THE RABBI TEACHES
The Spring High Holy Days
By Rabbi Jennifer L. Frenkel

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, we will be sitting just a week or two away from what has been called the "High Holy Day Season of Israeli Life." A special time on our Jewish calendar, we mark the Israeli holidays of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israel’s official Memorial Day), and Yom Ha’Atzma’ut (Independence Day in Israel).

As we move into this designated time on our calendar, it feels different this year. So much has felt different this year. It is, somehow, hard to believe that seven months have passed since October 7, when Hamas terrorists waged the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust and took hundreds of innocent civilians hostage. Seven months of hoping and praying and working for the release of the hostages and the healing of the thousands brutally injured and traumatized, and the tens of thousands more who have been affected in the months since by the ongoing violence, terrorism, and growing humanitarian crisis.

Many of us have struggled with how to best express our care and compassion for the innocent people in both Israel and Gaza, how to stand for the values we hold sacred as a Jewish community while also acknowledging that we may not all always agree on political policies or political decisions, and how we continue to struggle most acutely with the current situation in Israel and Gaza, yet also recognizing that the conflict has a long, painful, and complicated history.

How ironic it is, then, that the very name “Israel” (Yisrael), has, at its very root, the notion of “wrestling” and the notion of how sacred that can be.

At times when I wrestle with conflicting thoughts and emotions – when I find myself struggling with the cognitive dissonance that comes from holding seemingly contradictory beliefs at the same time – it is often the words of poetry that I connect with most powerfully. It is in looking at the poetry written by both Israeli and Palestinian poets where I often find powerful expression of that which most deeply connects us and impacts us as human beings.

Yehuda Amichai, recognized as one of Israel’s most famous poets, has had his Hebrew poems translated into over forty languages. One of his well-known poems, filled with stark contrasts and irony, is titled “Jerusalem:”

(continued; See “Rabbi Teaches” on page 3)
FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Eric Hurwitz, President

The theme of this edition of Connections is a look back on our past year, and as I reflect on that topic, we have many reasons for Kol Ami pride. The unification of our two legacy synagogues has proven to be a catalyst for growth and transformation, touching every aspect of our community. I could write more words than our editor will allow, so allow me to comment on just a few.

We welcomed a new clergy partner in Rabbi Milan-Polisar, who has quickly become an integral part of our spiritual leadership team. In our full Religious School and Early Childhood Center, we have witnessed tremendous energy and growth. These spaces have become nurturing environments where our children can grow, learn, and thrive. The dedication of our educators and the engagement of our families have contributed to the success and vibrancy of our educational programs.

Our calendar has been bustling with events that cater to diverse backgrounds and interests. From engaging study sessions to thought-provoking discussion groups, tikkan olam activities, and social gatherings, Kol Ami has become a place where everyone can find something that resonates with them. These events have fostered a sense of belonging and community among our members.

Through careful planning and sound financial management, we have been able to establish a $5 million endowment to help secure our future. This milestone ensures that our congregation will continue to thrive and serve future generations.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the tireless efforts of all our dedicated volunteers, committee chairs, executive committee, and board members. Their commitment and hard work have been instrumental in driving our success. Additionally, our dynamic team of clergy partners has provided spiritual guidance and support, helping us navigate our individual and collective journeys.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of all those involved in our community, I wanted to offer my deepest appreciation to our fabulous staff. Their behind-the-scenes work is the driving force behind our success. I encourage each of you to take a moment to personally thank our staff members when you see them. Their contributions often go unnoticed, but their impact on our community is immeasurable.

Looking ahead, we have even more improvements planned in the months to come. These enhancements will further elevate our facilities, creating an environment that fosters connection, growth, and spiritual nourishment. We are committed to ensuring that our physical space reflects the vibrancy and warmth of our community.

Together, we have achieved so much in the past year, including what I believe is a culture of positivity and growth. I am proud to be part of this journey with each of you. Let us continue to support one another, celebrate our accomplishments, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

SHALOM FROM SISTERHOOD

Kol Ami Sisterhood experienced an amazing year of growth in 2023-2024 filled with meaningful, enjoyable programs. Together we were able to celebrate holidays and events. We shared learning and new ideas at our educational programs. We also made connections with women of all ages, backgrounds, occupations and interests. Sisterhood brings us together to share concerns about world issues and the current war in Israel. We were proud to unite to make a difference through our caring support and a donation to Jewish Federations of North America’s Israel emergency campaign.

We feel fortunate to be Congregation Kol Ami’s Sisterhood as we reflect on the success of this year, grow stronger, and look forward to our upcoming year together.

The Co-Presidents of Sisterhood (Lisa Weiser, Tracy Goldberg, and Amy Bodofsky) would like to sincerely thank everyone that volunteered, helped with planning, and attended events.

Here are just some of the many events we enjoyed this year:

- Women’s Seder was a pre-Passover celebration that featured the beautiful music of Rabbi Milan-Polisar
- Braid. Spice. Cook! A Jewish food series presented by the Sisterhoods of South Jersey. The first of three events, “Challah Prince” Idan Chabasov, was hosted at Kol Ami with over 250 people in attendance (pictured below and on page 8).
- Women’s Seder was a pre-Passover celebration that featured the beautiful music of Rabbi Milan-Polisar

Here are just some of the many events we enjoyed this year:

- Summer Sangria Social
- Holiday Gift Bazaar with a cafe and gift table
- Latkes, Babkas and Vodkas Chanukah party
- Sisterhood’s Women & Spirituality Attitude of Gratitude program
- Braid. Spice. Cook! A Jewish food series presented by the Sisterhoods of South Jersey. The first of three events, “Challah Prince” Idan Chabasov, was hosted at Kol Ami with over 250 people in attendance (pictured below and on page 8).
- Women’s Seder was a pre-Passover celebration that featured the beautiful music of Rabbi Milan-Polisar

Upcoming Events:
May 13: Cooking with Rosie Hymerling will be an evening of demonstrations and tasting by our own Sisterhood member.
May 17: Sisterhood Shabbat
June 17: Closing Dinner at Elena Wu in Voorhees
June 26: Sisterhood’s Women and Spirituality Aging Program
July 16: Sisterhood Summer Social (July 17 rain date)

What a wonderful year! Many Thanks! If you are not currently a Sisterhood member and want to be involved, please contact SisterhoodPresident@kolaminj.org.
THE RABBI TEACHES (continued from page 1)

On a roof in the Old City
Laundry hanging in the late afternoon sunlight:
The white sheet of a woman who is my enemy,
The towel of a man who is my enemy,
To wipe off the sweat of his brow.

In the sky of the Old City
A kite.
At the other end of the string,
A child
I can't see
Because of the wall.

We have put up many flags,
They have put up many flags.
To make us think that they're happy.
To make them think that we're happy.

As one literary commentator wrote, the setting is the Old City of Jerusalem, a place of historical and religious significance that is also a place of conflict and division. While the poem focuses on mundane objects, symbols of the everyday lives of the people who live there, each is also a reminder of the deep divide that exists between the two people, as well as the reminder of the human cost of conflict, and the hope and innocence that is constantly threatened by violence and seeing one another as enemies. While Amichai’s poem is a powerful piece drawing our attention to the division and ongoing conflict, it also serves as a reminder of the power of human connection, of our inherent humanness (and, thus, holiness, if we believe we are each created in the image of God), of how not-so-different we are.

Ghassan Kanafani, who was a prominent Palestinian writer, considered to be a leading novelist of this generation also wrote a poem about the innocence of children, the desire to protect those who are tragically caught in the middle of war, and the very real cost of ongoing conflict and violence – a poem that could have easily been written by a poet of any background (Israeli, Palestinian, etc.). He wrote:

I wish children didn’t die.
I wish they would be temporarily elevated
to the skies until the war ends.
Then they would return home safe,
and when their parents would ask them:
“where were you?”
they would say:
“we were playing in the clouds.”

During this sacred season – of holidays that call upon us to remember, to celebrate, to look at our past and hope for the future – may we continue to have the courage and strength to never stop praying and working and striving for a more lasting peace for Israel and her neighbors.

As Amichai also wrote:

Don’t stop after beating the swords
into plowshares, don’t stop! Go on beating
and make musical instruments out of them.
Whoever wants to make war again
will have to turn them into plowshares first.

MEN’S CLUB
By Michael Feist

One of the most important things you can do in life is press the proverbial pause button and reflect. As I approach the end of my first year as Men’s Club President, it’s appropriate to look back at the year that was. I came into this role with certain goals and aspirations. Most of our events exceeded any expectations I had. Each event and interaction taught me a lesson.

As we approach summer, our event schedule slows down a little bit. I’ll miss ‘the guys,’ but it does present me with an opportunity to think back on the year that was and learn what worked versus where there may be room for improvement.

Looking back at the installation speech I delivered last summer, I challenged myself with a few goals as Men’s Club President. First, I wanted to build on the tradition of **tikkun olam** that has always been a cornerstone of Men’s Club. I also wanted to ensure that Men’s Club would grow in numbers – specifically reaching out to the younger synagogue population to ensure the longer-term viability of Men’s Club. While our membership numbers have gone up, there is always room to grow as we continue to expand our community.

As a first-time synagogue cohort leader, one of the biggest lessons I have learned is that going it alone is never a recipe for success. Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric, once said, “Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” This is a consistent challenge for me as a leader – asking for help. I am fortunate and grateful to have an amazing Board that is always there when I need them, along with countless others who consistently chip in to help at our various events. In the coming year, it will be a mission of mine to continue to grow this sense of volunteerism that exists within Men’s Club and to cultivate the next group of leaders. I appreciate everyone coming on this journey with me and can’t wait for what’s next.

Men’s Club’s Chrain Gang made it’s legendary Passover horseradish once again this spring. It’s been “serious” business for over 30 years!
As the Religious School winds down for the year, we have had a moment to reflect on what an amazing year it has been. The students have made new friends and strengthened existing connections. Each classroom has been buzzing with active learning and inquisitiveness. The enthusiasm throughout the school during special programs, T’filah, and even just down the hallways has been amazing to see.

Registration for the Religious School is coming out soon. We have a lot of new and exciting things planned for next year. Be on the lookout for it so you can register your kids for the 2024-2025 school year.

ARE YOU CURIOUS? Do You Enjoy Sharing Stories with Others? Are You Looking for a Welcoming Community?

Look no further than the offerings of the Adult Education Committee of Congregation Kol Ami. From Shabbat mornings through the week, in person, on Zoom, and hybrid (both in-person and on Zoom); led by our fabulous clergy, or led by talented fellow congregants and sometimes led by rabbis and other experts from around the globe, there is bound to be something (or more than one something) for everyone.

All adults of any age are welcome to participate. You can come and go as you wish and are able – picking topics of interest or teachers from whom you want to learn. Many of our weekday classes are recorded and available on the Kol Ami website, so you can access them on your schedule.

There are no prerequisites! Just come with an open mind and you will become a valued member of our community within the Kol Ami community.

Look through the offerings listed in this edition of Connections to see what’s happening now. Mark your calendar for September 7, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, as we kick off the new year with an all-day program for adults.

Any questions? Contact Gail Donner, Ira Miller, or Mark Pinzur at AdultEd@kolaminj.org.

SOCIAL ACTION

Our Social Action Committee is hard at work (as always!), offering various Mitzvah opportunities. Recently, volunteers cooked an Easter brunch for residents of Gift of Life Howie’s House, and others raised funds for their Donor Dash. Gift of Life has led the way for organ and tissue donation and transplantation in the U.S. and made a great impact worldwide.

On May 7 (6:45-8:30 pm), Beth Hurwitz will spearhead a group making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to contribute to Cathedral Kitchen. Sign up soon, space in our prep kitchen is limited. Similarly, Estherose Heyman is looking into assisting Manna on Main Street with food pantry and soup kitchen preparations.

Our Environmental Awareness & Sustainability sub-committee, led by Sharon Parnes, Rachelle Lampert, Bill Fisher, and Pam Barroway, is planning an educational program for next year, exploring and prioritizing actions to pursue, and even making suggestions for efforts within Kol Ami’s walls.

Refugee Assistance, led by Steve Janove & Jaimee Friedman, continues its essential support of relocated families needing a helping hand in the form of job searches, furniture and clothing, transportation, and more.

Our Social Justice Advocacy sub-committee, led by Michele Zeldner and Gail Donner, will once again be participating in the “Every Voice/Every Vote” postcard campaign. Watch for opportunities to help spread the word about the importance of voting.

If anyone – present committee members or those interested in joining – have new ideas, projects to explore, interest in helping to set direction, please contact Rachelle Lampert at rachelle.landert@verizon.net.

Hebrew High School Graduates

Grade 12 Graduate       Child of
Eva Fields             Lisa Fields & Ian Sirota
Elena Fromkin          Stephanie & Bryan Fromkin
Evan Garber            Andrea & Samuel Garber
Brandon Lyons         Wendi & Jaret Lyons
Sydney Sonstein       Amy & Jason Sonstein
Bela Goldberg          Rajita & David Goldberg

Confirmation Class

Grade 10 Confirmand    Child of
Kieran Barash         Patricia Barasch & Paul Furtaw
Eli Birnbaum          Julia & Lloyd Birnbaum
Cary Bloom            Jayne Feld & Craig Bloom
Henry Capizzi         Rebecca Capizzi
Ethan Coffina         Kim & Scott Coffina
Edward Firstenberg   Melissa Firstenberg
Abigail Frey          Deborah & Steven Frey
Benjamin Goldberg     Ruby Tan & Matthew Goldberg
Joshua Hammer         Ginene Raechel Hammer & Michael Perry
Madeline Harris       Melissa & Kevin Harris
Joey Lieberson        Caryn & Larry Lieberson
Boris Pasternack      Sherryl & William Pasternack
Jacob Rexon           Meryl & Matthew Rexon
Owen Romm             Carrie & Kenneth Romm
Benjamin Sautter      Jessica & Todd Sautter
Micah Schwartz        Julie & Joel Schwartz
MAY

Men’s Club Lunch
Wednesdays, May 1 & 15 12:30 pm
(Off-site; contact allanpep@yahoo.com.)

Caring for Our Aging Parents As We Care for Ourselves
Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 pm
Support Group facilitated by Rabbi Ariel Milan-Polisar & Eileen Winter, MSW, LSW

LGBTQIA+ Torah Study
Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 pm

Kol Ami Networking Group
Thursday, May 2, 8:30-10:00 am

Shop to Donate: Mixellaneous
Thursday, May 2, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Friday, May 3, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
(Off-site) Enjoy a private wine, cheese, and shopping reception May 2, 6:00-8:00 pm.

Yiddish Shmooze Group
Thursdays, May 2 & 16, 10:30 am (Zoom)

First Thursdays: Chevra Kadisha
Presented by Dr. Sarit Wishnevski
Thursday, May 2, 7:30 pm (Zoom)

First Friday
Friday, May 3, 6:15 pm
Enjoy pre-service refreshments.

Shabbat Evening Service: Grade 12 Graduation
Friday, May 3, 7:00 pm
We celebrate our Hebrew High School graduates as well as May anniversaries.

Torah Study
Saturdays, May 4, 11, 18 & 25, 9:00 am (Hybrid; May 25 is Zoom only.)

Spice Up Your Judaism
Saturdays, May 4, 11 & 18, 10:15 am (Hybrid)

Last Sunday of Religious school
Sunday, May 5, 9:15 am

Caring Community Blankets of Hope
Sunday, May 5, 11:30 am

Yom HaShoah
Monday, May 6
Holocaust Remembrance Day

Talmud Talks
Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.
Tuesdays, May, 7, 14, 21 & 28, 11:30 am (Zoom)

Last Tuesday of Religious School
Tuesday, May 7, 4:15 pm/6:30 pm

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making
Wednesday, May 7, 6:45-8:30 pm

Adult Education: Jewish Theology in Our Time
Led by Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel
Three Wednesdays, May 8, 15 & 22, 10:30-11:45 am (Hybrid)

Pajama Storytime
Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 pm

Braid. Spice. Cook!
Busy In Brooklyn
A Jewish Food Series presented by the Sisterhoods of Kol Ami, Beth El, and TBS.
Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 pm (TBS)
Get “Totally Kosher” with cookbook author/food blogger Chanie Apfelbaum.

Shabbat Evening Service: Shabbat Morim
Friday, May 10, 7:00 pm
We celebrate our remarkable teachers.

Shabbat Morning Service
Saturday, May 11, 10:30 am
Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Coffina

Shabbat Havdalah Service
Saturday, May 11, 5:45 pm
Bat Mitzvah of Avery Brown

Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 12

Yom HaZikaron
Monday, May 13
Israel Memorial Day

Monthly Mussar Moments
Led by Rabbi Ariel Milan-Polisar
Monday, May 13, 12:00 pm (Zoom)

Sisterhood Cooking Event
Monday, May 13, 7:00 pm (Off-site)

Yom Ha’atzma`ut
Tuesday, May 14
Israel Independence Day

Congregational Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 pm

Caring Caps: Bagels, a Shmear & Shmooze
Friday, May 17, 10:00 am (Off-site)

Tot Shabbat Dinner & Service
Friday, May 17, 5:15 pm Family Dinner
6:00 pm Shabbat Service

Shabbat Morning Service
Saturday, May 18, 10:30 am
Bat Mitzvah of Samara Feist

Boomers Hike at Rancocas Cranberry Farm
Sunday, May 19, 10:30 am

ECC Preschool Prom
Sunday, May 19, 4:00 pm

Boomers Lunch at Kol Ami
Tuesday, May 21, 1:00 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, May 22, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, May 24, 7:00 pm
We celebrate May birthdays.

Lag BaOmer
Sunday, May 26

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27

Adult Education: Survival of the Fittest? How Judaism Has Managed to Survive
Led by Rabbi Richard Address
Wednesday, May 29, 10:30-11:45 am (Hybrid)

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

Lynda Appell
sister of Roslyn (Robert Purdy) Appell

Eileen Broder
mother of Fran (Marc) Rosenthal

Robert Carroll
father of Neill (Tori Manis) Carroll

Ere Shavuot Service
Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 pm (Yizkor)

Shavuot
Wednesday, June 12 (Offices/Schools closed)

Shavuot & Confirmation Service
Wednesday, June 12, 10:00 am (Yizkor)

Shabbat Evening Service: Pride Shabbat
Friday, June 14, 7:00 pm

Shabbat Havdalah Service
Saturday, June 15, 5:45 pm
Bat Mitzvah of Emily Plevinsky

Father’s Day
Sunday, June 16

Shabbat Evening Service: Men’s Club Shabbat
Friday, June 21, 7:00 pm

Cool Off with Clergy
Wednesday, June 26, 6:30-7:30 pm
Ice cream with Rabbi Milan-Polisar
(Off-site, location to be announced.)

Sisterhood’s Women & Spirituality: Women & Aging
Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 pm

Summer Torah Study Begins
Saturday, June 29, 10:00 am (Zoom)
Betsy Bocher
on the NJ Holocaust Commission’s recognition of her book “Beware! A Multisensory Approach to the Holocaust”

Marlene Boonin
on the birth of her great-grandson, Grayson Matthew Bees

Elaine & Alan Braslow
on the marriage of their son, Stephen, to Dawn Satinoff

Stefanie & Steven Cohen
on the engagement of their daughter, Maddie to Matt Kaminer

Erica & Michael Fau
on the birth of their daughter, Ava Paige Fau

Phyllis & Paul Fishbein
on the birth of their granddaughter, Talia Louise Fishbein

Penny & Robert Jacoby
on the birth of their granddaughter, Liora Hava Kalmus

Judy & Steve Lubetkin
on the birth of their grandson, Thomas Oliver Gosiszki II

Teri & Neal Nover
on their 40th Anniversary

Sonni & Dan Rapp
on the naming of their son, Wyatt Everett Rapp

Robin Rubin
on being named the recipient of this year’s Jewish Senior Housing & Healthcare Service Sis Levy Award

Renee & Howard Siegel
on the birth of their grandson, Simon Lenny Siegel

BOOMERS SOCIAL GROUP

Our Boomers Social Group has had a fantastic year. Our wonderful members have had engaging lunches, great book discussions, and a lovely Shabbat on April 5 (pictured above).

As with everything at Kol Ami, it’s the people, our community, that give us love, life, and hope. We are a very inclusive group, and everyone at Kol Ami is more than welcome to participate in activities that strike your fancy – no matter when you were born!

Boomer-led Spice Up: The May 18 Spice Up Your Judaism program (10:15 am; hybrid) will be led by our own David Korngruen. David will be talking about the Kindertransport during World War II. He will be relating stories from his father and a family friend, who were two of the children sent to England.

Hiking Group: On May 19 at 11:00 am, our hiking group (co-chairs Bill Fisher, Rachelle Lampert, and Stephanie Welder) will go for a 1.5-mile hike at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance in Vincentown, led by congregant Carlton Montgomery. This hike will include an optional tour of the chemical-free farm. This will be more challenging than our April hike.

Lunch Group: On May 21 at 1:00 pm, we will enjoy a catered lunch ($20 per person) in the Kol Ami social hall. Ira Miller will be our guest speaker, discussing the music of the ’60s and ’70s. Please bring your favorite record album covers (if you still have them) so we can share. For more information, contact event chair, Karen Ginsburg at kareng1@verizon.net. The following lunch, planned by Karen and Bobbie Israelsky, will be at Norma’s Middle East Restaurant on July 23, at 1:00 pm.

Tour of Kimmel Center: On June 4, congregant David Olinsky will lead a free tour of the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. We will meet at Woodcrest PATCO station at 10:00 am. We will likely have lunch in Center City after the tour. More details will follow.

Book Discussion Group: June 9 at 7:00 pm will be our hybrid book discussion (off-site in person and via Zoom) on The Red Balcony by Jonathan Wilson. Please plan to bring your lawn chair and join us in the backyard. If it rains, we’ll fold up our chairs and head inside. Also, start thinking about the books you would like Stephanie Welder to put on our list for next year. We will be voting on book submissions around the end of May.

Planning Committee: Our next Zoom planning meeting will be on May 26 at 11:00 am. Please join us. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to share, please email Judy Lubetkin (morahjudyl@aol.com) or Lynn Branfman (tensb@aol.com).

Please check your emails and the Kol Ami website for registration and information about all of our activities. Be there or be square!
Paying Tribute… A memorable Kol Ami Tribute Weekend began on Friday, April 12, with a delightful Erev Shabbat Service and culminated on Sunday, April 14, in an incredibly special and fabulously touching Tribute Dinner (pictured above, courtesy of Ken Romm Photography). Todah rabah, thank you, to all of our sponsors, attendees, supporters, performers, and community for helping us properly honor Rabbi David and Steve Janove for their enduring good works.

What a Prince…
On March 20, Kol Ami and the Sisterhoods of South Jersey welcomed Challah Prince Idan Chabasov for a hands-on demonstration of his challah art, as part of its Braid. Spice. Cook! cooking series.

Fun with Food…
Twenty Adult Education participants got into the kitchen with Rabbi Milan-Polisar for her tasty series, “A Journey into Jewish Food.”

Let Us All Breathe Together… Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, our Scholar-in-Residence and teacher for the weekend of March 8–10, led us through engaging sessions and helped us find our spirituality within.
In Stitches... A fun time was had by attendees of our March 27 Spring Stitch. Knitters enjoyed a catered dinner and conversation as they made Caring Caps for donation to area hospitals.

Solar “Flair”... The synagogue staff was “totally” decked out in their solar eclipse glasses as they stepped outside to see the phenomenon on April 8. Not pictured: Ruth Scott (someone had to take the photo!).

Purim Fun... Our March 23 Purimpalooza Retro Dance Party saw revelers in costumes from so many fun decades! The event for the ‘over 21’ crowd included a megillah reading, line dancing, and libations! We followed it up the next morning, March 24, with our Kelce/Swift-era Religious School Purim celebration, the “Megillah of Oz” Purim Shpiel and, finally, we followed the yellow brick road to a Purim Carnival for all ages.

What a Mensch... On Sunday, March 24, Brandon Lyons (center; pictured with his parents Wendi & Jaret Lyons) was presented with this year’s Ravi Bloom Memorial Award, a scholarship given to a high school-aged “mensch,” enabling them to pursue a passion.

Say Cheese... Just look at these brilliant ECC and Religious School punims!
May/June B’NAI MITZVAH

Samara Feist
May 18
Daughter of Ellen & Michael Feist
Brother: Ethan

I am in seventh grade at Rosa International Middle School. I love being on stage whether it’s dancing, acting, singing, or playing violin. In my limited free time, I like to draw and color, listen to music, play games, chat with friends, and play with my dog, Sandy. For my Bat Mitzvah project, I made bracelets for people to show their support for Israel. I charged eighteen dollars because in Jewish symbolism for numbers, eighteen, or chai, means life, and this project is about bringing life to those who are suffering in Israel. All the money raised was donated to the Magen David Adom, the Israeli Red Cross. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah means so much to me. I’ve learned my responsibility as a member of the Jewish community as well as how to manage my time in practicing for this day.

Dylan Coffina
May 11
Son of Kim & Scott Coffina
Brothers: Alex & Ethan

Hi, I’m Dylan! I have a family of five with Mom and Dad and two older teenage brothers, Alex and Ethan. I love listening to and playing music. I play alto saxophone for instrumental bands inside and outside of school. I play soccer for Mt. Laurel United as well. Soccer is my favorite sport, but I enjoy other sports as well such as basketball, baseball, and even football. I attend Marlton Middle School and I’m in seventh grade. My mitzvah project is a beach cleanup in Atlantic City to make sure the beaches are clean, and the wildlife is safe. Being a Bar Mitzvah means a lot to me because it shows that I’ve grown so much, and still have so much more of life to discover.

Avery Brown
May 11
Daughter of Randi & Doug Brown
Brother: Cooper

My name is Avery Brown. I am 12 years old and live with my mom, my dad, my brother Cooper, and my dog Murphy. I’m in seventh grade at Voorhees Middle School. I am a soccer player, and I love performing in theatre productions. I also love singing, art, and spending time with my friends and family. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered as part of the Ezer program at Congregation Kol Ami. I was an assistant in the first grade Sunday school class. I love teaching students about Jewish traditions through songs, stories, and art and showing the importance of celebrating being Jewish. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is an important tradition for the women in my family. My mom, mom, and now me are three generations of women who have taken part in this tradition. I look forward to continuing my Jewish education and continuing to celebrate my Jewish faith with my family.

Seth Davidoff
June 8
Son of Michelle & Craig Davidoff
Sibling: Alexis

My name is Seth Davidoff, and I am in seventh grade at Voorhees Middle School. I love to play soccer, basketball, and flag football and I love to watch and cheer on all the Philadelphia sports teams, especially the Eagles and Sixers. I have a dog named Rusty who I love to spend time with. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I volunteered and raised money with and for an organization called Animal Aid USA. Every 28 days, a team from NJ drives to Georgia to rescue dogs from high kill shelters and brings them back to NJ to be adopted. They provide them with all necessary veterinary treatments to help save these dogs’ lives. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah has allowed me to have a better understanding of my Jewish religion and all of our traditions.

Emily Plevinsky
June 15
Son of Jen & Marc Plevinsky
Siblings: Aly & Jake

My name is Emily Plevinsky but I usually go by Emmy. I live in Cherry Hill with my parents Marc and Jen and my two siblings Aly & Jake. I love playing all types of sports but soccer is my favorite. I’ve played soccer since I was three years old and continue to play everyday. I am in seventh grade at Beck Middle School where I play on both the soccer and basketball teams. For my mitzvah project, I am collecting and donating used soccer equipment to the Kensington Soccer Club in Philadelphia. Many of their players can’t afford to purchase their own equipment, so the club provides it for them so all kids can have a chance to play. To me, becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming a Jewish adult and can take more opportunities to volunteer in my community.

Emily Plevinsky
June 15
Son of Jen & Marc Plevinsky
Siblings: Aly & Jake

My name is Emily Plevinsky but I usually go by Emmy. I live in Cherry Hill with my parents Marc and Jen and my two siblings Aly & Jake. I love playing all types of sports but soccer is my favorite. I’ve played soccer since I was three years old and continue to play everyday. I am in seventh grade at Beck Middle School where I play on both the soccer and basketball teams. For my mitzvah project, I am collecting and donating used soccer equipment to the Kensington Soccer Club in Philadelphia. Many of their players can’t afford to purchase their own equipment, so the club provides it for them so all kids can have a chance to play. To me, becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming a Jewish adult and can take more opportunities to volunteer in my community.

Caroline Foster
June 8
Daughter of Leah & Tim Foster
Sister: Charlotte

I am in seventh grade at the William A. Mary Middle School in Moorestown. In school, I play on the middle school soccer team, participate in the student council, and run track. I have played soccer for my club team, Moorestown Soccer Club, since I was five years old. I love to go to the beach in Margate in the summer where I have a lot of cousins and family. For my Bat Mitzvah project, I collected over 100 pairs of sneakers and sent them to GoSneakers.com, an organization that donates the sneakers to kids and adults who want to play sports or be active. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is important to me because I am carrying on a family tradition that goes back many generations and I will create this memory of becoming a Jewish adult in my congregation.

Emily Plevinsky
June 15
Son of Jen & Marc Plevinsky
Siblings: Aly & Jake

My name is Emily Plevinsky but I usually go by Emmy. I live in Cherry Hill with my parents Marc and Jen and my two siblings Aly & Jake. I love playing all types of sports but soccer is my favorite. I’ve played soccer since I was three years old and continue to play everyday. I am in seventh grade at Beck Middle School where I play on both the soccer and basketball teams. For my mitzvah project, I am collecting and donating used soccer equipment to the Kensington Soccer Club in Philadelphia. Many of their players can’t afford to purchase their own equipment, so the club provides it for them so all kids can have a chance to play. To me, becoming a Bat Mitzvah means that I am becoming a Jewish adult and can take more opportunities to volunteer in my community.

Hello, my name is Avery Brown. I am 12 years old and live with my mom, my dad, my brother Cooper, and my dog Murphy. I’m in seventh grade at Voorhees Middle School. I am a soccer player, and I love performing in theatre productions. I also love singing, art, and spending time with my friends and family. For my mitzvah project, I volunteered as part of the Ezer program at Congregation Kol Ami. I was an assistant in the first grade Sunday school class. I love teaching students about Jewish traditions through songs, stories, and art and showing the importance of celebrating being Jewish. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is an important tradition for the women in my family. My mom, mom, and now me are three generations of women who have taken part in this tradition. I look forward to continuing my Jewish education and continuing to celebrate my Jewish faith with my family.

Seth Davidoff
June 8
Son of Michelle & Craig Davidoff
Sibling: Alexis

My name is Seth Davidoff, and I am in seventh grade at Voorhees Middle School. I love to play soccer, basketball, and flag football and I love to watch and cheer on all the Philadelphia sports teams, especially the Eagles and Sixers. I have a dog named Rusty who I love to spend time with. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I volunteered and raised money with and for an organization called Animal Aid USA. Every 28 days, a team from NJ drives to Georgia to rescue dogs from high kill shelters and brings them back to NJ to be adopted. They provide them with all necessary veterinary treatments to help save these dogs’ lives. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah has allowed me to have a better understanding of my Jewish religion and all of our traditions.

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Siblings: Aly & Jake

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Daughter of Leah & Tim Foster
Sister: Charlotte

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WE GRATIFY 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 online. For a complete list of funds and tzedakah opportunities, visit www.kolaminj.org.

Abraham & Sylvia Angstreich Beautification Fund*
Linda & Steven Angstreich
in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and
dughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
in memory of Sherri Kreiger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Ahavat Limud (Love of Learning)
Linda & Ross Levitsky
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson

Branfman Children’s Library Fund
Lynn Adler in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell
Karen & Marvin Ginsburg in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Donna Lavenderi & James Katz in memory of Eileen Broder, mother of Francine Rosenthal
Rebecca Silver in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Rolane & Steve Sunshine in memory of Benjamin Perloff, son of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Marsha & Allen Zechowy in memory of Esther Zechowy, mother of Allen Zechowy

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Marylee & Stuart Alperin
in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and
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in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Toby & Len Berman in honor of Cantor Anita Hochman
Koleinu Choir
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Teri Eith in honor of Teri & Neal Nover’s anniversary
Donna & Stuart Friedman
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Erica & Richard King in honor of Cantor Anita Hochman
Robin & Gary Kushner
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Ellen Specter & Butch Melstein
in memory of Barbara Kerner, mother of Jon Ayes
in memory of Barbara Kerner, wife of David Kerner
in memory of Norman Mutchnick, brother of Edward Mutchnick
Sylvia & Michael Miller in honor of Nadine & Doug Cohen
Teri & Neal Nover
in memory of Jack Rizman, grandfather of Teri Nover
in memory of Geraldine Reckson, aunt of Teri Nover

Susan & David Rush
in honor of Richard Freedman’s new grandson, Archer Isaac
Ellen & Roger Sheinkin
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Sharon Siegel in honor of Teri and Neal Nover’s anniversary
Lonnie & Stanley Smoller
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Judi & David Weinberg in honor of Teri & Neal Nover’s anniversary

Chasen Family Kulanu (LGBTQ+) Fund
Lisa & David Lanter
in memory of Lillian Lantner, grandmother of David Lanter

Clifford R. Levine Adult Education Fund
Jo Anne & Flip Glass
in memory of Loretta Rochelle Katz, sister of Len Berman
Liz Levine in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell
Linda & Ross Levitsky
in memory of Eileen Broder, mother of Francine Rosenthal
Deborah Lisker & Edward Chernoff
in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell
Michele Figures & Ira Miller
in memory of Sherri Kreiger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
Susan & Marc Witte in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King

College Connection Fund
Audriane Levene in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Frisch-Trautenberg Choir Fund
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in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
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in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Ruth & David Gubernick
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Donna Lavenderi & James Katz
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Michele Figures & Ira Miller
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson
Judith Nadell
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson

Honorable Steven P. Burkett Graduate Fund
Linda Burkett in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and
dughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Sarah & David Zalemann in honor of Lee Bloom
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Howard & Rhonda Weinberg Outdoor Chapel Fund
Rolane & Steve Sunshine
  in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King

Jeffrey Halper Memorial Fund
Carole & Arthur Halper
  in memory of Hannah Jacobs, mother of Arthur Halper
  in memory of Sidney Jacobs, father of Arthur Halper
  in memory of Ted Spivak

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Rolane & Stephen Sunshine
  in memory of Loretta Rochelle Katz, sister of Len Berman

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Rickie & Martin Cohen
  in memory of Marcelle Kouser, mother of David Kouser
Catherine & Joseph Convery
  in memory of Carol Fisher, wife of Bill Fisher
Meryl & Gerry Greene
  in memory of Samuel Silverman, father of Meryl Greene
June Seger  in memory of Carol Fisher, wife of Bill Fisher
Denise & Steve Weinberg in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff,
  son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Carmella & Albert Zalcman in memory of Leonard Halpern,
  husband of Jaye Halpern
Sarah & David Zalcman in honor of Stephanie & John Riviello and
  Monica & Vashon Watson

Lynne Rednik Early Childhood Center Fund
Sharon Parnes & Brien Brothman
  in memory of Loretta Rochelle Katz, sister of Len Berman
Susan & David Rush
  in memory of Marcelle Kouser, mother of David Kouser
Lynne & Norman Rednik
  in memory of Thelma Spivak, mother of Eileen Elias

Margie & Joe Sobel Family Assistance Fund
Carolyn & Veniamin Barshay in honor of their daughter, Maya
  Barshay, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Judy Franken in memory of Eleanor Klein, mother of Judy Franken
Debbie & Scott Jeffreys
  in honor of Robin Rubin receiving the Sis Levy award
  in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
Janine & Mark Sobel
  in memory of Albert Greenbaum, uncle of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Eileen Broder, mother of Fran Rosenthal
  in memory of Eugene Skir, uncle of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Howard Coleman, husband of Joan Coleman
  in memory of Irving Fang

Janine & Mark Sobel
  in memory of Libbie Greenbaum, aunt of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Loretta Rochelle Katz, sister of Len Berman
  in memory of Max Greenbaum, grandfather of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Milton Sobel, grandfather of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Minnie Sobel, grandmother of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Reba Greenbaum, grandmother of Mark Sobel
  in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
  in memory of Sydney Skir, aunt of Mark Sobel
Stephanie & Andrew Zinn
  in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz

Merle Steinberg Religious School Scholarship Fund
Geraldine & John Carroll
  in memory of Eileen Broder, mother of Fran Rosenthal
Sue & Dave Fenick  in memory of Shira Sand from Blake Fenick

Muss and Feinerman Chesed
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  in memory of Abraham Schwartz, grandfather of Lisa Lanter

Rabbi David Education Fund
Pam & Tom Austin
  in honor of Rabbi David’s 50 years in the Rabbinate
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Lois & Robert Levine
  in memory of Loretta Katz, sister of Len Berman
Richard Rosen
  in memory of Norman Rosen, father of Richard Rosen

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  in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell
Myrna & Marshall Fineman
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  in honor of Rabbi David’s years of tikkun olam
Susan & Edward Heffernan
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Judie Kaplan in memory of Jean & John Kaplan, mother and father
  of Don Kaplan
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Betsy & Jerome Morgenstern
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Erin Quirk & Christopher Aker
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Roslyn & David Wynne
  in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Shirley Frankel’s daughter, Jill Ray

Rabbi Richard F. Address Caring Community Fund
Jaimee & Steve Friedman in memory of Benjamin Perloff, son of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Deborah Kahn in memory of Benjamin Perloff, son of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Shonnie Lebovitz & Max Taytelbaum
  in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King
Diana & Sid Maetzky in memory of Carol Fisher, wife of Bill Fisher
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ira Miller & Shelley Figures in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Sharon Parnes & Brien Brothman
in honor of Michael Levy’s 75th birthday

Rabbis’ Good Works Fund*
Irene & Yossi Afek in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King
Phyllis Berman
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Toby & Len Berman in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Susan Bookman in memory of Lyndal Appel, sister of Roslyn Appel
Lynn Branfman
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Rhona Paul-Cohen & Sandy Cohen
in memory of Sol Gantz, father of Erica King
Judy & Steven Dorfman
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Eileen & Robert Elias in honor of Rabbi Frenkel
Beth & Scott Freedner
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern
Gary Goldberg in memory of Bernie Goldberg
Linda Hershman in memory of Abraham Schwartz
Beth & Eric Hurwitz
in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
Jo Ann Kay
in memory of Lewis Kay, husband
in memory of Ruth Feldman, mother
David Kouser
in honor of Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel
in memory of Marcelle Kouser, mother of David Kouser
Tula Kurtz in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz
Rose La Kier
in memory of Mel Zimmerman, partner of Eleanor Stofman
Sheila Lever
in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
in memory of Loretta Rochelle Katz, sister of Len Berman
Walter Nickelsberg & Carol Finkel-Nickelsberg
in memory of Alfred Silverman
Teri & Neal Nover in appreciation of our 40th anniversary blessing
Maxine & Mark Pinzur
in honor of the birth of Steve & Judy Lubetkin’s grandson, Thomas
Marsha & Paul Seader
in honor of Abbie Zinn’s birthday
in honor of Jolene Seader’s birthday
Adrienne Seligman in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Ellen Specter & Harrison Melstein
in appreciation of the Rabbis and Cantors for their excellent preparation of Matthew Specter for his Bar Mitzvah
Nita & Josh Spielberg in memory of Carol Fisher, wife of Bill Fisher
Lauren & Joel Spivack in honor of Rabbi Frenkel & Cantor Hochman
Wendy & Robert Spivack in honor of Cantor Hochman
Judith & Steve Stern in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Michele Zeldner & Ian Wachstein
in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz

Rabbi Newburge Tzedakah Collective
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in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
Sheila & Fred Stern
in memory of Albert & Erna Stern, parents of Fred Stern
in memory of Morris & Mollie Bender, parents of Sheila Stern

Ravi Bloom Memorial Endowment Fund*
Sybil Bernstein & the Delaware Valley Chapter, Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework
in memory of Ravi Bloom, son of Jayne & Craig Bloom
Stephanie & Sean Portnoy
in memory of Ravi Bloom, son of Jayne & Craig Bloom
Sarah & David Zalcman
in honor of Brandon Lyons, winner of the Ravi Bloom Mensch Award for 2024
in honor of Cary Bloom and all the Purim Shiitlers
in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
in memory of Ravi Bloom, son of Jayne & Craig Bloom

Refugee Assistance Fund*
Pam & Tom Austin in honor of Steve Janove
Jaimie & Steve Friedman in honor of Steve Janove
Beth & John Gamel
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Nancy & David Oberlander
in memory of Irwin Browdy, father of Nancy Oberlander
Maxine & Mark Pinzur in honor of Steve Janove
Judith & Steve Stern in honor of the wedding of Elaine & Alan Braslow’s son, Stephen, to Dawn Satinoff
Michele Zeldner & Ian Wachstein
in honor of the wedding of Elaine & Alan Braslow’s son, Stephen, to Dawn Satinoff
in memory of Benjamin and Christina Perloff, son and daughter-in-law of Kathy and Michael Perloff
in memory of Marilyn Ribyat, mother of Susan Ribyat-Johnson

Starlight Foundation
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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias
Sharon & Craig Altman
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias
Jill & Jesse Arnstein
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias
Pam & Tom Austin
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias
Helaine & Joe Banner
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias
WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Sharon Blizzard & Mark Coles  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Jane & Michael Bloom  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Lynne Cushing  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Gail & Dick Donner  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Joan Ellen  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Beth & Eric Hurwitz  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Connie Josephs  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Deborah Kahn  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Tula Kurtz  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Robin Lazarow  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Shonnie Lebovitz & Max Taytelbaum  
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Andrea Levin  
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Jackie & Matt Mandel  
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Shoshana Melman  
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Morra Molotsky  
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Harriet Schulman  
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Hope Shafer  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Sharon Siegel  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Rebecca Silver  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Karen & Neal Slutsky  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Lonnie & Stanley Smoller  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Janine & Mark Sobel  
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Helene & Gerald Sterling  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Rolane & Stephen Sunshine  
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Susan & Joel Tabnick  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Jordan Taflin  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Laurie & Russell Waring  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Jackie & Evan Wasserman  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Judi & David Weinberg  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Joan Yesner  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

Stephanie & Andrew Zinn  
in memory of Carol Fisher, wife of Bill Fisher

Warren & Doris Elias Special Needs Endowment Fund*  
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Maxine & Mark Pinzur  
in memory of Thelma Spivack, mother of Eileen Elias

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in memory of Lillian Bocher, mother of Gordon Bocher

in memory of Marilyn Weinstein

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in memory of Stanley Sobel, father of Susan Bookman

Marilyn & Michael Breggar  
in memory of Mollie Shapiro, mother of Marilyn Breggar

Harriet Cohen  
in memory of Leonard Halpern, husband of Jaye Halpern

Irene Kaufman  
in memory of Sue Kaufman, mother-in-law

Alla & Alex Khazan  
in memory of Tsilia Lobik, mother of Alla Khazan

Marsha & Paul Seader  
in memory of Barbara Director, mother of Marsha Seader

Rolane & Stephen Sunshine  
in memory of Frank Sunshine, father of Stephen Sunshine and
grandfather of Debbi Caine

in memory of Sherri Krieger, mother of Beth Hurwitz

Contributions listed are inclusive from the last issue of Connections through April 4, 2024. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
We are COMFORTABLE.

They provide us with the amount of support we need. Not so much to be overwhelming. Just the right amount and at the right time.
**WATER ICE & ICE CREAM NIGHTS**

Indulge in yummy treats with our clergy 6:30-7:30 pm

- **WEDNESDAY JUNE 26**
  - with Rabbi Milan-Polisar

- **TUESDAY JULY 16**
  - with Rabbi Frenkel

- **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21**
  - with Cantor Schnitzer

Mark your calendars to join us!
Locations to be announced.
EARLY CHILDHOOD
Laura Hoffman
Director of Early Childhood Education

The End of the School Year:
We’ve Accomplished So Much!

The start of the school year was not long ago, yet so much has been accomplished by our beautiful children here at ECC. Our babies, the Guppies, entered school not walking or even crawling, now they are moving up to Ducklings and beyond!

Not only our babies, but our preschoolers and pre-kindergarten children have grown by leaps and bounds. They are taller, more confident, becoming more independent and have learned so much. They have made friends, learned about routines, and have explored everywhere in our building.

We have celebrated holidays together, especially Shabbat, enjoyed special programs (Jack and the Beanstalk and Mother Goose), played together during Carton Day and all the Inflatable Days. Every day was filled with fun and learning experiences that children will carry with them forever.

OUR GRADUATES

Sunshines
Nathan Barrera
Annie Berger
Marley Brotz
Logan Fau
Ryan Hunt
Charlie Matthews
Emmy Morley

Superstars
Parker Bamaca
Hadley Cooksey
Joseph DiCamillo
Shoshana Doyle-Dratch
Patrick Fournier
Mikey Fox
Shai Gabin
Micah Gardner

Upcoming Events
May 10 – Mother’s Day Shabbat
May 10 – Shabbat Morim: Honoring Our Marvelous Teachers
May 14 – Yom Ha’atzma’ut: Israel’s Birthday
May 19 – ECC Prom Party
June 5 – Sunshines and Superstars Graduation
June 7 – Last Day of the Regular School Year

Camp Sunshine
June 24 – August 16
2024 Registration is ongoing.
Contact the ECC Office: 856-489-0034.