Tishri and Heshvan 5775



An Intimate And Dynamic Community

# **WORSHIP SERVICES**

FRIDAY, October 3, at 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidrei Service

# SATURDAY, October 4, at 10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur Service

10:00 a.m. - Adult Service

10:00 a.m. - Youth Service (Gr 3-7)

2:00 p.m. - Children's-Family Service

3:00 p.m. - Reflective Readings and Discussion

3:45 p.m. - Afternoon Service

5:30 p.m. - Yizkor-Neilah Service

# WEDNESDAY, October 8, 6:30 p.m.

erev Sukkot Service (see right column)

# THURSDAY, October 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Sukkot Service

# FRIDAY, October 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrating National Coming Out Day The Anniversary of the October 11, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

# The *Mishkahn* – Sanctuary and Synagogue as a Welcoming Place Speaker: Jane Tausig, member of our Congregation

We also will be joined by our Adult Choir at this "Second-Friday" *Shabbat* of birthday and anniversary blessings (see page 8)

# SATURDAY, October 11, at 10:00 p.m.

Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Goldstone (see page 4)

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Please join us as we celebrate and rejoice in the blessings of the good earth!

# OUR EREV SUKKOT OUTDOOR SERVICE UNDER THE SUKKAH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, FROM 6:30 TO 7:00 P.M. PRECEDED BY PIZZA DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS AT 6:00 P.M.

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

Kol Ami Events continued page 8

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

(continued from page 1)

# WEDNESDAY, October 15, 6:30 p.m.

Torahs Aloft on erev Simchat Torah; preceded by pizza dinner and refreshments at 6:00 p.m. (see page 11)

# THURSDAY, October 16, 10:00 a.m.

Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service (see page 11)

# FRIDAY, October 17

<u>**6:00 p.m.**</u> - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service; appropriate for all ages, it's a happy half hour with lots of music

<u>7:30 p.m.</u> - Board Installation *erev Shabbat* Service

# SATURDAY, October 18, at 10:00 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Kyra Quigley (see page 4)

# FRIDAY, October 24, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

# SATURDAY, October 25,

<u>10:00 a.m.</u> - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue; followed by a potluck lunch

**2:00 p.m.** - Blessing of Pets on *Shabbat* Noah (see page 11)

FRIDAY, October 31, at 7:30 p.m. erev Shabbat Service

# SATURDAY, November 1, 10:00 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Pelletier (see page 9)

# SUNDAY, November 2, 1:00 p.m.

Healing Service (see page 11) ■

# **MAZAL** TOV

Congratulation to **Mary LaRue and Gail Garin** on their August 11, 2014, wedding. ■

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Over the High Holy Days, the rabbi spoke eloquently about the vital link we have and must maintain with Israel how special our Kol Ami community is. I hope the Rabbi's sermons linger with you and spur you to action. Last month I wrote about engagement in the Kol Ami community and how you could deepen your engagement with Kol Ami through leadership and

sharing your capabilities, through your presence in worship, adult education and social action, and through your generosity. On October 17th at the Board Installation *Shabbat*, we will honor a number of members who have given of their leadership and served, continue to serve or have just started serving on our Board of Trustees.

Having finished two terms on the Board and service on the Executive Committee, I hope you join us on the 17th in acknowledging the blessings that are Barry Boise and Bart Weiner. Barry and Bart are both leaders who quite easily could have been President of our synagogue. They are deep thinkers, able to hear both sides of an argument, challenge our board to think critically and compassionately, and both have been wonderfully generous with their time and their financial contributions. I have been lucky to have them as trusted advisors in my first year as President, and am grateful to be able to continue to call on them for their advice and leadership. Jeremy Wintroub also left the board and our Executive Committee but only because his career took him, Laura and little Gabe off to Maplewood, NJ. We treasure all they gave to Kol Ami and look forward to welcoming them back at some time in the future, should we be so lucky.

On the 17th, we get to celebrate Lorie Slass and David Baker, the new members to your Board. Lorie and David are both seasoned marketing professionals with long histories of giving to the Kol Ami and larger community. We look forward to what they bring in terms of capabilities and interests and their passion for making Kol Ami all it can be.

We can also celebrate your current Executive Committee members and Board members. Ellen Asam is starting her 6th year on the board and her second as a Vice President. Ellen has led a variety of key initiatives including the creation of the incredible tapestry in our chapel and brings her pragmatism and experience to our HR committee and Fund Development committee. Julie Cohen is also starting her 6th year on the Board and first on Executive Committee as our other Vice President. Julie has been deeply involved in IRD, was the engine behind our incredible Interfaith Symposium two years ago and coleads our Membership efforts. Jeff Margasak is beginning his fourth year on the Board and his first year on Executive Committee as our Secretary. Jeff has been the spark and elbow grease for the Pulse, a key way we make The Voice of Our People come through loud and clear in the running of Kol Ami and co-leads our Marketing committee with Lorie. Lisa Landau just completed

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# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Maket arrives on Wednesday evening, October 8, with a personal sense of loss. On Wednesday, August 27, three of our pine and maple trees on the Meadow were taken down. A combination of bacterial leaf-scorch and lack of water led to the decision to have them removed. Fragile limbs and heavy branches presented a real threat of falling, and the risk was too great given the number of our children and adults who enjoy the Meadow.

Knowing this did not help me when I saw them on the ground, broken apart like the shells of cracked eggs. I stood alongside the largest parts of each of the three trees, placed my hands upon them, and prayerfully expressed gratitude for the shade they had provided, the strength they gave us through their stature, and their years on this planet. The arborist estimated they had been here for 100 to 150 years.

Upon seeing beautiful trees, the following blessing is said: "Blessed are You, Holy One, who has created these in our universe."

From the trees in our backyards, to towering redwoods, and the sentinels that still stand on our meadow, we give thanks for their role in the natural cycle that nourishes the planet and brings us pleasure.

On *Sukkot*, ever mindful of the symbolism of the fragile *sukkah* and what it represents, we pause to reflect upon the blessings that surround us, mindful of the teaching in the *Midrash*: "When God created Adam and Eve, they were shown all the trees of the Garden of Eden and told: 'See my works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. Everything that I created, I created it for you. Be careful not to spoil or destroy My world - for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it."

I remind myself to be mindful of blessings that surrounds me.

Chag sameach, brachah v'shalom, Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



# **SYNAGOGUE** LEADERSHIP

Main Office 215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin 215-635-4182

Jeffrey Cohen, President 215-635-3232

Ellen Asam, Vice President 215-635-5598

Julie Cohen, Vice President 215-635-4716

Jeffrey Margasak, Secretary 215-635-9332

Lisa Landau, Treasurer 215-635-9996

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director 215-635-3110

David Monblatt Director of Education 215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler Early Learning Center Director 215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist 215-572-6094

# Please send correspondence to:

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

**Web site**: www.kolamielkinspark.org **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark

# **BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS**

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (for example, by September 5 for the October 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.

# **TORAH** & HAFTARAH

**October 4** - *Yom Kippur*Deuteronomy 29: 9-14, 30:11-20
Isaiah 58:1-14

October 11 - *chol ha'moed Sukkot* Numbers 29:17-28, Ezekiel 38:18-39:7

October 18 - Bereisheet Genesis 1:1-6:8, Isaiah 42:5-43

**October 25** - *Noah* Genesis 6:9-11:31, Isaiah 1:1-55



# **CONDOLENCES**

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

# Frances Falon

mother of Janet (Cary Mazer) Falon grandmother of Hope

# Harvey Gerald

brother of Michelle (David) Lipshutz

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

# **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

# Membership Committee

Monday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839, and Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716

### Social Action Committee

Thursday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-1738, and Jody Long, 215-635-4751 ■



# **BAR MITZVAH OF BENJAMIN GOLDSTONE**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, AT 10:00 A.M.

Benny is in the seventh grade at Abington Junior High School.

"I'm proud to be Jewish. I enjoy our people's culture and history. I enjoy Jewish life more at Camp Harlam, especially when I go to *Shabbat* services on Friday nights because it gives me an inner feeling of holiness.

"My favorite Jewish holy day is *Hanukkah* because I get to spend it with my family, and it is as an example of our survival as a Jewish people. Judah Macabbee risked his life to help us defeat the Greeks and saved our religion. I also enjoy the traditions that include eating *latkes*, and lighting the *hanukkiah*.

"Two of my favorite prayers are the *Yotzer* and the *V'ahavtah*. The *Yotzer* is special because it talks about respecting Mother Nature, and it teaches us to care for our environment. I will honor this prayer by recycling and taking care of our important resources.

"The *V'ahartah* talks about loving God and respecting Him because He made me in His image. I think it is part of the worship service because it reminds us about how wonderful God is. By loving God, and thanking Him for my life, I will honor this prayer.

"A particularly memorable Jewish experience for me has been my time at Camp Harlam. I jump out of bed, thanking God that I am so happy to be here; pray before meals, chanting the *motzi* and *birkat hamazon*; and enjoy every *Shabbat* service that we celebrate there at "The Chapel on The Hill" and in the 'Chapel in the Woods."

"A particularly powerful experience for me was when I visited my Mom's friends and saw their house and the way they live. They are poor and I felt bad and wanted to help them, so I started working with Stop Hunger Now. I attended several food-packaging events, putting together meals for the hungry. I educated myself about hunger, reading many articles and learning that there are many people who are suffering because they don't have the proper nutrients. I also arranged a food drive in my school and spoke in front of my classmates so that they become more informed about hunger."

Benny's *Torah* Portion is the holy day reading that occurs on the *Shabbat* during *Sukkot*.

We congratulate Benny's parents, Richard and Jill, and his sister, Anna.



# **BAT MITZVAH OF KYRA QUIGLEY**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT 10:00 A.M.

Kyra is in the seventh grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. Her favorite subjects are music and math. In her music class, she enjoys "on tour" because students get to choose their own group and song, and then perform it in a band, singing or dancing. She also enjoys continued next page

# BAT MITZVAH OF KYRA QUIGLEY

(continued from previous page)

math because she likes to figure out problems with numbers. It challenges her to learn and ask questions.

Her extracurricular activities include playing the piano, softball, as well as riding bikes and having fun with her neighbors.

"I enjoy being Jewish because I get to celebrate the holy days. I also like being part of a congregation with a lot of my friends. I'm looking forward to learning more about my religion and about myself as I continue to grow up.

"My favorite Jewish holy day is *Hanukkah* because I like the story about how it began. I also enjoy my family's traditions for *Hanukkah*: saying prayers, eating a delicious dinner, and then opening gifts. I like it when other members of our family come to our home to celebrate one night of *Hanukkah* with us.

"My two favorite prayers are the *V'ahavtah* and the *G'vurote*. I like the *V'ahavtah* because its theme is love for God and passing down the teachings, traditions, and values of our faith. When we arrive at this part of the service, it is as if we are singing our Jewish traditions. I could apply the theme and words of this prayer in my life through the values and traditions that I teach my children. I like the *G'vurote* because it affirms God's power to inspire and save.

"I chose to read from Genesis 3:1-12 of my *Torah* Portion because the story of how the snake tempted Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge is very interesting.

"When God found out that Adam and Eve disobeyed the command not to even touch the Tree of Knowledge, God was furious, and the first punishment was that the serpent, which had walked upright, would now slither on the ground forever. Adam and Eve's punishment would follow. I think we can apply these words to our lives by listening to what people say and not lying because lies come back to haunt you and there could be serious consequences.

"A particularly powerful experience for me was going to New York City and seeing homeless people. It is always very sad for me, and I always want to help. The first time that I saw a homeless person and actually paid attention was when I was 10 years old. It changed my life and how I looked at certain things because I realized that to be homeless is really sad, hard, and bad. It also made me think about why people are homeless, and as I got older, I thought more about what causes homelessness and what could be done to prevent it and how we can help those who are homeless.

"I also noticed homeless veterans, and I think that is extremely sad. I don't understand why the citizens of this country allow this, because they served our country to help us, and we don't seem to help back. I have thought a lot about this over the years, and it has definitely changed the way that I look at things, and how I see different people around the world."

We congratulate Kyra's parents, Bryan and Amy, and her brother, Nate.

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# **LEGACY ENDOWMENT SOCIETY**

We thank the members of our Legacy Endowment Society for their commitment to the future of our Synagogue:

Michael and Sara Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Elizabeth Grenald
Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin
David Hyman
Lee Laden
Marshall and Ilene Schafer
Elaine Stevens
The Wintroub Family

The Society welcomes all members to make a future gift of any amount through a variety of methods, such as wills or life insurance policies. If you would like to join the Society or if you have questions, please contact the chair, Ilene Schafer, at 215-663-0228.

# **SOCIAL ACTION**

JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY Sunday, October 12, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

# The Satell Teen Fellowship is accepting applications.



# Do you know a teen with leadership potential?

The Satell Teen Fellowship for Leadership and Social Activism is an innovative leadership development program for inspired, motivated, Jewish teens from the Greater Philadelphia area, preparing them to express their voices in leadership roles and community service for a lifetime of engaged citizenship.

Encourage a teen to apply for the Satell Teen Fellowship

Act now! The deadline to apply for the 2014-2015 Satell Teen Fellowship is October 28, 2014.

Go to www.satellteenfellowship.org to learn more!

# Learning Opportunities for Adults at Kol Ami

# Continuing Jewish Education



# Searching for Truthful Faith, a God You Can Believe In

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. October 30; November 6, 13 & 20 (4 Sessions)

What do we believe about God? What can we believe about God? The notions we grew up with do not mesh well with the world we experience, but the alternatives are often unsatisfying and feeble substitutes. Can we conceive of a credible idea of God that meets the test of our minds and is robust enough to satisfy our soul?

RSVP <u>by October 23</u> to the Synagogue Office at 215-635-3110.

"WORDS ARE LIKE ARROWS" (A YIDDISH PHRASE) SEMINAR

# Exploring Jewish Short Stories with Lou Barrett

# Sunday, November 16, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon

The practice of remembering has its beginnings in earliest Judaism through reading and writing, and the enduring Jewish existence was forged. The ancients reaped sources from Biblical tales, the mystic *Zohar*, the *Agada* and *Kaballah*. They read and chanted stories in public settings that helped establish and perpetuate a distinct Jewish community.

Storytelling became not only a religious act of historic remembering ("Remember this day" Exodus 13:3), but a creative way to transmit faith, history, and culture.

In "Exploring Jewish Short Stories," we will study the transforming power of rich storytelling as it affects Jewish identity and continuity: themes of love, faith, social and psychic marginality, the longing for home, justice and mercy, as they shape Jewish contemporary writers.

Paradoxically, as modern Jewish writers seek to shed their victimhood and tragic history, they often recover what identifies, strengthens, and enlarges them.

Beginning on Sunday, November 16, we'll discuss short stories writers from Europe, Israel, and America: Franz Kafka, Babel, Philip Roth, Cynthia Ozick, and Amos Oz.

# Torah Teachings and End-of-Life Wisdom

Instructor: Simcha Raphael Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. November 17; December 1, 8 & 15 (4 Sessions)



This course explores Biblical narratives on the themes of living and dying as well as encounters with death and the world beyond. We will learn from our Biblical ancestors—in particular Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and others—how to find spiritual equanimity in life given the inevitable finite nature of human existence. Through study of both *Torah* and *Midrash*, as well as discussion and personal reflection, we will discover wisdom relevant for dealing with end-of-life issues and concerns in our lives today.

- 1. Jacob's Deathbed Finale Family Dynamics: Family Drama, Trauma, and Healing at the End of Life
- 2. Joseph's Bones and the Jewish Tradition of Memory
- 3. "Do Not Go Gentle into the Night": Moses' Death in *Torah* and *Midrash*
- 4. Prophet Samuel, King Saul, and the Witch of Endor: Spiritualism and Postmortem Communication with the Dead

RSVP <u>by November 10</u> to the Synagogue Office at 215-635-3110. ■

# Kol Ami Events

# **FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT**



For the past year and a half, our rabbi's monthly fasts have benefitted **NATAL** (nah'tahl), **Israel's Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War. NATAL** 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 **Wednesday, October 8,** and **Wednesday, November 5**.

For the past four years, rabbi's monthly fasts are called **Phast for Philadelphia** 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 16**, and **Thursday, November 20**.

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

### American Friends of NATAL

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

# **Unemployment Information Center**

112 N. Broad Street, 11th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102 (make check payable to Unemployment Information Center with a memo note "Philadelphia Unemployment Office")



# THE MISHKAHN – SANCTUARY AND SYNAGOGUE AS A WELCOMING PLACE

erev Shabbat, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. with speaker Jane Tausig, Kol Ami member Celebrating National Coming Out Day: The anniversary of the October 11, 1987, march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

Where were you on October 11, 1987? Many were busy living their lives, not thinking much about LGBTQ rights and equality. That is why this march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was so ground-breaking! Lesbians and gays were largely discriminated against. That day, 100,000 people from all over the country came to Washington to advocate the end of discrimination against lesbian and gay people—in the days before the proliferation and far-reaching social media! And so the movement for gay rights took off. Much has been accomplished; much work for equality remains to be done.

Where were the Jews in their stance on welcoming LGBTQ clergy, synagogue members? What was it like for an LGBTQ Jew to "come out"? In 1987, Jewish movements were, at best, unevenly welcoming of lesbian and gay people. Some were embracing, some outright rejecting. What were the stances of the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist movements about ordaining LGBTQ clergy and ministering to LGBTQ congregants? Where are the movements now?

Let's fast-forward to 2014 when an LGBTQ Jew can be "out" and find acceptance and spiritual sustenance at Congregation Kol Ami, other synagogues, and Jewish institutions.

# "SECOND-FRIDAY" EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for October Birthday and Anniversary Blessings Friday, October 10, 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 a October *simcha* in front of the *Torah* Reading Table. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

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# **KOL AMI EVENTS** (continued from page 8)

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*.



# "LESSONS LEARNED FROM ELIE WIESEL" Sunday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon presented by Ellen Stern

"At some moments of life, one knows one has just been struck by a flash of truth," says Ellen Stern. "Everything comes together at that point: something happens, a new insight is born. Such a moment is not easily forgotten.

"I was aware of my particular moment when I read 'Face in the Window,' a passage its author called 'a legend of our time.' With powerful, graphic words, it describes a man who watches without comment the deportation of the Jews of his town. He says nothing, he does nothing. He only observes. He is the symbol of a person, a nation, a world's inertia in the face of evil: the 'I-don't-want-to-get-involved' syndrome.

"The piece touched me deeply. I knew nothing of Elie Wiesel, not who he was, nor where he came from, but I felt instant kinship with him. He felt what I felt, and he knew how to express those feelings. He had the gift, power, and strong urge to make the words come out. And he spoke to me."

Ellen Norman Stern was 11 years old in 1939 when she and her mother left Berlin to rejoin her father (newly released from Buchenwald concentration camp) to find a new home in Louisville, Kentucky.

A graduate of the University of Louisville, she worked for a number of years at TV station WAVE-TV before going on to the NBC television network in New York. She met and married her husband, Harold, before moving to the Philadelphia area. Ellen has published five books, two of them biographies of Elie Wiesel, one before and one after his nomination as Nobel Peace Prize winner.

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# **BAR MITZVAH OF EVAN PELLETIER**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, AT 10:00 A.M.



Evan is a seventh grade student at Pennbrook Middle School in Lansdale. His favorite subjects are math and science. He enjoys working with numbers and is also interested in how things work in nature, especially the weather. He plays oboe in the school band and sings in its chorus. His outside

interests include playing baseball, soccer, and basketball.

His *Mitzvah* Project has been to determine how to provide used musical instruments for those children who cannot afford them.

"I am proud to be Jewish because I have the opportunity to learn a different language and culture. I enjoy getting presents on *Hanukkah*, dressing up in silly costumes on *Purim*, eating *challah* on *Shabbat*, and participating in youth activities through our Religious School.

"My favorite holy day is *Hanukkah* because if we had been defeated by the Greeks, *Hanukkah* would not exist. It is a special time for me because my entire family comes together to celebrate. There are also fun games to play, such as spinning the *dreidel*, and I get to enjoy the sweet, milky, delicious coins!

"Jewish rituals that I find to be meaningful are the *groggers* that we shake on *Purim* to shun the name of Haman, a mischievous man; and Passover, which commemorates our people who were enslaved in Egypt. I also find the ritual of reading from the *Torah* to be important because we read or chant from this sacred text on *Shabbat* and at *Bar Mitzvah* and *Bat Mitzvah* services.

"My favorite prayers are the *V'ahavtah* and the blessings over the *Torah*. The *V'ahavtah* is our expression of love for God, and the blessings over the *Torah* commemorate the significance of this sacred scroll.

"I chose to chant from Genesis 17:4-20 of my *Torah* Portion because they speak about our covenant with God, expressed through the ritual of circumcision. Other parts of the *Torah* specify that examples of the covenant are to be found in the celebration of *Shabbat* as well as the sight of rainbows that signify God's promise to never again destroy the earth through a deluge of water as in the days of Noah."

We congratulate Evan's parents, Eric and Heather; his brother, Cameron; and his grandparents, David and Phyllis Harrison. ■

# Jewish Values...Sustainable Agriculture... Faith Dialogues about Spirituality...and Great Food!





# Sukkot in the Fields - A farm trip to Lancaster Shabbat Sukkot, Saturday, October 11, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

# Your Kol Ami CSA invites you to a family friendly, incredibly rich experience

Visit and tour one of the Lancaster Farm Fresh farms supplying produce, fruit, eggs, bread, cheese & herbs to our Elkins Park Hazon Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

- Join us for the third year in building and celebrating in our own *Sukkah* with Kol Ami's Rabbi Holin, fellow congregants, and CSA members.
- Share a potluck lunch with farmers and their families.
- Share insights about food, farming, and the land.
- Stop and shop for pumpkins at a farm stand on your way home!

The program is open to members of the Elkins Park Hazon CSA, Congregation Kol Ami, and CSA participating synagogues in the Philadelphia region. Sign up early so we can organize a potluck lunch and carpooling! While there is no charge for this event, we ask that you bring a dairy or vegetarian dish and contribute to the *Tikkun Olam* project to provide financial support to the Lancaster Farm Fresh "Fresh Food Fund" that offers discount shares to low-income families. Driving time: 1 ½ hours

# Could not have been said better—reasons to participate in Shabbat Sukkot:

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

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

—Karin Schnoll

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

—Karin Kaplan

For questions and to RSVP <u>by October 5</u>, e-mail Elaine Stevens at <u>execdir@kolamielkinspark.org</u>
Please let her know who's coming and your interest in carpooling. We will confirm farm address, transportation, preparing a dish for lunch and the *Tikkun Olam* project.

### **KOL AMI EVENTS**

(continued from page 9)

Ellen and Harold are the parents of two sons and grandparents of four and have been members of Congregation Kol Ami since its founding.

# TORAHS ALOFT ON EREV SIMCHAT TORAH!

Wednesday, October 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; preceded by pizza dinner and refreshments at 6:00 p.m.



Every year at this time, our young adults and adults read or chant the "personal verses" that they celebrated at their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvahs* years ago when they read or chanted from the *Torah*! We are eager to welcome more participants this year.

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

# SIMCHAT TORAH-YIZKOR SERVICE

Thursday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m.

The Yizkor-Memorial service that immediately comes to mind occurs on Yom Kippur, and yet there are three other dates of observance on the Jewish calendar: Simchat Torah, Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot.

Yizkor, from the Hebrew verb "to remember," is observed throughout the first year following the death of a loved one, traditionally a parent, sibling, spouse, or child.

It is believed that *mitzvot* performed by loved ones help the souls of the departed on their way to the *olam ha'ba*, "the world to come." One *mitzvah* is committing *tzedakah* funds to help people in need, and since the *Torah* reading on the last day of the pilgrimage festivals mentions the importance of doing so, *Yizkor* was added to these holy day services as well.

# **BLESSING OF PETS**

Saturday, October 25, 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 Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz on the meadow as we sing and bless our pets at our annual Blessing of Pets!

# **BAGEL-BAR BREAKFAST**

Calling all Religious School families!
October 26 at 9:30 a.m. for
our first annual bagel-bar
breakfast!

There will be bagels and lots of fixin's for you to enjoy while you relax with your friends before school begins. Support your Religious School community while having fun

and fueling up at the same time. Bring your friends; this event is open to everyone!

In advance: Single \$5 / Family \$20 At the door: Single \$7 / Family \$25

RSVP to Elaine Stevens by October 22 at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

# **HEALING SERVICE**

Sunday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m.

Our tradition offers moving and powerful prayers for loved ones in hospitals, recovering at home, or in hospice care, and for ourselves as well: healers who are in need of healing, and those in mourning.

This brief worship service includes the *Mi'Shehbeirach* ("May the Holy One Who blesses...") prayer as well as the hope that we will find *menuchah* ("tranquility") within ourselves during trying times.

continued next page 13



# **Congregation Kol Ami**

# **BLOOD DRIVE**

Monday, November 3, 2014

From 2:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Sanctuary Portion** 

# MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY

Go to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: Kol Ami Elkins Park

Remember to HYDRATE - Drink lots of water. And please remember your ID.



# **ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ALBERT FUNG**UNTIL OCTOBER 20

Albert Fung was born in San Francisco in 1970. He studied at Rochester Institute of Technology (BFA, Printmaking, 1992) and Massachusetts College of Art (MFA, Painting and Printmaking,1996). He lived and worked in New York City between 1993 and 2011. There, he maintained studios in Manhattan, Bushwick, Harlem, Williamsburg, Astoria, and Long Island City. In 2011, he relocated to Philadelphia and currently lives and works in the Fishtown area.

Mr. Fung practices painting in oil, as well as drawing and printmaking. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. In 2012, the painter's work won a Vasari prize. In addition to exhibiting at Kol Ami in 2014, Mr. Fung showed his work at the following Philadelphia galleries: Westmoreland Studios, LGTripp Gallery, and F&N Gallery; and he will be exhibiting at Cedar Point Art in November 2014.

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 Mr. Fung'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.



**KOL AMI EVENTS** (continued from page 11)

# CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL "TOURING ENSEMBLE" TO PERFORM AT KOL AMI

Sunday, November 23, at 4:00 p.m.

The Touring Ensemble is Cheltenham High School's show choir. It possesses a long-standing tradition of excellence and is well known in the area for its performances at various community venues. Each year, the ensemble learns and performs a thematic "revue"-style show that features a challenging mixture of choreographed song-and-dance routines.

The Touring Ensemble performs varied, energetic, songand-dance numbers with instrumental accompaniment. Our 2014-15 show, "Learn to Love Again," features songs about stages of romance. Selections range from "Since I Fell for You" to "Ain't too Proud to Beg" to "Heartbreaker," "One," and many more.

Kol Ami will host the CHS Touring Ensemble as they perform "Learn to Love Again." Admission is free! Come join us for a musical treat on a Sunday afternoon. The parents of several Kol Ami students who perform with the Touring Ensemble are sponsoring this performance, which will be enjoyed by adults and children of all ages. The running time for the performance is approximately an hour.

SAVE THE DATE! REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 10, 2014

# KINDNESS COUNTS: WELCOMING AND INCLUSION LGBTQ JEWS INTO THE MISHKAN

Sunday, December 7, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. with keynote speaker Joanna Ware of Keshet



This important program is designed for Synagogue leaders, parents, students, allies, and LGBTQ synagogue members and prospective members who ask how they can make possible greater synagogue participation and welcoming community.

Practical and experiential workshops will include: 1) Creating LGBTQ Inclusive Space: Organization and Leadership Practices; 2) Teens: Feeling Safe, Welcoming Community; 3) LGBTQ Participation in Jewish Rituals; and 4) Using Music to Help Foster Welcoming of Diversity

Contact Jane Tausig (215-901-8730 or jetausig@gmail.com) to answer any questions, and ask about Group Registration.

Note: Keshet is an organization dedicated to working for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Jews in Jewish life. ■



Saturday, January 10, 2015 7pm - 11pm Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

WINNINGS PROVIDED AS RAFFLE TICKETS FOR FANTASTIC PRIZES!

\$35/person in advance

\$45 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



# **NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS:**

THE DOUGLAS FAMILY



This is a big "welcome back!" message to Andy and Erica Douglas and their daughter, Amber, who were members for a couple of years in the past, and who have now rejoined Kol Ami.

Amber, who is five years old, has been

attending our "Fun-for-Kids" *Shabbat* services and other family related events over the past few months, and she is now entering Kol Ami's kindergarten Religious School class.

In explaining why they have rejoined our Congregation, Erica writes that they LOVE Rabbi Holin (their emphasis!) and that they have met many friends here during the last few months of re-involvement.

Andy and Erica, both from Bucks County originally, currently reside in Warrington. Erica has been a teacher in the Central Bucks school district for 17 years, and Andy is the owner of the Bucks Local Clipper, a monthly newspaper featuring local ads, coupons, and calendars of events. Interestingly, Andy and Erica first met while coaching opposing teams in boy's high-school volleyball, an instance where one can honestly state that both coaches won!

Aside from being a natural teacher both at home and at work, Erica likes jigsaw puzzles, reading, quality family time, and exploring the world with Amber. Andy also values his family time; reading; and playing sports, especially volleyball and softball (perhaps the Kol Ami softball team has another recruit!). Daughter Amber is a very active girl. Even before starting kindergarten, she already likes to dance, swim, and play the piano! Amber also likes to meet new friends, and Kol Ami is a great place to do just that.

We are very happy to say "shalom" to the Douglas family once again. ■

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

co-chairing our very successful Juried Arts and Craft Fair, is staring her 2nd year on the Board and her first year on the Executive Committee as our Treasurer. Lisa has been deeply involved in Religious School and PTO and we are blessed that she is willing to bring her strong financial skills and insight to our work.

The rest of the board features talented and giving members. Guy Appel is starting his third year of his second round of service to the Board. He co-chairs our Operations committee and with his wife Karol, was hugely helpful to Elaine in the color and lighting scheme we now enjoy in the Sanctuary. Barb Fink is in her fourth year on the Board and co-chairs our Religious School committee. Shelley Chamberlain is starting her second year of her second round of Board service and co-chairs Social Action and is a co-founder and champion of our CSA. Joel Fishbein is starting his third year of his first terms of service, following in his wife Rachel's footsteps of Board service, and guided last year's strategic planning effort and is jumping in to the work of Fund Development. Phyllis Harrison is in her fourth year on the Board and lends her talents to caring congregants and membership efforts. Bill Hyman is in his fourth year on the Board and was a driver behind our Strive for 225 membership campaign and a trusted advisor on our HR committee. Robin Warsaw is also in her fourth vear on the Board and co-chairs Membership and is active in the Religious School committee. Along with our deeply committed past Presidents, David Hyman, Ilene Shafer and Jennifer Streitwieser, and of course Rabbi Holin and Elaine Stevens.

Your Board believes deeply in the power of engagement and each of us wants to have deeper relationships with all of our members and their families. In the coming months, we will be initiating and informal program to ensure that every Kol Ami family has a direct relationship with at least one board member. The better we know each other the more we can make other connections to people and the work of Kol Ami, and the stronger our community will be.

This month's "Sh'lah'chaynee - Send me" request is the same as least month's, that is to engage deeply in Kol Ami and relish all the benefits and blessings that your engagement brings to you and to our community.

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



# **GOT GIFT CARDS?**



When you purchase a gift card from Kol Ami, you benefit the Congregation through a fund-raising program called "Scrip"!

A percentage of each gift card sale goes back to Kol Ami to support our Religious School and other wonderful programs.

# WE ARE RE-VAMPING SCRIP!

**Just Remember TWO Dates:** 

# LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

- We will be processing orders once a month.
- Get your forms from the office, lobby, or a future e-mail attachment.
- Turn orders into the office by the last Sunday of the month and pick up your order in the lobby the following week (that school is in session)

# FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

(when school is in session)

Pick up any orders placed by the end of the previous month.

Shop our existing inventory. No order form is necessary! Just bring Cash or Check! There is a lot to choose from!

Questions? Contact Deborah Poppel at dpoppel1@verizon.net





# Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Goldstone Yom Kippur Service 10:00 a.m. CSA *Sukkot* in the Fields 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. KOL AMI OCTOBER 2014 AT A GLANCE commemorating National Coming Out Day 7:30 p.m. Early Learning Center erev Shabbat with erev Shabbat Service Kol Nidrei Service 8:00 p.m. Rebecca Schwartz with Adult Choir "Second-Friday" 11:00 a.m. Early Learning Center Closed Sukkot Service 10:00 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Early Learning Center erev Sukkot 6:30 p.m. - Service 6:00 p.m. - Pizza and Refreshments Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Membership Committee Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. No Religious School Junior Youth Group Home of Rosalind Sukkot Party 1:30 p.m. Holtzman

# KOL AMI OCTOBER 2014 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Saturday	18	Bat Mitzvah of Kyra Quigley 10:00 a.m.	25	Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch Blessing of Pets 2:00 p.m.		
Friday	17	Early Learning Center erev Shabbat with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir 6:00 p.m. Board Installation erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	24	erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	31	<i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	16	Early Learning Center Closed Simchat Torah- Yizkor Service 10:00 a.m.	23	Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	30	Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Rosenbloom 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	15	Early Learning Center Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m.  Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  erev Simchat Torah 6:30 p.m Service 6:00 p.m Pizza and  Refreshments	22	Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	29	Early Learning Center Jewish Programming 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	14	Early Learning Center Apple Press Program 9:30 a.m.	21	Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	28	<b>Early Learning Center</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.
Monday	13	Early Learning Center Science with Nature Jack 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	20	Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Early Learning Center Parent Night 7:00 p.m.	27	
Sunday	12	Religious School 10:00 a.m Noon 10:00 a.m Sukkot Maccabiah 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 p.m. Member-to-Member Conversation with Ellen Stern 11:00 a.m.	19	Religious School 10:00 a.m Noon 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	26	Bagel Bar Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m Noon 12:00 p.m Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.

# Kol Ami Contributions

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



# **ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

In Memory of:

### Frances Falon

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

# BAR/BAT MITZVAH CONFIRMATION FUND

In Memory of:

# Barbara Levy

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein for her longtime generosity to all of Kol Ami's children upon their B'nai Mitzvah Eve Jacobs

# **ONEG SHABBAT FUND**

In Honor of:

# **Our Anniversary**

Joseph Rabinowitz and Beth Levine

# **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

In Memory of:

# Barbara Levy

Marcia Webber

Anita Sabulsky, with loving memories of days spent in her home during my Girls' High days Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

# SYNAGOGUE FUND

Sheryl Samter

In Memory of:

# Samuel and Libby Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

# Sol Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

# Ottilie Danter

Herbert and Lucille Barrett

# Fannie Halprin

Herbert and Lucille Barrett

# Selma Haschemeyer

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

# Barbara Levy

Stephen and Anita Adelson
Lynn Greenberg Apfelbaum
Barbara Altman
Automated Financial Systems
Selma Bernstein
Michael and Sara Chernoff
Harold and Ellen Stern
Larry, Marlyn, Lauren, and Rachel Stern

### Morris and Rose Salkin

Stanton and Merle Salkin



# OCTOBER 2014

- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, at 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidrei
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, at 10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 No Religious School
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, at 1:30 p.m.** Junior Youth Group *Sukkot* Party at the home of Rosalind Holtzman
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, at 7:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, erev Sukkot
   6:00 p.m. Pizza & refreshments; decorating the sukkah
   6:30 p.m. Singing under the sukkah
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, at 10:00 a.m. Sukkot
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, at 7:30 p.m. "Second-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir celebrating National Coming Out Day
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, at 10:00 a.m.** *Bar Mitzvah* of Benjamin Goldstone
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, at 12:30 p.m.** CSA *Sukkot* in the Fields (Lancaster Farm Trip)
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, at 11:00 a.m.

  Member-to-Member Conversation with Ellen Stern
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, at 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 erev Simchat Torah 6:00 p.m. - Pizza & refreshments 6:30 p.m. - "Torahs-Aloft" Service
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, at 10:00 a.m. Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, at 6:00 p.m. "Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, at 7:30 p.m.** Board Installation *erev Shabbat* Service
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, at 10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Kyra Quigley
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, at 7:00 p.m. Social Action Committee Meeting
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, at 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Pets
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, at 9:30 a.m. Bagel-Bar Breakfast
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, at 7:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Rosenbloom

# **NOVEMBER 2014**

- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1,** at 10:00 a.m. *Bar Mitzyah* of Evan Pelletier
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, at 10:00 a.m. K-2 Family Education Program and Consecration Service at 11:15 a.m.
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, at 1:00 p.m. Healing Service
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, from 2:30-7:30 p.m.
   American Red Cross Blood Drive at Kol Ami
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, at 7:30 p.m. Religious School Committee Meeting
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 13 & 20, at 7:30 p.m.
   Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Rabbi Rosenbloom
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, at 7:30 p.m. New-Member "First-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8,** at 10:00 a.m. *Bat Mitzvah* of Isabelle Beatus
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, at 10:00 a.m. Taste of *Shabbat* with Rabbi Holin
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, at 11:00 a.m. Religious School PTO Meeting
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, at 7:30 p.m. *erev Shabbat* Service with Grade 4 participation
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, at 10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Ila Charendoff
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 9:30 a.m. Religious School PTO Bake Sale
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 10:00 a.m. Grade 5-6 Family Education Program
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 11:00 a.m. Exploring Jewish Short Stories with Lucille Barrett
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, at 7:30 p.m. Continuing Adult Jewish Education with Simcha Raphael
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, at 7:30 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, at 7:30 p.m. *erev Shabbat* Service with book reviewer Beverly Rosen
- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, at 10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Kovnat
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, at 4:00 p.m. Cheltenham High School "Touring Ensemble" Performing at Kol Ami ■