



The Voice

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

New Beginnings in the Midst of Upheaval

Rabbi Marc A. Gruber



This evening I have paused from a packing-the-house marathon to write this message. Renee

and I are looking forward to our move to Maryland. We know that we will miss many aspects of the New York metro area, even as we are excited about the new adventure before us. Even when we plan and prepare for change, it is challenging

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrust upon us many unwanted changes. In general, we human beings resist change; we struggle with change. By marking change together communally, with reflection and celebration, we use our Jewish tradition and community to mediate this difficulty.

Part of the anxiety people are feeling during these times include risks to our health and economic difficulty. These feelings are born of our inability to control events that

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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.

Stay On Target!

Message from Dan Sieger, President



It has been another two months of craziness. Just when you thought and hoped that it would start to settle down and start to return to normal, we have

something else that takes the country (and the world) by a storm. I can't say that I am surprised since progress can always be made in the ways people are treated. In my many years on this planet, I have seen issues like this come to the forefront and push the current issue to the background. You can just look back in the last fifty years, when something is in the headlines of every newspaper, news broadcast or watercooler topic. Then something new happens – the hostages in Iran, Iran-Contra, the War on Drugs, Read My Lips, Rodney King, Waco, Monica Lewinsky, Shock and Awe, the housing bubble, the first African-American president, where he was born, Fake News, Covid-19 and now, George Floyd. These are just a few of the issues that have taken our eye off the issue before, and yet we, as a human race, never circle back around to finish what we started.

There are always people who will continue their work with the same sustained energy that had the nation's or world's attention. But without the issue being in the news or in the forefront of people's minds, things just move on. What happened to George Floyd was wrong. It should not have happened. But my fear is that once people get over the shock of what happened, the protests will die down and something else will come to the forefront (election 2020?) and take over ... and all of this will have been for nothing. We have got to learn to

finish what we start. If you want to make a change, then make a change. Realize that it won't happen overnight. You can't change someone's opinion or thought process in one conversation, one article, or by showing them you are angry (by protesting). You have to have continued discussions and make your point, show facts, show change and the rest will follow. If not, then all of this has happened before and will happen again. So, to keep that from happening ... Stay on target!

This is the first article I have written since Rabbi Stratford and his wife Nikki's departure from our congregation. I want to once again thank Rabbi Stratford for his years of service to Congregation Kol Ami and to say how much we enjoyed when Nikki was able to come out and join our services and events. A HUGE thank you to our very own Cantorial Soloist, Eric Dubbin for his wonderful services this past month and continued service to Congregation Kol Ami.

I am so excited to have this upcoming year with Rabbi Marc Gruber. The way that he has presented his thoughts and ideas will give us a new perspective. He has been part of numerous meetings with the Board, the Education Committee, and the family of the July 11 Bar Mitzvah, before he even starts his first day at Congregation Kol Ami and before he steps foot into Maryland to live!

Over the coming weeks, please be on the lookout for communications from myself and Rabbi Gruber about his introduction to the community, High Holiday planning, and how during this highly fluid and challenging time, we will meet and come together. May we all stay safe and well.



Education Committee seeks your input

Joanna Sieger, Director of Education

The Education Committee is currently reviewing our educational plans for the 2020-2021 school year. As we are coming up with a plan, we would like to hear from you. We recognize that this year could look very different than years past; however, the things we can accomplish might be very different also. Given these current – and very fluid – circumstances, please contact us to share your priorities, goals, and expectations for your child’s Jewish education. Please contact me at education@kolamifrederick.org, or co-chairs Sabrina Nail (sabnail@yahoo.com) and Samantha Lieberman (samanthajlieberman@gmail.com) to share your input.

The Education committee has already had meetings with our committee and Rabbi Gruber to collaboratively determine best practices in light of COVID-19. We are exploring ways of safely providing student engagement and learning experiences, as well as increasing family involvement. The curriculum will be reviewed. We are exploring options to address virtual as well as in-classroom learning plans. If you are interested, in joining the Education Committee, please contact Samantha or Sabrina.

Please keep your child’s Hebrew current by accessing the Sounds of Kol Ami at kolamifrederick.org/worship/sounds-of-kol-ami/ and attending services throughout the summer. Stay well.

Share your Ideas for High Holiday Worship

Jodi Duckhorn

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us to be creative with social/physical distancing and limiting the number of people in gatherings. We are asking for your thoughts about how to worship as a congregation during the upcoming High Holidays. This is a fluid situation, and we anticipate having several back-up plans. All ideas are welcome. Please email your ideas to highholidays@kolamifrederick.org by July 31.



Bar Mitzvah of Liam Griesacker

July 11, 2020

Liam is the son of Susan Davis and Tom Griesacker. He is in 8th grade at the Banner School. Liam

is interested in photography, building things, and skiing, and he enjoys playing games online with his friends. Liam likes to travel and hopes to do more of it in the future.

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From Rabbi Marc Gruber

Continued from page 1

impact us and our loved ones. We fear that we or a loved one will contract the virus. We also worry that we will not be able to provide for our families. We fear the unknown, indeed unknowable, future. The fears need not lead us to emotional instability.

The fact that we have Jewish values that remain constant helps to anchor us in the turbulent sea of life. Our interactions with others, in person or remotely, are guided by the values of *hesed* - loving kindness and *tzedek* - righteousness. These draw us closer together and help us to align our behavior with God's will. When we do this well, we find inner stability within the swirl of chaos. When we take the words we pray into our hearts and minds, making them active in our lives, we restore our balance. We see the world through new eyes again and again; this repetition refreshes us.

We learn from our experiences in life, our studies, and our prayerful celebrations. We are enriched, and we grow and develop as persons. When we do this together, we build a community that is sacred and supportive. We continue our efforts to create connections. May our collective efforts help us grow by adding values, meaning, and purposeful activity to our lives.

We can also learn from this pandemic. When we experience isolation, we have enjoyed moments of solitude, and we have yearned for physical proximity, concrete connections, and actual touching. Yet, we have made do with remote assemblies. When we Zoom or Skype or Facetime, we really experience the presence of the other people. We use the technology to serve our human needs.

Managing changes in our lives is easier

when we feel the support of a community. Building community, in person or through the mediation of technology, is risky. An investment of self is required. In America we have made it a virtue to go it alone. It is a sign of weakness to admit that we need other people in our lives. I pray that one change in our new normal is an open recognition of the value of community. The deep understanding is that we yearn for connections with others, sharing meaningful activity and interaction.

Part of the problem is fear of rejection. If we admit we need other people to be happy, we are giving them control over our happiness. They have the power to make us miserable by walking away. The weakness of this argument is that those same people have human needs also. They are not looking for ways to hurt us. They are looking to have their needs met. Together we need to understand that our fulfillment ties into our willingness to share life.

When we only present our strengths, never admitting faults, mistakes, or weakness, we establish sturdy walls that keep others at a distance. Frequently, I observe that sharing our vulnerabilities invites relationship. We open ourselves to another in ways that develop into deeper bonds. When we do this with *hesed*, lovingkindness, and *tzedek*, righteousness, we are able to build connections that are strong and rewarding.

We need to restore a valued centered community wherein people feel at home and secure. For us, Judaism and our congregation can be key to this rebuilding. This is not an easy task. As Jews in the United States we benefit from a liberal tradition that has provided freedom, equality, and independence

within a democratic secular state. This liberal American tradition has some ambiguous consequences, particularly concerning the alienating qualities of materialism and individualism. This is why the deep yearning for community is a hunger felt throughout our great land.

In community, we can do more and enjoy companionship and validation. Our community can provide a meaningful context for personal growth and self-expression. I have a deep faith that Judaism can provide meaning which reaches beyond ourselves. Jewish values matter to the world. Fellowship will result from shared experience. We already share a language, food, life-cycle celebrations, and core values. Our shared commitment and activity will build true community.

I have experienced community comforting bereaved families via a Zoom *shiva minyan*. I shared the pride of a family in the achievements of their bar mitzvah, who chanted from a Torah in the comfort of his family living room, while we created a congregation on three continents. I have simply rejoiced with others in the joy of Shabbat. All of these experiences were remote and real and substantive. We will do this and more together.

For those of you I have not met, my guess is that we will meet remotely before we meet in person. Let us put aside the distance (a synonym for remote) and create beginnings that will blossom into connections and help us deepen the bonds of community.

Renee and I look forward to meeting you online and, when we are able, in person.

Stay well.

B'vrakha – with blessing.

Rabbi Marc Gruber

Women's Coffee

Wednesdays, July 1 and August 5

Come meet your friends and let us know what is happening in your life. Go to this Zoom link for our July coffee.

<https://zoom.us/j/92495529673?pwd=eTAORWNKcVN3eHdFZDdBcDI0YXJJEZz09&status=success>



The Sisterhood Book Club

Wednesday, July 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom link will be provided at a later date

The Good Lord Bird by James McBride

Go the following link to RSVP and read a synopsis of the book: signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami2

2020-2021 Board of Trustees



Dan Sieger, President

Dan is married to Joanna and they have 3 children – Molly, 19, Zach, 17 and Sarah, 13. He is a native Marylander and has lived in Frederick since he and Joanna settled here 20 years ago. Dan has been very active in the Congregation since 2016, participating the rabbi search committees and

since 2018 as president. He also taught kindergarten in our religious school and served as a trustee (2017-2018).



Mary Cat Lasko, Vice President

Mary Cat is married to Jeff and lives in Walkersville with their 3 children – Mitch, 16, Caelyn, 13 and Eliana, 11 – who go to school at Walkersville High and Middle Schools. She works full time as a medical coder for a local billing company. The Laskos have been members of Kol Ami since 2012.

Mary Cat has served as a Trustee (2016-2019) and Vice President (2019-2020). She currently is the Assistant Director of the Religious School. In her free time, she enjoys watching medical and legal dramas, as well as spending time with family. Mary Cat feels honored to serve on the Board and be part of our warm congregation.



Anne Cohen, Vice President of Membership

Anne is married to Michael for 50 years, and they have lived in Frederick for 44 years. (They are, however, native New Yorkers.) They have two adult children and five grandchildren. The Cohens have been members of Kol Ami since 2006, and

Anne has served on the Board since 2009. She enjoys serving as membership vice president and getting to meet new people. Anne is a retired Frederick County Public School middle school teacher who is enjoying retirement, which includes traveling to places on her large bucket list (prior to the COVID-19 virus). She enjoys her volunteer work with Congregation Kol Ami, Meals on Wheels, and the Frederick Food Bank. Anne enjoys being part of this wonderful, supportive, caring community, the uplifting services, and the many friends they have made through Kol Ami.



Faith Miller, Treasurer

Faith, her husband Cliff and their cocker spaniel Daisy live in Crestwood Village. They relocated to Maryland from Georgia in April of 2017 to be close to their children, grandchildren, and sister and brother-in-law and joined Kol Ami that June. Faith retired from the University System of Georgia

as a Human Resource Director. Her degree is in accounting from Cleveland State University. She is a past president and treasurer of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Rome, Georgia. In her free time, Faith sings with Harbor City Music Company, a Sweet Adeline chorus which placed 4th in International competition. Faith and Cliff feel they have found a home at Kol Ami, and Faith enjoys being part of the team at Kol Ami that helps the congregation run smoothly and grow.



Ralene Damanti, Financial Secretary

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, and remembering fondly when the Brooklyn Dodgers were at Ebbets Field, Ralene is married to Frank, and they live in Spring Ridge. The Damantis have six children and 10 grandchildren. Ralene retired in 2015 from Frederick County Public Schools after 31 years

where she served as the Budget Coordinator for Special Education. Ralene and Frank have been members of Kol Ami since 2007. She has served as a Board Member and is currently the Vice President of Finance. Ralene continues to enjoy the many warm relationships she has with other members of the congregation and is looking forward to resuming in-person services, girl's night out, empty nester gatherings, and other face-to-face activities when permitted.



Lisa Stickley, Secretary

For the past 17 years, Lisa Stickley has been a Program Assistant for Special Education for Frederick County Public Schools. She is married to Keith Stickley, and they have 3 children (men); Jared, 27, Mason, 26, and Shane, 24. They have lived in Frederick for 27 years and have been members of

Congregation Kol Ami for the last 14 years. Lisa has participated and coordinated the annual mission trip to Franklinton with our sister congregation from the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) for the last 8 years. Lisa loves the beach and spending time with family and friends. She has enjoyed being a part of the Executive Board of Congregation Kol Ami and working with some pretty amazing people.



Joanna Sieger, Immediate Past President

Joanna is married to Dan and lives in Adamstown with their three children – Molly, who has worked in our school since her Bat Mitzvah in 2014 and this year will be a sophomore at University of Maryland, Zachary (17), and Sarah, who is entering our 8th grade. After teaching for 9 years

in Kol Ami's religious school, Joanna is serving her third year as our Education Director. Joanna is the director of the Beth Sholom Early Childhood Center in Frederick, where she also teaches the two-year old class. Additionally, she serves on the Executive Board of Kol Ami as the immediate past president.



Joe Anderson, Trustee

Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Joe and his wife Michelle moved to Frederick in 2013 with their daughter Anna, 8. Since his daughter started going to Kol Ami's religious school, he has become more involved in the congregation. He has taught 6th grade Sunday school and served as a doorman for

the religious school. Joe works as a data scientist for the Army on Fort Detrick. He is honored to be of service to the community that was so welcoming to his family.



David Bass, Trustee

David and his husband Tom moved to Frederick in 2017 and joined Congregation Kol Ami shortly afterward. David has enjoyed his experience as a member of Kol Ami having served as the 5th grade teacher in the religious school in 2018-2019 and as a member the Rabbi Search Committee.

Professionally, David works as the Hillel Director at Gettysburg College and as an academic tutor with College Living Experience. David is active in the community as a volunteer with SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) and as a member of the NAACP and the RISE (Resources for Immigrant Support & Empowerment) Coalition. In his free time, David enjoys playing tennis, bike riding and rooting for the New York Mets.



Harriet Buxbaum, Trustee

Harriet has been married to Howard for 52 years and they reside in Worman's Mill. They have two adult daughters and one grandson plus five grand pups. Harriet, a former high school computer teacher, retired 15 years ago. She likes to spend time with family and friends and has traveled extensively. This will be her second "tour of duty" as she served on the board previously for nine years. Congregation Kol Ami is a family of warm, wonderful volunteers who have done amazing things to better Jewish life in Frederick. She looks forward to new challenges and opportunities for Congregation Kol Ami and with the leadership of Rabbi Gruber.



Jodi Duckhorn, Trustee

Jodi was raised in Howard County, Maryland where she met her husband Ed in 4th grade. They went to school together all the way through college. They now live in Mount Airy with their three boys, Riley, 18, Brady, 16, and Cody, 13, and dog Simon, 11. She has worked as a Social Scientist

in the Federal Government for 25 years, currently at the Food and Drug Administration. In addition to watching her boys' sports and various activities, Jodi plays indoor soccer on the weekends. When their oldest son started religious school in 2008, the Duckhorns joined Congregation Kol Ami because of the welcome and accepting community. Every year, Jodi serves as a room parent for her boys' religious school classes and has been the High Holidays coordinator since 2014. Jodi is thankful for the close friendships she and her family have developed through the congregation.



Amy Gordon, Trustee

Amy grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and has lived in Frederick for 13 years. She received her nursing degree from Towson University and went on to work at Johns Hopkins Hospital for 13 years. She had worked part-time at Frederick Memorial Hospital in their Cath lab for 12 years. She's married to Scott Gordon, a Captain in the Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue and has three wonderful boys Hyatt, 12, Meritt, 11, and Beckett, 9. Since 2016, Amy has been the summer nurse at Camp Shores in Adamstown. When she is not driving to Hebrew School, soccer games or birthday parties, she can be found planning for her first Bar Mitzvah set for October 2020. She has been involved with Kol Ami for the past 7 years and looks forward to getting to know more of the Kol Ami family.



Ali Lazorchak, Trustee

Ali, a native Baltimorean is married to Rob and lives in Point of Rocks with their son Hayden, 16. Ali has a B.S. in English Education and master's degrees in Special Education and Educational Leadership. She has taught at Frederick High School for the last 24 years. The Lazorchak family runs a non-profit,

Hayden's Heart Heroes (HHH), benefiting Johns Hopkins Pediatric Cardiology/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. HHH was established to honor their son who was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (half a heart). Ali is a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Hopkins and a Parent to Parent Mentor. The Lazorchaks have been members of Kol Ami for the past 11 years. Ali serves as a trustee and a member of the education committee.



Samantha Lieberman, Trustee

Samantha has been married to Mike for 18 years, and they live in Urbana. They have three children, Grant, 16, Brooke, 13, Hunter, 8 and their dog Hope. Samantha serves on the Board of Trustees and the Education Committee. She taught first grade in the religious school for five years and seventh grade for the past three years. Samantha currently works as a paraeducator with Montgomery County Public Schools. In her free time, Samantha enjoys cooking, trying out new restaurants, traveling, theater, and hanging out with friends and family. Her family loves being part of Congregation Kol Ami for the warmth and support they experience from this community.



Charlie Nail, Trustee

Charlie and his wife Sabrina Nail have resided in Frederick since 2002 and have been members of Kol Ami since 2007. Charlie has three children Joshua, Aaron and Noah. Aaron and Noah are attending the University of Maryland College Park (UMD) studying business and physics, respectively.

Joshua graduated with a BS in computer science from UMD in 2020. Charlie has a BS in electrical engineering from UMD and a MS in finance from Johns Hopkins. As a veteran of the US Navy, he is now a contractor within the intelligence community. For leisure and fun, he enjoys collecting vintage comic books, the outdoors, and time with family. Charlie has served two terms as the Congregation Kol Ami treasurer and looks forward to contributing as a trustee.



Jordan Schneider, Trustee

Jordan is originally from Brooklyn, NY, before moving to Maryland over 20 years ago. He has lived in Urbana for the last 9 years. Some of his favorite activities are spending time with his family and friends, wine tastings, and anything sports related – whether Fantasy Baseball, Football or Basketball or a day at any ballpark (which he is missing during these times). Serving as Kol Ami's President, Immediate Past President, Rabbi Search Committee Chairman and now Trustee has been an honor for him. He looks forward to continuing to participate by using his voice and working together with our community to keep Kol Ami a vibrant Jewish congregation in Frederick.

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 Parshyot for July and August are as follows:

July 4 – Hukat & Balak, Numbers 19:1-25:9

The laws of the red heifer to purify those who had contact with a corpse. Israelites arrive at the wilderness of Zin, where Miriam dies and is buried. When the people complain they have no water, Moses strikes a rock to obtain it; whereupon God is displeased. Balak, the king of Moab, asks the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites so he can defeat them. But Balaam blesses them instead.

July 11 – Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

Pinchas is rewarded for killing an Israelite/Midianite couple. Israelites fight a war against the Midianites. Joshua is chosen to be Moses' successor.

July 18 – Matot-Masei, Numbers 30:2-36:13

Laws regarding spoils of war are outlined. The tribes of Reuben and Gad are granted permission to stay on the east bank of the Jordan. God tells the Israelites to remove the current inhabitants of Israel, and the boundaries of Israel are defined.

July 25 – Devarim, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Moses begins his final discourse to the Children of Israel by reviewing their journey from Egypt. Moses describes their reaction to the negative reports of the spies and the appointment of Joshua as his successor.

August 1 – Va'et'hannan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Moses pleads with God to be allowed to enter Israel but is denied. Cities of refuge are set aside. The covenant of Sinai and the Ten Commandments are recalled. Moses repeats the Sh'ma and commands Israel to keep God's laws and ordinances.

August 8 – Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Moses tells the Israelites they won't be harmed if they follow God's laws. Israel will overflow with milk and honey if the people keep the Commandments and teach them to their children.

August 15 – Re-eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Moses' third discourse includes laws about worship, injunctions against idolatry, dietary rules and laws about tithes, debt remission and treatment of Hebrew slaves.

August 22 – Shofetim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Israelites are told to pursue justice in order to merit the land God is giving them. Three sanctuary cities are designated as places of refuge.

August 29 – Ki tetse, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Moses reviews a wide variety of laws regarding family, animals and property. Israelites are commanded to remember the crimes of the Amalekites.

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

Everyone likes to be remembered, and it's time to celebrate our August and September 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 **July 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)

August Birthdays

- Daniel Bilow
- Mikayla Cary
- Richard Cody
- Anne Cohen
- Ralene Damanti
- Saleena DeVore
- Riley DeVore
- Edward Duckhorn
- Kaiya Feiertag
- Mark Farbman

- Marvin Fink
- Daniel Goldstein
- Myles Haldeman
- Michael Holman
- Barry Koitz
- Debra Manetz
- Jeremy Medovoy
- Lauren Medovoy
- Tamar Osterman
- Carolyn Plaisance
- Allan Seidman
- Joanna Sieger

- Glenn Smith
- Lisa Solomon
- Duane Wehr
- Jeremy Yospin
- Celia Zahler

- Richard Kessler
- Caelyn Lasko
- Allison Lazorchak
- Samantha Lieberman
- Janet Parnes
- Addie Shavell
- Zachary Sieger
- Adelaide VerStandig
- Hannah Wehr
- Laura Wilson
- Michael Wilson
- Megan Whitaker

Sept. Birthdays

- Joseph Anderson
- Frank Damanti
- Jeff Feiertag
- Philip Freedman

The Relevance of Torah

Kerry Reynolds

The Shema is integral to Judaism. We repeat it during synagogue services and privately each day. Whenever we take time to actually contemplate our spoken words, we note that one verse – basic to our faith – instructs us to teach them diligently to our children (Deut. 6:7). Fulfilling that commandment can be challenging in today's society, particularly if we want our children to remain interested in Torah after their 13th year. Maybe we need to focus on a bigger picture.

Consider, for example, a 1951 poem by Langston Hughes, titled "Harlem."

"What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore –
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over –
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?"

The words likely resonate with almost everybody in a post-pandemic world – as a metaphor for the human condition. We can and should join that discussion.

During July and August, the Jewish calendar leads us through the Book of Numbers and into Deuteronomy. At this point, the Israelites have completed their 40-year trek through the Wilderness, and Moses delivers his valedictory as they prepare to cross the Jordan (without him). Let's review their Torah experiences in light of Hughes' poem.

The Jews of Exodus could relate to "a dream deferred". Earlier patriarchs may have made cameo appearances in Egypt during

Canaanite droughts, but Jacob's group had sojourned there for several generations at the time of Exod.1. Living in Goshen had been good while Joseph lived, but the brutality of later Pharaohs made them yearn for their former home. Some two years after the heroic exploits of Exodus, the Israelites arrived near Canaan's border filled with the Commandments and resembling fresh grapes. After the "Spy" episode (Numbers 13), however, they were turned away to wander in the Wilderness. By the end of Numbers, 38 years of scorching sun had long turned those grapes to raisins, or dust. There were plenty of festering sores in Leviticus 13-15, the bane of bar mitzvah boys for centuries. You want rotten meat? How about foul manna that bred worms (Exod. 16:20) or meat that came out their nostrils (Num.11:20) and precipitated a great plague (Num.11:33)? Lots of heavy loads in Torah, too. The materials that went into building the Tabernacle and all its accouterments (Exod. 25-29) had to be carried by somebody on hot Wilderness marches. Finally, the "Golden Calf" incident (Exod, 32:1-6) and rebellion by Korach and his followers (Num. 16), both threatened to blow up the whole enterprise. And all this was just before crossing the Jordan. Over the following millennia, Jews would face plenty of deferred dreams in Babylonian Exile and the Great Diaspora. So, yeah, Jews know the feeling.

Torah is our story and centerpiece of the faith. But as we follow the commandment to teach its words to our children, should we not also show them how the stories and messages have parallels in modern writings of all cultures? If we can reach the point where one reads "Harlem" and thinks of Torah, then a cultural bridge has been crossed. At that point, our youth can appreciate Torah is not some anachronistic relic from ages past but rather a reservoir of timeless teaching vehicles for those who want to better understand issues common to all peoples, past and present.

Update from the Communications and Public Relations Committee

Diane Rifkin and Steve Lazerowich

The Communications and Public Relations Committee has been meeting virtually to update our website. We are working to update photos and content of our website and look forward to working with Rabbi Gruber, committee chairs, and Board members to assist us in this effort. Once we can meet in person again, we will be reaching out to you to obtain new group photos.

We will update our Upcoming Events section on the website once we can gather again. For future Kol Ami events that are to be promoted in the free advertising sections of the Frederick News-Post, please contact Franna Rudell at frannar@verizon.net.

Thanks to all the committee members for the time and dedication you give to Congregation Kol Ami.

Fundraising Committee Continues to Play Trivia

David Silberman

The fundraising committee for Congregation Kol Ami is on a hiatus for now and hopes to be up and running when conditions allow. Recently, an online trivia contest: Trivia—Social Distancing Style, was held in April, organized by our fundraising chair, David Silberman. There were 20 participants, of which 4 were non-Kol Ami members. Congratulations to our winner, Ralene Damanti, for correctly identifying 18 of the 20 trivia questions which resulted in a tiebreaker, after which she got 3 of the 5 tiebreaker questions correct! Many of the questions were quite challenging—for example: "Which Dutch artist painted 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'?" (answer: Vermeer); and What is the name of Oprah Winfrey's production company? (answer: Harpo). Ralene won a Starbucks gift card. More importantly, this fundraiser was able to raise more than \$200 for Congregation Kol Ami.

Look for another Trivia—Social Distancing Style contest this fall—date TBD.



Aaron LaMere

REALTOR, U.S. Army Veteran

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Tom Griesacker and Susan Davis, in honor of Samantha Lieberman's kindness in helping Liam and the other B'nai Mitzvah students

Barry and Ellen Koitz, with gratitude for bringing Congregation Kol Ami online during this pandemic

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Not-A-Party was a huge success!

Anne Cohen

Thank you for all the people who contributed to our Not-A-Party fundraiser. It was a huge success, bringing in over \$2,000! Contributors who donated \$72 or more were automatically entered into a drawing for gift cards. The winners were announced at the annual meeting in June. Here are the lucky winners:

Modern Asia \$25 gift card

Mark and Barri Hoffrichter

Ed and Jodi Duckhorn

Steve and Val Lazerowich

Wegmans \$25 gift card

Mandy Schwab

Madrones \$50 gift card

David and Brenda Silberman

Again, thank you for your generosity. Hope to see everyone next year at our Not-A-Party!



CONGREGATION
KOL AMI
OF FREDERICK

4880 Elmer Derr Rd.
Frederick, MD 21703

Return Service Requested

Look out for more event information and updates in the weekly bulletin.

July/August 2020 Upcoming Events

July 2020

| | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Wed, July 1 | 10:00 am | Sisterhood Coffee |
| Mon, July 6 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Wed, July 8 | 12:30 pm | Sisterhood Book Club |
| Fri, July 10 | 6:30 pm | Family Shabbat Service |
| Fri, July 10 | 7:30 pm | Erev Shabbat Service |
| Sat, July 11 | 10:00 am | Shabbat morning service and Bar Mitzvah of Liam Griesacker |
| Mon, July 13 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Fri, July 17 | 7:30 pm | Erev Shabbat Service |
| Mon, July 20 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Mon, July 27 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Mon, July 27 | 7:00 pm | Board of Trustees Meeting |
| Thurs, July 30 | 6:30 pm | Girls' Night In |

August 2020

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Mon, Aug. 3 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Wed, Aug. 5 | 10:00 am | Sisterhood Coffee |
| Fri, Aug. 7 | 6:30 pm | Family Shabbat Service |
| Fri, Aug. 7 | 7:30 pm | Erev Shabbat Service |
| Mon, Aug. 10 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Mon, Aug. 17 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Fri, Aug. 21 | 7:30 pm | Erev Shabbat Service |
| Mon, Aug. 24 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |
| Mon, Aug. 24 | 7:00 pm | Board of Trustees Meeting |
| Thurs, Aug. 27 | 6:30 pm | Girls' Night In |
| Mon, Aug. 31 | 12:30 pm | Torah Study |

Join us for Torah Study

Mondays at 12:30 p.m.
July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Join us for Services

July 10, 11 and 24 and August 7 and 21

Ritual Committee Resumes

Dan Sieger

Congregation Kol Ami is restarting the Ritual Committee. The committee will meet four to six times a year with the committee chair, Eric Dubbin. The committee will work with Eric to identify practices that are meaningful to Congregation Kol Ami. Eric will in turn work with Rabbi Gruber to inform him about these practices. To be part of this important committee, please send me an email at president@kolamifrederick.org.