



## WORSHIP SERVICES

### **EREV SHABBAT SERVICES ON THE MEADOW:**

**FRIDAY, Sept. 1, 8 & 15**

September 8: "Second-Friday"  
birthday and anniversary blessings  
under the *tallit*

**5:45 p.m.** - Bring your own dinner  
and blankets or comfortable, soccer-  
style (foldable) chairs

**6:30 p.m.** - Brief worship service  
beneath the trees and evening sky  
(chairs are provided for the service)

**SATURDAY, Sept. 9, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Bat Mitzvah* of Anna Goldstone  
in the chapel

**SATURDAY, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m.**

*Selichot* - the "Gateway" to the High  
Holy Days (see page 4): 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." The approach  
of the New Year invites us to con-  
sider change, to move internally from  
where you have been to where you  
want to be. It is the time of *cheshebon  
ha'nefesh* – taking measure of your  
soul, your essence: getting in touch  
with who you are, what you value,  
how you engage (and yes, avoid).

**WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20, at 8:00 p.m.**

*erev Rosh Hashanah* Service

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## **SILENCE FOR THE KOL NIDREI SERVICE**

Our *Kol Nidrei* service will commence at **8 o'clock on September 29**, pre-  
ceded by meditative readings and then the kindling of a *neyr n'shamah* – a  
memorial candle – in the words of the text: "to give us strength and hope in  
these sacred hours of memory and healing." We pray in the names of those no  
longer with us as the holiest day on the Jewish calendar dawns.

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*. ■

## **HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2017 - 5778**

<i>Selichot</i>	Saturday, September 16	10:00 p.m.
<i>erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	Wednesday, September 20	8:00 p.m.
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Thursday, September 21	
	- Adult Service	10:00 a.m.
	- High Holy Day University (Grades K-7)	10:00 a.m.
	- Children's-Family Service	2:00 p.m.
<i>Tashlikh</i>	Friday, September 22	6:00 p.m.
<i>Kol Nidrei</i>	Friday, September 29	8:00 p.m.
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	Saturday, September 30	
	- Adult Service	10:00 a.m.
	- Student Service and Program (Grades K-7)	10:00 a.m.
	- Children's-Family Service	2:00 p.m.
	- Reflective Reading and Discussion	3:00 p.m.
	- Afternoon Service	3:45 p.m.
	- <i>Yizkor-Neilah</i> Service	5:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** If your children are in college or experiencing a gap year and will be at our High Holy Day services on either *Rosh Hashanah* morning (Thursday, September 21) *Yom Kippur* morning or *Yom Kippur* afternoon (Saturday, September 30), please let Rabbi Holin know in advance so that he can invite them to be part of the *hakafah*, the proces-  
sion of Torah Scrolls through the Congregation. This will be a wonderful way for all of  
us to celebrate the presence of your children in our midst at this most sacred time. ■

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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**THURSDAY, Sept. 21, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Rosh Hashanah* Service

**FRIDAY, Sept. 22, at 6:00 p.m.**

*Tashlikh* Service by the water  
preceded by a 5:15 p.m. BYOD  
at the home of Guy and Karol Appel  
in Meadowbrook

**SATURDAY, Sept. 23, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

**FRIDAY, Sept. 29, at 8:00 p.m.**

*Kol Nidrei* Service

**SATURDAY, Sept. 30, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Yom Kippur* Service ■

## TORAH & HAFTARAH

**September 2 – Re'eh**

Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Isaiah 66:1-24

**September 9 – Shofetim**

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Isaiah 51:12-52:12

**September 16 – Kee Tetzeei**

Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Isaiah 54:1-10

**September 23 – Kee Tavo**

Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

Isaiah 60 ■

## MAZAL TOV

We congratulate the following:

- **Gary and Cheryl Turetsky** on the marriage of their daughter, Aimee Flora Turetsky, to Daniel Aaron De Groff on April 8. We also congratulate Aimee's *zayde*, Alvin Turetsky.
- **Paul and Mindy Levy** on the birth of their granddaughter, Harper Vida, on July 19 to Stephanie Jacobson and Kyle Western. ■

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to September! I hope you enjoyed a relaxing and fun-filled summer. My summer included long weekends visiting friends and family as well as treasured days at the beach. And my favorite pastime - swimming! Somehow those delightful summer days always seem to fly by way too quickly.

As we look forward to the New Year, I can't help thinking about our mission. Our beautifully written Vision Statement so accurately reflects who we are and what we strive for as a community. (If you haven't read it, you can find it on our website home page, under About Us / Who We Are.) In light of our transition, we reached out to you to write letters to our "rabbi-to-be" answering the following:

- Why are you a member?
- What do you love about our Kol Ami community?
- Where do you want to see our Congregation in the next few years?

Your outpouring of heartfelt letters was so plentiful that we could not use all of them for the URJ rabbinic application, but they collectively reinforce our sense of community and dedication to sustaining our mission. We reached out again to survey your ideas about questions to ask our "rabbi-to-be" during the interview process. Two Jews, three opinions, right? We look forward to and will consider all of your suggestions as we continue to engage you in our Bridge to the Future efforts.

The year 1994-95 was an important one for Kol Ami "firsts" (our founding year). We are again embarking on a very special year. This will be a year of celebrating our history, our growth and legacy, and our gratitude to Rabbi Holin. It is exciting and emotional. We'll be setting a foundation for our Bridge to the Future. With each step across that bridge, I wholeheartedly believe that our collective strength, resources, and capabilities will most definitely help us select our next spiritual leader. We will indeed thrive!

Together we will enrich our Jewish experiences. Together we will continue to build community. Together we will cherish our memories and create new ones. We will continue to engage in acts of social justice and rich experiences of Jewish learning and spiritual growth. Through prayer, music, communication, people, and purpose, we will continue to build strong connections.

This month's bulletin provides our entire lineup of wonderful adult education opportunities. I hope you will join me in taking full advantage of new learning and spiritual growth. I am so pleased to tell you that this year I will join eight fellow Kol Ami members in becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*, proving it is never too late to learn! Kol Ami is my sacred community. IT IS yours also, and for that I am tremendously grateful. It's never too late to get involved. For a start, consider participating in our annual *Sukkot* in the Fields trip in early October. It's a day to celebrate the holiday close to the land and share

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# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

*Yom Kippur* awaits us and it is not just about fasting.

It's all about atonement. It's all about saying, "I'm sorry."

The *Midrash* tells us that Moses sought forgiveness before he died. It is one of the most compelling and instructive stories in our literature. "[When he was about to die] a Divine Voice came forth and said, 'The time has come for you to depart from this world.' Moses pleaded with The Holy One, 'Master of the universe, for my sake, wait until I bless Israel. On account of the warnings and reprimands I heaped upon them, they never found any ease with me.' Then he began to bless each tribe separately. He said to [all of the children of] Israel, 'Because of the *Torah* and its precepts, I troubled you greatly. Now, please forgive me.'

"They replied, 'Our master, you are forgiven.' In their turn they said to him, 'Moses, our teacher, we troubled you even more. We made your burdens so heavy. Please forgive us.' Moses replied, 'You are forgiven.'"

You might ask why it took Moses and the people so long to seek and grant forgiveness, and only wonder how the journey through the wilderness might have been easier had they done so sooner. Moses finally reached out and the people responded.

*Yom Kippur* brings forgiveness if you turn in true contrition to God as well as those you offended. Change reconnects the covenant with God and with others. The Day of Atonement brings forgiveness, but without verbal confession, no repentance is possible.

To say "I'm sorry" can be a high hurdle because it means acknowledging that something we did hurt someone. It might be the admission that we were not there when someone needed us. To take responsibility and express remorse is difficult and necessary. Sincere acknowledgement of regret is liberating and can strengthen relationships. The inability to do so is telling.

Who said the following? "I try and make sure that we're staying focused on recognizing that true reconciliation involves changing approaches and changing mindset. The way I framed it and characterized that doesn't contribute to the positive spirit of reconciliation that I like to think and I know my government stands for."

- President Donald Trump
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Google "Senator Patrick Brazeau and Indigenous advocates" for the answer.

It is easy to point fingers at others. It is important to point out our own failings and apologize for them.

*Shanah tova* oo'mebtukah,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory:

### Juliette Bennett

*mother of Robynn (Jeffrey) Margasak  
grandmother of Jacob and Jenna*

### Carole Cherry

*aunt of Mark (Karin) Kaplan*

### Leonard Dershow

*cousin of Meryle (David) Twersky*

### Lesly Harris

*aunt of Barry (Michele) Steinbrecher*

### Lenora Wyman Harrison

*stepmother of David (Phyllis) Harrison  
grandmother of Heather (Eric) Pelletier  
great-grandmother of Evan and Cameron*

### Arlene Hyman

*aunt of Bill (Janine Pratt) Hyman  
aunt of David (Farah Jimenez) Hyman*

### Ivan (Ike) Kranich

*father of Sally (Stewart) Eisenberg  
grandfather of Becca, Rachael, and  
Michael*

### Dustinn E. Pratt

*father of Janine (Bill Hyman) Pratt  
grandfather of Maya and Lia*

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

## **SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP**

**Main Office**  
215-635-3110

**Rabbi Elliot J. Holin**  
215-635-4182

**Shelley Chamberlain, President**  
215-635-1738

**Ruben Honik, Vice President**  
215-985-9177

**Jeffrey Margasak, Vice President**  
215-635-9332

**Barbara Fink, Secretary**  
215-886-2297

**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  
**Website:** [www.kolamielkinspark.org](http://www.kolamielkinspark.org)  
**Facebook:** <https://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](mailto:jfalon@english.upenn.edu). Articles may be edited as needed. ■



# **HIGH HOLY DAY DETAILS**

## **CHILDCARE DURING THE HIGH HOLY DAYS 2017 - 5778**

Child care is available during *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* mornings. Reservations are not required.

## **PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS: SELICHOT SERVICE & DISCUSSION**

**Saturday, September 16, at 10:00 p.m.; pre-service *Oneg* at 9:30 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.

*Selichot* is the call to conscience and the pledge to commit yourself to be your best self.

## **TASHLIKH SERVICE - THE BRIDGE TO YOM KIPPUR**

**Friday, September 22, at the home of Guy and Karol Appel in Meadowbrook; BYOD at 5:15 p.m. Bring a dessert to share! *Tashlikh* Service by the water from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.**



Children and young adults are welcome to bring Frisbees, baseballs, and beach balls to toss on the large lawn, and they will be given chocolate *shofars*!

*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 creating 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, on Saturday, September 30.

## **REFLECTIVE READING & DISCUSSION ON YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON**

**Saturday, September 30, at 3:00 p.m.**

Our High Holy Day Reflective Reading discussion provides a meaningful interlude between the Children’s-Family Service and the Afternoon Service.

## **YIZKOR (MEMORIAL) SERVICE ON YOM KIPPUR**



**Saturday, September 30, at 5:00 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](mailto:execdir@kolamielkinspark.org) by September 22. ■

2017-2018

# Study at the *Shul* for Adults

RSVP TO ELAINE STEVENS AT 215-635-3110 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.  
THERE IS A \$50 FEE FOR NON-MEMBERS TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE COURSES.

## Adult Two-Year *B'nai Mitzvah* Course Continues

Two Tuesdays a Month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Instructors: Rabbi Elliot Holin and Rosalind Holtzman



Save the date of **Saturday morning, June 16, 2018** to rejoice at the *B'nai Mitzvah* of our nine adults who have completed year one of our *B'nai Mitzvah* course and now commence their second year of study of Hebrew taught by Rosalind Holtzman and a survey of Jewish thought, history, tradition, *Torah* text, prophetic imperatives, the evolution of Reform Judaism, the centrality of Israel, and social justice themes taught by Rabbi Holin.

The two-year course will culminate in a most meaningful service to celebrate this remarkable journey and the opportunity for celebrants to reflect upon the experience and knowledge gained.

Class dates in 2017-2018 will be:

- September 5 and 26
- October 10 and 24
- November 7 and 21
- December 5 and 26
- January 2 and 23
- February 13 and 27
- March 6 and 27
- April 3 and 24
- May 8, 22, and 29
- June 5 and 12

## My Yiddishe Mama: East European Jewish Families in America

Mondays; October 9, 16, 23 & 30  
from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Instructor: Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman

Using music, film, and primary sources, the course explores the dynamics of immigrant Jewish family life in America. It focuses on the significant challenges posed to family solidarity in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, and the ways in which individual families, as well as Jewish organizations, strove to meet those challenges.

RSVP by October 2.

## Star Trek & Judaism

Thursdays; November 2 & 9  
from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: David Monblatt



This course will boldly go where no Jew has gone before. Star Trek and Judaism will explore Jewish themes and subjects found in the Star Trek franchise (whether they were placed there intentionally or not). Star Trek has confronted such topics as the nature of evil, atonement, and remembrance, while spotlighting the value of education, the dignity of the individual, and the importance of social justice. The course will examine episodes from the original television series: Next Generation, Star Trek Deep Space Nine, and selected scenes from films.

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## American Foreign Policy and Presidential Leadership

Tuesdays; November 14, 21 & 28 and December 5  
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ira Cooperman

Join a former intelligence officer as we chart the course of America's relations with other nations, including Israel, and focus on the leadership provided by different presidents. From wartime to peacetime, the class discussion will attempt to uncover sparks of leadership from such people as Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, Truman, Ike, and JFK. Knowledge of American history is not required.

## The Difficulty of Change: Psychoanalysis and the Myth of the Exodus

Thursdays; February 8 & 15  
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Neal Beatus



The myth of the Exodus, in which the Israelites leave bondage in Egypt to begin their journey to the Promised Land, is a story about the difficulty and dangers of change. The Israelites desperately want to leave slavery but fears of the unknown threaten to overwhelm them.

We will examine what psychoanalysis has to say about the difficulties of change and how the Bible explored these areas millennia before. As Sigmund Freud wisely said, "Everywhere I go I find a poet has been there before me."

Why is change difficult? What do we fear? Why is the unknown scary? What helps us on our journey? We will examine the myth of the Exodus along with stories from the Midrash and Kabbalah that address change and growth.

## Was Torah Really from Moses, and If Not, What Is Its Claim on Our Lives?

Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15 & 22  
from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom

When we lift the *Torah* and say, "This is the *Torah* which Moses placed before the People Israel, at the mouth of God, by the hand of Moses," most of us do not take it literally. In that case, what claim does it have on our lives? Why should we focus on *Torah* and not on some other moral or spiritual tract? There may be no definitive answers to these questions, but they are at the heart of liberal Judaism, and we will reflect together about these issues in relation to our beliefs regarding "Divine revelation."



## Peeling Back Layers of Meaning in Sacred Texts

Thursdays;  
April 12, 19 & 26  
from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor:  
Carol Nemeroff

Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of sacred texts using PaRDeS, a four-layer approach to reading *Torah*. It includes: *Pshat*, the literal meaning; *Remez*, deep allegorical meaning; *Derash*, the interpretive or comparative meaning; and *Sod*, the mystery or mystical meaning. Participants will engage in study in pairs.

## Israeli Intelligence Agencies: Israel's First Line of Defense

Thursdays; May 3, 10, 17 & 24  
from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ira Cooperman

Espionage! The Mossad does it, and so does a Israeli clandestine military group called "Unit 8200." This course will uncover the secret tradecraft practiced by these Israeli agencies, as well as the *Shin Bet*, Israel's internal security agency. We'll discuss their relations with other intelligence agencies, including the CIA, over the past 70 years of Israel's

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## STUDY AT THE *SHUL* FOR ADULTS

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existence. (In the interest of full disclosure, the instructor, a former American intelligence officer, once had a brief encounter with a member of the Mossad!)

## Judaism in Nature

Sundays; May 13 and June 3 & 10

at 1:00 p.m. off-site

Instructor: Carol Nemeroff



This class will take place outdoors and will involve gentle hiking in different locations. Two books, “Finding God in the Garden” and “Wild Faith” will serve as resources for participants to reconnect with the wonder in our natural world and our Jewish roots in the wilderness. A variety of exercises in natural settings will enhance our experiences.

## Jewish History in the First Person

Mondays, June 4, 11, 18 & 25

from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman

This course will explore major themes in modern Jewish history as reflected in excerpts from personal letters and memoirs written by men and women living in the 17th through 20th centuries. Emphasis will be placed on issues relevant to contemporary American Jews.

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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.

**IRA COOPERMAN** is a former intelligence officer who has worked with CIA, NSA, and the military during the Vietnam War, was a reporter for “The Los Angeles Times,” has served as a political consultant, and has taught National Security courses for over 10 years at the Chautauqua Institution. A member of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, he is a graduate of San Francisco State University and has lectured at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the State University of NY.

**DR. REENA SIGMAN FRIEDMAN** is Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, as well as Adjunct Professor of Jewish History at Gratz College. She is the author of “These Are Our Children: Jewish Orphanages in the United States, 1880-1925,” several encyclopedia entries, and numerous scholarly articles. Dr. Friedman lectures widely on topics related to Jewish history, Jewish women, and the contemporary Jewish community.

**CAROL NEMEROFF** is a retired school principal and consultant who studied Jewish spirituality at the *Lev Shomea* (listening heart) program and has offered spiritual exploration and companionship to individuals and groups since 2005. She has taken part in several Jewish meditation retreats and has offered a meditation class at Kol Ami with Orly Maravankin. She also has led labyrinth walks at Congregation Kol Ami and Old York Road Temple Beth Am. Carol is a member of the Kol Ami choir, Worship Enhancement Committee, and helps to facilitate the Kol Ami Spiritual Growth Group. She is grateful for opportunities to offer *d’verei Torah* at *Shabbat* morning services.

**RABBI SEYMOUR ROSENBLOOM** is the Distinguished Service Rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park and is active in the local 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. Rabbi Rosenbloom has stirred controversy in the Conservative rabbinic community by breaking ranks with the Rabbinical Assembly and becoming a vocal advocate for rabbis officiating at interfaith marriages. He has been a good friend to Congregation Kol Ami and is looking forward to teaching in our community. ■

# Kol Ami Events

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## 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](mailto:rebeccasongs@verizon.net).

## HEALING WORDS SHOUT-OUT

If you have a favorite writing or poem, or would like to submit your creative writing for inclusion in our Healing Service, please send it to Rabbi Holin.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

*erev Shabbat*, Friday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in September, please join us at this special "Second-Friday" *erev Shabbat* service on the meadow. 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 celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary ending with 0 or 5 (for example, 40, 45). If you have a special 0 or 5 birthday or anniversary, you will be invited to participate in any Friday service in "your" month by blessing the candles or *challah*, or reciting the *Kiddush*, or at any Saturday service that month by carrying or blessing the *Torah*.

## FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



For the past two and a half years, our rabbi's monthly fasts have benefitted **NATAL: 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 to benefit **NATAL** will be on "first Wednesdays": **September 6** and **October 4**.

For the past five years, rabbi's monthly fasts called **Phast for Philadelphia** were on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address healthcare needs, and pay electric bills.

Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on "fourth Thursdays": **September 28** and **October 26**.

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

### American Friends of NATAL

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

### Unemployment Information Center

112 N. Broad Street  
11th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

(check payable to Unemployment Information Center with memo note "Philadelphia Unemployment Office")

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## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Inclusion – LGBTQ Initiative**

Sunday, September 24, at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Morgan Selkirk, 267-287-8555

### **Membership Committee**

Sunday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.

Chair: Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein, 215-635-3615

### **Religious School Committee**

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

Chair: Tamara Sniad, 215-782-3848

### **Social Action Committee**

Thursday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Jody Long, 215-635-4751, and Rocky Weinstein, 215-782-3848

### **Spiritual Growth Group**

Monday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698, and Meryle Gurmankin, 215-464-2455 ■

## **THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP STARTS OFF THE YEAR WITH MORE ABOUT SPIRITUALITY AND NATURE**

**Monday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

The Spiritual Growth Group will continue to talk and learn about spirituality in nature from a Jewish perspective. We will, again, refer to readings from two books, so it would be ideal, although not essential, to check them out before the meeting. They are “Finding God in the Garden: Backyard Reflections on Life, Love, and Compost,” by Balfour Brickner, and “A Wild Faith: Jewish Ways into Wilderness, Wilderness Ways into Judaism,” by Rabbi Mike Comins and Nigel Savage.

If the weather is good, we might meet in the meditation garden. If so, please bring your own soccer-style chair.

Remember, you don’t have to be “religious” or “observant,” and you don’t have to believe in God to be part of the Spiritual Growth Group. No need for an extensive Jewish education either. Come figure things out with us.

For more information, contact Janet Falon at 215-635-1698 or [janetfalon@gmail.com](mailto:janetfalon@gmail.com).

## **“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 joy.

- **Oct. 20**
- **Dec. 15**
- **Jan. 19**
- **Mar. 16**
- **Apr. 20** ■



## **WHAT IS THE INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE ALL ABOUT? AND WHAT IS IT PLANNING FOR THIS YEAR?**

The Interfaith Relationship Dialogue is a group of convivial and supportive partners and parents who share wine and appetizers while having wide-open discussions that often spring from issues related to interfaith relationships.

Some regulars have been in the group almost from the birth of Kol Ami, but all face interfaith issues that they never considered would come up in their family relationships. For example, in recent years, couples in which both spouses are Jewish have had to think about what happens when their teenage kids have serious, continuing relationships with non-Jewish partners. Extended-family issues (especially for grandparents) also surface from tie to time.

The group uses articles, documentary videos, films, and personal experiences of both members and outsiders to trigger its lively conversations that also cover the interfaith factor and how it affects divorce, estrangement, and life-cycle events. They are eager to hear recommendations from

*continued page 10*

## KOL AMI EVENT (continued from page 9)

the entire Congregation about films, novels, stories, and nonfiction in which an interfaith relationship plays a role.

**Meetings are on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.: October 3; January 9; March 13; and May 1**, usually at the home of co-chairs Betsy McKinstry and Joel Edelstein, Elkins Park, e-mail [betsymckinstry@gmail.com](mailto:betsymckinstry@gmail.com).

## BLOOD DRIVE COMING UP ON NOVEMBER 6

That's not too far away, so "save" your blood for the Kol Ami drive. Remember, you can only give blood every 55 days.



Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Congregation Kol Ami whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2771426> and support us every time you shop.

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**Volunteer Opportunities: High School Park Workdays at Montgomery Ave. and High School Rd., Elkins Park Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 9/9, 9/10, 9/23, 9/24, 10/14, 10/15, 10/29, 11/11 & 11/12 All ages welcome**

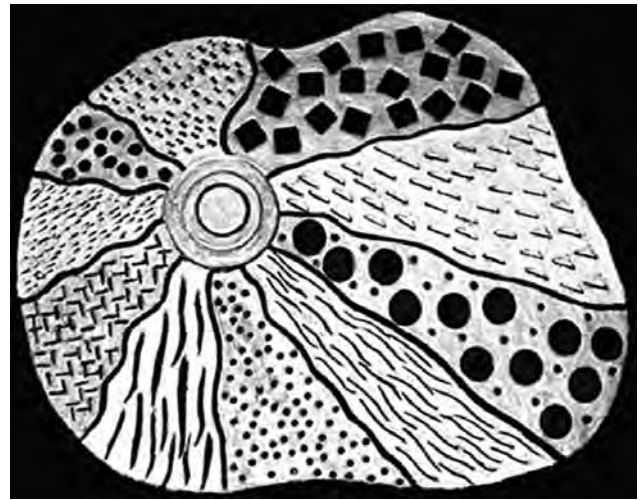
Long sleeves, pants, and boots recommended. Gloves and tools provided or bring your own. Just show up and meet at the shed in the meadow area where Kevin will greet and give instructions. Feel free to bring friends who are non-Kol Ami members. When you sign in, be sure to note that you are from Kol Ami.

The Friends of High School Park is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to create, manage, and preserve a viable 11-plus-acre native ecosystem in High School Park for the community's enjoyment, in cooperation with Cheltenham Township. They are dedicated to inspiring the community to connect with others and the natural environment through service and learning connected with the park.

Kol Ami commits to 20 volunteer hours each year. Please help us meet or exceed this goal! For more information, contact Jody Long or Rocky Weinstock. ■

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 23

JOEL W. SLOANE

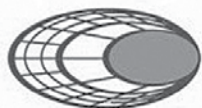


Joel's art has evolved over the past decade through his participation as an art student, as well as graduate studies in the field of Depth Psychology and *Kabbalah*. Within Judaism and all religious traditions are mystical teachings that combine sacred texts with the wisdom of living masters (i.e., teachers). These oral teachings are interpretive works, and they comprise a lesser-known gateway to the sacred material hidden inside each tradition. Because the teachings are hidden away from the public, they can be seen and understood as abiding in a unconscious reservoir or dream state.

In recent years, Joel has developed digital artwork based on spiritual symbols and ideas found in Judaism and other world traditions. His work is a blending of universal paths, drawing on archetypal and natural forms as an expression of integration and beauty. He recently completed a Master's degree program in Creativity at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, CA.

Joel encourages people to take time to develop their artistic talents through art education. He believes personal creativity and self-expression can be seen as one of the highest human capacities. A personal connection with the arts can be a gateway to wholeness, creativity, and higher consciousness. For more info on his work, visit [jws-dreamscapes.com](http://jws-dreamscapes.com). ■

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



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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

our cultures with our Amish farmer friends. On page 12, you will find our community's way of celebrating Israel's 70th birthday and how you can help. The Kehillah of Old York Road is sponsoring an ambulance for American Friends of Magen David Adom, Israel's official ambulance service. Stay tuned as Kol Ami is also planning programs to celebrate Israel's milestone and our beloved rabbi.

Our calendar is full. Our coming year is rich with opportunities.

*Shanah tovah* - Wishing you all a sweet and healthy New Year!

Shelley Chamberlain

215-635-1738

srchamberlain@comcast.net ■

## NEW!

Get updates on  
Kol Ami events,  
meetings, & activities on your phone.

If you would like text reminders about:	Send the following text message to 81010
"Fun-for-Kids" Shabbats	@kaffkids
Artist Open House	@kaartist
Interfaith Relationship Dialogue	@kaird
LOCA	@kaloca
Marketing Committee	@kamarket
Membership Committee	@kamember
Programming Committee	@kaprogram
Religious School Committee	@karelsch
Religious School PTO	@kapto
Social Action Committee	@kasocact
Spiritual Growth Group	@kasgg
Worship Enhancement Committee	@kawec
Special Events	@kaspec
Guest Speakers	@kaguest

## Commonly Asked Questions:



### What is Remind?

Remind is a website that provides a safe way to send one-way text message reminders and updates. No one can see your cell phone number and there is no way to "reply" to the sender or the group (except to unsubscribe – see below).

### How does Remind work?

First, we set up a "class" for each general interest area, which generates a unique code. The code for each area is shown at left. When you send a text message with the code, you will be "subscribed" to receive reminders about only that topic. You may sign up for as many different topics as you like, just make sure to send a text message to each code separately.

### Is Remind Free?

The service is free, but standard messaging rates apply. So, if you do not have unlimited texting on your cell phone's data plan, you might be charged for each text message.

### How do I opt out of receiving message if I no longer want to receive them?

To unsubscribe, simply reply to the text with the word "unsubscribe".

### Do I have to have a Smartphone for Remind 101?

No, any phone that receives text messages will work with Remind. There is also a Remind app that is free.

### Where can we find more information about Remind?

You can go to [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) for more information about the service!

## **HAZON CSA AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI'S ANNUAL SUKKOT FARM TRIP**



### **WHEN?**

Saturday, October 7, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

### **WHERE?**

A Lancaster-area Amish Organic Farm TBD

### **WHO?**

Congregation Kol Ami members and members of our Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program.

### **WHAT TO BRING?**

A vegetarian potluck dish to share.

### **WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO?**

- An inspirational afternoon with our community and a wonderful farm family
- Delicious food
- New insights about the land, farming, and our teachings
- Ice cream
- A tour of the farm

### **QUESTIONS OR RSVP?**

E-mail by October 1 to Elaine Stevens at [execdir@kolami.info](mailto:execdir@kolami.info). Please let us know what type of food you will bring. We share a meal with our farm host family. Carpooling options are encouraged and available. ■

## **The Kehillah of Old York Road announces a fundraising campaign to purchase a Magen David Adom ambulance in honor of Israel's 70th anniversary!**



Every day, Israelis count on Magen David Adom — Israel's national ambulance, blood-services, and disaster-relief organization, serving as emergency medical first-responders for the state's more than 8.5 million people. This year, MDA needs 100 new ambulances to enhance its rapid world-class response, whether it's to a heart attack or terror attack.

As we prepare to celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary, join us all year long in making a difference in the health, welfare, and security of the people of Israel. Your support will save lives.

**For more information or to participate, visit [afmda.org/kehillah](http://afmda.org/kehillah) or call Sharon Schmidt at 215.947.7007.**

**AFMDA Greater Philadelphia Area**  
PO Box 52158  
Philadelphia, PA 19115  
Tel: 215.947.7007 • [philadelphia@afmda.org](mailto:philadelphia@afmda.org)



**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
MAGEN DAVID ADOM**

**SAVING LIVES IN ISRAEL**

# 2017 HAZON SEAL OF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS



A Backyard Apiary and Bee Friendly Garden Tour was held on July 22 at the home of Abby Binder and Jane Taussig. Below, Jane opens a hive to show her bee community at work.



As part of our Congregation's long-term commitment to sustainability, Kol Ami is partnering with *Hazon* to receive the *Hazon* Seal of Sustainability, which certifies that a Jewish organization has committed to meet a set of criteria marking it as a good world citizen concerning its food and environmental practices, treatment of animals, and impact on climate change. Our being chosen to participate in this initiative signifies that, along with two dozen other Jewish organizations, we are emerging as a national leader in the realm of Jewish sustainability.



After completing an audit of our food and energy impact in May, the *Shomei Adamah* Environmental Stewardship committee selected three projects for this year's submission in December. Two of the projects are formulated as ongoing, long-term goals from which we will complete some first steps for the 2017 Hazon Seal. The third project is a new initiative with specific components outlined for the 2017 Hazon Seal that we hope will result in follow-up steps in the next year.

## 1. Ongoing Efforts to Reduce Waste

Over the past year, Congregation Kol Ami has transitioned away from purchasing Styrofoam to renewable and recyclable paper and plastic products. However, we recognize that many of these products are still being thrown into trash rather than being recycled. In the coming months, we aim to increase reuse and recycling at the synagogue and at home. We also will investigate the feasibility of switching to compostable serviceware (plates, cups, and utensils).

## 2. Ongoing Education and Advocacy about Sustainable and Just-Food Choices (*Eco-Kashrut*)

Over the years of our Hazon Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, we have educated our community about sustainable food systems and animal welfare. This fall, we will encourage members to participate in the advocacy work of our Social Action Committee through Act Against Hunger, an initiative of *Mazon*, the Kehillah of Old York Road and Area Relief Agencies. We also will focus letter-writing campaigns on SNAP funding and the Farm Bill.

## 3. "To Bee or Not to Bee": Honeybees and the Environment

This new initiative aims to raise awareness in our community about the central role of honeybees in the food system, their plight, and the actions we can take to protect and "keep" them. For the High Holy Days, we plan a Honey Extraction Demo and Home-Grown Honey Sale. For the past few years, we have been able to sell local, raw, and delicious honey to dip your apples and *challah*! The honey is from the backyard beehives and gardens of Kol Ami members Jane Taussig and Abby Binder. We are once again selling 8-ounce jars for \$7.00 on September 10 and 17 from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the lobby, and all of the proceeds benefit Congregation Kol Ami. There is a limited amount of honey, so orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. (If you order honey and are paying by check, please make it payable to Congregation Kol Ami.)

Save the date for another Honeybee Educational Program on Sunday, November 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Kol Ami. The program will include a short documentary, "Keeping the Hive Alive," and speaker Vince Aloyo, a well-known master beekeeper. Watch for announcements to follow. ■

## OUR NEW CAR MAGNET

### EXPERIENCE THE KOL AMI DIFFERENCE

How many times have you seen another synagogue's sticker or glanced at a recognizable blue, yellow, and white magnet on the back of a car...or ten? Without ever actually concentrating directly at those magnets, you know exactly what they are and for whom they exist. This is what we're trying to accomplish for Congregation Kol Ami and what led us to creating a new and improved car magnet to replace our old one.

We have made the Kol Ami logo larger and more prominent to help people recognize us. We've incorporated the same colors of the logo that you'll find on our materials and website for consistent brand recognition, and we have added a hashtag.

Oh no! A hashtag?! Don't worry, let us explain to you how this works. Hashtags are "all the rage" now. In today's world, many industries have turned towards internet-based social media marketing to spread their brand. Religious institutions are no different. If we want people to know who we are, we need to get our name out there. This is where our new hashtag, **#TheKolAmiDifference**, comes in and where you get to all be a part of the marketing team. We're asking you to use this hashtag when posting on all social media sources about Kol Ami. At Kol Ami for an event and decide to post about it? Add **#TheKolAmiDifference** at the end. Something happen that you thought was unique or amazing here at Kol Ami? Post about it, and add **#TheKolAmiDifference** at the end. Take a picture here or off campus that has to do with Kol Ami? You guessed it, hashtag it all!

We feel this particular hashtag truly embodies everything Congregation Kol Ami stands for and exhibits in all that takes place in its name. We really are a different kind of synagogue and are proud of that difference. Let's celebrate it and share it everywhere we go!

ASK ELAINE FOR A MAGNET FOR YOUR CAR TODAY!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

### ALVIN TURETSKY



Kol Ami is pleased and honored to welcome new member Alvin Turetsky to our Congregation.

Alvin's son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Cheryl Turetsky, are members of Kol Ami, and Alvin has attended services with them in recent months following

the passing of his beloved wife of 68 years, Frances. Alvin says that he finds Kol Ami warm and welcoming and that the synagogue provides a place of peace, quiet, and friendship for him.

Alvin is a native Philadelphian and has lived in Cheltenham and Abington for the past 48 years. Following his graduation from Central High School (185 class) in 1946, he served in the U.S. Army on a post-war base in Japan. Not wasting a moment, Alvin returned to the States and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from Temple University in 1950; he then pursued graduate studies at Drexel University, LaSalle University, and the University of Virginia.

Alvin had a long and distinguished career, first as an Electronics Instructor at the Army Signal Corps School at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, and then as a Technical Director for the Naval Air Technical Services Facility in Philadelphia. The recipient of meritorious and superior civilian-service awards from the federal government, Alvin continues in his retirement to be a senior member of the Society of Logistics Engineers.

Alvin and Frances raised three children and were further blessed with three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Alvin naturally is very supportive of his family's wellness and success, and as someone who served our country faithfully for many years, he is particularly concerned about the state of our nation. Since prioritizing family matters and *tikun olam* is part of the fabric of Kol Ami, Alvin fits right in, and we are happy to welcome him to our Congregational family. ■

# KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2017 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Early Learning Center CLOSED  <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	<b>2</b> 
<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> Early Learning Center CLOSED	<b>5</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.  <i>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>8</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m.  "Second-Friday" <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	<b>9</b> <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> of Anna Goldstone 10:00 a.m.
<b>10 HONEY SALE</b>  First Day of Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon  Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>11</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.  Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.  LOCA Mural Arts & Jewish Landmarks Tour 9:30 a.m.	<b>13</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m.	<b>14</b> Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Elliot Holin 11:00 a.m.  <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> on the Meadow 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	<b>16</b> <i>Selichot Service</i> 10:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m. – <i>Oneg</i>
<b>17 HONEY SALE</b>  Trope Class 9:10 a.m.  Membership Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m.  Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>18</b> Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center CLOSSES at 3:00 p.m.  Religious School CLOSED  <i>erev Rosh Hashanah</i> Service 8:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> Early Learning Center CLOSED  <i>Rosh Hashanah Service</i> 10:00 a.m.	<b>22</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m.  <i>Tashlikh - erev Shabbat</i> Service at the home of Guy and Karol Appel in Meadowbrook 6:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. - BYOD	<b>23</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>24</b> Trope Class 9:10 a.m.  Inclusion LGBTQ Initiative Meeting 9:30 a.m.  Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>25</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.  <i>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (First Day of Confirmation Grades 8 - 10)	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> <i>Kol Nidrei Service</i> 8:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> <i>Yom Kippur Service</i> 10:00 a.m.

# Kol Ami Contributions

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We thank the following 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.

## ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

**Bat Mitzvah of Katie Lundeen**  
*Joel and Rebecca Schwartz*

## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Ellen Stern**  
*Bruce Black*

## ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Margaret Barry**  
*Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry*

**Special birthday of Daniel George**  
*Daniel and Linda George*

**Special birthday of Sharon Myers**  
*Craig and Sharon Myers*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Nathaniel Barrow and Lindsay Troncelliti*  
*John and Donna Hartzel*

In Honor of:

**Our daughter, Samantha Cramer,  
on the occasion of her marriage  
to Bryan Appel**  
*Dr. Arnold Cramer and Dr. Michelle  
Cramer*

**Our granddaughter, Shira Johnson,  
on her graduation from the Uni-  
versity of Rochester and her ac-  
ceptance to the Thomas Jefferson  
University PhD program  
in Biomedical Engineering**  
*Elaine and Julius Ellison*

**Special birthday of Sharon Myers**  
*Alan and Elaine Gershenson*

In Memory of:

**Lenora Wyman Harrison**  
*Alan and Elaine Gershenson*

*Mi Shebbeirach:*

**June Giameo**  
*Carol Baron*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

*Anonymous*  
*David Baker and Irene Levy Baker*  
*Stanton and Merle Salkin*

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Laurie Jubelier  
Langman**  
*Elaine Stevens*

**Paul and Mindy Levy on the birth  
of their granddaughter, Harper**  
*Alan and Elaine Gershenson*  
*Craig and Sharon Myers*

**Special birthday of Sharon Myers**  
*Elaine Stevens*

**Milestone birthday and retirement  
of David Petkun**  
*Wayne and Bev Kaplan*

**Special birthday of Ellen Stern**  
*Jeffrey and Caryn Brodsky*  
*Shirley Gottlieb*  
*William and Lisa Koelenyn*  
*Elaine Stevens*  
*Norman, Gladys, and Harriet Weisbord*

**Special birthday of Elaine Stevens**  
*Alan and Elaine Gershenson*  
*David Hyman and Farah Jimenez*  
*Craig and Sharon Myers*

In Memory of:

**Arthur Alexander**  
*Elaine Alexander*

**Juliette Bennett**  
*Elaine Stevens*

**Leonard Dershaw**  
*David and Meryle Twersky*

**Arlene Hyman**  
*Elaine Stevens*

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*Alvin Turetsky*

**Isadore Turetsky**  
*Alvin Turetsky* ■