

CONGREGATION Kol Ami

VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, March 2, 7:30 p.m.

"Shabbat Across America:

A Musical *erev Shabbat* with Children Welcome!" - Join us as we welcome potential members to dine with us and to rejoice together in song during worship at our "First-Friday" blessings for everyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this month; our Adult Choir will add their voices (see page 16).

SATURDAY, March 3, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

WEDNESDAY, March 7

5:30 p.m. - Pizza and Soda

6:00 p.m. - Our "Early" *erev Purim Megillah* reading is for our young children and their families! Dress up in fun, colorful, and creative *Purim* attire! Certificates will be given for "The Most Amazing *Purim* Costume," "The Happiest *Purim* Costume," and "The Most Colorful *Purim* Costume" and much more. Prizes for everyone!

7:30 p.m. - This innovative *erev Purim* Service experience is for adults! Remember when we unrolled our *Torah* Scrolls and read and chanted from them on *erev Simchat Torah*? That's what we will do with *Megillat Esther*—the *Purim* Scroll—this evening as Rebecca chants from it and we intersperse the text with stories from Chelm to give *Purim* a happier...

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CONGREGATION KOL AMI'S I. M. WISE PROGRAM GRADUATES RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCED JEWISH STUDY

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, AT 7:30 PM



JOIN US AS WE HONOR our 12th-grade students who are graduating from the Isaac Mayer Wise Program of Gratz College's Jewish Community High School, along with our religious school assistant teachers.

Joshua Benjamin Holin Elliot and Susan Holin
Becca Leifer Stewart and Sally Eisenberg and Adam Leifer
Lindsey Pashko Stephen and Susan Pashko
Samie Pashko Stephen and Susan Pashko
Alex Schilder Russell and Jodi Schilder ■



Tired of your old Mac laptop?

Looking to buy yourself a new Mac laptop?

Willing to donate your old one to the synagogue?

Please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110.

WORSHIP SERVICES (continued from page 1)

rendition! Afterwards, a self-serve “Shushan bar” awaits you in accordance with the *halachic* requirement that one should drink on this holy day in particular (see page 15).

FRIDAY, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Chai Notes! *erev Shabbat* Service with our Student Choir; Emma Long will chant from the *Torah* on the fifth anniversary of her *Bat Mitzvah*

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

Bat Mitzvah of Lia Pratt Hyman (see page 4)

FRIDAY, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

I. M. Wise *erev Shabbat* Service - This is a special service to honor our 12th-grade graduates of the two-year Gratz College Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Teaching Certificate-Jewish Studies program and to congratulate them for their devotion to continued Jewish study and as student teachers in our religious school.

SATURDAY, March 17

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

4:00 p.m. - “Jews in Sports” - A *Havdalah* experience for the entire family with guest speaker Robert Alan Katz; come in your favorite team’s athletic apparel (see page 18)

FRIDAY, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, March 24, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

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

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, March 31, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, April 6

There will NOT be a late service this evening in deference to the First *Seder* celebrated by families and friends in their homes and other locales.

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

DENOMINATIONS.

One of my favorite teachers, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, once chided: “I don’t care which denomination you’re a member of—as long as you’re ashamed of it.” I understand this to mean that the responsibility for each of our Jewishness lies with us and not any particular Jewish movement.

In December, I briefly attended the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial held in Washington, DC. It was, in a word, incredible! The passion and excitement among the thousands of attendees was inspiring and infectious. I left feeling an elevated level of pride in being a modern American Jew associated with the Reform movement (sorry Yitz, no shame.)

More recently, I heard Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, speak at a Kol Ami *erev Shabbat* Service about the great work that his organization does for Jews around the world on behalf of the Reform Movement. Again, I beamed with pride. This close feeling of connection to a particular denomination contrasts with my history of skipping the denominational choices and checking the “Just Jewish” box on the American Jewish Committee’s annual survey.

My view is that each denomination plays a critical role within Jewish life. We are a stronger people when each of them is strong.

I also believe we are healthier when the boundaries among our denominations are porous, allowing for ease of movement among them. The Orthodox provide an anchor and force us to confront every contemplated change and lapse. The Conservative movement has contributed serious scholarship to Jewish practice. Our Reform movement has prioritized *Tikun Olam* and our commitment to the pursuit of justice.

My experience at the URJ Biennial allowed me to experience firsthand the value of the Reform Movement’s work. However, like Rabbi Greenberg, I am more concerned about the individual’s attachment to Judaism than the merits of a particular denomination. The more important label/categorization for me was captured by Jewish commentator and self-described Reservadox Jew, Dennis Prager, who reflected that: “Jewish life would be immeasurably enriched if instead of focusing on denominational description and goals, Jews would focus on a distinction that is simpler, more accurate, and far more constructive: serious and non-serious Jews.”

So what is a serious versus non-serious Jew? In which category would you place yourself? If you’d like to discuss it with me over lunch, I’ll pick up the tab.

David Hyman

215-496-7224

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

תקון פילדלפיה *tikun Philadelphia*

תקון ארצות הברית *tikun United States*

תקון עולם *tikun olam, healing the world*

At our *erev Shabbat* Service on January 13, we were addressed by my dear friend and colleague, Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, the recently installed president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ). The WUPJ strengthens Jewish life by connecting Jews to one another and to Israel in 47 countries around the world in the name of progressive Judaism.

Reform Judaism's birth was the creation of a synagogue in Seesen, Germany, in 1810; and over the next decade, its roots spread to Hamburg and Berlin. Long before the Nazi period, German Jewry was predominantly liberal in its approach to Judaism. The WUPJ was founded in 1926, and its first convention took place in Berlin in 1928. Five years later, in 1933, the dark age commenced: in January, Hitler became chancellor of Germany; in February, the Reichstag fire was set; in March, Dachau was established as a concentration camp for opponents of the Nazis; in April, a government-organized boycott of Jewish stores began, and that same month, the Gestapo was created; a month later, book burnings occurred; in July, the Nazi party was declared to be the only political party in Germany; and in September, Jews were removed from fields of music, art, and literature. In that same year, Leo Baeck, a Liberal rabbi, was chosen to be the leader of a German Jewry even more united by crisis; and five years later, he became the second president of the WUPJ, after the death of Claude Montefiore.

Even during the Nazi years, German Jewry played a significant role in the WUPJ, an organization in which Liberal Jews from Germany, England, France, and America were included. Jewish communities in distress felt strengthened, and those that could offer voices of hope were empowered by their commitment to do everything possible to save lives.

Now the WUPJ helps develop and strengthen Reform communities throughout the world. As a member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), we are also a member congregation of the WUPJ. *Tikun olam*—healing the world—is a significant philosophy and practice of Reform Judaism. The World Union's goals are to advocate for religious pluralism and to bring the voice of Liberal Judaism to Jewish communities and congregations, large and small, in Israel, the Former Soviet Union, Latin America, Australia, South Africa, and throughout Asia. The World

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WORSHIP SERVICES (continued from page 2)

SATURDAY, April 7

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and Torah Dialogue

6:00 p.m. - Join us at our Congregation's annual Second *Seder* to celebrate the timelessness of Passover ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

March 3 - *Tetzaveh*

Exodus 27:20-30:10, I Samuel 15:2-34

March 10 - *Kee Tissa*

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

March 17 - *Vayakhel-Pekudey*

Exodus 35:1-40:38, Ezekiel 36:16-38

March 24 - *Vayikra*

Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Ezekiel 45:16-46:18 ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Sunday, March 11, at 11:00 a.m.

Chair: Mark Kaplan, 215-635-2920

Fund Development Committee

Sunday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m.

Co-chairs: Jennifer Streitwieser, 215-635-0304, and Bart Weiner, 215-233-4712

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Thursday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Sheryl Cohen, 215-885-243

Operations Committee

Wednesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232

Social Action Committee

Monday, March 19, at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Natalie Dyen, 215-657-4124, and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698 ■



PASSOVER CANDY SALE FOR OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

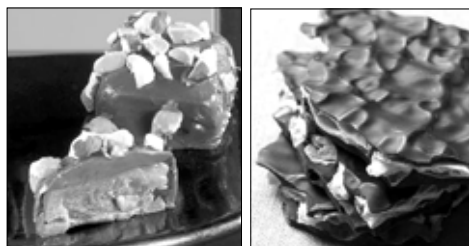
Help support our terrific Religious School and satisfy you and your *Seder* host's sweet tooth by ordering your Passover candy during our upcoming fund-raising drive.

Brochures have been distributed through the Religious School. A variety of offerings will be available, featuring products from Bartons. All your favorites, including macaroons, chocolate matzo, and almond butter crunch, will be on sale.

Prices start under \$10. Orders will be accepted through March 4 and will be delivered in time for your Passover celebration.

Hard-copy order forms can be picked up in the Religious School Office or the Executive Office.

Questions regarding the candy sale can be directed to Kenny Moss (215-277-5335) or Heather Pelletier (215-855-3216), co-chairs of the Religious School PTO Group. ■



BAT MITZVAH OF LIA PRATT HYMAN SATURDAY, MARCH 10, AT 10:00 A.M.



Lia is in the seventh grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. Her favorite subject is Math. Her extracurricular activities include field hockey and WildCleffs, an advanced singing group at her school. Her life revolves around music because she plays the guitar and writes music, but she balances that with roller hockey, cooking, story writing, and bike riding. She also devotes volunteer time to Cradles to Crayons and food drives. For her *Mitzvah* project, Lia went to PetSmart and helped at the adoption center for cats.

She says: "Since I'm Jewish, it feels like I have a second family. If you go to the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Harlam, you know all about that feeling! It is so comforting to know that if I'm having trouble, I can go to anyone at camp and they will 'be there' for me.

"I also love that we have so many customs! I love holy days like Passover and *Hanukkah* because I spend so much time with my extended family. It also makes me proud to know that I'm different from other people at school. I can speak Hebrew. I can celebrate a *Bat Mitzvah*, as well as Jewish holy days. I love being Jewish!

"My favorite Jewish rituals are saying the *Sh'ma* and the *V'avantah* when I'm in bed at night as a way of expressing the things for which I am thankful. I do so each and every night, no matter where I am. When I go over all the wonderful things that happened that day, it reminds me of all the blessings in my life. Sometimes you don't realize how lucky you are until you realize that so many people do not have the education, food, or shelter that you have, and then it really sets in. I think that most kids my age would agree that going to school isn't our most favorite thing to do. I guarantee you, though, that if you go up to someone in a shelter or someone who is not able to get an education, they would go to any school they could in a heartbeat. Just doing this one ritual every night reminds me not to take things for granted.

"After I studied about the major themes and values of my *Torah* Portion with Rabbi Holin, I chose to read from the Book of Exodus, chapter 32, verses 1-12. The verses reflect the ways that I see society now. Everyone wants something, whether it is little or huge. Some of us can wait to acquire it. Some can wait for what they want, even if it means forever. However, most of us cannot wait. We say to ourselves, 'If this doesn't happen right now, I'm giving up. What's the use of waiting?' This is exactly what was going on in the verses that I chose to read. The people gave up because Moses did not come down quickly enough from Mount Sinai, and so they made the Golden Calf to worship. We need to remember that sometimes, the best things take time to happen. If we are patient and hope for the best, we will likely accomplish much more than taking the easy way out. Just because something doesn't happen right away, it doesn't mean that we should give up."

We congratulate Lia's parents, Bill and Janine, and her sister Maya, who celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* at Kol Ami on December 6, 2008, and will celebrate her Confirmation on May 26, 2012. ■

I.M. WISE STUDENT OF THE MONTH

KATHERINE STREITWIESER



So, first off, I am really excited to be I.M. Wise student of the month! I teach with Mrs. Holtzman on Wednesdays in the fourth-grade class. We do Hebrew lessons, Judaica, and Prayer Goals in only two hours. I prefer to work with the younger children because I feel I connect better with them.

To prepare myself to teach the fourth graders, I go to Gratz College for two and a half hours on Tuesdays. I take three classes: current Jewish and Israeli events, Reform Judaism, and Hebrew (with a pretzel break in between.) Next year, I plan to take Bible Study and Education in order to obtain my Reform Teaching Degree.

I think it is important to continue my Jewish education because it not only is important to me, but also this is a rare opportunity for a high-school student to be able to study and learn about Judaism at such a high level. Though I do not plan to study Judaism actively in college, I do plan to join the university's Hillel on Jewish holidays and other events.

Another part of my schooling occurs at Cheltenham High School, where I am a Junior. I currently take Microbiology, Biology, American History, American Literature, Spanish 4, and Pre-Calculus classes. I am a member of the Girl's Varsity Soccer team, the Organic Farming Club, the Yoga Club, the Ski and Snowboard Club, the Student Environmental Board, the Students for Environmental Awareness, the National Honor Society, and the Spanish National Honor Society and I am a yearly competitor in the Science Fair. I plan to major in Biology with a Spanish minor in college.

On weekends, you can usually find me "sleeping in" and driving around, thanks to my new driver's license. I am currently training for the Broad Street 10-mile run in June and hope to get under 1:45. During the week, I either go to a club meeting, Gratz College, or Kol Ami or do SAT prep or lots of other homework. After a long day of school, spending two hours with the fourth-grade students at Kol Ami doesn't seem too bad after calculating angular speeds or analyzing "A Farewell to Arms." ■

BE A TRENDSETTER!

Introducing the first ever Congregation Kol Ami tote bag! Just in time for spring and summer, the perfect bag for bringing picnics before *Shabbat* on the meadow, day trips to the beach, or just errands about town, the Congregation Kol Ami tote bag is a stylish way to support our wonderful spiritual home. The tote is made of 600 denier Flexar canvas, measuring 18-1/2" x



12" x 4" with an extra outside pocket for the little things. This fabulous tote is only \$18 and can be purchased from the Religious School office, Elaine Stevens, or the PTO co-chairs. All profits benefit our Religious School and the future of Congregation Kol Ami.

Any questions, please contact Elaine Stevens, execdir@kolamielkinspark.org, or the PTO co-chairs Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com, or Kenny Moss, km.photos@comcast.net. Thank you for your support!

KOL AMI TEMPLE YOUTH (KATY) (GRADES 8-12)

KATY had a busy February with two events: the group visited Szechuan Mandarin Inn for some midday Chinese food, and they also joined the Senior Youth Group in skiing and snowboarding at Camelback in the Poconos. While KATY-only events aren't the most attended, KATY has been invited to participate in SSTY's formal and Shabbaton/sleepover weekend in Lancaster, PA, at Congregation Shaarai Shomayim. Previously, our members have gone to the NFTY-sponsored formals and events, but never anything at another congregation, so this should be a lot of fun. ■

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP (SYG) (GRADES 6-8)

The SYG hosted a successful trip to Camelback Mountain, where the kids skied and snowboarded the day away. Taking a hint from KATY, SYG will have their own Chinese food lunch on **Sunday, March 4 at 12:30 p.m.** We are not far away from the Shul-In either, which will take place **March 31 to April 1**, so please save the date and prepare to stay up all night with the SYG kids. ■

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 4 & 5)

Let's get together at the home of Sarah England in Elkins Park for a Spicy *Havdalah* dinner on **Saturday, March 3, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.** We'll bid good-bye to *Shabbat* and say hello to a new week with the special rituals of *havdalah*—blessings, braided candles, spice box, and songs! Watch for a flyer coming home from Religious School and an e-mail in your in-box with more details. Also, mark your calendars for these two upcoming events: Trip to National Liberty Museum on **Sunday, April 1**, and *Shabbat* dinner at the home of Aaron Blower on **Friday, May 4**. ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(continued from page 3)

Union does marvelous work in small villages on distant continents, and it touches the lives of Jewish young adults throughout the world who meet at annual conferences to share their life experiences, as well as their Jewish journeys and dreams.



Tikun olam begins at home, here in Philadelphia, and extends beyond the Commonwealth to wherever Jews are in need, or whenever they seek inspiration through Jewish text and teaching. *Tikun olam* is necessary in America when citizens of all faiths and races are in pain, and *tikun olam* is critical throughout the world. Small steps lead to great strides through *mitzvot* that become *berachot* (blessings).

We have an opportunity to partner with the WUPJ in meaningful ways that you will read about in future editions of our monthly Bulletin. Our statement of *Sh'lachbaynee* ("Send me") that is proudly proclaimed on the artistic banner in our religious school hallway, will soon carry personal stories by our children and adults about volunteer hours devoted to *tikun olam* in neighboring communities and across distant borders in the name of Liberal, or Progressive, Judaism.

Shalom u'vrachah,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

SING PRAISES: SHABBAT SHIRAH

Martin Buber wrote, "When a [wo]man is singing and cannot lift his [her] voice, and another comes and sings with him [her], another who can lift his [her] voice, then the first will be able to lift his [her] voice, too. This is the secret of the bond between spirit and spirit."

Also, there is a Midrash that tells of the angels rushing to sing God's praises at the splitting of the sea. God asked the angelic choir to be silent. God said, "Let the people sing for they are in a state of awe. I have been waiting for them to sing, and I don't want them to lose the feeling." The angels waited. The people sang.

Similarly during the first *Shabbat* in February, our Congregation sang, and we were lifted toward heaven. And if the Red Sea had not split at God's command, it would have split as Rebecca Schwartz chanted "The Song of the Sea" on February 4.

Karen Gurmankin, who led the services along with Ellen Friedman and Merle Salkin said: "After leading the service, during my drive home on Friday night, my inner thoughts turned to 'We did it.' The most important thing, and in spite of glitches, we did it! We launched a first and gave birth to a Kol Ami tradition. The sweetness of *Shabbat* made sweeter by the contemplation of our people's history; the voices of those who wrote, read, and sang, including our Confirmation students (the next generation of Jewish women); and the energy of those who swayed and danced, carrying the spirit into the *Oneg Shabbat*."

Karen continued: "This was grassroots and hopefully open to growth and new ideas for next year's *Shabbat Shirah*. I've already heard from those who wish to participate."

Thanks to some guidance from Rabbi Holin and Rebecca Schwartz and the creativity and participation of our congregants and lay leaders, a new Kol Ami tradition has been born. Watch for the *Shabbat Shirah* announcement next year. ■



NURSERY SCHOOL TODDLER CLASS has fun making a giant snowman for their classroom wall.

NEW MEMBERS

SUSAN AND IVAN POPKIN and **STUART APPEL AND RUTH BLUETHENTHAL-APPEL** have rejoined Kol Ami, much to our delight. The Appels were Kol Ami founding members, and Stuart was the founding president of our Congregation from 1994 to 1997. Both families have grown children. Welcome back!



JENSEN TOTH also joined Kol Ami at the beginning of 2012, after attending Friday-night services and instantly getting a good feel for the synagogue, including Rebecca's and the choir's singing. Without delay, Jensen attended choir rehearsal that Sunday, received some music from Rebecca, and officially joined Kol Ami! Jensen said that she wanted to join a Reform synagogue, and, as someone who had sung in the choir at Or Hadash, was very

interested in now becoming part of our choir. She is also part of the *Bnai Mitzvah* class.

Jensen lives nearby with her second husband, George, with whom she says she is still madly in love. They are an interfaith couple who have been married for 26 years. Her son, Jon; daughter-in-law, Gale; and grandsons, Josh and Jason, live in Mill Valley, California. Jensen is a retired Imago Relationship Therapist, but her retired life has been anything but sedentary! She rides her bicycle during much of the year, goes snorkeling when on vacation, has taken lessons in Tai Chi and Qi Gong, takes Hebrew classes, and she also graduated from a two-year course on Jewish history, ethics, and traditions at Gratz College. Jensen loves to go for walks, and she practices the piano almost every day. Jensen stated that "friendship and spirituality are high priorities" in her life, which means that she is going to feel right at home in Kol Ami. Welcome! ■

THIRD ANNUAL CRAFT & FINE ARTS SHOW

CALL FOR ARTISAN APPLICATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTICIPATION FOR THE WORLD MITZVAH MALL

We are pleased to invite congregation members, friends, family, and colleagues to submit applications for our Third Annual Craft & Fine Arts Show scheduled for **Saturday, October 13, from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This a juried show, co-chaired by Karol Appel and Ellen Horowitz Matz, for regional artisans presenting their own original art. There are about 50 spaces available in the synagogue sanctuary, hallway, and front foyer gallery. The space rental fee is structured to meet the varied needs of artists.

In addition, the show will once again feature our World *Mitzvah* Mall, which provides an opportunity for non-profit organizations to sell hand-made craft and art items. (No food or beverage items may be sold). This will be a unique opportunity for these organizations to educate people about their cause and raise some funds. There is a nominal fee of \$18 for each organization's participation.

continued next column

THIRD ANNUAL CRAFT & FINE ART SHOW (continued)

Congregation members, along with their friends, family, and colleagues are welcome to submit an application either as an artist or for a non-profit organization. Applications for both are now available. Artisans interested in applying can receive an application either by contacting Elaine Stevens, Executive Director, at 215-635-3110, via e-mail at execdir@kolami.info, or download from the craft show Web site at www.kolamicraftshow.org. The submission deadline for both is Sunday, April 1, 2012.

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to the following for their accomplishments:

- **Jeff Abrams** for being appointed Board Chairman of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the ALS Association.
- **Katherine Streitwieser** for being selected to receive the Union League Good Citizenship Award on behalf of the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA). Awardees are selected based on academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. Katherine is one of 20 high-school juniors representing the EPYSA at the Union League on May 17 at a special day of service and awards banquet. ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Toby Rubin

cousin of Meryle Gurmankin

May her memory forever be a blessing among our People. ■

Another Successful Casino Night

Casino Night 2012 has come and gone, and what a wonderful evening it was! More than 150 people attended the January 14 event. The Blackjack and Craps tables were buzzing all night, players guided by some of the nicest dealers around. And Texas Hold 'Em remained popular among the poker-playing elite. Congratulations to all who won one of the many baskets or took home a great item from the successful Silent Auction. The food was comforting and delicious, and the deserts disappeared as quickly as they appeared.

Much gratitude to all who were sponsors, donated items and services, and attended the event. And a special thank-you to those who helped make Casino Night another one to remember! Whenever you can, please support the businesses that contribute to the great success we enjoy every year.

And, save the date for next year's Casino Night, which will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013!

EVENT SPONSOR

Allen/Trio Tire and Service

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 John Miles
 Kenny Moss
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SCRIP

Congregation Kol Ami Scrip is still up and running. Help raise money for Kol Ami with **no selling** just by continuing to do your regular shopping. **Acme, Genuardi's, Giant Foods, Target, and Whole Foods** are available for immediate pick up each week in \$25.00 increments. There are over 600 additional retailers and services available. Some of the other stores include:

Amazon.com, Avis, Banana Republic, Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Claire's, Comfort Inn, Courtyard Marriott, Crate & Barrel, Dick's Sporting Goods, GameStop, Gymboree, Home Depot, iTunes, L.L. Bean, Lowe's, Marshall's, Old Navy, Panera Bread, PetSmart, Regal Entertainment, Sears, T.J. Maxx, The Disney Store, The Gap, Toys"R"Us, Visa, and more...

Kol Ami's Scrip program for everyone in the congregation. The steps are simple:

1. Select which retailers from whom you wish to order scrip cards.
2. Obtain a Kol Ami Scrip Order form from the Religious School office or from Elaine Stevens during the week, and fill it out.
3. Return your completed order form. Forms will collected each week on Sunday in the Religious School or they maybe dropped off to Elaine Stevens during the week.
4. Pick up your scrip cards the following week.

It's simple, convenient, and a GREAT way to help Kol Ami from the convenience of your own shopping cart. Any questions can be directed to Kenny Moss (215-277-5335) or Heather Pelletier (215-855-3216), co-chairs of the Religious School PTO Group, or Elaine Stevens, Executive Director (215-635-3110) ■

Don't miss these enlightening opportunities for Adults at Kol Ami...

Continuing Jewish Education

Introduction to Judaism: "Jewish Literacy"

*under the auspices of the Union for Reform
Judaism (URJ) at Congregation Kol Ami*

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot
Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (12 sessions)
Commencing March 5 through May 21



This course in "Jewish Literacy" is for anyone interested in exploring Judaism: interfaith couples, those considering conversion, and Jews looking for adult-level basics. This course introduces the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice. Topics include: Jewish holy days, life-cycle events, theology and prayer, history, and Israel.

The URJ cost of the course is \$180 for members and \$325 for non-members. Couples attend at the prices quoted since couples are encouraged to take the class together. Single attendees also pay the same amount.

For further information, please contact Laurel Klein, URJ's Introduction-to-Judaism Coordinator, at 512-699-5550 or lklein@urj.org.

Jewish Ethics for Everyday Life

*A text-based class exploring ethical and legal
dilemmas from a Talmudic perspective*

Instructor: Rabbi Alexander Coleman
Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Date	Writings/Works
March 14	"Nothing but the Truth": When is lying permitted?
April 4	"Survivor: Who Gets to Live?": Choosing one life over another in medical treatment
May 2	"When the Hand Rocks the Cradle": How long do parents bear responsibility for their children?

Rabbi Alexander Coleman, a native of Liverpool, England, received his education from *yeshivas* in Jerusalem and New York. For the past 15 years, he has dedicated himself to Jewish education and spiritual counseling in the Philadelphia area, offering classes and one-on-one mentorship on Jewish philosophy, spirituality, law, and ethics as well as text-based classes on *Chumash*, *Talmud*, and other classic works.

These classes are accredited by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. CLE confirmation forms will be provided at the class, and all CLE processing will be handled by the presenter and entails a separate fee.

The non-member course fee is \$50, and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

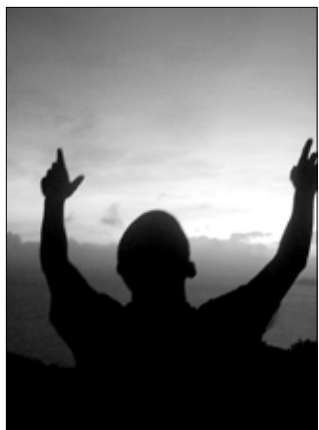
Please RSVP by March 7 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

Believing by Association

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot

Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (four sessions)

Commencing April 3 through 24



Finding meaning in God meant more to Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan than thinking about God being all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. Kaplan encouraged religious Jews to discover God in the power of salvation, to see cooperation as the chief source of happiness and the potential for good in humanity, and to view free-

dom as the liberation of personality and the reconstruction of Jewishness as a righteous civilization. Participants in this seminar will discuss the ways in which reconstructing Judaism promotes rediscovering God.

The non-member course fee is \$50, and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

Please RSVP by March 27 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

The Jewish Relationship Life-Cycle: The Seven Stages of Committed Intimate Relationships



Instructor:

Rabbi Patrice Heller

Thursdays from

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

(four sessions)

Commencing April 12 through May 3

This enrichment program is designed for people in intimate, long-term relationships and couples of all ages and sexual orientations. Intimate partners

share a journey filled with bumps in the road along hills and valleys. While challenges and difficulties are inevitable, couples hope and expect to enjoy loving, happy relationships. Couples benefit from learning fundamental “rules of the road,” informed by Jewish values and wisdom, to help them navigate their relational journey with skill, resilience, and love.

Committed relationships are dynamic; feelings of intimacy and connection may come and go. By understanding that each unique intimate relationship naturally progresses through seven distinct stages, couples can anticipate how needs, priorities, and desires of both partners and the relationship itself may change

Each class will include a presentation, group discussion, and individual and couple questionnaires and exercises. Jewish *halacha* and perspectives about relationships, marriage, and sexuality will be an integral part of each session and will help couples learn about their journey along the seven stages. Shared practice relationship skills will increase awareness and enhance mutual trust and intimacy.

Session	Topic
Session 1	Jewish Wisdom about Relationships, Personal Growth, and Spirituality
Session 2	The Jewish Imperative: Listen, Understand, and Act!
Session 3	The Double <i>Mitzvah</i> : the Jewish Perspective on Sexuality
Session 4	Cultivating Commitment

Patrice Heller has been a Reform rabbi in the Philadelphia community for 30 years. She is also a psychologist and PA-licensed marriage and family therapist and has maintained an independent rabbinical and psychotherapy practice since 1986. In addition, she has been an adjunct associate professor for the Psychology department at Temple University since 2006 and recently became a therapist at the Postpartum Stress Center in Rosemont, PA.

The non-member course fee is \$50, and it can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

Please RSVP by April 5 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org. ■



Congregation Kol Ami
SHOMREI ADAMAH Committee

שמרי אדמה

Environmental Stewardship

COMMITTEE NAME CHANGE

The Sustainability & Green Committee has adopted a new name, the Environmental Stewardship Committee, and Hebrew moniker, *Shomrei Adamah* (the translation is “guardians of the land”), to better reflect its mission to:

- Develop and provide educational, action, and advocacy programs about sustainability issues and topics in liaison with other standing committees and in coalition with Jewish environmental organizations; and
- Provide policy recommendations that promote efficient, economic, and sustainable institutional practices to our Board of Trustees.

We welcome interested members to join us in these efforts at our next committee meeting on Sunday, March 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Kol Ami. ■

THE JEWISH PETITION FOR A JUST FARM BILL

Excerpt from “Jews vs. The Farm Bill” article (1/20/2012) by Leah Kaplan Robins posted on “The Jew and the Carrot” (<http://blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot>)

...While it may seem like an unlikely target for a swell of Jewish activism, the Farm Bill—which dictates U.S. law on everything from agriculture to food stamps to biofuels—is packed with policies that go against the grain of Jewish ethics. The bill is up for debate and reauthorization this year, and six Jewish organizations are seizing the opportunity to call for reforms that they feel will go a long way toward achieving their *Torah*-inspired visions of food justice. Even though they’re each tackling a different aspect of the bill, they’ve recently joined forces to maximize their power and mobilize their constituents toward a common goal.

The “Jewish Working Group for a Just Farm Bill”—comprised of American Jewish World Service, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Hazon, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Mazon, and the Union for Reform Judaism—has collected nearly 15,000 signatures so far on its “Jewish Petition for a Just Farm Bill,” which presents a Jewish voice in Congress’s upcoming ‘food fight’:

“The Farm Bill debate provides us with the opportunity to build a better food system. I want American food and

agricultural policies to reflect my Jewish values. I urge you to enact policies that pursue long-term approaches to eradicating hunger by protecting the most vulnerable, promoting sustainable land use and investing in resilient local food systems. ...”

Behind this lofty language, each organization is fired up by a specific issue that it’ll be pushing on the Hill when hearings begin in February, from reforming food aid to increasing food stamp benefits to stopping industrial farming practices that are polluting the earth.

Here’s what they say:

American Jewish World Service (AJWS):

“AJWS seeks to reform the U.S. food aid system so that it’s not just a Band-aid based on shipping our food abroad, but, instead, a sustainable force for food security in the developing world. As the largest donor of international food aid, the U.S. gives *tzedakah* in volume, but fails to meet Maimonides’ ideal of creating self-sufficiency. A more flexible system that includes buying from local farmers and using cash and vouchers to support local economies would reduce hunger in fragile regions and better reflect our values and shared humanity.”

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life:

“We seek increased funding for agricultural programs that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, water rights, food security, and sustainable development. As a Jewish environmental organization, we care deeply about protecting God’s Creation. And the harmful effects of climate change particularly burden those in developing countries, who have often contributed the least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions.”

Hazon:

“As a Jewish people, we have been thinking about what is kosher—literally, “fit”—for us to eat for 3,000 years. As the Farm Bill hearings approach, we are drawing on our traditions of eating mindfully and pursuing justice as we make our voices heard in support of sustainable farm and food initiatives. Together we can create a healthier, more sustainable food system for all.”

continued page 14



Sustainability Film Series

The Elkins Park Hazon CSA at Kol Ami is proud to sponsor the **2012 Sustainability Film Series** at the Ambler Theater, presented in conjunction with Pennypack Farm and Education Center—two nights at the movies remain in the series followed by discussion groups led by panels of experts. Each movie delves into a different aspect of sustainability: organic eating as well as our love of meat and dairy. Learn how your small changes can make a big difference to the world.

Events are held the second Tuesday of the month in March and April*. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for the Sponsor Expo in the lobby; films begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets, \$10 each, are on sale at <http://www.amblertheater.org/pennypack> or the Ambler Theater Box Office.



What's Organic about Organic?

Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

With charm and humanity, this film leads viewers to examine how organic farming has evolved from a grassroots movement into a multibillion dollar international industry. The film reveals what's at stake in creating and maintaining

meaningful standards for organic production to protect citizen interests, heal the environment, and maintain the livelihoods of family farmers. You can find more information at www.whatsorganicmovie.com.



PLANEAT

Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

This film is about the search for a diet that is good for our health, the environment, and the future of the planet. It presents a convincing case for the West to reexamine its love affair with meat and dairy. With the help of innovative farmers, chefs, and some of the best cooking you have ever seen, **PLANEAT** shows how today's problems can be solved, without simply resorting to a diet of lentils and lettuce. The film advocates eating less meat, not necessarily no meat. More information is available at www.planeat.tv.

***Snow Dates:** Both films have a snow date two weeks following the scheduled date. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

(continued from page 12)

- Jewish Council for Public Affairs:

“JCPA calls upon Congress to reject attacks on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), whose funding has been in jeopardy in recent years, and instead find ways to expand access to this effective and critical human needs program. As our rabbis have taught: ‘If all the other possible troubles were assembled on one side and poverty on the other, poverty would outweigh them all’ (Midrash on Exodus). We have an opportunity to tip the balance and address hunger and poverty on a large scale through the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.”

- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger:

“We believe that the Farm Bill must reflect the Jewish ideals of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*. To do so, it must (1) protect and increase funding for SNAP, (2) create incentives for small-scale farmers to make their products more accessible to all Americans, and (3) improve the nutritional quality of the food distributed through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).”



- Union for Reform Judaism:

“We call for a just Farm Bill that supports robust nutrition programs to aid the millions of Americans confronting hunger, while ensuring funding for vital conservation programs that protect our air, land, and water for future generations. Jewish tradition demands we raise our voice on this critical legislation, as we read in Leviticus 23:22: ‘...when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger.’”

Wherever your passions lie, you can learn more and add your voice to this campaign at <http://www.hazon.org/resources/farm-bill/>. This article can be found at its entirety at <http://blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot/149969/#ixzz1ngr5s5SK>. ■



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE HOME GROWN INSTITUTE

“Springing Good Intentions into Action”

Conference on March 24-25

Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

500 W. Willow Grove Avenue, (NW) Philadelphia

We are proud to be a Community Partner of The Home Grown Institute “Springing Good Intentions into Action” Conference. Below are some of the many activities:

- More than 50 hands-on, home-scaled sustainable skills workshops, including:
 - edible, community, and school gardens
 - seed-saving, soil enrichment, four-season harvest
 - bees, chickens, worms, aquaponics
 - food preservation, fermentation
 - repurposing, upcycling, natural building
- Fun, engaging, and educational kids and teen program
- Seed exchange and tool swap
- Silent auction, awards reception
- Local, organic, seasonal lunch
- Free rain barrel or worm-farm composter for all registrants*
- Work-exchange financial aid available

Contributions to the Silent Auction benefit our Community Scholarship Fund.

View the Weekend At-a-Glance and Full Program online (<http://issuu.com/thehomegrowninstitute>) or download the documents from www.thehomegrowninstitute.org/Register.html. Registration for this important event closes March 18. ■

* One per family/residence; supplies are limited. All are repurposed from reclaimed food-grade plastic.

Kol Ami Events

KOL AMI SOFTBALL TEAM: CALLING ALL PLAYERS



The Phillies' pitchers and catchers have reported to camp. That can mean only one thing—Spring Training for the Kol Ami Softball Team is not far behind! The team is always looking for a few good, young players to join in the fun. Practices are scheduled to begin on

Sunday, March 18, at Ogontz Field on High School Road in Elkins Park from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please contact team captain Eric Pelletier at esppt1@gmail.com if you are interested.

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for March Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Friday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at our

erev Shabbat/'Shabbat Across America' Musical Service

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March, please join us at this special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a March *simcha* under a *tallit* in front of the ark. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

Rabbi Holin will continue to send personal letters to everyone celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary ending with 0 or 5 (for example, 40, 45). If you have a special 0 or 5 birthday or anniversary, you will be invited to participate in any Friday service in "your" month by blessing the candles or *challah*, or reciting the *Kiddush*, or at any Saturday service that month by carrying or blessing the *Torah*.

JOIN US AT OUR EREV PURIM

MEGILLAH READING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES!

Wednesday, March 7, from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Preceded by pizza at 5:30 p.m.



This *erev Purim* experience, "just" for young children and parents, promises to be lots (*purim!*) of fun! Dress up in a creative, fun costume. Certificates will be awarded for innovation, color, and humor. Prepare to wave groggers

to drown out the name of Haman, and get ready for *Purim* treat-gifts that you can take home! *continued next column*

If you plan to join us for pizza and refreshments prior to the service, required RSVPs must be received by Elaine Stevens, Executive Director, by Sunday, March 4, at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolami.info.

AND DON'T FORGET A UNIQUE EREV PURIM EXPERIENCE FOR ADULTS!

Wednesday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m.

This late *erev Purim* service is for adults, as verses accompanied by appropriate cheering or 'groggering' will be interspersed with readings from tales about the people of Chelm, a city in eastern Poland, to lighten the mood considerably! The Chelmites—or Chelm Lites—were reputed to have hearts as big as the world and brains as small as teacups. Popularized by Isaac Bashevis Singer, a typical story reads as follows: "A man buys a fish on Friday to prepare for his *Shabbat* meal. He puts the live fish under his coat to bring it home, and the fish slaps his face with its tail. He brings the fish to the court in Chelm to accuse it of assault, and the court sentenced the fish to death by drowning." Drum roll, please.

At the conclusion of our fun-fest, we will adjourn to our self-serve 'Shushan bar' for a midweek *Oneg* in keeping with the command that one is to drink so much on *Purim* that one cannot tell the difference between...you know the rest!

EXPERIENCE SHABBAT EXPERIENCES!

During the 2011-2012 program year, we will offer several unique *Shabbat* experiences for the entire family. Day-time programs will begin with a brief *Shabbat* service at 10:00 a.m. and *Oneg* at 11:00 a.m., followed by the opportunity for us to truly celebrate the meaning of *Shabbat* with *mishpachah*, the synagogue family:

- **Saturday, March 17, at 4:00 p.m.**
"Jews in Sports" presentation by Robert Alan Katz as part of our afternoon *Havdalah* service (see page 18)
- **Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.**
"Walking Tour of Jewish Philadelphia" with guide Linda Nesvisky (see page 19)
- **Saturday, May 12**
Walk-lunch at High School Park or Avelthorpe Park following the service

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Shabbat Across America

A Musical Shabbat with Children Welcome!

CONGREGATION KOL AMI
joins in the **National Celebration**
on **Friday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.**
at our *erev Shabbat* Service plus
our “**First-Friday**” anniversary
and birthday blessings

Our Adult Choir will add their voices to the service.

**“*Shabbat Across America*” is a nationally acclaimed program
that gives people a positive and joyful *Shabbat* experience.**

**We encourage you to invite your unaffiliated friends
to be “our guests” at a catered *Shabbat* dinner and
celebrate with us. Guests will receive a copy of
Rebecca Schwartz’s CD, *Shir Shabbat*.**

**Contact Elaine Stevens no later than
Thursday, March 1, to RSVP for dinner.**

**The cost for members is \$16 per adult and
\$10 per child under the age of 8.
GUESTS ARE FREE!**

Congregation Kol Ami Retro Prom Night
"Forever Young"
March 24, 2012 - 8 'til 11 pm

Live music and frivolity -
(by Kol Ami's very own energetic Greg Brown & Gil Brewster)



Dust off your old tux, press your favorite prom or bridesmaid dress, shine your dancing shoes, wear a matching corsage, and dance the night away. This is an ISH event and Religious School PTO fund-raiser to be held in Kol Ami's own social hall.

Prizes for the best dressed & the elected King & Queen
Coffee, Tea, Punch & Desserts provided,
b.y.o.b & an appetizer to share
\$20 per person

(Please consider donating a can of food for the mini ISH/PTO Food Drive)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Please Make Checks Payable to Congregation Kol Ami

Please direct questions to the following: Sherry Cohen, shcohen361@verizon.net (ISH co-chair) or
Heather Pelletier, hfppt1@gmail.com (ISH co-chair/PTO co-chair)

"JEWS IN SPORTS": A FANTASTIC HAVDALAH EXPERIENCE—WEAR YOUR TEAM'S APPAREL!

Saturday, March 17, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

with Guest Speaker Robert Alan Katz

Who have been accomplished Jewish athletes in college and professional sports? Who are well-known Jewish athletes today? How do they express their Jewish identity?

Robert Alan Katz is a Jewish Sports Review correspondent and former sports columnist for *B'nai B'rith* publications and "The Jewish Times." He is a former supervisor at the sports information desk in the Olympic Village at the Atlanta Olympic Games, and he also served as press officer for the Organizing Committee at the Los Angeles Olympics. He has traveled with sports teams in Asia, North America, and South America and is an active member of the Vesper Boat Club in Philadelphia.

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

Sunday, March 18, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Jewish Relief Agency Food Distribution Center

Come out and help sort, pack, and deliver food to needy families. JRA food distributions take place one Sunday each month throughout the year at their warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia. Volunteers work together to package kosher, non-perishable food in boxes. After packing, volunteers load their cars and deliver the food packages to each of the recipient families according to pre-determined delivery routes, complete with driving directions and maps. Most delivery routes take between 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

If interested, directions to the JRA Distribution Center can be found at <http://www.jewishrelief.org/directions.asp>.

KOL AMI CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS BOOK GROUP REVIEW OF "THE TALMUD AND THE INTERNET" BY JONATHAN ROSEN WITH LOU BARRETT

Sunday, March 18, at 11:00 a.m.

What do *Talmud* and Internet have in common? In his remarkable and modest memoir, Jonathan Rosen, finds the Internet, like the *Talmud*, a "world of unbounded curiosity... where anyone can ask a question and receive an answer." It is "a place where everything exists, if only one

knows how and where to look." The ocean of the *Talmud*, he says, is like the vastness of the Internet. All views are considered; in it, opposing arguments appear side by side.

After the death of his beloved grandmother, Jonathan Rosen, former culture editor of "The Forward," looked for comfort in John Donne's poems. Obsessed by half-forgotten lines in Donne's poem, Rosen turned to his computer to retrieve the text. "For one moment, there in dimensionless, chilly cyberspace, I felt close to my grandmother, close to John Donne, and close to some stranger who, as it happens, designs software for a living."

He begins to consider the fate of his two grandmothers; one was murdered in the death camps, the other, an American, lived comfortably in New York and died surrounded by loved ones. The contrast urges him to trace his own odyssey, his own identity as an American and a Jew.

In this literary analogy, Rosen discovers that "the *Talmud* offers a virtual home for an uprooted culture..." The Internet, too, presents to the American Jew, "a similar sense of Diaspora, a feeling of being everywhere and nowhere." Rosen artfully mingles facts about his wife, parents, and grandmothers with erudite thinking about a broad range of reading in Judaica and the classics. He explores John Donne, the Odyssey, Josephus, and Henry Adams, mingling them with his admiration for Rabbi Akiva and Yochanan ben Zakkhai, the founder of Yavneh, where Judaism was made to survive. The "*Talmud and the Internet*" ends with a moving account of visiting the present-day Lord Balfour on his Scottish estate, where Rosen's father spent WWII, having escaped from Vienna on a Kindertransport.

Jonathan Rosen's proposes that the Internet and *Talmud* look directly at life, address humans in conflict, isolated from faith and community. Sages, he notes, weighing argument and interpretation, resisted a deadlock of wills. "The world," the Kabala comments, "can be spelled in many different ways..." How does Jonathan Rosen spell it? How do we?

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

Monday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

at a congregant's house close to the synagogue

Because of the great feedback about the two Jewish Meditation sessions offered earlier this year, we're bringing back Cantor Boris Kazansky for more sessions. **YOU MAY COME TO THESE SESSIONS REGARDLESS IF YOU ATTENDED THE PREVIOUS ONES OR NOT.** Please RSVP to Elaine by March 13, and the directions will be sent to you. If you have any questions about the program, contact Natalie Dyen or Janet Falon, co-chairs of the Spiritual Growth Group. This is fascinating stuff; come check it out!



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, March 20**, and **Wednesday, April 18**.

His **Phast for Philadelphia**—which 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—will be on **Wednesday, March 28**, and **Friday, April 27**.

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

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')



THE JEWISH PILGRIMAGE: A LOST WAY?

Sunday, March 25, at 11:00 a.m.

with Steve Ettinger

Congregant Stephen Ettinger will speak about a solo-walking pilgrimage that he took in April 2005. His path took him from St. James de Pied de Port, France, to Santiago de Compostella, Spain; it is simply called, "The Way." He will tell the story of what it feels like to be a pilgrim and what is to be learned. He says, "All pilgrimages are transformational. Mine certainly was."

COOK FOR A FRIEND

Sunday, April 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at Congregation Kol Ami



Join us in the Kol Ami kitchen as we cook meals for homebound seniors in Philadelphia. We will make about 50 meals, which will be packaged and frozen to be picked up later and delivered. This supports the "Cook for a Friend" program of the Klein JCC. Adults and kids over the age of 10 are welcome!

THE HEART INSIDE KOL AMI

Caring Congregants Meeting

Sunday, April 15, at 11:00 a.m.

Looking for a way to help our Kol Ami community? Come to our next Caring Congregant meeting. For more information, contact Committee Co-chairs Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994, or Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672. Hope you're able to join us!

A WALKING TOUR OF JEWISH PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.

commencing at the entrance to Elfreth's Alley

A special *Shabbat* two-hour experience for everyone!

Our briefer *Shabbat* service this morning will enable worshippers and walkers to gather in timely fashion for a fascinating tour of Jewish Philadelphia under the guidance of Linda Nesvisky, author of "Jewish Philadelphia: A Guide to its Sights and Stories."

We will go to the following sites: Elfreth's Alley; Welcome Park (William Penn and the Jews); Christ Church Cemetery (gravesite of David S. Franks); Mikveh Israel Synagogue and the Entebbe Memorial; the Liberty Bell; the National Museum of American Jewish History (for an overview); Haym Solomon, Penn's Landing, and the London Coffee House.

Ms. Nesvisky's tour will highlight fascinating stories about Jewish individuals and how they contributed to the City of Brotherly Love.

RSVP to Elaine Stevens by April 23, with a check payable to the Congregation at \$12 per person. A minimum of 10 people ensures that the experience will be enjoyed by all. ■

GOLF & TENNIS Invitational

2012

Tuesday, April 24

PHILADELPHIA CRICKET
CLUB IN FLOURTOWN

Co-chairpersons Algot F. Thorell, Jr., David Hyman, and Lesley Seitchik invite you to attend a golf and tennis outing benefitting Congregation Kol Ami. President and CEO of Valley Green Bank, Jay Goldstein, will be honored at this event for his outstanding accomplishments in the non-profit and business communities.

LEAD SPONSOR:
Valley Green Bank

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPONSORS:
The Hyman Family
Kleinbard Bell & Brecker LLP

ULYSSES S. GRANT SPONSORS:
Stewart and Sally Eisenberg and Eisenberg, Rothweiler,
Winkler, Eisenberg, and Jeck, P.C.
Ellen Friedman and Jeff Cohen and Performance Leaders, LLC
Mercator Advisors LLC
RBC Capital Markets
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP
SugarHouse Casino
List complete as of January 31, 2012

GOLF, COCKTAILS AND DINNER:
Wissahickon Clubhouse
6025 West Valley Green Road
Flourtown, PA 19031

TENNIS:
St. Martins Clubhouse
415 W. Willow Grove Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

SCHEDULE:
10:30 Golf arrival, practice, lunch
12:30 Tee-off
2:30 Tennis
5:15 Cocktails and silent auction
6:15 Program and dinner

VALLEY
GREEN
BANK





pledge your allegiance

SPONSORSHIP



\$5000 | Two foursomes or eight tennis players

Benjamin Franklin

"Sole" Hole Sponsor or Lead Tennis Sponsor, banner representation, and listing on all tournament materials

☐

\$2500 | One foursome or six tennis players

Ulysses S. Grant

Hole Sponsor or Tennis Sponsor, listing on all tournament materials

☐

\$1500 | Cocktail Party Sponsor

Andrew Jackson

Four cocktail and dinner guests, sponsor sign and listing on all tournament materials

☐

\$1000 | Two golfers or three tennis players

Alexander Hamilton

Listing on all tournament materials

☐

\$500 | Beverage Station Sponsor

Abraham Lincoln

Two cocktail and dinner guests and sponsor sign

☐

\$300 | Hole Sponsor

George Washington

Signage at a designated hole

☐

\$300 | Individual Golfer

Susan B. Anthony

Lunch, golf, cocktails and dinner

☐

\$150 | Individual Tennis Player

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Tennis and refreshments, cocktails and dinner

☐

\$100 | Dinner Guest

Thomas Jefferson

Cocktails and dinner

☐

registration

Please check as many items that apply on reverse side and complete the registration information below.

Participant _____

Company _____

Address _____

City & State _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Golf ☐ Tennis ☐ Cocktails and Dinner only

1. _____

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Please send logo and/or the name as you would like it to appear on all materials to: Elaine Stevens: execdir@kolami.info | 215.635.3110

Please mail registration card along with your check, made payable to Congregation Kol Ami in the enclosed envelope.

Please register by April 10, 2012.

Auction Items Needed

As shown on the page 20, our next Golf and Tennis Fun(d)-Raising Auction will be on April 24 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club's Flourtown location. The auction, led by the tireless efforts of Eric Pelletier, is a key way for us to raise funds. Many of you have been generous in making donations that are attractive for our bidders. This year, we are honoring Jay Goldstein of Valley Green Bank, and as a result, we expect a good number of attendees who are not Kol Ami members—and the better our auction items, the more successful we will be in gaining their participation.

If you have donated in the past, we'll be back in touch to thank you and ask that you once again donate. If you haven't, please consider donating an auction item or two. Of course, you get a tax-deduction letter for the fair-market value of the item that you donate, and you get the thrill of watching as your contribution helps our synagogue, especially if you are with us on April 24.

We are looking for donations in all price ranges, from \$75 on up to items that are worth several thousand dollars and might generate special interest. You may set a minimum bid value for your donated item or leave that to our discretion.

Donations that seem to attract the most interest include:

- Tickets to Philadelphia sports teams, e.g., the Phillies, Flyers, Eagles, and 76ers
- A stay at your vacation property or timeshare
- Concert tickets
- Memberships
- Professional services
- Artistic creations
- Autographed collectibles

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Elaine Stevens (execdir@kolamielkinspark.org), Eric Pelletier (esppt1@gmail.com), or Jeff Cohen (jeffcohen.performanceleaders@verizon.net.) We would greatly appreciate all donations by March 16, 2012, so we can create an exciting Web page that helps us build interest and excitement. ■

HELP LOCAL JEWISH FAMILIES THIS PASSOVER

Congregation Kol Ami SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE Passover Food Drive

Please purchase any or all of these Passover items for donation to the *Mitzvah* Food Project Pantries for *Pesach* and bring it to the Kol Ami office by Sunday, April 1, 2012.

ALL FOOD MUST BE KOSHER FOR PASSOVER

- Matzo
- Matzo Meal
- Gefilte Fish
- Horseradish
- Matzo Ball Soup or Mix
- Macaroons, Passover Cookies, or Candy
- Canned Vegetables
- Concord Grape Juice
- Passover Wine



Congregation Kol Ami



Saturday, May 12th @ 5:35 pm

Gates open @ 4:30 pm

Kol Ami's Student Choir will Perform,
Post-game Fireworks Show &
Kids Run the Bases!



Presented by
Susquehanna



Susquehanna Bank

Reserve your seats today!

1. Log on to www.riversharks.com and select "Riversharks Fundraising Program Log-In" icon on righthand side
2. Enter your group's unique code
3. Select "Buy"
4. Choose your seats and complete your order
5. Root for the Riversharks!



Your Groups
Unique Code:

Kol Ami

**TICKETS
ONLY
\$11**

**\$5 of Each Ticket
is Donated to**

Congregation Kol Ami

Ticket Sales end Friday, May 11th
\$1.25 processing fee per ticket

Questions? Contact:

Barry Steinbrecher

Barro827@aol.com

215-669-3668

1-866-SHARKS-9



riversharks.com

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



MICKIE ROSEN is the featured artist in Kol Ami's gallery for the period March 1 through April 30, and she shares the following about her life, work, and goals.

"When I was 21, a two-year 'sentence' as an 'army wife' in Germany seemed like a lifetime and major interruption to my fine-art education and a budding career as a fashion illustrator. Little did I know that I would win a Ziess Ikon camera in Germany and have the time of my life shooting pictures all over Europe. Years later, a trip to Japan introduced me to Nikon 35mm film cameras and a range of lenses at irresistibly low prices. Thereafter my photographic interests focused mainly on capturing my kids and grandkids as they grew, recording special occasions and wonderful vacations. All along, though, I enjoyed turning macro images into abstractions that left the origin of the photo a mystery.

"My only 'formal' education in photography was one course at Tyler School of Fine Art, where I earned my BFA degree at age 38. That course challenged me to shoot photos in series and introduced me to the darkroom. After Tyler, I received a MS degree in Art Therapy from Hahnemann University, where I continued as a faculty member in the Creative Arts Therapy Graduate program until 1992.

"For the next 32 years, I worked as an art therapist and group psychotherapist. Both prior to and since my retirement in 2000, I have exhibited my prints and oil-pastel paintings widely in numerous juried/group exhibitions and 15 solo exhibitions. The most recent have displayed my digital fine-art photography. I am proud that this new work has won many awards, including the Judges Award for a Body of Work at the 19th Phillips Mill Annual Juried Photography Exhibition and Best of Show at the 60th Tri/State Artists Equity Exhibition at the Berman Museum.

Printmaking and drawing had always been my media of choice until photography and the digital darkroom captured my interest. Digital photographers are generally interested in shooting 'great' pictures and want to invest as little time as possible making adjustments on the computer. I, on the other hand, take great pleasure in spending numerous hours exploring the endless possibilities that digital technology has made available to the fine artist. I find that the happy accidents that occur when experimenting with the tools in Photoshop parallel the surprise and excitement that happens when pulling a print off my etching press.

"Creating realistic photographic compositions is not my main intention when I shoot. With my Canon 30D, Canon G11, and Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX2, I collect a wide range of subjects that may be combined with other photos or elements from my drawings, monotypes, or collagraphs.



These mixed media works I call 'Photages.' I love to composite and/or transform what the camera captures, always looking for similarities in the shapes and forms in nature. With Photoshop CS5 as my brush and photographs as my palette, I strive to create images that maintain the qualities of my drawings, etchings, or silk-screen prints and give a sense of mystery and the surreal."

Mickie Rosen will be having her open house at Kol Ami on Sunday, March 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. ■

KOL AMI MARCH 2012 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 BAKE SALE Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Color Wars 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting Senior Youth Group Chinese Food & Movie 12:30 p.m. Artist Open House Mickie Rosen 2:00 p.m.	5 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	6 Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	7 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL erev Purim Megillah Reading for Young Children and Their Families 6:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - Pizza & Soda erev Purim Service for Adults 7:30 p.m. 8:15 p.m. - Shushan Bar	8	9 Nursery School Purim Party 11:00 a.m. Noon Dismissal erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. "Chai Notes" with our Student Choir; Emma Long will chant from the <i>Torah</i> on the fifth anniversary of her <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>	10 Bat Mitzvah of Lia Pratt Hyman 10:00 a.m.
				1	2 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "Shabbat Across America" Musical erev Shabbat Service & "First-Friday" Blessings Adult Choir Participation 7:30 p.m.	3 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Junior Youth Group Havdalah 6:00 p.m. Home of Sarah England

KOL AMI MARCH 2012 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

KOL AMI MARCH 2012 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)						
Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 11:40 a.m. - Gr K-7 T'filah 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting 11:00 a.m.	Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	NURSERY SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR				Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. "Jews in Sports" Havdalah Service with Guest Speaker Robert Alan Katz 4:00 p.m.
		Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness 6:30 p.m. - PJ Party Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class - 7:00 p.m. Sustainability Film Series: "What's Organic about Organic" at Ambler Theater 7:30 p.m.	Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Coleman 7:30 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Interfaith Relationship Dialogue 7:30 p.m. Home of Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen	Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Canortorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. I. M. Wise Graduate erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	
18 Trope Class - 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 7 to Jewish Museum of Philadelphia 11:40 a.m. - Gr K-7 T'filah 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Jewish Writers Book Review with Lou Barrett 11:00 a.m. Fund Development Committee - 2:00 p.m.	19 Social Action Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:30 p.m.	20 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	21 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	22	23 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	24 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Kol Ami Retro Prom Night - "Forever Young" 8:00 p.m.
25 Trope Class - 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 3-6 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Member-to-Member Conversations with Steve Ettinger 11:00 a.m.	26 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga	27 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Elkins Park CSA "Meet the Farmers" 6:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m.	28 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	29	30 Nursery School Seder 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	31 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Senior Youth Group Shul-In March 31-April 1

KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations to these Congregation Kol Ami funds:

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**The "Female-Led" Shir'erev
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*Craig and Sharon Myers
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Special Birthday of Robin Shane
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Special Birthday of Ivan Gabel
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80th Birthday of Albert Shamberg
Al and Phyllis Shamberg

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Karin Rosenzweig

Samuel Schleifer
Marlene Schleifer

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

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Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Mass
Rebecca Schwartz

Rebecca Schwartz and the choirs
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YOUTH FUND

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Michael Harrison
David and Phyllis Harrison

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

**William England, Sharon Myers,
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David Hyman

80th Birthday of Ivan Gabel
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Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Mass
Elaine Stevens

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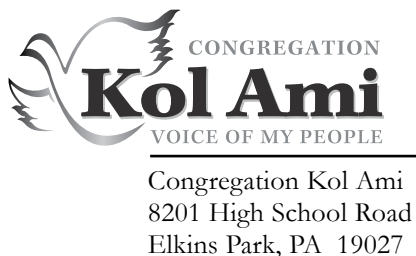
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TO:



KOL AMI PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 15, at 9:00 a.m.

8201 High School Road, Elkins Park

Start your day right! Come on out for a hearty breakfast and visit with friends before religious school. We'll be serving pancakes, coffee, tea, fresh fruit, and juice!

In advance: Single \$3 / Family \$12

At the door: Single \$4 / Family \$15

RSVP to Elaine Stevens by Wednesday, April 11, at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS: OPEN TO EVERYONE!