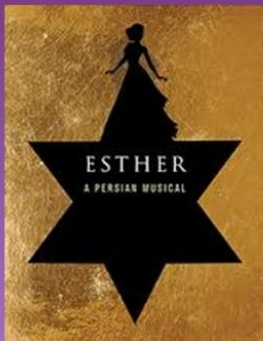


THE CONNECTION

Volume 6 ♦ March 2017



Purim

Saturday, March 11th

Adult Drama Club Musical Purim Spiel

Esther A Persian Musical:

A PURIM SPIEL PARODY OF "HAMILTON"

7:00pm: Purim Service

Megillah Reading

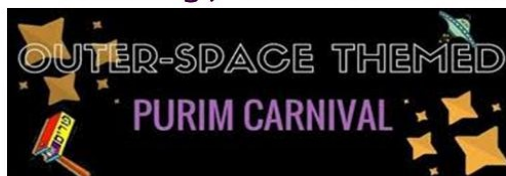
Purim Spiel: Esther a Persian Musical:

A Purim Spiel Parody of "Hamilton"

8:30pm: Hamantashen Dessert

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

Sunday, March 12th



IN THE KOL AMI GYM

LED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP!!

For kids of all ages...

- * Games, face painting, crafts, prizes and activities for all!
- * Religious school students will receive carnival tickets in class and will attend the carnival as part of their Religious School day!
- * More tickets will be available for purchase at the Carnival!
- * Pop Corn, Hot Dogs, & Cotton Candy (Cash Only)

Come in Costume!

Carnival tickets

\$10.00/10 tickets

Don't forget to bring cash!



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

CONGREGATION KOL AMI *A REFORM SYNAGOGUE*

252 Soundview Avenue • White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 • www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

CANTOR

David Rosen

Executive Director • Jess Lorden

Religious School Director • Felice Miller Baritz

ECP Director • Nan Blank

President • Hank Rouda

RABBIS EMERITI

Lawrence W. Schwartz ∞

Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack, Ginny Ruder,

KolAmiCares@nykolami.org

SHABBAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday Evening Services

Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families

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

Atrium

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

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

6:15 pm

Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Chapel in the Woods

Take My Hand...

Shabbat for all Generations

OUR RE-IMAGINED SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE

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

Chapel in the Woods

8:45am: Coffee, tea and kibbutzing

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

9:45am: Family Oneg with bagels and snacks

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

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

WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR MARCH

Week ending March 4, 2017 *Parashat Teruma* Exodus

25:1-27:19 *Parashat Teruma* describes the construction of the Tabernacle. God gives meticulously detailed instructions regarding the elements and design of the Tabernacle, particularly the Holy Ark. Each individual is asked to contribute towards its building materials and furnishings as he or she is motivated.

Week ending March 11, 2017 *Parashat T'tzaveh* Exodus

27:20-30:10 The rituals surrounding the priests and sacrifices are described, and the obligations of Aaron and his sons are enumerated in *Parashat T'tzaveh*. This *parashah* 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 18, 2017 *Parashat Ki Tisa* Exodus

30:11-34:35 Moses lingers on Mount Sinai for forty days. The people become agitated during Moses' long absence and persuade Aaron to fashion a golden calf. Upon returning with the *10 Commandments*, Moses sees the Israelites cavorting around the calf and he 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 to secure divine mercy for the people. The *parashah* ends with a restoration of mutual faith and Moses carving a second set of tablets inscribed with Ten Commandments.

Week ending March 25, 2017 *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 perform any work on the seventh day, and to make the day holy. The *parashah* continues with Moses asking the Israelites to donate materials for the building of the *mishkan* (sanctuary). In the second part of this double *parashah*, *P'kudei*, Moses describes every object, every attribute of the structure, every manner of work, and every detail of the altar that is needed in building a *Mishkan* to God. As the building of the sanctuary and its holy objects are completed, Moses blesses all of the people who took part in their creation.

Shabbat Across the World at Kol Ami International Pot Luck Dinner



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

Join us for a family friendly international pot luck dinner.
It promises to be a fun and flavorful evening for all!

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

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

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

=====

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

Adult Name/s _____

Children's Names & Ages _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

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

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

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

Main dish _____

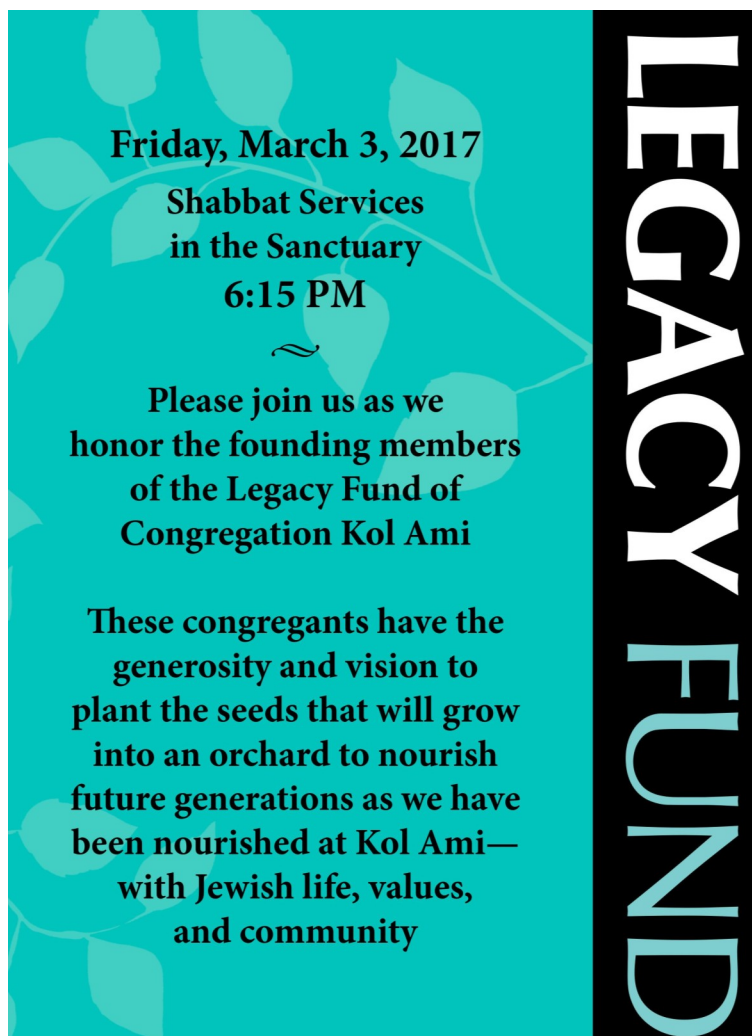
Side dish _____

Dessert _____

Wine (circle) RED WHITE

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

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



Friday, March 3, 2017
Shabbat Services
in the Sanctuary
6:15 PM

~

Please join us as we
honor the founding members
of the Legacy Fund of
Congregation Kol Ami

These congregants have the
generosity and vision to
plant the seeds that will grow
into an orchard to nourish
future generations as we have
been nourished at Kol Ami—
with Jewish life, values,
and community

LEGACY FUND

Do You Agree With Any Of The Following?

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

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

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

Kol Ami is a community that makes incredible things happen.

B'NAI MITZVAH

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



Jonah Dichter, son of Julie Mosow and Sasha Dichter and big brother to Zoe and Clara, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on

March 4, 2017. He is a seventh grader at Scarsdale Middle School and is so happy to be celebrating with his sisters, parents, grandparents, and all of his cousins. Jonah enjoys reading whatever he can find as well as creating content for the world he and his friends have created. For his mitzvah project, he raised money for the Eisner Camp scholarship fund by having bake sales and walking 16 km. Camp is important to him, and he wanted to give that gift to somebody else.



Rebecca Ilana Strauss, daughter of Elissa and David and sister to Daniel, will be called to the Torah as a Bat

Mitzvah on March 11th. She is a 7th grade honor roll student at Irvington Middle School. Rebecca enjoys her climbing team at The Cliffs, tap dancing, playing cello, competing in the Science Olympiad, and working on the IMS literary magazine. She is also a die-hard Crane Lake camper. Rebecca is so excited to share her Jewish journey through UJA-Federation of New York's Give a Mitzvah – Do a Mitzvah program, Rebecca is working with The Sally & Anthony Mann Center. The Mann Center is a residential treatment facility for teenage girls with severe psychiatric conditions. The staff there provides vulnerable girls with the opportunity to turn their lives around by providing professional counseling, esteem

building, job training, and a safe haven in a compassionate environment. Rebecca is working with the girls to design their recreation room, and to make the institutional feeling of the facility softer and more comfortable. She is also running a book drive, in the hopes that their bookcases can be filled with wonderful new and hopeful stories. In addition, she will be using a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gifts to help purchase items for the recreation room.



Cole Gavin Bates, son of Karin Bates and younger brother of Sloane Bates, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 11, 2017. Cole is a 7th

grader at John Jay Middle School in Cross River NY. He enjoys snowboarding in the winter and soccer in the fall and spring. For Cole's Mitzvah project, he collected over 10,000 recyclable bottles and cans collecting over \$500.00. This money was then donated to Mystic Aquarium for their Penguin program and sister program in South Africa that helps rescue and rehabilitate injured penguins from release back into the wild. Penguins have been a passion of Cole's since he was a baby so this was very near to his heart.



Lindsey Smith, daughter of Stephen Smith and Lauren Wyler-Smith, and sister to older brother Ryan, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 18,

2017. Lindsey is a 7th grader at Scarsdale Middle School. For her Mitzvah Project, she has been cooking for the homeless at Kol Ami. Lindsey also participated in a 2017 MLK Day of

Service with Volunteer New York by making "birthday boxes" for underprivileged children. Lindsey has enjoyed giving back to her community. In her spare time, Lindsey likes playing softball, cooking, doing art projects, and going to sleepaway camp during the summer with family and friends.



Parker Lance Press, son of Alison and Brandon Press and older brother of Eliza, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 18, 2017. Parker is a

7th grader at The Windward School. He enjoys cooking, playing baseball and tennis and watching sports. For his mitzvah project, Parker volunteered at Kol Ami for the Thanksgiving feast for the Coachman Family Center. Parker helped prepare the meal in the kitchen, helped set up for the party and played games with the children who attended the party. Parker is looking forward to sharing his special day with family and friends.



Alyssa Faye Klein will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Alyssa is a 7th grader at

Edgemont Junior/Senior High School. She enjoys playing softball, basketball and soccer, and loves hanging out with her friends and family. She especially loves playing with her dogs, Jeter and Roxie. For her mitzvah project she is working to raise money for H.O.P.E Animal Shelter which is a no-kill shelter run by her great aunt in Tucson, Arizona.

A Message From Our ECP Director

NAN BLANK



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

And laugh we will – and sing, and eat Hamentaschen, and listen while Rabbi Shira reads the Megillah and leads our costume parade. We'll enjoy our very own ECP Purim

Carnival on Thursday morning, March 9th.

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

This month we will also take part in our annual **One Community, One Book** program. We will loan every 3's, 4's and 5's family a copy of a wonderful book called *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* to be read at home. Along with the book, each child is sent home with some age-appropriate questions, prompts and discussion points. Reading and talking about the story will provide our families with a special time together at home as well as help them understand some important messages the story holds. At school we will be discussing the story as well so that it becomes a shared experience with their peers and teachers. Some meaningful and fun follow-up projects are planned as well.

On March 15th will enjoy our annual **Ted E Bear Day** sponsored by White Plains Hospital Center. This unique morning helps children to understand what happens when they are sick. Having the experience of bringing their Teddy Bears to school for a "check-up" with real Nurses and Doctors from the hospital helps to answer questions and allay fears.

This month we will be hosting our Spring Family dinner for families with young children on Friday, March 24th. We will be serving a family-friendly dairy dinner and enjoying a concert with the **Levins, musicians and storytellers**. Please see the flyer in this month's Connection or call the ECP office for more information. Everyone is welcome and we hope you'll be joining us!

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

Love,

Nan

Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

March 14th
5:00-9:00pm
4's Evening Conferences

March 24th
Spring Dinner for Families with
Young Children – registration required!

March 28th
5:00-9:00pm
3's Evening Conferences



**Congregation Kol Ami
Invites Families with Young Children
To Join Us for**

Our Spring Family Dinner

**On Friday Evening, March 24th
At 5:30pm**

Help Us Welcome Shabbat As One Community

**Shabbat in the Woods Service
at 5:30pm**

Family Friendly Dinner at 6:00pm

Enjoy a Concert with **The Levins, Musicians
and Storytellers at 6:30**



Please let us know if you'll be coming

Family Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

Dinner \$18.00 per family or

Please make your check payable to Kol Ami and drop it off or send it to the ECP Office

Please RSVP by March 20th

A Message From Our President

HANK ROUDA



Every month for just about the past 4 years, I get the (not so subtle) reminder from the temple office that my article deadline is approaching. Most months the topic is easy (such as this coming May's when I'll be writing about the Retreat or the December article when I [not so subtly] remind you that there's still time to donate to the Annual Fund [which you can still do]). But other months, I sit and think

about what makes Kol Ami special and how that has affected us, both individually and collectively. This month, like so many others, the word "community" keeps popping into my head as I sit down to write.

I would venture to say that most of my colleagues in other congregations would be tempted to say that their community is special and different, and I would imagine that many of them are correct. So, why do I keep coming back to this topic and what sets us apart from the hundreds of other Reform congregations? To me, it's a feeling.

It may start when you arrive for services on Friday night. Our (not so) new security guard greets you and immediately conveys a sense of comfort and safety. Then, if you're lucky enough to have arrived before Shabbat in the Woods has wrapped up, you stand and watch the children, parents and grandparents (of which Jean and I were two recently) sit, march, pray and sing in a joyous welcome to Shabbat. You reluctantly take leave of the children and move to the sanctuary where you're greeted by Maggy and Martin, two of the most dedicated and friendly volunteers that any temple could hope to have. And that sense of community follows you each step of the way. When you enter our beautiful sanctuary and greet friends, both old and new, you start to be enveloped by the comfort and joy of Shabbat. Then it's the little things, like lighting Shabbat candles together or greeting each other before L'cha Dodi in order to make our prayer genuine or the warmth of putting our arms around each other as we bless each other at the end of services, which help to expand that small kernel of peace into a much greater sense of Shabbat

joy and contentment. But it's simply being with your community, either in person or over the internet as you stream our services, that brings you the greatest sense of belonging.

Or the feeling comes upon you when you're at any of the myriad programs that we offer. Whether they be an educational program sponsored by our Adult Education Committee or a social action program, such as working in the pantry or attending a workshop on activism, or a social event like our recent (and utterly fantastic) concert and fundraiser, Heart & Soul, the sense of community and single minded determination to make our local and global community a better place pervades these gatherings.

One of the joys of my role is that I get to see all that goes on behind the scenes. Besides getting an appreciation for the unbelievably vast and varied amount of programming that goes on in our buildings each week, I also see how the staff, clergy, volunteers and congregants respond when there is a genuine need in our Kol Ami community and the community at large. And I have to admit that it's truly inspiring. Whether it's making sure that a family in mourning is comforted and cared for or if it's taking a stand against violence and/or discrimination against the vulnerable among us, we make sure that we take every step necessary to embrace those in need. And the sense of empathy that is conveyed to those affected exemplifies the strength and beauty of those who make up our community.

So, once again the President writes about how great our community is. What a surprise that I feel this way. But, fortunately for all of us, everyone in our congregation and those in the greater community who interact with us, know that I'm right – Kol Ami truly is a special place. Thank you for making it so.

L'shalom,

Hank

A Message From Our Religious School Director

FELICE MILLER BARITZ



During President's week I had the honor of leading a group of Kol Ami teens and parents together with teens and parents from Cavalry Baptist Church in White Plains on a civil rights journey. For my article this month, the following is a beautiful essay by Regina Taylor, from Cavalry Baptist Church sharing her thoughts and Impressions.,

Shared Dreams Journey
by Regina Taylor
February 26, 2017

I would first like to thank God for his continued grace and mercy in my life. I want to thank my pastor, Pastor Trollinger; Rabbi Shira; Captain Abbe and all of Congregation Kol Ami for what was a life-changing experience for myself and my daughter, Brooke. We were blessed to be included in an interfaith civil rights journey with people of the Jewish faith. We sojourned from Birmingham, Alabama to Selma to Montgomery and then onto Atlanta, Georgia. I want to share with you some of the memories from my journey.

As I walked downstairs to the basement of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, I passed a painting of four little girls beautiful, smiling and representing every shade of our exquisite rainbow of complexions. Downstairs a bit further and a feeling of sadness began to overwhelm me. "September 15, 1963", the tour guide, Barry McNealy said, "here is where they were found... hours after the blast. They were near the women's lounge. It happened between Sunday school and morning worship service." I wondered if they were happily playing in their church basement or having breakfast like Calvary's children so often do at that time. But the thought that would not escape me is... they were in church.... a sacred place where all are welcome to worship and share in the goodness of the Lord, a place which welcomes all people through its doors. Four innocent babies were murdered. Their lives taken in a calculated act of terrorism. In the 1960's in the American south, there was no safe place. Not even for a child. Not even at a house of worship. And then I remembered Mother Emmanuel and I remembered that the struggle continues.

Every day of our journey was a revelation. In Birmingham, I learned that there were also two boys slaughtered on that shameful day in American history when the nasty stench of racism corroded the air. We must never forget.

In Selma, our children were blessed to sit at the knee of Ms. Joanne Bland as she shared her story of fighting segregation. A no-nonsense woman who reminded us all that she was the boss, we were in the 'hood and she told us, "ya'll don't go out there looking like tourists. If I duck, you duck!" Needless to say, she endeared herself to us by the end of our tour. Ms. Bland lost her mother at a very young age because her mother needed a blood transfusion and the hospital had no "black blood". **No black blood.** As if there is such a thing. Bigotry killed her mother and Ms. Bland then made justice her fight. She took us to the place where she and Representative John Lewis and Hosea Williams and many others met just before they marched towards the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, "Bloody Sunday" as it is recalled in history. As they kneeled down on the bridge to pray, they were ordered to move and within moments troopers advanced and they were beaten and it was televised and the world watched as hatred was documented. Their blood was shed as they bravely confronted evil with good. They wanted the right to vote and in 1965, they got it. And over 50 years later, we stood at the foot of that bridge, an interfaith group of people in peace and harmony as we humbly spoke the names of those heroes and sang "We Shall Overcome". No tear gas, no troopers trampling our bodies with horses and beating our heads and limbs with night sticks. We stood on one accord, hopeful and in prayer for the safety and continued prosperity of this great nation. And I remembered our last election and how many were disenfranchised and unable to vote. Our liberties are being threatened today so we must never forget.

What I learned this past week is that racism extends far beyond the horrors that we know, beyond dogs and water hoses, beyond white-robed cowards waiting to crucify a human being because of the hate harbored in his heart for a complete stranger. Racism landed in prison systems and in justice systems. I learned that Alabama has no public defender system which essentially means that there is no representation for the poor. We met a man who was robbed of his freedom and sat in an Alabama jail for 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit. He told us his story and there was not a dry eye in the room. Attorney Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative worked for 15 years to free Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton and by the grace of God, this man still has joy despite the brutal and unforgiving consequences of systemic racism.

We met rabbis whose families fought the fight and suffered because of their ideals. They supported the struggle. And we are encouraged because we also met people who are still fighting. Civil rights include the rights of every American to live freely. We are a part of a “beloved community” as Dr. King called it. Brothers and sisters are we. Just as African Americans suffered, Jewish people suffered also... unspeakable tragedy. And we are bound together in shared sorrow. Hank Thomas, an original Freedom Rider recounted his story of escaping a bus that was torched because they were riding to end segregation in public bus stations. Many of the people on those Freedom Rides were Jewish.

After our journey with Congregation Kol Ami, we now have a new Jewish family, Calvary. We united with them as human beings irrespective of what makes us different. We embraced our commonalities and love grew organically because freedom-loving people are beautiful and love is always a tie that binds.

At Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham, we met Rabbi Miller and he told us that some asked Dr. King to wait. They told him that the timing was not good. But he refused because as Dr. King said, “the struggle was to save the soul of America” and because “freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor. It must be demanded by the oppressed.”

At the final resting place of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an eternal flame burns. Perhaps a symbol that we must keep working, keep fighting and keep facing the injustices that befall our brothers and sisters. We are on the precipice of another fight for freedom. It is now our responsibility to make history. Be willing to talk to anyone if it means the possibility of moving towards peace. Form an alliance with someone you think you have nothing at all in common with just as we did this past week. Our nation depends upon it.

I stand here today changed by my experience and feeling that I owe so much to those that came before me. To have shared this journey with children, my prayer is that they remember from whence they came, that they never shrink to make other people comfortable because they truly are the strength of a people. We are the survivors. By God's grace, we are the chosen few. I hope that they always remember that. Today, I salute our ancestors and I salute every one of you assembled in this room who has stood in the face of hatred, who has prayed for the safety and well-being of protestors and who continues to pray for our babies as they walk the streets as moving targets. Thank you for wrapping them in love. I salute you who have persevered through the ills of the Jim Crow south, who persevered through the Holocaust, who pressed your way in search of freedom and opportunity bravely migrating to New York, unknown territory, because you knew in your hearts that there were people somewhere in this land who didn't breathe hatred.

If you integrated schools, you fought racism. If you were the first Jewish or black family on your block or in your building, you fought racism. If you demanded that your child finish his or her education, you fought racism. And if you voted, you fought racism. Only two generations away from the civil rights movement, we acknowledge your fight and we salute you because we know it has not been easy but we can't feel “no ways tired” [sic]. I beg my brothers and sisters to continue to teach our children the rich history of those who came before them. Research the Freedom Riders and Hank Thomas; Representative John Lewis, a living legend; Joanne Bland; Viola Liuzzo and countless others. Learn all that you can. Remind your children every day that they have tremendous strength inside of them because they stand on the shoulders of giants who survived the perils of slavery, racism, bigotry and marginalization.

Children, you have within you everything you need to be great. Walk with pride. Hold your heads up. Keep your backs straight. Keep God first. He will give you the desires of your hearts.

I would like to leave you with an excerpt from my favorite poem by my favorite poet, Dr. Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise".

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

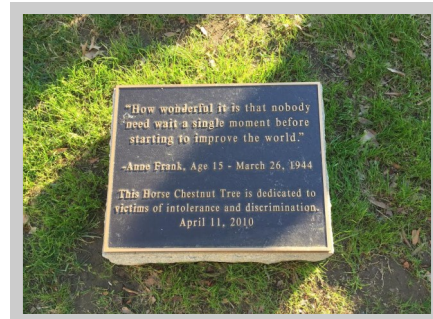
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

.....
Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise

We rise. God bless you.



Work Cited

Angelou, Maya. "Still I Rise." And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems. New York: Random House, 1978.



**ROSH HODESH:
IT'S A GIRL THING!**

**High School Girls
Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!**

Come celebrate the new Hebrew month with some girl time at Kol Ami!

When: Sunday, March 5th, Sunday, April 23rd, Sunday, May 7th

Who: 11:15-12:30 Keshet (Hebrew for Rainbow) Peer facilitated group for all LGBTQ teens and allies
12:30-2:00 Rosh Hodesh monthly gathering for 8th – 12th grade girls.

What: The opportunity to talk about the things that matter...

Where: Room #20

Theme: Come as you are! (Wear comfy clothes and get ready to relax and recharge)
Eat: Pizatzal (provided by Kol Ami)

RSVP: RavLaurie@gmail.com



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

Sunday, March 19, 2017 ~ 11:15 am to 1 pm
Led by Chanalee Fischer a.k.a. The Challah Fairy!

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

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

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

RSVP REQUIRED!


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

Register now: Checks can be made out to Congregation Kol Ami and left in the Parent Network Mailbox in the main office by **MARCH 12TH**
religiouschoolparents@nykolami.org with names of participants.

Questions? please contact Alison Gilmore at alisongilmore@hotmail.com

Yad B'Yad
(Hand-In-Hand)

A Synagogue-Based Inclusive Program for Jewish Teenagers with Developmental Challenges



Congregation Kol Ami
White Plains, NY

Yad B'Yad" By Susan Ross

February 4th

Dear Journal,

I had one of the most delightful experiences at the temple, when I attended the Yad B'Yad Family Shabbat of Inclusion Service on Friday evening, February 3rd.

It was Kay Osborne, the Administrative Assistant, who introduced me to this valuable program - Yad B'Yad (Hand-in-Hand) at Congregation Kol Ami.

Teens of varying abilities and challenges meet once a week at Kol Ami for the Yad B'Yad program. The program was designed to create an opportunity for these teens to enhance their social skills and life skills and to study Jewish customs and history together with other teens from the Jewish community.

February is "Disabilities Awareness Month", so our Yad B'Yad students work with our clergy to help lead this very special Friday evening service. With the clergy, the Yad B'Yad teachers and the congregation looking on proudly, one sensed the spirit of unity and harmony throughout the sanctuary.

Afterwards, teens, teachers, parents and family members gathered for Shabbat dinner, shared family stories and looked at family pictures.

As I was leaving, I met two fathers, who remarked on the evening's events. As we looked around the gathering and admired the "closeness" of the moment, we suddenly felt as one-together in friendship and peace.

It was then, that I felt the true glory of the temple.

A Message From Our Executive Director

JESS LORDEN



Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof - Pursue Justice

is a new congregational communication that we plan to send on a regular basis to keep our congregation connected to key social justice issues and to each other.

In this newsletter we plan to:

- (1) Keep us connected to our core American and Jewish values;
- (2) Offer avenues for you to express your opinions to political leaders; and
- (3) Keep us connected to each other

the URJ Consultation on Conscience, scheduled for April 30 – May 2 in Washington, DC. The Consultation on Conscience is the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's biennial social justice leadership conference. The Consultation is intended to empower the Reform Jewish Movement through leadership development; opportunities for network and community building; and active dialogue culminating in an afternoon of advocacy on Capitol Hill. In 2017, there will be a special focus on issues of racial justice, including conversations on how to better organize to combat voter suppression and the staggering problem of mass incarceration in America.

If social justice issues speak to you, as they do to me, you may wish to consider joining me and others from Kol Ami at

Fondly,

**Join Congregation Kol Ami's Delegation at the
URJ Religious Action Center's
Consultation on Conscience in Washington DC
April 30 – May 2, 2017**

**Be a part of this powerful movement working with
other Reform congregations from the US & Canada**

Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof

**For more information & to register contact Ronnie
Cohn (rcofar@aol.com) or follow this link
<http://www.rac.org/consultation-conscience-2017>**

Women of Reform Judaism (Kol Ami Sisterhood)

Sharing Our Gifts

The parasha this Shabbat is T'rumah, in which Moses conveys to the Israelites God's instructions for the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Of particular note for us are the verses "Tell the Israelite people to bring Me gifts; you shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is so moved." (Exodus 25:2), "And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8).

Our Kol Ami Sisterhood has been very fortunate in having members whose hearts have so moved them to bring their gifts, talents, and interests to our receptive group of engaged women. From managing and volunteering in our Judaica Shop to High Holy Day food collection to decorating the Sukkah to our Chanukah Boutique to our Purim Basket community-building fundraiser to our

Ladies Night Out planned for March 12th to our Passover tasting scheduled for March 28th, our volunteers take ownership and shape our efforts, sharing their unique gifts with us. Whether it is shopping or artistically arranging or cooking or typing or computing or setting-up for events or researching or writing or brain-storming or being the welcoming presence at a check-in desk, sisters have brought to our group their special and much-needed contributions.

Please keep bringing your gifts; we welcome more and more of you! We are always happy to do more and to contribute more, to enrich our Kol Ami Sisterhood and the temple at large. And of course, there is always next year – and the year after that...!

Sheryl Brady

Stacey Matusow

Rachel Eckhaus

MARCH MADNESS RETURNS!

Please join us for Ladies Night Out

Sunday, March 12th, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Irish Bank

230 E. Hartsdale Ave

(across the street from the Hartsdale train station)

Advance registration (deadline Tuesday, March 7) online

(www.nykolami.org/sisterhood)

or drop off your check in the main office.

Members \$30 Non-members \$36

Price includes wine, soda, buffet, and dessert.

**Free raffles and of course, lots of
great conversation and schmoozing.**



THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP AT KOL AMI

Oversized Seder Plate Puzzle in the Round

Carboard back folds into a cute box to hold the puzzle. Great fun for all ages. Soon to be available at the Sisterhood Judaica Shop.

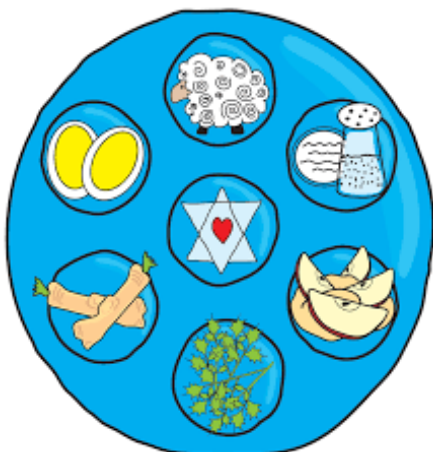
Think of the Sisterhood Judaica Shop
for Holiday Shopping



PASSOVER begins April 10

SAVE THE DATE FOR The Sisterhood Annual Passover Tasting

Tuesday March 28th
Details to follow!



Poetry Corner

Sure" By Susan Ross

What a beautiful word--
"Sure"

A little word--
"Sure"

A thing of beauty--
"Sure"

Expressing a sense of possibilities,
An embrace of tomorrows,

An openness to strangers--
"Sure, I'll help you."

A readiness for adventure--
"Sure, you can join us."

A word, strong and reassuring--
"Sure, count me in."

No questions asked, just direct--
"Sure, no problem."

Free to be ourselves?
"SURE!"

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

"Life's Journeys" by Susan Ross

"Together"

Dear Readers,

If you were to choose one word to describe Congregation Kol Ami's heart and soul, what word would you pick? For me, that word would be "together."

For if you are together, be it with one person or with many people, you are never alone. Someone is there to support you, encourage you and comfort you. A loving bond is developed.

Rabbi Shira once mentioned that an article that she had read reminded her of a whirlpool. Like a whirlpool, opening paragraphs, in an article, might be general statements or observations. As one reads further, these paragraphs become more specific with examples, until one reaches the end.

For me, the image of a whirlpool applies to Congregation Kol Ami, as we welcome new members with diverse backgrounds, varied interests, sundry political and social views and a multitude of ages.

Their general impressions of the temple are fine tuned, as they join committees, classes and activities and become acquainted with other members forming close ties of friendship.

Finally, like the end of a whirlpool, we all come as one to sing, pray and be ourselves, together at Congregation Kol Ami. "Together" we become one in spirit.

Hopefully, you may feel the same way.

"A Temple's Journey" by Susan Ross

By now, our country's customs and laws have changed dramatically for the LGBTQ community. These changes have given new meanings to the words, "relationships" and "families."

In society's journeys of inclusion, some people may feel comfortable, while others may feel unsettled by these transitions. Either way, there is no going backwards.

At Congregation Kol Ami, journeys have begun and changes have been implemented. As an outgrowth of ways to promote social justice among various groups at the temple, an LGBTQ Inclusion Committee was formed, headed by Rabbi Tom Weiner and Felice Miller Baritz, Religious School Director, with interested members and youth leaders joining this endeavor.

Continuous discussions among clergy, lay leaders, administrators, religious teachers, members, students and parents have led to a number of LGBTQ initiatives. Now, Congregation Kol Ami is a place that is safe and comfortable for many religious and educational pursuits.

Two recent additions to the temple are an LGBTQ bulletin board display by the clergy's office with photos and resource materials available to the members and an LGBTQ website with information on various programs, activities and projects at Congregation Kol Ami.

Hopefully, all our journeys-personal, professional, religious and secular-will be meaningful and our relationships will grow and deepen with time.

FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



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

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

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

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

—Matthew J. Fiorillo,
Owner & Funeral Director



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

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Kol Ami Doctors and Nurses Needed

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

Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kol Ami Cares Co-Chairs

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

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

Kol Ami Cares

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

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

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

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

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

A. Comfort the Bereaved

I would like to

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

B. Visit the Sick

I would like to

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

C. Share Knowledge

I would like to

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

D. Support our Neighbors

I would like to

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

E. Provide Transportation

I am available to

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

Name _____

Email _____

Day Phone (cell) _____

Home Phone _____

☐ I am able to drive myself to programs.

☐ I need a ride to programs.

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

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

Social Action

Cooking for the Homeless

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

The Cabin Group

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon

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

Mitzvah Knitz

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

The Kol Ami Singers

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

Wednesday, March 8th at 2:30PM
Sarah Neuman Nursing & Rehab.
845 Palmer Ave, Mamaroneck, NY

KOL AMI PANTRY

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

COACHMAN CORNER

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

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

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

COACHMAN CORNER



Coachman Corner

Spreading Tikum Olam in our
Community



Brooke Love, Tom Lent and their children Logan, Payton and Davin along with Heidi, Michael and Aaron Kahn sponsored the February birthday party. They transformed the community room into a festive and colorful party space. The kids were engaged and entertained with so many fun projects and activities from decorating cookies to making sticker faces and flying airplanes. As an extra treat, as part of her mitzvah project Jilly Abramson donated all the ingredients and taught the kids how to make slime. They loved it! Coach Danny Bernstein from Backyard Sports along with help from Spencer Danzig, organized Nerf hockey games. The kids feasted on pizza, snacks and a birthday cake beautifully decorated with valentines. The sponsor families chose and wrapped each birthday gift from toys and games donated by our congregation. Our Mitzvah Morning crew, sponsored by the Kroin family, made the birthday cards and donated and assembled goody bags for each child. Each participant helped to spread warmth and birthday cheer to families who really need it – especially on such a cold and blustery day.

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

Coachman Committee Co-Chairs:
Alison Adler - aadler3@verizon.net
Lisa Hochman – lisahochman@mac.com

WELCOME TO SYNAPLEX!

2016-2017

MARCH 17, 2017

Friday evening schedule:**5:00 pm**

Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen and special guests Julia and Ira Levin, contemporary folk duo. The Levins offer harmony-driven acoustic music that is warm and uplifting. Guitar and piano, along with tightly blended unison vocals, reflect the couple's own compatible musical and personal relationship which began with meeting at an open mike in Berkeley, CA. They are 2014 Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists, CT Folk Festival Songwriter winners, and South Florida Folk Festival Songwriter Finalists.

5:30 pm

Shabbat-in-the-Woods for families with young children, followed by supervised childcare, light supper & Shabbat crafts

6:00 pm

Unwind with hors d'oeuvres

6:15 pm

Shabbat Services

7:15 pm

Shabbat Dinner (RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN WED, MAR 15TH)

7:30 pm

Tzedakah sandwich making

8:00 pm

THE MAIN EVENT

9:15 pm

Relax at the end of a long day and week with dessert and coffee

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DINNER

ASL INTERPRETATION PROVIDED
UPON REQUEST

**SYNAPLEX MAIN EVENT****Scholar in Residence Weekend**

With Jonathan Karp, Associate Professor, Ph.D., director of undergraduate studies for the Judaic Studies department and associate professor of Judaic Studies and History, Binghamton University

Friday, March 17th at 8:00PM**"Paul Robeson and the Americanization of Jewish Folk Music"**

This multimedia presentation examines the impact of Jewish folk culture on Paul Robeson (1898-1976), the great African American singer, actor and activist, who integrated Jewish folk songs into the repertoire of American folk music during the 1930s – 1950s. It presents an overview of Robeson's involvement with Jewish music through images and recordings, including a live performance by our Cantor, David Rosen. It discusses how Robeson's attraction to Yiddish and Hebrew song helped him come to grips with the tragic legacy of American slavery and Jim Crow. Using video and recordings, the talk also demonstrates how subsequent folk artists built on Robeson's legacy of presenting Jewish music as part of the broader fabric of a multi-faceted and poly-ethnic American culture.

Saturday morning, March 18th**"Jewfro": Jews and the Creation of the "White Negro"**

During the twentieth century, against the broad backdrop of black-Jewish collaboration in cultural and political activities, a number of individual Jews sought to dissolve altogether the division between these two identities-- in other words, to actually become black. Yet the motives behind this attempted conversion to blackness could be surprisingly disparate. This presentation explores the phenomenon of the Jewish "white Negro" by looking at a spectrum of examples: Milton "Mezz" Mezzrow, the jazz musician and author of the white Negro bible *Really the Blues*; Ruth McBride Jordan, the immigrant daughter of an itinerant Polish rabbi who escaped her abusive family to become a self-described "light skinned" black wife of an African American minister; and the historian Mark D. Naison, the child of working class Jewish parents in post-war Brooklyn who became the founder of one of the first African American Studies programs at an American University. Despite their differences, in each case conversion to blackness embodied the wish to transform or abandon a Jewish identity – a wish that each of these individuals eventually discovered could never be entirely fulfilled -- as the epithet "Jewfro" implies.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE SYNAPLEX EVENTS...

Friday, April 28 - Sayed Kashua

Writer and creator of the hit Israeli TV show, "Arab Labor"

For further information, contact Ilene Miller at 914-949-4717 x115/
ilenemiller@nykolami.org or visit www.nykolami.org

**CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO
CONGREGATION KOL AMI
(252 SOUNDVIEW AVE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606)
NO LATER THAN WED., MAR 15TH**

"Community & Family Dinner"

#Adults _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

#Children/teens _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

#Children 5 and under _____ = N/C

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Adult Name/s

Children's Name/s & Ages

Phone #

Email address

Adult Education

Spiritual Journeying Groups

Mussar Classes

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

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

Women in Transition

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

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

Women's Roundtable Breakfast*

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

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

Now entering its 6th year - Newcomers Always Welcome!


Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 am
Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and the heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection. No meditation experience necessary. Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, and certified meditation teacher. WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami

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


Programs include:

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

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



KOL AMI WOMEN'S OASIS AT HOME



GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH A JEWISH LENS

Kol Ami Oasis at Home stretches further to bring information and insight about a variety of mental health issues and how they impact women. Our distinguished and inspiring discussion leaders will explore various topics from all angles-historical, spiritual, and practical.

Register for the Oasis at Home Series today
Refreshments will be served at each session.

Please print this flyer and return it
with a check payable to Kol Ami.

Mail to: Congregation Kol Ami
252 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

☐ Four sessions \$60
(Individual sessions \$18)

☐ Session 1: Sunday, November 13, 2016

☐ Session 2: Tuesday, January 31, 2017

☐ Session 3: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

☐ Session 4 Sunday, April 23, 2017

Sunday, November 13, 2016
9:15-11:00 a.m. at the Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods
Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS
*From Where Does My Help Come: Confronting Mental Illness--
dealing with our own mental health and the associated stigmas.
What role does stress play in our lives?*

Tuesday, January 31, 2017
7:30-9:30 p.m. at the home of Jill Abraham
Rabbi Shira Milgrom
*Depression and Anxiety in Women and
What We Can Learn from Our Foremothers*

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
7:30-9:30 p.m. at the home of Lauri Carey
Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Eating Disorders- Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Sunday, April 23, 2017
9:15-11:00 a.m. at the Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods
Rabbi Fredda Cohen, Westchester Chaplain for the New York
Board of Rabbis, and an educator at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
*Women as Caregivers -- honoring our parents and
finding our own spiritual resources*

For further information contact
Jill Abraham 472-5806 or jill.sa2@verizon.net
Lauri Carey 472-8076 or lauricarey@hotmail.com

Design by Souptionary

GATHER AND STUDY

**Congregation Kol Ami and Dr. Pierre
Darmon Present**

**“How to Buy a New Computing
Device”**

March 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm at Kol Ami

Please RSVP to Staci Krantz at
stacikrantz@nykolami.org by Thursday, March 2,

**The topic for the next workshop, scheduled
for April 3, 2017, will be:**

"You just brought that shiny new computing
device home - Now what?"

We will cover steps to prepare
your new device for use.

NEW THIS YEAR!

God: A Biography

Thursday evenings

7:30 - 9:00pm

(except where otherwise noted)

Rabbi Shira Milgrom

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

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

NEW THIS YEAR!

Israel in the News with David Gravit

Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:45 pm

Mar 7, 21; Apr 4, 18;

May 2, 16; June 6, 20

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

occasionally guest speakers, both from within
and outside Kol Ami, will be invited.

Wisdom of the Sages at Kol Ami

Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 pm

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

All are welcome.

With Rabbi Tom Weiner

Current Events with

Beth & Gene Kava

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Mar 13, 27, Apr 10, 24,

May 8, 22, June 5, 19

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

Kol Ami Book Club

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20

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

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

March 1st “Pride and Prejudice” Jane Austen

Prophets Seminar

Mondays 7:30 pm

Prerequisite-curiosity

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

PARENTING GROUPS

Parenting Teens Workshops

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

Next session March 2
Susan Davis, LCSW

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

Grandparenting Workshops

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

Next session March 6
Susan Davis, LCSW

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

ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

Beginner Hebrew with Emily Fields*

Sundays at 9:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

Shabbat Sings

Hebrew prayers and songs

Learn the Service in Hebrew

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

Sundays at 10:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

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

Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew with Alice Seidman

Sundays at 10:00am

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

The Arts: Music & Drama

Welcome to Kol Ami's

Winter Jewish Film Festival

**~Screening of Israeli films and films with
Jewish Content~**

Moderated by Roger Seti
Selected Monday evenings at 7:30 pm
March 13: "The Denial"

Congregational Choir

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm

For High School Students and Adults
Cantor David Rosen and
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

Or Chadash (A New Light)

**Choir for children in Kindergarten
through 6th Grade**

Sundays at 11:00 am

(when Religious School is in session)

Cantor David Rosen and
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

FUN AND GAMES

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Kol Ami Atrium

Email Betsy McCormack
(Betsyrmc@aol.com)
for information



Friends of the IDF in partnership with the Westchester Jewish Council invite you to a concert featuring

THE IDF BAND

Meet Active Duty IDF Soldiers

Thursday, March 16, 2017 • 7:00PM

Congregation Kol Ami

252 Soundview Ave, White Plains, NY 10606

TICKET PRICES

\$180 Sponsorship

(includes 4 tickets, a CD and reserved seating)

\$18 - Adults

\$10 - Seniors, Students and Children

Community Partners *(List in Formation)*

Israel Action Committee of the Five Synagogues of White Plains: *Congregation Kol Ami, Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, Hebrew Institute of White Plains, Temple Israel Center of White Plains, and Young Israel of White Plains*; The Alexander Muss High School in Israel, Beth El Synagogue Center, Bet Torah, Carmel Academy, Congregation Anshe Sholom, Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester-Rye, Congregation KTI, Port Chester, Congregation Sons of Israel, Hebrew Congregation of Somers, Jewish Community Center of Harrison, Jewish Boy Scouts Troop of Westchester, Jewish Girl Scouts Troop of Westchester, Pelham Jewish Center, Pleasantville Community Synagogue, Roots Israel, SAR Academy, Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El, Schechter Westchester, Temple Beth Abraham of Tarrytown, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Temple Beth Shalom in Mahopac, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, Temple Shaaray Tefila, Westchester Day School, Westchester Hebrew High School, Westchester Jewish Council, Westchester Reform Temple, Westchester Torah Academy, Young Israel of Scarsdale.

**For more information please contact Ali Picheny at
(646) 274-9645 or ali.picheny@fidf.org**

Their job is to look after Israel. Ours is to look after them.

Contributions



CONGREGATION
KOL AMI

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

To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices clearer, a donor form is printed on the back of each monthly newsletter. Donor forms are also available in the Main Office and on our website (www.nykolami.org). We thank you for the generosity that goes into each of these donations!

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

Donors' Address:

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

Send donation acknowledgement to:

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

Amount Enclosed:

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

Funds

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

March 2017 Calendar

Wed Mar 1

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

Thu Mar 2

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

Fri Mar 3

5:00 pm - Shabbat Across America
5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service
Honoring the Founding members of the Kol Ami Legacy Fund
7:30 pm - International Potluck Dinner at Kol Ami

Sat Mar 4

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

Sun Mar 5

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

Mon Mar 6

9:15 am - Grand parenting
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar
7:30pm: Computer Workshop with Dr. Pierre Darmon

Tue Mar 7

7:30 pm - HIAS Orientation Meeting
7:30 pm - Nominating Committee Meeting
7:30 pm - Israel In the News

Wed Mar 8

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

Thu Mar 9

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

Fri Mar 10

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

Sat Mar 11

Erev Purim
Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study
10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Strauss
4:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Cole Bates
7:00 pm - Purim Service and Spiel

Sun Mar 12 - Purim

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School
11:00 am - Purim Carnival

Mon Mar 13

11:00 am - Current Events
7:30 pm - Kol Ami Movie Nite
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

Tue Mar 14

11:30 am - Women in Transition
7:30 pm - Womens Oasis - OFF SITE

Wed Mar 15

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

Thu Mar 16

9:30 am - Jewish Meditation
11:00 am - Wisdom of the Sages
7:30pm: IDF Band Concert

Fri Mar 17

5:00 pm - Synaplex
5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

Sat Mar 18

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study
10:30 am - Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Parker Press
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of Lindsey Smith

Sun Mar 19

9:00 am - Religious School Grade 6 B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #3
9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School
11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir
11:15 am: Challah Fairy

Mon Mar 20

7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

Tue Mar 21

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

Wed Mar 22

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

Thu Mar 23

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

Fri Mar 24

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods
Followed by Shabbat dinner for families with young children - RSVP necessary
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

Sat Mar 25

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study
10:15am: Religious School Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service and Brunch
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah Service of Alyssa Klein

Sun Mar 26

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

Mon Mar 27

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

Tue Mar 28

7:30 pm - Sisterhood Passover Tasting

Wed Mar 29

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

Thu Mar 30

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

Fri March 31

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



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Middle Row, Left to right: Brian Hoffmann – Chief Engineer, CEM, Atlantic Westchester; Nelson Gallardo – Project Manager, Bright Energy Services
Back Row, on ladder: Tom Burbank – Project Manager, EIT, CEM, Atlantic Westchester

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