



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

Seasonal Reflections and Renewal—Justin Krik, Co-President

As the colors of fall shift to winter's quiet, we are invited to slow down, reflect, and connect deeply with the rhythms of the seasons. These cooler months call us to pause, seek wisdom in stillness, and prepare ourselves for the celebrations ahead. The fall holidays have centered us, and we carry that grounding with us, moving intentionally toward the light of Hanukkah and the hope it represents.

This season offers unique opportunities for warmth and togetherness within our congregation. It's a time to join in Shabbat services, study sessions, and seasonal gatherings. Our winter activities and programs are listed throughout this Bulletin and will be shared over our Listserv. There are so many wonderful ways to bring light into the community, extending a helping hand and connecting meaningfully with others.

Hanukkah soon approaches, calling us to remember and celebrate resilience, rededication, and the miracles of our people. As we prepare, consider sharing this season with family and friends, and extending invitations to those seeking a place of belonging and light.

May the warmth of our community and our shared traditions bring peace and inspiration to each of us, lighting the way through the winter months and beyond.

Kol Ami's Shul Stories **November/December 2024**

Welcome to Kol Ami's Shul Stories! On a regular basis, we will share stories from Kol Ami members who have attended services or programs at Darchei Noam. Please take a minute to read about their experiences. We welcome everyone to let us know what they have learned about Darchei Noam. If you want to submit a story, please send it to Linda Jacobs at ltjacobs45@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you

Attending Creative Services at Darchei Noam

I enjoyed attending some recent services and programs at Darchei Noam, which I would like to share. I attended two creative services on Saturday mornings last spring and this past summer. At the two creative Shabbat services, congregants and clergy sat in a circle, and the services included meditation, creative readings, and music. One service was followed by lunch and a speaker, which was lovely. I also had the opportunity to participate in a joint Tashlich service at the Wissahickon Creek across the street from Darchei Noam. It was held in a beautiful park/trail area and included music and a short, interactive service. Before and after the service, we threw bread into the creek to symbolically let go of things from the past year, allowing us to start anew. I found the Darchei Noam community to be warm and welcoming.

Laurie Jubelirer Langman

A Welcoming Coffee and Conversation with Rabbi Danielle and Darchei Noam Members

A few weeks ago, I attended a "coffee and conversation" get together with members of Darchei Noam led by Rabbi Danielle. Also attending from Kol Ami were Jean Ettinger, Jane Finkle, and Cyana Perry. Approximately 15 members from Darchei Noam were also present. Rabbi Danielle saw this event as an opportunity for those of us from Kol Ami to get to know members from Darchei Noam. The meeting was pleasant, and the members of Darchei Noam were friendly and receptive to the four of us. The Rabbi was especially congenial, and I felt welcome. It was clear to me that the members of Darchei Noam are looking forward to having us join them and that their culture is quite compatible with what I have enjoyed at Kol Ami.

Alan Gershenson

Kol Ami's Shul Stories
November/December 2024
(continued)

Enjoying Shabbat Dinner and Service in Ambler

In light of our current year of dating between Kol Ami and Darchei Noam and the possibility of a merger in the future, Irene and I thought it made sense to see what Darchei Noam was all about. We have belonged to Kol Ami for over thirty years and are obviously comfortable with the rituals, services, and, of course, the community. The prospect of a different style of worship with new people is something we have to wrap our heads around.

So, on a Friday afternoon in September, we ventured out from Center City to Ambler via SEPTA to experience a Shabbat service at Darchei Noam for ourselves. Candidly, we weren't too excited about the commute, but the train ride was easy. I read the newspaper while Irene caught up on some e-mails. When we arrived in "downtown" Ambler, it was only a two-minute walk to a new restaurant, which Irene (of course) had picked out, and Darchei Noam is a five-minute walk from there.

Any concerns we had about combining with Darchei Noam were quickly reduced. As soon as we walked in, Darchei Noam member Amy Polis came to greet us, as did Chazzan Unger, who knew we were coming. They introduced us to Rabbi Danielle, who was warm, welcoming, and effusive. No surprise to anyone who has met her or watched her YouTube videos. We also had a chance to speak with several other members before the service and during the Oneg. Everyone was welcoming and genuinely happy to see us there.

So, what about the Shabbat service itself? Despite some concern that Darchei Noam would be too "conservative" for our tastes, we found the services were just like those at Kol Ami. Not every detail, but it had the same overall vibe. And services were actually shorter than Kol Ami's Friday night services! They used a different prayerbook but mainly recited the same prayers, blessings, and songs. All the tunes were familiar because much of it was Rebecca's music. It was all comfortable and surprisingly familiar. Honestly, the only thing that stood out to me as different is that Darchei Noam practices the Conservative tradition of saying part of some prayers silently rather than out loud. I think I can manage that.

When we arrived back home that Friday evening, we were both uplifted and reassured. This can work.

David and Irene Baker

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President**

Gary Sender, Treasurer

Jeffrey Cohen, Secretary

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

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

Curious & Courageous Conversations about Israel

November 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.—Zoom only

It has been a year since October 7th horror of that day continues to haunt us. As this war continues with no end in sight many of us find ourselves shackled by despair, reactivity, and fear as we struggle to both communicate and listen to others in constructive and compassionate ways. It is our hope to create a community that equally values Oz (strength) and Anavah (humility), then we must find ways to support and deepen our connections to each other as we strive to find comfort in the discomfort of difficult and messy conversations. This heart-centered and courageous workshop will be facilitated by Kol Ami member Orly Maravankin and Darchei Noam member Eleanora Bartoli with support from Rabbi Danielle.

Mazal Tov

Michael Silverman and Robin Rifkin on the marriage of their son Eli to Megan Thompson on October 19th.

WORSHIP SERVICES

NOVEMBER

Friday, 1 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – First Friday erev Shabbat service with Adult Choir

Saturday, 2 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Contemplative service (Rabbi only)

Friday, 8 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service followed by TAG Talk “Why Jews Love Justice”

Saturday, 9 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Adult B’nai mitzvah service

Friday, 15 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam (Zoom only)
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 16 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – Shabbat service (in-person only)

Friday, 22 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – 6:00 p.m. dinner; 6:45 p.m. service with 4th grade
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service (Zoom only)

Saturday, 23 – 10:30 a.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – Shabbat service (in-person only)

Friday, 29 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 30 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Annual service of Gratitude (Zoom only) (Hazzan only)

DECEMBER

Friday, 6 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – erev Shabbat service
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – First Friday erev Shabbat service with Adult Choir

Saturday, 7 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Haedyn Brodof B’Nai Mitzvah

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

Saturday, 14 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – L’dor Vador and 6th grade Shabbat service followed by luncheon

Friday, 20 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam and Congregation Kol Ami – 6:00 p.m. dinner; 6:45 Shabbat B’yachad (together) with Junior Choir

Saturday, 21 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – Shabbat service (in-person only)

Friday, 27 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – Taste of Shabbat (Zoom only)
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – Hanukkah/erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 28 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – Shabbat service (Zoom only)

WHY JEWS LOVE JUSTICE

WITH LAURIE JUBELIRER LANGMAN
ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 8:15 P.M.
(AFTER SHABBAT SERVICES)
AT DARCHEI NOAM.



Criminal Defense and Civil Rights Attorney and Kol Ami member Laurie Jubelirer Langman will speak about her experiences with the criminal justice system and include stories about the struggles, successes and defeats of her clients as they pursued justice in a system that often places too much value on incarceration and punishment. She will relate her mission to make a difference in her clients' lives to the Jewish values of justice and taking care of our fellow human beings.

Laurie is friends with some men who were wrongly convicted and spent decades in prison for crimes that they didn't commit.

Proverbs 31:8-9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." This verse calls for advocacy and fair judgment, especially for the vulnerable.

KolAmi

WOMEN'S CONNECTION PROGRAM



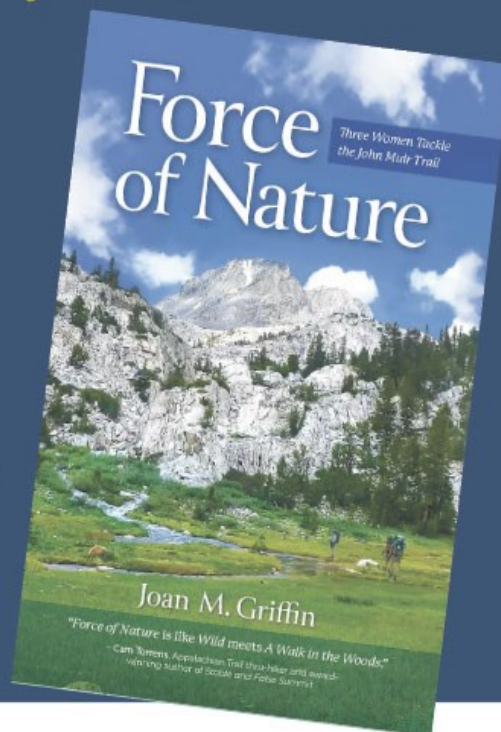
AUTHOR TALK: FORCE OF NATURE

THREE WOMEN OVER AGE FIFTY
HIKE THE 200-MILE JOHN MUIR TRAIL

Author, Joan Griffen, will speak to us about her challenging, exciting, and transformative journey along the most beautiful long-distance trail in the world.

Thursday, November 21,
Zoom, 7pm

RSVP by
Monday, November 18th
nat.dyen@gmail.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, 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)

November-December 2024

Discover Israel Fund

In Honor Of:

Janet Falon and her book, In the Spirit of the Holidays
David Hyman

In Memory Of:

Betty Adams
David Hyman

Synagogue Fund

In Honor of Rebecca Schwartz and Brooklyn Michalowicz

William Hyman and Janine Pratt

In Memory Of:

Betty Adams
Caring Congregants Committee
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky

Committee Meetings

Social Action Committee

Tuesday, November 12th at 7:15 p.m. (Zoom only)

Membership Committee

Thursday, November 17th and December 12th at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom only)

Worship Enhancement Committee

Monday, December 16th at 4:00 or 8:00 p.m. (TBD) (home of Joel Edelstein & Betsy McKinstry)