



קול עמי

An Intimate and
Dynamic Community

The 'Kol Ami Way' to Shape Our Experience with Darchei Noam: How you can get involved.

Ben Long and Justin Krik

Many of you have asked about how to get involved in shaping our collaboration this year (Year One) and influencing our future Congregation (Year Two). The path is through the lifeblood of our Congregation — our committees and informal groups. Committee and group members create programming that enriches our experience and helps shape our culture.

We now have an increasingly important opportunity to create enriching Kol Ami programming that our members and Darchei Noam members can participate in, appreciate, and also enjoy. With your help, we can bring forward our values and drive Darchei Noam members to learn what makes Kol Ami special. To plan, schedule and communicate about our committee work effectively, we need your skills and talents and timing is critical.

As a young congregation, Darchei Noam does not have the committee structure that we have for member involvement. Our Kol Ami committees and groups can bring energy, structure, and programming that demonstrates value and drives greater involvement by Darchei Noam members. After the High Holy Days, we can plan to provide opportunities for Darchei Noam members to participate in the planning process as well. We are confident that our committees will be an effective vehicle for shaping Year Two. Showing leadership through the depth, breadth and vitality of our committees and groups will greatly enhance our goal of bringing what has always been unique about Kol Ami to a new union. By participating in the programs, events, and activities we create, both congregations will have opportunities to interact naturally.

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The ‘Kol Ami Way’ to Shape Our Experience with Darchei Noam: How you can get involved. *(continued)*

Here is a list of our committees and informal groups.

Kol Ami Committees and Informal Groups

Choir

Caring Congregants

Environmental Stewardship (Shomrei Adamah)

Finance

Inclusion - Special Needs

Interfaith Relationship Dialogue (IRD)

Israel Connection

Membership

Operations

Rainbow Alliance

Social Action

Softball

Women’s Connections

Worship Enhancement (WEC)

If you are interested in joining in to create programming or have questions about our committees and groups, please send an e-mail to questions@kolamielkinspark.org. We will keep you posted on the calendar of events through the Bulletin, listserves and communications from committee co-chairs.

WORSHIP SERVICES

JULY

Friday, 5 – Rebecca away – several choices:

1. Attend Darchei Noam at 6:00 p.m. – Taste of Shabbat with Hazzan Unger (Zoom only)
2. 6:00 p.m. - [Livestreaming - Central Synagogue - Central Synagogue, a Reform congregation in Midtown Manhattan](#)
3. If you wish to watch the service at 7:30 or thereafter,
<https://www.youtube.com/@CentralsynagogueOrg>

Friday, 12 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – Shabbat in the Lot

7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – Second Friday evv Shabbat

Saturday, 13 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Shabbat service – Rebecca available on Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

Friday, 19 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami - evv Shabbat service

Saturday, 20 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Shavat Vayinafash service

Friday, 26 – 7:30 p.m. - Congregation Kol Ami - evv Shabbat service

Saturday, 27 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam with Hazzan Unger (Zoom only) – “A Taste of Shabbat Morning”

10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Shabbat service - Rebecca available on Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

AUGUST

Friday, 2 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam - Shabbat in the Lot

7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - First Friday evv Shabbat service

Saturday, 3 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Shabbat service – Rebecca available on Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

Friday, 9 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - evv Shabbat service

Saturday, 10 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam (Hazzan Unger only)

Monday, 12 – 8:30 p.m. – Darchei Noam – evv Tisha B'av service on Zoom

Friday, 16 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - evv Shabbat service

Saturday, 17 – 10:30 a.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - Shabbat service – Rebecca available on Zoom or hosted by member with potluck lunch

Friday, 23 – 7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami - evv Shabbat service – Rebecca away – lay led on Zoom or will provide congregation with Zoom of universal service

Saturday, 24 – 10:00 a.m. – Darchei Noam – Contemplative service (Rabbi Danielle only)

Friday, 30 – 6:00 p.m. – Darchei Noam – “Taste of Shabbat” on Zoom

7:30 p.m. – Congregation Kol Ami – evv Shabbat service

Congregations Kol Ami and Darchei Noam Announce Collaboration

The two congregations look to further each other's strengths and missions by exploring new ways to creatively address the needs of the Jewish Community

(ELKINS PARK and AMBLER, PA.) Congregation Kol Ami of Elkins Park and Congregation Darchei Noam of Ambler have announced a collaboration that could lead to a potential blending of the two congregations as early as next year. Congregational meetings were held for Darchei Noam members on May 15th and for Kol Ami members on May 16th during which the plan was presented along with ideas for how the two congregations will collaborate going forward.

Kol Ami's Board of Trustees studied data from an in-depth congregational survey along with additional input from members and synagogue leaders that included a deep analysis of demographic, membership and financial trends. The Board of Trustees explored a number of options to ensure Kol Ami's long-term vitality as a thriving spiritual community and concluded that a collaboration, and ultimately a potential union, with Darchei Noam will best preserve the spiritual and community goals of its congregants.

Darchei Noam, established in 2021, is a young and vibrant Ambler-based Jewish community and its philosophy closely aligns with that of Kol Ami. A one-year collaboration of the two -more- 2 - continued congregations is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2024, and will allow each congregation time for an exploratory period before formally deciding about an official union of the two synagogues.

Plans for the collaboration include sharing Darchei Noam's space, engaging in joint programming, inviting members of both congregations to each other's worship services and events, and bringing Kol Ami's religious school students into Darchei Noam's much larger religious school. Collaborating together can enable the creation of a newly blended entity, something creative and special. The new entity, subject to the approval of both congregations, could take place as early as July 2025.

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release – May 17, 2024 (continued)

“Over our 30-year history, Kol Ami has been, at its core, an intimate, involved and caring Jewish community,” said Ben Long, Co-President, Congregation Kol Ami. “We see so much of ourselves at Darchei Noam and are excited to share a facility and collaborate on programs and services throughout the coming year, with a goal of uniting as one intimate community in July 2025.”

"At Darchei Noam, we believe in enriching our community's spirit through unity and shared values, which is why we are excited to partner with Kol Ami in this innovative journey of communal growth and spiritual enrichment," stated Lynne Krause, President, Darchei Noam.

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About Congregation Kol Ami Congregation

Kol Ami meaning “Voice of My People,” is a synagogue committed to creating and maintaining an intimate and involved Jewish community where spiritual growth, tradition, ritual, education and learning provide meaning and comfort. Through its philosophy of inclusiveness and diversity, it reaches out to surrounding communities and beyond. As a congregation, it seeks to enrich and enhance members’ Jewish spirituality and promote multi-generation learning. To learn more, visit <https://www.kolamielkinspark.org> or follow Kol Ami on Facebook at: @kolamielkinspark or Instagram at: @kolamielkinspark.

About Congregation Darchei Noam

Darchei Noam is an enlightened community rooted in both Jewish tradition and spiritual innovation. At Darchei Noam you will be seen, heard, and valued for exactly who you are without judgment, expectation, or hierarchy. We are a welcoming and loving community that celebrates Jews and their allies from all walks of life irrespective of gender expression, race, -more- 3 -continuedethnicity, exceptionality, disability, sexual orientation, family make-up, economic background or Jewish identity. We strive to put our Jewish values into practice through cultivating hesed (loving-kindness), tzedek (social justice), and rachamim (compassion) in the world around us. To learn more about Darchei Noam visit <https://www.darcheipa.org/> or follow Darchei Noam on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DarcheiNoamPA> or on Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/darcheinoampa/>.



CONCERT *in the* PARK

Sunday, July 7 at 5:00-7:00 PM

Join us for a gathering of Kol Ami members (non-member friends welcome!) to enjoy Cheltenham Township's "Concerts in the Park." Bring snacks or a picnic dinner and enjoy the music of Ken Ulansey (Jazz) with friends.

**Curtis Arboretum, 1250 W. Church Road,
Wyncote, PA**

RSVP: melissa@majiccreative.com

Look for balloons at the Arboretum to identify our gathering spot.

Bring your own chairs/blankets as well!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences in loving memory of:

Mary-Lou Butler
Grandmother of Rachael Simon

Fran McKinstry
Mother of Betsy McKinstry

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



Knitting/Crocheting Group

Join members Linda George and Shari Johnson for a monthly knitting group. Mark you calendars for the following dates. The Group meets from 5 to 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month. Location TBD.

July 8	August 12	September 9
October 14	November 11	December 9

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

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Website: www.kolamielkinspark.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kolamielkinspark>

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, 211 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002 and indicate to which fund it should be applied, or visit our website at :

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

ARTS & CUTLURE FUND

In Honor Of:

Rebecca Schwartz with deep appreciation

Adult Choir

Fran Surkin with deep appreciation

Adult Choir

SYNAGOGUE FUND

Carol Wit

SYNAGOGUE FUND

In Honor Of:

Mark and Karin Kaplan and the birth of their grandson, Caleb

Caring Congregants Committee

In Honor Of:

Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz and the wedding of their son Zachary to Jennifer Ruckenstein

Caring Congregants Committee

In Memory Of:

Mary-Lou Butler

Caring Congregants Committee

Michael Feldman

Caring Congregants Committee

Mazal Tov

Michael Matz and Ellen Horowitz Matz on the marriage of their son Zachary to Jennifer Ruckenstein on June 9.

Mark and Karin Kaplan on the birth of their second grandson, Caleb born on May 21 to parents Molly and Andrew Gordon and big brother, Ezra

Anthony Shore on the birth of his grandson Oliver Anthony Clarkshore on May 25 to parents Lucy and Tracy and big brother, Henry