



Summer 2022

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the Connection



**A Night of Motown Music
in Celebration of Madiha Tubman
June 9, 2022**



Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Rabbi Tom Weiner
Cantor Daniel Mendelson

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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.

"And They're Off!"

Rabbi Tom Weiner

It really frustrates me. I feel like I've never been able to fully express how amazing the high school experience can be at Kol Ami. Following B'nai Mitzvah, I so passionately want to let the kids and parents know of the enriching experiences yet to come. I guess I never found the right words.

So instead let me share a few thoughts from Noah Tirschwell, who recently graduated our high school and spoke so beautifully from the Bema at Kol Ami:

"I've been a member of the Kol Ami community for just over a decade. I first came here as a six year-old, thrilled at the idea that there was some underground passage that somehow made its way into the sanctuary. Since then, I've danced with Shmulik and created tzedakah boxes with Avi. I've attended a Hasidic wedding of fourth-graders and guzzled down mouthfuls of whipped cream. I've been to soup kitchens and Holocaust memorials. I've traveled to Washington DC and lobbied to congressional staffers. I've celebrated Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation. I've attended immigration protests and I was lucky enough to see Ruth Bader Ginsburg – in the flesh – at the Supreme Court just months before she died. I've built a community of friends unique from any other I have, and I've created memories that will last long beyond my high school years.

I think there's no better example of this than the youth group's response to the death of George Floyd. It was June of 2020, and we were all confronting this extraordinary moment in the context of a worldwide pandemic. Fresh off of Va'ad elections, Tommy, Marisa and I went to Barak and started brainstorming. There was so much we wanted to tackle. How could we spread awareness about racial justice while actually effecting change in our community? How could we hear from a diversity of viewpoints but do so in a productive manner? And how could we target the youth group while creating something that was accessible to the broader Kol Ami community? Somewhere along the way, somebody suggested we create a podcast, and Barak just said 'yeah, let's do it.'

Six months later, we had edited, produced, and released a full-fledged podcast. We had interviewed activists, elected officials, and police chiefs. We had spoken both to Black Lives Matter

supporters and Blue Lives Matter sympathizers. We had created an impressive website, complete with a logo and episode blurbs. We had sent our digital content out to the entire congregation,

reaching an audience of several hundred people. And perhaps most importantly, Barak had been there guiding us all along, working his Kol Ami connections so that we could not only chat with fascinating guest speakers, but also produce an informative end-result.

To all the seniors: I know that I'm not the only one who has found another home here at Kol Ami. What we've created over our high school years is something truly special. I'm still struggling to let go, but as we all head off into the next chapters of our lives, I'm comforted by the fact that we're going to find new Jewish communities. If each of us can find another Jewish community that's half as fun, half as menschy, and half as iconic as this one, I think we'll all be pretty lucky people."

If I may, I would like amend one thought that was repeated throughout the evening: "We will always be your synagogue, your rabbis, your teachers, and your Jewish home . . ." Yes, I hope the memories of these years and personal connections will long stay with you. But, to all of you students: Please, please, also go out there and find new rabbis and cantors and teachers. Go out there and create new synagogues and learn and pray in new ways that we here can't yet even imagine! We will always be blessed to be a special part of your Jewish youth, but please create room in your hearts to go out there and be the builders of the next generation of Jewish ideas, living, activism and worship! With our blessing!

Love to you all,



When Matzah Met Montgomery (Alabama)

Rabbi Shira Milgrom

Four years ago, April Hampton of Montgomery Alabama was invited to a Passover Seder. The experience changed her life. "We, the African-American community, need something like this," she thought. "A way to celebrate the power of God's liberation in our own story of slavery and freedom." She created an experience called The Telling (a direct translation of the Hebrew work 'haggadah'), a meal of storytelling and ritual. She is hoping this will become part of the America's commemoration of Juneteenth, the emancipation of enslaved Africans in America.

She is flying up from Alabama to lead the White Plains interfaith community in this celebratory experience and meal on the weekend of Juneteenth. Kol Ami is hosting this event and you are invited to attend. There is limited seating, and you must make a reservation.

It will be Friday, June 17th. Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin earlier, at 5:30 PM, followed by The Telling (6:30), followed by dinner (7:15). We are privileged to share in a moment like this.



Shira

In honor of Juneteenth, we invite you to:

THE TELLING: A GATHERING OF REMEMBRANCE

"The Telling: A Gathering of Remembrance" takes you into the past to connect with the plight of African-Americans and become active participants in telling their story and brings you into our triumph of today.



A.W. Hampton, a resident of Montgomery, Alabama, inspired by a Jewish Passover experience, felt the desire to bring a condensed, unified history to African-Americans that can be easily shared in one sitting over a "soul food" meal. The narrative is set as a juxtaposition that highlights a people's suffering and their cry, in contrast to God's response to them through inspired words, scripture, pictures and events.

**FRIDAY
JUNE
17TH**

**OUTDOOR SHABBAT SERVICE: 5:30PM
'THE TELLING': 6:30PM
DINNER: 7:30PM**

Suggested Donation: \$15

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Confirmation - Keeping the Connection

Cantor Daniel Mendelson



When I recently walked into the sanctuary to rehearse with our 10th grade confirmation class, I thought for a moment that I was backstage at a busy concert hall before a show. I heard the sounds of

our students warming up their own string and brass instruments, as well as going over poetic readings and prayers. At a certain point in the rehearsal process, it's time to let your students hear themselves doing the work they prepared for. It was thrilling to hear them gearing up with such seriousness. This was real for them, and it was real for me.

Keeping young people Jewishly engaged in a modern setting remains a challenge, to which there's no easy remedy. Once B'nai Mitzvah status is accomplished, the flame of Jewish interest can easily burn out. The 10th grade confirmation class serves as a tool of maintaining that Jewish connection by confirming one's commitment to the Jewish existence, during the holiday of Shavuot - the time of year in which we celebrate the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people. That all sounds well and good, but this doesn't just come together at the drop of a hat. Rabbi Tom spends many months with our 10th graders, helping them to craft a service that's meaningful to each and every student. While a detailed service outline is already underway, I work with our students to paint the music into the picture. For our confirmation parents

and congregational family, they're attending a meaningful service led by the students. For the clergy, the service itself represents a snapshot of a much deeper, larger picture.

When it comes to the prayers and Torah chanting, it won't be surprising to know that the hands don't exactly come blazing up to volunteer. But as we move along in the process, and spend this crucial, quality time together, an ease begins to seep into the experience. Students who were certain they wouldn't be leading those prayers, or chanting our sacred texts in the service find themselves practicing with those same old trusty recordings that prepared them for B'nai Mitzvah a few years earlier. Students catch themselves being...well, excited to meet the moment and do their part.

There's a sense among clergy that one has to conquer the *kicking and screaming* phase of activating Jewish youth. It is not my intention to share with you that we've rocketed past that age-old dilemma. Here's what I can say: Like all aspects of this sacredly down-to-earth community, when you're willing to teach *and* be taught by the group in front of you, the spark of connection is lit. That flame is strong, as our confirmands tune their instruments. Let's give our young leaders the congregation they deserve on June 4th!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Daniel Mendelson". The signature is stylized and fluid.

A Message from our President

Hank Rouda



As Kol Ami's fiscal and programming year draws to a close, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank those most responsible for our congregation's continued success – all of you! Throughout

the past two years, you have embraced the changes that come from an overwhelming desire to continue to engage as a community. The challenges that we've faced together have worked to strengthen our bonds and to redefine who we are and how we find our strength in this community.

Our schools, led by Merav Veetal (ECP) and Pam Pass (Religious School), continue to be a bright light. They have balanced safety with a driven dedication to find creative ways to engage and teach our future. We are welcoming Zoe Shannon as our new Director of Youth Engagement, and we're excited to see the plans that she has as we're able to welcome our youth back to more in-person activities. Please encourage your children to reach out to Zoe and see how they can get involved!

Our financial position is as strong as it's been in the past 2 decades. Thanks to the work of our current Treasurer, David Seif, and his predecessors, we were able to pay off our debt from both Makom Shel Or and the ConEd project, so that Kol Ami is now debt free! This will pay immediate dividends by eliminating the debt service expense from the budget. And, thanks to the Green Team, led by Bonnie Hagen, the ConEd project will help us reduce our utility costs for years to come. These and other savings

along with increased revenue from the ECP have enabled us to project a surplus for the second straight fiscal year. We are working on plans now to use some of these funds to create a much-needed endowment. More on that to come.

Our Mikdash Ami Rabbinic Transition Task Force continues its work to find our new spiritual leaders. As we have previously announced, the two Rabbinic Search Committees have been formed and have started to meet and plan for the search process. We will continue to update you as this work progresses. Also look for information about the evenings to honor Rabbi Tom and Rabbi Shira and Dr. David Elcott, as well as other events that will be planned to celebrate what these two gifted clergy mean to us.

As you know from the Nominating Committee report, Judy Sarch will be joining me as Co-President starting on July 1. It's not often that one gets to work with a leader of Judy's caliber and breadth of interests. For years, Judy has been our webmaster, social media guru and solver of all things internet related. She's worked closely with Sisterhood/Women of Reform Judaism on a variety of projects, including the very successful Purim Baskets. She recently has been studying how to implement a small group/affinity group program at Kol Ami to create even more points of connection among all of you. Judy's strength comes in nurturing engagement and building consensus. She is exactly the type of leader who we need as we enter into this transitional period and beyond. As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks teaches us "It is the task of a leader to empower, but it is also her task to inspire." Join Judy as she empowers and inspires us to new heights. From strength to strength.

L'shalom,

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

Creating a Holy Community

Jess Lorden, Executive Director



Our President, Hank Rouda, has often described Kol Ami as a holy community. Holiness is found in the sanctuary and equally in our daily interactions and work. In all my years at Kol Ami, though, I have found that our community is our holiest when we are

supporting each other through times of loss.

What does it mean to be a holy community with respect to someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, battling a serious illness or working through a significant disappointment? Supporting congregants in times of struggle and sadness is the most important, difficult and rewarding work that I do. And I have learned much from our community at these times - from the outpouring of love and support from fellow congregants and from those in mourning themselves.

First, I have learned it is important to pause to recognize that grief is experienced uniquely, that no two people grieve in the same way even when the loss is shared. This understanding has helped me as I strive to support others in a way that is individually meaningful and appreciated.

I also recognize that providing meaningful support and comfort to someone who is grieving may be uncomfortable. We often worry about saying the right thing and if there is more we should be doing. We want to do everything we can to make those in pain feel better, and we often go about it by actively doing things such as helping with practical tasks or running errands. Cleaning house, setting up and cleaning up shiva, cooking or providing a meal, helping with childcare, helping with laundry, assisting with "thank you" notes are all practical actions that can genuinely help those who are grieving.

While "active" doing is wonderful, I have learned that it is not a replacement for being present and providing a listening ear. We can show our love and support for someone experiencing loss even if we sit quietly together and don't say a word, listening without interrupting or giving advice (both of which are hard for me). We may help the most when we stay completely present, not spending the whole time thinking about what we will say next and not making the exchange about us. Our friends often benefit more from talking about their feelings and sharing stories or memories than anything else. By consistently being present, we can show our care during the hardest times of someone's life.

Jewish mourning rituals recognize that someone's grief and sadness continues. I have learned how deeply important it is to support those in mourning well after shiva has ended. We need to stay connected and available, making an effort to check in, even if it is for a quick call or invitation to grab coffee together or writing a quick note.

We might all be surprised by how much our presence, compassion and offering of love and kindness can make a difference.

In peace and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jess".

Until We Meet Again

Barak Stockler



Kol Ami was a driving force in my life when I was here as a teen, so these past few years have been a joy. Being able to help create and shape the program that was so influential to my own

development has been nothing short of fulfilling.

This is my last Connection article, so I wanted to take a moment to thank people and revisit some of the moments we have had here at Kol Ami over the past 3 years.

Our teens can be unruly at times, but my few years at Kol Ami have taught me that they are full of passion and drive. From our Tikun Olam trip to Puerto Rico, our Religious Action Center trip to D.C., and more, they have demonstrated their willingness to step up and learn. Through countless Wednesday nights of Religious School and a plethora of Youth Group activities, virtual and in person, they have shown the congregation their commitment to expand their knowledge and strengthen their community. They have volunteered their time and effort, creating successful programs such as Juniors for Seniors, connecting with some of our older congregants, as well as helping to make events such as the Purim Carnival and Youth High Holy Day services happen. We even had our very first drive-through Purim Carnival!

Our teens also surprised me in ways I did not expect. A number of our kids participated in a teen-focused anti-racism training over the summer of 2020 with Nat'e'lege Wilson. Three of our teen leaders were then inspired to create Peace, Police, and Everything in Between! A podcast on racism and policing here in Westchester where they interviewed Black Lives Matter supporters, the White Plains Police Chief, the Mayor, and more. Our teens even participated in the Zoom-A-Thon of 2020, helping to raise money for Kol Ami. They created a bunch of funny videos, including one where someone crocheted a copy of my head - teens are weird after all.

To the future Youth Group and those who have graduated – Keep up the good work! Engage with your peers, listen to each other, and argue. Keep following your passion and challenging those of us at Kol Ami to do more. Continue to help shape the moral compass of this institution and push the adults in ways they can't expect, I know you will.

Thank you everyone for these past 3 years. I have too many memories to share, and way too many people to thank individually. Stay in touch and don't be a stranger!

With Love,

Barak

Early Childhood Program Highlights

The ECP traveled to Israel on Yom Ha' azmaut! The children's journey began when they entered Ben Gurion Airport. Travel Agents collected the children's tickets and Security stamped their passports. To build their anticipation on the plane, the children watched an informative video on Israel. Upon entry to the land of Israel, the children were greeted with waving Israeli flags and festive Israeli music. The day was filled with enriching and meaningful experiences:



Tree planting



Painting Marc Chagal stained glass windows



Beading flower necklaces in the Negev



Camel riding



Placing prayers in the Kotel



Fishing in the Galili



Enjoying the Dead Sea Spa mud



Relaxing on the beach in Tel Aviv

Religious School Highlights

Here is just a small sample of all the happenings in our Religious School this spring. We will miss seeing your children in our building over the summer, bubbling with excitement and energy! Whether in the hallways or during visits in the classrooms, their sweet presence always brightens our day.



With Music Specialist, Itamar accompanying them, our Kindergarteners led Tefillah (services) during Religious School.



With Morah Andrea, our 2nd graders are proudly showing their beautiful Torahs that each worked on throughout the year.



Our 3rd graders made suncatchers to give to seniors in our community for our Juniors to Seniors program.

Morah Jolanta and Morah Stefanie led the 3rd graders in a workshop studying Hanoch Piven, Israeli portraitist. Each student imagined and created their own self-portrait and proudly showed them to the artist himself!



Religious School Highlights

We hope you will continue the connection with Kol Ami friends next year in Religious School. Our Religious School is a warm, welcoming place for friendships to develop and flourish—for kids and parents! It's not too early to register by clicking on this link: [Religious School 2022-23 Registration](#)



Our 5th graders and Chaverim students made challah together as part of their Shabbat unit.



Sammy and Natalie led our 6th graders and parents in a meaningful morning packing fresh fruit and veggies for those with food insecurity.



Our 8th graders baked hamantaschen for Purim. This one that Noah baked took him 3 days to finish!

For one of our Parent Network Monthly Mitzvah activities, sponsored and led by Religious School parents, students and parents compiled and decorated activity and snack bags to donate.

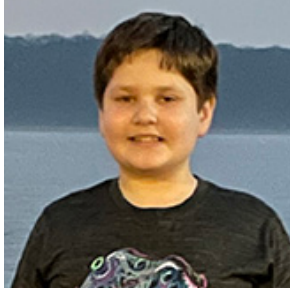


B'nai Mitzvah

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."



Charlotte Papir, daughter of Erica and Ryan Papir, and sister to Nolan, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on June 11, 2022. Charlotte is in 7th grade at Scarsdale Middle School and loves to cook and play tennis. For her Mitzvah Project, Charlotte supported Friends of Karen, an organization that is very special to her family. Friends of Karen supports families caring for a child with a life-threatening illness. Charlotte led three Zooms for Friends of Karen children and their siblings. To raise money for the art supplies, Charlotte sold her delicious baked goods to friends. She then assembled kits to be sent to the families and led the children through the art projects on Zoom. She said it was a very rewarding experience to work with these children and have an opportunity to brighten their day. Charlotte is excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends!



Joshua Simkin, son of Lauren and Eric Simkin, and brother to Michelle, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 11, 2022. Joshua is in the 7th grade at Blind Brook Middle School in Rye Brook. Joshua enjoys skiing in the Poconos, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Joshua also enjoys his weekly Taekwondo classes where he currently holds a High Double Red Belt; with the goal to eventually become a Black Belt. For his Mitzvah Project, Joshua collected donations and raised awareness for the Israel Guide Dog Center. The center trains dogs to give independence, mobility and companionship to disabled Israelis. Joshua had the opportunity to visit the center during his Bar Mitzvah trip this May. Joshua is looking forward to celebrating his special day with his family and friends.



Dafna Arenstein, daughter of Rachael and Moshe Arenstein will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on June 18, 2022. Dafna is in 7th grade at Scarsdale Middle School where she plays volleyball and basketball. She also enjoys piano, reading, cooking, art and cats as well as hanging with her older brothers Noam and Micah. Dafna has had fun as a madricha helping with the Kol Ami kindergarten class. She learned to knit during the pandemic and she is knitting hats for IDF soldiers and cancer patients for her service project. She loves spending her summers in Israel with her family in Kibbutz Baram and at URJ Camp Eisner. Dafna is grateful to Itamar for his tutoring and is excited to share the service with her cousin Zoe Kofman and friends and family across the U.S., Israel and France.

B'nai Mitzvah



Zoe Kofman, daughter of Kathleen Dunlop & Jason Kofman and sister to Sam & Nate, will become Bat Mitzvah with cousin Dafna Arenstein on June 18, 2022. Zoe is a 7th grader at Scarsdale Middle School in the CHOICE program. Zoe is a keen cheerleader and also does gymnastics. She plays violin and looks forward to performing "Hallelujah" at her Bat Mitzvah service. Zoe spends summers at Aloha Camp in Vermont. For her mitzvah project Zoe is addressing hunger in our Westchester community by working with the Kol Ami food pantry and participating in Midnight Run's relief efforts for the homeless of NYC. Zoe looks forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah in person with family and friends.

Please join us on
Saturday, June 4 at 7:00pm
as we celebrate Shavuot together and recognize
the achievements of our 2022 Confirmands.

Following B'nai Mitzvah, tenth grade at Kol Ami is a special year during which the class studies with Rabbi Tom and then celebrates a public affirmation of their commitment to live as Jews. The entire class leads the congregation in worship on Shavuot, the festival that marks the receiving of the Torah by Moses at Sinai. The service is beautifully customized to showcase and leverage the talents and contributions of each student. Filled with music, artwork, poetry and prayer, each student lends its own voice to this inspirational service.

2022 Confirmands:

Jessica Arrick • Charlotte Blotner • Maxwell Florin
Sarah Hutter • Ethan Ivler • Zachary Ivler
Aaron Kahn • Gabriel Karl • Sam Kofman
Sam Labovitz • Logan Lent • Max McEvoy
Maxwell Meizlik • Jacob Niedzielski
Eli Sandler • Parker Small
Harrison Strassler • Talia Tirschwell
Carina Weksel • Matthew Welling

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.

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.

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

9:30am 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 or via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87953883896?pwd=UmlHUzljSTJSTFdvUzR2QXBKcEpPQT09>
Meeting ID: 879 5388 3896
Passcode: PA5z5t
Dial-In Number: (646) 876-9923

Weekly Torah Portions

JUNE 2022

Week ending June 4, 2022

Parashat B'midbar

Numbers 1:1–4:20

This Shabbat we begin reading the book of B'midbar, (in the wilderness). The book is called "Numbers" in English because it begins with a census of all male Israelites in the camp who are eligible to bear arms, those over the age of 20, as well as those responsible for the duties in the Tabernacle. The parashah stipulates a census of first-born males and levies a special redemption tax on them (Pidya ha ben). Each tribe is assigned specific places in the camp surrounding the Tabernacle.

Week ending June 11, 2022

Parashat Naso

Numbers 4:21–7:89

In the second parashah in the Book of Numbers, the census is completed with a counting of members of the Levitical families between the ages of thirty and fifty. The responsibilities in the portage of the Tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting are detailed, as well as the commitments of a Nazarite vow. The parashah's concluding section begins with the Priestly Blessing, which we recite at the end of Kol Ami's Shabbat services on Friday nights.

Week ending June 18, 2022

Parashat B'haalot'cha

Numbers 8:1–12:16

In this parashah, God instructs Moses to appoint elders to share the burden of ruling the people and settling their many issues. A cloud by day and fire by night show God's Presence over the Tabernacle. When the cloud lifts from the Tabernacle, the people leave Sinai, setting out on their journey tribe by tribe. The parashah concludes with Aaron and Miriam saying disparaging things about their younger brother Moses. As a

result, Miriam is struck with a skin disease, manifested as white, itchy scales. Aaron appeals to Moses, who offers a prayer to God on his sister's behalf

Week ending June 25, 2022

Parashat Sh'lach L'cha

Numbers 13:1–15:41

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

JULY 2022

Week ending July 2, 2022

Parashat Korach

Numbers 16:1–18:32

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

Weekly Torah Portions

Week ending July 9, 2022

Parashat Chukat

Numbers 19:1–22:1

Chukat begins with the death of Miriam, Moses' and Aaron's sister, at Kadesh. When the people complain that they have no water to drink, God instructs Moses to take his rod and order a rock to bring forth water. In his anger against the cantankerous people, instead of ordering the rock to produce water, Moses strikes the rock with his rod. As a result of this action, God tells Moses that he will not be allowed to lead the people into the Land of Israel. This responsibility will ultimately be given to Joshua. Moses' brother Aaron dies at Mount Hor and Aaron's son, Eleazer, becomes Aaron's successor.

Week ending July 16, 2022

***Parashat Balak* Numbers 22:2-25:9**

In the parashah of Balak, the King of Moab, persuades the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites so that he can defeat them and drive them out of the region. However, when Balaam speaks, the words that come out of his mouth bless the Children of Israel instead. He prophesies that Israel's enemies will be defeated, saying "Ma Tov, ohalecha Ya-akov, mishk'notecha Yisrael – How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel." The parashah ends with God punishing the Israelites with a plague after an Israelite man consorts with a Moabite woman. The plague ends when Pinchas kills them.

Week ending July 23, 2022

***Parashat Pinchas* Numbers 25:10-30:1**

The parashah begins with God rewarding Pinchas for killing the Israelite and the Midianite woman who profaned God,

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

Week ending July 30, 2022

***Parashat Matot – Mas'ei* Numbers 30:2-36:13**

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

AUGUST 2022

Week ending August 6, 2022 *Parashat D'varim* Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22

D'varim is the first parashah in the Book of Deuteronomy, which begins a series of speeches by Moses to the Israelites as they are preparing to enter the Land of Israel. In this parashah, Moses, who will not be allowed to enter the Land of Israel and will die in Moab, reminds this generation that they are about to take possession of the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac,

and Jacob. Moses recounts the route of travel and the challenges, chastisements, and triumphs that occurred along the way.

Week ending August 13, 2022 *Parashat Va-et'chanan* Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

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

Week ending August 20, 2022 *Parashat Eikev* Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

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

Week ending August 27, 2022 *Parashat R'ei* Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

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

CALENDAR

JUNE

June 4, Morning Shabbat Service for Young Families **9:00AM**

Get ready to sing, dance and celebrate Shabbat! Join Rabbi Shira for a lively, interactive Shabbat service geared to our youngest members in the Chapel. Challah, juice and snacks will follow. Continue on for Shabbat themed crafts and games with ECP Teva Art Specialist, Candice Moscoe-Polner and Religious School Teacher, Debra Zitrin. *To register, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/shabbat-morning-service-for-young-families1.html>*

June 4, Shavuot/ Confirmation Service **7:00PM**

Join us for a joyful and spirited Shavuot service led by our 10th grade Confirmation Class. The service will showcase the many talents of our 10th graders and will be filled with music, artwork, and poetry representative of the class. If you haven't yet been to one of these Shavuot services, you're in for a real treat. Come participate in this memorable moment for our Confirmands and be part of a multi-generational, community-wide Shavuot service that will be moving and inspirational for all.

June 9, A Night of Motown Music Under the Stars in Celebration of Madiha Tubman's Retirement **7:30PM**

Celebrate with us, C'mon!! Raise a glass and toast our honoree, Madiha Tubman, as she steps down after 30 years of loving and dedicated service. Our evening features a wonderful array of talent including Valisia LeKae and Charl Brown, both of whom have been recognized for outstanding performances in Motown the Musical on Broadway and making his Motown debut will be our very own Cantor Danny! We look forward to a magical evening of outdoor music and celebration, with proceeds going toward funding the future of Kol Ami. *To register or sponsor the event, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/motown-.html>*

June 10, Congregational Visit to Journey of Freedom Statue, followed by Kabbalat Shabbat Service **4:00PM Renaissance Plaza** **6:15PM service at Kol Ami**

Join us on a congregational excursion to view the Journey of Freedom statue, a traveling exhibit on display in the Renaissance Plaza, in downtown White Plains. The bronze sculpture depicts Harriet Tubman as she leads a young, enslaved girl to freedom. We will hear from Madiha and Abdul Tubman who will share the story of their family heritage and connection to the famous abolitionist. From there, plan to join us at Kol Ami for our

traditional Kabbalat service, during which we will celebrate Madiha's retirement and wish her well as she embarks on a new chapter in her personal and professional life. We will be joined by members of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, an organization dedicated to furthering the relationships between Muslims and Jews to spark sustainable social change. A festive oneg will follow.

June 17, The Telling: A Gathering of Remembrance **5:30PM Outdoor Shabbat Service,** **6:30PM The Telling,** **7:30PM Dinner**

The Telling takes us into the past to connect with the plight of African Americans, allowing us to become active participants in telling their story. A.W. Hampton, a resident of Montgomery, Alabama, inspired by a Jewish Passover experience, felt the desire to bring a condensed, unified history to African Americans that can be easily shared in one sitting over a "soul food" meal. Join us in honor of Juneteenth for an artistic and spiritual story telling experience meant to not only homage but encourage conversation and healing. *To register go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/kabbalat-shabbat-service-with-program-the-telling.html>*

June 24, Pride Shabbat **6:15PM**

Join us for an evening of song, prayer and special readings to honor and celebrate our LGBTQ community.

A NIGHT OF MOTOWN UNDER THE STARS

**Join us to celebrate Madiha Tubman and
to fund the future of Congregation Kol Ami**

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH 7:30 - 10:00PM

What's Goin' On?!

**We're Celebrating Madiha Tubman upon her retirement
with a Night of Motown Music Under the Stars!!**



Madiha joined Congregation Kol Ami on Valentine's Day 1993 and it's been a love affair ever since. She was hired by Jane Friedberg to work on the Fund for the Future capital campaign. At the time, it was understood she was

only committing to an 18-month assignment. Recognizing Madiha's talent and skills, those 18 months evolved into a Accounts Payable position for which Madiha was a perfect fit. She became responsible for Kol Ami's Accounts Payable as well as deposits and reconciliations for Rabbi Shira's Discretionary Fund and Cantor Annie's Discretionary Fund. In 1997, at the urging of Ruth Gravit, of blessed memory, Madiha was promoted to a bookkeeping position. During Ken Simon's Presidency, her contributions and scope of responsibilities expanded even further and were recognized with a promotion to the senior staff position of Controller, the position Madiha proudly holds to this day.

It has been Madiha's privilege and pleasure to work with some incredible Kol Ami Treasurers including David Klein, Ken Simon, David Lee, Barry Schwartz, Margie Lewis, Lori Okun, Jonathan Litt, David Okun, and David Seif, our current Treasurer. Madiha has cherished her

professional and personal relationships with Kol Ami's Rabbis, Cantors, and professional staff, past and present. She has been blessed with many close relationships with congregants over the years and watching all of Kol Ami's children grow up right before her eyes.

Madiha has enjoyed being part of a very special community she holds close to her heart. When asked what she will miss most about Kol Ami, Madiha replied "the people and the warmth of a community, that will forever be my second home."

Upon her retirement, Madiha plans to return to Kenya where she is building a new home and embarking on a new career in Life Coaching for which she became fully certified in 2019. She has always been passionate about empowering and inspiring both women and youth. In Kenya, Madiha will fulfill her dream of opening a new school in Leadership and Personal Development where she will coach, teach, train and mentor young women. In addition, she will be a consultant to the Women and Youth Empowerment Centers in both Kenya and Tanzania, work which has already begun. She also looks forward to spending more time with her large extended family.

Yet, before all of that, Madiha looks forward to sharing an incredible night of music and celebration with the Kol Ami family she holds so dear at a Night of Motown Music Under the Stars!!

Journey to Freedom

Join us on a Journey To Freedom and visit the traveling Sculpture of Harriet Tubman on display in the Renaissance Plaza, in downtown White Plains.

We will gather at 4:00PM

Madiha and Abdul Tubman will share the story of their family heritage and connection to the famous abolitionist

Return to Kol Ami at 6:15PM for a joyful, spirited Kabbalat service in Madiha's honor

We welcome members of Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom as our guests, in support of their mission to further relationships between Muslims and Jews.

Festive oneg to follow.



Our Community

At Kol Ami, we have what it takes to make the world a better place - a caring community that works together to fulfill acts of loving kindness. We welcomed our Coachman friends back to Kol Ami for a Spring BBQ. Together, we shopped, diced, chopped and grilled; we served our Coachman guests graciously making them feel embraced and at home; and provided an afternoon filled with smiles, laughter and joy. Our Juniors for Seniors baked and delivered sweet treats to our homebound congregants, brightening up their holiday celebrations. And our adult choir performed with the Vienna Jewish Choir, providing moving music in commemoration of Yom Hashoah.



A Win-Win For All

Kol Ami members and friends teed off at the Westchester Hills Golf Club and enjoyed an active morning of golfing together. It was a perfect day filled with community spirit and fun. Together we raised over \$10,000 for Kol Ami and enjoyed each other's company and a delicious lunch. Thanks to Kevin Rosenzweig and Michael Elkin for leading this effort and to our many sponsors, we look forward to making this an annual Kol Ami tradition!



LIFE CYCLES

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ellen Kurtz & family on the birth of her granddaughter, Sloane Eleni Ramsey

To Allison & Eric Buonomassa on the birth of their grandson, Elliott Ambrose

To Debbi & Steve Marcus on the marriage of their daughter, Melissa Marcus, to Justin Wass

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

To Bill Fischer & family on the marriage of his son, Matthew, to Stephanie Hott

To Lauren and Jared Macklin on the birth of their son, Gavin Samuel Macklin

To Ezra and Rona Kannof on the birth of their son, Matan Kannof

To Crystal and Mike Persky on the birth of their daughter, Phoebe Persky

CONDOLENCES

To Betsy & Tom McCormack & family on the passing of their son, David Ross McCormack

To Dave Lorden & family on the passing of his uncle, Michael Kenyon

To Jess & Dave Lorden on the passing of Dennis Kurtz, a member of their extended family

To Peter Ginsberg & family on the passing of his father, Monte Ginsberg

To Clifford Meilman & family on the passing of his father, Myron Meilman

To Anlee Marcus & family on the passing of her husband, Myron (Mike) Marcus

To Elizabeth Ward & family on the passing of her cousin, Betty Sherman

To Daniel Berman & family on the passing of his father, Arthur Berman

To Doug Stone & family on the passing of his mother, Nancy Hewett Stone

To Jean Rouda & family on the passing of her sister, Barbara Ann Kirvin

To Victoria Drozdov & family on the passing of her father, Emil Strashnov

To Jonathan Cohen & family on the passing of his mother, Janice C. Cohen

To Donna & Larry Dunkelman & family on the passing of their son, Joshua Evan Dunkelman

To Mindy Tucker & family on the passing of her husband, Neil Tucker

To Marc Baritz & family on the passing of his sister, Cindy Baritz

To Ellen Flaks & family on the passing of her father, Stanley Corwin Flaks

To Madiha Tubman on the passing of her aunt, Rauhiya Abbas

To Joyce Hoffman, Alison Hoffman & family on the passing of Joyce's former husband and Alison's father, Charles Barret (Barry) Hoffman

To Ellen Kurtz & family on the passing of her mother, Terry Kurtz

To Wendy Shemer & family on the passing of her mother, Adèle Bagg

IN MEMORIAM

Myron (Mike) Marcus

Neil Tucker

Bella Weissman

DONATIONS*

RABBI TOM WEINER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of David
McCormack from Sandy Kurtz

To support the youth travel
program and the Religious
School from Nathaniel and
Betsy Bohrer

In memory of Allan Eckhaus
from Janie and Steve Atlas

In honor of their son, Alex's,
Bar Mitzvah, from Suzanne and
Matthew Kirsch

In appreciation and in memory
of David Ross McCormack from
Betsy and Tom McCormack

To support a media book for
graduating seniors to "stay in
touch" from the children of
Monroe and Marian Heidecorn
(Gail Kedrus, Debra Goldman,
and David Heidecorn)

In honor of the marriage of their
daughter, Melissa, and Justin
Wass from Debby and Steve
Marcus

In appreciation from Claudia
and Alan Barson

In memory of their son, Joshua,
and in appreciation for the
Shiva service from Larry and
Donna Dunkelman

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation from
Charles Blumberg

In memory of Leni Glauber's
beloved brother, David Gross,
and in memory of Rachel
Eckhaus' beloved father, Allan
Eckhaus, from Myrna Barzelatto

In memory of her father,
David Sheff, and Steven Glazer,
son of Florence Glazer, from
Barbara Block

In appreciation and with
gratitude always from Susan
and Ken Gordon

In appreciation and in memory
of David Ross McCormack from
Betsy and Tom McCormack

In memory of her mother,
Edna Silberstein, her husband,
John Hein, and her friend,
Ruth Denison, from Jane Hein

In memory of Josh Dunkelman
from Barbara Block

In memory of their son,
Joshua, and in appreciation for
the Shiva service from Larry
and Donna Dunkelman

CANTOR DANNY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantors Jack
and Fredda Mendelson from
Carol and Allan Gingold

In honor of his parents,
Cantors Jack and Fredda
Mendelson's, 75th Birthday
from Rabbi Tom Weiner

Congratulations on the
Mendelsons' Birthday Bash
from Ken and Susan Gordon

In honor of the Mendelson's
concert from Carol Scharff

In honor of Cantors Fredda and
Jack Mendelson from Phyllis
and Andy Herz

In appreciation from Stan Selbst

In honor of their son, Alex's,
Bar Mitzvah from Suzanne and
Matthew Kirsch

PETSCHEK MUSIC FUND

Michael Zweig and
Michelle Gersen

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Elaine Libman

Nora and Robert Groban

Ellen Sarna

Beth and Eugene Kava

Janet and Mark Hershey

Geri and Andrew Sommers

Alice Tenney and Budd
Wiesenberg

Nina and Philip Blumenfeld

Zachary and Amanda Mazin

Kathleen Pike

Harriet and Vito Sessa

Barbara Shore

**As of May 15, 2022*

DONATIONS*

KOL AMI FUND

In honor of their son, Teddy, becoming a Bar Mitzvah from Carey & Jared Spitalnick

In loving memory of Myron Marcus, husband of Anlee Marcus & father of Lauren Marcus Eisenberg & Helene Marcus Casper, from Ellen & David Sher

In loving memory of Myron (Mike) Marcus, from Linda Perilstein

In loving memory of Myron (Mike) Marcus from Lauren Marx

In honor of Barbara Block's "Special Birthday" from Herbert Weiner

In honor of Barbara Block's "Special birthday" from Sally Perr

In honor of Barbara Block's "Special Birthday" from Joan Furman

In honor of Barbara Block's "Special Birthday" from David Kasman

In loving memory of our parents, Herbert Farber, Leonard Gelfand & Fay Farber from Judy & Jeffrey Gelfand

In loving memory of Rudolf, Hans & Anna Kroner from Vivian Kroner

In loving memory of Muriel Gluckson, mother of Matthew Gluckson, from Matthew & Judy Gluckson

In loving memory of Milton Pushkin, father of Rob Pushkin, from Rob & Stacey Winnick Pushkin

In loving memory of Barbara Ann Kirvin, sister of Jean Rouda, from Judy & Jeffrey Gelfand

In loving memory of Barbara Ann Kirvin, sister of Jean Rouda, from Wendy & Wayne Rhodes

In appreciation of the wonderful service and spiritual beacon Kol Ami represents to the local community from Bill Levine.

KOL AMI CARES FUND

In appreciation for the Juniors for Seniors outreach from Florence Glazer

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from the Caesar family, Lorraine, Lester & Brett

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Leslie & Stephen Weisglass & family

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Susan Eisman

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Lisabeth & Stephen Kaufman

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Vicki Adler

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Rayna Shapiro

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Pam & Lee Miner

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Jennie Kramer Rawson, Robert, & Wendy Rawson

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Betsy's devoted Mah Jongg group: Jennie Kramer, Anne Donnelly, Marcie Schneider, Debby Koppersmith, Beth Jaret, & Joselyn Fine

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Judy & Steve Ross

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Seth Kruglak

**As of May 15, 2022*

DONATIONS*

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Robin & Warren Hershkowitz	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Diane Wilensky	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Daryl & Michael Moss
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Wendy & Phil Schaffer	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Jill Schwartz	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Congregation Kol Ami Staff
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Sherry & Kenneth Rubin	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Joyce Levine	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Margaret & David Goldberg & family
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Barbara Block	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Lauri & David Carey	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from an anonymous donor
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Deborah & John Strek	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Myrna Kirkpatrick	In loving memory of Allan Eckhaus, father of Rachel Eckhaus, from Karen & David Cole
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Linda Lucks	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Hank & Jean Rouda	In loving memory of Herbert Bernard Hirsch, father of Elizabeth Ward, from Karen & David Cole
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Marian Steinberg	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Laura Dann & Frank Kaiman	In loving memory of Myron (Mike) Marcus, from Myrna Barzelatto
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Jamie & Ivy Barr	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Lita D. Mustacchi	ADULT EDUCATION FUND In honor of Barbara Block's "Special Birthday" from Linda & Milt Persily
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Jill & Zef Abraham	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Myrna Barzelatto	KOL AMI ARTS In honor of my cousin, Naomi Graf, from Naomi & Glenn Schwartz
In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Karen & David Cole	In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Linda & Bob Spiegelman	

**As of May 15, 2022*

DONATIONS*

ECP FUND

In loving memory of Blanche Silver, mother of our ECP teacher Cheryl Bernstein, from Julie Breakstone

FOOD PANTRY

In honor of Ethan Shifrin's Bar Mitzvah from Ethel & Murray Shapiro

FUND FOR THE NEEDY

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Rachel & Donald Strauber

With great thanks to Kay Osborne from Susan & Ken Gordon

In appreciation from Mary Cunningham

In loving memory of Myron (Mike) Marcus from Barbara & Stan Selbst

In honor of Barbara Block's 90th birthday from Leni Glauber

Thank you Judy Sarch, Jess Lorden, Madiha Tubman & the rest of the Kol Ami team for your enormous effort in the implementation of Shul Cloud from Alan Barson & Claudia Harari

MUSIC FUND

In honor of the 75th birthdays of Cantors Fredda & Jack Mendelson and in appreciation of their son, Cantor Danny Mendelson, from Phyllis & Tom Osterman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Barbara Block's birthday from the Congregation Kol Ami Staff

In loving memory of her dear friend, Mattie Abler, from Kay Osborne

RETREAT FUND

In loving memory of Barbara Ann Kirvin, sister of Jean Rouda, from Bernice Gale

In loving memory of Barbara Ann Kirvin, sister of Jean Rouda, from Cindy & Scott Musoff

In loving memory of Barbara Ann Kirvin, sister of Jean Rouda, from Lisa Borowitz

SISTERHOOD/ BARBARA GRUBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In appreciation of Judy Sarch from Susan & Ken Gordon

**As of May 15, 2022*

Thank you

for your donations and ongoing support of Kol Ami!

For those of you who generously contribute in commemoration of a life cycle event, or as an expression of gratitude to our clergy and staff, or in support of the social justice work that so desperately needs to be done, we remain humbled and so deeply grateful.

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of the invaluable services
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provides to the children of the
lower Westchester community.



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