

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m. erev Shabbat-on-the-Meadow Service (preceded by a 5:45 p.m. BYOD)

FRIDAY, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m.

'Prospective Member' erev Shabbaton-the-Meadow Service (preceded by a 5:45 p.m. BYOD); also 'Second-Friday' birthday and anniversary blessings

SATURDAY, Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Hausen (see page 6)

SUNDAY, Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m.

A special service in memory of those who died on September 11, 2001, in the "Attack upon America" (the service will end in time for religious school parents to pick up their children when classes are dismissed at noon)

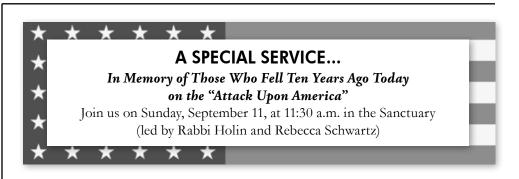
FRIDAY, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service Kara Schmidt will celebrate her Conversion Ceremony in our midst and will share her thoughts about the journey that has led her to choose Judaism

SATURDAY, Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

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

Tov l'Hodote: "It Is Good to Express Appreciation"—an evening of gratitude to Ilene Schafer, for her years of service as president of our congregation, and to welcome incoming members to our Board of Trustees continued page 3



COMMUNITY

HIGH HOLY DAY HAPPENINGS

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 2011-5772

Adult, Youth, and Children's Services plus Childcare

We will use the "Gates of Repentance" prayer book during adult services. We have 500 books available, but if you have the prayer book at home, please bring it with you so that the Kol Ami prayer books can derive the greatest possible use by other members and their families.

Our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services for students in grades 3 through 6 will be under the direction of our Congregation's I.M. Wise students and song leaders Ellie Kaplan and Zoe Long. Our young adults will be using "Gates of Repentance for Young People" as their prayer book.

As in previous years, we will have a special service for children in grades K through 2 on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur afternoons for our Children's-Family Service to ensure a meaningful, interactive experience using a special edition of "Gates of Repentance for Young People" as their prayer book.

Child care is available during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services through Laurie Langman (215-654-9717 or laurierobin@verizon.net).

HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT THE MITZVAH FOOD PROJECT

Similar to last year, each synagogue that is part of the Mitzvah Food Project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia will collect only one type of food item, and each Kehillah will collect a different food to expedite distribution and better protect food from damage. The Kehillah of Old York Road is collecting canned vegetables. Since the process is now "green," bring your unbagged canned vegetables to the synagogue during all of our High Holy Day services and place them in the collection bins. continued page 4



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Adult Education Committee

Thursday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Michael Chernoff, 215-677-8896 and Alan Gershenson, 215-887-3994

Casino Night Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 7:00 p.m. Co-chairs: Bill England, 215-635-0920 and Sharon Myers, 215-938-7435

Craft Show Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Chair: Ellen Horowitz Matz, 215-635-5426

Finance Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Marshall Schafer, 215-663-0228 and Bart Weiner, 215-233-4712

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716

Operations Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Co-chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330 and Jeff Cohen, 215-635-3232

Religious School Activities Working Group (PTO)

Sunday, Sept. 25, 10:00 a.m. Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335 and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 7:15 p.m. Chair: Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Spiritual Growth Group

Sunday, Sept. 18, at 10:30 a.m. Co-chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-635-4336 and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698 ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In contrast to modern secular thought, Judaism stresses the importance of separation. It instructs us to separate G-d from human, human from animal, Holy from profane, and the list goes on. The power of separation in Judaism is highlighted by the Hebrew word *Kadosh* קדוש, which means both holy and separate.

As we approach the High Holy Days, we experience a heightened sense of the uniqueness of this time and the importance of separation. These *Yamim Nora'im* (Days of Awe) focus our attention on our conduct—distinguishing good from bad during the past year.

It is not, however, only during this High Holy Day season that separation matters. The boundaries marked by Judaism also govern day-to-day life. Take for example, *Kashrut*, which instructs us to separate dairy from meat, and *Shabbat*, which commands us to set aside work—we are repeatedly reminded of the difference between the holy and the routine.

In modern American life, there is a different form of separation that is prevalent, but not supported by Judaism. I am referring to the battle many of us face in finding the time for our religion in the midst of our busy lives. This struggle to "squeeze Jewish" into our hectic schedules suggests that Judaism fits separately from normal daily activities. On the contrary, Judaism offers a prism through which we can view and enhance meaning to all aspects of our lives. Judaism offers a code of conduct that can elevate the routine. From eating to shopping and the treatment of strangers, Judaism offers sage wisdom.

We are all challenged to find ways to remove the barriers and incorporate the Jewish lens into the activities of our daily lives. This is difficult, but is not an

continued page 5

HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2011 - 5772		
Selichot	Saturday, September 24	10:00 p.m.
erev Rosh Hashanah	Wednesday, September 28	8:00 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah	Thursday, September 29 - Adult Service - Youth Service (Grades 3-6) - Children's-Family Service	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Tashlikh-Shabbat Shuvah	Friday, September 30	6:00 p.m.
Kol Nidrei	Friday, October 7	8:00 p.m.
Yom Kippur	Saturday, October 8 - Adult Service - Youth Service (Grades 3-6) - Children's-Family Service - Selected Readings/Discussion - Afternoon Service - Yizkor-Neilah Service	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

"YOU PRISONERS OF HOPE." (ZECHARIAH 9:12)



Those are the words of Zechariah, a Hebrew prophet whose voice was heard following the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE. Sent into exile by the Babylonians, we were eventually freed when Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylon and issued his famous Edict of Cyrus in 538 BCE. The decree enabled us to embark on a reverse journey, and Zechariah's words provided consolation to the exiles upon their return in order to fortify them with hope. His name means "God has remembered."

Consider those four words: "You prisoners of hope." *Tikvah* (hope) is part

of our Jewish DNA. It fortifies us and helps sustain us. The prophet Isaiah preceded Zechariah by 200 years, and he spoke about "a saving remnant": the conviction that no matter what, our People would endure. This is the miracle of Jewish survival. We endure and we excel.

The vicissitudes of life spin us like *dreidels*. One has but to think about events over this past year: the ferocity of the tsunami that devastated Japan; the hope sown by the 'Arab spring'; the bestiality of the Syrian government directed upon its own citizens; an economy driving us to distraction; Capitol Hill defined more by catcalls than cooperation; and 'Tent Protests' in Israel, signifying the lament of her middle class over the lack of a social contract between the government and its citizens.

The High Holy Days arrive to give us sacred time to reassess and reflect in ways both personal and communal. We are reminded at this time of year in particular that the purpose of religion is to have us see ourselves as part of the process of creation, as we move from *tov* (good) to *tov m'ode* (very good) in the name of *tikun olam* (healing the world of pain). We act through *klal Yisrael* (community): dialogue with each other and in partnership with God. The gift of life bestows upon us a mission and a purpose.

We are, in the words of Zechariah, "Prisoners of hope." *Hatikvah* is the national anthem of our People. We would have it no other way.

Shanah tovah, shalom u'vrachah, Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

WORSHIP SERVICE

(continued from page 1)

(see page 6)

SATURDAY, Sept. 24

10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue **5:30 p.m.** - *B'nai Mitzvah* of Jonny and Olivia Charendoff

10:00 p.m. - *Selichot* Service: "Late-Night Thoughts and Resolutions" preceded by an *Oneg* at 9:30 p.m. with delicious refreshments (see page 4)

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 28, 8:00 p.m. erev Rosh Hashanah

THURSDAY, Sept. 29

10:00 a.m. - Rosh Hashanah (parallel Youth Service for students in grades 3-6 in the chapel) **2:00 p.m.** - Children's-Family Service

FRIDAY, Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m.

Tashlikh-Shabbat Shuvah Service at the home of Guy and Karol Appel, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. BYOD

SATURDAY, Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m. *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, Oct. 7, 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidrei

SATURDAY, Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m. *Yom Kippur*

TORAH & HAFTARAH

September 3 - Shofetim Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 Isaiah 51:12-52:12

September 10 - Kee Tetzey Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 Isaiah 54:1-10

September 17 - *Kee Tavo* Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 Isaiah 60:1-22

September 24 - *Nitzavim-Vayelech* Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30 Isaiah 61:10-63:9 ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office 215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin 215-635-4182

David Hyman, President 215-496-7224

Barry Boise, Vice President 215-635-9042

Jeff Cohen, Vice President 215-635-3232

Ellen Asam, Secretary 215-635-5598

Bart Weiner, Treasurer 215-233-4712

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director 215-635-3110

Rabbi Selilah Kalev Director of Education 215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler Nursery School Director 215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist 215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:

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

Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org Facebook:

www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (e.g., by August 5 for the September 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. ■

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

SELICHOT – THE GATEWAY TO ROSH HASHANAH

Late-Night Thoughts and Resolutions Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 p.m. in the Chapel Pre-service *Oneg* at 9:30 p.m.

What are your most fervent hopes as you prepare to welcome *Rosh Hashanah*? How can forgiving (*selichot*) yourself and others lead to a brighter future?

Our *Selichot* prayer booklet will prepare our entry to the High Holy Days, which begin on September 28; and our Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz, will inspire us through melodies associated with this holiest time of the year.

TASHLIKH SERVICE - THE BRIDGE TO YOM KIPPUR

Friday, September 30, Guy & Karol Appel's Residence (Meadowbrook) Bring-Your-Own-Dinner, Refreshments, and Blanket Bring a dessert to share!

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.; Tashlikh Service at 6:00 p.m.

Tashlikh, from the Hebrew word meaning "to send forth," is a service of readings and reflections from Psalms and Prophetic writings. Traditionally held on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and dating back to the Middle Ages, the Tashlikh service is a tribute to the Creator to whose work of creation the fish were the first witnesses, hence the proximity to a natural body of water ("Let waters bring forth swarms of living creatures").

We will symbolically cast our transgressions across the water to be carried away, preparing us for the Day of Atonement just a week later, at *Kol Nidrei* on Sunday, October 7.

REFLECTIVE READINGS AND DISCUSSION ON YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON

Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Our High Holy Day Reflective Reading Service provides a pleasant and meaningful interlude between the Children's-Family Service and the Afternoon Service, a way for us to continue to pray together with readings culled from different sources as well as those written by our own members.

We invite you to submit creative or favorite writings by September 21 to Spiritual Growth Group chairpersons Natalie Dyen (215-657-4124) or Janet Falon (215-635-1698) for inclusion in the service.

YIZKOR (MEMORIAL) SERVICE ON YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, October 8, at 5:30 p.m.

A booklet listing the names of loved ones to be remembered has been provided by you on your membership forms. If you wish to make any additions or corrections for the booklet, please send this information to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org by October 1.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



One of my favorite stories to relate at the beginning of the year is of a professor who wanted to challenge his students. He placed a beaker full of stones on his desk and asked the class whether or not the beaker was full.

They immediately responded that it was. Without a word, he took a bag of pebbles and poured many into the beaker; they slid in through the cracks, filled in between the stones, and filled the jar to the top. He turned to the class once again and asked, "Is the jar full now?"

Impressed, the class looked again, saw that now the spaces had been filled in and answered that it was definitely full now.

The professor smirked a bit—he loved opening the minds of stubborn students—and again, without a word, he took a bag of sand and poured it into the beaker, filling the tiniest of cracks between the stones and pebbles and proving that it had not been full. The professor smiled and turned to the class, "Okay, is it full now?"

The class, sensing that they were being teased, hesitated before they answered...perhaps, as with each of the other times, there was something more that could be done...but they could see no more room in the jar, so once again they responded, "Yes, it is full." The professor sighed; he had thought, for a moment, they might have gotten wise, but instead of saying a word, he turned to the cup of water that stood next to him and gently poured water into the mix. "Now," he said with a flourish, "it is full!"

So what is my point in relating this story? It was to illustrate the importance of making sure that, just like the beaker, we place the stones, or main priorities, in our schedule first. Because if we start with the water, or even the sand, there will be no room for anything else. My hope in telling this to the families at the beginning of religious school is that religious school and synagogue life will be a "stone" in their beaker. A nice message for the beginning of a year...

This anecdote has been swimming in my head for months. Each time I have sat before my calendar, planning the year ahead, I have had to choose my "stones." Over the past few years, we have been honing our program, adding new and wonderful things, changing things, and building more and more. The only problem that we seem to have is that our beaker is getting full. During the open house at the end of last year, I asked for FEEDBACK: I need to know what you like, what you love, and what you want to keep. So, this year, don't miss a thing and let me know how you doing along the way.

continued page 20

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

all-or-none choice. To accept our religious life as compartmentalized from our full identity is self-defeating. It limits our exposure to Jewish learning and the potential impact for creating more meaningful lives. I wonder what is the point of such a religious practice. As we invite Judaism to extend its reach within our lives, the "squeeze" becomes a glide. Embracing *Shabbat* can become a yearning rather than an imposition. An ingestion of food with loved ones may become a satisfying meal of deeper human connection.

If each of us makes this effort, we as individuals and Kol Ami will benefit immeasurably. We know that our Synagogue will be more successful if we, as members, find ways to ease religious life into our hours, days, and weeks. I wonder how you have faced this challenge. I hope you will share your successes.

I wish you all a Shana Tova שנה טובה.

P.S. As you read this September bulletin, I am finishing my second month as President. I am enjoying the experience and appreciate your support and good wishes. *Todah rabah* TITI Kol Ami. Finally, have you noticed this publication is no longer delivered to your mailbox? E-mail delivery provides some relief to our budget. How does e-mail delivery impact your household's use of the Kol Ami newsletter? We'd appreciate it if you would contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org to let us know.

David Hyman 215-496-7224 president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

BAT MITZVAH OF HANNAH HAUSEN

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



Hannah is in the seventh grade at Murray Avenue School. Her favorite subject is social studies, and her extracurricular activities include math and basketball. She devotes volunteer time to a soup kitchen. For her *Bat Mitzvah* project, Hannah has been raising money to donate to soup kitchens and animal shelters.

"My parents motivated me to celebrate my *Bat Mitzvah* when they told me that it was the greatest experience of my Mom's life. My Mom and her sisters all went to Orthodox Jewish camp, and their father (my grandfather) is a rabbi. They had to study almost every day, so in contrast, no one except my parents realized the progress that I was making. I also thought about how much fun it would be to have all my friends and family watching me on the *bimah* and saying, 'Wow!'

While studying for my *Bat Mitzvah*, I learned that I am persistent, but only when I want to be. I have also learned that you should think before you speak, because otherwise you can hurt people's feelings and your own. Just saying a word or a sentence can change a relationship.

My favorite holy day is *Purim* because it shows irony and bravery. The irony is that the scaffold that Haman built to kill Jews was the very one on which he died. The bravery is that when Esther's uncle Mordechai heard about Haman's plot to kill the Jews, he told her to tell King Ahashuerus that she herself was Jewish. However, if you entered the king's throne room without an invitation from the king, you could be put to death. Esther knew the risk, but went to tell him anyway.

One of my most powerful Jewish experiences occurred when Mrs. Holtzman was talking about the Holocaust in one of our classes. It was powerful, frightening, intense, and serious. We talked about what the concentration camps were like, and why Hitler did this to all Jews and at the expense of non-Jews who tried to help us or who opposed him.

My favorite prayers are the *Avote v'Imahote* and the blessings over the *Torah*. The *Avote v'Imahote* is sort of a giant compliment to G-d, recognizing all that He has done for us and all the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. The blessings over the *Torah* are like sending a thank-you note to G-d for the most important gift of all, the *Torah*. Without it, we would not know the stories of our ancestors."

We congratulate Hannah's parents, Ruth and Michael, and her sister, Ilana. ■

BAR MITZVAH OF JONNY CHARENDOFF

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

Jonny is in the eighth grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. His favorite subjects are math, environmental science, and cello. His extracurricular activities include solar cars, ski and snowboard clubs, the environmental club, and Rosetta Stone (Italian and Spanish). Outside of school he is involved in Ultimate Frisbee, snowboarding, water skiing, and he plays bass guitar in a band.

His volunteer activities include serving as an usher at instrumental concerts at the school and giving tours to parents and children around the school throughout August. He and his family donate clothes to less fortunate people and prepare meals at the Ronald McDonald House. His *Mitzvah* Project will be spent in Costa Rica at the Toucan Reserve: a rehabilitation center for hurt or orphan Rainforest animals.

"While studying for my *Bar Mitzvah*, I learned that I can do anything that I put my mind to doing. I worked hard to learn my *Torah* verses and get the prayers sounding just like they should, and I also learned more about my Jewish connection. I wasn't so sure about it several months ago, but I now better realize what it means to be a Jew.

One of my most instructive Jewish experiences has been being a student in our Hebrew School. It has helped me come closer to the Jewish religion and learn Hebrew. I have learned so many stories about how mighty God is, and what happens when people work together to make things happen.

My favorite prayers are the *Avote v'Imahote* as well as the *Torah* blessings. I like the *Avote* because when I read it, I feel connected to our ancestors: we should remember and respect them because they are an important part of our religion. I like the *Torah* blessings because we should honor the *Torah* and learn from it. We should take every opportunity to learn as much as we can from it.

The reason that I chose to chant my particular verses from the *Torah* portion is because I like the thought that G-d will always be here to help, but if you turn away from G-d, you will be on your own. However, G-d will forgive you if you return to Him. I especially like the last part of my *Torah* verses because it says that following G-d and doing *mitzvot* are not anywhere else but in you."

We congratulate Jonny's parents, Meg Charendoff, Steve and Amy Charendoff, and his sisters, Cece (who celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* at Kol Ami on May 16, 2009) Olivia (with whom he celebrates his *Bar Mitzvah* this evening), and Ila.

BAT MITZVAH OF OLIVIA CHARENDOFF

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

Olivia is in the eighth grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. Her favorite subjects are art, vocal music, English, and French. Her extracurricular activities include creative writing, Philadelphia Young Playwrights, Musical Theatre, Wild Clefs (an audition-only singing group) and volunteering time to Cradles to Crayons. Outside of school, she enjoys dancing, singing, drawing, and glass-bead-making.

She helped to organize the Cradles to Crayons Club at school to collect refurbished clothes, toys, and necessities for underprivileged children. Her *Mitzvah* Project has been devoted to preparing breakfast and doing an activity with the children at the Ronald McDonald House and knitting blankets for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for cancer patients.

"I like being Jewish because our religion has survived for so long, and it has adapted. The religion is flexible and fits every individual participant. If you believe one thing and not the other, you are free to question and determine what you believe in. I feel really special when I think about my connection to the Jewish people. I feel that I'm part of something bigger than myself.

Throughout my studies, I learned that hard work is rewarding. I also realized that everything I have learned has been connected to another part of my studies and everyday life. For example, words in the Book of Isaiah in my *Haftarah* portion are displayed over the names of members in our synagogue lobby ("In My house, within My walls, I will give you a memorial and a name" Isaiah 56:5).

The reason that I chose to chant my particular verses from the *Torah* portion is that they offer tangible proof about G-d. In these verses, G-d told Moses that he was almost done living his life and what he should do to prepare for his death. G-d knew that once Moses was gone, the people would need proof of G-d's existence as well as G-d's guidance, or else they would surely forget and lose faith. This is relevant to our lives because in our society we have separated ourselves from G-d and religion. Because there is no longer a hovering, special cloud above our giant tents or temples that hold holy arks, we have distanced ourselves from G-d. So G-d instructed Moses about how he should keep the people of Israel united and faithful after his death."

We congratulate Olivia's parents, Meg Charendoff, Steve and Amy Charendoff, and her siblings, Cece (who celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* at Kol Ami on May 16, 2009) and (with whom she celebrates her *Bat Mitzvah* this evening, and Ila.

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to:



Taylor Appel on receiving the United States Congressional Awards Program Gold Medal.

Bob and Ellen Fischer on the announcement of the birth of their granddaughter, Juniper Rae Oser, daughter of Maren and Khyber Oser, born on July 7.

Rabbi Holin for being reelected

to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Social Policy Action Network, and for his article 'Dealing with Transition in the Lives of Parents and Children' that appeared in the August edition of "Parents Express."

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest members:

- Abby Binder and Jane Tausig
- Drs. Craig and Wendy Comisar, and their children Isaac and Aaron
- Nicholas and Kara Schmidt and their children Jenna, Adam, Gia, and Nicholas
- Robert and Susan Seltzer
- Terry and Meryl Silver

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Abraham Frumin

father of Vera Frumin grandfather of Michael and Rachael

Arnold Lowe

father of David{Emily}Lowe grandfather of Elizabeth, Kate and Jonathan

David A. Miller, Sr.

father of David A. Miller, Jr. {Margery}

Helen Tuttle

grandmother of Donna Leis great-grandmother of Justin

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

Don't Miss These Opportunities!

Continuing Jewish Education

Tastes of Honey: Sample the Wonders of Jewish Wisdom Literature

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Commencing September 7

Join Rabbi Holin on the following Wednesdays to delve into Jewish texts and teachings that stimulate thought and have the potential of enriching your life:

Date	Writings/Works
September 7	The <i>Unataneh Tokef</i> – 'the prayer' of <i>Yom Kippur</i>
September 14	The <i>Birkaht haMazon</i> , the blessing after a meal (but not just for food!)
October 5	Ecclesiastes, part 1: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (3:1) and other verses
October 26	Ecclesiastes, part 2: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong" (9:11) and other verses
December 7	Proverbs , part 1: "To know wisdom and instruction" (1:2)
December 14	Proverbs , part 2: "Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth" (27:2)
January 18	The Book of Job, part 1: "The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken" (1:21)
January 25	The Book of Job, part 2: "The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind" (38:1)
February 15	Selected works of Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, part 1
February 22	Selected works of Israeli poet

Yehuda Amichai, part 2

Contemporary Jewish Writers Group Book-Review Calendar

Instructor: Lou Barrett

Selected Sundays from 11:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Date	Title/Author
September 11	"Rashi's Daughters - Book I" Maggie Anton
	This first dialogue will be from 10:00- 11:30 a.m. so that those who wish to attend the 9/11 Commemoration Service at 11:30 a.m. may do so
November 13	"Pictures at an Exhibition" Sara Houghteling
January 8	"The Magic Barrel" Bernard Malamud
March 18	"Counterlife" Philip Roth
May 6	"The Talmud and the Internet" Jonathan Rosen



Over the years, our book group has enjoyed works by Michael Chabon, Stephen Dubner, Jonathan Safran Foer, David Grossman, Dara Horn, Primo Levi, Bernard Malamud, Amos Oz, Philip Roth, Isaac Bashevis Singer and A.B. Yehoshua.

Before joining Kol Ami, Ms. Barrett—teacher of literature and writing, Poet of the Year at Wesleyan University, recipient of the

Connecticut Poetry Society's Winchell Award, and contributor to numerous national magazines—led a Contemporary Jewish Writers group at Temple Israel in Westport, Connecticut.

for Adults at Kol Ami

Israel and Palestine Roots of Conflict and Resolution and Understanding 9/11 - Ten Years Later

Instructor: Alan Luxenberg Tuesday - September 13 and October 11 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

<u>September 13: Israel and Palestine - Roots of Conflict</u> and Resolution

It has been said that if we rethink the past, we might be able to imagine the future. In this talk, Mr. Luxenberg will explore the roots of the Israel-Palestine conflict, review the history of the two-state solution, and offer reflections on what is needed to bridge the gap between the two sides. We will also discuss the issue of UN recognition of Palestinian statehood, expected to come before the UN General Assembly in September.

October 11: Understanding 9/11 - Ten Years Later

The assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981 by Muslim extremists is often misunderstood as an outcome of the Egyptian-Israel Peace Treaty, but it was much more than that, for it was part of a much larger civil war within Islam that ultimately gave rise to 9/11. Ten years later, we are still contending with its legacy in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and at home in the United States. In this session, we will examine the roots of 9/11 and its aftermath, assessing how grave the threat is in 2011 and beyond.

Mr. Luxenberg is the acting director of Philadelphia's Foreign Policy Research Institute and director of its Wachman Center, a program designed to foster civic and international literacy in the community and in the classroom. He is the author of two books for middle and secondary school students: "The Palestine Mandate and the Creation of Israel" and "Radical Islam." For six years, he taught a course about the history of the modern State of Israel in our congregation's Confirmation Academy.



Adult Two-Year B'nai Mitzvah Class

Instructors: Rabbi Elliot Holin and Rosalind Holtzman Tuesdays - October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15, December 6, January 3 & 17, February 7 & 14, March 13 & 27, April 3 & 17, May 1 & 15 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This course leads to the celebration of our congregation's third Adult *B'nai Mitzvah* Service in the Spring of 2013—the previous two were in 2001 and 2009—and includes:

- developing an understanding of the liturgy of our *Shab-bat* service and the ability to read those selections from the service: the *V'ahavtah*, *Ma'ariv Aravim*, *Yotzer*, *Avote v'Imahote*, *G'vurote* and *Torah* blessings. Prior Hebrew knowledge is not required!
- gaining a greater appreciation about the major and minor holy days, Jewish rituals, life-cycle traditions, and the meaning of God.
- discussing classic Biblical texts: why they resonate throughout history, and how they relate to us.
- understanding more about much-loved Psalms.
- reading the inspiring words of the prophets: Amos, Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah.
- reviewing a survey of the historic development of Reform Judaism in Europe and America and the changes it has undergone in this country: philosophy and practice. What does it mean to be a Reform Jew?
- participating in a special *B'nai Mitzvah* service to be led by members of the class in the Spring 2013.

continued page 10

CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION FOR ADULTS AT KOL AMI (CONTINUED)

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS (continued from page 9)

The first evening segment (7:00-7:45 p.m.) will be led by Rosalind Holtzman, a teacher in our religious school and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* tutor. These segments will focus on Hebrew reading skills and the meaning of liturgy that we read at our *Shabbat* services.

Ms. Holtzman has co-taught adult family education sessions about the Jewish holy days, customs, rituals, and meanings with Rabbi Holin. She celebrated her adult *Bat Mitzvah* in May 1998 at Kol Ami and affirms that much of her Jewish learning has occurred as an adult, including relearning to read Hebrew, learning to read *Torah*, and how to define for herself what constitutes "authentic" Judaism.

The other evening segment (7:45-8:30 p.m.) will be taught by Rabbi Holin and will include a survey of: major and minor holy days, as well as *Shabbat*; rituals; classical Biblical texts; life-cycle events; the meaning of God, soul, and afterlife in the Jewish tradition; and the history and importance of Reform Judaism.

The cost per year is \$375, including books and materials. Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by October 10 with a check payable to Congregation Kol Ami. Scholarships are available from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund on a confidential basis through Rabbi Holin.

Life Happens: To See the World through Jewish Eyes -Our Search for Meaning

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot Thursdays - October 27 and November 3, 10 & 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.



In his book "Man's Search for Meaning," Viktor Frankl defines meaning as the primary psychospiritual need of the individual: "We had to learn (in the concentration camps)...that it did not really matter what we expected

from life, but rather what life expected from us...Our answer must consist not in talk, but in right action and right conduct...These tasks, and therefore the meaning of life, differ from person to person."

Our search for meaning is a series of seminars devoted to meaningfulness as related to Jewishness. By discussing classic and contemporary Jewish texts, participants in individual, as well as clustered sessions, will explore human needs, attitudes, and actions that often exist in creative tension with each other: fear-optimism; failure-confidence; suffering-contentment; pride-shame.

Professor Bogot, MEd, is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He has served as a faculty member of HUC-JIR of Religion, Marymount Manhattan College, and Fordham University as clinical professor of education and assistant professor in the departments of Humanities and Theology.

Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by October 20.

Lunch and Learn - Mishnah



Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Commencing November 8 BYOL plus 'Jewish nutrition' at the Synagogue

What wisdom did rabbis in the second century of the Common Era offer about life and afterlife, the search for wisdom, and the sanctity of relationships that might be insightful today?

Join Rabbi Holin as we explore selections from *Mishnah* – *Pirkei Avot* ("Chapters of the Fathers/Ancestors" from the second century of the Common Era) to discuss rabbinic writings about Temple rituals, personal and professional relationships, the value of study, and how they speak to us now.

Date	Writings/Works	
November 8	"How to Enhance Life"	
November 15	"How to Make Wise Choices"	
March 13	"The Benefits of Studying Torah"	
April 3	"What to Avoid Doing" – part 1	
April 10	"What to Avoid Doing" - part 2	
May 8	"What Is a Good Path in Life?"	
May 15	"The Purpose of Prayer"	

Please call Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182 by November 1 to RSVP for the November classes.

CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION FOR ADULTS AT KOL AMI (CONTINUED)

Believing by Association

Instructor: Rabbi Howard Bogot Tuesdays - April 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Finding meaning in God meant more to Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan than thinking about God's being all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present. Kaplan encouraged religious Jews to discover God in the power of salvation, cooperation as the chief source of happiness, the potential for good in humanity, freedom as the liberation of personality, and the reconstruction of Jewishness as a righteous civilization. Participants in this seminar will discuss the ways in which reconstructing Judaism promotes rediscovering God.

Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by March 27.

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

Instructor: Rabbi Patrice Heller Thursdays - April 12, 19 & 26 and May 3rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



This enrichment program is designed for people in intimate long-term relationships: committed partners and pre-marital, married, and remarried couples. This workshop of four 2-hour classes is for couples of all ages and sexual orientations.

Intimate partners share a journey filled with bumps

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

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

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

Session	Title
One	Jewish Wisdom about Relationships, Personal Growth, and Spirituality
Two	The Jewish Imperative: Listen, Understand, and Act!
Three	The Double <i>Mitzvah</i> : the Jewish Perspective on Sexuality
Four	Cultivating Commitment

Patrice Heller has been a Reform rabbi in the Philadelphia community for 30 years, serving at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Temple Sholom in Broomall, PA, Or Ami in Lafayette Hill, and the Reform Community at University of Pennsylvania Hillel. Patrice is a psychologist and Pennsylvania-licensed marriage and family therapist, has maintained an independent rabbinical and psychotherapy practice since 1986, and was a staff therapist at Council of Relationships for five years. She has been an adjunct associate professor in the Psychology department at Temple University (TU) since 2006, teaching life-span psychology and the course she created for TU—Human Sexualities. She recently became a therapist at the Postpartum Stress Center in Rosemont, PA.

Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens by April 5. ■

Registration Instructions

To register for a workshop, contact Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org by the deadline shown.

Non-member course fees for classes taught by Rabbis Bogot and Heller are \$50 per course.

Course fees can be applied to membership for the current year or forthcoming year.

Membership is required to enroll in the *B'nai Mitzvah* course.

Kol Ami Events

SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

From September through December of this year, the Spiritual Growth Group (SGG) will meet at several one-or two-session Continuing Education programs that focus on important Jewish texts we use frequently.

What does working with Jewish texts have to do with the SGG? A lot! Grappling with text allows you to find its spirituality and bring it with you when you see it at services or in some other religious context. If you approach a Jewish text with an open mind and heart, you can start to understand its historic and literary richness too. And the more you know about—and have a more-than-perfunctory relationship with—Jewish text, the more your spiritual experience of it will be enhanced.

The text-study program dates are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. as follows: September 7 and 14; October 5 and 26; December 7 and 14; January 18 and 25; February 15 and 22. The SGG will then resume its own meetings in 2012. The tentative theme for the group's three winter meetings are the Jewish approaches to Eating, Praying, and Loving.

If you have any questions or ideas for the SGG, please contact co-chairs Natalie Dyen at 215-657-4124 or nat. dyen@verizon.net, or Janet Falon at 215-635-1698 or jfalon@english.upenn.edu.

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



Rabbi Holin's **Fast for Darfur**—which supports rescue efforts in Darfur—and **Nothing But Nets** fast—which supports URJ's project to purchase, distribute, and educate about the proper use of insecticide-treated family bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa— will be on **Thursday**, **September 8**, and **Monday**, **October 10**.

His Phast for Philadelphia—which is on

behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs, and pay electric bills— will be on **Tuesday, September 20**, and **Wednesday, October 19**.

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

Commission on Social Action

Union for Reform Judaism 633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017 (make check payable to the URJ with a memo note 'Nothing But Nets')

Save Darfur Coalition

3246 Solutions Center Lockbox #773246 Chicago, IL 60677

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')

THANK-YOU FROM THE UNEMPLOYMENT INFORMATION CENTER

Brook Chidester, Development/Health Care Navigator

Dear Rabbi Holin,

We recently received Congregation Kol Ami's \$50 donation as well as your personal donation in the same amount, made possible by your Phast for Philadelphia.

Thank you so much for including us again in your social justice work. Your support makes it possible for the Unemployment Information Center to help unemployed and underemployed people and their families survive times of economic downturn. Given the economic challenges ahead, our collective work will be more important than ever.

Once again, thank you for your help. It means so much to all of us here that you and your congregation support our efforts to help economically vulnerable Philadelphians.

SECOND-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

for September Birthday and Anniversary Blessings Friday, September 9, 6:30 p.m. at our 'Prospective Member' Service

(preceded by a bring-your-own dinner at 5:45 p.m.)

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in September, please join us for a special



Second-Friday *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a September *simcha* under a *tallit* in front of the ark. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*. Rabbi Holin will continue to send personal letters to everyone celebrat-

ing 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*.

MARTIAL ARTS AT KOL AMI

Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The class includes warm-ups, basics (stances, block and counters, kicking), forms, conditioning, limited releases and limited *chanbara* (padded weapons). Belt tests will be conducted periodically based on individual progress.

The class is taught by Sensei Scott Elkins. Sensei Elkins has been studying martial arts for 25 years and teaching in the area for 22 years. The cost per class is \$5.00 for members; \$7.00 for non-members. Contact Scott at 267-205-0216.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP (RSAWG) EVENTS

Below are the RSAWG 2011/2012 Events and Activities at a glance:

- September 11 First day of Religious School
- September 17 Camden Riversharks Baseball Game Fund-raiser
- Religious School Bake Sales September 18, October 16, November 20, March 11, and April 15
- RSAWG Meetings September 25, October 23, December 11, January 22, February 5, March 18, and April 22
- Family Bingo November 5, 2011
- Pancake Breakfast December 11, 2011
- Hoagie Sale February 5, 2012

Any questions or concerns can be directed to co-chairs Kenny Moss (kenny.moss2@comcast.net) and Heather Pelletier (hfppt1@gmail.com) or Elaine Stevens at the Kol Ami executive office.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND-RAISER

Saturday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m. Riversharks take on the Somerset Patriots

Bring the entire family and enjoy the day. Tickets are only \$11. Reserve your seat today. Questions? Contact Barry Steinbrecher at 215-669-3668 (cell), 215-462-7900 ext. 341 (work), or barro827@aol.com. See the flyer on page 14 for details.

RUBYE'S KIDS

Sunday, September 18, Noon to 3:00 p.m. Kirkbride Shelter, 111 North 49th Street, Philadelphia

Congregation Kol Ami will host its second birthday party for children ages 4 to 12 who live in the Kirkbride Shelter. Our Social Action Committee is partnering with Rubye's Kids, a Jenkintown-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping enhance the social, emotional, and educational welfare of underprivileged children in Philadelphia. All members and their children, ages 16 years and older, are invited to participate.

Rubye's Kids operates year-round, hosting birthday parties, providing study centers and libraries for children in homeless shelters, stuffing backpacks with school supplies, and planning the annual holiday party, which this past December hosted more than 500 of the neediest young children from Philly's inner-city schools.

Those of us who hosted the first birthday at Kirkbride in April, 2011, unconditionally agreed that it was one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences. The children were so excited to have us there with them. We played, painted, sang, and learned so much about their difficult lives.

Please become a part of this great organization and join us on September 18. This a real opportunity to spread goodwill Please RSVP to Ellen Fischer at efischer@fischerlawoffice.com. For more information on Rubye's Kids, visit them at www.RubyesKids.org.

continued page 16





Reserve Your Seats Today!

- Go to www.riversharks.com
 and click on the "Riversharks
 Fundraising Program Log-In" icon
- 2. Enter your group's unique code
- 3. Click "Buy"
- 4. Select your seats and complete your order
- Root for the Riversharks!

Your Unique Code is:

KolAmi

\$5 Of Each Ticket Is Donated To

Congregation Kol Ami

Questions? Contact:

Brian Henninger 856-583-0026

BHenninger@riversharks.com

*Ticket Sales end 3 days before the game



You Are Kindly Invited to Join the Craft & Fine Arts Show @ Kol Ami 2011 Chai-Ly Spirited Sponsors!

PLATINUM \$100 LEVEL

PLATINUM SPONSORS will receive two entrances to the Saturday Preview Night & Sale plus five raffle tickets for a chance to win the highly coveted art item donated by one of our participating artisans available only for that evening ... **PLUS**...free entrance for the following day.

GOLD \$36 LEVEL

GOLD SPONSORS will receive five raffle tickets for a chance to win the highly coveted art item donated by one of our participating artisans available only for that evening. (Gold Sponsorship does not include entrance to the Saturday night or Sunday event.)

To show our appreciation for your generosity, our list of **CHAI-LY SPIRITED SPONSORS** will be shared on the event's Web site (www.kolamicraftshow.org), at the event, and in the bulletin.

In advance, thank you for considering to be a **2011 CHAI-LY SPIRITED SPONSOR!** At your convenience, please forward your interest and a check to Elaine Stevens.



Vetted Showcase of 50+ Local Artisans! October 29 & 30 OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

SPECIAL PREVIEW NIGHT & SALE

Saturday, October 29, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$18 advance sale; \$20 at the door

- Crafts and Fine Arts available for purchase
- Entertainment: Cheltenham High School's Premier A Capella Groups Sons of Pitch & Up the Octave;
 "Dos Guys" Greg Brown & Ron Chmar, and David Zee
- Catered gourmet light fare by Joshua's of Jenkintown; Wine & Beverages
- · Free raffle ticket to win a stunning piece by one of our artisans

Open Saturday Evening & Sunday: Make & Take Mini-Workshops (Pre-registration recommended!)
World Mitzvah Mall, benefiting non-profit organizations

SHOW DAY & SALE

Sunday, October 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 at the door only

- Gourmet fare from Joshua's of Jenkintown available for purchase
- Raffle tickets on sale to win a stunning piece created by one of our artisans (advance sales too)

Congregation Kol Ami יקול עמ' • 8201 High School Road • Elkins Park, PA For more information & workshop pre-registration, call 215-635-3110 or visit www.kolamicraftshow.org

SCHEDULING OF EVENTS

We are a growing congregation and continue to have many programs throughout the year. To avoid any conflicts, it is imperative that all events, including board meetings, committee meetings, special events, and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* celebrations, be cleared with the executive director, Elaine Stevens, at 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolamielkinspark.org.

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 13)

YOGA

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Classes begin October 11 and end December 13

Join Yoga teacher Amy Quigley at Kol Ami for a 10-week, all-levels *Vinyasa*-yoga class, which will involve a variety of yoga postures and sun/moon salutations. Breath awareness and movement (*vinyasa*) will allow the student to connect with and deepen his or her own personal practice. These active classes are intended for students who are comfortable with yoga basics; beginners are also welcomed and will be offered individual modifications. Prices are: 10 classes at \$60; 5 classes at \$35; and drop-in students at \$8.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Quigley at yogawithamyq@gmail.com.

SAVE-THE-DATE

NEW MEMBER EREV SHABBAT SERVICE AND DINNER

Friday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. (preceded by dinner at 6:45 p.m.)

Make plans to join us to formally welcome our new members and celebrate *ruach* (spirit, energy) of Kol Ami.

SAVE-THE-DATE

SUPPORT OF ISRAEL HONOREE BRUNCH

Sunday, November 6 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon

State of Israel Bonds and Congregation Kol Ami will be honoring **Michael and Sara Chernoff** for their support of Israel and the work they do on behalf of the Jewish Community. Call the Israel Bonds office at 215-545-8380 with questions. We hope you will join us!



EXPERIENCE SHABBAT EXPERIENCES!

Innovative family opportunities during the year—save the dates!

During the 2011-2012 program year, we will offer several unique *Shabbat* experiences for the entire family, commencing in December.

Daytime programs will begin with a brief *Shabbat* service at 10:00 a.m. and *Oneg* at 11:00 a.m., followed by the opportunity for us to truly celebrate the meaning of *Shabbat* with *mishpachah*, the synagogue family:

• Saturday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Docent tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History

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

ONE BOOK ONE JEWISH COMMUNITY



Kick-Off and Book Signing

with **Martin Fletcher**, author of 2011-2012 featured selection, *The List*, publishing October 11th.

"Martin Fletcher is more than the consummate journalist. He is a master storyteller."
--David Gregory, Moderator, "Meet the Press"

Sunday, October 30th at 7:00pm

Congregation Beth Or 239 Welsh Road, Maple Glen, PA 19002

Free and open to the public. Sign language interpreted. Information: 215.635.8940 www.acaje-jop.org/onebook





ARTIST OF THE MONTH



NICOLE DONNELLY is a Philadelphia-based painter, printmaker, hand papermaker, installation artist, and shadow-puppet enthusiast. She received her MFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Iowa in 2009 and her BA in Visual Arts from Bennington College in 2002. Donnelly divides her time between the studio and her job as a curator, often finding time for regular collaborations with poet Hailey Higdon and choreographer Eleanor Goudie-Averill/Stone Depot Dance Lab. Her solo exhibition, "Mercury Retrograde," was on view at the Abington Art Center in 2011, and she recently completed residencies at the Vermont Studio Center (2011) and the Women's Studio Workshop (2010). She has exhibited her work throughout the United States, and in Canada, Mexico, and South Korea.

Nicole's art will be on exhibit in the Kol Ami lobby from **September 6** through **October 28**. All of her works are for sale, and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the synagogue. If you are interested in purchasing a piece of art, the price list is available in the Executive Office. The 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. ■

COMMUNITY & NATIONAL EVENTS

SILVER WHEELS

Open Orientation - September 19, 10:00 a.m. to Noon Help Steer an Older Adult in the Right Direction with this Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Greater Philadelphia's Assistance Program

Silver Wheels provides transportation for shopping, medical appointments, banking, visiting friends and loved ones in hospitals, and so much more throughout the five county region. JFCS is currently looking for volunteer drivers to be a part of this program designed to help older adults maintain an active and independent lifestyle.

Learn more at an Open Orientation for Silver Wheels on at the JFCS Mandell office, 7607 Old York Road (Lower Level) Elkins Park, PA 19027. Contact Lisa Tischler with any questions about the orientation or the program at 267.256.2082 or at LTischler@jfcsphilly.org

Silver Wheels is much more than just a ride—it's independence, community connection, mobility, and dignity.

OLD YORK ROAD: RE-ENERGIZING OUR COMMUNITY TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

Two forums to be held on October 5 or 10 What Would It Take to Make Old York Road a More Viable, Vibrant Destination?

Please join us as we engage in a dialogue about revitalizing our greater community. We need your ideas, hopes, and vision to maintain and enhance the Old York Road Corridor through Cheltenham, Jenkintown, and Abington as a walkable destination for dining, shopping, working, and congregating. Sponsored by the Old York Road Revitalization Group: A coalition of seven area synagogues, reaching out across our diverse community to engage residents, community groups, and religious institutions of all denominations.

Please join us at one or both of these two forums:

- Wednesday, October 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Abington Junior High School 2056 Susquehanna Road, Abington
- Monday, October 10, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 Cheltenham School District Building 2000 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park

Registration is recommended at http:tiny.cc/OldYorkRoad. This work is being led by the Fels Institute of Government's Research and Consulting. For more information, visit http://www.fels.upenn.edu/Old-York-Road or call Linda Breitstein at 215-898-1112.

continued page 21



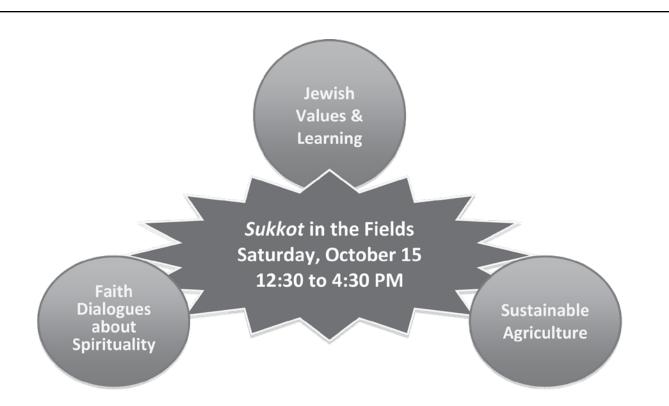
Five years ago, congregation members Mark Kaplan, Robin Rifkin, and Shelley Chamberlain started a pioneering effort with Hazon (http:// www.hazon.org) to establish a Community-Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) group based right here at Kol Ami, and today the CSA proudly boasts over 100 families as members. The CSA uses its member-contributed dues to support the Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative of over 70 organic or transitioning-to-organic farms just a short drive away. These farmers cherish our support, and we cherish the incredible vegetables, fruits, flowers, eggs, and medicinal herbs that we get from May through November. With over 100 families participating from the Elkins Park community, the CSA has become a key part of the Jewish community, helping to tie us together around Jewish values and that part of Jewish culture that we all know and love—food: growing, cooking, eating, and sharing.

For several years, we have been looking for a way to sponsor a visit to a farm where we can all learn about how these farmers cherish and tend the land. Yet we were always challenged by the weekday calendar: Sundays were not available for the farmers, and weekdays were

never possible for our busy families. With open minds, the Worship Enhancement Committee and CSA leadership, in close collaboration with Rabbi Holin, have found a way forward that is incredibly exciting, reinforcing the specialness of *Shabbat* and *Sukkot*.

On Saturday, October 15, in the middle of the holiday of Sukkot, all of our members and their families are invited to journey to Lancaster County (a 90-minute-or-less drive) and spend some time on the farm. As you can see from the flyer on the opposite page, this will be a rewarding program, filling spiritual, communal, and cuisine needs as we engage in hands-on learning on Sukkot about where our food comes from, the lives of the farmers and their families, and the connections that exist with our Jewish values and the specific teachings of Sukkot. As part of the program, we will include a Tikun Olam project, where participants can provide financial support to the Fresh Food Fund, described in the footnote below. We hope the program will be especially wonderful and memorable for our children of all ages. Registration information is on the opposite page, and since space is limited, please sign up with Elaine Stevens today!

Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative Mission: LFFC, through Community-Supported Agriculture, is dedicated to improving the economic viability of local farmers, and to the protection of the environment, by supporting sustainable, certified-organic agricultural practices. In doing so, our purpose is to strengthen the health and well-being of our CSA shareholders and their families and to provide them with education and enrichment. By creating beneficial and lasting change in our local food system, we ensure a strong foundation for the future of the communities that we serve. The Fresh Food Fund is a part of LFFC's continued commitment to widening the accessibility of fresh, certified-organic produce within these communities.



Please hold the date for a family friendly, incredibly rich experience where we will:

- Visit and learn about a working organic farm that is part of the Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative, which supplies the wonderful fresh produce, fruit, eggs, flowers, and medicinal herbs to the Elkins Park Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).
- Celebrate *Sukkot* in a custom-built *Sukkah* with Rabbi Holin and Rebecca Schwartz, singing songs and telling stories about what wonderful food and nurturing the land means to us.
- Share a potluck lunch with the farmers and their families.

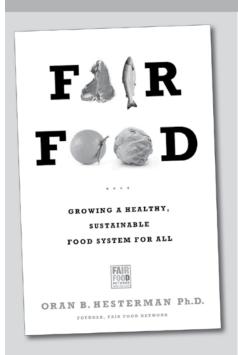
The program is open to members of Congregation Kol Ami and the Elkins Park Hazon CSA. Space is limited, so sign up early! Other than bringing a dish, there is no charge for this event, thanks to sponsorship from Kol Ami and the Elkins Park Hazon CSA.

Driving time from Elkins Park should be 90 minutes or less.

There will be an abbreviated Shabbat Service at Kol Ami from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. that morning.

Please RSVP via e-mail by <u>September 15</u> to Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org with the names of who is coming, your interest in bus transportation (which would be at an additional cost) and what kind of dish you would like to make and bring. We will confirm logistics in late September.

Questions: Please contact Shelley (dschamberlain@comcast.net), Mark (kaplank@comcast.net), Michael (levinmichael@me.com), or Jeff (jeffcohen.performanceleaders@verizon.net).



"The only way we are going to provide a healthy environment for future generations is through redesigning the food system. Nobody has worked harder or thought more deeply about these issues than Dr. Hesterman. His book, *Fair Food*, is a must read."

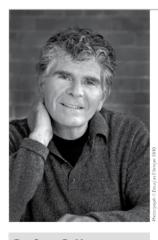
— **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**Founder and Chairman, Waterkeeper Alliance

The book will be available for purchase at the event.

A portion of proceeds from book sales will go to Fair Food Network.

Visit the book website: www.fairfoodbook.org

Join us for a book talk with Oran Hesterman, author of Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All



Dr. Oran B. HestermanOran is the President and CEO of Fair Food Network and a national leader in sustainable agriculture

and food systems.

Monday, September 12, 2011 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Congregation Kol Ami 8201 High School Rd. Elkins Park, PA 19027

Meet Oran
Ask Questions
Learn More About Local (Fair Food)
Opportunities!

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP requested: email execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or call (215) 635-3110





Event Sponsors

Hazon CSA Elkins Park
Creekside Coop
Transition Cheltenham Food Action Group
Congregation Kol Ami

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

(continued from page 5)



The *stones*, or the fundamentals, are obvious when thinking about Religious School: community, religion, and curriculum.

The *pebbles* are clear: family education, *Shabbat* dinners, and, in the

case of our religious School, color wars!

The *sand* and the *water* are the challenge and a lot of the fun—we have been finding time for super-sized art projects, music, social activities, and more. It should make for an amazing year.

So as this year gets off to a great start, I challenge all of you to take full advantage of this crazy beaker of ours.

Here are just a couple of things not to miss:

- Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m. First Day of Religious School
- Wednesday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. First Day of Confirmation Academy
- Sunday, September 18, at 11:00 a.m.
 Parent Open House
- Wednesday, September 21, at 7:15 p.m.
 Grade 10 Confirmation Class Family Meeting

I am looking forward to spending a great deal of time with each of you in the months to come.

B'Shalom, Rabbi Selilah Kaley ■ **COMMUNITY & NATIONAL EVENTS** (continued from page 17)

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM (URJ) BIENNIAL December 14-18

Gaylord National Hotel and Conference Center, National Harbor, MD (just outside Washington DC)

Our congregation is one of more than 900 Reform synagogues in the United States and Canada that are part of the URJ, the largest Jewish movement in North America that represents 1.5 million Jews. The URJ helps sustain Reform Judaism through synagogue life by providing leadership and program ideas on spiritual, ethical, and political issues.

The URJ Biennial welcomes more than 5,000 Jews from across the country to four incredible days of think-tanks, which present the 'best of' innovative programs that have engaged and enriched the lives of synagogue members; learning sessions with URJ staff, rabbis, and lay leaders; plenary sessions that welcome inspirational speakers,



Jewish youth at the cutting edge of new avenues to engage Jewish identity and community; and the incredible experience of being at a 'Biennial *Shabbat*' filled with the spirit of song and voices joined together in joyous prayer.

Rabbi Holin, Cantorial Soloist Rebecca and Joel Schwartz, Ilene Schafer, Ellen Friedman, and Elaine Stevens attended the URJ Biennial in Toronto in 2009 and will be glad to tell you about their experiences, which should whet your appetite for the Biennial in Washington!

To learn more about Biennial and how to register, go to www.urj.org. ■



Grow and Behold Foods *Proudly Presents*

Grow and Behold Pastured Beef

Premium Quality OU Glatt Kosher - Raised On Pasture
No Hormones or Preventative Antibiotics

You've never tasted meat this good!

We deliver monthly to Elkins Park and ship nationwide! Order online or call 888-790-5781 for more info.

Grow and Behold Foods brings you delicious OU Glatt Kosher pastured meats raised on small family farms. We adhere to the strictest standards of kashrut, animal welfare, worker treatment, and sustainable agriculture.

We do it right, so you can enjoy every bite.



Shillow is the of the state of

Wishing you a Sweet and Heatlhy New Year!

www.growandbehold.com

** THANKS ELKINS PARK HAZON CSA FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR FIRST YEAR! SHANA TOVA! **



KOL AMI NURSERY SCHOOL GRADUATION PICNIC HELD ON JUNE 3









CELEBRANTS FROM OUR 'COLLEGE-BOUND-&-RETURNING-STUDENTS' SERVICE



TAYLOR APPEL & FAMILY



JORDAN ASAM & FAMILY



JENNIFER BIERHOFF & FAMILY



ERIC HARRIS & FAMILY



DAVID HOLIN & FAMILY



JUSTIN LEIS & FAMILY



SARAH PACE & FAMILY



MATTHEW SCHAFER & FAMILY

Kol Ami Funds

Should you wish to make a contribution to any of the Congregation's funds, please send your gift to Ms. Elaine Stevens, Executive Director, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027, and indicate to which of the following funds you would like your donation applied.

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to invite scholars, authors, and artists to speak about: Jewish history and contemporary issues; their motivation for writing about specific themes; and their interpretation through art and music about Jewish life in the past and present.

ARTS AND CULTURE FUND

Enables us to provide funding for cultural programs, including music and arts, the preservation and maintenance of artwork within the synagogue, and the beautification of the meditation garden.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH AND CONFIRMATION FUND

Enables us to provide appropriate gifts (books, *kiddush* cups, and *Shabbat* candlesticks) when our young adults celebrate their *Bar/Bat Mitzyahs* and Confirmations.

'DISCOVER ISRAEL' FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in approved peer-group trips to Israel.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost of Family Camp Weekend programs and to welcome specialists on a "weekend away" to explore a Jewish theme with our rabbi.

FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost for our programs and to welcome guest speakers to special events.

LIBRARY FUND

Enables us to purchase books for the education and enjoyment of our children, youth, and adults.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Enables us to provide refreshments following *Shabbat* services.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Enables Rabbi Holin to perform *mitzvot* for those in need, in the name of the Congregation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Enables us to provide resources and programs for the benefit of our children in the religious school.

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Enables us to provide for the general well-being of the Congregation.

YOUTH FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in Jewish enrichment experiences at camps, youth enclaves, and other programs.



KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2011 AT A GLANCE

Saturday 3	10 Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Hausen 10:00 a.m.	17 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Camden Riversharks 5:30 p.m.
Priday 2 erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m BYOD	Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. "Prospective Member" erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow "Second-Friday" Blessings 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m BYOD	Nursery School erev Shabbat Service with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service Kara Schmidt Celebrates her Conversion Ceremony 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	8 Adult Education Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	51
Wednesday	Nursery School 9:30 a.m Jewish Programming IMWise Orientation 6:00 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin "Tastes of Honey" 7:30 p.m.	Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m Grade 8-9 Parent Open House 6:00 - First Day of Confirmation Academy Casino Night Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m. Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Rabbi Holin "Tastes of Honey" 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	First Day of Nursery School 9:00 a.m. Social Action Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Nursery School 9:30 a.m Fitness Continuing Jewish Adult Education with Alan Luxenberg "Israel and Palestine - "Roots of Conflict and Resolution" 7:30 p.m.
Monday	۲O	Nursery School 9:30 a.m Yoga Book author, Dr. Oran Hesterman Sponsored by Hazon CSA Elkins Park 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	4	Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. First Day of Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon Contemporary Jewish Writers with Lou Barrett 10:00 a.m. Service in Memory of Tenth Anniversary of the 9/11 Attack on America 11:30 a.m.

KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2011 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah of Jonny and Olivia Charendoff 5:30 p.m. Selichot Service 10:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m Oneg	
Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. Board Installation erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	30 No Nursery School - Rosh Hashanah Tashlikh-Shabbat Shuvah Service 6:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m BYOD Home of Guy and Karol Appel
Thursday 22	29 No Nursery School - Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 21 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. – Jewish Programming Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. – Meeting with Grade 10 Students and Parents	Nursery School Noon dismissal erev Rosh Hashanah erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 p.m.
20 Nursery School 9:30 a.m Fitness Craft Show Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Interfaith Relationship Dialogue 7:30 p.m. Home of Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen	27 Nursery School 9:30 a.m Fitness
Monday 19 Nursery School 9:30 a.m Yoga	26 Nursery School 9:30 a.m Yoga
Sunday 18 BAKE SALE Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon Parent Open House 11:00 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 10:30 a.m. Rubye's Kids Birthday Party 12:00 p.m. Student Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon Religious School Activities Working Group (PTO) Meeting 10:00 a.m. Student Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. Junior Youth Group Appel Picking at Solebury Orchards 4:30 p.m.

KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Anonymous

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Gary Sender

Bart Weiner and Nadine Liez-Weiner Morton and Marcia Wolpert

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Heather Pelletier

Charles and Laurie Langman

Rebecca Schwartz for her beautiful voice and leadership of the adult choir

James and Natalie Dyen

MiShehberach:

Renee Jubelirer

Charles and Laurie Langman

In Memory of:

Clara and Sigmund Zellat

James and Natalie Dyen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Helen Adelman

Sharon and Craig Myers

Special Anniversary of Mike & Sara Chernoff and Special Birthday of Mike

Mark Levin and Susan Strong

The Marriage of Our Son, Wes, to Michelle Kiry

Sharon and Craig Myers

The Marriage of Wes Myers to Michelle Kiry

Iim and Natalie Dyen

Our I.M. Wise Graduates

Michael and Ellen Matz

In Memory of:

Frank Engel

Byron Schader

Abraham Frumin

Sally and Stewart Eisenberg

Martin Goldstein

Brad and Bonnie Goldstein

Naomi Landau

Shirley and Harold Horowitz

Arnold Lowe

Sharon and Craig Myers

Gertrude Norman

Harold and Ellen Stern

Gay Schader

Byron Schader

Ethel Schader

Byron Schader

Nora Schock

Ruth and Steve Shaffer

Walter Schwartz

Adele Glassman

Charles Shaffer

Ruth and Steve Shaffer

Bernard X. Solomon

Ruth and Steve Shaffer

Ludwig Stern

Harold and Ellen Stern

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Kol Ami Board President, David Hyman

William, Maya, & Lia Hyman & Janine Pratt

Special Birthday of Heather Pelletier

Gary Sender

In Memory of:

Nora Schock

William, Maya, & Lia Hyman & Janine Pratt

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Michele Galasso

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

In Honor of:

2011 Confirmands

David and Shelley Chamberlain

2011 I.M. Wise Graduates

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Gratitude to the outgoing board officers and trustees

Craig and Sharon Myers

Newly elected officers and

incoming trustees

Craig and Sharon Myers

The 95th Birthday of Helen Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Taylor Appel, recipient of the U.S. Con-

gressional Awards Program Gold Medal

David and Meryle Twersky

Special Birthday of Jonathan Auerbach

Elaine Stevens

Special Birthday of Michael Chernoff

Kathleen Killian

Special Anniversary of Michael and

Sara Chernoff

Kathleen Killian

The birth of our granddaughter,

Juniper Rae Oser

Robert and Ellen Fischer

Robert and Ellen Fischer and the birth of their granddaughter, Juniper Rae Oser

Elaine Stevens

Special Anniversary of Russell and Toni Montague

Elaine Stevens

Special Birthday of Heather Pelletier

Elaine Stevens

Ilene Schafer as President of Kol Ami

David Hyman

Rebecca Schwartz

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Harold Stern

Elaine Stevens

In Memory of:

Samuel and Libby Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Sol Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Leo Barrett

Herbert and Lucille Barrett

Lydia Block

Elaine Stevens

Sarah Blumberg

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Dr. Abraham Frumin

Robert and Ellen Fischer

Craig and Sharon Myers

Stanton and Merle Salkin David and Meryle Twersky

Fanny Halprin Herbert and Lucille Barrett

Etta Horowitz

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

Naomi Landau

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Arnold Lowe

Daniel and Linda George Jack and Marsha Petcove

Elaine Stevens

Ed Marcus

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Ruth Marcus

Harold and Shirley Horowitz

David Miller, Sr.

Sue Elkins

Beth Levine

Cathy Roche

Elaine Stevens

Morris Rotman Harold and Shirley Horowitz

Morris and Rose Salkin

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Isaac and Sadlie Soren

Stanton and Merle Salkin



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

TO:





MAZAL TOV TO OUR RECENT HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATES

We congratulate these students and their families, and wish our graduates all the best in their future:

Taylor Appel	Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
Jordan Asam	University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Adam Baker	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Emma Barrett	Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Jennifer Bierhoff	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Brian Chamberlain	Widener University, Chester, Pennsylvania
Eva Chudnow	University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
Julie Cutler	The Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, Pennsylvania
Samantha Greenfield	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Eric Harris	Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Benjamin Johnson	The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania
Justin Leis	Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts
Zachary Matz	University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
Rebekah Perry	Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Matthew Schafer	Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, after a gap year in the
	South Pacific with Carpe Diem
	Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Able Shore	Gap year
Elizabeth Sklar	Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia ■