

THE CONNECTION

Volume 68, No.3 • December 2015/January 2016

CELEBRATING HANUKKAH AT KOL AMI

000



see inside for details



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

CONGREGATION KOL AMI A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue • White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 • www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

Cantor • David Rosen

Executive Director • Jess Lorden

Assistant Executive Director • Ilene Miller

Religious School Director • Felice Miller Baritz

ECP Director • Nan Blank

President • Hank Rouda

RABBIS EMERITI

Lawrence W. Schwartz ∞

Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

OFFICERS

President, Hank Rouda, hrrouda@gmail.com

Vice President, Ellen Kurtz, ekurtzinc@verizon.net

Vice President, Lori Abrams, loriupbin@aol.com

Vice President, Gerri Sommers, gerrisommers@mac.com

Treasurer, Jonathan Litt, jlitt@kohlconstructiongroup.com

Secretary, Rachel Eckhaus, boardsecretary@nykolami.org

Board of Trustees, EmailTheBoard@NYKolami.org

COMMITTEES...

Calendaring, Rachel Eckhaus, boardsecretary@nykolami.org

Adult Learning, Jennifer Lemberg, AdultEd@NYKolami.org

B'nai Mitzvah, Stacey Matusow, Cindy Musoff,
BnaiMitzvah@NYkolami.org

College Youth, Laurie Cole, CollegeYouth@NYKolami.org

ECP, Cindy Musoff, ECP@NYKolami.org

Israel, Jack Berger, SupportIsrael@NYKolami.org

Religious School, Susan Kohn, Jen Labovitz,
ReligiousSchoolParents@NYKolami.org

Youth Groups, Karen Reynolds, YouthGroup@NYKolami.org

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

WRJ Sisterhood, Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus, Judy Sarch,
Sisterhood@NYKolami.org

Annual Fund, David Okun, AnnualFund@NYKolami.org

Budget and Operating, Jeff Gelfand,
OperatingBudget@Nykolami.org

Capital Budget, Howard Klein, Scott Musoff,
CapitalBudget@nykolami.org

Digital Communication, Judy Sarch, Webmaster@NYKolami.org

Dues Review, Martin Kahn, DuesReview@NYKolami.org

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,
Ellen Kurtz, 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

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*

Kabbalat Shabbat Services Including Shabbat Stories

6:15pm *in the Main Sanctuary*

Saturday Morning Services

Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift

with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Schulman Chapel

9:00am Coffee and Community

9:30 -10:30am Study

11:00am Shabbat Service in the Woods

SERVICES TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Week ending December 5, 2015

Parashat Vayeshev Genesis 37:1-40:23 Vayeshev begins the final extended narrative of Genesis, the Joseph story. The Joseph story serves as a bridge between B'reishit (Genesis) and Sh'mot (Exodus) in that Joseph, his brothers, and eventually his father start out in Canaan but end up in Egypt. The parashah weaves together the themes of family and betrayal, so evident in the early stories of Genesis, with the larger national themes of suffering and redemption that form the backbone of Exodus.

Week ending December 12, 2015

Parashat Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17 This week's parashah continues the story of Joseph at the end (miketz) of his prison term. Joseph, who has been Pharaoh's prisoner for two years, is released from jail in order to interpret Pharaoh's perplexing dreams.

Week ending December 19, 2015

Parashat Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27 Joseph's brothers are in Egypt to get food to bring back to famine-ridden Canaan. Our parashah begins with the brothers unknowingly standing before their brother Joseph, who has become the vizier of Egypt; and Judah asking to be imprisoned in place of his youngest brother Benjamin (whom Joseph framed). Judah, who once convinced his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery rather than kill him,

argues for Benjamin (Rachel's only other child) because he fears that any harm to Benjamin would break his father's heart.

Week ending December 26, 2015

Parashat Vayehi Genesis 47:28-50:26 This final parashah in the book of B'reishit brings the first book of the Torah full circle. The family stories of patriarchs and matriarchs culminate in the blessings of Jacob to his sons and grandsons. The centerpiece of this portion is a sequence of twelve blessings, delivered by Jacob to each of his sons. Jacob brings his entire family together to hear his words.

Week ending January 2, 2016

Parashat Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1 This week we begin the book of Exodus. In Hebrew, the name of the book and its first parashah is Shemot, meaning "names," referring to the names of the Israelites who come to Egypt with Jacob. A new Pharaoh who does not have direct experience with Joseph has taken control of Egypt. The Israelites are enslaved. Moses is born and in turn "gives birth" to the people of Israel.

Week ending January 9, 2016

Parashat Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35 God speaks to Moses, confirming the covenant that was made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The pleas of the enslaved Israelites have been heard by the Eternal, and God instructs Moses to promise the Israelites redemption. God also commands Moses to speak to Pharaoh and demand that he liberate the people of Israel. Pharaoh refuses to release the slaves and God causes plagues on the Egyptians in order to change Pharaoh's mind.

Week ending January 16, 2016

Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16 This *parasha* begins with a reiteration of God's challenge to Pharaoh to change his behavior while at the same time making it more difficult for him to do so. It concludes with the freeing of the Israelites from bondage. God tells Moses and Aaron that the people must remember how God freed them from bondage.

Week ending January 23, 2016

Parashat B'shalach Exodus 13:17-17:16 Pharaoh finally releases the Israelites from Egypt, only to change his mind again and chase after them with a force of 600 chariots. God parts the waters at the Sea of Reeds, and the Israelites are freed from slavery once and for all. The Egyptians who are pursuing them are drowned as the Sea of Reeds once again closes. The liberated Israelite slaves celebrate once they are safe on the other side, and are led by Moses' sister Miriam in singing and dancing *Mi Chamocha*.

Week ending January 30, 2016

Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23 *Yitro*, also known as Jethro, is Moses' father-in-law. He observes the toll that Moses' leadership of the Hebrews is taking and advises Moses to delegate some of the responsibility and authority. In this *parasha*, the people find themselves at the base of Mount Sinai after several weeks of wandering. This is the site where God presents Moses with the Ten Commandments.



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. **The first and the second of the series of Shabbat in My Home – Come Say Shalom dinners were held on Friday evening, October 2, and December 4.** Participants included a true cross section of our community – singles, couples and families with kids of all ages. Hosts received gift bags filled with challah, Shabbat candles, homemade cookies, prayers and a logo to be displayed in group photos. Please let Susan Davis (susanhopedavis@hotmail.com) or Lisa Hochman (lisahochman@mac.com) know if you would like to participate as a host or a guest. There are also signup sheets at the temple. The next scheduled date for Shabbat in My Home - Come Say Shalom is March 18, 2016.

B'NAI MITZVAH

We will be celebrating the following children's bar & bat mitzvot this month. Mazal Tov!



Julia Kindler, daughter of Amy and Martin Kindler and sister to Rachel, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 5,

2015. Julia is in eighth grade at Louis M. Klein Middle School. Julia has taken her love for sleep away camp and selected Project Morry for her mitzvah project. Project Morry is a youth development program that provides an intensive camp program for children who would not have had such an opportunity. She has volunteered in the office and held numerous bake sales to provide soccer equipment for the camp. Julia enjoys playing on her travel soccer team, basketball, skiing and spending time with family and friends. She can't wait for her special day.



Ryan Max Stuzin, son of Nancy and Randy Stuzin and younger brother to Lauren and Devin, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 5, 2015. Ryan is a seventh grader at Edgemont Junior High. He loves to

travel and ski. He has been on the Stratton Mountain Racing Team since he was 6 years old. He also plays lacrosse, baseball and golf. For his mitzvah project, Ryan organized and conducted the first ever "Drive Around" for Furniture Sharehouse when he spent the day driving around Westchester, picking up used furniture and delivering it to Furniture Sharehouse's warehouse for distribution to those in need.



Michael Joshua Mayeri, son of Elizabeth and David Mayeri and younger brother to Alexander, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 12, 2015. Last spring,

Michael started volunteering for The Miracle League of Westchester for his Mitzvah Project, which is a baseball league for special

needs children, which enables them to play baseball at a specially designed adaptive field. Sharing his passion for baseball, Michael served as a "buddy" for children on the autism spectrum on Sunday mornings. He has enjoyed working with the players to help them develop skills, confidence and a love of baseball. Michael is an eighth grader at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. Besides his love of baseball, he enjoys playing basketball and football and hanging out with his friends. He looks forward to sharing this special day with his friends and family.



Mia Ripp, daughter of Bonnie and Peter Ripp and sister of Nathan, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 12, 2015. Mia is a 7th grader at Edgemont Jr. High School. Mia

enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She is very artistic and loves baking. Her mitzvah project incorporated her passion for baking with a really good cause. She had a baking marathon that stretched from a Friday afternoon through the next day baking delicious desserts for the Coachman Center's Thanksgiving Feast hosted by Kol Ami. We are proud of her for her kind heart, hard work academically, her positive attitude and her contagious smile and laughter.



Alex Rose, son of Allison and Michael Rose and brother to Hannah, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 9, 2016. He is in 7th grade at Louis M. Klein middle school in Harrison. Alex loves

to play soccer and enjoys hanging out with his family and friends. He enjoys going to sleep away camp in Maine where he loves being outdoors and playing different sports. For his mitzvah project Alex volunteered at the Backyard sports program teaching children with special needs different sports skills. Alex also worked with the Children's Hope Chest raising money at bake sales and collecting items for children in foster care. Alex is looking forward to

becoming a bar mitzvah and celebrating with his family and friends.



Alyssa Kopczynski, daughter of Amy Freedman and Kevin Kopczynski, sister of Eric and Cameron Kopczynski, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on

Saturday, January 16, 2016. Alyssa is a 7th grader at Louis M. Klein Middle School in Harrison. She enjoys ballet, swimming, going to concerts, and getting together with her friends. Alyssa has worked hard this fall raising money for 'camperships' for her summer camp, Camp Coniston. Camp Coniston has a long tradition of helping kids who would not otherwise have the chance to go to overnight camp. Alyssa has raised money through bake sales, making homemade dog treats, and completing a 5K race. Her contributions to the camp will help send a child to camp this summer from a community of resettled refugees from the Congo.



Sam Feldman, son of Lisa and Andy Feldman and younger brother of Jonah Feldman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January

16, 2016. For Sam's mitzvah project, he volunteered as a buddy with the Miracle League of Westchester. The Miracle League is a league for special needs children that enables them to play baseball at a specially-designed adaptive field. Sam is a 7th grader at Edgemont Junior High School. He loves playing sports and spending time with his family and friends.



Scarlett Dalia Kraus, daughter of Schuyler and Amelie, and sister of Avery and Penelope will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 7, 2016. Scarlett is an amazing athlete

who excels at soccer, basketball and lacrosse. When she is not on the field, she loves to travel, read and spend time with friends and family. Scarlett is funny, compassionate and very organized!

The Kol Ami Men's Council Invites You to a FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY

Sunday, December 13th

11:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m

Everyone's welcome! Activities for children (2-10)

Crafts for Kids, Latkes, and Doughnuts

Dreidel Spinning, Hanukkah Music, Storytelling

A pizza lunch and refreshments will be served

**Admission is free . . . Tzedakah, by choice:
an unwrapped children's toy to be donated to charity**

Please RSVP by Friday, December 4th to: Anthony Zitrin (anthonyzitrin@aol.com)

Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah Come Light the Menorah...



Celebrate the "light" of this holiday at Kol Ami's Adult Hanukkah party

Monday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.

**Enjoy a special Menorah lighting, Hanukkah dinner, & Grab Bag in the
Gallery at Kol Ami**

*(Grab Bag - Please bring a wrapped item that you would like to
"regift" or something you find for \$10.00 or less)*

If you have a menorah that you would like to light, please bring it.

Come and bring a friend! \$25.00 per person

**RSVPs are a must! To RSVP please email Ellen Bittner ebpl101@gmail.com, or Lisa
Borowitz lborowitz@ramius.com**

DECEMBER 11, 2015

A HANUKKAH SYNAPLEX FOR ALL!



Shabbat of Hanukkah

5:00pm Explorations in Jewish music with Cantor David Rosen

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for young children

6:00pm Hanukkah Candle Lighting for ALL!!

Bring your menorahs and we will supply the candles in the Atrium

6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary

6:15pm Hanukkah Festival for Families in the Auditorium

(Reservations required)

Activities and food for all: tzedakah sandwich making, dreidel games, sand art, decorate a menorah, create an edible dreidel, cookie decorating, stained glass, a story corner and more. **Special Hanukkah menu** including (but not limited to) hero sandwiches, potato latkes, pizza, pasta, grilled cheese, dessert and more!! **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!**

7:15pm Hanukkah Festival continues for the community

KEYNOTE AT 8:00PM

Guest speaker, Joy Ladin: "What Was a Nice Jewish Girl Like Me Doing in a Man's Body?"

A Transgender Woman Remembers Her Painful Search"

Dr. Joy Ladin is a professor of English and holds the David and Ruth Gottesman Chair in English at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. She is the first openly transgender employee of an Orthodox Jewish institution.

Joy Ladin (born Jay Ladin) is the first openly transgender professor at an Orthodox Jewish institution. Gender defines us from the moment we're born. But how is that related to the lifelong work of being at home in ourselves? For as far back as Joy Ladin can remember, her body didn't match her soul. We explore this question through her story of transition from male to female — in an orthodox Jewish world. **ASL INTERPRETATION PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.**

8:00pm: Supervised sports and games with Coach Steve for children in grades K-6

For more information contact ilenemiller@nykolami.org or visit our website at www.nykolami.org

Please complete this form and return to the temple office no later than December 7th

**Save these dates for future Synaplex events:
January 22, February 26, April 8 and May 13**

~~~~~

#### HANUKKAH FESTIVAL AND DINNER RESERVATION

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#Children/teens \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#Children 3 and under \_\_\_\_\_ = N/C

**Adult Name/s**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Name/s & Ages**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email address**

\_\_\_\_\_

We recite these b'rachot on  
each night of Hanukkah:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ  
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav, vitzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Source of the Universe, Who teaches us  
ways of holiness, and calls us to kindle the light of Hanukkah.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים  
לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּיָּמָן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'asah nisim  
la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazeman hazeh.

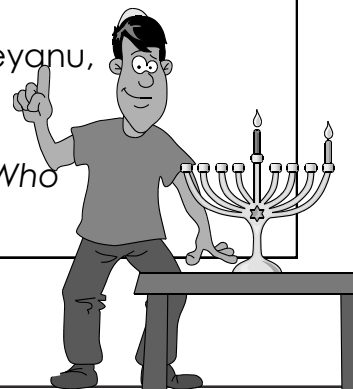
*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Source of the Universe, Who has done  
miracles for our ancestors in days of old, [and] at this time.*

We also recite the Shehecheyanu  
on the first night of Hanukkah:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ, וְקִיָּמָנוּ,  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיָּמָן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu,  
v'kiyemanu, v'higianu lazeman hazeh.

*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Source of the Universe, Who  
has given us life, sustained us and brought us to this time.*





# A Message From Our Rabbi

TOM WEINER



## Rabbi Tom Connecting with our Community

### Do you have a child in college or graduate school?

If you haven't already, please send in their contact information as soon as possible to [genaeisenberg@nykolami.org](mailto:genaeisenberg@nykolami.org). We don't want them to miss out on holiday greetings or contact with Rabbi Tom when he is making plans to get together with our students. Please provide your child's/children's:

- Name
- Mailing address (include if there are any study abroad plans)
- School name and expected date of graduation
- Email address and Cell phone



**JOIN US FOR THE KOL AMI DADS/KIDS\* JAZZ FEST TRIP  
WITH RABBI TOM AND CANTOR DAVID  
APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2016**

**THURSDAY** - TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS  
**FRIDAY** - END PASSOVER TOGETHER WITH BAGELS AND BEIGNETS, AND ENJOY THE FOOD AND MUSIC OF NEW ORLEANS AT JAZZ FEST (SEE [WWW.NOJAZZFEST.COM](http://WWW.NOJAZZFEST.COM) FOR DETAILS)  
**FRIDAY EVENING** - GROUP DINNER FOLLOWED BY JAZZ SHABBAT AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS TOURO SYNAGOGUE  
**SATURDAY** - EXPLORE NEW ORLEANS AND ENJOY JAZZ FEST  
**SATURDAY EVENING** - HAVDALLAH ON THE BANKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
**SUNDAY** - RETURN TO NEW YORK

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND WE'LL ENJOY THE MUSIC OF JAZZ FEST AND EXPLORE THE FRENCH QUARTER AND LIFE IN NEW ORLEANS IN THE COMPANY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM KOL AMI.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

BEST WESTERN PLUS FRENCH QUARTER LANDMARK HOTEL  
 (PRICE IS \$783/ROOM INCL TAXES & BREAKFAST FOR THREE-NIGHT STAY.  
 PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AT 504-524-3333  
 and reference the "congregation KOL AMI" group.)

#### ADDITIONAL COSTS (RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH FAMILY):

JAZZ FEST TIX.: APPROX. \$60/DAY  
 FLIGHTS: APPROX. \$500-\$600 PP (AS OF EARLY NOV.)  
 TRANSPORTATION AROUND TOWN, TO/FROM AIRPORT, ETC.

#### INTERESTED? FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE DETAILS, WRITE:

gena eisenberg at [genaeisenberg@nykolami.org](mailto:genaeisenberg@nykolami.org)  
 or Lisa Borowitz at [LBorowitz@ramius.com](mailto:LBorowitz@ramius.com).

\*ALL AGES WELCOME, AS WELL AS GRAMPS, UNCS OR BROS.

# A Message from our Cantor

DAVID ROSEN



The Israeli Curling Team has its eyes set on 2018 Winter Olympics.

I remember the first time I heard about the Jamaican Bobsled team. How is it possible for a country with such a warm climate to compete internationally in a sport that involves snow and ice? The Jamaican bobsled team made their Olympic debut in Calgary, Alberta in 1988.

They quickly gained fame and were the inspiration for the hit movie “Cool Runnings” that came to theatres in 1993. While the team has yet to win gold, they are a true inspiration and have led the way for many other nations to attempt what seems like the unthinkable.

At the East York Curling Club in Toronto last winter, Yuval Grinspun made a joke that would change his life. He kibitzed that if he ever wanted to compete in the Olympics, all he needed to do was start an Israeli curling team. While he chuckled after making this comment, his wife told him that he was probably the first person to have this idea.

Grinspun, a native of K’far Saba started to do some research and discovered that delegates from the Israel Curling Federation had recently toured five curling clubs in the United States and Canada in search of high-caliber Jewish athletes. They were eager to form an Israeli national team and, without sufficient talent in the holy land, the ICF went scouting for Jewish curlers living in the Diaspora. Grinspun missed the ICF’s visit to Ontario, but later caught up with them and secured himself a spot on the team.

While the national team got off to a poor start, as the teammates began to gel with one another, they also began to win more games. They have already won a silver medal at the Group “B” Championship in Switzerland and more curling leagues and support for the team continue to form in the

land of Israel. In recent years the ICF has also created a mixed-gender national wheelchair curling team comprised of athletes with disabilities, including many veterans injured during service in the Israeli army.

Curling continues to gain national and international recognition in Israel and beyond and one should not be surprised to see the Israeli Curling team standing on the ice in Pyeong Chang, South Korea in 2018.

What I love most about curling is that it is a sport that is truly an equalizer. Regardless of age, sex, race or religion anyone has the ability to excel at the sport of curling. It is even possible for people with disabilities to play the game as well. As we enter into the colder months, I hope that all of you venture out to the rink or some other venue to embrace the seasons that we are fortunate enough to experience in the North East.

Wishing all of you a Happy Chanukah and wonderful Holiday season,

**Warmly,**  
David

# A Message From Our Religious School Director

FELICE MILLER BARITZ



As December rounds the corner... what is most on our children's minds is VACATION! There is still much to do before everyone heads off for that much anticipated winter break. Our 3rd Grade students and their parents will join together to read and discuss the book **Christmas Menorahs** on Sunday Dec. 13th - The same day as our annual

Kol Ami Blood Drive. On Sunday, December 13th our 5th grade students will be visiting the Museum of Jewish Heritage and our 3rd grade students will be visiting the Jewish Museum. Tom, Josh and I will also be leading a group of our High School students on a service learning trip to Costa Rica during the winter break.

The first candle of Hanukkah is the evening of Sunday, Dec. 6th. We will again be collecting new, unwrapped toys to donate to those in our community who are less fortunate than us... look for a bin in the school lobby.

## The History of Hanukkah

Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (Dec. 7th this year!) and lasts for eight days. It commemorates the victory of Judah Maccabee and his followers over the forces of the Syrian tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes and the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem, which the Syrians had profaned. Hanukkah celebrates more than the end of an unsuccessful attempt by an outside power to destroy Judaism. The threat to Judaism was both internal and external.

The assimilation to Hellenistic culture was so great that certain elements within Jewish society sought to become fully assimilated, to be accepted as Greek citizens and to participate in Greek culture at the expense of their own unique Judaic culture. The resistance of the Maccabees and their allies to the blandishments of assimilation preserved Judaism. The story of Hanukkah is the age-old struggle of

the Jewish people to remain in a non-Jewish world.

To celebrate their victory and to re-dedicate the Temple, the Maccabees proclaimed an eight-day festival, which was to be observed annually. According to the Talmudic legend, when the Hasmoneans recaptured and cleansed the Temple, they were able to find only a single cruse of oil with the seal of the High Priest, sufficient for one day's lighting of the Menorah. But, as the story goes, a miracle occurred, and it burned for eight days.

The nightly kindling of the Menorah with its increasingly brighter light has become a symbol for both our physical and spiritual resistance to tyranny and assimilation. Jewish tradition has preserved this two-fold concept of resistance. The "Not by might and not by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord (4:6)."

Enjoy the celebration of freedom that Hanukkah represents... and enjoy the time together with your families that vacation provides! We return to our Religious School classes on Wed. Jan. 6th and Sunday, January 10th.

**Fondly,**  
Felice



## A Message from Our ECP Director NAN BLANK

We have exciting news at the ECP! We are thrilled to announce the opening of our new Outdoor Classroom, which stands proudly at the front of our building.

We hear repeatedly that our way of living prevents children from interacting with nature as much as they should. Direct connections with nature provide children with a sense of the world around them. With this in mind, the ECP created a garden program six years ago. Since that time, the garden curriculum has grown into a year-round, garden and nature program that involves the entire school: 2's, 3's, 4's and 5's.

Now, thanks to a generous donation from the Michelson Family, we have taken the next step. We have planned, designed, and built an outdoor classroom. The classroom is an enclosed 3000 square foot outdoor space that incorporates seven learning areas: Art, Music, Gardening, Digging, Climbing, Dramatic Play, and Water Exploration.

All children in all classes all year round will have the chance to use this space to play and learn.

The Outdoor Classroom will be used under the direction of our Garden and Teva educators Susan Kohn Arovas and Candice Moscoe-Polner. The ECP staff will have ongoing training on how to use the space effectively and will bring their classes outside to the classroom throughout the school year. We can't wait to get our hands dirty and play, learn, discover and explore!

***Warmly,***  
Nan

## Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

**December 4**

ECP Closed for Staff in-service

**Friday, December 18**

ECP closes at 12:00 noon

**Monday, January 4, 2016**

ECP Re-opens

**Monday, January 18**

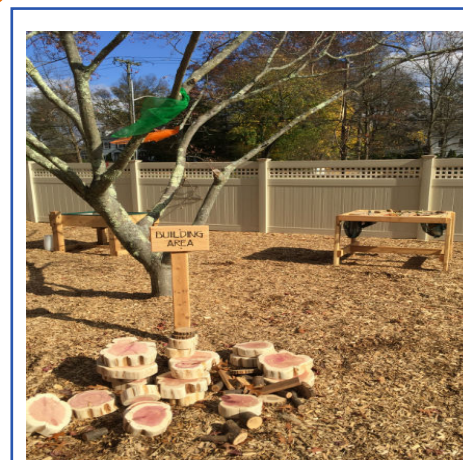
ECP Closed

**Sunday, January 24 at 11:30**

Family Concert with Noam Katz



# WELCOME TO THE NEW ECP OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND!







"Tzedakah and acts of kindness are the equal of all of the mitzvot in the Torah." Jerusalem Talmud. We, as a community, excel at performing acts of kindness. We are there for each other in times of joy and in times of need. And we do not limit ourselves to our own Kol Ami community. Our work with the Coachman Family Center is a perfect example of how

we have reached beyond our walls and into our larger community to help provide for others. Just a couple of weeks ago, we spent a wonderful afternoon/evening with our friends at the Coachman as we celebrated an early Thanksgiving. From the fantastic food prepared by our volunteers led by Chef Jay Hack, to the arts and crafts, to the basketball game, to the gifts of books donated by all of you, this was a day of true giving to and for others.

Our relationship with our synagogue has evolved from that of our parents and their parents. When I was younger, the temple was the central focus of our Jewish lives and my parents supported it accordingly. This was just a given. Today, there are so many other options, both Jewish and secular which are competing for our attention and funds. We're bombarded with "free gifts" in the mail, especially at this time of year. So, it's understandable that Kol Ami might not always be at the top of mind when it comes time to make your year-end donations.

While it may be understandable, it also need not be that way. If you haven't yet made your Annual Fund pledge, now is the time. I challenged the congregation to far exceed last year's numbers, and, unfortunately, we are still lagging behind our goals. The Annual Fund helps us to bridge the gap between our other revenue (primarily dues) and our fixed operating expenses. This year, more than ever, we need your help to keep our financial position strong.

The beauty of being able to give to Kol Ami is that you are actually able to direct your funds to fit your own personal focus. If you and your family loved the Retreat and can't wait for it to come again – we created the Retreat Fund so that you can help continue this beloved tradition. If you believe in giving to others when they are in need – the Fund for the Needy does just that. If you love music – donate to our Music Fund. If you're passionate about continuing to be informed and educated – our Adult Education Fund helps us bring exceptional teachers and programs to Kol Ami year after year. If you care deeply about our children's Jewish education – the Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund is the right place. There are so many other options, including the Biennial Fund, People to People, Religious School, ECP and Social Action. Just call the

office if you want more information on a specific fund. We're making it as easy as possible for you to donate. You can order a set of donation cards from the office so that you have them available when an occasion (i.e., a birth, B'nai Mitzvah, a death, etc...) arises that you would like to recognize with a donation. Or, even easier, you can go on-line to [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) and go to the Donate Page. We'll even waive the 3% fee so that your donation has the maximum impact (of course, you can choose to add the 3% on top of the donation to help defray the costs of processing the donations). Or you can still simply write a check, but make sure that you write what it's for on the Note line so that we can credit it appropriately.

In addition to our funds, you can also commemorate life events, such as B'nai Mitzvahs, birthdays, confirmations, etc... with a leaf on the Etz Chaim – the Tree of Life that was donated by Edward & Jeanne Nerenberg and that beautifies our atrium. Or, if you wish to remember a loved one, you can purchase a plaque for the yahrzeit wall in the rear of the sanctuary, which also includes a separate plaque that will be placed on the yahrzeit stands in the window alcoves during the week of your loved one's yahrzeit.

As I talked about on Rosh Hashanah and as you've seen here in The Connection, we have also set up a Planned Giving campaign to create an Endowment that will protect Kol Ami's future. Please reach out to our Planned Giving Co-Chairs, Evelyne Klein and Howard Geller, to discuss how you can participate in ensuring the continuity of our community. Whatever your "Entrance to Kol Ami" may be, there is a way for you to help support this place that is at the center of so many of our Jewish lives. I encourage you to put Kol Ami at the top of your list of donations as we say goodbye to 2015. Jean and I wish you joyous holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year!

L'shalom,  
Hank

# A Message from Our Executive Director

JESS LORDEN



## THANK YOU!

**We gratefully acknowledge the 233 Kol Ami members who generously contributed to our Annual Fund. Your donations, all personally meaningful, ranged from \$18 to \$15,000.**

**You are our heartbeat.**

**Thank you for giving generously and for your continuing commitment to Congregation Kol Ami!**

Zef & Jill Abraham  
Robert & Lori Abrams  
Howard & Nancy Adler  
George & Leslie Akst  
Arthur & Sara Amron  
Greg & Susan Arovas  
Jim & Margery Arsham  
John & Jennet Auerbacher  
Warren & Amy Barest  
Nathan & Carrie Barotz  
Jamie & Ivy Barr  
Alan & Claudia Barson  
Nir & Laura Barzilai  
David & Royce Battleman  
Jimmy & Robin Benerofe  
Mike & Brenda Benn  
Jack & Randy Berger  
Lisa Borowitz  
Richard & Linda Botton  
Lynne Boxenhorn  
Steve & Sheryl Brady  
David & Michelle Braun  
Gary & Jodi Breitbart  
Judi Brown  
Arthur & Dena Caione  
David & Lauri Carey  
Ron & Julie Carran  
Alec & Audrey Clarke  
Robin Cohen  
Kevin & Shari Cohen  
Dorothy Cohn  
Philip & Esther Colbran  
David & Karen Cole  
Stephen & Wendy Cutler  
Paul & Susan Dantzig  
Mitchell & Allison Danzig

Paul & Susan Davis  
Marvin & Doris Dingott  
Lynne Dolle  
Rob & Lori Dorr  
Ed & Sandy Dresher  
Rachel Eckhaus  
Riva Edelman  
Eric & Bonnie Eilen  
Linda Ellis  
John & Margaret Falk  
Genna Farley  
Frederick Feiner  
Andrew & Lisa Feldman  
Andrew & Jane Feldstein  
Joel Figura  
Bill & Barbara Fischer  
Ellen Flaks  
Dan & Linda Forman  
Michael & Marci Frankenthaler  
Robert & Fran Freedman  
Bernice Gale  
Amy Gamon  
Jeff & Judy Gelfand  
Howard & Michele Geller  
Paul & Marsha Geller  
Eddy & Wendy Gellert  
Peter & Helene Ginsburg  
Richard & Katy Glassberg  
Loren & Carla Glassman  
Leni Glauber  
Mo & Rachel Glazman  
Adam & Melanie Gluck  
Ruth Goldberg  
Alan & Joyce Goldman  
Robert & Barbara Goldstein  
Darren & Nancy Gordon

Ken & Susan Gordon  
Roy & Nancy Gross  
Jonathan & Randi Guttenberg  
Jack Handelsman  
Ingrid Hauptman  
Allen & Madeline Hauptman  
Mark & Janet Hershey  
Bill & Debbie Hoch  
Stephen & Judy Hochman  
Dan & Vicki Horowitz  
Harris & Randye Jacobs  
Ted & Mickey Jacobs  
John & Susan Jureller  
Ken & Gail Jurist  
George Kadar  
Martin Kahn  
Frank & Laura Kaiman  
Lore Kalb  
Barbara Kaminsky  
Paul & Emily Kandel  
Irwin & Albie Katz  
Joan Kaufman  
Gene & Beth Kava  
Brian & Laura Kempner  
Matthew & Suzanne Kirsch  
Howard & Jodi Klein  
Erik & Adriane Klein  
David & Evelyn Klein  
Eugene & Carol Klein  
Kevin & Amy Kopczynski  
Russ & Robin Kopp  
Lawrence & Miriam Kraus  
David & Michelle Kroin  
Ellen Kurtz  
Jon & Jen Labovitz

Jo Landau  
 Stu & Shari Lang  
 Yvette Lawrie  
 David & Cathy Lee  
 Maura Lehr  
 Andrew & Joele Levenson  
 Jeffrey & Laurie Levine  
 Stephanie Levine  
 Harley Lewis  
 Gary & Margie Lewis  
 Bill & Gloria Lewit  
 Elaine Libman  
 Jonathan & Ellen Litt  
 Steve & Elaine Loewengart  
 Dave & Jess Lorden  
 Murray & Emily Lubitz  
 Rosita Manocherian  
 Larry & Nancy Marcus  
 Susan Marell  
 Irwin & Phyllis Margolin  
 Stanley Markovits  
 Judd & Harriet Marmon  
 Michael & Sandy Mason  
 Stacey Matusow  
 David & Elizabeth Mayeri  
 Tom & Betsy McCormack  
 Kevin & Judy McEvoy  
 Carol Mencher  
 Charlie & Dana Milian  
 Glenn & Ilene Miller  
 Bernice Millman  
 Rob & Karen Millman  
 Michael & Daryl Moss  
 Diana Munder  
 Scott & Cindy Musoff  
 Mark & Vivian Nadasdi  
 Eric & Dorian Nerenberg  
 Edward & Jeanne Nerenberg  
 Richard & Joan Newman  
 Richard & Dana Novitch  
 Ken & Irene Nussbaum

David & Lori Okun  
 Myra Oltsik  
 Gary & Pamela Orentlicher  
 Dean & Suzanne Perlman  
 Milt & Linda Persily  
 Elaine Petschek  
 Henry & Jean Pollak  
 Stephen & Melinda Post  
 Rob & Stacey Pushkin  
 Ann Rakoff  
 Steven & Judy Rieger  
 Ronald & Carole Ries  
 Robbins-Rosenberger  
 Stanley Robinson  
 Stanley & Mimi Rogowsky  
 Jim & Natasha Rose  
 Susan Ross  
 Marty & Anne Rotberg  
 Peter & Jodi Roth  
 Jerry & Sheila Rothman  
 Hank & Jean Rouda  
 Deborah Rubin  
 Paul & Pamela Rubin  
 Steven & Maria Salzinger  
 Bob & Bobbie Sandler  
 Danny & Judy Sarch  
 Richie & Ellen Sarna  
 Faith Saunders  
 Lew Schepps  
 Douglas & Jennifer Scherr  
 Carol Schifrin  
 Mark & Julia Schonfeld  
 Paul & Rhona Schupak  
 David & Lorraine Seicol  
 Mark & Andrea Seiden  
 Andy & Robbie Seidman  
 Stan & Barbara Selbst  
 Roger Seti  
 Peter & Hilary Shaev  
 Murray & Ethel Shapiro  
 Jerry & Harriet Shenkman

Bill & Susan Shmerler  
 Barbara Shore  
 Jason & Jenifer Shuker  
 Richard & Brenda Siegler  
 Bill & Karen Silverman  
 Nancy Simon  
 Greg & Henie Simon  
 Jay & Grace Singer  
 Richard & Alison Smith  
 Ron & Lesley Sommers  
 Andrew & Gerri Sommers  
 Stuart Sorell  
 Gail Sorrel  
 Eric & Jill Staffin  
 Ed & Marian Steinberg  
 Roger & Gail Stern  
 Lois Stogel  
 Gerry & Robin Stoughton  
 Richard & Jennifer Strassler  
 David & Elissa Strauss  
 Todd & Wendi Strier  
 Steven & Kathy Svetcov  
 Jason & Lisa Tames  
 Moshe & Beth Tomkiewicz  
 Geraldine Trent  
 Peter & Alison Vanderpool  
 David & Tara Vogel  
 Andrew & Elizabeth Ward  
 David & Maggy Weber  
 Bella Weissman  
 Leslie Wiesen  
 Grace Wiggs  
 Amy Winkler  
 Bert & Patty Wohl  
 Kevin & Lisa Worth  
 Lenny & Gail Zavlick  
 Anthony & Debra Zitrin  
 Joe & Janet Zuckerman  
 Michael & Michelle Zweig

**REMEMBER CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
 IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

**MAKE A BEQUEST OR GIFT TO THE LEGACY FUND  
 OF CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
 SO THAT YOUR LIFE AND VALUES  
 MAY LIVE ON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
 EVELYNE KLEIN: 761-7659**

## "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, Myrna Barzellatto and Sara Elkin will be our "guides" as they describe their religious passages at Kol Ami.

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

Dear Readers,

(Although I did not have a Jewish journey, as such, I feel that my real religious journey has just begun at Kol Ami, due to these four remarkable people.)

"I Am Here" by Susan Ross

If you are lucky enough, someone comes into your life that makes all the difference to you. Often, those times are when you least expect it to happen to you.

How fortunate for me that I met four dynamic members of Kol Ami, who changed the direction of my life. Not only did they provide spiritual comfort but made me aware of the vast variety of classes, programs and activities available here.

Thirteen years ago, I met Lisa Borowitz, when I came to Kol Ami seeking solace, after my mother had passed away. Sad and lonely and wondering why a vibrant woman had died so suddenly, there was Lisa standing in the Sanctuary with arms outstretched welcoming me to Kol Ami. To this day, I still remember that first encounter with Lisa.

Though I only attended a few services then, it was not until my father passed away recently that I came back to Kol Ami knowing that I would find Lisa welcoming me once again with open arms and a beautiful smile.

I AM HERE BECAUSE OF HER.

As Rabbi Shira Milgrom was away this summer, I became acquainted with Rabbi Tom Weiner through his services and classes that he taught. He afforded me a tremendous honor, when he allowed me to speak about my father during the HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES. It was then that I not only acknowledged my father's passing but accepted it as well.

Tom's faith in my ability to express my grief made all the difference in mourning for my father.

As an educator, I know how faith in another's ability can change a life and can make all the difference in the world.

I AM HERE BECAUSE OF HIM.

My constant inquiries regarding Kol Ami's programs led me to Jess Lorden's office, almost daily.

Very soon, I knew an amazing woman with boundless enthusiasm and energy for every program, with a cheerful disposition, no matter the time of day, and with an inspiring work ethic.

What makes her so special are her support of members' new ideas and her encouragement to congregants to fulfill those ideas. All of this is to enrich our identities and our relationships with one another.

I AM HERE BECAUSE OF HER.

Through classes and services, I came to know Barbara Block, who has become a dear friend.

Her wisdom and sense of humor have enabled me to enjoy fully all the classes and programs that we attend together.

She has become, for me, a spokeswoman for Kol Ami with her devotion and dedication to the goals and welfare of Kol Ami.

I AM HERE BECAUSE OF HER.

### ***Why is Congregation Kol Ami a part of my Jewish Journey?***

Some of my earliest and fondest memories are from times spent in synagogue. From listening to the rabbi tell stories from the bimah and attending music class in the cantor's office to dancing with the Torah and of course eating sprinkle cookies at the oneg Shabbat, I can see the central role the synagogue played in my life. It became the foundation for my strong Jewish identity.

As an adult, I continued my connection to Jewish life. I was involved with Jewish student groups in college, taught religious school and attended services regularly. My deep roots in Judaism led me to a career as a Jewish educator. As such, I spent over a decade sharing my passion with others at synagogues in New York City.

When my first child was born I did not return to work. I quickly realized that I needed to find a new Jewish home for my family and myself. I began to attend children's programs at various synagogues in Westchester. I heard about Shabbat in the Woods at Kol Ami and decided to go one Friday night. My family was welcomed with warmth and smiles. Our son enjoyed the music and activity and I loved watching him begin to develop his own positive associations with Judaism. We quickly became regular attendees at Shabbat in the Woods and other Kol Ami programs.

There are many factors that drew me into Kol Ami, the strongest of which was the openness and accessibility. The fact that Shira, Tom and David lead Shabbat in the Woodseach week speaks to how important children are to the congregation. I love that my boys are not only developing respect for clergy but deep personal relationships with them.

My older son pretends to be Rabbi Shira or Cantor David and sings Shabbat songs around the house. One morning, Rabbi Tom got down on the floor to play trains with my younger son and now he looks for him every day. I hope these will become some of the many wonderful memories they will have of synagogue life.

I have developed a strong connection to Kol Ami and have gone from attending a Friday night program to becoming an active congregational volunteer. As my family continues to grow, I hope my Jewish journey and relationship with Kol Ami continues to grow with it.

***Sara Elkin***

### ***Dear Readers,***

Perhaps the sound of names, Barzelatto and Kol Ami do not resonate in concert....but just listen a moment and you will hear beautiful music emanating from my soul!!

People and/or opportunities come into one's life for a reason. My world changed after my marriage ended and I moved from our home to an apartment. Change in family/social structure and being an only child with a small family, I felt a real need for community and spiritual connections. I knew exactly what to do.

I had some familiarity with Kol Ami, since I had joined a few good friends for "Breakfast with the Rabbi" and "The Lift" several times. Remembering these experiences, I met with Shira to tell her of my decision to join Kol Ami, since she was undoubtedly the catalyst.

Welcoming and embracing, she invited me to share at whatever level I felt comfortable. It was a wonderful meeting and I was very excited to become a member of the congregation.

My connection with Kol Ami, my experiences and sense of gratification are amazing, far greater than I could have anticipated or imagined. Kol Ami is a warm, committed and responsive Jewish community, where everyone is welcome; everyone counts; programs, initiatives, opportunities and visions are limitless.

Kol Ami has become my home for educational, social and spiritual fulfillment. I am learning more of Torah, prayer, history, and Jewish responses to contemporary issues. With great joy, I have been involved with: Kabbalat Services, Saturday Morning Lift, Prophets study, current events meetings, Torah study, "Breakfast with the Rabbi," Sisterhood, Women's Oasis, Choir, Food Pantry, Synaplex, "Shabbat at Home-Come say Shalom", Holiday services and festivities.

At Kol Ami, I sing, pray, eat, work, and learn with others in a pervading sense of warmth and belongingness. Most of all, I am incredibly appreciative for many meaningful new friendships, since I became a member.

I value all of this and I am most grateful to be part of something much bigger than myself.

Clearly, Barzelatto and Kol Ami do resonate a perfect cord!!

***Myrna Barzeletto***



## Women of Reform Judaism

This time of year, a time of increased darkness, when the nights are getting longer and our hours of daylight are diminishing, is the perfect opportunity to reflect on a couple of Jewish heroines who served as beacons of light in our history and whose stories are tied to this season.

As I write this article, our Shabbat parasha is Vayeishev, which includes the story of Tamar, daughter-in-law of Judah (Joseph's brother), widow of his first-born son. Determined not to leave her fate in the hands of male relatives, Tamar takes matters into her own hands and assumes extraordinary risks to secure the family's future and perpetuate the line of Judah by getting pregnant by her father-in-law. She gives birth to two sons, one of whom will be a forefather of King David, thus creating a legacy that saves Judah's household and protects Israelite destiny, lighting the way for our future. I encourage you to read Genesis 38 for all the details!

Our second heroine is Judith, with whom many of us are unfamiliar. Judith's story, a Jewish story, is written in the Book of Judith, the fourth book of the Apocrypha, but is not part of the Jewish Bible. Although set in the Babylonian period, in the sixth century B.C.E., her story is thought to have been written at the time of the Maccabees, and has been understood in the context of the story of Chanukah, leaving a legacy of faith and courage, of overcoming a larger force, that changed the course of history. (In oral tradition, Judith often became the aunt or daughter of Judah Maccabee.) Judith is a brave and pious young Jewish widow whose town of Bethulia is under siege by Assyrian emperor Nebuchadnezzar's top general, Holofernes. If Bethulia falls, the entire country would come under Assyrian control.

Another Jewish woman who takes matters into her own hands, Judith dresses in beautiful garments, enters the enemy camp, seduces the general with salty cheese and wine, and when he succumbs to the effects of the alcohol, beheads him. She sneaks out, taking the head with her and hangs it on the town's walls. In the morning, the "headless" enemy is routed, and the town, the people, and the country are saved. Light is also a theme in this story as when Judith returns to her village, the people greet her carrying lamps and torches; there is a huge collection of fires to celebrate her victory. Light and legacy are significant for our Sisterhood as well.

The support and care that we provide for one another and the positive influence that we have on the Temple and our community create a lasting legacy. We invite you to share in the warmth of our light and be a part of Sisterhood.

Sheryl Brady

Rachel Eckhaus

Stacey Matusow

For the most up-to-date information, please  
visit us at [www.NYKolAmi.org](http://www.NYKolAmi.org)

# Ritual Riches

## *Chanukah Here and Around the World*

It is that time of year again. Holiday decorations are emerging from the office closet where they have been packed away for the last ten months or so. The receptionist comments that she can only find a cardboard wall hanging of a menorah (someone brought in an actual menorah last year and must have taken it home) and that we need a real one again to complement the Christmas tree, stockings, and other seasonal symbols that will be displayed in the conference room.

So I decide to take this opportunity to discuss how a menorah is really not comparable to a Christmas tree and that, in fact, Chanukah is only a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar. Our receptionist actually appreciates when I “teach” her about Judaism (or so she says) and expresses astonishment that Chanukah is not the Jewish Christmas.

So why in America has Chanukah come to be so associated with Christmas, when in so many places around the globe Chanukah is acknowledged with far less fanfare, and certainly with less gift giving? Published in October, 2013, Dianne Ashton’s “Hanukkah in America: A History” postulates that Chanukah has become such a big-deal commercial holiday in America for many of the same reasons Christmas has, with 200 years of rising consumerism, the expansion of department stores, and the recognition that gift giving is very good for business. With America itself being associated with prosperity and conspicuous consumption, it is no surprise that Chanukah (and Christmas) should reflect this. “For immigrants in the early 20th century on the Lower East Side, buying presents for your kids showed you weren’t a greenhorn, and it also showed that you had earned enough money and had a few pennies extra.” And Ashton further explains that it was “Jews living in close and reasonably harmonious proximity with Christians that led to Chanukah’s resemblance to and association with Christmas.” Chanukah bushes appeared in the 1950’s as Jews became part of the fabric of suburban life, and their children became exposed to their Christian neighbors’ traditions and decorations.

And it continues. Last year, a Journal News article was entitled, “Hanukkah Getting Christmas Spirit”, and it described new versions of Chanukah-themed products based on Christmas traditions and toys. For example, Elf on a Shelf has inspired Mensch on a Bench – and Maccabee on the Mantel. Manischewitz produces its Jewish version of gingerbread houses, Chanukah House kits containing cookie dough and blue and white icing. Chanukah crafts include blue and white wreaths and stockings. Blue and white lights adorn the exteriors of Jewish houses along

with the trees in their yards. One can even buy a Menorah Tree, pine garlands and all!

Around the world, where it has not taken on the magnitude of the major holiday it has become in the U.S., Chanukah is still observed with joy and celebration. In some Jerusalem neighborhoods, spaces are cut into the sides of buildings so that people can display their menorahs outside. Historically, in Morocco and Algeria it was customary to hang a menorah on a hook on the side of the door opposite the mezuzah, and Alsace featured double-decker menorahs which allowed parent and child to join together to light their own candles in one menorah. Israel holds a relay race from Modi’in (where the Maccabees struggle began) to Jerusalem, in which a torch is passed from one runner to the next. Turin, Italy links Tisha b’Av’s mournful commemoration of the destruction of both Temples to Chanukah’s joyful rededication of the Temple by blowing out the candles of Tisha b’Av, wrapping them up, and bringing them out on Chanukah to use as the shamash.

A summery outdoor festival, Chanukah in the Park, is featured in Sydney, Australia, a Ladino concert in Istanbul. Chanukah in Samarkand, Uzbekistan is feted with dancing for eight nights in different homes. Januca is the name of the holiday in Mexico where children play a game of dreidl called toma todo, and break a dreidl-shaped piñata. In Avignon, France, after the Shabbat that falls during Chanukah, Jews go from house to house opening and tasting new bottles of wine. Members of a new Jewish community in Santa Marta, Colombia eat patacones or fried plantains instead of potato latkes. The Moroccan Jewish community favors the Sfenj doughnut, made with the juice and the zest of an orange. And Yemenite and North African Jewish communities observe the seventh night of Chanukah as a women’s holiday, in honor of Jewish heroines Hannah and Judith.

Wherever and however you celebrate this most visible of American Jewish holidays, may your observance of Chanukah be joyful and meaningful, allowing you the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Jewish and shedding light on the unique role of Jews in our world.

This article was written by Sheryl Brady

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

# Kol Ami Cares

## *Opportunities for 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](mailto:ginnyruder@gmail.com)) and  
Betsy McCormack ([betsyrmc@aol.com](mailto:betsyrmc@aol.com))

## Social Action

### **Cooking for the Homeless**

In the Kol Ami kitchen

**Sundays at 11:15 am:**

Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 22  
and

**Mondays at 12:00 pm:**

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 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.

Dec 1 & Jan 5 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

**Wednesday, Dec 9th at 2:00pm**

The Esplanade in White Plains

**Wednesday, Jan 13th at 2:30pm**

Schnurmacher Nursing Home in White Plains

## 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 11:30 am - 1:00pm, 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.

## **SEASON OF GIVING AND RECEIVING**

It's holiday time and each of us will be a giver and a receiver of gifts... unless you or someone you know is in financial distress due to illness, job loss, divorce, low income, frailty or disability.

"One in six Americans is affected by 'food insecurity' – the lack of consistent, dependable access to food" and our Kol Ami community is not immune to this statistic.

The Kol Ami Food Pantry enables us to feed those who are hungry within our own community and promote healthy living and social responsibility among our congregants, staff and friends of each.

For those who are reluctant to shop in person during the Pantry's regular hours due to privacy concerns, an order may be placed by calling or emailing the shopping list directly to Jess Lorden, our Executive Director, and have the order delivered directly to your home by an outside courier.

In order to respect privacy, any and all registration information the client provides will be known only to the Executive Director and will not be used for order processing or delivery.

In addition, by request, a gift card can be added to your order to purchase perishable items at your local grocery store.

Please contact Jess Lorden if you would like to obtain a shopping list.

### **Kol Ami Blood Drive Sunday, December 13**

**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Congregation Kol Ami**

*For the life of all flesh-its blood is life. LEVITICUS 17:14*

Whoever saves a life, as if saves an entire world. MISHNA SANHEDRIN 4.5

Please make sure there will be blood available when someone needs it. YOU can save lives.

Students returning from College are welcome. Give the GIFT OF LIFE. Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 with written parental/guardian permission) and weigh 110 pounds. People over 75 can contribute to donate blood if they meet all donor criteria and present a physician's letter allowing them to donate. There are, however, some medical conditions that can keep someone from giving blood. There are also some restrictions based on past travel. If you have specific questions about your donor eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900 or log on to [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org) and click on Donate Blood.



Chairman David Klein



## 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 on these initiatives!**

### COACHMAN BIRTHDAY PARTIES

On Sunday, November 8th, Melissa & Jason Eisenberg and their children hosted our November birthday party at The Coachman Family Center, along with their friends Christa & Javier Mruz, Eunjee Hong and their children. The sponsor families were also joined by Pam Pass, our Assistant Religious School Director, who helped serve pizza and cake, and interact with the children.

The room was beautifully decorated with a Disney Frozen theme. The sponsor children eagerly and enthusiastically set the place settings, making sure the table was festive and inviting, without any detail overlooked. They made name tags for the birthday children and it was heartwarming to watch the sponsor children introducing themselves, welcoming the Coachman kids as they entered and sharing in the excitement of the moment.

As one of the sponsors commented, "I would say that my daughters seeing, meeting, interacting and playing with the people they were 'helping' face-to-face really brought home who we are supporting and what we are trying to accomplish as a family. The girls have done toy drives and toys for tots and such, but the personal interaction is what made the difference. Coming up with ideas for a gift for a person they knew the name and age of...this made it fun for them to imagine the joy when the gifts were given and opened."

After enjoying some pizza and snacks and engaging in a wide array of craft projects led by our sponsor families, the Coachman children were thrilled to welcome back Don LaMattina from Toshindo Karate. The Karate Master led a wonderful interactive demonstration, providing an opportunity for the children to participate in karate punches, kicks and other training. The children and teens in attendance were attentive and actively engaged throughout the demonstration as the Karate Master imparted inspirational words about practice, hard work and the value of dreams.

The party concluded with a very spirited and lively pinata game. The children loved having a turn at whacking the Olaf pinata the sponsor families provided, and they were delighted with the assortment of candy they collected when the pinata finally burst. One of the Coachman children spontaneously ran over to give our sponsors a hug, simply because she was having such a good time.

If you are interested in sponsoring a birthday party at the Coachman or would like to contribute to the Coachman Birthday Party initiative in other ways, please contact: Diane Litvak ([dmlitvak@me.com](mailto:dmlitvak@me.com)), Alison Adler ([aadler3@verizon.net](mailto:aadler3@verizon.net)) or Annie Rotberg ([annie.rotberg@gmail.com](mailto:annie.rotberg@gmail.com)).

**YOU too can make a difference!**

## COACHMAN CORNER

### THANKSGIVING FEAST FOR OUR FRIENDS AT THE COACHMAN

On Sunday November 22, 2015 Kol Ami hosted 120 guests from Coachman Family Center for its second Thanksgiving Feast. More than 100 volunteers came together to plan, prepare and cook a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Adult and teens decorated our space, shopped for supplies and ingredients, cooked a gourmet feast, and baked fresh breads. There were homemade cards, goody bags for the children, homemade table center pieces and placemats and other special touches. Volunteers warmly welcomed our guests, and graciously served a delicious holiday meal with all of the fixings. Other volunteers led children's activities including arts and crafts projects, board games, storytelling and basketball.

Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Chef Jay Hack,  
President Hank Rouda and White  
Plains Mayor Tom Roach



### Kol Ami Cooking Crew



### Chief Chef Jay Hack



## SAVE THESE JANUARY 2016 DATES:

# An Interfaith Community Concert in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The Interfaith Connection  
and  
Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Institute for Nonviolence

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016 at 4:00 PM**

**at Memorial United Methodist Church  
250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY**

**Refreshments following concert  
No admission charge**

**THERE WILL BE A FREE-WILL OFFERING.  
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE.**

*Please bring non-perishable food items for our Westchester neighbors.*  
For information contact MLK Institute at 914-949-6555 or [connect@mlkwestchester.org](mailto:connect@mlkwestchester.org)  
[www.mlkwestchester.org](http://www.mlkwestchester.org)

## Sunday, January 31st

### 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.

**Section II: Madiha Tubman, Kol Ami Controller,  
devout Muslim, and peace advocate**

Sunday, January 31, 9:15-11:00 am in the Schulman Chapel in the Woods  
To reserve your spot or if you have any questions call  
Lauri Carey (472-8076) or Jill Abraham (472-5806)

**Friday, January 22nd Shabbat**

**Shira Synaplex**

featuring the...



With a special performance by the Westchester Chordsmen, a renowned male chorus based in Westchester, dedicated to the singing of the finest Barbershop music out there.

Stay tuned for details!

**Sunday, January 24th**

**11:30am**

**Family Concert featuring Noam Katz**

Noam Katz is one of the most exciting voices in contemporary Jewish music. He has shared his high-flying energy and soulful melodies with Jewish and interfaith audiences throughout North America, Africa and Israel. A longtime songleader at URJ Eisner and Kutz Camps, Noam has performed at the URJ Biennial, CAJE, BBYO International, Limmud - England, NFTY Convention, and countless summer camps and congregations. Currently, he is completing the rabbinic/education program at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. In any setting, Noam is committed to creating strong Jewish and interfaith community through the power of music.



## 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 III: December 6:**

Trans and Jewish with Dr. Jennifer Lemberg

#### **Session IV: December 13**

Sexuality and Embodiment with Dr. David Elcott

### **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 III: January 21**

Shabbat and Havdalah: Lighting

Candles in Winter's Darkness

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

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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.

### **Parashat Hashavua: Torah Portion of the Week**

Fridays, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Read and discuss the week's Torah portion

Participants are encouraged to share  
their own thoughts & insights,  
or bring commentaries from other  
sources that relate to the portion.

### **Women's Roundtable Breakfast**

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigeneration-  
al women for learning and friendship.

With Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am

#### **Dec 9th**

#### **Topic: The Orthodox Sex Guru**

A Conversation with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Celebrate the 3rd morning of Hanukkah with a continued  
spirited conversation of "The Orthodox Sex Guru"

Future dates: Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

### **Kol Ami Book Club**

Wednesdays, at 9:15 am in Room 20,

Dec 2 and Jan 6

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.

### **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](mailto:waje@wjcouncil.org)

### **Muslims and Jews: A Historical Perspective\***

Wednesdays, 10:00 am -12:15 pm

Dec 2, 9 & 16



### **Mussar Classes**

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

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](mailto:pwax@wjcs.com) or 914-761-0600 x149 to register.

### **Women in Transition**

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month,

Dec 8 and Jan 12, 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](mailto: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.

### **Wise Aging (Advanced Group)**

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. **This group is currently not taking new members. If you are interested in a beginners group please contact Ruth Rosenblum at [rosenblum@wjcs.com](mailto:rosenblum@wjcs.com).**

---

## **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 the 1st Sunday of the month

Dec 6 and Jan 10

9:15 - 10:45 am

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

Dec 3 and Jan 7 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

Dec 7 and Jan 4 at 9:15am

Susan Davis, LCSW

## 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\*

Sundays at 11:15 am

\$150 per semester/10 classes for above classes

*\*Please contact Emily at [efgraph@optonline.net](mailto: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.

### 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 ([Betsymc@aol.com](mailto:Betsymc@aol.com))

for information

If you are a mah jongg player, please consider purchasing your 2016 mah jongg card through Kol Ami. The National Mah Jongg League donates to Kol Ami \$2 for each card sold, plus a \$15 bonus. This year we received a check for \$163! Mah jongg cards cost \$8 for standard size, \$9 for large print, no matter where you purchase your card.

Please contact Betsy McCormack at [betsymc@gmail.com](mailto:betsymc@gmail.com) for details.

## The Arts

### Winter Jewish Film Festival

~Screening of Israeli films and films with Jewish content~

Selected Monday evenings at 7:30 pm

Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 & Mar 14

The December 14th film will be "24 Days"

Arriving in the United States with 19th-century Jewish immigrants, deli cuisine quickly found its way into the nation's mainstream appetite. This affectionate documentary celebrates Jewish delicatessens and their place in American history.

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

# Contributions



CONGREGATION  
KOL AMI

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

To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices

clearer, a donor form is printed on the back of each monthly newsletter. Donor forms are also available in the Main Office and on our website ([www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)). We thank you for the generosity that goes into each of these donations!

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

**Donors' Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Send donation acknowledgement to:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Funds

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

# DECEMBER 2015 Calendar

## Tue Dec 1

10:30am Mitzvah Knits  
9:15am Parenting - Chapel in the Woods  
2:00pm Rosh Hodesh in Chapel  
7:30pm WRJ/Sisterhood Meeting

## Wed Dec 2

9:00am KA Reads Book Club  
10:00am WAJE - Muslims & Jews:  
A Historical Perspective  
10:30am Mah Jongg  
4:00pm 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

## Thu Dec 3

9:30am Jewish Meditation  
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages  
12:00pm Teen Parenting  
7:45pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

## Fri Dec 4

10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Dec 5

Shabbat Lift w/ Grades K & 1 - Sanctuary,  
Brunch in Atrium (does all of this go in?)  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service  
5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service: B'nai  
Mitzvah of Julia Kindler and Ryan Stuzin

## Sun Dec 6

9:00am Blood Drive  
9:00am Male & Female: Gender & Judaism  
9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School  
9:15am Parenting  
11:00am Or Chadash Choir  
11:30am Shevet Achim

## Mon Dec 7

9:15am Grandparenting  
11:00am Current Events  
12:00pm Cooking for the Homeless  
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

## Tue Dec 8

11:30am Women in Transition

## Wed Dec 9

7:45am: Rount Table Breakfast  
with Rabbi Milgrom  
10:00am WAJE: Muslims & Jews:

A Historical Perspective

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

## Thu Dec 10

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

## Fri Dec 11

10:00am Torah Study: Portion  
of the Week  
5:00pm Family Hanukkah/Synaplex  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Dec 12

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service  
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:  
Bar Mitzvah of Michael Mayeri  
5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service:  
Bat Mitzvah of Mia Ripp

## Sun Dec 13

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School  
10:00am Male & Female Gender & Judaism  
11:00am Men's Council Hanukkah Party  
11:00am Or Chadash Choir  
11:15am Cooking for the Homeless  
2:00pm Rosh Hodesh in Chapel

## Mon Dec 14

12:30pm Mussar Class  
7:00pm KA Movie Night

## Wed Dec 16

10:00am WAJE - Muslims & Jews:  
A Historical Perspective  
10:30am Mah Jongg  
4:00pm 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

## Thu Dec 17

9:30am Jewish Meditation  
10:30am Mah Jongg - Luncheon  
11:00am Advanced Wise Aging  
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages  
6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal

## Fri Dec 18

10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service  
8:00pm 9th Grade Shul-In

## Sat Dec 19

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service

## Sun Dec 20

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Dec 21

11:00am Current Events  
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

## Tues Dec 22

## Wed Dec 23

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
10:30am Mah Jongg

## Thu Dec 24

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

## Fri Dec 25

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

## Sat Dec 26

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service

## Sun Dec 27

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Dec 28

7:30pm Prophets Seminar

## Wed Dec 30

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
10:30am Mah Jongg

## Thu Dec 31

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

# JANUARY 2016 Calendar

## Fri Jan 1 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED

5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods (no crafts)  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Jan 2

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service

## Sun Jan 3 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Jan 4

9:15am Grandparenting  
11:00am Current Events  
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

## Tue Jan 5

11:00am Mitzvah Knits  
7:30pm WRJ/Sisterhood Meeting

## Wed Jan 6

9:00am KA Reads Book Club  
10:30am Mah Jongg  
4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School  
6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School

## Thu Jan 7

9:30am Jewish Meditation  
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages  
12:00pm Parenting Teens  
5:30pm Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of Scarlett Kraus  
6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal  
7:00pm Adult Choir/Purim Rehearsal  
7:30pm Executive Meeting

## Fri Jan 8

10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service  
7:30pm Empty Nester Shabbat  
Dinner at the Ruder's Home

## Sat Jan 9

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service  
5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service:  
Bat Mitzvah of Alex Rose

## Sun Jan 10

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School  
9:00am B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

9:15am Parenting  
11:00am Or Chadash Choir  
11:15am Cooking for the Homeless  
11:30am Shevat Achim

## Mon Jan 11

7:30pm KA Movie Nite

## Tue Jan 12

11:30am Women in Transition

## Wed Jan 13

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

## Thu Jan 14

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

## Fri Jan 15

10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Jan 16

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:  
Bat Mitzvah of Sam Feldman  
11:00am Service  
5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service:  
Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Kopczynski

## Sun Jan 17

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Jan 18

TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED

## Tue Jan 19

11:00am Mitzvah knits

## Wed Jan 20

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

## Thu Jan 21

9:00am Coffee/Clergy/Conversation  
9:30am Jewish Meditation  
11:00am Wisdom of the Sages  
6:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal  
8:00pm Board Meeting

## Fri Jan 22

Shabbat Shira Synaplex  
10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Jan 23

RS: Grade 5 Shabbat Luncheon  
Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
11:00am Service

## Sun Jan 24

9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School  
11:00am Or Chadash Choir  
11:30am Kol Ami Family  
Concert - Noam Katz

## Mon Jan 25

11:00am Current Events  
7:30pm Prophets Seminar

## Wed Jan 27

10:30am Mah Jongg  
4:00pm 4th-6th Religious School  
6:30pm 7th-12th Grade Religious School  
RS: Gr 7 Mikvah Visit at TIC

## Thu Jan 28

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

## Fri Jan 29

10:00am Torah Study: Portion of the Week  
5:30pm Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15pm Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Jan 30

Shabbat Lift  
9:00am Coffee & Community  
9:30am Study  
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service:  
Bat Mitzvah of Jaime Kaufman  
11:00am Service  
5:00pm RS Gr. 4 - Havdalah Hispanica

## Sun Jan 31

RS: Gr 5 Book Club  
9:00am K-6th Grade Religious School  
9:30am Women's Oasis  
11:00am Or Chadash Choir



“The one name to remember...  
When it's time to remember.”



**BALLARD-DURAND**

FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

[www.BallardDurand.com](http://www.BallardDurand.com)

**White Plains**

2 Maple Ave.  
(914) 949-0566

**Elmsford**

72 E. Main St.  
(914) 592-6300



## Pieces in Place Organizing

*Your partner in home organizing services that build confidence and enhance your independent lifestyle*

**Organize your Documents**—Get control over your medical and financial records. See what you have and find what you need quickly and easily.

**Clear your Home of Unwanted Items**—Feel the freedom of a simplified, tidy home by clearing out closets, garages, attics and basements.

**Use Technology to Stay Connected**—Learn to use technology safely and confidently to stay connected to family, friends and community. Stay on top of your finances by learning to use online banking programs.

Independent Living Made Easier

For a free, in-home consultation call Julie Chernov  
**(917) 604-5773**



**GAMBELLI'S**  
WINE AND SPIRITS

WHITE  
PLAINS  
NEW  
YORK

*drink thoughtfully*

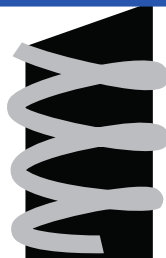
**GAMBELLIWINE.COM**

**914.468.6777**



CONGREGATION  
KOL AMI

We greatly appreciate  
support  
from our vendors.



**BRIGHT  
ENERGY  
SERVICES**

### **BRIGHT ENERGY SERVICES**

*A Division of All HVAC Service Co., Inc.*

- ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY
- LIGHTING, HVAC, RENEWABLES
- LEED® & ENERGY STAR CERTIFICATION
- SECURING GOVERNMENT & UTILITY INCENTIVES

**BRIGHTENERGYSERVICES.COM**

Bright Energy Services, a division of All HVAC Service Company, Inc. is an award-winning energy and environmental consulting firm in the \$300+ billion Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Cleantech & Sustainability Markets. The firm deploys tailored energy efficiency solutions and leverages renewable energy technologies. Our services allow our clients to cut energy costs, meet regulatory requirements, manage their emission portfolios, deploy the latest technology and reduce their carbon footprint.

620 Mamaroneck Avenue #244 White Plains, NY 10605 | 347-470-7090

**WISHING ALL OF OUR FRIENDS A  
VERY HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2016!**

**FROM THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF KOL AMI**