

WORSHIP SERVICES

PHOTOS BY KENNY MOSS







INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM A WINNER!

On October 21, Kol Ami welcomed over 60 people to discuss the unique challenges that arise in interfaith relationships as part of a half-day symposium-The Interfaith Rollercoaster: Navigating the Challenges and Enjoying the Ride. The brainchild of Julie Cohen, co-chair of the Kol Ami Interfaith Relationship Dialogue (IRD), the event included eight separate workshops on a variety of topics including:

Community

- · Dealing with Pain, Loss, and Multiple Traditions
- Bris, B'nai Mitzvah, and Betrothal: The Challenges and Joys of Lifetime Events
- The Unique Joys and Challenges for the non-Jewish Mom
- The December Dilemma and Beyond: Navigating Holidays in an Interfaith Family
- Out of the Mouths of Babes: Young Adults Share their Experience of Growing up Interfaith

Noted author Anita Diamant set the tone for the day, delivering a rousing keynote where she noted: "There is no generic Jewish family, just as there is no generic American family." Workshops were led by local rabbis, Jewish educators and Kol Ami members. One

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SATURDAY, Dec. 1 10:00 a.m. - Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue; Barry Steinbrecher will chant from the Torah on the 45th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah 5:30 p.m. - Martini Havdalah and Spices (see page 12)

FRIDAY, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. erev Shabbat Service to celebrate our "new and new-ish members" on an evening of "First-Friday" blessings and the voices of our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue; potluck lunch following the service

FRIDAY, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. erev Shabbat Service with Grade 3 student participation and the voices of our Student Choir

SATURDAY, Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue;

FRIDAY, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, Dec. 22, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m. erev Shabbat Service; Merle Salkin will give the dvar Torah

SATURDAY, Dec. 29, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue; Bill Shapiro will chant from the Torah and Jeff Cohen will give the dvar Torah

INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM

(continued from page 1)

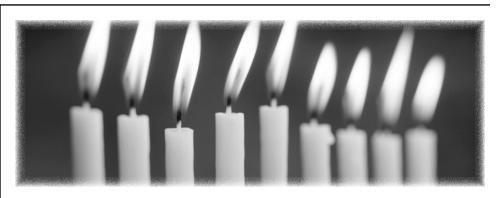
of the most popular sessions included three teenagers, (and Kol Ami members)—Jake Boise, Arin Edelstein, and Maya Hyman—who were raised in interfaith families.

"The Symposium was a natural offshoot of the work of the IRD– where we get together and share stories, strategies, and successes for addressing what it means to be in an interfaith family," said Julie.

Participants joined us from as far away as New York and New Jersey and included both Kol Ami members, members from other local congregations, and unaffiliated people. The attendees gave the day high marks and provided these comments about what they valued about the Symposium:

- "The openness, the warmth, the perspective from experienced individuals in interfaith marriages and the very knowledgeable and compassionate Rabbi."
- "I am so impressed with the work you are doing at Kol Ami and have many thoughts to bring back to my own congregation."
- "The warmth, intelligent conversation, and real interpersonal connections greatly contributed to everyone's experience."

Thanks to all the Kol Ami members who volunteered and participated in the day's activities and a special thanks to Planning Committee members Janine Pratt and Lorie Slass.



LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND SAYING THE BLESSINGS OVER THE HANUKKIAH

FIRST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH (SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8)

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 Sheh'heh'chiyanu is recited or sung:

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יי אֶל'הֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הַעוֹלָם שֶהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam Sheh'heh'chiyanu v'ki'y'manu v'hig'yanu lazmahn 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:

ַבְּרוּדְ אַתָּה יי אֶלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק גֵר שֶׁל חֻנָּבָּה

> Baruch Atah Adonai, Elohiynu Melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvo'tav 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*.

בִּרוּדְ אַתָּה י אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְמַן הַזֶּה

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam Sheh'asah 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. ■

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

At the beginning of the creation narrative in the *Torah*, we read: "The earth brought forth vegetation, seed bearing plants, and trees bearing fruit, with its seed in it" (Genesis 1:12).

One of the most famous prophetic visions of a peaceful future belongs to Micah (8th Century BCE): "All shall sit under their vines and under their fig trees, and none shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4).

In our tradition, the tree is metaphor for wisdom: "To what is anyone whose deeds exceed his wisdom comparable? To a tree whose branches are few but whose roots are many, so that even if all the winds in the world come and blow against it, they cannot budge it from its place" (*Mishnah, Pirkei Avot* 3.22).

We refer to the *Torah* as: "A tree of life for those who hold fast to it" (*Mishkan T'filah Torah* service).

We have beautiful trees behind our house. Let me amend that: we had beautiful trees behind our house. Hurricane Sandy roared through our neighborhood at more than 50 miles per hour, tearing three tall trees out of the ground. The one closest to our back deck was an 80-foot beech tree, and it was my favorite one of them all. This was due to its proximity to our home: its thick trunk was reassuring to behold, and its luxuriant leaves provided shade for our deck as well as a curtain of greenery that veiled the sight of homes across the way. Every year, birds built a nest in a favorite place where a sturdy limb met the trunk, and squirrels ran along branches that were highways leading to leafy interchanges from which, like acrobats, they would jump to the adjacent tree. This particular tree was our delight, and a playground and home for winged and furry-tailed creatures.

On the first night that Sandy announced itself, we heard a loud crack outside, but we didn't feel anything slam into the ground. Early the next morning, I looked outside, and it took a few moments for my brain to register what my eyes saw. The place where our tree welcomed us every day was now just space. I was stunned. I walked onto our deck and saw the tree lying on the ground, and two of its sisters a few hundred feet further out, also fallen. The beech tree landed just 15 feet from our home, parallel to it. Its root ball was massive, measuring almost 20 feet in height, and it must have weighed several tons. I stood next to it in awe, and then I went alongside the fallen tree. I still don't have words to describe how sad I was.

This tall, beautiful creation now lay in state, and not a sound was to be heard. It was as if nature was finally holding its breath. The winds had died down—they would power up later in the day—and there was a stillness bordering on reverence for this majestic, downed Divine handiwork.

Keeping things in perspective, we were fortunate: no damage to human limbs or to our home, in contrast to what people on the coastline and inland have suffered and continue to suffer. We are grateful and humble.

In the Spring, we will plant seeds that will bear trees for the next generation. From loss, wisdom.

Shalom u'vrachah, Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

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

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

Main Office Elaine Stevens, Executive Director 215-635-3110

David Monblatt 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: https://www.facebook. com/kolamielkinspark

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (for example, 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.

TORAH & HAFTARAH

December 1 - *Vayishlach* Genesis 32:4-36:43, Obadiah 1:1-21

December 8 - Vayeshev Genesis 37:1-40:23, Amos 2:6-3:8

December 15 - *Miketz* Genesis 41:1-44:17, Zechariah 2:14-4:7

December 22 - Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27, Ezekiel 37:15-28

December 29 - *Vayechi* Genesis 47:28-50:26, I Kings 2:1-12

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Carole Klein grandmother of Jessica and Matthew Sender

Loretta Sophian aunt of Stephen Pashko

May their memories forever be blessings among our People.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee Meeting are held at the synagogue, unless otherwise noted.

Casino Night Committee

Wednesday, December 5, at 5:15 p.m. Co-chairs: Bill England, 215-635-0920 and Sharon Myers, 215-460-0602

Operations Committee

Sunday, December 9, at 12:15 p.m. Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330 and Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232

Religious School PTO

Sunday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m. Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335 and Heather Pelletier, 215855-3216

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, December 16, at 11:00 a.m. Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672 and Bill Shapiro, 215-517-8666

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



What if we were to ask our Kol Ami children the following question: "Which do you think is most important to Judaism, that you are: a) an A+ student, b) a happy person, c) a good person, or d) an obedient child?

If we are effective in conveying Jewish values, our children will internalize the Jewish preoccupation with the pursuit of justice and the corresponding battle against evil. ("Justice, justice shall you pursue," Deuteronomy 16:20). The Exodus story establishes the Jewish paradigm of partnership between G-d and humans to repair the world. My wish is that our chil-

dren internalize the Jewish view that it is not our obligation to complete the task of healing the world, but neither are we free to desist from doing so (*Talmud, Pirkei Avot*, 2:16).

I believe the greatest contribution our Synagogue can make to repairing the world is to help strengthen the character of our children. Thus for me, the test of our success is more about how our students treat each other than their involvement in a designated worthy cause. If the most vulnerable Kol Ami child is treated with kindness and respect by his or her peers, we have succeeded. The power of this righteous behavior can transform schools, neighborhoods, and maybe even the world.

We have just endured another election cycle. I was again stunned by the harshness of how friends, colleagues, and acquaintances spoke to and about those with differing political opinions. A serious Jewish education will encourage debate and healthy respect for diverse points of view. If Kol Ami children adopt these values, we will be making an important contribution to our community.

Judaism is behavioristic. Hillel famously noted that the *Torah* could be summarized while standing on one foot as: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. The rest is commentary; go and learn." It is not our thoughts, feelings, or intentions that are of significant Jewish concern. Rather, it is our behavior toward other humans also made in G-d's image that most matters to our religion. I trust our children know that what Judaism wants most from them is that their behavior be good in G-d's eyes. <u>Thus</u> congratulate yourself if you selected "C" to my multiple-choice question.

David Hyman 215-496-7224 President@KolAmiElkinsPark.org

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי Membership Drive

Strive for 225!

Strive for 225! is a unique opportunity for you to give the gift of membership and help our congregation reach its goal of 225 families

For a limited time, Congregation Kol Ami will provide FREE guest memberships

How does it work? It's as easy as 1-2-3

YOU refer a member

- Referrals can include friends, relatives, neighbors or co-workers that may be interested in the diverse & welcoming community at Congregation Kol Ami
- Simply complete the form below OR
- Direct referred individuals to the Congregation Kol Ami website at <u>www.kolamielkinspark.org</u> (Click on the "Join Us" link on the homepage)
- REFERRALS receive FREE guest memberships for up to 6 months
 - Guest memberships include services, holiday celebrations, educational events and social events plus much more! (excludes religious school tuition)
- Guest memberships can be used between January and June 2013
- 3

YOU will be entered into a drawing for a **FREE Apple iPad** for each of your referrals

The more referrals you submit, the more opportunities to win!
Winner to be announced at the Annual Member meeting held mid-2013

Congregation Kol Ami Membership Drive: Strive for 225! Member Referral / Entry Certificate for Free Apple iPad

This certificate should be completed by the Kol Ami Member and returned to Elaine Stevens, Executive Director

Member Name:	 Date:
Member Phone Number:	
Guest Member Name:	
Guest Member Mailing Address:	
Guest Member Email Address:	
Guest Member Phone Number:	

Congregation Kol Ami | 8201 High School Road | Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 19027 | (215) 635-3110

CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION FOR ADULTS AT KOL AMI

Star Trek and Judaism

<u>Instructor</u>: David Monblatt, Director of Education, Congregation Kol Ami

Day/Time:

Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. January 31, February 7, 14 & 21 (4 sessions)

This course will boldly explore Jewish values and ethics implanted throughout the Star Trek series. Over the years, the successful franchise has confronted such topics as the nature of evil, atonement, and remembrance, while spotlighting the value of education, the dignity of the individual, and the importance of social justice. The course will examine episodes from Star Trek (the original television series), Next Generation, Star Trek Deep Space Nine, and selected scenes from the films. Please RSVP to the synagogue office (215-635-3110) by January 24.



SH'LAHCHAYNEE - "SEND ME" INDEX CARDS AWAIT YOUR WORDS! INSPIRE US!



Please stop by the synagogue office to pick up a colorful index card and then write on one side a *mitzvah* that you did in the past few months to help an individual or an organization. Describe what you did and why you did it. Inspire everyone who will read your card on our large, colorful *Sh'lahchaynee* banner in the hallway of our religious school. Words of our adults will be added to cards written by our religious school children, and our individual *mitzvot* will be our communal voice in the name of hope and healing.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Religious School heads into December with great excitement. There is much anticipation for our upcoming experiential programs.

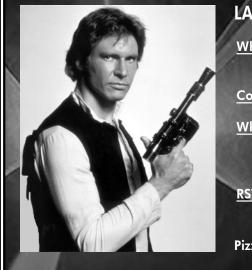
First, Color War continues with points being awarded for in-class participation and achievements. This has been a fantastic reward system for students. Weekly updates to the Color War scoreboard are posted in the school hallway. Two experiential programs are on the horizon for *Hanukkah*. The first is a family Color War program, American *Dreidel* Warrior. This will be a funfilled competition with a variety of events and good food for all. The other is a Wednesday program entitled, Revolt of the *Maccahees*. This program will involve transforming our school into the dreaded Greek Academy, in which the practice of Judaism is no longer allowed. Our students will need to find a way to defeat the evil General Monblatticus and retake their school!

With regard to Hebrew learning, we conducted a Hebrew evaluation for students in grades 4 through 7 on November 18. The purpose of this assessment was to collect data about our students' strengths and areas for improvement, guiding how Hebrew programming will look for our Religious School in the future. For those of you interested in learning more about our curriculum and programming, this year's Program Guide has been distributed to Religious School families and is available in the Religious School office. Feel free to contact us for a copy. This guide will be available for download on our website very soon

David Monblatt 215-635-7106 EdDir@KolAmiElkinsPark.org

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8)

This group has generated a lot of excitement so far this year. Our next event should be awesome—the Senior Youth Group presents...



LASER TAG

<u>When</u>: Sunday, December 2 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$18 per person

<u>Where</u>: Ultrazone 4201 Neshaminy Blvd. Bensalem*,* PA

<u>RSVP</u>: Mr. Monblatt at EdDir@ KolAmiElkinsPark.org

Pizza and beverages will be served!

HANUKKAH CANDLES

Make your holiday season "brighter." The Religious School PTO is selling boxes of *Hanukkah* candles. Each box contains 44 candles and are available for purchase in Congregation Kol Ami's lobby on Sunday. Questions can be directed to: PTO co-chair Heather Pelletier (hfppt1@gmail.com) and/or Religious School Committee co-chair Sherry Cohen (shcohen361@verizon. net).

FUND-RAISER: SAVE THE DATE

It's soon time for Kol Ami Religious School's annual Hoagie Sale for Superbowl Sunday, <u>February 3</u>. ■

KOL AMI SCRIP

Scrip cards are available for *Hanukkah* and the winter holidays. Help Congregation Kol Ami by doing your weekly shopping or purchasing holiday gifts. Here are just a few of the 600 available retailers and services:

Acme, Amazon.com, Avis, Banana Republic, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Best Western, Cheesecake Factory, Claire's, Comfort Suites, Dick's Sporting Goods, the Disney Store, GameStop, The Gap, Giant Foods, Home Depot, iTunes, Journeys, L.L. Bean, Lowe's, Marshall's, Old Navy, Panera, PetSmart, Regal Entertainment, Sears, T.J. Maxx, Talbots, Target, Toys "R" Us, Visa, etc.

Each retailer has various-valued Scrip cards available and have allocated a percentage—from 2 to 15 percent which Kol Ami gets back from each order placed. Kol Ami's Scrip program is available for everyone in the congregation. Forms are available in the Religious School Office or the Executive Office.

Questions can be directed to Elaine Stevens or Religious School PTO co-chair Kenny Moss (glatter.moss@ comcast.net).

My Fabulous Israel Trip

By Danny Fishbein

This summer, I was fortunate to visit Israel with my camp, *B'nai B'rith* Perlman. I received a grant from Kol Ami's Discover Israel Fund for \$1,000, which helped make this trip more attainable. One of the main motivators for any synagogue to send their congregants to Israel is for them to develop a newfound connection to Judaism. In Israel, I was surrounded by the history of Judaism, but that isn't what made this trip the ultimate Jewish experience for me; it was two other factors. Going to Israel with other Jewish kids from a similar background helped me contextualize the Israeli Jewish experience, and it then gave me peers with whom to talk about what we were experiencing. The other thing, perhaps more relevant than the first, is that everywhere in Israel you are surrounded by reminders of Judaism. I couldn't walk a block without reading Hebrew,



a language that for me represents the *Torah* or religion, or without seeing a Judaism-related store, whether it was a Kosher restaurant or a more straightforward *kipah* shop.

In Israel, we got to go through Jewish history. We went for three weeks and saw everything, from the Dead Sea to Israel's Independence Hall to Masada. The idea that you are going through your culture's roots is something you cannot shake as you walk through Israel.

Perhaps the most moving Jewish experience we had on our trip was Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Israel. The word "museum" doesn't do Yad Vashem justice, as it is a complex dedicated to those people who perished and a place where you see all the facets of World War II and the Holocaust. It was one of the more eye-opening experiences on our trip. The tour guide started out with getting our stories and related every exhibit to our family's histories. This connection was what caused most of our group to be moved to tears remembering that six million is not just a number, but that it represents people who shared our core values and were persecuted for doing just that. It brought about the realization, especially at the children's memorial,

> that had we been born a few generations earlier, in the wrong place, we could be a name on that wall just for being ourselves.

> The trip started with a lecture about Israeli geopolitics, something the people on the tour weren't excited about, but it helped us understand where we would be going and why these places were significant, which became increasingly apparent during the trip. We then hiked and visited waterfalls, where we witnessed Israel's natural beauty, while staying in Jerusalem and visiting the Western Wall to get a little idea of Jewish roots in the area. This started off our trip nicely.

> We proceeded to Svat near the Sea of Galilee, where we went for more nature hikes and fun activities, such as white-water rafting. We also spent our first *Shabbat* and *Havdalah* services in Israel, overlooking the Sea of Galilee. During this period, we visited the first *kibbutz* and had many looks into the cultural side of living in Israel on a *kibbutz*. We went on to do some more hikes and see more natural terrain, then traveled back to Jerusalem

where we went to Ben Yehuda Street, the "cultural street" in Jerusalem.

We visited Israeli's Supreme Court right near the Prime Minister's office and got a tour to see how the Israeli government worked. The next day, we visited the Latrun Armed Corps Memorial, where we saw the evolution of Israeli tanks and got a feel for the Israeli army (see photo on previous page). That same day, we visited Mt. Herzl, where many of Israel's prime ministers and war heroes are buried (i.e., Yoni Netanyahu and Golda Meir). The next day, we did our second community-service project. The first was working at the Ethiopian Absorption Center; this one was picking vegetables to feed impoverished Israelis.

That weekend, I stayed with my great uncle, a Zionist pioneer, and met much of my mother's Israeli family. We then were dropped off for the last of the three weeks in Israel. We went on our first 3:00 a.m. hike the next morning to see the sunrise over the Jordan border and Red Sea. We went snorkeling and saw another *kibbutz*. A few mornings later, we climbed Masada at 4:00 a.m. and, then spent the night riding camels and sleeping in the Bedouin tents. Our last stop on the trip was Israel's Independence Hall. After this we went to the airport and came back to camp for five more days to talk about our Israel trip and say good-bye to everybody.

I'm very grateful to Sally and Stewart Eisenberg for generously creating the Discover Israel Fund at Kol Ami, which enabled me to enjoy the best summer of my life by experiencing Israel with my camp friends.

My Awesome Trip to Prague, Poland & Israel

By Leslie Levin

This summer, I went on a trip to Prague, Poland, and Israel with an organization called NFTY [North American Federation of Temple Youth]. This particular trip was designed to convey what millions of Jews have encountered throughout history.

We started in Prague, in the Czech Republic. We walked through the old Jewish Quarter of the city; it was there that Hitler wanted to create "The Museum of an Extinct Race"



because he planned to wipe the Jewish people off the face of the earth. Prague was once densely populated with Jews; we visited graves, memorials, and temples that they once worshipped in. Then after four days, we took a bus to Poland.

In Poland, we went to many historical places; Schindler's

Factory, the small ghetto where all Polish Jews were moved, several synagogues, and Auschwitz. Being in Poland was very hard for me, and one of the strangest experiences I had was in Auschwitz. No one talked much, we just listened. It was a warm, bright day with a slight breeze, not a cloud in the sky, and along the outside of the complex there were beautiful white-barked trees and lush green grass throughout. I found it insane that millions of people, my people, died here, and yet life could just go on. We finished out that week with *Shabbat* and then headed off to Israel, like many Jews did after the Holocaust.

After one of the longest flights I've ever been on, I arrived to a hot, dry slice of paradise we call Israel. I met soldiers, hiked through then Negev Desert, and then hiked across Israel, from sea to sea. I made friends with Israeli kids my age, shopped through marketplaces, picked up some of the language and culture, and visited possibly every holy site throughout Israel for a month. My group and I also learned about other religions that are prominent in parts of Israel, including Islam and Druze.

One of my favorite moments was watching the sunrise on Mount Masada. We got up at 3:00 a.m. and hiked up the Roman ramp to Masada. It was tiring, hot, and probably the last thing that I wanted to do at three in the morning, but the view was breathtaking. Besides being beautiful, it gave me an accomplished feeling being surrounded by my friends, and it made me aware of how Judaism brings us all together.

In Israel, I felt like a new person, open to meeting new people and trying new and unfamiliar things, without just passing judgment. After my experience traveling through Israel, I have a new appreciation for it. It made me really think about how the Jewish community might seem small on a global scale, but in my life, it knows no boundaries.



THIRD ANNUAL CRAFT & FINE ARTS SHOW A REAL SUCCESS!!!

"This event keeps getting better and better..." raved one attendee at the third annual Craft & Fine Arts Show @ Kol Ami. The sanctuary was "aglow" and the hallway "alight" in a festival of the arts. The 2012 event showcased over 50 local and regional artisans, including jewelers, photographers, and woodworkers, plus the unique talents of puzzle, pressed-flower, and calligraphy artists. On Saturday evening, attendees were entertained by the musical talents of pianist Cory Newman (Kol Ami member), Cheltenham High School's A Cappella choirs: Up the Octave and Sons of Pitch (featuring Evan Brown, Kol Ami member), "Dos Guys" Greg Brown (Kol Ami member) and Ron Chmar, and guitarist David (Zee) Zweiback. Throughout the show, we featured our second annual World *Mitzvah* Mall, highlighting humanitarian organizations selling handmade items to benefit their cause. Purchases can still be made from both these organizations, as well as the artisans, by visiting the show's website at www.kolamicraftshow.org.

Special Acknowledgements to our generous *Yediday* Kol Ami Sponsors; *Chai-ly* Spirited Sponsors; Nigel Blower; Greg Brown; Shelley Chamberlain; Lia Hyman; Elaine Stevens; JJ Surkin; and the Craft & Fine Arts Show @ Kol Ami Committee members: Elaine Alexander, Karol Appel, Marjorie Backup, Jane Finkle, Elaine Gershenson, Meryle Gurmankin, Phyllis Harrison, Shari Johnson, Donna Leis, Jody Long, Ellen Horowitz Matz, Heather Pelletier, Sara Reiter, Fran Stember, and Fran Surkin. 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 2012 Kol Ami Craft & Fine Arts Show:

Platinum Sponsors

Guy and Karol Appel Barry and Allison Boise Michael and Sara Chernoff Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman Fuhrman Management Associates, Inc. Brad and Bonnie Goldstein David Hyman and Farah Jimenez Andrew and Shari Johnson Jerry and Marsha Schwartz Jeremy and Laura Wintroub

Gold Sponsors:

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker Gregory Brown and Sara Reiter David and Shelley Chamberlain Julie Cohen Coaching, LLC Stephen and Jean Ettinger Suzanne Feld Alan and Elaine Gershenson Ray and Sis Grenald David and Phyllis Harrison Eric and Adena Johnston Mark and Karin Kaplan Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer Langman Paul and Mindy Levy Benjamin and Jody Long Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz John Michel and Jane Finkle Craig and Sharon Myers Joy Pollock Marshall and Ilene Schafer Russell Schilder and Jodi Bloch Schilder Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar Stanley and Rita Siegel Elaine Stevens Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser

Simchat Torah Celebration

On Sunday, October 7, our young adults and adults celebrated a very special *erev Simchat Torah* service as they read or chanted the "personal verses" that they celebrated at their *Bar or Bat Mitzvahs* years ago! Our three *Torah* Scrolls were carried around the sanctuary to the sound of joyful singing and held aloft to be read or chanted. As each person completed his or her verses, the *yad* was handed to the next person. We're already looking forward to next year's event!



Kol Ami Events

MARTINI 'ADULTS-ONLY' SERVICE AND SPICES

Saturday, December 1, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We'll supply the hors d'oeuvres and you supply the mixing devices, hard liquor, and mixers (and/or beer or wine). Causal attire is appropriate for this service.



5:30 p.m. - Martinis and Hors d'oeuvres 7:00 p.m. - Singing and *Havdalah* Service 7:30 p.m. - Continued Celebration

So that we can ensure enough hors d'oeuvres for everyone, RSVP to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@ kolamielkinspark.org.

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE for December Birthday and Anniversary Blessings Friday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.

at our "New and Newish Member" Shabbat Service

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in December, please join us at our special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with December *simchas* 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 **Nothing But Nets** fast this month—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 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 **Thursday, December 6**. 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:

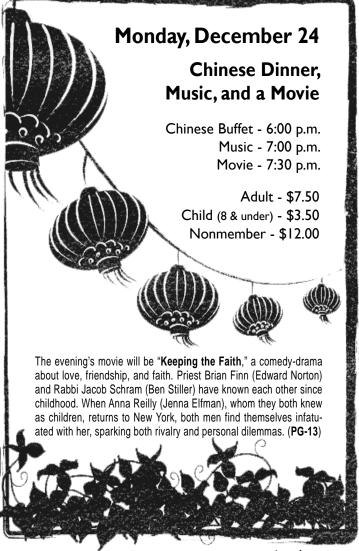
Commission on Social Action

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')

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')



continued next page



Thai Cuisine

759 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA (215) 663-1495

Friends & Families of Congregation Kol Ami Looking for a tasty dinner suggestion: Stop by between the hours 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 Bring a copy of this flyer to White Elephant and 20% of your "dinner menu" order total will be generously donated back to Kol Ami. White Elephant has wonderful food and a cozy dining area. Stop in for dinner or take-out your order & bring it back home.



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

CONGREGATION KOL AMI



Saturday, January 12, 2013 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 215-460-0602 or sharonmyers381@gmail.com Send your check to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 with "Casino Night" on the memo line.



MEMBER-TO-MEMBER Conversations



"YOU'RE IN THE (ISRAELI) ARMY NOW" Sunday, January 13, at 11:00 a.m. presented by Bart and Nadine Weiner

Come hear fellow congregants Bart and Nadine Weiner share their experience of spending two weeks volunteering in the Israeli Defense Force. Bart and Nadine participated in the Volunteers for Israel (VFI) program last March, living and working side by side with young Israeli soldiers on an Army base in the north of Israel.

In this Kol Ami Member-to-Member program, you will hear about the excitement, challenges, and deep meaning of a truly immersive experience in the land of Israel. You will also learn about the history and scope of the VFI program; how you might participate, if interested; and what to expect if you do choose to volunteer. Join us for this interesting and informative discussion.

RESCHEDULED, DUE TO HURRICANE SANDY! **THE LIFE AND WORDS OF REB NACHMAN OF BRESLOVE** Thursday, January 24, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Presented by Carol Nemeroff

We welcome Ms. Nemeroff under the auspices of our Congregation's Spiritual Growth Group to speak about Reb Nachman, a great-grandson of the Baal Shem Tov and founder of the Breslov Hasidic movement.

Ms. Nemeroff studied at the Lev Shomea program in Jewish spiritual direction. She has shared similar programs at Congregation Beit Tikvah in Baltimore. She has also been a special education teacher and principal of a Jewish day school as well as elementary and middle public schools. She spent a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer and as a consultant in Washington, DC, schools.

Join us to learn about a Hasidic master as Ms. Nemeroff shares his writings and discusses their relevance today.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL SHIR SHABBAT SERVICE LED BY THE WOMEN OF OUR CONGREGATION January 25, at 7:30 p.m. at our erev Shabbat Service

At this service, we express our gratitude to the women who led us in song through the Sea of Reeds on our way from Egypt to Mount Sinai.

This week's *Torah* Portion, *B'shalach*, has the stirring words, "Then Miriam, the prophet, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand-drum, and all the women went out after her in dance with hand-drums, and Miriam chanted, 'Sing to the Eternal!" (Exodus 15:20-21).

Join us to sing (and dance around the sanctuary!) at this very special service. See the flyer on page 16.

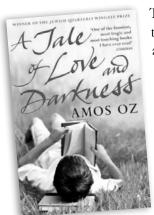
SAVE THE DATE **TU B'SHVAT SEDER** Saturday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Elkins Park Hazon CSA. Watch for more information in the January bulletin.

"A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS" BY AMOS OZ

Sunday, January 27, at 11:00 a.m.

Another Great Book to be Discussed at Lou Barrett's Book Group



Tragic, comic, and utterly honest, this extraordinary memoir is at once a great family saga and a magical self-portrait of a writer who witnessed the birth of a nation and lives through its turbulent history.

This is the story of a boy growing up in the war-torn Jerusalem of the 1940s and 1950s, in a small apartment crowded with books in 12 languages and relatives speak-

ing nearly as many, his mother and father, both wonderful people, were ill-suited to each other.

When Oz was twelve-and-a-half years old, a tragedy changed his life. A rebellious adolescent, the boy leaves the constraints of the family and the community of dreamers, scholars, and failed businessmen. He joins a *kibbutz*, changes his name, marries, has children, and finally becomes a esteemed writer as well as a leader in Peace Now, an active agent in the political and literary life of Israel.

continued next page



SHIR SHABBAT

"And the women dancing with their timbrels followed Miriam as she sang her song..."

-Debbie Friedman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, AT 7:30 P.M.

Please join us at our second annual *Shir Shabbat* (Song of *Shabbat*) service led by the women of our congregation in gratitude to the women who led us in song through the Sea of Reeds (that week's *Torah* Portion) on our way from Egypt to Mount Sinai. This service will also feature music by female composers.

Contact Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz (rebeccasongs@verizon.net or 215-572-6094) if you would like to participate in this wonderful service by leading us in English or Hebrew readings. Mothers and daughters are encouraged to participate together.

P.S. Men in the congregation are welcome and encouraged to join us!

NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE WELCOME THE KAUFMANS

Let's say *shalom* to new members Amy Schlein Kaufman, Scott Kaufman, and their daughters Madeline Anne (who will turn 5 years old before Thanksgiving) and Bree Ariel (who was born just this past March).

Amy and Scott became acquainted with Kol Ami by attending High Holy Day services last year. They felt very comfortable with Rabbi Holin and the environment of the congregation, and later decided to have Bree's baby-naming ceremony at Kol Ami this past May. They officially joined in September and were with us again for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*.

Amy and Scott grew up locally in Huntingdon Valley and were high school sweethearts. Currently, Amy is a Head Start teacher in Philadelphia. Scott is director of photography and teaches television and film making at The Philadelphia High School for Creative Art. In their down time, they enjoy traveling, the beach, cooking, cars, and football!

We warmly welcome Amy, Scott, Madeline Anne, and Bree Ariel to our family!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We're delighted to have these new member families also in our Kol Ami community:

- Jason and Rachel Loy, and their children Natalie, Emily, and Ethan.
- Abby and Christopher Manser and their children Brady and Eden ■

Heritage N Take me out to the Hockey Game!!! Makes a Great Hanukkah Gift





Saturday February 9, 2013 @ 7:05pm VS.



Join your friends from Congregation Kol Ami for a fun night of minor league hockey! Tickets are only \$15 and part of the proceeds go towards our wonderful Religious School! Invite your friends!!

Only a 30 minute drive from Elkins Park, Arena Address: 81 Hamilton Avenue Trenton, NJ

Please send your check payable to Congregation Kol Ami to the office. Questions? Call Gary Sender 215-661-1980

Please respond by Jan 10th or early Dec or before if you want for Hanukkah



Social Action Opportunities

HANUKKAH FOOD DRIVE

Bring any or all of the following by December 2:

Apple Sauce, Candles, Chocolate Gelt, Cooking Oil, Dreidels, Grape Juice, Latke Mix, Matzo Ball Soup Mix, Bag of Fresh Potatoes, and Canned Vegetables

Kosher and low-sodium products are appreciated! The Collection point is in the Religious School Hallway. Food is donated to the *Mitzyah* Food Pantry.

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

During the months of November, December, and January, please bring your CLEAN and gently used winter coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, and other cold-weather clothing to Kol Ami.

These items will be collected and donated to the homeless and needy people in Philadelphia.

HANUKKAH WEEK OF GIVING SOCIAL-ACTION EVENT



On <u>Sunday, December 16, from 1:00</u> to 3:00 p.m., help Philadelphia Families enjoy a holiday meal by packing holiday food boxes through the SHARE Food Program, located at 2901 West Hunting Park Avenue in Philadelphia. SHARE provides food

to over 20,000 low-income families each month. This is a great activity for the whole family, ages 8 and up.

RSVP to Robin Rifkin at 215-635-4326 or robinrifkin@ comcast.net if you would like to help.

Map: http://sharefoodprogram.org/contact

Directions to SHARE:

- Route 1 South to Fox Street exit. At top of the exit, turn left onto Fox Street.
- Follow Fox Street to Hunting Park Avenue (about three lights) and turn right.
- Take Hunting Park to 29th Street. Turn right into the SHARE parking lot.

The warehouse is often chilly, so dress appropriately!

HEART TO HEART



Heart to Heart is a program at the Klein JCC that works with vulnerable Jewish families to increase self-sufficiency and improve quality of life over one year. Families that come to Heart to Heart may or may not qualify for public entitle-

ments, and may or may not be connected with other social service agencies. A common theme among Heart to Heart families is shame; families feel ashamed and embarrassed to ask for help and are often struggling in silence. Heart to Heart works to be sensitive and honor the family's pride, while empowering them to make changes to improve their situation.

The Hillman* is a family of four (sons ages 17 and 22), two of whom have had been diagnosed and treated for cancer over the last two years. The medical bills have been crippling for them and have added an additional burden. Mr. Hillman works full time as a car salesman, but earns commission only, out of which his health insurance is deducted, leaving him with low take-home pay. Despite her own illness, Mrs. Hillman recently completed a Certificate in Child Development in the summer of 2012 and recently began working full time in a child care position to support the family and work on decreasing their debt. Affording new clothing for her job has been difficult. While their financial situation is gradually improving, they struggle to meet their monthly expenses and can rarely purchase anything extra; necessities feel like luxuries when they are able to afford them.

Please purchase and donate an item from the wish list below. Items can be give to Ronit Sugar or Elaine Stevens:

- Gift card to grocery stores: Shop Rite, Giant, or Acme
- Gift card for clothing: Sears, Target, Walmart, or Burlington Coat Factory
- Gift card for gasoline: Sunoco, Exxon, etc.
- Gift card/voucher for four movie tickets for a family outing

*The name has been changed to protect the family's confidentiality.



THANK-YOU, CONGREGATION KOL AMI!

On behalf of our recipients, we extend our sincerest appreciation to Congregation Kol Ami for your participation in the 2012 High Holiday Food Drive and collecting 700 pounds of vegetables! Your efforts were an integral part of this year's successful food drive and will directly benefit the recipients of Federation's *Mitzvah* Food Project. With your support, approximately 50 synagogues were able to collect a total of approximately 40,000 pounds of food that will be distributed through our five pantry sites over the next few months, and we could not have done this without you.

We will post our collection totals next week on our website at www.jewishphilly.org/mfp. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any other feedback or questions. Together, we can end hunger in our community.

Laurie Franz Advisory Committee Co-chair



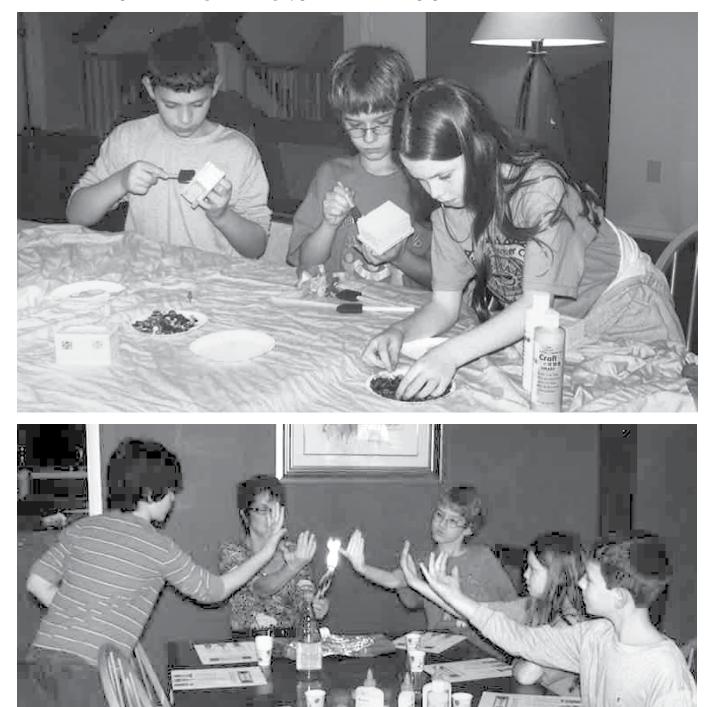
HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

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 Andrew August and Barbara Fink David Baker and Irene Levy Baker Rob and Lauren Bier Abby Binder and Jane Tausig Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen Barry and Allison Boise Andrew Cassel David and Shelley Chamberlain Michael and Sara Chernoff Brad and Julie Copeland Joel Edelstein and Elizabeth McKinstry Suzanne Erlick Janet Felgoise Edith Frumin Alan and Elaine Gershenson Elizabeth Grenald David and Phyllis Harrison Harold and Shirley Horowitz William Hyman and Janine Pratt Andrew and Shari Johnson Robert Jubelirer Mark and Karin Kaplan Paul and Ellen Kovnat Mark Levin and Susan Strong Leon and Harriet Lubowitz Jeffrey and Robynn Margasak Howard and Judy Miller Craig and Sharon Myers Cory Newman Allan Perry Jack and Marsha Petcove Marshall and Ilene Schafer Russell Schilder and Jodi Bloch Schilder Jerome and Marsha Schwartz Joel and Rebecca Schwartz Gary Sender Jim and Rosaline Shane Elaine Stevens Erik Streitwieser Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser Jeffrey and Robin Warsaw Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner Jeremy and Laura Wintroub Alan and Cheryl Wohlstetter Morton and Marcia Wolpert

Junior Youth Group Havdalah

Fourth- and fifth-grade religious school students enjoyed a "Spicy" *Havdalah* Night at Aaron Blower's residence in Elkins Park on Saturday, November 17, as they celebrated with special rituals that end *Shabbat*, including blessings, braided candles, spices, and songs, following by pizza, a movie, and popcorn!



	KOL AMI		DECEMBER 2012 AT A GLANCE	2 AT A (GLANCE	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Barry Steinbrecher will chant from Torah on 45th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah Martini "Adults-Only" Havdalah 5:30 p.m.
2	3	4	2 9		2	8
Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting - 10:00 a.m. Senior Youth Group Laser Tag @ Ultrazone 4:00 p.m.	Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Dr. Simcha Raphael 7:30 p.m.	Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Casino Night Committee Meeting 5:15 p.m.		Nursery School erev Shabbat Hanukkah Sing-a-long with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "New(ish) Member" erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. "First-Friday" blessings; Adult Choir participation 6:45 p.m Dinner	<u>HANUKKAH</u> <u>HANUKKAH</u> Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Potluck lunch following service
6	10	11	12 1	13	14	15
Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m Family Color Warrior" Warrior" 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal Operations Committee Meeting 12:15 p.m.	Nursery School Yoga 9:30 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Dr. Simcha Raphael 7:30 p.m.	Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.		Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m BYOD Grade 3 and Student Choir participation	<i>Shabbat</i> Service and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m.

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.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

Bat Mitzvah of Abigail Brown Rebecca Schwartz

Rebecca Schwartz for her help in preparing Efron Danzig for his Bar Mitzvah Beth Levine and Joseph Rabinowitz

Rebecca Schwartz *Allan Perry*

Special anniversary of my parents, Morton and Marcia Wolpert Rebecca Schwartz

In Memory of:

Stuart Appel *William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND

In Honor of:

The leadership and vision of the Interfaith Symposium by Julie Cohen William Hyman and Janine Pratt

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Our special anniversary *Herbert and Lucille Barrett*

Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Abigal *Gregory Brown and Sara Reiter*

Birthdays of our son, Austin, and daughter, Addison, and our special anniversary Brad and Julie Copeland

Bar Mitzvah of my son, Efron Beth Levine

Birthday of our daughter, Kathryn Christopher Lundeen and Cindy Marselis

Special birthday of Jane Pace *Vincent and Jane Pace*

Our special anniversary Morton and Marcia Wolpert

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Steve Leshner and Ivy Silver

In Honor of:

Bat Mitzvah of Shaina Perry and Congregation Kol Ami's 18th year *Sheila Bubby' Berland*

In Memory of:

Frannie Epstein Louis and Barbara Cohen

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Judith Z. Grossman Stuart and Deborah Poppel Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom In Honor of:

Karol Appel, Ellen Horowitz Matz, and the Craft and Fine Arts Show Committee David Hyman

Special anniversary of Herbert and Lucille Barrett Michael and Sara Chernoff

Special birthday of Shelley Chamberlain Elaine Stevens

Julie Cohen and the Interfaith Roller Coaster Symposium Committee David Hyman

Janine Pratt and Lorie Slass for the amazing contribution to the Interfaith Symposium Julie Cohen

Elaine Stevens William Hyman and Janine Pratt Beth Levine and Joseph Rabinowitz

Morton and Marcia Wolpert *Michael and Sara Chernoff*

In Memory of:

Frannie Epstein *Elaine Stevens*

Mary Meller Craig and Sharon Myers





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

TO:



AN EASY WAY FOR YOU TO SUPPORT THE KOL AMI NURSERY SCHOOL



Federation Early Learning Services (FELS), our preschool partner, has been successful over the past several years raising additional dollars via the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania's Donor Option Program.

Many of you are already contributing to the United Way individually or through your workplace campaign. FELS would like to expand their donor option outreach to members of Congregation Kol Ami. The funds would be used to support the preschool program to more fully develop enrichment programs (Early Literacy, Music, Sign Language, etc.) or to offset deficits that may be incurred. Promoting the Donor Option Program benefits the bottom line of both of our organizations. Involvement in FELS United Way campaign is an ideal way for the Congregation to show our support of the nursery school without undermining any of our fundraising campaigns.

We hope you will designate the Federation Early Learning Services as your United Way donor choice.

FELS' donor option numbers are:

Local.....#44 State.....#4101-0089 Federal......#16951

Your tax-deductible contribution, in any amount, will help all of our children.