L'SHANA

The Clergy & Staff wish each of you a healthy & happy New Year
Worship

WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Week ending September 5, 2015
Parashat Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
The Israelites are instructed to express their gratitude to God for their bountiful harvests and freedom from slavery by tithing ten percent of their crops for the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow in this parasha. They are also told that if they obey God’s mitzvot faithfully, they will receive every blessing imaginable; and if they do not fulfill their brit with God, many curses will descend upon them.

Week ending September 12, 2015
Parashat Nitzavim Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
In this parasha, Moses continues his oration to the people of Israel before they enter the Promised Land. He reminds the Israelites that God’s covenant speaks to all of them and, through them, all future generations.

Week ending September 19, 2015
(Shabbat Shuvah) Parashat Vayeilech Deuteronomy 31:1-30
Since God has prohibited Moses from entering the land God has promised to the Israelites, Moses prepares the people for his death and tells them that Joshua will succeed him as their leader. This parasha continues by assuring the Israelites that they will be successful in re-conquering the Land of Israel and that God “will not fail you or forsake you.”

Week ending September 26, 2015
Parashat Ha’azinu Deuteronomy 32:1-52
Ha’azinu is known as a shir - a song or poem. This parasha reiterates the agreements made between the Children of Israel and God. It reminds the people of the things God gave them in the wilderness, of the things that happened to them when they disobeyed God, and most importantly that God wants to protect them even though they do transgress. The message warns and instructs, while at the same time it gives hope as the people are about to enter into “The Land” under the new leadership of Joshua.
SELICHOT
Saturday, September 5
Prepare for the high Holy Days with music, prayer, discussion and reflection.
8:30pm: Havdalah, Program & Discussion
9:30pm: Services
A dramatic reading and musical presentation of the short story entitled “Ne’ilah in Gehenna” by I.L. Peretz. Narration by George Shapiro and musical selections sung by Cantor David Rosen
Coffee, tea and dessert will be served.

ROSH HASHANAH EVE
Sunday Evening, September 13
First Service 6 pm to 8 pm
Second Service 9 pm to 11 pm

ROSH HASHANAH DAY
Monday, September 14
First Service 9 am to 11:15 am
Grades 1-6 9 am to 11:15 am
Second Service 12:15 pm to 2:30 pm
Grades 1-6 12:15 pm to 2:30 pm
Family Service 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm
Family Reception 4:00 pm to 5:00pm
Community Tashlich 5:30 pm

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH
Tuesday, September 15
Service 10 am to 12 pm
Reception 12 pm

YOM KIPPUR EVE•KOL NIDRE
Tuesday Evening, September 22
First Service 6 pm to 8 pm
Second Service 9 pm to 11 pm
Please Note: For the Kol Nidre Services, the sanctuary doors will be closed promptly at 6 pm & at 9 pm & will not reopen until the cello solo is completed.

YOM KIPPUR DAY
Wednesday, September 23
First Service 9 am to 11:15 am
Grades 1-6 9 am to 11:15 am
Second Service 12:15 pm to 2:30 pm
Grades 1-6 12:15 pm to 2:30 pm
Afternoon Service 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
(Chapel)
Family Service 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm
Memorial 5 pm to 7 pm
& Neilah Service
Community 7 pm
Break the Fast (RSVP required, see next page)

Sukkot Celebration 5776
A week-long celebration of harvest, sustainability and living Jewishly
Sukkot Harvest Festival
Sunday, September 27, 9am-12pm at Kol Ami
Join us for crafts, dance and other activities including a petting zoo, farmers market, food trucks, learning and LOTS OF FUN! Everyone of all ages is welcome!

Erev Family Sukkot Service and Dinner at 5:30pm
A service in song for young families, followed by a dinner in the Sukkah. Everyone is invited!

Sukkot Morning Service
Monday, Sept 28 10:00 am in the Main Sanctuary

Monday, October 4, Erev Simchat Torah Service at 6:15 pm
Services, celebration, hakafot, dancing and consecration of our new students.

Tuesday, October 5, Simchat Torah and Yizkor Service 10:00 am
KOL AMI COMMUNITY
BREAK THE FAST

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
~7:00 pm

Kol Ami is offering the congregation the opportunity to break the Yom Kippur fast following the Neilah (concluding) service. Please join other congregants along with family, friends and guests for a light dairy supper in the Petschek Gallery.

Questions? Please contact Lisa Borowitz at lborowitz@ramius.com

PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18TH
$26/Adult, $18/Children (ages 6 - 13), Children 5 and under free

Please print names of attendees and include ages of children:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________ Email: __________________

Total # adults ___ at $26/ea = $____
Total # children (6-13)____ at $18/ea = $____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $

Please make checks payable to Congregation Kol Ami

Due to the popularity and limited space for this event reservation CAN NOT be accepted after September 18th.
New Program from the Membership Committee:
Shabbat in My Home – Come Say Shalom

Become a Shabbat host and begin the cycle of connection!! Hosts are encouraged to invite people they do not know well or at all, along with those they do know to share a Shabbat meal. Then we hope that guests who have been invited to the first dinner will become hosts and invite other congregants they know and don’t know the next time around, and so on. Dinners can be for families, singles, or adults only and be casual or more formal. Do your own thing. Our goal is to include as many people as possible. The following dates have been scheduled for the dinners: October 2, 2015, December 4, 2015, March 18, 2016 and April 15, 2016.

SHABBAT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday Evening Services
Shabbat in the Woods for Families with Young Children
_Atrium and Petschek Gallery_
5:30 – 6:00 pm
A service in story and song
6:15 – 7:15 pm
Shabbat crafts, light supper & supervised childcare

Kabbalat Shabbat Services
Including Shabbat Stories
_Main Sanctuary_
6:15 pm

Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift
Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
_Schulman Chapel_
9:00 am Coffee and Community
9:30 -10:30 am Study
11:00 am Shabbat Service in the Woods

SERVICES TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Alexander John Arovas, son of Susan Kohn and Greg Arovas and older brother to Gabriella and Talia, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on September 19, 2015. Alex is entering 8th grade at Scarsdale Middle School. An avid computer programmer who loves to build with circuits and code, Alex was relieved to discover that his bar mitzvah did not conflict with the 2015 World Maker Faire, where he will participate for a second year. Alex also enjoys playing travel baseball and basketball and spending time with his friends and family, including his Black Lab, Nimble. For his mitzvah project, Alex and Nimble were trained and certified by the Good Dog Foundation as a therapy team and together have helped children read through library programs in Westchester.

Melanie Paige Barest, daughter of Amy and Warren Barest, and sister to Sydney and Lucy, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on September 19, 2015. For her mitzvah project, Melanie volunteered at Pets Alive Westchester, which is a no-kill animal shelter dedicated to finding families to permanently adopt the animals they rescue. Melanie is an 8th grader at White Plains Middle School – Highlands Campus. She enjoys dancing and figure skating, as well as skiing and swimming. She is looking forward to sharing this special day with her family and friends.

Vernon Ginsberg is the son of Mitchell & Virla and has two younger siblings, Sophie and Jordan. Vernon will become a bar mitzvah on September 26, 2015. He is going into 8th grade this year at Highlands Middle School. Vernon’s bar mitzvah project is volunteering for the Sharing Shelf Organization on their 2015 annual backpacks to school campaign.
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Sabbatical, Summer, Silences and Speaking

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM

A faded piece of newspaper print hung from the bulletin board in the Richmond Virginia home in which I grew up. The small square with tattered edges contained a single quote: “Silence isn’t golden; sometimes it is just plain yellow.” In the years following World War II, it undoubtedly meant to invoke the sins of a generation who spoke up too late for their European brothers and sisters – as it also meant to remind visitors and guests to our home that a culture of silence also pervaded our segregated and conservative town. This quote was also ironic in its central visual place in my childhood memory. Whereas there was courage to speak the truths about oppression and injustice in the world around us, there was little courage in my home to speak the truths of our own personal lives. This complicated universe of words – lots of eloquent words – minus deep personal truth – made me cautious about words. How do we know if someone is speaking their truth to us? You are undoubtedly familiar with the expression, “The body doesn’t lie.” Our physical presence, our body posture, our energy – all convey a sense of integrity (or not) about what we say. The emotions we feel and feelings we convey need to match our words for us to be deeply believable. This is one of the reasons that I have been so drawn to the language of the deaf. Deaf Language is more primal (but no less sophisticated) that verbal language. ASL (American Sign Language) requires communicating with one’s whole self – with body, with face, with expression, with emotion. It is not possible – literally – to sign expressionless. The face is part of the syntax of signed languages. One has to be in touch with one’s emotions into order to sign clearly. The weeks I spent this summer at Gallaudet University (the University of the Deaf in Washington DC) were challenging on all these levels – and enriched by the experience of being within a deaf community. In walking the blocks from the metro (NoMa Gallaudet Station) toward the university, no sign says “Welcome to a New Country”, but gradually the language begins to change. There is less English, and more and more people are talking with their hands and bodies. Shopkeepers in the area are learning ASL – and often both speak and sign to new customers, not knowing which language they will respond to. The neighborhood associations are petitioning for wider sidewalks, so that two people signing to each other can walk next to each other and “talk.” My studies included six hours a day of class, followed by labs and homework – but also movies sponsored by the Student Union, a tour at the National Gallery of Art with a deaf guide – for deaf visitors, and attending outdoor festivals on the Washington Mall on July 4th – interpreted for the deaf community. American Sign Language has entered life at Kol Ami (not as much as I wish; we haven’t yet been successful in drawing in the Jewish deaf community of Westchester.) Two years ago, our high school students participated in an extraordinary poetry workshop and slam with deaf students from the New York School for the Deaf – together with Jewish and Muslim hearing students. And each and every week, ASL, the language of the deaf, enhances the tefila/the prayer of our religious school students. The language of the body connects with the soul without the interference of words. The second part of sabbatical study (yes, too much ‘s’ alliteration!) also addressed the courage of speaking up within a culture of silence. Believe it or not, the culture of silence is Israel. Israelis aren’t silent about much – but in some ways, it is a stoic culture. People bear a great deal of pain without talking about it. Some Israelis and
Sabbatical, Summer, Silences...(con’t)

Palestinians have decided that the pain of their losses must be talked about – and shared – and shared not just among themselves, but with “the enemy.” Everyone has lost someone to the conflict, but among them, a group of Israelis and Palestinians who are connected through loss have formed an organization called The Parents’ Circle – families bereaved by the conflict. We observe the Middle East from our American perch, and we see the increase of violence and the cycles of deception and mistrust. It seems harder and harder to trust anyone. But this extraordinary group of people has decided that the only way to restore any hope for life will be to risk trusting the other. The most direct way to heal, they believe, will be to face the pain and transform it into reconciliation. I believe they speak the deepest truth about being a human being.

I had the privilege of being with them in Israel this summer – and those who will travel with me to Israel in February of 2016 will have the same privilege. Two leaders of this group, Robi Damelin and Bassam Aramin, will be joining us at Kol Ami on Yom Kippur. If you are following the polls, you know that the gap is widening between Israel and the American Jewish community. We are experiencing deep ruptures in our relationship with Israel. I hope that listening to and learning from Robi and Bassam will inspire us – and bless us with the courage to hope.

Shana Tova – I hope we make this a better and sweeter year,
Shira

Jazz, Jews, & Dads
RABBI TOM WEINER

Cantor David and I are bringing other Kol Ami Dads down to Jazz Fest, late April 2016 for an incredible weekend with our sons and daughters. Our lives are so crazy, and sometimes weeks go by filled with work and school before we realize we haven’t spent the time we’d like with our daughters and sons.

So, just as Passover ends, David and I have come up with the perfect solution. Think about it: If it was only for the amazing food that we’ll be eating in New Orleans . . . Dayeinu! If it was only for the incredible music available at Jazz Fest (http://lineup.nojazzfest.com) . . . Dayeinu! If it was only for the treasured time to travel and enjoy our own kids . . . Dayeinu! If it was only for the singular and moving musical service of Jazz Shabbat at Touro Synagogue on Friday night . . . Dayeinu. And if it was only for the time spent with other interesting and fun people from Kol Ami . . . Dayeinu. Keep your eyes open for the details coming your way.
“Shiru L’Adonai Shir Chadash”---Sing a New Song unto God

DAVID ROSEN

There is much to look forward to this year at Kol Ami. From wonderful programs to educational opportunities, all of us are blessed to be part of a community with so much to offer. There is also no shortage of opportunities to enjoy great music both on and off the bima. Many of you are familiar with the diverse and uplifting music of our Shabbat worship. As we continue to expand and strengthen our repertoire together, I hope that you and your family will continue to sing with us, whether that be from the seats of our sanctuary or as a member of one of our two choirs. Our adult choir, newly named “Kol Echad” is always excepting new participants. No experience is necessary… except a love for singing! And our children’s choir, “Or Chadash” is ready to rock and would love to have your child join our enthusiastic crew of young performers. Stay tuned for details!

In addition to music as part of worship, there are many other musical events taking place at Kol Ami this year. On Saturday November 21st at 8pm, Kol Ami will be hosting the Westchester Symphonic Winds Orchestra, conducted by Curt Ebersole. This impressive ensemble boasts over 70 instruments including our own Rachel Eckhaus on flute and piccolo. Both I and our music director Lenora Eve, will join this talented group of musicians as vocalists to offer you an entertaining and diverse evening of music and celebration. Proceeds will go towards strengthening our musical programming at the synagogue.

“Shabbat Shira”, (the”Sabbath of Song”), is going to be extra special this year. As part of our Friday night synaplex series, on Friday January 22nd, we will welcome “The Westchester Chordsmen”, an 80 voice barbershop chorus conducted by Keith Harris that will be preparing a special program and concert of both Jewish and Secular music. Their sound is incredible and their voices will fill our sanctuary with lush harmonies and soulful selections. As part of our Shabbat Shira weekend celebration, on Sunday January 24th at 12pm, Kol Ami will welcome singer/songwriter Rabbi Naom Katz who will present a special family concert for our community. Noam’s energy and infectious melodies are sure to have you singing at the top of your lungs and dancing down the aisles! All ages are welcome!!! As spring enters, we must not forget our Annual Purim Shpiel and Broadway production and our first ever Kol Ami’s got Talent show! Stay tuned for details about auditions and the announcement of this year’s production…

Finally, I would like to tell you about a year-long project that our ECP and Religious students will be working on during the upcoming year. In an effort to showcase the music of our synagogue youth, Kol Ami will present its first ever Children’s CD, featuring the music of our ECP, our Religious School and our youth choir. This project will give our children the opportunity to create a sacred souvenir of some of the music they have learned and sung from the variety of educational and programming opportunities they have participated in during their time here.

I could not be more excited about all the wonderful musical programs we will experience this coming year! These projects would not be possible without your generous support. I encourage you to be in touch if you are interested in supporting and/or helping out with these events or others in the future.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year!!

L’Shana Tova umetuka,
Cantor David, Ilyse and Joel
A Message From Our Religious School Director

FELICE MILLER BARITZ

Summer is over. It’s back to school time and time to prepare for the Jewish Holidays and a new year. For me, the summer was spent planning and preparing for this.

In addition to working on curriculum and creating a new calendar, cleaning and organizing our building and hiring new faculty, this summer I had the opportunity to participate in an amazing immersion program in Los Angeles at the Elaine Breslow Institute at Beit T’Shuvah. Beit T’Shuvah is a Jewish addiction treatment center. In this special program, called “Recovering Judaism for Clergy and Educators” we set out to immerse ourselves in learning that inspires a relevant Jewish approach for the challenge of human brokenness. I was asked to come with a personal willingness to explore the brokenness that exists within every human heart, including my own.

Quoted from an article in e-Jewish Philanthropy written by Rabbi Paul Steinberg, the Director of the Institute ~ “In 1972, during the television program Eternal Light, Abraham Joshua Heschel vigorously exhorted: “Here stands a man and I’ll tell you, this is a man who has no problems. Do you know why? He’s an idiot!” So it is: to be a mindful human is to have problems. Certainly, these problems include those of the world: injustice, corruption, poverty, warfare, hunger, and on and on. As Jewish mystics identified long ago, the world is broken and is in need of healing, and we should be doing what can to mend such brokenness.”

And so, we studied Jewish texts, liturgy and spiritual practice through the lens of brokenness as a means to uncover the healing potential that exits there. We engaged with Beit T’Shuvah residents, teachers and leaders who work and live in a community dedicated to spiritual practice of daily t’shuvah – the spiritual means to restoring wholeness to the broken. As we all approach a New Year, the High Holidays exist for each of us as a time of spiritual cleansing. The idea of doing T’Shuvah – to repair- is imbedded in the liturgy of our High Holidays. We review both the good and bad acts we have committed in the past year. We take time to reflect and ask for forgiveness from those we have harmed. As we contemplate the changes we hope to make in the coming year, we prepare to begin our journey anew. As we seek to bring joy to our lives, may we find it in the profound sense of recognition of our place, our belonging to a community. We need to take responsibility for our own growth and also rely on the community to lift us up as we continue our own journey to wholeness. We begin our process of T’Shuvah and atonement by preparing our thinking and our hearts. We first acknowledge debts to God and Others. Secondly, we have to believe that change is possible. I wish you and your loved ones a New Year filled with the hope of new possibilities, gratitude for all you have and a commitment to T’Shuvah ~ a return to wholeness. L’Shana Tova, Felice
A Message from Our ECP Director

NAN BLANK

I am delighted to welcome our entire ECP community. I hope all of our families and staff enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing summer. Our Temple staff under the direction of Jessica Lorden and Paul Mauro has worked tirelessly with me and my assistants Rachel Edelson and Tracey Schweber over the summer months to get our school ready for our September opening and everything is sparkling. We will begin our school year on Friday, September 11th with our Annual Ice Cream Social and classroom visiting and spend the middle part of the following week getting to know all of the children during our home visits. Our Parent-Teacher Evening is slated for Thursday, October 15th at 7:30.

ECP Family Photo Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th. Mariela Melamed (marielamelamedphotography.com), an extremely talented photographer, congregant, and past Temple Board member will join us again as our resident photographer. Pre-registration is required by calling the ECP office at 949-4717 ext. 107 or by emailing Nan Blank at nanblank@nykolami.org. EVERYONE IN OUR KOL AMI COMMUNITY AND BEYOND IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

Our Fall Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children is slated for Friday evening, November 20th at 5:30. Come and enjoy a family Shabbat service followed by a kosher dinner and child friendly entertainment. Please register ahead of time by either being in touch with me in the ECP office or by emailing me.

Please remember all Kol Ami families and friends of families with young children not presently enrolled in our Early Childhood Program that you are welcome to join us at every program the ECP sponsors. Please refer to the Temple’s website and monthly Connections for updates on all of our activities.

My family joins me in wishing everyone in our Kol Ami family L'Shana Tova, may you enjoy a year of sweetness and good health and may you be inscribed in the book of life.

Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Friday, September 11 • 11:30 am

HOME VISITS FOR 2’S, 3’S, & 4’S
Wednesday, September 16

SCHOOL VISITS FOR PRE-K’S
Wednesday, September 16

HOME VISITS FOR 2’S, 3’S, & 4’S
Thursday, September 17

PRE-K BEGINS
Thursday, September 17 • 9 am to 2:30 pm

SCHOOL BEGINS FOR 2’S, 3’S, & 4’S
Friday, September 18 • 5:30 TO 6:30 PM

ECP CLOSED
Monday, September 28
Tuesday, September 29
CONGREGATION KOL AMI

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Vice President, Ellen Kurtz, ekurtzln@verizon.net
Vice President, Lori Abrams, loriupbin@aol.com
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Marketing, Leslie Wiesen, Marketing@Nykolami.org
Inter-Faith Families, To Be Determined, WelcomeInterfaithFamilies@NYKolAmi.org
Men’s Council, Anthony Zitrin, Menscouncil@NYKolAmi.org
Leadership Development, To Be Determined, LeadershipDevelopment@NYKolAmi.org
Membership, Susan Davis, Lisa Hochman, Membership@NYKolAmi.org
Retreat, Genna Farley, Retreat@NYKolAmi.org
Worship, Sheryl Brady, Worship@NYKolAmi.org
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Facilities, David Seicol, FacilitiesCommittee@NYKolami.org
Personnel, To Be Determined, Personnel@nykolami.org
Planned Giving, Howard Geller, Evelyne Klein, PlannedGiving@NYKolAmi.org
Spring Fundraiser, Lori Abrams, SpringFundraiser@NYKolAmi.org
Coachman Family Center, Jess Lorden, Rabbi Shira Milgrom, HelpTheCoachman@NYKolami.org
Inclusion, Marci Frankenthaler, Beth Tomkiewicz, Inclusion@NYKolAmi.org
Inter-Faith Outreach, Julie Carran, Carol Mencher, InterfaithOutreach@NYKolAmi.org
Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack, Ginny Ruder, KolAmiCares@NYKolami.org
A Message from Our President

HANK ROUDA

It's hard to believe that the High Holy Days are just a couple of weeks away. As I write this, it's still in the 80's and 90's during the day and summer feels like it's in full swing. But, as we always do at this time of year, we start to get clues that the seasons are ready to change – the back to school sales, the kids all coming home from camp, and, of course, the announcements that it's time to send in your High Holy Day ticket request! This year we did something a little different.

By now, you all have had a chance to fill in the new Membership Application. We didn’t do this because we think that you’re all new members. Rather, we did this to make sure that we have the best and most up to date information about everyone. We’ve found that, over time, the information that we have about you has become dated or was missing to begin with. Why is it important that we have all of this information? We’ve spent a lot of time over the past few years finding new and interesting ways that we can reach out to all of the congregants. It’s helpful to really know each member so that we can make sure that we are shaping our efforts to meet your needs. You’ll see more of this effort over the coming year as we further refine our programming and the services that we offer to our congregants. As always, we welcome your suggestions on how we can improve any of our processes, including this updated Membership Application. If you haven’t sent yours in, please do so as soon as possible. We will not be able to send out your High Holy Day tickets until we have your form.

If you’re having issues with filling it out, please contact the office and they’ll be glad to help you.

The leadership talks about “community” all of the time. We stress building relationships. But what does it really mean? These aren’t simply empty concepts; they’re real efforts to build bridges and connections among individual congregants, among congregants and the clergy and staff, and among various identifiable groups such as empty nesters, B’nai Mitzvah families, etc… But, most importantly, it’s how we deal with each other in good and bad times.

It’s how we’re there for each other during life’s most trying times.

Recently, my sister, Diane, my wife, Jean, and I were able to experience the warmth and caring of this truly caring community. The passing of my mother came just 9 months after Jean lost her mother. We were just starting to recover from that loss when we were confronted with the reality that we would be going through the grieving process again. From the moment that we let people at Kol Ami know that we had to go to Dayton to be with my Mom, the outpouring of support and love was overwhelming. The calls from friends to just let us know that there were there meant so much to us, even when we could barely speak. Then there was the support that we received when we came home and celebrated Mom’s life with a shivah here at Kol Ami. And did I mention the cards? So many of you took the time to let us know that we are loved and that, somehow, we would get through this.

This, all of this, is community. We cannot thank you enough for being there when we so needed you.

Jean and I look forward to seeing all of you over the next few weeks as we worship together during the Days of Awe. L’shanah tovah – may it be a good year – a sweet year – for us all.

Hank
A Message from Our Executive Director

JESS LORDEN

As the High Holy Days rapidly approach, I am looking forward to welcoming everyone as we celebrate the New Year together in our beautiful sanctuary. As always, our office staff is busy filling ticket orders, answering questions and welcoming our new members. Led by Paul Mauro, our Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, our custodial staff is hard at work refreshing our buildings and cleaning classrooms and hallways to get ready for the opening of the Religious School and our Early Childhood Program. Once again, our temple calendar is full of wonderful opportunities to worship, study and celebrate, engage as a community, and practice Tikkun Olam. Dave, Sarah, Robby and I wish you Shana Tova Tikatavu. May this New Year be one of health and happiness for all of you.

PLEASE NOTE

High Holy Days Food Drive Sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism

Bags will be handed out Rosh Hashanah. Return them filled on Yom Kippur. Non-perishable food items only. Please - no glass containers. Remember the hungry at this time of year.

Kol Ami Directory

You may notice an extra ticket when you receive your High Holy Day Tickets. This WHITE ticket with BLUE lettering entitles your family to one Kol Ami Directory. Please present this ticket, and in return, you will be given, absolutely free, this year’s Directory. PLEASE NOTE: Books will not be distributed without the WHITE ticket with RED lettering.

Reciprocity

Guests who belong to other Reform congregations and want to attend out High Holy Day services must request that forms be sent to us from their temple office. If Kol Ami members would like to attend other Reform congregations’ services, please request courtesy forms at our office. We cannot accommodate visitors without these forms. Forms from other temples may be faxed to us, 2 weeks in advance, at (914) 946-8143. This reciprocity is made under the auspices of URJ.
HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES INFORMATION

• All High Holy Day services will be held at the temple. Two services will be held on the evening and the morning of each holiday. We are asking, therefore, that you select one of four combinations of services. They are described in detail on your Request for Tickets form.
• Please return your ticket request promptly. Orders will be processed by mail only. Your choice of services will be honored within the limits of the seating capacity. Requests will be filled in order of receipt.
• A morning Service will be held on the second day of Rosh Hashanah at 10:00 am.
• Payment of at least half of current dues, building fund (if applicable), all religious school fees, and full payment of outstanding prior balances (or an up-to-date arrangement on file) are required to obtain High Holy Day tickets.
• We encourage and welcome children to worship with their families. Children must have a ticket to be admitted to any service except the family Service. This will ensure that there is adequate seating for all. Please see the enclosed schedule and description of services to pick the most appropriate service for your children to attend. Please remember that children should not be allowed to wander unaccompanied through the building. Please be sensitive to the needs of your fellow congregants and leave the service with crying or restless young children.
• Child care will be available at the Temple at a fee of $25 per service per child or $100 per family for all services for which babysitting is available, whichever is less. This service will be provided during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Early Evening Services and at both Morning Services. Please call the temple office to make arrangements. In order that we may provide a sufficient number of sitters, a safe environment, and a wonderful experience for your children, we ask that reservations be made before August 31st.
• Services for students in grades 1-6 will be led by our rabbis and youth director concurrent with both morning services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. (A note about Yom Kippur Grades 1-6 Services—According to Jewish tradition only those children who have become Bar/Bat Mitzvah and older are required to fast. We have learned from past experience that it is very difficult for children younger than Bar/Bat Mitzvah age to fast. Therefore, you may wish to give your child a snack before coming to services.)
• Family Service (3:15 to 4:00 PM) offers parents and children of all ages an opportunity to participate in High Holy Day worship together. We keep the service short enough so that it does not become too long for the children’s attention spans. At the same time, we include enough of the traditional liturgy and observance to provide a meaningful Jewish spiritual experience for adults and their children.
• Guest tickets for services are available for members of your immediate family not residing in your home at a cost of $175 for each guest. Tickets for out-of-town guests are available on a limited basis at $175 each. Kol Ami does honor the URJ reciprocal guest policy. Due to space limitations, no other ticket requests can be honored. Checks payable to Congregation Kol Ami must accompany your request for guest tickets.
• Regular tickets or guest tickets will be required for Memorial Services. Those without tickets will be welcomed on a space-available basis. This policy will ensure adequate seating for our Kol Ami members while allowing members of the community an opportunity to attend Memorial Services.
• Please note: Those members or guests who are hearing impaired and require an INFRARED LISTENING DEVICE may pick them up at the door prior to the service. You must leave a form of ID with us.
• Those who attend the first service on Yom Kippur and wish to remain throughout the day may use Room 20 by the office for meditation and/or prayer during the second service. Those who wish may continue their worship after the second service at the Afternoon Service in the Schulman Chapel from 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

We look forward to celebrating a sweet New Year with all of you.
The Women of Reform Judaism at Kol Ami (also known as Kol Ami Sisterhood) is proud to serve our Congregation and community as well as to create an opportunity for women to learn, to share, and to celebrate Temple life, their families, and themselves. If you come to worship during the High Holidays, participate in Friday night services, celebrate life cycle events, or attend our educational programs, then you have shared in Kol Ami experiences that are supported by Sisterhood.

In the past few years we have significantly increased our social and philanthropic activities, creating a myriad of opportunities for members to become involved, to make new friends, to have fun, and to help make the world a better place! We strive to offer something for everyone, and we are always open to new ideas. We are especially proud that our High Holy Day food drives have been surpassing all expectations with thousands of pounds of food collected for the Food Bank for Westchester. Last Yom Kippur, our “Gift of Life” collection campaign for the bone marrow donor registry resulted in 110 donors joining. We held a very successful Fall Shopping Spree/Boutique in October with more than 30 vendors who left the event happy, and even more importantly, this fundraising effort provided us with the means to continue our support of Kol Ami. Our Purim baskets project, while fostering a sense of community, also resulted in increased revenue. These projects helped us fund a variety of Kol Ami and broader Sisterhood causes including underwriting the food for the Coachman Thanksgiving Dinner and the Coachman Memorial weekend barbecue.

Our social events such as the Havdalah series, Ladies Night Out, Tu b’Shevat Seder, and Membership Dinner, attracted a large number of Kol Ami’s women and brought us new members. We plan to host many of these events next year along with several new and exciting initiatives (such as a Chocolate Seder!). We were also able to provide financial support for the Early Childhood Program holiday celebrations, Religious School Purim Carnival, scholarships for high school students, adult education programs, Shabbat and High Holy Day Onegs, the cellist for Kol Nidre, Sukkah decorations, and so much more.

We are blessed to be able to do as much as we do because of wonderful volunteers as well as the dues-paying members of WRJ Kol Ami Sisterhood. Whether you are a long-time member of the Sisterhood or new to our organization, we hope you will take this opportunity to formally (re)join Sisterhood in the new year. With your dues payment of $40, you will enjoy discounted or free admission to events we sponsor while helping to deliver all the services provided by WRJ Kol Ami Sisterhood for our Congregation. And of course we hope that you will become an active participant as well! Our meetings and events are listed on the Kol Ami website at www.NYKolAmi.org/Sisterhood.

On behalf of WRJ Kol Ami Sisterhood, we thank all of you for your past and continued support and wish you and your families much joy and blessing in the New Year.

Women of Reform Judaism Events & Reminders

Meeting and Schmoozing in the Sukkah
September 29th

Defensive Driving Class
October 20 & 27
7:00 - 10:00pm
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.
Social Action

Cooking for the Homeless
In the Kol Ami kitchen
Sundays at 11:15 am:
Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 10,
Feb 7, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 22
and
Mondays at 12 pm:
Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Feb 1,
Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, June 6

The Cabin Group - Alcoholics Anonymous
Weekly (closed) Tuesday meetings at 5:45 pm
Schulman Chapel in the Woods

Al-Anon
Weekly (closed) Wednesday meetings at 7:00 pm
Schulman Chapel in the Woods

Mitzvah Knitz
Together we’ll knit Safghans, caps for Israeli soldiers and more.
Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month.
10:30 am, Sept 1

The Kol Ami Singers
Join us at nursing homes and assisted living facilities as we sing songs, accompanied by Murray Shapiro. Bring a little sunshine to the residents and make a difference in their lives.
The Kensington (4th Floor)
100 Maple Ave. Corner Longview
White Plains, NY
Wednesday Sept 9th 2015 at 2:30 PM

KOL AMI PANTRY IS NOW OPEN!

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: Tuesday 9:30AM – 11AM; Thursday 6:00PM – 7:30 PM; and Sunday 11:30AM – 1:00 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’S 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
• 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

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

Spiritual Journeying Groups

The Spirituality of Mortality and the High Holy Day Season: A Conversation
NEW CLASS THIS YEAR! 3 Wednesday Evenings
Sept 9, 16, and 30, 7 - 8:30 pm
While some may view death as an adversary, it is also an important spiritual teacher. How does mortality inform our living? Through readings, podcasts, and film clips, we will discuss the infinite, the finite, and the inevitable. The themes and liturgy of the Yamim Noraim and Sukkot will inform our conversations, as well. Facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax, WJCS Spiritual Care Coordinator.

Mussar Classes
Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 14, 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, beginning Sept 8th
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 stumersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation
Now entering its 5th year - Newcomers Always Welcome!
Thursday mornings, beginning Sept 24, 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

Wise Aging (Advanced Group)
8 Thursdays, Beginning Oct 8, 11:00 am -12:30 pm
Being 60 years of age and above can be a time of continued growth, new experiences, and life repair. Using texts, discussion and experiential exercises, we will identify the many possibilities that this stage of life offers. Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami. To register, contact Ruth at rrosenblum@wjcs.com. Suggested donation for non-synagogue members is $136.

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 and facilitates the Wise Aging program. Ruth can be reached directly through email (rrosenblum@wjcs.com) and phone (914 761-0600 ext. 148).
GATHER AND STUDY

Wisdom of the Sages at Kol Ami
Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 pm
Beginning Oct 8
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
5 Thursdays 9:15-10:30am
Session I: October 1
High Holidays: “I’m Sorry” The Role of Forgiveness and Failure in Families

Current Events with Beth & Gene Kava
Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Oct 5, 19, Nov 2, 16, 30, Dec 7, 21, Jan 4, 25, Feb 8, 22, 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.

Weekly Torah Study: Parashat Hashavua
Friday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 am
Led by Kol Ami members

Women’s Roundtable Breakfast*
Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am
Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 9, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4
With Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Join Kol Ami’s remarkable, multigeneration-al women for learning and friendship.

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.
Sept. 2nd
For more information contact Doris Dingott at 289-0869 or DLDingott@gmail.com

Kol Ami’s Women’s Oasis at Home Section I:
with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Tuesday, Oct 6, 7:30 - 9:30 pm
location to be announced

Prophets Seminar
Mondays 7:30 pm
beginning Oct 19
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.

WAJE PROGRAMS
These programs are offered by WAJE (Westchester Adult Jewish Education) and graciously hosted by Kol Ami.
For more information please contact Alice Tenney WAJE Director at 914-761-6309 or waje@wjcouncil.org

Zionism: An Idea That Will Not Die!
4 Wednesday mornings, 10:00 am – 12:15 pm
Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov 4
Adult Education

Hebrew Classes for Adults

Beginners Hebrew with Emily Fields*
Sundays  at 9:00 am
$150 per semester/10 classes
Beginning Oct 18

NEW CLASS! Learn the Service in Hebrew with Emily Feilds*
Sundays at 10:00 am
$150 per semester/10 classes
Beginning Oct 18
(For Advanced Beginners who can slowly read Hebrew)
Master the melodies and the Hebrew prayers.

Intermediate Hebrew with Emily Fields*
Sundays at 11:15 am
$150 per semester/10 classes
Beginning Oct 18

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

Choirs

Congregational Choir
Thursdays 7:45 - 9:30 pm
beginning October 8th
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 11:00am (when Religious school is in session)
beginning Oct 18th
Cantor David Rosen and Lenora Eve, Accompanist

Fun and Games

Bridge (Open to All): Experienced and Novice
Wednesdays at 10:30 am -2:30 pm
Kol Ami Atrium

Mah Jongg (Open to All): Experienced and Novice
Wednesdays  at 10:30 am
Kol Ami Atrium
Email Betsy McCormack (Betsymrc@aol.com) for information

PLANNING FOR LONG TERM-CARE DISCUSSION: HOSTED BY KOL AMI MEMBER PAUL KANDEL
With advances in medicine, people today are living longer than any generation before them. However, the longer you live, the more likely it is that you will need care. If you do need long-term care, it could impact your family as well as your retirement plan. Are you prepared? Learn the facts and join us for an informative session.

PLEASE CALL (212) 643-5908 to reserve your place.
Hosted by Paul Kandel
September 10 at 7:30pm
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. 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’s 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**

| □ Adult Education Fund | □ People to People Fund (supports activities of the Caring Community Program) | □ Youth Activities Fund (supports youth-related programs, scholarships and trips) |
| □ Audrey Greenberg Scholarship Fund (provides ECP tuition assistance for families in need) | □ Rabbi Shira Milgrom’s Discretionary Fund | □ Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership) |
| □ Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates) | □ Rabbi Tom Weiner’s Discretionary Fund | |
| □ Cantor David Rosen’s Discretionary Fund | □ Religious School Fund (supports special projects as determined by the Religious School Committee) | □ Yahrzeit Plaques $750 |
| □ College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college students) | □ Scholarship Fund for the Confirmands (10th graders) | □ Tree of Life Leaf $180 (Available in Gold, Silver and Copper) |
| □ Early Childhood Program Fund (supports teacher education and student scholarships) | □ Social Action Fund | |
| □ Fund for the Needy (provides assistance to those in need) | □ Synaplex Circle Fund | □ Sponsor a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg |
| □ Kol Ami Fund (our general fund) | □ Torah Repair Fund | □ Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush |
| □ Men’s Council Fund | □ WRJ Sisterhood Fund | □ Sponsor a Religious School Sunday Morning Bagel Breakfast |
| □ Scholarships Fund for the Confirmands (10th graders) | | |

**Plaques and Remembrances**

| □ Yahrzeit Plaques $750 |

**Giving Opportunities**

<p>| □ Sponsor a Religious School Sunday Morning Bagel Breakfast |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10:30am Mitzvah Knits</td>
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<td>7:30pm WRJ/Sisterhood Meeting</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>9:00am KA Reads Book Club - Room 20</td>
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<td>10:30am Mah Jongg</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week</td>
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<td>5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods</td>
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<td>6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00am Shabbat Lift</td>
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<td>8:30pm Selichot</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Labor Day - Temple Office Closed</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>10:30am Women in Transition</td>
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<td>7:00pm Spirituality of Mortality (Chapel)</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>10:30am Mah Jongg</td>
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<td>6:30pm Gr. 7 Mesorah Orientation Atrium</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>6pm - 8pm Rosh Hashanah Evening</td>
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<td>First Service - Tickets Required</td>
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<td>Second Service - Tickets Required</td>
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<td>9am - 11:15am Rosh Hashanah First Service - Tickets Required</td>
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<td>9am - 11:15am Grades 1-6 First Service - Tickets Required</td>
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<td>10:30am Bar Mitzvah Service</td>
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<td>for Alex Arovas</td>
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<td>5:30pm Bat Mitzvah Service</td>
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<td>for Melanie Barest</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>All day RS Full Day faculty meeting</td>
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<td>11:15am Cooking for the Homeless</td>
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<td>12:30pm Musarr Class</td>
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<td>7:30pm Prophets Seminar</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre Services</td>
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<td>6pm - 8pm Kol Nidre First Service - Tickets Required</td>
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<td>10:30am Bar Mitzvah of Vernon Ginsberg</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Erev Sukkot</td>
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<td>9am - 12pm Sukkot Festival</td>
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<td>5:30pm - 6:30pm Family Sukkot Service and Dinner</td>
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<td>10am Sukkot Service</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>No Religious School</td>
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<td>6:00pm Upper School Staff Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm Spirituality of Mortality (Chapel)</td>
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