

CONNECTIONS

MAY/JUNE 2023 Iyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5783

www.kolaminj.org



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI FRENKEL An Accounting of Our Founding Year

Teach us to number our days that we may attain a heart of wisdom (Psalms 90:12).

We find ourselves, on our Jewish calendar, in a period of counting – a time known as *Sefirat HaOmer*, which literally translates as “Counting of the omer” (“omer” is a sheaf or a unit of dry measurement). While it had agricultural significance in biblical days, it has a powerful spiritual significance as well.

Sefirat HaOmer counts the days between our holidays of Passover and Shavuot – as we mark time, day by day, for 49 days, from our liberation from slavery in Egypt, to when we received Torah at Mt. Sinai. It is a daily reminder that it is not enough to be free, we must do the hard work of introspection and self-examination to truly know, and to fully experience, our freedom.

As we mark the days in this founding year in Kol Ami’s history, this significant and quite sacred transition and transformation from two legacy congregations, to becoming fully and wholeheartedly Congregation Kol Ami, it feels quite fitting to offer my own “counting.”

Just as we count the omer – seven days a week for seven weeks – I wanted to share my seven most memorable moments from this year:

1. Summer onegs in the courtyard. While they started out as a way to congregate and eat together safely in light of a rise in Covid cases, they turned into wonderful evenings spent with old and new friends, getting to know one another after sharing Shabbat services together. The oneg food was great, the summer heat subsided a bit as the sun set, and people would just sit and talk until we needed to turn off the lights and lock the building for the night.

2. The High Holy Days. It was the first time our Sanctuary and Social Hall were filled to capacity, and it was the first major gathering for our “new” congregation. With so many people volunteering their time to help (whether ushering, singing in the choir, preparing our informational materials, working on our memorial booklet,

our social action collection drives, helping with *tashlich*, and so many other aspects of our Holy Day observances), it was quite a sight to look out from the bimah and see the faces of the founding members of Congregation Kol Ami.

3. Our Religious School and Committee Kick-Off. We celebrated the first day of Religious School with a pep rally that was standing-room only for students, teachers, and families, and ended the morning with our committee fair as everyone was able to learn a little bit more about what each of our synagogue committees do. We also had ice cream, mini footballs, and a pretty impressive catch by Sheri Greenblatt when I threw the opening-day football pass to her to kick off the year.

4. ECC Kabbalat Shabbat. This is the magical half hour that takes place every Friday morning, as we bring together our entire Early Childhood Center to celebrate Shabbat with songs, blessings, a brief teaching/story, and a LOT of enthusiasm!

5. Our First Kol Ami Life-Cycle Events. Whether we were celebrating family *simchas* or gathering to mourn, we have shown up for one another in such meaningful ways time and time again, proving that one of the most important reasons why we choose to be part of a community is because we were not meant to walk through life’s moments alone. *(continued; see “Rabbi Frenkel” on page 3)*

CONGREGATION
KOL AMI
קול עמי

ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

We look forward to seeing each of you in person at our Congregational Annual Meeting. We will be voting on the Budget for fiscal year 2023–24, the proposed Congregational By-laws, and the slate of Officers and Trustees.

Your attendance, your vote, and your thoughts are important to us.

Dessert will be served. Please register: www.kolaminj.org

Congregants unable to attend in person will be able to view the livestream. Watch your email for details.



FROM OUR LEADERSHIP Some Final Thoughts

By Drew Molotsky, Co-President

I cannot thank the Kol Ami community enough for the support you have all shown to me, Sallie, and the entire leadership team and staff during this transitional year. Serving as President for the last two years, first for M'kor Shalom and now for Kol Ami, has been a transformative and challenging experience,

but also one that was rewarding in every way. Over these two years, this congregation has courageously evolved into a new, thriving, vibrant entity, and I am so proud to have played a role in making that happen.

Our successes are well documented. In the past nine months, we have unified our congregational families, expanded our membership with new members from the community, incorporated our large stained glass windows in the Kol Ami sanctuary and begun the process of incorporating other legacy plaques and honors, increased both Religious School and ECC enrollment, created new affinity groups and revived existing ones, balanced our budget, brought new members into leadership, eliminated virtually all debt, begun substantial improvements to our building and facilities, secured our clergy team with contract renewals and a new Assistant Rabbi, engaged a dynamic new Executive Director, and secured our financial future with the sale of 850 Evesham Road, providing a substantial investment base.

That is just the beginning. This is the new reality for Kol Ami – financial stability, growth, energy, and enthusiasm.

I never thought that I would be President of a synagogue, and I never dreamed that it would be during such a transformative time. It has been an honor to share this role with Sallie Brown, and to develop the sacred partnership with Rabbi Frenkel that I will treasure forever. I will certainly miss being President, but we confidently hand the reigns to a team of talented Officers and Trustees whom I am very confident will continue to lead Kol Ami toward success, growth, innovation, and prosperity.

Congratulations Kol Ami. We have become a national example for how to unify, and it is you that have made that possible. *Yasher Koach*. I look forward to great things to come.



By Sallie Brown, Co-President

When I began my transition year, we were two disparate synagogues, struggling to hold onto separate identities. As I walk away a year later, Congregation Kol Ami is emerging, and our new synagogue will build on its transition year as we find our own identity.

There were so many wonderful moments this year. I love watching the children recite prayers and sing during Shabbat Mishpacha services. They remind us of the importance of Jewish religious education, and it is a glimpse into our future. During our Social Action Shabbat, we listened to speakers from Haiti, Afghanistan and the Ukraine. Their stories show the importance of looking beyond our community, to help others who are less fortunate. Our Purim Dis-Service and Shpiel were pure joy – a display of our growing Kol Ami community. Everyone was in costume, and the Shpiel performed by our Religious Students was perfect.

Although my term is over, I plan to be an active part of Kol Ami for many years. I will still attend Shabbat Services, come to our events, and serve on committees.

I will end with a New Jersey story. I have always loved the Jersey shore, going with different people at the different stages of my life. I now go with my two young grandchildren. If the water is too cold, we hold hands. First, we get our ankles wet, then our knees, then waist, and finally with a quick look back at the shore, we duck into our first wave.

I urge you to wade into our congregation. Take a step. Attend a study session or one of Rabbi Frenkel's shmooze lunches. You will see that Kol Ami is here as a Jewish home for all of us.

I thank you for the honor of serving as Co-President this past transition year.

Family Shabbat Celebration to Thank Cantor Harrison
for her contributions to our congregation

FRIDAY, MAY 19

5:45 pm LATKES IN MAY DINNER
Celebrate Cantor Harrison and enjoy some of her favorite foods as we will finally host December's weather-canceled Chanukah dinner. \$18/family, \$10/adult.

7:00 pm SHABBAT SERVICE
Our joyous service will celebrate Cantor Harrison as well as Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

REGISTER FOR DINNER BY MAY 12:
WWW.KOLAMINJ.ORG

REGISTRATION & LUNCH 11:00 am

(Golfers Only)
Medford Village Country Club
28 Golfview Dr, Medford, NJ 08055

GOLF 12:30 pm

Medford Village Country Club
\$225 per person
Shotgun Start, Scramble Format
Includes Lunch & Awards Dinner

PICKLEBALL 2:30-4:30 pm

Marlton Field House
785 East Main St, Evesham, NJ 08053
\$55 per person
Open Play
Includes Awards Dinner

DINNER 5:30 pm

Medford Village Country Club
Included with all game participation
Dinner-only option \$45 per person



PRIZES & AWARDS

Net & Gross Prizes
Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive
Putting Contest
50/50 & Raffle Prizes

SPONSORSHIPS

All include recognition in marketing
Foursome & Sponsor Sign \$1080
Includes golf play, lunch & dinner for four,
signage at a hole on the golf course

Sponsor Sign \$180
Name/Logo on signage at a golf hole
or at pickleball courts

Lunch Sponsor \$500
Includes lunch & dinner for two

Dinner Sponsor \$1000
Includes lunch & dinner for four

FROM RABBI FRENKEL

(continued from page 1)

6. **Our Unification Service and Celebration.** Whether you joined us Friday evening for Shabbat or Sunday night for the concert (or both!), we showed that Kol Ami celebrates like few other synagogues can! The labor of love from our co-chairs and committee, our entire staff and team of volunteers made the entire weekend one to remember. It was a true Kol Ami memory we got to share with over 400 of our newest friends!

7. This one is a tie between our **Hebrew High School Israel Trip** and our **Shabbat Mishpacha Services**. After three years of postponed trips, our Hebrew High students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades were finally able to travel to Israel together! And while I was not one of the lucky chaperones on this year's trip, being there with the parents as our students and trip leaders boarded the bus to head to the airport, there was no mistaking the fact that everyone knew our teens were about to experience the trip of a lifetime (and that they did!). May we never have to wait so long to go back! Our monthly Shabbat Mishpacha (Family Shabbat) services have filled our sanctuary with energy. Our Religious School students have worked so hard and have led us so beautifully in our prayers and in song. And we've also had a lot of fun – whether it was our World Series service, March Madness Shabbat, Winter-white-out Shabbat, and many more in between – it's been an incredible experience to share Shabbat across the generations.

And there have been so many more services, programs, events, volunteer opportunities, meaningful moments, and one-on-one interactions that have been filled with our Kol Ami spirit. We've had a pretty phenomenal founding year, and we simply couldn't have done it without you! Thank YOU for making this year all that it was and for choosing to be a part of this very special place as we write our first chapter together.

MAHJONG & MORE

Our first Mahjong and More Game Day back in March was a wonderfully relaxing and fun afternoon of Mahjong and a bit of Backgammon. Most of all, we got to meet new people.



The next chance to join us for Mahjong and More Game Day will be on Wednesday, May 24 from 1:00-3:30 pm. Come with your favorite game in hand. This event is for all congregants and for all levels of play from beginner to advanced. We ask that you register so we can adequately prepare.

BEAUTIFICATION BEGINS

The coming months will see some major improvements being made around the building – most notably, the restrooms! The Beautification Committee, chaired by Rolane Sunshine, has initiated renovations to modernize the main restrooms and the Simcha Suite, as well as replace well-worn and stained carpet in certain common areas. Having done its due diligence over the past months, the committee elected to work with Jocelyn Perkin of Perkin Designs, and measurements have already been taken and materials selected to get these projects underway.



"The bathroom? Ah, yes, the bathroom—well, let me tell you about the bathroom."

© The New Yorker. The bathroom by Tom Cheney.

Now is the time for these changes. Our large Religious School classes are beginning to plan B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, and the upgraded spaces will help them choose Kol Ami as their complete party site. The upgrades also provide great revenue potential by hosting weddings and other special events.

Funding is already in place for these changes, and the two additional restrooms adjacent to the Simcha Suite will likely be on next year's docket. Until then, we wait excitedly with all of you to see this summer's finished project.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

In just one year, we received congregational approval to unify and have successfully transitioned into day-to-day life as Congregation Kol Ami. It is time to move to the next step in our journey as we vision and plan for our future. To take this step forward, we are embarking on a strategic plan. A steering committee* has been formed that will spend the next year helping us look forward and plan for a thriving future for our congregation. Working together with Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel, we have recruited a diverse group of volunteer congregants who will coordinate the work of this strategic planning process along with our Executive Director, Jennifer Stofman.

Over the coming year there will be a variety of opportunities for members of the congregation to participate in the development of the plan and provide substantial input. These will include task forces, interviews, and community conversations. We are working with an external consultant, Robert Leventhal, who has tested this process with hundreds of congregations over recent years.

What's Next? The steering committee is doing some foundational work to learn and grow together as a team, set up shared goals/expectations of our roles and ensure we are prepared to ask the right questions and learn from our congregants the following:

- Areas where the congregation is currently thriving and explore what is driving this
- Areas where the congregation feels stuck and explore what is getting in the way
- Unexplored areas where we could potentially thrive
- Ideas, resources, and partners that will help our leaders thrive

Ultimately, the steering committee will create a recommendation of a strategic plan for our Board of Trustees to implement over the following 1-3 years. We look forward to hearing from every congregant over the next year to ensure Congregation Kol Ami will have a thriving future!

Jessica Manelis and Allison Snyder
Co-Chairs, Strategic Planning Steering Committee

*Strategic Planning Steering Committee

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Catherine Fischer | Julie Schwartz |
| Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel | Allison Snyder |
| Eric Hurwitz | Jennifer Stofman |
| Steven Lubetkin | David Weinberg |
| Jessica Manelis | David Zalcman |

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The Annual Calendar is coming back! We are inviting congregants to be among the first advertisers in our 13-month calendar (Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2024). Ad sizes are single business card, double, and triple size, with a choice of placement in 1 month, 6 months or all 13 months. Please contact Sue Fenick at sepress@hotmail.com to advertise or to place a *simcha* greeting.

The calendar will come out around the High Holy Days and will serve as a great reminder of upcoming services, programs and events, personal *simchas*, plus a highlight for business services. Proceeds benefit Kol Ami membership outreach initiatives. Complete information and purchasing will soon be available on our website: www.kolaminj.org. *Gentle reminder to all affinity groups and committees: Be sure to submit your 2023-2024 programming dates for inclusion!*



TIKKUN OLAM

By Steve Janove

The Tikkun Olam Committee has endeavored to continue the mission of assisting our congregation and the community with thoughtful acts of hope and charity.

A Look Back

A special thank you to Phil and Cindy Wasdick for facilitating successful collections for the JFCS Food Pantry, including Purim and Passover donations. Shout out to Jason Richek for assisting in the logistics.



Our Caring Community has been busy with Caring Caps Spring Stitch organized by Jane Bloom and Sarah Zalcmann and Blankets of Hope organized by Barbara Rothberg. Much appreciation to the dozens of volunteers who created items for congregants experiencing illness and other challenges.

Kol Ami's Refugee Assistance has continued for the Dupre Family from Haiti, the Zhara Family from Ukraine, and the Safari Family from Afghanistan. Thank you to the many volunteers who have donated funds, clothing, and furniture, and who have assisted these families in improving English language skills, including Jaimee Friedman, Heidi Swartz, Sheila Lever, Estherose Heyman, Rabbi Richard Address, Jaye Halpern, Mark Pinzur, Dan Gottlieb and Joan Kaczarski.

A Look Forward

The RAC is launching a Movement-wide campaign for climate justice called "Power for Purpose: The Reform Movement's 2023 Campaign for Climate Justice." A special thank you to Michele Zeldner, who has coordinated Kol Ami's participation in this effort. The Social Action and Adult Education Committees will co-sponsor an event about climate change on June 5 inspiring us to learn and do more.

June 2 is National Gun Violence Awareness Day and "Wear Orange" Weekend to honor survivors of gun violence. Thank you Sarah Zalcmann and Lauren Rardin for your dedication to work to reduce gun violence while bringing awareness to Kol Ami.

Do you have a passion for Tikkun Olam, Social Justice and Social Action? Contact Michele Zeldner (zeldner@comcast.net) to get involved.

UNIFICATION WEEKEND

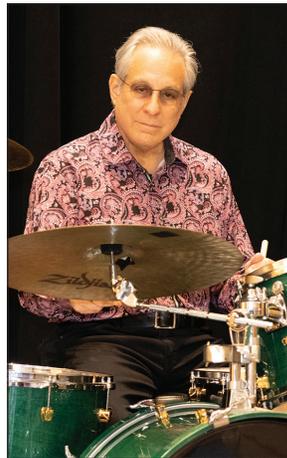
By Jennifer Stofman

March 17-19, 2023 will forever be a weekend to remember. There are really no words to describe the warmth and pride that was felt in our overflowing Kol Ami sanctuary as we came together as one congregation to dedicate our stained glass. Our voices joined together as we sang prayers of joy and sanctification and heard the wisdom of our rabbis from our beautiful bimah.

On Sunday night, over 400 people filled our sanctuary and social hall as we danced the night away to the music and lyrics of New Jersey's finest, Bruce Springsteen. The BStreetBand brought the house down with their music, energy and unique brand of "moxie." Special guest Max Weinberg blessed our Unification while reciting the *shehecheyanu* and breaking the glass made it official. There was electricity throughout with people of all ages dancing, singing and celebrating together.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the amazing Unification Celebration Committee chaired by Fay and Howard Goldberg and Cindy and Phil Wasdick. This special group came together to create something magical for all of us. I cannot say enough about the dedication and commitment of this unified team: Bob Bross, Gillian Chernin, Paul Chernin, Beth Dunoff, Marlene Dworkin, Jessica Manelis, Robin Schwartz, Ally Wasdick, Susan Witte and Stephanie Zinn. Thank you to our generous sponsors and benefactors who made the entire weekend possible – *Ein Kemach, Ein Torah!*

These were truly "Glory Days," as we "Proved it All Night" – both nights – how sacred our Congregation Kol Ami community is to all of us. I look forward to marking more Kol Ami moments together with our special "Human Touch."



Alex Stross Photography

CARING CALLS

The Caring Community Committee has developed a new program: Caring Calls, or, *Bikur Cholim*. *Bikur Cholim* is the mitzvah of visiting the sick.

Rabbi Frenkel and clergy have seen the need for just such a program – one that reaches out to congregants who, because of illness, injury or life circumstance, are unable to “feel” the involvement of the synagogue community and enjoy all that Congregation Kol Ami offers.

Bikur Cholim calls will start with clergy sourcing referrals to congregant Eileen Winter, an experienced social worker serving as point-person for this program. Eileen will assign a volunteer match who will make a connection and develop an ongoing relationship – a benefit to both congregants.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact committee chair Jane Bloom at jbloom100@gmail.com.



SISTERHOOD

Andrea Finkel

Sisterhood President



As I started this writing, I realized it would be bittersweet; this is the last article I will write as Sisterhood President. Serving in this position has been a rewarding experience. I have grown in many ways and developed lifelong friendships. I could not have done it without the Sisterhood Board:

Tracy Goldberg – Secretary, sounding board, Communications VP, and co-chair of more events than I can name. I cannot thank you enough.

Michele Speier – VP of Programming (and awesome real-life sister). Michele either chaired, co-chaired, or found a chair for almost every event in the past three years. Thank you for always being there.

Susan Witte – VP of Fundraising. You are a rockstar, running two virtual Chanukah Bazaars and co-chairing our very successful first in-person Kol Ami Sisterhood Gift Gala and so much more.

Judy Feldman – Treasurer. Thank you for your hard work with the budget, attending and helping at events, and making sure everyone stays within their event budget.

Lisa Weiser – Thank you for helping make Sisterhood stronger.

Amy Bodofsky – Thank you for your friendship, creative ideas, and words of encouragement.

Liz Levine – VP of Tikkun Olam. Thank you for helping Sisterhood help others in need.

Michele Zeldner – VP Social Action/Social Justice. Thank you for being a leader and bringing social action and social justice programs to Sisterhood.

Please join Sisterhood for our Challah Bake on May 10, Sisterhood Shabbat on May 12 with a 6:15 pm wine and cheese reception before services, and our Closing Dinner on June 12. Details and registration can be found on our website, www.kolaminj.org.

MEN'S CLUB

With the help of amazing leadership and committed members, the Men's Club thrived during Kol Ami's first year. In October, we erected a Sukkah that was shared by the entire congregation, and we took the opportunity to host a delicious “Scotch and Steak in the Sukkah” event. Also in the fall, we enjoyed a Football Family Tailgate Party, complete with a big screen where we watched the Eagles beat the Broncos! Springing ahead to Passover, the Men's Club, with the help of our Religious School students, produced 260 jars of red and white horseradish – so hot it'll make your eyes water! (pictured) – that were sold for the holiday and used at our own Men's Club Seder. We hosted a local retreat to inspire our participants through study, service and celebration. Throughout the year, we held our monthly brunches on the first Sunday of the month, and our lunch group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We look forward to more exciting programs next year!



Stephen Weichert and Joel Schwartz
Men's Club Co-Presidents

WATER ICE & ICE CREAM NIGHTS
Indulge in yummy treats with our clergy 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday June 12 SUNDAES
with **Rabbi Frenkel**
185 NJ-73 N, West Berlin, NJ 08091

Wednesday July 12 RITA'S
with **Rabbi Milan-Polisar**
106 Haddonfield-Berlin Rd, Voorhees Township, NJ 08043

Tuesday August 1 PRIMO'S WATER ICE
with **Cantor Schnitzer**
484 E Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

KEEPING COOL with **Kol Ami**

ICED COFFEE & ICED TEA MORNINGS
Have a refreshing starter with our clergy 9:30-11:00 am

Sunday June 4 JERSEY JAVA
with **Cantor Schnitzer**
140 N Haddon Ave, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Sunday July 16 FOUR GREEN CATS CAFE
with **Rabbi Milan-Polisar**
118 Creek Rd, Mt Laurel Township, NJ 08054

Sunday August 13 STARBUCKS
with **Rabbi Frenkel**
Short Hills, 480 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Upcoming Events

To register, or for more information on these and other programs, visit:

www.kolaminj.org/events

MAY

Shop-to-Donate: Mixellaneous

Tuesday, May 2, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, May 3, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Talmud Talks

with Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30,
11:30 am – 12:30 pm (Zoom)

What Does Reform Judaism Say About...?

Led by Rabbi Frenkel

Three Wednesdays, May 3, 17 & 24,
10:30-11:45 am (Zoom)

Men's Club Lunch

Wednesdays, May 3 & 17, 12:30 pm
(Off-site; contact hgreenberg@hgreenberg.com)

Caring Caps Knitting in the Rotunda

Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 pm

First Thursday:

"Death of a Salesman" – Family Values and Secrets

*Led by Rabbi Richard Address and
Mark Pinzur*

Thursday, May 4, 7:30 pm (Zoom)

First Friday

Friday, May 5, 6:15 pm
Join in the Cinco de Mayo fun.

Shabbat Evening Service: 12th Grade Graduation

Friday, May 5, 7:00 pm
We celebrate our Hebrew High School
Graduates and May anniversaries.

Torah Study

Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20 & 27,
9:00 am (Zoom)

Spice Up Your Judaism

Saturdays, May 6, 13 & 20,
10:15 am (Zoom)

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 6, 10:30 am
B'nai Mitzvah of Aliyah & Benjamin
Goldstein

KAFTY Jr./Sr. Havdalah & BBQ

Saturday, May 6, 5:00 pm

Boomers Social Group: Symphony in C

Saturday, May 6: 8:00 pm (Off-site)

Last Day of Religious School at JCC Camps in Medford

Sunday, May 7, 10:00 am (Off-site;
please report directly to JCC Camps)

ECC Luau Prom Party

Sunday, May 7, 4:00-7:00 pm

Enhanced Givers Dinner

Monday, May 8, 6:30 pm

Lag B'Omer

Tuesday, May 9

KAFTY Field Day & Bonfire

Tuesday, May 9, 6:15 pm

Sisterhood Challah Bake

Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 pm

Yiddish Shmooze Group

Thursdays, May 11 & 25,
10:30 am (Zoom)

Parent's Paint Night

Thursday, May 11, 6:00 pm

Tot Shabbat:

Shabbat's Out for Summer

Friday, May 12
5:15 pm Dinner (registration required)
6:00 pm Tot Shabbat Service

Shabbat Evening Service:

Sisterhood Shabbat

Friday, May 12, 7:00 pm
*Sisterhood Members are invited to
join us for Wine & Cheese at 6:15 pm.*

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 13, 10:30 am
Bat Mitzvah of Johana Bauer

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14

Congregational Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Boomers Social Group Luncheon: LaScala's Birra

Thursday, May 18, 12:30 pm (Off-site)

Family Shabbat to Thank Cantor Harrison

Friday, May 19
5:45 pm Latkes in May Dinner
7:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service
See details on page 2.

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 20, 10:30 am
B'nai Mitzvah of Kaitlyn and Jacob Zucker

Mahjong & More: Game Day

Wednesday, May 24, 1:00-3:30 pm

Shavuot

Friday, May 26
Offices & Schools closed

Shavuot & Confirmation Service

Friday, May 26, 10:00 am
Yizkor is recited.

Shabbat Evening Service

We celebrate May birthdays.
Friday, May 26, 7:00 pm

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29
Offices & Schools closed

Ladies Night Out: Ott's

Wednesday, May 31, 6:30 pm (Off-site)
Join Rabbi Frenkel for drinks & apps
at Ott's in West Berlin.

JUNE

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, June 1, 2:00-7:00 pm
Appointments available;
Walk-ins also accepted.

First Thursday: The Jewish Experience in Philadelphia

Presented by Dr. Kurt Bomze
Thursday, June 1, 7:30 pm (Hybrid)

Upcoming Events

To register, or for more information on these and other programs, visit:
www.kolaminj.org/events

First Friday

Friday, June 2, 6:15 pm

Shabbat Evening Service: Installation Shabbat

Friday, June 2, 7:00 pm

We officially install the 2023-2024 Officers & Board of Trustees and wear orange for Gun Violence Awareness.

Torah Study

Saturdays, June 3, 10, & 17,
9:00 am (Zoom)

Spice Up Your Judaism

Saturdays, June 3, 10 & 17,
10:15 am (Zoom)

Men's Club Brunch Meeting

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 am

Keeping Cool with Kol Ami: Jersey Java

Sunday, June 4, 9:30-11:00 am (Off-site)
Start the day with Cantor Schnitzer and a morning refresher at Jersey Java in Haddonfield.

Blankets in the Rotunda

Thursday, June 1, 10:00 am

Climate Change: Ways We Can Make a Real Difference!

Monday, June 5, 7:30 pm (Zoom)

Talmud Talks

with Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.
Tuesday, June 6 (Final session!)
11:30 am – 12:30 pm (Zoom)

OY. My Child the Doctor: Judaism's Dance with Medicine

Led by Rabbi Richard Address
Three Wednesdays, June 7, 14 & 21,
10:30-11:45 am (Zoom)

Men's Club Lunch

Wednesdays, June 7 & 21, 12:30 pm
(Off-site; contact hgreenberg@hgreenberg.com for location)

ECC Graduation

Thursday, June 8, 9:00 am

Yiddish Shmooze Group

Thursdays, June 8 & 22, 10:30 am (Zoom)

Shabbat Evening Service: Pride Shabbat

Friday, June 9, 7:00 pm

Our Koleinu Choir joins us as we celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah of Brody Freedman
Bat Mitzvah of Marley Ernenwein

Sisterhood Closing Event

Monday, June 12, 6:00 pm

Keeping Cool with Kol Ami: Sundaes

Monday, June 12, 6:30-7:30 pm (Off-site)
Say hello to Rabbi Frenkel while you indulge in homemade ice cream or water ice at Sundaes in West Berlin.

Golf & Pickleball Classic

Wednesday, June 14 *See details on pg 3.*

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, June 16, 7:00 pm

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, June 17, 10:30 am
Bat Mitzvah of Erin Nixon

Jewish Heritage Night at the Phillies

Wednesday, June 21 vs. Braves
5:15 pm Photo in Kol Ami parking lot
6:40 pm First Pitch vs. Braves

Shabbat Evening Service: Men's Club Shabbat

Friday, June 23, 7:00 pm

Summer Torah Study

Saturday, June 24, 10:00 am (Zoom)

Luau in the Lot

Wednesday, June 28, 6:00 pm
Kick off summer with our Family BBQ.

CONGREGATION
KOL AMI LIFE CYCLE
קול עמי

Mazal Tov to...

Pam & Tom Austin on the marriage of their daughter Marielle to Eric Thom

Jacqueline Bernstein & Joseph Gabin on the naming of their daughter, Ezri Beck Gabin

Rabbi Jerome & Peggy David on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Elijah

Matt Dortch & Lana Alekseenko on the naming of their son, Dylan Hudson Dortch

Barbara & Murray Fineman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Adam Schreiber

Matt & Joyce Hoff on the birth of their grandchildren Aria Ilana Hoff (David & Jodi Hoff) and Drew Elliot Hoff (Philip & Melanie Hoff)

Kathy & Mike Perloff on the birth of their grandson, Liam Isaac Perloff

Cindy Weiner-Palmere & Rett Palmere on the birth of their grandson, Eli Samuel Plevinsky

Maxine & Mark Pinzur on their daughter-in-law's (Eileen Levinson) appearance on Rabbi Address' podcast "Jewish Sacred Aging"

Linda & Larry Robinson on their son Dr. Mark Robinson, receiving his doctorate in economics

Ed Skobac on the marriage his son Andrew Skobac to Brielle Weinstein

Angela & Adam Skrzynski on the naming of their daughter, Gabriella Skrzynski

We Mourn...

Nelly Chinn
grandmother of Rebecca (Satwick) Seshasai

Larry Glaser
husband of Ann-Linn Glaser

Darline McKenna
mother of Debra (David) Faye
grandmother of Diana Faye



Aliyah Goldstein

May 6, 10:30 am

*Daughter of Candice & Scott Goldstein
Brothers: Benjamin & Mick*

I have been spending time playing softball and performing in the school play. I enjoy listening to music, watching the Phillies, talking to friends, and spending time with family and my cat Lucy. My twin brother Benji is my B'nai Mitzvah partner and I

can't imagine doing this with anyone else. For our Mitzvah Project, we collected money and snacks for Ronald McDonald House "Family Rooms" which provide comfort to families who have babies getting critical care. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah has made me think about the importance of helping people. If you are nice to others every day, you can go to bed every night knowing you did something good.



Benjamin Goldstein

May 6, 10:30 am

*Son of Candice & Scott Goldstein
Siblings: Aliyah & Mick*

I have been studying for my Bar Mitzvah with the help of the amazing Rabbis and Cantors at Kol Ami – and my Mom. These mentors have worked hard with me so the least I can do is work hard too. I am grateful to be on this B'nai Mitzvah

journey with my twin sister Aliyah. For our Mitzvah Project, we collected money and snacks for the Ronald McDonald House "Family Rooms." Becoming a Bar Mitzvah has made me think about how the people around me can make a difference in my life and how I can make a difference in theirs. We are all in this together!



Johana Terez Bauer

May 13, 10:30 am

*Daughter of Troy & Billie Bauer
Sisters: Georgia & Willa; Brother: Samson*

My favorite activities include playing basketball, field hockey, and hanging out with friends and family. My Bat Mitzvah project is called "The Care Caddy." It is a caddy filled with things you can keep in your car to give to a homeless person

you might see in your travels – water bottles, snack bars, sanitizing wipes, etc. My goal is to develop it into a community-wide program. I look forward to sharing my Bat Mitzvah with family and friends and being able to relate the experience with family who have had their B'nai Mitzvah, too.

Kaitlyn Zucker

May 20, 10:30 am

Daughter of Melissa & David Zucker; Brother: Jacob

I enjoy swimming, lacrosse, field hockey, violin, taking walks with my dog Brodie, traveling, reading historical fiction, and watching Netflix. For my service project, I worked with Sports Unity, a program that provides athletes with special needs the opportunity to participate in organized sports, the Animal Welfare Association

(AWA), and the March of Dimes Walk. This Bat Mitzvah process has been a challenging but rewarding experience. Studying the Torah has helped me reflect on who I am and how I fit into this world.



Participating in volunteer projects has enlightened me on how I want to make a difference. It is important to carry on Jewish traditions and I feel very blessed to be a female on the bimah.

Jacob Zucker

May 20, 10:30 am

*Son of Melissa & David Zucker
Sister: Kaitlyn*

I like soccer, swimming, Jiu Jitsu, saxophone, riding bikes with my friends, walking my dog Brodie, traveling with my family, and playing video games. I participated with the AWA and the March of Dimes Walk. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is a special time. It brings my friends and family together to celebrate happy occasions. It is a time to recognize that I am learning increased responsibilities and ways that I can make a difference in the world through mitzvot. I am carrying on Jewish traditions and recognizing the history of my ancestors, whose fight and persistence allows me to be on the bimah to celebrate my faith.



Brody Freedman

June 10, 10:30 am

*Son of Melanie & Brian Freedman
Sister: Emily*

I enjoy collecting sports cards, playing basketball and baseball, fishing, and spending time at the beach. My Bar Mitzvah project is helping to clean up the beaches to take action against pollution. To me, becoming a Bar Mitzvah means

taking on more responsibility at home and in the community.



Marley Ernenwein

June 10, 10:30 am

*Daughter of Sara & Don Ernenwein
Sister: Mia*

In my free time, I like dance, track, cheer, theater, chorus, and band. I also love to bake and draw. For my Bat Mitzvah project, I contributed to many events involving volunteer work. I spent time with DBU Pitbull Rescue, helping feed,

socialize, and exercise the dogs so they can be adopted. I also spent time working at Woofstock, an annual event that provides opportunities for animals to find their forever homes and also raises money for their care. For me, becoming a Bat Mitzvah means taking on Jewish beliefs and responsibilities. It also means taking the next steps in Judaism, whether it's joining a youth group, going on to confirmation, or becoming more invested in Judaism.

Erin Nixon

June 17, 10:30 am

Daughter of James & Jill Nixon; Sister: Jordyn



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Sheri Greenblatt, M.Ed.

Director of Education

As our first year of Congregation Kol Ami's Religious School is nearing an end, I can't help but look back at this year with a full heart. The friendships that were formed, the learning that took place, and the fun we all had stems from the Jewish values embedded in our curriculum. Let's peek into our 2022-2023 year...

Jewish traditions emphasize the value of friendship. Sharing hot pretzels every Sunday and Tuesday with each other and having fun times with our friends like our first day of school kick-off event, our Annual Dreidel Tournament, and our Groovy Purim Carnival are ways our students form bonds that last.

Our Jewish values encourage dignity and respect for all. Our school has family education days throughout the year. Joining together in learning shows them how to respect their parents as well as their teachers. We also helped the Men's Club make horseradish for Passover, and the students showed their honor and respect for these men who have been doing this for years!

The value of *tikkun olam* teaches our children to repair the world. Our sixth graders had a chance to pack food at the Cherry Hill Food Pantry and pack and deliver food for the JFCS. Our students also took part in our Mitzvah Day with a variety of projects to help our world. It was a true "feel good" moment.

Compassion is an important value to show all people, especially those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable. Rabbi David gave a serious talk to our high school about Anti-semitism to help support our "No Place for Hate" initiative. Also, during our March of Remembrance, our students showed compassion for those who lost their lives during the Holocaust.



Tradition teaches us that the world is founded upon three principles: Torah, worship, and acts of loving kindness. Our Shabbat Mishpacha services throughout the year embodied all of these. Our students stood on the bimah showing the congregation everything they learned.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Laura Hoffman, M.Ed.

Director of Early Childhood Education



As the 2022-2023 school year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on how far we've come and how close we've grown. The Congregation Kol Ami ECC has come into its own, from unsure families to lifelong friends. As is often the case, the children have shown us that the little differences are of no matter in the light of shared play, music, and fun.



PAJAMA STORYTIME  

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**Cuddle up in your cosiest pajamas,
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Wednesday, June 14
Tuesday, July 11
Tuesday, August 8
6:00 pm



Open to the community
RSVP: www.kolaminj.org

KOL AMI ESTABLISHES STUDENT MENSCH AWARD IN MEMORY OF RAVI BLOOM

Jayne Feld Bloom, Jodi Levine and Stephanie Zinn contributed to this article.

Ravi Bloom was that “shy kid” who worked up the courage in 10th grade to try out for his synagogue’s 2020 Purim Shpiel. To his surprise, he was cast as Haman and became an instant star! When the pandemic forced a virtual performance, Ravi stole everybody’s hearts as The Narrator. He crooned “Fly Me to the Moon” wearing his grandfather’s tuxedo while expertly playing the keyboard (self-taught!). Ravi wasn’t known only for his Shpiel celebrity status; he and brothers showed up to every synagogue Social Action program. Ravi never had to be asked to lend a hand; he just did. His genuine smile would make others feel special.



Ravi Bloom, pictured here with youngest brother Cary at the 2020 Shpiel.

In April 2021, Ravi passed at age 17 from a car accident. To ensure a lasting legacy, The Ravi Bloom Mensch Award was established by the family in partnership with Kol Ami. The Award will be given annually to a Religious School high school student leader who serves as a role model, embodying the qualities of kindness, enthusiasm and inclusivity, as well as a love and passion for learning.

The recipient is recognized with a \$500 award from the Ravi Bloom Memorial Endowment Fund held by the Jewish Community Foundation. The money is intended to allow the honoree to pursue a passion of theirs, such as voice and/or musical instrument lessons, or even perhaps allowing them to donate to a cause close to their heart.



Vice President Stephanie Zinn presented 2023 recipient Joey Lieberman with the Ravi Bloom Mensch Award at this year’s Purim Shpiel. Photo by Ken Romm

This year’s recipient, Joey Lieberman, has shown enthusiastic dedication to Religious School, as Ravi did, she loves to learn and truly adores the community. Extremely engaged in the social action dialogue, Joey recently attended the L’Taken Social Justice Seminar and will continue this work as a member of the next cohort of RAC Teen Justice Fellows. Like Ravi, Joey developed a special bond with younger students by helping at our KAFTYJR programs. Joey shows extraordinary dedication to Jewish life and service through leadership in BBYO, and her huge role in the performing arts here at Kol Ami cannot go unmentioned!

Check out the beautiful perpetual plaque that now hangs in the Religious School wing. We look forward to honoring future recipients of this special award at the Purim Shpiel for decades to come.

Donations to the Ravi Bloom Endowment Fund can be made at: www.jcfsnj.org/ravi-bloom.

OUR LONG AND WINDING ROAD: FINDING OUR WAY HOME

Coming this fall from the Adult Education Committee

It’s about time. Time to refresh and renew. Time to enrich our appreciation of Jewish culture and knowledge. Time to learn with our Kol Ami clergy as well as with other amazing scholars. Time to spend a sacred Shabbat and a carefree weekend with old friends and time to make new ones within our community.



Please reserve the weekend of **October 13-15** to engage together in a beautiful setting at The Desmond hotel in Malvern, PA. It is only an hour drive from Kol Ami, but far enough and beautiful enough, especially in the fall, to help us feel “away.” The working title for the retreat, “Our Long and Winding Road,” represents our personal journeys through the highs and lows of life as reflected in the prism of Jewish customs and family life.

Tentative activities include a Kabbalat Shabbat service Friday evening, followed by lots of social time (all through the weekend!). There will be options for services on Shabbat morning, a choice of discussion groups in the afternoon, Havdalah plus group entertainment on Saturday night, and a closing session and nature walk on Sunday morning.

Join us as we continue the *ruach* (spirit) of the High Holy Days, Sukkot and Simchat Torah into a wonderful, shared Kol Ami experience this fall on our long and winding road home. The retreat is open to all adult members of Congregation Kol Ami. Registration and cost (including all meals) to attend will be available soon.

Any questions or comments? Want to serve on the planning committee? Contact Mark Pinzur at AdultEd@kolaminj.org.
We gratefully acknowledge the Jewish Community Foundation and Jewish Sacred Aging for their financial support.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

In times of happiness or sadness, Congregation Kol Ami offers a variety of ways to share your wishes and thoughts with others. Contributions may be sent to the synagogue office as well as completed on the Kol Ami website (www.kolaminj.org).

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SUPPORT OUR FUNDS

Please consider celebrating a simcha or memorializing a loved one by donating to one of Congregation Kol Ami's deserving funds described below.

Abraham & Sylvia Angstreich Beautification Fund* –

Keeps our synagogue safe, secure, and beautiful for generations to come.

Ahavat Limud (Love of Learning) – Established by

Sisterhood to support special programming and activities in the Religious School.

Amy Silvers Israel Trip Scholarship Endowment Fund* –

Provides scholarships to assist congregant families in sending their children on the Confirmation class Israel trip or a similar peer trip to Israel.

Branfman Children's Library Fund – Assists in purchasing

books for the Branfman Children's Library, and for supporting speakers for children's programs.

Cantor Anita F. Hochman Choir Fund – Helps choir to

expand their activities.

Cantor Neil Schnitzer Cantorial Fund – Enhances the music

and cantorial elements of services and programs.

Chasen Family Kulanu (LGBTQ+) Fund – Provides for

programming, education, and support needs for our LGBTQ+ community.

Clifford R. Levine Adult Education Fund – Supports

educational programming for adults.

College Connection Fund – Supports the relationship between

college-age students and the synagogue through mailings, packages and programs.

Dorman-Raich Senior Fund – Enhances senior programming.

E. Soslow Endowment Fund – Supports Scholar-in-Residence

programs and scholarship for a graduating senior each year.

Frisch-Trautenberg Choir Fund – Supports the choir and

other musical programs

Geraldine Gabriel Resource Room Fund – Assists children

with different learning styles in our Religious School.

Helen & Leon Weinberg Scholar-in-Residence Endowment

Fund* – Supports the biennial Scholar-in-Residence program.

High Holy Day Prayerbook Book Plates – Dedicate volumes

of our HHD prayerbook, *Mishkan HaNefesh*.

Honorable Steven P. Burkett Graduate Fund –

Supports the ten-year free membership offered to post-confirmation graduates.

Howard & Rhonda Weinberg Outdoor Chapel Fund –

Provides support for the creation and maintenance for the Weinberg Outdoor Chapel.

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recreational opportunities for youth.

Jeffrey Halper Memorial Fund – Established by Carole and

Art Halper in memory of their beloved son, to support building needs for children.

Jeremy Kane Gift of Israel Fund – Underwrites the costs of the Confirmation class Israel trip.

Kleiman/Gottlieb Special Needs Fund – Supports special needs education and programming.

Liheyot Fund – Supports an accessible environment within the congregation for those with disabilities.

Louis & Helene E. Walker Social Action Endowment Fund* –

Directly supports the work and programs of the Social Action Committee.

Lynne Rednik Early Childhood Center Fund –

Supports creative programming for our Early Childhood Center students.

Margie & Joe Sobel Family Assistance – Allows the synagogue to provide warm and caring education and programming for families that otherwise could not participate.

Merle Steinberg Religious School Scholarship Fund –

Provides tuition assistance and programming for our Religious School students.

Muss and Feinerman Chesed – Enables our children to attend a Jewish camp or other youth program.

Rabbi Richard F. Address Caring Community Fund –

Supports efforts to make our synagogue more compassionate and inclusive.

Rabbi David Education Fund – Enhances Religious School

education from Kindergarten through Hebrew High School graduation.

Rabbi David Good Works Fund* – At the discretion of the

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Rabbi Frenkel Good Works Fund* – Supports worthy and charitable causes at the discretion of the Rabbi.

Rabbi Newburge Tzedakah Collective Social Action Fund –

Supports worthy charitable activities within the community.

Ruth B. Wolf Archive Fund – Protecting our history for

future generations.

Stanton Deitch President's Fund – Provides financial

assistance for President or other members of executive committee to attend conferences or obtain leadership training.

Starlight Foundation – Helps build an endowment to support synagogue educational and cultural activities.

Tefilah Fund – Enables purchasing of enhancements to

prayer services.

Warren & Doris Elias Special Needs Endowment Fund* –

Supports the inclusion of individuals with special needs and their families in congregational life.

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund – Remember beloved family

and friends.

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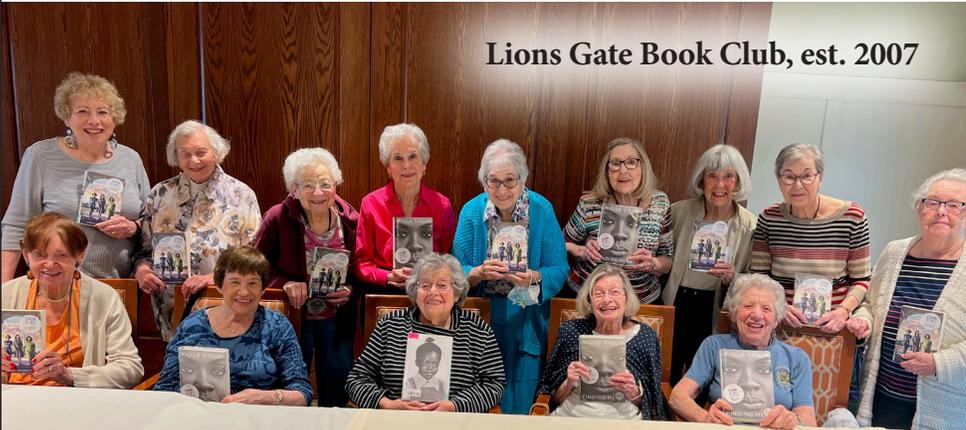


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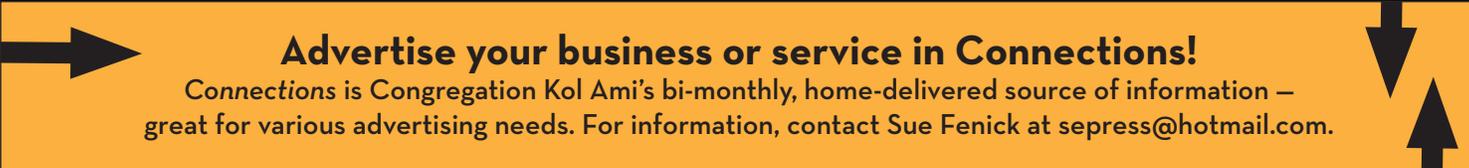
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

KOL AMI TURNS ONE!
Let's mark our first birthday with a celebratory Shabbat Evening Service and oneg... with cake, of course!

Friday, June 30, 7:00 pm
Kindly RSVP: www.kolaminj.org

