



## WORSHIP SERVICES

### FRIDAY, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Tonight we honor the memory of our Founding President, Stuart D. Appel, at our *erev Shabbat* Service as we are uplifted by the voices of our Adult Choir (see page 10)

### SATURDAY, February 2, 10:00 a.m.

Grade 8 students will participate in our *Shabbat* Service by sharing their written responses to questions about Jewish identity and a patient's right to know the severity of his/her illness

### FRIDAY, February 8

**6:00 p.m.** - Kids@Kol Ami *erev Shabbat* Service for children ages 2 to 5 and their families as the voices of our Student Choir enrich the evening  
**7:30 p.m.** - "Second-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with birthday and anniversary blessings (see page 10)

### SATURDAY, February 9, 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue; Lucille Barrett will deliver the *dvar Torah*

### FRIDAY, February 15, 7:30 p.m.

*erev Shabbat* Service

### SATURDAY, February 16, 10:00 a.m.

*Bnai Mitzvah* of Finlay and Stirling Buchanan-Jacobs (see page 7)

### FRIDAY, February 22

**7:30 p.m.** - Grade 6 and 7 students will participate in our *erev Shabbat* Service by sharing their interpretations of Biblical texts

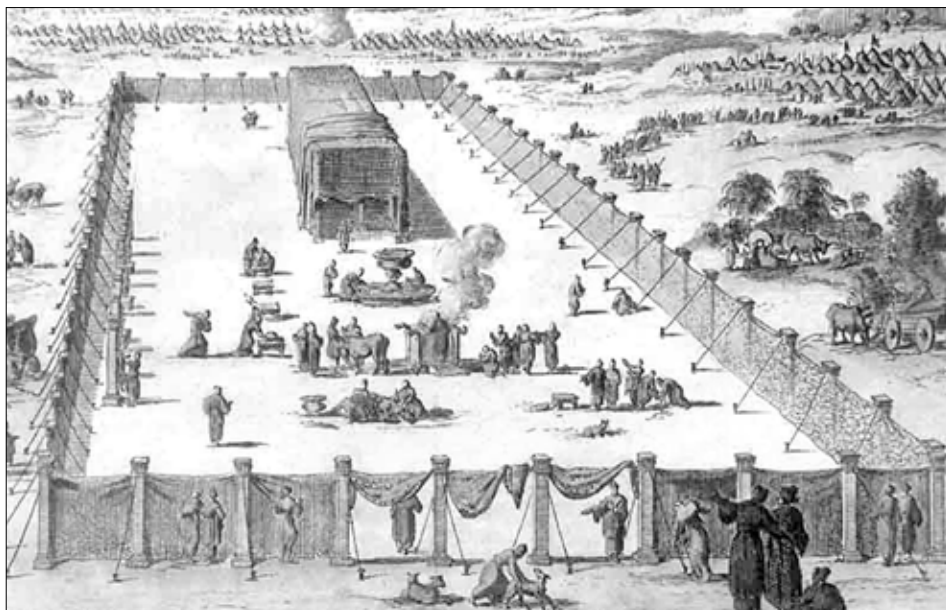
**6:45 p.m.** - BYODinner

*continued page 2*

SAVE THE DATE

## BNAI MITZVAH SERVICE OF OUR ADULT MEMBERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, AT 10:00 A.M.



We are very proud of our adult members who began their two-year course of study in October 2011 with Rabbi Holin and Rosalind Holtzman, a journey that culminates in the celebration of their *Bnai Mitzvah*!

We will rejoice this morning as Julie Cohen, Janet Goleman Felgoise, Victor Friesen, Linda S. George, Phyllis Harrison, Ilene Schafer, Kara L. Schmidt, and Elaine L. Stevens lead us in worship and as they read and chant from the *Torah*, joined in celebration by Janine Elizabeth Pratt.

They will also talk about what motivated them to embark on this program of Judaic and Hebrew study and why certain verses from *Torah* Portion *Vayakhel-Pekudei* speaks personally to each of them. ■

## SAVE THE DATE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Congregation Kol Ami's Second *Seder* will be held on Tuesday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. More information will follow in the mail. ■

## WORSHIP SERVICES (continued from page 1)

### **SATURDAY, February 23,**

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

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Purim* Service for  
Adults Only (see page 11)

### **FRIDAY, March 1, 7:30 p.m.**

"*Shabbat Across America*" (*erev Shabbat*  
Service) with "First-Friday" Blessings  
and the voices of our Adult Choir

### **SATURDAY, March 2, 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■

## **TORAH & HAFTARAH**

### **February 2 - Yitro**

Exodus 18:1-20:23, Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6

### **February 9 - Mishpatim**

Exodus 21:1-24:18  
Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26

### **February 16 - Terumah**

Exodus 25:1-27:19, First Kings 5:26-6:13

### **February 23 - Tetzaveh**

Exodus 27:20-30:10, Ezekiel 43:10-27 ■



## **CONDOLENCES**

We extend our heartfelt condolences in  
loving memory of:

### **Dr. Kenneth Cohen**

*uncle of Jeffrey Cohen (Ellen Friedman)*

### **Garth Johnston**

*Father of Eric (Adena) Johnston*  
*Grandfather of Shira*

### **Fred Miller**

*uncle of Jeffrey Cohen (Ellen Friedman)*

May their memories forever be bless-  
ings among our People. ■

# **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

## **FEBRUARY 2013, GENESIS/EXODUS**

As I am writing, we have just completed our reading of Genesis (*B'reshit*) and will begin Exodus (*Shmot*) next week. This transition has special meaning for me. It reminds me of a most memorable *Torah* study class I experienced 20 years ago with Rabbi Irwin Kula during which we studied the word "and" for two hours.

Rabbi Kula, whose appearance and language choice seemed more of Woodstock vintage than *Talmudic*, explored the layers of meaning to the opening word of the *Torah's* Second Book. That word is "And," just three letters.<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew translation is "*V'et*," represented by a single Hebrew letter, *Vav*. How could the English language's most common conjunction justify two hours of Jewish debate and conversation? My ninth-grade English teacher deducted points from writing assignments for beginning a sentence with "And." Why would G-d risk a good grade by beginning the Book of Exodus that way?

Here's what we explored. Genesis is the story of the world's creation. It is the universal story of humankind. In contrast, Exodus is the particularistic story of the Jewish peoples' "journey" in the world and specifically our relationship to G-d. How should these two dramas being juxtaposed? Rabbi Kula helped us understand that "and" is the *Torah's* profound way of connecting the universal and particular aspects of Jewish identity. The "and" emphasizes the interconnectedness between the two stories. Without the "and," Genesis and Exodus can be viewed less related.

The Jewish mission is to be "A light unto the Nations," Isaiah 49:6. This injunction captures the dual Jewish responsibility. First, look inward and build a worthy community inspired by Ethical Monotheism. Second, spread the word of One G-d. Both steps are required for Jewish success in the world. We need to be focusing inward and outward at the same time.

The "and" symbolizes the constant struggle for balance between these two competing important priorities. There is no "right answer." At times, it is more critical that we as Jewish individuals and as a community turn within to address particularistic matters. At other times, our universalistic obligations to the larger community need to be our priority. This should be a source of constant tension within each of us and throughout the Jewish world. If we don't experience that tension, we are probably ignoring one of our responsibilities.

This can be analogized to family life. Certainly, parents should insure the emotional, spiritual, and economic well-being of the home. However, if this is done to the exclusion of concern for and interaction with the community, then family life is incomplete.

Within the Jewish world, the Orthodox community tends to tilt the balance toward the particularistic approach. The Reform movement's inclination is the opposite. We must learn from each other that to achieve our Jewish mission, we must prioritize both. There is nothing inconsistent about a learned active Jew who is involved in the world. Rather, that is G-d's plan for us.

David Hyman

215-496-7224, [President@KolAmiElkinsPark.org](mailto:President@KolAmiElkinsPark.org) ■

<sup>1</sup>Curiously, The *Torah*, A Modern Commentary published by URJ and used by our Synagogue does not include "And" in its translation. The literal translation of "*V'et*" is "And these." Our *Chumash's* translation begins with "These."

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# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin



For me, 2013 arrived as a much-needed, extra-strength aspirin for a pulsating headache. Consider just the last few months of 2012.

On September 11, 2012, United States Ambassador to Libya, J. Christopher Stevens, was killed during an assault by jihadis on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. Two days later, his body and those of three other Americans killed in the attack arrived at Andrews Air Force Base. After the service, political wise men began lobbying invectives across an ever-widening Congressional aisle, some of them charging the State Department with callous disregard about security concerns that placed American diplomats and their staff in Libya at great risk. Then came an answering volley taking to task those who had the temerity to ask hard questions by suggesting that the quest for political gain was trumping civility at a time of grievous loss.

Twenty children and six adults were gunned down on December 21 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. In the aftermath of the slaughter, people have demanded meaningful dialogue about significant changes in gun laws: a ban on the sale of assault rifles (has ever a weapon been more aptly named?),

high-capacity magazines, on-line sale of ammunition, secondary “shadow sales,” and the need for increased mental health checks. An answering snarl came from defenders of the Second Amendment who have given it the status of an “11th commandment,” so sacrosanct is it in the eyes of many. Yet 41 states have no state laws that ban military-style assault weapons; 41 states do not have state laws that require background checks; 44 states have no state laws with regard to possession of large-capacity magazines manufactured before the 1994 ban, or limitations on magazines holding 10 rounds or more after the ban; 40 states have no standard licensing laws; 26 states have no state laws with regard to background checks to purchase ammunition. The right to carry an assault weapon should not trump my right to feel safe, given that screening for purchases of weapons and ammunition is so haphazard that anyone with a grudge or the desire to create mayhem can buy guns in most states as easily as I can go to the store to buy milk.

Meanwhile our fingers cling to the slippery slope of the “fiscal cliff.” The negotiations and debates were an ongoing drama that played out

like a mechanic’s worst nightmare: oil that kept the gears of the political machine lubricated bled out, and all we heard was the screeching sound of metal grinding on metal for weeks on end. When all—but not nearly enough—was said and done, we had bought some time, mixed in with a lot of bitterness and disillusionment on the streets and in foreclosed homes, as politicians angled for position in advance of the next election.

In Israel, the drift to the right continues. I write these words on January 15, exactly one week prior to the election which will have taken place a week before this page settles into your hands or onto your screen. Netanyahu is in bed with the ultra-Orthodox, the *haredim* who vilify women not deemed to be modestly attired, and who attack women trying to pray in their small, designated section of the Western Wall. The government sends police to arrest the women, further empowering those who assert that their personal mandate as “the legitimate protectors of *Torah*” trumps the rights of those whom they consider to be less enlightened. Attacks on immigrants increase, less an expression of religious intolerance than outright racism, though the distinction does not lessen the outrage for these despicable acts. The left and the left-of-center offer the only viable alternative to the current coalition whose political monopoly carries Israel farther and farther away from commitment to social justice and the prophetic imperative to be “a light unto the nations.”

Around Israel, the circle of normalization is contracting. Disturbing videos of virulent anti-Semitic comments made as recently as 2010 by Egypt’s President Morsi have surfaced. As leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, he called on Egyptians to “nurse our children and our grandchildren on hatred” for Jews and Zionists, calling us “descendants of apes and pigs.”

*continued page 5*



# “MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: STRIVE FOR 225”

At our *erev Shabbat* service on November 2, we officially commenced a new program called “Membership Drive: Strive for 225.” The program gives each congregant the opportunity to present guest memberships to unaffiliated individuals and families who might be interested in our intimate and dynamic community. Guest members are invited to participate in Congregation Kol Ami services and events now through June 2013. If you have a neighbor, co-worker, friend, or family member who might like to get a “taste” of Kol Ami, please contact Elaine Stevens at [execdir@kolamielkinspark.org](mailto:execdir@kolamielkinspark.org) or 215-635-3110. For every guest member you suggest, you’ll get a chance to win an iPad.

Three congregants spoke that evening about their love for Congregation Kol Ami. This month, we are pleased to share excerpts of Bill Shapiro’s speech.

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## FROM BILL SHAPIRO

“My wife, Betty, and I joined Congregation Kol Ami about five years ago, following a year-long search for a new spiritual home. What impressed and attracted us to Kol Ami at those first visits and throughout our initial year of membership is what continues to draw us to our congregation.

“One: Rabbi Elliot Holin, an incomparable spiritual guide, learned, wise, and a great source of Jewish knowledge, but also a warm man we can relate to personally in a very real and emotionally connected manner. From the beginning, I sensed his genuine interest in my wife, my adult children, and me. Elliot also guides me how to think about God in a way that is helpful and meaningful to me.

“Two: Rebecca Schwartz, our cantorial soloist, whose exquisite voice and lovely manner moves our worship to a peak that would not be possible without her beautiful melodies. She is also a superb choir leader. I have also had the added benefit of attending a trope class led by Rebecca two years ago. I now feel comfortable chanting and have had the privilege of chanting from the *Torah* at least a few times each year since that time.

“I also am a member of The Worship Enhancement Committee. I liked the idea of being part of a committee whose goal is to make worship more meaningful and inclusive for all members. I now am one of the co-chairs of this committee with Mindy Levy.

I find the *Shabbat* morning service in our chapel to be a time when I especially appreciate the specialness of Kol Ami.

“Israel is also very important to me. I am pleased and comforted by the fact that although Israel is not a perfect place, that our congregation’s support and love for the land is unquestionable.

“Betty and I both have the pleasure of participating in the Contemporary Writers Book Club led by Lou Barrett. This is an enriching and learning experience.

“Betty attends adult education classes and participates in the Spiritual Growth Group. These discussions have been a wonderful way for her to integrate alternative methods of spiritual expression in addition to our regular worship.

“Kol Ami has much to offer us ‘empty nesters.’ The description of an ideal synagogue in the last line of *Mishkan T’filah* says it best. My experience at Kol Ami has truly been for me ‘the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.’”

We encourage you to “gift” guest memberships to friends, family members, coworkers, and neighbors. It entitles them to free membership at Congregation Kol Ami now through June 2013, including the opportunity to attend *Shabbat* and High Holy Day services and celebrations, speakers, interfaith relationship dialogue gatherings, social events such as the golf outing, and more—with the sole exception of religious school.

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## WELCOME OUR GUEST MEMBERS

Bob and Arden Bell  
Jerry and Lee Berkowitz  
Stanley and Julie Cheiken  
Elaine Cohen  
Maurice Feldman and Marlene Kessler  
Kelly Green  
Marla Greenberg  
Joel and Bonnie Jaffe  
John Kiser and Shara Alpern  
Paul and Sara Lazrow  
Lorraine Linder  
Fred Siegfried and Pearl Frank ■

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: THE PALI FAMILY



Kol Ami is happy to welcome new associate members Amy and Latham Pali, and their 3-year-old son Logan. They joined our congregation as Logan enrolled in our Nursery School this September. Amy notes that they are an interfaith family, and that Latham supports her in giving Logan a

solid Jewish background—and also in learning about Judaism himself. Amy adds that she also looks forward to getting involved in community events with Kol Ami.

Amy and Latham both grew up nearby in Montgomery County—Amy in Erdenheim and Latham in Flourtown. They were childhood sweethearts, first meeting in Enfield Middle School. Amy and Latham got married in February 2008, taking their honeymoon in Telluride, Colorado, which is apropos given their love of the outdoors. Logan was born in January 2009, and now he is a preschooler at Kol Ami. The Palis say they had an awesome summer at their house in the Poconos, with Logan getting into fishing and being taken for swims in the lake.

Amy is a stay-at-home mother, saying that she loves it more than any other job she's ever had. Latham is vice president and chief operating officer of the J.P. Nissen Company in Glenside, manufacturers of markers for the textile and metal-marking industry. Amy and Latham describe themselves as low-key, casual people who like to travel and to be outdoors, and who enjoy reading when they are indoors. Their lives are perhaps made most hectic by their lovably crazy dogs—a black lab named Tucker and a springer spaniel named Charlie.

We are so happy to welcome the Pali family to our congregation! ■

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## EXPERIENCING ANY BARRIERS TO ATTENDING SERVICES?

The Worship Enhancement Committee (WEC) and the Inclusion Committee would like to know if anyone is experiencing any barriers to attending services. Please make this known to either Bill Shapiro ([bpswds@verizon.net](mailto:bpswds@verizon.net)) or Mindy Levy ([artb4words@verizon.net](mailto:artb4words@verizon.net)), co-chairs of the WEC, or Barry Boise ([boiseb@pepperlaw.com](mailto:boiseb@pepperlaw.com)) or Joel Fishbein ([fishbein@litchfieldcavo.com](mailto:fishbein@litchfieldcavo.com)), co-chairs of the Inclusion Committee. We would love to see you at our services and events and want to make sure that we address and resolve any obstacles that you may be facing. ■

## FROM THE RABBI

(continued from page 3)

How likely is it that, now as President, he will distance himself from his words, given that his strongest support comes from the Muslim Brotherhood? In Jordan, King Hussein faces demonstrations in the streets. On the West Bank, president Abbas of the PA says that “Israel was created in sin.” His words to the United Nations cast aspersions upon Israel. Hamas can sweep into the West Bank at will, and if rockets fall upon Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the country will shut down: the airport will close and food, fuel, and medical lifelines that sustain the population will atrophy. Lebanon is under the domain of Hezbollah, and Syria's future is uncertain, save that a new regime will remain implacable in its hostility toward Israel.

No party hats for me this past New Year's eve. No horns to blow either. A sober night it was: a reflection of how I feel about the predicaments facing our country and the world. Yet I am fortified by the words of one of our Hebrew prophets, Zechariah, who was among those who returned to Jerusalem following the Babylonian exile. He hammered home the message that fasting and religious observance cannot replace the quest for justice and mercy. It is truly a message for our time. He called us “*asoaray ba'tikvah*,” (prisoners of hope). The phrase, *asoaray ba'tikvah*, is part of our Jewish DNA, and its message inspires, sustains and fortifies us.

With spirits revived, and my resolve to change things for the better much stronger now than it was at the turn of the secular year, I feel a greater urge to make a difference in the name of hope. It is, in essence, what keeps me going.

*Shalom u'vrachah,*  
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Finance Committee**

Wednesday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m.  
Co-chairs: Marshall Schafer, 215-663-0228, and Bart Weiner, 215-233-4712

### **Operations Committee**

Sunday, February 24, at 12:15 p.m.  
Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232

### **Religious School PTO**

Sunday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m.  
Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335, and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

### **Social Action Committee**

Wednesday, February 13, at 7:15 p.m.  
Chair: Ronit Sugar 215-635-0390

### **Worship Enhancement Committee**

Sunday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m.  
Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and Bill Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■



## **SCRIP TO THE LOU, MY DARLING!**

Congregation Kol Ami Scrip is still up and running in 2013. Help raise money for Kol Ami just by doing your regular shopping. Whole Foods, Acme, Giant Foods, and Target are available for immediate pick-up each week in \$25.00 increments. Plus there are more than 600 other retailers and services available.

Kol Ami's Scrip program is for everyone in the congregation. Orders will be processed, and the scrip cards will be made available the following week for pick-up. It's simple, easy, and a GREAT way to help Kol Ami.

All orders and any questions can be directed to Kenny Moss [km.photos@comcast.net](mailto:km.photos@comcast.net) (co-chair of the Religious School PTO) or Elaine Stevens. ■

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**O**n the first day of religious school following winter break, Kol Ami launched a new program. **Hebrew Institute** is a program for students in Grades 4 through 7, and replaces grade-level Hebrew learning by grouping together students with similar strengths and areas for improvement. The program has been running on Sundays and Wednesdays, with the specific goal of enhancing a student's Hebrew reading fluency and Hebrew vocabulary.

In addition to that new program, our Grade 7 students have begun a six-week preparatory program for Confirmation Academy. On Sundays, Grade 7 students spend a portion of their day assisting teachers in younger grades. The goal is for our students to learn leadership skills and to enhance their sense of community with other Kol Ami students. On Wednesdays, the Grade 7 students have been engaged in a new six-week course taught by Rabbi Holin, preparing them for their impending transition to Confirmation Academy on Wednesday evenings.

And finally, another program to look forward to...Sunday, February 24, is Queen Esther's Royal Banquet, a new Color War event for the whole school. Stay tuned for more details on what's sure to be a memorable day in the land of Shushan.

David Monblatt  
215-635-7106, [EdDir@KolAmiElkinsPark.org](mailto:EdDir@KolAmiElkinsPark.org) ■

## **JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP PURIM PARTY!**

Join us for a fun afternoon of *hamantaschen* baking and other *Purim* delights!

**Date:** Sunday, February 24

**Time:** 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**Where:** At the home of Gabrielle Wexler in Glenside

Watch for a flyer in your in-box for more information. ■

## **MAAYAN SHOHAM'S TRIP TO ISRAEL**



SEE FULL PHOTO ON PAGE 17

Through the generosity of a Kol Ami family, I was given the opportunity to go to Israel with my camp. I am very thankful that I got to explore Israel and learn more about my Jewish identity. I met kids from other Jewish camps and saw how their traditions are similar and different to my camp's traditions. Israel was such an incredible opportunity. I learned so much about other people's culture and got a chance to be a part of it. We spoke with people from a homeless organization and heard their life stories. It was eye opening and made me very thankful for everything that I have in my life. Another highlight of my trip was spending *Shabbat* in the *Kotel*, which was so beautiful at night. It was incredible that I was able to go there and pray with my closest friends. I also learned a great deal about the Bedouins. They told us all about their traditions and how they welcome their guests with three different cups of tea, each having its own meaning. Later that day, we experienced a Bedouin feast, rode camels, and slept in huge Bedouin tents. Although I come from an Israeli background, I feel as if I learned more about Israel this past month than I have throughout the 11 years that I lived there. ■



## BAR MITZVAH OF FINLAY BUCHANAN-JACOBS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, AT 10:00 A.M.



Finlay is in the seventh grade at Harrington Middle School in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. His favorite subject is math. This past fall, he was on his school's cross-country team. His extracurricular interests include golf and disc golf, karate, basketball, and baseball. For his *Bar Mitzvah* Project,

he is raising funds through a charity disc golf event, and the entry fee will be canned goods.

He says, "I am proud to be Jewish because I am able to carry on our religion to the next generation and to teach it one day to my children. I am also proud to be part of the religion that survived Hitler and keeps on growing.

"One of my most powerful Jewish experiences was participating in our grade-level services on *Shabbat* because I feel that when we lead services, we are giving back to the community to which we belong. This is part of what Judaism is all about, and I feel close to G-d at these times.

"By participating in services and celebrating the holy days, I have a good relationship with G-d. As a Reform Jewish family, we follow the basics of being Jewish by lighting the *Shabbat* candles and saying the blessings over them, as well as the wine and *challah*, and we also celebrate the major Jewish holy days.

"My favorite *Shabbat* prayers are the *Yotzer* and the *G'vurote*. The theme of the *Yotzer* is creation, and I can apply its words to my life by thinking about how the world was created, and also about the generations that came before me. The *G'vurote* talks about God's power to inspire and save, and its thought is that we have an everlasting bond and connection to G-d, and He will help us.

"I chose to read from the Book of Exodus, chapter 25:2-7 and chapter 26:37-27:5 because they were of the greatest interest to me in my *Torah* Portion. The first group of verses is about the most important things that would become part of the Tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, and the second group is about how part of the Tabernacle should be constructed."

We congratulate Finlay's parents, Linda Jacobs and Jeff Buchanan. ■

## BAR MITZVAH OF STIRLING BUCHANAN-JACOBS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, AT 10:00 A.M.



Stirling is in the seventh grade at Harrington Middle School in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. His favorite subject is science because he enjoys the experiments. He wrestles at school and also enjoys playing basketball and baseball.

For his *Bar Mitzvah* Project, he helped out with a program called "Challenger Basketball." It helps mentally challenged children play basketball, and Stirling helped out on this program every Saturday and Tuesday for four months until it ended.

"I enjoy being Jewish because of all of the holy days and family time. I like that we have family dinners every Friday night because it is *Shabbat*.

"My favorite *Shabbat* prayers are the *Sh'ma* and *V'ahavtah* because of the melody with which they are chanted and what they mean. The *Sh'ma* says that God is glorious and is a very powerful being, and the *V'ahavtah* says that you shall love God no matter what, with everything you have, through good times and bad times, because God will always love you back.

"A powerful Jewish experience for me was reading about the Holocaust in a book called "Milkweed." It is about a Jewish boy who was an orphan, and it tells about his tortuous adventures and stories. He had to sneak out of the ghetto every night so that he could find food in order to live. The story was all the more powerful because the boy was even younger than me.

"I chose to read verses from the Book of Exodus, 25:10-22, because it is the most interesting part of my *Torah* Portion. The verses talk about constructing the Tabernacle and the Tent of Meeting, and I think we can apply these verses to our lives by listening to our teachers or employers and obeying what they tell us to do."

We congratulate Stirling's parents, Linda Jacobs and Jeff Buchanan. ■

# Continuing Jewish Education

## Defiance: The Jewish Partisans and Resistance in the Holocaust

Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
February 28; March 7, 14 & 21 (4 Sessions)

Instructor: David Monblatt



During World War II, there were approximately 25,000 Jews throughout Europe and Russia who escaped the clutches of the Nazis and their collaborators and formed or joined armed resistance groups. Sacrificing all, these brave men and women have come to be known as The Jewish Partisans, and their accomplish-

ments contributed to the ultimate defeat of Nazi Germany. This course will examine the heroic efforts of the Partisans, as well as explore the numerous ways in which the Jewish people resisted annihilation, including: saving lives, documenting atrocities, and spiritual resistance

Please respond to the synagogue office (215-635-3110) by Thursday, February 21.

## Hayyim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934) – Israel's National Poet



Wednesday mornings  
from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
March 6, 13, 20 & 27  
(4 Sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Bialik was born in Ukraine and studied at the renowned Volozhin Yeshivah in Lithuania. His poem "Should You Wish to Know the Source" is fulsome praise for the

synagogue as a house of prayer, study, and the embodiment of *mitzvo*t. "Sabbath Queen" is a beautiful description of the gifts that the day of rest bestows on everyone who tastes its splendor. He eventually left the yeshivah to join the *Haskalah* (Jewish Enlightenment) movement because of his disenchantment with study that stultified his soul.

In 1903, his epic poem "In the City of Slaughter" was a scream of anguish following the brutality of the Kishinev pogroms, seeds of the Holocaust that would engulf Europe in less than 30 years.

His poems urged a reawakening of the Jewish People in the face of anti-Semitism and in the name of national identity (Zionism) as well as poems that speak about intimate relationships found in love and friendship, as in his work "Take Me under Your Wing."

Please RSVP to the synagogue officer (215-635-3110) by Wednesday, February 27.

## Boker Tov Torah: Agnon and Other Storytellers



Thursday mornings  
from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
April 4, 11, 18 & 25  
(4 Sessions)

Instructor: Professor  
Howard I. Bogot, Rabbi

Stories provide us with staged landscapes for living our lives. Jewish stories reflect the same literary motifs as found in any culture. Every day, we Jews journey on the ark with Noah, cross the Reed Sea with Moses, embarrass the idolaters with Elijah, ride inside the whale with Jonah, and applaud Mordechai as he is led by Haman through the streets of Shushan.

At this seminar, we will read, hear, and discuss the stories that define Jewishness. We might even write some stories for each other.

Please RSVP to the synagogue office (215-635-3110) by Thursday, March 28.

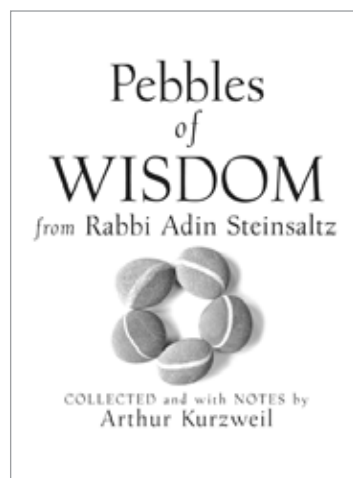


# The Wisdom of "Pebbles of Wisdom" by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz

Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18 & 25 (4 Sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot J. Holin



Born in Jerusalem in 1937, Steinsaltz studied mathematics, physics, and chemistry at Hebrew University in addition to rabbinic studies. An Orthodox rabbi, renowned as a teacher, philosopher, and spiritual guide, he has devoted his life to making the *Talmud* accessible to all Jews. This book is a collection of his "pebbles of wisdom" from more than

30 years of his lectures and writings about life, awareness, and faith.

We will read and discuss selected "pebbles" such as this: "As more and more people who tried it found out, you don't get a gateway to Heaven. You get, at most, a gateway into another chamber within yourself" and this: "When we pray, saying, 'Give us a portion in your *Torah*,' it is to let us have the merit and the good fortune to grasp our own private portion of the *Torah*."

How might his insights open up the possibility for greater awareness and wholeness in our lives and a greater appreciation of what Jewish teachings offer?

Please RSVP to the synagogue office (215-635-3110) by Thursday, March 28.

## Registration Instructions

To register for a workshop, contact Elaine Stevens at [execdir@kolamielkinspark.org](mailto:execdir@kolamielkinspark.org) by the deadline shown.

Non-member course fees for classes taught by Rabbi Bogot are \$50 per course. Members are free.

Course fees can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year. ■

## HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Thank you greatly for your generosity:

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

Ken and Elva Davis

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

David Hyman

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 ■

# Kol Ami Events

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## IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF FOUNDING PRESIDENT STUART D. APPEL

*erev Shabbat* Service, February 1, at 7:30 p.m.  
with our Adult Choir



Our gratitude to Stuart Appel for his vision, inspiration, and leadership as our Founding President is immense and everlasting.

When Congregation Kol Ami commenced in July 1994, he said, "We want to create a place where children are welcome at all times, a place where everyone knows each other, a place that is a sanctuary in the literal sense."

We gather tonight to sing his praise.

## 'SECOND-FRIDAY' EREV SHABBAT SERVICE for February Birthday and Anniversary Blessings Friday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

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

## HEBREW FREE LOAN SOCIETY SHABBAT *erev Shabbat*, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

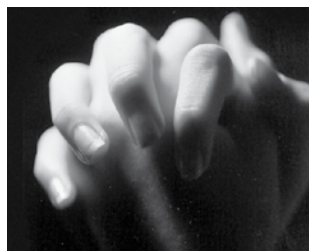
We welcome Tamar E. Granor, co-president of the Hebrew Free Loan Society of Greater Philadelphia and sister of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein, to address us on the *Shabbat* whose *Torah* Portion verse inspired the Hebrew Free Loan movement: "If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, do not act toward them as a creditor, exact no interest from them."

Since 1984, the Hebrew Free Loan Society has offered interest-free, no-cost loans to members of the Jewish community with a temporary financial need. In addition, the Society now offers interest-free loans up to \$10,000 for those starting a new business or changing the direction of an existing business.

Visit [www.hebrewfreeloanphila.org](http://www.hebrewfreeloanphila.org) for more information and on Twitter as @HFLPhilly. Better yet, be with us this evening to greet Ms. Granor and learn about the Society's new initiative.

## HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, February 10, at 1:00 p.m.



Our tradition offers moving and powerful prayers for healing as we gather to say the *Mi'Shehbeirach* ("May The Holy One Who blesses...") prayer for a loved one in a hospital, recovering at home,

or in hospice care, and for ourselves as well: those who are in mourning following the death of a loved one, as well as healers who are in need of healing.

## LOCA JOINS HIWAY THEATRE FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

February 11 & March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

immediately following the month's film screening  
Hiway Theatre, 212 Old York Road, Jenkinton, PA

The LOCAs have been invited to join the Hiway Theatre Film Discussion Group, which is held on the second Monday of each month.

Discussions are led by Adrienne Redd, experienced film discussion leader, lecturer, and professor. The discussion are open to the public and free with paid admission. There is no charge to attend the discussion only. If you are a movie lover, you're going to love participating in these lively discussions.

Please contact Natalie Dyen ([nat.dyen@verizon.net](mailto:nat.dyen@verizon.net), 215-657-4124) if you'd like to attend the next discussion group. If enough people are interested, we could plan to meet beforehand for dinner.

## 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 **Wednesday, February 13**, and **Thursday, March 14**.

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 **Tuesday, February 26**, and **Wednesday, March 27**.

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')

## EREV PURIM "ADULT-ONLY" SERVICE

Saturday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.



Our "back-by-popular-demand" *erev Purim* Service experience for adults! As Rebecca chants initial verses from the chapters of the Megillat Esther—the *Purim* Scroll—we will intersperse the text with humorous stories to give *Purim* a

bit of needed levity. Afterwards, a self-serve "*Shushan* bar" awaits you in accordance with the *halachic* requirement that one should drink on this holy day in particular.

Join us for a hour of frivolity followed by schnapps!

## "SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA"

*erev Shabbat*, March 1, at our 7:30 p.m. service  
Congregation Kol Ami joins in the national celebration!  
Give your friends a taste of Kol Ami!



"*Shabbat* Across America" is a nationally acclaimed program that gives people a positive and joyful *Shabbat* experience. Synagogue members throughout the country are encouraged to invite their unaffiliated friends to a *Shabbat* dinner at their congregation to celebrate the defining moment of the Jewish week together. The National Jewish Outreach Program will publicize this evening throughout America.

Your guests will be "our guests" at the catered dinner, and they will be given Rebecca Schwartz's CD, "*Shir Shabbat*" ("Song of *Shabbat*," which also features the voices of our Adult and Student Choirs).

Please call Elaine Stevens at 215-635-4182 no later than Wednesday, February 27, to RSVP for dinner (\$16 per adult and \$10 per child under the age of 8).



## COOK FOR A FRIEND

Sunday, March 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Come join us in the Kol Ami kitchen as we cook meals for homebound seniors in Philadelphia. We will make about 50 meals, which will be packaged and frozen to be picked up later and delivered. This supports the "Cook for a Friend" program of the Klein JCC. Adults and kids over the age of 10 are welcome. Please RSVP to Ronit Sugar, Social Action Committee chair at 215-208-7027 or [ronitsugar@gmail.com](mailto:ronitsugar@gmail.com) by February 28.

*continued page 15*

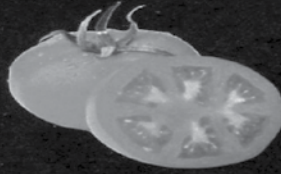


# PITA POCKET

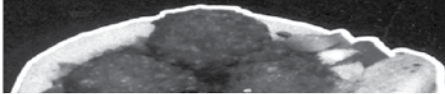
582 Cottman Ave. | Cheltenham, PA 19012



Vegetarian



**Adel Zaid**  
Executive Chef



**215.663.2828**

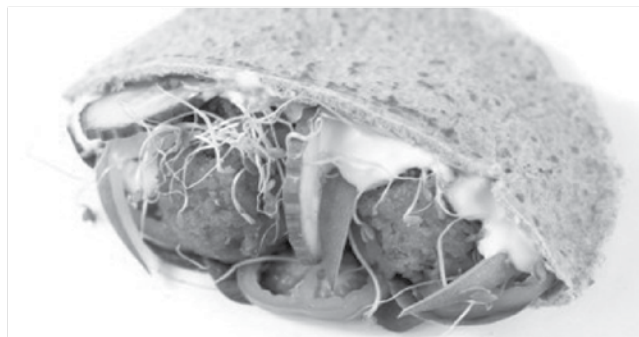
Friends & Families of Congregation Kol Ami:

Looking for a tasty lunch and dinner  
'Dine-Around' suggestion?

Stop by between the hours of  
11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

***Wednesday, February 27, 2013***

Bring a copy of this flyer to Pita Pocket  
Eatery and 15% of your order total will be  
generously donated back to Kol Ami.  
Pita Pocket has wonderful food and is kosher.  
Stop in to dine or take-out your order  
and bring it back home.



Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 / 215-635-3110



# Family Bingo Night

**Come out and join us at Congregation Kol Ami**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013**

**5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.**

***Kid-Friendly Prizes • 50/50 Raffle! • "Themed" Raffle Items***

***Refreshments Available!***

**For more information, please call Ellen Kovnat**

**Phone: 215-886-8713**

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

**Pre-order for big savings!**

Name:
E-mail:
Street Address:
City, State, Zip:
Hm Phone/Wk phone:
# 4 packs _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____
# single packs _____ @ \$ 5.00 = \$ _____
Payment Check # _____ (Payable to Kol Ami) \$ _____



**4 pack – 14" cheese  
pizza, 4 drinks, 4 cookies,  
10 bingo cards .... \$20.00  
(\$24.00 at the door)**

**Single pack – 2 pizza  
slices, 1 drink, 1 cookie,  
2 bingo cards .... \$5.00  
(\$6.00 at the door)**

**Deadline for pre-ordering is February 24, 2013. Please send form and check to:**

**8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

## Open to the community

# Fighting the Forces of Fat and Fatigue!



at Congregation Kol Ami  
Thursday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m.

**PERFORMED BY THE WALNUT STREET  
THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH COMPANY**

"You are what you eat"... or so the saying goes. If it's true, are we slowly turning into sedentary lumps of malnourished, inactive, out-of-shape protoplasm? What are we to do? Who will save the world from an increasingly tubby tomorrow? Call Nick Nutrition and his dog Fiber! By day, an average boy and his dog, but, after school, they become an intrepid pair of superheroes dedicated to improving the minds and bodies of their fair city. Each day offers choices and poses challenges. This new play offers a fun and entertaining introduction to good eating habits and the importance of daily activity, while providing students with a head start to a healthy future. With Nick's courage and Fiber's intelligence, students are empowered to take control of their health!

For grades K-6



With the recent cold temperatures being hard on nature's creatures, our Nursery School children made bird feeders using empty cardboard tubes, peanut butter, and seeds.



## 2013 AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 3, through Tuesday, March 5

Walter E. Washington Conv. Center, Washington, DC



Join **Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin, Shelly and David Chamberland, Stewart Eisenberg, Jan Felgoise, and Becca Leifer** at the 2013 American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference.

Following the incessant rocket attacks on homes and population centers in Israel, and the IDF's bombardment of Gaza in response, your presence and voice at this year's AIPAC Policy Conference is vital to ensure America's on-going support of Israel during these changing and perilous times.

Be there with us as we hear from scholars, journalists, and military and political analysts as you choose from literally hundreds of think-tank discussions on vital issues. In the words of Stewart Eisenberg: "At this critical time, the AIPAC Conference is a unique opportunity to hear from experts on all topics related to events unfolding in the entire Middle East as they affect Israel. It is so important to attend if you want to also learn about the most up-to-date information on the relationship between the United States and Israel, and how you can make a difference in Washington." As Kol Ami member Jan Felgoise wrote after last year's conference: "It's a life-transforming experience!"

We will gather with almost 10,000 participants and student activists to learn and then lobby members of Congress on Israel's behalf.

To register for the conference, visit [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org) or contact Rabbi Holin (215-635-4182) if you are interested in attending this important event.



### "WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

### 150 YEARS OF MAGIC AND MIGRATION"

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

presented by Ben Adams

How could it be that my family history begins in a Polish prison and ends on the shores of the South Pacific, via the royal courts of Europe?

How could a name go from Boscowarschawski to Adams, and include three generations of magicians and a Lord, a Lady, and a Baron?

All Jewish family tales are complex, but you may find this one particularly intriguing. Skeletons in the closet and mesmerizing experiments—all will be revealed! To spice things up, I'll bring some props from the original Wizard himself, dating back to the mid 1800s. Join us for this interesting and informative discussion.



**It's your family's affair and only the best will do.**

**The celebration must be fun.**

**The food must be fantastic.**

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## CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS GROUP BOOK REVIEW WITH LOU BARRETT

**"The Human Stain" by Philip Roth**  
**Sunday, March 17, at 11:00 a.m.**

It is 1998, the year in which a New England town is caught in frenzy. An aging college professor, Coleman Silk, is asked to retire when his colleagues decide that he is a racist. The charge is not true, but the real truth about Silk allows Philip Roth to create a tale significant in its timeliness, its issues, its comedy, and its ironies.

Coleman Silk has a secret, one which has been kept for 50 years from his wife, his children, his colleagues, and his friends, including the writer Nathan Zuckerman, who is Roth's own doppelgänger. It is Zuckerman who stumbles upon Silk's secret and sets out to reconstruct the unknown biography of this eminent, upright man, honored as an educator for nearly all his life. He tries to understand how Coleman Silk's life and career came unraveled. Zuckerman and Roth's readers will discover how Silk's astonishing private history is, in the words of "The Wall Street Journal," 'magnificently' interwoven with 'the larger public history of modern America.'

## YEDIDAY KOL AMI - "PHILLIES GAME" EVENT

**Monday, June 17, at the Citizens Bank Ball Park**



*Yedidday* Kol Ami ("Friends of Kol Ami") members will have the opportunity for a special treat. Philadelphia Phillies General Manager Ruben Amaro, Jr. will meet with us before the Phillies game against the Miami Marlins that evening. After the base-

ball chat, we will enjoy a beautiful summer evening at the Park, watching the home team beat up on the Fish. *Yedidday* members, please hold the date. Details will be forthcoming.

This event is one of a series of special offerings for *Yedidday* Kol Ami members. Please consider joining us. Your generosity will greatly benefit the Synagogue, and you will have the chance to join in the fun. For more information, please contact Elaine Stevens at [execdir@kolamielkinspark.org](mailto:execdir@kolamielkinspark.org) or 215-635-3110.

We greatly appreciate the support of the following members of *Yedidday* Kol Ami:

Bruce and Ellen Asam  
David Baker and Irene Levy Baker  
Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen  
Barry and Allison Boise  
Michael and Sara Chernoff

## YEDIDAY KOL AMI MEMBERS (continued)

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman  
Arthur and Joanne Gordon  
Ray and Sis Grenald  
David Hyman  
William Hyman and Janine Pratt  
Eric and Adena Johnston  
David and Patricia Long  
The Poppel Family  
Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar  
The Sender Family  
Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin  
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser  
Elaine Stevens  
Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner ■

## KOL AMI'S ARTIST OF THE MONTH SUSAN C. MACDONALD

Susan grew up in Philadelphia and now lives in the suburbs. She went to Tyler School of Fine Arts. As an undergraduate, she was a printmaker and then later began to paint. She received her BS, BFA, and a Master's equivalency in Art Education.

For 32 years, Susan taught Art in the Philadelphia Public School District. She retired 12 years ago and for the last several years has been doing mixed media/found objects assemblages. They are a culmination of everything in her life. Each one tells a story...or you can find your own. Susan's works will be on display in the Kol Ami Gallery from **February 20 through April 1**.

The gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If the religious school is closed on those days, the gallery is closed as well. Also, all of Susan's works are for sale, and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the synagogue. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece. ■



CONGREGATION KOL AMI • קול עמי

# GOLF & TENNIS.

*An outing to honor...*

**JONATHAN H. SPERGEL, ESQ.**

Partner at Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP

Join us for a day of golf, tennis, food and fun! This outing is an opportunity to honor Jonathan Spergel—a *pro* at working to sustain our environment and enrich our community. He joins us in celebrating the growth of Kol Ami's vibrant, spiritual world.

For more information, go to [kolamielkinspark.org](http://kolamielkinspark.org) or call 215-635-3110.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Monday • May 6, 2013**

Philmont Country Club  
301 Tomlinson Road  
Huntingdon Valley

— EARLY SPONSORS —

### PLATINUM

Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP  
The Hyman Family

### GOLD

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman  
and Performance Leaders, LLC  
Philip and Ruth Spergel  
SugarHouse Casino  
WP Realty  
Young Adjustment Company, Inc.

PHOTO TAKEN DURING MAAYAN'S TRIP TO ISRAEL





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

*Join us!! The committees and social groups described below offer the opportunity to become more involved. Take a moment to read this information and feel free to contact the chairpersons with any questions or to sign up.*

<p><b><u>Adult Education Committee</u></b> This committee promotes educational activities and programs for our congregation and the community, including continuing Jewish education classes with Rabbi Holin, and programs with guest lecturers. <b>Chairs:</b> Michael Chernoff-215-677-8896 – mchernoff@verizon.net Alan Gershenson-215/887-3994 - gershlaw1@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Finance Committee</u></b> This committee is charged with monitoring the financial position of the synagogue. Included in this process is evaluation of financial statements, creation of the annual budget, monitoring performance versus budget, cost control, analysis of dues structure, fundraising, all insurance matters, maintaining banking relationships and interacting with our banks, analysis of the fund accounts, and the creation of strategic partnerships. <b>Chairs:</b> Marshall Schafer-215-663-0228 - mschafer21@comcast.net Bart Weiner-215/233-4712 – bart.weiner@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Art and Design Committee</u></b> The role of this committee is to define the aesthetic goals of the Congregation and to present design options that are consistent with those goals. The committee also monitors "The Gallery at Kol Ami" a six or eight week rotation of art by regional artists to grace our lobby walls, and supervises artwork installations, scheduling and show openings. <b>Chair:</b> Karol Appel-215/938-9330 - a1karol@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Inclusion Committee</u></b> The responsibility of this committee is to evaluate, develop and recommend to the Board of Trustees policies and procedures concerning the inclusion and participation of all people, regardless of physical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral ability, in all areas of Congregation Kol Ami religious and communal life. <b>Chairs:</b> Barry Boise-215-635-9042 - boiseb@pepperlaw.com Joel Fishbein-215-635-3615 - jfishbein@lawsgr.com</p>
<p><b><u>Caring Congregants Committee</u></b> This committee reaches out to members in times of celebration, sympathy, life cycle events, and transitions (births, birthdays, hospitalizations, death or extraordinary needs) and develops activities to sustain this important outreach. This program provides a consistent means for members to recognize and respond to one another during important times in each other's lives. <b>Chairs:</b> Linda George-215-782-1413 - lindasgeorge@gmail.com Elaine Gershenson-215/887-3994 - gershlaw@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Interfaith Relationship Dialogue</u></b> This committee provides an inclusive and open environment in meetings with Rabbi Holin to discuss challenges unique to interfaith relationships; it provides programming to educate and address interfaith issues; and welcomes new interfaith couples/families to our congregation. <b>Chairs:</b> Julie Cohen-215/635-4716 - julie@juliecohencoaching.com Nigel Blower-215/635-4716 – nigel.blower@itevcorp.com</p>
<p><b><u>Choir</u></b> If you enjoy singing, then our Adult or Student Choirs are for you. The choirs meet every Sunday. Our student choir is for children in grades 2 through 6. Your commitment to our choir benefits our Kol Ami community and choir members have lots of fun. The choir is led by Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz. <b>Contact:</b> Rebecca Schwartz-215-572-6094 - rebeccasongs@verizon.net</p>	<p><b><u>ISH</u></b> This group is a fun way for young-ish (young at heart, people with young children, those of us who are fooling ourselves into believing we are still young) congregants to spend time together and create social network with each other. Many synagogue activities revolve around families and their children; this group organizes activities based on collective adult interests and provides opportunities to build relationships. Past events have included ice skating, a poker night, hayride, and a wine tasting. Participants are diverse in life stages -- some are married or in committed relationships, some have families, some are single. All are interested in building community within our congregation and growing together. <b>Chairs:</b> Sheryl Cohen-215-885-2436 – shcohen361@verizon.net Heather Pelletier-215/855-3216 – hfppt1@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Environmental Stewardship Committee</u></b> This committee develops and provides educational, action and advocacy programs on sustainability issues and topics, in liaison with other standing committees and in coalition with the Jewish Climate Change Campaign and other Jewish organizations. It also provides policy recommendations and promotes efficient, economic and sustainable practices to our Board of Trustees. <b>Chair:</b> Mark Kaplan-215-635-2920 -- sustainability@kolamielkinspark.org</p>	<p><b><u>IT/Technology Committee</u></b> This committee advises the congregation on technology issues including: procuring equipment, maintaining our web site, and establishing and maintaining general technology support. <b>Chairs:</b> Ellen Asam-215/635-5598 - basam@comcast.net David Chamberlain-215/635-1738 - dschamberlain@comcast.net</p>

<p><b><u>Ladies of a Certain Age (LOCA)</u></b>  This group provides opportunities for women 50ish and older to spend time together and build relationships. Activities include cultural outings in and around Philadelphia, and lots of opportunities to schmooze at food-centered events such as themed potluck dinners and <i>Shabbat</i> dinners. As participants get to know each other better, individuals within the group may discover mutual interests such as opera or ecology, which they can explore together.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Natalie Dyen 215-657-4124 – nat.dyen@verizon.net  Jean Ettinger-215-635-3623 – jeanettinger@gmail.com  Elaine Gershenson-215-887-3994 – gershlaw@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Religious School PTO</u></b>  The primary function of this group is to support the school-wide programming within the religious school and to run fundraising events. They provide the help needed for such events as the <i>Hanukkah</i> bash, the Passover learning day and Bingo Night. The group meets once a month during religious school hours.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Kenny Moss-215-277-5335 – kenny.moss2@comcast.net  Heather Pelletier-215-855-3216 – hfpt1@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Landscape and Property Enhancement Committee</u></b>  This committee is responsible for the grounds keeping and various beautification projects including the development of additional property uses, i.e., meditation garden.  <b>Chair:</b>  Guy Appel-215/938-9330 - gappel@interphaseme.com</p>	<p><b><u>Social Action Committee</u></b>  This committee develops programs to address the needs, or alleviate the suffering, of individuals in our local community, the nation, and the world in the spirit of <i>Tikun Olam</i>. The committee also strives to develop relationships with local Jewish community organizations and interfaith groups.  <b>Chair:</b>  Ronit Sugar-215/635-0390 – ronitsugar@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Library Committee</u></b>  The mission of the committee is to work with the Operations Committee and others to develop and organize our library for use by adults and children, and to plan for its utilization by members of our congregation.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Mike Chernoff-215/677-8896 - mchernov@verizon.net  Lee Laden-215/582-9642 – leeladen@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Softball</u></b>  As a member of the Delaware Valley Synagogue Softball League, our softball team offers our members an opportunity to have a fun and competitive summer. The league requires you to be at least 18 years of age. Men and women are encouraged to join.  <b>Captain:</b>  Eric Pelletier-215-855-3216 -- espt1@gmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>Membership Committee</u></b>  This committee works to identify prospective members and encourages them to join our dynamic and intimate community through maintaining contact, inviting participation and sharing knowledge of the synagogue. The committee also oversees programs designed to retain members.  <b>Chair:</b>  Irene Levy Baker-215/782-2253 - spotlightpr@comcast.net</p>	<p><b><u>Spiritual Growth Group</u></b>  The Spiritual Growth Group provides a welcome, intimate, and un-intimidating way to explore God and spirituality. In a dialogue with Rabbi Holin, we study and discuss Jewish liturgy as well as the writings of Jewish philosophers and theologians. We engage in down-to-earth discussions about spirituality in our lives and use a multi-faceted approach to our exploration of faith, including creative writing and listening to music. We have developed creative services for the congregation, and our members have presented <i>Dvar Torahs</i> at <i>Shabbat</i> services.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Natalie Dyen-215/657-4124 -- nat.dyen@verizon.net  Janet Falon-215-635-1698 – jfalton@english.upenn.edu</p>
<p><b><u>Operations Committee</u></b>  This committee is responsible for developing policies and procedures for operating the facility. This includes, but is not limited to, facility issues, personnel concerns, regulatory and risk management issues.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Guy Appel-215/938-9330 - gappel@interphaseme.com  Jeff Cohen-215-635-3232 – jeffcohen.performanceleaders@verizon.net</p>	<p><b><u>Worship Enhancement Committee</u></b>  This committee is charged with understanding the worship needs of all our congregants; it develops ideas and recommendations on how best to meet those needs, within the limits of our by-laws and in conjunction with the Rabbi's guidance. In addition, we are accountable for the ongoing development and quality of the worship experience (<i>Shabbat</i> and High Holy Days) including music/choirs, use of the Sanctuary and Chapel, integration of our prayer book, <i>Mishkan T'filah</i>, dedicated youth services and any other ideas for improving the worship experience and attracting more congregants to worship.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Mindy Levy-215-885-3672 - artb4words@verizon.net  William Shapiro-215-517-8666 – bpswds@verizon.net</p>
<p><b><u>Religious School Committee</u></b>  In consultation with David Monblatt, our Director of Education and Rabbi Holin, this committee develops grade-level programs, on-going dialogues between parents and this committee, supports the Youth Groups, the Family Education programs, and suggests policies for the governance and operation of our school.  <b>Chairs:</b>  Barbara Fink-215-88-2297 - bfink3@gmail.com  Sheryl Cohen-215-885-2436 – shcohen361@verizon.net</p>	

# Social Action Happenings

## JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

**Come out and help sort, pack, and deliver food to needy families on Sunday, February 17, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Relief Agency Food Distribution Center**

The Jewish Relief Agency is a dynamic, volunteer-driven organization whose goal is to help Jews in need. Since its founding in 2000, JRA has been bringing together individuals of all means, ages, and backgrounds each month in a spirit of community and *tikun olam*. Through the efforts of JRA's community of more than 10,000 volunteers, monthly food relief packages are provided to 2,750 low-income families in the Greater Philadelphia area.

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

Directions to the JRA Distribution Center can be found at <http://www.jewishrelief.org/directions.asp> if you're interested. See you there! ■

## THANK-YOU NOTES RECEIVED



**from Diane Devlin, Southeast Regional Director**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of CONCERN, I want to thank the families of Congregation Kol Ami for once again purchasing and donating gifts for the foster children in our care. These gifts will be given to the children to fulfill their holiday wishes!

As you know, the holidays can be a difficult time for children in foster care since they do not get to celebrate with their biological families; the donations you collected, including

games, toys, and assorted gift cards, will help them have a very special holiday season.

Thank you for reaching out to our foster children. We truly appreciate your ongoing support of our children and families, especially during the holidays!

“We never stand as tall as when we stoop to help a child.”  
—Dr. Anthony P. Whitman ■



**from Anya Goldberg  
Heart to Heart  
Program Director**

Dear Congregation Kol Ami:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and clients, I would like to thank you

for supporting the Raymond & Miriam Klein JCC and the Heart to Heart Program. This letter serves to acknowledge the donation of over \$300 in gift cards to the families in the Heart to Heart Program. The family who received the items on your behalf had a brighter, happier *Chanukah* because of the kindness and compassion of all 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 nonperishable food; and 4,000 pounds of produce to the low-income community. In addition to goods and services, Klein JCC 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. ■



# KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2013 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> <b>Trope Class</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 9:50 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Religious School PTO Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>4</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>5</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>6</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Guest Reader 10:30 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Nature Jack 9:30 a.m. <b>Continuing Adult Jewish Education</b> with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	<b>1</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service honoring the memory of Stuart Appel 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Participation	<b>2</b> <b>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</b> 10:00 a.m. Grade 8 Participation
<b>10</b> <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 9:50 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 6 & 7 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting</b> 11:00 a.m. <b>Healing Service</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Music 9:30 a.m. <b>LOCA &amp; Hiway Theatre Film Discussion Group</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>13</b> <b>Nursery School</b> Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. <b>Social Action Committee Meeting</b> 7:15 p.m.	<b>14</b> <b>Continuing Adult Jewish Education</b> with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 p.m.	<b>16</b> <b>Bnai Mitzvah of Finlay and Stirling Buchanan-Jacobs</b> 10:00 a.m.
<b>8</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> 11:00 a.m. <b>Kids@Kol Ami</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 6:00 p.m. Student Choir Participation <b>"Second-Friday"</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 p.m. Hebrew Free Loan Society	<b>9</b> <b>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</b> 10:00 a.m. Lucille Barrett will deliver the <i>dvar Torah</i> <b>Trenton Titans</b> 7:35 p.m.					

# KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2013 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>17</b> <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b> <b>President's Weekend</b>	<b>18</b> <b>NO NURSERY SCHOOL</b> <b>President's Weekend</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <b>Fitness</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> <b>Continuing Adult</b> <b>Jewish Education</b> <b>with David Monblatt</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>22</b> <b>Nursery School Purim</b> <b>Party - Noon Dismissal</b> <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> Grade 6 & 7 participation 7:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - BYOD	<b>23</b> <b>Shabbat Service and</b> <b>Torah Dialogue</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>erev Purim</b> <b>"Adult Only" Service</b> 7:30 p.m.
<b>24</b> <b>Trope Class</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 9:50 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - <i>Purim</i> Color War 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Operations Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b> 12:15 p.m. <b>Junior Youth Group</b> <b>Purim Party</b> 1:00 p.m. Home of Gabrielle Wexler	<b>25</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <b>Music</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <b>Fitness</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>27</b> <b>Nursery School</b> <b>Jewish Programming</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. <b>Finance Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> <b>Continuing Adult</b> <b>Jewish Education</b> <b>with David Monblatt</b> 7:30 p.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.

## DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

*Stewart and Sally Eisenberg*

## ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Bruce Asam**

*Bruce and Ellen Asam*

**Special wedding anniversary**

*Stanley and Rita Siegel*

**Barry chanting from Torah on the 45th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah and special anniversary of Michele and Barry**

*Barry and Michele Steinbrecher*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Tom and Sherry Bowman*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

*William England and Lorie Slass*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

*Anonymous*

In Honor of:

**Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**David Hyman receiving the George M. Ross Award for Distinguished Leadership from Operation Understanding**

*Elaine Stevens*

**Maya Hyman being accepted to the Satell Fellowship Program**

*David Hyman*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND (CONTINUED)

**Special anniversary of Paul and Mindy Levy**

*Elaine Stevens*

**16th birthday of Zoe Long**

*Elaine Stevens*

**Special birthday of Merle Salkin**

*Elaine Stevens*

In Memory of:

**Stuart Appel**

*Brian and Abbie Engel*

**Gadol Barrett**

*Herbert and Lucille Barrett*

**Dr. Kenneth Cohen**

*Mark and Karin Kaplan*

*Elaine Stevens*

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**Sam Horowitz**

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**Garth Johnston**

*Elaine Stevens*

**Fred Miller**

*Elaine Stevens*

## YOUTH FUND

In Honor of:

**David Hyman receiving the George M. Ross Award for Distinguished Leadership from Operation Understanding**

*William, Maya, and Lia Hyman*

*David and Janine Pratt* ■

## 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 CLOSSES 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

**Web site:** [www.kolamielkinspark.org](http://www.kolamielkinspark.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

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

**TO:**

