

KOL קול עמי AMI

Did the Exodus really occur?

Noted archaeologist to speak



Did the Exodus from Egypt, or the revelation at Sinai, really take place? Some modern scholars say no, but Dr. Richard Freund isn't so sure.

Freund, an archaeologist who heads the Judaic studies program at the University of Hartford, will give the annual Yachad lecture on Monday, December 3. He'll present archaeological evidence about the possibility that either or both may have actually occurred.

Although Dr. Freund's main work focuses on archaeology of the period in which both rabbinic Judaism and Christianity were being established, he has recently become known for work on archaeology of the Holocaust, where his expertise in minimally-invasive archaeology helped to locate both the walls of the Great Synagogue of Vilna and an escape tunnel from the Ponar concentration camp, the subjects of a PBS documentary earlier this year.

His talk will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 3, in the Braunschtein Community Room.

Dinner, film set for Dec. 25

The film for the annual movie and Chinese dinner will be *The Wedding Plan*. On the surface, it's a romantic comedy, but with a serious message. The main character, at 32, would like to get married as is encouraged in her community, so she seeks out help from the traditional resources. She gets her wish only to have the engagement broken. With feelings of anger and abandonment consuming her, she reaches out in faith and leaves the wedding plans intact, trusting that she will find the right groom in time. It's in Hebrew with English subtitles.

Dinner—vegetarian but not certified kosher—will be from Corning Class. We'll eat at 2:00 p.m. Reservations are required and should be made with the JCF office, (607) 734-8122, by December 20. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under age 13.

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

December 2018

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Jewish Center and Federation



from President Marcus Kantz

“Thanksgiving”

I'd like to offer two different meanings and to offer a few thoughts about each:

Giving Thanks.

Thanks for Giving.

Giving Thanks—This is the thought process we most often associate with the holiday, in its many splendid forms. Here are some of my deep and sincere thanks.

First and foremost, of course to whomever or whatever you ascribe to the Creator of All. I'll use the traditional Hebrew “Adonai” here, but encourage you to insert whatever words or concepts most meaningful for you, including, for example, Mother Nature, God, Our Mother and/or Father, Mother Earth, the Holy Spirit....

I thank Adonai for life, for air and water and sun and moon and land and sea and grass and trees and dogs and cats and plants and animals of all kinds, and for people whom I know and those I don't, for people who help me along and for people who allow me to help them along, for people near and far who make this world such an interesting and diverse and fulfilling place, and especially for giving me the life and

spirit and ability to appreciate it all.

I thank Peoplekind for their spirit and implementation of cooperation, teamwork and common interest that allows for the establishment of communities and even nations in which we can all survive and prosper.

I thank governments at all levels for providing the framework in which we can live together in relative peace most of the time.

I thank all of the people who work in the governments and in their essential subsidiaries like the military, law enforcement and protection and safety and provision of essential services, and those who provide medical care and, food production and services, and transportation, and entertainment, and who grow and manufacture and invent and discover everything we eat and use in our daily lives, and who provide the continuing infrastructure for commerce and travel and business, and especially who provide for the maintenance of our households and for the wellbeing and education of our young people.

And finally, I thank our Families, both our biological ones and our communal families, that collectively make our lives worth living.

And now, on to *Thanks for Giving*. I thank all those of you out there in the World who give of yourselves for the wellbeing of the rest of us. I thank you for gifts large or small, instantaneous or longstanding, for gifts targeted or general, and even for gifts given selfishly that nonetheless provide help and assistance to those in need of it.

And for my final Thanks for Giving, I want and need to thank all of you in the combined CKA and JCF community who make my life a wonder to behold. Thanks to all of you who work tirelessly for the organizations, doing everything we ask and unmeasurably more on your own, just because it's what you do. This section is very short, because, in order to make sure not to leave anyone out, it would fill a book. I just ask – even beg – that as you read this, read into it your own names in bold caps. I'm thanking you all. Please, just keep doing what you do and being who you are. Keep giving selflessly of yourselves to each other, and we'll be just fine.

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

JAZZY BUT DEFINITELY NOT JUNQUE



Jazzy Junque has been most fortunate to receive a wonderful donation of gold jewelry. Two items are available: a stylish 22K, bracelet size 6 6/8", \$225, and a 14K bangle/bracelet, size 2.4, \$100. If you are interested, please contact Tina at 734-8122 by



December 19.

JCF Donations

JCF Membership

Member

✦ Mindy & Steven Salsburg

Silver Magen David

✦ Felicia & Richard Poes

Disaster funds donated

The JCF has distributed \$2,000 from last year's UJA allocations for hurricane and fire relief. Donations of \$500 each were made to Temple B'nai Israel in Panama City, FL, and Temple of Israel in Wilmington, NC, both for hurricane recovery; JCA Camp Shalom in Malibu, CA, and Congregation Or Ami in Calabasas, CA, for fire relief.

PJ LIBRARY

FREE BOOKS AND MUSIC FOR JEWISH CHILDREN

AGES 6 MONTHS–8 YEARS

<http://www.pjlibrary.org/>

[communities/](http://www.pjlibrary.org/communities/)

[elmira-twin-tiers/317](http://www.pjlibrary.org/elmira-twin-tiers/317)

AGES 9–11 YEARS

<http://www.pjourway.org>

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

from Executive Director Paul Solyn



Why might a person consider fasting on the ninth of Adar (in 2019, February 14)?

It's a date in Jewish history that those in the know might prefer to forget. On the ninth of Adar, about 2,000 years ago, the initially peaceful and constructive disagreements between two dominant Jewish schools of thought, Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai, turned destructive and violent, leading, according to some sources, to the death of 3,000 students. It was declared a fast day, but the fast has never been widely observed.

Israelis remembered the date, however, in 1992, when mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution were officially introduced into Israeli law on 9 Adar.

Recently, in the United States, we have seen the effects of destructive disagreement, even within the Jewish community. All of us grieved after the murders at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, but we felt

wounded again when an extremist rabbi said not to pray for the victims, because it was a Conservative synagogue.

That statement was uncharacteristic of Judaism, and was repudiated by almost all other rabbis. For centuries in the Jewish world, we have largely avoided the destructive conflicts that tear other societies apart—not because we all agree, but because we find ways to stick together despite disagreements.

In Hebrew, this kind of disagreement is called *makhloket l'shem shamayim*: disagreement in the name of heaven. Until that day in Adar, the followers of Rabbi Hillel and those of Rabbi Shammai, who disagreed on many things, had managed to respect one another's points of view. The Talmud follows this practice as well: it often reports two conflicting opinions. That's sort of like majority and minority opinions in the Supreme Court, except that the Talmud usually doesn't say which became

the accepted view.

In 2013, the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution declared the 9th of Adar as the Jewish Day of Constructive Conflict. In 2016, it was expanded to become the 9Adar Project.

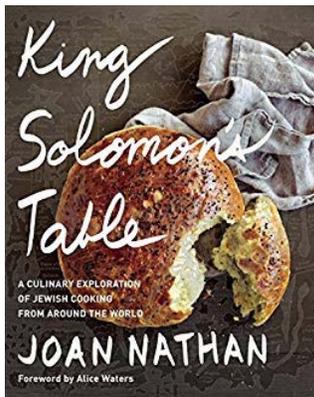
Beginning this month, I'll teach a series of classes on constructive disagreement in Jewish tradition, starting with examples from classic texts and later moving to contemporary issues. There will be some ground rules: respect for all opinions expressed and for each person's right to speak, no personal attacks, no taking personal offense from anything another participant says in class.

The first class, on Sunday, December 16, will begin with Hillel and Shammai, using materials developed by Rabbi Amy Eilberg. We'll meet in the Jerome & Etkind Library at 10:30 a.m.

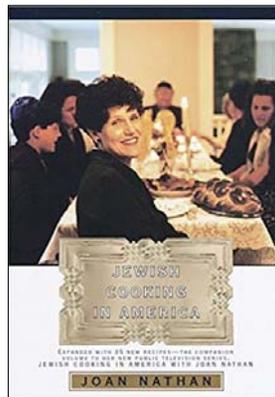
for holiday giving

Books by Joan Nathan

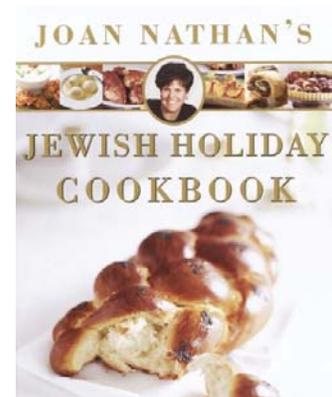
—ALL SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR—



King Solomon's Table
\$25



Jewish Cooking in America
\$35



Jewish Holiday Cookbook
\$25

IN THE JCF OFFICE

Congregation Kol Ami—כל עמי



from Cheryl Miller

Greetings! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me. I have been a member of Congregation Kol Ami since its inception in 2011. My children and I belonged to Congregation B'nai Israel prior to the merging of CBI and CSH. We moved here in 2004 and were warmly welcomed into the Jewish Community by Rabbi Biatch and the members of CBI. Prior to that we were members of Tree of Life in Columbia, South Carolina, and Congregation Ahavath Chesed in Jacksonville, Florida. I grew up in Elmira but moved south to go to school and ended up staying there for 22 years.

I was raised a Catholic and got married in 1987 in St. Cecilia's Church on Lake Street by my childhood priest and a rabbi from New York City who traveled upstate to enable us to honor both of our reli-

gious traditions. My husband, Keith, and I decided before we even got married that we would raise our children in the Jewish faith. We were active members of our congregations and I eventually converted to Judaism under the guidance of Rabbi Michael Matuson. I moved back to Elmira in 2004 with my three children and began a new chapter in our lives that began when my husband passed away.

I share all this with you so that you know that I am honored to be a "Member of the Tribe" and even more so to be a part of our local Jewish community. I have served on the board of the Jewish Center and Federation before coming "on board" for CKA. We have a wonderful group who currently serve on the Board of Trustees. Each board member brings a unique background and valuable experience that enables us

to work together to operate a synagogue for worship in accordance with the Jewish religion and to promote religious, educational, social and recreational activities that will foster a vibrant and spiritually engaged Jewish community.

This is both an honor and a humbling commitment in the wake of the tragedy in Pittsburgh. I am proud to be Jewish. The response to the loss of those who were killed just because of who they were reinforces that we are connected to Jews everywhere, as well as to those of other faiths who have supported us through this terrible ordeal.

Please know that I am committed to our current and future members of our Congregation. My "door is always open," either by way of cell phone (607-331-7475) or by email to (cmiller35@stny.rr.com).

Birthdays

Amanda Sharp
Steven Greenberg
Theresa (Teri) Doerksen
Fran Jankowski
Sarah Greenberg
Edward Nast
Harrison Blake Hirshman
Alex Rabinowitz

Sharon Birdsall
Gabriel Sporn
JoAnn Lax
Paul Solyn
Steven Salsburg
Felicia Poes
Anita Adelsberg
Olivia Braunstein

Anniversaries

Natalie & Jerome Steinmetz
Adar & Oren Steinitz
Marietta & Andrey Zaborsky

In Memoriam

Our heartfelt condolences to Donna Rothenberg, Joan Featherman, Mark Wladis and Rusty Wladis on the death of their mother, Rosalyn Wladis, on Monday, October 29.

Talmud for Non-Talmudists

with

Rabbi Oren Steinitz

continues

Mondays

at 7:30 PM

December 10 and 17

no Hebrew required



from Rabbi Oren Steinitz



"I hereby accept upon myself my creator's commandment to love my neighbor as myself." These are the words that traditionally open the Jewish daily morning service. In some communities, and additional line is added – "and only by this merit may I open my mouth in prayer."

My friends,

As we are trying to gather ourselves at the aftermath of the loathsome slaughter of Jews in the midst of prayer, simply because they are Jews, I wanted to take a moment and say 'Thank You' to all those who reached out to our community in the last three days. I cannot tell you how touched I am by the outpouring show of support and condolences we have received from the local community. Your emails, phone calls, cards, flowers, and visits are appreciated more than you know.

For many of us in the Jewish community, this terror attack hit particularly close to home. The American Jewish world is smaller, and more connected than you would expect. Joyce Feinberg, one of the casualties of the attack is a distant relative of one of our congregants. Rabbi-Hazzan Jeff Myers, the congregational rabbi at the Tree of Life synagogue was ordained at the small Yeshiva where I received my ordination. Rabbi Yitz Husbands-Hankin, a friend of mine, was visiting the Squirrel Hill neighborhood,

where he grew up, and was supposed to be at the synagogue during the shooting. He and his wife were saved because he overslept that dreadful morning, but his friend Daniel, a hospice chaplain who was leading the Torah study group at the synagogue basement was not as lucky, and is still hospitalized in critical condition.

The horrific attack left us all shaken, but let us ask ourselves – should we be surprised? No, none of us ever expected the cold blooded murder of synagogue worshipers, but how many of us heard talks about Anti-semitism being a thing of past, and that Jews "should just get over it"? How many times we heard that Jews are privileged white people, so there is nothing wrong with anti-Jewish prejudice? How many of us have heard hateful remarks against some minority group – against the Muslim community, against the African-American community, against the LGBTQ community, against Latinos, against immigrants, against refugees – but ignored them, because they were directed at a group other than our own? Our Torah repeats no less than thirty-six times, in different forms, the commandment to love the stranger among us, as we were strangers in the Land of Egypt. Our encounter with the stranger, the 'Other,' often presents us with a challenge – it is human nature to be wary of the unfamiliar, but the To-

rah, again and again, reminds us that all of humanity was created in the image of God, and the strangers in our land deserve a special protection. As I said last Saturday, a minority is a minority is a minority, and hatred is hatred is hatred. You simply cannot ignore hateful speech, because it happened to be directed at a group you may not like that much, and expect that this hatred would be confined to that specific group. When the fires of hatred are lit, the flames can never be controlled

In a few moments, we will light memorial candles, sing a few songs, and say a few prayers. And when the service is over, we will go home, hug our loved ones, and go to bed as usual. But if tomorrow morning we wake up and go on with our lives as if nothing has changed, then our songs and prayers are meaningless. If we don't wake up in the morning and start demanding accountability from ourselves, from our friends and colleagues, from our family members, from our public officials, than we might as well not have come here tonight. We can do better than that. We can say with one, clear voice – hate has no home in this country.

I hereby accept upon myself my creator's commandment, to love my neighbor as myself, and only by this merit may I open my mouth in prayer.



Chinese Dinner and a Movie

Tuesday, December 25
2:00 PM

Vegetarian Chinese dinner by Corning Class
\$6 Adults, \$4 children under age 13

Reservations required by December 20.
Call JCF, (607) 734-8122.

HELP US HELP YOU!

Do you know anyone who needs a ride? Who needs a friendly visitor? Who wants someone to contact them about help? Call or send an email to Gil Sweet (607) 742-8017, the JCF office at (607) 734-8122, or the CKA office at (607) 732-7410.

Shabbat Services

except as noted below

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

Noteworthy Upcoming Religious Observances

Friday, December 7		Friday, December 21
Hanukkah and Shabbat Dinner	6:30 PM	Dish-to-Pass Dinner
Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 PM	Shabbat Evening Service
		6:00 PM
		7:30 PM
Saturday, December 8		Saturday, December 22
Shabbat Ruach	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service
		Shabbat Morning Service
		8:00 AM
		9:30 AM

Weekly Torah/Haftarah Portions & Candle Lighting

December 7–8 4:14 PM <i>Miketz</i> Torah Genesis 41:1– 4:17, Numbers 28:9–15 , Numbers 7: 42–47 Pr. Zechariah 2:14–4:7	December 14 –15 4:18 PM <i>Vayigash</i> Torah Genesis 44:18–47:27 Pr. Ezekiel 37:15–28	December 21–22 4:21 PM <i>Vayechi</i> Torah Genesis 47:28–50:26 Pr. I Kings 2:1–12	December 28–29 4:25 PM <i>Shemot</i> Torah Exodus 1:1–6:1 Pr. Isaiah 27:6–28:13, 29:22,23
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Knitting club has a new name

Hello everyone! What was formerly called Knitting for the Homeless has a new name. We are now known as *Knitzvah*. The reason for the change is because our purpose has changed. No longer are we knitting just for the homeless. Our outreach is now creating wonderful outerwear for Safe House residents, lap robes for Hospice, afghans for Second Place East, and comfort creatures for small children needing a snuggle friend. We are also pursuing the possibility of making newborn hats for neo-natal, for the parents to take little ones from the hospital. We are happily meeting every Thursday,

6:00 p.m. to 8-ish, to crochet or knit, chat and laugh, and know that we are making a difference in our community. And that feels wonderful!

Knitzvah will not meet on Thursday, November 22, Thanksgiving, and December 27, as many of us have family obligations at that time.

We are pleased with the donations of yarn for our various projects. Thank you for helping us continue to do our work on behalf of those in need. —*Sharon DeHaas*

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 6 and January 3. If you can help, please contact Gil Sweet. Cooks, food-preparers, shoppers, 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 10**. Please be sure that all dates are on the JCF calendar.

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.

FLOWERS FOR THE BIMAH

It is our congregation's long-standing tradition to adorn the bimah with flowers for the Sabbath: in memory of in honor of in celebration of.

Please call Sue King, evenings 607-734-8468, for cost, information, and to reserve a date. Thank you.

CKA Donations

Flowers for the Bimah

- ✧ December 7: In memory of Benjamin Fidelman by Judy Komer
- ✧ December 14: In memory of Jimi
- ✧ December 21: In memory of Frances K. Babbin by Judy Komer
- ✧ December 28: In honor of the last Shabbat of 2018 by John & Joanne Travers

General Fund

- ✧ Get well wishes for Herb Robbins by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ In appreciation of Suzanne Hesselson for the challah baking class by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ Get well wishes for Herb Robbins by David & Doris Siskin
- ✧ Get well wishes for Molly Sherman by David & Doris Siskin
- ✧ In memory of Sue Kantz's mother, Yvonne Elbrecht, by Jerry & Myra Stemerman
- ✧ Get well wishes for Herb Robbins by Connie & Alan Liss & Sarah Jacobson
- ✧ In memory of Roz Wladis by Myra & Jerry Stemerman

- ✧ In memory of Lena Allenstein by Myra & Jerry Stemerman
- ✧ In memory of Melvin Rinde by Myra & Jerry Stemerman
- ✧ In memory of Edward Hoffman by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ In memory of Audrey Shapero Gerber by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ In memory of Don Golos by Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Eddie Sam Golos by Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Philip Schecter by Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Mildred Golos by Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Harold Berman by Marcia & Terry Lenhardt
- ✧ In honor of Jerry Stemerman's 80th Birthday by Sherri & Doug Reynolds & Mindy & Nick Misnick
- ✧ In memory of Samuel Goldman by Phil & Cindy Goldman
- ✧ In memory of the victims from the Tree of Life Congregation by Dave Ivy
- ✧ In memory of the victims from the Tree of Life Congregation by James

- Freeman & Michelle Pavillard
- ✧ In memory of Emma George by Richard Cohen

Kate Stein Music Fund

- ✧ In memory of Morris Dolkart by Maddy & Larry Dolkart

Marvin & Shirley Rubin Scholarship Fund

- ✧ In memory of Roz Wladis by Richard & Andra Frank

Prayer Book Fund & Dedication

- ✧ In memory of Anthony Ogrinc by Doris & David Siskin
- ✧ In honor of Maya & Jonah Katz, children of Gabriel & Tiffany and grandchildren of Jeff & Sheila Katz by Myra & Jerry Stemerman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of Carmine Nicastro by the Kartzman family
- ✧ In memory of Dr. C. Eugene Erway by Richard & Gail Gerard

CKA Book Club

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

December 12

The Ritual Bath
by Faye Kellerman

January 9

A Terrible Country
by Keith Gessen

February 13

The Tattooist of Auschwitz
by Heather Morris

March 13

The Subway Girls
by Susie Orman Schnall

Borrow these from the CKA library, ask for them at the public library,
or purchase them, and join us.
Don't forget to bring your lunch!

Yahrzeits

December	Kislev	15 Bernard Berman	7	30 Esther E. Benjamin	22
1 Anna Shulman	23	15 George M. Siegel	7	30 Harry Shulman	22
1 Carol Kahn Rockman	23	15 Jennifer Kawukiewicz-Rubin	7	30 Marion F. Glaser	22
1 Charles Levinthal	23	15 Klothilde Bloch	7	30 Marion Samuels Glaser	22
1 June Fidelman	23	15 Saul Spiegel	7	31 Harry Robbins	23
1 Ruth Warshaw	23	16 Harold Rinde	8	31 Leona F. Nathenson	23
2 Jacob B. Weiss	24	16 Louis Lovitch	8		
2 Lena Horwitz	24	16 Vivian Graubard	8		
3 A. I. "Dobbs" Fidelman	25	17 Cecil Kahn	9		
3 Benjamin Fidelman	25	17 Floris Bowman	9		
3 Ellen Jean Brownfield	25	17 Gertrude Cohen	9		
3 Rosalie Diner	25	17 Isadore Earle	9		
4 Benjamin Rosenfield	26	17 Jacob Aronson	9		
4 Harry Freeman	26	17 Mother of Ada Kaminsky	9		
4 Israel Sherman	26	17 Solomon Golos	9		
4 Muriel Tarshus	26	18 Edith Rubin	10		
5 Esther Kaplan	27	18 Irving Tatelbaum	10		
5 George Miller	27	18 Jacob Kreinson	10		
5 Louis Seltzer	27	19 Charles M. Dobbs, Sr.	11		
6 Jennie Weinstein	28	19 Arthur Kaplan	11		
6 Elanore Shlussel	28	19 Bernice Goldberg	11		
6 Edgar Kosow	28	19 Charles Kahn	11		
7 Elizabeth Gray	29	19 David Rosenfield	11		
7 Eva Labisch	29	19 Jane Kane	11		
7 Joseph Siskin	29	19 Meyer Sactor	11		
7 Lewis Lurrie	29	19 Morris Lebowitz	11		
7 Martha B. Levy	29	19 Paula Kaplan	11		
7 Phyllis K. Margolin	29	19 Yizchak Loeb	11		
8 Lillian M. Weinstein	30	20 Louis Freudenheim	12		
8 Steven Levine	30	21 Dr. Paul E. Friedman	13		
		21 Jack Shapiro	13		
December	Tevet	21 Theodore Friendly	13		
9 Lena D. Miller	1	22 Chaye Loeb	14		
9 Marguerite Patterson	1	22 Chet Fox	14		
9 Milton Elzufon	1	22 Gertrude Wladis	14		
9 Rose Bucholtz	1	22 Sidney Rubin	14		
9 Yetta Miran	1	23 Anna D. Baker	15		
10 Isaac Shulman	2	23 Esrael Stein	15		
10 Jack Sohmer	2	23 Helen L. Levine	15		
10 Rebecca Karl	2	23 Leonard Kaplan	15		
11 Morris J. Gladke	3	23 Samuel Parker	15		
12 Bert E. Wertheimer	4	24 Alice Perman	16		
12 Cecilia W. Farrell	4	24 Frances Komer Babbin	16		
12 Celia Rubin	4	24 Malvina E. Gladke	16		
12 Hadassah Greene	4	24 Samson Freindly	16		
12 Isaac Babitz	4	25 Ada Kantz	17		
12 Israel Sail	4	25 Fay Levine	17		
12 Maude Dresden Goldberg	4	25 Harry Stone	17		
12 Peter Weronky	4	25 Mildred Schreiber	17		
12 Seymour Leveen	4	26 Joseph B. Solomon	18		
13 Arnold Rosenblatt	5	26 Ray M. Simon	18		
13 Sylvia Steinberg	5	27 Gertrude Rosenwald	19		
14 Benjamin F. Levy	6	27 Herman Holtzman	19		
14 Mala Streimer	6	28 Inez Peterson	20		
15 June Fidelman	6	28 Myer H. Friendly	20		
15 Alan T. Hundert	7	29 Edna Stone	21		

Names of Confederate soldiers buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery are included above.

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 9:30 a.m.

Mondays, December 10 and 17, at 7:30 p.m.: "Talmud for Non-Talmudists" with Rabbi Oren Steinitz.

Sunday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m.: "Disagreement in the Name of Heaven" with Maggid Paul Solyn. Also January 6, 13, and 27.

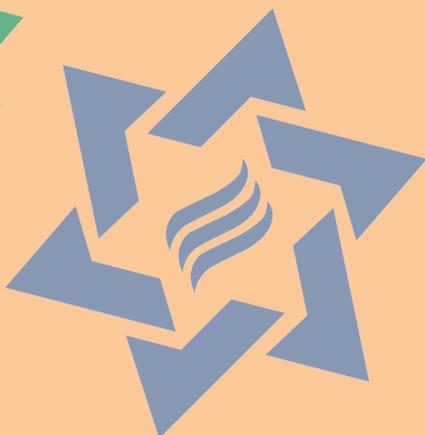
Hospital Visits & Mi-shebeirach List

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, or call the CKA office.

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.

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.



Kindle the taper like the steadfast star
 Ablaze on evening's forehead o'er the earth,
 And add each night a lustre till afar
 An eightfold splendor shine above thy
 hearth.

Emma Lazarus,
 "The Feast of Lights"



CONGREGATION
KOL AMI



WHEN:

Friday, December 7, 2018

6:30 dinner

7:30 services

WHERE:

Congregation Kol Ami

1008 W. Water St., Elmira, NY 14905

WHAT:

FOOD! The price of admission includes a complete buffet dinner, featuring vegetarian chili with cornbread, and macaroni & cheese, along with traditional Jewish delicacies like latkes with sour cream and applesauce and jelly doughnuts for dessert.

FUN!

Learn about Hanukkah traditions like the Dreidel game!

WORSHIP!

Experience a traditional "Musical Shabbat" (Sabbath) service following dinner.

ADMISSION:

\$12 for adults, \$6 for kids (5-12),
 FREE for kids under 5

RSVP: By Friday, November 30, 2018 to
 607.732.7410 or office@kolamielmira.org

*If you wish to light your own
 Menorah, please bring one!*

Jewish Community School



from Director Jeff Rosenheck

We have reached December and the Hanukkah season! The school year is progressing rapidly, and November was another wonderful month. During the first weekend, we were fortunate enough to welcome Artist-in-Residence Eliana Light, who sang with students at the Friday night Tot Shabbat, and presented several small group programs with students and staff on November 5. A huge thank you to the JCF for bringing Elianna and her amazing talents to our school and community.

December will be another active month. On December 2, at 12:30 p.m., we welcome families to stay after school for some family friendly Hanukkah movies in the Braunstein Community Room. Lunch will be served for those who stay. This will surely be a fun event for all. The annual JCS Hanukkah party will be held on December 9 at 11:00 a.m. The event will feature music and sing along, followed by activities and a lunch of hot dogs and latkes. The community is invited.

Due to the winter break, school

will be closed Sunday, December 23, and Sunday, December 30. School will resume January 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Unfortunately, I must discuss school safety in the wake of the devastating terror attack in Pittsburgh and the growing concerns nationwide. We are taking appropriate measures. Although I cannot say nothing will ever happen, the leaders of CKA, the JCF, and the JCS have worked to ensure building safety. During Sunday-school hours, the building will stay locked at all times. Those entering will be buzzed in. A member of the school staff will be present at the door during arrival and dismissal times. Classroom doors are locked during school hours, and several staff members carry portable panic buttons to the local police department. The building has an emergency disaster response plan; administrative members are well trained in emergency procedures; and the building is also equipped with lifesaving medical supplies and a portable AED. I am personally well trained in emergen-

cy response and medical care and work full-time doing emergency risk analysis, field emergency response, and 911 communications. The building and the staff also have excellent relationships with the West Elmira police and fire departments. The exterior of the building is monitored with recording security cameras accessible constantly by building staff.

Our school and our community are as safe as we can make them. The potential risks confront us all each day, but our building must never be a place of fear or a place where safety is not a primary focus. I am so proud to be a part of this community and to have the support of our building leadership in providing security measures. I welcome any comments, questions or concerns regarding the building safety and community security at any time via cell call at 607-731-4217 or via email to jrosenheck14@aol.com.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and I wish you all a wonderful, joyous and blessed Hanukkah and a safe vacation.

Class News

Ganon (Pre-K): Pre-K students are working very hard and learning a lot! November was a short month with only two classes but we have been focused on learning about Shabbat. There are new vocabulary words that we are working on as well as listening to our new favorite book, *The Shabbat Box* by Lesley Simpson.

We had the chance to visit the kitchen while Mr. Friedman and Mrs. Birdsall were making applesauce. We learned how they make it, had the opportunity to help turn the handle on the "apple smusher" and even tasted the warm applesauce. Yum! *Kathy Rosenheck*

Kitah Alef (1): The Alef class continues to study Israel, primarily key areas such as Tel Aviv. The students

are working on learning the alef-bet as well as celebrating the holidays. Additionally, our class has a time to read stories, be creative and learn how to constructively interact with each other. Wishing everyone a wonderful Hanukkah, *Rivka Miran*

Kitot Gimel & Vav (3 & 6): Time seems to be flying by so quickly. In Kitah Vav, we have been busy studying the holidays that occur in the fall. The children designed beautiful posters that depict significant elements of each holiday. It is wonderful to see how they add their own creative flair to each drawing. In Kitah Gimel, we are continuing our journey through Jewish history as we read *The Explorer's Bible*. Two of the stories we read recently are among their favorites: Samson and

Delilah, and the story of Ruth. We are also continuing to learn about the importance of being a person of integrity and honor in *A Kid's Mensch Handbook*.

Donna Rothenberg

Hebrew: This month, we're supplementing our normal curriculum with Hanukkah texts and songs. It is our hope that the extra Hanukkah material will not only help students master the Hebrew language, but make the holiday more meaningful as well. Students are encouraged to share what they learn at home during their own holiday celebrations. As always, parents should feel free to contact Sophie should they have any questions or concerns.

Sophie Marmor

Jewish Community Calendar

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:30 am Shabbat Service CKA Sisterhood 6:30 pm Trivia Night
2 JCS 9:30 am -12:30 pm w/H 8 & 9 12:30 pm Family Lunch & Movie Hanukkah 1st candle	3 JCF 7:30 pm Yachad & Candle Lighting Hanukkah 2nd candle	4 Hanukkah 3rd candle	5 Hanukkah 4th candle	6 Hanukkah 5th candle	7 CKA 6:30 pm Hanukkah Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Hanukkah 6th candle	8 CKA 9:30 am Shabbat Ruach Hanukkah 7th candle
9 JCS 9:30 am -12:30 pm 11:00 am Hanukkah Party Hanukkah 8th candle	10 CKA 7:30 pm Talmud Class	11	12 CKA Book Club 12:00 pm CKA 6:00 pm Exec. Board 7:00 pm Trustees	13	14 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	15 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:30 am Shabbat Service
16 JCS 9:30 am -12:30 pm w/H 8 & 9 JCF 10:30 am Adult Ed. CKA Sisterhood 12:30 Board Meeting	17 CKA 7:30 pm Talmud Class	18 JCF 7:30 pm Board Meeting	19	20 <i>Chinese dinner reserva- tions due</i>	21 CKA 6:00 pm Dish-to- Pass Supper 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	22 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:30 am Shabbat Service
23 JCS No School	24	25 All Offices Closed JCF & CKA 2:00 pm Chinese Dinner & a Movie	26	27	28 CKA 7:30 pm Musical Shabbat Service	29 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:30 am Shabbat Service
30 JCS No school	31 CKA Closing Early					

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