



*"My House Shall Be A House
of Prayer For All People."*

Congregation Kol Ami E Koleinu

June 19, 2013

11 Tammuz 5773

In This Issue

[Summer Shabbat](#)

[Refuah Schlemah](#)

[Condolences](#)

[SOVA](#)

[Game Night at Triangle
Square](#)

[Torah Study](#)

[Tzedakah Cans](#)

[Watch Services Online](#)

[Rabbi Eger Online](#)

[Worship Services](#)

[Harvey Milk Day Clothing
Drive](#)

[Summer Music Services](#)

[Mazel Tov](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Intro to Judaism Class](#)

[MOKA event](#)

[Jews in the Mosaic](#)

[Torah Commentary](#)

Quick Links

[Kol Ami Home Page](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

[Beginning](#)

Worship Services

Please join us for Shabbat Services
Friday, June 21, 2013 at 8:00 pm

Services will be led by Cantor Mark Saltzman
with special guest Reverend Carri Patterson Grindon,
Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Services are free and everyone is welcome

GO MAGAZINE

100 Women We Love: Rabbi Denise Eger

June 14, 2013

by Kat Long, Jacqueline Frances and Andrew Collins

We are thrilled to present the 2013 list of 100
Women We Love – Including...

This year marks Denise Eger's silver anniversary in the Rabbinate—and her appointment as President-Elect of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), which serves more than 2,300 Reform Rabbis in North America; she's the first out lesbian to serve in this role. Born in Memphis, Eger moved to the Golden State to study religion at USC and became a leading activist in the West Hollywood scene. In 1992, she founded congregation Kol Ami, a synagogue serving gay Jews and their allies in her adopted home of WeHo. Eger was also the first to officiate a lesbian wedding for that precious window of time in 2008 when same-sex marriage was legal in California. Eger sat on the board of Equality for All/No on Prop 8 and was a founder of the California Faith for Equality, organizing Jews in the



June 21, 2013 Shabbat Dinners in the Gan Shalom



Come dine with us *al fresco* and stick around for services!

It's that time of year again! Every Friday this summer before services we will have our Shabbat "Bring your own" Dinner from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm* in the Gan Shalom. We'll provide the challah and the wine.

Enjoy food, friendship, music and dining al fresco. We hope to see you there!

*this Friday, June 21, Services begin at 8:00pm

Refuah Schlemah

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Greta Rosenblum, Lowell Selvin, Milton Singer, Bob Weiner, Cathee Weiss

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to Bill Farber on the loss of his father, Alvin Farber.

Our heartfelt condolences to Steve Ebin and Amanda Waldo on the loss of

marriage equality movement. "I hope that the LGBT community will remember that we have the power to change the religious and spiritual world with our love and communal strength and fight the forces that try to condemn us," she tells GO. Eger continues to blog and tweet words of love, kindness and acceptance as she embarks on her next quarter century in the Rabbinate. -JF

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICES AT KOL AMI

June 21, 2013 8:00 pm
Interweaving Faiths



Join us for a special community interfaith service with Cantor Saltzman and the amazing, Reverend Carri Patterson Grindon, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Altadena. Reverend Carri is a delight to know, and is also blessed with a lovely, rich singing voice, which will be put to good use in this inclusive and expansive service that blends our faiths and liturgies. The Reverend is well known for the warmth and joy she shares with all whom she touches. Give yourself an extra special Shabbat treat by coming to experience the beautiful duets and the positive messages in this special heart opening journey of the spirit and soul.

June 28, 2013 7:00 pm
Jeremy and Mark: Together Again!



An amazing, genre-bending service conceived with a little something for everyone, and inspiration for all ages. Our versatile Kol Ami "Cantor-ish" from last year, Jeremy Gimbel rejoins us this summer on the bema with Cantor Saltzman for an eclectic, pop and funk inspired evening of music, and some timely tips on what we can do to change our world. Jeremy will be with us throughout the upcoming year, not only with his wonderful musical contributions, but also as our new Rabbinic intern. Come experience the youth, the energy, the creativity, and the joy of Kol Ami's newest clerical staff member!

*Amanda's father,
Steve Waldo.*

**Help us
celebrate
10 Years of Kol
Ami SOVA
Support**

**Food Drive
SOVA**

**HELP US REFILL
OUR BARRELS**



**SOVA needs
Tuna, Cereal,
Toothpaste, and
toothbrushes**

**We are always in
need of personal
toiletries, especially
toothbrushes and
toothpaste, razors
and lotion. But right
now our priority is
Tuna and hot and
cold cereal. Please
pick up some tuna,
toiletries and on your
next shopping trip to
donate to SOVA.**

Kol Ami will be

**July 12, 2013 7:00 pm
Shabbat Under the Stars**



Begin your weekend by enjoying the warm, summer weather as we dine together in the Gan Shalom with a meal of your own making (Challah and drinks provided by Kol Ami). The beautiful strains of our own harpist, Ellie Choate compete with our local West Hollywood ambulance sirens as a counterpoint to creating the elegant ambience for this very special Shabbat in the urban outdoors of the roof top garden. This is a Shabbat made even more glorious by the setting sun to inspire us as we begin our services in a sublime meditation of nature. Sink into relaxation and inspiration with a Sabbath that is illuminated by the warm glow of candle light and twinkling stars.

**July 19, 2013 7:00 pm
Cantor to Cantor:**

Cantor Patty Linsky and Cantor Mark Saltzman



Cantor Patti Linsky, Cantor Emeritus of Temple Ahavat Shalom of Northridge joins Cantor Saltzman for a thrilling evening of soulful music and uplifting song. She received her Cantorial Certification from H.U.C.'s School of Sacred Music in New York, and has represented the Democratic National Committee, and participated in the Seder for Darfur with Rabbi Harold Schulweiss, Forrest Whittaker, Debbie Friedman and Craig Taubman. Her work supporting our Reform movement, both locally and nationally is widely known and highly respected. Her one woman biographical show "Altar EGO" is premiering at Vitellos this month, and portions of it will be featured at this very special service. Come and share in the joy of hearing two cantors for the price of one!

**HARVEY MILK PRIDE MONTH
INTERVIEW CLOTHING DRIVE
NOW - JUNE 30**

Once again we are teaming with Metropolitan Community Church and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los

**meeting at SOVA
the 2nd
Sunday of each
month.**

Please join us.

**NEXT DATE:
Sunday, July 14, 2013
8:30 AM - NOON**

LOCATION:

1140 N. La Brea
West Hollywood, 90038
(1 block south of the
synagogue)

Join the Social Action Committee at SOVA, the Jewish Family Services food pantry to help pack groceries for clients. We are there every 2nd Sunday from 8:30 to noon, followed by lunch. Please notify Social Action co-chair Sam Fibish at: samguy@att.net if you are interested in joining us or for other volunteer opportunities at SOVA.

When you visit the synagogue, please remember to bring donations for the SOVA barrels.

Thank you and remember, SOVA is here to serve you if you are in need. They have two other locations in Van Nuys and in the Pico-Robertson district.

Angeles on a clothing drive for the Youth Center on Highland (formerly Jeff Griffith, located on Santa Monica). We will be kicking off the drive in late May for Harvey Milk Day (May 22) and continuing through the month of June. Donate your slightly worn clothing that can be used by their clients for job interviews. Watch for more information in future Social Action Blasts and eKoleinus.

You can learn more about the Youth Center itself by clicking: **[info - Youth Center on Highland](#)**



MAZEL TOV

Steve Jacobson

for completing his first AIDS Lifecycle Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

Barry Edelman who has been part of the AIDS Lifecycle Ride for the last seven years. KOL KAKAVOD!

Michael and Sally Beck on the birth of their grandson.

Steve Karash and Rabbi JB Sacks on the High School Graduation of their son Evan. Congratulations Evan!

Todd Bloom and Robert Nieto on the conversion of Todd's daughter in law, Emilie Bloom.

Calendar

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, June 21, 2013

6:00 pm Picnic dinner in Gan Shalom

8:00 pm Shabbat Services with Cantor Saltzman
Special Guest Reverend Carri Patterson Grindon

Thursday, June 27, 2013

7:30 pm Game night at Triangle Square

Friday, June 28, 2013

6:00 pm Picnic dinner in Gan Shalom

7:00 pm Shabbat Services with Cantor Saltzman and Jeremy Gimbel

For more information, please visit their website at:

jfsla.org/sova

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GAME NIGHT AT TRIANGLE SQUARE



Congregation Kol Ami, MCC, and The Gay Men's Chorus are co-sponsoring a new volunteer opportunity with our LGBT Senior friends at GLEH's Triangle Square! Join us to to play games, socialize, and have fun with different generations in our community.

We will meet the last Thursday of each month 7:00 - 9:00pm. Please arrive at Triangle Square by 6:45 pm

Students in need of community service hours are encouraged to join in! Kol Ami will sign off on this activity as hours served.

Rabbi Eger's Silver Soiree was an amazing night for all who attended. Here are a few pictures. Please check the website for more pictures from the event.



Come volunteer,
brighten someone's
day and have a great
time doing so!

**Your next
opportunity to
participate is
THURSDAY,
June 27, 2013
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

For more
information, please
contact Kol Ami
member Howard
Goldin
at hjg1217@aol.com or
Bill Gallimore,
GMCLA Gives Back
at:
billgallimore@aol.com.

We hope to see you
there!



CURIOUS ABOUT JUDAISM?

Would you like to learn more about the basic traditions and customs of the Jewish people?

Let us teach you from the perspective of Reform Judaism. URJ's 18 week Introduction to Judaism course provides an entry point for people of all backgrounds to participate more comfortably in Jewish life.

This class introduces the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice in 16-20 weeks. Topics include Jewish holidays and life cycle events, theology and prayer, Israel, history and Hebrew.

The course is organized around the major themes of Judaism, and around the holidays and events in the Jewish life cycle, including the following concepts:

- Birth
- Concepts of God
- Conversion to Judaism
- Death and Mourning
- Israel and Zionism
- Jewish Culture
- Jewish History
- Jewish Holidays
- Marriage/Partnership and Family
- Personal Responsibility
- Repentance and the Path of Righteousness
- Worship and Spirituality

Where: Congregation Kol Ami
When: Tuesday nights 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
July 16, 2013 - November 26, 2013

Attention members:

We are looking to put
together a team of 10
(or more!)
congregants for a
group comprised of
Reform congregations
from the region. We're
looking to build
something powerful
by bringing the
Reform movement
together in the
Greater Los Angeles
Area- rabbis, cantors,
educators, leaders,
members of all ages-
- to get to know one
another and build
Reform California, a
powerful movement
for justice in
California.

If you are interested,
please contact:
Sam Fibish
at samguy@att.net

Torah Study
with Rabbi
Eger
Will resume in
October 2013

*Its Time to
Bring in Your
Tzedakah
Cans!*



Please bring
in your cans
for donation,
and don't
forget to pick
up a new one
while you're
here.

***If you are unable
to make it to
Services and
would still like to
join us for
worship, NOW
YOU CAN!***

***Kol Ami is proud
to offer you the
opportunity to***

For more information or to sign up click here:

<http://www.reformjudaism.org>



AN EVENING AT THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL WITH PINK MARTINI

Saturday, July 20, 2013
6:00 pm - Pre-Concert Picnic
8:00 pm - Concert
\$36 per ticket

Transporting audiences from a samba parade in Rio to a 1930s French cabaret, the Portland-based, internationally loved Bowl favorites return for a fanciful romp with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. For the first time ever, the dazzling China Forbes and bewitching Storm Large share the stage and co-helm the playfully diverse 12-piece band.

SPONSORED BY MOKA AND OPEN TO ALL

For more information call the temple office at 323/606-0996
Or to purchase tickets [click here:](#)

Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic



Tour the Autry Museum

Explore how a growing Jewish community settled, prospered, and helped shape the economy, politics, and culture of a city—and how the diversity and dynamism of Los Angeles have transformed the local Jewish community for the past 160 years.

This groundbreaking exhibition is the story of neighborhoods like Boyle Heights and Fairfax, people like Billy Wilder, Max Factor, and Frank Gehry, and

view Friday evening Services live on the web.

Please [connect here](#) for Friday night Services, and enjoy the spiritual experience of Kol Ami at home.

Rabbi Eger Online!

Did you know Rabbi Eger not only keeps up her Torah blog on the Kol Ami website, but also has her own personal blog?



There are new posts every day, so be sure to visit often. Click this link to start reading [Click Here](#)



You can also follow Rabbi Eger on Twitter! [@deniseeger](#) or follow Kol Ami [@KolAmiLA](#)



And friend her on Facebook! [Click Here](#)



Also don't forget to check into Kol Ami on Foursquare the next time you're at Temple! Check out our loyalty special! [Click Here](#)

lynchpin industries like the movies and suburban land development. See how Jews helped change the region by recruiting the Brooklyn Dodgers, inventing the Barbie doll, and joining other Angelenos in electing the city's first African American mayor.

Featuring more than 150 stories, documents, objects, and images of family, community, and society, Jews in the Los Angeles Mosaic highlights how the history of Jews in Los Angeles is at once familiar—one of the many in the cultural mosaic of the city—and unique.

Sunday August 18, 2013 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
Join Rabbi Eger at the Autry at 12:30 pm for a docent tour of the History of Los Angeles.

RSVP A MUST

\$18/person in advance to Kol Ami.

There is space for 24

Parking is free

Parshat Balak

Numbers 22:2-25:9

This is one of the most interesting and complex stories in the Bible. This week's Torah portion Balak tells the story of a wizard named Billam, hired by the king Balak to curse the Israelites as they encamp in his territory on their way to the Promised Land. The wizard Billam does not want to take on this assignment having already heard of the power of the God of the Israelites. But the king's men force him into service as well as a "messenger" from God! In the end of the story including a talking ass that sees and speaks the truth more than the wizard, Billam curses of the Israelites turns into blessings. We ought to be familiar with the verse Mah Tov Ohalecha Yaakov, mishkenotecha Yisrael-How beautiful are your tents O Jacob, your tabernacles O Israel from this week's portion. This curse turned into a blessing has become an opening prayer in our morning worship services. Three times Billam the wizard and prophet tries to fulfill his mission by cursing the Israelites only to recite a blessing over them. This drives the Moabite king, Balak, into a rage and he dismisses the wizard after Billam shares more prophecy with him about the end of day.

This very well crafted Bible story is entertaining but also is presented as a lesson in advance of the end of the portion when the Israelites begin to take up with the "daughters of Moab". If the king couldn't get to the Israelites from above in the heights, then the plot thickens by sending the women of the land to entice the Israelite men into relationships that will also have them worship the Moabite god, Pe'or. Pinchas one of the Priests makes an example of an Israelite Prince and one of the Midian princesses

who flaunt their relationship in front of the people in defiance of the "no fraternizing" rule by stabbing them both to death.

Pinchas is known as a zealot for God because of his actions and is given a special covenant of peace.

This story must be read critically. What does it mean for the over zealous priest who murders an interfaith couple being granted a covenant of peace? What does it mean that the Israelite men are so easily drawn away from the One God of the Israelites to the local gods of their wives and lovers? What does it mean that the so called magic performed by the wizard, Billam is powerless over the Israelites? Why can even an ass see the truth that humans who believe they can control everything and manipulate everything can't see? And finally how do we apply these lessons in our world today?

Perhaps we ought to look closely at this week's text to see that we are being shown most clearly that we human beings, whether Moabite or Israelite can't control the world. Only the Divine power holds sway and that our faith and belief in that power and the importance of belonging to our tribe is what holds us together as a People. But our torah portion also teaches us that we cannot be over zealous in our upholding of the covenant because when we act in rage, or anger or extremes, we get results that still try to manipulate the situation. The covenant of peace is the goal. How frustrating for Pinchas whose first reaction is anything but measured to be blessed (cursed?) with now having to act in peaceful ways-not abusing his office. And so too the Israelite prince who flaunted his disobedience by cavorting with a Midianite princess was also trying to manipulate the situation. What is the way of peace? The way of dialogue, the way of mediation, prayer and understand. This is the path to working out our differences with our neighbors rather than suspicion, victimization, or hatred. The answer is given in this week's Haftarah portion that accompanies the Torah reading: From the prophet Michah: God has told you what is good. What does God require of you, humanity? Only to act justly, love compassion and walk humbly with your God.

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