

KOL קול עמי AMI

Kasketet to sing

The Jewish Center & Federation will present Kasketet, the Jewish *a capella* singing group from Binghamton University, on Sunday, December 3.

Founded in 1996, Kasketet is one of five finalists in Ilu Finu: The Jewish Collegiate A Cappella Songwriting Competition. The winner will be announced in January.

Kasketet also won third place at Kol Haolam in 2016 and Best Beatboxing at the ICCA in 2010, where it became the first Jewish group ever to advance to the semifinals.

Over the past 20 years, Kasketet has performed and toured in places across the country, including Florida, California, New York, and Chicago. In the past year they performed for the Israeli Ambassador's United Nations Hanukkah reception and at the State Department in Washington D.C. They have produced six studio albums and are currently recording a seventh. Videos of some of its pieces may be viewed online at kasketet.strikingly.com/.

With a diverse repertoire consisting of Jewish music as well as Israeli and American pop, Kasketet's continuing goal is to spread Jewish pride, culture, and music to communities, both locally and internationally.

The performance will be at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free, but a \$5 donation per person is requested.



Jewish Center & Federation
of the Twin Tiers
Congregation Kol Ami
Jewish Community School

December 2017

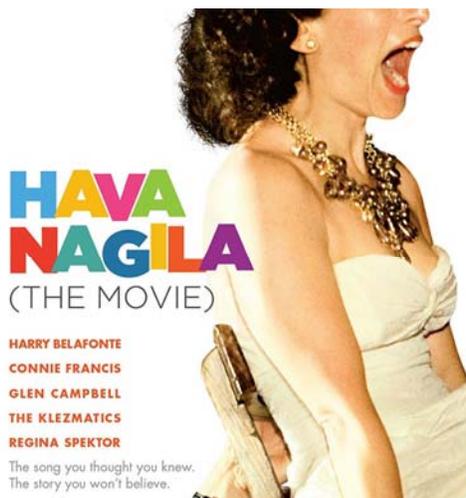
In this issue:

Torah/Haftarah & Candle Lighting	3
Appeal for exhibit donations	4
Service Schedule	5
CKA Donations	5
In Memoriam	5
Mazal Tov	5
Yahrzeits	6
Game days continue	8
Jewish Agency and religious pluralism	9
Coming Events	10
Adult Education	11
Anniversaries	11
Birthdays	11

Movie & Chinese dinner planned for December 25

Hava Nagila: The Movie will be the film for a movie and Chinese dinner afternoon on Monday, December 25. It's a documentary romp through the history, mystery and meaning of the great Jewish standard. Featuring Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, Glen Campbell, Regina Spektor and more, the film follows the ubiquitous party song on its fascinating journey from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the kibbutzim of Palestine to the cul-de-sacs of America. High on fun and entertainment, it's also surprisingly profound, tapping into universal themes about the importance of joy, the power of music and the resilient spirit of a people.

Dinner will catered by Corning Class and will be vegan but not certified kosher. Dinner will be at 2:00 p.m., with the film following it. The dinner costs \$5 per person (free for children under age 6) and reservations are required. Please call the JCF office for reservations.



from Rabbi Oren Steinitz



A letter sent to Mr. Nathan Sharansky, Jewish Agency Chairperson, on October 28. I had not received a response by November 14, the Kol Ami article deadline.

Dear Mr. Sharansky,

My name is Oren Steinitz, and I am the rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, New York. Before addressing the topic at hand, I would like to emphasize that I am writing this letter out of both vast appreciation for your works, and the efforts made by the Jewish Agency in their attempt to strengthen the bonds between the State of Israel and the diaspora, as well as out of bitter disappointment and great pain.

Several weeks ago, a young woman – who asked that I leave her name out of this letter – approached me and requested that I provide her with a letter testifying to her Jewish ancestry, for the purpose of approving her *Aliyah* application. This woman currently lives in San Francisco, works for the Jewish Federation and deals primarily with Israeli publicity efforts and the struggle against the BDS movement. She intends to make *Aliyah* soon, marry her fiancé and raise her future children in Israel. This young woman's mother was raised in my congregation, and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah here as a young girl. Since I could easily provide evidence showing that her mother was indeed a member of the congregation, and as in those days the congregation was affiliated with the Orthodox Union, and was served by a rabbi who later moved to Israel and was recognized by the Chief Rabbinate, I assumed that the procedure was merely formal, and that this woman's application would be approved without any difficulties.

Imagine the woman's surprise – and mine – when several days ago she received a letter from the Jewish Agency, denying her *Aliyah* request. Since Congregation Kol Ami is not affiliated with any of the major Jewish American denominations, the letter said, it is not recognized for the purpose of authorizing one's Jewish status.

Allow me to tell you the story of Congregation Kol Ami, which is the story of many Jewish communities in "Middle America", outside the major coastal metropolitan areas. The Jewish community in Elmira is over 150 years old. Jewish immigrants came to Elmira from both Western and Eastern Europe, and found here many business opportunities, mainly in the fields of retail commerce and the textile industry. The community flourished for many decades, and included two major synagogues – an Orthodox one called Congregation Shomray Hadath and a Reform synagogue called Congregation B'nai Israel – as well as a Jewish Federation and a Jewish Community Center. In addition, the city hosted youth movement chapters, and several members of our Young Judea chapter made *Aliyah* and were involved in the establishment of Kibbutz Ketura. Over the years, Elmira's appeal diminished; many of the textile factories and large department stores – which were mostly Jewish-owned – either closed down or moved to a different location. A major flood that affected the area in 1972 made matters worse, and the region went into a major economic recession that is still felt today. The economic situation had, of course, a devastating effect on the local Jewish community, as less and less Jewish families moved into the area. About seven years ago, in an attempt to react to the declining membership in both institutions and maintain a Jewish life in the area, the two synagogues decided to put aside their ideological differences and form a united Jewish community that will serve the entire Jewish population in the region. The new, unified congregation – Congregation Kol Ami – chose to hire me, a rabbi affiliated with the trans-denominational Jewish Renewal movement, in order to make sure everyone's spiritual needs are met, be they more or less traditional. Today, the congregation includes approximately 170 member units, and a similar number of people are members of the local Jewish Federation. We have a supplementary reli-

gious school, hold three services every Shabbat, host holiday events, Jewish cultural celebrations, concerts, and other productions, and in general offer the local Jewish population – who are a small minority within the community at large – a sense of identity, community and pride.

Excluding Congregation Kol Ami and other independent congregations from the list of recognized Jewish communities, while ignoring the community's long history, as well as the efforts made by Jews of different persuasions to come together despite their (often significant) differences, as well as the reality in the Jewish periphery which does not allow for the luxury of supporting different congregations affiliated with different movements, is both painful and infuriating. Moreover, it demonstrates the State of Israel's total lack of understanding of the reality facing the Jewish diaspora. What am I supposed to tell this young woman, who – as noted – has dedicated her entire career to the welfare of the State of Israel, and the same state insists on telling her that the community in which her grandparents grew up, the same community that is responsible for her Jewish upbringing, simply does not count? What am I supposed to tell a young man in my synagogue who intends on making *Aliya* in the next few years? How am I supposed to encourage my congregants to keep donating – as they do every year – to the United Jewish Appeal? How am I supposed to stand in front of a sanctuary full of people, who ask me how is it possible that on one hand Israel demands that they serve as its representatives in a complex reality, and on the other hand, pushes them away and dismisses their Judaism?

Looking forward to your response,

Rabbi Dr. Oren Z. Steinitz
Congregation Kol Ami
Elmira, NY

Congregation Kol Ami—כל עמי



from President Mike Lenzner

Well, one of the things I have always wanted to do is to be able to see the future. I never really have done well at this – except very occasionally when I am able to successfully prognosticate equine velocity but that is another story.

With my monthly article however, it seems like I'm going to have to try to succeed at being a soothsayer. You see I am writing my article on November 7 even though you are not going to be able to read it until early December. By then, one of the things that I want to talk about will already be over and the other will be happening in about a week.

So here goes as I try and write this like it is December 3.

It sure is cold outside on this December day and Hanukkah is right around the corner. I can't wait to see what I get I get, if anything, this year. I am very happy that the Bills are on their way to the playoffs, that Trump and Kim Jung Un are friends and that Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston are back together.

As you may know, we just had an extremely successful event at Sparkle in Corning. Our new sign designed by Marc Rubin was a big hit, more than 150 people stopped by and tried our Souvgonot. The kids

really liked the dreidel game and although I lost every time, I had a good time also. More than 35 people took our fliers with an invitation to our Hanukkah dinner, which will be on December 15.

I did hear one complaint. Since it is kind of related to our member attraction plan, I thought it might be a good idea to share it with you. "Why are you charging members \$12 to attend the Chanukah dinner and non-members who went to Sparkle only \$5?"

The answer is simple actually. It's kind of like when you go to AT&T after being with Verizon or vice-versa. There are great incentives to make the switch so that you give their service a try. They figure once you're with them, that you will like it and stay and most people do.

We went to Sparkle as part of our growth effort. We are hoping a discount (small as it is) will "incent" people to give us a chance, come to the Hanukkah dinner and see that we have a great synagogue, great rabbi and great congregation. Just like the cell phone companies, we figure that anyone who visits us will be very happy that they did. We'll see how many take advantage of the invitation!

In terms of you, as I said way back in November, we'd like you to come to the dinner as well! The more "festive people" we have, the more festive our event will be and the more likely we will be able to make our guests love us (or at least like us).

As an enticement to all of you, I am pleased to announce that Hannah Doerksen-Goldwater, who has been so fantastic singing at our services and Kasey Lenzner, an extremely talented close relative of mine, will be putting on a concert after the meal and before our Musical Shabbat service. They will be performing four songs from Broadway which were composed or sang by Jewish people. I said "I think we should make it five songs. This way I could sing 'For What It's Worth by Buffalo Springfield.'" The Rabbi said "Great idea!" But then Hannah said, "That's not from Broadway" and Kasey said "None of the group are Jewish." So alas, I am limited to just being the emcee (which is a pretty high honor just the same).

So please join us and I promise you a *great* dinner and service and an *amazing* show!

Weekly Torah/Haftarah Portions & Candle Lighting

<p>December 1–2 4:19 PM <i>Vayishlach</i> Torah Genesis 32:4–36:43 Pr. Obadiah 1:1–21</p>	<p>December 8–9 4:18 PM <i>Vayeshev</i> Torah Genesis 37:1–40:23 Pr. Amos 2:6–3:8</p>	<p>December 15–16 4:18 PM <i>Miketz</i> Torah Genesis 41:1–44:17 Numbers 7:30–41 Pr. Zechariah 2:14–4:7</p>	<p>December 22–23 4:21 PM <i>Vayigash</i> Torah Genesis 44:18–47:27 Pr. Ezekiel 37:15–25</p>	<p>December 29–30 4:26 PM <i>Vayechi</i> Torah Genesis 47:28–50:26 Pr. I Kings 2:1–12</p>
--	--	--	---	--

PRAYER FOR THE ILL OR ILL AT HEART

Adonai, You who blessed our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah, send Your blessing to those who are ill of body and ill of spirit. Grant them Refuah Sh'lema, a complete recovery, and may healing come speedily. Amen.

Appeal for donations and loans of items for a Jewish exhibit at the historical society

Dear members of Congregation Kol Ami and the wider Jewish community of the Southern Tier,

I am working with the Chemung County Historical Society to mount an exhibition and series of public programs on Elmira's Jewish Heritage this spring. I have been conducting oral history interviews with members of the community over the past year, in addition to volunteering at the Jewish Food Festival and attending events at Congregation Kol Ami. It has been a pleasure to meet so many people and be welcomed into learning about the history of the Jewish community. The exhibit will especially focus on two areas of Jewish life and art that continue to be strong points of activity for the Jewish community in Elmira: the art of food, and the heritage of business.

As we prepare for the exhibit, we are looking for objects and documents that will help visually tell this story of Jewish heritage in Elmira. We would like to borrow objects to display in the exhibit at the museum, and we also welcome donations of items that will permanently add to the historical record of the Jewish community in the museum's collections.

We are particularly looking for objects or photographs that can illustrate these topics:

- **Immigrant origins** – Stories of immigration and the foods brought from various cultural regions, with a focus on the nineteenth century waves of German and Eastern European Jews, the passage through New York City towards destinations upstate, the escape from the Holocaust, and contemporary migrations from other American cities and Israel. Focus on the unique culinary contributions from each of these regions.
- **Jewish Businesses of Elmira** –

History of Jewish occupations such as peddlers and shopkeepers, and the rise of many Jewish owned businesses in Elmira.

The art of salesmanship as a tradition passed down through generations of family business.

- **Community Parties** – Community suppers, benefits, Sabbath suppers, and other events. Focus the development of Elmira's community culture of cooking for Jewish social events.
 - **Rituals and Religion** – The practice of home rituals, the foods that comprise them, and the objects required to practice them remain important performances of Jewish identity. Ritual objects of interest include *Kiddush cups, challah covers, Seder plates, candlesticks, kippahs and prayer shawls.*
 - **Home cooking** – The recipes passed down and home cooking practices of individuals allow food traditions to live on. Objects of interest include *cookbooks, recipes, letters, and cooking implements.* Focus on
 - **The Jewish Food Festival** – The community art of the festival itself and how it helps them create the tastes and scenes of a shared heritage. Focus on the individual stories and recipes behind the food served at the festival.
- Kinds of objects that may be of interest include, but are not limited to:
- **Family heirlooms from the old country**
 - **Ketubahs**
 - **Haggadahs and Seder objects**
 - **Jewish Cookbooks** – especially personal recipes handed down from family
 - **Personal Letters**
 - **Ritual Objects** – Prayer Shawls and Kippahs, challah covers, Kiddush cups, candlesticks, or other ritual/religious objects

- **Old / Historical Photographs**
- **Business cards, signs, or other documents from local Jewish Businesses**
- **Cooking or dining implements particular to Jewish cuisine or celebration**
- **Photographs of events at the Synagogue or Temple, especially Kar Klub, Progressive Dinner, Oneg Shabbat**

If you feel you may have objects or photographs of interest to include in the project, or if you would like to contribute an oral history interview or information of any kind, please contact me, at folkarts@earts.org or 607-962-1332, ext 206. I am happy to discuss this project with anyone who has interest. Final Deadline for contributions of objects or stories is December 22, 2017.

Thank you!

Dr. Maria Kennedy
Folk Arts Coordinator,
The ARTS Council of the Southern
Finger Lakes, folkarts@earts.org
607-962-1332, ext 206

February 10, 2018
10:00 AM

SHABBAT RUACH EVOLUTION SHABBAT



Guest Speaker:
Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman
Founding Director
Sinai and Synapses

Rabbi Mitelman will speak during the service and after lunch.

CKA Donations

Flowers for the Bimah

- ☆ December 1: In memory of Benjamin Fidelman by Judy & Stu Komer
- ☆ December 8: In memory of Jimi
- ☆ December 15: In honor of Rabbi Moses ibn Ezra for his poetry & intellect, from John & Joanne Travers
- ☆ December 22: In memory of Frances Babbin by Stu & Judy Komer

Congregation Education Fund

- ☆ Ed & Rose Berman in memory of Etta Berman
- ☆ Gil & Harriet Sweet in memory of Chris Alimonti & Harry Theisen
- ☆ Gil & Harriet Sweet in memory of Ruth Olszowy

Dr. David Wladis-Marc Rubino Memorial Youth Fund

- ☆ Beth Wladis in memory of Morton Mack & Dr. David Wladis

General Fund

- ☆ Marian Solomon in memory of Ben Solomon
- ☆ Lee & Anita Adelsberg in memory of Chris Alimonti & Harry Theisen
- ☆ Tom & Suzanne Hesselson in memory of Chris Alimonti & Harry Theisen
- ☆ Marc Stemerman & family in memory of Loren Kashvan
- ☆ Charlotte & Marcus Kantz in appreciation of all the hard work put

forth for Rabbi's Installation event.

- ☆ Terry & Marcia Lenhardt in memory of Henry Lenhardt
- ☆ Sid Burtnick in appreciation of High Holy Day services
- ☆ James & Michelle Freeman in memory of Dr. Edward Grandt
- ☆ Amy Leveen & William Yaggy in memory of Pauline Leveen
- ☆ Marcus & Charlotte Kantz in honor of John & Cynthia Massey's new grandson Jay Veer Massey

Josef Stein Endowment Fund

- ☆ John & Cynthia in appreciation of the CKA communities' thoughts and prayers for their grandson, Jay Veer Massey

Memorial/Honor Fund

- ☆ Louise Schwaber in memory of Esther (Essie) Hagan

Kate Stein Music Fund

- ☆ Larry & Maddy Dolkart in memory of Morris Dolkart

Mary Ellen Hunter Fund

- ☆ Carol Hoffman in memory of Audrey Gerber & Edward Hoffman
- ☆ Irv Appel in memory of Chris Alimonti & Harry Theisen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ☆ Kathy & Jeff Rosenheck in memory of Ruth Olszowy
- ☆ David & Doris Siskin get well wish-

es for Larry Greene

- ☆ David & Doris Siskin in remembrance of Murray Werner's birthday
- ☆ David & Doris Siskin in memory of Ruth Olszowy
- ☆ David & Doris Siskin in honor of John & Cynthia Massey's new grandson, Jay Veer Massey
- ☆ Marsha Stemerman in appreciation of Rabbi Steinitz
- ☆ Cheryl Miller in memory of Chris Alimonti & Harry Theisen
- ☆ Cheryl Miller in honor of John & Cynthia Massey's new grandson
- ☆ David & Doris Siskin in memory of Tony "Chief" Ogrinc

Tree of Life Scroll Sapphire

- ☆ Mollie Sherman in memory of Chris Alimonti

In Memoriam

Congregation Kol Ami extends its heartfelt condolences to Cheryl Miller and her family on the death of Cheryl's mother, Ruth Olszowy. *Zich'rona liv'racha*, may her memory be for a blessing.

Mazal Tov

To Carole Hoffman on the bar mitzvah of her grandson, Benjamin Trokenheim.

Shabbat Services

except as noted below

Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 PM	
Shabbat Morning Service	8:00 AM	
Shabbat Morning Service	9:00 AM	<i>with Torah reading</i>

Noteworthy Upcoming Religious Observances

Friday, December 1

Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 2

Torah Yoga 9:00 AM
Shabbat Ruach 10:00 AM

Friday, December 15

Hanukkah Dinner 6:00 PM
Musical Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 16

Shabbat Morning Service 8:00 AM
Shabbat Morning Service 9:00 AM



Join us at
Congregation Kol Ami
Friday, December 15, 2017

to Celebrate Hanukkah & Shabbat

Dinner and Concert at 6:00 PM. Service at 7:30 PM.

**Dinner is kosher and will include;
homemade latkes, applesauce
homemade chicken soup
Beef Roast
Beef Hot Dogs with sauerkraut**

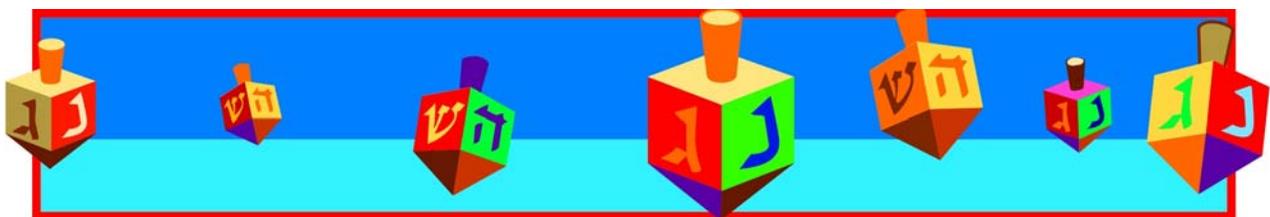
Adults \$12:00

Children (5-12) \$6.00

Children under 5 no charge

RSVP the CKA office by DECEMBER 8, 2017

607-732-7410 or email at office@kolamielmira.org



Jewish Center and Federation



from President Marcus Kantz

I seem to be on an anti-discrimination kick. Probably because it's in the news daily: racism, religionism, sexism, nation-ism, poor-ism, and on and on. Some of it is conscious and intentional, some built-in genetically (me man, me bigger, stronger, better), some learned, some doctrinal, some historical, etc. But this morning here in Atlanta for Charlotte's dyslexia conference (essential for a reading teacher), I came face to face with mobility discrimination. Not intentional. In fact quite the opposite.

The hotel architects and managers installed a host of tunnels and walkways and escalators and staircases and ramps for pedestrians to move among and within the many nearby hotel and commercial buildings, making it enormously convenient for someone like me to move about without having to go outside, cross streets, etc. But a nightmare for

Charlotte or anyone else with a roller, a walker, a wheelchair, or even crutches. The ramps are too steep, the escalators too narrow and fast, the elevators across the street, etc. Planners tried to "do good," but, by only going half-way had left no alternative but the street to that one minority that actually *needed* the accommodation.

Of course I'm not singling out these architects as the most evil people in the world. They didn't shoot or starve or banish or imprison or blaspheme anyone. They didn't do it on purpose. But in trying to do something to help people, they left out a segment of the target population that needed the help the most. We all do this all the time, serving the mass while further isolating the fringe. Sure it's more "cost effective," but is it really what we want to do, what we need to do if we want to be responsible citizens of the world?

Especially we Jews, in our Jewish organizations like JCF and CKA, with our long, documented and continuing history as the fringe objects of both intentional and subconscious discrimination, we need to pay extra-careful attention to the fringes of the groups we try to serve. I admit I'm terrible at this, making excuses for not working in the food kitchen, not offering transportation assistance, feeling it's OK because I give money, I run an organization. But we all just need to pay a little more attention to those fringes. Channel some of that outrage we feel at the senseless prejudicial and discriminatory carnage we watch every day into those small actions we can take to make the world a better place for those who have a tougher road to climb than we do. Let's all try a little harder.

Now on Tuesdays! Game days continue

Do you play well with others? Specifically, do you play board games? Card games? Charades?

JCF game afternoons continue on Tuesdays in November, this year on Tuesdays. They're a chance to get together with others, during daylight hours, during the fall and winter to play Scrabble, Rummikub, any other board game you choose (and can provide), or the card game of your choice (no strip poker). During December you can even play No-Limit Texas Dreidel (yes, there is such a game).

Game tables and refreshments will be waiting at Kol Ami every Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring some warmth of companionship and laughter to yourself and another during the dark and dreary days of winter.



Save the Date

CPR and First Aid Class



January 28, 2018

12:30 PM

\$60/person

Registration at JCF office

Jewish Center and Federation



from Executive Director Paul Solyn

By now you may have heard that I broke my arm on the Monday before Thanksgiving. I had surgery the next day and was home the day after that.

In a meeting with an occupational therapist, and again later with one of my doctors, I had occasion to describe the ways that members of our community help one another during and after illness. I didn't need much help, but it was reassuring to know that any help I needed with food, shopping, or transportation could be provided.

The JCF and CKA have a loosely organized system for this. Here's how it works:

- If you need help during or after illness, you can call either of our offices, or call Gil Sweet directly, and we'll work on setting it up.
- If you know of anyone who needs help that you can't provide, you can call on their behalf. Don't be ashamed if you can't provide the help yourself. No one expects you to skip work or your own doctor's appointment, or to undertake some-

thing you don't feel able to do.

- On the other hand, don't hesitate to step in and do what is needed, or arrange for it, without going through official channels.
- Similarly, if you need help but know who could provide it, it's certainly OK to ask directly. At this point, much of the time that help of some kind is needed, it's arranged between the parties without involving our offices.

This was already in the front of my mind because Linda Lovitch, when she spoke at Shabbat Ruach earlier in November, thanked the community members who visit her father and take him shopping.

* * *

While I was in the hospital, I received a visit from a volunteer who told me that for many years she had been a part of the quartet that sang at Congregation B'nai Israel on the High Holy Days.

She said that I wouldn't have heard her sing at the temple, be-

cause she had retired from performing before I came to Elmira. She also said that members who were in the congregation when she sang probably wouldn't recognize her, because in those days the quartet sang from the choir loft, behind a curtain.

This made me think of a similar change that occurred when I was working in Oklahoma City. There was no choir loft, but the Reform temple had been built with a choir room at one side of the sanctuary, from which the choir could be heard but not seen.

In 1998, at the request of members who wanted to see the singers, the choir moved out into the sanctuary itself. That year the congregation also changed from organ to piano accompaniment.

This, in turn, reminded me that many of our choices about liturgy and music reflect the tastes of our times. Although we sometimes refer to certain melodies as *mi Sinai*—"from Sinai"—none was actually handed down at Mt. Sinai and some that feel ancient to us are relatively modern.

The Jewish Agency and religious pluralism in Israel

The Jewish Agency for Israel is known to Jews worldwide as the contact point for those interested in moving to Israel. While it works primarily through its offices in major cities, it also operates a hotline 12–14 hours a day in six languages, with 39 toll-free numbers.

In fostering *aliyah*, the Jewish Agency makes no distinction among different expressions of Judaism; it works with all Jews on an equal basis.

But what about within Israel, where religious authorities have substantial control over religious life?

The Jewish Agency supports 30 educational programs in Israel, operated by organizations representing three main Jewish streams: Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox. This support stems from a desire to both expose Israelis to the varied expressions of Judaism existing outside Israel and within it, as well as to help Jews worldwide feel that their styles of Jewish expression have a home in Israel. Each year, The Jewish Agency allocates \$2.7 million, divided 40%, 40% and 20% to the Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox movements, respectively.

This support significantly bolsters

helps ensure essential religious diversity and inclusion, affecting hundreds of thousands of Jewish Israelis.

The programs are operated by the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ); the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem; the Masorti (Conservative) Movement; the TALM School Network; the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary; the International Young Israel Movement; Midreshet Yerushalayim; OU Israel; and Yeshiva University in Israel.

CKA Book Club 2017–2018

All meetings are in the Jerome & Etkind Library on
the second Wednesday of each month at NOON.

December 13, 2017

Sisters In Law

Linda Hirshman

January 10, 2018

House of Spies

Daniel Silva

February 14, 2018

We Were the Lucky Ones

Georgia Hunter

March 14, 2018

All the Rivers

Dorit Rabiyan

April 11, 2018

What to Do About the Solomons

Bethany Ball

May 9, 2018

The Weight of Ink

Rachel Kadish

Ask for these at the public library,
or purchase them, join us, and don't forget to
bring your lunch!

Community Kitchen



Generous volunteers from CKA and JCF prepare and serve lunch at the Elmira Community Kitchen on the first Thursday of every month. Our next dates are December 7 and January 4. If you can help, please contact Gil Sweet. Cooks, food-preparers, food-buyers, table-setters, servers... you name it, we need you! Cash donations may be made through the JCF.

All information for the **January** issue of the *Kol Ami* must be submitted to one of the organizational offices by **December 11**. Please be sure that all dates are on the JCF calendar.

Coming Events – Save the Dates!

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18 – “Talmud for Non-Talmudists” (CKA)

Tuesdays – Game Afternoons (JCF)

Saturday, December 2 – Shabbat Ruach (CKA)

Saturday, December 9 – Trivia Night (Sisterhood)

Friday, December 15 – Hanukkah Dinner and Shabbat Service (CKA)

Monday, December 25 – Chinese Dinner and a Movie (JCF and CKA)

Saturday, January 13 – Shabbat Ruach (CKA)

Friday, January 19 – Sisterhood Shabbat (CKA)

Saturday, February 10 – Shabbat Ruach (CKA)

GIFT SHOP

Hanukkah is almost here!

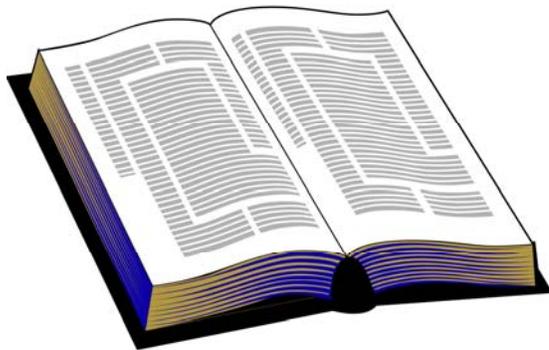
We have chocolate gelt,
all sizes and colors of dreidels,
New menorahs, decorations and children's gifts.



You can shop to your heart's delight on
Sundays, December 3 and 10
11:00 AM–12:30 PM
During Sisterhood Trivia, December 9
During Jewish Community School
Hanukkah Party, December 17

ADULT EDUCATION

TALMUD FOR NON-TALMUDISTS



WITH RABBI OREN STEINITZ

**MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM
DECEMBER 4, 11, AND 18**

NO HEBREW REQUIRED

Adult Education

Open to the entire community

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.: Breakfast and discussion—topic determined by the participants. Attend the brief Shabbat morning service at 8:00 a.m. and stay for breakfast, or come for breakfast and stay for the full Shabbat service at 9:00 a.m.

Mondays, December 4, 11, and 18, 7:00 p.m.: "Talmud for Non-Talmudists" with Rabbi Oren Steinitz.

Anniversaries

Judy & Stuart Komer
Adar & Oren Steinitz
Natalie & Jerome Steinmetz

Birthdays

Anita Adelsberg
Sharon Birdsall
Isabel Braunstein
Olivia Braunstein
Theresa Doerksen
Steven Greenberg
Sarah Greenberg
Owen Gudenrath
William Gudenrath
Harrison Blake Hirshman
JoAnn Lax
Edward Nast
Felicia Poes
Alex Rabinowitz
Steven Salsburg
Amanda Sharp
Paul Solyn
Gabriel Sporn

*For birthday and anniversary dates
please call the CKA office,
607-732-7410.*

Hospital Visits & Mi-shebeirach List

Due to HIPPA, no hospital can divulge names of patients unless a release is signed. Upon hospitalization, please complete necessary paperwork so that the CKA Office and Rabbi Oren Steinitz will be notified. The CKA office would appreciate being notified when one of your loved ones no longer needs our special prayers for them. This enables us to keep the Mi-shebeirach list up to date.

Jewish Community School



from Director Jeff Rosenheck

We have officially made it through our first three months of school, and it has been a great journey. November started with a lovely dinner prepared by Sharon Birdsall, and family services led by several students from our seventh- and ninth-grade classes. Participating student leaders included Mathias, Neila, Noah, Aaron, Adam, and Aidan. A special thanks goes to Adam, who helped lead our Tot Shabbat services. A fantastic job was done by all students! Our next school sponsored dinner and Tot Shabbat event will occur on February 2, 2018, and will feature our fifth and sixth grade students.

December will feature our most anticipated school event of the year: the annual Hanukkah Party, which will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. The event will feature holiday songs and games, and traditional Hanukkah foods, including potato pancakes and jelly do-

nuts. The community is invited to participate in the fun.

Due to the holidays, there will be no school on both December 24 and 31, and no virtual class on December 28. School will resume for the year on January 7, 2018.

A reminder to parents that in the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, parents will receive a “robo-dial” call as well as an email from myself prior to 8:00 a.m. Since the community travels from great distances to attend our school, I will do my best to always air on the side of caution with school cancellations. If by chance school is in session and the weather in your area is too dangerous to travel, please do not risk your safety; rather simply call or email me to let me know your plans. Virtual school will not be cancelled on Thursdays due to its nature, as weather should not impact this type of course.

As with the previous message, please make sure students are dressed appropriately when attending the Hebrew school on Sunday mornings. I understand many attend sporting practices after school and come dressed and prepared for that; however, in the event of an emergency, students may spend a prolonged period outside, potentially in a cold environment.

I wish to formally congratulate Suzy and Neila on their successful Bat Mitzvahs and wish both Aaron and Aidan the best of luck on their Bar Mitzvahs this month in West Virginia.

I wish to thank the entire community for their support of the school, and wish you all a safe and blessed Hanukkah.

Class News

Gan Yeladim (Pre-K/K): Fall has been a busy time in the Kindergarten-1st grade class. We worked on the letters *shin* and *tet*, and learned about what rabbis and cantors do. We also got to make applesauce, and we even got to taste some. Yum! We are looking forward to an exciting month ahead, too. We will be talking about why we light Sabbath candles and why we light menorah candles, and reading stories about different kinds of candle lighting. Be sure to check out the candle-lighting bulletin board! We are looking forward to the Hanukkah party on December 17.
Dr. Teri Doerksen

Kitot Bet & Gimel (2-3): It's hard to believe that we have completed nearly three months of classes already. We have been focusing mainly on the curriculum in our *My Jewish Year* books to learn about all of the holidays. This has included a lot of

new vocabulary!

We have changed the focus of our craft projects to better incorporate the mitzvah of *tikkun olam*. At various times throughout the rest of the year, we will be making small seasonal items to send to the Chemung County Nursing Facility residents. Starting in October, we made small jack-o'-lanterns of paper and twine for them to hang on their bulletin boards. In November we made turkeys for Thanksgiving.

Kathy Rosenheck

Kitot Hay & Vav (5-6): In Kitah Hay we have been very busy with our studies and some additional projects. In *America: The Jewish Experience*, we have been learning about the roles played and contributions made by Jewish citizens in the effort to gain our freedom from the British. It is both exciting and enlightening when the class becomes aware of

these contributions and heroic deeds. In *Journey of a Lifetime*, we have been discussing consecration and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs ceremonies. Although the students are certainly aware of these milestones I Judaism, the book delves more deeply into additional information that adds to their knowledge and understanding of these events. We are reading a wonderful book called *Jesse's Star*, the story of a Jewish boy who travels back in time, becoming his great-great grandfather, to learn more about his family's history. The class is also designing an amazing Jewish trivia board game.

In Kitah Vav, we are continuing our studies of the holidays and also Shabbat, again learning additional details and information that they may not have previously known. We are also reading a book called *Mitzvah the Mutt*, a delightful story about a dog adopted by a Jewish family and

continued

Kol Ami

told from the perspective of the dog. We are also starting a new book from the *Living Jewish Values* series called *Family Connections*. The book is divided into 4 sections that focus on "gratitude," "family harmony," "truth," and "holiness." The book is comprised of interesting information, stories, and activities.

Donna Rothenberg

Kitot Vav & Zayin (6-7): Shalom! The seventh grade is diversifying their curriculum by working each week on two of the three texts. We are progressing nicely through *Min Ha'aretz*. We watched a DVD called *Auschwitz: If You Cried, You Died*, which was narrated by two men who were survivors and went back 45 years later. The film stressed the connection between bullying and

the Holocaust and is aimed at young people. We also began looking at the Cycle of Life and what birth means in Jewish life.

Grade 6 is moving along in *Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values*. We will be doing the bulletin board in January on this text so be sure to check it out.

Eileen Pollack

Tichon (High School): Hopefully you attended the joint Friday night service with Ms. Pollack's class. The students led almost all of the parts in English and Hebrew, and we could not have been any prouder as teachers. We are delving into Jewish History from World War 1 on. The uncertainties of those times are reflected in our lives today as well. The hope is that by looking at the solutions of prior generations we can

reflect on whether those same strategies will be as effective today realizing that we may never know the outcome until years in the future.

Amanda Sharp

Hebrew: The class is moving forward. The second graders began a new text, *Quest for the Golden Kiddush Cup*. The students are well on their way to building Hebrew vocabulary and reading simple Hebrew words. In addition, the students have begun learning Hebrew script. We also play fun games such as concentration and card games to help reinforce what we have learned in our text books. The older students are working on prayers for the holidays and Shabbat. Wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah, *Rivka Miran*

PJ LIBRARY

FREE BOOKS AND MUSIC FOR JEWISH CHILDREN

AGES 6 MONTHS-8 YEARS

<http://www.pjlibrary.org/communities/elmira-twin-tiers/317>

AGES 9-11 YEARS

<http://www.pjourway.org>



A project of the
Jewish Center & Federation
of the Twin Tiers and the
Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Office hours

Congregation Kol Ami: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jewish Center and Federation: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and by appointment.

UJA Campaign

Donations always accepted but to donate by credit card, please return your pledge card by December 15. For information about donating appreciated securities, please call the JCF office.

Hava Nagila



Chinese Dinner and a Movie

**Monday, December 25
2:00 PM**

\$5/person

**Please make reservations through the JCF office,
(607) 734-8122 or office@jewishelmira.org.**

You are cordially invited to
**SISTERHOOD'S EIGHTH ANNUAL
TRIVIA NIGHT**



Bring your Friends, Bring your brains,
Bring your Trivia Knowledge,
and join us on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00 PM AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Pizza, Beer, Wine, Hot Prizes and
Yummy Desserts

\$9.00 per person or "Chai" for two with your
PAID RESERVATION

\$12.00 AT THE DOOR

Call the Kol Ami office at 607-732-7410
Or email: office@kolamielmira.org

Jewish Community Calendar

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	2 CKA 9:00 am Torah Yoga 10.00 am Shabbat Ruach
3 JCS 9-12:15 JCF 2:00 pm Concert Kaskeset	4 CKA 7:00 pm Talmud for Non-Talmudists	5 JCF 1:00 pm Game day	6	7 JCS 7:00 pm Virtual Class	8 CKA Office Closed CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service CKA Sisterhood 6:00 pm Trivia Night
10 JCS 9-12:15	11 CKA 7:00 pm Talmud for Non-Talmudists	12 JCF 1:00 pm Game day Hanukkah 1st candle	13 CKA 12:00 pm Book Club CKA 6:30pm Exec. Board 7:30 pm Board Meeting Hanukkah 2nd candle	14 JCS 7:00 pm Virtual Class Hanukkah 3rd candle	15 CKA 6:00 pm Hanukkah Dinner & Concert 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Hanukkah 4th candle	16 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service Hanukkah 5th candle

17 JCS 9-12:15 Hanukkah Party Hanukkah 6th candle	18 CKA 7:00 pm Talmud for Non-Talmudists Hanukkah 7th candle	19 JCF 1:00 pm Game day JCF 7:00 pm Exec. 7:30 pm Board Meeting Hanukkah 8th candle	20	21 JCS 7:00 pm Virtual Class	22 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	23 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service

24 No JCS	25 All Offices Closed CKA/JCF 2:00 pm Chinese Dinner & Movie	26 JCF 1:00 pm Game day	27	28 No JCS Virtual Class 10 Tevet	29 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	30 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service
31 No JCS						

Kol Ami
The Voice of my People
Vol. 21 No. 11
www.twintiersjewishcommunity.com
A monthly publication of

**Congregation
Kol Ami**

(607) 732-7410
(607) 734-7735
Fax (607) 398-7310
Office@KolAmiElmira.org

Rabbi: Oren Steinitz
oren@orensteinitz.com

President:
Michael Lenzner

Administrative Assistant:
Fran Jankowski

**Jewish Center &
Federation of the
Twin Tiers**

(607) 734-8122
Fax (607) 734-8123
office@JewishElmira.org

Exec. Dir.: Paul Solyn
exec@JewishElmira.org

President:
Marcus Kantz
pres@JewishElmira.org

Administrative Assistant:
Tina Wise

**Jewish
Community School**

(607) 734-8122
Fax (607) 734-8123
school@JewishElmira.org

Educator: Jeff Rosenheck
school@JewishElmira.org

President:
Charlotte Kantz

Administrative Assistant:
Tina Wise

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Jewish Center and Federation
1008 W. Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 78
Elmira, NY