

CONNECTIONS

JULY/AUGUST 2024 Sivan/Tamuz/Av 5784

www.kolaminj.org



THE RABBI TEACHES Three Steps to Learning Kol Ami

By Rabbi Ariel D. Milan-Polisar

When I had the privilege of learning from Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss, now the provost of HUC-JIR, in rabbinical school, I learned a very important lesson about how to teach Torah. The method

has three pieces – what does the text **say**, what does it **mean**, and what does it **mean to me**. These are the three steps necessary for any learner to gain wisdom and understanding from Jewish text. First, we have to read the basic text in its original form; what does it say on paper? Then, we must figure out what those words mean, whether that’s debating the translation to English or “translating” the English translation to more modern or understandable rhetoric. Finally, now that we know what the text actually means, what does it mean to me personally? How can I relate to it?

If we look at Congregation Kol Ami like a Torah text, we can use the same tools to “learn” Congregation Kol Ami. What does Kol Ami **say**? If you were reading our space like a text, you would see the screens when you enter the building rotating through the plethora of upcoming events for different ages and demographics. You would see the various Jewish symbols and ritual items, or the photos of decades of confirmands and graduates lining the main hallway. Depending on when you walked into the building, you might see young children playing in the courtyard, adults learning in the library, and religious school students praying in the sanctuary, just to name a few.

Now, that’s just our data, and we have to interpret it. Based on all of those things, what does it **mean** about Congregation Kol Ami? We have a strong legacy and history, we believe that Jewish learning is a lifelong endeavor, prayer and ritual are vital to our community, and connections between our members are paramount.

Finally, what does Congregation Kol Ami **mean to me**? For that answer, just like when we study Torah, we can’t find it on the page, we find it by asking other people. Throughout my first year here I have spent a lot of time hearing from congregants of all ages about what this community means to them, and, each time I do, it puts together another piece of the puzzle for me as to what makes this place special.

(continued; see “Rabbi Teaches” on page 2)

HAVE A BLAST AT
KOL AMI'S 2024

Wednesday
JULY 24
6:00 PM
IN THE KOL AMI PARKING LOT

SUMMER SMASH

JOIN IN THE FAMILY FUN!
Hot Dogs - Water Ice - DJ - Water Slide
Lawn Games - Sidewalk Chalk - Face Painting

REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED: WWW.KOLAMINJ.ORG
Current + Prospective Members Welcome!
For more information, please contact
the synagogue office at 856-489-0029.

CONGREGATION
KOL AMI *Many Voices,
One Community.*
קול עמי

It's Time to Renew Your Membership & Register for Religious School!

We look forward to sharing another exciting year with each and every one of our very special families.
Kindly complete your Annual Commitment Form
online by July 15: www.kolaminj.org

Questions? Contact the synagogue office at 856-489-0029.



FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Eric Hurwitz, President

I hope this message finds you in good health and spirits as we enter summer, close the books on another Kol Ami year, and plan for an exciting new year ahead.

Each edition of *Connections* has a different theme, and this one is “what Kol Ami means to me.” Everyone will have their own answer, of course, but to me the question touches on a point I recently made at our Shabbat service honoring volunteers and installing our leadership team. This newsletter is the perfect time to share those themes with each of you.

To me, Kol Ami is not merely a building; it is a vibrant community and a vision of people who yearn to connect and share experiences together, whether they are social, educational, spiritual, or otherwise. Kol Ami is a place where relationships are forged and nurtured – where individuals from all walks of life come together as one to share a sense of belonging in something greater than themselves. Together, we celebrate life’s joys, navigate its challenges, and create lifelong friendships that extend far beyond the physical boundaries of our synagogue.

What makes our synagogue special is the spirit of connection that permeates our interactions. It is in the warm smiles exchanged during Shabbat services, the laughter shared at social events, and the heartfelt conversations in study groups. It is a place for intellectual stimulation and engagement. It is a place where we seek knowledge, challenge our beliefs, and expand our understanding of the world and our place in it. We recognize that our spiritual journeys are unique and that the synagogue serves as a guide, offering a safe space for exploration and personal growth.

Kol Ami is also a vision – a collective aspiration for a better world and a commitment to *tikkun olam*. Within our congregation, we strive to be agents of positive change, extending a hand to those in need, advocating for social justice, and promoting inclusivity and equality.

I hope you share this vision that Kol Ami is not merely a building where we pray; it is a living, breathing community of people who yearn to connect and share experiences together. Let us cherish this space, nurture our connections, and continue to build a vibrant and inclusive community that reflects our true spirit.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer Stofman

It is hard to believe that we have completed our second year as a unified congregation. As a Kol Ami family, we have shared great joy and celebration, leaned on each other in times of sadness and loss, and counted on each other for support and encouragement.

At their best, synagogue communities provide connection and meaning. Together, we have strived to create a sense of belonging, providing emotional support, a sense of identity and a feeling of security for our Kol Ami community. We remain true to our vision statement as a vibrant and inclusive Reform Jewish community. Our Early Childhood Center and Religious and High School continue to flourish and our commitment to adult education remains unwavering, promoting a strong connection to our Jewish heritage and values. Kol Ami is deeply committed to *tikkun olam*. Our Social Action initiatives, ongoing *tzedakah* projects, and growing partnerships with other organizations have actively contributed to improving the lives of those in need and fostering an even stronger sense of community beyond our synagogue walls.

We recognize the importance of evolving with the changing needs of our congregation. We will continue to focus on enriching our programs, engaging all generations, and exploring new opportunities for connection. Kol Ami remains committed to being a dynamic and inclusive community where all members of our community feel valued and supported on their Jewish journey. Our Kol Ami family continues to grow. During 2023-2024, we welcomed 56 new member families. If you have not yet returned your membership renewal forms for 2024-2025, please do so. We believe in the importance of creating and maintaining a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community. With your support, our Kol Ami community will continue to go from strength to strength and be a leader in the South Jersey Jewish community.

My heartfelt thank you to our clergy, staff, lay leadership and all of you for your contributions and support of our synagogue. Your commitment and passion are the lifeblood of our community and will ensure a bright and promising future for Kol Ami.

THE RABBI TEACHES (continued from page 1)

For me, Congregation Kol Ami is a place where Jason and I are really starting our lives together. It’s where I get to serve a Jewish community in the way I always imagined, and where I am cared for in a way I couldn’t have imagined. It’s a space where I get to learn, grow, develop relationships and try new things. Most of all, I only see endless opportunity for me in this community, and I can’t wait to see what’s to come.

I encourage you, in your own way, to both look inward and ask yourself this question, and also to look outward to what others find special about Kol Ami. You might be surprised by what you learn.



FROM THE EDITOR Marlene Dworkin

We joined a synagogue, like so many people do, when it was time to start our children in religious school. I knew that time would come, since my parents were founding members of their temple in Wayne, NJ and likewise my in-laws in Paramus. (That's why I got such a pleasant surprise to realize that I was a founding member of Congregation Kol Ami!) Not only were my parents founders, but they maintained their membership until they retired and moved to an adult community where they joined a local synagogue. My in-laws moved to the Cherry Hill area and are now members of Kol Ami. Our parents set the example of life long synagogue membership, a value I am so happy to follow.

What is so special about Kol Ami? There's something about this place, there's an excitement, a buzz you can see and hear in our cutting-edge programming. I can't wait to see the new ideas that our amazing staff, clergy, and committees present for us, or the creative twists they bring to some of our tried and true events and holidays. Our Unification Celebration was an absolute blast, as was this year's Purim Party. The Braid, Spice, Cook! program was an incredible series in its own right, and visionary in that it brought together the three Sisterhoods of Kol Ami, Temple Beth Sholom and Congregation Beth El. What a first for our community and the idea originated here, at Kol Ami! Our Boomers are hiking, reading, and lunching their way through the calendar year. And so many special Shabbatot! There's not enough space for me to list all the engaging events that are happening!

When we first talked about unifying our two congregations, I was filled with such excitement over the potential there was, the opportunities we could create. It would be naïve to think that everything is perfect as we enter Kol Ami's third year of existence, but we are working together, willing to take chances and learning what works. There are things I wanted to do in our first year but was reminded we couldn't do everything all at once. Some of us have had to be patient as we roll out new programs and new ideas, but at Kol Ami, we have the space and the right people to do so.

Finally, Kol Ami is a family. I feel the warmth of community envelope me whenever I enter the building. Shabbat services are magical, starting with sharing good news with congregants to the final blessings from our clergy, it's a beautiful way to end the week and start Shabbat. Like I said, there's something special about this place.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

It's been a while since our last update, but please rest assured that we have been diligently working and are nearing the completion of our **strategic planning process**. Since our last communication, we organized an orientation in January for our Task Force participants to outline their roles and responsibilities. As a reminder, our six Task Forces are focused on: Ritual and Spirituality; Education; Membership, Engagement and Belonging; Leadership and Volunteerism; Finance, Building, and Philanthropy; and Marketing and Communication.

Each Task Force was made up of a diverse and highly engaged group representing various stakeholders, including staff, clergy, committee representatives, and congregants from different backgrounds. The following individuals participated in our Task Forces:

Jill Akre	Sharon Halperin	Lauren Rardin
Patti Barasch	Richard Harris	Stephanie Riviello
Rob Baron	Sara Honovich	Sara Rosenson
Pam Barroway	Eric Hurwitz	Heather Rozencaiga
Sandra Berger	Liz Levine	Robin Schwartz
Eric Blazar	Steven Lubetkin	Bob Singer
Paul Chernin	Wendi Lyons	Mara Steele
Stefanie Cohen	Natalie Madanick	Jason Turner
Cecilia Connor	Hank Maurer	Monica Watson
Gail Donner	Ira Miller	Steve Weichert
Ellen Feist	Debbie Mitchell	David Weinberg
Catherine Fischer	David Olinsky	Eileen Winter
Mark Friedenthal	Susan Olinsky	Marc Witte
Steve Friedman	Mark Pinzur	Stephanie Zinn
Leslie Greenspan	Jennifer Plevinsky	

and staff/clergy: Rabbi Frenkel, Rabbi Milan-Polisar, Cantor Schnitzer, Jennifer Stofman, Ruth Scott, Sheri Greenblatt, and Laura Hoffman

As part of their work, the Task Forces reviewed all of the 2023 Community Conversations, conducted SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analyses, reviewed internal and external data, and interviewed congregants, staff, and other leaders. In just three months, the co-chairs facilitated meetings and exercises to achieve the following deliverables: Situation/Background Summary, Task Force Vision, a bold strategic purpose, and ultimately recommended actions.

In late May, all the Task Force Co-Chairs conducted a debrief of their teams' work and participated in exercises that helped with prioritization and uncovered many common themes. We cannot thank all these members enough for their commitment to the future of Congregation Kol Ami and their efforts to bring our vision to life. They were bold in their approaches, often breaking away from traditional methods.

We will compile our findings into a formal strategy and celebrate the efforts of those involved, sharing this wonderful work with the entire congregation. If you have any questions or wish to learn more, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us. It has been an honor working with so many dedicated congregants, staff, and clergy.

Jessica Manelis and Allison Snyder
Strategic Planning Co-Chairs



FOCUS ON OUR FAMILIES: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Kick Off the New Year at Kol Ami

Saturday, September 7, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Adult Education Committee is excited to announce an **Adult Shabbaton** to be held at the synagogue on Saturday, September 7 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. This day-long program will offer a variety of opportunities to interact and learn with our clergy team, as well as hear about the journeys Kol Ami members have taken to become part of our diverse community.

We will begin the day with a Shabbat morning experience led by Rabbi Frenkel and Cantor Schnitzer, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Rabbi David. This discussion will highlight members of our congregation who will share their stories about finding a home at Kol Ami.

After lunch, there will be two hour-long breakout sessions. Attendees will be able to choose from the following: a text study on family matters led by Rabbi Milan-Polisar; a discussion of community resources for families led by congregant (and JFCS Executive Director) Raechel Hammer; a conversation led by Rabbi Richard Address about where American Reform Judaism is headed in the next decade and beyond.

The day will end with a group activity led by Rabbi Milan-Polisar.

The cost for the Shabbaton (including lunch) is \$36 per person, and the day is open to the community. We encourage you to save the date for this wonderful way to begin the new programming year at Kol Ami. Please watch your synagogue emails for registration information. Feel free to contact us at AdultEd@kolaminj.org if you have any questions.

Mark Pinzur, Gail Donner, Ira Miller
Adult Education Committee Co-Chairs



Devotion by the Ocean
SHABBAT SHALOM from VENTNOR NJ
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 5:30 pm
Join Rabbi Frenkel for a Kabbalat Shabbat service on the beach behind the Ventnor Library. We join with Ventnor's Shirat Hayam congregation for music, prayer, and inspiration at the shore.

SHIRAT HAYAM www.shirathayamnj.org
CONGREGATION KOL AMI Many Voices. One Community.
קול עמך



SOCIAL ACTION

By Michele Zeldner, Vice-President

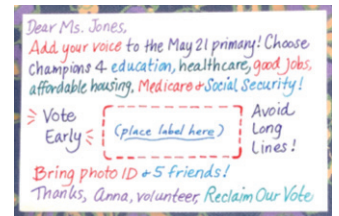
A year ago, I looked around the synagogue and saw so many faces that I did not know.

One year later, I see the same faces but of people I now call friends. Friends who have gotten involved in the many *tikkun olam* possibilities here at Kol Ami. This was most evident at the recent and well-attended Friday night Volunteer Recognition Shabbat. I watched when Rabbi Frenkel read a list of volunteer activities and asked anyone who participated in that program to stand. As she completed the abundant list of volunteer options, almost the entire congregation was standing.

The opportunity to participate and help repair the world is an important Jewish value and a cornerstone of our Judaism. Here at Kol Ami, we have multiple opportunities to find meaningful ways to build friendships and make connections with so many congregants who share an important need to include *tikkun olam* in their lives. Doing good in the world and making friends along the way, this is what Kol Ami means to me.

Many of you have responded to our request to participate in the Religious Action Center's "Every Voice, Every Vote" campaign. Thank you.

We have been writing hundreds of postcards as part of our efforts to overcome barriers to voting that target Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We are working in partnership with the Center for Common Ground's "Reclaim our Vote" campaign and others to send postcards to voters in states where there is a significant number of people of color and racial gaps in voter participation.



Soon we will be working in partnership with RAC-FL, Women of Reform Judaism, Florida Yes on 4, and the Floridians Protecting Freedom campaign to protect reproductive freedom through a November ballot amendment. These postcards will encourage voters to vote YES on Issue 4 to limit government interference with abortion access. Voters will learn what is at stake for reproductive freedom in Florida. This campaign is under way. Postcards, lists, and stamps will be provided to participants. If you would like to get involved, please email Gail Donner at gaildonner@gmail.com.

After all the postcards are in the mail by October 1, we hope to take a celebratory trip to New York City for a matinee on Sunday, October 27 to see the Broadway musical, "Suffs," about the women's suffrage movement. Please save the date and look out for upcoming information about ticket purchases.



Upcoming Events

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

www.kolaminj.org/events

JULY

Animal Fables in Rabbinic Literature

Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30,
11:30 am (Zoom)

Men's Club Lunch

Wednesdays, July 3 & 17, 12:30 pm
(Off-site; contact allanpep@yahoo.com.)

Independence Day (Observed)

Thursday & Friday, July 4 & 5
(Offices/Schools closed)

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, July 5, 7:00 pm
We celebrate July anniversaries.

Torah Study

Saturdays, July 6, 13, 20 & 27,
10:00 am (Zoom only; Note later start
time for these summer sessions.)

Sisterhood Summer Social

Thursday, July 11, 5:30 pm (Off-site)

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, July 12, 7:00 pm

Boomers Kimmel Center Tour

Tuesday, July 16, 11:00 am (Off-site)
Meet at Woodcrest Patco station at
10:00 am if you wish to ride in together.

Cool Off with Clergy:

SUNDAES with Rabbi Frenkel
Tuesday, July 16, 6:30-7:30 pm
(Off-site: 185 NJ-73, West Berlin 08091)

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, July 19, 7:00 pm

Fiddler on the Roof Field Trip

Sponsored by the Music Committee
Sunday, July 21, 2:00 pm
(Off-site: Moorestown Theater Company)

Boomers Lunch: Norma's

Tuesday, July 23, 12:30 pm (Off-site: 145
Barclay Shopping Ctr, Cherry Hill 08034)

Summer Smash

Wednesday, July 24, 6:00 pm
See page 1 for details on this family fun
event for current/prospective members.

Shabbat Evening Service

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

Cool Off with Clergy:

STARBUCKS with Rabbi Frenkel
Sunday, July 28, 9:30-11:00 am (Off-site:
480 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill 08003)

Guys' Night Out: Ott's

Wednesday, July 31, 6:30 pm (Off-site:
890 Haddonfield-Berlin Rd, Voorhees 08043)

AUGUST

First Friday

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

Shabbat Evening Service

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

Torah Study

Saturdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31,
10:00 am (Zoom only; Note later start
time for these summer sessions.)

Boomers Tour of Mikveh Israel

Tuesday, August 6, 10:00 am (Off-site)

Animal Fables in Rabbinic Literature

Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.
Tuesday, August 6, 11:30 am (Zoom)

How to Talk to Your College-Age Kids About Israel

Led by Rabbi Milan-Polisar
Tuesday, August 6, 7:00 pm

Wrestling With God

Led by Rabbi Jennifer Frenkel
Three Wednesdays, August 7, 14 & 28
10:30-11:45 am (Hybrid)

Men's Club Lunch

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

Sisterhood's Summer Book Discussion: The Little Liar

Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 pm

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, August 9, 7:00 pm

Cool Off with Clergy:

HARVEST COFFEE ROASTERY with Cantor Schnitzer
Sunday, August 11, 9:00-11:30 am
(Off-site: 67 N Main St, Medford 08055)

Tisha B'Av

Tuesday, August 13

Devotion by the Ocean

Friday, August 16, 5:30 pm
Shabbat service 'down the shore' with
Shirat Hayam Conservative and Reform
congregation of Ventnor, NJ.

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, August 16, 7:00 pm

Boomers Hike

Sunday, August 18, 10:30 am
(Off-site, location to be announced.)

Cool Off with Clergy:

CUPS & CONES with Cantor Schnitzer
Wednesday, August 21, 6:30-7:30 pm
(Off-site: 931 Tuckerton Rd, Marlton 08053)

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, August 23, 7:00 pm
We celebrate August birthdays.

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, August 30, 7:00 pm

LOOKING AHEAD to the HIGH HOLY DAYS

Selichot – September 28
Erev Rosh Hashanah – October 2
Rosh Hashanah, Day 1 – October 3
Rosh Hashanah, Day 2 – October 4
Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – October 11
Yom Kippur – October 12

Mazal Tov to...

Janet Arnold

on the birth of her great-grandson,
Jay Arnold Deaux

May Brill

on her 100th birthday

Debbie Lisker & Ed Chernoff

on the birth of their grandson,
Joseph Lisker Chernoff

Lynne & Ed Cohen

on their 60th wedding anniversary

Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman

on their wedding

Andrea & Sam Garber

on their son, Evan, being named Lenape
High School Class of 2024 Valedictorian

Jessica & Sam Jasper

on the naming of their daughter,
Chloe Wren

Joyce Kay

on her 90th birthday

Teri & Neal Nover

on the birth of their grandson,
Emmett Finn Suredam

Jessica Manelis

on the marriage of her son, Jake,
to Greta Rosenblum

Miriam Morton

on her conversion to Judaism

Joanne Rosen

on being selected as a *SJ Magazine*
Woman of Excellence

Larry & Deena Siegel

on the birth of their grandson,
Elijah Raio Perez

Sharon Siegel

on the birth of her grandson,
Elijah Raio Perez

Stephen Sunshine

on becoming a Bar Mitzvah for the
second time

Michelle & Steve Weichert

on the engagement of their son, Jacob,
to Laura Schear

Sharon and Jack Weinberg

on their 30th wedding anniversary

Beverly & Edmond Weiss

on their 60th wedding anniversary

We Mourn...

Liora Adler

aunt of Karen Rose (Tom) Karpousis

Esther Boxman

grandmother of Michael (Rachel) Hahn

Edward Feldman

husband of Ruth Feldman
father of Marcia Rost

Robert Gutman

father of Gail (Philip) Wolf

Marleen Hoffman

grandmother of Jessica Gurst

Marsha Kimmel

mother of Jessica Manelis

Murray Matez

father of Bruce Matez

Michael Meyers

brother of Marlyn (Harry) Starkman

Norma Pansky

cousin of Jason (Sheri) Turner,
Phyllis Turner, and Sheila Lever

Lists are inclusive from the last issue of Connections through June 18, 2024.

The Music Committee invites you...

Fiddler Field Trip

Sunday, July 21
2:00 pm curtain time
at Moorestown Theater Company



Moorestown Theater Company
presents **Fiddler
on the Roof**


**Support fellow congregants and
enjoy quality community theater.**
\$20 per person. Register by July 12: www.kolaminj.org

Bring your own chair cushion. Carpool help will be available.
For more information, contact Gaby Fish at engelfish@verizon.net.

CONGREGATION **KOL AMI**
קול עמי

Animal Fables

in Rabbinic Literature



Led by Rabbi Lewis John Eron, Ph.D.
Weekly, Tuesdays
July 2 – August 6
11:30 am – 12:30 pm (Zoom)

The tradition of telling fables to illustrate moral and ethical teachings is ancient. Our sages drew on this tradition to highlight basic Jewish ideas and beliefs.

No cost for congregants; \$36 for non-congregants (one-time payment for series)
Registration required: www.kolaminj.org

CONGREGATION **KOL AMI**
קול עמי

SHALOM FROM SISTERHOOD

By Amy Bodofsky

Summertime is a special time of year. The days are longer and warmer, the sunshine is brighter, and for the children, it marks the end of the school year. We look forward to summer vacations, visits to the shore, and a chance to experience some time when “the livin’ is easy.”

Although hostilities against Israel and the Jewish people worldwide remain a cause for concern, Sisterhood, as a community, finds comfort in having donated to Israeli’s needs.

Being a part of Congregation Kol Ami is so meaningful to my family and myself. It reinforces the cherished Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, Shabbat, and other holiday observances. It also helps us to respect the culture and traditions that bring us together.

Being a part of Congregation Kol Ami Sisterhood has been especially meaningful this year as we connect with a caring, vibrant, active group of women who share our interests and concerns.

Our Installation dinner this year allowed us to add new Board members to our growing team. Our garden theme that night reflected the idea that “you reap what you sow.” My co-presidents, Tracy Goldberg and Lisa Weiser, and I (pictured above) want to grow Congregation Kol Ami’s Sisterhood to its full potential.

We loved seeing everyone at our June 3 Ladies’ Night out (pictured right). Please join us for our Sisterhood Summer Social and pool party on Thursday, July 11, our book discussion of Mitch Albom’s novel, *The Little Liar*, on Wednesday, August 7, and our upcoming Art Card fundraiser.

Thank you to the Sisterhood Board, volunteers, and attendees for your involvement. Contact SisterhoodPresident@kolaminj.org with questions or ideas.



Join us poolside for some friendship, food & fun at our
Sisterhood Summer Social
Thursday, July 11
6:30 pm
at the home of Stephanie Zinn

\$18/person.
Includes dinner, drinks, and dessert!
Sisterhood Members Only.
RSVP by July 5.
BYOC: Bring Your Own Chair.
Don't forget your bathing suit...if you want to swim!
www.kolaminj.org



MEN’S CLUB

By Michael Feist

Kol Ami translates to “voice of my people.” Given the situation in the Middle East – in Israel and Gaza specifically – we must ensure that we are in fact being a voice for ALL our people. We’ve seen the memes/gifs/reels on social media in the past year or so about how when one of us is taken, we all cry and how when one of us is freed, we all dance. Now is as important a time as ever for us to come together and hopefully Men’s Club can continue to be a place where we can do just that. I encourage any of you who are looking for comfort during these times of peril and strife to use Men’s Club – and the many other ongoing synagogue activities – as an opportunity to do just that.

After celebrating Men’s Club Shabbat in late June, we will be ‘rebooting’ Guys’ Night Out on Wednesday, July 31. Hosted by Men’s Club at Ott’s in Voorhees, this event is for ALL congregants and is a great way to reconnect with your Kol Ami family during the summer when so many of us seem to be moving in different directions. Registration information for this great event is up on the Kol Ami website, and the first drink (or two perhaps) will once again be on Men’s Club. I look forward to seeing both familiar & new faces there!

Lastly, Men’s Club is always looking for new members as a way to ensure the long-term sustainability of our cohort. We will be putting on a great slate of events in 2024-2025 including our monthly-ish brunches plus our signature Scotch & Steak in the Sukkah. Feel free to reach out to me (michaelfeist18@gmail.com) or any member of Men’s Club for information about how to join and/or how to become a part of our leadership team.



JOIN US FOR
GUY’S NIGHT OUT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
@ 6:30 PM

Ott’s
VOORHEES TAVERN

1ST ROUND IS ON THE MEN’S CLUB!
SPONSORED BY THE MEN’S CLUB. ALL WELCOME.
RSVP BY 7/29/24 AT WWW.KOLAMINJ.ORG





Spice Detective... Sisterhood co-chair Lisa Weiser assisted the Spice Detective himself, Yaniv Cohen, in the kitchen before his Braid. Spice Cook! appearance on April 17. Kol Ami had great attendance at this event hosted by our co-sponsor, Beth El Sisterhood.



Congregational Annual Meeting...

We gathered on May 15 to conduct official business and celebrate another wonderful year at Kol Ami. A number of deserving individuals were presented with awards of appreciation. *Top row, l-r.* Rabbi David and Rabbi Frenkel introduced Eva Fields as the Edwin Soslow Scholarship Award recipient. Steve & Judy Lubetkin were honored with the Brian Baratz Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Jaimee & Steve Friedman. *Middle row, l-r.* Karen Ginsburg, pictured with Past President Sallie Brown, received the Rosie Award for Social Justice. Rising Stars Awards went to the duo of Fay Goldberg and Gillian Chernin. Educator of the Year honors, presented by Early Childhood Director Laura Hoffman, went to Barbara Horton. *Bottom row, l-r.* Jimmy Sell, Norman & Lynne Rednik and David Olinsky enjoy catching up with each other, as do David Weinberg, Mindy & Michael Fox. Vice President Rob Baron and President Eric Hurwitz end the night scooping ice cream for make-your-own sundaes.





Boomers Rock and Roll Lunch... Our Boomers Social Group 'turned it up to eleven' at the May 21 musical program and lunch at Kol Ami. Cool cat and Woodstock attendee Ira Miller, Ph.D., led a groovy afternoon discussion, as Judy Lubetkin and others shared some of their favorite records and related stories.



Mazal Tov to our Confirmands and their families... On Shavuot morning, we celebrated our 10th grade students' commitment to Judaism and to Jewish life: Kieran Barasch, Eli Birnbaum, Cary Bloom, Ethan Coffina, Edward Firstenberg, Abigail Frey, Benjamin Goldberg, Joshua Hammer, Madeline Harris, Joey Lieberson, Boris Pasternak, Jacob Rexon, Owen Romm, Benjamin Sautter, and Micah Schwartz.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Sheri Greenblatt

Director of Education

The summertime always gives me a moment to relax, breathe, and think about the past year and why I do what I do. Being the Director of Education for Congregation Kol Ami has been very rewarding for me. Knowing we are making a difference in the lives of our

Jewish students and building a sense of community makes me proud. There is nothing that gives me more joy than seeing the children come to school happy, engaged, creating friendships, and of course learning so much!

If you haven't done so already, make sure you register for the 2024-2025 school year. We will have new and exciting programs as well as some old favorites. I am looking forward to bringing you another great year. Enjoy your summer and we will see you in September.



YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAMMING
SUMMER FUN
 FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

PLAYGROUND PLAYTIME
 July 14, 9:30-10:30 am
 August 18, 9:30-10:30 am
 Enter through the Rotunda and join us on the Kol Ami playground. Light refreshments provided.

PAJAMA STORYTIME
 August 20, 6:30 pm
 Come in pjs and bring your favorite cuddle buddy and grown up.

Congregants, prospective members, ECC families, and grandparents are all welcome!
 Registration requested for each event: www.kolaminj.org



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Laura Hoffman

Director of Early Childhood Education

Summer is here! Thank you to our ECC families for all your support and for caring and sharing your children with us this past school year. Our ECC is fabulous, and this is why:

- Our children are the very best, they give us so much pleasure.*
- CKA morot are without a doubt such a teaching treasure.*
- Our programs are unique; fun is our quest.*
- It's easy to say each day is absolutely the best.*
- Our rabbis are always by our side,*
- Jewish memories and grand times surely coincide.*



BOOMERS SOCIAL GROUP

In the two years since two distinct, well-formed, and experienced congregations unified, we have been members of this new community, Kol Ami. Not knowing how that would look and feel to us was a mystery in the beginning. Today, we can say that being a Kol Ami member has given us a new view of our lives.

We have made wonderful friends, expanded our Jewish and secular education, renewed our interest in synagogue life, and all of this has brought out the best in us, making us want to connect the “best” part of us to Kol Ami. Being a member means experiencing joy when getting to know our very approachable clergy and appreciating the many learning opportunities offered. At Kol Ami, we have built a community of warm, meaningful relationships on a personal level.

We feel a strong tie to Kol Ami’s community of inclusivity. We are working hard to ensure that the Boomers group embraces everyone who wants to connect with us through our activities – no matter when your birthday is!

Our first in-house lunch at Kol Ami was a big success (see photos on page 9). Ira Miller taught us about the origins of rock ‘n’ roll and we then shared stories and album covers of our favorite musicians. We will have more in-house lunches in the future, along with our local restaurant lunches, because variety is the spice of life! Thanks to Laurie Waring, Betsy and Jerry Morgenstern, Karen and Marvin Ginsburg, and Bobbie Israelsky for helping make this event so enjoyable.

On Tuesday, July 23, we will be having lunch at Norma’s Mediterranean and Middle East restaurant at 1:00 pm. Our September 17 lunch will be at Ponzio’s at 1:00 pm. Please remember to register on the Kol Ami website. We will be having our potluck dairy dinner in the *sukkah* again this year, the date to be determined.

Our hiking group partnered with Sisterhood and enjoyed a wonderful hike on May 19, led by Carlton Montgomery. This is the second time Carlton has led our group and we can’t thank him enough! Bill Fisher, Rachelle Lampert, and Stephanie Welder are looking into a venue for our next hike on Sunday, August 18.

Our first committee meeting for 2024-2025 will be August 11 at 6:30 pm. Please look for the registration on the website calendar for all the details.

Thank you to our planning committee members, Lynn Adler, Sue Bookman, Carol Brightman, Gail Donner, Marlene Dworkin, Bill Fisher, Karen and Marvin Ginsburg, Marjorie Hamburger, Rachelle Lampert, Liz Levine, Debbie Lisker, Steve Lubetkin, and Stephanie Welder.

Lynn Branfman and Judy Lubetkin
Boomers Social Group Co-Chairs

WANTED: A FEW GOOD VOICES

Koleinu, Congregation Kol Ami’s Adult Volunteer Choir, is actively looking for a few good lower voices (tenors and basses) to add to our ensemble. Koleinu sings for the High Holy Days and during several Friday night Shabbat services throughout the year. If you are interested in more information about Koleinu and possibly joining our choir, please reach out to Ira Miller, co-chair of Koleinu, at iramiller@kolaminj.org.



BLOOD DRIVE

By Karen Ginsburg, Kol Ami Red Cross liaison



Thank you to all of our Kol Ami members who came out and donated or helped with our second congregational blood drive that took place on Wednesday, May 22. This blood drive, sponsored by our Kol Ami Sisterhood, was a huge success. We collected 27 pints of blood that will help 81 patients in need. This included three first-time donors and two power red donors. A power red donation is a procedure that allows someone to donate two units of red blood cells in a single appointment. The process is similar to a regular blood donation, but uses a machine to return the donor’s plasma and platelets. Special thanks to our Sisterhood volunteers Sharyl Fidoten, Dalia Jacobowitz, Beth Kern, Sheryl Levin, Janet Moss, Rachelle Lampert, Debbie Thomson, Denise Weinberg, and Hilda Weinger.

SPONSORED BY THE **Boomers Social Group**

The Kimmel Center Tour

Tuesday, July 16 at 11:00 am

Join us for a guided tour of The Kimmel Center, led by David Olinsky.

We will meet at Woodcrest Patco Station at 10:00 am and take the train in to Philadelphia.

Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant and a short walk through Historic Philadelphia, led by Bill Fisher.

All are welcome!
Info & RSVP: www.kolaminj.org


A photograph of the Kimmel Center building, a large, modern structure with a prominent glass dome and facade, situated in an urban environment.

KOL  **AMI** Many Voices. One Community.
קול עמוי

TUE
AUGUST
06 7:00 PM

UNPACKING FOR COLLEGE
[PARENT EDITION]

Unpack any fears and concerns you may have about your child or grandchild heading off to college. Guest speaker **JENNA FERMAN**, Assistant Director of Penn Hillel, join us alongside Rabbi Milan-Polisar. Register to attend: www.kolaminj.org



CONGREGATION **KOL AMI** *Make Voices. Own Community.*

KICK OFF 2024
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

See your Kol Ami friends and plan to get involved!
Find out about committees and social groups!
Get a taste of what's to come this year!

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.

Abraham & Sylvia Angstreich Beautification Fund*

Linda & Steven Angstreich
in honor of Stephen Sunshine's second Bar Mitzvah
in memory of Sherman Bennett
Stephanie & Michael Ritigstein *in memory of Elane Specter*

Branfman Children's Library Fund

Lynn Branfman & Rick Clauson *in memory of Helen Wolk and Barbara Michaels on the occasion of Mother's Day*
Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald
in honor of the birth of Debbie Lisker and Ed Chernoff's grandson, Joseph Lisker Chernoff
in honor of the birth of Judy & Steve Lubetkin's grandson, Thomas Olver Gosizk III
Deborah Lisker & Edward Chernoff
in honor of Lynn Branfman's birthday
in honor of the birth of Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald's granddaughter, Cassandra Celeste Hohwald
Judy & Steve Lubetkin
in honor of the birth of Debbie Lisker and Ed Chernoff's grandson, Joseph Lisker Chernoff
in honor of the birth of Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald's granddaughter, Cassandra Celeste Hohwald
Brianna & Andrew Schiff *in memory of Renee Goldstein*

Cantor Anita F. Hochman Choir Fund

Marlene & Gary Dworkin
in honor of Stephen Sunshine's second Bar Mitzvah
Merle & Barry Friedman *in honor of Cantor Hochman*
Leslie & Adam Greenspan *in memory of Elane Specter*
Koleinu (Choir) *in memory of Lilian Tapia, mother of Art Tapia-Minchez*
Sheila Lever
in honor of Stephen Sunshine's second Bar Mitzvah
in memory of Lilian Tapia, mother of Art Tapia-Minchez
Caryn & Larry Lieberman *in honor of Stephen Sunshine's second Bar Mitzvah*
Michele Figures & Ira Miller
in memory of Etta Rubenstein, great-grandmother of Ira Miller
in memory of Lilian Tapia, mother of Art Tapia-Minchez

Teri & Neal Nover

in memory of Nathan Nover
in memory of Sadie Greenspan

Maxine & Mark Pinzur

in memory of Lilian Tapia, mother of Art Tapia-Minchez
Sharon & Marv Rozansky *in honor of Stephen Sunshine's second Bar Mitzvah*
Ellen & Roger Sheinkin *in honor of Sandy Fingerman's granddaughter Cayla becoming Bat Mitzvah*
Sharon Siegel *in honor of the birth of Teri & Neal Nover's grandson, Emmett Finn Suredam*

Lisa & Richard Specter *in appreciation of Cantor Hochman*
Judi & David Weinberg *in honor of the birth of Teri & Neal Nover's grandson, Emmett Finn Suredam*

Cantor Neil Schnitzer Cantorial Fund

Estherose Heyman
in memory of Lilian Tapia, mother of Art Tapia-Minchez
Judy & Steve Lubetkin
in honor of Eileen Winter's new granddaughter
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in memory of Marsha Kimmel, mother of Jessica Manelis

Clifford R. Levine Adult Education Fund

Peggy & Rabbi Jerome David *in honor of the birth of Judy & Steve Lubetkin's grandson, Thomas Olver Gosizk III*
Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald & Robert Hohwald *in memory of Lynda Appell, sister of Roslyn Appell*
Debbie & Scott Jeffreys *in honor of the birth of Judy & Steve Lubetkin's grandson, Thomas Olver Gosizk III*
Judy & Steve Lubetkin
in appreciation of Rabbi Eron
in appreciation of Toby & Len Berman
in honor of Beverly & Edmond Weiss' 60th wedding anniversary

College Connection Fund

Audrienne Levene *in honor of the birth of Judy & Steve Lubetkin's grandson, Thomas Olver Gosizk III*

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Frisch-Trautenberg Choir Fund

Janice & Jerry Apple

in memory of Arthur Apple

in memory of Rosalie Kanter & Elaine Apple

Eileen Winter *in honor of the birth of Renee & Howard Siegel's grandson, Simon Lenny Siegel*

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in memory of Sol Gantz

in memory of Sue Engelman

High Holy Day Bookplates

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in honor of Jake Angstreich and Ellie Angstreich

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Jo Ann Kay *in memory of Moe Feldman*

Aliza Remer *in memory of Carol Huppung Fisher*

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in honor of the birth of Jill & Andrew Moghadam's daughter, Nora Moghadam

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Judy & Steve Lubetkin *in appreciation of Norman Rednik*

Teri & Neal Nover *in honor of the birth of their grandson, Emmett Finn Suredam*

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in honor of Evan Garber graduating Valedictorian of Lenape HS Class of 2024

in honor of Rachel Leah Fineman's Bat Mitzvah

in honor of the birth of Janet Arnold's great-grandson, Jay Arnold Deaux

in honor of the birth of Judy & Steve Lubetkin's grandson, Thomas Olver Gosizk III

in honor of the birth of Renee & Howard Siegel's grandson, Simon Lenny Siegel

Janine & Mark Sobel

in honor of the marriage of Jake Manelis to Greta Rosenblum

in memory of Libbie & Albert Greenbaum

in memory of Marsha Kimmel

in memory of Max Greenbaum

in memory of Minnie Sobel

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Merle & Barry Friedman

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in honor of Steve Janove

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in memory of Sol Gantz

in memory of Thelma Spivack

Leah Goldman *in honor of Kol Ami's 6th Grade Religious School students*

Sharon Halperin *in honor of the wedding of Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman*

Marcy & William Lawrence *in honor of the wedding of Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman*

Laura Maron *in honor of the wedding of Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman*

Michelle & Stephen Weichert *in honor of the wedding of Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman*

Judi & David Weinberg *in honor of the wedding of Merle Steinberg & Barry Friedman*

Rabbi David Education Fund

Lynn Branfman

in honor of the birth of Renee & Howard Siegel's grandson, Simon Lenny Siegel

in honor of the birth of Debbie Lisker & Ed Chernoff's grandson, Joseph Lisker Chernoff

Rabbi David Good Works Fund

Roslyn Appell & Robert Purdy *in honor of Rabbi David*

Betsy & Gordon Bocher

in honor of Irene & Randy Mintz

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Fran & Neal Cupersmith *in honor of Rabbi & Peggy David*

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in memory of Barbara Michaels
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Anne & Michael Goldberg *in honor of Norman Weiss' 80th birthday*
Barbara & Eric Hahn *in memory of Esther Boxman*
Amy Lipson & Marlene Spector *in honor of Rabbi Frenkel*
Judy & Steve Lubetkin
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Laura Maron *in honor of the engagement of Michelle & Steve*
Weichert's son, Jacob
Leah Rosenkrantz & Tim Foster
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in appreciation of Rabbi Frenkel
Ann M. Ryan *in honor of Joyce Kay's birthday*
Paul Schweizer *in honor of our clergy*
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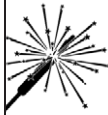
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Have a refreshing starter with our clergy 9:30-11:00 am

Sunday July 28

STARBUCKS with Rabbi Frenkel
 Short Hills, 480 Evesham Rd, Cherry Hill NJ 08003

Sunday August 11

HARVEST COFFEE with Rabbi Milan-Polisar
 67 N Main St, Medford NJ 08055



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

Tuesday July 16

SUNDAES with Rabbi Frenkel
 185 NJ-73, West Berlin NJ 08091

Wednesday August 21

CUPS & CONES with Cantor Schnitzer
 931 Tuckerton Rd, Marlton NJ 08053

KINDLY RSVP: WWW.KOLAMINJ.ORG

Bring a donation of school supplies to help local children in need.
 Check the website for list of preferred donations.



SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 19

Little Mill Country Club, Marlton NJ

**Golf Scramble Tournament
 Pickleball Open Play**

New this year! Mah Jongg & Canasta

Includes Game Play,
 Awards Dinner, Raffle Prizes
Sponsorships Available!



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Event Registration coming soon!
 For Sponsor information, please contact
 Steve Weichert at steve@bevcoservice.com.