



The Voice

Office and Worship: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF) 4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick, MD 21703



Celebrating Simchat Torah at Religious School!

Beginning the New Year, Together

Rabbi Simon Stratford



Summer has come and gone, and a new season is upon us. As autumn foliage begins to emerge, and the sunlight hours dissipate, we take the time to reflect on the activities of our community in the last few months and look ahead to what the future has in store for our sacred community. Let me first take a moment to thank everyone who attended, participated, helped to plan and facilitate our High Holy Days this year. It was such a pleasure welcoming the New Year 5779 with all of you in our sanctuary space. I felt the sense of warmth and community pervade our worship space both on Rosh



From the President

Excerpt from High Holy Day Message

Dan Sieger

Years ago, Joanna would take Molly to services and ask if I wanted to attend. I said no. She would go to events and ask if I wanted to attend with her. I said no. But as Sarah got older, my "no" was not as strong as it had been, and I would be dragged along to services. As you may know, I was not born Jewish, and I converted before I got married. Religion was not a part of my life growing up, and I really did not see a big need for it to start. However, as our children got older, I started to attend services and events more. The more I attended, the more people I met. That was the start. Then with the events of a few years back, I felt it was my duty to join the Search Committee and the Interview Sub-Committee. I found myself traveling to Cincinnati to see Rabbi Stratford get ordained and joining the Board of Trustees.

Come the 2017 school year, I would teach some of the brightest and smartest kids I had ever seen. I taught them all I knew, and then sent them on to First Grade. Earlier this year when it was determined that I would move into the Presidency, Joanna asked me "Did you ever think..." I stopped her, smiled and said No. So, just by coming to one or two events, you will get to know some really great people and feel that you can make a difference, and who knows one day, you too could be President.

I'm sure you are familiar with Netflix and Amazon Prime. They are two great companies that provide services that most of us use frequently, if not daily. Netflix provides an 'all you can eat' buffet of visual content. But Amazon Prime takes it up a few notches. If you have Prime, you may use free two-day shipping or the free streaming of prime movies and TV shows; you may watch the exclusive

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From The President

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Prime Originals, or you may read their free e-book each month; you may take advantage of the free streaming music or the unlimited photo storage. All of these and more are yours for one yearly price. You have the opportunity to use what services you want and not others, all for one price. Your membership here at Kol Ami is like Amazon Prime. For one yearly price, you get more than just High Holy Day services. You get more than twice monthly Shabbat services with music (which are always better than some concerts I have paid to go see). You get more than weekly Torah studies. You get more than adult education classes. You get more than the ability to have a meeting with your Rabbi. You get

more than a place to give back to the community. You get more than holiday get-togethers. You get more than monthly dinners out. You get those and so much more. As you can imagine, those items are not free. Your membership, your donations, and your time, all go to help pay for those. Like Prime, your fees do not go up based on what you use. If you only want to belong to the Congregation and come to High Holy Days, that is fine. But you are leaving so much on the table. Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is more than your membership. It is more than the services. It is more than all of the benefits that you get for the cost of that membership. Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is your community. It

is your home. It is your family. So, I ask that you come to a service or event that you typically would not attend. You will have a great time. When you find yourself wanting to attend another, bring a friend or two, and they will tell two friends and they will tell two friends. Soon, you will find yourself wanting to volunteer at an event, then you may want to help run one. All of those services and events, although they do cost money, they cannot happen without you.

So, 'roughly' in the words of JFK: Ask not what your congregation can do for you, ask what you can do for your congregation. And together, we can make this community, this home and this family as strong as it has ever been.

Religious School Update

Religious School starts the year celebrating four Jewish holidays

Joanna Sieger, Education Director



Religious school is off to a great start. We began our year teaching about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Teachers in every grade level spoke to students, not only about what these holidays mean to us, but about what it means to begin anew. The students were asked to think about the year gone by, what they liked, what they didn't, and what they would change moving forward. We also spoke to students about saying sorry and forgiveness.

The next holiday we taught about was Sukkot. Although it always seems to rain during that time, it didn't stop us from erecting our own "sukkah" at religious school. The students made decorations that we hung in the sukkah and at clean up time, we recycled those decorations for the congregational sukkah at The

House in the Woods farm. Rabbi Stratford taught the students about the *lulav* and *etrog*, which we shook while reciting the blessings in the sukkah. We were able to smell the *etrog* – it smelled like lemons!

The last holiday we celebrated for the season was Simchat Torah. We gathered in the school atrium and the students unrolled a Torah and carefully held it for everyone to admire. Rabbi Stratford taught us that the passages are written differently so they are easily recognizable. We learned Israeli dances for this joyous occasion.

Recently, I hosted a coffee to hear from parents. The group that attended expressed their enthusiasm for the great start of the year, which I was glad to hear. As always, if you'd like to share your thoughts with me, please email me at education@kolamifrederick.org. Parents, if you haven't already, please join my school wide "Remind" by texting @ckafp to 81010.



Clockwise from top left: making edible Sukkahs for snack, learning about the lulav and etrog in the sukkah, Rabbi leading assembly, and making edible Torahs for snack.

From Rabbi Simon Stratford

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Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The success of the Holidays are largely in part to the group of volunteers, committee chairs, lay leaders and individual members who take it upon themselves to be a part of the planning process. Your commitment and volunteerism does not go unnoticed, and from the bottom of this rabbi's heart, thank you.

The holidays present a time for all of us, as individuals and as a community, to reflect upon the past year and consider where in our lives we have missed the mark in the previous year. Personally, the past year consisted of ups and downs and was filled with countless opportunities to learn about myself, learn about others, and learn to navigate the pulpit in which I serve. I am grateful for the many learning opportunities and am also appreciative to the lay leadership of this community for supporting me in this journey. Learning to be a rabbi of a community is difficult. Nevertheless, I am proud of our achievements as a community, and I look forward to our future.

In the upcoming year, I hope to continue to strengthen our congregational programming. Whether by offering new learning opportunities, such as our Movies & Midrash Series,

or planning The Evening Shmooze (an adult happy hour, Havdalah, and Jewish identity gallery on November 17th), I am eager to empower our members to join one another in celebration of our Jewish identities, good food, and enrichment. Moreover, I am excited to begin another year as overseeing our youth group (KATY) for 8th-12th grade students. I have gotten input from our youth as to the specific events they desire and hope to make their vision a reality. Continuing our success from last year, I hope to engage more of our youth to attend regional events as part of the North American Federation of Temple Youth - Mid Atlantic Region (NFTY-MAR). NFTY-MAR events span the entire academic year and are held in various synagogues and communities throughout the region. If your child is interested, please reach out, and I would be happy to share more information.

I am looking forward to playing a part in helping our community grow. This year marks Kol Ami's fifteenth year in existence. Aside from the committed group of lay leaders and myself, in order for us to be successful, it is imperative that we have individuals throughout our community step up and help lead the way. If you are interested in a certain

area of programming or volunteerism, please do not hesitate to get involved and make it happen. I am proud to share that over the next several months, the board of trustees and I will help create a set of guidelines as part of a covenantal agreement that will outline what it means to be a leader of our sacred community. This sacred work is necessary for our congregation to thrive and will benefit individuals in the future as we create a solid foundation from which our lay leadership work alongside each other.

The late President John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to one another." I have kept this quote close to my heart for many years. Nevertheless, it has taken on new meaning for me personally after having a year under my belt as a congregational rabbi. Jewish tradition teaches that no one is perfect, not even God. I have made mistakes this past year, but I am committed to learning from them. I will be forever grateful for the learning opportunities that have presented themselves as Rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami. I am optimistic about the future of our congregation and the valuable learning that will take place as we move forward, together.

Help Fund a New Website for Kol Ami

A new fund has been established for our congregation, the Advertising and Communications Fund. The key to building a sense of community within Congregation Kol Ami is enhancing our online community. The Kol Ami website communicates information to congregants, potential members, and members of the community, however the current website is over 6 years old. Kol Ami needs a fresh, easy-to-navigate, user friendly and mobile compatible website and updated data management system to enhance our image within the Frederick Community and attract new members. Please consider donating to the Advertising and Communications Fund under the 'Support Us' tab on kolamifrederick.org.

If you are interested in joining the Communications and Public Relations Committee or have ideas to share regarding modernizing our website, please contact Diane Rifkin at 301-401-6891 or email d.rifkin@comcast.net.

If you have technical expertise, experience in marketing or website development or ideas to improve our website, please consider joining our committee. All are welcome!

Please welcome new members!

Judy Bravman
Charlotte and Tom Mayberry
Katelyn Vaughan
Alison and Matthew Boxer, Sasha and Levi
Valerie and Steven Lazerowich

New Member Shabbat

Our new member Shabbat will be held at services on Friday evening Dec. 7. We will be welcoming at least 15 new families to our community who have joined over the past year. Please help us welcome them to Kol Ami!

Upcoming Events

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, UUCF, 4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick, MD.

November and December Topics

November 11, 2 pm: Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust

December 9, 2 pm: The Tapestry of the Jewish People

December 16, 2 pm: A People and/or a Religion

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 or go to kolamifrederick.org.

MOVIES & MIDRASH

AN ADULT EDUCATION FILM SERIES

Popular Film and Jewish Religious Conversation. Using cinema as a springboard to discuss central Jewish texts and matters of belief. Join us as we explore what Jewish tradition, text, and theology have to say about the lessons and themes arising from influential and compelling films.

NOVEMBER 3, 2018: USHPIZIN (2004)

JAN. 5, 2019: A SERIOUS MAN (2009)

MARCH 2, 2019: THE GATEKEEPERS (2012)

MAY 4, 2019: THE FRISCO KID (1979)

JULY 20, 2019: STRANGER THAN FICTION (2006)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

**Rabbi Simon Stratford rabbi@kolamifrederick.org or
(240) 575 - 9690**

Stay tuned for times and locations!

Brotherhood Dinner

Tuesdays, November 6 and December 4

6:30 pm

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.

Vote and then Come to Dinner!

Date: Tuesday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: China Garden Chinese Restaurant

506 W. Patrick St. (on the Golden Mile)

Interested and able to attend? Please RSVP so we have an accurate head-count:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSRYR5B>



The Brotherhood enjoyed dinner at MOD Pizza in October.

Join us for Services at the UU!

November 9 and 16

December 7 and 21

Women's Coffee

Wednesday November 7

Wednesday, December 5

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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens)

Upcoming Events

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSELLERS BOOK FAIR

Sunday, November 18

11am until 6pm

Kol Ami will have a book fair at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in the FSK Mall on Sunday November 18 from 11 am until 6 pm.

Do some early Hanukkah and holiday shopping and a portion of all proceeds will go to Kol Ami.

Just use code #12401139 at the checkout, but don't worry, we will be at the store to remind you of the code.

Or make a purchase of a new book to support the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Ali Lazorchak will be collecting books for this very worthy cause. We will have a box at Barnes and Noble that day where you can drop off your purchases.

And gift wrapping is available that day--free of charge!!!

Plus, Rabbi Stratford will be doing a PJ Storytime at 4pm, so plan on attending this fun event with your kids!

Can't make it on November 18 to Barnes and Noble? That's ok. Go online at BN.com/bookfair from November 19 through November 23, enter the same ID code #12401139 and we will get credit for the purchase!

This code can be used by anyone that day—friends, family, neighbors, business associates; so spread the word and support Kol Ami. Any questions, contact **David Silberman at** dssilberman@aol.com

Join us for Girl's Night Out!

Thursdays, November 29 and December 27

6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for details.

Upcoming Family Events

Save the dates for fun family events immediately after Religious School.

Sunday November 11 and Sunday December 16

Stay tuned for details.

The Sisterhood Book Club is a Kol Ami Tradition

by Carolyn Plaisance

The Sisterhood Book Club of Kol Ami has been meeting since 2007, and we are always looking for new members to join our Book Club. We are a wonderful group of women, many retired, with diverse backgrounds. The book club is an informal group, with no committee structure, which meets six times a year; on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. At each meeting those attending are asked to bring three book titles with a short synopsis for the next book club. A vote is taken by those present for the next book selection.

At this time Carolyn Plaisance handles the administrative details for the book club. Please contact her at carolynpla@comcast.net or phone: 301-865-5701 if you have further questions.

A few reasons to join our book club:

- It gives you a push to read some great literature
- Make new friends
- Gain New Perspectives from comment from other book club members
- Good for those of retirement age; keep your mind sharp
- Eat lunch and have a glass of wine too
- No pop quizzes, ever, we promise

Our next book club luncheon is:



Wednesday, November 12
12:30 pm at Macaroni Grill in the Westview Promenade.

The book is *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. Go the following link to RSVP and read a synopsis of the book: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami1>

Join us for Torah Study

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.

Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at the office
(Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 are at Buckingham's Choice)

November 5, 12, 19 and 26

December 3, 10, 17, and 24



The Empty Nesters are gathering to enjoy a...

**Hot 'n Hearty Bar-B-Q &
Hanukkah Bingo Party**

Saturday, Dec 8th @ 7:00 pm
Clover Hill Club House
8123 Glendale Rd.

Okay, here's what is happening -

We will be enjoying a bar-b-q dinner catered by Famous Dave's.
Brisket, cole slaw, mashed potatoes, etc... BYOB

After dinner, we will begin our BINGO game.

Regarding prizes...
here is where Hanukkah enters our evening.

We are requesting the 1st. member of your family bring an
UNDER \$10.00 Hanukkah wrapped BINGO prize.

The 2nd. member of your family should bring an unwrapped
box of crayons or package of colored paper or Play Doh.
Toys will be donated to Toys for Tots.

All this for just **\$18.00** per person

PLEASE RSVP by November 28th to Judi (judiafeldman@gmail.com)
and
send your checks made out to CKAf to
5005 Small Gains Way
Frederick, MD 21703

KATY'S CORNER

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION & SIGN UP COMING SOON

CONTACT RABBI SIMON STRATFORD WITH QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS

Nov. 16th - 18th, 2018

NFTY-MAR's Fall Kallah:

Join 300+ Jewish Teens from across the region as we celebrate Shabbat, wrestle with hot topics in meaningful discussion and more.

Location: JCC of Greater Baltimore

More info: midatlantic.nfty.org

Scholarships available

Saturday, Dec. 1st, 2018

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

KATY goes to Laser Tag

Join us for an evening at Shadowland.

Saturday, Jan. 12th, 2019

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

KATY's Winter Wonderland

Join us for an evening on the slopes at Ski Liberty

Sunday, Feb. 10th, 2019

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

KATY's Social Action Event

Join us for an afternoon of social action as we volunteer with a local organization

Meet your 2018-19 Religious School Staff



Colt Black Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Colt Black has been a member of Congregation Kol Ami for a little over 2 years.

He is a licensed Maryland Mortician and Pennsylvania Funeral Director, and he holds multiple emergency services credentials issued. He is the owner of Black's Funeral Home in Thurmont, MD. Colt is married to his loving wife Micheala and is the proud father of his children Denver, Atlas and Liberty. When not working, Colt enjoys spending time with family and doing outdoor sports. This is Colt's first time teaching at Hebrew School, and he is looking forward to the challenge.



Angela Kearney 2nd and 3rd Grades

Angela lives with her husband Mike and their pets in Middletown. Mike is a retired policeman

who currently works for "I Drive Smart", teaching teens to drive safely. Angela and Mike have three daughters and a grandson. Their oldest daughter, Amanda, works downtown as a stylist, while Morgan and Samantha are in college. The Kearney family have been Kol Ami members for 14 years. Angela previously taught 1st and 2nd grades, and she is very much looking forward to teaching the 2nd and 3rd grade classes this year.



Micheala Black 4th Grade

Michaela is a returning teacher. Last year she taught 3rd grade. This year she will teach students in the

4th grade. Michaela lives in the Catoctin mountains between Camp Airy and Camp Louise with her family and two cats. She is the mother of three children, Denver, Atlas and Liberty. During the week, she helps her husband with the family business, Black's Funeral Home. In her free time, Michaela loves to write, read and enjoys the outdoors.



David Bass 5th Grade

David grew up in Bayside Queens where his family were members of Temple Beth Sholom. He was active in the BBYO.

He attended Binghamton University as an undergraduate, studying history and Africana studies, and continued on to earn his master's degree in student affairs and public administration. David worked several years for the Handicapped Children's Association, serving as Assistant Manager of a group home for people with developmental disabilities and then as a habilitation specialist. He was active in Temple Concord Reform Congregation in Binghamton, serving on the Board and as the membership chair. New job opportunities brought David and Tom Brancato to Frederick last year. David is currently the Hillel Director at Gettysburg College.



Tom Brancato 5th Grade

Tom moved to Frederick over a year ago with his husband David from Binghamton, NY. Tom grew up

with his parents and twin sisters on Long Island. After high school, Tom attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) where he received his bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics. Upon graduating, Tom began his 17-year career as a software engineer working for Lockheed Martin in New York, the UK, and currently Manassas, VA. Tom holds a master's degrees in systems engineering from Cornell University and economics from Binghamton University. Tom enjoys bike riding, tennis, baseball, theater, and eating out at the great restaurants Frederick has to offer.



Dana Holman 6th Grade

While this is Dana's first year teaching religious school, it marks her 24th year as a teacher with Montgomery

County Public Schools. She is looking forward to a fun-filled year learning about Jewish history with the great group of 6th graders. Dana lives in Urbana with her husband Scott, and her two boys, Michael, a senior at Urbana High School, and Jason, a 6th grader at Urbana Middle School. In her spare time, Dana can be found working out, shopping, or watching the Redskins.



Molly Sieger 6th Grade

Molly's family has been members of Kol Ami for many years. She is a an honors student in her senior year at

Brunswick High School. Molly is interested in a career as a pediatric surgeon. Being among Jewish people is important to her, and she was excited to find the Hillel on a recent college visit. Molly has been in a Jewish school program since she was two years old. She has enjoyed her religious school experience at Kol Ami. Last year Molly served as a Hebrew teacher's aide. She is excited to share her Hebrew knowledge with the 6th grade students this school year.



Samantha Lieberman 7th Grade

Samantha is beginning her 7th year of teaching at Kol Ami and her

second year teaching 7th grade. She feels privileged to work with students and their families as they are reaching their b'nai mitzvah. In addition to teaching religious school, Samantha serves on the board of trustees for Kol Ami and works at the pre-school at Beth Sholom. She lives in Urbana with her husband Mike and their three children, Grant, 9th grade, Brooke, 6th grade, and Hunter, 1st grade.



Ali Lazorchak 8th Grade

A native Baltimorean, Ali is married to Rob and lives in Point of Rocks with their son Hayden. Ali

has degrees in English education, special education, and educational leadership. She has taught at Frederick High School for 22 years. The Lazorchak family runs a non-profit, Hayden's Heart Heroes, which was established to honor her son. In her spare time, Ali maintains a blog, cooks, travels, is social director for her family, goes on date nights with Rob, and spends time with friends. The Lazorchaks have been members of Kol Ami for nine years, where Ali serves as a trustee, a member of the social action and education committees, and a teacher in religious school.



Joanna Sieger Education Director

After teaching for 8 years for the Kol Ami religious school, Joanna is excited to embark on a new

role as Kol Ami's Education Director. She is the mother of three children: Molly, who has worked in the religious school since her Bat Mitzvah in 2014, Zachary, and Sarah. Joanna is also the director of the Beth Sholom Early Childhood Center in Frederick, where she teaches the two-year-old class. Additionally, she serves on the Executive Board of Kol Ami as the immediate past president, having served as the president from 2016 to 2018. She feels that our children's religious school is incredibly important because it is where our youth gain their sense of community.



Mary Cat Lasko Assistant Education Director

Mary Cat has been married to Jeff for 18 years and lives in Walkersville. They

have three children; Mitch, 14, Caelyn, 12, and Eliana, 9. Mary Cat works full-time as a medical coder for a local billing company. The Laskos have been members of Kol Ami since 2012. Mary Cat is on the congregation's Board of Trustees and also keeps busy volunteering for Boy Scouts as the Troop Committee Chair. She is excited to be the Assistant Director of Education for the religious school this year.

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 Parashot for November and December are as follows:

November 3 – Chayye Sarah, Genesis 23:1-25:18

Abraham purchases the cave at Machpelah to bury Sarah; Isaac marries Rebekah; Abraham dies and is buried with Sarah.

November 10 – Toledot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

The birth of Esau and Jacob; Rebekah and Jacob conspire to steal Esau's blessing; Jacob flees to Haran.

November 17 – Vayetze, Genesis 28:10-32:3

Jacob's dream; Jacob works 7 years for Laban for the right to marry Rachel, and he is tricked into marrying Leah instead and must work 7 more years for Rachel; Jacob and his family leave Laban's household with great wealth.

November 24 – Vayyishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

Jacob wrestles with God and then meets Esau; Dinah is raped at Shechem and her brothers retaliate; Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin; Isaac dies and is buried in Hebron.

December 1 – Vayyeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

Jacob favors his son Joseph but his jealous brothers sell Joseph into slavery and suggest to Jacob he has died; Joseph does well in Egypt until he is falsely accused and thrown into prison; the story of Judah and Tamar.

December 8 – Mikketz, Genesis 41:1-44:17

Joseph correctly interprets Pharaoh's two dreams; Pharaoh places Joseph in charge of food collection and distribution; Joseph's brothers come to Egypt looking for food and eventually are ordered (by Joseph) to leave Egypt without Benjamin.

December 15 – Vayiggash, Genesis 44:18-47:27

Judah pleads for Benjamin's freedom and offers himself instead; Joseph reveals his identity; Jacob learns Joseph is alive, comes to Egypt and settles in Goshen; the Israelites thrive in Egypt.

December 22 – Vayhi, Genesis 47:28-50:26

Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh; at Jacob's deathbed he predicts the future of each son; Jacob is buried in Hebron; before he too dies, Joseph tells his brothers that God will return them to their homeland.

December 29 – Shemot, Exodus 1:1-6:1

A new Pharaoh enslaves the Hebrews and orders all their male children be drowned in the Nile; Moses, in a basket, is rescued from the river; an adult Moses flees to Midian after killing an Egyptian; God calls to Moses from a burning bush and charges him to free the Israelites from bondage.

Torah Metaphors by Kerry Reynolds

To some, the idea of reading each week's Torah portion throughout the Jewish year and then restarting the Torah cycle every autumn may seem an exercise in terminal boredom. Those who read, however, know that their return visits to old, familiar stories often result in surprising new insights. All it takes is an open mind.

For example, as Deuteronomy played out last August, Moses was in the midst of his final Discourses to the Israelites. Following a previous reaffirmation of the Decalogue and Shema, Moses developed a theme of separation in *Ki Tietzei* (Deut. 21:10-25:19). In verses 23:13-15, he said Israelite soldiers should bury their feces outside the campsite in case God visited them at night. Some readers might find this passage a humorous diversion. But think about it. Moses is saying how tragic it would be if God came to help, and the Israelites drove Him away with their filth. But, in my last reading, this story stopped being about scatology and desert campsites. Fast forward 3,000 years and apply the lesson to 21st Century Jews. Suppose the "campsites" are really our hearts and we'd like God to visit and take up residence. Have we made them a welcoming environment?

Metaphors start in the Beginning. Shortly after Succoth, we start the new Torah year with *Bereshit* (Gen. 1:1-6:18). In the Genesis 3 story of Eden, we are told Adam and Eve eat from the tree of knowledge and are banished by God for their disobedience. Again that theme of separation, brought on by our own disobedience. In the 5th century C.E., St. Augustine based his doctrine of original sin on this story, and Christians still follow it today. Jews do not. But if we want to limit our shortcomings – for which we alone are responsible – do we not need knowledge? We may reside East of Eden, but that does not mean the Garden is no longer accessible to us. What if Torah is a portable tree of knowledge and you are free to visit the Garden each time you reach for the *Tanakh* on your bookshelf?

Repetitive reading of Torah can produce "Ah-Hah!" moments of enlightenment in which one may glimpse the Eternal, if only for seconds. Your special insight may be one not found in Rashi or Maimonides, but that does not make it any less valid – particularly if it helps make you a more ethical person. Since God breathed life into us all (Genesis 2:7), such experiences should not be out of bounds, and they are priceless. So go ... and read.

Kol Ami of Frederick Board of Trustees

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Our Office Has Moved!

- As of October 1st, all offices of Kol Ami have moved to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF).
- **4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick**
- We have been using this wonderful facility for many years for our services. This move brings our place of worship and offices to one location.

A New Tikkun Olam Opportunity

Sharry Veil, Social Action Committee Chair

Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is partnering with the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County to help raise awareness and vital funds for the growing number of Frederick County youth experiencing homelessness. This past school year, there were 848 students attending Frederick County Public Schools who experienced homelessness sometime during the year.

Our first event was the "Socks, Underwear and Gift Card" drive during the High Holidays. The yellow bin was overflowing with donations from generous congregants. Kol Ami and SHIP will be helping so many children, and we are so grateful for your donations. Thank you!

More CKAF-SHIP events are planned through the year. Congregants are encouraged to visit www.shipfrederick.com and become "shipmates" to help advocate and provide for these forgotten and often overlooked children.

Advertise Your Business in the Voice

Please contact Ilana Love at advertising@kolamifrederick.org or call 707-812-2331 with any questions, advertising rates, and to arrange a contract.

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.

Sukkot on the Farm

Ilene White Freedman

There is something very authentic about celebrating Sukkot on a working farm during harvest season. Sukkot celebrates the harvest season and reminds us of the temporary structures built for shelter near the crops during a busy harvest season. Phil and I were happy to host this Sukkot celebration at our farm in Adamstown. Over fifty people joined us on a beautiful evening to celebrate Sukkot and the harvest season, right amidst the crops.

At House in the Woods Farm, the sweet potatoes are ready to dig, and since it is days of work, maybe we should sleep in the sukkah! Phil extended our hardy kiwi arbor to make a pleasant sukkah right next to the fields. We gathered in the sukkah under the stars, and Rabbi Stratford led us in a short interactive service.

The sukkah was decorated with paper chains and lanterns and other decorations, made by children in Religious School. Perhaps one of your creations adorned the sukkah at the farm? Pictures of "guests in the Sukkah" joined us, to remind us of brave people who did heroic things to improve conditions in the world. After the service we ate hardy kiwi berries, ripe and sweet, hanging from the vines that covered part of the sukkah frame.

Bulbs of harvested garlic were drying on trays in the corner of the barn. We set up tables right near them and Kol Ami filled the tables with delicious dishes for a lavish potluck meal together. Kol Ami should host more potluck meals, because we happen to be very good at them! Thank you to all who contributed to our shared meal. It was lovely, next to the Shabbat candles lit by Nicky Stratford, and the bonfire to keep us warm.

Thank you for adventuring with us on the farm! Phil and I, and Jonah (Noah was at a NFTY conference) enjoyed hosting you all at the farm for Sukkot.

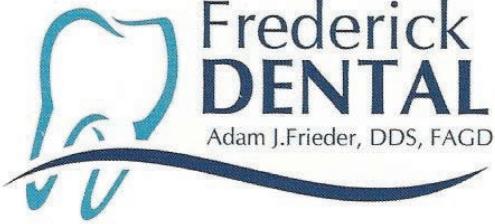




Support Kol Ami!
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When you log on to your account at smile.amazon.com, select Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick before shopping. To be certain you're on the right site, look at the top of the page to see "Supporting: Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick." 0.5% will be donated to Kol Ami! It may not seem like much, but every 0.5% of ALL of our purchases adds up! What an easy way to donate!

You can also go to kolamifrederick.org and find the link on the home page to start your holiday shopping.



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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a striped top and a black skirt, is carrying several shopping bags. A large purple circle with a question mark inside it is positioned above her head. Three thought bubbles emanate from her: one green bubble says "Not enough hours in the day? Allow me!" another purple bubble says "Too many errands? Allow me!" and a larger purple cloud says "Gotta run to the store? Pick up the cleaning? Get a prescription? Package being delivered? Planning a Party? Need help? Have returns? So little time? Allow me!" Below the woman is a circular graphic containing a stylized figure and the text "Allow Me!".

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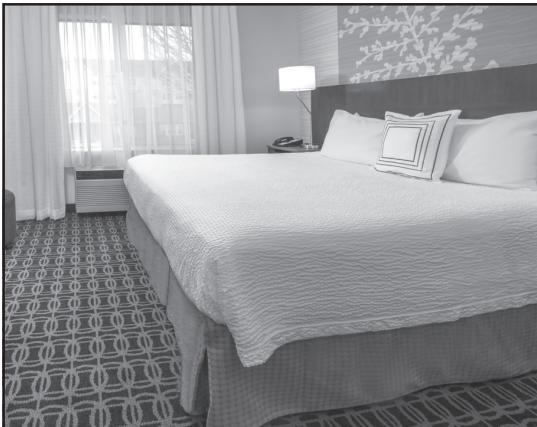


*\$500. pre-planning certificate for Kol Ami members.

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Donations

NEW! Advertising and Communications Fund

Allan and Judi Feldman, in memory of our loved ones on Yom Kippur and in appreciation of Yom Kippur honors
Carolyn and Newt Plaisance, in honor of reading on Erev Rosh Hashanah

Education Fund

Jordan Schneider, in memory of Lee Harvey, mother of Carol Reynolds
Jordan Schneider, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Wyatt Migdal

General Fund

Michael and Anne Cohen, in memory of Douglas Kahn, father of Anne Cohen
Michael and Anne Cohen, in memory of the sister of Ilana Love Aaron Igdalsky
Bernard and Betty Loeb, in memory of my beloved mother.
Bernard and Betty Loeb, 50/50 donation from Trivia Night
Michael and Liliane Loube, in honor of the 25th anniversary of our children, Sabrina and Charles Nail
Judy Lyons Wolf
Jennifer and Hans Mykytyn, in memory of Lee Harvey, mother of Carol Reynolds
Michael and Diane Rifkin
Susan and Harry Rovin, in memory of Celeste Fribush, mother of Frannie Kessler
Dan and Joanna Sieger, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Landon Schimel

High Holiday Donations

Michael and Liliane Loube
Barbara Barrueta
Richard and Jill Cody
Michael and Anne Cohen
Berta Farbman
Jeff Feiertag
David and Sylvia Guralnik
Dick and Frannie Kessler
Barry and Ellen Koitz
Aaron LaMere
Bernard and Betty Loeb
Jeff and Betsy Maymon
Cliff and Faith Miller

Newt and Carolyn Plaisance
David and Brenda Silberman
Max and Gretchen Solender
Ruth Stuart
Marc Weinberg
Dennis and Rachel Whitaker

Leadership Training Fund

Jordan Schneider, in memory of Sheldon Durst

Membership Relief Fund

Jeff Feiertag, in memory of Helen Danchik

Miller Camp Scholarship Fund

Jordan Schneider, in recognition of Joshua Ull for the leadership shown to ensure Mara and all the Wheelniks had such a wonderful and memorable experience on Bus C 2018

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Dana Kedar, as thanks for the Yom Kippur service
Timothy and Debra Manetz, for the honor of reading Torah during Yom Kippur service
Jordan Schneider, in memory of Mildred Schneider, grandmother of Jordan and great-grandmother of Mara
Sharry Veil, in memory of David Pasternak
Sharon Zamkoff

Religious Activities Fund

Jordan Schneider, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Shmuel Fliegelman
Jordan Schneider, in recognition of High Holiday aliyah

Yahrzeit Donations

Daniel and Elizabeth Bilow, in memory of daughter Gabrielle Bilow
William and Jeannie Fawley, in memory of Phyllis DeLouise, mother of Jeannie Fawley
Barry and Ellen Koitz, in memory of Daniel Garfinkel, father of Ellen Koitz
Barry and Ellen Koitz, in memory of Manual Koitz, father of Barry Koitz
Ruth Stuart, in memory of Joseph Stuart and Jacob Vogelman

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.



CONGREGATION
KOL AMI
OF FREDERICK

4880 Elmer Derr Rd.
Frederick, MD 21703

Return Service Requested

November/December 2018 Upcoming Events

November

Sat, Nov. 3	5:00 pm	Movies & Midrash: Ushpizin
Sun, Nov. 4	9:30 am	Religious School: Social Action and 1st grade parent workshop
Mon, Nov. 5	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, Nov. 6	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Nov. 7	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
	7:00 pm	Social Action Committee Mtg
Fri, Nov. 9	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, Nov. 11	9:30 am	Religious School: Monocacy Battlefield Intro to Judaism Session 19
	2:00 pm	
Mon, Nov. 12	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, Nov. 14	12:30 pm	Book Club
Fri-Sun, Nov. 16-18		NFTY-MAR's Fall Kallah
Fri, Nov. 16	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, Nov. 17	5:00 pm	Evening Schmooze
Sun, Nov. 18	9:30 am	Religious School and 2nd grade parent workshop
	11:00 am	Barnes and Noble Book Fair
Mon, Nov. 19	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Thurs, Nov. 22		Thanksgiving Day
Mon, Nov. 26	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Mtg

December

Sat, Dec. 1	2:00 pm	KATY Event: Laser Tag
Sun, Dec. 2	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, Dec. 3	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, Dec. 4	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Dec. 5	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
	7:00 pm	Social Action Committee Mtg
Fri, Dec. 7	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service: New Member Shabbat
Sat, Dec. 8	7:00 pm	Empty Nesters Hanukkah
		Bingo Party
Sun, Dec. 9	9:30 am	Religious School and 4th grade parent workshop
	2:00 pm	Intro to Judaism Session 20
Mon, Dec. 10	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, Dec. 12	7:00 pm	Communications & PR Mtg
Fri-Sun, Dec. 14-16		NFTY-MAR's MAJYK (6th- 8th)
Sun, Dec. 16	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, Dec. 17	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Mtg
Tues, Dec. 18	7:00 pm	Interfaith Dinner & Discussion-
		Chanukah/Christmas Dilemma
Fri, Dec. 21	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Mon, Dec. 24	12:30 pm	Torah Study