Two Hours in Israel: Spiritual Courage

On a bright, crisp, early morning, along with some members of our congregation, I was standing in the middle of a group of women, in the middle of the women’s section of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, looking at the leader of our service, who was standing on a small stool. We were praying the morning service on Rosh Hodesh—the beginning of a new month in the Jewish calendar.

Every month the Women of the Wall, the organization that is working for women’s religious equality at the Western Wall, hosts this service. What may seem so simple—a women’s service—is much more. It’s a spiritually courageous act—which for a long time was an act of civil disobedience.

Israel is a proud Jewish state. It also currently means that the chief rabbinate rules on matters of religion. The rules of the Western Wall were that women may not gather in formal group prayer, sing aloud, wear ritual garb, such as tallit or tefillin, or read from a Torah.

To work towards gender and religious equality at the Western Wall, Women of the Wall was formed. For more than thirty years, Women of the Wall has prayed as a group, waged legal battle, and used the tools offered by mass media towards achieving this goal.

The Women of the Wall won an important Israeli Supreme Court case which allows women to gather in group prayer, song, and to wear ritual garments during their services at the Wall. However, the government has not yet clearly enacted this law.

When the Women of the Wall gather to pray, they are surrounded by guards for protection because of those against these services. Hecklers and even worse, are, sadly, expected.

On that chilly morning, our service was marred by the confiscation of the Torah by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, those in charge of the Wall, before the service began. The service, though, was not interrupted, even though we heard the yelling of a few angry women and the loudspeaker from the men’s side which had been purposely turned to full volume.

How beautiful were our voices—loud and strong and joyous; and how powerful the service. The energy was palpable.

Listening to women’s voices and facing the Western Wall, it was emotional and spiritually fulfilling. To be standing, with members of Suburban Temple-Kol Ami, for religious and gender equality in Israel was empowering. It felt right to know that in this tiny way, we were supporting Israel’s progress.

Rabbi Allison Vann
avann@suburbantemple.org

HAD A TOUGH WEEK?
LET US TAKE CARE OF SHABBAT!
FROM SERVICES TO DINNER... IT’S ON US!

- Fun interactive service for newborns-2nd graders and their families with Rabbi Shana, Lauren Smith and Joe Grasso
- FREE dinner for Everyone!
- FREE books for Children!

The evening is free and open to the community so invite your friends with Jewish children.

Please RSVP to 216.991.0700 or via e-mail.

The next Come Grow With Me! is on March 13.
The last few months have been a whirlwind of fabulous activity here at ST-KA! Among the highlights were the Israel trip (see more about it in the bulletin and our Facebook page) and the amazing weekend with Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy (We Are the Northern Lights).

I’m biased, but I strongly believe that there are so many tremendous opportunities for learning and exploration here at ST-KA. I hope that you’re able to take advantage of them.

This bulletin is chock full of opportunities to learn with us and to celebrate the upcoming holiday of Purim. Please look at the many ways of engage in the holiday and choose one or more to participate in. I know that you’ll have a great time!

Kehillah (Our Community)

As winters seem to get longer, many of our members take flight and head to warmer climates for months at a time. Over the last few years, Rabbi Vann and I have made a concerted effort to travel to Florida and spend time with as many congregants as possible. We are again travelling to Florida this winter.

Rabbi and I will be on the east coast (Palm Beach and Boca Raton areas) of Florida beginning Saturday evening, February 29 through mid-day on Tuesday, March 3. The afternoon of March 3 – Friday, March 6, we will be on the west coast, beginning in Naples. If you haven’t heard from us and will be in Florida during our visit, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can try and see you! Thanks!

From Brett’s Desk:

February 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.

Sun., Feb. 2...............9 am | Our Tent
Thurs., Feb. 6............7 pm | Kol Nashim Book Club (at Nervous Dog)
Sun., Feb. 9...............9 am | Our Tent
Mon., Feb. 10.............7 pm | Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed., Feb. 12............7 pm | Lifelong Learning Committee Meeting
Mon., Feb. 17...........OFFICES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS DAY
Wed., Feb. 19............7 pm | Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting
Thurs., Feb. 20.........6:30 pm | Hamantaschen Making: Session 1
Sun., Feb. 23............9 am | Our Tent..........................12:30 pm | Hamantaschen Making: Session 2
Tues., Feb. 25..........6 pm | Hamantaschen Making: Session 3........................7 pm | Open Doors Committee Meeting
Wed., Feb. 26...........7 pm | Executive Committee Meeting
Fri., Feb. 28............7 pm | Learning Shabbat: Hamantaschen Making
Sat., Feb. 29..........10:30 am | Hamantaschen Making: Session 4

Member Moments: ISRAEL 2019

You’re going to see more highlights about what makes Suburban Temple-Kol Ami so special, starting with the Israel trip-focused Member Moments below.

“Our journey to Israel was unforgettable! Nothing prepared us for the feelings we felt upon touching down in Tel Aviv. Imagine being in a country where you are the majority! It is very awesome. We experienced all that Israel has to offer and more! We were living history in the moment. Moments such as Maddie’s Bat Mitzvah at Zippori National Park; praying as a group with the Women of the Wall; Shabbat services in Jerusalem; marveling at the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Israeli Museum; floating in the Dead Sea with the Rabbi; the light show at the Tower of David; volunteering at Leket Israel food rescue warehouse; remembering Rabbi Bram at the Toner school in Beit Shean and reflecting on the history and stories preserved in Yad Vashem. So many emotional experiences shared with a loving group of travelers and leaders.”

- Dorothea Polster

“This journey to the Promised Land even exceeded the promise. I loved every minute. The group was very congenial, our educator/guide Hillel was outstanding and the locals hospitality was off the chart. I loved Israel before, but now it is even deeper. Thank you and toda raba to all.”

- Joey Bauer

“For Jane and me, this trip to Israel was extraordinary. The history, sites, experiences, food, tour guide, and itinerary (even with weather challenges) all made for a meaningful and memorable trip. Plus, the company we had the pleasure of spending 10 days was an unexpected pleasure.”

- Jon Forman

See a selection of our Israel photos on the next page!
Member Moments:

From December 21 through December 30, 2019, Rabbi Vann led a group of congregants on an historical and spiritual tour of Israel. They experienced the country, its customs and Chanukah during their time abroad. We couldn’t possibly do this trip any justice with the photos on this page, so please follow this link to our Facebook page to see more:

In Memoriam

Dear Relative
Linda Crawford
Dickie Elkin
Alice Nyer

Shalom,

I hope you have been enjoying our unseasonably warm days and keeping comfortable on the cold, wintry ones. As you read this, our annual Kol Nashim Shabbat will have just taken place. The service was led by our members, some of whom chanted from the Torah. Our inspirational and informative speaker was Loree Resnick, Executive Director Emerita of STKA. Many of those attending the service stayed to enjoy a delicious Shabbat Dinner. A huge thank you to Jan Lieblich, chairperson, her committee and Rabbi Vann for planning and executing such a special evening.

The next meeting of the Kol Nashim Book Club will take place on Thursday, February 6th at 7:00. We will gather outside of Nervous Dog at Beachwood Lifestyle Center (La Place) to discuss The Trust by Ronald Balson. We will also be able to purchase treats from Nervous Dog or Mitchell's Ice Cream. Please watch Temple Times for information about future Book Club meetings.

Please save the evening of Sunday, April 5th, for the annual Kol Nashim Women's Seder. Please watch future Bulletins and Temple Times for more information.

As always, please contact me or any Kol Nashim member with your comments and suggestions.

Shellie Nyer
President
thenyers@aol.com

PURIM 2020 | 19 DAYS. 10 WAYS.

This year, there will be more ways than ever to celebrate, including the four activities described in this bulletin. For the whole Megillah, please visit: suburbantemple.org/purim.html

Sunday, March 8 | 10:30 am

- See Deena Nyer Mendlowitz and her Improv Troupe lead the congregation in an interactive, kid-friendly, Megillah-themed show with skits and games.
- Make sure you put on your best costume for our first annual costume contest, open to adults and children! The prize will be your choice an Amazon, Starbucks or Target gift card.
  - Purchase raffle tickets to win a brand new television! Advance chances can be purchased through the temple website. (see link above this box)
  - There will be pizza, games, prizes, a giant inflatable and more!!

learning shabbat: making hamantaschen for purim!
Friday, February 28 | 6 pm

Come fill some tasty triangles... and your tummies!
A light meal & learning will follow Shabbat services.
(No RSVP is needed to attend services)

Please RSVP by Monday, February 24 to lifelonglearning@suburbantemple.org or 216.991.0700 if you’d like to attend.

Meals will be served while your Hamantaschen bakes!
(dough will be pre-made)

PRE-ORDER YOUR HAMANTASCHEN

Delicious Hamantaschen, homemade by temple members, may be purchased for $4 / HALF-DOZEN.
You must order flavors in multiples of THREE.

STRAWBERRY ● APRICOT ● CHOCOLATE ● POPPYSEED

Hamantaschen can be picked up on Sunday, March 8 at the Purim Carnival.
All orders must be received by Monday, March 2.

Place your orders by contacting the office at 216.991.0700 or lifelonglearning@suburbantemple.org or by filling out an order form and submitting it. (available at the temple or downloadable from the web)
OUR TENT RETREAT, 2020!

WHERE’S WALDO?

PUNDERSON MANOR

APRIL 25 (noon) - APRIL 26 (noon)

24 hours of learning & laughter, friends & family, meaning & mayhem!

$75 per adult* and $45 per kid
(includes all meals and accommodations)

RSVP BY MARCH 1 to lifelonglearning@suburbantemple.org
or by calling the Temple office at 216.991.0700
*for double occupancy (single occupancy $140)

This retreat is made possible through generous grants from the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.
Shabbat Acknowledgements
We are grateful to the following people who helped make our December worship services a beautiful experience:

**Shabbat Blessings**: Amy and Neil Bloomberg, Sue and Rudi Hoffman, Dori, Irv, Henry and Frankie Katz, Muriel Lederman

**Torah Blessings**: Barbara and Irv Feldman

**Announcements**: Matt Lehman, Ellyn Ross, Carter Strang, Andi Wasserman

**Ushers**: Noreen Bertman, Jan Lieblich, Flossy and Dennis Mitchell, Ellen and Tom Wieder

**Kolot Kol Ami**: Jodi Ashby, Howard Feldenkris, Nancy Huntsman, Stephen Langel, Muriel Lederman, Dennis Lehman, Leon Mendelowitz, Loree Resnik, Linda Wolfe, Lyle Merdler (guest percussionist) and Madeline Levitz (guest keyboardist)

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**Bimah Flowers and Oneg Shabbat Sponsors**

On December 6, the oneg shabbat was a gift from **Barbara and Irv Feldman** in loving memory of Irmgard and Albert J. Baer, and Hyman L. Feldman

On December 6, the oneg shabbat was a gift from **Ronni and Jack Bialosky, Jr.** in loving memory of Calvin Siegal

On December 6, the bimah flowers were gifts from **The Bialosky Family** in loving memory of Marilyn Bialosky

On December 6, the bimah flowers and oneg shabbat were gifts from **Mary and Jerold Goldberg** in loving memory of Leah Goldberg

On December 6, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Sue and Rudy Hoffman** in loving memory of Florence Abramson

On December 6, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Roxana and Gabriel Stanescu** in loving memory of Clement Stanescu

On December 13, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Dori and Irv Katz** in honor of Fraleigh “Frankie” Katz

On December 13, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Barbara and Stanley Brown** in loving memory of John E. Frankel

On December 13, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Mickey Friedman** in loving memory of Stanley Eli Friedman

On December 13, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Ellen and Tom Wieder** in loving memory of Jacob Wieder

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Noreen Bertman** in loving memory Minnie Gutmacher

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Wendy Cantor Dobo** in loving memory Alice Sternberg

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Kelly and Christopher Couch** in loving memory Linda Couch

On December 20, the oneg shabbat was a gift from **Sherry and Gary Dinner** in loving memory of Gloria Dinner

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Shelly and Tom Galvin** in loving memory Sarah Golenberg and Lonnie Simon Golenberg

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Loree and Alan Resnik** in loving memory Sol L. Bloomfield

On December 20, the oneg shabbat was a gift from **Sara Stashower and Mark Heller** in loving memory of David A. Heller

On December 20, the bimah flowers were gifts from **Ellen and Tom Wieder** in loving memory Judith Wieder

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**Milestone Birthdays and Anniversaries**

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

- Lisa Adamson
- Amy Brooks
- Evan Coleman
- Howard Feldenkris
- Steven Greenfield
- Stuart Katz
- Nancy Kohn
- Sue Ellen Korach
- David Nagusky

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

- Carla and Roger Newberry
  (40 years)

**Milestone birthday listings begin at age fifty and every five years afterwards. All birthdays 100 and over are listed.**

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**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/form/STKAdonation-form. Donations listed below were received between December 1 and December 31, 2019. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Bimah Flower Fund:
In loving memory of
Eleanor Jeanne Andelman
   Barbara Andelman & Richard Nemeth

Bimah Flowers:
In loving memory of
Florence Abramson
   Sue and Rudi Hoffman
In loving memory of
Marilyn Bialosky
   The Bialosky Family
In loving memory of
Sol L. Bloomfield
   Loree and Alan Resnik
In loving memory of
Linda Couch
   Kelly & Christopher Couch
In loving memory of
John E. Frankel
   Barbara & Stanley Brown
In loving memory of
Stanley Eli Friedman
   Mickey Friedman
In loving memory of
Sarah Golenberg
   Lonnie Simon Golenberg
   Shelly & Tom Galvin
In loving memory of
Leah Goldberg
   Mary & Jerold Goldberg
In loving memory of
Lonnie Simon Golenberg
   Sarah Golenberg
   Shelly & Tom Galvin
In loving memory of
David A. Heller
   Sara Stashower & Mark Heller
In loving memory of
Calvin Siegal
   Ronni & Jack Bialosky, Jr.

Oneg Shabbat:
In loving memory of
Irmgard and Albert J. Baer
   Hyman L. Feldman
   Barbara & Irv Feldman
In loving memory of
Gloria Dinner
   Sherry & Gary Dinner
In loving memory of
Leah Goldberg
   Mary & Jerold Goldberg
In loving memory of
Lonnie Simon Golenberg
   Sarah Golenberg
   Shelly & Tom Galvin
In loving memory of
David A. Heller
   Sara Stashower & Mark Heller

Operating Fund:
In honor of receiving the Heritage Medal
   Tom Adler
   Helen & David Nagusky
In loving memory of
Mary Jane Waterhouse
   Ronni & Jack Bialosky, Jr.
   Michelle Brown
   Sue and Rudi Hoffman
   Debra Light & Bruce Sherman

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund:
In honor of
   Isaac Vann
   Sandy Buzney
In loving memory of
Morris Berick
   Christine & Jim Berick
In loving memory of
Ruth Miller
   Mary Ann Wormser

MEET EMMA WOLINSKY!

My name is Emma Wolinsky and I am the new Youth Group Advisor for Suburban Temple Kol-Ami. My Jewish identity began to flourish in my early teens and only then did I realize the importance of a faith based friendship. Having spent summers at Goldman Union Camp Institute and taking part in several BBYO/NFTY events- I learned there is nothing like a youth group bond and forming a safe place to have fun.

A little bit about myself? I am a full time post-bachelors student in medicine and I am also an adjunct researcher at Case Western Reserve University. I cannot wait to get to know the congregation better, and I especially look forward to planning fun and food-filled events for youth group!

Give Us a Call!

Are you or is someone you know looking for rabbinic guidance or a rabbinic visit? Please contact the office to speak with Rabbi Vann or to set up an appointment to speak with her. We are open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am—5:00 pm and 8:00 am—3:00 pm on Fridays.

216.991.0700
Hope will rise. Spirits will soar.

Thanks for making the We Are Northern Lights concert and On Holy Grounds: Our Tent's Tikkun Olam coffee house showcase so special!

To see videos, visit our YouTube page! http://bit.ly/YouTube-ST-KA
Pints on Purim

Monday, March 9 at 7 pm

Purim is NOT just for kids!

• Join Rabbi Vann at the Winking Lizard on Miles Road for an adult look at the Megillah.
• First round and appetizers on Rabbi Vann!

Please RSVP by Friday, March 4 to dhopkins@suburbantemple.org or by calling 216.991.0700 if you would like to join us.

Meet in the Board Room in the back of the restaurant.