

the Connection





Rabbi Shira Milgrom
Rabbi Tom Weiner
Cantor Daniel Mendelson

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Jess Lorden

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER
ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS
Alison Adler

ECP DIRECTOR
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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.

Come Get Found!

Rabbi Tom Weiner

What a weird year this has been! Especially dealing with the odd challenge of re-emerging and re-engaging as social beings. Haven't we all done the awkward dance of approaching someone we haven't seen in a while, leaning in to say hi, and jerkily shifting from starting a handshake, or a fist bump, to a peck on cheek or an awkward and comical bow? I do it every day!

We've suffered from the lack of gathering socially or at work. In the process some of us have become too accustomed to being alone or find it easier to talk on Zoom instead of face-to-face.

The coming High Holy Days allows us, and even *challenges* us to come out of hibernation, physically and emotionally. The High Holy Days are a beautiful opportunity to come out of hiding, to open ourselves up to a new year, sharing ourselves more deeply than we have been allowed for too long.

Years ago, a minister wrote about the game Hide and Seek. One Fall, he was sitting in his study at home watching the neighborhood children playing hide and seek. This one boy hid himself under a pile of leaves in the yard right under the minister's window. It was a great spot. Nobody would find him there.

Watching this game, the minister was reminded of the games of hide and seek that he played as a child. In particular, he wrote about the kid in the neighborhood who was the best hider.

He wrote, "Did you have a kid in your neighborhood who always hid so good, nobody could find him? We did."

"After a while we would give up on him, leaving him to rot wherever he was. Sooner or later, he would show up, all mad because we didn't keep looking for him. And we would get mad back because he wasn't playing the game the way it was supposed to be played."

"There's hiding and there's finding!' we'd say."

"And he'd say it was hide-and-seek, not hide-and-give-up!"

"And we'd yell about who made the rules and who cared about

who, anyway, and how we wouldn't play with him anymore if he didn't get it straight and who needed him anyhow, and things like that."

"No matter what, though, the next time he would hide too good again. He's probably still hidden somewhere, for all I know."

As the minister was reminiscing about his childhood games, he noticed that this boy was still well hidden under the pile of leaves. The boy had been there a long time now, and everyone else had been found, and they were all about to give up on him. He considered going out there and setting the leaves on fire to drive the kid out.

Finally, he just yelled out the window, "Hey kid, get found!"

In some ways we have been hiding very well these past years. Rosh Hashanah invites us to get found, to open ourselves more fully to friends, family and even to ourselves.

When you come to Kol Ami in a month's time, I invite you to reach out and Get Found!

Shanah Tovah,



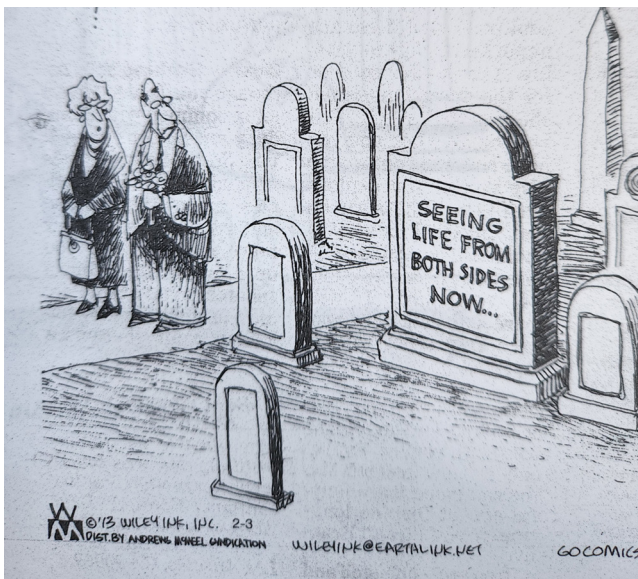
Both Sides Now

Rabbi Shira Milgrom

More than a million people watched and circulated the video of Joni Mitchell singing at the Newport Folk Festival this summer. If you're not among them, it will do your heart a lot of good to watch – if not the whole hour – at least “Both Sides Now.” Joni Mitchell suffered a devastating brain aneurysm in 2015. Her doctors did not think she would walk or speak again. By force of will, the grace of God, skilled medical care and the devotion of friends, Joni Mitchell relearned all the above. She walks (with support), she taught herself to play guitar again watching youtube videos, she speaks. And she sings – with a different voice than the carefree and the wild soprano of the earlier Joni Mitchell. Her voice is low and rich – and wise and joyous. It is not perfect. It is beyond perfect. When notes were slightly above her now-more-limited range, her friends and musicians on stage were there to support and to sing with her. And Joni? Ebullient. Radiant. Apparently not hung up on not being perfect; rejoicing in all that is.



Many of us are beginning this new year with a heavier heart than usual. Students of all ages are showing signs of anxiety and stress – more than last year. Depression is affecting old and young. We have prevailed through these nearly three years of the pandemic and its related isolation and worry – and it has taken a toll. This Rosh Hashanah we need to find ways to resurface, to breathe, and to renew. The obstacles we face are substantial – both our internal stresses and the challenges of the world around us. I draw inspiration from Joni Mitchell. Loud and clear, she speaks to what is most critical about renewal: she is not afraid to be vulnerable and imperfect. She is not too proud to accept help and to lean on her friends. She doesn't have to do it alone.



Even with huge challenges, life is filled with joy, with music, with spirit. And sometimes taking serious issues a little more lightly – and laughing.

Shi

That *Shehecheyanu* Moment

Cantor Daniel Mendelson



Over these last few years, we've experienced a rather dramatic series of *Shehecheyanu* moments - Opportunities to take stock of where we are, how far we've come and what we've come through.

Opportunities for awareness and blessings. For me, it isn't until we sing the actual *Shehecheyanu* prayer on Erev Rosh Hashanah, *Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this moment*, that I reach a complete awareness that the Days of Awe have arrived. All of the work we've done to prepare and all that we must deliver over the High Holy Days gets put aside for the moment, and my concentration only has room for keeping the Kiddush cup firmly held in one hand while expressing gratitude with the rest of me.

Many of us have resolutions for each Jewish New Year that we reach. A friend of mine once said that his entire resolution could be summed up in one sentence: He would strive to be "a better husband, a better father, and a better rabbi, in that order." The month of Elul is a month of thoughtful reflection that spiritually prepares us for the Days of Awe. What occurs to me each Elul, as I offer thanks and praise from the first *Shehecheyanu* to the last shofar blowing, is that too much of my own time gets used up on feelings of stress and anxiety, and not nearly enough time is spent acknowledging the great many blessings that already exist in front of me.

This brings us to another prayer - *Modeh Ani*, a prayer of gratitude upon awakening. Truthfully, I haven't spent much time appreciating this daily offering of thanks, even though it's been right in front of me as far back as I can remember. On page 46 of our own prayer book, the text reads: *I give thanks to You Eternal and living God Who in love and faithfulness has restored my soul to a new day*. It took a recent musical collaboration with my gifted, soulfully accomplished friends Ray Musiker and son Lee Musiker, to be faced head-on with the text and beauty of this prayer. Ray, a legend of Klezmer, came up with a melody, which I will share with you below, that underscores the every-day difficulties of life, while acknowledging the fierce beauty and vitality of each new day. Lee Musiker, a giant of today's music scene, arranged and layered the melody as an intricate rumba. A handful of our cherished Kol Ami instrumentalists helped bring this setting to life along with the sharp eyes and ears of our technical director, Greg Schettino.

In studying the text to prepare for recording this setting, a realization set in: Maybe waiting for that *Shehecheyanu* moment each year isn't quite paying off as well as it can. Maybe allowing for that micro-moment of gratitude each day, for breath and for life, can better position me to pray, while praying with all of you. Perhaps making the time to embrace and experience these words each day can help us come through this season of repentance and renewal feeling refreshed and ready to do good together.



[Click on photo to view *Modeh Ani* arrangement](#)



A Year of Joy

Judy Sarch, Co-President



This time of year always fills me joy, gratitude and hope of good things to come. It is a combination of the Jewish New Year, the start of school and the emotional reset that a good relaxing summer brings.

As we emerge from the cocoon of covid protocols and head back to what is a new normal and not life as it was, I'm pleased to report that more of the interesting and engaging programming & activities that Kol Ami has been known for are coming back - including Synaplex and the Annual Retreat! Our Clergy, membership, social justice and adult ed committees, schools, and Sisterhood are all busy planning ways for us to be inspired and connect with one another. Be sure to read This Week at Kol Ami on Thursdays and the Kol Ami website www.NYKolAmi.org for the latest details.

We are also going to be doing a lot of partying! Please join us as we celebrate Rabbi Tom with a night of comedy on November 10th and Rabbi Shira & Dr. David Elcott with a Purim Ball on March 4th. Their contributions to our community have been immeasurable and we are delighted to be able to honor them in these ways. At the risk of giving us a kine-hora (yiddish for evil eye) I'd like to say we're back and better than ever! For this I am very grateful.

It is too soon for an update on the Rabbinical Search process other than to say the application has been submitted and the interview questions are being developed. We will update the congregation as we progress.

Congregation Kol Ami has always been committed to being an open tent – a place that welcomes all who wish to be part of our Jewish community. I hope that we have done a good job at making everyone feel welcome. Now I want to make sure that there is also something inside for you once you enter this tent of ours. I want to make sure each of you know that you are a welcome and valuable member of the Kol Ami community. I admit, it can be a struggle making sure we develop the programs that appeal to such a broad range of people and experience so that everyone finds their place. So please, if you have an idea or think that we are missing something, send me an email (JudySarch@gmail.com) and we can set up a time to talk; I'd love to hear from you.

Last but certainly not least, I am grateful to all of you for choosing to be part of this congregation. Our strength is and has always been our people - supporting each other and helping to make the world a better place - Tikkun Olam. Please help us continue with our work by returning your membership information and paying at least a portion of your dues. If you find yourselves in need of some assistance, please call Jess Lorden or Alison Adler in the main office to speak confidentially about your situation. No one will ever have to leave our community because of financial reasons.

Danny, Carly, Rachel and I wish you all a very happy and healthy new Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Creating a Holy Community

Jess Lorden, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, from a professional standpoint I am profoundly grateful for your continued support during a challenging, unprecedented time. Together we joined in worship in person and via

live streaming, delivered meals for Shabbat to those in mourning or recovering from an illness, engaged in important social justice initiatives, rejoiced together with b'nai mitzvah families and confirmands, celebrated at Cantor Danny's installation and our Motown gala, cheered for the NY Mets at a baseball game, laughed out loud at a comedy show, and so much more. I am incredibly proud that together we supported each other and our community in beautiful, unprecedented ways. May we continue to build on the strength and wisdom we have gained. On a personal note, Dave and I continue to be blessed in countless ways. Sarah and Alex welcomed Theodore Charles ("Teddy") who just turned one. Dave and I (aka Nana and Papa) are thrilled to join the grandparents club. Robby graduated with his MBA from Penn State and started his career with JPMorganChase. Robby and Rachel, his wonderful girlfriend, live just outside of Philadelphia. Our closest circle of

family and friends continue to enjoy good health. We know how fortunate we are!

As the High Holy Days rapidly approach, I am looking forward to sharing this sacred time with so many of you as we celebrate the New Year together in our beautiful sanctuary. As always, our office staff is busy working with existing members and welcoming our new members. Led by Paul Mauro, our Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, our custodial staff is hard at work refreshing our buildings, painting, and cleaning classrooms and hallways to get ready for the opening of the Religious School and our Early Childhood Program. Once again, our temple calendar is full of wonderful opportunities to worship, study and celebrate, engage as a community, and practice Tikkun Olam.

I am excited to share with you important information regarding our High Holy Days services and program offerings to help you make the upcoming holiday season inspirational for you and your family.

Dave, Sarah, Alex, Teddy Robby and I wish you Shana Tova Tikatavu. May this New Year be a sweet one for you and all those you love.

Fondly, Jess

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial 'J'.

High Holy Days Information

Service and Program Offerings

Visit With Our Rabbis, Cantor and Temple Leadership

Our congregants and guests will worship together as one community at our Erev Rosh Hashanah service which will start at 7:30pm. Following services, we will have a Community Potluck Oneg, in which members are encouraged to share their favorite dessert. We invite you to linger and visit with our Temple family at this time.

On Friday, September 30th, after our Kabbalat Shabbat Service, members are invited to join a special reception with our Rabbis, Cantor and Temple Leadership to exchange New Year greetings with us, and each other, and to receive a holiday challah with apples and honey; a gift from our Sisterhood.

Live Streaming of our Services

We will be live streaming our services so that members who are not able to attend services in person are nonetheless able to participate. We will be streaming the following High Holy Day Services: Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah Day Early Service, Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Early Service, Yom Kippur Day Early Service and Yom Kippur Memorial and Neilah Service. Details and passwords will be provided in advance of the services.

Emergency Medical Support

Once again we will set-up an emergency medical support area in our Gallery. Congregants who are medical professionals will be "on call" to provide immediate, on-site support and to help determine if a call to 911 is appropriate.

Safety And Security

As we do each year, we will be working with the White Plains Police Department to implement our plan for security and traffic arrangements for all High Holy Days services. The Temple facility is carefully screened and surveyed before the building is opened to the congregation and guests and will be under constant police surveillance during this time. We ask that you report any suspicious individuals or activity to any of the police officers, ushers, Temple staff, or members of our Board of Trustees.

Member Tickets, Guest Tickets, Reciprocal Tickets

This year, tickets will be sent via email. You will receive a member ticket for each family member, including children who have not yet reached the age of 26. These tickets should be used to attend the service for which you registered. For each service you attend, please show your tickets to an usher. Ticket requests for guests may be purchased online. Requests for Reciprocal tickets must be arranged with the Temple Office. If you know anyone who is not a member who is interested in attending High Holy Days services at Kol Ami, please ask them to contact me (914-949-4717, ext. 101) for guest ticket information.

Ushers

Please keep in mind that our ushers are Kol Ami members who give their time to ensure that our services proceed smoothly. Treat them with courtesy and respect. Either Alison or I will be available during every service. If a problem arises, please ask for our assistance.

Physically Challenged Members And Guests

In considering your needs, we encourage you to attend the early services. Since there is not a preceding service, you may arrive earlier and face less congestion and easier access to handicapped parking spaces. All entry to the sanctuary will be through the front door. No one will be admitted through the Religious School entrance.

Memorial And Neilah Services

Because the Family Service takes place in the main sanctuary immediately prior to the Memorial and Neilah Services, we need at least thirty minutes to reset the sanctuary for these concluding services. If you are planning to attend the Memorial and Neilah Services, please do not arrive prior to 4:30pm. Our ushers have been instructed not to open the doors until such time.

Cell Phones

All cell phones should be left at home or in your car. If you are required to carry a phone or pager, please set it on vibrate mode.



Early Childhood Program Highlights

Summer fun at Kol Ami! We had a great six weeks playing in the sprinklers, learning soccer and other sports, gardening with Candice and expressing ourselves in art. Our campers made new friends and had extra time with school friends. Six weeks flew by and a great time was had by all - teachers, staff, specialists and kids! We are looking forward to a wonderful school year ahead!



Kol Ami TOT SHABBAT

CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

SATURDAYS

September 10 ▪ October 15
November 19 ▪ December 17

It's time for Tot Shabbat! Bring your little ones for an exciting and engaging Shabbat experience with Shabbat songs, stories, and a whole lot of Ruach (spirit)! Fun for newborns - Pre-K, older siblings and their families.

9:00am - Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Shira Milgrom in the Chapel in the Woods

9:30am - Grab a bagel and schmooze (get to know other families and connect!)

10:00am - Continue on for a half hour of Shabbat crafts, games and playground time, led by ECP Teva Art Specialist, Candice Moscoe-Polner and Religious School Teacher, Debra Zitrin

Open to the community!

Whether you're a parent or grandparent, we invite you to share the joys of Shabbat with your little ones and with us.



Summer's Top Ten

Pam Pass, Religious School Director



Can you guess what the most common question I get asked is?

"Do you work during the summer?"

The answer is a resounding "YES!"

Running a school requires attention year-round. During the summer, Gina and I prepare the Religious School for the upcoming school year.

Here is our Top 10 List (tm David Letterman):

- #10. Establish our school calendar** – As we learn in 5th grade, any great civilization needs its own calendar
- #9. Finalize class lists**, arrange for security, organize our resources, create and order materials, prepare classrooms, create updated Code of Conduct and Health & Safety Protocols, create a custom electronic interactive Hebrew "textbook," integrate ShulCloud into all of our school registration, data, and reporting, etc. etc. – You get the picture, there's a LOT to do!
- #8. Meet with the Clergy** to evaluate our Tefillah and update our custom siddurim to set the proper and age-appropriate prayer experience for all grades
- #7. Plan Field Trips**, speakers, and events – These are prized learning opportunities for students and parents that reinforces why students should care about being Jewish and elicits pride in our culture and religion

#6. Plan our Opening Day (9/18) and Sukkot Festival (10/9) – This sets the tone for a year of fun and festive celebrations

#5. Create new curriculum to synthesize with and enhance what we currently offer – there are always interesting and fun new ways to learn and be joyfully Jewish together

#4. Hire amazing new teachers ✓ – in an environment where it is extremely difficult to find new teachers (there is a huge shortage), we are fortunate to have a stellar team

#3. Finalize class placements – good thing I like impossible puzzles!

#2. Describe our outstanding Religious School—which is warm, welcoming and rich with lively learning and meaningful activities, and is dedicated to creating connections—to interest them in joining Kol Ami and being a part of the fun!

#1. TIE between Take vacations we can't during the school year and Order Bagels

We are getting ready for a GREAT 2022-23 school year!

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

Coming Full Circle

Zöe Shannon, Director of Youth Engagement



Kol Ami has played a constant and considerable role in my life, enabling me to undertake a sort of metamorphosis in my own role within our community. Oscillating between roles

as student and teacher has rooted me in not only this community, but also in my Jewish and individual identity.

Last year, I completed a government fellowship in Germany focusing on remnants and revitalization of Jewish life there. It is with this renewed understanding of our vibrant Jewish community that I am thrilled to be returning to Congregation Kol Ami as Director of Youth Engagement. I hope to nourish the space that Kol Ami, and all previous youth directors, have successfully created where young Jews can engage with Judaism and their wider community in a deeply personal and meaningful way. Understanding this looks different for each student, I hope to build into pre-existing programming like Shabbatons at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, social justice workshops, and expanding elective offerings.

Ensuring young congregants are able to navigate the many avenues to civic engagement while feeling heard and actively listening is a crucial role of the Director of Youth Engagement. One I hope to fulfill through open conversations with young people from different communities near and far, and providing a space for our students to lead conversations.

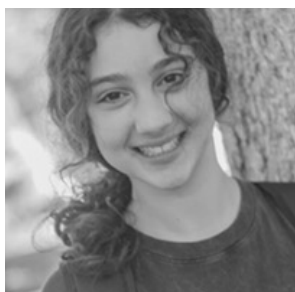
One of the many beautiful aspects of Judaism is that one's learning does not need to end when the school day does. Through growing the programming that Kol Ami already offers, I hope to ensure each young person feels that their Jewish and intersecting identities can enrich one another. My goal is to support each young congregant's individual growth within and beyond the realm of Jewish learning. Kol Ami has prepared so many young Jews, myself included, to embark into the wider world with the tools to decide for themselves where Judaism fits in. I hope to continue this legacy so that the next generation can engage with their own Judaism, feel empowered within the community, and feel a connection to the resilience and warmth of Jews past, present, and future.

I am thrilled to be joining the 6th, 11th, and 12th grade teams and supporting the Va'ad in their programming and growth. As we look to expand our offerings, it is essential for me to get to know the community they are serving, so please stop by my office to say hello! Please feel free to drop by when you're in the building (the office next to the Clergy Office) or send me an e-mail to zoeshannon@nykolami.org. I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'Z' and 'S' with a dot above the 'S'.

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."



Sasha Weiner, daughter of Adam and Dana Weiner, and sister to Zach, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on September 10th, 2022. Sasha is entering 8th grade at LMK Middle School in Harrison, and loves to play basketball and going to the beach. She also plays field hockey and softball at school and loves to bake sweets for her family. For her mitzvah project, Sasha is organizing a neighborhood bake sale to raise money to donate for the Maria Fareri Children's hospital in Valhalla, with hopes to start volunteering there on the weekends soon. Sasha is excited to celebrate with her family and friends!

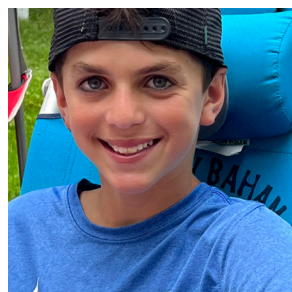


Chloe Shure, daughter of Tina and Gregory Shure, and sister to Hunter will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 15th, 2022.

Chloe is in the 8th grade at the Louis M. Klein Middle School and loves to dance, rock climb and do Tiktok. She just finished her fourth summer at the sleepaway camp, Pontiac, which she credits for helping her develop better social skills and a sense of independence.

Chloe is regarded amongst her friends as having a big heart and having a great deal of empathy towards animals and especially her dog Maddie.

Chloe is excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends!



Myles Kusnitz, son of Alexis and Adam Kusnitz, and big brother to Dylan, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 22, 2022. Myles is in 8th grade at the Edgemont Jr./Sr. Highschool. Myles loves hanging out with friends, skiing, watching sports, and playing basketball and baseball. Myles also has a passion for food- both cooking it and snacking on it! For his mitzvah project, Myles partnered with Isaac Simon, collecting and donating clothing to the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City. Every Tuesday night, Isaac drives a white cargo van with hot meals and donated clothes through Manhattan and the Bronx, feeding upwards of 250 people a night. Myles had the opportunity to take that drive with Isaac and experience how rewarding it feels to give back to a community in need. Myles is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with family and friends.

B'nai Mitzvah



Lila Pinkow, daughter of Marni and Adam Pinkow, and sister to Avery, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 22, 2022. Lila is in 8th grade at Ardsley Middle School and loves to play softball and swim for the school team. Lila loves camp and just completed her 6th summer at Camp Blue Ridge.

For Lila's Mitzvah project, in connection with her Parashat Noach, she plans to collect supplies for sheltered animals for the SPCA of Westchester. This organization relies on the generosity of the community as they don't receive funding from the county or the federal government.

Lila is excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends!



Luke Schechter, son of Kim Reiter and Randy Schechter, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 29, 2022. Luke is an 8th grader at Louis M. Klein Middle School in Harrison. Luke has been playing hockey since he was 4 years old and plays for the Scarsdale Raiders. Luke enjoys attending sporting events and is an avid gamer. He has just returned from his 5th summer at Camp Equinunk, where he enjoys all athletics and great friendships. For his Mitzvah project, Luke will raise awareness of SCOPE (Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education) the national nonprofit organization providing overnight summer camp opportunities for children from under-resourced communities. Luke learned about SCOPE at Camp Equinunk, where he participated in "College Games for SCOPE" this past summer, a fundraiser in which campers helped raise awareness in a fun and positive way. Luke is looking forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with his friends, family, and his sister Drew.



Lucy Brown Eisenberg, daughter of Melissa Brown Eisenberg and Jason Eisenberg, and sister to Elliot and Teddy, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 5th, 2022. Lucy is in the 8th grade at Scarsdale Middle School where she participates on the track team and on the yearbook committee. Lucy loves to bake, dance, read and watch movies (especially Marvel). Lucy is a fierce negotiator, expert at 'name that tune' and loves babysitting little kids. She spends her summers at Camp Watitoh in Becket, Massachusetts. For her Mitzvah Project, Lucy is combining her love of baking and helping others by preparing sweet treats for people in nursing homes and shelters.

Lucy is excited to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends!

B'nai Mitzvah



Arielle Waldman, daughter of Emily and Daniel Waldman, and sister to Benjamin, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 5, 2022. Arielle is in 8th grade at Edgemont Junior-Senior High School, where she is on the tennis team. She is a devoted big sister and loves spending time with friends and family. For her Mitzvah Project, she helped sort and package supplies being sent to Ukrainian families, and she hopes to continue this work in the future. She is grateful to Pam Pass for her tutoring and is very much looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends.



Jordan and Dylan Keller, twins of Jodi and Bill Keller, will be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah on November 12, 2022. They are in 8th grade at Scarsdale Middle School, and love spending their summers at sleepaway camp in Maine. Jordan enjoys playing volleyball and cheerleading, and Dylan loves fishing and kayaking. They both like playing tennis, skiing, and weekends at the beach. For their mitzvah project, Jordan and Dylan volunteered with Bake Back America. Jordan was happy to dedicate her time to baking weekly treats for the seniors at Shiloh Housing, and Dylan loved doing storytime and crafts with Coachman Family Center's Under 5 Program. They are both excited to share their special day with family and friends.

*Mazal
Tor*

To all of our B'nai Mitzvah students
and their families as they reach this joyous and
memorable milestone in their lives.

WEEKLY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

Week ending September 3, 2022

Parashat Shof'tim

Deuteronomy 16:18–21:9

The Israelites remain on the plateau of Moab, across the Jordan River, while Moses communicates God's prescriptions and proscriptions for governance. The *parashah* opens with the command to appoint judges and the regulations for choosing a leader, including a warning that this leader should follow the laws of Torah faithfully. The Israelites are told that they should pursue justice in all of their dealings.

Week ending September 10, 2022

Parashat Ki Teitzei

Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19

Ki Teitzei contains the greatest number of *mitzvot* of any single Torah portion, 72 in all, dealing with diverse subjects. These laws cover a wide variety of situations including family, animals, property, interaction with non-Israelites, and commerce. The portion concludes with a warning to remember how the Amalekites attacked the weary Israelites in the desert.

Week ending September 17, 2022

Parashat Ki Tavo

Deuteronomy 26:1–29:8

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

Week ending September 24, 2022

Parashat Nitzavim

Deuteronomy 29:9–30:20

In the final address by Moses to the Children of Israel, we are reminded that each and every one of us is a member of the Covenant. From our ancestors at Sinai to this very day, each of us is the heir to this sacred tradition. The words found in chapter 30, verses 12-14 can be found in our Ark in the main sanctuary. We are exhorted to "choose life," to love God, to walk in God's ways, and to keep God's commandments in this *parashah*. By doing so, we open our hearts to God and to each other.

OCTOBER 2022

Week ending October 1, 2022

Parashat Vayeilech

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Since God has prohibited Moses from entering the land God has promised to the Israelites, Moses prepares the people for his death and tells them that Joshua will succeed him as their leader. This *parashah* continues by assuring the Israelites that they will be successful in re-conquering the Land of Israel and that God "will not fail you or forsake you."

Week ending October 8, 2022

Parashat Ha'azinu

Deuteronomy 32:1–52

Ha'azinu is known as a shir - a song or poem. This *parashah* reiterates the agreements made between the Children of Israel and God. It reminds the people of the things God gave them in the wilderness, of the things that happened to them when they disobeyed God, and that God wants to protect them even though they do transgress. The message warns and instructs, while at the same time it gives hope as the people are about to enter into "The Land" under the new leadership of Joshua.

Weekly Torah Portions

Week ending October 15, 2022
(Shabbat Chol HaMo-eid
Sukkot) *Parashat Ki Tisa*
Exodus 33:12-34:26

On the Shabbat during Sukkot, we are reminded of the age-old desire to know God. Moses implores God to let him see God. While God will not allow Moses to see God's face, God tells Moses, "I will make My goodness pass before you..." The Torah then sets forth the thirteen attributes of God, among them that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.

Week ending October 22, 2022
Parashat B'reishit
Genesis 1:1-6:8

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

Week ending October 29, 2022
Parashat Noach
Genesis 6:9-11:32

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

will join Noah and his family on the ark. A rainbow symbolizes the first covenant between God and the people.

NOVEMBER 2022

Week ending
November 5, 2022
Parashat Lech L'cha
Genesis 12:1–17:27

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

Week ending
November 12, 2022
Parashat Vayeira
Genesis 18:1-22:24

Parashat Vayeira opens with Abraham receiving a visit from messengers who bring predictions of Isaac's birth. When God threatens to destroy the settlements of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wicked behaviors occurring there, Abraham stands up to God to protest that annihilation. This *parashah* also includes the long-awaited birth of Sarah's and Abraham's son, Isaac. The

final scene in this *parashah* tells the story of the "Binding of Isaac" where God tests Abraham, instructing him to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Week ending
November 19, 2022
Parashat Chayei Sarah
Genesis 23:1-25:18

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

Week ending
November 26, 2022
Parashat Tol'dot
Genesis 25:19-28:9

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

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sept 9, Synaplex Shabbat
Featuring Rabbi Larry Hoffman: Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die, Really?
6:15PM Shabbat service
7:15PM Dinner
8:00PM Guest Speaker

Rabbi Hoffman returns to Kol Ami to explore what we make of this High Holy Day prayer, a staple with the message so at odds with what we believe. Its history reads like a detective novel and when the mystery is solved, there is a profound message to be had. Come for the mystery; come for the message; come to appreciate the High Holy Days as you never have before.

To register, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/September-Synaplex.html>

Sept 10, Tot Shabbat
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.

Sept 10, Wine and Wisdom with Rabbi Shira Milgrom
5:30PM

Join Kol Ami's Sisterhood at the home of Rabbi Shira and David Elcott for an evening of learning and socializing, culminating with a beautiful Havdalah service to start the new week off together. We will gather in Rabbi Shira and David's outdoor courtyard. Wine and snacks will be provided.

To RSVP, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/Wisdom.html>

Sept 11, Buns n' Bikes
10:30AM Bike Ride
12:00PM Lunch

Join Kol Ami for a day of cycling on the Bronx River Parkway. All cycling levels welcome whether you're setting a new personal record or bringing the kids for a family ride. We'll buddy up based on the kind of ride you're looking for. Meet at the Westchester County Center parking lot to begin the ride! Then plan to join us for lunch at the Dog Den afterward. To RSVP, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/form/bike>

Sept 13, The "Return" of Elul: An Evening of Study in Preparation for the New Year 5783
7:30PM, Location TBD

Study with Rabbi Shira and rabbis from neighboring White Plains synagogues as we all prepare our minds and hearts for the Days of Awe.

Sept 17, Kol Ami Joins WRT for Community Wide Selichot Service and Learning

7:00PM Selichot Program, 8:00PM Selichot Service
Bob Dylan's need to know what's blowing in the wind has shaped much of our understanding about the meaning of life, the universe, and everything for more than sixty years. Join Dr. Stephen Daniel Arnoff, CEO of the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center and author of About Man and God and Law: The Spiritual Wisdom of Bob Dylan, for study, prayer, reflection, and song inspired by Dylan's restless

journey to wisdom through the Jewish lens of sacred text, divine revelation, and t'shuvah – repentance. Together with congregations throughout Westchester, we will open the Season of T'Shuvah with new arrangements combining traditional tunes with Dylan classics

Sept 25, Erev Rosh Hashanah and Community Potluck Dessert Oneg
7:30PM

Let's start a sweet new year together! We look forward to welcoming in the new year as one community at our Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Bring your favorite nut-free dessert to our congregational oneg immediately following services and stay to exchange warm wishes with our staff, clergy and with each other.

Sept 26, Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services
Early and Late services start 9:00AM and 12:30PM, respectively

To register for High Holy Days and make your service selections, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/form/hh2022>

Sept 26, Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Families with Pre-K Children
3:30PM

Join Rabbi Shira and Cantor Danny for a dynamic and fun-filled Rosh Hashanah service specifically designed for families with pre-K children. Get ready for lots of songs, storytelling, Shofar blowing and sweet treats! Open to the community.

CALENDAR

Sept 26, Community Tashlich

5:15PM

Gather with Kol Ami friends outside the home of congregants, Deb and Scott Smith at 92 Sheldrake Road in Scarsdale to reflect upon the year past and cast away what you may personally feel could be improved upon.

Sept 27, Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service

10:00AM

Join us for a second day of worship in the Main Sanctuary.

Sept 30, Clergy Reception 7:15PM, immediately following Kabbalat Shabbat services

Join us for a special reception with our Rabbis, Cantor and Temple Leadership to exchange New Year greetings and receive a holiday challah with apples and honey; a gift from our Kol Ami Sisterhood.

OCTOBER

Oct 4, Kol Nidre Services Early and Late services start 6:00PM and 9:00PM, respectively

To register for High Holy Days and make your service selections, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/form/hh2022>

Oct 5, Yom Kippur Day Services Early and Late services start 9:00AM and 12:30PM, respectively

To register for High Holy Days and make your service selections, go to: <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/form/hh2022>

Oct 5, Yom Kippur Family Service for Families with Pre-K Children

3:30PM

Join Rabbi Shira and Cantor Danny for a meaningful Yom Kippur service specifically designed for families with pre-K children. Get ready for lots of songs, storytelling and leave feel engaged, motivated, and inspired! Open to the community.

Oct 5, Yizkor and Neilah Service

5:00PM

Join us for a beautiful and meaningful end to the Days of Awe.

Oct 8, Poker & Mah Jongg Night at Kol Ami

6:00PM Light Dinner and Drinks;

7:00PM Games Begin

Get ready to place your bets on a fun-filled evening at Kol Ami! Join us for poker or mah jongg, or both and bring your friends along to play. All are welcome to join. Sign up to participate at <https://nykolami.shulcloud.com/event/game-night.html>

Oct 10, Sukkot Service

10:00AM

Join us for our Sukkot service underneath our beautifully decorated Sukkah.

Oct 15, Tot Shabbat

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. We'll make our way over to the beautifully decorated Sukkah to shake the lulav and etrog, and enjoy challah, juice

and snacks. Stay on for Shabbat and holiday themed crafts and games with ECP Teva Art Specialist, Candice Moscoe-Polner and Religious School Teacher, Debra Zitrin.

Oct 16, Simchat Torah Service

6:15PM

Join us for our Simchat Torah service as we rejoice in Torah! We will celebrate the consecration of new students who are beginning their religious school education and welcome them into Jewish learning. Then get ready for a celebration of completing and beginning anew our reading of Torah as we dance around the sanctuary with Torah scrolls and to the music that fills the room and our hearts with joy.

Oct 16, Simchat Torah Yizkor Service

10:00AM

Join us again on Simchat Torah morning as we read the concluding chapter of Deuteronomy and immediately start again with Genesis as a sign of the continuous reading of Torah. The service concludes with Yizkor, a service of remembrance for our loved ones.

NOVEMBER

Nov 10, Tamedy Night Featuring Comedian Nick Kroll

7:00PM

Save the date and join us for dinner, drinks and lots of laughs as we celebrate and honor Rabbi Tom! An evening you will not want to miss. More detail to follow.

SAVE THE DATE

Congregation Kol Ami Presents



FEATURING COMEDIAN

Nick Kroll

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING HONORING

Rabbi Tom Weiner

Dinner, Drinks and Lots of Laughs

Thursday ■ November 10, 2022 ■ 7pm

252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606

LIFE CYCLES*

CONGRATULATIONS

To our ECP parents, Eric & Maayan Loewenberg on the birth of their son, Liav Dov Loewenberg

To Erika & Jeremy Shure on the birth of their daughter, Emmie Selma Shure

To Ellen Kurtz on the birth of her granddaughter, Arielle Tali Johnson

To Kathy Pike on the birth of her granddaughter, Kira Namikawa Forster

To Ed & Susanne Stotsky on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Joseph Stotsky

To Ginny Herron-Lanoil on her grandson, Nate Pauley, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

To Jules and Dorothy Klausner on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Fay Lubin

To Nora and Robert Groban on the birth of their grandson, Luke Groban

To Maura Smolover and Peter Zsiba on the engagement of their daughter, Alesandra Zsiba to Isiah Johnson

CONDOLENCES

To Mindy Tucker on the passing of her mother-in-law, Judith Tucker

To Rosita Manocherian on the passing of her sister-in-law Shirley Manoocherian

To Ronnie Cohn & Genna Farley Fleming on the passing of Ronnie's mother & Genna's grandmother, Lila Blumenfeld

To Debbie Rothschild on the passing of her mother, Kate Banov Silverman

To Stewart Levy on the passing of his brother, Benjamin Levy

To Laura Barzilai on the passing of her father, Jerry Rubenstein

To Susan Greenberg on the passing of her father, Leo Greenberg

To Nancy Marcus on the passing of her uncle, Ira Schneider

To Glenn Miller on the passing of his father, Daniel Miller

To former Religious School Assistant Principal, Alix Mellis-Brown, on the passing of her son, Max Brown

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley Manoocherian

**As of August 31, 2022*

DONATIONS*

RABBI TOM WEINER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Stan Corwin,
father of Ellen Flaks, from
Donna Moss

In honor of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah
and in appreciation from
Rachel Feld-Glazman and
Cantor Mo Glazman

In memory of Judith Tucker
from Mindy Tucker

In honor of Gianna Pestone's
Bat Mitzvah from
Maxine Helman

In appreciation for their
wedding from Sophia
and Jeff Cohan

In honor of their Ba'al Tekiyah,
your buddy master of Shofar,
from Michael and Sara Elkin

In honor of Dafna's Bat Mitzvah
from Rachael, Moshe and
Dafna Arenstein

RABBI SHIRA MILGROM'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation from
Doris Dingott

In honor of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah
and in appreciation from
Rachel Feld-Glazman
and Cantor Mo Glazman

For use of chapel for funeral
from Elise and Joan Frishman

In appreciation for the unveiling
for Rebecca Baker from
Steven and Erica Baker

In memory of Terry Kurtz from
Karen Bara Nick

In honor of Charlotte's
Bat Mitzvah from Erica
and Ryan Papir

In memory of Robert Goldstein
and appreciation for the
unveiling from
Barbara Goldstein

In memory of Leila Attia and in
appreciation for the unveiling
from Alison Adler and the
extended Attia family

For support of the Juneteenth
event from Phyllis Rodriguez

In support of the Seven Fold
Path Project from Susan and
Paul Davis

In memory of Laura's father,
Jerry Rubenstein, and with great
appreciation for Kol Ami, from
Nir and Laura Barzilai

CANTOR DANNY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah
and in appreciation from
Rachel Feld-Glazman
and Cantor Mo Glazman

In honor of Gianna Pestone's
Bat Mitzvah from
Maxine Helman

KOL AMI FUND

In honor of my grandson,
Matthew Welling's Confirmation,
from his grandmother,
Michele Schoenfeld

In loving memory of Lila
Blumenfeld, mother of
Past President Ronnie Cohn
and grandmother of congregant
Genna Farley Fleming, from
Martin Kahn

In loving memory of his parents
David & Jane Falk, from
John & Margaret Falk

In loving memory of
Lila Blumenfeld, from Enid Krell

In appreciation, from
Inez Robinson

In loving memory of
Lila Blumenfeld, from
Richard Farley

In loving memory of her
husband, Tom Malmud,
from Rita Malmud

KOL AMI ANNUAL FUND

In loving memory of Lila
Blumenfeld, from Judi Brown

**As of August 31, 2022*

DONATIONS*

KOL AMI CARES FUND

In loving memory of Terry Kurtz, mother of Ellen Kurtz, from Karen & David Cole

In loving memory of Lila Blumenfeld, mother of Ronnie Cohn and grandmother of Genna Farley Fleming, from Karen & David Cole

In loving memory of Past President Neil Tucker, husband of Mindy Tucker, from Karen & David Cole

In loving memory of David Ross McCormack, son of Betsy & Tom McCormack, from Joan Cooper

FLOWER & LANDSCAPING FUND

In honor of Maggy Weber's "Special Birthday", from Ellen Bittner

FOOD PANTRY

In honor of Sara Elkin for her tireless efforts to make our world a little better in so many ways, from Ethel & Murray Shapiro

In honor of David Elcott, from Susan & Ken Gordon

In appreciate of Morah Charlene Bodner, from her 2021-2022 kindergarten class.

In loving memory of Michael & Sydney Glazer, son & granddaughter of Florence Glazer, from Barbara Block

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FUND

In loving memory of Lila Blumenfeld, from Judy Caplan

In honor of Susan Davis, from her parenting group

In appreciation, from Barbara Morgan

In appreciation, from Linda Ellis

In appreciation of Myrna Barzelatto, Ruth Goldberg, Ethel & Murray Shapiro and Leslie Wiesen from Kay Osborne

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In loving memory of Adele Bagg, mother of Wendy Shemer, from Barbara Landau

In appreciation, from Richard Corn

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Morah Pam's work with Alex Kirsch for his Bar Mitzvah & throughout his years in Hebrew school, from his parents, Matthew & Suzanne Kirsch

PETSCHEK MUSIC FUND

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's retirement, from Maggy & David Weber

In honor of Lisa Borowitz's retirement, from Martin Kahn

In honor Lisa Borowitz's retirement, from her sister Drucy Borowitz & brother-in law Philip Glick

Signature Bank
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