

THE CONNECTION

June 2019

Volume No. 10



*Welcome
Summer!*



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue ☆ White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 ☆ www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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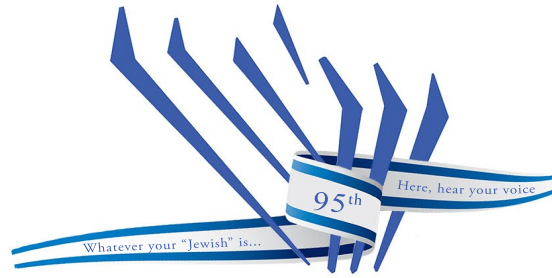
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CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Celebrating our past, living our present, imagining our future

1923-2018 • 95 YEARS

**A Jewish journey is about history.
Where you are going, and where you have been.
It is about times, and places, and people.
It is about quiet moments with oneself and with God.
It is about joyous moments spent with others.**

Congregation Kol Ami's Jewish journey began in 1923 when the Jewish Community Center of White Plains was formed and land was purchased on Sterling Avenue in White Plains to build a religious school and a temple. As the temple and the school expanded, in 1944 7 ½ acres of land were purchased at Soundview Avenue.

In May 1995 the Jewish Community Center of White Plains changed its name to Congregation Kol Ami, meaning "The Voice of My People".

From the start, and continuing today, our purpose has been to nurture the divine spark within, and to connect each of us to a meaningful Jewish journey.

Whatever your "Jewish" is, you'll find it at Kol Ami.

**Here, our members- of every age and with
diverse backgrounds and identities-
are our heartbeat.**

**Here, we cultivate relationships
with family, friends, staff, and clergy.**

**Here, we are rooted in our synagogue, in our community,
in our country, and in Israel.**

**Here, we celebrate Jewish traditions and culture,
nourish our souls through music and arts,
and explore relationships with God.**

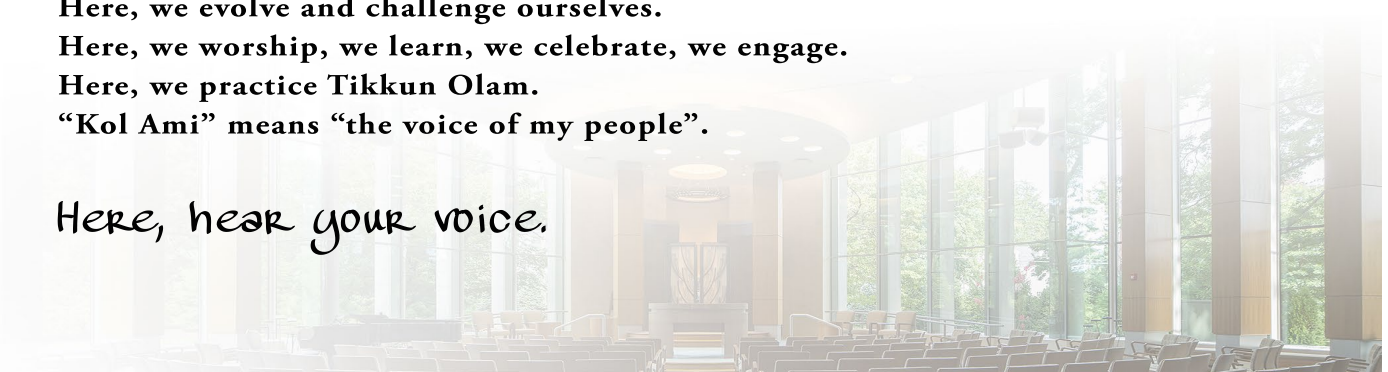
Here, we evolve and challenge ourselves.

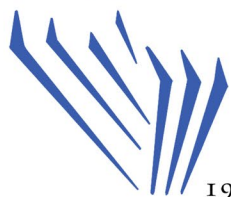
Here, we worship, we learn, we celebrate, we engage.

Here, we practice Tikkun Olam.

"Kol Ami" means "the voice of my people".

Here, hear your voice.





1923-2018 • 95 YEARS

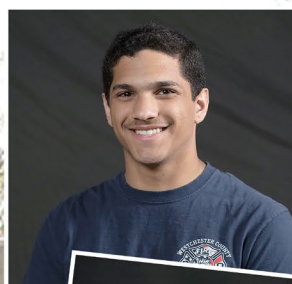
CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Celebrating our past, living our present, imagining our future

WHATEVER YOUR "JEWISH" IS, YOU'LL FIND IT AT KOL AMI

Here, our members - of every age and with
diverse backgrounds and identities -
are our heart beat.

Here, hear your voice!



Photos by:

Todd Shapira
PHOTOGRAPHY

252 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606 www.nykolami.org

Worship Opportunities



Shabbat in the Woods



The Spirit



of



Shabbat

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.

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 June

Week ending June 1, 2019

Parashat B'chukotai Leviticus 26:3-27:34

The book of Leviticus is completed this week with B'chukotai. Another name for this week's Torah portion is Parashat HaToch'chah — the portion of reproach. It contains a list of curses so terrible that traditionally the Torah reader chants them quickly and in a hushed tone so as not to call attention to them. These curses come just after the promise of blessing - if we follow God's ways. The parasha begins "Rain in abundance, good crops, peace, victory, and fertility are all ours if, ... you walk in my statutes and guard my commandments and do them." (Leviticus 26:3) The parasha also includes a brief discussions of the payment of vows and gifts made to the sanctuary.

Week ending June 8, 2019

Parashat B'midbar Numbers 1:1- 4:20

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, those over the age of 20, as well as those responsible for the duties in the Tabernacle. The parasha stipulates a census of first-born males and levies a special redemption tax on them (Pidya ha ben). Each tribe is assigned specific places in the camp surrounding the Tabernacle.

Week ending June 15, 2019

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 portage 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.

Week ending June 22, 2019

Parashat B'haalot'cha Numbers 8:1-12:16

In this parasha God instructs Moses to appoint elders to share the burden of ruling the people and settling their many issues. A cloud by day and fire by night show God's Presence over the Tabernacle. When the cloud lifts from the Tabernacle, the people leave Sinai, setting out on their journey tribe by tribe. The parasha concludes with Aaron and Miriam saying disparaging things about their younger brother Moses. As a result, Miriam is struck with a skin disease, manifested as white, itchy scales. Aaron appeals to Moses, who offers a prayer to God on his sister's behalf.

Week ending June 29, 2019

Parashat Sh'lach L'cha Numbers 13:1-15:41

This week's parasha continues the story of the Israelites wandering through the desert. Moses sends twelve emissaries to scout out the land of Israel. Only two, Joshua and Caleb, return with a message of hope. The other ten spies report that the land is filled with giants, and the people react to their terrifying account with fear and panic. As a result of this behavior, God threatens to wipe out the Children of Israel, but relents when Moses intercedes on their behalf. Instead, God announces that the members of this generation will not be allowed to enter the "promised" land and will wander the desert for another 38 years.



Weekly Torah Portions for July

Week ending July 6, 2019

Parashat Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

The book of Leviticus is completed this week with B'chukotai. Another name for this week's Torah portion is Parashat HaToch'chah — the portion of reproach. It contains a list of curses so terrible that traditionally the Torah reader chants them quickly and in a hushed tone so as not to call attention to them. These curses come just after the promise of blessing - if we follow God's ways. The parasha begins "Rain in abundance, good crops, peace, victory, and fertility are all ours if, ... you walk in my statutes and guard my commandments and do them." (Leviticus 26:3) The parasha also includes a brief discussions of the payment of vows and gifts made to the sanctuary.

Week ending July 13, 2019

Parashat Chukat Numbers 19:1-22:1

This week's parasha begins with the death of Miriam - Moses' & Aaron's sister - at Kadesh. When the people complain that they have no water to drink, God instructs Moses to take his rod & order a rock to bring forth water. In his anger against the cantankerous people, instead of ordering the rock to produce water, Moses strikes the rock with his rod. As a result of this action, God tells Moses that he will not be allowed to lead the people into the Land of Israel. This responsibility will ultimately be given to Joshua. Moses' brother Aaron dies at Mount Hor and Aaron's son, Eleazer becomes his successor.

Week ending July 20, 2019

Parashat Balak Numbers 22:2-25:9

In this week's parasha, Balak, the king of Moab, persuades the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites so that he can defeat them and drive them out of the region. However, when Balaam speaks, he blesses the Children of Israel instead, and prophesies that Israel's enemies will be defeated, saying "Ma Tov, ohalecha Ya-akov, mishk'notecha Yisrael – How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." The parasha ends with God punishing the Israelites with a plague when an Israelite man consorts with a Moabite woman. The plague ends when Pinchas kills them.

Week ending July 27, 2019

Parashat Pinchas Numbers 25:10-30:1

The parasha begins with God rewarding Pinchas for killing the Israelite and the Midianite woman who cursed God with a covenant of peace for all time, and continues with the taking of a second census. Moses allocates the land to each tribe according to its size. The daughters of Zelophehad appeal to Moses to inherit their father's land since their father died leaving no sons. God confirms their claim and instructs Moses to change the laws of inheritance. The parasha concludes with a description of the sacrificial ritual for all festival occasions.



Weekly Torah Portions for August

Week ending August 3, 2019

Parashat Matot-Masei Numbers 30:2-36:13

13 In the first part of this double parasha the laws for making vows are described; and Moses agrees to allow the tribes of Gad and Reuben to stay in the land east of the Jordan rather than enter the land of Israel, as long as they lend their support in settling the promised land. Masei recounts the forty years of journeys (mas'ey) that the Israelites have made since leaving Egypt. The Book of Numbers concludes with Moses providing instructions for conquering the land of Israel, defining its borders, and dividing it among the tribes.

Week ending August 10, 2019

Parashat Devarim Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Devarim is the first parasha in the Book of Deuteronomy, which begins a series of speeches by Moses to the Israelites as they are preparing to enter the Land of Israel. In this parasha, Moses, who will not be allowed to enter the land of Israel & will die in Moab, reminds this generation that they are about to take possession of the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He recounts the route of travel and the challenges, chastisements, and triumphs that occurred along the way.

Week ending August 17, 2019

Parashat Va'Etchanan Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

In this parasha, Moses' appeal to God to allow him to enter the Land of Israel is again denied. Moses continues his oration to the people, reminding them of the covenant at Sinai and the Ten Commandments, and exhorting them to follow the laws given by God. Specific areas of the land are set aside to serve as cities of refuge for those who commit unintentional homicide.

Week ending August 24, 2019

Parashat Ekev Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Moses continues to tell the Israelites that, if they maintain their covenant with God by observing all the commandments, God will make them fruitful and victorious over their enemies; and reminds them of the times that the Israelites disobeyed God's commandments and the consequences that befell them. Moses continues by saying that the land will flow with milk and honey if the people obey God's commandments and teach them to their children.

Week ending August 31, 2019

Parashat R'eih Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

In this week's parashah, the people are instructed on how they are to enter and live in the land of Israel, and on the behavior expected of them once they have settled there. Rules about sacrifices, tithes, and care for the Levites are discussed, along with regulations for slaughtering and eating meat.

June Calendar



Monday, June 3rd
AAA Driver Improvement Program



Friday, June 7th
Confirmation Service and Dinner



Sunday, June 9th
Shavuot

Saturday	1	Lift your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee and Conversation 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Services 5:30pm B'nai Mitzvah for Ian Scherr and Jacob Schnier
Sunday	2	11:00-1:00pm Cooking for the Homeless 3:00pm Kol Ami Goes to the Theater: Fiddler 7:00pm Kol Ami Goes to the Yankee Game
Monday	3	9:15-10:45am Grandparenting Workshop 11:00-12:30pm Current Events 12:30-2:00pm Mussar Class 6:00pm 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel 6:30-9:30pm AAA Driver Improvement Program (1st Session) 7:00-9:00pm Kol Ami at the Movies: <i>A Bag of Marbles</i>
Tuesday	4	1:00-3:00pm Brandeis Program in the Chapel: Guest Speaker, Professor Raj Sampath 5:45pm AA in the Chapel 7:30pm Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Poetry Salon
Wednesday	5	9:00-10:30am KA Reads Book Club 10:00-2:00pm Mah Jongg 6:00-9:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Thursday	6	9:30-11:00am Jewish Meditation in the Chapel 12:00-2:00pm Parenting Teens Group 5:45pm AA Meeting in the Chapel 7:30-8:45pm Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 7:30pm Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel
Friday	7	5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods and Book Share 5:30pm Shabbat Sheli with Family Yoga taught by Jen Benalt 6:00-7:15pm Crafts, Light Supper, and Babysitting for Children 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Confirmation Blessings 7:00-9:30pm Confirmation Dinner
Saturday	8	<i>Erev Shavuot</i> Lift your Shabbat in the Chapel 9:00am Coffee and Conversation 9:30am Torah Study 11:00am Shabbat Services
Sunday	9	<i>Shavuot</i> 10:00-1:00pm Confirmation, Shavuot, and Yizkor Service and Reception

June Calendar



Tuesday, June 11th
Sisterhood Dinner in the Gallery



Thursday, June 13th
ECP End-of-the Year Friendship Ceremony



Sunday, June 16th
Father's Day

Monday	10	9:30-11:00am 6:00pm 6:30-9:30pm 7:00-9:00pm	Blessings of a Skinned Knee Group 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel AAA Driver Improvement Program (2nd Session) Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery
Tuesday	11	11:30-1:00pm 5:45pm 7:00-9:00pm 7:30-8:45pm	Women in Transition AA in the Chapel Sisterhood Membership Dinner in the Gallery Israel in the News
Wednesday	12	10:00-2:00pm 7:00-8:30pm	Mah Jongg Parenting Adolescents Group
Thursday	13	9:00-11:00am 9:30-11:00am 5:45pm 7:30-8:45pm 7:30pm	ECP End-of-the-Year Friendship Ceremony Jewish Meditation in the Chapel AA Meeting in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal in the Main Sanctuary Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel
Friday	14	11:00-12:00pm 5:30pm 6:00-7:15pm 6:15pm	ECP School Picnic and Last Day Shabbat in the Woods Crafts, Light Supper, and Babysitting for Children Shabbat Services/Pride Shabbat
Saturday	15	Lift your Shabbat 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am 5:30pm	in the Chapel Coffee and Conversation Torah Study Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah for Charlotte Blotner
Sunday	16		Father's Day
Monday	17	11:00-12:30pm 6:00pm	Current Events 12 Step Recovery in the Chapel
Tuesday	18	5:45pm 7:30-8:45pm	AA Meeting in the Chapel Israel in the News
Wednesday	19	10:00-2:00pm	Mah Jongg
Thursday	20	9:30-11:00am 5:45pm 7:30-8:45pm 7:30pm	Jewish Meditation in the Chapel AA Meeting in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel

June Calendar



Monday, June 24th
ECP Camp Begins



Save the Dates for
July and August!

Friday	21	5:30pm 6:00-7:15pm 6:15pm	Shabbat in the Woods Crafts, Light Supper, and Babysitting for Children Shabbat Services
Saturday	22	Lift your Shabbat 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am	in the Chapel Coffee and Conversation Torah Study Shabbat Services
Monday	24	ECP Camp Begins 10:00-11:30am 6:00pm 7:00-9:00pm	Mussar Class 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery
Tuesday	25	5:45pm	AA Meeting in the Chapel
Wednesday	26	10:00-2:00pm	Mah Jongg
Thursday	27	9:30-11:00am 5:45pm 7:30-8:45pm 7:30pm	Jewish Meditation in the Chapel AA Meeting in the Chapel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary Al-Anon Meeting in the Chapel
Friday	28	5:30pm 6:15pm	Shabbat in the Woods Shabbat Services
Saturday	29	Lift your Shabbat 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am	in the Chapel Coffee and Conversation Torah Study Shabbat Services

SAVE THE DATE FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Thursday, July 4th: Building and Offices Closed
 Tuesday, July 16th: Sisterhood Potluck Dinner
 Wednesday, July 17th: ECP Family Movie Night
 Wednesday, July 24th: Summer Lovin' Outdoor Concert
 Friday, July 26th: Shabbat in the Woods Picnic
 Thursday, August 8th: Outdoor Sing-Along Concert with Alex Hopkins
 Friday, August 9th: Last Day of ECP Camp
 Saturday, August 10th: Tisha B'av Service in the Chapel at 8:30pm

June B'nai Mitzvah



Ian Scherr, son of Jen and Doug Scherr, brother of Andrew and Sophie, will be called to the Torah on June 1, 2019. Ian is a 7th grader at Edgemont Jr. High school where he plays soccer and baseball. He will be starting his 5th summer at Camp Takajo this summer. He is an avid sports fan and loves science and math. He is proud to have helped kids with homework and activities at the Coachman Center and created and delivered welcome baskets for patients at Blythedale Children's Hospital through their Kids for Kids project. Ian is excited to celebrate this special day with family and friends at Kol Ami.



Jacob Schnier, son of Sallie and David Schnier and brother to May and Ruby, will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on June 1, 2019. Jacob has belonged to Kol Ami since third grade. Jacob enjoys baseball and loves the Yankees. He attends Camp Pontiac in the summers in Copake, New York and loves sleepaway camp. This year as his mitzvah project Jacob volunteered at the Edenwald Cottages in Pleasantville with underprivileged youth. Once a month he played games and had dinner with these children. He found this experience very fulfilling. He is very excited for his bar mitzvah and sharing this special day with his family and friends.



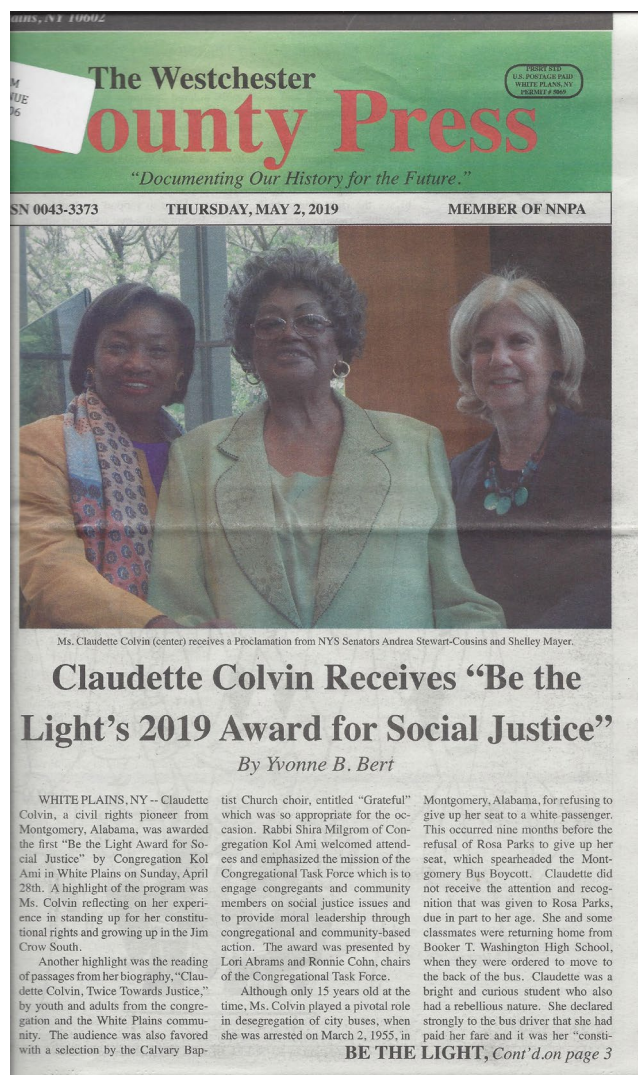
Charlotte Blotner, daughter of Sara and Andrew and sister of Julia and Griffin, will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on June 15, 2019. Charlotte is a 7th grade student at Edgemont Junior High School. Charlotte plays trumpet with the Junior High Band and Jazz band, and with the Hoff Barthelson Senior Jazz Ensemble. She plays soccer and basketball and runs spring track. Charlotte is working on her Girl Scout silver award, developing a music program for underprivileged children. She created the pancakes and pajamas fundraiser for the Kol Ami Religious School and continues to run the Coachman Mother's Day project started by her brother in 2015. Charlotte is very excited to share this special day with her friends and family.

A Message from Rabbi Milgrom



Had I not been a regular subscriber to Westchester County's African-American weekly, I would have completely missed that we, Congregation Kol Ami, were the major feature of the newspaper May 2nd. Below are the full front and back pages of the May 2nd edition, the week following our first "Be the Light for Social Justice" award. I'm a regular reader of this paper, and I know that it is extremely unusual to see white faces featured in the County Press - so how proud was I to see Lori Abrams and Ronnie Cohn, the co-chairs of Be the Light, flanking our first honoree, Claudette Colvin. (The gorgeous doors of our Aron HaKodesh - the ark - grace the photo behind Claudette.) This award was created by the travelers of our Civil Rights Journey of November, 2017. Led by Michael Zweig, they were moved by all that they experienced and decided to pay it forward - to bring some of the power of their encounters to the rest of the Kol Ami community.

Few of us would have anticipated how much we need to realign ourselves with the struggle for human dignity and civil rights so many years later. Human rights across the board are being threatened: immigrants, asylum seekers, poor people, people of color, even women (reproductive rights and access to care.) We will need to stand up and be counted. We will need to come together and support one another. I am so proud of our community.



Rabbi Shira Milgrom



A Message from Cantor Rosen

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS TO KOL AMI!

As the weather finally warms up, Kol Ami will once again heat up with a fantastic **Summer Music Series**, that will feature a variety of music that will reach your heart and uplift your soul! For those of you that have attended our summer concerts in the past, you know that they have appealed to a broad audience (including children) and bring together community in such a unique and fun way.

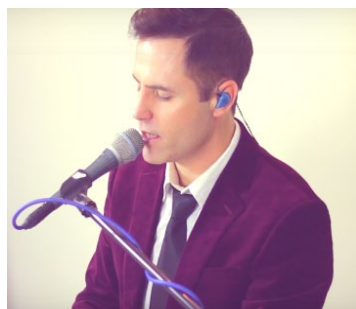
Last year, we once again hosted “Deadgrass” - a contemporary bluegrass band featuring the music of Jerry Garcia. The concert took place on the front lawn and it was the perfect setting for this awesome group of performers. We also celebrated “It’s a Grand Night for Singing”, featuring the voices of some of New York’s most renowned cantors. It was a night that held over 400 people camping out “picnic style” in our social hall/auditorium.

This year we will be offering three Summer Concerts, each on a different day of the week in an effort to appeal to an even bigger and broader audience. Each concert will begin at 7pm and will either be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.... They are as follows:



“Summer Lovin” —-Wednesday, July 24th

An eclectic night of duets and love songs featuring five cantors and their very musical spouses. This will surely be a night to remember as some of your favorite cantors will be “shown up” by their incredibly talented and musical partners.



Billy Joel and Elton John Singalong—-Thursday August 8th

Well it may not be actually Billy and Elton performing, we will have the next best thing, as our Australian Ryan Seacrest, Alex Hopkins, hosts a night of singing (and dancing if you are so inclined...) to your favorite Billy Joel and Elton John songs. Lyrics will be provided and be prepared to have the time of your life!!



Welcome Back BBQ and Concert—-Saturday, September 7

Come and enjoy a night of festive food, fun, dancing and music as Erik Klein, Craig Sidley and Jason Kofman welcome their bands to Kol Ami. This will be a wonderful event that everyone can enjoy. Come and feel the groove of: J and the B-sides, The Night Before, and the Adult Ed Jazz Band.

Stay tuned for further details...Looking forward to seeing you at these and other wonderful musical events throughout the year. Have a great Summer!!!

—Cantor David Rosen

A Message from our Co-President



95th Anniversary

It's hard to believe that by the time this is published it will be nearly a month since we celebrated our 95th anniversary at the Spring Gala. I'm still kvelling. It was truly one of the highlights of the year. A record setting three hundred and sixty members and guests gathered for a grand evening of literally star-studded Broadway entertainment emceed by our own Alex Hopkins.

That evening we breathed life into our motto: Celebrating our past; Living our present; Imagining the future. We celebrated our past 95 years by honoring our Past Presidents. We were so honored to have had so many of them and their families with us that evening. As I said that night, Susan and I truly stand on the shoulders of our Past Presidents who have done so much to make Congregation Kol Ami the special place it is today. We lived in the present by gathering as a community to enjoy each other's company, eat the delicious food and take in the Broadway show tunes. We live in unprecedented times where within six months Jews have been targeted in our synagogues. The best response I can think of is to gather together as a community and stand together celebrating our Judaism and supporting our synagogue. We imagined our future by instilling a culture of giving by having raised a record setting \$137,000. This follows the last year's Spring Gala which raised over \$100,000. This coming year we have several major fundraising initiatives planned to reimagine our facilities and set us up for a strong 100th anniversary and the next 100 years as well.

The 2019 Spring Gala was Kol Ami at its best. And we owe a debt of gratitude to the self-proclaimed Gala Gals — Liz Ilberg, Judi Brown, Danielle Gecht and Emily Cambell — whose tireless efforts and attention to detail made the night so special. None of it would have been possible without them. I also want to express gratitude to last year's Gala chairs, Debbi Marcus and Lisa Borowitz, who raised the fundraising bar with the success of the 2018 Gala. We look forward to next year's!

Kol Ami is a special place because of all of you — our community — and when we come together to celebrate the good things or to console each other in the tough times, we are at our best.

L'Shalom, Scott Musoff

A Message from our Executive Director



Baruch atah Adonai, elo-heinu Me-lech ha-olam Shenatan lanu hizdamnut l'takein et ha olam.
Blessed are You, Adonai, Our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us the opportunity to mend the world.

From May 19 – 21, 2019, I had the honor and privilege, together with Ronnie Cohn, to represent Congregation Kol Ami at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism Consultation on Conscience. This year's theme was "Together we can repair the world." I would like to share my reflections and particularly noteworthy comments shared by the speakers. Setting the tone for the conference, the following quote attributed to Eli Wiesel was visible on the screen when we first entered the conference hall: "The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference." Further, the following words were often shared: "Pray as if everything depended on God. Act as if everything depended on you."

Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) opened the first plenary session. Writing as quickly as possible, I jotted down his comments as follows: "Values we have held dear for generations are in peril. We must mobilize and act with meaning, purpose and justice. We will not stand idly by. We will not remain silent as voting rights are curtailed. Together we will stand for common sense gun violence prevention legislation. Together we will fight racism. Together we will fight anti-semitism and combat Islamophobia. Together we will fight for equality for all people. Together we will protect health care. Together we will stand for the rights of all women to make their own reproductive choices. We will respond as we have and we will act with the urgency of now."

Desmond Meade, President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, shared his story of resilience and redemption. Mr. Meade, who led the charge to restore the voting rights of returning citizens said "fear can't drive out fear and hate cannot drive out hate, but love can!"

Eric Ward, Executive Director, Western States Center, explained that we are in a complicated moment in society. He believes that the purpose of anti-semitism is to divide our country and potentially damage or destroy our democracy. He asserted that in our country everyone should have the right to live, love, work and worship free from bigotry and hate. This theme was repeated throughout the conference. Mr. Ward compared today to the civil rights struggles of the 60s. He proclaimed that Jews must chaperone the fight against anti-semitism just as Blacks chaperoned the civil rights movement. We must show up to fight anti-semitism and other forms of inequality and when we do, we must show up as Jews with specific, progressive values.

Reverend Al Sharpton, Founder & President, National Action Network, despite his controversial and complicated past, delivered a powerful speech. He said that "we must stand united because we know we stand on the right of side of history." Further, he said that we must admit that we didn't always do our best in the past, but we are required to do our very best now. Reverend Sharpton ended his comments by noting that we must find strength to grow beyond our differences because together is the only way we will survive.

Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi provided a brilliant, thought-provoking speech to kick-off the last day of the conference. She noted the role of faith in general, and Judaism in particular, in mobilizing activism for a social justice agenda for the common good for all people. Further, she shared that she would "do the inside maneuvering if we do the outside mobilizing." Moreover, she asserted that social justice issues are not just issues, they are lives. In support of immigration reform, the Speaker quoted from President Reagan's final Presidential speech as follows: "Thanks to each new wave of arrivals to this land of opportunity, we're a nation forever young, forever bursting with energy and new ideas and always on the cutting edge, always leading the world to the next frontier...if we ever close the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world will soon be lost."

Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, noted that we must do God's work today, tomorrow and every day." Through activism we must seek to put our Jewish values into action. We must join hands together with every people of faith who seek to pursue justice for all. Our Torah teaches that "we are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to desist from it."

As the conference concluded we left for Capital Hill where we had the opportunity to raise our voice for justice in the halls of Congress.

Hineini, here I am. Please join me on this vital journey.

Jess Lorden



A Message from our ECP Director

June ECP Dates:

June 5	ECP Annual Truck Day
June 13	4's and Pre-K Friendship Ceremony
June 14	Annual School Picnic 11:00
June 24	1st day of Camp

All of us here at the Early Childhood Program find it incredible to believe that on June 14th we will say good-bye to a wonderful year. It was a year filled with fabulous experiences, fantastic opportunities for learning and terrific memories. It was a year we can all be very proud of. In fact, it's hard to say who had more fun; the children, our staff or our families!

We will also say a fond farewell to two of our treasured staff, Paula Altneu and Barbara Schwartz who will be retiring after over 30 years in the ECP. We are so grateful and thankful to them both for all they have contributed to our school over the years. We will truly miss them.

This year would not have been possible without our incredible ECP Staff and I want to take this opportunity to thank Laura Abramsky, Paula Altneu, Jackie Barrett, Erica Baker, Jen Benalt, Erica Berger, Cheryl Bernstein, Jen Boxer, Stacy Brodsky, Lauri Carey, Meredith Cohen, Susan Epstein, Allison Fiore, Elisa Goldman, Mara Goldberg, Stefanie Greenberg, Debbie Klein, Lisa Lawrence, Joele Levenson, Dorian Nerenberg, Julie Rabinowitz, Jodi Ruzumna, Andrea Rosenberg, Heather Ross, Gerrie Schwartz, Ivy Shapiro, Jen Strassler, Rori Tamagna, Debbie Youngstein and Cindy Zieman and our ECP Chair Cindy Musoff for their tremendous dedication and support of the Early Childhood Program. I also want to thank my two Co-Administrators Tracey Schweber and Lisa Cohen who have worked tirelessly alongside me this year. Our Congregation is truly blessed to have these fabulous women at the helm.

I also want to thank our parents and Temple volunteer community who worked tirelessly on our Family Photo Day, Parent Cocktail Party hosted by Jess and Michael Zauberman, Beth and Steve Pass, and Brenda and Michael Benn, Our Mom's Nights Out hosted by Polly Klein, Stacey Balaban and Hillary Seif, Turkey Trot, Chanukah Party, our Family Concert afternoon, our Sukkot Dinner and Crafts evening, our Shabbat Dinner, our Book Fair chaired by Sara Elkin, our Purim Carnival, our Passover Play, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, Our Couples Evening Chaired by Hope Stephens, Jen Madison, Victoria Landau and Melissa Berman, our Bring your Favorite Guy to School Day, our Bring your Favorite Gal to School Day, Havdalah in PJ's, , and our Yearbook Chaired by Sara Elkin, with the assistance of Emily Campbell and our Annual School Picnic. With your support and dedication our year was filled with excitement and fun; together, we continue to create a Community of Friends One Family at a Time and for this I am truly thankful.

Our enrollment for next year is just strong and we are delighted! We are already planning our curriculum and programming for our 2's, 3's, 4's and Pre-K's and it all promises to be very exciting.

Finally, I want to thank our Congregation, the Board of Trustees, Jess Lorden, Emily Campbell, Madiha Tubman, and the entire office staff, and Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Rabbi Tom Weiner and Cantor David Rosen for their unending support of our nursery school and all that we do!

It continues to be my greatest pleasure to come to work each day and to be part of such a vibrant community. Thank you for the opportunity to help build a "Community of Friends". I wish you all a healthy, and relaxing summer filled with warm memories and contented smiles.

Nan Blank

Building a Community of Friends, One Family at a Time

A Message from our Religious School



**Another Religious School year has flown by—
it's hard to believe it's time to say goodbye for the summer!
We have so much to be proud of this year...**

...the joyous, meaningful, rich and FUN learning happening in our classrooms

...growing this nurturing, loving community

...our creative and caring teachers

...learning and praying together, sharing celebrations and sadness

...engaging families in exciting and meaningful social justice activities

...living our Jewish values in myriad ways

Next year proves to be even better!!!

**REGISTER NOW for 2019-20 and enjoy taking this
off your to-do list before summer even starts!**

[Religious School Online Registration Link](#)

We wish you a summer filled with relaxation and adventure!

We're here all summer...so if you need anything, call or stop by.

Pam Pass





A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement

Dear friends,

Here are most of my notes addressing the congregation from the Bimah on Friday Night May 17th, 2019. My remarks reflect my strong and positive feelings towards our High School community:

I am tasked with engaging the Youth of our congregation, and I am happy to report to you tonight that youth they are, and they are very engaged.

Our vibrant teen community is comprised of every imaginable character one can expect: We have the person who is companionate, we have the one who always asks questions, there's the one who never asks questions, the one that is always on time, the one that's always late etc. What they all have in common though is the love for this place, a true concern for the future, and a plan.

A plan for just about anything: A plan for a car wash fund raise, a plan on how to advocate on Capital Hill, a plan to eat as much Falafel in Israel as humanly possible even if it may result in a stomach ache, a plan to energize our community about Gun violence and the environment and more and more. You see, they have energy! Good energy. Our teens take that energy and do good stuff: this year they have travelled to Israel to tour the land, learn and volunteer, they fed homeless people in Manhattan on two separate trips in the middle of the night, they planned and ran the Purim Carnival, they led a Friday night Services earlier this year, and most importantly they have created a vibrant community among themselves. So much so that they now have their own language that includes words and terms like: Mashmush, Eli, Legarlitz, Doug –aka little Idan.... and everyone's favorite on long bus rides: Dear Diary.

Every vibrant community needs strong leadership. At Kol Ami we have our Board of Trustees. I would like to take the opportunity and on behalf of our teens to thank our Board for their continued support for what we do. For our High School Community we have the Vaad, literally the Committee. The youth board. On the Bimah tonight we have the Vaad members of 2018-19 and the newly elected Vaad of 2019-20.

The Vaad is an elected board. Last week's Vaad elections were followed by a thorough investigation into Adult interference in the 2019 Vaad Election which resulted in a detailed written report. The Miller Report. Parts 1 and 2 were submitted to the Teens and can be found in the Youth Lounge in their redacted version for your perusal. I am happy to inform you that I was found to be fully exonerated and trust my words... there was no collusion with any clergy member.... including Rabbi Tom...

Here I thanked the Vaad members of 2018/19 and welcomed the new members of 2019/20 ...I would like to take the opportunity to thank someone very special we all had the privilege to know this year. Carmel Mena. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us, and for inspiring us at the RS, Teen events, at the LIFT and here in the Sanctuary. We were truly blessed to have you with us this year. Thank you. Here I would also like to thank Lior Malul, who has been with our high school students this year. Todah Lior for a great year! Both Carmel and Lior are going back to Israel this summer to serve in the IDF. On behalf of our teens: thank you both!!!

I would like to wish everyone a great summer!

Idan Santhaus



Join us for our last 2018-19 Shabbat Sheli
and Shabbat in the Woods Book Share
Friday, June 7th

5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods in the Atrium
with Nan Blank and Rabbi Shira Milgrom
for children aged 2-5yr old

5:30pm Shabbat Sheli in the Gallery
featuring Friday Family Yoga with Jen Benalt
for children ages 5-9yr old
(parents are welcome too!)

5:50pm Family Oneg

6:00pm Crafts, Light Supper and Babysitting

Also stay for our 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
while your children are in babysitting, or with you in the sanctuary

Our Shabbat in the Woods Family Service continues all summer long. Please note our last Crafts, Dinner, and Babysitting is June 21st. Also, mark your calendars for our Shabbat in the Woods Picnic evening on July 26th

Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains NY 10605



Annual Joint Reform
Tikkun Leil Shavuot 5779
A Night of Jewish Learning and
Community Celebration

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 8:00 pm

Westchester Reform Temple
255 Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale

Join clergy and congregants from five Reform Jewish congregations:
Community Synagogue of Rye, Greenwich Reform Synagogue,
Kol Ami, Scarsdale Synagogue-Temples Tremont & Emanuel,
Temple Israel of New Rochelle and Westchester Reform Temple
—in a night of learning and celebration for the night of Shavuot,
our Spring Festival of Revelation.

Rabbis and Cantors will teach breakout sessions on the topic of
Standing at Sinai: A Night of Study and Solidarity
Against Antisemitism & Hate
And we will enjoy some traditional Shavuot treats, too!

Please RSVP to Nattalie Rodriguez at
nattalie.rodriguez@wrtemple.org.





PRIDE SHABBAT AT KOL AMI

SHABBAT SERVICES
AND GUEST SPEAKER

JUNE 14, 2019
6:15PM

GROWING UP GAY IN JERUSALEM: AN LGBTQ STORY FROM ISRAEL WITH NADAV SHACHMON

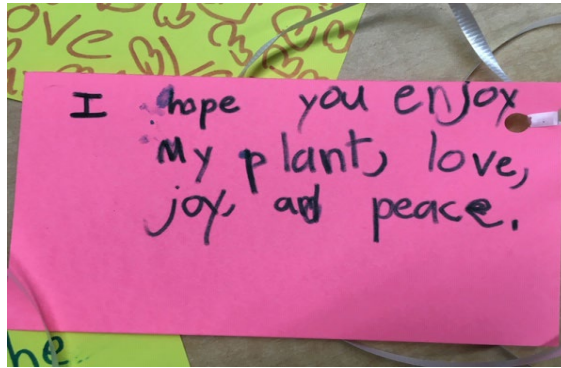
Nadav Shachmon, our Shaliach – Emmisary - from Israel, has been a wonderful part of the Westchester Jewish Community for this past year. He often visits with us at Kol Ami and participates in our activities throughout the year. Nadav is married to his partner, Aylee, and until recently lived in the center of Tel Aviv. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Nadav attended high school in the Conservative movement. In the army Nadav served as an officer in medical corps training and preparing doctors, paramedics, and senior medics for their service.

Nadav has worked in the field of Jewish education for more than 10 years. In his previous position he was the national director of Telem,” the youth department of the Jewish Reform movement in Israel.

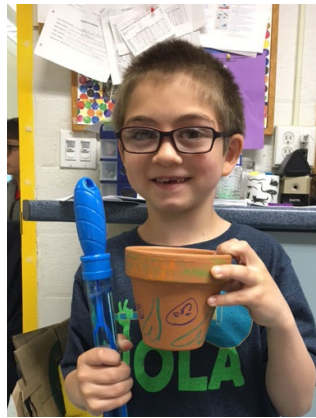
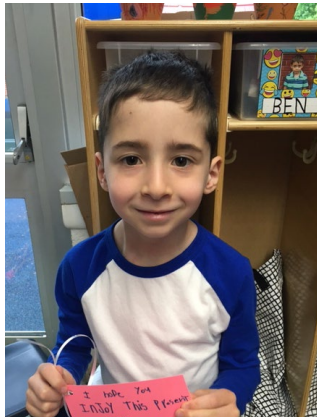
Join us for a meaningful personal story.

Around Kol Ami....

#nykolami



Our Religious School students enjoyed our annual Day of Chesed, a day of mitzvahs and giving to community



#nykolamiyouthgroup



It may have POURED on our Yankee Suite Trip, but it didn't dampen our spirits and we look forward to our Raindate against Boston this June!

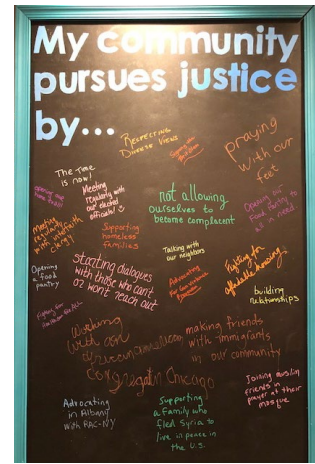


Around Kol Ami....

#nykolami



Our 2nd Graders and Highschoolers shared Shabbat together



Kol Ami congregants, and our torahs, joined at the annual Yom Hashoah gathering for Holocaust Remembrance in White Plains

Exec. Director Jess Lorden, and Kol Ami's "Be The Light for Social Justice" Co-Chair Ronnie Cohn, attended the Conference on Consciousness in D.C.



The Kol Ami ECP Annual Art Show and Breakfast was once again an impressive morning with lots of talented little artists and teachers!



Around Kol Ami....

#nykolami



We had beautiful weather for our Annual Memorial Day BBQ as we hosted the Coachman families



Our 26th Annual Retreat Weekend by the lake was once again the highlight of the start of summer festivities!

The 95th Gala By The Numbers

We are thrilled to provide the following highlights from the 95th Anniversary Gala:

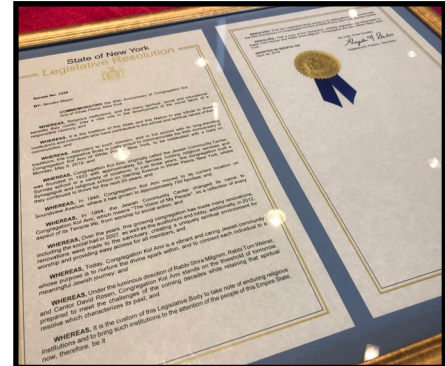
Total Raised:	\$194,412
Net Revenue	\$137,412
Attendees	358
Sponsors	23

Fund The Mission	50% of the guests donated!!
Playbill	88 Ads
Raffle Tickets	458 Tickets Sold
Auction	19 Items Sold

We are grateful for the support and encouragement we received from the entire Kol Ami Community. Without all the amazing volunteers and ambassadors we couldn't ever accomplished such a big task. It was our privilege to lead this effort to honor the Past Presidents who led our congregation over the years with wisdom, vision, and compassion as Presidents of the Board. The 95th Anniversary Gala was a magical coming together of our Kol Ami spiritual community at its best.

We are proud and grateful for having had this opportunity.

**Elizabeth, Danielle, Judi and Emily ---
aka: The Gala Gals**



Toda Raba!

Thank You

Thank you to everyone at Kol Ami, plus our beloved family members, guests, and local businesses, who supported us in our 95th Anniversary year. We are so thrilled to have met so many wonderful people, had such a fantastic event, and surpassed our fundraising goal!! To everyone who supported the Gala by buying a raffle ticket, dedicating a playbill ad, volunteering their time, or raising their paddles... we extend the warmest and most heartfelt **thank you.**

We wouldn't be Kol Ami without each of you.



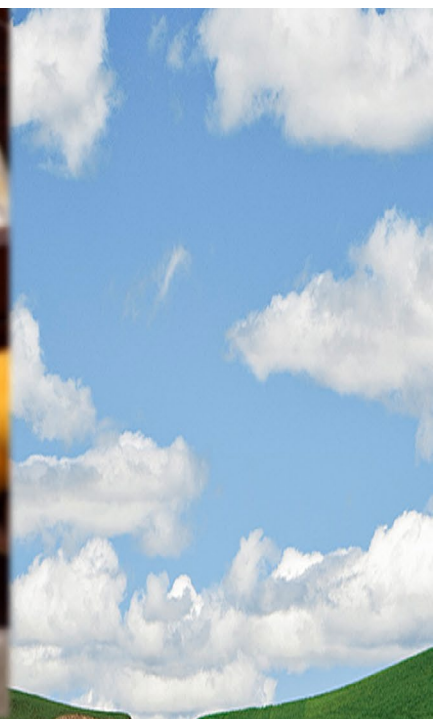


*Bravo and Kol Hakavod
to Past President Lisa Borowitz
Always a star in any role she plays!*

**With our love & devotion,
Drucy & Phil, Nan & Andy
and adoring nieces, nephews,
and grauntchildren**

Our apologies for missing this ad in the printed version of the Gala Playbill

**To see the Kol Ami 95th Anniversary Gala Playbill
and Video Montage online go to:
www.nykolami.org/95thGala**



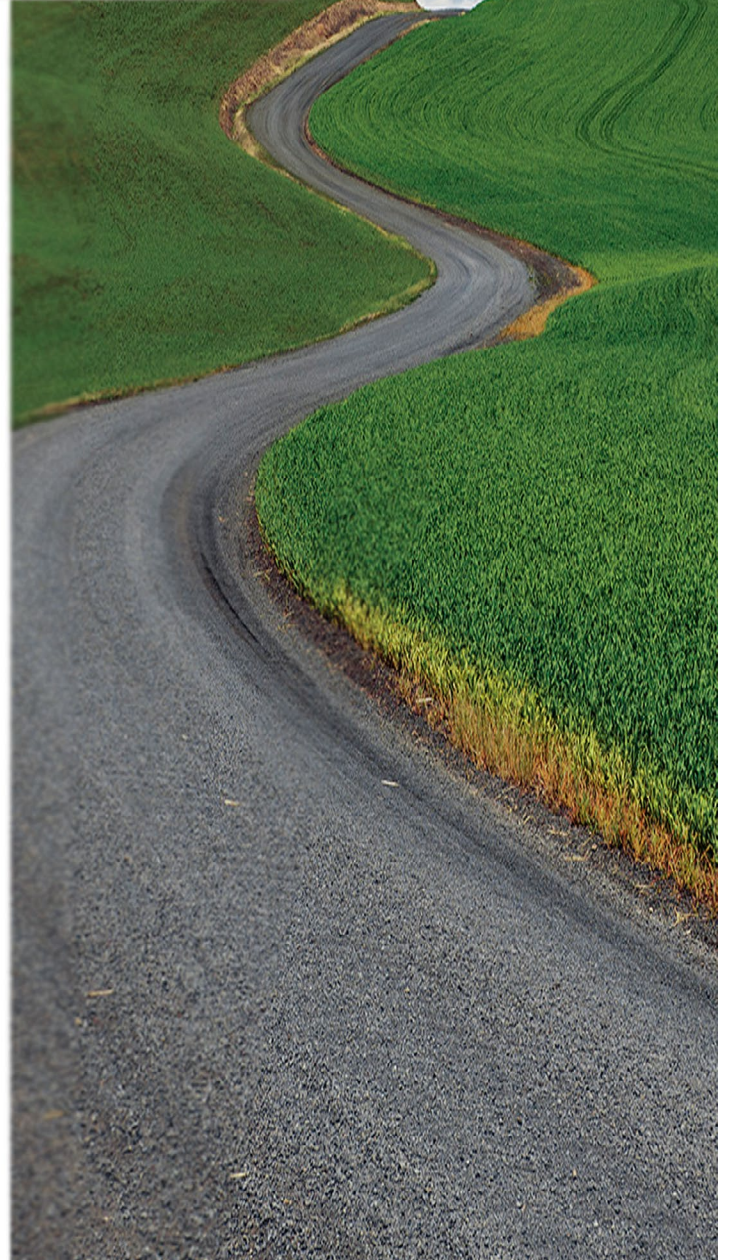
The road to learning never ends- announcing a new Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah Class!

Two year program beginning
in the Fall 2019

Led by Rabbi Shira Milgrom

If interested or any questions,
please contact Rabbi Shira at
914-949-4717, ext. 114 or
Shiramilgrom@nykolami.org

Tuesdays 8:00-9:30pm





**Any Plans for
Wednesday Evening, July 17th?
Well we've got just the thing!
Join us at our Family Movie Night!**

We will be showing



**Bring a blanket for your family
And we'll bring the Pizza, Salad and Ice Cream
5:15 for Dinner
5:45 Movie**

7:30 Ice Cream/Ices and Home

Join us for a wonderful evening of family fun!

**Let us know you'll be coming by filling in the form below
or reserving your place By calling Nan in the ECP office at 949-
4717 x107 or nanblank@nykolami.org**

Family Name: _____ No. of People: _____

Rain or Shine -- Everyone is Welcome

CONGREGATION KOL AMI WELCOMES YOU
TO



Shabbat
in the Woods



JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JULY 27TH

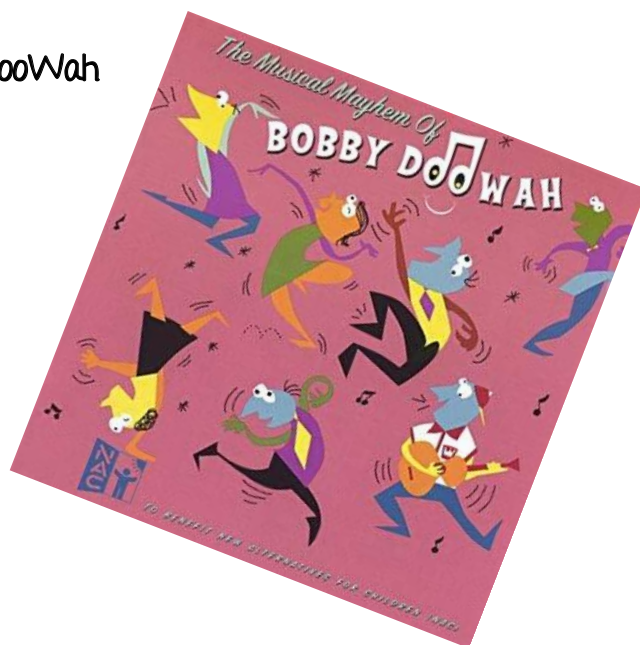
for our Shabbat in the Woods Service
Followed by a Family Picnic and Concert
Rain or Shine



It's Easy!

You bring a picnic dinner, drinks
and a blanket for your family
And we'll bring the Watermelon and Cookies
Shabbat at 5:30pm

Dinner at 6:00pm
followed by a Family Concert with Bobby DooWah





New this Fall!

Kol Arts: A Music and Arts Program at Kol Ami *"Cultivating Community Through Music and Arts"*

Programming for the entire family including:

Introduction to music classes,
private music lessons, adult workshops,
community arts hour, and more!

Faculty includes graduates from
renowned conservatories and
performers on world stages
from Carnegie Hall to Broadway.

Summer Music Lessons Also Available

For more information please email
Naomi Graf, Director
at kolarts@nykolami.org

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606 914.949.4717

The Civil Rights Journey Continues... From D.C. to Charlottesville to Monticello

October 24th (evening) - October 27th (morning)
with Rabbi Shira Milgrom and Abbe Marcus

Highlights of the trip include:

- Tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Encounter the intersection of the Civil War and Civil Rights memorials and memories
- Visit important historical sites including Confederate Monuments in Charlottesville and Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson and the Hemings Family
- Hear stories of student activists from Moton High School – the first student walk-out and student birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement laying the way for Brown vs. Board of Education
- Meet Jewish & Black Civil Rights activists who came together to protest at Glen Echo park a segregated amusement park in the 1960's
- Participate in meaningful interfaith programming with
- Civil Rights activists and musicians
- Option to stay in DC for the JStreet Conference: Pro-Israel, Pro-Palestinian, Pro-Peace!

RSVP to Ginny Herron-Lanoil at
GinnyHerron-Lanoil@nykolami.org

\$1250

(\$500 non-refundable
deposit per person)

3 nights hotels, most meals

Trip begins

Thursday

evening

in DC

Click [here](#) to
register for J Street.
Use PROMO CODE
KolAmi2019 before May 15th
and receive a 50% discount
for Kol Ami Congregants
(20% after May 15th)



October 27-29th
Washington DC





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!

Sheryl Brady

Rachel Eckhaus

Stacey Matusow

Coachman – Kol Ami Memorial Day BBQ

On Sunday, May 19th, we hosted our annual Memorial Day BBQ for Coachman families. Together we shopped, chopped, shlepped, baked, grilled, welcomed, served, played and stayed to clean up. Our neighbors from the Coachman Family Center had a great time and were so happy to share a beautiful Spring day and partake in a delicious BBQ. Our guests were delighted with the crafts, games, good food and conversation and left us with lots of smiles and plenty of food to carry them into the following week. Any remaining food was delivered to the Open Arms Mens Shelter.

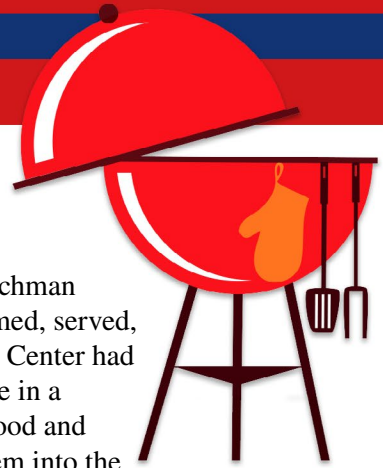
This is a great tradition of bringing our communities together and we are fortunate to have so many of us to keep it going!

List of participants:

Alison Adler
Berkowitz Family
Bliss Family
Steve & Sheryl Brady
Judi Brown
Susan Davis
Danzig Family
Ellen Flaks
Linda Forman
Nora & Bob Groban
Jay Hack
Martin Kahn
Marcia & Jeff Lange
Stephanie Levine
Renee & Samantha Levine
Debbie Linder
Love-Lent Family

Steve Lowengart
Paul Mauro
Mayeri Family
Jim Marell
Musoff Family
Irene Naar
Pam Pass
Papir Family
Ernestina Sanchez
Mikki Serrata
Sommers Family
Judy Weiss
Alison Tanenbaum
Rabbi Tom Weiner
Worth Family
Zitrin Family

With gratitude,
Coachman Committee Co-Chairs
Alison Adler and Lisa Hochman



WE POINT WITH PRIDE TO...

Danny Sarch

Kol Ami congregant Danny Sarch has joined the Board of Directors of Experience Camps, a national non-profit organization that provides free, one-week camps for children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

Susan Rudnick

Kol Ami congregant Susan Rudnick has written a memoir called: *Edna's Gift: How My Broken Sister Taught Me To Be Whole*. It's the story of how her mentally and physically challenged sister became Susan's life's greatest teacher. It's also the complex love story between two sisters growing up with holocaust refugee parents. It will be released

on June 4th by SheWrites Press and featured next year at a Women's Roundtable Breakfast with Rabbi Shira, and at our KA Reads Book Club. [For more on her book click here to visit Susan's website.](#)

DANNY SARCH JOINS THE EXCAMPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



COMING JUNE 4, 2019

Edna's Gift

*How My Broken Sister
Taught Me To Be Whole*



Sheryl Brady

Kol Ami congregant Sheryl Brady has been re-elected to the White Plains Public Schools Board of Education! Sheryl has been a White Plains resident for 31 years and was first elected to the Board of Education in 2007. All four of her children are proud graduates of the White Plains Schools. An active member of the White Plains school and greater community, she previously served as President of the Post Road PTA and PTA Council and was a member of the District's Strategic Planning Core Team and Annual Budget Committee. On the Board, Sheryl serves on the Curriculum, Special Education, and Policy Committees. She is also Board liaison to the PTA Council and the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association.



WE POINT WITH PRIDE TO...

Paula Altneu and Barbara Schwartz

Congratulations on your retirement to long time Early Childhood Program teachers Paula and Barbara. We will miss you!



*Paula Altneu and Barbara Schwartz
Wishing you both the gift of time
and health as you begin your next journey!*

*With so much love, thanks and good wishes from
Congregation Kol Ami, The ECP Staff and all the Families
whose lives were made richer from your guidance.*

*"We're so glad we had this time together,
just to have a laugh or sing a song, seems we
just got started and before you know it,
comes the time we have to say so long..."*



Kol Ami's Night at the Movies

Monday, June 3rd at 7:00pm



The film will be:
"A Bag of Marbles"

The story of a small Jewish boy's flight, with his brother Maurice, to escape from Nazi occupied France during World War II.

***Please note the new start time for our movies**
7pm

FREE ADMISSION AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

HIGH SCHOOL TIKKUN OLAM TRIP



with Rabbi Tom Weiner

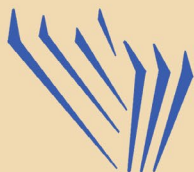
WINTER BREAK • FEBRUARY 16-23, 2020

WE WILL BE TRAVELING TO PUERTO RICO!

SPACE IS LIMITED. TO GUARANTEE A SPOT, PLEASE SEND A \$500 DEPOSIT TO THE YOUTH OFFICE MADE OUT TO: CONGREGATION KOL AMI AND FILL OUT THE PERMISSION SLIP AT WWW.NYKOLAMI.ORG/YGFORMS

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: RABBI TOM WEINER AT RABBITOM@NYKOLAMI.ORG
OR IDAN SANTHAUS AT IDANSANTHAUS@NYKOLAMI.ORG



CONGREGATION
KOL AMI



Follow the Trail of Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean

-their quest for treasure, religion, freedom, and revenge



7-Day Tour
February 16-23, 2020
\$2,700 per adult (double occupancy)
\$1,950 per child
Land Only

4 Star Hotels/Most Meals
All Tours and Museum
Admissions Included

Rabbi Shira Milgrom is in costume; Anna Ruth Henriques, a Jamaican Jew, is a descendant of the famous Jewish Pirate Moses Cohen Henriques (for real!).

Join them on an extraordinary tour of Anna's island, Jamaica, where we will learn about its vibrant 500 year old Jewish history while experiencing the diverse, warm, and welcoming Jamaican culture first-hand. Re-charge on white-sandy beaches of the North coast, with excursions to other Jewish historic sites, returning home relaxed and enriched. We will:

- Spend time in Kingston, the bustling culturally-rich capital city.
- Participate in Shabbat services at the sole remaining synagogue, Sha're Shalom, a community of Sephardic and Ashkenazim.
- Explore the 17th century fort where Jewish pirates prevailed
- Swim in sea and waterfall
- Visit the Bob Marley Museum & learn about the Jewish role in Rastafarian culture
- Meander through the oldest cemetery on the island . . . skull & bones and Jewish names?!
- Learn how this Caribbean island gave Spanish-Portuguese Jews unlikely refuge from The Inquisition

Please contact Rabbi Shira Milgrom for more information at shiramilgrom@nykolami.org



JEWISH JAMAICA TOURS

TOURS OF THE CARIBBEAN - HOME TO JEWS FOR OVER 500 YEARS

What Is Our Responsibility to Future Generations?

A Story from the Talmud.....

One day, Choni the Circle Maker was walking along his path, when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Curious, Choni asked the man, "This tree, how long will it take for it to bear fruit?"

The man responded dutifully and honestly, "Seventy years."

Choni was appalled. Seventy years? That's a really long time for a tree to grow. Why would anyone plant a tree that wasn't even going to bear fruit in his lifetime? When Choni asked the planter this question, the man responded, "My grandparents planted a carob tree so that I would be able to reap its fruit. Now I shall do the same for my grandchildren."

Choni, perplexed by the man's perspective on the future, did what anyone would do after such a confusing conversation: He sat down for a nice meal and then settled in for a quick nap. His "quick nap," however, morphed into a 70-year deep sleep. When he woke up, he saw a young man plucking fruit from a fully grown carob tree. Rubbing his eyes, he sauntered over to the man. "Hey," he said. "did you plant this tree?"

The man shook his head. "My grandfather planted it for me, knowing that 70 years later, it would be something I could cherish and use."

Choni's story not only teaches us that we have a responsibility to make the world as good a place as we can while we are alive, but also that it is our responsibility to plant carob trees: to grow them and take care of them for the generations to come. The story instills in the Jewish people the importance of having respect and compassion for the people who will be the future.

Please consider making a provision for Kol Ami in your estate plans so that in 70 years our grandchildren will know that we were caring for them.

For more information please contact
Judi Brown gojustjudi@gmail.com
Evelyn Klein aspencup@aol.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 : ls20@earthlink.net, 914-686-9516

Next meeting: Fall 2019

Sundays 11:00am-1:00pm

To sign on or ask questions, please contact:
Nancy Marcus at larrymarcus@aol.com

Next meeting: June 2nd

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 for each session: 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

The Kol Ami Singers

Wednesday, June 26th at 2:30PM

The Ambassador Scarsdale

9 Saxon Wood Road

White Plains, NY 10605

AFYA and Kol Ami

Our work down at the warehouse continues when volunteers from Kol Ami work at the foundation to sort medical supplies on a monthly basis. We meet at 9:30 am in front of the religious school entrance on:

June 12th

Please contact **Barbara Wexler:**
wexlerartworks@optonline.net if you would like to participate.



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.

Kol Ami Cares



Providing support and opportunities for connection and caring in difficult times

KACares, through its bank of volunteers, assists our congregants in a myriad of ways:

- We call bereaved families and help, lead or participate in shiva setup and services.
- We visit sick and injured members in the hospital, in rehab, and at home.
- We connect with our homebound members through visits and phone calls.
- We offer transportation to members who no longer drive or have difficulty attending services and special events.
- We deliver meals to members recovering from illness or surgery who are unable to cook for themselves or their families.

If you or someone you know can benefit from our assistance or if you would like to be added to our list of volunteers, please contact us immediately.

Betsy McCormack at Betsymc@gmail.com 914-960-9390

Ginny Ruder at Ginnyruder@gmail.com 914-589-5283



I CAN DO THAT

Do you have a
few hours to
help our
Kol Ami
Community?

We are looking for volunteers of all ages who can help with a small project once a year, once a month, or as much time as you choose!

Early Childhood

- ☐ **Book Fair:** Nov 9-16th
- ☐ **Yom Ha'atzmaut:** May 9th
- ☐ **Purim Carnival:** March 21st
- ☐ **Library Day:** Reading to children on Monday or Wednesdays mornings

Religious School

- ☐ **Youth Dinner:** Wed. 6-6:30pm
- ☐ **Traffic Duty:** Sun. 8:30-9:15am
Sun. 10:30-11:15am, and Wed.
3:45pm, 6:15pm, and 8:45pm
(with free coffee and a bagel on Sundays!)

Synaplex

- ☐ **Set-Up:** On Fridays once a month to help set tables for Shabbat Dinner: 12-2pm

Food Pantry

- ☐ **Pantry Helper:** Sunday mornings for clients who want to come pick up food
- ☐ **Pantry Stocker:** One Thursday a month to help sort/shelve delivered items

Temple Office

- ☐ **General Help:** To help on occasion with mailings, and projects (no clerical skills req.)

Gardening

- ☐ Help grounds be more beautiful with general care of beds and flowers

Judaica Shop

- ☐ **Retail:** Friday Mornings 8:45-12:00pm. Involves sales and general care of the space. Additional times during holidays

If none of the above fits with your time, or interests please let us know. There is plenty of other things in our community to do! Just indicate an AM or PM preference. ☐ AM ☐ PM

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please fill out the form and return to the temple office, or contact Maggy Weber
(914) 260-0986 Volunteer@nykolami.org. Maggy looks forward to working with you!

Congregation

Kol Ami Early Childhood Program

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Experience!



Now Registering for the 2019-2020 School Year

First Friends: A Toddler Program

2, 3, 4 & 5 Day 2's • 3, 4 & 5 Day 3's • Full and Half Day 4's

Extended Day Program for 2's, 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's

A Step-Ahead Program for children turning 5 in the Fall


Summer Camp for 2's, 3's, and 4's

Building a Community of Friends, One Family at A Time


Nan Blank, Director

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains • 914-949-4717x107

Nothing takes the place of a personal visit! Call for a tour today.



Thinking about a Pre-K Year?
Our A Step Ahead! Kindergarten Readiness Program may be just right for your child




Congregation Kol
Early Childhood Program
building a community of friends one family at a time

Full Day Program	Teacher Guided Learning, with
Created for Children Turning	a 3 Teacher Team who combine
5 years old in the Fall	Masters in Special Education N-6,
	Early Childhood Certification,
	and Social Work
STEM Learning	
Child Initiated Individual and	Designed to encourage your
Small Group Learning	child's academic, as well as
Extensive Outdoor Classroom	social and emotional growth
and Garden Program	

Nothing takes the place of a tour.
Come and see what we are all about!

Congregation Kol Ami
Early Childhood Program
Serving Lower Westchester for over 50 years
Nan Blank, Director
NanBlank@nykolami.org
(914) 949-4717 ext. 107



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 June 3rd
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 June 11th

Women's Oasis at Home

Please check back for future 2019-2020 dates

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
next meeting on October 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
next meeting on June 6th

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 clinical 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

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

Join Kol Ami's remarkable, multigenerational women for learning and friendship with Rabbi Shira Milgrom.

Next meeting on Nov 6th at 7:45am

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

*Meets every other Tuesday from 7:30-8:45pm,
next meeting on June 11th at 7:00pm*

Current Events with Beth 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 June 3rd*

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 June 5th*

Parenting Teens Workshops

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

*Meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at Noon,
next meeting on June 6th*

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 June 3rd*

Fun and Games!

Mah Jongg Mondays

Every other Monday at 7:00pm in the Kol Ami Gallery. Please email Lisa Borowitz at lisa.borowitz@cowen.com for more information. Next meeting June 10th

Mah Jongg Wednesdays

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

Life Cycles

Condolences

- ✧ To Kerry Blinder and family on the death of her father, Robert Blinder
- ✧ To Stephen Berman and family on the death of his father, Herbert Berman

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In appreciation of Lisa Borowitz, Gail Young, and Stephanie Levine, from Lillian Green
- ✧ To honor Marvin Cooper's birthday, from Joan Cooper
- ✧ To honor Dolores Harris, from Joan Cooper
- ✧ In memory of Elaine and Sam Weinberg, from David Weinberg
- ✧ In support of the "Be the Light: Claudette Colvin" event from, Michael Zweig and Michelle Gersen, Alan and Rena Steinfeld, Ronnie Cohn, Joan Pachner and Richard Newman, Madiha Tubman, Carla and Loren Glassman, Frank Kaiman and Laura Dann
- ✧ In support of Craig Taubman's presence at the Lift, and in support of the Congregational Retreat, from Myra Oltsik
- ✧ In support of Craig Taubman's presence at the Lift, from Martin Kahn

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ Thank you to Leslie Wiesen for the Purim Basket and wishes, from Robin Cohen
- ✧ In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Strauss, from Frank Kaiman and Laura Dann
- ✧ In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Kahn, from Frank Kaiman and Laura Dann
- ✧ To honor the memory of Barbara, from Bill Fischer
- ✧ In honor of Jaclyn's baby naming, from Jessica Garrett and Barry Kraver

Fund for the Needy

- ✧ In honor of our Past President, Ronnie Cohn, from Donna Joseph
- ✧ In loving memory of her father, Max Weil, from Lore Kalb
- ✧ In honor of Murray and Ethel Shapiro's, "Special Anniversary" from Patty & Bert Wohl

The Kol Ami Fund

- ✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff, from Margie & Gary Lewis
- ✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff, from Allison Busch-Vogel
- ✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff's 50th birthdays, from Jess & Dave Lorden
- ✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff's, 25th wedding anniversary, from Jess & Dave Lorden
- ✧ In honor of Scott Musoff, from Jean & Hank Rouda
- ✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff, from SJW Law Group
- ✧ In loving memory of his son Peter, from Morley Kaye
- ✧ In honor of Ethel & Murray Shapiro's wedding anniversary, from Lillian Einhorn

Generous Contributions

Refugee Fund

✧ In honor of Paul Davis and his excellent seminars, from Evelyne & David Klein

Synaplex Circle

✧ In appreciation, from Jean Pollak

ECP Fund

✧ In honor of Cindy & Scott Musoff's 50th birthdays from Zef & Jill Abraham

✧ In honor of Cindy Musoff from Jean & Hank Rouda

Petschek Music Fund

✧ In honor of Lisa Borowitz from Sheryl & Steve Brady

Religious School/Yad B'Yad Fund

✧ In appreciation of the Yad B'Yad students from Myrna Barzelatto

Thank You

The Art and Practice of *Mussar*



Mussar is a contemplative Jewish practice of refining one's *middot*, qualities of heart and behavior. We will study texts, practice various techniques for cultivating these virtues, and return each month to share our soul's journey.

9 Mondays: Oct. 15, Nov. 12*, Dec. 10,
Jan. 7, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, May 6, June 10

Time and Cost:

12:30-2:00 PM

Suggested fee: Congregation Kol Ami members, \$120; \$150 for non-members

Location:

Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Ave., White Plains

*On Nov. 12 we will meet at WJCS Headquarters, 845 N. Broadway, White Plains

Facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax
Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Contact Rabbi Pamela Wax
at pwax@wjcs.com or 914.761.0600 x149.



Jewish Spiritual Healing Center

The WJCS Jewish Spiritual Healing Center is dedicated to promoting the spiritual, intellectual, physical and mental health of Westchester's Jewish community by infusing our many programs and services with the intrinsic power of Judaism's history and tradition.

We provide the community with opportunities that foster health and healing for the mind, body and spirit within a Jewish context.



Jewish Spiritual Healing Center

is funded through UJA Federation of New York and the generosity of individual donors.



845 N. Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603
914.761.0600

Strengthening Lives. Shaping Futures.



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

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



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the face of
ENERGY SOLUTIONS



ATLANTIC WESTCHESTER / BRIGHT ENERGY SERVICES

Don't leave money on the table. We'll give it back to you with our creative Energy Solutions. Whether you realize it or not, you're probably leaving money on the table every single day your business operates. We 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 save money against your energy expenses. Whether it's HVAC, LED Lighting, Building Controls, Solar and other Renewables, Commissioning, Electric and 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 facility smarter, so you can make the most of your money.



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Three Great Camps

A Summer that Lasts a Lifetime

FAITH and FAMILY are our GUIDING VALUES



Top row, L to R: Ray Vardies, Matthew J. Florillo, Joshua Latta,
Front row, L to R: Sierra Trano, Megan Davis, Vanessa Day, Luke

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

As a family, we will care for your family with the dignity and respect your faith demands and that you deserve.

We appreciate that every family is unique and we will tailor our services to meet your specific needs.

“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. Florillo,
Owner & Funeral Director



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Matthew J. Florillo, CFPP • Owner/General Director

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Support your friends and family when they need it most.

Caring Organizer

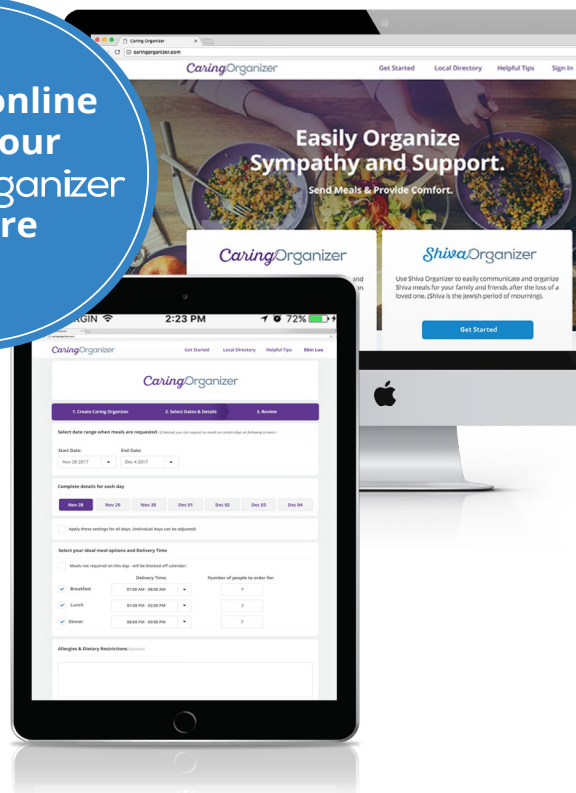


Caring Organizer is a new FREE online resource tool for organizing meals and providing support to families when someone is ill or has passed away.

Use Caring Organizer to:

- Easily organize a meal schedule after a death or illness with our Interactive Calendar
- Find catering, florists, and other services in Our Local Directory
- Communicate the details and the support needs of the family quickly & efficiently

Visit us online
to see our
Shiva Organizer
feature



Organize support at **caringorganizer.com**

Be kind. Be meaningful. Take care of your community.

Shiva Organizer