



קול עמי

An Intimate and  
Dynamic Community**Rabbi's Message**

As the new year begins, I just want to thank all of you at Kol Ami, and particularly our staff and lay leadership, for providing me with the support I need to take a much-needed mini-sabbatical. I will be out-of-office– and not checking email, voicemail, or social media– from December 25th to February 7th. I look forward to coming back refreshed and with new ideas and resources to help move our congregation forward.

Please SAVE THE DATE for this year's Purimshpiel, which this year will be.....Guys and Dolls! Come dressed up (in any kind of costume) for a silly, musical extravaganza on **Monday, March 6th, at 7 p.m. in the Bornstein Auditorium**. If you are interested in participating as a singer or a reader, please contact Fran Surkin: [f.surkin@gmail.com](mailto:f.surkin@gmail.com).

In the meantime, here's whom to reach out to if you have any questions while I'm away:

*Service Times/Leaders, Pastoral Care, Life Cycle Events*–Elaine Stevens: [execdir@kolami.info](mailto:execdir@kolami.info)

*Religious School*–Rachael Simon: [rsdirector.kolami@gmail.com](mailto:rsdirector.kolami@gmail.com)

*B'nai Mitzvah Tutoring*–Rebecca Schwartz: [becsongs@gmail.com](mailto:becsongs@gmail.com)

*Membership*–Abby Binder and Linda George:

[abbybinder@gmail.com](mailto:abbybinder@gmail.com), [lindasgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:lindasgeorge@gmail.com)

*Caring Congregants*–Elaine Gershenson, Natalie Dyen: [nat.dyen@gmail.com](mailto:nat.dyen@gmail.com), [gershlaw@comcast.net](mailto:gershlaw@comcast.net)

*Social Action, Tu BiShevat Seder*–Shelley Chamberlain:

[srchamberlain@comcast.net](mailto:srchamberlain@comcast.net)

*Other Inquiries and Concerns*: Gary Turetsky, [gsturet@gmail.com](mailto:gsturet@gmail.com)

**WORSHIP****SERVICES**

**Friday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Kabbalat Shabbat* service

Prayer Leaders: Sophia and Becca Krik

*D'var Torah*: Rhea Applebaum

**Saturday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Prayer Leader: Mark Kaplan

*D'var Torah*: Merle Salkin

**Friday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

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

Prayer Leader: Gary Turetsky

*D'var Torah*: Rabbi Elliot Holin

**Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Prayer Leader: Abby Binder

*D'var Torah*: Alan Wohlstetter

(continued page 2)

## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

*(continued)*

**Friday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Kabbalat Shabbat service*

Prayer Leader and *D'var Torah*: Ivy S.

**Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat service and Torah study*

Prayer Leader: William Shapiro

*D'var Torah*: Judy Miller

**Friday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Kabbalat Shabbat service*

Prayer Leader: Aria Kraemer

*D'var Torah*: William Hyman

**Saturday, January 28 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat service and Torah study – Rebecca Schwartz*

**Friday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*“Simcha” First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service with Adult Choir*

Prayer Leader and *D'var Torah*: Merle Salkin

**Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat service and Torah study*

Prayer Leader: Abby Binder

*D'var Torah*: David Hyman

*(continued page 3)*

## **WHAT'S NEW IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL? A LOT!**

Last month was a busy one for our Religious School students. Our fabulous students had been searching for an opportunity to impact our community in a positive way. We offered the first of what I hope will be many such opportunities this year with a clothing, hygiene, and school-supply drive with Cradles to Crayons. This organization collects many essential items for families in our region and empowered us to take charge of our own drive.

Our students worked hard to convince family, friends, and neighbors to donate. We also spent time thinking about why the quality of our donations matter and how to have others tell us what they need rather than deciding what they need without their input. These values are important to Cradles to Crayons as well as to our synagogue.

We celebrated Hanukkah last month with a backyard party. We cooked over a fire pit, worked on Hanukkah-themed art projects, lit Hanukkah candles, and sang together. It was a joyful way to begin the holiday. Thank you, Melissa Cohen, Alex Horn, and Ciera Horn for hosting!

Of course, Hanukkah wouldn't have been complete without celebrating with our Kol A-Minis! This group of children aged five and younger also came together to light candles, sing, dance, and participate in a Hanukkah-themed obstacle course. We look forward to many more celebrations with our young families!

Now that Hanukkah is over, we are looking forward to a busy winter. This month, we will celebrate Tu B'Shvat with our own Seder for our Religious School students, and will continue our education on the importance of environmental justice in Judaism. In February, we will honor Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month with special programming in collaboration with our Inclusion Committee.

Our high school students will travel to Washington, DC for a L'Taken Social Justice Seminar. We will work with Reform Jewish students from across the country to learn about and debate social justice issues in preparation for a lobbying day on Capitol Hill. With many more opportunities open to us after over two years of extensive COVID-19 restrictions, we have been able to gain real-world experience practicing our Jewish values like never before during my tenure!

*(continued page 4)*

## President's Message

### Happy and Healthy Secular New Year Everyone!

As we enter the cold, dark months of January and February we should all look to our synagogue for some much needed warmth and community, and with that in mind, may I start by suggesting a visit to 8231 Old York Road for spiritual uplift and a cup of hot coffee and a cookie afterwards at our regularly scheduled Friday night service. Or give a try to one of our Saturday morning services with Torah study in the cozy and intimate Price Chapel. While our Rabbi is away on her much needed and well-deserved sabbatical (she returns the second week of February), Rebecca, with the help of some dedicated volunteers from our congregation, will continue to make our services both musically and spiritually inspiring, so please plan on coming. **I want to especially encourage all of you to attend Shabbat services the evening of Friday, January 13 when we will be honored with the presence of our beloved Founding Rabbi, Elliot Holin, who will be delivering the D'var Torah while Rebecca leads the service and lends her beautiful singing voice to the festivities.**

I also want to let everyone know of two upcoming events which are in the planning stages as I write. First, on February 21st our annual Tu B'Shvat Seder, which in the past few years has had to be held on Zoom due to COVID restrictions, is coming back this year as an in-person event. As in the past, we will have inspirational readings as well as food and drink in celebration of the New Year of the Trees. Look for all the information announcing this event elsewhere in this Bulletin. In addition, we are bringing back an old favorite, the "Martini" Havdalah service, this year scheduled for the evening of Saturday, April 22 in the Bornstein. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to schmooze, enjoy some crudités (if you don't know, those are vegetable platters), and other snacks, imbibe a glass of kosher wine or two before the service, and then join with Rebecca for a sing-a long which she will lead after the service. So, stay tuned and stay involved.

Lastly, as we continue to grow into our home here on the Beth Sholom campus, I wanted all to know that our dedicated community room, located behind the Fischman Auditorium stage, is finally coming together. Renovations and painting needed to be completed, as well as the removal of some large items, like our yahrzeit cabinet and donor wall, before we could use the space. As you all know, the yahrzeit cabinet is now prominently installed in the Bornstein, and our donor wall now graces the wall in the corridor just outside of the Bornstein. Once the renovations are finished, and that should be very soon if the work is not completed already (I am writing this message on November 30, 2022), the community room will be available as a meeting place, conference space, additional, accessible space for our religious school, a gallery, etc. You are welcome to come visit and check it out, and think about how you would like us to use the space - it's ours!

Stay warm and stay well,

Gary

## WORSHIP SERVICES

*(continued)*

**Friday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. (Bornstein)**

JDAIM *Kabbalat Shabbat* service with Sixth and Seventh Grade participation and our Student Choir

**Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)**

*Shabbat* service and Torah study

**Friday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Kabbalat Shabbat* service

**Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)**

*Shabbat* service and Torah study

**Friday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)**

*Kabbalat Shabbat* service

Prayer Leader and *D'var Torah*:  
Neal Beatus

**Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)**

*Shabbat* service and Torah study

Prayer Leader and *D'var Torah*:  
Mark Kaplan



## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Caring Congregants Committee**

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

Chairs: Natalie Dyen and Elaine Gershenson

### **Finance Committee**

Monday, January 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Chairs: Nigel Blower and Ben Long

### **Membership Committee**

Thursday, January 26 and February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairs: Abby Binder and Linda George

### **Religious School Committee**

Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Rachael Simon

### ***Shomrei Adamah* Committee**

Thursday, January 12 at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Mark Kaplan

### **Social Action Committee**

Thursday, January 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Chamberlain

## **WHAT'S NEW IN OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL? A LOT!** (continued)

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- ◆ Sunday, January 15: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- ◆ Sunday, February 5, 10:00 a.m.: Tu B'Shvat Program - more information to follow
- ◆ Friday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.: Sixth and Seventh Grade Shabbat Service with Student Choir
- ◆ Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.: Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month program for students
- ◆ Sunday, February 19: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- ◆ Friday, February 24 through Monday, February 27: L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC for students in grades nine through twelve



Our Adult Choir at our annual “Leon Sher *Shabbat*” on  
December 2, 2022

## **Interfaith Relationship Dialogue Group**

The Interfaith Relationship Dialogue group (IRD) will hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom**. The meeting will include a discussion of the play *Ancient History* which was recently produced by Theater Ariel. The play dramatizes some of the issues that can come up in a Jewish/non-Jewish, interfaith relationship. The meeting will feature the play's director, Jesse Bernstein, who will lead a discussion of the play and respond to questions about it. Several members of the IRD attended performance of the play during its run, so the discussion should be interesting.

If you are not a regular member of the IRD but would like to attend, please contact Jane Katzer-Pace ([jk.pace@verizon.net](mailto:j.k.pace@verizon.net)) or Vince Pace ([vincent.pace@verizon.net](mailto:vincent.pace@verizon.net)).

The IRD meeting dates for 2023 are as follows: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 and Tuesday, May 23, 2023. 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's mailing list, please contact Jane Katzer-Pace ([jk.pace@verizon.net](mailto:j.k.pace@verizon.net)) or Vince Pace ([vincent.pace@verizon.net](mailto:vincent.pace@verizon.net)).



## **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](mailto:LindaSGeorge@gmail.com)) or Shari Johnson ([mommyone@aol.com](mailto:mommyone@aol.com))





## **SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP**

### **Main Office**

215-635-3110

### **Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz**

215-635-3110

### **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

215-635-3110

### **Rebecca Schwartz**

Cantorial Soloist

215-572-6094

### **Janet Falon**

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Elkins Park, PA 19027

questions@kolamielkinspark.org

### **Website:**

[www.kolamielkinspark.org](http://www.kolamielkinspark.org)

### **Facebook:**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
kolamielkinspark](https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark)

## **CONDOLENCES**

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Robert C. Baker

*Brother of Patricia Ann Long*

*Uncle of Benjamin Long*

Mark Gohen

*Cousin of Shari Johnson*

Emmanuel Kohn

*Great-grandfather of Lucy Kolar*

Bernard Krik

*Father of Justin Krik*

*Grandfather of Becca, Sophia, and Nora {a blessed memory}*

Leon M. Rosenson

*Stepfather of Michael Levin*

Marjorie Rueger

*Wife of Lawrence Rueger*

Rebecca Sender

*Mother of Jessica and Matthew Sender*

Douglas N. Tishler

*Cousin of Carol Wit*

*Cousin of Steven Wit*

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



### **The Mental Health Crisis among Our Youth: *How to Talk to & Help Your Children***

The headlines about the decline in youth mental health since the pandemic are frightening. And this epidemic is exacerbated by a shortage of mental healthcare providers. Yet, within the Jewish community (and many others), mental illness is still stigmatized and open dialogue about mental health is rare, causing many families to suffer in private without the information and tools to help their children,

**On Friday, February 10, in recognition of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month (JDAIM), we will discuss the mental health crisis among our youth and provide families with tools to help deal with what their children are experiencing. We will be joined at this service by our Student Choir. Our speakers will intentionally model age-appropriate discussion of mental health concerns without shame or judgment. This will be an open, important conversation and we hope many of you will join us.**

We will be joined by two expert speakers:



**Carly Coons, LSW**, is the Director of Education and Programming at the [Blue Dove Foundation](#). The Foundation works to normalize conversation about mental health by leaning into Judaism – its teachings, prayers, values and community – as a tool to help us better understand and talk about mental health. Carly leads the organization in curating and creating mental health resources and workshops that integrate Judaism and mental wellness into communities with intention. Carly's work is enriched by her education as a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) and a Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid Instructor.



**Kol Ami congregant Aimee Kramer, MA, LPC, CEAP, SAP, SAE**, will draw upon her personal experience and professional expertise to share insight and guidance with us. An outpatient psychotherapist who specializes in trauma treatment and substance use disorders, Aimee has significant personal and professional experience with trauma, depression, anxiety and eating disorders. The mother of a child with mental health disorders, Aimee grew up around undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues. In her practice, she works to heal by helping people feel heard, understood and accepted in their most vulnerable states.

***Services will begin at 7 p.m. and this dialogue will begin at their conclusion. You can join us in person or online.***

***MAZAL TOV:***

Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman on the marriage of their daughter, Leah to Derek Pender on December 3, 2022

Jon and Sheri Cutler on the birth of their grandson, Cooper, on November 12, 2022, son of Jesse and Rachel Cutler, and big sister, Charlie.

Ruthie Garelik, daughter of Jane Tausig and stepdaughter of Abby Binder, marriage to Aaron Berson on November 5, 2022.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

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

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

**The Need is Always Great—Please roll up your sleeve and Support This Drive**

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](mailto:rfeitelson@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 Honor Of:

**Rebecca and Joel Schwartz on the marriage of their son Eric to Katherine (Katie) Acord**  
*Congregation Kol Ami Adult Choir*

**Rebecca Schwartz and her supportive music during the Celebration of Life Ceremony of Rebecca Sender**  
*Jessica and Matthew Sender*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Susan Popkin*

### In Honor Of:

**Rabbi Berkowitz and her help for the memorial service for Marjorie Rueger**  
*Lawrence Rueger*

**Rabbi Berkowitz and her support for the Celebration of Life Ceremony of Rebecca Sender**  
*Jessica and Matthew Sendern*

### In Memory Of:

**Morton H. Baker**  
*David and Shelley Chamberlain*

**Rhea Glickstein**  
*David and Shelley Chamberlain*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

### In Memory Of:

**Ethel Hutkin**  
*Rachel Goldstein  
Jessie Fast  
Susan Seltzer*

## SYNAGOGUE FUND

*Jeffrey Solomon*

### In Honor Of:

**Rabbi Berkowitz and her minisabbatical**  
*Jeffrey Cohen and Ellen Friedman*

### In Memory Of:

**Esther Cohen**  
*Rhea Applebaum*

### Rhea Glickstein

*Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum  
Craig and Sharon Myers*

### Martha Katzer

*William Hyman and Janine Pratt*

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Steven Wit and Donna Gatewood*

### Frances Turetsky

*Alvin Turetsky  
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

### Minnie Turetsky

*Alvin Turetsky*

**Save the Date:**  
**18th annual Tu BiShvat  
Community Seder**

Open to all!

**Tuesday, Feb 21st  
6:30-8:30 in-person  
@Congregation Kol Ami**

