



# The Voice

**Office:** 182 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 204, Frederick, MD 21702 • **Worship:** 4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick, MD 21703

## Shalom!

By Rabbi Simon Stratford



**A**s summer comes to a close and our children return home from enriching experiences at

summer camp, we prepare for the start of another school year. For all of us at Kol Ami, and for Jewish communities worldwide, the end of summer and beginning of fall means the High Holy Days are just around the corner. At the time of this writing, we are two weeks away from Rosh Chodesh Elul – the beginning of the month of Elul. The month of Elul is followed by the month of Tishrei, whose beginning is recognized as Rosh Hashanah – The Jewish New Year. This is an important time of year for us. Our tradition teaches that in the month leading up to the Jewish New Year, during the month of Elul, we are to prepare for the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There are a number of ways to prepare for the upcoming High Holy Days throughout the Hebrew month of Elul (August 23rd –

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### Our Mission

To be an inclusive Reform Jewish congregation that is family focused, community oriented, emphasizes spiritual and cultural identity, and is dedicated to the Jewish education of all generations.

## Message from the President

By Joanna Sieger



Every year as the High Holy Days approach, I find myself reflecting on the year gone by, and this year is no different. For me, that reflection goes back to my childhood.

When I was a child, my family did not belong to a synagogue. We rarely went to temple, but we did attend High Holy Day services – because that’s what you did. That’s what you were supposed to do. We didn’t know anyone there. We smiled and said “Good *Yuntif!*”, but, quite frankly, I hated it. I didn’t feel comfortable and forget about *kavannah* (bringing intention to prayer) – I just wanted out.

Fast forward several years and I love attending services. One of my favorite things is leaving my cell phone in the car – unplugging for that hour is so refreshing! My journey with Kol Ami began because my oldest (Molly) was enrolled in religious school and the director suggested I teach – since I was hanging around each week. I found it was important to show my daughter that the synagogue, her religious school, was important. When we become active in our children’s activities, it shows we support not only them, but the activity itself. I was already active in PTA and Molly’s lacrosse team. But if I was going to show her that being Jewish and attending religious school and services were just as (if not more) important, I had show through my actions that it was. Many of us with children have no problem supporting our child’s sport—but how many of us become active at our religious school or temple and show support for that?

From there I progressed to being on the Board of Trustees and the rest is history. There have been times over the years that

my oldest – the one who was the catalyst for this journey – would say, “Why are you leaving again? Why do you volunteer ALL THE TIME? Can’t someone else do it?” That same child now volunteers at our synagogue and on a recent college visit spotted the “Jewish Center” (Hillel) on the campus map.

Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is a small community. We are virtually a volunteer run organization. If we don’t have a volunteer, it doesn’t get done. We are fortunate that many in our community do volunteer. That there are enough of us who feel the importance of volunteering and supporting this community. But, could there be more? Hands down, YES, most definitely!

High Holy Days, for me, have always been a time for reflection. What did I do the last year? Did I do well? Could I have done better? How can I improve? Myself? My family? My community? Could I do more? Should I do less? What changes need to be made? What aspects are perfect the way they are? Moving forward, how can I make it better?

I invite you to reflect on your involvement in our congregation. Last year was the most engaged our congregation has ever been; so, like many of us, you were most likely involved in something. Will you be keeping up that spirit? Is there more you can do? Beyond paying your dues, could you donate even \$18 more? What events could you plan, help with, or attend? Was there something you couldn’t help with last year, but this year you can? Did you volunteer many hours of time and, this year, could you keep that rate of involvement and maybe add another hour?

We are Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick. If every one of us gave even just a little more than last year, imagine the possibilities.

## Meet and Greet Clergy Luncheon

By Diane Rifkin

On July 19th, Carolyn Plaisance, Harriet Buxbaum, and Diane Rifkin, members of Kol Ami's Transition Team, hosted a luncheon at the Kol Ami Office to introduce Rabbi Stratford to other clergy members within the Frederick community. Attendees at the luncheon included Reverend Carl Gregg of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF), Pastor Barbara Daniel of the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC), Rabbi Scott Sperling, Rabbi Simon Stratford, Joanna Sieger, Eric Dubbin, and Mark Hoffrichter. One highlight of the luncheon was Harriet's delicious pineapple kugel!

During lunch, stories were shared about the wonderful long term relationships members of Kol Ami have shared with members of UUCF and ERUCC. Our friends at UUCF have been especially welcoming to us over the years as they have opened their doors and shared their building with us. Reverend Carl Gregg remarked, "On the national level, both the Union of Reform Judaism and the United Church of Christ have been the most frequent interfaith partners with the Unitarian Universalist Association, so it is wonderful that we have such a longstanding microcosm of that relationship on the local level between Kol Ami, UUCF, and ERUCC."

For years, teens and families of both Kol Ami and the

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ have enjoyed the annual multi-faith work trip to the Franklinton Center in Bricks, North Carolina. Formerly a slave plantation, the Franklinton Center now serves as a conference, retreat, and educational facility for the community. During the annual trips, attendees help with maintenance work that the Franklinton Center needs. They have also helped underprivileged students at a local school by supplying the students with donated hats and gloves for their outdoor education programs during the winter. Kol Ami participants have enjoyed helping this North Carolina community and making new friends from ERUCC.

During the luncheon, Pastor Daniel reflected upon the close relationship that has developed between Kol Ami and ERUCC through Interfaith Pulpit Exchanges. Pastor Daniel came one Friday evening with some of her congregants and spoke during our Shabbat services. The following Sunday, our Rabbi gave the sermon at the Sunday morning service at ERUCC. Along with him came dozens of Kol Ami congregants. Rabbi Stratford and Pastor Daniel hope to continue these Interfaith Pulpit Exchanges. Rabbi Stratford, Reverend Gregg, and Pastor Daniel look forward to working together to build upon the close and caring relationships our congregations have shared.

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## From Rabbi Simon Stratford

Continued from page 1

September 20th). Allow me to share a few.

Some communities blow the Shofar every morning during the month of Elul. The ram's horn, Shofar, helps us "wake up" to the work of *Teshuvah* – repentance. The sounding of the Shofar each morning in the month of Elul is designed to rouse us from our complacency. Elul is also the time to begin the process of asking forgiveness for wrongs done to other people. Our tradition teaches that God cannot forgive us for sins committed against another person until we have first obtained forgiveness from the person we have wronged. As the month of Elul draws to a close, and the mood of repentance becomes more urgent, prayers for forgiveness (*selichot*) are added to the daily liturgy. Moreover, many Jews make it a point to visit cemeteries during the month of Elul. This is an awe-inspiring time of year, which often leads us to think about life, death, and our own mortality. Therefore, paying respect to our departed loved ones during this time of year is a fitting custom to the overall theme of the High Holy Days.

How will you be spending the month of Elul this year? It is easy to overlook this month and look straight on to the New Year and Day of Atonement. However, consider the month of Elul as an opportunity to get a head start on becoming the best version of yourself this New Year. Let us embrace the tradition of preparing ourselves for renewal in the month of Elul. Reflect upon your past year and then your answers to the following questions, or better yet, sit down with the entire family and after explaining the intention behind the month of the Elul, go around and have each person share their individual answers with the family: What elements in my life am I ready to leave behind in 5777? What elements are missing from my life that

I hope to embrace this New Year? What steps do I need to take to prepare for the High Holy Days? In the coming weeks, from whom do I need to ask forgiveness? Lastly, what must I forgive myself for? These are essential questions to begin our preparation for the High Holy Days in the month of Elul.

The Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, are unlike any other New Year's celebration of which I've ever been a part. This is because instead of celebrating the year that was, the Jewish New Year focuses on how we can do better in the year to come. We consider our actions in the past year, for the sake of the future and making amends with those in our lives. This year, in addition to considering my personal answers to the questions above, I have decided to prepare for the High Holy Days by attending the weekly Thursday morning minyan at Beth Shalom. Each Thursday morning at 8 am, from August 24th to September 14th, I welcome you to come with me to *daven* the morning prayers with our friends from Beth Shalom. Please be in touch if you'd like to attend one Thursday morning with me.

May the remainder of the month of Elul be for all of us a time of intention and purpose. In the coming days and weeks, may each of us take a moment to pause and reflect upon our actions this past year. In the days leading up to the High Holy Days, allow yourself time to seek forgiveness from those you may have wronged. May the personal and emotional work put forth in the month of Elul make us feel adequately prepared to enter the month of Tishrei, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur. I look forward to celebrating a meaningful High Holy Days with all of you. Be well. —L'Shalom

## Fundraising Update

The Kol Ami fundraising committee has been meeting these past months to create exciting and fun activities to help raise money for Kol Ami.

Our first fundraiser is a honey sale for Rosh Hashanah. The honey jars will have a special label to celebrate the new year and will be available on Sunday mornings at religious school. The bottles of honey will sell for \$10 each for a one pint bottle. They will make a great gift for family, friends and yourself. You can also contact Samantha Lieberman at [samanthajlieberman@gmail.com](mailto:samanthajlieberman@gmail.com) for alternative pick-up if Sunday mornings are inconvenient.

Other events discussed include Krispy Crème, trivia night, Hanukkah vendor sale, Barnes and Noble book fair, Not-a-Party, restaurant nights and the return of our very successful casino night this spring. We will publish details as these events and more are published, so watch your email and the Kol Ami Facebook page.

Thanks to the committee members for all of their efforts—Harriet Buxbaum, Anne Cohen, Bertie Farbman, Bob Blumenthal, Julie Saxon, Samantha Lieberman, Ralene Damanti, Jessica Price, Judi Feldman, Rabbi Stratford, and committee chair David Silberman.

For additional information on these fundraisers and how you can get involved, please contact David at [dssilberman@aol.com](mailto:dssilberman@aol.com).

**Please welcome new members!**  
**Cliff and Faith Miller**

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



**Reece Shavell**  
**September 9, 2017**

Reece is the son of David and Tracy Shavell and brother to Addie (10). He also shares a birthday with the family's dog, Joey. Reece is an 8th grader at Windsor Knolls Middle School. He has been an Honor Roll student since kindergarten and has a passion for reading. He also enjoys karate, the drums and hanging out with good friends. This summer he discovered the joy of diving into ocean waves, and in winter he enjoys skiing. Reece looks forward to the annual family trip in December (this year a southern Caribbean cruise).



**Aaron Bilow**  
**October 7, 2017**

Aaron is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Bilow and brother of Noah and Sarah Bilow (9). Aaron is a 7th grader at Windsor Knolls Middle School. He loves Boy Scouts and anything technology related. He is currently a Tenderfoot and working towards Eagle Scout. He plays the baritone and enjoys programs code. He is also the proud owner of two cats. In 2015 Aaron won the Frederick News Post History Bee. Every summer since 2013, Aaron has enjoyed his time at Camp Airy.



**Hayden Lazorchak**  
**October 21, 2017**

Hayden's parents are Ali and Rob Lazorchak, and he is 7th grader at Brunswick Middle School.

### Kol Ami Brotherhood

Attention, Men of Kol Ami!

Interested in some time out with the guys? Hoping to avoid yet another meeting? The Kol Ami Brotherhood gathers on the first Tuesday of each month for dinner (although September will be the second Tuesday— watch your e-mail for information).

If you are not on the mailing list or if you have any ideas for additional programming, please contact Jeff Feiertag (brotherhood@kolamifrederick.org).

The September Brotherhood dinner will be on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Mediterranean Grill**  
**5221 Buckeystown Pike**  
**Frederick**

Interested and able to join us? Sign up using the link below:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSRYR5B>



August Brotherhood barbecue.

### Join us for Torah Study with Rabbi Stratford!

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.

Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at the office.

September 11, 18 and 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

### Kol Ami Book Club



**Wed. Sept. 13 at 12:30 pm**  
**Macaroni Grill at Westview**

**Kindred**  
**by Octavia Butler**

To register and for a synopsis please go to:  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami1>

### Help Wanted

- Religious School Director trainee
- Tot Shabbat set-up volunteer
- Shabbat Service Coordinator

**Please contact Joanna at [president@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:president@kolamifrederick.org) for information about the above needs.**

### Women's Coffee

**Wednesday, Sept. 6 and Oct. 4, 2017**

**10:00 am at Panera on Route 26**

Women of Kol Ami meet on the first Wednesday of every month, unless otherwise noted. Come meet your friends and let us know what is happening in your life. Check this link for the latest coffee date: [RSVP: signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens)

## Ask the Rabbi

**Q:** Rabbi, I have attended services once since you've come on board and noticed some changes to the style of worship, songs, and melodies from what has been done in years past. Furthermore, when I received my High Holy Day informational packet, I saw that we will be holding Yizkor services in the late afternoon of Yom Kippur, as opposed to shortly after the conclusion of the morning service. Could you please offer an explanation for these changes and speak to any further changes we can expect in the coming weeks and months?

**A:** I recognize change is difficult for all of us. In particular, when it comes to Jewish tradition and the *minhagim*, or customs, of our community, changes to our mode of worship or to the High Holy Day schedule is inevitably going to be taxing. In the last year, our community was forced to endure a myriad of changes, and I have no wish to add further anxiety or stress. But a certain degree of change is a natural consequence of undergoing a transition in religious leadership.

Congregation Kol Ami has a unique history. Our community is made of a diverse group of members whose backgrounds vary from growing up in a more traditional Jewish community to those for whom Kol Ami is their sole Jewish communal experience. This is something I have learned in my two months as your rabbi and something I must keep in mind when planning Shabbat services. A pertinent example is the Bar'chu. I have introduced a melody of singing the Bar'chu that includes Dr. Eric's accompaniment on guitar and a few "la

la leis" before and after chanting our call to worship. Offering this change is meant to create a greater sense of community by allowing everyone to sing along, even those for whom the Hebrew is unfamiliar. Moreover, singing the Bar'chu creates a sense of warmth and enthusiasm as we transition from welcoming Shabbat to the start of our routine Shabbat evening liturgy.

The decision to change the schedule of High Holy Days, in particular the timing of Yizkor Memorial Service, was made for a few reasons. Firstly, I felt moving the memorial service to the later afternoon and before the concluding service would encourage greater participation and attendance at the closing service and Break Fast. Secondly, and more importantly, Yom Kippur is designed to be a full twenty-four hours of dutiful prayer and introspection. As a community we will usher in the Day of Atonement in the evening with *Kol Nidre*, pray together the words of our morning service, and conclude the holiest day of the year as a community just before sundown following meaningful Memorial and Closing Services. Lastly, each service on Yom Kippur, in and of itself, holds tremendous weight and importance. I do not want to undermine the significance of this fact, in particular for those of us who have suffered the loss of a loved one this past year, by tacking Yizkor on to the end of the morning worship. When done intentionally, Yizkor has the potential to change the lives of those in mourning. Although traditionally only attended by those who have lost one or both parents, please know that this year's Yizkor service

is open to anyone who feels compelled to pay respect to a family member, friend, and loved one whom death has taken. Although holding Yizkor later in the afternoon is different from years past, as your rabbi I ask for your trust in my capacity this Yom Kippur to create a meaningful ritual experience for those in our community who are seeking to honor the lives of those lost.

According to our tradition, the Israelites who wandered the desert were a "stiff-necked people." Resistance to change is in our ancestral bloodline. Nevertheless, it is also a natural characteristic of human beings in general. It is not my intention to make drastic changes to the way things are done at Kol Ami. Services and High Holy Day worship will naturally feel different this year, but that's not due to drastic changes being made. Rather, it is because each of us is at a new place in our lives. This Rosh Hashanah, our entire community enters a new place. Acknowledging change and being open to it is, in essence, the purpose of these High Holy Days. We begin the Jewish New Year with an eye toward how we can make changes to our lives in order to better our community and ourselves in the year to come.

*If you have a question for the rabbi, do not hesitate to email him at [rabbi@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:rabbi@kolamifrederick.org) subject line: "Ask the Rabbi". Rabbi Stratford is happy to answer any specific questions, and, with your permission, your question may be featured in the next edition of the Voice.*

## Kol Ami Temple Youth

On Sunday, August 20 a dozen of our 8–12th grade students joined Rabbi Stratford at our office for a pizza lunch and to plan the calendar of events for the year. Kol Ami Temple Youth (KATY) members discussed the success of past events and shared their thoughts on potential new events to be held in the year to come. Together, the group brainstormed a list of social events, including but not limited to laser tag, movie night, Escape Room, volunteer opportunities, social action projects, and more. KATY will be holding an event each month from September to June 2018. Events are open to all 8–12th grade students of member families. Look out for a detailed calendar of

KATY events in the next few weeks.

In addition to hosting events exclusively for KATY members, our teens will be encouraged to attend regional youth group events hosted by our movement's North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) - Mid Atlantic Region (MAR). NFTY-MAR events are held throughout the year in various locations throughout the region. Our teens will attend along with youth group members from across the region for a weekend of fun, learning, and Jewish engagement. For more information regarding KATY events, please contact Rabbi Stratford at the office or via email.

# Congregation Kol Ami Community Sukkot Celebration

Sunday, October 8 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Ilene and Phil Freedman's  
House in the Woods Farm  
2225 Park Mills Rd., Adamstown

Please bring your own chair  
and a dish to share!

To RSVP and sign up  
to bring a dish, go to  
[SignUpGenius.com/  
go/4090C45A5A82AAA8-  
sukkot](http://SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C45A5A82AAA8-sukkot)

Please join Kol Ami for a Potluck Dinner in the  
sukkah and a bonfire. Shake the lulav and etrog.  
Adults and kids of all ages are welcome.



# Excerpt of Sermon delivered on Shabbat after Domestic Terrorism in Charlottesville

By Rabbi Simon Stratford

It is written in *Pirkei Avot* – Ethics of our Fathers - that Rabbi Tarfon once said, “It is not your responsibility to finish the work of repairing the world, but you are not free to desist from it either.”<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, in this week’s Torah portion, *parshat Re’eh*, meaning “look or see”, Moses begins his final, rather sobering, speech to the Israelites before they cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land. Moses says to the Israelites,

“Look, this day I set before you blessings and curses. Blessings if you choose to obey God’s commandments and curses if you choose to stray from the Laws of Adonai your God.”<sup>2</sup>

The *parasha* goes on to provide a litany of the various laws the Israelites are to follow. The Torah portion ends similar to how it began. Moses summarizes the main point of his opening words:

“Look, I have set before you this day blessings and curses, life or death...Choose Life. For it was Adonai your God who brought you out of the Land of Egypt to be your God, so that you may be free and choose life in all of your endeavors.”<sup>3</sup>

This week’s Torah portion could not have been more fitting for us this week. By making clear the Jewish commitment to “choose life in all of our endeavors”, I cannot help but call to mind my feelings of ambiguity over how to best respond to the tragic events that occurred last week in Charlottesville, VA.

In recognizing that many of us may share these feeling, I believe it to be the case, that we can become motivated by the narrative of this week’s Torah portion.

I challenge each of us as individuals and together as an entire community to Choose Life – by making a conscious effort to take an active role in the fight against the rise of White Supremacy and domestic terrorism currently underway in our country.

Even if you aren’t quite ready to make a commitment toward specific action, you can support the cause by speaking openly about the situation with your children and family, or among friends and neighbors.

Begin the conversation, and most importantly speak out against hate and bigotry when you come across it online or witness it in your day-to-day lives...

“Look, our world is imperfect. As Jews, we know this. While the recent events in this country have created a sense of despair, our Torah teaches us that God created a world capable of both chaos and of order.”<sup>4</sup>

The act of creation began with a single spark of divine light that illuminated the darkness of the world.

That single light is the basis for all hope. The Jewish people have long recognized times when our world is full of darkness. Sadly, we still live in a world full of darkness. Sadly, in the year 2017, darkness fills our world and in particular our country. Therefore, let us move forward together with resolve, in solidarity, with hope, and with light.

<sup>1</sup>*Pirkei Avot*, 2:21

<sup>2</sup>Deuteronomy 11:26-27

<sup>3</sup>Author’s interpretative translation

<sup>4</sup>Adaptation of words by Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner 8/15/17, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

## New! Introduction to Judaism Course

Rabbi Stratford will be teaching an introduction to Judaism course starting this winter. Learn fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice in a year-long class. This course is perfect for interfaith couples, those from different faith backgrounds considering conversion, and Jews looking for an adult-level introduction to Jewish education.

Two informational sessions will be held in December, 2017 (Tuesday, December 5 and Tuesday, December 19). Attendance at one of these two informational sessions is required before enrolling in the formal class. Formal classes begin in January, 2018 and will be held on a monthly basis until the end of the calendar year.

For those considering conversion, attendance and participation in the year-long course is required, as well as additional self-study, congregational involvement, and meetings with the rabbi. Please contact Rabbi Stratford with any inquiries, questions, or concerns about conversion or the course in general.

## Sponsor an Oneg ... and thank you!

Our Oneg Shabbat is one of the many pleasures of belonging to Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick. Following the Friday night services, the Oneg is a time to have a nosh and socialize in a relaxed setting. It is also a great opportunity to celebrate and honor special events such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, safe return, yahrzeit, or any other occasion of your choice.

Challah, wine, grape juice and assorted baked goods will be provided after the service. Please support your congregation by sponsoring an oneg while honoring a meaningful person or event in your life. Please call the office for more details.

**Thank you to Tracy and Dave Shavell, Elizabeth and Dan Bilow and Ali and Rob Lazorchak for sponsoring our upcoming onegs.**

**Join us for services at the UU!**

Sept. 8 and 9 and Oct. 6, 7, 20 and 21

# Meet your 2017-18 Religious School Teachers



**Dan Sieger**  
**Kindergarten**

My wife Joanna has been actively involved in Kol Ami for years. The events of last year made me realize how

important our involvement is. I served on the Rabbinic Search Committee and Interview Subcommittee and currently serve the synagogue on the Transition Team and Board of Trustees. I was fortunate enough to travel to Cincinnati to see Rabbi Stratford's ordination. I've spent twenty years in the corporate world. This is my first year teaching kindergarten and I am really looking forward to spending the time with our youngest religious school children.



**Angela Kearney**  
**1st/2nd Grade**

My husband Mike and I live with our pets in Middletown. We have 3 wonderful daughters and a

grandson. Our oldest works downtown as a stylist, our middle child is currently working towards a teaching degree and is currently working in Special Education. Our youngest is a sophomore at Towson University and majoring in International Relations. I own and operate a pet care business locally. My husband Mike is retired from Rockville City Police Dept. He is currently working for "I Drive Smart" and is coaching girls fastpitch softball at Frederick High School and coaches a travel team. My youngest daughter and I have been Kol Ami members for 13 years. I truly look forward to teaching the first and second graders this year and meeting you and your children!



**Michaela Black**  
**3rd Grade**

I am very excited to be teaching third grade this year! My family and I live in the mountains between

Camp Airy and Camp Louise. When I am not volunteering at my son's elementary school or my daughter's preschool, I help my husband Colt run our funeral home. I love to read, write and be outdoors.



**Joanna Sieger**  
**4th Grade**

This is my 8th year teaching 4th grade for the Kol Ami religious school. My daughter Sarah is in the 5th grade and my

daughter Molly is joining our teaching staff. In addition to being a pre-school teacher at Beth Shalom, I am also their new Early Childhood Center director. I am also on the Executive Board of Kol Ami and serve as President. I enjoy teaching for Kol Ami because our religious school lays the groundwork for the children of our congregation to feel their sense of community. I encourage all families to attend religious school, services, and events regularly. The more your children attend, the more children they will know, and the more comfortable they will feel.



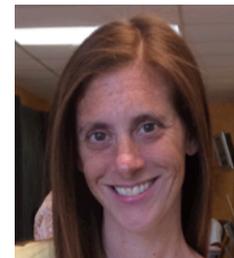
**Rachel Tuer**  
**4th Grade**

We joined Kol Ami two years ago when we moved to Frederick from the Delaware area. I was raised in

Hagerstown, where my family attended B'nai Abraham. My husband converted to Judaism 15 years ago, when we got married. I am a podiatrist and I graduated from University of Virginia and Temple University longer ago than I care to

remember! My husband and I wanted to be closer to family, so we moved here and I joined a local orthopedic practice. Our youngest child, Eli, will be in the 5th grade at Kol Ami.

This will be my first year teaching. I am looking forward to the challenge of keeping the kids excited and interested in their Jewish studies. I have the benefit of sharing the position with Joanna Sieger, who is an experienced teacher and the President of Kol Ami.



**Rebecca Kaufman**  
**5th/6th Grade**

I just recently moved to Frederick and am excited to be part of the Kol Ami family. I have been teaching

for over 15 years and recently received my MS in School Counseling from Johns Hopkins University. I am no stranger to teaching religious school, as I taught Jewish studies to second and sixth graders in Atlanta, Georgia for five years. I am very passionate about teaching children how to advocate for themselves so they can enhance their strengths while increasing their self-esteem and self-concept. I love trying new things and taking good care of myself through eating healthy, running and self-care. During my spare time, I'm usually doing something with my dog Lucy, spending time with my family, and weather permitting, being outside.



**Samantha Kerley**  
**7th Grade**

This will be my first year teaching religious school at Kol Ami. I am originally from the Boston area and

attended the University of Rhode Island where I received my BA in History and Education. My first few years teaching were spent teaching History at a rural middle school near Augusta, Maine. My husband and I moved to the area four

years ago and settled in Montgomery Village. During the school year, I teach high school History and AP Psychology in Potomac, Maryland. I look forward to teaching and starting a new school year at Kol Ami!



**Jordan Schneider**  
**8th/9th Grade**

Jordan is the Vice President of Sales and Operations for a local restaurant group in the Bethesda area. He

has a daughter, Mara, who is 16. Some of his favorite activities are spending time with his family and friends, anything sports related (especially Jets and Yankees) and relaxing while watching TV shows. He has served on Kol Ami's Executive Board as President and now as Immediate Past President and has made the commitment to help Kol Ami grow – not just with membership but with programming, both religious and social. He will be teaching eighth grade twice a month and is looking forward to making classroom time enriching and exciting.



**Molly Sieger**  
**Aide**

My family has been members of Kol Ami for many years. I am an honors student at Tuscarora High

School and am entering my junior year. This year I am excited to be taking college classes. I am interested in a career as a pediatric surgeon. I have been in a Jewish school program since I was two years old. I have really enjoyed my religious school experience at Kol Ami and helped out last year. I'm looking forward to working at the religious school this year.

## Chesed Group is Here for You!

Did you know...in a time of need, through illness or after the death of a family member, your Kol Ami community is here for you? We set up a Sign Up Genius and members will chip in to ease your burden. We can organize rides, company, meals, or whatever support is needed.

Contact Ilene Freedman, Chesed coordinator, at [Chesed@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:Chesed@kolamifrederick.org) for more information or when a situation arises to set up a line of support.

## Advertise Your Business in the Voice

### Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick has a marvelous advertising opportunity for your business!

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You can also go to [kolamifrederick.org](https://kolamifrederick.org) and find the link on the home page to start your holiday shopping.

# High Holy Day Services Update

By Jodi Duckhorn

Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is proud to offer our fifteenth season of High Holy Day religious programming, and the first with our new rabbi! This year we will return to Thomas Johnson High School for our holiday services. Also this year, all registrations, orders and payments for the High Holy Days can be made online. Please place all orders and registrations no later than September 1 at [kolamifrederick.org](http://kolamifrederick.org).

For more information, visit [kolamifrederick.org/content/high-holy-days](http://kolamifrederick.org/content/high-holy-days) or feel free to email [highholidays@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:highholidays@kolamifrederick.org) with any questions.

## Tickets

You should have received your High Holy Day information packet in the mail, which includes tickets for members. Tickets are required for everyone over age 13, and will need to be presented to gain entry to every service. People who are not members who wish to join us are welcome to use the online form to request and purchase tickets. Relatives of congregants who are members of an out-of-town synagogue will need to order tickets, but they are free of charge. We offer a discounted rate for tickets for out-of-town relatives who are not members of another synagogue.

## Children

Children's programming and Junior Congregation are free for those who pre-register, and are available for children 5 to 10 years old (generally K through 5th grade). PLEASE register your child online by September 1 so we can ensure adequate supervision and materials.

## Yizkor Book & Greetings

In memory of those no longer with us, a Yizkor book will be read during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. This will

be comprised of the names submitted by members on their membership applications. Additional names may be added online no later than September 1. The Yizkor book will also include High Holy Day Greetings from those families who wish to add their names. To make sure your family is listed, please use the online form. Contributions can be general High Holy Day Greetings or can be in honor or memory of a loved one.

## Break Fast

We will be hosting our annual Break Fast at 6:30 pm on September 30 in the TJ High School cafeteria. Please register and pay online by September 1 if you plan to join us. After you RSVP, a Sign-Up Genius link will be emailed to you to sign up to bring food and desserts. Bagels, cream cheese, drinks, and paper goods are included with the fee.

## Mitzvot

A lot of work goes into making sure that everyone can have a meaningful experience. A huge thank you to the many people who volunteer with us during the High Holy Days. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [highholidays@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:highholidays@kolamifrederick.org).

Members are encouraged to perform the traditional mitzvah of *tzedakah* for the High Holy Days.

## Go Online to [kolamifrederick.org/content/high-holy-days](http://kolamifrederick.org/content/high-holy-days)

Please note, after placing an order or registration online, you will receive a confirmation email right away. If you do not receive a confirmation email right away, your order or registration was not complete. If you have any problems filling out the online form, please email [webmaster@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:webmaster@kolamifrederick.org).

## Schedule of High Holy Day Services

High Holy Day Services and the Break Fast will be held at Governor Thomas Johnson High School (1501 N. Market Street, Frederick.)

### Rosh Hashanah

September 20	7:30 pm	Evening Service
September 21	10:00 am	Morning Service
	10:00 am	Junior Congregation Service and Programming (for ages 5 to 10)

Apples and honey will be available after the morning service. Tashlich ceremony to follow. Tashlich will be held at Rose Hall Manor Park (within walking distance to Governor Thomas Johnson High School).

### Yom Kippur

September 29	7:30 pm	Kol Nidre
September 30	10:00 am	Morning Service
	10:00 am	Junior Congregation Service and Programming (for ages 5 to 10)
	2:00 pm	Afternoon Discussion Group led by Rabbi Stratford*
	3:00 pm	Afternoon Discussion Group led by Eric Dubbin*
	4:00 pm	Yizkor Service
	5:00 pm	Ne'ilah Service
	6:30 pm	Break Fast

\*Please note that the afternoon series of discussion groups is intended for adult participants.

*Torah...“It is a tree of life to all who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:17-18)*

### The Parashyot for September and October are as follows:

#### **Sept. 2 - *Ki Teitzei* /When You Go Out (to Battle),**

**Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19** When you [an Israelite warrior] take the field against your enemies, and the Eternal your God delivers them into your power and you take some of them captive, and you see among the captives a beautiful woman and you desire her and would take her to wife.... —*Deuteronomy 21:10-11*

#### **Sept. 9- *Ki Tavo*/When You Enter [the Land, Deuteronomy**

**26:1–29:8** When you enter the land that the Eternal your God is giving you as a heritage, and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of every first fruit of the soil, which you harvest from the land that the Eternal your God is giving to you, put it in a basket and go to the place where the Eternal your God will choose to establish the divine name. —*Deuteronomy 26:1-2*

#### **Sept. 16 - *Nitzavim*/You Stand [This Day], Deuteronomy**

**29:9–30:20** You stand this day, all of you, before the Eternal your God—you tribal heads, you elders, and you officials, all of the men of Israel, you children, you women, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer...—*Deuteronomy 29:9-10* ***Vayeilech*/[Moses] Went, Deuteronomy 31:1–30** Moses went and spoke these things to all Israel. He said to them: “I am now one hundred and twenty years old, I can no longer be active. Moreover, the Eternal has said to me, ‘You shall not go

across yonder Jordan.” —*Deuteronomy 31:1-2*

**Sept. 23 - *Haazinu*/Listen, Deuteronomy 32:1–52** Give ear, O heavens, let me speak; Let the earth hear the words I utter!

—*Deuteronomy 32:1*

**Oct. 7 – *Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot*/Intermediate Days of Sukkot Holidays, Exodus 33:12–34:26** Moses said to the Eternal, “See, You say to me, ‘Lead this people forward,’ but You have not made known to me whom You will send with me. Further, You have said, ‘I have singled you out by name, and you have, indeed, gained My favor.’” —*Exodus 33:12*

**Oct 14 - *Bereisheet*/Genesis, 1:1-6:8** When God was about to create heaven and earth, the earth was a chaos, unformed, and on the chaotic waters’ face there was darkness. —*Genesis 1:1-2*

**Oct. 21 - *Noach*/Genesis, 6:9-11:32** This is the line of Noah, Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age; Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. —*Genesis 6:9-10*

**Oct. 28 - *Lech L'cha*/ Go Forth, Genesis 12:1-17:27** The Eternal said to Abram, “Go forth from your land, your birthplace, your father’s house, to the land that I will show you.” —*Genesis 12:1*

### **Purity** by Jill Cody

When our Torah Study read *Parsha Hukkat* in late June, we covered issues of continuing concern to 21st-century Judaism. The first one defined circumstances causing impurity and informed us of rituals on how to redeem our quality of purity. The authors of Numbers thought it of such importance they devoted an entire chapter (#19) to this issue.

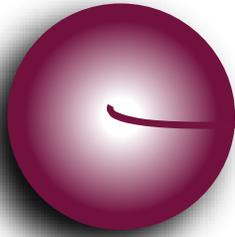
At the time, contact with or proximity to someone who had died, whether accidentally or through natural causes, or even in the context of caring for members of the community, made one impure on a literal and a spiritual level. God specified that the criteria for purification required sacrificing “a red heifer without blemish.” It may sound a simple mandate, but rabbis have sought to explain the Red Heifer story for millennia.

The obvious problem is that finding a red heifer is hard enough, particularly one without blemish (no white hairs, injuries or physical defect) and which has not felt the burden of the yoke. Impossible! A second problem is that the process – burning said heifer on a pyre of cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet

and then dissolving the ashes in fresh water before sprinkling it on those contaminated – created a new group of persons who had now become impure themselves.

I propose that complete purity is an impossible state of being. We are always struggling and coping with various states of uncleanness or impurity throughout our lives. The same holds true for everyone else in the world. This is why we need to cherish our belief in God, and the moral and ethical principles we learn in Torah and the Talmud.

Another lesson I get from *Hukkat* is that if your fellow man has been made impure or corrupted in some way, do not hesitate to get involved and do everything within your power to help rehabilitate him (or her). If you are concerned you may become tainted by your contact with this person, remember that Torah commands even the priest to purify his fellow Jew, though his own level of purity may be diminished in the process. We approach the September High Holy Days as a community, and they are most meaningful in that context.



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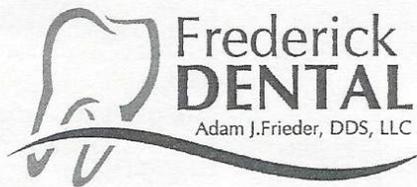
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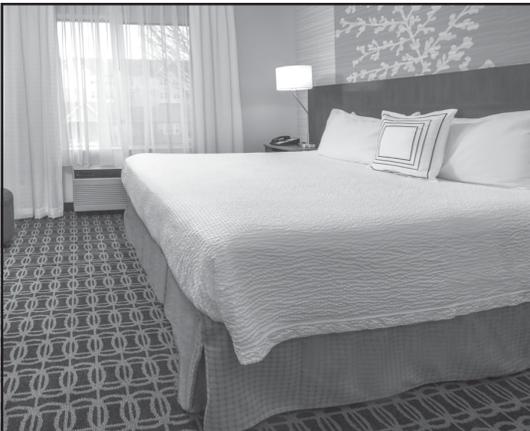
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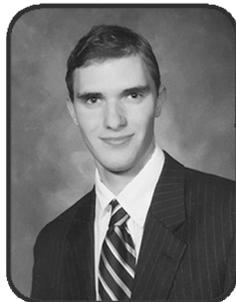


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As a volunteer-run organization, Kol Ami relies heavily on its members to do everything from setting up onegs on Shabbat to coordinating social programming. While everything we ask of members is important, honoring your financial commitments to the congregation is consistently among the most important things we ask of our congregants. Without your support, there could be no Kol Ami.

To make it easier on you to keep current with your dues, tuition, B'nai Mitzvah fees, KATY dues and donations, here is a short list of suggestions:

- Log into your account whenever you want to pay a bill or make a donation. This will align the payment with your account and streamline the process. Go to [kolamifrederick.org](http://kolamifrederick.org) and click Login at the top-right corner. (Forgot your password? Just click the Request New Password link.)
- Add a memo whenever you make a payment or donation. Whether it's "dues" or "in honor of Melvin's Bar Mitzvah," such a memo will tell

our bookkeeper exactly how to input the information without any confusion.

- Consider setting up recurring credit card payments. Total up what you owe for dues, tuition, etc. and set up payments through your account so that everything is paid by the end of May. You won't have to give it another thought all year. (Please don't use PayPal, though; we haven't had an account in a few years.)
- Remember that financial assistance agreements are only by fiscal year (July through June). While we know that some people will need help from year to year, we ask that you resubmit a new application each year, and we do not make any assumptions about who will request help. No one will receive financial assistance without having submitted an application.

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## Return Service Requested

### September/October 2017 Upcoming Events

#### September

Mon, Sept. 4	12:30 pm	Labor Day - NO Torah Study
Wed, Sept. 6	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
Fri, Sept. 8	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, Sept. 9	10:00 am	Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Reece Shavell
Sun, Sept. 10	9:30 am	First day of religious school
Mon, Sept. 11	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, Sept. 12	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Sept. 13	12:30 pm	Book Club
Mon, Sept. 18	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, Sept. 20	7:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah
Thurs, Sept. 21	10:00 am	Rosh Hashanah
Mon, Sept. 25	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Thurs, Sept. 28	6:30 pm	Girl's Night Out
Fri, Sept. 29	7:30 pm	Erev Yom Kippur
Sat, Sept. 30	10:00 am	Yom Kippur

#### October

Mon, Oct. 2	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, Oct. 3	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Oct. 4	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
Thurs, Oct. 5		Sukkot
Fri, Oct. 6	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, Oct. 7	10:00 am	Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Bilow
Sun, Oct. 8	6:30 pm	Sukkot Pot Luck Dinner
Mon, Oct. 9	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Mon, Oct. 16	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Fri, Oct. 20	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, Oct. 21	10:00 am	Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Hayden Lazorchak
Mon, Oct. 23	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Thurs, Oct. 26	6:30 pm	Girl's Night Out
Mon, Oct. 30	12:30 pm	Torah Study