

# **KOL AMI TRAVELS TO ISRAEL AND PETRA**







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Executive Director • Jess Lorden

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Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

#### **CANTOR EMERITUS**

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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# SHABBAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# Friday Evening Services

### Shabbat in the Woods for Families with Young Children

A service in story and song 5:30 - 6:00pm *in the Atrium* 

Followed by Shabbat crafts, light supper & supervised childcare

6:15 - 7:15pm in the Gallery

# Saturday Morning Services

### Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Schulman Chapel-in-the-Woods

9:00am Coffee and Community

9:30 -11:00am Study

11:00am Shabbat Service

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

6:15pm in the Main Sanctuary

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016**

**Congregation Kol Ami is going GREEN**. Please join us for our first ever Green Shabbat. Please join us for worship and then enjoy a sustainable and delicious oneg festival featuring some of the best local and organic food and wine around.

### Shabbat Service: Friday, March 4th

Please join us as Elaine Page, Canadian Director of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, shares the incredible journey of our Holocaust Scroll from Brno Czechoslovakia, to a place of honor in our Ark. Our Scroll was one of 1564 Czech Scrolls rescued from the Nazis and is a messenger from a community that is all but gone. In this moving multi-media presentation we will learn about the it's unique history, and the pre-war Jewish community of Brno who once used our Scroll in their ritual practice.

#### Shabbat Service: Saturday, March 5th

We will continue to explore the journey of the Jews of Brno as we follow them to Terezin (the Model Ghetto), and learn about their lives. Elaine will highlight the performances of Verdi's Requiem, and the children's opera Brundibar, both of which were performed by Jews for high ranking Nazi officers. Rare and extraordinary artifacts from Terezin, courtesy of the Kippel family, will form part of the presentation and be available for viewing.

#### SERVICES TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

# WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR MARCH

# Week ending March 5, 2016 Parashat Vayak'heil Exodus 35:1-38:20

In this parashah, 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. The parashah continues with Moses asking the Israelites to donate materials for the building of the *Mishkan* (sanctuary).

# Week ending March 12, 2016 Parashat P'kudei Exodus 38:21-40:38

P'kudei is the last parashah in the book of Exodus. Moses describes the specifications for the building of the Mishkan (sanctuary) for God. Every article needed, every attribute of the structure, every manner of work, and every detail for the altar is specified. 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 19, 2016 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 burnt offering, meal offering, and sacrifice of well-being are voluntary, the sin offering and guilt offering are mandatory for guilty individuals.

# Week ending March 26, 2016 Parashat Tzav Leviticus 6:1-8:36

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

# We will be celebrating the following children becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah this month! Mazal Tov!



Hannah Rose
Guttenberg, daughter
of Randi and Jonathan
Guttenberg and younger
sister of Katie, will be
called to the Torah
as a Bat Mitzvah
on March 5, 2016.
Hannah is a seventh

grader at Edgemont Junior High School. For her Mitzvah project Hannah donated children's books to a war torn community in Nigeria. She also collected and donated school / arts & crafts supplies to the Coachman Center. In addition, she plans to participate in a special event for children with hearing loss. Hannah enjoys playing basketball and soccer as well as her summers at Point O' Pines.



Rebecca Newman, daughter of Cindy and Steven Newman, sister of Jacqueline Newman, and Jacob Newman, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Rebecca

is a 7th grader at Scarsdale Middle School. She is an avid piano player, a member of the Scarsdale cheerleading team and a Girl Scout. Rebecca enjoys horseback riding, gymnastics and skiing. Rebecca is looking forward to sharing her special day with her family and friends.



Alex Goldberg, son of Garett and Mara Goldberg, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 24, 2016.

Alex is an eighth

grader at Eagle Hill School. He enjoys soccer, boating and spending time at the beach. He loves dogs and visiting animal shelters and will be donating a portion of his Bar Mitzvah money to a local animal shelter. Alex is looking forward to spending this special occasion with his family.

# Shabbat in My Home - Come Say Shalom



# Become a Shabbat Host and Continue the Cycle of Connection!!

Hosts are encouraged to invite congregants they know along with those they don't (yet) know well to share a Shabbat dinner. Our goal is to include as many people as possible in order to increase and deepen connections within our community. We are thrilled that guests of prior Shabbat in My Home dinners have been inspired to "pay it forward" by hosting their own Shabbat dinners. Dinners can be for families, couples or singles. Traditional

or casual fare – the choice is yours! Include at least one congregant you would like to know better. There are two remaining dates scheduled this year: March 18 and April 15, 2016.

Interested in being a host or a guest?

Contact Susan or Lisa, co-chairs of the Membership Committee: susanhopedavis@hotmail.com or lisahochman@mac.com

\* Hosts receive a goody bag from the Membership Committee.\*

\*\* See photos of prior Shabbat in My Home dinners on the bulletin board outside room 20. \*\*



# Friday, March 4th, 2016 Following Shabbat Services Sponsored by the Kol Ami Membership Committee

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 something that pays tribute to your family heritage or reflects your cultural sensibility. Just make sure there is plenty to share. Questions? Call Susan Davis at 948-4763 or at susanhopedavis@hotmail.com or Lisa Hochman at 834-1555 or lisahochman@mac.com. For those of you who would like to come and enjoy without bringing wine or a homemade dish -- we ask for \$18 per adult (kids eat free).

CLIP & RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN FEB 26TH

#### 

# A Message From Our Rabbis



# From Havdalah to Havdalah

I don't know how to put into a few words the experience of ten days, four millennia, learning and laughter, adventures planned and not-planned, forty incredible travelers. So I will write about two moments. Havdalah on the rocks (it's not a new drink – but maybe it should be!) and Havdalah in the wind. The first Havdalah we were in Tel Aviv. We had arrived the day before, but it already felt like a lifetime. I had thought we would gather for Havdalah in a circle, as we always do – this time in view of the Mediterranean. But the rocks beckoned. I invited everyone to find a safe place on the huge boulders that edged the sea – and to sit down. We began Havdalah in silence. We listened to the sounds of the waves crashing against the rocks. And watched as the lights of the Jaffa Port began to come up – twinkling in the darkness. And the moon, near the beginning of its cycle, a waxing crescent above

# SHIRA MILGROM

us. The evening was warm (how delicious) – and we sang. Two Muslim women sat on rocks nearby; passersby stopped to listen and join. The moment – magical and eternal.

We adventured day and night for the next week – from north to south, from Israel to Petra and back again. And now we were in Jerusalem for the second Havdalah. Different stones were beneath our feet this time, the smooth stunning limestone of Jerusalem. The spices: freshly picked rosemary, blooming in purple perfusion everywhere. The touch: our arms around one another. The flame of the Havdalah candle burning fiercely in the Jerusalem winds. And before us – the spectacular view of Jerusalem's ancient walls, Mt. Zion, the valley of Hinnom below us and the Judean hills in the distance. And the moon?

Reaching its fullness – as did we.

Love, Shira



### TOM WEINER

# Friday Night Services 101 Let's hang together on the Bima and learn the basics of Kabbalat Shabbat (our Friday Night Service)!

If you have ever asked any of these questions, then you should join us:

"Why do we bow when we say that prayer?"

"Why is that song so quiet?"

"Why is that prayer so loud?"

"Is the Kaddish about death?"

"Why turn toward the door when we sing that?"

"What do all the symbols around the sanctuary mean?"

"What's the Hebrew mean? What's wrong with English?!"

The only silly question is the one you don't ask! So here's our chance to make sure our questions aren't silly by asking them. Join us on these three Friday nights for our own "learning service" in the Sanctuary, following the Oneg and the regular service. We'll ask our questions, find out why the service is structured as it is, and dig a bit into its deeper meanings. Hopefully, after these sessions the Friday night service will mean more to you and become a more enjoyable, personal and spiritual experience.

March 18th, April 1st and April 15th

This series is sponsored by the Worship Committee

# A Message from our Cantor

# DAVID ROSEN



## Kol Ami's Got Talent!

I am always amazed when I learn about people's hidden talents. Whether they play a musical instrument or can do a stand up routine, I am always impressed to learn about what others can bring to a stage.

On Thursday, May 12th Kol Ami will be hosting its annual Spring Benefit entitled "Kick-in" for Kol Ami. The evening will kick off with a wonderful reception and Variety show, followed by a 24 hour on-line Fundraiser.

Many of you have seen various versions of "America's Got Talent." It is a talent show that features singers, dancers, magicians, comedians, and other performers of all ages competing for the advertised top prize of one million dollars. The format is a popular one and has often been reworked for television in the United States and the United Kingdom. While we won't be giving away one million dollars that night (perhaps we can raise it...), we will be featuring the talents of many members within our community. Please note that while we would like to afford everyone the opportunity to participate, we will only be selecting a limited

number of performers. They will be chosen based on talent, originality and stage presence.

How do I become a part of "Kol Ami's Got Talent?"

If you are interested in auditioning for this incredible evening all you have to do is RSVP to cantordavid@nykolami.org for one of our two audition times. Please let us know your name, contact info, talent and approximately how long your performance will be. Applicants must be of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age or older...

#### **Audition Dates:**

Thursday March 17th 5:00-6:15pm Sunday April 3rd 10:00-11:00am

If in your best effort you cannot make one of these audition dates, please contact me to see if we can find an alternative time. Looking forward to a fabulous evening!!

Fondly,

Cantor David



# 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 our Rabbis

read the Megillah

and lead our costume

parade. We'll enjoy our

very own ECP Purim

Carnival with the help of parent volunteers, who will be on hand to run our carnival booths in a warm and wonderful way.

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

This month we will also engage in our One Community, One Book program. We will lend 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 will be 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.

This month we will also be hosting our spring Shabbat Dinner for young families on Friday evening March, 18. We will be serving a delicious chicken dinner from Riverdale Kosher Market and enjoying the music of Beth and Scott and Friends. Please see the flyer in this month's Connection or call the ECP office for more information. Hope you'll be joining us!

At the end of the month we 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.

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

# **ECP REMINDERS AND EVENTS**

4's Evening Conferences

March 18

Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children – registration required!

Friday, Tuesday, March 22, 5:00-9:00pm 3's Evening Conferences



# congregation Kol AMI early childhood program

building a community of friends one family at a time

Warm, Nurturing and Enriching Registration for 2016-2017 is Now Open

First Friends: A Toddler Program

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

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

A Step Ahead! Our Pre- K program designed for children

turning 5 from September through December.

See for yourself - nothing takes

the place of a personal visit.

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



# **Congregation Kol Ami's Summer Session**

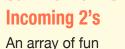
**Building a Community of Friends One Family at a Time** 

Kol Ami's Summer Session has been nurturing young children and their families for over 40 summers.

Groups are staffed with our own experienced Early Childhood Staff.

Our 3's and 4's program is staffed with a 1:6 ratio. We have 2 well-equipped outdoor shaded playgrounds and in case of inclement weather, we also boast a large indoor play space. Our day includes an array of indoor and outdoor activities.

All of our indoor play takes place in airconditioned spaces.



**Summer Fun for** 

An array of fun 2 days a week

# Look at Me I'm 3!

Daily special activities, 3 or 5 days a week

# Wow I'm 4 & I Can Stay for More!

A 5 day program built for sheer fun

# **Call or write us today for a brochure at** 914-949-4717 x107 or *nanblank@nykolami.org*

We'll bring the sunshine, you bring the towel!



# A Message from Our President



Shalom from Eretz Yisrael! As I write this, I'm in the middle of the Kol Ami trip to Israel and Petra led by Rabbi Milgrom and Nan Blank. This is both Jean's and my first trip to Israel, so this has been extremely exciting for us. There have been so many reasons to say the shehecheyanu prayer. It's also our first Kol Ami trip. One of the reasons that we took this trip was to experience Israel for the first time with our friends and our

community. It has been wonderful to share our "discoveries" with 38 other congregants, many of whom, like us, are seeing Israel for the first time.

I use the word "community" a lot when I'm talking about Kol Ami. You see it in my articles and you hear it in my remarks. While I'm, generally, using this word as a short hand to talk about those of us who belong to Kol Ami, there's a much broader meaning in just this one word.

A community meets the needs of those who are suffering. Just in the past month, I have attended two funerals and have been present at four shivah houses. In speaking with those who have lost a loved one (and I can attest to this from my own personal experience), I constantly hear how touched and comforted they were by the outpouring of support that they received during this difficult time. And it isn't just at the shiva, but it's in the phone calls, the cards and notes and the e-mails. And, especially in the hugs that they receive when they're physically embraced when they come to services to say kaddish.

A community provides for its children. I had the pleasure of attending the ECP Gala in February, which both brought together this community, as well as, raised money for the "Sandy Playground", which needs to be rebuilt. The ECP community came together and donated all of the money that was needed to build a beautiful new playground that will benefit all of the children in our greater community. A community also provides for its financial needs.

A community provides for those in physical need. We have formed the Kol Ami Pantry to provide food for those congregants and staff who struggle to find the resources to eat properly. Our members have joined together to staff the pantry and to provide funds to purchase the food. It's hard to believe that, in affluent Westchester, there is a significant number of people who do not have adequate access to food. We, as a community, are trying to alleviate this problem within our own community. Please contact Rabbi Milgrom or Jess Lorden if you want more information about how you, individually, can participate.

# HANK ROUDA

A community shares in its new experiences together. Jean and I are among 40 Kol Ami congregants and their families who are spending 10 days together in Israel and Petra. As our guide, Eshai (Jesse) says, we are experiencing both "earthly Israel" and "heavenly Israel". We have seen ancient Roman ruins (and the place where Rabbi Akiva was martyred), ancient Yafo (Jaffa), met and ate with Druze villagers, met and ate with the children of Yemin Orde (the innovative school that takes in Jewish "at-risk" children from all over the world, which we. as a community, have supported), seen the site where Yitzhak Rabin was murdered and visited an internment camp where "illegal" Jewish settlers were detained by the British before the War of Independence. And all of this before we left Tel Aviv! We have also taken time each day to say kaddish with one of our members who is in shloshim and with those of us still in the year of mourning. And we celebrated both the beginning (Kabbalat) and ending (Havdalah) of Shabbat at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea at sunset. Both times, we were joined by passersby who stopped to listen and breathe in the joy of Shabbat. Now it's on to the Negev, Petra and Masada. And, instead of "next vear in Jerusalem". it's "later this week in Jerusalem"!

We, as the Kol Ami community, pray together, fundraise together, learn together, try new experiences together, dance together, mourn together, travel together and experience joy together. We are a community in so many ways. Let's find even more ways to experience "community" together.

L'shalom, Hank

The Open Meeting
of the Nominating Committee
will be held on
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00pm
in the Chapel

Chairs:
Ronnie Cohn and Mark Seiden
Immediate Past Presidents

**Board Members:** 

Jennifer Labovitz Elizabeth Ward

**Non-Board Members** 

Adam Gluck Michael Welling Judy McEvoy Adrienne Pollak

David Seicol

# A Message from Our Executive Director

JESS LORDEN



Connections...Community...It was my pleasure and privilege to travel with 40 Kol Ami members and friends to Israel and Petra on our trip led by Shira and Nan Blank. While I could go on for hours about the myriad highlights of our ten days together, two words sum up this trip....Connections....Community.

Connections began on our flight and con-

tinued to grow as we shared a Shabbat service along the shores of Tel Aviv. The next day we toured Jaffa Port. Over a delicious lunch we listened to beautiful music by a violin prodigy who studies music at Polyphony, a music conservatory for Jewish and Arab children. Connections to our past and to the complicated politics of Israel. Just hours later, with bonds already forming, we enjoyed a Havdalah service, once again on the shore, as the sun set over the Mediterranean and the sound of the water provided the background music for our service.

Community enriched as we began every day by listening to and singing Modeh Ani and other Hebrew songs played over the speaker in the bus.

Community was there to embrace and surround when needed. On the third day of our trip, I received a call from home in the middle of the night. One of my oldest and closest friends had died unexpectedly. Being thousands of miles away I felt alone. Later the next day Shira gave me the opportunity to share stories of my friend with everyone, and then we recited Kaddish together. I expected to be comforted by friends. I didn't expect to be comforted by those I had met just days before. Community. Over the next several days Lisa Borowitz, who was saying Kaddish during the month of Shloshim for her father, and I continued to be surrounded by community as we said Kaddish each day. Shira was always careful to find an appropriate moment in one of the special and magical sites of Israel. Saying Kaddish at one of the first synagogues at the top of Masada was like being surrounded in an embrace that connected me to our community as well as friends back home.

Connections. I was touched to witness a younger member of our group comfort an older member overwhelmed and slightly panicked by the experience of hiking up a cliff in the Negev Dessert.

Community. After an incredible day exploring the beauty and wonder of Petra, Jordan, once back on our bus for the trip back to the kibbutz, we witnessed the beauty of the sun setting over the mountains of Israel. A bit later we shared a different type of connection upon experiencing trouble with our bus as we drove towards the Israeli border. For a while it appeared that we might not make it

through the Jordanian passport control before it closed for the day. Together we waited, together we crossed the border just minutes before it closed, and together we shared wine and spirits over dinner that evening.

Connections to each other formed over a shared meal at a Druze community while we learned about a religion and culture quite different from our own.

Connections deepened as we stood atop Masada, learned about our history and then climbed down Masada's snake path. New connections were made later in the day as we covered ourselves in mud and floated in the Dead Sea.

Community embraced as we arrived at Mount Scopus, overlooking Jerusalem just as the sun was beginning to set. We heard the Muslim call to worship and then together recited shehechyanu, sang Yerushalayim Shel Zahav (Jerusalem of Gold), and said kiddish to commemorate our arrival in Jerusalem.

Connections to each other as we enjoyed a steam bath in the cistern which had been converted into a Hamam at our hotel in Jerusalem. Community strengthened as we helped each other during the process of bargaining with merchants, as each person purchased treasured gifts, including two who found new tallit, to bring home with them.

Connections to each other, and to Israel, as we listened to members of the Parents' Circle. We desperately tried to understand the complexity of the conflict between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs and remained frustrated at the lack of sufficient progress in resolving the conflict.

Community fortified as we sat together at the Village of Communities at Yad Vashem and tried to answer the difficult question posed by a child on our trip of "Why do people hate Jews?"

Connections made as the young members of our group helped and looked out for the older members during long hikes, walks on the ramparts surrounding the Old City, and while shopping in the markets in the Old City.

Community and connections made in sharing a meal with someone new and asking for their story.

Community enriched as we prayed together at the Western Wall and during Kabbalat Shabbat services at a reform congregation in Jerusalem, and connections made as we tried to understand the multitude of ways in which Jews, Christians, and Muslims worship.

Connections deepened as we enjoyed a Havdalah service with arms around one another overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.

Connections made to our history as we dug at an archaeological site where we learned about Judah Maccabee and then discovered ruins

from that era.

Connections to Jews around the world as we witnessed the beauty of the temples of Italy and Israel at the Israel Museum.

We enjoyed connecting with each other, to Kol Ami, and to the history of the Jewish people in Israel. Through these connections we became a strong, vital community forever bonded by a shared and unforgettable experience on our Trip to Israel and Petra.

Connections. Community. We are rooted in Kol Ami, in our community, and in Israel. "Kol Ami" means the "voice of my people." Please engage with us and hear your voice.

With love and appreciation, Jess



# "Jewish Journeys"

A journey implies traveling from one place to another, from Point A to Point B. A Jewish journey adds a greater dimension which may involve more introspection and evaluation of one's goals. The aim of "Jewish Journeys" is to be a "partner" with various congregants as they relate their experiences of discovery at Kol Ami.

In this edition of The Connection, Anne D'orazio will be our "guide" as she describes her religious passages at Kol Ami.

We hope that this column will enhance our readers' connection to Kol Ami.

# MY JEWISH JOURNEY TO CONGREGATION KOL AMI

When a series of life's events leads one to a special place, a place which answers a lot of questions and provides a sense of well-being, it seems the destination must be the next point of well-planned journey. The route from an accidental discovery in Venice to Congregation Kol Ami took one decade out of seven, but gave my life an altogether different meaning.

In 2002, attempting to avoid the crowds heading for St. Mark's and the Rialto, my uncle and I fled down a narrow calle which ended in a courtyard. On a store front window, I read a faded newspaper clipping describing the place: the Jewish Ghetto which had been established in 1516 by the patrician regime of the city and liberated in 1789 by

Napoleon's revolutionary army. I took out a notebook and jotted down the basic facts then lingered for an hour looking at the unassuming buildings whose meaning had little recognition for me. But I couldn't get the feeling I had experienced there out of my mind and continued visiting the Ghetto for several years before being accepted into a National Endowment for the Humanities fiveweek summer study program there in 2008. When I returned home I taught about the

Jewish Ghetto in as many history classes into which it would fit and finally offered a course in the Westchester Community College's Collegium just on the Ghetto. After the first class, a man came down to the podium and introduced himself as Arthur Howard and my trip to Kol Ami began in earnest. On Arthur's suggestion, I made an appointment with Rabbi Shira Milgrom and after our talk in her office, I was sure my choice of Judaism was a permanent life decision, but I still approached my first service on Friday night, March 29, 2012 with apprehension. In retrospect, I cannot imagine why. From the sound of Rabbi Mo Glazman's glorious voice and the uplifting music and singing, all anxiety melted away. Then there were the moving, intelligent sermons of Rabbis Milgrom and Weiner and most of all the warm reception from the congregants.

This year I attended the URJ Biennial and was only more convinced of my commitment to Reform Jewry and Congregation Kol Ami. What a wonder that we find our way to such fulfillment through a series of seemingly random pieces of our life's adventure.

Written by Anne D'orazio

# Women of Reform Judaism

#### Count and Be Counted

As this article is being written, the parasha is Ki Tisa which opens with the verses, "Adonai spoke to Moses, saying: When you take a census of the Israelite men according to their army enrollment, each shall pay Adonai a ransom for himself on being enrolled, that no plague may come upon them through their being enrolled. This is what everyone who is entered in the records shall pay: a half-shekel by the sanctuary weight – twenty gerahs to the shekel – a half-shekel as an offering to Adonai". (Exodus 30:11 – 13)

The reference to men and army enrollment notwithstanding, for those women who have not yet joined our Women of Reform Judaism, it is not too late! We invite you to be counted as part of our census and to contribute to the Kol Ami Sisterhood with both your dues (not a half-shekel for us! And no one is turned away for lack of funds), your presence and your ideas.

Although our Sisterhood has been very fortunate in having members whose involvement counts with donations of time, energy, and leadership, we look forward to increasing our numbers, hearing new voices, and seeing new faces. There are always opportunities for something new to be

accomplished and new connections to be made.

Please join us for Wine and Wisdom to be held on March 5 at an undisclosed location, to be revealed upon registration! Rabbi Shira will provide the wisdom, and we can promise what is always a provocative and engaging session of learning along with food, fun, and friendship. And coming up on April 12, we will hold a Sisterhood meeting featuring a potluck Passover tasting.

Those of you who are members and those of you who are yet-to-be members, please bring to us your unique gifts; we welcome more of them and more of you! Please count and be counted, as part of the Kol Ami Sisterhood.

Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus

Stacey Matusow

For the most up-to-date information, please visit us at www.NYKolAmi.org





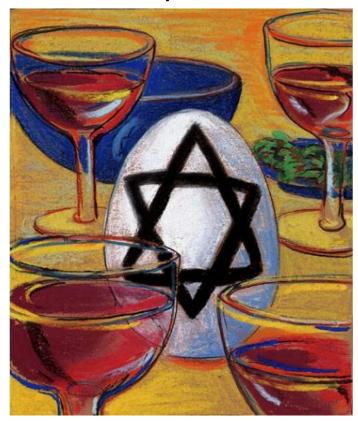
IN THE MAIN SHOWCASE ITEMS UP TO 75% OFF: FRIDAY, MARCH 4: 10-12 SUNDAY, MARCH 6: 9-12:00 or by appointment with Kay in the office

Did you know that patronizing our gift shop allows Sisterhood to provide financial support for many education programs in both the pre-school and religious school, lifecycle event gifts, support with shivas as well as providin funds for holiday celebrations and social gatherings like Autl in Residence, Ladies Night Out and our Havdalah series.

Besides, its just cool to support your temple.

# The Kol Ami Sisterhood Havdallah Series Presents

# Wine & Wisdom with Rabbi Shira Milgrom



Saturday, March 5th, 4-6pm at a location to be provided upon registration

Advance Registration: \$18 members / \$25 non-members

After February 29th or at the door \$20 / \$30

Register online at www.NYKolAmi.org/Sisterhood or mail your check payable to Sisterhood to the main office.

# **Ritual Riches**

#### OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

The fundamental viewpoint of prophecy according to Judaism differs from the popular notion, which is someone who can foretell the future. Nevertheless, that was not prophets' main task. First and foremost, prophets were role models. They had to be impeccably good. Their character invested them with a stature and aura long before they got around to predicting the future.

In religion, a prophet is an individual who is claimed to have been contacted by the supernatural or the divine, and to speak for them, serving as an intermediary with humanity, delivering this newfound knowledge from the divine to other people. The message that the prophet conveys is called a prophecy.

Kings of the ancient world wielded almost absolute power – and most of the time they did not tolerate others telling them they were wrong. Those who did often found themselves a head shorter. The prophet was not a "Yes-man" He had to talk truth to power. He had to be the fearless conscience of the nation.

King Ahab went looking for Elijah the prophet and when he finally met him, said: "Are you the man who has polluted and destroyed the Jewish people?"

"Not me," the prophet replied, "You – your family and you father's house have destroyed it (I Kings 18:17-18)." If you see destruction, do not look at me. Look at yourself.

No one ever spoke that way to Ahab – and lived to tell about it. Remarkably, though, Ahab not only listened but even repented. Elijah's words touched him inside somewhere. Elijah was his moral conscience. Somewhere buried inside Ahab knew Elijah was right.

The Hebrew Bible (Tanach) includes 24 books containing the words of 48 men and seven women (Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail – a wife of King David, Huldah – from the time of Jeremiah - and Esther) who are considered to be Hebrew prophets.

The historic order of Hebrew prophecy begins with Moses (c. 1200 BCE). The Torah tells us that Moses was the greatest prophet. "Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses – whom the Lord singled out, face to face...(Deut 34:10)"

Samuel (c. 1050 BCE) was the first legitimate successor of Moses. Like Moses he was a political leader or "judge". He was also a priest. Most of the prophets, however, were engaged in very mundane occupations: shepherds, shoemakers and plowmen. They were parents and spouses like everyone else.

The central section of the Tanach (following the Torah and preceding the "Writings" is called "Nevi'im" (Hebrew for "Prophets"). In addition to the books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel (I and II), and Kings (I and II), it includes the books of the three major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and the 12 minor prophets. "Major" and "minor" refer to the length of their writings included in the

Tanach, not to their importance, literary talent or erudition.

The final and most decisive stage of prophecy was reached when the spoken became also the written word, when the matter of prophecy took the form of literature. It was no mere coincidence, but the result of a necessary process that this step was taken when Israel first came into relation with the wider political world, with the oncoming of the Assyrians upon Israel and Judah, the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom, respectively. Many things then conspired to encourage literary prophecy: the example and stimulus of poetic and historical collections already made under prophetic inspiration; the need of handbooks and statements of principles for the use of disciples; the desire to influence those beyond the reach of the preacher's voice; the necessity for a lasting record of and witness to the revelations of the past; and chief of all, the inner compulsion to the adequate publication of new and all-important truths.

Foremost among such truths were the facts, now first practically realized, that God's governance and interests were not merely local, but universal, that righteousness was not merely tribal or personal or racial, but international and world-wide. Neither before nor since have the ideas of God's immediate rule and the urgency of God's claims been so deeply felt by any body or class of people as in the centuries (roughly, the 10th through 5th centuries BCE) which witnessed the struggle waged by the prophets of Israel for the supremacy of God and the rule of justice and righteousness that was God's will.

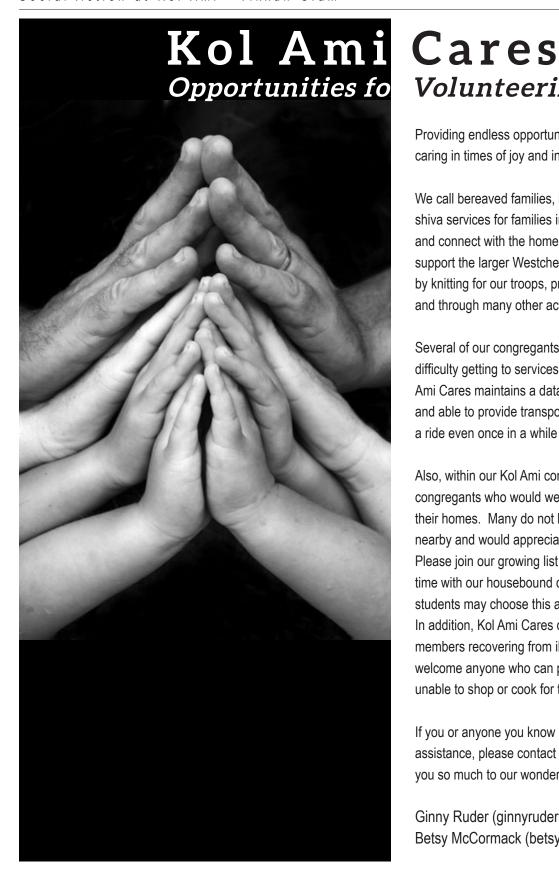
Prophecy was a holy gift of God. Therefore, it was only operable on holy people.

It was not the ability to predict if the market is going to go up tomorrow or not. That is not what the prophet was really about. He represented something much more.

Understanding the true nature of the prophets sheds indispensable light on the events of the two kingdoms. The kingdoms ultimately destroyed themselves, but the people survived. The prophets were a major reason for that. They were the ones who brought the higher consciousness of the Torah viewpoint to the people. They offered a perspective beyond the pressing temporal concerns of the time and thus infused into the bloodstream of the nation an element of eternity that enabled the Jewish people to survive blows that consigned others to the dust bin of history.

This article was written by David Gravitz.

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



# Volunteering

Providing 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 for families in mourning, 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 through many other activities of mitzvot.

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.

Also, within our Kol Ami community are older congregants who 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.) In addition, Kol Ami Cares 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.

Ginny Ruder (ginnyruder@gmail.com) and Betsy McCormack (betsyrmc@aol.com)

# **Social Action**

## **Cooking for the Homeless**

In the Kol Ami kitchen

# Sundays at 11:15 am:

Mar 20, Apr 17, May 22

and

### Mondays at 12:00 pm:

Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6

## The Cabin Group - Alcoholics Anonymous

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

## **AL-ANON**

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

#### Mitzvah Knitz

Together we'll knit afghans, caps for Israeli soldiers and more.

Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month.

March 1 at 10:30 am

## The Kol Ami Singers

Accompanied by Paul Schwarz, we sing at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Join us as we bring a little sunshine to the residents and make a difference in their lives. For information, call Murray Shapiro 914-946-7789

Wed March 2 @ 2:30 pm

The Sarah Neuman

845 Palmer Ave, Mamaroneck, NY

Wed Mar 30 @ 2:30pm

Greenwich Woods, 1165 King St, Greenwich, CT

# REMEMBER CONGREGATION KOL AMI IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

SOCIAL ACTION AT KOL AMI CONTINUES THROUGH YOUR PLANNED GIVING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EVELYNE KLEIN: 761-7659

# **Kol Ami Food Pantry Hours**

Kol Ami Food Pantry is open to serve our congregants, staff and guests of both.

The Pantry is located in the entrance of our
gymnasium and is open Sundays 9:30am - 10:30am, Tuesdays
9:30am-11:00am and Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

Gift cards, private ordering and delivery is also
available. For information, gift cards, private ordering/delivery contact

Jess Lorden, 914-949-4717 ext. 101.

# COACHMAN CORNER

We are thrilled to be working closely with 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

**Tutoring support** 

Monthly Birthday Parties for children up to 14

Separate teenage birthday outings

Thanksgiving Feast at Kol Ami

Memorial Day Bar-B-Q at Kol Ami

Knitting blankets for the Coachman children

We welcome all Kol Ami members to join us in these initiatives!

#### COACHMAN BIRTHDAY PARTIES

What are the ways we can show that we care about people who are down on their luck and put our well-meaning thoughts into action? It can be something as simple as a birthday party. Our Kol Ami community comes together each month to remind the children at the Coachman Family Center that every birthday is reason to celebrate.

The Battleman Family (Royce, David, Zack and Mia) hosted our February birthday party. They festively decorated the room, organized fun sticker crafts and served up pizza, party treats and (of course) birthday cake. Also on hand were Nan Blank, Director of Kol Ami's Early Childhood Program and Simon Worth and Brandon Epstein, fulfilling their mitzvah project goals in anticipation of becoming Bar Mitzvahs. Coachman children with February birthdays left the party with wrapped presents and all children received a Super Bowl themed goody bag.

Danny Bernstein from Backyard Sports along with his helper, Brandon Epstein, entertained the kids with fun-filled and engaging sports and games. They did an amazing job to ensure that the kids had a blast. Simon Worth played with the very little ones who were too young to participate in the group activities.

Throughout the party, the room was filled with giggles, smiling faces and warm feelings.

After the party, Royce expressed how meaningful it was for the whole family to make personal connections with the Coachman kids. She added that the birthday party project was a wonderful impetus for the family to delve into new topics of conversation and experience Jewish values in action. Zach Battleman enjoyed the interactions and expressed an interest in developing an ongoing relationship with the Coachman kids, perhaps through a tutoring project.

If you are interested in sponsoring a birthday party at the Coachman or would like to contribute to the Coachman Birthday Party initiative in other ways, please contact: Alison Adler (aadler3@verizon.net).

We are in need of sponsors for the following dates:

June 12th July 10th

August 7th

September 18th

October 9th

November 6th

December 11th

YOU can make a difference!

# **ENGAGE AND LEARN**

# Gender and Judaism - Male and Female - What does it Mean to Be a Jewish Human Being?

Sundays, 9:00 - 11:00am with Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Dr. Ellen Umansky and Dr. Jennifer Lemberg

Session VII: March 13
Images of God and Self with Ellen Umanksy

Session VIII: March 20

Looking Toward the Future with Ellen Umansky and Jennifer Lemberg

# 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

# Coffee, Clergy and Conversations – Five ECP mornings with Sara Elkin & Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Thursdays, 9:15-10:30am Session IV: March 10

Purim: Joy and Joy - the Place of Silliness and Fantasy

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

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Mar 7, 21, Apr 4, 18, May 2, 16, June 6
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.

#### Women's Roundtable Breakfast

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship.

With Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am

March 2

#### Kol Ami Book Club

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20,

March 2

"Stoner" by John Williams

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

# **Prophets Seminar**

Mondays 7:30 pm

By studying the book of Jeremiah, we will be examining the history surrounding the Babylonian exile as well as the prophet Jeremiah himself. Jeremiah reveals the psychology of the prophet. He lays bare his sorrow. The primary text will be Jeremiah, part of the Soncino Books of the Bible series, interpretations by Heschel, Buber and others will be examined. Prerequisite- curiosity.

# **Hebrew Classes for Adults**

Beginners Hebrew with Emily Fields\*

Sundays at 9:00 am

# NEW CLASS! Learn the Service in Hebrew with Emily Fields\*

Sundays at 10:00 am

(For Advanced Beginners who can slowly read Hebrew) Master the melodies and the Hebrew prayers.

### Intermediate Hebrew with Emily Fields\*

# 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

#### Winter Jewish Film Festival

~Screening of Israeli films and films with Jewish content~ Selected Monday evenings at 7:30 pm

### The March 14th film will be "Hunting Elephants"

To avenge his son's death and keep the family afloat, shady retirement home resident Eliyahu plans a daring bank heist with his socially awkward 12-year old grandson, his former partner-in-crime and their penniless actor pal.

Moderated by Roger Seti

# **Congregational Choir**

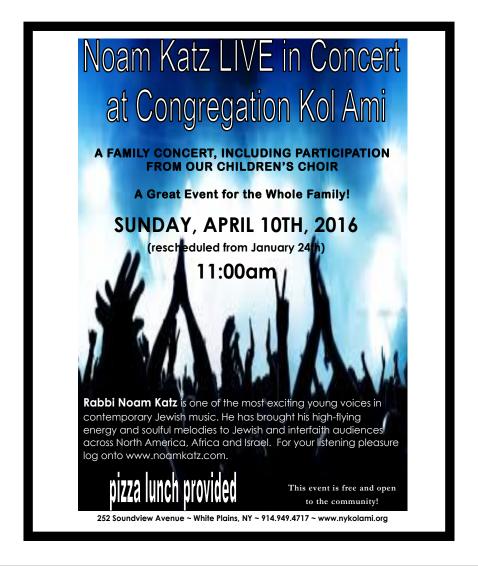
Thursdays 7:45 - 9:30 pm
For High School Students and Adults
Cantor David Rosen and Lenora Eve, Accompanist

## Or Chadash (A New Light)

Children in kindergarten through 6th Grade
Sundays at 11:00am (when Religious school is in session)
Cantor David Rosen and
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

#### Mah Jongg

Wednesdays at 10:30 am
Email Betsy McCormack (Betsyrmc@aol.com)
for information





#### Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm March 14, April 11, May 9, June 6

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, March 8, 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 sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

# Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Now in its 5th 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.

# A Women's Perspective on Global Crisis

Kol Ami's Oasis at Home presents deeply personal and compelling accounts of clashes and connections between Jews, Muslims and others.

Tuesday, March 1
with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

## Sunday, March 6 (rescheduled from Jan 31)

Madiha Tubman, Kol Ami Controller, devout Muslim, and peace advocate.

In the Chapel
9:15am

# PARENTING GROUPS AT KOL AMI!

# First Friends, an ECP program for Toddlers 13 - 22 months

(Accompanied by a parent or caregiver)

If you have a toddler and you're looking to make some new friends, what are you waiting for? Maybe the time is right to think about joining us! January 26 - April 5 and provides a wonderful segue to our Early Childhood Program and to our Kol Ami community.

For more information and membership details please call Nan Blank, ECP Director at 949-4717x107

# **Sunday Parenting Group**

Raising resilient, self-reliant children. A morning discussion group for parents focusing on a variety of parenting Issues and stresses.

Meets the1st Sunday of the month

March 6 at 9:15am

Susan Davis, LCSW

# **Parenting Teens Workshops**

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

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month

March 3 at 12:00pm

Susan Davis, LCSW

### **Grandparenting Workshops**

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

Meets the 1st Monday of the month

March 7 at 9:15am

Susan Davis, LCSW

# **Contributions**

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

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

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!

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Please indicate your choice below and Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. If you office at 914-949-4717.		
Funds		
□ Adult Education Fund	☐ Kol Ami Cares Fund (supports activities of the Caring Community Program)	□ WRJ Sisterhood Fund
☐ Audrey Greenberg Scholarship Fund (provides ECP tuition assistance for families in need)	□ Men's Council Fund	☐ Youth Activities Fund (suppports youth-related programs, scholarships and trips)
☐ Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates).	□ Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund	☐ Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership)
☐ Cantor David Rosen's Discretionary Fund	☐ Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund	Plaques and Remembrances
☐ College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college studens)	☐ Religious School Fund (supports special projects as determined by the Religious School Committee)	□ Yahrzeit Plaques \$750
☐ Early Childhood Program Fund (supports teacher education and student scholarships)	□ Retreat Fund	☐ Tree of Life Leaf \$180 (Available in Gold, Silver and Copper)
☐ Flowers and Landscaping Fund	☐ Scholarship Fund for the Confirmands (10th graders)	Giving Opportunities
☐ Fund for the Needy (provides assistance to those in need)	□ Social Action Fund	<ul><li>□ Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or</li><li>□ Sponsor a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg</li></ul>
☐ Kol Ami Fund (our general fund)	☐ Synaplex Circle Fund	☐ Sponsor a Religious School Sunday Morning Bagel Breakfast

# MARCH 2016 Calendar

Tue Mar 1

10:30am Mitzvah Knits 7:30pm Women's Oasis

7:30pm Nominating Committee - Open Meeting

Wed Mar 2

7:45am Women's Roundtable Breakfast 9:00am Kol Ami Reads Book Club

10:30am Mah Jongg

Thu Mar 3

9:30am Jewish Meditation
12:00pm Parenting Teens
6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal
7:30pm Executive Board Meeting
7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Fri Mar 4

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods

6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service/Shabbat

Across the World International Pot Luck Dinner

Sat Mar 5

Shabbat Lift

9:00am Coffee & Community

9:30am Study 11:00am Service

10:30am Grade 5 Shabbat Luncheon4:00pm WRJ/Sisterhood Wine & Wisdom

5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of

Hannah Guttenberg

Sun Mar 6

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School

9:15am Women's Oasis9:15am Parenting

11:00am Or Chadash Choir

Mon Mar 7

9:15am Grandparenting 11:00am Current Events

12:00pm Cooking for the Homeless

7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Tue Mar 8

11:30am Women in Transition

Wed Mar 9

10:30am Mah Jongg

4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

Thu Mar 10

9:15am Coffee/Clergy/Conversation

9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Fri Mar 11

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

Sat Mar 12

Shabbat Lift

9:00am Coffee & Community

9:30am Study 11:00am Service

10:30am Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah

of Rebecca Newman

Sun Mar 13

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School 9:00am Male & Female Gender & Judaism

11:00am Or Chadash Choir

Mon Mar 14

12:30pm Mussar class 7:30pm Kol Ami Movie Nite

Tue Mar 15

7:30pm Prophet's Seminar

Wed Mar 16

10:30am Mah Jongg

4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School

6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

Thu Mar 17

9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm Board Meeting

Fri Mar 18

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

7:00pm Membership Committee Shabbat Dinner

at Home

Sat Mar 19

Shabbat Lift w/Grade 3 Family Shabbat

9:00am Coffee & Community

9:30am Study 11:00am Service Sun Mar 20

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School 9:00am Male & Female Gender & Judaism

11:00am Or Chadash Choir11:15am Cooking for the Homeless

Mon Mar 21

11:00am Current Events11:30am Prophets Seminar

Wed Mar 23

10:30am Mah Jongg

5:00pm Purim/Purim Carnival/Purim Spiel

Thu Mar 24

9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 5:30pm Evening Service: Bar

Mitzvah of Alex Goldberg

7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting

Fri Mar 25

TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

Sat Mar 26

Shabbat Lift

9:00am Coffee & Community

9:30am Study 11:00am Service

Sun Mar 27

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Mon Mar 28

7:30pm Prophets Seminar

Tue Mar 29

10:00am WAJE

Wed Mar 30

10:30am Mah Jongg

4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School 6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

Thu Mar 31

9:30am Jewish Meditation 11:00am Wisdom of the Sages 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal

# "The one name to remember... When it's time to remember."



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