

CONGREGATION  
**Kol Ami**  
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**FRIDAY, January 6, at 7:30 p.m.**

A brief *erev Shabbat* Service followed by a special *Oneg* to meet our Synagogue's artists, who will walk and talk us through their varied representations of worlds within and beyond expressed in photography and painting on display in our lobby from January 6 to February 13 (see page 20)

**SATURDAY, January 7**

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

**5:30 p.m.** - "Adults-Only" Martini *Havdalah* (see page 6)

**FRIDAY, January 13, at 7:30 p.m.**

"Second-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir and birthday and anniversary blessings under the *tallit*

**SATURDAY, January 14, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

**FRIDAY, January 20**

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

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat* Service

**SATURDAY, January 21, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

**FRIDAY, January 27, at 7:30 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat* Service

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**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

**"STOP HUNGER NOW" MEAL-PACKING PROGRAM**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, AT 2:00 P.M.



PHOTO BY KENNY MOSS



**STOP HUNGER NOW**

Stop Hunger Now's mission is "to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources."

The meal-packing program was created in 2005 and perfected the assembly process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packets. Each meal costs only 29 cents. The food stores easily, has a shelf-life of two years, and transports quickly. Stop Hunger Now works with international partners that ship and distribute the meals in-country.

Join our religious school children and their parents as we volunteer to make 10,000 meal packets. ■

## WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

**SATURDAY, January 28, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service*

**FRIDAY, February 3, at 7:30 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat Service* enhanced by the voices of our Adult Choir

**SATURDAY, February 4, at**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue*

**FRIDAY, February 10, at 7:30 p.m.**

Female-led *Shir Shabbat*

*erev Shabbat Service* (see page 12)

**SATURDAY, February 11, at**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue*

**FRIDAY, February 17**

**6:00 p.m.** - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev*

*Shabbat Service* appropriate for all ages! It's a happy half hour with lots of music and our Student Choir!

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat Service*

**SATURDAY, February 18, at**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue*; Carol Nemeroff will give the *dvar Torah*

**FRIDAY, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

Caring and Community - "Special Needs" Inclusion in Our Synagogue: Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month with guest speaker Adam Fishbein, Board of Directors, PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance and Deputy Director of Disability Advocacy, American University Student Government, plus our Grade 5, 6 & 7 students will participate in our "Fourth-Friday" *erev Shabbat Service*

**SATURDAY, February 25, at**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue* ■

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

David and I spent the Thanksgiving holiday with our extended family in Atlanta. We typically enjoy each other's company so dearly that we don't wander outside my sister's home except for long walks in the park after eating too much good food. This year, we spent an afternoon at The Center for Civil and Human Rights in downtown Atlanta. The museum connects the American Civil Rights Movement to today's global human rights movements. The timing seemed perfect as The Center's mission is to empower visitors to take the protection of every human's rights personally, drawing upon Atlanta's legacy of civil rights to strengthen the worldwide movement for human rights. I was most impressed with the engaging displays, and I was "blown away" by the message.

As we left The Center, I could not help but feel proud of Kol Ami's active engagement in strengthening human rights. We, as individuals and a community, take the protection of every human's rights to heart and then one step further with action.

As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the 20th Century's greatest Jewish philosophers and theologians, said: "Should we refuse to be on speaking terms with one another and hope for each other's failure? Or should we pray for each other's health and help one another in preserving our respective legacies, in preserving common legacy?" In answer to his own question, Heschel responds: "our world is too small for anything but mutual care and deep respect; and our world is too great for anything but our assuming responsibility for one another."

In the wake of one of the most contentious and bizarre elections in our history, it is comforting to wrestle with my thoughts with and within a community so willing to strive to listen to people's stories, to learn together, and do the right thing.

Kindness Counts *Bet* was a profound example, which focused on education, understanding, and promoting inclusion of transgender and non-binary Jews in the Synagogue. We are forming our LGBTQ Inclusion committee to take the necessary steps to make our home a truly inclusive and integrated community. *Kol HaKavod* to Jane Tausig, Morgan Selkirk, and Phoenix Schneider, a passionate committee and engaged volunteers for making November 13 an intimate day of learning and dialogue.

*Shabbat Against Hunger*, just five days later, was yet another example of heart and action. Robin Rifkin shared inspiring words, encouraging our community's continued outreach to those in need. The year 2016 was significant in the fight against hunger. With the leadership and commitment of Robin and Congregation and community members, we will continue to work toward systemic changes in our region to alleviate hunger. Robin and Rabbi Holin facilitated conversation that evening with insightful quotes from *Torah* text, *Midrash*, and noted philosophers to help us reach for responsible solutions. One of my favorites – Rabbi Lawrence Kushner's "Invisible Lines of Connection":

"Everything is connected to everything else...life is supercharged, permeated and over-brimming with purpose and meaning. Most of the time we

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# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Late Tuesday night, November 8th, 2016, it became evident that what many of us hoped, worked, prayed, and yearned for was not going to happen. Donald Trump – Donald Trump! – will be the next President of the United States.

I went to bed, but could not sleep. It was one of the most restless nights that I have had in a very long time. Reality pushed me toward denial. The morning's light made that impossible and drove the point home: Americans have elected someone who denigrates women in vile terms; disparages the disabled; vilifies people who are of different ethnicities or nationalities; threatens to shatter families through deportation; beckoned violence with the promise to provide legal representation to those who heed his call to intimidate, harass, and beat people who disagree with him; belittled soldiers who were captured in conflict; and besmirched the honor of the parents of a soldier who died in battle. Have I left out anything? He is a bully with little regard for the truth, and, yet as President, he will speak for all the citizens of America.

I woke up worried about our immediate future and the future that awaits my children and yours. I woke up needing connection and conversation, and so by 6:00 a.m. on November 9th, I invited members of our Congregation and the larger community to our Synagogue that evening:

## A TIME TO BE TOGETHER

**Wednesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. at our Synagogue to pray, contemplate, and give voice to hope**

Our brief service through the *Avote v'Imahote* and *G'vurote* – gratitude to those who led us through times of doubt and gave voice to faith – will express love for our country and sharing thoughts about how to move toward the light so that we might apply Jewish values for the sake of our nation and all its citizens. Bring creative writings or treasured words to add to our dialogue. Invite your family and friends to be with us as together we create a path of hope.

What happened that evening was remarkable. It was one of the most powerful moments in the 22-year history of our Congregation. People kept entering the Sanctuary, filling row after row, until almost 70 souls sat together to give voice to their concerns, fears, and hopes.

I began with these words: "We are here because we are dazed and disheartened. We are stunned and we are angry. We are speechless and we are grasping for moorings called 'hope' and 'resolve.' We are looking for kindred spirits with whom to share the challenges and with whom we can become healers and peacemakers.

"We are here because a *baet Knesset*, a house of gathering, is also a sanctuary. It cannot protect us from the world, but it can offer us respite, and what we do here, what we say here, and what inspires us here can give us strength to engage the world yet again.

"We will sing and we will pray, and then we will share our thoughts, our fears, our concerns, and especially our hopes. Let us not dwell on the litany of mistakes made and harsh words that were used on the long, tedious, bruising journey to

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## TORAH & HAFTARAH

**January 7 - *Vayigash***

Genesis 44:18-47:27, Ezekiel 37:15-28

**January 14 - *Vayehi***

Genesis 47:28-50:26, I Kings 2:1-12

**January 21 - *Shemote***

Exodus 1:1-6:3, Isaiah 27:6-28:13

**January 28 - *Vaera***

Exodus 6:2-9:35, Isaiah 66:1-24

**February 4 - *Bo***

Exodus 10:1-13:16, Jeremiah 46:13-28

**February 11 - *Beshalach***

Exodus 13:17-17:16, Judges 4:4-5:31

**February 18 - *Yitro***

Exodus 18:1-20:23, Isaiah 6:1-7:6

**February 25 - *Mishpatim***

Exodus 21:1-24:18, II Kings 11:17-12:17 ■

## MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to:

- **Rabbi Elliot Holin** for receiving a Volunteer Service Certificate from the Township of Cheltenham Board of Commissioners for his service as Police Chaplain since 2006.
- **Kara Schmidt** on the engagement of her daughter, Jenna Gallagher, to Michael Mierzejewski. ■

## THANK YOU



Thanks to the generosity of **Allen Tire Company**, this new *Torah* table adorns our chapel. The gift is bestowed upon our Congregation in honor of **Sharon Myers'** retirement. ■

## **SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP**

### **Main Office**

215-635-3110

### **Rabbi Elliot J. Holin**

215-635-4182

### **Shelley Chamberlain, President**

215-635-1738

### **Jeffrey Margasak, Vice President**

215-635-9332

### **Lorie Slass, Vice President**

215-635-0920

### **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

**Web site:** [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 February 5 for the March/April issue) to **Janet Falon** at [jfalon@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jfalon@english.upenn.edu). Articles may be edited as needed. ■



## *2017 Adult Learning Opportunities*

# **Study at the Shul**

**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.**

## **Jewish Mindfulness Meditation**

**Thursdays; February 2, 9 & 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**and an additional date will be chosen for a labyrinth walk**

**Instructor: Carol Nemeroff**

**Guest Instructor: Dr. Orly Maravankin**

Participants will have the opportunity to explore and practice methods for “quieting” the body and mind using Jewish sources and adaptations of other traditions in a Jewish context. Each session will feature guided-meditation exercises as well as silent-meditation practice. The final session to be held in the Spring will offer the participants the opportunity to experience guided-walking meditation on an outdoor labyrinth.

RSVP by January 25.

## **Exposing Covert Actions of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**

**Mondays; February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Instructor: Ira Cooperman**

Join a former intelligence officer as we explore how and why United States presidents have used the CIA to effect regime change in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. We will examine the situations, policies, politics, and methods that made this Third Option between traditional diplomacy and full-scale military action so attractive over the years.

RSVP by January 30.

## **Rereading the Bible: An Introduction to Feminist Interpretation**

**Tuesdays; March 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Instructor: Barbara Rosenthal**

We all have an agenda when we read (and interpret) the Bible, whether we are aware of it or not. Many of us read it the way our culture, our religion, or secular society would have us read it. How would our understanding of the Bible change if we acknowledge the usual perspectives we assume when reading, put them aside for the moment, and adopt a new way of reading – if only just to see where it leads? And what could both men and women learn about the Bible, themselves, and the authority to interpret if we read the Bible from the primary perspective of women and their concerns?

RSVP by February 28. ■



## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY (continued from page 3)

the day that votes were cast, but let us speak about how we will harness hope and values for the benefit of all of the citizens of our country.

“Our nation endures and we in its midst...bruised, disappointed, perhaps despairing...but at our core, we are a People of faith, of hope, of covenant ... with God and with each other.”

We sang and we spoke. We sang “Heal Us Now” and then we listened to each other. One mother told us that her daughter, born in Guatemala and adopted into their loving home, was told by a classmate at school the morning after the election that she would be deported. Katie will celebrate her *Bat Mitzvah* in June. She is one of the best of us. She is worried. Her mother is worried, and spoke through tears, and her voice caught as she spoke.

Another mother told us that her daughter called from college. Shira was born in Vietnam, and she was adopted into one of the most loving families in our midst. I had the pleasure of standing with her at her *Bat Mitzvah* and Confirmation, and I blessed her as she left for college. She told her mother and father that she is an immigrant, a woman, and a Jew; and she suddenly doesn't feel as if this is her country anymore.

People spoke about their fears for our country and their concern for so many who are being marginalized and threatened. People spoke about the critical need to become more involved in community and to give meaning to our values by what we do and how we speak to each other and about others.

There were tears of pain and dismay, and, an hour later, we stood together to sing “God Bless America” and “America the Beautiful” and “*Hatikvah*” because hope is a precious resource, and we need to tap into it and make it grow within us and beyond us.

The evening of November 9th was “A Time to be Together” and so too tomorrow and the day after, and the weeks beyond and the years to come. Let us not lose hope and let us not lose sight of the fact that together we are stronger, all of us...on behalf of people who have no voice, who have been denigrated and threatened...we will be their voice.

*Hazakhe hazakhe v'niht'hazakee*

“Be strong, be strong and together may we be strengthened”

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory:

**Florence Bahme**

*aunt of Mark (Karin) Kaplan*

**Eleanor Kagel Feiner**

*mother of Alan (Norka) Kagel*

**Mary Gaines**

*mother of Toni Cohen Montague*

*(Russell Montague)*

*grandmother of Eric and Jeremy*

**Mina F. Hart**

*aunt of Ellen Friedman (Jeff Cohen)*

**Marty Kohn**

*uncle of Julie Cohen (Nigel Blower)*

**David Miller**

*cousin of Robin Rifkin (Michael Silverman)*

**Frances Turetsky**

*mother of Gary (Cheryl) Turetsky*

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

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES

Financial assistance is available for any family who wishes their child to participate in Religious-School-related activities and hesitates due to cost.

For details, please contact Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110. Requests will be handled confidentially. ■

### “CONVERSATION” CONTINUES

**Thursday evening, January 19 and March 16, at 7:30 p.m.  
at the home of Shelley and David Chamberlain**

Last year, we began the first of three “Conversation” evenings to give each other the opportunity to hear divergent opinions about political events, social trends, interfaith dialogue or distance, Israel, God-wrestling, or thoughts about the future.

The recent election means that the terrain in America has tilted in ways that few of us expected, and our concerns about the future for our children, and the safety of people who are being stigmatized and victimized, press upon us.

You are invited to join us in “Conversation” at this vital time in our nation's history when the application of Jewish values is all the more important for the sake of our community and our country. **What is the future we want to create?**

Please call Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 to let her know that you will be with us on Thursday evening, January 19. ■

# Kol Ami Events

## FASTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



Join Rabbi Holin in fast days – or virtual fast days – every month by sending funds that you would have spent on food to help men, women, and children in need:

**NATAL** (nah'tahl) – the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War - addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of combat veterans and former prisoners of

war, as well as those who have lost loved ones in battle or suicide bombings, and anyone who suffers the sustained emotional and mental pressure of living with the fear and uncertainty that war and the threat of war bring. In addition, NATAL reaches out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals. "For some children, the color red is not just a color."

During Operation Protective Edge, NATAL answered thousands of calls every day and night from children and adults. Clinical staff and highly trained volunteers were enlisted to respond to this increased need. Working with Israel's media, millions of people received information about when, where, and how to get help. NATAL's emergency kits consist of information about trauma and methods of staying calm, as well as therapeutic tools to aid in managing tension. There is still a strong demand for thousands of these kits to be distributed to individuals, schools, and communities throughout Israel.

Fast days to benefit **NATAL** will be on the first Wednesday of the month: **January 4** and **February 1**.

**Phast for Philadelphia** is on behalf of unemployed workers in Philadelphia who are struggling to make ends meet by helping them pay their mortgages, address health care needs and pay electric bills.

**Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on the fourth Thursday of the month: **January 26** and **February 23**.

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")

## "ADULTS-ONLY" MARTINI HAVDALAH SERVICE

**Saturday, January 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

We'll supply the hors d'oeuvres and you supply the mixing devices, hard liquor, and mixers (beer, wine).

5:30 p.m. .... Martinis and hors d'oeuvres  
6:15 p.m. .... Singing and *Havdalah* service  
7:00 p.m. .... Group dinner (details below)

You are invited to join us for dinner after the *Havdalah* service at Park Plates in Elkins Park. To sign up for the **dinner ONLY**, please contact Mindy Levy at 215-885-3672. Mindy will confirm receiving your dinner reservation and will provide further details about the evening. This will be a wonderful way to extend the joy of the service by spending the evening together.



**Sunday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Robert Seltzer, author of "Techelet: and Other Stories of Faith and Love"**

Join us to learn who and what motivated Bob to write these stories and how they speak to us.

Also, save the date on Sunday, March 5, to be regaled at Member-to-Member Conversations by Andy Cassel.

## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

**erev Shabbat, Friday, January 13, at 7:30 p.m.**

**erev Shabbat, Friday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m.**

If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in January or February, please join us at our special *erev Shabbat* service on those dates. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with these *simchas* under a *tallit*. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

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

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CONGREGATION

KolAmi

voice of my people

## New Website Has Launched

Dear Congregants:

One of the goals of the Marketing Committee has been to make it easier to find and interact with Congregation Kol Ami. One step toward achieving this goal was to refresh our website with new functionality and streamline the user experience whether you are an existing member or checking us out for the first time.

Today, we are excited to bring you the news that the new website has launched!

We encourage you to explore, discover and interact with the new website on you desktop or your mobile device.

### New features include:

**Responsive design** allows site to render clearly on your PC, tablet or mobile device

**Download calendar event details** to your personal devices

**Pay** your membership dues and school tuition online or **Donate** to a Congregational fund of your choice

**Register and purchase tickets** for various fundraising or social action events

Easily find what you are looking for with **dynamic search and sorting** functionality

**Share** content using social media links to Facebook and Twitter



**Explore Our New Website**

Congregation Kol Ami | 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 | 215 / 635-3110

# **DENIM & Diamonds** AN ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING CONGREGATION KOL AMI

## **TENTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION!**

**THE DATE:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Congregation Kol Ami  
7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

**ATTENDING:** You and all of your Friends and Family

***Your Support is Needed!!***

### **Tickets:**

Tickets are available for purchase at \$35/person in advance and \$45/person at the door.

**New: online purchase available at our website: [kolamicasinonight.org](http://kolamicasinonight.org).** All tickets include \$25 in gaming chips and as always there will be an open bar, complimentary light fare, and dessert.

### **Sponsorship: There are now 4 Opportunities of Support**



#### **Diamond Event Sponsor - \$1,000.00**

Includes 8 tickets to the event with your name or business name on individual signage prominently displayed in the lobby in appreciation of your donation.



#### **Club Beverage Sponsor - \$500.00**

Includes 4 tickets to the event and signage at the bar in appreciation of your donation.



#### **Spade Table Sponsor - \$300.00**

Includes 2 tickets to the event and signage on a gaming table in appreciation of your donation.



#### **Heart Casino Sponsor - \$136.00**

Recognition signage including your name in appreciation of your donation.

### **Donations:**

Another way to contribute to the event is by helping to obtain donations towards our variety of Gift Baskets and Silent Auction items. It can be as easy as contacting a vendor or service that you frequent. Some examples of past-donated items and services are Restaurant and Gift Cards, i.e., Amazon, American Express, Macy's etc., Florist Services, Spas, Nail and Hair Salons, Bakeries, Jewelry, tickets to Sporting Events and more.

The Casino Night committee is working hard to make this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year our best fundraiser. Your support and donations are greatly appreciated.

Enclosed please find forms for Sponsorship, Basket/Silent Auction items and Event Tickets. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank You.

Sharon Myers: Event Chair  
215-460-0602, [sharonmyers381@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmyers381@gmail.com)



**CONGREGATION KOL AMI 'CASINO NIGHT'**  
**Saturday, January 21, 2017**

*Donation / Sponsorship Information Form*

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***Gift Item/Gift Card Donation***

Description of Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Information: \_\_\_\_\_

A business card may also be attached

**Sponsorship Information:**

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Information for Signage: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Information: \_\_\_\_\_

A business card may also be attached

At this time, I am unable to contribute on any of the above, but please accept my donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

CONGREGATION KOL AMI • 8201 HIGH SCHOOL ROAD • ELKINS PARK, PA 19027



## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

### **Finance Committee**

Monday, January 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Lisa Landau, 215-620-5226

### **Interfaith Relationship Dialogue**

Tuesday, January 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of

Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry (chairs)

215-782-1704

### **Membership Committee**

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

Chair: Robin Warsaw, 215-635-5839

### **Operations Committee**

Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Marshall

Schafer, 215-663-0228

### **Programming Committee**

Monday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-635-1738

### **Religious School PTO Committee**

Sunday, January 29, at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 26, at 10:00 a.m.

Chairs: Erica Douglas, 215-491-0630, and Deborah

Poppel, 215-947-2252

### **Spiritual Growth Group**

Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Janet Falon, 215-635-1698, and Meryle

Gurmankin, 215-464-2466

### **Worship Enhancement Committee**

Sunday, January 29, at 9:30 a.m.

Chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and William

Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■

## **KOL AMI EVENTS** (continued from page 6)

### **ANNOUNCING THE**

### **2017 KOL AMI CULINARY TRIP TO ISRAEL**

### **"CALLING ALL ISRAELI-FOOD LOVERS"**

**Informational Meeting on Sunday, January 22,  
at 7:00 p.m. at the Synagogue**

Kol Ami is gearing up to travel to Israel for a unique food-oriented trip in November 2017. Please join us at this informational meeting when Esti Ochana, our representative from Keshet, a well-regarded Israeli tour company, will present a proposed itinerary for our 2017 trip to Israel and to answer all of your questions. We are planning to travel to Israel with a group of 30 to 40 adults, departing on or about November 4 and returning about November 16.

The focus of the tour will be the fantastic foods, world-class wines, and unique and sustainable agriculture of Israel. The trip emphasizes local markets and unique restaurants and is laced with a variety of outdoor activities from the Galilee in the north to the Negev in the south.

The trip is open to all adult members of Kol Ami, and, space permitting, we can also welcome adult relatives or close friends of traveling Kol Ami members.

More details on the itinerary and pricing should be available for review by the first week of January. If you're interested in receiving the trip information before the meeting or to express interest in the trip, please contact Jeff Cohen at [jsc903@gmail.com](mailto:jsc903@gmail.com) or Ronit Sugar at [ronitsugar@gmail.com](mailto:ronitsugar@gmail.com) after January 5. At the January 22nd meeting, the itinerary will be presented and questions will be answered.

**IMPORTANT:** Unlike past Kol Ami trips to *Eretz Y'Israel*, this trip doesn't include many of the typical Holy Land sites first-time travelers might want to visit. As such, there are times in the itinerary when alternatives are available and first-time travelers wishing to join us are encouraged to arrive a few days early or stay a few days later to see those sites.

## **SPIRITUALITY AND WOMEN'S HEALTH**

**January 23, at 7:00 p.m. at Kol Ami**

Our own Meryle Gurmankin, who has a rich and diverse professional-medical background, will discuss the relationship between spirituality and women's health at the Spiritual Growth Group meeting, although the program is open to anyone. Please join us for an illuminating evening.

*continued page 14*

# Help Make Kol Ami More Inclusive



**“Do not curse a person who is deaf and do not place a stumbling block in front of a person who is blind.” (Leviticus 19:14)**

How can we make sure that all people who desire may join us in the spirit of full community? It starts with identifying how to make everything we do more inclusive. Kol Ami has made improvements, big and small, to our building to aid physical access, improve lighting and sound. We have many committees (Religious School, Operations, Caring Congregants, Worship Enhancement), all of which join with our Rabbi and Inclusion committee, who want to make the our physical, educational, and spiritual place one that strives to welcomes all people.

February is Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, which is an appropriate time to pause and reflect on how we can do more. Join us and congregations around the world to raise awareness and welcome people with disabilities into our communities.

We have a number of activities planned, as examples:

- Our Religious School teachers will receive inclusion training.
- On **February 24**, our Grade 5, 6, and 7 students will lead our service and incorporate inclusion learning.
- We will have a special guest speaker for our **February 24** service: Our own Adam Fishbein, a current student at American University, where he is a Politics, Policy, and Law scholar and his hope is to have a career in disability advocacy. He is also the

Deputy Director of Disability Advocacy for American University Student Government, and he has been a life-long advocate for those with Tourette Syndrome. Adam currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance and Advanced Youth Ambassador for the national Tourette's Association. He will bring his perspectives about inclusion of those with special needs in the Jewish community.

- There are a number of local and national organizations that have activities planned throughout February, kicking off on **February 2**, Jewish Disability Advocacy Day (JDAD) on Capitol Hill. Registration costs \$100 and includes a kosher breakfast (beginning at 8:30 a.m.) and lunch. Registration must be completed by **January 6**. Aaron Kaufman, JFNA's Senior Legislative Associate, is coordinating the program and can answer questions you may have. Aaron can be reached at 202-736-5865 or at [Aaron.Kaufman@JewishFederations.org](mailto:Aaron.Kaufman@JewishFederations.org).
- Jewish Learning Ventures has resources and a calendar of events as well. See [Jewishlearningventures.org](http://Jewishlearningventures.org) for more information.

If you have ideas about how you can help make our Congregation more inclusive, please let us know. We have many points of contacts within our congregational committees, but please feel free to direct any questions to our co-chairs for Inclusion: Barry Boise ([Boiseb@Pepperlaw.com](mailto:Boiseb@Pepperlaw.com)) and Joel Fishbein ([fishbein@litchfieldcavo.com](mailto:fishbein@litchfieldcavo.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 our terrific student choir.

- **January 20**
- **February 17**
- **March 17**
- **April 7**
- **May 5** ■



## **SHIR SHABBAT**

**"And the women dancing with  
their timbrels followed Miriam  
as she sang her song..."**

—Debbie Friedman

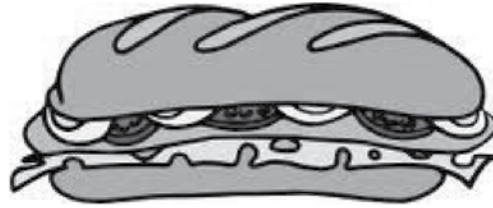
### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, AT 7:30 P.M.**

Please join us at our sixth annual *Shir Shabbat* (Song of Shabbat) service led by the women of our Congregation in gratitude to the women who led us in song through the Sea of Reeds (that week's *Torah* Portion) on our way from Egypt to Mount Sinai and from there to the Promised Land.

Contact Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz ([rebeccasongs@verizon.net](mailto:rebeccasongs@verizon.net) or 215-572-6094) no later than Wednesday, January 18, if you would like to participate in this wonderful service by leading us in English or Hebrew readings. Mothers and daughters are encouraged to participate together.



# Congregation Kol Ami Super Bowl Sunday 2017 Hoagie Sale



**Planning to host a Super Bowl party  
or just tired of cooking?  
We can help!**

Members and friends of Kol Ami are invited to order hoagies provided by Heritage Hoagies in Huntingdon Valley. The 10" hoagies can be picked up in the lobby of Kol Ami on Sunday, **February 5**, at **Noon**. All profits from the sale will be used to support the Congregation.

Questions? Contact Deborah Poppel at [dpoppel1@verizon.net](mailto:dpoppel1@verizon.net)



Please fill out and return the form below by  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2016**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

All hoagies come with lettuce, tomato, and onion **unless otherwise specified**. Please specify mayo or oil and hot or sweet peppers.

		Lettuce/Tomato/Onion	Mayo or Oil	Hot or Sweet
# of Turkey Hoagies:				
# of Tuna Hoagies:				
# of Cheese Hoagies: (American, Provolone & Swiss)				

Total # of hoagies: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$7.00 = Total Payment \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Congregation Kol Ami**.

## SAVE THE DATE

### ADULT SELF-DEFENSE AND KIDS' SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR

Sunday, January 29

Adult Session from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Kids' Sessions from 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.

Come learn defensive training skills - for people in ALL degrees of physical fitness - learn at your own pace. Taught by trained martial arts specialists in the art of *Krav Maga* (Israeli Self-Defense - the same method used by the Israeli Army).

**MUST PRE-REGISTER:** This event will not take place if we don't have the required amount of registrants. More information coming soon!

## SUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 12, at JRA Warehouse

10980 Dutton Road, Philadelphia, under the umbrella of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Join members of our Congregation at our Jewish community's annual "day of calling - day of giving" that enables our Federation to support people in need as well as synagogues and organizations devoted to education and *tikun olam*.

Shift hours are from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.; and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. To register, visit [www.jewishphilly.org/super-sunday](http://www.jewishphilly.org/super-sunday).

## IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR TU B'SHVAT SEDER

Sunday, February 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Every January or February, our Congregation and *Hazon* CSA members look forward to the *Tu B'Shvat Seder* at Congregation Kol Ami. Congregants and friends join to sing together and participate in meaningful dialog while enjoying wine and a delicious vegetarian meal celebrating the seven species: pomegranates, barley, wheat, olives, figs, grapes, and dates.

*Tu B'Shvat* celebrates the New Year of the Trees and is held on 15th day of the Hebrew month *Shevat*. The *Seder* lets us reflect on our responsibility on four different levels: the physical, community, spiritual, and the world. The readings offer inspiration about our food sources, the environment, and our responsibility and connection to the Earth.

The *Hazon* CSA at Congregation Kol Ami sponsors this *Seder* every year. This year at our 10th *Seder*, we look

forward to special participation from our fifth and sixth grade Religious School classes.

The fee for *Hazon* CSA members is \$5 per person; non-CSA members is \$10 per person. The *Seder* is free for Kol Ami Religious School students.

**RSVPs are required:** Please RSVP by e-mailing [CSA@kolami.info](mailto:CSA@kolami.info) or by calling Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110. Let us know the number of adults and children. You will get an e-mail reminder before the *Seder* with last-minute details.

Do you like to cook or bake? Sign up to make a *kugel*, cookies, or fruit-nut bar-type dessert, or help with food prep in the kitchen at 4:00 p.m. that day.

## SAVE-THE-DATE

### ISH PAINTING PARTY

Saturday, February 25, Location TBD

More details forthcoming.

## COOK FOR A FRIEND

Sunday, February 26, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Join our dedicated group as we make 100 meals for those people in need. Meals are distributed by KleinLife through their Home-Delivered Meals Program to needy individuals in the Greater Philadelphia area.

The menu is vegetarian lasagna, mixed vegetables, and a roll. All ingredients will be in the Kol Ami kitchen. Bring your own apron! Contact Ellen Friedman at [ejf0254@gmail.com](mailto:ejf0254@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

## "SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA"

Friday, March 3, at our 7:30 p.m. *erev Shabbat Service*  
Congregation Kol Ami joins in the national celebration! Give your friends a taste of Kol Ami!

"*Shabbat Across America*" is a nationally acclaimed, annual event that gives people a positive and joyful *Shabbat* experience. Synagogue members throughout the country are encouraged to invite their unaffiliated friends to a *Shabbat* dinner at their congregation to celebrate the defining moment of the Jewish week together. The National Jewish Outreach Program will publicize this evening throughout America.

Your guests will be "our guests" at the catered dinner, so please call Elaine Stevens no later than March 1 at 215-635-3110 to RSVP for dinner. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$10 per child under the age of 8.

*continued page 16*



## Congregation Kol Ami

**Date:** February 11, 2017

**Time:** 6 –8 PM

**Place:** Congregation Kol Ami

**Price:**

**Family:** \$20 in advance or \$24 at the door

(includes 1 whole pizza and 4 drinks)

OR

**Per Person:** \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door

(includes 2 slices of pizza and 1 drink)



Advanced pricing available until February 8



Candy, Snacks, and baked goods  
available for purchase!

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



## SAVE THE DATE

### **THIS IS HUNGER, A PROJECT OF MAZON: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER**

**March 5-9**

**This is Hunger** is a high-impact, experiential installation on wheels – literally, it's a big rig. When the 53-foot-long double-expandable trailer is parked and open on both sides, it provides nearly 1,000 square feet of interior space to take participants on a two-part journey: to understand the stark reality of hunger in America and to take action to end hunger once and for all. This community engagement program will illuminate the profound prevalence of hunger in America, encourage us to raise our voices on behalf of the 42.2 million Americans who struggle with hunger every day, and ignite our community's commitment to end hunger.

**PART ONE: ILLUMINATE** – Participants enter the truck and are invited to sit at a communal table to meet, virtually, real people struggling with hunger. Portraits are projected at each end of the table, one by one, as they share their stories in their own words and in their own voices.

**PART TWO: ADVOCATE** – At the conclusion of Part One: Illuminate, participants will be invited to engage in activities and experiences that will deepen their awareness about the complexities of being hungry and invite them to join MAZON in educating the rest of our nation and advocating for change.

The truck is traveling across the country, stopping in 15 cities, and will be in Elkins Park from March 5-9. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Groups are welcome. More information will be provided in the March bulletin and in the list-serve. For more information now, go to [thisishunger.org](http://thisishunger.org).

## **SHARE FOOD PROGRAM**

**Sunday, March 19, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**2901 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia**



Help Philadelphia families in March by packing food boxes for those in need at the SHARE Food Program. SHARE provides food to over 20,000 low-income families each month. This is a great activity for the whole family, ages 8 and up.

Map: <http://sharefoodprogram.org/contact>

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

RSVP to Jody Smith Long at 215-512-3636 or [jodyl321@comcast.net](mailto:jodyl321@comcast.net)

## SAVE THE DATE

### **CANTOR LISA LEVINE VISITS KOL AMI**

**Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m.**



Congregation Kol Ami will welcome artist-in-residence Cantor Lisa Levine. Lisa will bring her mix of lively, soulful songs and spirit to our *erev Shabbat* Service, also featuring our Adult Choir. This is a service you won't want to miss!!

For more info, please visit <http://www.cantorlisalevine.com/>. ■

## CONGREGATION KOL AMI

# Jewish Summer Camp Scholarships

If your son or daughter plans to attend a Jewish summer camp in 2017, our Congregation is pleased to award needs-based scholarships through the Youth Fund. Scholarship amounts are based on available funds and the number of requests received.

If your child plans to participate in a trip to Israel through a peer-led organization, we are pleased to offer incentive scholarships depending on the length of the trip. The Discover Israel Fund exists through the generosity of Stewart and Sally Eisenberg.

Application forms are available by contacting our executive director, Elaine Stevens, at 215-635-3110 or [execdir@kolamielkinspark.org](mailto:execdir@kolamielkinspark.org). ■





# DESIGNER BAG BINGO!



Benefitting Congregation Kol Ami

Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

- ♦ \$36 admission includes 12 rounds of Bingo
- ♦ Designers include Coach, Kate Spade, Dooney and Bourke and more!
- ♦ Bonus rounds, additional cards, and daubers available for purchase.
  - ♦ BYO beverages and snacks
  - ♦ **MUST BE 21 to attend**
  - ♦ Door prizes and 50/50
- ♦ Reserved tables for 8 or 14 available

For more information, contact:

Sherry at shcohen361@gmail.com or Heather at hfppt1@gmail.com

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

----->

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Admissions: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$36 = \_\_\_\_\_

- ♦ Please list the names in your group on the back of this form
- ♦ Make checks payable to **Congregation Kol Ami**



# Congregation Kol Ami Children's Book Swap!

**Sunday, March 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

This is a terrific opportunity for your child to get rid of their books and swap them out for some new ones!

The event will include:

- Table Games
- Interactive children's Reading and Music half hour (Pre-K , Kindergarten).

This swap is open to all Kol Ami members and prospective members Pre-K to 15 year olds.



We don't see things the  
way they are.  
**We see them the  
way WE are.**

~ Talmud

## Congregation Kol Ami Presents: Intergenerational Conversations on Liberty, Community, and (Everyday) Heroes

Calling all families, seniors, and everyone in-between!  
Please join us on **March 19, 2017, from 2:00-5:00 pm**,  
at the National Liberty Museum for an inspirational tour,  
followed guided conversations across-the-generations.



While the museum visit will be a collective event, as the Talmud suggests, our perspectives will be unique to our personal experience as school age children, teens, and adults. We look forward to learning from (and with) you.

### Just the Facts:

Cost: \$7.00/adult; \$5.00/child

Location: 321 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Date/Time: March 19, 2017, from 2:00-5:00 pm

To Register: Contact Elaine Stevens ( 215.635.3110 ) or

<https://goo.gl/forms/MxYvyIR4SLp7mGVw1>

If you answer yes  
to any of these  
please register for  
the Event!

Are you between  
the ages of 6-106?

Do you enjoy  
sharing ideas with  
people older and  
younger than you?

Do you appreciate  
contemporary art?

Do you value civic  
engagement and  
personal liberties?





## KOL AMI ARTISTS' SHOW JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 13 KOL AMI MEMBERS COLLECTIVE



The Art and Design Committee is excited to present **The Kol Ami Member Art Show** this winter. On display will be a lively collection of vibrant paintings, abstract prints, and landscape photographs created by members of our very own talented community. Be sure to stop by this eclectic exhibit of oil and acrylic paintings, mixed media, monographs, and photos produced by a creative group of Kol Ami artists.

The Art and Design Committee (Karol Appel, Jane Finkle, and Cheryl Turetsky) will sponsor an *Oneg Shabbat* for Friday night, January 6, in honor of our artists.

### **FEATURED ARTISTS**

Anne Beatus - Oil Painting  
Natalie Dyen - Photography  
Sally Eisenberg - Mix Media  
Sue Elkins - Watercolor  
Rabbi Elliot Holin - Photography  
Jane Finkle - Photography  
Janine Pratt - Acrylics  
Morgan Selkirk - Photography  
Betty Shapiro - Colored Markers  
Erik Streitwieser - Mix Media  
Cheryl Turetsky - Monographs  
Carol Wit - Monographs/Prints ■

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.

## ARTIST FOR NEXT MONTH FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 20 KENNY MOSS



Kenny Moss has been a part of Congregation Kol Ami and Cheltenham Township for the last eight years - a transplant by the way of Pittsburgh as well as Chicago. He can often be seen with camera in hand, photographing local events for the school district, here at Kol Ami, and things of interest around the community. Both of his teenage sons attend Cheltenham High School and Kol Ami Religious School. By choice and by default, Kenny has become the “in-house” photographer for Congregation Kol Ami.

He has been professionally photographing families, portraits, weddings, *bar mitzvahs*, special events, nature, and anything else of interest for the past 20+ years. For all intents and purposes, he is self-taught. He has had no formal training, just countless hours of shooting images. Years ago, while living in Chicago, he volunteered at The Jane Adams Hull House Center, teaching darkroom procedures when film was still in vogue. Kenny is a freelance photographer who has photographed over 380 weddings and *bar mitzvahs*, and clients include: Interfaith Family, Congregation Kol Ami, Cheltenham School District, and Giant Eagle.

The photographs represented in this show are a small smattering of the tens of thousands of photographs he has taken in his lifetime. Whether color or in black and white, Kenny tries to capture a snapshot of a moment. These photographs are examples of those moments. ■

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.



## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT KOL AMI'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The children were entertained by the Jasper String Quartet, they joined in a sing-a-long with Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, and they made and ate *latkes*.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS THE NOVICK FAMILY



Kol Ami would like to offer a hearty welcome to new members Denise Novick and her children, Ben and Alyssa, and to extend a warm hello to husband/father Steve Novick, who attends a more traditionally observant *shul*. The Novicks have lived in Abington since 2004.

Denise is originally from Floral Park,

Long Island, New York, and she also lived in Virginia for several years. Steve grew up in Newtown, Bucks County. Denise notes that she was raised Catholic, but converted to Judaism in 2002. Denise explains that she was looking for a welcoming, inclusive, progressive community with a focus on social action, and consequently learned about Kol Ami from member Cheryl Madden. Denise also heard great things about our Religious School, spent some time at Kol Ami in person, and then officially joined with her kids over the summer.

In the past, Denise worked with adults with cognitive disabilities and then spent approximately 10 years working in the child welfare system. She is currently a stay-at-home mom who is a cub scout leader, a girl scout volunteer, and an active participant in her kids' school, Highland Elementary School in Abington, where Ben is in fifth grade and Alyssa is in second grade. Steve is a Registered Nurse at Moss Rehab right down Church Road in Elkins Park. Ben is an avid reader, and loves animals, nature, and the outdoors. Alyssa also loves animals, is very sociable with her friends, and has an aptitude for creativity, which she expresses through singing, dancing, and art.

As a family, the Novicks greatly enjoy traveling far and wide. They have been to Israel, and, this past summer, they spent some time in Italy. They also have a goal of visiting all 50 states!

We are very happy that the Novicks are now part of our Kol Ami family. ■

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TILL...

BY JESSICA SENDER - 10/22/2016

"You never know what it's like till you've seen it for yourself," a quote by me. Yes it is a silly quote, and you all are probably thinking, "obviously you never know what something is like until you've experienced it for yourself," but for me, this little saying [means] so much more.

I always thought I knew what Israel would be like—Orthodox families roaming the desert, riding on camels while they eat falafel, enjoying thousands-of-year-old texts, also known as the *Torah*, but I was wrong—completely wrong. So wrong that I thought I was in a different universe, which I technically was. This universe was the best universe I had ever visited, and [it] will always be.

Before Becca and I began our journey, we first started off at Lokoff Early Learning Center almost 15 years ago (I know, crazy). Who would've thought that we could be best friends for so long? After staying in touch, the Langmans then introduced us to our wonderful temple, Congregation Kol Ami. If it weren't for Kol Ami, we wouldn't have had the opportunity to be able to attend our home away from home, URJ Camp Harlam. Every summer that we have attended, we always looked forward to being one step closer to the five weeks that, 44 of our best friends, including the two of us, could embark on what would be known as the best summer of our lives, and it sure was.

Before we got to the holy land, we spent a foundational week in the Czech Republic and Poland to see what Eastern European Jews lived, worshiped, and gathered before and after the Holocaust. During our visit, we saw the Jewish quarter in Prague and Terezin, explored what European temples looked like, and also had the opportunity to visit two of the scariest places in the world, Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II. Visiting these two places made us realize why the Jewish people needed a place to call home after overcoming the horrors of the *Shoah*, or Holocaust.

And the moment we all had been waiting for all our lives, going to the country where it all started for us for four unforgettable weeks, Israel, was upon us. We first started off our adventure, going to what potentially could be the hottest place on earth, the Negev Desert and Eilat. For four days and

three nights, the 44 of us hiked dozens of miles across what felt like everlasting sand, snorkeled and swam in the clearest water in the world, climbed the infamous Mt. Shlomo, which is the second tallest mountain in the Negev Desert, and slept under the stars on the ground. Next, we made our way to the Old City of Jerusalem, where we would pray at the Western Wall, ride camels, sleep in the Bedouin tents, float in the Dead Sea, and explore where our religion all began. After that, we traveled up north to Haifa, where we got to explore other religions such as the Druze, Muslim, and Christian communities. Once we departed Haifa, everyone split up into their *chavaya* (experience), whether that be hiking 40 miles from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean Sea, helping to repair the world (*Tikun Olam*), train like the IDF (Gadna), or discover thousands-of-year-old artifacts while digging underneath caverns. I chose to repair the world, which entails helping kids and adults with CP (cerebral palsy) to work and play, and help pick vegetables to give to the needy. Following our *chavaya*, we got the opportunity to meet Israeli teens, visiting their houses for a traditional Israeli meal, exploring Jerusalem, Haifa, Tzfat, and the Kinneret—the largest body of fresh water in Israel, for the next week with them, and that brings us to our final days adventuring in the best country in the world. We had the opportunity to visit Yad VaShem, Hebrew University, Mount Herzl, and bask in the sun at the Tel Aviv beach. Finally, on July 31, we said our hardest good-bye,

not only to our 44 best friends, but also to the country that has the most special place in all of our hearts.

"You never know what it's like till you've seen it for yourself." At first, I did not know what to expect as I was visiting Israel, but as the days and the weeks went on, I realized that this country holds more than just a place on the map—the history, the culture, the people, everything that you could ever imagine just in one country, only about the size of New Jersey. Just as Woody Guthrie said, "This land is your land, this land is my land," and "this place was made for you and me."

*L'bitraot Yisrael*, I'll see you soon, Israel. Thank you for the most incredible journey. Thank you for making me realize that there's a lot more than just a place in the world. Thank you for allowing me to explore who I am. Thank you for everything. ■



## THAT DAY I DEPARTED FROM MY FAMILY

BY BECCA LANGMAN - 10/22/2016



It was on June 26, 2016. It was on that day I departed from my family for the longest time I would've ever been gone from them. It was on that day I huddled through security with my bags in one hand and my passport in the other. It was on that day I boarded a plane with 46 people: two counselors whom I've known since my early Harlam adventures, since the age of

12, and forty-four fellow Harlamites, some even strangers. It was on that day I began the most memorable trip of my life, and I had no idea.

I was only 10 years old when I finally had the guts to go to camp. Jess [Sender] had told me about it for years, but I just never felt ready. I do not hold enough breath to thank her as much as I would like—thank her for allowing me to make unforgettable memories, thank her for helping me find where I stand as a Jewish citizen in America, and most of all, thank her for introducing me to my best friends, people I cannot imagine living without.

I first heard about this trip as a young teenager. Israel sounded scary. I only ever heard about it in Hebrew school and on the news. My counselors told me all about how amazing it was, so I took the leap and signed up. I had already had one trip to Israel under my belt, but I would come to learn that this trip was much different.

The first stop was Prague, Czech Republic. I knew very little about the Jewish history in this city, but many visits later opened my eyes to the Jewish oppression in Europe. A visit to Terezin, where the Jewish people were deported during the Nazi occupation, taught me to never lose hope, even in the hardest times. During my time in Prague, I also had the chance to explore the vibrant synagogues kept alive by the Jewish people, people who never lost sight of the future. After exploring the most beautiful architecture in Old Town Square and eating our way through the city, it was time to continue our journey in the direction of Poland,

the same path the Jewish of the ghetto Terezin travelled to Auschwitz.

Continuing onto Krakow, we first visited the old town square. Let me tell you, European food never failed me. Exploring the new city was so much fun; the sights were nothing like anything I've ever seen. Although, the days ahead of me were the hardest ones of the trip. I next travelled to Auschwitz I, the camp where one million European Jews were killed—where lives full of potential were cut short, where innocent people met their fate, where the air is heavy with despair. Walking the same footsteps as the imprisoned Jews of Auschwitz I, I next visited Auschwitz II, or *Birkenau*. I had only seen pictures of the entrance, the place where so many of my own people, my ancestors, were dehumanized. I have never seen anything so huge. The camp seemed never ending. I felt so small, but that same day, I had the biggest privilege in the world. I walked out. With a heavy heart, I exited the camp for all the people that couldn't. I assured my people that I would keep their dreams alive. After visiting the cemeteries and ghettos of Warsaw, we finally made it to Israel, the place so many Jews of Europe dreamed of going.

What better way to start the Israel experience than a four-day hike in the Negev? After a preparation session, we headed out on the rawest way to see the most amazing country. Yes, the views were incredible. Of course, the amount of steps it took to climb the second highest mountain in the Negev are immeasurable, but one thing about the Negev experience stuck out to me, and that was the stars. On our first night in the Negev, one of my counselors led a stargazing experience. They are infinite, beautiful. I believe that is something everyone should have the chance to see once in their life. Continuing the journey, I next had the chance to participate in a program called *Yam P' Yam*, which translates to sea to sea. I spent four days hiking from the Kinneret Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. Not only did I gain leg strength, but I got to climb, bike, and hike my way across the country. I'm not sure about you, but I think it's pretty cool to be able to say that. My time in Israel led to archeological digs, trips to the *Shuk*, beaches, the Western Wall, Masada and much more.

Coming home was not easy. Shedding tears is a huge understatement. Just ask my parents. I brought home so much with me: experience, memories, a new found appreciation for my religion and unimaginably close friendships. I think it is extremely important for every Jewish citizen to travel to Israel at least one. It commemorates so much to our Jewish ancestors and brings the religion to life. Israel is the reason I know what my Jewish identity is. It has changed my perspective on the world. It was on June 26, 2016. It was on that day I began the most memorable trip of a lifetime. ■



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

are oblivious to it. We go about our lives as if every event were an accident. And then something happens and we see the connection. For just a moment it is unmistakable. We are astonished that we could not see it until now. All creation is one great unity. There are no coincidences. Throughout all Creation, just beneath the surface, joining each person to every other person and to every other thing into a luminous organism of sacred responsibility, we discover invisible lines of connection."

In December, we were one of the sponsors of the fourth annual *Hazon* Food Festival, a joyful day of learning, food, and Jewish culture held this year at Rodeph Sholom in Center City. Its focus: *Baal Tashchit*, or minimizing food waste, with a vast array of workshops on Jewish life and community, Jewish cooking, social justice, and sustainability. The content exposed our Kol Ami "foodies" to opportunities to support nutritious, local, sustainable food sources and reduce waste in our sacred home.

Going into the New Year, we will raise awareness of Jewish Disability and Inclusion Awareness Month (see article on page 11). In February, we carry forward our many opportunities for dialogue, learning, and action through spiritual endeavors, study, and Congregation committee work.

Welcome to 2017. May it be a healthy year for all. May we stand together and be courageous in these challenging times with continued respect for the value of diversity, strength to find the best ways to break down barriers, and willingness to build relationships and personal connections to better our world. As Rabbi Holin teaches, "we are a people of hope" and I'd add "resiliency, strong and capable of doing great things."

Happy New Year,  
Shelley

215-635-1738

srchamberlain@comcast.net ■

# High Holy Day Appeal

Thank you to the following individuals for their generosity during our High Holy Day Appeal:

Guy and Karol Appel  
Bruce and Ellen Asam  
Andrew August and Barbara Fink  
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Ellen Stern  
Elaine Stevens  
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser  
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky  
Jeffrey and Robin Warsaw  
Alan and Cheryl Wohlstetter  
Morton and Marcia Wolpert ■



# KOL AMI JANUARY 2017 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Religious School Closed Winter Break	<b>2</b> Early Learning Center Closed Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>3</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Relationship Dialogue Meeting 7:30 p.m. Home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry	<b>4</b> Religious School Closed Winter Break	<b>5</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Membership Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>6</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:30 p.m. Followed by special <i>oneg</i> to meet our Synagogue artists	<b>7</b> <b>Shabbat Service</b> and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m. “Adults-Only” <i>Martini Havdalah</i> 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - Dinner at Park Plates
<b>8</b> Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. to Noon 10:00 a.m. - Grade K/1 to Abramson Center 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Member-to-Member Conversations with Robert Seltzer 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>9</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Program Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m. Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> Early Learning Center - Winter Storyteller 9:30 a.m. Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. “Second-Friday” <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> <b>Shabbat Service</b> and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
<b>15</b> Religious School Closed Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Stop Hunger Now 2:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> Early Learning Center Closed	<b>17</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>18</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. “Conversations” 7:30 p.m. Home of David and Shelley Chamberlain	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. “Fun-for-Kids” <b>erev</b> <b>Shabbat Service</b> with Student Choir 6:00 p.m. <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> <b>Shabbat Service</b> and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m. Casino Night 7:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - Noon 12:00 - Student Choir Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>23</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>24</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> <b>Shabbat Service</b> and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
<b>29 BAKE SALE</b> Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - Noon 10:30 a.m. - Adult Self- Defense Seminar 10:45 a.m. - Religious School PTO Committee 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir 12:30 p.m. - Kids' Self- Defense Seminar Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Adult Choral Concert at Beth Sholom 4:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>31</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.				

# KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2017 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - Grade 7 Family Education Program	<b>2</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Carol Nemeroff and Orly Maravankin 7:30 p.m.	<b>3</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 11:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	<b>4</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>5</b> SUPER BOWL SUNDAY Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>6</b> “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Early Learning Center “Conversation and Cocktails” 6:00 p.m.	<b>8</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>9</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Carol Nemeroff and Orly Maravankin 7:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 11:00 a.m. Female-Led <i>Shir Shabbat erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m. Religious School PTO “Movie Night” 6:00 p.m.
<b>12</b> SUPER SUNDAY Religious School 10:00 a.m. - Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 4 and 7 to JRA 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <i>Tu B'Shvat Seder</i> 6:00 p.m. Grades 5 and 6 participation	<b>13</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <i>B'nai Mitzvah Class</i> 7:00 p.m.	<b>15</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Carol Nemeroff and Orly Maravankin 7:30 p.m.	<b>17</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. “Fun-for-Kids” <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Student Choir 6:00 p.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>18</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m. Carol Nemeroff will give the <i>dvar Torah</i>
<b>19</b> Religious School Closed President’s Weekend	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center Closed - President’s Weekend “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>22</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>23</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Programming Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>24</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m. “Fourth-Friday” <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Grades 5, 6 & 7 participation and special guest speaker Adam Fishbein 7:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m. ISH Painting Party 7:30 p.m.
<b>26</b> Trope Class 9:10 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - Noon 10:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Meeting 10:00 a.m. - Social Action “Cook for a Friend” 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	<b>27</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <i>B'nai Mitzvah Class</i> 7:00 p.m.				

# Kol Ami Contributions

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

## ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

**Bat Mitzvah** of our daughter,  
Melanie

*Stuart and Deborah Poppel*

**Bat Mitzvah** of Melanie Poppel

*Joel and Rebecca Schwartz*

Rebecca Schwartz

*Russell and Toni Montague*

**Bat Mitzvah** of Cecily Shandell

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## DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

In Honor of:

Wedding of Amy Schiowitz and  
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*Mark and Karin Kaplan*

## HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

**MiShebbeirach**

Harriet Levine

*David and Phyllis Harrison*

## ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of James Dyen

*James and Natalie Dyen*

Our special anniversary

*Christopher Lundeen and Cindy Marselia*

**Bat Mitzvah** of our daughter,  
Melanie

*Stuart and Deborah Poppel*

Special birthday of Alan Wohlstetter

*Alan and Cheryl Wohlstetter*

Special birthday of Marcia Wolpert

*Morton and Marcia Wolpert*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Austin Copeland*

*John and Donna Hartzel*

*Bob and Susan Seltzer*

In Honor of:

The kindness that Rabbi Holin  
demonstrated to my son, Robert,  
who was ill

*Ira Cooperman*

Rabbi Holin for presiding at my  
husband's Service of Unveiling

*Shirley Horowitz*

Rabbi Holin for officiating at the  
wedding of Jessica and Greg Blass

*Lisa and Ron Krader*

Rabbi Holin for officiating our  
wedding

*Ken Stanley and Sarah Barrett*

In Memory of:

Pearl Barr

*Shirley Barr*

Joseph Gartenberg

*Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

Mary Gartenberg

*Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

Mina Hart

*Mark and Karin Kaplan*

Harold Horowitz

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

Ethel Hutkin

*Robert and Susan Seltzer*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

*Ivan and Susan Popkin*

In Honor of:

Shelley Chamberlain, Mark  
Kaplan, and Robin Rifkin for all  
their work with the Kol Ami CSA

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Bar Mitzvah** of Austin Copeland

*Elaine Stevens*

Engagement of Jenna Gallagher  
to Michael Mierzejewski

*Elaine Stevens*

Marriage of Jessica Krader and  
Greg Blass

*Jay and Cindy Harris*

Special birthday of Any Quigley

*Elaine Stevens*

**Bar Mitzvah** of Andrew Salkin

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

Special birthday of Ilene Schafer

*Elaine Stevens*

**Bat Mitzvah** of Gia Schmidt

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Special birthday of Lorie Slass

*Elaine Stevens*

In Memory of:

Wanda Backup

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

Barbara Baxt

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

*Elaine Stevens*

Steven Cantor

*David and Shelley Chamberlain*

Mary Gaines

*David and Emily Lowe*

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*Elaine Stevens*

Mina Hart

*David Baker and Irene Levy Baker*

*David Hyman*

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

Barbara Kaplan

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

Virginia Stern Kaufman

*David Kaufman* ■



# FUTURE



# EVENTS



## MARCH

- **FRIDAY, MARCH 3, at 7:30 p.m.**  
"Shabbat Across America" *erev Shabbat* Service
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 4, at 7:00 p.m.**  
Designer Bag Bingo
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 5, at 10:00 a.m.**  
Member-to-Member Conversations with Andy Cassel
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7:30 p.m.**  
"Study at the *Shul*" for Adults with Barbara Rosenthal
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 9, at 6:00 p.m.**  
Caring Congregants Committee Meeting
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 10, at 7:30 p.m.**  
"Second-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 11, at 5:30 p.m.**  
*Bat Mitzvah* of Lauren Cheiken
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 12, at 1:00 p.m.**  
Children's Book Swap
- **MONDAY, MARCH 13, at 7:30 p.m.**  
Religious School Committee Meeting
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 16, at 7:30 p.m.**  
"Conversation" at the home of David and Shelley Chamberlain
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 17, at 6:00 p.m.**  
"Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 18, at 10:00 a.m.**  
*Bar Mitzvah* of Nate Quigley
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 19**  
10:00 a.m. - Religious School PTO Committee Meeting  
1:00 p.m. - SHARE Food Program  
2:00 p.m. - National Liberty Museum
- **MONDAY, MARCH 20, at 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 25, at 5:30 p.m.**  
*Bar Mitzvah* of Andrew Langman
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 30 & APRIL 6, at 7:30 p.m.**  
"Study at the *Shul*" for Adults with David Monblatt
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 31, at 6:45 p.m.**  
Early Learning Center *erev Shabbat* Dinner and Auction

## APRIL

- **SATURDAY, APRIL 1, at 5:30 p.m.**  
Martini *Havdalah*; followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. at Park Plates
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 2, at 1:00 p.m.**  
Healing Service
- **MONDAY, APRIL 3, at 7:30 p.m.**  
Social Action Committee Meeting
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 7**  
6:00 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids" *erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir  
7:30 p.m. - "First-Friday" *erev Shabbat* Service
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 11, at 6:00 p.m.**  
Congregation Second *Seder*
- **MONDAY, APRIL 17, at 10:00 a.m.**  
Passover-*Yizkor* Service
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 21, at 7:30 p.m.**  
Interfaith Relationship *erev Shabbat* Service
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 22, at 7:30 p.m.**  
ISH Mystery Night
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 23, at 10:00 a.m.**  
Religious School PTO Meeting
- **MONDAY, APRIL 24, at 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Growth Group Meeting
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 28, at 7:30 p.m.**  
*erev Shabbat* Service with Adult Choir and guest artist Lisa Levine ■