

October 2020

Tishri - Heshvan 5781

קול עמי

AN INTIMATE
AND DYNAMIC
COMMUNITY



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, October 2, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Sukkot Service

SATURDAY, October 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Sukkot Service

FRIDAY, October 9, at 7:00 p.m.

erev Simchat Torah Service and Nefesh Mountain Concert

SATURDAY, October 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Simchat Torah Service with guest speaker Anat Hoffman

FRIDAY, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.

"Simcha" Third-Friday erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, October 17, at 10:00 a.m.

B'nai Mitzvah of Alexandra Kraemer

FRIDAY, October 23, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service with guest speaker from New Israel Fund

SATURDAY, October 24, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue

FRIDAY, October 30, at 7:30 p.m.

erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, October 31, at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Dialogue with Carol Nemeroff presenting the d'var Torah ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Sukkot is a holiday designed to remind us of our fragility. Held at the turning of the seasons, we watch the leaves change as we spend one last glorious week outside, preparing for, maybe even dreading, the winter to come.



The *sukkah*, a temporary structure with no roof and flimsy walls, recalls the booths we dwelled in in the wilderness after we left Egypt, and our ancestors' sleeping in the fields as they harvested their crops in the Promised Land. At this season, our ancestors prayed as they counted the sheaves of their harvest, awaiting the winter rains, knowing that their future livelihoods depended on it.

This year, we don't need a *sukkah* to remind us that life is tenuous. We know what it is to seek shelter from the storm. We have felt exposed and vulnerable in these six-plus months of being safe-at-home in response to the pandemic. We can identify with wandering and not knowing quite when we'll reach our destination.

So perhaps, this year, the *sukkah* can be a reminder of the blessings we discovered in the wilderness. We may not be able to do many of the public things we love to do in the fall, but we can still step outside our homes and enjoy the simple pleasure of watching the seasons change. Just as our ancestors marveled at the sweetness of manna and found beauty in the wilderness, we can walk through crunchy piles of leaves in our neighborhoods; taste the sweetness of the crisp, fall air; and watch the trees change color a little bit more every day.

Sukkot teaches us how to be present in the moment, even when the future is uncertain. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin writes in *The Tapestry of Jewish Time*:

"Sukkot is the quintessential holiday of journey. If Pesach is about departures – for it recalls the Exodus from Egypt – and Shavuot is

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CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Bernice Brant

aunt of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

Stuart Matz

father of Michael Matz

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

MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to **Joel and Rebecca Schwartz** on the engagement of their son, Eric, to Katie Acord. ■

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Caring Congregants Committee

Thursday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Chairs: Natalie Dyen, 215-657-4124, and Elaine Gershenson, 215-887-3994

Religious School Committee

Sunday, October 18, at 12:15 p.m.

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

Worship Enhancement Committee

Wednesday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Mindy Levy, 215-570-4304, and William Shapiro, 215-517-8666 ■

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

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about arrivals – for it celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai – Sukkot is about the journey. It is the holiday that best symbolizes where most of us are most of the time: somewhere in between, midway, sometimes moving, sometimes stuck, always heading – we hope – in the right direction. It reminds us that the way we get somewhere, what we do and what we learn along the way, where we detour and where we pause, whom we meet and whom we travel with, are as essential to the journey as is the arrival.”

- Join us for *Sukkot* on **OCTOBER 2 AND 3**, and stay tuned for some exciting programming for *Simchat Torah*!
- On **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**, join us for a short virtual *Kabbalat Shabbat* service and *Simchat Torah* celebration at 7:00 p.m., followed by Celebrate *Torah* – Celebrate Life! A *Simchat Torah* Concert at 8:00 p.m. (see the flyer on page 3). The concert will last approximately 1.25 hours.

Join Nefesh Mountain and other small URJ congregations for a *Simchat Torah* celebration like no other. Nefesh Mountain’s unique brand of Jewish bluegrass will lift our spirits and make our hearts dance (and maybe us too, in the privacy of our own homes!) as we celebrate *Torah*, celebrate our heritage, and celebrate life even during complex and difficult times.

To register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcOGQD0iGdUZGRp1XDwjBAMFjnMxcH4_.

To learn more about Nefesh Mountain, visit <http://www.nefeshmountain.com/about-bios>.

- On **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**, join our 10:00 a.m. *Shabbat/Simchat Torah* Virtual Morning Service with special guest speaker Anat Hoffman!



Anat Hoffman is the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. Previously, she held a seat on the Jerusalem City Council, where for 14 years, she stood in opposition to the policies of the city’s right-wing and ultra-Orthodox administration. She is also a leader in the Women of the

Wall movement, which fights for the rights of women to pray in full voice and with ritual objects at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of *tikkun olam*, which literally means repairing the world. ■

CELEBRATING TORAH CELEBRATING LIFE



Starring Nefesh Mountain

**A SIMCHAT TORAH CONCERT
OCTOBER 9 | 8:00PM ET
ZOOM**

Presented by



in conjunction with
smaller URJ congregations

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. ■



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

KOL AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL READY TO CELEBRATE OCTOBER HOLIDAYS

Despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created for Jewish Education, this challenging time has proven how important our Kol Ami community is in the lives of our young people. The eagerness of our students to socialize and share with each other on the first day of Religious School was clear, and the social and emotional benefits of our Religious School program have been undeniable. In addition to *Torah* and Hebrew education, our students gain a strong sense of community, even when they can only connect with each other virtually. Many of our students have suffered significantly during this pandemic, but we can be grateful to know that they are finding some kind of solace in their Jewish community.

We jumped right into the High Holy Days this year, with our students participating in student-centered holiday services and building community with their peers in online classes. As in previous years, and perhaps more than ever, the fall holidays feel like a much-needed season of celebration and of new beginnings; yet, it is

impossible to deny the feelings of uncertainty and anxiety that we have all had for several months. I'm grateful that so many of you were willing to take a leap of faith and trust me, along with the Religious School Committee, Rabbi Berkowitz, and our teaching staff with providing quality Jewish education in a virtual setting.

I am looking forward to continuing to celebrate the fall holidays with you as we enter October. Please note the following Religious School events:

- **Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.:** Family *Sukkot* Service
- **Sunday, October 4:** NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL- please attend the service on October 3 instead.
- **Saturday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.:** Family *Simchat Torah* and Nefesh Mountain Concert
- **Sunday, October 11:** NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL- please attend the service on October 9 instead.

Chag Sameach (Happy Holidays)!
Rachael Simon ■

Register in advance for this meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpd-GhrDkjE920rHXBxfMRD74z5agLVPfx> .
After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

A conversation with Jeremy Benstein, author of

Hebrew Roots, Jewish Routes: A Tribal Language in a Global World

Thursday, October 22, at 12 PM ET

Whether you know Hebrew or not, linguist and cultural anthropologist Jeremy Benstein takes us on a journey into the deeper significance of Hebrew in the life of Jews and Judaism.

Since fluency is such a distant goal for so many, Benstein shows us another approach: engaging with Hebrew by focusing on the three-letter Hebrew roots that are the building blocks of the language, seeing these "nuggets of knowledge" as a vehicle to enriching our connection to Judaism and its values.



Dr. Jeremy Benstein is an educator, author and Hebrew lover. He holds a BA in linguistics from Harvard, a master's degree in Judaic studies from the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem, and a doctorate in cultural anthropology from the Hebrew University.

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.

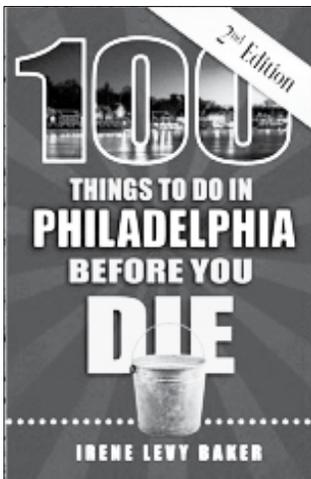
Conflict, like strategy, is woven into society's very roots. Is it true that war is the only way some people learn geography? And that your geographic location determines your destiny?

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 of your desire to attend. ■

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. ■

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 ■

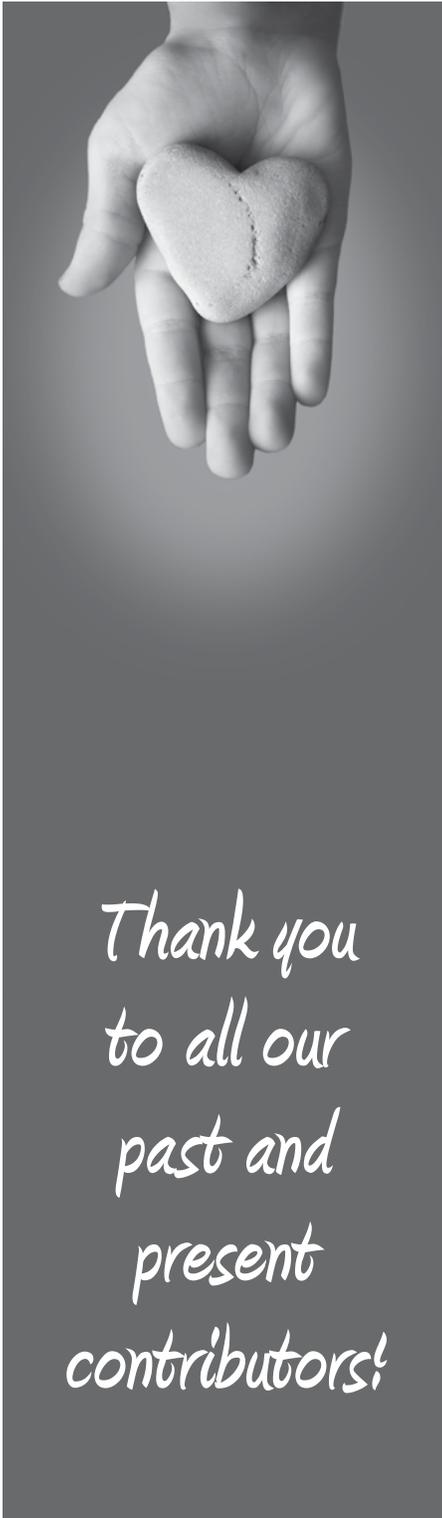
KOL AMI BLOOD DRIVE POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

The new date will be shared as soon as it is available. Watch for further details in upcoming bulletins. ■



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

In Memory of:

Janet Felgoise

Marc and Judy Felgoise

Stuart Matz

Paul and Linda Katz

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of:

Stuart Matz

Gene and Loren Gutman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

**Rabbi Leah Berkowitz with
great thanks and great love**

David and Patricia Ann Long

In Memory of:

Arthur Alexander

Elaine Alexander

Janet Felgoise

James and Natalie Dyen

Stephen and Jean Ettinger

Marc and Judy Felgoise

Julian Goodstein

Elaine Alexander

Ann Overton

Ed Overton

RABBI'S EMPOWERMENT & VISION FUND

In Honor of:

**Birth of Alice Chamberlain, grand-
daughter of David and Shelley
Chamberlain**

Mark and Karin Kaplan

In Memory of:

Stuart Matz

Karin and Mark Kaplan

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of:

Janet Felgoise

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class of 2013

Julie Cohen

Victor Friesen

Linda George

Phyllis Harrison

Janine Pratt

Ilene Schafer

Kara Schmidt

Elaine Stevens

Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory of:

Janet Felgoise

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker

Stuart Matz

Bonnie Aaron

David and Shelley Chamberlain

Joel Fishbein and Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

Donald and Karen Landau

Marshall and Ilene Schafer

Richard and Laura Steel

Isidor Turetsky

Alvin Turetsky ■