

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

First-Friday *erev Shabbat* Service with birthday and anniversary blessings and our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, April 2, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service with our Grade 8-9 students sharing their thoughts about what they have been learning in our Confirmation Academy and how they will apply that knowledge in their lives

FRIDAY, April 8

<u>6:00 p.m.</u> - Fun-for-Kids *erev Shabbat* Service with a Grade K-2 presentation about what they have learned about *mitzvot* and *t'fillot*

7:30 p.m. - erev Shabbat Service at Old York Road Temple – Beth Am in Abington in honor of our partnership in LAMED, a highly innovative program of advanced Jewish study for Grade 11 students. Our seven Kol Ami students and their peers at Beth Am will participate in the service and will speak about what they have learned and are learning about themselves (see page 7)

SATURDAY, April 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue followed by a potluck lunch

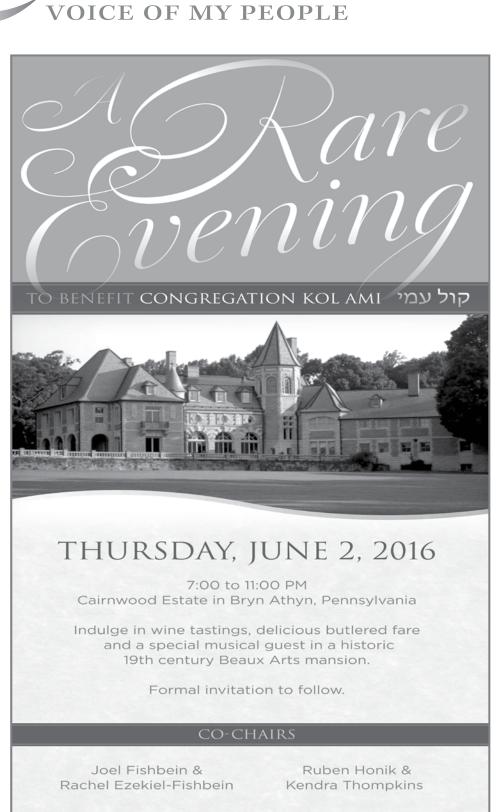
FRIDAY, April 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Honoring-Our-Volunteers *erev Shabbat* Service preceded by a wine-and-cheese social at 7:00 p.m. (see page 9)

SATURDAY, April 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

continued page 3



CONGREGATION

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office 215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin 215-635-4182

Shelley Chamberlain, President 215-635-1738

Ellen Asam, Vice President 215-635-5598

Julie Cohen, Vice President 215-635-4716

Jeffrey Margasak, Secretary 215-635-9332

Lisa Landau, Treasurer 215-635-9996

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

IN RESPECT OF SHABBAT, THE OFFICE CLOSES AT 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAYS.

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director 215-635-3110

David Monblatt Director of Education 215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler Early Learning Center Director 215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist 215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:

Congregation Kol Ami 8201 High School Road Elkins Park, PA 19027

Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (e.g., by April 5 for the May issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hinally, spring has arrived. A time of rebirth and renewal, a time when buds appear, colors become more vibrant, days are longer, and we appreciate the sunshine as well as the rain. And as usual, Kol Ami is bustling with activities to help us emerge from our winter cocoons.

On **Sunday, May 1**, we will host our Annual Meeting. This year it is planned for 10:00 a.m. to noon. Why this time? Because we are respectful of your busy lives and hope this makes it easier for YOU to participate. We want your insight, ideas, and engagement! Coffee and bagels will be served. Here's a brief snapshot of the meeting:

- Find out how you can get even more from your time at Kol Ami by attending our **Activities Expo**. Committee Chairs will be positioned in the Sanctuary to enable one-on-one dialogue about the goals accomplished this year and plans for the upcoming year. Consider how you might get involved or contribute.
- The Program includes key updates and Q&A:
 - Rabbi Holin will announce initiatives in programming and worship.
 - David Monblatt will provide an update on Religious School, LAMED, and Youth Activities.
 - Lisa Landau will discuss the budget, with motion to approve.
 - New leadership will be introduced and voted on.

Our Annual Meeting is an important time to be together and engage in building the inclusive and engaging community we hold so dear. This is YOUR Congregation, so please mark your calendar now and join us!

As you read the Bulletin this month, take note of the many upcoming events. On **April 23**, we host our Second *Seder*, a truly wonderful event with delicious catered, family-style food and, of course, the Passover story and songs. Before Passover, step out to Park Plates on **April 5** and Luigi's on **April 21**! Park Plates joins our list of generous neighbors who support us financially by contributing back to Kol Ami a percentage of dollars spent for their delicious meals.

We are a Congregation that together enjoys doing God's work in a vibrant and energized way. We appreciate your time and effort. Join me at the Honoring-Our-Volunteers *erev Shabbat* Service on **April 15** so that we can recognize volunteers for their engagement.

Lastly, don't miss the second **Conversations** program on **April 26**. This is a time to learn from each other on topics sparked by attendees. As you well know, there is more to do than there is time to do; let's all participate and reach out to each other. We're making unbreakable bonds and are blessings to and for each other in all that we do! Continue to be with us. Enrich us with your presence.

I hope to see you often,

Shelley Chamberlain 215-635-1738 srchamberlain@comcast.net ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

he following is a reading from page 157 of *Mishkah T'filah*, our *Shabbat* prayer book. However, I never read it even though the arrival of Passover in just a few weeks might make it appropriate to do so:

"Standing on the parted shores of history we still believe what we were taught before ever we stood at Sinai's foot;

that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt that there is a better place, a promised land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness.

That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together."

I don't read it because I rebel against the thought that "it is eternally Egypt." I don't read it because I need to believe that over time things can change for the better.

On the other hand, there have been enough vile statements made by candidates hoping to be elected as the next President of the United States that there are times I feel that in some minds and hearts "it is eternally Egypt," if Egypt is metaphor for hatred, the suppression of hope, and, in the words of our *Haggadah*: the "fomenting of vice...neglect of human needs...the erosion of freedoms."

The *Mishnah* implores us: "In a place where there are no *mensches*, strive to be a *mensch*." Be a decent person.

Passover arrives with its message to savor freedom and to stand up in the name of decency.

Shalom u'vrachah, Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



WORSHIP SERVICES (continued page 1)

FRIDAY, April 22

There will NOT be a service this evening since it is the night of the First *Seder*. May your blessings over the *Shabbat* and *Yom Tov* candles be especially meaningful.

SATURDAY, April 23, at 10:00 a.m. *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, April 29

10:00 a.m. - Passover-*Yizkor* Service 7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service

SATURDAY, April 30

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue 5:30 p.m. - *Bat Mitzvah* of Sydni Engel (see page 9) ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

April 2 - *Shemini*Leviticus 9:1-11:47; Ezekiel 36:16-38

April 9 - *Tazria* Leviticus 12:1-13:59, Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

April 16 - *Metzora* Leviticus 14:1-15:33, Malachi3:4-24

April 23 - Passover, first day Exodus 12:21-51, Joshua 5:2-6:1

April 30 - Passover, eighth day Deuteronomy 14:22-16:7 Isaiah 10:32-12:6 ■

WE'LL GET YOU THERE!

Would you like to attend services, an event, or a meeting at Kol Ami, but are nervous about getting there? Contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org no later than the Thursday before the event that you'd like to attend. Provide your name and phone number or e-mail address and the desired event's date and time. Elaine will send an "insearch-of" e-mail to Kol Ami congregants regarding your need. Hopefully a congregant who plans to attend that event will call or e-mail you directly.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held at the Synagogue, unless otherwise noted.

Finance Committee

Sunday, April 17, at 11:30 a.m. Co-chairs: Lisa Landau, 215-620-5226, and Bart Weiner, 215-233-4712

Human Resources Committee

Sunday, April 3, at 12:00 p.m. Chair: Ellen Asam, 215-635-5598

Inclusion Committee

Sunday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. Co-chairs: Barry Boise, 215-635-9042, and Joel Fishbein, 215-635-3615

Operations Committee

Monday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Marshall Schafer, 215-663-0228

Religious School Committee

Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Lisa Ney and Benjamin Shoham, 215-886-2029

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. Co-chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698, and Meryle Gurmankin, 215-464-2466

Shomrei Adamah (Environmental Stewardship) Committee

Sunday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m. Chair: Mark Kaplan, 215-635-2920

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, April 17, at 9:30 a.m. Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and William Shapiro 215-517-8666 ■

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES...

Financial assistance is available for any family who wishes their child to participate in religious-school-related activities and hesitates due to cost. For details, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110. Requests will be handled confidentially.

ADULT LEARNING AT KOL AMI

CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION

The non-member rate is \$50 per course; direct questions and RSVPs to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110.



Words That Have Spoken to Us Through the Ages

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin Thursday, April 14 & 21, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Psalms 23, 121, and 137 are among the best known and most-often recited among our writings. What is it about their power to move us? Why are they the cry of the soul in times of doubt or loss and as affirmations of faith?

- Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...You restore my soul...Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."
- Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall my help come? My help comes from God...The Holy One who protects you will not slumber...God shall guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever."
- Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion...If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget how to perform rituals, let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth."

RSVP to the synagogue office by April 7.



The Book of Job: God, Truth, and Psychoanalysis

Instructor: Neal Beatus Thursday, April 28 & May 5, 12 & 19 from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The myth of Job, like other popular stories in the Bible, has lasted countless generations, because it contains key emotional truths about life, especially

how to deal with suffering, trauma, and change. These are also themes that psychoanalysis addresses. We will examine parallels between the Book of Job and current psychoanalytic theory.

We will also compare the story of Job to the myth of Jonah who runs from God/truth and to the myth of Jacob who wrestles with God/truth. What do the Bible and psychoanalysis teach us about dealing with life's difficulties and traumas?

RSVP to the synagogue office by April 21. ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

ADELE FRICKER



Let's give a warm welcome to new member Adele Fricker, who learned about our Congregation through *Hazon* and her friendship with Robin Rifkin. She came to Kol Ami for the first time for *Kol Nidre* services and shortly thereafter began her application process to join. Adele says that she was searching for a smaller and more intimate synagogue than the one to which she previously belonged.

Adele is retired and has lived in Elkins

Park for the past four years. She was born in Montreal, Canada, and moved to Philadelphia when her father secured a position with the federal government. She grew up in Feltonville and moved to Montgomery County in 1978, where she proceeded to live in Glenside and then the Lansdale area before moving into our neck of the woods.

Adele notes that she is "easily identifiable in the congregation" as she uses a power wheelchair for mobility. Adele explains that in 1971, she sustained a spinal cord injury in an accident, and then spent nearly two decades working as an activist for civil rights for persons with disabilities, culminating in bringing the Americans with Disabilities Act into fruition and law in 1990. During most of this same time, Adele did NIH-funded work for Temple University as an electronics technician in the Research and Training Center at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital's rehabilitation engineering center. Adele states that her injury served to create positive change and that it gave her new direction in her life.

Currently, Adele writes a quarterly newsletter for Federation Housing, Inc., which is distributed to 1,550 residents and agencies. Her personal interests include folk music, specifically songs of social justice. Adele has a daughter, and a "soon-to-be-25-year-old" granddaughter who lives in Manhattan and works in marketing.

We are so pleased to welcome Adele into our midst. She is a woman who has devoted much of her life to positive change, and we will be richer for her presence.

If you have a friend, relative, colleague, or acquaintance who would be a great addition to our intimate-and-dynamic community, contact one of our Membership co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716, or Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839. They would be happy to reach out and make a connection to share membership benefits and information as necessary.

YEDIDAY KOL AMI 2016

We greatly appreciate the support of the following members of *Yediday* Kol Ami, which raises funds to support our synagogue:

Bruce and Ellen Asam David Baker and Irene Levy Baker Carol Baron

Barry and Allison Boise

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Michael and Sara Chernoff

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman

Arthur Gordon

Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald

Ruben Honik

David Hyman

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Shari Johnson

Eric and Adena Johnston

Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer Langman

David and Patricia Ann Long

Craig and Sharon Myers

Stuart and Deborah Poppel

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

Gary Sender

William and Betty Shapiro

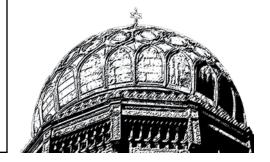
Stanley and Rita Siegel

Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin

Elaine Stevens

Erick and Jennifer Streitwieser

Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner



Kol Ami Events

CALLING ALL LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE

LOCA DINNER AND SERVICES

Friday, April 1, at Marco Polo in Elkins Park

Join us for dinner, followed by services. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. As always, MOCAs (Men of a Certain Age, i.e., husbands, friends) are welcome. Please RSVP to Natalie Dyen (nat.dyen@gmail.com or 215-512-4680) ASAP so she can make reservations.

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT APRIL BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Friday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in April, please join us at our special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a April *simcha* under a *tallit*. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*. Rabbi Holin will continue to send per-

sonal letters to everyone celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary ending with 0 or 5 (for example, 40, 45).

If you have a special 0 or 5 birthday or anniversary, you will be invited to participate in any Friday service in "your" month by blessing the candles or *challah*, or reciting the *Kiddush*, or at any Saturday service that month by carrying or blessing the *Torah*.



FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT

Join Rabbi Holin in fast days – or virtual fast days – every month, no matter where you are, by sending funds that you would have spent on food to help men, women, and children in need:

NATAL (nah'tahl) – the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War –

addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty that war and the threat of war bring. In addition, NATAL reaches

out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals.

"For some children, the color red is not just a color."

During Operation Protective Edge, NATAL answered thousands of calls every day and night from children and adults. Clinical staff and highly trained volunteers were enlisted to respond to this increased need. Working with Israel's media, millions of people received information about when, where, and how to get help. NATAL's emergency kits consist of information about trauma and methods of staying calm, as well as therapeutic tools to aid in managing tension. There is still a strong demand for thousands of these kits to be distributed to individuals, schools, and communities throughout Israel.

Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on first Wednesdays, **April 6** and **May 4**.

continued next page

Come Smile with Us on Friday, April 8!

"Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Services

This 6:00 p.m. service is appropriate for all ages.

It's a happy half-hour with lots of music and our terrific student choir.



KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from previous page)

PHAST FOR PHILADELPHIA is on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address healthcare needs, and pay electric bills.

Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on fourth Thursdays, **April 28** and **May 26**.

Below are the mailing addresses for the organizations mentioned previously:

American Friends of NATAL

1120 Avenue of the Americas, Fourth Floor New York, NY 10036

Unemployment Information Center

112 North Broad Street, 11th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102

(make check payable to Unemployment Information Center with a memo note "Philadelphia Unemployment Office")

CELEBRATING OUR OWN LAMED STUDENTS

A SPECIAL EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AT OLD YORK ROAD - TEMPLE BETH AM

April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Abington

The first year of our Congregation's highly innovative LAMED program of advanced Jewish study for our 11th-grade, post-Confirmation students is well under way to rave reviews by our seven students – Maddie August, Hannah Hausen, Lia Hyman, Jacob Margasak, Ben Moss, Drew Steinbrecher and Eleanor Streitwieser – and this evening they will join their two 11th-grade classmates from Beth Am to speak about their experiences. David Monblatt, our Director of Education and creator of LAMED, will talk about what makes LAMED unique and exciting, Beth Am's "Tefilah Band" will perform, and Rabbi Holin and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz will participate in the service.

This will be our Congregation's only service this evening, and our *Kaddish-Yahrzeit* list will be read, as well as the next morning, as usual, at our *Shabbat* service in our chapel.

continued page 9

Kol Ami -Pancake Breakfast April 3, 2016, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. (before religious school) Come on out for a hearty breakfast, start the day right, and visit with friends before Religious School. Open to everyone! *Pancakes, Coffee, Tea, Fresh Fruit, Juice Individual advance -- \$5 Individual at door -- \$7 Family advance -- \$20 Family at door -- \$25 Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by Wednesday, March 30, 2016 8201 High School Road Elkins Park, PA 19027 | Phone: 215.635.3110 | Elaine Stevens - execdir@kolamielkinspark.org Name: E-mail: Phone: __ # of single advance: ______@ \$5.00 Total: # of family advance: @ \$20.00 Total: Please make checks payable to: Congregation Kol Ami

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: LAURIE BECK PETERSON

OPEN HOUSE, APRIL 3 FROM 1:00-3:00 P.M.; EXHIBIT NOW UNTIL MAY 2



After Peterson received a degree from Syracuse University, studying at both S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication and Crouse College School of Visual and Performing Arts, she launched her commercial photography career as an in-house corporate photographer for Eastman Kodak Company, and then opened Beck Photography, first in Rochester, and then moved the company to Philadelphia where she has remained. Her corporate clients include: Sports Illustrated, People Magazine, Glaxo-SmithKline, IBX, The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Inquirer, University of Pennsylvania Penn Nursing Science, Kroger Foods, Buchanan, Ingersol and Ramsey, as well as numerous writers and musicians.

Peterson is also deeply committed to fine art, working in the non-silver photographic processes of gum bichromate, cyanotype, and palladium, using enlarged pinhole and Holga images as a starting point for most of her work. She currently teaches non-silver at The University of the Arts and holds workshops in alternative processes. Peterson's non-silver and silver work hangs in many private and corporate collections and exhibits nationally and in solo and group shows. Recent work has been included in the book Portraits produced by Sante Fe Photographic Workshops and A&I Books and is included in the soon-to-be-released book Gum Printing: A Step-By-Step Manual Highlighting Artists and Their Creative Practice by Christina Z. Anderson.

Peterson has enjoyed being a guest speaker at The Women in Photojournalism Conference, commencement speaker at The Art Institute of Philadelphia, juror of photo competitions, and has recently served on the Board of Directors of First Person Arts.

VISIBLE OBSCURED SERIES ON DISPLAY AT KOL AMI

The prints of trees and woods that compose the "Visible Obscured" series explore the symbiotic relationship between process and subject matter. In the non-silver process of gum bichromate, the imagery develops through addition and subtraction. Printmaking paper is coated with watercolor pigment that has been thinned with gum Arabic and combined with a sensitizer of ammonium dichromate. Once dried, a negative is placed on top in tight contact and exposed to sunlight or any actinic or ultraviolet (UV) light source. The paper is then rinsed in water and the areas that receive no exposure from the sun or UV light wash away. What is left is a layer of the print. This process is repeated multiple times with different pigment colors, often brushing away the soft top layer to reveal the exposure beneath and the ethereal layers eventually coalescing into the final print.

Forests, and the trees that compose them, emerge out of a similar dance of layering and revealing. The cambium of trees grows in rings, then divides to create new tissue. Some of this tissue dies each year to become part of outer bark. The trees themselves grow, die, and eventually become soil, out of which grows more trees. Layering and revealing, adding and subtracting, all play a role in this slow, yet dynamic process.

Both processes rely upon the energy of the sun to create physical form, be it a tree or a print. The centrality of sunlight is additionally emphasized within the work itself through a focus on compositional tonality.

Certain formal and conceptual sensibilities that occur in this work are also present in Peterson's previous body of primarily figurative pieces. Figuration is central, whether the overt subject matter is trees or people. Light defines form. Color plays an integral role in creating mood.

However, "Visible Obscured" represents to Peterson a renewed commitment to "slow art." That is to say, she works with the non-silver process expressly because it is tedious, laborious, and time-consuming, not in spite of these qualities. Her subject matter, the woods and the trees, evolved over centuries. Mirroring and interpreting this process in an artistic manner affords her the opportunity to align herself with elemental forces of nature, to become a creator in the deepest sense of the word.

The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-noon. If the Religious School is closed on those days, the gallery is also closed. All of Peterson's' works are for sale. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece.

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 7)

HONORING-OUR-VOLUNTEERS EREV SHABBAT

Friday, April 15, at 8:00 p.m.; preceded by a wine-and-cheese social at 7:00 p.m.

"The Eternal One spoke to Moses saying: Tell the people to bring Me gifts. You shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is so moved" (Exodus 25:1-2).

We thank all of you who devote time to our Congregation, and we invite you to collectively bless the *Shabbat* candles and lead us in the *Kiddush*.

You "gift" our Synagogue with your time, talent and largesse. Your hearts are moved to do whatever you can to support and nurture our Congregation, and on this evening, we want to acknowledge all of you who will allow us to honor you at this special service as our way of thanking you for the gift that you are to all of us.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA SPONSORS THE...

ANNUAL PHILADELPHIA HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Sunday, April 17, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs 16th Street and the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA

CONVERSATIONS: CIVIL WRESTLING WITH CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND EVENTS IN OUR LIVES

Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jonathan Smolowe and Vera Frumin in Rydal

Over the High Holy Days, Rabbi Holin invited members to join him in "Conversations" about things that we feel deeply about, with the goal "not to change minds, but to better understand what motivates others to advocate positions different from ours."

Our first gathering was on November 16 at home of Shelley and David Chamberlain. Ten of us wrestled with different opinions about Israel, Muslims, and God, allocating about half an hour to each topic, chosen by those present for discussion.

We can revisit the topics in the previous paragraph, and consider the following topics for our next dialogue as well:

- Living with fear, living with faith.
- Addressing the lack of civility in politics and society.
- Living in the age of social media: How and what do you do to make time for real connections and conversations, and how do you actualize *tikun olam* (making the world a better place)?

- What are your favorite Jewish possessions? Bring them with you!
- What have been transforming moments in your life?
 Did you summon those moments, or did they just arrive, as if unbidden?

Civil wrestling with ideas.

Please call the Synagogue Office at 215-635-3110 by April 20 to let us know that you will join us.

BAT MITZVAH OF SYDNI ENGEL

Saturday, April 30, at 5:30 p.m.



Sydni is in the seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. Her favorite subjects are science and geography because she finds them interesting.

Her extracurricular activities at school are tennis and Student Council, and she also plays tennis regularly outside of school.

Her volunteer activities include helping teachers and staying after school for Student Council. For her *Mitzvah* Project, she will help autistic children at McKinley Elementary School in Philadelphia.

"I enjoy being Jewish because I feel important as part of a community. It is my religion and yet everyone is unique.

"I believe in God, and I try to be a good person. One way I try to be a good person is by helping others.

"Two of my favorite prayers are the *Sh'ma* and the *G'vurote*. I like the *Sh'ma* because it's a great prayer to sing. I like the *G'vurote* because it inspires me to help others. I believe the *G'vurote* is saying that God inspires people to reach their goals. I think the *Sh'ma* is saying that the goal is within reach.

"I chose the verses that I will be chanting from the *Torah* (Deuteronomy 16:1-12) because I found them interesting. The verses are about Passover, and my *Bat Mitzvah* is on the last day of Passover."

We congratulate Sydni's parents, Abbie and Brian, and her brother Brent, who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* in Israel in June 2011.

Congregation Annual Meeting Sunday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Bagels and coffee will be served prior to the meeting.

continued page 14

park plates

7852 Montgomery Avenue • Elkins Park, Pennsylvania • 215.782.3663

www.parkplatesrestaurant.com

Park Plates Restaurant is generously donating 15% to Congregation Kol Ami on...

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Mediterranean-style dine-in restaurant is open from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
This is a BYOB establishment.

Invite Family and Friends!

Make your reservation today and support Congregation Kol Ami and Park Plates.





417 Township Line Rd, Elkins Park 19027 (215) 758-2440 (Between Holme Ave & Rolling Hill Rd)

http://www.luigispizzarama2.com

Friends & Families of Congregation Kol Ami: Celebrate "Pre-Passover Pizza" and come into Luigi's II anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2016

(Delivery is limited to 3 miles)

Bring a copy of this flyer to the restaurant and 20% of your "regular menu" order total goes back to Kol Ami. Luigi's II Pizzarama has generously agreed to donate a portion of their revenue to Kol Ami celebrating the beginning of this Passover.



Congregation Kol Ami -- 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 | 215.635.3110

Please join us and bring your family and friends

KOL AMI SECOND SEDER

Saturday, April 23, 2016 6:00 p.m. Congregation Kol Ami Delicious Kosher-Style Seder Dinner, Songs, and Passover Story Tables of 8 are available for family seating. BYOB

Please return the right half of this form by April 15, 2016, with your check payable to **Congregation Kol Ami** to:

Barb Fink 721 Meetinghouse Road Elkins Park, PA 19027 For additional information, call Barb Fink at 215-886-2297 or e-mail at bfink3@gmail.com.



PLEASE RETURN THIS HALF OF THE FORM

I/we will attend the Kol Ami Second Seder on Saturday, April 23

Name of reservation:				
Email Address:				
Phone #:				
Member prices:				
Number of adults	@ \$30.00	II	8	
Number of children age 6 - 17	@ \$10.00	II	S	
Number of children age 5 and below	@ \$5.00	II	S	
Number of vegetarian meals	@ \$30.00	II	S	
Non-member prices:				
Number of adults	@ \$40.00	II	S	
Number of children age 6 - 17	@ \$20.00	II	S	
Number of children age 5 and below	@ \$5.00	II	S	
Number of vegetarian meals	@ \$40.00	II	S	
TOTAL # PEOPLE			∽	

MITZVAH OPPORTUNITY: I would like to help defray the Congregation's subsidy of the cost of this *Seder* meal by making a contribution of \$______ to Elijah's Plate.

If possible, please seat me with:

Help local Jewish families this Passover

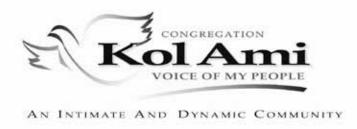
Congregation Kol Ami Social Action Committee Passover Food Drive

Please purchase any or all of these Passover items for donation to the *Mitzvah* Food Project Pantries for *Pesach* and bring to the Kol Ami office by **Sunday, April 17**.

All FOOD MUST BE KOSHER FOR PASSOVER

- Matzo
- Matzo Meal
- Gefilte Fish
- Horseradish
- Matzo Ball Soup or Mix
- Honey
- Macaroons
- Nuts
- Dried Fruit
- Jelly





KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 9)

LOCA EVENT: STRESS-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, May 15, at 12:30 p.m.

Join us at the Synagogue to learn how to relieve stress, relax, and have fun. Our own Meryle Gurmankin will introduce us to healthy stress-management techniques for women. It will be an afternoon of relaxation together with music, creative fun, and yummy healthy snacks. For more information, contact Jean Ettinger at jeanettiger@gmail.com.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US TO HONOR OUR VATIKIM – OUR CONGREGATION'S "ESTEEMED ELDERS" AT A CONCERT WITH VIOLINIST GIL MORGENSTERN

Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m.



We have the wonderful opportunity to honor our members who have attained the age of 80+ years and to whom we are drawn because of the examples of their lives and their continued devotion to our Congregation. Join us at a special concert commissioned for them

A violinist with a long history of performing in the world's great concert halls, Morgenstern's career has taken him to international venues including: Wigmore Hall, London; Cultural Center Concert Hall, Hong Kong; the American Academy, Rome; Salone dei Cinquecento, Florence; El Teatro Sucre, Quito; and Arts Centre and State Theatre, Melbourne, Australia. Morgenstern's discography includes works by Beethoven, Fauré, Copland, Ravel, Kodaly, Sessions, and the award-winning American composer George Tsontakis. His latest recording, 20th Century Duos for Violin and Cello, was the No. 1 classical CD for over a month on emusic, the largest online store for independent music in the world, and was one of the top ten best-selling classical music albums on Amazon. The New York Times raved: "The music is terrific and the performances compelling on this surprisingly exciting and excellently engineered recording."

Gil Morgenstern's many honors include: a command performance at the White House when he was just 21 years old, a performance at the inaugural festivities for President Clinton, and a citation from the floor of the House of Representatives entered in the Congressional Record for outstanding service in the arts.

More information will follow in our May bulletin.

continued page 15

POUR 'EM FOR PURIM

by Morgan Selkirk

Our tour of Yards Brewing Company on March 5 was a huge success: 16 people + 80 tasting cups of beer + 16 free pints + tons of interesting education. Thank you to all who came downtown for this fun event.

When we arrived, we were handed vouchers (or as some of us would like to call them, golden tickets) for a free pint of our choosing from their "Tasting Room." Soon after, we were escorted beyond the glass doors into the chocolate factory...I mean Brewery...and the tour began. Our extremely knowledgeable tour guide fielded question after question with humor and understanding. Did you know that the barley Yards uses to brew their beers is repurposed when they're done with it? It's sent to one of two places, a farm to be used as feed for their cattle, or a bakery to be used for their breads so that nothing is wasted. Or the fact that Yards uses some recipes for their beers that date back to George Washington? That's just a couple of the interesting pieces of information we received on our tour.

A night like this night is a special testament to the kind of people you find here at Kol Ami. Not everyone knew each other, some faces I had never seen before, but not one moment was uncomfortable. It felt like 16 friends enjoying a couple hours' of time together. We joked, we shared, we learned, and most importantly, we showed up somewhere we had never been before, more than half an hour away from the synagogue that we all had in common. After it was all over, we had come up with the title for the next time we gather everyone for the second go around. So if you weren't able to come or would like to join us again, look forward to hearing about "Jews with Brews: Yards Brewery Tour, Part Two." I look forward to seeing everyone there!



Philadelphia's Consulate General of Israel to Close

לשכת ראש הממשלה Prime Minister's Bureau

February 11, 2016 ב׳ אדר א תשע״ו

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin Congregation Kol Ami 8201 High School Road Elkins Park, PA 19027 USA

Dear Rabbi Holin,

Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 2016, to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, regarding Congregation Kol Ami's recent resolution.

As part of a series of necessary budget cuts across government ministries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no choice but to shut down several diplomatic missions worldwide, including the Consulate General in Philadelphia.

Please be assured that this decision in no way diminishes our connection and solidarity with the Jewish community of Pennsylvania and the other communities of the Mid-Atlantic region. We are fully aware of and deeply appreciate the invaluable work the Philadelphia Consulate has done on a wide range of issues of crucial importance, ranging from Israel advocacy activities to the enhancement of business, economic and other ties between Israel and the Mid-Atlantic states.

The Israeli government remains as committed as ever to the bond between the State of Israel and the Jewish community in the United States, and we are confident that we will continue to sustain and even strengthen our ties through the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in New York.

We trust you understand the financial considerations that necessitate the closure of the Consulate, and thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Jonathan Schachter Senior Advisor **KOL AMI EVENTS** (continued from page 14)

SUMMER HEBREW

Rabbi Holin will be teaching Hebrew this summer for those who want to refresh or learn to read the prayers of our services, or as a head start for our two-year Adult *Bnai Mitzvah* course that will commence in October, culminating in a *Bnai Mitzvah* service in the Spring of 2018.

Please call our rabbi (215-635-4182) to let him know if you are interested in summer Hebrew study and whether you prefer to do so on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday as well as in the mornings, afternoons, or evenings.



ATTENTION SOFTBALL PLAYERS!

Spring is right around the corner, which means that Kol Ami's softball team (unofficial nickname: the Kol Amigos) will soon take the field. We welcome all interested players of any experience level. Games against teams from other congregations take place Monday through Thursday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at various fields in the area. We hold the occasional practice on Sunday mornings. Win or lose, we strive to have fun.

If you're interested in joining the team, please e-mail team co-captain Jonathan Shandell (jonathan.shandell@aya.yale. edu). See you on the field!

continued page 16

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued page 15)

BECOME A KOL AMI KONNECTOR!

Kol Ami's Membership Committee is launching a new program, Kol Ami Konnectors, to assist new members through their first one to two years of membership with the support and involvement of our current members. A Kol Ami Konnector mentors new members through their initial startup with the Kol Ami community by providing outreach and occasional person-to-person contact and encouraging their involvement with Kol Ami events and activities.

If you would like to take an active role in supporting our newer members as they integrate into our wonderfully active community, please join Kol Ami Konnectors! We will meet with you and other Konnectors over the coming months to train and share information on your role. To be involved or to find out more about the program, contact Jill Goldstone (jillgoldstone1@gmail. com or 215-880-3243) or Janine Pratt (pratthyman@verizon.net or 215-384-6649).

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!

For advertising information, contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

IT WAS STORY TIME AT KOL AMI'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER



ABOVE: Ellen Friedman was a guest reader on Tuesday, March 1, when the Kol Ami Early Learning Center celebrated Read Across America week and Dr. Seuss' birthday.

IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL EVENT AT THE FIRST "OUR HOUSE" CONCERT



Thanks to Cory Newman, pianist extraordinare, for a fabulous performance of works by Chopin, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelsson, and more at "our house" concert on March 6. There will be more special events to come!

LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

Kol Ami has a list of young teenagers who are just right for the position. If you need a babysitter and would like to contact one of these young adults, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org for the list.

Young Adults: If you would like to be added to the list, please forward your information to Ms. Stevens at your convenience.



Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases to Congregation Kol Ami whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Bookmark the link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2771426 and support us every time you shop. ■

	KOL AMI		APRIL 2016 AT A GLANCE	AT A GL	ANCE	
Sunday 3 Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Shomrei Adamah (Environmental Stewardship) Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Religious School PTO Meeting 11:00 a.m. Human Resource Committee Meeting 12:00 p.m. Artist Open House - Laurie Beck-Peterson 1:00 p.m.	Monday Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	Tuesday Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Dine-Around at Park Plates in Elkins Park 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.	6 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	7 Early Learning Center Matzah Bakery 9:30 a.m.	Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. LOCA Dinner at Marco Polo 5:30 p.m. First-Friday erev Shabbat Service with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m. Baservice with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m. Fun-for-Kids erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. Fun-for-Kids erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir and Grade K-2 participation 6:00 p.m. erev Shabbat Service at Old York Road - Temple Beth Am honoring our LAMED partnership 7:30 p.m.	Saturday Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue with Grade 8-9 participation 10:00 a.m. followed by potluck lunch

KOL AMI APRIL 2016 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Saturday	, 91	Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Congregation Second Seder 6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sydni Engel 5:30 p.m.
Friday	15	Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. Honoring-Our-Volunteers erev Shabbat Service 8:00 p.m. preceded by wine-and- cheese social at 7:00 p.m.	Early Learning Center Seder with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. First Night of Passover No erev Shabbat Service	Early Learning Center CLOSED. Passover-Yizkor Service 10:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	14	Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Elliot Holin 7:30 p.m.	Dine-Around at Luigi's Pizzarama 11:00 a.m10:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Elliot Holin 7:30 p.m.	Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	13	Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday		Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. "Conversations" 7:30 p.m. Home of Jonathan Smolowe and Vera Frumin
Monday	11	Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	10	Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m 6r 3 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m Student Choir Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Inclusion Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. 76ers vs. Milwaukee Bucks - 5:00 p.m. Wells Fargo Center	Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m Student Choir Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m.	Religious School CLOSED

KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds. If you would like to make a donation, send it to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027, and indicate to which fund it should be applied.



HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPLIED

Below is a list of the available Kol Ami funds:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to provide lifelong educational programming focused on Jewish history and contemporary issues.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Enables us to provide funding for cultural programs, including music and arts, the preservation and maintenance of artwork within the synagogue, and the beautification of the meditation garden.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH & CONFIRMATION FUND

Enables us to provide appropriate gifts (books, *kiddush* cups, and *Shabbat* candlesticks) when our young adults celebrate their *Bar/Bat Mitzvahs* and Confirmations.

"DISCOVER ISRAEL" FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in approved peer-group trips to Israel.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost of Family Camp Weekend programs and to welcome specialists on a "weekend away" to explore a Jewish theme with our rabbi.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to offer age-appropriate programs to our religious school students. A variety of educational initiatives will be sponsored, including, but not limited, to speaker programs, intolerance awareness, and travel to memorial museums/sites—all with a focus on its current relevance.

LIBRARY FUND

Enables us to purchase educational material for our members.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Enables us to provide refreshments following Shabbat services.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Enables Rabbi Holin to perform *mitzvot* for those in need, in the name of the Congregation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Enables us to provide resources and programs for the benefit of our children in religious school.

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Enables us to provide for the general well-being of the Congregation.

YOUTH FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in Jewish enrichment experiences at camps, youth enclaves, and other programs.



APRIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

5:30 p.m. - LOCA Dinner at Marco Polo 7:30 p.m. - First-Friday *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir

• SATURDAY, APRIL 2, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue with Grade 8-9 participation

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

9:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast

10:00 a.m. - Shomrei Adamah (Environmental

Stewardship) Committee Meeting

11:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting

 $12{:}00~\mathrm{p.m.}$ - Human Resources Committee Meeting

1:00 p.m. - Artist Open House (Laurie Beck-Peterson)

• TUESDAY, APRIL 5, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Dine-Around at Park Plates, Elkins Park

• FRIDAY, APRIL 8, at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - Fun-for-Kids *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir

7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service at Old York Road - Temple Beth Am with our Grade 11 LAMED Students

• **SATURDAY, APRIL 9, at 10:00 a.m.**

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue followed by potluck lunch

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

11:30 a.m. - Inclusion Committee Meeting 5:00 p.m. - 76ers vs. Milwaukee Bucks Event

• MONDAY, APRIL 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Religious School Committee Meeting

• THURSDAY, APRIL 14 & 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Holin

• FRIDAY, APRIL 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Honoring-Our-Volunteers *erev Shabbat* Service preceded by a wine-and-cheese social at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

9:30 a.m. - Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. - Finance Committee Meeting

• MONDAY, APRIL 18, at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting

• THURSDAY, APRIL 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Dine-Around at Luigi's Pizzarama

• SATURDAY, APRIL 23, at 6:00 p.m.

Congregation Second Seder

• MONDAY, APRIL 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Operations Committee Meeting

• TUESDAY, APRIL 26, at 7:30 p.m. "Conversations" at the home of Jonathan Smolowe and Vera Frumin

• THURSDAY, APRIL 28 AND MAY 5, 12 & 19, at 7:30 p.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Neal Beatus

• FRIDAY, APRIL 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Passover-Yizkor Service

• SATURDAY, APRIL 30, at 5:30 p.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Sydni Engel

<u>MAY</u>

• SUNDAY, MAY 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Congregation Annual Meeting

• TUESDAY, MAY 3, at 7:30 p.m.
Interfaith Relationship Dialogue at the home of

Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry

• FRIDAY, MAY 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Second-Friday *erev Shabbat* Service Honoring our IMWise graduate

• SUNDAY, MAY 15

11:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting 12:30 p.m. - LOCA Event: Stress-Management Workshop

1:00 p.m. - Social Action Committee SHARE Food Program

• FRIDAY, MAY 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

• TUESDAY, MAY 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Concert with Gil Morgenstern Honoring our Vatikim