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Shalom



THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF REFORM CONGREGATION KENESETH ISRAEL & THE MEYERS LIBRARY



Celebration 2024

*Honoring
Cantor Amy Levy
for 20 years at KI*

*See page 9 for information about
the Community Purim Carnival and
page 13 for the Passover Seder!*

President's Message



Andrew Altman,
President

Creating Tomorrow Together

Being president of an organization as robust and vibrant as Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel can be a full-time job. When I started my presidency eighteen months ago, I was teaching and knew that I would need to prioritize what I wanted to do with my time. My professional and volunteer background in the nonprofit sector taught me that governance is all about focusing on big-picture and long-term initiatives and policies. Another way of looking at this is “mission and money,” and by any name, that’s where my attention is still pointed.

While planning to revise KI’s bylaws over the next many months, update our communications strategies and tools, and address the structural deficit I’ve previously written about, it’s becoming clear to me that building both revenue and community need to be our dual and interconnected priorities.

Based on the three Revenue Summits we held last year, we’ve created several new initiatives to build new revenue streams while building the community that congregants rightfully expect and want at KI.

If you would like to join any of these nascent efforts, please let me know and I’ll

connect you with the right people.

- Enhance KI’s website
- Develop a farmers market
- Develop a plan for our space
- Create adult community center/day care
- Enhance KI’s community center activities infrastructure
- Build **KI**tchen programming
- Organize a skillset of members database
- Sell KI swag
- Send welcome packet to new neighbors

In addition, I’ve started a Strategic Opportunities group and Entrepreneurs team to advise leadership on how to best move forward in an ever-changing environment in the regional Jewish community. We are taking steps to strengthen our collaborations, add tenants to our space that add vitality to our congregation, create smart merger opportunities, and build on our assets to strengthen both KI and our surrounding communities.

I’d love to hear your thoughts on how KI can best meet the challenges we face.

I believe we truly are creating tomorrow together.



Rabbis Sandy and Dennis Sasso Scholar-in-Residence Weekend May 17 and 18, 2024

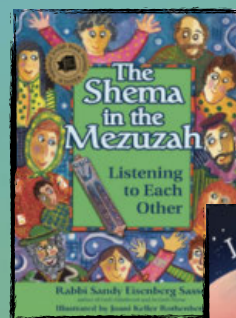
WEEKEND SCHEDULE:

Friday, May 17, 2024

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Tot Shabbat**
Rabbi Sandy Sasso’s books will be available for sale.
- 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service**
Rabbi Sandy Sasso will reflect on growing up at KI and her decision to become a rabbi and the significance of this 50th anniversary of ordination.

Saturday, May 18, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service**
Rabbis Sandy and Dennis Sasso will lead Torah Study, in person at KI.
- 7:00 p.m. Study Session**
A Conversation on Antisemitism, led by Rabbis Sandy and Dennis Sasso followed by Havdalah. Hosted at the home of Caryl and Mike Levin. Light refreshments.
RSVP to Pam@KenesethIsrael.org by May 10.



Weekend Events Sponsored by the Rabbi Simeon J. Maslin Distinguished KI Speakers Fund

Be Who You Are

As I write these words, Israel remains at a crossroads. On the one hand, terrorists continue to try to destroy our people and all that we stand for as a community. On the other hand, our heart hurts as we learn about the unprecedented loss of life in Gaza. This war has been so painful for so many. We are up against misunderstanding, up against antisemitism, up against intolerance, up against world opinion, fighting amongst ourselves and against so many outside forces. As Jews we must be able to defend ourselves and yet, as Jews, we must not let go of our enduring commitment to compassion and right action. This is our plight; this is our dilemma.

In truth, it's never been easy to be a Jew. Too many generations to count have faced vitriol and hate. Our grandparents. Their grandparents. In Eastern Europe. In the furthest reaches of Russia. In Spain and northern Africa. Throughout the Middle East. And now, shockingly, in suburban America, across college campuses, even in the halls of congress.

Two upcoming holidays highlight the fact that our story has often been one of pain. Esther and Mordechai faced the evil machinations of Haman, who sought the end of the Jewish community of Shushan. Esther spoke up. She spoke out. She demanded justice. Moses and the Jews of his day encountered a tyrannical Pharaoh, who feared us and our sense of otherness. Moses will finally put his staff in the sand and say "enough." He will famously demand, "let my people go." In both stories, we managed to rise above hate and hatefulness and managed to not only survive but come away more committed to our ideals and our values.

Purim and Passover have us learn from those who were bent on bigotry and celebrate the faithfulness of our ancestors, even in the face of such strife. Both stories show that hate only begets hate; intolerance only leads to greater intolerance. Moses and Esther are heroes in part

because of their willingness to stand up for themselves and their people. The message to us and our kids is clear: Be proud of who you are. Do not shy away from your identity, especially in times of uncertainty. Wear your star. Hang your mezuzah. Eat your challah. Wave your Israeli flag. Shake your gragger!

I am so proud that KI is a place that embodies acceptance and inclusion. We love our kids and teens and families for exactly who they are. It doesn't matter what you look like or where you come from or what you believe or how you see the world. At a time that can feel scary and unsettling, KI is where we can be our best selves, our truest selves. As we approach these important and upbeat spring holidays, come be with us! Let your soul be nourished

and your cup filled.

May our world know peace very soon. And may we all be blessed with health and happiness. Amen.

At a time that can feel scary and unsettling, KI is where we can be our best selves, our truest selves.

Rabbi's Message



Rabbi Benjamin David

SHABBAT ILLUMINATED

COME AS YOU ARE!
GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF SHABBAT
THROUGH UPLIFTING MUSIC AND THE WARMTH OF COMMUNITY

FRIDAY: MARCH 29, 2024

Cantor's Message



Cantor
Amy E. Levy

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I share with you the celebration of my 20 wonderful years at our beloved synagogue. The journey has been filled with learning, shared life cycles, holidays, events, and the warmth of our community.

To mark this special occasion, we invite you to join us on Friday, April 12, for an extraordinary Broadway Shabbat. The evening will be adorned with the enchanting melodies of Broadway classics, including "Sabbath Prayer," "For Good," and "When You Believe." Joining me on this musical journey are two remarkable individuals—DJ Fortine, a Confirmation student in May 2007, and son of our member Lise Schwartz; and Sierra Fox, a former KI choir singer currently on the path to becoming a cantor.

Our Religious School students from JQuest and Quest Noar, along with our talented professional and volunteer Adult Choir, Shir KI, will unite their voices in harmony for this special occasion. Together, we will weave a musical

tapestry that reflects on the blessings and shared moments that have enriched our lives throughout these 20 years.

I am so grateful to our Spring Celebration chairs, Ellen Segalow and Sharon Rhodes, and the Spring Celebration Committee for all of their hard work in bringing a year of celebration. I am so thankful, as always, to my music team: Hazzan David Tilman, Andrew Senn, Irina Bakis, Lee Slobotkin, Alyssa Davidson, Shir KI, Hazak and the Levites for making music at KI so sacred and beautiful ALL the time. And to my KI co-workers, every day working with you is a blessing!

As we come together to celebrate, let us revel in the power of music, community, and the lasting connections that have defined our time together at KI. Join us for a night of joy, reflection, and the shared spirit that makes our synagogue truly special.

Looking forward to celebrating with you on this Broadway Shabbat!

Rosh Chodesh Adar II

A WOMAN'S PLACE TEXT STUDY

INVESTIGATE OUR
BIBLICAL/CULTURAL PAST AND PRESENT



All Welcome!

Monday, March 11 @ 2:00 p.m. in the Library
Malignant Fraternities in the House of David: Part I

The Kitchen

Membership



Jaimie Abt
Shmelzer,
Membership
Engagement
Director

Let's Celebrate!

Every year I write about how I love when our community comes together for the Spring Celebration. This year, we have had the good fortune to have had a calendar full of events honoring and celebrating Cantor Amy E. Levy for her 20 years of devotion to KI.

We started the year with a great event where we collected supplies and money for Champions for Cheltenham, and also had some fun playing games and eating treats. This year Cantor Amy created a new worship experience for us called Shabbat Illuminated. We had a few of these special services and had amazing congregational Shabbat dinners prior to two of them. Cantor Amy also spearheaded the cleanup of our kitchen and started a new **KI**tchen series offering opportunities to gather for discussions, learning, cooking, and more. We are starting to see the **KI**tchen as a sacred space. There was also a family activity called, "Bet On It," where everyone got to participate in fun, silly games. Hopefully you have been able to attend some of these events.

Of course I would be remiss if I did not tell you how excited I am for the Spring Celebration Weekend itself! The weekend will actually start a week early for Top Sponsors on Thursday, April 4 at the home of our members, Brad and Julie Copeland. The evening will include wine tasting, food, and music. The celebration weekend kicks off Friday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. with a New York Deli-themed Shabbat dinner followed by a Broadway Shabbat service and tribute to Cantor Amy at 7:00 p.m. Of course, the evening will end with a festive oneg. On Saturday, April 13 we will have a "Dancing Through the Decades Party" with cocktails, dinner, dessert, dancing, and a few surprises! These are events you will not want to miss.

The Spring Celebration is our biggest fundraiser of the year. You can show your support for KI (and for Cantor Amy) by being a sponsor, contributing to the Tribute Journal, and/or attending the events. All of the information is in your invitation and on our website. I hope to celebrate with you in April!

KI Men United (KIMU)

SEARCHING FOR INAUGURAL MEMBERS — CONTACT LEE CHUDZINSKI — ALT.CHUD@OUTLOOK.COM

Are you looking to help build community at KI?

Do you seek to build a professional network at KI?

Do you want to develop social activities for families at KI?

Do you want to harness the capacity of the men of KI to help keep our synagogue relevant for our families and KI members into the future?

IF YES, LET'S GET EMPOWERED WITH NEW IDEAS TOGETHER!



Religious School News



Deborah Rosen,
Education
Director

We had a busy winter at JQuest (Grades K–6) and Quest Noar (Grades 7–10) filled with community, learning and fun!

We had an impactful Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Learning and Service! Our students participated in several service projects partnering with KI's Social Action Committee and AADD (Association for Adults with Development Disabilities). Our older students participated in an inspiring learning session from KI's Social Justice Committee.

We are also partnering with the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center (HAMEC) to facilitate Holocaust learning for our all our older students. Our teens participated in a HAMEC session on Babi Yar, the site of one of the largest mass shootings of Jews in German-occupied Europe. Our 6th Grade students are learning hands on at HAMEC; exploring artifacts and preparing how to educate others about the Holocaust.

Our students also learn from each other. We are so fortunate to have over 20 teen *madrichim* (student teachers) at Sunday JQuest. These teens run a popular "Hebrew Boot Camp" where they tutor younger JQuest students in Hebrew decoding and prayer. Our teens also participate

in Tefillah services and classes serving as role models for our younger students.

Our 10th Grade confirmation class had the trip of a lifetime in Washington D.C. attending the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar! Our teens learned about public policy issues and explored the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues. Highlights from the trip included *havdalah* at the Jefferson Memorial, visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, presenting their persuasive and passionate speeches on Antisemitism, Israel, Gun Violence Prevention, and Reproductive Rights to staff from Senator Fetterman and Congresswoman Dean's offices! Our future is bright with these incredible teens!

In addition to all our special programming, our teens in our Quest Noar program are learning in core curriculum classes with Rabbi David and our fantastic teachers! Our current electives include Jewish Cooking, Jewish Multimedia, and Purim Spiel. Mark your calendars for our fabulous "**The Little Mermaid Megillah**" Purim Spiel on March 23 starring all of our students!

I'm thrilled our student community feels at home inside and outside of our building to represent our wonderful KI community.

Preschool News



Kelly Sussman,
M.Ed., Director of
Early Childhood
Education

The school year has flown by, bringing high hopes and fantastic plans for the summer. We're in the beginning stages of planning our "Around the World in 80 Days—A Camp Adventure Extraordinaire!" But before the fun of camp can begin, we have lots of exciting springtime activities and events.

In the very beginning of March we'll be joining Cantor Amy and Rabbi Ben for a Rockin' Tot Shabbat, followed by a pizza-cooking class in the **KI**tchen with our very own culinary artiste, Jane Hirshberg. This will warm us up in time for our Purim show and dinner later in the month. We are reinstating our annual "Hamantaschen Bake-Off" as well! Teachers, children, and parents competing for the most delicious, most creative, most spectacular Hamantashen award!

On the heels of Purim comes Passover—one of our favorite times of the year. The songs

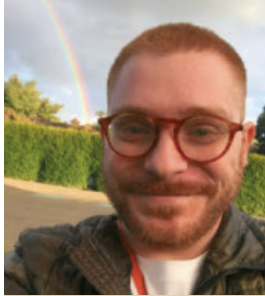
and activities, crafts, learning, and of course, the food, are unparalleled. How can you compete with baby Moses, frogs, and matzah pizza? Each class will participate in its own special and meaningful Seder to share all that they have learned with one another.

As the year winds down we will take the opportunity on May 10 to show our gratitude for our teachers during our annual teacher appreciation Shabbat, which is always a lovely event. Where would we be without our wonderful teachers?

After Yom HaAtzmaut, we will begin planning and rehearsing for our pre-K graduation ceremony. Twenty-seven wonderful KI children will be graduating our preschool program, and we are filled with pride at the journey of each individual. Wow, it's all going by so fast!

We hope that your year is as fulfilling in learning, love, and laughter as it is in the preschool!

KIFTY News



Lee Slobotkin,
Youth
Engagement
Director

Dear Friends,

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

On Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m., our Third and Fourth Grade JQuest students will lead Shabbat! Following services, Brian Rissinger will take us on a behind-the-scenes tour of KI. All are welcome to enjoy this sneak peek into the secrets of our building.

We are hard at work rehearsing for the Purim Spiel, “The Little Mermaid Megillah,” debuting on Saturday evening, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Our talented JQuest and Quest Noar students will reimagine the Purim Story, inspired by the classic Disney songs and characters. Dive under the sea and sing along with us to the original parodies written by myself and our amazing Writer’s Room elective class! If you are unable to attend in the sanctuary, please stream the show

at [KenesethIsrael.org/Stream](https://kenesethisrael.org/Stream). You do not want to miss this spiel.

We will offer a short preview of our performance during the Kehillah of Old York Road Purim Carnival on Sunday afternoon at KI, on March 17. Visit jewishphilly.org/oyr to register and to get more information!

Grades 7–12 are invited to New York City on Saturday, April 27 to see the new musical, *Back to the Future*. After the show, we will return to KI for a “Shul-In” Sleepover! Our final trip of the season is to the Phillies Game at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday, May 19. Sign up today! Visit [KenesethIsrael.org/KIFTY](https://kenesethisrael.org/KIFTY) for updates and details.

I look forward to sharing these experiences with our youth and congregation!

KIFTY **TRIP TO NYC and SHUL IN at KI!**
Saturday, April 27th
Grades 7–12
Cost: \$189 per student

SPACE IS VERY LIMITED! 🍷 🍽️ 🚗 🚶
We will leave KI at 3:00 PM
and return around 1:00 AM
for our sleepover 🏠 🛏️ 🌃

RSVP HERE BY 3/27:
rcki.shulcloud.com/form/kiftynyc24

PLAYBILL
Back to the Future

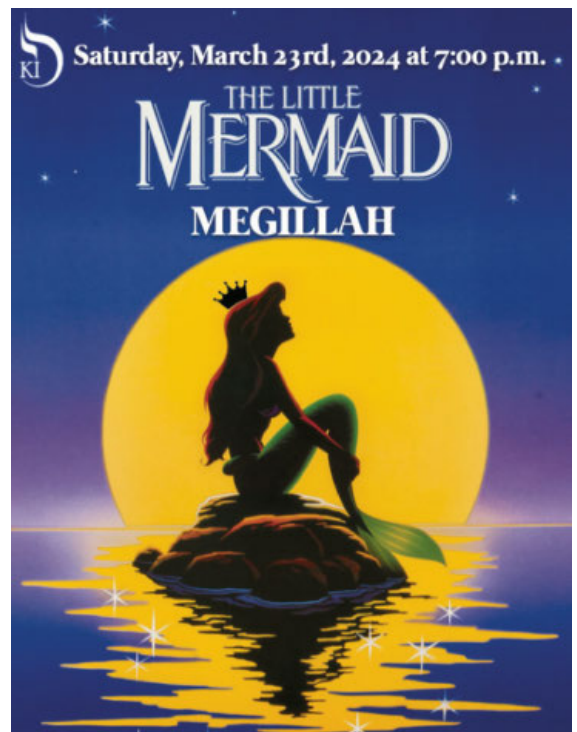
KIFTY goes to the PHILLIES GAME!
Sunday, May 19th, 2024
for Grades 7-12

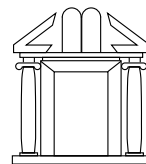
Cost: \$45 per person
11:30 a.m. – Meet at KI
Pick up from KI after 5:00 p.m.

RSVP: rcki.shulcloud.com/form/phillies24

8339 Old York Rd.
Elkins Park, PA 19027

KIFTY





By Rita Rosen Poley

The Temple Judea Museum is a community in and of itself: The permanent collection; the Arts Alive Gallery; our exhibition program in our museum gallery and showcases; the museum's QR Code project for art work displayed in the building; the TJMuseum Online Collection; the TJM Judaica showcase; our valued volunteers; and the creative team that is our Artists' Collaborative. They all make the museum a beehive of activity. However, when we have the opportunity to celebrate our broader KI family in any way, it is a special event for us.

So it is that in 2024 we get to celebrate our amazing Cantor Amy Levy as she celebrates 20 years at KI. And how does a museum celebrate? With an exhibition, of course! In 2014 we happily celebrated Cantor Amy on the occasion of her 10th year at KI. At that time, we displayed album covers selected from the museum's collection of over 1,000 Jewish-related phonograph albums. This visual banquet of an exhibition was great fun and reflected Cantor Amy's love of the wide, wide world of Jewish music.

A number of years earlier, in 2007, we mounted our first exhibition of our Jewish music collection, containing a myriad of historic objects, ephemera, art work, musical compositions, etc., all from our extensive and important collection of Jewish Music.

So what to do now! Our challenge is complicated by the fact that Cantor Amy has spread her wings far beyond the world of Jewish music at KI. As many of you might know, among her many projects, she has brought special joy to our community with unique programming about Jewish food, centered around the **KI**tchen.

I really like exhibitions to have a clear focus—and tell one story clearly. That is not possible this time. You see, as part of her foray into the world of Jewish food, Cantor Amy has asked TJMuseum and the artists of our Collaborative to use our imagination to create art work about Jewish food culture for permanent display in the **KI**tchen. So our spring tribute exhibition will be a multi-layered event: selections from our music collection and art work about Jewish food.

The original art work will be part of a fund raiser and silent auction, as every image will be reproduced for permanent display in the kitchen. We are really looking forward to turning the **KI**tchen into a joyous feast of art, in "concert" with the joyous feast of Jewish Food Cantor Amy is bringing to the space.

In celebration of Cantor Amy Levy and her marvelous 20 years at KI! YAY!

BELOW, TOP: Cantor Amy, this is just a little tease of what you can expect for the KI'tchen!



AT RIGHT:
Cantor Amy at the
2014 celebration of
her 10th year at KI.



BELOW, LEFT AND RIGHT:
More examples of the
museum's collection
of music.





Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia
Old York Road Kehillah

Old York Road Kehillah

Purim Carnival



SUNDAY, MARCH 17

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel - 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park

Get your graggers ready for our annual Purim Carnival! Join the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Old York Road Kehillah for a family-friendly holiday extravaganza. Come in your best costume, and enjoy hamantaschen, prizes, inflatables and more.

\$18 for individuals, \$36 for families



REGISTER AT JEWISHPHILLY.ORG/OYRPURIM

\$18 for individuals, \$36 for families

Advanced registration is required to attend. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

For more information about this event or the Old York Road Kehillah, please contact Jonathan Schmalzbach at oldyorkroad@Jewishphilly.org or 215.832.0523.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Families with Preschool Children

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. General Admission

We kindly ask all adults to show their government-issued photo IDs at check in.
All bags will be subject to search.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR - THE KATZ FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONS FOR BEING OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS OF THIS EVENT.



CONGREGATION
ADATH JESHURUN



BETH SHOLOM
CONGREGATION



REFORM CONGREGATION
KENESETH ISRAEL
FOUNDED 1847
ELKINS PARK



KolAmi
voice of my people



OLD YORK ROAD
TEMPLE-BETH AM

Celebration 2024



Please join us as we honor Cantor Amy Levy.

Remaining Events

Thursday, April 4: Top Sponsor Event

Friday, April 12: Broadway Shabbat Dinner & Service

Saturday, April 13: “Dancing Through the Decades” Dinner & Party

Cantor Sponsors — \$18,000

Includes all benefits of Orchestra Sponsor plus:

- A musical evening with Ross M. Levy and Cantor Amy E. Levy and other Cantor-level sponsors
- Original artwork commemorating KI Spring Celebration 2024

Orchestra Sponsors — \$10,000

All benefits of Choir Sponsor plus:

- Simcha Wall plaque recognition
- Signed cookbook from surprise chef

Choir Sponsors — \$5,400

All benefits of Trio Sponsor plus:

- A private cooking demonstration with a surprise chef and Cantor Amy E. Levy in the **KI**tchen (date TBD)
- Ten tickets to the 50/50 raffle

Trio Sponsors — \$3,600

All benefits of Duet Sponsor plus:

- Two tickets to “Bet On It” family event
- Two tickets to Shabbat Illuminated Dinner (February 23)
- Five tickets for the 50/50 raffle

Duet Sponsors — \$1,800

All benefits of Solo Sponsor plus:

- Two tickets to the top sponsor event

Solo Sponsors — \$1,000

- Two tickets to the Spring Celebration Shabbat Dinner
- Two tickets to Spring Celebration “Dancing Through the Decades” Party
- A full-page ad in the Spring Celebration Tribute Journal

Please consider making your sponsorship now by calling the office.
In your invitation, there will be the opportunity to purchase individual tickets.



Meyers Library Update

By Linda Roth, Director of Library Services

There are three current topics that are high on our minds and concerns here at the Meyers Library: Israel, the banned book movement, and Holocaust Awareness. We have books that help you to be more informed about all these topics and more.

We have several books that can shed light on a historical perspective on the situation in Israel. The library is co-sponsoring the Israel program with the Rabbi on March 7 (see more information below).

We also have several books that have been challenged or removed from shelves in other libraries, especially those that have been challenged by some school boards because of their Jewish content.

We have finished the task of cataloging the books from the Riz collection of the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center (HAMEC). This collection highlights several personal testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

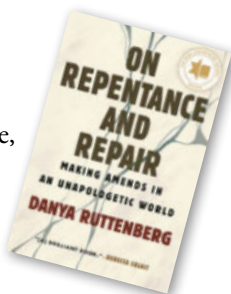
Everyone is welcome to come up to the library to peruse the books on these topics!

Here are our upcoming events:

Thursday March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.—

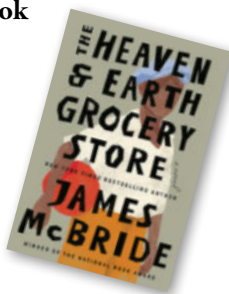
KI Reads: *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends*

in an Unapologetic World by Danya Ruttenberg. This brief, powerful book is a commentary on what it means to apologize, what it means to forgive, and how we might do that as individuals and a community. Join the Meyers Library, Adult Education, & Social Justice as we explore the important lessons of Rabbi Ruttenberg and consider how to apply her ideas to our own lives.



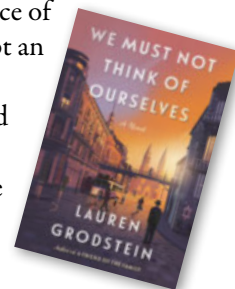
Sunday March 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.—Breakfast with Two Rabbis: Rabbi Lance Sussman, emeritus of KI, and Rabbi Greg Marx of Congregation Beth Or. The topic is “How the Israel–Hamas War has changed American Jewish Life.”

Wednesday April 10, 1:00 p.m.—Book Discussion Group: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Join us as we take a deep dive into this book with Evonne and Isaak Kruger.



Wednesday May 15, 1:00 p.m.—Book Discussion Group: *We Must Not Think of Ourselves* by Lauren Grodstein.

Inspired by a little-known piece of history—the underground group that kept an archive to ensure that the lives of Jewish occupants of the Warsaw Ghetto in World War II were not lost to history—this is a heart-wrenching novel of love and defiance that *People* magazine calls “gripping, emotional, and against all odds, hopeful.”



• • •

Along with our programming, we bring in new books, including books that are on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.

We welcome book reviews written by our library patrons and will post them in the Meyers Library Updates.

Any questions or suggestions? Please feel free to contact me, Linda Roth, at Library@kenesethisrael.org.

Library Hours

Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
(when Quest Noar is in session)

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
(when JQuest is in session)

Call For Nominations For Congregational Leadership

In accordance with Article XVII, Section 1 of the Temple's By-laws, notice is hereby given that the Nominating and Board Development Committee will be meeting to propose nominees to fill the following positions for election at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024: One-year term: President, First Vice President, Vice President(s), Treasurer, Associate Treasurer(s), Secretary, Associate Secretary(ies), Directors (up to 12); Three-year term: Five Trustees. In addition, the Nominating and Board Development Committee may propose nominees to fill other vacancies that may arise in lay leadership positions identified in the Temple's By-laws.

Members of the Congregation may submit names (with resumes) for prospective nominees to Janice Schwartz-Donahue, Chair of the Nominating and Board Development Committee, c/o KI, by Friday, March 22, 2024.



Social Justice Committee

By Janice Schwartz-Donahue, Chair of KI Social Justice Committee

Why should KI be involved in helping pass Gun Violence Prevention Laws?

Many of our Jewish values deal with keeping our ourselves and our communities safe! Here are a few examples:

- **Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World):** We are obligated to make our world safer and healthier.
- **Pikuach Nefesh (Saving a Life):** Jewish law places the highest value on preserving human life and promoting safety in our community.
- **Shmirat HaGuf (Guarding the Body):** We have a responsibility to protect our bodies and the bodies of others.

Keeping all of these Jewish values in mind, the “Bipartisan” Common Sense Agenda to End Gun Violence is the initiative we have undertaken in partnership with the Pennsylvania Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC/PA) and CeaseFire PA. Passing common agenda bills into law is our ultimate goal and in order to get there, we need to mobilize



our resources with Reform Jewish communities across the state. With the help of our State Organizer, Rachel Beck, we now have the power to work with 21 other

Reform congregations. RAC/PA’s statewide campaign is appropriately called **Not One Day More!**

Lobbying with our local Senators and Representatives (Senator Art Haywood and Representative Napoleon Nelson and Ben Sanchez) proved that they are all committed to seeing this legislation passed. However, our agenda in the months ahead include letter writing to a designated handful of State Senators, including Lisa Baker who serves as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, and Senators Kim Ward and Joe Pittman to motivate these Senators to move these Bills out of Committee and finally hold a vote. (The reality is that this process could take up to a year!)

Over the next few months we will begin to write these letters, possibly arrange for a call-in day, and write strategically placed Letters to the Editor across the state urging that voting take place on these bills. All of our efforts will culminate at a State Advocacy Day in Harrisburg in May when we rally with CeaseFire PA and RAC/PA.

Check our Social Justice section in e-KI for further information or contact me at socialjustice@kenesethisrael.org.

“You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it!” (Pirkei Avot)



Heritage Shabbat Honorees

Carey Roseman is a past president who served from 2004–2007. She was born into the congregation as the fourth generation of her family. Carey began in leadership as chair of the preschool committee and has served on search committees for Rabbis Sussman and David as well as Cantor Levy, Brian Rissinger, and a past director of the Preschool. KI has been a part of the fabric of Carey’s life forever.

Robert Roseman served as an officer of the congregation from 2014–2018. He also served on the strategic planning committee during that time. Robert also served on the budget committee and two strategic planning committees in addition to being a co-chair of two Spring Celebration committees.

Prior to his personal active service, it was Robert’s willingness to run the Roseman household of two children and two dogs in Carey’s absence many times during the week that allowed Carey to serve as president.



It is fair to say that Carey and Robert Roseman have an abiding commitment to KI!

Second Night "Family-Style" Passover Seder

with Keneseth Israel & Kol Ami at KI



Join **KI & Congregation Kol Ami** for a Special Seder Dinner Experience for the Entire Family



Tuesday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Led by Rabbi Benjamin David &

Cantor Amy Levy

with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz &

Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz!

Enjoy a traditional Passover dinner
from soup to dessert

Afikomen gifts for the kids.

Bring your own wine & bottle opener.

Adults: \$55, Children 6 to 12 Years: \$25

Children 5 and Under: Free

RSVP Via ShulCloud~

rcki.shulcloud.com/form/seder24

OR Send reservations with full
payment by April 16, 2024

Names of all attending: _____

If possible, we would like to sit with: _____

Choice of entrees: ___ brisket ___ lemon chicken ___ salmon ___ stuffed portobello (veg)

_____ Adults @ \$55\$_____

_____ Children ages 6-12 @ \$25.00\$_____

_____ Children 5 and under - Free

Total Enclosed:\$_____



Check payable to Keneseth Israel, mail to: 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 attn: KI Seder
If you have any questions, please contact Naomi at 215-887-8700.

In Our Community

KI Adult Education Update

By Caryl Levin

If you're not part of the KI Adult Education community of learners and friends, you are missing an important component of KI. At this difficult time, we need each other more than ever. And we always need to learn.

We are beginning to plan our 2024–25 schedule and there will be a few more opportunities for in-person opportunities—still on Monday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Please join our group via Zoom.

Contact Lee Slobotkin at lslobotkin@kenesethisrael.org for the Zoom link.

Rebirth After the Holocaust, with Jean Bloch Rosensaft Monday, March 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Discover an inspiring and untold chapter in Jewish history, when brave men and women emerged from destruction and joined together to fight for Jewish and human rights, freedom, and life.

Why Are My Progressive Friends So Hostile to Israel?: Reconciling Your Zionism with Your Concern For Human Rights, with Boaz Munro Monday, March 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Are you having trouble navigating questions from your anti-Israel friends? Feeling confused about how to reconcile your Zionism with your concern for human rights?

Local Black History, with Amy Cohen Monday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m.

This fast-paced and richly illustrated presentation will summarize the Black experience in Philadelphia from the 1600s through the late 20th century.

Jewish Travel: My Favorite Trips, with Rabbi Lance J. Sussman Monday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Mike Nichols and His Body of Work, with Alice Parker Monday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.

The Rabbi's Roundtable, with Rabbi Benjamin David Thursday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m.

An in-person discussion of current events through the lens of Jewish texts and ideas.

Understanding and Appreciating Abstract Art, with Baila Miller Monday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Program TBD, with Dr. Phil Cunningham Monday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m.

A Ten-Day Art Museum Trip Across Midwest America, with Marvin Kreithen Monday, April 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Was There An Exodus?, with Rabbi Lance J. Sussman Monday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

No program on Passover (Monday, April 22)

A Day In Casablanca, with Sharon Harris-Zlotnik Monday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m.

Moba: The Museum of Bad Art, with Bob Templin Monday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m.

The History of Underwear, with Stan Singer Monday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Camp William Penn, Lucretia Mott and La Mott History in Cheltenham, with Lise Marlow Monday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Who Wrote The Torah?, with Rabbi Lance J. Sussman Monday, May 20 ~ 7:30 p.m.

HAMOTZI 2024 DINNER DATES:

March 24	June 23
April 28	July 28
May 19	August 25



Women of KI: The Nurturing Soul of Our KI Community

By Lynore Eisman, President, Women of KI

As we celebrate this special year in honor of Cantor Amy's 20th anniversary at KI, I want to share a few thoughts as to how much she truly means to the Women of KI!

To us Cantor Amy is a GIFT. Not only does she comfort us through her beautiful voice, but also through her compassionate ideas.

Cantor had a vision that KI's Kitchen could become a warmer and more welcoming place and began organizing programming in The **KI**tchen inviting us to learn more about ourselves by educating us on how to eat and prepare food more thoughtfully. Cantor is helping us nourish our souls and The **KI**tchen has truly become a place where congregants of all ages can come together, not just to cook but to thrive!

For example, in February, WKI celebrated Cantor Amy's birthday with a Chai Tea Party featuring chai tea and chai cookies and we made several beautiful woven art pieces in her honor! "Cantor in The **KI**tchen" events included challah baking, and the program "Steeping in the Sacred: From Healing Teas to Healing Texts" with Hillary Eisenman as well as a Super Bowl Kitchen program featuring the preparation of healthy foods for the big day!

Women of KI look forward to continuing to celebrate Cantor Amy 20th Year Anniversary this year with similar programs and especially at KI's Spring Celebration the weekend of April 12-13. This will be a wonderful way to celebrate Cantor Amy and all she means to us! Come join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

Cantor Amy, we thank you for all your support, caring and love you bring to our congregation and especially to the Women of KI!

Women of KI wish you a *Zissen Pesach*! May the people of Israel be strong, safe, and at peace. May you and your families and friends enjoy a Happy Passover.

Women of KI Calendar of Upcoming Events

Monday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Women of KI Board Zoom Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Designer Bag BINGO

Come and have the chance to "win" a designer bag while having fun playing BINGO. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Your check to Women of KI is your reservation. Send it to Elaine Pitkow at KI, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA, 19027. \$35 per person until March 25; after then, \$40 per person.

Sunday, April 7 at 12:00 p.m.

Women's Seder

Spring Celebration:

Celebrating Cantor Amy's 20th Anniversary

Friday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Service Celebrating Cantor Amy

Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Celebration

Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Women of KI Board Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, April 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Interfaith Program

Monday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Women of KI Board Zoom Meeting

KI Gift Shop

The KI Gift Shop has moved to the foyer!

Visit the KI Gift Shop on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. when JQuest is in session. For assistance during the week, contact the Office Staff, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to make an appointment to meet us in the gift shop, please call Rudi Levin at 215.880.1599, Elaine Pitkow at 215.913.6882, Lynore Eisman at 215.870.4533 or Joan Abrams at 215.917.4424.

We have lovely Judaica items for your Passover Seder table. Come and shop!

GIFT CARDS AND SCRIP!

Women of KI Gift Shop sells gift cards/scrip! The sale of these cards assists us in helping KI. You get \$ for \$ when buying them. Good for presents for all holidays!

Acme	\$25, \$100	iTunes	\$15, \$25
Amazon	\$25	Shoptite	\$25, \$100
Barnes & Noble	\$25	Target	\$25
Dunkin' Donuts	\$10	Walmart	\$25
Giant	\$25, \$100		

NEW TALLITOT IN THE GIFT SHOP!

Tallitot for Bar and Bat Mitzvah or treat yourself to a beautiful new one!



Music Arts Committee

By Ellen & Bob Bildersee, Chairs, KI Music Arts Committee

KI Music Arts Committee is continuing our 25th anniversary season with spectacular concerts.

Music Arts Committee has lined up two more concerts for Spring, 2024:

On **Saturday afternoon, April 6, 2024**, our annual **Ruth G. Kahn Memorial Concert**, Broadway/Opera Cabaret will feature opera stars from the Metropolitan Opera as well as other opera companies. They will be singing popular opera arias, duets, trios, quartets as well as songs from favorite Broadway shows!

On **Saturday, May 11, 2024** at 2:00 p.m., the Main Line Symphony Orchestra returns for the annual **Cheryl Beth Silverman Memorial Concert**. Program: Priscilla Alden Beach, "City Trees"; Catherine Marie Charlton, "Outside of Time, A Healing," World Premiere; Alexander Glazunov, "Violin Concerto in A Minor Op.82"; and guest soloist Christine Lim, Associate Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, W.A. Mozart, "Symphony #41 Jupiter."

Volunteers of all ages are always needed to help plan, publicize, produce, and run musical and related dining events at KI. If you are interested in program sponsorship, or are available and interested in the *mitzvah* of volunteer service in support of the program, please contact the Music Arts Committee by calling the Music Arts Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Ellen Bildersee, at 215.947.5131.



My name is **Dylan Reed Pokotilow** and my Bar Mitzvah is April 20, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, it was important to me to do something that helps children, so we had pretzel sales after Hebrew School and donated the money to the Cheltenham School District. I attend the Murray Avenue Middle School.

My hobbies include playing video games, riding my bike, writing, fantasy football, watching sports on TV, and listening to music. My favorite sports are basketball and soccer. My parents are April Pokotilow and Andy Pokotilow.

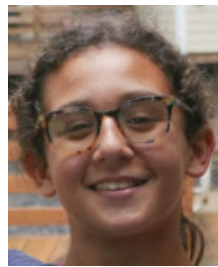
Mazal Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah



My name is **Eli Flitter** and my Bar Mitzvah is March 2, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I helped at KI's HaMotzi dinners for our food-insecure neighbors. I cooked, served the guests, and helped out wherever I could. I attend AIM Academy and I really enjoy playing video games. I play flag football, and enjoy skiing and surfing. My parents are Andrea and Matthew Flitter.



My name is **Jackson Segalow** and my Bar Mitzvah is March 9, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I organized a three-on-three basketball tournament to raise money for an organization called SCOPE, which stands for Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education. SCOPE's mission is to send underprivileged children to sleepaway camp. I love camp and basketball and had so much fun organizing and playing in the tournament. I attend Murray Avenue School in Lower Moreland. I really don't have hobbies, but I do like cross-country and playing basketball. My parents are Ellen and Adam Segalow.



My name is **Soleil Elyse Wapnitsky**. My Bat Mitzvah is March 30, 2024, and it will be a B'nai Mitzvah with my cousin Jakob Porzig. For my Mitzvah Project, I'm raising money for the Celiac Disease Foundation because my brother has celiac disease. The hope for my project is that the money I raise will help with celiac research and hopefully find a cure. I go to Cedarbrook Middle School. My hobbies are shot put, acting, singing, playing trumpet, and helping with little kids (*madrichim* for 1st grade.) My parents are Amy and Larry Wapnitsky.



My name is **Jakob Porzig**, but everyone calls me Jake. My Bar Mitzvah is March 30, 2024, and it will be shared with my cousin, Soleil Wapnitsky. For my Mitzvah Project, I am raising and donating money to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. I attend Abington Middle School. Hobbies are gaming and riding bikes, my sport is rock climbing, and I am a member of the Senior team at the Philadelphia Rock Gym. My parents are Sarah and Armin Porzig.

continued next page

Life Cycles

B'nai Mitzvah *continued from previous page*



My name is **Esther Rose Levine** and my Bat Mitzvah is April 6, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I volunteered with Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center (HAMEC) to learn more in depth about the artifacts in the museum, and I am learning how to give a tour. I attend Jack M. Barrack Hebrew

Academy. My hobbies include singing with the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, reading, listening to music, and hanging out with my friends. My parents are Allison and Brian Levine.



My name is **Avery Burns** and my Bat Mitzvah is May 18, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I volunteer at Pooch Kaboose which is a dog rescue in Jenkintown. I attend Cedarbrook Middle School. My hobbies include playing tennis, performing in a theater group, and cooking. My favorite sport

is tennis. My parents are Sarah and Wes Burns.



My name is **Ari Craig Goldin** and my Bar Mitzvah is June 1, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I help cook and serve meals for our monthly HaMotzi dinners that provide food for the community that are food insecure. I attend Abington Middle School. I like to play with my friends and my dog. I also enjoy throwing

a baseball with my brother and my dad whenever possible. I play baseball in a league called JA and hopefully will make my school team. Sometimes I also play JJBL basketball. My parents are Lauren and Ely Goldin.



My name is **Avishai Eisenman**, but everyone calls me Avi. My Bar Mitzvah is June 8, 2024. For my Mitzvah Project, I volunteered to be an assistant coach on my brother's basketball and baseball teams. I attend Colonial Middle School. My hobbies include video games, sports, math club, sport card collections, "Magic:

The Gathering" card collecting. My sports are basketball, soccer, karate, and baseball. My parents are Hillary and Sasha Eisenman.

Mazal Tov to the following congregants on their Special Simchas...

Birth of...

Freda Marie Skalina, daughter of Molly and Ben Skalina, and granddaughter of our members Rhea and Robert Dennis.

Engagements of...

Allison Aaron and D.J. Fortine. D.J. is the son of our member Lise Schwartz.

Robyn Barbell and Jonathan Hegarty. Robyn is the daughter of our members Lynn and Alan Barbell.

Marriage of...

Dana Mandel and Howard Barman, our members.

We mark with sorrow the passing of...

Barry Cooper, cousin of our member Sheila (Giacomo) DeAnnutis

Beatrice Bruskin, mother of our member Daniel (Lynne) Bruskin

Brenda Zaslow, aunt of our member Robert (Susan) Zaslow

Theresa Dudley, sister of our member Sheri (Josh) Sussman

Benita Pols, mother of our member Robert (Kathy) Schlesinger

Margaret "Peggy" Goldenberg, our member, mother of our member Glenn (Vivian) Goldenberg, sister-in-law of our member Robert Goldenberg

Charles Doran, companion of our member Rhoda Hershman

Stanley Ginsberg, our member and husband of our member

Phyllis Ginsberg

Scott Ryan Singer, son of our members Lois and Stanley Singer

Kathy Van Wie, mother of our member Eric Van Wie (Deb Rosen)

Barbara Y. Lipton, our member and mother of our member Wendy (Jeffrey Orlin) Whitman-Orlin

Sarah Godowsky, aunt of our member Anita (Murray) Madnick

Alan Widra, our member and husband of our member Janet Widra

Carole Slotsky, our member

Lois Starr Cohn, our member and cousin of our member Ginger (David) Lane

Contributions

All listings indicate donor first, followed by the honor or memorial.

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Joan Brantz Amy Seidman's birthday
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IN MEMORY OF

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Arlene Lessack 85th birthday of Sid Schwartz
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and in memory of Shirley Goldberg

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Grenville & Bonnie Hayes In appreciation of Cantor Levy's work for the synagogue

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Devorah Kendall Myrna Asher's brother

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IN HONOR OF

B'nai Mitzvah of Harriet Meshkov and of
Audrey Sirota and the Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Sirota

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IN HONOR OF

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Anita & Murray Madnick 90th birthday of Charlotte New
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Roseloi Jacobs and 9th birthday of Charlotte Richman;
Birth of Margo Rose Palmer

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Jeremy & Lois Rosenau The wedding of Anna Rosenfeld
Judith Kramer Jerry Rosenau's Bar Mitzvah
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William & Paola Shore Leonard and Joan Shore

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Archives, continued from back cover

contact to get this all translated) expressed it this way:
“This is a really important document. After reading so many
local histories that simply list the former residents... and a
photo of the synagogue, its refreshing to see that this work
combines a short community history together with issues of
memorialization of an entire community and its structures
(not just the synagogue). It deserves to be circulated widely.”



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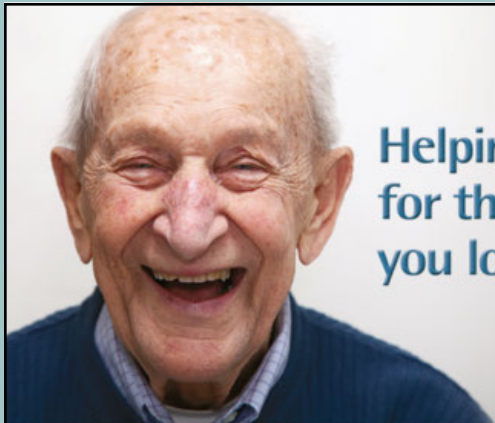


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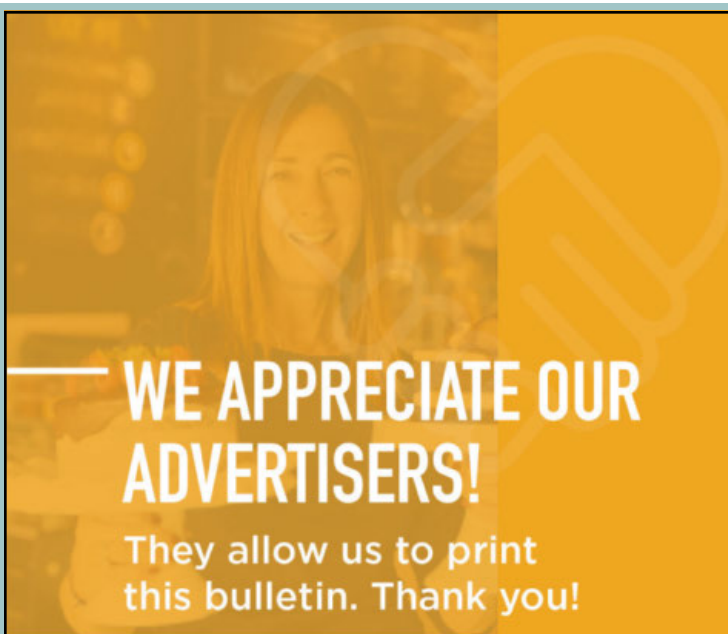
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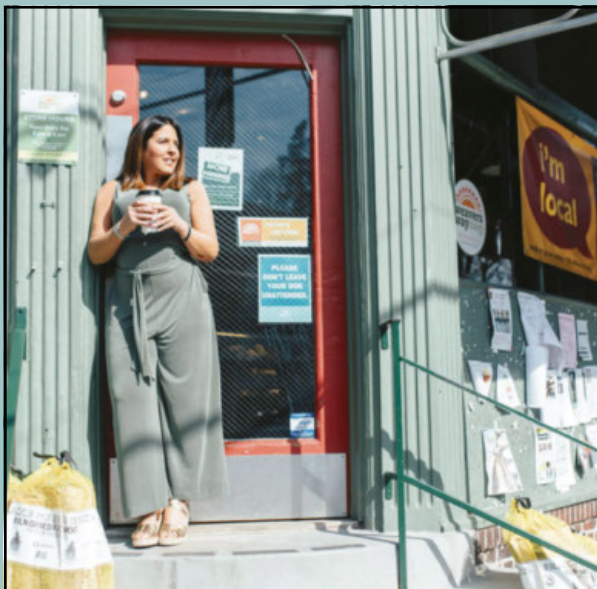
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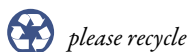
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KI Archives' New Bavarian Document Adds to Our Genealogical Resources

by Jack A. Myers, KI Archivist (email: kiarchivist@kenesethisrael.org)

Over the years, as a natural extension of our own original records, the Archives has added a collection of books that provide descriptions of European communities from which our families emigrated. The Archives also possesses Rabbi Malcolm Stern's voluminous book of family trees of early American Jewish families, as well as various family histories donated by members.

In 2018, my wife and I were invited to Mainz, Germany to participate in the launch of a book about the Jews of German Rhineland towns. For the prior five years, the authors and I had shared information on the ancestors of my paternal grandmother (a KI member). Never having been to Europe, we started in Amsterdam, took a river cruise from there to Basel, Switzerland and from there a train ride to the Bavarian birthplace of my father's paternal grandfather (also a KI member). Alwin Muller, Altenstadt's town historian (also archivist and keeper of the Jewish cemetery) guided us through the town, pointing out the houses which in the early 1800s housed my ancestors and the other Jewish families which included Pam Saltzburg's ancestors and a branch of the Einstein family.

Facilitated by Google Translate, we have maintained a regular exchange of e-mails celebrating each new year.

This year, his e-mail included an incredible 100-page university student's thesis, "The Altenstadt Erev." Quoting from the summary:

"Against the backdrop of increasing research into the 'Rural Jewry' in Germany, this work deals with the traces of Jewish building culture in rural areas. Using Altenstadt as an example, the project examines what traces of Jewish life still exist there today and what possibilities can be found for dealing with the architectural heritage, both within and outside of formal monument protection. To this end, the history of the location, in particular that of the Jewish community, and the religious-spatial construct of the 'Erev' and its effects on historical Jewish settlement structures...The work shows that traces of Jewish life are still clearly visible today." The illustrations and maps show the layout of Altenstadt and other nearby towns.

So why is this an important addition to our archives? Several early KI families came from Altenstadt or other towns of the Swabian-Bavarian region. I have shared it with the archives of Richmond's Beth Ahabah congregation, whose families' histories mirror our own.

Karen Franklin, who grew up at KI and currently works with such groups as the Obermeyer Foundation (and was the

Continued on page 23