



Voice

TEMPLEKOLAMI.ORG

FEBRUARY 2017

SHEVAT | ADAR 5777

BEATLES PURIM!

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Rabbi Schneider

Just Listen.

Message from the Rabbi

I have worked hard to make TKA feel like “your home away from home,” where we can disagree, for example, but still enjoy each other’s company and celebrate “Doing Jewish” together. But I am worried about those in the

larger, extended community who have demonstrated an unwillingness to listen and try to understand the “other” side.

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield speaks of this issue in his book, “You Don’t Have to be Wrong for Me to be Right,” when he says, “We live in a moment of polarized politics, angry rhetoric, and increasing violence, often pushed into the unfair choice between fanatical commitments that make us crazy and openness that is so loose it leaves us lonely.”

Don’t get me wrong, I am no fan of the ideology that says “we all have to get along and go along,” and always seek to find a “middle ground.” I think this diminishes our own beliefs and virtues. Case-in-point, when I do “interfaith” work, I call it “multifaith,” not “interfaith,” in an attempt to highlight our differences and walk away with a new found respect for those differences - as opposed to what we have in common.

I also find that certain disagreements are necessary in a democracy and that we must struggle and wrestle with our faith, our ideas and ideals and our most sacred values in order to grow both intellectually and spiritually.

In this age I have found that the profound struggle of our generation is to see things from the perspectives of others; to have true and enduring empathy for the plight of others, the thoughts and ideas that other people think and from where and when their perspectives come. It appears that empathy has become obsolete in a generation where self interests come first.

To combat this, we must first listen before we can understand. When we understand we can have empathy. And I believe that sincere empathy can be a powerful pathway to peace.

One of the great debates of Jewish history existed between the Schools of Hillel and Shammai in the first century. In these often heated arguments, the students of Hillel stand as role models in Judaism for listening. We are taught that the School of Hillel would humbly listen to

the opposing views first, before offering their own. They showed respect for views they didn’t personally share. God considered the divergent views equally “words of the living God.” Yet in the end, Hillel’s views carried the day because they encompassed the thoughts of others, and because of their humility. “Who is wise,” our tradition asks us, “one who listens and learns from every person.”

Nelson Mandela used listening and empathy as the way toward unification of a nation. “Don’t enter the debate too early,” he used to say.

Mandela put this to practice as the African National Congress’s first President of South Africa after the fall of Apartheid. He would gather his cabinet around the dining-room table or sometimes in a circle in his driveway. Some of his colleagues would shout at him—to move faster, to be more radical—and Mandela would simply listen. When he finally did speak at those meetings, he slowly and methodically summarized everyone’s points of view

and then unfurled his own thoughts, subtly steering the decision in the direction he wanted, without imposing it. The trick of leadership, Mandela would say, is allowing yourself to be led too.

Herein lies the truth. That we all have something to say is a

given. That we all have perspectives to share, lessons to teach and experiences which inform our ideas is part of what it means to be human. But to do so means we must listen.

When we listen, we open our hearts and minds to hear others. When we listen, we seek the goodness and kindness in others. When we listen, we open ourselves up to the vulnerabilities which make us real and connected. When we listen, we commit ourselves to understanding others so that we ourselves can become better people. When we listen, we can hear the voice of God crying out to us: “Pursue peace!,” “Seek justice!,” “Walk humbly with God!” “Be kind, be compassionate and be holy.”

It is okay to listen even when we do not agree. From listening comes true empathy. From listening comes true meaning. From listening comes the pursuit of peace.

May we be open enough to seek understanding from those we don’t agree. May we be brave enough to engage in a conversation with others even when it is troubling. May we be “wise” enough to “listen and learn from others,” as a pathway to seeking God and pursuing peace for ourselves and our world.

It is okay to listen even when we do not agree.

From listening comes true empathy.

From listening comes true meaning.

From listening comes the pursuit of peace.

Nah Nah Nah Nah, Hey Jews

Cheer on 37 of your temple friends in a joyous and fun Purim shpiel featuring some of The Fab Four's best known tunes

by Gregg Luchs
Cantorial Soloist

I'm so excited about our Purim shpiel this year! It's called *Hey Jews - A Beatles Purim*. Following up on last year's successful Motown Purim, I wanted to come up with something featuring music that's equally familiar and accessible to our congregation. I considered many different options over the course of several months, and finally decided on a Beatles theme after narrowing the choices down to a final three and discussing these with a number of congregants and staff.

We have 25 temple members in the cast, plus a dozen of our Religious School students, who will be featured in a special number. We're very enthusiastic about including Religious School students in the *shpiel* for the first time! They've been rehearsing as part of our Theater and Music Chug during Religious School on Sundays, and they're doing a fantastic job!

All of the music will be performed live by our six-member *Yetzer Hatov* Band, which includes the same personnel you see monthly at Rock *Shabbat* following Café Kol Ami. Also new this year, we're closing the show with an audience-participation dance number, and we plan to have a congregational costume contest as well.



All of this, combined with the traditional schnapps after the performance, should make for a wild and creative evening! Last year we had a standing-room-only crowd, and I expect this year we'll see more of the same. So be sure to circle Saturday, March 11 on your calendar!

2nd Night
Passover Seder April 11
5:30PM
save the date

Carlos Galindo-Elvira
Regional Director Anti Defamation League of Arizona and **civil rights activist**

Guest speaker at Shabbat **Friday February 24**



Nancy Drapin

The Sky's the Limit

Behind the Scenes with the Executive Director

amazing cloud formations around the clock. You feel as though you are inside a great dome of swirling colors and air, protecting you yet providing enough energy to keep you off balance and thinking.

Temple Kol Ami echoes and enhances our natural environment. When you step inside our synagogue, you feel the palpable energy swirling around you, lifting you up to experience exciting and colorful activities. No matter what your age, our events, classes and volunteer programs provide creative opportunities for learning, worship and helping others. And, while the opportunities for involvement keep us moving, inside our doors is also a warm and firm connection to the "earth" of Judaism - your "peeps", the human connections, a community of people.

Like our sky, our congregation is a living and breathing entity with constant movement. Our members are intricately engaged in making our congregation thrive. This is the energy that you feel when you walk in the door. Members greet each other as family, babies cry or giggle as they get held and ogled by other members and staff, people rush to move tables and chairs where they are needed, staff and members laugh with each other throughout the day, people ask about how other members are doing.

Eight years ago, our community reimagined itself to be successful. Now, in 2017, we have achieved the success that was once dreamed. We have 381 member families, 200 children in religious school, a full staff who supports the rabbi and board of trustees, a building that has a new roof and improved air conditioning, new chairs, new rugs and a refurbished sanctuary, and a soon to be fully-paid mortgage.

One of the reasons that drew me to Kol Ami was our tag line "where innovation meets tradition". This simple statement showed me that Kol Ami could take intentional risks and be successful. We opened the doors to the community through a special membership promotion knowing that people were paying half the normal commitment to belong, and more

The one amazing thing that hit me when I moved to Arizona was the incredible sky. No matter where you look the sky is vast; it can be different colors depending which way you look and can have

than 125 new families have become a part of our community and support our programs and events. We held a Purim shpiel that required volunteers to practice for several weeks, resulting in a choreographed musical show like no other. We started a legacy program and now have more than \$1 million dollars promised towards our future. We asked our members to support The Red Carpet Event Early Childhood Center fundraiser, and we raised more revenue than in any other year. We started our first Annual Fund, budgeted to raise \$50,000, and to date have raised over \$62,000 with more than 30% of our families as donors.

We have all these tangible things because of the strength of the relationships in our temple and the passion of our members for our community. In the recent survey that we completed through URJ, 94% of our members agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend our congregation to friends.

These relationships with each other partnered with the core values of "doing Jewish" push us to innovate, learn, adjust and innovate over and over.

In Our Wildest Dreams is the theme of our upcoming spring Gala on April 1 which will honor Dorothy and Michael Blaire for dedicating their time and money to our congregation. It will also recognize the hundreds of people who remained supporting members even during the hardest times as we regrouped and re-established our temple. It will celebrate the present and the future of our wonderful community. Because of the strong spirit of the past and the creative soul of the present, we have solidified our reputation in the community as a community of hope and action, a place where generations of Jewish families will flourish. I hope you will save the date and make it a priority to eat, dance and celebrate with us on April 1. (See pages 10 and 11 for more details.)

The sky's the limit at Kol Ami. You and your family take and do as much Jewish as you want, you can breathe in the strength of the community when you want, and you can bring new ideas to the forefront at any time. We want to hear from you. In the next months, our Board will be engaged in planning strategically for the coming years. We want to hear from you and we will be calling on you for input about why Kol Ami is important to you and what makes you so enthusiastic about your life Kol Ami.

Upcoming Boomer Programs

We're busy planning more events and adventures for our 55+ members. Watch your email for updates and be sure to visit templekolami.org/boomers for full details on each activity.

TKA Boomer Bikers

When: Meets weekly - Sundays at 8:30AM
Where: Mountain View Park

This weekly bicycle meetup is a great opportunity to meet friends and have fun outdoors. Rides are safe and easy. RSVP to **Fred and Sandy Goldenson** at ipedal311@gmail.com or 602-677-8041

Geocaching: A Digital Treasure Hunt

When: Meets monthly - TBD
Where: Fountain Hills Lake

Geocaching uses modern technology to put a twist on the old-fashioned scavenger hunt. Participants use a GPS receiver or smart phones to search for "geocaches" while hiking. RSVP to **Paula Eckstein** via email at Paula.Eckstein@gmail.com.

TKA Evening Book Club

When: Montly - Wednesday, February 18 from 7-8PM
Where: Temple Kol Ami
Facilitated by **Arlene Lurie**

Congregants of all ages are invited to join in the discussion of February's book, *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett--whether they've read the book or not.

Afternoon Book Club

When: TBD - 12PM
Where: 28 W. Moon Valley Drive, Phoenix 85023

Afternoon book discussion club at the home of **Agi Goldman**. Interested? Contact Agi via email at Agigoldman@gmail.com.

Breakfast at Chompies (not Tiffany's)

When: Sunday, February 12 at 9AM
Where: Chompies (9301 Shea Blvd, Scottsdale)

You and your friends are invited to a social and educational breakfast with speaker David Goldstein, senior partner of Hymson, Goldstein & Pantiliat, who will discuss preparations for end-of-life matters. Breakfast is \$20 per person (includes gratuities). RSVP by Feb 2 to **Lillian Bandyk** at lvendigbandyk@aol.com or **Jeff Leyton** at jmleyton@centurylink.net.

Bar-B-Que Mensches: Feed the Homeless

When: Monthly - Friday February 17 at 1PM
Where: Lodestar Day Resource Center

To volunteer with our ongoing mitvah project of making lunch for over 800 people, please contact **Susan Guzman** at sutyguz@gmail.com or 480-998-1054.

Pre-Service Potluck Get together

When: Friday, February 24 at 5:30PM

Schmooze, eat and pray with others in our boomer group. This is an opportunity to show off culinary or take-out talents, find new friends and enjoy our community before 7PM Shabbat services. Contact **Susan Guzman** who is coordinating food at sutyguz@gmail.com or 480-998-1054

Bullets Over Broadway by Woody Allen

When: Sunday, March 19 at 6:30PM
Where: Phoenix Theatre

Bullets Over Broadway is based on the screenplay of the 1994 film by Woody Allen and Douglas McGrath. With big laughs, colorful characters, and the songs that made the 20's roar, *Bullets Over Broadway* is bringing musical comedy back with a bang! Limited tickets \$36 per person includes free parking. Contact **Susan Guzman** more info at sutyguz@gmail.com or 480-998-1054.

The Producers by Mel Brooks

When: Saturday April 22 at 7:30PM
Where: Desert Stages Theater

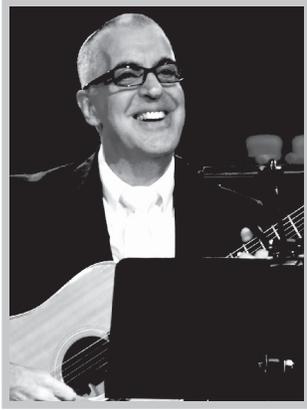
We have reserved a block of 24 tickets to see *The Producers* written by Mel Brooks. We'll meet at Wildflower Bread Company (Indian Bend & Scottsdale Rd.) for early dinner before the show. Tickets are \$ 20 per person. RSVP by Friday, April 7th. Contact **Roger and Barbara Lurie** at rblurie@cox.net or 480-241-8328 to reserve seats.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING GALA

Know a business that would donate an auction item? Do you want to help stuff invitations? Are you comfortable making calls to remind people to send in their reservations? Would you like to help decorate? How about helping with the check-in process on the night of the Gala? Contact **Nancy Drapin** at nancyd@templekolami.org

Interested in leading a Boomer "adventure," class or event? Contact Jeff Leyton at jmleyton@centurylink.net.





Cantor Gregg Luchs

Kindness For Its Own Sake

Cantor Banter

It's a contentious time in America. We seem to be deeply divided, not only in the wake of the recent presidential election, but also over what should or should not be our "shared values" and the appropriate priorities and direction of our great nation. Open and honest

debate over these issues is part of what makes our country an example of freedom. But freedom without kindness loses its purpose.

The Hebrew word for kindness is *chesed*. Kindness is often thought of as being synonymous with niceness, but the connotation of *chesed* is much deeper than this. *Chesed* is an act that has no cause.

When a person works for an employer, and then gets paid, that pay is really a recycling of his own deed. Thus, the energy a stevedore expends in unloading boxes from a ship is recycled to him in the form of the

money which he uses to buy bread. An act of *chesed*, however, is an act which is not recycled – for example, an anonymous gift to dedicate a scholarship fund.

Chesed is proactive; it is the initiator of interaction, and, in the chain of social dynamics, is the primary spark that initiates subsequent action.

Every action in the universe has a cause – except that which is the first one. Within the sphere of visible action, *chesed* is without cause, an instigating expression of expansiveness. The ultimate act of *chesed* was the creation of the world, an act that had no previous cause. We read in Psalm 89 that "the world is built with *chesed*."

God's creation of mankind itself was a unilateral act, the ultimate act of *chesed*. The creatures that inhabit the world – including the human ones – never "deserved" or "earned" the right to exist.

This point is the cornerstone of our interaction with God. The person who does not thoroughly understand that our relationship with God is built on a foundation of *chesed* engages in litigation with

God, perhaps arguing he has been somehow "short-changed," that God "owes us something." Appreciating that creation is an act of *chesed* removes the ability of mankind to litigate with God. Therefore, if a young and righteous person dies, we cannot make the argument that this person has somehow been wronged, that they did not "deserve" to die. We exist not because of merit, but rather due to God's mercy and grace – His *chesed*. The underlying foundation of all existence is a gift. God owes us nothing.

God's reply to Job's litany of complaints was: "Who preceded me that I shall have to pay him?" God, in effect, told Job, "You may question, but you cannot debate."

While purity of motive is virtuous with regard to every *mitzvah*, it is intrinsic to *chesed*. As soon as there is a motivation "for something" – be it honor or a future

payoff – it has ceased being absolute *chesed*. It is just another action in the long series of links in the chain of cause and effect.

This is why the act of burying a dead person is called *chesed shel*

emet ("true kindness"), because any act of *chesed* that is accorded to a person during his life is, in a sense, never quite pure, as it inevitably carries within itself some of the complexities of human interaction. Maybe I owe this person a favor and am uncomfortable in refusing him, or perhaps I like having him owe me one. While, with regard to other *mitzvot*, this would be a mere blemish on an otherwise fine deed; with regard to *chesed*, this changes its meaning entirely, for *chesed*, by definition, is "something for nothing."

Chesed is not a reaction to any previous deed. It is an act parallel to the creation of the world, and also describes the beginning of any relationship of God to mankind. As we go about our daily lives, we would do well to bear in mind the concept of *chesed* – kindness for its own sake. Because it's the right course of action. Because we exist not due to merit, but rather only by virtue of God's love and kindness. And as God treats us with such unprovoked and unconditional benevolence, I would suggest that we should reflect this in our relations to our fellow man.

Kindness is often thought of as being synonymous with niceness, but the connotation of *chesed* is much deeper than this.

Mazel Tov to February's B'nai Mitzvah



Sarah Cohen becomes a Bat Mitzvah on February 18 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to share in this simcha and attend the service.

Sarah is in 7th grade at Explorer Middle School. She has participated in many Mitzvah Programs, including working at a food bank. She filled bags, weighed bags of food and then transported meals to a site where families in need pick them up. This Mitzvah program "gave her a sense of being a part of the community and a great understanding of how Mitzvah's can really make a difference."

A creative individual, Sarah enjoys dancing, photography and baking. She likes to express her artistic abilities by baking and decorating baked goods, which her brother **Jeremy**, 10, loves to taste test. Together they reenact *Cup Cake Wars*!

Sarah is the daughter of **Deborah and Jeffrey Cohen**. She's excited to be a Bat Mitzvah and share all her hard work and achievements with her loving family and friends who will be traveling far and near!



Brandon Herzog becomes a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 25 at 10:30AM. All Congregant are invited to attend services.

Brandon is a 7th grader at Sonoran Trails Middle School in Cave Creek where he is on the Varsity Wrestling Team with an undefeated season. Brandon was also a member of the Cave Creek Falcons Football Team.

Brandon loves animals and has chosen the E-List Angels Animal Shelter to volunteer at for his Mitzvah Project.

Brandon is the son of **Barbara and Joe Herzog** and the older brother of **Noah**.

Cafe Kol Ami

Friday February 10

ZOE'S KITCHEN

RSVP ONLINE AT: TEMPLEKOLAMI.ORG/GIVE

SAVE THE DATE

KOL AMI GOLF KLASSIK

MAY 1, 2017
Ancala Country Club

Contact Mike Arko for sponsorship info:
marko@invmgmt.com



Debbie Glassman

Tree of Life

Message from the Early Childhood Center Director

One of my very favorite books is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. This story makes me feel both sad and happy for a myriad of reasons. The ending makes me cry because I feel sorry for the boy who has grown old, sitting all alone on the tree stump. The tree gave him whatever he

cared for. There is a poem I would like to share with you that poignantly describes our role as educators:

Teachers plant the seeds of knowledge...that's for sure,

Carefully tending to our children as they grow and mature.

You share important lessons, and so much more... believing any idea will grow when cared for.

You recognize uniqueness and originality, respecting creative thinking and individuality.

By example you teach – your actions inspire. You support them as they reach for their dreams . . . higher and higher!

Your encouragement has helped them to grow. Your enthusiasm fuels their desire to learn and to know.

Your patience and thoughtfulness show us you care, like the stars, we can depend on you to always be there.

Planting knowledge is a precious gift that sets teachers apart.

Tu B'Shevat is a time to appreciate trees, life and the people we love. I count my blessings each and every day.

asked for throughout the years until it had nothing left to give. There is a lot to learn from this tender story, especially how important it is to give of oneself and appreciate the many things we often times take for granted.

We will be celebrating *Tu B'Shevat* together in a few weeks. The children always have a wonderful time planting flowers and tasting various dried fruit that comes from trees. How fortunate we are to be surrounded by such an abundance of nature at Temple Kol Ami! I love to look out at the magnificent trees from my office window throughout the day. I also look forward to seeing our beautiful preschool children enjoy the outdoors on the small and large playgrounds .

The Early Childhood Center is a place where children grow and flourish just as trees do when they are loved and



artwork by Holden Gulbas, 3s class



ECC Chanukah Holiday Celebration: Robin Schneider and Hannah Belfore spin the dreidel; Tricia & Hannah Levy celebrate Shabbat and Sydney Schoenfeld decorates a marshmallow.

Tikkun Olam

Opportunities to Do Jewish

Sunday, February 5: Winter Blood Drive

Our seasonal blood drive will be held on Sunday, February 5. Donation appointments are available between 8AM and 1PM. The entire process, including registration, medical history, mini-physical, donation and refreshments takes about an hour and 15 minutes. (FYI - the actual blood donation typically takes 10-12 minutes.) Donors may save time by completing a RapidPass on the day of donation at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass>. To sign up, contact **Susan Guzman** at sutyguz@gmail.com or (480) 998-1054.

Friday, February 10: Bar-B-Que Mensches

Bar-B-Que Mensches volunteers serve over 800 meals each month to homeless men and women at the Lodestar Day Resource Center in downtown Phoenix. Congregants of all ages are invited to participate in this mitzvah program and make a direct, positive impact in our community. This month, Bar-B-Que Mensches meets at 1PM on Friday, February 10. Want to volunteer? Contact **Susan Guzman** at sutyguz@gmail.com or (480) 998-1054.

Sunday, February 26: Religious School Mitzvah Day

In lieu of a traditional Religious School day at TKA from 9AM to 12PM, we invite families to participate in one of several social action projects around The Valley. We look forward to providing opportunities for our children to "do Jewish" alongside their parents. Sign-ups for the various projects will go out via email. If there is a special project that you would like to add to the list, please contact **Carly Kastner** in the Temple Office at carly@templekolami.org or (480) 951-9660.

March 21: Preventative Health Scans from Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless preventive health screenings at Temple Kol Ami on March 21. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to stroke, aneurysms, heart disease, irregular heartbeat and osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. To register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers.

Welcome Nancy Lad



Nancy Lad joins Temple Kol Ami as our new Director of Finance & Information Systems. Her email is accounting@templekolami.org -- say hi!

*by Nancy Drapin
Executive Director*

We've got another Nancy on staff, and we are happy to introduce Nancy Lad who will be your new contact in Temple Kol Ami's finance department.

Nancy's career in finance has included a strong background in non-profit accounting and human resources. She started her career in Atlanta, after graduating from Emory University. After moving to Scottsdale with her husband and two children in 2012, she became the staff accountant at Congregation Or-Tzion and then progressed to the Arizona Dental Association as their controller. Nancy loved working in a religious institution because of the people

interaction and when our position was posted, she contacted us in the hopes that she would be able to return to a warm and friendly synagogue environment.

Nancy spent the month of January working with Sheryl to learn about Kol Ami's financial procedures. Her experience at Or-Tzion gave her a jump on other applicants because she had used the same exact synagogue and accounting databases. Her transition has been quick and professional.

I know you will find working with Nancy Lad a wonderful addition to our staff. I invite you to poke your head into her office and introduce yourself so that she can link names and faces with the information in our systems.

IN OUR
wildest
DREAMS
SPRING GALA

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017
hosted at **Chateau Luxe**

It's time to celebrate the landmark milestones we only imagined "in our wildest dreams." From welcoming our highest number of member families *ever*, to paying off our mortgage, and honoring the generosity of benefactors Michael and Dorothy Blaire and all of those who contributed to the Save the Temple and Capital Campaigns--there's so much for our community to celebrate!

Dance the night away at an upscale fundraiser featuring:

Live music from the 18-piece Tuscon Jazz Institute

Multi-course dinner & cocktails

Silent auction & online bidding

**SPONSOR THE EVENT OR DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM.
SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS.**

Ways You Can Support the Spring Gala Fundraiser

1. Attend the Spring Gala on April 1, 2017. Keep an eye on your mailbox--you'll be receiving your invitation soon!

2. Be a Sponsor. Businesses, individuals, and licensed food and liquor vendors are invited to be event or table sponsors. There are 5 levels of sponsorship, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Businesses will enjoy marketing exposure such as recognition in press releases and event signage, a listing on our auction website, complimentary gala tickets, reserved tables and more. See flyer for details.

3. Donate a silent auction item. Please donate or collect a unique item for our auction. We're looking for items such as gift certificates, gift baskets, hotel and vacation packages, tickets to theater or sporting events, musical instruments, memorabilia, electronics and jewelry. Innovative and creative prizes are welcome--nothing is too big or too small! In exchange for your donation, your company will receive brand exposure in our event collateral. See flyer for details.

4. Write a personalized message in our program book. Whether you'll be attending the Gala or not, you're invited to purchase a gratitude ad in our program. You can use your ad to write a note of thanks to The Blaires or celebrate all the reasons you love and value TKA. Visit our website for details.

Visit templekolami.org/SpringGala to Get Started



VALLEY BEIT MIDRASH

VALLEY BEIT MIDRASH PRESENTS
young professionals shabbat dinner
February 10 • 7PM • \$10
Valley Of The Sun JCC
12701 N Scottsdale Rd.
co-sponsored by

Logos for sponsors: Temple Beth Shalom, Jewish National Fund, Limmud, NOWGEN, Congregation Or Tzion, Schmitze, Temple Chai, Temple Kol Ami, SOLEL, and PJ Library.

Children's programming provided by PJ Library
Visit www.valleybeitmidrash.org to register

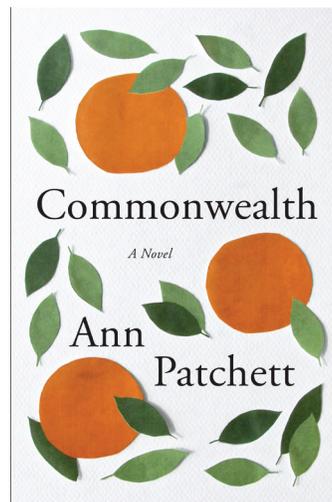
TKA Book Club

Wednesday, February 15 | 7-8:30PM

All congregants are invited to attend

Join the discussion whether you've read the book or not

February's book is *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett, an enthralling *New York Times* best-seller that starts with an unexpected romantic encounter





Carly Kastner

Get Involved!

Message from the Youth Engagement Director

One of the things I love about Temple Kol Ami is that there are so many ways for congregants of ALL ages to get involved. Whether you're passionate about Judaic study, social action, or just getting to know other Jewish families, the next few

months will provide much diversity and opportunity for involvement!

In honor of Super Bowl Sunday, February 5 will be our Annual Religious School Jersey Day. Come to Religious School dressed in your favorite team's gear. It's fun to see everyone support their favorite team!

On February 12 our 7th and 8th graders will participate in the Jewish Film Festival with a special showing of "Once in a Life Time." This is always a unique opportunity for our young teens to watch and discuss an important Jewish film alongside their parents and teachers.

We'll close out February with a very special Mitzvah Day on Sunday, February 26. In lieu of our traditional 9AM to 12PM day at TKA, we invite families to participate in one of several social action projects around The Valley. We look forward to providing opportunities for our children to "do Jewish" alongside their parents. There will be no traditional religious school on this day. Sign-ups for the various projects will go out via email. If there is a special project that you would like to add to the list, please contact Carly in the Temple Office.

Important Dates

Feb 5 from 9AM-12PM: Religious School and Pre-K Chaverim Class JERSEY DAY

Feb 12 from 9AM-12PM: Religious School. 7th and 8th graders attend Jewish Film Festival with parents during Religious School hours.

Feb 12: KAJY 56 event (TBA)

Feb 12: KAJY 34 event (TBA)

Feb 19: No Religious School (President's Day)

Feb 26: Mitzvah Day

Mar 5 from 9AM - 11AM: Religious School early dismissal for Purim Carnival

Teen Events

Feb 4 from 6-8PM: KATY Movie Night at TKA (includes Pizza dinner)

Feb 17 - 19: NFTY Convention

Event dates and times are subject to change. Keep an eye on your email for the most recent updates on all TKA programming.

Announcing the 2017

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 5 | 11AM - 2:30PM

Don't miss another fun-filled event featuring:

- Live DJ, courtesy of Event Smart Productions
- BBQ Lunch, courtesy of Acme Meats
- Bounce House
- Carnival Games and Prizes
- Face Painting
- Costume Contest
- Kugel Cook-Off and more!

As always, our Purim Carnival is **FREE** to attend.

(Note: Religious School pick-up will be at 11AM. Students will not be dismissed to the carnival without a parent.)



Wear your gear! Support your favorite team!

TKA FAMILY RETREAT

MARCH 24-26, 2017

YMCA SKY-Y CAMP IN PRESCOTT, AZ

Campfire, S'mores, and Hot Chocolate

Rock wall and Archery

Camp Shabbat

Passover themed Crafts and Cooking

Enjoy the BEAUTIFUL Prescott Pines and weather



REGISTER NOW! Visit templekolami.org/retreat. Or contact Youth Engagement Director Carly Kastner at carly@templekolami.org or call (480) 951-9660.

KATY KORNER: Spotlight on Jacob Kaller

Hi! My name is Jacob Kaller, and I am a Junior at Pinnacle High School. I am a cyclist and love to spend time with my friends and family. I have been involved in the TKA community since I was young, attending Religious School, participating in youth group and NFTY, and becoming a Bar Mitzvah. As a part of my leadership and social action duties of becoming Bar Mitzvah, I took on a leadership role in the BBQ Mensches program at TKA. The BBQ Mensches is a social action project started at Kol Ami which provides hot meals to the homeless in downtown Phoenix. Working with BBQ Mensches is an incredibly humbling experience that has opened my eyes to real problems that exist in our society. The feeling of giving to others is one of great honor, and I encourage others to get involved with



Pictured above: Jacob Kaller and his father, Jason

this project! Look out for meeting dates in the Temple calendar and email Suzan Guzman at sutyguz@gmail.com with questions.

NEW Adult Education Course

Get ready to laugh and learn in Rabbi Schneider's Jewish humor class



FROM SINAI TO SEINFELD: THE HISTORY OF JEWISH HUMOR (10 lessons) — (10 lessons) — A treasure of irresistible jokes from the Israelite relationship with God to the growing divide between cultural and religious Judaism in the early 21st century. Treating Jewish jokes as text, the course invites students to analyze and interpret the evolving concerns, styles, rhythms, preoccupations, and values of the Jewish people that lie buried deep in words that make us laugh as Jews, and that bond us as a people.

Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, starts February 23.
Temple Kol Ami, taught by Rabbi Jeremy Schneider.

Register for Rabbi's class at events.org/MeltonPhoenix

Limmud AZ

February 12, 2017

9AM to 5PM | ASU Memorial Union Conference Center

Limmud AZ is a day of Jewish learning. It's a gathering of hundreds of Jews from all walks of life, all Jewish backgrounds, all lifestyles and all ages that offers a full schedule of workshops, discussions, arts, music, performances, text-study sessions, and much more.

Limmud AZ's full day program will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 9am to 5pm at ASU in the Conference Center at the Memorial Union.

For more information, visit limmudaz.org
TKA is a community partner.



WE ARE GOING TO ISRAEL

ATTEND THE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9 at 7PM Can't make it? Email rabbij@templekolami.org for details.

A family trip led by Rabbi Schneider. December 23, 2017 - January 2, 2018.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR ANNUAL FUND A SUCCESS!

This year, we started our first Annual Fund. **It was budgeted to raise \$50,000, and to date has raised over \$62,000 with more than 30% of our families as donors.** We asked our members to stretch and give generously, and they responded with overwhelming support.

I want to personally thank each and every one of the following members who contributed to the fund. This fund benefits us all and helps ensure a bright future for Kol Ami. I know that you, as members, value the role that our temple plays in your life because you show your connection through your thoughtful gifts of money and time. I hope that this letter serves as a personal thank you and hug for your dedication and contribution to Kol Ami life. You are the reason why our temple exists and sustains itself. Thank you for making our first ever Annual Fund a success.

-Nancy Drapin, Executive Director

Phil & Hannah Adelman
Dan Adelmann
Miriam Ailloni-Charas
Michael & Leslye Alexander
Mike & Nichole Arko
Howard Asaki & Robin Schlossman
Aimee & Golda Avniel
Shawn & Sharon Bader
Edward & Lillian Bandyk
Steven & Allison Bans
Bob & Amy Bessen
Marc & Courtney Beyer
Jake & Kayla Blackman
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Scott & Michelle Bleier
Burt & Denise Bragin
Martin & Terry Brown
Benjamin & Kristina Brown
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Mike & Maralyn Hauer
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Tyler & Stephanie Heymann
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Ilene Lashinsky
Joseph Raynak & Andrea Lazar
Phyllis Lehman
Bernard & Lois Levine
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Richard Lurie
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Stewart Reichlyn & Nancy Drapin-Reichlyn
Marvin & Amy Richman
Mel & Barbara Rothman
Stu & Sue Rutkin
Nick Sandoval & Joyce Steinberg
Rabbi Jeremy & Rachel Schneider
Harlan & Robin Schneider
Adam & Anat Schure
Rosebell Schurz
Stuart & Barbara Schwartz
Jerry & Jackie Schwelling
Ruth Ann Seitz
Jordan Shack & Cindy Penka-Shack
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Ellen Silverman
David & Shannon Simon
Daniel & Patti Singer
Lisa Sinuk
Michael & Alexandra Sklar
Jerry & Gayle Smilack
Mark & Lolita Spiro
Mark Stein
Harvey & Susan Steinacher
Mark & Ronda Stiekman
Jonathon & Michelle Thomas
Carey & Deborah Turner
Wendy & Leila Weber
Wendy Weinberg
Theodore & Kit Weiss
Steve Weitzenkorn & Bonnie Kabin
Don & Kari Workman
Uri & Joy Zelmanovich
Lance & Suzan Ziegler
Anonomous

Your Temple, Your Family

Contributions

Thank you for your heartfelt donations.

Please be aware that we begin our preparation for The Voice six weeks in advance of its printing.

If your donation is not listed in this issue, it will be in next month's issue. Thank you.

Building/Temple Fund

In honor of:

Maralyn Hauer's 70th Birthday

-Alice Neuwirth

Best wishes to Amy Levenson
and Sheryl Griem

-Arlene Lurie

In memory of:

Bernie Kritzer, father of Dorothy
Blaire

-Roger & Barbara Lurie

In yahrzeit memory of:

Joel Daud Adelmann

-Daniel Adelmann

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

-Thomas and Julie Belgrad

In honor of:

Sue and Irv Hymson's 50th Wedding
Anniversary

-Bob Fihrer

Our Aliyah on Yom Kippur

-The Solochek Family

In memory of:

Barbara Weisz

-Abe and Esther Orlick

Wendy Weber's mother, Miriam
Friedman

-Michael and Glenna Gibbons &
Family

In yahrzeit memory of:

Benjamin Eagle

-Melvyn and Barbara Rothman

Early Childhood Center Fund

In honor of:

Appreciation of Rosh Hashanah
honor

-Richard and Betsy Herman &
Family

Maralyn Hauer's 70th Birthday

-Barbara Hauer-Doose

In yahrzeit memory of:

Samuel Stillpass

-Richard and Betsy Herman &
Family

Jonna Smilack

-Gayle & Jerry Smilack

Esther Bloomfield Fund

In honor of:

Her granddaughter, Emerson
Anderson

-Dianne Tudzin

In memory of:

Stanley Adelman, Esther & Sol
Bloomfield, Ann Frank, Naomi
Minkin, & Annellen Simpkins

-Phil & Hannah Adelman

BBQ Mensches Fund

-Paul & Wendy Breslau

-Michael & Maralyn Hauer

-Nestor and Susan Guzman

In honor of:

Maralyn Hauer's 70th Birthday

-Sara Cohen

-Kathy McGuire and Norman
Rubin

In yahrzeit memory of:

Joel Daud Adelmann

-Daniel Adelmann

Welcome, New Members

Tom & Julie Belgrad
Nina & Pierre Smith
Paula Eaton & Madison Armer
Barry & Kimberly Kaiman
Joshua & Paige Cohen

February Anniversaries

- 3 Lauren & Lucas Gilbert
- 8 John & Candice Erlick
Denise & Jim Lieberthal
- 10 Jerry & Jackie Schwelling
- 14 Brad & Brandi Klein
- Noah & Melissa Parker
- 17 Mark & Deborah Neufeld
- 18 Michael & Gayle Ahearn
- 19 Robyn & Sari Perlow
- 20 Michael & Alexandra Sklar
- 24 Stewart Reichlyn & Nancy Drapin-Reichlyn
- 27 Chad Finkelstein & Candice Worthy
- 28 John & Marcia Scialli

February Birthdays

- 1 Mary Leshner
Kelly Romm
Bill Weiss
- 2 Arline Cohen
Arlen Solochek
- 3 Jennifer Appelson
Madhavi Rangachar
- 4 Michelle Twersky
- 5 Leila Weber
- 6 Deborah Weiner
- 7 Fred Goldman
Barry Marcus
Judy Reichman
- 8 Jamie Bessler
Joseph Raynak
- 9 Deborah Cohen
Alisa Wechsler
- 12 Nathan Policar
- 13 Josh Cohen
Sandy Glass
- 14 Nicole Garber
John McIntosh
- 15 Clement Farber
- 16 Ken Mann
David Taylor
- 17 Nichole Arko
David Horesh
- 18 Michael Abrams
Jeff Beiser
Jeffrey Cohen
Mitchell Reichman
- 19 Adam Schrier
- 20 Glenna Gibbons
- 21 Susan Karp
Cheryl Palay
Michael Rendelman
- 22 Steven German
Lyena Hale
- 23 Cherie Adelman
- 24 Victoria Cohen
Andrea Fillers
- 25 Jonathan Rosenthal
- 26 Brad Brazell
Louis Goldberg
John Lurie
- 27 Michael Alexander
Lois Levine
Barry Linder
- 28 Michael Hauer
Michael Steingart



For their future.

For more information about the **Temple Kol Ami Life & Legacy Society**, please contact **Nancy Drapin** at nancyd@templekolami.org or **Phil Adelman** at adelman@cox.net

LIFE & LEGACY
Assuring JEWISH TOMORROWS

A program of the
HAROLD GRINSPOON
FOUNDATION

February 2017 | Shevat/Adar 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 Schmooze with the Rabbi 12PM</p> <p><i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM</p>	<p>2 Intro to Judaism Class 7-9PM</p>	<p>3 Mommy & Me 9:30AM</p> <p><i>Shabbat</i> 7PM</p>	<p>4 KATY Movie Night 6-8PM</p>
<p>5 Blood Drive 8AM-1PM</p> <p>Boomer Bikers 8:30AM</p> <p>Religious School 9AM-12PM</p> <p>Camp Stein Presentation 11:30AM</p> <p>Pre-K <i>Chaverim</i> 9AM - 12PM</p>			<p>8 Schmooze with the Rabbi 12PM</p> <p><i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM</p>	<p>9 Israel Trip Informational Meeting 7PM</p>	<p>10 Mommy & Me 9:30AM</p> <p>Juicetails 5PM</p> <p><i>Tot Shabbat</i> 5:30PM</p> <p>Cafe Kol Ami 6PM</p> <p><i>Rock Shabbat</i> 7PM</p>	
<p>12 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM</p> <p>Religious School 9AM-12PM</p> <p>7th & 8th grade Field Trip to Jewish Film Fest 9AM-12PM</p> <p>KAJY 34 & 56 Event (TBA)</p>	13	14	<p>15 Schmooze with the Rabbi 12PM</p> <p><i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM</p> <p>TKA Book Club 7-8:30PM</p>	16	<p>17 ECC Closed for Teacher In-service</p> <p>Bar-B-Que Mensches 1PM</p> <p><i>Shabbat</i> 7PM</p>	<p>18 Sarah Cohen <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> 10:30AM</p>
<p>19 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM</p> <p>NO Religious School</p>	<p>20 President's Day</p> <p>ECC and Temple Office Closed</p>	21	<p>22 Schmooze with the Rabbi 12PM</p> <p><i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM</p>	<p>23 From Sinai to Seinfeld 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>24 Mommy & Me 9:30AM</p> <p><i>Shabbat</i> with guest speaker Carlos Galindo-Elvira of the ADL 7PM</p>	<p>25 Brandon Herzog <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> 10:30AM</p>
<p>26 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM</p> <p>Religious School <i>Mitzvah</i> Day 9AM-12PM</p>	27	28				



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www.templekolami.org

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Emeritus Clergy

Rabbi B. Charles Herring Rabbi Emeritus
Raina Sinclair Cantorial Soloist Emeritus

www.templekolami.org

Mission Statement

Temple Kol Ami is a warm and friendly Reform Congregation. Our Mission is to improve and inspire the lives of all generations. We provide opportunities to experience the spirituality and vitality of Judaism. Through innovative education and worship we instill core Jewish values that bring us all to a better world.



Vision

We accomplish our mission through inspiring services and experiential programs, community service (tikkun olam) and deep appreciation for tradition.

We offer unique experiences:

- Participatory Shabbat Services that engage all segments of our community.
- Creative and experiential educational programs for children and adults.
- B'nai Mitzvah preparation and services that are tailored to each child.

Board of Trustees

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