

September 2019  
Elul 5779-Tishri 5780

קול עמי

AN INTIMATE  
AND DYNAMIC  
COMMUNITY



## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

**FRIDAY, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m.**

"Board Installation" *erev Shabbat* Service

**SATURDAY, Sept. 7, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue  
at the home of Carol Nemeroff in  
Huntingdon Valley (215-771-8300)

**FRIDAY, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m.**

"*Simcha*" Second-Friday *erev Shabbat*  
Service with Adult Choir celebrat-  
ing "Kol Ami @ 25" first *erev Shabbat*  
Service on September 9, 1994

**SATURDAY, Sept. 14, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

**FRIDAY, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat* Service

**SATURDAY, Sept. 21**

**10:00 a.m.** - *Bar Mitzvah* of Rafael  
Lazrow

**9:00 p.m.** - *Selichot* Program with films  
by Hanan Harchol

**10:00 p.m.** - *Havdalah* and *Selichot*  
Service

**FRIDAY, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat* Service

**SATURDAY, Sept. 28, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue with  
Carol Nemeroff giving the *dvar Torah*

**SUNDAY, Sept. 29, at 8:00 p.m.**

*erev Rosh Hashanah* Service

**MONDAY, Sept. 30**

**10:00 a.m.** - Adult *Rosh Hashanah*  
Service as well as Student Service and  
Program (Grades 3 - 6)

**2:00 p.m.** - Family Services for  
children (Grades Pre-K - 2) ■

CONGREGATION KOL AMI

קול עמי

Invites you to  
A special evening honoring

*Elijah & Gennifer  
Dornstreich*

Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 6 pm



National Museum of American Jewish History  
101 South Independence Mall East  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

**Edward Daniel Adams**

*father of Ben (Gail Korostoff) Adams*

**Gloria Ruth Persky**

*mother of Amy (Mark) Bierhoff*

**Albert Shamberg**

*husband of Phyllis Shamberg*

*brother-in-law of Shirley Barr*

May their memories forever be blessings in the midst of our People. ■

## MAZAL TOV

Congratulations go to:



**Thomas and Joshua Cullen** on the birth of their daughter, Elowen Rebekah, on July 14 and big brothers, Elijah and Finnegan.

**Steve and Debbi Harris** on the engagement of their son, Michael, to Jamie Feldstein.

**Marshall and Ilene Schafer** on the engagement of their daughter, Alyssa, to Stephen Wastle. ■

## HIGH HOLY DAYS CALENDAR 2019

Saturday, Sept. 21	9:00 p.m.	Series of short films by Hanan Harchol with discussion and light refreshments
	10:00 p.m.	<i>Havdalah</i> and <i>Selichot</i> Service
Sunday, Sept. 29	8:00 p.m.	<i>erev Rosh Hashanah</i> Service
Monday, Sept. 30*	10:00 a.m.	Adult <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> Service
	10:00 a.m.	Student Service and Program (Gr 3 - 6)
	2:00 p.m.	Family Service for Children (Gr Pre-K - 2)
Tuesday, Oct. 1	5:15 p.m.	BYODinner
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Tashlikh</i> Service at home of Guy & Karol Appel, Meadowbrook (215-938-9330)
Tuesday, Oct. 8	8:00 p.m.	<i>Kol Nidrei</i> Service
Wednesday, Oct. 9*	10:00 a.m.	Adult <i>Yom Kippur</i> Service
	10:00 a.m.	Student Service and Program (Gr 3 - 6)
	2:00 p.m.	Family Service for Children (Gr Pre-K - 2)
	3:00 p.m.	Reflective Readings and Discussions
	3:45 p.m.	Afternoon Service
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Yizkor-Neilah</i> Service

\*Child care is available during *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning services. Reservations are not required. ■

## CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? KOL AMI IS 25-YEARS YOUNG!

Help us mark 25 years since our first Friday-night service with a special “*erev Shabbat 25*” observance, featuring our choir and special guests on **Friday, September 13, at 7:30 p.m.**



We look forward to bringing together our members and our larger community, helping others to learn about the joy we share at Kol Ami. Join us in celebrating this important milestone throughout our anniversary year with “Kol Ami at 25” themed events, including:

- The rescheduled John Miles and Sheryl Cohen concert on October 19,
- Lucky 25 Casino Night on February 2,
- “*Havdalah en Blanc*” on May 2, and
- Special Early Learning and Religious School activities.

Be sure to check [kolamielkinspark.org](http://kolamielkinspark.org) throughout the year for many more events to be announced!

For more information or to volunteer, e-mail [KolAmiAt25@gmail.com](mailto:KolAmiAt25@gmail.com).

Thanks to Kol Ami Religious School alumna Rachel Baker for the creative anniversary adaptation of our logo! ■

# FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

## A LETTER FROM CAMP

(As I hum “Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah”)

Dear Kol Ami Family:

As I write this, I’m waiting for my camp laundry to be done. It doesn’t seem to matter how long I’m gone... there are always four loads of laundry. There is also a tension between wanting to sleep for a week and wanting to stay up all night telling all my camp stories before I forget them. Which is why I am writing this letter.

I have just spent two weeks as faculty at the Union for Reform Judaism Six Points Creative Arts Academy at the Westtown School in Westtown, PA. In addition to 11 regional camps (ours is URJ Camp Harlam), there are now five specialty camps serving all of North America: two Science and Technology camps, two Sports camps, and, as of last year, the CAA.

Like many of my colleagues, I’ve been waiting for a long time for the URJ to develop a program for young Jewish artists. CAA provides this experience for students from 4th to 12th grade.

Experienced arts mentors offer campers the opportunity to “major” in Dance, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Classical and Contemporary Theater, Musical Theater, or Creative Writing. In addition, arts mentors, faculty, and counselors put together “minors” like Healthy Cooking, Theater Tech, or the First Chapter of Your Novel.

Each day there is one period of Kinesthetic Arts (mostly dance parties and low-stakes kickball) and an all-camp evening program that ranges from solving the Mystery of the Missing Birthday Banana to performing in a Lip-Sync Battle with your bunk.

I worked with the Creative Writing major and the Novel-Writing minor, advising writers ages 8 to 14, who were creating everything from middle-grade novels to epic poems. I also wrote a little myself, including a piece that will be featured in this year’s High Holy Day services.

We start off each day with a “Mo Moment” (short for *modeb/modah ani*, our morning prayer of thanks). The community sings some short prayers in four-part harmony. Faculty and leadership set an intention grounded in one of the camp’s core values: Creativity, Craftsmanship, Curiosity, Collaboration, and Grit. At the end of the day, we bring everyone together in a *siyyum*, a reflection on what we’ve created and learned that day.

This summer, we also created work on a larger theme, Hillel’s famous saying: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

*Shabbat* at CAA is magical. On Thursday, everyone at camp is assigned to a discipline, not necessarily their major, and given a prayer to interpret. It’s not unusual for *Kabbalat Shabbat* to include interpretive dance, art installations, and a “Jewsical” on the weekly *Torah* portion. And, of course, we bake our own *challah*.

At the end of the session, campers put on a showcase for their families and the local community. It is incredible to see how each camper makes a unique contribution, how each artist grows in such a short time, and what our young people can accomplish in a place where they feel safe, nurtured, and challenged, all at the same time. After two weeks of being surrounded by young artists, working on my own art, I felt like I had grown as well.

If you’re wondering how you can help more young people have these great experiences, you’ve already made one contribution: me. Kol Ami, and other URJ congregations, donate their rabbis, cantors, and educators to serve as dedicated Jewish professionals at each camp (meaning that the camp only pays us in donuts from the nearby Amish Market!)

You can also mark your calendars for a concert to benefit the URJ Six Points Creative Arts Academy on Sunday, November 10, at 1:30 p.m., right here at Kol Ami.

Love,  
Rabbi B. ■



## 25 YEARS OF KOL AMI MEMORIES

- Our first *erev Rosh Hashanah* service was held on September 5, 1994, at Abington Friends School.
- Our first Friday-night service was held on September 9, 1994, at Gratz College.
- In the first edition of the Bulletin in 1994, Founding Rabbi Elliot Holin wrote, “Kol Ami (The Voice of our People) is aptly named because our pledge to one another is to be here for, and to hear, each other ... to treat each child, youth, and adult as sacred – created in the Divine Image.”
- Also in that first issue, the Synagogue was advertising a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see “Cezanne to Matisse: Great French Paintings of the Barnes Foundation” – this was when the Barnes was still in Merion, before it relocated to Center City in 2012.
- Additionally, Kol Ami’s upcoming second *seder*, “The Days of Wine and Charoses,” was being promoted, and Executive Director’s Elaine Stevens’ title was “Treasurer.”

How things have changed! ■



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

According to Jewish tradition, Abraham and Sarah had a tent with no walls to allow guests to enter without hesitation and to feel as welcome as possible. The value of welcoming others with open arms has always been an important Jewish value, but I have seldom seen this value so powerfully enacted as at Kol Ami this summer. Since stepping into my new role as Religious School Director in July, I have increasingly felt the warmth of the Kol Ami community and the passion with which our congregants view education, Jewish identity, and Jewish values. I am constantly reminded of why I have valued this congregation and its people so much over the last 25 years. Thank you, Congregation Kol Ami, for your warm welcome!

The first day of Religious School is approaching quickly, and I have been busy preparing for a fun and meaningful year. I have adjusted our curriculum to emphasize the Jewish values that we, as a congregation, hold dear. I have planned outings for the school year so that our children will be engaged in *tikun olam* (repairing the world) from a young age. I have interviewed and hired teachers who will bring enthusiasm, positivity, and expertise to the classroom.

Most importantly, I have been meeting with families and congregants to learn more about our synagogue culture and the visions of the people who make it so special. These meetings have been particularly valuable to me. They have allowed me to approach curriculum development and programming with a better sense of what our community needs. If you have not met with me yet, I would love to have a conversation with you to get to know you better! Please e-mail me at [eddir@kolamielkinspark.org](mailto:eddir@kolamielkinspark.org) so that we can arrange a time to meet.

I look forward to greeting everyone on the first day of Religious School:

- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for Grades K-7
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11\***, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for Grades 3-7 and from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for Grades 8-10

\* Please note the new 4:30 p.m. start time on Wednesdays!

Religious School families are invited to stay on **Sunday, September 8**, during Religious School hours for a kick-off assembly, brief meeting, and barbecue!

We have sent our Parent Handbook, including a school calendar, to all Religious School families. I encourage you to review this handbook before Religious School begins to familiarize yourself with our safety policies.

**SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 15:** Our Grade 7-12 students will be participating in the first-ever One America youth program in our region to build greater awareness of diverse cultures. See the flyer on page 7 for more details.

I look forward to continuing to get to know you!

Rachael Simon ■



# Kol Ami Events

## SAFETY AND SECURITY CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

**Monday, September 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Please make every effort to attend.**

We will be fully briefed by our local law enforcement and emergency management authorities, and there will be a thorough question and answer session. **THIS IS NOT AN ACTIVE EMERGENCY DRILL OF ANY KIND.**

We will convene to learn what to do under a variety of emergency circumstances, and we will come away better aware and informed. This gathering is open to all congregants and Kol Ami staff and is of the utmost importance.

## HONEY FOR SALE



*Rosh Hashanah* is around the corner! That means delicious raw, local honey for your apple and *challah* dipping pleasure! This year's pure, untreated, unheated honey is freshly extracted from a local apiary. It is donated by Jane Tausig and Abby Binder. The

price is \$8.00 per 8-ounce jar, and all sale proceeds will go to Kol Ami. Order your honey now by contacting Elaine Stevens at [execdir@kolami.info](mailto:execdir@kolami.info) or by phone 215-635-3110. Honey will be ready for pickup **starting September 15** in the Kol Ami office on Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or from the CSA on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. First come, first served!

## RAFAEL LAZROW TO BECOME BAR MITZVAH

**Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 a.m.**

Rafael is in seventh grade at Cedarbrook Middle School. He lives with his parents, Sara and Paul, and his dog, Diver. Rafael is a member of the Boy Scouts and plays clarinet in his school band. His favorite subject is Latin. He enjoys Frisbee, Legos, nerf, video games, and playing outside.

For his *Mitzvah* Project, Rafael has been volunteering on weekends at High School Park, where his favorite job is sifting mulch to make potting soil. Please come celebrate with Rafi's family by joining us for this special *Shabbat* morning service (*Shacharit*).

## SELICHOT EXPERIENCE

**Saturday, September 21, at 9:00 p.m.**

The rituals of *Selichot* serve as an introduction to our season of repentance and forgiveness. While our High Holy Day services can often be hectic and crowded (God-willing!), *Selichot* is a more intimate gathering where we reflect on the year that has passed and look forward to the year to come.

This year, our reflections will begin with a series of short films by New York-based artist and filmmaker Hanan Harchol. In partnership with The Covenant Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Culture, Harchol created an animated series called "Jewish Food for Thought," about love, kindness, gratitude, and forgiveness. His films feature cartoon versions of himself and his Israeli parents. Refreshments will be served.

At 10:00 p.m., we will transition into the Chapel for our *Selichot* service. In this ritual, traditionally performed in the middle of the night, we begin to reach out to God and

*continued page 10*

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Kol Ami unless otherwise indicated.

### Operations Committee

Tuesday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Guy Appel, 215-938-9330, and Marshall Schafer, 215-663-0228

### Religious School Committee

Sunday, September 15, at 12:15 p.m.

Chairs: Tamara Sniad, 215-782-3848, and Emily Stein, 215-375-4807

### Social Action Committee

Thursday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-680-7408, and Rocky Weinstock, 215-782-3848

### Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, September 22, at 12:15 p.m.

Chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-885-3672, and William Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■

# Now's the Time to Join the Adult and Student Choir at Kol Ami!

Do you enjoy singing? Then Kol Ami's Adult or Student Choir is for you!

**Adult Choir:** Meets Sunday mornings from 10:25 to 11:25 a.m. Students in grades 8 - 12 may also participate if they'd like.

**Student Choir:** Meets Sunday afternoons from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. (after Religious School). Students in grades 2 - 7 may participate.

Choir members will receive dates of participation (*erev Shabbat* services and some community events) and updates via e-mail. In order to remain active, attendance at rehearsals and services is very important. All rehearsals are held in Room 101.

This commitment benefits our Kol Ami community, and choir members have a lot of fun! If you're interested, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return to the Religious School office as soon as possible or bring to the first rehearsal. Adult Choir starts on 9/8/19 and Student Choir starts on 9/15/19.

**Questions?**

Please contact Rebecca Schwartz at [rebeccasongs@verizon.net](mailto:rebeccasongs@verizon.net) or 215-572-6094.

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**YES, I'D LOVE TO BE A CONGREGATION KOL AMI CHOIR MEMBER!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult \_\_\_\_ or Student \_\_\_\_ and Grade \_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(If a student, please include a parent's e-mail too)

\_\_\_\_\_



# *One America\* Philadelphia Invites 7th to 12th graders from*

*Congregation Kol Ami, Elkins Park;  
New Life Church Glenside and  
Islamic Cultural Center of Willow Grove*

*For a fun opportunity to build greater  
understanding of the diverse cultures (Christian,  
Jewish and Muslim) in our community!*

*September 15th, 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.*

*@ Congregation Kol Ami  
8201 High School Road*



*Dinner Group Activities New Friendships*

*RSVP by Sept 5 to Elaine Stevens @  
execdir@kolamielkinspark.org*

*\* The One America Movement is a national, non-profit organization founded by faith and community leaders to address growing divisions in American society. One America brings communities together to address pressing issues and trains religious leaders on the dynamics of polarization and hate to empower them to be peacemakers. For more info, visit [www.oneamericamovement.org](http://www.oneamericamovement.org) or contact Areesa Somaní, Program Associate at [areesa@oneamericamovement.org](mailto:areesa@oneamericamovement.org).*

# Leading Through Community



**Elijah and Gennifer Dornstreich** both grew up in Bucks County and went to the same high school, though at different times (Genny would say vastly different times).

Elijah went to Penn and is vice president at AB Bernstein, a global asset management firm, and Genny went to Tufts and Babson (MBA) and runs a leadership and entrepreneurial coaching practice at [gennifermiller.com](http://gennifermiller.com).

They met about ten years ago in Center City, and currently live in Elkins Park with their daughters Miriam and Penny, both of whom have been attending Kol Ami Early Learning Center since they could walk—and loving it!

Elijah's Jewish identity was formed throughout his childhood and as a Bronfman Fellow in Israel. Genny is a Jew by choice who felt an immediate connection to the warmth and inclusiveness of Kol Ami.

To Elijah and Genny, Leading Through Community means that in a time of alienation and division, our best chance at making a difference is at home, among our people. They are thrilled and humbled to be the honorees at this wonderful event, in support of this very special community.



# Sponsorships

(information)

## SOCIAL ACTION LEVEL

Janice Belfer  
Ruben Honik  
David Hyman and Farah Jimenez  
William Hyman and Janine Pratt  
Elaine L. Lindy  
OCF Realty

## JEWISH LEARNING LEVEL

Dr. Michael Silverman and Ms. Robin Rifkin

## CHILDHOOD EDUCATION LEVEL

AB Bernstein  
Barry and Allison Boise  
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman  
Elijah and Gennifer Dornstreich  
Alan Hoffman and Dr. Julie Goldman  
Vincent and Jane Pace  
Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld LLC  
Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar  
Elaine Stevens  
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser  
Joseph and Renee Zuritsky

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### *Sponsorship & Dinner*

#### AUDACIOUS HOSPITALITY LEVEL / \$10,000

- Full page back cover ad
- 8 seats for the event
- 1 year membership to NMAJH for your table and up to 10 additional friends/family

#### SOCIAL ACTION LEVEL / \$5,000

- Full page inside cover or opposing page ad
- 6 seats for the event
- 1 year membership to NMAJH for your table

#### JEWISH LEARNING LEVEL / \$3,600

- Full page ad on the back inside cover
- 4 seats for the event

#### CHILDHOOD EDUCATION LEVEL / \$2,500

- Full page ad
- 2 seats for the event

## ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FULL PAGE AD / \$1,800

HALF PAGE AD / \$720

QUARTER PAGE AD / \$360

EIGHTH PAGE AD / \$180

*Dinner Only:* \$300 PER PERSON

## KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 5)

ask forgiveness as the New Year begins. Everyone present will have the opportunity to stand in front of the ark for a private moment of prayer and reflection. Don't miss this moving spiritual experience with Rabbi Berkowitz and Rebecca Schwartz.

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## Save the Dates for These Future Events!

### COOK FOR A FRIEND

Sunday, October 6, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon

Join us to help cook a nutritious meal for needy seniors. Any questions, please call Ronit Sugar 215-208-7027.

### "STUDY AT THE SHUL" FOR ADULTS

"The Mueller Report - A Reappraisal Using Jewish Ethics" with Ira Cooperman on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (October 17, 24 & 31 and November 7)

An examination of the Special Counsel's sweeping investigation of the Russian government interference in the 2016 Presidential election. Discussion will focus on the players named in the report, including the President, and will include the perspective of "Ethics of Our Fathers." Reading the paperback version of "The Mueller Report" in advance is highly recommended.

Ira Cooperman is a former intelligence officer who has worked with the CIA, lectured at the Chautauqua Institution and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and studied at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles.

### ACCLAIMED LOCAL AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT EREV SHABBAT SERVICES ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

Local author Janet Benton will be speaking about her nationally acclaimed novel, *Lilli de Jong*, and about her Jewish heritage at *erev Shabbat* services on October 18.

*Lilli de Jong*, which was named one of the best books of 2017 by NPR, Library Journal, and others, is the story of a mother's attempts to give her "illegitimate" daughter a

*continued next page*



Rabbi Berkowitz celebrating camping week with our Early Learning Center children by singing songs around their pretend campfire.

## KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from previous page)

decent life. Janet's novel brings readers close to the experience of pregnancy and early motherhood amidst crippling social pressures at the end of the 19th Century. The issues that Lilli faced still resonate today.

Janet comes from a long line of Jewish social activists. Her maternal grandmother was president of the *B'nai Brith* chapter in Forest Hills. Her paternal great-uncle was a founder of HIAS in 1901, and her great-grandparents spent 20 years running HIAS during WW II and helped thousands of Jews escape from Germany and other Nazi-occupied countries. This history informs Janet's work in ways she will describe.

Members can purchase books in advance for Janet to sign. Lilli de Jong is available for sale in hardcover, paperback, e-book, audio book, and large print online and through your favorite bookstore. Open Book Bookstore in Elkins Park has the paperback and will take orders for any format.

## SUKKOT IN THE FIELDS

**Saturday, October 19, from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

## PANEL DISCUSSION

**Sunday, November 3, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

The Kol Ami Social Action committee will present a panel discussion, moderated by Laurie Jubelirer Langman, about the catastrophe of mass incarceration, including an examination of this issue from a Jewish perspective. Stay tuned!

## ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, November 18**

Come out and give at Kol Ami's annual Red Cross Blood Drive. To donate that day, you cannot have given blood after September 24 (56 days between donations). For more information, contact Jean Ettinger at [Jeanettinger@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanettinger@gmail.com).

## BEEKEEPING CLASS COMING IN 2020!



Honeybee fact #1: Honeybees are the only insect that make human food.

Honeybee fact #2: Honeybees are very attracted to blue flowers. They do not see red!

Beekeeping class is coming to Kol Ami in January 2020! Stay tuned. ■

## KOL AMI'S ARTIST OF THE MONTH

**ROBERTA SCHLESINGER - SEPT. 3-OCT. 15**



Roberta Schlesinger is a master botanical artist and illustrator. Her depictions of flowers and plants have been critiqued as "exquisite - with a stunning attention to detail." Her work has been shown in botanical art exhibitions, earning her Best-of-Show and First-Place awards from Ringling College, Florida Botanical Art Society, and the International Water-Gardening Society. She studied with master artist, Olivia Braida-Chuisano, and Ringling College of Art in Sarasota, FL.

Ms. Schlesinger is also a watercolor portraitist/collage artist whose creations have been included in the International "Embracing our Differences Exhibit" (2017 and 2019), chosen from 11,400+ entries from 41 countries. Her retrospective, solo show in Georgetown, TX, in March 2019 featured more than 70 works in two galleries.

Roberta is also a Montessori/International Baccalaureate art teacher/program director. She is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists and served as the exhibition chair for Capital City Scribes in Austin. Originally from WV, she lived for many years in MA and has also resided in FL and TX. Everywhere she lives, she draws and paints the flowers around her, from Florida's tropical plants to the wildflowers of Texas. She now lives with her husband and children in their old/new home in Pennsylvania. She teaches adults and children in her Elkins Park studio.

The Kol Ami gallery hours are Wednesday from 4:30-8:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-noon. If the Religious School is closed on those days, the gallery is also closed. A percentage of all displayed purchased works will be donated to Kol Ami ■



# *Odes and Elegies*

*Sheryl Heather Cohen, Soprano*

*John David Miles, Baritone*

*Peter Hilliard, Piano*

*J Freivogel, Violin*

*Rachel Henderson Freivogel, Cello*

*October 19, 2019 at 7pm*

*Congregation Kol Ami*

*8201 High School Rd. Elkins Park, PA*

*\$36 per person*

*(proceeds benefit Congregation Kol Ami)*

*Reception to follow*



## INTERFAITH HOUSING ALLIANCE PARTICIPATION UPDATE

In the first week of June, a group of volunteers from Kol Ami helped to support three Montgomery County homeless families at the Ambler Church of the Brethren through the Interfaith Housing Alliance (IHA). IHA is a non-profit organization that has been providing housing and supportive services for homeless families in Montgomery County for over 25 years. IHA and the volunteer congregations provide temporary housing to the families in local churches and synagogues with the help of volunteers in the interfaith community.

During our volunteer week, we provided dinners; sat with the families during the meal to get to know them; and stayed overnight at the church where the families lived for the months of May and June. This is about the fifth year that we have buddied with a local congregation to support these families in need, and we intend to keep it going. All of our volunteers had a very meaningful experience.

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers: Shelley Chamberlain; Ellen Friedman; Richard, Anna, and Ben Goldstone; Bill Hyman and Janine Pratt; Laurie Jubelirer Langman; Denise Novick; Deborah Poppel; Gary and Jessica Sender; and Alan and Barclay (WOOF!) Wohlstetter for their service. For more information about this opportunity and to sign up for next year (June 2020), please contact Laurie Jubelirer Langman at [laurierobin@verizon.net](mailto:laurierobin@verizon.net) or at 610-608-4293. ■

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER: MARLENE KESSLER



Kol Ami is happy to welcome new member Marlene Kessler. Marlene has lived in the Philadelphia/Elkins Park area for most of her life and is a graduate of Northeast High School and LaSalle University. For most of her career, Marlene has been in the financial field, starting as manager at a consulting firm promoting neighborhood revitalization and later establishing her own consulting practice. Marlene says that over the years, she has enjoyed

her work and valued her relationships with people she has met along the way.

Marlene's personal history with area Reform synagogues is rich. She grew up attending Keneseth Israel through confirmation, being the middle of three generations of women in her family to do so (along with her mother and daughter). For the past 20 years, Marlene has been a member of congregation Beth Shalom, where she made wonderful friends and enjoyed many programs and activities. Recently, however, their musical program ended, and Marlene found herself looking for a new synagogue choir in which to continue her years of religious singing, which she values greatly. Right on cue (*voilà!*), along came Kol Ami. Marlene rehearsed with our choir, attended several choir services, and now she is a full-fledged member (of both Kol Ami and its Adult Choir).

Aside from choir, Marlene was also part of a class that studied biblical Hebrew, and she did so for 20 years. She learned to chant *Torah*, and she hopes to do so again. Marlene is also using the DuoLingo phone app to study modern Hebrew.

Marlene's daughter, Allison, has two children, Ava (2-1/2 years old) and 2-month-old Benjamin. "Being a *bubbe* is the best," says Marlene. Who could argue? It is so nice that Ava and Benjamin's *bubbe* has joined our congregational family! ■

## SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

**Main Office**

215-635-3110

**Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz**

215-635-4182

**Rabbi Elliot Holin, Founding Rabbi**

215-882-0017

**Ruben Honik, President**

215-327-9166

**Barbara Fink, Vice President**

215-886-2297

**Jeffrey Margasak, Vice President**

215-635-9332

**Lorie B. Slass, Secretary**

215-635-0920

**Lisa Landau, Treasurer**

215-635-9996

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**IN RESPECT OF SHABBAT, THE OFFICE CLOSSES AT 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAYS.**

**Elaine Stevens, Executive Director**

215-635-3110

**Rachael Simon**

**Director of Education**

215-635-7106

**Sheri Cutler**

**Early Learning Center Director**

215-635-4180

**Rebecca Schwartz, Cantorial Soloist**

215-572-6094

**Please send correspondence to:**

Congregation Kol Ami

8201 High School Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

**Website:** [www.kolamielkinspark.org](http://www.kolamielkinspark.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

## BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month to **Janet Falon** at [jfalton@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jfalton@english.upenn.edu). Articles may be edited as needed. ■





## OUR EARLY LEARNING CENTER CHILDREN ENJOY VISITING WITH THE TRAVELING ZOO ANIMALS



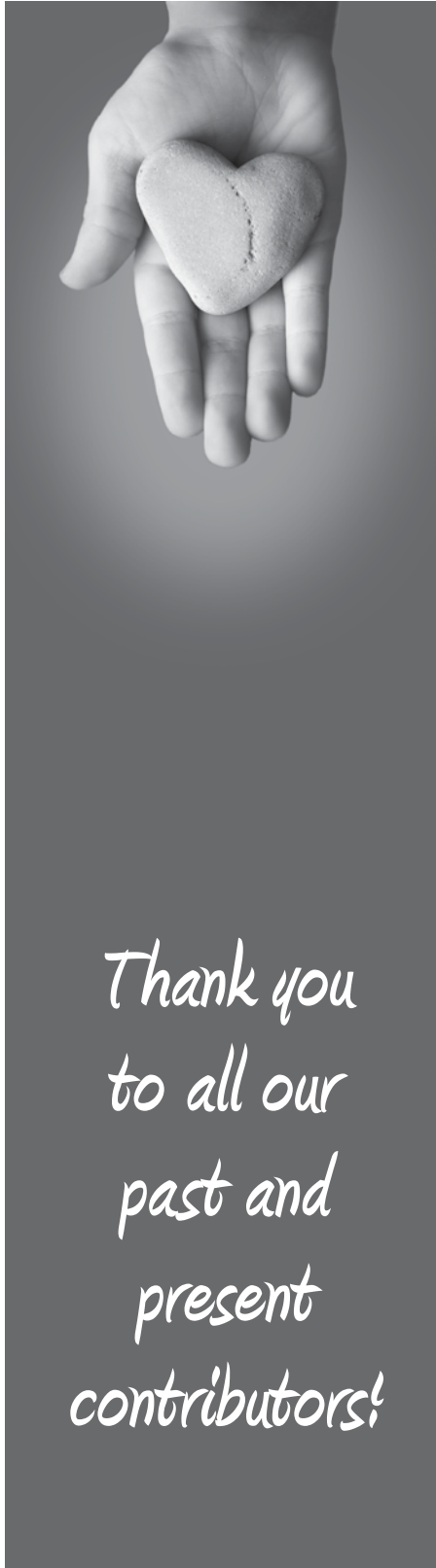
# KOL AMI SEPTEMBER 2019 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Early Learning Center First Day 8:00 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m.  "Board Installation" <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m. Home of Carol Nemeroff
<b>8</b> First Day of Religious School 10:00 a.m. 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.  Safety and Security Congregational Informational Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.  Operations Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Berkowitz 10:00 a.m.  "Simcha" Second-Friday <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir celebrating "Kol Ami @ 25" first <i>erev Shabbat</i> <i>Service</i> on 9/9/1994 7:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.  Special Evening Honoring Elijah and Gennifer Dornstreich 6:00 p.m. National Museum of American Jewish History
<b>15</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  Religious School Committee Meeting 12:15 p.m.  The One America Movement 4:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> Spiritual Exploration Group Meeting 7:30 p.m.	<b>17</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>18</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rachael Simon 10:00 a.m.  <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> <i>Bar Mitzvah</i> of Rafael Lazrow 10:00 a.m.  Selichot Program with films by Hanan Harchol and refreshments 9:00 p.m.  <i>Havdalah</i> and <i>Selichot Service</i> 10:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal  Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 12:15 p.m.	<b>23</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>24</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>25</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m.  <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>28</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m. Carol Nemeroff will give the <i>dvar Torah</i>
<b>29</b> Religious School CLOSED  <i>erev Rosh Hashanah</i> <i>Service</i> 8:00 p.m.	<b>30</b> Early Learning Center CLOSED  Rosh Hashanah Service 10:00 a.m.  Rosh Hashanah Family Service for Grades Pre-K - 2 2:00 p.m.					

# Kol Ami Contributions

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We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to Kol Ami funds. To make a donation, send it to Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027, and indicate to which fund it should be applied.



## ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

**Special birthday of Mindy Levy**

*Fran Surkin*

In Memory of:

**Leatrice Levy**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Jensen Toth**

*The Alan Berger Family*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**Special anniversary of William and Betty Shapiro**

*Ira Cooperman and Carol Laskin*

**New home of Rabbi Berkowitz**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

In Memory of:

**Anne Berkowitz**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Edith Kanter**

*Philip and Michelle McConnon*

**Gloria Persky**

*Mark and Amy Bierhoff*

**Albert Shamberg**

*Shirley Barr*

## RABBI'S EMPOWERMENT AND VISION FUND

In Honor of:

**First anniversary of Rabbi Berkowitz**

*James and Natalie Dyen*

**Rabbi Berkowitz being named co-president of Women's Rabbinic Network**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of:

**Bertram and Leatrice Levy**

*Latham and Amy Pali*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

**Special anniversary of Alan**

**and Elaine Gershenson**

*Robert and Susan Seltzer*

*Steve and Judith Silberman*

**First year anniversary of Rabbi**

**Leah Berkowitz**

*Robert and Ellen Fischer*

In Memory of:

**Arthur Alexander**

*Elaine Alexander*

**Bernard Gussman**

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**Abe Levin**

*Alvin Turetsky*

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*Hy and Janice Baker*

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**New Home of Elaine Stevens**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Miklos Sugar**

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Jensen Toth**

*Earl and Maryanne Bauder*

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

**Isidor Turetsky**

*Alvin Turetsky* ■