

July-August 2013

Tammuz-Ave 5773

קול עמי

AN INTIMATE
AND DYNAMIC
COMMUNITY



WORSHIP SERVICES

A REMINDER: THE HIGH HOLY DAYS ARRIVE EARLIER THAN USUAL THIS YEAR! SEE THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 5.

**Friday *erev Shabbat* Services
on the Meadow:**

**July 5, 12, 19 & 26
August 2, 9*, 16*, 23 & 30**

5:45 p.m. - BYOD and blankets or comfortable, soccer-style chairs

6:30 p.m. - Brief worship service beneath the trees and evening sky (chairs are provided for the service)

****Special summer service themes***

SATURDAY, July 27, at 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service at the home of Herb and Lucille Barrett; followed by a potluck lunch

FRIDAY, August 9, at 6:30 p.m.
Annual Parents' Blessing of College-Bound and Returning Daughters and Sons *erev Shabbat* Service

FRIDAY, August 16, 6:30 p.m.
Prospective-Member *erev Shabbat*; bring your friends and neighbors who might enjoy meeting us and becoming part of our congregation!

SATURDAY, August 24, at 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service at the home of Bill and Betty Shapiro; followed by a potluck lunch

SATURDAY, August 31
9:00 p.m. - *Selichot* Service
8:30 p.m. - *Oneg* ■

ANNUAL PARENTS' BLESSING OVER COLLEGE-BOUND AND RETURNING-TO-COLLEGE DAUGHTERS AND SONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, AT 6:30 P.M.; PRECEDED BY A "BYOD" AT 5:45 P.M.

This is a wonderful service to have your unaffiliated friends attend: a "taste of Kol Ami" with a bring-your-own dinner (BYOD) and a special service as well!

Every year, parents and their college-bound and returning-to-college children attend this special service. During our time of silent meditation, parents have the opportunity to quietly talk to their child/ren in front of the ark and to bless them with "words from the heart." This is especially meaningful for parents whose only or eldest child is commencing college studies or whose youngest is about to do so.

Rabbi Holin will provide texts of traditional blessings in Hebrew and English, which parents might choose to quietly recite over their child/ren, while acknowledging that the most powerful words are those privately shared between parents and children. ■

PROSPECTIVE-MEMBER EREV SHABBAT

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR A SYNAGOGUE?
INVITE THEM TO JOIN US ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, AT 6:30 P.M.!

With the Jewish New Year about to begin and the next school year quickly approaching, it's a good time to think about synagogue membership. In addition to High Holy Day services and religious-school enrollment, Congregation Kol Ami offers spiritual growth, continuing Jewish education for adults, adult and student choirs, community service, social events, an interfaith relationship group, holy day celebrations, plus the warmth of a small and dynamic community. Please invite friends, relatives, neighbors, and colleagues to join us for Prospective-Member *erev Shabbat* Service on the Meadow. This is great for young families! Children may attend service, explore the meadow, or go to our pre-school playground.

The service is preceded by a "BYOD" at 5:45 p.m., so bring your own dinner and blanket or sports chairs. If you can't be here by 5:45 p.m., you're still welcome to come for the *Shabbat* service at 6:30 p.m. ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

July 6 - Mattote-Masay

Numbers 30:2-36:13

Jeremiah 2:4-28

July 13 - Devarim

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Isaiah 1:1-27

July 20 - Va'ethanan

Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Isaiah 40:1-26

July 27 - Ekev

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Isaiah 49:14-51:3

August 3 - Re'eh

Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Isaiah 54:11-55:5

August 10 - Shofetim

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Isaiah 51:12-52:12

August 17 - Kee Tetze

Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Isaiah 54:1-10

August 24 - Kee Tavo

Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

Isaiah 60:1-22

August 31 - Nitzavim-Vayeilech

Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30

Isaiah 61:10-63:9 ■

MAZAL TOV

We congratulate:

- **Vera Frumin** on the announcement of her marriage to Jonathan Smolowe on June 2.
- **George Barrett** and **Debbie Neimeth**, parents of **Kate Barrett**, on the announcement of her marriage to Christopher D'Amore on June 8. We also congratulate Kate's grandparents, **Herbert and Lucille Barrett**, and her aunt, **Sarah Barrett**, all members of our congregation. ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Creating, seeing, and celebrating our blessings has me most excited about becoming the ninth president of Congregation Kol Ami's Board of Trustees.

At Kol Ami, we create blessings by bringing familiarity and comfort to all our members, and we are blessed with a willingness to try new things that enable the growth of our intimate and dynamic community. Additionally, we are so generously blessed with members who are deeply committed to our community and the Reform Jewish values that support it. The Tree of Life tapestry, which will be hanging in our chapel, is a perfect metaphor for highlighting these people and the blessings they create.

- Rabbi Holin continues to be the nourishing roots of Kol Ami.
- The trunk of our tree includes Rebecca Schwartz, David Monblatt, and Sheri Cutler who graciously and ably build off the Rabbi's teachings; the tireless Elaine Stevens who insures that all we aspire to do and be actually happens; and our Board of Trustees who are passionately engaged in the opportunities and challenges of keeping Kol Ami such a wonderful place.
- The branches of our tree include our teachers in the Religious and Nursery Schools who take our "little blessings" and create excitement for them so they learn about our traditions and how to bring timeless Jewish values to life today. Our committee chairs and committee members, too numerous to name here, strengthen those branches by volunteering their time and skills to create blessings for our members and the community.
- And those beautiful leaves. It is our members who bring great life to the growing tree of Kol Ami, believing in what we are and shaping us into what we will become. This is the blessing of Kol Ami that we can all join in celebrating.

We have the great blessing of a history of great leadership to build on. Our beloved Stuart Appel, of blessed memory, guided us through our initial founding. David Sloviser, Mark Levin, and Ben Long kept us centered and pointed toward the spiritual home that Jon Auerbach helped bring to fruition. Jennifer Streitwieser led the development of the strategic plan that guided renewed growth over the past five years. Ilene Schafer and David Hyman's turns at the helm included many accomplishments, especially fund-raising, which has resulted in our first balanced budget this past fiscal year.

As Rabbi Holin said to our Board this past May, leadership (הנהגה *bahn'hab'gab*) requires both wisdom (חכמה *chochmah*) and humility (ענוה *abnavah*). I will try to honor all of you by listening to the wisdom in the "Voice of Our People," and leading with humility. Let me know your aspirations and concerns for Kol Ami, as well as the special skills and experience that you could contribute to our community; call me or write to me. This summer and beyond, please continue believing in the blessing you are as members who sustain and love this special place.

B'shalom,

Jeff Cohen

215-635-3232, president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT OUR *SELICHOT* SERVICE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, AT 9:00 P.M.



On Saturday evening, August 31, at 9:00 p.m., we will introduce a draft copy of the new version of our late-night *Selichot* service just five days prior to *Rosh Hashanah*.

One can either “arrive” at the High Holy Days or one can “prepare” for them. The *Selichot* service is our annual “call to conscience” as we take measure of who we are, what we value, and the distance between what we say and what we do. In our tradition, the process of repentance leading to confession commences a full month before the New Year, and the *Selichot* service is toward the end of that journey that leads to new beginnings: the ten days on the Jewish calendar that we call “high” and “holy.”

In Hebrew, the word *selichah* means “forgiveness” and this service, through new and evocative words, asks us to focus on what we have done wrong and what we need to do better. The *Selichot* service—the plural of *selichah*—is a litany of readings that encourage us to explore what we have done wrong as well as what we have refrained from doing when response was necessary. This service contains the “touchstone” to our true and better selves.

Our Worship Enhancement Committee joins me in urging you to read the following words from the new draft copy of the *Selichot* service as a way to prepare for the High Holy Days.

THE ESSENCE OF ATONEMENT

“Moses Ibn Ezra [1060-1138, a Spanish philosopher, linguist and poet, whose writings are found in the traditional liturgy of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*], gives us a striking image for the Ten Days of Repentance, which culminate in *Yom Kippur*: Our Sins are like a veil covering the face, concealing the true person from God — perhaps obscuring us as well from the people in our lives and from ourselves. The process of *t’shuvah* (repentance) is meant to return us to our core, the person we are — the good and worthy human being masked behind the veil. *T’shuvah* represents an optimistic outlook on life: . . . For this is the moment when the veil is lifted from our face; this is the moment when we are no longer hidden from our Maker. This is the precious moment of renewing the relationship.”

FAILURES OF JUSTICE

“We dishonor You when we dishonor our society.

For our failure of justice, Adonai, we seek forgiveness.

For being indifferent to deprivation and hunger,
while accepting a culture of self-indulgence and greed.

For abuse of power in board rooms, court rooms and classrooms,
and for accepting the neglect of children and elders, the ill and
the weak.

For permitting social inequalities to prevail,
and for lacking the vision to transcend our selfishness.

For glorifying violence and turning hastily to war,
and for allowing history to repeat itself.

For behaviors that risk the future of our planet,
and for wreaking havoc on our only true inheritance —
God’s creation.”

May these summer months be a time of reflection that will lead to meaningful worship for all of us during the High Holy Days.

Shalom u’vrachah,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Yvette Liez

mother of Nadine (Bart Weiner) Liez-Weiner
grandmother of Jacob

Inga Sender Siegel

mother of Gary Sender
grandmother of Jessica and Matthew

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Caring Congregants Committee

Tuesday, August 6, at 6:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Linda George, 215-782-1413, and Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, July 9, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Sherry Cohen, 215-885-2436, and Barb Fink, 215-886-2297 ■

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. Provide your name and phone number or e-mail address and the desired event's date and time. She'll send an "in-search-of" e-mail to Kol Ami congregants regarding your need and hopefully a congregant who plans to attend that event will call or e-mail you directly. ■

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 2013 - 5774

ADULT SERVICES AND CHILDCARE

We will use the "Gates of Repentance" prayer book during adult services. We have 500 books available, but if you have the prayer book at home, please bring it with you so that the Kol Ami prayer books can derive the greatest possible use by other members and their families.

Childcare is available during *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning services for children 2 years of age to second grade through Laurie Langman (215-654-9717) or laurierobin@verizon.net.

SELICHOT

Toward a Better Understanding of Its Meaning and Ourselves
Saturday, August 31, at 9:00 p.m.; pre-service *Oneg* at 8:30 p.m.

The High Holy Day season is a time for self-reflection, enabling individuals to realign and reconnect with their inner essence. On this night of *Selichot*, we prepare for the High Holy Days by exploring various themes inherent to *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. Through study, discussion, and reflection, we will engage in a process of renewal; (*teshuvah*), empowering each of us to renew and transform our lives this New Year.



SWEET AS HONEY: A ROSH HASHANAH FAMILY SERVICE

**For families with kids in
Preschool to Grade 2
Thursday, September 5, at 2:00 p.m.**

What's a sweet New Year without honey? We're going to show our kids how honey is made for *Rosh Hashanah* by bringing in professional beekeepers and their busy little friends. Join Kol Ami for a brand new family program, including music, prayer, and a taste of honey!

TASHLIKH SERVICE - THE BRIDGE TO YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 6, at the home of Guy and Karol Appel (Meadowbrook)
Bring-Your-Own Dinner, Refreshments and Blanket, along with a Dessert to share
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.; *Tashlikh* service at 6:00 p.m.

Tashlikh, from the Hebrew word meaning "to send forth," is a service of readings and reflections from Psalms and Prophetic writings. Traditionally held on the second day of *Rosh Hashanah* and dating back to the Middle Ages, the *Tashlikh* service is a tribute to the Creator to whose work of creating the fish were the first witnesses, hence the proximity to a natural body of water

continued next page

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 2013-5774 (continued from previous page)

("Let waters bring forth swarms of living creatures"). We will symbolically cast our transgressions across the water to be carried away, preparing us for the Day of Atonement just a week later.



REFLECTIVE READING AND DISCUSSION ON YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON

Saturday, Sept. 14, at 3:00 p.m.

Our High Holy Day Reflective Reading Service provides a pleasant and meaningful interlude between the Children's-Family Service and the Afternoon Service.

We will be discussing a writing by Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000) titled "The Times My Father Died." If you plan to join Rabbi Holin at this discussion, he asks you to let him know so that he can send you the seven-page story well in advance of the service to ensure a meaningful discussion.

Please call our rabbi at 215-635-4182 to receive your copy of Amichai's story.

YIZKOR-NEILAH (MEMORIAL) SERVICE ON YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, Sept. 14, at 5:30 p.m.

A booklet listing the names of loved ones to be remembered has been provided by you on your membership forms. If you wish to make any additions or corrections for the booklet, please send this information to Elaine Stevens (execdir@kolamielkinspark.org) by September 9. ■

HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2013 - 5774

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Selichot</i> | Saturday, August 31 | 9:00 p.m. |
| <i>erev Rosh Hashbanah</i> | Wednesday, September 4 | 8:00 p.m. |
| <i>Rosh Hashbanah</i> | Thursday, September 5 | |
| | - Adult Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| | - Youth Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| | - Children's-Family Service | 2:00 p.m. |
| <i>Tashlikh-Shabbat Shuvah</i> | Friday, September 6 | 6:00 p.m. |
| <i>Kol Nidrei</i> | Friday, September 13 | 8:00 p.m. |
| <i>Yom Kippur</i> | Saturday, September 14 | |
| | - Adult Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| | - Youth Service | 10:00 a.m. |
| | - Children's-Family Service | 2:00 p.m. |
| | - Reflective Reading/Discussion | 3:00 p.m. |
| | - Afternoon Service | 3:45 p.m. |
| | - <i>Yizkor-Neilah</i> Service | 5:30 p.m. |

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

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 August 5 for the September issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@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. ■

ALL NEW

High Holy Day Programming

ROSH HASHANAH - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 10:00 A.M.

TWO SIMULTANEOUS PROGRAM TRACKS:

GRADES 3-6

GRADES 7-9



Rosh Hashanah Service (40 minutes)

Two separate, interactive, age-appropriate services. One for grades 3-6 and one for grades 7-9.



High Holy Day University (45 minutes) for grades 3-6

Mazal tov students! You have been accepted to High Holy Day University, where students learn what the High Holy Days are all about. Exciting educational activities await our future graduates, engaging them in activities about compassion, forgiveness, and other High Holy Day themes.



High Holy Day Jukebox (45 minutes) for grades 7-9

You need only to turn on the radio today to hear countless songs about compassion, forgiveness, and reflection. High Holy Day Jukebox is a fun-filled program in which students will examine the lyrics from numerous contemporary songs to discover what they have to say about the themes of the High Holy Days.



Tales of Teshuvah (30 minutes)

Did Darth Vader truly atone for his sins? *Teshuvah* means admitting our wrongdoings, asking forgiveness, and resolving not to repeat our mistakes. In *Tales of Teshuvah*, students will investigate the concept of *teshuvah* through the actions of numerous fictional characters and determine whether or not they have atoned according to the Jewish tradition.



The Knowledge Bowl (35 minutes)

Come one, come all and test your knowledge of Judaism in this fun-filled trivia game about the Jewish year. Students will participate in teams for a chance to win some great prizes (and they may even learn a thing or two).

for Grades 3 through 9

YOM KIPPUR - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 10:00 A.M.

TWO SIMULTANEOUS PROGRAM TRACKS:

GRADES 3-6

GRADES 7-9



Yom Kippur Service (40 minutes)

Two separate, interactive, age-appropriate services. One for grades 3-6 and one for grades 7-9.



Sho-far, Sho-Good (30 minutes)

Do you have what it takes to blow the shofar? It's not as easy as it looks. Come and learn the notes of the shofar and take your shot at sounding the big one: *Tekiah Gedolah!*



Reflections (35 minutes)

The High Holy Days can be a time of serious introspection for young people too. *Reflections* is a break from all the fun-filled programming, and an opportunity for students to pause and contemplate the year that has passed, both as individuals and with their peers.



High Holy Day Wax Museum (45 minutes)

Calling all budding Michelangelos! Our students will create their very own masterpieces by positioning themselves and their friends in a variety of wax museum exhibits that express themes from the Jewish year.

Continuing Jewish Education

Genesis 22: Biblical Midrash / Piety or Public Relations - The Binding of Isaac

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

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

September 26; October 3, 10 & 17 (4 Sessions)

This discussion will investigate Abraham's willingness (Genesis 22) to sacrifice his son Isaac in response to a Divine request. Is this a case study that profiles the need for ethics to be suspended or an allegory about the challenges of leadership? Is this reality or fantasy, history or drama ... and what about Sarah?

Adult Torah Chanting Program

Instructor: Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Begins October 2 for 10 Sessions

Congregation Kol Ami is excited to offer *Torah* chanting (*trope*) classes for adults. Those who enroll in the program will learn how to read and identify trope signs and how to apply them. This will be fun, help with Hebrew proficiency, and allow you to participate in chanting *Torah* at the synagogue on *Shabbat* mornings if you choose. There will be a total of ten hour-long classes, and you must be able to read Hebrew. There will also be a special *Shabbat* morning service in the spring so chanters can celebrate together.

Jonah: Biblical Midrash - Scared to be Jewish

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

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

October 23 & 30, November 6 & 13 (4 Sessions)

A storm-tossed ship on calm waters, a deep-sea tour-guiding whale, and a reluctant prophet seem destined to introduce readers to a lesson on Judaism as universalism. Participants in this study group will investigate Jonah as "every Jew" and assess a variety of contemporary as well as ancient commentaries.

The Wisdom of "Pebbles of Wisdom" by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (Part Two)



Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

Tuesday evenings

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

October 29; November 5, 12 & 19 (4 Sessions)

Born in Jerusalem in 1937, Steinsaltz studied mathematics, physics, and chemistry at Hebrew University in addition to rabbinic studies. An Orthodox rabbi, renowned as a teacher, philosopher, and spiritual guide, he devoted his life to making the *Talmud* accessible to all Jews. This book is a collection of his "pebbles of wisdom" from more than 30 years of his lectures and writings about life, awareness, and faith.

The course-discussion about Steinsaltz's writings will continue at the request of our recently concluded April class participants, though you need not have been with us before to join us now. We are reflecting upon his thoughts that resonate in us, and talking about how they are manifest in our lives. We will explore topic headings: 'The Nature of *Torah*,' 'The *Mitzvot*: Understanding God's Commandments,' 'Kabbalah,' 'Struggles, Battles and Trials,' 'Suffering,' and 'Evil.'

Please acquire a copy of his book in advance of the course.

Hebrew 101

Instructor: Mr. David Monblatt

Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

November 7, 14 & 21; December 5, 12 & 19 (6 Sessions)

Hebrew 101 is a beginner-level Hebrew course. If you never learned to read Hebrew or if it's been so long that you're rusty or just plain forgot how, this course might be for you! For those religious school parents, Hebrew 101 will offer a variety of learning methodologies, activities, and pointers to help you help your children. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify all Hebrew letters and vowels, recognize the sounds of all letters and vowels, and read with proficiency.

for Adults at Kol Ami



Ancestors and Ghosts, Spirit Guides, and Reincarnating Souls: Ancient Mystery and Contemporary Meaning of Afterlife in Jewish Traditions

Instructor: Rabbi Simcha Raphael

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

November 25; December 2, 9 & 16 (4 Sessions)

This is an exploration of Jewish afterlife texts spanning three millennia of history. As travelers through time, we will enter the worlds of *Torah*, *Talmud*, *Midrash*, *Zohar*, and *Hasidic* tales investigating diverse ways Jews have understood the enigmatic mystery of death and the world beyond.

Searching for spiritual renewal of traditional teachings, we will use these texts for reflection and discussion, discovering practical guidelines for responding to the human encounter with death — personally, and in our families and communities.

Superheroes and Judaism

Instructor: Mr. David Monblatt

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

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

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.

Hayyim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934): Israel's National Poet - His Words and Influence

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

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

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



Bialik was born in Ukraine and studied at the renowned Volozhin Yeshivah in Lithuania. His poem “Should You Wish To Know The Source” is fulsome praise for the synagogue as a house of prayer, study, and the embodiment of *mitzvot*. “Sabbath Queen” is a beautiful description of the gifts that the day of rest bestows on everyone who tastes its splendor. He eventually left the *yeshivah* to join the *Haskalah* (Jewish Enlightenment) movement.

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 thirty 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: “Her Eyes” (1892), “When I Return” (1896), “In the City of Slaughter” (1903), “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), and others.

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ATTENTION ALL ADULTS AND STUDENTS!

Do you enjoy singing? Then Kol Ami's Adult or Student Choir is for you!

1. Adult Choir: Meets Sunday mornings from 9:50 to 10:50 a.m. Students in grades 8 to 12 may also participate if they wish.
2. Student Choir: Meets Sunday afternoons from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. (after Religious School). Students in grades 2 to 6 may participate.

Choir members will receive dates of participation (one *Shabbat* service each month and possibly some community events) and constant updates via e-mail. In order to remain active, attendance at rehearsals and services is very important. All rehearsals are held in Room 101.

This commitment benefits our Kol Ami community, and choir members have a lot of fun! If you're interested, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return to the Religious School office as soon as possible or bring it to the first rehearsal. Adult Choir starts on 9/8/13 and Student Choir starts on 9/15/13.

Questions? Please contact Rebecca Schwartz at rebeccasongs@verizon.net or 215-572-6094.

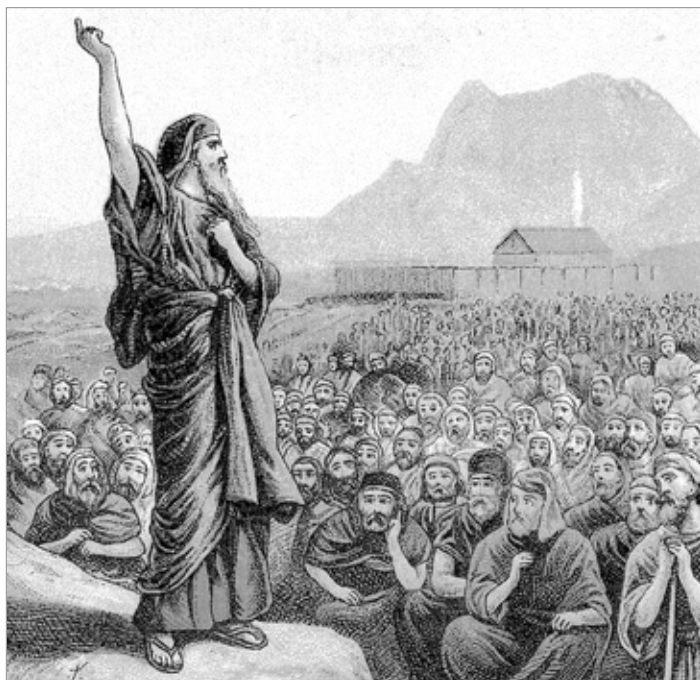


YES, I'D LOVE TO BE A CONGREGATION KOL AMI CHOIR MEMBER!

Name: _____ adult ____ student ____ grade ____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____ (If student, please include a parent's
e-mail as well) _____



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

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

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

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

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 this seminar 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*.

Leviticus 19

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

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

April 3, 10, 17 & 24 (4 Sessions)

This discussion group will examine the one chapter in the *Torah* that could easily serve as the most user-friendly and concise definition of Judaism. Known as the “Holiness Code,” this summary of Jewish ethics and moral imperatives includes verses such as: “Neither curse the deaf nor place a stumbling block before the blind.” Participants will apply the concept of uniqueness to various selections. ■

THE INSTRUCTORS

RABBI PROE HOWARD BOGOT is a graduate of Lewis University (formerly National College of Education) in Evanston, Illinois; the University of Cincinnati; and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to receiving his M.Ed from the University of Cincinnati and graduate degrees from HUC-JIR, Rabbi Bogot has completed post-graduate course work in education and social work at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and Hunter College in New York City. He has authored and coauthored many books, syllabi, and lesson plans, published by both the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Since 2001, Rabbi Bogot has served the Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education and the University of Pennsylvania’s Literacy Network as a Jewish studies facilitator for their Nurturing Excellence in Supplementary Jewish Schools project. In 2005, the University of Pennsylvania asked Rabbi Bogot to mentor 30 teachers at Cheltenham High School.

RABBI ELLIOT J. HOLIN, in addition to teaching in our Continuing Jewish Education program, also meets with members for personal *Torah* study as well as preparation for individual adult *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*.

DAVID MONBLATT is our congregation’s Director of Education. He has been in the field for over 19 years, specializing in school transformation for the last nine. Previously, he served as Director of Congregational Learning for Temple Sinai in Dresher as well as the Congregational School Specialist for the Bureau of Jewish Education of San Francisco. He also served as Director of Education for the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation, a national nonprofit that produces films and a curriculum about the stories and life lessons of the Jewish partisans of World War II.

SIMCHA RAPHAEL, Ph.D., is Adjunct Associate Professor in Jewish Studies at Temple University, and teaches courses on Jewish mysticism. He works as a psychotherapist and spiritual director affiliated with the Mount Airy Counseling Center in Philadelphia. He has had a longtime interest in the synthesis of contemporary psychology and Jewish mysticism in creating a spiritual path for life today. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi as a Rabbinic Pastor, he is author of the book “Jewish Views of the Afterlife.” His website is www.simcharaphael.com.

REBECCA SCHWARTZ is our congregation’s Cantorial Soloist and specializes in worship experiences, engaging people in the power of prayer through music. She has produced two congregational CDs along with her adult and student choirs.

NON-MEMBER FEES

Please note the non-member fee is \$50 per course.

REGISTRATION

To register for a workshop, contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org. ■

Kol Ami Events

SECOND-FRIDAY AND THIRD-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for July or August Birthday & Anniversary Blessings
Friday, July 12 and August 16, at 6:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in July or August, please join us at our special “Second-Friday” *erev Shabbat* service on July 12 and our “Third Friday” *erev Shabbat* service on August 16. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with these simchas under a tallit in front of the ark. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

Rabbi Holin will continue to send personal letters to everyone celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary ending with 0 or 5 (for example, 40 or 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*.



FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT

Rabbi Holin’s fast for the URJ’s **Nothing But Nets** project—which helps to purchase, distribute, and educate about the proper use of insecticide-treated family bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa—will be on **Tuesday, July 16**, and **Wednesday, August 21**.

His **Phast for Philadelphia**—which benefits unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs, and pay electric bills—will be on **Tuesday, July 9**, and **Wednesday, August 14**.

Join our rabbi in a fast—or virtual fast, no matter where you are—by sending funds that you would have spent on food to help people in need:

Commission on Social Action

Union for Reform Judaism
633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017

(make check payable to the URJ with a memo note “Nothing But Nets”)

Unemployment Information Center

112 N. Broad Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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



DATES ARE SET FOR CONGREGATION KOL AMI 2014 TRIPS TO ISRAEL WITH RABBI HOLIN

FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS – IN AND
BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP 2014

Please note children must be 8+ years old to join us on this trip.

Leave Philadelphia on Sunday, August 17

Return on Thursday, August 28

(Night flight from Tel Aviv on Wednesday, August 27, at 11:30 p.m., arrive in Philadelphia on Thursday, August 28, at 5:15 a.m.)

ISRAEL ADULT TRIP 2014

Leave Philadelphia on Sunday, October 19

Return on Thursday, October 30

(Night flight from Tel Aviv on Wednesday, October 29, at 11:30 p.m., arrive in Philadelphia on Thursday, October 30 at 5:15 a.m.)

Contact Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182 for more information about the 2014 trips to Israel.



SAVE THE DATE
CELEBRATE AND REJOICE
IN THE BLESSINGS OF THE
GOOD EARTH AT OUR EREV
SUKKOT OUTDOOR SERVICE
UNDER THE SUKKAH

Wednesday, September 18,
from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.;
preceded by pizza and
refreshments at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we gather under our outdoor *sukkah* to sing and sway with the *lulav* and *etrog*, praising The Holy One for our precious natural resources and the bounty of the land, as well as thanking farmers and workers who ensure that we might partake of such goodness.

PLAN TO JOIN US
KOL AMI'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP MEETING
Monday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Looking for a way to get in touch with your spiritual self that does not rely on your Jewish expertise or experience? Come join Kol Ami's Spiritual Growth Group as we work with Carol Nemeroff, a professor and certified spiritual director with many years of both academic and hands-on experience. We will draw on a variety of Jewish activities and themes using meditation, text study, group discussion, etc.

Our meetings this fall will occur on September 23, (and October 14 and November 11) at 7:00 p.m. at the Synagogue. For more information about this program, or other events with the Spiritual Growth Group, contact co-chairs Janet Falon or Natalie Dyen.

SAVE THE DATE
TORAHS ALOFT ON EREV SIMCHAT TORAH!
Wednesday, September 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.;
preceded by pizza and refreshments at 6:00 p.m.

In previous years, our young adults and adults read or chanted the "personal verses" that they celebrated at their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvahs* years ago. We are eager to welcome more participants this year.

Join us as our three *Torah* Scrolls are carried around the sanctuary to the sound of joyful singing, and each one is held aloft to be read or chanted. As each person completes his or her verses, the *yad* will be handed to the next person.

Please call Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182 by September 10 to let him know that you will help us feel uplifted when you read or chant "your verses" from the *Torah* on our "*Torahs Aloft*" evening. ■

SH'LAH'CHAY'NEE **"SEND ME!"**

Sh'lah'chay'nee - "Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

The ancient Hebrew prophets—Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah among them—were zealous in their demands that people respond to the needs of the homeless, hungry, and infirm. Their paradigm for those who had precious few to speak on their behalf included the orphan, the poor, the stranger, and the widow.

Isaiah, writing in the names of all prophets who preceded him, as for those who would follow him, said: "I heard the voice of the Lord, asking, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go [forth in God's Name]?' I said, 'Here I am. *Sh'lah'chay'nee* – Send me!'"

Isaiah's words are an echo of the text in the Book of Deuteronomy that tells us it is imperative to "uphold the cause of the orphan and widow, befriend the stranger, and provide food and clothing [to the poor]" (Deut. 10:18).

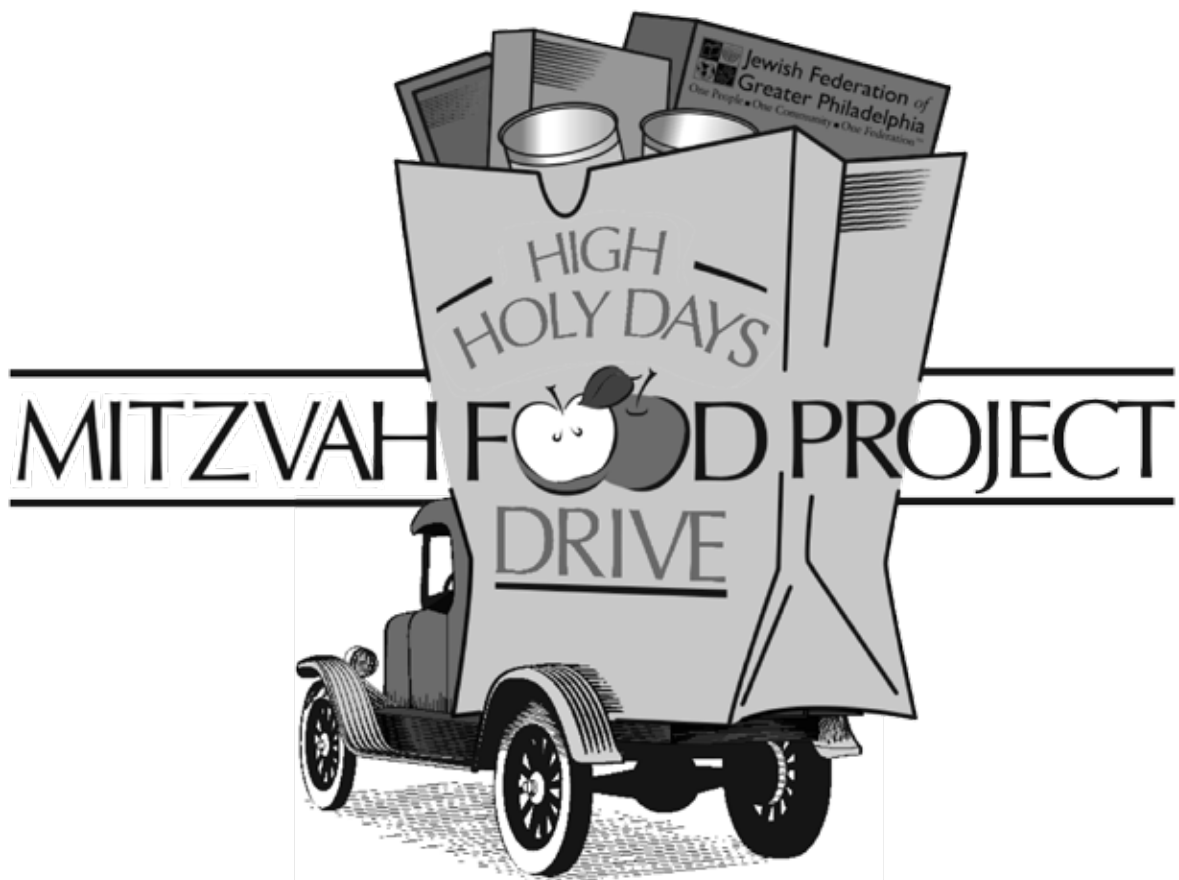
Two years ago on *Rosh Hashanah*, I encouraged us to create a *Sh'lah'chay'nee* banner to be placed in the hallway of our religious school. On large, brightly colored index cards, Kol Ami children, youth, and adults were asked to write about recent *mitzvot* that they performed, and those cards would be placed at the edges of the banner. My hope was that every few weeks, new index cards will replace current ones, keeping us abreast of wonderful things that our members are doing within and beyond our synagogue in the spirit of *mitzvot*.

Last year, our seventh-grade students and their parents created the amazing banner which is displayed in our hallway of the religious school. The personally written index cards describe what individuals have done in the past few months in the name of *tikun olam* (healing, lit. "fixing" the world of pain). Every three months, students in our religious school were given an index card to fill out describing a *mitzvah* they did that had personal meaning to them. Cards were rotated during the following weeks so that everyone's words appeared on the banner.

Adults are encouraged to pick up the large, colorful index cards at worship services and in the religious school office to be filled in. Please return these cards to Jessica in the religious school office when completed. This will assure that new cards will be rotated out-and-in, vetted, on a regular schedule.

Together, we can continue to make a statement. We can inspire each other. We can touch other lives.

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



Congregation Kol Ami's High Holy Days Food Drive is from:
Wednesday, September 4, 2013 to Saturday, September 14, 2013
- to benefit food-insecure families in our community.

Our synagogue has chosen to collect:
**CANNED PROTEIN ITEMS (canned beans, canned fish,
nut butters - kosher, lower salt, lower sugar)**

Please bring in your donations of **CANNED PROTEIN ITEMS** to support those in need through the Mitzvah Food Project. Your participation will help us to make this year's food drive our most successful yet!

jewishphilly.org/mfp



**Jewish Federation of
Greater Philadelphia**

One People • One Community • One Federation™

Jewish Values...Sustainable Agriculture...Faith Dialogues about Spirituality...
and Good Locally Grown Food!

Hold the date for a family-friendly, incredibly rich experience



Third Annual Sukkot in the Fields

A farm trip to a Lancaster Farm Fresh Farm

Shabbat Sukkot: Saturday, September 21, from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Enjoy one of the farms supplying wonderful produce, fruit, eggs, and/or flowers to our Elkins Park Hazon Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

- Join us for the third year in building and celebrating in our own *Sukkah* with Kol Ami's Rabbi Holin, fellow congregants, and CSA members
- Make new friends with congregants from synagogues participating in LFFC CSA from across the Delaware Valley
- Share a pot-luck lunch with farmers and their families
- Share insights about food, farming, and the land

Could not have been said better -- reasons to participate in *Shabbat Sukkot* at a farm:

"To have offered prayers in the *Sukkah* that our members constructed on the farmer's land spoke to us about our mutual desire to sustain faith and the environment. It was a wonderful way to celebrate *Shabbat*, making us keenly aware that "The earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1).
—Rabbi Holin

"I loved spending time with the Amish family— learning about each other's culture, customs, and way of life. While there were so many differences in our fundamental way of life, it was a fascinating process to share each other's life lens." —Karin Kaplan

"There is nothing like a trip to the farm! Each year as we say good-bye to the farm and our farmer friends, I look forward to the next time we will be together. It is indescribable to witness the pride and love that goes into growing the vegetables we enjoy through our CSA— you have to experience it to appreciate it!" —Shelley Chamberlain

"This was a day of inspiration filled with connections to God, the earth, music, lessons, wonderful people, and fabulous food." —Karin Schnoll



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



Congregation Kol Ami

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 28, 2013

2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

To scheduled an appointment of if you have questions about it,
please contact:

Jean Ettinger at 215-635-3623
or jeanettinger@gmail.com

For further info call 1-800-RED-CROSS

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | RedCrossBlood.org



RIGHT: Brother and sister Massimo and Josephine Albert, who are in Kol Ami's Nursery School program, love to fish on weekends. As you can see, Josephine takes her fishing attire as seriously as her casting techniques.

BELOW: When Cheltenham High School has its Senior Prom, most kids go to Curtis Arboretum for pictures. When Kol Ami seniors Leah Cohen, Kyle Meranus, Kathryn Streitwieser, Jake Boise and Shira Johnston (pictured right to left) look for a picture-perfect location, they come home to Kol Ami. With the support of Elaine Stevens, they invited about 50 of their closest friends (and picture-snapping parents) for pre-prom pictures on our meadow.



Kol Ami Nursery: Summer Outdoor Fun and 2012-13 Graduation Activities





Some dates to “pen” in your calendars...

erev Shabbat Children's-Family Services for Children Ages 5+ on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

(followed by our 7:30 p.m. worship service)

October 8
February 21
April 18

Tot erev Shabbats for Children Ages 2+ on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

(followed by our 7:30 p.m. worship service)

September 20
January 31
March 14
May 9

Healing Services on Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

November 17
February 9
April 6

Martini Havdalah on late Saturday afternoons at 5:30 p.m.

October 12
February 22
May 17

KOL AMI JULY 2013 AT A GLANCE

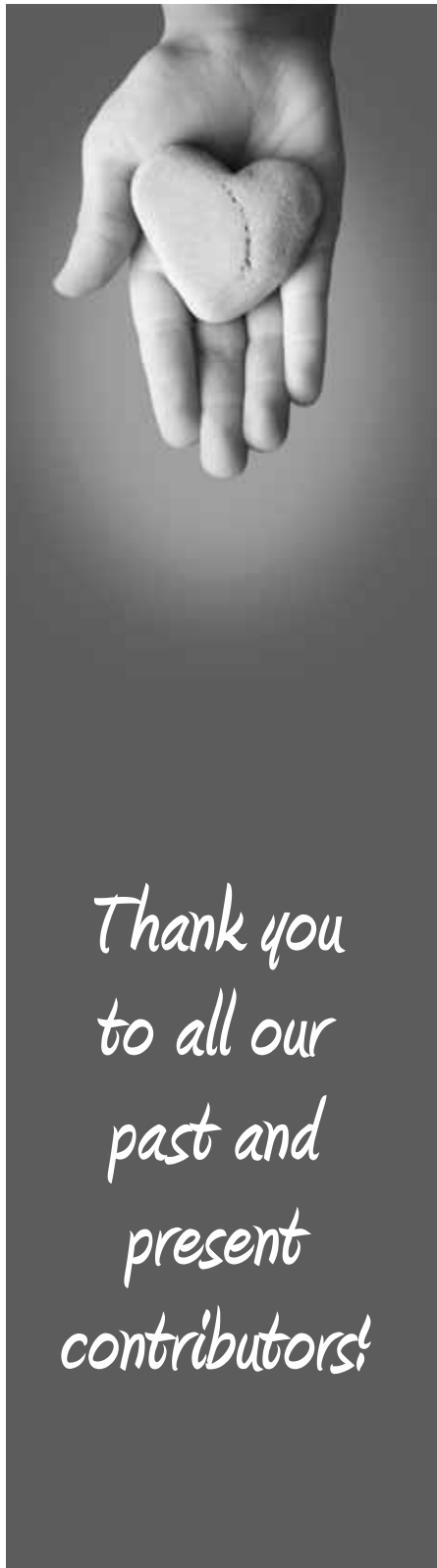
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| | 1 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 2 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Nursery School Guest Reader Rabbi Holin 10:30 a.m. | 3 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. | 4 NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSED | 5 Nursery School Nature Jack 9:30 a.m. erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 9 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. | 10 Nursery School Hop-A-Thon 10:00 a.m. | 11 | 12 "Second-Friday" erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow with birthday and anniversary blessings 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 16 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. | 17 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. | 18 | 19 Nursery School Nature Jack 9:30 a.m. erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 20 |
| 21 | Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 23 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Nursery School Pony Rides 10:00 a.m. | 24 | 25 | 26 erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 27 Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. Home of Herbert and Lucille Barrett (Jenkintown) Potluck lunch to follow |
| 28 | 29 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 30 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. | 31 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. | | | |

KOL AMI AUGUST 2013 AT A GLANCE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | 1 Nursery School Detani Puppet Show 10:00 a.m. | 2 Nursery School Nature Jack 9:30 a.m. erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 6 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Caring Congregants Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. | 7 | 8 | 9 Nursery School Nature Jack - 9:30 a.m. Blessing-of-College- Students erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. | 13 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. | 14 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. | 15 | 16 NURSERY SCHOOL LAST DAY OF CAMP Prospective-Member and "Third-Friday" erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow with birthday and anniversary blessings 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 24 Shabbat Service 10:00 a.m. Home of Bill and Betty Shapiro (Elkins Park) Potluck lunch to follow |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYODinner | 31 Se'lichot Service 9:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m. - <i>Oneg</i> |

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.



*Thank you
to all our
past and
present
contributors!*

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Amy Wegelis

In Memory of:

Dr. Ronald Kaplan

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of Barbara Fink

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of

Richard Goldstone

Richard and Jill Goldstone

My special birthday

Meryle Gurmankin

Our 64th wedding anniversary

Bernard and Edis Hall

Our special wedding anniversary

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

In Memory of:

Dr. Ronald Kaplan

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

The marriage of our daughter,

Kate, to Christopher D'Amore

George Barrett and Debbie Neimeth

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of Lisa Landau

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Confirmation of Zoe Long

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

In Memory of:

Inga Sender Siegel

David and Phyllis Harrison

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Design by Aisha

In Honor of:

Confirmation of Rachel Baker

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Presidency of David Hyman

Elaine Stevens

25th wedding anniversary of

Michael and Ellen Matz

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

The 75th birthday of Stanley Siegel

Thomas and Sherry Bowman

Harold and Ellen Stern

Lore Bryan

In Memory of:

Dr. Ronald Kaplan

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Naomi Landau

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

Leon Rosenblatt

Craig and Sharon Myers

Gloria Schilder

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Ivan Schlichtman

David and Meryle Twersky

Inga Sender Siegel

Elaine Stevens

YOUTH FUND

In Honor of:

Our 2013 High School Graduates

Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser

Confirmation of Rachel Baker

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein ■

TO:



Kol Ami Scrip Up & Running This Summer



Remember to use the Congregation Kol Ami Scrip during the summer for trips out of town, summer shopping, hotels are available. Help raise money for Kol Ami with NO SELLING...just by continuing to do your regular shopping.

Whole Foods, Acme, Giant Foods, Genuardi's and Target are available for immediate pick up each week in \$25.00 increments. Other stores include: **Amazon.com, iTunes, Old Navy, The Gap, Barnes & Noble,**

T.J. Maxx, Marshall's, L.L. Bean, Toys "R" Us, Avis, Claire's, Comfort Inn, the Disney Store, Courtyard Marriott, GameStop, BedBath & Beyond, PetSmart, Dicks Sporting Goods, Visa, Home Depot, Lowe's, Regal Entertainment, Panera, Sears, Best Buy, Gym-boree, Banana Republic, Crate & Barrel, Marriott, Best Western. There are over 600 additional retailers and services available.

Kol Ami's Scrip program is for **everyone** in the Congregation. Orders will be processed and the scrip cards will be made available the following week for pick up. It's simple, easy, and a GREAT way to help Kol Ami from the convenience of your own shopping cart.

All orders and any questions can be directed to Kenny Moss, km.photos@comcast.net (co-chair of the Religious School PTO) or Elaine Stevens, execdir@kolamielkinspark.org. ■