



CONGREGATION KOL AMI

7501 Belinder Avenue Prairie Village, KS 66208 (913) 642-9000

A dynamic, diverse and inclusive congregational family

QUICK NOTES

Spiritual Leader: Cantor Paul Silbersher. Contact him at (913) 642-9000 (office), (913) 681-3440, (home), or (913) 221-2313 (cell), or Paulsilbersher2@aol.com.

Questions, compliments or concerns: Contact Steve Chernoff, President at (913) 238-1779 or schernoff@chernoff.com.

To add a name to the Mi-Sheberach or Yahrzeit listing: Contact Judith Weingarten at (913) 888-9613 or judithkw@sbcglobal.net.

Interested in joining our Kol Ami family: Contact Larry Gelb at (816) 942-4954 or larrygelb@kc.rr.com.

To make a contribution: Contact Marge Brodtkin at (913) 642-8984 or marge623@juno.com, or mail your contribution to her at 8415 Cambridge, Leawood, KS 66206.

To make reservations for Shabbat dinners or other events: Contact the office at (913) 642-9000 or office@kolamikc.com.

Kol Ami Website:
www.kolamikc.com

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 4

No Religious School

Monday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Torah and More moves to Monday nights.

Friday, January 9

6:00 p.m. Family Shabbat
6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner
7:30 p.m. Worship Celebration.
Members with January birthdays will be recognized.

Sunday, January 11

10:00 a.m. Busy Buddies

Friday, January 16

7:30 p.m. Annual Martin Luther King Worship Celebration.
Guest Sermon to be delivered by Pastor Michael Brooks of Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Please bring canned good donations.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER

CANTOR PAUL C. SILBERSHER

An Invitation to the New Year...

We live in two worlds, the "one that is" and the "one that might be". As Jews, we have the opportunity to celebrate two New Years... Rosh Hashanah (which can come as early as September 5 and as late as October 5) and January 1 in the Gregorian Calendar. If one follows the formula "the world that is and then the world that might be," that suggests January 1st (the world that is) should come before September/October ("the world that might be").



Consider the current welcoming of the January 1st New Year. What does it signify? What does it mean? Some of you know that New Year's Day was once the Feast of the Circumcision (see Luke 2:21) eight days following December 25. But, it was also the time that may not have been the sacred observance of the (new) Covenant.

What we have seen is the growing number of parties and a paucity of the initial intention of what the Covenant (of Circumcision) was intended to represent...the human relationship with God. It is very difficult to establish and maintain a Covenant with God. This is the "world that is".

Rosh Hashanah represents the "world that might be". Shana means three things...it means year, it means repeat and it means change.

As the "world that is" pauses for January 1st, may we keep firmly in mind the memory of the "world that might be" that we continue to celebrate that, daily, it is a time to repeat that which is eternal and to change that which is not yet...

Sending love,

Paul

JEWISH TRIVIA

The Western Wall that still stands in Jerusalem was once part of the Temple compound. We also call it the Wailing Wall. What was its original name?

See page 5 for the answer.



FROM THE WISDOM OF JUDAISM BY RABBI DOV PERETZ ELKINS

Words from a Talmudic Scholar:

Earning a living is similar in difficulty to parting of the Reed Sea.

- Pesachim 118a



DONATIONS

ART & RITUAL OBJECTS FUND

Sheldon & Constance Bernstein
In honor of recovery of Bob Goldstein
Bob & Eve Golstein
In honor of Yahrzeit of Philip Sandler

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

Sam & Donna Zavelo
In honor of recovery of Bob Goldstein
In honor of recovery of Robyn Shopmaker

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Don & Harriet Boresow
In honor of birthday of Jerry Rosmarine
In honor of recovery of Mike Boresow
Jerome & Sandra Bernstein
In memory of Yahrzeit of Lillian Landman
Maury & Phyllis Kohn
In appreciation of Cantor Silbersher
Stan Osman
In memory of Yahrzeit of Sally Osman
Irving & Gloria Schlossenberg
In honor of birth of Oliver,
Grandson of John & Stevie Shuchart
Harry & Janice Shopmaker
In memory of Yahrzeit of Mary Shopmaker

Education Scholarship Fund

Larry & Evelyn Gelb
In thanksgiving for our Kol Ami congregants
who are recovering from illness

GARDENING FUND

Sheldon & Constance Bernstein
In memory of Yahrzeit of Gladys Buckhout
In memory of Yahrzeit of Estelle Pursel
Dorothy Solomon
In memory of Yahrzeit of Sam Altman
In memory of Yahrzeit of Henry Changar

GENERAL FUND

Howard & Nadine Agron
In memory of Arnie Cohen
Sheldon & Constance Bernstein
In honor of recovery of Judy Weingarten
In honor of recovery of Irving Schlossenberg
Kevin & Karen Agron Flattery
In memory of Arnie Cohen
Phyllis Lensky
In honor of birthday of Judy Weingarten
Mike & Janice Panknin
In memory of Arnie Cohen
In memory of Janice Edda Panknin
Bruce & Alyson Rawitch
In honor of Carla Lieberman
In honor of Robert Sokol
Marilyn Rubin
In appreciation of Congregation Kol Ami
Murray & Marilyn Rubin
In memory of Arnie Cohen
In memory of Janice Edda Panknin
In honor of wedding of Marge Brodtkin's grandson
Stan & Suzi Weiner
In honor of recovery of Bob Goldstein

Murray & Marilyn Rubin
In memory of Arnie Cohen
In memory of Janice Edda Panknin
In honor of wedding of Marge Brodtkin's grandson
Stan & Suzi Weiner
In honor of recovery of Bob Goldstein

LIBRARY FUND

Steve & Mary Anne Chernoff

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

The Breinin Family
In memory of Yahrzeit of Tommy Compton
Philip & Kenla Engel
In memory of Yahrzeit of Leah Molkin Rosenthal
Sam & Donna Zavelo
In honor of recovery of Irving Schlossenberg

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Marvin & Sheila Goldberg
In memory of Yahrzeit of Ruth Litvien



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Marshall Weingarten
- 3 Julie Schuman
- 5 Steve Rothstein
- 6 Sheila Goldberg
- 7 Louise Laster
- 8 Mickey Lieberman
- 8 Joe Posnanski
- 8 Janice Shopmaker
- 11 Sandra Bernstein
- 12 Marion Breinin
- 12 Paul Sexton
- 13 Deborah Speert
- 18 Joseph Greene
- 18 Harold Mallin
- 19 Alan Stempleman
- 20 Jeffrey Agron
- 21 Rick Breinin
- 22 Trudie Goldberg
- 25 Sheryl Kretchmer
- 26 David Nicol
- 26 Brian Balanoff
- 28 Phillip Engel



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Bruce & Alyson Rawitch
- 5 Janice & Harry Shopmaker
- 16 Lisa & Brian Greenwald
- 24 Jeffrey & Renay Agron
- 25 Vance & Linda Andreas
- 26 Leah & Lenny Bassin

If you are incorrectly listed or omitted, or you know someone who should be on the list, please call: (913) 642-9000 or email: office@kolamikc.com.

BINGO 2008 **SUBMITTED BY LARRY GELB**

The Second Annual Bingo Night was a happening on Saturday December 13th in the Kol Ami Social Hall. Approximately 80 congregants and friends attended and were rewarded with prizes from twenty-seven donors totaling over \$2,100.

Outstanding businesses such as the Intercontinental Hotel, Waldo Pizza, Cactus Grill, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Waids Restaurant, EBT Restaurant, Helzberg Jewelry, the Doubletree Hotel and many more were very generous with their Gift Certificates. The highlight of the evening was the super raffle for a dinner for two at the American Restaurant and a two-night stay at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This luxury extravaganza was won by the Milgrim family. A grateful member of Kol Ami donated cash to enable two cash prizes to be awarded in the amounts of \$100 and \$250.

Mike Shanin and Cantor Paul Silbersher were the callers. Other volunteers were Mike and Patty Boresow, Elizabeth Bamberger, Marge Brodtkin, Ev Gelb, David Diamond, Jill Fine, Ty and Anita Hampshire, Norm King, Bob Milgrim, Alyson Rawitch, Julie Schuman, Dorothy Solomon, David Wheaton and the youngest of all the volunteers, the dynamic Sammy Fine who pulled out the winning ticket for the raffle. Oh, and by the way, the Bingo Night showed a profit of \$1,140.

Final thanks go to all the congregants and friends that attended to make this a gala and profitable evening. See ya' next year!

FROM THE **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

The Events Committee needs your input. What kind of programming would you like to see offered in 2009? Your opinions are important and will be used to shape congregational activities. A survey will be placed on our website. This is an opportunity for you to shape Kol Ami. Please take a few minutes to provide feedback. Thank you.

If you are interested in helping the events committee, please contact Alyson Rawitch at (913) 681-5706 or alysonburnett@yahoo.com.

FROM THE **FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

We are still selling coupon books for \$20. Kol Ami gets \$10 for each book that we sell. There are some great deals in the book! Please call or e-mail me if you are interested.

We are planning a few big fund raisers for next spring, so keep watching the newsletter for details.

Lastly, Patty and I would like to thank Kol Ami for all of your kind letters and phone calls due to our recent hospital stays. We are both doing better.

Thank you again.

Mike Boresow
(913) 897-2792
mboresow@sbcglobal.net

REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE

Don't forget to recycle your printer cartridges at Kol Ami. The Fund-Raising Committee is able to turn for cash!

TLC ***(TENDER LOVING CARE)***

Are you, a family member or close friend in need of a little extra TLC due to an illness or death of a loved one? If you know someone who would benefit from a hospital visit, phone call, or card from Cantor Silbersher - call the office at (913) 642-9000.

To add someone to the Mi-Sheberach or Yahrzeit listing contact Judith Weingarten at (913) 888-9613.

KOL AMI KARES

The Kol Ami Kares Committee will meet on Sunday, January 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. Among other things, this committee sends cards to ill, grieving or celebrating congregants. They also distribute flowers to ill congregants after the High Holy Days as well as finding other ways help our members during times of need. If you are interested in helping this committee contact Ev Gelb at (816) 942-4954 or simply attend



KOL AMI GIFT SHOP

Kol Ami's Judaica shop has some of the most beautiful and unique Jewish gifts in the city. Our buyer, Louise Laster, strives to find one of a kind quality items. Whether you are looking for Shabbat candle sticks for newlyweds - a birthday gift for your sister, mother, or wife - a little something for your niece or nephew - a baby naming present... the shop has the perfect item. In addition to gifts the shop carries Jewish cards and wrapping. If the item you are looking for isn't carried, simply tell Louise, chances are she can find whatever you need.

The shop is generally open from 9:00 a.m. - Noon on weekdays or Sundays when Religious School is in session or by special appointment.

Kol Ami accepts Visa and MasterCard.

WHAT IF KOL AMI HAD A PENNY FOR EVERY TIME YOU SEARCHED THE INTERNET?

Set www.goodsearch.com as your home page and Congregation Kol Ami will earn money every time you search the internet!

Do your shopping online at one of the hundreds of Good Shop vendors to earn a percentage donation for Kol Ami. *It really works, a check was received just last month!*

PRAYER BOOKS

Would you like a Prayer Book for home use? Kol Ami and Cantor Silbersher have obtained a number of gently used prayer books and is making them available to congregants. If you did not receive a prayer book at the Chanukah Service, see Alyson after the MLK Service for your copy.

DIRECTORY

Kol Ami's new congregational directories will be mailed soon. If you do not receive your copy by January 15, please notify the office. Thank you.

REMINDER

Congregational Kol Ami accepts Visa and MasterCard for all donations and payments. Call the office for assistance in paying via credit card.

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed either goodies or funds for Oneg Shabbats. Our weekly gatherings would not be successful without your generosity.

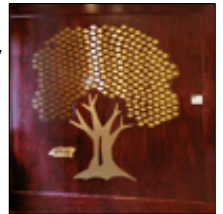
Naturally more baked items are always needed. Please wrap items for freezing and write your name and the date on each donation.

BE A PART OF CONGREGATION HISTORY

Commemorate your family's milestone events by purchasing a leaf on Kol Ami's Tree of Life. Leaves are reasonably priced at \$125 each. Donors may select pewter or brass colored leaves.

Leaves have been purchased in honor of a wide variety of events including: Professional Awards, New Babies, Birthdays, Bar Mitzvahs, Weddings, Confirmations, Anniversaries, Mother's Day, in Appreciation and Thank You's. You can purchase your leaf in honor of any of these kinds of events or come up with your own unique idea.

Contact Bob or Eve Goldstein to purchase your leaf at (913) 381-9115.



CATERED CONGREGATIONAL DINNER POLICIES

Due to the number of no shows for congregational dinners, the policies for catered dinner reservations will change effective January 1.

When a large number of reservations are received after the deadline, it makes it very hard to plan for a congregational function. Going forward reservations received after the deadline will be subject to a surcharge of \$1.50 per adult and \$1.00 for children ages four to twelve.

Payment must be provided in advance to receive regular pricing. When payment is received after the reservation deadline the late fee will apply. Remember that you can make dinner reservations using your Visa or MasterCard.

KOL AMI CALENDAR

January		
Friday	2	7:30 p.m. Worship Celebration. Members with January anniversaries will be recognized. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.
Sunday	4	No Religious School.
Monday	5	7:00 p.m. Torah and More led by Barry Speert.
Thursday	8	10:30 a.m. Torah Study led by Cantor Silbersher.
Friday	9	6:00 p.m. Family Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Potluck Shabbat Dinner, A - H Meat, I - N Vegetables/Potatoes, O - Z Salad/Fruit. RSVP by 1/8/2009. 7:30 p.m. Worship Celebration, Members with January birthdays will be honored. An Oneg Shabbat will follow.
Sunday	11	9:00 a.m. Religious School, 10:00 a.m. Adult Education led by Cantor Silbersher, Busy Buddies, 12:15 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Training.
Monday	12	7:00 p.m. Torah and More led by Barry Speert.
Tuesday	13	7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting at the Balanoff Home.
Thursday	15	10:30 a.m. Torah Study led by Cantor Silbersher.
Friday	16	7:30 p.m. Annual Martin Luther King Worship Celebration. Guest Sermon to be delivered by Pastor Michael Brooks of Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church. An Oneg Shabbat will follow. Congregation Kol Ami will be collecting canned or boxed food items for the Village Presbyterian and the Yachad Food Pantries. Everyone who attends this service is encouraged to bring a donation.
Sunday	18	9:00 a.m. Religious School, 10:00 a.m. Adult Education led by Cantor Silbersher, 12:15 p.m. Chai Times Junior Choir. B'nai Mitzvah Training.
Monday	19	7:00 p.m. Torah and More led by Barry Speert.
Tuesday	20	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday	22	10:30 a.m. Torah Study led by Cantor Silbersher.
Friday	23	7:30 p.m. Worship Celebration
Sunday	25	9:00 a.m. Religious School, 10:00 a.m. Adult Education led by Cantor Silbersher, Kol Ami Kares and Events Committees will Meet. 12:15 p.m. B'nai Mitzvah Training.
Monday	26	7:00 p.m. Torah and More led by Barry Speert.
Tuesday	27	Newsletter Submission Deadline
Thursday	29	10:30 a.m. Torah Study led by Cantor Silbersher.
Friday	30	7:30 p.m. Worship Celebration
February		
Sunday	1	9:00 a.m. Religious School, 10:00 a.m. Adult Education led by Cantor Silbersher, Busy Buddies. 11:00 a.m. Possible Guest Speaker. 12:15 p.m. Chai Times Junior Choir. B'nai Mitzvah Training.

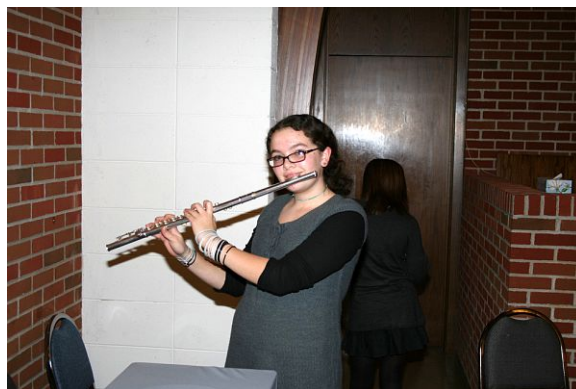
KOL AMI SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Unless otherwise noted, all services will be held at Kol Ami, childcare will be provided on Shabbat and an Oneg Shabbat will follow.

TRIVIA ANSWER

The Western Wall or Wailing Wall was originally called Kotel Ha' Ma-a-ra-v in Hebrew.

NIGHT OF LIGHTS
CHANUKAH AT KOL AMI



More photos are available at <http://www.kolamikc.com/Pages/album.html>.
Photography by Sam Matier.