

KOL קול עמי AMI

Film is comic with serious elements, or...

The JCF film for January is *Metallic Blues*. It's the story of two Israeli car salesmen who find themselves owning a rare 1985 Lincoln Continental limousine that they think—if it were in Germany—might be worth as much as 50,000 euros.

Accordingly, they sail with the vehicle to Germany. While learning that the task may not be as easy as hoped, they are also confronted with a number of emotional episodes.

Shmuel (portrayed by Avi Kushnir) is an Ashkenazi Jew, whose parents were Holocaust survivors, and is surprised to find how affected he is by the voyage. His companion Siso (played by Moshe Ivgy) is a Mizrahi Jew of modest means who, unlike his companion, has no working knowledge of English (spoken routinely by Shmuel to the various German characters they encounter), and is therefore often overwhelmed and confused during their experience. To Siso, Shmuel's history is largely unknown, and a tragic curiosity.

The film is in Hebrew, English, and German, with subtitles.

Metallic Blues was nominated for Israeli Academy Awards for best pic-



ture, best actor, best supporting actor, and best screenplay and editing. Ivgy ultimately won as best supporting actor for his performance as the bewildered and apprehensive Siso.

The screening is on Sunday, January 22, at 3:00 p.m. It's free, but bring cash for popcorn.

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

January 2017

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Cocktails & Knosh tickets available for gifts

The winter holidays are over, but you may celebrate numerous other occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and Valentine's Day in the weeks ahead. With the upcoming community event, Cocktails & Knosh Affair 2017 on Saturday, May 20, may we suggest you consider giving a ticket to this affair as a gift. Giving a ticket shows your appreciation and gratitude by passing to the recipient a great evening of fun, live music, dancing, and food. One of the best presents one can give is an enjoyable time. This is a non-religious event and a \$100 ticket admits two persons. Remember, there are \$13,800 in cash prizes among the 50 tickets drawn during the Cocktails & Knosh Affair, along with many door prizes. Please attend this once a year party that benefits Congregation Kol Ami.

Tickets are available in the CKA office. See page 10 for early-bird prizes!

—Ron Friedman

Jewish Center and Federation



from President Marcus Kantz

A guy walks into the Diner and asks for a diet soda. The cook brings the drink, sets it down on the counter and asks, "So what's with the sweat shirt?" "Whaddaya mean, what's with the sweat shirt? It's a sweat shirt." "Yeah, but what does that mean, JCF, on the front?"

"Oh, that stands for Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers." "So why doesn't it say JCAFOTTT? Then, at least you could pronounce it. You know, like JayKafott." "True enough, but why would I, or anyone, want to pronounce it? It's not meant to be pronounced. It's just an abbreviation. Everybody wears clothing with abbreviations for something" "So, if it's a confusing abbreviation not meant to be pronounced, then what IS it for? What's the sense of everybody wearing sweat shirts that you can't pronounce, and nobody knows what they stand for, and nobody cares anyway?"

"You seem to care." "Yeah, well, I guess I do, but that's just because I've got nothing else to do, and it just caught my attention, and it confused me, and, oh, just never mind..."

"So does that mean that you don't even want to know what the Jewish

Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers even IS?" "Oh, I know perfectly well what it is. To tell you the truth, I was just messing with you. In fact I'm a member of the JCF. Just because I never show up at anything doesn't mean that I don't know what JCF is and what it does, and all that. I guess I'm just a little bored here in the Diner in the winter, and I was playing a little game with you."

"So, you like to play games? You know last year JCF had Game Day once in while, and we had a great time, but you never showed up." "Yeah, well, I didn't know what kinda games you were playing, or whether they'd really be fun, and it wasn't really at a time I could get there, and, well, you know how it is." "Yes, I know, but, frankly, you don't really strike me as the bashful type. I bet that if you'd been there, you'd have made sure we played good games. I've got an idea... But first, I need to tell you that I'm the President of the JCF, so I theoretically have some clout. Anyway, here's my idea:

I'll announce in the next issue of the Kol Ami, the JCF monthly newsletter, that we're going to try Game Day again, but this time, we're first

going to ask everyone who might remotely be interested – like you f'rinstance – when and how often they'd be likely to come, what types of games they'd like to play, and especially, what day, or days and time of day they think they'd be most likely to play. I'll ask 'em to send a quick email to the JCF office. Then we'll go through the millions of responses and in a subsequent issue or in an email, nominate a real schedule and ask for feedback. I'll be looking for yours in particular. OK?"

"Sounds reasonable to me. But one more thing. Why don't you also ask in the scurvy survey whether anybody would be interested in T-shirts or Sweat shirts with JCF on the front?" "Are you kidding me? After all that, you actually *want* one?" "Sure, why not. It would give people something to talk about in the Diner instead of politics and the weather."

"OK, I will. So what do I owe you for the soda?" "I'll deduct it from my payment for the sweat shirt. So long." "See ya. And Shalom."

from Executive Director Paul Solyn



At a synod in November, the Evangelical Church of Germany officially renounced any mission to convert Jews to Christianity. While there had not been any active mission to Jews for many decades, it had been a central principle of the denomination since its founding by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century.

The announcement stated that that Christians "are not called to show Israel the path to God and his salvation," and "All efforts to convert Jews contradict our commitment to the

faithfulness of God and the election of Israel."

The Evangelical Church had struggled with Martin Luther's anti-Semitism before. In 2015, it expressed "sorrow and shame" about this history and renounced Luther's calls to persecute and banish Jews. It also acknowledged German Protestantism's "far-reaching failure" in later centuries with regard to "continued suffering" of Jewish people.

It is by no means the only church to have abandoned the goal of con-

verting Jews. Also in 2015, the Vatican stated that Jews do not need to be converted to find salvation, and that Catholics should work with Jews to fight anti-Semitism.

On the other hand, some Protestant churches in the United States still strive to convert Jews. Largest and most notable is the Southern Baptist Convention; the president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary once compared Judaism to a tumor that must be removed, and a former president of the Southern Baptist

Convention achieved worldwide notoriety in 1980 by proclaiming, "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

What keeps relations between Jews and Southern Baptists from being worse than they are is that the SBC is even more negative toward Muslims and Hindus, and also toward the entire Catholic Church.

The relationship between theology and hate crimes is not a 1:1 correspondence, but it would be foolish to deny that they're connected. It is hard for us, in the Jewish community, to understand the connection, because Judaism places relatively little emphasis on theology. It's not simply that we don't see any requirement for others to share out beliefs, but also that most of us can't really imagine acting on purely theological motivations.

And it's not always clear in which direction the connection flows. Does an anti-Jewish theology create anti-Jewish attitudes and actions, or do people who already hold anti-Jewish attitudes naturally flock to churches that validate them?

In any case, the FBI reported that hate crimes in the United States increased by 7% in 2015, with most of the increase consisting of crimes against Muslims. Historically, most hate crimes based on religion were directed against Jews.

Perhaps this is why, in some cities, Jews and Muslims are joining for mutual support. The *New York Times* wrote recently about the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a women's group with Muslim and Jewish members. It has 50 chapters in 20 states.

In a similar vein, but working with business executives, leaders of the

American Jewish Committee and the Islamic Society of North America created a Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council. Its co-chairs are Fortune 500 chief executives: Farooq Kathwari, of the furniture company Ethan Allen, and Stanley Bergman, of the medical products distributor Henry Schein.

The proposal to maintain a national registry of Muslims in the U.S. has particularly struck Jews. Jonathan Greenblatt, the head of the Anti-Defamation League, said, "Jews know what it means to be identified and tagged, to be registered and pulled aside. It evokes very deep emotions in the Jewish community." He received a standing ovation last month at an ADL conference when he said that, if Muslims were ever forced to register, "that is the day that this proud Jew will register as a Muslim."

JCF Donations

UJA Campaign

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- ✧ Susan Messing
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JCF Membership

- ✧ Felicia & Richard Poes

Community Kitchen

- ✧ Mollie Sherman
- In honor of Gil & Harriet's 50th Anniversary*
- ✧ Lynnette & Michael Lenzner

PJ Library, PJ Our Way to have Havdalah, hot dogs, film



Children through age 11, and their families, are invited for Havdalah, hot dogs, and a film on Saturday, January 21, at 5:30 p.m.

The evening will begin with Havdalah and continue with hot dogs and snacks before seeing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on the big screen. Children may attend in pajamas!

It's free, but reservations are requested at pj-elmira.eventbrite.com.

PJ Library is a program that sends Jewish books to children from the age of 6 months through 8 years. Parents may register a child online at www.pjlibrary.org/communities/elmira-twin-tiers/317.

PJ Our Way, for children 8½ through 11, is similar, but invites children to choose their own books. Its registration is at pjourway.org.

Congregation Kol Ami – כל עמי



from President Ed Braunstein

Happy End of the Holidays!!!

Oy what a relief! I'm hoping everyone enjoyed a festive holiday season as my family did. If you're like me getting back to a normal lifestyle has such a calming effect. I always over eat, over spend, and have too much anxiety. Having a love-hate relationship with the Hanukkah/Christmas season, I've always felt that everyone should embody the holiday spirit 365 days a year.

The holiday spirit I speak of includes generosity, kindness, and the willingness to accept others opinions. Here at CKA we indeed do imbibe that spirit by welcoming everyone regardless of religion, political affiliation, economic standing, their educational achievements or any other difference imaginable.

In the course of the operation of our congregation I watch so many generous people donate their precious time and money to make our events such a success. Often minimum or no recognition is given for the herculean efforts put forth. Many of our members care about the quality and destiny of our incredible community that sometimes I get a bit overwhelmed.

I feel like I may be starting to ramble, but what I am hoping to express is my gratitude to everyone whom contributes to keep CKA successfully operating and thriving year round. Never ceasing to encompass that holiday spirituality regardless of what day it is. For those of you who don't feel this warmth I implore you to embrace this concept. Forget and forgive, by moving forward and listening to every opinion with an open mind. We will

continue to strive and enjoy the experience.

Now that some of my deepest feelings have been expressed I must go back to old news. We always need volunteers for every aspect of our daily operation as well as special events. The Jewish Food Festival and Cocktails & Knosh Affair are just two of our major fund raisers looming in the near future. They occur in April and May, but tickets for the Cocktails & Knosh affair are on sale now. Please feel free to call the office to purchase tickets or volunteer a helping hand.

Thank you everyone for making 2016 the best year in the history of Congregation Kol Ami.

From my family to yours,
Shalom

Shabbat Services

except as noted below

Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 PM	<i>Mishkan T'filah</i>
Shabbat Morning Service	8:00 AM	<i>Mishkan T'filah</i>
Shabbat Morning Service	9:00 AM	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom</i>

Noteworthy Upcoming Religious Observances

Friday, January 13

Tot Shabbat	7:00 PM
Family Shabbat Service	7:30 PM

Saturday, January 21

PJ Library/PJ Our Way	5:30 PM
Havdalah, Hot Dogs & Film	

Saturday, January 14

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

Friday, January 27

Musical Shabbat Service	7:30 PM
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Weekly Torah/Haftarah Portions & Candle Lighting

Jan. 6-7 4:33 PM <i>Vayigash</i> Torah Genesis 44:18-47:27 Pr. Ezekiel 35:15-28	Jan 13-14 4:41 PM <i>Vayechi</i> Torah Genesis 47:28-50:26 Pr. I Kings 2:1-12	Jan. 20-21 4:49 PM <i>Shemot</i> Torah Exodus 1:1-6:1 Pr. Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23	Jan. 27-28 4:58 PM <i>Va'era</i> Torah Exodus 6:2-9:35; Numbers 28:9-15 Pr. Isaiah 66:1-24
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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.

from Rabbi Oren Steinitz



Many of you probably already heard about the many fires that affected Israel at the end of November. The entire Middle-East suffered from a two-month long drought, culminating in a wave of extremely hot temperatures and dry winds. Fires broke out and spread rapidly all over Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Jordan, and Syria. Between November 22nd and 27th, the Israeli Fire Fighting Authority dealt with over 1700 separate fires. While many were initially suspected as arsons, only 25 of the cases are now under investigation. Fifteen countries, including several Arab countries, sent volunteers and equipment to assist in fighting the fires, and ten more offered assistance but it was no longer necessary.

While most of the fires took place in open fields and wooded areas, urban areas were seriously harmed as well. Country-wide, over six hundred households were damaged by the fires. A childhood friend of mine re-

cently told me that his parents' house in the town of Nirit was burned to the ground, and they now live in a temporary mobile home until their house will be rebuilt.

The biggest damage was caused in the northern city of Haifa, where there are forested areas in the middle of the city. One of the buildings damaged was the Moriah Congregation, Israel's oldest Masorti (Conservative) synagogue. The building's entire top floor was consumed by the fires, completely destroying the congregation's pre-school room, the library, the main office and the rabbi's office. While the congregation managed to save the Torah scrolls, 4000 books were destroyed, and were buried last week according to Jewish Law, which requires the burial of all damaged sacred texts.

Such tragic events, however, often bring out the best in people, and this disaster is no different. Among the objects devastated by the fire, were all

of the synagogue's tables. When the fire happened, a Brit Mila was already scheduled to take place in the synagogue the following week, and the family was worried that they will not be able to host a lunch without tables. The congregation's rabbi, Dubi Hayun, approached a carpenter friend of his, and asked if he could build a few tables on such a short notice. The carpenter told the rabbi that not only he would, but would not charge anything for labor. A few hours later, the carpenter called Rabbi Hayun again – he himself had contacted a lumber yard in the Arab town of Umm Al-Fahm, and told the owner the story. Abu-Ahmad Yunis, the lumber yard owner, immediately offered to supply all the materials free of charge. "Jews and Arabs live together in Haifa," he said, "and there is no discrimination. We must continue with this co-existence and promote peace."

Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Svetlana Short | 19 Judith Prentice |
| 1 Rick Rosenberg | 20 Gail Gerard |
| 3 Stephen Koob | 21 Dian Gerstel |
| 3 Jacob Samuel Peffer | 20 Shayna Miller |
| 5 Robert White | 20 Kristine Perle |
| 6 Carla Cohen | 21 Richard Frank |
| 10 Reuven Gifeisman | 21 Varda Reizes |
| 10 Donald Rubin | 23 Carole Hoffman |
| 11 Debra Chesman | 25 Carol Simons |
| 11 Lenard Hirshman | 28 Samuel Morgan Halperin |
| 12 Michelle Halperin | 28 Kasey Lee Lenzner |
| 13 Chloe Simone Samter | 30 Ellen Moore |
| 14 Theodore Goldwyn | 30 Doris Siskin |
| 15 Beth Herbst | 31 Herman Friedman |
| 16 Michael Lenzner | 31 Suzanne Savin |
| 18 Courtney Seltzer | |

Anniversaries

- 1 Sandra & Robert Ashendorf
- 2 Debra & Jonathan Kravitz
- 3 Mindy & Joe Gaieski
- 4 Cynthia & John Massey
- 12 Eva & John Kadar

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

SAVE THE DATE
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Sh'ma

What actually goes on in the service?

"*Sh'ma Yisra'el, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad* – Hear O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One" (Deut. 6:4). Over the centuries, this biblical verse has become the most well-known piece of Jewish liturgy. It is not only the most recognized part of both the morning and evening services, but also serves as a declaration of faith in the oneness of God, and an acceptance of the Divine sovereignty. In fact, the rabbis designated reciting the Sh'ma as a mitzvah on its own right, separate from the religious obligation to pray. The *Sh'ma* is often the first verse taught to children, who are encouraged to read it before bedtime, and the last prayer said on the deathbed.

When read liturgically, the *Sh'ma* is followed by three biblical portions. The first is the *v'ahavta* ("and you shall love," Deut. 6:5–9) – a portion mentioning the obligations to love God, to read the *Sh'ma* twice daily, inscribe it on doorposts as a mezuzah, and include it in the *t'fillin* parchments.

The second portion is *v'hayah im sham'o'a* ("and if you will listen," Deut. 11:1–24). This portion affirms the belief in reward and punishment, and ties adherence to the Torah's commandments with rain coming in its season and ample growth of crops. This portion is often omitted entirely or replaced with an alternative reading in many Reform and Reconstructionist congregations, as the literal belief in reward and punishment is sometimes seen as outdated or superstitious in these circles. In some Jewish Renewal prayer books the paragraph is retained, but interpreted in a way that emphasizes the consequences of not protecting the earth and the environment.

The third portion is *tsitsit* ("fringes," Deut. 15:37–41). This paragraph mentions the mitzvah of tying fringes on the corners of all four-cornered garments, with the intention that looking at the fringes will serve as a reminder to follow the Torah's commandments, and a detriment against following "lustful urges." Like the second portion, this paragraph was historically significantly abbreviated in many Reform prayer books, as classical Reform

practice discouraged the wearing of a tallit. More recent Reform siddurim, such as *Mishkan T'filah*, retain the full portion, but only in the morning service, when a tallit is traditionally worn.

Rabbinic tradition enacted that an additional line should be added between the *Sh'ma* and the *v'ahavta* – "*Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va'ed* – Blessed be the name of God's glorious Sovereignty forever and ever." This verse was the response recited by the worshipers in the Jerusalem Temple when the High Priest would pronounce the four-letter name of God during Yom Kippur worship. Academics believe that the insertion dates back to Roman times, and served as an affirmation of the Jewish belief in the Divine sovereignty as opposed to the prevailing Roman practice of emperor worship. As the Roman authorities often observed Jewish worship, this may explain the prevailing tradition of saying the verse quietly in an undertone. Another possible explanation is that the verse is not part of the biblical text, and adding it essentially breaks a complete biblical paragraph.

The only time in the year that the verse is traditionally chanted in full voice is during Yom Kippur services. This may be due to a midrash that claims that Moses heard the verse sung by the Ministering Angels while he was receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. As the midrash equates those fasting on Yom Kippur to Angels, who never eat or drink, the verse should be chanted out loud at this time. In some Reform congregations, the verse is said loudly throughout the year, possibly due to early Reform discomfort with any reference to angels or supernaturalism, or due to the rise in Reform Judaism in a time of relative imperial toleration, which did not require the censorship of controversial passages.

Different communities have different practices with regards to sitting or standing during the recitation of the *Sh'ma*. As the *v'ahavta* portion states that "... you shall speak of them when you walk on your way, and when you lie down and when you rise up," the Rabbis concluded that the

Sh'ma can be recited at any position – sitting, lying, standing, or walking. Therefore, it was determined that one need not specifically stand nor sit down for the *Sh'ma*. The early Reform movement, however, claimed that due to the importance of the *Sh'ma*, it is undignified to sit down while affirming one's faith. This notion was probably influenced by the Christian practice of standing for the Apostle's Creed. Therefore, some Reform communities stand for the *Sh'ma* and sit down immediately after *baruch shem k'vod* or after *v'ahavta*. Others, while keeping with the rabbinic tradition of not standing up specifically for it, remain standing after the *Bar'chu* and sit down after the *Sh'ma*.

—Rabbi Oren Steinitz

Linda Lovitch speaks on representing Israel



Elmira native Linda Lovitch spoke to a small but enthusiastic audience on November 27 about her work training Israeli diplomats and business people to communicate with the world press.

Photos: Gil Sweet

CKA Donations

Flowers for the Bimah

- ✧ January 13: In memory of Manford Rosenbloom by Judy & Stu Komer
- ✧ January 20: In memory of Ruth Fidelman & Bernard Komer by Judy & Stu Komer

Congregation Education Fund

- ✧ In memory of Etta Berman by Edwin Berman

David Wladi –Marc Rubino Memorial Fund

- ✧ In memory of David Wladis by Beth Wladis

General Fund

- ✧ In memory of Norman Obler by Ralph & June Obler
- ✧ In memory of Harold & Etta Berman by Marcia & Terry Lenhardt
- ✧ In memory of Jeff Etkind by Robert & Carla Cohen

- ✧ In memory of Samuel Semel, Seymour Kornfeld, and June Fidelman by the Semel Family.

Honor Fund

- ✧ In memory of Bernie Komer & Jeff Etkind by Trudi & Alex Porter

Jerome & Etkind Library Fund

- ✧ In memory of Phyllis & Lena Horwitz by Leon Horwitz

Kate Stein Music Fund

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

Scroll of Life

- ✧ Pearl Plaque – In honor of the marriage of Jessica B. Sobel & Jonathan I. Friedman on September 4, 2016, by Ron & Gloria Friedman.
- ✧ Pearl Plaque – In honor of the birth of Nava McKenna Bailey, daughter of Ilene Friedman & Kee-

gan Bailey, on April 12, 2015, by Ron & Gloria Friedman.

Tree of Life

- ✧ Welcome to Rabbi Oren Steinitz & family from Ron & Gloria Friedman Family
- ✧ In memory of George Sherman by Ron & Gloria Friedman Family
- ✧ In honor of Mollie Sherman's special birthday by Ron & Gloria Friedman Family.
- ✧ In memory of Norbert Friedman Ron & Gloria Friedman Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ In memory of Abraham Obler by Ralph & June Obler

CKA Book Club

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

Our next meeting will be
January 11, 2017,

when we will discuss
The Bridge Ladies: A Memoir
by Betsy Lerner

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

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 or call the CKA office at (607) 732-7410.

Musical Shabbat Service



with *Sue Amisano*

Friday, January 27
7:30 p.m.

Yahrzeits

January	Tevet				
1 Morris Liebson	3	12 Gertrude Adelson	14	23 Blanche Rosenblatt	25
1 Theodore Friendly	3	12 Gertrude Wladis	14	23 Jack Rosenthal	25
2 Cecilia W. Farrell	4	12 Isadore Earle	14	23 Mary Berinstein	25
2 Harry Robbins	4	12 Issac Slohm	14	23 Ruth Fidelman	25
2 Israel Sall	4	12 Minerva Laskow	14	24 Alexander Scheps	26
2 Seymour Leveen	4	12 Sidney Rubin	14	24 Edna Stone	26
3 Alan T. Hundert	5	13 Helen L. Levine	15	24 Edward Small	26
3 Arnold Rosenblatt	5	13 Leonard Kaplan	15	24 Florence Glass	26
3 Gertrude Sacks	5	13 Paula Bank Plaut	15	24 Marion J. Miller	26
3 Herman Holtzman	5	14 Arthur O. Varon	16	24 Maude M. Pollak	26
3 Leona F. Nathenson	5	14 Barbara Shapiro	16	24 Morris B. Seamon	26
3 Sylvia Steinberg	5	14 Bertha C. Radin	16	24 Morris Braude	26
4 Frank Harris	6	14 Joseph Rockman	16	24 Rita Eagen	26
4 Howard Greenberg	6	14 Karen Featherman	16	24 Sam Rothstein	26
4 Joseph Abramson	6	14 Tiba Michlosky	16	25 Joseph Bimberg	27
4 Mala Streimer	6	15 Ada Kantz	17	25 Lillian R. Etkind	27
4 Myer H. Friendly	6	15 Fay Levine	17	25 Rose Kaplan	27
5 Bernard Berman	7	15 George Nathenson	17	25 Rose Weinrauch	27
5 Helen Cohan	7	15 Harry Stone	17	26 Bertha Rosenfield	28
5 Malvina E. Gladke	7	15 Leon Braude	17	26 Herbert Friedman	28
5 Minette Salsburg	7	15 Mildred Schreiber	17	26 Irving Scherr	28
5 Rosa Wohl	7	15 Milton Aronowitz	17	26 Myer A. Miller	28
5 Samuel Nathan	7	16 Abe Chernosky	18	27 Jenny Kenner	29
6 Frances Komer Babbin	8	16 Freda Werner	18	27 Martha W. Spiegel	29
6 Harold Rinde	8	16 Joseph B. Solomon	18	27 Peter Kronenthal	29
6 Louis Lovitch	8	16 Leon Markson	18	27 Silas Henry	29
6 Norma Feinstein	8	17 Edith Ornstat	19		
6 Olga Barcus	8	17 Esther Gladke	19		
6 Rose Plitt	8	17 Gertrude Rosenwald	19		
6 Vivian Graubard	8	17 Joseph Spiegall	19		
7 Ruth Board	9	18 Abe W. Winston	20		
7 Solomon Golos	9	18 Inez Peterson	20		
8 Lillian Soodek	10	18 Sherry Miller	20		
9 Harry Shulman	11	19 Samuel Salsburg	21		
9 Morris Lebowitz	11	20 Harold Saffer	22		
9 Paula Kaplan	11	20 Leon Markson	22		
9 Saul Spiegel	11	20 Meta Spiegler	22		
10 Bertha Singer Prell	12	20 Nathan Knispel	22		
10 Charles Kahn	12	20 Oscar Shulman	22		
10 Jennifer Kawukiewicz-Rubin	12	21 Herman S. Schindler	23		
10 Meyer Sactor	12	21 Louis E. Stern	23		
11 Arthur Kaplan	13	21 Marion F. Glaser	23		
11 David Rosenfield	13	21 Pauline Silverman	23		
11 Gertrude Tatelbaum	13	22 Dorothy D'jappe Barcon	24		
12 Chet Fox	14	22 Eleanor Strumpf	24		
		23 Bernard M. Komer	25		

January	Shevat
28 Keith Miller	1
28 Laura M. Marlowe	1
28 Pauline Schulman	1
28 Sally Aronowitz	1
29 Bernard Steinman	2
29 Fay Robbins	2
29 Kathleen Golby	2
30 Barry Hyman	3
30 Virginia S. Friedman	3
30 Wilhelmina Friedman	3
31 David Snowiss	4
31 Jules Baim	4

Names of Confederate soldiers buried in Woodlawn Cemetery are now included in the list above.

In Memoriam

Our heartfelt condolences to Denise and David Kartzman and their family on the death of Denise's father, Carmine Nicastro, on Friday, November 4. *Zich'rono liv'racha*, may his memory be for a blessing.

Mazal Tov

To Sophie Kartzman on exceeding her goal for the Casimir "Cas" J. Krolak Holiday Card Drive, with 37,712 cards.

All information for the **February** issue of the *Kol Ami* must be submitted to one of the organizational offices by **January 10**. Please be sure that all dates are on the JCF calendar prior to the *Kol Ami* deadline.

Jewish Community School



from Director Jeff Rosenheck

It is hard to believe January is upon us and we are nearing the half way point of the 2016–17/5777 school year. Hanukkah is behind us, and as a school, we are looking forward to Tu Bishvat, and other spring holidays that will soon be here before we know it!

Recapping December events, I wish to thank the staff and parents for an outstanding Hanukkah party on December 18. From making edible dreidels to playing Texas No-Limit Dreidel, everyone who attended had a great time. A special thank you to David Siskin for making delicious latkes and Ron Freidman for the homemade applesauce for the event.

I also want to recognize 8th-grade student Sophie Kartzman who suc-

cessfully surpassed her goal for her Dream Big Sophie card project, receiving more than 35,000 to be sent to our military. Congratulations and Mazal Tov. We are all so proud of you!

A reminder that January online Hebrew classes will commence on January 5. Parents in grades 4–6, please make sure your children log onto the program at your designated time each week. If you can not attend, please let either Hebrew teacher Sophie Marmor or myself know. Sunday classes begin again January 8 at 9:00 a.m. There will be no school on January 15 for the MLK holiday weekend.

A reminder to parents about winter weather: there will be no cancellation of *Thursday* classes due to weather, as the course is virtual. Cancellation of

Sunday classes will be made on a case by case basis no later than 8:00 a.m. on the affected day. Parents will be notified via email as well as via auto dialer phone message. In the event a snow day is used, school will be in session on May 14 to make up the day. Please also remember to dress your children warmly for school in the event an emergency occurs during the school hours.

The January Tot Shabbat will be held on January 13. Additional information about the event to follow.

Thank you all for your continued support of the school. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Class News

Ganon/Gan Yeladim (Pre-K & K):

It seems like our school year is flying by! December was another short but busy month. We learned a lot about Hanukkah. We listened to the story of Hanukkah and learned several new vocabulary words. During the JCS Hanukkah celebration, we also were able to enjoy some of the foods that are traditionally served during the holiday. Yum!

We enjoy spending music time with Julian each week, singing songs we already know as well as learning new ones. Thanks! *Kathy Rosenheck*

Kitah Alef (Grade 1): The Alef class continues to study, learn, bake, sing, dance, and celebrate Judaism. So far this year, the students have learned many things. They have read stories which illustrated Jewish values, explored the sanctuary and learned about ritual objects and studied the Alef-Bet. Until next month,

Rivka Miran

Kitot Hay & Vav (Grades 5 & 6):

Shalom. In December the fifth grade continued in *Journey of a Lifetime: The Jewish Life Cycle Book*. After discussing the patriarchs and matriarchs, the meaning of covenant, symbol and ritual, we have examined in detail the *Brit Milah* (Covenant of the Circumcision) and the *Brit Bat* (Covenant of the Daughter). We did the activities of “Make a Brit” and “Our Brit With God.”

The sixth grade, after studying the High Holy Days from Rosh Hashanah through Simchat Torah, and Shabbat, began studying the text, *Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values*. Our first hero was Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, who is the example of Talmud Torah (the mitzvah of Jewish learning). In addition to reading the text, we looked at some short videos of his life and legend. The students were invited to use their imaginations (which they are eager to do even without invitation) to get in touch with what it would be like if they were actually there as the mitz-

vah was happening and what, if anything, they might have done differently. A lively discussion was had by all
Eileen Pollack

Tichon (High School): We are continuing to learn how to make a difference in our own lives, our families and our community. We have explored themes of making peace and love of Israel. The kids are not sure that is something they will ever see for Israel, however as a people we have eternal hope. Our sages have stressed the importance of Israel throughout the ages it is as relevant today as it was in the times of exile.
Amanda Sharp

Save the Date
**JCS Dinner &
Family Shabbat Service**
with students in grades 3–5
participating
Friday, February 3
Dinner at 6:30 PM / Service at 7:30

Early Bird Prize Drawings 2017 Cocktails & Knosh Affair

In appreciation for early ticket purchases, we will be drawing winners for the following prizes at the schedule below. Tickets purchased by the cutoff date are eligible for all drawings in subsequent dates. The sooner you purchase tickets the better your chance of winning!

SALES DATE CUTOFF

Friday, February 10
Friday, March 10
Friday, April 28

DRAWING DATE

Monday, February 13
Monday, March 13
Sunday, April 30
(at the Jewish Food Festival)

PRIZE

One Ticket to Cocktails & Knosh
\$50 Scrip (Gift Card) Voucher*
\$100 Scrip (Gift Card) Voucher*

*Gift Card Voucher is redeemable for a prepaid Congregation Kol Ami Scrip Order Form for dollar amount specified. Order will be fulfilled with next Congregation Kol Ami order.

Adult Education

Open to the entire community

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.: Breakfast and discussion—topic determined by the participants. A \$3 donation is requested. 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.

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.: Torah cantillation for beginners, with Paul Solyn. Requires some ability to pronounce printed Hebrew accurately. January 8, 15, and 22; February 12 and 26.

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.: "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – Historical Perspectives" with Rabbi Oren Steinitz. January 9, 23, and 30.

Valley Folk presents MLK weekend concert in Corning

Valley Folk Music will present Matt Watroba and the Rev. Robert Jones in a special concert of American Roots Music on Sunday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. The concert is at the First United Methodist Church, 144 Cedar Street, Corning (enter from First Street).

Robert Jones and Matt Watroba met over 20 years ago as radio DJ's in Detroit. They became musical partners and discovered a friendship based in mutual respect and a love for traditional American music, the music that matters. It is American Roots Music—folk, blues, spirituals, work songs—with themes that America and the world have in common. It is music that reflects history, social change, migration, hopes and dreams. The



music is rich, diverse, direct and powerful.

As talented as they are individually, Matt and Robert together form a musical synergy that is hard to describe, all with great fun and humor. Bring

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 January 5 and February 2. If you can help, 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.

the whole family and your neighbors, too. There will be plenty of opportunity to sing along on the chorus.

Admission is \$20 for adults, \$5 for disabled adults and students. Children age 14 and under are free with an adult.
—Debra Chesman

Jewish Community Calendar

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 No JCS</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 All Offices Closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Community Kitchen JCS Virtual Class</p>	<p>6 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>7 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service</p>
<p>8 JCS 9:00 am –12:15 pm</p> <p>JCF 10:30 am Torah Cantillation Class</p>	<p>9 CKA 7:00 pm Adult Ed: Israel-Palestine Conflict</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 CKA 12:00 noon Book Club</p>	<p>12 JCS Virtual Class</p>	<p>13 CKA 7:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Family Shabbat Service</p>	<p>14 CKA 9:00 am Torah Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Ruach Service</p>
<p>15 No JCS</p> <p>JCF 10:30 am Torah Cantillation Class</p> <p>Valley Folk 2:00 MLK & American Roots Concert</p>	<p>16 All Offices Closed</p> <p>Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p>17 JCF 6:30 pm Exec. Board 7:30 pm Board Mtg.</p>	<p>18 CKA (Tentative) 6:30 pm Exec. Board 7:30 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>19 JCS Virtual Class</p>	<p>20 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service</p>	<p>21 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service</p> <p>PJ Library 5:30 pm Havda- lah, Hot Dogs & Film</p>
<p>22 JCS 9:00 am –12:15 pm</p> <p>JCF 10:30 am Torah Cantillation Class</p> <p>JCF 3:00 pm Film "Metallic Blues"</p>	<p>23 CKA 7:00 pm Adult Ed: Israel-Palestine Conflict</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 JCS Virtual Class</p>	<p>27 CKA 7:30 pm Musical Shabbat Service</p>	<p>28 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service</p>
<p>29 JCS 9:00 am –12:15 pm</p>	<p>30 CKA 7:00 pm Adult Ed: Israel-Palestine Conflict</p>	<p>31</p>				

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