

CONGREGATION
Kol Ami
VOICE OF MY PEOPLE

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Klezmer erev Shabbat Service with
“First-Friday” blessings under the
tallit for everyone celebrating an
anniversary or birthday this month
and the voices of our Adult Choir

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

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue

FRIDAY, May 11, at 8:00 p.m.

“Honoring-Our-Volunteers”
erev Shabbat Service; preceded by a
wine-and-cheese social at 7:00 p.m.
(see page 6)

SATURDAY, May 12, at 10:00 a.m.

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

FRIDAY, May 18, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service when our Grade
3 and 4 students will speak about the
importance of the Ten Command-
ments and we will rejoice through
the voices of our Student Choir;
preceded by a 6:15 p.m. BYO dinner

SATURDAY, May 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Join Rabbi Holin at his last *Shabbat*
Service and *Torah* Dialogue

SUNDAY, May 20

10:00 a.m. - *Shavuot-Yizkor* Service
(see page 6)

4:00 p.m. - *Shavuot*-Confirmation
Service to celebrate our 21st 10th-
Grade Confirmation Class through a
creative service written by them for
this special occasion

continued page 2

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 21ST CONFIRMATION CLASS

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018 AT 4:00 P.M.
SHAVUOT, 6TH OF SIVAN 5778



We will rejoice with the following students and their families at a creative
service that includes the students' own thoughtful writings:

Confirmands

Aaron Blower Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen
Ila Charendoff Steven and Amy Charendoff and
Meg and Eric Pritchard

Parents

Emma Fishbein Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein
Benjamin Goldstone Richard and Jill Goldstone
Ethan Kovnat Paul and Ellen Kovnat
Noah Stern Joshua and Kimberly Stern
Jonathan Warsaw Jeffrey and Robin Warsaw ■

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 6, AT 10:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 1)

FRIDAY, May 25, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with Ira Cooperman who will speak in memory of military veterans and others this Memorial Day Weekend (see page 6)

FRIDAY, June 1, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

“Words of Gratitude” *erev Shabbat* Service: Rabbi Holin’s final sermon on an evening of “Second-Friday” blessings under the *tallit* for everyone celebrating an anniversary or birthday this month and the voices of our Adult Choir

FRIDAY, June 15

erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow 5:45 p.m. - Bring your own dinner and blankets or comfortable soccer-style (foldable) chairs

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

SATURDAY, June 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Our fourth adult *Bnai Mitzvah* class: A service celebrating the completion of two years of study (2016-2018) with Rabbi Holin and Rosalind Holtzman. Rejoice with us as Sarah Barrett, Shelley Chamberlain, Meryle Gurmankin, Linda Jacobs, Lisa Landau, Jane Katzer Pace, Deborah Poppel, Jack Selkirk, and Gary Turetsky lead us in worship and are called to the *Torah*

FRIDAY, June 22

“Pride” *erev Shabbat* Service on the Meadow in honor of Pride Month 5:45 p.m. - Bring your own dinner and blankets or comfortable soccer-style (foldable) chairs

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

SATURDAY, June 23, at 10:00 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Madeline Jamieson (see page 8)

continued page 3

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

As I pass the torch, I have never been prouder of our intimate and dynamic community...and so very confident in our Congregation. We have had the good fortune to be guided for the past 24 years by a caring, absolutely fabulous spiritual leader and friend and are again blessed to welcome Rabbi Leah Berkowitz - another warm, engaging leader who will join us in July. *Dayenu!*

As I pondered what to write in my last **President’s Letter**, this quote spoke to me:

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

—William Arthur Ward

I took on the role of president perhaps expecting mostly common, ordinary, unexceptional days. Well, I can assure you that my days in this presidency were never that. Each day has been a gift in the form of enhanced friendships, richer conversations, and unwavering support from Rabbi Holin, leadership, staff, and YOU. Elaine has been my historian and guardian, my trustworthy go-to person. She has kept me grounded and conscious of Kol Ami’s traditional processes and practices. Rabbi Holin provided guidance, direction, and thought-provoking conversations during scheduled meetings and, frankly, at any hour of the day. I am stronger thanks to his wisdom, empathy, hugs, and jokes that often prompted a smile to carry me through the day. Our leaders and so many of you have enriched my life. There are no words to express my gratitude - each meeting, each *Shabbat* conversation, each program and event we shared - these are “thanksgivings.” How could I be so lucky and blessed?

This “routine job” was definitely one of joy. Together, we devoted time, energy, and love to celebrate religious life-cycle events, expand our practice of inclusion and sustainability, and actively participate in *tikun olam*. Together, we committed ourselves to a strategic plan in search of a rabbi to take us to new heights. We are now walking proudly across our Bridge to the Future. I am humbled and continually impressed with the countless hours poured into our community by passionate, intelligent, caring members of the Board of Trustees and our hardworking Committee members.

There is nothing ordinary about leading a community of friends and nothing ordinary in our Congregation Kol Ami. This ordinary presidency, particularly this last year filled with decision making and community building, became nothing less than extraordinary. I am grateful to all of you for the many thanksgivings, the immeasurable joys, and the countless blessings we have bestowed upon each other.

L’dor va’dor. I am excited to continue with you all on our journey as a purposeful Jewish community.

Todah rabah,
Shelley ■

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Since our Congregation was founded in 1994, I have been blessed to be your rabbi.

For almost two and a half decades, it has been my honor to serve with presidents and members of our Board of Trustees who have devoted an incredible amount of time and largesse to sustain and nurture the culture we cherish. Their wisdom, insights, and support have been invaluable to me.

I love connecting with your children during their Religious School studies and special services, and especially on their journeys toward *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and Confirmation. I have watched them enter college and graduate school. I have stood with them under their *chuppahs*. They hold very special places in my heart.

I have been inspired by committee chairs, conference conveners, and event planners whose talents and efforts engage our members and welcome people beyond our walls to enter our sacred space.

The beautiful voices of our Adult and Student Choirs truly make our worship services uplifting experiences, and my “happy feet” attest to the joy I feel in their presence.

The faithful participation of our *Shabbat* morning “regulars” in *Torah* dialogue is something I eagerly anticipate every week. They make the texts come alive.

It is so meaningful to me that I am able to greet you by name in our sanctuary, lobby, and hallway. I have enjoyed our conversations in classes, over meals, at receptions, and on the phone. I enjoyed calling you on your significant birthdays and anniversaries.

In *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel, he describes *Shabbat* as “a day of harmony and peace, a profound conscious harmony among ourselves and with the world.” It is a constant feeling that I discovered and have felt with you all these years.

I am grateful to you and for you, and shall always be.

Shalom u'vrachah

Rabbi Elliot J. Holin

Please join me at our *erev Shabbat* Service on June 8 when I will have the opportunity to reflect upon special moments and express my gratitude to individuals who have been significant in our Congregation's history. ■

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued from page 2)

FRIDAY, June 29

erev Shabbat Service on the Meadow:
Join us at Rabbi Holin's final service
5:45 p.m. - Bring your own dinner
and blankets or comfortable soccer-
style (foldable) chairs
6:30 p.m. - Brief worship service
beneath the trees and evening sky
(chairs are provided for the service)

SATURDAY SHABBAT SERVICES AND TORAH DIALOGUES

10:00 a.m. - Service with potluck
lunch to follow; please contact the
hosts to coordinate lunch items

July 7 - at the home of William and
Betty Shapiro

July 28 - at the home of Abby Binder
and Jane Tausig

August 11 - at the home of Carol
Nemeroff

August 25 - at the home of Paul and
Mindy Levy ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving
memory of:

Warren Boise

cousin of Barry (Allison) Boise

Frances Fuss

aunt of Barry (Michele) Steinbrecher

Mel Keleman

uncle of Elaine (Alan) Gershenson

Ruth Lips

aunt of Barry (Allison) Boise

Howard Robert “Bob” Lundeen

*father of Chris Lundeen (Cindy Marselis)
grandfather of Katie*

Richard Smolowe

father of Jonathan Smolowe (Vera Frumin)

Elaine Wit

*mother of Carol Wit (Larry Yakulis)
mother of Steven Wit (Donna Gatewood)*

May their memories forever be bless-
ings in the midst of our People. ■

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations go to:

- **David and Shelley Chamberlain** on the marriage of their son, Brian, to Marissa Brooks on April 6.
- **Mark and Karin Kaplan** on the marriage of their daughter, Molly, to Andrew Gordon on April 14.
- **Paul Levy and Mindy Jacobson-Levy** on the marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Jacobson, to Kyle Western on April 21. ■

TORAH & HAFTARAH

May 5 - Emor

Leviticus 21:1-24:23, Ezekiel 44:15-31

May 12 - Behar-Bechukotai

Leviticus 25:1-27:34

Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

May 19 - Behamidbar

Numbers 1:1-4:20, Hosea 2:1-22

May 26 - Naso

Numbers 4:21-7:89, Judges 13:2-25

June 2 - Beh'haalotecha

Numbers 8:1-12:16

Zechariah 2:14-4:7

June 9 - Sheblach

Numbers 13:1-15:41, Joshua 2:1-24

June 16 - Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

I Samuel 11:14-12:22

June 23 - Chukkat

Numbers 19:1-22:1, Judges 11:1-33

June 30 - Balak

Numbers 22:2-25:9, Micah 5:6-6:8 ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Membership Committee

Sunday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Group

Monday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. ■



RABBINIC TRANSITION COMMITTEE: TAKING THE NEXT STEPS TOGETHER

An Update from Ilene Schafer and Barry Boise, Co-chairs

On Sunday, March 4, more than 100 members of our Congregation approved the selection of Rabbi Leah Berkowitz as our new Rabbi. If you were not able to attend that day, the energy in the Sanctuary was palpable and electric. Everyone present knew we were part of our new beginning and Rabbi Berkowitz's video (now on our website) moved us all.

This important day continued our conversation about how we want to walk together across our Bridge to the Future. We want the conversations, including some tough questions, to continue and have formed a Bridge-to-the-Future Transition Committee to help facilitate that dialogue.

Our Board and Rabbi Berkowitz both view the transition process as more of a marathon rather than a sprint. We will have members taking steps at different paces. This is a good thing.

There will be participants who have their questions already answered and will cross the finish line well ahead of the pack; others will get there at their own pace. It doesn't matter where you are in the race so long as we all cross the finish line.

The Bridge-to-the-Future Transition Committee's goal is to help everyone of us cross that line. The committee will not have all of the answers right away, but we do want to hear all of your questions.

We will start to plan events and programming over the next 18 months that are designed to address your needs.

Right now, we want to listen and learn from you. We welcome hearing about your excitement or concerns, your hopes, and your questions.

Our Committee consists of: Michael Chernoff, Larry Cohbra, Adena Johnston, Carol Laskin, Sara Lazrow, Casey Lyons, Eric Pelletier, William Shapiro, Tamara Sniad, Elaine Stevens, Jane Tausig, and Gary Turetsky.

Look for information in the upcoming months, and please remember we are here to listen to your questions and your concerns. In addition to contacting members of the Transition Committee, you can submit questions to questions@kolamielkinspark.org.

Feel free to reach out to any of us. ■

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.

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 an 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!

Judaism in Nature

Sundays, May 13 and June 3 & 10 at 1:00 p.m. Participants are welcome to come to one or more sessions. Locations will be off-site.

Instructor: Carol Nemeroff



This class will take place outdoors and will involve both guided, gentle walking in nature and opportunities to experience walking labyrinths and practicing guided walking meditations. Labyrinths go back thousands of years in Jewish history. Interest in the use of labyrinths in Jewish congregations and among Jewish people is growing again. If you enjoy

being outdoors or are curious about practicing meditation or yoga, come experience Judaism in nature.

RSVP by May 5.

Jewish History in the First Person

Mondays; June 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Reena Sigman Friedman

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

RSVP by May 25. ■

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 June 5 for the July/August 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

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.

MAY AND JUNE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

erev Shabbat, Fridays, May 4 and June 8, at 7:30 p.m.



If you or someone in your family is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in May or June, 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*.

“HONORING-OUR-VOLUNTEERS” EREV SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, May 11, at 8:00 p.m.

preceded by a Wine-and-Cheese Social at 7:00 p.m.

“The Eternal One spoke to Moses saying, “Tell the people to bring Me gifts. You shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is so moved”” (Exodus 25:1-2).

We thank all of you who devote time to our Congregation, and we invite you to collectively bless the *Shabbat* candles and lead us in the *Kiddush*.

You “gift” our Synagogue with your time, talent, and largesse. Your hearts are moved to do whatever you can to support and nurture our Congregation, and on this evening, we want to acknowledge you at this special service as our way of thanking you for the gift that you are to all of us.

SHAVUOT-YIZKOR SERVICE

Sunday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m.

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

IN MEMORY OF MILITARY VETERANS AND OTHERS ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

erev Shabbat Service on Friday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m.

**Ira Cooperman will help us honor
and also raise questions**



Americans often glorify soldiers while battles rage, and express gratitude for their service, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but quickly forget them when the guns fall silent.

Ira Cooperman’s will ask us to consider, “When war claims a soldier’s life, what does that death signify? And what now, as our country becomes a nation ‘at peace with being continuously at war?’”

continued page 8

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 JUNE 1:

- **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 ■

PRIDE EREV SHABBAT SERVICE IN HONOR OF PRIDE MONTH

Friday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m. on the Meadow;
preceded by a BYO Dinner at 5:45 p.m.

Every June, people throughout the world gather to celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month to acknowledge the history and richness of the LGBTQ community. That many people are not able to safely do so is a reminder of how much work remains to be done. This month is important for people who recognize themselves in the history and also for allies to understand and honor what it took to get to where we are today. Throughout America, cities will host events and parades to commemorate this month in all our lives. Join us this evening as we honor Pride Month at our Pride *Shabbat* service.

BAT MITZVAH OF MADELINE JAMIESON SATURDAY, JUNE 23, AT 10:00 A.M.



Madeline is in the sixth grade at Highland Elementary School. Her favorite subjects are Math, because it is challenging, and Creative Writing, because she likes to use her imagination. Her extracurricular activities include ballet, piano, violin, chorus, and Math Olympiad.

She volunteers time with her family and friends at Cradles to Crayons, where they sort clothes for people in need and make backpacks for children so that they are ready when school starts after the summer.

Her *Mitzvah* Project is with the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance and her project raised funds for AED devices that restart the heart if someone has had a sudden heart attack. Madeline has been distributing information to her peers to help make a difference in peoples' lives.

"I am proud to be Jewish because of how our ancestors worked and fought to keep our religion strong, and this is why we are here today," she says.

"*Shabbat* is one of the most meaningful rituals to me because when we do it, my whole family is there to light the candles to welcome *Shabbat*, and it's a lot of fun. I also love the *challah*."

"My favorite prayers are the *Borchu* and the *Sh'ma*. I usually sing the *Sh'ma* every night before I go to bed, so it is meaningful. It talks about believing in the one, true God. I could apply the words to my life when I learn all about God in Hebrew school and learn to believe."

"I chose to chant from the Book of Numbers, chapter 20, verses 1-12, because they are about Moses and Aaron, and how Moses got water out of a rock. He was supposed to speak to the rock but he hit it instead. I read a commentary that said, 'At the earlier incident, Moses had been ordered to hit the rock' so I don't think it is fair that he could not lead his people into the Promised Land because he made a mistake. The *Torah* is called 'The Five Books of Moses' because even though he didn't enter the Promised Land with them, the *Torah* is named after him."

"I might apply the words of my *Torah* Portion to my life because sometimes a small mistake might lead to not being able to do a big thing."

We congratulate Madeline's parents, Lesley and Alex, and her sister, Charlotte, who is also a student in our Religious School.



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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": May 2 and June 6. *continued next page*

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”: May 24 and June 28.

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”) ■

CARING CONGREGANTS TRULY CARE

Adele Fricker shows how it works and says thank you

During the last six months of 2017, the amount of money I had allocated for food and household items radically decreased due to unforeseen circumstances. After a \$28.00 monthly increase in Medicare premiums, and 2018 being the third year with no cost-of-living increase from the Social Security Administration, I felt a fear I had not previously experienced.

Elaine Gershenson came to see me at my apartment after I mentioned my situation to Rabbi Holin. We spoke for a while and concluded that assistance with two meals each week would make it much easier on my budget. We discussed my food preferences as well as foods to which I might be allergic, etc. Congregants used Sign-up Chimp online to volunteer dinners. This system worked well for a few months, but people are busy and have much on their minds.

At the beginning of this year, Elaine, on behalf of Caring Congregants, sent an e-mail to all Kol Ami members, explaining that meals were needed to help a member who lives in Elkins Park and needs assistance.

The response by members of Kol Ami to Elaine’s e-mail has been overwhelming. I am so very grateful for the help I continue to receive from Congregants. Many contributions have come in the form of extra food items, which I can use to make additional meals for myself. Not everyone bringing a meal is a Caring Congregant member and that is wonderful.

If you have been unaware of the many functions of the Caring Congregants Committee, here is just one way that their caring has been demonstrated. ■

ARTIST FROM MAY 15 - JUNE 25

CHERYL J. TURETSKY



Cheryl, local fine artist and Kol Ami congregant, has been creating artwork since she was a child in Bronx, New York, and has never stopped. Mediums she has explored are printmaking, acrylic paint, pen and ink, charcoal, pencil, and mixed media. She generally is inspired by an image and then abstracts it in accordance with her own internal meditation and vision. Calming, natural, meditative and visionary scenes influence the content of her work.

Her art credentials include a BA (Art Major) from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and an MA in Creative Arts in Therapy from Hahnemann University Graduate School (now Drexel), in Philadelphia, PA. Additionally, for many years, she studied at the Cheltenham Center for the Arts and does printmaking at her studio at 705 West, Jenkintown. Also, her extensive travels have included the studying and viewing of master artists from France, Italy, Spain, England, and the United States. Her artworks are in private collections and have been displayed in galleries in Philadelphia and suburban Philadelphia. Cheryl’s work can be found at 705westprintshop.com/cheryl-turetsky.html and cheryljturetsky.artpickle.com.

Please join us for Cheryl’s open house on June 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Contact Elaine Stevens if you wish to purchase a displayed piece. A percentage of all displayed purchased works will be donated to Kol Ami.. For all other inquiries, contact cheryljgt@gmail.com or 267-210-9981.

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. ■

Volunteer with Us in June for Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

For the past three years, the Social Action Committee has been partnering with the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance as a “Buddy” congregation to St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Maple Glen. Inter-Faith Housing Alliance is a non-profit organization that has been providing housing and supportive services for homeless families in Montgomery County since 1982. St. Matthew’s hosts up to three homeless families for one month, and we as a “Buddy” congregation, donate our time and resources as transportation, dinner, and overnight volunteers for one week. Providing and sharing dinner with the families is a wonderful and meaningful family friendly *Mitzvah*.

“The families at the shelter are part of our own community here in Montgomery County that, for whatever reason, have found themselves in the position of needing help with food and shelter. I believe the couple of hours it takes to help out makes an impact on their lives. It’s not just providing a meal or a ride. I feel it’s about providing support and acceptance for these families from within our own community. Since you spend a couple of hours with the families, it is a more personal experience than many other volunteer opportunities.” — Ellen Kovnat

“My kids and I didn’t quite know what to expect when we volunteered to spend an evening with a group of families from the Interfaith Housing Alliance. The struggles of the families and the personal rewards we felt surpassed our expectations. My kids and I exchanged hugs and talked about how lucky we were to have roofs over our heads, but that’s somewhat cliché. One family in particular was so helpful and grateful that we came, not only with food, but with games and books for the families. When we heard they had found a home of their own, we were so happy to give them items we could do without. None of us will forget our evening and feel like we did a little to make their lives better. It was a worthwhile experience and will stay with us for a very long time.” — Gary Sender

“This rewarding experience is such an essential one for supporting homeless families in transition to self-sufficiency. Transporting families from Hope Gardens to St. Matthews allowed for conversations with the families.

Dinner time was the setting for more engagement, playing games with the children, hearing stories on past family dinners when life was easier, and just being there as a friendly face with concern and compassion. What a humbling experience. I highly recommend getting involved.” — Shelley Chamberlain

One of our most memorable residents has to be Althea. This remarkable and indefatigable lady went through our program about eight years ago, and none of us has been the same since.

Althea and her teenage son were living in a dangerous, drug-infested area where she worked a few part-time jobs, trying to keep a roof above their heads. She says it felt like a war zone; her son was often too afraid to go outside, but it was what they could afford. Unfortunately, when she lost her job, even that became impossible. Once she was accepted to Inter-Faith Housing Alliance, she put her bible and her son in the car and left everything else behind.

She’ll never forget that drive to Ambler. Her son nervously asked her if this journey was the right thing. Althea responded, “This is not a journey - it’s an adventure. A journey seems long and cold and hard, but an adventure feels like the yellow-brick road.” And now, she says, he still looks at life as an adventure - a fortitude that serves him well as a scholarship student at a great college.

And Althea? She’s still adventuring, these days with a powerful sidekick. “I always wanted to get closer to God,” she said, “and living in eight of His houses really made me closer to Him...I had an awakening that you are never alone. There are always people ready to help. There is a God who watches over us and whether you are Catholic or Jewish or Baptist, we are all really the same.” Amen, Althea. Amen.

Look for an e-mail in May from Elaine to sign up to volunteer. There will be a meeting at the Synagogue to go over all procedures and answer questions before you volunteer. The actual volunteer dates are still to be determined.

Call Laurie Jubelirer Langman (610-608-4293) or Jody Long (215-512-3636) to learn more. ■



LEFT: Jeremy Kranowitz, Managing Director of Sustainability at *Hazon*, presented Mark Kaplan with the *Hazon* Seal of Sustainability Award on Sunday, March 11, for Kol Ami's efforts to advance sustainability-related education, action, and advocacy, creating a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community.

BELOW: Jack Selkirk, Eric Pelletier, Kara Schmidt, and Victor Friesen spoke at the "Celebration and Continuity" *erev Shabbat* Service – Choosing Judaism on Friday, March 9 and shared how their decisions have added meaning to their lives.





We're Changing Our Tune/s

You may notice that some of the tunes you're used to hearing at various Kol Ami services have been removed and/or replaced.

In the spirit of #MeToo, five melodies commonly used in Kol Ami services that were written by iconic 20th-century liturgical composer, Shlomo Carlebach, will no longer be part of any Kol Ami services. In the two-plus decades since Carlebach's death, at least eight women have publicly accused the wildly popular rabbi who inspired millions of Jews with his dramatically different and inclusive Jewish music, of sexual misconduct in the 1960s and 1970s. One researcher said he had spoken to 15 different women claiming to be victims.

According to Rebecca Schwartz, Kol Ami's Cantorial Soloist, the issue of whether or not to continue to use Carlebach's music "was discussed within various music pages on Facebook and within the Women Cantors' Network." There was also a recent widely read article in The Forward that people were talking about.

"Some people said they'd be giving up his music for a short time in protest," says Rebecca, "while others said they'd stop doing it completely in the event an abused woman was in the congregation and they didn't realize."

There is even a Facebook group, "Anything but Carlebach: A place to share and discover Jewish liturgical music," which encourages dialogue of music by other composers, but avoids bad-mouthing Carlebach.

A few months after these online discussions began, Rebecca received an e-mail about the subject from a congregant and presented it to the Worship Enhancement Committee. "I knew it was time to make a decision, and I wanted feedback," she says. "The vote was unanimous to stop singing his music completely."

At Kol Ami, it hasn't been difficult to implement this change. "Once the decision to not use his music anymore was made, it was easy to find replacements since we do so much other music," says Rebecca.

Rebecca regularly used five of Carlebach's melodies at Kol Ami services: "*Am Yisrael Chai*," "*Esa Einai*," "*Ein Keilobeinu*" (not the traditional one used at High Holy Days), "*V'baeir Eineinu*," and "*Ki Va Moed*" which Rebecca often sang as "*Yai lai lai lai lai, Shabbat shalom*."

Carlebach was known to be effusive in expressing affection, but uncomfortable rumors came to a head in 1998, four years after Carlebach's death, when Lilith magazine published a condemning article entitled, "Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's Shadow Side." It included detailed testimonies by several women who said that when they were teenagers, they had been subject to unwanted sexual contact and advances by Carlebach.

"His music is done most frequently within the Orthodox and Conservative communities," says Rebecca. "The Reform Movement has always promoted Reform Jewish composers, and has published a plethora of music from within our community," (including three of Rebecca's songs). ■



KOL AMI MAY 2018 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	2 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	3 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. "Study at the Shul" for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	4 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>Klezmer "First-Friday"</i> <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	5 <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
6 Religious School 10:00 a.m. – Noon Congregation Annual Meeting 10:30 a.m.	7	8 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult <i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	9 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m.	10 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. "Study at the Shul" for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	11 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Holin 10:00 a.m. "Honoring-Our- Volunteers" <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 8:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. - Wine-and- Cheese Social	12 <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> with Carol Nemeroff giving the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m. Celebration honoring Rabbi Holin 6:30 p.m. National Museum of American Jewish History
13 Religious School CLOSED "Study at the Shul" for Adults with Carol Nemeroff – off-site 1:00 p.m.	14 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	15 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	16 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Last Day of Confirmation for Grades 8 – 10 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m.	17 "Study at the Shul" for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	18 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Student Choir and Grade 3-4 participation 7:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. - BYOD	19 <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
20 Religious School CLOSED <i>Shavuot-Yizkor Service</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Shavuot-Confirmation</i> <i>Service</i> 4:00 p.m.	21 Spiritual Growth Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.	22 Early Learning Center 9:30 a.m. - Fitness Adult <i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	23 Religious School 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Last Day of School Grades K-7	24 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. LAMED Graduation 7:15 p.m. "Study at the Shul" for Adults with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	25 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with guest speaker Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	26
27	28 Early Learning Center CLOSED	29 Adult <i>B'Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m. Inclusion: LGBTQ Initiative 7:30 p.m.	31		

KOL AMI JUNE 2018 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	2
3 “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Carol Nemeroff – off-site 1:00 p.m.	4 “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Dr. Reena Friedman 7:00 p.m.	5 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult <i>B’Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	6 Artist of the Month Open House Cheryl J. Turetsky 6:00-8:00 p.m.	7 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	8 Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Holin 10:00 a.m. “Second-Friday” <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir and Final Words from Rabbi Holin 7:30 p.m.	9
10 “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Carol Nemeroff – off-site 1:00 p.m.	11 Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Dr. Reena Friedman 7:00 p.m.	12 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Adult <i>B’Nai Mitzvah</i> Class 7:00 p.m.	13	14 Early Learning Center Closing Ceremony 4:30 p.m. - Program 5:00 p.m. - Picnic	15 <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> on the Meadow 6:30 p.m.. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	16 Fourth Adult <i>B’nai</i> <i>Mitzvah Class Service</i> 10:00 a.m.
17	18 Early Learning Center Camp Begins 8:00 a.m. Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Dr. Reena Friedman 7:00 p.m.	19 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	20	21 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	22 “Pride” <i>erev Shabbat</i> <i>Service on the Meadow</i> in honor of Pride Month 6:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	23 <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> of Madeline Jamieson 10:00 a.m.
24	25 “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Dr. Reena Friedman 7:00 p.m.	26 Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	27	28 Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	29 <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> on the Meadow 6:30 p.m.. 5:45 p.m. - BYOD	30



Congregation Kol Ami Contributions Funds List

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPLIED

Below is a list of the available Kol Ami funds:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to provide lifelong educational programming focused on Jewish history and contemporary issues.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Enables us to provide funding for cultural programs, including music and arts, the preservation and maintenance of artwork within the Synagogue, and the beautification of the meditation garden.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH & CONFIRMATION FUND

Enables us to provide appropriate gifts (books, *kiddush* cups, and *Shabbat* candlesticks) when our young adults celebrate their *Bar/Bat Mitzvahs* and Confirmations.

"DISCOVER ISRAEL" FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in approved peer-group trips to Israel.

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND FUND

Enables us to underwrite the cost of Family Camp Weekend programs and to welcome specialists on a "weekend away" to explore a Jewish theme with our rabbi.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Enables us to offer age-appropriate programs to our Religious School students. A variety of educational initiatives will be sponsored, including, but not limited, to speaker programs, intolerance awareness, and travel to memorial museums/sites—all with a focus on its current relevance.

LIBRARY FUND

Enables us to purchase educational material for our members.

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

Enables us to provide refreshments following *Shabbat* services.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Enables Rabbi Holin to perform *mitzvot* for those in need, in the name of the Congregation.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Enables us to provide resources and programs for the benefit of our children in Religious School.

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Enables us to provide for the general well-being of the Congregation.

YOUTH FUND

Enables us to provide scholarships to enable children of our members to participate in Jewish enrichment experiences at camps, youth enclaves, and other programs. ■

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.



*Thank you
to all our
past and
present
contributors!*

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

Bat Mitzvah of Emily Miles
Rebecca Schwartz

In Memory of:

Maurice Turetsky
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

In Honor of:

**Bat Mitzvah of our
daughter, Emily**
John Miles and Sheryl Cohen

Bar Mitzvah of our son, Isaac
Justin Mixon and Jessica Feierman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of:

Frances Fuss
Barry, Michele, and Drew Steinbrecher

Barbara Wekselman Goleman
Janet Felgoise
Christopher and Myla Rogers

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Estate of Carol Baron
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Elijah's Plate (continued)

Jeff Perry
Elaine Stevens
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Elliot Holin and Rebecca
Schwartz for their assistance
during Emily's Bat Mitzvah**
John Miles and Sheryl Cohen

In Memory of:

Ruth Berger
Jensen Toth

Barbara Goleman
Alvin Turetsky

Doris Turell
Alvin Turetsky

Maurice Turetsky
Alvin Turetsky ■