



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

Letter from Ben Long, Co-President

Dear All:

I hope this letter finds you feeling refreshed after a busy time of year. Whether you were surrounded by family and friends, traveling for visits or vacations, celebrating the Festival of Lights, or cramming more memories into the shorter moments of sunlight, I hope you enjoyed the last few weeks of 2024.

In January, I like to reset myself for the new calendar year and focus on what is truly important. I ask myself: Who do I want to see more often? Where do I want to put more of my energy? What “resolutions” can I work on, and what does a life well lived look like to me? We all make these decisions to find our happier/happy place. We can implement our own plans or stay the course. And those paths may be different for each of us. These choices are varied based on age, financial security, family considerations, and the courage to embrace change in whatever form that comes in.

A huge change we face this year as a community is the future of our congregation. I think we can all agree that our beloved Kol Ami was in a difficult position last year with its waning membership, burgeoning deficits, reduced volunteer participation, and anemic attendance. Our community was suffering, and changes had to be made as the status quo was unsustainable. And just like life choices, the needs or preferences of our members may vary such that a single pathway is not ultimately possible.

At last month’s Town Hall meeting, members provided feedback about our partnership with Darchei Noam and introduced alternatives to be discussed, evaluated, and experienced. We must use these next few months to determine what works for us and the community at large. In this new year, we will continue to explore our options and potential pathways together. I look forward to continuing these conversations in a place of openness and shared love for our community, and I pray for a resolution that satisfies most of the congregation.

Ben

SYNAGOGUE LEADERSHIP

Main Office

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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.**

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Cantorial Soloist

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Website: www.kolamielkinspark.org

Facebook:

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

NEW! Beginning on

Saturday, January 11, 2025,

please join us for an interactive Shabbat morning
service with Rebecca

from 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles
in Elkins Park, followed by a light oneg Shabbat.

CAN YOU STUMP REBECCA?

Save the date: Friday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Ever wonder just how many melodies there are for *Adon Olam*? Or whether it's possible that you know any tunes that Rebecca doesn't? Well, Friday night, February 28, is your chance to find out!

This will be a fabulous, fun, and forte (loud) Sing-Down *Shabbat* service. Come try to stump Rebecca with more tunes for *Hineih Mah Tov*, *Oseh Shalom*, and *Adon Olam* than even she knows!

WORSHIP SERVICES

JANUARY

Friday, 3 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 4 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Contemplative service

Friday, 10 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – “Simcha” Second Friday erev Shabbat service with Adult Choir

Saturday, 11 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Musical Shabbat with Adult Choir
11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 17 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – Taste of Shabbat (Zoom only)
7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 18 - 11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 24 – 6:00 p.m. (dinner); 6:45 p.m. Shabbat service– Darchei Noam
7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service (Zoom only)

Saturday, 25 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Matthew Lee B’Nai Mitzvah
11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 31 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

FEBRUARY

Saturday, 1 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Service led by 6th grade
11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 7 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – “Simcha” First Friday erev Shabbat service with Adult Choir

Saturday, 8 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Shabbat service (Hazzan only)
11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 14 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – Taste of Shabbat (Zoom only)
7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Saturday, 15 - 11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 21 – 6:00 p.m. - Darchei Noam and Congregation Kol Ami – Musical Shabbat - 6:00 p.m. dinner;
6:45 Shabbat B’yachad

Saturday, 22 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Emma Beaver B’nai Mitzvah
11:00 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Interactive Shabbat morning service at the home of Robin Eisenberg and Bean Meles

Friday, 28 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami – erev Shabbat service

Join us for the 18th annual
Kol Ami Tu B'Shvat Community Seder
@ Darchei Noam,
211 W Butler Pike, Ambler
Thursday, Feb 13th, 6:00-8:00pm
Open to Friends and Family
Doors open at 5:30



Learn, be inspired, sing, savor symbolic foods and wine and enjoy a delicious dairy-vegetarian dinner in celebration of the New Year of Trees.

Community participation with Rebecca Schwartz & Rabbi Danielle

Our Haggadah and Seder ritual, text and questions connect us to this ancient tradition that celebrates the birthday of trees. It connects us to the natural world on four different levels: physical space, community, world, and spirituality. This seder celebrates conversation, community and commitment toward spiritual and environmental goals.

- \$10 per person contribution to cover event costs---free if you bring food to be shared ---Free for children under 10
- Registration required. [RSVP](#) with number of adults and children, by Feb 9th.
- Bring your own reusable or bio-compostable place settings: dinner and dessert plates, and spoon, fork, drinking cup, wine glass, and napkin. Plates can be scraped before packing to take home at the end of the evening.
- Bring red and white wine to share with your table -or bring grape juice as a non-alcoholic alternative.
- Doors open at 5:30pm. Dinner/ Seder starts promptly at 6:00pm.
- If you'd like to bring a prepared dish (kugel, salad, or dessert), add to [RSVP](#).
- Set-up begins at 5 pm. Please let us know if you can assist.
- Any item prepared must be accompanied by a serving utensil and ingredient list.



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)

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

*Charles Langman and Laurie
Jubelirer Langman*

Joel Cohen
Caring Congregants Committee

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Memory Of:

Isadore Appel
David and Meryle Twersky

Michele Steinbrecher
*Gary Sender and Maria Gardizy
Gary and Cheryl Turetsky*

Condolences

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Betty Adams
Mother of Ben Adams

Joel Cohen
*Father of Julie Cohen
Father of Melissa Cohen*

Howard Jacobs
Father of Linda Jacobs

Michele Steinbrecher
Wife of Barry Steinbrecher

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