

RACLE (

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Taste of Passover: Sharing our Story of Freedom

By Carole Verona

ou are invited to share a taste of Passover and our story of freedom with your Or Ami family of friends, members of the congregations that make up the Plymouth-Whitemarsh interfaith ministerium and the community at large. Here are the

Congregation Or Ami is hosting an interfaith seder on Thursday, March 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Rabbi Ettman and Cantor Franzel, who are co-leading the seder, are creating an interfaith hagaddah that will incorporate contemporary readings, music, and stories. so that all of our non-Jewish guests will understand what is going on. The seder will be in English and there will be opportunities for everyone to be involved.

Helene Levinson is chairing the committee that is handling all of the logistics for the seder. Working with her are Debby Askow, Heather Fritts, Myra Stern, Carole Verona, Mel Waxman, and Randi Zimmer with support from Lori Dafilou and Nick Johnson.

"In this day and age there is a real need to remind people that we are connected as faith communities — connected in support and solidarity with one another," Rabbi Ettman said.

The story of the exodus and the meaning behind it are eternal. "I frequently teach that the Torah is not a book about what happened, but rather a book about what is happening. The story of the exodus reminds us of the struggle to attain some sort of freedom and the hope that we have when we begin a new journey," he said.

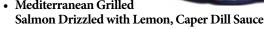
How can a story that is thousands of year old remain relevant to us today? Rabbi Ettman believes it's because the story is not all neat and tidy. "There were challenges all along the way, from Moses having to plead with Pharaoh to the 10 plagues. There were even difficult moments when the Israelites crossed the sea. And finally, when they get to the other side, they begin a long road to freedom. The key component is that the Israelites had faith. That, to me, is the greatest lesson," he said.

Rabbi Ettman went on to explain that our tradition refers to this moment as the great moment of freedom. "By telling the story each year, we are obligated to taste a sense of freedom for the first time. At my family's seder, we have a new custom where we go around the table and share a story of something from which we have been liberated, something that we are celebrating as "new." This is the essence of the holiday."

Rabbi Ettman stressed that everyone in attendance will be fully participating in everything...most notably, the eating of the food! Infinity Caterers is planning a delicious menu:

 Tossed Fresh Greens Salad with Sliced Granny Smith Apple, Sun Dried Cherries, Toasted Almonds & Crumbled Goat Cheese accompanied with a Pommery Balsamic Vinaigrette

 Grilled Asparagus **Drizzled** with



- Grilled Chicken topped with a Tomato, Pineapple Chutney
- Sweet Cinnamon & Golden Raisin Kugel

The cost of the dinner will be \$36 for adults and \$18 for kids between 12 and 18. A registration form will be available soon in News & Notes, our weekly e-mail newsletter.

In addition to Congregation Or Ami, members of the Plymouth-Whitemarsh Interfaith Ministerium include Church on the Mall; Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church; Messiah United Methodist Church; Plymouth Meeting Evangelical Congregational Church; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Plymouth Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends; St. Jude and the Nativity Episcopal Church; St. Peter's Lutheran Church; and St. Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church.



February 2018



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Deadline First of the month before publication of issue. We reserve the discretion to edit for space limitations.



Congregation Or Ami is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

February Worship Schedule

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Friday, Februa	ry 2
6:15 pm	Tot Shabbat featuring Pre-K classes
7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, Feb	ruary 3
9:00 am	Torah Study
10:30 am	Bar Mitzvah of Evan Rosenstein
Friday, Februa	ry 9
7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, Feb	ruary 10
9:00 am	Torah Study
Friday, Februa	ry 16
7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, Feb	ruary 17
9:00 am	Torah Study
Friday, Februa	ry 23
7:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, Febi	ruary 24

Our Mission

9:00 amTorah Study

Congregation Or Ami strives to be a warm and welcoming center of Jewish life built on the foundation of Torah (Jewish Text and Tradition), Avodah (Spiritual Fulfillment), and G'milut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness). We embrace the varied needs and rich diversity of our congregants, our community, and the Jewish people. We endeavor to create an inviting and inclusive community that promotes spiritual fulfillment for our congregants and supports their search for God. We take pride in the strong partnership among our clergy, professional staff, lay leaders, and congregants. Guided by Jewish values, we are strengthened by our active volunteerism and informed decision-making. We uphold the principles and ideals of the Reform movement and are a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.







Evan Rosenstein

Son of Jennifer and Mark Rosenstein February 3, 2018

For Evan's mitzvah project, he raised money for Experience Camps, which are free one-week camps for boys and girls who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver. It's a place where they can feel 'normal' because everyone there has been through something similar and understands what it's like to lose someone close to them. Camp is very important in Evan's family. Evan and his brother Sean have been going to their summer camp, Winadu, in the Berkshires for six years. There they learn independence, confidence and sportsmanship. They love their summer home. Evan's mom, Jennifer, The Camp Lady, is a camp consultant who helps families find the perfect camp for their children. The whole Rosenstein family believes that everyone can benefit from the camp experience.

SAVE THE DATE!

CONGREGATION OR AMI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
CENTER & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PRESENT...



SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND ENJOY GAMES & CRAFTS, GREAT RAFFLES & PRIZES FOR ALL AGES!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC · FOOD FOR SALE

Sharing Our Simdhas, Sharing Our Sorrows

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

To Cantor Franzel

Thank you for helping Noah become a Bar Mitzvah Sara and Jeff Erlbaum

ECE Center Fund

To Michelle Ruder

General Fund

To Debbi Schulman

In memory of Elaine PeskoeFern Krieg

To Michelle Ruder

In memory of June Ruder.....Sara Erlbaum

To Lori Dafilou

Wishing you a speedy recoverySusan and Larry Paul

Light of Our People Fund

To The Schulman Family

In memory of Elaine PeskoePeggy and Joel Sloane

Mitzvah Fund

To the Brenner family

In honor of Kailey becoming

a Bat Mitzvah.....Karen and Jeff Green

Susan and Larry Paul

Randi and Mitch Zimmer

The Final Chapter

he winter reminds us of the fragility of life and its impermanence. We all walk down the same road that leads to the same end. How do we deal with this reality in our lives? What does our tradition have to say about how to mourn for people we love? In this "Happening," we will explore Jewish perspectives, both the serious and the lighthearted, on our ultimate end.

Join us on Sunday, February 11, at 4 pm for the latest installment of Cantor Franzel's Illuminations and Libations series. Each event, presented by Cantor Franzel and Rabbi Ettman, covers a topic within the Jewish world and gives us an opportunity to interact with fellow Or Ami-ites while enjoying a delicious thematic snack and drink.



To Michelle Ruder

In memory of June Ruder.....Bryn and Jeff Michaels

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

To Rabbi Ettman

Thank you for helping Noah

become Bar MitzvahSara and Jeff Erlbaum

Torah Card Fund

To Debi Schulman

In memory of Elaine PeskoeSusan and Larry Paul Jane and Lowell Raeder

Susan Rubin

To the Shubin family

In memory of Barry Bascove Maris Delano

Helene Rosen

Jane and Lowell Raeder

To the Ruder family

In memory of June Ruder.....Lori and Craig Israelite

Jane and Lowell Raeder Bryn and Jeff Michaels

To Elaine Brenner

In honor of Kailey's Bat Mitzvah.....Debby and Irv Askow

Susan Rubin Maris Delano

Deb and Randy Brenner

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Manuel Weinstock.......Lisa and Howard Weinstock
In memory of Dana BergerLaurence Berger
In memory of Myra Blumenthal......Laurence Berger
In memory of Joseph Blumenthal......Laurence Berger
In memory of Louis BergerLaurence Berger

New Horizons Welcomes Renowned Musician



ew Horizons welcomes Ken Ulansey, a Pennsylvania Council for the Arts winner, who plays alto and soprano sax and pennywhistle. Ken will perform at Or Ami on Sunday, March 25, at 10 am.

Ken has been described as a musical chameleon, having played contemporary classical music with Relache, jazz with his own award-winning band, Latin with Synthesis and Minas, and folk music with most of the area's —and even the nation's — leading songwriters. Ken has toured extensively in

Europe, Asia and the United States, played on nearly 200 recordings, and worked in collaboration with dancers, film-makers, poets and storytellers.

New Horizons is a social group that meets every month. They have presented musicians, authors, comedians, historians, and other interesting guests. There is a nominal fee of \$20 to join New Horizons, payable at the beginning of the program year. For more information about New Horizons, contact David Grunfeld at 610-828-1480.

Future New Horizons events are scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 at 7 pm, and Sunday, May 20 at 10 am.



Join COAFTY at the

8-12th graders

Bus from Or Ami at 5:30

Game starts at 7

Cost is \$40. per person

Pizza & drinks are included. Bus included.

Bring extra spending money for extra snacks or merch Limited to the first 15 people to sign up (other than COAFTY board)

Friday Feb. 9, 2018 5:30 bus from Or Ami

COAFTY at the 76ers

Philadelphia vs. New Orleans Pelicans

sign up now at the link on

COAFTY instagram



Like us on Facebook and check in often to keep up-to-date on what's going on at Or Ami! **KALLAH: Night of Jewish Learning**

Celebrating Israel 70 - through sights, sounds, tastes and more Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018

6:45 – 10:30 PM

Ursinus College, Collegeville PA

Join your friends and celebrate Israel70. In honor of this significant anniversary, the Kehillah of Bux-Mont and the Kehillah of Chester County are teaming up to reimagine the Kallah: Night of Jewish Learning. We will strengthen our connections to Israel and to each other through an evening of Israel-themed classes taught by local rabbis, cantors and scholars; and we'll enjoy a "Tastes of Israel" reception.

We are thrilled to announce that the Consul General of Israel to our region, the Honorable Dani Dayan is our Keynote Speaker! There will be a Q & A following his presentation!

Other Highlights include:

Havdallah led by Cantors Stephen Freedman and David Green Sessions on;

- How Israel has Reshaped the Image of the Jew
- Israel's Parliament: a Simulation Game
- Digging the Past
- Prayers for Israel: Exploring our Personal and Communal Connections
- Presidents of Israel: Weizmann, Ben-Zvi, Shazar, Katzir, Navon
- Occupied with Peace, Occupied with Land: The Viability of Land for Peace
- Israeli Poets and Their Message for Today
- Derusalem, 1948-2018: 70 Years of Turbulent History for Israel's Most Important City
- Israel and the Equality of Women
- Mekor Hayyim: The Meaning of Water in Ancient Israel
- Israel: A Jewish and Democratic State
- Israel: Melting Pot or Mosaic
- ★ Whose Land is it Anyway?

Reception follows with tastes of Israel by A La Karte Catering, Israel Wine Tasting with Jay Caplan and Sounds of Israel by Cantor Stephen Freedman

Come and Experience the Sights, Sounds, and Flavors of Israel! Celebrate Israel 70!

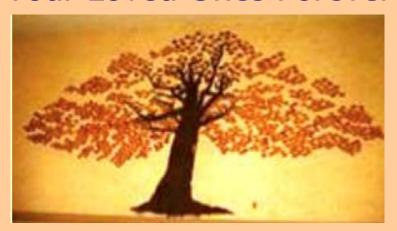
For additional information and/or to volunteer as a member of the planning committee contact: Sherrie Rosenberg Klein buxmontkehillah@gmail.com OR Shelley Rappaport cckehillah@jewishphilly.org







Commemorate, Celebrate, Honor Your Loved Ones Forever



With an Engraved Copper Leaf on the **Tree of Life**

The Or Ami Tree of Life is a tree of simchas, celebration and honor that continues to flourish with the names, events and dates of our milestones, achievements and acknowledgements.

What a wonderful way to commemorate a birth, an adoption, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, wedding, anniversary, conversion, accomplishment or award, while contributing to our synagogue's beautification and sustainability.

For only \$118 per leaf, you can give a beautiful, meaningful gift that will last a lifetime. To order, please use the form below or call the Or Ami office at 610-828-9066, or order online at: www.or-ami.org and click through the **Tree of Life Order Form**.

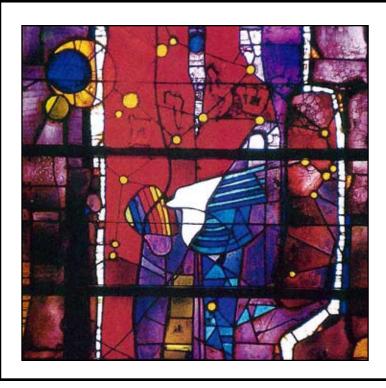
Place your order now!

Tree of Life Order Form (Please print)				
In Honor of:	_ Date of Event:			
Event (i.e., Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding, etc.)	Greeting (Love, From, etc.)			
Purchased by: Name				
Address	CityState			
Number of leaves* Amount end	closed (\$118/leaf)			

^{*} For additional leaves, please fill out the above information on the reverse side of this form.

February 2018 Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Fall Creative Arts Sh'vat 13 30 28 TuB'sheva Sh'vat 12 Sh'vat 14 31 Sh'vat 15 Sh'vat 16 2 Sh'vat 18 Tu BiSh'vat Fall Creative Art (Science Yitro activity (Karate and Fall Creative Arts (Soccer and and Snapology) Ends
PTO Fall Hot Lunch Program Ends Bar Mitzvah of Evar 6:30p Colonial Gymnastics) Ends 4:15p Tuesday Afternoor during Rosenstein Dance) Ends Religious School Soccer Club music 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 6:30p Omdim @ Youth 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts - Oneg 9:00a Torah Study 9:00a Religious School Oneg Room/Social Hall 10:30a BM Evan Onea Room Room/Unstairs Lobby 10:00a Friendship Circle 1:00p ECE ~ Karate Belt 1:00p Dance Recital (Parents 5:03p Candle Lighting Rosenstein Ceremony (Parents Invited) 6:15p Tot Shabbat featuring the Pre-K 6:12p Havdalah 6:30p First Fridays Wine and Cheese "Pre-7:00p Erev Shabbat Service Sh'vat 20 10 Mishpati Sh'vat 25 **PTO Spring Hot** Spring Creative Arts Sh'vat 22 Spring Creative Arts (Yoga unch Program (Soccer and Dance) 9:00a Religious School 4:15p Tuesday Afternoor 6:30p Colonial 9:00a Torah Study **Begin** 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts - Oneg 11:00a RSPO Meeting Religious School Spring Creative Art (Karate a 6:30p Omdim @ Youth 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts Room/Upstairs Lobby **Gymnastics**) Begins Oneg Room/Social Hall 5:12p Candle Lighting Lounge 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 6:15p ECE Center Staff Meeting 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service Oneg Room 7:00p RSC Meeting 7:00p Finance Committee Meeting in Conference Room 11 Sh'vat 26 Sh'vat 28 14 Sh'vat 29 15 Sh'vat 30 16 T'rumah Adar 2 ECE Center Closed ~ All Students Teacher In-Service NFTY-PAR Veida 9:00a Religious School 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 1:00n ECE Center Creative Arts 4:15p Tuesday Afternoor 9:00a Torah Study 10:30a Bar Mitzvah Onea Room Religious School Oneg Room/Social Hall Meeting With Kids 6:30p Omdim @ Youth 7:00p Executive Committee Meeting 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts - Oneg 4:00p ECE PTO- Kid's 4:30p Illuminations Room/Upstairs Lobby Night Out 5:20p Candle Lighting 6:29p Havdalah 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 18 NFTY-PAR Adar 3 ECE Center Closed Adar 4 20 Adar 5 21 22 Adar 8 24 T'tzaveh Adar 9 Adar 6 Adar 7 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 6:30p Colonial 10:30a 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Junior 9:00a Torah Study NFTY-PAR Veida 4:15p Tuesday Afternoor 9:00a Religious School Soccer Club 2:00p Purim Setup Religious School Oneg Room/Social Hall Congregation 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 6:30p Omdim @ Youth 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts - Oneg 6:37p Havdalah Room/Upstairs Lobby 5:28p Candle Lighting 7:00p Erev Shabbat Service 25 Adar 10 26 Adar 11 27 Adar 12 28 1 Purim Adar 14 Adar 15 3 Ki Tisa Adar 16 <u>Purim</u> **Erev Purim** Adar 13 Shushan Purim Carnival 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 4:15p Tuesday Afternoon 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts 6:30p Colonial 10:45a M'Sibat Purim Celebration (Children 9:00a Torah Study and 2nd Religious School Oneg Room/Social Hall Only) 6:45p Havdalah grade Spiel 6:30p Omdim @ Youth 1:00p ECE Center Creative Arts - Oneg 9:00a Religious School Room/Upstairs Lobby 5:36p Candle Lighting



Help Beautify our Synagogue with a Fine Arts Stained Glass Window Gift Card

7:00p Erev Shabbat Service

6:15p Tot Shabbat Service Featuring the Two and Three Year Old Classes 6:30p First Fridays Wine and Cheese "Pre

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

For a \$10 minimum contribution, the Fine Arts Committee will send a beautiful card for you, In Honor or In Memory
The card depicts one of the large stained glass windows
(designed by Benoit Gilsoul) on either side of the Beit
K'nesset

Just call the office at **610-828-9066**

Card will be inscribed with your personal message. Proceeds go toward beautification of our synagogue