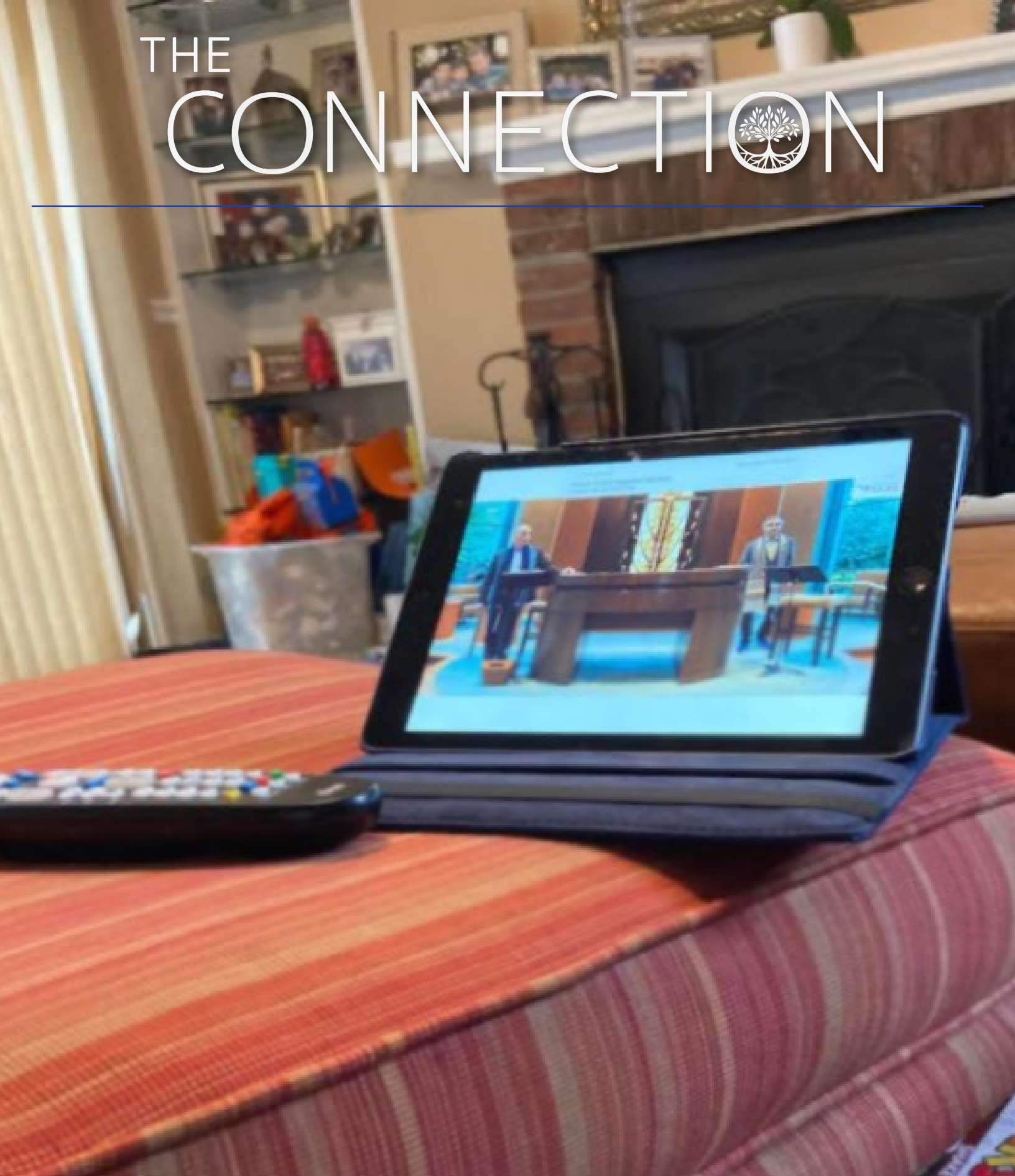


THE CONNECTION



Congregation Kol Ami
1923-2020 ~ 96 Years www.nykolami.org #nykolami
The Summer 2020 Issue



CONGREGATION Kol Ami

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

252 Soundview Avenue ☆ White Plains, New York

914.949.4717 ☆ www.nykolami.org

A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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Maurice Davis ∞

Mark L. Winer

CANTOR EMERITUS

Raymond Smolover ∞

∞ of blessed memory

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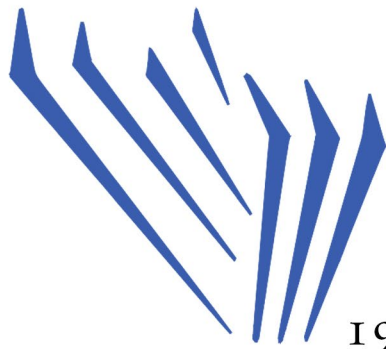
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1923-2019 • 96 YEARS

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

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 ½ acres of land were purchased at Soundview Avenue.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

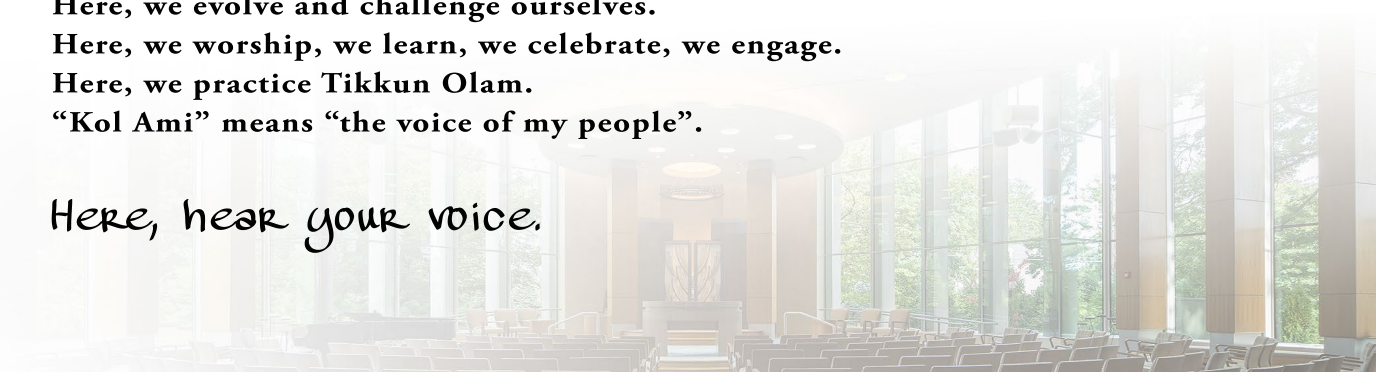
Here, we evolve and challenge ourselves.

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

Here, we practice Tikkun Olam.

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

Here, hear your voice.



Weekly Worship Opportunities

All worship is virtual until we can be together again in person



Shabbat
in the Woods



The Spirit



of



Shabbat

5:30pm Friday Shabbat in the Woods

A weekly Shabbat Service in story and song for families with young children with Rabbi Shira Milgrom.

Zoom Online: Click [here](#) Dial: 1-646-876-9923

Zoom Meeting ID: 891 1651 2442 Password: 8FFCbw



6:15pm Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Service streamed from our Main Sanctuary with Rabbi Tom Weiner, Rabbi Shira Milgrom, Cantor David Rosen, or Interim Cantor Daniel Mendelson.

Click [here](#) to stream the service.



10:00am Saturday Shabbat Lift

Join Rabbi Shira Milgrom and fellow congregants for community, Torah study, and Shabbat services. Join for all or part of the morning. Bring your curiosity!

Online: Click [here](#) Dial: 1-646-876-9923

Zoom Meeting ID: 816 7405 8864 Password: 6fkXyb

Click [here](#) to stream the service.



8:00pm Saturday Evening Havdallah Service

Our virtual Havdallah services, followed by a Saturday evening concert or music is a beautiful way to end Shabbat each week. Please check the *This Week* email every Thursday at 10am for the weekly Havdallah links and information.

Weekly Torah Portions

June

Week ending June 6

Parashat Naso II Numbers 6:1-7:89

In this second part of the parasha of Naso, the obligations of a nazirite vow are explained. They include abstaining from alcohol and not cutting one's hair. The parasha's concluding section begins with the Priestly Blessing, which we recite at the end of Kol Ami's Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday nights, and culminates with a list of the offerings brought by the tribal heads for the ceremony of the dedication of the Tabernacle.

Week ending June 13

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

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

Week ending June 20

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

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

Week ending June 27

Parashat Korach Numbers 16:1-18:32

Three rebels hatch an ill-fated "coup-d'état" against the leadership of Aaron and Moses in this week's parasha. Korach, Datan, and Abiram challenge Moses' and Aaron's leadership in front of the whole Israelite community. Moses offers the people a choice - remain with the Dathan, Abiram, and Korach or separate from them and stand by Moses and Aaron. Those who persist in rebelling face dire punishment. For Dathan, Abiram, and their group, the earth bursts asunder, swallowing them. For Korach and his followers, fire and plague bring death and havoc.

July

Week ending July 4

Parashat Chukat-Balak Numbers 19:1-25:9

This week's double parasha deals with The Ritual Law. Chukat begins with the death of Miriam - Moses' & Aaron's sister - at Kadesh. When the people complain that they have no water to drink, God instructs Moses to take his rod & order a rock to bring forth water. In his anger against the cantankerous people, instead of ordering the rock to produce water, Moses strikes the rock with his rod. As a result of this action, God tells Moses that he will not be allowed to lead the people into the Land of Israel. This responsibility will ultimately be given to Joshua. Moses' brother Aaron dies at Mount Hor and Aaron's son, Eleazer becomes Aaron's successor. In the parasha of Balak, the king of Moab, persuades the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites so that he can defeat them and drive them out of the region. However, when Balaam speaks, the words that come out of his mouth bless the Children of Israel instead. He prophesies that Israel's enemies will be defeated, saying "Ma Tov, ohalecha Ya-akov, mishk'notecha Yisrael - How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." The parasha ends with God punishing the Israelites with a plague after an Israelite man consorts with a Moabite woman. The plague ends when Pinchas kills them.

Week ending July 11

Parashat Pinchas Numbers 25:10-30:1

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

Week ending July 18

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

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

Weekly Torah Portions

Week ending July 25

Parashat Devarim Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

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

August

Week ending August 1

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

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

Week ending August 8

Parashat Ekev Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

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

Week ending August 15

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

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

Week ending August 22

Parashat Shoftim Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

The Israelites remain on the plateau of Moab, across the Jordan River while Moses communicates God's prescriptions and proscriptions for governance. The parashah opens with the command to appoint judges and the regulations for choosing a leader, including a warning that this leader should follow the laws of Torah faithfully. The Israelites are told that they should pursue justice in all of their dealings.

Week ending August 29

Parashat Ki Teitzei Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Parashat Ki'Teitzei contains the greatest number of mitzvot of any single Torah portion, 72 in all, dealing with diverse subjects. These laws cover a wide variety of situations including family, animals, property, interaction with non-Israelites, and commerce. The portion concludes with a warning to remember how the Amalekites attacked the weary Israelites in the desert.

June Calendar

ZOOM CALLS

Please check the weekly This Week email on Thursday mornings at 10am for links and Passwords

Thursdays

4:00pm Conversation with Rabbi Shira

Thursdays

8:00pm 9th-12th Grade Hangout with Barak

Fridays

1:00pm College Lounge Time with Rabbi Tom
Join anytime between 1:00 and 2:00pm

Sundays

10:30am Conversation with Rabbi Shira

Mondays

12:00pm Conversation with Rabbi Tom

Tuesdays

5:00pm Conversation with Cantor David

Tuesdays

7:30pm 7th/8th Grade Hangout with Barak

Wednesdays

3:00pm Conversation with Rabbi Tom

KA Reads Book Club

June 3rd: "The Dutch House" by Anne Patchett

July 1st: "Into The Beautiful North" by Luis Alberta Urrea

Please be in touch with Doris Dingott if you are interested in joining the Zoom meeting. DLdingott@gmail.com or 914-289-0896

Israel in the News

June 2, June 16, June 30th at 7:30pm

Click [here](#) Meeting ID: 801 236 9619

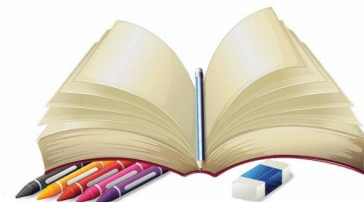
Wisdom of Sages

Every Thursday at 11:00am with Rabbi Tom Weiner

Click [here](#) Meeting ID: 884 5671 4485

Password: 173850

KOL AMI COVID CHRONICLES

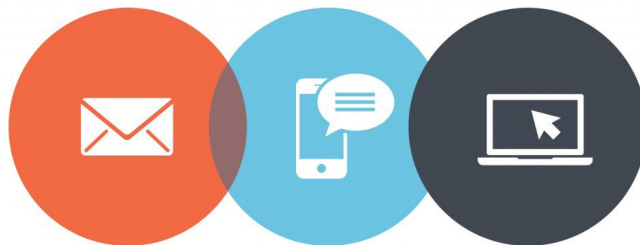


Have you been writing, drawing, or creating art during this difficult time?
Do you have pictures on your phone or camera that you would like to share from your nature walks or your quarantine experience?

We would love to see it!

Email your submissions to covidchronicles@nykolami.org.

[Click here to see what people have already submitted.](#)



Looking to reach out to other
Kol Ami Congregants?! Don't forget to use
our online directory by clicking [here](#).
If you don't have your username and password
please reach out to Emily Campbell
at emilycampbell@nykolami.org

Some of our Clergy's recent sermons are now
available online. If you missed them on
Shabbat, or if you would like to go back and
hear some again you can click [here](#).



A Message from Rabbi Weiner

Pondering a “New Normal”, Again

On more than one occasion, people have likened the heavy sadness and fear of this pandemic to the emotional weight and uncertainty we experienced following the attacks on September 11, 2001. Much of that comes from not knowing when Covid 19 will be over, and even more from worrying what will the new normal be?

I wrote the following words for Rosh Hashanah 2001, which occurred just one week after the attacks of 9/11. I would like to again share the words with which I ended that sermon, because I feel strongly that they are as important for us and our children today as they were in September of 2001:

“Last Tuesday we learned that our world has to change, that things will need to be different. In light of that reality, we need to give our children reassurance, and a promise. (Likely we need them ourselves as well.) You see, children worry mightily that we have lost control over this world, that they are losing the security of what is routine and familiar, that their dreams and plans may be in ashes.

“So first, the reassurance: (And in these words I am very confident.) The world will indeed be different. But know that we are the architects who will rebuild that different world.

“So – we tell our children – “different” does not have to mean “worse”. “Different” can even mean “better”.
“And to our children, the promise: Life will indeed go on and remain filled with great possibilities:

You will grow up and lead long lives.
You will fall in love.
We will dance at your weddings.
You will create families, and have many years filled with joyous times.
You will celebrate with grandchildren of your own.
You will learn fascinating things in life, and even in school.
You will have countless reasons to laugh and giggle and smile.
And sometimes you will cry.
You will travel to far off and wondrous places.
You will feel safe.

“Long ago, following a terrible destruction, the prophet Jerimiah said on God’s behalf: (29:10-11) “I will take note of you, and I will fulfill to you My promise: I am mindful of the plans that I have made for your welfare . . . to give you a hopeful future.”

“And he was right. May he prove to be right again.

Amen,



A Message from Rabbi Milgrom

Longing

When our fabulous 24-hour Zoom-a-Thon ended, the team of organizers decided to gather to celebrate their accomplishments – by zoom of course. The plan: we would meet on zoom and raise a glass of wine.

And as great as that is, all I really wanted to do was to high-five that fabulous team – and to feel everyone's palm against mine.

Like so many of us, at this point in our trek through corona land, I long for physical proximity.

Religions and cultures have long thought about body and spirit. For some, the material life, the life of body and pleasure, is primary. What could matter more than the beauty of sight and sound and fragrance and taste?

For others, it is the life of the spirit that is triumphant. We know the triumph of love and spirit in the face of all kinds of loss; we are, after all, still ourselves, even if we break an arm, or lose our hearing.

Judaism has never endorsed a separation of body and spirit; it doesn't ask us to relinquish one in favor of the other; there is no spiritual celebration of celibacy or asceticism. On the contrary! We have blessings that celebrate beauty. For the blooming trees of the spring, we can say:

Baruch ata Adonai, she-lo chisar b'olamo davar.

Blessed are You in whose world nothing is lacking: who created beautiful creatures and amazing trees for human beings to enjoy.

We have blessings for fragrant spices (we use it at Havdalah), for sighting of rainbows, for the rumble of the thunder and the flash of lightning.

Body and spirit are one. We celebrate beauty and sensual pleasure as gifts of the spirit, gifts of God.

And yes, in our corona-land experience, we are not cut off from the sound of birds nor from walks under beautiful trees. We eat and we drink.

But we do these things alone.

Our spirit has indeed risen in these many weeks; we have worked our way through anxiety and worry, we have reached out to console, we have gathered for shiva minyanim, we have prayed, we have sung, and for the twenty-four hours of that fabulous zoom-a-thon, we laughed and laughed and celebrated our incredible Kol Ami community.

But we long for each other, for the touch of our palms against others.

That's it: a high-five, strong and for real.

I hope the following poem
(shared by my daughter Talia)
provides some solace and sweetness.

I loved it.

I feel a touch like those "day-blind stars
waiting with their light."

We will see the light!

Emi Milgrom

The Peace of Wild Things: for earth day during a pandemic

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
-Wendell Berry



A Message from Cantor Rosen

It goes without saying that this is not the way I pictured that I would address the congregation at our annual meeting. What makes it more challenging is that in many ways, this will be the last time that I formally address this community. But instead of focusing on what “could have been,” I want to take the opportunity to reflect upon and speak about what has been.

I am taken back to July, 19th 2014, which was the first opportunity I had to lead this holy congregation in Friday Night Shabbat Services. There must have been 300 or 400 people in attendance

that night. I recall Rabbi Milgrom addressing the congregation and remember feeling as if the congregation was helping our prayers lift up towards heaven... it was a light and elated feeling...and most of all, I felt like I belonged and in many ways that I had come home. That feeling has never left me to this day.

While I can't believe it has been six years since I became the cantor at Kol Ami, it has also seemed like I have been here a lifetime. I want to apologize in advance if my remarks are a bit long but, like a good sermon, if you doze off I won't be upset.

We have done and shared so many things together in such a short time. We have prayed together both in times of joy and in sorrow. We have weathere global pandemics, anti-Semitism, and other injustices of the world. From crying at the sickness or loss of a loved one, to celebrating at the Torah as your children have become B'nai Mitzvah, you have graciously allowed me to be a part of your life at some of the most vulnerable and emotional moments. For all of this and more, I am eternally grateful.

Our community is one that appreciates and embraces

music from many different genres, denominations and social paradigms. Music is the bridge that helps us to cross troubled waters; it is the sail in strong winds, and it is the song from our hearts. From Friday Night Explorations in Jewish Music, to gala fundraisers with renowned cantors and Broadway superstars, to the sounds of our own musicians expressing themselves through the instrument that expresses their soul, music has certainly enriched all of our lives especially when we can't turn to routine, knowledge or sometimes even reality to quench our thirst.

I am grateful to have worked with our choirs, Kol Echad and Or Chadash. Whether we sang together at an MLK interfaith concert or found ourselves in the recording studio in Manhattan, it has been a blast. And if you are a part of the congregational choir (which is all of you), together we have made our prayers resonate and be heard, and you will continue to make a joyful sound that is surely pleasant to all who choose to listen and participate.

One of the questions that was asked in my interview was what would be one of the biggest musical goals I would have for this community. I remember telling members of the search

committee that we need to create a broad base of musical supporters who would foster the creation of high-quality musical programming to the congregation. They needed to have buy-in and we needed to aim for the stars. To our Friends of the Arts, thank you for making music come alive and for supporting some of my musical visions and dreams for this congregation. I know that this community can count on your continued support and encouragement in the years to come to keep Kol Ami a place where music and the arts flourish.

Another highlight for me during my tenure here was an opportunity to be involved in the creation of new men's programming. These events have truly been a highlight for me, and it is my hope that the momentum that we began to create together will continue and grow for many years to come.

As I reflect upon my journey as this congregation's cantor, I can say with confidence that both personally and professionally, these have truly been some of the best years of my life. At the top of my list are the professional and personal relationships that we have cultivated together over these

past 6 years. I begin with my two clergy partners, Shira and Tom. A cantor's dream does not even scratch the surface of what it means to work with both of you. Shira, your wisdom, advice and guidance has taught me so much. I always feel that I am in the presence of greatness, whether I am standing beside you on the bima, watching you lead this community in time of crisis, or listening to you tell one of your amazing stories. You are an extraordinary human being, both inside and out. Tom, you made me feel comfortable from day one and always seem to know the right thing to say. Watching you on and off the bima is like watching a skilled sofer seamlessly scribe the intricacies of each letter. Your gift with youth, B'nai Mitzvah and teens are infectious (in a good way of course) and it has been so cool to be in your presence and to have been able to work side by side. While both of you in many ways could not be more different in your approach to certain things, somehow the combination of both of you is the perfect storm. Thank you and I love you both dearly.

Jess Lorden and I started around the same time and

while I was not able to fulfill my end of the promise (sorry Jess), it has been such a pleasure to have had this opportunity to be one of your colleagues. I still hold onto my assessment that the Executive Director has the toughest job of any synagogue employee. Jess, you bring such professionalism to this profession and, at the same time, you bring so much heart. You are firm but fair and every decision that you make is done with tremendous care and precision. You believe in the team approach, which ultimately has strengthened the staff and lay leadership to work in tandem to make our community stronger inside and out. I will miss our check-ins and overall looking out for one another. I know you will guide this congregation steadily through the storm and they will be stronger for it on the other side.

Another person that I am fortunate to work closely with is our incredible music Directors and musicians. Alex Hopkins, you are talent and life personified. Not only have you brought so much to our worship and community, but on a personal and professional level, you have made me a better cantor, musician, and you have also become a great friend. And to Lenora Eve, one of the most spiritual and nurturing human beings I know: your influence on me and many other cantors is unmeasurable and what you have given to this community is the gift of music that comes from your beautiful soul.

Pam Pass and Nan Blank, I am grateful for your collegiality and I think that one of the things that both of you do so well is

putting the kids first. I have witnessed both of you care for children, their families, and the community at large in many ways. Barak Stockler, I have always admired your maturity... one which is clearly beyond your years. You have an uncanny ability to rally a group of kids or teens and to always make the best of any situation. I know the future is only extremely bright for you, my friend.

Emily, it goes without saying that I will miss our conversations and of course watching our children Morgan and Joel grow up together. I am also grateful to Madiha's incredible perspective on life, Paul and his many talents, and the wonderful support staff that I have been blessed to be surrounded by during these years. And to our wonderful teachers in the ECP and religious school, our custodial staff and so many others: you have all added greatly to my life and the life of this congregation.

I have also been blessed to work with incredible lay leaders and under the reign of three different presidents. Scott and Susan, you have led this community through some of the toughest challenges that most presidents could not have even dreamed of in their worst nightmare. And you have done it with the right amount of caution, diligence, and compassion. I am grateful for your guidance, compassion and comradery over these past six years and you both certainly have earned a well-deserved rest from your presidential duties. Hank Rouda: I have had the opportunity to work with many congregational presidents over my career. But I can say with great certainty and

admiration that there has only been one Hank Rouda. To say that you take your presidency and leadership both at the temple and within the movement with great pride and responsibility would be a huge understatement. Your commitment and dedication to your own practice as a Reform Jew, to this congregation, and to how both of those things relate to the bigger picture is simply remarkable. You seamlessly connect both you and this community together and in turn help to fulfill the mission to make the world a better place for present and future generations. I am grateful to you and Jean for your support over the years and, most of all, your friendship.

To my successor, your interim Cantor Daniel Mendelson, you are one lucky Cantor. Congregation Kol Ami is now your congregation, your community and, as you will quickly see, your family. They will be vocal yet gentle, accepting, and embracing of the wonderful musical and spiritual gifts that I know you will bring to their midst. Your beautiful voice, menshlickit, willingness to try new things, and capacity to create will serve both you and the congregation in a wonderful way. It is my hope and prayer that both you and the congregation continue to go from strength to strength.

Finally, I cannot end my remarks without a debt of gratitude to each and every one of you, my Kol Ami Family. In this week's Torah portion, Behar-Bechukotai, we learn about the shmitah or Sabbatical year. In essence, every seventh year is a Shabbat for the land when the land gets to "rest." This means that for six years, farmers may work on the land, sowing seeds so things should grow, pruning to help the plants grow better, and harvesting the fruit and vegetables to sustain their community. But in the seventh year, the year of shemitah, the land must be allowed to rest, and there can be no planting or harvesting. It is an opportunity to replenish and renew.

To my Kol Ami family, I thank you for allowing me to till the soil with you, to have shed sunlight and water on our seeds, to have grown together, and to have helped sustain one another through our sacred work together.

It is not easy to come to a community when you know very few people; one is unfamiliar with their customs and may not entirely speak the language. But what is more difficult is when you decide to leave that congregation when it has become your home. Kol Ami, you have been a rock for Ilyse, Joel and me and you have given us memories and moments that will surely last a lifetime.

As we say goodbye for now in this odd and unnatural way, I know that the three of us look forward to the day when we can physically embrace one another to express our love and gratitude for all the wonderful things we have shared together. Thank you



A Message from Iterim Cantor Daniel Mendelson



Dear Congregation Kol Ami,

I cannot thank you enough for inviting me into your community. Having such a warm and vibrant new congregational home is enormously exciting for me. Getting to return to my very own White Plains “hood” adds an especially sweet flavor to this occasion.

It goes without saying that these are frightening and uncertain times. It’s nearly impossible to know when we will be able to gather together as a community in song. Please know that I am committed to bringing our voices together, virtually or otherwise, over the next year in a spiritually uplifting and engaging way.

I want to thank Cantor David Rosen for his immeasurable generosity and friendship. It’s not lost on me how significant his impact has been on Kol Ami. I hope to carry his musical, educational and relational legacy forward in the coming year.

From the beginning of this process, Rabbi Shira Milgrom and Rabbi Tom Weiner have treated me with such kindness and respect. I cannot wait to join this beautiful clergy team. Under their leadership, the professional staff and lay leadership have welcomed me with open arms. And a special note of thanks to outgoing presidents Susan Kohn and Scott Musoff for their encouragement and thoughtfulness, and to incoming president Hank Rouda for his guidance and support.

We are entering a year together that is certain to be unlike any other in recent memory.

I am grateful to be on this ride with all of you.

Wishing everyone good health,
Cantor Danny

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Mendelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A Message from our Co-President Susan Arovas



Gratitude

As some of you know, I married into a boating family. Greg and his father grew up navigating the Long Island Sound, and that tradition continues with our family. As a married couple, Greg and I owned a boat for years before we owned a car. Greg likes to justify this by telling people that we lived on an island - so, of course, it made sense to have a boat and not a car - but in reality we lived on the exotic Island of Manhattan, and our boat didn't make it any easier for us to travel from our home on the Upper West Side to our offices in midtown.

As someone who believes in the power of words, I have always been intrigued by the tradition of naming boats. When Greg and I purchased ours, we spent countless days searching for the perfect name. Something meaningful but not overly sentimental. Something witty but not kitschy. We thought we struck gold when Greg came up with "Hooky." At that point in our lives - both of us at the beginning of demanding law careers - any time spent on a boat necessarily felt like time playing hooky. And, of course, there was the "hook" part. Greg was an aspiring fisherman - at least in his own mind.

Throughout the past 15 years, Greg and our kids have taken great joy from reading the names of boats we've encountered. Sweet names like Misty. Funny names like Unsinkable II. But no name seemed more compelling to me than ours. Until last year. As we entered a harbor on the other side of the Sound, among the many boats was one that could be described simply as . . . majestic. She was as graceful as any sailboat I had seen - a slender, deep blue wooden hull with tall, crisp white sails. She wasn't new, but she clearly was lovingly maintained and enjoyed. And her name was Gratitude. I remember pausing, almost breathless, after I read the name. Gratitude. Yes, that's what being on the water represents for us now. Gratitude for the boat. Gratitude for time permitting us to be on the boat. Gratitude for the family with whom I share this precious time on the boat. Gratitude for the warmth of sunshine, for the fresh salt air, for the cool blue water. And so, as I thought about my term as Co-President, I couldn't help but think of it as a journey on that beautiful sailboat named Gratitude. These past three years have taken me on an uncharted course, with smooth sailing most of the way but at times in waters that were a bit rough and unpredictable.

I would like to talk briefly about those rough waters — You see, I believe it is through challenging times that we learn about ourselves and the strength of our community. Scott and I had the distinction of being Co-Presidents at the time of the Tree of Life shooting, the greatest mass killing of Jews on American soil. We saw anti-semitism in full force in Charlottesville and, sadly, right here in our local communities. And here we are now, amidst the greatest pandemic in a century. These could have been times of panic and disillusionment. To the contrary, our Clergy, our staff, our lay leadership, our congregation — responded to each of these tragedies with strength, compassion, conviction, purpose, and hope. I have never been prouder than I am today to be part of this Kol Ami community, and I want to assure you that despite all the uncertainty in the world, I have no doubt — no doubt whatsoever — that our strength and commitment to each other will only grow from here.

So, as our presidency sails into the sunset, I would like to express my gratitude for three of the most rewarding years of my life. First, I thank you, the congregation: For entrusting our beloved community with me; for supporting me and the work of our Board; for giving me your friendship, for strengthening my sense of community, and for filling my heart with your love.

I thank the Clergy for their partnership, wisdom, and guidance. Shira - I trace my connection to the word gratitude to you. You have modeled it — and its true expression — so beautifully, powerfully, and meaningfully. I learned from you

to experience and express gratitude for our many blessings — large and small — which has deepened my connection to and appreciation for the people and world around me. Tom - Your deep connection to and care for our community, your brilliant humor, your personal expressions and interactions — at times of joy and celebration, loss and sorrow, and in the everyday — are a true gift. David - Your voice, your music, and your presence has enriched our lives immeasurably. But you are so much more than a talented cantor, you are a beautiful soul. I feel blessed to have helped lead the congregation during your time here and will miss you and your family deeply.

I am grateful for each member of our staff: For the privilege to work with Pam and Nan to help guide our schools and our children - our future — with Tracey, Lisa, and Gina and our talented, caring, dedicated teachers in the Religious School and the ECP; and with Barak for engaging and inspiring our youth; For the absolute joy of working with our professional team: Madiha, Bea, Emily, Alison, Ginny, and Kay (who no longer has to hold her breath as she waits for my relentless edits). You all are so much more than colleagues — you have become an extension of my family. For the pleasure of working with our tireless custodial staff, led by Paul. No matter how busy you all are (and you always are busy), you always greet me with a warm smile, and never hesitate to help whenever and however needed. You are the unsung heroes around our building, and I am grateful for all you do.

For the honor of working with our Board of Trustees and, in particular, Kol Ami's past presidents and the members of our Executive Committee — Rachel, David, Lisa, Jonathan, Judi, Michael and Michael — Scott and I are profoundly grateful to have benefitted from and relied upon your intelligence, your deep love for Kol Ami, and your sense of responsibility for and to the congregation. Thank you for your leadership and partnership.

To Hank, whose intelligent, thoughtful leadership guided me from the time I first became a Trustee, whose counsel and friendship I value beyond measure, and who will no doubt provide a steady hand as he once again takes the helm — thank you.

For the absolute joy and greatest privilege of working with and learning from Jess. Jess, the strength of your leadership is matched only by your love for and commitment to Kol Ami. Through these three years, you have been a most trusted colleague, a creative, inventive thinker, a tireless worker, a champion of social action and justice, an enthusiastic cheerleader of all things Kol Ami, and, most important to me, a friend. Jess, I don't know if you realize the profound impact you have had on my life. It has been an honor to work alongside you.

For the blessing of having the most incredible co-captain with whom to navigate the journey. I literally start each day thanking G-d for Scott Musoff. Scott - never before have I worked with someone whom I so fully trust, respect, and admire. And never before have I seen someone so naturally, thoughtfully, and lovingly lead an organization. To every matter — no matter how significant — you bring intelligence, commitment, and care. Your humor is a talent and a gift that has gotten me through countless challenging moments. And you have a heart of gold - which in my opinion, as my kids will tell you, is the truest sign of character. You and your beautiful, strong, loving, caring family — Cindy, Dani, Jamie and Jenna — will always hold a special place in my heart.

Finally, to my family. Thank you - For understanding all those Thursday nights when dinner consisted of a takeout menu and credit card. For all the evenings when homework help was given by text during meeting breaks or in between phone calls. For all those holidays when you caught a mere glimpse of my silhouette as I set Erev meals on the table and rushed out the door to make it to services on time. For all those HHD mornings when you sat without your wife and mother by your side. And, mostly, I thank you for how you have filled my heart with your love, support and understanding. Your faces in the congregation — the night I accepted the nomination 3 years ago and each and every time since then that I stepped on the Bimah — your beautiful, beaming smiles forever are etched in my memory. You are a gift, a blessing, my world.

* * *

So, it is with heartfelt and a heart full of gratitude that I move on from this stage of the journey. May you and Kol Ami be blessed with clear skies, calm winds, and following seas.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.



A Message from our Co-President Scott Musoff



It was probably around 16 years ago that my wife Cindy first joined the Board here at Kol Ami. I have a rough idea of the timing because I recall her telling me a story that when our youngest Jenna was born, Rabbi Shira encouraged Cindy to come to the Board meetings while she was nursing. Viewing it as a gift and not a burden. Jenna is now almost 16. Cindy then went on to the Executive Board as a Vice President serving under Past Presidents Ronnie and Mark and eventually along-side as Vice Presidents, Past President and president-elect Hank Rouda. During all those years, I never pictured myself up here giving my third and final Annual Meeting remarks. But it was Cindy's dedicated service to Kol Ami, including her role as ECP chair for the last 15 years or so that inspired me to get more involved. Sometime after Cindy's terms on the Board and Exec expired, I was asked if I would serve on the Board. Up until that time, one of my primary roles at Kol Ami was prosecuting biblical figures – no small feat cross-examining Abraham I might add. As I've stated many times before, I am a true believer that strong synagogue life is integral to the survival of North American Jewry so I readily agreed to serve on the Board. I realized that so many served before me to ensure that when my family moved from New York City to Westchester we were fortunate to find a vibrant Reform Jewish synagogue like Kol Ami and I owed not only to our existing members but to those that came after to serve. But I still never realized I would be sitting up here. A few years later, though, I ended up in a corner table at City Limits with Rabbis Shira and Tom and Past Presidents Ronnie and Mark, who were chairing the nominating committee. While I was there to enjoy my lox, eggs and onions (and the company), we had serious discussion about whether I would entertain being nominated for Co-President of Kol Ami. Between work and family, I never thought I would be able to find the time necessary to devote to such a position and I didn't want to do it if I didn't think I could do it with my full heart, mind and soul. But then – with the sage advice of my family, the Clergy and several past presidents – I realized if it's important enough to you, you can find a way to make the time. And I realized Kol Ami – our members, our staff, our clergy, our community – is that important. And I agreed with a full heart, mind and soul. And one that has gotten more full each and every day I have been privileged and honored to serve as your Co-President and to serve along one of the most remarkable human beings I have ever met. More on that in a few minutes.

It's hard to sum up in remarks the overwhelming emotions and sentiments I have on reflecting over the past three years -- from Charlottesville to Pittsburgh to Poway to a Pandemic but also from High Holidays to Simchas to Torat Chayim to Dancing on the Bima to the Zoom-a-Thon. All of it – the ups and the downs – with the ups outweighing the downs, all add up to one incredible community that continues to grow, prosper and come together. As I've said from here before, one of the unintended consequences of becoming Co-President has been finding ways to make the time to go to programming, events, and services that in the past I would have missed. What I learned is that it's more than just supporting the sustaining of a strong synagogue life that drew me to board and officer service, but this particular synagogue – Kol Ami. I'm realistic enough to recognize that just as kids think there summer camp is the best in world, that my love for Kol Ami is part because this is where I am, this is where I raised my kids since the ECP. But I will tell you something first hand – and we've proven it over and over again the last few months – this is a special place.

And I've never been more proud of this community than I have been since Covid-19 crisis from feeding those less fortunate to connecting thousands of people through services and programming. In the face of this pandemic and quarantining, we did not shrink or isolate. We grew and made ourselves felt by coming together. And we will continue to connect, to pray and sing and dance and cheer and cry and mourn and love together. We are – you are – Kol Ami.

A few other quick thoughts I wanted to pass on from my vantage point. There is so much going on here at Kol Ami – diverse and deep programming and schooling and worshipping. And so many people have a favorite or a priority or a view on how things should be done. But what makes this the Kol Ami community and not a series of activities is the way we come together and compromise to meld all of these things into one incredible Jewish community. So please, when you think of Kol Ami, recognize that not everything may be exactly as you would do it, but it's the whole package that counts. And change is opportunity. Even the crisis has given us so many positives to be grateful for – for me family time and attending every Friday Kabbalat Shabbat since March 16. So take a deep breath, sit back for a moment, be present and reflect with gratitude that we have Kol Ami.

As Rabbi Shira has often said, the reason we are able to thrive is because we when faced with the Covid crisis we were not starting from scratch. We had the deepest of roots and connections forming this vibrant and strong community. And I can tell you this does not happen by accident. So now some thanks. And like at the Academy Awards, I'm sure to forget some very important people and for that I apologize in advance. I want to offer my gratitude to the following:

- Cindy, Dani, Jamie and Jenna
- Skadden and clients
- Our Executive Committees and Boards
- Past Presidents – all of them but especially Lisa, Ronnie, Mark and Hank
- Clergy – Rabbi Shira, Rabbi Tom and Cantor David
- Pam and Nan and teachers
- Emily, Alison, Madiha, Bea, Ginny and Kay and volunteers in the office
- Barak
- Paul and custodians
- Jess Lorden
- Susan Kohn Arovas

And I am grateful to all of you. At that City Limits Diner, they told me they were proposing Susan as the Co-President. My instinct had never been better because I knew that morning how remarkable she would be. When Susan and I began together we just wanted to leave Kol Ami in a better place than when we started and, although there is more we would have liked to do, I believe we have done that. We are proud today to say that the state of Kol Ami is strong. And those were the best darn lox, eggs and onions I have ever had because it was the best decision and there has never been a single regret.

For that I am eternally grateful.



A Message from our President-Elect Hank Rouda



I'm humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as the next President of this warm, welcoming, and spiritual community. It's been a great pleasure to watch and work with Susan and Scott for these past 3 years. They exemplify the attributes of effective leaders: compassion, drive, empathy, the ability and desire to listen, fiscal focus, good problem-solving skills, and a strong sense of the moral approach to leadership. And at no time have those traits been more evident than in their truly remarkable leadership through this current health crisis. We all have been well served by their leadership and we owe them a tremendous thank you for all that they have done to sustain, comfort and lead us.

When the Nominating Committee first discussed with me the possibility of my returning to the Presidency, I spent time thinking about what I would hope to accomplish, and several things immediately came to mind. But, as the old Yiddish saying goes, "Man plans and G-d laughs". First, Cantor David announced that he was leaving and then the pandemic hit with all its isolating force. Our focus has been and will continue to be the continued support of and connection with and among the members of our holy community.

I want to take a minute to express to Cantor David what is in so many of our hearts. Put simply, we are heartbroken. It's almost impossible for us to remember a time when you, Ilyse and Joel weren't a part of our lives. And not just a part, but an integral and beloved part. Your voice has captivated us, but it's your soul that has woven its way into the very fabric of our being. There are no words that can adequately say to you how much we will miss you. So, instead, we will all wish the best for the three of you and know that you will always be a part of our lives.

So many of us have participated in the myriad virtual opportunities that our clergy, lay leadership, educators and staff have created. Our educators are using all the tools at their disposal to make sure that our children can continue their Jewish education. And our clergy have been there throughout to support our spiritual and emotional needs, all the while innovating to bring us as close together as we can be. And who can forget that unbelievable 24 hours of us "Coming Together" as Kol Ami with our very own twin Jerry Lewis's – our Music Director, Alex Hopkins and one of our Co-Presidents, Scott "Pinky" Musoff.

I would love to believe that, when our new officers and I take office on July 1, this will all be behind us, but magical thinking like that is not what we need. Rather, we

need to continue to find ways to safely laugh together, mourn together, learn together, pray together, just be together. Our planning for the coming fiscal and programming year continues unabated. And I want to emphasize that the health and safety of our community will always be our highest priority. Every action that we take is guided by that principle and shapes all our decisions.

But one thing that Rabbi Shira shares with us every Shabbat is that we must hope, hope in a better world. And as an extension, a better community. And that was part of the goals that I had set when I first contemplated returning to this role that I so cherished. One of the touchstones that we have continued to hold dear is the ability to connect with our congregants, even through this surreal experience. We cannot lose sight of that goal once connection becomes more of a physically attainable accomplishment. We must continue to find ways to weave that connection throughout all that we do.

A common pitfall among leaders is to believe that those in their communities feel and believe the same way that they do. There can be such a case of confirmation bias that you completely miss what is of critical importance to a wide variety of those who you are supposed to represent. In order to help me and our leadership truly understand what's on your mind, I'd like to schedule a series of "coffees" with groups of you as we move through the summer. I had hoped to be able to do these in person (and perhaps we might still be able to do some that way), but, for now, we'll have to drink our coffee together virtually. More details on these get togethers will be coming and I hope that you're willing and able to participate and share your honest thoughts and feelings.

The impact of the current economic situation, the change in Jewish

demographics and the time pressures of modern life necessitate vigilance. We will not waiver in our commitment to ensure that anyone who wishes to be a part of this Congregation can do so, but we are realistic about the possible impact that our current situation may have on our budget and we will diligently plan to operate within the confines of the reality with which we may be faced.

The circumstances of modern life require that we, as a religious institution, evolve and recognize the time limitations and lifestyle issues of our congregants and prospective new members. We need to continue to look at all of our programming, be it worship, social, social justice or cultural, and make sure that it meets the needs of our members and our community. We need to ask the "why" question rather than just the "what". And, just as importantly, find ways to make our own members and the broader Lower Westchester area aware of the tremendous community that is Congregation Kol Ami.

I am very excited to work with our fantastic Clergy, including our new Interim Cantor, Danny Mendelson, our Executive Committee – Vice Presidents, Michael Elkin, Andrew Levenson and Michael Zweig, Treasurer David Okun and Secretary Liz Mayeri, the Board and the Temple staff. Thank you for the trust that you have shown in me, the other officers and the Board, and we look forward to working with all of you as we strengthen this kehilah kadosha – this holy community.

Hank Rouda

A Message from our Executive Director Jess Lorden



Community connection has become even more important as the Coronavirus outbreak has spread to the entire world, taking an enormous amount of loved ones from us. Fortunately, those who feel a sense of security, belonging, and trust in their community enjoy better health. Isolation, in particular among our single and older congregants, is of significant concern to us.

Physical distancing can be difficult, making coming together and finding ways to strengthen our communities that much more imperative. At Kol Ami we have been devising numerous and creative ways to join together and support each other through these difficult times.

- We connected over 1000 people - young, old, and everyone in between
- Our Early Childhood and Religious School teachers have been meeting with their students in virtual classrooms to teach, play, and connect in new ways
- Our clergy has been connecting with congregants through daily Zoom Gali Gali calls
- Our youngest families showed up in record numbers at our weekly Zoom Shabbat in the Woods services, and it has been so wonderful to see so many smiling faces
- We worshipped together in record numbers on Friday night and Saturday mornings via live streaming
- We joined together on Saturday evenings for beautiful Havdalah services and concerts provided by our professional musicians and guest musicians
- Co-hosts Alex Hopkins and Scott Musoff emceed 24 hours of virtual variety entertainment and successfully FUN(draided) over \$100,000 during our Come Together Kol Ami Zoom-a-Thon
- We met together to de-stress in two weekly meditation and mindfulness sessions this past month
- During this time of increasing unemployment claims and families suffering from food insecurity, dedicated volunteers (including many of our college students who are home) under the leadership of Pam Millian and David Elcott, have been providing up to 340 bags from the Kol Ami Pantry each week to those in need throughout Westchester
- We've delivered groceries and other supplies to the elderly and at-risk neighbors who are particularly vulnerable at this time
- Our smiling volunteers delivered Shabbat meals each week to some of our older congregants and other congregants in need under Liz Ilberg's leadership
- Our Trustees initiated an out-reach effort to check-in with each congregant
- We've come together to share in the joy of a b'nai mitzvah and participate in a shiva minyan to comfort those who are in mourning via Zoom technology
- We congregated together to play virtual Bingo (and raise money for Kol Ami) led by Liz Ilberg, with support from Judy Sarch and Alison Adler

- We donated face masks to families at the Coachman Family Center
- We sent e-cards to those in our family celebrating simchas and experiencing sorrow
- We donated to the Fund for the Needy in record numbers to support our Food Pantry and the delivery of Shabbat diners
- Together, we found reasons for hope and optimism while viewing the documentary Defiant Requiem and participating in a question and answer with Maestro Murry Sidlin as part of our Yom Hashoah observance

I am proud and pleased that so many members of our Kol Ami family have risen to this challenge, and want to express my gratitude for the kindnesses that so many congregants showed us when our son got sick with COVID-19.

What have we learned from this experience?

- In the midst of a crisis, kindness counts. Receiving words of encouragement and inspiration can really help lift someone's spirits, and we can all use that right now
- In the age of physical distancing, it's important to keep in mind that we will get through this together, even though we aren't seeing each other on a daily basis. The personal sacrifices that we are making every day to stay at home are for the health of our larger community. We can still support one another by reaching out with kindness and offering help where we can, although we might not be able to gather in large groups
- We still have so many things for which we can be grateful
- When we do get to the other side of this virus, and we will, staying connected will have strengthened our community

On a personal note, this summer will look very different for the Lorden family than we originally planned. Our daughter Sarah and her fiancé Alex planned a large July 4th wedding celebration at a beautiful venue in the Finger Lakes. Instead, they will share an intimate ceremony and meal with immediate family only in our backyard. We are so proud of the kids for making this difficult decision. I look forward to seeing all of you soon and hearing about your summer.....and please ask to see wedding photos, as I'll be so happy to share them with you!

In appreciation for each member of our community,

Jess Lorden

A Message from our ECP Director Nan Blank



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

Big thank you goes to our parents and Temple volunteer community who worked diligently on our S'mores in the Sukkah evening hosted by Polly and Justin Klein, Our Mom's Night Out hosted by Polly Klein, Stacey Balaban and Hillary Seif, Turkey Trot, Chanukah Party, our Family Concert afternoon, our Sukkot Dinner and Crafts evening, our Book Fair chaired by Sara Elkin, Our Couples Evening Chaired by Jessica Shatz, Melissa Jordan, Stacey Balaban, Lisa Berman and Jen Madison, our Bring your Favorite Guy to School Day, Havdalah in PJ's, and our Yearbook Chaired by Emily Campbell, Tracey Schweber and Lisa Cohen. With your support and dedication our year was filled with excitement and fun; together, we continued to create a Community of Friends One Family at a Time and for this I am truly thankful.

It is with a heart filled with gratitude and sweet memories that I share with you my decision to retire from my position as Director of the Early Childhood Program of Congregation Kol Ami in mid-August 2020. Being the Director of the ECP for the past 16 years has been one of the greatest honors of my life and for this privilege I will remain forever grateful to my staff, our present and past families, and members of the Congregation.

After my husband Wesley retired from his medical practice it was natural to consider possible new futures. With much reflection I came to realize it is time for me to embark on a new journey, and start the next chapter of my life with Wesley, our daughters, sons-in-law and 5 (and counting) grandchildren. I have come to understand that there will never be a right time, the best time, or a good time to leave my position, one that I have cherished. For me, this is as close to the right time as I will ever feel.

My position at Kol Ami has filled my life with immeasurable fulfillment. The connections and community that I have helped to create over these years have added a sense of endless joy. Kol Ami has been my second family, and my home away from home. When I began my tenure at Kol Ami I quickly started to renew, refresh and build a warm and nurturing community for both our staff and our families. Over the years, besides nurturing our incredible school program we have created and cultivated family programming, developed our Shabbat in the Woods and holiday opportunities, and created classes for young toddlers, and Pre-K programming for young 5's. I am proud to have helped expand our Congregation's footprint, creating two gardens, refurbishing our two playgrounds, and building a state-of-the-art Outdoor Classroom.

It has been a great pleasure to work all of these years under the direction of Rabbi Shira, Rabbi Tom, Cantor Mo, and Cantor David, our partnership has meant so much to me. I am grateful for the care and support of all our past presidents: Lisa Borowitz, David Lee, Neil Tucker, Marc Seiden, Ronnie Cohn, Hank Rouda, Susan Arovas, and Scott Musoff. Working over the years alongside Jane Friedberg, Janet Hershey, Madiha Tubman, Ilene Miller, Rachel Edelson, Felice Miller Baritz, Jess Lorden, Emily Campbell, Pam Pass, Tracey Schweber, and Lisa Cohen have been a true highlight. To Paul Mauro, I will never be able to thank you enough for all you and your staff have done for the nursery school. To Javier and Ernestina, thank you for all the care and concern you had for me and our school. I am grateful to my ECP Chair Cindy Musoff who has tirelessly worked by my side, and helped me to teach our First Friends program. And to my ECP staff, past and present, I will cherish our times together always.

Our ECP community is strong and vibrant and I am confident it will remain a school to be proud of. Over these next few months I will do everything in my power to help make my transition a smooth one for our school and the Temple community.

With gratitude,

Nan Blank

A Message from our Religious School Director Pam Pass

It was a crazy year to be new in my role as Religious School Director!

It's almost hard to remember that this year we were together at Kol Ami for 6 months and learning virtually for just 2-1/2. We had many favorite and eagerly anticipated events before we retreated to our homes in the face of this pandemic: our Sukkot Festival, Family Shabbats, our 3rd grade sleepover, Catskill Puppet Theater Show during Synaplex, field trips to Jewish museums and the HUC Soup Kitchen, Mini-Camp, Confirmation weekend, and Holocaust speakers, just to name a few. Our classrooms were brimming with lively learning, engaged students, and meaningful conversations.



I could not be more appreciative of how our families and teachers all pivoted rather smoothly into this new reality. And while I have (mildly) cursed technology along with all the pundits (might Facebook just be the worst 20th century invention?), thank God for it! It was a joy and a blessing to be able to be together, to connect, to learn, to share, to see each other! Although we had both programming that we couldn't do in the traditional way and lessons/activities that translated seamlessly, distance learning opened up a world of possibilities to teach, connect, and find meaning in new and wonderful ways. Our students had fun with Kahoot quizzes, online polls, and in-home hunts...virtually visiting the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo...writing a song together... making Word Clouds...spinning the wheel to answer Hebrew questions in ways we could only do online. Without missing a beat, our 8th graders worked together to create a phenomenal video to lead the Congregational Yom HaShoah service remotely. We even had some home deliveries and Facetime and phone calls, and we got to see lots of smiles.

Our remote attendance in all areas was exemplary. We were so happy to become the place where kids could connect with friends and teachers, and when parents could have some time to relax. We are proud to have received such appreciative and supportive comments from our parents. Below are just a few examples of many.

~ "My daughter really enjoys Hebrew school, which makes us extremely happy because she struggles quite a bit in school...You have obviously had a great effect on her because she just said to me yesterday 'mom, thank you for signing me up for Hebrew school.' That made me so happy to hear :) Thanks!"

~ "My son said, 'She is the only teacher who really understands me, gets what I am saying. She has really brought me into the circle of Jewish life.' Thank you for fostering his love of learning and Jewish life."

~ "My son seems happy when I pick him up and often is telling us stuff about class. Thanks for your help with everything!"

~ "My son wakes up every Sunday excited to go to Hebrew school. The lessons learned he shares with us at home. Your teaching and the 2nd grade team specialist staff have made a positive impact on him and we can tell he is encouraged to be his best self. Thank you!! Thank you for knowing our child so well."

~ "My daughter enjoys going to Hebrew School. Keep up the good work!"

~ Amazing!!! So glad we can do zoom! That is great news!

~ Hi! Kids really liked doing Zoom, thanks. My son was thrilled to see his friends. I have to say, I had respect for teachers before, but after 3 days of homeschool, I am in awe of all of you.

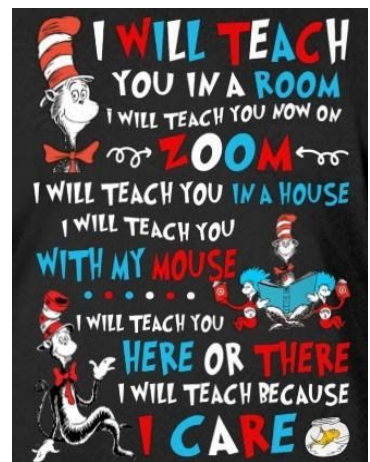
~ Thank you all for keeping the kids learning and engaged during this crazy time!! And giving me 20 minutes to fold laundry!

~ Just a quick note to say kol hakavod for activating the teachers so quickly to get online learning going... My daughter wistfully said that she missed Religious School.

~ Thank you for all the temple is doing for us and the kids during this time.

As you have seen, our connection is remaining beyond the last day of school. We continue to plan fun and meaningful activities for our students and families. Our care and concern for our Religious School families lives beyond the confines of the school year. And now for the million-dollar question—What about this coming year? We have been extremely busy planning for the Fall, and the myriad scenarios: Will we be able to be all together? How will that look different? Will we be advised to continue keeping our current distance? Will it be a combination of these? Our foremost goal is to make decisions that prioritize the health and safety of our students, our families, and our teachers. We will re-open only in a manner which is safe and compliant with all CDC and government mandates and recommendations.

We look forward with hope and love to a time when we can all be together again.



- Pam Pass

A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement Barak Stockler



These past few weeks have been some of the craziest of our lives. Schools, gyms, restaurants, and plenty of places are shut down. With the times being this way, it is increasingly hard to decide how to feel—Hopeful? Happy? Dreadful? Sad?

Life in this shutdown can easily be a violent mix of emotions.

I think this is because we are experiencing life in a drastically different way than we anticipated. For all of us, life has changed for better and worse. We cannot go exercise like we used to, whether that was recreational sports, or the gym. But we also get to work from home, and we have more free time to invest in hobbies, like reading. But I am sure we all miss going into work and seeing our coworkers. There is also family, we get to spend more time with family now, which is really appreciated. But we also cannot go see family that we otherwise would have been able to, be that in Israel, NY, or around the United States.

These contrasting experiences are something that we all face, and I think we could all write down much more than I did. Trying to narrow down how these dual experiences make me feel is hard. I recently read a piece by one of my favorite artists, Damian from Ok Go, who I think helped to put this in the right words.

He said:

"For all of us, the future has gotten scarier and more unknowable, and it's bearing down on us faster. But for me, as this new strain of anxiety has spread, it's brought an incongruous companion: a new breed of hope. It's subtle and diffuse, but in the moments when the anxiety lets up, it's there, hovering in the periphery of my consciousness."

What Damian is getting at here is that this unfathomable time of challenge also brings with it a new hope. This new hope stems from the incredible resilience of our humanity, our collective action to help each other. Damian continues, speaking about change and how it affects everyone. He becomes more and more positive on the situation; he is even a survivor of COVID-19 himself.

Now I do not think Damian's positivity and hope are misplaced, in fact, it is much appreciated, and we need more of it in our lives. But I think there is something else that needs to be added to Damian's message. I want to make something clear here, to my wonderful High School and Middle School students, to the parents of those wonderful kids, and everyone here at Kol Ami: it is okay and fine to not be hopeful or positive. It is okay to be sad, angry even. It is also okay to be confused and uncertain. Just know that whatever you are feeling, our community is pushing through this together.

Here at Kol Ami we are working hard to push through the anxiety that comes with this situation into positivity and change. We are and will continue to adapt to these changing circumstances, so if and when you need some positivity or spirit in your life, we are here for you.

Barak Stockler

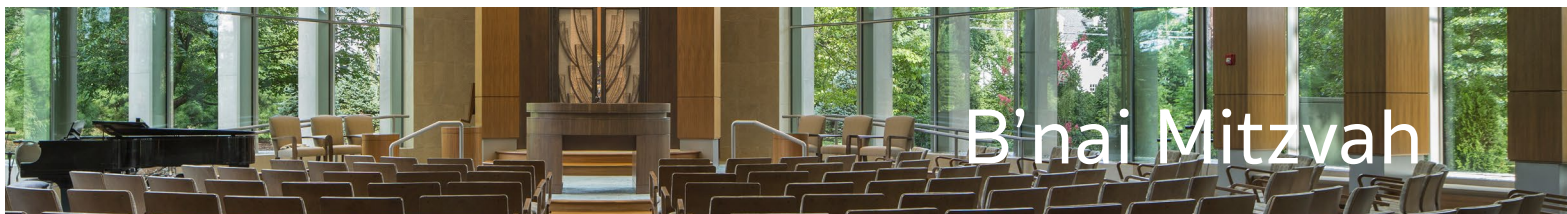
Welcome Rabbinic Intern Noah Lawrence! Joining us for the 2020-2021 Academic Year



Noah Lawrence is a rising fourth-year rabbinical student at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Noah has this past year taught Kol Ami's men's study Ethical Masculinity, and this summer will be serving as rabbinic resident at Community Synagogue of Rye. Fluent in Hebrew, Noah serves on HUC's Worship Working Group, which shapes the seminary's prayer life, and his teaching has featured modern Jewish thought, Torah with commentaries from classical to modern, stories and characters in the Talmud, and modern Jewish song lyrics. His writing has appeared in CNN Opinion, the Yale Israel Journal, The Jerusalem Post, and Newsweek.

Noah grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts. He received a BA with distinction from Yale where he was a Hillel leader, received a JD from NYU Law where he studied Jewish thought with Moshe Halbertal, and served at the Israeli Supreme Court and the UN Yugoslavia tribunal in The Hague before entering rabbinical school.

Noah is excited to continue with the Kol Ami team and family. Especially in these challenging times, Noah is devoted to growing the relationships he has been forming, and to sharing more texts and ideas that speak to us as American Jews in our moment. He looks forward to listening to what's on people's minds, to exploring Judaism together with varied voices around one table, and in the old kibbutz spirit, to serving the community in any way needed.



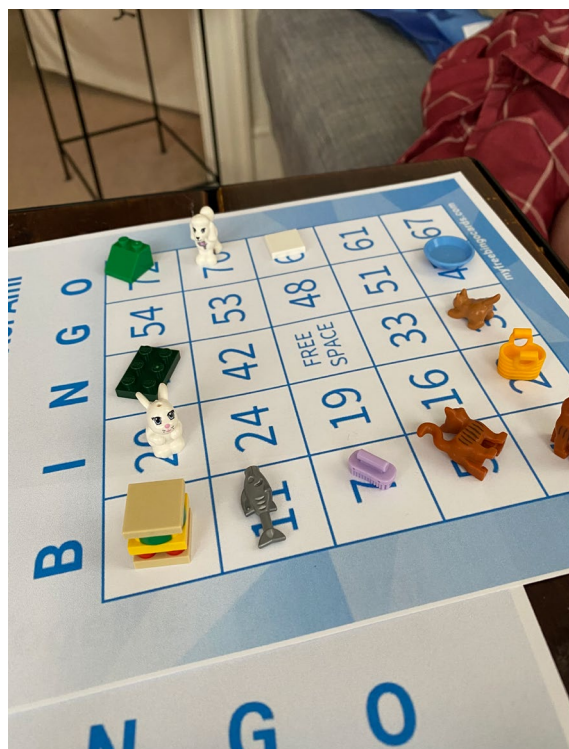
Claire Weinstein, daughter of Rodney and Diane Weinstein, proud big sister to her three younger sisters Mary, Sophie and Emma and best bud of her big brother Michael, will be called to the Torah on Saturday August 15th as a Bat Mitzvah. She is currently a 7th grader at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. During the school year Claire swims competitively with the White Plains Varsity Swim team and also swims and competes year round on a club team Westchester Aquatics. For her Mitzvah project, Claire has been actively volunteering her time to help coach the younger swimmers in the Westchester Aquatic club swim school at inter-team meets and practices. Because of her passion for the sport and belief that everyone should learn to swim and have the opportunity to be a competitive swimmer if they desire, on her behalf a donation was made to the Christopher Dewey Memorial Swim Foundation. Her donation will assist low income swimmers with training fees and also fees to participate in travel competitions. Claire is very excited to share this special day with family and friends.

#nykolami

See what we have been up to during the pandemic!



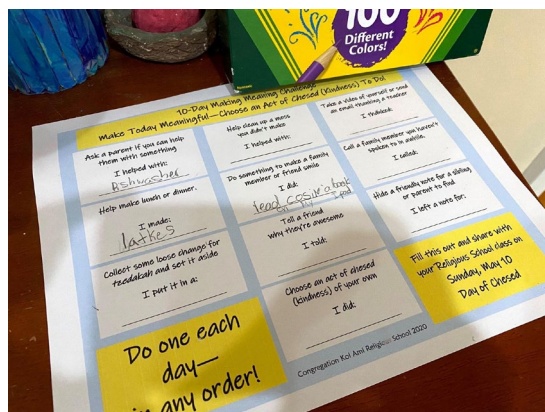
Our Food Pantry has been busy, in collaboration with Feeding Westchester and White Plains leaders to make sure those in need are staying fed in our area.



Virtual gatherings like Passover Second Seder, and Kol Ami Bingo Nights have really been such special ways to connect with one another while we are apart.



The 10 days of Chesed were an important time of remote learning for our Religious School as children and their families marked the passing of time with daily acts of good deeds.



Our Shabbat Meal Deliveries have been made possible by generous donations, an important partnership with Caperberry, and they are delivered every Friday by our amazing group of dedicated volunteers



Our Garden Committee has been working hard on clearing the raised beds and planting lettuce, beans, peas, tomatoes, and other crops. With the hard work of our congregants, we have also applied as a Monarch Butterfly Way Station!



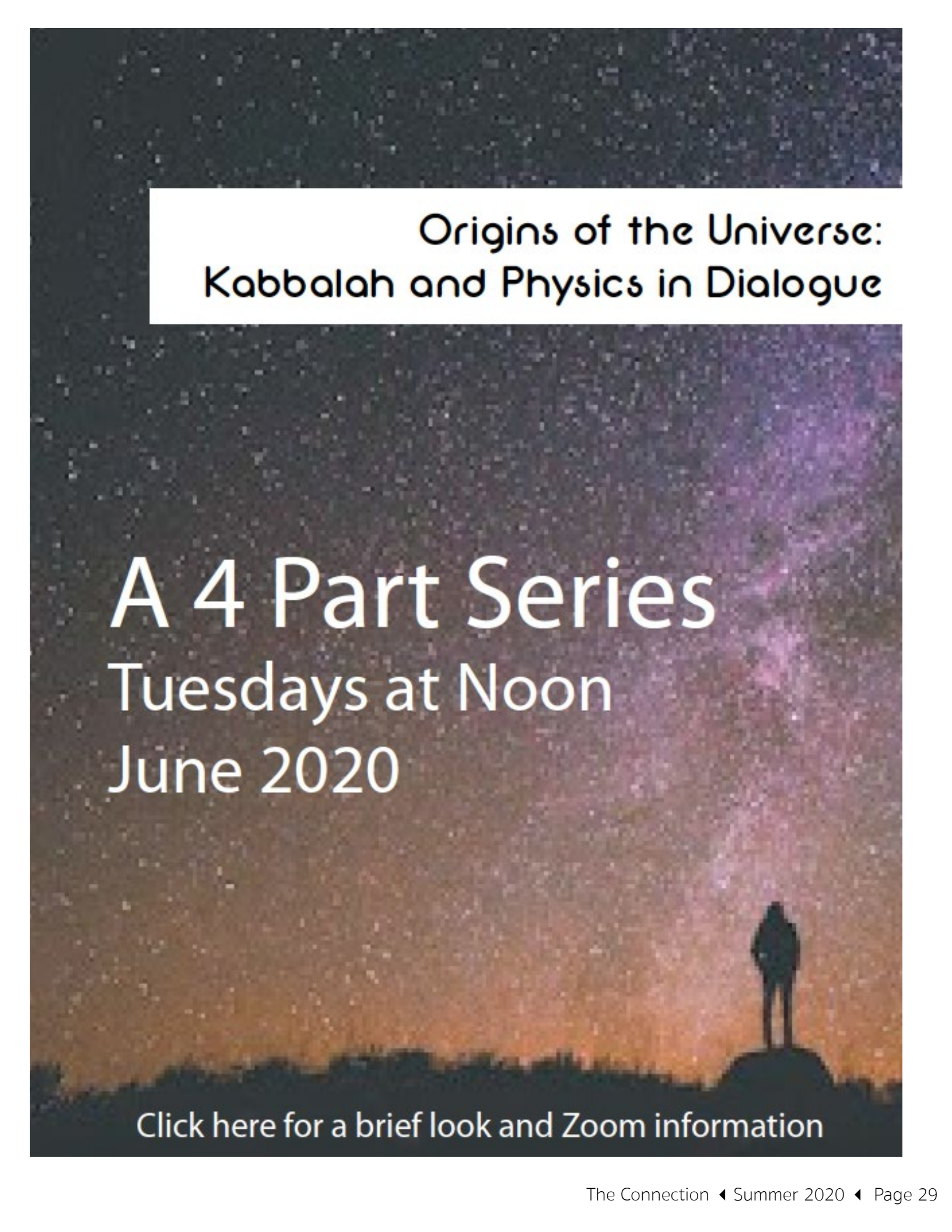
2020 Westhab Virtual Celebration

Westhab, is the social service agency with oversight responsibility for the Coachman Family Center.

On Tuesday, May 5th, 2020
Congregation Kol Ami received their Community Partnership Award in recognition of our longstanding and generous support for the families at our Coachman Family Center in White Plains.

Accepting the award for Kol Ami was Rabbi Shira Milgrom.
Also digitally present were: Lisa Hochman, Allison Danzig, Alison Adler, and Jess Lorden.



A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill in the foreground, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible as a bright, pinkish-purple band of light stretching across the sky from the bottom right towards the top left. The background is a deep black space filled with countless stars.

Origins of the Universe: Kabbalah and Physics in Dialogue

A 4 Part Series

Tuesdays at Noon
June 2020

[Click here for a brief look and Zoom information](#)

A Comedienne, a Bedouin and a Hasid Walk into a Bar

Hotel Corona



It's better than a bar - and it's not a joke.

“

I just listened to the podcast and I was completely hooked onto every anecdote. Truly beautiful and inspiring. I was literally choked up at times, envisioning the Passover seder. I can't stop thinking about it all.

-Kol Ami Congregant

”

At the height of the corona pandemic, the Israeli government leased 13 hotels and turned them into spaces for recovering Covid-19 patients - those with mild symptoms and those discharged from hospitals. One such "hospital-hotel" ended up with a mixed population: ultra-Orthodox Jews, secular Jews, Muslims, Palestinians and Bedouin. Because they were all already infected, they didn't require the social distancing that everyone else did. In short order, they were creating their own zumba classes, yoga on the roof; they were high-fiving each other and singing at dinner.

AND they started videoing themselves - and then posting their videos on instagram. Soon, all of Israel was tuning in to what the patients had dubbed "Hotel Corona." Was it for real? Could religious Jews and secular Jews get along? Palestinians and Israelis?

The phenomenon was picked up by Jerusalem's NPR correspondent, Daniel Estrin - and became a beautiful podcast that was aired on NPR's Rough Translation on May 13th.

[Click here to listen to the 30 min podcast](#)



Daniel Estrin - together with two of the residents featured on the podcast, the Israeli Comedienne (Noam Shuster Eliassi) and a Muslim Bedouin Israeli woman (Aysha) - are joining us for a zoom call about this crazy experience. Utopia? Dream? Aberration? Silver lining or illusion?

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 845 0593 5406

Password: 1kMjqK

Dial In: 1-646-876-9923

Password: 040134

Join Rabbi Shira for a Zoom call with
NPR Jerusalem correspondent and
guests of "Hotel Corona" on Sunday
June 7th at 11:00am



Let's Come Together and Play Virtual BINGO

Proceeds to benefit a Social Distancing Graduation for our High School Seniors

This Sunday, June 7th at 5pm

Game Details:

\$10 gets you a BINGO card. Each card can be used to play 5 games. The winner of each game will be mailed a gift card appropriate for the whole family. All gifts will be purchased from small businesses local to the winner.

How to sign up to play:

- 1 - Go to nykolami.org/bingo and fill out the online form. Each person/family can buy as many cards as they like.
- 2 - Please include your email address. Bingo cards and meeting information will be sent to you electronically from bingo@nykolami.org.
- 3 - Buy for yourself, for your family or as a GIFT for a friend, family member or neighbor to play. All you need is their email addresses and to notify them to expect an emailed card.

DEADLINE TO BUY CARDS IS NOON ON SUNDAY

What you need to play:

- Ability to join a Zoom call where BINGO numbers will be called.
- Computer or Tablet to see virtual BINGO card that will be emailed to you.
- 5 Games will be played per each card.
- Wanna have more fun? Wanna win more prizes? With an in-home printer, you may play as many cards as you are willing to purchase.

Enjoy!

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO PUT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE FORM. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVIDE THE BINGO CARDS AND VIRTUAL MEETING INFO.

[Click here to register to play](#)

I HAD THREE CHAIRS IN MY HOUSE - ONE FOR SOLITUDE, TWO FOR FRIENDSHIP, THREE FOR COMMUNITY

**Our house of worship will continue to be saving a seat for you.
But as we wait, we will keep going digital!**

As we prepare for the start of our new fiscal year on July 1st, in mid-June we will begin sending all invoices and billing statements via email instead of paper mail. This keeps our staff safe, plus it keeps you safe and up to date quicker. Bills will be sent from billing@nykolami.org. Please save this email address in your contact list so it does not end up in your Spam folder.

If you would like to receive email invoices at a different email, please notify us by Friday, June 5th by clicking here (if you have two adults in your household both need to receive a copy).



Worship, musical concerts, B'nai Mitzvah, weddings, and funerals continue to be important parts of our journeys together while we are staying apart.



The Early Childhood Program, the Religious School, our Youth Group, and our Adult Education Learning will all have offerings this summer. Virtual if we must, in-person when we can!



We hope this time finds you and your family healthy and safe. While it is still early and we are not sure what the next few months will bring, we at Congregation Kol Ami are already planning for our High Holy Days worship experience, with the understanding that many of our usual offerings and practices may not be advisable this year, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As a first step, we turn to you, our community, to help us understand what the High Holy Days and our services mean to you. This survey is designed to help us set goals for this year's High Holy Days and begin to reimagine how we might accomplish these goals together.

While we mourn what may not be possible this year, we can also look forward to, with curiosity and excitement, the opportunities this situation creates. Whatever our limitations may be, how might we collectively experience gathering, renewal, and return during the Days of Awe?

We welcome your ideas and value your input.

To complete the survey, please [CLICK HERE](#)

The survey must be completed online no later than FRIDAY, JUNE 19.

Thank you for your participation.



*We may not know what the
summer is going to bring....*

...but we know it's bringing programs from Kol Ami!!

**Look for information coming soon
for summer programs for ECP Camp,
Religious School, Youth Group,
and Adult Education**

Virtual if we must, in-person if we can!

Join us this summer for an
ECP drive-in outdoor concert!

*weather permitting
*no access to the inside of
the building for bathrooms

Tuesday, July 21st (raindate 22nd)
featuring the Levins

Monday, August 10th
(raindate 12th)
featuring Beth & Scott and Friends



Concert is 5:00-5:45pm
Parking is limited, so you
may arrive anytime after 4:30pm to get a spot.

Families with young children are welcome to enjoy a fun evening from your car listening to some of our favorite performers like the Levins in July, and Beth & Scott and Friends in August!



Online Summer Program!

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 for all ages,
community arts hour, and more!

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

For more information, please click the link

<https://nykolami.org/kol-arts-program/>

Or email

Naomi Graf, Director
at kolarts@nykolami.org

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606
914.949.4717



THE GREAT AMERICAN BBQ Co. features our customized TO-GO Menu containing everything you need for a successful BBQ or picnic. Our seasoned planners will assist you in ensuring you have a successfully coordinated drop off or pick up for your event. Using only the highest quality meats and freshest ingredients, our food is carefully prepared by our specially trained chefs and grill masters in our main kitchen and carefully packed and labeled to come directly to you hot and ready to go or even cold with re-heating instructions! We will bring the joy of entertaining to your home, favorite park, or office. At THE GREAT AMERICAN BBQ Co., we offer a way for you to enjoy yourself without worrying about constantly standing by the grill. Invite your friends, family, co-workers and clients. Our events encourage mingling and help foster a stress-free atmosphere.

DIY BOX OF BBQ

COOK FOR YOUR FAMILY... BUT WE WILL TAKE ALL OF THE HEAT!

STANDARD BOX
10 PEOPLE

- 3 POUNDS OF BBQ PULLED PORK OR BRISKET
- 3 POUNDS OF CORN PUDDING
- 10 HAMBURGERS (RAW, READY TO COOK)
- 10 HEBREW NATIONAL HOTDOGS (RAW, READY TO COOK)
- LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONION, PICKLE TRAY
- BUNS FOR BURGERS AND DOGS
- KETCHUP, MUSTARD
- 2 QT FRUIT SALAD
- 2 QT PASTA SALAD
- 10 INDIVIDUAL BAGS OF POTATO CHIPS
- 8 FUDGE BROWNIES
- 12 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
- (1) 1.5 LITER OF PEPSI
- (1) 1.5 LITER OF DIET PEPSI
- (1) 1.5 LITER OF SPRITE

\$295

STANDARD BOX
20 PEOPLE

- 6 POUNDS OF BBQ PULLED PORK OR BRISKET
- 5 POUNDS OF CORN PUDDING
- 15 HAMBURGERS (RAW, READY TO COOK)
- 15 HEBREW NATIONAL HOTDOGS (RAW, READY TO COOK)
- BUNS FOR BURGERS AND DOGS
- LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONION, PICKLE TRAY
- KETCHUP, MUSTARD
- 4 QT FRUIT SALAD
- 4 QT PASTA SALAD
- 1 GARDEN SALAD FOR 20 PEOPLE WITH DRESSING
- 12 LEMON BARS
- 12 FUDGE BROWNIES
- 15 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
- (4) 1.5 LITER OF PEPSI
- (4) 1.5 LITER OF SPRITE

\$575

PREMIUM BOX
20 PEOPLE

- 4 POUNDS OF BBQ CHICKEN (READY TO HEAT)
- MARINATED FLANK STEAK (RAW, READY TO COOK)
- 3 POUNDS OF BBQ PULLED PORK OR BRISKET
- MUSHROOM SAUCE (READY TO HEAT)
- 5 POUNDS OF CORN PUDDING
- KETCHUP, MUSTARD, AI SAUCE
- 4 QT FRUIT SALAD
- 4 QT PASTA SALAD
- 1 GARDEN SALAD FOR 20 PEOPLE WITH DRESSING
- 12 LEMON BARS
- 12 FUDGE BROWNIES
- 15 CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES
- (4) 1.5 LITER OF PEPSI
- (4) 1.5 LITER OF SPRITE

THIS OPTION CAN BE SENT HOT, READY TO EAT

\$695

HOW THIS WORKS:

CHOOSE A PACKAGE OR MULTIPLE PACKAGES. WE DELIVER TO YOU COLD, YOU FIRE UP YOUR OVEN AND GRILL, COOK, PLATE THE FOOD AND ENJOY YOUR SPECIALTY BBQ EVENT. WE PROVIDE THE PLASTIC AND PAPER PRODUCTS TOO! (NO ALTERING PACKAGES - SOLD AS IS) \$25+ DELIVERY FEE APPLIES TO ALL ORDERS, ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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www.thegreatamericanbbq.com

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WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY PACKAGE, YOU CAN ADD ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

ADDITIONAL FOOD	
2 DOZ SHRIMP COCKTAIL; LEMONS, HORSE RADISH COCKTAIL SAUCE	\$59
1 QT FRESH PICO DE GALLO, 1 PT GUACAMOLE, 2 POUND BAG OF TORTILLA CHIPS	\$35
MINI PIGS IN A BLANKET, SPICY BROWN MUSTARD (HEAT & SERVE)	\$24 PER DOZ.
1 PT OLIVES, 1 PT ARTICHOKE BRUSCHETTA, 1 PT TOMATO BRUSCHETTA, 1 LB PITA CHIPS	\$35
BBQ OR BUFFALO WINGS; BLUE CHEESE DIP, CELERY AND CARROTS	\$18 PER DOZ.
SPICY BLACK BEAN VEGGIE BURGERS WITH BUN	\$6.50

MIXED COCKTAILS

DIY KITS: WE WILL SEND YOU THE INGREDIENTS, YOU MIX & SERVE

TEQUILA LIME INFUSED MARGARITAS, SLICED LIMES, SALT	\$45 PER GALLON
SANGRIA, CUT FRUIT	\$40 PER GALLON
SPIKED LEMONADE, FRESH MINT	\$40 PER GALLON

BEER BY THE CASE (SENT CHILLED)

\$36	BUDWEISER OR COORS LIGHT
\$55	SAM ADAMS BOSTON LAGER HEINEKEN LIGHT/REGULAR CAPTAIN LAWRENCE FRESHCHESTER

WINE BY THE BOTTLE

PROSECCO	\$18
ROSE	\$18
PINOT NOIR	\$12
MALBEC	\$12
PINOT GRIGIO	\$12
CHARDONNAY	\$12
SAUVIGNON BLANC	\$12



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What Is Our Responsibility to Future Generations?

A Story from the Talmud.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information please contact
Judi Brown gojustjudi@gmail.com
Evelyn Klein aspencup@aol.com

Life Cycles

Congratulations

- ✧ To David and Lorraine Seicol on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Rae Seicol
- ✧ To Debby Yablow on the birth of her grandson, Jackson Bennett Szoke
- ✧ To David and Evelyn Klein on the engagement of their daughter

Condolences

- ✧ To Jessie Scherer and family, on the death of his mother, Lillian Scherer
- ✧ To Steve Brady and family, on the death of his mother, Malvina Brady
- ✧ To Rhoda Adler and family, on the death of her sister Betsy Herman
- ✧ To Amanda Mazin and family, on the death of her grandmother, Joyce Erlichman
- ✧ To Lauri Carey and family, on the death of her father, Arthur Friedman
- ✧ To Ed Stotsky and family, on the death of his sister-in-law, Alice Hayward
- ✧ To David Seicol and family, on the death of his father, Noel H. Seicol
- ✧ To Sheila Sturmer and family, on the death of her husband Cantor Al Sturmer
- ✧ To Becky Miller and family, on the death of her grandmother
- ✧ To Rori Tamagna and family, on the death of her father-in-law
- ✧ To Charlene Bodner and family, on the death of her grandmother, Josephine Forestano
- ✧ To Adam Hutter and family, on the death of his mother, Franny Hutter
- ✧ To Rachel Freedman and family, on the death of her mother and father, Paul Freedman and Carol Freedman
- ✧ To Joel Weiss and family, on the death of his father, Jules Weiss
- ✧ To Greg Arovas and family, on the death of his aunt, Rachel Parsitsky
- ✧ To Ellen Bittner and family, on the death of her cousin Eric (Ric) Okin

In Memorium

- ✧ Abbe Goodman
- ✧ Harley Lewis
- ✧ Cantor Al Sturmer
- ✧ Diana Munder
- ✧ Peter Honig
- ✧ Saul Rakoff

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of Glen, Alissa and Deanna Hochman, from Peter and Phyllis Honig
- ✧ In memory of her husband, Bob Asher, from Judy Asher
- ✧ In memory of Bob Asher, from Alice Seidman
- ✧ In memory of her mother, Toby Klein, from Marjorie Bruckman
- ✧ In honor of Ken and Tala's wedding, from Janet and Mark Hershey
- ✧ In honor of the 90th birthday of Gloria Eggles, from Shemy and Robert Goltz
- ✧ In memory of her sister, Joan Meltzer, from Nancy Nemlich
- ✧ In honor of Pat Grossman's becoming a Bat Mitzvah, from the Mahjagals c/o Beth Kava
- ✧ In appreciation, from Hilary Lerner
- ✧ In appreciation and support during this time, from Arlene Leifer
- ✧ In honor of Pat Grossman's Bat Mitzvah, from Steven Mustacchi and Cindy Muniz
- ✧ In memory of Amy Jo Gamon's mother, Barbar Uttal Weston Clark, from Judy Robbins- Rosenberger
- ✧ In memory of Joan Meltzer, her mother and the sister of Nancy Nemlich, from Ellen Meltzer Petersen
- ✧ In memory of Carol and Paul Freedman, from daughters, Rachel Freedman, Beth Freedman Yelsey, Judy Freedman
- ✧ In honor of Friends in the Time of Corona: Mia Shapiro, Martin Kahn, Jean Rouda, Ronnie Cohn, and Lisa Borowitz from Joyce Schriebman
- ✧ In memory of Peter Honig from Phyllis Honig
- ✧ In memory of his father, Jules Weiss, from Joel Weiss

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah, from Carmen Lowenthal and Eric Tirschwell
- ✧ In memory of her father, Harry Klein, from Marjorie Bruckman
- ✧ In memory of his mother, Betty Seicol, from David Seicol
- ✧ In honor of the baby naming of Ryan, from Jessica and Barry Kraver
- ✧ In honor of Max's Bar Mitzvah, from Lesley and David Friedman
- ✧ In memory of Harvey Schneider, her uncle, from Nancy and Larry Marcus
- ✧ In memory of Dr. Peter Pressman, from Peggy and Jeffrey Pressman
- ✧ In memory of Carol and Paul Freedman, from daughters, Rachel Freedman, Beth Freedman Yelsey, Judy Freedman
- ✧ In memory of Steven Glazer, son of Florence Glazer
- ✧ In memory of her father, David Sheff, from Barbara Block

Cantor David Rosen's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah, from Carmen Lowenthal and Eric Tirschwell
- ✧ In appreciation for officiating at the funeral of Paula Zubatkin, from Marty and Beth Zubatkin
- ✧ In honor of Max's Bar Mitzvah, from Lesley and David Friedman

Fund for the Needy

- ✧ From Marc Weinstein & Linda Rodney, for food gift cards
- ✧ In honor of Daniel Horowitz, from Lawrence Horowitz
- ✧ In memory of her sister, Blanche Drobnis, from Pearl Cohen
- ✧ In memory of Harley Lewis, from Doris Hettmansberger
- ✧ In memory of Donald Newman, from Lisa Borowitz

Generous Contributions

Kol Ami Fund

- *In honor of Cindy and Scott Musoff, for delivering Friday night Shabbat dinners to her from Florence Glazer
- *In memory of Alice Hayward, sister in law of Ed and Sue Stotsky, from Florence Glazer
- *In memory of Malvina Brady, mother of Steve Brady, from David Okun
- *In memory of Malvina Brady, mother of Steve Brady, from David and Karen Cole
- *In memory of Norma Freedman, from Robert Freedman
- *In memory of Lillian Scherer, mother of Jesse Scherer, from Liz and Stephen Kaufman
- *In appreciation, from Neal Keller
- *In appreciation, from Nora Groban
- *In appreciation, from Aimee Florin
- *In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer, from Bonnie and Eric Eilen
- *In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer, from Doris Dingott
- *In memory of Franny Hutter, mother of Adam Hutter, from David and Karen Cole

Friends of the Arts

- *In loving memory of her brother-in-law, William Cohen, from Jo Landau
- *In appreciation, from Bob Jacobs
- *In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer, from Phyllis Margolin
- *In memory of Al Sturmer, from Phyllis Margolin

People to People Fund

- *In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer, from Marian Steinberg

Petschek Music Fund

- *In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer, from Ellen Sarna

Food Pantry Fund

- *Carmella Abraham
- *Vicki and Howard Adler
- *Myrna Barzelatto, in memory of Al Sturmer
- *Joyce Baumgarten
- *Neil and Andrea Bernstein
- *Nina and Phil Blumenfeld, in honor of friendship with Eric and Bonnie Eilen
- *Lisa Borowitz
- *Arlyne Boxenhorn
- *Robert Z. Brody
- *Craig Cepler
- *Uriel Cohen
- *Anne Cohen
- *Ruth L. Cowan
- *Gina DeLapa
- *Lawrence and Donna Dunkelman
- *Edward Eiseman
- *Linda Ellis
- *Emily Fields

Thank You

Generous Contributions

*Diana Gitig
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*Leona Kern
*Harriet Kraver
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*Anne and Mark Lewis
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*Amy Roberts
*Jane Roberts
*Samantha Saperstein
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*Laura Solomon
*Joan Sorkin
*Robert Wizenberg

Kol Ami Annual Fund

*In appreciation from Lauren & Michael Kraver
*In appreciation for the meal deliveries from Ken and Susan Gordon
*In memory of his father, Alan I. Cohen, from Mitchell Cohen
*In gratitude for the temple's support during these trying times from Alan and Rena Steinfeld

Adult Education Fund

*In memory of Irwin Margolin from Michele & Howard Geller
*In memory of Irwin Margolin from Ellen Sarna
*In memory of Cantor Al Sturmer from Linda and Milt Persily
*In memory of Malvina Brady, mother of Steve Brady, from Linda and Milt Persily
*In memory of Harley Lewis from Linda and Milt Persily



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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