



THE VOICE OF KOL EMET

December 2009 & January 2010



Promises

By Rabbi Howard Cove
rabbicove@kolemet.org

Promises: we all make them. However, we don't always live up to them. Someone once said that promises are like babies: easy to make but hard to deliver.

Politicians make promises to the people; parents to their children; and spouses to one another. However, keeping a promise is not always an easy thing to do. There is a practice among pious Jews of saying *b'lee neder* – *without a promise*, any time they make a statement of intent, no matter how trivial. They'll say, "I'll meet you for lunch tomorrow, *b'lee neder*." Or, "I'll call you next week, *b'lee neder*." It's not that we don't believe in keeping our promises it's just that we can't always do so, either because of a lack of resolve, human weakness, or because of conditions beyond our control. Promises, however, define us: our ability to live up to our words we speak is a statement of our character and our integrity.

Promises figure prominently in the Torah portion *Vayera*. Moses has just had his first unsuccessful encounter with Pharaoh. Rather than freeing Israel, Pharaoh punishes the people by increasing their labors. Discouraged, and his confidence shaken, Moses is furious with G-d: "Why did you send me?" he asks, "Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name he has dealt worse with the people, and still you have not delivered them." Moses is angry. From his perspective, G-d failed to keep his promise.

How does G-d answer Moses? "I am Adonai! I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but I did not make myself known to them by the name Adonai." What a strange statement this is. First G-d has already told Moses his name. So why does G-d tell him again? And second, Adonai appears dozens of times in the book of Genesis, so how could G-d say that he did not make himself known by his name.

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Rashi, the commentator, explains that G-d introduced himself a second time because he was about to reveal the full intent and meaning of his name. *Adonai* implies that what makes G-d, G-d, is that we can count on G-d – he fulfills his promises.

The Torah portion teaches us that it's one thing to make a promise – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were happy to receive promises from G-d, but they knew that these promises would not be fulfilled in their lifetime. G-d now says: "I am Adonai – I not only make promises, I fulfill them. That's what makes me who I am!"

One might say that both G-d and human beings are defined and measured not only by the promises they make, but also by the promises they keep. G-d puts his name on the line, so to speak. In effect, what G-d tells Moses and the people of Israel is "If I don't live up to the promises I made to your ancestors and to you, then I don't deserve to be known as *Adonai*."

The same can be said to be true for us. We are only as good as the promises we keep. Too often, we make promises in a moment of excitement and passion. We then often have second thoughts as we reconsider these promises at a later, more circumspect moment. But, promises cannot be withdrawn so easily.

A world in which we cannot count on the words of the people around us is a world without trust. And a world without trust simply cannot exist. Our children learn to trust the world around them to the extent that they trust their parents. When we don't keep promises to our children, we teach them that the world is unreliable. By the way – that doesn't mean we shouldn't make promises to our children we should just do it cautiously and carefully.

So as we approach a new year I'd like to suggest that the person we would like to be could be defined by what we are prepared to promise. And who we really are will be measured by the promises we actually keep.

May this year be one of fulfilled promises and may we each have the strength to bring the ideal and reality together in all the promises we make and in the way that we live.



From Carrie

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

One of the best parts of my job is connecting with people and exposing new Jewish talent to our community. That is why I want to share with everyone two upcoming and highly worthwhile events.

The first will take place on Wednesday evening, December 16th. The *Shuk* is coming to Kol Emet! The *Shuk* is an ensemble of creative musicians and educators, brought together by their love of the Jewish musical tradition. Traveling the world, The *Shuk* shares the diverse sounds and rhythms of Jewish culture with people of all ages and backgrounds. The *Shuk* is the musical catalyst to discover and explore Jewish culture.

Wait until you meet Yoni, Ami & Gavri. They are three warm, talented, and dynamic musicians, who share their talents and love of contemporary and traditional Jewish music. Seats will be limited. Tickets are only \$5.00 per person, with children under 3 free! Check out the *Shuk* website at www.the-shuk.com, and be sure to purchase your tickets soon!

I would like to publicly thank the Jewish Federation for providing a generous grant to make this event possible. I would also like to publicly thank the Sisterhood, Religious School PTO and Preschool PTO, as well as

anonymous donors who all pulled together their generous financial support as well.

The second event is a year away, but we are already making plans. A Kol Emet Congregational trip to Israel is on the agenda for December, 2010. The best part of the trip is that we, the participants, get to design the trip in its entirety. The hotels, sights, meals, and evening events will all be discussed, and decided by its participants. We invite you to join us, *EVEN IF IT IS JUST A CONTEMPLATION*, at the home of David & Jill Gordon, Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm. Dave & Jill live at 1006 Meridian Way in Yardley. Please RSVP to David & Jill (or me) prior to this date. I encourage you to start from the beginning, and get your thoughts and voices heard. This is truly a life-changing, spiritual, and magical trip. Come join the opportunity to not only see and experience Israel first-hand, but to do so with your Kol Emet Community.

Announcements

Got Israel On Your Mind? Preliminary Meeting – Tuesday, 12/8

Join other congregants for a preliminary meeting to discuss interest in a trip to Israel, 7:00pm at the home of Jill and David Gordon.

“The Shuk” - Israeli Rock Band Live in Concert at Kol Emet – Wednesday, 12/16

The Shuk is an Israeli rock band that travels the world. Its theme is to preserve traditional music, perpetuate and celebrate Jewish heritage and create innovative new music... Save the date!

A Synaplex Event – Friday, 12/18

Engage in a special Shabbat program and celebrate with your friends, families, and the Kol Emet Community as we celebrate the 8th night of Hanukkah.

Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm,
Abbreviated Service 6:30pm,
Program for both adults and children 7:00pm,
Dessert and Jewish Trivia for all 8:15pm.
...Save the date!

Pet Power

On October 18th, Kol Emet joined Animal Alliance of New Jersey in performing a true mitzvah. We called it “Pet Power,” and boy was it powerful!

The event began with Rabbi Schein leading a wonderful animal service and blessing for the pets of the congregants who brought pictures of their furry animal companions. Carrie Walinsky told a delightful animated story of Noah's Ark which the children loved and got them thinking about how Noah's Ark connects to animal

rescue today. Each congregant received a blessing certificate with his or her pet's name on it.

After the service, there was a fun animal-themed carnival with booths, vendors, and prizes. As a Bat Mitzvah project, Carly Harris with mom, Cindy, and the rest of the Harris family, prepared and manned very creative animal-themed booths. Children and adults alike enjoyed the games, especially when they won prizes! There also was a door prize of an adorable Noah's Ark cookie jar that one of the Animal Alliance volunteers won. "Dogs and Cats Rule," a pet store owned by JoAnn and George Parents in Newtown and Pennington, New Jersey, brought in doggie treats, and their Animal Alliance T-Shirts were a great hit with their funny, but relevant message. For the noshers, Helene Blacker had a table of Philly Soft Pretzels and homemade baked goods that filled our hearts and stomachs.

The best part of Pet Power was the opportunity to meet and play with Animal Alliance dogs. Four adorable dogs were there, hoping to find a home. The great news is that one dog, Gavan, was adopted! And, the proceeds from Pet Power were given as Tzedakah to Animal Alliance that has saved over 4,000 animals and will use the money to rescue even more animals!

All in all, it was a fun time and a true mitzvah for everyone involved!! Thank you to all who participated, and we hope to see even more of you next year!!



Social Action

It's hard to believe that Mitzvah Day came and went already! I would like to thank everyone who participated. We had 17 families who helped out with Aid For Friends, which assembled over **360 dinners & 3 people delivered the meals to AFF**. The Red Cross collected 35 pints of blood, the Garden was cleaned up in only 45 minutes with 9 hard workers, and 1/2 of mile of River Road was cleaned up in less than an hour with 10 dedicated people. We collected 25 bags of coats, bedding, blankets, and 2 bags of non-perishable food for the Sacred Heart Church and 3 people filled their cars to deliver to the very appreciative Church! We had over 100 adults & children participate in Mitzvah Day!

We are in the middle of the Holiday Gift Drive that will be ending on Thursday, December 5th. We have 3 gift

boards up in the upstairs foyer. We have 22 needy families from Easter Seals, Federation Daycare, and Jewish Family & Children Services, so please help if you can. If you're not able to come into KE to choose a gift, please send in gift cards. Thank You!

Our next event is the Aid for Friends Vegetarian Soup, Stew & Chili. It's on Sunday, January 10th in the Social Hall. All you need to bring in is your pot of soup, stew, or chili! The more the merrier, so bring your neighbors, friends, relatives, kids and let's fill up those containers!

Preschool Committee - Come Be Heard

Please meet in Carrie's office to discuss what's on your mind and hear what's on Carrie's! Last Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM (the next is January 27th).

Contact: Early Education Chairperson Dina Bortnichak
215 295-1646 or Dina@Bortnichak.com

Caring Committee Needs You

The Caring Committee is in need of volunteers to support our Kol Emet family. Committee members reach out to congregants in need of support due to illness or loss. Volunteers for the committee provide meals to families, help to insure a Minyan for a Shiva service and provide support and compassion when congregants are dealing with life's difficult challenges. To be a caring and compassionate community, we need volunteers to fulfill this important role of a Kehillah Kedosha (Holy Community). If you would like to participate in some way, please e-mail Melody Katz at mhekatz@verizon.net.

Sisterhood

Sisterhood's opening membership brunch was a huge success with Kol Emet women coming together for great food, conversation and shopping. Many thanks to our vendors: Barbara Averill of Visual Effects, Melissa Patterson of Zephyr Gallery, Dayna Henry who sold Donna Sharp bags, and Nadine Moses who presented and sold her beautiful artwork. Many thanks also to Wendy Kursman, who raffled off a magnificent Longchamp purse and to Fran Rosenbaum for setting up Kol Emet's gift shop. Sisterhood's mission is to help create community at Kol Emet and to that end we will be teaming up with other groups throughout the year. If we can be of help to your committee or group, please let us know.

We will be joining the Preschool PTO for a mom's night/day out at the Studio Gourmet in January, and the Men's Club for a fun, Saturday night event in February. We're planning several activities, including a Book Club, which will be chaired by Sheila Hirschfield. Stay tuned.

DONATION LIST

In Memory of	Fund	Donor
Chickie Rosen	Rabbi's Discretionary	Jacki & David Folkman
Chickie Rosen	Preschool	Sue Mager & Family
Chickie Rosen	Preschool	Debby & Ken Maisel
Chickie Rosen	Preschool	Denise & Lewis Brooks
Chickie Rosen	Preschool	Bill & Kathy Keith
Edith, mother of Dr. William Mechanic	Preschool	Eric & Elyce Rosen
Sydne Budnick	Preschool	Eric & Elyce Rosen
(Grand)Father of the Cohen Family	Preschool	Jared Kaplan (son of Denise)
Alfred B. Carson	Building	Dr. Herbert L. Carson
Alfred B. Carson	Assoc. Rabbi's Discretionary	Phyllis Carson
Marion Sachs	Rabbi's Discretionary	James & JoAnn Sachs
Paul Herendeen	Prayer Book	Dayna & Mark Henry
George Biskin	Prayer Book	Bruce Biskin & Barbara Gronsky
Brandon Adam Schultz	Rabbi's Discretionary	The Schultz Family
Fred Kernis & Leonard Sutker (our fathers)	Rabbi's Discretionary	Roberta & Burt Sutker
Bertha Gesoff	Caring Committee	Sylvia G. Thomas
Harold Jacobs	Prayer Book	Howard & Marcy Goldhammer

In Honor of	Fund	Donor
Dayna & Mark Henry	Prayer Book	Candy Rosenfarb
Jack & Dot Litz	Rabbi's Discretionary	Jacki Folkman
Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Cady	Preschool	Harriet & Norm Aronson
The Birth of Emily (granddaughter of JoAnn & Jim Sachs)	Rabbi's Discretionary	Shelley Miller
Jared & Rachel Baumgarten's 16 th Birthday	Rabbi's Discretionary	Adina, Roy, Josh, & Alyssa Rosenberg

Speedy and Complete Recovery To	Fund	Donor
Jack Litz	Rabbi's Discretionary	Jacki & David Folkman

Condolences To

Eric Rosen, on the passing of his beloved mother, Chickie Rosen

Thank you

Don and Brenda Pedrow for their generous donation to the Building Fund in honor of Rabbi Schein

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Recipient _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Enclosed is my gift of:

___ \$18

___ \$25 (for Prayerbook)

___ \$36

___ \$180

___ \$360

___ Other – Please specify

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___ Library Fund

___ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

___ Mitzvah Fund

___ Bruce Levitt (Playground) Memorial Fund

___ Associate Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

___ Oneg (specify date)

___ Outdoor Sanctuary Fund

___ 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/nov_09_Voice.pdf) and past issues (<http://www.kolemet.org/monthly.asp>).
- <http://www.kolemet.org/>: Our place on the web. Includes the calendar (<http://www.kolemet.org/calendar.asp>).
- The Whisper: Weekly Email 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 <mailto:office@kolemet.org>.

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

Anniversaries			Birthdays		Birthdays	
Day	Couple	Yrs	Day	Name	Day	Name
14	Henry Grynberg & Marcia Eisner	35	1	Michael Kitei	21	Corey Weistuch
19	Mitchell & Julie Stein	17	1	Rhonda Lichter	21	Jill Yeger
22	Mitch & Marci Rose	19	2	Edward Sproul	23	Lee Biskin
26	Mitch & Debbie Frank	16	4	Shelley Miller	23	Steven Kortick
26	Harold & Carol Kaplan	38	4	Linda Millman	23	Meryl Shoneman
27	Rick & Susan Wilson	39	4	Naomi Tamura	24	Harold Kaplan
			5	Mike Biros	24	Leyna Kirsh
			6	Lori Goldstein	24	Thelma Sayare
			6	Alyssa Yeger	24	Lynn Shefsky
			7	Gene Covell	24	Roberta Sutker
			8	Thea Cohen	25	Barbara Kaner
			8	Mike Pedrow	25	Howard Lee
			8	Heather Schultz	27	Nicole Edelman
			8	Jeffrey Schwartz	27	Josh Finkle
			9	Elliot Fitzsimmons	27	Marty Goldberg
			9	Robert Katz	27	Mitchell Goldberg
			10	Rusty Gorelick	27	Brooke Levy
			11	Ricky Becker	27	Charles Weiner
			11	Evan Kotzen	27	Jessica Weistuch
			12	Pam Lean	28	Zachary Bush
			12	Katherine Scull	28	Steven Hoffman
			13	Julie Asplen	28	Ira Melamed
			13	Julie Frantz	29	Brandon Millman
			13	Steven Sotoloff	29	Olivia Potter
			13	Gayle Sproul	30	Allyson Goldberg
			14	Jenna Goldberg	30	Jeffrey Goldberg
			14	Anna Spingler	30	Courtney Wasserstrom
			14	Emily Weiss	31	Rachel Barrish
			15	Sandy Cohen	31	Olivia Millman
			15	Marlene Greenberg		
			15	Mindy McCormick		
			16	Anna Hoffman		
			16	Abigail Yaffe		
			17	Seth Rosenwald		
			17	David Steiner		
			17	Stephen Young		
			18	Sandee Clibanoff		
			18	Andrew Snyder		
			20	Andrew Finkle		
			20	Michael Teitelman		
			21	Andy Myers		
			21	John Pazdera		
			21	Brad Pedrow		
			21	Eric Ritzau		
			21	Andrew Stern		

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

Anniversaries

Day	Couple	Yrs
7	Frank & Robin Hymson	20
12	Bill & Helene Blacker	24

Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Dillon Gejer
2	Jason Hirsch
3	Liz Forest
3	Joshua Rothenberg
4	Brandon Ostrow
4	John Waldman
5	Jacki Folkman
6	Marcia Eisner
6	Alyson Hally
6	Scott Waldman
8	Kevin Bloch
8	Marissa Cohen
8	Tina House
8	Andy Malavsky
8	Jesse Pazdera
9	Eileen Brackup
9	Remi Broitman
9	Jason Fink
10	Matthew Gaston
11	Emma Schott
11	Lyra Stein
12	Lauren Healy
12	Michelle Smilk
13	Mitchell Friedman
13	Paul Levy
13	Susan Stein
14	David Collopy
14	Jess Eichholz
14	Sue Kaplan
14	Sophie Oleynick
14	Staci Pedrow
14	Hal Terr
15	Ezra Greenberg
15	Connor Heasley
16	Noah Harrison
16	Rachel Healy
17	Mr. Jeff Epstein
17	Mr. Richard Gorelick
17	Abigail Greenberg
17	Adam Gressen
17	Mr. Bradley Katz
17	Mrs. Barbara Shipon
18	Mr. Michael Levy
19	Mr. David Bortnichak
20	Dr. Howard Altman

Birthdays

Day	Name
20	Adam Camson
20	Mrs. Tracy Fischer
20	Hannah Melamed
20	Molly Sproul
22	Hilary Folkman
23	Natalie Frank
23	Joely House
24	Elizabeth Adler-Harrison
24	Simon Cohen
24	Dr. Jeffrey Erinoff
24	Jennifer Gold
24	Dr. Rick Wortzel
25	Garrett Cantor
25	Max Malavsky
25	Blake Millman
26	Alex Cohen
26	Michelle Deodati
26	Mr. David Holzberg
26	Mr. Randall Hugo
26	Sara Sachs
26	Brian Yang
27	Sydney Broitman
27	Miranda Cantor
27	Mr. Jay Fishman
27	Mr. Michael Neil
27	Dr. Marc Schwartz
28	Mr. John Gaynor
28	Roxy Lee
28	Ayush Shah
28	Mrs. Sylvia Thomas
29	Mr. Chris Catalano
31	Viktor Simeon
31	Mr. Dan Wasserstrom

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

Anniversaries

Day	Couple	Yrs
2	Robert & Virginia Glatzer	18
12	Chris & Deena Catalano	15
13	Paul & Sally Levine	23
14	Bruce Biskin & Barbara Gronsky	28
14	Rich Gorelick & Sandy Silverman	17
27	David & Dalit Geller	26

Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Alyssa Rosenberg
2	Jake Schwartz
3	Jessie Forest
3	Marc Friedenberg
3	Scott Shander
4	Bonnie Gold
4	Amanda Hally
5	Ken Hampel
5	Pierce Hymson
5	Sami Seidman
6	Ryan Fogel
6	Christina Paxson
7	Todd Radner
8	Lisa O'Rourke
8	Jake Weiner
9	Amy Fitzsimmons
9	Cheryl Gilmore
10	Alexander Horowitz
10	Jake Malavsky
10	Robin Terr
11	Darryl Gaeman
11	Jonathan Gilman
11	Kathryn Goldinger
12	Cynthia Friedman
12	Brian Kaplan
12	Laurie Ross
12	Michael Sitko
12	Bryan Smilk
12	Lori Weinstein
13	Ari Gabinet
13	Steve Santarsiero
14	Robert Rosenthal
14	Nathan Schwartz
15	Ellen Malavsky
15	Samantha McCormick
15	Haley Simon
16	Marc Biros
16	Marisa Cottrill
16	Linda Gaeman
16	Scott Horvitz
16	Daniel Sirkis
17	Emily Collopy
17	Peter Forest
17	Byron Gaston
18	Traci Albuck

Birthdays

Day	Name
18	Toby Frey
19	Tyler Goldman
19	Chris Grubb
19	Carly Harris
19	Meredith Rose
19	Lilli Rosenbaum
20	Frank Hymson
21	Samuel Harrison
21	Ronda Kotzen
21	Alex Terr
21	Cara Weinstein
22	Andrew Berger
22	Debra Fisher
22	Glen Weisman
23	Dawn Cohen
23	Daniel Fields
23	Brandon Gaynor
23	Joshua Rosenberg
23	Ron Seidman
24	Jason Kaner
24	Enid Savitz
24	Anne Steinberg
25	Jamie Waldman
26	Sheila Fash
26	David Katz
26	Seth Shipon
26	Sophie Yeger
27	Steven Horowitz
27	Stephanie Siegel
28	Elise Bernstein
28	Eric Biskin
28	Dan Goldman
28	Michael Horowitz
28	Evan Steinberg

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

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.

CONGREGATION KOL EMET CONTACT INFORMATION

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Finance	Andrew Finkle (andrew.finkle@gt.com)	215-656-8350
Community Relations	Owen Leshner (oleshner@gmail.com)	610-299-7636
House	David Shoneman (david.shoneman@thomson.net)	215-321-2381
Long Range Planning	Burt Sutker (bjsutker@aol.com)	609-730-0837
Membership	Jacki Folkman (jackifolkman@aol.com)	215-860-3678
Preschool PTO	Risha Neil (rishaneil@aol.com)	215-428-1884
Religious School Co-President	Meryl Shoneman (shonemanfamily@comcast.net)	215-321-2381
Religious School Co-President	Randi Davis (davis193@comcast.net)	267-392-5265
Ritual	Robert Moses (natanbenmoshe@verizon.net)	215-321-9927
Social Action	Wendy Jacobson-Simon (wellwatched@verizon.net)	215-321-1465
Sisterhood	Ellie Fisher (fishned333@aol.com)	215-702-8025
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Youth Programming	Heidi Bush (heitobush@verizon.net)	215-493-4080
Hilltoppers	Judy Kaufman (hjkman@comcast.net)	215-579-5950