



WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, February 3, 7:30 p.m. *Shir Shabbat* Weekend - A *Shabbat*

in Song: Join us as we celebrate our female-led *erev Shabbat* Service in honor of Miriam and other noble women in the *Torah* who sang "Sing unto the Lord!" as we made our way through the Sea of Reeds, the theme of this week's *Torah* Portion (see page 12) plus our "First-Friday" birthday and anniversary blessings in front of the ark; our Adult Choir will add their voices

SATURDAY, February 4, 10:00 a.m.

***Shir Shabbat* Weekend** continues as women in our congregation lead the service, chant from the *Torah*, and offer the *dvar Torah* in honor of Miriam as well as all the Shifras and Puahs* in our midst (*see Exodus 1:15-19 to learn more about these heroic women)

FRIDAY, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Chai Notes! *erev Shabbat* Service; our Student Choir will add their voices

SATURDAY, February 11

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

4:00 p.m. - Congregation *Havdalah* Service (see page 12)

SUNDAY, February 12, 1:00 p.m.

Healing Service (see page 12)

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TU B'SHVAT SEDER: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Join the Elkins Park Hazon CSA community for our Fifth Annual *Tu B'Shvat Seder* at Congregation Kol Ami. Learn, be inspired, sing, taste symbolic fruits

and nuts, drink four cups of wine, and eat a delicious vegetarian soup-and-salad dinner as we celebrate the "New Year of the Trees."



Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the *Seder* starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your own reusable or biocompostable place settings: plate, soup bowl, spoon, fork, drinking cup, wine glass, dessert plate, and napkin.

There is no charge for Elkins Park Hazon CSA members; the cost for non-CSA members is \$7.

Space is limited and registration is required. Please RSVP with the number of adults and children to hazonCSA@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110 by Friday, February 3. ■

A NEW MINHAG TRADITION AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

We always welcome people who are not members of our synagogue to attend our worship services, and in recognition of the fact that some of them might be mourners or who wish to acknowledge the yearly observance of the death of a loved one, Rabbi Holin will say the following before *Kaddish* is recited:

"If you are here to observe *Kaddish* or *yahrzeit* for a loved one or friend whose name was not recited [prior to reading the *Kaddish*], we welcome you to share his or her name now so that our prayer is said in the full spirit of community." ■

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, February 18, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

There will not be a late service this evening due to our Nursery School's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

SATURDAY, February 25, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service; our Grade 10 students will share their thoughts and engage us in dialogue about "God, Shabbat, and Rituals" ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

February 4 - Beshallah

Exodus 13:17-17:16

Judges 4:4-5:31

February 11 - Yitro

Exodus 18:1-20:23

Isaiah 6:1-7:6

February 18 - Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18

II Kings 11:17-12:17

February 25 - Terumah

Exodus 25:1-27:19

I Kings 5:26-6:13 ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Coleman Nadler

uncle of Adena (Eric) Johnston

James D. Samter

husband of Sheryl

father of Scott Samter and Stacey Jacobson

Bruce Singer

uncle of Jennifer (Erik) Streitwieser

May their memories forever be blessings among our People. ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"PLAYBOY."

I begin my monthly message with a reference to this prominent publication for two reasons. First, I am desperate to increase my Kol Ami Bulletin readership. Second, the November 1976 edition of "Playboy" had a major impact on my Jewish education. Don't worry, I'm not advocating that Rabbi Kalev order subscriptions for our Religious School.

That particular "Playboy" edition included an interview with the then-future president, Jimmy Carter. It was a bombshell because in response to a question regarding his marital faithfulness, the ex-Georgia governor admitted that he had "looked on a lot of women with lust" and had "committed adultery in my heart many times." For this, he sought and received G-d's forgiveness.

The Jewish response was poignant and powerful. Viewed through a Jewish lens, Carter's "confession" made no sense. I recall one Jewish commentator noting that when it comes to adultery, the heart is not the body part that concerns us. An Orthodox Rabbi said it most succinctly: "lust, shmust!"

This was a liberating moment for me. I began to appreciate that while Judaism holds me accountable for my behavior, it does not hold me accountable for my thoughts and feelings. This value system is premised on a wise understanding of the human condition: We truly cannot control our thoughts and feelings. G-d does not expect us to live up to a standard that our nature precludes us from successfully achieving. Judaism is focused on our conduct so there is no need to feel badly or guilty over unbecoming thoughts or feelings.

Jewish writer Dennis Prager cites the Fifth Commandment as evidence of Judaism's focus on behavior. "Honor your father and your mother so that your days will be lengthened on the land that I give you." The choice of the word "honor" is significant. The *Torah* recognizes that the parent-child relationship is critical to society's health; it also acknowledges the emotional complexity inherent to the relationship. Not every child can love her/his parents. This is the sad truth implicitly recognized by the *Torah*. Nonetheless, children owe their parents honorable conduct.

Moreover, Judaism appreciates that this can be a difficult obligation. The Hebrew word for the words "honor" (*kavod*) and "heavy" (*kaved*) both consist of the identical letters (*caf, vuv dalei*). Prager concludes that "honor" means "treating one's parents with the gravity that their position demands."

Just as Judaism does not hold us accountable for our thoughts and feelings, Judaism expects that we will not be ruled by them (I can only imagine what my diet would look like if I ate only what I felt like eating.) Judaism teaches that our values should guide our behavior, and for our behavior, we are accountable. I often think of this point when I hear Rabbi Holin make the argument

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

I WORRY FOR OUR NATION.

The debates that precede State primaries are contentious and lack civility. The process is akin to the hazing of fraternity pledges that was once the norm. Short of physical indignities, the daily ritual on the campaign trail is filled with sarcasm, character-bashing and put-downs. I have been conditioned to anticipate it, though I can barely stomach it. If this is all that we have to endure, we would say *dayenu*, but we are plumbing new depths.

One candidate welcomes volunteers from anti-Zionist groups, far-right militias, and white nationalists. His rationale for doing so is that he can convert them to his views, and he has so far refused to disavow them. Have you ever tried to have a rational discussion with a bigot or racist in an effort to engage him in dialogue about a viewpoint contrary to his? I attempted to do so decades ago with a neo-Nazi during a street demonstration—admittedly not the most conducive site to have made the attempt, but where else was I going to run into him?—and it was a lesson in futility, frustration, and rage. Is there a disconnect if a candidate claims that he is not a bigot or a racist, but accepts support from the white nationalist group Stormfront? A startling number of young Americans are volunteering their time to the campaign of a candidate who welcomes those who would have us—and not just us, by the way—return to the ghetto at gunpoint.

At the same time, we are seeing a surge of fundamentalist religious doctrine preached in public schools in the South: teachers at a high school in Pensacola, Florida, cited the Bible as fact in classes; teachers in Sumner County, Tennessee, led students in prayer and Bible study, and allowed Gideons International—the folks who provide Bibles that you find in hotel rooms—to distribute Bibles during school hours; a school principal in Baltimore held prayer services to help students prepare for tests; at New Heights Middle School in Jefferson, South Carolina, an evangelist who often speaks at schools because he believes “that we should try to get our relationship with Christ back into the [public] schools” quoted the school’s principal as saying: “I want these kids to know that eternal life is real and they’re going to hear it today.” I refer you to “The New York Times” article ‘Battling Anew Over the Place of Religion in Public Schools’ (12/28/2011). One can only wonder and worry how candidates will pander to this incursion on the rights of students and parents who wish public school class time to be religion-neutral.

In *Pirkei Avot*—a tractate of the *Talmud*—we read these words: “Pray for the welfare of the government, for without the fear of it, people would swallow one another alive.”

The feeding line is forming on the right.

Shalom u'vrachah,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

for trying *Shabbat* observance. He asks that we plow forward with the ritual prayers and candle lighting even if it initially feels uncomfortable. Judaism expects the feelings to follow the values-driven behavior, not the reverse.

We are obligated to behave in certain ways whether we feel like them or not. So if I ever have the chance to meet President Carter, I will thank him for his candid “Playboy” interview, which helped me move forward on my Jewish journey.

David Hyman

215-496-7224

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Religious School PTO

Sunday, February 5, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, February 21, at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, February 5, at 11:00 a.m.

Co-chairs: Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232, and Bill Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■



PASSOVER CANDY SALE FOR OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

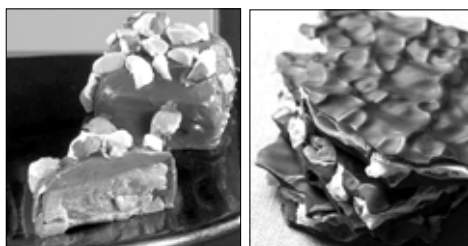
Help support our terrific Religious School and satisfy you and your *Seder* host's sweet tooth by ordering your Passover candy during our upcoming fund-raising drive.

Brochures will be distributed through the Religious School. A variety of offerings will be available, featuring products from Bartons. All your favorites, including macaroons, chocolate matzo, and almond butter crunch, will be on sale.

Prices start under \$10. Orders will be accepted through March 4 and will be delivered in time for your Passover celebration.

Please visit our Web site for instructions on ordering candy online. Hard-copy order forms can also be picked up in the Religious School Office or the Executive Office.

Questions regarding the candy sale can be directed to Kenny Moss (215-277-5335) or Heather Pelletier (215-855-3216), co-chairs of the Religious School PTO Group. ■



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

My grandfather is a minister and one of the people I respect and adore most in the world. We have often sat together for hours and talked about God.

But it didn't start out that way. When I decided to convert to Judaism, it had nothing to do with God, or at least I didn't think it did. I was looking for a community: a community to provide company and comfort while sharing more of my values than the average person on the street. But when I shared my news with my grandfather, instead of being dismayed that I had chosen another religion, he responded with respect, that he was happy to hear that I had "encountered the holy."

But I was not ready to hear this. As he spoke those words, which were a kind and embracing message, I flinched because they made me incredibly uncomfortable. I didn't want to mislead him, but how could I tell him that I struggled with believing in God and that I had never "encountered the holy"?

As I learned more about Judaism, I heard and read many stories of people "encountering the holy" exactly how I imagined that might be: Abraham was visited by three angels, Moses spoke to God in the presence of a burning bush, Jacob wrestled with an angel, and Joseph had prophetic dreams.

I read each of these stories, these instances in our history, and I understood them to be grand moments: times where God made God's self known in flames, dreams, or even by appearing to the person. They were all interesting, entertaining stories with incredibly insightful messages and moral lessons from which to learn and to teach to our children, but not even remotely related to anything I had experienced myself. I loved the rituals, the holidays with friends, and the music in services. And more than anything, I loved studying EVERYTHING—but still I had had no "encounters with the holy."

Then I began to learn about *Brachot* (blessings). They are innumerable in the Jewish tradition, and they cover almost anything.

At first I thought this was sweet, a cute way to teach things like "stopping to smell the roses" since there is a *bracha* for when you smell a flower. I also liked how *brachot* taught appreciation for things you have, with the blessing on a new item of clothing. But then I began to connect them to the moments that had always touched me in my life. Like rain. Since I was a child, in the summers I would travel to Massachusetts to visit my grandparents, and while I was there it was always likely to storm. The amazing thing about summer storms in Massachusetts is that the rain is warm and able to drench a person in a matter of seconds. And almost without exception, for more than 20 years, I go outside the moment it begins to rain, getting soaked from head to toe, and loving it.

The Rabbis knew the wonder of nature long before I did and they had a *bracha* (blessing), ready and waiting to capture my wonder in words:

"Blessed are you, *haShem* our God, King of the Universe, that continues the work of creation."

"*Baruch ata haShem Elohaiinu, melech haOlam oseh ma;aseh v'reisheit.*"

Then there were precious moments between people. Moments when someone goes out of his or her way to connect with or help another; something as small as a “God bless you” directed to a stranger’s sneeze, or a young woman taking a semester off from college to sit by her best friend’s bedside as he underwent chemotherapy. These are moments when individuals showed their ability to go beyond instinct or self-interest, moments of magic. The rabbis knew that people held a unique ability to be holy:

“Blessed are you, *baShem*, King of the Universe, that makes us holy through Your commandments and commanding us to carry out loving deeds.”

“Baruch ata, baShem Elohaiinu, melech haOlam, asher kidishanu b’mitzvotav vitzivanu, al gimilut Hasidim.”

Finally, there is my favorite moment: laughter shared with family or friends and its healing power—the release, a totally unguarded moment between loved ones as they join in laughter. Pure magic. The rabbis understood the love between friends too.

“May the One whose presence dwells in this house cause love and harmony, peace and friendship to dwell among us.”

“Mi sheshichain et sh’mo baba’it bazeib who yashkein bainaichem abavah v’achavah v’shalom v’reyut.”
(Talmud Berachot, 12a)

And slowly I began to understand that these *brachot* were not simply markers for brief disconnected occurrences of the weekly or of the everyday, but rather each was a single, small part of an elaborate whole—a system of amazing parts that is beyond wondrous.

A writing in the Apocryphal book, “The Wisdom of Solomon” teaches of people who worship the sun, moon, or the like as gods. “If through delight in the beauty of these things people assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them.”

Though each experience is magical within itself, together they shine far brighter.

The moment I decided to convert, I was strolling down the street at 4:30 in the morning, helping my sister deliver the papers on her paper route. We had split up, and I was alone. It was the middle of the summer in Alaska, so it was bright and sunny, but there wasn’t a soul in sight. The moment I made my decision, I happened to glance up and was caught by the sight of a rainbow, which was particularly surprising since there wasn’t a raindrop in sight. When I related this event to my mother, she saw it as a sign from God that my decision was the right one; I, not believing in “signs from God,” saw it just as a coincidence.

But that wasn’t the point. The point was not “why” the rainbow was there or if it was a personal message to me, the point was that such a thing as beautiful and amazing as a rainbow exists at all; and that there it was, right before me. What I didn’t see was the context. I saw only the beauty of the rainbow, not the awe of creation or the wonder of a God who would create a sign of his covenant with man, as God promised the rainbow would be for Noah.

The rabbis saw all this, and with the help of their *brachot*, these are now lessons I am unlikely to forget.

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

KATY had the NFTY social-action Pennsylvania-Area Region (PAR) convention, called WINSTY. WINSTY stands for Winter Social-Action Temple Youth. This event happened in early January at Main Line Reform Temple, where all PAR-ites stayed in congregants’ homes with kids their age. This event was a huge success, and our KATY kids who attended had a blast. Coming up this month, KATY has a **Chinese-food lunch** on February 5, followed by the **ski trip** on February 19. It will be a busy month for KATY! ■

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-8)

The Senior Youth Group (SYG) went back to UltraZone for laser tag in January, where SYG invited KIFTY (KI’s Youth Group) middle-school members to join in a rematch. Like last year, it was a close game, with the top three within points of one another! The kids had a good time and are getting prepared for the upcoming **SYG/KATY ski trip** on February 19. All ages are welcome; e-mail Alison at KAYouthAdvisor@gmail.com if you have any questions. ■

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 4 & 5)

Fourth and fifth graders, let’s get together for **dinner and a movie** on Saturday, March 3, from 6:00-9:30 p.m., as we bid goodbye to *Shabbat* and say hello to a new week with the special rituals of *Havdalah*—blessings, braided candles, spice box and songs! Parents, it will be held at the home of Sarah England in Elkins Park. ■



SOCIAL ACTION GUEST SPEAKER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, AT 7:15 PM

Diane Morgan, from the Greater Philadelphia Jewish Coalition on Immigration will give us a presentation on **“Why Immigration Matters: A Month of Jewish Reflection, Study, and Action,”** which is taking place from April 1 to May 7 in synagogues and community institutions throughout the Greater Philadelphia area.

The goal is to mobilize the area’s Jewish community to support and to advocate for fair and just immigration reform on city, state, and federal levels. Jews have a strong tradition, based on our history and our sacred texts, of welcoming the stranger and advocating on behalf of immigrant-friendly policies and legislation. ■

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (continued from page 4)

“Blessed are you, *haShem* our God, King of the Universe, who remembers the covenant, is trustworthy in his covenant, and fulfills His word.”

“Baruch Ata haShem Elohainu melech haOlam zochair haBriot, v’ne’eman bivrito, v’kayam b’ma’amaro.”

These *Brachot* were written to teach each of us to recognize God’s wonders as they happen and to understand how each works within the greater scheme of things. That is what they did for me. The Rabbis knew all about the context, and so did my grandfather—even without the teachings of the rabbis, he understood. My grandfather was right. I had “encountered the holy,” or at least I had found a tradition that would lead me to recognize it.

We live in a time when faith is rare, when the idea of burning bushes, angels that travel together on earth, and even prophetic dreams seem too intangible. We live in a time when it is too easy to say “there is NO HOLY” in this world. I challenge you to take those experiences that touch you—seeing the ocean, eating cake, or perhaps smelling a rose—no matter if you have never said a *bracha* or you say them regularly, and to pause a moment each day to see it in its greater context. Allow yourself the time to notice that moment as only a part of the beauty of creation; notice the magic between people, to feel the joy, or even the sadness, within yourself.

Be guided by the teachings of our rabbis. They understood the system far better than many of us. Use their *Brachot* to gain new insight. I entreat you to follow the wisdom of my grandfather and to recognize the moment when you “encounter the holy.”

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Selilah Kalev ■



At our seventh-grade Family Education Program on Sunday, January 8, parents and students created this magnificent banner with the words of the prophet Isaiah—*Sh'lah'chaynee* (“Send me!”)—in response to Rabbi Holin’s High Holy Day sermon, asking us to become even more involved with social justice causes through our synagogue. Students and adults will be asked to write descriptions about their volunteer time to organizations throughout Greater Philadelphia in the name of *Tikun Olam* as well as a description of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah projects. These written experiences will appear on large index cards and affixed to the outer edge of this beautiful, artistic creation. The index cards will be frequently refreshed with new written experiences.

Congregation Kol Ami Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale



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. The 10" hoagies can be picked up in the lobby of Kol Ami on **Sunday, February 5** at 12:00. All profits from the sale will be used to support the activities of the Kol Ami Religious School.

Questions? Contact Robin Warsaw (215) 635-5839 or rkwarsaw@comcast.net



**Please fill out and return the form
to the Religious School office.**



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

All Hoagies come with Lettuce, Tomato and Onion unless otherwise specified. Please specify mayo or oil, hot or sweet peppers.

		Lettuce/Tomato/Onion	Mayo or Oil	Hot or Sweet
# of Turkey Hoagies:				
# of Tuna Hoagies:				
# of Cheese Hoagies: (American, Provolone & Swiss)				

Total # of hoagies: _____ @ \$6.00 = Total Payment \$_____

Please Make Checks Payable to Congregation Kol Ami

Scholarships, Grants & Summer Programs



CONGREGATION KOL AMI JEWISH SUMMER CAMP AND YOUTH-IN-ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS

If your son or daughter plans to attend a Jewish summer camp in 2012, our congregation is pleased to award needs-based scholarships through the Youth Fund. Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of requests received.

If your child plans to participate in a trip to Israel through a peer-led organization, we are pleased to offer incentive scholarships depending on the length of the trip. The Discover Israel Fund exists through the generosity of Steward and Sally Eisenberg.

Application forms are available by contacting our executive director, Elaine Stevens, at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.



JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, in partnership with the Neubauer Family Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, is pleased to once again offer incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for first-time campers going to Jewish overnight summer camps in the mid-Atlantic region.

If your child has never been to a Jewish overnight summer camp, you may be eligible for a grant. With over 45 regional camps to choose from—traditional and specialty—there's bound to be a place that's ideal for your child.

Camp registration for summer 2012 is already in full swing, so don't be left in the cold. To register for an amazing summer at camp now, go to www.onehappycamper.org/hanukkah to apply for your grant. If you have any questions, please contact Drew Martin at 215-832-0530 or dmartin@jfgp.org.



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM (URJ) 6-POINTS SUMMER SPORTS ACADEMY FOR ATHLETES AGED 10 TO 16 YEARS

This camp commenced two summers ago in Greensboro, NC, and has received rave reviews from campers and parents alike. Co-ed sports include basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis, baseball, lacrosse, and softball.

Summer sessions are June 19 to July 1, July 3 to 15, and July 17 to 29. Kol Ami parents Adam Hoffman and Lisa Landau as well as Chris and Lori Cavallucci will sing the camp's praises to you if you would like to speak with them. For information on how to register and to see their video, please visit www.6pointsacademy.org. ■

Major Capital & Maintenance Project Update

by Jeff Cohen, Co-chair, Operations Committee

Last June, our congregation completed a very successful capital campaign that was premised on our being homeowners, and as with any home, you have to learn its quirks and issues, understand your options, plan for the big-ticket items and react well to the surprises. The Operations Committee, under the guidance of executive director Elaine Stevens, continues to be deeply involved in this work and is more than a little excited about the progress we are making and the possibilities for the near future. To make a long story short, we have accomplished a good deal and are working on some major projects that, if we can bring them to fruition within our budget constraints, should make a major contribution to the quality of all our members' experience of Kol Ami. Here is a look at 12 meaningful developments.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **Site Audit.** One was created and are now using a complete site audit of all maintenance and capital needs, enabling us to prioritize maintenance and capital spending. We use this regularly to monitor progress on projects and adjust priorities based on changing conditions. Many thanks to Michael Levin, Ben Long, and Elaine Stevens for doing the work to create it.
2. **HVAC Engineering Audit.** We retained Alderson Engineering, who delivered a comprehensive review of our existing HVAC systems (heat and air-conditioning) along with recommendations as to cost-effective ways we could address deficiencies. Committee members have been getting an education on the "ins and outs" of our building systems and all the options available to us.
3. **Board Endorsement for Key Priorities.** We used the Alderson audit and a good deal of additional work to present and receive Board endorsement of a set of priorities for the coming years. While actual Board approval to implement these projects will be subject to cost-effective responses to our requests for proposal, we are hopeful to be addressing in 2012 the replacement of the HVAC system supporting the sanctuary, lobby, and classroom wing; replacement of some or all of the roof over the sanctuary and classroom wing; and replacement/upgrade of our sanctuary's sound system.
4. **Fuel Costs.** While we are still nursing our oil-based system along, we have been exploring cost savings. Thanks to some great work by Steve Ettinger, we have a better understanding of our fuel costs, and with Elaine's help, we have switched fuel oil suppliers, giving us a savings on fuel oil. Also, with Guy Appel's help, we have switched electrical generation suppliers, bringing some savings to the cost of electricity too.
5. **Chapel Lighting and Sound.** Our chapel is a room that gets a great deal of use and offers our worshipers a peaceful respite from the noise of the world. The old lighting system added background noise that interfered with worship. The lighting fixtures have been replaced so that the noise has been eliminated and the fixtures are more energy efficient and green. We are also exploring what we can do to minimize the noise of the heating/air-conditioning system in the chapel.
6. **Sanctuary Space.** We had the lintel and emergency exit doors at the back of our sanctuary replaced just after the High Holy Days, improving the safety and efficiency of that entrance. In response to a recent problem with the heating system, our plumber determined that the thermostat controlling the radiators in the sanctuary was no longer functioning, and it was replaced. We now have a somewhat-improved ability to moderate the heat in the sanctuary.
7. **Other Improvements.** We have fixed a variety of roofing and drainage problems in the mansion building and completed required sidewalk repairs along High School Road. Two dead trees were removed from the north end of the parking lot, and the vines overgrowing electrical lines in the meadow should have already been removed by the printing of this article.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

8. **Design and Specification of the HVAC System.** This work is ongoing and will result in very precise recommendations that can then be competitively bid so the committee and then the Board can make informed decisions about upgrading the HVAC system.

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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
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 February 3 to RSVP for the February 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
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

Jewish Ethics for Everyday Life (continued)

Date	Writings/Works
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.

The non-member course fee is \$50 and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

To register for the class, contact RSVP by March 7 to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110.

Introduction to Judaism: "Jewish Literacy"

under the auspices of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) at Congregation Kol Ami

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (12 sessions)

Commencing March 5 through May 21

This course in "Jewish Literacy" is for anyone interested in exploring Judaism: interfaith couples, those considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level basics. This course introduces the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice, and topics include: Jewish holy days, life-cycle events, theology and prayer, history, and Israel.

The URJ cost of the course is \$180 for members and \$325 for non-members. Couples attend at the prices quoted since couples are encouraged to take the class together. Single attendees also pay the same amount.

For further information, please contact Laurel Klein, URJ's Introduction-to-Judaism Coordinator, at 512-699-5550 or lklein@urj.org.

Believing by Association

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot
Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (four sessions)
Commencing April 3 through 24



Finding meaning in God meant more to Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan than thinking about God being all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. Kaplan encouraged religious Jews to discover God in the power of salvation, to see cooperation as the chief source of happiness and the potential for good in humanity, to view freedom as the liberation of

personality, and the reconstruction of Jewishness as a righteous civilization. Participants in this seminar will discuss the ways in which reconstructing Judaism promotes rediscovering God.

The non-member course fee is \$50, and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

Please RSVP by March 27 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

The Jewish Relationship Life-Cycle: The Seven Stages of Committed Intimate Relationships

Instructor: Rabbi Patrice Heller
Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (four sessions)
Commencing April 12 through May 3

This enrichment program is designed for people in intimate long-term relationships and couples of all ages and sexual orientations. Intimate partners share a journey filled with bumps in the road along hills and valleys. While challenges



and difficulties are inevitable, couples hope and expect to enjoy loving, happy relationships. Couples benefit from learning fundamental “rules of the road,” informed by Jewish values and wisdom, to help them navigate their relational journey with skill, resilience, and love.

Committed relationships are dynamic; feelings of intimacy and connection may come and go. By under-

standing that each unique intimate relationship naturally progresses through seven distinct stages, couples can anticipate how needs, priorities, and desires of both partners and the relationship itself may change

Each class will include a presentation, group discussion, and individual and couple questionnaires and exercises. Jewish *halacha* and perspectives about relationships, marriage, and sexuality will be an integral part of each session and will help couples learn about their journey along the seven stages. Shared practice relationship skills will increase awareness and enhance mutual trust and intimacy.

Session	Topic
Session 1	Jewish Wisdom about Relationships, Personal Growth, and Spirituality
Session 2	The Jewish Imperative: Listen, Understand, and Act!
Session 3	The Double <i>Mitzvah</i> : the Jewish Perspective on Sexuality
Session 4	Cultivating Commitment

Patrice Heller has been a Reform rabbi in the Philadelphia community for 30 years. She is also a psychologist and PA-licensed marriage and family therapist and has maintained an independent rabbinical and psychotherapy practice since 1986. In addition, she has been an adjunct associate professor for the Psychology department at Temple University since 2006 and recently became a therapist at the Postpartum Stress Center in Rosemont, PA.

The non-member course fee is \$50, and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

Please RSVP by April 5 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org. ■

Kol Ami Events

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for February Birthday and Anniversary Blessings
Friday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m.
at our *erev Shabbat* Service

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in February, please join us at this special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a February *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*.

SHIR SHABBAT: A SHABBAT IN SONG - A WEEKEND OF FEMALE-LED SERVICES

Friday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m., and
Saturday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m., at Kol Ami



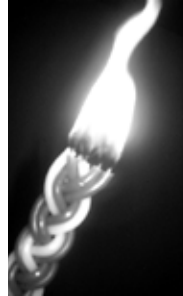
Join us on a weekend when we celebrate the women in our tradition and in our lives!

Shabbat Shirah celebrates the time in our cycle of *Torah* readings when the Israelites fled Egypt and went through the Sea of Reeds on their way to Mount Sinai. “Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a *timbrel* in her hand, and all the women went after her dancing with *timbrels*, and

Miriam chanted, “Sing unto the Lord!”” (Exodus 15:20-21).

Rejoice with us on *erev Shabbat*, February 3, at our female-led *Shir Shabbat* service—A *Shabbat* in Song—and at our *Shabbat* morning service on Saturday, February 4, when women in the spirit of Miriam will lead by chanting from the *Torah* and offering the *dvar Torah*.

CONGREGATION HAVDALAH SERVICE



Saturday, February 11
from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Warm up from the winter chill as together we sing out indoors! What a wonderful way for all of us to be together, as children, youth, and adults gather to rejoice in the celebration of *Havdalah* over braided candle, spices, and wine.

4:00-4:45 p.m. - Mingle and sample “finger food”

4:45-5:15 p.m. - Sing-along

5:15-5:30 p.m. - *Havdalah* service

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, February 12, at 1:00 p.m.

Our tradition offers moving and powerful prayers for healing. There are times that we feel the urge to be together to say the *Mi'Shebbeirach* (“May the Holy One Who blesses...”) prayer for a loved one in a hospital, recovering at home, or in hospice care. Our Healing Service welcomes everyone who wishes to offer prayers for loved ones, friends, and ourselves.

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, February 21**, and **Tuesday, March 20**.

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, February 29**, and **Wednesday, March 28**.

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: *continued next page*



Welcome to our Gift Store

Every Purchase
Supports Our Synagogue

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

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

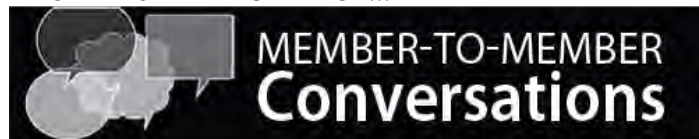
Unemployment Information Center

112 N. Broad Street, 11th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

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

TWO DATES IN FEBRUARY FOR...



For more information on the two FREE informative sessions below or to RSVP, contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

Sunday, February 12, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon "Life Essentials Made Easy" with Guy Appel

Whether you need a caregiver, are one, or have an interest in this topic, come join Guy Appel, managing director and cofounder of Interphase Medical Equipment when he will speak about Home Healthcare Equipment as it relates to the home environment and the complexity of the reimbursement process.

Interphase Medical Equipment has been supplying the needs of residents and medical institutions in the Philadelphia area, as well as the five surrounding counties, with quality products since 1985.

Sunday, February 26, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon "Great Recession, Little Depression, or New Normal? A Talk about the Economy" with Andy Cassel

Four years after the United States entered a recession, the economy continues to struggle. Unemployment is high, job growth is slow, and the financial markets signal that the path ahead will be anything but smooth. What's causing this, and

when will it end? Economists have many answers, but little consensus. We'll pick apart some of the current thinking and try to make sense of the trends.

Andrew Cassel, a Kol Ami member since 1995, wrote about the economy and business for "The Philadelphia Inquirer" for many years. He currently edits a Web site called "Dismal Scientist" for the economic forecasting division of Moody's Analytics in West Chester.

NURSERY SCHOOL ANNUAL EREV SHABBAT DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, February 24, at 6:45 p.m.

We need your help with this Nursery School-sponsored event. Here's how: 1) donate items to be auctioned or raffled, for example, gift certificates, museum tickets, art items, etc.; 2) buy and help sell tickets for the raffle portion of the evening; and /or 3) attend the auction and bid on baskets. We would love to see you attend and support our event. Raffle-ticket prizes include tickets to a Phillies game or a Philadelphia Orchestra concert, gift certificates to local businesses, gym memberships, and much more. We will also be auctioning off classroom baskets. Please contact Sheri Cutler at 215-635-4180 to purchase raffle tickets.

EXPERIENCE SHABBAT EXPERIENCES!

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

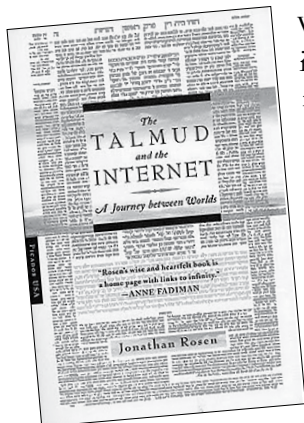
Daytime programs will begin with a brief *Shabbat* service at 10:00 a.m. and *Oneg* at 11:00 a.m., followed by the opportunity for us to truly celebrate the meaning of *Shabbat* with *mishpachah*, the synagogue family:

- **Saturday, 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 page 14

**KOL AMI CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS
BOOK GROUP REVIEW OF "THE TALMUD AND
THE INTERNET" BY JONATHAN ROSEN WITH
LOU BARRETT**

Sunday, March 18, at 11:00 a.m.



What do *Talmud* and Internet have in common? In his remarkable and modest memoir, Jonathan Rosen, finds the Internet, like the *Talmud*, a "world of unbounded curiosity... where anyone can ask a question and receive an answer." It is "a place where everything exists, if only one knows how and where to look." The ocean of the *Talmud*, he says, is like the vastness of the Internet. All views are considered;

in it, opposing arguments appear side by side.

After the death of his beloved grandmother, Jonathan Rosen, former culture editor of "The Forward," looked for comfort in John Donne's poems. Obsessed by half-forgotten lines in Donne's poem, Rosen turned to his computer to retrieve the text. "For one moment, there in dimensionless, chilly cyberspace, I felt close to my grandmother, close to John Donne, and close to some stranger who, as it happens, designs software for a living."

He begins to consider the fate of his two grandmothers; one was murdered in the death camps, the other, an American, lived comfortably in New York and died surrounded by loved ones. The contrast urges him to trace his own odyssey, his own identity as an American and a Jew.

In this literary analogy, Rosen discovers that "the *Talmud* offers a virtual home for an uprooted culture..." The Internet, too, presents to the American Jew, "a similar sense of Diaspora, a feeling of being everywhere and nowhere." Rosen artfully mingles facts about his wife, parents, and grandmothers with erudite thinking about a broad range of reading in Judaica and the classics. He explores John Donne, the Odyssey, Josephus, and Henry Adams, mingling them with his admiration for Rabbi Akiva and Yochanan ben Zakkhai, the founder of Yavneh, where Judaism was made to survive. The "*Talmud and the Internet*" ends with a moving account of visiting the present-day Lord Balfour on his Scottish estate, where Rosen's father spent WWII, having escaped from Vienna on a Kindertransport.

Jonathan Rosen's proposes that the Internet and *Talmud* look directly at life, address humans in conflict, isolated

from faith and community. Sages, he notes, weighing argument and interpretation, resisted a deadlock of wills. "The world," the Kabala comments, "can be spelled in many different ways..." How does Jonathan Rosen spell it? How do we? ■

COMMUNITY & NATIONAL EVENTS



**JOIN RABBI HOLIN AT THE
2012 AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE**

**Sunday, March 4, through Tuesday, March 6
at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center
(Washington, DC)**

In the months ahead, Iran will most likely continue to develop its nuclear program. The Islamic Republic will continue its efforts to smuggle weapons to its proxies, Hizbullah and Hamas, adding to the weapons that already threaten Israel on two of its borders. At the same time, new members of Congress will be casting their first votes on issues that directly affect the United States-Israel relationship.

This three-day event gives us the unique opportunity to hear from Middle East scholars, as well as leading analysts and journalists from around the world, and to lobby members of Congress.

To learn more or to register for the conference, visit www.aipac.org/pc or contact Rabbi Holin (215-635-4182) if you are interested in joining him at this important time on behalf of Israel. ■

A BRIGHT NEW DAY

For our people. For our community.

On **FEBRUARY 12, 2012**, please help Federation's 2012 Campaign – and the new secular year – get off to a bright start by making the calls that make the difference on **SUPER SUNDAY**, our Greater Philadelphia Jewish community's single largest day of fundraising.

Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy
Schwartz Campus of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
272 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA
Two shifts: 9 am - 1 pm & 3 - 8 pm



Super Sunday

Super Sunday 2012 Co-chairs:
Bryna & Fred Berman • Jennifer & Michael Willner

FEBRUARY 12, 2012



Jewish Federation of
Greater Philadelphia
One People ■ One Community ■ One Federation™

Sponsor

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COUNSELORS AT LAW

jewishphilly.org/supersunday

215.832.0630

Shabbat Across America

A Musical Shabbat with Children Welcome!

**CONGREGATION KOL AMI
joins in the National Celebration
on Friday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.
at our *erev Shabbat* Service plus
our “First-Friday” anniversary
and birthday blessings**

Our Adult Choir will add their voices to the service.

**“*Shabbat Across America*” is a nationally acclaimed program
that gives people a positive and joyful *Shabbat* experience.**

**We encourage you to invite your unaffiliated friends
to be “our guests” at a catered *Shabbat* dinner and
celebrate with us. Guests will receive a copy of
Rebecca Schwartz’s CD, *Shir Shabbat*.**

**Contact Elaine Stevens no later than
Monday, February 27, to RSVP for dinner.**

**The cost for members is \$16 per adult and
\$10 per child under the age of 8.**

GUESTS ARE FREE!

SAVE
THE DATE

Kol Ami Retro Prom Night
"Forever Young"
March 24, 2012 - 8 'til 11 p.m.

Live music and frivolity
(by Kol Ami's very own energetic Greg Brown & Dos Guys)



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 an ISH event and Religious School PTO fund-raiser to be held in Kol Ami's own social hall.

*Prizes for the best dressed & the elected King & Queen
Coffee, Tea, Punch & Desserts provided,
b.y.o.b & an appetizer to share
\$20 per person*

(Please consider donating a can of food for the mini-ISH/PTO Food Drive)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

of Advance Tickets: _____ @ \$20.00 Total: _____

Make checks payable to: Congregation Kol Ami

Please direct questions to the following: Sherry Cohen, shcohen361@verizon.net (ISH co-chair) or
Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com (ISH co-chair/PTO co-chair)

8201 High School Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027 | 215.635.3110 | Elaine Stevens, execdir@kolamielkinspark.org

Save *the* DATE

You are invited to attend a golf and tennis outing benefitting Congregation Kol Ami. Jay Goldstein, President and CEO of Valley Green Bank, will be honored at this event for his outstanding contributions in the non-profit and small business communities.

 TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012

Philadelphia Cricket Club in Flourtown

10:30 Golf arrival, practice, lunch at the Cricket Club in Flourtown

12:30 Tee-off

2:30 Tennis at the Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill

5:15 Cocktails and auction at the Cricket Club in Flourtown

6:15 Program and dinner

Formal invitation to follow.



Auction Items Needed

As you see on the previous page, our next Golf and Tennis Fun(d)-Raising Auction will be on April 24 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club's Flourtown location. The auction, led by the tireless efforts of Eric Pelletier, is a key way for us to raise funds. Many of you have been generous in making donations that are attractive for our bidders. This year, we are honoring Jay Goldstein of Valley Green Bank, and as a result, we expect a good number of attendees who are not Kol Ami members—and the better our auction items, the more successful we will be in gaining their participation.

If you have donated in the past, we'll be back in touch to thank you and ask that you once again donate. If you haven't, please consider donating an auction item or two. Of course, you get a tax-deduction letter for the fair-market value of the item that you donate, and you get the thrill of watching as your contribution helps our synagogue, especially if you are with us on April 24.

We are looking for donations in all price ranges, from \$75 on up to items that are worth several thousand dollars and might generate special interest. You may set a minimum bid value for your donated item or leave that to our discretion.

Donations that seem to attract the most interest include:

- Tickets to Philadelphia sports teams, e.g., the Phillies, Flyers, Eagles, and our suddenly exciting 76ers.
- A stay at your vacation property or timeshare
- Concert tickets
- Memberships
- Professional services
- Artistic creations
- Autographed collectibles

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Elaine Stevens (execdir@kolamielkinspark.org), Eric Pelletier (esppt1@gmail.com), or Jeff Cohen (jeffcohen.performanceleaders@verizon.net.) We would greatly appreciate all donations by March 16, 2012, so we can create an exciting Web page that helps us build interest and excitement. ■

MAJOR CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE PROJECT UPDATE

(continued from page 9)

9. **Design and Specification of Roof Improvements.** Thanks to a partnership with Metcalf Architecture & Design and our own Michael Levin, we will soon have an accurate diagnostic on what needs to be done to improve our aging roof and how it should be done. This too will lead to competitive bidding and a cost effective solution.
10. **Possible Switch from Oil to Natural Gas Heat.** Did you know that with our 50+-year-old heating system, we spend over \$40,000 a year on oil? We are working with PECO on the possibility of switching from oil to natural gas, a step that would save us roughly \$7,000 a year after moving to a high-efficiency natural gas boiler as opposed to a high-efficiency oil burner. There are significant additional costs to this, so we are examining the return-on-investment, including the value of greener solutions and cheaper and cleaner fuel. Either way, natural gas or oil, we hope to have a new high-efficiency HVAC system in place before the High Holy Days later this year.
11. **Insurance.** Property insurance is a significant cost and the committee, under Guy Appel's leadership will be working on re-bidding our insurance needs with the hope that we can reduce costs while maintaining coverage.
12. **Incidental Repairs.** As we look toward 2013 and 2014, we hope to work on some other repairs in the sanctuary, including carpet, painting, and lighting.

As you know with your own home or business, Rome wasn't built in a day, and things can change, which would impact our priorities and timing. Because of the generosity of our members in the recently completed capital campaign and the hard work of the Operations Committee, we are making steady progress and should be worshipping, learning, and celebrating in a significantly improved home in the coming months and years.

Operations Committee members include: Michael Chernoff, Steve Ettinger, Michael Levin, Marshall Schafer, Elaine Stevens, and co-chairs Guy Appel and Jeff Cohen.

If you are interested in getting involved in this vital aspect of Kol Ami, please contact Guy (gapp23@comcast.net), Jeff (jeffcohen.performanceleaders@verizon.net), or Elaine (execdir@kolamielkinspark.org). ■

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



MICKIE ROSEN is the featured artist in Kol Ami's gallery for the period March 1 through April 30, and she shares the following about her life, work, and goals.

"When I was 21, a two-year 'sentence' as an 'army wife' in Germany seemed like a lifetime and major interruption to my fine-art education and a budding career as a fashion illustrator. Little did I know that I would win a Ziess Ikon camera in Germany and have the time of my life shooting pictures all over Europe. Years later, a trip to Japan introduced me to Nikon 35mm film cameras and a range of lenses at irresistibly low prices. Thereafter my photographic interests focused mainly on capturing my kids and grandkids as they grew, recording special occasions and wonderful vacations. All along, though, I enjoyed turning macro images into abstractions that left the origin of the photo a mystery.

"My only 'formal' education in photography was one course at Tyler School of Fine Art, where I earned my BFA degree at age 38. That course challenged me to shoot photos in series and introduced me to the darkroom. After Tyler, I received a MS degree in Art Therapy from Hahnemann University, where I continued as a faculty member in the Creative Arts Therapy Graduate program until 1992.

"For the next 32 years, I worked as an art therapist and group psychotherapist. Both prior to and since my retirement in 2000, I have exhibited my prints and oil-pastel paintings widely in numerous juried/group exhibitions and 15 solo exhibitions. The most recent have displayed my digital fine-art photography. I am proud that this new work has won many awards, including the Judges Award for a Body of Work at the 19th Phillips Mill Annual Juried Photography Exhibition and Best of Show at the 60th Tri/State Artists Equity Exhibition at the Berman Museum.

Printmaking and drawing had always been my media of choice until photography and the digital darkroom captured my interest. Digital photographers are generally interested in shooting 'great' pictures and want to invest as little time as possible making adjustments on the computer. I, on the other hand, take great pleasure in spending numerous hours exploring the endless possibilities that digital technology has made available to the fine artist. I find that the happy accidents that occur when experimenting with the tools in Photoshop parallel the surprise and excitement that happens when pulling a print off my etching press.

"Creating realistic photographic compositions is not my main intention when I shoot. With my Canon 30D, Canon G11, and Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX2, I collect a wide range of subjects that may be combined with other photos or elements from my drawings, monotypes, or collagraphs.



These mixed media works I call 'Photages.' I love to composite and/or transform what the camera captures, always looking for similarities in the shapes and forms in nature. With Photoshop CS5 as my brush and photographs as my palette, I strive to create images that maintain the qualities of my drawings, etchings, or silk-screen prints and give a sense of mystery and the surreal."

Mickie Rosen will be having her open house at Kol Ami on Sunday, March 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. ■



Sustainability Film Series

The Elkins Park Hazon CSA at Kol Ami is proud to sponsor the **2012 Sustainability Film Series** at the Ambler Theater, presented in conjunction with Pennypack Farm and Education Center—three nights at the movies followed by discussion groups led by panels of experts. Each movie delves into a different aspect of sustainability: bees, organic eating, and our love of meat and dairy. Learn how your small changes can make a big difference to the world.

Events are held the second Tuesday of the month in February, March, and April*. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for the Sponsor Expo in the lobby; films begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, \$10 each, are on sale at <http://www.amblertheater.org/pennypack> or the Ambler Theater Box Office.



Queen of the Sun

Tuesday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m.

On a pilgrimage around the world, the film unveils 10,000 years of beekeeping, highlighting how our historic and sacred relationship with bees has been lost. This engaging, alarming, and ultimately uplifting film uncovers the problems and solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature. More information is available at www.queenofthesun.com.



What's Organic about Organic?

Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

With charm and humanity, this film leads viewers to examine how organic farming has evolved from a grassroots movement into a multibillion dollar international industry. The film reveals what's at stake in creating and maintaining meaningful standards for organic production to protect citizen interests, heal the environment, and maintain the livelihoods of family farmers. You can find more information at www.whatsorganicmovie.com.

PLANEAT

Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

This film is about the search for a diet that is good for our health, the environment, and the future of the planet. It presents a convincing case for the West to reexamine its love affair with meat and dairy. With the help of innovative farmers, chefs, and some of the best cooking you have ever seen, **PLANEAT** shows how today's problems can be solved, without simply resorting to a diet of lentils and lettuce. The film advocates eating less meat, not necessarily no meat. More information is available at www.planeat.tv.

***Snow Dates:** All three films have a snow date two weeks following the scheduled date. ■

The Social Action Committee Presents: A Meaningful *Mitzvah* Opportunity

BIG RETURNS WITH BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS



RUBEN AND JEFFREY ENJOY A DAY TOGETHER

I could not have predicted nearly three years ago when this journey began that it would yield the gifts it has; nor did I recognize then how much it would mean to Jeffrey, my “Little” and me, the “Big.”

More than 120,000 children in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties face risk factors that threaten their ability to become healthy and productive adults. Violence, crime, destruction of families, diminished economic and personal horizons are among the by-products of those risks becoming realized.

One-to-one, professionally supported mentoring of such children, more than 4,000 so far throughout communities in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs, has produced some astonishing results: These children are less likely to skip school (52%); less likely to skip class (37%); less likely to begin using alcohol (27%) and drugs (46%). A recent survey by Big Brothers/Big Sisters Southeastern PA (BBBS SEPA) found that 76% of children (“Littles”) matched with a mentor (“Bigs”) avoided physical fights and 98% avoided becoming a teen parent. No statistics, however, can measure the improvement to children’s lives

and the strengthening of our communities brought about by mentoring.

Jeffrey, now 14 years old, and I were matched over three years ago, and our relationship has really blossomed. We like to do just about anything in the out-of-doors, including hiking, biking, and being at the shore. We’ve seen art exhibits, baseball and basketball games, and movies, both good and bad. Jeffrey has an easy smile, and he has inspired me to smile more too. Like any relationship, it took us each awhile to open up and build the strong friendship we now share. It is based on consistency and reliability. We count on each other even when our respective schedules are busy and keep us apart.

Children like Jeffrey remain underserved because there aren’t enough “Bigs” to go around. Please consider volunteering to be a “Big” with BBBS SEPA, either in its traditional mentoring program like I’m in, or by participating in the school-based mentoring program in which you can visit your “Little” at his or her school during lunch or recess. It takes far less time to be a successful volunteer than you might think (only about 2 to 3 hours per month, minimum) and the rewards are truly astounding. Learn more about volunteering at 215-790-9200 or www.bbbbssepa.org.

Editor’s Note: Ruben Honik is an attorney in Philadelphia and a founding member of Kol Ami who served for many years on its board in a variety of capacities. ■

What will you do?

Are you ready to positively
impact a child
for the better,
forever?

Start something!



OTHER SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS THAT NEED YOUR HELP!

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

Come out and help sort, pack, and deliver food to needy families on Sunday, February 19, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Relief Agency Food Distribution Center

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 North-east Philadelphia. From 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., volunteers work together to package kosher, nonperishable food in boxes. After packing, volunteers load their cars and deliver the food packages to each of the recipient families according to predetermined delivery routes, complete with driving directions and maps. Most delivery routes take between 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

If you're interested, directions to the JRA Distribution Center can be found at <http://www.jewishrelief.org/directions.asp>.

JRAid

JRAid was created as a JRA project in 2011 to provide services to the community beyond the agency's monthly food-distribution program.

Whether someone is unemployed, underemployed, or disabled, gaps in many programs often leave people without the ability to properly care for themselves, their families, and their homes. With fixed or limited income and scarce contact with family, seniors are especially vulnerable. JRAid works to directly connect volunteers with opportunities to help families in need while also allowing users to customize the way they give their time and money, answering simple requests with simple solutions.

To see the volunteer options, go to www.jewishrelief.org and click on the "JRAid" link. Choose one or more of the posted "gigs," and answer the request! For instance, you can drive someone to a medical appointment or to the grocery store, assist with simple home repairs or cleaning, give advice, or just have a phone conversation with a lonely senior.

"COOK FOR A FRIEND"

Consider helping us next time in support of this Klein JCC program! Congregants (pictured left) met on January 15 in the Kol Ami kitchen and cooked food for homebound seniors in Philadelphia. They made about 50 meals, which were packaged, frozen, and later delivered. Watch for future cooking dates in the Bulletin.

QUESTIONS

To RSVP or for questions about any of these programs or how to become part of the Social Action committee, contact Ronit Sugar, Social Action Committee chair, at 215-208-7027 or ronitsugar@gmail.com. ■



THANK-YOU NOTES



CONCERN, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

Meeting the needs of abused, neglected & delinquent children and youth

December 6, 2011

Dear Kol Ami Friends,

On behalf of CONCERN, I want to thank you for once again supporting us with your generous donation of presents selected from our children's wish list. As you know, the holidays are often a difficult time for children in foster care since they do not get to celebrate with their biological families; your donation will be greatly appreciated and will help make this holiday season a truly special one for them.

Thank you for continuing to partner with CONCERN to help children in our community, especially during the holidays; we truly appreciate your ongoing support!

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark." – Robert Heinlein

Sincerely,
Diane Devlin, Southeast Regional Director ■

MITZVAH FOOD PANTRY

Dear Congregation Kol Ami,

On behalf of Beth Sholom Congregation, we acknowledge with thanks your contribution of food for the *Mitzvah* Food Pantry.

We serve residents of Montgomery County and Philadelphia and your generous donations will help us supply them with much-needed items. The generosity of people like you enables us to perform this vital service to our community.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Charles Seals and
Ellyn Lehr
Directors, *Mitzvah*
Food Pantry ■



RAYMOND & MIRIAM KLEIN JCC

New Century, New Services, The New Klein JCC

January 3, 2012

Dear Kol Ami Members,



On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and clients, I would like to thank you for supporting the Raymond & Miriam Klein JCC. This letter serves to acknowledge the \$50 donation in Shop Rite gift cards for the children and families in the "Heart to Heart" program at the Klein JCC. The family who received them your behalf had a brighter *Chanukah* because of the kindness and compassion of those who contributed.

As you may know, Klein JCC is proud of our history of providing programs that help thousands of low-income seniors and families in the Greater Philadelphia region have the ability to thrive and flourish in today's society. Last year alone, Klein JCC provided over 120,000 meals; 32,000 pounds of non perishable food; and 4,000 pounds of produce to the low-income community. In addition to goods and services, Klein JCC's dedicated staff ensures that clients, young and old, are not forgotten and receive the support and services they need both in their home and in the community. Please know that without your support, we would not be able to provide these very basic and needed resources.

Such meaningful involvement in philanthropy at Klein JCC is very much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding your contribution or would like to learn more about other funding opportunities, please contact our Department of Development by calling 215-698-7300 ext 143.

With gratitude,

Anya Goldberg
Heart to Heart Program Director ■

KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2012 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Coleman 7:30 p.m.	2	3 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "Female-Led" Shir erev Shabbat Service and "First-Friday" blessings; Adult choir participation 7:30 p.m.	4 "Female-Led" Shir Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m.
5 HOAGIE SALE Trope Class 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 <i>Tfilah</i> 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting 10:00 a.m. Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 11:00 a.m. KATY Chinese Lunch 12:30 p.m.	6 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	7 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m.	8 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	9	10 Nursery School erev Shabbat service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. "Chai Notes" with our Student Choir	11 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Congregation Havdalah Service 4:00 p.m.

KOL AMI **FEBRUARY 2012** AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
12 Trobe Class - 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 - Gr 2-5 Camp Harlam Visit 11:40 a.m. - Gr K-7 Tfilah 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Member-to-Member Conversations with Guy Appel - 11:00 a.m. Healing Service 1:00 p.m. Tu B'Shvat Seder 6:00 p.m.	13 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	14 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m. Sustainability Film Series: "Queen of the Sun: at Ambler Theater 7:30 p.m.	15 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	16	17 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Canortorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	18 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.			
19 No Religious School President's Weekend Senior Youth Group, KATY, and IMWisers Ski Trip to Camelback	20 No Nursery School President's Weekend	21 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Social Action Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m.	22 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	23	24 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. Nursery School erev Shabbat Dinner and Silent Auction NO EVENING SERVICE	25 Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. Grade 10 participation			
26 Trobe Class - 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 Tfilah 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Member-to-Member Conversations with Andy Cassel - 11:00 a.m.	27 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	28 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	29 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.						

KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following people for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of:

Michael and Sara Chernoff and their Israel Bonds honor

Mark and Karin Kaplan

In Memory of:

Stephen Silverman

Gabriel, Orly, Micah and Daniel Maravankin

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

William Hyman and Janine Pratt and their new home

Craig and Sharon Myers

Bar Mitzvah of our son, Benjamin

Lawrence Mass and Christine Hunter

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Elliot Holin for his kindness to our family

Peter and Beth Denitz

In Memory of:

Byron Schader

Lynne Sklar

Stephen Silverman

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

William Hyman chanting his Torah portion

Mark and Karin Kaplan

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman Bernard and Edis Hall

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Jonathan Auerbach

David Hyman

Michael and Sara Chernoff and their Israel Bonds honor

Elaine Stevens

Special Birthday of Jonathan Cutler

Elaine Stevens

Special Birthday of Rabbi Elliot Holin

Elaine Stevens

Rabbi Elliot Holin, David Hyman, and Elaine Stevens

Jonathan Auerbach and Karoline Adler

William Hyman chanting his Torah portion

Elaine Stevens

William Hyman and Janine Pratt and their new home

Elaine Stevens

Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Langman

Elaine Stevens

Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Moss

Elaine Stevens

College graduation of Alyssa Schafer

Elaine Stevens

Special Birthday of Ilene Schafer

Elaine Stevens

In Memory of:

Gadol Barrett

Herbert and Lucille Barrett

Wendy Raditz

Elaine Stevens

Byron Schader

Elaine Stevens

Stephen Silverman

Elaine Stevens

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of:

Stephen Silverman

Mark and Karin Kaplan ■

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

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (e.g., by January 5 for the February issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfaloon@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. ■



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

TO:



NEW MEMBERS



Kol Ami is happy to extend a warm welcome to new members **Lisa Ney**, her husband **Benny Shoham**, and their children **Eyal** (age 17), **Maayan** (age 15), and **Elad** (soon to be age 7).

Lisa grew up in Jenkintown, and Benny was born and raised in Israel, and together (in Jerusalem, and later in Nes Ziona) they created their family life in Israel, where all three children were born. They came to the States four years ago and currently live in Wyncote.

Benny is a Strategic Business Planner for Sigma-Adrich, and Lisa is the Clinical Supervisor for the Center for Special Needs of Jewish Family and Children's Service. Eyal and Maayan are students at Cheltenham High School, and Elad goes to Glenside Elementary School. They joined Kol Ami to connect to the Jewish community, and so that their youngest child (Elad, who is in first grade) could begin to attend Hebrew school.

Lisa notes that the boys are into soccer, with Eyal playing on Cheltenham's varsity team, and Elad playing for the Cheltenham Sports League and in Kehillah soccer. As a family, they also enjoy hiking, snow sports (which must still be a novelty for the kids), watching movies, and taking family vacations.

Interestingly, Lisa has two connections to Kol Ami. First, she was a member of Rodeph Shalom Suburban before she moved to Israel, which means that she has come back full circle as a member in our Congregation's physical home. Second, her father is Rabbi Howard Bogot, who currently teaches adult education classes at Kol Ami. It sounds like Lisa, Benny, and their children were meant to be part of our congregational family. ■