



## WORSHIP SERVICES

**FRIDAY, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m.**

*“Simcha” First-Friday erev Shabbat*  
Service celebrating November birthdays  
and anniversaries

**SATURDAY, Nov. 2, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue*

**FRIDAY, Nov. 8, at 7:00 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir*

**SATURDAY, Nov. 9, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue*

**FRIDAY, Nov. 15**

**6:00 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat Service with*  
Grades K-2

**7:30 p.m.** - *erev Shabbat Service with*  
Adult Choir celebrating our 25th  
anniversary

**SATURDAY, Nov. 16, at 10:00 a.m.**

*Bar Mitzvah of Asher Weinstock*

**FRIDAY, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m.**

*“Transgender Day of Remembrance”*  
*erev Shabbat Service with guest speaker*  
Eve Berger

**SATURDAY, Nov. 23**

**9:00 a.m.** - *“Fun-for-Kids” Shabbat*  
Service

**10:00 a.m.** - *Shabbat Service and Torah*  
Dialogue

**FRIDAY, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m.**

*erev Shabbat Service*

**SATURDAY, Nov. 30, at 10:00 a.m.**

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

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## FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

### Showing up for Shiva



This may sound strange, but one of the aspects of Judaism I love the most are our mourning rituals. Sitting *shiva* and saying *Kaddish* give us structure in a time when our lives have spun off their axes. They help us to affirm our faith when we might feel alienated from, or even angry with, God. They surround us with community at a time when we feel most alone.

As I mentioned in my *Kol Nidre* sermon, I’ve noticed that some mourners worried that, since they didn’t have many friends in the community, they wouldn’t be able to make a *minyan*—the quorum of ten adult Jews required to say *Kaddish*. Thankfully, this didn’t come to pass, but it made me realize that we needed a reminder that *shiva* isn’t an exclusive gathering for the mourners’ friends. It’s an opportunity for the entire community to show up for the mourners.

When *shiva* is announced publicly, all are welcome to attend. In fact, attendance is a *mitzvah*—a sacred obligation. But sometimes it’s challenging to know exactly what to do. Here are a few helpful hints:

**Let the mourners mourn:** Mourners are not bound by social customs during *shiva*. They might not answer the door or get up from where they are seated to greet you. Likewise, you don’t want to pressure them to make small talk, or comfort you if you are also feeling sad. While it is tradition to let the mourner speak first, the best words you can speak let the mourners know you are there for them.

**Our tradition offers us a few time-tested formulas:** “May their memory be a blessing” and “May you be comforted alongside the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem” (which I sometimes translate to “May you find comfort in the loving embrace of God, family, and community”). You can also say, “I’m sorry about your loved one” and “I’m here for you.”

If you knew their loved one, you can share a nice, short story about them. If you don’t know what to say, it’s okay not to say anything. If the mourner feels like sharing a story, listen. Recognize that the mourners’ may have many people to talk to, and keep your encounter brief. Someone told me that the most helpful thing people did was keep the flow of people moving, so that no one person spent too much time talking to the mourners.

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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### FRIDAY, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

“Simcha” First-Friday *erev Shabbat* Service with Cantor Leon Sher and Adult Choir and celebrating December birthdays and anniversaries

### SATURDAY, Dec. 7, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

### FRIDAY, Dec. 13, at 7:00 p.m.

*erev Shabbat* Service with Student Choir

### SATURDAY, Dec. 14, at 10:00 a.m.

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

### FRIDAY, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

*erev Shabbat* Service

### SATURDAY, Dec. 21, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue

### FRIDAY, Dec. 27, at 7:00 p.m.

*erev Shabbat* Service and *Hanukkah* Celebration

### SATURDAY, Dec. 28, at 10:00 a.m.

*Shabbat* Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

### John Fast

*father of Rachel (Scott) Goldstein*

### Jane Schiowitz

*sister of Robert (Ronit Sugar) Schiowitz*

### Mark Snyderman

*stepbrother of Alan (Elaine) Gershenson*

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



## LIGHTING THE CANDLES AND SAYING THE BLESSINGS OVER THE HANUKKIAH

### FIRST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH (SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22)

The *shamash*, or serving candle, is lit first and is used to light the other candles every evening. The *shamash* is noticeable because it is situated higher than, or in front of, the other candles. Each night of *Hanukkah*, the candles are placed in the *hanukkiah* from right to left (the same way in which Hebrew is read) but are lit from left to right.

**ON THE FIRST NIGHT ONLY**, the *Sheh'heh'chiyanu* is recited or sung:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיּמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam*

*Sheh'heh'chiyanu v'ki'y'nanu v'hig'yanu*

*lazmahn hazeh*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this time.

**ON EACH NIGHT**, the following blessings are recited or sung:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתַי וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam*

*asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzi'vanu l'hadlik neur*

*shel Hanukkah*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who sanctifies us through *mitzvot* and commands us to kindle  
the candles of *Hanukkah*.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam*

*Sheh'asah neisim l'avo'taynu ba'yameem ha'hame*

*babz'mahn hazeh*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days,  
as at this time. ■

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Rachael Simon

In the midst of the rush of fall holidays, it is sometimes difficult to remember how important the idea of gratitude is in each one. So now, with these holidays just behind us and Thanksgiving approaching, is the perfect time to focus on and spend some time thinking about gratitude.

In Religious School, we try to teach our students to be grateful each day. The first prayer that our students learn to read in our Hebrew program and the first prayer they say at our weekly *T'filah* (prayer) service is "*Modeh Ani*," a prayer that thanks God for giving us another day. Students also learn that there are three categories of prayer, one of which is a "thanks" prayer, and they are challenged each week to think of something for which they can give thanks.

In today's world, children and adolescents are constantly moving from activity to activity or asked to complete a seemingly endless amount of homework. Adults, too, are constantly on the go and attached to our devices, and it is perhaps more difficult than ever to remind ourselves to make the time to be grateful for what we have and what we experience.

I encourage you to make voicing gratitude a routine in your household. For many of our students, Sunday morning is the only time in their week dedicated to prayer; however, prayer in Judaism can be as simple as stating one thing each day for which we are grateful. Asking your children what they are thankful for each day, or maybe once in the middle of the week, is a great way to reinforce their Religious School education as well as their growth as Jews.

After a busy October, and in looking forward to November and December, I have many "thanks" prayers. I'm grateful for the seventh-grade students, the teaching assistants, and teachers for their help during our High Holy Days Youth Services. I'm thankful for the help of parent volunteers in creating meaningful experiences in our *Sukkah*, as well as for our Youth Group Advisor, Tara Cherwony, for kicking off the year in a fun way. I'm grateful for all of the kindness and maturity of our fifth- and sixth-grade students, who brightened the day of residents at the Abramson Center last month. I am also grateful for all of the upcoming opportunities in the Religious School to learn and build community:

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 10:00 A.M.** - MITZVAH DAY 25: Members of the Social Action Committee will work with students on projects to help people and animals in our community.
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6:00 P.M.** - KINDERGARTEN, FIRST GRADE, AND SECOND GRADE LEAD SERVICES: Students will participate in a family-friendly service in which they will present examples of what they have learned in class.
- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:00 P.M. AT BETH AM** - TEEN SUMMIT FOR CONFIRMATION ACADEMY ON ANTI-SEMITISM: Confirmation Academy students will

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## MAZAL TOV

Congratulations go to:

- **James and Natalie Dyen** on the birth of their grandson, Isacco Shahr, on October 10 to parents Genna Giacobassi and Jesse Dyen.
- **Shari Johnson** on the marriage of her daughter, Jessica, to Matt Grayson on September 20.
- **Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz** for being published for the fourth time by the Union for Reform Judaism! Her song, "David's Nigun," was recently published in Nigun Anthology III, available through Transcontinental Music Publications.
- **Mark Tino and Elaine Lotto** on the marriage of their son, Brian, to Jacklin Hordes on October 5. ■

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Caring Congregants Committee**  
Thursday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m.  
Home of Alan and Elaine Gershenson in Rydal

**Interfaith Relationship Dialogue**  
Tuesday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m.  
Home of Vincent and Jane Pace in Lower Gwynedd

**Religious School Committee**  
Sunday, November 3 and December 8, at 12:15 p.m.  
Chairs: Tamara Sniad, 215-782-3848, and Emily Stein, 215-375-4807

**Social Action Committee**  
Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m.  
Chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-680-7408, and Rocky Weinstock, 215-782-3848

**Worship Enhancement Committee**  
Sunday, December 8, at 9:30 a.m.  
Chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-570-4304, and William Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■



## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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meet other Jewish students from local synagogues for a summit on anti-Semitism as a culmination of several weeks of learning.

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 10:00 A.M.** - MOVING TRADITIONS B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM FOR SEVENTH-GRADE FAMILIES: Families of students in seventh grade will participate in programming based on social-emotional growth and the *B'nai Mitzvah* process.
- **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, and SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1:** No Religious School for Thanksgiving Break
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 10:00 A.M.** - HANUKKAH PROGRAM: Religious School families are invited to join us for a *Hanukkah* program planned and executed with the help of our post-confirmation students.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 10:15 A.M.** - PROJECT SHEMA AT THE ABRAMSON CENTER FOR GRADES 3 AND 4: Students will visit the residents of the Abramson Center and participate in activities with them while engaging in conversation.
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, through WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1:** No Religious School for Winter Break ■

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Rhea Applebaum  
Robert and Harriet Goldberg  
Maya Hyman  
Marlene Kessler  
Dan Reynolds and Cathy Rubin

### WELCOME RETURNING MEMBERS:

Robert and Ellen Fischer  
Vivian Rosenberg ■



ABOVE: Celebrating Kol Ami @ 25, members of LOCA (Ladies of a Certain Age) and friends made soup for residents of a local senior community on Sunday, October 6.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: BOB AND HARRIET GOLDBERG



Kol Ami is delighted to welcome Harriet and Bob Goldberg, longtime residents of Elkins Park (since their childhoods). Harriet and her family belonged to Beth Sholom, where she attended Sunday school and Hebrew school through confirmation. Bob and his family belonged to Temple Judea, where he similarly attended Hebrew school through confirmation. Harriet and Bob were married at Beth Sholom, with Rabbi Landes officiating. They continued their affiliation with Beth Sholom and ultimately saw their son, Brian, attend Hebrew school, become a *bar mitzvah*, and achieve confirmation there.

Harriet explains that she and her husband joined Kol Ami in August 2019 because they were looking for a synagogue that felt especially welcoming. They attended several services at Kol Ami, felt a genuine connection with Rabbi Berkowitz and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, and knew they had found their spiritual home.

Harriet has been an educator for over 40 years. She previously taught in the School District of Philadelphia and currently works as a Reading Specialist for CORA Services, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides services to non-public schools. She also was an adjunct faculty member at St. Joseph's University in the School of Education for 18 (*chai!*) years, teaching graduate students who were receiving their Reading Specialist certification.

Bob recently retired from the private security and investigation industry after more than 40 years.

Harriet and Bob both enjoy reading, traveling, and new experiences. We are very pleased that one of their new experiences is becoming members of our congregational family! ■

## HOW KOL AMI MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WITH DIFFERENCES FIT IN



As part of our 25th year of reflection on our Kol Ami history, we were particularly inspired by this excerpt of an essay from our very own Adam Fishbein that first appeared at RespectAbility.org earlier this year, where the full version can be found. Adam reflects on his last 15 years since third grade, and who, how, and why Kol Ami community mattered to him as he advanced through college. He is now in grad school.

My Religious School experience at Congregation Kol Ami in Elkins Park, PA, had its ups and downs. As a child with multiple disabilities that made it difficult, and often disruptive, for me to function in a classroom environment, my parents initially had to push the synagogue to accept my differences and adapt to them. They would have constant meetings with the Religious School Director about my disruptive behavior and how to handle it.

Then, in third grade, the then-new cantor at my synagogue, Rebecca Schwartz, started a student choir. She drew me in through her welcoming spirit and love for music. I found instantaneous inspiration. Sunday choir rehearsal became my favorite time of the week. I loved the process of learning, practicing, and, eventually, singing Jewish music at Friday-night *Shabbat* services. I found the focus I lacked in secular and religious school. I found acceptance from my fellow choir members. I found something I was good at and, most importantly, I found the voice that would shape my future.

Meanwhile, my parents and the Religious School staff worked diligently to adapt the Religious School curriculum to my needs. While the student choir had opened the door to my synagogue, my fifth-grade (and favorite) Religious School teacher, Roz Holtzman, led me further inside during sixth and seventh grade, through my one-on-one instruction and *Bar Mitzvah* prep. This flexibility and reduced-distraction environment allowed me to learn more effectively and become a *Bar Mitzvah* at the end of seventh grade, despite my increasing behavioral challenges in adolescence with Tourette Syndrome Repeated Anger-Generated Episodes (RAGEs) at home and school.

By the end of seventh grade, my RAGEs were severe enough that I needed more support than I could receive at home. From eighth to tenth grade, I attended two therapeutic boarding schools where I learned to cope with and manage the manifestations of my disabilities. Even so, I continued my Jewish education remotely by phone, through the Confirmation Academy, every Wednesday, at both boarding schools. This accommodating culture at Kol Ami solidified my sense of belonging in the Jewish community and inspired me to join BBYO and continue my involvement at the synagogue. I became an assistant teacher through the Isaac Mayer Wise Reform Judaism Teaching Certificate at Gratz College.

Kol Ami is a perfect example of a synagogue that did not initially understand how to create an inclusive culture, but, when faced with a curveball, stepped up to the plate and hit a grand slam. The congregation's handling of my special needs is a lesson to the Jewish community: when given the guidance, people with disabilities in synagogues and other Jewish institutions can positively contribute as much as—and sometimes more—than people without disabilities.

If nothing else, people with disabilities bring a different perspective to Jewish life and challenge their fellow Jews to reckon with the meaning of *b'tzelem Elohim*—that every person is made in the image of God. ■

## 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. ■



## YOM KIPPUR POEM ABOUT REBECCA

Janet Falon's annual *Yom Kippur* poem this year focused on the lovely voice of our cantorial soloist.

### Rebecca's Voice on Yom Kippur

It is a champagne flute, crystalline and resonant.  
It is a peacock, unfanning its iridescent feathers.  
It is a waterfall, tinkling at the top,  
rich and dark, like ready compost, by the bottom.  
And it wraps itself around me like a mother's shawl.

Imagine the joy of being her guitar.

Rebecca's voice is a white rose, unfolding, petal by  
velvety petal.  
It is the moment Cinderella's tattered shoes  
transform into glass slippers.  
It is a glittering stairway in a Busby Berkeley movie,  
but it leads up to someplace holy.  
And sometimes I believe she's singing just to me.

Imagine being the *shofar* blower, playing to her, for  
her, enraptured; she is a snake-charmer.

On this day when we abstain from food,  
what is it that feeds her?

I want some of that.  
That's why I'm here, I think.  
I hope.

I don't need a bagel and *schmeer*, or some *bubbe's kugel*;  
Rebecca's voice has filled me. ■



## 25 YEARS OF KOL AMI MEMORIES

- In November 1995, we launched our first of many annual “*Hanukkah* - The Week of Giving” community-wide programs.
- Our first Scholar-in-Residence program: “Exploring Spirituality - The Beyond Within” with Rabbi Marc Lee Raphael, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies, College of William and Mary, Professor of Jewish Studies occurred in November 1997
- In December 2004, we received our second *Torah* Scroll as a gift from Temple Ohev Shalom in Bucks County. Kol Ami member Karol Appel designed and made by hand the beautiful *Torah* mantle.
- *Tuv Ha'Aretz*, a Jewish Community-Supported Agriculture project to support farmers committed to growing organic produce, is welcomed to its Elkins Park area site at our congregation in December 2006.
- We commenced our Healing Services on December 7, 2008.
- In December 2008, our first Kol Ami Youth Art Exhibit was featured in our synagogue lobby.
- Our synagogue's beautiful *Torah* Reader's Table in the sanctuary was gifted by Byron Schader in memory of his wife, Gay, in November 2009.
- Rabia Terri Harris taught a four-week adult course titled “Exploring the Qur'an” in November 2009.
- Our congregation convened and hosted a symposium for the larger community, “The Interfaith Roller Coaster: Navigating the Challenges, Enjoying the Ride” on October 21, 2012.
- Kol Ami convened and hosted a symposium for the larger community, “Kindness Counts: Welcoming LGBTQ Jews and Their Loved Ones into the *Mishkan*” on December 7, 2014.
- Our congregation convened and hosted a follow-up symposium for the larger community, “Kindness Counts, Part Two: Moving Beyond the Gender Boxes” on November 13, 2016.
- On November 8, 2016, a special midweek gathering for the larger community was held at the synagogue; “A Time to Be Together - To Pray, Contemplate, and Give Voice to Hope” followed the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. ■



# Kol Ami Events

## PLEASE JOIN RABBI BERKOWITZ FOR PRAYERS SURROUNDING THE SHEMA

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on the dates indicated below



Rabbi Berkowitz will be offering a three-part class on the prayers surrounding the *Shema*. These prayers contain many different beliefs about God's role in the world. We will discuss how these prayers have evolved, explore modern interpretive translations, and reflect on how we might connect to the themes

of each prayer with our own creative interpretations.

- **November 5:** Creating Order out of Chaos – *Yotzer Or* and *Maariv Aravim*
- **November 12:** Revelation as an Act of Love – *Abavah Rabbah*, *Abavat Olam*, and *V'ahavta*
- **December 3:** Redemption Song – *Mi Chamocha*

## BAR MITZVAH OF ASHER WEINSTOCK

Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Asher Weinstock is in seventh grade at Abington Junior High School. He likes social studies and especially history. He is interested in engineering, architecture, miniatures, driving go-karts, snowboarding, and strategy games of any kind. He loves spending time with his family, including his

parents, Tamara Sniad and Rocky Weinstock; his sister, Sadie; and their chickens: Pooh, Snickers, and Pepper.

For his *Bar Mitzvah* project, Asher is trying to combat pollution and littering in our local parks and trails. He will be volunteering at several local parks, including partnering with the Friends of High School Park to help keep them clean and raise awareness of the issues. Taking various found discarded items, he will also create an art piece for display, meant to highlight environmental awareness and encourage its care taking by us all.

## SPECIAL LOCA TEA PARTY CELEBRATES KOL AMI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, November 17, at 3:30 p.m.

at the home of Elaine Gershenson in Rydal



Please join us for a special LOCA tea party. As part of Kol Ami's 25th-anniversary celebration, we'll be asking people to share their stories about Kol Ami as we sip different teas and enjoy delicious pastries. We'll also be inviting former Kol Ami members to reminisce with us. Each participant is asked to bring four tea bags of your favorite teas and either tea sandwiches for 10 OR a "finger" dessert for 10 (i.e., brownies, cookies, mini scones, chocolates, etc.). Be sure

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## SHARE: Self-Help and Resource Exchange

Volunteers help Share reduce hunger. Sort, organize, and pack boxes of non-perishable food for those in need in Philadelphia. Seasonal gardening. Assistance with office duties.

Ages 8 and up are welcome. Family-friendly social action afternoon

Add these Sundays to your calendar:

November 17 and March 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?"*

— Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14

The Share Food Program is a nonprofit organization serving a regional network of community organizations engaged in food distribution, education, and advocacy.  
2901 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia

Questions? Call Shelley Chamberlain at 215-680-7408. RSVP and join us!

# Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue

(Deuteronomy 16:18-20)



**Join Us On November 3rd!**



*Congregation Kol Ami Social Action Committee and Gratz College present:*

## **A Jewish Perspective on Mass Incarceration— Come Join Us for a Panel Presentation**

This inspiring and informative program will explore the realities and harm brought about by mass incarceration in our country. A panel of experts will discuss the negative impact that mass incarceration has on our society and will include a Jewish perspective on the issue.

### **Panelists:**

**John Pace:** Reentry Coordinator with the Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project in Philadelphia and with the Temple Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program and a former inmate who was incarcerated for 31 years

**Angus R. Love, Esquire:** Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project

**Bob Lankin, J.D.:** member of Beth Sholom Congregation, an accomplished spokesperson on the issue of mass incarceration and coordinator of the Jewish Congregation at SCI Phoenix

**Panel Moderator: Laurie Jubelirer, Esquire,** member of Congregation Kol Ami, Program Chair and advocate for prisoners' civil rights

- **When:** Sunday, November 3rd, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Congregation Kol Ami, 8201 High School Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027
- **Questions and RSVP:** Contact Elaine Stevens, Executive Director, Congregation Kol Ami at 215 635-3110 or [execdir@kolami.info](mailto:execdir@kolami.info).

**This program is free and open to the public.**

**Walk-Ins welcome**

**Attention Attorneys: earn 1.5 CLE credits**

Please register online at <https://gratzcollege.formstack.com/forms/cleNovemberatkolami>  
or contact Mindy Cohen at Gratz College at [mcohen@gratz.edu](mailto:mcohen@gratz.edu) or at  
215-635-7300, ext. 155. Cost will be \$75.00 for 1.5 CLE credits.



# *Voices of the Jewish Soul*

A Concert to Benefit URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy

Presented by the Reform Cantors of Philadelphia

**Sunday, November 10, 2019 | 3:00 PM**

Congregation Kol Ami | 8201 High School Road | Elkins Park, PA

## *Featuring*

Cantor Jordan Franzel  
Cantor Lauren Goodlev  
Cantor Rhoda Harrison  
Cantor Naomi Hirsch  
Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner

Cantor Jamie Marx  
Cantor Faryn Rudnick  
Cantor Neil Schnitzer  
Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz  
Cantor Elena Zarkh

Mark Daugherty, piano

## Tickets \$18

Purchase online at [6pointscreativearts.org](http://6pointscreativearts.org)  
or at the door

All proceeds to benefit scholarship funds for



**CREATIVE  
ARTS  
ACADEMY**

in West Chester, PA



American  
Red Cross

BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.  
Give blood.



## **Congregation Kol Ami American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

8201 High School Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19021  
Montgomery  
1<sup>st</sup> floor-Sanctuary Portion

E-mail Jean Ettinger at [jeanettinger@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettinger@gmail.com) or  
Sharon Myers at [sharonmyers381@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmyers381@gmail.com)

*Appointments are preferred.*

**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE**

Or sign up at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code:  
**Kol Ami Elkins Park**

**Area hospital patients are counting on you!**  
**Don't forget to HYDRATE and please remember your ID.**



American  
Red Cross

## KOL AMI EVENTS (continued from page 7)

to label the tea bags with the flavors. Please RSVP to Elaine Gershenson at [gershlaw@comcast.net](mailto:gershlaw@comcast.net) or 215-740-6717 by November 10.

## CALLING ALL LOCAs FOR SHABBAT DINNER

**Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at locations indicated**

LOCA's pre-*erev Shabbat*-services dinners are planned for these Friday evenings. As always, MOCAs (Men of a Certain Age) are welcome.

- **November 15** at Marco Polo
- **December 6, February 7, March 6, and April 3:** Dinner will be held at either Marco Polo or Szechuan Mandarin in Elkins Park.

To RSVP, contact Joan Greenberg at [jgreenbe53@gmail.com](mailto:jgreenbe53@gmail.com).

## AN EREV SHABBAT TREAT: CANTOR LEON SHER RETURNS!

**Friday, December 6, at our 7:30 p.m. *erev Shabbat* Service**



Join us as we welcome back one of our favorite artists-in-residence, Cantor Leon Sher. Cantor Sher and Rebecca will be joined by our wonderful Adult Choir for an evening of soulful prayer in song.

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP KOL AMI MEMBERS? CHECK OUT CARING CONGREGANTS

Tired of the same old New Year's resolutions? Looking for a way to help members within our Kol Ami community? As our synagogue keeps growing, so do our needs. If you enjoy cooking, driving, and/or connecting with some

wonderful people, Kol Ami's Caring Congregant Committee would love to welcome you. Contact Elaine Gershenson at 215-887-3994. We hope you'll be able to join us!



## A NEW SUB-GROUP OF INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE (IRD) IS FORMING

**Meeting on Thursday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m.  
at home of Gary and Cheryl Turetsky**

For many years, Kol Ami's IRD group has provided an inclusive and open environment in meetings with our rabbi to discuss challenges unique to interfaith relationships. This year, the group is expanding its mission to provide support to all members—whether in interfaith relationships or not—who may nevertheless find that interfaith relationships within their families generate questions for which it would be good to seek answers while sharing experiences and resources.

If you are a parent of a child in an interfaith relationship, have grandchildren being raised in an interfaith family or in a different religion, are adoptive parents of a child born into a different religion, or if you are simply anticipating being in one of those categories at some point and have questions or concerns, IRD is hoping you will consider joining our group for its initial get together.

The meeting will be at the home of Cheryl and Gary Turetsky (parents of a daughter who recently married a non-Jewish spouse). Please RSVP to [gsturet@gmail.com](mailto:gsturet@gmail.com). The Turetskys will have hot and cold beverages, and if you want to bring a dessert, that would be greatly appreciated.

**KOL AMI @ 25  
CASINO NIGHT**  
**Saturday, February 1,  
at 7:00 p.m.**

Details to follow.



*continued page 12*



SAVE THE DATE

**THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HAZON CSA  
TU B'SHVAT SEDER AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI**

**Sunday, February 9. from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

There will be a special participation by our seventh-grade class. All are invited for an evening of inspiration as we celebrate the New Year of the Trees

**"ODES AND ELEGIES" WAS CERTAINLY AN  
ENTERTAINING IN-HOUSE CONCERT!**



Peter Hilliard, Sheryl Heather Cohen, and John David Miles pose for a photo after their successful fund-raiser performance as part of Kol Ami @ 25 on October 19. ■



**ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

**NICOLE PATRICE DUL: NOV. 26 - JAN. 6**



Nicole holds an MFA in Printmaking from Pratt Institute and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from Tyler School of Art. Currently, she is co-director of the Third Street Gallery in Philadelphia as well as a co-founder of Star Wheel Printers, a Philadelphia print collective that aims to promote and share printmaking with other artists and local communities. Nicole is also an active member of the Cheltenham Print Guild and had the honor of being the Cheltenham Center for the Arts' 2016-17 Printmaking Resident.

Nicole examines social geography through printmaking, photography, painting, and mixed media. She uses the effects of layering, weathering, and transforming print media, converging texture and representational imagery to evoke both moments of tension and ease. Nicole's expressive mixed-media prints command interactions between life and death, past and present.

Nicole begins with a "rust print" as her base. Rust printing is a contact printing where rusty metal objects are laid out on dampened paper and sprayed with acetic vinegars, teas, coffee, and wine. Once items are placed on wet paper, she covers them with plastic. Under the plastic, they perspire, creating an environment perfect for the rust to bleed onto the paper. With her base completed, she then adds images using image-transfer processes generated from personal photographs and historical references. She then further enhances the works with drypoint, etching, woodcut, monotype printing, and direct painting techniques. To see more of Nicole's work, visit [www.NPDprints.com](http://www.NPDprints.com).

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 ■



# Religious School *Sukkot* Activities



# KOL AMI NOVEMBER 2019 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>"Simcha" First-Friday</i> <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>2</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>3</b> <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. – Social Action Committee "Mass Incarceration" Program 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. – Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Religious School</b> <b>Committee Meeting</b> 12:15 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <i>"Study at the Shul"</i> <b>for Adults</b> with Rabbi Berkowitz 7:00 p.m.	<b>6</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. <i>"Study at the Shul"</i> <b>for Adults</b> with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>8</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rabbi Berkowitz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Student Choir 7:00 p.m.	<b>9</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>10</b> <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Kol Ami @ 25 <i>Mitzvah Day</i> 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>"The Voices of Jewish                      Soul" Concert</b> 3:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> <i>"Study at the Shul"</i> <b>for Adults</b> with Rabbi Berkowitz 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - Post- Confirmation	<b>14</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m. <i>"Study at the Shul"</i> <b>for Adults</b> with Ira Cooperman 7:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. LOCA Dinner 5:30 p.m. at Marco Polo <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Grades K-2 6:00 p.m. <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Adult Choir Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary 7:30 p.m.	<b>16</b> <i>Bar Mitzvah of</i> Asher Weinstock 10:00 a.m.
<b>17</b> <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - New-Member Brunch 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal <b>Social Action Committee</b> <b>Share Food Program</b> 1:00 p.m. Hunting Park Avenue in Philadelphia <b>Kol Ami @ 25</b> <b>LOCA Tea Party</b> 3:30 p.m. at home of Alan and Elaine Gershenson	<b>18</b> <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. <b>Religious School</b> <b>Teen Summit</b> 6:00 p.m. Temple Beth Am	<b>20</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. No Confirmation Class	<b>21</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>22</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with Rachael Simon 10:00 a.m. <i>"Transgender Day                      of Remembrance"</i> <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> with guest speaker Eve Berger 7:30 p.m.	<b>23</b> <i>"Fun-for-Kids"</i> <i>Shabbat Service</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>24</b> <b>Religious School</b> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Moving Traditions B'nai Mitzvah Program for Grade 7 students and parents 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>26</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m.	<b>27</b> Religious School <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b> Early Learning Center <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b> Early Learning Center <b>CLOSED</b> <i>erev Shabbat Service</i> 7:30 p.m.	<b>30</b> <i>Shabbat Service</i> and <i>Torah Dialogue</i> with Carol Nemeroff delivering the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m.

# KOL AMI DECEMBER 2019 AT A GLANCE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Religious School CLOSED	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. “Study at the <i>Shul</i> ” for Adults with Rabbi Berkowitz 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m. - Post-Confirmation	<b>5</b> Caring Congregants Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Home of Alan and Elaine Gershenson	<b>6</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rabbi Berkowitz 10:00 a.m. LOCA Dinner 5:30 p.m. (Location TBD) “ <i>Simcha</i> ” First-Friday <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Cantor Leon Sher and Adult Choir 7:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
<b>8</b> Worship Enhancement Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - <i>Hanukkah</i> Program 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal Religious School Committee Meeting 12:15 p.m.	<b>9</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Student Choir 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b> <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Torah Dialogue with Carol Nemeroff delivering the <i>dvar Torah</i> 10:00 a.m.
<b>15</b> Religious School 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - Grades 3 & 4 to Abramson Center 10:25 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. - Student Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Early Learning Center Fitness 9:30 a.m. Interfaith Relationship Dialogue Meeting 7:30 p.m. Home of Vincent and Jane Pace	<b>18</b> Religious School 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Early Learning Center Yoga 9:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat Hanukkah</i> Sing-along Service with Rebecca Schwartz 10:00 a.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service 7:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
<b>22</b> Religious School CLOSED	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Early Learning Center CLOSED Religious School CLOSED	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Early Learning Center <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service with Rachael Simon 10:00 p.m. <i>erev Shabbat</i> Service and <i>Hanukkah</i> Celebration 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b> <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Torah Dialogue 10:00 a.m.
<b>29</b> Religious School CLOSED	<b>30</b> Early Learning Center Music 9:30 a.m.	<b>31</b>				

FROM THE RABBI (continued from page 1)

**Make a specific offer:** Rather than say, “What can I do?” or “Let me know if you need anything,” it helps to make a concrete offer. Bring over a meal on a specific day. Offer to pick up groceries, dry-cleaning, or prescriptions; run car-pool; or pick up out-of-town relatives and friends. If you are not planning to attend the funeral or burial, you can volunteer to wait in the house for food to be delivered and help set up.

Nowadays many mourners order trays of food for *shiva*. But traditionally, it was the community’s responsibility to provide food for the mourners, starting with a *seudat havraah*—a meal of consolation—upon returning home from the cemetery, containing simple, round foods like eggs, bread, and lentils that provide basic sustenance and remind the mourners of the cycle of life.

If you are concerned that they might have too much food, you can bring over uncut fruit and nonperishables such as coffee, tea, sugar, and paper goods (even toilet paper) that might be running low. You can also help clean up afterwards or take extra food to a shelter.

**Bring older children and young adults with you:** One of the privileges of becoming *b’nai mitzvah* is counting in a *minyan*. Taking older children to *shiva* is a way of teaching them how the Jewish community supports one another, and how, as *b’nai mitzvah*, they can fulfill this *mitzvah* too.

**Check in throughout the week and when *shiva* ends:** Support might taper off as the week goes on. They might need more help gathering a *minyan*, help with some errands, or just someone to talk to. It is also a custom to come to the mourners’ home at the end of *shiva* to take them on a walk around the block, a symbol of their re-entry into the world of the living.

May we reach out to those in our community who are in pain, and may those who are in mourning find comfort in the embrace of our community. ■

## Kol Ami Contributions

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.

### ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of:

**Mark Snyderman**

*Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein*

### ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz**

*Alan Schiffman*

**Bar Mitzvah of Rafael Lazrow**

*Alan Schiffman*

**Rebecca Schwartz**

*Alan Schiffman*

### RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**Bar Mitzvah of Rafael Lazrow**

*Bonnie Scheer*

In Memory of:

**Anne Berkowitz**

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

**Mary Gartenberg**

*Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

**Burton Langman**

*Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein*

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

### RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY (CONT’D)

**Leatrice Levy**

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

**Jane Schiowitz**

*Gabriel and Orly Maravankin*

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

**Mark Snyderman**

*Stephen and Jean Ettinger*

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

**Miklos Sugar**

*Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz*

### SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory of:

**Burton Langman**

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

**Bernard Levin**

*Alvin Turetsky*

**Jane Schiowitz**

*David Baker and Irene Levy Baker*

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

**Mark Snyderman**

*Craig and Sharon Myers*

**Celia Turetsky**

*Alvin Turetsky* ■



*Thank you to all our past  
and present contributors!*