

THE CONNECTION



Congregation Kol Ami
1923-2020 ~ 98 Years www.nykolami.org #nykolami
The Fall 2020 Issue



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

A REFORM SYNAGOGUE

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A Member of the Union for Reform Judaism

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Looking to reach out to other
Kol Ami Congregants?! Don't forget to use
our online directory by clicking [here](#).



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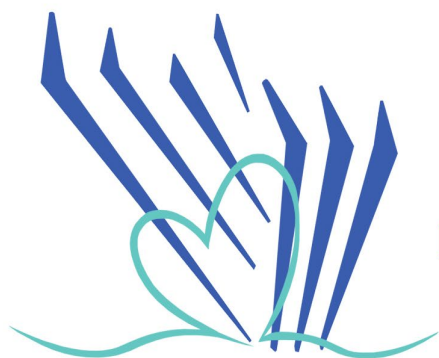
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In-Person. Virtual. Spiritual.
Kol Ami. Here for you in every way.

**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.**

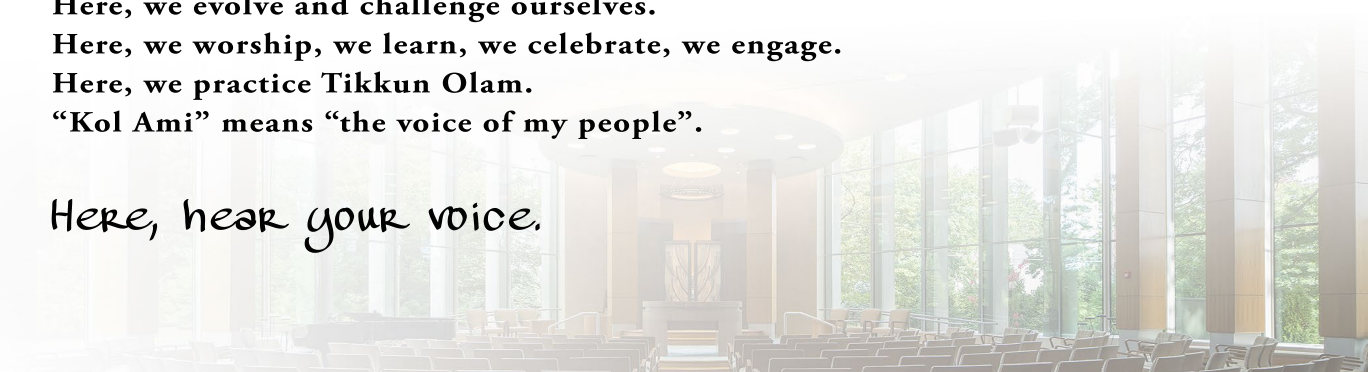
Here, we evolve and challenge ourselves.

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



Shabbat
in the Woods



The Spirit



of



Shabbat

5:30pm Friday Shabbat by the Woods

A weekly Shabbat Service in story and song for families with young children with Rabbi Shira Milgrom. Join us in person by registering at Back to Campus Programming by clicking [here](#). To join us online via Zoom lick [here](#). Meeting ID: 891 1651 2442 Password: 8FFCbw



6:15pm Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat Service streamed on our website, Facebook, and Youtube pages 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.

Look in the coming weeks for information about our “*Shabbat Around the Table*” Fridays.



10:00am Saturday Shabbat Lift and Service

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



8:00pm Saturday Evening Havdallah Service

Our virtual Havdallah services 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 about programs that follow after services.

Weekly Torah Portions

September

Week ending September 5

Parashat Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

Ki Tavo addresses the time when the Israelites will settle in the Land of Israel. The Israelites are instructed to express their gratitude to God for their bountiful harvests and freedom from slavery by tithing ten percent of their crops for the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. They are also told that if they obey God's mitzvot faithfully, they will receive every blessing imaginable; and if they do not fulfill their brit with God, many curses will descend upon them.

Week ending September 12, 2020

Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilach

Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20, 31:1-30

In the first of this double portion, Nitzavim, Moses continues his final address to the Children of Israel, reminding them that each and every one of us is a member of the Covenant. From our ancestors at Sinai to this very day, each of us is the heir to this sacred tradition. The words found in chapter 30, verses 12-14 can be found in our Ark in the main sanctuary. We are exhorted to "choose life," to love God, to walk in God's ways, and to keep God's commandments in this parashah. By doing so, we open our hearts to God and to each other. Since God has prohibited Moses from entering the land God has promised to the Israelites, Moses prepares the people for his death in parashat Vayeilach and tells them that Joshua will succeed him as their leader. This parasha continues by assuring the Israelites that they will be successful in re-conquering the Land of Israel and that God "will not fail you or forsake you."

Week ending September 26, 2020

(Yom Rishon shel Rosh HaShana)

Parashat Vayera Genesis 22:1-19

This portion is commonly known as The Akeidah, or "the binding of Isaac." It tells the story of Abraham's response to God's request that he sacrifice his son, Isaac. Just as Abraham is about to offer his son up as a sacrifice, an angel calls out to him, instructing him not to harm the boy.— Shana Tova

October

Week ending October 3, 2020

(Yom Rishon shel Sukkot)

Parashat Emor Leviticus 23:33-44

We are instructed to observe the festival of Sukkot for seven days in these verses. Our ancestors lived in a booth for seven days and brought sacrifices to the Temple. We are reminded of the fragility of human life and taught not to take our lives and possessions for granted. These verses include the shaking of the lulav and etrog and the commandment to rejoice on each of the seven days. How wonderful to be commanded to celebrate!

Week ending October 10, 2020

(Sh'mini Atzeret – Simchat Torah)

Parashat V'zot Hab'rachah Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12,

Parashat B'reishit Genesis 1:1-23

This week we celebrate the ending and the beginning of the Torah cycle by reading the very end of Deuteronomy (the last book of the Torah) and the very beginning of Genesis. In the final verses of the Torah we read of Moses' blessing of the Israelites and his death. From this passage we immediately begin our new cycle of Torah reading with the story of creation from the beginning of Genesis.

Week ending October 17, 2020

Parashat B'reishit Genesis 1:1-6:8

B'reishit, Our first parashah in the Torah cycle, begins with the creation of the world. God creates the world in seven days, concluding with the first Shabbat. In a second version of the creation story, Adam is created from the dust of the earth rather than as a result of a divine breath. Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden for eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Their son Cain kills his brother Abel. Adam and Eve have another son named Seth, from whom Noah descends.

Week ending October 24, 2020

Parashat Noach Genesis 6:9-11:32

In this parashah God expresses disappointment with human corruption and decides to destroy all life on earth in a flood. God finds favor in Noah's character and spares his family. God commands Noah to build an ark for himself, his family, and the pairs of animals who will join Noah and his family on the ark. A rainbow symbolizes the first covenant between God and the people.

Weekly Torah Portions

Week ending October 31, 2020

Parashat Lech L'cha Genesis 12:1-17:27

The story of our ancestors begins in earnest in Lech L'cha. Abram is promised he will be the father of a great multitude if he follows God's call. Abram and Sarai leave their home in Haran for Canaan, along with Abram's nephew Lot. As a sign of God's covenant, Abram and Sarai receive new names, Abraham and Sarah. When it seems Sarah is unable to conceive a child, Sarah gives her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham to bear a son for him. Then, sensing Hagar's arrogance at becoming pregnant, Sarah asks Abraham to send Hagar away. Abraham is ninety-nine years of age when God promises him (and Sarah) a son of their own. It is through this son, Isaac, that the covenant will be fulfilled.

November

Week ending November 7, 2020

Parashat Vayera Genesis 18:1-22:24

Parashat Vayera opens with Abraham receiving a visit from messengers who bring predictions of Isaac's birth. When God threatens to destroy the settlements of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wicked behaviors occurring there, Abraham stands up to God to protest that annihilation. This parashah also includes the long-awaited birth of Sarah's and Abraham's son, Isaac. The final scene in this parashah tells the story of the "Binding of Isaac" where God tests Abraham, instructing him to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Week ending November 14, 2020

Parashat Chayei Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18

The first words of this parashah translate as "the life of Sarah," but it begins with her death. Abraham purchases land in which to bury his wife, and then sends his servant to the village of his brother to acquire a wife for his son Isaac. The servant observes Rebekah, who offers water to him and to his camels to drink. Rebekah follows Abraham's servant back home and becomes Isaac's wife. Abraham dies at the age of 175 years, and Isaac and Ishmael bury him with Sarah in the cave of Machpelah.

Week ending November 21, 2020

Parashat Toldot Genesis 25:19-28:9

Isaac marries Rebekah, and after 20 childless years they become parents to twin boys, Esau and Jacob. The brothers are quite different from one another and are at odds with each other well into adulthood. Rebekah favors Jacob, whereas Isaac seems aligned with Esau. Rebekah and Jacob conspire to deceive Isaac into giving the blessing due his firstborn son, Esau, to Jacob. The sibling rivalry between Esau and Jacob reaches a feverish pitch, and becomes a recurring theme in Genesis.

Week ending November 28, 2020

Parashat Vayetze Genesis 28:10-32:3

Vayetze, meaning "and he went out," refers to Jacob's journey to Haran, his mother Rebekah's birthplace, to escape his brother Esau's wrath over stealing his blessing. On his journey, Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and is given the same promise that God gave Abraham and Isaac, i.e., that he will inherit the land and be blessed. Jacob meets Rachel at the well and works for her father (his uncle Laban) for seven years in order to marry her. Jacob, who deceived his brother Esau, is himself the victim of deception. Laban substitutes Leah (his older daughter) for Rachel. Jacob must serve Laban an additional seven years in order to wed his intended spouse Rachel. Jacob eventually has a total of twelve sons and decides to return to his homeland.



A Message from Rabbi Weiner

Amen, Noam's Arc -Rabbi Tom Weiner

Noam's Arc. That's right, "Noam" and not "Noah". Not the ancient guy who built the huge boat in the Bible; but Noam, the 29-year-old guy who lives on the Upper East Side. And no, not "the Ark", that huge boat, but "arc", as in that bow shaped thing that starts in one place and ends up bending towards another place. Noam's Arc.

A true story for our times: When news of the pandemic first hit last Spring, many of the folks with whom I had been planning joyous celebrations postponed them for next year or beyond. Of the ten weddings that I had in my calendar for this season, everyone of them called to tell me that they had moved their special days to next year. They were, of course, motivated by love, trying to preserve the image of the wedding they had always dreamt about.

One of those young people was 29 year old Noam from the Upper East Side. He and fiancé Lauren, with great disappointment and a bit of panic, thought the best way to have the wedding they had always imagined was to wait out this pandemic and delay their wedding. Ultimately all of the couples scheduled for this season did the same thing, scrambling for venues next year.

But as the weeks past, and then a few months, Noam's and Lauren's arc began to bend. In some rather beautiful ways they (and eventually ALL of the other couples) began to rethink their priorities, sort out the different elements of celebrating marriage, and simply realized that their love for each other, their desire to be married NOW, as they had planned, was most important. And now, interestingly, at the end of this Summer and the beginning of Fall, all of the weddings are back on the calendar. Most of them taking place in family backyards and small outdoor settings.

Each of these couples journeys were similar, they each realized that the heart of their wedding was to be an intimate ceremony with the folks dearest to them and a joyous family meal. They came to see that, for them, the wedding that they were ready for at this moment in their lives could still take place now, and that other elements of celebration could wait until next year.

Of course, there are elements of disappointment of not celebrating with all of the friends and family that you had imagined. Yet at the same time, there is a sense of liberation and appreciation of the simplicity of what they were doing, a day wholly focused on the two of them becoming married, embraced by their families. At the end of this arc was a kind of relief of being free of the need to get a block of 50 hotel rooms, manage the impossible jigsaw puzzle of seating distant cousins in midst of ancient family feud, speakers and microphones, a small army of photographers, etc.

And at the end of the rainbow, at the end of Noam's (and Lauren's) Arc, is the sweetest of all treasures. They are married.



A Message from Rabbi Milgrom

Blast the shofar – ring it high and ring it low!

One of the most important practices of Rosh Hashanah – blowing the shofar – is completely contra-indicated by the protocols of Covid-19. Every one of you who has a young child or grandchild knows that kids are naturally good at blowing the shofar. Why? You place the shofar against the outside of your lips – and spit with all your might!

Imagine that with Covid-19 protocols!

So how will we blow the shofar this year? First, for all our services, we will watch our fabulous shofar blowers – pre-recorded – blowing shofar in or outside their homes. The technology will bring each of us up close, on screen, to each of them.

AND – the Covid-19 Pandemic has challenged us to think of new ways to celebrate our holidays, ways that were always available but that we didn't see or imagine.

This year, we are inviting everyone who has a shofar at home to step outside to the street at 3pm on 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, September 20th – and sound the shofar: Tekiyah! Shevarim! T'ruah! Tekiyah gedolah! We have invited all our neighbor synagogues to join in this community shofar blast.

We hope that everyone will step outside at 3pm on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah – to sound the shofar and/or hear the sounds of the shofar.

We are also inviting every member to drive by the temple (designated times will be sent out) so that we can see you – and greet you – and wish you Shana Tova in person!

We will also be giving each household a High Holy Day bag with essential items to celebrate the High Holidays. Among these are:

- A jar of honey
- The prayer books (machzor) for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These books will be on loan to you.
- Blessings and activities
- A Havdalah candle. The Havdalah candle is my favorite. Yom Kippur always ends with Havdalah, and this year, we hope that every Kol Ami household will light the Havdalah candle – and zoom yourself into services where our home screens will light up with all our faces, aglow with hope and connection.

This pandemic will not be forever, and when it ends, I hope we will look back on this time and realize that we have acquired new ways of learning, that we were willing to share our vulnerabilities and our hearts with one another and that we had reservoirs of spirit we never knew we had.

Shana tova!
With love,

A Message from Cantor Daniel Mendelson



Praying alone...with all of you

The Days of Awe can feel lonely when you're up on the bimah leading services. While congregants and families fill up the sanctuary to experience these holidays, we clergy are "center stage", offering them to our communities. Growing up in a clergy household offered me a special, behind-the-scenes perspective on the mechanics of High Holy Day services. Don't get me wrong: Putting on my white gown and praying with and for my fellow community members as shaliach tzibbur is as meaningful as it gets. Still, when I glance over at congregants sitting, standing and praying together, I imagine how lovely it would be to take their place for a moment. For many years now, my own family has been separated for the holidays, with each of us leading our own services in various synagogues. I so look forward to serving my new Kol Ami congregational family, and at the same time, it will be hard not to miss my own family.

In a way, our current state of affairs has forced us all to go-it-alone for the holidays. Yes, many families are home together in their own bubbles, and will be sitting together as they would under normal circumstances. But everyone will be doing so in a contained environment. What does it mean to be a congregation that won't be congregating? And what does it mean for your clergy to be alone in your sanctuary on your behalf? I think this year in particular offers us a profound opportunity to embrace the inner spirit of the High Holy Days. By virtually inviting all of you into our sacred space at Kol Ami, while bringing us into your own homes, we have the ability to connect on a more personal level. Indeed, our collective concentration will be put to the test, but that very effort is what can bring us closer together. Knowing that we're all in this together for each and every moment of prayer is what I hope to seize upon as your new cantor. I look forward, with all of you, to the day when we can gather and pray next to one another, but I am also eager to pray alone with you in this moment. In this new year.

It is my hope that we all have a fulfilling and healthy year, a year of happiness and peace.

Blessings and wishes for a shanah tovah from my family to yours.

Cantor Danny Mendelson, Cantor Amanda Kleinman, Jed, Rex and Ernie

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

A Message from our President Hank Rouda



“May you live in interesting times.” Is this a blessing? Or a curse? One could reasonably argue, based on the world we see today, that both are equally true. Many of us have suffered deeply during this time, with loss of loved ones, damaged health and the loss of a job or job security. While, at the same time, this “pause” has given us an opportunity to take a step back and live our lives in ways that we never imagined possible. From spending more time with family and, maybe, friends, to reevaluating the course of our lives and careers, we are getting a rare chance to see how our choices and external forces have influenced the paths of our lives.

Isn't this an element of what is the essence of the High Holy Days? Taking stock of our lives and seeing where we can improve or change is a fundamental part of tshuvah (repentance) that is at the core of the Days of Awe. Many of us have been traveling our path focused on the day to day elements that make up our lives. We may have wished for a change but either couldn't make the break or didn't have the resources to try. Or we may have been completely comfortable with the shape and direction of our lives. It's the “pause” that has allowed us to take stock in ourselves that is at the crux of what we do starting with Elul and continuing through Yom Kippur.

At Kol Ami, we're no different. Over the years, we have built an engaged and committed community. We have welcomed each other and the strangers among us. We have performed acts of tikkun olam, of healing the world, and continue to fight against injustice and for social justice. We have developed creative, meaningful and spiritual services that involve everyone from the youngest to the oldest of our community. In short, while we always strive to improve, we have felt confident that we have been on the right track.

We have now spent the past 5 months completely reassessing how we engage with our members and what place we hold in the lives of those who make up our community – you, your extended families and others who are drawn to our congregation. We have engaged in an organizational cheshbon hanefesh (an accounting of the soul) of our spiritual home. We looked at what we've been doing and how/if it's still relevant. We looked at what we weren't doing and found ways to reach you that we would never have thought possible or necessary (when was the last time you celebrated Havdalah with your Kol Ami friends every week for months?). And we asked what you needed and found ways to meet those needs.

But what about what Kol Ami, the institution, needs? That's simple – you. We are nothing without each and every one of you. The physical building that so many miss so much is, in reality, mere bricks and mortar. True, the sanctuary and chapel are beautiful. But, as someone who has been in them without you, I can tell you that they're truly empty and hollow without all of you. So, we need you because you are the heart and soul of who we are. You are the reason that Kol Ami is known nationally as a creative, empathetic and special place.

And to be blunt, we need you to remain as members and to pay dues to the greatest extent possible at this time so that we can continue to be here for you, both now and when we can return to whatever “normal” looks like. So we can be here for your in-person or Zoom B'nai Mitzvah or wedding (ask Jess Lorden how glorious a small, intimate wedding with hundreds watching on Zoom can be). So we can find ways to comfort you, both in-person (at the service and/or at our weekly short Kaddish service on Friday nights) and virtually, when you lose a loved one. So we can be here when you just need to connect with someone else, either in-person in small groups like we do with our Rabbis every week, or virtually during our services and myriad other programs. None of this can happen if you're not here. So, please send in your membership forms and your dues. Once we hear from you, you will be invited to join us to pick up your High Holy Day Tote Bag so that you can be even more connected as we worship together in a changed but still communal and meaningful way. We all need each other. We hope that, for all these and so many more reasons, you will continue to be part of this kehillah kedoshah – holy community. Jean and I will miss not seeing all of you over the High Holy Days, but we look forward to experiencing the new and different ways that we will be together. Shana tova umetuka. May this New Year bring joy, courage and hope – and, as Rabbi Shira reminds us, endless reasons for gratitude.

L'shalom,

Hank Rouda

A Message from our Executive Director Jess Lorden



Swirling Emotions – Silver Linings

In the September issue of The Connection I normally share important information for the upcoming High Holy Days. However, nothing about this year has been normal. You will still find our High Holy Day Guidebook in this Connection on pages 24 to 32, and my reflections on 2020 here.

I followed the news with genuine concern for the people of China and the virus “they” were facing during the first two months of the year. How foolish of me to fail to understand that the dreaded virus was headed our way. It first impacted life at Kol Ami in early March. The first difficult decision we had to grapple with was cancelling our annual Purim Spiel. That same week we closed our schools.

Our foremost priority was keeping the congregation safe while keeping our congregants connected and supporting those most in need. I am proud of how quickly we pivoted to a fully virtual world filled with beautiful services and meaningful, innovative programming and education. We comforted congregants who experienced losses in their family with virtual Shiva Minyans. And our annual Gala was transformed into a 24 hour Zoom-a-Thon which brought our community together and raised needed funds.

During this same period, I had to take stock of my own swirling emotions. Seemingly overnight I feared leaving our home, and for long stretches of time I didn’t, except for our weekly trip to the grocery store which I found quite stressful. But, like all of you, I adjusted. We adapted to our situation and enjoyed Zoom Pass-over seders and birthday celebrations, and initiated weekly virtual meetings with friends, old and new.

The Spring brought lushness to our garden and increased upheaval to our lives as the pandemic we were all experiencing worsened. It became clear that Sarah and Alex’s wedding would not take place as we planned. Once more, we had to pivot and re-imagine the possibilities. Robby, who was working remotely, came home, only to become sick with COVID-19 a week later. More turmoil. More fear. We were grateful to have the support of so many in our Kol Ami family. Swirling emotions.

The Spring also brought out the best in Kol Ami. Our committed volunteers delivered Shabbat meals to congregants in need with a smile and a kind word; worked in our hot gym to pack over 350 grocery bags and delivered those grocery bags each week to White Plains residents in need. They made check-in calls to congregants, many of whom were now shut in and alone and sewed masks, donating all proceeds to the Kol Ami Fund for the Needy. They donated their time and expertise to help us safely reopen or teach in our summer read-ins. I was a witness to so much incredible kindness and generosity. Silver linings.

May brought us better weather and the chance to have socially distant, outside visits. After almost 3 months, my family finally saw my parents. As I started to feel better about how we were adjusting to living with COVID-19, our nation witnessed the murder of George Floyd, a victim of 8 minutes and 46 seconds of police brutality. Peaceful protests turned violent. I finally understood that Black Lives Matter meant that until black lives mattered all lives couldn’t matter. Swirling emotions. I felt compelled to do my part to engage in peaceful protests and, like many of you, was frightened about contracting COVID-19 while doing so. We chose to participate in some protests, but then as Sarah and Alex’s wedding approached, in an abundance of

caution we did not participate in others. Guilt. Was I doing enough to bring about change and peace?

We all looked forward to July. On July 4th Sarah and Alex were married in an intimate family wedding in the garden in our backyard. It wasn't the wedding we had originally planned, but was just as magical, special, joyous and meaningful. The perfect day! Afterwards Dave, Sarah, Alex, Robby and I enjoyed a two week familymoon at the beach. The home we rented on Nantucket was aptly named "Silver Lining".

Back to work re-imagining every aspect of our congregational life. With amazing partners, I am steeped in planning for how to safely return our students to our schools and our congregants to our beautiful worship services.

Then came John Lewis' passing. I watched the procession as Representative Lewis' casket crossed the Edmund Pettis Bridge. Good trouble. That's what John Lewis preached. Voting, he said, was the most powerful nonviolent change agent in a democratic society. I felt I had to do more. I proudly volunteered for the group Black Voters Matter writing postcards to registered voters in key states. John Lewis also told us that we have a moral obligation to "stand up, speak up and speak out." I'm committed to doing that better too. So much to do at work and for society.

I'm not sure what lies ahead as we begin our New Year, but I anticipate more swirling emotions and more silver linings.

I hope you will join me as we find new ways to stay connected while doing all we must, with peace and love, to make our world a better place.

Wishing you joy, good health and peace in the New Year,

Jess Lorden



Welcoming Our New ECP Director, Merav Veetal



We are excited, grateful, and happy to announce that Merav Veetal will be joining Congregation Kol Ami as the Director of Early Childhood Education (ECE) on August 24, 2020. Merav will lead the Early Childhood Program, working with our outstanding teaching staff in educating our youngest students and supporting their families. She will administrate all aspects of the school and collaborate closely with the Kol Ami senior staff to connect the Early Childhood Program to every dimension of synagogue life.

Merav carries two Masters Degrees, one in Early Childhood Education - Dual Certification General and Special from Bank Street College of Education — and one in Social Work from Columbia University, School of Social Work. She brings to Kol Ami a myriad of experience from her time as a classroom teacher and, significantly, as the Director of Education at My Little School, a Jewish nursery school serving families in Tribeca. In addition, Merav has been a therapist, assisting youth and their families in crisis, offering clinical interventions and supportive services. She is creative and deeply passionate about, and dedicated to, educating and guiding young children.

As Merav assumes the role of ECP Director, she will be supported by Acting Director Cindy Musoff, Past President Susan Kohn Arovas, and Administrators Tracey Schweber and Lisa Cohen, to ensure continuity and a smooth transition into the new school year.

The Board of Trustees thanks the ECP Director Search Committee - Lauri Carey (Co-Chair), Susan Kohn Arovas (Co-Chair), Suzanne Lasser, Margie Lewis, Liz Mayeri, Cindy Musoff, and David Seif - for their time and dedication in finding the right candidate to lead our nursery school and early childhood programs into this next, exciting stage.

Merav cannot wait to meet all of you and begin this journey of helping to grow our children, our school, and our community. We are planning opportunities for you to meet Merav and will let you know as soon as the events are scheduled. We look forward to having you join us in welcoming Merav to Kol Ami!

To the Kol Ami Community,

I feel so honored to be joining you as the ECP Director, and I am excited for the enriching and growth filled school year ahead of us. September is always an exciting and emotional time for families with younger children. When we start counting down to the first day of school, we also begin to wonder what school will look like for our children. Who will be their teachers and their classmates? Will they separate easily? How will they adjust to the environment? This year, as we continue to endure a pandemic, we know that parents have a number of added concerns. But despite the uncertainty of this new school year, as the new director of the Early Childhood Program here at Kol Ami, I want to guarantee to all of you that, more than ever, we are here to support you and your children as they learn, develop, and grow.

This year will look different from years past, but the principles of the ECP will remain the same. Building on the strong and solid foundation laid by Nan Blank, we will ensure that when our kids enter the classroom, they will learn how to be a good friend. We will help build up their confidence and foster their independence, while expanding their curiosity and cultivating their creativity. We will inspire their eye for wonder and beauty, while also encouraging them to express their feelings and emotions and communicate with one another. Sharing, waiting for turns, showing mutual respect—these will be some of the core elements of the classroom experience. As always, we will advocate for their needs. With so many unknowns, we will ensure that your children feel safe and loved when they are with us.

Please know that my door is open, and I invite and encourage each and every one of you to reach out to me at any time.

It is a great privilege to join the ECP and continue Nan's work. I know my sons, Zachary and Joseph, are beyond excited to attend Kol Ami and make new friends. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year together.

From my family to yours, Shana Tova. May we all enjoy health, happiness, and comfort.

Merav

A Message from our Religious School Director Pam Pass



Weebles wobble but they don't fall down.

Remember these? A 1970's children's roly-poly toy, Weebles were known to go back to an upright position when tipped. Every single time.

I gave the nickname "Weebles" to my daughters who have dealt with much that life has thrown at them; they have proven to be two of the most resilient people I know. Instead of staying down, they have popped back up over and over again, with renewed energy to make the best of their situations. When Clarey, my oldest, told my husband and me which college she had selected to attend, we had to tell her she couldn't go because we couldn't afford it. After feeling the sting of reality and mourning the loss of her dream for a few days, she pulled herself back to center, reinvigorated and determined. In her words, "I can either spend my time at college upset that I'm not at the other college, or I can make it the experience I want where I'm going. These are my only 4 years of college, and I'm going to make them great." And she did.

I've been reminded of this each time we've been asked to be Weebles throughout our Covid days. So much has been taken out of our control, so many things we are unable to do. So, do we fall down or do we readjust? How we react is within our power.

At the Religious School, I can say we are absolutely Weebles, popping back up and looking at these new times as an opportunity to rethink, reimagine, and reinvent. We are prepared to continue to deliver meaningful and joyful learning to our children, in ways that we think will prove to be even more effective. Although this Covid time has been difficult, confusing and unusual, it has also presented us with challenges that we have heartily accepted. What has remained the same is my excitement for the year to begin, and for us all to come together again in rich, meaningful, and joyous learning.

As I've taught my children—or more accurately as they've taught me—sometimes we are dealt a situation which forces us to be creative. We can focus on our disappointment or we can stand up to it, armed with determination. We are ready and eager to partner with you again this coming year. Our approach may be a little different, unlike anything we've known before, but if you choose to be a Weeble, it will be exactly perfect.

Wishing everyone a sweet new year, filled with health, happiness, continued Jewish learning, and resilience!

Pam

A Message from our Director of Youth Engagement Barak Stockler



The recent Black Lives Matter movement has spurred much of America to pay attention to the issues of race and racism in America. But as Jews, and being predominantly white, where do we stand and what are we doing? And what do our Youth have to say about it?

I think before diving in more it is important to note a few things about us as Jews: Most of us at Kol Ami present as White to a random stranger. Our more orthodox, or traditional, brothers can often present as Jewish instead of White. There are also Jews of Color. Depending on where you check, the population of Jews in the United States that are people of color ranges from 6% – 12% of our total population, and this number is expected to grow. I mention this because although Jews are an oppressed group, we “wear” our whiteness much more often than we “wear” our Jewishness. This means that we benefit from racism and white supremacy here in America, this is our white privilege.

The Youth Group has recently started some great anti-racist work here at Kol Ami. This is very much in response to the recent Black Lives Matter protest that have swept across our country. The goal of this work is to start a healthy, long-term, anti-racism program. While to some folks these protests and sentiments are new, and by the time this article is published it is possible that the protests will have stopped, it is important to recognize that what we are seeing now is a small taste of a hundred’s year-long struggle.

As someone who grew up in Scarsdale and went to Kol Ami, this work is even more important. In fact, it is my upbringing and experiences that push me to push the Youth Group. What our teens will experience here at Kol Ami, and much to their own initiative, will combat that which they learn at their schools. Some of our teens attended Rabbi Shira Milgraom’s Read-In on Racism. We had an amazing and eye-opening 6-week anti-racism workshop led by Nat’e’lege Wilson. Some of our teen leaders have also started a podcast focusing on policing and racism here in Westchester. And this is just the start of what the Youth Group will be doing.

So here is my ask to the adults of the congregation: let us enforce what the Youth are doing here at Kol Ami at home, at school, and everywhere in between. This means having hard conversations – something as simple as watching “The 13th” on Netflix, helping your child to recognize that which is racist around them, working on your own racist tendencies – microaggressions or otherwise, and going to protests when you can. Diversify your news sources, listen to black people, support black-owned businesses – and make this a norm for you and your family. You can use your voice and power, through the PTA or other avenues, and help push our schools to change what is often a white, colonialist, and even racist educational framework. This means pushing the organizations that you work for to do these things as well. Lastly, you can donate to cool and important organizations just as Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, The NAACP, The Innocence Project, The ACLU, and The National Lawyers Guild.

Barak Stockler

B'nai Mitzvah



Our students this year are learning and celebrating in a variety of ways! We look forward to wishing them Mazal Tov on their big days. Whether in small groups at the synagogue, or via digital gatherings, we know how hard they have worked and what an amazing milestone they have come to.

Below are the bios and photos of some of our Fall 2020 students. Check our December 1st Connection issue for more.



Zoe Dichter, daughter of Julie Mosow and Sasha Dichter, and sister to Jonah and Clara, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on September 12, 2020. She is beginning the eighth grade at Scarsdale Middle School and has been a camper at Eisner Camp for six summers. During the

school year, she plays squash and piano, and her favorite way to pass a Saturday afternoon is baking. Before the pandemic, she was able to raise money for MiracleFeet, an organization that provides support to clinics throughout the world in order to provide treatment to children born with clubfoot. Zoe is looking forward to celebrating in the sanctuary with family and friends.



Diana Gaffner, daughter of Scott and Sandy Gaffner and sister to Stuart, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 10 2020. She is an 8th grader at Providence Day School In Charlotte, NC. She loves softball, skiing, circus arts, hiking, reading, creative writing, and playing dungeons and dragons with her friends. As part of her mitzvah project she volunteered at Feeding Westchester and is donating books from a book drive to a Charlotte based charity. She misses her Kol Ami friends a lot.



Jenna Larit, daughter of Nadine and Jeremy Larit, and sister to Aaron, will become a Bat Mitzvah on October 17, 2020. Jenna attends Edgemont Junior High School. She enjoys baking, playing tennis, listening to music, and spending time with her dog Winston.



Ari Bernstein, son of Lisa and Rob Bernstein, and brother to Gabriel, Sasha & Reece, will become a Bar Mitzvah on October 3rd, 2020. Ari is very excited and has worked very hard to reach this milestone. Ari is an 8th grade student at the Highlands Middle School in White Plains, and enjoys hockey, video games, biking, and spending time with family and friends.

we are so proud of him!



Jordana Sherman, daughter of Sharon and Adam Sherman and sister to Levi will become a Bat Mitzvah October 24, 2020. Jordana is a student at Scarsdale Middle School. She loves dogs, music, basketball, art and being with her friends and family. Although she was looking forward to having everyone she cares about together for this momentous occasion she is grateful that the technology is available so everyone can still share in her special day.



Lexie Feldman, daughter of Stephanie and Douglas and younger sister of Zach, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 5th, 2020. She is in 8th grade at King School in Stamford. During the school year, Lexie plays volleyball, basketball and lacrosse. During the summer, she goes to Raquette Lake Girls Camp. Lexie also enjoys art, baking, and especially, binge watching tv shows. Lexie is very excited to share her special day with family and friends.



Leah Melissa Paley, daughter of Nancy and Michael Paley, and sister to Alexa, will become a Bat Mitzvah on November 14, 2020. Leah is a student at Edgemont Junior / Senior High School and enjoys skiing, soccer, lacrosse and enjoying time with family and friends.

September 12th
Reese Potash,
daughter of Brian and Robin Potash

October 10th
Mirielle and Eloise Schiamberg,
daughters of Judith and Scott Schiamberg

October 24th
Isobel Sidley,
daughter of Craig Sidley and Heidi Goldstein-Sidley

November 7th
Derek Shemer,
son of Marc Shemer and Christine Cantanieri

November 14th
Sam Smith,
daughter of Deborah and Scott Smith

November 21st
Alice Brodsky,
daughter of Stacy and Dan Brodsky

Something New at Kol Ami!

Calling all seekers in their 20s and early 30s for outside-the-box Jewish gatherings. We'll get to know each other, learn, discuss, share, and just be together. From contemporary Jewish poetry, music and sketch comedy, to Jewish teachings on social justice and ethics, to the deeper spirit of Jewish holidays beyond the borders of Hebrew school, to simply the joy of gathering together even amid this difficult era — come experience how timeless Jewish tradition can speak to us in this time.

Starting September 10th
Every other Thursday night, 7:30-8:30pm
Join either via Zoom or with a physically-distanced group on the lawn at Kol Ami
Email: 20s30s@nykolami.org with questions

Extraordinary Tuesday Evenings of ELUL in September

[Click here to register](#)

We inaugurate a year of **Courageous Conversations: Silence is Not an Option**
These two Tuesday evenings are held in partnership with the Workers Circle.
And there is even more in September on the back!

Tuesday, September 8th

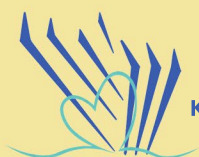
7:30–9:00pm "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round"

Emmy-award winning filmmaker Ilana Trachtman introduces us to the story of Glen Echo Amusement Park in DC - segregated until the 1960 "Summer of Protest." Protests were spearheaded by an interracial group led by black students from Howard University and Jewish neighbors. She will screen segments from her film "Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round" and tell the story of its making. Ilana has produced and directed Emmy award-winning nonfiction programs for over twenty five years. She has explored worlds for PBS, HBO Family, ABC-TV, Showtime, Lifetime, Discovery, A&E, and the Sundance channel. Through her production company Ruby Pictures, Ilana made the feature "Praying with Lior", which played theatrically in over 60 cities in the US and abroad. To watch a video clip of the film go to: <https://vimeo.com/255499696>

Tuesday, September 15th

7:30-9:00pm Reggie Harris

For songwriter, storyteller and activist Reggie Harris, who traces his ancestry both to slaves and slave owners who lived in Hickory Hill Plantation, the statue of his confederate general great-great-grandfather located in Byrd Park in Richmond was a painful reminder of the abuse members of his family suffered. Learn about Reggie's journey of self-discovery, reconciliation with some of his white relatives, and their involvement in bringing down confederate monuments, as profiled on CNN's Don Lemon Podcast and the New York Times.



In-Person. Virtual. Spiritual.
Kol Ami. Here for you in every way.



**THE
WORKERS
CIRCLE**

Jewish culture for a just world



Tuesday, September 22nd

7:00 – 8:00pm Integrity First for America - Together with the Synagogues of White Plains

Integrity First for America (IFA), in partnership with a world-class legal team, is uniquely taking on the neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and hate groups responsible for the “Unite the Right” violence in Charlottesville in 2017. IFA’s lawsuit-scheduled to go to trial in Federal court this fall- is the only current legal effort to take on the broad leadership of the violent white supremacist movement. It details how these extremists conspired, in advance, to orchestrate a weekend of violence and has the potential to fundamentally disrupt this movement by winning devastating financial judgments against these neo-Nazi groups and their leaders. Taking on, and taking down, these violent extremists is all the more critical as we see them try to exploit recent protests to spread disinformation, hate, fear, and violence.



TOGETHER AND APART

Lifting our prayers to the wind

We have the extraordinary opportunity to work together with artist Judy Sirota Rosenthal in creating an outdoor art installation of prayer flags. You will receive in your High Holy Day tote bag an envelope with fabric and plain paper inside. Please save the envelope. Each household/person will have the chance to write or draw a prayer – and they will all be lifted skyward in an installation the artist will create.

About the artist

part mystic and part woman of earth
cracked open by life
by poets, shamans, healers,
wise women, children, and fools

the immanent, the transcendent,
the broken, the whole

described in her art and life
as an “elegant primitive”
her work “awakens viewers”

exploring paradox, polarity, emotion
movement and stillness

her work is simultaneously
personal and universal
simple and many layered
provoking and comforting
alive and still

Selected Exhibitions in Addition to Kol Ami

Contemporary Sculpture at Chesterwood, Stockbridge , MA
The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, (Ridgefield CT)
Spertus Museum, Chicago, IL
Yeshiva University Museum, NYC
Rosen Art Museum, Boca Raton , FL
Hebrew Union College Museums/Skirball Museums, NYC, Cincinnati
The Benton Art Museum, Storrs, CT
The Aidekman Gallery of Tufts University, Medford MA
New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford, MA

**Also, watch for information in the Fall for our
AROUND THE SHABBAT TABLE –**

Friday Nights Re-Imagined- New this year!

Shabbat in the Woods **5:30-6:00pm**

Friday evening services **6:15-7:15pm**

7:15pm Set out your dinner, pour a glass of wine
and join us by Zoom

7:30-8:30pm Presentations, programs and
conversations around the Shabbat table

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Plastic waste is polluting our planet! Let's do our part to reduce its impact. Your Green Team is leading the effort to win a free Trex bench (pictured below) for Kol Ami by donating our used plastic for recycling by Trex. Trex is a company that makes wood-looking material out of recycled plastic. Their products are used for decking, furniture and playgrounds. To qualify, we must donate over 500 pounds of plastic over the next 6 months. The Food Pantry is collecting all of its plastic wrap for this goal!

Please help us by bringing your clean plastic to Kol Ami. It can have paper labels still attached, but no food residue. The attached flyer details what is recyclable. There will be 2 bins set up at Kol Ami outside the gym. Thank you for your participation!



RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

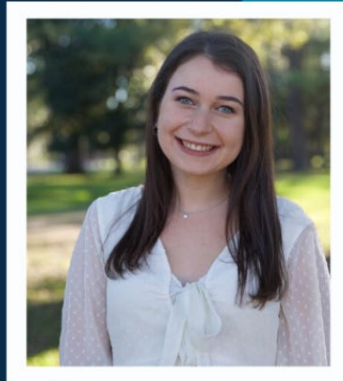
Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

RECYCLED IN AMERICA

NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Pointing with Pride



“ *Interning for AJC has allowed me to not only develop myself as a professional, but also as a Jewish advocate.* ”

Rachel Sarch
AJC Internship Program
2020

AJC Washington



Bilingual in America

By Suzanne Lasser and
Yarina Sencion

An exploration into the beauty and challenge of being bilingual and bicultural in America. It's a celebratory exploration into the immigrant experience in America through language and culture.

Click [here](#) to listen to the Podcast





Join Kol Ami for Broadway at Home!

Saturday, September 5th
following our 8:00pm Havdalah Service

Mairi Dorman-Phaneuf and Marc Phaneuf have held chairs in over twenty Broadway shows, and played live concerts for many of your favorite stars. On Saturday, September 5th, they'll entertain you with stories from their careers, and music from the shows you love; including West Side Story, Chicago, Fiddler on the Roof, Cats, Waitress and Hamilton. You can't see a Broadway show, so let us bring Broadway to you!

**Join Zoom Meeting
for the Havdalah service
and the concert by
clicking [here](#).**

Meeting ID:
839 4146 6025

Passcode:
DEQEg8





CURRENT EVENTS WITH BETH KAVA

Mondays 11:00am -12:30 pm

Beginning October 19th

(Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 7, 21,
Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 22,
Apr. 5, 19, May 3, May 24, June 7, 21)

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS WITH DAVID GRAVITZ

Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Starting October 13th (Oct. 13, 27, Nov 10, 24, Dec 8, 22, Jan 5, 19, Feb 2, 16,
Mar. 2, 16, 30, Apr 13, 27, May 11, 25, June 8, 22)

HEBREW WITH EMILY FIELDS

Starting in October

Advanced Beginners Hebrew Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Intermediate Hebrew Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Beginners Hebrew Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

12 classes \$180. Contact Emily at efgraphix@gmail.com

PARENTING & GRANDPARENTING GROUPS WITH SUSAN DAVIS

Parenting Young Adults Group - first Thursday of every month at Noon

Grandparents Group - first Monday of every month at 9:30 am

(in September, second Monday because of Labor Day)

KOL AMI READS, MODERATED BY DORIS DINGOTT

First Wednesday of every month at 9:15 am

Starting September 2nd. (Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2; 2021: Jan 6, Feb 3, March 3,
April 7, May 5th, June 2, July 7, Aug 4)

Book Scheduled:

Sept 2 *A Long Petal of the Sea* Isabel Allende

Oct 7 *The Great Believers* Rebecca Makkai

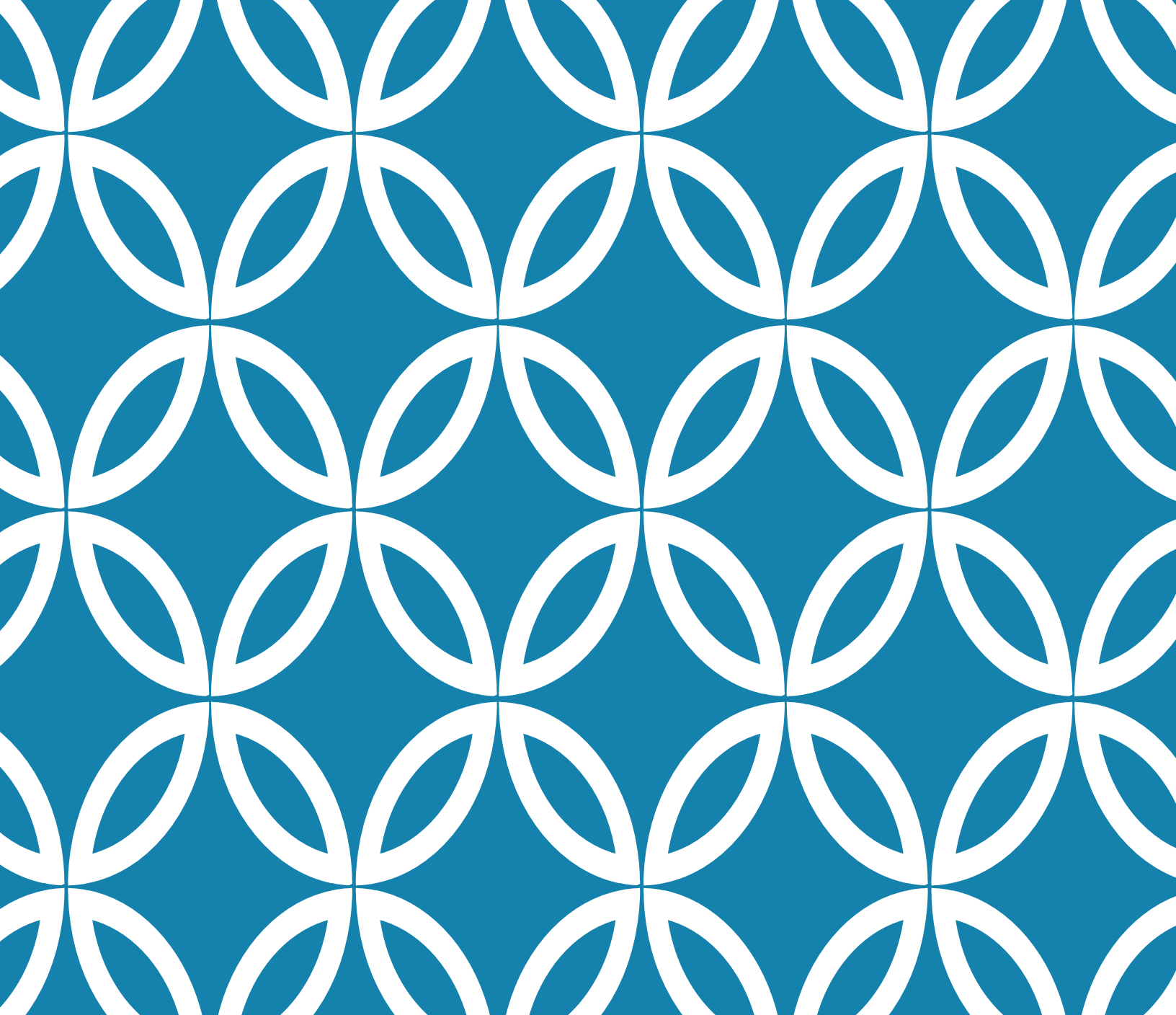
Nov 4 *Annual Poetry Session* led by Amy Winkler

Dec. 2 *The Vanishing Half* Brit Bennett

MONDAY NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES – CURATED BY ROGER SETI

Dates and Movies to be announced.

Please contact AdultEd@nykolami.org with any issues or questions.
We can't wait to learn and explore together!



KOL AMI HIGH HOLY DAYS GUIDEBOOK 2020

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY FIND MEANING AND
INSPIRATION THROUGH OUR
SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND IN
OUR DEEP CONNECTION TO
ONE ANOTHER.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
2020 HIGH HOLY DAY WORSHIP AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI.



HEALTH GUIDANCE

The following High Holy Day member experience was designed in accordance with, and guidance from:

1. Member feedback received through the High Holy Day survey
2. Clergy leadership, with the help of the Kol Ami Reopening Task Force
3. New York State Department of Health and Center for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines
4. Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders for places of worship
5. Union for Reform Judaism's recommendations for High Holy Day worship

MEMBERSHIP & MEMBER BENEFITS

- Outdoor Visits with our Clergy & Leadership
- High Holy Day Care Packages
- Access to Online High Holy Day Services
- Guest and Extended-Family Virtual Guest Tickets

AS SUMMER FLIES SEPTEMBER ARRIVES

Membership Commitment

The strength of our Kol Ami community always has been on account of you, our members. But now, amidst the challenges presented by the pandemic, we are especially grateful for your support. We welcome you — new and returning members — as we start this New Year.

In order for your membership to become or continue to be effective, please be sure to return to us on or before September 15th: (1) a completed Membership Commitment Form (which was sent with invoices); (2) payment of at least 50% of 2020-21 dues and fees, including, if applicable, the Building Fund and Religious School fees; and (3) payment of any outstanding financial obligations.

You are important to us and Kol Ami would not be what it is without you being part of our community. As always, we will do everything possible to ensure that everyone is able to remain an integral part of the Kol Ami family. Please contact Jess Lorden or Madiha Tubman if you would like to make a financial arrangement for your dues.

Prior to the High Holy Days in early September, members will be invited to visit the Kol Ami campus for greetings from our Rabbis, Cantor, Board President, Executive Director, and other Temple leaders!

Upon your visit you will receive a specially designed Kol Ami tote bag filled with items that were compiled based on congregant responses to our High Holy Day survey. Specifically, the gift bag will include, among other things, our High Holy Day Prayer book “Mishkan HaNefesh” on loan from the Temple, two gifts from our past Board presidents and current Board president-- honey for a sweet new year and a Havdalah candle to be lit at the conclusion of our Neilah service, a Kol Ami logo facemask for each member of your family (including children who have not yet reached the age of 26), a member directory, a packet of confession sheets for Yom Kippur, selected prayers, and recommended activities for families. For our out of area members, college students, and guests, electronic versions of our High Holy Day prayer books will be available.

Please note: that if you wish to keep the prayer books, you may pay for them on-line or you may write a check payable to Congregation Kol Ami in the amount of \$36 per book. You will be charged \$36 for all prayer books not returned to the main office by October 12th.



ACCESS TO LIVE STREAM AND ZOOM SERVICES

Our livestream and zoom High Holy Day services will be restricted for members who will receive access passwords in mid-September. We ask that you not share the passwords with anyone other than the members of your immediate family.

We frequently hear that friends and relatives of our members feel connected to Kol Ami through their participation in our worship services, programs, calls, classes, and livestream events. Now, for only \$360 per guest, Kol Ami members may invite their extended family (not living in Westchester County or New York City) and friends (not formerly Kol Ami members) to participate in this year's High Holy Day services and Kol Ami programming. (Guest access does *not include life cycle events officiated by our clergy.*) Kol Ami Members may purchase Guest Tickets for their parents and adult children living in Westchester County or New York City to participate exclusively in our High Holy Day Services for \$250 per person.

Kol Ami Benefactors continue to be entitled to Guest Access tickets based upon their level of membership. Kol Ami Benefactors may request Guest Access tickets for our worship services.

High Holy Day Services 2020

September 18: Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30pm-9:00pm

September 19: Rosh Hashanah Day One 10:00am-12:00pm
Rosh Hashanah Family Service 2:00pm-3:00pm

September 20: Rosh Hashanah Day Two 10:00am-12:00pm
Rosh Hashanah Community-Wide Shofar Blast 3:00pm

September 27: Erev Yom Kippur 7:30pm-9:00pm

September 28: Yom Kippur Day 10:00am-12:00pm
Yom Kippur Family Service 2:00pm-3:00pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon Service 3:00pm-4:30pm
College Youth Discussion 3:00pm-4:00pm
Yom Kippur Memorial and Neilah Service 5:00pm-7:00pm

Details and passwords will be provided to Kol Ami members and guest ticket holders in advance of the services

ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

SERVICE INFORMATION FOR 2020

With upgraded technology, we will be live streaming and zooming our services so that all members of our congregation are able to participate. Kol Ami's Rabbis, Cantor, Board President, Music Director and professional choir will be present in Kol Ami's beautiful sanctuary during the livestreaming of our services.

Memorial and Neilah Service:

Our Yizkor/Memorial service will continue to include the meaningful guided meditation we do each year and other moments of reflection. We are re-imagining the Neilah service and ways to bring people virtually into our ark to preserve the sanctity of this unique worship experience. Yom Kippur always ends with Havdalah. This year our Havdalah service will be all the more extraordinary. As you light your Havdalah candle at home, imagine the beauty of screen after screen of Kol Ami households joining together in a powerful and intimate close to our High Holy Day services.

Community-Wide Shofar Blast:

While the shofar will be heard during our services, we are excited to share that we are joining together with other neighborhood synagogues for a special community-wide shofar blast on Rosh Hashanah Day 2 at 3:00 PM. We are hopeful that you will step outside of your homes and be surrounded by the beautiful sound of the shofar coming from homes near and far.

Youth and Family Worship:

In response to your survey feedback indicating that parents prefer their children to worship with them, we will not conduct separate youth services. We will however, as always, have a separate family service for our families with very young children.



In recognition of the times, Kol Ami essential workers and volunteers who have kept our congregants connected and served our broader community in meaningful ways, will be recognized with an honor this year during our services.

PROGRAMS INITIATIVES & EVENTS

Yom Kippur Food Drive

Perhaps this year more than ever before, our food drive is critical as so many families within our congregational family and the broader Westchester community are struggling with food insecurity. When you pick up your Kol Ami tote bag, please consider bringing a full bag of non-perishable food. Bins will be marked so you may place items directly into the bins and retain your bag. All food will be donated to Feeding Westchester.

Clergy Reception

Join us for a special drive-through reception with our Rabbis, Cantor and Temple Leadership on Friday, September 25th. We invite you to drive by the main sanctuary entrance between 4:00 PM and 5:00PM to exchange New Year greetings and receive a round holiday challah. *For your safety, you must remain in your car and wear a facial covering.*

Memorial Book and Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques

Our Memorial Book will be available online this year. If you would like to list your loved ones in our Memorial Book please go to the www.nykolami.org/memorialbook. The deadline for submission is September 10th. If you would like to purchase a yahrzeit plaque please visit the Donations page on our website to complete the form and make your payment.

Kever Avot – Visiting the Cemeteries

It is a long-standing tradition to visit the graves of a loved one as part of our season of High Holy Days. Many find that having dedicated time to think of loved ones that they have lost can be intensely meaningful at this time of year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to gather at cemeteries as a community, but we encourage congregants to visit cemeteries independently. For the Kaddish and additional readings for loved ones please see our High Holy Day resources page on our website.

Featuring Your Family Photos

At various times during our High Holy Day services, as another way for all of us to feel connected, we plan to feature photos of our members and scenic nature photos taken by our members. If you would like to be included in one of our photo montages, please send a family photo or photo of nature that you took during the time we quarantined at home. If you volunteered during a Kol Ami initiative to help others, attended one of our outdoor events, or social justice marches we would love to see that too! Please send your photo to covidchronicles@nykolami.org. We look forward to seeing your smiles and how you have been engaged during this time.

What Is Our Responsibility to Future Generations?

A Story from the Talmud.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life Cycles

Congratulations

- ✧ To Jess and Dave Lorden on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah to Alex Jo.
- ✧ To Lori and Rob Abrams, on the marriage of their daughter Lucy to David Behmoaras

Condolences

- ✧ To Mitch Bodner and family, on the passing of his grandmother Anne Bodner
- ✧ To Brenda Siegler and family, on the passing of her mother Regina Pachner
- ✧ To Robin Davies-Small and family, on the passing of her mother Claire Davies
- ✧ To Matt Gruber and family, on the passing of his twin sister Ethel Kahn
- ✧ To George Akst and family, on the passing of his mother Peggy Akst
- ✧ To Adam Akst and family, on the passing of his grandmother Peggy Akst
- ✧ To Danielle Gecht and family, on the passing of her grandmother Peggy Akst
- ✧ To Janet Zuckerman and family, on the passing of her father Leonard Lambert
- ✧ To Leslye Davidson and family, on the passing of her mother Marilyn Davidson
- ✧ To Scott Howard and family, on the passing of his father Robert Howard

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of her special friend, Abbe Goodman, and her parents, Warren and Gladys Weiss, from Stephanie Levine
- ✧ In appreciation, from Linda Kligman
- ✧ In memory of Melvyn Radner, from Linda Radner
- ✧ In appreciation, from Jess and Dave Lorden
- ✧ In appreciation, from Susan Gordon
- ✧ In memory of her mother, Claire Davies, from Robin Davies-Small

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of their son, Peter, from Morley and Mary Ellen Kaye
- ✧ In memory of Abbe Goodman, and Meyer and Beatrice Levine, from Stephanie Levine
- ✧ In appreciation, from Alan and Claudia Barson
- ✧ In appreciation, from Nancy Merahn
- ✧ In memory of her father, Leonard Lambert Rivkin, from Drs. Janet and Joe Zuckerman
- ✧ In memory of Michael and Sydney Glazer, son and granddaughter of Florence Glazer, from Barbara Block
- ✧ In appreciation, from Susan and Ken Gordon
- ✧ In honor of their son Josh's Bar Mitzvah, from Diane and Michael Litvak
- ✧ In memory of Robin's mother, Claire Davies, from Robin Davies-Small and Adam Small
- ✧ In support of Youth Programming, from Nat and Betsy Bohrer

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of Lenny Lang, from Stuart Lang

Generous Contributions

Donations to the Food Pantry

- *Judy Asher
- *Myrna Barzelatto
- *Lawrence and Elyse Benenson
- *In memory of her sister, Jeanie Ballard, from Barbara Block
- *In honor of friendship with Drs. Bonnie and Eric Eilen from Phil and Nina Blumenfeld
- *In appreciation of Barbara Wexler's friendship from Phil and Nina Blumenfeld
- *Lisa Borowitz
- *Robin Cohen
- *Marsha and Paul Geller
- *Joyce and Alan Goldman
- *Susan and Ken Gordon
- *In honor of Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Birthday, from Janet and Mark Hershey
- *Harriet Kraver
- *Jennifer and Paul Lemberg
- *Myra Oltsik
- *In honor of Kevin Cohen, from Arthur Plutzer
- *Alice Seidman
- *In appreciation of Harriet Kraver, from Rayna E. Shapiro
- *Barbara Shore
- *In honor of Aria Kadosh's birthday, and in appreciation of Harriet Kraver, from Madiha Tubman
- *Joyce Hoffman and Harold Selden

Kol Ami Fund

- *In appreciation, from Richy Glassberg
- *In memory of their son, Peter Kaye, from Mary Ellen and Morley Kaye
- *In appreciation for Shabbat dinners, from Shirley Schechter
- *In memory of Melvyn Radner, husband of Linda Radner, from Joan Riemer
- *To support grounds' beautification work, from Ginny and Brian Ruder
- *In memory of Diana Munder, from Carole and Jack Stork

Kol Ami Fund for the Needy

- *In appreciation, from Elissa and David Strauss
- *In appreciation, from Rachel Freedman and Daniel Rosen
- *In loving memory of her father, Max Weih, from Lore Kalb
- *In honor of Drs. Bonnie and Eric Eilen, from Rabbi Tom Weiner
- *Linda Rodney and Marc Weinstein

Thank You

Tree of Life Leaf

- *In honor of Carole and Ron Ries' 50th Wedding Anniversary from Sandee and Neal Nevitt



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

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

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

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

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

NAMES

I am enclosing my check for \$_____ made payable to Congregation Kol Ami
for the purchase of _____ Memorial Plaque(s).

Contributions



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

Send donation acknowledgement to: _____

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

Amount Enclosed: _____

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

Funds

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

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Front row, L to R: Sierra Trano, Megan Davis, Vanessa Day, Luke

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