

קול עמי

An Intimate and

Dynamic Community

Thoughts from Rabbi Berkowitz....

Rabbi's Note: As I write this, I know that our community is shaken by the recent violence in Israel and the rising antisemitism at home. Because we write these articles well in advance, I have no way of knowing what the situation will be like when this is printed. So I begin with a prayer: May there soon be peace and security in the State of Israel. May our loved ones be kept safe from harm and may both our soldiers and the many hostages soon be returned to the loving embrace of their families. May civilians in Israel and Gaza be protected and cared for, and may there soon be a peaceful resolution to this conflict and a lasting peace throughout the region.

The Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship—What I'll Be Learning This Year

I am excited and proud to be participating in the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship with 18Doors, formerly Interfaith Family, for the next 18 months. 18Doors serves as an entry point to Jewish life for interfaith couples and families, and seeks to cultivate belonging and inclusion in Jewish spaces for people in interfaith relationships. The Fellowship is a learning opportunity for early to mid-career rabbis who seek to be more comfortable and more skilled in working with people in interfaith relationships.

continued page 2)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, November 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein) "Simcha" First Friday

"Simcha" First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service with Adult choir

Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)
Shabbat service and Torah study

Friday, November
10 at 7:00 p.m.
(Bornstein)
Religious School *Kab-balat Shabbat* service
for grades K-7 with Student Choir

Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel) Shabbat service and Torah study

Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 p.m. (Zoom Only) Healing service

Friday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein) Kabbalat Shabbat service

(continued page 2)

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

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

Shabbat service and Torah study

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

Kabbalat Shabbat service

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

Shabbat service and Torah study

Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)

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

Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. (Price Chapel)

Shabbat service and Torah study

Friday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. (Bornstein) Kabbalat Shabbat Hanukkah service with Student Choir

Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. (Bornstein)

B'not Mitzvah of Sophia and Rebecca Krik

(continued page 3)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

By participating in the Fellowship, I will continue my exploration of how to best serve people in interfaith relationships in a way that is authentic to my personal understanding of Judaism, my rabbinate, my work at Congregation Kol Ami and in the wider Jewish community. I will have the opportunity to study with a variety of experts on issues related to interfaith relationships, and I'll be challenged to evaluate my own preconceived notions about how rabbis and synagogues can best meet interfaith couples and families where they are.

There are 27 rabbis in my cohort, the fourth of its kind, joining us from 20 different metro areas in the US as well as Toronto. This is the most denominationally diverse cohort yet, with rabbis ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion and Hebrew College (nondenominational), AJU Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative); Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform, my alma mater); and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

My colleagues in my cohort, and the 18Doors staff who work with the Fellowship, will serve as thought partners for the next 18 months, as well as after I complete the Fellowship. And in a fun moment of Jewish geography (or as my brother calls it, "two degrees of separation"), my *chavruta* (regular study partner) for this fellowship will be Rabbi Howard Tilman, whose father, Hazzan David Tilman, served Beth Sholom Congregation as cantor for many years.

Our learning began in October with a three-day retreat in Skokie, Illinois. We were privileged to study with Dr. Samira Mehta, a professor of Jewish Studies and the author of <u>Beyond Chrismukkah:</u> <u>The Christian—Jewish Interfaith Family in the United States</u>, which recounted the history of interfaith families in America and described a variety of ways that families navigate raising children with multiple heritages. We watched a documentary film (<u>Leaps of Faiths</u>) about The Chicago Interfaith Family School, where Jewish-Catholic families educate their children in the traditions of both faiths, and heard a panel of students, parents, and clergy who had been involved in the program.

(continued page 3)

Rabbi's Message (continued)

No matter where we were on the denominational spectrum, each of us experienced moments that tested our boundaries or raised new questions for us. Even as someone who officiates at weddings for interfaith couples (and has several interfaith couples in my own family), I found that there was still a tremendous amount that I didn't know about the experiences of interfaith couples and families. The participation of so many Conservative rabbis made our conversations especially interesting, as the Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative movement currently prohibits its rabbis from officiating—or even attending—interfaith wedding ceremonies.

I'm looking forward to continuing to learn with colleagues and teachers over the next 18 months and beyond. But in the meantime, if you are part of an interfaith family (and there are many different ways to define that), I'd love to hear from you: What would you want the rabbis in the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship to know?



SAVE THE DATE!

We will be holding a Chai Tea on Tuesday, November 28th at 2:00 p.m. in our community room.

Come join us for drinks, snacks, schmoozing and study (Topic TBA).

RSVP to Elaine at execdir@kolami.info no later than Sunday, November 26th.

Hope you will be able to join us.

WORSHIP SERVICES

(continued)

Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)
Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. (Bornstein) *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Friday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)
Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only) *Shabbat* service and *Torah* study

Friday, December 29 at 7:30 p.m. (Bornstein)
Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday, December 30 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom Only)
Shabbat service and Torah study



WASN'T IT JUST SUMMER? KOL AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PLANS FOR END OF (SECULAR) YEAR

As we are finally finding our routine at Kol Ami Religious School after the fall holidays, it's hard to believe it's already time to start thinking about Thanksgiving and Hanukkah!

This is a time of year when it's natural for those of us who have what we need to think of others who aren't so fortunate. Our KARS curriculum focuses on the Jewish values that encourage our students to be active community members and to consider how they can improve the world. This month, we will all participate in a day of food packing for people dealing with food insecurity with the Jewish Relief Agency. We will also focus on both community service and social justice as the Hanukkah season approaches.

Our post-B'nai Mitzvah students have been turning their attention to social justice this year. Some have been studying homelessness and poverty in our community, while others have been discussing how climate change impacts some more than others. We are fortunate to have several of our high school students participating in the Religious Action Center Fellowship, through which they are learning about the impact and prevention of gun violence, with Jewish teens from across the country. We are looking forward to their culminating project this spring.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 p.m.: Seventh-and Eighth-Grade trip to House of Kosher, dinner served
- Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.: Religious School Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Student choir
- Sunday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.: Kol-A-Minis at the Jewish Relief Agency
- Sunday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.: Volunteer Day at the Jewish Relief Agency, all classes
- Thursday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.: Religious School Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, November 22 through Sunday, November 26: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
- Wednesday, December 6: Seventh and Eighth Grade trip to the Goldman-Strom mikvah, time TBA
- Sunday, December 10, 10:00 a.m.: Family Hanukkah Celebration
- Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.: Dinner Served for Seventh and Eighth Grade
- Sunday, December 24 through Sunday, December 31: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Kol A-Minis and KARS Volunteer Day with

JRA Juniors



Sunday, November 12, 9:00am

> 10980 Dutton Road Philadelphia, PA

Join us for a family-friendly foodpacking experience with the Jewish Relief Agency!

Register at https://jewishreliefagency.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=79938



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THANKFULNESS

In November, we give thanks, tapping into our rich Jewish tradition of gratitude that is deeply embedded in our heritage. Here is some of what's on my Kol Ami thankfulness list:

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"I am thankful for..."
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Your time; whether you are new to the Bulletin as a result of recent High Holiday encouragement, or our regular readers.

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"I am thankful for..."
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Our Religious School program and all the people in this community who, over 12-plus years, have educated and led my children on their journey to their upcoming B'Not Mitzvah and beyond.

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"I am thankful for..."
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The new streaming camera and sound for use in the Bornstein Auditorium during Friday night worship services. See how good it sounds during the Adult Choir service on 11/3 and the Student Choir service on 11/10

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"I am thankful for..."
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The Phillies; regardless how it goes (I'm writing this in early October.) Sorry, I couldn't help myself.

I am hopeful that you took advantage of some of last month's programming whether in worship services, social activities, or general participation. When you finish reading through this Bulletin, please take a moment to put an event, any event, on your phone calendar. Then assign the event a unique color for Kol Ami so the event stands out. Whether our digital calendars look as cluttered as fall foliage or not, this event will be the "leaf" that "pops."

To follow up on what I said during the High Holidays, I want to extend an offer to all members of our community. We are eager to create programming that enriches the lives of our members and fosters a sense of togetherness. If you have ideas or suggestions for events, workshops, or activities that you believe would benefit our community, please don't hesitate to share them with me. Nothing is too "out there" to consider.

May this November be a time of reflection, gratitude, and meaningful connection for all of us. I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions.

Respectfully,

Justin L. Krik, Co-President

Coffee, Cake and Conversation

with your Co-Presidents

When: Sunday, November 19, 2023 from 10 a.m. to

Noon

Where: Kol Ami Community Room

All members are welcome to join us for a nosh and conversation. This is an opportunity to meet with Ben and Justin to hear their thoughts on the state of Kol Ami, ask questions and socialize with others.

Please RSVP to Elaine (execdir@kolami.info) by November 12 if you plan to attend so we can make sure to have enough treats on hand.

Hope to see you there!

Ben Long and Justin Krik, Co-Presidents

Study at the Shul with Kol Ami: Adult Learning Opportunities for Fall 2023!

Please watch your email or contact the office for more information about upcoming programs.

Weekly Shabbat Morning Services and Torah Study

Saturday mornings, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Price Chapel

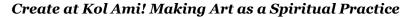
This year we will be exploring the weekly *haftarah* portions using the new book new book *Prophetic*

Voices: Renewing and Reimagining Haftarah.

Can you build your sukkah on a camel? Chai Tea in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 5, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Kol Ami/Beth Sholom Sukkah

Spend the morning in the Kol Ami/Beth Sholom sukkah with Rabbi Berkowitz. We'll shake the lulav and etrog, enjoy some snacks and schmoozing, and take a look at a wild Talmudic text about the strangest places we might build a sukkah, which inspired Rabbi Berkowitz's new picture book *The Moving Box Sukkah*! RSVP to execdir@kolami.info.



Sunday, October 29, 1-3 p.m. Bornstein Auditorium

Join Rabbi Berkowitz, creative writing instructor and collage artist Janet Falon, and art therapist and mixed-media artist Mindy Jacobson-Levy for an afternoon of art-making for its own sake. Using the model of the <u>Jewish Studio Project</u>, we'll explore how different types of artistic practices can be used as tools for learning, reflection, self-care, and creative play—all grounded in Jewish text. Come explore with us in a fun, safe, accessible, and judgment-free environment, where artistic skills are not expected or required. Take a creative leap of faith with us! RSVP to <u>execdir@kolami.info</u> by October 15th so that we can make sure we have enough supplies. This event is for adults 18+ only.



Writing the Sacred Story: Classical and Creative Midrash

Thursdays, October 26 – November 16 (4 sessions), 3 p.m. on Zoom

Look at ancient and modern examples of midrash, then try your hand at creating interpretations of our people's sacred story.

This course is being offered in partnership with LAASOK, the new virtual, liberal beit midrash (house of study). Members of Kol Ami can attend Rabbi Berkowitz's sessions **free of charge.** Contact rabbi@kolamielkinspark.org to sign up, and visit laasok.org for information on the other amazing courses.

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Jewish Wisdom, Environmental Justice

A Four-Part Series, Thursdays (10/26, 11/9, 11/30, and 12/7) at 7 p.m. on Zoom

"Ten Teachings on Judaism and the Environment"

2 Thursdays, October 26 and November 9, 7 p.m. on Zoom (Register: Session 1/Session 2)

For our first two sessions, Rabbi Berkowitz will lead us in an exploration of Jewish wisdom about our relationship to, and our responsibility for, the natural world we live in, based on Rabbi Lawrence Troster's "Ten Teachings on Judaism and the Environment." For our third and fourth sessions, we will have special guests speaking about their experiences working for climate justice in a Jewish context.

A Fictional Rabbi Confronts Climate Change: With special guest Rachel Sharona Lewis, author of The Rabbi Who Prayed for The City

Co-sponsored by Women's Connections, The Rainbow Alliance, and our Shomrei Adamah Committee

Thursday, November 30, 7 p.m. on Zoom (Register here)

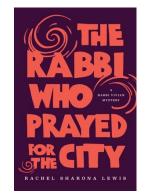
Rachel Sharona Lewis is the author of the Rabbi Vivian mystery series. Her second novel <u>The Rabbi Who Prayed for the City</u> was recently released, following her debut <u>The Rabbi Who Prayed with Fire.</u> The series was inspired by Harry Ke-

melman's Rabbi David Small mysteries from the 1960's and 70s, and centers on a young, queer,

female rabbi. Like Kemelman's books, these engage questions of significance within our contemporary American Jewish community. Sprinkled with humor and a cast of interesting characters, The Rabbi Who Prayed for this City grapples with the realities and impacts of climate change as well, what it looks like for a rabbi and some congregants to have diverging perspectives on Israel, and the various ways different stakeholders think about home and family.

By day, Rachel organizes synagogues and other faith communities in the Greater Boston area around different social justice efforts, most notably, in the work of welcoming immigrants. Writing these books has been a wel-

come creative outlet and an opportunity to imagine, in a different format, what might be possible in our Jewish communities.



Sustainable Landscaping—Let's Start a Conversation! With Boris Kerzner from Grow Our Food Landscaping

Thursday, December 7th, 7 p.m. on Zoom (Register here)

Boris Kerzner is a resident of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, who is passionate about creating landscapes that provide food for humans and wildlife. He started his career as a software engineer, but then got into herbal medicine and gardening before going back to school to study Sustainable Landscape Design & Planning at the <u>Conway School</u> in rugged Western Massachusetts. With a deeper understanding of natural systems and an enhanced toolkit, he launched this business in the summer of 2022.

<u>Grow Our Food Landscaping</u>, operating out of Cheltenham Township, specializes in the design, installation, and maintenance of sustainable landscapes. We're particularly passionate about growing food in all its forms, whether it be a potted tomato plant, a vegetable garden, a berry patch, a couple fruit trees, or a stand of nut trees! Let us help you grow more food than

you thought possible. And if the abundance feels daunting, we can handle that for you too, harvesting just what you need, leaving it by your doorstep, and donating the rest to local food pantries. We are also firm proponents of native plants, and happily incorporate pollinator-friendly and native plants. Some of these natives are also edible, think pawpaws, aronia berries, elderberries, and pecans.

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP Main Office

Main Office

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Rabbi Leah R. Berkowitz

215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot Holin

Founding Rabbi

215-882-0017

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Ben Long, Co-President

Linda Jacobs, Vice President

Gary Sender, Treasurer

Ronit Sugar, Secretary

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IN RESPECT OF SHABBAT, THE OFFICE CLOSES AT 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAYS.

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AN EREV SHABBAT TREAT

On Friday, December 1st, at 7:30 PM, please join us as we welcome back our favorite artist-in-residence. He'll be joined by Rabbi Berkowitz, Rebecca Schwartz, Fran Surkin, and our wonderful Adult Choir for an evening of soulful prayer and song.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue
Tuesday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Chairs: Vincent Pace and Jane Katzer Pace

Membership Committee

Thursday, November 16 and December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Abby Binder

Religious School Committee

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

Chair: Rachael Simon

Social Action Committee

Thursday, November 2 at 7:15 p.m.

Chair: Shelley Chamberlain

THE INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIP DIALOG OFFERS SUPPORT AND CONNECTION

Here are the dates for the next few meetings of the Interfaith Relationship Dialog (IRD): Tuesday, November 28, 2023 and Tuesday, March 26, 2024, both at 7:30. Further information for each meeting will be sent prior to the meeting. If you 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

Robert Schiowitz and Ronit Sugar on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Adam, to Colleen Gallagher on October 14, 2023

Joel and Rebecca Schwartz on the occasion of the marriage of their son, Jeffrey, to Leila Naitove on October 14, 2023



KOL AMI WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Please bring new or gently used winter coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves to Elaine's office at the synagogue, to be donated to those in need this winter.

Any questions please call Ronit Sugar at 215-208-7027

KNITTING/CROCHETING GROUP



Want to learn how to knit a blanket this fall? We look for ward to seeing you at our next Knitting/Crochet Group on **Monday, November 13 and December 11, from 5-7pm** (location TBD). Please bring your own dinner and project, if you're working on something. Beginners are always welcome! Basic instruction is provided.

Please RSVP to Shari Johnson mommyone@aol.com or Linda George Lin-daSGeorge@gmail.com

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Tom Godo Cousin of Gabriel Maravankin

Sonny Meles Father of Bean Meles

May their memories forever be blessings in the midst of our people



Kol A-Minis Sukkot Party. Children and their families sang and danced, had a read aloud with Rabbi Berkowitz, and painted



"Pizza in the Hut" event. Students sang, shook the lulav, and enjoyed pizza. Rabbi Berkowitz also read her new book, *The Moving Box Sukkah*.



FUNDRAISING FOR KOL AMI

RESCHEDULED DATE—DECEMBER 3rd

BUY A PRINT— SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

Cheryl J. Turetsky is a local artist and Kol Ami congregant, who has been creating artwork since childhood, and never stopped.

Her genres include landscapes, nature, animals, still-life and abstract renditions.

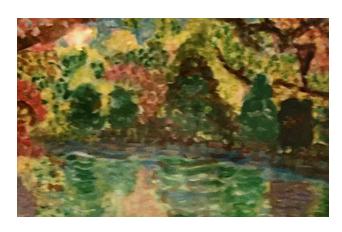
Her art credentials include a B.A. (Art Major) from the State University at Stony Brook, New York, and an M.A. in Creative Arts in Therapy from Hahnemann University Graduate School (now Drexel-Hahnemann) in Philadelphia, PA Additionally, for many years she has studied printmaking and painting at the Cheltenham Center for the Arts.

Her artworks are in private collections, and have been displayed in galleries in Philadelphia and suburban Philadelphia.

She is currently selling her recent prints, with half the proceeds going to Kol Ami.

BUY A PRINT — SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

Sunday, December 3, Community Room CASH OR CHECK ONLY 11-3 PM. Lite Snacks





The Kol Ami Women's Connections is sponsoring a tour at Rosenbach

Philadelphia's Rosenbach Historic House and Rare Book Museum, 2008-2010 Delancey Street, Philadelphia.

Friday, November 17, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a tour of the house and museum led by our very own former President, Gary Turetsky. The museum showcases impressive holdings of rare books, manuscripts, furniture, and antique art. Gary has been a docent for five years at the Rosenbach, the home of Dr. Abraham Rosenbach who was recognized in his lifetime as the world's premier rare book dealer. He will share with you his knowledge of Dr. Rosenbach and his collection of rare books and art, including the original Thomas Sully portrait of Rebecca Gratz.

The museum's charge is \$8 per person (senior discount), the cost to be paid when you arrive. The Rosenbach limits tours to 10 guests. RSVP to Jane Finkle at janefinkle@gmail.com ASAP. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Also people should arrive by 10:15 so Gary can start on time. The tour runs for approximately one hour.

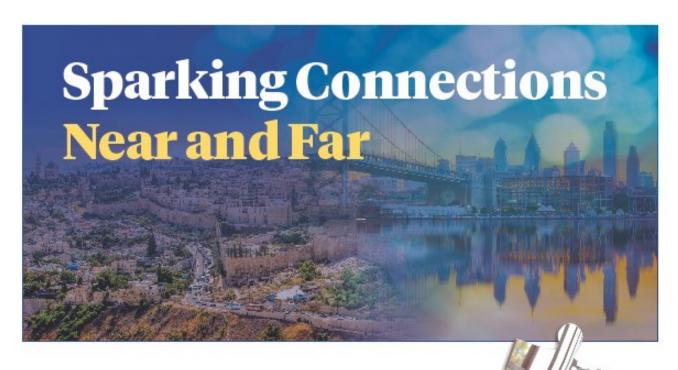


SUKKOT IN THE FIELDS—OCTOBER 7, 2023









If you are 45 or under, identify as Jewish and LGBT and are looking to connect with others on a deeper level – while learning more about specialized topics through an Israel lens – the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia has a program for you!

Sparking Connections brings together people who share similar interests to learn more about topics through an Israel lens, builds community and offers an immersive travel opportunity to Israel.

Specialized topics include:

- LGBT life in Israel
- Gender Issues
- · Education and health
- Diversity and inclusion
- And more...what sparks your interest?

About the Program

Shaped by the members' interests within the cohort and led by Galia Godel, we'll hear and learn from experts in their fields.

The group will:

- Meet eight times over the year to learn more about Israel and LGBT life there.
- Will have the opportunity to travel jointly to Israel in the summer or fall of 2024 on a specially tailored trip.

Subsidies available to participants who participate in 75% of the pre-trip sessions. Study sessions begin September 2023.

Ready to spark new connections?

Have a drink on us and learn more at our Information session: October 17 at 6:00 p.m. Call Galia for location details and questions at ggodel@jfcsphilly.org or 267.273.6006







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 ://www.kolamielkinspark.org/donate

ARTS & CULTURE FUND

In Honor Of:

Janet Falon *Betsy McKinstry*

Joel and Rebecca Schwartz on the wedding of their son, Jeffrey to Leila Naitove Fran Surkin

In Memory of:

Richard McKinstry Fran Surkin

Sonny Meles Fran Surkin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carol Laskin

In Honor Of:

Ben Adams and Gail Korostoff on the birth of their granddaughter, Carmel Adi Preter Alan and Elaine Gershenson Rabbi Elliot and Susan Holin on the wedding of their son, David to Emily Chappel

Alan and Elaine Gershenson

Vincent Pace and Jane Katzer-Pace on the wedding of their daughter, Sarah to Deepak Premkumar

Alan and Elaine Gershenson

In Memory Of:

Herbert and Lucille Barrett *The Barrett Family*

Marion Brettell *Alan and Elaine Gershenson*

Adam Hoffman Alan and Elaine Gershenson

Chuck and Lynn Katz *Alan and Elaine Gershenson*

Sonny Meles *Caring Congregants Committee*

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

The birth of our granddaughter Carmel Adi Preter

Ben Adams and Gail Korostoff

22nd wedding anniversary of Jonathan Shandell and Robin Shane Frederick and Susan Shandell

In Memory Of:

Barney Levin *Alvin Turetsky*

Luis Maravankin *Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin*

Lillian Schafer Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin

Celia Turetsky *Alvin Turetsky*

Isidore Turetsky Alvin Turetsky

