



THE VOICE OF KOL EMET

October 2011



“Where Are You”

By Rabbi Howard Cove
rabbicove@kolemet.org

Simchat Torah, the festival of rejoicing with the Torah, is a fitting way to mark the completion of the holiday season. Our congregation will celebrate Simchat Torah on Thursday evening, October 20th, at 7:00pm. Part of our celebration of the Torah will include the tradition of reading the last verses of the Book of Deuteronomy and then immediately bringing out another Torah and reading the opening verses of the Torah from the Book of Beresheet.

You should know that some of the greatest and most meaningful lives in the Torah are questions - shattering questions - questions that make us think about who we are and what we are doing with our lives - questions that we would like to avoid if we could, but that we cannot escape. Among the opening chapters of Beresheet, G-d poses a one-word question to Adam and Eve, after they have partaken from the forbidden tree. Adam and Eve go against G-d’s instructions and they feel ashamed, and so they hide.

G-d comes to them and asks the question “Ayeka? Where are you?” G-d asks the question, not because G-d does not know where they are, but in order to make the first human beings face up to what they have done. G-d says “Ayeka? Where are you?” in order to make Adam and Eve come out of hiding and face the truth.

This is the kind of question that should penetrate the soul of every person who takes living seriously. G-d’s first question to Adam and Eve, and to us, “Ayeka? Where are you?” means: What are you doing with your life?

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There is a Chassidic story that centers on the question of Ayeka. Rabbi Shear Zalman, the author of the Tanya and the founder of Lubavitch, was once in prison. The warden of the jail heard that a famous rabbi was in his jail, and so he decided to visit him. The warden fancied himself to be an intellectual, and so, when he came in, he said to the Rebbe: “I have been browsing in your Bible and I have found a number of logical fallacies in it. Can I discuss one of them with you?” The Rebbe agreed.

The warden said, “There is a logical inconsistency right up front near the beginning. You claim that your G-d is omniscient, that he knows everything. If so, why does he ask Adam ‘where are you?’ Doesn’t G-d know where Adam is?” The warden launched his question and then sat back to see what the Rebbe would say.

The Rebbe said, "Do you believe that the Torah is the word of G-d?" The warden said, "Yes, I suppose so." The Rebbe said, "In that case, it is as if G-d were talking to you, and as if G-d were saying to you 'you're 46 and a half years old – where are you?'"

When the warden heard his own, exact voice mentioned, a look of fear came into his eyes, but then he shook off his fright and patted the Rebbe on the shoulder, and said to him, "That was a clever answer!" And with that, he walked out of the Rebbe's cell. But every so often after that, and for the rest of his life, the warden would wake up in the middle of the night and hear that question "Where are you?" and he would shiver.

The warden's question was turned around on him. Now it was no longer an abstract question in which a supposed intellectual tried to find logical fallacies in the Torah. Now it was a real life question...where are you...and what are you doing with your life? This is the question we need to be thinking about at the beginning of the year, as well as throughout the year.

And to each of us who live at a time of social and moral decline, the question needs to be addressed – where are you? How are things in that part of the community that YOU inhabit? Are you part of the solution or part of the problem? If everybody in the community behaved just like you, would it be a better or a worse place to live? Where are you?



From Carrie

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

As a new school year begins, our teaching staff takes time to be introspective and think of how we can improve and create a perfect atmosphere for our early childhood students.

This year, Kol Emet Preschool was chosen as one of 7 schools in the Philadelphia area to participate in an amazing program called PJ Library Goes to School. The PJ Library is an award-winning Jewish family engagement program designed to strengthen the

identities of Jewish families and their relationship with the Jewish community. The PJ Library, which started in 2005 by providing books to 200 families, today offers free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to more than 78,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 8 years in more than 145 communities in the United States and Canada.

In Greater Philadelphia, PJ Library books reach children ages 6 months to 5 and 1/2 years. Another 120,000 preschool children in Israel also receive books through "Sifriyat Pijama." The PJ Library was created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which funds institutions and programs that directly transmit Jewish learning to children, adults, and families. The PJ Library impacts families beyond the books they receive at home by building a community of practitioners, connecting families to their local Jewish communities, and enriching local Jewish programming.

This year our 3 year olds and 4 year olds will receive monthly books on Jewish topics including holidays, Israel, and Jewish values. The program enables teachers to foster Jewish community connections and build a vital bridge to learning about Jewish life between school and home, thus supporting family's Jewish journeys. The books become a springboard for learning and making connections in the classroom and beyond. It is a perfect match between the importance of literary-based learning and family engagement. We are very fortunate to be chosen to participate in this venture.

President's Message

As Moses did for the children of Israel in *Devarim*, it is time for our *Kehillah Kedosha* (sacred community) to assess where it has been and where it is now, so we can thoughtfully plan the path to a vibrant and successful future. As it says in *Pirkei Avot* 2:16, Rabbi Tarfon taught: "It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but you are not free to desist from it either". If anyone was paying attention, that paragraph should sound familiar. It was the final paragraph of my message last month.

So what does Rabbi Tarfon mean? What he is saying to me is that nothing is ever complete. Life is a process. The world we live in and the community of which we are a part is constantly evolving and changing. While we may not be able to complete the mission, we must start the work. I volunteered to be president because I love Kol Emet, but I also believe we need to evaluate ourselves and make some changes. The big question is where to begin? The genesis

of this came a few years ago when Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman came to Kol Emet as a scholar-in-residence during Kol Emet's 25th anniversary celebration weekend. Rabbi Hoffman's talks during Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services excited me about the prospects of a spiritually and intellectually stimulating and evolving synagogue culture.

I am deeply attached to Kol Emet and I believe it is OK to want more from my community. Nothing and nobody is perfect, we can ALWAYS do better. I began my research with Rabbi Hoffman's book, "Rethinking Synagogues: A New Vocabulary for Congregational Life". My reading continued with, "Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary", "Finding a Spiritual Home: How a New Generation of Jews Can Transform the American Synagogue", and my current bedside reading "The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Congregation into a Sacred Community". These books are the result of a project, started in the year 2000, and entitled "Synagogue 2000". It is now called Synagogue 3000 and you can find it on the web at www.synagogue3000.org.

I don't have all the answers, but I do have lots of questions. The answers to the questions must come from you, our Kol Emet community. The changes that are made will be guided by your thoughts, desires, and dreams of what you want our synagogue to be. It isn't about the board adding programs to the calendar, it's about making you more engaged in the community by meeting your spiritual, intellectual and communal needs and enriching and deepening your connection to Judaism and to our kehillah kedosha.

As always, I would like very much to hear your thoughts. Please feel free to contact me at 215-752-7705 or email me at president@kolemet.org.

Announcements

Rabbi Liaison Announcement

In an effort to help facilitate communications between congregants and the rabbis, the Board has revamped its Rabbi Liaison Committee (RLC). All proceedings before the committee will be CONFIDENTIAL. We will serve in the role of liaison between the individual congregants and the rabbi. Any concerns as well as positive

comments will be welcomed and noted. The committee members consist of Ellie Fisher, chair; Carol Kaplan, member; and Neil Baumgarten, member. If you would like to bring anything to our attention, please email Ellie at fishned333@aol.com. She will follow it up with an email, phone call and, if requested, a meeting with the RLC.

Check it out 3rd-8th Graders! Fun times Ahead for the Kol Emet Youth Groups

It's that crazy time of the year when we're back in the swing of things...school, sports, extra-curricular activities, etc. While life may be busy, we invite you to make Kol Emet and youth programming a priority in the coming school year.

Both Kol Emet Youth Groups (Junior -3rd-5th graders and Senior- 6th-8th graders) provide opportunities to make new friends, participate in mitzvah projects and most of all, have a lot of fun! This year we are very excited to welcome 3rd graders to the Jr. YG and we are also thrilled to announce some new activities that are in the works such as rock climbing, an indoor water park, and more. In addition, we'll have our traditional favorites including "Movie and A Mitzvah," "Games and Trivia" and visits to Manor Care Nursing Home.

The success of our Youth Groups is dependent on you! Please encourage your children to come out to our events and also consider volunteering at an event (or two). Of course, we also welcome any suggestions you or your children may have.

Look for more information about Youth Programming at Kol Emet when we have our Religious School Book Distribution meetings on September 20th and 21st.

We wish you a year full of good health and happiness and we hope to see you at some of our events!

The Youth Programming Committee

Upcoming Dates

Spiritual Calendar

Shabbat Service Saturday, October 1st, 9:30 AM
Kol Nidre Friday, October 7th, 7:00 PM
Yom Kippur Young Family Service Saturday, October 8th, 8:30 AM
Yom Kippur Family Service Saturday, October 8th, 10:45 AM
Yom Kippur Yiskor Service Saturday, October 8th, 1:45 PM
Mincha, Ne'ilah, Shofar Blowing Saturday, October 8th, 4:00 PM

Shabbat Service Friday, October 14th, 8:00 PM
Shabbat Service Saturday, October 15th, 9:30 AM
Havdalah Service Saturday, October 15th, 4:30 PM
Shabbat Service Friday, October 21st, 8:00 PM
Shabbat Service Saturday, October 22nd, 9:30 AM
Shabbat Service Friday, October 28th, 7:30 PM
Shabbat Service Saturday, October 29th, 9:30 AM

Kol Emet Business Directory

Advertisements from members of the Kol Emet community

Senior Care Planning Services, a Geriatric Care Management service, operated by Bill Blacker

Provides assistance including a comprehensive assessment and care plan for senior adults and their families who are seeking help with long term care planning. The Service can be reached at:
215-901-6244/215-321-3312

Email: wblacker@seniorcareplanningservices.net

Bill Blacker

Allegra Print & Imaging

Scott Sherer | Director of Marketing Services
tel 609.771.4000 x107 | fax 609.771.8771
2850 US Highway 1 | Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
scott@allegranj.net | www.allegranj.net

MARKETING | DESIGN | PRINT | WEB | SIGNS | MAIL

Allegra Print & Imaging

The Fix-It Guy

David DiBello
Phone: 215-858-2296 OR (610) 909-6591
Email: Dave@thefixitguy.us
Website: www.thefixitguy.us

A professional handyman service. Providing services including carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and other general maintenance services for your home. Serving the Greater Philadelphia area for the 5 Years. Give us a call for any and all of your project needs. Has Hurricane Irene affected your home? We can help!

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 storefront 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.

OCTOBER B'NAI MITZVOT

Allie Weiner

Daughter of Charles & Ellen Weiner

Allie's Mitzvah project is a collection campaign of gently used youth soccer gear and equipment to donate and distribute to communities (domestic and global) that do not have the means to obtain equipment.

October 15th, 2011 AM

Parshat Ki Tisa



Hannah Freid

Daughter of Russell & Marla Freid

October 15th, 2011 PM

Morgan Sotoloff

Daughter of Steven & Janie

Morgan volunteered at the Jewish Relief Agency for her mitzvah project.

October 28th, 2011 PM

Parshat Noah



DONATION LIST

In Memory of	Fund	Donor
Minerva Coenson	Toby Frey Scholarship	Mitchell & Eileen Cove
Ann London	Library	Corrine & Allan M. Cohen
Reba Cohen	Library	Corrine & Allan M. Cohen
Lucille Cantor	Prayer Book	Helene and Bill Blacker
Benjamin Cantor	Prayer Book	Helene and Bill Blacker
Bruce Levitt	Bruce Levitt Playground	Phyllis Levitt and Family
Leonard Levitt	Bruce Levitt Playground	Phyllis Levitt and Family
Eddie Levitt	Bruce Levitt Playground	Phyllis Levitt and Family

In Honor of:	Fund	Donor
Engagement of Debra Fisher & Matt Maloney	Charles Fisher Memorial	Paula and Tom Kearns
Engagement of Debra Fisher & Matt Maloney	Charles Fisher Memorial	Melody & Stan Katz
Marriage of Jared Kaplan and Ashley	Toby Frey Scholarship	Kol Emet Preschool Staff
97 th birthday of Miriam Levitt	Bruce Levitt Playground	Phyllis Levitt and Family

Condolences To:

Eric Broitman on the passing of his beloved sister

KOL EMET DONATION COUPON

Donor Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Recipient _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$18
- \$36
- \$50 (for Prayerbook)
- \$72 (for Oneg)
- \$180
- \$360
- Other – Please specify _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Please use my gift for:

- Building Fund
- Charles A. Fisher Memorial Sanctuary Fund
- Library Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Mitzvah Fund
- Bruce Levitt (Playground) Memorial Fund
- Caring Committee
- Social Action
- Prayer Book Fund
- Endowment Committee
- Toby Frey Memorial Fund
- Outdoor Sanctuary Fund
- Oneg (specify date) _____
- Other _____

This gift is in honor of: _____
 This gift is in memory of: _____

Send to: Congregation Kol Emet •1360 Oxford Valley Road•Yardley, PA 19067

Staying Informed at Kol Emet

There are many ways we try to keep you informed:

- The Voice: [This Newsletter](http://www.kolemet.org/documents/mayvoice2011.pdf) (<http://www.kolemet.org/documents/mayvoice2011.pdf>) and [past issues](http://www.kolemet.org/monthly.asp) (<http://www.kolemet.org/monthly.asp>).
- <http://www.kolemet.org/>: Our place on the web. Includes the [calendar](http://www.kolemet.org/calendar.asp) (<http://www.kolemet.org/calendar.asp>).
- The Whisper: [Weekly Email](http://www.kolemet.org/weekly.asp) of upcoming events at Kol Emet and in the Jewish community. (<http://www.kolemet.org/weekly.asp>)
- Religious school: Materials sent home with your children every week.
- Shouts: Emails sent to alert you to imminent events and meetings.
- Congregational Meetings: Meet at Kol Emet to both listen to and be heard by your Board.

Make sure all the adults in your family get The Weekly Whisper e-mail. If your family has more than one e-mail address, please feel free to sign-up your multiple addresses. To get The Whisper, send an e-mail to office@kolemet.org.

*Mazel Tov to All of Kol Emet's October
Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays*

Anniversaries

<u>Day</u>	<u>Couple</u>
2	Matthew & Jacqueline Mandel
2	Eric & Robin Schwartz
5	Andrew & Claudia Block
5	Brad & Linda Millman
7	David & Kathy Schwartz
9	Andy & Maggie Myers
9	David & Alizabeth Olhasso
9	Joel Raab & Gayle Share-Raab
13	Matthew & Randi Davis
14	Raymond & Alyson Hally
14	Seth & Michele Rosenwald
15	Jon & Sheila Fash
15	Rob & Nadine Moses
17	Matthew & Cheryl Schram
17	Ron & Andrea Seidman
18	Mitchell & Eileen Cove
22	Michael & Julie Frantz
22	Michael & Hilary Levy
22	Todd & Debbie Radner
24	Tony & Heidi Bush
25	Steven & Donna Hoffman
27	Terry & Tracy Cantor
28	Gary & Linda Solarz
29	Larry & Gail Vladimir
31	Dave & Jill Holzberg
31	Bruce & Susan Supowitz

Birthdays

<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Name</u>
2	Eric Kitei	19	Scott Goldinger
2	Joey Rosen	19	Zachary Holzberg
2	Maya Stoogenke	19	Renee Lee
2	Brandon Weiss	20	Jessica Barsky
3	Bonnie Ackerman	20	Alan Kotzen
3	Lexi Albuck	21	Fran Fried
3	Jillian Bernstein	21	Jake Holzberg
3	Bradley Fink	21	Allison Krefetz
3	Robin Schwartz	21	Risha Neil
4	Gary Abrahams	21	Gillian Share-Raab
4	Michael Greenberg	22	Rikki Petro
4	Adina Rosenberg	24	Samuel Ackerman
4	Donna Teitelman	24	Josh Camson
6	Sean Pazdera	24	Maya Geller
7	Shayna Fink	24	Melissa Paterson
7	Zachary Fink	25	Matthew Hampel
7	Tom Mako	26	Ashley Cove
8	Ellen Covell	26	Max Yaffe
8	Mark Ross	27	Robert Fishman
8	Sophie Weber	27	Jack Hally
9	Josh Fishman	27	Ross Pizzi
9	Annie Katz	27	David Schoenfeld
10	Michelle D'Amelia	28	Morgan Sotoloff
10	Skyler Sulby	29	Cady Cohen
11	Madeline Carfagno	30	Ernest Cohen
12	Richard Cohen	30	Michael D'Amelia
12	Ilene Nusblatt	30	Chloe Mako
12	Brenna Schoenfeld	31	Ellen Fisher
12	Spencer Schwartz	31	Abby Kopytko
13	Hannah Freid	31	Susanne Sulby
14	Jeffrey Blankman		
14	Phyllis Eisner		
14	Jasmine Hanck		
14	Jim Jacobs		
14	Olga Lummer		
14	Carlye Zuckerman		
15	Linda Finkle		
15	Andrew Gordon		
16	Joel Barrish		
16	Shara Connors		
16	Blake Fink		
16	Gary Lean		
16	Cheyenne Moses		
17	Charles Friedenber		
18	Andrew Block		
18	Eric Holzberg		
19	Sasha DiBello		
19	Marla Freid		

CONGREGATION KOL EMET CONTACT INFORMATION

Rabbi	Rabbi Howard Cove (rabbicove@kolemet.org)	215-493-8522 ext. 101
Executive Director	Bob Frey (bfrey@kolemet.org)	215-493-8522 ext. 113
Educational Director	Carrie Walinsky (cwalinsky@kolemet.org)	215-493-8522 ext. 103
Office Administrator	Judi Pogachefsky (office@kolemet.org)	215-493-8522 ext. 100
President	Melody Katz (president@kolemet.org)	215-752-7705
Vice President	Andrew Finkle (aefinkle@gmail.com)	215-968-7520
Vice President	Chuck Weiner (charles@charlesweinerlaw.com)	215-579-2832
Secretary	Randi Davis (davis193@comcast.net)	267-392-5265
Treasurer	Eric Schwartz (eschwartz@comcast.net)	215-497-1057
Past President	Robert Moses (natanbenmoshe@verizon.net)	215-321-9927
Religious Education	Jill Gordon (yardley4@comcast.net)	215-295-8838
Adult Education	Andrea Seidman (talzee@comcast.net)	215-736-8494
Early Education	Dina Bortnichak (dina@bortnichak.com)	215-295-1646
Finance	Tom Kearns (tpkearns8@gmail.com)	215-750-1019
Community Relations	Brad Pedrow (bpedrow@gmail.com)	609-775-7536
House	Rich Nedelman (rlnalla@yahoo.com)	215-493-5587
Long Range Planning	Burt Sutker (bjsutker@aol.com)	609-730-0837
Membership	Julie Asplen (jasplen@verizon.net)	215-736-3692
Preschool PTO Co-President	Susan Steiner (susansteiner@hotmail.com)	215-321-7079
Preschool PTO Co-President	Beth Zuckerman (bzuck5@gmail.com)	215-493-5290
Religious School PTO President	Meryl Shoneman (shonemanfamily@comcast.net)	215-321-2381
Ritual	Robert Moses (natanbenmoshe@verizon.net)	215-321-9927
Social Action	Marc Berger (berger537@verizon.net)	215-321-7875
Men's Club	Howard Greenberg (hymizzy@aol.com)	609-883-25254
Youth Programming	Heidi Bush (heitobush@verizon.net)	215-493-4080
Rabbi Liaison	Ellie Fisher (fishned333@aol.com)	215-702-8025
Hilltoppers	Judy Kaufman (hjkman@comcast.net)	215-579-5950
Sisterhood	Hilary Levy (bgrwithcheese@verizon.net)	215-493-5734
Fundraising	open	
Caring Committee Chair	Roberta Sutker (resconnections09@gmail.com)	609-730-0837

General Contact Info

E-mail: office@kolemet.org
Phone: 215-493-8522
Fax: 215-493-3444

Congregation Kol Emet
1360 Oxford Valley Road
Yardley, PA 19067

Find us online:
www.kolemet.org and on
Facebook, LinkedIn, WetPaint