

# the Connection



Join us in Celebration of Kol Ami's 100 Years!  
Tot Party May 4 • Centennial Gala May 16



Rabbi Jason Fenster  
Cantor Daniel Mendelson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Jess Lorden

DIRECTOR OF MEMBER  
ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS  
Alison Adler

ECP DIRECTOR  
Merav Veetal

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
Pam Pass

DIRECTOR OF  
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT  
Zoë Shannon

RABBIS EMERITI  
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Maurice Davis\*  
Mark L. Winer  
Shira Milgrom  
Tom Weiner

CANTOR EMERITUS  
Raymond Smolover\*  
*\* of blessed memory*

## OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS  
Judy Sarch  
judysarch@nykolami.org

Andrew Levenson  
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VICE PRESIDENTS  
Charlene Bodner  
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Michael Elkin  
michael@ijdm.com

Gary Orentlicher  
drgaryo@yahoo.com

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dgseif@gmail.com

SECRETARY  
Jared Stone  
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CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER  
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TheBoard@nykolami.org

CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
252 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, New York  
914.949.4717 • nykolami.org

Dear Congregants:

It is our great honor and pleasure to provide you with the Report of the Nominating Committee with the slate of Officers and Trustees to be presented for a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting on May 7th.

The Report reflects the Nominating Committee's continued endorsement of a Co-Presidency structure that pairs an experienced Co-President with a newly elected or less experienced Co-President. We believe that this structure best serves the interests of continuity of leadership and seamless transitions for the Congregation. The proposed slate of Officers also reflects the Committee's work to position the Executive Committee with qualified and dedicated Officers this coming year as well as for years to come.

The Committee is delighted to nominate Co-Presidents, continuing the leadership partnership of Judy Sarch and Andrew Levenson. We believe that with Judy and Andrew, the Board of Trustees will once again be led by two proven effective, dedicated leaders who will support our community with intelligence, strength, stability, and great care during this difficult time.

I am grateful for the thoughtful work of the members of the Nominating Committee and for all the input and insight provided by so many in our community during the nominating process. We hope you will join us on May 7th to elect the slate of Officers and Trustees.

L'sshalom,

Hank Rouda  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

CONGREGATION KOL AMI  
**NOMINATIONS FOR 2024-25  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

**Officers to be Elected**

*(For a one-year term expiring in 2025)*

Co-President Judy Sarch  
Co-President Andrew Levenson  
Secretary Jared Stone  
Treasurer David Seif

**Vice President**

*(For a three-year term expiring in 2027)*

Kevin Rosenzweig

**Continuing Officers**

**Vice President**

*(Term expiring in 2026)*

Charlene Bodner

**Vice President**

*(Term expiring in 2025)*

Gary Orentlicher

**Chief Legal Officer (Appointed)**

Michael Zweig

**New Trustees to be Elected**

*(For a three-year term expiring in 2027)*

Sarah Akst • Jason Eisenberg • Ellen Litt • Lauren Pollak • Michael Welling

**Trustees to be Elected for an Additional Term**

*(For a three-year term expiring in 2027)*

Suzanne Lasser (1) • David Seif (2)

**Continuing Trustees**

*(Term expiring in 2026)*

Elana Araj (1) • Rachael Arenstein (2) • Charlene Bodner (2)  
Michael Elkin (3) • Helene Ginsburg (1) • Andrew Levenson (4) • Judy Sarch (2)

*(Term expiring in 2025)*

Steve Brady (2) • Gary Orentlicher (2) • Amy Goldstein (1) • Erik Klein (2)  
Liz Mayeri (3) • Kevin Rosenzweig (1) • Jared Stone (1)

**Retiring from the Board**

Melanie Gluck • Michelle Kroin • Steven Mustacchi • Gerri Sommers

**Nominating Committee**

Hank Rouda, *Chair*

Elana Araj • Barry Kraver • Jennifer Lemberg • Liz Mayeri  
Audrey Prashker • Alexis Rieger • Gerri Sommers • Bob Ziff

*Note: The number next to a Trustee's name indicates the term on the Board that the Trustee is currently serving*



**Please join us  
on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 8PM  
for our annual meeting where we will elect  
Rabbi Libby Fisher as Associate Rabbi  
of Congregation Kol Ami  
effective July 1, 2024.**

*The annual meeting will be held in person and on Zoom.  
Rabbi Fisher will be at Kol Ami to meet the community  
as we enter the next phase of our Rabbinic transition.*

*More information including proxy voting instruction and Zoom link  
for those unable to participate in person will follow via email.  
We hope you will join us!*



# Glimpses of Installation Joy

Relive the heartwarming moments of our rabbinic installation weekend through these photos. From a special ECP Shabbat morning to a musically rich Kabbalat Shabbat, where we honored the historic moment of our first rabbinic transition in a generation, our community exuded warmth and joy. A Havdalah sing-along with Elana Arian and a scrumptious pancake breakfast with Religious School students marked the culmination of these memorable days.

## Morning Shabbat Celebration with ECP Families





# Kabbalat Shabbat and Installation Service



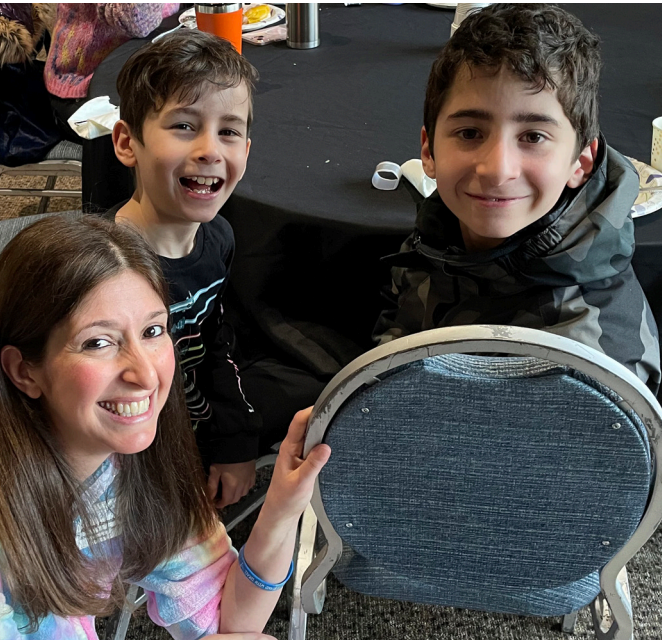


# Shir Ami – A Night of Communal Singing and Havdalah





# Pancake Breakfast with Religious School Families







**A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to making our installation weekend a memorable and joyous celebration!**

**Senior Rabbi Search Committee:**

Susan Kohn Arovas  
and Scott Musoff, *Co-Chairs*  
Jill Abraham  
Lori Abrams  
Sarah Akst  
Elana Araj  
Carrie Lederman Barotz  
Ellen Bittner  
Lisa Borowitz  
Jason Eisenberg  
Helene Ginsburg  
Hank Rouda  
Robert Ziff

**Kol Ami Board of Trustees:**

Andrew Levenson  
and Judy Sarch, *Co-Presidents*  
Charlene Bodner, *Vice President*  
Michael Elkin, *Vice President*  
Gary Orentlicher, *Vice President*  
David Seif, *Treasurer*  
Jared Stone, *Secretary*  
Elana Araj  
Rachael Arenstein  
Steve Brady  
Helene Ginsburg  
Melanie Gluck  
Amy Goldstein  
Erik Klein  
Michelle Kroin  
Suzanne Lasser  
Liz Mayeri  
Steven Mustacchi  
Kevin Rosenzweig  
Gerri Sommers

**Kol Ami Staff:**

Jess Lorden  
Alison Adler  
Ginny Herron-Lanoil  
Simon Landless  
Joele Levenson  
Kay Osborne  
Pam Pass  
Gina Rubin  
Tracey Schweber  
Merav Veetal  
Paul Mauro  
Ernestina Sanchez  
and the entire Kol Ami  
custodial staff

**Kol Ami Musicians:**

Jeff Carney  
Koby Hayon  
Itamar Gov Ari  
Mairi Dorman-Phaneuf  
Marc Phaneuf  
Nadav Snir Zelniker

**Clergy Guests:**

Rabbi Karyn Kedar  
Rabbi Emerita Shira Milgrom  
Rabbi Emeritus Tom Weiner  
Cantor Jennifer Frost

**Musical Guest:**

Elana Arian

**Photographers:**

Steve Loewengart  
Jean Rouda  
Susan Woog Wagner





# Community Second Seder

**Date: Tuesday, April 23**

**Time: 5:00PM**

**Location: Kol Ami Gallery**

Celebrate the second Seder with Kol Ami family and friends! Whether you are looking to reconnect with familiar faces or seeking a welcoming place to celebrate Passover, our doors are open to you. Share in the joy of storytelling, delicious food, and the warmth of community as we retell the story of liberation and renewal together.

*\$36/per adult • \$18/per child (5-16) • Children 5 and under eat free!*

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

*Celebrating*

# 100

*years*

## A CENTURY IN SONG

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024**

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI**

**7:00PM**

**WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY**



VALISIA LEKAE

CHARL BROWN

CANTOR DANNY  
MENDELSON

ALEX HOPKINS

**JOIN US FOR A SPECTACULAR EVENING AS WE CELEBRATE EACH DECADE WITH ELECTRIFYING TALENT AND ICONIC MUSIC AT OUR CENTENNIAL GALA!!**

Prepare to be dazzled at our Centennial Gala Celebration! Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring the incredible talents of Broadway performers along with our very own Cantor Danny Mendelson and Alex Hopkins. Experience a musical journey through the decades and delectable food and drinks provided by Caperberry Events. Our centennial quilt combining 100 squares crafted by members of our intergenerational community will be unveiled. And there's more...get ready to be captivated by an extraordinary reel of heartfelt interviews and cherished memories, meticulously crafted and awaiting its grand debut at our illustrious centennial gala. We can't wait to celebrate together, creating memories for the next 100 years!

**[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS](#)**





# TOT Party

Saturday, May 4, 2024

12:00pm

Congregation Kol Ami Auditorium

Join us as our community celebrations of Kol Ami's 100th year continue with a TOT PARTY! Get ready to sing, dance and groove along with bandleader Jeff from Ramblin' Dan's Freewheelin' Band. Enjoy delicious pizza and treats while capturing priceless moments in our Photo Booth.

Let's make this celebration one for the ages! Bring your smiles, your dancing shoes, and your appetite for joy! We can't wait to see you there!



Photo By: Maggie Marguerite

▶ Watch video of Ramblin' Dan's Freewheelin' Band

[Click here to RSVP by May 1st](#)

# Please join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf & Mah Jongg Outing Tuesday, May 21 Westchester Hills Golf Course



The golf scramble is open to all and will be a great day on the course with prizes and lunch! There are sponsorship opportunities and we encourage everyone to make their own foursomes. Individual golfers are always welcome.

For those who prefer to tee up for a morning of Mah Jongg, bring your own tiles and let the games begin! Prizes will be awarded. A \$72 donation to Kol Ami includes coffee and tea during game play, lunch with two wine/beer tickets and dessert afterward.

To be a sponsor or to register go to: [www.NYKolAmi.org/Golf](http://www.NYKolAmi.org/Golf)  
Questions, email: [golf@nykolami.org](mailto:golf@nykolami.org)

# CALENDAR

## APRIL

**Apr 5**  
**Synaplex Shabbat with Special Guest Speaker, Rabbi Rick Jacobs**  
**6:15PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7:15PM Dinner, 8:00PM Special Guest Rabbi Rick Jacobs**

Join us as we welcome Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), back to Kol Ami in honor of our synagogue's centennial anniversary. Rabbi Jacobs will reflect on developments in reform Judaism over the last 100 years, where we are now, and where are we going in the next 100 years. Dinner will be provided by Liebman's Deli. *RSVP here.*

**Apr 8**  
**Westchester Community Gathering in Solidarity with the Hostages and People of Israel**  
**7:30PM**

Join us as we hear from hostage families and show our support six months following the October 7 attack on Israel. Registration required. *RSVP here.*

**Apr 13**  
**Earth Day Tot Shabbat**  
**9:00AM**

Get ready to sing, dance and celebrate Shabbat! Join Rabbi Fenster for a lively, interactive Shabbat service geared to our youngest members. Challah, juice, and snacks provided. After a nosh, we will *Take Action* in honor of Earth Day with our own *Act of Green* as we plant potted flowers to take home and add to our gardens! Open to the community. All are welcome!

**Apr 14**  
**Parent Circle Families Forum Presentation**  
**12:30PM**

The Parent Circle Families Forum (PCFF) represents a joint initiative of Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost loved ones to the conflict. PCFF members will be joining us via Zoom to convey its message, to promote dialogue, empathy and peace through personal stories of bereavement and their commitment to engage in reconciliation instead of revenge. Please join us for this enlightening presentation followed by a Q&A session. Registration required. *RSVP here.*

**Apr 16**  
**Women's Torah Study: Women Speak!**

Through ancient and modern texts, conversation, and, of course, snacks, Rabbi Fenster guides us in bringing biblical women of the Torah to life enabling us to see power, wisdom, courage, and leadership and use their stories to bring new intention and meaning to our own modern lives.

**Apr 22-29**  
**Passover Observed – Temple Office and Building Closed**

**Apr 23**  
**Passover Day 1 Service**  
**10:00AM**

Join Rabbi Fenster and Cantor Mendelson as we celebrate the start of Passover with prayer, reflection, and community.

**Apr 23**  
**Community Second Seder**  
**5:00PM**

Celebrate the second Seder with Kol Ami friends and family! Whether you are looking to

reconnect with familiar faces or seeking a welcoming place to celebrate Passover, our doors are open to you. Share in the joy of storytelling, delicious food, and the warmth of community as we retell the story of liberation and renewal together. *RSVP here.*

**Apr 29**  
**Passover Day 7 Yizkor Service**  
**6:15PM**

Celebrate the seventh day of Passover with reverence and joy! Join Rabbi Fenster and Cantor Mendelson for a heartfelt Yizkor service, followed by a delicious pizza feast, marking the end of the holiday with warmth and community.

## MAY

**May 4**  
**Tot Party**  
**12:00PM**

Join us as our community celebrations of Kol Ami's 100th year continue with a Tot Party! Get ready to sing, dance and groove along with bandleader Jeff from Ramblin' Dan's Freewheelin' Band. Enjoy delicious pizza and treats while capturing priceless moments in our Photo Booth. Bring your smiles, your dancing shoes, and your appetite for joy! *RSVP here.*

**May 7**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**8:00PM**

Join us for Kol Ami's annual meeting, a pivotal moment in shaping our community's future. We will vote on the appointment of Rabbi Libby Fisher as Associate Rabbi, elect new Board Trustees and express our gratitude to those who will be retiring from the Board.



# CALENDAR

**May 16**

**Centennial Gala:  
A Century in Song**  
7:00PM

Join us for a night of celebration at our Centennial Gala, as we commemorate *A Century in Song!* Broadway performers, Valisa LeKae and Charl Brown along with our very own Cantor Mendelson will serenade us with melodies from each decade, in honor of Kol Ami's rich heritage and vibrant community. Let's toast to a hundred years of memories, milestones, and melodies that have shaped our cherished legacy! *RSVP here.*

**May 17**

**High School Graduation  
Kabbalat Shabbat**  
6:15PM

Join us as we honor our graduating seniors and offer heartfelt blessings as they embark on their journeys to college and beyond.

**May 19**

**Coachman BBQ**  
5:00PM

Join us as we host families residing at the Coachman Family Center for a Spring BBQ. Help us spread Tikkun Olam and bring smiles, love, and joy to those who need it most. More information to come!

**May 21**

**Kol Ami Golf &  
Mah Jongg Outing**  
Westchester Hills Golf Course

Get ready for our third annual golf and Mah Jongg outing. There are sponsorship opportunities available, and we encourage everyone to make their own foursomes. Individual golfers are always welcome. For those who prefer to tee up for a morning of Mah Jongg, bring your own tiles and let the games begin! Grill lunch to follow. *RSVP here.*

**May 27**

**Memorial Day – Temple  
Office and Building Closed**

Take a moment to send our 2024 Confirmands a greeting and extend your blessings for reaching this milestone in their Jewish journeys. [Click here](#) to send a digital greeting and join us for our Shavuot service on June 11.

## 2024 Confirmands:

Talia Arovas • Sydney Banker  
Becca Braun • Laura Chesnut  
Allie Garelick • Mia Labovitz  
Sophie Labovitz • Eliana Lieber  
Asher Nerenberg • Noah Podolak  
Blakely Sapirstein • Brooke Siry  
Jonathan Tuckman • Landon Weiss



# **WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**In Solidarity with the  
Hostages and People of Israel**

**6 Months Since the October 7th Attack on Israel**

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**7:30pm to 8:45pm**

**Congregation Kol Ami**

**252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY**

**Join us as we hear from hostage families  
and show our support**

**Advanced registration required**

**Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/mt78p5dd>**

**This gathering is organized by Westchester Jewish Council,  
UJA Federation, Jewish Agency for Israel, Congregation Kol Ami and AJC  
Westchester/Fairfield in partnership with a coalition of Westchester  
Jewish Council member organizations.**

**Please contact us for communication access.**

**[www.wjcouncil.org](http://www.wjcouncil.org) | [pam@wjcouncil.org](mailto:pam@wjcouncil.org) | (914)328-7001**



The **NOSH**  **TABLE**

*The Nosh Table is here to “jeuje up” your dinnerware with bright and bold plates and accessories inspired by Jewish and Italian family traditions.*



# NEW PASSOVER SWIRL SEDER PLATES

**SPECIAL PROMO: TIMETONOSH20**

**[WWW.THENOSHTABLE.COM](http://WWW.THENOSHTABLE.COM)**

 **@THENOSHTABLE**

