



# The Voice

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

## From Rabbi Scott Sperling



Dear Kol Ami,

**A**s your new interim rabbi, I would like to introduce myself

to my new congregation. My name is Scott Sperling and I have been a rabbi for more than forty years. I grew up in Los Angeles and after graduating from UCLA, I went to rabbinic school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. I have served pulpits and organizations in Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington DC and New York and I retired in July after six years of serving Beth El Congregation in Winchester, VA. Some of Kol Ami's most veteran members may remember me as the URJ's Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Council and having been involved in Kol Ami's formation and affiliation with the URJ.

I have a few somewhat unusual elements to my background. I had a busy avocation as a writer/producer of films and television programs, as well as a long engagement with technology. I was a day school teacher

*continued on page 2*

### Our Mission

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

## Message from the President

By Joanna Sieger



**W**e read the Torah from start to finish every year and then start the whole process over. Why? Since we just read it

last year, why do it again so soon? Because ... our lives are different from the last time we read it. The *parshas* don't change, but the meaning we get from them does. We bring our life experiences to our reading. The *parshas* have a different meaning to us year after year. We read them with new – changed, if you will – eyes. Torah is always there. That doesn't change, but we do.

Change is a process, whether it's a personal or group effort. Change isn't always easy. Easy is keeping things the way they are. No learning anything new, no new rules, no new anything. Sometimes we fight change – it can be scary and so we avoid it. And then there are changes we go through without choice. Just think in terms of school – we all changed from elementary to middle to high school. We had different teachers, administrators, even counselors – the person who helped you solve your problems from year to year was rarely the same. And we all made it. Some of us even grew to realize that change was good. And change can even teach you how strong you really are.

Our congregation is going through change. We didn't ask for it, but we got it. Kol Ami has had to deal with a serious blow, and I by no means wish to minimize its significance. The unexpected departure of a rabbi is huge. It prompts questions,

doubt, and fear. For our community – it has also prompted action. We have had many congregants step in to help. I would name them here, but I fear I might leave someone off the list.

In the past month, we replaced our 7-10th grade teachers, we have a new PJ Library coordinator with plans for monthly events, we formed a rabbinical search committee and we pulled off a Hanukkah party without a chairperson. Eric Dubbin took the lead at services, coordinating with Rabbi Sperling. Grant Lieberman became a Bar Mitzvah, and if you didn't know Rabbi Sperling was a stand-in, you never would've guessed it. Our major fundraiser of the year needed a new theme, and the fundraising committee jumped into action so that now we are celebrating all the past presidents who helped make this congregation what it is today. Our Torah Study participants are continuing with their weekly readings. We had our first – in a long time – “Girls Night Out” with 25 women in attendance. And this is but a fraction of what has been going on lately at Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick.

You'll often hear me saying that it takes a village. It's not just a saying to me – I truly believe it. Human beings were not meant to roam the earth alone.

Kol Ami is here. We will continue, and we have already proven we are a strong group of congregants who are willing to help. Our village will persevere through the rough times and we will come out stronger. I believe we already are.

I am so proud to be part of this village.

## From Rabbi Scott Sperling

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in Seattle where I ran the computer/multi-media lab along with teaching Middle School social studies. During the last few years of my tenure with the URJ, I consulted with congregations across the country regarding technology and social media.

My wife, Laura, is a professional musician (flutes and recorders) who spent more than 20 years running preschool music and movement programs. She retrained several years ago and now works as a therapeutic musician. We've been married for nearly 42 years and have two adult children, Margit and Eli. Margit is an English teacher and tour guide in Madrid, Spain where she has lived for almost 10 years. Eli works at the Institute for the Study of Modern Israel at Emory University in Atlanta and is a doctoral candidate at Ben Gurion University in Israel. He has a master's degree in Mid-East History from Tel Aviv University, as well.

I hope to bring the full range of my experience to my time with Kol Ami and I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming months. I will be readily available via phone and email and will be setting up appointments in Kol Ami's office as needed. Please don't hesitate to be in touch!

At difficult moments in our lives, we may turn to our tradition

for comfort and solace, as well to challenge us to pick up our eyes and look off into the future. At this time of year, we are making the transition from our reading of Genesis to the Book of Exodus. No biblical figure is more important than Joseph to our being reminded of how our troubles can lead us to an unexpected and positive place in our lives. Let us remember how Joseph, as he reconciles with his brothers, tells them and by extension all that read his story, that the entirety of his life had a purpose designated by God and worked through human beings for God's unique purpose. My late mother lived by the notion that there is a purpose to all that happens to us and that it is *b'shert* (fate) that it will all work out in the end. It is very, very hard sometimes to hold that idea up and believe it to be true. Our tradition also teaches us that we must be partners with God and each other in working out that purpose. I hope and pray that you will let me and your congregation's leadership join with you to seek out the next phase in the life of Congregation Kol Ami.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Scott Sperling

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## From your Religious School Director

Sabrina Nail



In religious school, we teach that Hanukkah celebrates many different things including the victory of the few over the many, triumph by our people, the need to fight assimilation and the miracle of the oil. But what I think Hanukkah ultimately represents is hope, and hope is something we need. Hope is *tikvah* in

Hebrew.

The lighting of the Hanukkah candles is about adding light during the darkest times of the year with gray skies and gloomy weather. This holiday reminds us that the lights must always be kindled, that hope can still be ignited. The lighting of the candles brings us hope. Hillel argued that the lighting should not reflect what actually happened, but our hope in the future. With each passing night, the light should increase to illustrate that the future can always be brighter than the past.

Our students have had great memories of learning and guidance with Rabbi Dan. We must teach our children to treasure the past but have *tikvah* for the future. With the change of our Rabbinical leadership, we have the opportunity to look at this situation with excitement and hope! We now have the ability to influence the future of our congregation. To help re-create Kol Ami. We can demonstrate to our children that WE can make the future brighter. Please share with me or any board member your ideas and what you hope to see Kol Ami become in the future.

As Hanukkah approaches, *tikvah* is in the air. The lights of our menorah remind us that the future can indeed be brighter than the past.

So let's spin the dreidel, eat the latkes, and sing the *shechianu* blessing for a re-invented Congregation Kol Ami. Happy Hanukkah!



Right: 4th grade Torah detectives, fun at religious school.  
Below: Sukkot activities.



## From our President, Joanna Sieger

Why did Rabbi Sikowitz leave?

I feel we would be remiss if this were not addressed here. I have fielded many emails on the subject – most in support of myself and the board; some not supportive at all. I've also received anonymous notes asking why we can't forgive the Rabbi his mistake.

Here's what I want you to know.

Once Rabbi Sikowitz came forward to me with the fact that he had violated the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) code of ethics, and was planning to continue to do so, this decision was out of our hands. He knew it; we knew it. He knew he would have to leave. Do I think he wanted to? I cannot speak for him. Was there a rush to judgment? That's not my call or the board's. There are systems in place, rules Rabbis agree to, and those rules were broken.

Actions have consequences. As I teach my children – sometimes saying you're sorry doesn't fix it.

Many of you are angry. And while I wholeheartedly understand, please try to keep in mind that we have no staff. Your leadership and administrators are volunteers who have jobs and families as well. This didn't just happen to you... it happened to us as well. It's not a job we asked for or even expected when any of us agreed to serve our congregation.

This task is huge and we are invested to prevail. We welcome your comments, questions or suggestions – hopefully with solutions. I simply ask that you please be kind.



## From our 7th Grade Religious School Class

The Seventh Grade class recently discussed the story of the *Akeidah*, the Binding of Isaac. After some interesting discussion, the students were asked to write a letter as it may have been written from one of those involved to another. Here are some of their writings.

Dear Abraham,

I am sorry for the pain I might have caused you while telling you to sacrifice the one thing you have loved the most. The only reason why I told you to do so was so that I know you are true to My commandments. I realize now that the reward I gave you does not fit the request I asked of you. Tell your son, Isaac, my apology. For I now know that he must have gone through so much fear. I do not want you or him to fear Me, but to respect and look up to Me. I know that you waited for Isaac for so long and I shall never ask of you something like this again. Please forgive me.

—God

Dear Dad,

I don't understand why I was so easy to give up. If you could explain it to me and help me understand why you did this to me, your only son, maybe I won't be so devastated. I am your son and you were willing to kill me, take advantage of our bond and use it to kill me for a sacrifice to God. What if God didn't stop you? What would you have told Mom? God told you to? I don't understand and I hope you apologize and explain to me because until then I don't want to talk to you, see you or even hear you. I don't want to have to think about the fact that my own father tried to murder me. I would never betray you like that, so why would you betray me?

—Isaac

Dear Dad,

Why did you betray me? You were going to sacrifice me, for what? You didn't even ask any questions, you just decided okay and told me to come worship with you. You wanted me to worship God, the one that told you to sacrifice me. How dare you! How dare you betray me and not tell me that God was making you sacrifice me. I am ashamed of you. I thought you loved me. How will I ever trust you again? Somehow, some way, you are going to have to make this up to me.

—Isaac

**Join us for the 7th grade class service  
on February 24.**

**Please welcome new members!**

Colt and Micheala Black  
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## Fundraising Update

**By Jessica Price, Fundraising Vice President**

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Kol Ami at our Holiday Shopping Extravaganza in November! Stay tuned for a spring shopping event!

The fundraising committee has been working very diligently planning Kol Ami's b'nai mitzvah! Please mark your calendar for our formal celebration (and note the change in date) for May 13, 2017. This event will take place from 8 pm to 12 am at the Buckeystown Pike Hampton Inn and will feature dancing, dinner, silent auction and many other fun events! We are still looking for people to help gather donations from local businesses. If you are able to help, please contact Jessica at [fundraisingvp@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:fundraisingvp@kolamifrederick.org).

## PART-TIME RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND MUSIC TEACHER

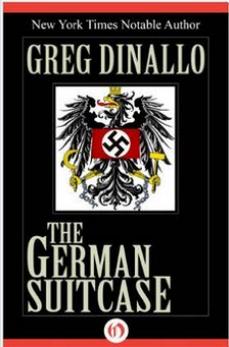
We are looking for part-time teachers and a music teacher for our religious school. Do you enjoy working with children? Are you free two Sundays a month? For more information, please contact Sabrina Nail at [education@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:education@kolamifrederick.org)

## 2017 Kol Ami Membership Directory

Work has begun on the 2017 Kol Ami Membership directory. Please check last year's directory to make sure your information is correct. If there are any changes or updates, please email these to Anne Cohen at [membership@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:membership@kolamifrederick.org).

## Upcoming Events

### Kol Ami Book Club



Wed. Jan. 11 at 12:30 pm  
Macaroni Grill at Westview

*The German Suitcase*  
by Greg Dinallo

For a synopsis of the book and to  
RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami>

### Women's Coffee Wednesday, Jan. 4 and Feb. 1, 2017

10:00 am at Panera on Route 26

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

### Join us for services at the UU!

January 6 and 20  
February 3 and 24

### Help Wanted

- 2016-17 Religious School Substitute Teachers
- 2017-2018 Religious School Teachers
- Purim Party Chair/committee
- 5778 High Holiday volunteers
- Tot Shabbat Service Captain(s)

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

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

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

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

### Kol Ami Brotherhood

Interested in an evening out with the guys? The Kol Ami Brotherhood meets on the first Tuesday each month for dinner and a sign-up is announced via e-mail the week beforehand. This is a low-key event — no meetings, just a nosh.

January's brotherhood dinner will be held at:

Chili's  
5100 Pegasus Ct  
(near the movie theatre)  
Tuesday, January 3 at 6:30 pm

Interested? Please sign up so we have an accurate count:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J6G9P8S>

For more information, please contact Jeff Feiertag via email at [brotherhood@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:brotherhood@kolamifrederick.org).



Feeding Frederick's future, one child at a time

### PLEASE HELP FEED FREDERICK'S CHILDREN

You can help solve the problem of food insecurity among Frederick's low income children by donating to *Blessings in a Backpack*, Frederick Schools. These children depend on Free And Reduce-priced Meals in school as their primary source of nutrition, but "What do they do on the weekend?"

There are several ways to help...sponsoring a child, donating food, helping us pack or distribute backpacks. If you have any questions please contact Hermine at [fredherm2@comcast.net](mailto:fredherm2@comcast.net) or 301-788-7116.

**The more money we raise, the more food we collect, the more children we can feed.**

**Please understand that we can only accept food that is on our list. See Frederick, MD Blessings Facebook page for list.**

It costs only \$100 to feed one child each weekend for an entire school year. Please give what you can and if you are able, please sponsor one or more children. Checks may be mailed c/o Hermine Bernstein, 4957 Flossie Ave., Frederick, MD 21703. Thank you very for your continued generosity and support.

Forever Youngsters (Empty Nesters)

is hosting a

## SUPER BOWL PARTY

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Sunday, February 5, 2017

Party Kickoff - 6:00

(To give you time join in the 'football pool'.  
Squares will be sold for \$5.00 ea.)

100 squares need to be sold, so please sell squares to family & friends!

\$250.00 will be won at the party

1st & 3rd quarter winner...\$25.00

half-time winner...\$75.00

Final winner...\$125.00

\$250.00 will be donated to the temple

Game Kickoff - 6:30 approx.

Price of admission...

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - \$20.00 per member when check received by 1.10.17

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THE GAME

&

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## The Parashyot for January and February are as follows:

### **Jan 7 - Vayigash/And [Judah] Approached [Joseph], Genesis 44:18-47:27**

Judah now approached him and said, “By your leave, my lord, please give your servant a hearing, and do not let your anger flare up at your servant—for you are like Pharaoh.” —Genesis 48:18

### **Jan 14 - Va-y’chi/ [Jacob] Lived, Genesis 47:28–50:26**

Jacob lived in the land of Egypt for 17 years; Jacob’s days—the years of his life—were 147. —Genesis 47:28

### **Jan 21 - Sh’mot/Names, Exodus 1:1–6:1**

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each coming with his household: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. —Exodus 1:1-4

### **Jan 28- Va-eira I/(God) Appeared [to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob], Exodus 6:2–9:35**

God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Eternal.” —Exodus 6:2

### **Feb 4- Bo/Go [to Pharaoh], Exodus 10:1-13:16**

Then the Eternal One said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh. For I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his courtiers, in order that I may display these My signs among them.” —Exodus 10:1

### **Feb 11 - B’shalach/Now When [Pharaoh] Let [the People] Go, Exodus 13:17-17:16**

Now when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearer; for God said, “The people may have a change of heart when they see war, and return to Egypt.” —Exodus 13:17

### **Feb 18 - Yitro/Jethro, Exodus 18:1–20:23**

Jethro, priest of Midian, Moses’ father-in-law, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel, God’s people, how the Eternal had brought Israel out from Egypt. —Exodus 18:1

### **Feb 25 - Mishpatim/[These Are the] Rules, Exodus 21:1-24:18**

These are the rules that you shall set before them. —Exodus 21:1

## Atonement, and Redemption, in Torah

by Kerry Reynolds

There clearly are times in this life when every one of us falls short of the mark, sometimes in spectacular (or even Biblical) fashion. If we all were perfect, there’d be no need for Judaism, or for Torah. Our shortcomings may be inconsiderate thoughts, words designed to harm, or unethical deeds which, once performed, cannot be returned to the proverbial toothpaste tube.

For the past two months, weekly Torah portions have told the stories of our patriarchs and matriarchs. We honor their memory in synagogue services and bless our children at Shabbat dinner with wishes they emulate their famous forebears. And yet ...

Father Abraham handed over his wife to other men on two occasions (to Pharaoh in Gen. 12:15 and Abimelech in Gen. 20:2), allowed Sarah to pressure him to cast his oldest son into the Wilderness, and went through the motions of slaughtering Isaac when he heard God ask it (Gen. 22:1-18). Jacob stole his brother’s inheritance (at Rebecca’s urging), and one reading of Gen. 27:5-29 suggests Isaac probably was complicit. Leah married Jacob through a ruse (Gen. 29:20-27); then he ignored their many children for the duration. Joseph was spoiled rotten by Rachel and Jacob, so Judah (who gave us our name) joined his brothers is tossing the snooty little twerp into a deep pit (Gen. 37:23-24). Good role models, eh?

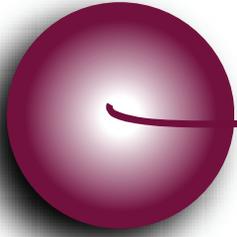
Atonement comes in many forms. Most Reform Jews don’t believe in an Interventionist God, yet some form of payback surely came for all the Great Ones. There’s a suggestion that Abraham’s son rarely spoke to him after the Akeda, Isaac never saw Jacob after the brother-in-sheep’s-clothing incident, Jacob

(in turn) was duped by Leah and her dad and spent years thinking his favorite son was slain, and Joseph was left for dead in a deep hole and, later, incarcerated on bogus charges. Lots of time to contemplate their failings.

Adonai made sure the patriarchs/matriarchs paid their dues, but that was also before Torah, before Judaism. Today, we have Yom Kippur to focus our minds on atonement. As we’ve been taught, it’s not enough to beat our breasts before God; whenever possible we’re called upon to try to make it right to those injured by our personal grenades. If that’s not possible, another form of service is appropriate.

Redemption doesn’t appear to be such a codified feature of Judaism as it is in Christianity, but it’s still what we all seek at the end – isn’t it? We discuss it on Pesach in the context of our return from Mitzrayim, but each of us navigates his/her own path toward personal redemption each and every day. That knowledge should give one pause before speaking ill of others.

I wrote last time about Torah as theater. As we read our way through Genesis, we realized the “heroes” may have had feet of clay (just as we), but many also had moments when they did something truly exceptional and may even have spoken with God. We call ourselves Jews because of the tribe of Judah. On January 7, the Torah passage will be Vayiggash and we will experience the glorious moment in Gen. 44 when Judah – rising to the occasion and not knowing to whom he was speaking – offered up his life as surety for his younger brother Benjamin. I hope none of us is called upon to do anything so perilous, but the model is there for all Jews each day of our lives.



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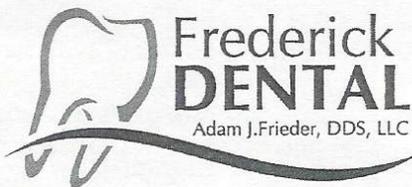
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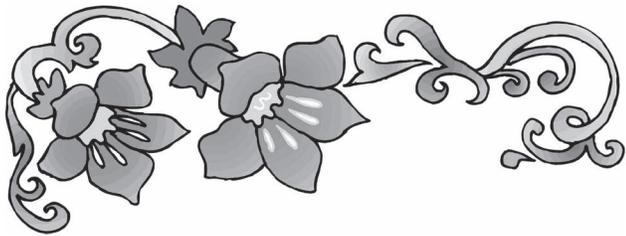
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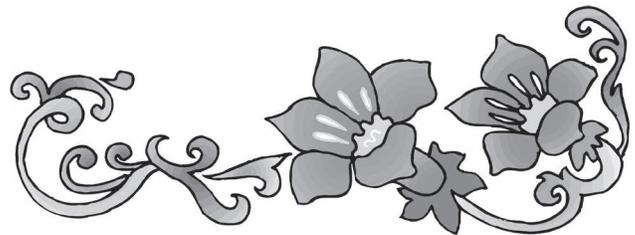
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*Who can number the sands of the sea,  
the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?*  
—Ben Sira 1:2

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Board meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month, unless that Monday is a holiday, at the office. Please check our website for exact dates and address.

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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](mailto: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 Hermine Bernstein at [advertising@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:advertising@kolamifrederick.org) or call (240) 575-9690 with any questions, advertising rates, and to arrange a contract.

## Did you know the *Voice* Pays for Itself?

In our recent congregational communication survey, there were comments that the congregation could save money by only publishing the *Voice* online. However, since some congregants prefer it mailed to their doors in hard copy, we have continued to do so. Thanks to our generous advertisers, the congregation incurs no additional costs for printing and mailing of the *Voice*. Ads cover all of the expenses!

**A huge THANK YOU to all of our advertisers for their support! And thank you to Hermine Bernstein, our advertising editor!**

## Are you receiving the Bulletin in your inbox?

If for any reason you aren't receiving the Bulletin, please let Anne Cohen know at [membership@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:membership@kolamifrederick.org).

## Our Post Office Box is Closed

Our PO Box is now closed. Please use our office address for correspondence: 182 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 204, Frederick, MD 21702. If you have previously sent something to the PO Box, it should have been forwarded by USPS to the office.

## Join us for our Torah Study!

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.  
Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at the office.

January 9, 16, 23 and 30 February 6, 13, 20 and 27

## Support Kol Ami! Shop on Amazon.com



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](http://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 CKAF! 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](http://kolamifrederick.org) and find the link on the home page to start your holiday shopping.

## Donations

### General Fund

Bertha Bobrow

Anne and Michael Cohen, in honor of Harriet and Howard  
Buxbaum' new home

Jeff Feiertag and family, in honor of Walker Tollefson's Bar Mitzvah

Bernard and Betty Loeb, in honor of the birth of Eleanor May  
Baxstresser

Bernard and Betty Loeb, in honor of Harriet and Howard  
Buxbaum' new home

Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in recognition of the capital  
campaign for 2016-17 operating expenses

Hans and Jennifer Mykytyn, in honor of the birth of Eleanor May  
Baxstresser

Charles and Sabrina Nail

Daniel and Joanna Sieger

David and Brenda Silberman

### High Holiday Donations

Ilene Baranowitz

Bernard Bordenick

Ruth de La Viez

Jodi and Ed Duckhorn

William and Jeannie Fawley

Duane and Ilise Haldeman

Richard and Frannie Kessler

Theodore Kligman

Barry and Ellen Koitz

Mary Cat and Jeff Lasko

Michael and Samantha Lieberman

Timothy and Debra Manetz

Betsy and Jeff Maymon

Newt and Carolyn Plaisance

Edward and Cristina Prenskey

Tina B. Prenskey

Jaques and Cathy Reifman

Kerry and Carol Reynolds

David and Tracy Shavell

Bertram Sikowitz

David and Brenda Silberman

Dennis and Rachel Whitaker

### High Holiday Book and Yizkor Book Donations

Eric and Susan Dubbin

Newt and Carolyn Plaisance

### Membership Relief

Jeff Feiertag, in memory of Bernard Resnick

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ruth de La Viez

Debbie Phillips, in honor of the marriage of Lauren and Jason  
Schatz

### Yahrzeits

Bob Blumenthal

Ralene Damanti, in memory of Fradell and Nathan Newitz

Eileen Dunnell, in memory of Mina Horwitz

Mark Farbman, in memory of Hilda Farbman

Scott Gordon, in memory of Lawrence Entis

Jennifer Mykytyn, in memory of grandmother Lena Goldblatt

Prenskey Household, in memory of Clara Blutt, Edward Gochman,  
and Louis Prenskey

Edward Prenskey, in memory of Clara Blutt, Edward Gochman,  
Louis Prenskey and Arthur Gochman

Tina B. Prenskey, in memory of Arthur Gochman

George and Julie Saxon, in memory of Irene Harris

Daniel Sikowitz, in memory of nephew Jacob Vogelman

## Need Financial Assistance?

As announced in the last few editions of the *Voice*, financial assistance applications are not being accepted past November 1 this fiscal year, except in extreme situations (which include job loss, family death, etc).

The financial assistance committee, with the support of the Board of Trustees, made this change for two reasons: Firstly, it will allow us to know how much help we really need to give, instead of having those financial obligations sneaking up on us. Secondly, we need a better, more realistic accounting of how much money will be in the budget for the rest of the year (as compared with the forecasted amount established by the Budget and Finance Committee the previous spring). It's difficult to make plans and decisions when we don't really know how much money will actually be in the bank at the end of the year.

Since the first days of Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick it has been our fundamental value that no one should be

denied membership for financial reasons. However, helping members with their CKAF expenses such as dues, tuition and B'nai Mitzvah fees requires effective communication on both sides. We can't help you if you do not ask. If you do not ask, we assume your financial obligations to the congregation will be met without fail. If you do need assistance, please contact us by November 1. We do not want to embarrass anyone and we do not ask for financial records, as some temples do. We merely ask that if you need help, you let us know by November 1.

We cannot stress enough: If you face an unexpected financial hardship that will affect your ability to pay your obligations to the synagogue, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will work with you. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know ([financialsecretary@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:financialsecretary@kolamifrederick.org)).

Additionally, if you can support a member thru hard times, we welcome donations to our Membership Relief Fund.



182 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 204  
 Frederick, MD 21702

**Return Service Requested**

**January and February 2017 Upcoming Events**

**January**

Jan 1	NO Religious School - Winter Break	
Jan 3	Brotherhood dinner	6:30 pm
Jan 4	Women's Coffee	10:00 am
Jan 6	Tot Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
Jan 6	Erev Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
Jan 8	Religious School	9:30 am
Jan 9	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Jan 11	Book Club	12:30 pm
Jan 13-Jan 16	Trip to Franklinton (Fri. through Mon.)	
Jan 15	NO Religious School - MLK Weekend	
Jan 16	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Jan 20	Erev Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
Jan 22	Religious School	9:30 am
Jan 23	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Jan 23	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Jan 29	Religious School	9:30 am
Jan 30	Torah Study	12:30 pm

**February**

Feb 1	Women's Coffee	10:00 am
Feb 3	Tot Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
Feb 3	Erev Shabbat Service	7:30 pm
Feb 5	Religious School	9:30 am
	5th/6th Grade Parent Project	
Feb 5	Empty Nester's Superbowl party	6:00 pm
Feb 6	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Feb 7	Brotherhood dinner	6:30 pm
Feb 12	Religious School	9:30 am
	2nd Grade Parent Project	
Feb 13	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Feb 19	NO Religious School - President's Weekend	
Feb 20	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Feb 24	Erev Shabbat Service - 7th grade class service and Scout Shabbat	7:30 PM
Feb 26	Religious School	9:30 am
Feb 27	Torah Study	12:30 pm
Feb 27	Board Meeting	7:00 pm