



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

Who is Wise? One Who Learns From Everyone"

Because of the many transitions we were going through as a community this fall, last semester I decided not to teach any adult learning courses, aside from our weekly Shabbat Torah study. This was the right course of action—especially with a few unexpected COVID setbacks—but I didn't realize how much I missed teaching adults until we gathered this winter for a four-part course on the history of women in the rabbinate. I love gathering with Jewishly serious, intellectually curious groups of lifelong learners. And, as my students know, I love "geeking out" over Jewish subjects that are close to my heart.

In addition to being highly enjoyable for me—and, I hope, for my students—Jewish learning is one pathway to living a meaningful life. It is an opportunity for us to explore new ideas and reexamine existing ones, to hear different perspectives and build deeper relationships within our community. It also sets a great example for our young people that Jewish learning does not end with b'nai mitzvah or confirmation, as Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotsk once said:

"If you truly wish your children to study Torah, study it yourself in their presence. They will follow your example. Otherwise, they will not themselves study Torah, but will simply instruct their children to do so."

Jewish learning can take many forms—taking classes in person and online, reading great Jewish books (currently I'm riveted by Dara Horn's collection of essays, *People Love Dead Jews*), and keeping up with blogs and podcasts on Jewish subjects. Another great way to reinforce one's learning is by teaching others. We already have a small cohort of people within our community who give the d'var Torah (sermon) and lead Torah study when I am away. We hope to expand this group to include some new voices.

This spring, we will offer a short course on how to prepare a Torah study session or a d'var Torah for our community. No prior knowledge of Bible or Hebrew language is required, and we will make sure everyone is familiar with resources and tools that can help us learn. So much of teaching a text is about figuring out what questions to ask to spark conversation, and I'm certain everyone in our community can do that!

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WORSHIP

SERVICES

**Friday, March 4 at
7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein Audi-
torium)**

*"Simcha" First Friday
erev Shabbat service
with Adult Choir*

**Saturday, March 5
at 10:00 a.m.
(Price Chapel)**

*Shabbat service and
Torah dialogue*

**Friday, March 11
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein Audi-
torium)**

*erev Shabbat service
with grades 3 - 6 and
Student Choir*

**Saturday, March
12 at 10:00 a.m.
(Price Chapel)**

*Shabbat service and
Torah dialogue*

**Wednesday,
March 16 at 7:00
p.m. (Sisterhood)**

*erev Purim - Pu-
rimspiel and Megil-
lah Reading*

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Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Shabbat service and *Torah* dialogue with special guest Rabbi David Levin

**Saturday, March 26 at
10:00 a.m. (Price
Chapel)**
*Shabbat service and
Torah dialogue*

**Friday, April 1 at 7:30
p.m. (Bornstein Audi-
torium)**
*"Simcha" First Friday
erev Shabbat service with
Adult Choir*

**Saturday, April 2 at
10:00 a.m. (Price
Chapel)**
*Shabbat service and
Torah dialogue*

**Sunday, April 3 at
1:00 p.m. (Bornstein)**
Healing service

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THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ *(continued)*

This class will meet on three Thursdays at 7 p.m.: April 14th, May 12th and 19th.

Session 1--Asking Good Questions: In this class we will look at a few juicy passages from the Torah and consider what questions might spark a meaningful discussion.

Session 2--Using Good Tools: In this class we will look at books and websites that offer progressive and user-friendly commentaries to help us better understand our Torah passages.

Session 3--Putting It All Together: In this class we will get a crash course in preparing a text sheet and a d'var Torah and look at a few good examples.

You can sign up for this class here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9678123456?pwd=ZUJlZWVkdDZkdzR1dWpScEYydzBldj09>

We will let you know closer to the start date whether there will be an in-person option

Another favorite saying from our tradition is from Ben Zoma, “Who is wise? The one who learns from every person” (*Pirkei Avot 4:1*). We hope you’ll join us for this and other incredible learning opportunities this spring!



Thinking About God with Rabbi Dr. Kari Hofmaister Tuling

Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsduGhpjgsGtA3qCRB51kgzkjXGgdx0Gd5>

Kari Hofmaister Tuling received rabbinic ordination in 2004 and earned her PhD in Jewish Thought in 2013, both from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. She has served congregations in Connecticut, Indiana, New York, and Ohio, and has taught Jewish Studies courses at the University of Cincinnati and the State University of New York, Plattsburgh. She currently serves as the rabbi of Congregation Kol Haverim in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Recent publications include contributions to the *CCAR Journal: Reform Jewish Quarterly*, chapters in *A Life of Meaning: Reform Judaism's Sacred Path* and *Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments*, both by the CCAR Press. Her first book, *Thinking About God: Jewish Views*, was published in 2020 by JPS/University of Nebraska Press.

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ *(continued)*

Resilience: Jewish Wisdom to Navigate Challenging Times with Rabbi David Levin
Gleaned from his time as a Rabbi and Disaster Spiritual Care Team Leader for the Red Cross

March 19, 2022 10 a.m. (During our regular Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study
In the Price Chapel/[Zoom](#))



Rabbi David Levin focuses on bringing Jewish wisdom to seekers of meaning. He is the Founder, and Director of Jewish Relationships Initiative, a 501(c)3 focused on human relationships, end-of-life challenges, and outreach. Trained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (NY), R'David draws from the Jewish tradition's many streams, considering himself a lamplighter along life's journey rather than a gatekeeper. He is the host of the Death Café of Greater Philadelphia.

Through the pandemic, Rabbi David volunteered and served as the Regional Leader of the Red Cross Disaster Spiritual Care Team for Southeast Pennsylvania, as well as a teacher and chaplain on the Covid-19 Taskforce of the NAJC (Neshama, Association of Jewish Chaplains). He is a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation and both the CCAR and OHALA rabbinical associations.

Rabbi David Levin is co-editor of the acclaimed book, **Jewish End Of Life Care In A Virtual Age: Our Traditions Reimagined**, available through Amazon: <https://amzn.to/35uk5>. Learn more about Rabbi David Levin and Jewish Relationships Initiative at: www.JewishRelationshipsInitiative.com and The Ethical Legacy Will at: www.EthicalLegacy.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein Auditorium)
erev Shabbat service

Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Shabbat service and Torah dialogue

Friday, April 15
(no service - first night of Passover)

Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Shabbat service and Torah dialogue

Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein Auditorium)
erev Shabbat service

Saturday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Passover-Yizkor service

Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein Auditorium)
erev Shabbat service with Student Choir

Saturday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Shabbat service and Torah dialogue

WHAT'S DOING AT THE KOL AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Though the Omicron surge forced our program online throughout January, our students continued to thrive as they worked on Hebrew reading skills, participated in a Religious School Tu B'Shvat Seder, and welcomed speakers to discuss various topics, such as Israel and food insecurity. We returned to our campus in February, which allowed students to assist onsite in food packing at the Mitzvah Food Pantry and gave our older students the opportunity to follow up in person after participating in the Words to Action training on confronting anti-semitism led by the Anti-Defamation League.



We have had to confront several challenges while putting into practice this year's focus on community-building. I am proud of our teachers for thinking creatively and overcoming these obstacles to create warm, inviting spaces for learning and growing, and of our students for building or re-building relationships amongst themselves while respecting our safety protocols.

Please see what's coming up at Kol Ami Religious School in March and April. As always, I am happy to be a resource as your family makes plans to celebrate Passover. Don't hesitate to contact me if you are looking for ideas to engage your child in the Seder or want to find a Haggadah that reflects your family's values or speaks to children or young adults.

- **Wednesday, March 2:** Knock Knock Give a Sock visits Kol Ami Religious School to teach about homelessness. Learn more about the organization at <https://knockknockgiveasock.org/>

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM GARY TURETSKY

When I spoke at our High Holy Days services last September, I paid tribute to the hard work of which has kept us together as a congregation even if most, if not all, of our time together during the last two years has had to be socially distanced and online. That work continues and it calls for contributions from everyone.

In good times and bad it is essential, if Kol Ami is to thrive, that we all seek to build a community of deeper membership engagement and meaning through participation at services, on committees, and in the social and educational programs we offer. The congregational survey we recently launched with the aid of the URJ is intended to help us achieve that goal and to assist in our messaging and marketing strategies going forward. The data gathered will help us implement the kinds of programs that respond to all our needs for spiritual and communal growth.

Equally urgent, on the fiscal side, is the synagogue's need to maintain and grow our membership. Maintaining and growing our membership is absolutely necessary if we are ever to bring our budget into the black and keep it there. Your officers and board are committed to refining our messaging and developing a marketing program to address those issues. But all of us can support this effort and make a positive difference. The simple act each of us can do -- inviting a friend to a service, adult class or special program -- is the first, but crucial step, to leading an unaffiliated individual or family to become a part of this great congregation.

In years past many dedicated Kol Ami volunteers joined our membership committee to attract and welcome new members and keep all our members engaged in Kol Ami's worship, educational, and social opportunities. Sadly, but not surprisingly, the Covid pandemic made the work of the committee more difficult as the ability to interact with each other and with prospective members was negatively impacted. At the same time, the attention of our leadership and volunteers was primarily focused on managing the Covid crisis while also attending to the sale of the High School Road property and the search for our new home, tremendous undertakings which required their maximum attention.

Today we have hopefully reached the point where it is reasonable to believe that, while the coronavirus may not ever go away completely, it will have become more manageable, allowing a return to something like the normalcy we experienced in pre-Covid days. At the same time, our former home was sold, the proceeds are invested, and the transition to our new home, while still a work in progress, is proceeding as quickly as our volunteers and our friends at Beth Shalom can manage. Accordingly, I am calling for our membership committee to once again be active and working, as it did in the past, to assist all of us in the important task of retaining current members and attracting new ones to join Kol Ami.

Whether you were part of the membership committee in the past, or are interested in volunteering for the first time, you are welcome to join this committee and engage in its vital work. Already some dedicated congregants have expressed their interest in helping out, and the first planning session of the committee on Zoom is scheduled for 7:30PM on Monday, March 14.

Committee members should expect to be involved in various activities: at worship services or one-time special events, engaging with current and new members; welcoming newcomers at services, during onegs, and at other congregational programs; holding one-on-one conversations with new members at "coffees" to learn about them and their interests and why they joined or may be thinking of joining; and inviting them to Shabbat dinners with other members, thereby helping to develop relationships which will keep new members engaged with the synagogue.

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SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz

215-635-4182

Rabbi Elliot Holin

Founding Rabbi

215-882-0017

Ben Adams, Co-President

Gary Turetsky, Co-President

Jeffrey Margasak, Vice

President

Ben Long, Treasurer

Morgan Selkirk, Secretary

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

8231 Old York Road

Elkins Park, PA 19027

questions@kolamielkinspark.org

Website:

www.kolamielkinspark.org

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/
kolamielkinspark

MESSAGE FROM GARY TURETSKY (*continued*)

I envision these kinds of activities as the main work of the committee. Committee members will be provided with training in the relational methods that work best when meeting with and welcoming new members to the congregation. The committee will also solicit ideas from the congregation for programming that is creative, meaningful and engaging for all groups in the synagogue, for new members as well as those who have been with us for a while. In support of the work of the committee, your Board, as mentioned above, will be working to implement marketing programs intended to attract the prospective members who committee members will then welcome to our community.

But this point bears repeating: The task of attracting new members to Kol Ami is not just the work of committee members or the Board. Every Kol Ami member can invite an unaffiliated friend or, perhaps, a family with young children, to services, a religious school activity, or other program, and start them on the path to membership. If, in the future, you are bringing a potential member to a synagogue event, please let me know in advance so the membership committee is ready to welcome them and answer any questions they may have about our congregation.

Finally, if you want to join in the important work of the membership committee, I invite you to contact me with your expression of interest by email -- gsturet@gmail.com -- or phone, 215-570-3395. Everyone responding will receive the Zoom link for our March 14 meeting a few days before we meet.

In the spirit of this message, I close with an excerpt from a Thanksgiving prayer composed by Rabbi Max Klein who served as rabbi of our neighbor down the road, Congregation Adath Jeshurun, from 1911 until 1960:

We pray thee, therefore,
to bless our synagogues and all houses of worship,
our schools and all our institutions devoted to humanitarian service.
May we give to them,
of our material and spiritual support,
with such love and understanding,
that our spiritual roots in this land
may bring forth fruits worthy of thy divine blessing.
Amen.



WHAT'S DOING AT THE KOL AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL *(continued)*

- **Friday, March 11, 7:30pm:** Grades 3-6 Erev Shabbat Service - Students will present examples of their learning and participate in a student-led service. Kol Ami families are encouraged to invite any families who are interested in enrolling in our Religious School.
- **Sunday, March 13, 10:00am:** Seventh-Grade Family Education Program
- **Sunday, March 13, 11:00am:** Kehillah of Old York Road Purim Carnival at Congregation Keneseth Israel
- **Wednesday, March 16, 7:00pm:** Kol Ami's Annual Purimshpiel. Students in Confirmation Academy and Seventh Grade will attend this event during their Religious School hours.
- **Sunday, March 27, 12:30pm:** Religious School Committee Meeting

West Side Shpiel: A Purim Story

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 7 p.m. in the Sisterhood Chapel



Mambo! This year, our annual reading of the Purim megillah will be interspersed with songs from the famous Bernstein/Sondheim musical masterpiece. Sing along to favorites like "America," "I Feel Pretty," "Maria," and "Somewhere" with special Purim-themed lyrics. Our celebration will be followed by a join Purim party with our friends at Beth Sholom Congregation.

TU BISHVAT VIRTUAL SEDER: A FEAST FOR THE SENSES AND THE SPIRIT

Our TuBishvat Seder in January -- developed by the Kol Ami *Shomrei Adamah* Environmental Stewardship Committee in conjunction with the Kol Ami Religious School and Elkins Park Hazon Community Supported Agriculture program -- was a delight shared by all participants. Using the symbolic fruits and nuts of the Seder plates, evocative song, imagery, poetry, text, and wine, we reflected on our relationships to home, community, the environment and our spiritual lives and our role as stewards of the natural world.



We are in a global environmental crisis and Jewish tradition compels us to respond. Use this year to start or ramp up your sustainability journey. If you haven't yet done this, check out the [Brit Hazon](#) "the covenant of vision, a series of six-week guided pathways that make it easy to start making a difference today. We invite you to join our growing community and make the commitment, Bring your family and friends along on the journey!. Remember to choose the Congregation Kol Ami Community Group when you sign up!

Support local farms with your fork. Sign up for the Organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), as we enter our 16th season hosting the Hazon CSA. Kol Ami partners with over 100 Amish and Mennonite organic farmers from Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative (LFFC). This is our 2nd year to distribute produce, eggs, bread, and/or herbal medicine shares from the kitchen at Congregation Adath Jeshurun (AJ) on Old York Road.

The CSA operates from late April through October for the summer season. Learn more and register NOW: Select **Pa: Kol Ami Hazon** as first choice. If you must pick a second choice, do so and be aware that you will get the first choice: Kol Ami at the AJ location!

[2022 Summer Shares | Lancaster Farm Fresh](#)

For questions, contact Shelley @ Srchamberlain@comcast.net or Robin @ Robin-rifkin@comcast.net



Kol Ami is a Brit Hazon Community





Understanding Home Energy

A talk by Ben Adams on what really drives our energy bills, comfort and carbon footprint

*****Thursday, March 24***** at 7:30 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83415781236?pwd=aDI1NDdnWldJbkYRmJONWc0SDZvZz09>

Ben is a partner at one of the nation's leading residential sustainability consulting companies and will share some of his experience as a practitioner of building science for realtors, property managers, home owners and renters. To send questions in advance, email BenAdams@MaGrann.com



Brought to you by the Kol Ami Sustainability Committee



CALLING ALL SOFT-BALL PLAYERS!



The Kol Ami softball team - aka the "Kol Amigos" - seeks new players who wish to take to the diamond on behalf of the congregation. Join us as we square off against other area congregations in the Delaware Valley Softball League. The season runs from mid-April through July, with 1 game each week on Monday through Thursday evenings. Experience and ability are always desirable, but not required. To sign up, or if you want more information, contact team captain Jonathan Shandell at jonathan.shandell@aya.yale.edu.

UPCOMING MEETING OF INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOG

The next meetings of the group will take place on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 and on Thursday, April 28, 2022. The meetings will be at 7:30 pm and will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Additional information will be forthcoming for each meeting. Please contact Jane and Vince Pace with any questions.



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Leonard David Aulett
Father of Julia Krik

Stephen Dickstein
Uncle of Sara Reiter

Rachel Friedman
Sister-in-law of Elaine Gershenson

Marilyn Rosenblatt
Aunt of Sharon Myers

Terry Schiowitz
Sister-in-law of Robert Schiowitz

Harriet Schwartz
Aunt of Jeffrey Cohen

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

MAZAL TOV

- ◇ William and Betty Shapiro on the birth of their grandson, Elie Henry Shapiro, on January 27 to proud parents, Matthew and Natalie Shapiro



COMMITTEE MEETING

Caring Congregants Committee

Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Natalie Dyen and Elaine Gershenson

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, March 22 and April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Vincent and Jane Pace

Finance Committee

Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Nigel Blower and Ben Long

Membership Committee

Monday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Gary Turetsky

Religious School Committee

Sunday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Rachael Simon and Tamara Sniad

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, 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 and indicate to which fund it should be applied, or visit our website at <https://www.kolamielkinspark.org/donate/>

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor Of:

Engagement of Taylor Appel to Patrick McCullagh

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

Engagement of Jeffrey Schwartz to Leila Naitove

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CONFIRMATION FUND

In Honor Of:

Birth of Cole Beckett Chamberlain, grandson of David and Shelley Chamberlain

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

In Honor Of:

Engagement of Adam Schiowitz to Colleen Gallagher

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In Honor Of:

Engagement of Matthew Schafer to Sarah Amos

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor Of:

Birth of Oliver DeGroff, grandson of Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Ira Cooperman

Noah Hoffman and his service to his country and community

Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

Engagement of Adam Schiowitz to Colleen Gallagher

Ira Cooperman

Engagement of Jeffrey Schwartz to Leila Naitove

Ira Cooperman

In Memory Of:

Rachel Friedman
Carol Laskin

Abigail Overton
Michael Levin

Marilyn Rosenblatt
Craig and Sharon Myers

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory Of:

Arthur Hutkin
Rachel Goldstein
Susan Seltzer

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

Engagement of Leah Cohen to Derek Pender
Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein

Birth of Oliver DeGroff, grandson of Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum
Joel Fishbein and Rachael Ezekiel-Fishbein
Carol Wit

Lucy June Kolar singing in the Student Choir

Ira Cooperman

Recovery of Carol Laskin from illness

Ira Cooperman

Birth of Elie Henry Shapiro, grandson of William and Betty Shapiro

Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum

In Memory Of:

Marilyn Baker
Les and Amy Sabulsky

Morton Baker
Les and Amy Sabulsky

Robert Cooperman
Ira Cooperman

Rachel Friedman
Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum
Daniel and Linda George

Marilyn Rosenblatt
Stanton and Merle Salkin

Anita Sabulsky
Les and Amy Sabulsky

Maurice Turetsky
Alvin Turetsky

