

CONGREGATION
Kol Ami
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with guest author Janice Booker, who will speak about her new book, "Across from the Alley Next Door to the Pool Room," a memoir about growing up in South Philadelphia when it was an enclave for Jewish and Italian immigrants; plus First-Friday Birthday and Anniversary Blessings at this musical service with our Adult Choir

SATURDAY, May 7, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; David Hyman will present the *dvar Torah*

FRIDAY, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Children's-Family *erev Shabbat* Service with our Student Choir

SATURDAY, May 14

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

5:30 p.m. - *Bar Mitzvah* of Adam Fishbein (see page 4)

FRIDAY, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service; Eric Pelletier will celebrate his Conversion Ceremony in our midst and will share his thoughts about the journey that has led him to choose Judaism

SATURDAY, May 21, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

continued page 2

REJOICE WITH OUR 10TH-GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT OUR 14TH CONFIRMATION CLASS SERVICE

EREV SHAVUOT, TUESDAY, JUNE 7, AT 7:00 PM



PHOTO BY JEFF COHEN

We will rejoice with the following students and their families at a creative service that includes the students' thoughtful writings about Jewish identity and how they envision their future. We congratulate:

Jake Boise Barry and Allison Boise
Leah Cohen Jeffrey S. Cohen and Ellen J. Friedman
Matthew Fleck Paul and Amy Fleck
Shira Nguyen Johnston Eric and Adena Johnston
Kyle N. Meranus. Steve and Carol Meranus
Emily Silverman. Eric and Patricia Silverman
Katherine Rose Streitwieser. . . . Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser ■

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 6, AT 7:00 PM - ONEG TO FOLLOW

WORSHIP SERVICE

(continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service (Memorial Day Weekend); Rabbi Holin will speak about his moving experience during a funeral at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery

SATURDAY, May 28, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service where Rabbi Holin will review and share his thoughts in the context of the Jewish tradition and his own philosophy regarding “Heaven is for Real - A Little Boy’s Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back” by Todd Burpo; plus First-Friday Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

SATURDAY, June 4, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and a reprise for those who cannot be at the previous night’s *erev Shabbat* service, where Rabbi Holin will review “Heaven is for Real - A Little Boy’s Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back” by Todd Burpo ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

May 7 - Emor

Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Ezekiel 44:15-31

May 14 - Behar

Leviticus 25:1-26:2

Jeremiah 32:6-27

May 21 - Behukotai

Leviticus 26:3-27:34

Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

May 28 - Bemidbar

Numbers 1:1-4:20

Hosea 2:1-22 ■

PRESIDENT’S LETTER



What a great job you did! Thank you so much for all your efforts! You have made a real difference! It only takes six or seven words and they can be written or spoken and they can make a person or a group of people feel like the sun has just broken out on a rainy day. In both of my current jobs, attorney in a small center city law firm and president of our small, but wonderful, congregation I periodically hear complaints from people that they feel

taken for granted. A secretary, a teacher—it doesn’t matter who it is or what task they have performed but it is a reminder to me that no one wants to feel unappreciated. A pat on the back goes a long way and feeling good about oneself and his or her place in the world is priceless.

Since I find myself needing this reminder and since sometimes I hear these issues in our community I thought, as I have this platform, a gentle nudge to all of us wasn’t a bad idea. We’ve all done it to our children, remember those *bar/bat mitzvah* thank you cards? The constant pushing felt like a form of torture but we all know it’s the right thing to do and we don’t need to have an actual gift to offer the thanks.

As a synagogue we are blessed with such a wonderful community that we should remember to give thanks to not only G-d but to each other for all we each do. As we wrap up our Faith in Our Future Capital Campaign it is wonderful to those of us on the committee to talk about the beautiful words so many of you passed on to us. Those words were often thank yous and sometimes just a reminder of what Congregation Kol Ami is. A recent contributor to our campaign said they felt compelled to contribute when they looked around recently and saw the future—the many young families who are building a home and connections. Others have contributed because of their history with our synagogue and others because Jewish learning is so important to them and I’m sure there are others with many more reasons.

To these people I say thank you for noticing and thank you for appreciating what we are trying to build. So, take a moment this week to thank the people in your world who make a difference—an employee, a parent, a child, a teacher, a spouse, a friend. From me to you, thank you all for helping to make our little corner of the world so special.

Ilene Schafer

215-663-0228

president@kolamielkinspark.org ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin



The great Israeli statesman, Abba Eban, said: “The Jews are a people that cannot take ‘Yes’ for an answer.”

We ask questions. Then we ask more questions. The first question in the *Torah* occurs in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis. God asked Adam, “Where are you?” (3:9). God obviously knew where Adam was in the Garden of Eden, so when God asks, “Where are you?” it is never about geography—“Where are you standing?”—but about morality and intentionality—“For what do you stand?”

Passover reminds us about the importance of asking questions, though how one questioning child is described is troubling. We applaud “the wise child” for his or her acumen, and we understand that “the simple child” does not lack intelligence but asks only the most basic questions, which may in fact be important no matter how they are phrased. The “child unable to ask” does not know enough to even phrase the question, and the fault may in fact be that of his or her parents or teachers. Who is the “wicked child”? It is the one who feels so disconnected from family and community that he or she asks, “What does this observance mean to you?” with the emphasis on the last two words.

You can almost hear the snarl in that child’s voice, and the ancient rabbis were quick to attach the word “wicked” to him or her because that is the child who violates the dictum in *Pirkei Avot* – “The Chapters of the Fathers,” a collection of ethical teachings and sayings that date to the second century of the Common Era – “Do not separate yourself from the community” (2.5). By emphasizing the words “to you,” the questioner separates from the group, the *Seder* and presumably our faith.

I think we have been doing that child a disservice all these centuries! What if the question was asked emphasizing the second word—“What does this observance mean to you?”—and so that is really “the inquisitive child” who is eager to hear our considered responses that will prove that ritual is not just motion without meaning, which is what it always risks becoming. That child does us a favor by asking each of us to ask ourselves: “What does this year’s Passover observance mean to me?” and “What does Jewish identity mean to me?” and “What does God mean to me?” and “What does Israel mean to me?”

It is said that timing is everything. We have just celebrated the freedom epic that was designed to bring us out of Egypt to Mount Sinai. Had we simply gone from Egypt through the wilderness and to the Promised Land, absent covenant, we would have been an entirely different people. The covenant—the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and the ways that they are amplified in the Holiness Code (Leviticus 19)—made us who we are, or should be. On *Shavuot* (June 8 this year), we celebrate the covenant fashioned at Sinai, and perhaps we should welcome “the inquisitive child” to our midst then as well. In asking us on *Shavuot*, as recently at our *Seders*, “What does this observance mean to you?” we might be motivated to ask ourselves: “What does covenant mean to me?” and “What does it mean to be commanded?” and “What does it mean to be held accountable?” and “How do I apply Jewish values to my life and in ways that better the lives of others?”

Shalom u’vrachah,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office
215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin
215-635-4182

Ilene Schafer, President
215-663-0228

Guy Appel, Vice President
215-938-9330

Barry Boise, Vice President
215-635-9042

Ellen Asam, Secretary
215-635-5598

Bart Weiner, Treasurer
215-233-4712

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director
215-635-3110

Rabbi Selilah Kalev
Director of Education
215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler
Nursery School Director
215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist
215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:
Congregation Kol Ami
8201 High School Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
Web site: www.kolamielkinspark.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the 5th of the previous month (e.g., by May 5 for the June issue) to Debra Share, copy editor, at debra_share@merck.com. 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. ■

BAR MITZVAH OF ADAM FISHBEIN

SATURDAY, MAY 14, AT 5:30 PM



Adam is in the seventh grade at The Quaker School in Horsham. He enjoys classes in language, math, art, reading, and writing. He has been on the cross-country team and the softball team. Outside of school, Adam enjoys horseback riding, ice-skating, being a reporter for the JCC Maccabi Games, attending baseball games, walking around the neighborhood, and being with his friends. He also sings with our Adult Choir.

For his *Bar Mitzvah* Project, Adam has been speaking at local congregations to help their members understand how to best help congregants with special needs in their communities.

"My favorite holy day is *Shabbat*. First of all, I just love the concept that there is a time when you can just completely relax and think about your week and the fact that it is finally over, and that next week is the start of something new. Second of all, I love the worship services that I attend on *erev Shabbat* on Friday nights here at my synagogue. I love knowing that I have a home here, and a community to which I can always turn for support and acceptance, and *Shabbat* is a perfect opportunity to do so. Third, I love being at our services when the choir is singing and being part of it.

My relationship with God is very purposeful: important at times and frustrating at other times. I find the music we sing to praise God to be personally meaningful because while I love the music we sing and music in general, singing while praising God is the total package for me and God.

I chose the verses that I chanted from the *Torah* (Leviticus 25:1-7, 18-22) because they teach us the importance of conserving the environment: the land needs rest just like humans. The verses can help us become more aware of what we are doing to the environment and hopefully change our ways.

Rabbi Holin asked me to speak about one of the greatest challenges facing our country, and I chose the subject of teenage depression. Up to 20 percent of people will experience clinical depression during their teenage years. Almost 75 percent of teenagers who experience depression will experience it again in their lifetime. I would create a stronger support system to recognize and respond to signs of depression. This would help gradually decrease the suicide rate of depressed teenagers. I would also have schools raise awareness for parents by sending letters and packets home with their children about this issue. I would hold events at schools and public recreation centers for parents to learn about teenage depression and how serious it is."

We congratulate Adam's parents, Joel and Rachel, and his siblings, Dan—who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* at Kol Ami on October 11, 2008—and Emma. ■

IM WISE STUDENT PROFILE: SAMANTHA PASHKO



Samantha Pashko is in 11th grade at Abington High School. She enjoys reading, hanging out with her friends, and social networking.

Sam began Hebrew school at Kol Ami when she was 6 years old and was confirmed in 2010. She is in her first year of the Isaac Mayer Wise Program at Gratz College, where she is studying Hebrew, Reform Judaism, and Yiddish. She is also the vice president of the Chalom chapter of *B'Nai B'rith* Girls. In the summer,

Sam is a junior counselor at Sesame Rockwood Day Camp, where she works with 6 to 7 year olds. For the past four years, on the anniversary date of her *Bat Mitzvah*, Sam has read her *Torah* portion at services.

Sam really loves working with Ms. Holtzman and the fourth- and fifth-grade students at Kol Ami. She is planning to major in elementary education after she graduates high school and aspires to teach both at a public school as well as at a Jewish religious school. ■

NEW MEMBER: VIVIAN ROSENBERG



Welcome new member Vivian Rosenberg, a long-time Elkins Park resident who joined Kol Ami in March. Vivian had considered several synagogues in the area, but was attracted to our congregation.

Vivian grew up in Brooklyn, but moved to the Boston area for college and graduate school. Since then, Vivian has been an academican at several area colleges, including in the Humanities department at Drexel University from 1967 to 2001. She is currently

affiliated with the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute at Temple University.

Vivian has gone through various life phases. In 1964, she and her first husband moved to Merion, where their children attended the Solomon Schechter Day School. In 1978, Vivian married her second husband, Edward Rosenberg, and moved to Elkins Park. As Viv's two children and Ed's three married, five spouses and six grandchildren were added to this nicely blended family.

Ed and Vivian moved to Beaver Hill in Jenkintown in 2001. After Ed passed away in 2002, Vivian's long-felt need to be part of a Jewish community resurfaced. In describing her reasons for becoming a new member of Kol Ami, Vivian wrote: "It was apparent...that the Rabbi and Cantorial Soloist had created a very appealing service where attendees were familiar with the melodies they sang and with the Hebrew and English texts they read together. I also liked the varied cultural programs and the obvious commitment to *tikun olam*. I look forward to becoming part of this vibrant community!" Our response, Vivian, is that we are equally looking forward to your being part of our family. ■

Congregation Kol Ami also welcomes new members Ronald and Lori Iller and their children, Jessica and Michael.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Religious School Activities Working Group

Sunday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m.

Co-chairs: Kenny Moss, 215-277-5335 and Heather Pelletier, 215-855-3216

Spiritual Growth Group

Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-635-4336, and Janet Falon, 215-635-1698

Social Action Committee

Wednesday, May 25, at 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Ronit Sugar, 215-635-0390

Sustainability/Green Committee

Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Chair: Mark Kaplan, 215-635-2920 ■

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to **Rebecca Schwartz** as 16 of her songs have been featured in a new book/DVD set called, "The Jewish Path - A Concise Guide & DVD Bringing Judaism to Life," by Rabbi Wendy D. Pein and Nanci J. Freedberg. ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt condolences in loving memory of:

Marvin Miller

uncle of Robin Rifkin (Michael Silverman)

Fred Starobin

uncle of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein (Joel Fishbein)

Lester Steinbrecher

uncle of Barry (Michele) Steinbrecher

May their memories forever be blessings among our People. ■

Religious School's *Purim* Celebration & Presentation



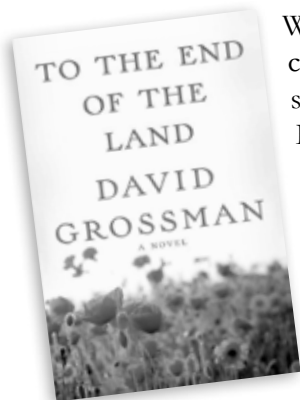
PHOTOS BY KENNY MOSS

Continuing Jewish Education

CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS GROUP

Facilitator: Lou Barrett

Sunday, May 1, at 11:00 a.m.



What is it like to raise a family in a country where “sirens and artillery shells are the music of the night”? In David Grossman’s scorching novel, To the End of the Land, a mother finds her life ruptured when her son, Ofer, re-enlists in the army and is sent to the front. The Israeli mother, Ora, unable to bear any bad news, sets out on the hike she and Ofer once planned together.

In her deeply imagined place, Ora decides she will, to protect herself, hike beyond reach of any news.

Ora’s journey brings back the men who most shape her life. She encounters her estranged best friend, Avram, who decides to accompany her on her walk. They reveal to each other their fears, intimacies, and alliances. Their conversations take them across generations and ethnicities. They share wounds of separation, love, history, and biology. Each discovers something about the other and their people.

At moments, the journey explodes with laughter; at others, the reader discerns the toll exacted from living and loving in a homeland of unending conflict. David Grossman, who lost his son in the last days of the Lebanon war, creates a narrative that receives its authority not only from his uncommon imagination and language, but from his heart. For Grossman, the determination to complete this novel was his “way of choosing life.”

LOOK FOR MORE CLASSES

Details for our Continuing Jewish Education classes and courses will be listed in a future Bulletin. If you have a topic of interest or know of an instructor with relevant courses, please let us know so that we can consider it for upcoming offerings. Contact Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182. ■

A PROPHETIC CALL TO CONSCIENCE ISAIAH—OUR MOST QUOTED PROPHET



Instructor: Rabbi Elliot J. Holin
Thursday, May 12 & 19
from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Holin as we define what made someone a Hebrew prophet, the historic context in which Isaiah spoke, and, in particular, why his words resonate to this day in the name of social justice:

- “‘To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?’ saith the Lord.” (1:11)
Why were sacrifices so important during the times of the Temple?
- “Learn to do well: seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.” (1:17)
What is the prophets’ paradigm for those who deserve our help the most?
- “How is the faithful city [Jerusalem] become a harlot!” (1:21)
It is stunning that Isaiah would refer to Jerusalem in this manner: Why?
- “It shall come to pass in the end of days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (2:2-3)
What is the Holiness Code and where it is found?
- “The Lord of hosts takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah bread and water, the mighty man, and the man of war; the judge and the prophet...and I will give children to be their princes and babies shall rule over them.” (3:1-2,4)
Why was Isaiah so incensed?
- “The Lord of hosts is exalted through justice, and The Holy One is sanctified through righteousness.” (5:16)

Please RSVP by May 5 to Rabbi Holin at 215-635-4182. ■

Kol Ami Events

EXPLORE JEWISH MEDITATION WITH THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m.



Join the Spiritual Growth Group for an introduction to Jewish Meditation led by Cantor Boris Kazansky.

Jewish tradition tells us that there are three more levels of understanding of the *Torah*

narrative besides the literal meaning.

During our meeting, we will explore Jewish contemplative meditation. We will look beyond the literal meaning of the words of the prayers in order to make the personal connection to them. Through this method, we can achieve much greater integration of the prayers and enhance a deeper prayer experience.

Contact co-chairs Natalie Dyen (215-657-4124) or Janet Falon (215-635-1698) for more information.

ACROSS FROM THE ALLEY NEXT DOOR TO THE POOL ROOM

Author Janice Booker will be our guest speaker
erev Shabbat, May 6, at 7:30 p.m.



This book is a memoir about growing up in South Philadelphia when it was an enclave for Jewish and Italian immigrants during the days surrounding World War II.

It is written through the eyes of a child/teenager who observes the people and cultures of the community eager to adapt to their new and quite different surroundings, but also clinging to the familiarity of old customs and mores.

The book will be available for purchase (\$18) in the synagogue office in the weeks before the author's appearance. In addition, orders will be taken at the service for pickup the following week.

FIRST-FRIDAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICE for May Birthday & Anniversary Blessings Friday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m.

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in May, please join us for a special First-Friday *erev Shabbat* service. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with an May *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*.

OLE! ISH CELEBRATES SPRING WITH CINCO DE MAYO!

Saturday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Nigel Blower
and Julie Cohen

Please bring a Mexican-inspired snack to share, BYOB. All (adults) welcome! Please RSVP to Sherry Cohen at 215-885-2436 or shcohen361@verizon.net.



COMMUNITY ISRAEL CELEBRATION AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Sunday, May 15, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
hosted by Congregation Kol Ami and
Melrose B'nai Israel-Emanuel El

Join us on the meadow (the front lawn of Kol Ami) to hear music by Rak Dan, enjoy Israeli dancing, eat kosher food, participate in games and races, and take part in face painting and a moon bounce. Admission is free, and the Kehillah community of participating synagogues will rejoice with us.

This program is funded in part by the Kehillah of Old York Road in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. See page 16 for the event flyer.

FASTS THIS MONTH AND NEXT



Rabbi Holin's **Fast for Darfur**—which supports rescue efforts in Darfur—and **Nothing But Nets** fast—which supports URJ's project to purchase, distribute, and educate about the proper use of insecticide-treated family bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria in Africa—will be on **Wednesday, May 25, and Monday, June 27.**

His **Phast for Philadelphia**—which is on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs, and pay electric bills—will be on **Tuesday, May 10, and Thursday, June 9.**

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

Commission on Social Action

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

Save Darfur Coalition

3246 Solutions Center
Lockbox #773246
Chicago, IL 60677

Unemployment Information Center

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE @ KOL AMI

Monday, May 16, from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Please consider coming out to give blood and save a life. Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. When you make a blood donation, you join a very select group. Currently, only 3 out of every 100 people in America donate blood. You can make a huge difference. See the event flyer on page 17.

KOL AMI BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday, May 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Join us at this spectacular musical event with Sheryl Heather Cohen and John David Miles as they sing an All-American Program at their Third Annual Benefit Concert for Congregation Kol Ami. You won't want to miss a minute of it! See the event flyer on page 18.

SAVE-THE-DATE: DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

Saturday, June 4, from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.

The Kol Ami Religious School Activities Working Group is pleased to announce another evening of dancing and dessert when Greg Brown's band "Gil Brewster" will be playing until our feet fall off. Hold the date and get the babysitters lined up now. The cost is \$25/couple in advance; \$30 at the door and \$12.50 for a single in advance, \$15 at the door. See the event flyer on page 19.

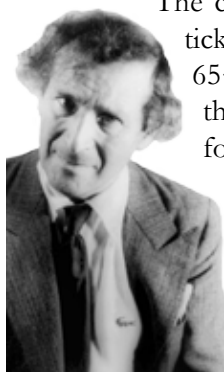
LOCA GUIDED TOUR OF CHAGALL EXHIBIT

Sunday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m.

Perelman Building, Philadelphia Art Museum

LOCAs are invited to join a docent-led tour of Paris through the Window, Marc Chagall and His Circle. This is the first tour of the day, and the museum won't be crowded, which will make the experience even better.

The cost for admission to the Perelman and tickets to the exhibit is \$16 (\$15 for seniors 65+). The tour will take about an hour, and there will be a separate admission charge for those who also wish to visit the Art Museum. Space is limited, so book early. Send your check to Congregation Kol Ami with "Chagall Exhibit" on the memo line by May 1. Contact Natalie Dyen at 215-657-4124 or nat.dyen@verizon.net.



SAVE THE DATE:

PETER & ELLEN ALLARD CONCERT

Monday, June 12, at 11:00 A.M.

Fun for the whole family! Need something fun and fabulous to do with your children? Then come and enjoy this concert. See the event flyer on page 20 for details. ■

ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

Melissa Tevere and Karen Hunter-McLaughlin

ROOTED: Paintings Inspired by Nature - April 27 through June 16



KAREN HUNTER-MCLAUGHLIN (LEFT) has worked representationally, abstractly, and digitally. Her work mostly references the elusive, yet powerful influence of memory. Childhood memories, dreams, and the nature of how these influence our well-being all figure prominently. Karen often uses nature as a metaphor to illustrate these themes. A lifelong Philadelphian and Tyler School of Art alum, Karen uses the city parks she grew up in and the disappearing natural landscape of her neighborhood as a reference point in this recent work.

Visit www.karen-hunter-mclaughlin.com for additional work information and portfolio samples.

Please join us on Sunday, May 1, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for the artists' open house. ■

All of the artist's works are for sale and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the synagogue. If you are interested in purchasing a piece of art, the price list is available in the Executive Office. The gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If the religious school is closed on those days, the gallery is closed as well.

MELISSA TEVERE (RIGHT): Primarily a landscape/portrait painter and art educator, Melissa Tevere graduated from Tyler School of Art with her BFA in painting. She teaches art to children at the Abington Art Center and from her home studio in Glenside. In 2005, she founded MamaCita, a cooperative that provides support, encouragement, and exhibition opportunities for women in the arts. Recent exhibitions have included “(w)holons” at the Abington Art Center (December 2010) and “A Landscape LOVE Affair” at the Fairmount Park Welcome Center (February 2011).

Melissa is also the founder of the Buy Original Art (BOA) Initiative, a grassroots movement dedicated to raising public awareness regarding the value of buying original art as opposed to reproductions.

To see Melissa's work, visit www.mamacitaarts.com, or visit www.buyoriginalart.wordpress.com to read more about the BOA Initiative.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

"REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND THE FUTURE"

Sunday, May 1, at 1:00 p.m.
at 16th Street & Benjamin
Franklin Parkway

Philadelphia's Annual
Memorial Ceremony for the
Six Million Jewish Martyrs



HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sunday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m.
Old York Road Temple-Beth Am

Kehillah of Old York Road invites
you to join them at this moving
event with their guest speaker
Dylan Band, Third-Generation
Survivor.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY ISRAEL: A SONG IN OUR HEARTS

Sunday, May 22, from Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Penn Landing, Delaware River Waterfront

Join the Philadelphia Jewish community as they celebrate
the 63rd anniversary of the State of Israel. Shop at an
Israeli marketplace, enjoy a wide variety of foods and spe-
cial children's activities, and browse booths highlighting the
programs and activities of many local community organiza-
tions. For more information call 215-832-0536.

WOMEN CANTORS' NETWORK TO HOLD ITS 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA



'Loving God, *Torah* and
Ourselves' hosted by
Congregation Kol Ami
Sunday, June 12 through
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

The Women Cantors' Network
(WCN), founded in 1982, is a
national organization of more
than 300 women and three men.
Our own Rebecca Schwartz is a
conference co-chair and will wel-

come her colleagues to our congregation for three days of
workshops, services, learning, and sharing.

Among the many workshops will be "Songs in the Key of
Love," "Choral Repertoire for Congregational Singing,"
"Cantillation for Chanting Lamentations," and "Tradition
vs. Modernity."

In addition, WCN members will attend a performance of
South African music by "The Peace Train," hear a WCN
Commissioned Piece, enjoy Israeli dancing with Rak-Dan,
as well as a tour of the National Museum of American
Jewish History.

Members of our congregation are welcome to join the
WCN at our synagogue on the following dates and times:

Monday, June 13

- 8:45-10:15 a.m. Morning service in the sanctuary
- 2:00-4:00 p.m. 'Shopping at the *Shul Shuk*':
approximately 15
Judaica vendors
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. Evening service in the sanctuary
or meadow

Tuesday, June 14

- 8:45-10:00 a.m. Morning service in the sanctuary
or meadow
- 9:00-10:00 p.m. Evening service in the sanctuary

Wednesday, June 15

- 8:45-9:30 a.m. Morning service in the sanctuary
or meadow

Please note that some of the worship services will be tradi-
tional.

We are honored to host the annual conference of the
Women Cantors' Network. ■

"THANK YOU" FROM THE KOL AMI SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the eighth graders who helped us
"Cook for a Friend" on April 13. We made 50 vegetarian
lasagna platters, which will be delivered to homebound
seniors. We had a great time putting the meals together
and appreciated your help! ■

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR CASINO NIGHT A SUCCESS!

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 Van's Lock Shop, Inc.
 Warwick Hair Design
 West Avenue Grille
 Maryann Zawicki ■

FINAL SCORE: KOL AMI 5, KOL EMET 2

by Eric Pelletier

The Kol Ami softball team opened the 2011 season with an impressive win, defeating Kol Emet 5-2. Behind the strong pitching performance of veteran craftsman Bill Hyman, the patient Kol Ami lineup came through in the sixth inning to seal the victory. Entering the bottom of the sixth trailing 2-1, Joel Fishbein led off drawing a walk, Cory Newman and Steve Charend-off followed with singles to load the bases, then Tony Shore and new congregant Ron Iller drew bases-loaded walks to take a 3-2 lead. Following a screaming line-drive out by Eric Gonzalez that led to a tough double play, Eric Pelletier followed with a two-run double to give the team a 5-2 lead that they would not relinquish.

The defensive play of the game was turned in by Ron Iller and Kenny Moss with a heads-up, first-to-home putout that kept the game scoreless at the time.

This was an outstanding team effort, from great pitching to solid defense to patient and timely hitting—a true team effort that everyone should be proud of.

Lets keep having fun!

KOL AMI 2011 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

All games start at 6:15 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Field</u>
May 2	Mon	@Shir Ami	Warwick
May 5	Thu	@Temple Sinai 3	Horsham
May 16	Mon	Temple Sinai Men's Club	Mondauk 4
May 24	Tue	Ohev Shalom	Southampton
Jun 6	Mon	@Adath Jeshurun	Warwick
Jun 21	Tue	@Melrose B'Nai Israel	Ridgeway
Jun 27	Mon	Beth Sholom Blue	Russell
Jun 30	Thu	Beth Ami	Ridgeway
Jul 7	Thu	Beth Sholom Men's Club	Mondauk 4
Jul 11	Mon	@Kol Emet	Warwick
Jul 18	Mon	@Goldstein's	Russell
Jul 21	Thu	Germantown Jewish Center	Mondauk 4
Jul 25	Mon	@ Tifereth Israel	Warwick

KOL AMI NURSERY SCHOOL *PURIM* PARTY

Adorned with costumes, the little ones sang songs and enjoyed the *Purim* Party put on by Nursery School Director Sheri Cutler and staff on March 18.



Community Supported Agriculture Agriculture Supported Community

“The secret is in the soil. Soil is a vital organ, a living organism. Healthy soil makes all the difference” said Henry Stolfus of Farmdale Organics, founder of Lancaster Farm Fresh Organic Farmers Cooperative (LFFC), at the March 16th Elkins Park Hazon CSA “Meet the Farmer” night at Congregation Kol Ami. He was talking about how he had to learn to successfully grow organic vegetables on his own. All of the farms in the cooperative are certified organic and most of the farmers used to grow conventionally before turning to organic methods. Henry had used chemicals on his farm for killing weeds, insects, and to enrich the soil, but after his son was born with a missing limb, he started to wonder if there was a relationship to these chemicals in his environment. He switched over to organics about 10 years ago and became a pioneer and leader in organic farming in his Amish community. Organic farming certification is demanding and expensive, but the cooperative is committed to assuring the best quality organic produce. Henry farms on 30 acres and just recently has given part of his land to his newly married son to grow on his own as a member of LFFC.

The LFF farmers own the cooperative, which hires staff to sell and manage the CSA shares and wholesale business, warehouse, and distribution. In this innovative model, the farmers don’t have to leave the farm to sell their vegetables, and members can each focus on what they grow best. “We couldn’t do it without you” said Aaron Zook of Riverview Farm, expressing his sincere appreciation and gratitude to the CSA at Kol Ami for the support it has given over the past four seasons. He explained “imagine having to support your family during the winter, when there is no produce

to sell. The upfront support from the CSA helps us buy the seed and helps us pay for labor to plant and grow the vegetables, and gives us money to live on, before we can harvest and make the first delivery.”

The Elkins Park Hazon CSA at Congregation Kol Ami is the largest host site for the LFF CSA and has contributed over \$200,000 to the cooperative, helping to enable them to grow from 20 small-scale farms to over 75 in just 5 years.



Shelley Chamberlain, member and co-leader of the CSA at Kol Ami, later commented “I loved hearing about the yearly winter meeting of 70 farmers as they plan and make decisions about who will plant what vegetable or fruit to sustain us during the season. WOW...can’t you just picture that teamwork!”

Aaron grows most of the wonderful heirloom tomatoes the CSA gets in the summer. “The conventional hybrid tomatoes ship well, but are not the same,” he said. “Our heir-

looms may not look perfect and uniform like the stores want, but the taste is fantastic.”

When asked why we didn’t get a lot of corn in our CSA shares last season, the farmers talked about the newer varieties of super sweet corn and how hard it is to grow corn organically without worms at the tip. The only way to keep the worms out of organic corn is to manually place a drop of oil in each ear within a day or so of when the silk appears in the corn to prevent development of the larvae! Members were stunned by the amount the time and effort required in this process. CSA member Miriam Moss said “It’s okay with me if the corn has worms,” reminiscing that her mother told her it was supposed to, in the old days before chemical pesticides. Asked why a large food chain

that does business with LFFC had corn from them in the local store last summer when the CSA didn't, Casey Spacht, general manager of the LFFC informed the audience that it really wasn't from LFF—the store was falsely using the LFF label! Casey assured those present that “The CSA gets first pick of the crop, then excess is available to wholesale buyers.” This priority reflects the value LFF places on the CSA for the growth and stability of the cooperative.

Robin Rifkin, co-leader of the Elkins Park Hazon CSA, summed up the evening saying: “We are a cooperative of committed neighbors supporting a cooperative of farmers, and vice versa. We really appreciate our mutually beneficial and interdependent relationship with the farmers of LFFC, and our deepening relationship to each other in the community.” CSA member Jeff Cohen added: “That connection of people is just as important as the connection our farmers have to the land.” CSA member Michael Levin commented later: “I was delighted by this event again—I learn something new each time. I'm grateful to have the Hazon CSA in our community.” ■



KOL AMI NOW A HOST SITE FOR THE LFFC FOUR SEASON HARVEST BUYING CLUB

You can now supplement your CSA share and purchase a variety of items throughout the year directly from our farmers at LFFC through their Four Season Harvest buying club, now hosted at Congregation Kol Ami.

Set up an account at lancasterfarmfresh.com, shop online when you want, and pick up your delivery on Thursdays at the Kol Ami kitchen door. In addition to more seasonal organic vegetables and organic eggs from pastured hens, you may also choose meat from pastured animals* and organic dairy products from LFF farmers, value-added

products and pantry items—most of your grocery needs! For more information and to sign up, visit the LFF Web site . You can start today! ■


*These products are not kosher certified. For kosher pastured meat, try our partners KOLfoods.com and growandbehold.com.



SPRING IS HERE! VOLUNTEER DAYS AT HIGH SCHOOL PARK

Kol Ami members Gail Korostoff, Mark Kaplan, and Margie Patlak will be leading volunteers in the native plant restoration work in the park this month. Join us in this Kol Ami tradition for a couple of hours on **Sunday, May 15 and/or May 22 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.** Help us make a difference.

We'll meet at the High School Park shed, located near the meadow. RSVPs are appreciated and walk-ins are welcome. To RSVP, call 215-782-8082 or email volunteer@fhsp.org. Wear work clothes, long pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes and garden gloves and bring a refillable water bottle. See you in the park! ■



CONGREGATION
Kol Ami

We support the...

- Jewish Climate Change Campaign: Small Actions for Big Change
- COEJL's Jewish Energy Campaign

WWW.JEWISHCLIMATECHANGE.ORG

WWW.COEJL.ORG

Take the pledge!

Community Israel Celebration

Sunday, May 15, 2011

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.



Hosted by
Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי
and
Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El

- Free and Open to the Community - No Advance Registration Required
- Israeli Dancing and Music by Rak Dan
- Face Painting
- Moon Bounce
- Games & Races
- Kosher Food Available for Purchase
- Free Rita's Water Ice and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
- Community Welcome
- Ample On-Site and Off Street Parking Available



Join us at Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
For more information call 215-635-3110 or visit www.kolamielkinspark.org

This program is funded in part by the Kehillah of Old York Road in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



Congregation Kol Ami

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, May 16, 2011

2:00 – 8:00 PM

8201 High School Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

To schedule an appointment contact:

Sharon Myers - 215-938-7435

Jean Ettinger - 215-635-3623

For further info call 1-800-RED-CROSS

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | RedCrossBlood.org

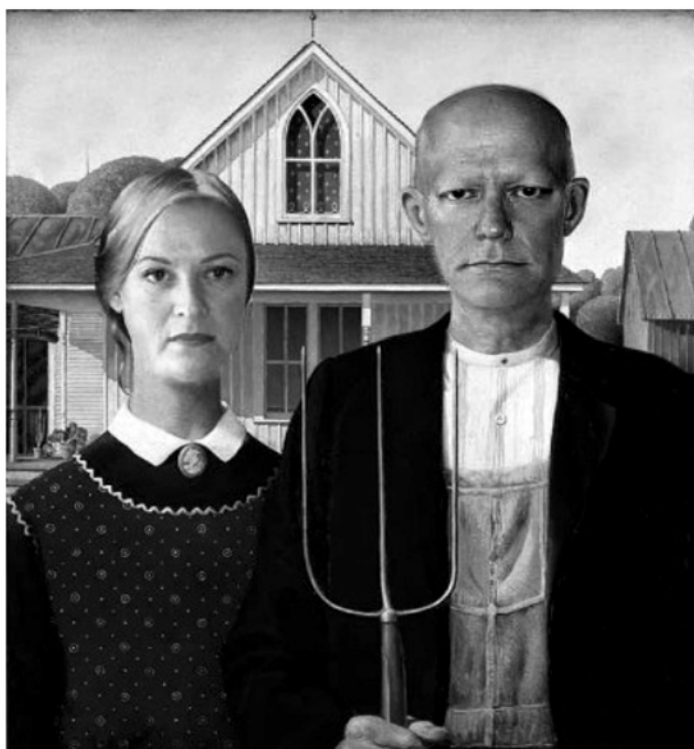
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AMERICAN SONG

Sheryl Heather Cohen, Soprano

John David Miles, Baritone

Michele Scanlon, Piano



Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי

8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA

Tickets \$20

For more information, call 215-635-3110.

www.kolamielkinspark.org

Since We're All Fools Anyway, We Might As Well Be Dancing Fools!!!
(Ancient Chinese Proverb)

Kol Ami Adult Dance Party!!!!

Please join your friends from Congregation Kol Ami for a night of dancing to the music of our generation! Fellow congregant Greg Brown's band ***Gil Brewster*** will play until our feet fall off.

Saturday, June 4th

**Congregation Kol Ami קול עמי
8201 High School Road
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania**

8 PM – 11 PM

**Cost: \$25/couple in advance, \$30 at the door
\$12.50 for a single in advance, \$15 at the door**

Bring your own munchies, wine, beer, or other refreshments.
Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Advance tickets available on Sunday during religious school hours
or through Kol Ami executive office during the week.



For further information, call 215-635-3110 or visit our Web site at www.kolamielkinspark.org.

PETER & ELLEN ALLARD



**Sunday, June 12, 2011
11 AM**



Fabulous Family Concert



Congregation Kol Ami

8201 High School Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027 • for info, call 215-635-3110

“simply the best in Jewish children’s music!!!”

KOL AMI MAY 2011 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 11:00 a.m. - Gr 7 Aliyah Service with Gr 6 participation 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Religious School Activities Working Group Meeting 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Jewish Writers Group with Lou Barrett 11:00 a.m. Philadelphia's Annual Memorial Ceremony for the Six Million Jewish Martyrs 16th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway 1:00 p.m. Artists Open House Melissa Tevere and Karen Hunter-McLaughlin 2:00 p.m. Kehillah of Old York Road Holocaust Remembrance 7:30 p.m. Old York Road Temple- Beth Am	2 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga Adult Yoga Class 6:45 p.m.	3 Nursery School 9:00 a.m. - Fitness	4 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - Gratz College IMWise presentation to Grade 10 students and parents Mah Jong Class 7:00 p.m.	5 Zumba Class 6:00 p.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:30 p.m.	6 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. Junior Youth Group erev Shabbat Dinner 6:30 p.m. Home of Sophia Berger in Elkins Park First-Friday erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. with Guest Speaker Janice Booker - "Across from the Alley Next Door to the Pool Room" and Adult Choir Participation	7 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. David Hyman will present the <i>divar Torah</i> ISH Celebrates Spring with Cinco de Mayo 7:00 p.m.
8 No Religious School Mother's Day	9 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga Adult Yoga Class 6:45 p.m.	10	11 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Program Specialist Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Sustainability/Green Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Mah Jong Class 7:00 p.m.	12 Zumba Class 6:30 p.m. Continuing Jewish Education "A Prophetic Call to Conscience /Isaiah - Our Most Quoted Prophet" with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	13 Nursery School erev Shabbat Service 11:00 a.m. Children's-Family erev Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m. Student Choir Participation	14 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Adam Fishbein 5:30 p.m.

KOL AMI MAY 2011 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)

KOL AMI MAY 2011 AT A GLANCE (CONTINUED)				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
15 Religious School Staff Meeting 8:30 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 11:40 a.m. – Gr K-7 Tfilah Israel Independence Celebration 12:00 p.m.	16 Red Cross Blood Drive 2:00-8:00 p.m.	17 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	18 Religious School 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. Mah Jong Class 7:00 p.m.	19 Zumba Class 6:30 p.m. Continuing Jewish Education "A Prophetic Call to Conscience /Isaiah - Our Most Quoted Prophet" with Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.
22 Adult Choir Rehearsal 9:50 a.m. Religious School LAST DAY Color War - Maccabiah 10:00 a.m. to Noon 11:00 a.m. - Open House with Parents & Rabbi Kalev 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal & Party	23 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Yoga Adult Yoga Class 6:45 p.m.	24 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	25 Nursery School 9:30 a.m. - Jewish Program Specialist Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	26 Zumba Class 6:30 p.m.
29	30 No Nursery School Memorial Day Weekend	31		
20 Nursery School Seder 11:00 a.m. with Cantorial Soloist, Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Eric Pelletier celebrates his conversion ceremony	21 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m. "American Song" Concert with Sheryl Cohen and John Miles 8:00 p.m.	27 No Nursery School Spring Break erev Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	28 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.	

KOL AMI CONTRIBUTIONS

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

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

*Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry
Benjamin Adams and Gail Korostoff
Guy and Karol Appel
Bruce and Ellen Asam
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Special Birthday of Barbara Levy
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Leo Norman
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ONEG SHABBAT FUND

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Special Birthday of Michael Levin
Michael Levin and Marjorie Backup

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In Honor of:

Special Birthday of Michael Chernoff
Elaine Stevens

Special Anniversary of Michael and Sara Chernoff
Elaine Stevens

Julie Cohen for her leadership on Casino Night
David Hyman

Birthday of Rabbi Elliot Holin
David Hyman

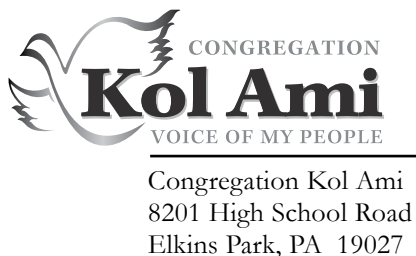
**Rabbi Holin for affixing the mezu-
zah on the doorpost of my mother's
home**
David Hyman

Special Birthday of Barbara Levy
Elaine Stevens

In Memory of:

Susan Rosenberg
*Rob, Stacey, Jaime and Andy Katz
Rich, Suzy, Samantha and Amanda
Riesenberg*

Fred Starobin
Elaine Stevens ■



TO:



**THANK-YOU RECEIVED FROM *TIKUN OLAM* RECIPIENT,
JEWISH SOCIAL POLICY ACTION NETWORK**

from JSPAN Ruthanne Madway, Executive Director

On behalf of Jewish Social Policy Action Network (JSPAN), I wanted to thank you and the Kol Ami congregation for the great honor you showed the organization in awarding JSPAN the 2011 Social Justice Award. It is both humbling and gratifying for JSPAN to be in the distinguished company of Kol Ami's honorees from earlier years.

The award, in recognizing organizations and individuals that advance social justice, education and action, is a perfect metaphor for what JSPAN is all about. We appreciate the honor that Kol Ami has bestowed upon JSPAN, and we will continue to work toward the goals set forth in the award. We are also appreciative of the generous monetary award, and we commit to putting the funds to good use in advancing the kinds of initiatives that advance a progressive social policy agenda and which have defined JSPAN since its founding.

Again, on behalf of JSPAN, our thanks. I look forward to meeting with you and talking with you about JSPAN in the near future. ■