April Shabbat and Worship Calendar

**Friday, April 5 | 6 pm**
Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Torah reading and Kolot Kol Ami

**Friday, April 12 | 6 pm**
Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Rabbi Vann’s first service back! *Come Grow With Me! Shabbat with Rabbi Shana and Lauren Smith*

**Friday, April 19 | 5 pm**
A special abbreviated Kabbalat Shabbat Service at an earlier time

**Friday, April 26 | 6 pm**
Kabbalat Shabbat Service

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The **Chutzpah to Ask Why**

For the past two months we have been talking about *The Chutzpah Imperative: Living a Life that Matters*. In it the author, Rabbi Edward Feinstein, dares us to have the **chutzpah**, the guts, to ask the great, the deep, and the challenging questions. Doing so, he posits, will lead to a more meaningful Judaism and a more meaningful life.

In the introduction to the book, Rabbi Feinstein writes about the four “children” we read about at the Passover Seder. Each “child” is emblematic of different types of learners and is labeled by the Talmud based on the question they ask. Rabbi Feinstein writes the following about the first two children:

The Passover Haggaadah imagines four children sitting with us at the Seder table. One child asks the “How” question: “How are the rites and rules of Passover to be observed?” [They are] privileged at the Wise Child. [Their] question is easy to answer – we just quote text to [them].

It is the second child who asks the harder question, the “Why” question: Why do we do this? What does this history teach us? How does the Seder narrative, the grand narrative of the Jewish people, find a place in our personal identity? What difference does it all make to us?

The Haggadah castigates [them] as the Wicked Child. (Presumably, [they exclude themselves] by saying “to you.” But go back and look at the Wise child’s question; [they also say] “to you.” Somehow [they] got away with it!) [Their] question is personal and uncomfortable. We will find the answer in no text. [Their] question demands a deep look into our own lives and values.

As we sit around our Seder tables and celebrate our freedom, Rabbi Feinstein dares us all to have the chutzpah to step out of our comfort zone – to not only ask how, but why?

**Some questions for this month:**
Why does my life matter? What gives it purpose?
Why live a life driven by values? Why be good?
Why be Jewish? What meaning does it hold for me?

May we continue to create a sacred community of learning as we ask and endeavor to answer together.

**Rabbi Shana Nyer**  
**snyer@suburbantemple.org**

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**Friday, April 12 | 6 pm**
- Fun Interactive service for newborns-2nd graders and their families with Rabbi Shana and Lauren Smith
- 3rd-7th graders and their families join Rabbi Vann for services in the Sanctuary
- FREE dinner for Everyone!

The evening is free and open to the community so invite your friends with Jewish children. RSVP to Keesha Sellars at 216.991.0700 or at ksellars@suburbantemple.org.
Five years! I keep shaking my head at the number. I’ve had the pleasure of being the executive director at ST-KA for five years as of April 1. Time has flown by!

This anniversary has allowed me to reflect a bit on some of the successes and a few of the opportunities that remain.

We launched Open Doors, joining about three dozen other congregations at the time, who had a “voluntary” dues model. We remain convinced that money should not be a barrier to membership in our holy community. And we’ve been successful. Overall, income from membership commitments is up. Our total number of members is holding steady.

We changed membership management software and brought ourselves into the 21st century. Every member can login, update demographic information, register for programs, make donations and payments online and more. We have revised the website twice (and yes, need to update it again).

We successfully adopted two new prayer books – Shabbat and High Holy Days.

We replaced the heating and air conditioning systems in the sanctuary, foyer, and Mandel-Gries Social Hall.

We have dramatically upgraded our internal security efforts including physical changes made possible by a grant from the state of Ohio.

Of course, there’s more but there are also opportunities that must be addressed. While Open Doors has been a success, it was never expected to be a cure all for our financial challenges. Membership commitments still only cover about 53% of our expenses. The rest comes from additional contributions, rental income, fees, and funds from our endowment.

Over the last year and a half, I’ve had numerous conversations with congregants about the financial needs of ST-KA and will continue to do so.

Next month, you will receive your 2019-20 Open Doors membership contribution form. While the sustaining gift amount hasn’t been set as of my article deadline, I have reason to believe that it will increase again. Let me thank you for the generosity that I know we can count on.

More about Open Doors next month.

To close, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your executive director. Suburban Temple-Kol Ami is a unique congregation with amazing members, fabulous staff, a beautiful history and role to continue playing here in Cleveland and in the Reform movement.

May we go from strength to strength,

Brett Shankman, Executive Director bshankman@suburbantemple.org

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MITZVAH DAY
Sunday, April 28 | 10 am–noon

What is Mitzvah Day?
An opportunity to gather together for the morning to work on service projects to make a difference to social service agencies helping others in our communities, and to help Suburban Temple-Kol Ami.

Who attends Mitzvah Day?
Almost everyone! There are service projects for school age children through the elderly. There are projects in the building and out of the building-so no matter your mobility, come and make a difference!

Why come to Mitzvah Day?
Each of us has ability to do even small things to help others, to extend kindness. When we come together as a Temple and as a community, we can do even more. And share coffee, some social time, and learning!

Where is Mitzvah Day?
Mitzvah Day will begin at Suburban Temple-Kol Ami, in the Sanctuary with a reflection and some logistics. Many will stay in the building, and others will choose projects outside the building.

How do I sign up for Mitzvah Day?
To register, please visit the Temple website!

Mitzvah Day is an opportunity to understand how much work there is to do in the world, and together, how much of a difference we can make in a short time. A small act of kindness goes a long way, and on this mitzvah day, we’ll do our part!

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Healing the Divide
Through Kindness
The Mandel Jewish Day School’s “thank you” bulletin board. They had water damage to their building at the beginning of February and three community organizations, including ST-KA, were able to let the school use their classroom space for two weeks while repairs were being completed.
Greetings from Kol Nashim!

Chag Same‘ach!

Passover is a festival of freedom, which begins at sunset on Friday, April 19 and continues for seven days. This holiday commemorates the Israelites exodus from Egypt, retelling the story through spoken words, songs, traditions, foods and ceremonial objects while gathered together with family and friends.

The Seder plate, whether it is handmade or store bought adds to the beauty of the table acting as the centerpiece. This centerpiece as of recent years has been known to also include: an orange as a gesture of solidarity with LGBTQ Jews and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community; small red potatoes alongside the karpas (green spring vegetable) to honor a wondrous exodus in our own time, from Ethiopia to Israel; Fair trade chocolate or cocoa beans to promote economic partnerships based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices.

We have also added a Miriam’s cup to celebrate Miriam’s role (Moses’ sister) in the deliverance from slavery and her help throughout the wandering in the wilderness; an empty cup is placed alongside Elijah’s cup and everyone at the Seder is encouraged to pour a bit of water into the cup. With this new custom, we recognize that women have always been and continue to be integral to the continued survival of the Jewish community.

The strength of the women of Kol Nashim is an integral part of our ST-KA community, our secular community and our community known as our family.

Throughout the next couple of months you have the freedom to be a part of these “community” minded events:

- **But He Was Good to His Mother** by Robert A. Rockaway is our book club book on Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm. This book is a thrilling assortment of true stories involving pitiless men, who murdered in cold blood and stole millions on their way to becoming the top gangsters of their era. Men for whom the law meant nothing and the threat of prison held no fear. Gangsters who were cop-killers, ran entire neighborhoods, shunned their heritage and turned their back on the obligations of their religion, who cared for nothing, but with one glaring exception they were good to their mothers. An RSVP to Dale is requested before April 21.

- **Sunday, May 19** – Variety is the spice of life and the Spice For Life store at Van Aken District Market can tell us all about it! Spice for Life, LLC is a women-owned social enterprise dedicated to providing fresh spices and spice blends. The staff wants to encourage home cooking and healthier eating and to contribute back to the community by donating their profits to combat human trafficking. Let’s meet there at 5 pm. After getting the low down on spices we can hang out at the Market Hall or explore more of this place to be! An RSVP to Dale is requested before May 15.

- We will be serving dinner at Calvary Church. Your help is needed whether it be to bake, make spaghetti and or serve. Look for more information in future Bulletins!

- We celebrate our sister Miriam for her strength, wisdom, courage and think of the women in our lives past and present who have nourished us, taught us, blessed us, and supported us in our own journeys and search for liberation.

- Many thanks to our “Miriams”: Karen, Ellen, Michelle, Lee, Shelle, Jan, Karen, Tina, Andi, Emily, Lee, Elynn and Amy who serve on the Kol Nashim board.

With appreciation,

Susan Gordon Merdler
Kol Nashim President
STKAKolNashim@gmail.com

Have you opted in to our e-mail list?

Do you want to receive the Temple Times, Our Tent news, invitations for special Temple events, and bereavement notices?

Then we’ll need your correct email address! Send updates to dhopkins@suburbantemple.org.

**ST-KA Technology**

amazon smile

Did you know that shopping on Amazon.com can benefit ST-KA? We have signed up with AmazonSmile, which donates a small percentage of every purchase to our congregation. Please visit smile.amazon.com and choose Suburban Temple-Kol Ami as your preferred charity. Then, change your Amazon bookmark to smile.amazon.com for future purchases! There is no extra cost to you and you can use your usual amazon.com account. Start at smile.amazon.com each time you shop!

**WiFi For Everyone!**

Suburban Temple-Kol Ami has WiFi available. If you have a WiFi capable device and wish to connect, simply use the guest password “Temple2016.”

**Live Streaming Service Information**

Don’t forget, you can watch Kabbalat Shabbat services live (or recorded) on our website. Please visit www.suburbantemple.org and click on the livestream menu at the top.

**Suburban Spotlight**

ST-KA members: The spotlight’s on you! We’d love to highlight your accomplishments, honors, and accolades in the monthly Bulletin and in the Temple Times. Send submissions to dhopkins@suburbantemple.org.
April Programs, Events, and Meetings

**Torah study** meets every Saturday morning from 9:15-10:15 am. Join us in the Gries Library for bagels and open discussion about the Torah!

- **Wed., Apr. 3** .......... 7:30 pm | Kolot Kol Ami rehearsal
- **Sun., Apr. 7** .......... 5 pm | Kol Nashim Women’s Seder
- **Mon., Apr. 8** .......... 7 pm | Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Sat., Apr. 13** .......... 12 pm | Our Tent Double Dare Retreat begins
- **Sun., Apr. 14** .......... until 12 pm | Our Tent Double Dare Retreat concludes
- **Wed., Apr. 17** .......... 7 pm | Executive Committee Meeting
- **Wed., Apr. 24** .......... 7 pm | 75th Anniversary Campaign Committee Meeting
- **Thur., Apr. 25** .......... 7 pm | Kol Nashim Book Club: But He Was Good to His Mother by Robert A. Rockaway
- **Fri., Apr. 26** .......... LAST DAY OF PASSOVER | OFFICE CLOSED
- **Sun., Apr. 28** .......... 10 am | Mitzvah Day
- 12 pm | Youth Group 6, 7 and 8 – “Cleveland Rocks”
- **Mon., Apr. 29** .......... 9 am | CWRU Book Discussion Day

**Milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Mazal tov to our members who are celebrating milestone **birthdays in April:**

- Joe Cohn
- Richard Lederman
- Sukhiang Lie
- Dorothea Polster
- Ken Rogat
- Steven Roth
- Jerry Shuck

Milestone birthday listings begin at age 50 and every five years afterward.

All birthdays 100 and over are listed.

Mazal tov to our members who are celebrating milestone **anniversaries in April:**

- Michelle and David Paris (35 yrs)
- Diane and Harvey Scholnick (40 yrs)
- Jane and Lee Seidman (35 yrs)

Milestone anniversaries begin at ten years and continue every five years thereafter.

**Collecting for Mitzvah Day**

The Tikkun Olam committee will be collecting the following items to lovingly provide to residents at local nursing homes:

- Cozy pajamas
- Slippers
- Blankets
- Books
- Crossword puzzle or other activity books
- Adult coloring books & colored pencils
- Puzzles
- Personal cleansing wipes
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion

Please drop your donations off at the office!
Shabbat Acknowledgments
We are grateful to the following people who helped make our February worship services a beautiful experience.

Guest Service Leaders: Karen Shapiro and Ellyn Ross
Guest Speakers: Susan Gordon Merdler
Shabbat Blessings: Abby Feldenkris, Sue and Rudi Hoffman, Deena Nyer Mendlowitz and Rafi Mendlowitz, Sandy Shapiro
Torah Blessings: Barbara and Irv Feldman
Kolot Kol Ami: Jodi Ashby, Amy Bloomberg, Nancy Huntsman, Janice Katz, Nancy Perillo, Loree Resnik, Natalie Skall, Lauren Smith
Announcements: Jodi Ashby, Howard Feldenkris, Alan Hazzard, Jerry Shuck
Ushers: Lesly Kohner, Jan Lieblich, Kärstin Olofsson, Richard and Natalie Skall

In Memoriam
Dear Friend
Joan Arfa
Dear Relatives
Georgianna Adamson
Jane Weiss
Perry Vann
William A. Hilkert

Remember ST-KA through a bequest or other charitable vehicle in your estate plan. Please contact Brett Shankman for more information.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions
Please consider making a contribution to Suburban Temple-Kol Ami to celebrate a special occasion, express gratitude or sympathy, or honor important accomplishments. A current list of Temple funds is available from the Temple office. Donations may be made online at www.suburbantemple.org. Donations listed below were received between February 1 and February 28, 2019. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

B’nai Mitzvah Fund
In honor of
Linda Wolfe
Michelle Brown

Bimah Flower Fund
In loving memory of
Gertrude Simon Bartow
The Bialosky Family
Betty Lowe Beedle
James and Teresa Lowe
Meyer Gerson, Jr.
Tom Gerson
Sidney Robert Duke
Maxine Singer and Peter Hochberg
Bernard Abramson
Sue and Rudi Hoffman
In celebration of
Shabbat
Susan Gordon Merdler and Lyle Merdler

Calvary Church Supper Fund
In loving memory of
Evelyn Singer
Emily and Jim Gusky
Jean Heflich
Shellie and Mark Nyer

Oneg Shabbat Fund
In loving memory of
Dr. Alexander Victor Bartow
The Bialosky Family
Ida W. Baer
Barbara and Irv Feldman
Betty Lowe Beedle
James and Teresa Lowe
Stanley W. Kohn
Patti Ferris
Hinda Hermia Massey
Ellen Ross
Larry “J.B.” Robinson
Barbara Robinson
Jeanette Nyer
Myron Rubin
Deena Nyer Mendlowitz and Rafi Mendlowitz, Shellie and Mark Nyer, Rabbi Shana Nyer, Stephen Langel and Emily Langel

Operating Fund
In appreciation of their hosting the Mandel JDS
Suburban Temple-Kol Ami
Mary Ann and Daniel Rothstein
Shelley Fishbach
In loving memory of
George E. Frankel
Barbara and Stanley Brown
Evelyn Singer
Michelle Brown
In appreciation of his presenting to “A Bisl Yiddish” class
Matt Lehman
Shellie and Mark Nyer

Our Tent
In appreciation of her leading the Women’s Shabbat
Rabbi Shana Nyer
Michelle Brown
In loving memory of
Jane Weiss
Emily and Jim Gusky

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In loving memory of
Evelyn Singer
Jan Lieblich
In loving memory of
Jane Weiss
Susan Hirsch
In loving memory of
Morris and Rebecca Berick
James and Christine Berick
Rabbi Myron and Gladys Silverman
Youth Activities Fund
In loving memory of
Marian Stotter Reid and Louise Stotter Mielziner
Thomas, Ellen and Jennifer Wieder

Vintage Fund
In loving memory of
Marilyn Bialosky
Jane and Paul Wexler
Our Annual Women’s Seder
April 7 | 5 pm

Kol Nashim invites all women (post-bat mitzvah age)... Daughters, Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-grandmothers, Girlfriends, Sisters and Aunts to our annual Women’s Seder.

Come and begin your preparation for Passover with a special Seder led by Rabbi Shana. We’ll celebrate old traditions and learn new ones, and, at the Seder’s conclusion, enjoy a delicious light repast. We’ll fill the Mandel-Gries Social Hall with laughter, warmth, music, and spirituality.

The participation cost is $20. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3 to Dale Hopkins at 216.991.0700 or dhopkins@suburbantemple.org if you would like to attend this event.

New to You Auction & Bagel Brunch!
Sunday, May 5 | 10:30 am

Come and bid on some AMAZING treasures donated by our members: Art, books, decorative items, jewelry, ritual items, serving pieces, toys and games.

Cost: $6 for STKA members, $8 for guests

If you have any items in good condition you would like to donate, bring them to the Temple by Thursday, 4/25.

RSVP to dhopkins@suburbantemple.org by Thursday, April 25.