



The Voice

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

An Exploration of Gratitude

Rabbi Simon Stratford



A few weeks ago, we began reading the book of Exodus, the second of the five books of Moses. The book of Exodus is a riveting narrative

that tells of the Israelites' journey from enslaved persons in Egypt to a nation of chosen people, under the leadership of Moses. The ten plagues are central to the story of the Exodus. Without them, neither Pharaoh, the Israelites, nor even Moses, would have been convinced of God's power. Whereas Moses is the mouthpiece of God and the leader of the Israelite people, when we take a closer look at the narrative of the ten plagues, we see there is a discrepancy in the text from one verse to the next. This discrepancy offers us the opportunity to explore what our tradition teaches us about gratitude.

In Exodus 7:17, God tells Moses to say to Pharaoh, "I will strike the water

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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.

Loss for Words

Message from Dan Sieger, President



When I started to think about writing this article, a tragedy happened, and I was at a loss of words. It was a helicopter accident that claimed the life of

Kobe Bryant. I am the first to tell you that I am not an NBA fan or even a basketball fan. I, of course, knew who Kobe Bryant was and how he went right from high school to the NBA. He won 5 NBA championships and then he was the executive producer of an animated short, based on a letter he wrote when he retired, that won an Oscar. He was really making a name for himself after basketball.

It was originally announced that Kobe had died in the accident. Then as more and more information came out about the accident, it was added that his daughter was with him. As a father, it really hit me that they were together when it happened. Then it was announced that there were a total of nine aboard the helicopter when it went down. It was finally reported that Kobe and his daughter Gianna, John and Keri Altobelli and their daughter Alyssa (Gianna's teammate), Sarah Chester and her daughter, Payton (another teammate of Gianna), Christina Mauser and pilot Ara Zobayan were the victims. It was natural to see the reports that Kobe died and eight others ... then Kobe, his daughter and seven others died. He was the name everyone knew.

What really got to me was that of those nine people, three were children. I thought

about what would have gone through my head, if I had been Kobe, in that situation. Sitting next to or across from my daughter, knowing that the crash was about to happen. I could only think of one thing that would have been worse: to be Vanessa Bryant, to have lost your husband and child. Knowing that you were not there to comfort your daughter, to tell her that she would be ok and to do something, anything that could have prevented or saved her after the accident. It really got to me – it took me a while to get back into the right head space to write this. The Kobe Bryant incident made me remember another celebrity whose death, by his own hand, really shook me to the core.

Anthony Bourdain was a celebrity chef turned author and television host. I really enjoyed his personality and what he brought to me in those shows. Joanna would always ask me, "Why do you watch those shows? You will never cook or eat those foods." She was right, but through Anthony, I was cooking and eating those foods. His death in 2018 really got to me, like no one had before.

So, after a few days, I was ready to sit down and write an article about how we need to volunteer more, get together more, and find ways to raise more money for the congregation. But then, I was at a loss of words, again.

For those of you who attended the Yom Kippur service and heard me talk about those two individuals with cancer, I am happy to say that the beautiful young seventeen-year-old is still battling and

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From Rabbi Simon Stratford

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in the Nile with the rod that is my hand, and it will be turned into blood." Yet two verses later, we read that it is Aaron, not Moses, who activates the plague of Blood. The 11th-century medieval commentator Rashi poses the question, why does Aaron enact the plague of Blood and not Moses? Rashi's explanation, "Since the Nile protected Moses when he was cast into it, it was not smitten by him, neither with blood nor with frogs, but [the Nile] was smitten by Aaron [and therefore, turned into Blood] (Tanchuma Va'era 14)." Rashi's commentary offers us insight as to what it means to express gratitude to not only other people in our lives but also the importance of showing appreciation to the objects or non-human pieces of our lives.

Gratitude is an essential value in Jewish tradition, and more often than not, we tend not to express our gratitude for

the people and things in our lives. The philosopher Bachya Ibn Pekuda wrote in his work, *Duties of the Heart*, about the human tendency not to appreciate our blessings and not to express our thanks. He writes it is because:

- 1) We quickly get used to our comforts and seek more.
- 2) We take our life and the people and things around us for granted: our home, a safe neighborhood, our beating heart.
- 3) We focus on the negative. We notice the mistakes of the people around us, but not the positive things that they do for us.

Bachya was writing in Spain in the eleventh century, but his words still ring true for us today. Far too often, we don't take the time to count the blessings in our lives. In times of personal difficulty, we can choose to dwell solely on the

negative or consider the big picture and remind ourselves that momentary setbacks and challenges are a part of being human, and we can become stronger as a result of experiencing life's difficulties.

In the Talmud, the rabbi asked, "What is a blessing?" The answer provided is that a blessing is words of acknowledgment and action bestowal of prosperity. The Talmud adds "every pleasing thing requires a blessing (BT, Brachot 35)". Consider taking the time to think individually or share with family or friends three things for which you are grateful: a person in your life for whom you are thankful, an object in your life for which you are appreciative, and a challenge or a difficulty in your life that is worth appreciation. Regular expression of gratitude is an excellent practice to incorporate into our daily lives.

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From the President

Continued from page 1

holding strong. However, the other one, the forty-five-year-old scientist, husband and father of three young children, lost his fight with brain cancer on February 10. I was again shaken and distracted as I sat down in another attempt to write my message for the *Voice*. He fought to the end...

I just don't know what to write. How can I express what people mean to me, some of whom I never met and one, I was lucky enough to call 'friend?' These individuals have forever changed me. So, don't take what you have or who you know for granted.

Get Involved

A letter to my Community, Joanna Sieger

A story about Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody: there was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it. But Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick is made up of volunteers. We have no staff - no paid employees - only the Rabbi, Cantorial Soloist, Education Director and teachers. And all of those people are members of the community. There is no outside help. Those people, in addition to our board and committee chairs, are in those positions because they want to be - it's not for the money. And many of those people hold more than one position in the synagogue - because there was a need, and they came forward to fill it. They are all working for the community - for you. If you're enjoying your experience, please praise those working for you. A simple word of encouragement is very appreciated. Unhappy about something, get involved and work toward a solution. We are all in this together. No one leaves that day and separates from their job because they are part of the community. It affects all of us - good and bad.

I encourage you to get involved. We have so many wonderful things we want do to, and we need you to do them. We need everyone, and everyone's voice is important. Don't know how to get involved? Contact me, pastpresident@kolamifrederick.org. I can help you. Or visit our website kolamifrederick.org/get-involved.

Forever Youngsters Celebrated a Caring and Sharing Hanukkah

Judi Feldman

Thirty Forever Youngsters gathered and enjoyed an 'ugly Hanukkah sweater' Caring and Sharing Hanukkah party. The evening began with a beautiful Havdalah service led by Rabbi Leila. The group then enjoyed a deli dinner complemented by a variety of delicious and unique potato pancakes. The sweets of the evening were home-baked cookies. After dinner, everyone was presented with an envelope containing all of the cookie recipes that were enjoyed at the party. A lively white elephant gift exchange followed. Believe it or not, the most desirable gift was a Pyrex casserole dish. You would think at our age we would prefer a gift card to a restaurant. A vital part of our sharing was a large suitcase that was overflowing with items that were taken to SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) to be shared with those homeless students in Frederick County.



Upcoming Events

Tuesdays, March 3 and April 7 Brotherhood Dinners

Join us for the upcoming Brotherhood dinners.

Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 pm

Kittiwat Thai Kitchen

5205 Presidents Ct. (near Manalu)

Frederick, MD 21704

Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 pm

Location TBD

Interested and able to join us? Please RSVP, using the following link so that we have an accurate head count:

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

Join us for Torah Study

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.

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

(March 2 and April 6 is at Buckingham's Choice)

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Women's Coffee

Wednesdays, March 4 and April 1

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: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-monthly>

The Sisterhood Book Club

Wednesday, March 11 at 12:30 p.m.

Note New Location:

Old Dominion Grill And Sushi

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



**Mrs. Everything
by Jennifer Weiner**

Go the following link to RSVP and read a synopsis of the book:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami2>

MOVIES & MIDRASH

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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 14, 2020: A PRICE ABOVE RUBIES (1998)

MAY 9, 2020: EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED (2005)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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

KATY'S CORNER

**SAVE THESE
DATES**

**MARCH 13TH - 15TH
SHABBAT WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH
TIME: TDB**

**REGISTRATION VIA
BULLETIN OR WEBSITE
CALENDAR**

**A PERIODIC PUBLICATION REGARDING
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE YOUTH
OF CONGREGATION KOL AMI &
FRIENDS**

March 13th - 15th, 2020

NFTY-MAR TheVent

Open to 8th - 12th Graders)

Join dozens of your peers from across the region and take part in a transformational Shabbat experience.

"Escape This" Escape Room

A live-action adventure game where you and your friends compete to find clues, solve puzzles, and escape the room within 60 minutes.

**CONTACT RABBI SIMON STRATFORD WITH
QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS**

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Casey Wehr
March 21, 2020

Casey is the daughter of Hannah and Duane Wehr and sister of Jenna. She is in seventh grade at Urbana Middle School. For the last two years Casey has participated on the Science Olympiad team at Urbana Middle School. She competes in events like Meteorology, Density Lab, and Mission Possible. She will be representing her school in the state competition on April 4th.

In her spare time Casey enjoys riding horses, playing softball, and participating in her school's Science Olympiad team. On most Saturdays, Casey can be found at the Urbana Riding Club, either side-walking for younger riders or taking part in her own lessons. Casey has played softball for three years, honing her skills in a variety of positions including first base and pitcher. She is a loving owner of a puppy, Bailey, and guinea pig, Chase.



Liam Berkowitz
April 4, 2020

Liam is the son of Beth and Jared Berkowitz and brother to Maya. He is in 7th grade at Urbana Middle School. Liam enjoys playing golf, basketball, and skiing.

He loves reading, math, and watching movies in his free time. He's learned a lot this year from Rabbi Simon and his Sunday School teacher, Miss Sam!



Cody Jase Duckhorn
April 18, 2020

Cody is the son of Jodi and Ed Duckhorn and brother of Riley and Brady. He is a 7th grader at Windsor Knolls Middle School. Cody loves all animals (mammals, birds, and marine life), especially dinosaurs! The family dog, a Tibetan terrier named Simon, is 11 this year. Cody loves chatting with friends online as they play Minecraft and Roblox. He enjoys tennis and has been going to Camp Airy for four summers. For his mitzvah project, Cody raised money for people to attend Camps Airy and Louise.

Please stay tuned to the weekly Bulletin for details about the following upcoming events:

2nd Night Passover Seder
Yom Hashoah program - April 26

Reminder from Rabbi Stratford about the World Zionist Congress

The World Zionist Congress elections are here, and it is time to have our voices heard in Israel! Each and every vote from our congregation is crucial to maintaining a strong Reform presence. This is our chance to combat the discrimination the Reform Movement faces in Israel. Together we can grow our Reform Movement and work towards making progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom, equality, and many more.

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020. Go to: www.ZionistElection.org and click on 'Register & Vote'. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society.

Kol Ami supports Frederick County youth through SHIP



Tricia Kennedy

Thank you to Congregation Kol Ami for your generous donations of personal hygiene items to Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership! These donations will be stored and delivered throughout the year to homeless youth in Frederick County. Your donations are crucial for the health and wellbeing

of homeless youth. Read more about SHIP at <https://shipfrederick.com/about-us/>

SHIP provides emergency, short and term housing to homeless youth who are ineligible for foster care services. Learn more about SHIP's Thrive housing program and volunteer opportunities at <https://shipfrederick.com/thrive/>.

Join us for Services at the UU!

March 6, 20, 21 and April 3, 4, 17, 18

Fundraising Events



Members, family and friends of Kol Ami, you are cordially invited, and encouraged, to participate in our March Madness brackets pool! The input of all data will be done via a March Madness website. Specific details will follow. This is an all synagogue fundraiser and it's fun ... Everyone can participate! We are just 'guessing' and hoping we are right, upsets happen all the time! Participation fee is \$20 per person. All funds go directly to Kol Ami. Internet involvement is free. Payout will be as follows ... 50% payout (1st - 60%, 2nd - 25%, 3rd - 15%) and 50% to benefit the synagogue. Watch for details ... Coming soon!

Trivia Night Fundraiser



Our next Trivia Night will take place on Saturday, **April 18** at the Urbana Clubhouse.

Create a team of 8, or we will place you with some "trivia experts"! Come find

out why trivia has become so popular and fun!!

Trivia is open to all including family and friends, as well as KATY age. Snacks and drink will be served (and BYOB too). Prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

For additional information, contact David Silberman at dssilberman@aol.com

Cost by April 17

\$10 for Kol Ami members
\$12 for non-members

Cost after April 17 and at the door

\$12 for Kol Ami members
\$14 for non-members



Pickleball Tournament

The 2nd Pickleball Tournament to support Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick will take place on **Sunday, April 19** from 9am to 12 noon, on the courts of

Worman's Mill. Those who participated last summer had a great time and we raised funds for Kol Ami.

Cost is \$20 a person, and you will be matched up with a partner. For more information, or to signup, contact David Silberman at dssilberman@aol.com.

Frederick Keys Fundraiser



Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick and the Frederick Keys will partner again for the upcoming 2020 season. As we did last year, we will be able to man the Dugout Dogs concession booth as a fundraiser for Kol Ami. In 2019, we had 45 volunteers who worked the concession booth at 46 games.

This year, we would like to have even more participation from Kol Ami as it is potentially our largest fundraiser of the year and the funds earned could help to reduce dues increases. Each volunteer works 4 hours at the booth, and we earn \$42 for their efforts. Our participation involves handling the cash register and pouring beverages—there is no food prep involved. It is easy, fun, and a great way to support our synagogue. You and your significant other, family and friends (18+ years) can volunteer for 1, 5, 10, or as many games as fits your schedule!

More information about the games for volunteering, including the dates and times, will be forthcoming once the full Keys schedule is released.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Val Lazerowich at valarie_lazerowich@yahoo.com

Have you responded to Not-A-Party?

There is still time to send in your donation. Remember all donations of \$72 or more will automatically be entered in a drawing for gift cards at the Annual Meeting in June. We will have 5 winners, receiving gift cards for Madrones, Modern Asia, and Wegmans.

Donate online at kolamifrederick.org or mail a check. Please note Not-A-Party in the memo or note section.



Tu B'shevat – Celebrating the Fruits from the Trees

Joanna Sieger, Director of Education

Last month, our students participated in a Tu B'shevat seder led by Rabbi Stratford. The students enjoyed three different types of foods that we get from trees. We ate Pomegranate seeds representing foods with a hard exterior that have good things underneath. We can relate to this in real life to "Never judge a book by its cover." The second food was olives. Olives represent foods that have a pit, a seed that we do not eat. However, that seed can be planted and grow again. This reminds us that things that start out as small can become something great, and we should not overlook things because they seem insignificant. The third food was raisins. They represent fruits that we can entirely eat, where nothing is wasted.

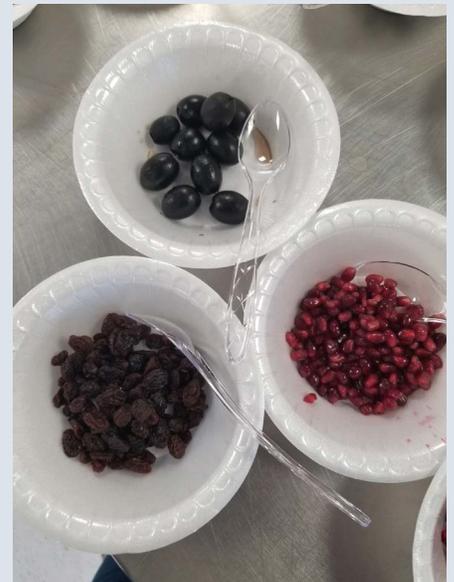
In an article entitled *Planting a Tree as an Act of Hope* by Roslyn Ann Duffy, she wrote, "Trees are the lungs of our planet. They take carbon dioxide out of the air and send oxygen back into the air. They breathe in the molecules responsible for

overheating our planet and breathe out the pure air that all life needs." We should always celebrate trees. Celebrating Tu B'shevat helps us to appreciate all that they give us.

Want to add value to your child's religious school experience? Attend services! Our students are learning the prayers we say in services. The shabbat services are your child's connection to why we have religious school. There are many opportunities in the coming months to attend not just Friday night services, but Saturday mornings as well. We have many students becoming Bat or Bar Mitzvah. I hope your family will join me!

Another way is to get involved. Attend events. Participate in activities. Our congregation is always looking for help. We need YOU on committees! We need you at fundraising events! We want to see you at Girls Night Out and Brotherhood dinners. I am always looking to enhance my substitute list. Want to get involved and don't know where to start? Catch me on Sunday mornings, I'll help you!

Tu B'shevat Celebration



Join Kol Ami friends for a Purim Carnival



NEW Location

Clover Hill Clubhouse
8122 Glendale Dr.
Frederick, MD 21702

When

Sunday, March 8, 2020
3-5 p.m.

Your Purim Passport includes:

Esther's Salon
Hamentashen Walk
Hamentashen Bake Sale
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/child
Non-Members: \$7/child

Any questions, please contact Joanna Sieger at education@kolamifrederick.org.

Sign up at: signupgenius.com/go/10C0A48AFA72FA57-ckaf16



Rabbi Search Committee Update

By Joanna Sieger

The search committee has been working hard and meeting regularly to discuss our ideal rabbi. We have received three resumes at the time of this writing. Two of the candidates have been interviewed twice, and one has been brought in for a visit, which included teaching our confirmation class and leading Torah Study. We are working on scheduling an interview with the third candidate, whose resume was just received.

You may have heard that the position we are seeking to fill is part-time. This is correct. After much discussion and direction from the Board of Trustees, we feel that the congregation will be well served by a part-time rabbi. So... what does that mean for

our congregation? We do not anticipate any change in the level of service you have come to expect. The rabbi will always be available for emergencies. The rabbi will be present at religious school regularly and our services will continue as scheduled.

Our interim rabbi, Rabbi Scott Sperling, helped us in a time of crisis as a part-time rabbi in 2016-17. He continued to be a constant presence, and we had no reduction in support. We also have volunteers on the Board of Trustees who work hard to make sure things run smoothly.

As always, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out to me or Dan Sieger (president@kolamifrederick.org) or to any board member with questions or concerns.

Coming Home to Franklinton Center

Lisa Sticklely

What is Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCB)? It is a place of learning. It is a place of teaching. It is a place of gathering. It is a place of hope. It is a place many call home.

Congregation Kol Ami was first introduced to FCB about ten years ago when our Rabbi and the Pastor of the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to get both of our youth groups together to go on a mission trip to FCB. I don't think either of them realized what an enormous impact this trip, and the ones to follow, would have on not only our youth, but on our adults as well. In the decade that our congregations have been making the annual trip to FCB, we have fixed, repaired, replaced, built and donated our time, skills and hearts to the communities in and around FCB. Our youth have learned from our dedicated adults how to use power tools, power wash, hang drywall, paint, stain, install suspended ceilings, install electrical fixtures, repair roofs, lay flooring, plumb and learn carpentry, including building ramps, benches, tables and repairing windows, sills and soffits.

The skills, lessons and friendships that are made on this trip are irreplaceable. Those who have gone on this trip have learned about an impoverished community that is so thankful for our help. The community looks forward to seeing us each year at the traditional Monday morning Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast that FCB hosts to meet us and tell us "thank you". They are amazed at the amount of work our group can accomplish in just a weekend. I think the community members are even more amazed when they realize that the majority of our group are children.

I have had the pleasure of watching so many of our youth grow up on this annual trip. It makes me so happy and proud to see that the teens want to come back each year to learn new things and prepare to teach the next age group what they themselves have now mastered. FCB is rich in history, and now our congregations are a part of that history. Miss Vivian (FCB's director) always welcomes us back with her famous greeting, "Welcome Home."



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 7 – *T’zaveh*, Exodus 27:20-30:10

Israelites are commanded to provide oil for the ner tamid; Aaron and his sons are chosen to be priests, and they are ordained in a seven-day ceremony.

March 14 – *Ki Tisa*, Exodus 30:11-34:35

The first census; Israelites are instructed to keep Shabbat; God gives Moses the two tablets; the Golden Calf incident, followed by a plague; Moses receives a new set of tablets and returns from the mount with a radiant face.

March 21 – *Vayak-hel* and *Pekudei*, Exodus 35:1-40:38

Moses teaches the rules of Shabbat and asks the Israelites for a donation of gifts and for those who are skilled to help build the Tabernacle. 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 28 – *Vayikra*, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

God instructs Moses on the 5 different sacrifices to be offered in the sanctuary.

April 4 – *Tzav*, Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Details on performing the 5 sacrifices. Limitations on meat consumption. Ordination of Aaron and his sons as priests.

April 11 – Reading for Pesach, Exodus 33:12-34:26

Moses asks to see God. God replies, “I will make My goodness pass before you.” The 13 attributes of God.

April 18 – *Shemini*, Leviticus 9:1-11:47

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.

April 25 – *Tazria* and *Metsora*, Leviticus 12:1-15:33

Rituals of purification for women after childbirth. Methods for treating skin diseases and purifying clothing. Rituals to cure human skin conditions. Male and female impurities.

Gratitude *By Kerry Reynolds*

In 2003, Copper Canyon Press published a book of poems by Jim Harrison and Ted Kooser titled, *Braided Creek*. The two friends had corresponded for years, but when Kooser (U.S. Poet Laureate from 2004-06) was diagnosed with cancer, they began to write solely in rather vivid short poems, or aphorisms. An example of their work is found on page 38: “The nightmare we waken from, grateful, is somebody else’s life.”

On January 18, our annual Torah cycle brought us to *Shemot*, the beginning of the Book of Exodus. The previous week, we concluded Genesis with Jacob’s death – at which time his family seemed safely ensconced in the Land of Goshen in Egypt, protected by Joseph. By the time of Exodus, however, some 300-400 years had passed and “there arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph” (Exod. 1:8). In short order, the Israelites were living the nightmare. We are introduced to Moses in Exodus 2:2, but he reaches adulthood and flees Egypt to the land of Midian in the space of just 14 verses. A new king of Egypt was even more oppressive, and the children of Israel cried unto God (Exod. 2:23). For the rest of Exodus, indeed the remainder of Torah, Moses would seek to lead them from their nightmare to security in the land of Abraham.

Torah contains numerous instances where God assists the Israelites in their escape. These include the parting of the Red Sea (Exod. 14), the gift of manna (Exod. 16), the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20), and help in countless military engagements with warring tribes during their decades-long wandering in the Wilderness. And yet, almost without fail, the Israelites displayed an amazing talent for kvetching at the inadequacy of God’s gifts. Just two chapters after God destroyed Pharaoh’s army, “the whole congregation of the

children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron in the wilderness,” saying, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt” (Exod. 16:2-3).

It is easy to read Torah and ask, “What is wrong with these people?” And when will they realize that every time they complain about God’s inadequacy they get slapped up side the head? As always, it is important to put things in perspective. Turn on your telly tonight for the local evening news, and you’re likely to see five segments on murder, arson, carjacking and other mayhem in the D.C. area. Does that mean everyone in the region has gone nuts? Of course not. We know intuitively over 90% of the populace is behaving itself. It’s just that bad boys make news. Wouldn’t it have been the same back then? We have to search a little in Torah to find examples of Israelites showing gratitude, but they are there. For example, when the Sanctuary is constructed at the end of Exodus (Chap. 35-38), the people give unconditionally of their time, skills, and treasure to make it a reality. It seems to me those gifts were based on respectful awe and gratitude.

We probably are way too critical of the Originals. They endured slavery, ten plagues, a long trek in the Wilderness, the terror of Pharaoh’s approaching army and near starvation just to receive the Commandments. They then experienced Torah by actually LIVING it – often in nightmarish conditions. We experience Torah for free simply by attending shul. This spring at Pesach, we once again remember those who marched into the desert, glad we don’t have to do the same. And we’ll awaken the next morning not having to worry about dreaded Amalekites. All the more reason, then, to say the *Shema*. And to add at least one “*Todah*.”

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

Everyone likes to be remembered, and it's time to celebrate our April and May birthday congregants.

All you have to do is cut out the list, place a checkmark next to the name(s) of those you want to send a greeting, (at \$1.00 per greeting), and sign the list the way you want your name written on the card. Please make your check out to Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick, and mail it 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. Please respond ASAP and before March 25 for both months.

Very Important: Please check the list and make sure we did not omit your name or the name(s) of your family members. If you have any questions, please call Judi at (216) 402-5543.

Thank you very much!

Birthday greetings from: _____

(Please indicate how the cards should be signed, i.e. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Jane Smith, or The Smith Family)

April Birthdays

- Michelle Anderson
- Micheala Black
- Sandra Brenner-LaMere
- Lance Cary
- Michael Cohen
- Nick Dabruzzo
- Brady Duckhorn
- Jonathan Gober
- Drew Goldstein
- Mark Hoffrichter
- Dana Holman
- Balian Jones
- Mitchell Lasko

- Michael Lieberman
- Betty Loeb
- Betsy Maymon
- Poppy Medoyoy
- Herbert Messite
- Joseph Miller
- Molly Sieger
- Lisa Stickley
- Adina Twenhafel
- Megan Yancer

May Birthdays

- Atlas Black
- Denver Black

- Alyssa Bolen
- Judi Feldman
- Heather Fogelson
- Micah Friedman
- Sophie Friedman
- Alias Haas
- Andrea Kelleher
- Chase Kelleher
- Francine Koitz
- Aaron LaMere
- Eliana Lasko
- Brendan Manetz
- Alex Maymon
- Jeff Maymon

- Kevin McMullen
- Kenneth Meehan
- Jessica Nelson
- Violet Nelson
- Lela Nickol
- Carol Reynolds
- Diane Rifkin
- Lisa Schwinger
- David Silberman
- Riley Smith
- Jonah Twenhafel
- Josh VerStandig
- Ben Vivari
- Finn Yancer

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 15.

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.

Contributors to The Voice

A team of many talented members works up front to write the main articles and behind the scenes to gather and report information, write content, design graphics and announcements, and perform essential editorial tasks to generate each issue. *The Voice* thanks the staff and contributors for their service in 2019.

Volunteer Staff

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Advertising – Aaron LaMere
Copy Editor – Mark Hoffrichter

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Michael and Anne Cohen, for the speedy recovery of Newt Plaisance
Steven and Valarie Lazerowich, in memory of Ida Zinn-Madnick, mother of Valerie Lazerowich
Daniel and Joanna Sieger, oneg sponsor

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Richard and Jill Cody, in memory of Regina Wolfson
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Jeff Feiertag, in memory of Sol Danchik, grandfather of Jeff Feiertag
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Sponsoring an Oneg

Are you celebrating a special anniversary, birthday, graduation, or promotion? Or would you like to honor someone? Sponsoring an oneg is a great way to do that! For \$80 we will provide a cake with a message of your choice, with other snacks after services. You can also do the preparations yourself, if you prefer.

We will publicize it in the weekly bulletin, so your friends and family will be sure to come to services to be part of the celebration. Your name and the occasion will be announced during services.

To sponsor an oneg, please contact Joanna Sieger, at education@kolamifrederick.org. Joanna make sure the date is available, order the food, and get the information in the weekly bulletin.



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Return Service Requested

March/April 2020 Upcoming Events

March 2020

March 1	9:30 am	Religious School
March 2	12:30 pm	Torah Study
March 3	12:30 pm	Fundraising Meeting
March 3	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
March 4	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
March 6	6:30 pm	Family Shabbat Service
March 6	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
March 8	9:30 am	Religious School
March 8	2:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class
March 8	3:00 pm	Purim Carnival
March 9	12:30 pm	Torah Study
March 11	12:30 pm	Sisterhood Book Club
March 14	5:00 pm	Movies and Midrash
March 15	9:30 am	Religious School
March 16	12:30 pm	Torah Study
March 20	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
March 21	10:00 am	Shabbat morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Casey Wehr
March 22		NO Religious School
March 22	2:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class
March 23	12:30 pm	Torah Study
March 23	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
March 26	6:30 pm	Girls' Night Out
March 29	9:30 am	Religious School
March 30	12:30 pm	Torah Study

April 2020

April 1	10:00 am	Women's Coffee
April 3	6:30 pm	Family Shabbat Service
April 3	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
April 4	10:00 am	Shabbat morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Liam Berkowitz
April 5	9:30 am	Religious School
April 5	2:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class
April 6	12:30 pm	Torah Study
April 7	12:30 pm	Fundraising Meeting
April 7	6:30 pm	Brotherhood Dinner
April 11	TBD	KATY event
April 12		NO Religious School
April 13	12:30 pm	Torah Study
April 17	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
April 18	10:00 am	Shabbat morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Cody Duckhorn
April 18	7:00 pm	Trivia Night
April 19	9:00 am	Pickleball Fundraiser
April 19	9:30 am	Religious School
April 19	2:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism Class
April 20	12:30 pm	Torah Study
April 23	6:30 pm	Girls' Night Out
April 26	9:30 am	Religious School
April 26	1:00 pm	Yom HaShoah program
April 27	12:30 pm	Torah Study
April 27	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting