



THE VOICE OF KOL EMET

June 2009



Success, a Simple Touch

By Rabbi Howard Cove
rabbicove@kolemet.org

We all want to be successful in life, to one day – like G-d – look upon the life we have created and see KEE TOV, that it is good. We tend to measure success based on attaining our goals, considering such variables as family, friends, health, humor, and financial security. The irony is that – by this definition – the majority of influential personalities in the history of the world would be considered unmitigated failures.

Moses is considered the prophet of prophets, yet he never attained his goal of bringing his people into the Promised Land. Just when he was finally within sight of it, G-d told him to climb to the top of Mount N'vo from where he will see the land from afar before he dies. We might imagine Moses standing on the top of that mountain, seeing the land so tantalizingly close yet beyond his reach, and feeling that he had failed to reach his goal.

King David – the descendant of Ruth, the first formal Jew-by-choice, and the ancestor of the Messiah – had but one dream: to build the Temple in Jerusalem. He lived long enough to gather the materials, but not to see the project through to completion. We might imagine David looking at the materials and the workers and feeling he had failed to reach his goal.

Rav Ashi, a great Sage in the 5th century, worked tirelessly for 40 years to complete the editing of the Babylonian Talmud. He was almost finished when he died, and his student, Ravina, had to take over and finish the job. We can imagine Rav Ashi putting down the quill and realizing that he had to let go of the project just when the end was in sight.

In the history of the world, some of the greatest personalities must have seen their own lives as failures. People laughed at Galileo; Rembrandt died in poverty

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and neglect. Perhaps the poet John Keats, spoke for all of the philosophers, novelists, scientists, inventors and artists who died with a sense of failure: "My name is written on water" – it will be as if it never was.

The world in general defines success as having a goal and reaching it; and failure is having a goal and not reaching it. Jewish tradition does not hold that definition. IPKHA MISTABRA: just the opposite is true. Success is to have a noble goal, one that is *beyond* a person's capacity to achieve in one lifetime. The key to success, therefore, is paving the way for the next generation to pave the way for the next generation, each one drawing closer to an ultimate goal. By this definition, Moses' life was inspiringly successful. He set an enormous goal for himself, and kept it in sight for the next generation.

The Rabbis of the Talmud teach us that success is not a petty one-stop goal (Pirkei Avot 2.16): it is not your job to finish the work, but you are not free to simply walk away from it.

Success comes not with finishing your work, but in not hesitating to take small steps towards the goal you have set for those who live beyond your years.

In an interview on his 90th birthday, Bertrand Russell – the noted philosopher, freethinker, and anti-war activist – was asked if he considered his life successful. He answered that being successful is not a matter of attaining the petty accomplishments of material goals. “The greatest hero is ... the one who, having a great and worthy goal before him, has striven with all his might to attain it, who has failed at his task and has returned to it without complaining, and who is not embittered or discouraged by his failures. His perspective is sobering: we are bound to fail because life is so short and the tasks at hand are difficult. Successful people are those who persevere in touching the lives of those around them, and who come after them.

From this perspective, we can appreciate the real success of the life of Moses. In contemporary terms, the Director called him off the stage of life before the play was over. Moses did not live to bring his people into the Promised Land, but he taught them – and us – by example how to walk towards the Promised Land of dreams, both literally and figuratively, even if we do not expect to get there in this generation.

We all want to find our small-step successes in life: family, friends, health, humor, and financial security. The significant successes, however, come in the passions we carry that touch the lives of those around us. Our success comes in taking one step towards the goal of SHALOM BA-OLAM, a sense of wholeness in our community, among our People, and through the world.

It is appropriate that on each major festival of the Jewish calendar we take time to remember those who touched our lives with meaning, who gave direction to our lives in ways they might not have realized. We are inspired to do the same for those with whom we share life. While John Keats was wrong in his perception that his life was for naught, he was right in his imagery: “My name is written on water.” Our touch is like a pebble dropped into the still waters of other people’s lives, sending ripples through the generations.

It does not take much to be successful in life: it need be nothing more than a simple touch. We just need to take to heart the sentiment of Herbert L. Rosedale, a true visionary:

*For me, to have made one soul the better for my birth;
To have added but one flower to the garden of the earth;
To have struck one blow for truth, to have done one deed of right,
To have sown in the souls of men one thought that will not die;
To have been a single link in the chain of life
Shall be immortality.*

May those who inspired us with their flowers, deeds and thoughts uplift our spirits, and may we be privileged to transmit the success of past generations to those around us and to the generations that will follow us to the Promised Land of dreams. Amen.



President’s Message

By Alan Kotzen
President of Congregation Kol Emet
president@kolemet.org

Change is good. Change is inevitable. Change is the only constant. Change, change, change...

I said the same thing...two years ago. And how those two years have flown. But the changes that have occurred during that time have been remarkable. There’s Thursday Minyan, Simcha Shabbat, Tot Shabbat and Shabbat Across Kol Emet. Passport to Leadership was initiated. Rabbi Schein has her own office. We hosted our first Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman. A new Ark was dedicated and new Bimah furniture is on the way. Staff performance evaluations were instituted. The budget process was scrutinized and streamlined. Interfaith Seders have been conducted. The Voice is now published in electronic version. I’m sure I’m missing something and someone will remind me.

We’ve celebrated together, we’ve been frustrated together, and we’ve resolved challenges together. And we’ve done it in a manner that has been respectful to one another and in the spirit of Kol Emet. The fact is, Kol Emet is forever moving forward to achieve the standards set forth in the Mission and Vision statements.

Change like this happens only through the dedication, devotion, and commitment of a loyal congregation and a tireless Board of Directors. And I have been privileged to work with both, which is why I want to extend a special thank you to those Board members who will be “retiring” with me - Dara Bortman, Hal Terr, Eric Gressen, Maggie Myers, Andrea Seidman and David Folkman - and to you, the members of the congregation, who have supported me in my endeavors to ensure Kol Emet’s success.

Join me in wishing *Mazel Tov* to the incoming officers and Board of Directors and continuing to engage, enrich, and connect with Kol Emet.



From Carrie

By Carrie Shames Walinsky
Kol Emet Educational Director
cwalinsky@kolemet.org

Change is always a challenge and rarely is it a smooth and easy transition. Without change, we would never grow and improve. As an administrator, I always challenge myself to provide the very best in educational standards for our children.

When Larry Hoffman was our Scholar-in-Residence, he shared a formula with the rabbis, Bob, and me that I would like to share with you: change is equal to dissatisfaction multiplied by vision multiplied by belief in the possibility of change multiplied by first steps multiplied by system support; this sum is greater than resistance. BUT... and this is a big but... if any of the multiplication equation is a zero (i.e. Zero vision or zero system support) the entire equation for success falls apart, and we are left with mediocrity and stagnation.

Our change in religious school is occurring because families as well as educators were dissatisfied with our system. Thursday late session was poorly attended. Our vision is to add Wednesdays and make classes smaller in student teacher ratio. Our senior staff and lay leaders believe that this change will improve our learning standards and provide quality education. Now we are taking our first steps with your support. I look forward to next school year with high expectations and continued growth. Thank you for your support and efforts.

On a personal note, I encourage those who have not registered for next school year to please do so soon. I suggest if you do not have a preference, to choose the Wednesday slot. This new day of the week will grow in popularity with time, and currently it has the most availability.

Have a delightful and safe summer. I am in my office all summer if you have any issues or concerns you need to address.

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Kol Emet Community

Men's Book Club

We had a fantastic first meeting in early May where we discussed our first book, "Killer Angels", a Pulitzer Prize winning novel about the Battle of Gettysburg. Our next book is now being selected and we expect to meet again in late June/early July to discuss it. The book club is a good excuse for to read a book, or just an excuse to get out the house every so often to hang with the boys.

For more information please contact:

Rich Gorelick

tiger82@comcast.net

April 26th

Kol Emet #1 v #2 8:30a Double Header – Moody

May 3rd

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Moody

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Carlton

May 4th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Warwick/Jamison

May 11th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Warwick/Jamison

May 17th

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Armstrong 1

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Armstrong 2

May 19th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Mondauk 4

May 26th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Mondauk 1

May 31st

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Armstrong 1

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Carlton

June 1st

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – J. Russell

June 7th

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Moody

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Armstrong 2

June 8th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – J. Russell

June 14th

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Lawrence

June 18th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – McKinley

Kol Emet Softball – Stronger than ever

Back in 2002 Kol Emet won its first championship in the JCC softball league. Now, seven years later we are fielding 3 teams in two leagues with over 40 congregants playing. That makes for a lot of Bengay and Advil! Each week we have several generations convening on local fields to play, keep the score book, act as bat boy/girl, and to cheer from the stands. Come out and see what you are missing!

Greg Frank continues to manage the Kol Emet 1 team in the JCC League, while Jason Simon manages the Kol Emet 2 League in the same JCC League. The newest team is managed by David Twer in the Delaware Valley Softball League. Their time and energy dedicated to their teammates is greatly appreciated.

Here is the 2009 schedule for all three teams, their field locations follow:

June 21st

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Carlton

June 24th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Mondauk 4

June 25th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Ridgeway

June 28th

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Carlton

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Moody

June 29th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – McKinley

July 2nd

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Ridgeway

July 12th

Kol Emet #1 8:30a Double Header – Moody

Kol Emet #2 8:30a Double Header – Carlton

July 13th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – Mondauk 4

July 16th

Kol Emet #3 7:45p – Southampton

July 19th

JCC League seeds 8/9 play-in week 8:30a TBD

July 20th

Kol Emet #3 6:15p – McKinley

July 26th

JCC League Playoffs 8:30a

August 2nd

JCC League Championship

ADDRESSES & DIRECTIONS TO SOFTBALL FIELDS:

Mondauk: 1292 Limekiln Pike, Ambler, PA 19002

McKinley: Cedar Rd & Cedar Glen Rd, Elkins Park, PA 19027

J. Russell: 7336 Penrose Ave, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Southampton: 484 Gravel Hill Rd, Southampton, PA 18966

Warrick/Jamison: 2301 Dark Hollow Rd, Jamison, PA 18929 (address for closest house to field)

Ridgeway: 136 Manor Rd, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Carlton: I-95 over the Scudder's Falls Bridge to Scotch Road. Go off to the right traveling south. Scotch road goes around the Mercer County airport. A little further, the road bends sharply to the right. There is a cemetery and church on the right. Just after the sharp bend, you will see Carlton Ave. on the left. Turn left. About 40 yards on the left you will see a driveway that takes you back to a field. The field is about 100 yards from Carlton Ave.

Armstrong: 95 North to Exit 4-Rt. 31 South. Bear right off of exit ramp. Go to first light and turn left on Ewingville Rd at 7-11, Texaco and Mobil stations. Go past next light on Ewingville Rd to Armstrong field on right side.

Moody: I-95 north to Exit #4, Rt 31 South. Ewingville Road is just under a mile from there, and should be the first traffic light from the exit (Village Hardware, 7-11 and a gas station) Make a left onto Ewingville Road Pass Armstrong field on your right and continue around the bend where Ewingville Road becomes Parkside Ave Moody field is on Parkside on your left.

Lawrence: (Contact Greg Frank for directions gregfpa@verizon.net)

Mazel Tov to all of Kol Emet's July Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays

July Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Day</u>	<u>Couple</u>	
1	Pete & Beth Brody	14 years
3	Eric & Lisa Gressen	18 years
5	Ralph & Julie Asplen	18 years
5	Scott & Irene Clopton	17 years
5	Paul & Enid Savitz	50 years
6	Mitchell & Lora Green	23 years
8	Richard & Sandy Cohen	34 years
9	David Cohen & Karen Ulrich	4 years
9	Michael & Michelle D'Amelia	21 years
11	Michael & Vicki Umbro	10 years
13	Daniel & Brenda Sirkis	18 years
14	Jeffrey Erinoff & Marilyn Boim	13 years
20	Michael & Lisa Connors	23 years
25	David Kronenthal & Patti Garbeil	28 years
28	Robert & Thea Cohen	19 years
31	Ed & Ann Kimball	38 years

July Birthdays

<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	Emilie Bortnichak	16	Lily Anderson
1	Mason Paterson	17	Daniel Connors
2	Caroline Collopy	17	Adin Goldberg
2	Jordon Seitchick	18	Abigail Cramer
4	Joseph Teitelman	18	Dylan Schoenbaum
6	Carson Cohen	19	Rachel Orsen
7	Talan Flail	19	Samuel Wong
7	Bradley Freid	20	Hannah Greaves
8	Harrison Cantor	23	Samantha Shander
8	Jared Epstein	23	Clayton Sulby
8	David Stern	24	Blake Cohen
9	Hayden Masia	25	Daniel Snyder
9	Justin Schwartz	26	Trevor Frantz
10	Ari Bortman	26	Jacob Umbro
10	Marc Chapnick	27	Macey Berger
10	Sydney Flook	27	Adam Geller
10	Abigale Mauro	27	Katelyn Grubb
10	Johnny Santarsiero	27	Jessica Radner
12	Emily Goldberg	28	Emma Fitzsimmons
12	Julianna Martin	28	Lauren Schwartz
13	Harrison Cerullo	30	Jake Chipper
13	Maddie Thomas	30	Aliza Leibowitz
14	Drew Rosen	31	Matthew Gaeman
14	Jeremy Saver	31	Tyler Gaeman
14	Tara Weber		

Mazel Tov to all of Kol Emet's August Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays

August Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Day</u>	<u>Couple</u>	
1	Ari Gabinet & Christina Paxson	27 years
1	Mark & Laurie Ross	33 years
2	Jeffrey & Jessica Wong	6 years
3	Robert & Wendy Schwartz	26 years
4	Neil & Joann Baumgarten	18 years
4	Lewis & Denise Brooks	24 years
4	Leonard & Staci Schwartz	13 years
6	Scott & Dawn Cohen	14 years
8	William & Shelly Albert	38 years
10	Harvey & Fran Fried	39 years
11	Jeffrey & Marcine Perlson	36 years
12	Scott & Suwannee Becker	3 years
12	Jeff & Andrea Epstein	9 years
12	Todd & Stacy Schultz	19 years
14	Edgar & Tina House	21 years
14	Gene & Debbie Kopytko	26 years
15	Alex & Maya Boguslavsky	16 years
15	Peter & Meredith Rose	16 years
16	Joel & Cindy Naroff	23 years
16	Chuck & Ellen Weiner	22 years
18	Marc & Allison Berger	16 years
18	Steve & Barbara Gross	35 years
19	Joel & Miriam Barrish	30 years
20	Ron & Renee Fields	31 years
22	Gene & Ellen Covell	17 years
22	Chuck & Lori Friedenberg	27 years
23	David & Karen Katz	34 years
23	Howard & Cindy Solganick	39 years
24	Jeff & Bonnie Gold	23 years
24	Tom & Paula Kearns	39 years
24	Jonathan & Abby Weber	12 years
25	Mitchell & Marty Goldberg	22 years
25	Robert & Tamara Stempel	2 years
25	Matthew & Susanne Sulby	14 years
27	Jeff & Sheryl Cohen	15 years
27	Jason & Wendy Simon	15 years
27	David & Donna Teitelman	21 years
29	Kevin & Laurel Bloch	27 years
29	Gregg & Ilene Cady	15 years
29	Ken & Amy Hampel	17 years
30	Eric & Terri Leibowitz	11 years
31	Allan & Corrine Cohen	51 years

August Birthdays

<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	Melissa Schultz
3	Gregory Glatzer
4	Evan Friedenber
4	Ella Pirolli
4	Emmi Schwartz
5	Molly Gorelick
6	Peter Ferretti
6	Reid Gross
7	Matt Cohen
7	Daghan Flail
7	Aidan Frantz
7	Sean Hayes
7	Rebecca Solarz
7	Zachary Yeger
8	Kieran Cottrill
9	Alec Epstein
9	Jillian Siegel
10	Jacob Abrahams
10	Jordyn Abrahams
10	Weston Cohen
11	Megan Blaustein
11	Samuel Davis
11	Sanika Mistry
11	Brayden Naskiewicz
12	Matthew Greenberg
12	Makenzie Shiller
13	Jason Edelman

August Birthdays

<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>
13	Bailey Hanck
14	Aaron Biros
14	Marissa Strominger
15	Andrew Farsiou
15	Brett Hoffman
16	Max Eichholz
16	Sophie Goldberg
17	Ilana Snyder
18	Samantha Cooper
18	Aiden Stein
18	Ethan Stein
19	Justin Boguslavsky
19	Ava Millman
20	Jacob Covell
21	Brian Hoffman
21	Carly Pogachefsky
23	Jordan Fishman
23	Aaron Goldstein
23	Jaden Schoenfeld
24	John Connors
24	Dan Malakoff
24	Gabrielle Malissa
24	Max Rose
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29	Jules Bernstein
30	Ethan Glazer
31	Jacob Neil
31	Matthew Shipon

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Adult Bat Mitzvah of Fran Rosenbaum	Rabbi's Discretionary	Shelley Miller & Michael Seltzer
Adult Bat Mitzvah of Fran Rosenbaum	Bruce Levitt Memorial	Carol and Sol Bress
Adult Bat Mitzvah of Fran Rosenbaum	Mitzvah	Melody and Stan Katz

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Gloria Levitt on the passing of her beloved mother, Gerry Press
Andrea Epstein on the passing of her beloved grandmother, Helen Okin
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- www.kolemet.org: Our place on the web. Includes the [calendar](#).
- The Whisper: [Weekly Email](#)
- Timely emails about important happenings, we call these *Shouts*
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Attention Kol Emet Business Owners Advertise in this Newsletter

In the spirit of building community, *The Voice* includes text advertisements from Kol Emet congregants who have businesses offering products and services. Text ads only, no business cards or graphics. In addition to your text, we will list your name (if not included in your copy) so the reader knows which Kol Emet congregant is involved in the business.

Your listing will include:

Name of Company
Address (if business has a store-front location)
Contact (Phone, Email, and/or Web Address)
50 word description

Cost is \$10/issue.

Send information to the Kol Emet Office (office@kolemet.org) by the 1st of the month for a listing in the next issue.

CONGREGATION KOL EMET CONTACT INFORMATION

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