

CONGREGATION **Kol Ami** VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, October 4, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with Adult Choir participation: **An Expression of Gratitude to our Synagogue's Elected Leaders** – this evening we will thank David Hyman for his dedicated service as president of our congregation over the past two years, to express gratitude to his Board peers who devote countless hours to our synagogue to ensure our future, and to formally install new members of our Board of Trustees plus “First-Friday” birthday and anniversary blessings

SATURDAY, October 5

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

2:00 p.m. - Blessing of Pets (see page 6)

5:30 p.m. - *Bat Mitzvah* of Rebecca Langman (see page 4)

SUNDAY, October 6, at 11:30 a.m.

Consecration Service during religious school for the entire school as we welcome new students and their families to our Kol Ami community

FRIDAY, October 11, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, October 12

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

5:30 p.m. - “Adult-Only” *Martini Havdalah* Service (see page 6)

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THE DATES ARE SET FOR...

CONGREGATION KOL AMI TRIPS TO ISRAEL IN 2014 WITH RABBI HOLIN FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS – IN AND BEYOND THE CONGREGATION



To receive a complete itinerary and information about flights, hotels, and meals for the August or October 2014 trip, please contact Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182.

2014 ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP: (information about our 2014 Israel Adult Trip is on pages 12-13)

Leave Philadelphia on Sunday, August 17; return on Thursday, August 28

(night flight from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 17, arriving in Tel Aviv on Monday, August 18 at 3:30 p.m.; return night flight from Tel Aviv on Wednesday, August 27, at 11:30 p.m., arriving in Philadelphia on Thursday, August 28, at 5:15 a.m.)

Monday, August 18 – Tel Aviv (Carlton Hotel on the beach):

- Arrive in Israel mid-afternoon
- Explore Old Jaffa
- See Rabin Square
- Attend Welcome-to-Israel dinner

Tuesday, August 19 – Tel Aviv (Carlton Hotel on the beach):

- ‘Experience’ Israel’s Declaration of Independence at Independence Hall
- Visit the Palmach Museum for a multi-media presentation about the years preceding the Declaration: stories of courage and struggle
- Browse the open-air arts-and-crafts street fair of Nachalat Binyamin
- Enjoy free time to relax and swim in the Mediterranean
- Eat dinner at a Blackout Restaurant served in a completely dark environment by blind waiters, followed by theatre at *Na Laga’at* (Please Do Touch), a play performed by Israelis who are deaf and blind

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WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, October 18

6:00 p.m. - “Fun for Kids” *erev Shabbat* Service—appropriate for all ages; it’s a happy half hour with lots of music and our terrific Student Choir

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

SATURDAY, October 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; Neil Beatus will present the *dvar Torah*

FRIDAY, October 25, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with Grade 3 participation

SATURDAY, October 26, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Membership Committee

Tuesday, October 1, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716, and Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839

Operations Committee

Thursday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Jeremy Wintroub, 215-906-9063

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, October 8, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Sherry Cohen, 215-885-2436, and Barbara Fink, 215-886-2297

Religious School PTO

Sunday, October 27, at 10:15 a.m.
Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335, and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-1738, and Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-657-4124, and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698 ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

What a whirlwind this past month has been, what with *Selichot* coming at the end of August, and the High Holy Days, that traditional har-binger of the end of summer, coming all too quickly. It was a thrill for me to speak to the congregation on *Rosh Hashanah*, to look out and see such friendly faces, many of whom I know well and some I am just meeting. I ask for your help as I am notoriously bad with names, so keep introducing yourself.

I emphasized two key themes on *Rosh Hashanah*: Deepening our commitment to the day-to-day practice of Judaism and deepening our involvement in Kol Ami, as a vehicle for the practice of Judaism. Service to the synagogue deepens your connection to our great members and the broader community, gives you great stories to tell of being of service, and gives you a voice in shaping what we do. On page 14 of this month’s bulletin, you will find an updated listing of our committees and groups. I ask that you read through it, consider your involvement, and then pick one thing to get involved in that you might not otherwise have done.

A key priority for Kol Ami is membership; and Julie Cohen and Robin Warsaw, our new Membership co-chairs, are bringing and looking for fresh ideas and energy. They are doing a great job of creating manageable pieces of work that you as a busy volunteer can handle, so please reach out to them and say “*Sh’lah’chaynee* - Send me!”

The Interfaith Relationship Dialogue group also has new co-chairs, Linda and Dan George, and they have set their first meeting of the New Year for November 18. Save the date and join the group in conversation about how we navigate life as interfaith couples. And as I am learning, you may not be in an interfaith relationship, but you undoubtedly spend time with those who are.

And Marshall Schafer and Bart Weiner are looking for members who have some financial expertise and would be willing to join the Finance Committee. Ronit Sugar and returning board member and new co-chair Shelley Chamberlain are keeping the energy high on social action, and this is a great first committee to join as the effort is typically focused on a few key activities each quarter.

I want to encourage you to join us at *Shabbat* services, and this month, why not join us in singing and noshing our way through Martini *Hardalah* on October 12? October 18 will be our second “Fun for Kids” *erev Shabbat* service where the emphasis is on services that will be fun and interactive for all ages, with lots of music and our terrific Student Choir. Lastly, we tend to leave our *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* services to the young adult and the celebrant’s family and friends, yet these are warm and special times to celebrate our future and *Shabbat*. This month, you can *kvell* with Rebecca Langman and her family on October 5.

Jeff Cohen
215-635-3232
president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

The *Haftarah* reading on the afternoon of *Yom Kippur* was from the Book of Jonah. There was a prophet by the name of Jonah during the reign of King Jeroboam, ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel from 922-901 BCE. Yes, that Jonah: as in, Jonah and the whale. He was told by God to go to Nineveh, Assyria—north of Israel and its historic nemesis—and to tell the people there to repent from their evil ways. It is an ancient story with contemporary applications. The story line fits well with the High Holy Day theme of redemption, and it carries over into the New Year.

A cursory read of the text goes something like this: Jonah resisted God's call and jumped on a ship in the port of Jaffa bound for Spain, the opposite direction from where God intended him to be. A raging storm arose, the sailors could not fathom who was responsible for it (cause and effect), and they drew lots to identify on whose account this misfortune had befallen them. Jonah was thrown overboard in the hope that the storm would subside. Swallowed by a large fish, three days later he was vomited upon land, and once again was commanded by God to tell the citizens of Nineveh to repent.

The relationship of the *Haftarah* reading about Jonah to the afternoon *Torah* reading from the section of the Book of Leviticus known as 'The Holiness Code' (chapters 18-19) is that while the message of the latter is: "Having left Egypt, you must do everything to distinguish yourselves from them," (do not be like 'the other') the message to Jonah was to emulate the people of Nineveh in their quest for *teshuvah* (be like 'the other').

A closer reading of the text reveals a number of fascinating things. After the sailors drew lots and identified Jonah as the one responsible for the storm that threatened to capsize the ship, Jonah told them to throw him overboard since it was on his account that they were in peril. However, they did not initially do so! "The men rowed hard to regain the shore, but they could not, for the sea was growing more and more stormy around them." They called out to God, "Do not compel us to kill an innocent person!" Despite what Jonah told them, they did not wish to take his life to spare their own. However, since the situation was unbearable, they reluctantly cast him overboard.

So Jonah landed where he did not intend to be: in the metropolis of Nineveh, only to discover that its king had proclaimed: "Let all turn back (*shuvah*) from their evil ways and from the injustice of which they are guilty." God immediately renounced the punishment for their unspecified transgressions.

Jonah was perturbed by this display of mercy ("Isn't this just what I said and why I fled [toward Tarshish]? I know that You are compassionate and gracious, abounding in love and renouncing punishment") and he was so petulant that he told God: "I would rather die than live to see this [display of Your mercy]!" He then stomped off to a place where he could sit and observe the city from afar, and built a booth to give him shade. God then provided a gourd that grew from the ground to give Jonah shade for his head—though it's strange that it was necessary to do so since the booth was already in place—and we read that "Jonah was very happy about the plant."

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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

Barry Boise, Vice President
215-635-9042

Jeremy Wintroub, Secretary
215-906-9063

Bart Weiner, Treasurer
215-233-4712

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director
215-635-3110

David Monblatt
Director of Education
215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler
Nursery School Director
215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist
215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:
Congregation Kol Ami
8201 High School Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (for example, by October 5 for the November issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed. Photographs/images to be included should be at least 2x3" in size and 300 DPI resolution to ensure good reproduction. ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(continued from page 3)

However, the next day at dawn, a worm attacked the plant and it withered. The sun beat down upon Jonah—presumably the booth had crumbled from the wind—and Jonah was so despondent that he once again begged for death. God took him to task, asking the rhetorical question: “You care about a plant that you did not cultivate. Should I not care about Nineveh in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons?”

People are precious.

Teshuvah matters.

Revelation, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz teaches, “can occur in a moment, by a slight alteration of one’s perspective or will, for example, by consenting to be a dwelling place for the Divine.”

Shalom u’vrachab,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

October 5 - Noach

Genesis 6:9-11:32, Isaiah 66:1-24

October 12 - Lech-Lecha

Genesis 12:1-17:27, Isaiah 40:27-41:16

October 19 - Vayera

Genesis 18:1-22:24, II Kings 4:1-37

October 26 - Chayeh Sarah

Genesis 23:1-25:18, I Kings 1:1-31 ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Edward Sickles, III

The Wit Family

May his memory forever be a blessing in the midst of our People. ■

BAT MITZVAH OF REBECCA LANGMAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, AT 5:30 P.M.



Becca is in the eighth grade at Wissahickon Middle School. Her favorite subjects are Social Studies and Math. Her extracurricular activities include travel soccer and track, as well as tennis lessons. She enjoys drawing, writing, and having quality time with her family.

“Some of my volunteer activities at our religious school are participation in the Stop Hunger Now program as well as collecting gifts for underprivileged kids during *Hanukkah*. During these volunteer times, I feel that I am helping out a lot of kids and getting closer to my community. I have participated in performing *mitzvot* on behalf of the Jewish Relief Agency, and I loved doing so because I had the opportunity to meet the people I was helping.

“I also participate every year in the Susan G. Komen Walk because I get to see all the people who want to help, including me. For my *Mitzvah* Project, I have made meals for homeless families and served meals in a soup kitchen. I also collected items for shelters.

“I enjoy being Jewish because I feel that the history and culture of Judaism teach valuable life lessons. For example, Moses led our people out of Egypt. This is indirectly teaching us that you should think of others before you think of yourself. Moses did not leave Egypt to personally escape slavery; he took the time and made the effort to help everyone else escape as well.

“My most recent powerful experience occurred this past August when I went to Israel with my family and saw Jerusalem for the first time. I was on a little ledge, overlooking the whole city of Jerusalem, when I realized where I was and how lucky I was to be there. I noticed a few people crying, including my grandmother. I realized that my ancestors fought for a country that I now felt I was really part of. This experience affected me so positively because I finally understood so much I had previously learned. Also, I knew that I could live my experience in Jerusalem for those who could not.

“I returned from Israel feeling a lot different than I had before. I felt like I was really a part of their country and that when I left, a piece of me stayed. I feel that I will better understand everything I learn in the future with the new information and experiences I have had. I want to go back as soon as possible, so the learning experiences can continue. I know now that I belong in Israel.

“I chose to chant from Genesis 9:1-5 and 11:1-7 of my *Torah* Portion. The *Torah* Portion is about Noah’s ark. The verses describe how God destroyed the earth because there was too much evil, and God gave Noah and his sons the opportunity to return it to where it was once before. When Noah and his sons multiplied and began to repopulate the earth, I thought about how important an individual’s life can be, and that each person is unique to him or herself.”

We congratulate Becca’s parents, Chuck and Laurie, and her brothers, Andy and Sam. Sam celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* at Kol Ami on October 22, 2011, and is a student in our Confirmation Academy. ■

Adult Learning Opportunities at Kol Ami

Continuing Jewish Education

Adult Torah Chanting Program

Instructor: Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz
Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Begins October 2 for 10 Sessions

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

Jonah: Biblical Midrash - Scared to be Jewish

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot
Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
October 23 & 30, November 6 & 13 (4 Sessions)



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

RSVP to the Synagogue Office by October 16.

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



Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin
Tuesday evenings
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
October 29; November 5, 12 & 19
(4 Sessions)

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

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

Please acquire a copy of his book in advance of the course. RSVP to the Synagogue Office by October 22.

Hebrew 101

Instructor: Mr. David Monblatt
Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
November 7, 14 & 21; December 5, 12 & 19
(6 Sessions)

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

RSVP to the Synagogue Office by October 30. ■

Kol Ami Events

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE for October Birthday & Anniversary Blessings Friday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m.



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

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



NATAL (*nab'tahl*), the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, addresses post-traumatic stress disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty that war and the threat of war bring. In addition,

NATAL reaches out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals. Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on **Tuesday, October 8**, and **Tuesday, November 5**.

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, October 31**, and **Thursday, November 21**.

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

American Friends of NATAL

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

Unemployment Information Center

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

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

BLESSING OF PETS

Saturday, October 5, at 2:00 p.m.

“All wildlife after their kind, all herd animals after their kind, all crawling things that crawl upon the earth after their kind, all fowl after their kind, all chirping things, all winged things, they came to Noah into the ark, male and female they came” (Genesis 7:14-15).

What could be more appropriate on *Shabbat* Noah and the story of the ark than to gather with our pets to bless them? Join Rabbi Holin and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz on the meadow as we sing and bless our pets at our annual Blessing of Pets!

‘ADULT-ONLY’ MARTINI SERVICE AND SPICES

Saturday, October 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



We’ll supply the hors d’oeuvres and you supply the mixing devices, hard liquor, and mixers (and/or beer or wine). Causal attire is appropriate for this service.

5:30 p.m. - Martinis and Hors d’oeuvres

7:00 p.m. - Singing and *Havdalah* Service

7:30 p.m. - Continued Celebration

So that we can ensure enough hors d’oeuvres for everyone, please RSVP to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org by October 5.

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

Studies with Carol Nemeroff

Monday, October 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Spiritual Growth Group continues its studies with Carol Nemeroff and extends an invitation for you to join them. Attendance at the earlier sessions is NOT required to attend now; each one is unique and stands on its own.

Please come and check out what the group's doing; participation in this might help if you're interested in finding more spiritual meaning in our Kol Ami activities.

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

"ISH" BEER TASTING

Saturday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen (Elkins Park)

Please bring a six-pack of your favorite brew and a snack to share and join the "ish" group. This group is a fun way for young-ish (young at heart, people with young children, and those of us who are fooling ourselves into believing we are still young) congregants to spend time together and create a social network with each other. This group organizes activities based on collective adult interests and provides opportunities to build relationships. Participants are diverse in life stages—some are married or in committed relationships, some have families, some are single. All are interested in building community within our congregation and growing together.

Please RSVP to Sherry Cohen at 215-885-2436 by October 16 if you plan to attend.

DON'T MISS THIS SWEET LOCA EVENT! CHOCOLOCA TASTING PARTY

Sunday, October 20, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
at the home of Natalie Dyen
2250 Country Club Drive, Huntingdon Valley

Skip breakfast and lunch and come hungry. Please plan to bring one of the following items:

- Your favorite gourmet chocolate (we're not talking Hershey's here), or
- Your best homemade chocolate creation (only the yummiest), or
- Cut up fruit or angel food cake for our chocolate fountain.

Space is limited, so RSVP no later than October 10 to Elaine Gershenson (215-887-3994 or gershlaw@comcast.net) and let her know what you'll be bringing. ■

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

SAVE THESE DATES!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PTO EVENTS

- **Bake Sales:** October 13, December 15, March 30, and April 27
- **Pancake Breakfasts:** November 17 and February 23

SCRIP PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING

Congregation Kol Ami Scrip is an easy way to raise money for Kol Ami just by continuing to do your regular shopping. There's no selling. No buying things you don't really want. Just go to the stores you would shop at anyway.

Whole Foods, Acme, Genuardi's, and Target are available for immediate pick up each week in \$25.00 increments. Other stores include:

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



There are more than 600 additional retailers and services available.

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

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

Social Action Opportunity

COME OUT ON **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, AT 10:00 A.M.** TO HELP SORT, PACK, AND DELIVER FOOD TO NEEDY FAMILIES AT THE JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTER!



The Jewish Relief Agency is a dynamic, volunteer-driven organization whose goal is to help Jews in need. Since its

founding in 2000, JRA has been bringing together individuals of all means, ages, and backgrounds each month in a spirit of community and *tikun olam*. 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 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 you're interested, directions to the JRA Distribution Center can be found at <http://www.jewishrelief.org/directions.asp>. See you there!

Questions: Contact Shelley Chamberlain at 215-635-1738 or Ronit Sugar at 215-635-0390. ■



to be held at
**CONGREGATION
RODEPH SHALOM**
615 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA

PLAN TO JOIN US / REGISTER NOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013
from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Hazon, along with local leaders and partners including Congregation Kol Ami, is presenting a one-day food festival in Philadelphia to bring people across the local Jewish community together to explore the dynamic interplay of food, sustainability, Jewish traditions, and contemporary life as well as to celebrate Philadelphia's unique Jewish food culture.

The festival will include

- A full day of presenters; panels; and hands-on, DIY workshops for all ages
- A dynamic *shuk* (market)
- Delicious, kosher, vegetarian lunch

To register, visit www.hazon.org/programs/foodfestival/hazon-food-festival-philadelphia/

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



**American
Red Cross**



Congregation Kol Ami

**American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, October 28, 2013
from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

*TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU CANNOT GIVE BLOOD ELSEWHERE AFTER SEPTEMBER 2.
PLEASE SAVE YOUR BLOOD FOR US!*

8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

To scheduled an appointment of if you have questions about it,
please contact Jean Ettinger at 215-635-3623
or jeanettinger@gmail.com

For further info call 1-800-RED-CROSS

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | RedCrossBlood.org



DENIM & *Diamonds*

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Saturday, January 11, 2014
7pm - 11pm
Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

WINNINGS PROVIDED AS RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR FANTASTIC PRIZES!

\$30/person in advance

\$40 at the door

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

FOR TICKETS:

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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



"CHAI" CHAPEL WALL COVERING



The new wall covering, which was created to celebrate Congregation Kol Ami's 18th anniversary, was hung in the Chapel in August 2013. The three trees represent those in our front meadow, which shade us during our summer *erev Shabbat* services. The covering was designed by Ellen Asam, Sara Reiter, Robin Rifkin, and Ilene Schafer. ■

URJ BIENNIAL 2013

IN SAN DIEGO FROM DECEMBER 11-15

The Union for Reform Judaism is the congregational arm of Reform Judaism in North America, representing an estimated 1.5 million Jews and 900 congregations.

This year's URJ Biennial will welcome thousands of members of Reform synagogues to experience the joy of learning, sharing, and networking in ways that enable participants to return to their home congregations with new ideas and successful programs to enrich synagogue life.

Add to the mix the spirit of "*Shabbat* at Biennial" with voices raised in song and the special energy and excitement of being together with members of other Reform synagogues—the Biennial is the place to be!

President Jeff Cohen and his wife, Ellen Friedman, will lead our delegation. Please let Jeff know if you plan to attend by contacting him at president@kolamielkinspark.org or 215-635-3232. To learn more and to register, go to www.urj.org and sign up. ■

ADRIAN MARTINEZ: GALLERY ARTIST UNTIL OCTOBER 21



Adrian Martinez was born in Philadelphia, PA, but grew up in Washington, DC. He studied painting and printmaking and received degrees from the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore, MD (BFA), St. Martins School of Art in London, England (CS) and Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN (MA).

His work is in public and private collections all over the United States and Europe. President George W. and Mrs. Laura Bush commissioned him to paint not only two large landscapes commemorating the National Parks theme in 2007, but also the design for the 2001 White House Holiday Card, an 8-by-18-foot mural for the White House in 2003, and a series of drawings for Camp David in 2005.

In 2010, Adrian was invited to Ankara University in Turkey to the Artist in Residence Symposium and two of his paintings are now part of the Ankara University collection. Some of his other public works include an 8-by-16-foot mural installed at Marshall High School in Marshall, TX, and a 10-by-20-foot mural that depicts the history of the Waggoner Ranch in the Red River Valley Museum in Vernon, TX. Lastly, he was commissioned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to commemorate St. John Neumann and St. Katharine Drexel with an etching in early 2000.

Adrian currently lives with his wife, Leah, their son, Sebastian, and three cats in Downingtown. He is a member of Downingtown Friends Meeting and is on the Board of Trustees for Old Caln Meetinghouse.

The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If the religious school is closed on those days, the gallery is closed as well. Also, all of Adrian's works are for sale, and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the synagogue. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece. ■

2014 KOL AMI TRIPS TO ISRAEL WITH THE RABBI

(continued from page 1)

ISRAEL FAMILY TRIP 2014 (CONTINUED):

Wednesday, August 20 – The Galilee (Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel):

- Visit Caesaria and its ancient Roman amphitheatre Beit Shearim: the remnants of a prosperous town from the era of King Herod
- See the mystical city and wonderful art galleries in Tzefat

Thursday, August 21 – The Galilee (Kibbutz Hagoshrim Hotel):

- Travel to the Golan Heights by Jeep
- Tour the Kibbutz Ein Zavan's De Karina Chocolate Factory
- Take a kayak ride down the Jordan River
- Have dinner with soldiers of the IDF to hear their views about army life and life in Israel

Friday, August 22 – On our way to Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza [former Sheraton] Hotel):

- Tour Tiberias and an ancient synagogue with a beautiful mosaic floor
- Take an agricultural bio-tour at Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu, pioneers in organic farming
- Ascend to Jerusalem

Saturday, August 23 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel):

- Enjoy a *Shabbat* walking tour to the Tower of David Museum in the Old City of Jerusalem
- Travel through the Old City along the Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Arab Market and Jewish Quarter, and Western Wall

Sunday, August 24 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel):

- Visit Ammunition Hill, the jump-off point from which the IDF reunified Jerusalem in 1967 (new A/V presentation)
- Travel to the Old City and see its Southern Wall excavations
- Visit the Davidson Center for a computerized visualization of the ancient Temple
- Walk through Hezekiah's water tunnel and hear about its historic significance
- Take an evening walk through the *Kotel* (Western Wall) underground tunnels

Monday, August 25 – South of Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel):

- Ascend Masada along its Snake Path or by cable car
- Hear about the history of Masada, Josephus, and Eleazar ben Yair
- Attend a brief service of celebration with *Torah* verses read or chanted by adult travelers and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* students and students-to-be!
- Take a camel ride through the desert, followed by a Bedouin lunch
- Float in the Dead Sea and have a mud bath

Tuesday, August 26 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel):

Visit *Yad Vashem* (the Holocaust Remembrance Museum and Children's Memorial) and *Har Herzl* (the Israel's military cemetery and resting place for many of its political leaders) or choose these alternatives for young children:

- Check out the Jerusalem Bird Conservatory
- Tour the Shrine of the Book/Dead Sea Scrolls and Israel Museum
- Visit in the play-and-create area



Wednesday, August 27 – from Jerusalem to America:

- Attend the "Can You Dig This?" archeological experience at Beit Guvrin and "cave crawl"
- Visit Latrun
- Return to the hotel to swim and pack

2014 ISRAEL ADULT TRIP:

Leave Philadelphia on Sunday, October 19; return on Thursday, October 30

(night flight from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 19, arriving in Tel Aviv on Monday, October 20, at 3:30 p.m.; return night flight from Tel Aviv on Wednesday, October 29, at 11:30 p.m., arriving in Philadelphia on Thursday, October 30, at 5:15 a.m.)

Monday, October 20 – Tel Aviv (Carlton Hotel on the beach)

- Arrive in Israel mid-afternoon
- Take an evening walk along the beach to Tel Aviv's new harbor to enjoy a Welcome-to-Israel dinner by the Mediterranean Ocean

Tuesday, October 21 – Tel Aviv (Carlton Hotel on the beach)

- Visit the Rabin Museum to explore the history of the modern State of Israel and the life of Yitzchak Rabin
- See the Gachal-Machal exhibit at the Palmach Museum, dedicated to those who spilled off of ships that ran the British Blockade and those who came from internment camps in Cyprus to fight for Israel's independence
- Browse the open-air arts-and-crafts street fair of Nachalat Binyamin
- Enjoy free time to relax and swim in the Mediterranean
- Eat dinner at a Blackout Restaurant served in a completely dark environment by blind waiters, followed by theatre at *Na Laga'at* (Please Do Touch), a play performed by Israelis who are deaf and blind



Wednesday, October 22 – Tzefat [Safed] (Ruth Rimonim Hotel)

- Visit Zichron Ya'akov, a lovely refurbished town that dates back to the 1800s
- See the Museum of the First Aliya
- Tour Yemin Orde Youth Village and its Educational and Absorption Center dedicated to giving at-risk youth high-quality care and education: home to 500 immigrant children, ages 6-19 from around the world, the majority from Ethiopia
- Stop in at Zippori, one of the main centers of the ancient Sanhedrin, and see some of Israel's historic mosaic floors
- Travel to Safed, the seat of Jewish mysticism in Israel and a magnet for spiritual searchers

Thursday, October 23 – Tzefat [Safed] (Ruth Rimonim Hotel)

- Ascend Golan Heights that overlooks Israel's Hula Valley
- Tour the Valley of Tears, site of a major tank battle in the *Yom Kippur* War of 1973, that overlooks the Israel-Syrian border
- Visit El Rom to experience a unique presentation of the story of Brigade 7 fighting on the Golan, stopping the Syrian Army during the *Yom Kippur* War
- Meet with soldiers of the IDF to hear their thoughts about army life and life in Israel
- Enjoy a wine tasting at the Assaf Winery where seven different types of grapes are grown for wine
- Return to Safed to wander its narrow, winding streets; visit its small synagogues; and browse artists' galleries

Friday, October 24 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel)

- Travel to Tiberias and visit the tombs of Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva, and other famous sages
- Check out the observation point overlooking Jericho and view the Dead Sea and mountains of Moab in the distance
- Visit Kasser El Yahud, a beautiful monastery and the site where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on their way to the Promised Land
- Ascend to Jerusalem onto Mount Scopus, site of Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital
- Attend welcome *Shabbat* at the *Kotel* (Western Wall)

Saturday, October 25 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel)

- Take a walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, starting at Jaffa Gate to Mount Zion and the site traditionally viewed as the Tomb of King David
- Visit the room of the Last Supper, the Christian Quarter, Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Continue our walk through Mishkenot Shananeem, the first Jewish neighborhood outside the walls of the Old City, developed by Moses Montefiore
- Enjoy the Sound and Light Spectacular Show at David's Tower in the evening

Sunday, October 26 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel)

- Take a docent-led tour of the Knesset
- Tour the Supreme Court
- See the Chagall Windows at Hadassah Medical Center
- Choose one of the following two activities:
 - Visit the Israel Museum
 - Return to the Old City, visit the Davidson Center and its computerized visual of the Temple as it looked in ancient times, and then enjoy shopping in the Jewish Quarter and adjacent areas of the Old City

Monday, October 27 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel)

Choose one of the following two activities:

- Take a taxi to Yad Vashem to tour the archive center, memorial, and museum dedicated to those who fell during the Holocaust, and visit the adjacent Har Herzl military cemetery where Theodor Herzl, elected leaders of Israel, and those who died defending the State of Israel are buried
- Take a bus ride and travel south to visit these four sites:
 - Etzion Bloc (Gush Etzion) to tour one of four West Bank settlements that played a critical role in the defense of Jerusalem during the War of Independence
 - Efrat, a community south of Jerusalem, to meet with local residents and hear about their experiences and politics
 - Kfar Tzion to see a documentary about the struggle of the Gush Etzion settlements during the Jordanian invasion
 - Herodian (at the edge of the Judean Desert) to see a fortified mountain palace built by Herod—and named after himself—that played a significant role during the revolt against the Romans in 66-77CE; in the lower part of Herodian is the remnant of a luxurious palace that was constructed at the center of a large garden and contained impressive buildings, a bathhouse, and pools.

Tuesday, October 28 – Jerusalem (Leonardo Plaza Hotel)

- Head into the Negev to Beersheva (one of Israel's largest absorption centers for new immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia) and to Sde Boker to see where David ben Gurion lived and where he is buried
- Visit a solar-energy farm, view a short movie that explains the techniques, and see energy-saving ideas and techniques made real

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Kol Ami Committees

JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

The committees and social groups described below offer the opportunity to become more involved. Take a moment to read this information and feel free to contact the chairpersons with any questions or to sign up.

<p>Adult Education Committee</p> <p>This committee promotes educational activities and programs for our congregation and the community, including continuing Jewish education classes with Rabbi Holin and programs with guest lecturers.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Michael Chernoff - 215-677-8896 or mchernoff@verizon.net Alan Gershenson - 215-887-3994 or gershlaw1@comcast.net</p>	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>This committee monitors the financial position of the synagogue. Included in this process is evaluation of financial statements, creation of the annual budget, monitoring performance versus budget, cost control, analysis of dues structure, fund-raising, all insurance matters, maintaining banking relationships and interacting with our banks, analysis of the fund accounts, and the creation of strategic partnerships.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Marshall Schafer - 215-663-0228 or mschafer21@comcast.net Bart Weiner - 215-233-4712 or bart.weiner@gmail.com</p>
<p>Art and Design Committee</p> <p>The role of this committee is to define the aesthetic goals of the Congregation and to present design options that are consistent with those goals. The committee also monitors "The Gallery at Kol Ami," a six- or eight-week rotation of art by regional artists to grace our lobby walls, and supervises artwork installations, scheduling, and show openings.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Karol Appel - 215-938-9330 or a1karol@comcast.net</p>	<p>Inclusion Committee</p> <p>This committee evaluates, develops, and recommends to the Board of Trustees policies and procedures concerning the inclusion and participation of all people, regardless of physical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral ability, in all areas of Congregation Kol Ami religious and communal life.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Barry Boise - 215-635-9042 or boiseb@pepperlaw.com Joel Fishbein - 215-635-3615 or jfishbein@lawsgr.com</p>
<p>Caring Congregants Committee</p> <p>This committee reaches out to members in times of celebration, sympathy, lifecycle events, and transitions (births, birthdays, hospitalizations, death, or extraordinary needs) and develops activities to sustain this important outreach. This program provides a consistent means for members to recognize and respond to one another during important times in each other's lives.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Linda George - 215-782-1413 or lindasgeorge@gmail.com Elaine Gershenson - 215-887-3994 or gershlaw@comcast.net</p>	<p>Interfaith Relationship Dialogue</p> <p>This committee provides an inclusive and open environment in meetings with Rabbi Holin to discuss challenges unique to interfaith relationships; it provides programming to educate and address interfaith issues; and welcomes new interfaith couples/families to our congregation.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Dan and Linda George – 215-783-1413 or lindasgeorge@gmail.com</p>
<p>Choir</p> <p>If you enjoy singing, then our Adult or Student Choirs are for you. The choirs meet every Sunday. Our Student Choir is for children in grades 2 through 6. Your commitment to our choir benefits our Kol Ami community and choir members have lots of fun. The choir is led by Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz.</p> <p><u>Contact:</u> Rebecca Schwartz - 215-572-6094 or rebeccasongs@verizon.net</p>	<p>ISH</p> <p>This group is a fun way for young-ish (young at heart, people with young children, those of us who are fooling ourselves into believing we are still young) congregants to spend time together and create a social network with each other. It organizes activities based on collective adult interests and provides opportunities to build relationships. Participants are diverse in life stages; all are interested in building community within our congregation.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Sheryl Cohen - 215-885-2436 or shcohen361@verizon.net Heather Pelletier - 215-855-3216 or hfpt1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Environmental Stewardship Committee</p> <p>This committee develops and provides educational, action, and advocacy programs on sustainability issues and topics, in liaison with other standing committees and in coalition with the Jewish Climate Change Campaign and other Jewish organizations. It also provides policy recommendations and promotes efficient, economic, and sustainable practices to our Board of Trustees.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mark Kaplan - 215-635-2920 or sustainability@kolamielkinspark.org</p>	<p>IT/Technology Committee</p> <p>This committee advises the congregation on technology issues including: procuring equipment, maintaining our Web site, and establishing and maintaining general technology support.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Ellen Asam - 215-635-5598 or basam@comcast.net David Chamberlain- 215-635-1738 or dschamberlain@comcast.net</p>

<p>Ladies of a Certain Age (LOCA)</p> <p>This group provides opportunities for women 50ish and older to spend time together and build relationships. Activities include cultural outings in and around Philadelphia and lots of opportunities to schmooze at food-centered events. As participants get to know each other better, individuals within the group may discover mutual interests such as opera or ecology, which they can explore together.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Natalie Dyen - 215-657-4124 or nat.dyen@verizon.net Jean Ettinger - 215-635-3623 or jeanettinger@gmail.com Elaine Gershenson - 215-887-3994 or gershlaw@comcast.net</p>	<p>Religious School PTO</p> <p>The primary function of this group is to support the school-wide programming within the religious school and to run fund-raising events. They provide the help needed for such events as the <i>Hanukkah</i> bash, the Passover learning day and Bingo Night. The group meets once a month during religious school hours.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Kenny Moss - 215-277-5335 or kenny.moss2@comcast.net Heather Pelletier - 215-855-3216 or hfppt1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Landscape and Property Enhancement Committee</p> <p>This committee is responsible for the groundskeeping and various beautification projects, including the development of additional property uses, i.e., meditation garden.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Guy Appel - 215-938-9330 or gappel@interphaseme.com</p>	<p>Social Action Committee</p> <p>This committee develops programs to address the needs, or alleviate the suffering, of individuals in our local community, the nation, and the world in the spirit of <i>Tikun Olam</i>. The committee also strives to develop relationships with local Jewish community organizations and interfaith groups.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Shelly Chamberlain - 215-635-1738 or dschamberlain@comcast.net Ronit Sugar - 215-635-0390 or ronitsugar@gmail.com</p>
<p>Library Committee</p> <p>The mission of the committee is to work with the Operations Committee and others to develop and organize our library for use by adults and children and to plan for its utilization by members of our congregation.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Mike Chernoff - 215-677-8896 or mchernoff@verizon.net Lee Laden - 215-582-9642 or leeladen@comcast.net</p>	<p>Softball</p> <p>As a member of the Delaware Valley Synagogue Softball League, our softball team offers our members an opportunity to have a fun and competitive summer. The league requires you to be at least 18 years of age. Men and women are encouraged to join.</p> <p><u>Captain:</u> Eric Pelletier - 215-855-3216 or esppt1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Membership Committee</p> <p>This committee works to identify prospective members and encourages them to join our dynamic and intimate community through maintaining contact, inviting participation, and sharing knowledge of the synagogue. The committee also oversees programs designed to retain members.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Julie Cohen - 215-635-4716 or julie@juliecohencoaching.com Robin Warsaw - 215-635-5839 or rkwsaw@comcast.net</p>	<p>Spiritual Growth Group</p> <p>The Spiritual Growth Group provides a welcome, intimate, and un-intimidating way to explore God and spirituality. We engage in down-to-earth discussions about spirituality in our lives and use a multi-faceted approach to our exploration of faith, including creative writing and listening to music. We have developed creative services for the congregation, and our members have presented <i>dvar Torahs</i> at <i>Shabbat</i> services.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Natalie Dyen - 215-657-4124 or nat.dyen@verizon.net Janet Falon - 215-635-1698 or jfalton@english.upenn.edu</p>
<p>Operations Committee</p> <p>This committee is responsible for developing policies and procedures for operating the facility, including but is not limited to: facility issues, personnel concerns, and regulatory and risk management issues.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Guy Appel - 215-938-9330 or gappel@interphaseme.com Jeremy Wintroub - 215-906-9063 or jwintroub@gmail.com</p>	<p>Worship Enhancement Committee</p> <p>This committee is charged with understanding the worship needs of all our congregants. It develops ideas and recommendations on how best to meet those needs, within the limits of our by-laws and in conjunction with the Rabbi's guidance. In addition, the committee is accountable for the ongoing development and quality of the worship experience (<i>Shabbat</i> and High Holy Days) including music/choirs, use of the Sanctuary and Chapel, integration of our prayer book, <i>Mishkan T'filah</i>, dedicated youth services, and any other ideas for improving the worship experience and attracting more congregants to worship.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Mindy Levy - 215-885-3672 or artb4words@verizon.net William Shapiro - 215-517-8666 or bpswds@verizon.net ■</p>
<p>Religious School Committee</p> <p>In consultation with David Monblatt, our Director of Education, and Rabbi Holin, this committee develops grade-level programs, has ongoing dialogues between parents and this committee, supports the Youth Groups and the Family Education programs, and suggests policies for the governance and operation of our school.</p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Sheryl Cohen - 215-885-2436 or shcohen361@verizon.net Barbara Fink - 215-886-2297 or bfink3@gmail.com</p>	

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

By Jeffrey Schwartz

During Summer 2013, Jeffrey Schwartz was Head Song-leader at Crane Lake Camp. Jeff was a camper, Machonik, and counselor at Crane Lake Camp as well. During the Spring of 2013, Jeff was called upon by Gift of Life to become a bone marrow donor because of a camp drive that took place during Summer 2012.



Jeff Schwartz (left) and Debby Shriber, Crane Lake Camp Director at the beginning of Summer 2013

In the summer of 2012, a representative from the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry came to Crane Lake Camp. She gave a short presentation to our staff and encouraged us to get our cheeks swabbed for the registry. The only thing I remember about it now is that the staff members at our camp, mostly between the ages of 18 and 25, were of the ideal age to donate and that there was about a 2% chance I'd make it to the next step. In less than an hour, the entire task was done; and I quickly forgot that I had even participated in the drive.

One day in March 2013, I was eating lunch in the kosher dining hall during my junior spring semester at Cornell University when I received a phone call that I was a potential match. At that point, they asked me to go to the campus clinic for a blood test. There was about a 30% chance I'd be a match, and they said I'd hear back from them in 6 to 12 weeks after the test. They sent me a thank-you note and a lapel pin for completing that stage. I figured I'd hear back from them around the end of the semester, and quickly forgot the whole thing once again, as I dove back into my crazy schedule.

Four weeks later, in mid-April, I received another call: they were absolutely certain that I was a match for a 62-year-old man with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). This

was not what I had bargained for. On top of my regular coursework, I had a physics exam and daily rehearsals for two choral groups, and now I had to sit in on an hour-long informational conference call and skip classes to plan a last-minute flight to Detroit. In order to donate bone marrow, I needed to be cleared for the surgery in the clinic where the harvest would be performed, Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. The cancer center in NY was closer, but it was booked until June, and the recipient of my bone marrow did not have that kind of time.

They told me during the conference call that I could opt out of the donation at any time. I found that offer very tempting. I'll admit I wasn't driven to donate by the sense that I was doing a great thing. All I knew was that I was outrageously stressed out, that I was falling behind in all my schoolwork in spite of my professors being very flexible and understanding throughout the process, that I didn't know my concert music, and that the Gift of Life people wouldn't tell me what kind of chance the recipient would have to survive the procedure. The only thing that kept me going was the logical awareness that whatever I was going through could never be as bad as leukemia.

It might sound silly that I was so focused on school, but as a college student, I felt conditioned by the environment to believe that everything you are doing is the most important thing in the world—until something actually important pops up...something like donating bone marrow.

Next thing I knew it was April 17, 2013. I was in Detroit, my physics exam rescheduled to an undecided date in favor of my physical exam at Karmanos Cancer Center. That morning, I had made friends with Monty the taxi driver, who had a very nice Chevy Suburban. He was the only cab driver I used during both of my trips to Detroit because he was now the first and only soul I knew in Detroit. Monty brought me to Karmanos, where I underwent a series of tests, including blood tests, a chest x-ray, an EKG, and a standard physical exam. Somewhere during that time when the physician's assistants had asked me how I was doing, I told him I was fine except that I was extremely stressed out and that I felt I didn't have time for any of this.

Then the doctor came in to examine me. He didn't say "hi." He said, in a thick accent, something along these lines: "You said you don't have time for any of this. You don't have to do this. Why do you think you're the only one who can donate to this recipient?" I was very confused by this statement because I never considered that there could be anyone else. To be honest, I'm still under the impression that he was lying. He continued, as if reading my mind: "I know that you're a good guy; otherwise, you wouldn't be here. You'll still be a good person if you decide not to do this. I'm telling

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KOL AMI OCTOBER 2013 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Junior Youth Group Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Grades K-2 Family Education Program 11:30 a.m. - Consecration Service 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m.	7	8 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	10 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Howard Bogot 7:30 p.m.	11 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	12 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. "Adult-Only" Martini Havdalah Service 5:30 p.m.
		1 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	2 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	3 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Howard Bogot 7:30 p.m.	4 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "First-Friday" erev Shabbat Service and an evening of gratitude to our synagogue's elected leaders 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir participation	5 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Blessing of Pets 2:00 p.m. Bat Mizvah of Rebecca Langman 5:30 p.m.

KOL AMI OCTOBER 2013 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 BAKE SALE Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:15 a.m. - Grade 4 <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> Parent Meeting 11:00 a.m. - Grade 6 <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> Student and Parent Meeting 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal	14 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	15 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	16 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	17 Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Howard Bogot 7:30 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	18 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Fun for Kids" erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. Student Choir Participation erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	19 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue Neal Beatus will present the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m. "ISH" Beer Tasting 7:00 p.m. Home of Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen
20 Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. ChocoLOCA Tasting Party 1:30 p.m. Home of Natalie Dyen	21 Nursery School Parent Night 7:00 p.m.	22 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m.	23 Nursery School Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Howard Bogot 10:00 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	24	25 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service with Grade 3 Participation 7:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - BYOD	26 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
27 Student Trope Class 9:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School PTO Meeting 10:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m.	28 Nursery School Music 9:30 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 2:00 p.m.	29 Nursery School Fitness 9:30 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m. Social Action Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.	30 Nursery School Apple Press Program 10:00 a.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Howard Bogot 10:00 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.	31		

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.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

**Bat Mitzvah of our daughter,
Becca, and our 25th wedding
anniversary**

*Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer
Langman*

**Fifth anniversary of our
children, Jeremy and Laura
Wintroub**

*David and Jean Gumpert
Gregory and Jane Wintroub*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**The marriage of our daughter,
Kate, to Christopher D'Amore**
George Barrett and Debbie Neimeth

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Stanton and Merle Salkin

In Honor of:

**Special anniversary of
Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin**
Jerome and Marsha Schwartz

In Memory of:

Selma Haschemeyer
Harold and Shirley Horowitz

Theodore Isen
Craig and Sharon Myers ■



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

2014 KOL AMI TRIPS TO ISRAEL

(continued from page 12)

ISRAEL ADULT TRIP 2014 (CONTINUED):

Tuesday, October 28 (continued)

- Arrive at Mizpe Ramon—the biggest crater in the world and of considerable geological interest with diverse wildlife in their natural habitat (snakes, oxen, wolves, leopards, and herds of ibex and gazelle)—and meet one of the country's experts on deserts, who will descend with us by Jeep to the heart of the Ramon Crater to study the botany, zoology, paleontology, and geology of the region

Note: Mizpe Ramon is dedicated to the memory of astronaut Ilan Ramon, killed on the reentry accident of the Columbia mission in 2003.



Wednesday, October 29 – Night flight to Philadelphia

- Participate in a unique exploration and learning experience about the Temple's glorious past at Emek Zurim and the Temple Mount Sifting Project
- Visit the site of a strategic fortification that saw hand-to-hand combat between Israeli paratroopers and Jordanian legionnaires at Givat-Hatahmoshet (Ammunition Hill), the main Jordanian outpost on the Jerusalem front during the War of Independence, which was critical to Israel's drive to reclaim the Old City and reunify Jerusalem
- Pay respects in Arazim Park at a monument dedicated to the victims of the 9/11/2001 World Trade Center attacks, which was built from the original metal pieces brought from the remains of the Twin Towers and lists the names of all those who died
- Return to hotel for late checkout: the remainder of the day is yours for last-minute shopping prior to dinner on the way to the airport ■

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE (continued from page 16)

you this because I'm here to look after your health, not the other guy's. I care about the other guy's health, but he has his own doctor to look after him. I'm here for you. If you want, you can walk out of here right now."

I think at that point, I broke down crying and told him about my coursework, exams, concerts, and that I felt Gift of Life was making the process as difficult as possible for me. And then I told him I still wanted to donate. It was then that I finally accepted that I actually had to drop everything else in order to do this.

I'll never forget what he said after that: "You're a good man. It's hard to be good." It's not that I found this statement particularly surprising. What was so jarring about the statement was that I had said the exact same thing to one of my campers the summer before. I realized I never really knew the full meaning of the statement, "it's hard to be good," until that doctor said it to me in that exam room.

During the next two weeks, I traveled to Syracuse twice to donate two units of blood to myself for the procedure. Then I flew back to Detroit, this time with my Aunt Linda. I arrived in Detroit on May 1, and then to the hospital for the procedure on May 2 at 6:00 a.m. Once I was there, I answered some questions, put on a hospital gown, went through a few more blood tests, and fell asleep from a sedative before they even put me under anesthesia. When I came to, I hadn't even realized they'd already performed the surgery. "Is it over?" I asked.

Once I had proven that I could walk, eat, and urinate, they discharged me from the hospital. The surgery made it difficult to bend over, walk up stairs or hills, or to stay standing for long periods of time. It also made me quite thankful that Monty had a very spacious and comfortable Chevy Suburban. I spent the next few days eating at all the nice Greek restaurants near the hotel, and I visited the Detroit Institute of Art before I left.

I visited with my parents in Philadelphia for a day before returning to Ithaca, where I spent the next two days recording with both of my acapella groups. And eventually, I made up that physics exam. I was back to normal activity after a week, but couldn't run around for a month. My grades ultimately did not suffer. It felt good that it was all over, and I believed I had done the right thing. I was proud of myself for the first time in a very long time.

Gift of Life sent me a care package with a duffel bag, a sweatshirt, some sticky notes, a lunchbox, and a nicer lapel pin, all of which had the Gift of Life logo. And they reimbursed me for my \$600 of expenses from all of the traveling. That felt good; it meant that I had something to show for the whole process—not for bragging, just for myself. It was honestly hard to admit to myself that I've done anything that great since my attitude was so terrible for the better part of the process. That's the one thing I'd change if I had to go back and do it again.

Just a couple of weeks after donating, they told me that the recipient of my bone marrow was discharged from the hospital. That felt really good. It meant I hadn't gone through the entire process in vain.

There was one more thing that the doctor told me before I left Karmanos. He said that I would be glad that I could look back on my decision to go through with the donation; I wouldn't need to regret deciding not to donate, or wonder what might have happened if I had. He was right.

There was once a certain Rabbi Zusia of Anapol, who was frightened by a vision he had. In the vision, he learned the question that the angels would one day ask him about his life. The question wasn't "Why weren't you a Moses?" or "Why weren't you a Joshua?" The question was "Zusia, there was only one thing that no power of heaven or earth could have prevented you from becoming. Zusia; why weren't you Zusia?" Should the angels ask me a similar question one day, I can say with confidence: "In the months of April and May 2013, I was Jeff Schwartz." ■



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TO:

