



## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **FRIDAY, March 2, at 7:00 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat* Service with Grade 6-7 students demonstrating their ability to discuss and identify the composition of the *Tenach: Torah*, Prophets and Writings and our student choir; preceded by a 6:15 p.m. BYOD

### **SATURDAY, March 3, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Bar Mitzvah* of Isaac Mixon  
(see page 8)

### **FRIDAY, March 9, at 7:30 p.m.**

“Celebration and Continuity”

*erev Shabbat* Service - **Choosing Judaism** - when we will celebrate members who became Jewish in a service officiated by Rabbi Holin. This evening, we welcome Victor Friesen, Eric Pelletier, Kara Schmidt, and Jack Selkirk to speak about how their decision has added meaning to their lives. We also will celebrate March birthday and anniversary blessings under the *tallit* and with the voices of our Adult Choir.

### **SATURDAY, March 10, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Bar Mitzvah* of Tyler Weiss  
(see page 8)

### **FRIDAY, March 16**

**6:00 p.m.** - “Fun-for-Kids” *erev Shabbat* Service appropriate for all ages! It’s a happy half hour with lots of music!

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat* Service when Beverly Rosen will review Francine Klagsbrun’s new book—*Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*  
(see page 12)

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### *In Celebration of Israel at 70*

## **CONGRESSMAN BRENDAN BOYLE WILL SPEAK ABOUT “WHAT ISRAEL MEANS TO ME”**

MONDAY, MARCH 26, AT 7:00 P.M. AT OUR SYNAGOGUE



CONGRESSMAN BRENDAN F. BOYLE  
(PA-13) D-PHILA./MONTGOMERY

Congressman Brendan Boyle was born and raised in Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District. A first generation American, Congressman Boyle’s father emigrated from Ireland in search of a better life. As the proud son of a janitor and a crossing guard, he learned from an early age that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can make it in America.

The first in his family to attend college, he attended the University of Notre Dame on a scholarship and later graduated from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government with a Master’s degree in Public Policy.

Elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2008, Boyle became the first Democrat to represent Pennsylvania’s 170th state legislative district. In 2014, he was sent to Washington to represent his hometown in Congress. Now in his second term, Congressman Boyle proudly represents the 13th Congressional district, which is made up of North-east Philadelphia, parts of North Philly, and about half of the bustling suburbs of Montgomery County. He currently serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on the Budget.

Throughout his career in public service, Congressman Boyle has remained an ardent supporter of working families. He is the founder and co-chair of the “Blue Collar Caucus,” which advocates for working families by addressing wage stagnation, job insecurity, and dwindling career opportunities for those in manufacturing and the building trades.

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**SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING**  
SUNDAY, MAY 6, AT 10:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

### **SATURDAY, March 17, at 10:00 a.m.**

“Celebration and Continuity”

*Shabbat* Service when we will honor the four adult *Bnai Mitzvah* classes (1999-2001, 2007-2009, 2011-2013 and 2016-2018), each person committing to two years of study, every other week, leading to their service. Guy Appel, Ellen Asam, Elaine Stevens, and Gary Turetsky will speak as a representative of their class about what led them to make the commitment.

### **FRIDAY, March 23**

There is no service this evening due to our Nursery School's Annual *Shabbat* Dinner and Silent Auction

### **SATURDAY, March 24, at 10:00 a.m.**

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

### **FRIDAY, March 30**

There is no service this evening since it is the night of the First *Seder*. May your blessings over the *Yom Tov* and *Shabbat* candles in the midst of family and friends be especially meaningful.

### **SATURDAY, March 31**

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

**6:00 p.m.** - Second *Seder* at the synagogue (see the insert for information and reservations)

### **FRIDAY, April 6**

**10:00 a.m.** - Passover - *Yizkor* Service (see page 14)

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat* Service when our Grade 5 students will make a presentation about the Temple in Jerusalem; preceded by a 6:45 p.m. BYOD

### **SATURDAY, April 7**

**10:00 a.m.** - *Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue; the *dvar Torah* will be given by Carol Nemeroff

**5:30 p.m.** - *Bat Mitzvah* of Emily Miles (see page 9)

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Eleven years ago, members of Kol Ami and the *Hazon* CSA created a Kol Ami *Tu B'Shvat Seder*, hoping to mark this ritual that dates back at least to the early 1700s. Twenty of us sat around the board room table and prepared a celebratory meal with four cups of wine and three categories of fruit, to contemplate our connections to both the physical world and to various mystical spiritual realms. What a fabulous way, I thought, to honor *Tu B'Shvat* (trees) the coming spring season and all things environmental!

Fast forward to this year's celebration with over 90 intergenerational participants. It was led by Neal Beatus, our fifth-grade Religious School teacher, and his engaged and enthusiastic students. To the mystics who devised the first *Tu B'Shvat Seders*, trees were mostly a metaphor for the flow of divine energy and presence and a way to relate to and sustain the natural world that surrounds us. There definitely was a sense of the divine at our *Seder*.

This year for me is not only a “new year” for the trees, but for all of us. As I read along with the student-led passages and poems, I could imagine the cold of winter behind us and spring just a blink away. The continuity that nature brings us is part of our calendar of celebrations, milestones, program and budget deadlines, and fiduciary responsibilities. Our founding rabbi will be ending his leadership as we know it, and a new rabbi will lead us in ways that we cannot yet envision. My leadership and select members of the Board of Trustees and committee chairs will pass the baton on to new leaders to strengthen our intimate and dynamic community. This is the time the sap begins to flow upwards and the trees begin to drink and come alive — and so do we. We cherish our roots as we lift our faces up to the sunshine. We find joy in the sprouts breaking through our soil and the color that will soon surround us. So many possibilities can blossom to fruition intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, etc.

How fabulous to think of all that is in front of us; read on through these pages. You will read heart-warming impressions and meanings gained by *Tu B'Shvat* participants. You will also read the comments of our students impacted by

*continued next page*



It was a full house at the *Tu B'Shvat Seder* held on January 28, when the attendees had their appetites satisfied with not only the symbolic fruit, nuts, and other delectables, but also with inspirational music and special fellowship. See page 11 for more details.

# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin



God, You create such masterpieces on high.  
Could You help us out a bit more here?

*Shalom u'vrachah*  
Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER (continued from previous page)

their attendance in January, in Washington, DC, at *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar hosted by the Religious Action Center (RAC). They were inspired by the social justice programs and are finding more ways to get involved, to be a Jewish voice and participate in public policy and *tikun olam*. These are just a few timely examples of the very best of life itself, diving deeper into Jewish values and becoming more Jewishly connected and what a blessing it is to provide meaningful experiences for loved ones.

In addition to leaving the cold, icy days behind us and embracing the warmth of a new season we must take note of our upcoming Celebratory *Shabbats* and the May 12 evening to celebrate Rabbi Holin. We have much to be thankful for as we carry the warmth of his legacy into our future.

I leave you with one last quote from our *Tu B'Shvat Seder*: "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best is now."

We are all roots and branches of the New Year, and I thank you for your strength, dedication, and friendship,

Shelley Chamberlain ■

## WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued page 2)

### FRIDAY, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

"Celebration and Continuity" is an appropriate theme for a wedding and, at our *erev Shabbat* Service, we welcome couples with whom Rabbi Holin has stood under their *chuppah*! Stewart and Sally Eisenberg, William Hyman and Janine Pratt, and Jane Tausig and Abby Binder will speak about their journey toward marriage and beyond on an evening of "Second-Friday" blessings when we will also celebrate April birthday and anniversary blessings under the *tallit* and with the voices of our Adult Choir.

### SATURDAY, April 14, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

### FRIDAY, April 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!

**7:30 p.m.** - Interfaith Dialogue Relationship *erev Shabbat* Service as we rejoice with our interfaith couples and families who are an integral part of our Kol Ami community

### SATURDAY, April 21, at 10:00 a.m.

*Bat Mitzvah* of Eliana Warsaw  
(see page 9)

### SUNDAY, April 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Healing Service

### FRIDAY, April 27, at 7:30 p.m.

*erev Shabbat* Service

### SATURDAY, April 28, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service to celebrate the 48th anniversary of Earth Day, when events are held worldwide in almost 200 countries to demonstrate support for environmental protection

### FRIDAY, May 4, at 7:30 p.m.

*Klezmer erev Shabbat* Service featuring Dan Blacksberg on trombone and Robert Blacksberg on clarinet, along with our Adult Choir

### SATURDAY, May 5, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

**Samuel Appel**

*uncle of Guy (Karol) Appel*

**Ruth Gabel**

*mother of Barbara (Steven) Sklar  
grandmother of Elizabeth, David, and  
Jennifer*

**Barbara Goleman**

*sister-in-law of Janet Felgoise*

**Denny Griffiths**

*cousin of William (Betty) Shapiro*

**Carmela Makaros**

*aunt of Orly (Gabriel) Maravankin*

**Edwin Silverman**

*grandfather of Erica (Andrew) Douglas  
great-grandfather of Amber*

**Adam Soto**

*brother-in-law of Joel (Rebecca) Schwartz*

**Maurice Turetsky**

*brother of Alvin Turetsky  
uncle of Gary (Cheryl) Turetsky*

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

## MAZAL TOV

Congratulations go to:

- **Adam Fishbein** for being appointed Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance
- **Eric Gonzalez** and **Rosalind Holtzman** on the announcement of the engagement of their daughter, Marina, to Steven Shenkman
- **Benjamin Long** on the occasion of his marriage to Beth Packel on December 31, 2017. Ben is the father of Emma and Zoe, and the son of David and Patty Ann Long. ■

### Educational Opportunities

## 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.

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

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

Instructor: Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom



When we lift the *Torah* and say, “This is the *Torah* which Moses placed before the People Israel, at the mouth of God by the hand of Moses,” most of us do not take it literally.

In that case, what claim does it have on our lives? Why should we focus on *Torah* and not on some other moral or spiritual tract? There may be no definitive answers to these questions, but they are at the heart of liberal Judaism, and we will reflect together about these issues in relation to our beliefs regarding “Divine revelation.”

### Peeling Back Layers of Meaning in Sacred Texts

Thursday, April 12, 19 & 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Carol Nemeroff

Hebrew
פְּשָׁט
רֵמֶז
דְּרָשׁ
סוּד

Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of sacred texts using PaRDeS, a four-layer approach to reading *Torah*. It includes:

- *Pshat*, the literal meaning;
- *Remez*, deep allegorical meaning;
- *Derash*, the interpretive or comparative meaning; and
- *Sod*, the mystery or mystical meaning.

Participants will engage in study in pairs.

RSVP by April 1.

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STUDY AT THE *SHUL* (continued from previous page)

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

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

Instructor: Ira Cooperman



Espionage! The Mossad does it and so does a Israeli clandestine military group called "Unit 8200."

This course will uncover the secret tradecraft practiced by these Israeli agencies, as well as the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency.

We'll discuss their relations with other intelligence agencies, including the CIA, over the past 70 years of Israel's existence. In the interest of full disclosure, the instructor, a former American intelligence officer, once had a brief

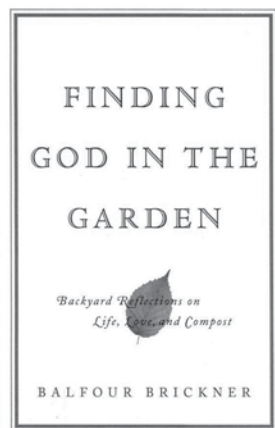
encounter with a member of the Mossad!

RSVP by April 25.

## Judaism in Nature

Sundays, May 13 and June 3 & 10 at 1:00 p.m. (Off-site)

Instructor: Carol Nemeroff



This class will take place outdoors and will involve gentle hiking in different locations.

Two books, Finding God in the Garden and Wild Faith, will serve as resources for participants to reconnect with the wonder in our natural world and our Jewish roots in the wilderness.

A variety of exercises in natural settings will enhance our experiences.

RSVP by May 5. ■

## TORAH & HAFTARAH

**March 3** – *Kee Tisa*

Exodus 30:11-34:35, I Kings 18:1-39

**March 10** – *Vayakbel-Pekudei*

Exodus 35:1-40:38, Ezekiel 36:16-38

**March 17** – *Vayikra*

Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

**March 24** – *Tzav*

Leviticus 6:1-8:36, Malachi 3:4-24

**March 31** – *Chol haMoed Pesach*

Exodus 12:21-51

Joshua 3:5-7, 5:2-6:1, 6-27

**April 7** – *Chol haMoed Pesach*

Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

Isaiah 10:32-12:6

**April 14** – *Shemini*

Leviticus 9:1-11:47, I Samuel 20:18-42

**April 21** – *Tazria-Metzora*

Leviticus 12:1-15:33, II Kings 7:3-20

**April 28** – *Acharei Mote-Kedoshim*

Leviticus 16:1-20:27, Amos 9:7-15 ■

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Caring Congregants Committee**

Tuesday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m.

**Inclusion – LGBTQ Initiative**

Monday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m.

**Interfaith Relationship Committee**

Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry

**Membership Committee**

Sunday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.

**Operations Committee**

Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m.

**Social Action Committee**

Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m.

**Spiritual Growth Group**

Monday, March 19 and April 16,  
at 7:00 p.m.

**Worship Enhancement Committee**

Sunday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m. ■

# KOL AMI CONFIRMATION ACADEMY TEENS ATTEND *L'TAKEN* SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

In early January, Kol Ami sent a delegation of Confirmation Academy teens to Washington, DC, to represent our congregation at the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar. In partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), *L'Taken* teens had the opportunity to impact our country and share their views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill.

*L'Taken* is designed to both expose teens to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues. This year's teen representatives were: Aaron Blower, Emma Fishbein, Ethan Kovnat, and Noah Stern. The following paragraphs, written by some of our teens, convey their experiences from this exciting weekend in our nation's capital.

**Ethan Kovnat:** The Jewish people have had a long history of striving towards social justice ever since Moses first said, "Let my people go!" While these efforts have taken many forms over the past 5,000 years, a strong belief in equity and equality have always been a cornerstone of Jewish

ethics. The *L'Taken* program is one of many manifestations of this cultural imperative, and it is one that I am proud to have taken part in.

When I first decided to attend the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar, I was not sure what to expect. I knew that we would be attending programs and lectures on timely social issues and learning the Jewish perspective, as well as the Reform Movement's position, on them. And, of course, I knew that we would be lobbying Congress. Otherwise, I had no idea about the experience I was in for.

As it turned out, *L'Taken* felt a lot like my time at URJ Camp Harlam. While the educational aspects of the program were important, I found that the social aspects of the program had a much greater impact. Over the course of those four days, I had the wonderful opportunity to get to know many of the other individuals participating in the program. Not only did I become better acquainted with my classmates from Kol Ami and with the group that joined us from Beth Am, but I also met many other like-minded people from all across the country.

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## KOL AMI TEENS VISIT CAPITAL (continued from previous page)

BELOW: Emma Fishbein, Ethan Kovnat, Aaron Blower, and Noah Stern attended the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar in DC.



After having interacted with so many people from our larger Jewish community, I feel more connected to the Reform Movement and to American Judaism as a whole than I ever have. Ultimately, the *L'Taken* program was a fantastic experience, and I am deeply grateful to our synagogue for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

**Noah Stern:** The *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar was a very new experience for me. Firstly, all of the students were given a very long leash from the start. During free periods in places like Georgetown and Pentagon Row, students were allowed to form groups and go to dinner wherever they wanted. It was a very fun experience.

Rather than subject everyone to the same events, we were able to choose issues that held meaning for us and attend a seminar based around that issue. The seminars themselves were slightly lacking in most areas but still provided a good learning experience on the topics at hand. These events were all in preparation for a speech about a topic of our choice that we would deliver to our representatives in Congress in hopes that they would support preferred pieces of legislation.

I chose to write my speech in support of climate change legislation. The students were split up into groups based on their senators and district representatives. Then, they were further split into groups who wrote about the same topic. I was put into a group of three, and we collaborated on one speech. It was a very interesting experience being able to work with people that I would never have talked to previously.

On the day of our meetings with Congress, the Philadelphia group stayed together and went around to the Senate and Representatives' offices to deliver our speeches. Of course, our officials work for us, but the offices were surprisingly approachable and much less exclusive than I had imagined. It was common for most groups to deliver speeches to various secretaries because the Congressmen and women were usually out of town on other responsibilities. They were all very nice and eager to hear what we had to say. We were assured that our issues would be directly told to the congressmen.

Overall, it really did feel like our input mattered and that we may have a chance to influence our representatives' opinions and votes in the future. ■

## 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 CLOSSES 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  
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**Website:** [www.kolamielkinspark.org](http://www.kolamielkinspark.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

## BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month (e.g., by April 5 for the May/June issue) to **Janet Falon** at [jfalon@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jfalon@english.upenn.edu). Articles may be edited as needed. ■



## BAR MITZVAH OF ISAAC MIXON

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, AT 10:00 A.M.



Isaac is in the seventh grade at Jenkin-town 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 extracurricular 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,” he says. “I like eating *challah* and lighting the *Shabbat* candles together with my family and friends. 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 on 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.

“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 through 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 Feerman, and his brother, Benjamin, a student in our Religious School.

## BAR MITZVAH OF TYLER WEISS

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, AT 10:00 A.M.



Tyler is in the seventh grade at Pennbrook Middle School. His favorite subjects are Social Studies and Math. He enjoys Social Studies because of the classroom conversations, and Math because when he solves difficult problems he feels good about himself. His extracurricular activities are soccer and basketball, and reading.

“A particularly powerful and insightful Jewish experience occurred on my first day of Hebrew school,” he says. “At my regular school, hardly anyone is Jewish. It made me feel excluded and different. Then on the first day of Hebrew school, I saw there are so many more people like me than I ever knew! Going to Hebrew School has helped me teach people at my regular school about the Jewish community, religion, language, and what we believe in. It opened a new chapter in my life, one that I can be proud of and teach other people about.

“My two favorite prayers are the *Avote v’Imahote* and the *Gevurote*. It says that we must honor the people who were the forebears of our religion – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah – and I can apply the words to my life by honoring my parents, teachers, coaches and leaders.

“The *Gevurote* is about redemption and I think it is saying, ‘G-d, You are the one Who inspires us to do what we do every day, the one Who saves us from doubting ourselves, the one Who saved us from people who wanted to hurt us.’ I can apply these words to my life by inspiring people younger than me to do what they do best, to save people from making wrong decisions, and to help inspire kids to follow their dreams.

“One of the most powerful, insightful, and transforming events in my life occurs when I go into Philadelphia because I realize that not all places in the world are as nice

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## **BAR/BAT MITZVAHS** (continued from previous page)

as my hometown, and also because I realize that some people do not have money to take care of themselves. I had known about it, but it was just not the same as seeing it in person. I knew that there would be homeless people and trash everywhere, but when I saw it in person, it was much worse than I thought. I saw people in wheelchairs who had few clothes, and people sleeping on sidewalks. This changed the way I think about the world. "I started saying 'Thank you' for every meal I had, getting involved in school charity events, and being more grateful for what I have because I know that some people do not have much. I started wanting to do even more to help people who can't fend for themselves.

"I chose to read from the Book of Exodus, chapter 36, verses 25 through 38, because of the descriptions about how the Tent of Meeting in the wilderness was constructed with pinpoint accuracy. This stood out to me because the Jewish people were in the desert and had to put their utmost effort just to survive, and yet they put extra work into building something sacred that had to be perfect. The verses also stood out to me because of what the people brought to construct the Tabernacle, giving their gold earrings, rings, and brooches; yarn of blue, purple, and crimson as well as fine linen, goat hair, gold, silver, and copper. They gave it all to build the Tabernacle.

"We can apply these verses and their lessons to our lives because goals are not just something we should aspire to achieve, but they are there to be accomplished."

We congratulate Tyler's parents, Brian and Valerie, and his sister, Hannah, a student in our Religious School.

## **BAT MITZVAH OF EMILY MILES**

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, AT 5:30 P.M.



Emily is in the seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. Her favorite subject is Math because her teacher really understands the way she learns, and she likes to figure things out. She is in a group at school called TADA that engages in fun activities. Outside of school she loves to dance, sing, or re-enact dance videos.

Through our Religious School, Emily and her family volunteer time to the Stop Hunger Program, and for her *Mitzvah* Project, she is gathering supplies for Main Line Animal Rescue in Chester Springs, a no-kill animal shelter. She will continue to collect needed items and donations from her friends here and in her secular school as well.

"I enjoy being Jewish because I can let people know more about our faith than they do. There are so many things people think about Jewish people that are not true. Some people say that Jewish people cannot listen to rap, and I do. Some people think all Jewish people are rich, but there are Jewish people of all economic levels. Some people think Jewish people don't celebrate Halloween, but many do.

"An instructive Jewish experience has been time I spent volunteering with the residents at the Abramson Center for Jewish Living in Ambler. It has been an opportunity for me to develop skills, like getting more comfortable having conversations with elders. I enjoyed dancing for them, with them, and I gave one of them a stuffed animal and she started crying. I think she was so moved because perhaps she was reminded of her own children and grandchildren whom she may not see that often.

"Transforming experiences occur when I travel and have the opportunity to see lots of things. One of the exciting things is diversity. When we were in London, I noticed all kinds of people, including Orthodox Jews, Muslim families, and people of all different ethnicities. While traveling in Costa Rica, I had the opportunity to visit with local families in their homes and see how different cultures live.

"The verses that I will chant from the *Torah* are a special reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 16, that are recited on the weekend during Passover, and they talk about how much we have gone through as Jews. If you think about it, we have life so easy now in comparison to the time that we were slaves."

We congratulate Emily's parents, Sherry Cohen and John Miles, and her sister, Lily, who celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* at Kol Ami in June 2015.

## **BAT MITZVAH OF ELIANA WARSAW**

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, AT 10:00 A.M.



Eliana is in the seventh grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. Her favorite subject is English because she loves writing and being creative. She also enjoys sharing her opinions and hearing others do the same.

Her volunteer time is devoted to Stop Hunger Now. Her *Mitzvah* Project is at Forgotten Cats, a local animal rescue no-kill shelter, where she has learned that "making a small difference is an important difference. If every person did something to help out, it would make a big difference." Her goal is to get cats adopted into homes and provide them with comfort and care before they find those homes.

*continued page 10*

"I am proud to be Jewish because of one of the most important values Judaism teaches us: to treat everyone with respect. Judaism also stresses the importance of learning. It also teaches us to give back. All the lessons Judaism teaches made me proud to be Jewish.

"I enjoy the communal aspect of being Jewish. I have made many friends by participating in activities here at Kol Ami. I especially like to participate in our congregation's *Mitzvah* projects. I enjoy being part of the smaller community at Kol Ami, and I also like being part of the larger Jewish community because it connects me to many other people who are Jewish, which is special.

"The *Yotzer* and the *Avote v'Imahote* are two of my favorite prayers because they make me feel connected to Judaism. The *Yotzer* talks about creation. It says that everything is created thanks to G-d. It is important to me to appreciate all that is around me and to pay attention to the smaller things.

"The *Avote v'Imahote* speaks about our historic ancestors, the matriarchs and the patriarchs, and it reminds me that I am just a small part of something so much larger. It talks about how we are children of G-d and so were our ancestors. It is the part of the service that enables us to honor those who came before us. It is important for me to remember that I am only here today because of my ancestors.

"While preparing for my *Bat Mitzvah*, I learned that it is not just about becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*, it is about growing. I have grown as a person and my knowledge of Judaism has expanded. I have also discovered that I can accomplish more than I thought I could if I put in the effort to improve. Despite not believing that I would be able to learn my *Torah* verses, I became more confident in my abilities.

"I will be chanting from the Book of Leviticus, chapter 12, verses 1 through 8, and chapter 13, verses 9 through 12, because there were things in it that I wanted to learn more about, and these were the verses that I found to be the most interesting. They talk about protecting the community and being compassionate. If someone had leprosy, they were sent outside the camp for the well-being of the community so that they could heal. The verses talk about how a cause of leprosy might be the result of talking ill of others. Knowing you have done something wrong causes guilt and that could make you feel stressed, affecting your physical appearance. In our lives, it is important to protect those around us. We have to be aware of them. Gossiping does not do anyone any good, so we should always try our best to avoid it."

We congratulate Eliana's parents, Jeff and Robin, and her brother, Jonathan, who celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* at Kol Ami in March 2015 and is a student in our Confirmation Academy. ■

## PA ATTORNEY GENERAL VISITS KOL AMI

Below is esteemed elder Ellen Stern, showing her support to AG Josh Shapiro at the January 21 presentation on "What Israel Means to Me" in honor of Israel's 70th Birthday. Further below is David Hyman with AG Shapiro, who has a national reputation as a rising, progressive leader and bipartisan consensus builder. ■



## KUDOS TO MAGEN DAVID ADOM, THE AMBULANCE SERVICE IN ISRAEL – AND LET’S SUPPORT THEM

by Jeff Cohen

I so often hear stories where a cause previously not considered becomes meaningful because of a surprising interaction. When it comes to the ambulance service in Israel, Magen David Adom, we might read about their heroics in the aftermath of a terrible accident or attack, but it is easy to take it for granted. Those of us who attended the recent Israel tour late last year have a story to share with you, as that ambulance service is no longer one that we take for granted.

On the first full day of our congregation’s 10-day adult trip to Israel, our group set off on a short bicycle ride. Within a few meters, while trying to stop on a slope, Ellen put out her left leg and the impact caused her to fall from the bike. Her helmet protected her head yet under Dr. Eric Gonzalez’s watchful touch, it was immediately clear that this was a serious injury to her leg, and that a taxi would not do: An ambulance was called.

If you have ever had to wait for an ambulance, you learned that Einstein was right and time is relative. With my wife on the ground, time moved oh-so slowly. Yet within 10 minutes, the ambulance pulled onto the promenade and out came two nice older gentlemen and with help from Dr. Ronit Sugar and others in our group, Ellen was in the ambulance and gently transported to the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center about 10 minutes away. Our driver took care to be sure Ellen’s information was entered correctly into their on-board system so the hospital could quickly admit her and he came back twice during Ellen’s time in the emergency room to check on her. Within two hours, Ellen’s serious fracture had been reduced and stabilized. Had the ambulance not been there...well, I’d rather not think about that.

Now we all have the opportunity to support this service, too. With kudos to the Kehillah of Old York Road and in honor of Israel’s 70th birthday this May, we can participate in a campaign to raise money to purchase a new ambulance for Magen David Adom. Built in the US, this ambulance helps Magen David Adom provide urgent care to all in need. It’s easy for Ellen and me to make a contribution, and we did. We hope our story will encourage you to do the same. Simply go to <https://afmda.org/kehillah/> and safely make a one-time or monthly tax-free contribution to this campaign. *Toda Raba!* ■

## CONGRESSMAN BOYLE SPEAKS (continued from page 1)

Congressman Boyle is considered one of the strongest supporters of the State of Israel in Congress, fighting for full funding for annual security assistance so Israel can defend itself from its adversaries. During his time in Harrisburg, Boyle introduced and passed legislation that requires the teaching of the Holocaust in Pennsylvania public schools. To follow up on that effort in Congress, he introduced H.Res.276, a bipartisan resolution of congressional support to encourage the inclusion of Holocaust education in public school curricula across the country. Additionally, Congressman Boyle has worked on a bipartisan basis to oppose the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks to stigmatize, delegitimize and isolate Israel. He also is a member of the Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism. On the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Boyle currently serves on the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade. ■

## TU B’SHVAT SEDER: CSA DIG’IN

The *Tu B’Shtvat Seder* held on January 28 was very special and meaningful. Here are some comments by attendees:

“The evening was so much fun. Thanks to all the people who prepared food. It was all so delicious! And thanks to Rebecca whose music is always so beautiful.”

“This year’s *Seder* made clear what a great teacher looks like. You could see the deep connection the students had with Neal Beatus and his ability to tell a story with a moral was a highlight. We were a diverse group revealing in the bounty of the earth, and of our families and children.”

## HOW TO PLANT A TREE

an excerpt from a poem by Janet Falon

Dig a hole, two or three times the width of the root ball.  
Be optimistic.

Assume it will take, and flourish.

Things usually thrive if you give them enough space

And believe in their potential.

So do people.

Place the tree; turn it so the best side of the tree is facing  
the direction you want.

Make sure it gets enough sun.

Assume it will absorb what it needs.

Things usually grow if you point them towards a source  
of nurture.

And if you show them how to receive it, and encourage them.  
So do people. ■

# Kol Ami Events

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## MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

*erev Shabbat*, Fridays, March 9 and April 13 at 7:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March or April, please join us at our “Second-Friday” *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*.

## 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 and April 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.

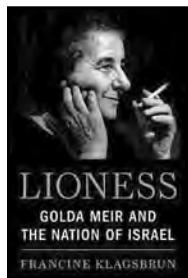
Directions to SHARE: Route 1 South to Fox Street exit. At top of the exit, turn left onto Fox Street. Follow Fox Street to Hunting Park Avenue (about three lights), then turn right. Take Hunting Park to 29th Street. Turn right into the SHARE parking lot.

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

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

## BOOK REVIEW WITH BEVERLY ROSEN

A review of Francine Klagsbrun's new book at our *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.

## WRITE YOUR OWN READINGS FOR THE PASSOVER SEDER

Monday, March 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

You're invited to join Janet Falon and the Spiritual Growth Group in a variety of writing exercises to create your own readings for inclusion in the Passover *Seder*. NO WRITING EXPERIENCE OR EXPERTISE IS NECESSARY. You do not need to be a member of the Spiritual Growth Group to attend, and this is also open for kids, from age 12 and up. Please let Janet know if you'd like to attend so she can plan properly, or if you have any questions about this program, at 215-635-1698 or [janetfalon@gmail.com](mailto:janetfalon@gmail.com).

## CALLING ALL SOFTBALL PLAYERS!



The Kol Ami softball team - AKA the “Kol Amigos” - seeks new players who wish to take to the diamond on behalf of the congregation. Join us as we square off against other area congregations in the Delaware Valley Softball League. The season runs from mid-April through July, with one game each week on Monday through Thursday evenings. Experience and ability are always desirable, but not required. To sign up, or if you want more information, contact team captain Jonathan Shandell at [jonathan.shandell@aya.yale.edu](mailto:jonathan.shandell@aya.yale.edu).

*continued next page*



## "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** ■



### 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.

### 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](mailto:oyrkehillah@gmail.com)



## EARLY LEARNING CENTER ANNUAL EREV SHABBAT DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Friday, March 23, at 6:45 p.m.



We need your help with this ELC-sponsored event. Here's how: Donate items to be auctioned—gift certificates, museum tickets, art items, etc. Please contact Sheri Cutler at 215-635-4180 if you have any questions.

## LOCA TRIVIAL PURSUIT PARTY

**Saturday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cheryl and Gary Turetsky in Huntington Valley**

Looking for a fun-filled evening to take you away from dreary weather and repetitive TV news? Bring a member friend, partner, MOCA, or yourself!

We will get into random teams to see who best remembers the trivia of the day in a fun way. No expertise or experience needed. We will also have for you dessert, coffee, and tea. Please RSVP by or before March 9 by calling 267-210-9981 or e-mailing [cherylgt@gmail.com](mailto:cherylgt@gmail.com) to let us know you will be attending!

## CARING CONGREGANTS BOTH HELP—AND NEED HELPERS

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](mailto:LindaSGeorge@gmail.com), or Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994 or [gershlaw@comcast.net](mailto:gershlaw@comcast.net), Committee co-chairs.

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## PASSOVER-YIZKOR SERVICE

Friday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m.



The *Yizkor*-Memorial service that immediately comes to mind occurs on *Yom Kippur*, and yet there are three other dates of observance on the Jewish calendar: *Simchat Torah*, *Pesach*, and *Shavuot*.

*Yizkor*, from the Hebrew verb “to remember,” is observed throughout the first year following the death of a loved one, traditionally a parent, sibling, spouse, or child.

It is believed that *mitzvot* performed by loved ones help the souls of the departed on their way to the *olam ha’ba*, “the world to come.” One *mitzvah* is committing *tzedakah* funds to help people in need, and since the *Torah* reading on the last day of the pilgrimage festivals mentions the importance of doing so, *Yizkor* was added to these holy day services as well.

## LOCA DINNER AT MARCO POLO

Friday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us for dinner at Marco Polo followed by *erev Shabbat* Service. Both LOCAs and MOCAs are welcome. Contact Joan Greenberg—greenbe53@gmail.com or 215-530-1166—so she can make dinner reservations.

## LOCA ROSH HODESH CELEBRATION

Sunday, April 15, at 12:15 p.m. at the home of Carol Nemeroff in Huntington Valley

LOCA is sponsoring a *Rosh Hodesh* celebration and potluck luncheon, commemorating the New Moon, traditionally a women’s holiday in Judaism. Please RSVP to Carol Nemeroff via e-mail to carolnemeroff@yahoo.com if you plan to join us.

## HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, April 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Our tradition offers moving and powerful prayers for loved ones in hospitals, recovering at home, or in hospice care, and for ourselves as well: healers who are in need of healing, and those in mourning. This brief worship service includes the *MiShebbeirach* (“May the Holy One Who blesses...”) prayer as well as the hope that we will find *menuchah* (“tranquility”) within ourselves during trying times.

## FASTS IN THIS MONTH AND NEXT



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. NATAL also reaches out to families and relatives of victims and bereaved families through on-site counseling, a national hotline, and free or subsidized psychological assistance and treatment by highly trained professionals. Forthcoming fast days to benefit NATAL will be on “first Wednesdays”: **March 7** and **April 4**.

**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. Forthcoming **Phast for Philadelphia** fast days will be on “fourth Thursdays”: **March 22** and **April 26**.

### American Friends of NATAL

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

### Unemployment Information Center

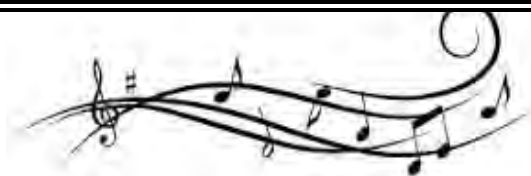
112 North Broad Street, 11th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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

## KLEZMER EREV SHABBAT

Friday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m.

This special service will feature Dan Blacksberg on trombone and Robert Blacksberg on clarinet, along with our Adult Choir. Dan Blacksberg is a trombonist, carving out new paths in both Jewish and experimental music. From performing and recording with *klezmer* musicians like Elaine Hoffman Watts and Adrienne Cooper, to experimentalists George Lewis and Anthony Braxton, his work spans from the traditional to the avant-garde and radical spaces in between. His newest album *Radiant Others* will be the first *klezmer* album to feature the trombone as the lead instrument. *continued next page*



## ***Congregation Kol Ami Members "Our House" Concert***

*In memory of Sara Chernoff, featuring The Avanti String Quartet*

*Philadelphia Orchestra members:*

***Elina Kalendarova, violin***

***Kerri Ryan, assistant principal viola***

***Kathy Read (our very own Kol Nidrei cellist)***

***Miyo Curnow, violin***



***An Evening of Classical Music***

***Sunday, April 22, 2018***

***5:00 to 7:00 p.m.***

***Congregation Kol Ami Lobby***



*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 backdrop of beautiful art by Melissa Tevere.*

***Concert begins at 5:45 p.m.***

*Please join us! There is no charge, but RSVPs are required, ensuring plenty of food for all. Don't forget -- it's BYOB!*

*RSVP by April 10 to Elaine Stevens at 215-635-3110 or [execdir@kolami.info](mailto:execdir@kolami.info).*

*Need a ride? Let Elaine know and we'll arrange!*



# DESIGNER BAG BINGO!



Benefitting Congregation Kol Ami

**APRIL 28, 2018 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 are 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

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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.**





JOIN US  
 IN CELEBRATING  
**RABBI**  
*Elliot*  
**HOLIN**  
 — MAY 12, 2018 —

Saturday, May 12, 2018 | 6:30PM

Join us as we honor and toast  
**RABBI ELLIOT HOLIN**  
 and his 24 years of leadership,  
 guidance and love to  
 Congregation Kol Ami  
 קול עמי  
 and our community.

Celebrate with us as we thank him  
 for all he has done for us and  
 wish him well as he explores  
 new spiritual journeys.

National Museum of  
 American Jewish History  
 101 South Independence Mall East  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*Invitations to be sent in early 2018*

## CONGREGATION KOL AMI RECEIVED THE 2017 HAZON SEAL OF SUSTAINABILITY!



The *Shomrei Adamah* Environmental Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that Congregation Kol Ami has earned the 2017 Hazon Seal of Sustainability, by completing a sustainability audit and implementing three tangible sustainability projects during the year. Receiving this certification signifies that our congregation, along with a cohort of over 50 Jewish organizations, is emerging as a leader in the realm of Jewish sustainability.

We are proud of this recognition of our achievement and of our ongoing commitment to sustainability; to building a stronger, healthier community; and to renewing this process for coming years.

In our renewal for 2018, Congregation Kol Ami is undertaking three additional projects for the year:

1. **Beekeeping initiative:** Continue to offer educational opportunities on Beekeeping and the Environment, and promote the placing of additional hives in our community
2. **Environmental education:** A “Judaism and Nature” course taught by Carol Nemeroff on Sunday afternoons (**May 13 and June 3 and 10**) will take place outdoors and involve gentle hiking in different locations. Two books, “Finding God in the Garden” and “Wild Faith” will serve as resources for participants to reconnect with the wonder in our natural world and our Jewish roots in the wilderness. A variety of exercises in natural settings will enhance our experiences.
3. **Religious School Mitzvah Group Project:** Part of the new multi-grade initiative in the Religious School this spring will focus on sustainability, recycling, and waste reduction.

Watch for updates and reports on these exciting activities in the coming months. ■

## A PERSONAL TOUR OF GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK FOR OUR CONGREGATION WITH TOUR GUIDE JOHN HARTZEL\*

**Sunday, June 10 - Monday, June 11: one day or both;**  
**Car caravan stopping at sites and lookout points to**  
**leisurely walk at points of interest**

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 10, FROM 10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

(Meet at a GPS rendezvous point near McPherson's Ridge)

- The McPherson's Ridge battlefield where the battle began
- The monument where General Reynolds was killed
- The Railroad Cut where the Confederate brigade under General Davis was trapped
- Oak Hill on the Confederate left flank, where the right flank of Union forces was turned, resulting in the Union retreat through the town of Gettysburg to their rallying point on Cemetery Hill
- **NOON-1:00 P.M.** - Bring pre-packed lunches and refreshments to eat and learn at the Seminary Ridge picnic area on the battlefield
- Tour of the second day's portion of the battlefield starts with General Lee's monument at the jumping off point for Pickett's Charge on Seminary Ridge
- Little Round Top and the valor of Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Chamberlain for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor
- Devil's Den
- The Wheatfield
- Trostle Farm
- Continuing with battle action on the third day at the Bloody Angle on the Union Line at Cemetery Ridge, where the few hundred survivors of Pickett's Charge slammed into the waiting Union infantry and artillery
- **4:30-5:30 P.M.** - Depending on our energy and interest, we continue on to Culp's Hill on the Union right flank that bore the brunt of the Confederate attack, the site of the longest prolonged fighting between Union and Confederate forces

**If you plan to stay overnight, make a room reservation NOW** at either of these hotels in Gettysburg, just a five-minute drive from the following morning's tour: Hilton Garden Inn (717-334-2040) or Wyndham Gettysburg (717-339-0020). Given the numerous requests for tours, rooms will be in scarce supply by April for summer months.

- **6:00 P.M.** - Dinner at a local restaurant and check in to your hotel

### **MONDAY, JUNE 11, FROM 9:30 A.M. - NOON**

- The Gettysburg National Cemetery and why the Union command selected this site as its rallying point
- See where President Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address
- Learn how soldiers came to be buried here in the few months following the battle in what became this country's first National Cemetery

### **RSVP TO ELAINE STEVENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BY MAY 25:**

- **Sunday, June 10 only: \$25/person**
- **Sunday, June 10 & Monday, June 11: \$36/person**

\*John and Donna Hartzel are friends of Rabbi Holin and were a vibrant part of our congregation's 2014 "Voices of Israel" trip to Israel. John attended Gettysburg College and has led tours at the Gettysburg National Military Park for schools, organizations, and houses of worship since the late 1990s. He is an attorney in Doylestown.

Recommended books to read in advance of the tour:

- Stars in Their Courses – The Gettysburg Campaign by Shelby Foote
- Gettysburg: The Last Invasion by Allen C. Guelzo
- Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
- In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain & The American Civil War by Alice Rains Trulock
- Lincoln at Gettysburg – The Words that Remade America by Garry Wills ■



## WELCOME MELISSA AND CIERA COHEN

Kol Ami is thrilled to welcome new members Melissa and Ciera Cohen. Melissa is Julie Cohen's sister, and Ciera is Julie's niece. Melissa, her husband Alex, and Ciera moved from Center City to Elkins Park a little over four months ago.



Ciera is a second grader at Wyncote Elementary School and a student at our Religious School.

Melissa notes that the family joined Kol Ami to engage in the community and so that Ciera could fully begin her Jewish education. Melissa adds that she is happy to spend more time with family now that they live in Elkins Park, and she appreciates the diverse community and beautiful neighborhood.

Melissa is a consultant and inventor in the toy, gift, and stationery markets for kids. She has run her own business, Majic Creative, Inc., for 17 years. Majic wonderfully complements Melissa's personal interest in children's education.

Melissa's interests include a wealth of creative pursuits and wellness activities, such as cooking (and healthy eating!), exercise, art, reading, and gardening. The new household is also home to a brand new puppy who adds even more joy to the recent move.

Like her mother, Ciera also has creative interests and talents, including singing, dancing, and music in general. She is very social and is enjoying her time in Religious School and Kol Ami's Student Choir.

According to Melissa, family and friends are a central part of their lives, and they have been happy to meet so many kind people in our congregation. Melissa and her family have not been members of a synagogue for many, many years; therefore, it is very special that they have joined our Kol Ami family. We are so happy to welcome them! ■

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Steven Brubaker
- Melissa Cohen and daughter Ciera
- Brad and Sara Cooper and children, Harris and Betsy
- Ceilia Goldberg and children, Noah, Leora, and Neil
- Scott and Rachel Goldstein and daughters, Zoe and Tessa
- Benjamin and Shari Manis and granddaughter, Charlotte
- Latham and Amy Pali and son, Logan
- Beth Porten
- Michael and Cheryl Reisbord and daughters, Brynn, Samara, and Devyn
- Ben and Karen Sanchez and daughters, Marisa and Brooke
- Anton and Brandy Shufutinsky and children, Zachary and Hannah
- Marc and Janis Solomon and daughters, Olivia and Natalie
- Alvin Turetsky ■

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Center's 4-year-olds enjoyed their very own, age-appropriate *Tu B'Shvat seder* with four cups of juice, the symbolic fruit and nuts, plus other home-made goodies. ■



## ARTIST FROM FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 26

MELISSA BORKO TEVERE



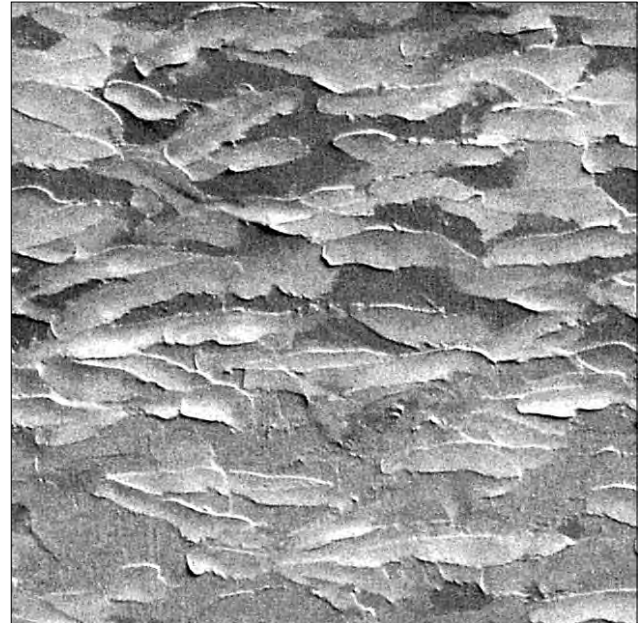
Primarily a landscapes and portrait painter, Melissa Borko Tevere graduated from Temple University's Tyler School of Art with her BFA in painting. While in her junior year, she was the recipient of a prestigious fellowship to attend Yale University's Summer School of Music and Art. For the past 25 years, Melissa has been exploring the use of light, color, shadow, and movement in an effort to evoke the "feel" of a person or a place, rather than an exact likeness or reproduction. Philadelphia Inquirer art critic Victoria Donahue has called her work "enticingly wistful".

Tevere is also a published author, the former art editor of Philadelphia Stories and the founder of MamaCita (A Mother's Cooperative in the Arts). She recently had her second book published, Extraordinary Gifts: Remarkable Women from the Delaware Valley. Her first book, Forgotten Philadelphia: Art and Writing Inspired by Philadelphia Heritage Sites was published in 2013.

Recent exhibitions include a one-person show at the Smyrna Opera House in the Spring of 2017; a group exhibition at the Devon Horse Show Fall Classic, Fall 2017; and inclusion in the winter 2017 National Juried Group Exhibition, "Small Works" at Main Street Arts in Clifton Springs, New York. ■

## ARTIST FROM MARCH 27 - MAY 14

DAVID OLESKI



David Oleski was born in 1961 in Boston, Massachusetts. His education includes Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland in 1983. He currently lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania, USA.

Oleski has found a voice in his version of an intense scrutiny of the world around him. Following in the footsteps of the 19th-century Impressionists, he began a deep exploration into increasingly fragmented views of simple still-life arrangements. He captures a sense of rhythm and atmosphere with sophisticated colors and thick and deliberate brushwork.

His newest collection of work represents an ongoing artistic evolution, shaped and distilled by the observation of light and color. For a decade, the foundation studies of traditional still life have cultivated the foundation of a departure from the rendition of an actual object; now exploring how the eye can create a composite understanding of nuances of depth and atmosphere through the substance of paint.

More information on Oleski or his works can be found on his website at [www.davidoleski.com](http://www.davidoleski.com). ■

NOTE: 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 artists' works are for sale. See Elaine Stevens if interested in purchasing a piece.



## KOL AMI MEMBER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW JOURNEYS TO ISRAEL: MAY 15 - JUNE 26

In honor of Israel's 70th birthday, the Art Committee is presenting a special exhibit. Members are invited to submit photographs that showcase their journey in Israel. Do you have treasured snapshots of a family birthday or *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* trip in Israel? Perhaps your Israel travel memories focus on the magnificent landscape. Whatever the viewpoint, this show presents the perfect opportunity to share your Israel experience with the entire Kol Ami community.

If you are interested in participating, submit three to five photos in 4x6", 5x7", or 8x10" sizes. We are also accepting a limited number of larger, framed images. Contact Elaine Stevens **by May 1** to make arrangements to drop off your photographs. If you want your photos returned, write your name on the back of each.

We invite all participants to a special *erev Shabbat* Service on Friday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss your photographs and Israel experiences. ■

## HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY SIGNS ON THE BATHROOM DOORS LATELY?



For many people, using the bathroom is not something you have to think twice about. Often we walk into the room without even realizing we looked at the sign on the door. For many transgender and gender non-conforming people, however, going to the bathroom isn't that easy, or possibly safe. In the past couple of years we have seen too many cases of people beaten or arrested for trying to do something every living being does on this planet. Because of the ignorance of others and ill-created laws, there are people who are afraid to use the bathroom.

At Congregation Kol Ami, we value our commitment to providing a safe space for people of all experiences. By placing these inclusive bathroom signs on the doors, we are delivering a small yet significant message to the transgender and gender non-conforming community that they will be safe in our facilities. On each sign, there is a symbol widely used within the transgender and gender non-conforming community that represents all genders in place of the socially normalized "male" and "female" gender symbols. Those symbols say to the community, "if you feel that this is the door you should be walking into, then you will be respected and safe on the other side." ■

## AN INFORMAL INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTERS L-G-B-T-Q AND BEYOND: FOR ALLIES AND THOSE WHO HOPE TO BE ONE SOON

**Mondays, April 23 & 30 and May 7 & 14 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Moderator: Morgan Selkirk**

The world is changing; it's growing from the seeds of the past into a budding tree of knowledge beyond the social norms of yesterday. Are you feeling confused? Maybe you want to keep up with what has been in the news, or maybe your own family and friends coming out have sparked your interest in understanding this particular community better. Have had questions in your head forever, but don't know how or where to start asking them?

Claire Fagin, nursing educator and first female interim President of the University of Pennsylvania, once said "Knowledge will bring you the opportunity to make a difference," and we'd like to bring you that opportunity. On April 23, we will begin our four-part series with "a night of questions and answers." It will serve as a judgment-free zone where everyone can ask their questions on the topic of LGBTQ inclusion/rights without ridicule. What have you always wanted to know, or haven't understood, but never thought it was appropriate or haven't had the chance to ask? This is your chance! ASK: Always Seek Knowledge.

After that first evening, we'll continue our discussion series with topics like "Language 101" - a look at terms and titles for allies, "Moments in Time" - important historical dates in the LGBTQ Rights movement, and we will cap off our series with a short film and discussion.

Come to learn and grow. Come to ask questions and get answers. Come to make a difference. Come to be an ally. ■

**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**CHANGE BEHAVIORS.**  
**CHANGE DIRECTIONS.**  
**CHANGE LIVES.**  
**CHANGE POLICIES.**  
**CHANGE VOICES.**

**BE AN ALLY.**  
**BE THE CHANGE.**

# KOL AMI MARCH 2018 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m.  <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Student Choir and Grade 6-7 Participation 7:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. - BYOD	<i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of Isaac Mixon 10:00 a.m.
4 <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m.	5 <b>Inclusion - LGBTQ Initiative Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m.	6 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.  <b>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class</b> 7:00 p.m.	7 <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	8 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Photo Day 9:30 a.m.  <b>Early Learning Center</b> Yoga 9:30 a.m.	9 <b>Early Learning Center</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rabbi Holin 10:00 a.m. "Celebration and Continuity – Choosing Judaism" on "Shabbat Across America" and "Second-Friday" <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with our Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	10 <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of Tyler Weiss 10:00 a.m.
11 <b>Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting</b> 9:30 a.m.  <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m.  <b>Social Action Committee</b> <b>SHARE Food Program</b> 1:00 p.m.	12 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Music 9:30 a.m.	13 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.  <b>Interfaith Relationship Dialogue</b> 7:30 p.m. Home of Joel Edelstein and Betsy McKinstry  <b>Operations Committee Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m.	14 <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	15	16 <b>Early Learning Center</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. "Fun-for-Kids" <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 6:00 p.m.  <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with guest speaker Beverly Rosen 7:30 p.m.	17 "Celebration and Continuity – <i>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah</i> " <i>Shabbat</i> Service 10:00 a.m.
18 <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. – Passover Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m.	19 <b>Spiritual Growth Group Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m.	20 <b>Early Learning Center</b> 9:30 a.m. - Fitness	21 <b>Religious School</b> 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	22 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Yoga 9:30 a.m.	23 <b>Early Learning Center</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m.  <b>No <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service</b>  <b>Early Learning Center</b> <i>erev Shabbat</i> Dinner and Silent Auction 6:45 p.m.	24 <i>Shabbat</i> Service and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue with Carol Nemeroff giving the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m.  <b>LOCA Trivial Pursuit Party</b> 7:00 p.m. Home of Cheryl and Gary Turetsky
25 <b>Religious School</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	26 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Music 9:30 a.m.  <b>Congressman Brendan Boyle</b> 7:00 p.m.	27 <b>Early Learning Center</b> Fitness 9:30 a.m.  <b>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class</b> 7:00 p.m.	28 <b>Religious School</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	29	30 <b>Early Learning Center</b> <i>Seder</i> with Rabbi Holin 11:00 a.m.  <b>No <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service - First Seder</b>	31 <i>Shabbat</i> Service and <i>Torah</i> Dialogue 10:00 a.m.  <b>Congregation Second Seder</b> 6:00 p.m.

# KOL AMI **APRIL 2018** AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Religious School <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <b>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>6</b> Early Learning Center <b>CLOSED</b> <b>Passover-Yizkor Service</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>erev Shabbat Service with Grade 5 participation</b> 7:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - BYOD	<b>7</b> <b>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue with Carol Nemeroff giving the dvar Torah</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Bat Mitzvah of Emily Miles</b> 5:30 p.m.
<b>8</b> <b>Membership Committee Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. – Grade K-2 to Abramson Center 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m. <b>Social Action Committee SHARE Food Program</b> 1:00 p.m.	<b>9</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>10</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <b>Caring Congregants Committee Meeting</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. <b>"Study at the Shul" for Adults with Carol Nemeroff</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holin</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>LOCA Dinner at Marco Polo</b> 5:30 p.m. <b>"Celebration and Continuity – Couples Married by the Rabbi" and "Second-Friday" erev Shabbat Service with our Adult Choir</b> 7:30 p.m..	<b>14</b> <b>Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</b> 10:00 a.m.
<b>15</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 10:00 a.m. - Gr 3&4 Family Education Program 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m. <b>LOCA Rosh Hodesh Program</b> 12:15 p.m.	<b>16</b> <b>Spiritual Growth Group Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Social Action Committee Meeting</b> 7:30 p.m.	<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. <b>"Study at the Shul" for Adults with Carol Nemeroff</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service with Rebecca Schwartz</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>"Fun-for-Kids" erev Shabbat Service</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>"Interfaith Relationship" erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> <b>Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Warsaw</b> 10:00 a.m.
<b>22 EARTH DAY</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Adult Choir Rehearsal</b> 10:25 a.m. <b>Healing Service</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>"Our House" Concert</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>23</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. <b>Adult Education LGBTQ 4-Part Series</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>24</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <b>Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>26</b> <b>"Study at the Shul" for Adults with Carol Nemeroff</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> Early Learning Center <b>erev Shabbat Service with David Monblatt</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>erev Shabbat Service</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> <b>"Earth Day Appreciation" Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Designer Bag Bingo</b> 7:00 p.m.
<b>29</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon <b>"Celebration and Continuity – Interfaith Family Barbeque"</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> <b>Adult Education LGBTQ 4-Part Series</b> 7:30 p.m.					

# Kol Ami Contributions

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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.

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of:

**Neal Beatus**

*Joel Edelstein*

**Rabbi Howard Bogot**

*Joel Edelstein*

**Ira Cooperman**

*Joel Edelstein*

**Music of Howard Miller**

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*Ira Cooperman*

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*Carole Meyers*

*Betty Shapiro*

In Honor of:

**Rebecca Schwartz**

*Joel Edelstein*

*Linda Katz*

**Fran Surkin**

*Joel Edelstein*

In Memory of:

**Robert Miles**

*Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein*

**My father, Alan F. Wohlstetter,  
and the role of Rebecca Schwartz  
and David Hyman in leading a  
beautiful *Shivah* service**

*Alan F. Wohlstetter, Jr.*

## ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Ira Adelman**

*Ira and Robin Adelman*

**Special birthday of Bruce Asam**

*Bruce and Ellen Asam*

**Special birthday of Raymond Grenald**

*Raymond and Elizabeth Grenald*

**Special birthday of Cary Mazer**

*Cary Mazer and Janet Falon*

In Memory of:

**Steven Isaacman**

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*Guy and Karol Appel*

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In Honor of:

**Rabbi Holin in appreciation  
of his leadership**

*Joel Edelstein*

**Merle Salkin for organizing the  
mural arts program for LOCA**

*Alan and Elaine Gershenson*

**Our special anniversary**

*Paul and Mindy Levy*

**The birthday of Vera Weissman**

*Sandie Weissman*

**The birth of our granddaughter,  
Harper Vita Western**

*Paul and Mindy Levy*

In Memory of:

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