

CONGREGATION **Kol Ami** VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

THE DATES ARE SET FOR THE...
**CONGREGATION
KOL AMI 2016 FAMILY
TRIP TO ISRAEL**

INVITE YOUR UNAFFILIATED FRIENDS
WITH CHILDREN TO JOIN US AS WELL

We'll leave for Israel on
Sunday afternoon, August 21,
and return home early
Thursday morning, September 1.

**Let Rabbi Holin know if you
are interested in being part of
a family trip of a lifetime by
calling him at 215-635-4182.**



JOIN RABBI HOLIN ON AN EXCITING AND ENRICHING JOURNEY FOR CHILDREN (EIGHT YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AT THE TIME OF THE TRIP), YOUTH, AND ADULTS TO EXPERIENCE ISRAEL!

The trip is designed to be child friendly and fun for the family in ways that will touch your heart and mind.

"Our family trip to Israel with Congregation Kol Ami, in the summer of 2007, was one which we will always remember as one of the best trips ever. My husband, Bert, and I had been to Israel several times in the past, but this was the first time for our children. What a fantastic experience it was for each of us. Our kids got acquainted with Israel and saw the places they had learned about in religious school. Bert and I saw many new places as well as old familiar ones in a new light, through the eyes of our children. We saw the contrasts between ancient and modern and experienced the wonderful diversity of this tiny land. We bonded with our great group of fellow travelers and had loads of fun on our bus. We learned, laughed, ate delicious meals, and slept well in beautiful hotels. It is an experience of a lifetime!" —*Ronit Sugar*

**Round trip on El Al from Newark International Airport;
to/from airport by chartered bus from the Synagogue**

**August 22-24: Tel Aviv
August 25-26: Galilee
August 27-31: Jerusalem**

"It is hard to believe that it has been eight years since our family was walking the same paths of our patriarchs and matriarchs in Israel. A year after our marriage, Janine and I had visited Israel for the first time prior to having our children. Several years later, as an interfaith family who had committed to having a Jewish household, we thought a family trip to Israel with Kol Ami would be a wonderful opportunity for our two children—Maya (11) and Lia (8)—to experience Israel at a young age and for us to return to Israel and see it through the eyes of our children. This trip was an amazing journey on so many levels, from learning more about Judaism to forming deeper friendships with fellow Kol Ami members. We know that our family will always cherish and hold close to our hearts this amazing opportunity to experience Israel together as a family and with our Kol Ami family." —*Bill Hyman* ■

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, October 2, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service and “First-Friday” birthday and anniversary blessings with the voices of our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, October 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

SUNDAY, October 4, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Simchat Torah Service; preceded by a 6:15 p.m. lox-and-bagel dinner (see page 6)

MONDAY, October 5, at 10:00 a.m.

Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service (see page 6)

FRIDAY, October 9, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat-Board Installation Service:

A Time of Gratitude for our Synagogue’s Elected Leaders

We will gather to thank Jeff Cohen 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 those who will join them on our Board of Trustees

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

Bat Mitzvah of Emma Kate Fishbein (see page 5)

FRIDAY, October 16

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 Student Choir.

7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service with book reviewer Beverly Rosen (“Panic in a Suitecase” - see page 8)

SATURDAY, October 17

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

2:00 p.m. - Blessing of Pets

Bring your furry, feathery, smooth or scaly, and small or large pets that fly, crawl, perch, walk, slither and swim! (see page 8)

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PRESIDENT’S LETTER

On *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* the blast of the *shofar* awakens us and urges us to listen to that small, still voice inside our heads—the voice that calls out to us, challenging us to grow and rise to our best selves. Is this the voice of God? Is it our own thoughts? Do I not hear my parents and grandparents? I’m sure that’s for each of us to determine. The Holy Days give us the opportunity for reflection and gratitude for our links to the past and hopes for the future.

This was a unique year for me. I was honored to sit on the *bimah* with Rabbi Holin and by my husband David’s side among our members. No matter which seat, I glanced over to the *Yahrzeit* Wall to see my father’s plaque and feel his presence. I still get a lump in my throat and it’s been over 20 years. The High Holy Days add an extra layer of appreciation for the past to which I am linked by generations before me. And what a blessing. I would have appreciated seeing my father’s smile and feeling the warmth of his hugs. This week, we move his plaque to the center of the wall to honor him.

As Rabbi Holin so eloquently said last January when dedicating the *Yahrzeit* Wall, “The names of our loved ones, engraved on memorial plaques, dwell in our minds and hearts, and here in our sanctuary, in the *makom*/the place where God is most manifest.” It is an honor to share other members’ thoughts and feelings:

When praying in view of my parents’ *Yahrzeit* plaques, communion with G-d is made more meaningful. I feel their presence and commitment to Judaism. *L’dor v’dor*. I am reminded that each of us is just one small link in an historic chain with the enormous responsibility to maintain its vitality. —David Hyman

I was so happy when Kol Ami put up the *Yahrzeit* Wall. There was no question Bert and I wanted my mother’s and his father’s names on the wall, and every time I see it, I become filled with emotion and memories of our parents. I know they would be pleased to be remembered this way. When our dear friend, Garret Kine, died suddenly last year, we decided his name should be there as well. He grew up in Elkins Park about two blocks from Kol Ami and even though he lived in San Francisco, it felt like we were bringing him home. He would be delighted to know his memory is being honored in our synagogue. —Ronit Sugar

The *Yahrzeit* Wall moves me every time I walk in the sanctuary and see my father’s name. I touch his plaque and, even after 10 years, my emotions well to the surface. Honoring his memory in this enduring fashion with our beautiful wall has been a salve to my soul. —Ilene Schafer

The loss of one my dearest, esteemed elders this past year was extremely saddening and overwhelming to me. Being able to have a plaque on the *Yahrzeit* Wall brings me a feeling of peace knowing that she is still a part of my life, our lives, as a treasured member of this congregation. —Elaine Stevens

The dedication of a *Yahrzeit* plaque is personal and profound. It is meaningful and moving. The presence of memorial plaques dedicated to our loved ones inspires us to consider what they mean to us even as space and time from the dates of their deaths expand. This is one of the ways that they remain close. I dedicate this message to all of our loved ones who are with us in spirit. May we always feel surrounded by love.

For more information about *Yahrzeit* Wall plaques, contact Elaine Stevens.

Shelley Chamberlain (215-635-1738, srchamberlain@comcast.net) ■

GUEST SPEAKER MORAN BIRMAN ENLIGHTENS CONGREGATION AT SEPTEMBER 11 SERVICE



Moran Birman, the newly appointed Deputy Consul General to the Consulate General of Israel, addressed Kol Ami congregants at our *erev Shabbat* Service. Pictured above are (L-R) David Hyman, Shelley Chamberlain, Dana Birman, Moran Birman, and Rabbi Holin. ■

Save the Dates & Come Smile with Us...

"Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Services

This 6:00 p.m. service is appropriate for all ages. It's a happy half-hour with lots of music and our terrific student choir.

October 16 and 30

November 13

December 18

January 8 and 22

February 19

April 8 and 29 ■



WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from previous page)

FRIDAY, October 23, at 7:30 p.m.

"New-Member" *erev Shabbat* Service. Our "Intimate and Dynamic Community" welcomes members who have joined us within the past year as we celebrate them and proclaim: "How good it is for us to be together! – *Hinei mah tov!*"

SATURDAY, October 24

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

5:30 p.m. - *Bat Mitzvah* of Gabrielle Wexler (see page 5)

FRIDAY, October 30

6:00 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service; appropriate for all ages! It's a happy half hour with lots of music.

7:30 p.m. - Our Grade 3 students will participate in this service and share their thoughts about why Jewish learning is a special and lifelong endeavor; preceded by a 6:45 p.m. BYO dinner

SATURDAY, October 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

SUNDAY, November 1, at 1:00 p.m.

Healing Service (see page 10) ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

October 3 - *chol ha'moed Sukkot*

Exodus 33:12-34:26, Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

October 10 - *Bereysheet*

Genesis 1:1-6:8, I Samuel 20:18-42

October 17 - *Noah*

Genesis 6:9-11:32, Isaiah 54:1-55:5

October 24 - *Lech Lecha*

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

October 31 - *Vayera*

Genesis 18:1-22:24, II Kings 4:37 ■

MAZAL TOV

We congratulate **Rebecca Schwartz** who took second place in a reader-inspired digital project by "The Forward" to find the best new voices in Jewish music, entitled Soundtrack of Our Spirit. ■

Continuing Jewish Education

The non-member rate is \$50 per course; direct questions and RSVPs to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934) - Israel's National Poet

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

October 6 & 13 (Final 2 Sessions)



Best known for his epic poem written in 1903, "In the City of Slaughter," a scream of anguish following the brutality of the Kishinev pogroms, precursor to the flames of the Holocaust that would be kindled 30 years later, Bialik's words urged a reawakening of the Jewish people in the face of anti-Semitism and in the name of national identity (Zionism). Other poems contain fulsome praise for the synagogue ("Should You Wish to Know the Source") and the *Shabbat* ("Sabbath Queen").

We will read and discuss these three works in the context of the times, and their power to move and inspire to this day.

RSVP by October 2.

Psychoanalysis and the Bible

Instructor: Neal Beatus

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

October 15, 22 & 29; November 5 (4 Sessions)

Myths, fables, and stories often capture important truths about our lives. This is a reason the greatest ones lasted and were passed down from generation to generation. The same can be said of Bible stories. We will look at several biblical narratives as works of art or myths to see what truths they convey. Sigmund Freud once wrote: "Everywhere I go, I find a poet has been there before me."

We will examine the following stories: the creation story, the Garden of Eden, Noah and the flood, the binding of Isaac, Jacob's dream of the ladder and wrestling with an angel, the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and Jonah and the whale. We will also examine parallels between the *Kabbalah* and psychoanalysis.

RSVP by October 8.

Defiance: The Jewish Partisans of World War II

Instructor: David Monblatt

Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

October 21 & 28 (2 Sessions)

Many people are unaware that approximately 25,000 Jews risked their lives to fight back against the Nazis and their collaborators, saving lives and helping to win the war. The stories of the Jewish partisans have the power to transform people's common misperception of the Jewish experience during the Holocaust, that Jews went to their deaths like "sheep to the slaughter."

RSVP by October 15.

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

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom

Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

November 12 & 19; December 3 & 10 (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 mind and is robust enough to satisfy our soul?

RSVP by November 5.

With the Bible in One Hand and the Headlines in the Other

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom

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

November 12 & 19; December 3 & 10 (4 Sessions)

What does Judaism have to say about the pressing contemporary issues we face, day in and day out? Aging and healthcare, economic equality and the right to a dignified life, immigration, the death penalty, and others that will be current as the group meets. How do our moral values enter into the public discourse, and how do we protect the diversity of society, while still advocating for our deeply held convictions?

RSVP by November 5. ■

Bat Mitzvahs This Month

EMMA KATE FISHBEIN

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



Emma is in the eighth grade at Cedarbrook. Her favorite subjects are math and French because she feels that French is a beautiful language and math makes a lot of sense to her. She is the treasurer of the National Junior Honor Society, sings in the choir at her school, does ballet outside of school, and also enjoys gymnastics and sports.

She has devoted volunteer time to Manna, has organized a food drive, and has participated in many MLK projects. For her *Mitzvah* Project, she has been making gum and selling it, with the proceeds directed to lung cancer research.

“My favorite holy days are *Purim* and *Hanukkah*. On *Purim*, we dress up, go to my aunt’s home and make *hamantaschen*, and eat pastry. I like *Hanukkah* because the *hanukiah* is so pretty; and I love making *latkes*, singing songs, playing *dreidel*, and obviously the presents.

“One of my most powerful experiences is having a brother with Tourette Syndrome. Growing up with a brother with special needs, even though he is not mentally challenged, made me realize how horrible it is to use words like “retarded” as an insult. With a brother like Adam, I have a bit of a bigger heart for disabled people, and I get more upset when people make fun of people with disabilities. This is an experience that has changed my view of the world.

“A powerful Jewish experience was going to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. It was memorable because I felt more connected to my Judaism than I had ever before. I was with everyone in the same place, and I felt that I could feel everyone who put their heads in exactly the same place to pray as I was.

“One of my favorite prayers is the *Avote v’Imabote*. I like the idea of honoring our ancestors because if it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t be where we are. If they had not worked through their hardships, we would not have Judaism today.

“I also like the *Yotzer* because [with its theme of creation] it ties in so well with my *Torah* Portion. Everything comes

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GABRIELLE WEXLER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, AT 5:30 P.M.



Gabrielle is in the seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. Her favorite subjects in school are English and Social Studies. She enjoys discussing books, especially with other students, with all different opinions. She also really likes Social Studies because she has always been interested in history. Gabrielle plans to try out for field hockey, and, outside of school, she dances and rides horses.

“My two favorite prayers are the *Avote v’Imabote* and the *G’vurote* because they represent important things to me. The *Avote v’Imabote* talks about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel. I believe that it is important to say prayers for our ancestors. The *G’vurote* talks about how God can inspire and save people, and I personally think that is totally true. I believe that if we believe, God will be there for us and support us.

“I feel that God is here for me. The *Purim* story shows me that God doesn’t have to make a bush burn to be there. I feel that God was already there in order for such things to happen. Because of God, there is the possibility that little things will turn into big ones. For example, you choose to go to coffee shop A instead of coffee shop B, and in coffee shop A, you meet your future husband and fall madly in love. To me, it is almost as if God steps inside your brain, knowing that if you went to coffee shop A you would meet your future husband and live happily together, and have amazing kids and live a wonderful life. To me, God is there and makes the little things turn into big ones.

“One of my most powerful Jewish experiences occurred when I was in the fourth grade and our Hebrew school teacher, Emily Cohen, took us to the Abramson Center to do a *mitzvah*. We painted *challah* covers with some of the residents. It really enlightened me because they lit up when they saw us, and it didn’t matter that they weren’t well or that we would be going away soon. They all lived in the moment. There was a couple who had been married for 70 years. They had so much love for each other and that showed me what pure love is. After we left, it felt great

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Kol Ami Events

C'MON AND HAVE DINNER WITH THE LOCAs (LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE)

Friday, October 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Marco Polo

If you are 50ish and older, are empty nesters, or just want to enjoy each other's company, you are welcome to join the LOCAs for dinner, followed by Friday-night services. Both LOCAs and MOCAs (Men of a Certain Age, i.e., husbands, friends) are welcome. RSVP to Natalie Dyen (nat.dyen@gmail.com or 215-657-4124).

"FIRST-FRIDAY" EREV SHABBAT OCTOBER BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Friday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in October, join us at our special *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with an October *simcha* under a *tallit*. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

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

TORAHS ALOFT ON EREV SIMCHAT TORAH!

Sunday, October 4, at 7:00 p.m.;

preceded by lox-and-bagel dinner at 6:15 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

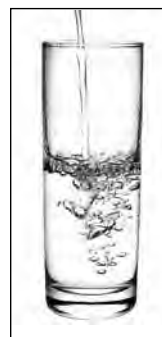
Monday, October 5, at 10:00 a.m.

The *Yizkor*-Memorial service that immediately comes to mind occurs on *Yom Kippur*, 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.

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



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

NATAL (*nah'tahl*) – the **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.

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

During Operation Protective Edge, NATAL answered thousands of calls every day and night from children and adults. Clinical staff and highly trained volunteers were enlisted to respond to this increased need. Working with Israel's media, millions of people received information

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



Sukkot in the Fields - A farm trip to Lancaster
Shabbat Sukkot, Saturday, October 3, 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 that supplies produce, fruit, eggs, cheese, and herbs to our Elkins Park Hazon Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

- Join us for the fourth year in building and celebrating under 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 *Tikun Olam* project to provide financial support to the Lancaster Farm Fresh "Fresh Food Fund" that offers discount shares to low-income families. Driving time: 1½ 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*

"I really enjoyed meeting you all and spending the afternoon with the Lapp family. All of us here send a big thanks for your Fresh Food Fund donation! As this was my first *Sukkot* experience, I am blown away by how interconnected the blessing is with the Earth and all cultures, welcoming you to remember and celebrate things we are grateful for from the land. Seeing your culture juxtapose the Amish family couldn't have felt more comfortable and welcoming-I was so inspired! Thanks again for a huge success!"

Meghan Jahnke, LFFC CSA Communications Coordinator

"This is my third *sukkot* in the fields; each has been different and illuminating." *Michael Levin*

"What better way to experience the *Sukkot* harvest festival than a visit to one of our CSA farms? Building and dwelling in the *sukkah* on the actual land from where our wonderful produce comes gives us a profound connection. The mutual understanding, admiration, and gratitude between our community and our Amish hosts deepen each year." *Mark Kaplan*

For questions and to RSVP by September 25, e-mail Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

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 *Tikun Olam* project.

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 6)

about when, where, and how to get help. NATAL's emergency kits consist of information about trauma and methods of staying calm, as well as therapeutic tools to aid in managing tension. There is still a strong demand for thousands of these kits to be distributed to individuals, schools, and communities throughout Israel.

Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on **Wednesday, October 7**, and **Wednesday, November 4**.

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 29**, and **Thursday, November 26** (break your fast with your family and friends over a Thanksgiving meal, truly a time to give thanks!).

Below are the mailing addresses for the organizations mentioned above:

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")

INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE

The Interfaith Relationship Dialogue group of Kol Ami plans to meet four times this year and is currently looking for input from interested congregants for relevant topics.

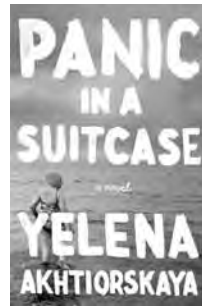
Perhaps you have something you have wondered about, something you would like to learn about and discuss with others related to the special issues that interfaith couples and families face. Let us know! Please e-mail Betsy McKinstry (betsymckinstry@gmail.com) or Joel Edelstein (dryankel@yahoo.com) with your ideas.

Meetings will be held on **Tuesdays: October 6, December 15, March 1, and May 3** at the home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry at 7:30 p.m. Join us for discussion and light nosh.

Save the date also for the *erev Shabbat* Service honoring our Interfaith families on **November 13**. We hope to see you at IRD this year!

BOOK REVIEW WITH BEVERLY ROSEN

erev Shabbat Service, **October 16, at 7:30 p.m.**



Beverly will be reviewing "Panic in A Suitcase," by Yelena Akhtiorskaya, a 30-year-old Ukrainian-American author whose novel parallels her own coming-of-age in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, as a member of her immigrant family. Transforming many of her experiences into fiction, her novel traces the lives of the Nasmertov family who left their home in Odessa for Brighton Beach to begin again in the United States. Torn between the old world and the new, family members struggle with the tugs of their native country and the pull of succeeding in America. The novel also poses the age-old question: Can you go home again?

Yelena Akhtiorskaya has been recognized as one of the "5 under 35" gifted writers by the National Book Foundation and is one of the many Russian/Ukrainian young authors whose work is being touted by the Jewish community and the community at large. Her life and work will also serve as a gateway to the One Book, One Jewish Community selection this year.



BLESSING OF PETS

Saturday, October 17, 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!

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What's the buzz...

Honeybees: How They Live & What They Do

What is a **waggle dance**? What is **propolis**?

How do honeybees make honey?

All ages welcome to join us to gain answers
to these and more questions~

Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

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

- Meet Mr. Joe Duffy, a beekeeper for over 40 years and mentor of many a beekeeper.
- Observation hive and honey extractor will be on display. Learn how they work.
- Discover the huge responsibility that these fascinating little creatures have to keep our flowers and crops pollinated. They are essential to the health of our environment and food supply.
- Learn about the many environmental challenges that threaten honeybees.
- Discuss plants that attract honeybees.

Sure to “bee” thought-provoking...and sweet!

Kid-friendly event. Stay after religious school. Bring bag lunch.
We will provide honey and apples!

Questions and/or RSVP to Jane Tausig at 215-901-8730 or jetausig@gmail.com.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

ELYNNE ROSENFELD: OCT. 20 - NOV. 23



Rosenfeld received her MFA in Painting from the University of Massachusetts and her BA in Art from Rice University, Houston, TX. Her work is represented in private collections nationally. She is a recipient of numerous awards including the John H. Wolfe Award, Contemporary Voices, Woodmere Art Museum. She has had many solo exhibitions and over 100 group exhibitions. Her most recent solo show was at the Olitsky Gallery of Beth Or Synagogue in February 2015.

The artist states: "My current work starts with original photographs of succulent plants taken during travels. I try to capture some aspect of the plant that speaks to spirit. I alter the settings of these plants into abstract locations using glass beads and beach glass. The plants themselves are built with layered spirals of acrylic applied with the smallest possible script brush. The process, while slow, is meditative, and I believe to be infused with the Reiki healing I practice." As an active leader in the art community, Rosenfeld has served as a juror for juried exhibitions and has taught art at both the college level as well as local art centers. She is a former president of Tri State Artists Equity and she co-chaired a cooperative gallery for a decade. Currently, she serves on the board of ARTsisters, a group of women artists who show at various locations, giving a percentage of sales to worthy charities. Visit www.elynnrosenfeld.com to see more of her work.

Rosenfeld's open house is on **Sunday, October 25, at 1:00 p.m.** The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-noon. If the Religious School is closed on those days, the gallery is also closed. All of Florence's works are for sale. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece. ■

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 8)

OUR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE



Monday, October 26, 1:00-8:00 p.m.

Please help in this life-saving program and sign up to give, which you can do by contacting Jean Ettinger at jeanettinger@gmail.com.

HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, November 1, 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 too: healers who are in need of healing, and those in mourning. This brief worship service includes the *Mi'Shebbeirach* ("May The Holy One Who Blesses...") prayer as well as the hope that we will find *menuchah* ("tranquility") within ourselves during trying times. Join Rabbi Holin and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz at this special event.

JOIN US FOR THE URJ BIENNIAL

November 4 through 8

at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida



We'll hear from exciting presenters such as Jodi Kantor, Ari Shavit, Nicholas D. Kristof, Anita Diamant, and more. Learn who else will be joining us and what's new this year.

Registration is still open! Visit www.urj.org.

SAVE THE DATE

CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL TOURING ENSEMBLE

Sunday, November 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Kol Ami will once again host the Cheltenham High School Touring Ensemble. They will be performing their new 2015-16 show entitled *Movin' and Groovin'*, a collection of songs around the theme of travel, such as "Midnight Train to Georgia," "Come Sail Away," "Fly Me to the Moon," and "Proud Mary," among many others. This is a child-friendly performance, so bring the family! It is also presented FREE of CHARGE to the entire community, so bring a friend as well! ■

TOURING ENSEMBLE

of Cheltenham High School

presents



Movin' & Groovin'

featuring songs of traveling ...
from *Midnight Train to Georgia* to
Fly Me To the Moon to *Let the River Run*
.... and many more!



CHS Touring Ensemble
comes to Congregation Kol Ami
November 8, 2015 at 3PM

Free of charge to the Congregation and the greater community

8201 High School Rd, Elkins Park

215-635-3110



Family Bingo Night

Come out and join us at Congregation Kol Ami
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Kid-Friendly Prizes • "Themed" Raffle Items

Refreshments Available!

For more information, please call Ellen Kovnat

Phone: 215-886-8713

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

Pre-order for big savings!

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Hm Phone/Wk phone: _____

4 packs _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

single packs _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____

Payment Check # _____ (Payable to Kol Ami)

\$ _____



**4 pack – 14" cheese
pizza, 4 drinks, 4 cook-
ies, 10 bingo cards
.... \$20.00
(\$24.00 at the door)**

**Single pack – 2 pizza
slices, 1 drink, 1 cookie,
2 bingo cards \$5.00
(\$6.00 at the door)**

**Deadline for pre-ordering is November 11, 2015. Please send form and check to:
8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027**

Open to the community



Hazon Philadelphia Jewish Food Festival

November 15, 2015 - All Day

Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA

Co-hosted by Congregation Kol Ami and
Congregation Keneseth Israel

Did the kosher chicken on your *Shabbos* table ever see sunlight? Was your coffee grown by a women's cooperative in Guatemala? What else don't you know about your food's journey between the farm and your table?

Whether you're a fanatic farmer or suspicious of spinach, we want to give you balanced information to make informed, empowered food choices, without promoting any one lifestyle. Through the lens of Jewish ethics and dietary laws, we will explore the environmental, health, and social implications of the production and sourcing practices behind foods we encounter every day. We've been working for months to convene engaged experts from throughout the Jewish world and food movement, and they can't wait to meet you.

You are warmly invited to the **2015 Hazon Philadelphia Jewish Food Festival: *Between Farm and Table***. See you there! For more information, contact Ellen Friedman at ejf0254@gmail.com.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory:

Andrew Johnson
husband of Shari
father of Jessica and Ben

Alfred Levinson
uncle of Joel (Rachel) Fishbein

Marvin Levy
father of Paul (Mindy) Levy

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Caring Congregants Committee
Tuesday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Linda George, 215-782-1413, and Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994

Casino Night Committee
Sunday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m.
Chair: Sharon Myers, 215-460-0602

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue
Tuesday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.
Home of co-chairs Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry, 215-782-1704

Operations Committee
Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m.
Chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Marshall Schafer, 215-663-0228

Religious School Committee
Monday, October 26, at 7:45 p.m.
Chairs: Lisa Ney and Benny Shoham, 215-886-2029

Spiritual Growth Group
Monday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698, and Meryle Gurmankin, 215-464-2466

Social Action Committee
Monday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-1738, and Jody Long, 215-635-4751 ■



DENIM & *Diamonds*

9TH ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, January 9, 2016

7pm - 11pm

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

WINNINGS PROVIDED AS RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR FANTASTIC PRIZES!

\$35/person in advance

\$45/person 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



Social Action

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER



Please donate your gently used or new winter coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, and/or warm socks (socks must be new) to those in need. Bring your items to the synagogue during November and December. You can drop them off at the Religious School office on Wednesdays or Sundays, and at Elaine Steven's office on other days.

Both adult and children's clothing are welcome!

COOK FOR A FRIEND: OCTOBER 11 AT 10:00 A.M.



Kol Ami is a congregation of social action. One of our activities is "Cook for a Friend." A dedicated group gathers in our synagogue kitchen and prepares more than 100 meals that are delivered to KleinLife (formerly the Klein JCC). Meals are distributed by KleinLife through their Home-Delivered Meals program to needy individuals in the Greater Philadelphia area.

We cook twice during the year, making a hearty vegetable soup during one of our sessions and vegetable lasagna during the other.

Come join our soup-making morning on Sunday, October 11, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. BYOA (Bring Your Own Apron)! Contact Ellen Friedman, ejf0254@gmail.com, if you are interested or have any questions.

UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS

- November 1 at 1:00 p.m. – SHARE food program
- December - *Hanukkah* Food Drive
- December 20 at 1:00 p.m. – SHARE food program
- January 17 at 2:00 p.m. – Stop Hunger Now program
- February 28 at 10:00 a.m. – Cook for a Friend
- March 13 at 1:00 p.m. – SHARE food program
- April - Passover Food Drive
- May 15 at 1:00 p.m. – SHARE food program

If you'd like to become a member of the Social Action Committee, contact co-chairs Jody Long, 215-635-4751, or Rocky Weinstock, 267-980-1408. ■



Serving your community in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York

SOCIAL ACTION EVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
FROM 1:00-3:00 P.M.

**Help Philadelphia Families
This Spring Season by Packing
Food Boxes for Those in Need**

**at SHARE Food Program
2901 W. Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia**

**SHARE provides food to over
20,000 low-income families
each month. This is a great
activity for the whole family,
ages 8 and up.**

MAP:

[http://sharefoodprogram.org/
contact](http://sharefoodprogram.org/contact)

DIRECTIONS TO SHARE:

Take Route 1 South to Fox Street exit. At top of the exit, turn left onto Fox Street. Follow Fox Street to Hunting Park Avenue (about 3 lights), then turn right. Take Hunting Park Avenue to 29th Street. Turn right into the SHARE parking lot.

RSVP TO ELAINE STEVENS AT

execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or
215-635-3110.

**The warehouse is often chilly,
so dress appropriately! ■**

GETTING TO KNOW THE CARING CONGREGANTS COMMITTEE



LINDA GEORGE

The Caring Congregant Committee provides a means for congregants to recognize and to respond to fellow members during significant life-cycle events, affirming Kol Ami's commitment to our community.

Through our "Noshes" program, we organize meals for those unable to do so because of extraordinary physical and/or emotional cir-

cumstances. When a fellow member needs transportation to a doctor or help with errands, we do that through our "Mobile *Mitzvahs*" program. For member in mourning, we not only express condolences through a sympathy card, but we also arrange for a fellow member to drop off a *shiva* bag. When a congregant needs companionship, we visit them either at home or in a nursing facility. In addition, we mail cards to congregants celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries.



ELAINE GERSHENSON

As our committee has expanded, we have been able to offer our wonderful community more outreach options.

If you'd be interested in working with us, or are in need of a helping hand, please contact Co-chairs Linda George (lindasgeorge@gmail.com or 215-782-1413) and Elaine Gershenson (gershlaw@comcast.net or 215-887-3994).

We'd love to have you join us as we comfort those in need. ■

What a beautiful evening we had for our *Tashlikh* Service on September 15, overlooking the Wissahickon Creek near Valley Green. The view from the bridge was breathtaking, and the home-hosted *pareve* dinner hosted by Ruben Honik was very much appreciated by all.





KOL AMI EARLY LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES: (ABOVE) This photo says it all about how the children interact and support each other in our nurturing environment—the “friends forever” pact! (BELOW) Rabbi Holin blows the *shofar* for the Early Learning Center’s *Shabbat* on September 18.



SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

215-635-4182

Shelley Chamberlain, President

215-635-1738

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 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. ■

Engaging at Congregation Kol Ami

Art and Design Committee

Defines the aesthetic goals of the Congregation and presents design options consistent with those goals. The committee monitors "The Gallery at Kol Ami," a six- or eight-week rotation of art by regional artists to grace our lobby walls; and supervises installations, scheduling, show openings.

Chair: Karol Appel (215-938-9330 or a1karol@comcast.net)

Caring Congregants Committee

Reaches out to members in times of celebration, sympathy, life-cycle events, and transitions (births, birthdays, hospitalizations, death, or extraordinary needs) and develops activities to sustain this important outreach. Provides a consistent means for members to recognize, respond, and provide companionship to one another during important times in each others' lives.

Chairs: Linda George (215-782-1413 or lindasgeorge@gmail.com) and Elaine Gershenson (215-887-3994 or gershlaw@comcast.net)

Choir

Enjoy singing? Both Adult and Student choirs meet every Sunday for rehearsals, and each choir sings at *Shabbat* services once a month. There are also opportunities to sing with other local choirs at community events. Our student choir is for children in grades 2 through 6.

Contact: Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz (215-572-6094 or rebeccasongs@verizon.net)

Finance Committee

Monitors the financial position of the synagogue. Process includes: evaluating financial statements, creating the annual budget, monitoring performance versus budget, managing cost control, analyzing the dues structure, handling insurance matters, analyzing the fund accounts, and creating strategic partnerships.

Chairs: Lisa Landau (215-620-5226 or lisalandau537@gmail.com) and Bart Weiner (215-233-4712 or bart.weiner@gmail.com)

Fund Development Committee

Works to create a culture of giving in Kol Ami and creates coherence and strategy for the Congregation's fund-raising efforts. Committee provides leadership for specific events.

Chairs: Jennifer Streitwieser (215-421-8270 or jstreitwieser@comcast.net) and Bart Weiner (215-233-4712 or bart.weiner@gmail.com)

Inclusion 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 Kol Ami religious and communal life.

Chairs: Barry Boise (215-635-9042 or boiseb@pepperlaw.com) and Joel Fishbein (215-635-3615 or fishbein@litchfieldcavo.com)

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Provides an inclusive and open environment in meetings with Rabbi Holin to discuss challenges unique to interfaith relationships, provides programming to educate and address interfaith issues, welcomes all interfaith couples/families to our Congregation.

Chairs: Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry (215-782-1704 or betsymckinstry@gmail.com)

ISH

A fun way for young-ish (members with young children or those always young at heart) congregants to spend time together and create meaningful social networks. Organized activities are based on collective adult interests with opportunities to build relationships. Past events include ice skating, a poker night, a hayride, and wine tastings. Participants are diverse in life stages—married or in committed relationships, families or single.

Chairs: Sheryl Cohen (215-885-2436 or shcohen361@verizon.net) and Heather Pelletier (215-855-3216 or hfpt1@gmail.com)

Ladies of a Certain Age (LOCA)

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, such as themed potluck or *Shabbat* dinners.

Chairs: Natalie Dyen (215-657-4124 or nat.dyen@gmail.com), Jean Ettinger (215-635-3623 or jeanettinger@gmail.com), and Elaine Gershenson (215-887-3994 or gershlaw@comcast.net)

Landscape and Property Enhancement Committee

Focuses on grounds management, beautification, and additional property usage for our physical spaces.

Chair: Guy Appel (215-938-9330 or gappel@interphaseme.com)

Marketing Committee

Develops, implements, and maintains a communication plan tailored with the principle goal of growing its membership. While focused on direct marketing opportunities that can generate membership interest, the Committee works to ensure there is consistent voice to prospective members through

continued next page

Contact any chairperson to join!

continued from previous page

the Congregation Kol Ami Web site, the monthly Bulletin, and social media platforms. The Committee also looks inward to solicit feedback on existing and future programming through its digital research tool, the Kol Ami Pulse.

Chairs: Jeff Margasak (267-635-9332 or jkasagram@gmail.com) and Lorie Slass (215-635-0920 or lbslass@yahoo.com)

Membership Committee

Encourages prospective members 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 all members.

Chairs: Julie Cohen (215-635-4716 or Julie@juliecohencoaching.com) and Robin Warsaw (215-635-5839 or rkwarshaw@comcast.net)

Operations Committee

Develops and implements policies and procedures for operating the facility. With a principal focus on our building, its maintenance, and improvement, the Committee works with the Executive Director to maintain the consistent, low-risk, and efficient operations of all facets of synagogue life and ensures Kol Ami is a well-run congregation.

Chairs: Guy Appel (215-938-9330 or gappel@interphaseme.com) and Marshall Schafer (215-663-0228 or mschafer21@comcast.net)

Religious School Committee

Collaborates with David Monblatt, Director of Education, and Rabbi Holin to guide the development of: grade-level programs, ongoing dialogues between parents and the Committee, Youth Groups, and Family Education programs; proposes policies for the governance and operation of our school.

Chairs: Lisa Ney (215-886-2029 or lney@jfcshilly.org) and Benny Shoham (shohamlb@gmail.com)

Religious School PTO

Supports the religious school parents with activities within religious school and assists with fund-raising events. Provides the help needed for the *Hanukkah* bash, Color-War days, Bingo Night, bake sales, "dine-arounds," and pancake breakfasts. Meets during religious school hours.

Chairs: Erica Douglas (215-491-0630 or ejs145@comcast.com) and Deborah Poppel (215-947-2252 or dpoppel1@verizon.net)

Shomrei Adamah (Environmental Stewardship) 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. Recommends policies that promote efficient, economic, and sustainable practices for Kol Ami.

Chair: Mark Kaplan (215-635-2920, sustainability@kolamielkinspark.org)

Social Action Committee

In the spirit of *Tikun Olam*, this Committee organizes meaningful activities to address the needs of Kol Ami's surrounding community. Through direct service, advocacy, and action, the focus is on minimizing food insecurity and homelessness, improving the environment, mentoring, and sharing resources.

Chairs: Jody Long (215-512-3636 or jodyl321@comcast.net) and Rocky Weinstock (267-980-1408 or emailrocky@lycos.com)

Softball

As a member of the Delaware Valley Synagogue Softball League, Kol Ami's team offers male and female members an opportunity to have a fun and competitive summer. The league requires players be at least 18 years of age.

Captains: Eric Pelletier (215-855-3216 or esppt1@gmail.com) and Jonathan Shandell (215-277-5511 or jonathan.shandell@aya.yale.edu)

Spiritual Growth Group

Provides a welcome, intimate, and unthreatening way to explore God and spirituality. The Group studies Jewish liturgy as well as writings of Jewish philosophers and theologians; engages in down-to-earth discussions about spirituality; and uses a multi-faceted approach to exploration of faith, including creative writing and listening to music. Members design creative services and have presented *d'var Torah* at *Shabbat* services.

Chairs: Janet Falon (215-635-1698 or jfalton@english.upenn.edu) and Meryle Gurmankin (215-464-2466 or meryleg1@gmail.com)

Worship Enhancement Committee

Develops recommendations for Kol Ami's worship needs within the limits of the by-laws and in conjunction with the Rabbi's guidance. Accountable for the ongoing development and quality of the worship experiences for *Shabbat*, High Holy Days, healing/youth/*Havdalah*, and other holiday services. This includes music/choirs, integrating the *Mishkan T'filah* and *Mishkan Hanefesh* prayer books, exploring innovative options for "specialty services," ushering provisions, and attracting more congregants to worship.

Chairs: Mindy Levy, (215-885-3672 or artb4words@verizon.net) and William Shapiro (215-517-8666 or wmschap@gmail.com). ■

BAT MITZVAH - EMMA FISHBEIN

(continued from page 5)

from somewhere, and it is important to think of where things come from.

“I chose my verses to chant from this week’s *Torah* Portion (Genesis 1:2-8, 6:4-8) because I love reading about the very beginning [of creation] and also that God really regretted making humans. This relates to us because the verses are about seeing how amazing this new thing is and wanting to make it better, and then when you don’t stick with what was good in the first place, you can regret it.”

We congratulate Emma’s parents, Joel and Rachel, and her brothers, Dan, who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* at Kol Ami in 2008, and Adam, who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* at Kol Ami in 2011 and his Confirmation in 2014. ■

BAT MITZVAH - GABRIELLE WEXLER

(continued from page 5)

knowing that we had made their day. When I was there, I didn’t see suffering or pain, but rather happiness, smiles, and love.

“I was motivated to study for my *Bat Mitzvah* by my parents. They talked to me a lot about it and even said that I didn’t have to have one if I didn’t want to, but it made me feel empty inside thinking about not having a *Bat Mitzvah*. Also, other people who have celebrated their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvahs* motivated me because they looked so happy and felt so special, and everyone they loved was there for them. The look in their parents’ eyes filled with joy is what I want to see at my *Bat Mitzvah*.

“While studying for my *Bat Mitzvah*, I learned that I could read a lot more Hebrew than I thought I could. I also learned a lot about my life when it comes to love and trust, and that all of the challenges I faced are just part of life, and that when things might seem to be at their worst, they are going to get better. My *Torah* Portion – I am chanting from Genesis 12:14-20, 16:1-6 – is called *Lech Lecha*, and while it is about a journey from one place to another, I think of it as a life journey. Abraham and Sarah traveled on a road to Canaan and there were some bumps, just as in life there are bumps on the road. I learned that I cannot always be perfect and not everyone is going to get along, but for the people who care – my family, my friends, and my teachers – I’m perfect the way I am.”

We congratulate Gabrielle’s parents, Jeff and Robin. ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: THE REALE FAMILY



Kol Ami is very happy to welcome Laura and Matthew Reale and their children, Rachel and Max, to our congregation. Max is entering our Religious School as part of the current Kindergarten class, while his older sister Rachel is already a *Bat Mitzvah*, having had her education and ceremony previously at Keneseth Israel.

Laura and Matthew grew up locally—Laura in South Jersey and Matthew in Philadelphia—and they have lived in the Jenkintown/Abington area for the last 15 years. The Reale family joined Kol Ami this summer, citing the importance of starting Max in our Religious School.

Laura and Matthew are co-owners of AquaReale, a company that specializes in building and maintaining ponds and water features. Matthew is into biking, and Laura is a reader who also enjoys watching TV. As for the kids, Rachel is a competitive dancer who has danced with the 76ers junior dance team for three years. Max is an automobile maven, who—at the age of 5—can already name just about any car he sees on the street. Laura notes that above all else Max loves his big sister “more than anything in the world.”

We are very happy to have the Reales join our family at Kol Ami! ■

KOL AMI OCTOBER 2015 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Religious School 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Grades K-2 to Abramson Center 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal "Taste of Shabbat" 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Religious School PTO Meeting 11:00 a.m. erev Simchat Torah Service 7:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. - Lox-and-Bagel Dinner	5 Early Learning Center CLOSED - Simchat Torah Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service 10:00 a.m.	6 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Holin 10:30 a.m. Interfaith Relationship Dialogue 7:30 p.m. Home of Joel Edelman and Betsy McKinstry	7 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	8 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	9 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. Board Installation erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	10 Bat Mitzvah of Emma Fishbein 10:00 a.m.
				1 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	2 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. LOCA Dinner at Marco Polo 5:30 p.m. "First-Friday" erev Shabbat Service with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	3 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Sukkot in the Fields 12:30 p.m.

KOL AMI OCTOBER 2015 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 Trope Class - 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m. - Grade 6 to Parent and Student <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i> Meeting 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal "Cook for a Friend" 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 p.m.	12 Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Holin 10:30 a.m.	14 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	15 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	16 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir 6:00 p.m. erev Shabbat Service with Beverly Rosen 7:30 p.m.	17 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Blessing of Pets 2:00 p.m.
18 Trope Class - 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Grades K-2 Family Education Program 11:15 a.m. - Consecration Service 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 p.m. Honeybee Program 12:30 p.m. Touring Ensemble of Cheltenham H.S. 3:00 p.m.	19 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Early Learning Center Parent Night 6:30 p.m. Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	20 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Caring Congregants Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	21 Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with David Monblatt 10:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	22 Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m.	23 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. "New-Member" erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	24 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle Wexler 5:30 p.m.
25 Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Casino Night Committee Meeting 10:30 a.m. Artist Open House Elyne Rosenfeld 1:00 p.m.	26 American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00 p.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:45 p.m.	27	28 Early Learning Center Fall Festival 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with David Monblatt 10:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	29 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m.	30 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. erev Shabbat Service with Grade 3 participation 7:30 p.m.; 6:45 p.m. - BYOD	31 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 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.



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OCTOBER

- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**
5:30 p.m. - LOCA Dinner at Marco Polo
7:30 p.m. - "First-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with our Adult Choir
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, at 12:30 p.m.**
Sukkot-in-the-Fields
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**
10:00 a.m. - "Taste of *Shabbat*"
7:00 p.m. - *erev Simchat Torah* Service; preceded by Lox-and-Bagel Dinner at 6:15 p.m.
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, at 10:00 a.m.**
Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 & 13 at 10:30 a.m.**
Adult Continuing Jewish Education with Rabbi Holin
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, at 7:30 p.m.**
Interfaith Relationship Dialogue
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, at 7:30 p.m.**
Board Installation *erev Shabbat* Service
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, at 10:00 a.m.**
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Fishbein
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, at 10:00 a.m.**
"Cook for a Friend"
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, at 7:00 p.m.**
Social Action Committee Meeting
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, at 7:30 p.m.**
Operations Committee Meeting
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29 AND NOVEMBER 5 at 7:30 p.m.** - Adult Continuing Jewish Education with Neal Beatus
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**
6:00 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir
7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service with Book Reviewer Beverly Rosen
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, at 2:00 p.m.**
Blessing of Pets
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**
11:15 a.m. - Consecration Service
12:30 p.m. - Honeybee Program
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, at 7:00 p.m.**
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, at 6:00 p.m.**
Caring Congregants Committee Meeting
- **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 & 28 at 10:30 a.m.**
Adult Continuing Jewish Education w/David Monblatt

- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, at 7:30 p.m.**
"New-Member" *erev Shabbat* Service
- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, at 5:30 p.m.**
Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle Wexler
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**
10:30 a.m. - Casino Night Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m. - Artist Open House (Elynne Rosenfeld)
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**
1:00 p.m. - American Red Cross Blood Drive
7:45 p.m. - Religious School Committee Meeting
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**
6:00 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service
7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service with Grade 3 participation preceded by a BYO Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**
1:00 p.m. - Healing Service
1:00 p.m. - SHARE Food Program, Philadelphia, PA
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 at 7:30 p.m.**
"First-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**
11:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting
1:00 p.m. - LOCA Afternoon Tea (TBD)
3:00 p.m. - Touring Ensemble of Cheltenham H.S.
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 & 19; DECEMBER 3 & 10 at 10:30 a.m.**
Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Rosenbloom
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 & 19; DECEMBER 3 & 10 at 7:30 p.m.**
Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Rosenbloom
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**
6:30 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir
7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* Service with Grade 6 & 7 participation preceded by a BYO Dinner at 6:45 p.m.
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, at 5:00 p.m.**
Religious School PTO Family Bingo Night
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**
All Day - Philadelphia Jewish Food Festival
9:30 a.m. - Worship Enhancement Committee
- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 7:00 p.m.**
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, at 5:00 p.m.**
Martini Havdalah and Dinner (location TBD) ■