



# Voice

TEMPLEKOLAMI.ORG

MAY 2017

IYAR | SIVAN 5777

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Rabbi Schneider

# ‘Being Jewish’ happens through ‘Doing Jewish’

## Message from the Rabbi

Remember the clip of Susan Boyle singing on Britain’s Got Talent? The 47-year-old frumpy woman who walks out onto the stage and the audience literally begins laughing at her for her appearance. Despite the quick judgments, Susan Boyle belts out with all her heart and passion the most amazingly moving piece from Les Mis. In the end, she, literally, brought the entire room to their feet in applause. If you remember this clip, did you laugh thinking she’d make a fool of herself? Did you expect her to fail? What had the greatest impact on me was watching the initial expressions on various audience members faces, and therefore, like a mirror, realizing how I was reacting! This got me thinking about our internal emotions and our external actions.

Brandeis University social psychologist, Bethamie Horowitz completed a 4-year study that examines how our identities are formed and how our patterns of Jewish identity have changed over time. She studied American-born Jews in the greater New York area between the ages of 22-52. Unlike other earlier surveys which measured Jewish identity by outward practices, Horowitz asked questions designed to probe both the internal identity of her respondents, as well as the changes which occurred to them Jewishly over time, both in regard to ritual practice and subjective identity, a process she referred to as their Jewish journeys.

What’s interesting about this survey is that out of the entire survey, a full 70% of respondents reported low or declining ritual observance, such as regular Shabbat candle lighting, keeping kosher, etc. Yet 63% — nearly as many — said that their level of subjective Jewish attachment, that is, the importance of being Jewish in their lives, was high or had been increasing. These are people Horowitz describes as experiencing “interior” Jewish journeys. Now for me, this is great news. In the free market of ideas and values that is American secular culture,

that 63% of young Jews report an increasing sense of the importance of Judaism, is a remarkable accomplishment. We’re all “thinking Jewish.” We’re proud of our Jewish identities. But having that identity, those feelings, is only the beginning. Unless we are doing something to take those feelings and move them outward, it’s not enough. Being Jewish happens through doing Jewish, through our interaction with the world. If we really want to realize our full potential, then we need to find a concrete way of living out our values.

But I sense a resistance to moving in this direction. I think there are three primary reasons. Change comes hard for us. We get very set in our ways. We’re comfortable with the routine of our lives and we resist change for its own sake. Only when we are pushed by an outside stimulus, or when that internal dissonance becomes too great, can we really motivate ourselves to change. But a commitment to the fundamental idea that people can change is core to Jewish belief.

I think the second reason why many of us are uncomfortable with taking on a life of greater observance is that a lot of us are stuck in the idea that this is an all or nothing proposition. If we think about undertaking some part of Jewish living, for example Shabbat or keeping kosher, it daunts us because there is just too much to do, too many rules to follow, and if you can’t do it right, then you really shouldn’t do it all, because anything less would be inconsistent, inauthentic, and God-forbid, hypocritical. Right? Wrong!

Judaism recognizes that living a Jewish life is a life-long process, that each day and each year has the potential for bringing us a little bit further along on this path, where the ultimate aim is to live a life in growing connection with God and community. Author Gil Mann wrote a wonderfully titled book, *How*

## Judaism recognizes that living a Jewish life is a lifelong process.

*To Get More Out of Being Jewish Even if: A. You are not sure you believe in God, B. You think going to synagogue is a waste of time, C. You think keeping kosher is stupid, D. You hated Hebrew school, or E. All of the above!* (You should buy the book for the title alone). In this book he grapples with the idea that living a committed Jewish life requires an all or nothing commitment.

The book is written in a dialogue format:

Q: So are you telling me that you observe all (the Jewish) laws?

A: No, not even close. But I think about the laws I do know. I often try them or parts of them, and I'm interested in learning more. Most of what I've learned has made me proud of our tradition -- even though I recognize I'm not observing a lot of Jewish laws.

Q: Don't you feel like a hypocrite?

A: No, I feel like a serious Jew. I actively struggle with what I think is the right thing to do, the wrong thing, and in between. I like the idea of trying to become a better person. I really like the Jewish idea that we humans have tremendous potential for good.

Mann goes on to describe himself as an actively serious Jew, deliberately defying conventional denominational labels. To be actively seriously Jewish, we can be at any point on the spectrum of Jewish practice. What's required is a willingness to continue learning, continue experimenting with what works and what doesn't in our lives, and an openness to change and growth. The third thing, I think, that keeps us from being

open to change, is the sense that it's inauthentic. Rabbi Harold Schulweis points out that this creates a paradox for us. "The only religious notions we consider authentic are those we cannot believe or observe, and the only ones we can believe are those we think to be inauthentic."

After you finish reading this bulletin article, I'd like you to commit to yourself one way in which you would be willing to make your interior Jewishness exterior. It could be something like lighting candles with your family every Friday night, even if you're just sitting down to a pizza or take-out dinner. It could be refraining from eating certain kinds of foods --give up pork or shellfish, or don't bring it into your home. Perhaps you'll choose to take five minutes every morning to reflect on the blessings and the needs in your life, offer your own internal prayer. Maybe you'll pick up a prayer book and begin to experience the Jewish notion of daily prayer. It doesn't even need to be in the area of Jewish ritual. You might commit to researching and contributing to a new charitable cause. Read a book a month on Jewish subjects. Buy a bible and read the week's Torah portion at home every week.

Ultimately, my prayer for all of us is that we take that positive feeling of being Jewish and act it out by doing Jewish, step by step, whether it is giving the Susan Boyles of the world the benefit of the doubt and respect. Take the next step in "being proud to be Jewish" by "doing Jewish."

Email me your thoughts: [rabbi@templekolami.org](mailto:rabbi@templekolami.org).

## Mazel Tov to May's B'nai Mitzvah



**Seth Krich** will become Bar Mitzvah on May 27, 2017.

Seth attends North Phoenix Prep. He enjoys video games, playing piano, and bowling. (He has won college scholarship money and prizes competing in bowling tournaments!)

For his *mitzvah* project, Seth will be collecting cases of water to be donated to the Buckeye Fire Department for distribution to the needy and homeless this summer.

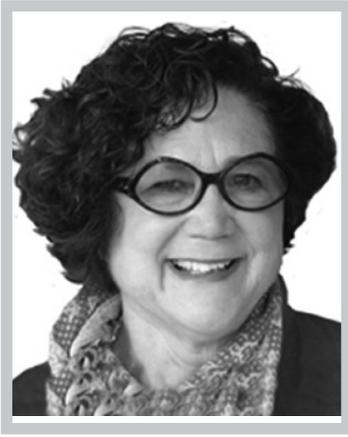
Seth lives in Scottsdale and is the son of **Meryl and Jay Krich**.



**Maya Simone Margalit** will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 20, 2017.

Maya attends Sonoran Trails Middle School. When she is not doing schoolwork, she enjoys riding her Quarterhorse, Andy, drawing, and swimming.

Maya lives in Scottsdale, and is the daughter of **Tal Margalit** and **Rachel Jablon-O'Grady**.



**Nancy Drapin**

# Don't Worry, Be Happy

## Behind the Scenes with the Executive Director

home. It has three laughing women wearing bathing suits and dancing and it reads, "the real trouble with the world is too many people grow up and lose their joy."

No matter how difficult a day may have been, and no matter who or what the source of the stress, when I sit down in the evening to catch up on my personal emails or to do some temple catch-up work, I am reminded to hold onto the simple pleasures, the moments of happiness.

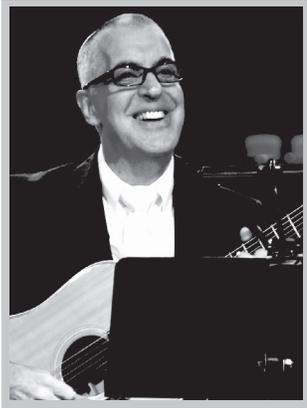
It is a human behavior to continually be searching for happiness. For thousands of years, philosophers from numerous cultures have tried to find answers to the meaning of life and existence in general. Scientists study factors that lead to life satisfaction and how people find meaning or maximize pleasure. Sociologists apply norms and values at societal levels. Psychologists explore the meaning of suffering. Artists reflect on our motivations and emotions.

In Judaism, happiness is considered to be a very important value, especially in the context of the service of God. Jewish teachings stress the importance of joy as well as demonstrate methods of attaining happiness through *Mitzvot*. The great Chassidic Rabbi Nachman taught that "it is a great *mitzvah* to always be happy," . . . that when we are happy, we can do everything better. Rabbi Darren Levine, D. Min, founding rabbi of Tamid: The Downtown Synagogue in NY, recently wrote about his ideas of "Positive Judaism" (<http://jewishphilanthropy.com/positive-judaism-happiness/>), a mindset that focuses Jewish education on gratitude, hope, courage, generosity, love and kindness with the goal of leading individuals and communities to have the most positive impact on their own lives and the world around them. He states that happiness is important, not only because when people have happy experiences there are positive outcomes, but because it gives us the tools of resilience and optimism when we encounter challenges and pain.

At Temple Kol Ami, we strive to provide some of the happiest memories from the Jewish moments we experience together. At Café Kol Ami Shabbats, we eat and sing together. At our Gala on April 1, the Blaire family did an uplifting and entertaining rap about their experiences and love of Kol Ami. At our Early Childhood Center seders, our children were dressed as slaves and listened to the story of Passover from our Rabbi who was dressed as Moses—complete with a white beard while the burning bush spoke to them from "backstage"! We have a happy rabbi who tells jokes, does high fives and brings high energy and Judaism to every event. We have a cantor who smiles whenever he sings and teaches and laughs heartily with everyone. We have congregants who volunteer weekly for religious school or work hard to make our fundraising and committee work great successes with smiles on their faces. With positivity, we give blood, cook for the homeless and dedicate ourselves to helping people who have escaped tyranny from other countries. And, I've never seen a religious school with so many happy kids. Happiness, finding personal value, is a core component of all that we do at Temple Kol Ami.

Scientifically, happiness is a choice. It is a choice about where your single processor brain will devote its finite resources as you process the world. If you scan for the negative first, your brain literally has no resources left over to see the things you are grateful for or the meaning embedded in your work. But if you scan the world for the positive, you start to reap an amazing advantage. Because our congregation is made of affirmative thinkers, we were able to keep the doors open, pay off our mortgage, grow our congregation and religious school, maintain a high-level Early Childhood Center and raise the bar for all of our revenue sources. We have made a choice to be happy, and it pays forward.

So, if you are ever sitting at home feeling low or there is something out there in the world that is making you feel frustrated or angry, I invite you to stop by the temple at any time and get a dose of the happy that permeates Temple Kol Ami. And, if you have some happiness to share, we'd love to hear about it.



**Cantor Gregg Luchs**

# Jewish Chocolate

## Cantor Banter

If you are someone who has spent time with me, you know that if we're together in a room, the most dangerous place in that room is between me and the chocolate. To me, chocolate is one of the basic food groups. It is one of the world's most popular and (probably not coincidentally)

romantic foods, and also has some Jewish roots and connections you may not know about.

Chocolate as we know it – sweet candies made from cocoa and other ingredients such as milk, cream, nuts or butter – was invented by Jewish refugees fleeing the Portuguese Inquisition in 16th century France. Relying on contacts with other Jews and secret Jews in the New World, the French Jewish community, in one of the few industries open to them, imported cocoa and processed early chocolate treats.

## Chocolate as we know it...was invented by Jewish refugees.

Resenting these French Jews' success, the local chocolate guild pressed the authorities to prohibit Jews from working in the chocolate trade. This restriction was finally swept away in 1767, and the Jewish community near Bayonne resumed its chocolate production, selling new chocolates to an eager French public. By 1854, Bayonne boasted at least 34 chocolate companies, and was known as the premier chocolate-producing city in France.

With so many Jews in the cocoa business, Jewish cooks in both the Americas and Europe began to experiment with chocolate long before their non-Jewish neighbors. Mixtures of sugar and cocoa found their way into cakes in Jewish kitchens from France to Italy to Hungary.

Local officials often were suspicious of these luscious cocoa-infused delicacies. In 1691, French authorities banned Christians near the Jewish chocolate-producing town of Bayonne from eating the Jews' chocolaty treats.

In Colonial America, the chocolate trade was introduced and dominated by two Sephardic Jewish families: the Gomez family in New York, and the Lopez family in Rhode Island. Cocoa trader Aaron Lopez was one of the most prominent businessmen and philanthropists in Colonial Rhode Island. An ardent supporter of the American Revolution, he wrote that the shortages due to political upheaval were especially hard on kosher-keeping Jews, who were "forced to subsist on chocolate and coffee."

As chocolate became ever more popular in Europe, one huge fan was Prince Klemens von Metternich, foreign

minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At an 1832 banquet, the prince wanted to impress guests with an extra special dessert. The main cook was sick, so his 16 year old apprentice, a Jew named Franz Sacher, stepped in and created a chocolate sponge cake filled with apricot jam, coated with chocolate and served with whipped cream. The cake was a huge hit, and the "Sacher Torte" was born. Franz's son, Eduard, became a baker too. He made the Sachertorte his signature dish; it continues to be an iconic Viennese dessert and one of the most loved chocolate cakes worldwide.

Several Jewish chocolate makers fled Nazi rule in Europe, bringing their candy-making skills to new countries. In 1933, Eliyahu Fromenchenko, who owned a chocolate factory in Latvia, fled rising anti-Semitism to settle in pre-state Israel, where he founded Elite, the famous Israeli chocolate company. In 1938, Stephen Klein, a prominent Viennese chocolate maker, fled Austria for New York City, where he set up Barton's Bonbonniere, today known as Barton's Candy.

Israeli scientists have found that eating chocolate cake for breakfast can be healthy, and can even help us lose weight. I'm not making this up. Professor Daniela Jakubowicz of the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon studied 193 obese adults, half of whom she asked to eat a substantial breakfast that included carbohydrates, protein, and chocolate cake. The other half were asked to consume lower-calorie breakfasts that did not include chocolate cake. Both groups were on a low calorie diet overall. After four months, those who'd enjoyed chocolate cake each morning had lost an average of 33 lbs., while those who avoided chocolaty breakfasts actually gained weight. Prof. Jakubowicz noted that enjoying chocolate cake seemed to help head off cravings for sweets later in the day, and helped people avoid snacking and deviating from their diets.

In the past 20 years, Israel has developed a vibrant "chocolate culture." Business partners Max Fichtman and Oded Brenner helped spark Israel's chocolate revolution in 1996, when they founded the store Max Brenner. Today, the chain's high quality treats are sold in Israel, Australia, the U.S., Singapore and the Philippines.

In Israel, the culture of chocolate innovation is continuing, with world class manufacturers dotting the country. Israeli made chocolates often feature unique Middle Eastern and Asian flavors such as pistachio, jasmine, cardamom and ginger. Israelis consume over \$40 million of domestic made chocolate each year, and in 2016, \$10 million of Israeli chocolate was exported worldwide, including to Belgium and France. And a lot to my house.



Debbie Glassman

# Teachers Are a Gift

## Message from the Early Childhood Center Director

We are looking forward to celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week the first week in May. Teacher Appreciation Week is a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. Words cannot express my gratitude to the Temple Kol Ami Early Childhood Center staff. Our teachers are truly the heart and soul of Temple Kol Ami Early Childhood Center. Their love for the children, dedication and commitment to educational excellence is unsurpassed. You can see the excitement in the children's beautiful faces as soon as the front door opens. It is our teachers who impart a love of learning and I am so grateful to them. You are invited to join us for Teacher Appreciation Café Kol Ami on Friday, May 19th. Wine and Juicetails begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by Tot Shabbat and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP for dinner by May 17th.



**Temple Kol Ami**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

a place to learn,  
a place to play,  
a place for  
friends

I cannot believe that we have almost reached the end of our 2016-2017 school year. Pre-K Graduation and the last day of school are on Wednesday, May 24th. It has been a privilege getting to know all of the wonderful ECC families. Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time and resources this year. I especially want to extend my deepest gratitude to the ECC Assistant Director, Alison Klein, Rabbi Schneider, Nancy Drapin, Cantor Luchs, Carly Kastner, the Board of Trustees, Mena family and our entire Temple Kol Ami Staff. Thank you to our Temple Kol Ami family from the bottom of my heart.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."  
Helen Keller

L'Shalom,  
Debbie Glassman  
Early Childhood Director



Artwork by Brady Bans - Infants



TEMPLE KOL AMI

# Annual Meeting

Sunday **May 7<sup>th</sup>** 9:30AM

You are invited to nosh on bagels and learn about the state of the Temple.



## Teacher Appreciation Dinner & Shabbat

Catered by Corner Bakery Cafe

Friday **May 19<sup>th</sup>** 6PM

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, May 17**. There are two easy ways to register:

- 1) Register online and view the menu at [templekolami.org/give](http://templekolami.org/give) OR
- 2) Call the office at (480) 951-9660



### **"Does what happened on Mount Sinai matter?"**

Shavuot Guest Speaker: **Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz**

Tuesday **May 30<sup>th</sup>** 7PM

Join Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, President and Dean of Valley Beit Midrash, for an evening of learning on the holiday of Shavuot! Since Shavuot traditionally commemorates the revelation on Mount Sinai, Rabbi Shmuly will explore philosophical and theological approaches to the tension between revelation vs. reason.



If we have reason and conscience, do we even have a need for revelation? If there was a revelation, why did it happen outside of Israel? Can we experience revelation, prophecy, and miracles today? Where should we look to have a moral guide to navigate the greatest ethical challenges in our day?

## Yizkor Memorial Service

at Congregation Beth Israel

Tuesday **May 31<sup>st</sup>** 9:30AM

TKA joins Temple Solel and Congregation Beth Israel for this community Yizkor service.



# May 2017 Boomer Programs

We're busy planning more events and adventures for our 55+ members! Watch your email for updates and visit [templekolami.org/boomers](http://templekolami.org/boomers) for full details on each activity.

**17** **TKA Evening Book Club**  
**When: Wednesday, May 17 from 7-8PM**  
**Where: Temple Kol Ami**  
Facilitated by **Arlene Lurie**

Join in the discussion of May's book, *Abraham: A Battle for the Soul of Islam*. See below for details.

**19** **Bar-B-Que Mensches: Feed the Homeless**  
**When: Monthly - Friday May 19 at 1:30PM**  
**Where: Lodestar Day Resource Center**

To volunteer with our ongoing mitzvah project of making lunch for over 800 people, please contact **Susan Guzman** at [sutyguz@gmail.com](mailto:sutyguz@gmail.com) or 480-998-1054.

**TKA Boomer Bikers**  
**When: Meets weekly on Sundays**  
**Where: TBD - call for information**

Meet friends and have fun outdoors! Contact **Fred Goldenson** at [ipedal311@gmail.com](mailto:ipedal311@gmail.com) or 602-677-8041 for ride times and locations.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Program Hosts**  
We need more Program Hosts! It's easy! Want to host a Shabbat dinner in your neighborhood or plan a special outing to a museum or concert? Have a great idea for a new Boomer program? Contact **Jeff Leyton** [jmleyton@cox.net](mailto:jmleyton@cox.net) or **Nancy Drapin** [nancyd@templekolami.org](mailto:nancyd@templekolami.org)



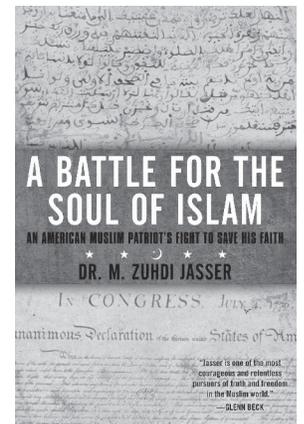
## READ WITH US: *A Battle for the Soul of Islam* by Dr. M. Zudhi Jasser

**Book Club May 17<sup>th</sup> 7-8PM**

Join in the final Book Club discussion of the 2017 season!

Can a Good Muslim Be a Good American? A conservative American Muslim and former U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander provides an alternate voice to radical Islam, offering "a candid, patriotic pushback against Muslim stereotyping" (Kirkus Reviews).

All congregants are welcome to attend the discussion--whether they've read the book or not.



IN OUR  
*wildest*  
DREAMS  
SPRING GALA

# THANK YOU

**EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND SUPPORTED OUR GALA ENDEAVOR**  
Party goers, envelope stuffers, auction solicitors, decorations group and all our volunteers.

## VERY HONORABLE MENSCHES

**Visionaries**

**Michael & Dorothy Blaire  
Diamondback Drugs  
Dale & Annie Reeves  
Several Anonymous Donors**

**Comets**

**Secore & Niedzialek P.C.**

**Stars**

**Joan & Walt Magen**

**Dreamers**

**Chin/Williams & Associates  
- Merrill Lynch Scottsdale  
Rory Albert  
Lori & Michael Carmel  
Geoffrey & Jill Raker  
Mark Stein**

**Food & Drink Donors**

**Acme Meat Company  
Pabst Brewing Company  
Chompies  
Eurest Dining Services  
Pink Pineapple Cakery  
Sugar Jam Bakeshop and Bistro**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2017 GALA COMMITTEE

**Co-Chairs**

**Jen Rogers & Glenna Gibbons**

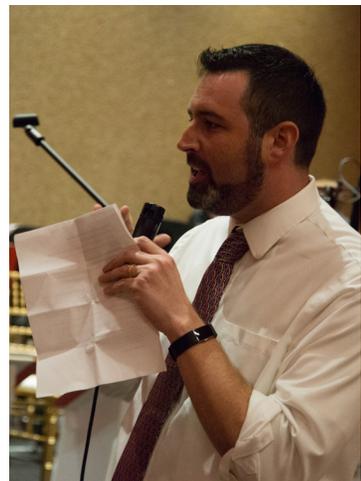
**Rabbi Schneider**

**Nancy Drapin, Executive Director**

**Tova Adelman  
Mikelle Belfore  
Amy Bessen  
Courtney Beyer  
Wendy Breslau  
Amy Eslinger  
Candice Erlick  
Jenn Farrell**

**Patti Grossman  
Susan Guzman  
John Horwitz  
Renee Hughner  
Lynn Kahn  
Dana Kichen  
Pete Kubitz  
Lisa Munzer**

**Jamie Pattee  
Daryl Perlman  
Judy Reichman  
Amy Richman  
Kimberly Rudin  
Bruce Twersky  
Stacy Alyse Simon**



## **SPRING GALA 2017**



# SPRING GALA 2017



**Carly Kastner**

# Youth Engagement

## Message from the Youth Engagement Director

What a fantastic school year! Can you believe we are in our final weeks of Religious School for 2016-2017? It seems like just yesterday I was writing my article welcoming everyone back to school. With some reflection, I realize this year has flown because we have kept incredibly busy with lots of youth programming, Religious School and Family events, and some major efforts on the Social Action front. I'm so incredibly proud of the way our congregation has stepped up and supported all of the programming and tikkun olam projects we have asked you to be a part of.

We have taught our youth how to “do Jewish” in the best way possible; leading by example! One of the most effective groups of “doers” here at the Temple are our very own Religious School Teachers, Madrichim, and Youth Committee members. These caring and generous individuals give their time and energy on a weekly basis to make sure that our youth program runs smoothly and that our children can continue their Jewish learning in a safe, loving, and fun environment.

A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU to the following people who make Kol Ami a wonderful place for our youth:

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Hannah Adelman  
Leslye Alexander  
Alex Ariemma  
Beverly Basalla  
Bob Bessen  
Jamie Bessler  
Dorothy Blaire  
Sheryl Cresswell  
Allison Golisch  
Jody Hanover  
Mike Hofman  
John Horwitz  
Ilene Lashinsky  
Denise Lieberthal  
Gregg Luchs  
Daniel Mena  
Edith Mena  
Maria Mena  
Pedro Mena  
Eva Meyers  
Michelle Okun  
Rabbi Schneider  
Anat Schure  
Suzan Ziegler

### MADRICHIM AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Morgan Alexander  
Nathan Ariemma  
Baylee Bessler  
Shannon Blaire  
Jacob Chandross  
Makayla Cohen  
Taylor Cohen  
Ryland Davidson  
Sarah Hughner  
Audrey Hummell  
Alyse Kelly  
Talia Lamberg  
Nathan Lefkowitz  
Gabriel Levy  
Quinn McVeigh  
Aaron Nuanez  
Elanah Otero  
Max Palay  
Zachary Peters  
Derby Reeves  
Macey Sinuk  
Brett Yanofsky  
Tori Ziegler

### YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jenn Appelson (Co-Chair)  
Anat Schure (Co-Chair)  
Rachel Bertucci  
Jamie Bessler  
Jordan Fillers  
Andrea Friedman  
Leslee Kelly  
Elisabeth Krakora  
Cara Lefkowitz  
Jen Stein  
Michelle Thomas  
Tracy Wasser  
Jodi Woodnick  
Kari Workman

As you can see from the above list that it really does take a village to raise a child! An additional Thank You to our Youth and Ed Committee co-chairs Anat Schure and Jenn Appelson for their continued leadership and creative energy, our Temple staff - Nancy Drapin, Debbie Glassman, Alison Klein, Nancy Lad (and Sheryl Griem), Laurel Herriman, and Danny and Chris Fedo - for their behind the scenes support, the Mena family for their incredible love and commitment to TKA, Raina Sinclair for the many artistic and beautiful projects she has contributed, Gregg Luchs for his smile and music, and last, but certainly not least, a sincere thank you to Rabbi Schneider for shaping this community and bringing us laughter and love.

As we finish out the school year, please help me in thanking all of these amazing people at our Teacher Appreciation Shabbat on Friday, May 19th. Café Kol Ami dinner is at 6pm (rsvp required) with a 7pm Rock Shabbat service honoring our teachers. We hope to see you there!

## May Youth and Family Events

**May 6** – KATY Progressive Dinner

**May 7** – 9am-12pm Last Day of Religious School and Pre-K Chaverim Class

**May 7** – 12:15-1:30pm Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

**May 19** – 6pm Café Kol Ami Dinner, 7pm Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

**May 20** – 10:30am Maya Margalit becomes a Bat Mitzvah

**May 27** – 10:30am Seth Krich becomes a Bar Mitzvah



### **DERBY REEVES**

KATY has been a wonderful organization that I have had the pleasure of taking part in for the last 3 years. Thanks to my experiences with Kol Ami's teen program, I have been able to be a part of NFTY and expand my Jewish learning overall. I have had so many irreplaceable experiences with this group. KATY has been a very positive part of my high school experience and I encourage any student eligible to join and help continue the growth of our youth group!

## **KATY KORNER**

A message from our graduating seniors...

### **ABBY ADELMAN**

Hello KATY and TKA! I want to start off by thanking all of you for fostering such an inclusive and enriching environment for me to grow up from my baby naming to now. This community has helped me grow into the confident leader I am today and I will be forever grateful.

My time in KATY has been amazing. We may not always be the largest youth group, but we are always, no doubt, having the most fun. As my time in high school comes to a close, I am so excited to bring the knowledge I have gained from TKA with me to college and throughout life. Thank you all for your support. It really is nice having a community that is so invested in its youth!

KATY members: Join us on Saturday, May 6th for a Progressive Dinner. This will be our final event of the year!

**RSVP to Carly:** [carly@templekolami.org](mailto:carly@templekolami.org)

# Doing Jewish in Our World

TKA's Social Action Committee has mobilized to help Phoenix-area refugees in a number of ways: providing free dental care and transportation to appointments; teaching English; and donating computers, clothing, baby supplies and food to families in need. We are proud of their efforts! Want to volunteer with refugees? Contact Rabbi Schneider at [rabbi@templekolami.org](mailto:rabbi@templekolami.org) or call (480) 951-9660.



## Want to Volunteer?

Do Jewish with us! Please indicate your areas of interest:

- Caring Committee
- Fundraising
- Special Events
- Finance
- Golf
- Marketing and Communications
- Boomers
- Membership
- Youth & Education
- Social Action
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return this form to the Temple office or email Nancy Drapin ([nancyd@templekolami.org](mailto:nancyd@templekolami.org)).

# Refugees: Under Our Skin

by Renee Hughner

It was a hot, 93-degree day when my daughter, Sarah, and I pulled into the complex that houses the Ehusa Family. We had signed up to pick citrus and were delivering over 200 pounds of grapefruit and oranges. We pulled in the run-down complex and we were immediately struck.

As we drove, we took it all in: barefooted children standing near the entrance road, destitute-looking and alone, their gazes following our car as we drove through the entrance gate; men in soiled tees working on broken down cars; paint-chipped walls, torn up roads, beat up cars, and a dearth of plant life—even for the desert. We drove, looking for “Building E.” We decided to park and walk. It did not feel unsafe—just poor. My heart went out to everyone we saw. There was a Black man standing outside with a drooling, barefooted toddler, swatting away flies. His front door was open, for the flies, there was no boundary between inside and out, except inside was presumably hotter. We asked if he knew the Ehusa family; he returned our question with a smile, but he did not. We encountered a young African boy who recognized the Ehusa family name and directed us to their door. We knocked on the door, a man answered. There was no emotion. I expected a smile, a flood of relief, a welcoming into their home. I received simply a blank look.

“Hello, I’m Renée; this is Sarah. Do you speak English?” A shake of his head. “Français?” I further questioned. An eager nod, with a flood of French that came pouring out. The barrier began to come down. Gerard was his name. He told me how he grew up in The Republic of the Congo and had spent the last 20 years of his life in a refugee camp in Tanzania. He wanted to tell me his story, but oddly it was recounted without any emotion. I later reflected that he likely has told his story to countless people—some who cared; others who didn’t.

The kids followed us to our car – each took a bag of citrus. Wanting to feel like we had done more than simply deliver food, we made our way into their apartment. After a few minutes of uncomfortable silence (Gerard was the only person who spoke French, and the kids had very limited command of English), and with sweat rolling down my sides, I asked if there was anything they needed. There was a look of complete bewilderment and an inability to answer the question. How silly of me; in retrospect, it was such a broad question. By our standards, there is so much they need; by theirs, they had no idea. We

left promising to be there *le dimanche prochaine* (next Sunday). Gerard repeated it a couple of times. Later, when I realized Sarah had a concert *le dimanche prochain* and we would not be able to come, I felt terrible.

That was the first encounter. One might think that our reaction would have been to say “That’s enough.” But oddly enough, before we had even made it out of the complex, Sarah said “I want to come back next week.” I agreed. They had gotten under my skin. Sarah understood. They had gotten under her skin, too. “Why?” I wondered. We had done several charitable projects before—canned food drives, delivery to food banks—but none had touched us like this family. It was powerful. Over the next few days, I researched refugee camps in Tanzania and the politics of The Congo; I wanted to understand their story. I have thought much about why I have become so focused on the refugees. I think, in a nutshell, it was simply the human connection that we made. Though it was not what I had anticipated (as Americans, I think we expect recipients to show their gratitude in our culturally-defined ways, and we seem to forget the circumstances under which they ended up here in Phoenix), I was hooked.

How can we, as Jewish people, afford to turn our back on ANYONE, knowing the history of our ancestors?

So, when the Rabbi asked me to write a paragraph or two about why TKA congregants might want to get involved, I sat down to try to articulate my feelings. Instead, I came up with a few questions, which I have listed here:

How can we expect Ellie Wiesel’s words of “never again” to come to fruition, unless we plant the seeds now to grow the future of “never again”?

By ensuring no group, regardless of their designated status, is ever meant to feel anything but accepted as a human, how can we ensure our own humane treatment?

How can we, as Jewish people, afford to turn our back on ANYONE, knowing the history of our ancestors?

How can we, as Jewish people, afford to turn our back on ANYONE, knowing what the future may hold?

For me, I have found the answer to these questions in my work with the refugees. And with that, I urge ANYONE that has even the remotest inkling of curiosity about helping to learn more. You can do as little, or as much, as your schedule permits. This I promise you, you won’t regret it.

# Your Temple, Your Family

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### Thank you for your heartfelt donations.

Please note The Voice is prepared six weeks in advance of its printing. If you do not see your donation listed here, it will be next month. Thank you!

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Tradeshow Source

## May Birthdays

- |    |  |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | Scott Bleier<br>Harlan Levy<br>Robin Schneider                       | 12 | Tammy Waller   | 24 | Robyn Cohon<br>Bonni Moyer<br>Michelle Thomas                         |
| 2  | Cara Lefkowitz   | 13 | Angela Yanofsky  | 25 | Susan Serafin   |
| 3  | Agnes Goldman<br>Daryl Perlman                                       | 14 | Sharon Levy  | 26 | Jackie Schwelling<br>Eileen Swartz                                    |
| 4  | Tal Margalit<br>Michael Sklar<br>Leslie Solondz                      | 15 | Beverly Basalla<br>Phyllis Steckler                                  | 27 | Jeffrey Berman<br>Dana Kichen   |
| 6  | Steve Kallmeyer<br>Lance Solondz                                     | 16 | Madeline Kalin<br>Donna Kaufman<br>Scott Pollov<br>Marney Schoenfeld | 28 | Lisa Elbogen<br>Larry Hirsch  |
| 7  | Brad Klein   | 17 | Fred Fingerhut   | 29 | Shelly Dessen<br>Nancy Drapin-Reichlyn<br>Matthew Hartman             |
| 8  | Mark Landay  | 18 | Sandy Goldenson  | 30 | Kathy Schenk<br>Sanford Germaine<br>Carey Turner<br>Benjamin Yanofsky |
| 9  | Roger Cohen  | 19 | Michael Arko<br>Aaron Berg   | 31 | William Breier<br>Edward Ginzburgsky<br>Lawrence Kahn<br>Rhea Marx    |
| 10 | Joshua Landers<br>Cindy Penka-Shack                                  | 21 | Jean-Luc LeProvost<br>Ellen Silverman                                |    |   |
| 10 | Marcia Scialli   | 22 | Jason Ariemma<br>Lisa Berman<br>Lloyd Levinsky<br>Jean Rossman       |    |   |
| 11 | Geoffrey Balon<br>Leslee Kelly<br>Sherwood Koblenz<br>Robert Sandler | 23 | Gary Goldberg<br>Kristine Shanker                                    |    |   |

## May Anniversaries

- |    |                             |    |   |    |  |
|----|-----------------------------|----|---|----|--|
| 5  | Jason and Alexandra Ariemma | 21 | Harlan and Robin Schneider<br>40 years  | 27 | Gary and Karen Goldberg                        |
| 5  | Robert and Susan Karp       | 24 | David and Elizabeth Shapiro             | 29 | Jeremi and Lyena Hale                          |
| 9  | Joshua and Jennifer Landers | 25 | Steven and Veronica Lamberg<br>20 years | 31 | John and Birgit Lurie                          |
| 10 | Leonard and Pat Steinberg   | 27 | Michael and Glenna Gibbons              | 31 | Lee and Randie Stein<br>36 years - Double Chai |
| 16 | Gene and Sandy Glass        |    |   |    |  |
| 19 | Tyler and Stephanie Heymann |    |   |    |  |



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

**LIFE & LEGACY**  
Assuring JEWISH TOMORROWS  
A program of the HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

# May 2017 | Iyar/Sivan 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 TKA Charity Golf Tournament 9AM	2 <i>Yom Haatzmaut</i>	3 NO Schmooze with the Rabbi  <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM	4	5 Mommy & Me 9:30AM  <i>Shabbat</i> 7PM	6 KATY Progressive Dinner
7 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM  Religious School 9AM-12PM  Teacher Luncheon 12PM  TKA ANNUAL MEETING 9:30AM			10 Schmooze with the Rabbi 12PM  <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM	11	12 Mommy & Me 9:30AM  <i>Shabbat</i> 7PM	
14 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM  NO Religious School	15	16	17 Schmooze with the Rabbi (Final Schmooze of Spring--will resume Fall) 12PM  <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM  TKA Book Club 7PM		19 Mommy & Me 9:30AM  BBQ Mensches 1:30PM  Cafe Kol Ami 6PM  <i>Teacher Appreciation Shabbat</i> 7PM	20 Maya Margalit Bat Mitzvah
21 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM  NO Religious School			24 <i>Yom Yarusalayim</i> ECC Last Day of School and Pre-K Graduation  <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Tutoring 3:30-6PM	25	26 Mommy & Me 9:30AM  <i>Shabbat</i> 7PM	27 Seth Krich Bar Mitzvah
28 Boomer Bikers 8:30AM  NO Religious School	29	30 <i>Erev Shavuot</i>  ECC Camp Kol Ami  Guest Speaker Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz 7PM	31 <i>Shavuot</i>  ECC and Temple Office Closed  Yizkor Service 9:30AM at Temple Beth Israel			



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***Emeritus Clergy***

**Rabbi B. Charles Herring** Rabbi Emeritus

**Raina Sinclair** Cantorial Soloist Emeritus

[www.templekolami.org](http://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.

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