

"The Voice of My People"



The 'Monthly Bulletin of Congregation Kol Ami

Congregation **עמי כל** All My People

Nisan ~ Iyar 5768

May 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

Next month will be the last month that I will have the opportunity to share my thoughts with you in our monthly newsletter – at least as President. For my last 'Corner' I plan on reflecting on our progress over the past two years and our challenges ahead.

For this next to last Corner, I want to revisit our theme of 'taking ownership.' Usually when we mention 'ownership,' it refers to creating an environment at Kol Ami that allows us to take ownership of our Judaism. Indeed, this is the very mission of our shul as reflected in our Mission Statement. The Mission Statement 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." Certainly we do this in many different ways through services and ritual, religious education, tikkun olam, and social interaction to name a few. I believe that part of the goal of this is to make each of us more comfortable simply being Jews. After all, as I have said before, Jewish is who we are not what we are.

However, that is not what I want to discuss in the column. I don't want to discuss taking ownership of our Judaism. I believe that if you have decided to be a member of Kol Ami that you have already taken the best, next step you can in that awesome, blessed journey. I want to discuss taking ownership of Kol Ami. After all, it is you and I that are the 'owners' of our shul. It is our shul. You and I own a piece of that.

So, what does it mean to 'take ownership' of Kol Ami? Well, it starts at the most mundane and basic level. Kol Ami, in that regard, is an extension of your home. Thirsty? Go to the refrigerator and grab a soda or pour yourself a cup of juice. Do you feel comfortable enough

at Kol Ami to do that? Hungry? Grab a piece of fruit from same fridge; find a couple of cookies; grab a piece of candy. Need a utensil? Do you know which credenza has our meat utensils and supplies and which one has dairy? Well, you own it – you should. And if you don't, ask! Whom should you ask? An officer, a member of ritual, the Rabbi – keep asking until you get your answer.

I plead guilty on behalf of leadership that we have not done enough to educate our community on even these mundane items and we need to do better. Don't let our failure stop you from grabbing the reins and taking ownership.

Ownership is a two-way street though. With freedom comes responsibility. This means that if you see that our recycling bin is full, empty it and take the recyclables home with you and put in your bin – we don't have a pick-up as part of our garbage service. If the bin has returnables, grab them, and put a few shekels in the tzedekah box on the table in our lobby. If you see some dirty tablecloths laying around, take them home and wash them. We trust you – after all – you own the place.

The vast majority of us tell nearly the same story of why we are at Kol Ami. It goes something like....we came once, met a few cool people, met a unique and outstanding Rabbi, felt welcome and we joined. In other words, we immediately felt 'at home.' That feeling is what allows us to stay energized on our own individual journey to continue to own our Judaism. And that is very important. But, don't minimize the need to 'feel at home' at your Shul. You should feel as comfortable there as in your own home. When you have no physical or mental stress because of where you are, it becomes a lot easier to focus the rest of your energy on why you are there in the first place. Take ownership of your shul, your home.

- MAY YAHRZEITS -

Yahrzeits Ending May 3, 2008

- (April)
 27) (Sun.) Perle Kronengold
Mother of Joel Kronengold
 28) (Mon.) Isaac Cohen Father of Jacob Cohen
 30) (Wed.) Marion Keller..... Mother of Jane Herzig
 (May)
 1) (Thurs.) Mitchell Backon Father of Abbi Bruce
 3) (Sat.) Sarah BernsteinMother of Helen Kaufman
 3) (Sat.) Nathan Braver
 Paternal Grandfather of Ethel Marcus
 3) (Sat.) Anna Kadish..... Mother of Aaron Kadish
 3) (Sat.) Paul Kampner Father of Philip Kampner

Yahrzeits Ending May 10, 2008

- 4) (Sun.) Beatrice GreenMother of Linda Zackin
 5) (Mon.) Abram Brodach.....Father of Jay Brodach
 5) (Mon.) Alla NebratMother of Marat Nebrat
 7) (Wed.) Jean Thomaswick
Mother of Jeffery Thomaswick
 10) (Sat.) Ruth Wolfson
Mother of Marjorie Menaker

Yahrzeits Ending May 17, 2008

- 11) (Sun.) Nanette Schultz.... Mother of Stephanie Zomick
 11) (Sun.) George Feldman...Brother of Dr. Joyce Saltman
 12) (Mon.) Milton Bernstein.... Brother of Helen Kaufman

- 14) (Wed.) William Lewis Jacobs
 Father of Sara Manning
 16) (Fri.) Harold Hechtman
 Father of Rabbi Andrew Hechtman
 16) (Fri.) Gary Feldman..... Husband of Betty Feldman &
Father of Lila Rebecca Feldman
 17) (Sat.) Ida FriedmanMother of Jeffrey Friedman

Yahrzeits Ending May 24, 2008

- 18) (Sun.) Milton KadishBrother of Aaron Kadish
 20) (Tues.) Yetta Katzman
 Sister In-Law of Jeanne Broder
 22) (Thurs.) Fannie Saguta
Mother In-Law of Meredith Saguta
 23) (Fri.) Estelle Goldfarb.....Sister of Aaron Kadish

Yahrzeits Ending May 31, 2008

- 25) (Sun.) Charles Murray
 Step-Father of Marcy Thomaswick
 26) (Mon.) David MeiselFather of Harry Meisel
 27) (Tues.) Evelyn Fleischman
 Mother of Audrey Grove
 27) (Tues.) Lillian Polonsky Mother of Marsha Stein
 28) (Wed.) Danielle Crumb..... Wife of Rob Crumb
 29) (Thurs.) Anna Kronick.....Mother of Sondra Kronick
 31) Sat.) Lena Kalmanovsky
 Aunt of Leonid Kalmanovsky

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.

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DONATIONS TO OUR FUNDS

As of April 24, 2008

Eternal Light Fund

A Happy and Healthy Birthday to Alan Stein

Paula Kaplan

In honour of Stanley Juda , brother of Gerry Ganezer, receiving the Tzedek Award from Temple Abraham, Nashua, New Hampshire

Paula Kaplan

In honour of Jason Thomaswick's arrival

In Memory of Hannah Gay

Abbi and Sara Bruce

In honour of the Aufruf of Jennifer and Scott Leiman and in appreciation of receiving an aliyah

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Leiman

Chesed Fund

In memory of Fred Rubinstein, father

Norman Shulkin

Torah Fund

In honour of the Aliyah I received at Madeline Tenenbaum's Bat Mitzvah

The Liss-Bart Family

The Danielle Crumb Building Fund

In honour of Jack Dolinsky's 85th Birthday

In Memory of Nora Kaplan—sister of Jack Dolinsky Sydel and Lou Kugell

Eternal Life Fund

In Memory of Louis Bart, father

Barbara and Payson Hurwitz

In Memory of Sol Kaplowitz, father and grandfather—

Aaron, Sam and Noa Kaplowitz

In Memory of Herman Segal, father

Allen and Susan Segal

In Memory of Issac Cohen, father

Jack Cohen

In Memory of Joseph Katrosar, brother-in-law

Harriet and Harry Meisel

In Memory of Joseph Katrosar—

wife and son Sallye Katrosar and

David Katrosar

In Memory of Anna Kadish, mother

Fran and Aaron Kadish

In Memory of Sarah Hunter

The Hunter Family

In Memory of Ruth Wolfson and Samuel Wolfson, mother and father

Marge and Michael Menaker

In Memory of Jean Thomaswick, mother

Marcy and Jeff Thomaswick

- 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.

Don't Forget!!! Bulletin Deadline

Please remember to submit your bulletin articles to liz_kozak@yahoo.com by **Sunday, May 18, 2008.**

PORTOFINO'S II RESTAURANT

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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Profile



Brett Lerner

Saturday, May 17th 9:30am

My name is Brett Lerner. I live in Prospect and attend Long River Middle School. I have a younger sister. My favorite sports are basketball and running. My favorite type of music is Rock. I sing in the chorus. My hobby is reading books. In school I really like history the best. My parents names are Michael and Barbara.

My torah portion is B'har 25:1 through 25:34. I am involved in working with children.

My Bar/Bat Mitzvah Project is buying and baking filled cookies to raise the money. Ronni Crumb wanted to purchase livestrong bracelets to honor her Mom at the Relay for Life in Cheshire. I chose this project because I heard that this is what she wanted and asked Rob for the honor of raising the money for her.

Relay for Life

Come Join the Kol Ami Community at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Cheshire, on June 6-7th.



Our team is 50 members strong already, and it's NOT too late to join in.

One of the goals of this event is to raise money, so keep up the fundraising. If you have already registered with us, Bank Night is Wednesday, May 21st from 6-8 pm at Kol Ami. All fundraising money is due at this time.

Information for meals and shabbat services will be posted soon.

Questions? Please contact Rose Spielman or Tracy Carim (284-1632) or leave a message at Kol Ami (272-1006).

We hope you will be a part of this incredible event!!



Religious School

May 2008 School News

It's hard to believe our school year is winding down! While spring is upon us and the weather has certainly been cooperating....there are still many good learning days left! Please be sure to bring your children to school on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at the scheduled starting times. Wednesday school begins at 4:15pm and ends at 6:15pm. Saturday school begins at 8:30am and Shabbat Services begin at 10:00am. Sunday school begins at 9:30 and ends at noon! Our teachers need every minute of the limited time they have to teach your children. In addition, please make every effort to attend family and youth services as this is also part of their Jewish education. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Our next Shabbat Class Dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 9th beginning at 6pm.

The dinner is for all students in grades 4-7 and their families and there will be a youth service immediately following at 7:30 for ALL school families. Families in grades 4-7: please watch for a



flyer about this dinner coming soon. There will be no school on Saturday, May 17th as we will be celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Brett Lerner! All families are invited to share this wonderful event at Kol Ami beginning at 9:30am. Please note there will be no school on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th.

A look ahead to JUNE: The last day of Sunday school is June 1st. The last day of Wednesday school is June 4th and we will be rolling blintzes! (More on this to come...) The last day of Saturday school is June 7th and our annual Shavuot celebration is Sunday, June 8th. Please watch for more information on all of these events during the month.

Wandering Stars – An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy & Science Fiction

- edited by Jack Dann
Reviewed by Jeff Wolansky.

When I read fiction it is almost exclusively Fantasy or Science Fiction. The Lord of the Rings trilogy or Asimov's Foundation series are right up there as my favorites. So imagine my delight when I discovered a short story collection of these genre and all with a Jewish based them. Far Out!

"Wandering Stars" is a collection 13 short stories published in 1974. A second collection was published in the 90's and it will provide some enjoyable summer reading.

The authors range from Issac Asimov to Pamela Sargent to Issac Bashevis Singer. About half of the stories are of the science fiction realm and several deal with the theme of either how to be Jewish on a planet other than Earth or if an alien (not the illegal kind) can be Jewish. The latter is the theme of the story that opens the collection, William Tenn's "On Venus, Have we got a Rabbi." As is the case with about half the stories, a basic understanding of Jewish concepts helps one understand the story and dialogues even better. The story involves the rift between human father and his son and whether an alien is Jewish; the matter, as so many times in our past, resolved by a great Rabbi. The last story in the volume by Harlan Ellison, "I'm Looking for Kadak" involves the search for a tenth for a shiva minyan and whether a former Jew now an alien butterfly could count as the tenth. Knowing some Halacha, in this case, that the Torah may stand as the tenth, certainly helps the reader understand the plot. This story was so full of Yiddish expressions, it provided its own glossary.

Several of the stories feature creatures from Jewish mythology such as Avram Davidon's, "The Golem" & "Goslin Day" and Robert Silverberg's, "The Dybbuk of Mazel Tov IV." Silverberg's story of the dybbuk (a ghost/demon) combines that creature with the above theme of being on another planet with aliens. Yet another story with a strange creature is Horace Gold's, "The Trouble with Water" in which a shnook is cursed

by some 'little man' by not allowing water to touch him.

I hope most of you are laughing either because you think this is rich stuff or because you think it is utterly ridiculous; either way it is good fun. However, not all of the stories will have you smirking. The most poignant of these must be Pamela Sargent's, "Gather Blue Rose's." This is the story of the children of a Holocaust survivor. A surreal tale in which the young daughter, Anna, sheltered from her mother's horrible memories by her mother's self-imposed silence becomes an empath, literally feeling the pain of those around her. At only four pages, I have seldom read a story that packs so much emotion into so little words.

Another surreal tale is Bashevis Singer's, "Jachid and Jechidah." In this story of reality turned upside down, Dead souls in Heaven and Hell are 'living' and being born back on Earth is considered death; a truly entertaining tale that will have you re-thinking life and death from a whole other of point-of-view.

For me, the most enjoyable story was Robert Sheckley's, "Street of Dreams, Feet of Clay." Imagine a futuristic city with everything one could need; now give it one of those talking computers like Star Trek that can talk to you anywhere you are. OK, now give that computer the personality of the stereotypical 'Jewish Mother.' This story had me laughing out loud and reading passages to Cheryl. I can still hear the city saying, as its last inhabitant is leaving (picture the son leaving mama's home), "Have a nice trip. Don't worry about me, I'll be waiting up for you."

As with any collection of this nature there are some gems and some that just seem to fill space. If SciFi or SciFan is your thing, however, this will provide some laughs and provoke some thoughts.



May 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>		
Thursday	1	7:15 pm - Board Meeting
Thursday	8	7:15 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting
Friday	9	6 pm - Grades 4-7 Class Dinner 7:30 pm - Youth Service (all are welcome)
Saturday	10	Weissman Baby Naming (during Shabbat Service)
Saturday	17	9:30 am - Bar Mitzvah of Brett Lerner NO SCHOOL
Saturday	24	NO SCHOOL
Sunday	25	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	27	7 pm - Yartzheit minyon in memory of Danielle Crumb

May Shabbat Candle Lighting

Friday, May 2 @ 7:33pm
 Friday, May 9 @ 7:40pm
 Friday, May 16 @ 7:47pm
 Friday, May 23 @ 7:54pm
 Friday, May 30 @ 8:00pm



Josh & Jen Weissman would like to invite the congregation to help celebrate the naming of their daughter, Hailey, during the Shabbat Service, 10 am, on Saturday, May 10.

May Birthdays

Benjamin Alexander
 Shirley Brodach
 Betsy Cosenza
 Steve Casman
 Ann Curiale
 Aaron Darter
 Ari Darter
 Morris Eisenberg
 Joshua Friedman
 Mitchell Friedman
 Heather Gerber
 Kent Gerber
 Fonda Green
 Tammi Grove
 Jo-Ellen Hubelbank
 Barbara Hurwitz
 Miriam Jennings
 Jerome Kaplan
 Maya Kosover
 Rachel Kozak
 Joan Kronengold
 Louis Kugell
 Jonathon Menaker
 Eileen Saper
 Elana Schulefand
 Sarah Schulefand
 Erik Shapiro
 Karen Shapiro
 Dayna Stein
 Ethan Thomaswick
 Jeff Wolansky



May Anniversaries

Stacey Gerber & Ray Esposito
 Jill & Michael Feinberg
 Rabbi Andy & Rachel Hechtman
 Lauren & Mark Korman
 Joan & Joel Kronengold
 Barbara & Michael Lerner
 Pearl & Sidney Shilberg
 Harriet & Bernard Spear



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When you establish a charitable gift annuity for the benefit of Kol Ami:

- We will pay you a guaranteed annual income for life (for you and/or your spouse).
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- You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for part of the donation.
- Part of your annuity payment will be tax-free.

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age	rate	annuity payment	tax-free portion	charitable deduction
65	6.00%	\$600	\$304	\$3,949
70	6.50%	\$650	\$360	\$4,277
75	7.10%	\$710	\$428	\$4,688
80	8.00%	\$800	\$522	\$5,100
85	9.50%	\$950	\$675	\$5,404
90	11.30%	\$1,130	\$849	\$5,833
*Based on rates as of November 2007. Rates differ for two-life annuity. Tax-free portion differs when annuity is established with appreciated property. Charitable gift annuities for Kol Ami are established with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.				

For more information about this and other “tax-smart” gifts for Kol Ami, contact Lisa A. Stanger, Esq., Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, or Morris Eisenberg, Kol Ami member.



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

Great gift for your children, nieces, and nephews and grandchildren in college.

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.

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

www.kolamicheshire.org

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Treasurer	Jay Korman
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Fundraising	Ethel Marcus
Gift Shop	Tracy Carim Betsy Cosenza
House	Jeff Thomaswick
Membership	Beth Tenenbaum
Nominating	Guy Darter
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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