

CONGREGATION
Kol Ami
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, January 31

6:00 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev*

Shabbat Service—appropriate for all ages; it's a happy half hour with lots of music and our terrific Student Choir

7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service

SATURDAY, February 1, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

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

erev Shabbat Service—we welcome book reviewer extraordinaire Beverly Rosen to speak about the newest book by author Michael Lavigne, "The Wanting," on a night when we celebrate 'First-Friday' birthday and anniversary blessings and the voices of our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, February 8, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

SUNDAY, February 9, 1:00 p.m.

A new Healing Service (see page 8)

FRIDAY, February 14, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service—"Love: What's It All About?"

SATURDAY, February 15, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; followed by a pot-luck lunch

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REJOICE WITH OUR 12TH-GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT OUR I.M. WISE GRADUATE SERVICE

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, AT 7:30 PM



PLEASE JOIN US at this special service to honor our 12th-grade graduates of the two-year Gratz College Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate Jewish Studies program and to congratulate them for their devotion to continued Jewish study and as student teachers in our Religious School:

Maya Pratt Hyman William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Leslie Levin. Michael Levin and Marjorie Backup
Kara Schilder Russell and Jodi Schilder ■



DUST OFF THOSE CLUBS AND RACQUETS...

Congregation Kol Ami Golf and Tennis Outing

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014 • PHILMONT COUNTRY CLUB

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, February 21

6:00 p.m. - “Fun-for-Kids” *erev Shabbat* “Touch *Torah*” Service—appropriate for all ages and a chance to connect to the *Torah* up close; it’s a happy half hour with lots of music and our terrific Student Choir
7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service
Grade 6 student participation

SATURDAY, February 22

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue
5:30 p.m. - Adults-Only Martini *Havdalah* Service and Spices, Schnapps, and Songs (see page 8)

FRIDAY, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

I.M. Wise *erev Shabbat* Service to honor **Maya Hyman, Leslie Levin,** and **Kara Schilder**—our 12th-grade graduates of the two-year Gratz College Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate Jewish Studies program—and to congratulate them for their devotion to continued Jewish study and as student teachers in our Religious School

SATURDAY, March 1, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

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

erev Shabbat Service / “*Shabbat Across America*”—Congregation Kol Ami joins in the national celebration! Give your friends a taste of Kol Ami! (see page 11)

SATURDAY, March 8, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; our Grade 7 and 8 students will share their thoughts and engage us in dialogue about some of the issues raised in their study of Responsa Literature (750-1050 CE) with Rabbi Holin—letters written by Jews in the Diaspora to scholars asking questions about how to resolve pressing personal and communal issues ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER



As I am writing this, your Board of Trustees has begun a strategic-planning process that will result in a new plan to guide us from July 2014 through June 2018.

Our last strategic plan—and the congregation’s first—covered July 2008 through June 2013, led by then-President Jennifer Streitwieser. Meryle Twersky was instrumental in guiding the Board through the creation process and with helping them learn how to use the plan to guide its day-to-day activities. Ilene Schafer and David Hyman both worked tirelessly in their own Presidential terms to keep the plan front and center and focus us on what we had committed to do. We are lucky to have Jennifer leading this year’s process and to have Meryle as our behind-the-scenes consultant.

As we began preparing for this effort, the Board has come to realize how impactful that plan was. First and perhaps most importantly, the 2007-8 Board who did the planning work became brilliantly aligned as a result of the intense dialogues that informed their planning work. Secondly, the plan became a yearly touchstone for the Board and for our Committees, serving to effectively align the wonderful volunteer efforts that are the lifeblood of our Kol Ami community. Lastly, most of the major things we accomplished in the last five years were a direct outgrowth of goals we set in the plan. Your list of our top 10 accomplishments might be different, but as I reviewed our last plan, here is what I would highlight:

1. Upgrading our membership-attraction efforts, including the Strive for 225 program
2. Improving our overall communication with membership, including launching the Pulse (the web survey we have been using to get member input on specific questions) and launching and maintaining a wonderful website
3. Adopting and successfully implementing *Mishkan T'filah* in our worship services
4. Hiring a new Education Director, overhauling our Religious School curriculum, and revitalizing our Youth Groups
5. Focusing our programming with renewed emphasis on continuing-adult education
6. Implementing a capital campaign that funded a major HVAC upgrade and new roofing, and retired a significant portion of our mortgage
7. Achieving a break-even budget through careful expense management and effective external fund-raising that complements our members’ contributions

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

February 14 will soon arrive and I ask myself, "What does it have to do with me?" It means that I will purchase Hallmark cards for my wife, as if giving her printed, colorful, and expensive "I love you" statements on the 14th is any different from what I endeavor to tell her all the other days of the year.

Then I remind myself that love is universal and is meant to be celebrated, also on the 14th of this month. *Dayenu*. And then I remember what I said during my High Holy Day sermon this past *erev Rosh Hashanah*: "From where does love flow and find its greatest meaning? The Hebrew word 'love' is derived from the verb 'to give.' It is in giving of ourselves that we are in greater touch with our humanity."

That message was reinforced in an article that appeared in the December 23 & 30, 2013, issue of "The New Yorker" magazine. The article, written by James Carroll, is titled, 'Who Am I to Judge? A radical Pope's first year.' Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, who chose the name Francis upon being elected Pope on March 13, 2013, was among the 200 cardinals gathered in conclave at St. Peter following the surprising resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

The conclave's opening meditation was delivered by Cardinal Prospero Grech, a Maltese theologian, whose words were absent the triumphalism of the Church and those who lead it. Instead, Grech reminded his fellow cardinals of the crisis they faced: rampant pedophilia; denial of responsibility for the abuse of lives and trust; shuffling accused priests to distant parishes where they continued their abhorrent acts; bribery and kickbacks for maintenance of Vatican buildings. Toward the end of his homily, Grech asked the cardinals, "And you, why are you here?"

It was a call to conscience.

It is an echo of the question that God asked Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they violated the only command The Holy One gave them: "You may eat all you like of every tree in the garden, but of the Tree of All Knowledge you may not eat" (Genesis 2:17). The question God asked them was, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). It had everything to do with purpose, not place; not "Where do you stand?" but "For what do you stand?" God held them accountable for honesty and integrity.

So as we prepare to be inundated by chocolates and cards in the shapes of hearts on February 14, let us also ask ourselves about the yearnings of our hearts and our quest to do good: "Where are you?" and "Why are you here?"

Shalom u'vrachah,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Religious School PTO

Sunday, February 9, 10:15 a.m.

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

Social Action Committee

Monday, February 24, 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-1738, and Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-657-4124, and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, February 2, 9:30 a.m.

Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-6391, and Bill Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■

The Launch of the Congregation Kol Ami

LEGACY ENDOWMENT SOCIETY

One of the points of our six-point plan to ensure the future of Congregation Kol Ami has been the formation of a planned giving or legacy endowment society. The Legacy Endowment Society is open to every member of our Congregation, regardless of age, stage of life, or length of membership; and it is now in the early stages of launching.

The vibrant group leading this effort will, over time, be reaching out to you to explain the whys and wherefores and how you can be a part of this initiative. Look for your letter in the coming months, and thank you in advance for speaking with us and considering membership.

Committee Members: David Baker, Michael Chernoff, Jeffrey Cohen, Adena Johnston, Jeffrey Margasak, Ilene Schafer, Gary Sender, Elaine Stevens, and Jennifer Streitwieser ■

Adult Learning Opportunities at Kol Ami

Continuing Jewish Education

Superheroes and Judaism

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

February 6, 13, 20 & 27 (4 sessions)

Instructor: Mr. David Monblatt

This fun and engaging course will explore the fantastical world of superheroes and what their stories have in common with Judaism. Over the years, the superhero genre has dealt with a vast array of topics, such as the nature of evil, atonement, remembrance, and the importance of social justice. Superheroes and Judaism will examine both the DC and Marvel pantheons, focusing on some of the best-known heroes, including Batman, Wolverine, Iron Man, and of course, The Man of Steel.

RSVP to the synagogue office [by February 1](#).

Hayyim Nahman Bialik, Israel's National Poet: His Words and Influence

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

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

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Bialik (1873-1934) 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 *mitzvot*. "Sabbath Queen" is a beautiful description of the gifts that the day of rest bestows on everyone who tastes its splendor. Bialik eventually left the *yeshivah* to join the *Haskalah* (Jewish Enlightenment) movement.

In 1903, his epic poem "In the City of Slaughter" was a scream of anguish following the brutality of the Kishinev pogroms, precursor to the flames of the Holocaust that would be kindled 30 years later. 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. We will read and discuss each of the poems noted above and many others.

RSVP to the synagogue office [by February 27](#).

Moses: From Existence as Slavery to Existence as Freedom – Mensch, Myth, Midrash

Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26 (4 sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

Moses is often embraced as a reflection of Jewish character; unique, goal-oriented, God-choosing, but always human. Was Moses real or the invention of the collective conscience of the Hebrew people? Is Moses a law-giver, teacher, or "union organizer?" Participants in these seminars will explore the Mosaic persona as well as the inability of this heroic leader to enter the Promised Land or be mentioned in a traditional *Pesach Haggadah*.

RSVP to the synagogue office [by February 27](#).

Revelation

Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

April 2, 9, 23 & 30 and May 7 & 4 (6 Sessions)

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

Location: Old York Road-Temple Beth Am in Abington, at no cost to our members

Conversational theism, inspiration, tribal survival, caprice, and intuition are all descriptions that could profile the role of revelation as the origin of Judaism. Did God "speak" to Moses? Do moderns receive divine messages? Is revelation completed or progressive? Are Jews chosen or choosing? Through discussion, seminar participants will consider the components that are hallmarks of the narrated moment in which the Jewish people received *Torah*.

Registration Instructions

To register for a Kol Ami workshop, contact Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110 by the deadline shown. Non-member course fees are \$50 per course. Course fees can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year. ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

February 1 - Terumah

Exodus 25:1-27:19, Isaiah 66:1-24

February 8 - Tetzaveh

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

February 15 - Kee Tissa

Exodus 30:11-34:35, I Kings 18:1-39

February 22 - Vayakhele

Exodus 35:1-38:20, I Kings 7:40-50 ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Regina Landers

mother of Ann Beatus

grandmother of Isabelle and Lily

May her memory forever be a blessing in the midst of our People. ■

OY VEY! WE GOOFED

In last month's Bulletin we referred to a new member as "Scott" Cheiken instead of "Stan." Please accept our apology. ■

DOES THE SNOW MAKE YOU NERVOUS?

WE'LL GET YOU THERE!

Is the thought of driving in winter keeping you homebound? Would you like to attend services, an event, or a committee meeting at Kol Ami, but are nervous about getting there?

The Worship Enhancement Committee has developed a system for connecting riders with potential drivers. Just contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org no later than the Thursday before the event that you'd like to attend. You'll need to provide your name and phone number or e-mail address and the desired event's date and time. Then Elaine will send an "in-search-of" e-mail to Kol Ami congregants regarding your need. Hopefully a congregant who plans to attend that event will call or e-mail you directly. ■



STRIVE FOR 225! WHY ARE YOU HERE?

As part of the 2014 'Strive for 225!' initiative, we are collecting stories from Kol Ami members who answer the question: "Why Are You Here?" We will capture and share the many reasons each of us has chosen to join our intimate and dynamic community. Here are just a few. Look for more in each Bulletin through June 2014.

If you haven't shared your story yet, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Membership Co-chairs Robin Warsaw (rkwarshaw@comcast.net) or Julie Cohen (Julie@juliecohencoaching.com).

"Rabbi Holin conducted the Judaism conversion class that my Methodist fiancée and I attended once upon a time. When Rabbi Holin created Kol Ami, it was a natural thing to join him. My marriage did not last, but my attachment to Kol Ami and its wonderful community endures like the *ner tamid*!"

— *Cory Newman*

"We followed the music and, to our enjoyment, now have a wonderful Rabbi and fabulous caring congregants of all backgrounds to add to the joy."

— *Mort and Marci Wolpert*

"We are an interfaith family and were looking for a congregation. We went to a parlor meeting at the home of Ellen Friedman and Jeff Cohen. Specifically, I was intent on finding a place where I (not Jewish) would feel comfortable, but more importantly, where my daughter would be comfortable, where she would never need to feel badly or "less Jewish" because her mother (me) is not Jewish. I was reassured that this would not happen at Kol Ami. I have been welcomed to the choir and feel so much a part of Kol Ami. That's my story."

— *Betsy McKinstry* ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

8. Improving Synagogue efficiency and Board governance, including updating our by-laws and how our Board and Committees work together
9. Joining the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
10. Finding a tenant for last summer, generating important revenue that helped us balance our budget.

We begin the strategic-planning process anew, looking forward to new ideas and similar longer-term success.

While your Board, including Rabbi Holin and Elaine Stevens, will be doing the initial work, there will be a critical role for all of our members to play. We expect to be using both a member survey and a few focus groups to gather member input. My "*Sh'lach'chaynee* - Send me" request that I'd like to ask of all our families is that you help us shape our future by answering the survey and participating in a focus group. Of course, if you want to insure an invitation to a focus group, send an e-mail to me, Joel Fishbein, or Elaine Stevens, and we'll make sure that happens.

We will share the final plan at our Annual Member Meeting on May 27 at 7:00 p.m., so please mark your calendars to be with us.

Jeff Cohen
215-635-3232
president@kolamielkinspark.org ■



Casino Night 2014 a Great Success!

by Sharon Myers

It was an evening filled with FUN while raising FUNDS for Kol Ami. Thank you to ALL who helped make the evening a great success.

Please patronize our sponsors and vendors whose generosity contributed toward making the evening the fantastic fund-raiser that it was. Below is the list of our sponsors and vendors, which can also be viewed on the event website at www.site.kolamicasinonight.org.

EVENT SPONSOR

Allen Trio Tire & Service

TABLE SPONSORS

Gus Arias Painting Co., Inc.
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
and Performance Leaders, LLC
Congregation Kol Ami Ladies of a
Certain Age (LOCA)
Congregation Kol Ami Softball
Team
Dishler Landscaping, Inc.
William England and Lorie Slass
Joseph P. Farley Plumbing &
Heating
Fuhrman Management Associates,
Inc.
Brad and Bonnie Goldstein
Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-
Sacks, Inc.
Ray and Sis Grenald
Infinity Caterers, Inc.

TABLE SPONSORS (CONTINUED)

David A. and Patricia Long
Phillip, Michelle, and Isabella
McConnon
Wes, Michelle, and Erin Myers
Dr. Robert Schiowitz and
Dr. Ronit Sugar
Elaine Stevens

VENDORS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

All Wrapped Up at Baederwood
Pharmacy
Arden Theatre Co.
Irene Levy Baker
Berta Sawyer
Nigel Blower
Brandywine River Museum
Jeffrey Buchanan and Linda Jacobs
Shelley Chamberlain
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Julie Cohen Coaching, LLC
Sheryl Cohen

**VENDORS, CONTRIBUTORS,
AND VOLUNTEERS** (CONTINUED)

Colonial Quay-Bau Restaurant
Congregation Kol Ami Board
of Trustees
Curds 'n Whey
Sheila D'Elia Personal Trainer
The Dovetail Artisans
Natalie Dyen
Stewart Eisenberg
Sue Elkins
William England
Jean Ettinger
Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein
Jane Finkle
Fossler's Cheltenham Tennis Center
Fratelli's Italian Bistro
Fresh Hair Studio
Fresh Market
Full House Casino Entertainment
Alan and Elaine Gershenson
Sandy Glatter
Karen Gurmankin
Meryle Gurmankin - Mary Kay
Cosmetics
William Hyman
Instant English - Linda George
Joey Tate's Restaurant
John's Automotive Repair, Inc.
Joshua's Catering
Shari Johnson
Ellen Kovnat
La Petite Fleur
Lee's Hoagies of Abington
Sharon Bohm Levy
Lilli Cole
Jody Long
David and Emily Lowe
Message Envy Spa
John Miles
Toni Cohen Montague
Kenny Moss
Craig Myers
Sharon Myers
National Museum of American
Jewish History
Dr. Cory Newman
Nourish Ur Life - Sally Eisenberg



Olive Lucy
Park Plates Restaurant
Eric Pelletier
Heather Pelletier
People's Light & Theatre Company
Pet Valu
Deborah Poppel
Janine Pratt
Rolling's Bakery
Rosnov Jewelers
Sack's
Saladworks
Merle Salkin
Ilene Schafer and Rosen, Schafer &
DiMeo LLP
Rebecca Schwartz
S.G.S. Paper Company
Jonathan Shandell and Robin Shane
Shirley & Company
Sprout
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser &
Family
Tausig/Binder Aplary & Gardens -
Jane Tausig and Abby Binder
Trader Joe's
Robin Warsaw
Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner
West Avenue Grille
White Elephant Restaurant
Whole Foods Market
Jeremy Wintroub
YoFresh Yogurt Café ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office
215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin
215-635-4182

Jeffrey Cohen, President
215-635-3232

Ellen Asam, Vice President
215-635-5598

Barry Boise, Vice President
215-635-9042

Jeremy Wintroub, Secretary
215-906-9063

Bart Weiner, Treasurer
215-233-4712

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director
215-635-3110

**David Monblatt,
Director of Education**
215-635-7106

**Sheri Cutler
Nursery School Director**
215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist
215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:
Congregation Kol Ami
8201 High School Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (for example, by February 5 for the March issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalons@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. ■

Kol Ami Events

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



NATAL (*nah'tahl*), the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty that war and the threat of war bring. In addition, **NATAL** reaches out to families and relatives of vic-

tims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals. Forthcoming fast days on behalf of NATAL will be on **Tuesday, February 4**, and **Wednesday, March 5**.

Phast for Philadelphia is on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs, and pay electric bills. Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on **Thursday, February 27**, and **Thursday, 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:

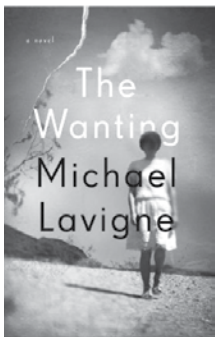
American Friends of NATAL

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

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”)



'FIRST-FRIDAY' EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for February Birthday & Anniversary Blessings; Beverly Rosen will also review Michael Lavigne's new book, “The Wanting” Friday, February 7, 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 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*.



HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, February 9, at 1:00 p.m.

Our tradition offers moving and powerful prayers for loved ones in hospitals, recovering at home, or in hospice care, and for ourselves as well—healers who are in need of healing and those in mourning.

This brief worship service includes the *MiShebbeirach* (“May The Holy One Who blesses...”) prayer as well as the hope that we will find *menuchah* (“tranquility”) within ourselves during trying times.

MARTINI 'ADULTS-ONLY' HAVDALAH SERVICE WITH SPICES, SCHNAPPS, AND SONGS

Saturday, February 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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



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

So that we can ensure enough hors d'oeuvres for everyone, please RSVP to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or exccdir@kolamielkinspark.org no later than February 15.

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Family Bingo Night

**Come out and join us at Congregation Kol Ami
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014**

5:30 — 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 cook-
ies, 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 2, 2014. Please send form and check to:
8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

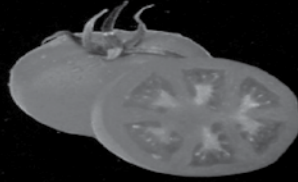
Open to the community

PITA POCKET

582 Cottman Ave. | Cheltenham, PA 19012



Vegetarian



Adel Zaid
Executive Chef

215.663.2828

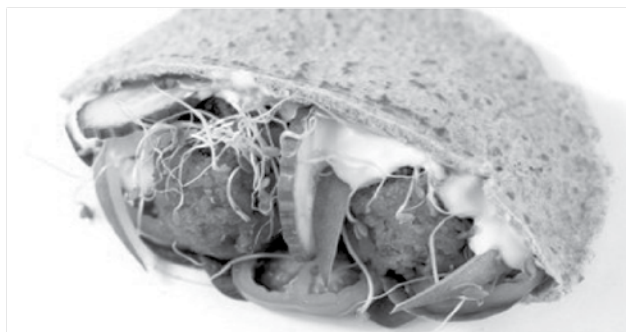
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

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

Friends & Families of Congregation Kol Ami:
Looking for a tasty lunch and dinner
dine-around suggestion?

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

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER Conversations

"A MORE PERFECT UNION? NATIONS, STATES & BOUNDARIES IN MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY"

Sunday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m.

Presented by Andrew (Andy) August

The European Union stands at a crossroads. What will be the future of European political structures and boundaries? My talk will approach this question through a discussion of the historical context for European nation states and the European Union. The European nation state developed out of the ideas and conflicts associated with the French Revolution and its aftermath. The European Union grew out of the chaos left behind by the two massive wars of the 20th century. How do these two legacies, the nation state and the idea of a union in Europe, coexist in the 21st century?

Andy August is professor of History at Penn State Abington, where he has taught since 1995. He is the author of two books, "Poor Women's Lives: Gender Work and Poverty in Late-Victorian London" (1999) and "The British Working Class 1832-1940" (2007). Most recently, he edited a four-volume collection of sources on British working class life, "The Urban Working Class in Britain, 1830-1914" (2013). He is currently researching everyday violence in late-Victorian East London.

"SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA"

erev Shabbat, March 7, 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 annual event 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. The National Jewish Outreach Program will publicize this evening throughout America.

Your guests will be "our guests" at the catered dinner, so please call Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 no later than March 1 to RSVP for dinner (\$16 per adult and \$10 per child under the age of 8).

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUPER SUNDAY PHON-A-THON

Sunday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

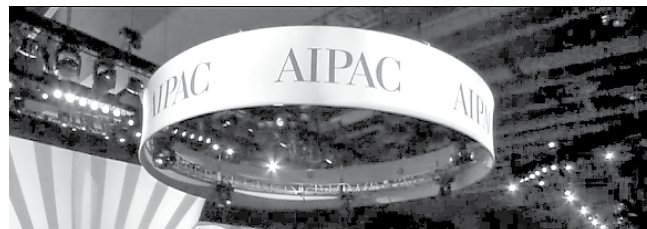


It's up to you and it's up to me to create a vibrant and thriving Jewish community here in Greater Philadelphia, in Israel, and in the Former Soviet

Union. Together, we can kick off Federation's 2014 Campaign and have an extraordinary impact on the lives of our people who need our support.

Please plan on being a part of Federation's Super Sunday phon-a-thon at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in Bryn Mawr. Working together, we will make the calls that make the difference—enlisting our friends and families involvement in a true *mitzvah*!

Super Sunday Co-chairs Sheree and Wayne Bloch and Robin and Greg Zappin urge you to sign up for the morning, afternoon, or evening shifts today by calling 215-832-0630 or e-mailing supersunday@jfgp.org.



JOIN RABBI HOLIN AT THE 2014 AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 2, through Tuesday, March 4 in Washington, DC

This three-day conference is a wonderful way to learn more about Israel and the challenges it faces within and beyond its borders. We will hear from Middle East scholars, as well as leading analysts and journalists from around the world, presenting varied viewpoints about issues as diverse as peace negotiations, settlements, concerns about poverty and discrimination, and Israel's relationship with the United States. We will also have the opportunity to meet with members of Congress. To learn more or to register for the conference, visit www.aipac.org or contact Rabbi Holin if you are interested in joining him at this important time on behalf of Israel. ■

**RHONDA FINK-WHITMAN,
AUTHOR OF "94 MAIDENS,"
TO SPEAK AT KOL AMI**

**Sunday, March 9,
from 10:30 a.m. to Noon**

It was August 11, 1942, and 94 school-girls ages 14 to 22 in Nazi-occupied Poland awaited their fate at the hands of their captors. Meanwhile, a young Jewish family was on the run from the Nazis in Berlin, and time was running out for the pursuers and their prey.

Rhonda Fink-Whitman is a veteran TV and radio personality as well as an award-winning screenwriter, longtime Jewish educator, and the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Her mother suffers the scars left by the Holocaust some 70 years later, and so Fink-Whitman went to Germany to probe Nazi archives in an attempt to discover what happened to her mother during World War II.

Inspired by true events, "94 Maidens" is a powerful story about heroism, resistance, martyrdom, and survival.

Fink-Whitman is also the director, producer, and host of "The Mandate Video," which she hopes will convince lawmakers in her home state, Pennsylvania, to mandate Holocaust and Genocide education in both the Commonwealth and in other states.



**SAVE THE DATE
A VERY SPECIAL
EREV SHABBAT SERVICE
IN OUR SANCTUARY**

Friday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m.

We will honor **Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom** of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park for his leadership in the community and as a

friend of our Congregation as he prepares to retire from the pulpit

**"AS A DRIVEN LEAF" DRAMATIC READING
BY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION
AUDIENCE-PARTICIPATION DRAMA**

Sunday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m.

On 9/11/2001 terrorists flew planes into towers one and two of the World Trade Center, onto a field in southwestern Pennsylvania, and into the Pentagon, causing the

deaths of thousands of people and untold suffering to their families.

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy claimed more than a hundred lives and destroyed hundreds of homes throughout the country.

On December 14, 2012, for reasons we will never know, a gunman shot dead 20 six- and seven-year-old children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

How can we possibly find rational explanations for these events, much less satisfying resolutions to questions they pose, let alone the specter of the *Shoah* and those who preceded and presaged it? And how does our concept of God, and being part of the Jewish community, fit into our dilemma?

Who has not, if even for a nanosecond, seen your own child at six or seven alone in that schoolroom, terrified and calling for you? Who has not, if only for a nanosecond, pic-



tured your child ripped from your arms by a cold jackbooted Nazi, or an indifferent drunk driver, or impersonal illness? Who has not questioned the idea of God, the existence of God? Who has not dismissed God with disdain and contempt in the senseless death of a child, especially if it were your child? Who has not yearned for a just world, for order and reason in the universe?

Who has not struggled with God?

And so the ancient story of Elisha ben Abuyah and his crisis in faith is even more timely today than when it was first recorded some 2,000 years ago. This story provided the basis for the novel "As a Driven Leaf" by Rabbi Milton Steinberg, an unorthodox thinker who had come under the influence of Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, while a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the 1920s.

In his forward to "As a Driven Leaf," Chaim Potok writes that little is known about the historical Elisha ben Abuyah, the central character of the novel: "There is considerable debate about his role in Jewish history and his relationship to the sages; he is accused of being an apostate, a dualist, a Sadducee, a lover of harlots, a betrayer of the Jews to the Romans after the debacle of the Bar Kochba rebellion in 132-135 C.E. ... His lasting fame—or infamy!—rests on his

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קול עמי Congregation Kol Ami

RETRO DISCO NIGHT

"Studio-18 Stayin'-a-chai"

March 22, 8 'til 11 p.m.

Boogie-woogie the night away
to the sounds of the 70s

\$20 per person

BYOB & an appetizer to share.

Coffee, tea, punch & desserts provided.

(Please consider donating a can of food for hunger relief!)

Pull out your polyester leisure suits (fire extinguishers will be on hand), slip into your favorite Donna Summer dress, and join us at our Studio-18 Stayin'-a-chai disco party.

This fund-raiser is open to all adult congregation and friends, so be ready to get your funk on in the Social Hall.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Please make checks payable to "Congregation Kol Ami."

Direct questions to Sherry Cohen (shcohen361@verizon.net), ISH Co-chair, or

Heather Pelletier (hfppt1@gmail.com), Religious School PTO Co-chair

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

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

JULIE WOHL: JANUARY 7 TO FEBRUARY 24

Educator, storyteller, rebbetzin and creative force Julie Wohl has been using her artistic talents for most of her life to enhance her many pursuits. Whether it is designing and illustrating books, or supporting other artistic explorers in workshops and classes, Wohl brings art, whimsy and her Jewish spirit to whatever she does.

As the co-creator and illustrator of the popular collections “*Siddur Mah Tor: A Family Shabbat Prayer Book*” and “*Simply Seder: A Family Haggadah*” (Behrman House), Wohl has come to the attention of Jewish educators, families, and *seder* celebrants throughout the Jewish community. Through her unique Jewish Learning Thru Art workshops (www.jewishlearningthruart.com), she has also been able to engage and inspire students, teachers, and families throughout the United States. When they enter her “creative arts *beit midrash*,” participants explore their heritage and moral code while creating art and deepening personal connections.

The process that Julie teaches during her workshops is also the process she engages in when creating her own art. The pieces that will be on display at Congregation Kol Ami represent some of the newest work to emerge from Julie Wohl’s collection. These pieces represent Julie’s study and love of Judaism, family, creativity, and the whimsy of everyday life.

So whether you are looking for an inspiring piece of art to bring color to your home and your heart or a *Torah*-themed class to encourage you to create your own beauty in your community and in the world, Julie Wohl is the person to call. After all, she is just another creative explorer, seeking outlets and collaborators... just like you!

Julie Wohl can be reached at 248-227-7541 or jswohl@hotmail.com. See Julie’s online collection at www.juliewohlfineartandjudaica.com or <https://www.etsy.com/shop/JulieWohlJudaica>.

The Kol Ami 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 Julie’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. ■



YEDIDAY CONTRIBUTORS

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

Anonymous

Bruce and Ellen Asam

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker

Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen

Barry and Allison Boise

Michael and Sara Chernoff

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman

Arthur Gordon

Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald

David Hyman

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Andrew and Shari Johnson

Eric and Adena Johnston

Charles Langman and Laurie
Jubelirer Langman

David A. and Patricia Long

Craig and Sharon Myers

Stuart and Deborah Poppel

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

Gary Sender

Stanley and Rita Siegel

Michael Silverman and
Robin Rifkin

Elaine Stevens

Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser

Bart Weiner and Nadine
Liez-Weiner

For more information about *Yedidday* Kol Ami, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or exec-dir@kolamielkinspark.org ■

"AS A DRIVE LEAF" READING

(continued from page 12)

having been one of a minute number of rabbis excommunicated during the entire eight hundred years of the Rabbinic period."

Rabbi Howard Bogot, who teaches Continuing Jewish Education classes at Congregation Kol Ami and other Delaware Valley synagogues, wrote a short play based on "As A Driven Leaf" and led a class in the interactive reading of the script. The reading elicited a great deal of discussion from class members, and we hope it will also evoke a lot of discussion from you when we present it on Sunday, April 6.

The dramatic reading will take approximately 20 minutes, followed by small-group discussions. We welcome you and your guests to join in creating a thought-provoking event. Bagels and coffee will be provided.

A SPECIAL SERVICE & SPEAKER

Sunday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m.

when our Congregation hosts the communal observance of *Yom haShoa* – Holocaust Remembrance

Mitch Braff, founder and executive director of the Jewish Partisan Foundation in San Francisco will talk about "Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis and Their Collaborators"

Mr. Braff's engaging presentation about historic facts and stories about Jewish partisans is a 'must-see-and-hear' program for our Congregation's young adults and adults. Many of the 30,000 Jewish partisans were teenagers who fought the Germans and their collaborators in at least 10 European countries. Braff will combine short clips from films he has produced on the subject as well as discuss how teenage Jewish partisans fought and survived, exploring the ethical issues of killing, stealing, and revenge.

Mr. Braff founded the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation in 2000 and has conducted more than 50 formal interviews with former partisans all over the world. He has worked with teams of educators and filmmakers to create JPEF lessons and study guides, short films (narrated by Ed Asner, Live Schreiber, and Tovah Feldshuh), and an educational website, www.jewishpartisans.org. ■



Juried Craft & Fine Arts Show



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13TH

PREVIEW & SALE
6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Tickets \$20 (Members) / \$25
Entertainment & Catered gourmet light fare
Raffle sale for original art items

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 14TH

SHOW DAY & SALE
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tickets \$5
Gourmet fare for purchase

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי
8201 High School Road • Elkins Park, PA • 215-635-3110
www.kolamicroftshow.org

KOL AMI NURSERY KIDS

ROW 1: MAKING NOT-SO-MESSY OOBLECK (GOOP) WITH NATURE JACK; ROW 2: ATTENDING THE LAST SHABBAT OF THE YEAR WITH REBECCA SCHWARTZ;
ROW 3: TODDLERS READ A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TREE STORY AND MADE TREE BIRTHDAY HATS; THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS MADE TREE PICTURES



KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2014 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Grade 6-7 to National Museum of American Jewish History Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	3 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m.	4 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	5 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	6 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	7 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "First-Friday" erev Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Beverly Rosen 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Participation	8 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Bingo Night 5:30 p.m.
9 SUPER SUNDAY Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Grade 3 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting 10:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Healing Service 1:00 p.m.	10 Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	11 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	12 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	13 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	14 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	15 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. followed by a pot-luck lunch

KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2014 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 No Religious School President's Weekend	17 No Nursery School President's Weekend	18 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	19 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	20 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	21 Nursery School <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" <i>erev Shabbat</i> 'Touch-Torah' Service 6:00 p.m. Student Choir Participation <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 p.m. Grade 6 Participation	22 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Adult-Only Martini Havdalah Service 5:30 p.m.
23 Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Member-to-Member Conversation with Andy August 11:00 a.m.	24 Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	25 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	26 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	27 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with David Monblatt 7:30 p.m.	28 Nursery School <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service honoring our I.M. Wise Graduates 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.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Joel Edelstein and Elizabeth McKinstry

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of
Marlene Lesa Adelman**

Ira, Robin and Belle Adelman

**Julie Cohen and Robin Warsaw
for warmly welcoming the
Adelman Family to Kol Ami**

Ira, Robin, Marlene, and Belle Adelman

In Memory of:

Belle Baxt Adelman

Ira and Robin Adelman

David Rosenberg

Mark and Karin Kaplan

Miriam Schmidt

Robin Adelman

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CONFIRMATION FUND

Barbara Levy

DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

In Memory of:

Barry Baron

Myron Blumberg

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Cindy Marselis

Christopher Lundeen and Cindy Marselis

In Memory of:

Steven Isaacman

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of Susan Holin

Sally and Stewart Eisenberg

In Memory of:

Harry R. Ernst

Shirley Barr

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of:

Matthew Brodsky

Stanton and Merle Salkin

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Anonymous

Richard N. Weiner

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of David Baker

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Sheri Cutler

The Adelman Family

Special Birthday of Ellen Friedman

David and Shelley Chamberlain

100th Birthday of Henry Lotto

Howard, Nancy, Jesse, and Rachel Cohen

Rebecca Schwartz

The Adelman Family

Elaine Stevens

The Adelman Family

In Memory of:

Milton Berger

Jensen Toth

Regina Landers

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Marina Matzner

Barry, Michele, and Drew Steinbrecher

Inga Sender

Maria Gardizy

Julius Sender

Maria Gardizy

Martin Sender

Maria Gardizy

MiShebbeirach

Ellen Stern

Lore Bryan ■



Thank you to all our past and present contributors!

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

KOL AMI'S ARTIST OF THE MONTH: KIRSTEN FISCHLER, FROM FEBRUARY 25 TO APRIL 7

Kirsten Fischler's art expresses her struggle with life's duality—life is filled with contradiction, irony, contrast, and counterpoints, which often exist simultaneously. The part of duality she loves is that opposites are interdependent. They remain in constant struggle, dancing, binding one to the other, yet always complimentary.

Kirsten's art represents the cycle of life. She often reuses plywood that she finds discarded or she recycles her own artwork within each piece. Many of the panels are completed paintings from former series or sample boards. In the past, she has painted over the images she didn't like, learning that life is not that clean. She grew from her mistakes and incorporated her past experience in a way that works both compositionally and spiritually.

Kirsten, a native of West Chester, PA, has developed a unique style of art making that incorporates recycled building materials in such a way that the leftover mundane is transformed into sought-after refinement. She has been working with reclaimed wood and oil paint as her primary medium for over 20 years. Her early influences were John Lafarge and Louis Comfort Tiffany, who created the painted-glass windows in the Church of the Holy Trinity where her father was rector. She later was influenced by the work of Francis Bacon, Louise Nevelson, Chinese landscape painters Yuanji and Kwo Zsi, as well as the medical drawings of Golgi and Cajal.

Kirsten received a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in illustration, where she spent her junior year abroad in Rome, Italy, as part of the European Honors Program. She earned an MFA from Pratt Institute in painting. It was there she was chosen to participate in the professional "Critic's

Symposium." She ran her own faux-finishing and mural-painting business for several years after graduating, which led to the style of the paintings being shown here at the Synagogue.

Kirsten's work and a short biography appear in the book, "100 Artists of the Brandywine Valley" by Catherine Quillman. Kirsten has taught at Moore College of Art, Pratt Institute, and currently teaches part time at Delaware Colleges of Art and Design. Her work is in private collections both domestically and abroad.

Please save the date for Kirsten's open house at Kol Ami on Sunday, March 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. ■



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

TO:

