



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.

FRIDAY, November 6, at 7:30 p.m.

"Simcha" First-Friday erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, November 7, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

SUNDAY, November 8, at 1:00 p.m.

Healing Service

FRIDAY, November 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Our community has been invited to participate in a *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service along with several other progressive East Coast congregations. Stay tuned for details and links!

SATURDAY, November 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, November 20, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with Grades 2, 3 & 4 and Student Choir

SATURDAY, November 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, November 27, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, November 28, at 10:00 a.m.

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

FRIDAY, December 4, at 7:30 p.m.

"Simcha" First-Friday erev Shabbat Service with Cantor Leon Sher

SATURDAY, December 5, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

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THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

These are a Few of My Favorite Rabbis

As we enter the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan*, we move from the rush of holidays to the more regular rhythms of Jewish life. For many of us, that means resuming our habits of lifelong Jewish learning.

Each year, as we come back around to Genesis in our weekly *Torah* reading, I select a few different commentaries to guide me through the year. This year, I chose these: *The Mussar Torah Commentary*, a CCAR Press anthology edited by Rabbi Barry Block, explores each *parasha* through the lens of *Mussar*, a Jewish practice of ethical discipline that focuses on cultivating our *middot* or "soul-traits" such as humility, patience, or trust. I'll also be adding *Unscrolled: 54 Artists and Writers Wrestle with the Torah* to the mix for some creative content. I am still working my way through *Torah Journeys*, by Rabbi Shefa Gold, which offers a meditation practice for each weekly *Torah* portion (I started in the middle of Numbers last year).

I'm also thrilled to share another incredible learning opportunity afforded to us by our pandemic-imposed virtual state. I've invited three stellar rabbis to each lead a session of learning on one of their favorite topics. Through these sessions, we can benefit from their unique perspectives and also support their rabbinic work during this challenging time.

NOVEMBER 5 AT 7:00 P.M. - RBG: The Law and Her Jewish Values – with Rabbi Cookie Olshein

Two of RBG's most famous words were: "I dissent." Together, we will uncover how RBG's Jewish values are found in her legal opinions...and why dissenting is a particularly Jewish value.



Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein is the "Resident Rabbinic Scholar" of Congregation Ner Tamid, the largest Reform synagogue in Nevada. She spent the past 8 years as the Rabbi of Temple Israel of West Palm Beach, Florida. Before attending HUC-JIR, Rabbi Olshein practiced law in Las Vegas for almost 11 years. Combining her passion for law and Judaism, she is currently writing a book on the impact of *Torah* on the American legal system.

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WORSHIP SERVICE

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FRIDAY, December 11, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Shabbat Hanukkah Service with Student Choir

SATURDAY, December 12

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

5:30 p.m. - "Fun-for-Kids" *Hanukkah* and *Havdalah* Service

FRIDAY, December 18, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, December 19, at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

erev Shabbat service

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

Shabbat Service and *Torah* Dialogue ■

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Moirra Buchanan

sister of Jeffrey Buchanan

May her memory forever be a blessing in the midst of our People. ■

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to **Martin and Jill Seidman** on the birth of their grandson, Jeff Michael Skinner, on September 30 to parents Cody and Shari Skinner. ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Vincent and Jane Pace, 215-699-9497

Religious School Committee

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

Sunday, December 6, at 12:15 p.m.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

TIMELY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS

Chanukah commemorates the Jewish people's resistance to the reign of a narcissistic leader who wanted to erase any culture or heritage that differed from his own. It is about bringing light to a dark time in Jewish history and standing up for what is important to us as Jews.

While our typical holiday celebrations may be cancelled and your *Chanukah* may seem not to shine as brightly amidst a global pandemic and a divided nation, this year may be the perfect opportunity for your family to bring light to the world by volunteering and fighting for your beliefs. Many organizations, such as the Jewish Relief Agency, which delivers food to those who are food insecure, need volunteers more than ever. The Jewish Relief Agency has contactless volunteer opportunities for all ages that allow volunteers to make a huge difference in the lives of others while both parties remain safe. Contact them at volunteer@jewishrelief.org.

There are also many ways for you and your children to advocate for your beliefs without leaving your home. The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) outlines many ways to take action in your community to support a cause that is important to you. Allow your child to choose a social justice issue that speaks to them, and the RAC will both explain its connection to Judaism and provide options to advocate for this issue by contacting local and national leaders. Visit their website at www.RAC.org. I look forward to hearing how your children made the most of an untraditional holiday season by bringing light to issues that speak to them.

As you prepare for another holiday season, please keep in mind the following virtual Religious School events:

- **Sunday, November 1, 11:00 a.m.:** Grade 7 Family *B'nai Mitzvah* Program with Moving Traditions
- **Sunday, November 8, 9:45 a.m.:** Grades 2-3 Family Education Program
- **Sunday, November 11, 12:15 p.m.:** Religious School Committee Meeting
- **Friday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.:** Grade 2/3/4 and Student Choir *erev Shabbat* Service
- **Sunday, December 6, 12:15 p.m.:** Religious School Committee Meeting
- **Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.:** *erev Shabbat Hanukkah* Service with Student Choir
- **Saturday, December 12, 5:30 p.m.:** "Fun for Kids" *Chanukah* and *Havdalah* Service
- **Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.:** KARS Family *Hanukkah* Program

Note that there will be **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL** on the following dates: Wednesday, November 25; Sunday, November 29; Wednesday, December 23; Sunday, December 27; and Wednesday, December 30.

Have a healthy and happy Thanksgiving and *Hanukkah*!

Rachael Simon ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

(continued from page 1)

NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:00 P.M. - Adam, Eve, and Everyone Else: Judaism's 6 Genders – with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, PhD

Six...and counting! The contemporary conversation around gender seems to multiply in volume and complexity every day, but the idea that there are more genders than “male” and “female” isn’t exactly new. Delve into contemporary and classical texts to expand our notion of sex, gender, and Judaism.



Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, PhD, is a freelance rabbi with years of experience in the Hillel world of college students. She brings her expertise in queer theory and community, along with an approachable presence, to her teaching. Learn more at www.rabbinikki.com, and join her on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. EDT on Instagram live for “Awaken to Blessing” @ravnikkid.

DECEMBER 3 AT 7:00 P.M. - Judah Maccabee, the Lasting Oil, and the *Chanukkah* Sweater: How do we balance the truths of *Chanukkah*? – with Rabbi Elisa Koppel

There are many versions not only of the story of *Chanukkah*, but also of the holiday of *Chanukkah*. How do we take the versions of what *Chanukkah* has been, and mesh them with the versions of what *Chanukkah* is today (in its various modern forms)? How do we mesh the zealotry of the Maccabees with the secularized version of *Chanukkah*? What is the right way to celebrate this holiday?



Rabbi Elisa Koppel is a rabbi and educator in Wilmington, Delaware. She serves as the Networking Vice President for the Women’s Rabbinic Network, on the Communications committee for the Association of Reform Jewish Educators, and as Faculty Dean at URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy. Rabbi Koppel graduated from Brandeis University and earned her ordination, as well as two Master’s degrees from

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Koppel enjoys using the world outside of the synagogue in her Jewish teaching and uses social media as a platform for Jewish expression. She can be found on most social media platforms at @rabbiisa.

REGISTRATION: Register in advance for these meetings at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0tdOqtrTIVGtQu_0fh9Rle6gtpXhIe9ewF. After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

These sessions are sponsored by the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund. If you are as excited about these learning opportunities as I am, please consider contributing to the Kol Ami fund of your choosing. ■

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

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. ■



KOL AMI EVENTS

INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE MEETINGS

**Tuesday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting
hosted by Jane and Vincent Pace**

**Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting
hosted by Cheryl and Gary Turetsky**

For many years, Kol Ami's IRD group has provided an inclusive and open environment in meetings with the rabbi to discuss challenges unique to interfaith relationships. The group's mission is 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 have the opportunity 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 hopes you will consider joining our group discussions.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP to 215-699-9497 or jk.pace@verizon.net. For our second meeting on Thursday, January 14, the topic will be "Grandparenting mixed faith and/or mixed racial grandchildren." Please RSVP to 215-570-3395 or gsturet@gmail.com. The zoom link will be sent to those who have responded one week before each meeting.

JAN FELGOISE'S MEMOIR AVAILABLE

Kol Ami member Jan Felgoise, who died on August 21, 2020, left behind the story of her life. It was published, as her son, Brian, said: "literally on her death bed." Jan's memoir, *Reinventing Myself*, is an inspiring story of a woman who overcame adversity and moved on to create a new and fulfilling life. She started law school at age 45 while raising four sons. At age 75, she became a *Bat Mitzvah* because, in 1951, girls didn't become *B'nai Mitzvah*. And she wore fabulous jewelry (editor's note).

Jan's book is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Reinventing-Myself-Janet-Goleman-Felgoise/dp/B08FW397PN>. ■

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

ELLEN RUBESIN



Kol Ami warmly welcomes new member Ellen Rubesin, who lives quite a hike from the physical space of Kol Ami, but who has a close personal connection to our congregation: Her daughter, Hillary, has been friends with Rabbi Berkowitz for many

years. In fact, Ellen notes that her daughter and our rabbi used to chant the *Torah* and *Haftarah* portions on *Yom Kippur* at Temple Sholom in Broomall, PA, where the Rubesins were members. As Ellen says, her friendship with David Hyman, combined with her family's long-standing connection with Rabbi Berkowitz, "sealed the deal" for her choice to join Kol Ami.

Ellen has lived in Media, PA, since 1986 with her husband (of 42 years) Stephen, a semi-retired radiologist at Penn. Before that, they lived in San Francisco and Baltimore.

Ellen grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, went to Goucher College in Maryland for her undergraduate degree, and earned a Master's degree from the University of California–Berkeley in 1980. She then began her career as a professional fundraiser, working for such organizations as the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Media Providence Friends School, JDRF (formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). Ellen was the Executive Director for Eastern PA at both JDRF and LLS. Ellen retired from LLS in June 2019; and since then, she has been spending most of her time taking care of her mother, volunteering for LLS, and sheltering at home.

Ellen and her husband raised two children. Their son, Jeff, lives with his wife, Lauren, in Media, PA, and their daughter, Hillary (Rabbi Berkowitz's longtime friend), lives with her fiancé, Eric, in Omaha, Nebraska.

We know that Kol Ami creates a sense of personal closeness, and Ellen takes it one step further by adding personal history to the closeness. We are so pleased that she has decided to join our congregational family. Welcome! ■

HIGH HOLY DAY POEMS

Here are the original poems that Natalie Dyen (*Rosh Hashanah*) and Janet Falon (*Yom Kippur*) wrote and shared this year.

MEDITATION

by Natalie Dyen

I wrote this poem in 2011. Before I re-read it, I thought, what relevance does 2011 have to the present? Everything has changed. I need to write something that speaks to 2020, pandemics, chaos, and fear. But then I remembered that there are some things that never change, so these thoughts speak to us today as they did nine years ago.

The earth spins
Through hours and days and seasons
To a time of stillness
When the *shofar* sounds
And we reflect on the dark nights
Of angry words and broken promises
Of empty spaces left by those who are no more
And we reflect on the bright days
Of birth and breath
Of music and miracles
Of kind acts and loving arms
And the gravity that keeps us firmly grounded
As the earth spins.

So we reflect
And repent
And look ahead
And promise to do better
And give more
And love more
As the *shofar* sounds
And we turn to face the new year
And the earth spins
And we go round again. ■

**Tzelem
Philly
Open
House**

Sunday, November 2, 2020
7:00 p.m. EST

Join us and other teens for a virtual open house to learn about this new group for Jewish trans, nonbinary, genderqueer, and LGBTQ+ teens in the greater Philadelphia area!

Register at
movingtraditions.org/phillytzelem.

JFCS Keshet
For LGBTQ+ equality in Jewish life

Moving Traditions
Jewish Challenge Change!

YOM KIPPUR, COVID 19

by Janet Falon

This many months into the pandemic
We've gotten used to keeping away from each other.
We can't hug on these High Holy Days.
I can't smell the lilac cologne you wear to services each year.

This many months into the pandemic
We've gotten used to wearing masks when we're together.
We can't see the expressions on each other's faces.
I can only embrace you with my eyes.

This many months into the pandemic
We've gotten used to washing our hands, hard,
after God-forbid touching another person.
We can't savor the memory of someone else's touch.
I don't know where to put my hands.

So on this holiest day of the year,
This year, this terrifying year,
when home serves as surrogate sanctuary
Stand by yourself at a mirror, so close you can't lie.
Take off the mask and remove those protective layers.
Wrap your arms around yourself
Look into your own sweet eyes

And be present
with yourself, for yourself.
Tell yourself the truth:
You're getting through it.
You're doing the best you can.

Let go of your self-recriminations:
For all the times you've felt impatient since Covid
(BEAT CHEST WITH FIST)
For all the times you've been afraid it won't end
(BEAT CHEST WITH FIST)
For all the times you've been sad, deeper than sad, for the losses,
(BEST CHEST WITH FIST)
For feeling guilty for not having lost as much as others
(BEAT CHEST WITH FIST)
And empty, when you don't have enough for yourself, let
alone anyone else,
(BEAT CHEST WITH FIST)
And hopeless, when you're certain there's no light at the
end of this airless, endless tunnel.
(BEAT CHEST WITH FIST)

But you don't need that light, my friend.
You have your own *Ner Tamid*, and it's glowing bright.
That's what I see, above your mask, when I look in your eyes.

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.

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

Andrew and Laurie Willet

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of:

Stuart Matz

Aram and Rene Derewetzký

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Ira Cooperman

Carol Laskin

Ira Cooperman

In Memory of:

Moira Buchanan

*Jeffrey Buchanan and Linda Jacobs
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Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

David Berkowitz

Stanley Sokolove

Mary Gartenberg

Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Mother of Susan Levey

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Stuart Matz

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

RABBI'S EMPOWERMENT & VISION FUND

In Honor of:

**Alex Miller and his assistance with
the "Study at the Shul" class**

Ira Cooperman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of:

**Lucy June Kolar joining the
Student Choir**

Ira Cooperman

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for her
compassionate guidance through
a difficult time**

Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz

**David Chamberlain for his hard
work and much-needed help during
the High Holy Days**

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

**Jeffrey Cohen for his technical
first-aid**

Merle Salkin

**Jeffrey Cohen for his help making
the High Holy Days meaningful for
our community**

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

SYNAGOGUE FUND (CONTINUED)

**Jeffrey Margasak for helping
assemble the rabbi's sukkah**

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

**Simon Rosenwasser for his excellent
work on our High Holy Day
livestreams**

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

In Memory of:

Moira Buchanan

David Hyman

Janet Felgoise

Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz

Bruce Kanter

Craig and Sharon Myers

Burton Langman

Beatrice Langman

Barney Levin

Alvin Turetsky

Stuart Matz

Stacy Ross

Mary Meller

Craig and Sharon Myers

Celia Turetsky

Alvin Turetsky ■



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