

"The Voice of My People"



The Monthly Bulletin of Congregation Kol Ami

Congregation **קול עמי** כל All My People

Iyar ~ Sivan 5768

June 2008

The Kol Ami Mission: The Mission of Kol Ami is to inspire each member through creative approaches to education, innovative worship and enlivening communal experiences. Kol Ami nurtures the desire to incorporate Jewish values and traditions into everyday life.

President's Corner by Jeffrey Wolansky

As I wrote in my column last month, I am going to use my final 'Corner' to reflect back on the past two years with an eye towards the future. Well, I was going to do that until this past weekend (May 5th & 6th). The activities and events during that Shabbat are the perfect lens through which to view our past and future. The weekend exemplified what Kol Ami is and should be all about.

Friday evening was our Grade 4-7 Class Shabbat Dinner which was followed by a Youth Service. There were 80 plus adults and children for dinner. When I began my term 80 was about the most we had ever had for a dinner. Our school has grown from about 30 students to almost 70 next year. It is axiomatic that our children are our future. I consider this to be one of the most significant achievements during my tenure... and I had just about zero to do with it. The Religious school program that our school leadership has developed and our teachers have delivered speaks for itself as reflected in those numbers. The school is a prime example of how we achieve our mission and where we reflect our values. It is working. Our children enjoy being here. Our children are taking ownership.

Breaking bread together as a community and sharing a Shabbat meal is the type of event that strengthens our communal bonds. I wish we could do more of them. That we do as many as we do without a kitchen is nothing short of miraculous and there are not enough thanks for those involved in putting them on time and time again.

REMINDER!

**Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 22 at 9:30 am**

We have had to cap attendance at recent events (a first). Expanding physical space requirements for our dinners, our school, our services (especially High Holidays) has been a constant challenge during the past few years and will continue to be. As I write this, we are in the midst of deciding, as a congregation, if we have the communal will and finances to take the next step in resolving this issue. Purchasing our building would certainly be a strong step in finding the stability we have all long desired. Let us pray that our hearts and thoughts of our children's future will guide us to have our wallets do what we know is the right thing to do.

The class dinner was followed by a spirited Youth Service. Each class made a presentation and our young emissary, Geffen, led us in Hatikvah to conclude the service. The pews were filled to capacity; chairs were brought in for the stragglers. The kavana was inspiring. After several weeks of very low attendance on Friday nights, it was all very refreshing. I will admit to being somewhat mystified at the low attendance. I want to challenge each and every member to make a

continued on page 4

- JUNE YAHRZEITS -

Yahrzeits Ending June 7, 2008

- 1) (Sun.) Sarah Moskowitz
.....Mother of George Moskowitz
- 3) (Tues.) Clara Segal Mother of Milton Segal
- 6) (Fri.) Max Moskowitz..... Father of George Moskowitz
- 6) (Fri.) Louis Gold..... Father of Dr. Julius Gold
- 6) (Fri.) Dr. Harry Diamond.....Brother of Jeanne Broder
- 6) (Fri.) Mildred Lillian Spalter
.....Mother of Karen Shapiro

Yahrzeits Ending June 14 2008

- 8)(Sun.) Sarah Solomon
..... Grandmother of Stacey Wright

Yahrzeits Ending June 21, 2008

- 17) (Tues.) Arlene Hechtman
.....Mother of Rabbi Andrew Hectman
- 20) (Fri.) Meyer Jacobs..... Father of Harriet Spear
- 21) (Sat.) Julia Sherman.....Mother of Myra Moskowitz

Yahrzeits Ending June 28, 2008

- 22) (Sun.) Louis Franzman
..... Grandfather of Susan M Friedman
- 24) (Tues.) Allen Braun
..... Husband of Antoinette Braun
- 24) (Tues.) Allen Braun
.....Father of Deborah Braun Romano
- 25) (Wed.) Harry HorenbeinFather of Gloria Aronheim
- 26) (Thurs.) Tillie Kramer
..... Mother of Sally Katrosar and Harriet Meisel

Yahrzeits Ending July 5, 2008

- (June)
- 29) (Sun.) Minnie Miller
..... Grandmother of Susan M Friedman
- (July)
- 3) (Thurs.) Meyer Kramer
.....Father of Sally Katrosar and Harriet Meisel
- 5) (Sat.) Boris Dersits Father of Anna Nebrat

Buy Stop and Shop Cards! Earn "Free Money" for Kol Ami

They are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. Not only can you buy groceries with them, but they make great gifts for special occasions. They can be purchased during Hebrew school on Wednesdays and Sundays. You can also contact Susan Peck or leave a message at the synagogue and she will get back to you.



If you have a Yahrzeit to observe please contact Joel Kronengold by calling the synagogue. Joel will make sure that the Yahrzeit is mentioned in the bulletin and you will receive a yearly reminder.

THURSDAY MORNING MINYAN

Can't wait until Friday or Saturday services and want a spiritual lift? Do you have a Yahrzeit to observe? Then come to Thursday morning services at 8:00 a.m. and stay for breakfast! We meet every week. Please contact Ed Bieler at 203-272-1006 to verify time.



**PORTOFINO'S II
RESTAURANT**

1585 Meriden Road
Wolcott, Connecticut

203-879-5766

DONATIONS TO OUR FUNDS

As of May 16, 2008

Eternal Light Fund

Philip Reich

Helen Goldfracht and Joan Goldfracht in honour of
Billy Traurig, son of Sondra Traurig,
passing the North Carolina Bar Exam

Gerry Ganezer

In Memory of Nanette Schultz
Mother of Stephanie and David Zomick

In Memory of Sarah Hurwitz
Mother of Barbara and Payson Hurwitz

In Memory of Perla Kronengold
Mother of Joan and Joel Kronengold

In Honour of a new grandchild to Alan and Janet
Hertzmark
from Marilyn and Stan Halpert

- The **Eternal Light Fund** is what we call our General Fund contributions. For it is only with these essential contributions that we can keep the Eternal Light burning.
- The **Danielle Crumb Building Fund** will provide money towards the establishment of an educational wing in our new building. It will serve as a brick and mortar living tribute to the memory of our dear friend, Danielle.
- The **Building Fund** provides money towards the goal of establishing our own facility.
- The **Arlene & Harold Hechtman Fund for Youth** is a fund that Rabbi Andy established in memory of his parents. This fund provides money for opportunities for the children of Kol Ami (Jewish camps, USY activities, etc.).
- The **Chesed Fund** provides money for expenses by our volunteers who take care of the ill – Bikkur Cholim, and console the mourners – Nichum Avelim.
- The **Torah Maintenance Fund** is used for necessary repairs of our three Torah scrolls.
- The **Library Fund** is used to provide new volumes for the library from Bristol's Beth Israel.
- The **Prayer Book Fund** is used to provide ritual materials or updated siddurim as needed.

To donate to one of the above funds, see form on back page.

Kol Ami Welcomes Ruthie Greenblatt

Please join us for services Friday evening, June 13th at 7:30 P.M. when Kol Ami welcomes **Ruthie Greenblatt** to our staff as rabbinic assistant. Ruthie will be teaching in our Religious School beginning this fall, assisting with the training of our B'nai Mitzvah students and leading services when Rabbi Hechtman is off. We hope you will come to meet and welcome her to our Kol Ami family. A special Oneg Shabbat will follow services.

BAGELICIOUS BAGELS

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Profile



**Saturday, June 28th
9:30am**

My name is Rebecca Krieger. I live in Cheshire, CT and attend Dodd Middle school. I have 4 brothers and 1 sister. My favorite sport is gymnastics. In school I really like math the best. My parents' names are Susan and Howard. My torah portion is Korah. I am involved in Miss Melinda's Tumbling, babysitting, and cheerleading outside of school. My Bat Mitzvah Project is collecting toys, food, blankets, and other items to donate to animal shelters. I chose this project because I love animals.

Community Service Projects for Convention 2008

Women's League For Conservative Judaism is taking its biennial convention on the road to Detroit, Michigan, November 9-12, 2008. As part of a community service project, we are asking Sisterhood members to bring handmade scarves to a community that has been hard hit by economic hard times. Use your hands to lend a hand; wouldn't it be fun to take on this project... if we can get 10 scarves from each sisterhood (hopefully more) to take to convention... WOW!!!

SCARF (in any color) convention colors are red, black and silver!!! or color of choice... this is soooooooooooooo easy...

Cast on 22 stitches. Work even in Garter Stitch until piece measures 60" or you have 1 yard of yarn left. Bind off. Weave in loose ends. (The Garter Stitch is knit every row.) 1

2 skeins FUN FUR YARN makes a wonderfully warm scarf. Any yarn can be used. Knitting needles (size 11) (to make them longer I have used 3 skeins on some)

For more information, contact Ethel Marcus. Leave a message at the synagogue office 203.272.1006.

President's Corner by Jeffry Wolansky

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point of picking a Shabbat over the summer and make it a point to attend services. Call a few friends and bring them along. It is a breath of fresh air in our hectic lives. If you want me to play the 'guilt' card, I would remind you that we have members that need to say Kaddish. This is part of our mission as well – to be there for these members.

Saturday morning continued where Friday night left off in terms of the spiritual kavana that I embrace (or perhaps embraces me) every time I enter our shul. Beyond the usual pleasure I get from seeing our B'Nai Mitzvah and pre B'Nai Mitzvah students lead parts of the service, we had a baby naming as well. We wish Mazel Tov to Josh and Jen Weissman and their family. Immediately after the service, two individuals approached me to let me know that they want to join Kol Ami simply based on what they had just experienced. "This is what IT is all about" is what they and many of us have said after our first Kol Ami experience... and then we join. I have found that "IT" has a different meaning for each of us so I just nodded my head and agreed with these individuals. Simply by doing what we do (not always easy), this is how we have grown over not just my term but the life of Kol Ami. That is our past and that will be our future. I have been just a very temporary custodian of the secular leadership.

I have purposely avoided thanking specific members in this column as each and every one of you deserves thanks for what you give to Kol Ami; plus, it is inevitable that if I attempted to name names that I would omit a few. So, I thank all of you. Know that your efforts are crucial and appreciated.

I must make one exception. I/We could devote an entire bulletin to how he has helped and guided me and us. I will not. I will simply say the two words that I know he will appreciate the most: Thank You, Rabbi Andy.

I am excited about the future of Kol Ami. I will continue to be a part of our community. Our secular leadership transition will be seamless – I am committed to see that happen. It has been an honor and a privilege being your President these past two years. See you around.

PS – I was just about to put this to bed and realized that I needed to make one more exception and name another name to thank – my family. There really are no words for what they have given and what they have endured. Cheryl, you will always be my First Lady.

Beginning July 1, All Charitable Gift Annuity Rates Will be Lowered- Act Now to Lock in Current Rates and Help Benefit Kol Ami

Create a Jewish Legacy For Kol Ami and receive a tax deduction and a guaranteed annual income

When you establish a charitable gift annuity for the benefit of Kol Ami--you invest in the future of your community, leave a charitable legacy, receive a generous income tax deduction and receive a guaranteed income stream.

For example, Sarah, age 80 years old, creates a single life charitable gift annuity by donating \$10,000 to the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven for the benefit of Kol Ami. The charitable gift annuity agreement provides that Sarah receive an annual annuity of \$800, of which, \$542 is tax-free for 9.4 years. In addition, the agreement provides that at her death, the remainder from Sarah's annuity creates a perpetual endowment fund for Kol Ami, in memory of Sarah's parents. Not only does Sarah receive a lifetime annuity payment, but she will also receive a \$4,905 charitable deduction. In addition, if Sarah's contribution consists of long-term appreciated property, Sarah may be able to reduce and defer the capital gains tax on the property she donates. Sarah now has a guaranteed income stream, a charitable deduction and has helped her community by creating a permanent endowment for Kol Ami.

When you Create a Jewish Legacy with a charitable gift annuity-

- You will receive a guaranteed annual income for life (for you and/or your spouse).
- The remainder of the annuity will be paid to the not-for-profit organization(s) that you choose. You can designate that it be used for general purposes, to establish a restricted endowment for scholarships, educational programs, or any other program or project that is important to you.
- You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for part of the donation.
- Part of your annuity payment will be tax-free.

A charitable gift annuity is also a great opportunity to "convert" appreciated property into income payments to you!

\$10,000 Cash Gift Annuity*

age	rate	annuity payment	tax-free portion	charitable deduction
65	6.00%	\$600	\$340	\$3,225
70	6.50%	\$650	\$397	\$3,686
75	7.10%	\$710	\$466	\$4,226
80	8.00%	\$800	\$558	\$4,750
85	9.50%	\$950	\$715	\$5,133
90	11.30%	\$1,130	\$889	\$5,643

*Based on rates as of May 2008 for a one-life annuity. Rates differ for two-life annuity. Tax-free portion differs when annuity is established with appreciated property.

For more information on creating your Jewish legacy contact Lisa Stanger, Director, Jewish Foundation of GNH, 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

June 2008 Calendar

<i>Shabbat Services every Friday at 7:30 pm and Saturday at 10 am with Torah Study at 9 am unless otherwise noted</i>		
Sunday	1	11:30 - Special Congregational Meeting Last Day Sunday School
Wednesday	4	4:30 pm - Blintz Rolling for All families. Last Day Wednesday School
Thursday	5	7:15 pm - Board Meeting
Friday/ Saturday	6/7	Relay for Life. Shabbat Services at Cheshire High School Track. -Friday - approx 6:45 pm -Saturday - 9:30 am
Sunday	8	5 pm - Blintz Dinner, Shavuot Services and School Awards immediately following dinner
Friday	13	7:30 pm - Shabbat Service welcoming Rabbinic Assistant Ruthie Greenblatt
Saturday	21	9:30 am - Zelly Nebrat Bat Mitzvah (no Torah Study)
Sunday	22	9:30 am - Congregational Meeting
Saturday	28	9:30 am - Rebecca Krieger Bat Mitzvah (no Torah Study)

**Have a happy
and
safe summer!**



June Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday, June 6 @8:05pm
Friday, June 13 @8:08pm
Friday, June 20 @8:11pm
Friday, June 27 @8:12pm



June Birthdays

Laurie Amon
 Cindy Boi
 Robert Burke
 Lexi Carim
 Olivia Cosenza
 Cassandra Crumb
 Hayden Crumb
 Judy Daninhirsch
 Laney Feldman
 Bob Ginsberg
 Leonard Glaser
 Kathi Handler
 Phil Kampner
 Daniel Krieger
 Sydney Korman
 Calum McConnell
 Zelly Nebrat
 Sharon Rosenblatt
 Sidney Rosenblatt
 Seth Rubinstein
 Howard Tenenbaum
 Alexander Tsekhsansky
 Samuel Unsworth
 Benjamin Upadhyaya
 Ariana Weinstein
 Janessa White
 Linda Zackin



June Anniversaries

Cindy & John Boi
 Kathi Handler & Gary Broder
 Laney Feldman & Leonard Glaser
 Miriam & Jeff Jennings
 Fran & Aaron Kadish
 Lynn & Eric Kaufman
 Arlene and Ken Kaye
 Lois & Bill Kramer
 Hollye & Larry Lew
 Shelly & Herbert Parsley
 Wanda & Sam Rieger
 Linda & Nelson Shub
 Linda & David Zackin
 Stephanie & David Zomick



Kol Ami Vote and Meeting Result

Thank you to those of you who came to the congregational meeting. Your attendance allowed us to make a quorum and a valid vote was taken regarding the purchase of the Kol Ami facility. To those of you who sent in absentee ballots, thank you. Your votes allowed us to obtain a total ballot of 96 or 50% of our total voting members.

The result of the balloting was 76 votes for the purchase (78%), 19 votes against the purchase (20%), and 2 votes abstaining (2%). This vote easily passed the threshold of 66% needed to approve the motion and the Board will go forward with the negotiations to purchase the current facility for no more than 575,000. Other details of the current state of the negotiations were included in your ballot.

While the large majority of members did support the building purchase, there were several significant issues raised at the meeting. Please be assured that the Board sees these issues as important. We will do all we can to address them in this letter and pursue them going forward in the building purchase process at the Board level.

Some members voiced concerns that there is not enough information available about our building, its structural and functional history, our presumed obligations to the condo association of which we would assume membership, and other possible exposure that we would assume if the purchase is completed. Other members expressed concern that the process has been rushed and feel forced into a premature decision.

The Board recognizes the validity of the need for more information. We see the next step as a "due diligence" phase of negotiation and expect to collect information pertaining to the structure, projected maintenance and repair costs, the legal implications of condo ownership, possible reductions to the price or other financial offsets and other information that our attorneys and real estate advisors feel is necessary prior to a closing. We will report this information to the congregation when it becomes available.

The process has been rushed. This is due to two factors. One, we simply did not begin preliminary negotiations early enough when the Allstate space became available and two, when we did begin to speak to the owner we were told that he was not open to a sale. Only through the persistent negotiations of Nelson Shub and others did the owner agree to sell us the building. The Board regrets the delay and the rush. No amount of anxiety, however, will bring that time

back to us. We recognize that we must act now. The fall will bring critical overcrowding to the religious school and in two years our lease will expire. The proposed purchase is the only available current option to these problems.

The other area of concern raised at Sunday's meeting was the state of our current budget. Morris Eisenberg, Finance Committee Chair, made a presentation and implied clearly that our budget has a possible shortfall and suggested that this was due to a lack of transparency in the process and of poor planning. Unfortunately Morris did not notify the Board prior to his presentation, therefore no clear response could be planned or presented. The Board did its best to respond, however several points should be clarified.

Budget shortfalls have been historical at Kol Ami. They have occurred in most previous administrations. Whether due to poor planning, unanticipated growth, or lack of growth, they have always been problematic. Yet, we do continue to thrive and grow. Morris' experience with previous administrations and his many years as a professional banker have taught him to look for transparency as the best solution. His repeated position during his time on the Board has been very much about the advocacy of transparency.

We do have a small budget shortfall. It is the result of a poor fundraising results, the impact of a downturn economy on membership dues collections and the fact that some members have failed to fulfill pledge obligations.

Our plan to cover the budget shortfall includes an aggressive pursuit of the accounts receivable. We have been assured that some of this debt is recoverable during the 30 days remaining in the fiscal year.

We have also asked some members for prepayment of next year's dues. While this will incur a liability for the next fiscal year, it will be reported in a manner to reflect it accurately, thus maintaining the transparency necessary in the process and ensure a cash flow to make it through this year.

The Board expects the cash flow issue to end in July 2008 as we enter the new fiscal year and we begin to invoice and collect membership dues and pledges. It will also require a better effort on fundraising next year to see a healthy Kol Ami in 2008-2009. We welcome members who wish to review our financial records to attend the next Board meeting on June 5 at 7:15pm.

KOL AMI
PO BOX 1318
CHESHIRE, CT 06410
(203) 272-1006

www.kolamicheshire.org

Rabbi	Andrew Hechtman
President	Jeffry Wolansky
1st VP	Open
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Personnel	Howard Krieger
Programming	Abbi Bruce
Publicity	Liz Alexander
Ritual	Gerry Ganezer
School	Marcy Thomaswick Cheryl Wolansky
Sisterhood	Ethel Marcus
Tikkun Olam	Rose Spielman
Bulletin Editor	Liz Kozak

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\$____ Chesed \$____ Youth

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\$____ Torah Maintenance \$____ Danielle Crumb Bldg Fund

Payment MUST accompany request to be acknowledged.