



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



Recently, I have been thinking a lot about prayer. Prayer itself, in one form or another, is an essential component in all

religions. Within Jewish tradition, prayer is typically expressed while in synagogue, surrounded by an entire community, and most often Jewish prayer is in Hebrew. Some of us may find it difficult to connect to prayers we recite on Friday evening and Shabbat morning -- myself included, not only before I began my rabbinic studies but even to this day. Sometimes, praying in a second language creates an extra barrier for me to find meaning in the words I wish to pray. As my personal prayer practice has evolved, I've learned that in order live a healthy spiritual life I need to grant myself permission to experiment in the varieties of ways that Jews can pray.

Prayer wasn't always the preferred mode of worshipping God according to our ancient

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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.

From the President Tikkun Olam: Repairing our world

By Joanna Sieger



When I became president, my main goal was to get our congregation to connect, to get our congregants to attend and join in our events

and activities. I also wanted to meet more congregants. At that point, although my family had been members for many years and I had been active on committees and the board and taught in our religious school, I still knew only a small number of congregants. My main goal was to change that.

I grew up with the saying, "charity begins at home." After all, can you fix others if you can't even help yourself? If I ask you to become involved, and I'm not, will you do it? Probably not.

Over the last year and a half I have noticed a change. We have more congregants attending events. We have more congregants attending services -- we average 40 people on Friday nights. And I think I can greet each of you by name. This is fantastic! We are still, however, having trouble getting volunteers when we need them. You may be familiar with the 80/20 rule: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. In a congregation our size, that means only 30 families are serving on our Board of Trustees, teaching in our religious school, and helping to provide events and activities for everyone else. Many of these volunteers serve multiple needs. Some of our activities are large and need an army of volunteers. Our largest fundraiser of the year is Casino

Night. The committee needs your help. There are ongoing needs as well as one-and-done tasks. Please contact Samantha Lieberman at samanthajlieberman@gmail.com to help. Additionally, the fundraising committee has many activities that could use extra hands. Please contact David Silberman at dssilberman@aol.com to help.

Tikkun Olam -- repairing our world. Whether through *tzedakah* (charitable giving) or *gimilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness), the phrase defines helping to repair what is wrong with the world around us. With the help of Ali Lazorchak, the chair of our Social Action Committee, we've looked for ways to improve the world around us. We know what needs to be done within our congregation. What can we do outside it? Ali has come up with ideas that request donations -- comfort bags for Frederick Memorial Hospital. Details for that will be coming out shortly as well as ideas that ask for your time. Most recently, we looked at volunteering at the Frederick Rescue Mission. The Mission provides breakfast and lunch for the homeless and working poor totaling more than 137,000 meals served a year. School buses stop at the mission to pick children up for school. Those breakfasts and lunches are important -- hard to imagine our families needing them, but many do, right here in Frederick. Unfortunately, the survey we sent out to gain a consensus of the best time to volunteer received only 20 responses: six indicating interest and three that were surprisingly negative towards the event and our Social Action chair. As a result, Kol Ami

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From the President

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will not be participating at the Rescue Mission at this time. However, you can volunteer as an individual to help them.

My family will be at the Mission 10-Miler on Sunday, March 25 to cheer on the runners. In 2017, the donations from the Mission 10-Miler contributed to 141,063 meals, a summer enrichment program and residential recovery. The race starts at 2 pm so there is plenty of time if your family would like to join us – even after religious school. If you'd like to join us, please email president@kolamifrederick.org.

Repairing our world isn't easy. There are many issues and things wrong with our world – too many to list here. No matter what side of any issue you are on, there is always room for repair. If you have ideas to help our congregation with *Tikkun Olam* – we want to hear them. Contact me at president@kolamifrederick.org or Ali Lazorchak at alilaz@aol.com with your ideas.

Rabbi's Introduction to Judaism Class

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 Jewish adults looking for an adult-level introduction to Jewish education.

Drop-Ins are always welcome; please let Rabbi Stratford know in advance if you are interested in attending a particular class so that a copy of the session's reading can be distributed to you. All classes are held at the Kol Ami Office, 182 Thomas Johnson Dr., #204.

March 2018

Monday, March 5, 6:00–8:00 pm – The Jewish Calendar and Shabbat

Monday, March 19, 6:00–8:00 pm – The *Yamim Nora'im* (High Holy Days) and Days of Awe

April 2018

Sunday, April 8, 1:00–3:00 pm – *Sukkot* (The Festival of Booths) and *Shavuot* (The Festival of Harvests)

Monday, April 30, 6:00–8:00 pm – *Chanukah*, The December Dilemma & Personal Choices

For more information about the course, future sessions, or questions pertaining to the possibility of working toward conversion to Judaism, contact Rabbi Simon Stratford at (240) 575-9690.

Religious School Update



From your Religious School Director

Sabrina Nail

The easiest way to make your blessings count is to count your blessings. Acknowledging the good things we already have in our life is needed right now, because whatever you appreciate and give thanks for will grow stronger in your life.

But the truth is, most of us don't pause, we don't see that in each moment there are 100 messages from G-d to be grateful for. In the haste of our busy lives we neglect many of the basic laws of gratitude, and thus miss out entirely on their positive effects. Let's consider how fortunate we are – let's consider it every day.

Teaching our children Jewish traditions and values through our songs, prayers and celebrations is demonstrated in our smiles and our pride. I see our students' spiritual growth and knowledge. This takes a community to build. I would like to pause and say thank you to all our *morim* (teachers), *madrichim* (student assistants), and our assistant director, Judy Simpson. You are the blessings I count each week! You are impacting the lives of our children and you are making a positive difference. You are one of my 100 messages from G-d to be thankful for.

I ask each of you to pause and count your blessings. See and feel the many messages from G-d. The more we count our blessings, the more blessings there will be to count.



Tu b'shvat seder



5th/6th grade parent project



3rd grade parent project

From Rabbi Simon Stratford

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tradition. Prior to the destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E., the ancient Israelites would offer physical sacrifices to God as opposed to today's normative practice of verbal prayer and supplications of our hearts. Despite this stark change from sacrificial cult to offering prayers as a means of worshipping God, since the arrangement of the first complete liturgy for synagogues in the 9th century, traditional Jewish liturgy hasn't changed all that much. Jews have primarily prayed in Hebrew for centuries. For those of us unfamiliar with the Hebrew language, finding meaning from praying in a foreign language can be cumbersome. Therefore, in your effort to find praying more meaningful, consider first making sure you understand the words you're saying – begin by praying in English.

Many Jews are uncomfortable praying in English; it seems foreign to us. Our Christian brothers and sisters are much better than we when it comes to praying in the vernacular and being content with spontaneous prayer. Before serving as a hospital chaplain attending to patients from an array of religious backgrounds, I, too, was uncomfortable praying spontaneously and not in

Hebrew. Nevertheless, since my first unit of pastoral care, I have a newfound adoration for feeling free to pray to God in English. When I pray, I often start as if I was writing a letter:

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of life and the many blessings you have bestowed upon me. Thank You for the gift of family and friends and for each day I am here on this earth, for each day is a blessing and an opportunity to do Your will..."

After which, I typically think of what has occurred in my life over the past few days or weeks and ask God for individual strength and courage to make the most out of the experiences I have and the relationships I have created. To end a prayer, I rely on a line from Psalm 19: "May the words of my mouth and meditations of my heart be acceptable to You, God, My Rock and My Redeemer."

Prayer is an important piece of my spiritual life and a critical component of our religion. In the twenty-first century, we should embrace our autonomy to create meaningful ways of praying to God, even if they don't follow our age-old liturgical tradition. I challenge each of us to consider whether prayer can play a role in your life? Does granting

ourselves permission to "talk" with God, create an opportunity to reflect, be thankful, and approach life with a sense of confidence after working it out with "the big guy"? Prayer can be a beautiful thing. It is a vehicle through which it becomes possible to access the divine in our lives and the divine above. In the words of the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, "The focus of prayer is not the self... It is the momentary disregard of our personal concerns, the absence of self-centered thoughts, which constitute the art of prayer."

I leave you with a prayer I wrote a few years ago, at around this time of year, as winter begins to fade and we are offered the first glimpses of spring.

Praised be the One, who alters time and seasons.

From winters chilling grip, to spring's sweet lips.

The snow has begun to melt and I couldn't help

But notice, the rebirth of creation.

A simple scent of freshness in the air, Making all of us aware, that spring has sprung.

Blessed are You, Adonai Our God, who thoughtfully alters the time and changes the seasons.

Please welcome new members!

Scott and Bridget Friedman
and daughters Sophie and Micah

Help Wanted

- Religious School Director trainee
- Shabbat Service Coordinator

Please contact Joanna at president@kolamifrederick.org for information about these needs.

Member Finances

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 financial commitments to the congregation is consistently among the most important thing we ask of our congregants. Without your financial support, there could be no Kol Ami.

Remember that financial assistance agreements are valid for one fiscal year (July through June). While we are aware that some members may need help from year to year, we require that you resubmit a new application each year, as we do not

make assumptions regarding who requires assistance. No one will receive financial assistance without having submitted an application. Applications, found on our website, must be submitted annually by August 15th.

Some of our members find it easy to budget regular monthly dues/tuition payments. All you need to do is notify your bank online and they will mail a check to Kol Ami. No charge to you, no postage, no fuss.

Please direct any questions or concerns about your specific account and charges to Ralene Damanti, Financial Secretary, at financialsecretary@kolamifrederick.org.

Upcoming Events

TRIVIA NIGHT

Our 2nd "Annual" Trivia Night fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 24 from 7pm until 9pm at the Villages of Urbana Clubhouse, 9123 Harris Street. Create a team of 8 or you can be paired with some "trivia experts."

Advanced registration for Kol Ami members is \$10 per person and \$12 for non-members. Payment at the door will be \$12 for Kol Ami members and \$14 for non-members. Price includes snacks and a drink.

Trivia Night is for adults and KATY age participants—friends, family and neighbors are welcome too!!

To register, go to the Kol Ami website: kolamifrederick.org and click on the link for Trivia Night.

Join us for services at the UU!

March 2, 3 and 16

April 6 and 20

Celebrate Purim on March 2!

Join us for Torah Study

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.

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

(March 5 and April 2 are at Buckingham's Choice)

March 5, 12, 19, and 26

April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Second Night Seder

Saturday, March 31, 6:00pm

The Natelli Community Center

in the Villages of Urbana

9023 Harris Street

Frederick, MD 21704

For ticket purchase and link to sign up for food, please go to our website.

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. (Depending on holidays, sometimes the second Tuesday!)

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

Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Lucky Corner

5100 Buckeystown Pike, Suite #174

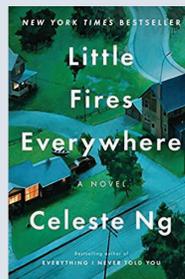
(by the Westview movie theatre)

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



February Brotherhood dinner

Kol Ami Book Club



Wed. March 14 at 12:30 pm
Macaroni Grill at Westview

Little Fires Everywhere
by Celeste Ng

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

Women's Coffee

Wednesday, March 7 and April 4, 2018

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)

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Bat Mitzvah



Eliza Nelson

March 3, 2018

Eliza is a 7th grader at Folly Quarter Middle School in Howard County. She has been a student at Kol Ami's religious school since kindergarten. In addition to being in all GT classes, Eliza is very fond of art and is exceptionally creative. She takes art classes during the school year and over the summer and loves to draw, paint, sculpt and do clay pottery. Eliza also takes tap and jazz classes weekly and sings in her middle school chorus. She will be going into her 6th year at Camp Louise.

Casino Night

Did you know that the Fundraising Committee is already hard at work planning this year's biggest fundraiser, Casino Night? Well, we are and we have been working behind the scenes for the last couple of months. We've set the date... May 5, and reserved the venue... The Clarion Inn, and are creating a menu of tasty hors d'oeuvres. Now it's time to reach out and ask for some help from the congregation. We are in search of some "big ticket" items to use for our Silent Auction. Things like a weekend stay at a beach house, tickets to a sporting event or concert, or tickets to an amusement park. It would be great if you have a special talent or service you could share, such as preparing a meal and delivering it to someone's house, providing babysitting services, or teaching someone how to make jewelry. We'd love for you to share your talents with us! All who are able to contribute to this effort are encouraged to contact David Silberman at dssilberman@aol.com.

KATY'S CORNER

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION REGARDING
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 8TH - 12TH GRADE
STUDENTS OF CONGREGATION KOL AMI

KATY's Earth Day Celebration & Havdalah

Get outside, enjoy some sun, and help prepare Frederick County Community Gardens for the planting season.

Learn about the connection between Judaism and the natural world

Take a piece of the garden home with you
RSVP by contacting Rabbi Stratford.
Online Registration Coming Soon

In partnership with Housing Authority of the City of Frederick and Hood College

KATY's Pop Art Painting Party

Join us for an afternoon of fun and creativity as we explore our artistic talents with a canvas painting session led by a professional pop-artist of Baltimore.

RSVP by contacting Rabbi Stratford
Online Registration Coming Soon

**SATURDAY
APRIL, 21
TIME TBD**

**SUNDAY
MAY, 6
1:30 - 4:30 PM**



SAVE THE
DATE

MAY 05 2018

Clarion Inn in Frederick

Congregation Kol Ami
2nd Annual Casino Night

Join us for Girl's Night Out!
Thursdays, March 29 and April 26 at 6:30 pm.
Stay tuned for details.

Meet your 2017-2018 Board of Trustees



Joanna Sieger, President

Joanna is married to Dan and lives in Adamstown with their three children – Molly, 16, Zachary, 15 and Sarah, 10. She has taught 4th grade at CKAF's Religious School for the last 9 years. This year she is teaching the 5th/6th combined class and is also a pre-school teacher at Beth Sholom and the Early Childhood Center director. Joanna is a Tastefully Simple consultant and substitute teacher for Frederick County Public Schools. She enjoys teaching for Kol Ami because our Religious School lays the groundwork for the children of our congregation to feel their sense of community.



Dan Bilow, Vice President

Dan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1994 and has had nearly 23 years of Navy experience, both on active duty and in the reserves. On his final active duty tour at the Pentagon, he met Elizabeth. After his active duty service, Dan joined the Navy Reserves, but was recalled to active duty immediately after 9/11 and to Haiti for 8 months following the 2010 earthquake.

Dan currently works as a senior office director for the Passports/ Visa section of the U.S. Department of State. When he's not working at the Pentagon or traveling to NATO headquarters, he is an active father and husband. He participates in Aaron's Boy Scout activities, Noah's baseball and ice hockey, and Sarah's figure skating and Girl Scouts. Every once in a while, Dan and Elizabeth can be found in downtown Frederick trying out some of the new eateries.



David Twenhafel, Treasurer

David has been married to Tamar Osterman for 28 years. They have two children, Jonah (almost 20) and Adina (almost 18) and live in Frederick near the covered bridge in Baker Park. David oversaw the latke crew for the Hannukah party for several years. David loves cooking, has a large vegetable garden, and brews his very own beer under the label "Two Little Houses". He gladly shares home grown food and homemade beer. On weekdays David is a Certified Financial Planner with M&T Bank and does his best to help people make their money behave.



Ralene Damanti, Financial Secretary

Ralene is married to Frank and they live in Spring Ridge. They have two grown sons and three grandchildren. Ralene retired from Frederick County Public Schools in March, 2015 after 31 years as budget coordinator for special education, and she enjoys every moment of her retirement. Ralene and Frank have been members of Kol Ami since 2007, and she has served as a Board Member since 2013. Ralene enjoys the relationships she has with other Kol Ami members and especially enjoys meeting and welcoming new members.



Steve Fleisher, Secretary

Steve is married to Barbara and lives in Monrovia. Steve has one son, Josh, 22, and Barbara has two children, Andrew and Jaclyn. The Fleishers have been members of Kol Ami since 2003, and Steve has served in many capacities – Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Budget and Finance Committee, Rabbi Search Committee, Rabbi Transition Committee and more. Steve works for a small IT company providing Network and Desktop support to businesses in the Baltimore/Washington area. Steve is thankful to be a part of such a warm and giving congregation.



Jordan Schneider, Immediate Past President

Jordan is from Brooklyn, NY, and has lived in Urbana for the last 7 years. He is the Vice President of Sales & Operations for Heckman's Deli, as well as an 8th grade teacher in our Religious School. Jordan has a daughter, Mara, who is 16. Some of his favorite activities are spending time with his family and friends, wine tastings, and anything sports related – whether Fantasy Baseball, Football or Basketball or watching a live sporting event. Serving as Kol Ami's President, and now as Immediate Past President, has been an honor for him. He looks forward to participating in Kol Ami's continued growth.



Bob Blumenthal, Trustee

Bob is retired and married to Tess, principal of Walkersville Elementary School. They have lived in Frederick County since 1986 and became members of Kol Ami in 2009. They feel lucky to have their daughter and son-in-law (Hannah and Matt Feldman), and their two granddaughters (Rachel and Sydney) living only six miles away. Their other Daughter, Devra, lives with her two sons (Max and Zac) in Edmonton, Canada, and their son, Alex, enjoys living and working in Portland, Oregon. Bob's activities include cooking, painting and board gaming. In May and September/October he takes small groups of up to seven persons on 10-day tours to Provence, France. His goal in being on the Kol Ami Board of Trustees is to find ways to cultivate the Frederick Jewish community in becoming more relevant in all our lives.



Harriet Buxbaum, Trustee

Harriet is a retired teacher with Frederick County Public Schools. She is married to Howard and they have two adult children and one grandson. Some of her favorite activities are spending time with her family and friends, traveling and doing volunteer work. She finds it a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees. She feels Kol Ami has many wonderful opportunities and would encourage each member to find their niche. She feels very fortunate to have Rabbi Stratford as the spiritual leader of the Kol Ami community.



Anne Cohen, Trustee and Membership Chair

Anne is married to Michael and they've lived in Frederick for 41 years. (They are, however, native New Yorkers.) They have two adult children and five grandchildren. The Cohens have been members of Kol Ami since 2006, and Anne has served on the Board since 2009. Anne is a retired Frederick County Public School middle school teacher who is enjoying retirement, which includes traveling to places on her large bucket list. Anne enjoys being part of the wonderful, supportive, caring community, the uplifting services and the new friends they have made through Kol Ami.



Jeff Feiertag, Trustee

Jeff has been a member of Kol Ami since 2007 and has served on the Board or the Executive Board since 2009. When asked what he likes most about Kol Ami, Jeff cites the humble and accepting nature of Kol Ami as a congregation, and he finds comfort in knowing other Jews in Frederick County. Jeff and his fiancée, Merritt, have four children: Julienne, 15, Walker, 14, Abby, 12 and Kaiya, 12.

Allan Feldman, Trustee

Allan has been married to Judi for 50 years (July 21, 2018). Judi and Al have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. A Cleveland resident for 65 years, Al was a CPA specializing in not-for-profit organizations. Al retired in 2012, and he and Judi moved to Frederick to be closer to their daughter and her family. The entire Feldman family is comprised of avid sports fans – enthusiastically supporting all Cleveland teams! He and Judi have worked the past 4 seasons as ticket sellers for the Frederick Keys. Their move to Frederick has been a good one thanks to the wonderful friends they have made at Kol Ami.



Mary Cat Lasko, Trustee

Mary Cat is married to Jeff and lives in Walkersville with their 3 children – Mitch, 13, Caelyn, 11 and Eliana, 8 – who go to school at Walkersville Middle and Glade Elementary. She works full time as a medical coder for a local billing company. The Laskos have been members of Kol Ami since 2012. Mary Cat keeps busy volunteering for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. In her free time she enjoys watching medical and legal dramas, as well as spending time with family. Mary Cat feels honored to serve on the Board and be part of a warm and friendly congregation.



Ali Lazorchak, Trustee

Ali, a native Baltimorean, is married to Rob and lives in Point of Rocks with their son Hayden, 13. Ali has a B.S. in English Education and Master's degrees in Special Education as well as Educational Leadership. She has taught at Frederick High School for the last 21 years. The Lazorchak family runs a non-profit, Hayden's Heart Heroes, benefiting Johns Hopkins Pediatric Cardiology/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. HHH was established to honor their son who was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (half a heart). Ali is a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Hopkins and a Parent to Parent Mentor. In her spare time (what little there is), Ali maintains a blog, cooks, travels, shuttles Hayden to activities, is social director for her family, goes on date nights with Ron, spends time with friends, and enjoys laughing with Rob and Hayden. The Lazorchaks have been members of Kol Ami for the past eight years. As an active member, Ali serves as a trustee, on the rabbinical search committee, Social Action Chair, a member of the education committee, and teaches 10th grade religious school. Ali is excited about the future of our Kol Ami community.



Samantha Lieberman, Trustee

Samantha has been married to Mike for 16 years and they live in Urbana. They have three children, Grant, 14, Brooke, 11, Hunter, 6 and their dog Hope. Samantha serves on the Board of Trustees, the Fundraising Committee and the Education Committee. She taught first grade in the religious school for five years and is teaching 7th grade this year. When she is not driving the kids to their various activities, Samantha enjoys cooking, trying out new restaurants, traveling, theater, hanging out with friends and family and watching her favorite shows! Her family loves being part of Kol Ami for the warmth and support they experience from being part of this community.



Betsy Maymon, Trustee

Betsy is married to Jeff and lives in Frederick. They have two sons, Alex, 25 and Gabe, 22. They have been members of Kol Ami since 2006 and Betsy has served in many capacities, including Community Relations Chair, Recording Secretary, Vice President and as a Trustee since 2009. Betsy taught Religious School for five years and also serves as layout editor for the *Voice*. She owns her own graphic design firm, B Maymon Design, and has been self-employed for over 20 years. In her spare time, Betsy enjoys painting, visiting art museums and traveling. She and her family have enjoyed the nurturing community of Kol Ami over the years.

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Lee Nelson, Trustee

Lee is married to Jessica and lives in Dayton (Howard County). They have 3 children, Zachary, 15, Eliza, 13 and Violet, 10. The Nelsons have

been members of Kol Ami since 2008. During that time, the Nelson family have felt very welcome at Kol Ami and feel it is the best fit for their family. As a result, when they moved to Dayton (from Mt. Airy) in 2011, they chose to stay at Kol Ami in spite of the 40-mile commute to Kol Ami services, activities and religious school. Lee is a contractor to the federal government, where he provides IT consulting and project management. He spends most of his spare time with his family, traveling when possible, working around the yard and house, and supporting the kids' various activities.



Cathy Reifman, Trustee

Cathy lives in New Market with her husband, Jaques. They have two children, Julia, 23 years and Danny, 21 years old. They moved

to Maryland from Chicago in 2001 when Jaques was hired to work as an Army scientist at Fort Detrick. Cathy works part-time as a pediatrician in a small group practice in Eldersburg, Maryland. In her free time, Cathy enjoys traveling, reading, cooking and walking her dog, Wrigley, around her neighborhood. She is looking forward to seeing the Kol Ami family grow and thrive under the new leadership of Rabbi Stratford.



Daniel Sieger, Trustee

Dan is married to Joanna and they have 3 children – Molly, 16, Zach, 15 and Sarah, 10. He is a native Marylander and has lived in Frederick since

he and Joanna settled here 17 years ago. He is an accounts payable supervisor for BridgeStreet Worldwide. Dan became very active over the last year sitting on our search committee, among other things, and he feels fortunate that he was able to see Rabbi Stratford's ordination in Cincinnati. He also teaches kindergarten in our religious school, a position he really enjoys.



A "Fun"draiser for Kol Ami
25% of all sales will benefit CKAF
shop... visit (**Bring your family & friends!**) ...nosh

Shop - Stella & Dot
Orders can be placed at the Trunk Show
Sunday, March 18th
at the home of Anne & Michael Cohen
6806 Falstone Dr. , Frederick, Md
where you can visit & nosh from
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

OR
EVERYONE is welcome to order online from 3/1 - 3/25
<https://www.stelladot.com/ts/sx1f9>
Please let us know if you are joining us at the Trunk Show
respond to jsaxon23@aol.com on or before March 14th

PLEASE SHARE THIS FLIER WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Chesed 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 for more information or when a situation arises to set up a line of support.

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 March and April are as follows:

March 3 – *Ki Tisa*, Exodus 30:11-34:35 An eventful *parsha*. While God is giving Moses two tablets containing the Ten Commandments (31:12-18), Israelites ask Aaron to build them a Golden Calf; Moses breaks the tablets in two; and God punishes the Israelites by a plague. (32:1-35) Moses then receives a second set of tablets and returns with a radiant face. (34:1-28)

March 10 – *Vayak’heil–P’kudei*, Exodus 35:1-40:38 Moses teaches the rules of Shabbat (35:1-3) and Israelites build the Tabernacle (35:4-38:20).

March 17 – *Vayikra*, Leviticus 1:1-5:26 Each chapter describes a different type of sacrificial offering.

March 24 – *Tzav*, Leviticus 6:1-8:36 Describes five sacrifices the priests are to perform (6:1-7:38) and details the ordination of Aaron and his sons as priests (8:1-36).

March 31 – *Yom Rishon shel Pesach*, Exodus 12:37-42 and 13:3-10 Second Seder. Describes why Israelites took unleavened

bread for their journey and why we are obligated to tell the Exodus story to our children.

April 7 – *Sh’mini I*, Leviticus 9:1-10:11 Two of Aaron’s priestly sons offer “alien fire” to God, and He punishes them by killing them immediately (10:1-3).

April 14 – *Sh’mini II*, Leviticus 10:12-11:47 Dietary Laws. (11:1-47)

April 21 – *Tazria–M’tzora*, Leviticus 12:1-15:33 Everyone’s least-favorite *parsha* – dealing with female purification after childbirth, leprosy and various male/female bodily discharges. If you need a palliative, read this week’s Haftorah passage (2 Kings 7:3-20) for a way cooler leper story.

April 28 – *Acharei Mot–Kedoshim*, Leviticus 16:1-20:27 Kedoshim is a sublime rendition of the Holiness Code and once was taught to children before Genesis. Chapter 19 can be viewed as a Manual of Moral Instruction.

Terumah *By Bob Blumenthal*

Each Monday at Torah study, one person gives a summary, (*d’var Torah*) of the Torah portion which will be read at synagogue that weekend. Usually the presenter explores an area which interests him/her or seems to call out for some greater illumination. This month I volunteered for the week in which I thought the reading was about the Golden Calf. But it turned out that I got my weeks mixed up, and what I had really signed up for was the portion called Terumah (Gifts).

Terumah includes the chapter where God tells Moses to build the Tabernacle and everything which will reside within it, including the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark is the Holy of Holies that will contain the actual tablets of the laws given to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The chapter is an extremely detailed set of instructions on how these items are to be constructed. At first look, it seems there is not much there for illumination or expansion. However, Torah constantly surprises. The first few passages of Terumah begin thusly:

Exodus 25:1-8 ¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. ³These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; ⁴blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ⁵ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; ⁶olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; ⁷and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ⁸“Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”

God has told Moses that the people should give offerings as their hearts move them. This offering is not a tax; the offering was to be given of free will. The description of the gifts is just a small example of the details included in this chapter. To their credit, the Israelites, in their generosity, exceeded the needs for the construction of the Sanctuary and everything within -- to the point where those managing the inventories pleaded with Moses to stop

the people from further donations, [Exodus 36:5-6].

⁸ “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.”

In the past, Moses found God in a burning bush in the wilderness. Then Moses went to Mount Sinai to meet with God. Now we find God essentially saying, “There is no need to go to the mountain top to commune with me. Build me this Sanctuary and I will be with you wherever you go.”

Instructions are then given for the construction for the Ark that will hold The Tablets of Testimony. This Ark, sometimes referred to as the Ark of the Covenant, is represented in our synagogues by the ark we use to hold our Torahs. The original Ark is fully described in this chapter, along with this description:

¹³ Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it. ¹⁵ The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. ¹⁶ Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.

This passage gave me pause. God has just told us that he will dwell with us. The Ark containing the Torah will have staves to carry it. The staves should not be removed. Ever. This makes sense while the Israelites are wandering through the wilderness. The Ark will need to be carried. But once entering the Promised Land, a home after forty years, the poles still should not be removed. This could be seen as a foreshadowing of exiles and Diasporas to come, where the people will not have a Sanctuary, or a Temple to rest the Ark. The Ark is mobile by design. Wherever the Jewish people will go, the Torah will go. And with the Torah, God will dwell among us. And when the time comes for a Synagogue to be built for the Torah to find a resting place again, the people will be called on to make offerings from their hearts to build a Sanctuary to hold the Ark.

Torah always surprises me on how contemporary it is.



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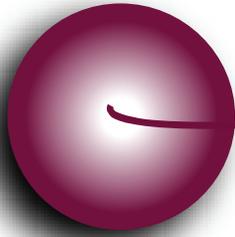
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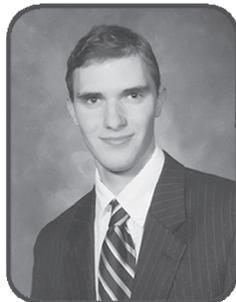


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Be part of our New Member Mentor Program. The program will welcome new members to our congregation, and help them meet people and get involved.

We want to match new members with volunteer mentors. The matches would be made based on age, geography and/or interests.

Mentors are expected to contact the new members throughout their first year, to invite them to join them in our various activities, including services, girls/guys nights out, and social events.

Mentors are encouraged to meet with the new member over a cup of coffee or glass of wine, to make them feel welcome and to answer any questions they may have about Kol Ami, and find out what they would like to see happening at Kol Ami.

If you are interested in participating in this, and look forward to making new friends, please contact Anne Cohen at membership@kolamifrederick.org to get your name on our mentor list.



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Return Service Requested

March/April 2018 Upcoming Events

March

Fri, March 2	7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service Purim Celebration
Sat, March 3	10:00 am	Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Nelson
Sun, March 4	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, March 5	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	6:00 pm	Intro to Judaism Session 3
Tues, March 6	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, March 7	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
Sun, March 11	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, March 12	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, March 14	12:30 pm	Book Club
Fri, March 16	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, March 18	9:30 am	Religious School - K workshop
Mon, March 19	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	6:00 pm	Intro to Judaism Session 4
Sat, March 24	7:00 pm	Trivia Night
Sun, March 25		NO Religious School
Mon, March 26	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Thurs, March 29	6:30 pm	Ladies Night Out
Sat, March 31	7:00 pm	Community 2nd Night Passover Seder

April

Sun, April 1		NO Religious School
Mon, April 2	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, April 4	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
Fri, April 6	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service (K -1st/2nd Grade Service)
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, April 7	5:00 pm	Interfaith Passover Seder
Sun, April 8	9:30 am	Religious School
	1:00 pm	Intro to Judaism Session 5
Mon, April 9	12:30 pm	Torah Study
April 10	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Sun, April 15	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, April 16	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Fri, April 20	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, April 22	9:30 am	Religious School
		7th Grade Workshop
Mon, April 23	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Thurs, April 26	6:30 pm	Ladies Night Out
Sun, April 29		NO Religious School
Mon, April 30	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	6:00 pm	Intro to Judaism Session 6