



WORSHIP SERVICES

All services and programs will take place virtually until further notice. Check your e-mail for log-in information or find us on Facebook and YouTube.

"SIMCHA" FIRST FRIDAY

September 4 at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

FRIDAY, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Board Installation *erev Shabbat Service*

SATURDAY, September 12

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

8:00 p.m. - *Selichot Program on Criminal Justice with Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss*

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

FRIDAY, September 18, at 8:00 p.m.

erev Rosh Hashana Service

SATURDAY, September 19

10:00 a.m. - *Rosh Hashana Service*

12:30 p.m. - *Shofar Service*

2:00 p.m. - *Family Service*

SUNDAY, September 20, at 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Tashlich and Rosh Hashana Seder

FRIDAY, September 25, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, September 26, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

SUNDAY, September 27, at 8:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre Service

MONDAY, September 28

Several online learning opportunities will be available between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - *Yom Kippur Service*

2:00 p.m. - *Family Service*

4:30 p.m. - *Afternoon Service, Yizkor and Neilah, concluding by 6:30 p.m.* ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ



Many of our Kol Ami traditions will be profoundly changed by our inability to gather in person. But not all of the changes are bad. As we draw closer to the New Year, I wanted to share with you some exciting opportunities that our new technology has provided for us!

(This is an overview of some of the new elements of our High Holy Day experience. Check your e-mail for a full schedule with links.)

Creating Your Own Sacred Space

"Dressing up for the holidays" will look quite different this year. Many of us appreciate not having to wear uncomfortable shoes, but perhaps we can redirect some of that energy to dressing up our worship space.

How can we make the space we pray in feel like a *mikdash me'at* (small sanctuary)? Consider decorating your home with photographs of loved ones, ritual objects that are special to the family, or artwork from the children in your life. And how we can keep that space prayerful? Are there alerts and pop-ups on our devices that we can disable so that we can focus on being present with one another?

Selichot—Virtual Kotel

This year, Rebecca and I will lead our *Selichot* service as a livestream from the Sanctuary—our first service in the building since March 14! One beloved tradition at Kol Ami is inviting members of our community for a moment for personal prayer in front of the ark. For those who customarily joined us for *Selichot*, we know that tradition will be sorely missed.

To adapt that tradition to our virtual setting, we are creating a "Virtual Kotel": similar to placing notes in the cracks of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. We invite you to write prayers that will be read aloud (if you want) and placed in the ark during the service. Please send your prayers to rabbi@kolamielkinspark.org by September 9. Be sure to note whether you would like the prayer read aloud during the service and whether you would like your name mentioned or not.

continued page 2



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Joseph Ezekiel

uncle of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

Janet Goleman Felgoise

mother of Marc and Judy Felgoise, Roy and Valerie Felgoise, Brian and Lori Felgoise and Glenn Felgoise; stepchildren Jeffrey and Julie Havsy and Lynn Havsy

Humberto J. Gonzalez

father of Eric Gonzalez

Amy Kaplan

cousin of Michael Silverman

Brian Kleger

son of Phyllis Shamberg

Joseph Levy

uncle of Irene Levy Baker

Irene Rosenfeld

aunt of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

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

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to **David and Shelley Chamberlain** on the birth of their granddaughter, Alice Marin Chamberlain, daughter of Brian and Marissa Chamberlain, born on July 8, 2020.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Religious School Committee

Thursday, September 24, at 7:00 p.m.
Chairs: Tamara Sniad, 215-782-3848,
and Emily Stein, 215-375-4807 ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ (continued from page 1)

Separate Shofar Service

Our *Rosh Hashana Shofar* Service will take place separately from the morning service, so families with young children and others who might not be able to join us for the entire service can hear the *shofar*.

Second-Day Tashlich “Correspondents” and Rosh Hashana Seder

We were hoping to gather for an outdoor, socially-distanced *tashlich*, the symbolic casting of our sins into a moving body of water. Since that still didn’t feel entirely safe, we wanted to make sure there was at least one of our holiday celebrations that felt like an interactive, intimate gathering.

On the second day of *Rosh Hashana*, we will join together on Zoom for a virtual *tashlich* and a *Rosh Hashana seder*. If you would like to be a “*tashlich* correspondent” by joining the Zoom call from a body of water with some bread crumbs or fish food, please contact rabbi@kolamielkinspark.org.

Afterwards, we’ll start a new tradition. The *Rosh Hashana seder* is a Sephardic custom of eating foods that symbolize blessings for in the new year. Many eat pomegranates so that our good deeds might be as plentiful as its seeds. There are a lot of great puns in this ritual. My friend Malkie’s family eats raisins and celery for a “raise in salary”!

Put some of the following on your shopping list (amount, type, and preparation don’t matter): beans, squash, beets, lettuce, artichoke hearts, leeks, dates and pomegranate, *challah*, honey, and gummy fish (some people use real fish heads, but I do not).

We also invite you to create your own “punny” food blessing to share at our gathering. My colleagues and I are currently searching for a food to represent a coronavirus vaccine.

New Opportunities for Joint Learning—Selichot and Yom Kippur

These strange times have made it easier for us to collaborate with our neighbors to provide high-quality Jewish learning for a wider audience. This year, for *Selichot*, we are “joining” our friends at Congregation Beth David for a conversation about criminal justice with my mentor, Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss, and several other guests.

On *Yom Kippur*, several learning options will be provided throughout the afternoon, on the subjects of Jews of Color, Mental Health, and Making Loss Matter.

While many things will be different this year, one thing remains the same: we will welcome 5781 together, supporting one another as we prepare to meet the joys and challenges of this new year. May you and your loved ones be inscribed and sealed for a year of health, happiness, prosperity, and peace. ■

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

VIRTUAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STARTS UP



The start of this academic year will certainly look different from any before it, but Kol Ami Religious School continues to be committed to providing both high-quality Jewish education and a strong Jewish community. Here are the answers to some of the questions you may have about how we will achieve this goal:

What will Religious School look like this year?

In light of public health concerns due to COVID-19, and after careful consideration, the Board of Trustees, the Rabbi, and I have

decided that Kol Ami Religious School will be virtual at least through 2020. We discussed and explored many approaches, but we ultimately realized that any in-person program would require us to take some risks that would potentially endanger the health of our teachers, staff, students, and their families. With the challenge of enforcing numerous safety protocols, and the possibility of inconsistency of an in-person program if there were a surge in cases or a local outbreak, we know that this is the best decision at this time.

Together with Rabbi Berkowitz, the Religious School Committee co-chairs, and our teachers, I have spent the summer creating a curriculum that makes use of virtual learning, but emphasizes those things we value as a community: prayer, Hebrew and Jewish education, shared experience, music, and celebration. Students will meet with their classes on Zoom on Sundays and Wednesdays, and teachers will use Google Classroom to support synchronous learning by posting documents, assignments, announcements, and any materials students should have available during class. **Our first day of Religious School is Sunday, September 13.** A schedule of classes will be sent to Religious School families.

How will I need to prepare for Religious School?

Prior to the first day of classes, there will be a drive-through book pick-up on **Wednesday, September 9, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** I will be waiting under the awning leading to the Religious School entrance with books and prayer packets that I will bring to your car when you drive through our parking lot. If this date does not work for you, please e-mail me at eddir@kolamielkinspark.org.

Religious School families will receive their child's Zoom class links as well as invitations to join their child's Google Classroom. If you do not receive this information by **September 7**, please e-mail me at eddir@kolamielkinspark.org. If you were unable to attend one of our Parent Information Sessions, I would be happy to assist you in using either platform.

continued page 4

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 CLOSSES 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. ■



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

What will the fall holidays look like for Religious School students?

We will take advantage of the fall holidays falling on weekends this year to more intentionally include our students in both prayer services and holiday programming. On certain dates this fall, we will ask students to attend family-friendly holiday services in place of Sunday Religious School classes. Please note the following dates:

- **Saturday, September 19, 2:00 p.m.:** *Rosh Hashanah* Program - Students will NOT have Religious School on Sunday, September 20.
- **Monday, September 28, 2:00 p.m.:** *Yom Kippur* Program - Students will NOT have Religious School on Sunday, September 27.
- **Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.:** *Sukkot* Program - Students will NOT have class on Sunday, October 4.
- **Friday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.:** *Simchat Torah* Program - Students will NOT have class on Sunday, October 11.

In the midst of so much tragedy in our nation, I am looking forward to the joy of gathering virtually as a Religious School community once again on September 13! ■



WELCOME NEW MEMBER ALICE BECK DUBOW



Kol Ami warmly welcomes new member Alice Beck Dubow, whose journey to our Congregation began on New Year's Day 2020, when she and her husband, Rob, had lunch with David Hyman and Farah Jimenez. Alice mentioned that she was looking for a new synagogue, and David enthusiastically told her about Kol Ami. They subsequently attended several services together, and later (following the switchover to virtual activities) Alice took part in several classes and additional services remotely. She says she enjoyed the intimate and peaceful nature of the services, and she was impressed with Rabbi Berkowitz's intelligence and warmth.

Alice's entire career has been in law, both as an attorney and judge, and now as a Superior Court Judge in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Alice grew up in Lower Merion and earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. She practiced law for about 20 years in Philadelphia, then was a judge in the Philadelphia trial court for eight years; for the past five years she has been an appellate judge.

Alice has lived in Philadelphia for the past 35 years (including Center City, Chestnut Hill, and Andorra) with her husband, Rob Dubow, who has been the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Philadelphia in both the Nutter and Kenney administrations.

Along the way, Alice and Rob raised two children (and several dogs!). Their son, Ben, has a start-up company in Washington, DC, and their daughter, Rebecca, is a student at Cornell Law School, about to begin her second year.

Alice says her personal interests are her family, reading, tennis, Fairmount Park, and her dogs.

We are very happy that she has joined our Congregational family, and we look forward to the time when we will be able to meet and talk with her at Kol Ami – in person – again. ■

CARING CONGREGANTS ARE HERE FOR YOU

Do you have good news that you'd like to share with the Congregation—events such as college acceptances, new jobs, a new grandchild, a *bar/bat mitzvah*, a confirmation? Just as the Caring Congregants Committee has been sending out cards for condolences and “special” anniversaries and birthdays, we would like to acknowledge these milestone events in your lives.

If you'd like to share your *nachas*, please contact our co-chairs: Elaine Gershenson (gershlaw@comcast.net) or Natalie Dyen (nat.dyen@gmail.com). And *mazal tov*! ■

STUDY AT THE SHUL FOR ADULTS

LEARN ABOUT "THE ART OF WAR – AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE"

Thursdays; October 1, 8 & 15 at 7:30 p.m. with Ira Cooperman

Since the end of World War II, there have been at least 75 conflicts around the globe. Most have been internal revolts or civil uprisings against those in power, such as the Albanian Rebellion, the Greek Civil War, or the Hungarian Revolt. But there also have been short-term and long-term wars, such as the *Yom Kippur* War of 1973; and the Korean War of 1950-53, with thousands of casualties; and the Afghanistan War, which is still going on.

Conflict, like strategy, is woven into society's very roots. Is it true that war is the only way some people learn geography? And that your geographic location determines your destiny?

Ira Cooperman, a Vietnam veteran and a former intelligence analyst who is a frequent speaker on issues of national security, will discuss these questions as well as examine possible peaceful resolutions. This class will use as its text *The Art of War*, written 2,500 years ago by Sun Tzu, with a new translation by Michael Nylan.

The class will be "live" on Zoom from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for three consecutive Thursdays: October 1, 8, and 15. Information on how to access the class will be e-mailed to those who register for it. Please notify Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org no later than September 28 of your desire to attend. ■



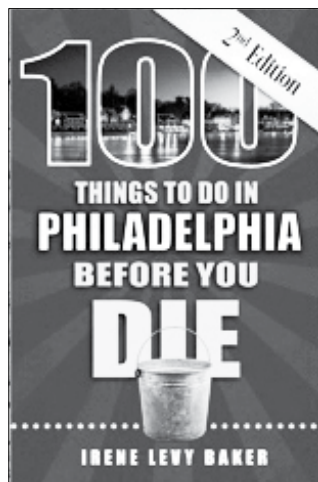
YEDIDAY KOL AMI 2020

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 Robynn 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 ■

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME: FUN IN THE PHILLY AREA

Tuesday, October 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Join congregant Irene Levy Baker as she launches the second edition of *100 Things To Do in Philadelphia* via Zoom. Although we're not traveling much, we can still have lots of fun in the Philadelphia region. And Irene, author of two Philly-centric books, is here to tell you how. She'll help you plan a staycation by describing new attractions that have opened since the first edition of the book was published, lesser-known gems that may surprise even long-time Philadelphians and about Jewish connections to historic attractions. She'll share tips on where to create happy family memories, good places to social distance,

how to help restaurants survive with limited capacity, and how to make sure you never waste free time doing laundry. Grab a glass of wine and enjoy the show.

To sign up, e-mail Elaine Stevens at execdir@kolamielkinspark.org no later than October 21. Zoom details will be forwarded once you have registered. ■

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.



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

ARTS & CUT LURE FUND

Stanton and Merle Salkin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**David and Shelley Chamberlain
and the birth of their first grand-
child, Alice**

Susan Baker

**The birth of Rahm Isaac Doar,
grandson of Ruben Honik**

Benjamin and Beth Long

**Being invited to share in your
beautiful and meaningful virtual
services**

Fay Zerbo



RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (CONTINUED)

In Memory of:

Brian Kleger

Shirley Barr

Rachel Mazer

Cary Mazer

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Benjamin Abrams

*Elkins Park Reformed Presbyterian
Church*

Stanton and Merle Salkin

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Berkowitz and the Board for
holding our community together
during the pandemic**

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar

75th birthday of my sister,

Marcia Cohn

Ira Cooperman

In Memory of:

Joy Hyman

David and Phyllis Harrison

Mildred Levin

Alvin Turetsky

James and Jane Mead

Ira Cooperman

Harold Stern

Ellen Stern, Lawrence Stern, and

Michael Stern ■