



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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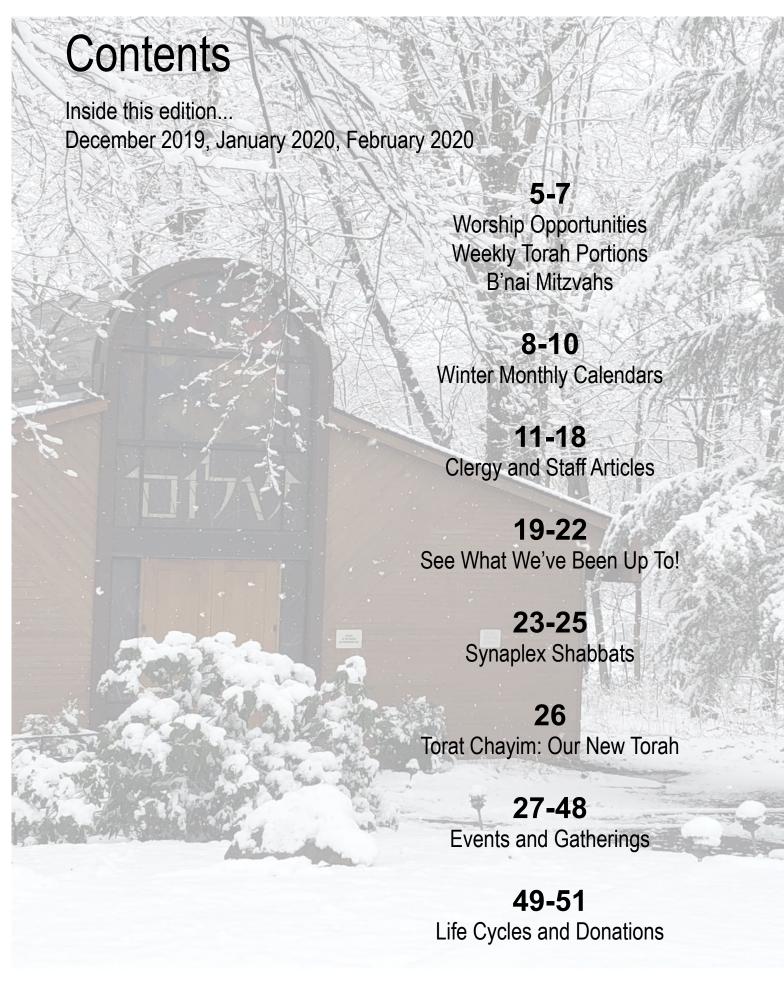
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Celebrating our past, living our present, imagining our future

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 $7\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Weekly Worship Opportunities



5:30pm Friday Shabbat in the Woods A Shabbat Service in story and song for families with young children. The first Friday of every month is also our Book Share Shabbat. Sponsored by temple families, each family who attends will go home with a book as our gift. Preschoolers are also invited to stay and enjoy crafts, games, and a light supper while parents attend the 6:15pm Shabbat Service in the Main Sanctuary.



5:30pm Friday Shabbat Sheli A Shabbat time for elementary aged students to bring in the warmth and deep breathes for the end of a busy week with Yoga taught by Jen Benalt, certified Yoga and Mindfulness Instructor. Children and their families are also welcome to stay and play with our lived sized chess afterwards during the family oneg.



6:15pm Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service Our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Service in our Main Sanctuary. A time to unwind, pray, sing, see friends, light Shabbat candles, and be together. Followed by our weekly festive oneg.



9:00am Saturday Shabbat Lift Join Rabbi Shira Milgrom and fellow congregants in our beautiful Chapel in the Woods for a morning of coffee, community, Torah study, guest spakers, and shabbat services. Come for all or part of the morning. Bring your curiosity!

Weekly Torah Portions

December

Week ending December 7, 2019 Parashat Vayetze Genesis 28:10-32:3

Vayetze, meaning "and he went out," refers to Jacob's journey to Haran, his mother Rebekah's birthplace, to escape his brother Esau's wrath over stealing his

blessing. On his journey, Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and is given the same promise that God gave Abraham and Isaac, i.e., that

he will inherit the land and be blessed. Jacob meets Rachel at the well and works for her father (his uncle Laban) for seven years in order to marry her. Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau, is himself the victim of deception. Laban substitutes Leah (his older daughter) for Rachel. Jacob must serve Laban an additional

seven years in order to wed his intended spouse Rachel. Jacob eventually has a total of twelve sons and decides to return to his homeland.

Week ending December 14, 2019 Parashat Vayishlach Genesis 32:4-36:43

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

Week endingDecember 21, 2019 Parashat Vayeshev Genesis 37:1-40:23

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

Week ending December 28, 2019 Parashat Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17

This week's parashah continues the story of Joseph at the end (miketz) of his prison term. Joseph, who has been Pharaoh's prisoner for two years, is released

from jail in order to interpret Pharaoh's perplexing dreams. Joseph is placed in charge of food collection and distribution after his interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams reveals that seven years of prosperity will be followed by seven years of famine.

January

Week ending January 4, 2020 Parashat Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27

Joseph's brothers are in Egypt to get food to bring back to famine-ridden Canaan. Our parashah begins with the brothers unknowingly standing before their brother Joseph, who has become the vizier of Egypt; and Judah asking to be imprisoned in place of his youngest brother Benjamin (whom Joseph framed). Judah, who once convinced his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery rather than kill him, argues for Benjamin (Rachel's only other child) because he fears that any harm to Benjamin would break his father's heart.

Week ending January 11, 2020 Parashat Va-y'chi Genesis 47:28-50:26

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

Week ending January 18, 2020 Parashat Sh'mot Exodus 1:1-6:1

We begin the book of Exodus with this week's parashah. In Hebrew, the name of the book and its first parashah is Shemot, meaning "names," referring to the names of the Israelites who come to Egypt with Jacob. A new Pharaoh who does not have direct experience with Joseph & his role in Pharaoh's court has taken control of Egypt. The Israelites are enslaved. Moses is born and in turn "gives birth" to the people of Israel.

Week ending January 25, 2020 Parashat Va'eira Exodus 6:2-9:35

In Va'era, this week's parasha, God speaks to Moses, confirming the covenant that God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The pleas of the enslaved Israelites have been heard by the Eternal, and God instructs Moses to promise the Israelites redemption. God also commands Moses to speak to Pharaoh and demand that he liberates the people of Israel. Pharaoh refuses to release the slaves and God causes plagues on the Egyptians in order to change Pharaoh's mind.

Weekly Torah Portions

February

Week ending Febraury 1, 2020 Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16

This parasha begins with a reiteration of God's challenge to Pharaoh to change his behavior, while at the same time making it more difficult for him to do so. The parasha concludes with the freeing of the Israelites from bondage. God tells Moses and Aaron that the people must remember how God freed them from bondage.

Week ending February 8, 2020

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

Week ending February 15, 2020 Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

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

Week ending February 22, 2020 Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

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

Week ending February 29, 2020 Parashat T'rumah Exodus 25:1-27:19

Parashat T'rumah describes the construction of the Tabernacle. God gives meticulously detailed instructions regarding the elements and design of the Tabernacle, particularly the Holy Ark. Each individual is asked to contribute towards its building materials and furnishings as he or she is motivated.

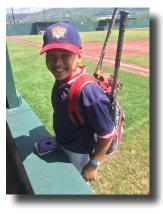




Samantha Levine, daughter of Josh and Renee Levine and sister to Rachel, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 18, 2020. She is a 7th grader at Scarsdale Middle School. Samantha loves soccer, gymnastics, baking and hanging out with her friends. In her free time, she uses her organizational skills to help neighbors declutter and organize their homes. For her mitzvah project, Samantha combined her fondness for baking and kids, and ran a series of baking classes with the goal of "spreading joy through baking" for kids ages

5-10 at the Coachman Center, a local family shelter supporting families to break the cycle of poverty. She looks forward to sharing her special day with friends and family.

Ronen Fleck, son of Dolya and Evan Fleck, and brother to Selila and Trajan, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Ronen is a 7th grader at Hackley School. Although he is an avid baseball and basketball player, he loves seemingly all other sports, including tennis, skiing, golf, and squash. When he's not playing or spectating sports, Ronen enjoys exploring his interests in history and politics.



For his mitzvah project, Ronen will share his passion for baseball with others by collecting gently used equipment and raising funds for Pitch In For Baseball & Softball, an organization that provides equipment to youth teams around the world who need it, including Israel.

December Calendar

Weekly Events (unless otherwise noted)

Mondays: 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel (6:00pm)

Tuesdays: AA Meeting in the Chapel (5:45pm)

Wednesdays: Mah Jongg (10:00-2:00pm)

Religious School and Youth Dinner (4:00-8:30pm)

Thursdays: Jewish Meditation in the Chapel (9:30am)

AA Meeting (5:45pm) Al-Anon Meeting (7:30pm)

Sunday, December 1st

Religious School Closed

Monday, December 2nd

9:15-10:45am Grandparenting Workshop

11:00-12:30pm Current Events

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:00-10:00pm Kol Ami Goes to the Movies: Tel Aviv on Fired

Tuesday, December 3rd

7:30-9:00pm Adult B'nai Mitvah Class with Rabbi Milgrom

Wednesday, December 4th

7:45-9:00am Women's Roundtable Breakfast 1:00-3:00pm Brandeis Speaker Series

Thursday, December 5th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

12:00-2:00pm Parenting Young Adults

Friday, December 6th

5:00-9:30pm Synaplex Shabbat Evening

Sunday, December 8th

9:00-3:00pm Sisterhood Holiday Boutique

Monday, December 9th

9:30-11:00am Blessing of a Skinned Knee Class

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, December 10th

11:15am Women in Transition Group

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Wednesday, December 11th URJ Biennial in Chicago Begins

7:00-8:30pm Parenting Adolescents Class

Thursday, December 12th

7:30-8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15th

8:30-1:00pm Kol Ami Annual Blood Drive 11:00-1:00pm Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, December 16th

11:00-12:30pm Current Events 12:30-2:00pm Mussar Class

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Fridays: Shabbat in the Woods and Shabbat Sheli (5:30pm)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary (6:15pm)

Saturdays: Lift Your Shabbat Morning in the Chapel (9:00-12:00pm)

Sundays: Religious School (9:00-11:00am)

Tuesday, December 17th

7:30-9:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah with Rabbi Milgrom

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

7:00-9:00pm Men's Study Group in NYC

Thursday, December 19th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

8:00-10:00pm Open Board Meeting

Friday, December 20th

No Shabbat Dinner, Drafts, or Babysitting (returning on Friday, January 10th)

Saturday, December 21st

4:00-6:00pm Sisterhood Latkes and Lattes in the Gallery

Sunday, December 22nd First Night of Hanukkah

Religious School Closed for Winter Break (returning on January 5th)

Monday, December 23rd

ECP Closed for Winter Break returning on January 6th

6:30-8:30pm Kol Ami Adult Hanukkah Party 7:00-9:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Wednesday, December 25th

Building and Offices Closed for Christmas

Thursday, December 26th

11:00-2:00pm Wise Aging

Friday, December 27th

6:00pm Shabbat Hanukkah Celebration

Monday, December 30th

11:00-12:30pm Current Events

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve

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January Calendar

Weekly Events (unless otherwise noted)

Fridays:

Saturdays:

Mondays: 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel (6:00pm)

Tuesdays: AA Meeting in the Chapel (5:45pm)

Wednesdays: Mah Jongg (10:00-2:00pm)

Religious School and Youth Dinner (4:00-8:30pm)

Thursdays: Jewish Meditation in the Chapel (9:30am)

AA Meeting (5:45pm) Al-Anon Meeting (7:30pm) Sundays: Religious School (9:00-11:00am)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

New Year's Day: Building and Offices Closed

Thursday, January 2nd

12:00-2:00pm Parenting Young Adults Workshop

Friday, January 3rd

No Shabbat Dinner, Drafts, or Babysitting

Sunday, January 5th

9:00-11:00am Religious School Re-Opens 1:00-2:45pm Pickle Making with the Sisterhood

Monday, January 6th

9:15-10:45am Grandparenting Workshop

7:00-10:00pm Kol Ami Goes to the Movies: Capernaum

Tuesday, January 7th

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Wednesday, January 8th

7:45-9:00am Women's Roundtable Breakfast

9:15am KA Reads Book Club

12:30-2:30pm Study in the City with Rabbi Weiner

7:00-8:30pm Parenting Adolescents Class

Thursday, January 9th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

7:30-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 10th

High School Students Depart for the RAC Trip

6:15pm Kindergarten, 1st Grade, ECP, and First Taste Shabbat

Sunday, January 12th

4:00-6:00ppm Martin Luther King Jr. Concert

Monday, January 13th

9:30-11:00am Blessings of a Skinned Knee Class

11:00-12:30pm Current Events 12:3-2:00pm Mussar Class

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, January 14th

11:15am Women in Transition

Thursday, January 16th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sage with Rabbi Weiner

Shabbat in the Woods and Shabbat Sheli (5:30pm)
Kabbalat Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary (6:15pm)

Lift Your Shabbat Morning in the Chapel (9:00-12:00pm)

Saturday, January 18th

10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Levine

Sunday, January 19th Religious School Closed

11:00-1:00pm Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, January 20th

Building and Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 21st

7:30-9:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class with Rabbi Milgrom

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Thursday, January 23rd

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages

11:00-2:00pm Wise Aging

Friday, January 24th

5:00-9:30pm Synaplex Shabbat Evening

Saturday, January 25th

4:00-6:30pm 4th Grade Havdallah Hispanica

Sunday, January 26th

9:00-11:00am 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Workshop #1 10:00-3:00pm Soferet Julie Seltzer Letter Fill-In Session #2

11:00-2:30pm ECP Family Concert with Suzi Shelton

Monday, January 27th

11:00-12:30pm Current Events

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, January 28th

7:30-9:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class with Rabbi Milgrom

Thursday, January 30th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

7:30-9:30pm Oasis at Home in the Chapel

Friday, January 31st

6:00pm 3rd Grade and Yad B'Yad Shabbat of Inclusion

3rd Grade Shabbaton Sleepover

February Calendar

Weekly Events (unless otherwise noted)

Mondays: 12 Step Recovery Group in the Chapel (6:00pm)

Tuesdays: AA Meeting in the Chapel (5:45pm)

Wednesdays: Mah Jongg (10:00-2:00pm)

Religious School and Youth Dinner (4:00-8:30pm)

Thursdays: Jewish Meditation in the Chapel (9:30am)

AA Meeting (5:45pm) Al-Anon Meeting (7:30pm) Fridays: Shabbat in the Woods and Shabbat Sheli (5:30pm)

Kabbalat Shabbat Services in the Main Sanctuary (6:15pm)

Saturdays: Lift Your Shabbat Morning in the Chapel (9:00-12:00pm)

Sundays: Religious School (9:00-11:00am)

Saturday, February 1st

9:30am Lift Guest Speaker, Dr. Ellen Umansky

Sunday, February 2nd

9:30-11:00am Men's Study Group and Brunch at Kol Ami

Monday, February 3rd

9:15-10:45am Grandparenting Workshop 7:00-10:00pm Kol Ami Goes to the Movies: Transit

Tuesday, February 4th

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Wednesday, February 5th

7:45-9:00am Women's Roundtable Breakfast

9:15-10:30am KA Reads Book Club

Thursday, February 6th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

12:00-2:00pm Parenting Young Adults Class 7:00-10:00pm ECP Parent's Evening 7:30-8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 7th

5:30-9:30pm Synaplex Shabbat Evening

Saturday, February 8th

9:30am Lift Guest Speaker, Dr. Ellen Umansky

10:00-12:30pm 6th Grade B'nai Workshop #2 and Family Shabbat

3:30-5:00pm ECP Havdalah in Pajamas

Sunday, February 9th

9:00-11:00am 1st Grade Book Club/Shema Modeh Ani Presentation

Monday, February 10th

9:30-11:00am Blessings of a Skinned Knee Class

11:00-12:30pm Current Event

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, February 11th

11:15am Women in Transition

7:30-9:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class with Rabbi Milgrom

Wednesday, February 12th

7:00-8:30pm Parenting Adolescents Class

Thursday, February 13th

11:00-12:00pm Wisdom of the Sages with Rabbi Weiner

7:30-8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 14th

Valentine's Day

No Shabbat Dinner, Crafts, and Babysitting (returning Feb. 28th)

Saturday, February 15th

9:30am Lift Guest Speaker, Dr. Ellen Umansky

Sunday, February 16th

High School Trip departs for Puerto Rico No Religious School (returning February 26th)

11:00-1:00pm Cooking for the Homeless

Monday, February 17th

Presidents Day: Building and Offices Closed ECP Closed (returning on February 24th)

Tuesday, February 18th

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Wednesday, February 19th

10:00-12:00pm ECP Movie Morning

Monday, February 24th

11:00-12:30pm Current Events 12:30-2:00pm Mussar Class

7:00-10:00pm Mah Jongg Nite in the Gallery

7:30-9:00pm Perspectives of Reality in Judaism and in Science

Tuesday, February 25th

7:30-9:00pm Israel in the News

Wednesday, February 26th

9:00-10:30am ECP "Share the Love" Bake Sale

Thursday, February 27th

10:00-3:00pm Soferet Julie Seltzer Letter Fill-In Session #3

11:00-2:00pm Wise Aging 7:30-8:45pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 28th

6:15pm Youth Shabbat

7:30-9:30pm International Potluck Dinner

Saturday, February 29th

9:30am Lift Guest Speaker, Dr. Ellen Umansky 10:00-12:00pm 3rd Grade Family Shabbat and Brunch

10:00am Bar Mitzvah for Ronen Fleck

6:00-10:00pm Kol Ami and Westchester Winds Ensemble present a

Celebration of the Music of Rogers and Hammerstein

A Message from Rabbi Weiner

Does Torah Ever Get "old"? Thankfully, Always and Never!

A student asked, "How do we read the same stories over and over every year? Haven't we said all there is to say about every parashah/portion of Torah? Not at all!



How wondrous it is that we Jews have magnificent traditions that preserve and maintain the exactness of every word and letter of the Torah. How lucky are we that we are able to watch as our scribe Julie Seltzer begins her careful work, with all of its ritual and custom, all designed to make sure that the new Torah she writes will look exactly like a Torah from Germany 400 years ago, one from Babylonia 1000 years ago, or one from Jerusalem more than 2000 years ago.

We have long been taught that the text of the Torah is eternal and absolute. It never changes and never can be changed . . . not one line, not one letter, not one single dot. Yet for all of that amazing sameness that we carry from one generation . . . from one millennium to the next, at the same time we see that there are infinite ways to read and interpret Torah. Always the same; and always different.

The rabbis teach us of the 70 Faces of Torah; meaning that every little moment, every word, every phrase in Torah, at any moment in time can be interpreted 70 different ways. And on a new day, there are again another new 70 faces to the Torah.

Rabbi Pinchas Peli wrote, "Readers of the Torah are never bothered by the question; of all the commentaries, which is the "true" or "real" one? They know, as keen students of modern literary criticism know, that what differentiates great literature from its lesser counterpart, is that the former can be interpreted on many levels, all equally "true" and "real". And what is true of great literature is certainly true of the word of Torah".

Early October a bat mitzvah student embodied one of those infinite moments with Torah while she was struggling with the moral questions of the Binding of Isaac, as Abraham has to wrestle with the command to slaughter his own beloved son Isaac as a sacrifice to the Eternal One.

She was incredibly animated and passionate as she was having her singular and unique moment of interaction with the text. That moment in the story was unfolding for her for the very first time, as if it was unfolding for the very first time in human history. And her thoughts on these unchanging, eternal words of Torah were unique and brand new and spontaneous. The same opportunities are always there waiting for us.

The journey of Torah can be entered into any time in your life. If you have never studied a verse of Torah, or you spend time with the Weekly Portion every Shabbat, it is an exciting experience, mind and soul expanding.

- Come and watch as a new Torah is created at Kol Ami this year, a singular generational opportunity.
- Study with us at any of the classes, lectures or discussion groups that happen year-round at Kol Ami.
- Come to any Shabbat service and enjoy a bit of Torah.

"Entrances to Torah and Holiness are everywhere!"

Rabbi Tom Weiner

A Message from Rabbi Milgrom

Gelt and Giving: A Hanukkah Dilemma?

So often, we think that money and materialism stand in opposition to our religious values. Parents understandably obsess about - how many gifts? Every night? How expensive? This wonderful article is a beautiful teaching about embracing the possibility that money can be used to express our values. Money can be a way to put our values to work. I hope that you enjoy this article (a classic for me); I would be happy to talk with you about it - and to hear about ways you make this happen in your own lives.



8 Lessons for Hanukkah, Useful All Year by Anna Schnur-Fishman from Lilith.com

Ten hanukkahs ago, when I was about four and my brother nine, my parents decided that it was time to make giving tzedakah a family project, and not just something they did on their own. They coupled this idea with another—their wish to take some of the consumerist curse off December—and instituted the following ritual. Here is the ceremony as we do it, including eight Hanukkah lessons I've learned from it. Around October, my parents and brother and I begin throwing all of the tzedakah appeals that arrive in the mail into one big basket. By December it's stuffed.

Hanukkah Lesson #1: It is amazing how many organizations need money.

A week or so before Hanukkah begins, we all sit down and sort through the envelopes, tossing out the ones that none of us really cares about. For each one that is left (maybe 20 or 25)— and any other tzedakahs we like thrown in, too—we make an index card. (As a compulsive family, we excel at activities that involve lining up cards in little rows on a table. I tend to get carried away arranging the cards alphabetically, categorically, and by the date of the appeal, but this really isn't a necessary part of the process.) Next, one person describes whatever organizations the others don't know much about. This year, for example, my brother has been very involved with an orphanage in Delhi, India, so he spoke guite eloquently on behalf of his index card, waving it in the air and pressing it to his chest. Hanukkah Lesson #2: Speak out for what you believe in. We do this because we soon vote on the tzedakahs we want to give to, and because "it's important," as my father says

every year, "to be educated voters, and to make educated decisions." This is Hanukkah Lesson #3.

Then we each vote for eight charities—one per scrap of paper—putting our ballots into my late grandfather's old hat, as is our custom, with the goal of dedicating every night of Hanukkah to a different tzedakah. Hanukkah Lesson #4: When you do something nice as a family, include your ancestors.

At this point my mother is known to invoke Ethics of the Fathers 2:21—"It is not up to us to complete the work, yet neither are we free to desist from It." That's Hanukkah Lesson #5. She says, "It's human nature for us to fix nothing because we can't fix everything. There are many worthy charities that are going to bite the dust in our little election here, and that feels bad, which is good." It is her style as a rabbi to say something that leaves you thinking, "Huh?"

When we tally up the votes—paying particular attention to my father's handwriting, because he has a history of stuffing ballot boxes—we generally end up with a lot of ties, maybe 15 charities altogether, with most clustered into categories—for example: the environment, women's issues, Jewish issues, and causes promoting racial and economic justice. Here's where the debating and horsetrading begins, much of it aimed at knocking out some organizations that will only weaken the chances of others. (For example, if Planned Parenthood and NARAL are both in there, they'll probably both lose in the final vote.) This year my father went head-to-head for Common

Cause, my mother nearly drew blood for Zero Population Growth, and I argued for a fund to free Custer the elephant—a case met with scorn. Hanukkah Lesson #6: Go for it. You never know.

My mother and I tend to prefer local organizations over national ones (the local women 's shelter, the local soup kitchen); I lean towards literacy programs and anything involving cute animals. We vote again, and again and again, until we're finally down to eight. Then we reflect bitterly on what everybody else did wrong during the politically corrupted process, and enjoy a moment or two of mourning for the good causes that died, and shouldn't have, on the kitchen table. Hanukkah Lesson #7: If not now, when?

Nobody is allowed to leave the table until eight checks are written out—this year we gave \$100 to each cause—and they're put in stamped, addressed envelopes which we then hang in our "Hanukkah Room"—the living room festooned with blue-foil dreydl decorations and every lopsided construction-paper latke and menorah that my brother and I ever created.

Then comes Hanukkah. On each night, before lighting the candles, we pluck one envelope off the holiday decor, say a sentence about why that particular charity matters, and dedicate that evening's candles to it. One of us must then be cajoled into running outside in the cold to actually put the envelope in the mailbox. The rule is that no one can light candles until the evening has been consecrated by the sound of the mailbox lid clunking. Hanukkah Lesson #8: It feels good to give charity when you're sitting in front of your not-yet-opened presents.

A Message from Cantor Rosen



The Season for Music!

As the days get a bit shorter and a bit chillier, Kol Ami continues to warm-up with a variety of musical programs and events coming up in the next few months!!

On December 6th, we welcome "Shir Libeinu", the Adult choir from Temple Sinai in Summit New Jersey for a "home-in-home" choir series. The choir will perform with our own "Kol Echad" (Kol Ami's adult choir) for Explorations in Jewish Music at 5pm. Both choirs will also sing at services that evening and join us for dinner and the rest of the Synaplex celebration. The music will feature some special Chanukah selections along with other liturgical favorites of the season. Our own choir will then visit Temple Sinai at Shabbat services on December 20th.

On February 8th, our "Shabbat Shira" Synaplex event is one not to be missed! Come and join us as we celebrate the history and success of the Jewish Deli. I will be joined by Cantor Jackie Mendelson and author Ted Merwin who wrote the book "Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli." Ted will share excerpts and ideas from his research as we accompany him with songs that are bring together the best of food and music as it pertains to what many would call "Jewish soul food." This will definitely be a night to remember!!

Later in the month on Saturday, February 29th, Congregation Kol Ami will once again welcome the Westchester Wind Ensemble, directed by renowned conductor, Curt Erberole and co-founded by our own, Rachel Eckhaus. Lenora Eve will join me as a special guest as we celebrate the music of some wonderful composers including, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Karl King and Phillip Sparke.

And let us not forget this year's Purim Spiel "I Guess That's Why they call it the Spiel", featuring the music of Elton John. Its not too late to join a star-studded cast from Kol Ami. Rehearsals will begin in early January!

As the High Holidays are behind us, many of still have some of the wonderful melodies resonating with us as we look forward to a new year. I am pleased to direct your attention to some wonderful recordings, that our sound technician, Jonathan Jetter was able to capture during services. Every week, we will be featuring a different melody in which you can find a link to at "This Week at Kol Ami." All of the recordings will be archived on our website as part of the "Friends of the Arts" homepage. Here is the link: https://nykolami.org/friends-of-the-arts/

Looking forward to a wonderful year of music!!

Cantor David Rosen

A Message from our Co-President

THANKSGIVING: A TIME OF GRATITUDE

A recent op-ed piece in the New York Times explains that it has been proven that feeling more gratitude increases people's satisfaction with their



lives. Feeling grateful also has positive effects on our own behavior by making us more generous, honest and productive both at work and with our personal relationships. In our services, towards the end of the Amidah (usually when reading silently), there is a prayer Modim Anachnu Lach – We Are Grateful To You. It is a chance to reflect and remind ourselves to be grateful for the sense of awe and wonder that permeates every day of our lives. Being grateful is not, and should not, be reserved for one special day a year. As Jews, it is part of our daily fabric.

But I do pause this time of year to acknowledge that for which I am grateful. And I am especially grateful to be part of this uniquely special community we call Congregation Kol Ami. As I noted in my High Holiday remarks, Kol Ami provides for the continuity of the Jewish people — from one generation to the next — L'dor V'dor — the continuity that has allowed the Jewish people — otherwise statistically insignificant — to survive and prosper despite slavery in Egypt, persecution in Persia, the destruction of the Temples, the Spanish Inquisition and the Shoah. We are the anchor for reform Judaism in Westchester that serves as a bulwark against the waves of assimilation and anti-Semitism. So whether you are here two days a year or two or more days a week, you contribute to what makes Kol Ami so special.

Because a vibrant, strong and financially secure Kol Ami is so important, I ask you to make Kol Ami a priority in your charitable and philanthropic giving. Give something that is meaningful to you. I know there are a lot of great causes out there but I challenge you to reflect upon your giving and see if your giving truly reflects the importance of being Jewish to you - of continuing the tradition.

There are at least two incredible opportunities to give back to Kol Ami. Our Annual Fund is needed to meet Kol Ami's short term needs. We simply can't make our budget work without the generosity of all of you who give to the Annual Fund. Our dues do not cover all our operating expenses. But as successful as we've been the last few years, there is plenty of room for much higher participation and we urge you to give.

Another is our Torah project. This project is geared towards our longer term needs both in creating a Torah to use for decades to come but also with the additional fundraising to help ensure our future. We actually only have two working Torah scrolls. Our last Torah fundraiser was 20 years ago and we need a new, usable Torah from which we can study, chant and celebrate holidays and B'nai Mitzvah and continue traditions. Anyone who donates will have an opportunity to actually inscribe a letter into our Torah. Be part of this once in a generation opportunity – a chance to both connect with the past and express hope for a better future.

For those that having already given and for those that will give, I am grateful to you for your generosity and thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us sustain this sacred place we call Kol Ami.

L'Shalom, Scott Musoff

A Message from our Executive Director

I recently began receiving Torah 20/20, a weekly email addressing issues facing American democracy and how we can build a just society. The newsletter features articles written by rabbis, cantors, Jewish politicians, artists and communal leaders. A recent issue featured a d'var Torah for Parshat Bereshit by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. Rabbi Ruttenberg offered:



"It is a brand new year. A time for new beginnings, for fresh starts. A time to create the world, anew... And God created humankind in God's image in the image of God, God created it. (Genesis: 1:27)... However you understand the meaning of this verse, there's one thing that's clear: All human beings are created in the image of holiness, of light. All of us. Every last one of us... [It] means that we must work to ensure that every cultural norm, every public policy, every law, every joke we make honors the humanity and dignity of every person... It means that we need to focus our attention on the inherent holiness of every human being. And most of all, we need to know that we have an obligation to fight for every single human being, every last one of us – each of us valuable, each deserving of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is our work. It will always be our work."

With these words in mind, what do each of us need to do to begin to undertake the seemingly overwhelming tasks facing us to repair our world? You may find your outlet for action and advocacy with our #BeTheLight Task Force, led by Lori Abrams and Ronnie Cohn.

- If the plight of immigrants at the U.S.-Mexican border or within our own area is of most concern to you, consider joining our Immigration task force.
- If you believe that gun violence is the greatest threat to our society, we welcome you to join our Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.
- If racial injustice, particularly those challenges that result in the most severe treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in terms of arrests, convictions, and sentencing, keeps you awake at night, our Criminal Justice Reform task force may be a wonderful outlet for your energy.
- If Global warming and climate change is of great concern to you, join our Green Team and work with us on the actions we can take at Kol Ami and beyond.
- If you are concerned about reproductive freedom, please join Kol Ami's newly formed Reproductive Freedom network chaired by Bonnie Eilen and Gerri Sommers.
- If you are most concerned about the rise in hate crimes and acts of anti-Semitism, consider placing a "Hate Has No Home Here" sign in your yard or window and join us when opportunities for action and advocacy arise.

Each of us has an obligation to enlighten the world with our capabilities and passions. If yours isn't included in the list above, I invite you to let me know whatever local or societal issue is of most concern to you and your ideas to engage and address the issue. I anticipate that others at Kol Ami may wish to join in your efforts. Together we can repair the world, and what better time to act than in the afterglow of our High Holy Days, a time for new beginnings, and in anticipation of the lights of the Hanukkah menorah.

Warmly, Jess Lorden

A Message from our ECP Director

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

We learned some very silly songs like The Turkey Ran Away, Gobble, Gobble, The Popcorn Song, The Turkey is a Funny Bird. Our 2's, 3's, 4's and Pre-k's enjoyed a feast as one community making the morning very special indeed. Most important though we learned what we are thankful for, food, friends and family.

Our Annual Turkey Trot was a huge success! Our entire school participated in this wonderful event teaching Tzedakah all the while enjoying a morning with friends. Canned vegetables, stuffing, canned potatoes, canned apples, and cans of pumpkin, and cranberry sauce were collected and "trotted" over to our very own Food Pantry housed on the grounds of Kol Ami. After taking a short walk around our campus we all enjoyed apple cider and turkey stickers!

Our November Book Fair was equally successful and we want to thank the entire Kol Ami community for helping it to be so much fun. Each day of the Fair we had a guest reader or activity making this year's event interactive and fun. A very special thank you goes to our incredible Book Fair Chairs Sara Elkin and Gillian Trepp. A big thank you also goes to the rest of our many Book Fair volunteers for helping to make the week so successful.

With December in full swing, we will enjoy an early morning visit on Wednesday, the 4th with Cantor David's Sufganiyot demonstration and donut tasting. On December 17th we'll be sharing Chanukah together as one school at our Chanukah concert and latke party. Mid-morning we'll be entertained by The Levin's and we'll follow the concert with a delicious holiday snack.

Looking ahead to January, come in from the cold and join us on Sunday early afternoon, January 26th for our family concert afternoon for young children featuring Suzi Shelton! (https://www.suzishelton.com). The program will begin at 11:30 with the wonderful music of Suzi Shelton. At 12:30 Pizza will be served to all concert goers. All families with young children 0-7 year olds are welcome and encouraged to come.

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

And that's just what we learn every day in the ECP! February especially will be filled with wonderful opportunities in the ECP to share our love.

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

On Friday, February 7th we will be hosting our annual Caregiver's Shabbat for our 3's, 4's and 5's families. This is always a wonderful way to start our month of giving. All of our 3's, 4's and 5's families' caregivers are invited to join us for Shabbat to enjoy our songs and prayers with us and of course the delicious Challah that we bake!

On Saturday, February 8th from 4:00-5:00pm please join Rabbi Tom and myself at our annual Havdalah in PJ's program. This is a wonderful afternoon filled with Mitzvah's, crafts, and fun! Come in your PJ's and bring a new pair of PJ's to donate to children living in our local shelters.

Wednesday, February 26th the ECP will be sponsoring our annual Share the Love Mitzvah Bake Sale. The Bake Sale will take place in our Auditorium from 9:00-9:40 am and the entire Kol Ami community is invited and encouraged to join us for homemade treats. The monies earned from this event are used for our Mitzvah Morning Project in June with the preschool children from The Center for Learning of New Rochelle.

On Thursday, February 27th our 3's, 4's, and Pre-K's will participate in our tenth annual Book Swap. Each child brings in 2 books to share – they can pick one from the selection to keep and the rest of the books are donated to the shelters in our area.

The Early Childhood Program of Kol Ami has served our own community and the greater community of lower Westchester for well over 50 years. Our philosophy is simple; we are dedicated to implementing a comprehensive and developmentally sound early childhood



curriculum that promotes social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. The development of spiritual and moral values and the joyful celebration of the Jewish holidays are an important ingredient to our program as well. We have an incredible, vibrant and talented staff and an inviting facility that is warm and welcoming. In short, we have a great deal to be thankful for and proud of.

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

ECP Winter Dates:

December Dates:

12/6 Pajama Shabbat 12/12 Mom's Night Out 12/20 School closes at 12:00pm

January Dates:

1/6 School reopens
1/20 School closed for MLK Day
1/26 Family Concert featuring
Suzi Shelton 11:30-12:30
followed by a Pizza lunch
1/31 School closed:Staff in-service

February Dates:

1/14 School closes at 12:00pm 1/24 School reopens 1/26 ECP Bake Sale 9:00-9:40

Nan Blank

A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement

Kol Ami has been pushing to be more eco-friendly and sustainable for many years. In the recent months since I have joined the synagogue, we have all seen some changes affect how we live our lives. One of these big changes is our push away from disposable items – you might notice at the Onegs after Shabbat we use real cutlery, and during Kiddush we have stopped giving out cups of grape juice in small, disposable, plastic cups.



This year the High School students have decided to tackle the Climate Crisis as part of their year. This will come with many challenges, as I think it should. Their passion, curiosity, and openness to change is what makes their generation so special. Thinking hard about where we have come from, where we are now, and how our lives and actions affect the future is at the core of both being Jewish and the Climate Crisis. This will be central to the learning and action that the High Schoolers will take part in. I'll give you a small example from my life, which I'm hoping the kids will tackle as well.

About a year ago now I decided I would not eat any more beef. After much thought I decided that this is an important way for me to reduce my harmful impact on the planet. Compared to other meats, beef is 2-10x worse for the planet in terms of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, land and water use, and other metrics. In fact, you might be surprised to hear how much reducing our beef intake could do for the planet. In 2017, a study found that simply replacing beef with beans "could achieve approximately 46% to 74% of the reductions needed to meet the 2020 GHG target for the US. In turn, this shift would free up 42% of US cropland (692,918 km2)". The numbers here are just staggering – that the U.S. could meet 46% to 74% of our GHG reduction goals just by replacing beef is unbelievable.

This is just one small example of the issues facing our changing world that our teens think about every day. The idea of changing our behaviors to be better for the planet will be instrumental in saving ourselves and our environment. Over this year our teens will be taking this concept and applying it to their lives so that they can be a more sustainable member of our green planet. And there are many ways that we can alter our behavior: you can drive an electric car, use LED's, reduce waste, compost, shop consciously, become vegetarian, or eat less beef, among other things. These are just some of the ideas that our teens will ponder as they decide how they will advocate for change and change their lives.

Thank You, Barak Stockler, Director of Youth Engagement

^{1.} J. Poore and T. Nemecek, "Reducing Food's Environmental Impacts through Producers and Consumers," Science 360, no. 6392 (2018): pp. 987-992, https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaq0216.

^{2.} G. Eshel et al., "Land, Irrigation Water, Greenhouse Gas, and Reactive Nitrogen Burdens of Meat, Eggs, and Dairy Production in the United States," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 111, no. 33 (2014): pp. 11996-12001, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1402183111.

^{3.} Helen Harwatt et al., "Substituting Beans for Beef as a Contribution toward US Climate Change Targets," Climatic Change 143, no. 1-2 (November 2017): pp. 261-270, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-017-1969-1.

A Message from our Religious School Director

I am proud of our Religious School, and what richness, meaning, variety, and heart the teachers, Rabbi Shira, and I bring to our children. I have spent much of the beginning of school popping in and out of classrooms, and the energy, joy, and engagement I feel and see is remarkable.

It is a joy to teach your children! Here are some highlights of this year so far...

Kindergarten (My Jewish Me): Tefillah with Rabbi Shira, "hallelujahs" to share about special moments…an actual piece of honeycomb… dancing with Shmulik… using new materials to make challah boards with Shabbat written in Hebrew by ourselves… our first new Hebrew words for the new year: Shana Tova, s'licha (I'm sorry)…

Grade 1 (My Synagogue): What we can do to make a better version of ourselves going forward (Yom Kippur)... each making a Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) that actually lights up!... a shehecheyanu (special first) moment as Cantor David gave a special tour of many hidden treasures in the sanctuary for the first time... helping Rabbi Shira to lead Tefillah, with "hallelujahs" to share about special moments...

Grade 2 (My Torah): Rich and personalized Torah discussions, followed by children using their imaginations to illustrate what spoke to them in the story... learning how we end the Torah and start right back again so that we are continually surrounded by our Jewish culture and traditions (Simchat Torah)... Tefillah with Cantor David... sharing mitzvot (good deeds) and shehecheyanu (special first) moments from the week... collecting food for our Kol Ami Food Pantry... our wonderful "What's In a Name?" Workshop, creating cherished plaques and stories together with our parents...

Grade 3 (My Jewish People): Using yoga to learn a community tree pose, the importance of building community and leaning on one another for support... Tefillah with Cantor David... using fun materials/activities (Play-Doh, sticks, Hebrish—English words with Hebrew letters—and more) to reinforce Hebrew letter recognition and recall as we begin formal Hebrew learning... finding artifacts here at Kol Ami at our own archaeological dig!... special workshop with Julie Seltzer, our Soferet (Torah scribe)...

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Grade 4 (Jews Around the World): Mapping where in the world our families come from... leveled Hebrew learning focused on the Shema/V'Ahavta... group posters and presentations about famous Sephardic Jews... Tefillah with Rabbi Tom and Cantor David... special workshop with Julie Seltzer, our Soferet (Torah scribe)... bonding at the 4/5/6 Grade Mini-Camp...

Grade 5 (Holocaust/My Jewish Calendar):
Lively group discussions that spill over the
time allotted, inspired by viewing the movie
"Paper Clips"... reading the legend of King
Christian, which portrays the bravery, triumph
and courage we emphasize in our learning...
traditional planting of (bright yellow starshaped) daffodil bulbs... Tefillah with Rabbi
Tom and Cantor David... leveled Hebrew learning focused on the Amidah... special workshop
with Julie Seltzer, our Soferet (Torah scribe)...

Grade 6 (My Family Heritage/Immigration/B'nai Mitzvah): Trip to the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side... acting out the Polish Family Fight... leveled Hebrew learning focused on the Torah service... Tefillah with Rabbi Tom and Cantor David... "choose your own ending" book about immigration...B'nai Mitzvah journals... discussing "You Have to Live in Somebody Else's Country to Understand" (poem about being a new immigrant)... bonding at the 4/5/6 Grade Mini-Camp...

bonding at the 4/5/6 Grade Mini-Camp...

Grade 7 (My Jewish Lifecycle + Electives):
Lifecycle Bingo (Birth)... Wednesday Electives:
Israeli Hip Hop/Hebrew Games & Challenges/
Yad b'Yad Mentors/Jewish Food... Alternate
Day Electives: Helping Hunger/Madrichim
(teaching assistants)/Coachman Sports
Mentoring/ Friday Night Shabbat Greeters...
Kehillah (community time) with the 8th
graders... Yad-making/Soferet workshops...
learning about Coming-of-Age customs

around the world (including the Bullet Ant Initiation)...

Grade 8 (My Jewish Voice/Holocaust): New communal giving program—making choices that make a real difference... following the philosophy that "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." ~Dr. Seuss... snacks... Kehillah (community time) with the 7th graders... personalizing Jewish values from Torah... being a person of honor...hosting quest speakers... playing corn hole...

Grade 9 (My Jewish Responsibility):

Studying Judaism and Social Justice, focusing on issues around poverty and global hunger... served dinner at the Hebrew Union College (HUC) soup kitchen in Greenwich village...a budgeting exercise for a family living at the poverty level... book club... Religious Action Center Trip...Puerto Rico Service Trip...

Grade 10 (Confirmation): Jewish selfdiscovery with Rabbi Tom... Preparing to lead the Kol Ami community Shavuot service... Confirmation Weekend... Religious Action Center Trip...Puerto Rico Service Trip...

Grades 11/12 (My Jewish Me): Learning to live our Jewish lives comfortably in college and beyond... Anti-Semitism... building personal connections to Israel... spray painting our own graffiti to mimic graffiti in Israel... making hummus with Cantor David... Religious Action Center Trip... Puerto Rico Service Trip...

- Pam Pass

#nykolami Seewhatwehavebeenupto!

The celebration of Simchat Torah was once again one of the most fun and memorable evenings of the year!

































Our first Synaplex Shabbat of the season was filled with meangingful Guest Speakers, Mad Science for the kids, a Youth Group Shul-In, and a delicious meal catered by the Rye Roadhouse!

#nykolami

See what we havebeenup to!























Our November outing to the new Zwilling Cooking Studio was amazing!!! We learned some great cooking techniques while enjoying a meal and time together.



A special afternoon for congregant Max Ilberg as he visits and learns about bees with Andrew Ward. Our First Responders Appreciation Shabbat was a great experience for congregants and local police, fire, and EMS.









Our Kol Ami families hosted another Coachman Birthday Party which brought a joyous afternoon to both party-goers and hosts.









Kol Ami congregants, clergy, and staff attend the White Plains Vigil in response to anti-semitic graphic left at the memorial site.



pair to donate to women in need.

Social Justice work is being done all over at Kol Ami! The ECP families donated bags of food and the pantry bagged them up.







Our Yad b'Yad students enjoy bowling outings, and cooking in the Kol Ami Kitchen with our Religious School students for the Coachman Thanksgving

















ECP S'mores in the Sukkah was such a fantastic evening!



Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers our Torat Chayim brochures were stuffed and mailed out to everyone's homes.



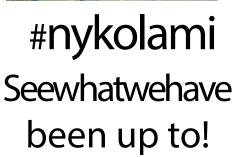




For a fun Halloween prank staff and teens dressed up as Rabbi Tom for Wednesday night Religious School.



7th Graders and their parents spent their Religious School elective helping the hungry in collaboration with Feeding Westchester.





Staff and congregants met for lunch at the White Plains City Limits Diner!





Starting at 5:00pm with Musical Explorations, followed by 5:30pm Shabbat in the Woods and Shabbat Sheli, Hors d'oeuvre, Shabbat Services, Dinner, Guest Speakers, and Dessert!

December 6th

As the last generation of Holocaust survivors lives out their final years, the number of individuals who are physically and mentally able to "bear witness" dwindles and the question of what happens to their stories and their experience remains.

Experience an evening you will long remember as high school students re-enact critical moments from the lives of local Holocaust survivors. This unique performance (now a film) represents an intergenerational journey—the culmination of months of collaboration between the students and survivors, as mutual respect, friendship, and trust have evolved.



The Catskill Pupper Theater will also be presenting *The Town That Fought Hate*, based upon Janice Cohn's award-winning children's book, *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. The show features almost life-size puppets and shadow puppets, and more than a few theatrical surprises. The full sets, colorful scenery and large, exquisitely crafted puppets present a play with a delightful blend of humor, mystery, drama and special effects and is illustrated with a combination of original and traditional music.

Witness Theater produced by Selfhelp Community Services, leading organization providing services to Holocaust survivors

We are sorry, but we can't accommodate walk-ins

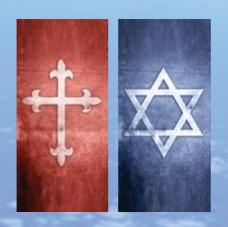
Dinner catered by Lombardos Restaurant

Clip and return this dinner reservation form NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, November 27th Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, WP, NY 10606 or by clicking here to register online

Adult Names:	Shabbat Family Dinner
Children's Names and Ages:	#Adultsx\$25 =\$
Phone Number:	Children and Teens are FREE thanks to generous Synaplex donations!
Please add \$5 additional per person after November 27th	Total Enclosed: \$ Please make checks out to: Congregation Kol Ami

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Judaism and Christianity in the 1st Century: Where Religions Merge and Diverge

Friday, January 24, 2020 Come for some or all of the evening!

Musical Explorations with Cantor David 5:00pm Shabbat in the Woods and Shabbat Sheli 5:30pm

Hors doevres Oneg 5:45pm

Shabbat Services 6:15pm

Catered Dinner 7:15pm

Guest Speakers and Youth Programs 8:00pm

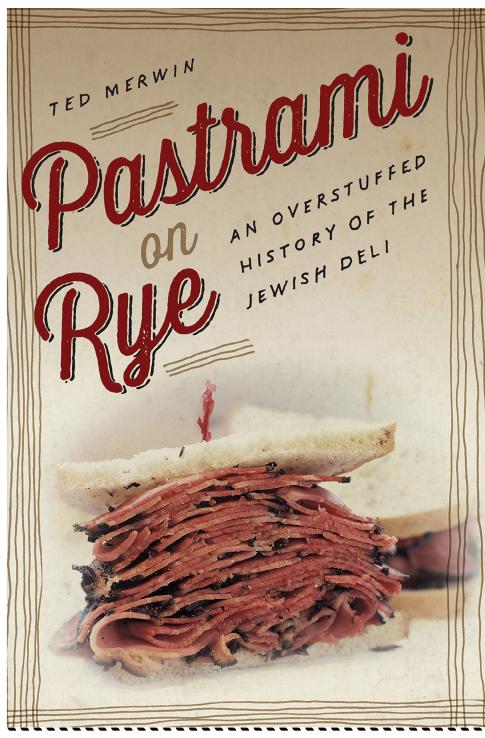
Dessert Oneg 9:15pm



Dinner catered by Chef Alberto Alvarez from No Place Like Home Catering

Clip and return this dinner reservation form NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, January 15th Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, WP, NY 10606 or by clicking here to register online

Adult Names:	Shabbat Family Dinner
Children's Names and Ages:	#Adultsx\$25 =\$
Phone Number:	Children and Teens are FREE thanks to generous Synaplex donations!
Please add \$5 additional per person after January 15th **We are sorry, but we can not accommodate walk-ins**	Total Enclosed: \$ Please make checks out to: Congregation Kol Am





FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH SHABBAT SHIRA SYNAPLEX

Join us as we host a fun evening with author Dr. Ted Merwin "The History and Music of the Jewish Deli". With music by Cantor David Rosen and Cantor Jack Mendelson.

Beginning at 5:30pm

Clip and return this dinner reservation form NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, January 29th Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, WP, NY 10606 or by clicking here to register online

Adult Names:	Shabbat Family Dinner
Children's Names and Ages:	#Adultsx\$25 =\$
Phone Number:	Children and Teens are FREE thanks to generous Synaplex donations!
Please add \$5 additional per person after January 29th **We are sorry, but we can not accommodate walk-ins**	Total Enclosed: \$ Please make checks out to: Congregation Kol Ami



Legend has it that each person of the community of Israel is a letter in the Torah.

The Torah is made up of each of us. Our lives, our stories, our memories and our dreams are part of the unfolding of Torah, even as the Torah itself helps shape our sense of who we are and who we are destined to become. The Torah burst into Jewish consciousness thousands of years ago, changing forever the ways that people might view themselves and the expectation to be God's partners in making this world a more just and compassionate place.

Torah unfolds in us as we connect to holiness: the endless ways we see wonder, express gratitude, and bless the life around us. And we can fold ourselves into the Torah.

This year is filled with experiences of Torah - from the writing of a complete scroll of Torah (yes, you can participate!) to study and conversation about the complex legacy of sacred scripture. "With all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might." These Torah words are part of the Sh'ma that we recite daily. We will bring all of it - our hearts. our talents, our hands, our minds, our music, and our arts, as we venture together in the creation and celebration of the unfolding of Torah in our lives.

> Snim telyn Tom Weiner Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Rabbi Tom Weiner

Cantor David Rosen

Click here to go to www.nykolami.org/toratchayim to learn more about dedication opportunities for our new Torah! In addition, one of our Clergy or Torah Scholars is available to help you find a dedication with special meaning for you. Please call the Clergy office to arrange an appointment. (914) 949-4717 ext. 114.

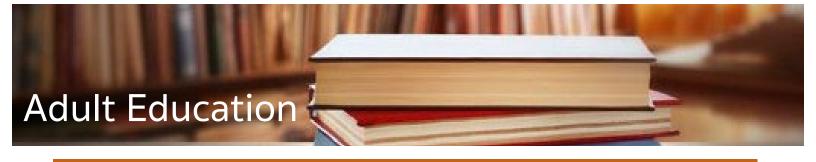
Torat Chayim Chairperson, Kol Ami Past-President, Lisa K. Borowitz



DRINK AND LEARN AT THE SAME TIME!! **Talk Torah At Home** DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE A MEZUZAH? WHAT DOES THE SCROLL SAY?

FOR DATES AND LOCATIONS AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: https://nykolami.org/mandmrsvp MandMRSVP@nykolami.org

COME TO AN INFORMAL SESSION AT A FELLOW CONGREGANT'S HOME FOR INTERESTING **CONVERSATION AND LEARNING**



Gather and Study

Mussar Classes

This workshop will introduce Mussar practice through tikkun middot (repairing ourselves from the inside out). Facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS. See flyer for details.

Mondays 12:30pm

Women in Transition

Are you experiencing/anticipating life changes? Join an interactive discussion group on retirement, aging, down sizing, relationships with adult children, and health/well being. Contact Sheila Sturmer at sturmersheila@gmail.com or 914-391-1227

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

Women's Roundtable Breakfast

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

First Wednesday of the month at 7:45am

(in January meets on the 8th)

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. Also, occassional guest speakers, both from within and outside Kol Ami, will be invited. Meets every other Tuesday from 7:30-9:00pm

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

Women's Oasis at Home

Examining cultural and developmental issues as women age with experts and educators. See flyer for full details.

See flyer for dates, times, and locations.

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

Jewish Mindful Meditation

Join us in learning mindful meditation. No meditation experience necessary. Led by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, certified meditation teacher, and the WJCS Parners-in-Caring clinician for Kol Ami.

Meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:45am

Kol Ami Book Club

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

Reality: Science, Religion, or Both?

Meets on Monday evenings from 7:30-9:00pm. Explore another year of fascinating topics with Paul Davis.

Meets every Monday at 7:30pm in Room 20

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.

Meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at Noon

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

Kol Ami Sisterhood >>



2019-2020 Calendar of Events

Holiday Boutique	Sunday	12/8/2019	All Day	Everywhere
Latke & Lattes	Saturday (Havdallah)	12/21/2019	4:00-6:00pm	Gallery
Pickle Making	Sunday	1/5/2020	1-3pm	Auditorium
Purim Basket Sales	Late February	-	-	-
Ladies Night Out	Sunday	3/1/2020	5:00pm	Offsite/TBD
Passover Tasting	Tuesday	3/31/2020	7:00pm	Gallery
Membership Dinner	Tuesday	5/19/2020	7:00pm	Gallery
Women Vote Celebration Trip	Friday - Sunday	6/5-6/7/19		Seneca Falls

PICKLE MAKING

January 5th

Open to the entire congregation \$36.00 per participant

Join Gefilteria founders Liz Alpern and Jeffrey Yoskowitz (also Chief Pickle maker) as we learn to art of fine pickling!

Kol Ami Sisterhood

Co-Presidents Sheryl Brady Rachel Eckhaus Stacey Matusoiw

Email: Sisterhood@nykolami.org

100 Years of Women's Right to Vote Mark your calendars June 5 ~ June 7, 2020

We are going on a road trip to Seneca Falls, NY to celebrate!

Friday: Shabbat Services with Rabbi Shira and a 4 course wine pairing dinner at Belhurst Castle, Geneva, NY

Saturday: National Womens Hall of Fame, Learning Lunch with Shira, Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, NY Dinner lakeside on Cayuga Lake.

Sunday: Cheese tasting at Muranda Cheese Company, Waterloo, NY

Weekend accomodations at Del Lago Resort, Geneva, NY. Transportation by carpool. Total trip cost \$500.00 payable to Sisterhood.

Online registration will open in November.

SHOP "The Rack"

Call Judy McEvoy at 714-8288 to set up your private appointment to Shop The Rack



Has your child outgrown their Bar Mitzvah suit, Bat Mitzvah long dress, temple dresses or kids dressy clothes that they've worn to friends parties? You can pass these clothes on to a sibling, friend, or donate them to The Rack at Kol Ami for recycle/purchase.

Congregants can make a private appointment to shop and try on clothes from The Rack—\$18/item (\$36 for long dresses and suits). Ties, if available, come free with a boys shirt purchase. All proceeds go to the Kol Ami Fund for the Needy supporting our congregants, Coachman Family Center activities, and the Kol Ami Pantry.

Donations can be dropped off to Jess Lorden's office and must be in excellent condition, clean, on a hanger, and labeled with a size in order to be accepted.



ITEMS ACCEPTED IN EXCELLENT CONDITION

BOYS SUITS
BOYS BLAZERS
BOYS DRESS SHIRTS
TIES
GIRLS PARTY DRESSES (LONG + SHORT)



Call Judy McEvoy at 714-8288 to set up your private appointment to Shop The Rack

Shop the Kol Ami Recycle Rack

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE KOL AMI FUND FOR THE NEEDY SUPPORTING OUR CONGREGANTS COACHMAN FAMILY CENTER ACTIVITIES, AND THE KOL AMI PANTRY

Coachman Corner

Spreading Tikum Olam in our Community

On a rainy Sunday in October, Kol Ami and ECP families entertained the littlest Coachman residents with fun activities and craft projects. Alison & Daisy Gilmore helped the children to make beautiful sun catchers and Diana & Jessica from Topsy Turvy Yogi led the children into all kinds of fun & twisty yoga poses. There were many helpful hands including Erica & Charlotte Papir, Sallie, Jake & Ruby Schnier, Mason Danzig as well as the Goldman, Kenter, Maxwell, Schwartz and Zubatkin families from our ECP program. In addition to throwing a great party, Nan Blank and her generous ECP families helped to collect gallons of baby formula, tons of new diapers, onesies and lots of soft and cuddly play things for babies and toddlers.







As a community we came together to make our 6th Annual Kol Ami – Coachman Thanksgiving celebration a wonderful success. We warmly greeted, beautifully entertained and abundantly fed our Coachman guests. Knowing that the Coachman families are struggling with homelessness and financial insecurity, we worked hard to make sure it was extra special. It was a magnificent and heartfelt collaboration.

This event requires so much coordinated effort and highlights how blessed we are as a congregation to have so many generous, kind and helpful members willing to share their time and talents.

We worked together to plan, shop, chop, roast, bake, decorate, greet, serve and entertain our guests. We welcomed the Ardsley High School Select Chorus who entertained us with popular songs and upbeat melodies during our cocktail hour. We were fortunate to have John Zaff, entertaining our guests with jazz music throughout dinner. Alison and Daisy Gilmore kept the Coachman kids engaged with Thanksgiving themed crafts and our Kol Ami children and teens shared their favorite Board games with Coachman friends. The evening was festive and joyful, and our Coachman guests left with full stomachs and hearts.

In addition, a large number of congregants made pie donations in support of a fundraiser organized by Eliot Adler to provide our guests with delicious pies and baked goods. Thanks to the generosity of so many in our community, each of our Coachman guests took home a pie to enjoy

with their families. Every Coachman family also took home stylish and brand new scarves, hats, mittens and gloves, donated by Stacey Gold. And kids of all ages were delighted with the Thanksgiving cards and candy goody bags assembled by our ECP children.

Every year we remark this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

We are thankful and grateful for everyone who contributed to keep this very special tradition going.





















Coming Soon!

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.

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



"Women of the Jewish and Christian Bibles"

Led by Dr. Ellen M. Umansky, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies and Director, Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University, CT

Four Saturdays in February, Schulman Chapel, 9:30-10:45 am

This course will focus on specific biblical texts from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament in which women play an important role. In addition to reading these texts, we will discuss the literary and theological transformation of these stories and the women in them, in rabbinic and/or Christian interpretation and in more recent scholarly analyses, including feminist midrash/exegesis.

February 1

Genesis 21: The Conflict Between Sarah and Hagar

February 8

I Kings 16 and 2 Kings 9: How Bad was Jezebel?

February 15

The New Testament Gospels: Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of God

February 29

John 20 and Luke 10: Female Discipleship -- Mary Magdalene and sisters Mary and Martha

Ethical Masculinity: Understanding and Celebrating being a Jewish Man in Today's World

Kol Ami Men's Study Group taught by Rabbinic Student Noah Lawrence

Join Rabbi Tom Weiner and Cantor David Rosen for all 4 sessions or come to any individual discussion. Thematically connected, but each will be a stand-alone, lively and fascinating experience. A suggested \$20 donation for each session would be appreciated.

- Sunday, November 17th 9:30am Brunch and study in the Gallery at Congregation Kol Ami
- Tuesday, December 17th An evening of dinner and study at Balaboosta Restaurant, NYC
- Additional dates will follow on February 2nd at Kol Ami and March 3rd in NYC



Noah Lawrence

Noah Lawrence comes to us as a Rabbinic Student with a rich and varied background. Noah, a graduate of NYU School of Law, has worked as a foreign law clerk for a Judge on Israel's Supreme Court; as a law clerk in the office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal; in the judge's chambers in the Hague during the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. As an undergraduate Noah performed with the Yale Glee Club including performances at the Vatican, Lincoln Center and Boston Symphony Hall. He has published op ed pieces in Newsweek, The New York Daily News and The Jerusalem Post.

Please RSVP to Ginny Herron-Lanoil, Assistant to the Clergy, at ginnyherron-lanoil@nykolami.org or 914.949.4717 xt. 114 so we know you are coming.

Series generously sponsored by Gene Kava



Examining cultural and developmental issues women face as they age

Learn from experienced educators about how we can live our lives to the fullest, even as life changes in ways we expect and sometimes in ways that surprise us.

Supplemental viewpoints will come from the book *Women Rowing North*, by Mary Pipher, who writes, "We will experience a joyous time of our lives. If we have planned carefully and packed properly, if we have good maps and guides, the journey can be transcendent."

Monday, September 16, 2019

7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Chapel in the Woods with Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, Partners In Caring Certified Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Instructor and Wise Aging Facilitator

Monday, November 18, 2019

7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Chapel in the Woods with Ruth Rosenblum

Thursday, January 30, 2020

7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Chapel in the Woods with Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Monday, March 16, 2020

7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Chapel in the Woods with Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual Care Coordinator, WJCS

Think with us, share with us, eat with us, be with us - here at Kol Ami

Mail to: Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606		
Name	Address	
Email Address	Phone	
Four sessions \$60 (Individual sessions \$18). Book included with registration fee		
Session 1: Monday, September 16, 2019	Session 3: Thursday, January 30, 2020	
Session 2: Monday, November 18, 2019	Session 4: Monday, March 16, 2020	

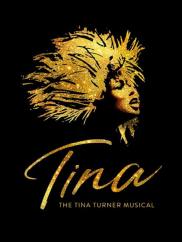
For further information contact

Jill Abraham 393-7282 or jill.sa2@verizon.net Lauri Carey 907-9120 or lauricarey@hotmail.com





We have two upcoming shows you can buy tickets for!



The Tina Turner Musical Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 3pm 40 orchestra seats \$130 per ticket



WEST SIDE STORY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020 AT 3PM 40 ORCHESTRA SEATS \$145 PER TICKET

Tear off and Return to the Main Office for tickets. First Come, First Served. Space is Limited		
Name:	Phone #:	
Email:	Total Enclosed:	
Tina Turner: \$130 per ticket =		
West Side Story: \$145 per ticket =		

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

Sunday December 8, 2019 9am-3pm







Kol Ami Holiday Boutique

to support our Women of Reform Judaism Kol Ami Sisterhood







Jewelry, clothing, handbags, Judaica, candles, skincare, kitchenware and more! Over 40 vendors.

Sisterhood Basket Raffle and Bake Sale (to benefit the Religious School)

252 Soundview Avenue White Plains, NY 10606

Do-nut miss this!

Wednesday morning December 4th from 8:30 -9:15am

Join us in the Café before drop-off for a cooking demonstration with Cantor David as we fill the halls, and our bellies, with the amazing tastes and smells of

Sufganiyot (jelly donuts)!!

He'll be making and we'll be enjoying.





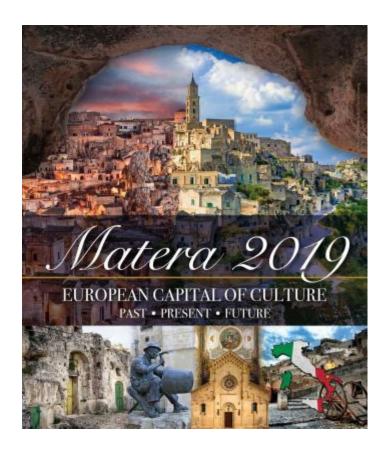
WE POINT WITH PRIDE TO ...

Congregants Debbie Linder and Lily Ritterman Pena



Debbie Linder is the 2019 honoree by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester as a mainstay of the program for nearly two decades. "Over the years Debbie has gifted us with her wisdom and energy in roles as diverse as Big Sister (twice), vice chair of our Advisory Council, donor, fundraiser, mentor recruiter, and holiday cookie baker extraordinaire."





Lily Ritterman Pena was one of 3 students to receive a monetary award and special recognition at the Consulate General of Italy in New York City. Lily was recognized for an essay written on the Italian city of Matera for the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York and the American Association of Teachers of Italian high school essay contest. She was the first Ardsley high school student ever to win the AATI high school essay contest in Italian.



STUDY IN THE CITY

Join our Clergy for a relaxing lunch and discussion topics! 12:30pm



November 6th
Cantor David in Scarsdale at 29 Cooper Road

November 13th
Rabbi Tom in NYC at Loeb & Loeb, 345 Park Avenue



January 8th
Rabbi Tom in White Plains at Milber, Makris, Plousadis & Seiden
709 Westchester Avenue, Suite 300

March 4th
Cantor David in NYC at The Claims Conference
1359 Broadway, Suite 2000

Please RSVP \$18pp/per session (come for one or all sessions)

TO GINNY HERRON-LANOIL, AT GINNYHERRON-LANOIL@NYKOLAMI.ORG OR 914-949-4717 EXT. 114

PLEASE BRING PAYMENT WITH YOU TO THE SESSIONS.

Kol Ami Blood Drive Sunday December 15, 2019 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Come to the Temple Atrium



"For the life of all flesh—its blood is its life." Leviticus 17:14 "Whoever saves a life, as if saves an entire world." Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5

Every year Congregation Kol Ami hosts a blood drive during a critical time of the year. We urge participation by temple members during this semi-annual blood drive. You don't need to make an appointment.

Think About These Reasons to Give Blood

- 1. "Pay it forward" if you have had a loved one or acquaintance receive blood in an emergency or when needed in surgery
- 2. There is great satisfaction in knowing you've made a difference in the lives of others
- 3. As a blood donor you are an anonymous hero to somebody
- 4. It's a donation that only costs a little time
- 5. There is no substitute for blood; there is only one source YOU
- 6. Make sure blood will be available when someone needs it
- 7. The blood drive is on Sunday to make it more convenient for families, including families with children in the religious school.

For those who have never given, you will be surprised how easy it is. No one likes needles, but for enduring a small bit of discomfort you can save a life. Remember to eat well and have plenty of fluids prior to your giving.

Just come to the Temple Atrium anytime between 8:30 and 2:30. Bring a friend or family member and donate together. If you are dropping off a child for religious school, please stay to give blood. Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 with written parental/guardian permission) and weigh 110 pounds. 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. David Klein, Blood Drive Chair



Kol Ami Adult Hanukkah Party

Monday, December 23, 2019 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery at Kol Ami

Enjoy a special Menorah Lighting, Hanukkah Dinner and Gift Grab Bag! Come and bring along a family member or friend! \$27 per person RSVP by December 15 \$30 per person RSVP after December 15

Grab Bag – Please bring a wrapped item (one per person) worth \$10 or less (it may be a "re-gifted" item if you like).

If you have a menorah that you would like to light, please feel free to bring it with you. Candles will be provided.

Bring your own wine if you wish.

Name(s):	
# of people: Amount enclosed:	_
Email:	
Phone:	8 0
Please send in this form and your check made out to Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606.	

Questions? Email Cindee Howard at dancingcin@aol.com or

Myra Oltsik at omy5716@yahoo.com.

Suzi Shelton FAMILY CONCERT

Sunday, January 26th 11:30am

Sponsored by the Kol Ami Early Childhood Program

Looking for a

fun, easy birthday
party idea?!

Book one of our party rooms
for after the concert for only \$250

We supply the concert, and pizza for all guests! and pizza for all guests! You just bring a craft, decorations, and dessert Contact Nan Blank for more details.

nanblank@nykolami.org 914.949.4717 x.107



Pizza will be served after the concert.
No need to RSVP!
Everyone is welcome.

Friends of the Arts at Kol Ami Supports:

Summer Concert Series

Concerts and Community Wide Events

Congregational Recording Projects

Explorations in Jewish Music for Synaplex Shabbatot

Shabbat Shira Musical Program

The Kol Ami Orchestra

Collaborative Concerts with the Kol Arts Program

Enhancing Stage Productions and Audio Support

Become a Friend of the Arts at Kol Ami Suggested levels of giving \$180, \$500, \$1,800, \$3,600 All donations of \$180 or higher will include: • Name recognition in all print publications relating to the arts • Invitations to private receptions throughout the year • Priority seating for specific events when applicable Flexible payment options are available for congregants. Please call Madiha Tubman at 914.949.4717 ext. 102 Friends
of the Arts
at Lol Ami

Wsic nourishes our souls

By becoming a Friend of the Arts at Kol Ami

you will contribute to the

growth of musical

programming that nourishes our

souls

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 Evelyne Klein aspencup@aol.com

In the Community

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

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.

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.

Please contact Barbara Wexler:

wexlerartworks@optonline.net if you would like to participate.

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 at 914-946-7789

December 11th, Wednesday, at 2:30pm The Knolls 55 Grasslands Rd, Valhalla, NY

January 29th, Wednesday, at 2 pm (note earlier time) Greenwich Woods 1165 King St, Greenwich, CT

February 19th, Wednesday, at 2:30pm Sarah Neuman 845 Palmer Ave, Mamaroneck, NY

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.

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.

Mah Jongg Wednesdays

Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Kol Ami Atrium Please email Betsy McCormack at Betsyrmc@gmail.com for more information

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 Betsyrmc@gmail.com 914-960-9390 Ginny Ruder at Ginnyruder@gmail.com 914-589-5283

Life Cycles

Congratulations

- *To Cindy Muniz on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
- *To Cynthia & Gary Zambardino on the birth of their son Asher Matthew Zambardino
- *To Gail Young and Ken Jurist on the birth of their grandson, Ezra Parker Jurist

Condolences

- *To Fran Civita and family on the death of Fran's mother, Shirley Pastore
- *To Jennifer Lemberg and family on the death of Jennifer's mother, Ellen Lemberg
- *To Stacey Gold-Matusow and family on the death of Stacey's father, Stan Gold
- *To Jess Lorden and family on the death of Jess's aunt, Muriel Durbin
- *To David Geiger & family on the death of David's father, Gordon Geiger
- *To Jane Hein & family on the death of Jane's brother, Robert Harmon
- *To Elaine Josephson & family on the death of Elaine's mother, Sandra Levinsky Josephson
- *To Denise Tahara & family on the death of Denise's father, Roy Caspler
- *To David Seicol & family on the death of David's mother, Betty Seicol

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- *In appreciation, from Jeff and Debbie Rothschild
- *In memory of Lawrence Kraus, from Miriam Kraus
- #In memory of Cynthia Kamen, from Jonathan Kamen
- *To support speaker at the Lift concerning Monticello, from Harley Lewis
- *In appreciation of inspirational High Holy Day Services, from Robin Cohen
- #In appreciation and in honor of her parents, Milt and Linda Persily, from Julie Persily
- *In memory of Larry Kraus, from Gloria and Maury Tannenbaum
- *In honor Eddie Elcott's 100th birthday, from Michelle Gersen and Michael Zweig

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- *In honor of Julia's Bat Mitzvah, from David and Michelle Kroin
- *In memory of Cynthia Kamen, from Jonathan Kamen
- *In honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah, from Jen Josephs
- *In appreciation of inspirational High Holy Day Services, from Robin Cohen
- *To support the Men's Study Group, from Gene Kava
- *In appreciation, from Stanley and Betsy Weiner
- *In memory of his father, Herbert Berman, from Stephen Berman
- *In appreciation and in honor of her parents, Milt and Linda Persily, from Julie Persily

Generous Contributions

- *In memory of Sy Haber, from Carole Haber
- * In appreciation, from Linda and Henry Klaiman, parents of Lisa Bostrom
- *In memory of Alvin Zitrin, from Sharon Zitrin
- *In honor of Charlotte's Bat Mitzvah, from Kerry Blinder and Josh Raff
- *In appreciation of the High Holy Days, from Phyllis and Robert Shulman
- *In honor of Carina's Bat Mitzvah, from Susan and Michael Weksel

Cantor David Rosen's Discretionary Fund

- *In honor of Julia's Bat Mitzvah, from David and Michelle Kroin
- *In memory of her mother, Shirley Pastore, from Fran Civita
- *Thank you for High Holy Day Services, from Jeff Kornstein
- *Thank you for beautiful High Holy Day Services, from Robin Cohen
- *In honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah, from Jen Josephs
- *In honor of Zoe and Nathan's B'nai Mitzvah, from Susie and Gary Moskowitz
- *In honor of Charlotte's Bat Mitzvah, from Kerry Blinder and Josh Raff
- *In appreciation of the High Holy Days, from Phyllis and Robert Shulman
- *In honor of Carina's Bat Mitzvah, from Susan and Michael Weksel

Fund for the Needy

- ‡ In loving memory of his mother, Helen Berger, from Jack Berger & Randy Stein
- *In honor of his birthday to Martin Kahn, from Leni Glauber
- *In honor of her birthday to Jess Lorden, from her parents Harold and Joanna Essex

The Kol Ami Fund

- ‡In honor of Rhona Merkur, Paul & Elyse Schupak, from Diane Tabakman & David Rhodes
- #In honor of Julia Kroin becoming a Bat Mitzvah, from Anne & Paul Friedlander
- *In honor of Betsy McCormack, from Joselyn Sealove
- [‡] In appreciation of the Rosh Hashanah services, from Phyllis & Howard Kaplan
- *To the anonymous Congregation Kol Ami temple member who showed me great kindness on the train, from Elise Sysman
- #In loving memory of Marvin Knecht, father of Steven Knecht, from Izabel McDonald
- # In loving memory of Larry Kraus, husband of Miriam Kraus, from Joan & Peter Lifson
- #In loving memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold Matusow, from Evelyn Lannak
- ‡In honor of Nina & Phil Blumenfeld, from Paula Lerer
- ‡ In loving memory of her mother, Rose Rutfield, from Pearl Cohen
- *Thank you for sharing your beautiful temple with us, from Lorraine & Ira Lipton
- *In appreciation of Kol Ami, from Jaine Lieber & the Girl Scouts of the Hudson, Inc.
- *In loving memory of her brother, from Jane Hein
- *In loving memory of Sophie & William Stern and Paul Ackerman, from Janet & Mark Ackerman

Kol Ami Cares Fund

*In honor of Cindy Muniz becoming a Bat Mitzvah, from Martin Kahn

Generous Contributions

Friends of the Arts

- *In appreciation, from Sima and Joe Rosen
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Barbara Shore
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Susan and Greg Arovas
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from David and Lori Okun
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Eric and Bonnie Eilen
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Judi Brown
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Ian Rosenbluth
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Emily and Paul Kandel
- *In memory of Stan Gold, father of Stacey Gold-Matusow, from Shari Schindler
- *In appreciation, from Scott and Adrienne Pollak

Adult Education Fund

- *In loving memory of Sam Schulman, from Anlee & Myron Marcus

Synaplex Circle

Biennial Fund

*In honor of Lisa Borowitz's birthday, from Leni Glauber

Thank You

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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.

Time and Dates: 12:30-2:00 PM

10 Mondays:

September 23, 2019

October 28

November 25

December 16

January 13, 2020

February 24

March 23

April 20

May 18

June 15

Fee: Kol Ami members, \$200; \$225 for non-members

Location:

Congregation Kol Ami 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY

Facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax, Spiritual
Care Coordinator, Westchester Jewish Community
Services

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



Jewish Spiritual Healing Center

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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.

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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

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





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