



The Voice

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

The Role of the 21st century Rabbi

Rabbi Simon Stratford



Since its inception in the 1970s, the Alban Institute at Duke Divinity School has pioneered new ways of enabling

congregational leaders to be agents of grace and transformation, while serving as an invaluable resource to clergypersons of all faiths and denominations. At the time of this writing, the Alban Institute published an article entitled *What is the Role of the 21st Century Rabbi?* In this article, the authors examine how the role of the rabbi has changed over the years and in particular, how the traditional model of the rabbinate and rabbinic education do not accurately reflect the full capacity in which today's rabbis serve. As a millennial rabbi, I found this article of particular interest, with its examples and perspective relevant to how I view my role as a rabbi.

A major question the article addresses is, what are the needs of the community? The author suggests, "People are looking for what they call 'traditions.' They are proud to be Jewish. They feel good about being Jewish. But they're highly unengaged in existing organizations like synagogues." From a rabbinical



From the President Different...

Dan Sieger

I have been in the working world for many years. I have been in the accounting world for the last 22 years. In all of that time, 2 + 2 has always been 4, an invoice is either valid or not and it is due or has been paid. So, coming into the Jewish faith, I brought that same understanding. It used to drive me crazy when my father-in-law would lead the Passover Seder and each and every year was different. I would complain to Joanna; he is using the same book, and he should be reading the same passages, so how can it be different? It was several years until I understood. The Jewish faith is not like others that I have known. The Jewish faith is understanding; the Jewish faith is tolerant; the Jewish faith adapts to the situation that is at hand.

The service that the Rabbi does at each service should, in theory, be the same as the one from a year ago. They are covering the same passage of the Torah and talking about the same lesson. So, why would it be different? The difference is you. The difference is them. And the difference is the world that we are living in. Each day, everything changes. The lesson of the Torah that was relevant last year is totally different than the one that is being used now and will be completely and totally different to the one that will be given next year. However, each year my father-in-law would skip pages and jump around to the areas of Passover that meant something to him that year. I became aware that this is what the Jewish faith meant to him and therefore to me. I couldn't make it fit into a box (or an invoice that looked like all

of the others) and make others follow it. Understandably, there are certain items that do stay the same, such as certain commandments, and items that we just simply can't change. But the Jewish faith cherishes the differences in each of us and shows that we are all the same.

Last summer when my family was in Florida, I convinced Joanna and my daughter Sarah to go to a local reform congregation's Shabbat service with me. The congregation's building was different than what we were used to, the people were not the same, and the way that the service was performed was totally different. I found myself knowing the prayers and songs but not the tunes. It wasn't long until we found an understanding and were able to follow along. As I sat there, it struck me that although they were doing the same Torah portion as what Rabbi Stratford was doing, I was confident that it was not the same. It was his (or their) interpretation of the events that they shared that led them to how they were having their service. Their traditions were formed out of their experiences and how they lived. Did they have a long tendered Rabbi, one that just arrived, or one that was about to leave? Did they feel they were doing everything that the congregation wanted to do or were there items that they felt could be done better.

We are all living our own lives. We are all living lives that interact with others' lives—ones that we are aware of or ones that we never directly interact with. However through our actions with others, we can and do make a difference, but all in a different way.

Continued on page 3

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, but 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 to 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 communications@kolamifrederick.org.

Thanks to our Volunteer Webmasters

Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our volunteer webmasters. After many years of service as our webmaster, Tracy Shavell has recently stepped down. Tracy devoted countless hours to enhance our online presence and keep our website up to date. Tracy has also been extremely helpful in training and transitioning the site to our new webmaster, Tom Brancato. Tom is a software engineer who works for Lockheed Martin in Manassas, Virginia. Tom also is a 5th grade Religious School teacher at Kol Ami. Since December, Tom has been actively working to update the content of our website home page, calendar, and different sections of the website. Thank you Tracy and Tom!

**The Kol Ami office has moved to:
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Frederick (UUCF)
4880 Elmer Derr Rd.
Frederick, MD**

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From Rabbi Simon Stratford

Continued from page 1

perspective, my job is not to uphold the laws on behalf of the people, nor is it to rebuke individuals for not following the laws a certain way. Instead, my role is to help aid in an individual's exploration of, and investment in, living a Jewish life. As a rabbi, my mission is to help create and sustain spaces for individuals and families to feel empowered to practice their Judaism in whatever way they find meaningful.

Moreover, the authors identify a disconnect between the way rabbinic education is structured and its implications for rabbis in the field. "Rabbinical training includes many elements that are actually not especially relevant to the day-to-day work of a rabbi." My seminary training painted a picture of the rabbinate using a broad brush. In addition to being taught Bible, Midrash, and Talmud, I was trained in subjects such as homiletics, pastoral education, and mindfulness. Unequivocally, my rabbinic training at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion provided me with the best education I could have received in five years.

Nevertheless, as mentioned in the article, the role of the rabbi is evolving, and much on-the-job learning is still required. For example, in the first two years of my rabbinate, I have had to learn by experience how to effectively work alongside lay leaders for the betterment of the community, how to help shape an educational curriculum for religious school, and how to best maintain a list of volunteers for a congregational event. Most importantly, as the rabbi of a small congregation, I have discovered that in order to be successful I must be willing to go with the flow and remain open to ideas and suggestions from others.

Lastly, and personally most enjoyable, the article suggests that the role of a rabbi might be similar to that of a camp counselor. Personally, twelve summers spent at Jewish overnight camp instilled within me a passion for creating meaningful Jewish community and the importance of informal education. My time as a camper and as a counselor at a Union for Reform Judaism summer camp proved to be a formative experience in my decision to become a rabbi. The knowledge and skill set I gained as a

camp counselor permeates into my job as a rabbi when I am working with our youth and our religious school students. Often, when considering ways to engage our students or youth groupers in a way that is memorable, fun, and a little silly, I rely upon my years as a camp counselor.

As the American Jewish experience continues to evolve, the rabbinate and the role of rabbis in America today are changing too. No longer are rabbis only found within the walls of the synagogue, sitting behind a desk surrounded by shelves of countless books. Today, my colleagues and I are out in the field, ever present within the community, whether that means making pastoral visits to the local hospital or residential homes, at Starbucks writing next week's sermon, or at the public library meeting with B'nai Mitzvah students. The fact of the matter is that I am grateful for the opportunity to meet you where you are and not exclusively at my office. In this respect, I am always available to meet with you wherever it is most convenient. I am always an email (rabbi@kolamifrederick.org) or a phone call (847-624-4436) away.

Join us for Services at the UU!

March 1 and 15 • April 5 and 26

Join us for Torah Study

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.
Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at the office
(March 4 and April 1 are at Buckingham's Choice)

March 4, 11, 18 and 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Increasing Safety

In the wake of recent events, we are working on ways to increase safety. At religious school, the door will be locked while we are there. Parents have been asked to volunteer to open and close the door. This has been in effect for several weeks and has worked well.

Effective immediately, the doors to the UU will be locked at 7:45pm on service nights. While we recognize this is an inconvenience, we feel safety is paramount and encourage your arrival prior to 7:45pm so you don't miss any of the service.

Upcoming Events

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.

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!

Movies and Midrash: The Gatekeepers on March 2

The Gatekeepers is a critically acclaimed, award-winning 2012 documentary featuring interviews with all surviving former heads of Shin Bet, the Israeli security agency whose activities and membership are closely held state secrets.

For more information and to RSVP go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0549a8aa2fa75-movies3>

Join us for Girl's Night Out!

Thursdays, March 28 and April 25
6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for details.

KATY News

KATY is looking for suggestions for our April and May events. Please contact Kellianne Dubbin (KATY@kolamifrederick.org) with your ideas. If your child is looking to take on a leadership role within the group for the next year, please send your information by March 1st.

Brotherhood Dinner

Tuesdays, March 5 and April 2 at 6:30 pm

Greetings, one and all for the March Brotherhood Dinner

Mi Rancho Grande Restaurant

193 Thomas Johnson Drive

Frederick, MD

Interested and able to join us? Please click the link below to RSVP so that we have an accurate count.

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



January Brotherhood dinner

Women's Coffee

Wednesdays, March 6 and April 3

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 ha-ppening in your life. Check this link for the latest coffee date: RSVP: [signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens)

Join Women of Kol Ami and Beth Sholom for the 2019 Frederick Women's Seder

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Doors Open at 6:00 pm

Seder Starts Promptly at 6:30 pm

Beth Sholom Congregation

\$36 by 3/31/2019

1011 North Market Street

\$50 after 4/1/2019

Frederick, MD

\$25 for full time student

No Refunds after March 31, 2019

For more information, contact Marcy Taylor at mta2003604@aol.com or click on the Kol Ami weekly bulletin link to download the registration form.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Fundraising Event

The Second Annual Stella and Dot Fundraising Event is Saturday, March 16 from 1:00-3:00. It is at the home of Samantha Lieberman at 9503 Tottenham Circle, Frederick, MD. Don't miss your chance to shop, eat and socialize. Hope to see you there!

Family Gatherings for 2019

by Colt Black

One of the wonderful things about any religious organization is the sense of community that can be fostered and nourished by congregational events. Coming together to celebrate the holidays that are the core tenets of celebration are so very important. However, it is also wonderful to have simple gatherings...to come together, to share a meal, to converse, to get to know other members of the community.

We have begun holding a monthly gathering, generally on a Sunday after religious school. These events are open to every member of the congregation, and all are welcome. The dates and locations for March and April are below. Some of the details are still to be determined. Check for final details in the weekly bulletin email.

If you are interested in hosting an event in the future or have an idea for a get together, please contact Colt Black at programming@kolamifrederick.org.

Sunday March 10, 2019

Congregational Fundraiser/After Hebrew School Get Together

Following Hebrew School at Chili's 5100 Pegasus Ct., Frederick, MD 21704

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Laser Tag @ Shadow Land Laser Tag (FSK Mall)
Following Hebrew School

Programming Committee Members needed!

The newly formed Programming committee is seeking members interested in planning, coordinating, and assisting with congregational/family programming such as the after-Hebrew-school events, holiday parties and other congregational programs and events. For more information please contact Programming Chairperson, Colt Black at 240-452-7200 or email programming@kolamifrederick.org.

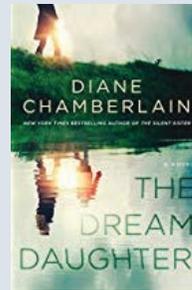
The Sisterhood Book Club

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 comments 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, March 13



**Note New Location:
Old Dominion Grill And Sushi**

**Evergreen Square
5732 Buckeystown Pike (Route 85)
Frederick, MD**

***The Dream Daughter*
by Diane Chamberlain**

Go the following link to RSVP and read a synopsis of the book: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami1>

Save the Dates!

2nd Night Seder

Saturday, April 20, 6 pm
Natelli Clubhouse
9023 Harris Street, Urbana

Yom Hashoah

Sunday, May 5, 1 pm
Beth Sholom

Annual Meeting

Monday, June 3, 7 pm
UUCF

Join Kol Ami friends for a

Purim Carnival



Location

The Community Room at ERUCC
15 West Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701

When

Sunday, March 24, 2019
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Your Purim Passport includes:

Esther's Salon
Hamentashen Walk
Purim Bingo
Pin the Hat on Haman
Sand Art
Mask/Crown Making
Sinking Coin
Ring Toss ... and more!



Hamentashen Baking and Costume Contest!

There will be a Hamentashen baking and costume contest, Purim Spiel, a 50/50 raffle and snack bar. Costumes are encouraged for all. **Fun for the whole family!**

Cost:

Members -\$5 each
\$20/Family

Non-Members - \$7 each
\$25/Family

Any questions,

please contact Joanna Sieger at education@kolamifrederick.org.



Religious School Update: Bringing our Lessons Home

Joanna Sieger, Education Director



Religious school is going well. For Hebrew this year, all of our classes

are working on prayers, even our kindergarten. If your child had me as a teacher, you've heard me say many times the best way to reinforce our school and what your child is learning is to practice at home, attend services, and attend events. Make your child's Jewish education as important as soccer. Attending services gives your child another way to connect to their Judaism, another chance to practice, and answers "Why are we doing this?"

Besides being at services, celebrating Jewish Holidays and practicing the prayers and customs is another great way to express why religious school is so important. To that end, here are the Four Questions which your family can practice for Passover.

מה נשתנה הלילה הזו מכל-הלילות

Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

How is this night different from all other nights?

1. שְׁבֹכֵל-הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חָמֵץ וּמַצָּה
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה בְּלוּ מַצָּה

1. *Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin chametz umatzah, halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.*

On all other nights, we eat chameitz and matzah. Why on this night, only matzah?

2. שְׁבֹכֵל-הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יֵרָקוֹת
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה מְרוֹר

2. *Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin sh'ar y'rakot, halailah hazeh, maror.*

On all other nights, we eat all vegetables. Why, on this night, maror?

3. שְׁבֹכֵל-הַלֵּילוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מְטַבִּילִין אֶפִּילוּ פַּעַם אַחַת
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פַּעַמִּים

3. *Sheb'chol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am echat; halailah hazeh, sh'tei f'amim.*

On all other nights, we don't dip even once. Why on this night do we dip twice?

4. שְׁבֹכֵל-הַלֵּילוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין בֵּין יוֹשְׁבִין וּבֵין מְסֻבִּין
הַלֵּילָה הַזֶּה בְּלָנוּ מְסֻבִּין

4. *Sheb'chol haleilot anu ochlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.*

On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining. Why on this night do we all recline?

Additionally, you can view this YouTube video of the prayer while it is being sung:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTld6OL31Uw>.

Congregations assist in rebuilding the Franklinton Center at Bricks

By Diane Rifkin

Congregants from Kol Ami partnered with the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ for the annual community service trip over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend to the Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitakers, North Carolina. This year, we were joined by congregants from the Congregational Church of Pinehurst, United Church of Christ in North Carolina. The Franklinton Center, a former slave plantation, was the site of one of the first accredited schools for African Americans in the South. Currently, the plantation is home to a conference, retreat, and educational facility that focuses on justice advocacy and leadership development. The Franklinton Center also serves the local community through various partner projects, including food justice and literacy outreach and programming.

In January, adult and youth volunteers focused on restoring, repairing, and rebuilding around the plantation. Crews were assembled to repair handicapped ramps, replace a kitchen countertop, construct new flooring in an entryway, and spackle the ceiling of the dining room. Additionally, different work crews power-washed the picnic tables and benches, repaired and replaced window sills, repaired the roof on the administration building, replaced bathroom fixtures, painted bathrooms and cabinets, removed and replaced water damaged ceiling tiles, ripped up water damaged carpeting and stained church pews and the pulpit in the chapel. Besides learning new skills, developing new friendships, and building respect for one another, volunteers at this year's Franklinton trip have become a part of the plantation's rich history.



Attendees from all three congregations.



Congregants from Kol Ami and the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ repair an entryway floor.

Committee News – Fundraising

David Silberman, Chair

The Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick Fundraising Committee has three goals: to raise money to support Kol Ami, to include as many congregants as possible to both plan and attend these events, and to have fun! The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at the UU to review past events, discuss upcoming events, and brainstorm and plan new events for the coming year.

During the past 6 months, we have had honey and Krispy Kreme doughnut sales, trivia night, the Jeannie Robertson concert, a Barnes & Noble bookfair, and a Super Bowl Party. Upcoming fundraising events include a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 6, the Stella and Dot sale on March 16, a pickleball tournament on April 28, Not-a Party mailing in April, Birthday Grams, another trivia night on May 4, operating a Frederick Keys craft beer booth during the baseball season and a trip to Hershey Park.

All these events are planned by the fundraising committee and are coordinated by one of its members.

For more information about the fundraising committee, how you can help, or any suggestions and ideas, contact David Silberman, Fundraising Committee Chair at dssilberman@aol.com.



Pictured from left: Fundraising committee members Harriet Buxbaum, Valarie Lazerowich, Ralene Damanti, Bertie Farbman, David Silberman, Ruth de la Viez, and Bob Blumenthal. Additional committee members include Samantha Leiberman, Anne Cohen, Sharry Veil, Jennifer Cohn, Judi Feldman, Michaela Black and Jessica Price.

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday March 5: 12:30 pm

Tuesday April 2: 12:30 pm

Tuesday May 7: 7:00 pm

Tuesday June 4: 12:30 pm

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 Paryshot for March and April are as follows:

March 2 – *Vayak-hel*, Exodus 35:1-38:20

Moses teaches the rules of Shabbat and asks the Israelites for a donation of gifts and those who are skilled to help build the Tabernacle.

March 9 – *Pekudei*, Exodus 38:1-40:38

With God’s instruction, Moses sets up the Tabernacle. Priests are anointed and consecrated. Description of cloud and fire which show God’s presence at the Tabernacle.

March 16 – *Vayikra*, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

God instructs Moses on the five different sacrifices to be offered in the sanctuary.

March 23 – *Tzav*, Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Details on performing the five sacrifices. Limitations on meat consumption. Ordination of Aaron and his sons as priests.

March 30 – *Shemini*, Leviticus 9:1-10:11

Two of Aaron’s sons offer “alien fire” to God, which is a permanent career-ender. Limitations on priestly behavior. Laws

to distinguish between pure and impure animals, birds, fish and insects.

April 6 – *Tazria*, Leviticus 12:1-13:59

Always a favorite. Rituals of purification for women after childbirth. Methods for treating skin diseases and purifying clothing.

April 13 – *Metsora*, Leviticus 14:1-15:33

The hits keep coming. Rituals to cure human skin conditions. Male and female impurities.

April 20 – *Yom Reshon shel Pesach*, Exodus 12:37-42, 13:3-10

Instruction to eat only unleavened bread during Pesach. Obligation to tell the Exodus story to our children each year.

April 27 – *Pesach continues with Acharei Mot I*, Leviticus 16:1-17:16

Yom Kippur laws for fasting and atonement and the ceremony of the scapegoat. Warnings against offering sacrifices outside the sanctuary and the consumption of blood.

Wish your friends a happy birthday and give to Kol Ami!

Kol Ami is excited to wish you, and those you care about, a very happy birthday!!! Please see the attached list of fellow congregants who are celebrating their birthdays in March and April.

All you have to do is cut out the list, place a check next to the name(s) of those you want to send a greeting, at \$1 per greeting.

For example, there are 10 celebrants you want to remember...just check the 10 names, and mail your check for \$10 (made out to “Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick”) to Judi Feldman, 5005 Small Gains Way, Frederick, Md. 21703.

Judi will send out a festive card to each recipient, with the names of those sending birthday wishes.

If you have any questions, please call Judi at (216) 402-5543.

Everyone likes to be remembered! This is a wonderful way to build a feeling of community and caring.

March Birthdays

Riley Duckhorn
Janine Egerman
Allan Feldman
Kori Fraunhoffer
Barri Hoffrichter
Jeff Lasko
Mary Cat Lasko
Dylan Lavo
Josh Lavo
Rebecca Lavo
Austin McMahan
Michele McMahan
Eliza Nelson
Sabrina Nail
Michael Rifkin
Joseph Yospin

April Birthdays

Michelle Anderson
Micheala Black
Lance Cary
Michael Cohen
Brady Duckhorn
Jonathan Gober
Jacob Gordon
Mark Hoffrichter
Dana Holman
Mitchell Lasko
Michael Lieberman
Betty Loeb
Betsy Maymon
Herbert Messite
Molly Sieger
Judy Simpson
Lisa Stickle
Mason Stickle
Adina Twenhafel
Jonah Twenhafel
Balian Vaughn

Keeping an Open Mind

By Kerry Reynolds

If one reads Torah regularly each year following the Jewish calendar, eventually you have a working knowledge of coming Biblical events and how you feel about the messages contained therein. And so, over time, there should not be many surprises, right? Not so fast.

Jews love to read the Book of Genesis because its stories are filled with interesting characters. Often the lessons in each *parsha* are complicated, but they have been analyzed by great minds for centuries, so you eventually have a road map on how to explain them to your children. When stuck, just ask the rabbi. Repeat the teachings often enough, and you start to think you have a fix on what the ancient writers intended.

This past December, Genesis drew to a close with three *parshiyot* on the life of Joseph. In the final chapters (*Vayyechi*, Chapter 47:28-50:26), Jacob dies in Goshen after blessing his children. His family and a retinue of Egyptian officials take his body to the Cave of Machpelah in Canaan to be buried with many of the patriarchs and matriarchs. After their return to Egypt, Joseph's brothers fear he will exact revenge for their mistreatment of him years before (Gen. 50). Readers are reminded of the closing scene of *The Godfather*.

Like many, I have long been turned off by the sibling performance. "Oh ye of little faith" leaps to mind, even if that is from another book. After Judah offered to sacrifice his life for Benjamin's in order to spare Jacob further heartache (Gen. 44), Joseph seemed to view his brothers in a new light. The family reunited in Goshen, and, in his capacity as Viceroy, Joseph assured their financial wellbeing. After years of familial harmony, the brothers' ongoing concern appears to brand them as total ingrates. This view is buttressed by several commentaries. The Soncino Torah, which I use, says (on page 190), "A notable example of the never-to-be-silenced voice of

the guilty conscience."

So, I have long felt comfortable in looking down my nose at those who tossed Joseph into the well years before and then doubted the sincerity of his forgiveness.

Recently, however, I had occasion to read a very different take on these scenes in the Art Scroll Torah used at Beth Sholom. On pages 287-88, it suggested viewing the events through a different lens. Could it be that Joseph's position as Viceroy was very tenuous – as evidenced by the fact that mourners taking Jacob's body to Machpelah were accompanied by scads of armed Egyptians while the Jewish children (and livestock) remained in Goshen to assure a speedy return? Jacob seemed to have great rapport with Pharaoh, but now that Jacob was gone, was it in the Israelites' interest for Joseph to be quite so tight with his brothers? And if they were to continue Shabbat dinners together, who now sat at the head of the table? By custom, it should be Reuben, but surely the Viceroy had to occupy that seat else he appear weak to the Egyptians. And if he did so, would it rekindle old resentments among his less-nuanced brethren? In short, there were real societal and political pressures on Joseph to hold the family more an arm's length. And if that happened, were his brothers totally wrong to be somewhat concerned about shifting circumstances?

The beauty of Torah is its dynamism, where teachings generally leave room for new thoughts. While some, like the Decalogue, are etched in stone, others are fair game for revisionist thinking. It does not mean you have to change your basic take on a given issue (I still think most of the brothers usually acted like dweebs), but it is imperative to realize others may have different views that, to them, are just as valid. Best of all, it is a rather humbling experience.

Chesed is Here for You!

From Ilene White Freedman, Chesed Coordinator

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

You may be surprised how willing our congregation is to help out. Helping you with a small or large task may be just the thing another member needs to make their day. Because sometimes *helping* helps people. So just ask!

Helping each other: Everyone wins!

- Someone *gets help* and feels so grateful...Someone else *gets to help* and feels so useful.

- Lend a hand. You never know when you will need some help yourself.
- You never know when the help you need is just the kind of thing someone else likes to do or will really benefit from doing. Then we are supporting each other.
- People get to know each other.
- Our congregation strengthens.

Contact Ilene Freedman, Chesed Coordinator, at chesed@kolamifrederick.org for more information or, when a situation arises, to set up a line of support. You can also directly access support at the new Facebook page called CKAF Community. It is a closed group, and you can post requests there. The Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick page is for event-related posts only, but this community page is for a broader interaction between members. So go ahead, put a shout out and see how we can help each other.

Advertise Your Business in the Voice

Six bimonthly issues of our congregational newsletter, *The Voice*, are sent to more than 300 families in Frederick County and the surrounding area. You can run your ad for an entire year or for any number of single issues. Electronic ads can be submitted to advertising@kolamifrederick.org. The closing date for each issue is the 15th day of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December). Ads received after that date will be deferred until the next issue, and the contract will begin then.

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

Join our New Member Mentor Program

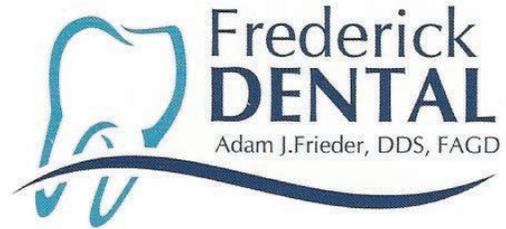
Be part of our New Member Mentor Program. The program will welcome new members to our congregation and help them meet people and get involved.

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

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

Mentors meet with the new member to make them feel welcome, to answer any questions they may have and find out what they would like to see in the future at Kol Ami.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Anne Cohen at membership@kolamifrederick.org to get your name on our mentor list.



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Congregation Kol Ami is participating in the "Amazon Smile" program! AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

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." For every purchase you make 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.

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.



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and Jess Forman, parents of Carolyn Plaisance
Michael & Diane Rifkin

Education Fund

Jeff & Mary Cat Lasko, in honor of the 7th grade class service

General Fund

Howard & Harriet Buxbaum, in memory of Meyer Paul Cohen,
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father of Amy Gordon
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grandfather of Amy Gordon
Scott & Amy Gordon, in memory of Anna Margaret Gordon,
grandmother of Scott Gordon
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Barry & Ellen Koitz, in memory of Freda Koitz,
mother of Barry Koitz
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father of Valarie Lazerowich
Steven & Valarie Lazerowich, in memory of Miriam Lazerowich,
mother of Steven Lazerowich

Steven & Valarie Lazerowich, in memory of Ida Zinn Madnick,
mother of Valarie Lazerowich
Michael & Lili Loube, in memory of Joseph Nahoum, father of
Liliane Loube (Michael), grandfather of Sabrina Nail (Charles),
and great grandfather of Joshua, Aaron, and Noah Nail.
Ken & Marsha Meehan
Joseph & Anne Miller, in memory of Leonard Miller,
father of Joseph Miller
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sister of Carolyn Plaisance
Kerry & Carol Reynolds, in memory of Herbert Harvey,
father of Carol Reynolds
Kerry & Carol Reynolds
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Sharry Veil
Dennis & Rachel Whitaker, in memory of Laura Brodsky,
mother of Rachel Whitaker

Membership Relief

Jeff Feiertag, in memory of Sol Danchik

Miller Camp Scholarship Fund

Jordan Schneider, in memory of David Goldstein,
grandfather of Jordan Schneider

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jordan Schneider, Thank you to Rabbi Stratford for a wonderful
December Dilemma Interfaith Event

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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.



4880 Elmer Derr Rd.
Frederick, MD 21703

Return Service Requested

March/April 2019 Upcoming Events

March

Fri, March 1	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, March 2	5:00 pm	Movies & Midrash: Gatekeepers
Sun, March 3	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, March 4	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, March 5	12:30 pm	Fundraising Committee Mtg.
	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, March 6	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
	7:00 am	Philadelphia Flower Show
Sun, March 10	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, March 11	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, March 12	7:00 pm	Interfaith Dinner & Discussion - Sacred Text on Tap
Wed, March 13	12:30 pm	Book Club
Thurs, March 14	7:00 pm	Communications and PR Mtg.
Fri, March 15	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, March 16	1:00 pm	Stella and Dot Fundraiser
Sun, March 17	9:30 am	Religious School- 5th grade parent workshop
Mon, March 18	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Sun, March 24	9:30 am	Religious School
	2:30 pm	Purim Party
Mon, March 25	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Mtg
Sun, March 31	9:30 am	Religious School

April

Mon, April 1	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Tues, April 2	12:30 pm	Fundraising Committee Mtg.
	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, April 3	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
Fri, April 5	6:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, April 7	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, April 8	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Wed, April 10	6:30 pm	Women's Seder
Thurs, April 11	7:00 pm	Communications and PR Mtg.
Sun, April 14	9:30 am	Religious School - 7th grade parent workshop
Mon, April 15	12:30 pm	Torah Study
Fri, April 19		Erev Pesach
Sat, April 20		First Day of Pesach
	6:00 pm	Annual 2nd Night Seder
Mon, April 22	12:30 pm	Torah Study
	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Mtg
Thurs, April 25-		
Sun, April 28		NFTY MAR's Spring Kallah
Fri, April 26		Last Day of Pesach
	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, April 27	5:00 pm	Interfaith Seder
Sun, April 28	9:30 am	Religious School
Mon, April 29	12:30 pm	Torah Study