

# CONNECTIONS

MAY/JUNE 2025 Iyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5785

[www.kolaminj.org](http://www.kolaminj.org)



## THE CLERGY TEACHES

By Cantor Neil Schnitzer

*R'fa'eini Adonai v'neirafei; hoshi'eini v'ivashei'a; ki t'hilati Atta.*

Heal me Adonai, and let me be healed; Save me, and let me be saved; for You are my glory.

Fifty-five years ago, I chanted these words from the Haftarah portion connected to *Bechukotai* at my Bar Mitzvah. Last year, I revisited the *parsha* in a *D'var Torah* published in *The Voice*. Now I share excerpts from that, along with some fresh observations.

If you ever thought that the Torah was not practical to follow, *Bechukotai* should convince you otherwise. That is, of course, if you read and interpret it as a guide for ethical behavior that is intended to improve the life of all people and all life.

A rabbi I once worked with said, "If you read Torah literally, you kill it." Torah must be interpreted by each generation, for each generation.

*Bechukotai* begins by telling us if we do as the Torah instructs, it will rain when it's supposed to, we'll have successful crops, plenty to eat and drink. We'll have peace and basically, all will be well. The opposite is also true. If we fail to follow the laws, things won't go well for us or anyone or anything we care about.

In other words, if we act unethically, immorally, greedily, if we fail to treat the planet, animals, plants or people with the appropriate respect and dignity, we and our progeny suffer.

Deuteronomy 22:6 says, "if you see a birds' nest with eggs or fledglings, do not take the mother along with her young." The reason is clear and simple. If one destroys both the new generation and the current generation, what is the outcome? No more generations (eggs or birds). By acting greedily, not sharing our blessings with those who need them, we endanger our future and that of our children. We should constantly be asking ourselves what we can do to help better the world and our fellow human beings, our fellow travelers on this little speck of dust floating through the universe. That is our sole objective as occupants of "spaceship earth" from the moment we are born. It is certainly a Jewish view. We all know this ideal as *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

This Torah portion is essentially a Public Service Announcement telling

(continued; see "Clergy Teaches" on page 3)

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate another wonderful year at Kol Ami and look forward to our future. We will be presenting awards to deserving volunteers, and voting on our new slate of Board Members and the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. Desserts will be served.

**Your attendance, your vote, and your thoughts are important to us.**  
Please register: [www.kolaminj.org](http://www.kolaminj.org)

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

## SHAVUAH TOV IN THE PARK

### Picnic, Play & Havdalah for Young Families

### SATURDAY, MAY 24

Jakes Place Pavilion, Cherry Hill  
Picnic & Play at 6:00 PM  
Followed by Havdalah at 7:00 PM  
(Bring your own picnic)

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR  
KOL AMI YOUNG FAMILY  
MEMBERS, ECC FAMILIES,  
AND GUESTS.

RSVP at  
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## FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

### Eric Hurwitz, President

#### Coming Together

When I stepped into the role of President two years ago, I had a vision – one that I carried with me from the very beginning. I envisioned a community that would come together as something

new. Not Temple Emanuel. Not M'kor Shalom. But Kol Ami – one congregation, united not just by structure, but by spirit.

It wasn't always easy. In the early days after our merger, there were moments of hesitation. We sat on different sides of the sanctuary. We looked for familiar faces. We were polite, but tentative. The words "us" and "them" hung in the air.

I believed we could move past that. I believed that with time, intention, and shared purpose, we could build something stronger than what any one legacy congregation had been on its own. I hoped we would reach a point where we weren't just coexisting – we were launching something vibrant, forward-looking, and genuinely unified.

I think we're there.

Over the past two years, I've seen Kol Ami grow in both tangible and intangible ways. We completed a strategic planning process that brought new clarity and focus. We made important improvements to our building, refreshed our spaces, and laid the foundation for a strong financial future with an endowment and careful planning. We reimagined how our board and committees work, with more collaboration, more heart, and more laughter.

The most powerful changes, however, can't be measured in bullet points. They're in the friendships that have formed, and the warmth in the room during Shabbat. The ease of connection at events. The way we show up for each other, not as members of different pasts, but as one community with a shared future.

Serving as President has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. I'm proud of what we've built together, and deeply grateful for the chance to play a part in it.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible people I've had the privilege to work alongside. To our clergy, our professional staff, our Board of Trustees, and the many volunteers who give their time and energy so generously, thank you. You've inspired me, challenged me, and made this work not only meaningful, but joyful. To the entire congregation, thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your deep commitment to Kol Ami.

I leave this role with full confidence in Kol Ami's direction – and with great excitement for all that lies ahead.

What we've built together isn't just strong, it's alive, it's vibrant, and it's only getting started.

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Marlene Dworkin



I don't have a green thumb; any thriving plants you see in my home are due to my husband's care. I am much better at cultivating relationships and connections with people. I listen and care. Many years ago, friends of mine decided to downsize from a huge home to a townhouse. I heard that a friend of a friend was looking to move to this area and wanted a 4-bedroom home. I put the two together and the house was sold within a weekend.

At Kol Ami, I have been involved in many endeavors in the past two years where I have scattered some seeds. Here at *Connections*, I added the idea of a theme for every issue. In this issue, the theme is "Plant Seeds, Reap What You Sow." I also added a "From the Editor" article.

The Arts & Culture Committee is another "garden" of mine. It grew out of a desire to see some changes made and ideas come to fruition. Last year's very successful Cabaret was an opportunity for our congregants to showcase their amazing musical and comedic talents. We hope to do this again in 2026. I also wondered why children should be the only ones displaying their artwork, so I helped organize the adult Art Show to run concurrently with the ECC Art Show. We are so lucky to have such talented, creative members.

For my biggest impact, let's travel back to 2021, when Rabbi David announced he was going to retire. President of M'kor Shalom at the time, I called the President of Temple Emanuel and discussed the possibility of our two congregations unifying. It wasn't the first time this subject had come up, but it was finally the right time for this to occur. I started the process, truly planting the seeds, while Drew Molotsky, Dave Weinberg, Sallie Brown, Eric Hurwitz, our Executive Committee, and so many others watered the plants, weeded, and brought us to where we are now – in full bloom!

We don't always know the impressions we leave on others. A suggestion, a kind word sometimes goes a long way. The actions you take today may not be felt until sometime in the future. Some trees don't bear fruit for a long time, but they are worth the wait.

### Newish to Jewish? at KOL

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**Monday**  
7:00-8:30 pm, April 28, May 12, May 19

CONGREGATIONS  
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 קול רעוי One Community.



## THE CLERGY TEACHES (continued from page 1)

us that by following the most basic of commandments, being holy before God (doing the right thing), we are saving the world and improving the lives of every being who exists or will exist. Simple, yet effective ways of making things better are exemplified by the requirement to rest the land, to resist the temptation to squeeze every last resource out of the earth or out of an animal or person in order to obtain wealth or gain power. We are seeing, very clearly, the results of such behavior. We are risking not having rain when we're supposed to or having too much, not having sufficient crops to feed everyone and all the challenges that go along with famine and lack of resources.

We all have the power to act justly and do what is right. We all need to take whatever power we have and use it toward the most possible good.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the April 6 Curtains Up! event. It was extremely meaningful and I felt the care and love of the congregation, for which I will always be grateful.

To those who offered words of recognition, Rabbi Frenkel, Rabbi David and my dear friend and fellow vocalist, Donna Friedman, I can only offer my appreciation in return. I add appreciation to Rabbi Milan-Polisar and Cantor Hochman, with whom I have had the privilege of singing and praying. To all those with whom I have had the honor to work alongside over the 17 years of my tenure, may you find fulfillment and joy in your work and your life.

To all, I wish blessings and peace and the hope that we may all have the strength to use our individual gifts and blessings to create further blessings in the world. May our prayer be surpassed by our actions and may we make the world a better place for those who will follow us.

*B'shalom uv'racha,*  
Cantor Neil M. Schnitzer

## WZC ELECTION

*By Henry Maurer*

May 4 is the deadline to vote for the future of Jewish life in Israel, in an election that is very important to the Reform movement.

The World Zionist Congress is held in Jerusalem, once every five years, and the American delegation will be chosen by an election that began on March 10 and closes on May 4, 2025. This election is the opportunity for diaspora Jews to have a voice in the future of Jewish life in Israel. For that reason, our Reform movement is supporting a slate of candidates – running under the name of VOTE REFORM (No. 3 on the ballot) – with a platform of keeping Israel safe, secure and democratic. The platform calls for recognition and legitimacy of the many diverse expressions of Jewish religious identity. The Reform slate wants to ensure that liberal streams of Judaism are provided equal financial support and resources in Israel.

If all of this sounds symbolic, please keep in mind that the World Zionist Congress decides how a budget of more than \$1 Billion a year will be divided among Jewish institutions over the next five years. These include the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund, and the World Zionist Organization.

Voting is easy, and can be done from your computer, or even your phone. Just go to [www.zionistelection.org](http://www.zionistelection.org) (or click the link from the Kol Ami website) and follow the directions to register, pay a modest \$5 fee for administering the election, and vote. Remember, VOTE REFORM!



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## Mazal Tov to...

### Pam & Tom Austin

on the birth of their grandson,  
Kolby Wood Thom

### Eileen & Robert Elias

on the birth of their granddaughter,  
Sophie Tal Elias

### Erica & Michael Fau

on the naming of their daughter Ava Fau

### Rosie Li & Kenny Ginsburg

on the naming of their daughter,  
Iris Ginsburg

### Joyce & Matthew Hoff

on the birth of their grandson,  
Jeremy Simon Hoff

### Jennifer & Charles Randall

on the naming of their daughter,  
Emily Randall

### Alyssa Wachs & Brian Phillips

on their wedding

### Stacy & Art Treiman

on the birth of their grandson,  
Caleb Ford Janas

## We Mourn...

### Carole Benbassat

mother of Julie Benbassat

### Marvin "Monte" Berezow

father of Deena (Larry) Siegel

### Marcia Berk

mother of Seth (Michele McGuire-Berk)  
Berk

### Kate Frank Fisher

stepmother of Bill Fisher

### Marsha R. Grass

cousin of Paul (Carol Sekeres Weller) Weller

### Mel Grossman

husband of Sheila Grossman

### Susan Knight

grandmother of Cory (Laura) Zimmerman

### Pearl Kratchman

grandmother of Brian (Lucy) Kratchman

### Susan Ann Kurz

sister of Joanne (Ron Leonard) Rosenthal

### Barbara Lerner

sister of Karen (Thomas) Karpousis

### Linda Maurer

wife of Henry Maurer

### Sheila Rosenfield

wife of Gerald Rosenfield, z"l

### Jason Schwartz

father of Rachel (Howard) Megdal

### Adrienne Seligman

wife of Joseph Seligman z"l

### Lee Weiser

mother of Rick (Lisa) Weiser



Lists are inclusive from the last issue of Connections through April 21, 2025.

**WONDERING**  
*What's Next?*

**A CONVERSATION  
ON JEWISH LIFE  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Together, we'll explore what it means to stay connected, proud, and grounded in Jewish identity through college, career, and beyond.

6:30 pm – Doors open  
7:00 pm – Panel discussion, Q&A  
8:00 pm – Dessert nosh

Open to the community.  
Registration required.  
Families and high school students welcome!  
No charge for Kol Ami members.  
\$8 suggested donation for community guests.

Moderator: Abbey Krain, Regional Assoc. Director, ADL Philly  
Panelists include: Kol Ami Burkett/ELITE members currently in college and early in their careers and additional voices from campus and Jewish communal life.

Let's talk about how the next generation can thrive  
– Jewishly and personally – wherever life takes them.

This program is presented by the  
Kol Ami Burkett/ELITE Committee  
in conjunction with JCRC of Southern NJ.

Register:  
[www.kolaminj.org](http://www.kolaminj.org)

## GROW WITH THE BOOMERS

By Judy Lubetkin and Lynn Branfman, Boomers' co-chairs

Kol Ami Boomers – we plant the seeds of friendship, and gain benefits beyond measure. When you reach out and meet others at our enjoyable activities, you often find surprising connections. You also feel the seeds of friendship begin, then grow, as you bask in the warmth of getting to know more people, better.

There are so many opportunities to participate in events that you can enjoy, whether it's going on the Boomers' hikes, attending our dine-outs (including our luncheon at Kol Ami on May 15), book discussions (which are in-person on June 29 and in August, and on Zoom in the winter), participating in the Boomer Shabbat service, and taking the Boomer day trips and tours to sites of interest in NJ and in Philadelphia.

If you have ideas for programs, email Judy (MorahJudyL@aol.com) or Lynn (Tensb@aol.com) and let us know if you'd like to join our planning committee.

Find interesting conversations, and discover coincidences that connect you to others. Among our Boomers, one person discovered that another member was friends with his sister in middle school. Another was a customer in a shop owned by a congregant. Others, who were in similar professions, found that they knew people in common.

Come to our Boomers' events, grow new friendships, get to know really nice people, feel the warmth in being part of an accepting and interesting group.

Spring is the time of growth. Join us at our Boomers' events regardless of your age and the benefits will be amazing. What are you waiting for? We look forward to meeting you!

# Upcoming Events

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

## MAY

### Yom Ha'atzma'ut

Thursday, May 1  
Israel Independence Day

### First Thursdays: Exploring a Celebrated Short Story by a Well-known Jewish Writer

Thursday, May 1, 7:30 pm (Hybrid)

### Caring Caps Knitting Session

Friday, May 2, 10:00 am (Off-site)

### First Friday

Friday, May 2, 6:15 pm  
Enjoy pre-service refreshments.

### Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, May 2, 7:00 pm  
We celebrate May anniversaries.

### Torah Study

Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31,  
9:00 am (Hybrid; May 24 Zoom only)

### Spice Up Your Judaism

Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17 & 31,  
10:15 am (Hybrid; No session May 24)

### Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 3, 10:30 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Lessig

### Shabbat Havdalah Service

Saturday, May 3, 5:45 pm  
Bar Mitzvah of James Dortch

### Taste of Pre-K Religious School & Last Sunday of Religious School

Sunday, May 4, 9:15 am

### Boomers: Hike at Kresson Trail

Sunday, May 4, 11:00 am

### Talmud Talks

Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.  
Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20 & 27,  
11:30 am (Zoom)

### Last Tuesday of Religious School

Tuesday, May 6, 4:15 pm/6:30 pm

### Men's Club Lunches

Wednesdays, May 7 & 21, 12:30 pm  
(Off-site; contact [allanpep@yahoo.com](mailto:allanpep@yahoo.com).)

### Tot Shabbat

Friday, May 9  
5:15 pm Tot Family Dinner  
6:00 pm Tot Shabbat Service

### Shabbat Evening Service: Sisterhood Shabbat

Friday, May 9, 7:00 pm  
*Sisterhood Members are invited to  
join us for Wine & Cheese at 6:15 pm.*

### Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 10, 10:30 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Rardin

### Shabbat Havdalah Service

Saturday, May 10, 5:45 pm  
Bat Mitzvah of Carsyn Kleiman

### Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11

### Monthly Mussar Moments

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

### Newish to Jewish: Shabbat

Led by Rabbi Ariel Milan-Polisar  
Mondays, May 12 & 19, 7:00 pm  
Shamor V'Zachor: Discover the Hows  
& Whys of Shabbat

### Kulanu: LGBTQIA+ Torah Study

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm

### Israeli Resilience During Dark Days with Jessica Steinberg

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm  
(Off-site: Temple Beth Sholom)

### Gender & Jewish Theology

Led by Rabbi Ariel Milan-Polisar  
Two Wednesdays, May 14 & 21,  
10:30 am (Hybrid)

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 pm

### Yiddish Shmooze Group

Thursdays, May 15 & 29, 10:30 am (Zoom)

### Boomers Lunch at Kol Ami

Thursday, May 15, 12:30 pm

### Lag BaOmer

Friday, May 16

### Shabbat Evening Service: Shabbat Morim

Friday, May 16, 7:00 pm  
We celebrate our remarkable teachers.

### Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Aidan Weingart

### ECC Prom

Sunday, May 18, 4:00 pm

### Mural Arts Trolley Tour

Monday, May 19, 11:00 am  
(Off-site in Philadelphia)  
Guided trolley tour of Philly's mural  
collection followed by lunch.

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 21, 1:00 – 6:00 pm  
Appointments available.

### Shabbat Evening Service: Grade 12 Graduation

Friday, May 23, 7:00 pm  
We celebrate our Hebrew High School  
graduates, Haley Fleischman and Blake  
Fenick, as well as May birthdays.

### Shavuah Tov in the Park

Saturday, May 24, 6:00 pm  
(Off-site at Jake's Place Playground)  
Picnic, Play & Havdalah for young families.

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 26 (*Offices/Schools closed*)

### Yom Yerushalayim

Monday, May 26 – Jerusalem Day

### Tikkun Olam Volunteer Dinner

Monday, June 30, 5:30 pm

### Mystery and Meaning: Prophecy from Bible to Now

Led by Rabbi Richard Address  
Three Wednesdays, May 28 and  
June 4 & 11, 10:30 am (Hybrid)

### Alan Schorr's "One Voice" Concert

Wednesday, May 28, 7:00 pm  
(Off-site: Scottish Rite Auditorium)



# Upcoming Events

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

**Shabbat Evening Service**  
Friday, May 30, 7:00 pm

**Shabbat Morning Service**  
Saturday, May 31, 10:30 am  
Bat Mitzvah of Cassidy Peltzman

## JUNE

**Erev Shavuot Service**  
Sunday, June 1, 7:00 pm (Yizkor)

**Shavuot**  
Monday, June 2 (Offices/Schools closed)

**Shavuot & Confirmation Service**  
Monday, June 2, 10:00 am (Yizkor)

**Talmud Talks**  
*Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.*  
Tuesdays, June 3, 10, 17 & 24,  
11:30 am (Zoom)

**ECC Graduation**  
Wednesday, June 4, 10:00 am

**Men's Club Lunches**  
Wednesdays, June 4 & 18, 12:30 pm  
(Off-site; contact [allanpep@yahoo.com](mailto:allanpep@yahoo.com).)

**Wondering What's Next?**  
**A Conversation on Jewish Life After High School**  
*Sponsored by our Burkett/Elite Committee*  
Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 pm

**First Thursdays:**  
**Social Issues in Rodgers & Hammerstein Musicals**  
*Presented by Mark Pinzur*  
Thursday, June 5, 7:30 pm (Hybrid)

**First Friday**  
Friday, June 6, 6:15 pm  
Enjoy pre-service refreshments.

**Shabbat Evening Service: Installation Shabbat with Koleinu**  
Friday, June 6, 7:00 pm  
Our choir joins us as we install our Officers and Board of Trustees and celebrate June anniversaries.

**Torah Study**  
Saturdays, June 7, 14 & 21,  
9:00 am (Hybrid)

**Spice Up Your Judaism**  
Saturdays, June 7, 14 & 21,  
10:15 am (Hybrid)

**Shabbat Morning Service**  
Saturday, June 7, 10:30 am  
Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Feinberg

**Shabbat Havdalah Service**  
Saturday, June 7, 5:45 pm  
Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Tafflin

**Monthly Mussar Moments**  
*Led by Rabbi Ariel Milan-Polisar*  
Monday, June 9, 12:00 pm (Zoom)

**Shabbat Evening Service: Men's Club Shabbat**  
Friday, June 13, 7:00 pm

**Shabbat Havdalah Service**  
Saturday, June 14, 5:45 pm  
Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Raxon

**Father's Day**  
Sunday, June 15

**Sisterhood Closing Dinner**  
Monday, June 16, 6:30 pm (Off-site)

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 pm

**Juneteenth Observed**  
Friday, June 20 (Offices/Schools closed)

**Shabbat Evening Service: Pride Shabbat**  
Friday, June 20, 7:00 pm

**Shabbat Morning Service**  
Saturday, June 21, 10:30 am  
B'nai Mitzvah of Sean Hammer and Mason Scheper

**Cool Off with Clergy:**  
**Iced Coffee with Rabbi Frenkel**  
Sunday, June 22, 9:30-11:00 am (Off-site: Starbucks @ Short Hills Center, Cherry Hill)  
**Ice Cream with Rabbi Frenkel**  
Wednesday, June 25, 6:30-7:30 pm  
(Off-site: Sundaes, West Berlin)  
*See the full schedule of Cool Off events on the back cover.*

**Sisterhood/Women & Spirituality: JOMO – Joy of Missing Out**  
*Led by Nancy Axelrod*  
Wednesday, June 25, 7:30 pm

**Shabbat Evening Service**  
Friday, June 27, 7:00 pm  
We celebrate June birthdays.

**Summer Torah Study**  
Saturday, June 28, 9:30 am (Hybrid)  
(Note later start time for summer sessions.)

**Boomers Book Club:**  
**Heaven and Earth Grocery Store**  
Sunday, June 29, 7:00 pm (Off-site)

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## SHALOM FROM SISTERHOOD

By Amy Bodofsky, Co-President

As Kol Ami Sisterhood closes this year and installs our new board for 2025-26, we look forward to growing together like a beautiful garden. We are reminded that “you reap what you sow” in organizing this group. Being a Co-President along with Lisa Weiser and Tracy Goldberg has been a joy and a journey.

Being Co-President for the past two years during a time of transition presented us with challenges and opportunities. Our goal was to create a strong and meaningful Sisterhood for Kol Ami that would blossom and grow. We realized that we needed to plant some seeds by expanding our general board. This would allow each member to bring their unique skills, interests, and ideas to our events.

Our board members are the roots and foundation that allow us to grow in numbers and in strength. We wanted Sisterhood to be a welcoming place where we felt comfortable to share prayers, holiday information, and current events that affect us as Jews.

We wanted to reach out to our synagogue community like vines that inform with programs, events, *tikkun olam* opportunities, and fundraisers that allow us to support charities and projects that are important to us.

As Past-Presidents, we will continue to offer our advice, knowledge, ideas, and help so that we can be a thriving garden in the future. We are thankful and proud of the friendships we built and the achievements we attained.

Thank you to all who joined us at our recent “Great Hamantaschen Bake” (pictured above) and our amazing Women’s Seder. Plan to join us for our upcoming Sisterhood Shabbat on May 9, and our closing dinner and installation on June 16. Watch for news of our annual summer pool party.

## CULTIVATING THE LIBRARY

By Karen Marinoff,  
Co-Chair Branfman Children’s Library

When I saw the topic for this *Connections* issue, I immediately knew how ideas surrounding the Branfman Children’s Library grew in many ways for me.

Lynn Branfman has served for a number of years on the board of Herzl Hadassah, and I am also a member, but like many other women there, I just “knew” Lynn. She saw me involved with my family and grandchildren at services and events at Kol Ami, and asked me to act as a co-chair of the library she was setting up. I was flattered, and explained that I would love to help, but we were not members of Kol Ami at that time. This welcome by people other than my family convinced me to join Kol Ami, and the Library Committee, plus I made a great new true friend.

This small gesture of reaching out has blossomed into more involvement with the synagogue and the library. Initially Abby Molotsky and Pam Austin imaginatively decorated the library window. I have been pleased to continue this tradition. As a teacher of Pre-K on Sundays, I assumed the liaison role between the library and the Religious School to help set up procedures and reading visits.

Lynn has recruited a wonderful cadre of bright and interested volunteer readers. Through the Library Committee I have been able to meet these women and we have picked their brains for suggestions that we have implemented to grow the reading program and its themes. We hope to meet again this spring as a committee, not just to show appreciation for their volunteer reader hours but to try to do more as cheerleaders for reading books on Jewish themes and encouraging children to *borrow* and return books that they read at home with their family.

One volunteer, Sharon Halperin, noted recently that some children did not want to take home a book. Like the people who do “Art Goes To School” to teach children about art pieces and artists, we need to sow the seeds of the joy of holding a book, turning the pages and studying the illustrations as the words are read. Children get so much of their “literature” from a whiteboard that it is a mitzvah to advocate for “real books.”



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### Curtains Up!...

Pictured left: Honoree Cantor Schnitzer with radio personality and Emcee, Glen Macnow were stars of the night! Pictured middle & right: Co-Chairs, Alison & Alan Schorr, Performers Graham Rowat & Kate Baldwin, Co-Chairs, Drew & Abby Molotsky delivered a fabulous evening with powerful performances enjoyed by a packed house.



### Committee Chairs...

An all-Committee Chairs meeting is held regularly to share ideas and explore plans to engage our active membership.



**Field Trip...** Our sixth grade Religious School students and chaperones crossed the bridge into Philadelphia to explore the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History.



### Knocking On Heaven's Door...

It was a great evening of Bob Dylan music and musings – and whiskey tasting – with religion and pop culture lecturer Dr. Stephen Daniel Arnoff (center) and the CKA Unplugged Band (from left to right) Dan Poulos, Bob Malkin, Alan Salkowitz, and Bob Bross.

## Mazal Tov to our 2025/5785 Confirmands & Graduates!

### Confirmation Service – Monday, June 2, 10:00 am

#### Grade 10 Confirmand

**Kylie Adams**

**Jenna Baron**

**Bella Bennett**

**Aaron Caine**

**Julia Feldman**

**Emily Goldberg**

**Nicole Hammer**

**Matthew Horowitz**

**Libby Hurwitz**

**Willa Pasternack**

**Alyssa Plevinsky**

**Noah Weinstein**

**Nathan Zaum**

#### Child of

Debbie & Ron Adams

Lori & Robert Baron

Melissa & Laurence Bennett

Debbi & Brian Caine

Robyn & Harris Feldman

Caren & Robert Goldberg

Jaimee & Michael Hammer

Brandi & David Horowitz

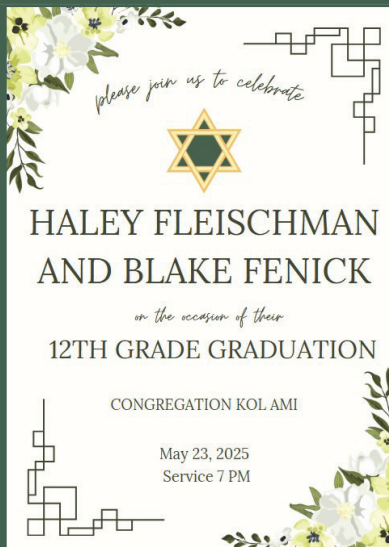
Beth & Eric Hurwitz

Sherryl & William Pasternack

Jennifer & Marc Plevinsky

Stephanie & Seth Weinstein

Annamarie & Jared Zaum

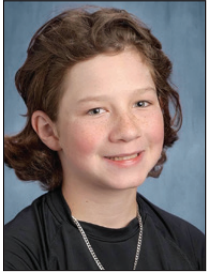


**Blake Fenick**  
son of Sue & David Fenick

**Haley Fleischman**  
daughter of Beth & Scott Fleischman



# May B'NAI MITZVAH



## Jonathan Lessig

May 3

*Son of Megan Lessig and Louis Lessig  
Brother: Andrew*

My name is Jonathan Lessig and I am a seventh grader at Beck Middle School. I enjoy playing ice hockey and spending time with my dog, Harper. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am volunteering my time with the Flyers Youth Special Hockey

program, which is a local program that gives kids with special needs an opportunity to learn how to skate and play hockey. As I become a Bar Mitzvah, it is important to continue to give back to the community and help others by continuing volunteering with Flyers Youth Special Hockey.



## James Garrett Dortch (Gideon)

May 3

*Son of Lee Roberts & Matt Dortch  
Stepson of Svetlana Alekseenko  
Siblings: Isla, Myles & Dylan*

I enjoy playing Minecraft, fishing, drawing, and spending time with my dog, Winter. My Bar Mitzvah project has been participating in Shabbat at Weinberg Commons. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah

means taking responsibility for my actions and being part of something bigger. Reading Leviticus 19:1-15 showed me that being Jewish isn't just about rules—it's about living with purpose, treating people fairly, and maybe not hogging all the good stuff at an oneg. To me, it's a promise to grow into someone who makes my family and community proud, while still figuring out who I am. Plus, it's a pretty cool bonus that I get to celebrate with all my friends, and yes, the food's a big perk.



## Dylan Rardin

May 10

*Son of Lauren & Jonathan Rardin  
Siblings: Ethan & Elle*

I love playing sports, especially baseball, hanging out with my friends and playing video games. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I collected books for people of all ages and donated them to BookSmiles, an organization that helps people

receive books when they can't afford or find a way to get their own. I enjoyed doing this because I love reading and feel like it is very important for both enjoyment and education. To me, becoming a Bar Mitzvah not only means taking on more responsibility, but also embracing my role in the Jewish community. I look to continue my Jewish education by attending Hebrew High School at Kol Ami.



## Carsyn Kleiman

May 10

*Daughter of Shelby & Dave Kleiman  
Brother: Miller*

I enjoy playing soccer and lacrosse, hanging with friends, and shopping. My Bat Mitzvah project

was raising money for the American Living Organ Donor Fund (ALODF). Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is important to me because I feel honored to carry on this tradition like all my family members. Right now more than ever I find it so important to identify as a strong Jewish woman!



## Aidan Weingart

May 17

*Son of Brian & Jaime Weingart  
Sister: Ellie*

I love to play soccer, watch sports, play Xbox with my friends, and I am a diehard Eagles fan. My Bar Mitzvah project is to raise awareness about autism and, specifically, I would love

to raise awareness in the community and donate and raise money for the Eagles Autism Foundation. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means continuing my Jewish journey, finding new ways to help others, and strengthening my connection with Jewish traditions. It also means becoming a man and taking on responsibility in every facet of my life.



## Cassidy Peltzman

May 31

*Daughter of Laurel & Jared Peltzman  
Sister: Brierley*

In my free time, I love dancing, singing, and acting, and I'm actively involved in my school's theater program as well as local theater groups. For my Bat Mitzvah project, I wanted to make a

meaningful impact, so I took on several charity efforts. Along with my friends, I helped make over 150 sandwiches for families facing food insecurity, which I delivered to Forgotten Haven for distribution. I also volunteered at BookSmiles, sorting and organizing books to donate to teachers in need. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah is a special milestone for me because it marks my transition into becoming a Jewish adult, with new rights and responsibilities. It's also a chance to deepen my understanding of my Jewish heritage and history.

### NORA AND HER BODY

WRITTEN BY  
JESSICA SOPHIE CHANG HOROSCHAK, DO  
SUSAN I. KAUFMAN, DO, FACOG  
ILLUSTRATED BY  
HALEY MCDEVITT

Amazon  
book size:  
8.25 x 6

Lulu  
Bookstore  
book size:  
11 x 8.5

This book equips parents with a helpful tool to introduce puberty and periods to their daughters. Nora, who is on the autism spectrum, shares her journey offering a positive perspective. Plus, a section for parents, a parent statement & resources.

# June B'NAI MITZVAH



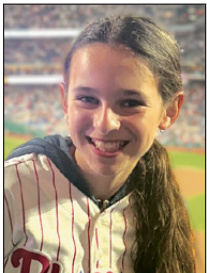
## Ryan Feinberg

June 7

*Son of Michelle & Brett Feinberg*

I love playing basketball and flag football. I also enjoy spending time with my friends and playing NBA2K. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am partnering with Leveling the Playing Field and

collecting gently used sports equipment so kids who are less fortunate have access to the equipment they need to play sports. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means taking a step towards adulthood and connecting with my Jewish community and values.



## Brooke Tafflin

June 7

*Daughter of Lisa & Jordan Tafflin*

*Brother: Daniel*

When I am outside of school, I play soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and run my own jewelry business. I also love hanging out with my friends. Since I enjoy making

beaded jewelry, for my Bat Mitzvah project, I decided to sell my jewelry and donate all of my earnings to a homeless shelter. In addition, I pursued my brother's Bar

Mitzvah project, which was making sandwiches for the homeless at the Cathedral Kitchen. I enjoyed these projects immensely because it gave food to the needy and a bit of money to my community. To me, as I take another step towards adulthood, becoming a Bat Mitzvah shows I can accomplish difficult things if I work hard.



## Tyler Rexon

June 14

*Son of Meryl & Matt Rexon*

*Brother: Jacob*

I enjoy playing all sports, but basketball is my favorite. During the summer I enjoy being part of Chaverim at the JCC camps, where I get to go on a bunch of trips with my friends. I also enjoy being at the beach playing in the water. For my Bar Mitzvah

project, I was a buddy for the Sports Unity Program, where kids with special needs are able to participate in organized sports. To me, becoming a Bar Mitzvah means that I am accepting religious responsibility and continuing the traditions that my family has done before me.



## Sean Hammer

June 21

*Son of Jaimee & Michael Hammer*

*Sister: Nicole*

I enjoy spending time playing soccer, singing, watching TV and playing games with my friends. My Bar Mitzvah project is supporting the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA). This includes packing boxes of food and supplies and dropping them off for people

in need in the Jewish community. It makes me happy to see the look on people's faces and see their appreciation. I hope that everyone can get one of these to help them.



## Mason Scheper

June 21

*Son of Jamie & Chris Scheper*

*Sister: Haley*

Some of my favorite things to do include playing video games, playing different sports, baking/cooking, and hanging out with my friends. For my Bar Mitzvah project, I thought of what I like doing and incorporated it with helping others. I took

my hobby of baking and cooking, and combined it with helping others to come up with donating food to a food bank. During the Holidays this year, I asked my family members for bags of food to donate instead of gifts. Then, after collecting all the food and adding some from our pantry, we went to the Cherry Hill Food Bank to donate it, where they give it to the people who don't have much food. Becoming Bar Mitzvah to me means that I am stepping towards adulthood. With that I start to take on new responsibilities and accountabilities in the Jewish community.



## Join Our Religious School Team!

- ✓ Do you love working with children?
- ✓ Do you have expertise in Jewish Rituals, Hebrew Language, or Creative Jewish Experience?
- ✓ Do you want to join a fabulous team of educators on Tuesdays and/or Sundays?
- ✓ Do you want to make a little extra money?

Come join our Religious School,  
Hebrew School, and/or  
Hebrew High School Faculty.

**Contact Sheri Greenblatt**  
Director of Education, Congregation Kol Ami

[sgreenblatt@kolaminj.org](mailto:sgreenblatt@kolaminj.org)

Mazal Tov to all!





## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Sheri Greenblatt**

*Director of Education*

As the saying goes, “The grass is not greener on the other side, it’s greener where you water it.” It’s one of those pieces of advice that resonates, especially when you think about growth during a school year. It’s so easy to look around and feel like everyone else has it figured

out or that other paths might be easier or better. The truth is, the key to success and fulfillment isn’t found by comparing yourself to others, it’s about putting in the effort to grow right where you are.

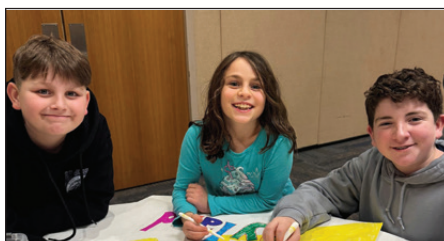
Think about a school year like a garden. Every student starts from a different place, and our grades grow in different ways and on their own schedule. Our Sunday Religious School students began the year by learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, had *t’filah* in the Sukkah, participated in a walking Tu B’Shevat Seder and baked hamantaschen. The high school practiced meditation, heard some great speakers at our Teen Summits, and did mitzvah work. Our Sages and Seekers program with the 11th and 12th graders was a huge success. Art class and Library time were engaging and exciting.

Just like a garden needs care and attention throughout the season, a student’s intellectual, emotional, and social growth require steady work all year long. In gardening and in life, progress doesn’t always happen overnight. Some students might see big leaps in their growth, while others may take slower steps forward. It’s not always a straight line, and that’s what makes it so rewarding when you look back at how far you’ve come.

A school year is not just about learning, but also about personal growth. It’s about learning how to manage time, build relationships, ask for help when you need it, learn from your mistakes, and understand who you are. These skills, though they might not show up on a report card, are crucial for long-term success. That’s where the real magic happens – when you stop comparing your journey to someone else’s and start focusing on what you can do to nurture your own growth.

The idea that “the grass is not greener on the other side” is a reminder that fulfillment and success are found in the work our students put into their own lives. Over the course of a school year, they will grow

by focusing on improving, tackling obstacles head-on, and trusting the process. By watering their own grass, they will realize that their progress is not only important, but it’s also uniquely theirs – and that’s what makes it so rewarding.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Laura Hoffman**

*Director of Early Childhood Education*

We learn from a story from the Babylonian Talmud:

Honi, a Jewish miracle worker, encounters an old man planting a carob tree.

Honi asks the man, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?” The man replies, “Seventy years.”

Honi then asks, “Are you certain that you will live another seventy years to eat from its fruit?”

The man replies, “I found already grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted those for me, so I too plant these for my descendants.”



At Kol Ami Early Childhood Center, we also “plant seeds” – seeds of friendship, seeds of love of learning, seeds of spirituality and Jewish ritual. While we won’t necessarily see the fruits of our labor in the very near future, we know that we have given these wonderful children a strong foundation, much like the roots of strong trees.

Who knows what educational path they may take or what careers they may enjoy. We only know that we have provided them with the building blocks that will follow them as they grow. The love of learning we’ve planted will help them develop their problem-solving skills, creativity, and humor.

The story of Honi is one of responsibility. Trees are planted for future generations to enjoy. Early childhood education, specifically at Kol Ami, has a responsibility to provide our children with the very foundation upon which they will build a future for themselves and for society.



## A Taste of Pre-K Religious School!

Experience the excitement of our Religious School!



Join us **Sunday, May 4**  
**9:15-11:30 AM**

For a Fun-Filled morning!



Parents stay while students  
get a taste of CKA!

Registration required to attend this  
**FREE** program. Open to the community.  
[www.kolaminj.org](http://www.kolaminj.org)

CONGREGATION  
**KOL AMI**  
Religious School קול עמי



## EASY WAY TO SUPPORT KOL AMI

By Rich Harris, Kol Ami Board Trustee & Controller

We want to introduce you to RaiseRight, an easy and convenient way to fundraise for Congregation Kol Ami – just by shopping at places you already frequent! RaiseRight is a gift card-based fundraising app that enables you to contribute to Kol Ami at a nominal cost.

Nonprofits raised \$34 million through RaiseRight in 2024, with top organizations earning between \$25,000 and \$200,000 per year. If our congregation participates, the potential impact is significant.

### How RaiseRight Works

RaiseRight allows you to purchase gift cards (both electronic and physical) and use them for your everyday shopping. Each time you buy a gift card through the app, a percentage of your purchase is donated to Kol Ami – at almost no additional cost to you.

There are over 550 participating brands, including:

- Retail: Amazon, Target, Macy's, Best Buy, Old Navy, LL Bean
- Dining: Starbucks, Panera, Chipotle
- Travel: Hilton, Marriott, Airbnb
- Groceries & Essentials: ShopRite, Acme, CVS, Walgreens

Gift cards offer charitable contributions ranging from 1.6% (Amazon) to 16% (LL Bean). That means for every \$100 you spend at LL Bean, Kol Ami receives \$16, and for every \$100 spent on Amazon, Kol Ami gets \$1.60.

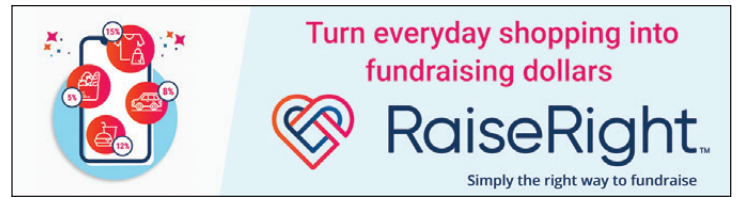
### My Experience with Raise Right

I've personally used RaiseRight and found it to be incredibly easy and seamless. Since September, I've raised approximately \$196 for Kol Ami, and it has only cost me about \$11 in transaction fees.

The most efficient way to use the app is to link your bank account and purchase electronic gift cards while shopping. Most e-gift cards process instantly, making them easy to use at checkout.

Here's what I've learned:

- You can use the app for in-store purchases. Most retailers scan



the QR code from the app, and the transaction is immediate.

- At Acme, the cashier totals the purchase, scans the e-gift card, and the user enters the passcode.
- At LL Bean, the cashier will manually input the card number.
- Amazon gift cards require copying the code from RaiseRight and pasting it at checkout, which is very easy.

You can view and manage your gift cards in the app's Wallet section. Physical gift cards are also available for purchase and are delivered directly to the Kol Ami office. ShopRite gift cards are *only* available in physical form.

### How to Get Started in Minutes

1. Download the RaiseRight app from your app store.
2. Sign up and enter **Kol Ami's enrollment code: 55D37L6B11142**
3. Choose electronic or physical gift cards for your daily spending.

### Payment Options

- Bank account: \$0.29 per transaction (best option for savings)
- Debit card: 1.4% transaction fee
- Credit card: 2.6% transaction fee

All financial transactions are processed securely through PLAID, an encrypted verification service.

### The Potential Impact

If each member of Kol Ami raised just \$100 per year, we could generate \$80,000 annually – without anyone spending more than they already do.

I highly encourage you to give this a try. It's an effortless way to support Kol Ami just by shopping as usual. For more information, visit [www.kolaminj.org/raiseright](http://www.kolaminj.org/raiseright) or feel free to reach out to me (RHarris@prodigy.net) with any questions.

## 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 online. For a complete list of funds and tzedakah opportunities, visit [www.kolaminj.org](http://www.kolaminj.org).*

### Abraham & Sylvia Angstreich Beautification Fund\*

Linda & Steven Angstreich

*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*

*in memory of Alex Cohen*

*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

*in memory of Lee Weiser*

*in memory of Marvin "Monte" Berezow*

*in memory of Sara Weinger*

### Ahavat Limud

Arlene & Alan Blocher *in memory of Lee Weiser*

Tracy & Harris Goldberg *in memory of Lee Weiser*

Susan Kardos *in memory of Lee Weiser*

### Kol Ami Sisterhood

*in honor of the conversion of Marissa Wood-Roletter*

*in memory of Lee Weiser*

Susan & Marc Witte *in memory of Lee Weiser*

### Amy Silvers Israel Trip Scholarship Endowment Fund\*

Tula Kurtz

*in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Lynne & Norman Rednik's grandson*

*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*

*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*

*in honor of the ordination of Debbie & Scott Jeffreys' son, Josh*

*in memory of Robert Schnorbus*

Ronda Urkowitz *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*



# WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## **Branfman Children's Library Fund**

Sharon Halperin *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*  
Judy & Steven Lubetkin  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*

## **Cantor Anita F. Hochman Choir Fund**

Marylee & Stuart Alperin  
*in memory of Lee Weiser*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Deborah & Ira Berkowitz *in memory of Sara Weinger*  
Betsy & Gordon Bocher *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Maria & Donald Chambers *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Sandy & Michael Engel *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Ellen & Michael Feist  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*  
Phyllis Gitlin *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Alan Greenberg *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Sharon Halperin *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Darcy & David Hayes *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Phyllis Kauffman *in memory of Allen Goodman*  
Koleinu Choir *in honor of Cantor Neil Schnitzer*  
Robin & Gary Kushner *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Walter Lipsett *in memory of Sara Weinger*  
Hallee & Paul Lograsso *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Rima & Fred Meyer *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Teri & Neal Nover  
*in honor of Cantor Hochman*  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*  
*in memory of Geraldine Reckson*  
*in memory of Jack Rizman*  
*in memory of Marvin "Monte" Berezow*  
*in memory of Sadie Greenspan*  
Maxine & Mark Pinzur *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Randi & Alan Salkowitz  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Marvin "Monte" Berezow*  
Sharon Schein *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Melissa Schorr *in memory of Sara Weinger*  
Cynthia & Bill Seitles *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Ellen & Roger Sheinkin *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Nanare & Michael Slepian *in memory of Alex Cohen*  
Lonnie & Stanley Smoller *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Judi & David Weinberg *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Hilda & Bruce Weinger *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Brette & Nicholas Yannaco *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

## **Cantor Neil Schnitzer Cantorial Fund**

James Sell *in honor of Cantor Neil Schnitzer*

## **Clifford R. Levine Adult Education Fund**

Jane & Rabbi Richard Address  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*  
Judith Feldman *in memory of Lee Weiser*  
Michele Figures & Ira Miller *in memory of Harry Miller*  
Barbara & Murray Fineman  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*

Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald *in honor of the rabbinic ordination of Debbie & Scott Jeffreys' son, Josh*

## **College Connection Fund**

Jaime Friedman *in memory of Marcia Berk*  
Linda & Barry Spiegel *in memory of Laura & Louis Widman*  
Stephanie & Andrew Zinn  
*in honor of the conversion of Marissa Wood-Roletter*

## **E. Soslow Endowment Fund**

Barbara Silverman  
*in appreciation of Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Zinn*  
*in appreciation of Drs. Irene & Randy Mintz*

## **Frisch-Trautenberg Choir Fund**

Pam & Tom Austin *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Michele Figures & Ira Miller  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Mordechai Rubenstein*  
Eileen Winter *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

## **Helen & Leon Weinberg Scholar-in-Residence Endowment Fund\***

Michelle Lauer & Scott Kushner *in memory of Kate Frank Fisher*

## **High Holy Day Prayerbook Book Plates**

Debra & Robert Thomson *in memory of Lee Weiser*

## **Honorable Steven P. Burkett Graduate Fund**

Bruce Matez *in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*  
Rolane & Stephen Sunshine *in memory of Lee Weiser*

## **Jeanie Wood Educator Fund**

Rick Clauson *in memory of Barbara Michaels*

## **Jeffrey Halper Memorial Fund**

Carole & Arthur Halper  
*in memory of Hanna Jacobs*  
*in memory of Sidney Jacobs*

## **Jeremy Kane Gift of Israel Fund**

Betsy & Gordon Bocher *in memory of Hannah Harrison Shapiro*  
Marlene & Gary Dworkin  
*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*

## **Kleiman/Gottlieb Special Needs Fund**

Joanne Rosenthal & Ronald Leonard *in memory of Susan Kurz*

## **Louis & Helene E. Walker Social Action Endowment Fund\***

Barbara & Stewart Abrams  
*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*  
*in memory of Bernard Cohen*  
Debbie & Scott Jeffreys  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*  
Jo Ann Kay  
*in memory of Ruth Feldman*  
*in memory of Lewis Kay*  
Erica & Richard King  
*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*

# WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Michele Figures & Ira Miller *in memory of Kate Frank Fisher*  
Denise & Stephen Weinberg  
*in honor of Asher Greenspan's Bar Mitzvah*

## **Lynne Rednik Early Childhood Center Fund**

Sharon Halperin *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
Debbie & Scott Jeffreys  
*in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Lynne & Norman Rednik's grandson*  
Laura & Jon Maron *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
Teri & Neal Nover  
*in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*  
Lynne & Norman Rednik  
*in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
*in honor of the birth of Maxine & Mark Pinzur's grandson*  
*in honor of the birth of Susan & David Olinsky's grandson*  
*in memory of Allen Goodman*  
*in memory of Diana Soberman*  
*in memory of Jack Nover*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Sara Weinger*  
Carol & Paul Weller  
*in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Lynne & Norman Rednik's grandson*

## **Margie & Joe Sobel Family Assistance Fund**

Sarah Laaff & Matt Berns *in appreciation of Rabbi Frenkel*  
Lois & Robert Levine  
*in memory of Jules Levine*  
*in memory of Martin Schickler*  
Joel Magnus *in memory of June Magnus*  
Sharon & Alan Paisner *in memory of Harry Forman*  
Janine & Mark Sobel  
*in honor of Marissa Wood-Roletter joining the Jewish faith*  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*  
*in honor of the birth of Sarah Laaff & Matt Berns' son,*  
*Micah Levi Berns*  
*in memory of Albert Greenbaum*  
*in memory of Eugene Skir*  
*in memory of Hazel McGinniss*  
*in memory of Jim McGinniss*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Libbie Greenbaum*  
*in memory of M. Milton Sobel*  
*in memory of Ma Greenbaum*  
*in memory of Marvin Greenbaum*  
*in memory of Milton Sobel*  
*in memory of Minnie Sobel*  
*in memory of Reba Greenbaum*  
*in memory of Sheila Rosenfield*  
*in memory of Sydney Skir*  
Marsha & Allen Zechow *in memory of Leon Brenner*

## **Merle Steinberg Religious School Scholarship Fund**

Marlene & Gary Dworkin *in memory of Lee Weiser*  
Denise & Stephen Weinberg *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*

## **Rabbi David Good Works Fund**

Janice & Jerry Apple *in memory of Arthur Apple*

Lynn Branfman *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Susan & Ed Heffernan  
*in memory of Edna Heffernan*  
*in memory of Stanley Sternberg*

Judi Kaplan  
*in memory of Jean Kaplan*  
*in memory of John Kaplan*

Lisa & David Lanter *in memory of Abraham Schwartz*  
Judy & Steven Lubetkin *in appreciation of Rabbi David*  
Michele Reiss-Taylor & Alan Taylor  
*in memory of Rhoda Trotenberg*  
*in memory of Sheila Rosenfield*  
Stacy Yulsman *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Marsha & Allen Zechow *in memory of Esther Zechow*

## **Rabbis' Good Works Fund\***

Lori & Rob Baron *in honor of Asher Greenspan's Bar Mitzvah*  
Phyllis Berman  
*in memory of Esther Lutzker*  
*in memory of Joel E. Berman*  
*in memory of Myron (Mike) Lutzker*  
Julia & Lloyd Birnbaum *in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Birnbaum*  
Amy & Scott Brandt  
*in memory of Barbara Lerner*  
*in memory of Marvin "Monte" Berezow*  
Lynn Branfman  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*  
*in memory of Carole Benbassat*  
*in memory of Kate Frank Fisher*  
Geraldine & John Carroll *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Marlene & Gary Dworkin *in appreciation of Rabbi Frenkel,*  
*Rabbi Milan-Polisar, and Cantor Hochman*  
Gerald Faber *in memory of Alexandra C. Selfridge*  
Robyn Geller *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Linda Hershman *in memory of Abraham Schwartz*  
Helene Kimberg *in memory of Sara Weinger*  
Kathy & David Korngruen *in memory of Lee Weiser*  
Lisa & David Lanter *in memory of Lillian Lanter*  
Janice Lupu *in memory of Marjorie Krell*  
Stephanie & Sean Portnoy *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Francheska Vargas *in honor of Harriet Cohen*  
Barbara & Marvin Waxman *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Michelle & Stephen Weichert  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Lee Weiser*  
Caryn & Edward Weiss *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
Carol & Paul Weller  
*in honor of Asher Greenspan's Bar Mitzvah*  
*in memory of Solwin Weller*  
Gail Wolf *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Owen Zalcmann *in honor of Kol Ami's clergy and staff*  
Sarah & David Zalcmann *in honor of Kol Ami's clergy and staff*  
Stephanie & Andrew Zinn *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

## **Rabbi Newburge Tzedakah Collective Social Action Fund**

Sheila & Fred Stern  
*in memory of Albert & Erna Stern*  
*in memory of Morris & Molly Bender*



# WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## Ravi Bloom Memorial Endowment Fund\*

Melissa & Larry Bennett *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Alessandra & Mitchell Berger *in memory of Dr. Seymour Berger*  
Elinor Engleman *in memory of Fannie & Aaron Chudoff*  
Adrienne & Richard Goldenberg *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Laura & Jon Maron *in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
Janet & Dennis Novack *in honor of the Purim Shpiel*  
Marsha & Paul Seader  
*in honor of Abbie Zinn's birthday*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Susan & Marc Witte  
*in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Sarah & David Zalcmann *in appreciation of Cary Bloom & all the hard working Shpeilers*  
Sarah & David Zalcmann  
*in honor of Abigail Frey*  
*in honor of Max Riviello's Bar Mitzvah*  
*in memory of Ravi Bloom*

## Refugee Assistance Fund\*

Elaine & Alan Braslow *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Gail & Dick Donner *in honor of Steve Janove*  
Beth & John Gamel  
*in honor of Steve Janove*  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*  
Ruby Tan & Matthew Goldberg  
*in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Sharon Halperin  
*in honor of those helping refugees around the world*  
Karen & Steven Marinoff *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
Jackie & Robert Mintz  
*in honor of those helping refugees around the world*  
Nancy & David Oberlander *in memory of Irwin Browdy*  
Paula Sacks & Mark Gluckstern  
*in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Karen & Neal Slutsky *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*  
Sheri & Jason Turner  
*in honor of those helping refugees around the world*  
Michele Zeldner & Ian Wachstein  
*in honor of the birth of Pam & Tom Austin's grandson*  
*in honor of the conversion of Marissa Wood-Roletter*  
*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*  
*in memory of Lee Weiser*  
*in memory of Louise Lutterbeck*  
*in memory of Ruth Wachstein*

## Starlight Foundation

Myrna & Marshall Fineman *in memory of Sheila Rosenfield*  
Joan Miller *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*

## Tefilah Fund

Sylvia & Michael Miller *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*

## Thelma & Donald Spivack Creative Arts and Artist-in-Residence Endowment Fund\*

Barbara & Stewart Abrams  
*in honor of the birth of Eileen & Robert Elias' granddaughter*

Eileen & Robert Elias

*in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

*in memory of Michael Freedman*

Erica & Richard King

*in honor of the birth of Eileen & Robert Elias' granddaughter*

Anita Rowland *in honor of Doug Cohen's special birthday*

## Warren & Doris Elias Special Needs Endowment Fund\*

Shonnie Lebovitz & Maurits Taytelbaum

*in honor of the birth of Eileen & Robert Elias' granddaughter*

Neal & Teri Nover

*in honor of the birth of Eileen & Robert Elias' granddaughter*

Barbara Silverstein

*in memory of Irma Goldstein Silverstein (Hinda Etta)*

*in memory of Marvin Silverstein*

## Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Elaine & Alan Braslow *in memory of Ethel Kapin*

Marilyn & Michael Breggar

*in memory of Mollie Shapiro*

*in memory of Sidney Shapiro*

Nancy & Theodore Bross *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

Marion Cohen *in memory of Edna Cohen*

Tracy & Harris Goldberg

*in memory of Enoch Kleidermacher*

*in memory of Esther & Harry Yusim*

Alla & Alex Khazan *in memory of Tsilia Lobik*

Ellen Klein *in memory of David A. Klein*

Denise & Dave Landset *in memory of Joyce Dworkin*

Linda Marple

*in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Harry Zelson*

*in memory of Judith Zelson*

Barbara & Richard Robbins *in memory of Monroe Robbins*

Edith Rotkopf & Jeffrey Smith *in memory of Rachael Rotkopf*

Ferne Sandler & Norman Weiss

*in memory of Diane Sandler*

*in memory of Marvin Sandler*

Marsha & Paul Seader

*in memory of Barbara Director*

*in memory of Selig Rothman*

Marlyn & Harry Starkman

*in memory of Martin Meyers*

*in memory of Warren Forgang*

Rolane & Stephen Sunshine *in memory of Frank Sunshine*

Stephanie & Andrew Zinn

*in memory of Barbara Director*

*in memory of Joseph Zinn*

*in memory of Selig Rothman*

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Funds noted by an asterisk (\*) are restricted funds – that is, contributions are used solely for the fund's stated purpose. Contributions listed are inclusive from the last issue of Connections through April 11, 2025. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Join us for **SHAVUOT** at Kol Ami

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1**

7:00-8:00 pm – Study Session

8:00-9:00 pm – Erev Shavot Service

Dairy oneg to follow.  
Open to the community.

**MONDAY, JUNE 2**

10:00-11:30 am

Shavot and Confirmation Service

Offices and Schools Closed

Confirmand listing on page 8

**KOL AMI** Many Voices  
One Community  
קול עמי



## It's That Time

**ANNUAL COMMITMENT FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.**

Kindly complete your Membership and Religious School Renewals by June 30 so we may plan accordingly for another fabulous year ahead at Kol Ami. If you have questions, please contact Ruth Scott in the synagogue office at 856-489-0029.

## ICED COFFEE & TEA MORNINGS

Have a refreshing starter with our clergy 9:30-11:00 am

**Sunday June 22**

**STARBUCKS** with Rabbi Frenkel

Short Hills, 480 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08003

**Sunday July 13**

**SAXBYS** with Cantor Callis

104 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

**Sunday August 24**

**HARVEST COFFEE** with Rabbi Milan-Polisar

67 N Main St, Medford NJ 08055



CONGREGATION  
**KOL AMI**  
קול עמי

**COOL OFF** with Clergy

## WATER ICE & ICE CREAM NIGHTS

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



**Wednesday June 25**

**SUNDAES** with Rabbi Frenkel

185 NJ-73, West Berlin NJ 08091

**Wednesday July 23**

**PRIMO WATER ICE** with Rabbi Milan-Polisar

484 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08003

**Wednesday August 13**

**CUPS & CONES** with Cantor Callis

931 Tuckerton Rd, Marlton, NJ 08053

**KINDLY RSVP:**

**WWW.KOLAMINJ.ORG**

