

# the Connection





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Rabbi Tom Weiner  
Cantor Daniel Mendelson

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Jess Lorden

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## Our Story

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 seven and a half 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.

# My Thank You Note

## Rabbi Tom Weiner



One of the honors of being a rabbi is the opportunity to act as your *Shaliach Tsedakah*; that is, one who gives *tsedakah* as agent for another. Through your generous

donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund many individuals are assisted, numerous Kol Ami programs are possible and worthy causes are supported. Your generosity allows me to continue our synagogue's long-standing ideal that financial need should never prevent a person from participating in a meaningful Jewish opportunity.

Following B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, weddings, as well as other significant times in your lives - and sometimes in generous response to a request - you thoughtfully make the donations that make so much good work possible. I thank you for that privilege.

Rabbi Shira and Cantor Danny have the same privilege and support many other significant programs from their Discretionary Funds.

Every few years I like to share with you some of the programs you have made possible. Over the past twelve months your donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund have supported the following:

- Scholarships to Jewish Camps
- Underwriting the annual high school trip to the Religious Action Center in DC
- Underwriting rabbi's visits to our students on their college campuses

- Sponsoring our semi-annual youth journeys for community service in Central America
- Assisting individuals in need of financial assistance for immediate medical needs
- Supporting individuals in need of help in emergency situations
- Adult Education Lecturers
- Israel Scholarships for summer and winter programs
- Scholars for Men's Study Group
- Underwriting youth group activities
- Helping students with special educational needs
- Underwriting musical elements of Kabbalat Shabbat and Holiday Services
- Books for individuals
- Supporting the affiliates of the Reform Movement here and in Israel
- Scholarship for the coursework for individuals preparing for Conversion

Without your help, we would have fewer students studying, fewer teachers, students unable to prepare fully for conversion, diminished youth programming, students unable to attend Jewish camps or study in Israel, and individuals less able to get through a time of crisis.

**Thank you** for allowing us to build programs and help others,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

# Increasing the Light

## Rabbi Shira Milgrom



The night starts an hour earlier. The days are shorter. It's the third academic year of Covid. We're heading into winter. We have slugged it out – we have stayed pretty cheerful – we have been quite

thankful – we've been patient. But it's getting hard to stay upbeat and cheerful. It's getting harder to appreciate the gifts of solitude and reflection. Frankly, we've had quite enough of solitude and reflection. We need to be together. We need to laugh and sing. We need to hug.

And it is indeed getting more hopeful. This week (as I am writing), vaccinations are beginning for children ages 5-11. Pfizer is rolling out effective treatments for Covid-19. We are beginning to imagine that we could be seeing a light at the end of this tunnel.

Hanukkah is coming not a moment too soon. Hanukkah is set in the darkness of winter, in the days before (or around) the winter solstice. Indeed, the nights get longer with each day of Hanukkah. Hanukkah also begins at the end of the lunar month (the 25th of Kislev). So as each night gets longer, it also gets darker with the waning of the moon. And yes – with the increase of darkness, what do we do? We light one more candle. As the nights get darker, we bring more light into our world.

Hanukkah is also a time of miracles. And not just the legend of the story of the oil (yes, that is a legend.) It is a celebration of the miracle of Jewish survival against the odds; and it is a celebration of the right to be different. And this year, especially, it is a celebration of the miracle of hope. We see it all around us: a 13 year old steps onto the bima and reads from the Torah – the joy and pride are palpable. Kids dressed up in costume run around the Challahween sanctuary. We hear voices joined in harmony in the Chapel in the Woods on Shabbat mornings. People are beginning to gather for dessert – or dinner. It is everywhere. Hope is rising.

It's taken courage to get through this wilderness of Corona. Now we need to dare to hope. A little bit of hope can re-ignite our spirit. One candle lights another – and we bring more light into the world. By the end of Hanukkah, our homes will be filled with light. I hope we bring the power and beauty of this light into the next year, into 2022.

New Year's Eve is a Friday night! Join us for Shabbat services (they are way earlier than whatever else you might be doing later) and ring in a 2022 with spirit!

With wishes for a Hanukkah of joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shira".



# An Installation to Remember

## Cantor Daniel Mendelson



Hi, Kol Ami!

It's been a year and change serving as your cantor and I feel like we didn't officially meet until a few weeks ago. The evening of November 12th will take a long time for me to process.

Within our little universe, it was a star studded installation night to be sure. Come to think of it, it was actually pretty big in anyone's universe. We had Kol Ami's last two beloved cantors on the bimah, sharing their spirits and talents. We had my parents - two accomplished veterans of the cantorial craft, and also...my parents!! We had the magnificent Senior Cantor of Westchester Reform Temple, and also...my wife!! We had Metropolitan Opera royalty represented by Linda Hall Gerson at the piano for two special songs. We had Grammy winning, legendary jazz pianist, arranger, orchestrator and conductor, Lee Musiker, at the piano for two powerfully

inspiring moments in the service. We had a glorious 5-piece instrumental ensemble led by maestro, Alex Hopkins to thrillingly guide us for 2 plus hours. We had my clergy partners, two of the absolute best in the business, performing the ritual of installation, with their signature warmth, humor and charisma.

We had it all on the bimah. It was the Tony awards inside of a cantors convention. But no matter who was chanting, playing or speaking up there, nothing could compare to the overwhelming sound of my congregation. Hearing you roaringly sing along to Jeddy's Niggun at the very top of the service, brought into focus the connection we now officially share. I can't tell you how synagogue life will unfold over the next series of months, but I can and will say that I'll never forget the outpouring of support you showed me and my family on November 12th, 2021.

I'm thrilled to be your cantor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Mendelson".



# A Message from our President

## Hank Rouda



"Change is not threatening, so long as we keep firm hold of the values by and for which we live. We can travel with confidence so long as we have a map." Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Even if we hold true to our core values, change is still not easy, but it is inevitable. For many of us, Rabbis Milgrom and Weiner have been our spiritual leaders for a significant part of our lives. For some, they have been our only rabbis. But they are also more than that for so many of us. They are our friends and are integral parts of our community. And that will not change.

As long as we "keep firm hold" of our values, then this change will also be an opportunity for us to move from "strength to strength." The challenge for our Chai Task Force is to learn from each of you what those values are and how you see the future unfolding for the next generations at Kol Ami. As I write this, we are just starting to form the teams that will be reaching out to each of you to ask you to participate in the Listen & Learn Focus Groups. Please let us know if you would like to host a Focus Group. And, as the work of this team continues, if you have not been invited to one of the Focus Group sessions, we will be having some general invitation sessions at Kol Ami and we encourage you to sign up as we want to hear from every corner of our community.

I hope that you have been following the website updates for the Mikdash Ami Task Force. I want to give you a preview of what's next. The Focus Groups will start in early January and will continue through April 15, 2022. The Expression of Interest forms for the Rabbi Search Committees will go live in early February 2022 (specific date to be announced in January). After

we receive the Expressions of Interest from those who would like to serve on the Search Committees, the Search Committee Chairs, Lisa Borowitz (Chai Task Force Chair) and I will select the members of each Committee. We will be seeking a broad representation of our community on both Committees.

The members of the Focus Group team will present their findings to the Search Committees in May and early June. During that time, the Search Committee Chairs and I will complete the applications to enter the Central Conference of American Rabbi (CCAR) Placement Process. The Placement Process officially starts on July 1, 2023 and we hope to have our applications ready to be submitted then.

We will give you more details about the interview process as it gets closer, but it will take from July through much of the rest of 2022 for the Senior Rabbi and into early 2023 for the Assistant Rabbi. Our hope is to be able to announce our new Senior Rabbi sometime late in 2022.

Our task, as a community, is to ensure that our values and principles guide our decisions as we celebrate Rabbis Milgrom and Weiner and welcome our next generation of spiritual leaders. We hope that you will participate in this process and add your voice with the rest of the community.

Jean and I wish you joyous holiday season and a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year! And don't forget that you still have time to make your final tax-deductible contributions (or prepay your dues)!

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hank Rouda". The signature is stylized and cursive.

# A Message From our Executive Director

## Jess Lorden

*"A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no?*

*But in our little village of Anatevka,*

*You might say every one of us is a fiddler  
on the roof,*

*Trying to scratch out a pleasant,*

*simple tune without breaking his neck.*

*It isn't easy.*

*You may ask, why do we stay up there if  
it's so dangerous?*

*We stay because Anatevka is our home...*

*And how do we keep our balance?*

*That I can tell you in one word.... Tradition."*

You probably recognize these lyrics from the Broadway Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, which many of us enjoyed together in 2016. The play tells the story of one Jewish community trying to balance their day to day lives while living in a Russian "shtetl" with the suffering they faced during the pogroms. Jews all over the world have been marginalized and persecuted for being who they are, and yet we continue to persevere. We have held on tightly to our traditions and values to withstand these circumstances and maintain our religion.

We may not understand why, or how, our traditions were established, but they are something we follow, hold onto, and instill in our children. They help to remind us that we are part of a history that defines our past, while it shapes who we are today and who we are likely to become. Traditions contribute a sense of comfort and belonging, bringing families together and enabling us to connect with friends. They offer an excellent context for pause and reflection, and serve as a vehicle for creating lasting memories.

Some of my family's most cherished traditions, rooted in Judaism and Jewish culture, include dining with family on Rosh Hashanah and breaking our fast on Yom Kippur with dear friends. During Hanukkah we light the menorah together and our latkes are homemade. Our Passover Seders, probably very much like yours, involve gathering with family and friends around the Seder table and giving out silver dollars when the afikomen isn't found (that's our family's

unique tradition). Our food traditions include the homemade gefilte fish we enjoyed until Nana passed away and the bagels with a "shmere" that we eat at every family brunch.

I'm sure you have your own traditions that help bring friends and family together. Some of ours, unrelated to Judaism or Jewish culture, include our annual family trips to the beach. To this day, when we go to Nantucket, our first dinner consists of eating sandwiches on Madaket beach to witness the amazing sunset! Our annual decorations for Hanukkah and Christmas go up after Thanksgiving, and remain up until after New Year's Day. We've been celebrating New Year's Eve with the same friends every year since 1987. Pistachio cake is served for every birthday.

Several of our immediate family's traditions go back to my childhood. Just as my dad sang to me every night, I sang a lullaby to Sarah and Robby every night. Once our kids went away to college, I wrote each of them a letter every week just as my mom did for me.

Tevye exclaims "Traditions, traditions! Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as... as... as a fiddler on the roof!" The fiddler serves as a metaphor, reminding us of how unbalanced our lives can become, and demonstrates the strength we gain from our traditions. Because the fiddler is unbalanced, perched on the roof, and can easily fall, so too can our practices, culture, and faith. It is important that we keep our old, cherished traditions alive, while we allow space for creating new ones.

Whatever your traditions, old or new, I hope they bring you joy during this holiday season. I wish each of you a happy and healthy new year!

With much love,

*Jess*



# A Message from our Youth Director

## Barak Stockler



When someone asks me what I do here at Kol Ami, I often struggle to give them a clear answer. "I work with teens" is true, but vague. And saying "I'm the Youth Director" doesn't really give enough info either. Over

the years, I increasingly find myself responding with, "I get to run all the fun programming." Now while that is an over-simplification of what I do, it leads into the heart of what we want our teens to do – to learn through new experiences. I would argue this is the core distinction between primary school learning and learning with the Youth Group.

Our experiential education is not focused on getting into the best college, getting the best grades, or even working the hardest; it's about becoming a good listener, learning how to be a productive community member, and how Jewish values guide us to these things and beyond. Our education is grounded in becoming a Jewish adult, one with a strong moral compass, a compassionate heart, and combatting the stress and pressures that can so often bring us down.

That is why we bring in Danny Mishkin and the Sababa philosophy for our annual Confirmation retreat for 10th graders. This weekend, as part of our larger Confirmation process, is one of our teens' few opportunities throughout the year to disconnect from the society in which they live – to throw off the constraints of school stress, sports, and obligations to focus on these greater life-long goals. The weekend includes deep discussions, Sababa-style programming, meditation, and mindfulness, all grounded in Jewish ceremony and tradition. This full weekend of activities can propel our kids onto better and stronger trajectories.

In early February we are taking a group of twenty or so teens on the Religious Action Center trip to D.C. to lobby their representatives. This trip is one of the most impactful, memorable, and productive trips our teens go on. We spend the four days learning with teens from around the country on a broad range of topics, culminating in a trip to Capitol Hill where our teens are able to lobby directly with their representatives. It is an exercise in democracy and social justice, the pillars of our society and Reform Judaism respectively.

Later that month Cantor Danny and I will be taking a group of teens to Israel on a 10-day trip. This trip is focused on deepening our teens' connection with their people, religion, and homeland while also pushing their thoughts and boundaries on the historic conflict between our people and the Palestinians. This will be an opportunity for them to travel to Jerusalem and breathe in the air of our ancestors, experience the holiest sites of our religion, and to grapple and fight with Israel's ongoing occupation of another people. I can promise you that they will not easily forget this trip.

As a graduate of Kol Ami I can attest personally to the awesome impact of these experiences. While the effect itself can vary, the experiences that our teens go through will shape and mold them into productive, positive, and mindful members of our shared society.

*Barak*



# Early Childhood Program Highlights

Dear Kol Ami Families,

My name is Melina Chopp and I am the Curriculum Coordinator for the Kol Ami ECP. The ECP educational team and I collaborate and reflect on best pedagogical practices in the classroom. We are delighted to share with you ECP Highlights; a description of how we build and strengthen the foundation of your child's growth and development. Our warm and welcoming environment allows children to feel safe and secure and ready to learn. We believe in a process orientated approach to learning; our daily activities are multisensory, purposeful and skill based.

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL** development is fundamental to our curriculum. As children play games, they learn to take turns, and win and lose gracefully. They learn flexibility and the ability to share ideas and compromise in a safe environment.

**ART** is created using natural, quality materials with an open-ended, multi-step process that allows for children to fully express their individuality and understanding of the world. A parent might wonder why their children's art looks unique, and it is because the children have ownership over their creation. Teachers provide the materials, inspire and scaffold, while the children are empowered to problem solve and create on their own.



**LITERACY** skills are taught starting in our youngest 2's program. The children have a daily independent reading time, and learn sequencing, reading comprehension skills through Read Alouds. The children learn how to recognize their names, the names of their friends and learn sound symbol correspondence in both an informal, organic method, as well as through teacher initiated activities. Handwriting without Tears is a curriculum adopted by our 4's and 5's classroom. People question why handwriting is still an important skill (adults often use computers for writing). We teach handwriting because it is the tactile component of learning how to read; it allows the brain to absorb information about letters, such as sound symbol correspondence and letter recognition.

**SCIENCE** is the process in which children make discoveries. Through weekly baking and the use of our outdoor classroom, nature trail and Teva/Nature program, the children gain a deep understanding of the changes taking place in the world around them. The spark of curiosity is lit as they engage in the touch, smell and visual environment of their surroundings.

# Early Childhood Program Highlights

MATH is integrated in our curriculum throughout the day. From the class attendance chart, classroom schedule board and counting the days of the week, the children learn math in a meaningful and relevant way. They complete puzzles to learn spatial reasoning and build symmetrical and aesthetic structures with various shaped manipulatives as a means to learn geometry and fractions.

The children are proud of what they are learning each and every day at Kol Ami. Our program is always evolving with research based pedagogies used in education. Please stay in touch and reach out to us with any questions or ideas.

Thank you for being a part of our learning community.

Thank you,  
The ECP Team



Merav Veetal  
ECP DIRECTOR



Melina Chopp  
CURRICULUM COORDINATOR





# Religious School Highlights

## What IS in a Name?

For the first time in over a year and a half, we had parents in the building with their 2nd graders and Chaverim students for an annual Religious School program, "What's in a Name?" It was joyous! Parents learned with Rabbi Shira about the significance of names in the Torah and then each family worked with their child on decorating a plaque with the child's Hebrew name on it. The meaningful part was that parent(s) and child talked together about who they were named after, what their name means, why that name was chosen, stories about previous generations, and more. Not only will they have a memorable plaque, but they will also have a secret compartment on the back with the story of their name folded and inserted into it. Years from now, this will be a wonderful document for them to have.

Most importantly, they will KNOW their name.

Names are very important to our being. During the Holocaust, one of the things the Nazis did to Jews was to take away their names, twice. As

part of the restrictive laws, many passports read "Israel" or Sara" as middle names, regardless of what they truly were. Even worse, many Jews were branded with a number, erasing their names, their IDENTITY.

My name was changed as well. My maiden name, Barnett, was changed from Swiatycki, when my grandfather came here in the early 1900s, fresh from an encounter where he was dragged into the woods by soldiers with guns. He escaped by luck and cleverness, and came here soon after. (In case you were wondering, we had relatives in England and Ireland with this surname.) I'm sure I would have had a different experience growing up in Northern NJ with Swiatycki as my last name.

As things work with symmetry, the parshah this past Shabbat was *Vayishlach*, which is the portion in which Jacob spends the night wrestling with an angel and in the morning is renamed Israel ("he who has striven with God"). It wasn't just a name change; Jacob's encounter with God reflected a profound difference in his person.

**What's in a Name? is a meaningful event where parent and child explore the meaning, history, and story of the child's name. Parent and child share stories and special memories.**



# Religious School Highlights

As Jacob Roy says in his D'var Torah from his Bar Mitzvah this past weekend, referring to this *parshah*: *What does a name change mean? When you complete medical school, you are a doctor. When you get married, you become a husband or a wife. If you get a degree in education, you are called a teacher. When you move up ranks in the military, you get a new title, whether it is Sergeant or General. One of the best players on a sports team might be named the captain.*

We may have many names throughout our lives. Pausing to celebrate and understand our names is important for all of us. Each name was earned, and has a history, family, traditions, and the most important, a connection to the past. The fifth commandment is "Honor Your Mother and Father." Not respect. Not love. Not like. Honor. I have long felt that this means that we should behave in a way that brings honor to our parents. To their NAME.

What's in YOUR name?



Pam Pass  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR





# B'nai Mitzvah

With love and tremendous pride, we look forward to having these B'nai Mitzvah students lead us in worship, carry our sacred scroll through the congregation, and chant from the Torah. We rejoice with them and their families as they share their intellectual gifts by teaching us from the weekly Torah portion and deliver their "D'var Torah." Mazal Tov to all of our B'nai Mitzvah students and their families as they reach this joyous and memorable milestone.



**Cayden Barrocas**, daughter of Rachel and Andrew Barrocas and sister to Ella and Zoe will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 4, 2021. Cayden is a 7th grader at Ardsley Middle School. She loves spending her summers at Trails End Camp. Cayden has spent many years playing basketball and loves going to the Barclays Center to watch her favorite team play, the Brooklyn Nets. She loves snowboarding, boating, cooking and hanging with her friends. For her Mitzvah project, Cayden is organizing a toy drive for local charities this holiday season to spread joy and kindness for children in need. She is looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends.



**Summer Dutchie Sisitsky**, daughter of Aviva and Peter Sisitsky and sister to Kyle and Cole, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 4, 2021. Summer is in 7th grade at Rye Country Day School in Rye, NY. During the school year, Summer spends much of her free time playing competitive soccer and ice hockey. She spends her summers at Camp Laurel and when she comes home she enjoys going to Niantic CT, where her family has enjoyed the Long Island Sound for over 70 years. Summer loves spending time with her tight knit family and her many friends, with whom she is excited to share this special day. Summer has enjoyed working towards this special day with Pam Pass from Kol Ami at her side as her tutor.



**Blake Leah Zarkowsky**, daughter of Brooke and Dan Zarkowsky and sister to Reed and Emma, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 11, 2021. Blake is in 7th grade at Horace Mann School. She enjoys playing golf and soccer and loves playing with her puppy, Belle. Blake looks forward to celebrating with family and friends on her special day.

# B'nai Mitzvah



**Carly Zolot**, daughter of Joan and Bruce Zolot, and younger sister to Gabe and Jillian Zolot, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 8, 2022. She is a 7th grader at Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School. Carly loves playing sports, especially basketball and softball, and is looking forward to joining her school's teams this winter and spring. She also enjoys her summers in New Hampshire at Camp Robin Hood. Carly is devoted to her dog Luna and began a Mitzvah project based on her love of dogs. She has organized two pet supply drives and brought donations to the New Rochelle Humane Society, and she volunteers at Paws Crossed Animal Rescue in Elmsford. She is looking forward to her special day at Kol Ami, a community that she has enjoyed being part of since First Friends and Kol Ami Nursery School.

**Isaac ("Ike") Lubochinski**, son of Tal and Eric Lubochinski, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 8, 2022. He is in 7th grade at Eastchester Middle School. Ike loves spending his summers at Camp Micah in Sebago, Maine and rock climbs at the Rock Club in New Rochelle. He enjoys skiing and plays the clarinet. For his Mitzvah project, Ike prepared and donated food to community refrigerators all over New York City. Ike learned his Torah portion with Itamar Gov-Ari as his tutor, who made the process much easier and more fun. Ike is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in person with friends and family.



**Zoe Robbins** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on the evening of January 22, 2022. The daughter of Hilary and Matthew and sister to Dylan, Zoe is in 7th grade at Edgemont Junior High School. She loves tennis, lacrosse, drawing, baking, and spending time with her friends and family. Zoe spends her summers at Camp Towanda in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. Through the Greenburgh Public Library she volunteers to help younger kids with their homework and reads to them.



**Asher Nerenberg**, son of Dorian and Eric Nerenberg, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 19, 2022. An 8th grader at Highlands Middle School in White Plains, he spends his summers at Westwood Swim & Tennis Club and Endless Adventure Camp.

Asher enjoys swimming and bicycling and is the 1st Chair cellist in the Highlands Middle School Orchestra. For his Mitzvah project, Asher volunteered weekly as a Madrich in the Kol Ami Religious School. Asher appreciates and gives many thanks to his Torah tutor, Pam Pass, for her thoughtfulness and insight in helping him learn his Torah parshah.

Asher is very excited to share his special day with friends and family and is particularly grateful to be celebrating in person.

## WEEKLY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### 5:30pm Friday Shabbat by the Woods:

A weekly Shabbat service in story and song for families with young children led by our rabbis and cantor. Register to join us in person at [nykolami.org/register](http://nykolami.org/register)

### 6:15pm Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service:

Our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat service in our Main Sanctuary with Rabbi Tom Weiner, Rabbi Shira Milgrom, and Cantor Danny Mendelson. Join us in person by registering at [nykolami.org/register](http://nykolami.org/register)

Our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat is also streamed on our website, FaceBook, and Youtube pages.

### 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! Join us in person by registering at [nykolami.org/register](http://nykolami.org/register) or join us via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 879 5388 3896

Passcode: PA5z5t

Dial-In Number:

(646) 876-9923

# Weekly Torah Portions

## DECEMBER 2021

### Week ending December 4

#### *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 11

#### *Parashat Vayigash*

**Genesis 44:18–47:27**

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

### Week ending December 18

#### *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 December 25

#### *Parashat Sh'mot*

**Exodus 1:1–6:1**

This week's parashah begins the book of Exodus. 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 and 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.

## JANUARY 2022

### Week ending January 1

#### *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.

# Weekly Torah Portions

## **Week ending January 8**

### ***Parashat Bo***

**Exodus 10:1–13:16**

This parashah 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 15**

### ***Parashat B'shalach***

**Exodus 13:17–17:16**

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

## **Week ending January 22**

### ***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 January 29**

### ***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.

## **FEBRUARY 2022**

## **Week ending February 5,**

### ***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 12**

### ***Parashat T'tzaveh***

**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'tzaveh. 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.

## **Week ending February 19**

### ***Parashat Ki Tisa***

**Exodus 30:11–34:35**

Moses lingers on Mount Sinai for forty days. The people become agitated during Moses' long absence and persuade Aaron to fashion a golden calf. Upon returning with the Ten Commandments, Moses sees the Israelites cavorting around the calf, and he smashes the tablets of God's law. Joined by the Levites, Moses executes a campaign to root out the offenders. Moses then pleads with God to secure divine mercy for the people. The parashah ends with a restoration of mutual faith and Moses carving a second set of tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

## **Week ending February 26**

### ***Parashat Vayak'heil***

**Exodus 35:1–38:20**

Moses reminds the people that God commanded them to keep Shabbat, not to do work on the seventh day and to make the day holy. Parashat Vayak'heil continues with Moses asking the Israelites to donate materials for the building of the Mishkan (sanctuary).



# CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

### **Dec 3, Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting 6:00 pm**

Bring your menorahs, we got the candles! Join us for a community candle lighting followed by a joyful, spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service. Cantor Danny will be accompanied by Alex Hopkins and our professional musicians for a spectacular evening of music and prayer. Stay for an outdoor oneg, weather permitting, with hot cocoa and sufganiyot. *Register at NYKolAmi.org/Register.*

### **Shabbat Around the Hanukkah Table 8:00 pm**

#### **Combating Antisemitism, Confronting Intolerance: Holocaust Education in Today's Classrooms**

Join Kol Ami congregant, Jennifer Lemberg, and her colleagues to celebrate the launch of *Becoming a Holocaust Educator: Purposeful Pedagogy Through Inquiry*. Jennifer, co-editor Sandy Pope, and teachers from Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Michigan will hold a roundtable discussion about teaching the Holocaust in these difficult times.

### **Dec 5, Family Hanukkah Celebration 11:00 am -1:00 pm**

Join us for a fun-filled day to celebrate the end of Hanukkah! Come witness the ice carving of a five-foot-tall menorah, enjoy crafts and games, live music, latkes and a BBQ lunch. Join Cantor Danny for Hanukkah Karaoke, build a Lego menorah, and don't forget to select your donut from our donut wall and collect your Hanukkah gelt.

### **Dec 16, Metropolitan Museum of Art Egyptian Gallery Tours**

**11:30 am & 1:45 pm**

Our year-long exploration of Egypt continues with a special tour of the MET Egyptian Galleries, led by Rutgers University Professor, Gary Rendsburg. Two tour group sessions are available. Groups are limited to 15 participants and are being filled on a first come, first serve basis. Spaces are filling fast! Don't miss this unique opportunity.

*To reserve your spot, go to: [https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/met\\_museum](https://congregationkolami.formstack.com/forms/met_museum)*

## JANUARY

### **Jan 14, Shabbat Shirah 6:15 pm**

Save the date as we rejoice in the Shabbat of Singing! Cantor Danny and our professional musicians have a very special evening of music and song planned; an evening you will not want to miss! More details to come.

### **Jan 21-22, Scholar in Residence Weekend**

Come join us as we welcome Professor Gary A. Rendsburg to Kol Ami! He will present a 2-part lecture series with the first presentation entitled *The First Diaspora: Egypt and Babylonia*. We will explore together the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E. when Jews left the land of Israel in large numbers. Not only did the Jews return to Egypt, but they also built a temple to the God of Israel in Elephantine, the remains of which were excavated by archaeologists more than a century ago.

The second lecture entitled *The Jews of Hellenistic Egypt: Septuagint, Synagogue and Symbiosis* will center around the conquests of Alexander the Great who brought Hellenism to the entire Near East in the late 4th century B.C.E. No Jewish community reflects the symbiosis of Judaism and Hellenism better than the large and thriving community of Egypt – especially in Alexandria. Come find out why!

### **Jan 28, Coping with Uncertainty 8:00 pm**

In this uncertain time, many of us are feeling anxious, sad, angry and/or isolated. We may have worries about our health. In stressful situations, coping is actually more about how we react to what's happened - what we think, how we feel and what we do - than the particular difficulty. Congregant Elizabeth Cohn Stuntz will share strategies from her new book, *Coping with Cancer: DBT Skills to Manage Your Emotions—and Balance Uncertainty with Hope*.

## FEBRUARY

### **Feb 6, From Cordoba To Cardamon: The World of the Cairo Geniza**

Professor Gary A. Rendsburg returns for the culmination of our year-long Egyptian study series. During the 1890s the contents of the Cairo Geniza, the storeroom of the Ben Ezra Synagogue built c. 900 in Fustat (Old Cairo), came to the attention of scholars in England and elsewhere. The discoveries constituted nothing less than a revolution in the field of Jewish studies.

# LIFE CYCLES

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Jess & Dave Lorden on the birth of their grandson, Theodore (Teddy) Charles Jo

To Ginny Herron-Lanoil on the birth of her granddaughter, Hazel Miriam Lanoil Edelman

To Heather & Max Pollak on the birth of their daughter, Joanna Reya Pollak and to Adrienne & Scott Pollak on the birth of their granddaughter

To Jeanne & Edward Nerenberg on the marriage of their son, Joseph to Carlisle Kaiser

To Rabbi Shira Milgrom & David Elcott on their granddaughter, Oren Milgrom-Dorfman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

To Sheryl & Stephen Brady on the marriage of their daughter, Gigi to Jonah Sirota

To Kathy Pike on the marriage of her son, Brendan Pike Forster to Hiromi Namikawa

To Judi Brown on the birth of her granddaughter, Blair Harker Brown

To Zoe Schein & David Yohay on the birth of their son, Zachary Yohay

To Heather & Zachary Messer on the birth of their daughter, Eliza Messer

To Dr. Jonathan & Linda Kamen on the marriage of their son, Nick to Vera Haxhia

To Ivy & Jamie Barr on the birth of their granddaughter, Aryn Joni Barr

To Brooke & Dan Zarkowsky on the birth of their daughter, Emma

To Debbi & Steve Marcus on the engagement of their son, Adam to Megan Caminsky

To Jill & Zef Abraham on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah to Brent Navon

To Valeriya and Asaf Greene on the birth of their son, Nadav Eliyahu

## CONDOLENCES

To Richard Novitch on the passing of his father, Edward Herbert Novitch

To Barbara Goldstein on the passing of her husband, and to Sara Blotner on the passing of her father, Dr. Robert Stanley Goldstein

To Edna Lief on the passing of her husband, Dr. Philip Lief

To Bill Hoch on the passing of his mother, Sandra Hoch

To Susan Kohn Arovas on the passing of her grandmother, Selma Kohn

To George Kadar on the passing of his mother, Eva Kadar

To Stuart Rosenbluth on the passing of his brother-in-law and to Ian Rosenbluth on the passing of his uncle, Sam Waldman

To Donald & Ronnie Lee on the passing of their daughter, and to David Lee & Cathy Pohl on the passing of their niece, Andrea M. Pinto

To Marilyn Rader on the passing of her ex-husband, Owen James Rader

To Ann & Jed Rakoff on the passing of their son-in-law, Eric Epstein

To Lisa Arrick on the passing of her father, Irwin Slatin

To Andrea Seiden on the passing of her father, John Gimesh

To Amy Jo Gamon on the passing of her step-father, Theodore Clark

To Dorothy Klausner on the passing of her sister-in-law, Francine Schlingbaum

To Neal Keller on the passing of his ex-wife, Diane Joy Keller

## IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Robert Stanley Goldstein

Dr. Philip Lief

Josephine (Jo) Landau

# DONATIONS\*

## RABBI TOM'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Leo J. Cohan,  
from Ken and Susan Gordon

In honor of the wedding of Matt  
Hershey and Joanna Kessler,  
from Janet and Mark Hershey

In honor of the wedding of Josh  
Howard and Zoe Zetlin, from  
Scott and Carla Howard

In memory of Dr. Robert  
Stanley Goldstein, from  
Barbara Goldstein

In memory of Diana Munder,  
from Ann, Laura and  
Marilyn Munder

In honor of the wedding of  
Cara Nesi and Brett Stotz,  
from Noreen H. Linn

In appreciation, from Betsy  
and Stanley Weiner

In appreciation, from  
Elliott Solomon, MD

In appreciation, from  
Johanna Loddo

In appreciation and in honor of  
their wedding, from Carlisle and  
Joe Nerenberg

In honor of the baby naming of  
Eliza, from Margot and Andrew  
Lefkowitz

In memory of her husband,  
Philip, from Edna Lief

In appreciation and for being  
there for all the important  
milestones. from Kate  
Stoughton Berliner

In appreciation for my High  
Holy Days honor. from Mary  
Ann Nadler

With gratitude in celebrating the  
wedding of Zach Johnson and  
Tara Miller, from Ellen Kurtz

In honor of Sophie's Bat  
Mitzvah, from Bret Mercer and  
Shelly Lewinter

In appreciation, from Linda and  
Henry Klaiman

In honor of Nate's Bar Mitzvah,  
from Meredith and Vic Cohen

In appreciation, from Judy and  
Jeff Gelfand

In support of youth programs,  
from Mitch and Anne Stafman

In appreciation for Fallon's baby  
naming, from Ronnie Cohn

In honor of Lisa Borowitz and  
Martin Kahn's birthdays, from  
Madiha and Abdul Tubman

In memory of his father, Irving  
Scharf, from Andy Scharf

Sending birthday wishes to Lisa  
Borowitz, from Barbara Block

In appreciation of the baby  
naming of Leia, from Justin,  
Rachel and Leia Stotsky

In appreciation, from  
Robin Cohen

In appreciation, from Michelle  
and David Kroin

In honor of the B'not Mitzvah  
of her children, Mia and Sophie  
Labovitz, from Jen Josephs.

In appreciation for teaching and  
service, from the Olga Lengyel

Institute for Holocaust Studies  
and Human Rights.

In support of youth programs  
from Liz and Mike Stuntz

## RABBI SHIRA'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation, from Elliott  
Solomon, MD

In memory of Sandra Hoch,  
from Bill, Debbie and Joshua  
Hoch

In appreciation for the glorious  
wedding celebration for  
Brendon and Hiromi, from  
Kathleen Pike

In appreciation for my High  
Holy Days Honor, from Mary  
Ann Nadler

In gratitude and in memory of  
his mother, Eva Kadar, from  
George Kadar

In memory of Jo Landau, from  
Barbara Block

In appreciation, from Edward  
and Wendy Gellert

In appreciation, from  
Yvette Lawrie

In appreciation for the High  
Holy Days, from Robin Cohen

In memory of Bob L. Hausler,  
from Richard Stout

In appreciation, from Rena and  
Alan Seinfeld

In appreciation for grandson  
Teddy's naming ceremony, from  
Jess and Dave Lorden

*\*As of November 15, 2021*

# DONATIONS\*

In memory of their wife and daughter, Andrea Pinto, from Joe Pinto, Donald and Ronni Lee

In appreciation, from Talia Milgrom–Elcott

In honor of Martin Kahn's birthday, from Debbi Marcus

## CANTOR DANNY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for the High Holy Days, from Robin Cohen

In honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah, from Bret Mercer and Shelly Lewinter

In memory of her husband, Edward Novitch, from Gladys Novitch

In honor of Nate's Bar Mitzvah, from Meredith and Vic Cohen

In honor of the B'not Mitzvah of her children, Mia and Sophie Labovitz, from Jen Josephs

In honor of the wedding of Sarah and Brent, from Jill and Zef Abraham

In honor of the Cantor's installation, from his uncle, Bruce L. Rakusin, and Sue, Michael, Stephen and Bethany

In honor of Cantor Danny, from Michelle Gersen and Michael Zweig

In honor of Cantor Danny's installation, from the Kaufman Family.

## KOL AMI FUND

In appreciation, from Joyce Hoffman & Harold Seiden

In loving memory of Leila Attia, mother of Alison Adler, from Melanie & Adam Gluck

In loving memory of Dr. Robert Goldstein, father of Sara Blotner and Allison Rose, from Loren Canell

In loving memory of Dr. Robert Goldstein, husband of Barbara Goldstein and father of Sara Blotner and Allison Rose, from Staci Kipnes

In loving memory of Edward Elcott, father of David Elcott, and father-in-law of Rabbi Shira Milgrom, from Phyllis Margolin

In appreciation, from Aimee Florin and Family

In loving memory of her father, Leon Kornfeld, from Judy & Mathew Gluckson

In honor of the "Special Birthday" of Denise Goldstein, from Gary & Lori Castle

In loving memory of Jo Landau, from Ellen Pearlman

In loving memory of Jo Landau, from William & Sonia Stern

In loving memory of Jo Landau, from Geraldine Merker

In loving memory of Jo Landau, from Patty & Bert Wohl

To Hank & Jean Rouda for their friendship and generosity, from Patty & Bert Wohl

To Lisa Borowitz for her friendship and generosity, from Patty & Bert Wohl

In loving memory of Richard Lert, husband of Diane Morrow-Lert, from Paul & Anne Babineau

In honor of Daniel Tisch, from Alan Tisch

In appreciation of the High Holy Day Services, from Myrna Lieber

In loving memory of their father, Robert Heller, from Steven & Marc Heller

In appreciation of the High Holy Day Services, from Laurie Tema-Lyn and Shari & Steve Leventhal

In appreciation of the High Holy Day Services, from Julian Miller & Joan Klagsbrun

In honor of Gail & Lenny Zavlick, from Gladys Podhurst

In appreciation, from Sara Schonfeld

In honor of the birth of Theodore (Teddy) Charles Jo, grandson of Jess & Dave Lorden, from Judith & Jeffrey Gelfand

In honor of the restoration of our grand piano, from Paul & Barbara Schwarz

In appreciation of the Kol Ami staff and clergy, from Ronnie & David Lee and Joe Pinto

*\*As of November 15, 2021*



# DONATIONS\*

In loving memory of her brother,  
Robert, from Jane Hein

In loving memory of Neal  
Keller's ex-wife Diane Joy Keller,  
from Linda Pollard Puner and  
Gail Rubenstein Sider

In honor of Cantor Danny's  
Installation from Marci &  
Michael Frankenthaler

In gratitude for Kol Ami's  
beautiful worship services and  
lift & support from the Rabbis,  
from Yehezkel Landau & Joyce  
Schriebman

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Laurie &  
Jeffrey Levine

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Laura Bann and  
Frank Kaiman

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from

Laurie & Jeffrey Levine

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Laura Bann  
and Frank Kaiman

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Jen Josephs

In loving memory of her mother  
and teacher, Petja M. Kroner,  
from Vivian Kroner

In honor of Jess Lorden's  
Special Birthday, from  
Lisa Borowitz

In appreciation and gratitude  
for the funeral service of our  
father, John Gimesh, from Jerry  
Gimesh and Andrea Seiden

In honor of the birth of  
Theodore (Teddy) Charles  
Jo, grandson of Jess & Dave  
Lorden, from Ilene and  
Glenn Miller

In appreciation, from Nancy &  
Alan Block

In loving memory of Dr. Robert  
Goldstein, father of Sara Blotner  
and Allison Rose, from Michele  
and Todd Gershwin

In honor of the baby naming  
of Theodore (Teddy) Charles  
Jo, grandson of Jess & Dave  
Lorden, from Johanna and  
Harold Essex

In appreciation, from Linda and  
Henry Klaiman

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In loving memory of Mattie  
Abler, from Linda & Milt Persily

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Linda & Milt Persily

## ANNUAL FUND

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Grace Wiggs

In honor of the birthday of Lisa  
Borowitz, from Lori and David  
Okun

In honor of the birthday of Lisa  
Borowitz, from Joan Pachner  
and Richard Newman

In honor of the birthday of  
Martin Kahn, from Lori and  
David Okun

In honor of the birthday of  
Martin Kahn, from Joan Pachner  
and Richard Newman

In honor of the B'not Mitzvah  
and Mia and Sophie Labovitz,  
from Lori and David Okun

In loving memory of my father,  
Stanley Mustacchi, from Steven  
& Cindy Mustacchi

## ECP FUND

In honor of the birth of  
Theodore (Teddy) Charles  
Jo, grandson of Jess & Dave  
Lorden, from Kay Osborne and  
the Kol Ami Staff

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Ellen Umansky

In honor of the birth of Hazel  
Miriam Lanoil Edelman,  
granddaughter of Ginny Herron-  
Lanoil, from Kay Osborne and  
the Kol Ami Staff

## FUND FOR THE NEEDY

In appreciation, from  
Barbara Shore

In loving memory of Dr. Robert  
Goldstein, father of Laura  
Goldstein, from Abbie Levine

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Beth & Gene Kava

In appreciation of the  
Afghan refugee efforts,  
from Florence Glazer

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday and his many  
contributions to Kol Ami, from  
Gail Young & Ken Jurist

*\*As of November 15, 2021*

# DONATIONS\*

In Honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Robin Cohen

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Ethel &  
Murray Shapiro

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Leni Glauver

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Robin Cohen

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Ethel &  
Murray Shapiro

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Leni Glauver

## FOOD PANTRY

*In appreciation from:*

Susan & Ken Gordon

Elissa Strauss

Yvette Lawrie

Francine Stone

Gene & Beth Kava

Joe & Laura Essex

Judy & Danny Sarch

Judith Schiamberg

David Worenklein

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Ellen Bittner

In honor of the birthday of  
Lisa Borowitz, from Eric &  
Bonnie Eilen

In honor of the birthday of  
Martin Kahn, from Eric &  
Bonnie Eilen

## KOL AMI CARES FUND

In honor of the Meizlik family,  
from Jan & Louis Schmidt

In celebration of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday and appreciation for  
the many loving ways she cares  
for our Kol Ami Community,  
from Gail Young & Ken Jurist

In appreciation of Betsy  
McCormack, from Caryn Levine

## PETSCHEK MUSIC FUND

In loving memory of Jo Landau,  
from Stan & Barbara Selbst

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's  
birthday, from Maggie and  
David Weber

In honor of Martin Kahn's  
birthday, from Maggie and  
David Weber

## RETREAT FUND

In honor of the baby naming  
of Falon Fleming, daughter of  
Genna Farley Fleming &  
Matt Fleming, from Adrienne  
& Scott Pollak

In honor of the B'not Mitzvah  
of Mia & Sophie Labovitz, from  
Debbi & Stephen Marcus

Rick Kraver College Youth Fund

In honor of the "Special  
Birthday" of Lisa Borowitz,  
from Harriet Kraver

*\*As of November 15, 2021*

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