

CONGREGATION Kol Ami

VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with book reviewer extraordinaire Beverly Rosen, speaking about "The List" by Martin Fletcher, the book of choice of One Book, One Jewish Community (see page 14) plus 'First-Friday' birthday and anniversary blessings in front of the ark; our Adult Choir will add their voices

SATURDAY, Dec. 3, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; Sarah Boise will read from the *Torah* on the first anniversary of her *Bat Mitzvah* and Rosalind Holtzman will give the *dvar Torah*

FRIDAY, Dec. 9, 6:00 p.m.

All-school *erev Shabbat* and Consecration Service; our Student Choir will add their voices

SATURDAY, Dec. 10, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, Dec. 17, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, Dec. 24, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

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RAIN, SLEET, OCTOBER SNOW? THE ARTS AT KOL AMI WERE CELEBRATED



The weekend of October 29 and 30 may go down in history as one of the most unusual weather events in our region, but it did not mar enthusiasm of those attending our second annual Craft & Fine Arts Show at Kol Ami. Our sanctuary, hallway, and classrooms were transformed into a festive weekend celebrating the arts.

The event showcased more than 50 local and regional artisans (over half new this year), musical talents, and gourmet caterers. Our congregation's history of concerts and "Artist-of-the-Month Gallery" exhibits set the stage in our continuing journey to provide art opportunities for our members and our community.

The Saturday evening festivities began as one entered the lobby. Despite the whitening and frightening weather outside, the wine-and-beverage bar ensured all attendees were in the right "spirit." The gourmet delights provided by Joshua's of Jenkintown were pleasing to both palate and eye. Art raffles, generously donated by the artisans, were beautifully displayed in the hall, enticing all artistic tastes to buy a chance to win. And then it was time to enter the Show itself.

The orange-colored sanctuary chandeliers cast an incredible glow over the entire scene so that all who entered felt warm, comfortable, and excited about the crafts and fine arts ahead. Colorful and beautifully displayed artisan booths emphasized the artists' unique and quality talents. The breadth and depth of the art mediums guaranteed that the Show would be enjoyed by all art enthusiasts, whether they liked wood crafters, jewelers, fabric artists, painters, photographers, ceramicists, metalists, glass blowers, etc. And, the arts didn't stop there—we had more in the hallway—a new venue for the Show. In addition, for the first time, we had "Make & Take" workshops on floral decorating and scarf design.

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FRIDAY, Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, Dec. 31, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

December 3 - *Vayetzyay*

Genesis 28:10-32:3, Hosea 12:13-14:10

December 10 - *Vayishlach*

Genesis 32:4-36:43, Obadiah 1:1-21

December 17 - *Vayeshev*

Genesis 37:1-40:21, Amos 2:6-3:8

December 24 - *Miketz*

Genesis 41:1-44:17, Zechariah 2:14-4:7

December 31 - *Vayigash*

Genesis 44:18-47:27, Ezekiel 37:15-28 ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Casino Night Committee

Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Bill England, 215-635-0920,
and Sharon Myers, 215-938-7435

Fund Development Committee

Monday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Jennifer Streiwieser, 215-635-0304, and Bart Weiner, 215-233-4712

Operations Committee

Wednesday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330,
and Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Sheryl Cohen, 215-885-2436

Religious School PTO

Sunday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m.

Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335,
and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

Social Action Committee

Monday, December 5, at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, December 11, at 11:00 a.m.

Chair: Co-chairs: Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232; William Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I admit it. As a non-parent for me to weigh in on our children's Jewish education takes a bit of *chutzpah*. Nonetheless I proceed. Better that I be accused of that rather than fail to emphasize the critical importance of this function in contemporary American Jewish life generally and at Kol Ami in particular.

First, the good news. I'm delighted by what I have seen and heard in our building since School's opening. Permit me to share quickly three experiences that I found inspiring. In mid-October, I had the thrill of watching Color Wars in action. Three critical elements: fun, substantive Jewish learning, and parental involvement were all in full display. A few days later, I was among the BIG crowd who attended *Simchat Torah* Services. It was impactful to see the dancing, singing, and children with their parents rejoicing in the *Torah*. How exciting to have 14 members, young and old alike, read and chant *Torah* verses from the three scrolls lining the walls of our sanctuary. Within a few days of the holy day, I hosted an appreciation luncheon for our teachers at Max and David's. It was my first opportunity to get to know our educators. I was impressed. We are blessed with a thoughtful, caring, and knowledgeable faculty.

For many reasons, I am delighted to share this with you. As Congregation president, I have no higher priority than that our Synagogue contributes to the making of knowledgeable Jews who take their religion seriously. We can fulfill this role in a variety of ways. The education our school provides is an obvious essential element to achieving the goal.

Although I'm delighted by these good things happening at Kol Ami, we must recognize that modern American life poses many distractions and obstacles to serious Jewish living. The challenges that we face are dramatically articulated in Scott Shay's 2008 book, "Getting Our Groove Back: How to Energize American Jewry." This work rattled nearly everyone and every institution in organized Jewish life. Shay's controversial demographic conclusion that, "[o]ur domestic Jewish population dropped by over one-third in the lifetime of most people reading this book" (p. 35) serves as his launching point for a 10-Plank Proposal to energize us.

Plank #1 is "Hebrew School and More," which Shay introduces with the Talmudic quote: "The very world rests on the breath of children in the school-house." As a 1960s Hebrew school survivor, I embrace Shay's view that our schools must not only convey knowledge, but also the love of Judaism. Rabbi Kalev and our teachers understand and are acting on this with conviction. There is substantive teaching that must take place, but it can and does happen in a warm and welcoming environment, which is hopefully an inspiration for a lifetime of Jewish living.

Beyond the school, substantial parental involvement is a critical aspect to effective Jewish education. The "drop-off" method of education has proven

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SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2011

ABOVE (L-R): Mindy Levy, David Hyman, Ellen Asam, Samantha Pashko, Mark Kaplan, Ellen Horowitz Matz, William Hyman, Sara Chernoff, William Shapiro, Neal Beatus, and Natalie Dyen read or chanted a few verses of the *Torah* portion that they celebrated at their *Bar/Bat Mitzvahs*. (Not pictured: Jeffrey and Leah Cohen and Rebecca Leifer)

LEFT: Rabbi Holin, William Shapiro, and Sara Reiter, finding the next *Torah* portion to be read.

BELOW: Members dance around the *Torah* in celebration.



SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

215-635-4182

David Hyman, President

215-496-7224

Barry Boise, Vice President

215-635-9042

Jeff Cohen, Vice President

215-635-3232

Ellen Asam, Secretary

215-635-5598

Bart Weiner, Treasurer

215-233-4712

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director

215-635-3110

Rabbi Selilah Kaley

Director of Education

215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler

Nursery School 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: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/kolamielkinspark>

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (e.g., by December 5 for the January issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed. Photographs/images to be included should be at least 2x3" in size and 300 DPI resolution to ensure good reproduction. ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

itself unsuccessful. In contrast, Color Wars at Kol Ami immerses parents into the fun learning experience. Our Family Education is another of Rabbi Kalev's methods of bridging the school and home. We know that in order for our school to be effective, we need to engage entire families.

Rabbi Holin frequently encourages Kol Ami members to welcome *Shabbat* in our homes on Friday evenings with candle lighting, prayer, and the week-end meal. This recommendation reflects the finding that this one act has been proven to be a most powerful method of conveying Jewish values.

The transmission of Judaism is no different than any other value system. It requires work. No single vehicle is sufficient. We are proud of our school, but the school alone will not do the job. Schooling, family involvement, home practices, youth groups, summer camps, and trips to Israel are all part of an effective plan for protecting our future.

Please let us hear from you. How can we strengthen our adult education program? How can we assist our families with their home Jewish practices? Do you need more information on Jewish camps or trips to Israel?

We're taking the pulse of Kol Ami, and we want to hear from you.

David Hyman
215-496-7224

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■



LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND SAYING THE BLESSINGS OVER THE HANUKKIAH

FIRST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20)

The *shamash*, or serving candle, is lit first and is used to light the other candles every evening. The *shamash* is noticeable because it is situated higher than, or in front of, the other candles. Each night of *Hanukkah*, the candles are placed in the *hanukkiah* from right to left (the same way in which Hebrew is read) but are lit from left to right.

ON THE FIRST NIGHT ONLY, the *Sheb'beh'chiyanu* is recited or sung:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam
Sheb'beh'chiyanu v'ki'y'manu v'hig'yanu
laz'mahn hazeh*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this time.

ON EACH NIGHT, the following blessings are recited or sung:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
להדליק נר של חנוכה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzi'vanu l'hadlik neir
shel Hanukkah*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who sanctifies us through *mitzvot* and commands us to kindle
the candles of *Hanukkah*.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam
Sheb'asab neisim l'avo'taynu ba'yameem ha'hame
bahz'mahn hazeh*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days,
as at this time. ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Every year at the conclusion of the “Festival of Lights,” our family *hanukkiot* are carefully cleaned and packed away to await the commencement of *Hanukkah* a year later, soon to commence on Tuesday evening, December 20.

Each of our sons received his *hanukkiyah* in time to celebrate *Hanukkah* before he was a year old: Jonathan's is Noah's Ark with little animals on board; David has a dinosaur *hanukkiyah*; and Joshua has the Three Little Bears seated at a table laden with soul bowls. Two boys in college, one soon to be on his way, and they still use the *hanukkiot* that they have had since childhood! Talk about tradition! Susan and I add our contemporary *hanukkiot* to the mix, each one rich in symbolism, with personal history and our People's history woven into the celebration.

In just a few weeks, all of our *hanukkiot* will be lovingly unpacked and placed on our dining room table, ready to be lit and blessed every night of the festival. Each night, the candles will burn down, a faint wisp of smoke signaling their end as wax drips toward the base, coating the *hanukkiyah* in a tapestry of colors. As the week progresses, the colors merge and thicken, cascading over shapes and forms below, proof positive that we attended to the *mitzvah* of rededicating ourselves to the call of faith and commitment to community.

Would that we could measure all of our *mitzvot* by the abundance and accumulation of colors to which the wax attests our observance of *Hanukkah*! Yet no sooner is the holy day over than do we carefully scrape layers of wax off the surface of each *hanukkiyah*, and a year from now each one will be unpacked, pristine and sparkling, as if never before used.

Memory assures us otherwise. We recall the previous *Hanukkah*, and the ones prior to it, just as we recall *mitzvot* done to benefit others. Doing good enhances and empowers us. It reminds us about the blessing of benevolent power in a world all too accustomed to evil and arrogance. Sharing blessings is akin to lighting candles on the *hanukkiyah*: the glow of each candle, increasing manyfold each night, expands the field of warmth and light, in much the same way that the stories we tell about the *mitzvot* we perform might inspire others to do the same.

We tell these stories not to praise ourselves, but to send a message about the importance of rekindling hope in lives that have been darkened by doubt or despair. The greatest gift on *Hanukkah* is what we give of ourselves so that others might benefit from our largesse: time, talent, wisdom, and presence.

During *Hanukkah*, visit someone in a hospital, donate time at a food bank or homeless shelter, bring cans of food to the synagogue that we will bring to people in need, sign on to JRAid (Jewish Relief Agency Aid network of volunteers), make a donation to a fund that protects the planet or endangered species, or volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House. We can do so much, and so much more.

This *Hanukkah* and beyond, be among those who kindle hope.

Shalom u'vrachah,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to **Hollie Brayer and Victor Friesen** on the announcement of the marriage of their daughter, Alysha, to Dan Meloche on November 5. ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Stephen A. Silverman

brother of Michael (Robin Rifkin)

Silverman

uncle of Kali and Eli

Sylvia Hankin

aunt of Amy (Mark) Bierhoff

May their memories forever be a blessing among our People. ■

WE'LL GET YOU THERE!

Is transportation keeping you home-bound? Would you like to attend services, an event, or a committee meeting at Kol Ami, but don't have a means of getting there?

The Worship Enhancement Committee has developed a system for connecting riders with potential drivers. Just contact Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110 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. She'll send an "in-search-of" e-mail to Kol Ami congregants regarding your need and hopefully a congregant who plans to attend that event will call or e-mail you directly.

We'd love to see you at the wonderful programs our synagogue has to offer and are happy to help you get there! ■

NEW MEMBERS



SUSAN AND BOB SELTZER have recently returned to the area, following a five-year stay in Margate, NJ. Susan is originally from Levittown, PA, and currently manages the office of a commercial real estate development firm in Ventnor, NJ. Bob is an attorney by training, but has devoted most of his career to the Jewish community, currently serving as Senior Development Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

They are proud of their four grown children and thoroughly enjoy their six grandchildren.

According to the Seltzers, “All it took was one summer *Shabbat* service with cousins Linda and Dan George, an embrace by friend David Hyman, and a warm greeting from Rabbi Holin, and we knew Kol Ami was our home.” In response, we at Kol Ami would like to say, “Welcome to our family, Susan and Bob!” ■

If you know of a friend, associate, or family member who may be interested in joining our intimate and dynamic community, contact Irene Levy Baker, the Kol Ami Membership chair, at spotlightpr@comcast.net or 215-782-2253.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The article below is brought to you by an incredible source of learning and fun, babaganewz.com.

Happy Hanukkah, Rabbi Selilah Kalev



HOW TO PLAY DREIDEL

Solve any dreidel-rule argument right now. Here are all the rules you need to know, and then some.

What would *Hanukkah* be without an exhilarating game of dreidel? Grab your friends, your family, and your dreidel and the tokens of your choice, then roll up your sleeves and get ready for some dreidel fun.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Tokens—pennies, raisins, candy, or peanuts, for example
- A flat playing surface—floor or table
- A dreidel—the dreidel has a *Hebrew* letter on each of its four sides. Each letter stands for a word in the phrase ‘*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*,’ but they also stand for Yiddish words denoting game instructions as follows:
 - *Nun* (*Nishit*) - Player does nothing.
 - *Gimmel* (*Gantz*) - Player takes all of the tokens in the pot.
 - *Hay* (*Halb*) - Player takes half of the tokens in the pot.
 - *Shin* (*Shtet*) - Players add one token to the pot.

OKAY, ENOUGH PREP. HERE'S HOW TO PLAY

1. Sit around the table or in a circle on the floor.
2. Everyone starts with the same number of tokens.
3. Each player puts one token in the center of the playing area (the pot).
Note: When there are fewer than two tokens in the pot, each player puts one more token in the pot.
4. Players take turns spinning the dreidel.
5. Play continues until someone has all the tokens.

BACKGROUND

The dreidel reminds us of the miracle of *Hanukkah*, when a few drops of oil miraculously burned for eight days and nights after the Holy Temple was recaptured in 165 BCE. The letters on the dreidel stand for the Hebrew words ‘*Nes Gadol Hayah Sham*’ (a great miracle happened there). In Israel, the dreidel has a *Pay* instead of a *Shin* for ‘*Nes Gadol Hayah Po*’ (a great miracle happened here). ■

KOL AMI TEMPLE YOUTH (KATY) (GRADE 8-12)

KATY had a visit from the North American Federation of Temple Youth in the Pennsylvania Area Region (NFTY-PAR) board last month, and it sparked so much interest that Kol Ami sent the largest group to a kallah since KATY joined NFTY. All the participants who went to the Fall Kallah at Camp Harlam had a great time. Last month, KATY was invited to Congregation Shir Ami's SHAFTY After-Dark Dance, and a few KATY members attended. Apparently it was a blast, and NFTY members from all over came in for it. In the coming weeks, we will have a Chinese food lunch to bond as a youth group, and after that, we will be hosting a *Hanukkah* Party on December 18 at 12:30 p.m. to which we will invite other local NFTY youth groups. ■

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-8)

After several successful events with the Senior Youth Group, the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were invited to a Junior Youth Kallah sponsored by NFTY-PAR at Camp Harlam, and we have several Senior Youth Group members enrolled to go! Advisor Alison Savett will also be attending this weekend-long event from December 2-4. There are over 50 children registered for this event from middle-school youth groups across Pennsylvania. It should be a lot of fun for the kids going, and hopefully the kallah will spark their interest in going next year as well as attending other NFTY-PAR events when they are in KATY! **Note:** The Wii event has been rescheduled for December 11 at noon! ■

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 4 & 5)

Fourth and fifth graders, are you ready for some *HANUKKAH*? Just in time for the Festival of Lights, come join the Junior Youth Group for an afternoon of *Hanukkah* fun. We'll be rolling out, baking, decorating (and of course, eating!) delicious *Hanukkah* cookies, and enjoying other *Hanukkah* treats, while singing some songs and playing *Hanukkah* games.

When: Sunday, December 18, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Where: At the home of Benny Goldstone in Rydal

Cost: \$5.00 to cover supplies

Watch for a flyer and permission slip coming home from religious school, and RSVP to Mrs. Rosalind Holtzman at 215-635-0667 or three_cats3@yahoo.com by Thursday, December 15. ■

HANUKKAH CANDLES

Make your holiday season a little "brighter." The Religious School PTO will be selling boxes of *Hanukkah* candles in December for \$4.00 each. Each box contains 44 candles. The candles will be available for purchase in Kol Ami's lobby (Sundays and Wednesdays) during the month of December. All profits from the sale will be used to support the activities of the Kol Ami Religious School. Questions can be directed to: Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com (PTO Co-chair) and/or Sherry Cohen, shcohen361@verizon.net (Religious School Committee Chair). ■

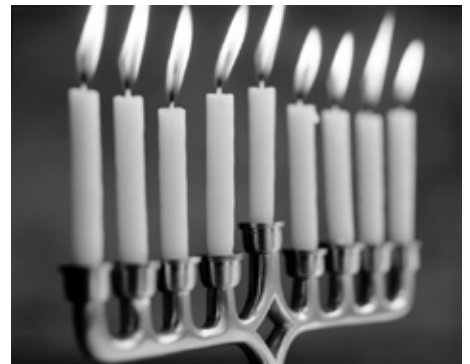


TORAH CHANTING (TROPE) PROGRAM REMINDER

Our upcoming Student Trope Program begins this January, which is for students whose *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* date falls in late 2012 or between January and November of 2013.

Students who enroll in the class will learn how to read and identify trope signs and how to apply them. This will give them a potentially easier learning curve during their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* preparation because it's often easier for some students to learn *Torah* Hebrew if they chant the melody that goes with the words. It will also help their level of Hebrew proficiency as well as allow them to participate in chanting *Torah* in the future.

The class will be taught by our Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz. Forms are available in the Religious School Office. Please complete the form and return it to the office no later than Sunday, December 11. ■



ISRAEL TRIP

by Leah Cohen



This summer, I had the amazing experience of traveling to Prague; Warsaw and Krakow, Poland; and Israel. While this was not my first experience in Israel, it was the most powerful.

What made the second time so impactful was going with my “second family,” my camp friends. Since 2002, I have spent my summers at the Union for Reform Judaism’s (URJ’s) Camp Harlam in the Poconos; and the people I spent those summers with shaped me into the person I am today.

While my first time in Israel (2007) was with my family and other Kol Ami families, the second time I got to experience this astounding place with the other most influential group of people in my life.

The first week of our trip, we toured through Eastern Europe, stopping in many historic Jewish sites. Our first stop was Prague, where we walked through

this breathtaking city and learned about the rich Jewish community of Prague.

Next we went to Poland, visiting Warsaw and Krakow, and focusing on the persecution that occurred there during the holocaust. In Poland, we had one of our most powerful experiences; we went to the Auschwitz concentration camp. The cold and damp hours we spent walking through the vast camp was the most humbling experience and brought our group together like nothing else could. I am a different person and a different Jew because of that day.

While on the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) Israel trip, we toured nearly all of Israel, learning not just about her history, but also the culture of this amazing place. One of the highlights was spending four days camping out in the Negev desert. There, separated from all technology and basic things like showers, we bonded with each other on a new level and truly found the spirit of Israel.

This five-week trip has had an immense impact on who I am and how I think. I encourage everyone to go to Israel: it just might change your life.

To see highlights of our trip, please go to <http://www.nftyisrael.org/video/> and see if you recognize the first video clip. ■



Don't miss these enlightening opportunities for adults at Kol Ami...

Continuing Jewish Education

Tastes of Honey: Sample the Wonders of Jewish Wisdom Literature



Instructor:
Rabbi Elliot Holin
Wednesdays from
7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Holin on the following Wednesdays to delve into Jewish texts and teachings that stimulate thought and have the potential of enriching your life:

Date	Writings/Works
December 7	Proverbs , part 1: "To know wisdom and instruction" (1:2)
December 14	Proverbs , part 2: "Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth" (27:2)
January 18	The Book of Job , part 1: "The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken" (1:21)
January 25	The Book of Job , part 2: "The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind" (38:1)
February 15	Selected works of Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai , part 1
February 22	Selected works of Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai , part 2

Please call Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182 by November 30 to RSVP for the December classes.

Jewish Ethics for Everyday Life

A text-based class exploring ethical and legal dilemmas from a Talmudic perspective

Instructor: Rabbi Alexander Coleman
Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Date	Writings/Works
January 4	"Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones but Names <u>Will</u> Hurt Me": defamation and gossip in Jewish law
February 1	"The Robin Hood Dilemma": taking the law into one's own hands
March 14	"Nothing but the Truth": when is lying permitted?
April 4	"Survivor: Who Gets to Live?": choosing one life over another in medical treatment
May 2	"When the Hand Rocks the Cradle": how long do parents bear responsibility for their children?

Rabbi Alexander Coleman, a native of Liverpool, England, received his education from *yeshivas* in Jerusalem and New York. For the past 15 years, he has dedicated himself to Jewish education and spiritual counseling in the Philadelphia area, offering classes and one-on-one mentorship on Jewish philosophy, spirituality, law, and ethics as well as text-based classes on *Chumash*, *Talmud* and other classic works. His classes on Jewish law and ethics are accredited by the PA Continuing Legal Education Board. CLE confirmation forms will be provided at the class and all CLE processing will be handled by the presenter, and entails a separate fee.

Registration Instructions: To register for this class, contact Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org by December 20. The non-member course fee is \$50. ■



Congregation Kol Ami

Sustainability & Green Committee

Sukkot in the Fields:

**A Deeply Meaningful Afternoon at the Allen Family's
Beautiful, Life-Enhancing Acres Farm in Bird in Hand, Pennsylvania**

What would inspire more than 20 of our members to drive an hour and a half each way and participate in a four-hour program on a most gorgeous fall Saturday afternoon? The answer says a great deal about Kol Ami and how we continually strive to tie Jewish values to our modern lives, doing so in non-traditional ways. Many in our community are also members of the Hazon Elkins Park Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) and are making sustainability a large part of our lives. The CSA and Kol Ami jointly sponsored and underwrote the *Sukkot* in the Fields activities.

Sukkot is one of two holy days that ask us to think deeply about our food, *Tu B'shevat* being the other. Modern life brings us all the bounty of distant farms, but it is *Sukkot* that asks us what our connection to the land and those who conserve and protect it should be. For Rabbi Holin: "To have offered prayers in the *Sukkah* that Jeff Cohen, Mark Kaplan, Michael Levin, and David Chamberlain constructed on the farmer's land spoke to us about our mutual desire to sustain faith and the environment. It was a wonderful way to celebrate *Shabbat*, making us keenly aware that 'The earth is the Lord's' (Psalm 24:1)."

Karin Schnoll said: "This was a day of inspiration filled with connections to God, the earth, music, lessons, wonderful people, and fabulous food."

While there were different reasons for attending the event, all enjoyed saying the blessings of *Sukkot* in a *sukkah* we built and sharing a wonderful potluck meal with the Allens and our

friends, Evan and Kathan, from Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative. Shelley Chamberlain, one of the CSA founders noted: "The setting was wonderful, and the tea they made that warmed us was delightful and welcoming."

Another highlight was sitting in large circles, telling stories of what our different cultures believe about farming and lifestyle, and

answering questions Rabbi Holin provided, such as: "What is one thing about your religion that you wish people knew more about or understood better?" and "In what ways is your faith meaningful to you and how do you express it in your daily life?" For Becca Leifer, it was this "group discussion, learning about other people's backgrounds and opinions and then sharing my own. The

continued next page



Kol Ami Scrip



Hanukkah and winter holidays are just around the corner! Whether you prefer to buy a gift or give gift cards, Kol Ami scrip is available with something for everyone.

Here are just a few of the services and stores available through the scrip program:

Acme, Amazon.com, Avis, Banana Republic, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Claire's, Comfort Inn, Courtyard Marriott, Crate & Barrel, Dick's Sporting Goods, The Disney Store, GameStop, Gap, Giant Foods, Gymboree, Home Depot, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowe's, Marshall's, Old Navy, Panera, PetSmart, Regal Entertainment, Sears, T.J. Maxx, Target, Toys "R" Us, Visa, and Whole Foods

Planning on hosting a large dinner for family or friends? We have scrip cards immediately available for: **Acme, Giant, Target, Genuardi's, and Whole Foods** each week.

The steps are simple:

1. Select from which retailers you wish to order scrip cards.
2. Fill out the Kol Ami Scrip form. Order forms are available either in the Religious School Office or from Elaine Stevens during the week.
3. Return your completed form. Forms will be collected each week on Sunday in the Religious School, or they may be dropped off to Elaine Stevens during the week.

Orders will be processed, and the scrip cards will be made available the following week for pick up. It's simple, easy, and a GREAT way to help Kol Ami from the convenience of your own shopping cart.

Any questions can be directed to Religious School PTO co-chairs Kenny Moss (kenny.moss2@comcast.net) and Heather Pelletier (hfppt1@gmail.com) or to Elaine Stevens at the Kol Ami executive office. ■

Amish contentment in their simplistic lifestyle really grounded me and made me rethink aspects of my lifestyle."

As Rebecca Schwartz said, it was "the experience of sharing *Shabbat* and *Sukkot* in a different environment" that intrigued her. "It was a very different experience to be in a *sukkah* on a farm; getting back to the land made it very special."

"Rabbi Holin's very relevant and meaningful description of *Sukkot*" and "the discussions that took place after the meal where the farmers were so honest and generous with their time and communications" were highlights for Karin Schnoll.

Watching Shelley and David Chamberlain engaged in a rich conversation with David and Verna Allen as they walked their fields illustrated how much there

was to learn by bringing communities together. As Shelley said: "What was great was that the Allens were as happy to have us and host us as we were to be there. They changed their farming chore schedule so they could be with us. As they told us about what they were growing, their daughter was munching on kale from the field and her mom told her not to ruin her dinner, by eating fresh kale. If only our kids ruined their dinners eating fresh kale."

Karin Kaplan may have said it best: "I loved spending time with the Amish family and learning about each other's culture, customs, and way of life. While there were so many differences in our fundamental way of life, it was a fascinating process to share each other's life lens. When Verna told us that there is no need for them to pursue a college education, I was ini-

tially shocked, but then on retrospect, the simplicity of their lives is remarkable and in some ways enviable."

With a successful first *Sukkah* in the Fields under our belts and our own ready-to-rebuild *sukkah* stored in the Kol Ami mansion basement, the plan is to make this into an annual tradition. Kathan described what the event meant to Lancaster Farm Fresh when she said: "It was truly moving to see how much this Co-op means to Kol Ami and the Elkins Park CSA. The food was also fantastic! Thank you so much to everyone who made it out."

As Shelley summed up: "I am so looking forward to doing this again as *Sukkot* has taken on a whole new meaning for me!"

Mark your calendars now; the Saturday of *Sukkot* 2012 is October 6. ■

High Holy Day Appeal

Thank you to the following individuals for their generosity during our High Holy Day Appeal:

Benjamin Adams and Gail
Korostoff

Guy and Karol Appel

Bruce and Ellen Asam

Jonathan Auerbach and Karoline
Adler

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker

Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen

Barry and Allison Boise

Gregory Brown and Sara Reiter

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Michael and Sara Chernoff

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Freidman

Joel Edelstein and Elizabeth

McKinstry

William England and Lorie Slass

Janet Felgoise

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-
Fishbein

Mitchell and Jane Goldenberg

Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald

Karen Gurmankin

Meryle Gurmankin

David and Phyllis Harrison

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

David Hyman and Farah Jimenez

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Eric and Adena Johnston

Robert and Renee Jubelirer

Mark and Karin Kaplan

Paul and Ellen Kovnat

Mark Levin and Susan Strong

Benjamin and Jody Long

Jeffrey and Robynn Margasak

John Miles and Sheryl Cohen

Craig and Sharon Myers

Eric and Heather Pelletier

Allan Perry

David and Lisa Petkun

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

Russell Schilder and Jodi Bloch
Schilder

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

Joel and Rebecca Schwartz

Stephen and Ruth Shaffer

Stanley and Doris Starr

Elaine Stevens

Erik Streitwieser

Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser

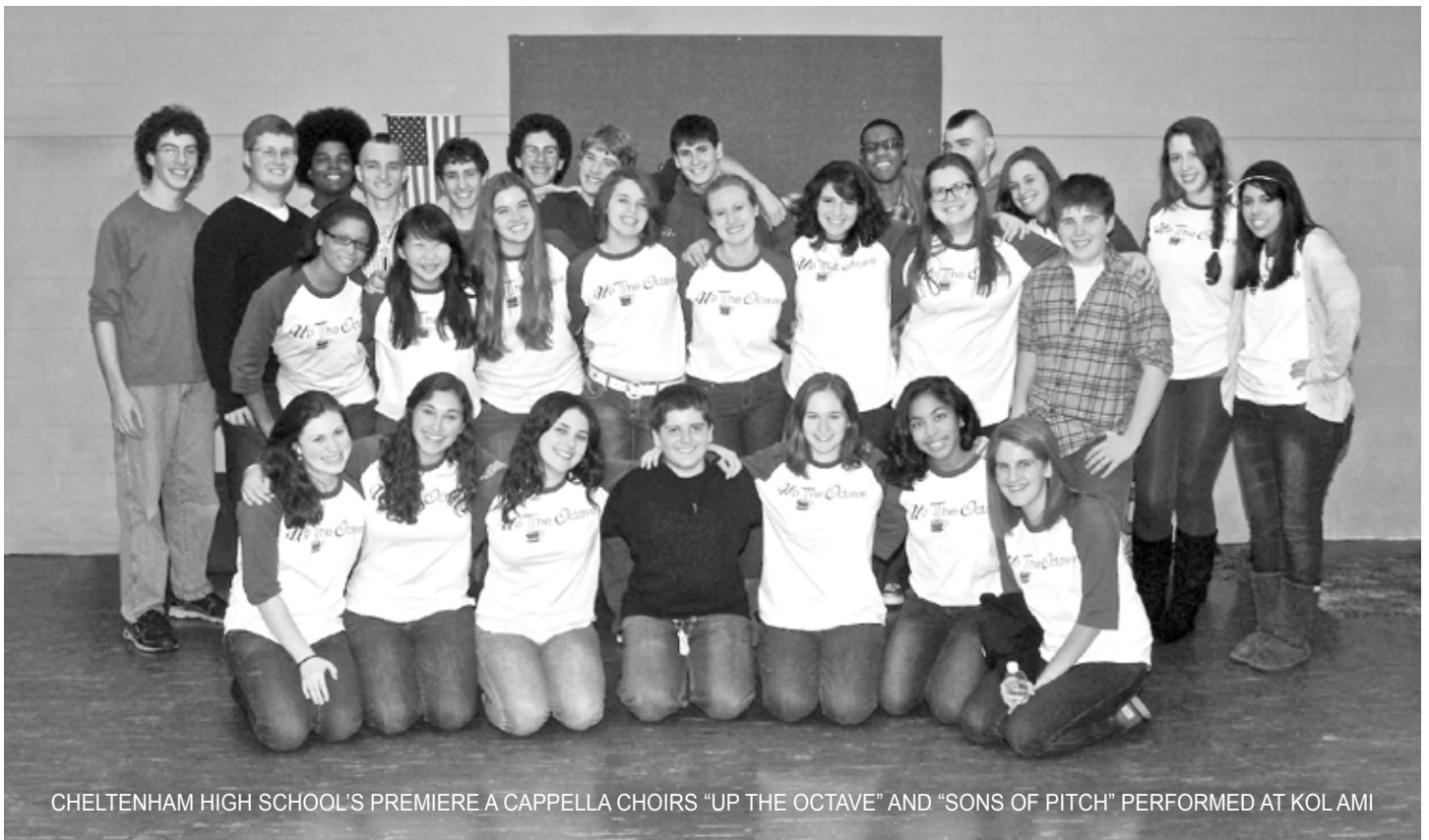
Jane Tausig and Abby Binder

David and Meryle Twersky

Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-
Weiner

Alan and Cheryl Wohlstetter

Morton and Marcia Wolpert ■



CHEL TENHAM HIGH SCHOOL'S PREMIERE A CAPPELLA CHOIRS "UP THE OCTAVE" AND "SONS OF PITCH" PERFORMED AT KOL AMI



Kol Ami members Alan and Norka Kagel, owners of Inka's Hands (Peruvian art) and their nephew, were part of the Craft & Fine Art Show.

The Craft & Arts were topped off with the premier debut of the World *Mitzvah* Mall, highlighting humanitarian organizations that sold items handmade by their clients on behalf of their organization. You can still purchase items from these organizations, as well as the artisans. Visit the Show's Web site at: www.kolamicraftshow.org to contact your favorites.

Saturday evening was extra special with the instrumental and vocal talents of David Zee (Zweiback), and "Dos Guys" Greg Brown and Ron Chmar. Performances by Cheltenham High School's premiere A Cappella choirs "Up the Octave" and "Sons of Pitch" were delightful, and the kids literally stopped traffic as everyone enjoyed their captivating musical interlude (see photo previous page).

The purpose of this Show was to continue Kol Ami's expanding role as a recognized and respected regional-arts hosting center. We were able to reach out, show the community who we are, and invite them through our doors. With almost 600 people attending the Show, we hope to do this again next year!

Many thanks to everyone who surmounted the snow to attend. We hope you enjoy your purchased craft and fine arts items for many years to come. For those hoping to attend next year, be sure to mark Saturday, October 13, and Sunday, October 14, 2012.

Special acknowledgments: Our generous Chai-ly Spirited Sponsors, Elaine Stevens, Nigel Blower and the Craft & Fine Arts Show at Kol Ami Committee members: Elaine Alexander, Karol Appel, Marjorie Backup, Sheryl Cohen, Elaine Gershenson, Meryle Gurmankin, Phyllis Harrison, Lori Iller, Shari Johnson, Donna Leis, Jody Long, Ellen Horowitz Matz, Heather Pelletier, Sara Reiter, and Fran Stember. The Show was a success due to the combined creative talents of everyone involved. ■

THANKS TO OUR CHAI-LY SPIRITED SPONSORS

We appreciate the following sponsors and their support of the 2011 Kol Ami Craft & Fine Arts Show:

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Guy and Karol Appel
Bruce and Ellen Asam
David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen
Gregory Brown and Sara Reiter
David and Shelley Chamberlain
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Ken and Elva Davis
Stephen and Jean Ettinger
Fuhrman Management Associates, Inc.
Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald
David and Phyllis Harrison
Andrew and Shari Johnson
Eric and Adena Johnston
Mark and Karin Kaplan
Kleinbar Bell & Brecker LLP
Paul and Mindy Levy
Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz
John Miles and Sheryl Cohen
Craig and Sharon Myers
Joy Pollock
Marshall and Ilene Schafer
Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar
Jonathan and Fran Stember
Elaine Stevens
David and Meryle Twersky
Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner
Morton and Marcia Wolpert

GOLD SPONSORS

Howard and Nancy Cohen
Jonathan and Sheri Cutler
Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein
Alan and Elaine Gershenson
Karen Gurmankin
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer Langman
Benjamin and Jody Long
Gabriel and Orly Maravankin
Eric and Heather Pelletier
Russell Schilder and Jodi Bloch Schilder ■

Kol Ami Events

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for December Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.

at our *erev Shabbat* Service



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in December, please join us at this special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a December *simcha* under a *tallit* in front of the ark. Watch for your

invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

Rabbi Holin will continue to send personal 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



Rabbi Holin’s **Fast for Darfur**—which supports rescue efforts in Darfur—and **Nothing But Nets** fast—which supports URJ’s project to purchase, distribute, and educate about the proper use of insecticide-treated family bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa—will be on **Tuesday, December 13**, and **Wednesday, January 18**

His **Phast for Philadelphia**—which is on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs, and pay electric bills—will be on **Wednesday, December 28**, and **Monday, January 30**.

Join our rabbi in a fast—or virtual fast—no matter where you are by sending funds that you would have spent on food to help people in need:

Commission on Social Action

Union for Reform Judaism

633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017

(make check payable to the URJ with a memo note “Nothing But Nets”)

Save Darfur Coalition

3246 Solutions Center

Lockbox #773246

Chicago, IL 60677

Unemployment Information Center

112 N. Broad Street, 11th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

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

SECOND ANNUAL JUNIOR YOUTH KALLAH

December 2 - 4, 2011

URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA

Open to all Sixth- to Eighth-Grade Students

If you enjoy meeting new people, learning, singing, and laughing, this event is for you. For further details, contact Alison at kayouthadvisor@gmail.com.

JOIN US TO HEAR BEVERLY ROSEN TALK ABOUT “THE LIST” BY MARTIN FLETCHER

Friday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m.

(at our *erev Shabbat* Service)



One Book, One Jewish Community has chosen “The List” as the book of choice for the highly successful literary program that enjoys the support of all Kehillot and their participating synagogues throughout Greater Philadelphia.

The book is loosely based on the story of Mr. Fletcher’s parents. Having fled the Nazis, a young Austrian couple in 1945 London discovers that for Jews like them, the war did not end with VE Day. While they desperately seek word on the possible survival or whereabouts of family members sent to concentration camps, petitions are being signed by anti-Semites in their neighborhood of Hampstead to “send the aliens home” to clear space and jobs for returning British soldiers. It takes place at a time when the horrific truths of the concentration camps was not widely known, and the false notion that Jews had any “home” to which they could return.

Martin Fletcher worked as a French and German interpreter for the Common Market before beginning his career as a television news programming writer for VisNews in the UK in 1970. He joined the BBC, writing on the main evening news program, returning to VisNews to be a news cameraman. After four years in Belgium, Israel, and Rhodesia, he joined NBC News where he began his career as a cameraman in 1977.

He began his Tel Aviv assignment in 1982, becoming Bureau Chief in 1996. He is currently a NBC News Special Correspondent. He has won five Emmy Awards for his work on the first and second Palestinian uprisings, the horror of war in Rwanda and Kosovo, and then for his story on trauma medicine in Israel.

His other awards include "Breaking News" and "Walking Israel," for which he won a Jewish National Book Award.



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER CONVERSATIONS: "THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK" WITH EDIS HALL

Sunday, December 4, from
11:00 a.m. until Noon

In December, we will commence a new program at the synagogue, offered to enable us to know each other better by hearing from fellow members about interesting avocations, experiences, and studies.

When Edis Hall enrolled in the Drexel Graduate School of Library Science, one of the courses was the History of Libraries. When her professor informed the class that with the exception of monks, there was no learning and no libraries during the "Dark Ages," Edis did research to prove him wrong.

In her words, "The Hebrew library as a concept has had an unbroken and illustrious history. As a physical entity, it has endured a tumultuous and erratic history, but the love of learning and reverence for books, so inbred into the very fiber of Judaic life, has always brought forth new schools, new universities, and new libraries whenever and wherever the old were demolished. Though short-lived, they constituted a bulwark of intellectual freedom that vigorously strengthened a people's will to survive."

The dates of future presenters and topics are:

Date	Presenter/Topic
February 12	Guy Appel "Life Essentials Made Easy"
February 26	Andy Cassel "Great Recession, Little Depression, or New Normal? A Talk about the Economy"
March 25	Steve Ettinger "What is a Jewish Pilgrim and Where Does He Go?"
April 29	Ben Adams "Inspiration and Frustration in Green- Home Building"

EXPERIENCE SHABBAT EXPERIENCES!

Innovative family opportunities during the year—
save the dates!

During the 2011-2012 program year, we will offer several unique *Shabbat* experiences for the entire family, commencing in December.

Daytime programs will begin with a brief *Shabbat* service at 10:00 a.m. and *Oneg* at 11:00 a.m., followed by the opportunity for us to truly celebrate the meaning of *Shabbat* with *mishpachah*, the synagogue family:

- **Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m.**
Docent tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History
- **Saturday, March 17, at 4:00 p.m.**
"Jews in Sports" presentation by Robert Alan Katz as part of our afternoon *Havdalah* service experience
- **Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.**
'Walking Tour of Jewish Philadelphia' with guide Linda Nesvisky
- **Saturday, May 12**
Walk-lunch at High School Park or Avelthorpe Park following the service

continued next page



Welcome to our Gift Store

VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOPPING WEBSITE TODAY @ [HTTP://KOLAMI.JUDAICABEAUTIFUL.COM](http://kolami.judaicabeautiful.com)

Every Purchase
Supports Our Synagogue

6 POINTS SPORTS ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 11, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Kol Ami

Come out and learn about 6 Points Sports Academy. URJ's 6 Points Sports Academy, the nation's premier Jewish Sports Specialty Camp, has trained hundreds of Jewish teenage athletes from all over North America! Located in beautiful Greensboro, NC, 6 Points Sports Academy is housed on the 100-acre, state-of-the-art athletic and camp facilities of the American Hebrew Academy. At 6 Points, young Jewish athletes participate in a unique camping experience that offers top-level sports training and all the beloved traditions of Reform Jewish camping.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Shane Carr, associate director at scarr@urj.org or visit us on the web at www.6pointsacademy.org.

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS BOOK GROUP REVIEW OF "THE COUNTERLIFE" BY PHILIP ROTH WITH LOU BARRETT

Sunday, January 15, at 11:00 a.m.

What if you could choose another life to live, a life different from your own? And what if an ethnic and religious people decide to redefine a stereotypical role?

In Philip Roth's novel "The Counterlife," Henry Zuckerman, a dentist, and his older brother, Nathan, a writer, (Roth's alter-ego from earlier novels) find themselves living alternate versions of the modern Jew. Henry undergoes heart surgery in a mid-life attempt to renew his youthful self. Upon his recovery (or is it his funeral?), he sets out to live in Israel, hoping to transform his life. Abandoning his secularism, Henry becomes a passionate right-wing orthodox Zionist. He moves to the West bank. Nathan, too, embarks on a radical life change and begins to listen to his own heart. Playing fictional tricks on us, Roth, in his sardonic, argumentative style, is preoccupied with what goes on in the conflicted heart of man.

Nathan Zuckerman decides to visit Israel on the eve of the *Yom Kippur* war. In this multi-layered novel, Philip Roth manipulates his characters so that the brothers encounter all aspects of modern society: religion, social anxiety, nationalism, mistrust, love, and self-doubt. His pursuit is a search for identity in a modern, assimilated battleground. Despite his self-mockery, Roth is serious; he shifts perspectives to expose modern Jewish self-splitting. Roth forces his characters to make choices, right or wrong.

In "The Counterlife," Philip Roth shatters comfortable modern life by becoming wickedly funny and provocative. In it, he asks us, and himself, a serious question: What is it to be a Jew in a modern, free society?

STARTING YOUR MEMOIRS

Thursday, January 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. @ Kol Ami

In our *Yom Kippur* discussion group this year, people said they'd be interested in writing down their personal history and its stories—so let's get started! Kol Ami member/writer and writing teacher Janet Falon will facilitate a workshop called Starting Your Memoirs. In this class, you will plan and begin memoir-writing and learn the various approaches to doing so. We will discuss some of the issues of writing a memoir and learn specific writing exercises to help you retrieve your memories and to counter writer's block.

continued next page




Saturday, December 24 Musical Havdalah Service with Dinner & a Movie

Chinese Buffet Dinner - 5:30 p.m.
Sing-a-long - 6:30 p.m.
Havdalah Service - 7:00 p.m.
Movie - 7:30 p.m.

Adult - \$5.00
Child (8 & under) - \$2.50
Nonmember - \$10.00

Please send in your check made payable to
'Congregation Kol Ami' by December 20.
Questions about the event should be
directed to Elaine Stevens, 215-635-3110.



No writing expertise or experience is necessary. And you don't have to be "old"—whatever that means—to write your memoirs. If you have any questions about the class, email Janet at jfalon@english.upenn.edu.

Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by January 15 if you'd like to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

CONGREGATION KOL AMI SUPER BOWL SUNDAY HOAGIE SALE

Sunday, February 5

Planning to host a Super Bowl party or just tired of cooking? We can help! Members and friends of Kol Ami are invited to order hoagies provided by Heritage Hoagies in Huntingdon Valley: Turkey, Tuna, or Cheese. Watch for flyers with more information to be distributed closer to the date.

The ten-inch hoagies can be picked up in the lobby of Kol Ami on Sunday, February 5, at noon. All profits from the sale will be used to support the activities of the Kol Ami Religious School. Questions can be directed to: Robin Warsaw, rkWarsaw@comcast.net; Kenny Moss, km.photos@comcast.net (PTO co-chair); or Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com (PTO co-chair).

SAVE THE DATE

CONGREGATION KOL AMI "PROM NIGHT"

Saturday, March 24



Dust off your old tux, press your favorite prom or bridesmaid dress, shine your dancing shoes, wear a matching corsage, and dance the night away.

This will be ISH event and Religious School PTO fund-raiser to be held in Kol Ami's own social hall. It's guaranteed to be so exciting and fun filled that two Kol Ami groups have joined forces for

a wonderful evening packed with *live* music and frivolity (from Kol Ami's very own energetic Greg Brown & Band).

Watch for flyers with more information to be distributed closer to the date. All profits from the dance will be used to support the activities of the Kol Ami Religious School. Please direct any questions to the following individuals: Sherry Cohen, shcohen361@verizon.net (ISH co-chair), Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com (ISH co-chair/PTO co-chair), or Kenny Moss, km.photos@comcast.net (PTO co-chair). ■

CHERNOFFS HONORED AT TRIBUTE BRUNCH



The State of Israel Bonds Organization, together with Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Keneseth Israel, Congregation Kol Ami, and Old York Road Temple-Beth Am, honored **Michael and Sara Chernoff** at a tribute brunch on Sunday, November 6. The couple was presented with a special award for the long-standing support of the Israel Bonds program and their great involvement with the Philadelphia Jewish community. Congratulations Michael and Sara! ■

COMMUNITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL KEHILLAH OF OLD YORK ROAD HANUKKAH CONCERT: ETZLEINU B'HATZEIR-OD HA-PA-AM!

December 21, at 7:00 p.m. (26, Kislev, 5772)

**Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA**

Plan on attending a *Hanukkah* celebration of the music in our community on the second night of *Hanukkah*. Musicians involved include not only our own Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, but also Hazzan David F. Tilman, Music Director; and Jimmy Costello; Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman; Hazzan Howard Glantz; Cantor Amy Levy; Ross M. Levy; Liz Sussman; and Cantor Elena Zarkh.

The Congregation Kol Ami choir will be singing with 200 youth and adult singers from Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Old York Road Temple-Beth Am, Beth Sholom Congregation, and Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel.

Admission is \$5, and the concert will be followed by *Sufganiyot*/jelly donuts and apple cider.

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DENIM & *Diamonds*

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, January 14, 2012

7pm - 11pm

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

WINNINGS PROVIDED AS RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR FANTASTIC PRIZES!

\$30/person in advance

\$40 at the door

Tickets include \$25 in gaming chips, open bar, light fair and dessert

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT:

Bill England at 215-635-0920 or bilengland@yahoo.com or

Sharon Myers at 215-938-7435 or allentiresm@gmail.com

Send your check to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road,
Elkins Park, PA 19027 with "Casino Night" on the memo line.



Family Bingo Night

Always a night of fun and prizes, the Kol Ami November 5 Bingo Night was no different. Below are just a few of the smiling faces who attended.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

(continued from page 17)



URJ BIENNIAL

December 14-18

Gaylord National Hotel and
Conference Center, National
Harbor, MD (just outside
Washington, DC)

Our congregation is one of more than 900 Reform synagogues in the United States and Canada that are part of the URJ, the largest Jewish movement in North America that represents 1.5 million Jews. The URJ helps sustain Reform Judaism through synagogue life by providing leadership and program ideas on spiritual, ethical, and political issues.

The URJ Biennial welcomes more than 5,000 Jews from across the country to four incredible days of think-tanks, which present the “best of” innovative programs that have engaged and enriched the lives of synagogue members; learning sessions with URJ staff, rabbis, and lay leaders; plenary sessions that welcome inspirational speakers; Jewish youth at the cutting edge of new avenues to engage Jewish identity and community; and the incredible experience of being at a “Biennial *Shabbat*” filled with the spirit of song and voices joined together in joyous prayer.

Rabbi Holin, Cantorial Soloist Rebecca and Joel Schwartz, Ilene Schafer, Ellen Friedman, and Elaine Stevens attended the URJ Biennial in Toronto in 2009 and will be glad to tell you about their experiences, which should whet your appetite for the Biennial in Washington!

To learn more about the Biennial and how to register, go to www.urj.org. ■

Social Action: Five Ways to Help!

For more information, contact Ronit Sugar, committee chair, at 215-208-7027 or ronitsugar@gmail.com.

HANUKKAH FOOD DRIVE

The next time you go shopping at the supermarket, please stop by the Kosher food section and pick up one or more of the following items: *Hanukkah* candles, potato pancake (*latke*) mix, grape juice, bags of fresh potatoes, applesauce, cans of vegetables (low-salt if possible), matzo ball soup mix, cooking oil, chocolate gelt. Drop these off at the synagogue, and they will be delivered to needy Jewish families in the Philadelphia area

ADOPT A FAMILY

Kol Ami is “adopting” a family for *Hanukkah* through Heart-to-Heart, an organization that assists and supports vulnerable Jewish families with compassion and respect in making positive life changes to enhance their quality of life. Services available through Heart-to-Heart include financial support, educational workshops, food subsidies, action planning, support groups, brief life coaching, and others.

Family ‘BB’ is a young couple in their twenties who just got married. Wife BB works in early-childhood education and is working on completing all of her certifications to be a special-education teacher. She is currently working fee-for-service in early intervention, which does not cover their expenses. She is seeking fertility treatments for polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), which cost \$2000 per injection and is currently fighting with her insurance to cover the cost of the treatments.

Husband BB came to the United States from Israel when he was 17. He speaks English, but has trouble reading and writing. As a result, he did not pass the entrance exam at Community College to pursue his Associate’s Degree. He is currently receiving tutoring in English and works as a Hebrew tutor to help with expenses. He eventually wants to pursue a career in Human Services and enjoys working with people.

They are a motivated and determined couple who are trying their best, with the help of Heart-to-Heart and others in the community, to get on their feet.

Items on their “wish list” include:

- A ladies winter coat (long), size medium or a gift card to Burlington Coat Factory
- Gift cards for household items, such as laundry detergent and toiletries (Target/Walmart)

- A gift card for gas to support Wife BB in her employment where she does early intervention at people’s homes all over the region
- Gift card to ShopRite for food, as Wife BB has a limited diet due to the PCOS, and the food available in the *Mitzvah* Food Pantry and JRA is not sufficient.

If you would like to help, you can buy gift cards for the family through our SCRIP program (see page 11); in doing so, you can help this young couple as well as our congregation! Any donations can be dropped off with Elaine Stevens.

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

Sunday, December 18 & January 15

The mission of the Jewish Relief Agency is to assist families according to their individual needs. The agency helps needy families by delivering monthly food packages. The Jewish Relief Agency also provides a unique volunteer experience, allowing people of all backgrounds to come together as a community and work for the benefit of those less fortunate.

JRA food distributions take place one Sunday each month throughout the year at their warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia. From 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., volunteers work together to package kosher, non-perishable food in boxes. After packing, volunteers load their cars and deliver the food packages to each of the recipient families according to pre-determined delivery routes, complete with driving directions and maps. Most delivery routes take between 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

Directions to the JRA Warehouse

**10980 Dutton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
Phone: 215-281-1101**

From Points South via Roosevelt Boulevard (Route 1):

- Take Route 1 North.
- After you pass Red Lion Road, turn RIGHT at the fourth traffic light onto Comly Road and continue for 1.2 miles.
- Turn RIGHT on Dutton Road. (Dutton Road is the next right turn after you pass Decatur Road.)
- JRA is on the right.

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KOL AMI DECEMBER 2011 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 3-4 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Member-to-Member Conversations 11:00 a.m. "The History of the Library for the People of the Book" with Edis Hall New Member Orientation 5:00 p.m. Home of David Baker and Irene Levy Baker.	5 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga Social Action Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m.	6 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7 Nursery School 10:00 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	8 Casino Night Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Nursery School evv Shabbat service with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. All-school evv Shabbat and Consecration Service; Student choir participation 6:00 p.m.	10 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Docent-Led Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History 2:00 p.m.
				1	2 Nursery School evv Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "First-Friday" evv Shabbat Service; Adult choir participation 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker: Beverly Rosen reviewing "The List" by Martin Fletcher	3 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Sarah Boise will read from the Torah and Rosalind Holtzman will give the <i>dvar Torah</i>

KOL AMI DECEMBER 2011 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 11:40 a.m. - Gr K-7 T'filah 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting - 10:00 a.m. Worship Enhancement Committee - 11:00 a.m. URJ 6 Points Sports Academy Open House 5:30 p.m. Senior Youth Group Wii Game Day and Lunch 12:00 p.m.	12 NURSERY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga Fund Development Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.	13 NURSERY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	14 NURSERY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	15 NURSERY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Nursery School Pajama Party 6:00 p.m.
16 NURSERY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	17 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	18 Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Color War Torah Bowl/Hanukkah Bash 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Junior Youth Group Hanukkah Cookie Party 2:00 p.m. at Home of Benny Goldstone in Rydal KATY Hanukkah Party 12:30 p.m.	19 First Night of Hanukkah	20 Nursery School 10:00 a.m. - Jewish Programming No Religious School Winter Break Kehillah Hanukkah Performance at Keneseth Israel 7:00 p.m.
21 Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Color War Torah Bowl/Hanukkah Bash 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Junior Youth Group Hanukkah Cookie Party 2:00 p.m. at Home of Benny Goldstone in Rydal KATY Hanukkah Party 12:30 p.m.	22 Nursery School 10:00 a.m. - Jewish Programming No Religious School Winter Break Kehillah Hanukkah Performance at Keneseth Israel 7:00 p.m.	23 Nursery School 10:00 a.m. - Jewish Programming No Religious School Winter Break Kehillah Hanukkah Performance at Keneseth Israel 7:00 p.m.	24 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Chow Mein Havdalah 5:30 p.m.	25 No Religious School Winter Break
26 No Nursery School	27 No Nursery School	28 No Nursery School No Religious School Winter Break	29 No Nursery School	30 No Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.
31 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	32 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	33 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	34 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	35 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.

Kol Ami Contributions

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations this month:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of:

Michael and Sara Chernoff
Michael and Alice Solomon

Mi'Shehberach:

Beth Johl
David and Phyllis Harrison

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CONFIRMATION FUND

In Honor of:

Bar Mitzvah of Sam Langman
Craig and Sharon Myers

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Herbert Barrett
Herbert and Lucille Barrett

**Our daughter, Sarah, reading
from the Torah**
Barry and Allison Boise

**The birthdays David and Bill
Hyman**
Mark Hyman and Cecilia Brennecke

The Bar Mitzvah of our son, Sam
Charles and Laurie Langman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Michael and Meredith Gevurtz
Bradley Kleger
Bette S. Tiger*

In Honor of:

**The Bar Mitzvah of our
grandson, Sam Langman**
Mort and Myra Friedman

**Our 50th wedding anniversary
and renewal of vows**
Howard and Judy Miller

**Margie and Jayson's second
anniversary**
Stephen and Edythe Victor

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of:

Gerda Frank
Hannah Berger

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Mina Hart

In Honor of:

**Guy and Karol Appel for their warm
hospitality during the holidays**
Michael and Jill Magerman

**Michael and Sara Chernoff as
honorees of Israel Bonds program**
Elaine Stevens

Bar Mitzvah of Sam Langman
*Joel and Rebecca Schwartz
Elaine Stevens*

**William Hyman for his reading of
Torah and his D'var**
David Hyman

**Ellen Horowitz Matz and Craft Show
Committee for a successful show**
David Hyman

In Memory of:

Ben Greenstein
Craig and Sharon Myers

Ethel Hutkin
Robert and Susan Seltzer

Abe Joseph
Craig and Sharon Myers

Stephen Silverman
Elaine Stevens

YOUTH FUND

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Holin, Rebecca Schwartz,
and Elaine Stevens for all their
help with Sam's Bar Mitzvah**
*Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer
Langman ■*

SOCIAL ACTION

(continued from page 20)

From Center City:

- Take Route 676 to I-95N.
- Take exit 35 to merge onto PA-63W/
Woodhaven Road.
- Take the exit toward Academy Road.
- Merge onto Woodhaven Road W.
- Turn LEFT at Academy Road.
- Turn RIGHT at Comly Road and
continue for .2 miles.
- Turn left onto Dutton Road; JRA is
on the right

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

It's getting colder outside, and many people are without warm clothing. Please donate new or clean, gently used winter coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, and blankets for adults and children. Bring your clothing to the synagogue, and it will be donated to the needy people in our area.

SHARE FOOD PACKING

Sunday, December 4, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Help Philadelphia families enjoy a holiday meal this season by packing holiday food boxes at Share Food. SHARE provides food to over 20,000 low-income families a month. This is a great activity for the whole family, ages 8 and up. No Eagles game! Dress warmly!

RSVP to Robin Rifin at 215-635-4326
or robinrifkin@comcast.net.

Directions to SHARE:

- Take Route 1 South to Fox Street exit.
- Turn LEFT at top of the exit onto
Fox Street.
- Follow Fox Street to Hunting Park
Avenue (about three lights) and
turn RIGHT.
- Take Hunting Park (past
Tastykake) to 29th Street.
- Turn right into the SHARE parking
lot. ■



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

TO:



SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA



KOL AMI'S FIRST PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 11, at 9:00 a.m.

8201 High School Road, Elkins Park

Start your day right! Come on out for a hearty breakfast and visit with friends before religious school. We'll be serving pancakes, coffee, tea, fresh fruit, and juice!

In advance: Single \$3 / Family \$12

At the door: Single \$4 / Family \$15

RSVP to Elaine Stevens by Wednesday, December 7, at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS: OPEN TO EVERYONE!