



K O L A M I

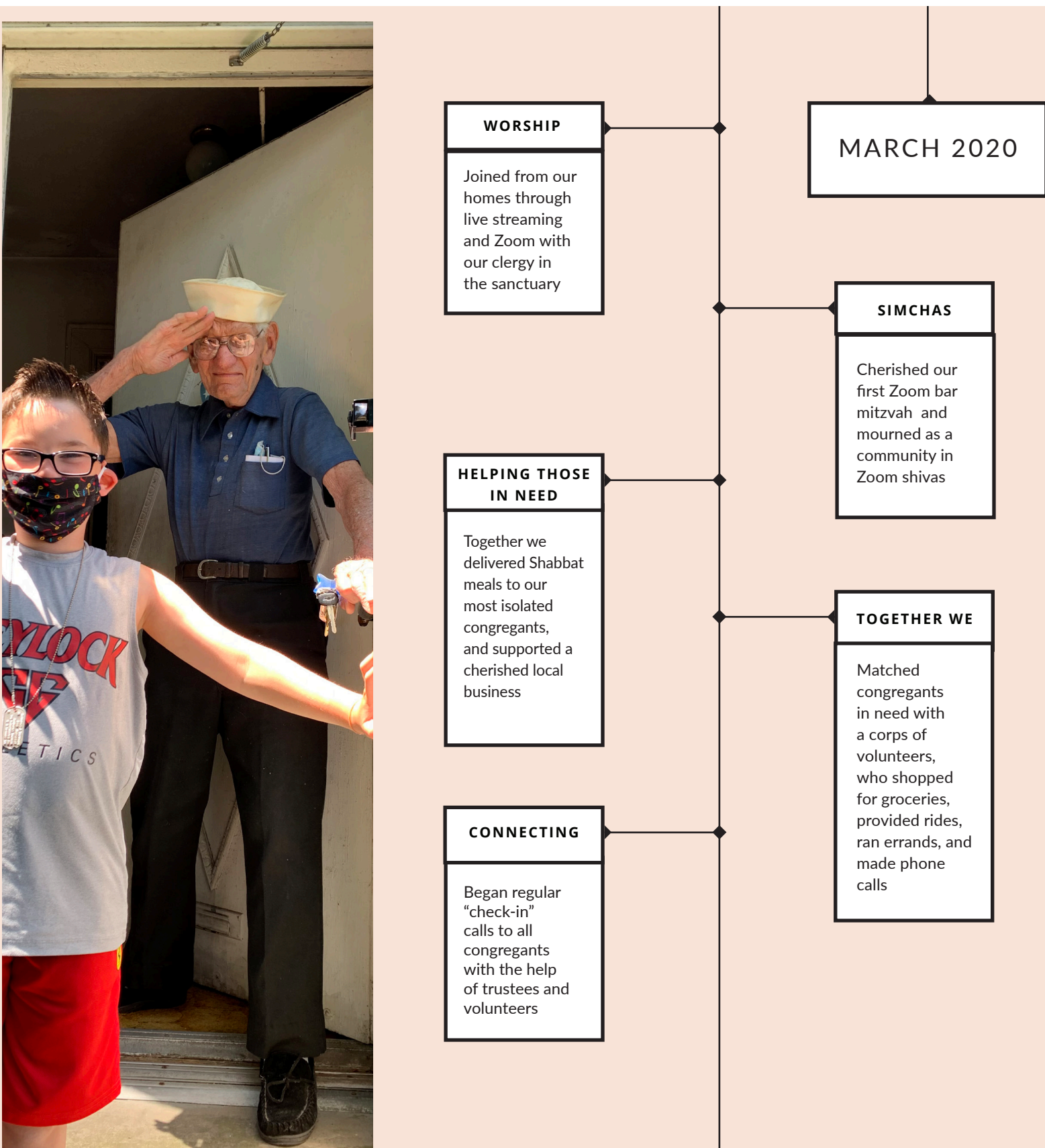
YEAR IN REVIEW



2020-2021

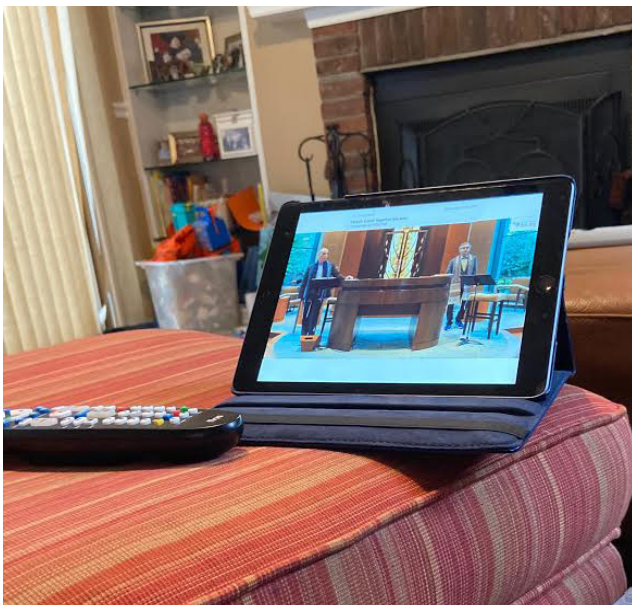


Let us pause for a moment in gratitude and pride for our incredible community.
May we continue to build on the strength and wisdom we have gained.



Together we...

APRIL 2020



WORSHIP

Welcomed Havdalah with beautiful music and prayer

JOIN TOGETHER

Joined as a community for 24 hours of entertainment, and raised much needed funds, through our Zoom-a-Thon

ADULT ED

Expanded our hearts and minds by attending new adult education classes, such as our "Zoom Gali Gali" calls, which are still running

COMMUNICATE

Created 1hr email reminders for worship and programming, to make finding Zoom information easy for congregants

LEARNING

Ensured our youngest congregants in the ECP and Religious School continued to learn by shifting to virtual platforms

HOLIDAYS

Provided Passover meals to our most isolated congregants and prayed together during a congregation wide Zoom 2nd Seder

SPIRITUAL

Endeavored in mindfulness practice on Sunday afternoons through "Pause to Be Present" and learned to cultivate spiritual moments in new outdoor classes

May 2020

Together We

Ensured that our Men's Study Group was able to learn together through virtual platforms

Making History

Secured the smooth transition of synagogue leadership by electing officers and trustees at our Annual Meeting, held virtually for the first time in our history.

Responding to a Call to Action

Responded to the Call to Action from White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and quickly mobilized to provide over 300 bags of groceries each week to residents throughout lower Westchester.

Youth Group Support

Assured our 9-12th grader could join together in both new and traditional ways for learning and socializing.

June 2020



Led the "Circle the City with Love – Stand Against Racism" march in White Plains

Met outdoors with families of young children to celebrate Shabbat in the Woods

Cared for the Earth through a gardening initiative that led to our certification as a Monarch Butterfly Waystation and as a Wildlife Habitat

Supported mourners by beginning our weekly outdoor Kaddish gathering

Together we hosted Pride Shabbat Services with Zoom Guests from Israel



Welcomed Interim Cantor Danny Mendelson, whose voice and presence ensured continuity and enriched congregational life

Re-imagined our branding to reflect how Kol Ami is: "In-Person. Virtual. Spiritual. Here for you in every way."

July 2020

Engaged our students, from ages 3 to 17, for fun summer programs

Hosted a bonfire and outdoor movie night for our high school students

Opened our minds and addressed difficult issues in anti-racism workshops and our "Summer Read-In Against Racism" program

Participated in a High Holy Day congregational survey to evaluate the needs and priorities of all congregants

August 2020

WORSHIP

Celebrated Havdalah via Zoom with a delicious virtual wine tasting

MAKING HISTORY

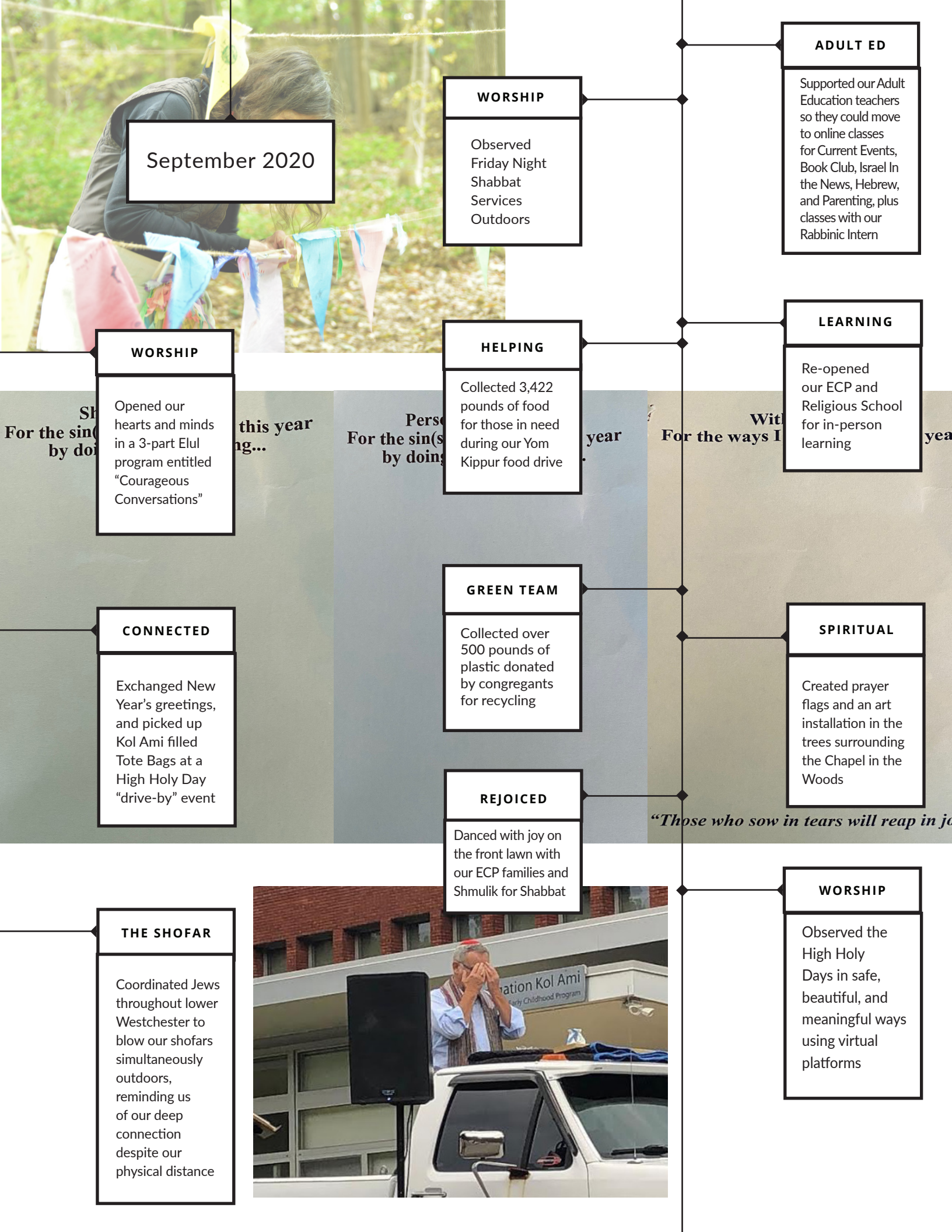
Fulfilled the commandment (outdoors!) to write a Sefer Torah with scribe Julie Seltzer

TRANSITIONS

Said goodbye to our ECP Director of 16 years, Nan Blank and welcomed our new ECP Director Merav Veetal. All while preparing for full-time in person school for our little ones for the Fall

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Addressed voter suppression by writing thousands of postcards to voters in Florida, encouraging each person to vote and participate in the U.S. Census



September 2020

WORSHIP

Observed Friday Night Shabbat Services Outdoors

ADULT ED

Supported our Adult Education teachers so they could move to online classes for Current Events, Book Club, Israel In the News, Hebrew, and Parenting, plus classes with our Rabbinic Intern

WORSHIP

Opened our hearts and minds in a 3-part Elul program entitled "Courageous Conversations"

HELPING

Collected 3,422 pounds of food for those in need during our Yom Kippur food drive

LEARNING

Re-opened our ECP and Religious School for in-person learning

CONNECTED

Exchanged New Year's greetings, and picked up Kol Ami filled Tote Bags at a High Holy Day "drive-by" event

GREEN TEAM

Collected over 500 pounds of plastic donated by congregants for recycling

SPIRITUAL

Created prayer flags and an art installation in the trees surrounding the Chapel in the Woods

REJOICED

Danced with joy on the front lawn with our ECP families and Shmulik for Shabbat

"Those who sow in tears will reap in joy"

THE SHOFAR

Coordinated Jews throughout lower Westchester to blow our shofars simultaneously outdoors, reminding us of our deep connection despite our physical distance



WORSHIP

Observed the High Holy Days in safe, beautiful, and meaningful ways using virtual platforms

Together we...

October 2020

Sukkot

Built a beautiful sukkah with the Sisterhood, which was enjoyed by the congregation and was the safe, magnificent setting of a Bar Mitzvah service and a Sukkot Get Together for ECP Families.

Making History

Welcomed our new Torah on Simchat Torah, with a procession down Soundview Avenue and a holiday service on the front lawn

Re-Imagined Synaplex

Elevated our Shabbat experience with a re-imagined Synaplex program "Around the Shabbat Table". Featuring amazing Guest Speakers via Zoom and enjoyed having dinner together

Kol Ami Food Pantry

We learned during our annual pantry inspection that our community distributed over 142,391 pounds of food to those in need both within our congregation and in the broader lower Westchester community over the preceding year.

CONNECTING

Launched the first of many modern, artistic, Kabbalat Shabbat virtual evenings for congregants in their 20s and 30s

November 2020

Giving Thanks

Made holiday cards and donated pies for every resident and staff member of the Coachman Family Center in celebration of Thanksgiving

Social Justice

Wrote and sent a second round of postcards to Georgia residents to encourage them to vote in the Senate run-off election

Traditions

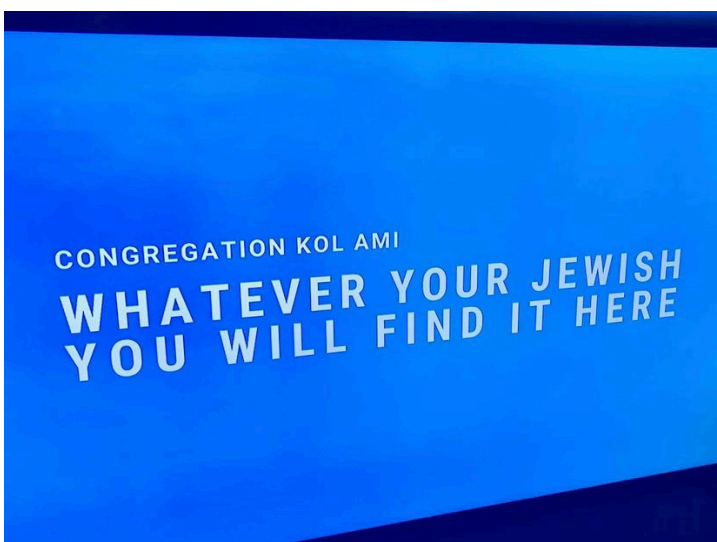
Continued the annual tradition of our ECP Book Fair through online sales and activities



December 2020

Together we...

- Enjoyed seeing our big, new, bright roof top menorah during our holiday drive-by as we kindled the spirit of Hanukkah together
- Celebrated 8 Nights of Virtual Hanukkah in a multitude of fun ways, including our choir's recording of Lots of Latkes, a special drive-by celebration, Virtual Bingo to raise money for Dorot, story time and Latke-making events, a special STEM project, a concert, a puppet show, and more.
- Engaged in a letter-writing campaign to Jewish soldiers in the US and Israel
- Collected toys for families at the Coachman Family Center ensuring that all children received a holiday gift





January 2021

HISTORY

Elected Cantor Daniel Mendelson as Kol Ami's new Cantor through a special virtual congregational meeting

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Engaged in important advocacy work with RAC-NY to support the parole reform initiative known as "Less Is More"

CONNECTING

Connected Kol Ami teens with senior congregants through a "Juniors to Seniors" support program

TOGETHER

Celebrated Havdalah at "Sips & S'mores" with Religious School families hosted by our Religious School Parent Network

YOUTH

Began a 5-episode podcast entitled "Peace, Police & Everything in Between," led by our Youth Group



February 2021



Celebrated

Celebrated Purim in a variety of ways including a large CAR-nival, children's concert, magic show, megillah reading, mini-spiel, and a comedy show. Plus, a visit from Channel 2 News!

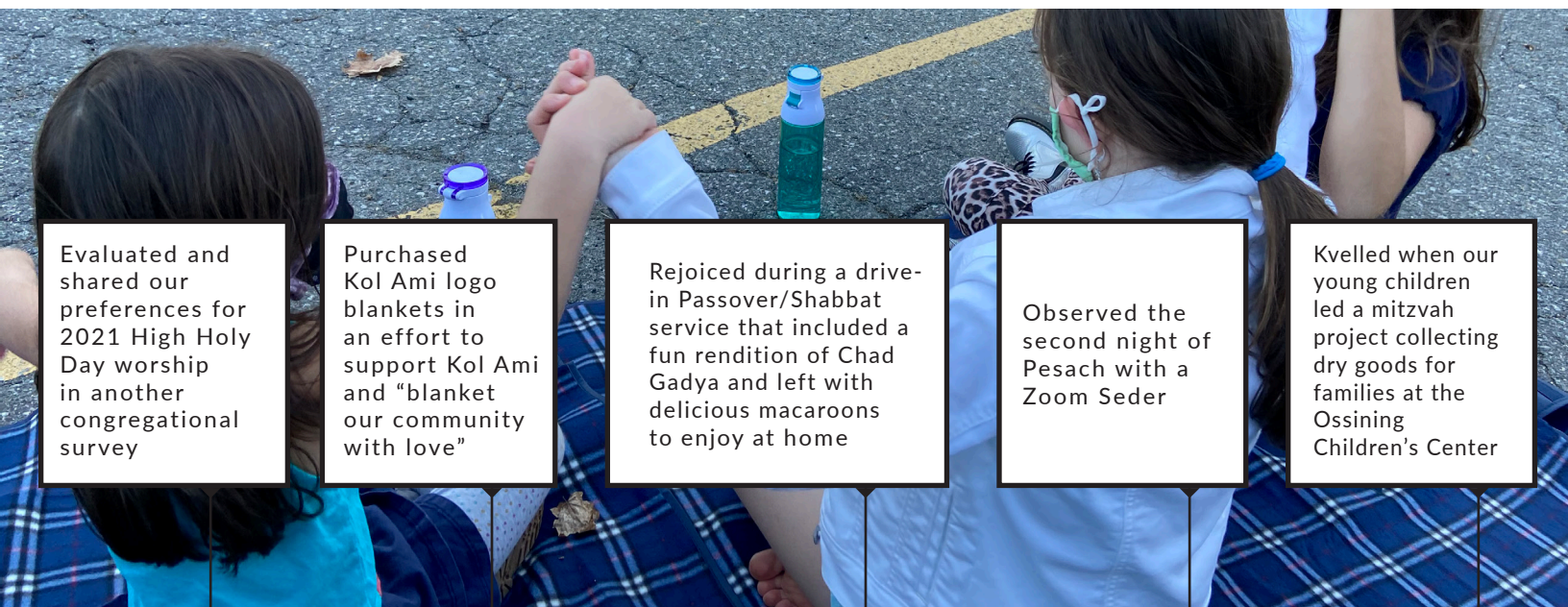
Learning

Registered many Kol Ami seniors in a technology program offered through Westchester Jewish Community Services, which provided them with a tablet with pre-paid internet service and technology training. And through our Religious School Parent Network congregants learned to play mah jongg with weekly on-line games

Mitzvahs — Launched "Mitzvah Monday" in our food pantry, a program for families with school- age children

March 2021

Together we...



Evaluated and shared our preferences for 2021 High Holy Day worship in another congregational survey

Purchased Kol Ami logo blankets in an effort to support Kol Ami and "blanket our community with love"

Rejoiced during a drive-in Passover/Shabbat service that included a fun rendition of Chad Gadya and left with delicious macaroons to enjoy at home

Observed the second night of Pesach with a Zoom Seder

Kvelled when our young children led a mitzvah project collecting dry goods for families at the Ossining Children's Center

April 2021

Zoom

Zoom



Worshipped at a beautiful Yom Hashoah
Service led by our 8th grade students

Celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with a
concert featuring Jewish rock stars

Returned to the front lawn for in-person
Shabbat in the Woods services

Worshipped together during Spring
"Lot Shabbats"

Studied and prayed in-person during
Saturday morning Lift Services in the
Chapel

Showed our support for our beloved
community and met our fundraising goals
during an incredible virtual gala, "The Big
Night In"

May 2021

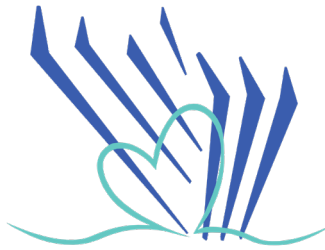
Rejoiced as 15 members of our
congregation became adult
B'nai Mitzvah

Kvelled as 31 confirmands led us
in worship during a beautiful
Shavuot service

Enjoyed the artwork of our
youngest children at the
ECP Art Show

Celebrated the end of our
immensely successful year
of Religious School learning

Gratefully acknowledged the
challenges overcome and
accomplishments achieved
during our fiscal year, elected
officers and trustees of the
synagogue, and celebrated a
return to the Kol Ami campus
at our in-person Annual
Meeting, also accessible to
all congregants via Zoom.



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

Exodus 20:21

בְּכָל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אֶזְכִּיר אֶת-שְׁמִי, אָבוּא אֵלֶיךָ וּבֵרַכְתִּיךָ.

B'chol mako masher azkir et sh'mi avo eilecha uveirachticha.

In every place where My name is mentioned, I will come to you and bless you.

Every act of goodness and creativity you have read about –
from classes to services to food delivery to phone calls and zoom
gatherings and bonfires and marching and concerts –
each of them has been a moment of the sacred.

God has spoken through us and blessed us
time and time again.

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