



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

WHAT'S ON OUR RABBI'S MIND THIS MONTH?

On the Rabbi's Bookshelf: Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair*

Rabbi Ben Bag Bag once said of learning Torah, "Turn it, and turn it again, for everything is in it. Explore it. Grow old and gray learning it; And do not move away from it, for there is nothing more valuable" (*Pirke Avot* 5:22).

If you are engaged in lifelong Jewish learning—and I hope that you are—you might notice that there's a lot of repetition involved. Each week, we come back to the same liturgy. Each year, we read the same Torah portions. The holidays, too, repeat themselves, such that every year we encounter the same messages on the High Holy Days.

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WORSHIP SERVICES

**Friday, September 2
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

"Simcha" First Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat
service

**Friday, September 9
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

Kabbalat Shabbat
service with guest
speaker, Jane Finkle

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

Shabbat service and
Torah study

**Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

Kabbalat Shabbat
service

**Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m.
(Price Chapel)**

Shabbat service and
Torah study

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WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Saturday, September 17

7:45 p.m. (Bornstein)

Joint *Selichot* Program
with Beth Sholom

Congregation

9:30 p.m. (Fischman)

Havdalah and *Selichot*
service for Kol Ami

Friday, September 23 at

7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday, September 24

**at 10:00 a.m. (Price
Chapel)**

Shabbat service and *To-
rah study*

Sunday, September 25

**at 8:00 p.m. (Fischman
Auditorium)**

erev Rosh Hashanah ser-
vice



THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ *(continued)*

The Jewish concept of *t'shuvah*, or repentance, is itself a form of returning. We reexamine the words and deeds of the past year, looking for ways we might have done better. We recite the same confessional prayers each year, making an account of the different ways we may have missed the mark. We revisit the vision of who we want to be, as individuals and a community, considering what we need to do to return to the right path.

This repetition and returning is important. But there is a danger of going on autopilot, letting the words wash over us without thinking. If we really want to open our hearts to transformation each year, we need to look at the old words with fresh eyes.

Each year, we approach the High Holy Days, I choose a different book to guide me on the path of *t'shuvah*. Some of my favorites have been Rabbi Alan Lew's *This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared*, Rabbis Rachel Sabbath and Kerry Olitzky's *Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days*, and Rabbi Debra J. Robbins' *Opening Your Heart with Psalm 27*.

This year, I had the privilege of reading an advance copy of Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's [*On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in An Unapologetic World*](#), which will be published by Beacon Press later this month.

Rabbi Ruttenberg takes a fresh look at Maimonides' *Laws of Repentance*, the seminal Jewish guide to apology and forgiveness. She explores how we might apply this ancient wisdom to our own interpersonal relationships, but also how these teachings might guide institutions, and even governments, to repair the harms they have caused. She examines how the *t'shuvah* process might be incorporated into the criminal justice system, to make room for the possibility of real human transformation, rather than simply accountability.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, All.

In a few short weeks we will begin celebrating the Jewish New Year with family and friends, at our homes and in synagogue. I always look forward to this time of year with great anticipation for the worship services in our sanctuary, led so beautifully by our Rabbi, our Cantorial Soloist, and our volunteer choir. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at Kol Ami are spiritually uplifting and deeply meaningful as we assess our lives and our actions during the past year and reflect on our futures; services are also a calming oasis that allows us a hopeful escape, if only for a few days, from the outside world and its incessant noise and the drumbeat of violence and war. I hope you will be joining the congregation for our services this year, both during the High Holy Days and on Shabbat, whether in person or on Zoom. They are a wonderful opportunity to fulfill that basic human need of community and togetherness, a need that Kol Ami is without peer in providing.

As you read through this Bulletin, please take note of the other opportunities our congregation offers for staying in touch with your friends and building lasting bonds of community. Whether it's service on a committee, participation in our adult education offerings, or joining members for holiday celebrations and Shabbat dinners, I encourage you to take advantage of all that Kol Ami has to offer you, our treasured members, to grow as human beings and as committed Jews.

I will close by showing my age and quoting a favorite new year's wish from Sam Levenson (remember him?): "Your 'good old days' are still ahead of you. May you have many of them."

L'shanah Tovah!

Gary Turetsky
President, Congregation Kol Ami

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Monday, September 26 (Fischman Auditorium)

10:00 a.m.—*Rosh Hashanah* service with concurrent *Rosh Hashanah* Youth Service for Students Grades 3-6 in Room 206

2:00 p.m.—*Rosh Hashanah* Children's Family service for Pre-K through Grade 2 with their grown ups

Tuesday, September 27 (Wall Park)

5:15 p.m.—BYOD

6:00 p.m.—service

Friday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. (Fischman)

Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Shabbat service and *Torah* study



THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ *(continued)*

Rabbi Ruttenberg suggests that the goal of a repentance process is not for the perpetrator to issue an apology and be forgiven (thereby restoring them to their rightful place of power, clearing them of legal responsibility, and generally making them feel better about themselves). Rather, it is for the perpetrator to do the deep and difficult work of understanding the harm that they caused, taking responsibility for repairing that harm in whatever ways are still possible, and committing to preventing future harm. All these steps must be completed, regardless of whether they result in forgiveness from the victim(s), or a return to the perpetrator's prior position of power and influence. The *t'shuvah* process must center the needs of the victim, not the comfort of the perpetrator.

According to Maimonides, the sign of true repentance is to return to a similar situation and to make different choices. Rabbi Ruttenberg suggests that, by engaging with the steps of *t'shuvah*, we will also become people guided by kindness, wisdom, and empathy, so much so that, if we returned to a similar situation, we would be incapable of perpetrating the same harm.

As we prepare to enter 5783, I hope that you will reach out to me if there is any harm that I have caused, so that I can work to repair it. I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, safe, and sweet new year.



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Stephen B. Harris
husband of Debra Harris

Natalie Surkin
mother of Fran Surkin

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



Congregant “TAG” Talks....Torah (Learning), Avodah (Service), Gemilut Chasadim (Lovingkindness) — Kol Ami’s Variation on the “TED” Talk

Friday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Jane Finkle



Silence is Golden or Whispering Warriors.....

What do Albert Einstein, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Bill Gates all have in common outside of having been wildly successful? They are all introverts.

In our fast paced, unstable world, achieving success requires speaking up and taking initiative. Extraverts, fearless in tooting their own horns, naturally thrive in professional and social environments while the quieter introvert must often sprinkle in some extroverted skills to succeed. Jane will discuss the myths of introversion, the current science and research, cultural differences, the strengths of introversion, some supportive tools and how our different styles and energy can create balance and innovation.

Jane Finkle is a career coach, speaker and author. Jane served as Associate Director of Career services at the University of Pennsylvania where she created and led the Wharton Career Discovery seminar and served as liaison to recruiters from major corporations. She has been published in the Business Insider, Huffington Post, Inc., Psychology Today, Adirondack Life, Talent Development and mindbodygreen and as guest on national radio and podcast shows. She also served as the Career Advisor for US News and World Report's Education and Career Forum and as a delegate for National Career Development Association/People to People Ambassador program in China. She is the author of The Introvert's Complete Career Guide: From Landing a Job, to Surviving, Thriving and Moving on Up.



MAZAL TOV

Amy Berkowitz and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz on the birth of their grandson and nephew, Miles Apollo Berkowitz (“Milo”) on August 17, 2022 to Dan Berkowitz and Christine Witkowski and big sister, Amma

Ruben Honik on the birth of his grandson, William (“Will”) Louis Levine, born on August 26, 2022 to Grace and Benjamin Levine and big brother, Noah

Michael Levin and Marjorie Backup on the birth of their granddaughter, Adeline Lily Salerno, on July 7, 2022 to Elise Levin and Michael Salerno

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz

215-635-4182

Rabbi Elliot Holin

Founding Rabbi

215-882-0017

Gary Turetsky, President

Justin Krik, Vice President

Ben Long, Treasurer

Ronit Sugar, 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](https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR INTRODUCES NEW YEAR, WITH FRESH AND FORWARD-LOOKING PLANS

While our students have had a much-deserved break from their Religious School classes, I have been busy preparing for a new school year! I am hopeful that this year will allow for fewer disruptions, more engagement with the world beyond our walls, and more relationship-building. We have much to look forward to this year, including:

- The return of our in-person Youth Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- A new K/1 class for the first time since before the pandemic
- A Mitzvah Day in partnership with the Social Action Committee
- A trip to the Jewish Relief Agency
- Grade-level family education programs
- L'Taken, a trip to Washington, DC for tenth through twelfth grade students to lobby for important causes on Capitol Hill
- Special programming for February's Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month
- Regular programming for our Kol A-Minis, children ages 0-5
- More still to be announced!

With Rosh Hashanah around the corner, it's time to think about goals for the coming Jewish year. In Religious School, our goal this year is to reenergize our efforts to build connection between our school community and the synagogue community at large. While I focused last year on rebuilding community among our students and teachers, I am looking forward to partnering with some of our congregation's committees to help students feel a stronger connection with our congregation outside of Religious School, and to take advantage of the diverse skills and wealth of knowledge in our community.

Your children will work with me to make their own goals for the Jewish year at our Youth Service on Rosh Hashanah. Please help your children revisit these goals periodically, and feel free to make goals as a family! Examples include committing to volunteering a few times during the year, or being more mindful of how many products you buy that include plastic, or even lighting Shabbat candles once a week to bring peace to your home.

Please note the important events this month as we begin a new school year. I am looking forward to another wonderful year!

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR INTRODUCES NEW YEAR, WITH FRESH AND FORWARD-LOOKING PLANS *(continued)*

- Sunday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.: First Day of Religious School
- Sunday, September 11, 11:30 a.m.: Religious School parents invited to school for a Welcome Back event in the Bornstein Auditorium
- Wednesday, September 14, 4:30 p.m.: First Mid-Week Religious School Classes
- Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.: Confirmation Academy and Seventh Grade Meet
- Friday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.: Kol A-Minis Rosh Hashanah Celebration for children ages 0-5- Open to all!
- Monday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.: Rosh Hashanah Youth Service for Students Grades 3-6
- Monday, September 26, 2:00 p.m.: Rosh Hashanah Children's Family Service, pre-K through Grade 2
- Wednesday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.: Yom Kippur Youth Service for Grades 3-6
- Wednesday, October 5, 2:00 p.m.: Yom Kippur Children's Family Service, Pre-K through Grade 2
- Thursday, October 13, 10:00 a.m.: Kol A-Minis Celebrate Sukkot!



MEMBERSHIP TRIVIA COLUMN....

Do you collect license plates? Create art from bottle caps? Or, have a particular interest in volcanos? Have you traveled through Asia on a bicycle? If so, our Membership Committee would like to hear from you! We will be starting a new member trivia column in our Bulletin called "Getting To Know You." In one sentence, tell us something about yourself that other members may not know about you. Please email your responses, ideally with your photo, by 9/15//22 to LindaSGeorge@gmail.com. We look forward to knowing more about you!

Join Beth Sholom and Kol Ami as members of our two communities engage in a multimedia Selichot Program in the style of the [Jewish Studio Project](#). The evening will include musical offerings from Cantor Jacob Agar and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz; a text study with Rabbis Berkowitz and Glanzberg-Krainin, and an opportunity for creative exploration led by Amy Brewstein. No previous Jewish knowledge or artistic experience is required. The joint program will be held from 7:45-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 17th, and will conclude with separate Selichot services at 9:30 p.m.



Beth Sholom Congregation
Congregation Kol Ami



Selichot 2022

Where Have We Been: Where are We Going?

Join Beth Sholom & Kol Ami

as members of our two communities
engage in a *multi-media* **Selichot** program



- Hevruta Study
- Release your inner artist
(draw, write, think!) in the style of the Jewish Studio Project
- Contemplate the start of the New Year

Saturday, September 17

7:45-9:30 p.m

BETH SHOLOM HAVDALAH 7:30
KOL AMI & BETH SHOLOM DESSERT AT 7:45

in the Bornstein Auditorium

Separate Selichot Services at 9:30 pm per congregation



RSVP
[CLICK HERE](#)



Congregation Kol Ami's

KOL A-MINIS PRE- ROSH HASHANAH PLAYDATE!

September 16, 10:00am

8321 Old York Road

Elkins Park, PA

Ideal for ages 0-5

Register at tinyurl.com/kolaminis





Home Grown Honey for Sale for High Holy Days

L'Shana Tova! Once again we are selling locally sourced raw honey from Honey Creek Apiary, Elkins Park, for the High Holy Days. Apples dipped in honey signifies the hope for a healthy and sweet new year. Dipping your apples and challah in honey during your dinner, or anytime, is also a sweet reminder to take care of our wild and honeybees and all pollinators. Let's thank them for doing their part to help sustain the environment and our food supply.

8 oz Jars are **\$7.50 each**. 100% of the sale proceeds go to Congregation Kol Ami. The honey is donated by Abby Binder and Jane Tausig.

Pickup Details:

Dates: **Tuesdays, September 13th* or September 20th***

Time: **4:30-6:00 pm**

Pick up location: **Kitchen at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 7763 Old York Road, (at Ashbourne Road) Elkins Park, PA 19027**

Advance orders required. Supply is limited. Please complete the order form below and e-mail the form back to Jane Tausig at jetausig@gmail.com by **09/10/2022**. Advanced payment preferred. Prepay by Venmo to @Jane-Tausig1. Otherwise, your check, payable to Congregation Kol Ami, will be collected at time of pickup.

Please return the following information to Jane Tausig at jetausig@gmail.com by or before 9/10/2022.

Number jars requested @ \$7.50 each: _____

Amount due: _____

Payment method: ____ Venmo or ____ Check (payable to *Kol Ami*.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

CSA member? (circle one): Yes No

Preferred pickup date (circle one): September 13 or September 20

(*If neither of these dates/times work for you we can try to make other arrangements.)



ADULT AND STUDENT CHOIR

Adult Choir: Meets Sunday mornings from 10:25 – 11:25 AM. Students in grades 8–12 may also participate. Co-led by Fran Surkin (who also arranges choral music specifically designed for our choir, including Rebecca Schwartz's original music). Adult Choir starts on 9/11/22.

Student Choir: Meets Sunday afternoons from 12–12:30 PM (after Religious School). Students in grades 2–7 may participate. Solos galore!! Student Choir starts on 9/18/22.

Choir members/student parents receive dates of participation (for High Holy Day/*erev Shabbat services and some community events*) and updates via e-mail. *To remain active, attendance at rehearsals and services is very important. All rehearsals are held in Bornstein unless an alternate location is needed.*

Our choirs are gems within our Kol Ami community and choir members have a lot of fun! If you're interested in joining or have questions, please contact Rebecca at rebeccasongs@verizon.net or call 215-572-6094.



HELP KOL AMI GET THE WORD OUT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Want an easy and fun way to help Kol Ami build its membership and raise its profile? *Engage with us on social media.*

Kol Ami is now active on four social media channels: *Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube*. Through these feeds, we showcase how we care about our world, our country and our community; engage in social justice; offer interesting educational, spiritual and social events; value our children and teach them well; and love music. Our focus on social media is designed to attract new members and engage current members by raising awareness of who we are and what differentiates us, while providing valuable information.

This presence is guided by a set of social media guidelines developed by Ben Adams, Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein, Karen Gurmankin, David Hyman, Irene Levy-Baker and Morgan Selkirk, and is managed by Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein.

Our posts highlight our own events, as well as events and educational opportunities we support (particularly those connected to URJ, the RAC, and the Kehillah of Old York Road), current events consistent with our mission, vision, and values, content from the rabbi, Rebecca and both of our choirs, and Rabbi Berkowitz's weekly d'var Torah.

Please support this effort by Liking, Commenting on, and Sharing our posts on your own social media feed and community feeds.

Here's how to find us:

Facebook: @kolamielkinspark

Instagram: @kolamielkinspark

Twitter: @KolAmiEP

YouTube: Kol Ami Elkins Park

Engaging in Congregation Kol Ami.....

DISABILITY INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Purpose: To ensure disabled voices at Kol Ami are not only heard, but celebrated, and that every person who enters our space feels free to be their authentic self and finds a place of belonging. Key to this committee is integrating leadership by disabled people, in keeping with the philosophy: *Nothing about Us without Us*.

What happened this year:

Formed a new committee with representation by diverse members and queried members about their vision for inclusion

Began inviting Kol Ami members to community trainings and events connected to disability

Hosted Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month Shabbat speaker about how to welcome people with a psychiatric disability into our community

Participated in training about how to create a warm and welcoming community.

Worked with LGBTQIA+ inclusion co-chairs to re-imagine Kol Ami's inclusion goals and messaging

Upcoming Plans: Develop educational programming for Kol Ami's leadership, educators, and members to build sensitivity around disability

Create a congregational survey around belonging

Encourage implementation of a congregational year of B'tzelem Elohim (*We are All Created in God's Image*) that celebrates the diversity of all voices in our community

Chairs:

Lisa Ney, lney@jfcsp Philly.org; Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein, makingheadlines1@comcast.net

RAC-PA

RAC-PA, the Reform Jewish Movement's social action network in Pennsylvania, is preparing to launch the **RAC-PA EVERY VOICE VERY VOTE** campaign hoping to mobilize 1500-plus Reform Jews across the state to help make sure the voice and vote of every eligible voter in Pennsylvania is heard this fall. There will be opportunities to work with established and experienced community partners to encourage all voters to participate in the upcoming election.

Purpose: Joining with Pennsylvania reform congregations in non-partisan advocacy with community partnership groups to promote voter rights and ensure involvement of all citizens in the process of exercising their right and access to vote.

What happened this year:

RAC-PA, with the assistance of members of our and approximately 40 other reform congregations throughout PA, have participated in efforts to advocate for fair redistricting and in voter education phone banking.

Upcoming Plans: The Committee is developing election-related activities now through November with opportunities to: phone bank, postcard, canvass, poll watch and poll monitor.

Chairs:

Karen Gurmankin, kgurmankin@comcast.net; Cheryl Turetsky, cheryljgt@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION/SHOMREI ADAMAH COMMITTEE

Purpose: In the spirit of *Tikun Olam*, the committee organizes meaningful activities to address the needs of our surrounding community. Through education, advocacy, and action, we work on minimizing food insecurity and homelessness, and improving the environment. Ongoing programs focus on sustainability in partnership with [Hazon](#), the National Jewish Lab for Sustainability.

What happened this year?

[Share Food Program](#): Participated in Multi-Faith Volunteer Day; packing nutritious boxes of food for communities in need; delivering to seniors and people with disabilities facing food insecurity in Philadelphia; working on [Nice Roots Farm at Share](#), the demonstration urban farm and orchard that grows fresh fruits and vegetables donated to the community, Share-affiliated pantries, and mutual aid networks.

Kol Ami [Brit Hazon](#) Community Group Initiative: Sharing resources and tips, engaging members to make personal commitments to more sustainable practices, collective actions to mitigate climate crisis.

Jewish tradition compels us to act

Kol Ami Hazon Community Supported Agriculture Program, hosting farm shares in partnership with [Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative](#)

Local Honey sale for High Holy Days

Virtual Tu B'Shvat Seder: 15th annual community celebration

Seminar "Understanding Home Energy", presented by Ben Adams, former Congregation Co-President and partner at one of the nation's leading residential sustainability consulting companies.

Completing tangible steps towards greater sustainability qualifies the Congregation for the [Hazon Seal of Sustainability](#) award for the fifth year, an achievement we can all be proud of.

Upcoming plans:

Commitment to maintaining the Hazon Seal of Sustainability, being a leader in sustainability among Jewish organizations. Plans so far include direct service opportunities at Share Food Program and outdoors at [High School Park](#).

Chairs:

Shelley Chamberlain, Srchamberlain@comcast.net; Mark Kaplan, csakolami@gmail.com

CARING CONGREGANTS

Purpose: To connect with members in times of celebration, sympathy, life cycle events and transitions, and to develop activities to sustain a caring outreach. We want the members of Kol Ami to know we are always there for them.

What happened this year?

Sent cards for “special” birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, engagements, births, mitzvahs, and condolence.

Attended shivas and followed up with the bereaved after their loss.

Delivered bags of challah, honey, and other comforting items to the bereaved.

Visited and phoned people who are homebound or have limited mobility.

Delivered home-cooked meals, helped with grocery shopping, and provided other practical services to those in need of them.

Upcoming Plans: To connect to all our college students by sending email birthday cards this year, and possibly send New Year’s cards in the future.

Chairs:

Elaine Gershenson, gershlaw@comcast.net; Natalie Dyen, nat.dyen@gmail.com

(By the way, the next meeting of the Caring Congregants Committee is Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. If you are planning to attend High Holy Day services in person and need a ride, please contact Natalie or Elaine.)

INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOG

Purpose: The IRD provides a forum for issues related to interfaith relationships. The IRD has four meetings each year. Each meeting is dedicated to a subject that is of interest to members. The topics are suggested by the group co-chairs or by group members. Rabbi Berkowitz attends our meetings and provides authoritative information and insights based on her knowledge and experience.

What happened this year?

Although the initial focus of the group related to raising children in interfaith families, the topics have become more diversified. In November, the group discussed traditions relating to wedding ceremonies and other significant life events. More recently, we discussed traditions for baby naming and baby welcoming for interfaith married couples. In previous years, the group has discussed subjects such as acceptance of non-Jewish married partners, conversion rituals, and end of life issues from the interfaith perspective.

Upcoming plans: We welcome anyone who has a question or subject relating to interfaith relationships. Our meetings are announced in the Kol Ami bulletin and by email. Please reach out to us if you have a question or an interest in attending.

Chairs: Jane and Vincent Pace, vincent.pace@verizon.net

ISRAEL CONNECTION

Purpose: To foster a meaningful and informed relationship with the Jewish homeland and its people. We seek to provide insights into the complicated realities of Israeli life. Our committee presents Israeli speakers with various backgrounds to share their experiences with Kol Ami membership.

What happened this year?

Featured speakers have included an Israeli Druse diplomat, a CEO of an NGO dedicated to promoting democratic values, a kibbutz youth educator and an Ethiopian Israeli immigrant serving as a Deputy Consul General.

Upcoming plans: In addition to introducing additional Israeli speakers to our congregation, we are now working to support the Religious School's Israel curriculum.

Chairs:

Ben Adams: benadams@magrann.com

David Hyman: dhyman@kleinbard.com

WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Purpose: Our mission is understanding the worship needs of all our congregants, developing recommendations for meeting those needs within the limits of our by-laws and in conjunction with the Rabbi's guidance, and implementing said needs. And our purpose is to provide input to make worship interesting and meaningful for our community.

Additionally, we are accountable for the ongoing development and quality of the worship experiences. This includes music/choirs, and exploring innovative service options for "specialty services" to attract more congregants to worship.

What happened this year?

Integrating into Kol Ami's new home at Beth Sholom and adjusting to the hybrid orientation for holiday and Shabbat services. Identifying means of facilitating connection for those attending services virtually.

Taking direction from the Rabbi and Rebecca regarding special services and the flexibility needed due to COVID variability rates in Montgomery County.

Reviewing services to determine what works best and what might need tweaking, depending on feedback from congregants and our spiritual guides.

Working through technical issues for both the Rabbi [laptop] and choir; this involved mostly sound and Zoom platform issues.

Coordinating Summer Shabbat AM Services on Zoom

Upcoming plans:

Exploring the return of ushers to create a more welcoming ambience at services and to promote social connection. The WEC and membership committees are collaborating about this initiative. Continue to monitor the ongoing COVID rates that may determine full masking needs when in person and/or full virtual services as needed.

Chairs:

Mindy Levy, artb4words@gmail.com); William Shapiro, wmshap@gmail.com)

LOCA

Purpose: LOCA offers women of Kol Ami an opportunity to get to know each other in a comfortable and warm environment that helps to bond and build a strong community. Activities include social gatherings, cultural events and educational programs on national and world issues

What happened this year?

Due to Covid, in-person activities were limited for most of the year. However, in the last few months, LOCA has organized a tea party this past May hosted by a member, a very successful Zoom presentation with the Rabbi and Vice President of Planned Parenthood on Roe V Wade, and a send-off party for Betty Shapiro.

Upcoming Plans:

Tentatively planning a Zoom program with HIAS and a Zoom presentation with a local author.

Chairs:

Jane Finkle, janefinkle@gmail.com; Natalie Dyen, Nat.dyen@gmail; Jean Ettinger, jeanettinger@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Purpose: The Membership Committee finds ways to help each of us connect with other congregants, get to know folks we recognize from Zoom events, and welcome new and potential members into our congregation.

What happened this year?

Schmooze with the Rabbi: Small, informal groups met over the past year in a member's home so that we and Rabbi B. could get to know each other a little better. More Schmooze invitations to come this fall!

TAG Talks (Torah, Avodah, Gemilut Hasadim): Starting in June an invited member spoke each month after Friday night services to acquaint us with his/her/their special interest. To continue this fall!

Concerts in the Park: We gathered at Curtis Arboretum in Cheltenham Twp. twice in August to picnic and enjoy the music.

Sunday Morning hike: We met in Huntingdon Township's Lorimer Park for on a Sunday morning in August to enjoy the outdoors together.

Upcoming Plans

"Did You Know?" section starting in this bulletin with a pieces of fun/interesting facts supplied by members.

Ambassadors' Program to help new members gain familiarity with all that K.A. offers.

Chairs:

Abby Binder, abbybinder@gmail.com; Linda George, lindasgeorge@gmail.com

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 Memory Of:

Natalie Surkin

Mark and Karin Kaplan

Mary LaRue and Gail Garin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of:

Steve Harris

Debbi, Michael, Jamie and Eric Harris

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

Rebecca Schwartz with love and appreciation

The Surkin Family

Michael Shapiro and his book of poems

Stanton and Merle Salkin

In Memory Of:

Helen Adelman

Stanton and Merle Salkin

Stephen Harris

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Craig and Sharon Myers

Elaine Stevens

Alan Jacobs

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

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