

# KOL קול עמי AMI

## Cocktails & Knosh Affair to feature live music

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

Last year we morphed our prior events, Kar Klub and Vacation Send-Off, into the Cocktails & Knosh Affair.

We took the best of both events to form this new community party.

We continue to award fifty ticket purchasers a split of the \$13,800 cash prize pool. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win any cash prize! We also have door prizes for attendees featuring hundreds of dollars of donated goods, services and gift cards as an added benefit of attending.

Last year we changed the drawing process to pull just 50 balls, which are then all winners. This live drawing takes place during music breaks so it does not affect the fun!

New for 2017 is live music provided by Backtrack, a local band consisting of Rich Lynough, Mick Collins, Jim Battisti & Mike Clark for listening and dancing. Our facility provides for a two-floor party, separating performance and dancing from food, seating and socialization, (but we will have bars on each floor!)

We invite you to purchase tickets and attend the Cocktails & Knosh Affair. The Affair features a hor d'oeuvres dinner, open bar and dessert buffet.

The Congregation Kol Ami's venue is perfect for enjoying a night out with friends and family! We welcome groups to make this their gathering and night out. Each \$100 ticket admits two adults. We will not sell more than 300 tickets. This year, first time attendees who attended the 2017 Jewish Food Festival can save \$10 by submitting their Food Festival ticket.

Mark your calendar for the second annual Cocktails & Knosh Affair. It will be held on Saturday, May 20, the week after Mother's day. Maybe share this event with Mom!

Please help make Cocktails & Knosh Affair the best Twin Tiers community event!

—Ron Friedman

### May 2017

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## Study program will usher in Shavuot

Congregation Kol Ami will begin the celebration of Shavuot on Tuesday, May 30, with a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a night-time study session. While some communities start a Shavuot *tikkun* very late and continue until dawn, ours will begin at 8:00 p.m. and end well before midnight.

It's customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, so the evening will start with cheese (and wine). Rabbi Steinitz will teach a unit on *gerei toshav* (see page 3), and I'll lead a session of Speed Midrash—a hybrid of a traditional *beit midrash* and Speed Dating. Other topics will be announced.

We'll break for an ice-cream sundae bar before the last unit. Don't worry if you're lactose-intolerant or allergic to dairy. There will be alternatives.

The Shavuot service will be the next morning, Wednesday, May 31, at 9:00 a.m., and will include Yizkor.

But why would we study at night on *erev Shavuot*? The classic answer is that our ancestors overslept on the day they were to receive the Torah, and so we make up for it (*tikkun*) by studying the Torah until dawn, or as late as we can.

—Paul Solyn

# Congregation Kol Ami – כל עמי



*from President Ed Braunstein*

Bring on the Heat! I am extremely pleased to announce that we have met our goal. What goal you might ask? Well, the installation of ductless AC/Heat in the offices, libraries, and small sanctuary, that's what. Thank you to the donors, committee members, and everyone involved with this project, we couldn't have done it without you! This summer should be a breeze and I dare Mother Nature to test us next winter, we will be ready. This vital addition will make the ability to enjoy our home, CKA, much more completely. Also, a personal thank you to Myra and Jerry Stemerman for their dedication. Without whom this project would never have come to fruition.

Now that we have achieved this wonderful goal it's time to start working towards the next one. Becoming a major priority, safety within our building is our next task. Jeff Rosenheck has piloted this program from the start by organizing meetings, guest

speakers and recommendations. Based on research the most obvious liability was recognized in the building use form and its lack of utilization. Using the building for a multitude of purposes isn't the issue, but not following proper protocol to ensure everyone's safety is. The building is meant to be used for prayer, education, fund raising, *mitzvot*, or anything else. The current form is being revised to include safe guards that have been recommended and decided on. This form has been protocol for any and all uses of the CKA building, but is now going to be reiterated and mandatory as we move forward. If you are not familiar with the forms they are available at the office. If you have not followed proper procedure unfortunately you will not be allowed to use the building. It is of the utmost importance that we know how many and where occupants are at any time. We haven't always enforced these

rules, but with arising circumstances out of our control we must take every precaution possible to ensure our communities safety. Becoming familiar with new habits and procedures isn't always easy, so please understand that the safety of our Jewish community is our main priority.

On a lighter note: the Second Night Seder event was an astounding success having been attended by a record setting 119 attendees. I anticipate the Jewish Food Festival to be well attended also. This is my last chance to ask everyone to help volunteer for Cocktails & Knosh on May 20th. Any help will be appreciated and utilized. This is the most important fund raiser of our fiscal year, buy a ticket... win big!

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather of spring.

From my family to yours,  
Shalom

## Shabbat Services

*except as noted below*

Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 PM	<i>Siddur Kol Ami</i>
Shabbat Morning Service	8:00 AM	<i>Siddur Kol Ami</i>
Shabbat Morning Service	9:00 AM	<i>Siddur Sim Shalom</i>

## Noteworthy Upcoming Religious Observances

### Friday, May 5

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

### Friday, May 12

Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 PM
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### Saturday, May 13

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

### Friday, May 26

Musical Shabbat Service	7:30 PM
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### Saturday, May 27

Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 AM
Reuven Gifeisman Bar Mitzvah	

### Wednesday, May 31

Shavuot Morning Service & Yizkor	9:00 AM
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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



If Passover is the most popular Jewish holiday, celebrated in one way or another by the vast majority of American Jews, then Shavu'ot must be the most forgotten one. One of the reason for this, I believe, is that unlike Passover's straightforward message about freedom, it is not entirely clear what Shavu'ot is really all about.

Besides celebrating the giving of the Torah at Sinai, the holiday also includes several seemingly unrelated themes, such as a commemoration of the wheat harvest, a traditional all-night study session, eating a plethora of rich dairy foods (a particularly frustrating custom for a nation that is so prone to lactose intolerance), and – perhaps the most perplexing custom of them all – the reading of the Book of Ruth.

Doctors often say that if there are multiple treatments for a particular condition, it means that there is no real cure at all. Similarly, the multiple explanations that Jewish tradition offers for tying the Book of Ruth to Shavu'ot, suggests that nobody really knows the original reason for this custom. Nevertheless, the beautiful story of Ruth prompts us to remember and acknowledge how immensely im-

portant those are who have joined the Jewish People of their own free will.

As those familiar with the story know, Ruth did not go through a conversion process in the same way contemporary Jews-by-choice do. She did not get a reading list from a rabbi, did not enroll in an Introduction to Judaism class, and certainly did not conclude the process with immersion in a mikveh in front of three witnesses! Ruth's choice to become Jewish was marked by her saying "your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."

Conversion to Judaism has been a hot topic for the last century or so. Different communities hold different standards for prospective converts, but almost all of them agree that conversion requires a serious commitment. But what about those who do not wish to make such a commitment, but still wish to be a part of the community? What about those who are a part of the Jewish community – those who are partners of Jews, or simply feel a connection and a commitment to Judaism – but have never formally converted for one reason or another? I would go so far as to say that most contemporary non-Orthodox Ameri-

can Jewish communities would not flourish without those who simply feel that "your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."

Over the past several years I have been fortunate enough to be a part of a project initiated by my teacher Rabbi Daniel Siegel, that seeks to celebrate, and formalize, the *Ger Toshav* – the non-Jewish member of the Jewish community. What kind of honors can such a person receive in the Synagogue? What are their responsibilities, and what restrictions – if any – apply to them? Can a Ger Toshav receive an *aliyah*? Can they lead a service? Obviously, different communities will have different answers and apply different standards.

This Shavu'ot evening, as part of our Tikkun Leil Shavu'ot study session, I will present parts of this project and raise some of the questions, problems and solutions we have encountered. In a community like ours, where Gerei Toshav constitute such a substantial – and important! – portion of the congregation, I believe this is a very relevant topic for all our members.

Hope to see many of you there!



### Bar Mitzvah

Please join the Gifeisman family on Saturday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. as Reuven Gifeisman is called to the Bimah as a Bar Mitzvah. You are cordially invited to join them for a luncheon following the service.

### Flowers for the Bimah

Let's make our Sanctuary a place of beauty and serenity, and honor or remember those whom we love and cherish.

Please phone Susan King for information.

### Weekly Torah/Haftarah Portions & Candle Lighting

<p><b>May 5–6</b> 7:53 PM <i>Achare-Kedoshim</i> Torah Leviticus 16:1–20:27 Pr. Amos 9:7–15</p>	<p><b>May 12–13</b> 8:00 PM <i>Emor</i> Torah Leviticus 21:1–24:23 Pr. Ezekiel 44:15–31</p>	<p><b>May 19–20</b> 8:08 PM <i>Behar–Bechukotai</i> Torah Leviticus 25:1–27:34 Pr. Jeremiah 16:19–17:14</p>	<p><b>May 26–27</b> 8:14 PM <i>Bamidbar</i> Torah Numbers 1:1–4:20 Pr. Hosea 2:1–22</p>
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## CKA Donations

### Flowers for the Bimah

- ✧ May 12: In honor of all my grandchildren by Sharon Birdsall
- ✧ May 19: In deep appreciation for the 16 excellent years of doing business with John & Liz Goldman by Joanne and John Travers.

### Congregational Education Fund

- ✧ Wishing Mindy Misnick a speedy recovery by Myra & Jerry Stemerman
- ✧ In memory of my grandparents, Louis Levine, Esther Malinowitz, and Lillian Levine by Linda Levine Fox

### General Fund

- ✧ With gratitude for the delicious hamentaschen for Purim by Sheila & Les Rachlin
- ✧ Special Birthday wishes to Ralph Obler, by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ Happy Birthday to Abe Golos by Anita & Lee Adelsberg
- ✧ In honor of the birth of Corinne Blumenstein's grandson, Aryeh, by Margo Golos
- ✧ In honor of the 50th anniversary of Jim & Faith Gray by Gloria Berkowitz, Edie & Mike
- ✧ In honor of the anniversary of Bar Mitzvah of Abraham Golos by Suzanne & Tom Hesselson
- ✧ In honor of the holiday Passover by Morton Sadinsky
- ✧ Mazal tov to Myra & Jerry Stemerman on the birth of their granddaughter, Harper Avery Stemerman by Carole Hoffman
- ✧ In memory of "Bubbi" Rebecca Kantrowitz by Obler Family
- ✧ In memory of Julius Shapero by Carole Shapero Hoffman
- ✧ In memory of Ruth (Chanee) Golos by Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Dorothy Jacobson's sister, Sara, from Margo Golos
- ✧ In memory of Jeff Etkind by Susan Sausmer

*In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter:*

- ✧ Floriett Herman
- ✧ Ellen Wohl
- ✧ Anita & Lee Adelsberg

### Jerome & Etkind Library Fund

- ✧ In memory of David Horwitz by Leon Horwitz
- ✧ In memory of Sam Gimble by Leon Horwitz

### Joseph Stein Endowment Fund

- ✧ In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter by Cynthia & John Massey
- ✧ In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Paul & Phyllis Shore by Steve Glantz

### Kate Stein Music Fund

- ✧ In memory of Leah Stryzinski by Beth Wladis
- ✧ In memory of Marian Wladis by Beth Wladis
- ✧ In memory of Rebecca Wladis by Beth Wladis

### Prayer Book Fund

- ✧ In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter by Carole Hoffman

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ✧ Get well wishes to Steven Greenberg by Hilde & Herb Robbins
- ✧ Thank you to all who worked on the Purim Project and the greetings sent to us by David & Doris Siskin
- ✧ Congratulations on the 60th anniversary of Dr. & Mrs. Paul Shore by Loda & Abe Golos

- ✧ In memory of mother, Rose Obler, by Obler Family
- ✧ In memory of Ernest Rosenwald by Leonard Schreiber
- ✧ In memory of Benjamin Halperin by The Halperin Family
- ✧ In memory of Josephine R. Graubard by Hon & Mrs. Sidney S. Graubard
- ✧ In memory of Sigmund R. Graubard

*In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter:*

- ✧ Myra & Jerry Stemerman
- ✧ Sheila & Les Rachlin
- ✧ Hilde & Herb Robbins
- ✧ Mr. & Mrs. Galer Perreault

### Air Conditioning Fund

- ✧ Marsha Stemerman
- In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter:*
- ✧ Marsha Stemerman
- ✧ Stuart & Judy Komer
- ✧ Mary H. Fehlner
- ✧ Charlotte & Marcus Kantz
- ✧ Shari & Doug Reynolds
- ✧ Mindy & Nick Misnick
- ✧ Jerry & Myra Stemerman
- ✧ Ed & Carol Braunstein

### Sisterhood Kitchen Fund

- ✧ Proud of Emily Dobbs's induction into the National Technical Honor Society by Ina & Mike Kushnir
- ✧ In memory of Mary Ellen Hunter by Ina & Mike Kushnir

## 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.

# Yahrzeits

May	Iyar				
1 Herman Warshaw	5	9 Garrison Shulman	13	18 Joseph Hoffman	22
1 Irving Winkelstein	5	9 Louis Goldfarb	13	18 Margaret Rubin	22
1 Sam Neustadt	5	9 Minnie Lavine	13	18 Samuel Levine	22
1 Samuel Nathenson	5	9 Paul Saffer	13	18 Sarah M. Levy	22
2 Alex Baker	6	9 Paul Sall	13	19 Fanny Paltrowitz	23
2 Anne Werner	6	10 Bertha M. Aranow	14	19 Irene Kahn	23
2 Harry Simons	6	10 Bertha Sittenfield	14	19 Jacob Kaplan	23
2 Mrs. Issac Rosenberg	6	10 Cecile Fuchs	14	20 Adelaide Cooperman	24
2 Jeanette Schwartz	6	10 Cecile Samuels	14	20 Celia Golos	24
2 Rabbi Mordachi Simckes	6	10 Eleanor Berman	14	20 Frank Sweet	24
3 Anna Aronson	7	10 Irving Froman	14	20 Joann C. Walton	24
3 Frances Siskin	7	10 Leonard Berliss	14	20 Macey Kantz	24
3 Harry F. Markson	7	10 LeRoy Stein	14	21 Benjamin Brown	25
3 Hyman Scherr	7	10 Ralph A. Messing	14	21 Bernice Weinstock	25
3 Isadore Fidelman	7	10 Robert Baker	14	21 Esther Kahn Platt	25
3 Rachel Frucht	7	10 Sara G. Friendly	14	21 Irving G. Brownstein	25
3 Sara Golos	7	11 Jennie Scherr	15	21 Julius Epstein	25
3 Shirley Lenhardt	7	11 Mollie Burtnick	15	21 Ruth Winnick	25
4 Ella Jerome	8	11 Morris Shulman	15	21 Stella Gale	25
4 Joseph Aaron Glaser	8	12 Alexander G. Grasberg	16	21 Sylvia Friedman Etkind	25
4 Rachel Frank	8	12 Gertrude Metz	16	21 Zelda O. Horwitz	25
4 Sara Stemerman	8	12 Helen Jerome	16	22 Anna I. Epstein	26
5 Benjamin Jerome	9	12 Leo Loeb	16	22 Braina Etkind	26
5 Charles J. Shreibman	9	12 Max Semel	16	22 Lee Schwartz	26
5 Elizabeth H. Robbins	9	12 Solomon Block	16	22 Margaret "Peggy" Rubin	26
5 Esther R. Rizika	9	13 Alex Rabinowitz	17	22 Muriel Appel	26
5 Eva Stern	9	13 Benjamin Levy	17	22 Paul Bucholtz	26
5 Henry Hudson Weinstein	9	13 Esther Rosenfield	17	23 Charlotte Magnet	27
5 Max Weisenfeld	9	13 Kate P. Jacobs	17	23 Maurice Stemerman	27
5 Sarah Freudenheim	9	13 Les Bowman	17	23 Samuel Stemerman	27
6 Betty Stemerman	10	13 Nathan Rizika	17	24 Carl Hobalt	28
6 D. Robert Baker	10	13 Tina Rubin	17	24 Catherine G. Berry	28
6 Donald Waxman	10	14 Alexander Winkelstein	18	24 Elsa Bloch	28
6 Donald Webber	10	14 Bertha D. Wladis	18	24 Fredric A. Weiss	28
6 Edward Chesler	10	14 Brana Nathenson	18	24 Herman Rubin	28
6 Jessie Hample	10	14 Isadore Ugelow	18	24 Mary Desky	28
6 Leonard Miller	10	14 Mary Levine	18	24 Norbert Friedman	28
6 Louis Barkus	10	14 Sidney Cimmet	18	25 Albert Zeman	29
6 Mary Golos	10	14 Solomon Sittenfield	18	25 Benjamin Frank	29
6 Minnie Marcus	10	15 Ada Kaminsky	19	25 Bernard Etkind	29
6 Mollie Donowetsky	10	15 Lillian Simckes	19	25 Gertrude Eagle	29
6 Robert Koob	10	15 Mamie Slohm	19	25 Meredith Moore	29
6 Sylvia Kaufman	10	15 Milton Hample	19	25 Pauline Rinde	29
7 Carrie Bimberg	11	15 Samuel A. Kahn	19	25 Rose Schoonover	29
7 Harry W. Freudenheim	11	16 Charles Charlap	20		
7 Jennie "Jane" Miller	11	16 Leon Solomon	20	<b>May</b>	<b>Sivan</b>
7 Rae Goodman	11	16 Maurice H. Goodman	20	26 Getrude Tatelbloom	1
8 Esther Kaminsky	12	16 Robert E. Worth	20	26 Irving Werner	1
8 Lena Levine	12	17 Faye Raskin	21	26 Shirley Halperin	1
9 Anthony Burtnick	13	17 Harry Meltzer	21	27 Augusta Lowenstein	2
9 Benjamin Chaitt	13	17 Joseph Turoff	21	27 Jacob Webber	2
9 Carl Peterson	13	17 June Klurman	21	27 Rubin Jacobson	2
9 David Kaminsky	13	17 Marvin Golos	21	28 Barbara Rosenberg	3
9 Elizabeth L Oppenheim	13	17 Max Platt	21	28 Morris Dobromil	3
9 Eric Elton	13	17 Rebecca Stemerman	21	28 Philip Gerard	3
		18 Belle Gumbinsky	22		

*continued*

# Jewish Center and Federation



*from President Marcus Kantz*

Recently at services Rabbi Steinitz was talking about what is really important to do if you aren't going to do "everything." Of course, he was talking about the various levels of Jewish observance, all the way from the sacrifice of animals down to, well, just admitting to yourself that maybe you're Jewish. But it got me thinking about what is important for each of us to do with regard to the Jewish institutions with which we are associated and the building that forms the center of those institutions' physical lives. And that, in turn got me to thinking about what I ought to be doing as a CKA Board Member and as the President of JCF. I have decided that, for right now, for me, it is to help solidify our collective approach to improving building security.

As you are probably aware, we are working hard to beef up our equipment, procedures, training and practices to make us more effective (and efficient) in thwarting and, if necessary, responding to threats, warnings, intrusions, and disasters. As you have been, and will be hearing in the near future, we are:

- purchasing and installing a variety of detection and warning devices,
- developing and implementing procedures for utilizing them,
- coordinating with the authorities and
- instructing and training our staff and the community.

But what about our day-to-day use of the building? Based on pure logic

and our recent experiences in the building, it is clear that our current procedures and our implementation of them are not sufficient for best ensuring the safekeeping of the building and the safety and wellbeing of those who work and play and pray here. I'm talking about our routine and perfectly appropriate use of the building, including all manner of classes, meetings, meals, cleanups, setups, events, parties, yoga, mourning, prayers, playing, and just hanging around.

We need to have a much better handle on who is in the building and, more importantly, who is responsible for them and the building – at all times. You all know that we have for years been utilizing a Building Use Form, or BUE, for this purpose. But the BUF is seldom actually used, and is often treated rather casually. More importantly, the form itself does not adequately cover what we now perceive to be essential, namely who is really responsible for the safety and security of the building and its occupants at the time. Thus, we are updating the form in very significant ways.

You will learn the details of this in separate mailings, and probably in meetings and the like. But what I'm taking as my responsibility here is to impress on you all how important this new BUF is. It is not just bookkeeping to make sure you have first dibs on the Library on Tuesday at noon, though it is still certainly that. The BUF is now the way for the person in charge of any specific activity planned for the building to certify that she or

he understands and accepts all of the responsibilities that entails and has the explicit commitment of the person identified on the form to fulfill them.

This sounds ominous, and it is. But it is not in any way overwhelming. And, in short order, it will become the natural way of things. Just like it is when you leave your office, house, or apartment: you make sure the lights are out, the stove is off, the doors and windows are secured and, if you have one, the alarm is armed. Of course, with a building as large as ours, it may take a little longer, but that's just the way it is. The one additional factor that arises with our building, is that there may be other people in the building whom you've lost track of or forgotten – in the bathroom, or upstairs, or downstairs, or in the elevator, or wherever, who need to leave with you.

Thus, my bottom line here is to make sure you all understand that this new BUF, just like the new cameras and lights and bullhorns, is real, is in all of our best interest, and must be taken very seriously. It is not to be afraid of or angry at. It is in part a product of our times, but also common sense. And it is all of our responsibility. It is one thing we all ought to be doing for our personal well-being, and for our Twin Tiers Jewish community. I look forward to assisting in any way I can as we all try to do our best.

Shalom

## Yahrzeits

29 Max Jerome	4	31 Celia Rosencranz	6
29 Rosalie Johnson	4	31 Morris Barash	6
29 Samuel Givertzman	4	31 Morris Ratner	6
30 Julia Hereng	5	31 Stanley Weisenfeld	6
30 Sylvia Margolis	5		
31 Bessie Fischman	6		
31 Carol Albert	6		
31 Celia Rosenbloom	6		

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

**Memorial Classroom  
Dedication and  
Reception  
in Memory of  
Friend and Educator  
Jeffrey W. Etkind**

**May 7, 2017  
12:00 Noon**

from Executive Director Paul Solyn



In an interfaith presentation last month, I inadvertently misrepresented the status of children of a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother. Responding to a question about how one comes to be a Jew, I replied that the children of Jewish mothers are automatically considered Jewish, along with all those who formally convert to Judaism.

This is true as far as it goes, but Congregation Kol Ami—along with the Reform and Reconstructionist movements—also holds that the child of a Jewish father, if she or he receives Jewish education in childhood and publicly identifies with Judaism at or after the age of 13, is also Jewish. Although this is the position of a large segment of organized Judaism in the United States, it's not (yet, at least) the view of Conservative or Orthodox Judaism.

Although this is often called "patrilineal descent," the original policy of the Reform movement was "equilineal descent." It would have required Jewish education and identification also for the child of a Jewish mother and non-Jewish father.

Most rabbis, however, recommend the formal conversion, in infancy, of a

child of a non-Jewish mother if both parents want the child to be Jewish. Since an infant doesn't have to take conversion classes or be interviewed by a *bet din*, this is a relatively quick process.

There are also many individuals who are active in Jewish communal life without being, or wanting to be, religiously Jewish. Anyone can volunteer in a community project of the JCF or CKA, and we have had non-Jewish volunteers for both the Jewish Food Festival and "Jewish day" at the Community Kitchen.

Furthermore, the Jewish Center & Federation is a secular organization, and non-Jews can both become members and hold any office, including that of president. In Congregation Kol Ami, non-Jews in family memberships can hold office and have many roles in services.

Some rabbis have suggested that there be specific recognition of non-Jews who become active participants in Jewish life. In ancient Israel, where religion and nationality were all but identical, there was, in fact, the recognized status of *ger toshav*, roughly equivalent to a permanent resident in the United States or a landed immi-

grant in Canada.

A *ger toshav* was expected to abandon the worship of idols and to follow six other laws that Judaism believes apply to all humans. In return, the *ger toshav* received civil rights but not full religious rights, although he or she could voluntarily offer sacrifices, the main form of religious expression in the Torah.

Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan proposed in 1956 that the status of *ger toshav* be reinstated for those who choose to be long-term participants, without conversion, in Jewish life. Since then, a few rabbis have created ceremonies and certificates for recognizing these individuals.

One such rabbi is Rabbi Geela Rayzel Raphael, whose husband, Reb Simcha Raphael, was our Scholar in Residence in November. She writes, "This solution is an attempt to clarify the status of those who love and support us and join our communal ranks."

I am not sure that a ceremony or a certificate is appropriate, or that everyone who might be eligible would welcome one. It is, however, undeniable that non-Jews are part of the contemporary Jewish community, and we should be grateful for it.

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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

## Community Safety and Security Meeting

*Personal Safety and Threat Assessments*

With West Elmira Police

**Sunday, May 21, at 12:15 PM**

Braunstein Community Room

Free of Charge

# Film depicts resistance heroine

*Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* deals with a heroine of resistance to the Nazi regime in Germany. Sophie Scholl and her brother were part of a small group of university students in Munich who wrote and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets until they were arrested in 1943.

One of three films made in Germany about their group, called *The White Rose*, it draws on documents not available for the earlier films. The emphasis, however, is not on *The White Rose* itself, but on Sophie's transformation as she chooses to defy a prosecutor who, although a fervent Nazi, comes to respect her. Her last words resonate throughout history, from Communist totalitarianism to contemporary America:

*How can we expect righteousness to prevail when there is hardly anyone willing to give himself up individual-*



*ly to a righteous cause? Such a fine, sunny day, and I have to go, but what does my death matter, if through us, thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?*

The film is in German with English subtitles. We'll see it on Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free.

# Anniversaries

3 Larry & Kathy Cohen  
26 Polly & Andy Filson

## 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 May 4 and June 1. 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.

## Birthdays

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mort Sadinsky         | 18 Janice Weisenfeld   |
| 3 Suzanne Hesselson     | 19 Joshua Kartzman     |
| 6 John Kadar            | 19 Marni Schofield     |
| 6 Zachary Sporn         | 20 Michael Goldman     |
| 8 Ilene Friedman Bailey | 21 Geoffrey Rubin      |
| 8 Matthew Kartzman      | 21 Gregory Rubin       |
| 10 Eileen Pollack       | 21 Jacob Douenias      |
| 12 Sophie Kartzman      | 22 Peter Thomas Kadar  |
| 13 Lauren Nast          | 24 Nichole Cohen       |
| 13 Marcia Lenhardt      | 24 Heidi Savin         |
| 14 Becky Cohen          | 26 Brandon Herbst      |
| 14 Jeffrey Dann         | 28 Daniel Hawtof       |
| 15 Gloria Baker         | 29 Jared Katz          |
| 15 Harriet Sweet        | 29 Jaclyn Nast         |
| 18 Martin Hempstead     | 29 Pam Miller          |
| 18 Ryan Isaac Hirshman  | 30 Nora Rachlin Viskin |
| 18 Phyllis Shore        |                        |

## Parents of Upcoming Graduates from High School and College

If you would like your son's or daughter's graduation to be listed in the *Kol Ami* for the June issue, please send the following information by May 6 to the office at [office@kolamielmira.org](mailto:office@kolamielmira.org) or bring in:

- Picture
- Student's name
- Your name
- Where graduating from
- Where continuing school or going to work.

## CKA Book Club 2017

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

Our next meetings will be

**May 10**

*The Undoing Project*  
by Michael Lewis

**June 14**

*The Last Jew*  
by Noah Gordon

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

# Jewish Community School



from Director Jeff Rosenheck

It is hard to believe that we are only four classes away from the end of the 2016–17 Jewish Community School year. It has been an amazing year and the staff are already preparing some exciting and interactive changes for next school year that will be announced very soon.

I would like to welcome Teddy and Bjorn Suarez and Mathias Goldwater to the school. We are excited to have all three! What a fantastic addition.

During the month of April, students in grades Pre-K through 2 enjoyed a

model Passover Seder, while all students had the opportunity to learn about Klezmer music at an April 30 presentation. Students also paid tribute to Holocaust victims at a brief Yom Hashoah service on April 23.

On May 7, the entire community is invited for a brief memorial for our beloved friend and educator, Jeff Etkind. A classroom dedication and a brief service and social gathering in Jeff's memory will be held at noon.

In an effort to ensure safety and security of our students and commu-

nity, the West Elmira Police Department will be hosting a free community meeting on May 21 at 12:15 to address personal protection and threat identification. All members of the Jewish community are strongly encouraged to attend.

There will be no school on May 14 in honor of Mother's Day or on May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

I thank the community for their continued support of the Jewish Community School and welcome questions at any time to [jrosenheck14@aol.com](mailto:jrosenheck14@aol.com).

## Class News

**Kitot Alef (Grade 1):** After the Pesach break, the Alef class resumed work in *Jewish Values from Alef to Tav* and continued worked on learning the Alef-Bet. In addition, the students have had the opportunity to sing and learn new songs with Julian Thornton; hear Jewish children's stories read by Rosie Hoffman; explore the arts by drawing, working with clay, and making a Seder plate and a mobile for Shabbat. Every class, we have free time for the students to get to know each other and become friends. It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Wishing everyone a wonderful Spring, *Rivka Miran*

**Kitot Dalet & Hay (Grades 4 & 5):** In both Kitah Dalet and Kitah Hay, we have been retelling and discussing the story of Passover. The students never seem to tire of hearing about this amazing part of our history. It exemplifies so many incredible attributes of our people—courage, fortitude, determination, perseverance, hopefulness, and, of course, love and concern for each other. In Kitah Dalet, we have been continuing our journey through Israel as we read *Welcome to Israel* and *Passport to Israel*. We have also been labeling the places we "visit" on large maps of Israel. In *Jewish Values in Genesis*, we have been reading about Abra-

ham and Sarah going to Canaan and how this story inspires us to have the faith to take risks and to make changes in our lives. In Kitah Hay, we are following the lives and paths of the Jewish immigrants coming to America. We have been learning about the hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants coming from Eastern Europe, many settling in New York City's lower east side. Eventually, as overcrowding occurred in New York, we follow their journeys as they move across the country to new locations.

*Donna Rothenberg*

**Kitot Hay & Vav (Grades 5 & 6):** The 5th graders began to study marriage, in particular what is different about a Jewish wedding. We discussed the Chupah, the Ketuba, and breaking of the glass.

The 6th grade, after a fabulous bulletin board in March depicting Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values, studied the story of Anne Frank and the value of hope. We also discussed Passover, the Seder, and the counting of the omer. We then studied Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and connected it with the conclusion of the study of Anne Frank. Of course the Jewish Food Festival was a good time had by all. *Eileen Pollack*

**Grades 7 & 8:** Each us is taught as a Jew to make a difference every day. Our goal is learn why do we believe this? Why is something written thousand of years ago still relevant today? If the text seems obsolete is there modern day equivalents. Torah teaches: Don't light a fire on Shabbat. So what does that mean with electricity and cooking in an oven and why don't Jews drive on Shabbat based on this *mitzvah*? When is it just a custom not to do something? This leads to some fiery discussions. Thinking with a Jewish mindset a wondrous thing.

*Amanda Sharp*

**Hebrew:** This month, we're taking time to learn about Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day). We're reading simple Hebrew poems about the modern state of Israel as well as listening to some classic Israeli folk-songs. As always, students are encouraged to review Hebrew daily. Parents should feel free to contact me should they have any questions or concerns.

*Sophie Marmor*

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

SECOND ANNUAL  
COCKTAILS & KNOSH  
AFFAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 20  
6:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Congregation Kol Ami, 1008 West Water St., Elmira, NY 14905

*An Evening Of*  
**Fabulous Food    Delicious Desserts**  
**Live Music & Dancing    Open Bar**

**\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE**

*\$13,800 Prize Pool – 50 Winning Tickets Drawn*

Your presence is not required to win cash prizes, but we hope you join the party! A maximum of 300 tickets will be sold. Multiple tickets may be purchased to increase your chances.

**Ticket price is still only \$100 and admits TWO ADULTS.**  
**To purchase tickets call 607-734-7735**  
**or visit the CKA Office.**

# Jewish Community Calendar

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Yom HaZikaron	2 Yom Ha'Atzmaut	3	4 Community Kitchen JCS Virtual Class	5 CKA 7:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Family Shabbat Service	6 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service
7 JCS 9:00 am–12:15 pm 12:00 Dedication of J. Etkind plaque	8	9	10 CKA 12:00 noon Book Club	11 JCS Virtual Class JCS 7:00 pm Film <i>Sophie Scholl</i>	12 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	13 CKA 9:00 am Torah Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Ruach
14 Mother's Day No JCS  Lag ba'Omer	15	16 JCF 7:00 pm Exec. Board 7:30 pm Board Mtg.	17 CKA 6:30 pm Exec. Board 7:30 pm Board Meeting	18 JCS Virtual Class	19 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	20 CKA 8:00 am Shabbat Service 9:00 am Shabbat Service 6:30–10:00 pm Cock- tails & Knosh Affair
21 JCS 9:00 am–12:15 pm	22	23	24	25 No JCS Virtual Class	26 CKA 7:30 pm Musical Shabbat Service	27 CKA 10:00 am Shabbat Service Reuven Giseisman Bar Mitzvah
28 No JCS	29 All Offices Closed  Memorial Day	30 CKA 8:00 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot	31 All Offices Closed  CKA 9:00 am Shavuot Service & Yizkor  Shavuot			

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