



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



KOLEINU

May/June 2004 ■ VOLUME X, NO. 50 ■ IYAR/SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5764

Mark your calendar...

- May 2**
BIG SUNDAY
- May 14**
Shabbat Service, Guest Speaker
Eliezer Ya'ari
- May 15**
Family Day in the Park (WH Park)
- May 16**
12th Annual Kol Ami Gala
- May 18**
Meeting in Torah (Temple Beth Am)
- May 25**
Shavuot
Festival Service, Dinner
- June 2**
MOKA Night at the Movies
- June 6**
Torah Scribe
- June 11**
Shabbat Service—Gay Pride Service
- June 13**
Operatica Judaica Concert
- June 14**
Film Series: Crossing Delancey
- June 22**
Congregational Meeting
- June 27**
WOKA Brunch
- Family Shabbat Services + Shabbat Dinner:**
May 7; June 4
- Shabbat Services:**
May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 11, 18, 25
- Morning Shabbat Services:**
May 1; June 5
- Torah Study:**
May 8; June 12
- Religious School:**
May 2, 9, 16, 23; June 6
- HIV Shabbat Lunch:**
May 8
- Downtown Lunch 'N Learn:**
May 19 and June 16

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Rabbi Denise L. Eger

One of the most underutilized benefits of our Temple is our library! On the first floor, our library has a wonderful collection of interesting books both Jewish and gay! It has a terrific children's book section too! Yes, our library reflects the eclectic nature of our congregation.

Many of you through the years have generously donated books from your own libraries. For the last six years the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund has been regularly buying books for the Temple library—both new and used. We have a wonderful set of *Encyclopedia Judaica*, the classic great reference work on Judaism, Hebrew Dictionaries and books on Hebrew grammar and many books on the Jewish holidays and home practices. There are books on Israel, Jewish history including Chaim Potok's *Wanderings*, and the classic *History of the Jews* by Graetz and even a few good novels, like Anita Diamant's *Red Tent* which only recently was on all the best seller's lists! Most recently the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund bought a copy of the newly issued *Women's Haftarah Commentary* edited by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein which features the weekly haftarah portion commentary written by a different woman rabbi! (Check out Parshat Bo on pages 70-73 by this rabbi!)

For an interesting perspective on the Bible there are a number of different Torah Commentaries from Orthodox to Reform. There are a lot of different books on prayer explaining the way services are organized as well as modern Jewish prayers. And there is the Talmud in both Hebrew and English.

We have on our shelves a terrific collection of gay and lesbian books including the *Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay Weddings*, *Dancing on Tisha b'Av* by Lev Raphael, *Twice Blessed* by Andy Rose and Christie Balka and *Brave Journeys* by David Mixner.

We have books written by Temple members such as Joan Denson's *Except For One Little Problem* and Jane Drucker's *Families of Value*.

And we have numerous books on the Holocaust.

We have an extensive Children's library as well. There are counting books and coloring books, animal books and yes, Jewish books for kids from infants to older children.

All are available for your reading pleasure and Jewish learning. So the next time you are visiting the Temple or in the mood for a good read—stop by the Temple and borrow a book from our Temple library. It's easy—write down your name, phone, email address on the paper provided in the library. Yes, it's the honor system—read the book within four weeks and then bring it back so other temple members can enjoy.

I hope you will take advantage of our wonderful library and help us live up to our name —The People of the Book!

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CANTOR	Mark Saltzman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Lee Werbel
STUDENT RABBI	Joel Fleekop

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For information about any of these committees, or to volunteer, please call the Temple office at (323) 606.0996.

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Please address all correspondence to:
Congregation Kol Ami
 1200 N. La Brea Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90038

Downtown Lunch N' Learn

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

DOWNTOWN LUNCH N' LEARN – **May 19 and June 16.** Please join Rabbi Eger for a study session on the Talmud. No knowledge of Hebrew necessary. We meet on May 19th and June 16th 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.

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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 **May 8th and June 12th.**

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Stephen Weiss

If you have been to the Temple offices lately you cannot help but note that the focus has turned to preparations for the 12th Annual Gala. The Gala will take place on Sunday, May 16th in the Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel. In addition to the new location, a number of other enhancements have been made. For the first time, this year's program

will include entertainment. Well, not just entertainment, but Carol Channing in concert. Have we come a long way or what?

If you have not yet purchased your ticket or arranged for an ad in the Tribute Journal honoring Congregation members Cary Davidson, Jon Davidson, as well as Wells Fargo Bank, it is not too late to do so. In addition, if you would like to help with the Silent Auction, please contact the Temple Office. We need the help of an army of volunteers on the morning and evening of the Gala to assist in setting up the auction as well as the auction closing process.

This is the time of year when the Board of Trustees focuses on establishing the budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. As I have written in several of my columns over the past year, and as was discussed in the small congregational meetings at the homes of board members, Kol Ami, like many other non-profit organizations, is revenue challenged at this time. In our efforts to address this issue, we have reduced expenses and revised the dues structure by raising the minimum dues.

This has by no means been an easy process. Many long hours have been spent in an effort to design a structure that will be both fiscally sound as well as fair to all members of the congregation. We have retained the "fair share" premise that all member dues should equal 2% of gross income. We value all members and have pledged to work with each of you to insure you are able to maintain your membership in Kol Ami.

Shalom and hope to see you at the Gala.

Stephen Weiss

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lee Werbel

Spring. May. It must be time for Kol Ami's 12th Annual Gala. You may have heard this before but it deserves repeating: this year's gala is going to be fabulous! Not only are we honoring two stellar temple members, Cary Davidson and Jon Davidson, we are also honoring Wells Fargo for their support of Kol Ami and the community. A special highlight of

this year's event will be a performance by Broadway legend Carol Channing. The silent auction is shaping up to be filled with fun and valuable items such as two tickets to a home Clippers game with Clippers owner Don Sterling; a family cruise with R Family Vacations (owned by Rosie O'Donnell) on the Norwegian Dawn for the first ever gay and lesbian family cruise; and lots of great restaurants and getaways.

As you may know, we had to reduce the office support staff from two to one. Sonya Sargent served as receptionist for the past six months. She left Kol Ami in mid-April. Her replacement, providing administrative support, is someone with a familiar face to many people at Kol Ami. Dara Pettinato is returning. We are pleased that she will again be working with Kol Ami. Dara brings a wealth of synagogue experience. Dara served as Executive Director for Kol Ami for approximately one year and shepherded the move into our new building. If you know Dara, please call and welcome her back. If you do not know Dara yet, you will still want to call and say hello. She would love to meet you.

June brings membership renewals. Please note, with the new membership structure, that we here in the office are available to answer your questions and help you as needed.

I also look forward to seeing you at the Congregational Meeting on June 22nd when the membership approves the budget for the coming year.

Shalom,

Lee Werbel

Shabbat

We will honor our Chesed committee members at the **Shabbat Morning Service on Saturday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.**, followed by a light Shabbat lunch. Please join us in acknowledging the members of this valuable committee.

Please join us for the **Gay Pride Shabbat Service on Friday, June 18 at 8:00 p.m.** as a celebration of all Kol Ami couples who have been legally married. We will celebrate gay marriage and our opposition to the Federal marriage amendment.

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

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Jodi Price and Deborah Futrowsky in honor of Rabbi Eger's Birthday
- Sam Fibish in honor of Pat Bates placing 3rd in her age category at the LA Marathon
- Marilyn Ader in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Jan and Sandy Saltman in memory of Ruth Haas
- Gerry Sinclair in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Kim and Natalie Bergman in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Stephen Lachs in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Steve Reissman in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Dr. Joan Denson in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Bill Weinberger in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Wendy Glenn and Marianne Lowenthal in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Roberta Bennett in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Lowell Selvin and Gib Winebar in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Dr. Peter Kraus in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Jack Levin in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Jack Levin with prayers for the healing of Carol and Silvy Alcalay and Joann Monroe
- Stuart Leviton in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- J.C. Stanwyck in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Cary Fetman
- Jay and Helen Davis in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Suzanna Peters in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Cary Davidson and Andrew Ogilvie in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Betty Roach Survivor's Trust in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Lillian Rollieri in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Vicki and Gregory Baker in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Natalie Davidson in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- David Kaminski in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Loren Ostrow in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- John Altschul in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Justin and Arlene Purchin
- Dr. Ron Paler and Mike Loya with thanks for the Israel Trip
- Carla Hacken
- Jack Levin in honor of Ben Barak's birthday and for healing of Ruth Ellen Anker
- Dr. Josh Levin in memory of Roy Werbel
- Nancy Cohen in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Bruce and Barabara Burns in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Bill and Gaby Scull in honor of the brit milah of their son, Glen
- Edie Siteman in honor her family
- Jack Levin, with best wishes to Ruth Ellen Anker for a speedy recovery
- Jack Levin, with birthday wishes to Ben Barak
- Miriam Belous in memory of daughter Alix Belous
- Gary Cleff and Richard Frank and Noel Salisbury and friends from the Seder
- Jan and Sandy Saltman

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

- Daniel & Beverly Wiseman in memory of Sylvia Randall
- Judy Horwitz in memory of Sylvia Randall
- Linda Randall in memory of Sylvia Randall
- Jan and Sandra Saltzman in memory of Sylvia Randall
- Judy Horwitz in memory of Ruth Haas
- Art Pollyea with thanks for a precious Purim presentation!
- Two secret Mordechai's in Silverlake in honor of Diane Saltzberg

General Fund

- Loren Ostrow & Brian Newkirk in memory of Janet Witkin's father, Marty Witkin
- James Melancon
- Stephen Weiss in honor of Zachary David Rosen
- Christy Engels in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Suzanna Peters in honor of Rob Bergstein & Raul Cobin's wedding
- Dr. Josh Levin, with birthday wishes to Stephen Marshall, Dr. Martin Brickman, Joseph Harounian, Martin Freedman, David Kruskall, Don Klein, & Brian Garfield
- Roberta Bennett in memory of Lee Werbel's father, Roy Werbel
- Arthur Pollyea in memory of Roy Werbel
- Suzanna Peters in memory of Roy Werbel
- Dr. Susan Igdaloff in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Judith Elson, in honor of her son, Allan S. Elson
- Mike Mansdorf
- Safire Rose in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Billy Ray Williams
- Stephen Weiss in honor of Rabbi Eger
- Arthur Pollyea in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Jerald Groner in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Allen & Gwen Fowler in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Julie and Frank Steinschreiber in loving memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Lowell Selvin in memory of Shirley Gould

2004 Gala Donations

- Eric Webber in honor of Jon Davidson
- J. Christopher Kennedy in honor of Jon Davidson
- David and Marcia Nimmer in honor of Jon Davidson
- Stephen Siegel in honor of Cary Davidson and Andrew Ogilvie
- Stan Harper and Troy Davis
- Flora Rosen in honor of Cecil Malinoff and Walter Dennis-Diaczun
- Stan Harper and Troy Davis
- Stephen Siegel in honor of Cary Davidson and Andrew Ogilvie

Cemetery Donations

- Brian Garfield

Religious School Fund

- A Secret Mordecai in honor of the Balise-Zsarko family

Oneg/Shabbat Flowers

- Fran & Jeffrey Solomon
- Neal Zaslavsky in memory of his mother, Helene
- Jodi Price and Deborah Futrowski in honor of Deb's birthday
- Billy Ray Williams
- Jeffrey Sachs with his father, Irving Sachs in memory of his mother, Selma Ziegler Sachs
- Bernard Roberts, father of Shirley Roberts in memory of Esther Mollis Roberts, mother of Shirley

Torah Project

Weekly Parashah

- Michael A. Ross in memory of Irving D. Ross

Verses

- David Bernstein in memory of Hurbert and Judy Bernstein, Roy and Anita Kalver, and Lucky Munzer

Word

- Dr. Robin Wachsner in honor of her parents, Steve and Mary Ann Wachsner.
- Steve Kreizel

Letter

- Dr. Robin Wachsner in honor of her son, Adam

Torah Donations

- Stephen Weiss
- Loren Ostrow
- Stuart Leviton in memory of his grandmother, Mina Portman Leviton
- David Kaminski in honor of Liam William Sperber
- Cecil Malinoff & Walter Dennis-Diaczun in memory of Roy Werbel
- Cecil Malinoff & Walter Dennis-Diaczun in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Sherry Netherland in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy

Tzedakah Fund

- Linda Merson & Barbara Heath
- Raul Cobain
- Jill Switzer
- Jodi Price & Deborah Futrowsky
- Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sargent

Building Fund

- Cathy Reback in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Mark Litwin and Adam Schulman in memory of Julia Graves-Broidy
- Dr. Mark Litwin

Yahrzeit Fund

- Stephen Lachs in memory of his mother, Irene Lachs
- Sharon Siegel in memory of her father, Joseph Abrams; brother, Ronald Abrams; & stepfather, Kenneth Wade
- Greta Rosenblum in memory of her husband, Mayer Rosenblum
- Gary Weinstein in memory of his father, Philip Weinstein
- Alan Carron in memory of his love, Debby Carron
- Marilyn Horwitz, in memory of her husband, Ira Horwitz
- Walter Hubert, in memory of his father, Walter Hubert and his mother, Louise Hubert.
- Shana Frazin in memory of her grandmother, Janice Frazin and her grandfather, Ben Rubin.
- Henry Schaumburg in memory of his mother, Johanna Schaumburg.
- Arthur Bernstein, in memory of his grandfather, Edward Lean and his brother, Marty Bernstein
- Daniel Fidelman in memory of Anne Fidelman, his mother
- Philip Lelyveld in memory of Mary Katz
- Greta Rosenblum in memory of her mother, Nina Luhr
- Chuck Pace in memory of his wife, Elaine A. Newman
- Jered Friedland, in memory of his grandmother, Marie Rebhun
- Paul Morgan Fredrix in memory of his father, William Howard Fredrix

HIV+ Shabbat Lunch to Meet in May

Are you HIV+? Then let's do lunch! Join Rabbi Eger on **Saturday, May 8 at 12:15 p.m.** for Shabbat lunch. This is a confidential and wonderful gathering of Jews with HIV right in our own synagogue. AIDS hasn't gone away. And we will not ignore it!!! This is open only to those with HIV. RSVP to Rabbi Eger directly at rabbi@kol-ami.org or by phone at 323-606-0996, extension 101. Names will be held in strictest confidence.



The Board of Rabbis of Southern California

MEETING IN TORAH

Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Reform and unaffiliated Jews gather for an evening of interdenominational Torah study

"Jews and Non-Jews: Do we Love our Neighbor?"

**Tuesday, May 18, 2004
7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.**

Temple Beth Am
1039 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles

*Sponsored by the Board of Rabbis of Southern California
and these participating congregations:*

Beth Shir Shalom
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Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel
Temple Beth Am
Temple Isaiah
Tifereth Israel
Wilshire Boulevard Temple
Young Israel of Century City

For more information call the
Board of Rabbis at 323-761-8600.

Jews who study together, stay together!

KOL AMI FILM SERIES:

"Crossing Delancey" June 14, 2004, 8:00 p.m.

Joan Miclin Silver peels off your jaded hide in "Crossing Delancey." She asks you to doff your hat, sit in the kitchen and swallow your old-world grandmother's story about a nice Jewish boy next door who sold pickles near Delancey Street and won himself a nice Jewish girl. Before you know it, you're warmed by the good company of Amy Irving, Peter Riegert and Jeroen Krabbe and you've eaten the whole thing.

Congregational Meeting

In the month of June we will hold our congregational meeting, **Tuesday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** at the Temple. At that time the Board of Trustees will present to the membership the budget for the coming year (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005) for approval which is currently being developed with a great deal of thought and diligence of many of our members/volunteers.

Kol Ami Reader's Salon

The Kol Ami Readers Salon will meet on **Sunday, May 2 and June 6, at 7 p.m.** If you are interested in the reading material, 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.

Kol Ami to Host Family Day in the Park

On **Saturday, May 15**, Kol Ami will host *Family Day in the Park* at West Hollywood Park. Family Day in the Park is a program of the Family Services Department of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and is funded in part by First 5 LA. *Family Day in the Park* is from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Located at 647 North San Vicente Blvd., *Family Day in the Park* is an opportunity for our diverse families to meet, mingle, play and enjoy a day together. Games and food!

Torah Scribe Returns For the Last Time

Our Torah Scribe, Neil Yerman, returns to Kol Ami **Sunday, June 6th**. He will be available to help you scribe your letters into our Torah.

This will be his last visit until the Fall. If you haven't yet made your pledge to our Torah project, please contact Lee Werbel, our Executive Director. She can assist you in picking your verses. Remember, pledges are payable over two years and are fully tax deductible.

Mazel Tov To:

- Rob Bergstein and Raul Cobian on their recent wedding in San Francisco
- Laura Brill and Ellen Evans on their recent wedding in Portland, Oregon
- Stan Papol on the engagement of his daughter, Melissa
- Gaby and Bill Scully and sister Nora on the birth of son and brother, Glen Edward Scully
- Gaby Scully, coach of the Granada Hills Charter High School team that placed fourth in the Statewide Academic Decathlon in Sacramento
- Jodi Price and Deborah Futrowsky on the birth of their daughter, Zoe
- Roberta Bennett on being named one of the top divorce attorneys in Los Angeles by LA Magazine
- Howard Jacobs on his election as President of the Board of Directors of Being Alive
- John Altschul on being named Senior Volunteer of the Year by the City of West Hollywood.
- Cynthia Juno and Jill Kasofsky on their recent marriage
- John Altschul on being named to the Pacific Southwest Union for Reform Judaism Board
- Fran Solomon for being a part of the Southern California Women's Delegation to the March for Women's Lives

Condolences To:

- Janet Witkin on the death of her father, Marty Witkin
- Lee Werbel, on the death of her father, Roy Werbel
- Anthony Dockoff on the death of his great aunt, Helen August Pollay
- Ricki Bander on the death of her aunt, Irene Margolin
- Bradley Schwartz on the death of his grandmother, Hattie Schwartz

*Wishes for refuah sheleimah -
a complete recovery:*

Bonnie Anderson, Vicki Berck,
Cecil Malinoff, Walter Dennis-Diaczun,
Gwen Fowler, Morris Ring, Steve Kretzel

BIRTHDAYS

Consider sponsoring an Oneg in honor of these special occasions.

May

Jerry Belinkoff
Stuart Leviton
Julia Salazar
Ellen Evans
Bernie Goldberg
Robert Bergstein
Starla Osborne-Gold
Jon Davidson
Bonnie Brown
Steven Lebow
Ronald Gold
Richard Frank
Mark Meltzer
Dr. Robin Wachsner
Joshua Bobrowsky
Gary Wilson
Doris Bloch
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Peter Mackler
Van Woert Smith
Steven Crithfield
Kathryn Parankema
Joseph Reisman
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Sam Fibish
David Titkin
Dr. David Silverstein
Tobi Rosen
Phillip Starr
Joan Selvin
Jane Drucker
Andrew Stein
David Slobodien
Ricki Bander

Jennifer Dinsfriend
Ted Seifman
Steve Oratowski
Rob Gelb
Debbie Goldfarb

*June*

Eli Franco
Dr. Peter Kraus
Walter Dennis-Diaczun
Jill Kasofsky
Stephen H. Weiss
Rami Aizic
Robert Bluman
Richard Meyers
Jules Young
Robert Goodman
Jonathan Beck
Barbara Babchick
Esther Baum
Martin Frank
Jered Friedland
Evi Desser
Neal Zaslavsky
Alex Maghen
Gary Weinstein
Irwin Alexander
Anthony Dockoff
Allan Rich
Sandra Saltzman
Mary Gage
Gilbert Winebar

ANNIVERSARIES*May*

David Beckerman & David Wexler
Robert Bergstein & Raul Cobian
Hillary Selvin & Bonnie Anderson
Ina Jaffe & Lynne Tjomsland
Lynette & Larry Sperber
Gregory Facktor & Robert Meyers
Victor Kaminoff & Joseph Reisman

June

Lee & Mark Wind
Carol Newman & Shirley Lee
Allen and Gwen Fowler

12th Annual KOL AMI GALA

An evening of
WINING, DINING, DANCING

Entertainment featuring
CAROL CHANNING

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

**Beverly Hills Hotel
Crystal Ballroom**

Sunday, May 16, 2004

Tickets: \$250
**For sponsorship or other information,
please telephone Stephanie Snyder Events
at 310.459.3606 or 323.606.0996**

Thanks to our media sponsors





GALA Silent Auction:

In a shameless effort to entice you to attend our Gala Event and bid on some of our fabulous auction items, here is a short list of just a few of the wonderful prospects to whet your appetite:

For those of you who enjoy fine dining, we have the always delicious and romantic Mark's Restaurant right in the heart of West Hollywood, festive Basix and Marix in West Hollywood, Palermo Ristorante Italiano located in midtown, and the amazing Ciudad located downtown. On the Westside of town dining offerings include the delectable Border Grill and refined Chez Mimi located in Santa Monica, Lawry's on La Cienega, Benvenuto Cafe, Bistro Garden at Coldwater and La Fondue Bourguignonne Restaurant (both wonderful choices for our many Valley members). We also have amazing restaurants in San Francisco, and other dining experiences to look forward to. For those of you who would prefer a unique dining experience, Rabbi Denise Eger will be cooking up a feast for a party of 10, either brunch or dinner – you get to choose.

For those who love to stay at a great hotel or are looking for a great getaway, offerings include setting sail from July 11-18 with R Family Vacations on the Norwegian Dawn, the first-ever gay & lesbian family cruise (hosted by Kelly & Rosie O'Donnell). Or you can bid on a week in gorgeous Acapulco, Mexico, or a weekend stay at The Beverly Hilton. For desert-lovers, you can choose from the Doral Desert Princess Resort, Terrazzo Palm Springs, or the Viceroy Palm Springs. San Francisco choices include the Prescott and Diva Hotels. For more local escapes, choose a day of utter relaxation at Glen Ivy Hot Springs, a tour and wine tasting at the Callaway Coastal Winery in Temecula, brunch at the Polo Lounge, or lunch and admission for four to the Hollywood Park Race Track.

Art lovers will have a selection of beautiful and amazing pieces to choose from including fine paintings, crystal pieces, vintage silver and glassware, ceramics and photography. Collectors of movie and other entertainment memorabilia will be bowled over by the selection this year of music and films both recent and vintage.

Look for more offerings in upcoming e-koleinus. If you have been planning on donating or soliciting items for the auction, please please don't wait any longer. Call us ASAP to arrange for your donation. We look forward to seeing you at the Gala, on Sunday, May 16th.

Natalie Bergman

BIG SUNDAY RETURNS!

On Sunday, May 2, 2004, Congregation Kol Ami members will make a difference in the well being of our greater Los Angeles community by participating for the fourth year in *Big Sunday!*

Created by Temple Israel of Hollywood, and supported by our Social Action Committee, *Big Sunday!* is designed so that people of any age -- from infants to seniors -- can help as volunteers. *Big Sunday!* will have volunteers from every neighborhood and send volunteers to every neighborhood.

This year, there are 145 projects designed to help the homeless, seniors, at-risk kids, people with AIDS, the environment, and many others. You can find a project close to home (Tikkun Olam in your own backyard); form a group to work on a project together; or work on a project that suits your interests.

Our Sunday School children and parents will be working on a variety of projects at Temple Israel. Social Action Committee Chair, Daniel Ballin, will be washing cars at Covenant House in Hollywood (we want pictures of this!), and Richard Frank will be at the Hyde Park Boulevard School in the Crenshaw District.

Our women's group WOKA (Women of Kol Ami) will be participating in a big way working on a variety of projects that benefit women throughout Los Angeles (for details on WOKA's *Big Sunday!* projects, please call Jodi Winicour at 323-938-4201).

There is something for every age group, physical ability, and opportunities for everyone to participate. What will you be doing?

You can sign up by visiting the Big Sunday web site at www.bigsunday.org (and be sure to let them know you are from Kol Ami). If you need help with the sign-up or in selecting a project, call Social Action Committee member Richard Frank at 323-860-7933. In past years, we have had as many as 150 volunteers from our congregation!

In a world where daily events stretch our ability to cope, an event like *Big Sunday!* presents us with an opportunity to make a difference, to participate in the process of Tikkun Olam – healing the world right here in our own backyard.

Our temple's Mission Statement includes a strong commitment to social action. It states Kol Ami is: *"To be a progressive, Reform congregation rooted in a rich Jewish tradition, with a commitment to social justice, Israel and diversity that guides us in the present and transforms our future."*

Your participation in *BIG SUNDAY!* on MAY 2 helps us to live out that mission. Join us and be a part of doing something important!

We thank you for the good work you will be doing on *Big Sunday!*

WOKA Wants You!!

The Women of Kol Ami are gathering the troops to help out on **Big Sunday!** (formerly Mitzvah Day) **Sunday, May 2nd.** Jodi Winicour of Team WOKA has chosen a few women-related causes all at Temple Israel of Hollywood. Most start at 9 am so you're done early. You can even bring the kids for most of them.

Go to www.bigsunday.org to sign up or contact Jodi Winicour for further info: winicourj@cshs.org

Do you know any same-sex couples who ran off to San Francisco (or elsewhere) to get married recently? Well, we do!! Join WOKA along with the rabbi to celebrate the marriage of two of Kol Ami's very own brides with a fabulous brunch at Mark's Restaurant in West Hollywood and a lively discussion about the latest political developments in gay marriage.

Sunday, June 27th • 11:00 am
Two Brides Brunch
Mark's Restaurant
861 N. La Cienega

Look for a return of the WOKA Summer Pool Party this July or August!!

WOKA wants you!!! Please contact the temple office to join our temple sisterhood. We need you, sistah!!



SHABBAT DINNER

Come join us for a post-Shabbat Dinner on **Fridays, May 7 and June 4, 2004.** As they are the early 6:45 p.m. Family Service, we can all enjoy dinner together at about 7:30 p.m.

Call and reserve your dinner catered by Louise's Trattoria for either (we are back with our favorite meal choices):

- Vegetable Lasagna (designate with either Chopped Salad or Caesar Salad) -- \$15.00 each
- Chicken Picatta (designate with either Chopped Salad or Caesar Salad) -- \$17.00 each
- Children's Meal (Cheese Pizza) -- \$5.00 each

Call the Temple office to RSVP at 323-606-0996

YARZEIT PLAQUE

There is no greater mitzvah than to remember our loved ones who have died by saying Kaddish. Now through our YARZEIT PLAQUE program you can remember your family and friends who have gone to their eternal rest.

Our specially designed Yarzeit walls, located in our new sanctuary, help you to perpetuate your loved ones' memory. Next to each plaque, you will have an opportunity to place a memorial stone each time you visit Kol Ami. As so many of us live far away from family and friends, this affords us the opportunity to remember them always.

Yarzeit plaques can be purchased for the following:

Kol Ami members - \$500 each • Non-members - \$1000

Call the Temple Office at 323-606-0996 or e-mail at staff@kol-ami.org to place your order.

Yarzeit

These names are lovingly inscribed on our Yarzeit wall in the temple sanctuary. Their plaques will be lit in remembrance during May and June:

Norman Fetman, father of Cary Fetman
 Robert Sanchez, friend of Cantor Mark Saltzman
 Leo Rosenblum, son of Greta Rosenblum
 Fernando Tichauer, friend of Jacob Gipsman
 Sandor Marc Siegel, son of Dr. Sharon Siegel
 Herbert Jaffe, father of Ina Jaffe
 Bernard Roberts, father of Shirley Roberts
 Frida Waldbott Altschul, grandmother of John Altschul
 Gertrude Kummer, mother of Barry Kummer
 Miriam Polak Lelyveld, grandmother of Philip Lelyveld
 Leo Swartz, grandfather of Loren Ostrow
 Maurice Ostrow, father of Loren Ostrow
 Erwin Krom, uncle of Arthur Pollyea
 Marjorie Ostrow Dresser, sister of Loren Ostrow
 Rose Doctor, sister of Milton Singer
 Judith Olshan, sister of Milton Singer
 Michael Jacobson, grandfather of Cathy Reback
 Muriel Sarnoff, grandmother of Sheryl Gold
 Aurelia Weiss, grandmother of Stephen Weiss
 Chana Relder, grandmother of Steve Oratowski
 Lillian Altman, aunt of Martin Frank
 Sarah Harounian, mother of Joseph Harounian
 Drew Silvern, friend of Marianne Lowenthal
 Lillian Needles, mother of Meryl Needles
 Clara Shapiro, grandmother of Dean Shapiro

Notes from the Cantor



Cantor Mark Saltzman

Throughout my life I have always believed that the passion and commitment that I have towards music and the written word, can and hopefully will change the way we look at the world. I recently took a short trip to New York that filled me with a new respect for the power of the arts to influence and contribute to the betterment of the human experience. The city was wet and cold (even for spring) which did not make it particularly appealing to wander through Central Park or shop or even

be out at all. However, part of the purpose of the trip was to see an old friend perform in the new hit musical "Wicked" on Broadway. So, out we trudged, down a not so yellow brick road, through the bad weather, and into an unexpected surprise.

I had been tracking "Wicked" since it opened in October. I admit that I was somewhat predisposed to a negative response, as I am not a great lover of grand, oftentimes amazing, but frequently meaningless spectacles on stage. I tend to favor more intimate, thoughtful, and emotion provoking theatrical experiences, and the show is playing at the Gershwin which is the largest theatre on Broadway. Consequently, the sets, costumes and staging are large and extravagant, along the lines of "Cats" or "Phantom of the Opera". Gratefully, my presupposed trepidations were completely unfounded. The performances are brilliant, the singing was phenomenal, and the characterizations were extremely well executed. The production is lavish and impressive, but the real star of the show is the book. The content is not only deeply profound, but conveys its important message so effortlessly that we are moved and transformed without ever realizing the musical has cast a life changing spell over its entire audience.

As a kind of prequel to the much beloved Wizard of Oz, the familiarity of the story is the departure point for the genius of "Wicked". It takes what we know (or think we know) about the characters and the traditional plot, and by peeling back a few layers reveals a truth and sincerity that is unexpected in a fantasy fairy tale. Beneath the layers, the show reveals that our own preconceptions are not always valid or even useful. Not to be confused with the "Matrix" version of truth revealed, which sows a kind of fear based on the suspicion that our reality is not what we think it is, "Wicked" tells us that our reality may be in front of us, but we must look beneath the surface to find not just truth, but value to our existence. It also shows us that our misconceptions about people, places and events often create the prejudices and injustices that adversely influence those we care about most and eventually ourselves.

It is surprisingly adult material for the average "no business, like show business" musical, and yet the sold out crowd was more than half filled with teenagers and children. Not only was the young audience reveling in the Legally Blond meets Harry Potter references, but they were also gobbling up the priceless lessons in ethics, tolerance, and a world that we all hope could be imbued with the most essential of human values, caring and compassion. It is also a sobering look at what becomes of us and those we love when our best intentions don't necessarily yield the results we intend. Its not exactly your typical "happily ever after" musical, but "Wicked" may be the best case I've seen to support the important and lasting impact that music, words, and the "living" arts can have in shaping our lives and the future for our children.

B'Shalom,

Cantor Mark



On The Town,

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

- ✧ Participated in the California Freedom to Marry Coalition and the Steering Committee meetings
- ✧ Attended the Executive Committee meeting of the Board of Rabbis
- ✧ Participated in the Rabbi/Social Worker Roundtable sponsored by Jewish Family Service
- ✧ Attended the Interfaith Lesbian and Gay Clergy Association Meetings
- ✧ Attended the PARR Executive Committee Meeting
- ✧ Participated in Founder's Day exercises at Hebrew Union College
- ✧ Attended a training in Urban Ministries

Opera at Kol Ami

The final concert of the Kol Hashamayim music series at Congregation Kol Ami brings the premier of an unusual new show entitled "Operatica Judaica". We are excited to present this semi-staged concert on **Sunday, June 13, 2004 at 2:00 pm.**

The show is created in an interactive format to illustrate the influence that Jewish history and culture has in the world of Grand Opera. The musical selections are drawn from popular and not as well known Operas of composers and librettists of Jewish descent, as well as repertoire inspired by Old Testament stories and Jewish themes. The extraordinary cast includes the internationally hailed soprano Sondra Radvanovsky, who sings regularly at the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, and Opera Bastille, and our own local celebrity mezzo soprano Suzanna Guzman, who sings with Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Washington Opera. The music director and accompanist of the program is Maestro William Vendice, assistant conductor and head of music staff for the Los Angeles Opera and music director of Opera UCLA. Several other up-and-coming singers from the Los Angeles Opera will round out the talent for this once-in-a-lifetime event at Congregation Kol Ami.

SPEAKER FROM NEW ISRAEL FUND AT SERVICES

Join us **Friday, May 14**, as we welcome Eliezer Ya'ari to Kol Ami. Mr. Ya'ari is the Executive Director in Israel of the New Israel Fund which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The New Israel Fund is an important organization that supports critical infrastructure in the land of Israel including GLBT groups, domestic violence shelters and Arab-Israeli youth dialogue programs. They have specifically focused on issues of religious tolerance and diversity in Israel and done many projects on social and economic justice.

Mr. Ya'ari was born in 1949 and is a native of Jerusalem. He joined the Israeli Air Force one month after the 1967 Six-Day War. In 1969 he graduated from the Air Force Academy as a combat pilot, remaining in service until 1976.

He retired from the Air Force holding the rank of Major and began a journalism career. He joined the news division of the Israel Broadcasting Authority serving as field reporter, night editor, chief news producer, editor, and anchorperson

of the popular Weekly News Magazine. He produced hundreds of well-known stories and shows. In 1992, he was nominated to be director of programs of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and, during his three-year term, supervised production of all documentaries, dramas, children's programs, and entertainment shows.

He is also a writer of short stories, articles, and reviews for the local press, in 1990 publishing his book *Back to the Titanic*, a collection of short stories.

In 1995, Ya'ari became a Wexner Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he received his master's degree in public administration.

From 1996-1997, he produced and anchored the weekly magazine for short documentaries *Mabat Sheni* (Inside Look) for the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

Since 1997 Ya'ari has served as the executive director in Israel of the New Israel Fund.

AT THE CORNER, TURN RIGHT ONTO END OF THE YEAR BLVD.



With Pesach now in our rear view mirrors, the end of our religious school year is just around the corner. But before our year draws to a close, there are several exciting activities in which members of our school community will be participating.

On **Sunday, May 2nd**, our religious school will join with other members of this congregation, and thousands of our neighbors in participating in *Big Sunday!* (formerly Mitzvah Day) at Temple Israel of Hollywood

Our 4-7th grade class will be very busy in the upcoming weeks. On **Friday, May 7th**, they will participate in the family Shabbat Service at **6:45 p.m.** and on **Sunday May 23rd**, they will bring their studies of the Holocaust to a close with a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance.

And finally on **Sunday, June 6th**, we will officially bring our school year to a close with a special morning at Plummer Park filled with food and fun.

These wonderful events, combined with the extraordinary teaching that goes on in the classroom are sure to make our journey towards the end of the year a time of learning, fun, and memories.

Joel Fleekop
Student Rabbi

Observe the Holiday of Shavout with Kol Ami

The festival of Shavuot, the feast of weeks, begins **Tuesday** evening, **May 25th**. This holy day celebrates the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai.

Kol Ami will once again join in celebration. Please join us for the festival service, which begins at **6:30 p.m.**, with dinner followed by a wonderful learning program with Rabbi Eger, Cantor Saltzman, Student Rabbi Joel Fleekop, Robin Podolsky and Dr. Peter Kraus.

Dinner: \$15.00

RSVP to our temple office 323.606.0996,
so we can get a count for dinner.



Steve Addison was recently honored as Man of The Year for the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. He is pictured (left) with Stuart Leviton.