



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

Congregation Kol Ami Welcomes Student Rabbi to Co-Lead High Holy Day Services



Congregation Kol Ami is excited to announce that Brooklyn Michalowicz, a student rabbi from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York City, will co-lead our High Holy Day services this fall. Currently, Brooklyn is the rabbinic intern at Central Synagogue in NYC. She leads Shabbat services for young adults in their 20s and 30s and the broader community. You can watch one of her inspiring sermons [on YouTube](#). She also

hosts community-building events, facilitates Torah studies, and just finished teaching a course on Jewish adulting.

Kol Ami's Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Schwartz said, "After watching Brooklyn's video, I was impressed in many ways. Central Synagogue chooses the best of the best. I loved Brooklyn's style and smile, and I just got what I refer to as 'good vibes' from her. After meeting her in person, she felt like the perfect fit for our High Holy Day needs."

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Raised in Granada Hills, CA, Brooklyn's family attended a conservative shul. She moved to the East Coast at the age of 13 to attend a Jewish boarding school in North Carolina. Her mom converted to Judaism, and she described her dad as not traditional for most of his adult life until about 10 years ago, even though he attended a yeshiva. Her family celebrated the holidays and occasional Shabbat at Chabad. Brooklyn remembered how her mom organized a table every year on Mitzvah Day to make blankets for shelters and how her Midrash classes allowed her to think expansively about Torah.

"I felt nourished by being Jewish in a holistic way. Still, because my family is quite interfaith, I have come to understand that we are all climbing different paths up the same mountain, whether that is toward what people call God, Wisdom, Truth, or Purpose," she said.

At 22 years old, she knew she wanted to become a rabbi. "It was on Yom Kippur, actually, that I had a calling to do this work. I had a moment of clarity in which the most significant, meaningful moments of my life aligned in my mind, and they were all Jewish. Like an arrow pointing me to the rabbinate. I feel so blessed to have had this moment and to be doing this work. I love God. I love community (and building it). And I love Judaism. So there really isn't a better place for me to be," she said.

Brooklyn spent a year and four months living in Israel and traveled there while in school and as a Birthright coordinator. "There, I was challenged by text, politics, pluralistic communal living and learning, and changing dynamics between friends and loved ones in Israel and abroad." She went on to describe her "tough love" relationship with God and talked about her spiritual advisor, who shared that "one can only have tough love with someone you really love who really loves you back." Brooklyn said this gave her permission to keep developing her theology, even when she felt distant from God.

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“To keep loving God and Israel even when I struggle (and continue to struggle) to understand how we arrived at where we are today. We can always return to God at any time, in any mental state,” she said.

Brooklyn describes herself as a “Jewish nerd” who loves an opportunity to study Torah all night. She said this is probably why Yom Kippur and Shavuot are currently her favorite Jewish holidays. She loves chocolate babka, and her favorite Yiddish word is “kvell.”

Brooklyn was selected by a three-person committee consisting of Kol Ami members Elaine Gershenson, Laurie Jubelirer Langman, and Marty Seidman. This committee came about when Kol Ami's Co-President, Ben Long, asked for volunteers from the Board to search for someone to conduct High Holy Day services. The hiring process involved reaching out to representatives from the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Rabbinic Placement Commission and HUC-JIR. The committee received resumes and interviewed highly qualified candidates, and they are now extremely pleased with their choice.

“Her youthful energy and genuine optimism are a welcome change from the challenges that we, as a congregation, have recently endured. Kol Ami is a giving community that finds itself in a position to offer a generous hand and a rare opportunity to a deserving, gifted, and committed HUC Rabbinic student to serve our community, co-lead our High Holy Day services, and gain some valuable experience,” said Marty Seidman.

Brooklyn said, “Kol Ami is a warm and committed community: committed to its members, its identity, and its potential growth. I’m looking forward to matching that warmth and contributing the Torah and energy I have to build confidence in the souls of the community as you move through this next stage of transition.”

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT, JUSTIN KRIK

Dear Congregation,

As we transition from the warmth of summer to autumn crispness, I want to share some updates and exciting news with you.

This summer has been a season of growth and connection for our community. Our July Meet-and-Greet mixer with our friends at Darchei Noam was a wonderful success, with plentiful attendance and deeply enriching experiences for everyone who participated. If you were unable to attend, more events are in the works, so stay tuned.

The transition of our physical location to Ambler continues and we are settling in nicely. Many of our fellow congregants have volunteered to host/co-host erev Shabbat services on Friday evenings with Rebecca Schwartz. We thank you and hope other people will try this enriching opportunity. Please contact Rebecca Schwartz if you are interested.

Your Board of Trustees continues to work through our strategic initiative, meeting and coordinating with the Darchei Noam community to further our efforts, while continuing to explore alternatives for our congregation's future, and adapting to feedback we want and receive from you.

As we look ahead, thoughtful preparations have been made for the High Holy Days. Rebecca is fully involved and excited, coordinating with our guest Rabbi and the choir to preserve and share our cherished prayers and songs. We will celebrate in a different place, but there will be many familiar faces. I look forward to spending the High Holy Days with all of you.

Sincerely,

Justin Krik
Co-President

WORSHIP SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

Friday, 6 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - First Friday erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 7 – 11:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Shabbat on the Trail
10:30 a.m.—Congregation Kol Ami—Shabbat service—Rebecca led on
Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

Friday, 13 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 14 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Shavat Vayinafash service

Friday, 20 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – “Welcome back dinner” 6:00 p.m.;
service – 6:45 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - erev Shabbat service—
Zoom only

Saturday, 21 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Austin Hirsch B’Nai Mitzvah
10:30 a.m.—Congregation Kol Ami—Shabbat service—Rebecca led on
Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

Friday, 27 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam on Zoom
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 28 – 8:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Selichot – Dessert followed by 9:00
p.m. Havdalah and service



Would you like to co-lead a Shabbat service with Rebecca at Darchei Noam or on Zoom? It’s fun, and Rebecca will guide the way! Co-leaders are needed for erev Shabbat (with or without a sermon) and co-leaders are needed to lead the Torah study on Shabbat mornings. Please contact Rebecca at rebeccasongs@verizon.net or text her at 215-518-7783 to be included in the sign-up options. If you’ve already volunteered, thank you You’ll automatically be included and don’t need to respond.



HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICE CALENDAR

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 28 at 8:30 p.m.

Dessert followed by 9:00 p.m. Havdalah and service at Darchei Noam

Rosh Hashanah Services

Wednesday, October 2 at 8:00 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah with Adult Choir at Gratz College

Thursday, October 3

10:00 a.m. – Rosh Hashanah with Adult Choir at Gratz College

4:30 p.m. – Tashlich B'yachad service at Darchei Noam

Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur Services

Friday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Kol Nidrei with cellist Kathy Read and Adult Choir at Gratz College

Saturday, October 12 – All services are at Gratz College

10:00 a.m. - Yom Kippur service

3:00 p.m. – Healing service

3:30 p.m. – Afternoon service

4:45 p.m. – Yizkor service

5:30 p.m. – N'ilah service

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

John England
Father of William England

Joshua Seth Ezekiel
Nephew of Rachel Ezekiel-Fishbein

Sylvia Fishbein
Mother of Joel Fishbein

Howard M. Rice
Father of Cheryl Rice Wohlstetter

Mazal Samuel
Mother of Orly Maravankin

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

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

215-635-3110

Rabbi Elliot Holin

Founding Rabbi

215-882-0017

Justin Krik, Co-President

Ben Long, Co-President

Linda Jacobs, Vice President

**Jennifer Streitwieser, Vice
President**

Gary Sender, Treasurer

Jeffrey Cohen, Secretary

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

Elaine Stevens

Executive Director

215-635-3110

Rebecca Schwartz

Cantorial Soloist

215-572-6094

Janet Falon

Bulletin Editor

janetfalon@gmail.com

Please send correspondence to:

Congregation Kol Ami

1434 Academy Lane

Elkins Park, PA 19027

quetions@kolamielkinspark.org

Website: www.kolamielkinspark.org

Facebook:

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

SOUNDING the **SHOFAR** with Justin

Ever wonder how hard it is to sound the shofar at High Holidays? You can learn in one easy lesson with Justin Krik, who has sounded the shofar at Congregation Kol Ami for almost a decade.

Join in the fun and learn about the who, where, why, when, and how to blow a shofar.

This event is interactive for all ages.

Shofars and snacks provided.

Sunday, September 15 at 4 to 5 p.m.
at Darchei Noam

High Holiday Honey Sale Is Back!



L'Shana Tova Kol Ami! 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 managed 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 10th* or September 17th***

Time: between **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 are required. Supply is limited. Please complete the order form below and e-mail it back to Jane Tausig at jetausig@gmail.com by **09/05/2024**. 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 9/05/2024.

Name:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Number jars requested @ \$7.50 each:

Amount due:

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

CSA member? Yes No

Preferred pickup date: September 10 or September 17

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

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, 1434 Academy Lane, Elkins Park, PA 19027 and indicate to which fund it should be applied, or visit our website at :

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

DISCOVER ISRAEL FUND

In Memory Of:

Mazal Samuel

David Hyman

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory Of:

John England

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Caring Congregants Committee

Mazal Tov

Guy and Karol Appel on the marriage of their daughter Taylor to Patrick McCullagh on August 3.

David Baker and Irene Levy Baker on the marriage of their son Adam to Lauren Mittleman on July 20.

Abby Binder and Jane Tausig are excited to announce the births of their newest grandchildren! Hannah Eleanor Shapiro was born on July 5, 2024, to Abby's daughter, Elizabeth, and son-in-law David. And on August 5, 2024, Shane Leonard Berson was born to Jane's daughter, Ruthie, and son-in-law Aaron. Also, on August 21, 2024 Eliana Suzette Schwartz was born to Jane's daughter, Karen, and our son-in-law Jake and 3 year old sister Livvy. The babies and their new parents are all doing well.