



Kol Ami Disney Purim Carnival

March 7, 2012 • Starting at 5:30 pm

*Games, Crafts, Activities, Mishloach Manot and so much more ...
Purim BBQ • Spiel and Services
Israeli Dance • Religious School Raffle with Great Prizes*

*The Drama Club will be presenting
“The Megillah According to Walt Disney”*

Please see page 7 for complete details and reservation form.

Don't Miss an Evening with Dr. Sayyid Syeed...

Synaplex—March 23, 2012

The Main Event 8:15 pm: “Anti-Semitism Has No Place in Islam”

Dr. Syeed is the National Director of the Islamic Society of North America's (ISNA) Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances. ISNA and the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) have partnered since 2007 in a joint venture to address concerns of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the United States and beyond. ISNA is a national umbrella organization which has more than 300 affiliates all over the U.S. and Canada and is based in Washington, DC.

SERVICES

Friday, March 2

THIRD GRADE SHABBATON
SHABBAT ACROSS KOL AMI
SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery
 5:30 pm
 6:10 pm **TEFILLAH TEAM (K-3) Service** in Chapel
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Main Sanctuary

Saturday, March 3

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'not Mitzvah of Alice Auerbacher & Mollie Hirschheimer in Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 7

5:30 pm **PURIM CARNIVAL**
 7:00 pm **SERVICE, MEGILLAH READING AND SPIEL**

Friday, March 9

GIRL SCOUT SHABBAT
SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery
 5:30 pm
 6:10 pm **TEFILLAH TEAM (K-3) Service** in Chapel
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Main Sanctuary

Saturday, March 10

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

Friday, March 16

5:30 pm **SHABBAT IN THE WOODS** in Gallery
 6:10 pm **TEFILLAH TEAM (K-3) Service** in Chapel
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Main Sanctuary

Saturday, March 17

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**
 10:30 am **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE:**
 Bat Mitzvah of Clara Ritterman-Pena in Sanctuary
 5:30 pm **SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE:** Bat Mitzvah of Ellie Klein in Sanctuary

Friday, March 23

SYNAPLEX
SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery
 5:30 pm
 6:10 pm **TEFILLAH TEAM (K-3) Service** in Chapel
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Main Sanctuary

Saturday, March 24

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 John Cohen and Benny Marcus in Sanctuary

Friday, March 30

ECP SHABBAT
SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery
 5:30 pm
 6:10 pm **TEFILLAH TEAM (K-3) Service** in Chapel
 6:15 pm **SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE** in Main Sanctuary

Saturday, March 31

SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel
 9:00 am Coffee and community
 9:30 am Study
 11:00 am **SERVICE**
 5:30 pm **Shabbat Afternoon Service:**
 B'nai Mitzvah of Allie Coonin & Shane Sorell in Sanctuary

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 March***Week ending March 3, 2012****Parashat Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10**

Parashat Tetzaveh describes the obligations of Aaron and his sons and the rituals surrounding the priests and sacrifice. It has the distinction of being the only parashah in the last four books of the Torah in which the name of Moses does not appear.

Week ending March 10, 2012**Parashat Ki Tisa Exodus 30:11-34:35**

While Moses lingers for forty days on Mount Sinai, the people have persuaded Aaron to fashion a golden calf in Moses' absence. Upon returning, Moses sees the Israelites cavorting around their calf and smashes the tablets of God's law. Joined by the Levites, Moses executes a campaign to root out the offenders. Moses then pleads with God and secures divine mercy for the people. The parashah ends with a restoration of mutual faith and with Moses carving a second set of tablets inscribed with Ten Commandments.

Week ending March 17, 2012**Parashat Vayak'heil-P'kudei Exodus 35:1-40:38**

This double parashah, brings us to the end of the Book of Shemot-Exodus. In Vayak'heil, Moses reminds the people that God commanded them to keep Shabbat, not to do work on the seventh day and to make the day holy. It continues with Moses asking the Israelites to donate materials for the building of the mishkan (sanctuary). Every article needed, every attribute of the structure, every manner of work, and every detail for the altar in building a Mishkan to God are described by Moses in P'kudei. As the building of the sanctuary and its holy objects are completed, Moses blesses all of the people who took part in its creation.

Week ending March 24, 2012**Parashat Vayikra Leviticus 1:1-5:26**

We begin the third book of the Torah (Vayikra – Leviticus) with a description of five types of sacrifices offered in the Temple. They are: burnt offering, meal offering, sacrifice of well-being, sin offering, and guilt offering. While the first three are voluntary, the last two are mandatory for guilty individuals.

Week ending March 31, 2012**Parashat Tzav Leviticus 6:1-8:36**

Tzav, the second Torah portion in Leviticus, continues with the regulations for sacrifices, and then outlines the ritual of priestly ordination for Aaron and his sons.

"And Who Will Go?"

"Let My people go," Moses says to Pharaoh, throughout the Torah portions of this month. "And who exactly will go?" Pharaoh wants to know. "We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and daughters—all of us," Moses answers.

We will go—all of us. Our abled, our differently abled, our strong and our weak. February was Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month—and the national blog of the Reform Movement (<http://blogs.rj.org/> brings you to the blog) featured entries from members of our Kol Ami community on what it has meant for them to be part of an inclusive community. Their words are powerful and beautiful and inspiring. I wanted to make sure that more of us had a chance to read these reflections, "posted" below.

"I've had a traumatic brain injury since 1985, being in a coma for 4.5 months, not expected to live and/or being a vegetable if I did. I went to a few different synagogues, trying to find a place where I felt a feeling of belonging to broaden my views of the world. I tried a few places—a Conservative shul in White Plains, a Reform one in Scarsdale, even an Orthodox one in White Plains, until I finally found Kol Ami, a place that seemed warm and welcoming. Shira welcomed me with open arms and I felt like I finally belonged, studying Torah and sharing views of the world with my friends who took me into a community of love. People were very patient with me, welcoming my views despite my slurred and odd speech patterns so I felt like I belonged. I've been a member for 20 years and never wanted to be anywhere else. It's the best decision I think I've made in my recovery."

Mitchell Jay Cohen

"Inclusion has always permeated my entire relationship with my temple, Congregation Kol Ami. My very first conversation with Rabbi Shira Milgrom was about inclusion. Twenty-one years ago, I was faced with a dilemma. How could my ten-year-old son become Bar Mitzvah if as a single working parent I could barely pay the rent, no less pay dues? I posed the question to Shira. Her reply was simple. "Just because you are poor, is not a reason that should prevent you from being part of a Jewish community." And so it began.

"Jeff attended Hebrew school and I started to go to the "Spiritual Lift", a Saturday morning Sabbath service held in the Chapel in the Woods. Years of social isolation began to fade, as I was welcomed into the congregation, a devoted group of fifty to one hundred Jews that eventually became an extended family. It was there that I reconnected with a sense of spirituality.

"In the summer of 1993, after years of struggling with an undiagnosed mental illness, I became TF suicidal and I had to be hospitalized. Saturday mornings at Kol Ami had become an important touchstone for me. The "Spiritual Lift" became a piece of my recovery. Every Saturday morning at 11:45, I knew my name was being announced during Mi Shebeirach. I received get-well cards, had a "pen pal" and spoke with the Rabbi every Sabbath afternoon. Although we were separated by hundreds of miles for a month, I still was included in the life of Kol Ami as if I was physically present. It was a powerful relationship. I was released from the hospital on Erev Rosh Hashanah. The next day I celebrated the New Year at Kol Ami fully aware that it was not just a new year, but also the start of a healthy healing time of my life.

"In January 1994, my son became Bar Mitzvah. The service was held in the Chapel in the Woods during the "Spiritual Lift" where four generations of my family gathered as well as my extended family, the congregation. The ceremony was all I hoped it would be and the potluck luncheon that followed was the generous gift of the congregation. Initially, I felt ashamed that I lacked the means to throw a big celebration. However, many congregants expressed their gratitude that they played a part in making the day special for us. Once again I felt that great sense of inclusion.

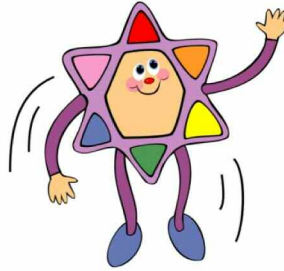


"After two years of study with a group of adults, 2001 became the year I experienced my own Bat Mitzvah. It was a rite that was not offered to me when I was thirteen. Becoming Bat Mitzvah was a milestone in my life and it marked another step in my full inclusion in the Jewish community.

"It's been over twenty-one years since I became a congregant at Congregation Kol Ami. Today, I continue to attend the "Spiritual Lift" and I have become a regular at the study preceding the service. I share my views and it is frequently as a person who happens to have a mental illness. There is no stigma here. As always, Congregation Kol Ami embraces me fully. Here is a place of total inclusion."

*A.G.
Congregation Kol Ami
White Plains, NY*

Calling all kids in grades K through 3...
TEFILLAH TEAM WANTS YOU!



Join the Team and get in on all the FUN
Together, you and your teammates will sing, pray and learn
from the Torah



There'll be lots of fun activities and great snacks.
It's a weekly Friday Shabbat service and IT'S JUST FOR YOU!

TEFILLAH TEAM starts Friday, March 2nd, 2012.

Ready, team? Here's the playbook:

6:00: Tefillah Team leaders will escort the kids from the Gallery to services in the **Chapel**. **All children should go first to the Gallery.**

7:00: Tefillah Team leaders escort the kids to the **Sanctuary** to rejoin the community for the end of Friday night services.

Please note: From 5:30 to 6:00 PM, Tefillah Team leaders will provide supervised activities and snacks in the Gallery for those with siblings attending Shabbat in the Woods Service

Questions? Please call Cantor Glazman, 949-4717 x 130

From the Religious School Assistant Principal



Twelve days, 39 educators and 575 miles later, I am still unpacking and reflecting upon my time in Israel as a Fellow in the Leadership Institute. We learned, studied, pushed the boundaries and one another's comfort zones. We brought tough, difficult and sometimes painful dialogue to the table. We laughed until we cried, and at times, only cried.

We visited schools and participated in an international conference with Israeli teachers. We met a man named Amin who shared his family's story of losing his home in 1949 and his dreams of one day seeing his grandchildren play on that land. We spoke with Jews who were trying to build community in a land where they felt they had no community. We met with innovators and leaders in grassroots movements from inspiring at-risk youth to emboldening a liberal, pluralistic voice in an increasingly conservative, intolerant atmosphere. We walked in the footsteps of the Talmud and watched the newest in modern performance art and audience participation. We celebrated Shabbat with progressive Jews who are pioneers in Israel by taking their inspiration for practice from Jews in the United States. We forged the beginnings of relationships for our schools and classrooms that are built on ancient connections in a modern context. We met people who are as concerned as we are about our future; and together we embraced a challenge to find a new language in which to converse about what lies ahead. In the words of Amin, we are "one land, many peoples."

For me, being in Israel is at once complex and a home-coming. I am overwhelmed by emotions and questions. I feel a part of the very land, something I don't feel in New York. I have traveled all over the world, photographing and working; I feel different in Israel, and the complexities and emotions are not numbed, but heightened with each visit.

Our physical journey began in the desert and we traveled north to the bustling metropolis of Tel Aviv, then north to the Galilee and south again to end in Jerusalem. Every day was a coalescence of the historical and the modern, our collective memories and the individual experience. And every day I was forced to face the troubling questions and conflicting emotions. Visiting a public school in Haifa and seeing all the wonderful accomplishments this community has made in the face of adversity filled me with pride; and yet, the school remains segregated, Arab children attend a different school. Local leaders in Yerucham have seen real success in turning

inward for strength, notable in the number of young adults who have now returned as teachers to a place they once ran from in droves; and yet, those on the outside still scornfully refer to this isolated place in the desert as a "settlement town," even after 60 years.

And then there is Jerusalem. So much complexity wrapped up in the framework of religion, identity, history, past and present. Avraham Infeld, a leader and trailblazer in Jewish education tells us that "...Jews do not have history; Jews have memory." In Jerusalem, this electrifies the air.

It is hard to be in Jerusalem and not go to the Kotel. Having been there before, I wondered what I would feel: awe, God, belonging, boredom? I thought complacency would take over, but this didn't bother me so much. After all, I think I was looking only for quiet and a moment to just "be."

I turned to enter the women's section and greeted two women leaving. I was drenched from the rain. It was not simply a passing "Shalom" but heart-felt and the women returned in kind. I kept walking and my eyes and thoughts were already two steps ahead when I felt a hand upon my shoulder.

"Please," she said. "Can I give you a hug?" Her accent was thick, but not Israeli. She and her friend waited for me to respond. Even in the rain I could see that their eyes were filled with tears.

I don't know what moved me as I put my hand on her shoulder and said, "Can I give YOU a hug?" With that we embraced. I can not imagine how others passing by witnessed this moment. I only know that this woman hugged me and I

hugged her; it lasted a few moments and her arms were strong. I could feel her sobs when she began to cry; I closed my eyes and cried along with her.

"Is this your first time here?" I asked. I remember well how I felt the first time I put my hands upon those stones. Their voices were soft and they answered together, "Yes."

They were here from Ghana and Ethiopia. "Bless you," they said as we parted ways. "Bless you." Our hands were linked and then the connection was broken. I never even asked for her name.

I entered the women's section and slowly approached the Wall, listening again to the sounds around me: words of prayer, a voice from a cell phone held up to the Wall, shuffling feet, laughter, tears, rain. Buoyed forward by that woman's spontaneous hug and tears, I entered that space. I had arrived thinking that I couldn't possibly feel anything new or different. Instead, I saw and felt this place through her lens and her heart. She is the Kotel.

She will never know the gift she gave me. Our story is tied to every story in Israel, whether it is thousands of years old or unfolding today in front of us. Our story is connected to every story of every Jew around the world, whether it is thousands of years old or unfolding in front of us. This pulls me in and reminds me of why I am a Jewish educator. This is more than an idea and tugs at my heart; it reminds me of why I am an artist. My story is part of this incredible tapestry and my children are a continuation of the threads.

Alix

A Rainy Day at the Kotel



From Our Director of Membership and Development

It is with pleasure that I ask all of you to welcome our recent new family members to Kol Ami:

Jill and Peter Fisch and Zachary, Sara and Matthew
Liz and Joe Kronk and Mitchell, Sarah and Alex
Michael and Valerie Meyer and Vanessa and Ben
Debbie Fogel Monnissen and Jack Monnissen and Zoey Monnisen
Stacey and Gary Sheinbaum and Danny, Julia, and Hallie
Ursula and Phillip Strauss

It's heartwarming for me to see that our congregation is continuing to attract new members throughout the year. And, thank you to all of you who have spread the word about Kol Ami to their families, neighbors and friends.

As always, there is so much going on. In March, we are launching a new program,

Lunch and Learn with the Clergy, which anyone who works in New York City is welcome to attend. The first one is scheduled for Friday, March 30th at 12:30 pm. It will be lunch and study with Rabbi Tom Weiner at the law offices of Skadden, Arps located at 4 Times Square, NYC. This session is graciously hosted by Scott Musoff. Please RSVP to me at 949-4717 ext. 115. If you're interested in hosting a session either in New York City or Westchester, please contact me as well!

New Member Potluck Dinner, Dessert and Havdallah (Adults Only), Saturday, April 21st at 7:00 pm at Rabbi Weiner's home. All new members are invited to join in what has become an annual new member get together.

If you recently joined and were not able to attend this event during the year you joined, please let me know. We will be happy to include you!

And, please tell your friends and neighbors about our up-coming **Open House and Breakfast for Prospective Members on Sunday, May 6th at 9:30 am**. All of the professional staff and lay leaders will be present to answer questions. Membership committee members will be giving tours of our beautiful building and facilities. School will be exciting and fun as the sixth grade students will be showcasing their family history exhibits and the third grade families will be working on their archeological dig. Free childcare will be available.

As you can see, wonderful and exciting things are happening at Kol Ami! I hope you will read all about L'Dor Va'Dor in the president's column in this month's *Connection*

Janet



Kol Ami's Youthful Voice in the Halls of Congress

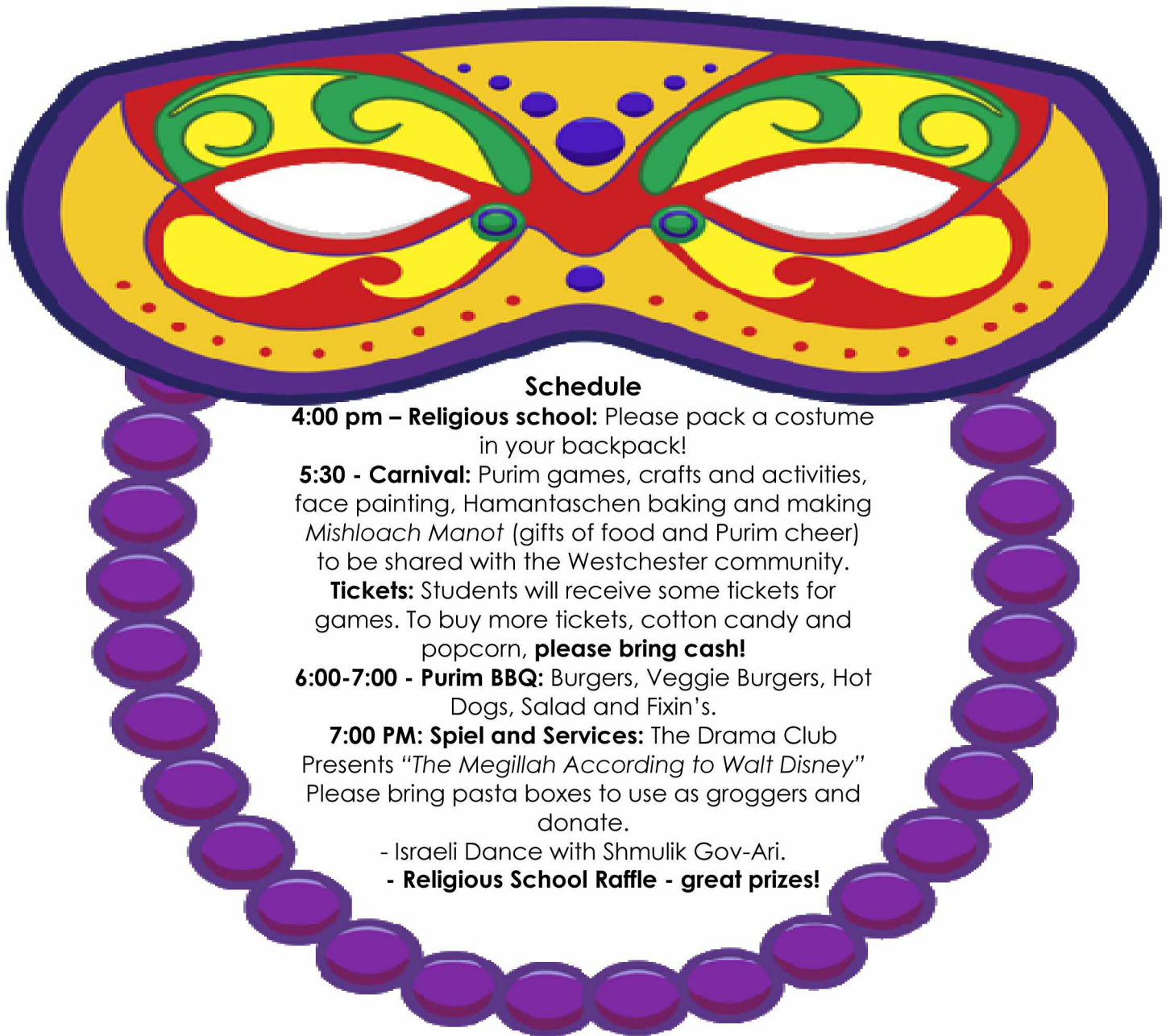


Earlier this month, high school students from our Religious School at Kol Ami participated in an RAC Retreat. RAC, or the Religious Action Center, is supported by the Union of Reform Judaism. This center has been the fulcrum of Jewish social legislative activity and social justice in Washington D.C. As a student that has gone recently for

her second time to the RAC, I can doubtlessly say that the experience has been empowering. The trip is four days and three nights. Every student that participates in this trip is involved in a speech that is then presented to Congress. Prior to this, a student will sit in various seminars about specific topics they could potentially lobby

about. This year, many students wrote about topics such as LGBT rights, funding for stem cell research, and the issues regarding Israel. The RAC changes one's outlook on politics through personal experience. My personal experience on the RAC has been amazing both times and I can't wait for my third trip!
Naomi Root, one of our tenth graders

KOL AMI DISNEY PURIM CARNIVAL MARCH 7TH



Schedule

4:00 pm – Religious school: Please pack a costume in your backpack!

5:30 - Carnival: Purim games, crafts and activities, face painting, Hamantaschen baking and making *Mishloach Manot* (gifts of food and Purim cheer) to be shared with the Westchester community.

Tickets: Students will receive some tickets for games. To buy more tickets, cotton candy and popcorn, **please bring cash!**

6:00-7:00 - Purim BBQ: Burgers, Veggie Burgers, Hot Dogs, Salad and Fixin's.

7:00 PM: Spiel and Services: The Drama Club Presents "*The Megillah According to Walt Disney*" Please bring pasta boxes to use as groggers and donate.

- Israeli Dance with Shmulik Gov-Ari.

- **Religious School Raffle - great prizes!**

Come and enjoy the magic at this year's Purim Carnival, March 7th!

Please clip and return to Temple Office: For Purim Celebration 3/7/2012

Adult name(s): _____

Children's name(s) and ages: _____

Phone# _____ Email Address: _____

10 Carnival tickets are included in the price for dinner.

Additional tickets for sale during the event.

I/we will be staying for Purim BBQ:

Adults/\$15 ; children & under/\$10

#Adults@\$15 _____ # Children @\$10 _____

Total enclosed _____

ASL Interpretation upon request.

From Our Co-Presidents: Kol Ami Votes “Yes” to Capital Campaign Financing Plans

Photo by Mariela Melamed



On Friday, February 10th, over 200 congregants voted in support of the resolution to move forward with L'Dor Va'Dor financing. This resolution also was approved on February 16th with overwhelming support from the full Board of Trustees. On both occasions, the excitement was palpable and the tireless work of all involved was evident.

The Campaign Finance Committee, led by our congregant Howard Klein, a real estate finance professional, and Margie Lewis, Kol Ami's Treasurer and a CPA, diligently prepared a detailed loan request to refinance our existing mortgage and secure construction financing backed by our pledges. After extensive analysis and negotiation with potential lenders, Provident Bank issued the most favorable terms. Thanks to the expertise and efforts of this committee, we can expect an annual debt service savings of approximately \$35,000.00 per year. Moreover, as there will be no pre-payment penalty, any surplus funds we generate may be used, at the Board's discretion, to further reduce the principal balance, resulting in even more savings. The construction loan may be drawn down as construction proceeds, but only to the extent of our pledges received. Importantly, we are not taking on any new long-term debt for the sanctuary and site work project. Rather, the construction financing will serve as a bridge while our remaining pledges are paid. The current rate on the construction financing is less than 3% and construction is scheduled to begin in mid-May and is anticipated to be finished in time for the High Holy Days 2012.

Phase One of the project is the remodeling of the sanctuary; improving our parking lot so that there is better lighting, drainage and traffic flow; and beautifying our grounds.

The completion of Phase One will propel Kol Ami into the future with a completely renovated, bright, modern, and inviting space for Jewish worship that reflects its warm, caring congregation. It will bring more flexibility for greater accommodation of contemporary worship practices and congregant life-cycle events for its over 800 members—seasons of joy, times of loss, social action activities and special events. It will also better accommodate members and guests with special needs.

To date, the L'Dor Va'Dor campaign has raised over \$3.7 million in pledges and gifts from 140, or 18%, of our congregants.

The following answers the most frequently asked questions about Phase One.

Who has been hired to design and build the sanctuary and parking lot?

The firm of Levin/Brown & Associates, Inc. of Owings Mills, Maryland has been retained as architects for the project. Levin/Brown & Associates specialize in the design of religious buildings and have designed over 125 synagogues throughout the country. Levin/Brown & Associates was selected based on the results of an architecture design competition and the Building Committee's review of their work and their experience with synagogue design. Maura Smolover, Master of Arts in Architecture and daughter of Cantor Emeritus Smolover, has been commissioned to design the Ark and the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light), the most sacred aspect of the sanctuary space. Kohl Construction Group, a leading full service construction company specializing in religious spaces, is responsible for construction management, site planning and permit acquisition.

—Mark Seiden,
Co President and attorney
specializing in construction law

What is the general concept for the sanctuary?

In the spirit of L'Dor Va'Dor, the general concept of the sanctuary is to provide a sacred space that respects our past, satisfies the needs of our congregation today and looks towards an optimistic future. The intention is to stress the relationship between the inside and the outside—embracing the beauty of our surroundings. There are a few key elements of the architecture well worth highlighting:

- The ceiling slopes down, bringing a more human scale from the height of the room to the ark, while providing proper lighting, sound and mechanicals.
- The windows provide the proper gain-loss of heat as well as glare control.
- Meditation alcoves on both sides of the sanctuary provide an intimate space for reflection.
- The lower height of the bima creates a participatory environment.
- The layout of the room allows for flexibility.
- Materials used in the interiors include wood and porcelain tile that provide a focal point around the perimeter of the sanctuary and metal accents that are reflected in the glazing system, on the Ark and as cladding on the new free standing columns.
- The focal point of the room, the Ark, is the jewel of the space.

—Mariela Melamed and Glen Cohen,
Architects and members
of the Design Committee

What from the existing sanctuary will be preserved?

Most importantly, we are preserving the bones of the space. We are also using the stained glass (8 panels) commissioned in 1923 for our original sanctuary which was located on Sterling Avenue in White Plains. The stained glass is not only beautiful, but

a wonderful reminder of our heritage.

—Ginny Ruder,
member of the Design Committee

Will the new sanctuary accommodate people with disabilities? Accessibility for people with disabilities is a high priority and will be addressed as follows:

- There will be 2 ramps to the bima, one on each side of the sanctuary, to ensure that, regardless of where one is seated, he or she is in close proximity to the ramp for access to the bima.
- Railings provide assistance to the central reading table platform.
- All seating is flexible, promoting multiple worship arrangements and allowing for handicapped seating locations in whatever quantity necessary throughout the space.
- The sound system will be upgraded to provide for state-of-the-art systems for the hearing impaired. For the infirm or homebound it is our intention to have the ability to stream our lifecycle events and services.
- Plans are in place for electronic projection of the service on a screen above the Ark, enabling all worshipers to see the service. (A similar type of portable projection system is planned for the social hall to allow a closer experience with the service during crowded High Holy Day services.)

—Ronnie Cohn Farley,
Co President and advocate for
people with disabilities

Why is flexible seating important?

The congregation has long wanted a sanctuary space that reflects the way we have worshiped for a good number of years, and will continue doing so well into the future. We will not be sitting in straight lines, audience style, as the Rabbis and Cantor gaze down from on high. Instead, we will have seating that allows us as a community to see one another, hear one another, and more fully engage together. The seats are connected so they will not

move around. They are also very comfortable.

The flexible seating will allow us to pray in a manner maximizing each holiday and celebration: room to fully dance on Simchat Torah; room for full choirs and musicians beyond what we have managed and imagined in our current space; the appropriate configuration for the solemnity of a funeral; intimacy and easy lines of sight for our 150 ECP children on Friday mornings. The possibilities are limited only by our imagination.

— Rabbi Tom Weiner

How are we incorporating technological solutions?

We are blessed with a worship experience that includes three musical clergy, a congregation that loves to sing, an instrumental ensemble, children's and adult choirs, a Purim shpiel, Confirmation Class, etc. Unfortunately, the current sanctuary was not designed to consider the acoustical requirements of the aforementioned musical "moments" we all cherish. In addition, our current sound system is inadequate in amplifying and balancing our needs from the most intimate Shabbat services to the most majestic High Holy Day services. It is obvious that we need an upgrade to support all that we do for a future that is a musically and acoustically fulfilling experience.

Some congregations have embraced the visual component of prayer by projecting images, accessing internet clips and projecting song lyrics and readings on various screens. This may be the way of the future and we are excited to include this infrastructure in our sanctuary, allowing us to pray with our eyes in addition to all the other senses we call upon.

—Cantor Mo Glazman

Will there be naming and dedication opportunities?

Yes and Yes! Naming opportunities will be recognized with a plaque adjacent to the named building component and such donors will be recog-



nized and referred to in Kol Ami literature. (Example: the Petschek Gallery). Dedication opportunities will be recognized with a plaque adjacent to the building component. (Example: Chapel Ark provided is the Smith Family in memory of Jonas Smith).

From generation to generation...for every generation these improvements will help us celebrate the past and future legacy of prayer in the most clear and fulfilling of ways.

For more information about supporting the L'Dor Va'Dor Capital Campaign, please contact Andrea Seiden, Chair, at andrea@jumpstarthc.com or Janet Hershey, Director of Membership and Development, at Congregation Kol Ami at 914.949-4717 ext. 115 or janethershey@nykolami.org.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact us. Check our website for updates and please be a part of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance our spiritual home for ourselves and for generations to come.

Ronnie and Mark

LIFE IS A
Cabernet



Thursday, April 26, 2012

7 PM to 10 PM

Congregation Kol Ami
White Plains, New York



SAVE THE DATE

.....

*A Rich and Full-Bodied
Evening of Fine Wines,
Live Music and Bistro Fare*

Sharing the Opportunities and Challenges of Grandparenting

Grandparenthood at last!! Most of us look forward to this new role in our lives with anticipation and delight. We can't wait until there is a new baby in the family. But like any other new role in our lives, along with the blessings and pleasure, there are also adjustments and a renegotiation of relationships, in this case, with the parents of the new baby. The balance of power has shifted and we are no longer in charge. It is up to the new parents to decide how they want to raise their baby. Sometimes they consult us, sometimes they don't. We almost always have opinions since, after all, we have years of experience. Do our children want to hear our opinions? Not always and sometimes, never. With these new rules, how do we stay connected and involved and remain fully participating grandparents?

It is in this context that our grandparenting group at Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, New York was born. Husband and wife Kol Ami congregants, who were at the time grandparents of toddler twins, had some grandparenting questions. They were looking for a place where they could discuss issues with other grandparents and approached me about beginning a discussion group. I was leading a parenting group at Kol Ami and, when I heard their request, agreed immediately. I, too, was a fairly new grandmother and felt there was much in my new role to discuss.

A grandparenting myth – how easy it is to be a grandparent – you can drop in, play with the kids, and when they get cranky, you can

leave them to their parents and go home – was immediately dispelled in the first group meeting. It became clear to all of us in the room that the grandparents' investment in their relationship with their grandchildren meant much more than play and run. They really wanted to make a difference in the lives of their grandchildren and to support their own children in their parenting role. They were willing to travel large and small distances on a regular basis to help out the parents and to spend as much time as possible with the children. They wanted to enrich the lives of their grandchildren and felt enriched themselves by these relationships.

The grandparents in our group recognize that being involved in the lives of their grandchildren often means navigating the sometimes sensitive relationships with the parents of the children. When a grandparent disagrees with a daughter-in-law about child rearing, feels excluded from activities with a grandchild, wonders about setting limits, or worries about whether a grandchild is getting enough help for a special need, the group offers a safe place to discuss these sensitive issues, support to the grandparent, and solid helpful solutions to foster family connections. A few of the grandparents in the group struggle with the question of how to impart their Jewish heritage to grandchildren when one parent is not Jewish and when the children are being raised with a different religion. For some in the group whose Jewish identity is deeply felt, the lack of a Jewish upbringing for their grandchild-

dren can be experienced as a loss. In the group, there is much sharing of feelings around this issue and mutual support. One grandparent even created a haggadah especially for young children and shared it with group members who wanted to use it on Passover.

Because the grandparents in the group trust each other and share their feelings openly, they have, according to one member, "bonded as a cohesive group and look forward to the meetings." They have learned communication strategies from each other that have fostered more gratifying connections with their families. They feel comforted because the situations they thought were unique to them are actually shared by other group members. They feel less alone. Members remind each other of their importance to their grandchildren and how much impact they actually do have in their lives. And as one grandparent put it, "We know how lucky we are to be grandparents and that the small problems we encounter do not overshadow the joy and exhilaration of grandparenting."

If you want to join our Grandparenting Group, it meets on the first Monday of the month at 9:15 am in the Conference Room.

Susan G. Davis, LCSW is a social work psychotherapist and long time member of Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, New York. She has been running parenting groups for over 30 years and at Kol Ami for 8 years.

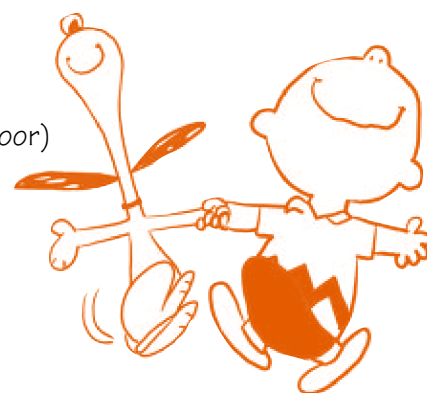
Kol Ami Drama Club 2012 presents "You're a Real Mensch, Charlie Brown"

**MARCH 24TH at 7:00PM & MARCH 25TH at 2:00PM
IN THE KOL AMI AUDITORIUM**

\$10/ADULTS \$5/KIDS & SENIORS (Tickets are available at the door)

You can also help support the Drama Club by purchasing an ad or booster for our Playbill (due March 4) or participating in our 50/50 raffle at the show!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR DIRECTOR,
ELLEN FLAKS at ellenflaks@verizon.net or call 917-679-5760



From The Director of The Early Childhood Program

*Oh Purim is a time when
We laugh and sing...*

And laugh we will—we'll laugh and sing, eat Hamantaschen, listen while Rabbi Shira reads the Megillah and leads our costume parade. We'll enjoy our very own **ECP Purim Carnival**, too. This year on Thursday, March 8th, we will again join together as one community and enjoy Purim in the ECP in a warm and wonderful way.

*Megillah, gillah, gillah roll
Gillah roll away...*

Much of March will also be spent preparing for Passover—from classroom projects and activities to learning songs and prayers. At the month's end, all of us will join together

as one community and celebrate this wonderful holiday of freedom.

On Wednesday, March 14th, the 3's will be **bringing their Dads to school** for a wonderful morning of fun with Coach Steve. On the 28th of this month, the 4's will have the opportunity to do the same – we are all very excited!

On Saturday evening, March 24th, the ECP will be hosting our **6th Annual Benefit Evening** at the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club. A casino evening is planned, complete with a silent auction. If you are interested in joining us, please call the ECP office at 949-4717 x107 for more information – everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the evening.

On Friday evening, March 30th, the ECP will be hosting our **annual Spring Shabbat Dinner**. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy Shabbat together. Please see our flyer in this month's Connection.



As you can see our month is packed with wonderful opportunities for learning and fun. Our registration for next year is quickly filling and we are delighted! Remember you are always welcome to visit us – you'll surely leave with a smile!

Nan

Congregation Kol Ami Invites Families With Young Children to Join Us At Our **Spring Shabbat Dinner** On Friday Evening, March 30 at 5:30pm

Meet New Friends and Catch Up With Old Friends
And Help Us Welcome Shabbat As One Community

Shabbat Services Begin at 5:30pm
Dinner Begins at 6:00pm Immediately Following Dinner
Your children can enjoy the music of Beth Scott and Friends

Let us know if you'll be coming!
Please RSVP no later than March 26th

Family Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

Dinner \$48.00 per family
Please make your check payable to Kol Ami

ANTE UP! EVERYONE IS A WINNER WHEN OUR CHILDREN BENEFIT. PLAY FOR THEM!

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT – WIN A FLAT SCREEN TV

Registration for the Texas Hold'em Tournament is required as space is limited. There is a separate \$100 entrance fee for the Texas Hold'em Tournament. Please remember to send in the registration card along with the reply card, if you want to join the Tournament.

SILENT AUCTION

The silent auction features tickets to the People's Choice Awards in LA for January 2013, a summer membership to the exclusive Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club, weekend get-aways, show tickets, sporting events, and much more.

COME ONE, COME ALL

The Casino Night is a fundraising event for the ECP. It is open to everyone. So, please bring your friends and make this a night to remember.

Kol Ami ECP CASINO NIGHT

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 24TH 2012
Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club

- ♣ Games of Chance
- ♥ Texas Hold'em Tournament
- ♦ Scotch Tasting
- ♠ Silent Auction



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***

Meet Our Members



BERNICE BRUSSEL

Bernice is a young-at-heart long time member. She moved with her parents from Manhattan to White Plains in 1931. Her family joined Kol Ami—then the JCC—that year. Her father founded the Men's Council and her mother became president of the Women's Guild. Bernice met her husband Harrison at a Friday night service when the congregation was at its first synagogue on Sterling Avenue. They were married by Rabbi Schwartz in 1941 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary before Harrison passed away. They had two children, Anne who lives in Manhattan and John who was living in Chicago when he died in 2003.

Tell us about your involvement with Kol Ami. "Harrison and I were both very active. He was synagogue treasurer and on the board. I became Sisterhood president in the '60s and served on the board for many years. I served as chairperson of the worship committee and was on many other committees. I was the first woman president of our synagogue from 1981 to 1984. The chapel is my pride and joy and I led the effort to have it and the gym built. Rabbi Davis always wanted a "chapel in the woods" and we were able to get it built. I'm considered the synagogue historian, having written our history through 1983. It was published for our 60th anniversary celebration. I was asked to speak at Kol Ami about a year and a half ago and I enjoyed sharing our synagogue's stories."

What advice can you give newer congregants? "Get and stay connected. Kol Ami is a wonderful place. It's my second home. Make it yours. As I'm riding to Kol Ami, I often sing 'This is my Temple' to the tune of 'This is my Country.' I'm thrilled to see so many young people. Kol Ami is changing and you can bring in your fresh ideas."

What about those changes? "I grew up and raised my family in the 'Classical Reform' era. I miss the organ music. Many in my generation do. I leave the Yom Kippur service before Neilah. I'm uncomfortable watching the 'parade of penitents.' Also, I do not follow the rules of kashrut. I take to heart what my childhood rabbi once said—'What's important is what comes out of your mouth, not

what goes into it.' On the other hand, classical reform was very male centered. Thank goodness that has changed! I may not be in sync with all the changes but Kol Ami will always be my temple."

What, besides Kol Ami, keeps you busy these days? "I love playing bridge. I read a lot and I belong to a book club. I started playing the piano and taking lessons in 1989. I'm an avid sports fan – Go METS! Harrison and I used to golf but I can't do that anymore. At 93, I'm slowing down a bit but I'm still enjoying people and still enjoying life. I also still enjoy my five o'clock cocktail."



GEORGE AND LIN SHAPIRO

The Shapiros began attending Kol Ami's Saturday morning Lift at the urging of their daughter Mia and happily joined the temple in September. Their older daughter Keren lives in New Jersey with her husband Ken and the Shapiro's two grandchildren, Eric Joseph (Avraham Moshe) and Sophie Rose (Shayna Channa).

As first generation Americans, they were both raised in traditional Jewish homes, Lin in Brooklyn and George in Plainfield, New Jersey. Lin recalls being the only girl in her Brighton Beach neighborhood to study 4 days a week after school at a "cheder" with boys about to begin preparing for their Bar Mitzvahs. It wasn't until she was in high school that it became possible for girls to have Bat Mitzvahs, something Lin deeply regrets. George tells of studying privately with a melamed, a very special teacher, with whom he sat each day after school for six years studying chumash and translating it into Yiddish and English, an experience he treasures to this day.

For the past 30 years, Lin has been a psychotherapist/addictions counselor and oral historian. In 2007, she authored a debut memoir (a Finalist in the Indie Next Generation Book Awards) *Four Rooms Upstairs: A Psychotherapist's Journey Into and Beyond Her Mother's Mental Illness*, a book she hopes will be re-published this year along with *Unicorns Eat Strawberry Ice Cream: A Psychotherapist's Examination of Myths and Other Realities*, a book of essays.

George is an actor (known professionally as George Guidall) who, in addition to appearing on

and off-Broadway, has received acclaim in the audio-book industry, narrating more than 900 unabridged novels. Awards include an Obie for best performance off-Broadway and several awards for excellence in audiobook narration.

Tell us more about your careers.

Lin – "I had a drama scholarship to Bennington College and George attended the University of Buffalo, hoping to become a psychiatrist. My first career was teaching. I later became an editor of an international edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, but it wasn't until our girls were both in school that I returned to graduate school and became a psychotherapist, with a Master Certification in Neuro-Linguistic Programming and certifications in Ericksonian hypnosis and addictions counseling. My work as an oral historian is a particular privilege. Engaged by adult children who want to preserve a parent or grandparent's life story, I transcribe taped interviews, collect photos and other memorabilia and present the family with a leather-bound volume, thereby leaving a legacy for generations to come.

George – "I was a third year pre-med student when I played Biff Loman in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman." That experience awakened a secret passion and led me to quit college and attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. I've been an actor ever since. My last performance on Broadway was in "Café Crown," when I took over the role played by Eli Wallach. At that point, I felt the need to complete my B.A. and also earned an MSW from the Hunter College School of Social Work. I worked as a therapist for the next 10 years, while continuing my work in narration."

You both attend services regularly. Tell us why. "We had no idea temple life could be as it is at Kol Ami. The relationship of congregants to one another and the accessibility of Shira, Tom, and Mo is a totally different synagogue experience for us. The community is vital and inviting and the opportunity for real dialogue is on-going. We love the music and Friday night services and are always stimulated by the discussions during the Saturday morning Lift."

What are some of your other synagogue activities? **George** – "I'm on the Worship Committee and, with Scott Pollak, will co-lead this year's second seder at the temple. I'm also going to be part of the group that conducts shiva services when the clergy aren't available. **Lin** – "I've been attending the Oasis at Home series and other educational events. Much to my delight, many congregants came to a discussion that Julie Carran invited me to lead at Dorry's Diner: 'Every life is worthy of a story.' That theme is very important to me and I think it is central to life at Kol Ami."

Caring For Our Aging Parents

A program sponsored by WJCS

In facing the challenges of caring for our aging parents many of us struggle with finding a healthy balance in our lives.

Come for a guided conversation, led by Ellen Weisberg, M.Ed., LMSW, and Jane Slevin, LMFT, from Westchester Jewish Community Services, about how we can continue to learn from our parents, remember to treasure them, and carry on their legacy – while living with the very real stress of their growing needs, their declining health, and the pressure this can put on us and our relationships.

Monday, March 12th, 4:00 pm

Congregation Kol Ami

If you plan to attend please RSVP to Ilene Miller @ imsnoops1@aol.com or 949-4717 x 111

FBI files as a source of family history information

The April meeting of the Kol Ami Genealogy Group will look at files of individuals put together by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We will explore briefly the history of the Bureau and its surveillance activities and how to obtain copies of the records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Documents obtained via a FOIA request will be examined as well as other documents already in the public domain. Time permitting, we will search for documents pertaining to family members of those present.

This meeting of the KAGG will be of interest not only to genealogists but to those whose ancestors may have been involved in activities once deemed “subversive.” The session will be held on Wednesday, April 4th in Room 7 of the Congregation Kol Ami Religious School. It will begin at 7:45 pm, sharp, and end at 9 pm. Refreshments will not be served, but you are welcome to bring your own!

If you are not a member of the KAGG, reservations are necessary. For reservations or more information, contact Alan Steinfeld (alansteinfeld@verizon.net).

THE WHITE PLAINS SENIORS PROGRAM

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, EVERYDAY

An array of interesting, fun and educational activities for seniors to mix and match is now available at Bet Am Shalom, Congregation Kol Ami, Hebrew Institute of White Plains, Temple Israel Center and The JCC Mid Westchester. This program is sponsored by Westchester Jewish Community Services with support from UJA-Federation. Seniors living in White Plains are invited to participate in the many activities at any site, with the calendar of activities available at www.wjcs.com/seniorcalendar. Please call the number shown for the temple on the calendar for program details and for any fees associated with a particular class. For more information about this community building program, contact Ellen Weisberg, LMSW at 761-0600 X146 or eweisberg@wjcs.com.

KOL AMI'S ANNUAL SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Hosted by the Kol Ami Brotherhood (KABRO)

Saturday, April 7th at Kol Ami

6:00 p.m. Service

7:00 p.m. Dinner

KABRO (also known as the Men's Council) invites all Kol Ami families, friends and guests to join us in the social hall for a lively, communal second-night seder. Please join us with your children. They play a special part in the seder as we explain our history and sing songs of freedom.



Cost

Adults -- \$25.00

Children 12 & under – Free

Space is limited, so please RSVP
by March 23.

Just return the form below with
payment to the Temple Office

KABRO – SECOND SEDER -- APRIL 7, 2012

Please make your check payable to Men's Council and return by 3/23. Thank you.

Your Name(s) _____

Children's names/ages: _____

Your email _____

___ **Adults @ \$25**

___ **Children 12 & under (free)**

☐ **I volunteer to help cook dinner on Saturday 4/7**

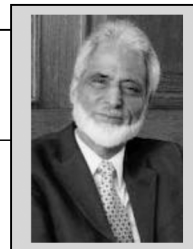
☐ **Our children would like to participate in the Seder**



Friday

March 23, 2012

An Evening with Dr. Sayyid Syeed "Anti-Semitism Has No Place in Islam"



5:00 pm

- ☐ **Explorations in Jewish Music with Cantor Mo Glazman and special guest: Cantor Randy Herman, Jewish songwriter and performer.**

Cantor Herman spent many years as a secular professional musician, piano-player and singer, songwriter, performer, and studio musician. His increasing body of original "Jewish" songs combines elements of secular pop/rock music and Jewish sensibilities. His approach to traditional davening and cantorial singing is heavily influenced by his previous musical life and provides an exciting new take on some traditional Jewish music.

- Main Sanctuary

5:30 pm

- ☐ **Shabbat in the Woods**

- Gallery

6:00 pm

- ☐ **Unwind with Wine and Cheese**

- Atrium

6:15pm

- ☐ **Shabbat Services**

- Main Sanctuary

- ☐ **Torah Study**

- Conference Room

7:15 pm

Shabbat Dinner (your choice)

Adults \$30.00/Teens \$18.00/Children \$15.00

Free for children under 5/Picnickers \$10.00

- ☐ Teen Shabbat Dinner
- ☐ Community & Family Shabbat Dinner
- ☐ "Quiet Conversation" Shabbat Dinner
- ☐ Shabbat Picnic Dinner (we will provide challah, set up, dessert & beverages; you bring your own Shabbat meal)

All reservations must be received by 5:00 pm Wed., Mar 21st. Reservations are non-refundable unless cancelled 2 days prior to the Synaplex Shabbat.

7:30 pm

- ☐ **Tzedakah Sandwich Making and Arts and Crafts with Bonnie Wach**

- Gallery

8:00 pm

- ☐ **Supervised Sports and Games with Coach Steve**

For Children in Grades K-6

- Gym

Teens are encouraged to join in adult activities.

8:00 pm

- ☐ **THE MAIN EVENT – Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed**

"Anti-Semitism Has No Place in Islam"

Dr. Syeed is the National Director of ISNA's - the Islamic Society of North America's - Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances. ISNA and the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) have partnered since 2007 in a joint venture to address concerns of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the United States and beyond. ISNA is a national umbrella organization which has more than 300 affiliates all over the U.S. and Canada and is based in Washington, DC.

9:30 pm

- ☐ **Dessert Oneg**

**Save the Dates for 2012
Synaplex Events
April 20 & May 4**

CLIP & RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN MAR 21st

Adults \$30.00 / Teens \$18.00 / Children \$15.00 / 5 & Under FREE!

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

Phone # _____

Email address _____

"Quiet Conversation Dinner"

Adults Only

Adults _____ @ \$30/ea

"Shabbat Picnic Dinner"

Adults Only

Adults _____ @ \$10/ea

"Community & Family Dinner"

Adults _____ @ \$30/ea

Teens _____ @ \$18/ea

Children _____ @ \$15/ea

Children _____ under 5

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Seating is planned 2 days in advance. Any last minute seating requests cannot be guaranteed.

Please seat us with...

(We'll do our best!)

ASL Interpretation upon Request

Ritual Riches: *Traditions Associated with the Birth of a Child*

“God then blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and tame it’” (Genesis 1:28).

“Be fruitful and multiply” is considered to be the first of the 613 mitzvot (commandments), and the arrival of a Jewish baby has always been recognized as a sacred honor and gift from God. Judaism appreciates both the miraculous wonder and the fragility of new life, and Jewish tradition provides the means for blessing and celebrating new life with well-known and perhaps lesser-known Jewish rituals; newer rituals continue to be developed, especially those that involve mothers and female babies, recognizing that for some, traditional Judaism does not provide enough opportunity to involve the mother in ceremonies or to mark the birth of a girl.

In the past, because birth was so fraught with danger, a wonderful folklore developed that led to many customs dealing with protecting both mother and newborn from evil. Fear of the demon Lilith, who flies at night and steals newborns, resulted in many practices that included the hanging of protective amulets, hiding sweets under the bed, tying a red thread to the crib, the night of watching (lel shimmurim) preceding the Brit Milah (covenant of circumcision), drawing a magic circle around the labor bed, blowing the shofar in the labor room, and giving the baby a fake name. To ensure an easy pregnancy, a string, whose length was determined by winding it seven times around the grave of a pious rabbi, was then wrapped around the belly of the mother-to-be. For an easy delivery, all ties and knots in her clothing would be undone, and the home’s windows and doors would be opened. Garlic was often hung in the baby’s room. Although buying or receiving baby items prior to the birth is not forbidden in Jewish halachah (law), many Jews practice the custom of avoiding such acquisitions and forgoing baby showers.

In Genesis, God establishes that all males are to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant between God and God’s people. The Brit Milah ceremony occurs during the eighth day after the baby is born, although it is permitted to be postponed for health reasons. Traditionally, a mohel or ritual cir-

cumciser performs the circumcision which follows a choreography that assigns various roles to be carried out by loved ones of the baby and includes the recitation of specific blessings. The naming of the baby boy traditionally follows the Brit Milah ceremony.

Paralleling Brit Milah, a more recent practice has developed called Brit Bat (Daughter’s Covenant) or Simchat Bat (Rejoicing in a Daughter). Such ceremonies are still evolving, and there are many textual and internet resources available to assist in creating such a celebration. The naming for a girl traditionally takes place at the synagogue with the father accepting an aliyah at the next opportunity following her birth. However, baby naming ceremonies at Kol Ami, for both boys and girls, are individualized in both timing and content and involve parents on an equal basis.

The name given to a baby is often influenced by tradition. In Ashkenazic families, a child is customarily named in memory of someone who has died; in Sephardic families, a name is frequently chosen to honor a living relative.

One four hundred year old German Ashkenazi tradition that had almost disappeared during the Holocaust has seen a revival in recent years. The swaddling cloth used at the Brit Milah is made into a wimple (or mappah in Hebrew), the binder that is wrapped around the Torah scroll when it is not being read. The swaddling cloth is cut into strips which are sewn together and decorated with the infant’s name, date of birth, genealogical information, scenes from the Bible or Jewish life, and Biblical quotations. Some communities have wimples for girls as well as boys made from other articles of clothing. They are used at different times in different congregations and may include binding the Torah on the Shabbat after the child’s first birthday. The wimple may be used again upon the child becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah and at his/her wedding aufruf after which it may be sewn into the wedding chupah (canopy).

In ancient Israel, a tree was planted when a child was born, a cedar for a boy and a cypress for a girl. That tradition exists in some communities and families today.

When the child marries, the wedding chupah incorporates some of the wood from these trees.

Another traditional ritual that is specific to boys is that of the Pidyon ha-ben, the redemption of the son. This ceremony takes place on the 31st day after the baby’s birth (or after since it can not be performed on Shabbat as it involves the exchange of money). It applies only to a (non-Levite) male child who is his mother’s first-born, and who was born through natural childbirth. Because at one time, first-born sons were consecrated to the service of God and the Temple, they must be redeemed, as explained in the Book of Numbers, with five shekels paid to a kohen (now usually five silver dollars) and a brief ritual.

Many traditional Jewish women continue to observe the ritual of visiting the mikveh or ritual bath upon the birth of a child. In our geographic area, Temple Israel Center of White Plains houses the Brandt Family Mikveh that is open to non-members. According to Leviticus 12:1-5, a woman who has given birth should go to the mikveh to ritually purify herself after a certain period of time which varies depending on whether she has borne a boy or a girl.

What is presented here is meant to be neither exhaustive nor prescriptive but rather to provide some information and options in our Jewish heritage that may help families make meaningful choices when preparing for the arrival of a new baby. As Reform Jews, we can choose how to interact with these traditions and create our own rituals that resonate with and express our values at such a momentous time in our lives. As always, the clergy at Kol Ami are pleased to work with our congregants to create authentically Jewish experiences that sanctify our lifecycle events.

The Worship Committee

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

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Repairing the World — Tikkun Olam

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

Thanks to all participants for the 5th year with UJA to collect non-perishable food for the Bronx Jewish Community Council Food Pantry. This pantry feeds 2,200 people monthly, a third of whom are children. Kol Ami, along with many other congregations, were the sole suppliers of food to the pantry for February. Special thanks to NAN BLANK AND THE PRE-SCHOOL for their large and valuable collection and to ELLIE KLEIN and THE OTHER TEENS who helped pack the food at UJA.

DESPERATELY IN NEED OF FOOD FOR PANTRY AND DELIVERY TO HOME-BOUND PEOPLE WITH CANCER AND OTHER ILLNESSES

While we were collecting for the Bronx food pantry we received a desperate plea from THE YONKER'S FOOD PANTRY (LIVING TRANSFORMATION INTERNATIONAL CENTER) a pantry in Yonkers that serves over 1,000 people, 100 of whom are homebound with cancer and other illnesses. They were nearly completely out of food. Because we were obligated to the UJA food pantry collection 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.

JOIN MITZVAH SINGS—Temple members go to various nursing homes to sing songs for residents. Ellie Fleisch coordinates this committee and Paul Schwartz accompanies the group. The nursing homes truly cherish this group and the entertainment that they provide. The next sing will be on Wednesday March 21st at 2:00 at King Street.

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*.

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.

OPERATION SUPPORT OUR TROOPS—Bonnie and Eric Eilen have recently announced that they will stop their monthly collection of food for the troops but that they will continue to be involved in efforts supporting the troops, especially efforts related to helping the troops as they return to the US. Anyone interested in getting further involved should contact Bonnie and Eric. Bonnie and Eric have done so much for so many and it is an honor to have them as part of the network of social action efforts at Kol Ami.

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 Home
Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 2:00 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: 3/18, 4/22, 5/6, 6/10

Mondays at noon: 3/26, 4/23, 5/21, 6/18.

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

Adult Education

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

COMING IN MARCH:

Martin Buber, Franz Rosenzweig & Abraham Joshua Heschel: Judaism and Modern Jewish Self-Identity.
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 am in the Chapel,
3/4, 3/11 and 3/25

Three session course led by our own
Dr. Ellen Umansky,
Carol & Dorothy Bennett Professor of
Judaic Studies, Fairfield University, CT.
Dr. Umansky will draw on the writings of
these 3 major 20th century theologians to
explore ways to creating contemporary
Jewish self-identities and communities that
take seriously such concepts as covenant,
divine revelation and religious obligation.

Facing the Legacy of Sept. 11th: Ten Years Later

Jews & Muslim in America
Sessions to study with American Muslims
Thurs., 7:30-9:00 pm
3/8 & 3/22
Rabbi Shira Milgrom & guest teachers

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Wednesdays, 7:45-9:00 am
3/7, 4/4, 5/2

Kol Ami Reads Book Club

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

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Group

Thursdays, 9:15-10:30 am in Chapel
with Ruth Rosenblum

Israeli Folk Dance

with Shmulik Gou-Ari
Wednesdays when
Religious School is in Session
No class 3/7 (Purim)
\$10 members; \$13 non-members
8:00-8:30 pm Beginners
8:30-10:00 pm Open Dance

Weekly Torah: Parshat Hashavua:

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

Current Events

with Beth & Gene Kava
Mondays, 11:00am-12:30 pm in Room 20
3/19; 4/16; 4/30; 5/14
Examine a current issue of the day in depth.
Will use readings, video or a guest speaker

Kol Ami Genealogy Group

with Dr. Alan Steinfeld
First Wednesday of month, 7:45-9:00 pm.
Next class 3/14 (note date change this month only)

Wisdom of the Sages: Lunch and Learn

with Rabbi Tom Weiner
Every Tuesday, 12:00 noon-1:00 pm.
Lively discussions of the world and our lives
based on some of the most provocative and
fascinating Jewish learning texts.

Introduction to Judaism

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 pm. 3/13, 3/27
First year of a 2 year program leading
to Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Parenting/Grandparenting Workshops:

Blessing of a Skinned Knee

with Susan Davis, LCSW
For parents of elementary school aged children.
Meets 2nd and 4th Monday of the month,
9:30-11:30 am

Adolescent Parenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW
First and third Thursdays of month
from 9:45-11:45
Discussion of parenting issues
related to adolescents.

Grandparenting Workshops

with Susan Davis, LCSW
First Monday of each month,
9:15-10:45 am

Hebrew Classes for Adults*

Pending sufficient enrollment
\$150 per semester (scholarships available)
\$180 per semester for non-members

Wednesday Evenings

with Emily Fields
Advanced Beginners/Intermediate
7:30 pm

Sunday Mornings

with Emily Fields

Beginning Hebrew

9:00 am

Advanced Beginners

10:00 am

Intermediate

11:15 am

Intermediate/Advanced

with Alice Seidman
9:00 – 10:00 am
(Contact Alice Seidman at 953-8455
for further information)

Winter Jewish Film Festival — Final Movie

Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 pm

“Nora’s Will”

This award-winning black comedy follows the family of Nora (Silvia Mariscal), who carefully plans her suicide so that her assortment of estranged relatives, including ex-husband José (Fernando Luján), will have to celebrate Passover together and hopefully achieve a reconciliation. As José battles with unsympathetic cemeteries, a fractious rabbi and his devoted assistant, and his own son (Ari Brickman), he realizes how deeply he still loved Nora.

CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS

AN EVENING AT THE WESTCHESTER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL AT JACOB BURNS

Congregation Kol Ami is proud to be one of the sponsors of the film *Follow Me: the Yoni Netanyahu Story* during the Jacob Burns Film Center "Westchester Jewish Film Festival 2012 (April 11-May 22)".

Jonathan "Yoni" Netanyahu is an Israeli icon who was killed during the 1976 hostage rescue mission at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda. This biography interweaves the story of a young army commando driven by a sense of duty to his country with a fresh account of the Entebbe raid itself. Including interviews with Yoni's brother Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, and others.

Congregational Relations has reserved a very limited number of tickets to the screening on **Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:30pm**. Following the film, there will be a Q&A with David Harris, producer Mark Manson and JBFC Executive Director Steve Apkon, concluding with a dessert reception.

To reserve your tickets, please send in a check made out to Congregation Kol Ami for \$10.00 per ticket. Please include the number of tickets you are reserving, your name, mailing address, and phone number. Once we receive your check, we will mail you your tickets. Directions to the Jacob Burns Film Center can be found on their web site <http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org/>

Reminder: Our last Oasis At Home will be held on Sunday, 4/22 at 9:15 am in the Chapel in the Woods. Led by Rabbi Pamela Wax, Sprituaul Car Coordinator, WJCS



Annual County-Wide Yom HaShoa (Holocaust) Commemoration
Thursday, April 19 - 10 AM - 12 PM,

Held at the Jacob Burns Film Center, Pleasantville
Co-Sponsored by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

Annual Israeli Film and Art Night at the Jacob Burns Jewish Film Festival
Thursday, April 26 7:00 PM

**Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards
and Westchester Jewish Council 36th Annual Meeting**
Wednesday, May 16 7:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Harrison honoring 18 volunteers from among the
Westchester Jewish Council's member organizations

Sunday, June 3-Celebrate Israel Day Parade
11 AM - 4 PM, All Synagogues and Organizations joining us will be able to
march with our delegation and banner

For more information call the Westchester Jewish Council (914) 328-7001
info@wjccouncil.org visit us at www.wjccouncil.org
(Formerly the Westchester Jewish Conference)
A proud beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York

Community Supported Agriculture Update

The Hazon CSA (community supported agriculture) of White Plains still has some shares remaining for the 2012 season.

Registration is online at
www.whiteplainscsa.com.

Any questions or if you want to get more involved? Contact Daryl Moss at 421-9212 or Bonnie Hagen at 997-8164. This is a great way to become part of the local food movement and learn more about sustainability.

Please join us as KABRO (Men's Council) sponsors Kol Ami's Second Night Seder for the community. See page 16 for a flyer with all the details and a reservation form.

**Coming Saturday, 5/19: KABRO will host a wonderful evening of dancing.
More information will be available soon.**

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). Discount: Early Birds (sign up by March 11) and KABRO (Men's Council) members pay \$60.

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

Sisterhood News

**Sisterhood's Answer to
March Madness...**

Ladies' Night Out

March 13, 2012 • 7:00pm
*All-inclusive dinner with
cash bar for \$25*

*Open to all of the Wonderful
Women of Kol Ami*

Café Azzuri

20 N. Central Avenue, Hartsdale
Join us as we celebrate and cultivate the
beautiful friendships that exist among the
amazing women of the Kol Ami community.

Sisterhood Membership Dinner

with Cantor Mo Glazman.

Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Admission:
Paid up Sisterhood Membership
for 2011-2012.

Your Sisterhood membership
of \$40 supports socializing events
throughout the year and provides funding
for a vast array of charitable activities
throughout the Temple and
the larger community.

MITZVAH KNITZ

**We will be meeting on
Tuesday
March 20
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:
4/17,
5/15, 6/19

Kol Ami Reads Book Club

The Razor's Edge
by Somerset Maugham
March 7, 2012

Crossing to Safety
by William Stegner
April 4, 2012

A Prayer for the Dying
by Stewart O'Nan
May 2, 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.



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Bar Bat Mitzvah

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- DJs • Caterers • Favors • Photographers • Entertainers • Judaica Providers • Specialty Foods • Florists
- Balloons • Videographers • Transportation • Party Planners • Candle Lighting • and More!

Sunday, March 25th, 2012 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Old Greenwich

Sign up at www.CelebratePartyShowcase.com
For more info: 646.652.7512

**Register to
WIN an iPod!**

SIXTH GRADE FAMILIES:

Final B'nai Mitzvah Workshop: for all sixth graders and their parents.

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Save the Date

Kol Ami Retreat Comes Home

May 25 and May 26, 2012

Activities will begin late afternoon on Friday, May 25th at Kol Ami.

Included will be cocktails, outdoor services (weather permitting) and a sleepover at Kol Ami for the kids. A choice of Saturday morning activity followed by meeting up again late Saturday afternoon for a BBQ dinner, campfire, havdallah, s'mores and more.....

Questions?

Contact Lori Okun at lori.okun@mac.com

or

Stacey Matusow at sjmatusow@aol.com

Youth Group Happenings

March 7

7th and 8th graders needed to help with the Purim Carnival.

Please email Nadia at rabbiniadiagold@gmail.com

March 30-31

5th/6th Grade Junior Youth Shabbaton/Sleepover

Join the fun . . . more information available soon.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:15 am Jewish Meditation Circle 9:45 am Adolescent Parenting 7:45 pm Congregational Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 am Torah Study THIRD GRADE SHABBATON SHABBAT ACROSS KOL AMI 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery 6:10 pm TEFILLAH TEAM (Gr. K-3) in Chapel 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Sanctuary	3 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: B'not Mitzvah of Alice Auerbacher & Mollie Hirschheimer in Sanctuary
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4 9:00 am Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshop III 9:00 am: Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman 9:00 am Beginning Hebrew with Emily Fields 9:30 am Judaism & Modern Jewish Self-Identity Class 10:00 am Advanced Beginners Heber with Emily 11:00 am Drama Club Rehearsal 11:15 am Intermediate Hebrew with Emily	5 9:15 am Grandparenting Class 8:00 pm Men's Council/ Brotherhood Meeting	6 12:00 pm Wisdom of the Sages Class 7:30 pm WRJ Board Meeting	7 7:45 am Round Table Breakfast 9:15 am Book Club 4:00 pm RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Begins at 5:30 pm 5:30 pm PURIM CARNIVAL, SERVICE & SPIEL No Dance or Adult Hebrew Classes	8 PURIM ECP PURIM CARNIVAL 9:15 am Jewish Meditation Circle 7:30 pm Jews & Muslims in America Class 7:45 pm Congregational Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 am Torah Study GIRL SCOUT SHABBAT 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery 6:10 pm TEFILLAH TEAM (Gr. K-3) in Chapel 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Sanctuary	10 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE
11 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:00 am: Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman 9:00 am Beginning Hebrew with Emily Fields 9:30 am Judaism & Modern Jewish Self-Identity Class 10:00 am Advanced Beginners Hebrew with Emily 11:15 am Intermediate Hebrew with Emily	12 9:30 am Blessing of a Skinned Knee Class 4:00 pm WJCS Caring for Aging Parents	13 12:00 pm Wisdom of the Sages Class 7:00 pm Ladies' Night Out at Cafe Azzuri 8:00 pm Intro to Judaism class	14 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:00 pm Or Chadash Rehearsal 7:30 pm Advanced Beginners/Intermediate Adult Hebrew 7:45 pm Jewish Genealogy Class 8:00 pm Israeli Dance	15 9:15 am Jewish Meditation Circle 12:00 pm Adolescent Parenting Workshop 8:00 pm Board of Trustees meeting	16 10:00 am Torah Study 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery 6:10 pm TEFILLAH TEAM (Gr. K-3) in Chapel 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Sanctuary	17 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: Bat Mitzvah of Clara Ritterman-Pena in Sanctuary 5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE: Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle (Ellie) in Sanctuary
18 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:00 am: Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman 9:00 am Beginning Hebrew with Emily Fields 9:00 am Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshop 10 am Advanced beginners Hebrew with Emily 11:00 am Cooking for the Homeless 11:00 am Drama Club Rehearsal 11:15 am Intermediate Hebrew with Emily	19 11:00 am Current Events Class	20 ECP CLOSED 12:00 pm Wisdom of the Sages 7:30 pm Winter Film Fest Movie	21 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:00 pm Or Chadash Rehearsal 7:30 pm Advanced Beginners/Intermediate Adult Hebrew 8:00 pm Israeli Dance	22 9:15 am Jewish Meditation Circle 7:30 pm Jews & Muslims in America 7:45 pm Congregational Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 am Torah Study SYNAPLEX 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery 6:10 pm TEFILLAH TEAM (Gr. K-3) in Chapel 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Sanctuary	24 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 10:30 am SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE: B'nai Mitzvah of John Cohen and Benny Marcus in Sanctuary 7:00 pm DRAMA CLUB "You're a Real Mensch, Charlie Brown"
25 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9:00 am: Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman 9:00 am Beginning Hebrew with Emily Fields 9:30 am Judaism & Modern Jewish Self-Identity Class 10:00 am Advanced beginners Hebrew with Emily 11:15 am Intermediate Hebrew with Emily 2:00 pm DRAMA CLUB "You're a Real Mensch, Charlie Brown"	26 9:30 am Blessing of a Skinned Knee Class 12:00 pm Cooking for the Homeless	27 12:00 pm Wisdom of the Sages 8:00 pm Intro to Judaism Class	28 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4'S BRING YOUR DAD DAY NO ECP FOR 3'S 6:00 pm Or Chadash Rehearsal 7:30 pm Advanced Beginners/Intermediate Adult Hebrew 8:00 pm Israeli Dance	29 9:15 am Jewish Meditation Circle 7:45 pm Congregational Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00 am Torah Study 12:30 pm Lunch & Learn with Clergy in NYC 5TH & 6TH GRADE SHABBATON ECP SHABBAT DINNER 5:30 pm SHABBAT IN THE WOODS in Gallery 6:10 pm TEFILLAH TEAM (Gr. K-3) in Chapel 6:15 pm SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE in Sanctuary	31 SPIRITUAL LIFT in Chapel 9:00 am Coffee & Community 9:30 am Study 11:00 am SERVICE 5:30 pm SHABBAT AFTERNOON SERVICE: B'nai Mitzvah of Allie Coonin & Shane Sorell in Sanctuary

Women's Transitions: Midlife and Beyond

Are you attempting an adjustment to a major life change?

PLEASE JOIN US

In an Interactive Discussion Group

Led by Harriet Shenkman, Ph. D. and Ursula Strauss, Ph. D.

Topics to be discussed include but not limited to:

- ◇ Retirement
- ◇ Widowhood
- ◇ Aging
- ◇ Changing relationships with adult children
- ◇ Other Life transitions (as desired)

The goal of the group is to offer mutual aid in personal adjustment to life transitions, including discussion of:

Positive & negative aspects of individual life transitions; individual grief reactions to life change, and options that can aid personal adjustment.

Ursula Strauss earned her doctorate degree in clinical health psychology from Yeshiva University. She was a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and administered the Outpatient Adult Psychiatric Unit at Einstein College of Medicine. She has taught psychology at several universities and lectured as far away as Kyoto, Japan and Taipei, Taiwan. One of her private practices in New York City, the innovative, Mobile Psychological Services, won wide acclaim in the media, including a guest appearance on The Today Show and on National Public Radio. Her special expertise, the mind/body relationship, has placed her in great demand as a motivational speaker.


Harriet Shenkman is Professor of Education at Bronx Community College, City University of New York. She is Founding Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and Director of the First-Year Learning Communities, Office of Academic Affairs and former Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Education and Reading. She has had over twenty articles in her field published, has given over thirty-five workshops and presentations at national and local conferences, and has facilitated many faculty groups. Harriet is married and the mother of three grown children and is currently in the transitional state of retiring.

**Tuesday mornings
11:30 – 1:00 pm
April 3, 10, 17, 24
May 1, 8, 15 & 22
In the Conference Room**

**If you plan to attend or have
questions please contact
Ursula Strauss @
[littledipper5@optonline.net](mailto:littleddipper5@optonline.net)**

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April Connection Deadline

March 16, 2012

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**Shira Milgrom
328-4549**

**Tom Weiner
684-6991**

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Mark L. Winer

Cantor Emeritus:

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**of blessed memory*



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