



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

Pesach Sheini

If Purim 2020 marked the last holiday we celebrated together in person, Passover 2020 marked the first holiday we observed in quarantine, meaning that it is now the first holiday that we are observing in quarantine for the second time.

There are some definite upsides to this: we get to revisit the Zoom *seder* we rushed to create last year in time for the holiday. More people in our community have mastered the technology and will be able to join us, and those of us who were already on Zoom last year might have developed some new technological skills. A whole year of cooking small meals at home might help us to refine our Passover menus. For instance, I learned last year that Mom and I both prefer Sephardic *haroset*, so we're not bothering with the Ashkenazi recipe this year.

Still, the realization that we have now come "full circle" can be exhausting, as is the prospect of creating yet another Passover meal to be consumed in front of our devices. We are also coming to terms with the fact that some of the *simchas* we put off so that we could share them with our wider circles of family and friends will still be restricted, while others have been put off once again.

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WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. – "Simcha" First Friday *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Friday, March 12 6:00 p.m. – "Fun for Kids" *erev Shabbat* service
7:30 p.m. – *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Friday, March 19 at 7:00 pm. – *erev Shabbat* service with Student Choir

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Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m. – *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study with Carol Nemeroff delivering the *d'var Torah*

Friday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Monday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. – Congregation Second Seder

Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. - “*Simcha*” First Friday *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m. – Passover Yizkor service

Friday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. - *erev Shabbat* service with Grades 5 and 6 and the Student Choir

Saturday, April 10 10:00 a.m. - *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study
5:30 p.m. – *B'nai Mitzvot* of Ava and Emma Sabulsky

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THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ (continued from page 1)

This second Passover in quarantine got me thinking about a lesser known Jewish holiday called *Pesach Sheini*, literally, “second Passover.” Held exactly one month after the traditional holiday—on the 14th of Iyar—*Pesach Sheini* was a make-up holiday, for those who could not partake of the paschal lamb on the appointed date due to travel or ritual impurity (Numbers 9:6-13).

This is one of only three instances in the Torah where Moses has to consult with God to determine the best path forward in a complicated situation. And it is the only Jewish holiday that has a “make-up” day for people who miss it. This speaks to how important it was—and is—to celebrate Passover, even when our circumstances make it difficult.

The rabbis add an interesting caveat to this: If only *one* person misses the Passover sacrifice, they do not sacrifice the paschal lamb on behalf of one person. This was likely because to do so would be wasteful—usually an entire household would share one lamb. But it seems the rabbis were also concerned that it would be lonely, as they suggest seeking out others to delay their sacrifice in order to assemble a critical mass for *Pesach Sheini* (Babylonian Talmud *Pesachim* 95a).

This Passover (and last Passover) might be the first times in our lives that we identify with these circumstances. We cannot observe the holiday at its usual place and time, and we are conscious both of being distant from our community and of the very real possibility that we will make more food than we can eat ourselves in one night.

But we can take some comfort in knowing that we are not the first generation of our people to have to delay or change our celebrations due to unforeseeable circumstances. We can rejoice that modern technology gives us the opportunity to connect with our community in a new way (and that we no longer have to sacrifice a lamb to celebrate Passover!). And like our biblical ancestors, we can be reassured that, when we are ready to partake in public rituals once again, our community will be there, waiting for us.

Please join me and Rabbi Michelle Pearlman of Beth Chaim Reform Congregation in Malvern for a two-part virtual series preparing us for Passover.

March 4, 6:30 p.m. What is Freedom? Hassidic Approaches to Passover with Rabbi Michelle Pearlman

March 18, 6:30 p.m. Aggadah (Legends) in the Haggadah: Midrash on the Passover Story

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Despite the chaotic start to 2021 in our country, we have managed to settle back into a routine at Religious School. Now that we are all more used to virtual classes and Zoom meetings, we were able to begin grade-level family programming in January, and we hosted several guest speakers for our Confirmation Academy students from across the country. We made time to celebrate with a virtual Tu B'shvat Seder and a book launch to celebrate the release of Rabbi Berkowitz's *Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants*, and we saw many Religious School families at the Kehillah of Old York Road's Purim CARNIVAL. Though we are about a year into the pandemic, and it's been challenging to replace old traditions with new, socially-distanced ones, we have made the most of a less-than-ideal situation.

It doesn't seem so long ago that I was writing about celebrating Passover in the age of social distancing for the first time, yet it sometimes feels like ages since I've seen all of you! Over the last year, you've all become adept at adjusting plans, finding creative ways to honor old traditions, and deciding what is most important to you when realizing you can't practice all of these traditions.

While I do not have many new insights for you to plan your family Passover celebrations, I do encourage you to plan a child-centered Seder. Throughout history, the Passover Seder has primarily served the purpose of passing on the story and message of Exodus to our children; yet for many of us, our Seder memories consist of sitting quietly around a table listening to passages read in archaic language from the Maxwell House Haggadah.

With more time to plan and fewer constraints that come with large family gatherings, this may be the year to have a condensed yet more active Seder that caters to the needs of your specific children. Making your Seder child-centered is actually more in line with what the original creators of our Seders had in mind. If your family includes a child with special needs, check out <https://jgateways.org/Resources/Passover> for specific ideas to make the Seder meaningful for all participants. For more resources, please feel free to email me!

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Friday, April 16

6:00 p.m. – “Fun for Kids” *erev Shabbat* service

7:30 p.m. – *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. - Shabbat service and *Torah* study

Friday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. – *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m. – Earth Day *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study with Carol Nemeroff delivering the *d'var Torah*

Friday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.- *erev Shabbat* service

Saturday, May 1 at 10:00 a.m. - *B'nai Mitzvah* of Dahlia Madden



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Jerry Cole
uncle of Linda Jacobs

Samuel Hoffman
father of Adam Hoffman

Phyllis Holtzman
mother of Rosalind Holtzman

Bernard Latterman
uncle of Shelley Chamberlain

Shirley McKelvey
sister of Michael Chernoff

Stanley Shapiro
uncle of Jeffrey Abrams

May their memories forever be a blessing in the midst of our people.

BULLETIN

SUBMISSIONS

Please send articles by the fifth of the previous month to Janet Falon at:

janetfalon@gmail.com.

Articles may be edited as needed.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

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Please mark your calendars for the following dates in March and April:

Sunday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.: Model Seder for Grades 2-6

Friday, March 12, 6:00 p.m.: Fun for Kids Shabbat

Sunday, March 14, 11:00 a.m.: Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Family Learning

Friday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir

Sunday, March 21, 11:00 a.m.: Seventh Grade Family Education Program

Sunday, March 28-April 4: No Religious School

Friday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.: Fifth and Sixth Grade Level Shabbat Service with Student Choir

Sunday, April 11, 11:00 a.m.: Sixth Grade Family B'nai Mitzvah Learning

Sunday, April 11, 12:15 p.m.: Religious School Committee Meeting

Friday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.: Fun for Kids Shabbat



OUR CANTORIAL SOLOIST IS ONCE AGAIN HONORED

Our Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz is very excited to announce that her song "Hariu" has been chosen for publication in The Complete Jewish Songbook for Children, Volume III (*Manginot*), due to be released in late Spring of 2021. This is the fifth time Rebecca's music is being published by the Union for Reform Judaism, which is a great honor.



YOU'RE WELCOME AT KOL AMI'S INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE (IRD)

An IRD Zoom Meeting will be hosted by Jane and Vincent Pace on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:30pm. Please RSVP to 215-699-9497 or by email to vincent.pace@verizon.net. The zoom link will be sent to those who have responded one week before the meeting.

Kol Ami's Interfaith Relationship Dialogue group has for many years 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 these categories at some point and have questions or concerns, IRD hopes you will consider joining our group discussions.

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

Barbara Fink, Vice President

Lorie B. Slass, Vice President

Gary Turetsky, Secretary

Ben Long, Treasurer

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

Rebecca Schwartz

Cantorial Soloist

215-572-6094

Please send correspondence to:

Congregation Kol Ami

8201 High School Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

questions@kolamielkinspark.org

Website:

www.kolamielkinspark.org

Facebook:

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

MAZAL TOV

Ben Adams and Gail Korostoff on the engagement of their son, Jonah, to Danielle Brief.

Jonathan and Sheri Cutler on the birth of their granddaughter, Charlie May, to Jesse and Rachel Cutler on January 19.

Erik and Jennifer Streitwieser on the engagement of their daughter, Katherine, to Ryan Rubenzahl.



PLAY SOFTBALL FOR KOL AMI

The Kol Ami softball team - aka the "Kol Amigos" - is seeking additional players for our upcoming 2021 campaign. We participate in the Delaware Valley Softball League, which includes teams from area synagogues playing against one another in spirited and friendly Jewish fellowship. The team has great camaraderie, and has been for many of us a terrific way to feel more connected to others in the Kol Ami community, and to the life of the congregation.

Experienced players are particularly sought after, but all skill levels and abilities are welcome. Games are typically scheduled once per week on Monday through Thursday nights (not the same night every week), 6:15-7:45pm. The season will run from May through mid-August.

All interested players please contact team captain Jonathan Shandell at: jonathan_shandell@aya.yale.edu or 215-360-3566.

We hope to see you out on the diamond.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Vincent and Jane Pace

215-699-9497

Religious School Committee

Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 11 at 12:15 p.m.

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

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Shelley Chamberlain, 215-680-7408 and Rocky Weinstock, 215-782-3848



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, or visit our website at <https://www.kolamielkinspark.org/donate/>

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Memory Of:

Randy Dyen

James and Natalie Dyen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor Of:

Elaine Stevens

Ira Cooperman

In Memory Of:

Harry Ernst

Shirley Barr

Pearl Mangold

Rhea Applebaum

Shirley McKelvey

Rhea Applebaum

Jerry and Marlene Jaffe

Hal and Brenda Mann

Stanley Shapiro

Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry

RABBI'S EMPOWERMENT & VISION FUND

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for officiating a beautiful service in memory of Samuel Hoffman

The Hoffman Family

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

Martin and Jill Seidman

Jonathan and Sheri Cutler and the birth of their granddaughter, Charlie May

Elaine Stevens

William Hyman

Julie Cohen

Rebecca Schwartz

Martin and Jill Seidman

In Memory Of:

Rita Brown

Stanley and Rita Siegel

Adele Goldman

Stanley and Rita Siegel

Samuel Hoffman

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Elaine Stevens

Phyllis Holtzman

Lois Bender

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Craig and Sharon Myers

Dora Levin

Alvin Turetsky

Shirley McKelvey

Alan and Harriette Cohen

Elaine Stevens

Henry Rubin

Carol Laskin

SYNAGOGUE FUND (CONTINUED)

Janice Schrum

Bernard and Beth Johl

Stanley Shapiro

Jeffrey Abrams and Margaret Barry

Maurice Turetsky

Alvin Turetsky