



CONGREGATION
Kol Ami
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

TWO MEETINGS ARE SET TO DISCUSS THE
**CONGREGATION KOL AMI
TRIPS TO ISRAEL IN 2014**

FOR THE ADULT TRIP

Join Rabbi Holin and Keshet Tour's managing director Peter Abelow on **Thursday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.** at the synagogue to hear more about our Adult journey from October 19-30, 2014!

FOR THE FAMILY TRIP

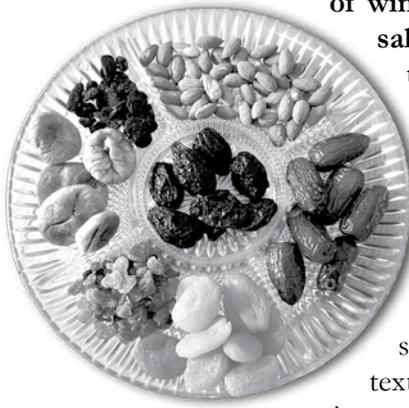
Join Rabbi Holin and Israel Tour Connection's program director Larry Ritter on **Sunday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m.** at the synagogue to hear more about our Family journey from August 17-28, 2014!

To receive a complete itinerary, pricing, and information about flights, hotels, and meals, please contact Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182.



**THE SEVENTH ANNUAL HAZON CSA-COMMUNITY
TU B'SHVAT SEDER AT KOL AMI ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

Learn, be inspired, sing, taste symbolic fruits and nuts, drink four cups of wine, and eat a delicious vegetarian soup-and-salad dinner as we celebrate the New Year of the Trees.



HAZON TU B'SHVAT HAGGADAH

The *Hazon Tu B'Shvat Haggadah* is designed to help you think about your responsibility toward the natural world on four different levels: physical space, community, world, and spirituality. Each section of the *Haggadah* offers texts, questions, and activities to spark conversation around our *Seder* table related to one of these four levels of responsibility.

IT'S OPEN TO ALL! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

- There's no charge for 2014 Elkins Park Hazon CSA members; \$8 for non-CSA members.
- Space is limited and registration is required. RSVP with number of adults and children to hazonCSA@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3110 by Monday, January 20.
- Doors open at Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, at 5:30 p.m., and the *Seder* starts promptly at 6:00 p.m.
- Bring your own reusable or biocompostable place settings: plate, soup bowl, spoon, fork, drinking cup, wine glass, dessert plate, and napkin.
- Also bring wine to share with your table —white and red will be needed for the *Seder*.
- Grape juice will be provided.

Please let us know if you would like to help with preparations—sign up to make a finger-food cookie or bar-type dessert with a fruit-and-nut theme, and/or help with kitchen prep on the day of the event. ■

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, January 3, 7:30 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, January 4, 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, January 10, 7:30 p.m.
Female-led *Shir Shabbat* on
erev Shabbat (see page 8)

SATURDAY, January 11, 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, January 17, 7:30 p.m.
Musical *erev Shabbat* Service
with our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, January 18, 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, January 24, 7:30 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service with Grade 6
Student participation plus “Fourth-
Friday” birthday and anniversary
blessings

SATURDAY, January 25, 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue;
followed by a potluck lunch

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 ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

January 4 - Bo
Exodus 10:1-13:16, Jeremiah 46:13-28

January 11 - B’shalach
Exodus 13:17-17:16, Judges 4:4-5:31

January 18 - Yitro
Exodus 18:1-20:23, Isaiah 6:1-7:6

January 25 - Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1-24:18, Jeremiah 34:8-22 ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER



A number of years ago, at Rabbi Holin’s request, I took the plunge and delivered my first *d’var Torah* at a Saturday morning service. I did it primarily because the Rabbi asked, and it was a way to wrestle with *Torah* and concepts of God and human-kind with which I don’t always agree.

Most importantly, I felt that I needed to do this wrestling with *Torah* to make a place for it in my life. “No more shall you be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have struggled with God and with human beings, and you have prevailed” (Genesis 32:29).

Israel means “one who wrestles with God.” God loves it when we engage!

In this context, engagement is *Torah* study. In the Saturday morning service, we often read a summary of the Holiness Code that concludes with the line: “But the study of *Torah* encompasses them all.” Perhaps like you, I’ve recited it on autopilot at many services. Thanks to the Rabbi’s support and the support you always get from your fellow worshippers, there is a way to study *Torah* and help others connect this great and uniquely Jewish legacy to day-to-day life. When I prepare and deliver a *d’var*, I am always glad I did.

For the first *d’var*, I needed guidance and a productive frame of mind. I realized that I had to let go of one notion of a good *d’var* to be able to create my own. The Rabbi is brilliant at putting a *d’var* together and then delivering it without notes. He is a great and learned teacher. I was intimidated.

But once I realized that a *d’var* is a humble attempt to relate to the text and help others do so, I was ready to begin. Everyone has the wisdom of personal and professional experiences that can be readily applied to *Torah* text. The challenge is to find a *Torah* portion that speaks to you, that draws you out, that helps you dig deep and fly high.

Yet, as anyone who was a beginning cook venturing into a kitchen knows, a recipe can be really helpful. I offer a short, easy-to-follow recipe for creating a *d’var* when you don’t have all the ingredients that the Rabbi has. If you are new, this can help; and if you are experienced, you will know how to change this recipe so it works for you.

RECIPE FOR PREPARING A D’VAR

All ingredients are wholesome and readily available:

1 to 2 hours of time

½ part of humility, as you needn’t be wiser than your fellow members

½ part of reminder, that we learn best through the power of questions

1 part of reading, studying, and getting in touch with the actual writing, the primary source

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

The intimacy that God felt for Moses is conveyed in the Book of Exodus (33:11) by these words: “The Eternal would speak to Moses face to face, as one person speaks to another.” For all the benefits that e-mail, texting, and Facebook offer, it is when we are together—“face to face”—that the possibility of connection is most manifest.

At our *erev Shabbat* service on November 1, we reviewed our “Strive for 225” membership outreach, and we asked people to talk about what drew them to our congregation, and what some of their most meaningful experiences here have been.

The usual way to elicit in-person responses is to invite people to share their thoughts from where they are seated, but since membership should mean more than just names in the synagogue directory, I asked everyone to form small groups with two or three people whom they had not met before or did not know very well. Each self-selected group spent time responding to three questions, and then shared their thoughts, experiences, or ideas with all of us. You’ll be reading their responses over the next few months in our Bulletins, courtesy of Membership Chairpersons Julie Cohen and Robin Warsaw.

I plan to periodically replicate this exercise at our *erev Shabbat* and *Shabbat* services, in the chapel or the sanctuary, in the following manner:

- I’ll select a one- to three-page article or reading and will post its title, author, and source a few weeks prior to the service. It will also be available in the synagogue office for you to pick up in advance of the service, and at the service itself.
- We’ll form groups of two to three people, and each small group will discuss its responses to a few questions that will be prepared in advance.
- People will then be asked to share how someone in their group has replied to one of the questions, and as we learn from each other, we will also hopefully develop a greater sense of connection with one another.
- In the sanctuary, people will be given a hand-held microphone to ensure that everyone will hear what they are saying; and in the chapel, people will be asked to face everyone as they speak.

My hope is that we will get to know each other better—“face to face”—and benefit from hearing varied thoughts and ideas that represent the strength and vitality of our Congregation.

Shalom u’vrachab,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Caring Congregants Committee

Tuesday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Linda George, 215-782-1413,
and Elaine Gershenson 215-887-3994

Craft Show Committee

Sunday, January 12, at 11:30 a.m.
Co-chairs: Lisa Landau, 215-635-9996,
and Janine Pratt, 215-6635-5265

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Daniel and Linda George,
215-782-1413

Membership Committee

Monday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716,
and Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839

Operations Committee

Monday, January 6, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330,
and Jeremy Wintroub, 215-906-9063

Religious School Committee

Thursday, January 16, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Sheryl Cohen, 215-775-
2436, and Barbara Fink, 215-886-2297

Religious School PTO

Sunday, January 12, at 10:15 a.m.
Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335,
and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain,
215-635-1738, and Ronit Sugar,
215-635-0390

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-657-
4124, and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698 ■

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 [January 27](#).

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 *mitzvo*t. "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, as well as the following poems plus others:

"Her Eyes" (1892)

"When I Return" (1896)

"The Scroll of Fire" (1905)

"I Knew in a Night of Fog" (1905)

"Call for the Snakes" (1906)

"Before the Book Closet" (1910)

"Your Breath Passed upon My Face" (1916)

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

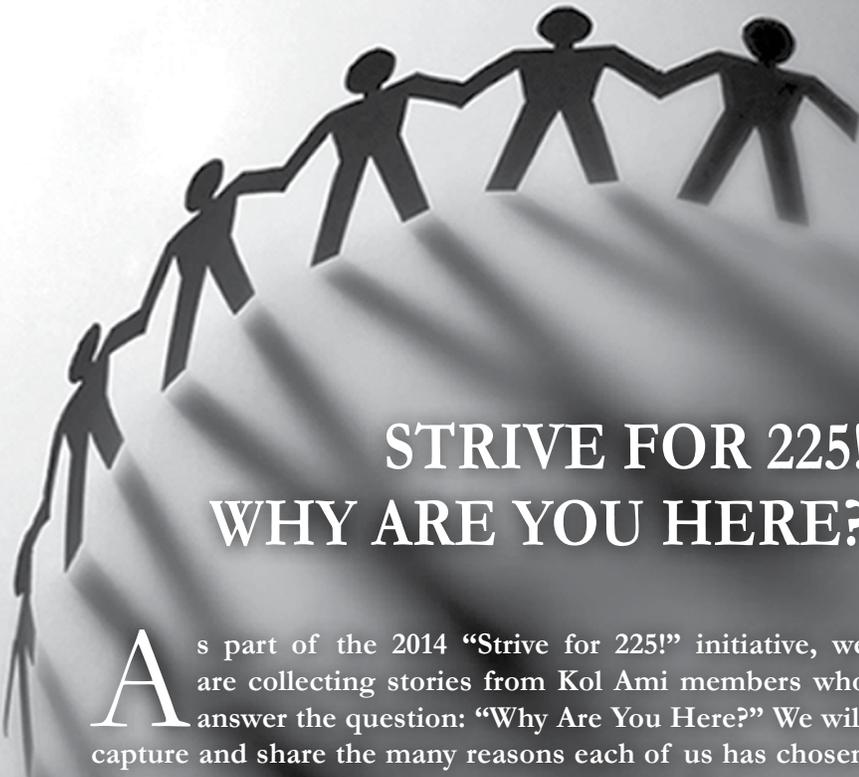
Moses is often embraced as a reflection of Jewish character; unique, goal-oriented, God-choosing, but always human. Was Moses real or the invention of the collective conscience of the Hebrew people? Is Moses a law-giver, teacher, or "union organizer?"

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](#).

Registration Instructions

To register for a 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. ■



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).

“In 1997, we were looking for a synagogue, but more immediately, trying to buy tickets for High Holy Day Services. We attended a membership Open House at Rabbi Holin’s home. One of the congregants said: ‘In Congregation XXX, if the Rabbi isn’t there, I know it. At Kol Ami, if I am not there, the Rabbi knows it!’ That sums up one part of our devotion to Kol Ami: Elliot Holin! The others are Rebecca; Elaine; the great educational programs; and the warm, friendly atmosphere.”
– Sara and Mike Chernoff

“I met Elliot when he first came to Philadelphia. We were members at his synagogue. When he left, we followed! Kol Ami is our community. It is our kids’ community.”
– Ellen Friedman

“Rebecca and the choir. The Rabbi is down to earth. The acceptance of interfaith couples. The people are warm and welcoming!”
– Jensen Toth ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

- 1 part of ideas from commentary, that the Rabbi supplies, or that come from the URJ website
- ½ part of synthesis, briefly telling the story of the *parsha* for those less familiar
- 1 part of wrestling with the text and commentary, finding one or two connections to life today
- 1 part of thinking about and coming up with short questions that might trigger discussion and cause us to think deeply about the themes in the *parsha*
- 1 part of reviewing, reading through, and checking for coherence and brevity
- ½ part of confidence and courage to have a conversation with your fellow members

This month’s “*Sh’lah’chaynee* - Send me” is for you to reach out to the Rabbi, pick a *parsha*, cook up a *d’var*, and share it with us on a Saturday morning. I know you can do it.

Jeff Cohen
215-635-3232

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Ezra Cassel
uncle of Andrew Cassel

Ceilia Finman
great-aunt of Fran Surkin

Irwin Greenberg
husband of Joan Greenberg

Ruth Kleiner
mother of Joy Pollock

May their memories forever be blessings in the midst of our People. ■

FACILITY ACCESS

There are many entrances to our building. For security reasons and the safety of our children, family, and guests, a facility access policy was created in years past and distributed to our members. Please adhere to the following entrance and exit plans for our building:

For Sunday (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) and Wednesday (4:00 to 8:00 p.m.), all access to the building is through the religious school entrance only. The lobby and executive office doors are not open during those hours. This includes members who are attending meetings.

At all other times, access to the building is through the main lobby doors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Stevens. ■

WE'LL GET YOU THERE!



Is transportation keeping you home-bound? Would you like to attend services, an event, or a committee meeting at Kol Ami, but don't have a means of 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.

We'd love to see you at the wonderful programs that we offer and are happy to help you get there! ■

WHY WE CHOSE TO JOIN KOL AMI

by new member Scott Cheiken (and family)

My wife, Julie, and I have two terrific daughters, Ally and Lauren, ages 11 and 9. For the better part of a decade, we were affiliated with another reform synagogue. Unfortunately, as our children entered fifth and third grades respectively, it had become increasingly obvious that our family's particular needs were not being met there.

The principal problem we faced was as a result of the fact that our family is interfaith. Julie is Catholic, and I am Jewish. We had dozens of friends at the other synagogue. Nevertheless, as Ally's *Bat Mitzvah* approached, Julie began to feel increasingly uncomfortable there. Ultimately, I had to acknowledge that, to some congregants, Julie was a "non-Jewish" member—a lesser member. We knew that we would not feel comfortable inviting Julie's family to celebrate Ally's *Bat Mitzvah* at a place where Julie herself did not feel completely welcome.

The search for a new congregation began soon thereafter. As with other important decisions, I consulted with friends and researched our options. I quickly learned that every congregation claims to welcome interfaith families—and I believe to a certain extent that they are. But then there is Kol Ami. While other synagogues "talk the talk," Kol Ami "walks the walk."

Eventually, we were guided by the experience of attending the *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* services of the children of dear friends, another interfaith family at Kol Ami. Julie had left both of those services feeling spiritually invigorated and raving about Rabbi Holin's refined and inclusive approach.

In January 2013, my family accepted an invitation to become Guest Members of the Congregation. We soon found that Kol Ami is a welcoming and nurturing community. It is abundantly clear that this example has been set by Rabbi Holin. Kol Ami is a happy place where congregants greet each other with a warm smile. Making new friends here has been easy.

After spending some time at Kol Ami, I observed that the term "non-Jewish" is not used here. This is important to me because I don't appreciate people describing my wife by reference to what she is not. I prefer to describe Julie as what she is—a Catholic wife and mother who lovingly and faithfully supports her daughters' Jewish education.

The moment we stepped foot on the premises, it was clear that Kol Ami members are valued for their contribution to the Congregation and that there is no hierarchy among its members. Julie's religion is not an issue here, and we look forward to sharing the warmth of our new Congregation with Julie's family.

At the conclusion of our Guest Membership, we proudly joined the Congregation permanently. ■

NEW MEMBERS: THE ADELMAN FAMILY



We warmly welcome the Adelman family, consisting of Robin; her husband, Ira; and their daughters; Marlene (age 13) and Belle (age 4). Robin says she is very happy with Belle's Kol Ami preschool experience, where she receives a lot of positive attention. She noted, "The classes are small and hands on, and there is remarkable communication, especially with our wonderful director, Sheri Cutler."

The Adelmans joined Kol Ami in part because of the preschool, but also owing to an unusually strong sense of camaraderie and acceptance in our congregation; Robin is quick to add, "Rabbi Holin is the warmest and most comforting Rabbi I have had the pleasure to meet in a number of years."

Belle is an active girl who spends her time with family and neighborhood friends, and in anything having to do with sports or exercising. Marlene, loves to sing and hopes to join our choir here. She is an honors student at Abington Junior High School—a gifted writer and poet, writing for her school newspaper and contributing pieces to Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia.

Robin and Ira were born and raised nearby—Robin in Northeast Philadelphia and Ira in Wyncote. They have resided in Abington since 2001. Ira is a retired SEPTA employee, and Robin is a retired librarian with the Philadelphia Free Library.

But being "retired" does not mean that they aren't busy! Between raising two young girls, being full-time family caregivers, and having a great many interests and activities, the Adelmans are quite active. They are members and donors of Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia, Abington Memorial Hospital, several libraries in Montgomery County, and they work with the Abington Junior High School Parent-Teachers Organization. They are also members of the National Muscular Dystrophy Association and other health organizations.

Robin describes herself as a movie lover, collector, and preservationist. Ira is an avid golfer, who is a contributing member of the USGA and related organizations. Both are history buffs, particularly about WWII and the Holocaust, although their historical interests extend more generally as well. Robin's father is a Korean War combat veteran who shares his stories "that enlighten the children immensely." The Adelmans enjoy seeing Broadway shows; watching Turner Classic movies; and traveling as a family to museums, concerts, and other events.

They are delighted to be part of Kol Ami and look forward to many *simchas* and *mitzvahs* here, as well as being part of a caring community during all of life's events. Robin says, "To be there for each other is a gift—to be there to heal and uplift; to give families the joy of religion, music, and prayer; and to show respect for the dignity of each person no matter what. This is what we look for in a *shul*, and we know we have found that in Kol Ami." ■

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 January 5 for the February issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalton@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 (*nab'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. Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on **Tuesday, January 7**, and **Tuesday, February 4**.

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, January 23**, and **Thursday, February 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”)

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SHIR SHABBAT

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

—Debbie Friedman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, AT 7:30 P.M.

Please join us at our third annual *Shir Shabbat* (Song of Shabbat) service led by the women of our Congregation in gratitude to the women who led us in song through the Sea of Reeds (that week’s *Torah* Portion) on our way from Egypt to Mount Sinai and from there to the Promised Land.

This service will also feature music by female composers.

Men in the Congregation are welcome and encouraged to join us!



DENIM & *Diamonds*

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, January 11, 2014

7pm - 11pm

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

WINNINGS PROVIDED AS RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR FANTASTIC PRIZES!

\$30/person in advance

\$40 at the door

Tickets include \$25 in gaming chips, open bar, light fare and dessert

FOR TICKETS:

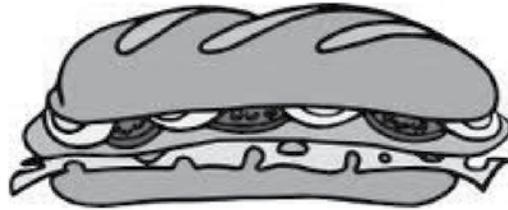
Send your check to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road,
Elkins Park, PA 19027 with "Casino Night" on the memo line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharon Myers at 215-460-0602 or sharonmyers381@gmail.com



Congregation Kol Ami Super Bowl Sunday 2014 Hoagie Sale



**Planning to host a Super Bowl party or
just tired of cooking?
We can help!**

Members and friends of Congregation Kol Ami are invited to order hoagies provided by Heritage Hoagies in Huntingdon Valley. The 10” hoagies can be picked up in the lobby of Kol Ami on Sunday, February 2, at 12:00 p.m. All profits from the sale will be used to support the Congregation.

Questions? Contact Robin Warsaw at 215-635-5839 or rkwarshaw@comcast.net



Please fill out and return the form below by
Wednesday, January 29, 2014



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to: Congregation Kol Ami.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP TO MEET AGAIN AFTER DECEMBER BREAK

Monday, January 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Spiritual Growth Group continues its studies with Carol Nemeroff and invites you to join them. Participation at the earlier sessions is NOT required to attend now; each session is unique and stands on its own.

Please come join us as we continue to figure out what “spirituality” is and how to nurture it in our lives. Everyone is welcome. You don’t have to be “religious” or well-versed in Jewish prayer or practice to fit in.

If you have any questions, contact SGG co-leaders Natalie Dyen (nat.dyen@verizon.net) or Janet Falon (jfalon@english.upenn.edu).

HERE’S A TIP: USE SCRIP!



Please continue to support the Kol Ami Scrip Program. Any Kol Ami member who purchases \$100 or more (in a single order) of scrip or Creekside Co-op scrip during January will automatically be entered in a drawing to win a free scrip card. If you have any questions, contact Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335, and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216.

“FOURTH-FRIDAY” EREV SHABBAT SERVICE for January Birthday & Anniversary Blessings Friday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

DISCO NIGHT AT KOL AMI

Saturday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Come disco the night away with a cosponsored ISH\PTO dance open to everyone. BYOB. Desserts and coffee will be provided. Proceeds benefit the Religious School. It will be an evening to remember.



continued page 13



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

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Pre-order for big savings!

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\$ _____



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pizza, 4 drinks, 4 cook-
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(\$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

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. ■

YEDIDAY CONTRIBUTORS

We greatly appreciate the support of the following members of *Yediday* 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 *Yediday* Kol Ami, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org ■

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 Mab Tov: 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.

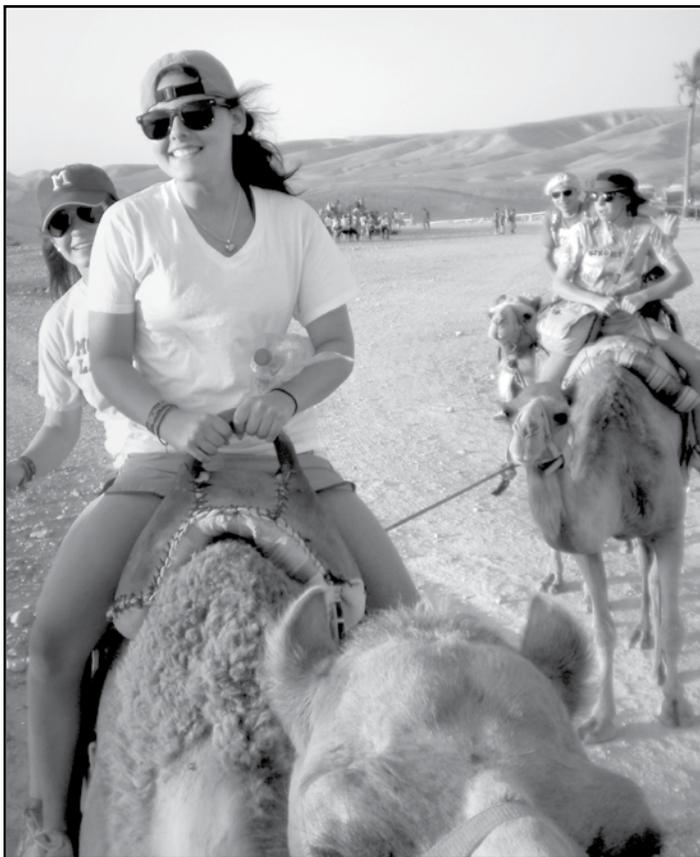
The process that Julie teaches during her workshops is also the process she engages in when creating her own art. The pieces that will be on display at Congregation Kol Ami represent some of the newest work to emerge from Julie Wohl’s collection. These pieces represent Julie’s study and love of Judaism,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





Congregation Kol Ami Jewish Summer Camp Scholarships

If your son or daughter plans to attend a Jewish summer camp in 2014, our Congregation is pleased to award needs-based scholarships through the Youth Fund. Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of requests received.

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

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



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TOTAL BLAST.
YOU SEE
TRADITION.**

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NEUBAUER FAMILY FOUNDATION

KOL AMI NURSERY KIDS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT CORNER: DRESSED AS PILGRIMS OR NATIVE AMERICANS FOR THE THANKSGIVING FEAST; HANUKKAH CELEBRATION WITH CHALLAH, CANDLES, AND A SING-A-LONG.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM-RIGHT CORNER: FARMER DEB SHOWS THE CHILDREN A DOVE, FERRIS THE GOAT ALSO CAME TO OUR SCHOOL FOR A VISIT, AND MORE NATIVE AMERICANS AND PILGRIMS ENJOY THE THANKSGIVING FEAST (ABOVE)



KOL AMI JANUARY 2014 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Biblical Celebrity Jeopardy 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	6 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Social Action Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.	8 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	9	10 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. Female-led Shir Shabbat Service on erev Shabbat 7:30 p.m.	11 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Casino Night 7:00 p.m.
			1 No Nursery School Winter Break No Religious School Winter Break	2	3 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	4 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.

KOL AMI JANUARY 2014 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting 10:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Craft Show Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m.	13 Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	14 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Caring Congregants Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	16 Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	17 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. Musical erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Participation	18 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
19 No Religious School Martin Luther King Weekend	20 No Religious School Martin Luther King Weekend	21 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	22 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	23 Adult Trip to Israel Meeting with Rabbi Holin and Peter Abelow of Keshet Tour 7:00 p.m.	24 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "Fourth-Friday" erev Shabbat Service with Grade 6 Student Participation 7:30 p.m.	25 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Followed by a potluck lunch
26 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. Tu B'Shvat Seder 6:00 p.m.	27 Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	28 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Relationship Dialogue 7:30 p.m. Home of Dan and Linda George	29 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	30	31 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Fun for Kids" erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. Student Choir Participation erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	

Kol Ami Funds



KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

OUR SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
Cary Mazer and Janet Falon

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

THE BIRTH OF SADIE DORTHEA
VICTOR WALKER
Edythe Victor

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory of:

JOANNE GORDON
*Dianne Gravatt and
Sharon Harper* ■

Should you wish to make a contribution to any of the Congregation's funds, please send your gift to Ms. Elaine Stevens, Executive Director, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027, and indicate to which of the following funds you would like your donation applied.

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 AND 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 AND 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.

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 the 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. ■



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

TO:

