



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

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

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

...to art

...to nature

...to relaxation

kol ami
retreat
Circle Lodge
June 12 ~ 14, 2015

...to fun

...to learning

...to friends

...to Shabbat

...to Kol Ami

and

...to music

unplug

reconnect

...to family

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THE KOL AMI RETREAT!

JUNE 12-14TH WEEKEND

COME FOR THE DAY OR THE WEEKEND!!!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!!

<https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/retreat2015>

SERVICES

Friday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 6

9:00 am **SPIRITUAL LIFT** in Chapel
 Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**
 10:30 am **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:** B'nai Mitzvah of Emma Kops and Ella Einstein
 5:30 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE:** Bar Mitzvah of Ben Sommers

Friday, June 12

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

Saturday, June 13

9:00 am **SPIRITUAL LIFT** in Chapel
 Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**
 10:30 am **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:** Bat Mitzvah of Dana Boshart
 5:30 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE:** Bar Mitzvah of Ben Rubin

Friday, June 19

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

Saturday, June 20

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

Friday, June 26

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

Saturday, June 27

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

**Rabbi Shira Milgrom
 will be on sabbatical
 from June 1, 2015
 through the
 end of August.
 Rabbi Weiner and
 Cantor Rosen will be
 available during that time.**

Making the Connection...**CLERGY**

Rabbi Shira Milgrom ShiraMilgrom@nykolami.org
Rabbi Tom Weiner RabbiTom@nykolami.org
Cantor David Rosen cantordavid@nykolami.org

Rabbis Emeriti Lawrence W. Schwartz*
 Maurice Davis*
 Mark L. Winer

Cantor Emeritus Raymond Smolover

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 jessicalorden@nykolami.org,
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**Early Childhood
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 Director** *Felice Baritz*
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Vice President *Lori Abrams*
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Vice President *Gerri Sommers*
 gerrisommers@mac.com

Treasurer *Jonathan Litt*
 jlitt@kohlconstructiongroup.com

Secretary *Rachel Eckhaus*
 boardsecretary@nykolami.org

Board of Trustees EmailTheBoard@nykolami.org

**of blessed memory*

SEPT. CONNECTION DEADLINE

August 18, 2015

Congregation Kol Ami
 A Reform Synagogue
 (914) – 949-4717
 www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union of Reform Judaism

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Men's Council, Anthony Zitrin,
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Leadership Development, To Be
Determined,
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Coachman Family Center, Jess Lorden,
Rabbi Shira Milgrom,
HelpTheCoachman@nykolami.org
Inclusion, Marci Frankenthaler,
Beth Tomkiewicz,
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Inter-Faith Outreach, Julie Carran,
Carol Mencher,
InterfaithOutreach@nykolami.org
Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack,
Ginny Ruder,
KolAmiCares@nykolami.org

From Our President

We had a very successful Annual Meeting last month and I wanted to give you some updates from the meeting. First, we presented and discussed the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Several congregants had sent in comments and questions in advance of the meeting and several others asked questions at the meeting. The purpose of the revisions is to further update the underlying governing documents of the congregation to ensure that they reflect how we operate now and how we will operate in the future. For instance, a couple of the changes dealt with who has the authority to hire and terminate the senior staff positions. The current By-Laws put the obligation to hire all employees on the Board. The updated By-Laws gave the President the authority to hire all non-senior staff members and then gave the President the authority to delegate this authority to the Executive Director. This change merely reflects the way that our employees are actually hired. The revised By-Laws also gave the Board the ability to appoint a chief legal officer to advise the Executive Committee and the Board when the Board feels that they need such additional advice. Another change slightly modified which employees of the temple are eligible to be a Trustee. The changes to the By-Laws passed with a large majority.



Photo by Mariela Melamed

Second, we presented the Budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year. In addition, our Treasurer, Jonathan Litt, updated those present on the current year's budget and some updates to the immediate prior year's final financial statements. As I wrote in my column last month, the proposed budget contained one major change—the elimination of the FIM Fund (which expired this year) and the incorporation of this amount (albeit at a lower rate) into the dues structure. This budget also included various expense items that have previously been paid for with funds outside of the operating funds of the temple (i.e., the Clergy's Discretionary Funds). Overall, the proposed budget more clearly reflects the actual revenue available and the actual costs anticipated to run our congregation. Several congregants asked interesting and probing questions, one of which was what we planned to do with the surplus from last year and the anticipated surplus this year. The answer is that those moneys are used to ensure that we have funds available when needed for extraordinary events. They are also used to clean up inter-account transfers between the capital and operating funds. The budget also passed with a large majority.

Finally, our immediate Past President, Ronnie Cohn, on behalf of her co-chair, immediate Past President Mark Seiden, and the rest of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of Trustees and Officers for election. We have four Trustees whose terms are up and the Nominating Committee proposed two new Trustees—Jen Labovitz and David Okun. The Nominating Committee also proposed that all of the officers up for re-election continue in their roles. The Executive Committee for next year will consist of Vice Presidents Lori Abrams, Ellen Kurtz and Gerri Sommers; Secretary Rachel Eckhaus; and Treasurer Jonathan Litt. In addition, I was honored to be nominated to serve another term as your President. The slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously approved. The Board and the Officers deeply appreciate the support that you have shown us by giving us the opportunity to continue our work of leading this wonderful community.

I want to make one last pitch for the Retreat, which will be held on June 12-14 at Circle Lodge. The Retreat is everything that we talk about all year rolled into one weekend—it's friendship, study, laughter, prayer, stories, relaxation, and togetherness. For families, it's a great time to spend a weekend together, with the added benefit of spending as much (or as little) time together as you want, as the kids are all supervised and can even sleep in their own bunks. Can't come for the entire weekend? No problem, as you can come for as much as you want. Thanks to the generosity of some congregants, the cost is also dramatically reduced this year. We can't wait to spend the weekend with you!

L'shalom!

Blank

From Our Executive Director

It is a busy and exciting time to be working at Kol Ami. Most recently, I have been busy preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting and our wonderful Shavuot/Confirmation weekend. It is truly a pleasure to be working behind the scenes to make our services and events meaningful for our community.

The rest of the tasks on which I am working may not be as apparent to you. Accordingly, the purpose of this article is to summarize a few of these key items.

We have completed our calendaring sessions and the calendar for the 2015-2016 year is almost complete. I continue to be amazed by the number, breadth and depth of our programming. Please take some time to review the programming listed in *This Week at Kol Ami* and in *The Connection* or on our on-line calendar. I promise you will find one or more programs of interest. Please consider attending one new event or program during the coming year.

I have spent considerable time this month focused on security preparedness. The White Plains Police Department has been very helpful in this process. As you are reading this article, we are hosting the first meeting of our security committee. I will update you regularly on our progress.

I am thrilled to share that I am working with a group of congregants dedicated to environmental sustainability. Our first task is to conduct a comprehensive energy audit. Thereafter, we are examining composting, building a vertical garden, and of course, water conservation, and solar energy. If you are interested in helping us improve our posture vis-à-vis the envi-

ronment, please join us at our next meeting which is scheduled for June 10th at 5PM.



I have always found great fulfillment helping others. In my new role, I have many opportunities to help our Kol Ami community and the local community. This month I'd like to provide updates on two such opportunities. First, I am working with a wonderful group, led by Ilyse Glickman, on creating a Kol Ami Food Bank for the benefit of our congregants, staff and guests. Last month we visited the Food Bank for Westchester. Following that visit we prepared and submitted our application to become a Food Bank Member agency. We are hopeful of being approved promptly and commencing operations before the end of the summer. Until that time, if you do not have enough money to make healthy food purchases, please come visit me. It would make me very happy to help you by giving you a gift card you may use to make food purchases. Second, I am so proud to be associated with our Coachman initiatives. While tutoring continues, fun birthday parties are provided each month, and donations of sporting equipment, baby supplies, and books continue to be made, a group of volunteers has come together to plan a Memorial Day feast for our friends from the Coachman.

As we celebrate Shavuot, I am pleased and proud to be part of a community that not only studies the Torah, but so beautifully lives the lessons we have studied.

Shalom!
Jess

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS HUNGRY?
Please let Kol Ami assist.

We have submitted an application to become a Food Bank for congregants, staff and guests of our congregants and staff. We hope to be in operation before the end of the summer. Until that time, we have gift cards which may be used for food purchases. If you would like such a gift card, please see Jess Lorden in the Temple office.

From the Religious School

Another school year has flown by! 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 Avi and Timna and shared in all kinds of special activities through our grade level learning.

Our Kashkesh Hebrew learning program for our Kindergarten, First and Second grade students had a successful year. Incorporating Hebrew learning, for our youngest students, into music, art and dance has given us a new opportunity to explore Hebrew within the context of Jewish learning in experiential and meaningful ways. The wonderful projects, songs and dances our children learned and performed have been a fun and engaging path towards learning Hebrew.

Online registration is open. If you have a new student entering our school OR a child going into 8th – 12th grades, you must complete the online registration. All currently registered Kindergarten through 6th graders will automatically be registered! [Please CLICK HERE to go directly to our online Registration form! https://congregationkolumi.formstack.com/forms/schoolregistration](https://congregationkolumi.formstack.com/forms/schoolregistration)

We will continue to accept registrations through the summer, so spread the word about the wonderful things happening here! Our first day of school will be Sunday, September 27th — and our annual Sukkot festival.



If you're around this summer... I'll be working! If you have time and interest, please come help me with our community garden!

Wishing everyone a fantastic summer or rest, renewal and growth!

Felice

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)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2015 IS NOW OPEN

All registration is ON LINE at www.nykolami.org

If you have a NEW STUDENT, you must complete the online form

If you have a RETURNING STUDENT currently in Grades K-6
your child will automatically be registered and billed for the next year.

If you have a child entering grades 8-12
you must complete the online registration form.

If you have any questions, please call the school office!
914-949-4717 x112 or 124

From the Director of the Early Childhood Program

All of us here at the Early Childhood Program find it incredible to believe that on June 12th 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 Berger, Cheryl Bernstein, Lisa Beyer, Stacy Brodsky, Lauri Carey, Rachel Edelson, Susan Epstein, Allison Fiore, Jill Fodiman, Toby Friedman, Elisa Goldman, Debbie Klein, Lisa Lawrence, Joele Levenson, Jen Levy, Dorian Nerenberg, Julie Rabinowitz, Jodi Ruzumna, Barbara Schwartz, Gerrie Schwartz, Sharon Sohl, Jen Strassler, Barbara Weiner, Debby Yablow, Debbie Youngstein and Cindy Ziemann and our ECP Chair, Cindy Musoff, for her 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 Book Fair, our Model Seders and Passover Play, Speakers Series, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, Our Couples Evening Chaired by Danielle Gecht and a fabulous committee, Family Fun Day, and our Yearbook

Chaired by Stacey Kaufman and Sara Elkin. 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.



Our enrollment for next year is just about full and we are delighted! Next year Pre-K program: A Step Ahead! under the fabulous direction of Stacy Brodsky and Julie Rabinowitz will welcome a class of 14 children! 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, Jane Friedberg 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.

B'Shalom,

Nan



Kol Ami Early Childhood Program

Warm, Nurturing and Enriching

Registration for 2015-2016 Now Open

First Friends: A Toddler Program

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

Full & Half-Day 4's • Extended Day Program for 3's & 4's

A Step Ahead! Our Pre-K program Designed for children turning

5 from September through December.

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

Call for an appointment and tour today • Nan Blank, Director, at Ext. 107

Meet Our New Board Members



JENNIFER LABOVITZ

Jennifer Labovitz joined Congregation Kol Ami in September 2012. She is a co-chair of the Religious School Committee and is a member of the Annual Retreat Committee. Jennifer is also a member of a task force dedicated to re-imagining Kol Ami's core mission and values. Earlier this year, she served as a

member of the Executive Director Search Committee.

Jennifer's professional background is as an interpretive designer and writer for visitor experiences and public spaces. Some of her projects include The College Basketball Experience in Kansas City, MO; ImaginOn!, a children's library and theater in Charlotte, NC; Infinity at NASA Stennis Space Center in Gulfport, MS; and a tribute to September 11th at St. Paul's Chapel in New York, NY.

Jennifer lives in Tarrytown, New York with her husband Jon, their 8-year-old son Samuel, and 6-year-old twin girls, Sophie and Mia.



DAVID OKUN

My name is David Okun, and I'm pleased to be joining the board this year. My wife, Lori, and I have been an active member of Kol Ami since 1993. During this time, I have served as the chairman of two finance related committees, Dues Relief and Annual Fund. Also, when my children were younger, I was very

involved in the Drama Club. I'm a project manager by training, and I enjoy managing projects from inception to completion. Lori and I live in White Plains, and we have two children, Rachel and Danielle.

Congregants Speak Out on the Kol Ami Legacy Fund

Lisa Borowitz

A member of our congregation since 1988, Lisa Borowitz has been chairperson of the worship and music committees, served as board secretary, vice-president and, for four years, president. She chose to join Kol Ami over other local synagogues because of our evolving musical presence. Lisa has encouraged and enjoyed the changes to our liturgy developed by Cantors Annie, Mo and, now, David.

Lisa reminds us that ever since 1923, our members have done what was needed to insure a Reform Jewish presence in White Plains and surrounding communities. She has always been involved in fostering the growth of a progressive Reform culture at Kol Ami. She feels that the survival of the Jewish people is closely linked to our synagogues. Teaching, learning and community life are all part of our synagogue life. It is important to be involved. The Legacy Fund gives us a way to contribute to the long run development of Kol Ami and the Reform movement it represents.

It is difficult to think of our own and of Kol Ami's future but it is important to realize that not too many people will look beyond Kol Ami's present needs and contribute to its future. If you value the vibrant Kol Ami we have today and want to contribute to its future success, consider the Legacy Fund.

Lesley Sommers

Lesley Sommers and husband, Ron, are "new" to White Plains and Kol Ami. They came to the area seven years ago and have been members for six. They moved from Rockland County where they were members of Temple Beth Torah in Upper Nyack. The draw was their children and grandchildren. Daughter Stacey Sheinbaum and husband Gary, son Andy and wife Gerri are local and also Kol Ami members. Son Barry and wife Linda are not far away in Chappaqua.

Ron is retired and Lesley is a financial advisor in the firm Sommers Financial Group Inc. They tremendously enjoy Friday Shabbat services, greatly admire the clergy and, in Lesley's words, "are happier than they ever thought they would be with a synagogue."

Lesley's financial planning expertise has been very valuable to Kol Ami. She is an advocate of including Kol Ami as a beneficiary in estate planning. It is a wise way to ensure the long term success of our synagogue. In this way, Kol Ami will continue to be a viable, caring community for Lesley and Ron's and for all our children and grandchildren.

Martin Kahn

Over twenty years ago Martin Kahn came to the Saturday morning lift to say the mourner's kaddish for his mother. He has been attending ever since. He found the people there warm and welcoming, the study sessions stimulating and the services meaningful. His circle of synagogue friends widened and Marty joined Kol Ami. He has become active in many facets of synagogue life. He has worked on major fund raising committees, served on the board for seven years including treasurer for three. He is a greeter, along with Maggy Weber, at our Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services. Marty can be called upon for any task - even clearing the walking path at the chapel! He said "Kol Ami is about community, friendships, activities, solace and fun. And about wonderful clergy." Marty is always giving back and he is planning on setting up a bequest to Kol Ami. He wants to see a continuation of the spirit and growth that he has seen and worked for at Kol Ami.

If you would like information about the Kol Ami Legacy Fund, please contact :

Evelyne Klein,
Co-Chair
914-761-7659
aspencup@aol.com

Jess Lorden
Executive Director
914-949-4717
Jessicalorden@nykolami.org

Weekly Torah Portions for June

Week ending June 6, 2015

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 13, 2015

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 20, 2015

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.

Week ending June 27, 2015

Parashat Chukat Numbers 19:1-22:1

This week's *parasha* begins with the death of Miriam, Moses' and Aaron's sister, 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. In his anger against the complaining people, Moses strikes the rock with his rod instead. 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 Aaron's son, Eleazar becomes his successor.

2015 URJ North America Biennial

The 2015 URJ North America Biennial will take place on November 4 - 8, 2015 at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida. New this year, programming will be tailored to congregational leadership (lay, professional, clergy, and up-and-coming leaders), featuring learning sessions, networking opportunities, and plenaries, bookended by worship and evening entertainment.

The Kol Ami contingent already includes

Rabbi Milgrom, Cantor Rosen, Executive Director Jess Lorden, President Hank Rouda, Past Presidents Lisa Borowitz and Ronnie Cohn, Religious School Director Felice Miller Baritz, and past Kol Ami officer Ellen Bittner. Please join us!

To learn more about the Biennial please click on the two links below:

<https://youtu.be/6lcZlOQdqLw>

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-urj-north-american-biennial/event-summary-Iacd8248a17d4cd5b04fb5daeff84725.aspx#>

Congregation Kol Ami
invites you to join us for our
Third Annual LGBT Pride Shabbat
Friday, June 19th, 2015
6:15 pm



with Guest Speaker
Larry Rogowsky
“Two Men and a Baby”

Larry Rogowsky grew up in White Plains and at Kol Ami. He now resides in Riverdale and is a Wellness Consultant and full time Dad to Anthony with his husband, Drew, and black lab, Betty. Larry will share his journey through coming out at 19, getting married to Drew (illegal and legal) and the joyous birth of their son.

THIS SERVICE IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
CONGREGATION KOL AMI * 252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 * 914.949.4717 * WWW.NYKOLAMI.ORG

The Kol Ami Membership Committee is Excited to Introduce a New Program:



Become a Host and Begin the Cycle of Connection!!

“Shabbat in My Home” is a way to bring our community together and help us feel more connected to Kol Ami and one another. These Shabbat dinners are a great informal way to get to know new people and reconnect with Kol Ami friends too. Hosts are encouraged to invite people whom they do not know well or at all, along with those they do know, to share a Shabbat meal. Then we hope that guests who have been invited to the first dinner will become hosts and invite other congregants they know and don't know the next time around, and so on. Our goal is to include as many people as possible!

We have scheduled the following 4 dates for the dinners:

October 2, 2015
December 4, 2015
March 18, 2016 and
April 15, 2016

Questions? Contact Membership Committee Co-Chairs:

Lisa Hochman at lisahochman@mac.com or 834-1555 • Susan Davis at susanhopedavis@hotmail.com or 948-4763

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Led By Rabbi Shira Milgrom
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- ✎ 9 nights accommodation at selected hotels
- ✎ 8 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus
- ✎ 9 days of touring with a licensed, English speaking tour educator
- ✎ Youth counselor throughout
- ✎ 1 group transfer and assistance from/to the airport
- ✎ All site entrance fees and program fees as per itinerary
- ✎ Meals: breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 6 dinners
- ✎ Portage at the airport and hotels

[http://www.arzaworld.com/Flipbook/
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nan_blank/](http://www.arzaworld.com/Flipbook/Cong_kol_ami_with_rabbi_milgrom_nan_blank/)

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ARZA
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Annual Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival

**Save the
Date**

Sunday, August 16, 2015

Kensico Dam Plaza,
Valhalla, NY



**Free and
open
to all!**

The Westchester Jewish Council, The Westchester Klezmer Program, Kol Hazzanim - The Cantors of Westchester in cooperation with Westchester County Parks are proud to present the 41st Annual Westchester Jewish Music & Arts Festival

The Festival will feature:

From the Jewish community of France, a special appearance by Welt performing the songs of the Yiddishland and more Nafshenu

A Shmear of musical mayhem with Bobby Doowah
Cantor Randy Herman

Members of Kol Hazzanim - the Cantors of Westchester
The Westchester Klezmer program
Israeli dancing sponsored by Camp Zeke

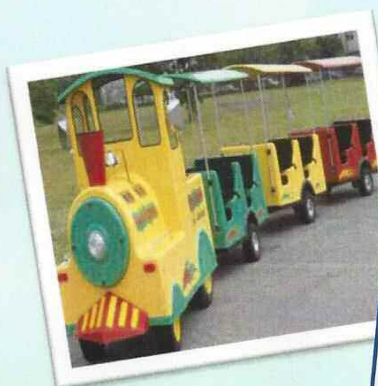
- Family Fun Activities
- Israeli Dancing
- Vendor Exhibition area including Jewish Art and Judaica
- Information on Westchester's Jewish organizations
- Kosher food available for purchase
- Rain or Shine



Congregation Kol Ami's ECP

Welcomes you to our Annual Family Fun Day!

Everyone in the community is welcome!



Sunday June 7th, 2015
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MENU

- ☒ BBQ
- ☒ Arts & Crafts
- ☒ Games & Surprises
- ☒ Sports
- ☒ Train Rides
- ☒ Carousel
- ☒ The Ice Cream Man
- ☒ Lots of Family Fun!!



Rain or Shine

\$48 per family make your reservation by Friday June 5th, 2015

(or \$15 per adult and \$10 per child)

\$55 per family at the door on June 7th

Please respond to the ECP Office by June 5th.

Family Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ **Number of Children:** _____ **Total:** _____

Please send cash or make checks out to Congregation Kol Ami





A BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of the LOL! Spring Fundraiser committee, we wanted to share our deepest gratitude to those who sponsored, donated, attended, volunteered and supported our fantastic evening.

Here is what our guests are saying:

"The synagogue was transformed, the food and drink was just what my doctor disapproves of...in other words, tasty! And the entertainment, great fun!"

"We had a great time—the food was a treat and we laughed a lot. Thank you for a terrific evening. "

"We love the staging. It was so clever, the food was fantastic and we love the comedians. They were absolutely hilarious."

"Last night was a great evening! A lot of fun, great food and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves!"

"Last night was absolutely fantastic!"

"For those who attended last night's gala, it was a success in every way and there are great stories that will live on for a long while."

We had great laughs with our comedians, Robin Schall & Johnny Lampert, dined on delicious food catered by On the Marc, tasted beer from Yonkers Brewing Company, participated in a fun live auction led by Adam Hutter, were introduced to our "Giving Tree" and bid on great silent auction items.

Lori Abrams, Evelyne Klein, Ellen Kurtz and Gerri Sommers
Co-Chairs, LOL! Spring Fundraiser

WHAT A NIGHT!

A special thanks to our event sponsors:

Laura & Nir Barzilai • Stephanie & Andrew Falk • Ellen & Jonathan Litt • Gerri & Andy Sommers • Lenny Weisman

A big thank you to our vendors:

David Vogel • Eagle Eye Productions • Lisa Feldman Designs • On the Marc Events • Party Up Productions
Yonkers Brewing Company

Thank you to our silent auction donors:

Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht (Michele Geller) • Mission to Wellness, Daryl Moss • Metropolitan Opera Tickets (Evelyne & David Klein) • Paul Mauro • Wilson & Son • Mariela Dujovne Melamed Photography • NBA, Hilary Shaev
Tommy Hilfiger (Stacey & Gary Sheinbaum • Mah Jongg Party (Betsy McCormack)
Method to the Madness, Lisa Shpilberg • Yoga Station • Eco Green Cleaners • Dee Francetic Hair Salon
Numi & Company • Adriana Spa • Lange's Deli • Moscato • Ruffled Feathers • Buon Amici • Nonni's
Broken Bow Brewery • Saporì • Kyo • Yaffa Activewear (Laura Preskin) • Tennis Innovators Academy

We could not have done it without you:

Dana Ross • Adam Hutter • Stephanie Falk • Lisa Feldman • Stacey Matusow • Adrienne Pollak • Scott Pollak
Rachel Ekhaus • Karen Reynolds • Ellen Flaks

Our thanks to our awesome staff at Kol Ami!

***There are still opportunities to buy leaves on our "Giving Tree".
Please stop by the office and see Jess Lorden for more information.***

Ritual Riches: Happiness

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of happiness is "a state of wellbeing and contentment or a pleasurable or satisfying experience".

Now, I don't claim to be an expert on the subject, but happiness has been on my mind a lot lately. Maybe it has something to do with the swing of the calendar, especially after this past brutal winter. Or maybe it's the quality of the light so early in the day, lasting blissfully later every evening. I've become more mindful of daytime sounds 5am bird trills, breezes, the comfort and warmth of a 2:00 sun.

Whatever it is, I know this season is fleeting and the sense of "well-being" is, well, much appreciated. Noted recently on the internet, and attributed to Leo Rosten, "the purpose of life is not to be happy, but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you lived at all." Have I gotten it all wrong or is it possible that happiness can be experienced on different levels? What I felt in response to the natural world seems so shallow when held against Rosten's notion.

The Talmud, in Pirke Avot, states, "who is rich? the one who appreciates what he has". Ah, that helps. There is a connection between appreciation and conscious enjoyment of what is already in our lives our health, our family and friends, the network of our community, our passions, and to some measure, the possessions that enable us to enjoy comfortable lives. There is no Jewish commandment to be happy, yet so many of us go to great lengths seeking it in our lives.

Jews, as a group, have the reputation of a people wracked with guilt and anxiety, perhaps the end product of centuries of oppression. Yet, there is another side. The Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chasidism,

viewed happiness as a central tenet of Judaism, and guilt as an obstacle to joy. According to Rabbi Shai Held, "the Chasidim thought that if you were in a relationship with God, you should feel joy."

So, how to cultivate happiness in a Jewish context? There are as many roads as there are seekers. One can begin by teaching ourselves mindfulness. Rabbi Noah Weinberg advises one way to do this is to set aside time daily to consider the blessings in our lives. He takes this a step further by challenging us to write for an hour daily, adding new blessings each day. In his instruction, he notes that the first 15 minutes are pretty easy, the final 15 minutes are the real work. We can think about the small rituals we practice in our families, in our Jewish lives. This forces us to look inward in a new way as we "count" but also to exist outside ourselves since so many of those things that bring us happiness are without, not within.

"Happiness is not a happening it's a state of mind. You can have everything in the world and still be miserable. Or, you can have relatively little and feel unbounded joy." In his timeless story, "Bontshe Shvayg", I.L. Peretz's main character has led a life filled with undeserved struggles and pain. When he dies, he is greeted by the angels in heaven and told that as a reward for his piety and goodness despite his difficulties, he can have anything he wants to make him happy. His request? A hot roll with butter. I think I'll start with that extra special light at the beginning of the day.

This article was written by Debbie Lewis.

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

ECP's 4s and 5s

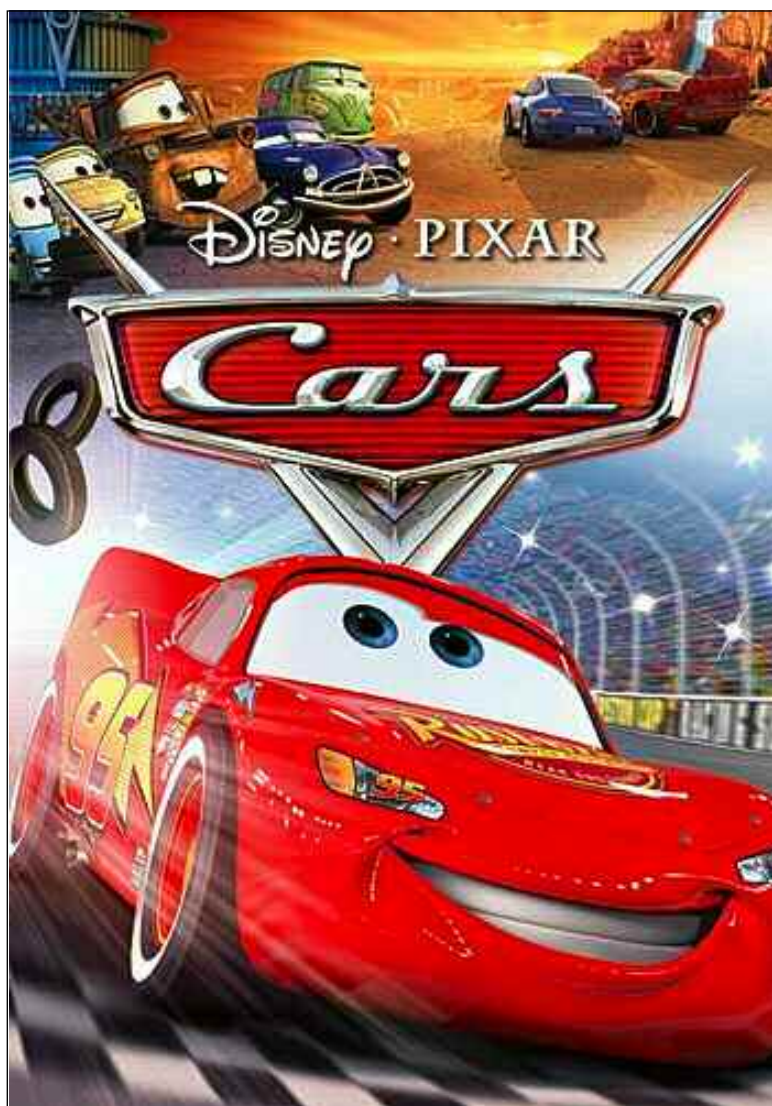


Any Plans for Wednesday Evening, July 15th?

Hope you'll come in from the heat to enjoy a cool time at

Kol Ami's Family Movie Night!

We'll be showing



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

5:15 for Dinner 5:45 Movie

7:15 Ice Cream/Ices and Home

Join us for a wonderful evening of family fun!

Reserve your place by calling Nan in the Early Childhood office at 949-4717 x 107

Rain or Shine • Everyone is Welcome

KABRO (MEN'S COUNCIL) INVITES YOU TO
THE 5TH ANNUAL KOL AMI CAMPING TRIP!
NORTH-SOUTH LAKE CAMPGROUND

Haines Falls, NY (near Hunter Mountain)

July 10-12, 2015

ALL KOL AMI MEMBERS, CHILDREN, FRIENDS & FAMILY ARE WELCOME!



- Camp at beautiful North-South Lake in the Catskills!

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24487.html>

- Hike to New York's tallest waterfall!
- Swim, canoe, kayak!
- Sing campfire songs; eat s'mores!
- For experienced and first-time campers

SIGN UP TODAY: This is the most fun you will have all summer!

\$65 Per Campsite (up to 6 people)

Payment due by July 1st!

Day Trippers Are Welcome For Saturday Activities & Dinner

Sign up or get more details from Dan Horowitz at: horowitz.dan@gmail.com

Kol Ami Families Host May Coachman Birthday Party

On Sunday, May 17th, Sara and Michael Elkin, Liz and Mike DeRobertis, Kathryn and Danny Siry and their children hosted our May birthday party at The Coachman Family Center. The sponsor families were also joined by Ilene Miller, our Program Manager, Kay Osborne, our Yad B'Yad Administrative Assistant, and Jesse Scherer.

The party started with wonderful craft activities led by our sponsor families. The kids used rolls of duct tape in a variety of colors and patterns to make an assortment of glamorous accessories including headbands, bracelets, wallets and purses, decorated with colorful gems. Even the boys got into the spirit making cool, silver bracelets of their own. The children also made their own creations out of molding clay.

Jesse Scherer led the kids in some party games while the craft making was underway. The kids had lots of fun playing guessing games and Simon Says, and one little girl was thrilled to walk away with a huge jar of M&Ms as she had come closest to estimating the number of candies inside.

More entertainment was graciously donated by Danny Bernstein of Backyard Sports, who led the children in team building sports and games. Danny and his daughter Sydney set up relay races, hoola hoop play, and a circuit of drills where



the Coachman and Kol Ami kids played together, reinforcing the broader theme of sportsmanship and team camaraderie.

The party came to a close with a round of "Happy Birthday" as the kids delved into beautifully decorated cake and cookies, baked by Danny Bernstein's teenage crew.

Upon reflecting on the overall experience, Jesse Scherer commented "it was very gratifying to be able to bring some pleasure to children who might not have otherwise had the opportunity to experience a birthday party in their honor. As with most sharing experiences in life, we all enjoyed being with the Coachman children as much as they enjoyed being with us and with one another." One of our sponsors commented "it was so nice seeing our children handing clay or duct tape to a child who needed help and to realize that not only should our children be very thankful for the life they lead, but how wonderful to see first-hand that they really are."

If you are interested in sponsoring a birthday party at the Coachman or would like to contribute to the Coachman Birthday Party initiative in other ways, please contact:

Diane Litvak (dmlitvak@me.com)

Alison Adler (aadler3@verizon.net)

Annie Rotberg (annie.rotberg@gmail.com).

YOU can make a difference!



COMMUNICATING WITH YOU IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US

To enable us to communicate with you and yours,
please print clearly when completing the form below:

Member 1 Given Name (e.g. Jessica): _____

Member 1 Preferred Name (e.g. Jess): _____

Birthday: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Profession: _____ Work Phone: _____

Firm Name and Address: _____

Member 2 Given Name (e.g. Jessica): _____

Member 2 Preferred Name (e.g. Jess): _____

Birthday: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Profession: _____ Work Phone: _____

Firm Name and Address: _____

Child 1: _____ Child 2: _____

Birthday: _____ Birthday: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Child 3: _____ Child 4: _____

Birthday: _____ Birthday: _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this form.

The information you provide will be updated in our database and used for our phone directory.

Please return the completed form to Staci Krantz at Stacikrantz@nykolami.org or by fax to 914-946-8143.

If you prefer you may drop off the form in the Temple office.

Questions? Please call Staci Krantz at 914-949-4717, ext. 103



Kol Ami Cares

Opportunities for Volunteering

Providing endless opportunities for connection and caring in times of joy and in times of sorrow.

Kol Ami Cares Offers a New Program

We are happy to announce that our volunteers are now available to assist mourners with preparations for shiva. At your request, a congregant will wait at your home to accept food deliveries, make coffee, set out paper goods and plastic ware, place a pitcher of water and paper towels outside the front door (as is customary for people returning from the cemetery to wash hands before entering the home) and be a friendly face to greet mourners who return before you do.

For arrangements, please contact Jess Lordon in the front office
or

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

KOL AMI SINGERS

It's a mitzvah to bring an hour of music, companionship and smiles to those in need.

King Street Nursing Home

Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Questions? Please contact Murray Shapiro, 946-7789

COOKING FOR THE HOMELESS

Members have been participating in this program for many years. Newcomers are welcome. Drop in ready to lend a hand on Sunday and Monday mornings. Food is prepared in our kitchen and driven to a local shelter.

Contact Laura Green greenlg@mac.com (Mondays) Nancy Marcus larrymarcus@aol.com (Sundays)
Mondays at noon: June 1

Looking for a Mitzvah Project?

Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity for Your Family?

Look no further than our own congregation!

Kol Ami Cares can help. We can match you with an older congregant who would love to get to know you and your family. Several of our members are home-bound or have no relatives nearby and would greatly benefit from a meaningful connection with you.

Visit as often as you can—bring a game, puzzle, story to share. Celebrate a Shabbat dinner together, offer a ride to services, develop a lasting relationship that will enrich your lives.

Maybe your extended family lives out of town. By “adopting a grandparent” perhaps you and your children can fill a void in your own lives—hear stories from the old country, pick up some Yiddish, gain insight into World War II, learn to cook homemade mitzvah ball soup.

Please give this idea some thought and decide if it is right for you. We would be happy to meet with you and help you get started.

Ginny Ruder, ginnyruder@gmail.com

Betsy McCormack, betsymc@aol.com

The Kol Ami Membership Committee Invites you to The Annual Shabbat Summer BBQ

Friday August 14, 2015

7:15 pm (immediately following services)

Come for good food, friends & fun!

Members: \$18/for adults, \$10 for children 5–13, free for children under 5

Prospective members: free of charge!

Please RSVP by August 11th to lisahochman@mac.com

Make your reservations by August 11th to avoid a \$5 surcharge

Questions or thinking about joining Kol Ami?

Contact Lisa Hochman at 834-1555 (lisahochman@mac.com)

or Susan Davis at 948-4763 (susanhopedavis@hotmail.com)

Bring dessert—best dessert wins a prize!

CLIP & RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 11TH

ANNUAL SHABBAT SUMMER BBQ

Adult Names _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

Members: \$18/for adults, \$10 for children 5 - 13, free for children under 5

Prospective members: free of charge!

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

Please indicate the number of vegetarian options you will require _____

_____ YES, I WILL BE BRINGING A DESSERT

Checks should be payable to Congregation Kol Ami.

Adult Education

Please read more about offerings for the whole year in our Adult Ed brochure or visit our website, nykolami.org, and click on AdultEducation to view an even more detailed brochure.

Spiritual Journeying Groups Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Group

The group meets every Thursday morning (except for holidays), 9:30-10:45, in the Chapel in the Woods. Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection.

Contact *Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW*, and certified meditation teacher, at WJCS, 914- 761-0600 ext. 148, for further information. Free of charge, donations accepted, no prior experience required.

Last class – June 4

Current Events

with Beth and Gene Kava

Each session will provide an opportunity to examine a current issue in depth, beginning with an overview of the issue. Participants will examine issues, through various perspectives, using readings, video or a guest speaker.

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
in Room 20

Last classes – June 1 & 15

Prophets Seminar

Mondays, 7:30 pm

The bible chronicles the history of the Hebrew people from approx. 740 BCE to 520 BCE through the eyes and hearts of the prophets, from Isaiah to Malachi. Who are these men? How do they see their world? What are their messages; are they relevant today? We will explore these questions and more. Contact Paul Davis at paullawrencedavis@yahoo.com

Last class – June 15

Parenting Workshops

Adolescent Parenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW

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

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

Last class – June 4

Grandparenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW

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

Meets the 1st Monday of the month
9:15 – 10:45 am

Last class – Monday, June 1

Kol Ami Reads/Book Club

Meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year.

9:15 am, Room 20, Main Building

For more information call Doris Dingott at 289-0869

Mah Jongg & Bridge

Open To All: Experienced and Novice
Wednesdays 10:30 am in the Kol Ami Atrium

Email Wendy Roos Wendyroos1@aol.com to be added to the email distribution

Westchester Adult Jewish Education at Kol Ami:

A discussion of Jewish Ethics.
with Dr. Carol Diamant

For more information
please contact

Nina Lubin, WAJE Director
at 914-761-6309
or waje@wjcouncil.org

Summer Movies at Kol Ami

Save the Following Dates:

July 21 — *The Lunch Box*

August 11 — *The Freedom Writers*

7:00 PM

Kol Ami Reads

My Promised Land

by Ari Shavit

June 3, 2015

The Unknown Bridesmaid

by Margaret Forster

July 1, 2015

Americanah

by Chimimandia Ngozi Adichie

August 5 2015

All The Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

September 2 2015

All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:15am in Room 20.

Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively.

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

MITZVAH KNITZ

**We will be meeting on
Tuesday, June 2,
from 11:00 am
to 1:00 pm.**

Join us.

Knitters of all skill levels
are welcome.

For further information,
call Elaine Cohen,
725-0248 or
elwilco@verizon.net

Mark Your Calendar and Give the Gift of Life Kol Ami Blood Drive

Tuesday, June 9, 2015—4:00 – 9:30 pm at 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:

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

Or for information call David Klein, Men's Council Blood Drive Chair at 761-7659.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:15am Grandparenting 11:00am Current Events 12:00pm Cooking for the Homeless 7:00pm Prophets Seminar	2 10:30am Mitzvah Knits 7:00pm Annual VVRJ Membership Dinner	3 9:00am KA Reads Book Club 10:30am Mah Jongg	4 9:15am Life After the ECP 9:30am Jewish Meditation (LAST SESSION) 11:15am Wise Aging (LAST SESSION) 12:00pm Teen Parenting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	6 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: B'nai Mitzvah of Ella Einstein and Emma Kops 5:30pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Ben Sommers
7 Religious School Faculty Meeting	8 7:30pm Prophets Seminar	9 4:00-9:00pm Blood Drive at Bet Am Shalom	10 9:45 WAJE 10:30am Mah Jongg	11 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary KOL AMI RETREAT	13 KOL AMI RETREAT SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bat Mitzvah of Dana Boshart 5:30pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE: Bar Mitzvah of Ben Rubin
14 KOL AMI RETREAT ENDS	15 11:00am Current Events 7:30pm Prophets Seminar	16	17 10:30am Mah Jongg 9:45am WAJE	18	19 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary THIRD ANNUAL LGBT PRIDE SHABBAT	20 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
21	22	23	24 9:45am WAJE 10:30am Mah Jongg	25	26 5:30pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Atrium 6:15pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Main Sanctuary	27 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:30am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
28	29	30				

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