



CONGREGATION
**KOL
AMI**
WEST HOLLYWOOD'S
REFORM SYNAGOGUE



KOLEINU

March/April 2004 ■ VOLUME X, NO. 50 ■ ADAR/NISAN/IYAR 5764

Mark your calendar...

- March 3**
Board of Trustees Meeting
- March 6**
MOKA Informal Lunch following Shabbat Services
- March 7**
PURIM Celebration Reader's Salon
- March 9**
Ritual Committee Meeting
- March 10**
Social Action Committee Meeting
- March 14**
SOVA
- March 16**
Harvey Weiner Memorial 12-Step & Judaism Lecture
- March 18**
WOKA at Oil Can Harry's
- March 20**
Open Hands, Open Doors
- March 24**
MOKA Happy Hour
- April 7**
Board of Trustees Meeting
- April 12**
Film Series: Time of Favor
- April 13**
Membership Committee Meeting Ritual Committee Meeting
- April 14**
Social Action Committee Meeting
- April 18**
Yom HaShoah Commemoration
- April 25**
Kol Hashamayin: Vox Femina Informational Meeting
- Friday Night Shabbat Services**
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- Saturday Morning Shabbat Services**
March 6, April 3
- Torah Study**
March 13, April 10
- Downtown Lunch N' Learn**
March 17, April 21

From the Rabbi's Desk



Rabbi Denise L. Eger

I am not usually an alarmist. But there is no doubt that Anti-Semitism is on the rise again. Often shrouded in anti-Israel rhetoric, hatred of all things Jewish and Judaism is definitely on the rise. Just visit any college campus Anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head. In May of 2002 – there was a near riot at San Francisco State University when Jewish students held a pro-Israel peace rally. In 2003, the Canadian government tried to close down the Canadian branch of Magen David Adom (Israel's Red Cross). Not to mention the bombings of the synagogue in Tunisia or the various outbreaks of violence against Jews and Jewish institutions throughout Europe.

It's frightening and eye-opening.

In Phyllis Chesler new book, "The New Anti-Semitism," (Jossey Bass, 2003) She outlines not only the history of Anti-Semitism but how it has become intertwined with Anti-Zionist and Anti-Israel rhetoric and hatred. Chesler outlines the steady erosion of civil society including the working class Islamic immigrant to France as well as the devolution of European Intellectual and academics into Anti-Semitic propaganda.

She further outlines and explains how calls for boycotts on Israel and divestment of American aid to

Israel are anti-Jewish. There is a wonderful chapter of her book, which is laid out as questions and answers to common Anti-Semitic statements. This is great ammunition for when you might be caught in a conversation that veers off into Anti-Semitic, or even anti-Israel overtones.

We as a Jewish people understand the extension of hate-speech. The Jewish people still feels the affect of the Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. And that is why we must be ready to counter its affects.

In April, our congregation will once again hold its annual Yom Hashoa – Holocaust Memorial Program with the City of West Hollywood, on **Sunday, April 18 at 7 pm** at Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park. By gathering different segments of the city and our congregation together we not only remember the millions who were murdered, we make a bold statement about fighting Anti-Semitism in our own corner of the world.

When we light the yellow Yarzeit candles around the Babi Yar Memorial we give light to memory and to hope that a united people – a united community can combat hatred of all kinds.

So I hope you will take a stand against the rising tide of Anti-Semitism in our world by attending this year's Yom Hashoa program. It is moving and stirring to be together as a community.

I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you a sweet and happy Passover.

Shalom,
Rabbi Denise L. Eger

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CANTOR	Mark Saltzman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Lee Werbel
STUDENT RABBI	Joel Fleekop

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KOL AMI IN PRINT

Look for "The Women's Haftarah Commentary: New Insights From Women Rabbis" on the 54 Weekly Haftarah Portions, the 5 Megillot & Special Shabbatot. It is a historic commentary from a feminist perspective and our Rabbi Eger is featured. Also, Congregation Kol Ami is featured in "American Reform Judaism" by author Dana Evan Kaplan.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Building Our Community**

As most of you know, each year the Board of Trustees of Congregation Kol Ami holds a three-day retreat in January, where, among other things, we discuss the state of our community and plan its future. Assessing where we are and deciding where we are going and how best to get there is not an easy task. It takes the combined mental effort and spiritual strength of all the Board members, as well as the Rabbi, Cantor and Executive Director. Our retreat this year was an exhausting event. But at the same time, by Sunday evening we were energized to proceed with building our community.

The Board has begun implementing plans made at the retreat. Some things we did in the past will change. Some involve reduction of expenses. The past year has been a challenging period from a financial perspective and we need to address these issues. Some of our plans involve securing our future for the next generation of congregants. We feel that the steps being taken will carry us along a path that will strengthen Congregation Kol Ami and insure its future.

Soon we will celebrate Passover, the commemoration of great change for the Jewish people. In the spirit of this season, the Board has decided that rather than communicate our plans by letter or an article in Koleinu, we will invite our members to small meetings in the homes of the Board members who live near you. We have a journey ahead—a journey that must be made—a journey that we think will be exciting. It is our hope that you will be able to attend to discuss our plans and our future.

Shalom,
Stephen Weiss

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lee Werbel

We have a fabulous Gala planned for Sunday, May 16th at the Beverly Hills Hotel. I hope you all will join us in honoring Cary Davidson, Jon Davidson and Wells Fargo with the Shomer Tzedek Award. We also have a special treat this year with a performance by Carol Channing.

This is a special *Koleinu*, as this issue, along with subsequent issues, will be distributed to members via email. The *Koleinu* will continue to be posted on our web site. Please make sure that the office has your email address.

The e-koleinu notices will continue to be sent on a weekly basis. We hope you are finding them helpful. Think of them as your newsletter in-between newsletters. There is so much happening at Congregation Kol Ami and we want to be sure that you, the members, are informed.

As you know, the newly designed Congregation Kol Ami web site—www.kol-ami.org—is up and running. The web site makes it possible for us to tell the Kol Ami story to the community at large as well as donate online! Please click on, check it out, and let us know what you think.

Shalom,
Lee Werbel

NEWS FLASH!**Friday night Shabbat Services March 12**

Help up welcome Executive Director of the Jerusalem Open House Hagai El-Aid. He will speak about World Pride in Jerusalem in 2005.

Kol Ami to Observe Holocaust Memorial/Yom Hashoa

Sunday evening, April 18, 2004, at 7 p.m. our congregation will observe Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day, with a special observance in Plummer Park. Joining once again with the City of West Hollywood, the Russian Community Center, the Gay and Lesbian Advisory Committee of West Hollywood, the Lesbian and Gay Interfaith Clergy Association, this special candlelight memorial program will feature music, readings and memorial prayers for the victims of the Shoa. There is always a wonderful reception in Fiesta Hall following the program, donated by many of the Russian delis in West Hollywood. Cantor Saltzman and Rabbi Eger will both participate, along with the Gay Men's Chorus. The entire congregation is invited to attend. With so many of the survivors and witnesses to the actual events of World War II dying, it makes it incumbent upon each of us to continue to bear witness to what happened to our people during those years. Your presence at this special evening helps to keep the memories of those who perished during the Holocaust sacred. Please plan on attending.

KOLAMI

12th
ANNUAL
GALA

**12th Annual
KOLAMI GALA**

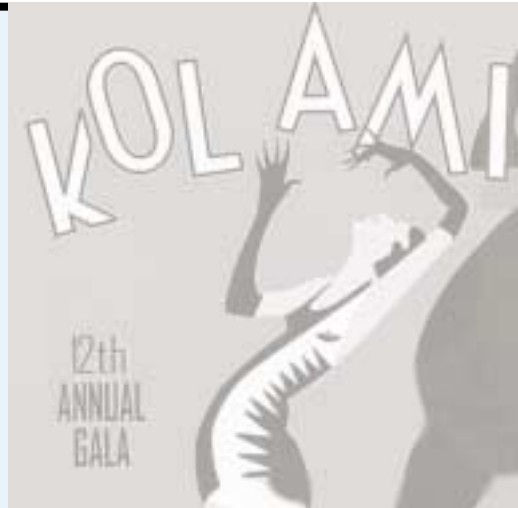
An evening of
WINING, DINING AND DANCING

Entertainment featuring
CAROL CHANNING

Honoring
**CARY DAVIDSON JON W. DAVIDSON
WELLS FARGO**

**Beverly Hills Hotel
Crystal Ballroom**

Sunday, May 16, 2004
SAVE THE DATE



GALA SILENT AUCTION

We are so excited to be part of our Temple's upcoming 12th Annual Gala Event, which will be held at the gorgeous Beverly Hills Hotel this year. Our Gala is the biggest fundraising event of the year – and we need your help to make it a success. As part of the event, we will be holding a Silent Auction, and this year we want to make our Silent Auction more enticing than ever.

We are asking each of you to reach out and obtain a minimum of 2 donations to our Silent Auction, so that we will have the most amazing Auction ever.

How can you help to make this happen:

1. By donating your business products, services, vacation home or timeshare, accumulated air miles, or other items
2. By asking your family and friends who may have any of these items to donate
3. By soliciting donations from the businesses that you frequent: restaurants, gyms, bookstores, grocery stores, clothing boutiques, hair salons, theaters, etc...
4. By helping to underwrite a portion of our expenses
5. By hosting a theme party or event at your home (you choose the date, time, theme) which Temple members can bid on to attend – potential ideas include a Sunday brunch, evening luau/barbecue, or elegant cocktail hour. You can set a limit on the number of attendees (from 10-100) and underwrite the costs. At the auction, a set price would be in place for people to simply sign up.

We want to make this as easy as possible for you, so if you would like help in soliciting, please contact us and we will follow up for you. Our deadline for receiving Auction items is April 25th. On behalf of Congregation Kol Ami, we thank you in advance for your generous participation and support of Auction 2004. With your help, we are making a difference.

Natalie Bergman, D.C.
Co-Chair, Silent Auction
(310) 268-5504
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Fran Solomon
Co-Chair, Silent Auction
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Deborah Avren
Co-Chair, Silent Auction
(310) 392-5405
email: dja1002@aol.com

MEN OF KOL AMI

EVENTS YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS

MARCH

Wednesday, March 24

Happy Hour Social Mixer

6:00 No -Host Cocktails

(Complimentary hors d'oeuvres),

7:30 Dinner

(Optional \$26 (w/tax & tip) dinner)

Café D' Étoile



Saturday, March 6

Informal Lunch after Services

The Abbey (No Host lunch.

Just show up)

12: 15 PM ish

on Robertson and join us.



Yom Hashoah Candle Distribution

(TBA)

APRIL

Spirituality Program & Dinner

MAY

Soccer Sporting Event

JUNE

Theater Night

JULY

Annual Pool Party

All Kol Ami members are encouraged
and invited to join MOKA.

MOKA contributes a portion of proceeds to
Kol Ami and to local/national charities.

MOKA is a member of the North American
Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

Social Action Committee

By Daniel Ballin, Chair

The Social Action Committee (SAC) has finalized a procedure for Kol Ami members to inform SAC of organizations that would benefit from contributions from the Kol Ami Tzedakah Fund. SAC commits a portion of their monthly meeting to discuss the work of various non-profit organizations, both nationally and internationally. If deemed an appropriate use of the Tzedakah Fund, a contribution amount is determined and sent to that organization with an accompanying letter which describes both Kol Ami and the Tzedakah Fund. Kol Ami members who are interested in advocating for a specific contribution are welcome to contact Daniel Ballin at dballin@att.net, and present their information to the Committee in our monthly meeting. This past month a donation of \$250 was made to "Adopt-A-Minefield," which is an international organization that funds the clearing of minefields in countries throughout the world. These minefields have caused thousands of deaths and mutilations of innocent civilians.

SAC has many upcoming volunteer activities in the community. The next SOVA event will be held on Sunday March 14th in the Metro location. Please contact Marc Purchin at mpurch@aol.com for more information. Kol Ami members interested in volunteering at the West Hollywood Yom Hashoah memorial service on Sunday April 18th at Plummer Park, should contact SAC Member Richard Frank at (323) 860-7933.

Everyone should definitely save the date of Sunday May 2nd for Big Sunday (Mitzvah Day). Kol Ami will participate with over 2000 volunteers from various synagogues, churches, schools and organizations throughout Los Angeles on one massive volunteer day. This is a day in which Los Angeles becomes one big community helping out one another. There will be dozens of volunteer projects from which to choose. Last year Kol Ami was well represented with over 100 volunteers, and this year SAC has set a goal of 150 Kol Ami participants. More information about this important day will be provided in the coming weeks.

SAC is a dynamic and fun group that meets the second Wednesday of every month. We welcome new members and their input at our next meeting on March 10th at 7:30 p.m.. Hope to see you there.

BIG SUNDAY RETURNS!

On Sunday, May 2, 2004, Kol Ami members will participate for the fourth year in Big Sunday! Created by Temple Israel of Hollywood, Big Sunday presents volunteer opportunities designed to address the needs of the homeless, the hungry, the disabled, turn our attention to the environment, support our children and our elders.

As in past years, there will be projects for every age group, physical ability, in many locations. In short, there is no reason not to participate. In the next few weeks, you'll be getting a lot of reminders about Big Sunday from the Social Action Committee. There are over 120 projects this year. Take a few minutes, decide where you can make a difference and do it. And bring a friend!

Watch for details on projects and how to sign-up!

Lehrhaus, Kol Ami's Adult Education Program

Kol Ami Film Festival: "Time of Favor"

The next screening at the Kol Ami Film Festival will be **Monday, April 12 at 8 p.m.**

Writing in The Village Voice, J. Hoberman described the film "Time of Favor" as "an engrossing thriller, exotic, erotic, highly atmospheric." L.A. Times film critic Kenneth Turan called it "one of the most successful contemporary Israeli films." Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture, "The of Favor" weaves an intricate take of passion, loyalty and conspiracy in the political powder keg and timeless austere beauty of the West Bank. In Hebrew, with English subtitles.

Kol Ami Readers Salon

The Kol Ami Readers Salon will meet on **Sunday, March 7, at 7 p.m.** We'll discuss two short stories: "The Argument" by Rachel Kadish and "The Gershom of Shumsk" by Heershadovid Menkes. If you don't have copies of the stories, call the temple office and they'll be mailed to you; copies are also available in the temple lobby.

The Readers Salon, which generally takes place the first Sunday of each month, is a great opportunity to get in some interesting Jewish-oriented reading and then engage in a lively, thought-provoking discussion about the material. Refreshments served.

A New Class: What Does Jewish Law Say About . . . ?

A five-session class studying the unique form of Jewish law from a progressive perspective. Taught by Student Rabbi Joel Fleekop. What is Jewish Law? What does it say about abortion, artificial insemination, and homosexuality? Does it even matter to Reform Jews what Jewish Law say? Find out the answer to these questions and other questions you have about Jewish law in this course. **March 17, 24, 31 and April 14, 21.** Cost \$25/Temple Members; \$90/Non-Members. Registration required.

Torah Study Continues

Our Monthly Torah Study is held the second Saturday morning of each month. Join us as we discuss the weekly Torah portion. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary, just a willingness to learn. We will begin at **10:00 am** in the Temple. Our upcoming Torah study dates are **March 13th and April 10th.**

Downtown Lunch N' Learn

DO YOU WORK DOWNTOWN? WANT TO MEET OTHERS WHO DO?

DOWNTOWN LUNCH N' LEARN – March 17 and April 21

Please join Rabbi Eger for a study session on the Talmud. No knowledge of Hebrew necessary. We meet on **March 17th and April 21st from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm** in the conference room of Temple member Richard Wortman – 707 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 4900 in the AON CENTER Building. Bring your lunch, drinks will be provided.

Religious School Happenings

By Student Rabbi Joel Fleekop

"The mitzvah of studying Torah is equal to all the other mitzvot because it leads to all the other mitzvot." This teaching from the Talmud is coming true in our religious school.

The months of learning Hebrew and prayers have come alive for our students, as they have begun participating in Family Shabbat Services. During these special Shabbat services, each highlighting an individual class, students lead prayers and perform a "skit" sharing what they have been learning in religious school.

Immediately following services we join together as a community for a festive Shabbat meal. These nights are truly amazing, filling our synagogue and sanctuary with the voices, prayers, and holiness of our children.

The learning of our students is coming alive in other ways as well. On March 7th the school will mark Purim with a special day of learning including a school wide program culminating with the synagogue's megillah reading and world famous Purim Schpiel.

These extraordinary programs combined with the sense of community that fills our school and teachers who model Jewish living are helping our students both learn about and live their Judaism.



Congregation Kol Ami and Voice of My People Foundation

Present the

2ND ANNUAL HARVEY WEINER MEMORIAL LECTURE IN RECOVERY ISSUES

with Rabbi Paul J. Kipnis

Tuesday, March 16, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Kol Ami will host Rabbi Paul J. Kipnis, noted speaker on the topics of the 12 steps to recovery and Judaism. Rabbi Kipnis is the spiritual leader of Or Ami synagogue in Calabassas and annually conducts a 12-step and Judaism retreat.

The Harvey Weiner Memorial Lecture in Recovery Issues is given in memory of temple founder Harvey Weiner, who was greatly influenced by the 12-step program and felt that it was an important aspect of his spirituality.

Admission Free. Telephone (323) 606-0996 for reservations and information.

Mazel Tov To:

- Hillary Selvin on receiving the President's Award at the annual WEHO Chamber of Commerce luncheon
- Noel Salisbury on the birth of his first grandson, Ravi Corbin Salisbury
- Lynette and Larry Sperber on the birth of grandson, Liam Michael Newman
- Tobi Rosen & Tara Eisner on the birth of their grandson, Zachary David.
- Lowell Selvin and Gib Winebar on the occasion of their marriage in the City of San Francisco
- Rob Bergstein and Raul Cobian on their engagement and signing of domestic partnership documents
- Sarah & Rachel Meytin on the occasion of their marriage in the city of San Francisco
- Lee Werbel on receiving a L.A.C.E. award from the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
- Rabbi Denise Eger on being featured in the newly published "The Women's Haftarah Commentary"

Condolences To:

- Rabbi Yossi Carron and Jenny on the death of mother and grandmother, Debbie Carron
- Linnet Karen Graves on the death of her partner Julia Graves Broidy and Lorene Graves Broidy on the death of her mother
- Cantor Mark Saltzman and Lynn Frank on the death of their grandmother Ruth Haas and Sandra Saltzman on the death of her mother
- Joshua Bluxom on the death of his uncle
- Andrea Yates on the death of her mother, Ann Rubenstein and Hilary and Sam Bernstein on the death of their Nanny.
- Martin Rubio and Alvin Gross on the death of Martin's mother, Sarah Rubio.
- Stuart Leviton on the death of his father, Les Liviton.
- David Bernstein on the death of his grandmother, Anita Kalver.
- Charles Lapson on the death of his mother, Claire Lapson.
- Stephen Brown & Family on the death of his nephew, Isaac Sacks.
- Herb Gutin on the death of his Aunt, Jean Weinstein.
- Margret Levy on the death of her sister Jane Weinberg
- Marty Frank and Steve Weiss on the death of dear friend Mildred Frankel
- Carolyn Dye and Hope Faust on the death of dear friend Ellen Ewing
- Jerry Belinkoff and Dan Fidelman on the death of dear friend Dorothy Bamberger

*Wishes for refuah sheleimah—
a complete recovery:*

**Bonnie Anderson, Gwen Fowler,
Walter Dennis Diaczun, Cecil Malinoff, Morris Ring**

BIRTHDAYS

Consider sponsoring an Oneg in honor of these special occasions.

March

Stephen Marshall	Michael Ruvo
Marlene Bram	Bonnie Anderson
Lloyd Queen	Leslie Belzberg
Arthur Kitnick	Myer Galler
Steven Feder	Vicki Schiller
Ely Yaron	Sharon Siegel
David Schafer	David Kruskall
David Bernstein	Cecil Malinoff
Martin Brickman	Sherman Sylvan
Rabbi Denise Eger	Kent Chamberlin
Joseph Harounian	Karen Siteman
Joshua Bloxom	Julie Weinstein
Jeffrey Solomon	Linda Moakes
William Weinberger	Lowell Selvin
Murray Blank	Bob Nitkin
Jacob Gipsman	Jonathan Stein
Melanie Jones	Mason Sommers
Steve Karash	Gary Cleff
Karen Mason	Michael Silverman
Paul Morgan Fredix	Laurie Lang
Yvonne Golomb	Barry Edelman
Andrew Wolf	Shirley Lee
Herbert Gutin	Don Klein
Joseph Zipkin	Cathy Reback
Richard Ross	Brian Garfield
Deborah Futrowsky	Bradley Schwartz
Reva Solomon	Paul Entis
Margie Haber	Baron Mozlin
Victor Kaminoff	Shana Franzin
Loretta Coha	Lawrence Hafetz
Greg Gallop	Morris Ring
Jaye Lewis	H. Eric Schockman
Ina Jaffe	
Andrea Yates	
Martin Freedman	

**ANNIVERSARIES***March*

H.L. Silets & Craig Carson
Stanley Papel & Kent Chamberlin
Eve Desser & Debbie Goldfarb
Rose Greene & Helena Ruffin
Dean Shapiro & Haim Ainsworth
Lynn & Todd Frank
Stephen Lachs & Michael Ruvo
Jacob Gipsman & Roberto Rodriguez
Rabbi Denise Eger and Karen Siteman

Notes from the Cantor



Cantor Mark Saltzman

I don't often write "newsy" kinds of articles or blow horns, but having just returned from the Annual Pacific Western Regional Retreat for Cantors and Temple Musicians of the American Conference of Cantors and the Guild of Temple Musicians, I wanted to share with you some of my exhilaration in what transpired at the retreat.

One of the great tools that Reform Judaism has developed over the past decades is the opportunity for clergy and administration that serve our congregational communities to learn, grow, and gain new resources at various seminars, conferences and retreats. Last year, I was asked to sit on the committee that organized and programmed the 50 Year Jubilee Concert of the American Cantorate held in New York City. As it turned out, I eventually directed the July performance given at the 92nd Street Y. I was very honored and proud to be involved this very high caliber, prestigious event. Especially, an event considered one of the best concerts ever given at a National convention.

This year I was asked to help in the planning of the regional retreat, though smaller, it allows for more individual work and encourages more intimate connections. Of the various modules that were presented during the two and 1/2 days; I was responsible for the Opening Session and the Composer's Workshop, two formidable programs to oversee and implement.

For the opening session, I conceived and designed a special interactive process that created the opportunity for the participants (Cantors, Choral directors, Accompanists) to find new avenues of expression and communication with each other through a series of meaningful and fun team building games and exercises. I don't think I've ever seen my colleagues more energetic, or happy or connected to one another. Many of the Cantors have asked to have the program brought to their own synagogues. It was a great way to start off the weekend.

The next day was the Composer's Workshop that I had renamed, Composer's Forum. I decided to change how this module has been presented at the conferences by hand selecting the composers, and choosing the programming and pieces via their submissions to me. I asked my colleague Cantor Rachel Michelberg (with whom I had sung Norma many years ago) to prepare the pieces (with myself as the other singer); and with a first rate accompanist, we were able to rehearse and present each piece professionally and accurately as opposed to sight reading, the standard for prior workshops. Also, rather than performing each piece one after the other; I wanted my colleagues in the audience to be able to connect to each composer's intentions, and express their own needs and desires as well. To this end, I asked the composers to sit as a panel at the front of the room where I could field and facilitate questions and answers throughout the presentation. The spirited dialogue that ensued was extraordinary, and the lines of communication that were opened are still resounding.

The entire retreat was praised by the American Conference of Cantors President, Cantor Scott Colbert as the model for what the entire ACC wants to and should be doing all over the country. I was not only honored to participate in this conference, but also truly thrilled that all the efforts created such a vital and transformative contribution. A contribution that I hope will be a positive resource for all our leaders of musical worship.

B'Shalom
Cantor Mark



On The Town,

In the last two months Rabbi Eger has participated in these community activities

- ✧ Attended and led services at the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis Conference
- ✧ Elected as Corresponding Secretary of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis
- ✧ Organized a Freedom to Marry Clergy Breakfast and Rally at Kol Ami and interviewed on freedom to Marry issues by Channel 2, 7, 9 and 11.
- ✧ Interviewed by the Beverly Hills Press Courier on the Kol Ami trip to Israel
- ✧ Participated in the strategic Planning Process for the Sexual Orientation Initiative at Hebrew Union College
- ✧ Attended the Gay and Lesbian Interfaith Clergy Association meeting
- ✧ Represented Kol Ami on the California Freedom to Marry Coalition Steering Committee
- ✧ Attended Executive Committee meetings of the Board of Rabbis
- ✧ Chaired the Funeral Practices Committee for the Board of Rabbis
- ✧ Attended the Gay Jewish Professionals Luncheon
- ✧ Attended the Rabbi/Social Worker Roundtable
- ✧ Participated in the Adult Jewish Learning Class at Hebrew Union College

LAPD CONDUCTS COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

The Social Action Committee wants you to know: The Gay and Lesbian Community Forum in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) will be conducting a Community Police Academy beginning March 10, 2004 and ending May 22, 2004. The Community Police Academy will provide attendees with a basic understanding of the laws and LAPD's policies and procedures that influence the actions of police officers. The classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until 9:00 pm. The first class will be held at the Los Angeles Police Academy (Elysian Park). Pre-registration is required.

KOL HASHAMAYIM - MUSICAL EXPLORATIONS AT KOL AMI

Congregation Kol Ami continues the second season of its highly acclaimed musical series Kol Hashamayim, The Voice of Heaven, on **Sunday, April 25, 2004 at 2 p.m.** with the twenty-one women chorus, Vox Femina Los Angeles, under the artistic direction of Temple member Dr. Iris S. Levine. Since their inaugural season in 1997, Vox Femina Los Angeles has been invited to sing at many prestigious events including the International Association of Women in Music International Conference, the Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, and the American Choral Directors Association's Western Division Convention. This concert will examine Jewish themes of femininity and highlight the choral music of women composers.

PURIM

Celebration

Sunday, March 7
12 noon

Come celebrate "The Sound of Shushan" as we bring the hills (and the streets of West Hollywood) alive with the voices and talents of our congregation in our annual Purim Spiel.



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBER

JUDY KRIGER

By Reva Solomon

One of Kol Ami's newest members, Judy Kriger, was born in Ottawa, Canada, the capitol and home to the world's largest ice skating rink - seven miles long. The youngest of three children, Judy was raised in a Conservative Jewish home. The family moved to Montreal and Toronto, where Judy attended Hebrew day school and Hebrew high school.

Early childhood memories are of her mother cooking in their Kosher kitchen and spending time with extended family for the holidays. Their family went to her Grandma's and stayed for the entire week of Passover. Her Grandma, an immigrant herself, created a Jewish haven in her home for other newcomers. It was a place where Canadian Jews could stop in, socialize and connect with other Jews. Her living room was converted weekly into a synagogue, where Judy's dad had his Bar Mitzvah.

When Judy was eleven, her mother died of breast cancer. It was a confusing and difficult time in her young life. Her dad re-married and Judy went from being the youngest to being the middle child, with the addition of two step-sisters and a brother.

Judy moved to the United States, when she was accepted to the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence, where she studied film, video and animation. After graduation, she moved to California for a year. Because she was not a US citizen, she was required to get a job in her field or she couldn't stay in the states. Her visa ran out before she could find work in her field, so she moved back to Toronto and found work there in animation. She applied to graduate school and was accepted to Cal Arts. With a quota for immigrants, Judy decided to enter a green card lottery. She was prepared to move back to Canada again, but was surprised when she was picked and won her green card in the lottery.

After the hassle of trying to get her green card, Judy made the difficult decision to become a US citizen. She thought of the challenges her grandparents faced when they came to Canada from Latvia and Lithuania. The process was easier for Judy to adopt a new country than for her grandparents to do so.



Fill out an application, take a test. That was it. No journey across an ocean on steerage. Just sign her name. But the thoughts of the struggles of her grandparents loomed large in her decision making process of leaving her home country for another. She finally decided to become a US citizen, knowing that her grandparents story would always be in her heart and their sacrifices never forgotten.

The naturalization ceremony was held in the LA Convention Center, swearing in 5,000 new US citizens two times a day. It was overwhelming. 5,000 voices from all over the world, reciting the pledge in unison, then proudly waving the American flag.

Reflecting on the endless lines she stood in to apply for citizenship, and the people she met from all over the world, Judy is now working on a film about immigration and naturalization. Her animation credits include film ("Antz"), television ("South Park"), and commercials ("Doughboy"). After thirteen years freelancing in the animation field, Judy started her own company, mediaGarden Animation. Her company creates all types of entertainment animation, as well as a specialty niche. She creates animation for attorneys to use in court and in the classroom.

Recently Judy completed a two day 60 K walk in Toronto, walking eighteen miles a day, with her sister and four thousand others, to raise \$12 million for breast cancer. People

came out of their houses and lined the streets cheering them on. Judy thought about her mother during the walk. When her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, it was something to hide. How different today, where the disease is out in the open and support is encouraged.

It was while at Cal Arts Judy explored her sexuality in the open atmosphere graduate school offered. She found the Gay and Lesbian community, but was searching for more. With graduate school behind her, she began searching for a Jewish community where she felt comfortable. She spent years exploring various congregations, but did not find what she was looking for. Then Judy recently attended one of the Readers Salons at Kol Ami. She immediately felt at home. She found the Jewish community she had been searching for. In addition to the Readers Salon, Judy has attended Torah Study, High Holy Days, Shabbat services, joined WOKA, is exploring the Social Action Committee, and completed the Jewish Philosophy class. In a very short time, Judy has become an integral part of the Kol Ami family.

When asked to describe herself, Judy said that she is tenacious. Once she sets a goal, she usually attains it. Having been raised in a Kosher home, Judy gave it up when she came to the US. Over the years she realized that it was an important part of her past that she missed. It reminded her of her childhood, her mother, and her grandmother. When she had the opportunity to move into a new apartment, Judy made the commitment to keep a Kosher home. She is sharing the experience with her friends by preparing Shabbat dinner for them. She brings the memory of her mother and her grandmother to her table, as she lights the candles in her grandmother's candlesticks. The tradition of welcoming fellow Jews to her home, started by her grandmother, is being continued by Judy in her adopted country.

Reva Solomon is a freelance writer, life coach and graduate student, studying for an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults through Vermont College. Contact Reva via e-mail: rscoach@juno.com.

GET INVOLVED IN CONGREGATION KOL AMI!

To answer your question, "How can I get more involved at Temple?" One way is to join a specific committee. Many of the committees "ritual, membership, development, adult education, social action, budget, religious school, Men of Kol Ami and Women of Kol Ami" need your help. If you have an interest in any of the above areas, you can check it out and sign up. Your talents and enthusiasm are needed and appreciated. Please contact the temple office to sign up or find out when the various committees meet.

You can also volunteer for one or more of the following specific activities. The perfect way to get involved, do a mitzvah and meet new people!

12th Annual Gala: May 16, 2004 is Congregation Kol Ami's 11th Annual Gala, honoring Cary Davidson, Jon Davidson and Wells Fargo with the Shomer Tzedek (Guardian of Justice) Award, for their extraordinary contributions to our community. Held at the Beverly Hills Hotel, it will be a festive night with a special performance by Carol Channing. It's also our temple's major fundraiser for the year. Spend an hour or two that afternoon, setting up the ballroom, during the event that evening, or afterwards helping to clean up. Join other congregants at the Temple to stuff and mail Gala invitations. We also need help soliciting auction donations from shops, restaurants and hotels, selling pages in our Tribute Journal and encouraging table and ticket sales. There's something for everyone to do to make this important occasion a success!

MITZVAH DAY: Join with hundreds of volunteers from synagogues all across Los Angeles by spending a few hours on May 2 helping out in the community. From painting schools to planting gardens, reading to children to distributing food, Mitzvah day makes it easy to help repair the world. Contact Richard Frank at rjfrankla@sbcglobal.net.

USHERING: Our numbers are getting larger every Friday night. Your help is needed in making sure that new attendees are greeted warmly at our temple. Won't you please spend a Friday night or two welcoming people to Kol Ami? All that's required is that you arrive at temple a half an hour before services, and remain "on call" during the service in case anyone needs assistance. Contact Alvin Gross, Head Usher, via the Temple office (323-606-0996).

Should you have interest in serving on any of the many committees at Congregation Kol Ami, from education (for adults or children) to fundraising, choir to budget, please contact Executive Director Lee Werbel at 323-606-0996, ext. 110 or via e-mail at execdir@kol-ami.org. She'll put the right people in touch with you.

S A V E T H E D A T E !

Pacific Southwest Regional Kallah

April 16 to 18, 2004

HINENI
Answering the Call

Featuring:

Dr. Dvora Weisberg, Hebrew Union College (L.A.),

a wonderful teacher of text who will lead us in interactive study:

Hearing the Call: How do traditional rabbinic texts speak to us today?

Understanding the Call: How can we interpret problematic texts?

Responding to the Call: What's next?

After study, how do we apply our insights to the urgent questions of our day?

And

Cantor Evan Kent, Temple Isaiah,

an inspiring cantor who will lead us in prayer and song

Kallah Co-sponsors:

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion - Los Angeles Campus

Union for Reform Judaism (formerly UAHC) - Pacific Southwest Council

For more information, contact Rabbi Linda Bertenthal, (818) 907-8740 or toll free: (888) 834-UAHC • lbententhal@uahc.org

We thank those who have supported our congregation through their generous contributions:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Gerald Belinkoff in memory of father, David Belinkoff
- Paul Entis is honor of Richard Wortman's Birthday
- Marilyn Ader for a safe trip to Israel
- Tobi Rosen for a safe trip to Israel
- Dina and Jerry Wind in honor of their granddaughter Gavriel Wind's naming
- Jack Levin in memory of Mimi Weckstein and in honor of Dr. John Easthope
- Leesa Freed
- Marc Young and Gary Wilson in appreciation of the Israel Trip.
- Jack Levin in honor of Linda Easthope
- Diane Saltzberg in appreciate of the Israel Trip
- Dr. Ricki Bander in honor of her Mother and Aunt
- Arthur Pollyea
- Leesa Freed in memory of her father, Robert E. Fried
- Mr and Mrs. Si Ehrlich in memory of Ira Ehrlich
- Noel Salisbury in honor of the birth of a grandchild
- Russell Lyon
- Stuart Leviton and Herb Schultz in memory of Leslie Leviton
- Avi De Turenne in memory of Ayala Ben David
- Tobi Rosen in honor of the birth of her grandson Zachary David Rosen
- Don and Gloria Brown in memory of their grandson, Isaac Sacks
- Jack Levin in honor of John Easthope
- Jack Levin, in memory of Mimi Weckstein
- Jerry and Dina Wind, in honor of Rabbi Denise Eger.
- David Silverstein
- Jack Levin, with wishes for Bernadine Lynch's swift recovery
- Allan Elson, in honor of Ethan Benjamin Elson on his Bar-Mitzvah
- Lowell Selvin in honor of his partner Gib Winebar
- Jack Levin in honor of Emily White's continued recovery.
- Jack Levin in honor of Roz Barak's complete recovery.
- Jack Levin with a warm Mazel Tov to Noel Salisbury on the birth of his first grandchild.
- Bernie Goldberg in memory of Anita Kalver
- Evy and Jacob Golan in memory of Sarah Rubio
- Evy and Jacob Golan in memory of Mary Zaslow, Evy's Aunt
- David Kaminski in honor of Lynette & Larry Sperber's new grandson, Liam Michael Newman

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

- Iris Levine
- Josh Levin in honor of the birthdays of: Lynette Sperber, Milton Singer & Frank Roman
- Lowell Selvin & Gib Winebar in honor of Wendy Glenn's 2nd 25th birthday
- Bernie Goldberg in memory of Anita Kalver
- Wendy Glenn & Marianne Lowenthal in thanks to Mark & Walter for Wendy's birthday party
- Judy Horwitz in memory of her friend Sylvia Randall Frommer
- Linda and Leonard Randall in memory of their mother Sylvia Randall Frommer

Building Fund

- Cantor Mark Saltzman & Walter Hubert in honor of Wendy Glenn's Birthday.
- Joshua Bobrowsky & Daniel Tarica in memory of Les Leviton.

Religious School Fund

- Glenn Rosenblum in memory of Ripley Bradford Burlingame
- Rabbi Denise Eger, in memory of Debbie Carron
- Rabbi Denise L. Eger & Karen Siteman in memory of Stuart Leviton's father, Les Leviton

Contributions to the General Fund

- Jeffrey Solomon
- Nancy A. Cohen
- Ed Gould Trust
- Scott Stone & Gary Brown
- Eric Schockman & Steven Crithfield, with birthday wishes to Lynette Sperber, Scott Stone, and Wendy Glenn
- Wendy Glenn and Marianne Lowenthal in honor of Lowell Selvin and Gib Winebar's 25th anniversary.
- Clive David
- David Kaminski in honor of Lynette Sperber's birthday with love
- Joan & Jules Selvin with healing wishes to Lucille Levin & Jerry Meyers
- George & Flora Rosen with love & prayers for the New Year for Cecil Malinoff & Walter Dennis-Diaczun
- Mount Sinai Memorial Parks & Mortuaries in honor of Madeline Schwartz, Larry & Lynette Sperber, & Joseph Stern
- Cantor Mark Saltzman in honor of Lynn Frank's Birthday
- Neil Bokal
- John Altschul in memory of Debbie Carron
- John Altschul in honor of Wendy Glenn's birthday
- Roberta Bennett in honor of Wendy Glenn's birthday
- Steve Hochstein to Eve Blattel in memory of her sister, Dorothy Bernberg
- Elaine Masarelli in memory of Mildred Frankel, friend of Steve Weiss and Marty Frank
- Steve Weiss and Marty Frank in honor of Wendy Glenn's birthday
- Leonid Zhilov
- Jane Fantel in memory of Ann Rubenstein, mother of Andrea Yates

Cemetery Donations

- Madeline Schwartz • Larry & Lynette Sperber
- Joseph Stern

Shabbat Oneg & Flowers Donations

- Tobi Rosen, in memory of Jack Friedman, Irving Shuman & Audrey Jenkins
- Daniel Ballin and Joey-Dean Skelton in Memory of his grandmother, Ethel Ballin
- Kim and Natalie Bergman in honor of Jenna's birthday
- Grant Gochin and Russell Lyon in honor of their wedding anniversary.
- Grant Gochin and Russell Lyon in honor Bryce's birthday.
- Joshua Levin in honor of Lynette Sperber's birthday.
- Barton Mozlin in memory of his parents, Henrietta and Joseph Mozlin.
- Dean Shapiro in honor of Haim Ainsworth.

Contributions to MOKA

- Joshua Levin in memory of Stuart Leviton's father, Les Leviton

Prayer Book Dedications & Contributions

- Cecil Malinoff & Walter Dennis-Diaczun in honor of the marriage of Ruthie & Fred
- Edee Shuman in memory of Irving Shuman
- Alvin Gross & Martin Rubio in memory of Martin's mother, Sarah Rubio

Filling Our Home With Torah Project

Prayer Passages

- Steve Weiss

Bar Mitzvah Aliyah

- Michael J. Authier in honor of Steven Oratowski's birthday
- Yaffa Weisman

Word

- Steve Addison and David Kruskall

Torah Project Donations and Gifts

- Jerry Rosenblum, in honor of Margaret Kravchuk & Harold Hamilton
- Morris M. Ring
- Steve Weiss & Marty Frank in memory of Les Leviton, Stuart Leviton's father.
- Cary Davidson & Andrew Ogilvie in memory of Les Leviton, Stuart Leviton's father.
- Andrew Stein in memory of Les Leviton
- Roberta Bennett in memory of Les Leviton, Stuart Leviton's father
- Stuart Leviton in memory of his grandmother, Carrie Davis.
- Stuart Leviton in memory of his grandfather, Benjamin Leviton.
- The Balise-Zsarko Family in appreciation for Neil Yerman, Torah Scribe
- James Sivesind in memory of Les Leviton
- Robert S. Kalin, in memory of Les Leviton, Stuart Leviton's father
- John Altschul in memory of Les Leviton, Stuart Leviton's father
- Bruce Maxwell in memory of Les Leviton.
- David Kaminski & Patrick Auerbach in memory of Stuart Leviton's father, Les Leviton

Tzedakah Fund

- Gary Weinstein
- Barbara Merson & Linda Heath

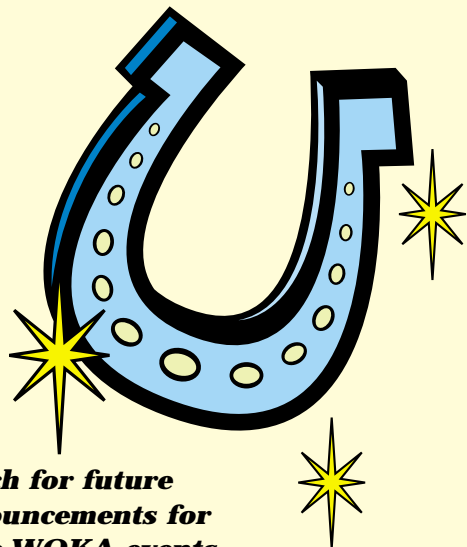
Yarzeit Fund

- Yvonne Golomb in memory of her father, Eric Isaac Golomb
- Daniel Ballin in memory of his father, Harmon Ballin
- Charles C. Pace in memory of his mother, Chris Pace
- Martin Freedman, in memory of Diane Sobel's Mother
- Stephen H. Weiss in memory of his grandfather, Jacob Weiss
- Billy Ray Williams in memory of Mort Masure
- Arthur Bernstein in memory of his grandmother, Regina Garber
- Allan Elson in memory of his father, Meyer Joe Elson
- Irv Weinstein, in memory of his brother Mickey Weinstein
- Irv Weinstein, in memory of his sister, Doris Shur
- Elenore Lederman in memory Nina's father, Benjamin Lederman
- Joan & Jules Selvin in loving memory of their mother, Belle Meyers
- Paul Morgan Fredrix in memory of his mother, Adrienne Feher Fredrix
- Henry Schaumberg in memory of his father, Siegmund Schaumberg
- Greg Gallop in memory of his grandfather, Samuel and his friend, Mark Brown

WOKA events:

Join the women of Kol Ami
Thursday night, March 18th,
7:30 p.m.,

when WOKA Goes Country at
Oil Can Harry's!



**Watch for future
 announcements for
 more WOKA events**

Open Hands, Open Doors:

Adventures of the Spirit for Inter-Faith Couples

continues on **Saturday, March 20th at 12:30 p.m.** with a luncheon program entitled "Why Is This Family Different From All Other Families?"

This program will focus on the unique story of every relationship. Through sharing and learning from one another, we will create new rituals with which to honor our relationships, rituals with which to bring new moments of holiness into our relationships.

Whether your face is new or familiar, we hope you will join this wonderful group and attend this fun and creative program.

We'll supply lunch – you bring your enthusiasm, questions, comments and ideas. We will also be offering childcare if it is requested. The cost is \$15 per couple (children free). Mark your calendar now and please RSVP by March 15th to Sonya at 323-606-0996 ext. 112 or by email to reception@kol-ami.org.

WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

For the last several years, Kol Ami through a joint project with our Tzedakah Fund and Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, has supported a para Rabbinic student through the World Union for Progressive Judaism. We are partners with the World Union in helping train Jewish professionals for the millions of Jews in the Former Soviet Union. At present, there are only three Reform Rabbis to serve the Former Soviet Union. this program ensures that there are trained community leaders that can lead worship, teach, and officiate at lifecycle events. Our student for the next two years is Andrey Antonov. Below is a letter from him and his photo:

Dear Friends,

My name is Andrey Antonov. I'm studying at Machon -- Institute for Modern Judaism in Moscow. I'm a first year student. I come originally from Volgograd, where I was a member of one of the Jewish congregations. I was involved in the Jewish activities as volunteer of local "Hesed" for almost 2 years. Before I left for Moscow, I have worked as a teacher in "The Computers Training Center (ORT-KesherNet)" in our local congregation.

In Moscow, I serve as a community worker in the Moscow Congregation for Progressive Judaism "Severnaya" and also work as a coordinator in the "Videoclub" - a club where Jews of Moscow are able to watch films about Israel, made by Jewish directors and actors. In Machon, my favorite subjects are Hebrew, Jewish History & Tradition.

In the future, I'm going to be a community worker in one of our congregations in FSU. I would like to thank you for your support and say that the help you've given me is vital in continuing my Jewish education and self-development.

With gratitude,
 Sincerely yours,

Andrey Antonov

