–9 months Our discussions will be led by Susan Davis, CSW Topics will be related to parenting babies at this stage

We will meet in the Gallery every other Thursday morning (coinciding with the ECP calendar year)

Beginning Thursday, September 27th — 9:00-10:00 am and meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday thereafter

Come and see what we're all about... everyone is welcome – Friends too! Questions? Please call Nan Blank in the ECP office at 949-4717 x107.



Kol Ami Early Childhood Program

Warm, Nurturing and Enriching

Registration for 2012-2013 Now Open

First Friends: A Toddler Program

2, 3, 4 and 5-Day 2's · 3, 4, and 5-Day 3's · Morning 4's Full & Half-Day 4's · Extended Day Program for 3's & 4's

A Step Ahead! Our Pre-K program for children turning 5 from September through December Call for an appointment and tour today • Nan Blank, Director, at Ext. 107



Any Plans for Tuesday Evening July 17th?

Hope you'll be busy with us at Kol Ami's Family Movie Night!

We'll be showing Madagascar

And we hope you'll be here to enjoy it with us!

It's simple. You bring a blanket for your family

And we'll bring the Pizza, Salad and Ice Cream

Join us at 5:30 pm

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 949-4717 x 107

Family Name: ______ No. of People _______ \$18.00 per family Rain or Shine Everyone is Welcome

From Our Co-Presidents



Because we know that it is difficult for many members to attend evening meetings while juggling their other obligations, our remarks from the May 8,

2012 Annual Meeting are included below. Copies of the Committees' year-end reports, as well as of the presentations provided at the meeting by Janet Hershey, Felice Miller Baritz and Nan Blank, are available upon request in the Temple office. We are honored to have served as your Co-Presidents for the past two years and grateful for your continuing confidence as we look forward to the coming year.

Enjoy the summer, Mark and Ronnie

May 8, 2012 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

From Mark Seiden: During the two prior occasions on which I have had the honor to give remarks to our Congregation at its annual meeting, I have underscored how volunteerism and altruism is an enormous source of personal satisfaction and fulfillment as well as a core foundational value of our Congregation. Absent volunteer and lay leaders, our Congregation could not operate fiscally, socially or spiritually. Through the continuing and in many ways, unprecedented support of our congregants in innumerable ways, I am pleased to report that our Congregation remains vibrant, diverse, spiritually and financially strong. Moreover, come this Fall, we should all be justifiably proud to say how this congregation at this time, has improved our sanctuary for our present congregants as well as for many future generations of Kol Ami worshipers. Just as prior generations had the courage and fortitude to provide us with this wonderful facility, so too will our generation give to future generations—La Dor Va Dor.

Tonight, I will address some of the financial controls and management initiatives the board has implemented during the last fiscal year. My copresident, Ronnie Cohn, will then speak about some of the policies and procedures instituted during the past year. Thereafter, you will hear from four of our department heads, Jane Friedburg, Janet Hershey, Felice Miller-Baritz and Nan Blank, who will briefly address developments in, respectively, facility management, membership and development, religious school and youth programming and our wonderful early childhood development program.

Financial Management and Controls

As you will hear from our talented Treasurer Margie Lewis, we have managed to achieve a surplus from Operations for a sixth consecutive year. Nevertheless, we must all remain fully cognizant of the fact that this desirable result is, in part, a function of the surplus derived from the Milgrom/Elcott Gala Funds from last year as well as the extension last year of the financial improvement management (FIM) fund. As presently constituted, we cannot achieve a surplus operating

budget from dues alone. Accordingly, the continuing generosity and support of our most financially able congregants is and will continue to be an integral component of our financial management and our Congregation's health.

We have paid down from operating funds, \$100,000 of our existing mortgage from the Makom Shel Or Campaign which built our beautiful atrium and improved our social hall and auditorium. In addition, we have received a commitment letter from Provident Bank to refinance the remaining principal balance at a significantly lower interest rate and more favorable terms, which will save over \$40,000 per year in debt service costs.

Notwithstanding our ongoing capital campaign, we were nevertheless able to raise over \$140,000 through our annual fund - - the second highest in our Congregation's history. The Annual Fund and our Spring Fundraiser are the two times each year that we ask congregants to charitably contribute above and beyond base dues. Without this necessary fundraising, we simply cannot support our existing operations and programs.

Speaking of the Spring fundraiser, this year Cantor Mo led us in a wonderful evening known as "Life is a Cabernet". It was a fun, relaxed and entertaining evening and yielded in excess of \$18,000 of additional operating funds. Our operating budget is still also benefiting from last year's gala tribute to Shira and David which yielded over \$200,000 to our operating budget.

The board has approved a new four year contract with both Shira and Tom, keeping their ground-breaking and innovative rabbinic partnership intact for four more years. We are blessed to have two wonderful and complementary Rabbis as spiritual leaders and teachers of our Congregation.

Recognizing that it is an honor, and not a burden to serve our Congregation as a trustee, our board debated and developed the requirements and the expectations associated with the honor of board service. This will aid future nominating committees in providing guidance as to expectations in evaluating future Temple leaders.

Vice-President Hank Rouda and Trustee Pat Grossman, undertook a comprehensive analysis of our human resource management. They rolled out, this year a new system of written reviews, feedback, establishment of professional goals, and objectively measuring whether these goals were achieved. Enhanced and clear communication among our professional staff remains a significant goal during the next fiscal year.

We also changed our policy to allow credit cards to pay for all Temple events and fees, rather than cherry picking only certain events. Further, we saved over \$20,000 in competitively shopping our property and casualty insurance through various different insurance markets.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the tremendous efforts of our capital campaign com-

mittee, building committee and design sub-committee. Our capital campaign committee, under the leadership of Janet Hershey and my wife, Andrea, have worked hard, met regularly and developed a compelling Case Statement Power-Point presentation, a beautiful brochure and met, one on one, with many congregants, to underscore the importance of this campaign to our Temple's future. When Andrea agreed to chair this campaign, her most important goal was 100% congregational participation. These efforts have, to date, resulted in almost \$4 million in pledges from approximately 175 members; making L'Dor Va'Dor the most successful campaign in our Congregation's history. However, to make our collective dream become fully realized, we will need greater congregational participation in the campaign, and significantly more capital. No pledge amount is too large or too small. We will need to defer the start of the parking lot and site work until we generate more funds. The window to perform this work in 2012 is short. Accordingly, if you have not yet made a pledge—please do so. If you know of someone who may wish to participate in the campaign, please let us know. Now is the time to make a difference. You will feel good about it and you will take pride in knowing that you were a part in what we have collectively achieved. You will be participating in an honorable legacy that has served the Jewish people for centuries. Just as the generations before us have had the vision and strength to provide our generation with this wonderful facility, so too should we undertake the honorable task of improving our facility for our and future generations of Kol Ami congregants. Pledges are payable over a 5 year period. Please see Janet or Andrea, if you wish to participate in our

To carry out the work of the campaign our building and design committees have coordinated the efforts of our architect, civil engineer, mechanical, electrical, plumbing engineers, façade designer, audio visual designer, landscape architecture and Judaic Artist, to name a few. We have an inspired design which preserves the modernist architectural foundation of our Temple and beautifully and gracefully enhances our facilities and grounds to effectively serve many future generations of Kol Ami congregants. Ground breaking on the sanctuary renovation begins next Monday, May 14th and a new and exciting era in Kol Ami's history will begin.

It is now my pleasure to turn it over to my wonderful co-President Ronnie Cohn to address the many exciting programs undertaken over the past year.

From Ronnie: It is once again an honor to be sharing the bema with Mark, Margie, Jess, our clergy and three of our senior staff.

The past year has been very busy, exciting and productive here at Kol Ami. Just to give all of you an example of our programs and events since last year's annual meeting, as I was reviewing our Annual Consolidated Committee Report, I selected just one item from each committee to mention here- and the list is quite impressive despite it

being just a sound bite among all of the significant happenings created by our fabulous volunteers, staff and clergy:

KABRO-The Kol Ami Brotherhood- had its first annual camping trip last July, during which children and adults hiked together to a waterfall, swam, fished and enjoyed a festive cookout, Havdalah service with Cantor Mo, and music by the campfire.

Our Women of Reform Judaism hosted a March Madness Ladies night out and a Martinis and Midrash evening which culminated in a wonderful Havdalah service with Rabbi Shira.

Adult Education's monthly Synaplex programs included The Memory Project (about the Holocaust), The Innocence Project with personal stories of exoneration by DNA testing, "A Plea for Peace from the Gaza Doctor", "Anti-Semitism has No Place in Islam", "The Misunderstood Jew: the Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus" and the grand finale for this year last Friday night, "The People versus King David". For those of you who weren't there last Friday, I believe it was recorded and it's well worth viewing. Performances were outstanding! And the willingness of the actors to do so much preparation is greatly appreciated.

The B'nai Mitzvah Committee made significant enhancements to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah guide and updated the Mitzvah booklet.

The College Youth Committee sent packages to college students for Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim and Passover.

Community Organizing at Kol Ami launched its second phase in November with Roundtable Discussions sharing stories and concerns regarding public safety, education opportunities, transportation, caring for seniors, cost of housing, aging in place, unemployment, isolation and other local issues

Congregational Relations continued the Oasis at Home series, with a fifth year of 30-40 women delving into books together and enjoying spirited discussions, which this year were led by Rabbi Shira, Dr. Ellen Umansky and Rabbi Pamela Wax.

The Drama Club performed "You're a Mensch, Charlie Brown", to the delight of all who experienced the enthusiastic interpretation of this funfilled production.

The Dues Review/ Special Finances Committee reached agreements with over 130 congregants who faced challenges necessitating payment of less than standard dues.

The Facilities Management Committee successfully renegotiated our Verizon telephone plan resulting in monthly savings of several hundred dollars.

The Inclusion Committee celebrated Disability Awareness Month with a puppet show for the ECP, teen awareness night with a panel of Yad b'Yad participants and distribution of emergency preparedness packets.

The Interfaith Committee hosted at Kol Ami on Martin Luther King's birthday a joyful community concert which included performances by groups of Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, Catholics and Protestants.

The Israel Committee worked with other White Plains Synagogues to jointly present a number of speeches about Israel and by Israelis. The last of these for this year is on June 20th when the Israeli Ambassador to the UN will speak on "The Jewish State on the Global Stage".

Leadership Training will this fall be reaching out to the clergy, the executive committee and the board for recommendations of candidates to participate in the 2013 training program which is scheduled to begin in February.

People to People currently has 87 volunteers (and can always use more) who made shiva calls, delivered meals to people who are ill or recovering from illness, offered phone calls to those who are homebound, drove fellow congregants to Kol Ami events, visited Jewish patients at White Plains Hospital to offer a prayer of healing and a friendly face.

The Retreat Committee carried out our 18th congregational retreat last May, at which a fabulous time was had by all, and has now planned our 19th multigenerational Memorial Day weekend which will be held here at Kol Ami, beginning on Friday evening at 5pm and including fun activities for all ages, services, dinners, s'mores and much more.

The Social Action Committee has continued cooking for the homeless, supporting the Bridge Fund Pantry, and this year hosted at Kol Ami Project Share's 22nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for homeless and needy residents of Westchester.

The Technology Committee has significantly enhanced our website and Facebook page and the "facelift" is expected to be complete by this summer.

The Worship Committee participated in the development of at least four new initiatives: our new Tefillah Team (with Cantor Mo) and Next Generation (Next D'or) services with Rabbi Tom, Rabbi Tom's Learners' Minyan and the Ritual Riches articles in the Connection.

We cannot take the time now to thank by name all of the committee co-chairs, including those who will be stepping down this year, but if any of you are here, please stand up. We will have other opportunities this year dedicated to recognizing such dedicated volunteers, but we can never say thank you too many times!

As if all of this were not enough, we have new temple-wide efforts now in process and have shared some wonderful congregational experiences this past year.

- Judy Sarch is leading the charge to use technology to help to connect congregants who need help with those willing to provide help by way of introducing Lotsahelpinghands.com into the work of People to People.
- Following a Board discussion regarding succession planning for committee chairs, Lisa
 Borowitz was appointed to lead a task force on
 reimagining our committee structure and will
 present that group's findings to the Board next
 month.
- Shabbat Across Kol Ami was a wonderful community building event, as was the Second Night Seder (which was hosted, scripted and cooked by KABRO for over 100 congregants, family and friends).
- One of the highlights of 2011 for more than 20 of us was attending the URJ Biennial in Washington, D.C., which is described in the current issue of Reform Judaism as "the Biennial that rocked"- and it did. We were inspired by the services and learning opportunities, invigorated by the opportunities to share ideas and brainstorm with other congregations and energized by moving speakers which included President Obama. We were also proud to represent Kol Ami in accepting awards for our Yad b'yad program and our membership brochure.

Finally, in addition to those Mark discussed earlier, the work of our Board of Trustees has included the examination of some existing policies and procedures and the development of new ones. For example:

- Our Board and executive committee studied our Dues Review process to assure it is administered consistently and some members attended sessions on this topic provided by URJ and UIIA
- The Board reviewed and refined our Religious School dismissal policy to assure safe and effective departures for students and a revised procedure was developed by our Religious School Committee and our principal.
- Our outgoing secretary and incoming vice president Jess Lorden took on the herculean task of developing a comprehensive written Policy and Procedure Manual to memorialize resolutions of our Board and make them accessible as needed. This involved thoroughly reviewing almost ten years of Board meeting minutes, categorizing all of the board resolutions that were voted upon and passed, and organizing everything into a user friendly manual which can be both easily accessed when questions arise and updated as new policies and procedures are adopted by the Board. This project is nearing completion as we speak.

From Ronnie Cohn Farley: As Mark and I have said before and will surely repeat, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve this amazing community as your co-presidents. We look forward to another year of working with you, hearing and sharing your thoughts and concerns and together making Kol Ami even more beautiful and dynamic for all of us, our children and their children.

A Thank You from the Junior Youth Group

A warm and heartfelt thank you to the entire Kol Ami Community from the Jr. Youth Group for helping us raise over \$1,000.00. This money will support the temple's Social Action Committee and the good work they do for the community. Thank you especially to all who donated items: Daryl Moss,

Scott and Adrienne Pollak, Jonathan and Ellen Flaks, Marcia Teschner, Renee Marks Cohen, Sara and Andy Blotner, Victor and Nell Wyler, and Jenny and Yaron Leshem of Leshem Loft. Of course we would also like to thank those of you who bid at the auction!

If you haven't picked up your items or sent in your checks, please do so before June first by contacting rabbinadiagold@gmail.com.

Best, Nadia

Congratulations to our new Kol Ami Va'ad (Youth Board) 2012 -2013

Naomi Root – Co-President

Jordan Lewis – Treasury Team Maia Leeds – Treasury Team

Jasmine Lerner – Social Events Team

Jackie Tames – Tikkun Olam Team

Catherine Reynolds – PR and Facebook Team

Jared Fischer – PR and Facebook Team
Barak Stockler – PR and Facebook Team

Jennifer Scharf – Co-President

Jen Gordon – Chaplain

Jordan Frankenthaler – Kehillah Coordinator

Allison Jasne – Kehillah Coordinator

Max Kratzok – 9th grade representative

Jenny Moss - 9th grade representative

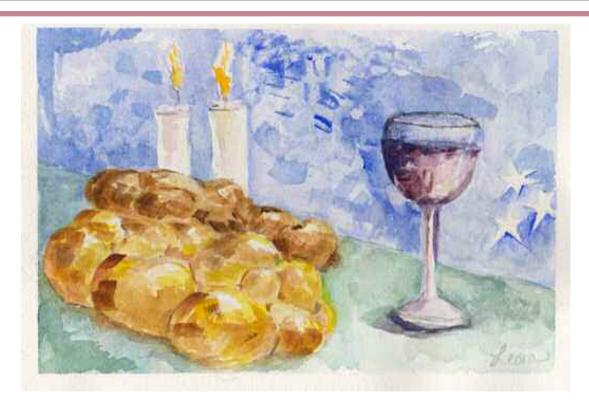
Robyn Moss – 9th grade representative

Juvenile Diabetes Walk



Jessica Sommers and two of her friends at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation trail run on May 20, 2012.

Organizing a team to raise money through this run was part of Jessica's Mitzvah Project.



Please join us at Casual Summer Shabbat Suppers

Rain or Shine

Friday July 13th and Friday, August 17th 5:30 Shabbat in the Woods 6:15 Shabbat evening services Followed by supper

Reservations requested \$18 adults, children 13 and under free Visitors/prospective members are our invited guests! Please let us know if you are planning to join us for dinner. Bring blankets, balls, frisbees, etc...

Bring a dessert or side dish and win a special prize!

Complete th			Γ SUPPERS RESERVA th your payment no late	ATION FORM er than Wed. July II and/or Wed. Aug I5			
Name(s)							
Date(s):	July 13	# adult(s)	_ @ \$18.00	# children under I3			
	August 17	# adult(s)	_ @ \$18.00	# children under I3			
Tel. #		_ Email address					
Total enclosed \$ I will volunteer to help							
I will bring a	dessert		I will bring a sid	I will bring a side			
For more information contact Janet Hershey, 949-4717 ext. 115							

Adult Education

Please check the program listings in your Kol Ami phone and date book for more details.

Explore Meditation:
Potent, practical
tools for your true strong self
Classes taught by Merrill Harmin, PhD
Wednesdays, 7:30–9:00 pm
6/6, 6/20
Rabbi Milgrom's Office
Learn how to use basic meditation to go
beyond relaxation and move toward
being your strong, balanced self.
RSVP tp Suzanne Fromm 949-4717x14 or
suzannefromm@nykolami.org

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom Wednesdays, 7:45-9:00 am 6/6

Kol Ami Reads Book Club

First Wed. of each month 9:15 am in Room 20 Doris Dingott, 289-0869

Weekly Torah: Parshat Hashavua: Weekly Torah Study

Every Friday from 10-11:30 am. Led by Kol Ami members

Parenting/Grandparenting Workshops:

Blessing of a Skinned Knee

with Susan Davis, LCSW
For parents of elementary school aged children.
Last class 6/11 from 9:30-11:30 am

Adolescent Parenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW
Last class 6/14 from 9:45-11:45
Discussion of parenting issues
related to adolescents.

Grandparenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW Last class 6/4 9:15-10:45 am

KABRO Camping: Sign Up Now!!

In July, KABRO will hold its second Annual Family-Friendly Camping Trip.

We will camp on the weekend of July 13–15, 2012

at North-South Lake, New York

All congregants, family, and friends are welcome. Early reservations are needed; the park is beautiful, and campsites are booked months in advance. Saturday activities include hiking, swimming, canoeing/kayaking, great food, and campfire songs.

Cost: \$75 per campsite (up to 6 people). KABRO (Men's Council) members pay \$60.

To sign up or for more info, contact Michael Berg at michaeladam@optonline.net.

Sisterhood News

Please see our flyer on page 16 for **Fiddler on the Roof** in the fall.

Tickets are limited, **so order now!**.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Repairing the World — Tikkun Olam

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

YONKERS FOOD PANTRY (Living Transformation International Center)—We have received desperate pleas from a food pantry in Yonkers that serves over a thousand people, one hundred of whom are homebound with cancer and other illnesses. They were nearly completely out of food. We sent the Yonkers Food Pantry a check so that they could shop for emergency food. Now that the UJA collection has been completed, we are hoping that we can begin collecting for the Yonkers food pantry that is so in need. If anyone is interested in spearheading this drive or knows of someone who may be in need of a worthy Bat or Bar Mitzvah project, please contact Wendy or Jodi ASAP.

ASSISTING BAR AND BAT MITZVAH STUDENTS—Social Action will work with the clergy to help Bar and Bat Mitzvah students formulate and carry out their mitzvah projects. Additionally, we have started to advertise ideas for mitzvah projects in the *Gold Standard*.

Avery Salsberg—For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am collecting essential camp items for Project Morry, a year-round youth organization that provides an amazing residential camp experience to economically underserved children in New York and Connecticut. This collection will run from Sunday, May 20th thru June 20th. Having gone to sleep-away camp for the last five summers, I know firsthand how important camp can be and the enormous impact it can have on your life. The friendships you make there and the lessons you learn last a life-time. Please help me help Project Morry by donating items from the list below. A collection box will be set up at Kol Ami. Please check out the link below to learn more about Project Morry (http://www.projectmorry.org). Thank you for all your help. *Campers need: Bug Spray, Batteries (AAA, AA, C & D), Deodorant (Boys and Girls), Disposable Cameras, Flashlights, Lip Balm, Lotion, Sunscreen: 15 and above, Shampoo and Conditioner, Soap (bar and liquid) and Soap Dishes, Socks, Toothbrushes, Underwear (Adult S, M, L, XL)* **Justin Cohen**—For my Mitzvah project, I am volunteering at the New Rochelle Humane Society, which is a non-profit animal shelter. I am collecting items that the shelter needs including: dog toys, cat toys, old towels, sheets, blankets, newspaper, disposable gloves, paper towels and a number of other items that can be found on their website: www.newrochellehumanesociety.org. Thank you for your support.

Jeffrey Pollak—I am collecting baseball equipment for my Bar-Mitzvah project. I am collecting new or gently used bats, balls, gloves, baseball bags and helmets for an organization called Pitch in for Baseball, who collect equipment for underprivileged children. Their website is www.pitchforbaseball.org. There will be a bin in the Religious School Lobby.

SUNDAY AND MONDAY COOKING—Nancy Marcus is chair of the Sunday cooking for the homeless. Laura Green will continue to chair the Monday cooking. Laura would like to step down as chair of this committee and would be interested in finding someone to take her place. These groups cook once a month for the Open Arms Shelter.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE—Provides support to congregants that are sick or bereaved. Ruth Goldberg chairs this committee that has expanded tremendously over the past several years.

COLLECTION BINS/BRIDGE FUND—Murray Shapiro continues to pick up collected food and transport it to the Bridge Fund. The Bridge Fund greatly appreciates the support from Kol Ami and Murray Shapiro.

Wendy Greenberg Mikhailovich at 472-3377 or wendygreenberg@optonline.net or Jodi Klein at 472-4617 or jodi.klein@gmail.com

MITZVAH CORPS

Join us at King Street Nursing Home on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 2:30 pm as we sing songs accompanied by Paul Schwarz. Bring a little sunshine to the residents and make a difference in their lives.

For more info call Ellie Fleisch 481-1479.

COOKING FOR THE HOMELESS

For Sunday Information: Nancy Marcus - 725-7231 For Monday Information: Laura Green - 949-6113

Sundays at 11:00 am: 6/10 cancelled

Mondays at noon: 6/18.

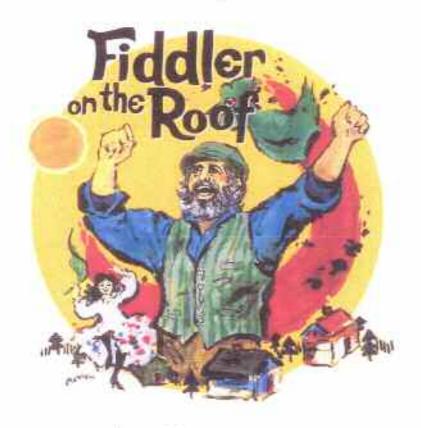
If you are interested in chairing Monday Cooking for the Homeless in 2012, please contact Laura Green at 949-6113.

WRJ SISTERHOOD

sponsors an evening at

Westchester Broadway Theatre

Sunday, October 21, 2012 5:00 pm



\$75.00 per person

Price includes Dinner & Show (Beverages & beverage gratuity NOT included)

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

First Come First Served

Please make checks payable to Kol Ami Sisterhood

Write "Fiddler" in the memo

Checks can be left in the temple office

For more information, contact Barbara Shore at 428-7957 or bshore10@aol.com

MITZVAH KNITZ

We will be meeting on Thursday June 21 from noon to 2:00 pm.

Join us.
Knitters of all skill levels are welcome.
For further information, call Elaine Cohen, 725-0248 or elwilco@verizon.

Future dates: 7/19 and 8/16

Kol Ami Reads Book Club

Little Bee

by Chris Cleave June 6, 2012

The Hottest Dishes of the Tartar Cuisine

by Alina Bronsky July 11, 2012

The Yacoubian Building

by Alaa Al Aswan August 1, 2012

All meetings, unless otherwise announced, are on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15am in Room 20 Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively.

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



Serving the Jewish Community for over Sixty Years Newly decorated and expanded facilities Attended parking for over 100 cars Independently owned and operated

2 Maple Avenue at. S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

949-0566



Mark Your Calendar Now - Exciting Council Events To Come:

Annual Celebration of Jewish History and Heritage Month Monday, September 10, 6:00 PM

Held at the Westchester County Office Building Come and Meet Your Legislatures

Night of Jewish Music and Joy with the Cantors of Westchester Saturday, November 17, 7:00 PM

Held at Temple Israel Center, White Plains

37th Annual Gala honoring President Ronald E. Burton With the entertainment of Israeli singer/song writer, David Broza Saturday, February 9

Held at Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle

Looking for more exciting things to do in Jewish Westchester? Check out our web-site www.wjcouncil.org and click on calendar to view what's happening seven days a week

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council (914) 328-7001

info@wjcouncil.org visit us at www.wjcouncil.org (Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference) A proud beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York



(L'Dor V'Dor), an innovative program reaching out to Jewish teenagers.

This summer, you can make a big difference:

Enrich the lives of our residents while gaining new insights on Jewish culture and tradition. Explore your own Jewish identity and your place in the greater world!

- June 25–July 20 or July 23–Aug 17 (flexible)
- 14 years and older
- · Stipend provided

Questions? – Contact us at G2G@hebrewhome.org or call 718.581.1404 today!



hade possible through the generous support of The Everett Foundation in memory of Goldle and Film Drenne

Meet Our Members



DANNY AND JUDY SARCH

Danny and Judy Sarch live in Rye Brook with their two daughters, Carly who is 16 and Rachel who just celebrated her Bat Mitvah. They have been members of Kol Ami for 14 years. Judy grew up in Brooklyn, attending a neighborhood Orthodox synagogue and, from kindergarten through third grade, a Sephardic yeshiva. She participated in an adult Bar/Bat Mitvah class run by Rabbi Tom and celebrated her Bat Mitvah in 2010. Danny was raised in Spring Valley and his family belonged to a Reform synagogue, Temple Berh El.

Please tell us about your educational background and your careers:

Danny – "I was an English major at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, I started working in the job placement industry and have con-

tinued in the field, specializing in wealth management. Since 1990, I have had my own firm, Leitner, Sarch Consultants with offices in White Plains."

Judy — "My bachelor's degree is from FIT and I have an MBA from Baruch specializing in marketing. For many years I worked for McGraw Hill and Coopers & Lybrand. When the kids were younger, I went to work part time at Danny's firm and these days I keep very busy with Kol Ami projects."

Judy, what are some of your Kol Ami activities?

"I am on the Synagogue Board of Trustees and on the board of the religious school. I coordinate the Purim basket and the Rosh Hashana honey fundraisers. I have also served as the Kol Ami Webmaster since 2006. We continue to work on enhancements to our web site and develop our Facebook page. The girls are involved at Kol Ami as well."

Rachel – "I have been a peer mentor in the Yad B'Yad special needs program and Carly has been a teacher assistant in the religious school."

Rachel, did you enjoy Hebrew school?

"I really liked being able to choose electives. I studied Yoga and ethics Wednesday evenings. We had dinners together before class. I remember studying different cultures within Judaism. That was very interesting. I plan to continue."

Judy, how did you meet Danny?

"Two years after leaving college, I went to work for for McGraw Hill and met Danny's father. He introduced us."

Do you have hobbies?

Judy – "I call myself a 'scrapbooker.' Our family's activities are chronicled in scrapbooks. I also enjoy Zumba aerobic Latin dancing."

Danny – "I love to ski. My goal is to ski a hundred days a year. I regularly go on long distance bike rides and plan to participate in the Pan-Mass Challenge in August."

Tell us more about the Pan-Mass Challenge

"It is a 190 mile, two day bike-a-thon. I'll be participating for the third time and David Okun will be joining me this year. The money raised is used for life saving cancer research and treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. You can learn more at www.pmc.org."

What advice would you give to newer congregants?

"Kol Ami is a fun place with lots to do. Jump right in. Another set of hands is always welcome. We have made many friends at Kol Ami. The clergy is great. Get to know them. Tom makes us laugh all the time."

Rachel – "I have attended Bar and Bat Mitvahs at many synagogues. Ours are the best."

In Honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Purchase of a Fluoroscope for Bikur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem,

The Five Synagogues of White Plains Israel Action Committee, with the help of AJC Westchester and Westchester Jewish Council, present

The Jewish State on the Global Stage

A View from Israel's Ambassador to the UN

SRAEL ADVOCAC

Speaker



Ambassador Ron Prosor Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

8:00 p.m.

Temple Israel Center of White Plains

A fundraiser to upgrade the acute trauma unit at Bikur Cholim Hospital.

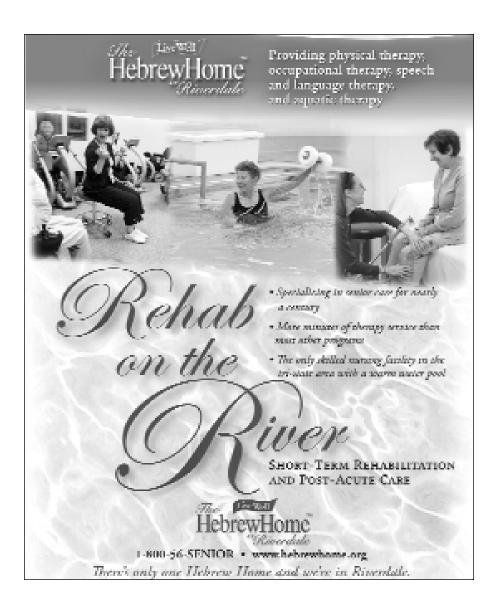
This event is free and open to the public.

Light refreshments served.

RSVP: www.ajc.org/westchester/prosor or by calling (914) 948-5585

Calendar is subject to change. To check listings, call the temple's voice mail. For temple events, service schedule, and office hours, call ext. 137. For weather info, call ext. 145.

	For temple events, service schedule, and office hours, call ext. 137. For weather						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
					10:00 am Torah Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE: Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Shah in Chapel	
3 ECP FAMILY FUN DAY	9:30 am Grandparenting Class 7:30 pm KABRO Meeting	7:30 pm WRJ Meeting	7:45 am Round Table Breakfast 9:15 am Book Club 7:30 pm Meditation Class	9:45 am Adolescent Parenting	10:00 am Torah Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Main Building 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Avery Salsberg in Chapel 5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE: B'not Mitzvah of Arianna Bakst & Eliana Litos in Main Building	
10	9:30 am Blessing of a Skinned Knee Class	9:00 am ECP GRADUATION	13	14	10:00 am Torah Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: B'nai Mitzvah of Daniel Garelick & Sadie Mazzola in Main Building	
17	18 12:00 pm Cooking for the Homeles	19	7:30 pm Meditation Class	21 2:00 pm Mitzvah Knitz 8:00 pm Board of Trustees	22 10:00 am Torah Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE	
24	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm Worship Committee	10:00 am Torch Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE	SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chape 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE	



September Connection Deadline

August 17, 2012

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

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

Rabbis

Shira Milgrom Tom Weiner 328-4549 684-6991

Cantor: Mo Glazman **Exec. Director:** Jane S. Friedberg

Religious School

Principal: **Felice Miller Baritz**

ECP Director: Nan Blank **Program Manager: Ilene Miller**

Director of Membership

and Development Janet H. Hershey **Co-Presidents: Ronnie Cohn Farley**

Mark Seiden

Rabbis Emeriti: Lawrence W. Schwartz*

Maurice Davis*

Mark L. Winer

Cantor Emeritus: Raymond Smolover

*of blessed memory