



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

Rabbi's Message

It's now been more than three years since we celebrated an in-person Second Seder, and nearly three years since our first "virtual" Second Night Seder in the early days of the pandemic (remember the "Elijah, Wash Your Hands" song?). Believe it or not, we've now celebrated three Passover seders online. We've heard from many of you that you have missed our in-person Second Seder and you want to join your friends and fellow congregants around the same table this year. We couldn't agree more. That is why we are so excited to announce that we will finally be able to offer a Second Night Seder IN PERSON this Passover!

As you know, Beth Sholom requires Kosher supervision in the kitchen of our shared facility, and given our research, that would significantly raise the costs of a Second Seder. With that in mind, we looked for partners in the local Reform Jewish community to co-host. Fortunately, our neighbors at Keneseth Israel are delighted to partner with us to co-create a Second Night Seder.

We are grateful to Rabbi Ben David and Cantor Amy Levy, who have invited myself and Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz to join them in leading the seder. We will work closely (as soon as Purim is over) to ensure that many of Kol Ami's traditions are included in the service.

We invite all Kol Ami family and friends to join us on Thursday, April 6th at 6 p.m. for the Second Night Seder. The seder meal will cost \$55 per adult, \$25 per child between the ages of 6 and 12, and free for children under 5. I'm also excited to share that if there is a college student or young professional in your family, or know of any Kol Ami Religious School alumni in the area who need a place for seder, an anonymous donor has committed to making the seder FREE for young adults. I will also be offering additional subsidies through my discretionary fund for those that may need additional support. To take advantage of either of these resources, please contact me at rabbi@kolamielkinspark.org by MARCH 20th so that we can make sure to reserve a spot for you. A copy of the flyer can be found on page 5.

(continued page 2)

WORSHIP

SERVICES

**Friday, March 3
(Bornstein)**

6:00 p.m.—*Kabbalat Shabbat* service with grade K/1 and Kol A'Minis

7:30 p.m. - *Kabbalat Shabbat* service

**Saturday, March 4 at
10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)**

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

Friday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

"Simcha" Second Friday *Kabbalat Shabbat* service

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

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

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

Kabbalat Shabbat service with Student Choir

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

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

(continued page 2)

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Friday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. (Bornstein)

Kabbalat Shabbat service with guest speaker, Robin Burstein from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) {page 9}

Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

Kabbalat Shabbat service with "TAG" Talks guest speaker, Janine Pratt {page 10}

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

Shabbat service and *Torah* study

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

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

Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Passover-Yizkor Shabbat service and *Torah* study

Friday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

Kabbalat Shabbat service

(continued page 3)

Rabbi's Message *(continued)*

We are so excited to celebrate Passover with you this year, and to write this new chapter in our community *haggadah*!

In other news...

Injustice for Some Means Injustice for All:

A Study at the Shul Class on Poverty and Tzedaka

Join Rabbi Leah Berkowitz for a conversation about what it means to pursue justice, and what it means to provide those around us with "whatever they are lacking."

Three Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. ET

April 11, Circles of Obligation: To whom are we responsible? When there are limited resources, whom do we help first?

April 25, Welfare to Work: Is it necessary to seek employment in order to qualify for assistance?

May 2, Minimums and Maximums: Is it possible to give too much tzedakah?

As this class will meet entirely online, we welcome both our members and our friends around the world to join us. While the course is free for our members, we ask that our friends contribute \$54 for the three sessions. Synagogues and other communal institutions may pay \$180 for an unlimited number of their members to attend.

No prior knowledge or experience with Jewish text or Hebrew is expected.

This is a great next step for those who took last semester's class, "Would the Rabbis Forgive Your Student Loans?" but each of these sessions will stand on its own.



President's Message

I wish to thank our professional staff and lay leaders for their incredible support of our congregation this winter while our Rabbi enjoyed a well-deserved respite from her duties as our spiritual leader. Services were well attended, both in person and virtually, our children continued to receive first-class religious training in our religious school, and our board and committees held their meetings and did the work that is so essential to our missions of providing quality programming, keeping our members advised of upcoming events, and attracting new members.

Kudos, in particular, to Elaine, Rebecca, and Rachael, for all the hard work they put in to keep the congregation active and engaged while Rabbi Berkowitz was on sabbatical. Their contributions to maintaining our standard of high-level worship services and religious education were substantial and I am very grateful for their help and support.

I also want to recognize and thank those volunteers who gave generously of their time and energy to help us through the winter months. They helped lead services, offered inspiring D'var Torah messages and beautiful music at services, oversaw our audio/visual equipment during services, and kept our social media presence active, plus more. I especially want to recognize Fran Surkin and the members of our adult choir, the children of our religious school and the student choir, Rabbi Holin, Merle Salkin, Abby Binder, Alan Wohlsetter, David Hyman, Bill Hyman, Judy Miller, Rhea Applebaum, Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein, Justin Krik, Ronit Sugar, Bert Schiowitz, Linda Jacobs, Jeff Cohen, Neal Beatus and Bill Shapiro.

Lastly, I hope you are aware by now that our residency on the Beth Sholom campus affords us the use, on a permissive basis, of the Bornstein and Fischman Auditoriums, the Price Chapel, and other worship space, like their Sisterhood Chapel, for our worship services. After almost two years on site what that means for us is that the Fischman is the dedicated space for our High Holy Days services, the Bornstein is where our Yahrzeit Memorial Cabinet is installed and our Friday Night services are held, and the Price Chapel is where our Saturday morning services take place.

(continued page 7)

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Shabbat service and Torah study

Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

Earth Day Kabbalat Shabbat service with "TAG" Talks guest speaker, Ben Adams {page 10}

Saturday, April 22

10:00 a.m.—Earth Day Shabbat service and Torah study (Price Chapel)

5:00 p.m.—Martini Havdalah (Bornstein) {page 11}

Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

Kabbalat Shabbat service with Student Choir

Saturday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Shabbat service and Torah study



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue

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

Chairs: Vincent Pace and Jane Katzer Pace

Membership Committee

Thursday, March 23 and April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Abby Binder

Religious School Committee

Thursday, March 28 at 7:15 p.m. and Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Chair: Rachael Simon

Social Action Committee

Thursday, March 16 at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Chamberlain

Worship Enhancement Committee

Sunday, March 5 at 9:15 a.m.

Chairs: David Hyman and Mindy Levy

NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The beauty of the Jewish year is that each season is significant in some way. Throughout the year, we have several opportunities to celebrate and several others to reflect and learn.

We have just finished February, a particularly important month in today's Jewish community as we honor Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month. Inclusion has taken center stage at KARS as we have used this month to launch a long-term exploration of inclusion in our synagogue community. All our students have engaged in programming around disability inclusion this month. Many of our students are continuing to research how our congregation and space can be more inclusive and plan to present their findings to decision-makers in our community.

In addition, our teen students participated in a Tu B'Shvat Seder with a mental health theme. I am proud that our students engaged so enthusiastically in the topic of disability inclusion and mental health. I am impressed by both their maturity and their openness. I hope their commitment to these topics has inspired the adults around them!

The start of the new year was also marked by exploration of the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Our Tu B'Shvat lessons culminated in a student-centered Tu B'Shvat Seder, which the fourth and fifth grade students led using a Haggadah they had written. Thank you, Neal Beatus, for your work in preparing for and leading this Seder with the students!

We wrapped up February with a trip to Washington, DC to participate in L'Taken Social Justice Seminar, a youth leadership conference organized by the Religious Action Center. This seminar brought students from around the country to discuss political and social issues important to Reform Jews before lobbying members of Congress on Capitol Hill. I look forward to having our ninth through twelfth grade students share their experience.

(continued page 6)

Second Night "Family-Style" Passover Seder at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel



Join KI & Congregation Kol Ami for a Special Seder Dinner Experience for the Entire Family



Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m.
Led by Rabbi Benjamin David
& Cantor Amy Levy

with Rabbi Leah Berkowitz &
Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz!

Enjoy a traditional Passover dinner
from soup to dessert

Afikomen gifts for the kids.

Bring your own wine & bottle opener.

Adults: \$55, Children 6 to 12 Years: \$25

Children 5 and Under: Free

RSVP Via ShulCloud ~

rcki.shulcloud.com/form/seder23

OR Send reservations with full
payment by March 30, 2023

Names of all attending: _____

If possible, we would like to sit with: _____

Choice of entrees: ___ brisket ___ lemon chicken ___ salmon ___ stuffed portobello (veg)

___ Adults @ \$55\$_____

___ Children ages 6-12 @ \$25.00\$_____

___ Children 5 and under - Free

Total Enclosed:\$_____



Check payable to Keneseth Israel, mail to: 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 attn: KI Seder
If you have any questions, please contact Naomi at 215-887-8700.

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

Bulletin Editor

janetfalon@gmail.com

**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

NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION *(continued)*

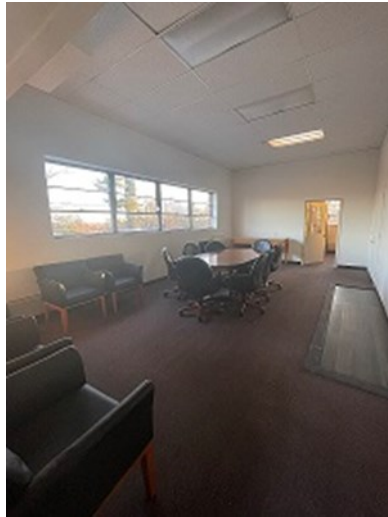
The next two months at Kol Ami Religious School are sure to be just as busy and fruitful. **I am thrilled to invite the entire community to a special event on Wednesday, March 15 at 6:30pm, when we will hear from Elissa Sagoskin.** Elissa Sagoskin is the Head Coach of the women's team of Israel's National Flag Football Team. Elissa's story of going to Akiba Academy (Barrack), growing up in a world filled with sports and faith, making aliyah, and literally creating the women's national team is amazing. Beyond her impressive resume on the field is her off-the-field story. Elissa has a son with Cerebral Palsy, which she speaks about in this beautiful Ted Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUzpgDuroxE>. While our older students will attend as part of their program, this event is open to the entire community. I hope to see many of you there!

Please mark your calendars for the events below.

- **Friday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.: First Grade Erev Shabbat Service with Kol A-Minis-** Join our youngest students for a fun, family-centered Shabbat service
- **Sunday, March 5, 11:30 a.m.: Kehillah of Old York Road Community Purim Carnival-** Come for games, costumes, and activities! If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at eddir@kolami.info.
- **Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.: Sixth Grade Family Program**
- **Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.: Introduction to Israel Program with Habonim Dror (students only)-** Camp Galil's Israeli Shaliach (emissary) will teach our students about Israel through games and discussion
- **Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.: Address from Elissa Sagoskin-open to the community!** Please see above for more information. This event will take place in the Bornstein Auditorium
- **Sunday, March 19: KARS Volunteer Day at Jewish Relief Agency** - Parents should come with students
- **Sunday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.: Chocolate Seder Passover Program (students only)**
- **April 2-April 12: No Religious School, Spring Break**
- **Sunday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.: Religious School resumes, Sixth Grade Family B'nai Mitzvah Program**
- **Sunday, April 23: Community Mitzvah Day:** Kol Ami will be participating in a Mitzvah Day organized by the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia. More information to follow!

President's Message *(continued)*

Besides the permissive use of those areas, we have the sole and dedicated use of offices for Rabbi, Rachael and Elaine, classrooms for the religious school, and, as I mentioned in my last message, a community room, located right behind the Fischman Auditorium stage. In the January-February Bulletin I noted that once renovations were finished “the community room will be available as a meeting place, conference space, additional, accessible space for our religious school, a gallery, etc.” **If you wish to schedule time there for a meeting, group or committee, please contact Elaine first for scheduling.** I am happy to report that that community room is now furnished and open for business. Here is a picture of the community room for your reference:



I encourage all of us -- staff, committees, and members in general -- to come back, physically, to Kol Ami and make use of and enjoy, with your fellow congregants, all the welcoming space, now including the community room, in our home on Old York Road.

With best wishes for a Happy Passover celebrated with family and friends.

Gary



We've got the Shpiel right here! It's a Guys and Dolls Purimshpiel!

Join us on Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. for our raucous, musical Purimshpiel and megillah reading. Come in costume (Guys-and-Dolls-themed, Purim-character-themed, or any fun outfit you have on hand), and hear the story of Purim with a twist.

This year our story will be set to tunes from the beloved musical "Guys and Dolls," starring your fabulous and funny friends from Kol Ami. All ages welcome. And please don't hesitate to bring your friends! Hamantaschen will be served.



INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOG GROUP'S UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The next meetings for the Interfaith Relationship Dialog Group (IRD) are 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)



~ as part of the ADL Signature Synagogue Program ~
Congregation Kol Ami is offering a special program:

RIISING LEVELS OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE U.S.

**On Friday March 24th at 7:00 p.m.
at Congregation Kol Ami**

Program will follow an early abbreviated Shabbat service.
Zoom link will be provided.



Robin Burstein

Deputy Director, ADL Philadelphia
serving eastern PA, Southern NJ, and DE

will address Antisemitism in the US

~ Ms. Burstein will invite audience participation discussing ~

- **Recent statistics on the rising levels of antisemitism**
- **The book "It Could Happen Here"**
by Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director, ADL
- **How to respond when encountering antisemitism**

Robin Burstein serves as Deputy Director, ADL Philadelphia, where she is involved in management, regional operations, fund raising, and education programs. She is the staff liaison to the Outreach and Civil Rights committees and the Black-Jewish Alliance. Robin joined the ADL after serving alternatively in the nonprofit and for-profit arenas her entire career, including directing senior centers, marketing training programs, management, and fundraising. Over the years, she has served on many boards and committees including her Synagogue and Women's League, the North Penn Collaborative for Health and Human Services, Hadassah and more. Robin & her husband Bob belong to Tiferet Bet Israel in Bluebell. She has two practically perfect daughters Sara and Samantha, and five absolutely perfect grandchildren.

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



Friday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Janine Pratt

Janine Pratt’s TAG Talk will focus on her accidental initiation into the world of mixed martial arts and what motivated her to pursue a black belt. The program will include what she learned about herself and about life along the way.

Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Ben Adams



In honor of Earth Day (April 22), Ben will reflect on his 30+ year career in sustainability engineering and policy, working to make the places people live more energy efficient, lowering the energy cost burden for low income households and improving the health and affordability of housing. Ben will talk about how the mission connects to his being Jewish, and why the revolution that’s coming is more likely to be in your basement than on your roof.

Ben Adams is Vice President of Strategic Development at MaGrann Associates, a sustainability engineering firm based in the Philadelphia area.

He works closely with policy advocates, utility program managers, standards organizations, builders, developers, architects and property managers to bring leading edge best practices to the residential new construction and multifamily retrofit markets. Since beginning his career in energy efficiency at the New Zealand Ministry of Energy in 1982, he has become a recognized leader in the energy efficiency industry, supports regulatory testimony related to program design, participates in national strategy sessions addressing energy efficiency issues, and is a frequent conference presenter. He has an MBA from Drexel University and a B.S. from the University of Canterbury.

Martini Havdalah is back and you're invited!!

Please join us on

Saturday, April 22 from 5 – 7 PM in Bornstein.

We'll provide the snacks.

BYO mixing devices, hard liquor/beer/kosher wine!



Snacking & schmoozing from 5 – 6:15

Sing-along with Rebecca from 6:15 – 6:45

Havdalah with Rabbi Berkowitz & Rebecca from 6:45 – 7:00

**Please RSVP to Elaine Stevens at
execdir@kolami.info or 215-635-3110
by Wednesday, April 19th**

so that we can ensure enough snacks for everyone.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

William S. Bloom

Cousin of Carol Wit

Cousin of Steven Wit

Avril Blower

Aunt of Nigel Blower

Dr. Robert J. Kahn and Monice Kahn

Uncle and Aunt of Eve Jacobs

Marlene Meles

Mother of Bean Meles

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



Mazal Tov:

David and Irene Baker on the engagement of their son, Adam, to Lauren Mittelman.

Michael and Ellen Matz on the engagement of their son, Zach, to Dr. Jen Ruckenstein



LOCA—SAVE THE DATE

March 23, 2023 - LOCA event. A taste of Passover. Bring a dish with the recipe to share. Time 12:30. p.m. Location tbd. Jean, Natalie and Jane



Knitting/Crocheting Group

You're welcome to Kol Ami's Knitting/Crocheting Group! Members Shari Johnson and Linda George have started a monthly group that meets monthly on the 2nd Monday. All levels welcome! Some basic instruction provided. Please bring your own materials. Join us for our next meeting!

Date: Mondays, March 13 and April 10

Time: 5-7pm, please bring snacks

Place: Jane Finkle's home on March 13

RSVP: by 3/10/23 to Shari Johnson (mommyone@aol.com) or Linda George (LindaSGeorge@gmail.com)



Community Mitzvah Day 2023: A Day of Good Deeds

Join us: Calling all members, all ages, including religious school students

Save the date: Sunday, April 23, 10am-noon

The Jewish Federation is hosting Community Mitzvah Day to celebrate Israel's 75th birthday

Hands-on volunteer projects will be offered across Greater Philadelphia

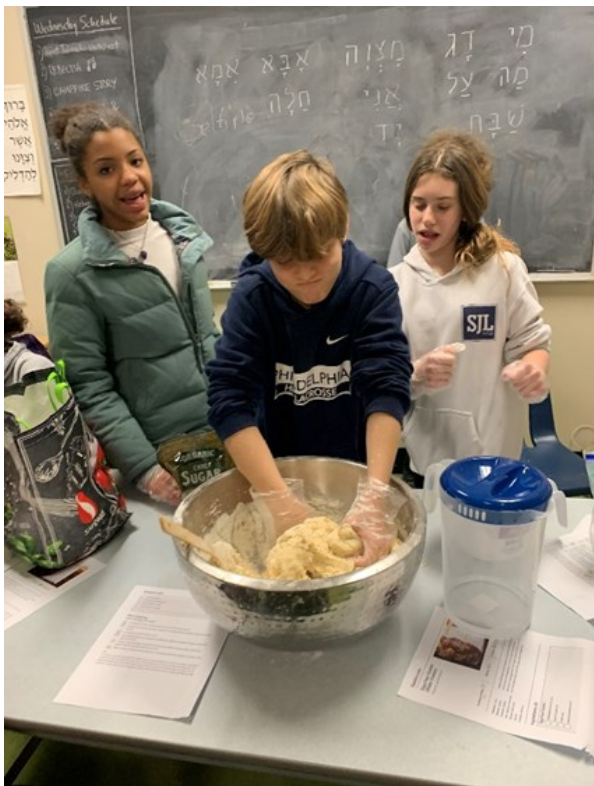
Projects in our area to date: High School Park, JRA,
Har Nebo Cemetery

Watch for details to register

"It is not up to you to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."
— **Pirkei Avot**



Members joining our own, Bonnie Scheer, on a docent led tour of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History on December 16.



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:

**Marriage of Leah Cohen and
Derek Pender**
Mark and Karin Kaplan

**Rabbi Elliot Holin and his D'var
Torah**
Mark and Karin Kaplan

Speedy recovery of Joel Schwartz
Mark and Karin Kaplan

In Memory Of:

Leon Mendel Rosenson
Michael Levin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of:

Leon Mendel Rosenson
Michael Levin

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory Of:

William S. Bloom
*Cousin of Carol Wit
Cousin of Steven Wit*

Bernard Krik
*William Hyman and Janine Pratt
Elaine Stevens
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

Barbara Lefkoe
Michael Chernoff and Rhea Applebaum

Rebecca Sender
William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Bernard Schilder
William Hyman and Janine Pratt

Maurice Turetsky
Alvin Turetsky