

CONGREGATION
Kol Ami
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow preceded by a 5:45 p.m. BYO dinner and blankets or soccer-style (foldable) chairs

SATURDAY, Sept. 5, at 10:00 p.m.

Selichot Service – Gateway to the High Holy Days; preceded by *Oneg* at 9:30 p.m. (See page 4)

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

“Prospective-Member” *erev Shabbat* Service and “Second-Friday” birthday and anniversary blessings with the voices of our Adult Choir; bring your friends to this special service that anticipates the New Year and to hear our guest speaker Moran Birman!

SATURDAY, Sept. 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

SUNDAY, Sept. 13, at 8:00 p.m.

erev Rosh Hashanah Service

MONDAY, Sept. 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah Service

TUESDAY, Sept. 15, at 6:30 p.m.

Tashlikh Service over the water in Wissahickon Valley Park preceded by a home-hosted *pareve* dinner at the home of Ruben Honik at 5:15 p.m. (See page 4)

FRIDAY, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

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EREV SHABBAT SERVICE, FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, AT 7:30 P.M.



As the High Holy Days arrive, join us to welcome Moran Birman, who has just arrived in Philadelphia as the newly appointed Deputy Consul General to the Consulate General of Israel.

He will introduce us to wonderful Israeli wines that we will have the pleasure of tasting during our *Oneg Shabbat*, and he will “plant the seeds” of the evening by telling us about himself and talking about his role at the Consulate.

At this service, we will welcome potential new members to our Congregation, and the evening will be enriched by the voices of our Adult Choir. ■

HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2015 - 5776

<i>Selichot</i>	Saturday, September 5	10:00 p.m.
<i>erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	Sunday, September 13	8:00 p.m.
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Monday, September 14	
	- Adult Service	10:00 a.m.
	- Youth Service (Grades 2-7)	10:00 a.m.
	- Children's-Family Service	2:00 p.m.
<i>Tashlikh</i>	Tuesday, September 15	6:30 p.m.
<i>Kol Nidrei</i>	Tuesday, September 22	8:00 p.m.
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	Wednesday, September 23	
	- Adult Service	10:00 a.m.
	- Youth Service (Grades 2-7)	10:00 a.m.
	- Children's-Family Service	2:00 p.m.
	- Reflective Reading/Discussion	3:00 p.m.
	- Afternoon Service	3:45 p.m.
	- <i>Yizkor-Neilah</i> Service	5:30 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES (continued from page 1)

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

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

TUESDAY, Sept. 22, at 8:00 p.m.

Kol Nidrei Service

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 23, at 10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur Service

FRIDAY, Sept. 25, at 6:00 p.m.

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. - *erev Shabbat* Service

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

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

SUNDAY, Sept. 27, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Sukkot Service in the *Sukkah* (see page 13) preceded by a pizza dinner and refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, Sept. 28, at 10:00 a.m.

Sukkot Service

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

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

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

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

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

erev Simchat Torah Service (see page 13)

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

Simchat Torah-Yizkor Service ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

September 5 - *Kee Tavo*

Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

Isaiah 60:1-22

September 12 - *Nitzavim*

Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

Isaiah 61:10-63:9

September 19 - *Vayeilech*

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Hosea 14:2-10

September 26 - *Ha'azinu*

Deuteronomy 32:1-52

II Samuel 22:1-51 ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer is coming to a close and the High Holy Day season is directly in front of us. In my initial months of the presidency, I have gained a greater appreciation for our sacred community and the "Voice of Our People" – largely because of YOU. I've enjoyed hearing your suggestions, ideas, questions, and concerns and look forward to more exchanges. There are many ways to make your voice heard – reach out to me, our board members, and our cherished staff. And consider joining a committee where you can help shape Kol Ami's future.

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of 16 "treasures." These members who serve on our board all have a passion for Kol Ami. They give of their hearts, souls, and time to create a welcoming and inclusive religious community. Some are from Conservative backgrounds, others have always practiced Reform Judaism, and this year, we have our first non-Jewish board member who is raising her children in a Jewish home. Our leadership includes executive coaches, business owners, an environmental consultant, a computer science professional, a freelance writer, a publicist, a social policy researcher, a database manager, as well as financial and marketing professionals. We hold them accountable to the highest ideals of our tradition, and they are here for you. Don't hesitate to reach out to your leaders, or to me, of course.

Elliot Holin, our treasured rabbi; Elaine Stevens, our executive director; and Rebecca Schwartz, our cantorial soloist have been an integral part of our synagogue for many years creating not only a warm, but also a stable community. David Monblatt, an experienced and dynamic Jewish educator is entering his fourth year leading our religious school. Early Learning Center Director Sheri Cutler and her talented and committed staff offer a loving and nurturing environment for the youngest members of our community. Our dedicated professional staff are here to help you engage more deeply in Kol Ami.

And then there are the committees that encourage members to share, learn, celebrate, and grow together. Committees are open to all congregants. You'll find committee goals and activities as well as contact information on our website at www.kolamielkinspark.org. As you engage with committees, you'll form relationships, expand your community, and make your voice heard. Find what's right for you and feel the blessings!

As we start the New Year, use the bulletin to find opportunities to learn, perform *Tikun Olam* (repairing the world), worship, celebrate, and do G-d's work in a vibrant and energized atmosphere. Participate and invite your friends.

You are certainly welcome to share your thoughts with me, board members, our professional staff, and committee chairs. Get involved – add your "voice" to our community as this is the path to greater meaning and purpose, belonging, and blessings.

I look forward to worshipping together. May we all be inscribed for the coming year in the Book of Life.

Shanah Torah!

Shelley Chamberlain

215-635-1738, srchamberlain@comcast.net

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Wrestling.

It is the precise word that describes my state of mind and the turmoil in my heart as I enter this season of the High Holy Days. If ever I needed the insights, clarity, and tranquility that meditation and prayer offer, it is now. Ours is a world and nation in turmoil. I have so many questions and concerns, and few answers.

Each day dawns with a longer list of challenges. They arrive from beyond and create turmoil within. I try to shrink the larger world into a more manageable sphere: the spaces in which I move. I have never felt so detached and so engaged at the same time.

Jacob, our patriarch the wrestler, calls to me from ancient times. He is my namesake, and yours as well.

On the eve of meeting his brother, Esau, 22 years after they were last together – a separation fueled by deceit and rage – Jacob sent his brother an olive branch. He wanted to talk, but he wasn't sure what to say or how to engage.

Late that evening, he sat by the Jabbok river, a twist of the letters of his name: a hint about his confusion and inner turmoil. He wrestled throughout the night with a Divine messenger, or perhaps it was his conscience. As dawn arrived, a metaphor for awareness, he was exhausted. Still, he clung to the messenger, the conveyor of his deepest thoughts, doubts, and yearnings.

The Divine messenger told him it was time to break from this struggle, addressing its own eagerness to be on the way! Suddenly, it was Jacob who had leverage. He demanded a blessing and received a new name: *Yisrael* (Israel) instead of *Ya'akov* (Jacob). In that moment, he was transformed through the realization of what the messenger told him: "You have struggled with God and with human beings, and you have prevailed" (Genesis 32:28).

He prevailed not just because the messenger's release was won by his forceful negotiation – "I will not let you go unless you bless me" – but because throughout the night of wrestling, he learned more about himself. Weary, yes, but wiser too.

When he and Esau met a few hours later, Jacob said, "God has been gracious to me, and I have all that I need" (Genesis 33:11). The brothers embraced and, for now, that was all that he needed. His life was back in balance and that was the greatest blessing.

I enter these High Holy Days wrestling with the world and with God. I know that God has been gracious to me, and yet I pray for more: not more of anything tangible, but rather the ineffable that will bring me a greater sense of peace in a world that deserves the same.

Shanah tovah to you and yours,
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Beatrice Kuller

mother of Henry (Eileen) Kuller

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

MAZAL TOV

We congratulate the following individuals:



- **Christopher D'Amore and Kate Barrett** on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Rachel D'Amore on July 2 (photo above)
- **Brad and Bonnie Goldstein** on the announcement of the engagement of their son, Brian, to Andrea Deveau
- **David and Lisa Petkun** on the arrival of their grandson, Caleb Benjamin Ast, son of Emily and Mike Ast, born on June 15
- **Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar** on the announcement of the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to Geoff Millner
- **Doranne Smith** on the marriage of her grandson, Alex Leader-Smith, to Jessica Bachrach on August 15 ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Casino Night Committee

Thursday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m.
Chair: Sharon Myers, 215-460-0602

Marketing Committee

Sunday, September 27, at 11:00 a.m.
Co-chairs: Lorie Slass, 215-635-0920,
and Jeff Margasak, 215-635-9332

Membership Committee

Monday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m.
Co-chairs: Julie Cohen, 215-635-4716,
and Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m.
Co-chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698,
and Meryle Gurmankin, 215-464-2466

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, September 27, at 9:30 a.m.
Co-chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and William Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■



WE'LL GET YOU THERE!

Need a ride to our High Holy Day services? Let us know, and we'll do our best to find you one.

Contact our Caring Congregant Committee's Co-chairs: Elaine Gershenson (gershlaw@comcast.net, 215-887-3994) or Linda George (LindaSGeorge@gmail.com, 215-782-1413). ■

HIGH HOLY DAY DETAILS

CHILDCARE DURING THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 2015- 5776

Child care is available during *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning services. No reservations are required.

PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

***Selichot* Service and Discussion, Saturday, September 5, at 10:00 p.m.**

The *Selichot* Service is our annual "call to conscience" as we take measure of who we are, what we value, and the distance between what we say and do. In our tradition, the process of repentance commences a full month before the New Year, and the *Selichot* Service is part of a journey that leads to new beginnings: the ten days on the Jewish calendar that we call "high" and "holy."

In Hebrew, the word *selichah* means "forgiveness," and during this service, we will discuss Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's article in the introduction to the *Rosh Hashanah Machzor* – High Holy Day prayer book – "Why Sin Still Matters, or What's a Heaven For?"

If you would like a copy of the three-page article sent to you via e-mail, please call the synagogue office at 215-635-3110.

"SWEET-AS-HONEY" FAMILY SERVICE ON ROSH HASHANAH

For families with children in preschool through grade 2 on Monday, September 14, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.



What's a sweet New Year without honey? We're going to show our kids how honey is made for *Rosh Hashanah* by bringing in professional beekeepers and their busy little friends. Join Kol Ami for this exciting family program, including music, prayer, and a taste of honey!

TASHLIKH SERVICE - THE LITERAL (!) BRIDGE TO YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, September 15, at the home of Ruben Honik in Philadelphia

Join us over a home-hosted *pareve* dinner at 5:15 p.m. and at the *Tashlikh* Service at 6:30 p.m. on a bridge in Wissahickon Valley Park overlooking Wissahickon Creek near Valley Green, a short walk from Ruben's home.

The view from the bridge is breathtaking, as if one is in a national park!

Tashlikh, from the Hebrew word meaning "to send forth," is a service of readings and reflections from Psalms and Prophetic writings. 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 Tuesday, September 22.

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HIGH HOLY DAY DETAILS (continued from previous page)



- Please RSVP to the synagogue office by September 5 to ensure dinner for everyone.
- Ruben's address is in the synagogue directory or can be obtained by calling the synagogue office: there is space in his driveway for 10 cars. There is additional parking on the grassy berm on Scotforth Road, just below his house.
- The entry point to the path that leads to the bridge is a 5-minute, downhill walk from Ruben's home, and cars can proceed from his driveway to an adjacent parking lot for anyone who chooses not to walk.
- The path from the parking lot to the bridge is a 5-minute, downhill walk defined by small stones and small tree roots: be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes, and we will give support to anyone along the way.
- If you are unable to join us for dinner, meet us on the bridge at 6:30 p.m.

PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY FOR OUR KOL NIDREI SERVICE

Our *Kol Nidrei* Service will begin at 8:00 p.m. on September 22, preceded by meditative readings and the kindling of a *neyr n'shamah* – a memorial candle. We pray in the names of those no longer with us as we commence *Yom Kippur*. **Please arrive between 7:45 and 8:00 p.m. in silence** so that everyone seated in the sanctuary will have time and quietude to read the meditative offerings. As the service commences at 8:00 p.m., we will say the blessings over the *neyr n'shamah* as well as the candles of *Shabbat* and *Yom Kippur*. ■

REFLECTIVE READING AND DISCUSSION ON YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON

Wednesday, September 23, at 3:00 p.m.

Our High Holy Day Reflective Reading Service provides a meaningful interlude between the Children's-Family Service and the Afternoon Service. We will be discussing Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's article in the introduction to the *Rosh Hashanah Machzor* – High Holy Day prayer book – "Why Sin Still Matters, or What's a Heaven For?" If you would like a copy of the three-page article sent to you via e-mail, please call the synagogue office at 215-635-3110.

In addition, we will explore the personal meaning that these words offer us: "Keep us alive to possibilities; show us a path to grow in mind, heart and spirit; help us find the strength to ascend" (*Yom Kippur* Afternoon Service). What are the paths you seek to embark upon this year so as to grow "in mind, heart and spirit"? How will you accomplish it?

YIZKOR (MEMORIAL) SERVICE ON YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 23, 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 September 15. ■

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 September 5 for the October issue) to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed. Photographs/images to be included should be at least 2x3" in size and 300 DPI resolution to ensure good reproduction. ■

Continuing Jewish Education

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

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

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

September 29; October 6 & 13 (3 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 September 22.

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)

OR...

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

March 3 & 10 (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 for the October classes 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?

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,

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for Adults at Kol Ami

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?

Practicing Meditation: Experiencing the Peace of Stillness and DeStressifying



Instructor: Orly Maravankin, Ph.D.
Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
January 14, 21 & 28 (3 Sessions)

Meditation takes us beyond the mental prison of doubt, stress, and judgment to the field of expanded awareness where we become more conscious of the choices available to us, and where we connect with our true self. From this platform, we are able to make life-affirming choices that support our emotional and physical well-being.

The purpose of the class is to demystify meditation and provide practical guidance for building a successful practice. The class will introduce the principles of meditation in general and Primordial Sound Meditation in particular. We will discuss the origins of meditation, the benefits, and practical tips. We will also explore a vision for higher states of consciousness that unfold through a regular practice of meditation where we become more conscious of our higher self. Each class will include a group meditation.

Requirements: Registrants must participate in the first class as this is sequential learning. Maximum number of participants is 15 people, with priority given to members of our Congregation.

Shakespeare and Faith



Instructor: Cary Mazer, PhD
Tuesday evenings
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
February 2, 9, 16 & 23
(4 Sessions)

How do the plays take the characters, and the audience, through the crucible of experience in ways that test their faith or that lead them to an understanding of themselves in relation to their faith in themselves, in one another, and/or in a natural, and possibly, divine order?

- **February 2** - As You Like It: Love, faith, empathy, and the power of the imagination
- **February 9** - The Merchant of Venice: Love, commerce, and the social fabric
- **February 16** - King Lear: How does one survive in a world that appears to have lost all meaning?
- **February 23** - The Winter's Tale: Learning to forgive oneself

Is This What I Am Praying For?!



Instructor:
Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom
Thursday evenings
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
March 17, 24 & 31; April 7
(4 Sessions)

When we read the English translation of the traditional prayers, we often find ourselves ill at ease. How do we deal with prayers that challenge our idea of faith and run contrary to what we believe? Do we hit the “delete” button? Or is there another way for them to have a place in our lives?

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Our Adult Education Instructors

NEAL BEATUS, MSS, LCSW, is a psychotherapist in private practice with GKSJ/Crystal Group Associates in Wyndmoor and Center City Philadelphia. He sees clients of all ages, from preschoolers to senior citizens. He has studied Psychoanalytic Object Relations theory extensively and has taught many trainings to other therapists. He attended undergraduate school at Haverford College and graduate school at Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. He has enjoyed exploring Bible stories and thinking about them through a psychoanalytic lens. With support from Rabbi Holin, he has presented several *dvar Torahs* at Kol Ami in the past few years.

ORLY MARAVANKIN has spent 20 years in global consulting before founding Edge Consulting, a boutique management-consulting company specializing in growth strategy and organizational development. Orly works with for-profit and non-profit organizations to help leaders transform their thinking and performance and effectively lead their teams through change. Orly has recently become a Chopra Center University certified meditation teacher. She incorporates broad meditation principles into her workshops on emotional intelligence, leadership resilience, and mindfulness in the workplace. Orly holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is an International Coaching Federation certified executive coach.

CARY MAZER, Ph.D., has been teaching theatre history and dramatic literature at the University of Pennsylvania for 36 years, where he chaired the undergraduate Theatre Arts Program for 24 years. He did his undergraduate degree at Princeton and his Ph.D. (in Theatre) at Columbia. He has directed (at Penn), worked as a theatre critic (for the City Paper) and as a guest dramaturg (at People's Light and Theatre), and is the author of two books, an edited volume, and two plays, both on Jewish themes. His scholarship is about Shakespeare in performance.

RABBI SEYMOUR ROSENBLUM is the Distinguished Service Rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park and is active in the local Jewish and general communities. At the end of June 2014, he retired after 36 years as AJ's rabbi. Ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1972, he is known as a thought-provoking teacher. His classes seek to stimulate his students to uncover their core beliefs, encounter our tradition's teachings, and come to their own conclusions about their individual identification and growth as Jews. He was recently elected president of the Jewish Social Policy Action Network (JSPAN), a Jewish organization that advocates for progressive causes from the perspective of the Jewish ethical tradition. He has been a good friend to Congregation Kol Ami and is looking forward to teaching again in our synagogue. ■

CONTINUING JEWISH EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

(continued from page 7)

Words That Have Spoken to Us through the Ages

Instructor: Rabbi Elliot Holin

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

April 14 & 21 (2 Sessions)

Psalms 23, 121, and 137 are among the best known and most-often recited among our writings. What is it about their power to move us? Why are they the cry of the soul in times of doubt or loss, and as affirmations of faith? We will have the opportunity to study the verses and discuss what they mean, and how they speak to us.

- **Psalm 23:** "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...You restore my soul...Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil... Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."
- **Psalm 121:** "I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall my help come? My help comes from God... The Holy One who protects you will not slumber... God shall guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever."
- **Psalm 137:** "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion...If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget how to perform rituals, let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth."

The Book of Job: God, Truth, and Psychoanalysis

Instructor: Neal Beatus

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

April 28; May 5, 12 & 19 (4 Sessions)

The myth of Job, like other popular stories in the Bible, has lasted countless generations because it contains key emotional truths about life, especially how to deal with suffering, trauma, and change. These are also themes that psychoanalysis addresses. We will examine parallels between the Book of Job and current psychoanalytic theory.

We will also compare the story of Job to the myth of Jonah, who runs from God/truth and to the myth of Jacob who wrestles with God/truth. What do the Bible and psychoanalysis teach us about dealing with life's difficulties and traumas? ■

HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE 2015

11,000

**Jewish families in Philadelphia
suffer with food insecurity.**



They are more than a statistic.

They are people like **Claudia**, a single mom of three boys and cancer survivor, who suffers from a debilitating condition that prevents her from working or sometimes even leaving the house to go food shopping. Claudia depends on her twice-a-month food deliveries from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Mitzvah Food Project to feed her family.

**YOU CAN
CHANGE LIVES**

Help us combat hunger by participating in our High Holy Day Food Drive. Your donations will help feed more than 3,000 families in need, like Claudia's, each year through the Jewish Federation's Mitzvah Food Project.

**DONATE YOUR
CANNED FOOD
»» TODAY! ««**

**This year we will be collecting
the following items:**

-  **Kosher Canned Beans**
-  **Kosher Nut Butters**
-  **Kosher Canned Fish**

All food must have a current date and be unopened;
no bulk sizes or glass items please.

DROP-OFF IS AVAILABLE:

All donated food can be dropped off in the lobby of our
synagogue during any of the High Holy Day services.

Kol Ami Events

LOVE TO SING? THEN CONGREGATION KOL AMI WANTS YOU!

We're a singing community, and what better way to share your talent than by singing in one of our wonderful choirs? Student Choir is for second through sixth graders, and Adult Choir is for adults as well as those in eighth grade and above. Our Adult Choir is especially looking for more male voices. For more information, please contact Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz at rebeccasongs@verizon.net.



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You shop. Amazon gives.

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FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



For the past year and a half, our rabbi's monthly fasts have benefitted **NATAL** (*nah'tahl*): **Israel's Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War**. NATAL addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty

that war and the threat of war bring. In addition, NATAL reaches out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals.

Forthcoming fast days on behalf of **NATAL** will be on **Tuesday, September 8**, and **Tuesday, October 6**.

For the past four years, rabbi's monthly fasts are called **PHAST FOR PHILADELPHIA** on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health-care needs, and pay electric bills. Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on **Thursday, September 17**, and **Thursday, October 29**.

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. 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")



"SECOND-FRIDAY" EREV SHABBAT SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Friday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.

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

continued page 13

NEW

Mishkan HaNefesh
High Holy Day Machzor

Prayer Books



A TASTE OF THE HIGH HOLY DAYS BEFORE THE HIGH HOLY DAYS!
**OUR MACHZOR – THE NEW HIGH HOLY DAY PRAYER BOOK
OF REFORM JUDAISM – ARRIVES!**

Meet with Rabbi Holin to discuss selected prayers, as well as contemporary readings and poems, from the services we will celebrate this coming *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*.

- **Tues., Sept. 8, at 7:00 p.m.** – selections from the *Rosh Hashanah* Service
- **Thurs., Sept. 10, at 7:00 p.m.** – selections from the *Yom Kippur* Service

Please call our rabbi at least three days in advance of the classes at 215-635-4182 to let him know which “get-acquainted” class/es you will attend so that he will have copies of selected texts available for everyone. ■

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.

September 25 (no choir)

October 16 and 30

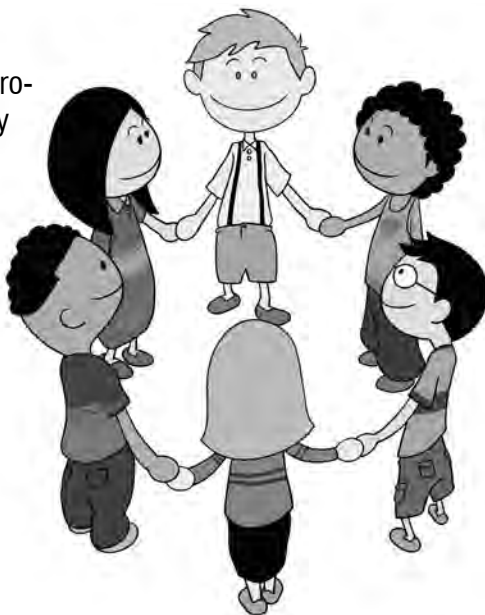
November 13

December 18

January 8 and 22

February 19

April 8 and 29 ■



NEW MEMBERS



The Kol Ami community is very pleased to welcome brand-new members **Tamar Klaiman and Jason Plank**, and their children **Abraham**, age 5, and **Ella**, age 2, who just joined us (in July). Tamar writes that they like the intimate and laid-back feeling of the synagogue, and they appreciate how welcoming Kol Ami is to interfaith couples.

Tamar is an Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Public Health at the University of the Sciences, and Jason is a Technical Marketing Expert for Cisco Systems. Tamar grew up in Jenkintown, and Jason was raised in Gettysburg. They met in Washington, DC, when Tamar was in college, and while Jason was working there. They have since returned to our area to be closer to family, and they now reside in Glenside.

Tamar and Jason love music and spending time outdoors as a family. They also enjoy cooking and entertaining. Abraham will be starting kindergarten in our Religious School. He is described as an “old soul” (apropos of his name, Tamar says!) who loves the outdoors, and who is into superheroes. Ella, adorably identifiable by her silliness and mischievousness, is also a fan of the outdoors, and an even bigger fan of her big brother! Their family also includes two dogs and a cat, which leads Tamar to quip that their house is like living in a zoo. ■

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.

LABYRINTH WALK

Saturday, September 19, at 1:00 PM



Come try something new to help you get in the spirit for *Yom Kippur*: Walk the labyrinth on with Carol Nemeroff, the leader of the Kol Ami Spiritual Growth Group. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth provides one continuous path to the center.

It provides an opportunity to walk mindfully, perfect preparation for the introspective focus of the High Holy Days. In addition to the walk, Carol will share with participants about the labyrinth's connection with Judaism and the High Holy Days. The outdoor labyrinth is located behind Abington Presbyterian Church at 1082 Old York Road, Abington. The walk will be postponed in case of bad weather.

OUR EREV SUKKOT OUTDOOR SERVICE UNDER THE SUKKAH



Celebrate and rejoice in the blessings of the good earth!
Sunday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m.;
preceded by pizza and refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

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



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.

Please call Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182 by September 30 to let him know that you will uplift us when you read or chant "your verses" from the *Torah* on our *erev Simchat Torah* "*Torahs Aloft*" evening.

SAVE THE DATES!

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.

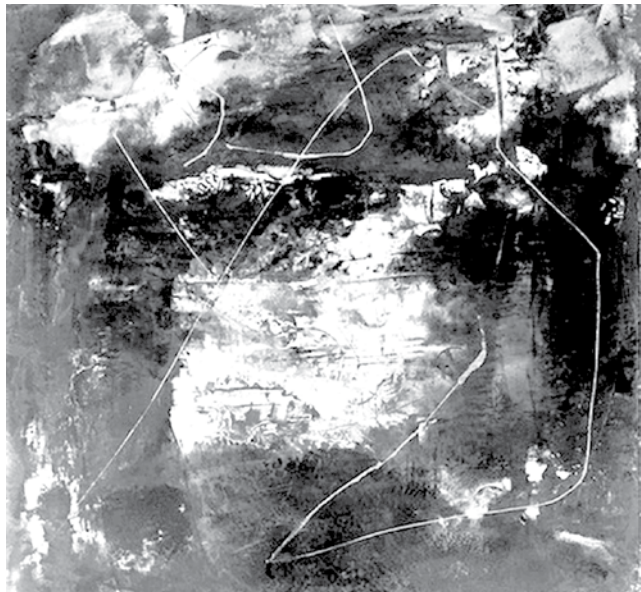
Meetings will be held on **Tuesdays: October 6, December 15, March 1, and May 3** at the home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry at 7:30 p.m. Join us for discussion and light nosh.

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!

continued page 14

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

FLORENCE MOONAN



"While listening to the music of Puccini as I work, I am transported. If I can't sing it, I will paint it." Florence Moonan's passion for the arts springs from bits and pieces from her memories, life events, family mementos, travel, and, above all, music. As a child, she was involved in the visual and performing arts at home, school, and local summer theater. Her heart was set on becoming a performer, but a gift set of acrylics from her father, a self-taught artist, redirected her focus. She returned to her early roots and began painting at home while raising a family. The color and texture of her painted surfaces in this show reveal a glimpse into her inner thoughts and emotions. She has created an exhibition of stirring artwork by mixing and persuading a variety of mediums that have been layered, sanded, and hand-rubbed to expose paintings of quiet yet dynamic beauty. The major component in this body of work is acrylic venetian plaster, a medium she selects for its unique qualities that help her produce appealing surfaces. Her aim is to engage the viewer and evoke memories of their own experiences.

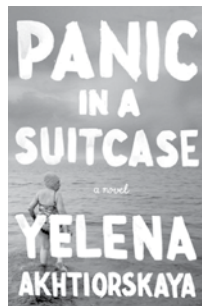
Moonan, who lives on a hillside in Stockton, New Jersey, has won numerous awards for her artwork that is included in permanent collections in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Her list of exhibitions is extensive and includes shows in Texas, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Her work was selected for Abington Art Center's 2014 summer solo series; The Gallery at Hillside Square (solo 2014), Montclair, New Jersey; and the Trenton City Museum (solo 2012). Group exhibitions include: Hunterdon Art Museum; Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission's invitational biennial; Library of Life at Philadelphia's Art in City Hall; Sculpture New Hope 2015, and Abstraction Revisited at the New Hope Arts Center. Her work will be included in Abstraction at Trenton City Museum this September, and the Pennswood Art Gallery will feature her work in January 2016. While employed full-time at The College of New Jersey, she enrolled as a part-time student in the Art department, developed a portfolio, and in time, earned a BFA summa cum laude. Since retiring from the College in 2007, she is occupied full-time with painting and exhibiting.

Join us at Florence's open house on **Sunday, September 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If the Religious School is closed on those days, the gallery is also closed. All of Florence's works are for sale, and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the Synagogue. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece. ■

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 13)

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.

OUR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE



This year's blood drive is on Monday, October 26. Please help in this life-saving program and sign up to give, which you can do by contacting Jean Ettinger at jeanettinger@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

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 now open! Visit www.urj.org. ■



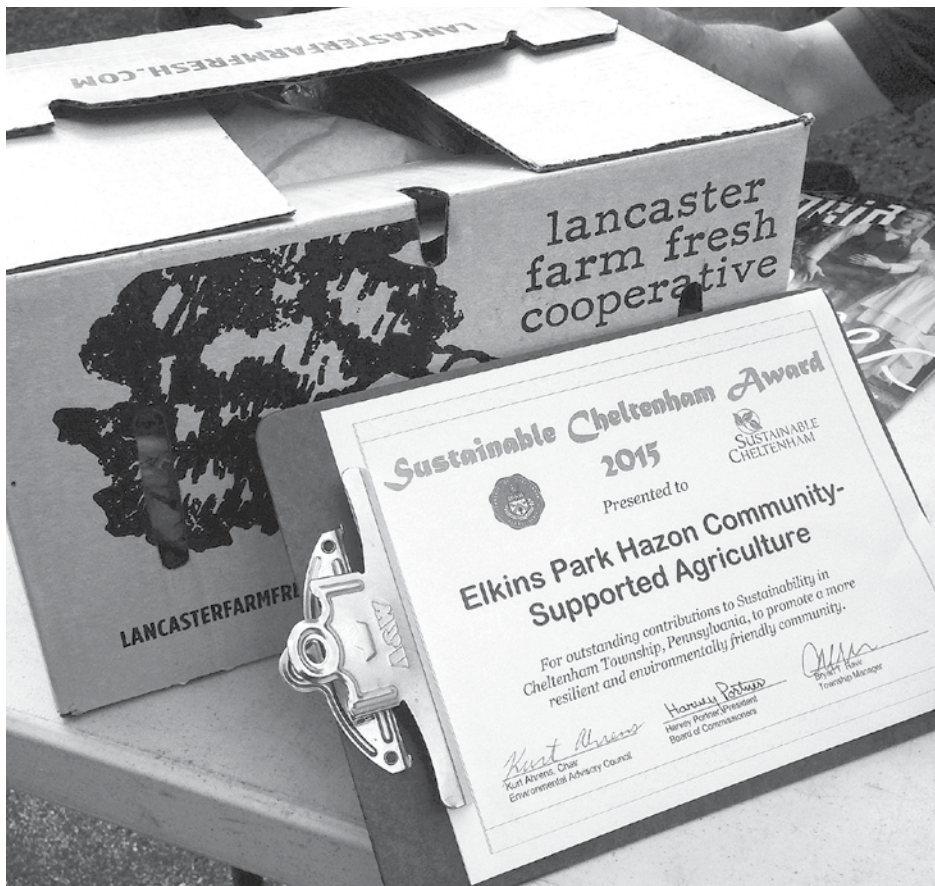
SAVE THE DATE • MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Congregation Kol Ami

Casino Night

BE A WINNER AND JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.

PHOTO BELOW: The Cheltenham Township Sustainability Award was presented to The Hazon Community-Supported Agriculture project (CSA) at Congregation Kol Ami at Arts in the Park this past June. Robin Rifkin, CSA co-chair, accepted the award on behalf of the CSA.



LEGACY SOCIETY

Congregation Kol Ami's Legacy Society continues to grow, but we are always looking to add more families.

The Legacy Society asks our members to think about the long-term future of our beloved synagogue. A gift through your estate or life insurance or co-ownership of stock supports our goals of long-term viability and recognizes the importance of the values of Kol Ami. No gift is too small, and everything you do is deeply appreciated.

Anyone who is interested in speaking further about the options can contact Ilene Schafer at 215-663-0228. If you have already remembered Kol Ami in some fashion in your estate planning, please let our executive director, Elaine Stevens, know. We have a very simple form that we ask you to fill out for our records.

We welcome and thank the following members for their commitment to the future of our synagogue.

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Carol Baron
Michael and Sara Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Elizabeth Kapnek Grenald
Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin
David Hyman
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Lee Laden
John Michel and Jane Finkle
Craig and Sharon Myers
Marshall and Ilene Schafer
Gary Sender
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser
The Wintroub Family ■



THE DATES ARE SET ... WE LEAVE FOR ISRAEL ON AUGUST 21 AND RETURN HOME ON SEPTEMBER 1

CONGREGATION KOL AMI'S 2016 FAMILY TRIP TO ISRAEL WITH RABBI HOLIN FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS – IN AND BEYOND THE CONGREGATION



Join Rabbi Holin on an exciting and enriching journey for children (8 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 family-fun in ways that will touch your heart and mind. Invite your unaffiliated friends with children to join us as well! Let Rabbi Holin know if you are interested in being part of a family trip of a lifetime.

Monday, August 22 – Tel Aviv (Dan Panorama Hotel):

- Take a guided tour of **Neot Kedumim, Israel's Biblical Landscape Preserve** to explore the connection between *Torah* text that speaks about caring for the land
- Visit the **Palmach Museum** to learn about the establishment of the modern State of Israel
- Walk through Old Jaffa and enjoy a docent tour of the **Peres Peace Museum** to hear about how this institution works to better relations between Israelis and Palestinians



Tuesday, August 23 – Tel Aviv:

- Take a walking tour of **Neve Tzeddek**, the neighborhood that gave birth to Tel Aviv
- Visit **Independence Hall**: relive David ben Gurion declaring the modern State of Israel
- Travel to Rehovot to see the **Ayalon Institute**, where during the British Mandate, the Jewish underground established a munitions factory beneath a *kibbutz* and manufactured weapons that ensured the survival of the fledgling nation
- Spend an evening at **Nalaga'at ("Please Touch") restaurant and theatre**, where we will dine in its Blackout (pitch-dark) Restaurant, served by blind waiters, and attend the remarkable performance of "Not by Bread Alone" performed by blind and deaf actors and actresses

Wednesday, August 24 – Kibbutz Lavi in the Galilee:

- Visit the ancient ruins of **Caesarea**, where Herod built a major port and amphitheater
- Travel to the **Atlit** detention camp where the British held refugees from the Holocaust who tried to circumvent the British blockade on illegal immigrant ships
- Arrive in **Tzefad**, home of Jewish mystics and the town where *Lecha Dodi* was written and where we will meet and hear from a Kabbalistic artist and see how mystical teachings influence his work

Thursday, August 25 – The Galilee:

- Take a Jeep tour on the **Golan Heights** and to Mt. Bental for a visual perspective about Israel's complex geopolitics
- Attend a **chocolate-making-and-tasting** workshop at the De Karina Chocolate on Kibbutz Ein Zivan
- **Kayak down the Jordan River** and spend time in the lush **Tel Dan Nature Reserve**
- Enjoy **dinner on an IDF base with young soldiers** to hear about their lives, challenges and thoughts about Israel's future

continued next page

Friday, August 26 – Jerusalem (Dan Panorama Hotel):

- Meet our host at the Gemarchin Center in Beit Shean to hear her moving story about her family's trek from Ethiopia to Israel, and about the challenges facing the **Ethiopian Jewish community** today
- Enter Jerusalem and walk through the **Machane Yehuda outdoor market** in the center of Jerusalem to have our senses come alive through the sight and smell of spices, fruit, and food
- Partake in a remarkable set of *Shabbat* options: the fervor of *Shabbat* at the Western Wall or a musical *Kabbalat Shabbat* at the *Tachana*, a revitalized train station where families and young Israelis gather, or at a modern Orthodox synagogue with a musical "jam session" that defines their alternative *erev Shabbat* service



Saturday, August 27 – Jerusalem:

- Select among numerous ways to enjoy *Shabbat*: at a local synagogue; a late-morning visit to the Tower of David Museum to explore its medieval courtyard and enjoy a stunning, panoramic view of the Old City; a late-afternoon tour of the charming and beautiful neighborhood, **Yemin Moshe**, and the historic **Montefiore Windmill**; a walking tour of the **Christian Quarter**, including Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Have a free evening to experience how Jerusalem comes alive as *Shabbat* ends and a *shavuah tov* (a new, good week) commences

Sunday, August 28 – Jerusalem:

- Explore the **City of David** with the *Torah* as our guide to learn how Jerusalem's stones tell the story of the ancient city's past and present
- Wade through **Hezekiah's Water Tunnel** (dry option available) to learn about how this ancient water system saved the city of Jerusalem 2,700 years ago
- Walk through **Robinson's Arch** – the route that pilgrims took as they entered the Old City on their way to the Temple Mount – and stand at the Western Wall to learn about its remarkable history
- Tour the Western Wall Tunnels to see its magnificence from a different vantage point

Monday, August 29 – Jerusalem:

- Travel to **Masada** for an early-morning ascent of the Snake Path or a later departure to the top via cable car
- Tour the ancient site of Masada, its ruins and legacy, and offer the opportunity for anyone of *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* age and beyond to read or chant verses of the weekly *Torah* Portion from a *Torah* Scroll during our own creative *Shabbat* service!
- Float on the **Dead Sea**, have a mud bath if you like, and then we'll take a **camel ride**!

Tuesday, August 30 – Jerusalem:

- Take a guided tour of **Yad Vashem**, Israel's national Holocaust Memorial and Documentation Center, including its renovated museum and the moving Children's Memorial {children under the age of 10 are not permitted in the museum, and so alternative programming is at the Biblical Zoo}
- Walk to the adjacent, outdoor **Valley of the Lost Communities** rock formations, where we will pause for a moving service written by Rabbi Holin, with participatory readings by everyone in our group
- Visit the nearby **Herzl Cemetery** to pay our respects to the leaders of Israel who are buried there and in memory of those who have fallen defending the modern State of Israel
- Complete a hands-on *tzedakah* project and prepare food packages for distribution to some of Israel's neediest people
- Enjoy a light-and-sound spectacular at the **Tower of David**

Wednesday, August 31 – Jerusalem:

- Hear a guest lecturer speak about **social justice issues facing Israel**
- Tour **Ammunition Hill**, site of a crucial battle between the IDF and Jordanian forces that played a major role in the liberation of the Old City of Jerusalem
- Embark on a docent-led tour of the **Knesset**, Israel's seat of government
- Prepare to leave for the airport to return home

Social Action Opportunities

KOL AMI VOLUNTEERS AS A BUDDY CONGREGATION FOR THE INTER-FAITH HOUSING ALLIANCE

The Interfaith Housing Alliance is a Montgomery County agency that helps families overcome homelessness. In June, Kol Ami volunteers supported Saint Matthew's church in Maple Glen as a "buddy congregation" to provide volunteer services to three single-mother families with young children. We prepared and ate dinner with the families, we supervised them in their temporary shelter at the church, and we transported them in the mornings and evenings to and from St Matthew's. It felt so good to provide support to these families during their difficult times.

Kudos to our volunteers! Phyllis Actman; Andy, Maddie and Talia August and Barbara Fink; Shelley Chamberlain; Ellen Friedman; Elaine Gershenson; Rosalind Holtzman; Paul, Ellen and Ethan Kovnat; Laurie Langman; Beth Levine; Karen Lindenbaum; Jody Smith Long; and Carol Nemeroff had such a positive experience supporting the families. We got to know the mothers, we played with the children, and we felt good about being there for these families. Take time to read the beautiful notes of thanks from the Interfaith Housing Alliance coordinator and families, which follow on page 19.

Shortly after the families' one-month stay at St. Matthew's, two of the families were able to move into permanent housing to raise their children. This is truly the essence of the Interfaith program: to provide a helping hand to get families back on their feet. Our congregation supported one family by contributing needed household items to assist them as they begin their lives in a permanent home of their own.

We look forward to working with St. Matthew's again in June 2016, and we welcome any members of Kol Ami who would like to join us in this very worthy cause—what a *Mitzvah*!

We are very thankful for the dedication of our Kol Ami volunteers. And to think this all began through a *Bat Mitzvah* project of Becca Langman!

For more information, connect with Laurie Jubelirer Langman at 610-608-4293 or laurierobin@verizon.net.



An Initiative of Mazon Advocacy Project PA
Kehillah of Old York Road • Area Relief Agencies

Robin Rifkin and Ronit Sugar traveled to Harrisburg to meet with Secretary Ted Dallas and his staff at the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in early July. **Act Against Hunger**, a collaborative project the Social Action Committees of the Kehillah of Old York Road synagogues, and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger organized the meeting. The meeting focused on strategies and policies to ease access for SNAP benefits (food stamps) by Pennsylvania residents. Act Against Hunger is concerned with hunger throughout the region, including Montgomery County. To receive e-mail updates, contact Richard Goldstone at jcr2hunger@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION FAIR

The Social Action Fair will take place on **Sunday, September 20**, in the Kol Ami lobby between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Committee members will be there to provide information about this year's activities and to answer questions. This is a great opportunity to get ideas for *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* projects.

UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS

- September – High Holy Day Food Drive
- September 20 at 11:00 a.m. - Social Action Fair
- October 11 at 10:00 a.m. – Cook for a Friend
- 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

THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED FROM THE STAFF & CLIENTS OF INTER-FAITH HOUSING ALLIANCE



P.O. Box 141
Ambler, PA 19002
phone: 215-628-2334 • fax: 215-643-5194
www.ifha.org

July 6, 2015

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

Dear Laurie, Shelley, Jody and Kol Ami Volunteers,

Thank you for supporting Saint Matthew's as a buddy congregation to provide volunteer services to the Inter-Faith families this June. Our families not only received meals, shelter, and transportation, they also received your encouragement, positive support, and genuine hospitality. We appreciate your attention to detail, and are very grateful for your flexibility with the ever-changing schedules of families.

Together, we are responding to homelessness in a unique way. It is the caring, compassionate congregations with volunteers who contribute their time, talents, and treasures to help our families. YOU are the reason Inter-Faith is able to provide families with a comprehensive shelter program that assists them on the path to self-sufficiency.

On a national level, Congregation Kol Ami is one of 6,000 congregations and part of a network of 182 affiliates that participate in the Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter program. Inter-Faith Housing Alliance is the one of the oldest shelter networks in the country and it is because of the continued support of congregations like yours that we remain strong.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to Inter-Faith and our families.

With Gratitude,

Marsha Eichelberger
Executive Director

Lauren Kormanik
Community Resource Manager

Jude Henzy
Case Manager



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! ■**

Hello,



I would like to say
a warm thank you to
you all for all the
help that was provided
to me and my family
during this time of need

I am truly thankful
I will hold your kindness
in my heart forever
may God continue to
bless you

Thankfully,
Katie,
Darrion and
Zion



Dear Laurie, Shelley, and Jody,
Thank you for all of your hard work
and dedication to bring the Interfaith
Hospitality network to Congregation
Kol Ami! Your interest in the program
and passion to help the families
at this time of crisis is what helped
to engage other members of your
congregation to want to do the same.
The first year tends to be challenging
as you and your volunteers face
many unknowns. We hope through the
training and experience this year that
many of those fears have dissipated.
We look forward to our ongoing
partnership and thank you once
again for spearheading the effort.

Sincerely,
Lauren



KOL AMI EARLY LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES: The children were excited about Alex's Lemonade Stand (above left), an endeavor for which they raised over \$100 for childhood cancer; the preschoolers were also proud of their "Frozen" puzzle for "frozen day" (notice the dresses).



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.

KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2015 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	Selichot Service 10:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m. - <i>Oneg</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Early Learning Center CLOSED - Labor Day	Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Machzor Session with Rabbi Holin 7:00 p.m. <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>		Machzor Session with Rabbi Holin 7:00 p.m. <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Prospective-Member" erev Shabbat Service and "Second-Friday" blessings with our Adult Choir and guest speaker Moran Birman 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.

KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2015 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 erev Rosh Hashanah Service 8:00 p.m.	14 Early Learning Center CLOSED - Rosh Hashanah Rosh Hashanah Service 10:00 a.m.	15 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Tashlikh Service 6:30 p.m. 5:15 p.m. - Dinner at Home of Ruben Honik	16 First Day of Religious School for Grades 3-10 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	17 Casino Night Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	18 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	19 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
20 First Day of Religious School for Grades K-2 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Welcome Program for Parents and Children Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 p.m. Social Action Fair 11:00 a.m. Artist Open House 1:00 p.m. (Moonan)	21 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group with Carol Nemeroff 7:00 p.m.	22 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Early Learning Center Closes at 3:00 p.m. - Kol Nidrei Kol Nidrei Service 8:00 p.m.	23 Early Learning Center CLOSED - Yom Kippur Religious School CLOSED - Yom Kippur Yom Kippur Service 10:00 a.m.	24	25 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service 6:00 p.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	26 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
27 Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Sukkot Maccabiah Marketing Committee Meeting 11:00 a.m. erev Sukkot Service 7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. - Pizza dinner and refreshments	28 Early Learning Center CLOSED - Sukkot Sukkot Service 10:00 a.m. Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	29 Continuing Jewish Education for Adults with Rabbi Holin 10:30 a.m.	30 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.			

Kol Ami Contributions

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

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Anonymous
David and Patty Ann Long

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

Graduation of Marlene Adelman
Ira and Robin Adelman

In Memory of:

Helen Adelman
Karen Gurmankin

BAR/BAT MITZVAH- CONFIRMATION FUND

In Honor of:

My parents, Richard and Jill Goldstone
Benny Goldstone

DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

In Honor of:

My grandparents, Martin and Felice Goldstone
Benny Goldstone

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of:

Herbert Barrett
Shirley Brown

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Get-Well Wishes to Leon Love
Ira and Robin Adelman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Graduation of Belle Adelman
Ira and Robin Adelman

Rabbi Elliot Holin, in appreciation of your very intimate eulogy in memory of Herb
Lucille Barrett

Rabbi Elliot Holin, our cousin, for making Laura and Ben's wedding ceremony so special, personal, and memorable
David and Eva Fuhrman

Jack and Betty Petcove
Benny Goldstone

The engagement of Amy Schiowitz to Geoff Millner
Bert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

In Memory of:

Helen Adelman
Craig and Sharon Myers

Morton Baker
Peter and Beth Denitz

Herb Barrett
Carole Bogdanoff
Elise Freed
Roberta Kaneff
Myrna Makrus
Sherie Saner
Helene Walker
Beth Weinstock
Harriet Zilber

Roslyn Hauser
James and Natalie Dyen

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of Adele Goldman
Stanley and Rita Siegel

Rabbi Elliot Holin
Benny Goldstone

Bat Mitzvah of Lily Miles
Craig and Sharon Myers

Rebecca Schwartz
Benny Goldstone

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

Birthday wishes to Robin Adelman
Ira, Marlene, and Belle Adelman

Presidency of Shelley Chamberlain
David Hyman

Special birthday of Ruben Honik
Elaine Stevens

Special anniversary of David and Patty Ann Long
Elaine Stevens

Engagement of Amy Schiowitz to Geoff Millner
Elaine Stevens

In Memory of:

Helen Adelman
Elaine Stevens

Arthur Alexander
Abby Binder and Jane Tausig
Elaine Stevens

Morton Baker
Elaine Stevens

Herbert Barrett
Bruce and Carole Bogdanoff

Louis Seltzer
David Hyman ■



SEPTEMBER

- **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, at 10:00 p.m.**
Selichot Service; Oneg at 9:30 p.m.
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, at 7:00 p.m.**
Machzor Session with Rabbi Holin (Rosh Hashanah)
- **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, at 7:00 p.m.**
Machzor Session with Rabbi Holin (Yom Kippur)
- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, at 7:30 p.m.**
“Prospective-Member” *erev Shabbat* Service and
“Second- Friday” birthday and anniversary blessings
with the Adult choir and guest speaker Moran Birman
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, at 8:00 p.m.**
erev Rosh Hashanah Service
- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, at 10:00 a.m.**
Rosh Hashanah Service
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, at 6:30 p.m.**
Tashlikh Service; preceded by a dinner at 5:15 p.m.
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**
4:00 p.m. - First Day of Religious School for
Grades 3-7
6:00 p.m. - First Day of Confirmation Academy for
Grades 8-10
- **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, at 7:30 p.m.**
Casino Night Committee Meeting
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
10:00 a.m. - First Day Religious School for
Grades K-2 and Welcome Program
11:00 a.m. - Social Action Fair
- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, at 7:00 p.m.**
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, at 8:00 p.m.**
Kol Nidrei Service
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, at 10:00 a.m.**
Yom Kippur Service
- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, at 6:00 p.m.**
“Fun-for-Kids” *erev Shabbat* Service
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
9:30 a.m. - Worship Enhancement Committee
Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Marketing Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. - *erev Sukkot Service* in the *Sukkah*;
preceded by pizza and refreshments at 6:30 p.m.
- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
10:00 a.m. - *Sukkot Service*
7:30 p.m. - Membership Committee Meeting
- **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, AND OCTOBER 6 & 13**
at 10:30 a.m.
Adult Continuing Jewish Education with Rabbi Holin

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, at 7:30 p.m.**
Interfaith Relationship Dialogue
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, at 7:00 p.m.**
Social Action Committee Meeting
- **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
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29 AND NOVEMBER 5**
at 7:30 p.m. - Adult Continuing Jewish Education
with Neal Beatus
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**
6:30 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
- **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, at 10:30 a.m.**
Casino Night Committee Meeting
- **MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, at 1:00 p.m.**
American Red Cross Blood Drive
- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**
6:30 p.m.-“Fun-for-Kids” *erev Shabbat* Service with
Student Choir
7:30 p.m.-*erev Shabbat* Service with Gr 3 participation ■