A Prayer of Gratitude

At the writing of this article, my sabbatical has just ended. I’m plugging back in to the ecosystem that is Suburban Temple-Kol Ami. I’m wading through the (thousands) of emails, getting caught up on programs, and planning my calendar. I’m setting up appointments and making phone calls. It’s quite a lot to return to the routine after months out of the normal routine!

And yet, in the words of William Shakespeare: “I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks.”

Shakespeare’s famous words are actually not dissimilar to this early morning prayer of gratitude shown here how it looks in our prayer book:

To unpack these words: in ancient times, sleep was not understood and was even scary. Some even considered it a “small death.” Further, the darkness of night was extremely dangerous. Therefore, to awaken to the miracle of a new day: how wondrous!

Those sages that created this prayer, much like Shakespeare, were trying to find adequate words to say “thank you” for opening their eyes to the miracle of life.

I thank you, Suburban Temple-Kol Ami, for the space, the trust, and the time of my sabbatical—knowing that words are not enough.

Rabbi Allison Vann
avann@suburbantemple.org
From Brett’s Desk:

Today, the Stashower daffodil garden looks amazing. I love Spring at ST-KA when the flowers bloom, we clean up from the winter, and the campus begins to once again look like the beautiful property that we are so proud to steward.

In last month’s Bulletin, I spoke about the Open Doors membership program. I want to share some additional information that I hope you’ll consider when you receive your 2019–20 Open Doors membership letter.

Since 2015, we have welcomed over 25 families into the ST-KA community. This is wonderful! Many of our new families have quickly integrated themselves into the Our Tent program, Shabbat services, Tikun Olam projects, and more. Even with the influx of new members, our overall numbers remain about the same as they were in 2015 — about 295 to 300 member families. Each of you has a Suburban Temple – Kol Ami story… the why of your membership. Your reasons for membership are varied, but together, they make up the fabric of our ST-KA family. There is also room for more stories. We count on each of you to tell your story of ST-KA to friends and family who are not affiliated or who may be seeking a new spiritual home. Rabbi Vann, Rabbi Shana, each member of the Board, and I are always available to talk about the benefits of membership.

Our membership committee, ably led by Temple Vice-President Lori Rosenberg, is taking an aggressive stance toward membership this upcoming year. It is the committee’s goal to increase our overall membership by 10. We hope that all members of the congregation will help us reach our goal.

The Open Doors model relies on everyone making the best gift for their family. When you receive your 2019-20 Open Doors contribution letter, please take a moment and consider your gift. If possible, please increase your gift.

On a different note, last month we celebrated Charles Hickerson’s 60th year of service to Suburban Temple – Kol Ami! Many of you know Charles – his warmth, smile, and never ending willingness to be there for every congregant of ST-KA. I apologize for not including this recognition in the April Bulletin, but hope when you see Charles, that you’ll thank him for a job very well done.

B’shalom,
Brett Shankman,
Executive Director
bshankman@suburbantemple.org

Learning Shabbat

Join us for our next learning Shabbat on Friday, May 10.
6pm Service
Followed by light dinner and learning with our shin shin, Shahak Musai. She will lead us on a tour through photographs in this exhibit, which were taken by the 20 student members of israel.cleveland.next (icnext) Cohort 6.
Please RSVP for dinner to Keesha Sellars at ksellars@suburbantemple.org or by phone at 216.991.0700

Summer Send-Off
Sunday, May 19, 10:30 am

On Sunday, May 19, we will be having our SUMMER SEND OFF AND CELEBRATION OF THE OUR TENT YEAR. The ice cream truck will be rolling up and we are sending you off for the summer with a day to remember.

We will be honoring our teachers, having a slide show, blessings for all graduating Seniors and for those who are going to Jewish summer camp, followed by lunch and the ice cream truck.

Mark your calendars for this event. You don’t want to miss it. To RSVP call the office at 216.991.0700 or email Keesha Sellars (ksellars@suburbantemple.org).

See you there!

Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars!

Monday, June 10 | 7 pm

Join us as we review the past year, and give the President’s Award to this year’s recipient!
Our Tent Retreat

We Double Dared everyone to make a new friend, learn something new and find deeper meaning. And as you can see they did, and had a great time doing it!
Greetings from Kol Nashim!

The days of summer fun are upon us! Make sure to add these events to your calendar:

**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 to hear more (and explore Van Aken District Market).

In addition to getting the low down on spices we will be saying thank you to our board of 2017–2019 and welcoming our board of 2019–2021. All women of the congregation are welcome to join us! An RSVP to Dale is requested **before May 15**.

**Calvary Church Supper**
Bakers, spaghetti makers (we will give you the ST-KA secret recipe), servers and shoppers (store bought dessert is acceptable) are needed to help with the Calvary Church dinner on **Wednesday, May 29** (the LAST Wed. in the month). Let Jan know how we can count on you at JanetLieblich@gmail.com or 216.297.1890.

**Book Club**
Our book club will be held on **Thursday, June 13** as we discuss, The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck. Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined — an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel from the author of the New York Times Notable Book The Hazards of Good Breeding.

Jessica Shattuck’s evocative and utterly enthralling novel offers a fresh perspective on one of the most tumultuous periods in history. Combining piercing social insight and vivid historical atmosphere, *The Women in the Castle* is a dramatic yet nuanced portrait of war and its repercussions that explores what it means to survive, love, and, ultimately, to forgive in the wake of unimaginable hardship.* A reservation to Dale is needed by **June 10**.

**Thank You**
It is hard for me to believe that it has been two years since accepting the responsibility as president of Kol Nashim—The Women of Suburban Temple. My term exhibited the awesomeness of people working together, welcoming others, trying new things, (Rosh Chodesh — Art experience) supporting the annual “tried and true” events (Shabbat Service and Dinner) along with working through challenges and problem solving for the betterment of all.

As I pass the gavel to our new Board I am confident of the continued opportunities to participate in programs and the welcoming of your suggestions and comments. I finish this article with todah, gracias, merci, grazie, a dank – thank you for the honor of serving!

With appreciation,
Susan Gordon Merdler
Kol Nashim President
STKAkolNashim@gmail.com

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**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.

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**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.
May/June 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!

May

Thu., May 2 .................... 7 pm | Author Agata Tuszynska
Fri., May 3 .................... 7:15 pm | Fourth grade dinner at the Rabbi’s house
Sun., May 5 ................... 10 am | New to You Auction
Mon., May 13 .................. 7 pm | Board of Trustees meeting
Wed., May 15 .................. 12 pm | AARP Safe Driver training
Sun., May 19 ................... 10:30 am | Our Tent Summer Send-Off
Mon., May 27 .................. MEMORIAL DAY (Offices Closed)
Wed., May 29 .................. 4 pm | Calvary Church Community Supper
Wed., May 29 .................. 7 pm | Executive Committee meeting

June

Wed., Jun. 5 ................... 7:30 pm | Kolot Kol Ami rehearsal
Fri., Jun. 7 .................... 7:15 pm | Kolot Kol Ami member dinner
Sat., Jun 8 ..................... 6 pm | Shavuot Service and Program with Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Ph.D
Mon., Jun. 10 .................. 7 pm | Annual Meeting
Thur., Jun. 13 ................ 7 pm | Kol Nashim Book Club
Sun., Jun. 16 .................. 9:30 pm | Israel 2019 Trip meeting
Thur., Jun. 20 ................ 6 pm | Vintage Steering Committee meeting

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

Milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mazal tov to our members who are celebrating milestone birthdays in May and June:

May

David Cohen
Bob Gries
Harriet Levine
Robert Needelman
Sue Ohneck
Diane Stupay
Alan Weiner

June

Joe Ambus
Jay Berk
Stan Brown
Thomas Dobo
Irv Feldman
Jane Forman
Robin Gilbert
Laurel Kest
Ginny Lehman
Suzanne Luria
Edward Lux
Susan Raphaely
Rosemary Woodruff

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 a milestone anniversary in May and June:

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Marylena & Herbert Neides (25 yrs)
Deedra & Carter Strang (15 yrs)

June

Jean & Lou Bloomfield (60 yrs)
Wendy Cantor Dobo & Thomas Dobo (15 yrs)
Brynda & Todd Ivan (30 yrs)
Tina & Dan Keller (15 yrs)
Laurel & Don Kest (60 yrs)
Julie & Matt Lehman (20 yrs)
Sue & James Ohneck (10 yrs)
Susan & Jeff Weiler (55 yrs)
Deborah & Arthur Zinn (45 yrs)

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Shabbat Acknowledgments
We are grateful to the following people who helped make our March worship services a beautiful experience.

**Guest Leaders:** Leon Mendelowitz, Lori Rosenberg

**Guest Sermon:** Stan Dub, Diane Greene, Cantor Dave Malecki

**Shabbat Blessings:** Annie and Kevin Becker, Joe Cohn, Ginny Lehman, Margery Mazoh and Becky Strem, Sandy Lusher-Waterhouse and Bruce Waterhouse

**Torah Blessings:** Emily and Jim Gusky

**Announcements:** Susan Hirsch, Dennis Lehman, Ginny Lehman, Susan Gordon Merdler, Sandy Shapiro

**Ushers:** Noreen Bertman, Jan Lieblich, Susan Gordon Merdler, Terry Solomon

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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 March 1 and March 31, 2019. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

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**Bimah Flower Fund**
In loving memory of
- Lawrence Blumenthal
- Flora Blumenthal
- Ruth Kun Cohn
- Emil Cohn, Jr.
- Joe Cohn
- Harvey Ludwig
- Beverly Ludwig Fisher
- Richard (Dick) Phillips
- Delfina Phillips
- Elise Rosenberg
- Lori Rosenberg
- Celia G. Schenkel
- Jeanne Haiman
- Karen and Mickey Schenkel

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

*Listed incorrectly in the April Bulletin. Apologies to Jean Heflich and the Nyers.

**Eric Bram Scholarship Fund**
In loving memory of
- Magdalena Stanescu
- Roxana and Gabriel Stanescu

**General Fund**
In loving memory of
- Perry Vann
- Sue and Rudi Hoffman
- Jane Weiss
- Gina and Carl Ashby

**Oneg Shabbat**
In loving memory of
- Irene Baer
- Barbara and Irv Feldman
- Bernard Gilbert
- Annette and Robert J. Lusher
- Sandy Lusher-Waterhouse and Bruce Waterhouse

**Operating Fund**
In loving memory of
- Donna J. Katz
- Mickey Katz
- Jeanne Newman Friedman
- Mary Beth and Dan Rothstein
- Edith and Sidney Buzney
- Sandy Buzney and Robert Buzney
- Perry Vann
- Michelle Brown
- Beth Curtiss
- Mickey Katz
- Kol Nachim
- Julie and Matt Lehman

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Hannah B. and Clifford S. Mendelsohn
Ellyn Ross
Debra Light and Bruce Sherman
Rena and Gary Widzer

**Our Tent**
In loving memory of
- Jane Wiess
- Emily and Jim Gusky

**Rabbi Bram Camp and Scholarship Fund**
In loving memory of
- Perry Vann
- Sandy Buzney
- Carole and Bart Bookatz
- Rabbi Shana Nyer and Stephen Langel

**Rabbi Myron and Gladys Silverman Youth Activities Fund**
In loving memory of
- Ira J. Wieder
- Thomas, Ellen and Jennifer Wieder

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
In loving memory of
- Bernice S. Dworken Berkenfield
- Morton R. Dworken
- Morton R. Dworken, Jr.
- Shirley and Richard Katcher
- Doug Katcher

**Perry Vann**
- Gina and Carl Ashby
- Ronni and Jack Bialosky, Jr.
- Barb and Stan Brown
- Leah Weiss Caruso and Rabbi Josh Caruso
- Barbara and Irv Feldman
- Emily and Jim Gusky
- Amy M. Handel
- Blair & Dori Haas
- Pamela and Stu Katz
- Ginny and Dennis Lehman
- Linda and Geoffrey Mendelsohn
- Dorothea and Michael Polster
- Amy and Ken Rogat
- Gail Rosewater
- Ellyn Ross
- Sandy Lusher-Waterhouse and Bruce Waterhouse
- Susan and Jeffery Weiler

**Sara Radnor Krasnoff**
- Noreen Bertman and Family

In appreciation of
- Rabbi Allison Vann
- Jill and Jack Steinbuch

**Strengthening ST-KA: Annual Appeal 2018-19**
In loving memory of
- Lawrence Bernstein
- Barbara and Irwin Feldman
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

A Shavuot Surprise!

On Shavuot eve, Saturday evening, June 8 at 6 pm, we'll study with world-renowned scholar, Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, Ph.D. Ordained in New York in 1995, Rabbi Sabath Beit-Halachmi earned a Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminar. She has taught classes on liturgy, modern Jewish thought, gender, and theology at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Shalom Hartman Institute, the University of Cincinnati, the Israeli Defense Forces and at congregations throughout the world. She has authored two books and written for the Times of Israel and the Huffington Post, among others.

Shavuot is a beautiful festival that honors when the Israelites stood together to receive Torah on Mt. Sinai. Therefore, one of our Shavuot rituals is to study together. Join us also for our worship experience, which also remembers our loved ones.

Check the website for more information about this exciting festival program!

This program is in collaboration with Temple Tifereth Israel, Anshe Chessed Fairmount Temple and Siegal College of Lifelong Learning. In Honor of Shavuot, Rabbi Sabath Bet-Halachmi will be teaching in Cleveland for the entire week!