THE CONNECTION

February 2018

Volume No. 6

Inside this issue....

February 9th
Synaplex
Page 31

Purim!
Events and Baskets
Page 27 and 32

Save the Date for the Spring Benefit Page 36

International Potluck Shabbat Page 38



Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

Executive Director ♦ Jess Lorden

ECP Director ⇔ Nan Blank

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Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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Worship Opportunities



Kol Ami's Kabbalat Shabbat Services in our Main Sanctuary at 6:15pm on Friday evenings

(Crafts and Activities for Young Children are available during services)

We come to this sacred space together
to pray, to sing, to remember.
So take a deep breath, look around, allow your
body to move, your voice to soar, and your soul to open
to the possibilities of this time.

Worship Opportunities



CONGREGATION KOL AMI WELCOMES YOU TO JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

A Shabbat Service in Story and Song for Families with Young Children from 5:30 - 6:00pm all year round. In the Kol Ami Gallery Followed by our Festive Oneg!

Parents can join in our 6:15pm
Kol Ami Service while your preschooler
can stay with us and enjoy crafts, games,
and a light supper!

The first Friday of every month is also our Book Share Evening sponsored by temple families. Each family who attends will go home with a book as our gift to you.

Everyone is welcome!

Worship Opportunities

lift your shabbat

Saturday Morning **Torah Study** With Rabbi Shira

Join Rabbi Shira and fellow congregants in our beautiful Chapel in the Woods on Saturday mornings.

Step away from the chaos of the week and bring in the warmth and reflection of Shabbat that Torah Study can offer for the week ahead.

9:00am coffee & community 9:30am torah study 11:00am shabbat services



Come for all, or part, of the morning, Bring your curiosity!



Weekly Torah Portions for February

Week ending February 3, 2018 Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

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

Week ending February 10, 2018 Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

The word mishpatim means "case laws." This week's parasha continues the presentation of Divine legislation (the Torah) and includes many decrees - comprising civil, criminal, and cultic regulations. The parasha ends with a covenant ceremony on Mount Sinai.

Week ending February 17, 2018 Parashat Teruma Exodus 25:1-27:19

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

Week ending February 24, 2018 Parashat T'tzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10

The rituals surrounding the priests and sacrifices are described, and the obligations of Aaron and his sons are enumerated in Parashat T'tzaveh. This parashah has the distinction of being the only parashah in the last four books of the Torah in which the name of Moses does not appear.



February Calendar

Thursday, February 1st

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00am-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 12:00-1:00pm Parenting Teens Workshop 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-8:00pm Adult Choir (Purim Spiel Rehearsal) 7:30-8:30pm Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel

Friday, February 2nd

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods 6:00pm-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper for Young Children 6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary with Yad B'Yad Shabbat of Inclusion 7:30-9:00pm Biennial Delegation Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, February 3rd

Lift Your Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary 9:00am Coffee and Community in the Atrium 9:30am Guest Speaker, Artist Siona Benjamin 11:00am Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary 4:00pm Premium Dues Event with Siona Benjamin 5:30pm B'nai Mitzvah for Jake Frydman and Juliet Schneider

Sunday, February 4th

9:00-11:00am Religious School 11:00am Or Chadash Choir 11:30-1:00pm Rosh Chodesh in the Chapel

Monday, February 5th

9:15-10:15am Grandparenting Workshop 11:00-12:00pm Current Events in Room 20 with Guest Speaker, County Legislator Ben Boykin 12:30-2:00pm Mussar Class 7:30-9:00pm The Sephardic Experience

Tuesday, February 6th

5:45pm AA in the Chapel 7:30-9:00pm The Jews of Spain with Guest Speaker Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Wednesday, February 7th

7:45-8:45am Women's Roundtable Breakfast 9:00-10:30am KA Reads Book Club in Room 20 10:30am-2:00pm Mah Jongg 4:00-6:00pm Religious School 6:00-6:30pm Wednesday Youth Dinner 6:30-8:30pm Religious School 7:30pm Be The Light Task Force Meeting

Thursday, February 8th

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-8:00pm Adult Choir (Purim Spiel Rehearsal) 7:30-8:30pm Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm ECP Trivia Night Fundraiser

Friday, February 9th

5th Grade Shabbat-at-Home

Synaplex Shabbat!
5:00pm Shabbat Explorations in Jewish
Music with Cantor David
5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods
6:00pm-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper
for Young Children
6:00pm Hors d'Oeuvres
6:15pm Shabbat Services
7:15pm Dinner catered by Great American BBQ
(RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)
7:30-9:30pm Activities for Children and Teens
8:15pm Keynote Speaker: Karen Branan

Saturday, February 10th

9:15pm Dessert Oneq

Lift Your Shabbat Services in the Chapel
9:00am Coffee and Community
9:30am Torah Study
10:00am 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Workshop
#2: Family Shabbat and Brunch
11:00am Shabbat Services
12:30-2:00pm Adult Ed Luncheon in the Gallery
4:30-5:30pm Havdalah in Pajamas

Sunday, February 11th

9:00-11:00am Religious School 11:00am Or Chadash Choir 11:00am-1:00pm Cooking for the Homeless 5:00-7:00pm Keshet Meeting at Kol Ami 6:00-8:30pm Sisterhood Ladies Nite Out

Monday, February 12th

7:30-9:00pm Kol Ami at the Movies

Tuesday, February 13th

11:30am-1:00pm Women in Transition 5:45-6:45pm AA in the Chapel 7:00pm Kol Ami Returns to Broadway: Hello Dolly! 7:30-9:00pm The Jewish of Spain

Wednesday, February 14th

9:00-10:30am ECP Bake Sale 10:30-2:00pm Mah Jongg 4:00-6:00pm Religious School 6:00-6:30pm Wednesday Youth Dinner 6:30-8:30pm Religious School 7:30pm Israel in the News

Thursday, February 15th

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00am-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-8:00pm Adult Choir (Purim Spiel Rehearsal) 7:30-8:30pm Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel

Friday, February 16th

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods 6:00pm-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper for Young Children 6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary

Saturday, February 17th

Lift Your Shabbat Services in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee and Community 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Services

February Calendar

Sunday, February 18th

No Religious School

Monday, February 19th

President's Day FCP and Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 20th

ECP Closed 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 7:30-9:00pm The Jews of Spain

Wednesday, February 21st

ECP Closed Religious School Closed 10:30-2:00pm Mah Jongg

Thursday, February 22nd

ECP Closed 9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00am-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 11:00-2:00pm Wise Aging 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-8:00pm Adult Choir (Purim Spiel Rehearsal) 7:30-8:30pm Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel

Friday, February 23rd

ECP Closed 5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods 6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary

Saturday, February 24th

Lift Your Shabbat Services in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee and Community 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Services

Sunday, February 25th

No Religious School

Monday, February 26th

11:00am-12:00pm Current Events in Room 20 6:00-9:00pm (Adult Choir) Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:30pm The Sephardic Expereince

Tuesday, February 27th

5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-9:00pm (Adult Choir) Purim Spiel Rehearsal 7:00pm Nominating Committee Open Meeting

Wednesday, February 28th

10:30-2:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00-6:30pm Purim Carnival & Dinner 4:00-6:00pm Religious School 6:30-8:00pm Purim Spiel 6:30-8:30pm Religious School 8:00-9:00pm Purim Dancing

SAVE THE DATES FOR MARCH

Monday March 5th-Wednesday, March 14th

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Trip to Spain

Friday, March 23rd: Synaplex Shabbat Friday, March 30th: 1st Night of Passover

<u>Please Note:</u> During the winter months, the Cushman Road entrance is not plowed. Please use the entrances and exits on Soundview Avenue. Thank you.

February B'nai Mitzvah



Jake Alexander Frydman, son of Stephanie Wolman and Paul Frydman and younger brother to Ryan, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 3, 2018. Jake is in 7th grade at Highlands Middle School. Jake enjoys playing soccer, skiing, and playing basketball. For his Mitzvah project, Jake tutored children at The Coachman Center in White Plains.



A Message from our Rabbi

ESTHER AND VASHTI - #MeToo

I'm crazy about Purim. There could be lots of reasons. Oscar Wilde once said, "Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth." I'm not sure what all my masks and disguises of the last many years say about my truths - Charlie Chaplain, blue Avatar, Hassidic rebbe, nun, Pocahontas, (then candidate) Trump,

(then candidate) Sarah Palin, Bob Dylan, Captain Jack Sparrow (Pirates of the Caribbean -Johnny Depp), Dennis Rodman, Edward Scissor-yads – and on. I'm not sure about deeper truths – except how fun it is to play with identities. The story of Esther in the Megillah contains its own sets of disguises: Esther hides her Jewishness, Haman the advisor isn't really out to advise the king; he's in it for his own greed and selfish motives, and of course, God too remains hidden. And women who are set in the narrative to be obedient and subservient end up risking their lives to save others.

For many of us, when we were young, no one – I mean no one – would have ever dressed up as Vashti. Vashti was synonymous with the wicked witch of the west. A more careful read of the scroll, however, reveals that Vashti was beautiful – and that her only "crime" was saying no to outrageous, inappropriate sexual demands. For that, of course, she loses her job – a fate described by countless others as #MeToo takes center stage. Vashti's casting as a wicked horrible person is the veneer that was put on the text by centuries of misogyny. The veneer is not so subtle. The King's advisor tells him he must get rid of Vashti, otherwise all the women in the kingdom will start saying 'no' to their husbands – (if the Queen could say 'no' to her husband!) and each man must be the ruler in his own house.

Enter Esther. She is Vashti's opposite. She is quiet, obedient, she does exactly what she is told. She is set up by her guardian, her cousin Mordecai, to enter the king's contest. She – like all the other virgin contestants – goes through 12 months of "beauty" training – and then when she is called, she "goes into the king's chambers in the evening and comes out in the morning." She wins this contest.

There are certainly fairytale elements here (think Cinderella, Pretty Woman) – some of which are romantic and enchanting. Re-reading the story through the eyes of #MeToo adds other lenses, however – that of sex trafficking, harassment and abuse. How will we tell these stories?

Many years ago, we created an Esther/Vashti flag to wave at Purim services – every time one of their names was read. That was before #MeToo. We knew, but we didn't have a clue how widespread and deep this crisis is. It's time again to raise the banner – and to rescue the story.

-Rabbi Shira Milgrom

A Message from our Rabbi



A great discussion took place a while ago in our Thursday morning Wisdom of the Sages class. We were doing our usual perusal of the English translation of the opening chapters of the Mishneh, and one little sentence instigated one long and wonderful discussion:

"Since you can't inherit the Torah, you must prepare yourself to study it." (Pirkei Avot 2:12)

'Wait a minute', we all thought, 'I can't inherit the Torah? I thought I already did!" Isn't that what we've always been taught? The Torah belongs to us! The Torah is our inheritance, right? The People of the Book! Isn't that what they call us?

So we asked what that could mean. And a beautiful and powerful point was made by Rashi in the 11th century. He explained that just because our parents or grandparents studied and enjoyed Torah and Jewish life doesn't mean that we automatically get to "inherit" the Torah until we learn it for ourselves.

In other words, I may be able to inherit money or a house or other possessions from my parents. But there are those higher things that I have to learn and earn on my own. But I can't inherit my parents' good reputation, I have to earn that on my own. I don't inherit their professions or trades until I study one and learn it for myself.

And it is the same with our Jewish inheritance. How wonderful that a parent or grandparent lived a meaningful Jewish life. And that is indeed a precious and meaningful thing. But Torah, and all of the joys it brings, can only be ours when we earn/learn/celebrate it on our own.

If we are very blessed and do our work well as a synagogue and as families, then maybe our own children will be inspired to someday go and inherit the Torah for themselves.

Rabbi Tom Weiner



#MeToo—-The Purim Story

There is no question that biblical narratives were the breeding ground for #MeToo moments. There are countless episodes that take place throughout the Torah and the Bible which exploit, degrade or portray women in an inferior light. The book of Esther is no exception for #MeToo moments. Ancient Persian society was no different in how they degraded women and put them in situations where their voice was not heard.

And yet, when we celebrate the characters of Esther and Vashti, we realize that the Purim story was one of the first accounts we witnesses of a woman's voice and her power to stand up for what is equal and just.

As early as the 19th century, Vashti's resistance to her husband's wish to use her as a sex object made her an icon for early feminists. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote in 1878 that Vashti's decision was a "first stand for woman's rights" and that "we shall stand amazed that there was a woman found at the head of the Persian empire that dared to disobey the command even of a drunken monarch." About 20 years later, the Woman's Bible commentary put together by suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton called Vashti "a sublime representative of self-centered womanhood" who rises "to the heights of self-consciousness and of self-respect."

Vashti and Esther are true heroines within the bible. They are role models for women of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

At this year's Purim celebration, we will be doing something very special within the context of our Purim narrative, to celebrate the role of women within our community.

As you know, this year's Purim Spiel is set to the music of Billy Joel. In Billy Joel's lyrics, "We Didn't Start the Fire," we are reminded that the suppression of women's rights is not necessarily something that started in our time, but we have the obligation to do something about it for present and future generations.

There is a wonderful dance set to music called "Break the Chain." It was produced in 2012 and it's message has never been as clear as it is today. For Erev Purim, as part of our celebration, we will be reproducing this dance with YOUR Help. Everyone is welcome to participate and all you have to do is learn the dance. Below I am attaching a link to a video as well as an additional teaching video to help you learn the moves. On February 15th from 7:30 to 8:30pm Rabbi Shira and Jill Staffin (our resident choreographer) will be working with those who want to be a part of this opportunity. All you have to do is show up...

We will be sending out more information in the weeks leading up to Purim. Looking forward to a happy and joyous Purim, celebrating the lives of women everywhere and especially within our Kol Ami Community!!

Cantor David Rosen

Link to Dance Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL5N8rSy4CU

Link to Instructional Dance Video: https://vimeo.com/76244523

A Message from our Co-President

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE Martin Luther King Jr.

This past month the country celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As Dr. King taught: "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." These words were really brought to life as we at Kol Ami celebrated the legacy of Dr. King through a variety of inspiring programming led by Rabbi Shira.



In one of the most inspiring days I've had at Kol Ami, I came with my 13-year old daughter to hear the first-hand accounts from some of those who stood on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement. Lynda Blackmon Lowery — one of the youngest activists who participated in the historic 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery — told us about growing up in the segregated South and how her life changed when as a young girl she heard Dr. King preach about voting rights and non-violent civil disobedience. She began participating in various marches and was arrested numerous times by the time she was 15 years old. Ms. Lowery then described her experience marching over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma during what become known as "Bloody Sunday". She was near the front and as they reached the crest of the bridge, they saw all these men in blue — the Alabama State Troopers, Sheriff Jim Clark and his deputies, and a posse on horseback. They continued to march peaceably toward the State Troopers until she heard pop, pop and the air and ground filled with tear gas. Ms. Lowery next recalls being beaten with a Billy club resulting in numerous stiches across her eye and the back of her head. Remarkably, this inspired her not to hate, but to peaceably fight harder for justice. Shortly thereafter, she was one of the 300 marchers — the youngest at age 15 — allowed to march all the way from Selma to Montgomery.

Then we heard from Mary Liuzzo Lilleboe, whose mother Viola Liuzzo, after seeing the events of "Bloody Sunday" on television, was one of a number of white persons that traveled down to Alabama to participate in the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. Viola was murdered by the KKK on that trip. Mary, as well as her brothers and father, had to find a way to deal with this inexplicable loss. And rather than growing up with hate, Mary dedicated her life to bringing forward the blueprint of nonviolent conflict resolution left us by Dr. King, her mother and the other foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement.

We ended the morning – arm and arm – singing "We shall overcome." And Rabbi Shira then explained how that week's Torah portion, part of Exodus - the greatest freedom story ever told – involved Pharaoh asking Moses who would go if Pharaoh let the Jews leave. Moses replied, "We will go with our young and with our old; with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go" Moses was not leaving anyone behind.

Freedom belongs to everyone and if one of us remains oppressed then none of us has obtained true liberation.

We at Kol Ami, following in the steps of Moses and Dr. King, recognize that an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere and remain committed to being on the forefront of social justice initiatives as led by our Be The Light campaign. There is so much more that can and needs to be done. If you would like to get involved, please email socialjustice@nykolami.org or contact the main office.

L'Shalom

Scott Musoff

A Message from our Executive Director

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of sitting in the audience when healthcare educator Scott Fried spoke with our high school students about sexual abuse and the concept of consent. One week later Scott led a follow-up discussion for parents. On January 20th Dave and I finally saw the award-winning Broadway musical, Dear Evan Hansen. That same day, more than 100,000 citizens, mostly



women, peacefully protested in the Women's March in New York City. The next day, Dave and I watched the movie, Wonder Woman, with the students in the 7th grade Religious School elective we are co-teaching. What do these seemingly disparate events have in common? One answer is the power of love. What better theme to ponder during the month of February; the month of love.

Scott Fried shared his personal story including how self-loathing and self-doubt as to his worth led him to make a huge mistake which changed the trajectory of his life. In a powerfully moving story, Dear Evan Hansen explores, among other things, the power of a Mother's unconditional love for her child and the child's struggle to love himself and accept that he is enough just as he is. During this year's Women's March in New York City, one marcher held a sign which read in part "...My toughness is in tenderness. My strength is in the service of others. There is nothing more fierce than formidable, unconditional love." The film, Wonder Woman, depicts the physical and emotional strength of the Amazon women and suggests that love is necessary to end war and bring about a lasting peace.

Love is also an essential component of the Kol Ami community. Community means receiving love, comfort and support in good times and bad. Community means being strengthened by each other. When you engage in a sacred community you create love,

caring and connections. We need all members of our community to know that we see them, we value them, and we recognize that their unique contributions to our community make us stronger. In other words, we need each member of our congregational community to know he or she is loved. But how?

The torah teaches us to perform acts of love and kindness. If you learn that someone in our community has suffered a loss, please contact that person to offer support or perhaps a meal. If you see someone sitting alone at services, please extend an invitation to join you. If you become aware that a congregant cannot drive to or from services, please offer a ride. If you learn that a congregant has been in the hospital, please call and express your care and concern. If you are at Kol Ami and notice someone you do not know, introduce yourself. The possibilities for demonstrating love and kindness are endless.

Love is love is love.

Wishing you a month of love and peace,

-Jess Lorden





A Message from our ECP Director

February ECP Dates:

2/2 3's, 4's, 5's Caregiver Shabbat

2/8 ECP Trivia Night

2/10 Havdallah in Pajamas

2/14 Share the Love Bake Sale

Love is something if you give it away, Give it away, give it away. Love is something if you give it away, It comes right back to you...

And that's just what we're learning everyday in the ECP! February especially is filled with wonderful opportunities in the ECP to share our love.

Beginning on **February 1st** and extending throughout the entire month, our families will have the opportunity to donate new items for infants and toddlers including bottles, formula, baby food, shoes, and clothing. Our collection will be donated to the homeless shelters in Westchester at the end of the month. If you would like to partner with us, please drop off any of these much-needed items in the cradle outside the ECP office anytime during the month.

On **Friday, February 2nd** we will be hosting our annual Caregiver's Shabbat for our 3's, 4's and 5's families. This is always a wonderful way to start our month of giving. All of our 3's, 4's and 5's families' caregivers are invited to join us for Shabbat to enjoy our songs and prayers with us and of course the delicious Challah that we bake!

Join us **Thursday evening February 8th** when the ECP is hosting a Trivia Evening for Adults. This will be a wonderful evening with dinner, an open bar, and a silent auction. Our main event will feature fun and interactive TRIVIA. Everyone is welcome to join. The cost is \$75.00 per person and reservations can be made through the Early Childhood Office. Please see our invitation in the month's Connection. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our three amazing chairs, Liz Ilberg, Emily Campbell, and Danielle Gecht we can all look forward to a fabulous evening.

Then on **Wednesday, February 14th** the ECP will be sponsoring our annual Share the Love Mitzvah Bake Sale. The Bake Sale will take place in our Auditorium from 9:00-9:30 am and the entire Kol Ami community is invited and encouraged to join us for homemade treats. The monies earned from this event are used for our Mitzvah Morning Project to be held at the beginning of June with the preschool children from The Center for Learning of New Rochelle. Last year we invited the Center's 3 and 4 year olds to come and play with us. Each of the children who came to visit received a new book, made a new friend, and enjoyed a delicious ice cream treat.

On **Wednesday, February 28th** our 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's will participate in our 10th annual Book Swap. Each child brings in 2 books to share – they can pick one from the selection to keep and the rest of the books are donated to the shelters in our area.

February promises to be our month of sharing, caring, learning, and holiday fun!

It's just like a magic penny, hold it close and you won't have any, Lend it, spend it, give it away, It comes right back to you...

-Nan Blank

Building a Community of Friends, One Family at a Time

A Message from our Religious School Director

I was in Seattle for the week of January 22nd, for a conference of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators. I'm on the National Board of the organization and always enjoy the work I'm able to do with, and for, ARJE. For me, professional conferences are an opportunity to learn, but also to gain perspective on where we are at Kol Ami, compared with other synagogues around the United States. The theme of this year's conference is "Beyond the Box: Using the Power of Radical thinking to Transform Jewish Education". The sessions I'm attending have titles like "Disruptive Thinking" and "Human Centered Change" led by amazing leaders.



I feel so fortunate to have been able to create and innovate lots of wonderful new programs and experiences in my years at Kol Ami and for being a part of a community which embraces the importance of change and innovation as a part of our goals for a meaningful, engaged and successful congregation. I'm hopeful these sessions will continue to provide me with new

resources, skills and strategies to be a positive change agent for our school and give me new tools with which to do this rewarding and challenging work together with you.

We are facing profound changes in every sector of our lives – technology, consumer expectations and workforce, among a few. How do we best integrate and respond to the changing needs and expectations of our community while maintaining our vision for an inclusive and meaningful Jewish experience? Much of this change will involve questions about our identity and structure. Who do we want to be as a community? Within our framework for change, continually redefining our core values and aligning them with our vision for a new way of working is our ongoing agenda. Finding more ways of communicating with our community is a crucial part of this process. Without community partnership and support positive change can't happen. I need your help and participation. I need to hear your ideas!

So maybe the biggest reward of attending an educational conference is that it gives me time to think about and learn about these important things. I know I will leave feeling inspired and more motivated to keep moving forward with our amazing community. Getting new ideas, talking to colleagues about their successes and failures...

I'll end with a quote from the song Home by Phillip Phillips that was used in one of the creative Tefila sessions...

"Settle down, it'll all be clear
Don't pay no mind to the demons
They'll fill you with fear
The trouble it might drag you down
If you get lost, you can always be found
Just know you're not alone
'Cause I'm going to make this place your home'.

I look forward to continuing this Jewish Journey with you all.

Felice Miller-Baritz



A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement

Dear Friends,

January did not turn out as expected! Our High School trip to D.C with the Religious Action Center in the beginning of January was cancelled because of a snow storm. Our teen delegates were disappointed to miss this great opportunity and I am looking into other options for an advocacy trip in the near future. Then, on January 13th we were all ready to go on a Midnight Run but our bus never showed up. And so, on a very cold night I drove my car with a friend into the city to provide clothes and food to some 40 people. A big thank you to the teens that helped prepare food and sort clothing for this endeavor. Their dedication and volunteerism really made a difference that night.

In the next few weeks I will be spending time helping the Vaad (our High school leadership team) plan the Purim Carnival, planning activities for our brand new Junior Youth Group (7th and 8th grades) and arranging music for the end of the year concerts of the Kol Ami Orchestra. Stay tuned for more details!

Every year the Hebrew month of Shvat, which we are now in, makes me miss home a bit more than the usual. During this time of the year I think of what the fields surrounding my hometown look like. The city of Afula is situated in the middle of the Jazreel Valley; Israel's largest, and is surrounded by Moshavim (villages) and Kibutzim with their fields and plantations. Around this time of the year, especially around the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the valley is covered in marvelous patches of red and pink. Red is the color of the Kalanit (Anemone) and pink is the color of the Rakefet (Cyclamen), two delicate and protected flowers that bloom for just a few short weeks and give the valley a special look. Then there is the white of the Shkediot (Almond tree) on the mountain slops all around.

You can feel that winter is about to end, and the colorful sight hides the fact that soon there will be no more rain. Tu B'shevat, the New Year for the trees, is time to reflect about our relationship with the environment. This is particularly evident in the Israeli news during this time; almost every day there is an update on the water level in the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), Israel's largest fresh body of water. The concern for the beautiful Kinneret and Israel's everlasting water shortage are on my mind every Tu B'Shevat.

Idan Santhaus







Around Kol Ami....









Wonderful Shabbat evenings for our ECP/Kindergarten/1st Grade Shabbat and 3rd Grade Shabbaton!









Kol Ami Congregants showed their support and joined in the Women's March in NYC on January 20th





Nominating Committee....



The Open Meeting of the Nominating Committee
will be held on
Tuesday, February 27th
at 7:00-8:00pm
in Room 20

Chair: Hank Rouda Immediate Past President

Committee:
David Cole
Genna Farley
Erik Klein
Jodi Klein
Andrew Levenson
Margie Lewis
Liz Mayeri
Cami Sherwood

Kol Ami Sisterhood Women of Reform Judaism



Co-Presidents Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus, Stacey Matusow

As I write this, the parashah is B'Shalach which recounts the Israelite's crossing of the Sea of Reeds as they leave Egypt. The story of freedom begins with women and water in Exodus, Chapter 2 (Moses was placed in a basket in the Nile by his mother, watched over by his sister Miriam, and rescued by Pharoah's daughter) and reaches a climax here, with Miriam and the women – all the women - celebrating with song and dance at the far side of the sea. "Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand-drum, and all the women went out after her in dance with hand-drums. And Miriam chanted for them: Sing to Adonai, for Adonai has triumphed gloriously; Horse and driver Adonai has hurled into the sea." (Exodus 15:21)

In what has been termed the "season of women" by Shabbat Lift guest speaker and Civil Rights activist, Lynda Blackmon, the Kol Ami Sisterhood celebrated the power of women with joy and study this past weekend at Wine and Wisdom as we were challenged by Rabbi Shira to transform our words into action. And our story continues with our next chapter as we enjoy **Ladies Night Out on March 11th** (please note the change of date) - and who knows, we may do a little dancing and singing of our own!

For those of you who are new to Kol Ami's Women of Reform Judaism, we offer you this excerpt from the poem "The Song of Miriam" by Rabbi Ruth Sohn (which can be found on page 66B of our Kol Ami prayer book),

To sing a new song —
Is to close one's eyes
and dive
into unknown waters.
For a moment knowing nothing risking all —
But then to discover
The waters are friendly
The ground is firm."

"To take the first step –

Please take that first step and join us at our upcoming events to experience the warmth and camaraderie that our Sisterhood has to offer you!

Social Action Tikkun Olam



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

Several of our congregants no longer drive or have difficulty getting to services and special events. Kol Ami Cares maintains a database of members willing and able to provide transportation as needed. Offering a ride even once in a while is hugely appreciated. Also, within our Kol Ami community are older congregants who would welcome a visit in their homes. Many do not have family living nearby and would appreciate the company. Please join our growing list of members who spend time with our housebound congregants. (B'nai mitzvah students may choose this activity as a Mitzvah Project.)

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

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

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

Social Action Tikkun Olam

KOL AMI COOKS for THE OPEN ARMS MENS SHELTER

Want To Have Fun While Doing Good?

Tuesdays, 11:30am – 1:00pm. To sign up or ask questions, please contact either Myrna at: mbarzel@aol.com, 914-403-7434 or Leslie at: lsw20@earthlink.net, 914-686-9516

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm To sign on or ask questions, please contact: Nancy Marcus at larrymarcus@aol.com

Cooking will take place in the Kol Ami kitchen.

You don't need to be a chef, but along with the willingness to have a good time, you will need to bring the following: a sharp knife, a cutting board, a towel and 2 pot holders.

The Cabin Group - Alcoholics Anonymous

Weekly on Tuesday and Thursday closed meetings at 5:45 pm in the Schulman Chapel in the Woods

AL-ANON

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

The Kol Ami Singers

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

Wednesday, Feb. 7th at 2:30pm

Greenwich Woods

1165 King Street

Greenwich, Ct



Kol Ami Food Pantry Hours

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

The Pantry is located in the entrance of our gymnasium and is open Tuesdays 9:30am-11:00am, and also

Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:30pm & Sundays 9:30am - 10:30am by appointment

. Gift cards, private ordering and delivery is also available. For information, $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left$

gift cards, private ordering/delivery contact Jess Lorden, 914-949-4717 ext. 101.

Social Action Tikkun Olam

Coachman Corner

Spreading Tikkun Olam in our Community

Our January birthday party was sponsored by Brooke Love and Tom Lent and their children, Logan, Peyton and Davin; Heidi and Michael Kahn and their son, Aaron; and Alison and Neil Ivler and their children Zachary and Ethan. The Coachman kids, along with their Kol Ami friends, had a blast making creations out of play dough, decorating cookies and designing and launching paper airplanes. In addition to all the crafts and games, Jessica Schwartz from Topsy Turvi Yogi entertained the little ones with yoga poses while Dillon Faulkner from Backyard Sports introduced the Coachman kids to the game of Gaga. Our own ECP Director, Nan Blank, was on hand to help keep things running smoothly and ensure that all the kids shared smiles and good times together. Each Coachman child with a January birthday received a beautifully wrapped gift donated by members of our community. And each partygoer left with goody bags assembled by our religious school students at our last Mitzvah morning organized by Amy Goldstein. Once again, our congregational community came together to spread Tikkun Olam and demonstrate every birthday is reason to celebrate!







Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee invites you to

Shabbat Lunch - Saturday, February 10

Come lunch and learn with artist and printmaker

Marc Shanker

whose whimsical, naïve style parallels the earthy, paradoxical nature of Sephardic proverbs.



Marc is the author *Traces of Sepharad, Etchings of Judeo-Spanish Proverbs*. He will discuss the nature of proverbs, their meaning within their historical and cultural context, and the experience of translating them into visual images.

12:30 in the Gallery

\$10.00 -- RSVP by Friday, February 2 to Adulted@nykolami.org

No need to RSVP again if you sign up at the Lift service. Checks may be mailed or dropped off at the office.

Lunch • Learn • Connect • All are welcome!

Adult Education

Gather and Study

Mussar Classes

This workship 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 x. 149 to register. Mondays 12:30-2:00pm, next meeting on February 5th Fee for Kol Ami Members: \$72 Fee for Non-Members \$100

Women in Transition

Are you experiencing/anticipating some of life's changes.

Please join us in an interactive discussion group.

Topics to be discussed include but are not limited to: retirement, aging, down sizing, relationships with adult children, health/well being and other life transitions.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Sheila Sturmer at sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month 11:30am-1:00pm, next meeting on February 13th

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship with Rabbi Shira Milgrom. Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, next meeting on February 7th

Wisdom of the Sages

Lively discussions of the world and our lives based on some of the most provocative and fascinating texts of Jewish learning, with Rabbi Tom Weiner.

Meets on Thursdays 11:00am-12:00pm

February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Jewish Mindful Meditation

Newcomers are always welcome! Join us in learning mindful 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, certified meditation teacher, and the WJCS Partners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami.

Meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:45am February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

The Jews of Spain

Tuesday nights will feature the study of texts and poetry of some of the luminaries from this Golden Age with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00pm, meeting on February 6th, 13th, and 20th

Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, is our Partners-in-Caring liaison from Westchester Jewish Community Services, one of the largest social services agencies 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

Center Lane: a center for the LGBT community.... and much, much more

As our congregation's liaison to WJCS, Ruth (an experienced clinincal social worker and psychotherapist) can assist synagogue members in assessing and meeting challenging life situations by providing counseling, accessing needed resources and making appropriate referrals. Ruth can be reached at rrosenblum@wjcs.com or at 914-761-0600 ext. 148)

Adult Education

Gather and Study

Israel in the News with David Gravitz

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

Meets every other Wednesday from 7:30-8:45pm,

meeting on February 14th

Current Events with Beth & Gene Kava

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.

Meets every other Monday from 11:00am - 12:30pm,

next meeting on February 5th and 26th

Kol Ami Book Club

Meets the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year. Come whether you've read the book or not; the discussion is always lively. For more information contact Doris Dingott 914-289-0869 or DLDingott@gmail.com Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:15am in Room 20 next meeting on February 7th

The Sephardic Experience

We will look at this remarkable history through the eyes of many of the people who lived it, including using the book "The Jews of Spain, a History of the Sephardic Experience" by Jane Gerber

Meets Mondays 7:30pm on

meeting on February 5th and 26th

Parenting Teens Workshops

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

With Susan Davis, LCSW.

Meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at Noon

Meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at Noon, next meeting on February 1st

Grandparenting Workshops

Exploring inter-generational experience and Jewish wisdom as we share the challenges and opportunities of grandparenting. with Susan Davis, LCSW.

Meets the 1st Monday of the Month at 9:15am,

next meeting on February 5th

Fun and Games!

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Kol Ami Atrium Please email Betsy McCormack at Betsyrmc@gmail.com for more information

Ritual Riches: Talmud, Mishnah, Gemara, and the Oral Tradition

For most of us, the word "Torah", in its usual context, refers to the First Five Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), but, for some, Torah can also be used to refer to the entire Jewish Bible (the Tanakh or written Torah), and in its broadest sense, may refer to the entire body of Jewish law and tradition.

There are many Jews, including Orthodox Jews, who believe that Moses received the entire written Torah along with Oral Commentary on Mount Sinai. The Oral Tradition explained and interpreted the written Torah as well as applied the Laws within it. God taught the Oral Torah to Moses who taught it to the elders who passed it on through the rabbis to the present day. Until the 2nd century C.E., this tradition was conveyed only in oral form until it was compiled and written down in a document known as the Mishnah. Over the next few centuries, commentators in Babylon and Jerusalem elaborated on the teachings of the Mishnah to create a second document called the Gemara. Together, the Mishnah and the Gemara form the Talmud, which was completed in the 5th century C.E.

The Mishnah: Rabbinical Sages living at the end of the Second Temple period and in the century following the destruction of the Temple (70 C.E.), compiled the Mishnah. For centuries, the leading Rabbis had resisted writing down the Oral Law, requiring students to learn from their teachers, who they considered to be the best transmitters of Jewish tradition, rather than from books. However, confronting the future of a Judaism without a Temple and a loss of central authority as well as the deaths of many scholars in failed revolts, Rabbi Judah haNasi, a great Torah scholar and leader, feared that the Oral Law would be forgotten. In order to ensure the survival of Jewish laws and that the chain of transmission would never be broken, he decided to record the Oral Torah in writing. This was a task requiring a huge amount of editing, explaining, and organizing of a vast collection of material, resulting in a definitive, yet somewhat cryptic (a teacher was still required to make the material accessible) version of the Oral Law. The Mishnah was written in a very concise way, assuming that the reader already had familiarity with the subject matter. Parts of it read as dry legal recitations, but Rabbi Judah frequently presented minority views which enlivened the text and would serve as a guide to scholars in later generations.

The Mishnah is divided into six orders, ranging from "Seeds" (the agricultural laws of ancient Palestine) to Taharot (laws of purity and impurity).

The Gemara: During the centuries that followed the compilation of the Mishnah, a number of factors further weakened the chain of Oral Tradition, and it became clear to the sages that the Mishnah itself was no longer sufficient or clear enough to explain the Oral Law. The substance of discussions about the Mishnah was written down by Rabbis living in Israel and in Babylon, resulting in two versions of the Gemara, the Jerusalem Gemara and the Babylonian Gemara. The Jerusalem Gemara was assembled in approximately 400 C.E. but was never fully completed and edited. The Rabbis of Babylon had access to the Jerusalem version while working on their text which was compiled more than a century later. As the Babylonian text is more extensive, it is considered more authoritative.

The subject matter of the Gemara ranges from the sacred to the profane and has an intimate relationship with the Mishnah and a far greater scope. Although organized with respect to the six orders of the Mishnah, the Gemara takes off from a close reading of the Mishnah with such diverse topics as prayer, superstitions, and criminal and civil law, incorporating both halachah (legal material) and aggadah (narrative material). Multiple opinions of sages (even from different centuries) are presented and weighed, often as though in debate with one another, without a "clear winner".

A page of the Babylonian Talmud contains the Hebrew text of the Mishnah in the middle of the page. Between the Hebrew of the Mishnah are explanations in both Hebrew and Aramaic comprising Gemara. Surrounding the Mishnah and Gemara are additional layers of text and commentaries from later periods. The entire Talmud comprises 63 tractates and is over 6200 pages long (in standard print).

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



Celebrate Purim by sending a Purim greeting to friends AND family



Proceeds support the Kol Ami Religious School and charities supported by the Kol Ami Women of Reform Judaism.

Sending Purim greetings and contributing to tzedakah at the same time is a great way to celebrate Purim and let friends, family and teachers know that you are thinking of them.

Access to the Purim Project website has been emailed and baskets will be delivered the week before Purim. Order deadline is February 9th



Need help, have questions, didn't get your email? Contact Judy Sarch at 565-2128 or email Webmaster@NYKolAmi.org

Join us in supporting the ECP's "Month of Giving, Month of Winning" Fundraiser!

All proceeds will go to helping the Early Childhood Program of

Congregation Kol Ami with such important programming as Artist in Residence Experiences,

Family Concerts & Events, Family Shabbat Programs, and ECP Scholarships.

Each raffle is only \$20 and there are 28 chances to win,

plus a bonus cash winner every Friday!!

Speak with someone in the ECP Office to fill out a raffle ticket today! 914-949-4717 ext 107 or nanblank@nykolami.org











Dear Friends,









We were blessed to have had Danielle Butin speak to us about her work in AFYA on Yom Kippur afternoon. AFYA collects and delivers medical supplies to people in need. (see afyafoundation.org).

Kol Ami would like to support AFYA by sending volunteers to the AFYA warehouse in Yonkers each month to help with the sorting of medical supplies.

The next group will be going on February 14th. We will meet at the Kol Ami parking lot at 9:30am and carpool from there.

If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Barbara Wexler at: wexlerartworks@optonline.net

Thank you!

Pointing with Pride



We are so proud to point with pride to one of our 4 year old congregants, Ajay Eliasoph. Ajay is in our Early Childhood Program at Kol Ami and even at his young age, we are so impressed with how he embodies our Be The Light and Tikkun Olam beliefs!

Ajay told his parents, Dana and Keir, that for his birthday this year he wanted to donate his toys to children in need in California. He said to our temple staff, "It makes me feel so good to donate stuff to people who need it. Everyone should have toys and things to make them feel happy". Ajay, his little brother Luke, and their parents are planning a trip to California soon to visit family and while they are there, they will be visiting a homeless shelter to serve dinner, and to donate Ajay's toys.

Way to go Ajay!

Update on our Syrian refugee family, the Shatlos

As most of you know by now, Congregation Kol Ami and Scarsdale Synagogue Tremont Temples Emanu-el have been working together to sponsor and assist a refugee family from Syria. The family has been living in White Plains for the past seven months and has settled into life in the United States. You may remember that the mom and dad are Amina and Salam and the children are Alan, 9; Digar, 8; and Laila almost 6. They are Kurdish and originally from Aleppo, but they came here from Malaysia where they had been living after escaping terrible violence in their neighborhood. Everyone speaks English, the children more fluently than their parents who have been attending ESL classes since they arrived in the US.

Although Salam initially began observing in a dental lab to learn the technology, he has decided not to pursue that profession and instead is currently employed at Macy's Department Store. He is still finding his way with the help of our employment co-chair and may pursue a culinary course for refugees where he can learn and be paid at the same time. Thanks to the enormous generosity of congregants at both synagogues, funds were raised to purchase commercial sewing machines so that Amina could start her own alteration business. Due to the clothing factory connections of one of our employment committee co-chairs we were able to obtain these excellent machines easily and slightly wholesale. Amina is now in business – she is an expert seamstress who can alter and make any clothing item.

The children, who are enrolled in Church Street School in White Plains, are doing well and are very happy there. They truly are blossoming. Through the efforts of one of our education co-chairs, the older boy is singing in the chorus, (he was thrilled with his first choral performance) and is learning chess and the violin. All the children are taking a weekly dance class after school and the two older children are enrolled in a weekly drama program – also thanks to our education co-chair. Additional thanks to our finance chair and the community connections committee for providing everyone in the Shatlo family with plenty of warm clothing for the very cold weather. With the help of another member of the community connections committee, Salam has learned about American banking and managing finances.

In an arrangement with the Kol Ami Director of Youth Engagement, Salam spoke to Kol Ami's teens about his experience growing up in Syria and as a refugee. His talk was well received by those in attendance and he answered many questions asked by the teens.

Many committee members have provided the Shatlo family with typically American experiences – trick or treating on Halloween, visits to the Botanical Gardens, to the Bronx Zoo, to the Museum of Natural History and to family events in their homes. In addition, our primary health committee member has seen that everyone in the family has made it to a variety of medical and dental appointments.

Much has been accomplished on behalf of our family and by the family members themselves. They are very grateful to all of the members of our group who have remained steadfast in their involvement and have enabled the family to progress. Many thanks to all of you for your efforts and for your continued support.

Synaplex Shabbat!

<u>2018</u> Synaplex <u>Dates</u>

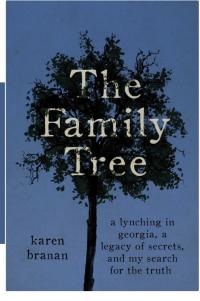
February 9th

March 23rd

April 20th

May 4th

Check the monthly flyers for info about each Guest Speaker, Entertainment, and Dinner Information





SYNAPLEX

• learn • pray • eat • connect • enjoy •

An exciting way to experience Shabbat!

5:00pm Explorations in Jewish Music with Cantor David

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and Their Families

6:00pm Unwind with Hors d'Oeuvres

6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary

7:15pm Shabbat Dinner (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

7:30-9:30pm Activities for children and teens

8:15pm Keynote Speaker

9:15pm Dessert Oneg

Friday, February 9th, 2018



All events are free and open to the community with the exception of Friday Dinner

Dinner catered by the Great American BBQ Company

Harris County, Georgia, 1912. A white man, the beloved nephew of the county sheriff, is shot dead on the porch of a black woman. Days later, the sheriff sanctions the lynching of a black woman and three black men, all of them innocent. For Karen Branan, the great-granddaughter of that sheriff, this isn't just history—this is family history. Branan spent nearly twenty years combing through diaries and letters, hunting for clues in libraries and archives throughout the United States and interviewing community elders to piece together this remarkable story.

Clip and return this dinner reservation form NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30th Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, WP, NY 10606 or go online at: www.NYKolAmi.org/Synaplex. Also register for January 26th Synaplex!

Adult Names:			
Children's Names and Ages:			
Phone Number:			
Email Address			

Shabbat Family Dinner

#Adults ___x\$25 =\$ ___ #Children/Teens ___x\$15 =\$ ___ #Children 5 and Under ___=N/C

Please make checks out to: Congregation Kol Ami

Please add \$5 additional per person after January 30th

We are sorry, but we can not accomodate walk-ins



5:00-6:30pm Moana Themed Carnival

5:30-6:30pm Purim Dinner (Sandwiches, etc.)
Please send in form below and \$10 per person

6:30-8:00pm Purim Service, Megillah Reading, and the Purim Spiel "Billy Joel-The Megillah Man!"

8:00-9:00pm Dancing and Hamantashen

At the carnival enjoy:
Popcorn
Cotton Candy
Hot Dogs!
Please bring cash!

All Religious School students (K-Gth) will receive 10 free Carnival Tickets!

Come and see a magic show during the Purim Carnival!

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

Carnival Tickets

\$10 for 10 tickets

Don't forget
to bring cash!

RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER ARE REQUIRED!

Please complete and return the form below to the Main Office no later than Wednesday, February 21st.

Adult Names:	
Children Names & Ages:	
Phone:	Email:
# of Guests (all ages) for TOTAL AMOUNT	Purim Dinner @ \$10 each ENCLOSED \$

SNACKS & CARNIVAL TICKETS to be PURCHASED SEPARATELY at the CARNIVAL

Yad B' Yad Family Shabbat of Inclusion & Dinner

Please join the Yad B' Yad students as they share special learning and help lead the Shabbat service on

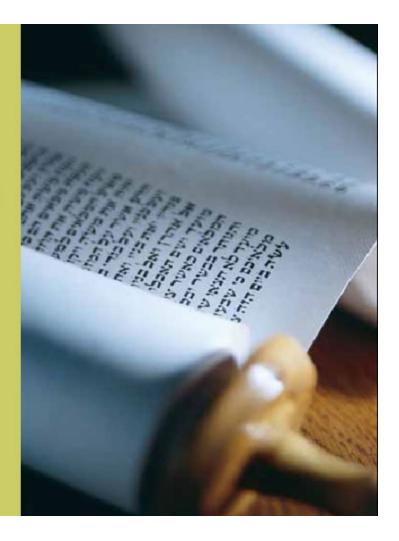
Friday, February 2rd

Service begins at **6:15PM**Dinner immediately after

~ RSVP by January 26th ~

Email kayosborne@nykolami.org
with all the names of those who will be coming
Cost: \$18.00 per person Additional guests are \$18 per adult
No costs for Yad B' Yad students
(checks payable to Congregation Kol Ami)

PLEASE let us know if you cannot attend!



THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP AT KOLAMI

Safed Candles for Shabbat

The Holy City of Safed (Tzfat in Hebrew) dates back 2000 years, and was best known as the city of the great Kabbalists during the 16th century. The Safed candle factory is a very popular tourist destination known for making beautiful Shabbat and Hanukkah candles that have environmentally friendly manufacturing. The Sisterhood Judaica shop offers a variety of color choices at \$13 each.



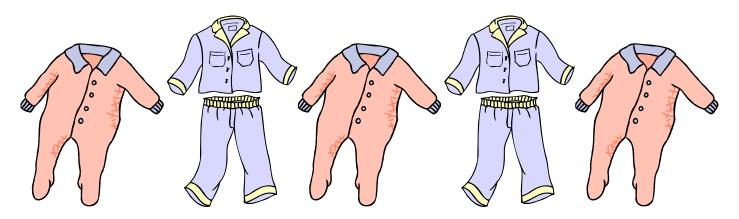


Need a special gift for a lifecycle event? I can special order one for you. Call Judy McEvoy at 714-8288



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

A HavÞalah anÞ Sh'ma Pajama Party!



Join Nan Blank, and Rabbi Tom Weiner Saturday Afternoon — February 10th 4:30-5:30



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

Come in your Pajamas!

<u>Admission:</u> Please bring a new pair of Children's Pajamas to be donated to the local family shelter

Let us know that you'll be coming! Nan Blank at 949-4717 x 107 nanblank@nykolami.org

See you There!

Join us for



Thursday, February 8th 7:30pm

Open Bar, Delicious Food, Great Friends, Silent Auction, Prizes, and Trivia!

The night is open to all adults (so bring your friends or family)
and help make this a night to remember!
Benefits from the evening will go to support ECP Programming and Scholarship Fund

Come and find out... who is the smartest of us all?!

Tear off the card below and return to the ECP Office by January 28th

Yes, I would love to come! \$75pp# of people
O Names:
Phone/Email:
A I am unable to attend, but would love to sponsor another adult
M Total Enclosed: \$
Please make checks payable to: Congregation Kol Ami



Kol Ami Spring Benefit 2018

Save the Date for the 2018 Spring Benefit

Thursday, May 3rd
in honor of
Madiha Tubman's
25 years
of dedication
and service to
Congregation Kol Ami

Help Support Kol Ami with Your Donations For our Spring Benefit

GIFT CERTIFICATES

RESTAURANTS, SALONS, CLEANERS

Products & Services

Decorators, Dentists, Handyman

EVENTS TICKETS TO SPORTS, THEATER, CONCERTS

VACATIONS

Time Shares, Rental Houses

Classes, Lessons

Yoga, Cycling, Mah Jongg, Paint Parties

BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU CAN! It's a great way to promote a business, PRODUCT, OR SERVICE TO THE CONGREGATION

Congregation Kol Ami Spring Benefit 2018 Honoring Madiha Tubman Auction Donation Form

Merchant/Donor:		
CONTACT NAME:		
Address:		
Telephone:		
Solicited By:		
I Would Like to Make a Donation Of: Estimated Value \$:		

PLEASE MAIL FORM TO: CONGREGATION KOL AMI 252 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606 C/O LISA BOROWITZ AND DEBBI MARCUS, SPRING BENEFIT CO-CHAIRS QUESTIONS? CONTACT DEBBI AT DEBMAR1049@AOL.COM OR LISA AT LISA.BOROWITZ@COWEN.COM







Shabbat Across the World
International Pot Luck Dinner
At Congregation Kol Ami



FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

FOLLOWING SHABBAT SERVICES

SPONSORED BY THE KOL AMI MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



It promises to be a fun and flavorful evening for all!

Join us for a family friendly, international potluck dinner.

There are many ways to contribute - Bring a dish that pays tribute to your family heritage or reflects your cultural sensibility. Or, just a dish your family loves!

Please make sure there is plenty to share. For those who would like to attend and enjoy without bringing a homemade dish or wine, we ask for \$18 per adult. (kids eat free) Questions?: Contact Dana Ross at 917-742-4831/djross914@optonline.net or Adrienne Pollak at 914-582-7995/Adrienne@cyburban.com.



Don't miss this amazing back-stage opportunity Only 40 Orchestra Seats Available. BOOK NOW!

11AM: Private Tour of the Actor's Temple (339 W. 47th Street, NYC) Are you a theater fan who is curious about Jewish influences on NYC theater? Join us for a tour of The Actors' Temple, an active Jewish synagogue in the theater district, with an extraordinary untold history!

12:30PM: Optional Group Lunch at Bond 45 Italian Kitchen and Bar (46th Street) \$45 per person, including tax and tip (alcohol not included)

3PM: "The Band's Visit" at The Ethel Barrymore Theatre

THE BAND'S VISIT celebrates the deeply human ways music, longing and laughter can connect us all. Being hailed as "already a Tony favorite", the show focuses on an Egyptian Police Band who find themselves stranded in Israel and become intertwined with the locals in unexpected ways.

ne: Phone #:		
Email:		
\$140 per ticket includes: Actor's Temple Tour, Show, and Q&A Session	# of tickets:	_ (x \$140)=
Lunch at Bond 45	# of people:	_ (x \$45) =

Please make checks out to: Congregation Kol Ami Questions: Please contact Alison Adler at alisonadler@nykolami.org, 914-949-4717

Total Enclosed:

LEGACY FUND

DID YOU KNOW...

The Union of Reform Judaism of which Kol Ami is an active member, suggests that "healthy, adaptive, agile congregations are critical to Jewish life...Synagogues must be equipped to respond to the changing needs of the communities they serve, providing relevant and meaningful ways for people to learn, practice and experience Judaism as well as express their own Jewish identity."

For 94 years, Congregation Kol Ami has exemplified such attributes. This is why it has been a model for other Reform congregations and has had the continued community financial support to still be here serving us now.

If you would like the future generations of your family to experience their Judaism in the Kol Ami ways of embracing traditional and innovative practices and celebrations, please consider exploring the ways you can make a planned gift to The Kol Ami Legacy Fund by contacting Evelyne Klein at 914-762-7659, aspencup@aol.com, or Judy Brown at 646-206-4547, gojustjudi@gmail.com.



Life Cycles

Congratulations

- *To Nan and Wesley Blank on the birth of their granddaughter, Nava Ruby Reiter
- *To Michael Zweig and Michelle Gersen on the birth of their grandson, Ryan Gray Zweig
- *To Meredith and Ben Schwartz on the birth of their son, Andrew Arthur Schwartz

Condolences

- *To Bradford Perry and family on the death of his mother, Roxanne Perry
- *To Susanne Stotsky and family on the death of her uncle, Raymond Perrone
- *To Roberta Lowell and family on the death of her husband, J. Richard Lowell
- *To Bill Fischer and family on the death of his brother, Jerold Fischer

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- *Honoring the Civil Rights Trip: "Because of our amazing experience together" from Julie Carran
- *In appreciation of the Lift from Stephanie Levine
- *With gratitude and love from Cima Katz
- *In thanks for all the support this year from Leslie Scharf and family
- *In loving memory of her parents, Shirley and Shimmy Greenblatt, from Susan Rozin
- *In memory of Irma Bierman Harrow from Louise and Michael Oshatz
- *In memory of Stanley Katz from Florence Katz
- *In gratitude for warmth of the Kol Ami community from June Helme
- *In honor of Gladys Goldmann from Hilary Goldmann

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- *In honor of the wedding of her granddaughter, Jessica Hatem and Adam Lanman, from Sandy Kurtz
- *In memory of her special friends, Gladys Goldmann and Lillian Greenberger, from Stephanie Levine
- *In honor of Chloe's baby naming from Donald Lee
- *In support of scholarships for Kol Ami service trip for its youth to Costa Rica in February 2018 from David Benioff
- ‡In honor of Gladys Goldmann from Hilary Goldmann
- *In support of Congregation Kol Ami from Stephen and Amy Berman

Generous Contributions

Cantor David's Discretionary Fund

- ‡In honor of Lucy's Bat Mitzvah from Amy and Warren Barest
- *In support of Congregation Kol Ami from David and Hillary Seif

Annual Fund

*In appreciation from Patricia Lieberman

ECP Fund

*In appreciation from Robert Goldwater

Synaplex Fund

- *In appreciation from Judy and Bob Asher
- *In appreciation from Jean and Henry Pollak
- *★*In appreciation from Leslie Wiesen

Fund for the Needy

- *In loving memory of his father, Joseph Berger from Jack Berger and Randy Stein
- *In loving memory of Walter Geller, father of Howard Geller, from Howard and Michele Geller
- *★*In appreciation from Barbara Shore

Kol Ami Fund

- ‡In loving memory of Harry Mason from Michael and Sandra Mason
- *In loving memory of Nancy Wolff from Jean and Henry Pollak
- ‡In loving memory of Said Moattar, father of Kamran Moattar, from Towfig and Beryl Arjmand
- *In loving memory of her husband, Charles Petschek from Elaine Petschek
- *In appreciation from Geoffrey Mitelman
- *In appreciation from Harvey Papush

Petschek Music Fund

*In appreciation of Cantor David Rosen, Cantorial Intern Harriet Dunkerley, and the beautiful music program from Stephanie Levine

Thank You



Losing a loved one is probably one of life's most difficult challenges. You may wish to remember your loved one with the placement of a physical reminder in our main sanctuary.

Congregation Kol Ami has a tradition of offering Yahrzeit name plaques as a "living" memorial that perpetuates someone's memory forever.

Beautiful glass engraved plaques may be purchased for \$750 each.

If you would like to purchase (a) Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque(s), please provide the name of each person below as you would like it to appear on the plaque.

Enclose a check payable to Congregation Kol Ami for all Yahrzeit Memorial plaques purchased.

	١	NAMES
I am en	closing my check for \$ for the purchase of _	made payable to Congregation Kol Ami Memorial Plaque(s).

Contributions

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

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



CONGREGATION

To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices

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

Donors' Address:		
Occasion: In Memory of: In honor onewsletter:	of: Name as you would like it to a	
Send donation acknowledgement to:_		
(Please remember, acknowledgements would like it to appear in the newsletter Amount Enclosed:		or more. A listing will be posted as you
Please indicate your choice below and Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. If you office at 914-949-4717.		
Funds		
□ Kol Ami Fund (our general fund)	☐ Kol Ami Cares Fund (supports activities of the Caring Community Program)	□ Refugee Resettlement Fund □ Social Action Fund
☐ Audrey Greenberg Scholarship Fund (provides ECP tuition assistance for families in need)	☐ Men's Council Fund☐ WRJ Sisterhood Fund	☐ Youth Activities Fund (suppports youth- related programs, scholarships and trips)
☐ Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund (provides scholarships for high school graduates).	□ Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund	☐ Youth Leadership Fund (supports scholarships to young people to develop leadership)
☐ Cantor David Rosen's Discretionary Fund	☐ Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund	Plaques and Remembrances
□ Rick Kraver College Youth Fund (supports special programs for our college students)	☐ Religious School Fund (supports special projects as determined by the Religious School Committee)	□ Yahrzeit Plaques \$750
☐ Early Childhood Program Fund (supports teacher education and student scholarships)	□ Retreat Fund	□ Tree of Life Leaf \$180 (Available in Gold, Silver and Copper)
☐ Flowers and Landscaping Fund	☐ Scholarship Fund for the Confirmands (10th graders)	Giving Opportunities
☐ Fund for the Needy (provides assistance to those in need)	□ Petschek Music Fund	☐ Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush or☐ Sponsor a Friday Night Shabbat Oneg
□ Adult Education Fund	□ Synaplex Circle Fund	☐ Sponsor a Religious School Sunday Morning Bagel Breakfast



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

-Matthew J. Roello, Owner & Resent Directo



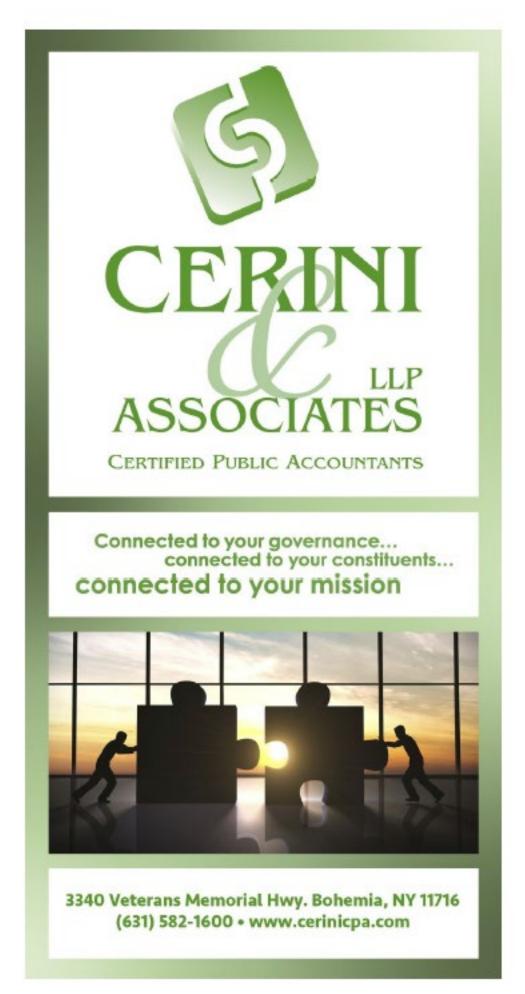




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Nothing is more important than protecting your family and home. That's why your neighbors at Scarsdale Security are dedicated to protecting life and property with professionally installed and monitored security systems and services.

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Employment Services for the Westchester

Jewish Community



Westchester Jewish Community Services
Career>Connect program helps those dealing with
employment instability.

Funded by a grant from UJA-Federation of NY,
Career>Connect provides job-seekers with dynamic
informational workshops and groups on relevant
topics, a Career Boot Camp Intensive (application and
screening required), and individual career counseling
services where appropriate.

If needed, referrals are made for financial, legal and small business counseling, as well as for emotional and spiritual support.

Individual assistance is offered by appointment.

Contact:

914.761.0600 x170 or email careerconnect@wjcs.com