



THE
CONNECTION

Winter 2020 Edition



Congregation Kol Ami
White Plains, NY

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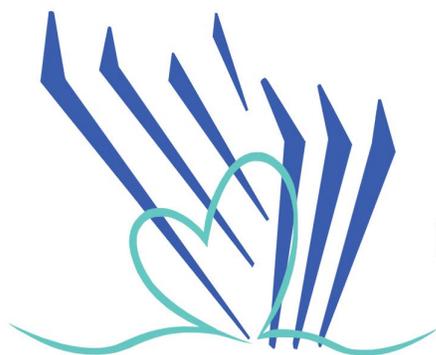
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A Proud Member of the URJ

Winter 2020 Cover Photo courtesy of congregant Judy McEvoy: “My Oma Hedy was the greatest German Jewish Holocaust survivor and humble baker in all of Washington Heights. Thank you for teaching me and always inspiring me. I miss you everyday.”



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

1923-2020 ~ 97 Years
www.nykolami.org #nykolami

**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.**

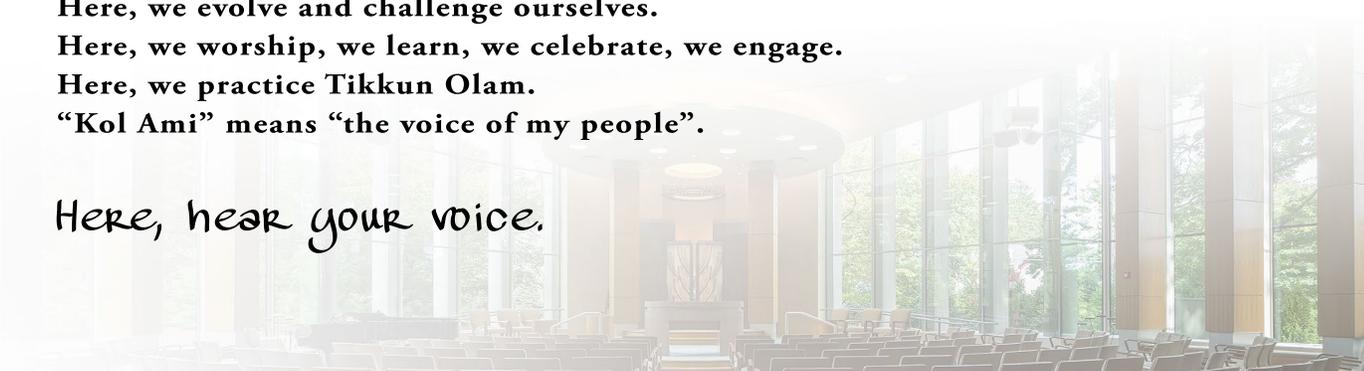
Here, we evolve and challenge ourselves.

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.

To join us online via Zoom click [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 Havdallah links and information about programs that follow after services.

Weekly Torah Portions

December

Week ending December 5, 2020

Parashat Vayishlach Genesis 32:4-36:43 Jacob is now ready to return home after fleeing twenty years earlier, and realizes he will have to reconcile with his brother Esau. On the way, Jacob once again has a dream and encounters a divine messenger. After the dream, Jacob is renamed Israel, meaning “struggles with God.” Our narrative leaps forward in time to the moment when Jacob’s children are now adults and his daughter, Dina is raped. Two of Jacob’s sons Simeon and Levi avenge the crime.

Week ending December 12, 2020

Parashat Vayeishev Genesis 37:1-40:23 Vayeishev begins the final extended narrative of Genesis, the Joseph story. The Joseph story serves as a bridge between B’reishit (Genesis) and Sh’mot (Exodus) in that Joseph, his brothers, and eventually his father start out in Canaan but end up in Egypt. The parashah weaves together the themes of family and betrayal, so evident in the early stories of Genesis, with the larger national themes of suffering and redemption that form the backbone of Exodus.

Week ending December 19, 2020

Parashat Mikeitz Genesis 41:1-44:17 This week’s parashah continues the story of Joseph at the end (mikeitz) of his prison term. Joseph, who has been Pharaoh’s prisoner for two years, is released from jail in order to interpret Pharaoh’s perplexing dreams. Joseph is placed in charge of food collection and distribution after his interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams reveals that seven years of prosperity will be followed by seven years of famine.

Week ending December 26, 2020

Parashat Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27 Joseph’s brothers are in Egypt to get food to bring back to famine-ridden Canaan. Our parashah begins with the brothers unknowingly standing before their brother Joseph, who has become the vizier of Egypt; and Judah asking to be imprisoned in place of his youngest brother Benjamin (whom Joseph framed). Judah, who once convinced his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery rather than kill him, argues for Benjamin (Rachel’s only other child) because he fears that any harm to Benjamin would break his father’s heart.

January

Week ending January 2, 2021

Parashat Va-y’chi Genesis 47:28-50:26 This final parashah in the book of B’reishit brings the first book of the Torah full circle. The family stories of patriarchs and matriarchs culminate in the blessings of Jacob to his sons and grandsons. The centerpiece of this portion is a sequence of twelve blessings, delivered by Jacob to each of his sons. Jacob brings his entire family together to hear his words.

Week ending January 9, 2021

Parashat Sh’mot Exodus 1:1-6:1 We begin the book of Exodus with this week’s parashah. In Hebrew, the name of the book and its first parashah is Sh’mot, meaning “names,” referring to the names of the Israelites who come to Egypt with Jacob. A new Pharaoh who does not have direct experience with Joseph & his role in Pharaoh’s court has taken control of Egypt. The Israelites are enslaved. Moses is born and in turn “gives birth” to the people of Israel.

Week ending January 16, 2021

Parashat Va’eira Exodus 6:2-9:35 In Va’eira, this week’s parashah, God speaks to Moses, confirming the covenant that God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The pleas of the enslaved Israelites have been heard by the Eternal, and God instructs Moses to promise the Israelites redemption. God also commands Moses to speak to Pharaoh and demand that he liberates the people of Israel. Pharaoh refuses to release the slaves and God causes plagues on the Egyptians in order to change Pharaoh’s mind.

Week ending January 23, 2021

Parashat Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16 This parasha begins with a reiteration of God’s challenge to Pharaoh to change his behavior, while at the same time making it more difficult for him to do so. The parashah concludes with the freeing of the Israelites from bondage. God tells Moses and Aaron that the people must remember how God freed them from bondage.

Week ending January 30, 2021

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

February

Week ending February 6, 2021

Parashat Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23 Yitro, also known as Jethro, is Moses’ father-in-law. He observes the toll that Moses’ leadership of the Hebrews is taking and advises Moses to delegate some of the responsibility and authority. In this parashah, the people find themselves at the base of Mount Sinai after several weeks of wandering. This is the site where God presents Moses with the Ten Commandments.

Week ending February 13, 2021

Parashat Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18 The word mishpatim means “case laws.” This week’s parashah continues the presentation of Divine legislation (the Torah) and includes many decrees - comprising civil, criminal, and cultic regulations. The parashah ends with a covenant ceremony on Mount Sinai.

Week ending February 20, 2021

Parashat T’rumah Exodus 25:1-27:19 Parashat T’rumah describes the construction of the Tabernacle. God gives meticulously detailed instructions regarding the elements and design of the Tabernacle, particularly the Holy Ark. Each individual is asked to contribute towards its building materials and furnishings as he or she is motivated.

Week ending February 27, 2021

Parashat T’zaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10 The rituals surrounding the priests and sacrifices are described, and the obligations of Aaron and his sons are enumerated in Parashat T’zaveh. This parashah has the distinction of being the only parashah in the last four books of the Torah in which the name of Moses does not appear.



Shira Milgrom

HANUKKAH 2020 – DARING TO HOPE

H

anukkah (like Kwanza and Christmas) occurs during the darkest time of the year. The nights are longest – and as the moon wanes during the week of Hanukkah, they are also the darkest of the lunar month. Coupled with the cold of winter, it is a tough time of year – not to mention a world-wide pandemic. As of writing this article, the outcome of the election is far from clear (the polls haven't even closed!) and the political landscape remains worrisome and troubling. Hanukkah will be ten days from the time this Connection appears in your inbox.

Hanukkah memorializes a conflict of 2,200 years ago, a conflict that began as a civil war within the Jewish community and one that we remember primarily as the victory of the right to be different, a victory of religious freedom. Many of us also remember the legend of Hanukkah (which we were unfortunately taught as history) – that a small vial of purified oil lasted not one day – but miraculously for eight – until new oil could be pressed and purified and rekindle the eternal light.

Legends and stories are poetry; they provide the language of symbols that give meaning to our hopes and struggles. I have never particularly liked the story of the oil – mostly because the outsized focus on it obscured the real, fascinating and complex story of Hanukkah. But this year, the legend of the oil echoes in my own dreams and nightmares. It's 165 BCE. The Jewish people are at a low point. Three years of fighting (and lots of internal corruption) have left Jerusalem in shambles, the Temple in ruin. Though victorious, the Maccabees are faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the nation. They clean up the ruined Sanctuary – and are about to rekindle its sacred light when – oh no – they find only one small flask of oil. It's not enough to last until reinforcements can arrive. Their dilemma: do you light the oil when it's not enough?

Or, said differently, what do you do if you only have a little bit of hope? Do you dare hope at all? Theodore Herzl answered that question when addressing the near impossibility of a Jewish state: "im tirtzu, ein zo agada. If you will it, it is not a legend." Hope is not a legend. Hope is real. There has been so much that is difficult in these months, AND there have also been the most profound and powerful expressions of love, of connection, of vulnerability, of creativity, of healing, of reaching out. We have seen how troubled our world is; we have become aware of bigotries far more widespread and toxic than we ever imagined. We have also seen how deeply we care and how much we have to lose if we don't stand up for the world we want to bequeath to our children and grandchildren. Hope is not a legend, and even if we have only a little bit of it, we must dare to hope. We can grow the hope – and we can grow the light. With each night of Hanukkah, we light one more candle against the darkness – and we bring more light into our world.

Together.



Tom Weiner

plan for the worst but hope for the best!

Be creative, open your
imaginings and
your hearts!

What are
your ideas
on how we
should someday
celebrate the
Grand Reopening
of our lives?

CLICK
HERE TO
GET
STARTED!

Sure, it might be hard to believe or even imagine that there is a light at the end of this crazy Covid tunnel. But even if we can't yet see it, we have to believe that it is truly there, amazingly bright and welcoming.

We have spent these months deeply involved in “planning for the worst”, and here in our community we have all done some very good work taking good care of ourselves, our families, and our neighbors. We planned for the worst. It arrived. And we have managed to keep our heads above water, as we have, virtually and in person, held one another up.

So now, let's begin to enjoy imagining and preparing for the “best” that is now on the horizon.

I am providing here a community blog space for us to begin imagining together. You are all invited to participate and write your dreams, ideas and creative thoughts on how the Kol Ami community can jump into, and get the most out of, the good times that are certain to come.

What might we plan for that new horizon?

- Find ways to make up for missed celebrations?
- Create joyous, unmasked opportunities to gather?
- Help those of us who suffered losses during these months but didn't yet feel the embrace and comfort of community? Or we didn't have the opportunity to fully celebrate those lives we miss?
- When our epidemiologists tell us it is safe, should we have a huge hug fest?
- Introduce our little ones to opportunities they have not yet experienced?



Cantor Daniel Mendelson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Mendelson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the portrait.

Five months into serving as your cantor, it's been hard not to wonder how different it will feel once we, at long last, get back into the sanctuary together as a community. With part of my background in filmmaking and the performing arts, leading and singing to a camera lens week in and week out has been a strangely familiar and even exciting experience. With the help of our wonderfully connected Rabbi's, a vibrant music director and top-flight musicians, I often feel greatly connected to the prayerful liturgy, as I pray with you. At other moments, candidly, it can feel like we're delivering the 6 o'clock news from our TV studio. These are the times we're living through. They will end. But likely not for a while...

And now, for another addition of I never thought I'd say these words: Standing on top of a pickup truck, gazing out at the congregation during our wildly enjoyable and successful Drive-In Shabbat initiative, I've experienced a real sampler of the power with which this community participates. In short, y'all love to sing! I had been briefed by Cantor David and others of this reality, but nothing could prepare me for your collective ringing sound, beside cars, praying and harmonizing along with me during almost every stretch of Kabbalat Shabbat tefillah. I almost fell off the truck...I can only imagine Kol Ami's prayerful roar when we face each other and sing together in our sanctuary.

The word Hanukkah means dedication, as it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple following its cruel take-over. This pandemic has often felt like a take-over of our way of life. Over these months, I've been inspired by Kol Ami's own dedication to bringing us back to the core of our Jewish comforts and practices, while embracing and addressing reality head-on. As we ignite the spark of light together, over our screens, let's keep in mind how far we've come, in staying grounded spiritually and Jewishly throughout this uncertain chapter, while we look ahead to our own Holy Temple's rededication.



President Hank Rouda

The connections that one makes and cultivates deepen the sense of community and give back to each individual far more than one puts in. That has never been truer than this year when we were able to maintain much of that connection even when we have remained physically distant.

Hank Rouda

While I believe that this sense of community is strong at Kol Ami, it's not something that we can take lightly and just assume that it's always been that and will always be so. Rather, it takes constant nourishment and cultivation to keep this bond strong. The secret to Kol Ami's success is that our sense of community doesn't come from the top down; rather, it's the strength of the relationships that develop at the grass roots level which feed our Kol Ami community. It's the selfless acts which are, or which become, second nature, which are the building blocks of whom we are and who we will continue to be. It's all of these things that ultimately create the unique community which means so much to us. We must do all that we can to continue to nourish these relationships both virtually and, gradually, in person.

"Tzedakah and acts of kindness are the equal of all of the mitzvot in the Torah." Jerusalem Talmud. We, as a community, excel at performing acts of kindness. We are there for each other in times of joy and in times of need. Our volunteers have reached out to our congregants who haven't been able to get out as much as they'd like and made sure that they had groceries and provided them with Shabbat meals. We do not limit ourselves to our own Kol Ami community. Our Food Pantry has been bagging food for over 350 families each week during this crisis. And even without being at services in person, we still donated close to as much food during our Yom Kippur Food Drive as we do during a normal year.

Our relationship with our synagogue has evolved from that of our parents and their parents. When I was younger, the temple was the central focus of our Jewish lives and my parents supported it accordingly. This was just a given. Today, there are so many other options, both Jewish and secular which are competing for our attention and funds. We're bombarded with "free gifts" (and donation solicitations) in the mail, especially at this time of year. So, it's understandable that Kol Ami might not always be at the top of mind when it comes time to make your year-end donations. While it may be understandable, it also need not be that way.

If you haven't yet made your Annual Fund pledge, now is the time. This year, more than ever, we need your help to keep our financial position strong.

On Yom Kippur, I spoke of the reasons that, every year, we ask you to contribute to the Annual Fund. I pointed out that

dues cover only 43% of our total budget. I explained that only a little more than 10% of our congregants participate in our Benefactors program, while more than 40% of our families are on some form of dues relief. And I also made it clear that it is not up to any one person to make up the difference; rather, it is each of our responsibility to give in a way that is meaningful to you; to give to ensure that our congregation will continue for us and for our future generations. And it appears that you heard me, for our Annual Fund is ahead of last year both in terms of the number of congregants (and non-members) who have donated, and the total amount donated. However, we are still well below our goal.

Each of you is a spark that helps Kol Ami burn brightly. Together, we fuel our collective flame, sharing our own light so that our community can shine, and each of us shares our light in many ways, including through financial support. While donation size may vary according to one's ability, it is the choice to dig deeply that defines generosity. If you have already made a pledge, we are deeply grateful. If you have not yet had the chance, please visit www.nykolami.org to make a donation or simply send in a check.

Whatever your "Entrance to Kol Ami" may be, there is a way for you to help support this place that is at the center of our Jewish lives. I encourage you to put Kol Ami at the top of your list of donations as we say goodbye (and good riddance!) to 2020.

Jean and I wish you joyous holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year!



Executive Director Jess Lorden

Jess Lorden

quotes from eight women I admire; eight women who shattered glass ceilings and opened doors for other women. Eight women who brought light into our world. I hope men and women alike find these quotes to be inspirational.

The first candle: Eleanor Roosevelt, was the First Lady of the United States from March 4, 1933, to April 12, 1945, during her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms in office, thus making her the longest-serving First Lady of the United States. In her own right, Mrs. Roosevelt was a diplomat and activist. Mrs. Roosevelt notably said "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," and "You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

The second candle: Madeleine Albright served as the first female United States Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton. Mrs. Albright once said "I was taught to strive not because there were any guarantees of success but because the act of striving is in itself the only way to keep faith with life." I credit Mrs. Albright with my second favorite all-time quote. In a 2006 Keynote speech at a luncheon honoring the WNBA's All-Decade Team, Mrs. Albright said "There is a special place in hell for women who don't help other women."

The third candle: Ginni Rometty became IBM's first women President and CEO on January 1, 2012. I worked for Ginny and carpooled with her before she became CEO. Two statements of Ginni's have stayed with me throughout the years: "I learned to always take on things I'd never done before," and "Don't let others define you. Define yourself." I offer these as inspiration to younger women, as well as my contemporaries who may be considering career and life changes.

The fourth candle: Michelle Obama was our nation's first lady for eight years, during her husband's two terms as President. I admire the poise with which Mrs. Obama carried herself in the face of hate and racism. Mrs. Obama asserted "You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it's important for you to understand that overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages." She also stated "I want our young people to know that they matter, that they belong. So don't be afraid. You hear me, young people? Don't be afraid. Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered. Empower yourself with a good education. Then get out there and build a country worthy of your boundless promise. Lead by example with hope; never fear."

The fifth candle: Billie Jean King is a pioneer for equal opportunities and pay for women in tennis and beyond, as well as for LGBTQ rights, and a former world No. 1 tennis player. She holds 39 Grand Slam titles. She was the first woman to win a match against a man, after being challenged by Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes in 1973. Ms. King was often quoted as saying "I wanted to use sports for social change." In recent years we have seen athletes model Mrs. King's behavior.

The sixth candle: Hillary Rodham Clinton was First Lady of the United States from 1993 to 2001, during her husband's two terms of office. She was elected to represent New York State in the United States Senate from New York from 2001 to 2009, and was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 67th United States Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013. She was the

first female Presidential candidate of a major political party in 2016. I attribute two quotes to Mrs. Clinton as follows: "You have just one life to live. It is yours. Own it, claim it, live it, do the best you can with it," and "I believe the idea of the village and its shared responsibility for our children is even more essential today than it was in 1996."

The seventh candle: Gloria Steinem, a journalist and social political activist became nationally recognized as a leader and a spokeswoman for the American feminist movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Earlier this year, Ms. Steinem said "I've been using my torch to light other peoples' torches. Because the whole idea that there's only one torch is part of the reason why we're so fucked up. Everybody needs a torch."

The eighth candle: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, only the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, was a longtime, forceful advocate of women's rights and gender equality. Justice Ginsburg said "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." Justice Ginsburg holds the spot for my favorite all-time quote, beating out Secretary of State Albright, by stating the following: "I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

In the interest of gender equality, stay tuned for the December 2021 issue of *The Connection* when I'll be sharing my list of the eight most influential men in my life, beginning with my Dad.

I wish for you peace, happiness, laughter, the warmth of home, miracles, love, light, and meaningful friendships throughout the eight nights of Hanukah and beyond.

Religious School Director Pam Pass



Pam Pass



My Aunt Etta, told me a version of this story growing up, and I never forgot it.

Once upon a time there was a boy named Joseph. His father, Jacob, bought him a brand new robe. But not just any robe! No, this was red and yellow, and green and blue, and striped. **That's good!**

No, that's bad because Joseph's 11 brothers became really jealous since a "coat of many colors" was only worn by important people. So, they said, "Who does little brother think he is wearing a robe like that?!" **That's bad!**

No, that's good. Joseph had a dream that he was going to become someone important alright—the leader of a great nation—and that someday his brothers would have to bow down to him. So, Joseph tried to explain that to his 11 brothers. **That's good!**

No, that's bad. Joseph's brothers got so mad, they ripped up his brand new coat, and threw him head first into a deep hole in the ground. **That's bad!**

And so the story goes, back and forth, until...Joseph becomes an advisor to Pharaoh? Until the Israelites are enslaved? Until the Israelites are freed? Are given the 10 Commandments? Enter Israel?

One could argue that nothing is inherently good or bad, it's just where you are in the story. Or, in your willingness to frame what is happening not as "that's bad!" but as "that's not good...yet." "Yet" is perhaps my favorite word in the English language. It is filled with possibility, with the temporary nature of something bad happening, with trust in...G-d? People? The universe? that good will follow.

Our Religious School continues to be filled with lively Jewish learning, engaged students, an amazing and effective new small group Hebrew program for grades 4-6, interesting activities, remarkable teachers, Hebrew movement, new ideas for outdoors, excited madrichim (teachers' assistants), new ideas for our online students, new connections, and especially being together Jewishly. I am filled with gratitude that we have the teaching staff that can provide this for our students. I am equally gratified by, and in awe of, our parents, who every day blow me away with their offers to volunteer, notes of appreciation, and flexible mindsets. Even as the demand on parents' time, energy, and ability to juggle have increased (along with uncertainty, anxiety, and change), the level of patience and gratitude has increased. It is a real honor and privilege to serve this community, who at the end of long, crazy days, can still look at things and say: **That's good!**

Let's try a more modern version, one to which we can all personally relate.

Since Covid-19 showed up, everything including learning has changed. We can't learn—or do much of anything—as we used to. Kids and parents have crazy schedules. **That's bad!**

Religious School is meeting outside in-person, having joyous Religious School classes together. **That's good!**

Even outside, we have to stay socially distant, and it's sometimes hard to hear each other. **That's bad!**

We have awesomely talented and enthusiastic teachers who are making the very best of this situation and engaging our Religious School children in creative ways of learning.

That's great...er, good!

Early Childhood Director Merav Veetal



Merav Veetal

I am grateful every time I walk through the door of the ECP: for every day of in-person classes; the sounds of laughter and conversation in the hallways; and, most of all, the passionate teaching staff. I often think about our teachers, our very own frontline workers, and their heroic dedication. I think back to those first few days before the children arrived in September and our conversations about health and safety. Some of our teachers have children at home. Others are caregivers for elderly relatives or have immunocompromised family members. But as soon as the children walked into the ECP, all of their concerns receded. I asked some of our teachers to reflect on their experiences.

“During the summer the idea of going back to work in person was quite daunting. I did not understand how it could possibly be a successful environment. Separated, not being allowed to share toys and to try to teach and communicate with a mask on all day. I worried that the children had been out of school for so long that the loss of time would be a true detriment. I was concerned that they would not be able to learn social cues that facial expressions show, while hidden behind a mask. And mostly I worried that in this environment I would not be able to connect with them in a way that I always have in the past. As is typical for me, I fell in love with each of the children as soon as I met them. We slowly built a relationship and I could tell that they trusted me and were so happy to be at school. They created friendships with each other and went about their day like any other year at school. Slowly, the mask became a normal part of my daily wardrobe, and I learned to communicate with them using my eyes, voice and body language. The class is learning, thriving even. They have not missed a beat. I am so thankful that we get to come to school each day and that I have the opportunity to teach these children. I have an incredible class, with great support from the families and feel grateful each time I walk into my classroom.”

“I was assigned to perform a Covid check for the children. This included taking temperature. The first week the children’s reactions were a combination of bewilderment, compliance, scared, resistance and/or hysterical. Mind you, these children were all masked. It didn’t take too long for the children to become very comfortable with this new protocol to the point where they would see me, smile, say hi, lift their heads and move their bangs, so I could take their temperature. For the most part, they would then happily walk to their classrooms. To me, this was a remarkable acceptance of the “new normal” and I was beyond impressed with how much they craved the socialization and routine of school.”

Since our first day the teachers have powered through it all. I am so proud of them. I am also proud of this community. We have defied the odds. Because of our collaborative efforts, we have been able to keep our school open all the while doing some amazing things. We celebrated the holidays by eating apples and honey and hearing Rabbi Tom blow shofar in the school parking lot. We gathered together for Shabbat In The Lot with a concert led by Cantor Danny. We held our very first virtual book fair with great success. Every week, the children practice yoga and music — either outside or via Zoom. This year may be different, but in many ways it feels the same.

I do not know what our future holds, but I am hopeful. With Thanksgiving and Hanukkah right around the corner, we have wonderful programs and events planned for the children. While we have to adjust to the realities of our current moment, I am confident in our school and our community. We will continue to meet any and all challenges, taking a cue from our children who, through it all, have shown us their strength.

“It is a gift to be back in the classroom with children... We are quickly becoming a “school” family. By being in school, the children are learning to take care of themselves and to care for others. Even with the new protocols, the children have adapted very quickly to masks and understand they are part of their day. Working with your children warms my heart and makes me smile under my mask everyday.”



Director of Youth Engagement Barak Stockler

Barak Stockler

We have spent a lot of time being hyper-focused on our democracy. The recent presidential election is a culmination of 4 years of work, attention, time, and focus. I want to take a moment to recognize how much effort and organizing has happened these past few years to get nearly 160 million people to vote. More people voted in this past election than ever before in American history – the turnout rate has not been this high in over a hundred years. But it doesn't stop there, regardless of where you fall on the political spectrum, these next few months, as we transition to a new president, will be filled with many emotions.

Now is as good a time as any to remember that regardless of our president, we need to fight for our rights and values. A great example of this is the Religious Action Center – the political and legislative arm of the URJ. Our teens have been going on a trip to the RAC in D.C. to lobby their representatives for many years, not just these past four. Our teens have been fighting for womens rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and more for a number of years. Kol Ami continues to fight in this spirit – you should have received an email from me and Ronnie Cohn on behalf of the Be The Light committee about the Westchester Right to Counsel (RTC) Coalition.

This RTC coalition is fighting to prevent over 6,000 Westchester tenants from being evicted. I won't go into too much detail here, but I recommend you check out the details on our website – nykolami.org/right2counsel. Over the summer our congregants and Youth Group participated in a read in against racism and an anti-racism workshop. The Youth Group and the Be The Light Committee also worked to register voters before the general election; we phone banked and sent postcards all across the United States. We continue that now in advance of the Georgia runoff election in January. The point here is that there is always a fight to be had, there is always something to be done to make a change, and Kol Ami is here to help make it happen.

I have spent the past few weeks running an elective on activism with a group of Kol Ami's 7th graders. We spoke about the environment, the RTC initiative, the election, racial justice, policing, and more. I hope to inspire a sense of urgency and action amongst our 7th graders, that they might have their own fights when they are older. We need to continue to fight and advocate for ourselves – our fight does not end. I want to share a few of the 7th graders thoughts on what it means to advocate for change, to be an activist:

“Activism means trying to make changes for a better future”

“Activism means standing up for what's right and what you believe in.
It means trying to make an actual impact.”

“Activism is going into a group of people and convincing them
why they should help the earth”

“Activism is people fighting for what's right
even if you have to stand up by yourself”

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.



Lev Glazman, son of Rachel and Mo Glazman and brother to Jonah, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 5th, 2020. He is in 8th grade at Highlands Middle School in White Plains. Lev loves spending his summers at URJ Camp George in Ontario, Canada and plays hockey with the White Plains Plainsmen. He enjoys fishing and plays piano and baritone saxophone. For his mitzvah project, Lev volunteered weekly with the NY Rangers Learn to Skate Program where he taught younger kids how to skate and play hockey. Lev has enjoyed learning his Torah portion with his dad as his tutor. He is excited to share his special day with friends and family via life stream and hopes to celebrate in person soon.



Noah Podolak, son of Evan and Amy Podolak and sister of Sydney will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 12, 2020. Noah is in the 7th grade at Louis Klein Middle School in Harrison. He enjoys playing lacrosse, skateboarding, biking and playing video games. During this year, Noah has organized virtual walks and fundraised raising money for Project Purple, an organization whose mission is to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.



Jackson Milo Kalt, son of Michele and Marc Kalt and brother to Gemma Kalt, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 9, 2021. Jackson is in 7th grade at The Windward School in Harrison and spends his summers at Camp IHC in PA, a place he considers his second home. Jackson is happiest when he is outside fishing, bike riding, skateboarding and playing soccer and tennis. Jackson has a deep love for animals and will be doing his mitzvah project with a local animal shelter as soon as it is allowed again. Jackson is excited to share his special day with friends and family via life stream and hopes to be able to celebrate in person soon.



Zachary Cole, son of Karen and David Cole, and brother of Sam and Jared, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 16, 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Zachary's original bar mitzvah date in April 2020 was postponed. Zachary is an 8th grader at Ardsley Middle School. He plays tennis on the Yonkers Tennis Center's team. In normal years, he swims on his school's modified swim team. Zachary loves to spend his summers at URJ Crane Lake Camp and hopes that he can go in summer 2021. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Zachary organized a team of his friends and family, Zachary's Zebras, to raise money for Sunrise Day Camp at their annual Walk-a-thon. Organized by the Friedberg JCC on Long Island, Sunrise is the first camp in the country for children with cancer. Zachary's Zebras raised over \$25,000 for Sunrise Day Camp.



Jonathan Tuckman, son of Susan Friedfel and Marc Tuckman and big brother to Abby and Rachel, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 9, 2021. Jonathan is a seventh grader at Highlands Middle School. Outside of school, he spends much of his time on a baseball diamond or a basketball court. He also enjoys spending time with friends and family and playing with his new puppy, Cody. For his mitzvah project, Jonathan is making PPE bags for distribution at the food pantry to assist others in protecting themselves and their loved ones during the pandemic. Jonathan is grateful to the Kol Ami community for helping him reach this special day and for enabling him to share it safely with those he loves.

The Festival of Lights

Bringing light, hope, and joy to 2020

Save the Dates for Hanukkah with Kol Ami December 10-17

Events beginning Dec. 4th

Join us for a wonderful time of
celebrating, learning, giving, and fun!

For full program information go to:
www.nykolami.org/hanukkah

#inthistogether
#nykolami



Friday, Dec 4:

Hanukkah Drive By- Drop off your Coachman Toy Drive gift and receive a Hanukkah gift bag full of treats from us!

Saturday, Dec 5:

Havdalah and Concert with Noah Lawrence and Jazz Pianist Jason Yaeger

Thursday, December 10:

First Night Candle Lighting together on Zoom with Rabbi Tom Weiner and Rabbi Shira Milgrom. Watch us light our big new menorah on the temple roof!

Friday, December 11:

Hanukkah Zoom Bingo with The Ilberg Family
Congregational Zoom Candle Lighting
Shabbat Services Live Streaming
Around the Shabbat Table Program
with Rev. Miriram Gross

Saturday, December 12:

Havdalah and Hanukkah Concert with Cantor Danny Mendelson & Alex Hopkins

Sunday, December 13:

Family Fun Morning with a Zoom Concert
with Cantor Danny, STEM Candle Program,
and Youth Group Activities
First Fridays Hanukkah Zoom Evening
for 20s and 30s with Noah Lawrence

Monday, December 14:

Puppet Show Zoom For Young Families
and 5th Night Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Tuesday, December 15:

Latke Making and Candle Lighting
with Cantor David Rosen
and Kol Ami President Hank Rouda

Wednesday, December 16:

7-12th Grade "Make a Menorah Out of Household Items" Competition and
Congregational Zoom Candle Lighting

Thursday, December 17:

8th Night of Hanukkah
Day of Giving Letter Writing Campaign
Write a holiday greeting to a soldier in
America and/or Israel. Zoom with us for
a final candle lighting and hearing from
a soldier abroad.

deceember



Kol Ami

Pre-Hanukkah Drive By

Drive by from 3:30-4:30pm

December 4th, 2020

Say hello from your car to Clergy, Staff, and Board Members.
The first 250 cars will take home a Hanukkah Gift Bag from us filled with donuts, candles, and more!



Click here:

www.nykolami.org/register

**to let us know
you will be
driving by.**

Pre-Hanukkah Concert

SATURDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 5, 8-9:30PM

HAVDALAH AND JAZZ CONCERT: USHERING IN HANUKKAH'S LIGHT WITH PIANIST JASON YEAGER AND RABBINIC INTERN NOAH LAWRENCE

COME TOGETHER FOR HAVDALAH FOLLOWED BY A JAZZ CONCERT EXPLORING WHAT HANUKKAH'S LIGHT MEANS NOW, AND HOW OUR TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND YEARNINGS TAKE MODERN FORM IN JEWISH AND ISRAELI JAZZ, FOLLOWED BY Q&A.

AWARD-WINNING NEW YORK-BASED JAZZ PIANIST JASON YEAGER WILL BE RETURNING TO KOL AMI FOLLOWING HIS AUGUST CONCERT. YEAGER IS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PIANO AT BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND TEACHES AT THE NEW YORK JAZZ ACADEMY; HE HAS PERFORMED AT SUCH VENUES AS CARNEGIE HALL AND GREENWICH VILLAGE'S BLUE NOTE, AND HIS NEWEST ALBUM, NEW SONGS OF RESISTANCE (2019), IS ON THE BALLOT FOR THE 2020 GRAMMY AWARDS.

JOIN FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, DISCUSSION, SPIRIT, AND LIGHT.

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 863 1820 2677
PASSCODE: 880817**



Hanukkah Fun with Kol Ami
for the Jewish Charity DOROT.

Hanukkah Family Bingo Night

FRIDAY 5:30pm
DECEMBER 11

Join us on Zoom to play bingo
followed by a congregational
2nd night candle lighting
and Live Streaming of Shabbat

\$18 CARDS ★ PRIZES ★ GUEST CALLERS ★ ZOOM FUN!

Purchase cards until 12/9 at 10pm

[Click here to buy Bingo Cards and play!](#)



YOU MAKE DOROT POSSIBLE!

Your gift fuels each and every one of our many programs.

Your generosity delivers light and joy to the life of an older New Yorker who might be alone, in need, longing for caring acquaintance and friendship.

Your belief in our mission – made real by your gift – fortifies our work, expands our reach and enables our progress.

Your contribution today ensures that DOROT will continue to engage a dynamic, intergenerational community in doing the right thing – being there, every day, for our older neighbors.

GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Spin some joy into a child's life this holiday season.



Buy a gift for a child at the Coachman Family Center

Here is how it works:

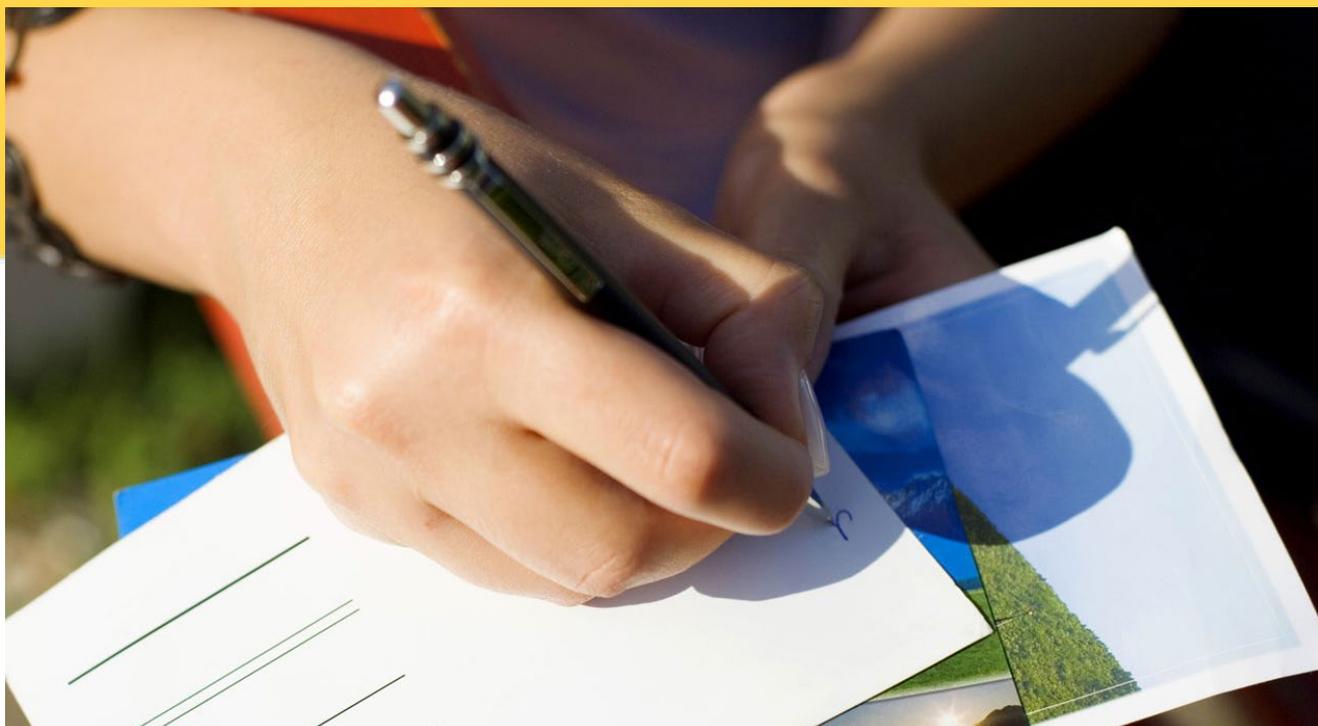
1. Log on to www.nykolami.org/coachman-gift-drive
2. Enter your contact information.
3. Select a child for whom to buy a gift.
4. Purchase a **NEW** gift for that child, we suggest you spend no more than \$25 per gift.
5. Bring your **UNWRAPPED** to Kol Ami beginning with the Chanukah Drive By on **December 4th** or anytime through **December 18th**.
6. You may also have your gift sent directly to Kol Ami.
7. Do not put your name on the gift. We will put a sticker on each gift which says "Happy Holidays from your Friends at Congregation Kol Ami"
8. Feel great that you did a mitzvah and made a child's holiday happier.

It's that simple!!!

Feel free to sponsor more than one child!

Questions: Coachman@NYKolAmi.org





Hanukkah Day of Giving Letter Writing Campaign

Join us for thanking a U.S. soldier for his or her service and send them a Hanukkah greeting!

For Jewish soldiers serving in the U.S. military, letters should be addressed to “Dear Soldier” and mailed to:

Lt. Stacey Glass
1801 Laurel Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Lt. Glass serves as the Jewish Chaplain on her base and will distribute our letters to the Jewish soldiers in the area.

For IDF Soldiers in the Jewish military there are postcards available. Every Kol Ami Hanukkah Gift Bag will have one at the December 4th Drive-By from 3:30-4:30pm . If you are unable to come by the Drive-By please contact the Main Office to arrange to pick up postcards.

Hanukkah Blessings

Candles are added to the *hanukkiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּיָּמֵינוּ (וּבְיָמֵינוּ) הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man(u-vaz'man)hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old (and) at this season.

For first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיֵּינוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לַיָּמֵינוּ הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Hanerot Halalu

We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

AROUND THE SHABBAT TABLE

Missing those wonderful Synaplex Shabbat evenings filled with music, food, programming, and togetherness?! Well . . . until we can be back together in-person we are coming around the table virtually at home this year instead! Check weekly emails for Zoom links. Prepare your own special dinner or you can order dinner through Caperberry! (Mention "Kol Ami Around the Shabbat Table" when you call them to order.)

DECEMBER 11 - Shabbat of Hanukkah 7:30pm

Dinner Entree: Sweet Soy Chicken

Sides: Julienne Vegetables and Potato Pancakes

Salad: Cobb Salad

Dessert: Apple Crumb

JANUARY 15 - "Waking Up White" with author Debbie Irving- 7:30pm

Dinner Entree: Sweet and Sour Beef Brisket

Sides: JHoney Roasted Carrots and Basmati Rice

Salad: Beet Salad

Dessert: "Death by Chocolate"

JANUARY 29: Shabbat Shira. 7:30pm

Dinner Entree: Breaded Chicken Cutlets

Sides: roasted Cauliflower and Sweet Potatoes

Salad: Waldorf Salad

Dessert: Carrot Cake

Order by Noon the Wednesday before the event.

You can order ahead for many weeks at a time!

Pick Up At Sam's Restaurant (ask about delivery)

52 Gedney Way, White Plains, NY 10605

Dinner is \$24.99 Per Person Plus Tax.

Add a bottle of wine for an additional \$23.00

Call Caperberry to Order Dinner: 914-949-3543



AROUND THE SHABBAT TABLE – Friday Nights Re-Imagined

6:15-7:15pm Friday evening services via Live Streaming

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

December 11th

Wrestling with a Nazi past and emerging into a life of social justice. Speaker: Rev. Miriam Gross the Evangelical Lutheran Church - St. Paul's and a faithful partner in Kol Ami's Food Pantry. Miriam, together with her teenage children, will share stories that will inspire and challenge us

January 15th "Waking Up White" with author Debbie Irving

January 29th Shabbat Shira

February 5th 'Is God Transgender?' with Rabbi Mark Sameth

February 19th To Be Announced

Pointing with Pride



Allison Danzig and Alison Gilmore Through their dedicated work in soliciting school supplies from their communities we were able to provide the Coachman kids with tons of traditional school supplies and ear phones which have taken on new meaning in the world of remote learning.

#50FACES50STORIES



Abdul Tubman

Abdul Tubman was the White Plains Youth Bureau 45th Anniversary Certificate of Merit Honoree for the Month of April. At their third annual awards gala, the White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Committee recognized him with the Community Champion Award. He was also awarded a Humanitarian Proclamation from the County Executive of Westchester County; Westchester County Board of Legislators; the City of White Plains; the New York State Senate; recognition of his community contribution and accomplishments within the 35th district of New York State: Thursday, May 14th to be forever known as Abdul Tubman Day within the State and May 19th in White Plains.

We are halfway to our goal!

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 flyer below details what is recyclable.

There will be 2 bins set up at Kol Ami - one outside the gym and one outside the sanctuary main entrance. Thank you for your participation!

Please help us by continuing to bring your plastics (as described in the flyer) to the collection boxes outside the Kol Ami Gym.

Please also be considerate to your two schleppers, Pam Millian and Mary Ann Latona Nadler, and put all your plastic together in one tied bag before putting it in the bin.

The plastic must also be cleaned of food. Thank you!



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

First Fridays: A Modern, Artistic 20s & 30s Gathering and Kabbalat Shabbat



Meeting next on December 4, 6:15-7:30pm

Special Chanukah gathering on December 13, 5:15-6:30pm

First Friday of every month.

Hosted on Zoom by Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains, NY
with Rabbinic Intern Noah Lawrence

All are welcome - no prior background necessary

Join us as we welcome in the spirit of Shabbat together with a blend of classic Jewish liturgy and voices in modern Jewish culture, from Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Regina Spektor, and as we explore what Judaism's age-old yearnings can mean in our lives now. Come experience anew the intentionality, togetherness, healing and awe of Jewish prayer.

In December we have two gatherings planned. On Friday night Dec. 4 we'll have our main Kabbalat Shabbat, interweaving the liturgy with the music of Paul Simon and current Israeli spiritual singer-songwriter Idan Raichel. Then we'll have a Chanukah candle-lighting on Sunday Dec. 13, blending traditional and modern Chanukah songs, discussing and sharing together, and celebrating light.

For the Zoom info for these events or to keep in touch about future ones, click here to join the First Fridays mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/hfwHyb>
Contact noahlawrence@nykolami.org with any questions.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

CURRENT EVENTS WITH BETH KAVA
Mondays 11:00am -12:30 pm
Via Zoom

For further information,
contact Beth at bethkava@gmail.com

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS WITH DAVID GRAVITZ
Tuesdays at 7:30pm
Via Zoom

For further information, contact David
at davgrav@gmail.com

Oct. 13, 27 and Nov 10, 24

HEBREW WITH EMILY FIELDS
(12 classes \$180)
Advanced Beginners Hebrew
Intermediate Hebrew
Beginners Hebrew

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

To enroll, contact Susan at
susanhopedavis@hotmail.com

KOL AMI READS, MODERATED BY DORIS DINGOTT
First Wednesday of every month at 9:15 am
To enroll, contact Doris at 289-0869

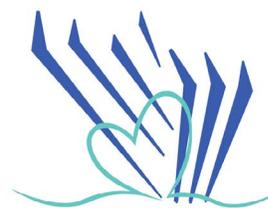
**WISDOM OF THE SAGES
WITH RABBI TOM WEINER**
Thursday 11:00-12:00pm
Via Zoom

**CULTIVATING SPIRITUAL MOMENTS
WITH RABBI SHIRA MILGROM**
Thursday 4:00-5:00pm
Via Zoom

**ZOOM GALI GALI
WITH RABBI SHIRA MILGROM**
Sundays 10:30am Via Zoom

**SHIR CHADASH WITH
RABBINIC INTERN NOAH LAWRENCE**
Sunday 12/6 and Sunday 12/20
5:00-6:30PM Via Zoom

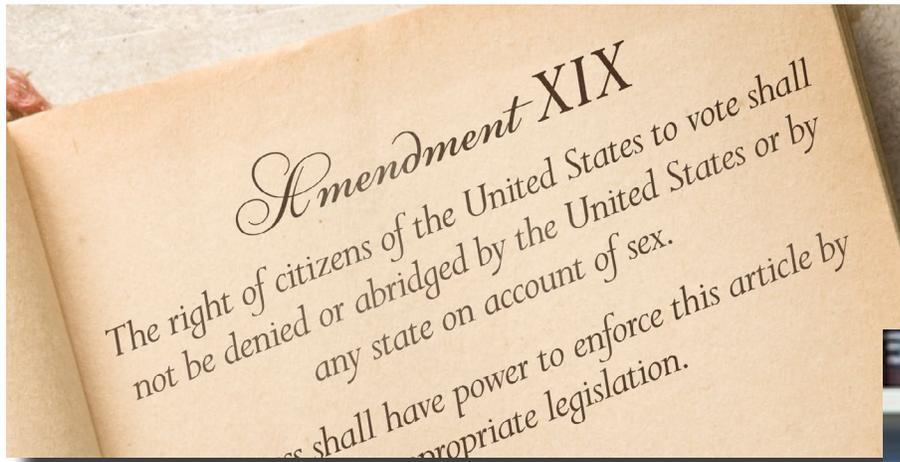
Congregation Kol Ami
252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains NY 10606
www.nykolami.org #nykolami



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

The Fight for Women's Suffrage:

A three week course marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Taught by Dr. Ellen M. Umansky, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Professor of Judaic Studies and Director of the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University, CT.



I. February 13, 2021

- Jewish Activism in Support of Women's Suffrage

In this session, we will discuss the considerable efforts of social reformer, Maud Nathan; labor organizer, Rose Schneiderman, Rabbi Stephen Wise, and other Jews in the struggle for women's right to vote.

II. February 20, 2021

- The Impact of Anti-Judaism and Xenophobia on Jewish Participation in the Suffrage Movement

This session will focus on late 19th c. Jewish women suffragists, including activist Ernestine Rose, whose work was hindered by the anti-Judaism and xenophobia of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other leaders of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

III. February 27, 2021

- The Enduring Effects of Racism on Women's Right to Vote

Although the passage of the 19th amendment gave women across the U.S. the right to vote, many African-American women, and men, were unable to exercise this constitutional right. In this session, we will examine the efforts of the National Association of Colored Women, founded in 1896, and its Jewish allies, up through the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In-Person or Virtually, we are keeping busy at Kol Ami!



Our Prayer Flag Project during the High Holy Days was a wonderful way to connect spiritually with one another and with the woods around us.

[Click here to see a short video about the Prayer Flags.](#)



Our garden produced some wonderful lettuce and other produce to add to the food pantry bags this Fall. Thanks so much to the Garden Committee!

Three generations of generous Kravers! Congregant Harriet Kraver has been making facemasks during the pandemic and donating the proceeds to the Food Pantry. Now her granddaughter, Remi Kraver, is making mask chains and donating her proceeds to the Food Pantry too! Amazing!



What a Fall 2020 it was!! We came "together" for a High Holy Day experience unlike any other. It was a fall season full of wonderful in-person Religious School and Early Childhood programming as they used so much of our amazing outdoor space on our 17 acre campus, as well as connected over Zoom with those at home. Many of you joined us for outdoor Shabbat by the Woods, Drive-Bys, Drive-Ins, Yahrzeit candle lightings, Halloween Shabbat, and outdoor Adult Education classes. We connected on Zoom when the weather didn't cooperate, when more participants preferred to meet remotely, and for evening programs. And the time we all spent this fall taking walks, delivering meals, and checking in on our friends has made a lasting impact on the world around us and in our own lives.



Simchat Torah was very different this year, but together we all created new and lasting memories as we brought our celebrations outdoors, down the street, and socially distanced! And we brought our new Torah home to the ark where we will read and celebrate with it for many years to come.

[Click here to watch a video of our Simchat Torah experience.](#)



COACHMAN CORNER

For so many of us, this year's Thanksgiving celebration felt very different and void of the usual traditions. One of the things we, as a congregational community, missed out on was the chance to gather in the Kol Ami kitchen chopping, dicing, roasting, baking and prepping for our annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Coachman Family Center. We missed being able to warmly greet, beautifully entertain and abundantly feed our Coachman guests. Knowing that the Coachman families are struggling with homelessness and financial insecurity in the midst of a pandemic, made it even harder to step aside from this cherished tradition.

Yet, together, we still managed to continue lifting up with hands of help through social giving in a year that required us to remain physically apart. Through your kindness and generosity, every family residing at the Coachman and the Westhab social workers who support them, received a delicious Thanksgiving pie. Over 100 pies were delivered, along with homemade Thanksgiving cards from our ECP children and individually wrapped candy bags for their Coachman counterparts. Together we DID make a difference.

"We so appreciate your kindness and support. Our families will be so happy with all the goodies. It brightens their holiday more than you'll ever know and the only thing that could bring greater joy is to be back at Kol Ami at your traditional Thanksgiving event. We look forward to being together again next year!" ~ Ivan Smith, Youth Services Coordinator

With a heart full of gratitude, we are thankful for everyone who contributed to this year's pie drive:

Lori Abrams	Alison Gilmore	Joele Levenson	Carole Ries
Alison Adler	Leni Glauber	Matthew Levy	Annie Rotberg
Leslie Akst	Melanie Gluck	Elaine Libman	Jean Rouda
Rachael Arenstein	Judy Gluckson	Jaime Lieber	Gina Rubin
Susan Kohn Arovas	Leslie Goldfarb-Weisglass	Diane Litvak	Judy Sarch
Judy Asher	Katy Goldman	Jess Lorden	Julia Schonfeld
Rachel Barrocas	Amy Goldstein	Emily Lubitz	Tracey Schweber
Alan Barson	Susan Gordon	Murray Lubitz	David Seicol
Myrna Barzelatto	Judy Gottlieb	Debbi Marcus	Alice Seidman
Ruth Berkowitz	Ginny Herron-Lanoil	Liz Mayeri	Stan Selbst
Nancy Berman	Janet Hershey	Betsy McCormack	Harold Selden
Barbara Block	Lisa Hochman	Judy McEvoy	Murray Shapiro
Charlene Bodner	Warren Ittelson	Fredda Mendelson	Barbara Shore
Lisa Borowitz	Franklin Kaiman	Michelle Merriweather	Lisa Siglag
Lauri Carey	Emily Kandel	Shira Milgrom	Nancy Simon
Lisa Cohen	Michele Karl	Ilene Miller	Gerri Sommers
Robin Cohen	Liz Kaufman	Candice Moscoe-Polner	Barak Stockler
David Cole	Beth Kava	Cindy Musoff	Jennifer Strassler
Robin Davies-Small	Beth Klein	Dana Niedzielska	Lisa Tames
Susan Davis	Jodi Klein	Irene Nussbaum	Alice Tenney
Rachel Eckhaus	Evelyne Klein	David Okun	Madiha Tubman
Michael Elkin	Carol Klein	Myra Oltsik	Tom Weiner
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Diane Garofolo	Jennifer Lemberg	Judy Rieger	

Life Cycles

Congratulations

- ✧ To Emily & Paul Kandel on the marriage of their daughter, Allison to Michael Dietz
- ✧ To Ariela Vasserman & Zack Blumkin on the birth of their son, Jordan Vasserman Blumkin
- ✧ To Barbara Klein on the birth of her grandson, Blake Leo Rosenthal
- ✧ To Taryn & Jason Katz on the birth of their son, Ethan James Katz
- ✧ To Sarah and Adam Akst, on the birth of their son, Noah Penn Akst
- ✧ To George and Leslie Akst, on the birth of their grandson, Noah Penn Akst
- ✧ To Danielle and Adam Gecht, on the birth of their nephew, Noah Penn Akst

Condolences

- ✧ To Paul Bergins & family on the passing of Paul's brother, Lewis A. Bergins
- ✧ To Karen Pacicca, Michael & Marc Friedberg & family on the passing of their mother and Kol Ami's long-time Executive Director, Jane Friedberg
- ✧ To Jennet Walker & family on the passing of Jennet's husband, John Auerbacher
- ✧ To Ernestina Sanchez & family on the passing of Ernestina's brother, Fernando Javier Sanchez Quintero
- ✧ To Andy Scharf & family on the passing of Andy's mother, Barbara Scharf
- ✧ To Neil Dublet & family on the passing of Neil's brother, Stan Dublet
- ✧ To Paul Rubin & family on the passing of Paul's father, Judah Loeb Rubin
- ✧ To Iris Schwartz & family on the passing of Iris's sister, Murry Bates
- ✧ To Jennifer Port & family on the passing of Jennifer's step-mother, Lilly Port
- ✧ To Pam & Matt Pass & family on the passing of Pam's brother-in-law, Alex Pass
- ✧ To Rochelle Yankwitt & family on the passing of Rochelle's husband, Ian Yankwitt
- ✧ To Linda Kamen & family on the passing of her mother, Minnette Hirsch
- ✧ To Nancy Marcus & family on the passing of her father, Melvin Schneider
- ✧ To Michele Gersen & family on the passing of her father, Sol Gersen
- ✧ To Mark Hershey & family on the passing of his brother, Stewart Hershey

In Memoriam

- ✧ Jane Friedberg
- ✧ John Auerbacher
- ✧ Meta Feldman
- ✧ Lilly Port
- ✧ Ian Yankwitt

Generous Contributions

Rabbi Shira Milgrom's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In appreciation of the Musoff Family for their sheltering her during the power outage, from Jane Hein
- ✧ In honor of his great niece's baby naming, from Martin Kahn
- ✧ In appreciation for intellectual and spiritual nourishment, from Linda Kligman

- ✧ In appreciation, from Claudia and Alan Barson
- ✧ In appreciation, from Ron Rimmon
- ✧ In appreciation, from Mark and Janet Hershey
- ✧ In appreciation, from Donald and Terri Friedman
- ✧ In honor of the Clergy for the beautiful High Holy Days services, from Beth and Gene Kava
- ✧ In memory of John Auerbacher, from Emily Fields
- ✧ In appreciation for the High Holy Days services, from Donna Joseph
- ✧ In memory of Sol Gersen, from Michael Zweig and Michele Gersen
- ✧ In appreciation, from Joan Cooper
- ✧ In appreciation for the High Holy Days services, from Stuart Rosenbluth

Rabbi Tom Weiner's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In honor of daughter Lucy's wedding to David, from Lori Upbin and Rob Abrams
- ✧ In support of Youth Programming, from Michelle and David Kroin
- ✧ In appreciation, from Linda Kligman
- ✧ In appreciation, from Claudia and Alan Barson
- ✧ In appreciation, from Donna Joseph
- ✧ In support of Youth Programming, from Betsy and Stanley Weiner
- ✧ In honor of the Clergy for the beautiful High Holy Days services, from Beth and Gene Kava
- ✧ In memory of John Auerbacher, from Emily Fields
- ✧ In appreciation for the High Holy Days services, from Stuart Rosenbluth
- ✧ In memory of Jane Friedberg, from Barbara Block
- ✧ In appreciation, from Donald and Terri Friedman
- ✧ In appreciation, from Mitchell and Anne Stafman
- ✧ In memory of his mother, Harley Lewis, from Tom Lewis

Cantor Danny Mendelson Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In appreciation, from Donald and Terri Friedman
- ✧ In honor of the Clergy for the beautiful High Holy Days services, from Beth and Gene Kava
- ✧ In memory of John Auerbacher, from Emily Fields

Donations to the Food Pantry

- ✧ Jean Rouda, in memory of her mother, Ann Kirvin
- ✧ Sue and Ken Gordon
- ✧ Myrna Barzelatto
- ✧ Phil and Nina Blumenfeld
- ✧ Arline Epstein
- ✧ Frederick Feiner
- ✧ Florence Glazer
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- ✧ Harold Selden and Joyce Hoffman
- ✧ Murray and Ethel Shapiro
- ✧ Barbara Shore
- ✧ Hebrew Institute of White Plains

Thank You

Generous Contributions

Kol Ami Fund for the Needy

- ✧ In honor of Wendy and Ray Shemer's grandson Derek Shemer's Bar Mitzvah, from Linda Lucks
- ✧ In honor of Louis Latorre for helping to feed those in need, from Jeff and Christine Toback
- ✧ In appreciation, from Elissa and David Strauss
- ✧ In appreciation, from Judith and Steven Lempel
- ✧ In appreciation, from Judy and Matthew Gluckson
- ✧ In memory of Lilly Port, from David and Karen Cole
- ✧ In memory of Lilly Port, from Nir and Laura Barzilai
- ✧ In honor of Cindy Musoff for her work over the summer for the ECP, from David Okun
- ✧ In appreciation of Lisa Borowitz, from Laurie Newman

Kol Ami Fund

- ✧ In appreciation, from Janet and Mark Ackerman
- ✧ In memory of Ian Yankwitt, from David and Karen Cole
- ✧ In memory of Alex Pass, from David and Karen Cole
- ✧ In memory of Jeanne Quinn, from L.D.Luckower
- ✧ In honor of Mattie Abler, from James Maslow
- ✧ In appreciation, from Stuart Rosenbluth
- ✧ In memory of Paul Ackerman, from Mark and Janet Ackerman
- ✧ In memory of John Auerbacher, from David Okun
- ✧ In memory of Jane Friedberg, from David Okun
- ✧ In appreciation, from Elissa and David Strauss
- ✧ In memory of Meta Feldman, from Bruce Segall
- ✧ In appreciation, from Ellen Rothschild-Taube
- ✧ In appreciation, from Judith and Steven Lempel
- ✧ In appreciation, from Judy and Matthew Gluckson
- ✧ In memory of Lilly Port, from David and Karen Cole
- ✧ In memory of Lilly Port, from Nir and Laura Barzilai
- ✧ In honor of Cindy Musoff for her work over the summer for the ECP, from David Okun

Adult Education Fund

- ✧ In memory of Lewis Bergins, brother of Paul Bergins, from Marian Steinberg

Capital Fund

- ✧ In support of the cost of video equipment and technology for the High Holy Days, from Elizabeth and Andrew Ward

Kol Ami Cares

- ✧ In appreciation of Lisa Borowitz, from Laurie Newman

Prayer Book Fund

- ✧ In memory, from Stuart Rosenbluth
- ✧ In memory of Jane Friedberg, from Karen and David Cole
- ✧ In appreciation of all the support during Julie's illness, from Ron and Julie Carran



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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
Evelyne Klein aspencup@aol.com



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

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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.

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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!

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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
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