

# THE CONNECTION

Volume 4 ♦ December/January 2016 -17

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## CELEBRATING HANUKKAH AT KOL AMI...





# CONGREGATION KOL AMI

## CONGREGATION KOL AMI A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue • White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 • [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

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**Executive Director** • Jess Lorden

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### CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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**Friday Evening Services**

Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families

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

*Atrium*

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

**Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

6:15 pm

*Main Sanctuary*

**Shabbat Morning Spiritual Lift**

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

*Chapel in the Woods*

**Take My Hand**

**Shabbat for all Generations**

**OUR RE-IMAGINED SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE**

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

**Chapel in the Woods**

**8:45am:** Coffee, tea and kibbutzing

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

**9:45am:** Family Oneg with bagels and snacks

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

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



The White Plains Police Department has commenced an initiative entitled "Coffee with a Cop". The purpose of these "coffee" sessions is for the police department to get to know their community. **On Friday, December 2nd**, eight officers of the White Plains Police Department will join us to worship during our Kabbalat Shabbat Service and to share coffee and conversation during our oneg.

**The officers who will join us include:**

**Lt. James Spencer**

**Sgt. Daniel McMahon**

**Det. Marc Avery**

**Det. Sheila Suarez**

**P.O. Maurice Love**

**P.O. Anthony Chiarlitti**

**P.O. Brian Johnson**

**P.O. Irene Logan**

## WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR DECEMBER

### Week ending December 3, 2016 *Parashat*

***Toldot* Genesis 25:19-28:9** Isaac marries Rebekah, and after 20 childless years they become parents to twin boys, Esau and Jacob. The brothers are quite different from one another and are at odds with each other well into adulthood. Rebekah favors Jacob, whereas Isaac seems aligned with Esau. Rebekah and Jacob conspire to deceive Isaac into giving the blessing due his firstborn son, Esau to Jacob. The sibling rivalry between Esau and Jacob reaches a feverish pitch, and becomes a recurring theme in Genesis.

### Week ending December 10, 2016 *Parashat*

***Vayetze* Genesis 28:10-32:3** *Vayetze*, meaning “and he went out,” refers to Jacob’s journey to Haran, his mother Rebekah’s birthplace, to escape his brother Esau’s wrath. On his journey, he dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and is given the same promise that God gave Abraham and Isaac, i.e., that he will inherit the land and be blessed. Jacob meets Rachel at the well and works for her father (his uncle Laban) for seven years in order to marry her. Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau, is himself the victim of deception. Laban substitutes Leah (his older daughter) for Rachel. Jacob must serve Laban an additional seven years in order to wed his intended spouse Rachel. Jacob eventually has a total of twelve sons and decides to return to his homeland.

### Week ending December 17, 2016 *Parashat*

***Vayishlach* Genesis 32:4-36:43** Jacob is now ready to return home after fleeing twenty years earlier, and realizes he will have to reconcile with his brother Esau. On the way, he once again has a dream and encounters a divine messenger. After the dream, Jacob is renamed Israel, meaning “struggles with God.” Our narrative leaps forward in time to the moment when Jacob’s children are now adults and his daughter, Dina is raped. Two of Jacob’s sons Simeon and Levi avenge the crime.

### Week ending December 24, 2016 *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 31, 2016 *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.

## WEEKLY TORAH PORTIONS FOR JANUARY

### Week ending January 7, 2017 *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 January 14, 2017 *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 21, 2017 *Parashat*

***Shemot* Exodus 1:1-6:1** We begin the book of Exodus with this week’s *parasha*. 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 28, 2017 *Parashat Va’era*

**Exodus 6:2-9:35** In *Va’era*, this week’s *parasha*, 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.



## **CELEBRATING HANUKKAH**



**Celebrate the “light” of this holiday on  
Friday, December 30th during Shabbat Services at 6:15pm.  
Bring your menorahs and we will supply the candles.  
Candle lighting will take place in the Atrium  
**Special holiday oneg to follow.****



### **The Kol Ami Men’s Council Invites You to a Family Hanukkah Party Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00am to 1:00pm (immediately following Religious School)**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Activities for Children (2-10)**

**Crafts for Kids, Latkes, Storytelling, Balloons,  
Hanukkah Music, Dreidel Spinning, Face painting**

**A pizza lunch and refreshments will be served**

**Admission is Free – Tzedakah by Choice**

**An unwrapped children’s toy will be donated to the  
Coachman Family Center**

**RSVP by Friday, December 9th to [menscouncil@nykolami.org](mailto:menscouncil@nykolami.org)**

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

Celebrate the “light” of this holiday  
at Kol Ami’s Adult Hanukkah party

**Monday, December 19, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

Join us for a pre-Hanukkah celebration with  
a traditional 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)*



Come and bring a friend!  
\$25.00 per person

Reservations are needed by December 12th in order to properly plan for this fun event

**Adults only Hanukkah Celebration – Monday, December 19, 2016**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of people \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check, made out to Congregation Kol Ami, to 252 Soundview Ave,  
White Plains, NY 10606. Questions: email Ellen Bittner [ebpl101@gmail.com](mailto:ebpl101@gmail.com), or Lisa Borowitz  
[lborowitz@ramius.com](mailto:lborowitz@ramius.com)



# Give the Gift of Membership for Hanukkah



**This year for Hanukkah, purchase the Gift of Membership for an unaffiliated friend, neighbor or co-worker.**

The Congregation Kol Ami Membership Gift is effective from Hanukkah through June 2017.

**Make this Hanukkah special for the special people in your life.  
Cost per Gift of Membership is \$108**

Order your personalized gift certificates gift-wrapped and ready to be presented.

Your name will appear on the bottom of the certificate, as well as Rabbi Shira Milgrom's and Rabbi Tom Weiner's signatures.

**We will place the certificate in an envelope with a gift card just from you.**

For information, contact Jess Lorden at [jessicalorden@nykolami.org](mailto:jessicalorden@nykolami.org) or 914.949.4717 ext. 101



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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, 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 יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים  
לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

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

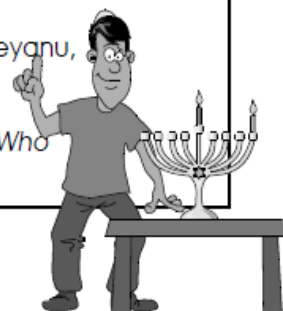
*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Source of the Universe, Who has done  
miracles for our ancestors in days of old, [and] at this time.*

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ, וְקִיָּמָנוּ,  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן 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.*







An exciting new element at the heart of our High Holy Day services will be our new prayer book, *Mishkan Hanefesh* (Sanctuary of the Soul). This is the first entirely new High Holy Day *Machzor* created for our Synagogue since the mid-1970s; and it is brilliant, innovative, and grounded firmly in our most cherished traditions and music. We are confident it will profoundly elevate the experience of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as we welcome in the year 5777.

We have a unique opportunity for *every family* to participate in the new High Holy Day prayer book initiative. How nice it would be for you and your family to sit in temple on the High Holy Days and open a prayer book to see heart-felt dedications!

The new books come in a set – one for Rosh Hashanah and another for Yom Kippur. Through a generous gift from Past President Lisa Borowitz, in memory and honor of her beloved father, Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz z”l, we have been able to purchase about half of the 1,500 sets of books that we will need. ***We would like to honor this generous donation and work together as a community to make it a gift we all support.*** We ask that every family participate by purchasing one or more sets of new prayer books into which heart-felt dedication ‘bookplates’ will be placed.

***Because we hope that everyone will be able to participate in bringing these new prayer books to our community, we have created several options for you and your family:***

- ✧ For every donation of \$36, a bookplate placed into one book
- ✧ For every donation of \$54, bookplates placed into a set of books (2 book dedications)
- ✧ For every donation of \$180, bookplates placed into four sets of books (8 book dedications)

***How do you want to remember this point in your family’s Jewish life?***

- ✧ Honor your family’s name for decades to come
- ✧ Commemorate a Wedding, Anniversary, or honor someone you love
- ✧ Memorialize a loved one
- ✧ Honor the new B’nai Mitzvah or the Confirmand, Celebrate the Graduate

There are many reasons why a Temple reaches out to their Congregants for help, but there is none more sacred than new prayer books for our High Holy Days. This effort will enable you or your loved ones to be inscribed in our community for decades to come. We hope you will join our families and the Board of Trustees in supporting this effort.

**Donor Information:**

*(Please print clearly)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form and a check made out to Congregation Kol Ami, Memo: **HHD Prayer Book**

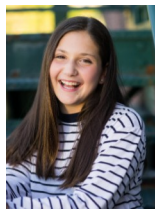
**Please complete the Dedication information on the next page for each Dedication message.**

**Please add additional sheets, if necessary.**

***All contributions are Tax - Deductible***

## B'NAI MITZVAH

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



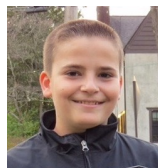
**Jacqueline Elizabeth Kizer**, daughter of Carol and Jorge Kizer and sister to Sabrina and Jonah, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 3,

2016. Jacquie is an 8th grader at Edgemont Junior High School and enjoys singing, dancing, and participating in any and all theatrical productions. Jacquie also enjoys playing tennis and softball and played for Edgemont's modified tennis and softball teams. For her mitzvah project, Jacquie volunteered with the Children's Hope Chest, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide help and offer hope to children in our community suffering from poverty, abuse, neglect, and illness and whose aim is to increase social action by promoting adult and youth volunteerism.



**Max David Miller**, son of Lee & Liz Miller and brother to Zoe, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 10, 2016. Max is a 7th grader at Ardsley Middle School.

He enjoys playing Baseball, Lacrosse, drums & guitar. For his Mitzvah project, Max volunteered at Buddies Baseball, to help kids with disabilities. He loves his puppy and also helps a local animal shelter to fulfill their donations wish list.



**Jack Smith**, son of Richard and Alison Smith and younger brother to Lindsay, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 17, 2016.

Jack is in the 8th grade at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. For his Mitzvah Project, he has been volunteering at the SPCA of Westchester, a no-kill animal shelter in Briarcliff Manor. Jack enjoys playing ice hockey and rooting for the New York Rangers. He especially loves spending his summers at URJ Crane Lake Camp. Jack is looking forward to spending his special day with family and friends.



**Jillian Risa Zolot**, daughter of Bruce and Joan Zolot, younger sister of Gabe, and older sister of Carly, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 7,

2017. Jillian is a 7th grader at Edgemont Junior High School. Jillian enjoys playing basketball and softball, and singing in chorus and in voice lessons. For her mitzvah project, Jillian cooked at Kol Ami for the homeless and cooked for and served the homeless at a local soup kitchen.



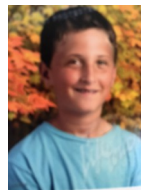
**Noah Bernstein**, son of Alison and Craig Bernstein and brother to Sabrina and Leo, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 14, 2017. Noah is a seventh

grader at Edgemont Junior High School. Noah loves sports and plays soccer, wrestles and plays lacrosse year-round. After traveling to Brazil with his family this summer for the Olympics, Noah was really affected by the quality of life in Rio's favelas. Noah's mitzvah project is raising money and holding a sneaker drive for Community in Action, a charitable group working within a favela in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.



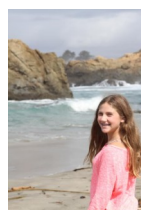
**Rachel Levine**, daughter of Josh and Renee Levine and sister to Samantha, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 21, 2017. She is a 7th grader at Scarsdale Middle

School. Rachel loves the martial arts, soccer, skiing, playing the saxophone in the jazz band, and obstacle course racing. She has a deep love for animals - for her mitzvah project, she collected and donated hundreds of pounds of dog and cat food, treats and toys to animal shelters, and volunteered at the local nature center. She looks forward to sharing her special day with friends and family.



**Caleb Smith**, son of Troy and Susan Smith and brother to Max, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 21, 2017. Caleb is a 7th grader at Edgemont Jr. High

School. He enjoys playing football, wrestling and baseball, creating art, and spending time with his family and friends. Caleb plays the trombone in both the band and the jazz band at school. He was selected for All County Band in elementary school. For his mitzvah project, Caleb volunteered at Safe Passage Project in New York City, where he worked with immigrant children of all ages.



**Amanda Elise Gilbert**, daughter of Jennifer and David Schneider and Ben and Marielle Gilbert, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 28, 2017. Amanda is in the 7th grade at Irvington Middle

School. Amanda enjoys volleyball and basketball, being with her friends and traveling (and shopping). She loves spending her summers at Camp Watitoh in the Berkshires. She is loving and kind to her siblings, funny and witty. Amanda has been volunteering at the Ittleson House in Riverdale as part of her mitzvah project. She has very much enjoyed working with the children there. She is also collecting socks to donate through Back on My Feet Again, a charity that helps rehabilitate people living in homeless shelters. Socks are the number one thing asked for in shelters. Amanda is excited about sharing her special day with her family and friends.



## COLLEGE STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

### Help us stay connected with your student!

### 2016-2017

**Please return this form by mail to:** Congregation Kol Ami  
College Youth Committee  
252 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606

**or send back via fax to** 914-946-8143

**or via email to** [hillarybarnett@nykolami.org](mailto:hillarybarnett@nykolami.org)

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College or Graduate School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

College email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Studying abroad?

If yes, name of school and dates away: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please support Kol Ami when you purchase your textbooks on Amazon. Link from the Kol Ami site or [here](#) and Kol Ami receives a percentage of your purchase, and you still get all of your usual benefits and discounts!  
This is the link if it breaks: <http://www.amazon.com/?tag=congolami0f-20&camp=15345&creative=394677&linkCode=ur1&adid=0CJGCNBD3KHY87RQNM59&ref-refURL=http%3A%2F%2Fnykolami.org%2F>

## A Message From Our Rabbi



RABBI SHIRA MILGROM

### THE STRANGER; PROTECT THE REFUGEE

"Ibrahim Halil Dudu is a master tailor. He's also a Syrian refugee living in Ontario, and when the bride next door's zipper broke, he came to the rescue.

Jo Du was being helped into her gorgeous white wedding dress this week when a tooth on the zipper broke. It was Sunday in Guelph, Ontario, and no tailor shop was open.

An enterprising bridesmaid knocked on a neighbor's door to ask David Hobson if he might have a pair of pliers they could borrow. Mr. Hobson took in the situation – the bridesmaid, the lacy white dress, and a request for pliers – and said, 'I've got better than tools. I've got a master tailor.'

David Hobson had a family of Syrian refugees from Aleppo living in his home for a few days: a mother, father and 3 children. A local businessman, Jim Estill, has helped 50 Syrian families enter Canada and settle in the Guelph area - people from one of the most hellish landscapes on earth, brought to live in one of the safest, tidiest and most serene towns in Canada."

The full article can be found on NPR ("An Act of Kindness, From One Immigrant To Another.")

We have the rare chance to do the same: to reach out and take in a refugee family. We can translate the post-election paralysis and worry that many of us are experiencing into action to make a more compassionate and welcoming community right here, where we live. The Westchester community has partnered with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in applying to the US State Department to resettle 10-12 Syrian refugee families in Westchester. We don't know if the application will be accepted; we don't know if our congregation will get a family. But in order to be eligible, we need to line up a cadre of volunteers. We will need help to welcome and host, to drive and to translate. We will need help to find schools, employment, medical care and housing. We will need furniture, clothing, books and toys. People to tutor and support. We will need a welcoming community.

If you would like to help, please click on this link to fill out a simple, one-page form:

<https://wct.wufoo.com/forms/m1xwkp071bukwye/>

You can also find this form on our website: [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) - on the home page.

Or, if you prefer, call the temple office and we'll help connect you: [914-949-4717](tel:914-949-4717).

*Once we helped refugees because they were Jews: today we help refugees because we are Jews.*

Love,  
Shira

Kol Ami meets at the Met  
"Jerusalem, 1000 – 1400:  
Every People under Heaven"  
  
Saturday evening, December 17, 2016  
  
5:30 Private wine reception and Havdalah  
Shira Milgrom and Jennifer Lemberg  
Memorial Library  
(location shared upon confirmed reservation)  
6:30 5 minute walk to Museum  
Self-guided tour with audio guide  
7:30 Meet and reflect  
  
\$40 per person  
Includes wine reception, museum admission and audio guide  
  
Limited space  
Call Hillary Barnett at 914-949-4717 ext. 2 to reserve a place



## A Message From Our Cantor

### CANTOR DAVID ROSEN

In antiquity, our enemies were made up of individual nations or empires. Today, we dwell among others in pursuit of peace and harmony for all human beings. This is not only a Jewish principle, but one that should be universal regardless of race, color, religion or background.

### My Dreidel I Shall Play....

We are all familiar with the many aromas and symbols of the joyous holiday of Hanukkah and, while there are many wonderful traditions and customs that mark this time of year, the dreidel is truly a symbol that represents the most important values and lessons we can glean from this holiday.

There is much significance to the four letters found on the dreidel. In simple terms, we know that “nun”, “gimel”, “hay” and “shin” stand for “Neis Gadol Haya Sham”- “a Great Miracle Happened There,” referring to both the mighty Maccabees’ victory over the Greeks and the oil lasting eight days longer than expected. After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the “shin” on the dreidel was exchanged for a “pay” to represent “Po.”

The phrase then changed to, “A Great Miracle Happened HERE,” referring not only to the origin of the Hanukkah story, but also to the triumph of the Jewish people in establishing our own nation.

In addition to the traditional interpretation of the letters on the dreidel, there is a theory that each letter stands for a nation or people that attempted to destroy the Jews throughout history. The “Nun” stands for Nebuchadnezzar, who was the leader of Babylon. The “Hay” stands for Haman, who represents Persia and Madai. The “Gimmel” is Gog, who represents Greece, and finally, the “Shin” stands for Seir who represents Rome.

Both of these interpretations, while different, portray the fundamental strength of our people throughout history and our ability to overcome adversity. The Jewish people continues to persevere - despite the odds - and we continually show the world that we will continue to survive and prosper for generations to come.

With various alternative organizations that promote hate and inequality on the rise, we are much more aware of the roots that are the basis of our foundation. When these roots are deprived of the water and nutrients needed to remain strong, we are forced to turn inwards in an effort to defend and protect..

The game of dreidel is of course mostly associated with children. In times when our future seems uncertain or we are not quite sure who we need to turn to for hope and guidance, our children can often be our best teachers and beacons for a brighter future. When we observe children playing a simple game of dreidel, we are reminded of the innocence within each of us and the simple lessons we can learn from such a simple game. The game of dreidel teaches us how to play fairly with others. It teaches us not only how to be good winners and losers, but also how to share our winnings or possessions with others in an equitable and unbiased manner. There are no predispositions and every player comes to the table with an equal opportunity to be successful at the game.

In a world of uncertainty, may all of us be reminded that our greatest lessons can come from the simplest of childhood activities. The game of dreidel is a symbol for humankind in our pursuit of peace and equality for all.

Ilyse, Joel and I wish all of you a very Happy Hanukkah filled with family, friends, and many games of dreidel....

Fondly,

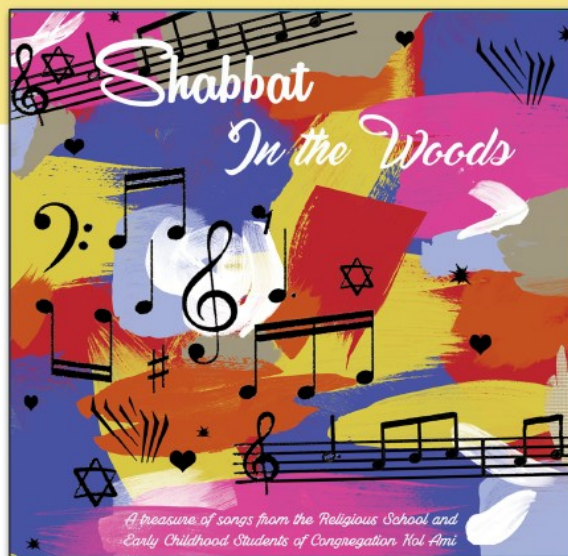
Cantor David



**A "Post High Holiday Thank You" From Cantor David Rosen:**

**Eliot Adler  
Rachel Eckhaus  
Victoria Hagen  
Mia Shapiro  
Lily Sherwood  
Julia Staffin  
Oren Tirschwell**

It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank you for your beautiful musical participation during these past High Holidays. Your talent and commitment to Kol Ami helped to beautify our services and to uplift the community as a whole.



**We are thrilled to announce the arrival of  
Cantor David Rosen's  
*Shabbat in the Woods CD!!!***

*A Treasure of Songs from the Religious School and  
Early Childhood Students of Congregation Kol Ami.*

The CD will be available in early December as a gift to  
the Congregation made possible from generous donations.

If you would still like to donate to support  
this project please contact for more details:  
Hillary Barnett.

Administrative Assistant to the Clergy  
914.949.4717 ext. 114 [HillaryBarnett@nykolami.org](mailto:HillaryBarnett@nykolami.org)



## A Message From Our ECP Director

### NAN BLANK



November smelled wonderful! From pumpkin bread and cranberry sauce to corn bread and roasted pumpkin seeds, to sweet potatoes, and cranberry sauce all of us had a delicious time! We made hand-print turkeys, clay turkeys, headaddresses, Indian corn prints, beaded necklaces, and learned about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans.

We learned some very silly songs like *The Turkey Ran Away*, *Gobble, Gobble*, *The Popcorn Song*, *The Turkey is a Funny Bird*. Our Pre-K's invited their families for a Thanksgiving brunch and baked breads, and served them with homemade butter and a delicious fruit salad! Our 3's and 4's enjoyed a feast as one community making the morning very special indeed. Most important though we learned what we are thankful for, food, friends and family.

Our 2K Turkey Trot was a huge success! Many families participated in this wonderful event teaching Tzedakah all the while enjoying a morning with friends. Turkeys, canned foods, stuffing and cake mixes were collected and given to the Westchester food pantry. After taking a short walk down Soundview our families feasted on donuts and apple cider and a wonderful morning was had by all.

This year we had the honor once again to participate in Kol Ami's Thanksgiving project with the Coachman Family Center, one of our family shelters in Westchester County. On Sunday evening, November 20th Kol Ami hosted a community Thanksgiving Dinner for the families who presently live at the Coachman. For the feast, each of our ECP classes made Thanksgiving cards and candy bags for all of the Coachman guests.

Our November Book Fair was equally successful and we want to thank the entire Kol Ami community for helping it to be so much fun. Each day of the Fair we had a guest reader or activity making this year's event more interactive and fun. Our annual Tuesday afternoon *Story Hour* with Author Roni Schotter was wonderful. Ms. Schotter delighted us by reading her book, *"Go Little Green Truck."* This year two of our very own parents were guest authors too. Jesse Howard, Bo's dad read his book "Kookabuk Shares his Shovel" and Rachel

Gottlieb, Zachary's mom, was on hand to read her book, "Zac's Dollar Dilemma." We were so proud to share the spotlight with The Coachman this year sending lots of donated books to the children and families who reside at the shelter.

A very special thank you goes to our incredible Book Fair Chair Sara Elkin. Thank you goes as well to Nichole Michelson, and Courtney Rabb for their help as well. A big thank you also goes to the rest of our many Book Fair volunteers for helping to make the week so successful.

This month our 4's will host a Winter Party for our friends from Kodomo Kuni, the Japanese preschool in our building. The children will spend a morning together sharing a winter craft project and a special holiday snack.

All of our students will also enjoy sharing Chanukah together as one community at our Chanukah concert and latke party.

January promises to be filled with lots of winter fun. We'll also be hosting our Havdalah in PJ's afternoon on the 21st.

The Early Childhood Program of Congregation Kol Ami has served our own community and the greater community of lower Westchester for well over 45 years. Our philosophy is simple; we are dedicated to implementing a comprehensive and developmentally sound early childhood curriculum that promotes social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. The development of spiritual and moral values and the joyful celebration of the Jewish holidays are an important ingredient to our program as well. We have an incredible, vibrant and talented staff and an inviting facility that is warm and welcoming. In short, we have a great deal to be thankful for and proud of.

What else could we possibly need? **We need you!** We need everyone in our congregation to partner with us and to help us continue to build our community of friends one family at a time. We need you to spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors that Kol Ami's Early Childhood Program is a very special place. We need you to build with us today so we can strengthen our Congregation's foundation for tomorrow. Partner with us, support us and help us continue to build for a strong future. It's in all of our hands and well within our reach.

Love,

Nan





The Early Childhood Program of  
Congregation Kol Ami  
Invites all families with young children to

## A Havdalah and Sh'ma Pajama Party!



Join Nan Blank, and Rabbi Tom Weiner  
Saturday Afternoon - January 21, 2017  
4:30-5:30



Enjoy the Sweetness of Havdalah with  
Family and Friends!  
Crafts, Family Learning, and a Sweet Snack

### Come in your Pajamas!

**Admission:** Please bring a new pair of Children's Pajamas to be donated to the local family shelter

Reserve your place today by calling  
Nan Blank at 949-4717 x 107  
[nanblank@nykolami.org](mailto:nanblank@nykolami.org)

## See You There!

## Early Childhood Program Events & Reminders

### December

**Friday, December 16th**

Shabbat Dinner with Ellen Allard

**December 23rd - January 3rd**

ECP closed for the December holiday

### January

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

ECP Re-Opens

**Monday, January 16th**

ECP Closed for Martin Luther King Day

**Saturday, January 21st**

Havdalah in PJ's

## A Message From Our Executive Director



JESS LORDEN

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
IS NOT JUST A PLACE...  
WE ARE A COMMUNITY  
THAT MAKES INCREDIBLE  
THINGS HAPPEN!**

There is a saying from the *Talmud* that "whoever saves one life, it is as if he [or she] has saved the whole world." It is through the sacred action of service to others that we take a step toward making the world a little bit more just. I would add to that statement that with such efforts we create greater meaning and satisfaction in our own lives. With this in mind I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Coachman Thanksgiving Feast, especially Lisa Hochman and Alison Adler who organized the event and Jay Hack who served as our master chef. It was a wonderful evening! Please enjoy a few photos from the evening below.

If you are searching for additional ways to "give back" I would like to suggest a few options here at Kol Ami:

**Gift Cards to Local Grocery Stores:** From time to time congregants ask us to support them in serving nutritious food to their families. We do so by providing gift cards for local grocery stores. We are out of gift cards. Please consider donating grocery store gift cards to help fellow congregants.

**Winter Coats for Families in Need:** Once again we will lead a coat drive to benefit the families residing at the Coachman Family Center. New and used/well-conditioned coats for women, men, girls and boys are all welcome.

**Holiday Gift Cards for Coachman Children:** The past two years we have given every child residing at the Coachman a \$25 Visa, Mastercard, or American Express gift card as a holiday gift. We'd like to do so again. To support all of the children, we need 60 gift cards.

Please consider donating to one or all of these worthy causes. All donations may be brought to the Temple Main Office.

Dave, Sarah, Robby and I wish you the very best this holiday season and a happy and healthy 2017!

Fondly,

Jess



**We gratefully acknowledge the 238 Kol Ami members who generously contributed to our Annual Fund. Your donations, all personally meaningful, ranged from \$18 to \$10,000.**

**You are our heartbeat.**

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

Howard & Nancy Adler  
George & Leslie Akst  
Arthur Amron & Sara Pearl  
Greg Arovas & Susan Kohn  
Steven & Erica Baker  
Warren & Amy Barest  
Marc & Felice Baritz  
Nathan & Carrie Barotz  
Jamie & Ivy Barr  
Nir & Laura Barzilai  
David & Royce Battleman  
Richard & Kathy Bayliss  
Lawrence Benenson  
Jack Berger & Randy Stein  
Evan & Nancy Berman  
Wesley & Nan Blank  
Philip & Nina Blumenfeld  
Lisa Borowitz  
Lynne Boxenhorn  
Steve & Sheryl Brady  
David & Michelle Braun  
Gary & Jodi Breitbart  
Judi Brown  
Marjorie Bruckman  
Arthur & Dena Caione  
David & Lauri Carey  
Ron & Julie Carran  
David Cautin & Alison Yaffie  
Mitchell Cohen  
Pearl Cohen  
Ronnie Cohn  
David & Karen Cole  
Madge Conway  
Joan Cooper  
Mitchell & Allison Danzig  
Paul & Susan Davis  
Marvin & Doris Dingott  
Lynne Dolle  
Rob Dorr & Lori Weiser  
Riva Edelman  
Eric & Bonnie Eilen  
Michael & Sara Elkin  
Linda Ellis

Steven & Ellen Epstein  
Andrew & Stephanie Falk  
John & Margaret Falk  
Frederick Feiner  
Mimi Feinberg  
Andrew Feldstein & Jane Veron  
Joel Figura  
Bill & Barbara Fischer  
Ellen Flaks  
Evan & Dolya Fleck  
Dan & Linda Forman  
Michael & Marci Frankenthaler  
Robert Freedman & Fran Pantaleo  
Jane Friedberg  
Bernice Gale  
Jeff & Judy Gelfand  
Howard & Michele Geller  
Keith & Monica Geller  
Loren & Carla Glassman  
Richard & Katy Glassberg  
Leni Glauber  
Mo Glazman & Rachel Feld-Glazman  
Alan & Joyce Goldman  
Robert & Barbara Goldstein  
Ruth Goldberg  
Darren & Nancy Gordon  
Ken & Susan Gordon  
Roy & Nancy Gross  
Matt Gruber  
Karl & Bonnie Hagen  
Richard & Millie Halpern  
Rich & Sue Handel  
Allen & Madeline Hauptman  
Ingrid Hauptman  
Jane Hein  
Mark & Janet Hershey  
Herbert Hochberg  
Steven & Jane Hochman  
Stephen & Judy Hochman  
Dan & Vicki Horowitz  
Cindee Howard  
Warren Ittelson  
Ted & Mickey Jacobs

Ken Jurist & Gail Young  
George Kadar  
Martin Kahn  
Frank Kaiman & Laura Dann Kaiman  
Barbara Kaminsky  
Paul & Emily Kandel  
Irwin & Albie Katz  
Stanley & Florence Katz  
Gene & Beth Kava  
Brian & Laura Kempner  
Martin & Amy Kindler  
Matthew & Suzanne Kirsch  
Erik & Adriane Klein  
Eugene & Carol Klein  
Howard & Jodi Klein  
Paul & Roseanne Klein  
Russ Kopp & Robin Schiff  
Harriet Kraver  
David & Michelle Kroin  
Jeff & Abby Kurnit  
Ellen Kurtz  
Jon & Jen Labovitz  
Jo Landau  
Jeffrey & Marcia Lange  
Yvette Lawrie  
Maura Lehr  
Arlene Leifer  
Alan Lerner  
Andrew & Joele Levenson  
Jeffrey & Laurie Levine  
Stephanie Levine  
Harley Lewis  
Bill & Gloria Lewit  
Elaine Libman  
Frank & Michelle Lichtenberg  
Ronald & Deborah Linder  
Jonathan & Ellen Litt  
Dave & Jess Lorden  
Murray & Emily Lubitz  
Larry & Nancy Marcus  
Mike & Anlee Marcus  
Stanley Markovits



Judd & Harriet Marmon	Stanley & Mimi Rogowsky	Andrew & Gerri Sommers
Michael & Sandy Mason	Ian Rosenbluth	Ron & Lesley Sommers
Stacey Matusow	Stephen & Judith Ross	Gail Sorrel
David & Elizabeth Mayeri	Susan Ross	Eric & Jill Staffin
Tom & Betsy McCormack	Jeff & Debra Rothschild	Mitchell & Anne Stafman
Kevin & Judy McEvoy	Peter & Jodi Roth	Ed & Marian Steinberg
Clifford Meilman & Elena Angelos	Hank & Jean Rouda	Lois Stogel
Charlie Milian & Dana Billman	Paul & Pamela Rubin	Ed & Susanne Stotsky
Bernice Millman	Deborah Rubin	Gerry Stoughton & Robin Judson
Glenn & Ilene Miller	Doug & Nancy Ruttenberg	David & Elissa Strauss
Rob & Karen Millman	Steven & Maria Salzinger	Al & Sheila Sturmer
Michael & Daryl Moss	Bob & Bobbie Sandler	Randy & Nancy Stuzin
Diana Munder	Danny & Judy Sarch	Steven Svetcov
Scott & Cindy Musoff	Ellen Sarna	Eric & Carmel Tirschwell
Eric & Dorian Nerenberg	Faith Saunders	Moshe & Beth Tomkiewicz
Lukasz Niedzielski & Dana Niedzielska	Douglas & Jennifer Scherr	Ellen Umansky
Richard Novitch & Dana Sherman	Carol Schifrin	David & Tara Vogel
Ken & Irene Nussbaum	Mark & Julia Schonfeld	Donald & Erika Vujnovich
David & Lori Okun	Paul Schupak & Rhona Merkur	Andrew & Elizabeth Ward
Myra Oltsik	Paul & Barbara Schwarz	David & Maggy Weber
Rosalind Oltsik	David & Lorraine Seicol	Marc Weinstein & Linda Rodney
Gary Orentlicher & Pamela Millian	Andy & Robbie Seidman	Bella Weissman
Dean Perlman & Suzanne Oshatz	Mark & Andrea Seiden	Len Weisman
Perlman	Stan & Barbara Selbst	Stephen Weisglass & Leslie Goldfarb-Weisglass
Elaine Petschek	Roger Seti	Leslie Wiesen
Alfred & Jane Porpora	Murray & Ethel Shapiro	Grace Wiggs
Lilly Port	Bill & Susan Shmerler	Amy Winkler
Stephen Post & Melinda Krieger-Post	Barbara Shore	Bert & Patty Wohl
Rob & Stacey Pushkin	Jason Shuker & Jenifer Johnson	Kevin Worth & Lisa Hochman
Ann Rakoff	Richard & Brenda Siegler	Lenny & Gail Zavlick
Ronald & Carole Ries	Nancy Simon	Marjorie Zeidman
MED Rosenberger & Judy Robbins-Rosenberger	Jay & Grace Singer	Joe & Janet Zuckerman
Stanley Robinson	Jonathan & Lisa Sizemore	Michael Zweig & Michelle Gersen
Howard Rodstein & Jayne Eliach	Richard & Alison Smith	
	Troy & Susan Smith	

The Board of Trustees invites you to attend the next Open Board meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 8:00pm in the Schulman-Chapel-in-the-Woods.

## A Message From Our President

### HANK ROUDA



It was the Friday night after the election and Jean and I were going to head up to Vermont for some quiet and, hopefully, some peace. We normally try to stream services in the car while heading up the Taconic, but we both had separately realized that just wasn't going to be enough. We had a "need" to be with our community, not just in spirit, but in body as well. So, we changed our plans at the last minute and decided to go to services and then head up. No one was expecting us as we had told our friends and the clergy that we would be away. As soon as we walked in, we knew that our change in plans was the best thing that we could have done.

As usual, we were greeted warmly by Martin and Maggy. Maybe the hugs were a little longer and deeper this week. One of the first people that we saw was a non-member – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the URJ. Rick had a very long couple of weeks. First, he was part of a contingent of progressive Jews who were assaulted at the *kotel* as they attempted to bring in Torahs to pray together to protest the lack of progress by the Israeli government, who had promised to set up a section of the Wall where all could worship and celebrate together. He then flew immediately to San Francisco to participate in the URJ Board meeting which our own Ellen Bittner, Lisa Borowitz and Ronnie Cohn attended. That meeting ended just in time for the election. And after all of that, he chose to worship at Kol Ami, to be part of our community at such a time.

Probably the most surprising thing to us was that no one was surprised that we were there. In fact, Cantor Rosen said "I knew that you'd be here." They all understood what we had realized – when you're in pain or in need of help to center your soul, this is where you go. From the hug that we got from Shira (who definitely gives the best hugs) to the quiet words with friends to the beautiful music (we were also mourning the loss of Leonard Cohen whose music for Hallelujah never fails to move me), we were able to walk away with a degree of the peace that we were seeking.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "community" as a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race,

etc... I would argue that, at Kol Ami, it goes much deeper than that. We have created a community that, while it's based on common interests and religion, is also based on the fundamental notion that connecting with and to each other benefits us all. The connections that one makes and cultivates deepen the sense of community and give back to each individual far more than one puts in. It was that sense of community that drew us to Kol Ami last Friday.

On Yom Kippur, I spoke of the reasons that, every year, we ask you to contribute to the Annual Fund. I pointed out that dues cover only 42% of our total budget. I explained that only 10% of our congregants participate in our Premium Dues program, while more than 33% of our families are on some form of dues relief. And I also made it clear that it is not up to any one person to make up the difference; rather, it is each of our responsibility to give in a way that is meaningful to you; to give to ensure that our congregation will continue for us and for our future generations. And it appears that you heard me, for our Annual Fund is ahead of last year both in terms of the number of congregants who have donated and the total amount donated. However, we are still well below our goal (\$151,146 collected vs. \$165,000 budgeted).

Each of you is a spark that helps Kol Ami burn brightly. Together, we fuel our collective flame, sharing our own light so that our community can shine, and each of us shares our light in many ways, including through financial support. While donation size may vary according to one's ability, it is the choice to dig deeply that defines generosity. If you have already made a pledge, we are deeply grateful. If you have not yet had the chance, please visit [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) to make a donation.

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 our Jewish lives. I encourage you to put Kol Ami at the top of your list of donations as we say goodbye to 2016.

Jean and I wish you joyous holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year!

L'shalom,

Hank



SAVE THE DATE

CONGREGATION KOL AMI'S ANNUAL BENEFIT

# HEART SOUL



FEATURING  
CANTORS  
DAVID ROSEN  
MO GLAZMAN  
SHIRA ADLER  
TRACEY SCHER  
AND  
LENORA EVE

A CONCERT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2017

7-11 PM

252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE

WHITE PLAINS

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

## Women of Reform Judaism (Kol Ami Sisterhood)

### Voices in Harmony

During a time in our nation of manifest public discord and divisiveness, Sisterhood officers from New York City to New England to Canada gathered together in Albany recently to participate in the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), Northeast District Biennial Convention entitled Kol Isha: Voices in Harmony. There I witnessed firsthand not only the capabilities of many female leaders in the Reform movement but also the spirit and synergy of collaboration, the value of listening to, engaging, and incorporating different voices and diverse views into our decision-making and into the work we do, thus strengthening our Sisterhoods, making them more relevant, more welcoming, more inclusive, and indeed, more harmonious. Through Workshops such as Audacious Hospitality: Making Your Sisterhood More Welcoming, Creating Clergy/Sisterhood Partnerships, WRJ and the Pursuit of Social Justice, social action projects, prayer and song, and the Region's Board Meeting, we discussed Torah and Temples, Presidents and programs, shared ideas, and made valuable connections.

In our column and membership letters, we have discussed the many contributions our Sisterhood

at Kol Ami makes to our Temple, describing our local sacred work. But did you know that a portion of our dues is directed to the national WRJ and its YES (Youth, Education, and Special Projects) Fund? WRJ's philanthropic efforts ensure its ability to strengthen the Reform movement and to continue making an impact, locally, nationally, and world-wide. Together in harmony, we are able to achieve what no one individual or sisterhood could accomplish alone, such as providing scholarships to rabbinical and cantorial students, supporting youth programs including NFTY and Reform camp and Israel programs, funding a Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center (RAC), and supporting Reform organizations in North America, Israel, and around the globe.

Please join us as we continue to engage together in harmony, benefitting not only each of us as individual women and the Kol Ami Sisterhood, but collaborating with WRJ, regionally and nationally (actually "continentally"), to help shape the future of Reform and Progressive Judaism here and abroad.

Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus Stacey Matusow

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

Sisterhood Havdallah Series  
Latkes and Lattes  
December 17th  
Details to follow...



## Holiday Shopping Spree!



### Congregation Kol Ami

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**9am-3pm**

*OVER 40 VENDORS!*

Jewelry, clothing, handbags, knitwear, accessories,  
handmade crafts, skincare, candles, kitchenware, raffles,  
food...and much, much more!

*Take care of all of your holiday shopping needs  
while supporting the Kol Ami Sisterhood!*

**Present this flyer at the Holiday Shopping Spree  
and get a FREE raffle ticket!**



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM | Stronger Together

**THE  
SISTERHOOD  
GIFT  
SHOP  
AT KOL AMI**

## Happy Hanukkah!

Think of the Sisterhood Judaica Shop  
for Holiday Shopping



## Ritual Riches (Jewish) Pirates of the Caribbean!

### (Jewish) Pirates of the Caribbean!

I was motivated to write this article after hearing a fictionalized version of Jean Laffite's pirate biography when I was the substitute co-teacher in a sixth grade classroom in our Religious School.

At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish Inquisition forced many Jews to flee Spain and Portugal or to convert. According to Edward Kritzer in his 2009 book, "Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean: How a Generation of Swashbuckling Jews Carved Out an Empire in the New World in Their Quest for Treasure, Religious Freedom--and Revenge", the most adventurous among them took to the seas as freewheeling outlaws. In ships bearing names such as the *Prophet Samuel*, *Queen Esther*, and *Shield of Abraham*, they attacked and plundered the Spanish fleet while forming alliances with other European powers to ensure the safety of Jews living in hiding." While many of the details of these captains' lives remain mysterious, historians have been able to provide some fascinating views into the world of Jewish privateers. Here is an introduction to some of their stories.

#### Profile: Abraham Henriques Cohen

Abraham Henriques Cohen was a native of Portugal and a prominent merchant in Lisbon who became a secret Jew living under the Inquisition. His secret life was discovered in 1605, at which time he was subjected to public torture. As a result, he decided to work against Spain and Portugal, the perpetrators of the Inquisition. Upon fleeing to Amsterdam, Cohen became a secret agent for the Dutch navy, making his way to Jamaica, then a haven for Jews. Employed by the Netherlands, he attacked Spanish ships and worked to thwart Spain's ambitions to conquer the New World.

Cohen worked with Sir Henry Morgan, a very famous (non-Jewish pirate), under the flags of England and the Netherlands. In 1628, Cohen and another privateer, Piet Pieterszoon, captured a Spanish fleet off the coast of Cuba, with loot of gold and silver worth about \$1 billion. Cohen retired in Jamaica when Sir Henry Morgan became Lieutenant Governor of Jamaica.

(More than three centuries later, Henriques family descendants still reside in Jamaica. Ainsley Henriques, a distant relative of Abraham, is the leader of Jamaica's tiny Jewish community and has worked tirelessly to preserve the rich history and traditions of Jamaica's unique Jewish community.)

#### Profile: Samuel Pallache

Samuel Pallache trained as a rabbi in the late 1500's in Fez, Morocco, but he preferred the seafaring life and worked as a privateer for both the Dutch government and for the Sultan of Barbary in Morocco. In 1614, when Morocco and Spain were at war, Pallache was in charge of a Moroccan fleet that captured Spanish ships. He was arrested by the Spanish ambassador and tried for piracy, but, eventually, he was acquitted and set free. When he died in 1616, Pallache was given a hero's farewell, and every member of Amsterdam's Jewish community marched in his funeral procession.

#### Profile: Sinan Reis

Reis and his family fled the Spanish Inquisition in the early 1500's, fleeing to Smyrna in what is now Izmir, Turkey. Reis became the aide to the very famous pirate, Hayreddin Barbarossa, who later became a Sultan and a commander in the Ottoman navy. They sailed under a flag with what appeared to be a Star of David. In 1538, Reis was recognized for his great bravery during the Battle of Preveza, off the coast of Greece. Reis and Barbarossa led a contingent of Ottoman forces to victory over a flotilla of armed ships assembled by Pope Paul III from Christian countries. Reis' Spanish enemies nicknamed him "The Great Jew" after this battle, and he earned the rank of Supreme Naval Commander from the Ottoman Empire.

#### Profile: Jean Laffite

Jean Laffite was born in France in about 1780. His grandparents were Jewish and tortured by the Inquisition. He thus developed a hatred for Spain, and as a pirate, attacked Spanish holdings in the New World. He eventually settled in New Orleans where he and his brother operated a legitimate blacksmith shop, but they also held commissions from the Republic of Cartagena (now in Colombia) to attack Spanish boats which they did in secret (in addition to smuggling) from a small and sparsely populated island in Barataria Bay, off the coast of New Orleans.

## Ritual Riches (con't)

### Profile: Jean Laffite

During the War of 1812, Laffite warned American troops of British invasion plans to which he had become privy and offered to General Andrew Jackson the assistance of his pirate troop in exchange for a pardon for their pirate activities; Laffite and his men fought valiantly in the Battle of New Orleans.

In 1817, Laffite went back to his pirate ways and moved to Galveston Island, Texas with nearly a thousand followers. He died in 1825.

A U.S. national park in Louisiana bears Laffite's name, and according to Edward Kritzer, Laffite was the inspiration for Johnny Depp in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies.

For those of you traveling to warmer climes this winter, you may find it of interest to learn that in the Hunt's Bay Cemetery in Kingston, Jamaica, in Bridgeport in the Bahamas, and in the old Jewish

cemetery of Curacao, gravestones bear Hebrew inscriptions as well as the pirate symbols of skulls and crossbones. In downtown Kingston, Friday night services are held at Shaare Shalom, the only remaining synagogue on the island. Prayers are read in English, Hebrew and Spanish, and the sanctuary floor is covered in white sand in tribute to the Iberian Jews who had to muffle their footsteps when they prayed in secret during the Spanish Inquisition, reminders of the community's Sephardic origins.

*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.*

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

### "Life's Journeys" by Susan Ross

As we journey through life, be it religiously or secularly, we maybe drawn to a particular group of people. These groups provide comfort and security.

In any group, there are many talented leaders and followers, insiders and outsiders. No matter the group, the mark of a true individual is one who embodies the best combination of qualities from numerous groups.

These individuals function as bridges or entrance ways to a deeper understanding of the problems and have essential roles to play in furthering the messages of the group in new and creative ways. They provide unity of hope.

One may interpret the clergy's sermons as suggestions for life's journeys, by involving oneself in perpetual transformation and by seeing people as partners in a reality that is constantly unfolding. Then, you never lose yourself in commitments that may be unrealistic or unreasonable.

In the end, people in any group should see the wholeness of the situation-to see "we," "us" and "them" as part of a larger human drama of harmony. Most of all, no matter one's journey in life, the final destination should always be a place that is safe and comfortable.



# FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



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

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

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—Matthew J. Fiorillo,  
Owner & Funeral Director



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## The Legacy Fund

**DID YOU KNOW THAT A GIFT TO THE KOL AMI LEGACY FUND MAY  
ALLOW YOU TO AVOID THE NEW YORK STATE "CLIFF TAX"?**

**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT YOUR FAMILY BY GIVING TO THE  
LEGACY FUND OF CONGREGATION KOL AMI.**

**CALL EVELYNE KLEIN (914-761-7659); KEVIN COHEN (914-949-3411);  
OR  
JUDI BROWN (646-206-4547)**

**Thank you from the Planned Giving Committee**

### **Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***Kol Ami Cares Co-Chairs***

Ginny Ruder - [ginnyruder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyruder@gmail.com) 914-589-5283  
Betsy McCormack - [betsyrmc@aol.com](mailto:betsyrmc@aol.com) 914-960-9390

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

## Kol Ami Cares

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

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

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

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

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

### A. Comfort the Bereaved

I would like to

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

### B. Visit the Sick

I would like to

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

### C. Share Knowledge

I would like to

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

### D. Support our Neighbors

I would like to

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

### E. Provide Transportation

I am available to

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

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone (cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am able to drive myself to programs.
- ☐ I need a ride to programs.

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

**Please return completed forms  
to the Kol Ami Office  
Go to [www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org) for program details**

## Social Action

### **Cooking for the Homeless**

In the Kol Ami kitchen  
Sundays at 11:15 am:  
Dec 4, Jan 22,  
Feb 12, Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, June 11  
and  
Mondays at 12 pm:  
Dec 19, Jan 30, Feb 27,  
Mar 6, Apr 3 & 24, May 22, June 12

### **The Cabin Group**

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

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

### **Al-Anon**

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

### **Mitzvah Knitz**

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

### **The Kol Ami Singers**

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

**Thursday, Dec 22nd (note unusual day)  
at 2:30PM**

The Ambassador, 9 Saxon Woods Rd in White  
Plains, NY

**Wednesday, Jan 25th at 2:30PM**

Greenwich Woods, 1165 King Street in  
Greenwich, CT

## KOL AMI PANTRY

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

## COACHMAN CORNER

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

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

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

## COACHMAN CORNER



**Contact Alison or Lisa if you would like to sponsor a Birthday Party or a Mitzvah Morning.**

*You can also be an angel behind the scenes by donating any of the supplies listed below. Collection bins are located in front of the Main Office.*

- Paper goods for parties such as large plates for pizza, cake plates, plastic forks, cups, napkins, disposable rectangular table cloths
- Craft supplies for birthday projects such as sticker books, puzzles or simple projects
- New toys and games that can be given as gifts for birthday kids from ages 1-13
- Wrapping paper and curling ribbon
- \$25 Gift cards for teens
- Plastic or cellophane bags plus “goodies” for boys and girls 2 – 12 years old: (e.g., candy, pencils, stickers, bubbles, rubber balls, rings, etc.)



### Birthday Party Project

The Wittenstein Family sponsored our November birthday party. The kids rocked out to music performed by Songs for Seeds and then had a blast making sticker collages. Brett Goldstein, Rabbi Tom and Samantha Weiner provided extra hands and smiles to keep everything running smoothly. Everyone feasted on pizza and cake and the party concluded with wrapped gifts for the children celebrating birthdays and goody bags for all.

Alison Adler [aadler3@verizon.net](mailto:aadler3@verizon.net) (646) 483-4657 Lisa Hochman [lisahochman@mac.com](mailto:lisahochman@mac.com) (914) 834-1555

# Coachman Corner

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner – November 20th



## A bountiful feast!

On Sunday, November 20th our community came together to serve a delicious Thanksgiving dinner to our Coachman neighbors. Jay Hack, with help from our kitchen volunteers, prepared a sumptuous and bountiful feast. Volunteers did a wonderful job welcoming and serving our guests and engaging the little ones in crafts and games. Beautiful table centerpieces were made by our Religious School students. After a full and satisfying dinner, followed by a decadent dessert display, our guests were thrilled to pack up leftovers to take home. Each guest also took home a goody bag with a hand made card from our ECP children and individually wrapped packages of homemade cookies prepared by Meredith Rosenblatt's religious school class. It was a great collaboration from start to finish.

Thank you to all  
our volunteers!



*Our kitchen crew consisted of a true cross section of our congregation and all worked happily under the formidable leadership of Jay Hack (not pictured)*



*Not to be out done by her husband, Rebecca Hack showed off her culinary and baking skills.*





## Mark Your Calendar – Kol Ami Blood Drive

Sunday, December 18, 2016

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

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 at least 110 pounds. People over 75 can 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*

*"For the life of all flesh – its blood is its life." Leviticus 17:14*

*"Whoever saves a life, as if saves an entire world." Mishna Sanhedrin*



## WELCOME TO SYNAPLEX!

2016-2017

DECEMBER 9, 2016

## Friday evening schedule:

5:00 pm

Explorations in Jewish music with  
Cantor David Rosen and special guests

5:30 pm

Shabbat -in- the -Woods for children  
ages 2-6; followed by supervised child-  
care, light supper & Shabbat crafts

6:00 pm

Unwind with hors d'oeuvres

6:15 pm

Shabbat Services

7:15 pm

Shabbat Dinner (RESERVATIONS MUST  
BE MADE NO LATER THAN WED,  
DEC 7TH)

7:30 pm

Tzedakah sandwich making

8:00 pm

Supervised sports and games with  
Coach Steve for children in grades K-6

8:00 pm

THE MAIN EVENT

9:15 pm

Relax at the end of a long day and week  
with dessert and coffeeALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE COMMUNITY WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF DINNERFor further information, contact Ilene  
Miller at 914-949-4717 x115/  
llenemiller@nykolami.org or visit  
www.nykolami.org

## SYNAPLEX MAIN EVENTS

(Friday evenings unless otherwise noted)

Friday, December 9 - Rabbi Rami Shapiro -

Scholar in Residence Weekend

A Jewish practitioner of Perennial Wisdom, Rabbi Rami Shapiro is an award-winning author of over thirty books on religion and spirituality. He received rabbinical ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and holds a PH.D. in religion from Union Graduate School. A congregational rabbi for 20 years, and a professor of religious studies for ten (Middle Tennessee State University), Rabbi Rami currently directs the One River Foundation and its World Wisdom Bible project, writes a regular column for Spirituality and Health magazine called *Roadside Assistance for the Spiritual Traveler*, and hosts the magazine's weekly radio show, *Essential Conversations with Rabbi Rami*. His newest book is *The Golden Rule and Games People Play*.



Friday evening: "Beyond Theology: Why Job is the Most Honest Book of the Hebrew Bible"

Saturday morning (Shabbat Lift Study at 10:30AM)

"Right Living in a World that is Ever-Dying: Why Ecclesiastes is the Only Self-help Book You'll Ever Need"

## SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE SYNAPLEX EVENTS...

Friday, January 20 - Jews and Boxing

With Boyd "Rainmaker" Melson

Saturday, February 11 - Shabbat Shira Weekend: A Havdalah Synaplex

Join us for "A Night at the Opera"


Friday, March 17 - Scholar in Residence Weekend

With Jonathan Karp, Associate Professor, Ph.D.

"Paul Robeson and the Americanization of Jewish Folk Music"

Friday, April 28 - Sayed Kashua

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

ASL INTERPRETATION PROVIDED UPON REQUEST CLIP & RETURN DINNER RESERVATION FORM TO  
CONGREGATION KOL AMI (252 SOUNDVIEW AVE,  
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606)

NO LATER THAN WED., DEC 7TH

## "Community &amp; Family Dinner"

#Adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

#Children 5 and under \_\_\_\_\_ = N/C

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Name/s &amp; Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

The Adult Education Committee cordially invites you to join us for

## **Shabbat Storytelling Lunch** **Saturday, January 14, 2017**

Tell a story about your neighborhood:  
how did the place where you grew up  
shape you as a person?

**12:30 in the Gallery**

**\$10.00\* -- RSVP required**

***RSVP by Friday, January 6 to [hillarybarnett@nykolami.org](mailto:hillarybarnett@nykolami.org)***

(No need to RSVP again if you sign up in person at services. Checks may be mailed to the office or brought to Kol Ami on the day of the event.)

Please join us for the next in our popular series of Shabbat lunches. This time, we will ask attendees to share a brief (approximately 3-minute) story with one another about how the neighborhood where they grew up helped to shape the person they are today.

**Lunch – Learn – Connect**  
**All are welcome!**

**\*Due to the success of this program, we are now asking for \$10 to help cover costs.**

## WELCOME TO SYNAPLEX!

2016-2017

JANUARY 20, 2017

*Friday evening schedule:*

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

5:30 pm  
Shabbat -in- the -Woods for children  
ages 2-6; followed by supervised child-  
care, light supper & Shabbat crafts

6:00 pm  
Unwind with hors d'oeuvres

6:15 pm  
Shabbat Services

7:15 pm  
Shabbat Dinner (RESERVATIONS MUST  
BE MADE NO LATER THAN WED,  
JAN 18TH)

7:30 pm  
Tzedakah sandwich making

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

8:00 pm  
THE MAIN EVENT

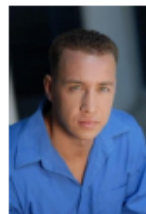
9:15 pm  
Relax at the end of a long day and week  
with dessert and coffee

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

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

## SYNAPLEX MAIN EVENTS

(Friday evenings unless otherwise noted)



Friday, January 20

The Fire to Excel - Inside the Ring and Beyond  
Jews and Boxing

With Boyd "Rainmaker" Melson, (three time All-American and Four-Time  
Gold Medalist at the All Army Boxing Championships)

Get your ringside seats (seriously)!

Born to a French Creole father and Israeli-Polish mother, Melson played basketball as a youngster  
and wasn't introduced to boxing until his first year at The United States Military Academy at West  
Point. Along the way, in 2002, Melson also met a person who would change his life forever. He met a  
young woman named Christian Zaccagnino who had broke her neck in 1993 at the age of 10; she  
continues to be wheelchair bound due to her Spinal Cord Injury.

From that point forward, one of his main goals was to help Christian walk again. Together, their  
mission became the needs of raise awareness about Spinal Cord Injuries and bringing Clinical Trials to  
the United States in search of a cure for Spinal Cord Injuries. World Military Boxing Championships  
(Bronze Medalist at the 2005 U.S. Nationals, Silver Medalist at the 2006 U.S. Championships, and an  
Alternate for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team. He is a 2005 and 2013 Jewish Sports Hall of Fame  
Award Recipient).

## SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE SYNAPLEX EVENTS...

Friday, March 17 - Scholar in Residence Weekend

With Jonathan Karp, Associate Professor, Ph.D.

"Paul Robeson and the Americanization of Jewish Folk Music"

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*"Community & Family Dinner"*

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#Children 5 and under \_\_\_\_\_ = N/C

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Name/s &amp; Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

# Adult Education

## Spiritual Journeying Groups

### Mussar Classes

Mondays, 12:30 - 2:00 pm  
Dec 5, Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, June 19

(fee for Kol Ami members \$72, \$100 for non-members)

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

### Women in Transition

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

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

### Women's Roundtable Breakfast\*

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:00 am

Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1,

Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3

With Rabbi Shira Milgrom

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

### December 7th

**"Woman and Body Image"**

**A Discussion with Rabbi Shira Milgrom**

### Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

**Now entering its 6th year -**

**Newcomers Always Welcome!**

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 am

Join us in learning mindfulness meditation, a practice of training the mind and the heart so that we can live with greater clarity, acceptance and connection. No meditation experience necessary.

Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, and certified meditation teacher. WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami

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

#### Programs include:

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

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



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

Design by Sourtionary



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## GATHER AND STUDY

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### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

#### **God: A Biography**

Thursday evenings

7:30 - 9:00pm

(except where otherwise noted)

Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Dec 8, Dec 22, Jan 19 (6:30-8:00pm), Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 16, Mar 9, Mar 16, Mar 30, May 30 - Shavuot Tikkun (9:00-10:00pm)

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

### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

#### **Israel in the News with David Gravit**

Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:45 pm

Dec 13; Jan 3, 17; Feb 7, 21; Mar 7, 21; Apr 4, 18;

May 2, 16; June 6, 20

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

#### **Wisdom of the Sages at Kol Ami**

Thursdays 11:00 – 12:00 pm

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

All are welcome.

With Rabbi Tom Weiner

#### **Current Events with**

##### **Beth & Gene Kava**

Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Dec 12, Jan 9, 23, Feb 6, 27, Mar 13, 27, Apr 10, 24,

May 8, 22, June 5, 19

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

#### **Weekly Torah Study:**

##### **Parashat Hashavua**

Friday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 am

Led by Kol Ami members

#### **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.

Dec 2nd: Poetry and Art

with Barbara Wexler and Amy Winkler

Jan 4th: "The Autobiography of Alice B Toklas"  
Gertrude Stein

Feb 1st: "The Zoo Keeper's Wife" Diane  
Ackerman

For more information contact Doris Dingott at  
289-0869 or [DLDingott@gmail.com](mailto:DLDingott@gmail.com)

#### **Prophets Seminar**

Mondays 7:30 pm

##### ***Prerequisite-curiosity***

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

## PARENTING GROUPS

### Parenting Teens Workshops

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

Next session December 1

Susan Davis, LCSW

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

### Grandparenting Workshops

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

Next session December 1

Susan Davis, LCSW

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

## ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

### Beginner Hebrew with Emily Fields\*

Sundays at 9:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

### Shabbat Sings

### Hebrew prayers and songs

### Learn the Service in Hebrew

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

Sundays at 10:00am

\$150 per semester/10 classes

Please contact Emily at [efgraph@optonline.net](mailto:efgraph@optonline.net) to register or if you require additional information.

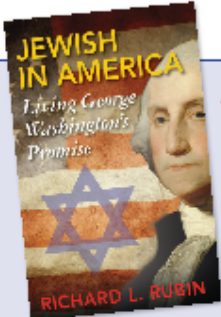
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### Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew

### 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.



**ARE American Jews LOSING THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY?**

**Join Author Richard Rubin for Conversation and Book Signing**

December 5, 2016 | 7:30 - 9 pm

JCC of Mid-Westchester | 999 Wilnot Road, Scarsdale


No admission fee

Since George Washington promised Jewish Americans the full privileges and protections of U.S. citizenship, Jews have flourished in America as nowhere else in the world. But has that come at the expense of their Jewish identity? Richard Rubin argues that while most American Jews have been "Americanized," they continue to be shaped by Jewish history, culture, and religion in ways that affect everything from their social attitudes to their child-rearing methods to their voting patterns. This "fusion" of American values with Jewish ones has created a "hybrid" Jewish identity that American Jews must cultivate and pass on to future generations.

*"A must-read for anyone interested in the past and future role of Jews in American life, and in the impact of American culture on Jewish life."*

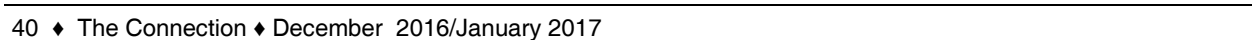
- Robert Pack, Distinguished Senior Professor at the University of Montana

[www.jewishinamericabook.com](http://www.jewishinamericabook.com) | Available on Amazon



**Or Chadash (A New Light)**  
**Choir for children in Kindergarten**  
**through 6th Grade**  
Sundays at 11:00 am  
(when Religious School is in session)  
Cantor David Rosen and  
Lenora Eve, Accompanist

**Mah Jongg**  
Wednesdays at 10:30 am  
Kol Ami Atrium  
Email Betsy McCormack  
(Betsyrmc@aol.com)  
for information



# December 2016 Calendar

## Thu Dec 1

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

## Fri Dec 2

6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Dec 3

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

## Sun Dec 4

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
9:00 am - Women's Oasis  
11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir  
5:00 pm - Cantorial Concert at Kol Ami

## Mon Dec 5

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

## Wed Dec 7

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

## Thu Dec 8

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

## Fri Dec 9

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

## Sat Dec 10

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
12:30 pm - Luncheon in Gallery  
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Max Miller

## Sun Dec 11

9:00 am - Sisterhood Holiday Boutique

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

## Mon Dec 12

11:00 am - Current Events  
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar  
7:30 pm - Movie Nite, "Ida"

## Tue Dec 13

11:30 am - Women in Transition  
7:30 pm - Israel In the News

## Wed Dec 14

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

## Thu Dec 15

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

## Fri Dec 16

5:30 pm - Religious School Grade K-1 and ECP Family Shabbat/Concert & Dinner  
5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods  
6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Dec 17

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
4:00 pm - Sisterhood Havdallah Series - Latkes and Lattes  
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Jack Smith

## Sun Dec 18

9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
11:00 am - Chanukah Party (sponsored by Men's Council)  
11:00 am - 11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir

## Mon Dec 19

12:30 pm - Mussar Class  
7:00 pm - Adult Only Hanukkah Party  
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

## Tue Dec 20

10:00 am - Mitzvah Knits

## Wed Dec 21

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

## Thu Dec 22

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

7:30 pm - God: A Biography with Shira Milgrom

## Fri Dec 23

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

## Sat Dec 24

Chanukah First Candle  
Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study

## Sun Dec 25

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Dec 26

OFFICE CLOSED

## Tue Dec 27

## Wed Dec 28

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Thu Dec 29

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

## Fri Dec 30

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

## Sat Dec 31

Chanukah Eighth Candle  
New Year's Eve  
Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study

# January 2017 Calendar

## Sun Jan 1

New Year's Day  
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Jan 2

Office Closed

## Tue Jan 3

7:30 pm - Israel In the News

## Wed Jan 4

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

## Thu Jan 5

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

## Fri Jan 6

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

## Sat Jan 7

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
4:00 pm - Sisterhood Havdallah Series - Latkes and Lattes  
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Zolot

## Sun Jan 8

9:00 am - Religious School Grade 6 B'nai Mitzvah Wkshp #1/Fam History Exhibit  
9:00 am - K-6th Grade Religious School  
11:00 am - Or Chadash Choir  
11:00 am - Shevet Achim with Tom  
4:00 pm - Interfaith Community Concert in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Mon Jan 9

7:30 am - Prophets Seminar

## Tue Jan 10

11:30 am - Women in Transition

## Wed Jan 11

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

## Thu Jan 12

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

## Fri Jan 13

5:30 pm - Shabbat In The Woods

6:00 pm - Religious School Grade 3 Shabbaton/Sleepover

6:15 pm - Evening Shabbat Service

## Sat Jan 14

Shabbat Lift - 8:45am - Coffee, tea and kibbutzing  
9:00 am - Child-friendly Shabbat Service with aliyot, songs for children, prayer and celebration for all  
9:45 am - Family Oneg with bagels and snacks  
10:30 - 12:00 pm - Torah Study  
4:00 pm - Sisterhood Havdallah Series - Latkes and Lattes  
5:30 pm - Shabbat Evening Service: Bar Mitzvah of Noah Bernstein

## Sun Jan 15

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Mon Jan 16

Martin Luther King Day  
OFFICE CLOSED

## Tue Jan 17

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

## Wed Jan 18

10:30 am - Mah Jongg  
4:00 pm - 4th-6th Grade Religious School  
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FOR UPPER GRADES

## Thu Jan 19

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

## Fri Jan 20

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

## Sat Jan 21

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

## Sun Jan 22

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

## Mon Jan 23

12:30 pm - Mussar Class  
7:30 pm - Kol Ami Movie Nite  
7:30 pm - Prophets Seminar

## Wed Jan 25

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

## Thu Jan 26

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

## Fri Jan 27

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

## Sat Jan 28

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

## Sun Jan 29

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

## Mon Jan 30

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

## Tue Jan 31

7:30 pm - Womens Oasis





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

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