



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

WHAT'S UP IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL?

The autumn Jewish holiday season provided several opportunities for us to reconnect, and energized us for the coming year. Students participated in youth services on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, where two of our seventh-grade students led our prayer service. Watching these students confidently lead while inspiring younger students certainly brought meaning and joy to **my** holiday season.

Over the Sukkot holiday, our students shared a meal and visited the sukkah — the first time since before the pandemic that our students ate a meal together! We hope to share several more meals this year.

Several times throughout the holiday season, we reflected on the past year and made goals to help us grow. Now, students, is the time to check in on those goals. *Have you taken steps towards meeting your goals? Have you identified people who can help you?* It's easy to have the energy to create goals at the beginning of the year, but much harder to continue to work towards them as our weeks become busier. Remember that Rabbi Berkowitz and I are here to support your Jewish growth, so please use us as a resource!

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WORSHIP SERVICES

**Friday, November 4
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

Kabbalat Shabbat service

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

*Shabbat service and
Torah study*

**Friday, November 11
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

*"Simcha" Second Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat service
with Adult Choir*

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

*Shabbat service and
Torah study*

**Sunday, November
13 at 1:00 p.m.
(Location TBD)**

Healing service

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WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

**Friday, November 18
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

Kabbalat Shabbat service with Student Choir and guest speakers, Sophia and Becca Krik about their first-year experience at Camp Harlam

**Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 a.m.
(Price Chapel)**

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

**Friday, November 25
at 7:30 p.m.
(Bornstein)**

Kabbalat Shabbat service

**Saturday, November 26 at 10:00 a.m.
(Zoom Only)**

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

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

"Simcha" First Friday
Kabbalat Shabbat service with Cantor Leon Sher and Adult Choir

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THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ

Rest and Restrengthening

When we finish a book of the Torah, we chant the line, *chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek*: "Be strong, be strong, and we will be strengthened." This reminds us that we are strengthened by the people in our community, and that we are responsible for sustaining that strength in one another.

Many times during the past few years, we've had to be strong for each other. But we also must remember to take the time we need to strengthen ourselves. Strength is not an unlimited resource, but thankfully, it is renewable.

Our tradition provides two models for rest and rejuvenation. Once a week, we are asked to step away from our work to celebrate Shabbat, our day of rest. Once every seven years, we are commanded to observe a *shmita* year, letting our land rest from planting and harvesting, forgiving debts and releasing indentured servants.

This was the inspiration for the professional sabbatical, mostly a privilege of the academic world, but also an important tool for clergy. Sabbaticals provide time for us to engage in our own learning (conventional wisdom says we can only last for five years on what we learn in seminary), to engage in meaningful work outside of the life of the congregation, and most importantly, to rest and reflect, so that we can return to serve our communities with fully recharged spiritual batteries.

It's now been 14 years since I was ordained as a rabbi, and there haven't been many instances in all that time where I've been able to step away for more than a week. That is why I feel so fortunate that Kol Ami has generously provided me with a six-week "mini-sabbatical" starting December 25th.

Because traditional sabbaticals last six months to one year, it hasn't always been an option for solo clergy. Therefore, many of my colleagues in smaller congregations have been re-thinking the clergy sabbatical, carving out time to rest, reflect, and recharge in smaller increments, to limit the disruption that our absence causes to the life of the congregation.

Because we aren't eligible for longer semester- or year-long opportunities to study at a university, serve a community abroad, or write a book (thankfully, I just finished one!), we had to reimagine how we use this

THOUGHTS FROM RABBI BERKOWITZ *(continued)*

(time so that it can be mutually beneficial to both rabbi and community. When I asked a colleague how she had spent her most recent sabbatical, she simply said, “I swam every day, and I relearned how to sleep.”

So far, I have planned a week at a meditation center, a week at a writing workshop, and a week at Disney World with my family to celebrate my mother’s birthday. For the remaining three weeks, I will be working my way through my reading lists, hoping to discover new gems to share with you in my teaching, preaching, and writing. I will be especially focusing on the book of Numbers, as I have been selected to prepare the weekly Ten Minutes of Torah for the Union for Reform Judaism this spring.

In the coming weeks, you will receive communications explaining who will lead services and Torah study in my absence, and who will be available for pastoral support in case of an emergency while I am away. You will be in good hands with our Executive Director Elaine Stevens, our President Gary Turetsky, our Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz, and our Religious School Director Rachael Simon. If you have upcoming b’nai mitzvah, I will be in touch with you individually about the game plan to make sure our students stay on track with their learning.

We are fortunate to live in a community that is rich with Jewish professionals, and also with dedicated volunteers who strengthen our community with your hard work, your perspective and insight, and willingness to show up and step up when needed.

While this is a time for me to rest, reflect, and recharge, it is also an opportunity for our community to stretch and strengthen itself. If you’ve already been involved in the life of the synagogue, we are especially counting on you to share your time and talents this winter, and we hope that you will find the experience meaningful. And if you’ve been less active these past few years, now is a wonderful time to reinvigorate your own participation in the life of our community. Volunteer to lead a service or a text study, to help with tech support at Shabbat services, or to serve on one of our committees that helps to strengthen our intimate and dynamic community.

I am so grateful for this tremendous gift of time that Kol Ami has given me. I plan to return the favor by coming back to you in February with renewed energy and plenty of new ideas for how to strengthen our community!

Chazak, chazak v’nitchazek!

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

**Saturday, December 3
at 10:00 a.m. (Price
Chapel)**

*Shabbat service and Torah
study*

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

Kabbalat Shabbat service

**Saturday, December 10
at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom On-
ly)**

*Shabbat service and Torah
study*

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

*Kabbalat Shabbat service
with guest speaker, Carol
Laskin*

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

*Shabbat service and Torah
study*

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WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

**Friday, December 23 at
7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Hanukkah Kabbalat Shabbat
service*

**Saturday, December 24 at
10:00 a.m. (Zoom only)**

*Shabbat service and Torah
study*

**Friday, December 30 at
6:00 p.m. (Zoom only)**

*Hanukkah Kabbalat Shabbat
service*

**Saturday, December 31 at
10:00 a.m. (Zoom only)**

*Shabbat service and Torah
study*



WHAT'S UP IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL? (continued)

As we become busy with yet another holiday season, please mark your calendars for the following events:

- Sunday, November 6, 10:00am: First Grade Family Education Program
- Sunday, November 13, 10:00am: Seventh Grade Family Education Program
- Friday, November 18, 7:30pm: Fourth and Fifth Grade Erev Shabbat Service with Student Choir. Sophia and Becca Krik will be sharing about their experience as first-time campers at Camp Harlam.
- Wednesday, November 23 and Sunday, November 27: No Religious School - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Sunday, December 4, 10:00am: Sixth Grade Family Education Program
- Sunday, December 18, 10:00am: Hanukkah Family Program
- Sunday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 29: No Religious School



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Velma Friedman

Aunt of Shelley Chamberlain

Rhea Glickstein

Mother of Elaine Gershenson

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

**Would the Rabbis Forgive Your Student Loans?
Jewish Texts on Wealth, Poverty, and Tzedakah
Thursday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Beth Sholom Conference Room)**

The road to pursuing justice is paved with complicated decisions. How do we determine who qualifies for assistance and how much? Whom do we help first? And what do we do if we suspect that someone is faking it? Don't miss this three-part course on poverty and tzedakah in the Bible and Rabbinic Texts.

Final Session: Fakers and Frauds: How do we know if someone is *really* in need?

**Study at the Shul with Rabbi Berkowitz
With a Lunch sponsored by Bill Hyman and Janine Pratt**

Wednesday, November 16th, 12 p.m. in the Conference Room

Our topic will be: "Taking Personal Responsibility in an Unapologetic World."

RSVP to Elaine at execdir@kolami.info by November 11, so we can get a head count for our lunch order.

CANTOR LEON SHER RETURNS!



**An Erev Shabbat Treat
Friday, December 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.**

Please join us as we welcome back one of our favorite artists-in-residence, Cantor Leon Sher. He'll be joined by Rabbi Berkowitz, Rebecca Schwartz, Fran Surkin, and our wonderful Adult Choir for an evening of soulful prayer and song.

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.**

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Executive Director

215-635-3110

Rachael Simon

Director of Education

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

**Friday, December 16 at
7:30 p.m.**

Carol Laskin

For more than 40 years, Carol Laskin was a healthcare consultant to numerous pharmaceutical and medical device companies, startup healthcare companies and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). However, her biggest health care challenge came when her six-month-old son, Ben, began to lose weight - attributed to a rare kidney disorder.

Carol’s life changed significantly when it was discovered that Ben’s weight loss was not due to a kidney disorder, but to defective baby formula. Upon calling the FDA about the formula problem, Carol learned there was no governmental regulation of baby formula.

Together with another mother, whose baby was on the same defective formula, Carol started a non-profit organization with the goal of monitoring thousands of babies on the defective formula, then pushing Congress to pass a law giving the FDA the authority to regulate baby formula. Fortunately, the Infant Formula Act of 1980 was signed into law approximately one year later.

Carol, and everyone involved in the law’s passage, learned that sometimes “ordinary” people can create change.

Kol Ami's Confirmation Academy joined our local chapter of RAC-PA to write (and decorate!) postcards as part of a non-partisan get out the vote campaign called Every Voice, Every Vote.

Pictured: Sam Ellner, Leah Stein, Ava and Emma Sabulsky, Sophia Krik.



PLAN AHEAD: DATES FOR THE INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOGUE GROUP MEETINGS

The IRD meeting dates for 2022-23 are: Tuesday, November 1, 2022; Tuesday, March 7, 2023; and Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Further information for each meeting will be sent prior to the meeting. If anyone would like to attend a meeting or be added to the group mailing list, please contact Jane Katzer-Pace (jk.pace@verizon.net) or Vince Pace (vincent.pace@verizon.net).

MAZAL TOV:

Orly and Gabriel Maravankin on the marriage of their son Daniel to Leah Goldsher on October 22 in Chicago, Illinois

Rebecca and Joel Schwartz on the marriage of their son Eric to Katherine (Katie) Acord on October 27 in Sedona, Arizona



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Need is Great!

Please support the Blood Drive at Beth Sholom Congregation.

Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Beth Sholom Congregation, 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park

Please register on line at: **redcrossblood.org**

Phone: **1-800-RED-CROSS**

SPONSOR CODE: BETH SHOLOM

For further information or assistance please e-mail

Rene Feitelson, rfeitelson@aol.com



LOCA PRESENTS: HIAS AND REFUGEES IN PHILADELPHIA

On Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom) LOCA presents the executive director of HIAS PA, who will speak to us about how their organization helps refugees who come to Philadelphia make a life here, and how we can help. There will be an introduction by Rabbi Berkowitz about the Jewish imperative to welcome the stranger. RSVP to Natalie Dyen (nat.dyen@gmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS



YO!

Come meet in front of the OY-YO sculpture at the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History on December 16th at 12:30 PM.

Our synagogue member, and newly minted docent, Bonnie Scheer will be guiding us as we tour this beautiful space together.

Bring lunch. We will eat and schmooze together at the museum

Please e-mail Bonnie at Bonniescheer1@verizon.net or call 845-453-4566 to let her know if you can come.

OY! if you cannot join us



Knitting/Crocheting Group

Need a new hobby to get through the winter? Members Linda George and Shari Johnson are starting a monthly knitting group. All levels welcome! Some basic instruction provided.

Please bring your own materials.

Date: Monday, January 9, 2023

Time: 5:00 -7:00 p.m., wine and cheese provided

Place: Linda George's back porch

RSVP: by January 2, 2023 Linda George (LindaSGeorge@gmail.com) or Shari Johnson (mommyone@aol.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:

Rhea Glickstein

James and Natalie Dyen

Julie Zellat

James and Natalie Dyen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of:

Rhea Glickstein

*Caring Congregants Committee
Carol Laskin*

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory Of:

Catherine Baron

Sarah Dubin

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

The bees of Abby Binder and Jane Tausig

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

75th birthday of Rita Siegel

Steven Rosenberg

In Memory Of:

Lucille Barrett

David, Josh, Sara, George and Daniel Barrett

Rhea Glickstein

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Elaine Stevens

Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Martha Katzer

Vincent Pace and Jane Katzer Pace

Stephen and June Wolfson

Bernard Levin

Alvin Turetsky

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

Tuesday, November 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairs: Vincent Pace and Jane Katzer Pace,

Vincent.pace@verizon.net

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, November 15 at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Chamberlain,

srchamberlain@comcast.net

Membership Committee

Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Abby Binder, abbybinder@gmail.com

and Linda George, lindageorge@gmail.com

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, November 10 at 9:15 a.m.

Chairs: David Hyman,

dhyman@kleinbard.com and

Mindy Levy, artb4words@gmail.com

Religious School Committee

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

Chair: Rachael Simon, eddir@kolamielkinspark.org