May 2018

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Volume No. 9

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> Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue ☆ White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 🌣 www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

RABBIS

Rabbi Shira Milgrom & Rabbi Tom Weiner

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Assistant Executive Director ☆ Emily Campbell

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Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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President, Scott Musoff, Scott.Musoff@skadden.com President, Susan Kohn Arovas, srkohn@mac.com Vice President, Judith Arner Brown, gojustjudi@gmail.com Vice President, Lisa Hochman, lisahochman@mac.com Vice President, David Okun, david.okun@me.com Treasurer, Jonathan Litt, jlitt@kohlconstructiongroup.com Secretary, Rachel Eckhaus, boardsecretary@nykolami.org Board of Trustees, EmailTheBoard@NYKolAmi.org

COMMITTEES...

Adult Learning, Jennifer Lemberg, AdultEd@NYKolAmi.org Annual Fund. David Okun. AnnualFund@NYKolAmi.org B'nai Mitzvah Mentor, Judy McEvoy, BnaiMitzvah@NYkolami.org Budget and Operating, Jeff Gelfand, OperatingBudget@Nykolami.org Capital Budget, CapitalBudget@nykolami.org Calendaring, Rachel Eckhaus, boardsecretary@nykolami.org Coachman Family Center, Alison Adler, Lisa Hochman, HelpTheCoachman@NYKolami.org College Youth, Stacey Matusow, Lori Okun, CollegeYouth@NYKolami.org Digital Communication, Judy Sarch, Webmaster@NYKolAmi.org Dues Review, DuesReview@NYKolAmi.org ECP, Cindy Musoff, ECP@NYKolAmi.org Facilities, David Seicol, FacilitiesCommittee@NYKolami.org Food Pantry Pam Millian, Pantry@nykolami.org Green Team. Bonnie Hagen. Greenteam@nvkolami.org Inclusion, Marci Frankenthaler and Beth Tomkiewicz Inclusion@NYKolAmi.org Inter-Faith Outreach, Julie Carran, InterfaithOutreach@NYKolAmi.org Israel, Jack Berger, SupportIsrael@NYKolAmi.org Inter-Faith Families, WelcomeInterfaithFamilies@NYKolAmi.org The Judaica Shop, Judy McEvoy, jkmcevoy@optonline.net Kol Ami Cares, Betsy McCormack, Ginny Ruder, KolAmiCares@NYKolami.org Leadership Development, LeadershipDevelopment@NYKolAmi.org Marketing, Marketing@Nykolami.org Men's Council, Adam Hutter, Menscouncil@NYKolami.org Membership, Dana Ross, Adrienne Pollak Membership@NYKolAmi.org Personnel, Donna Joseph, Personnel@nykolami.org Premium Dues, Ellen Kurtz, Ilene Miller, PremiumDues@nykolami.org Planned Giving, Leslie Wiesen, Judi Brown, PlannedGiving@NYKolAmi.org Retreat, Genna Farley, Retreat@NYKolAmi.org Religious School, Sara Elkin, ReligiousSchoolParents@NYKolami.org Social Justice, Ronnie Cohn, Lori Abrams, Socialjustice@NYKolAmi.org Spring Fundraiser, Debbie Marcus, Lisa Borowitz SpringFundraiser@NYKolAmi.org Worship, Sheryl Brady, Worship@NYKolAmi.org WRJ Sisterhood, Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus, Stacey Matusow, Sisterhood@NYKolAmi.org Youth Groups, Karen Reynolds, YouthGroup@NYKolAmi.org



Worship Opportunities



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

** PLEASE NOTE for MAY 4th Services begin at 6:00pm** (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



Join us for Shabbat Sheli "My Shabbat" a time for families with elementary aged children

The 1st Friday of every month

Stories, songs, Torah study, prayer exploration, sanctuary tour, mitzvah projects, and more! Led each week by one of our rabbis, cantor, and staff.

Parents are invited to enjoy a glass of wine together, join for Shabbat Sheli, or stay with younger siblings at our Shabbat in the Woods. Come as you are! For a full Shabbat Evening enjoy our Family Oneg at 6:00pm or bring your own dinner and stay for our 6:15pm Shabbat services in the Main Sanctuary

The 1st Shabbat of the Month is also Shabbat in the Woods Book Share Night! Take home a book as our gift.

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!



Week ending May 5, 2018 Parashat Emor Leviticus 21:1-24:23

The priestly role was both an honor and a responsibility. Parashat Emor provides details about the lives of the priests and their families. This parashah also includes the most comprehensive holiday calendar in the Torah.

Week ending May 19, 2018 Parashat B'midbar Numbers 1:1- 4:20

20 This Shabbat we begin reading the book of B'midbar, (in the wilderness). The book is called "Numbers" in English because it begins with a census of all male Israelites in the camp who are eligible to bear arms, as well as those responsible for the duties in the Tabernacle.

Week ending May 12, 2018

Parashat B'har/B'chukotai Leviticus 25:1-27:34 In this double parashah, we see a vision of a society guided by God-given principles of human freedom, human dignity, and concern for the most vulnerable in society. It also includes laws regulating the sabbatical year and the jubilee year. The book of Leviticus is completed this week with parashat B'chukotai. It is filled with God's promises and warnings to the people depending upon whether they faithfully follow or disobey God's commandments.

Week ending May 26, 2018 Parashat Naso Numbers 4:21-7:89

The second parasha in the Book of Numbers completes the census with a counting of the Levitical families and a description of their responsibilities in the porterage of the Tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting. The parasha's concluding section begins with the Priestly Blessing, which we recite at the end of Kol Ami's Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday nights, and culminates with a list of the offerings brought by the tribal heads for the ceremony of the dedication of the Tabernacle.



May Calendar

Tuesday, May 1st

5:45pm AA in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 2nd

7:45-8:45am Women's Round Table Breakfast 9:00-10:30am KA Reads Book Club 10:00am-2:00pm Mah Jongg 4:00-6:00pm Religious School (Grades 4-6th) 6:00-6:30pm Wednesday Youth Dinner 6:30-8:30pm Religious School (Grades 7th-12th) 6:30-8:30pm Confirmation Rehearsal 7:30pm Israel in the News

Thursday, May 3rd

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation 11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 12:00-2:00pm Parenting Teens Workshop 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm Al-Anon in the Chapel 7:00pm "Kol Ami and Me" 2018 Spring Benefit & Comedy Night

Friday, May 4th

Synaplex Shabbat! 5:00pm Explorations in Jewish Music with Cantor David and the Kol Ami Orchestra 5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children 5:30pm Shabbat Sheli for Elementary Aged Children 5:30pm Hors d'Oeuvres 6:00pm* Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary *please note the time change for this Shabbat Service 6:45pm Shabbat Dinner: Catered by New China of Larchmont (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED) 7:15pm CLE Lecture 7:30-9:30pm Activities for children and teens 8:00pm Cantor David Rosen and Cantor Mo Glazman perform songs from Joseph & The Technicolor Dreamcoat 8:15pm The Trial of the People v Joseph 9:45pm Dessert Oneq

Saturday, May 5th

Lift Your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:45am Guest Speaker: Ellen Umansky, Protestantism and the Jews: Luther, Calvin, and Christian Zionists Today 10:00am Shabbat Services 10:30am Daniel Strug Bar Mitzvah in the Main Sanctuary 5:30pm Joshua Ilberg Bar Mitzvah in the Main Sanctuary

Sunday, May 6th

9:00-11:00am Religious School, Day of Chesed 11:00am Or Chadash Choir 12:00-2:00pm Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, May 7th

11:00-12:00pm Current Events 12:30-2:00pm Mussar Class 6:00pm 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel

Tuesday, May 8th

11:30-1:00pm Women in Transition 12:00-2:00pm Cooking for the Homeless 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 6:00-7:30pm ECP Family Math Night

Wednesday, May 9th

10:00-2:00pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Study and Lunch in the City with Cantor David Rosen, hosted by Scott Musoff 4:00-6:00pm Religious School (Grades 4-6th) 6:00-6:30pm Wednesday Youth Dinner 6:30-8:30pm Religious School (Grades 7th-12th) 6:30-8:30pm Confirmation Rehearsal

Thursday, May 10th

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm Al-Anon in the Chapel 7:30-9:00pm Adult Choir in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 11th

ECP Closed for Staff In-Service Day 5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families 6:15-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper Available for Children during Shabbat Services 6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary with the 2nd Grade Shabbat Dinner and High School Family Shabbat & Graduation Dinner

Saturday, May 12th

Lift Your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:45am Guest Speaker: Ellen Umansky, Protestantism and the Jews: Luther, Calvin, and Christian Zionists Today 10:00am Shabbat Services in the Chapel 10:30am Daniel Hagen Bar Mitzvah in the Main Sanctuary

Sunday, May 13th

Mother's Day 9:00-12:30pm Last Day of Religious School and End of the Year Zimriyah and Picnic 10:00-11:00am 3rd Grade Israel Exhibit 6:30-8:00pm Israel Action Committee Lecture

Monday, May 14th

6:00-7:00pm Green Team Meeting 6pm 12 Step Recovery Program in the Chapel

Tuesday, May 15th

5:45pm AA in the Chapel 8:00-10:00pm Kol Ami Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 16th

10:00-2:00pm Mah Jongg 6:00-9:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal 7:30pm Israel in the News

May Calendar

Thursday, May 17th

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation inthe Chapel 11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm Adult Choir in the Sanctuary 7:30pm Al-Anon in the Chapel

Friday, May 18th

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for Young
Children and their Families
6:15-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper Available for
Children during Shabbat Services
6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary
7:00pm Confirmation Dinner and Blessings

Saturday, May 19th

Erev Shavuot Lift Your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:45am Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Services in the Chapel 10:30am Rachel Kindler Bat Mitzvah in the Main Sanctuary 5:30pm Ethan Sommers Bar Mitzvah in the Main Sanctuary

Sunday, May 20th

Shavuot 10:00-12:00pm Confirmation, Shavuot, Yizkor Service and Brunch Reception 5:00-9:00pm Coachman BBQ

Monday, May 21st

ECP and Offices Closed in Observance of Shavuot 6:00pm 12 Step Recovery in the Chapel 7:30-9:00pm The Sephardic Experience 7:30-9:00pm MeToo Support Group in the Chapel

Tuesday, May 22nd

5:45pm AA in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 23rd 10:00-2:00pm Mah Jongg

Thursday, May 24th

9:00-10:00am ECP Art Show 9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages 11:00-2:00pm Wise Aging 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm Al-Anon in the Chapel

Friday, May 25th

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods for Young Children and their Families 6:15pm Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary 6:15-7:15pm Crafts and Light Supper Available for Children during Shabbat Services

Saturday, May 26th

Lift Your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee & Community 9:45am Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Services in the Chapel

Sunday, May 27th and Monday, May 28th

Closed for Memorial Day Weekend

Tuesday, May 29th

5:45pm AA in the Chapel

Wednesday, May 30th

10:00-2:00pm Mah Jongg 7:30pm Israel in the News

Thursday, May 31st

9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30pm Al-Anon in the Chapel 7:30-9:00pm Adult Choir

SAVE THE DATE FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 3rd

Israel's 70th Anniversary Family Day Celebration at Kol Ami and the NY City Israel Day Parade

Friday, June 8th-Sunday, June 10th Kol Ami Retreat

May B'nai Mitzvah



Daniel Strug, son of Elyssa and Lowell Strug and brother to Ethan & Alex, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 5th, 2018. Danny is in the 7th grade at Edgemont Jr./Sr.High School. For Danny's mitzvah project he volunteers his time at The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Danny loves sports, and is a hockey player, skier, and golfer. He is so excited and thrilled to be spending this special day with family and friends.



Joshua Ilberg, son of Elizabeth and Todd, and big brother to Ethan and Max, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 5th, 2018 the day after his 13th birthday. He is in 7th grade at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. Joshua is looking forward to spending his 5th summer this year at Camp Walden. During the school year Joshua is involved in both Fall and Spring Baseball and Travel Soccer. For fun Joshua loves to bike and ATV ride, ski, sailing, fishing and to hang out with friends and family. He loves to cook and is known for his amazing

kitchen skills. For Joshua's Mitzvah Project, he helped put smiles on the faces of White Plains Hospital's young patients at the Family Health Center with a weekly arts and crafts station for patients and their siblings while waiting for appointments. Joshua is very excited to spend his special day with family and friends.

May B'nai Mitzvah



Daniel Hagen, son of Bonnie & Karl Hagen, and brother of Victoria Hagen, will be called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah on May 12, 2018. Daniel is a seventh grader at Highlands Middle School in White Plains and enjoys participating in the school's programming club and playing the baritone horn in the Highlands Jazz Band. Also an avid video game player and lover of gaming strategy, Daniel enjoys playing chess and has won many chess championships throughout the years. His mitzvah contributions to his community are many and include volunteering at the Humane Society of Westchester to help abused, neglected,

and traumatized animals. As Daniel has reflected in his D'Var Torah about his time volunteering at the Humane Society, "I enjoy making the cats feel loved until they get their forever homes. I think this is a mitzvah. Playing with them and cuddling them doesn't just help them, it also helps me feel good too."



Rachel Kindler, daughter of Amy and Martin Kindler and sister to Julia, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 19, 2018. Rachel is a seventh grader at Louis M. Klein Middle School. She loves to dance and competes with her competition team at Armonk Dance. She also enjoys baking and hanging out with her friends from home and sleep away camp.

Her mitzvah project included fundraisers for "Girls Up" supporting UN programs promoting heath and education of girls in developing countries. She has also enjoyed working with young children at the Coachman Center, tutoring kids after school with their homework. Rachel looks forward to sharing her special day with family and friends.



Ethan Sommers, son of Gerri and Andy and brother to Jessica and Ben, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 19, 2018. Ethan is a 7th grader at Edgemont Junior-Senior High School. He enjoys playing sports, especially basketball, soccer and skiing. He loves spending his summers at Indian Head Camp in Pennsylvania. For his Mitzvah Project, Ethan volunteers at

Backyard Sports Cares helping special needs children learn and play sports. Ethan is looking forward to sharing this special day with his family and friends.



A Message from our Rabbi

"Hear O Israel. Love the Eternal your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your might."

There is a beautiful Hassidic teaching about the Shma and V'ahavta. The book of Deuteronomy teaches: "Take these words which I command you this day, and inscribe them upon your heart." The Hassidic teaching begins with a question: Why put these words upon your heart? Wouldn't it make more sense to put these words in your heart?

The Hassidic text continues: there are times that our hearts are closed, shut down - and we have no interest, no patience, for words of love, or wisdom, or comfort. So - maybe just put these words upon your heart. And some day, when your heart cracks open even a little bit, the words that are lying there can fall in.

This teaching is meant to provide a different angle on heartbreak. I've always been perplexed and intrigued by the Hassidic saying, "There is nothing as whole as a broken heart."

Thinking about Israel and the Jewish people in these past weeks has been a source of heartbreak for me. We have calls for BDS against Israel and Israel's increasing isolation among the nations of the world on one hand - and on the other, a growing despair among Israelis (and among Palestinians) that a two-state solution is possible. Fourteen of the fifteen living former chiefs of Israel's intelligence organizations (the Mossad and the Shin Bet) concur that the lack of a two-state solution is Israel's greatest threat to security. It is in Israel's security interests to do everything possible to secure a two-state solution. Yet, the government does not heed these warnings. We hear instead calls for annexation of the West Bank. It is clear that one state cannot be both Jewish and democratic.

And so I feel that the gap between hope and despair is widening - like a crack in my heart.

But there are people who are stepping into that gap - who are not giving up hope. These are Israelis and Palestinians (and their world-wide allies) who dare to hear each other, to acknowledge the losses and pains and stories of the other, who believe that reconciliation is possible.

This past week has been Israel's "High Holidays" - Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day.) I feel privileged to have watched (via livestream and then afterwards, again and again) the video of an alternative ceremony, the Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day. It was the largest memorial day gathering in Israel - 8,000 people in a public park in Tel Aviv - listening to both Israelis and Palestinians share stories of bereavement and grief - all of them committed that their loved ones shall not have died in vain - that there must be a way to end the cycle of violence.

I am planning a trip to Israel this November (together with Abbe Marcus, who led our Civil Rights trip last November) to meet some of these extraordinary people. It is a trip into courage, into hope - meetings Jews, Christians, Muslims - Israelis and Palestinians. We will pray with the Women of the Wall, meet with Orthodox peacemakers, and harvest olives with Palestinians. We will attend the International Oud Festival and celebrate with Jewish Ethiopians as they commemorate the Sigd Pilgrimage.

We will step into heartbreak - and hope. And return, I pray, more whole.

-Rabbi Shira Milgrom

A Message from our Rabbi



Our Favorite Family Photos

On the table sat a photo album. The woman explained that instead of having endless albums all over the place, she instead keeps this one special album with all of her favorite and most meaningful pictures. I asked her if she then threw away all of the rest to avoid clutter. "Oh no!" she said, "I have drawers filled with old pictures, hundreds and hundreds of them." Then why do you keep them I asked. "Well", she said, "every once in a while, something happens in my life, and an old forgotten photo that seemed unimportant all of a sudden becomes an important favorite again. And then I put it in my album on the table."

An eighth grader recently inquired, "Why do we keep all of those parts of the Torah that don't make sense to us anymore? Why don't we just keep the stuff that's really important and makes sense, and get rid of the rest? He was told, "The whole Torah is sacred. And every once in a while, the world changes and a seemingly 'outdated' and obscure Torah text speaks to us anew; and again it becomes a profound, inspiring and insightful lesson to help us take on the challenges of the day. So we never, ever throw away any of those sacred parts of our past."

Early in the 1980s, so many Americans acted horribly towards people who were HIV positive. As a country, we did an embarrassingly terrible job of reaching out and helping. Our Torah texts on seemingly incurable and dangerous skin diseases (long dreaded by the poor 13 year old who found that as their Bat or Bar Mitzvah portion) re-emerged. They once again reminded us how to deal with healing compassion, patience and understanding when those among us are struck with a new, life threatening and frightening illness. (Leviticus 12-15)

The teachings that form the prohibition against "insulting the deaf, or placing a stumbling block before the blind" became foundational teachings in moving us towards making our world more accessible and inclusive. (Leviticus 19:14)

In recent decades, our exploration of the great women throughout the Tanach has played a significant role working towards the equality of Jewish woman.

The list is endless and, indeed, eternal.

Rabbi Tom Weiner



A Message from our Cantor

Summer is Sizzling With Music at Kol Ami!

For the second year in a row, Congregation Kol Ami will present a fun-filled and entertaining summer music series. Last year, we hosted "Opera Breve" and their production of George Bizet's "Carmen" along with the musical talents of Matt Turk and his Bluegrass band, "Deadgrass." Both events were very well attended and we

are so excited looking ahead to another great season!

The first concert will take place on Thursday, July 26 and will be entitled, "The Cantor's Cabaret."

This light and casual evening will feature music of Broadway and the world stage. I will be joined by some of Westchester's finest cantors, including: Mo Glazman, Jill Abramson, Tracey Scher, and the talented Mendelson family of Jackie, Fredda and Danny.

<u>On August 9th we will welcome back Matt Turk and "Deadgrass"</u> <u>as they feature the music of Jerry Garcia.</u>

This 5 piece ensemble will have your whole family engaged and enamored with incredible instrumental acrobatics and great vocals.

Both events are free and will begin at 6:30pm on the front lawn of Kol Ami. Everyone is encouraged to bring a picnic dinner, a lawn chair or blanket and we will supply the dessert and the fabulous entertainment.

Please mark your calendars and I hope to see you for these wonderful summer concerts!!

Here comes the sun :)

Cantor David Rosen

A Message from our Co-President

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." —Anne Frank

I write this article just after we commemorated Yom HaShoah with a beautiful, meaningful service led by our 8th graders. Thinking about the message I wished to share with you, this quote by Anne Frank — a most remarkable beacon of courage, strength, and goodness — came to mind.

At this point in the year, much time and attention is devoted by the Board of Trustees to developing next year's budget. Though on its surface it may seem to be a routine exercise in number-crunching, the process is deeply substantive. The budget touches upon all aspects of the synagogue and congregational life and requires everyone involved to set priorities and goals. The process challenges us with difficult choices and at times differing opinions, but it is an example of collaboration at its best.

The result of this great collaboration is the proposed budget that will be presented for a vote at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 15th at 8:00 pm. I urge each of you to join us that evening. As Kol Ami members, we all have the responsibility to ensure that our congregation continues to thrive, and your approval of the budget will allow us to do just that. Our Annual Meeting also is a great opportunity to hear from our Clergy and leadership about our past year and what awaits us in the year ahead. We will honor those trustees whose terms are ending and welcome our new trustees whose terms will begin in July. If you are unable to attend in person, please have your vote counted by returning your proxy to the office.

All this attention to the budget and the breadth of our activities made me think about and appreciate, in the true sense of the word, all those who give of their time and energy to our community and the communities we serve. On any given week, we host a myriad of events, meetings and programs in addition to Shabbat and holiday services and the vibrant schools we house. It takes a village to support and sustain all the incredible work that originates within our walls, and our volunteers are the backbone of our village. It is important to both me and Scott that we take a moment to offer our thanks to each one of our volunteers — Committee chairs, committee members, Shabbat greeters, office assistants, Religious School canteen workers, class parents, trustees, fundraisers, Coachman birthday party, holiday dinner and barbecue organizers and participants, retreat organizers, adult education leaders, donors to the food pantry, preparers of food for the homeless, voices for social justice . . . the list is endless. It is through your tireless work and devotion that we as a congregation improve our world. Scott and I are inspired by your energy, ideas and commitment and are grateful beyond words to be part of a community whose generosity is boundless.

Our commitment to improving the world is an ongoing one. If you wish to give to others in a meaningful way but have not found the right opportunity, or if you have an idea for a new way for us to improve our world, please let me know. How wonderful it is that we need not wait a single moment!

L'Shalom Susan Kohn Arovas



A Message from our Executive Director

Can the words "Never Again" really mean never again?



On Wednesday evening April 11th I attended our congregational Yom Hashoah service, which was beautifully led by our 8th grade students. The next morning I joined with Cantor Rosen, Bert Wohl and Renee Levine to attend the Yom Hashoah Holocaust Commemoration Ceremony at the Garden of Remembrance in White Plains. Bert, a survivor of The Holocaust, and Renee, the

child of a survivor, shared in carrying Kol Ami's Holocaust-rescued Torah in the procession of rescued torahs. I listened with rapt attention to moving music and the incredible story of one of the survivors, wearing a pin which says "zachor" – the Hebrew word for remember; and I pondered, how do genocides and other mass atrocities, as well as other civil rights violations of the most vulnerable, continue to happen today?

My Kol Ami and Binghamton University worlds came together on April 17th, when I had the honor of co-hosting a reception for the Binghamton University Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The Board President of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) (www.auschwitzinstitute.org) provided the welcoming remarks. The AIPR is a non-profit organization devoted to genocide and mass atrocity prevention. The Institute is best known for its Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention which is held annually at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and also serves as the technical secretariat of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention. The AIPR's vision is to build a world that prevents genocide and other mass atrocities. Through education, training, and technical assistance, the AIPR assists states in developing and strengthening policies and practices in the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. The AIPR also encourages and supports the cooperation of states, through regional and international networks, to advance prevention.

The Binghamton University Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (I-GMAP), which was founded in 2017, brings together cutting-edge academic research and the experience and insight of practitioners. The Institute was established to inform practice through the application of the latest scholarship in areas such as the quantitative analysis of at-risk communities; how factors such as gender, climate change, political transitions and population flows contribute to risks for genocide and mass atrocities; and the role of governments, civil society actors and international bodies in effective prevention. The Binghamton University Institute, in collaboration with the Auschwitz Institute, hopes to transform the way we understand and disrupt the processes that lead to genocide and mass atrocities.

We must remember (zachor) The Holocaust, and the valuable lessons about protecting the vulnerable nature of human rights that we can learn from it. President Barack Obama said "[Honoring the victims and survivors of the Holocaust] demands from us the courage to protect the persecuted and speak out against bigotry and hatred."

I am proud that at Kol Ami we speak out against racism and human rights violations in the United States and around the world. I am proud that Binghamton University is partnering with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation to educate government leaders around the world to recognize, combat, and ultimately extinguish the hatred that breeds genocide.

I believe that "never again" really can mean "never again."

-Jess Lorden

A Message from our ECP Director



- 5/21 Closed for Shavuot
- 5/24 ECP Art Show and Breakfast 9:00-9:40pm
- 5/28 Closed for Memorial Day

Once again we are thrilled to partner with White Plains Hospital this month for our Annual Ted E. Bear Day. Our 3's, 4's and 5's are encouraged to bring a teddy bear or other "favorite friend" to meet the nurses and doctors of White Plains Hospital and learn firsthand what it would be like if they had to visit the hospital if they were hurt or sick. The children help their "furry friends" feel better by learning to take their temperature, blood pressure, and fixing their boo boos. The morning also includes a healthy snack and exercise. We are grateful to White Plains Hospital for bringing us such a wonderful morning of learning and fun.

Our 3's will enjoy our ever popular Bring your Favorite Guy (dad or grandpa, your uncle, your older brother or adult male family friend) to school day. The 3's will be hosting their special visitor on Wednesday, May 2nd with a classroom craft, special treat, and games with Coach Steve.

Our ECP Annual Art Show and Artists Breakfast will take place on Thursday morning May 25th from 9:00-9:45. The children work all year on this event and this year our 4's will be showcasing a few special pieces including their versions of "Jackson Pollack, Warhol, and Kandinsky" and their own 3-dimensional "Community of Friends." We invite all of our families to join us for breakfast and a special "viewing" of the children's work. Needless to say this is always a special morning.

This month we will be auctioning off a Brand New Children's Motorized Tesla! Everyone in the Temple community is welcome to join in the fun by purchasing raffle tickets. The lucky winner will be chosen on Thursday, June 7th! The Tesla will be displayed for the month of May outside of the ECP office. Please see our flyer on page 30 in this May Connection Magazine for more details.

-Nan Blank

Building a Community of Friends, One Family at a Time

A Message from our Religious School Director

Spring is Here!

Our teachers are working to finish projects and conclude units with your children. There are still lots of things going on during the month of May... so please keep checking the weekly emails and the Gold Standard for upcoming programs and activities. You can always check our calendar on line at www.nykolami.org

<u>Sunday, May 6th is our annual Day of Chesed</u>. Each year we come up with projects for each grade to work on to support someone or something in our community. Projects include mother's day gift bags for the Coachman Family Center, gifts of appreciation to our own custodial staff and items for local hospitals and charities. If you would like to help us on this wonderful day, please contact Felice and Pam!

<u>Friday, May 11th will be our 2nd Grade Family Shabbat AND our High School Shabbat and Graduation</u>. This is a beautiful service and everyone is invited! Please join us as we celebrate our final family Shabbat of this school year and celebrate our amazing High School students and graduating seniors!

<u>Our final day of school is May 13th. Mark your calendars for our Zimriyah.</u> Everyone is invited to join us as we sing and dance together in celebration of an amazing year of learning! Our Zimriyah will be followed by a special end of year picnic.

Religious School registration materials will be available in the next few weeks. Please look for an email with instructions for on-line registration for Religious School for the 2018-2019 school year.

Felice Miller-Baritz



4th Grade Hassidic Wedding



4th, 5th, & 6th Grade Yom HaAtzmaut dancing



K, 1st & 2nd Grade Tefila and Yom HaAtzmaut singing





A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement

Dear Friends,

The next couple of weeks are filled with projects about which I am particularly excited!

First, Kol Ami's Orchestra will perform for the first time during musical explorations at our May 4th Synaplex. I am honored to be sharing the band stand (or the Bimah in this case) with an outstanding group of congregants and non-congregants who devoted their time and energy to this endeavor. The music will represent a variety of Israeli songs influenced by different musical styles from around the world (plus some surprises). I hope to see you there!

I am also thrilled to share information about the Kol Ami Community Garden. I invite you to help grow vegetables in our garden. Everything we grow will be donated to our Food Pantry.

I also hope to see you at our Israel at 70 Celebration on June 3rd. I am helping with the planning and know this is going to be a fun day at Kol Ami!

Between the teaching and the learning groups, the Israeli flag in our Sanctuary, the trips to Israel and the June 3rd celebration; Kol Ami shows its love of Israel on a daily basis and that makes me feel at home.

Israel is 70 years old. I have seen the changes in Israel over the years. The waves of Olim in the 90s', the building of new roads and railroads, the rising of Tel Aviv's skyline and the constant technological development. I reflect on these with pride. At the same time I reflect on years of conflict between Israel and its neighbors and between Israelis themselves, a peace process that seems to be fading away, Yemey Zikaron (Memorial Days) and disasters that were too painful to witness and experience.

Yesterday was Yom HaAtzmaut. Although I missed the live broadcast of the celebration and ceremonies I read a quote by Naftali Bennett, Israel's Minister of Education. He said (and I am paraphrasing) that not only the right wing loves Israel, not only the left wishes for peace, we all seek the best for Israel. He continued by reminding us that all Israelis are one family. I continue to believe that even with all of its challenges, Israel at 70 is a place with great potential. I am hopeful.

יום עצמאות שמח!

Idan Santhaus

Around Kol Ami.... #nykolami





Congregants had a wonderful year in The Sephardic Experience class on Monday Nights led by Paul David





Our ECP hosted their annual Israeli Dancing Festival with Shmulik and friends from other local synagogue preschools

Our Kol Ami Torah visits the Yom HasShoah Memorial in White Plains



Our April Synaplex was amazing! Speaker Alexandra Zapruder, dinner catered by Floursh Baking Co., and served by our Green Team Committee









Rabbi Tom celebrates with our 2018 Confirmation Class



Rabbi Tom visits with our college students at Tulane

Around Kol Ami.... #nykolami









Our "Garden of Idan" Vegetable Garden got a great start thanks to so many volunteers who came out to enjoy the beautiful weather!





Our ECP Family Shabbat and Dinner was a wonderful evening together with young families. After Shabbat in the Woods services and dinner, a magic show was enjoyed by all.









Our Sisterhood and Congregants participated in a day of making Mitzvah Mats to donate to Alzheimer patients





Kol Ami Visits Broadway! The Actors Temple., Lunch at Bond 45, and The Band's Visit









Did You Know?

The Retreat is a chance to UNPLUG from stress and distractions and RECONNECT... ...with family and friends when you participate in programming together. ...with nature while running or hiking on wooded paths, in a boat on Sylvan Lake. ...with your mind and spirit during scholarly conversation or while reviewing Judaic text with clergy. ...with who you are surrounded by beauty, family, and friends.

Did You Know?

The Retreat has something for everyone! From supervised activities for our youngest members to opportunities for those that are young at heart. Join us at for a chance to release your inner scholar, artist and athlete. Or, for those looking for a more relaxed experience, grab (or download) your favorite book and take advantage of the chance to relax by Sylvan Lake.

Did You Know?

That you do not have to miss the Retreat because of a prior commitment or if you are unsure about staying at Camp Kinder Ring. You can come for just one night or for the day on Saturday!

Ready to register? Click the link below or stop by the Kol Ami Office to fill out a registration form.

Have additional questions or concerns? Contact Genna Farley at Genna.Farley@gmail.com or the Retreat Committee at Retreat@NyKolAmi.org

Register Here!



Wishing you had more time to attend Kol Ami Events? WANTING TO CONNECT WITH OUR CLERGY AND OTHER CONGREGANTS? Work in, or around, midtown manhattan?

JOIN RABBI TOM WEINER ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 12:30PM Hosted by Michael Zweig At Loeb & Loeb LLP 345 Park Avenue JOIN CANTOR DAVID ROSEN ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th AT 12:30PM Hosted by Scott Musoff Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP 4 Timees Square

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS SUCH AS: Why do we pray the way we do? Does it work? And what's the green prayer book for?!

\$18PP/PER SESSION (COME FOR ONE OR BOTH SESSIONS)

So we can know you are coming, please rsvp to Ginny Herron-Lanoil, Assistant to the Clergy Ginnyherron-lanoil@nykolami.org 914-949-4717 Please bring payment with you to the sessions.



Kol Ami Sisterhood Women of Reform Judaism

Send our 2018 Confirmands a Greeting!

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 20th, 2018 On that day, our 10th Grade Religious School Students will participate in the Shavuot Confirmation Service, dedicating themselves anew to the values of our faith. We rejoice with them and their families on this special occasion.

Sending a personal, simple greeting is a tradition for this milestone, delivering good wishes of the sender and providing the warmth of being remembered to the recipient.

Each Confirmand will receive a booklet of greetings which will make for a wonderful keepsake. The link below contains the names of each Confirmand and the option to create a personal greeting or choose from several pre-made greetings if you prefer.

The deadline for sending these greetings is Friday, May 4th. We hope you will participate in this meaningful project. Please visit:

https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/confirmation2018

Feel free to share this link with friends and families of Confirmands outside of Kol Ami too!

2018 Confirmands

Alex Arovas Melanie Barest Caitlin Barotz Lauren Clarke Melissa Cohen Jenna Ginsburg Charles Gluck Brett Goldstein Sam Hutter Michael Mayeri Jack McEvoy Levie Sohl Oren Tirschwell Cate Ward Gillian Zitrin



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM *stronger together*

Co-Presidents Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus, Stacey Matusow

Kol Ami Sisterhood Women of Reform Judaism



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM stronger together

KOL AMI SISTERHOOD BARBARA GRUBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Kol Ami's Sisterhood is involved in many facets of the Temple's life. We are proud that for many years, we have been able to recognize our graduating high school seniors in June when we award scholarships. To be eligible, students must have become Bat/Bar Mitzvah, been Confirmed, attended our Religious School through 12th grade, and performed community service. Our financial support of these students is made possible through donations to our Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund. We invite you to contribute to this worthy cause.

The Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund is named in loving memory of Barbara Gruber who was an active member and leader of our congregation. Among her many contributions to our community, she was a President of our Sisterhood, co-chair of numerous Holiday Boutiques, and the manager of the Judaica Shop. Barbara was married to Matt Gruber, the Executive Director of our synagogue for many years, and a resident of White Plains where they raised their three children.

In order for us to continue this valuable program, the Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund requires replenishment through contributions. Donations in any amount are welcome and can be made to honor an individual, to commemorate a meaningful experience, or "just because". Acknowledgement will appear in Kol Ami's Connection.

Checks may be written to "The Barbara Gruber Scholarship Fund", WRJ, and mailed to Sisterhood, c/o Congregation Kol Ami or left in the Sisterhood drawer in the Temple office. Any questions may be addressed to either Mimi Rogowsky at (914) 522-2723, miriambrogowsky@optonline.net, or Sheryl Brady at (914) 761- 8345, sxbrady@verizon.net.

Thank you for your support!

Co-Presidents Sheryl Brady, Rachel Eckhaus, Stacey Matusow

Ritual Riches

Shavuot is one of the three pilgrimage festivals along with the other two festivals, Passover and Sukkot. It marks the end of the Counting of the Omer, which began on the second day of Passover. The Holiday has its roots in an agricultural festival that pre-dates the modern holiday we know as Shavuot. The word itself means weeks and refers to the forty-nine days the Israelites traveled from Egypt to Mount Sinai. The Torah calls on us to begin counting the Omer, a measure that begins with the barley crop and goes seven weeks until the wheat harvest. This counting of days and weeks is understood to express anticipation and desire for the giving of the Torah on Shavuot.

We are told God gave us the Oral Torah on Shavuot. Traditions differ with respect to timeframe, but all say Moses was later given the Tablets of Stone, the "Ten Mitzvot", and we became the nation of God promised to Abraham. The word Shavuot means weeks, and the festival of Shavuot marks the completion of the seven-week counting period between Passover and Shavuot. In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem the Israelites would make their pilgrimage to Jerusalem to bring the first fruits of their Spring harvest to the Temple as a Sacrifice.

Today tradition tells us we are to study through the night and many Reform Temples offer late night study. The day brings celebration with a variety of dairy meals followed by the reading of the Book of Ruth. Reform Temples in North America hold Confirmation ceremonies on Shavuot for the students who are completing their religious studies. The students who are usually about seventeen years old stand in front of the open ark recalling the standing of the Israelites at Mount Sinai for the giving of the Torah. It is a festive holiday with Israel standing at the foot of Mount Sinai witnessing Moses making Aliyah, climbing upward to meet with God whose presence is seem from below as smoke and fire on the top of the mountain.

This article was written by Ed Stotsky

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

Social Action Tikkun Olam

Kol Ami Cares Opportunities for Volunteering



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

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

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

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

> 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 fcilities. 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, May 23rd at 2:30 pm The Osborn 101 Theall Road, Rye, NY

AFYA at Kol Ami

Kol Ami's committment to AFYA began in October, 2017 when Danielle Butin, Founder of AFYA gave a talk during the High Holy Days. Since that time, many congregants have visited the AFYA warehouse in Yonkers to sort and pack medical supplies to be shipped to places in need worldwide and over 30 shipments have been flown to Puerto Rico, some of them using planes supplied by Kol Ami Members. This past month, our incoming B'nai Mitzvah families sorted and packed medical supplies. In future months we hope to involve other groups within our Temple community such as Sisterhood & the Youth Group. On May 6th the Religious School will also be participating for their Day of Chesed. We are planning evening and weekend events for those who can not participate during the day. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Our sessions at the warehouse are always the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30 am -12:30pm. If you would like to join us on May 9th, please contact Barbara Wexler at: wexlerartworks@optonline.net For more information about AFYA visit their website: afyafoundation.org



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,

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



In YOUR driveway?! WIN a BRAND NEW 2018 Children's Motorized Red Tesla

Join the fun and purchase raffle tickets May 7-June 7th, 2018

EVERYONE can purchase tickets. Tell your friends, neighbors, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and fellow congregants

It's easy, here's how:

Online: http://www.events.org/cpage.aspx?e=116363

Or: Drop off a check at the ECP Office or in the Mail

(1) Ticket for \$20, (6) Tickets for \$100

Winner will be announced on Thursday, June 7th (our Annual ECP Truck Day!)

> Proceeds from the raffle will be used by our Early Childhood Program to aid our Scholarship Fund

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Come One, Come Two, Come Three, Come All! Kol Ami ECP's Annual

Family Math Night

With Amy Goldstein Our Math Magic Teacher

For Families with Young Children 3 years -K Tuesday evening, May 8th 6:00 - 7:30 Join us for Pizza and Salad at 6:00 Followed by a Program Introduction at 6:15 Games from 6:30-7:30

> RSVP by Friday, May 4th For Planning Purposes RESERVATIONS ONLY No Walk-ins Please! To: <u>nanblank@ngkolami.org</u>

Join us for an exciting evening of math exploration through a variety of handson activities. Families will rotate through math stations where volunteers will introduce math activities fun for both parent and child.

Go home with a goody bag of math games to play at home, as well as practical ideas to weave mathematical thinking into everyday life with your child. Whether you loved or hated math as a student, you will love watching your child gain confidence and proficiency with numbers in a fun, engaging way.



Adult Education

Gather and Study

Mussar Classes

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 x. 149 to register. Mondays 12:30-2:00pm, next meeting on May 7th 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 May 8th

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship with Rabbi Shira Milgrom. Next meeting on May 2nd

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 May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th*

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 May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st*

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*, *next meeting on May 2nd*

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 May 7th

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 May 2nd

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, next meeting on May 3rd

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 May 7th

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



Sunday, June 3rd 11:00am-4pm Fun Filled Family Day for All Ages!

Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Ave White Plains, NY 10606 www.nykolami.org Food Trucks Bounce Houses Laser Tag Krav Maga Arts & Crafts Music and Dance Judaica for Sale

\$10 PER PERSON

\$25 FOR A FAMILY Cash or Check

Event Weather Permitting

JOIN US IN AN OUTDOOR COMMUNITY CELEBRATION For Israel's 70TH Anniversary! Proceeds to Benefit The Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel Everyone Is Welcome!

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDING A GRAND PRIZE

OF AIRFARE FOR (2) TO ISRAEL (Some travel restrictions apply. May also be used for travel to Africa, Asia, Australia, or India)

For More Information Please Contact Sara Elkin at Israel70KolAmi@nykolami.org

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Mark Your Calendar! Give the Gift of Life Blood Drive Tuesday, June 5, 2018 4:00-9:30pm at Bet Am Shalom

We urge participation by temple members during this semi-annual blood drive. You don't need to make an appointment.

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 donros 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 and click on DONATE BLOOD.

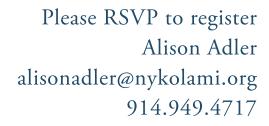
> Blood Drive Chairman David Klein 761-7659

"For the life of all flesh - its blood is its life." Leviticus 17:14 "Whoever saves a life, as it saves an entire world." Mishna Sanhedrin

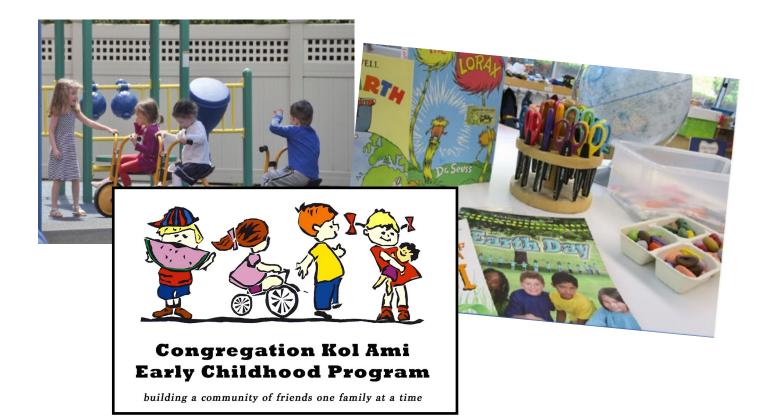
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6 Sessions -\$18 per Session or \$100 for the Series All proceeds from the classes will be donated to Congregation Kol Ami

Tuesdays June 19, June 26 July 10, July 17 July 24, July 31 at 7:30PM for one hour Minimum of 8 students required for classes to proceed







Kol Ami Early Childhood Program Warm, Nurturing, and Enriching

Registration for 2018-2019 Now Open!

First Friends: A Toddler Program 2, 3, 4 and 5-Day 2's 3, 4, and 5-Day 3's Morning 4's Full & Half-Day 4's A Step Ahead! Our Pre-K Program For children turning 5 from September through December Extended Day Program for 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's

Call for an appointment & tour today Nan Blank, Early Childhood Director 914-949-4717 ext 107 Visit the Taj Mahal Explore the ancient port of Cochin Cruise the Kerala Backwaters

> information contact: Lisa Borowitz at

> or Ellen Kurtz at ekurtzrn@gmail.com

lisa.borowitz@cowen.com

Kol Ami Visits Jewish India

Did you know that Jews have been in India for a millenia?

Indians say it's the only place in the world where Jews have always lived in peace

JANUARY 20-30th, 2019

\$4,995.00*

Join Congregation Kol Ami and Rabbi Tom Weiner for a trip to visit ancient Jewish sites that few people will ever get to see. Discover the diversity of Mumbai and its Jewish past and vibrant present. See the Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise!

Includes hotels, most meals, flights within India, and most tips. International flight from NYC not included. Want to extend your trip longer? There are pre-tour and post-tour add on options for: January 16-19th for Delhi and Varansi January 30-February 3rd, for Rajasthan, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Jodhpur

* inquire about cost of single hotel room occupancy



DID YOU KNOW...

The following is an edited excerpt from an article by Bruce DeBoskey about meaningful philanthropy :

"Everyone wants to leave a legacy, some proof that they lived on this earth and made a difference... some people leave an obvious legacy that has a global effect. However, one person doesn't have to change the entire world to make a difference...

The idea of legacy may seem a bit daunting , may even evoke thoughts about dying, but it is not about death — legacy is really about life and living, making decisions about the kind of life we want to live and the kind of world we want to live in and how we want our values perpetuated beyond us.

Through Legacy, 'me' becomes 'we'; 'we' encompasses past and future, old and young and the society we create and perpetuate... ideally we want to leave the world a better place than we found it. Farmer Nelson Henderson said 'the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit'."

You can become part of Kol Ami's collective legacy that fosters Jewish values in perpetuity and supports a way of life that repairs the world, preserves ideas essential to a healthy, sustainable and productive society where each of us matters now and in the future.

If you would like to explore ways to make a tax deductible planned gift to The Kol Ami Legacy Fund, contact Evelyne Klein at 914-762-7659, aspencup@aol.com or Judi Brown ay 646-206-4547, gojustjudi@gmail.com



Life Cycles

Congratulations

- *To Nan and Wesley Blank on the birth of their grandson, Samuel Zac Kurtis
- *To Donna and Larry Dunkelman on the birth of their grandson, Isaac David Dunkelman
- *To Cynthia and Gary Zambardino on the birth of their son, Levi Garrett Zambardino
- $\star {\rm To}$ Susan and Steve Wagner on the birth of their granddaughter, Elle Jo Wagner
- *To Elanna and Scott Lazaruk on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Grey Lazaruk
- *To Janet and Mark Ackerman on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Scarlett Ackerman

Condolences

- *To Ellen Umansky and Michael Zweig on the death of their aunt, Diana Umansky Laub
- *To Jean Rouda on the death of her aunt, Helen Viggers
- *To Carla Glassman on the death of her mother, Edna Driansky
- *To Bill Fischer on the death of his wife, Barbara Fischer
- *To Peter Roth on the death of his mother, Arlene Roth

In Memorium

- *Lea Mendelsohn
- *Monroe Heidecorn
- ∗Barbara Fischer

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- * To support the Katrina Browne Program in the Religious School from John Auerbacher and Jennet Walker
- *In memory of Inge Ortmeyer from Gerri Friedman
- *In honor of Evan's baby naming from Sarah and Michael Schacher
- *In memory of their aunt, Diana Laub, from the Umansky, Zweig and Laub families
- *Thank you to Stephanie Levine, Gail Young, Lisa Borowitz, for sending lovely Purim Baskets from Lillian Green
- *In honor of Elyssa Banker's Bat Mitzvah from Phyllis and Dr. Robert Shulman, her grandparents

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- *To help with the Costa Rica Trip from Mia Shapiro
- *In loving memory of Steven Glazer, son of Florence Glazer, and for her father, David Sheff, from Barbara Block *To support Rabbi Tom Weiner's work with the youth from Nathanial and Betsy Bohrer Philanthropic Fund
- *In honor of Amanda and Marc Sherer's B'nai Mitzvah from Donna and Jesse Scherer
- *In memory of Dick Lewis from Harley Lewis
- *In honor of the baby naming of our grand-daughter, Simone, from Jim & Margie Arsham
- *In honor of Ben's Bar Mitzvah from Suzanne and Matthew Kirsch

Cantor David's Discretionary Fund

- *In honor of Amanda and Marc Sherer's B'nai Mitzvah from Donna and Jesse Scherer
- *In honor of Ben's Bar Mitzvah from Suzanne and Matthew Kirsch

Generous Contributions

Refugee Resettlement Fund

In appreciation from Anne WrightIn appreciation of Paul Davis and his wonderful Sephardic Classes, from Evelyne and David Klein

Fund for the Needy

In loving memory of Jerold Fischer, brother of William Fischer from Beatrice Greenbaum
In honor of Abdul Tubman receiving his Master's Degree from Patty and Bert Wohl
In honor of Audrey Merrill Schonfeld becoming a Bat Mitzvah from Abbie Haskel Schonfeld
In honor of the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of Josh Ilberg from Jess and Dave Lorden
In honor of the upcoming bar Mitzvah of Ethan Sommers from Jess and Dave Lorden

Kol Ami Fund

*In loving memory of Milton Pushkin from Robert and Stacey Pushkin
*In loving memory of Hope Coe Arner from Judi Brown
*In loving memory of her mother, Sadie Fudell from Faith Saunders
*In loving memory of her father, Morris Rutfield from Pearl Cohen
*In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of our son, Ben Kirsch from Suzanne and Matthew Kirsch
*In honor of Harriet Dunkerley for tutoring and preparing our son, Benjamin Kirsch for his Bar Mitzvah from
*Suzanne and Matthew Kirsch

Petschek Music Fund

*In honor of Leni Glauber's birthday from Ellen Bittner

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.

NAMES

I am enclosing my check for \$_____ made payable to Congregation Kol Ami for the purchase of _____ 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. To make the logistics easier and the gifting choices

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

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

Donors' Address:

Occasion:
□ In Memory of:
□ In honor of: Name as you would like it to appear in our newsletter:

Send donation acknowledgement to:___

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

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

Funds

I 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

CONGREGATION

KOI AMI



Whether you realize it or not, you're probably using and paying for more electric, gas, and oil than you need every day your business operates. Strategic Partners, Atlantic Westchester and Bright Energy Services, are one of the area's leading commercial energy efficiency solutions providers. Through evaluation of your energy utilization and infrastructure, we recommend and implement a strategic and comprehensive solution to immediately and permanently save money against your energy expenses. Whether it is HVAC, LED Lighting, Building Controls, Solar and other Renewables, Commissioning, Electric & Gas Procurement, Sub-Metering, Energy Bill Analysis, Energy Code and Local Law Compliance, LEED and Energy Star Certification, or securing the financial incentives available through the utilities and government, we can make your building LEAN and we can TRIM your building's operating expenses. Dieting has never been so rewarding.

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-Mathew J. Resillo, Owner & Record Director



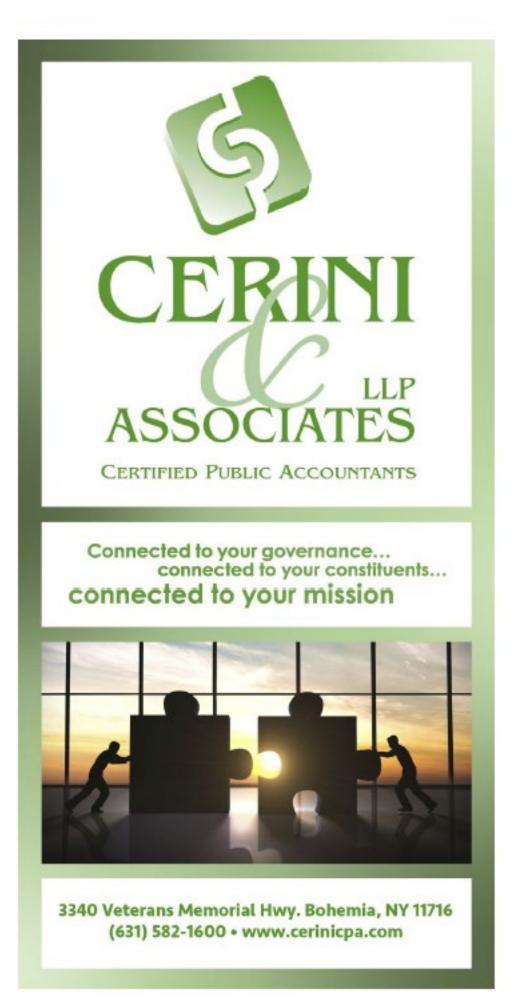




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Employment Services for the Westchester

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