



WORSHIP SERVICES

"SIMCHA" FIRST FRIDAY

July 3 at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, July 10, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, July 11, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, July 17, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, July 24, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, July 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, July 31, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

"SIMCHA" FIRST FRIDAY

August 7 at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, August 8, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, August 14, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, August 21, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, August 22, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, August 28, at 6:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

***Machzor* Means "Return"**

As you can imagine, it is hard to plan ahead in tumultuous times like this. Our understanding of what is happening changes daily, as must our response to it. How things unfold will likely impact many aspects of our lives for years to come. In these uncertain times, how can we find stability and comfort? When so many of our schedules have been disrupted, how do we give shape to time?

Right now I'm taking some comfort in the notion that the Hebrew word for High Holy Day prayer book, *machzor*, comes from the root meaning, "to return." *Machzor* can also mean "cycle," and connotes something that comes around, again and again, on a regular basis.

So in that sense, the High Holy Day prayers provide us with the promise that, each year, we will return to something familiar, even if nearly everything else has changed. Often, we measure ourselves against this cyclical observance, like the regular photographs we take of children sitting in the same chair or standing on the front step as they grow older. Where were we when we opened this book last year? Where are we now? And where do we hope to be the next time we read these prayers?

And while we can't necessarily predict exactly what life will be like when we open the *machzor*—often we can't even predict what will happen tomorrow—we can still do the essential work of preparing ourselves to go around this cycle one more time. We can draw wisdom from ancient and modern sources. We can reflect on how we have responded to the challenges of this past year and what unexpected blessings we have encountered. And we can ground ourselves in a vision for how we want to live our lives in the year to come—with hope, with gratitude, with courage, and with kindness—even if the what of this coming year is still uncertain.

Each year, as I prepare to return to the books of the High Holy Days—the *machzor*, the *Torah*, and the Prophets—I like to add new voices to that treasure trove of wisdom. These are some of the books I'm drawing wisdom, courage, and strength from right now.

- [The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl](#) is Marra B. Gad's memoir about being adopted and raised by a white Jewish family. While

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CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Ezekiel Berlin

uncle of Adena Johnston

Zvi Bernhardt

cousin of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

Phyllis Haas

aunt of Shari Johnson

Dorothy Harris

great-aunt of Sara Cobbra

Dr. Sidney Hyman

uncle of David Hyman

uncle of William Hyman

Beverly Landau

mother of Lisa Landau

Michael Oswald

brother-in-law of Ilene Schafer

Eve Segal

aunt of Lisa Landau

Vera Weissman

mother of Sandie Weissman

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Religious School Committee

Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Tamara Sniad, 215-782-3848,

and Emily Stein, 215-375-4807 ■

ADVICE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: KEEP YOUR KIDS' RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GOING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

The Religious School year has come to an end, but that doesn't mean that your child's Jewish education has to be on hold. With many Jewish camps closed this summer, you may find it challenging to engage your child Jewishly this year. Here are four ideas to get you started:

1. The Union for Reform Judaism is offering several virtual programs in place of in-person Jewish camps. Anyone can attend song sessions, text study, trivia, games, and more, whether or not you have any affiliation with URJ camps (<https://urjyouth.org/virtual-communities/>).
2. With so many people in our community facing greater need than normal, this summer is the perfect time to focus on doing good deeds for others. Several organizations, such as the Jewish Relief Agency, need volunteers to continue to provide for those in need. You can deliver food or simply donate artwork to brighten someone's day (<https://www.jewishrelief.org/volunteer-1.html>).
3. Staying at home more means that prioritizing *Shabbat* meals may be easier this summer. Enrich your *Shabbat* with age-appropriate *Torah* study. At Reform Judaism's website, you can choose your child's age group to view age-appropriate and relevant discussion questions inspired by the weekly *Torah* portion (<https://reformjudaism.org/torah-study-tips-leading-weekly-family-discussion>).
4. On **Thursday, July 30**, Jews around the world will commemorate the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem on a day known as *Tisha B'Av*. It is said that the temple was destroyed because of "baseless hatred." As has unfortunately become all too clear in recent weeks, baseless hatred is very much alive in our society. Use this day to speak to your children about a social justice issue that is important to you, such as racial justice, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, or LGBTQ rights.

Remember that living a life informed by Jewish values isn't just learned in Religious School; it must be modeled. I encourage you to reflect on what living a Jewish life means to you and to act on it in a way that is visible to your child. That may mean performing rituals that have been passed down through generations of Jews, or it may mean participating in protests or volunteering to take care of others. Speak to your children how Jewish values inform your choices and your way of life. I can't wait to hear about how your child practiced Judaism over the summer!

Registration for 2020-2021 is NOW OPEN! Registration can be found here: <https://www.kolamielkinspark.org/education/religious-school/online-registration-new-students/>

Our first day of Religious School is **Sunday, September 13**. Please watch for more information about our schedule and updates on our program in your e-mail. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon! ■

CARING CONGREGANTS HELPS DURING THESE UNUSUAL TIMES

Caring Congregants has enlisted the services a number of high-school and college students as well as some adult members of the Kol Ami community to shop for people who are either uncomfortable with or unable to do so themselves. This includes food markets, drugstore chains, food banks, and



retail stores that are currently open. Delivery will be socially distanced and/or no contact as needed. To enlist the services of a volunteer, contact Elaine Gershenson (gershlaw@comcast.net or 215-887-3994).

Also, free homemade masks are available from two of our Caring Congregant seamstresses. Contact Janine Pratt (jepratt2of5@gmail.com) or Shari Johnson (mommyone@aol.com).

Abington Hospital now has 144 homemade masks, thanks to Caring Congregant Shari Johnson (photo at left). In addition, she's also making gowns and protective head coverings for them. ■



YEDIDAY KOL AMI 2020

We greatly appreciate the support of the following members of *Yediday* Kol Ami, which raises funds to support our Congregation:

Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry
David Baker and Irene Levy Baker
Nigel Blower and Julie Cohen
Barry and Allison Boise
Michael Chernoff
Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman
Janet Felgoise
Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin
David Hyman
William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Charles Langman and Laurie Jubelirer
Langman
Jeffrey and Robynnn Margasak
Alex and Nancy Miller
Cory Newman
Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar
Gary Sender
Stanley and Rita Siegel
Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin
Elaine Stevens
Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser ■

SAVE THE DATE KOL AMI BLOOD DRIVE

It may seem like a long time from now, but save **Monday, November 9**, for our annual Blood Drive.

Watch for further details in upcoming bulletins. ■



3-PART ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

ZOOM TALMUD

Now's a great time to try something new—how about Talmud? Enjoy an exploration and discussion of talmudic stories and passages about courage, decency, deception, fear, prayer, the world-to-come, belonging and isolation. No background required; all texts in English translation, but bring your imagination!

RABBI AMY SCHEINERMAN

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman is a scholar of Jewish text and Talmud in particular. The author of *The Talmud of Relationships*, vols. 1 & 2, she is the hospice rabbi in Howard County Maryland and serves on the Responsa Committee of the CCAR and as editor of the Torah Commentary Column of the CCAR Newsletter.

TWO CLASS OPTIONS

TUESDAYS BEGINNING JULY 7
7:00PM ET

THURSDAYS BEGINNING JULY 9
12:00PM ET

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Check your e-mail for registration details.

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

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most of the family accepts her and welcomes her with open arms, she repeatedly experiences mistreatment and cruelty from her great-aunt, Nette. When Nette is diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and needs a family member to manage her care, Marra steps up in spite of their strained relationship. As a story of choosing love in the face of ignorance and prejudice, The Color of Love connects to both current conversations about racial justice and the eternal themes of the High Holy Days.

- The Book of Jonah: A Social Justice Commentary, by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. Every year, we cycle back to the enigmatic story of Jonah, the runaway prophet who gets swallowed by a giant fish. Yanklowitz, an activist, thought leader, and dynamic teacher of Jewish text, explores this story from the perspective of social justice. What can Jonah teach us about our responsibility towards each other and our obligation to respond to the world's brokenness? It also features cover art by Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik, one of my favorite modern Jewish artists.
- Opening Your Heart with Psalm 27: A Spiritual Practice for the Jewish New Year, by Rabbi Debra J. Robbins. It is customary to cycle through Psalm 27 ("God is my light and my salvation") daily during the month leading up to *Rosh Hashanah*, so that we can get into the mindset of reflection and growth. Robbins has created a series of contemplative exercises—including music, meditation, and writing—to help us engage with this psalm and the themes of the New Year during the Hebrew month of *Elul*, which begins August 21.

I feel blessed to be preparing for a third cycle of Jewish holidays with you. Let's rejoice in the opportunity to go around one more time! ■

PHOTO BELOW: Benjamin Long, our new treasurer, can multi-task. He's a wiz with the power washer and did a fantastic job of cleaning the siding at the Early Learning Center. Thanks Ben!



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

Lorie B. Slass, Vice President

215-635-0920

Gary Turetsky, Secretary

267-346-1456

Ben Long, Treasurer

610-659-7378

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Elaine Stevens, Executive Director

215-635-3110

Rachael Simon

Director of Education

215-635-7106

Early Learning Center

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

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

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month to **Janet Falon** at jfalon@english.upenn.edu. Articles may be edited as needed. ■



If you're thinking of snap peas and green beans, think of our award-winning CSA!



Congregation Kol Ami is proud of our long-standing and ongoing commitment to sustainability in partnership with *Hazon*, the Jewish lab for sustainability, building a movement that strengthens Jewish life and contributes to a healthier and more environmentally sustainable world for all.

We started the Elkins Park *Hazon* Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in 2007, the first in our region aligned with *Hazon*. A CSA is a direct partnership between consumers and farmers. Subscribing members pay the farmers before the growing season, which gives the farmers financial security, a direct market for their goods, and a fair wage for their produce, helping sustain family farms and preserve local farmland. In return, the farmers provide a weekly share of fresh organic produce.

The Elkins Park *Hazon* CSA at Kol Ami partners with Amish and Mennonite organic farmers from Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative. With CSA member support, the cooperative has grown from five family farms when we joined to now over a hundred.

As part of the *Hazon* CSA network, we have been fostering a vibrant Jewish community that cares about and examines environmental and food justice issues from a Jewish perspective. CSA community programs include the annual *Tu B'Shvat* and *Sukkot* in the Fields farm trip.

Kol Ami has connected to *Hazon* in other ways for over a decade: member participation in *Hazon* and Israel bike rides, food conferences, Israel Sustainability Tour, and institutional co-sponsor of all three *Hazon* Philly Food conferences to date, co-hosting the 2015 conference in Elkins Park.

In 2010, the Congregation established the *Shomrei Adamah* Environmental Stewardship committee, with the mission to develop and provide educational, action, and advocacy programs about sustainability issues and topics, in liaison with other standing committees and in coalition with the Jewish Climate Change Campaign and other Jewish organizations; and to provide policy recommendations that promote efficient, economic, and sustainable practices to our Board of Trustees. Through the Operations committee, our Congregation has made huge strides in greening our building, cutting energy usage nearly 50 percent and saving \$20,000 per year in utilities compared to 2011.

In 2017, we applied to the *Hazon* Seal of Sustainability initiative and were honored to be accepted into the first formal cohort of Jewish organization to enroll in the program. The yearly audit process helps us to benchmark our past achievements in the area of sustainability and provides new ideas and inspiration for environmental action, advocacy, and education. The structure of the program helps us to focus on attainable goals each year. We are proud to have achieved the Seal of Sustainability certification in 2017, 2018, and 2019. ■

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 Honor of:

Birthday of Gary Turetsky

Ira Cooperman

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor of:

**Rebecca Schwartz for her help
and unbelievable patience in
teaching us how to use Zoom**

Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Shirley Barr

Russell Cooke and Nancy Kirsh

Karen Gurmankin

David and Patricia Ann Long

Fran Surkeni

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for all of
the inspiring Zoom services**

Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for a
wonderful Seder**

Stephen and Jean Ettinger

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for her
guidance and support through
my mother's illness**

Carol Laskin

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for her
outstanding leadership**

Bonnie Scheer

**Knowing Carol Laskin for
Four Years!**

Ira Cooperman

Sue Levin and Leon Rosenson

Michael Levin

**Rebecca Schwartz for a
wonderful Seder**

Stephen and Jean Ettinger

**Rebecca Schwartz for her
outstanding leadership**

Bonnie Scheer

In Memory of:

Joan Dubin Hockman

Barry, Michele, and Drew Steinbrecher

Linda Kriger

Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Beverly Landau

Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Irwin Natov

James and Natalie Dyen

Anne Bernice Rush

Stanton and Merle Salkin

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Andrew August and Barbara Fink

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker

Russell Cooke and Nancy Kirsh

Gregory Brown and Sara Reiter

David and Shelley Chamberlain

David Hyman

Carol Laskin

Elaine Stevens

Alan and Cheryl Wohlstetter

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for her
outstanding leadership**

Bonnie Scheer

**High school graduation of
Evan Pelletier**

Bernard and Beth Jobl

Birthday of Jerry Pomerantz

Ira Cooperman

**Janine Pratt for her kindness in
making masks for our community**

Carol Laskin

Elaine Stevens

**Rebecca Schwartz for her
outstanding leadership**

Bonnie Scheer

**Class of 2020 High-School and
College Graduates**

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Elaine Stevens

In Memory of:

Graham Blower

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Helen Morris

Edith Kanter

Craig and Sharon Myers

Beverly Landau

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Elaine Stevens

Abe Levin

Alvin Turetsky

William Meller

Craig and Sharon Myers

Edwin P. Myers

Craig and Sharon Myers

Leon Rosenblatt

Craig and Sharon Myers

Vera Weissman

Elaine Stevens

YOUTH FUND

In Honor of:

**Fifteenth birthday of
Teah Hauptman**

Ira Cooperman ■

Have a safe summer!

