

June 2015

Sivan-Tammuz 5775

קול עמי

AN INTIMATE
AND DYNAMIC
COMMUNITY

CONGREGATION **Kol Ami** VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICES ON THE MEADOW:

June 5, 12, 19 & 26

5:45 p.m. - Bring your own dinner and blankets or comfortable, soccer-style (foldable) chairs

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

FRIDAY, June 5, at 6:30 p.m.

"First-Year Member Anniversary" *erev Shabbat* Service to celebrate our newest members on an evening when we gather under the *tallit* with everyone who has a birthday or anniversary this month of our "First-Friday" blessings

SATURDAY, June 6, at 5:30 p.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Miles (see page 11)

FRIDAY, June 12, at 6:30 p.m.

Blessing of our 2015 High School Graduates for Their Future Journeys through Life

SATURDAY, June 27, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; home-hosted service (location TBD) with potluck lunch to follow ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

June 6 - B'Haalotecha

Numbers 8:1-12:1, Zechariah 2:14-4:7

June 13 - Sheblach Lecha

Numbers 13:1-15:41, Joshua 2:1-24

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Congregation Kol Ami
Invites you to a special evening

Kol Ha'Kavode

Celebrating

FARAH JIMENEZ & DAVID HYMAN



Wednesday, June 17, 2015 / 1 Tammuz, 5775

At 5:30 in the evening

National Museum of American Jewish History

101 South Independence Mall East

Philadelphia, PA

EVENT CHAIR

John A. Fry, President, Drexel University

RSVP by June 10

June 20 - Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

I Samuel 11:14-12:22

June 27 - Chukat

Numbers 19:1-22:1, Judges 11:1-33 ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Herb Barrett

husband of Lucille Barrett

*father of George (Debbie Niemeth) Barrett
and Sarah Barrett*

*grandfather of Emma, Jacob, Kate, and
Zachary*

Daniel Zev Cassel

father of Andy Cassel

grandfather of Sophie and Eli

Simon Benjamin Golden

father of Lonnie Golden

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Caring Congregants Committee

Tuesday, June 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Linda George, 215-782-1413,
and Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994

Membership Committee

Monday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716,
and Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Sheryl Cohen, 215-885-
2436, and Barbara Fink, 215-886-2297

Social Action Committee

Monday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-
1738, and Jody Long, 215-635-4751 ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

THE BLESSINGS OF LEADERSHIP

This month I complete my journey as the 9th President of this wonderful community. I am both upbeat about our future under Shelley Chamberlain's leadership and reflective about all that these past two years have brought to me. As I have heard it said, life has a way of bringing us to where we need to be, when we are open to the calling. I have learned so much along this journey and have much to give thanks for.

Eight years ago, the Rabbi asked me to join David Hyman and start the Worship Enhancement Committee. From there, I've had opportunities to do and learn many things and I am feeling very grateful: for our volunteers, for enriched relationships, for new and enhanced skills and perspectives, and for discovering deeper meaning in my Judaism and my community.

For Kol Ami, our volunteers are the blessings in our midst. Volunteers are the renewable fuel, the solar and spiritual energy that drives Kol Ami and it all it does to make this a great community. Volunteers bring their souls and their hearts, and working together, we grow as we do good work. Sure we have the amazing Rabbi Holin, the resourceful and unbelievably committed Elaine Stevens, the beautiful voice of Rebecca Schwartz, the creative and inspiring David Monblatt, a wonderful group of religious school teachers, and John Rojas, our loyal and diligent custodian. Yet I don't want to imagine how limited our clergy and staff would be without our volunteers. Our volunteers lead such busy lives where it must seem impossible to squeeze anything else in; yet, while often true, when we are intentional about our lives, we find the room to do more — and when we do, we discover we still have more to give and more to get. Please keep volunteering for Kol Ami.

Relationships — their strength, depth and diversity — are perhaps the best way of measuring the worth of a synagogue and its people. We do great work to make Kol Ami a wonderful *Beit T'filah* (house of prayer) and *Beit Midrash* (house of learning), yet it is as a *Beit Knesset* (house of gathering) that might be the most meaningful to me. Following in the presidential footsteps of David, Ilene, Jennifer, John, Ben, Mark, David and Stuart (of blessed memory) afforded me the opportunity to meet and get to know so many of our members, to deepen relationships I already had, and to connect in incredibly meaningful ways with our Rabbi. I am a believer in the concept of "audacious hospitality," going above and beyond in welcoming all members and guests to our synagogue, because when we do, we strengthen our relationships and the vitality of our community. I have been strengthened by this journey. Please do all you can to practice audacious hospitality every time you are at Kol Ami.

I came to this role with a long professional career in leadership and leadership development and knew from the beginning that I wanted to be a good listener. I was at my best leading the Board of Trustees when I was able to hear voices of disagreement, listen to feedback, and find ways to open up

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

INSPIRATION FROM WITHIN

Every year on *Shavuot* – that holy day that commemorates Covenant through the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai – our tenth-grade Confirmation students celebrate a service that they have written. It is always inspiring, as each student in the class writes in response to eleven different themes found in the prayer service, as in the following selected writings from our 18th Confirmation Service that was held on Sunday, May 24, in our sanctuary.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHAVUOT

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of the Jewish faith, leading Jewish beliefs and practices. We celebrate Confirmation, the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, because without the Ten Commandments, Judaism would cease to exist. Our religion is based on these ethical laws etched into the historic tablets. The commandments provide a standard set of rules to live by, and declare the basics for the moral code that is unified throughout Judaism. We need moral standards to keep society functionally running. Without ethical codes such as the Ten Commandments, people could act however they wanted, leading to chaos. It is very important that we celebrate Confirmation because if we had never received the Ten Commandments, Jewish beliefs and practices would be different, and our people would not have any ethical standards by which to live. —*Maddie August*

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

I am grateful for my education and the opportunity to learn something new every day I go to school. The importance of education to me has changed over the years from when I was younger, when I felt forced to go, and now I feel as though without it, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Education is so important to me: It gives me opportunities in life I wouldn't have without it. I'm also grateful for the teachers who made my experiences what they are and encouraged me to further myself. —*Drew Steinbrecher*

SEEKING PEACE

If I were to create a more perfect society, the first issue I would address is the hatreds and stereotypes that challenge our world every day. These are the basic issues that grow into something much worse when people loathe others and make generalizations about fellow human beings. I would change this by showing how wrong these accusations are and prove how similar we all are. If we, as brotherly humans, can diminish the seeds of hatred, we might just create a brighter future. —*Ben Moss*

AFFIRMING OUR COVENANT

There are so many things that make me proud to be a Jew. One thing in specific is our tight-knit community. I have become good friends with all of my fellow

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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

Julie Cohen, Vice President

215-635-4716

Jeffrey Margasak, Secretary

215-635-9332

Lisa Landau, Treasurer

215-635-9996

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director

215-635-3110

David Monblatt

Director of Education

215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler

Early Learning Center Director

215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist

215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:

Congregation Kol Ami

8201 High School Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org

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

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (for example, by June 5 for the July-August issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfaloon@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. ■



**We Are Proud to Announce the Purchase of
Brand New High Holy Day Prayer Books!**
Help Congregation Kol Ami Make
these Upcoming High Holy Days an
Even More Special Spiritual Experience.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis is publishing *Mishkan HaNefesh*, a two-book set, a *Machzor* for the Days of Awe. It is heralded as innovative and inspiring. We used a draft copy this past September and will have the new *Machzor* for every member and High Holy Day guest of Kol Ami this year and into the future. Help Kol Ami reduce the cost of this investment and ensure a meaningful High Holy Day experience for decades to come.

Be one of the 36! We are seeking 36 Kol Ami donors who would give \$360 to offset the cost of the *Machzor* purchase. Special bookplates with your name(s) will be affixed to **ten** book sets. Bookplates will be affixed in each set and held at Kol Ami for general use at every High Holy Day service. In addition, Rabbi Holin will host a special wine and cheese reception for all of you, and he will personally inscribe your own *Machzor* set if you would like.

Purchase Your Own Heirloom Copy! Your *own* 'home' copy of the new *Machzor* will provide you spiritual readings throughout the year. For \$180 per set, Rabbi Holin will personally inscribe your *Machzor* set if you would like.

Pay It Forward by Dedicating Three Sets! With a \$136 contribution you can dedicate two *Machzor* sets, one for you and two for other Kol Ami members or guests. Bookplates with your name(s) will be affixed in all three sets that will be held at Kol Ami for general use at every High Holy Day service.

Individual Book Set Dedications! Dedication of a set of books costs \$36 (and the 3 book large print set costs \$85). Please consider dedicating a set for each member of your family. Bookplates will be affixed in each set and held at Kol Ami for general use at every High Holy Day service.

And of course, if none of these options are right for you, we will have a *Machzor* for all members and their guests attending High Holy Day services.

For the entire congregation, please watch for "High Holy Days in August and early September" gatherings at Kol Ami, where Rabbi Holin will introduce us all to the new *Machzor*!

For further information about *Mishkan HaNefesh*, please call New *Machzor* Chair Bob Seltzer at 267-722-8651 (h) or 267-939-8320 (c) or Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110.

**To order, tear off, complete and mail the form on the next page to
Elaine Stevens, Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road,
Elkins Park PA 19027.**

Order Form for the new *Mishkan HaNefesh* High Holy Day Prayer Books

Order Form for the New *Mishkan HaNefesh* HHD Prayer Books

Your Name and Address: _____

Your Order: Please circle or check the column that applies to you and please specify the number of sets you are ordering.

I / We Want to Be One of the 36, Contributing \$360 and Dedicating 10 Book Sets	I / We Want () Heirloom Copy (ies) at \$180 per Book Set	I Want to Pay It Forward by contributing \$136 and Dedicating 3 Book Sets	I / We Want to Dedicate () Large Print Book Sets by contributing \$85 per Book Set	I Want to Dedicate () Regular Print Book Sets by contributing \$36 per Book Set
--	--	--	--	---

Total Tax Deductible Contribution: _____

Please enter your check number or your credit card number, expiration date and code.

Check Number:	Credit Card Number
	Expiration Date: Code:

The following are sample Book Plate dedications. Each dedication can include up to three lines of text. Include your dedication (s) on a separate piece of paper with this form or in a separate e-mail to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolami.info.

IN MEMORY OF (INSERT ONE OR TWO NAMES) (INSERT NAME (S) OF DONOR (S))	IN HONOR OF (INSERT ONE OR TWO NAMES) (INSERT NAME (S) OF DONOR(S))	IN GRATITUDE FOR (INSERT NAMES OR OCCASIONS) (INSERT NAME(S) OF DONOR(S))
--	--	--

Please place your order by June 30, 2015.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Congregation Kol Ami's Legacy Society continues to grow, but we are always looking to add more families.

The Legacy Society asks our members to think about the long-term future of our beloved synagogue. A gift through your estate or life insurance or co-ownership of stock supports our goals of long-term viability and recognizes the importance of the values of Kol Ami. No gift is too small, and everything you do is deeply appreciated.

Anyone who is interested in speaking further about the options can contact Ilene Schafer at 215-663-0228. If you have already remembered Kol Ami in some fashion in your estate planning, please let our executive director, Elaine Stevens, know. We have a very simple form that we ask you to fill out for our records.

We welcome and thank the following members for their commitment to the future of our synagogue.

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



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

(continued from page 3)

Confirmants here at Congregation Kol Ami and I also know many of the other members within the Kol Ami community. However, I am not speaking specifically on the local level, but rather on a global level. I feel a special connection to all of my fellow Jews. Although we may come from different places around the world, we are all of the same faith, and I believe this connection is different from any other. If I am blessed with a family of my own, I would want to pass this pride on to them. The most important part of my Jewish experience that I would want to pass on, along with pride, would be religious school. Religious school has changed the way that I think, and it has provided me with many opportunities in the religious community, such as service opportunities. It has played a large role in my life, and I would want my family to have the same experiences. —*Jacob Margasak*

BELIEF

Without the belief in a higher power, I don't think I would have gotten through as much as I have with such certainty. The most important thought I have during any time of struggle is: "Everything happens for a reason." Some people hate hearing that. They think that it doesn't explain life's tragedies and the terrible things that go on in the world today. However, that phrase has given me something to believe in during times of darkness. Nothing is left incomplete. There are no closed circles in life, so I have learned to doubt my actions and decisions less. I try to do more with confidence, unsure of the outcome, but assured that I am destined for greatness either way. Believing in a higher energy has enabled me to take life less seriously and remember that everything is temporary. In the wise words of my grandma, and then my mother: "This too shall pass." —*Lia Hyman*

WHAT OUR CONGREGATION MEANS TO ME

Ever since I was little, Congregation Kol Ami has been part of growing up: from changing grades to buildings, I changed with it. Both of my siblings went through Hebrew school here and got confirmed, and I'm so proud to continue the tradition and to be a part of this community. I know if I need anything, I can always come here to have people who love and care about me. It's a wonderful place we come to every Sunday, Wednesday, or holy day, or even just for an event like Bingo Night. I hope the other kids I meet here feel the same way as I do and continue to further their education here at Kol Ami. —*Eleanor Streitwieser*

WHAT WE ARE CONFIRMING

I can guarantee that if I ever do have kids, I will raise them Jewish. Even though that seems like a long, long way away, hopefully, I can still make good on that guarantee. I feel it is important to pass the Jewish faith on to every generation we can, and not just because it is my religion and I feel that it is my duty as a member of the Jewish community. I feel the need to keep Judaism alive because I believe that the teachings of Judaism are important. In no way am I saying that Judaism is better than any other religion, but it is the only religion that is mine. So, in a way, I am not only passing on teachings that are important, but teachings to which I feel a connection. —*Hannah Hansen*

Shalom u'vrachab,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

WHY I JOINED KOL AMI

ERICA DOUGLAS EXPLAINS HER DECISION



Erica Douglas' spoke at *Shabbat Across America* about why her family joined Kol Ami.

"The answer is very simple: Rabbi Holin. We first met the Rabbi when he officiated my cousin's wedding. We were wowed by his sincerity and friendliness. When Andy and I got engaged, we knew without a doubt, that Rabbi Holin would be the one to marry us. The day we officially joined Kol Ami, Rabbi Holin called and left us a message on our answering machine welcoming us to the synagogue and expressing how excited he was that we joined. His message

is still saved on our machine (and the message was from last July). He has continued to impress us with his genuine interest in our family – he called us from Israel when he heard about the passing of Andy's father – and his knowledge of the *Torah*. (As a result of all of this and more, we are even willing to overlook his allegiance to the San Francisco Giants.)"

What engages us here?

"Ever since the first day we arrived at Kol Ami, Elaine Stevens has been the sweetest, most helpful person. She always greets everyone with a "*Shabbat Shalom*" or a "*Boker Tov*" and a smile. If you have any questions or need anything, Elaine is the person to see.

"Julie Cohen and Robin Warsaw, membership co-chairs, have also made us feel welcome at Kol Ami. They consistently e-mail or call to make sure everything is okay, to see if we have any questions, and to let us know about upcoming events. Whenever we see them, they always make us feel comfortable and introduce us to everyone to help us get involved.

"Julie got me in contact with David Monblatt, and another large reason we are engaged at Kol Ami is that our daughter, Amber, is in the kindergarten class. Mr. Monblatt has been very patient and generous with his time, answering all of our questions and concerns. You can tell that he is really 'here' for the students, and tries to make Hebrew School enjoyable. Amber still talks about the day when she met him and all of the kids were reading his PowerPoint and calling him "Mr. Monkeyblatt" to learn his name.

"Since Amber is in school every Sunday morning, I need things to do to fill the two hours that I am at Kol Ami. Heather Pelletier, Sherry Cohen, and Deborah Poppel have been so kind and welcomed me into the congregation with open arms. I am now involved with the PTO, the bake sales, Casino Night, and Bingo. However, more importantly is the pleasant conversation that we have every Sunday morning.

"The Taste of *Shabbat* with Rebecca Schwartz is so enjoyable. Living 30 minutes away from Kol Ami makes it difficult for us to attend *Shabbat*

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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the conversation despite the pressure to get things done and move on. I learned that the more I did that, the stronger our collective commitment to action was. I look forward to continuing to serve the Board of Trustees of Kol Ami.

At the end of the day, this journey is all about the place of Judaism in our lives. At our Board meetings, we have a long tradition of beginning with a *d'var* from the Rabbi and it took a while before I saw the wisdom of that regular practice. Reform Judaism gives us choice in how and when we worship and the degree to which practice and ritual are a part of our daily lives. At the end of these two years, I have come to a conclusion I could not have imagined a decade ago: The more I practiced, the more meaningful various aspects of Judaism became. I guess that is how life has brought me to where I need to be. I have found a new rhythm where my family, our synagogue, and the broader community are at its center. When we worship we often read this line that speaks so clearly to the critical role of Kol Ami: "May this synagogue be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life." Kol Ami is that for me and I will continue to devote my time, resources, and energy to help make it that for you.

The Rabbi introduced us to the phrase *Sh'lach'chaynee* several years ago and I have used this phrase in closing most of my columns. As Shelley grabs the mantle of leadership, I ask that you dig deep and join me in heeding her calls for help with the reply, *Sh'lach'chaynee!* Send me!

Jeff Cohen

215-635-3232

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

WHY I JOINED KOL AMI

(continued from page 7)

morning services, so I look forward to my monthly Sunday morning service. Rebecca's voice is absolutely beautiful and she explains the meaning and reasons of why we do everything. In addition, Amber loves her time learning and singing songs with Rebecca during Hebrew School.

Following the songs from the service, we are then lucky enough to have a small-group dialogue session with the Rabbi. This has been such fun getting to know Rabbi Holin on a more personal level, but it has also been enlightening. As a family, we now light the *Shabbat* candles every Friday night and read the Five Books of Moses together. Rabbi Holin has a way of speaking with you and being deeply interested in what you have to say that he makes you feel as if you are the only person in the room."

Why would I recommend someone joining Kol Ami?

"Why would you not join? There is no other synagogue that I would even consider calling home. The Rabbi, Elaine Stevens, David Monblatt, Rebecca Schwartz, and Jeff Cohen know every person's name. They all make you feel special as soon as you set foot in the synagogue. That is the luxury of a small community. You can choose your level of involvement with no pressure. Andy has joined the softball team so he can get involved and meet people.

There are countless synagogues that I pass on my drive to Kol Ami. The ride to and from the synagogue just gives me more of an opportunity to thank G-d for bringing Rabbi Holin and all of the other special people of Kol Ami into our lives." ■

If you know someone who'd like to join our intimate-and-dynamic community, contact one of Membership co-chairs: Julie Cohen (215-635-4716, Julie@juliecohencoaching.com) or Robin Warsaw (215-635-5839, rkwarshaw@comcast.net).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AMY BANNER AND BARRY WOLBORSKY



Kol Ami extends a hearty welcome to new members Amy Banner and Barry Wolborsky, who joined us just in time for Passover.

Amy is originally from the small town of Elizabethton, Tennessee, and Barry was born and raised in Brooklyn. They met through a mutual friend and have lived previously in Scranton (where Amy had taken a job as a professor). As Amy notes, "We are all over the place geographically."

Amy and Barry were drawn to Kol Ami by our community's warmth, focus on social justice, and sense of spirituality and openness during services and in interacting with other members. They felt very welcomed, and Amy adds that Kol Ami "seemed like our 'speed.'"

Amy is a professor who teaches graduate students in mental-health counseling. Prior to that, she was a counselor who worked with children, adolescents, couples, families, and cancer patients. Barry's profession is technology support, but he is also a writer who has a Master's degree in Creative Writing.

Amy and Barry report that they are foodies who, in spite of not being native Philadelphians, have nonetheless taken to hoagies! Amy describes herself as a "pretty big poker enthusiast," and a "lover of softball." (Note to Amy: Kol Ami has a softball team!) She enjoys reading and loves animals, just like Barry, and they have a rescue beagle, Esther. Amy also likes to garden and to be out in nature. Vermont is particularly special to Amy and Barry because that is where they got engaged. In addition to his literary interests, Barry is also into classic rock and jazz.

We are extremely happy to welcome Amy and Barry to our Kol Ami family! ■

PARENTS CIRCLE-FAMILIES FORUM

by Neal Beatus

"The tears that fall on my pillow at night and the tears that fall on the pillow of a Palestinian mother are the same color," Israeli Robi Damelin explained to an audience of about 200 people at Congregation Kol Ami on Thursday, March 26. Damelin is a member of the joint Israeli-Palestinian organization called Parents Circle-Families Forum (PCFF). The group is made up of over 600 bereaved families whose common bond is that they have lost a loved one in the conflict. Instead of seeking revenge, they have "crossed to the other side" and shared their grief. They have been able to see the humanity in their "enemy."

Damelin spoke about losing her son, David, a peace activist and member of the Israel Defense Forces reserves, who was shot by a Palestinian sniper. She was told that her first words after being informed by the Israeli army that her son was killed were, "You may not kill anybody in the name of my child." She does not recall saying this. Rather, she just remembers the shock and grief of that time.

Damelin spoke powerfully about the price of occupation on the Israelis and Palestinians. "Even if you do not care about the Palestinians, and I do, you should care about the impact the occupation has on Israel." She spoke about the damage inflicted on the psyche of the young Israeli soldier asked to control another population. She described the high drunk-driving rate and high domestic-abuse rate because of the traumas the soldiers experience.

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YEDIDAY KOL AMI

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

Ira and Robin Adelman
Anonymous
Bruce and Ellen Asam
David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen
Barry and Allison Boise
David and Shelley Chamberlain
Michael and Sara Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Suzanne Feld
Benham and June Fuhrman
Arthur Gordon
Murray and Tracy Greenfield
Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald
Ruben Honik
David Hyman
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Eric and Adena Johnston
Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer Langman
David and Patty Ann Long
John Michel and Jane Finkle
Craig and Sharon Myers
Stuart and Deborah Poppel
Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar
Gary Sender
William and Betty Shapiro
Stanley and Rita Siegel
Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser
Mark Tino and Elaine Lotto
Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner

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

Kol Ami Events



FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT

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

CAMP HOMETOWN HEROES. Since September 11, 2001, almost 5,000 children have lost a parent who served in the U.S. Military. Their deaths have been the result of combat, accident, illness, or suicide. Their children have been present during a gun salute and flag presentation by an Honor Guard, and many of them face depression, profound grief, isolation, and a sense of helplessness.

Camp Hometown Heroes began in 2013 in partnership with pediatric grief counselors to provide a free, week-long overnight summer camp for children and siblings between the ages of 7 and 17. The children participate in art- and music-therapy groups and have the opportunity to openly discuss their feelings through shared, common bonds of loss.

Since the camp opened in June 2013, 62 children from 14 states have participated free of charge. In 2014, Camp Hometown Heroes welcomed more than 100 children who came to Wisconsin all the way from Hawaii, Idaho, California, and Washington.

Their parents, no longer alive, served our nation. This is our opportunity to stand with their children.

Forthcoming fast days to benefit **Camp Hometown Heroes** will be on **Tuesday, June 2**, and **Tuesday, July 7**.

NATAL (*nah'tahl*)—the **Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War**—addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty that war and the threat of war bring. In addition, NATAL reaches out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals.

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

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

Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on **Wednesday, June 17**, and **Wednesday, July 15**.

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, June 25**, and **Thursday, July 23**.

Below are the mailing addresses for the three organizations listed above:

American Friends of NATAL

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

Camp Hometown Heroes

983 Badger Circle
Grafton, WI 53024

Unemployment Information Center

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

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

“FIRST-FRIDAY” EREV SHABBAT SERVICE



**for June Birthday and
Anniversary Blessings
Friday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m.**

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

continued next page

everyone with a June *simcha* under a *tallit*. 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*.

BAT MITZVAH OF LILY MILES

Saturday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m.



Lily is in the seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. Her favorite classes are art and chorus because she is an artistic person and likes to show that.

She volunteers as a junior counselor at our Congregation’s summer camp. Her volunteer activities also include Project Share and Stop Hunger Now as part of Congregation Kol Ami’s commitment

to helping those in need. Her family also donates clothes to Purple Heart.

Her extracurricular activities include socializing with her friends and babysitting.

“A particularly powerful Jewish experience was preparing for my *Bat Mitzvah* because even though it wasn’t easy, there were a lot of people who helped me, and it made me realize my capabilities,” she says. “My parents and my friends motivated me to stay in Hebrew school, which led me to study for my *Bat Mitzvah*.”

“My favorite holy day is *Hanukkah* because I enjoy receiving and giving presents. It reminds me of an experience that occurred when I was on the subway in New York. There was a man in torn clothes, and I was wearing a new shirt that my Mom just bought me. I felt really grateful for what I have.

“My favorite prayers are the *V’ahavtah* and the *Avote v’Imahote*. They both talk about passing down knowledge of the traditions and values of our faith from our ancestors. I think they are part of the service because it is important to keep these traditions and values going from generation to generation.

“I chose to read verses from the eighth and ninth chapters of the Book of Numbers because they are so important: Moses told the people that they needed to keep *Pesach*.”

We congratulate Lily’s parents, Sherry Cohen and John Miles, and her sister, Emily. ■

PARENTS CIRCLE-FAMILY FORUM

(continued from page 9)

Palestinian Bassam Aramin of PCFF also spoke. Aramin talked about how he was sent to prison as a 17-year-old young man for his role in the Palestinian resistance. He spent seven years there. Although he suffered terrible abuse and dehumanization in Israeli prison, he began questioning the value of armed resistance. He was impressed with Israeli soldiers who refused to serve in the occupied territories, and he co-founded Combatants for Peace on the Palestinian side. He refused to pick up arms after his release even when, in 2007, his 10 year-old daughter, Abir, was killed by an Israeli soldier’s rubber bullet on her way home from school.

Aramin spoke powerfully about how he had originally wanted to watch Holocaust movies to see Jews, his oppressors, suffer. He watched the movies, but did not react as he thought he would. He noticed that he wanted to fight the Nazis. He realized that he approached the world as a fighter and then began to rethink his philosophy. He is just completing his PhD in Holocaust Studies.

Both Damelin and Aramin are saddened that there is getting to be much less contact between Israelis and Palestinians. Aramin said that when Palestinian kids meet Damelin, “they don’t believe she is a Jew, because she is nice.” The only Israelis they see are soldiers and settlers. Damelin said, “It’s an extraordinary thing to note that most Israeli kids have never met a Palestinian in their lives.” She explained this is fertile ground “for that fear of the unknown.” The work of the PCFF is so important, Damelin asserts, “because when you see the humanity in the other, that’s the beginning of the end of the conflict.”

The audience that night at Kol Ami, including Jews from many area synagogues, as well as Arabs, Muslims, Christians, Unitarians, atheists, agnostics, heard two people, usually seen as enemies, share their most personal emotional journeys and exhibit a genuine bond with each other. They heard two people, proud of their heritages, who were able to reach beyond the black-and-white thinking that so many of us run to when we are scared, and see the humanity in the other. They saw two people choose a path of reconciliation. ■

Social Action

THERE'S NO BUDDY LIKE YOU

Sign up to volunteer to help homeless families in Montgomery County through the Interfaith Housing Alliance, a non-profit organization which helps families in crisis overcome homelessness.

Kol Ami has agreed to help homeless families by being a "Buddy Congregation" with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church from June 18 through June 26. St. Matthew's will house, feed, and transport the families during the month of June; and Kol Ami will help the church with these responsibilities during our assigned week. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located at 919 Tennis Avenue in Maple Glen.

Brief overview of JUNE volunteer opportunities:

- **Transport family from Hope Gardens Day Center to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church:** It's ideal to have the volunteer who is delivering a meal to also pick up the family at Hope Gardens Day Center, 31 South Spring Garden Street, in Ambler at 5:45 p.m. and drive them to the church. The drive time is less than 10 minutes.
- **Dinner volunteer:** Prepare a dinner meal for five adults and two toddlers and arrive at 5:45 p.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Join the family for a 6:15 p.m. meal. The evening responsibility ends when the Overnight Volunteers arrive around 7:30 p.m. Meals are needed for: Thursday, June 18, and Sunday, June 21 through Thursday, June 25.
- **Overnight Volunteer from 7:30 p.m.-7:00 a.m.:** Arrive at 7:30 p.m. to be available in case the families need anything. Sleep at the HOST site in a private room on cots or air mattresses. Volunteers are responsible to bring their own bedding and an alarm clock. Volunteers lock up and remain at the church until the family departs for the Hope Gardens Day Center at 7:00 a.m.
- **Transport family from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to Hope Gardens Day Center:** One family requires transportation. It's ideal to have the volunteer who has spent the night to also support this need, if possible.

For more information and to volunteer, call or text Laurie Langman (610-608-4293) or Jody Long (215-512-3636). Sign up by June 10. These opportunities often lead to lasting bonds between volunteers and families as they spend time over dinner, during transportation, or the quiet evening hours.

SUPPORT THE MITZVAH FOOD PROJECT

Are you interested in volunteering in the community in the important field of food security, but haven't been able to make it work with your busy schedule?

The *Mitzvah* Food Project (MFP), located in Elkins Park and the Northeast, may have the perfect opportunity for you! The MFP is currently in need of volunteer drivers to deliver grocery-style food packages to needy home-bound clients in Eastern Montgomery County and Northeast Philadelphia. The position is very flexible, and the volunteers choose a pick-up and drop-off day and time based on their own availability. You must have access to a car to volunteer in this role.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact Talia Lev at (215) 832-0815 or tlev@jfgp.org.

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

Sunday, June 7, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia (215-281-1101)

Please come out to help us sort, pack, and deliver food to needy families at the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) Food Distribution Center. Through the efforts of JRA's community of more than 10,000 volunteers, monthly food-relief packages are provided to 2,750 low-income families in the Greater Philadelphia area.

JRA food distributions take place one Sunday each month at their warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia (directions can be found at www.jewishrelief.org). Volunteers package kosher, nonperishable food in boxes and deliver the food packages to recipients according to predetermined delivery routes, complete with driving directions and maps. Most delivery routes take between 30 to 60 minutes to complete. ■

COMMUNITY EVENTS

50TH ANNUAL DELAWARE VALLEY JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. hosted by Congregation Adath Jeshurun in their main sanctuary in Elkins Park. The concert is free to the public.

This year's PADVJCF will host performances by the Men's and Women's combined Choral Ensembles of Congregation Adath Jeshurun under the direction of Hazzan Howard K. Glantz and Robert Ross, along with:

- The Choir of Temple Brith Achim (Steve Hirsch, director)
- Workmen's Circle Chorus (Naomi Hirsch, director)
- The Choir of Temple Sholom (Cantor Jamie Marx, director)
- Mishkan (Shalom) Community Choir (Miriam Davidson, director)
- Chavurat Hazemer (Valery Lomazov, director)
- The Choir of Congregation Kol Ami (Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz and Fran Surkin, directors)
- The Choir of Temple Sinai (Hazzan Steven Freedman, director)

The Festival concert will open with massed singing of *Hatikvah* and a new setting of *Eitz Chaim* by NJ composer Herbert Malamut. The evening will conclude with massed singing of Charles Davidson's beloved setting of Drora Havkin's *L'ma'an tziyon*.

This annual program has been a showcase for Jewish and Judaica choirs to perform representative works from their year's repertoire in a collegial setting. For many years, the festival, also known as the Delaware Valley *Zimriyah*, was based at Gratz College and coordinated by Marsha Bryan Edelman. More recently, the festival has been hosted by area synagogues in southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey and was coordinated by a steering committee including Dr. Barry Brian, Robert Ross, and Dr. Julia Zavadsky.

In 2013, the number of choirs wishing to participate reached a point where two concert events—one in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey—needed to

be organized, both of which took place on the same evening. And beginning last year, both the PA and NJ events were scheduled on different evenings to insure maximum opportunity for choirs to participate. Mr. Ross is now the coordinator of the PA event, and Dr. Zavadsky coordinates the NJ event.



YOM HASHOAH SERVICE

A riveting service for *Yom HaShoah* was sponsored by the Kehillah of Old York Road synagogues on April 15 at Old York Road Beth Am.

The guest speaker was Dr. Maria Sacks Littell, Professor of Holocaust Studies at Stockton University, and the author of many books on the subject who has traveled the world lecturing on the topic.

She spoke of the history of Philadelphia's contribution to making *Yom HaShoah* a significant Jewish remembrance occasion. Our city was the first, worldwide, to designate a Holocaust Memorial site on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. For a generation after World War II, there had been no public memorial of the Holocaust. From then on, many countries have earmarked special landmarks as memorials, the greatest example of which might be the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

What created the stirring emotions during the April 15 service was the musical selections presented by the individual and combined cantorial members from all the Kehillah synagogues. Their music was interspersed by readings and poetry delivered by the rabbis from each of the Kehillah's rabbis. ■

FRIENDS OF HIGH SCHOOL PARK'S biggest fundraiser of the year!

Arts in the Park

20 years!

featuring
**SUSTAINABLE
CHELTENHAM**

JUNE 7, 2015
High School Park
10am-5pm

corner of High School Road and
Montgomery Avenue, Elkins Park

Rain date June 14

Suggested adult donation \$5

This event benefits Friends of High School Park,
a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring
native plant ecosystems at High School Park.
Thank you for recognizing that all proceeds raise
on this day go directly toward this great cause.



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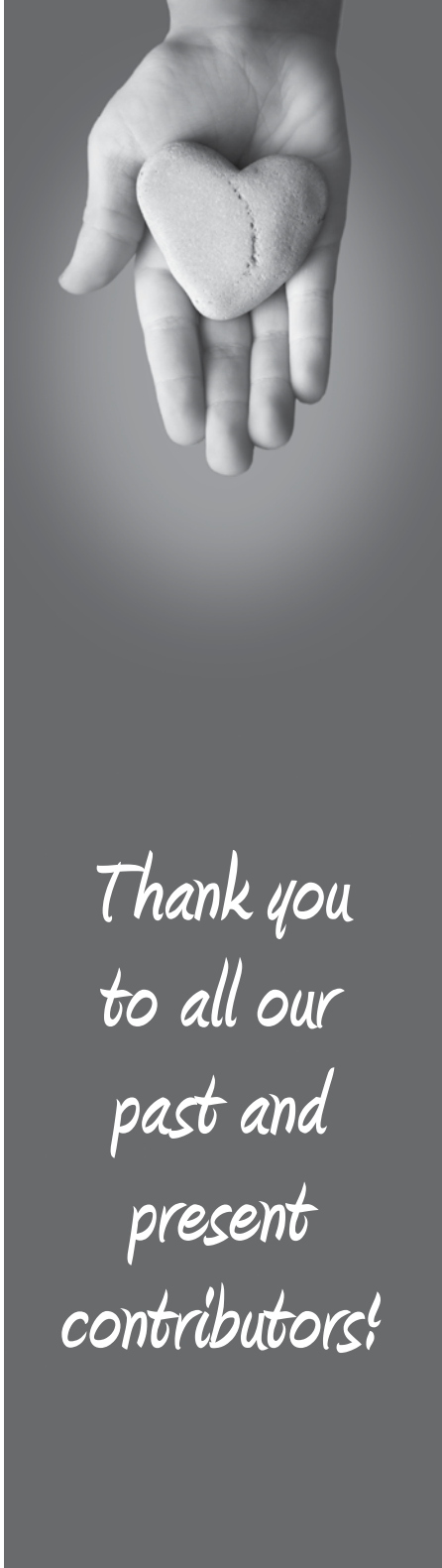
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KOL AMI JUNE 2015 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	2 Early Learning Center Move-Up Day 9:00 a.m. Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "First-Year Member Anniversary" erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow and "First-Friday" Blessings 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	6 Bat Mitzvah of Lily Miles 5:30 p.m.
7	8 Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	10	11	12 Early Learning Center Graduation & Picnic 10:30 a.m. "Blessing of our 2015 High-School Graduates" erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	13
14	15 Early Learning Center CLOSED Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	16 Early Learning Center CLOSED Caring Congregants Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17 Early Learning Center CLOSED Kol Ha'Kavode Honoring David Hyman and Farah Jimenez 5:30 p.m. National Museum of American Jewish History	18 Early Learning Center CLOSED	19 Early Learning Center CLOSED erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	20
21	22 Early Learning Center First Day of Camp 8:00 a.m. Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	23 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	24 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	25	26 erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	27 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Home-hosted service (location TBD) with potluck lunch to follow
28	29 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	30 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.				

Kol Ami Contributions

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds. If you would like to make a donation, send it to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027, and indicate to which fund it should be applied.



ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

Bar Mitzvah of Noah Mass

Joel and Rebecca Schwartz

**Special anniversary of
Stanton and Merle Salkin**

*Ronald Adelman and Barbara Baxt
Joel and Rebecca Schwartz*

Rebecca Schwartz

Michael and Sara Chernoff

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Sender

Joel and Rebecca Schwartz

In Memory of:

Helen Barrett

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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

*Michael and Sara Chernoff
David Hyman
Cara Schneider
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Roshlyn Hauser*

Gideon Holin

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SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of Guy Appel

Gabriel and Orly Maravankin

Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Blower

Craig and Sharon Myers

Our College Graduates

Elaine Stevens

Birthdays of Richard and

Jill Goldstone

Jack and Marsha Petcoe

Our High School Graduates

Elaine Stevens

Special anniversary of

John Miles and Sheryl Cohen

Elaine Stevens

Special birthday of Robert Schiowitz

Gabriel and Orly Maravankin

In honor of our IMWise graduates,

Rachel Baker and Zoe Long

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz
Elaine Stevens*

In Memory of:

Herbert Barrett

Elaine Stevens

Daniel Cassel

*Craig and Sharon Myers
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