



WORSHIP SERVICES

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

“First-Friday” *erev Shabbat* Service with blessings under the *tallit* for everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month

SATURDAY, January 6,

at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with our Grade 3-4 students demonstrating their ability to identify the Five Books of Moses, at a service that also welcomes the voices of our Student Choir; preceded by a 6:15 p.m. BYOD

SATURDAY, January 13,

at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue; the *dvar Torah* will be given by Carol Nemeroff

FRIDAY, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.

“New-Member” *erev Shabbat* Service! *Hinei mah tov!* We welcome families and their children who have joined us within the past year to rejoice at a brief service with lots of music that will also feature our K-2 students; preceded by a complimentary pizza dinner at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, January 20,

at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Female-Identified *Shir Shabbat* Service (see page 6)

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JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, AT 10:00 A.M. AS WE WELCOME PENNSYLVANIA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH SHAPIRO: "WHAT ISRAEL MEANS TO ME" IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY



Israel holds a very special place in Josh Shapiro's heart, and, on January 21, he will speak about what Israel means to him as a prelude to the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's communal celebration on May 6 to honor Israel's 70th year of independence.

Josh Shapiro was sworn in on January 17, 2017, as the Commonwealth's top lawyer and chief law enforcement officer with a mandate to ensure integrity and be the people's Attorney General.

His work has earned him a national reputation as a rising, progressive leader and bipartisan consensus builder.

As Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, Josh led an historic fiscal turnaround, helped the first LGBT couples in Pennsylvania marry, protected voting rights, and fired Wall Street money managers to protect pensions and save retirees millions. As State Representative for Pennsylvania's 153rd House District, he passed some of the toughest ethics laws in state history.

He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rochester and earned his law degree at night from Georgetown University Law Center. He was in private practice for over a decade and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

Josh was raised in Montgomery County, where he met his high-school sweetheart, Lori, and where they are raising their four children. ■

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, January 27,
at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, February 2, at 7:30 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service enhanced by the voices of our Adult Choir

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

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, February 9, at 7:30 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, February 10,
at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, February 16, at 7:30 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, February 17,
at 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue;
the *dvar Torah* will be given by Carol Nemeroff

FRIDAY, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.
“Fourth-Friday” *erev Shabbat* Service
with blessings under the *tallit* for
everyone celebrating a birthday or
anniversary this month

SATURDAY, February 24,
at 10:00 a.m.
Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, March 2, at 7:00 p.m.
erev Shabbat Service with our Grade
6-7 students demonstrating their
ability to discuss and identify the
composition of the *Tenach: Torah,*
Prophets, and *Writings* at a service
that also welcomes the voices of our
Student Choir

SATURDAY, March 3, at 10:00 a.m.
Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Mixon
(see page 10) ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

This is a year of “Celebration and Continuity” special *Shabbat* services. On November 3, we welcomed our founding members and first-year members dating to 1994 to rejoice in what they were instrumental in creating, nurturing, and sustaining.

Karen Gurmankin, Rosalind Holtzman, and Mark Levin spoke about what inspired them to turn the dream of a new synagogue into the reality of Congregation Kol Ami, and why they have continued to devote their time, talent, and energy to our “intimate and dynamic” community.

Here are excerpts from their words to us that evening:



KAREN GURMANKIN: “The feeling of welcome, that this could be my ‘spiritual community home’ was immediate! This was a place about friendly, accepting, welcoming, dedicated people. I was inspired and still feel very much at home. What is so significant is how I’ve grown and what very dear friends I’ve acquired, and how important this community has become in my life. The constants have been our dedication to *tikun olam* and the willingness of this congregation to challenge itself and innovate to sustain its caring and welcoming culture.”



ROZ HOLTZMAN: “From the outset, I knew that Kol Ami was where I wanted to be and where I wanted my family to be. What I didn’t know was all that Kol Ami would offer and bestow upon us. There are so many experiences I could share, but the short list is this: community and opportunity. Being part of Kol Ami has cultivated skills I didn’t know I had, giving me avenues for a deeper, more knowledgeable, more meaningful Jewish life.”



MARK LEVIN: “Kol Ami was founded with the mission to be small and intimate. Remaining anonymous and uninvolved was no longer tenable. I joined a committee and started to get involved in the life of the synagogue. Within a few years, I found myself on the Board. A year later, I became an officer of the Board and started working with a relatively small group trying to secure us a home.” (Mark Levin became our Congregation’s third president.)

Then on December 15, we rejoiced when more than forty students of our synagogue who celebrated their *Bar Mitzvah*, *Bat Mitzvah*, and Confirmation services

continued next page

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY (continued from previous page)

with us, returned to their spiritual home from distant locales, braving snow and ice to do so (see page 7 for a group photo). The sanctuary was filled with their parents; many other members; our synagogue president, Shelley Chamberlain; and four past presidents, to welcome them and *qvell* in their presence.

The words of **Katie Lundeen**, **Adam Fishbein**, and **Sarah Pace** give us ample reasons to marvel at how blessed we were to have had them and their peers in our midst during their childhood and young adulthood, to be reminded what being here meant to them, and be inspired by their accomplishments:

- **KATIE LUNDEEN:** "I've been at Kol Ami for six years, starting Hebrew School in second grade. In June, I was honored to become a *Bat Mitzvah*, and I will continue toward my Confirmation. Kol Ami is truly a community and it is very diverse. Look at me, an adopted Guatemalan Jew of an interfaith couple. Kol Ami is a place of new discoveries, inclusion, community and acceptance for everyone. I'm only 13, and I've got a long way to go, but as I grow and mature as a person, a Jew, a student, a friend, and a human being, I know that the lessons I've learned and my Kol Ami family will be with me, supporting me and encouraging me every step of the way." (Katie Lundeen celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* this year on June 17 and attends Upper Moreland Middle School.)
- **ADAM FISHBEIN:** "Growing up at Kol Ami, I learned the Jewish value *kol Yisrael arehvim zeh bazeh*, which means communal responsibility. In other words, I learned that we are all responsible for the well-being of our fellow humans. The Hebrew word *Hineni* means, "Here I am." It is a trademark concept among our congregants, and it is a phrase I live by. We welcome all people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, national origin or political affiliation. I would like to quote a passage from *Mishkan T'filah*, our prayer book, which embodies Kol Ami's values better than any other: "May this synagogue be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life." (Adam Fishbein celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* in 2011, his Confirmation in 2014, and is a sophomore at American University.)
- **SARAH PACE:** "Kol Ami gave me an excellent foundation in Jewish learning. This knowledge of Jewish culture, prayers, and scripture allows me to find a sense of Jewish community wherever I go. I never would have felt the desire to find a Jewish community in law school, nor would I have had the ability to build one without the foundation of Jewish learning that I received from this synagogue. I talk openly with my non-Jewish friends about my devotion to Judaism and my involvement in it. I advocate for Jewish students to be a group that serves as an ally for other minority groups on campus, and I encourage Jews of differing levels of observance to get involved with our Hillel." (Sarah Pace celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* in 2004, her Confirmation in 2007, attended Brandeis University, and is in her third year of law school at the University of California [Berkeley] School of Law, Boalt Hall.)

The year of 2018 is our congregation's launch pad into the future. We greet it with abundant hope and the belief that the best is yet to come.

Shalom u'vrachah,

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin ■



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Carol Baron

Alan Bellman

uncle of Morgan (Jack) Selkirk

Judy Gurmankin

cousin of Karen Gurmankin

Joey McKelvey

nephew of Michael Chernoff

Robert Miles

*father of John (Sheryl Cohen) Miles
grandfather of Lily and Emily*

Mary Neville

great-aunt of Guy (Karol) Appel

Leon Salosky

uncle of Chuck (Laurie) Langman

Barbara Sherman

*sister-in-law of Vera Weissman
aunt of Sandie Weissman*

Seymour Steinbrecher

*father of Barry (Michele) Steinbrecher
grandfather of Drew*

Caren Goleman Strong

niece of Janet Felgoise

Marvin Weiss

*father of Brian (Valerie) Weiss
grandfather of Tyler and Hannah*

Max Wexler

*grandfather of Ryan (Tracy Zigler) Perlman
great-grandfather of Joab*

Alan F. Wohlstetter

*father of Alan (Cheryl Rice) Wohlstetter
grandfather of Chip and Barclay*

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

TORAH & HAFTARAH

January 6 – *Sheymote*

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

January 13 – *Vaera*

Exodus 6:2-9:35, Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

January 20 – *Bo*

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

January 27 – *BebShalach*

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

February 3 – *Yitro*

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

February 10 – *Mishpatim*

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

February 17 – *Terumah*

Exodus 25:1-27:19, I Kings 5:26-6:13

February 24 – *Tetzaveh*

Exodus 27:20-30:10, I Samuel 15:2-34 ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Inclusion – LGBTQ Initiative Committee

Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Relationship Committee

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

Home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry

Membership Committee

Sunday, January 7 and February 4, at 10:00 a.m.

Operations Committee

Monday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Religious School Committee

Monday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Shomrei Adamah (Environmental Stewardship) Committee

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

Social Action Committee

Monday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, January 22 and February 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, January 14, at 9:30 a.m. ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to 2018! I trust that you brought in the New Year in the celebratory manner that is fitting for you. As a congregation, we have much to be grateful for.

In early December, I had the good fortune to attend the Union of Reform Judaism's (URJ's) 2017 Biennial in Boston, joined by Karen Gurmankin, Elaine Lotto, Carol Nemeroff, and Morgan Selkirk. We all found the five-day conference to be an incredibly valuable and enriching experience. The URJ comprises a network of vibrant congregations across North America, which, like us, embrace a progressive, inclusive approach to Jewish life. URJ blends thousands of years of Jewish values and traditions with the 21st-century world, creating a strong, dynamic Judaism for today and the future. As a member of the URJ, Kol Ami is part of something much bigger than our intimate and dynamic community. At the Biennial, we joined 5,500 people from all over North America to learn from an array of experts in all facets of Jewish communal life, to celebrate *Shabbat*, to study, play, sing, listen, dance — to return home full of ideas and empowered to take our community to new heights.

On our first day at the Biennial, we walked past a wall with the phrase, "I am grateful for," followed by a line to finish the sentence, encouraging each person to fill in the blank. We all imagined duplicating this on a bulletin board in our Kol Ami Religious School hallway. I passed this quite a few times over the four days; it stuck with me, but there was so much to learn and so many conversations that I didn't really think of this as a focus or lesson. When we returned home, I immediately jumped back into Kol Ami life not even two hours after the airplane landed to welcome one of our rabbinic candidates. I was filled with pride in our welcome, our stories, and our collective genuine interest in what our future could be. It was then that the unfinished sentence surfaced: What am I grateful for? How can I reduce it to just one line? I'm sharing some of my thoughts for you to ponder:

- How often do we take time intentionally to think about what we are grateful for? How do we acknowledge those people and things? And, do we do that often enough?
- Do we often think about the things we lack, rather than acknowledge what we have?
- Do we compare ourselves to others, rather than feel grateful for who we are and what we have?
- How could we benefit from acknowledging more frequently the good things in our life?

I asked my Biennial friends, your fellow congregants, to fill in the blank — and here's what they said:

Karen Gurmankin said: "I am grateful for my community and its willingness to grow and integrate new concepts of social justice and spirituality and its acceptance of all who have a desire to participate."

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Educational Opportunities this Month and Next

Study at the *Shul* for Adults

RSVP to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 unless otherwise noted. There is a \$50 fee for non-members to attend any of these courses.

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

Thursdays; February 15 & 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Neal Beatus



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

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

Why is change difficult? What do we fear? Why is the unknown scary? What helps us on our journey?

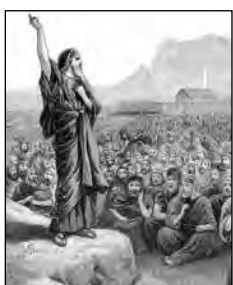
We will examine the myth of the Exodus along with stories from the *Midrash* and Kabbalah that address change and growth.

RSVP by January 30.

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

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

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom



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

RSVP by February 20. ■

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

215-635-4182

Shelley Chamberlain, President

215-635-1738

Ruben Honik, Vice President

215-985-9177

Jeffrey Margasak, Vice President

215-635-9332

Barbara Fink, Secretary

215-886-2297

Lisa Landau, Treasurer

215-635-9996

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**IN RESPECT OF SHABBAT, THE OFFICE
CLOSES AT 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAYS.**

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director

215-635-3110

David Monblatt

Director of Education

215-635-7106

Sheri Cutler

Early Learning Center Director

215-635-4180

Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist

215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:

Congregation Kol Ami

8201 High School Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

Website: www.kolamielkinspark.org

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. Articles may be edited as needed. ■



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Kol Ami Events

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

erev Shabbat, Fridays, January 5 and February 23 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 these special *erev Shabbat* services. Rabbi Holin will bless everyone with a *simcha* under a *tallit*. Watch for your invitation for this special *Shabbat simcha*.

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



INTRODUCTION TO BACKYARD BEEKEEPING

Thursdays; January 11, 18 & 25 and February 1 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with Jane Tausig at Kol Ami

Backyard beekeeping is fascinating, fun, and good for the environment! Learn how to set

up your own backyard beehive! Using a combination of media, discussion, and “show and tell,” these classes will explore:

- the life cycle of a honeybee,
- life inside the hive,
- tasks required of a backyard beekeeper, and
- threats to honeybees’ health and well-being.

Timing of the class allows for ordering bees in time for spring 2018. Class size is limited to 12 people. To sign up, e-mail execdir@kolamielkinspark.org or call 215-635-3110.

FEMALE-IDENTIFIED SHIR SHABBAT SERVICE

erev Shabbat, January 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at our seventh annual *Shir Shabbat* (Song of *Shabbat*) service led by female-identified members of our congregation in gratitude to those who led us in song through the Sea of Reeds (the week’s *Torah* Portion) on our way from Egypt to Mount Sinai, and from there to the Promised Land. This service will also feature music by female-identified composers. Contact Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz (rebeccasongs@verizon.net or 215-572-6094) no later than Wednesday, January 10, if you would like to participate in this wonderful service by leading us in English or Hebrew readings.

REBECCA SONGS SERVICE!

erev Shabbat, February 2 at 7:30 p.m.



This musical service will feature our very own Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, her original music, and our fabulous Adult Choir. Rebecca has written, recorded, and published five albums and two songbooks. Three of her songs have been published by the Union for Reform Judaism in their *Shabbat* Anthology series, and she has won awards from *Shalshelet* and Just Plain Folks.

Rebecca’s music is sung all over the world and has become part of our regular repertoire at Congregation Kol Ami. Please join us and sing along!

LOCA PESACH PROGRAM FOCUSES ON CREATING “SCINTILLATING SEDERS”

Sunday, February 11, from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Are you searching for a scintillating *seder*? Join us and surround yourself with stimulating ideas to make your *seder* meal and service even more successful for both children and adults. We will have a discussion and “show and tell” while eating a luscious potluck meal. Passover dishes are welcome, but not required.

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KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 6)

Kindly send Passover recipes and ideas online to Betty Shapiro (at bpshap@gmail.com) by January 11 to be compiled into a booklet. This event will be held in the Kol Ami Board Room. Please RSVP Betty at bpshap@gmail.com and tell her what dairy or *parve* dish you will bring to the potluck. Since some LOCAs have allergies and food sensitivities, it would be appreciated if you write the ingredients to your recipe on an index card to be placed with your food item.



FASTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Join Rabbi Holin in a fast – or virtual fast – every month, no matter where you are, 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.”

Forthcoming fast days to benefit **NATAL** will be on “first Wednesdays”: **January 3** and **February 7**.

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 healthcare needs, and pay electric bills.

Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on “fourth Thursdays”: **January 25** and **February 22**.

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ABOVE: The snow could not keep these students, current and former, from attending the “Celebration and Continuity” erev Shabbat Service on Friday, December 15, honoring Rabbi Holin.:



Congregation Kol Ami Members "Our House" Concert

featuring

Geri Oliver, Jazz Vocalist

Accompanied by our own Howard Miller

An Evening of Jazz and Jazz Standards

Sunday, January 7, 2018

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

***Congregation Kol Ami Lobby
(snow date February 11, 2018)***



*We invite you to a "Congregants' Connection" house concert in our lobby.
Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, home-baked desserts, and your BYOBeverage from
5:00 - 5:45 p.m. with the back drop of beautiful art by our own Betty Shapiro.*

Concert begins at 5:45 p.m.



*Please join us! No charge but RSVP is required ensuring plenty of food for all.
Don't forget -- it's BYOB!*

*RSVP by January 2 to Elaine Stevens, 215-635-3110 or execdir@kolami.info
Need a ride? Let Elaine know and we'll arrange!*



Join us for the Eleventh Annual Hazon CSA
Tu B'Shvat Seder
 at Congregation Kol Ami
Sunday, January 28, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Special participation by Kol Ami Grade 5 students!

Learn, be inspired, sing, taste symbolic fruits and nuts, drink four cups of wine, and enjoy a delicious vegetarian soup-and-salad dinner as we celebrate the New Year of the Trees.

The Seder is Open to Friends and Family:

\$5 for Elkins Park Hazon CSA members

\$5 for Congregation Kol Ami adults

\$10 for non-CSA, non-Kol Ami members

Free for Kol Ami Religious School students!

Registration is required. RSVP with number of adults and children to csakolami@gmail.com or (215) 635-3110 by Monday, February 6.

- Bring your own reusable or biocompostable place settings: dinner and dessert plates, soup bowl and spoon, fork, drinking cup, wine glass, and napkin.
- Bring wine to share with your table – both white and red are needed for the Seder. Grape juice will be provided.
- Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Seder starts promptly at 6:00 p.m. at Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA.

Want to help with preparations? Sign up at csakolami@gmail.com to make a kugel, cookie or bar-type dessert with a fruit/nut theme, and/or help with kitchen prep on the day of event beginning at 4:00 p.m.



ABOVE AND BELOW: Kol Ami congregants of all ages pitched in and assisted at the SHARE Program on November 19. See page 11 for details on the next event.



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.



Amazon will donate 1/2 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Congregation Kol Ami whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2771426> and support us every time you shop.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The Kimmel Center Organ Series Presents:

Sing Hallelujah: A Choral Concert of Jewish Music

including the Cantors & Choirs of the Kehillah of Old York Road



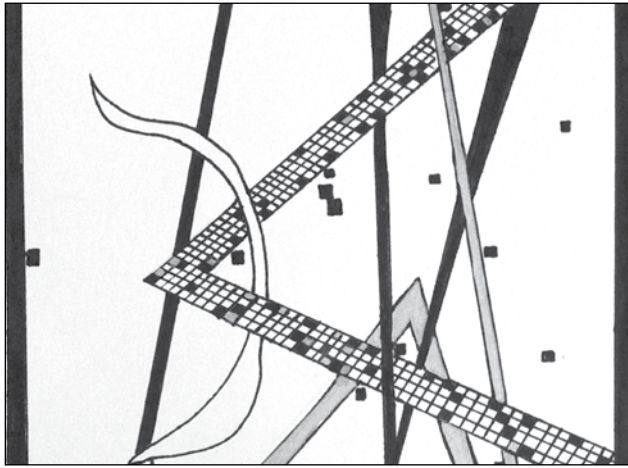
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 @ 8pm

Pre-Concert Reception &

Transportation will be provided

More information: oyrkehillah@gmail.com

ARTIST OF THE MONTH NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 5 BETTY SHAPIRO



Betty Shapiro, a Kol Ami congregant, is an artist whose work is characterized by brilliant colors and intricate designs, often embedded with symbols to deepen and personalize a piece. Betty creates abstract work, which can be serious or whimsical and provides both healing and joy. Personal history “quilts,” mandalas, Judaica themes, and illustrations are also in her repertoire. Betty’s preferred medium is permanent markers.

Betty has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. Although this has clearly been life changing in many negative ways, there has been a very positive effect, and that is heightened creativity. This is documented in the medical literature and can also be seen in Betty’s work, which is emboldened with intensive color. Betty finds great satisfaction and pleasure in her creations and can be found drawing on a daily basis.

Betty has had her logo selected for the ParkinSingers, and her drawing was selected by the Parkinson Council for a T-shirt. Betty has been commissioned for personalized art. She comes from a line of artists: her grandmother was a prize-winning milliner, and her father was a master wood-carver. Betty’s mother wrote stories for the grandchildren, which Betty is now illustrating. Betty is a member of Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators.

Please join us at Betty’s open house on Sunday, January 7, at 2:00 p.m. ■

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

FASTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

(continued from page 7)

American Friends of NATAL

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

Unemployment Information Center

112 North Broad Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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

BAR MITZVAH OF ISAAC MIXON

Saturday, March 3, at 10:00 a.m.



Isaac is in the seventh grade at Jenkintown Middle School. One of his favorite subjects is World Language because he likes learning new things about other countries, and he enjoys the way the class is taught through games and competition to make learning more fun. His extra-curricular activities are soccer, basketball, and baseball.

“One of the reasons I enjoy being Jewish is that I like the ritual of *Shabbat* because it signifies the coming of the weekend. I like eating *challah* and lighting the *Shabbat* candles together with my family and friends,” he says. “The candles are mesmerizing, which allows me to think about things differently.

“Being Jewish allows me to meet new people, be connected to a community, and think about new ideas. When I began Hebrew School, I didn’t know the people in the class at all. Now I know them very well, and we all celebrate together at *Bar Mitzvahs*, *Bat Mitzvahs*, and *Simchat Mitzvahs*.

“One of my favorite Jewish experiences is going to Camp Harlam because it makes me feel more connected to Judaism. Services at camp are really fun. We do the usual prayers, but we have different tunes, hand motions, and clapping to go along with it. I like having the service outside because you feel the fresh air and the breeze. At *Havdalah*, we are in the Chapel in the Woods, sitting on wooden benches surrounded by trees. For *Shabbat* services, we are in the Chapel on the Hill. We are also sitting on wooden benches, and, from that spot, you can see the wooden structure of the chapel and you can see for miles in every direction: houses, roads, and hills. It makes me feel more connected to other people and to the prayers.

continued page 11

"I have had two other significant experiences in my life. One was having Malya, a person from Haiti, live in our house. She was staying with us because it was not safe for her to remain in Haiti. She was protecting women from violence. The government did not like what she was doing and so she fled. She stayed at our home because she did not have a home, a job, or money, and she did not know English.

"The other experience occurred when I went on vacation to Italy. It was cool because of all the great food, the history, the buildings, and being in a new place. While I was there, I also saw how hard it is to be the one learning a new language. It showed me how difficult it was for Malya to learn English, especially because in Italy, we had money to spend and a house to stay in, which Malya did not have when she first came here.

"I chose to chant from the Book of Exodus, chapter 32, verses 7-19, because when Moses saw the Golden Calf, he pleaded with G-d not to kill the people. G-d is the all-powerful, all-knowing being, so why would anyone tell Him what to do? One lesson is that even though G-d is all-knowing and all-powerful, you are responsible for your own actions. It doesn't mean that G-d does everything for you. You have to do your own thing in the world."

We congratulate Isaac's parents, Justin Mixon and Jessica Feierman, and his brother, Benjamin, a student in our Religious School.

"Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Services

This 6:00 p.m. service is appropriate for all ages. It's a happy half-hour with lots of music and joy.

- **March 16**
- **April 20** ■



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SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

We have two opportunities to perform *Mitzvot* in March. You're welcome to join us at either or both:

Cook for a Friend

Sunday, March 4, at 10:00 a.m. to Noon
at Congregation Kol Ami



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 Jody Long at 215-512-3636 or jodyl321@comcast.net if you are interested or have any questions.

SHARE Food Program

Second Sundays, March 11 and April 8
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 Long at 215-512-3636 or jodyl321@comcast.net. ■

KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 11)

SAVE THE DATE

"OUR HOUSE" CONCERT

Sunday, March 4, at 5:00 p.m.

In loving memory of Sara Chernoff

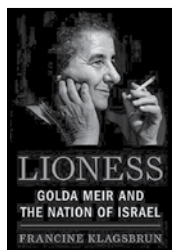


This concert will feature our very own Kol *Nidrei* cellist Kathy Read; Miyo Curnow on violin; Kerri Ryan, assistant principal viola; and Elina Kalendarova on violin.

SAVE THE DATE

BOOK REVIEW WITH BEVERLY ROSEN

erev Shabbat Service, March 16, at 7:30 p.m.



Join us as Beverly Rosen reviews the new, definitive biography of Golda Meir, Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel. Experience the many ages, stages, faces and facets of Israel's founding mother and fourth Prime Minister as she travels to the United States with her parents from her birthplace in tsarist Russia to growing up in Milwaukee, to her emigration to Palestine in 1921 and her historic rise and challenges in Israeli politics. A very human portrait of an iconic woman and leader.

SAVE THE DATE

CONGREGATION SECOND SEDER

Saturday, March 31 at 6:00 p.m.

Registration forms will be mailed to the congregation shortly.

SAVE THE DATE

SECOND ANNUAL DESIGNER BAG BINGO!

Saturday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. at Kol Ami



\$36 admission includes 12 rounds of bingo, one winner from each round wins a Designer Handbag.

BYOB and Snacks; tables for 8 or 14 can be reserved.

Designers include: Coach, Kate Spade, Dooney & Bourke, and more! Bonus rounds, additional cards, and daubers will be available for purchase. **MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND.**

For more information, contact Sherry Cohen at shcohen361@gmail.com or Heather Pelletier at hfppt1@gmail.com.

CARING CONGREGANTS TO THE RESCUE

Tired of the same old New Year's resolutions? Looking for a way to help members of our Kol Ami community? If you enjoy cooking, driving, or helping people, Kol Ami's Caring Congregant Committee welcomes you in 2018! Contact Linda George, 215-782-1413 or LindaSGeorge@gmail.com, or Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994 or gersh-law@comcast.net.

As a timely example of how the Caring Congregant Committee can help, if you're afraid of driving in the snow, they'll try to get you where you need to go. Contact Elaine or Linda for help.

BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

Thanks to everyone who made our annual Red Cross Blood Drive on November 6 another successful one. We collected 23 donations, especially considering that many regular donors were away and others had already given due to events around the country in the past months where blood was necessary. **Please mark October 29, 2018, on your calendars for our next drive.** ■



Kol Ami's "One America" team is all smiles after completing their first service project and discussion with counterparts in the Christian and Muslim community. We're helping One America grow a national movement of diverse community participants hoping to heal the growing divisions in American society. Pictured above L-R: Elaine Lotto, Shelley Chamberlain, Karen Gurmankin, and Rabbi Elliot Holin

WELCOME THE SANCHEZ FAMILY



Say “*shalom*” to new members Karen and Ben Sanchez, and their daughters Marisa and Brooke. Although they joined officially in August 2017, Marisa and Brooke previously attended our pre-school. Karen and Ben say: “We loved the nursery school, the people, and the culture, which was probably the main reason we felt so comfortable in joining.”

Karen is originally from Elkins Park, and Ben is from Glenside. Even though they both graduated from Abington High School, it wasn't until Temple Law School that they met. Karen and Ben lived briefly in King of Prussia, but came back “home” to Jenkintown in 2010.

Karen and Ben are both real-estate lawyers as well as elected officials. Karen is a partner at the law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell, & Hippel LLP and is the Montgomery County Controller. Ben has a law practice and is an Abington Township Commissioner. They are dedicated public servants who are passionate about the pursuit of justice through good government and pro bono legal service. Their spirit of community service and *tikun olam* is also reflected in their endorsement of the motto, “Hate has no home here.”

Above all else, the Sanchez family loves spending time together. Their favorite way is usually on family vacations, which often include trips to the Jersey Shore and Mexico. They also treasure a relaxing night at home when they can find or make the time.

Their daughter Marisa is 9 years old and enjoys dance and softball. Her sister, Brooke, is 6 years old and likes art and baseball. Everyone in the Sanchez household is an avid reader!

We are so pleased that the Sanchez family became part of our congregational family. Welcome! ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (continued from page 4)

Elaine Lotto is grateful for the music. “It was such a gift to experience the music of the reform movement and to realize how lucky we are to have Rebecca in our community. I am also grateful for all the wonderful people I learned from, collaborated with, laughed with, and was inspired by. Mostly, I am grateful for the gift of time; to experience and learn new things, to give back, to repair, to discover, and to appreciate.”

Carol Nemeroff is grateful for the quality of the sessions, the uplifting services, and the warmth of fellow Kol Ami participants. “I liked the comparison of Judaism to peanut butter. We may prefer smooth, but in reality, Judaism is chunky. It takes work and commitment to really be engaged in our faith. It challenges us to chew before swallowing.”

Morgan Selkirk is grateful for people who fight for what's right. “I couldn't believe how many sessions and discussions I was a part of where I said to myself ‘we do that!’ or ‘we have that!’ I was describing programs or ideas that we have put into practice that other synagogues hadn't thought of or tried yet. It made me feel really good that not only are we on the right track with getting things done, but that we're doing these things well.”

For me, I am grateful for not only the work we do that is recognized nationally (Belin Award for LGBTQ inclusion and recognition as a URJ Exemplar Congregation), but the day-to-day commitment to Judaism and our community. I was VERY proud to represent Kol Ami at sessions, to celebrate *Shabbat* with thousands of fellow Jews, to be challenged and inspired and share this amazing experience with Kol Ami members.

Being at the Biennial created inspirational and enlightening moments for each of us. Please ask us questions to help share what we learned and challenge all of us to translate these ideas into action here at home. I encourage you to visit the URJ website (www.urj.org) for the ever-growing collection of resources that are at our fingertips.

I hope that you take a moment as this (secular) New Year begins with your own endings to the sentence “I am grateful for . . .” and share them with your family, friends, and with our congregational community. I know that I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this wonderful congregation, and for the years of having Rabbi Holin as our spiritual leader.

Who is rich? Those who rejoice in their own portion.

—*Pirke Avot* 4:1

Happy New Year,
Shelley Chamberlain ■

See you in Chicago on December 11-15 for URJ Biennial 2019!

KOL AMI JANUARY 2018 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Early Learning Center CLOSED	2 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m.	3 Religious School WINTER BREAK	4 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Inclusion - LGBTQ Initiative Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	5 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Elliot Holin 10:00 a.m. "First-Friday" erev Shabbat Service with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	6 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
7 Membership Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Artist Open House Betty Shapiro 2:00 p.m. "Our House" Concert 5:00 p.m.	8 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	9 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Relationship Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry	10 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Shomrei Adamah (Environmental Stewardship) Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	11 Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping 7:00 p.m.	12 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir and Grade 3-4 participation 7:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. - BYOD	13 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue with Carol Nemeroff giving the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m.
14 Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School CLOSED - Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend	15 Early Learning Center CLOSED	16 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	17 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	18 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping 7:00 p.m.	19 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with David Monblatt 10:00 a.m. "New-Member" erev Shabbat Service with Grade K-2 participation 7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. - Complimentary Pizza Dinner	20 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
21 Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. – Attorney General Josh Shapiro 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal	22 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m. Social Action Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	23 Early Learning Center 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class 7:00 p.m.	24 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. LOCA at Art II Playhouse 6:00 p.m.	25 Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping 7:00 p.m.	26 Early Learning Center erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. Female-Identified Shir Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	27 Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
28 Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. Tu B'Shvat Seder 5:30 p.m.	29 Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Religious School Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	30 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	31 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.			

KOL AMI FEBRUARY 2018 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Introduction to Backyard Beekeeping 7:00 p.m.	2 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	3 <i>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
4 Membership Committee Meeting 10:00 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. – Grade 6-7 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	5	6 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	7 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	8 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	9 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with David Monblatt 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	10 <i>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
11 Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m. LOCA - <i>Pesach</i> Program 12:00 p.m.	12 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	13 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult <i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	14 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - Confirmation Academy Family Education Program	15 "Study at the <i>Shul</i> " for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m.	16 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	17 <i>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</i> with Carol Nemeroff giving the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m.
18 Religious School CLOSED	19 Early Learning Center CLOSED	20 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	21 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	22 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. "Study at the <i>Shul</i> " for Adults with Neal Beatus 7:30 p.m.	23 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Elliot Holin 10:00 a.m. "Fourth-Friday" <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	24 <i>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
25 Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. - <i>Purim</i> Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:25 a.m.	26 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	27 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult <i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	28 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.			

Kol Ami Contributions

We thank the following for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds. 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:

The blessing of song
Stanton and Merle Salkin

Bar Mitzvah of
Cameron Pelletier
Joel and Rebecca Schwartz

Bar Mitzvah of
Elad Shoham
Joel and Rebecca Schwartz

In Memory of:

Judy Gurmankin
Stanton and Merle Salkin

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of
Shelley Chamberlain
David and Shelley Chamberlain

My 90th birthday
Alvin Turetsky

In Memory of:

Peter Denitz
Gabriel and Orly Maravankin

My beloved wife, Frances
Alvin Turetsky

Frances Turetsky
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Holin, for his warm and
compassionate words during his
co-officiating with Rabbi Jerry
David at the funeral of my Dad,
Seymour Steinbrecher
Barry, Michele, and Drew Steinbrecher

In Memory of:

Judy Gurmankin
Karen Gurmankin

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

Special birthday of
Alvin Turetsky
Gary and Chery Turetsky

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Rebecca Lipner

In Honor of:

Special birthday of
Shelley Chamberlain
Elaine Stevens

Special birthday of
William England
Elaine Stevens

Joel Fishbein
John Hertzberg, Jamie One, LLC

David Hyman

John Hertzberg, Jamie One, LLC

Special birthday of
Jane Katzer Pace
Elaine Stevens

Special birthday of
Alvin Turetsky
Mark Turetsky and Donna Landes

In Memory of:

Peter Denitz
William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Judy Gurmankin
Craig and Sharon Myers

Ernie Halpern
David and Meryle Twersky

Lenora Wyman Harrison
William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Blanche Hoberman
Stanton and Merle Salkin

Mary Neville
Elaine Stevens

Leon Salosky
Elaine Stevens

Father and grandfather,
Seymour Steinbrecher
Barry, Michele, and Drew Steinbrecher

Seymour Steinbrecher
William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Alan F. Wohlstetter, Sr.
David Hyman ■