



WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, February 5, at 7:30 p.m.

“First-Friday” *erev Shabbat* Service with birthday and anniversary blessings and the voices of our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, February 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, February 12, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, February 13, 10:00 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Hope Falon-Mazer

FRIDAY, February 19

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 the voices of our Student Choir!

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

SATURDAY, February 20, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; the *dvar Torah* will be given by Carol Nemeroff

FRIDAY, February 26

There will NOT be a service this evening due to our Nursery School’s Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

SATURDAY, February 27, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

February 6 - Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1-24:18, II Kings 11:17-12:17

February 13 - Terumah

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

February 20 - Tetzaveh

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

February 27 - Kee Tisa

Exodus 30:11-34:35, I Kings 18:1-39 ■

FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

The government of the State of Israel has stated its intention to close its Consulate here in Philadelphia, one of only eight in the United States, by the end of this year as a cost-cutting measure.

This Consulate is invaluable. It gives us the opportunity to meet with consular officers to speak with them about issues that matter to us as American Jews. It is “the” place in Greater Philadelphia-Delaware-New Jersey that is a think-tank where discussions take place about the America-Israel partnership, the Israel-Palestinian quest for peace and the impediments that frustrate it, ways to counter the BDS movement, and how to strengthen Jewish identity on college campuses and prepare Jewish students to respond to those who delegitimize Israel.

This Consulate is notable for bringing Israeli culture to our city and region: artists, authors, musicians, performers, photographers, and directors. They appear at the Kimmel Center, on college campuses, and in congregations. As Deborah Baer Moses, Director of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel, told me: “Bringing the presence of Israeli arts and culture into colleges, cafes, galleries, cinemas, dance studios and theatre spaces has served as a means of bringing the face of Israel into our community, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Our community needs to know the depth and breadth of the nation, showing the many faces of Israel and examining the many different views of the conflict as well. All this reflects on contemporary Israeli life in a powerful way.”

I am very proud to say that on January 12, our Board of Trustees passed the following resolution:

A Resolution to Keep the Israel Consulate in Philadelphia, PA

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Congregation Kol Ami, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, USA, on this 12th day of January, 2016, implores the Government of the State of Israel, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to reconsider its decision to close the Consulate General of Israel situated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and to keep the offices of the Consulate General open for the immediate and foreseeable future.

continued page 3

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES...

Financial assistance is available for any family who wishes their child to participate in religious-school-related activities and hesitates due to cost. For details, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110. Requests will be handled confidentially. ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office
215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin
215-635-4182

Shelley Chamberlain, President
215-635-1738

Ellen Asam, Vice President
215-635-5598

Julie Cohen, Vice President
215-635-4716

Jeffrey Margasak, Secretary
215-635-9332

Lisa Landau, Treasurer
215-635-9996

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
Early Learning Center 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 (e.g., by February 5 for the March issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed. ■



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Jacob Margasak tutors Isaac Halpern, a religious school student at Kol Ami, as part of the new *LAMED* program.

ו The largest letter in biblical Hebrew is the *lamed*. The 12th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, it is positioned at its very center towering above all the others. It is the only letter that ascends above the top line. For this reason alone, it stands out and is instantly discernible in all texts. Since God does nothing by happenstance, there surely is significance in the fact that the *lamed* is so tall.

The literal meaning of the letter “*lamed*” is “to learn” or “teach.” *Lamed* represents the aspiration of the truly devoted pupil to learn from the mouth of the teacher. In our community, the significance of *LAMED* is so much more!

David Monblatt, Director of Education for our Religious School, began the *LAMED* Program in October with the first class of nine 11th graders from both Kol Ami and Old York Road Temple Beth Am. All seven of our recently graduated 10th-grade Confirmation students, as well as two of Beth Am’s Confirmation students, decided to further their Jewish education through this innovative program. They work with master experiential educators on how to envision, structure, and produce 21st-century religious-school programs, earning a Certification in Experiential Jewish Education at the completion of 12th grade. Each week, guest speakers evoke group conversations that expand our students’ minds; and the *LAMED* students, in turn, play an integral role in passing Judaism onto our religious school children.

In November, I was privileged to attend a joint meeting of the nine enrolled students, their parents, Rabbi Holin, and Mr. Monblatt. The students shared their thoughts on the program and how it is educating and better preparing them for adulthood. It was apparent that they are continuing to explore their place in the Jewish community and are excited about the contributions they can and will make. They are learning to maximize their creativity and ability to lead and to teach any elementary-level Judaism and Hebrew school program.

To date, they are experiencing the challenges of teaching and the importance of lesson plans; appreciating the creativity and diligence of our teachers who are their mentors. They, in turn, are proud to be mentoring and adding to the education of our religious school students. This group is learning to play an innovative and integral role in passing Judaism onto future generations! The *LAMED* students are rewarded with community service hours for assisting with synagogue programming.

Look for their “mark” by talking with your children about their classes and as you walk through our vibrant school or read the Kol Ami Bulletin.

continued page 5

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY (continued from page 1)

The Israel Consulate General in Philadelphia serves the Jewish community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area – one of the largest Jewish communities in the United States – as well as South Jersey and Delaware. Its work is invaluable to improve the image of Israel in a large area of the United States, and addresses the needs of hundreds of thousands of American Jews and Israelis in the region and those states.

At a time when relations between the State of Israel and the Diaspora have frayed, the Consulate has made impressive strides in reaching out to those communities and their leaders through meetings and discussions that not only express Israel's needs and concerns to American Jews, but also to convey the concerns of American Jews to Israel.

We believe our community will be severely affected by the decision to close the Consulate General of Israel located in Philadelphia. Our efforts to promote Israel will be severely compromised by this decision. While we are sensitive to financial and/or budgetary concerns, closing the offices of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Consulate General will make our voices and presence on behalf of Israel less significant in one of the largest cities in America, to Israel's detriment and ours.

Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees on January 12, 2016, Congregation Kol Ami, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

I urge you to send an e-mail to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, asking him to rescind his decision to close the Consulate in Philadelphia. The public e-mail address is pm_eng@pmo.gov.il.

In addition, I urge you to send letters to:

The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan Street, Hakirya
Jerusalem 9195017
Israel

Ambassador Dr. Dore Gold
Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9 Yitzchak Rabin Blvd.
Jerusalem 9195022
Israel

The Honorable Tzipi Hotovely
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
9 Yitzchak Rabin Blvd.
Jerusalem 9195022
Israel

Please send copies of all your correspondence – e-mail and letters – to Hillel Zaremba, Director of Community Relations, Consulate General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region, 1880 JFK Blvd., Suite 1818, Philadelphia, PA 19103 or send to community@philadelphia.mfa.gov.il.

Shalom u'vrachab on behalf of Israel,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Religious School Committee

Monday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Lisa Ney and Benjamin Shoham, 215-886-2029

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698, and Meryle Gurmankin, 215-464-2466

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m.
Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and William Shapiro 215-517-8666 ■



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. ■

President's Day Special Event for Preschoolers!



**Looking for some-
thing fun to do with
your preschooler?**

**Mister John's Music
February 15
at 10:00 a.m.**



8201 High School Road
Elkins Park, PA

RSVP is required.
Please call Sheri at 215-635-4180
or e-mail scutler@FELSkids.org
to save your spot!

FELSkids.org

A Joint Program of FELS and Congregation Kol Ami

ADULT LEARNING AT KOL AMI **CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION**

The non-member rate is \$50 per course; direct questions and RSVPs to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110.

Is This What I Am Praying For?!

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom
Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
March 17, 24 & 31 and April 7 (4 Sessions)

When we read the English translation of the traditional prayers, we often find ourselves ill at ease. How do we deal with prayers that challenge our idea of faith and that run contrary to what we believe? Do we hit the "delete" button? Or is there another way for them to have a place in our lives?

RSVP to the synagogue office by March 10.



Summer Hebrew

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

Rabbi Holin will be teaching Hebrew this summer for those who want to refresh or learn to read the prayers of our services, or as a head start for our two-year Adult *Bnai Mitzvah* course that will commence in October, culminating in a *Bnai Mitzvah* service in the Spring of 2018.

Please call our rabbi (215-635-4182) to let him know if you are interested in summer Hebrew study and whether you prefer mornings, afternoons, or evenings, and whether you prefer to do so on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. ■

YEDIDAY KOL AMI 2016

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

Bruce and Ellen Asam
David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Carol Baron
Barry and Allison Boise
David and Shelley Chamberlain
Michael and Sara Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Arthur Gordon
Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald
Ruben Honik
David Hyman
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Shari Johnson
Craig and Sharon Myers
Stuart and Deborah Poppel
Gary Sender
William and Betty Shapiro
Stanley and Rita Siegel
Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser
Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (continued from page 2)

LAMED provides a sense of purpose—each student has a role and responsibility to the group in areas such as: assisting students with special learning needs, producing props and materials for experiential programming and one-on-one Hebrew tutoring. *LAMED* students will complete the program with their own portfolio of experiential programs they personally created and piloted at religious school. Their self-esteem grows as they teach the gift of *Tikun Olam* and realize the importance of collaborating, listening, and participating in group discussions. We are planting the seeds of wisdom and strengthening their minds and hearts. The *LAMED* students' accomplishments are their story to tell.

Join Rabbi Holin and Rabbi Leib of Congregation Old York Road Temple - Beth Am at our worship service on Friday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., as we welcome our amazing *LAMED* 11th graders and hear their stories. *LAMED* will surely take on a whole new meaning for us all...

l' dor va dor,

Shelley Chamberlain
215-635-1738
srchamberlain@comcast.net ■

KOL AMI LEGACY SOCIETY

The Kol Ami Legacy Society would like to thank all of our participants for their consideration of our wonderful synagogue in their future plans.

Remember, a small change in a will or codicil or a beneficiary change to an insurance policy from the smallest amount on up is all that's needed to join.

If you are interested or have questions, feel free to call Ilene Schafer at 215-663-0228 or ask Elaine Stevens for a revocable letter of intent.

Help secure our future and thanks again to our participants:

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Carol Baron
Michael and Sara Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Alan and Elaine Gershenson
Elizabeth Kapnek Grenald
Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin
David Hyman
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Lee Laden
John Michel and Jane Finkle
Craig and Sharon Myers
Marshall and Ilene Schafer
Gary Sender
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser
The Wintroub Family ■



ABOVE: The first *LAMED* Program class of nine 11th graders from Kol Ami and Old York Road Temple Beth Am.



Kol Ami Events

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



Join Rabbi Holin in fast days – or virtual fast days – every month, no matter where you are, by sending funds that you would have spent on food to help men, women, and children in need:

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 victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals.

“For some children, the color red is not just a color.”

During Operation Protective Edge, NATAL answered thousands of calls every day and night from children and adults. Clinical staff and highly trained volunteers were enlisted to respond to this increased need. Working with Israel’s media, millions of people received information about when, where, and how to get help. NATAL’s emergency kits consist of information about trauma and methods of staying calm, as well as therapeutic tools to aid in managing tension. There is still a strong demand for thousands of these kits to be distributed to individuals, schools, and communities throughout Israel.

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Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on first Wednesdays, **February 3** and **March 2**.

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 fourth Thursdays, **February 25** and **March 24**.

Below are the mailing addresses for the organizations mentioned above:

American Friends of NATAL

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

Unemployment Information Center

112 North 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 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Friday, February 5, 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*. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat sim-*

cha. 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*.



MUSIC & MUSINGS

Sunday, February 7, from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

an informal gathering to experience the meaning and joy of *Shabbat* through music and dialogues about what is going on in the world around us and within us: “God in the Jewish tradition and in our lives – present or absent?”

This is an invitation to religious school parents and all adults to join us for “Music & Musings” through song (10:00-10:25 a.m.), guided by Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz’s selection of songs that we enjoy on *Shabbat* mornings, and with Rabbi Holin to talk (10:30-11:15 a.m.) about God-wrestling.

continued next page

Save the Dates & Come Smile with Us...

"Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Services

This 6:00 p.m.
service is
appropriate
for all ages.
It's a happy
half-hour
with lots of
music and
our terrific
student choir.



- **February 19**
- **April 8 & 29** ■



Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Congregation Kol Ami whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2771426> and support us every time you shop.

continued page 10

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!

For advertising information,
contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110
or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

RUSLAN KHAIS

FEBRUARY 16 THROUGH MARCH 28



Ruslan Khais is a Philadelphia artist, working predominately in the genre of abstract landscapes. Born 1971 in Kishinev, Moldova, he studied painting at the College of Arts "I. Repin" and the State Pedagogical University in Kishinev, Moldova. After immigrating to the United States, Khais was accepted for a certificate program in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where he continued his studying from Elizabeth Osborne, Bruce Samuelson, and Osvaldo Romberg. From 1999 until 2001, Khais was affiliated with Osvaldo Romberg's "Studio."

Participating in numerous group shows and solo exhibitions in the tri-state area, Khais is a recipient of awards from the Philadelphia Sketch Club, PAFA Alumni Association, Berks County Art Alliance, Berman Museum, and Vermont Studio Center.

Some of his paintings found their way into a few corporate and private collections, such as Ms. Jane Gordon in Wynnewood, PA; Johnson & Johnson in Springfield, PA; and the Massachusetts State Hospital in Boston to name a few.

In general, Khais' paintings skirt the boundary between representation and pure abstraction; and almost all of his paintings have been inspired by a landscape of a particular place in a particular time and in a specific atmospheric condition.

The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-noon. If the Religious School is closed on those days, the gallery is also closed. All of Khais' works are for sale. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece. ■



Thai Cuisine

*759 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
(215) 663-1495*

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

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

**Bring a copy of this flyer to White Elephant and
20% of your “dinner menu” order total will be
generously donated back to Kol Ami.**

**White Elephant has wonderful food and a cozy
dining area. Stop in for dinner or take-out your
order and bring it back home.**



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



Congregation Kol Ami Members "Our House" Concert

featuring

Cory Newman at the Piano

playing works by Chopin, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn and more

Sunday, March 6, 2016

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Kol Ami Lobby



*A bite to eat, a chat with friends...
a classical evening...*



*We invite you to a "Congregants Connection" house concert in our lobby.
Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, home-baked desserts, and your BYOBeverage
with the backdrop of beautiful art by Ruslan Khais.*

Hosted by Karen Gurmankin and Betsy McKinstry



*Please join us! No charge, but RSVP required, ensuring plenty of food for all.
Don't forget — it's BYOB!*

*RSVP by February 29 to Elaine Stevens at
215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.
Need a ride? Let Elaine know and we'll arrange!*





**EARLY LEARNING CENTER
ANNUAL EREV SHABBAT DINNER
AND SILENT AUCTION**

Friday, February 26, at 6:45 p.m.

We need your help with this Early-Learning-Center-sponsored event. Here's how: 1) donate items to be auctioned, for example, gift certificates, museum tickets, art items, etc., and/or 2) attend the auction and bid on baskets. We would love to see you attend and support our event. Please contact Sheri Cutler at 215-635-4180 for more information.

"ADULTS-ONLY"

**MARTINI HAVDALAH SERVICE
AND SPICES**

Saturday, March 12

We'll supply the hors d'oeuvres and you supply the mixing devices, hard liquor, and mixers (beer, wine).

5:30 p.m.

Martinis and hors d'oeuvres

6:15 p.m.

Singing and *Havdalah* service

7:00 p.m.

Group dinner (details below)

You are invited to join us for dinner after the *Havdalah* service at Park Plates in Elkins Park. To sign up for the dinner, please contact Mindy Levy at 215-885-3672. Mindy will confirm receiving your reservation and will provide further details about the evening.

This will be a wonderful way to extend the joy of the service by spending the evening together. ■

Fiddler on the Roof



Congregant **Adam Fishbein** as Perchik (above) in *Fiddler on the Roof*, giving lessons to the younger daughters of Tevye, the main character in the musical. This is an accurate representation of Adam, considering that he is an Assistant Teacher at the Kol Ami Religious School in the third-grade classroom. ■



GETTING TO KNOW THE... ART AND DESIGN COMMITTEE



KAROL APPEL, CHAIR

One of my greatest highlights of the Arts and Design Committee is the establishment of the Gallery at Kol Ami in March 2008. For the past several years, Elaine Stevens and I have secured 53 artists to share their thought- and conversation-provoking works with our Congregation. These works are whimsical, serene, intensely focused, and powerful.

On the average, we have six artists per year in a variety of mediums. We all may not be attracted to the same works of art, but Kol Ami encourages diversity, free thinking, and, most important, dialogue. Please try to attend the artists' open houses, where you will have an opportunity to meet the artist and learn about their work. All of the artwork is available for purchase and a percentage of all sales go directly into our Arts and Culture Fund.

Also included in our gallery have been numerous shows by our adult members as well as a children's art show to highlight Kol Ami's talents.

The unique *Torah* table, the prayer book credenza, and the majestic *Yahrzeit* wall and plaques are examples of how closely this Committee works with the Board to design or modify our sanctuary spaces.

Did you know that this Committee, along with the Operations Committee, taught a half dozen volunteers how to upholster over 250+ old sanctuary chairs to match the new chairs we purchased several years ago? We are truly a hands-on committee that supports the talents of local artists.

We could use your help by forwarding contact information of an artist that you may like to see in our gallery. If this artist meets the established guidelines and criteria, we would be most happy to contact them.

Lastly, if you are interested in joining the Art and Design Committee or have any suggestions, please get in touch with me at a1karol@comcast.net or 215-938-9330. ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: CAROL LASKIN



Kol Ami is very pleased to welcome new member Carol Laskin. She recently moved back to the Philadelphia area – right next door to Betty and Bill Shapiro. As a result of their new friendship, Carol learned about Kol Ami, including (as she

puts it): “The wonderful, warm people who make up the congregation.” Carol then went to services, saw first-hand what Betty and Bill meant, and joined right away in October 2015.

Carol is originally from our area, having gone to Cheltenham High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and did her graduate studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She spent many years living in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, followed by eight years living in the Florida Keys.

Professionally, Carol notes that she was a health-care consultant and that she has been the Executive Director of FORMULA, a non-profit organization that was established because there were no FDA regulations for baby formula. Carol writes that she came back to the Philadelphia area to be close to family, including her 95-year-old mother, as well as her eldest son, daughter-in-law, and their two kids (Carol's grandsons, age 3 and 6), who live locally. Carol's youngest son lives in Seattle.

Carol loves to read, watch movies, and eat delicious food. Her ideal activity is the simple pleasure of sitting around a table with friends, laughing, and dining well. Carol is looking forward to meeting and getting to know the people in our congregation, and the feeling is mutual. ■

If you have a friend, relative, colleague, or acquaintance who would be a great addition to our intimate-and-dynamic community, contact one of our Membership co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716, or Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839. They would be happy to reach out and make a connection to share membership benefits and information as necessary.

Social Action

"STRONGER TOGETHER" - SUPER SUNDAY

February 21 at the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy,
272 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA;
under the umbrella of the Jewish Federation of Greater
Philadelphia

Join members of our Congregation at our Jewish community's annual "day of calling – day of giving" that enables our Federation to support people in need as well as synagogues and organizations devoted to education and *tikun olam*.

Shift hours are from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30-5:00 p.m., and 5:00-8:30 p.m. To register, call 215-832-0630 or visit www.jewishphilly.org/super-sunday-2016.

LAST CHANCE TO CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS AND DONATE WINTER CLOTHING

Please donate your gently used or new winter coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, and/or warm socks (socks must be new) to those in need. You can drop them off at the Religious School office on Wednesdays or Sundays and at Elaine Steven's office on other days. Both adult and children's clothing are welcome!

GRAB YOUR APRON AND COME COOK FOR A FRIEND!

Sunday, February 28, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon
in the Kol Ami Kitchen

Join us and prepare nutritious meals for those in need. For details, contact Ellen Friedman at ejf0254@gmail.com. ■



On Sunday, December 20, Kol Ami members and friends divided and conquered at SHARE! Half our group packaged over 303 boxes in less than two hours while others focused on harvesting and preparing the garden for winter. Our treat was Robin Rifkin's home-baked sugar cookies. The next volunteer opportunity at SHARE is March 13. Mark your calendar. See the next page for additional photos of the December 20 event.



LEFT (top to bottom): Carol Baron and Jenna Margasak (foreground); Cheryl Wohlstetter and step-daughter, Barclay; Michael Silverman and Eliana Warsaw; ABOVE: Stuart Poppel and daughter, Melanie; BELOW: Rabbi Holin and Barb Fink.



PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARS COLLEGE-MENTORING PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS



Pictured at left are some of the Kol Ami members, participating in the Philadelphia Scholars college-mentoring program, who spent an evening in January with their student “mentees” sorting and packing clothes and toys at Cradles to Crayons.

These first-generation college students, coming from families of modest means and benefiting from a scholarship program, are already giving back to the Philadelphia area community. ■

Casino Night a Winner!

.....

by Sharon Myers

Congregation Kol Ami transformed into a Casino on Saturday night, January 9. Members, along with their friends and family, again created the uplifting atmosphere all the while raising approximately \$10,000.00 for our Congregation. Thank you to all who supported the event. Next, let's work to make Casino Night 2017 – 10th Anniversary Edition – even stronger.

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continued next page





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MULTI-CULTURAL WEEK AT KOL AMI EARLY LEARNING CENTER



We teach diversity to preschoolers to provide a broad understanding of how we are each unique in our own way. This process helps children learn more about who they are and provides an avenue for teaching respect and acceptance of others. Some of the week's activities included playing games popular in other countries, making flags of different nations, and tasting food from different cultures, which was provided to us by our wonderful parents. We also made a multi-cultural cookbook that included all the recipes of the food that was brought in.



KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2016 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	2 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	3 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Early Learning Center erev <i>Shabbat Service</i> 11:00 a.m. “First-Friday” erev <i>Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	6 <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
7 BAKE SALE Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Music & Musings 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	8 Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	10 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	11 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	12 Early Learning Center erev <i>Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev <i>Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	13 <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> of Hope Falon-Mazer 10:00 a.m.

KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2016 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Religious School CLOSED President's Weekend	15 Early Learning Center CLOSED President's Weekend Early Learning Center Special Musical Performance 10:00 a.m. (See page 4 for details)	16 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	17 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	18 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	19 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir 6:00 p.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	20 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Carol Nemeroff will give the dvar Torah
21 SUPER SUNDAY Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	22 Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	24 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	25 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	26 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. Nursery School erev Shabbat Dinner and Silent Auction 6:45 p.m. (no erev Shabbat Service)	27 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
28 Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Social Action Committee "Cook for a Friend" 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	29					

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPLIED

Below is a list of the available Kol Ami funds:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to invite scholars, authors, and artists to speak about: Jewish history and contemporary issues; their motivation for writing about specific themes; and their interpretation through art and music about Jewish life in the past and present.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Enables us to provide funding for cultural programs, including music and arts, the preservation and maintenance of artwork within the synagogue, and the beautification of the meditation garden.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH & CONFIRMATION FUND

Enables us to provide appropriate gifts (books, kiddush cups, and Shabbat candlesticks) when our young adults celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and Confirmations.

"DISCOVER ISRAEL" FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in approved peer-group trips to Israel.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost of Family Camp Weekend programs and to welcome specialists on a "weekend away" to explore a Jewish theme with our rabbi.

FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost for our programs and to welcome guest speakers to special events.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to offer age-appropriate programs to our religious school students. A variety of educational initiatives will be sponsored, including, but not limited, to speaker programs, intolerance awareness, and travel to memorial museums/sites—all with a focus on its current relevance.

LIBRARY FUND

Enables us to purchase books for the education and enjoyment of our children, youth, and adults.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Enables us to provide refreshments following Shabbat services.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Enables Rabbi Holin to perform *mitzvot* for those in need, in the name of the Congregation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Enables us to provide resources and programs for the benefit of our children in religious school.

SYNAGOGUE FUND

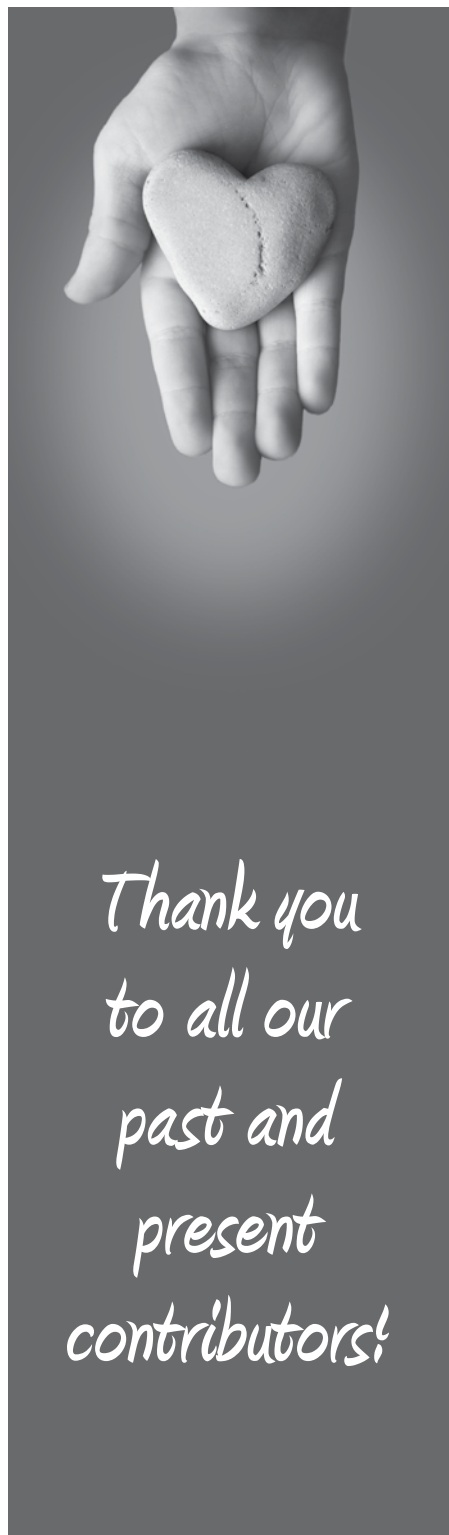
Enables us to provide for the general well-being of the Congregation.

YOUTH FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in Jewish enrichment experiences at camps, youth enclaves, and other programs. ■

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.



RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

The birth of Matthew and Ryan Gibbs

Carol Baron

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

The Barrett, D'Amore, and Neimeth Families

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In Memory of:

Arthur Alexander

Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin

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SYNAGOGUE FUND

Anonymous

Paul and Ellen Kovnat

In Honor of:

Engagement of Jesse Cutler to Rachel Green

Elaine Stevens

Birth of Olivia Ryan Myers

Alan and Elaine Gershenson

Birth of our granddaughter, Olivia Ryan Myers

Craig and Sharon Myers

In Memory of:

Harold Horowitz

Alan and Elaine Gershenson

Marvin Levy

Alan and Elaine Gershenson ■



FEBRUARY

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**
10:00 a.m. - Music & Musings
11:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, at 7:30 p.m.**
Religious School Committee Meeting
- **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, at 10:00 a.m.**
Bat Mitzvah of Hope Falon-Mazer
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, at 6:00 p.m.**
“Fun-for-Kids” *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**
Super Sunday at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy
in Bryn Mawr, PA
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, at 9:30 a.m.**
Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, at 7:00 p.m.**
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, at 6:45 p.m.**
Early Learning Center *erev Shabbat* Dinner and
Silent Auction
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, at 10:00 a.m.**
Social Action Committee “Cook for a Friend”

MARCH

- **TUESDAY, MARCH 1, at 7:30 p.m.**
Interfaith Relationship Dialogue at the home of
Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 3 & 10, at 7:30 p.m.**
Continuing Jewish Education for Adults
with David Monblatt
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 4, at 7:30 p.m.**
“*Shabbat Across America*” *erev Shabbat* Service
with Adult Choir
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 5, at 5:30 p.m.**
Yards Brewing Company Private Tasting Tour
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 6,**
11:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting
1:00 p.m. - Healing Service
5:00 p.m. - “Our House” Concert with pianist,
Cory Newman
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 12, at 5:30 p.m.**
Martini *Havdalah* followed by dinner at Park Plates
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 13, at 1:00 p.m.**
Social Action Committee SHARE Food Program
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 15, at 6:00 p.m.**
Caring Congregants Committee Meeting
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 24 & 31 AND APRIL 7,**
at 7:30 p.m.
Continuing Jewish Education for Adults
with Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom
- **MONDAY, MARCH 21, at 7:00 p.m.**
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting ■