

A New Year and a New Religious School Experience



THEVoice recently interviewed Morah Anat Katzir about Kol Dorot's Religious School and the merger's positive impact on many exciting learning opportunities and programs.

THEVoice: Not only is a new school year starting, but our new community of Kol Dorot is starting. What are you most excited about related to the merger?

Anat: We have amazing families and children coming from both communities. We are also blessed to bring together gifted and passionate educators from both schools. This will enable us to reach new heights in our learning within a wonderful supportive community.

THEVoice: What is your number one priority for this upcoming religious school year?

Anat: Each year our first priority is always to build and strengthen our school community. We seek to create an environment that inspires a sense of belonging, engagement, curiosity and excitement about each child's Jewish identity and journey.

THEVoice: Will Kol Dorot be adding or expanding the religious school?

Anat: We are pleased to report that the school is growing this year. Not only do we have more students, but we are expanding the school to implement new and exciting learning techniques.

(Continued on Page 8.)

THEVoice

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Dive in to Jewish Life by Rabbi Noah Fabricant



The first High Holy Days for our Kol Dorot community are rapidly approaching. In just a few summer months, we have come so far—we have prayed together, studied together, and gotten to know each other. The High Holy Days will be another new beginning, all of our new congregation gathering to welcome the New Year and turn to a fresh page in the Book of Life.

This time of year, I often think of this poem by the American Jewish poet Enid Shomer:

Freestyle, on the First of Tishri

The metaphor here is the pool, regular and deep as the tradition itself. First I float, still and buoyant in what I don't accept. Then I shatter the surface, a scholar dissecting text not to destroy but to enrich, a farmer plowing and disking the earth before planting. On land, I forget breath's noisy ball bearings, the flutter kick's fringes blazing like tangible will. I imagine that faith is nothing but a grudging promise of repetition, like these laps, until this continual splash in the mind begins—not with grievance or prayer but as gasp, a momentary bargain struck with the air.



Shomer describes a familiar progression. Jewish tradition is vast and unfamiliar, and it seems as if we “float” on the surface, unable to truly enter. But eventually we can “dive in.” Through study, prayer and communal participation, we start to swim; our kicking and splashing is our struggle with tradition, and we make our own unique “waves” in Jewish life.

The true impact of Shomer's sonnet, though, comes with the closing couplet. Judaism is not “grievance or prayer,” the formal—sometimes impersonal—religious language. Judaism is like the swimmer's gasp for breath—desperate, intimate, life-giving. Though repeated countless times, it is not routine, but dramatic and purposeful.

I want our Jewish lives—and the life of our new Jewish community—to be vital and personal. Shomer's poem expresses the challenge and awesome potential of that goal.

In this High Holy Day season, we have many opportunities to refine our strokes, to plumb new depths, to gasp for breath, and even to breathe deeply. We have many holidays and services and plenty of time to reflect in between. Let us do this hard work and build meaningful Jewish experiences with and for each other.

May this new year bring sweetness and blessings to you and those you love.

L'shanah tovah,

Rabbi Noah

Moving Toward a Good New Year by Rabbi David Widzer



Throughout these first few months of Kol Dorot, at the conclusion of a Shabbat service, a board meeting, a Torah study session or any other gathering, I've heard new friends parting with a "Glad to meet you!" or a "See you again soon!". As September approaches, the popular farewell becomes the familiar refrain "L'shanah tovah!"

"L'shanah tovah!" is the standard Jewish greeting at this time of the year. The Hebrew word *shannah* means *year*, and *tov* means *good*, so wishing one another "shannah tovah" makes sense as we begin the High Holy Day season. But what's with the *L* followed by an apostrophe at the start? What does that mean? There

are two answers: one grammatical and the other conceptual.

In Hebrew, certain letters serve as a short-hand for prepositions. The letter lamed, which makes that *L* sound, is one of them. The full phrase for greeting someone at Rosh Hashanah, "L'shanah tovah tikateivu," means "May you be written for a good year." The implied metaphor is the symbolic Book of Life in which God keeps track of every person, and the wish is that God will write your name in the Book of Life for a good year ahead. The *L'* at the start of the sentence is the preposition *for* as in "For a good year, may you be written." Even without "tikateivu," wishing someone "L'shanah tovah" hopes that their year ahead will be good.

But beyond the niceties of Hebrew grammar, we can read another meaning into part of our greeting. The *L'* also signifies the preposition *toward*, as in *moving toward something*. And, in truth, that is what the High Holy Days are all about – moving forward. Yes, we look back on the year that passed, reflecting what we have done right or wrong.

But we also turn away from the past and head toward the future. In fact, teshuvah (repentance) is related to the Hebrew verb for *turning*. We move into the new year with a clean slate. We pledge that this year, we will get it right and be our best selves.

We will soon begin 5780 with the excitement of a new community. As Kol Dorot, we face a future that certainly has its challenges but also immense opportunities. We will build on the successes of our past and craft a community for 21st-century Judaism. We will continue to engage in meaningful prayer, enriching learning, purposeful action, and a warm sense of connection. We will move proudly and boldly into this new year, dedicated to our vision of Kol Dorot. We go forward together, L'shanah tovah.

Karen, Judah, Elisheva and I wish you a sweet, happy and healthy new year. May it be a year of blessings for us all!

Rabbi David



The Warmth of Familiar Melodies by Cantor Sarah Silverberg

This past spring, I attended a bat mitzvah with my family in Long Island. My three-year old daughter Maya sat surprisingly quietly in an unfamiliar sanctuary for the majority of the service. When she got antsy, we walked around the temple lobby, returning for the final minutes of the service. We reentered the sanctuary as the cantor began to sing Maya's favorite song, "Bim Bam, Shabbat Shalom." Maya's face lit up. She turned to me and exclaimed, "He knows it!" Maya was both baffled and delighted that someone else knew how to sing a beloved song. Like my daughter, I have had the experience of feeling a little tentative visiting a new synagogue but feeling comforted and excited to hear and sing a melody that I know. Familiar music can make a new or unfamiliar space suddenly feel like a warm home.



As the High Holy Days near, I find myself humming the familiar melodies of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Like an old friend that I haven't seen in a year, I am excited to revisit these tunes. I frequently catch myself humming *Kol Nidrei* or *Avinu Malkeinu* as I run errands or have a quiet moment in my office. Isn't it amazing how only the initial chords of music from the organ can be played and you immediately know it's the beginning of *Avinu Malkeinu*? Or the first three somber notes from a cello and you know that *Kol Nidrei* is coming. Music can transport you to your childhood sanctuary or to the voice of a beloved cantor. The music of the High Holy Days is some of the most beautiful and special in our Jewish music canon. Throughout Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the sanctuary is filled with the majestic sounds of *Avinu Malkeinu* and *Kol Nidrei*, to communal melodies like *Oseh Shalom*, to the ancient chant of the Torah, to the meditative and haunting melodies of *Yizkor*, to the healing music of the *Mi Shebeirach*.

Our Kol Dorot community has the unique opportunity to blend together two vibrant musical traditions this year. After some research, I already know that much of our musical legacies overlap; we know the same *Avinu Malkeinu*, the same *Kol Nidrei* and the same *Bar'chu*.

Together we will sing the wonderful musical gems that create an atmosphere of spirituality and majesty fitting for the High Holy Days. And while some prayers and music will be new and unfamiliar, we will still sing and pray the music that lives deep in our souls.

Hans Christian Anderson wrote, "When words fail, music speaks." What I find so special about music is that each of us has the capacity to listen to music, discover how it touches us, and lift our voices in our prayer to God. So even if a prayer is unfamiliar or the Hebrew is difficult to understand, feel how the music affects your soul. Let both the familiar and unfamiliar music speak to you this year. See if you can listen with new ears to music you've heard for decades. Try to open your heart and find beauty in music that you've never heard before.

As we approach the High Holy Days, may you each find comfort and meaning in the music we sing.

L'shanah tovah!

Cantor Sarah



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We are Kol Dorot! by Co-Presidents Donna Selby & Joel Rubin

After nearly two years of planning, focus groups and meetings, culminating in June's meaningful Torah march, we are one community. From our clergy and educators to lay leadership and congregants, so many of you helped bring us to this place. Thank you all for your commitment and unwavering support.

As you recall, *Kol Dorot* translates as *Voice of Generations*. In our new community, we honor our past traditions and legacies while building a community for future generations of Reform Jews in Bergen County. Bringing two congregations together as one has presented a few challenges, yet our driving passion is to create an enduring community for our future.

Throughout this two-year process, we learned the difference between **change** and **transition**. **Change** is abrupt; it has a beginning, a middle and an end.

Transition is more fluid and just as rewarding, yet it's typically a longer process with fewer "sharp edges." July 1, 2019, the official merger date, marked a change for our congregation. Now you'll start noticing far more transitions than changes. Our worship will be fresh, our education programs will continue to be innovative and enriching, and our community will continue to strengthen.

Kol Dorot is YOUR community, and we encourage you to get involved. Join a committee. Attend Shabbat services or weekly Torah study with our rabbis. Join Kol Dorot's first Adult B'nai Mitzvah class. Become part of the madrichim in our innovative religious school program. Help promote our new Kol Dorot Early Learning Center. Get involved

Email or call to get involved!

Help out in the office — Bonnie and Patsy will be grateful for any amount of time!

Join one or more of the many Kol Dorot communities:

Adult Choir | Women of Kol Dorot | Men's Club | Social Club | Couples Community of Kol Dorot (20s & 30s) | Empty Nesters of Kol Dorot

Committees: Caring (part of Women of Kol Dorot), Communications, Fundraising, Membership, Music, Religious School, Ritual, Social Action



in social action. Volunteer to read Torah during the High Holy Days. The opportunities are endless! We welcome your ideas for new groups and activities that Kol Dorot can launch.

We look forward to an exciting and meaningful future together.

L'shanah tovah,

Donna

donnaselby@gmail.com

Joel

joel@joelrubin.com



From Anticipation to Celebration by Rabbi Emeritus Pomerantz

Following a June 15 Shabbat morning service, the Torahs were taken from the Beth El ark, and with prayers and great emotion, they were carried in the six-mile Torah parade to their temporary home in Washington Township.

Emotions were mixed among those carrying the holy scrolls. Excitement and hope about the prospect of our newly merged congregation abounded. Sadness and loss about leaving life and death memories, joy and sorrow times, experienced at the synagogue, over the years, were at hand. Some congregants knew both feelings.

Perched in a pick-up truck, we played in a klezmer band, moving along the parade route to lift the marchers' spirits. The long walk in the warm weather was draining for many, until the procession completed its route. Former Beth Or congregants, now fellow members of Kol Dorot, were waiting in the driveway to join the march and embrace the marchers. In the parking lot, a large concert band played uplifting music.

The merged Kol Dorot ensemble sang and escorted the Torahs into the sanctuary. All joined hands as the Torahs were placed in the ark. It was a holy moment to remember.

Now, as we move into the contemplative month of Elul, the time of spiritual preparation for the new year ahead, the spirit of that Shabbat of union and renewal will prevail in Kol Dorot. Rabbis Fabricant and Widzer will shepherd us into the holy season of the High Holy days, together as one congregation.

The Kol Dorot leadership team of dedicated laypeople are preparing our new physical home in Oradell, as well as preparing a year of engaging activities and programs. The spectrum of feelings among our congregants will be embraced and lifted as our new Reform Jewish community moves into the year ahead with joyous expectation. May God grant us a year of renewal and blessing. May each of us experience our new congregation as a place of Light, and a House of God, where the Divine Presence is made known.

Love, *Rabbi Fredric S. Pomerantz*



Rabbi Emeritus Pomerantz (left) is joined by member Lisa Ullman aboard the klezmer-music playing pick-up truck at the June 15th celebration.

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Holiday Greetings from Rabbi Emeritus Berkowitz

For everything there is a season. For the first time in 44 years, I send a High Holy Day message to a new congregation. It's a strange situation while also a new beginning. One that holds much promise for all of us.

As some of you know, we retired to Vacationland. We reside in Kennebunk, Maine by the ocean. This last winter was cold, with an average amount of that white stuff. Somehow spring really never arrived, and summer was late as well.

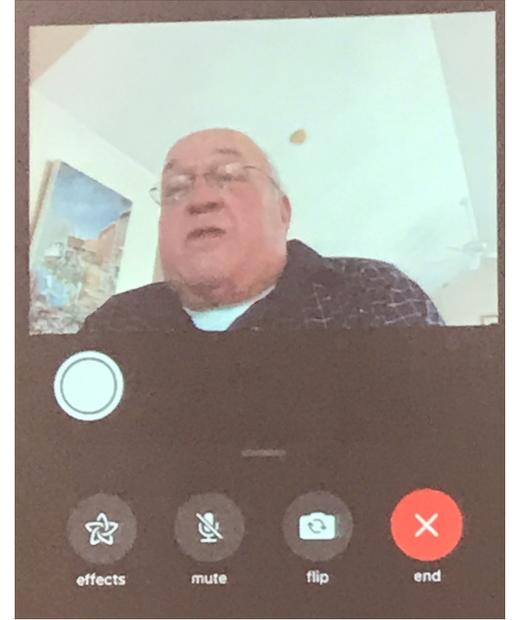
For this past July 4th holiday, we arranged for our family to visit. The beach, the waves, the sand and the cold water did not deter our grandchildren. We arranged a fishing trip. Success! I arranged a visit to the Trolley Museum. I had the joy of operating a streetcar with everyone. They were not impressed. A good time was had by all.

At this time of the year before I retired, I was busy preparing High Holy Day sermons. I was faced with the choice of sermon topics. What would I speak about? The crisis in the world, the crisis in Washington, global warming, climate change, racial tensions or immigration? The general theme would be *tikkun olam*. So much to address in a short time. We must speak out about what is right and what is wrong with our world and what all of us can do to repair our world. That is what *tikkun olam* demands. There are no alternatives! A rabbi must speak to these issues. There is no easy way out! Now is the time, and if not now, when?

Like some of you, I am thankful all of my grandparents immigrated to our country. Most important, they were welcomed here.

On the eve of the New Year 5780, Nancy, Judy, Jeff, Dana and our grandchildren wish you and those dear to you a Shanah Tovah.

Rabbi H. Philip Berkowitz, D.D.



Rabbi Emeritus Berkowitz Facetimes Kol Dorot at the June 15th celebration

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New Year New School (Continued from Page 1.)

THEVoice: What will the merger enable that wasn't possible for two, smaller synagogues?

Anat: This year we are able to offer more opportunities for creative learning and electives. We are also adding more community-wide events and family programming that are a privilege of a larger community. And we are looking forward to the participation of all Kol Dorot families!

THEVoice: Should community members be concerned that the merger means loss or reduction of services?

Anat: In carefully crafting this merger, our team of staff, clergy and committee members were able to really re-think and re-imagine what the school and support need to look like. Of course, we continue to collect feedback and believe strongly in moving to fix problems as they are pointed out to us without letting them drag out.

THEVoice: How does the merger affect religious school families the most?

Anat: We are allowing for more celebration of Jewish moments beyond class learning and as a family. We really believe this will strengthen the connection to Judaism and the community for the whole family, making the learning a positive experience for each student.

THEVoice: Finally, and most importantly, how is Yannai?

Anat: Yannai has been the perfect baby so far, and his brothers have officially agreed to keep him! He has brought a wonderful new energy into our home... along with a lot of baby equipment. We are very happy together.



Jessica Gomperts and her daughter Lilah

Meet Jessica: Mom, Trustee & Religious School Committee Chair

Not only is she the mother of religious school student Lilah, an energetic 4th grader who enjoys singing with the junior choir, but Jessica Gomperts also serves on the Kol Dorot board as a trustee and the chairwoman of the Religious School Committee. This lay-leadership role allows her voice to be heard as she represents the religious school community. In addition, Jessica volunteers her time working closely with Religious School Educator Anat Katzir.

Jessica would be delighted to hear from parents who are interested in volunteering a few hours of their time during,

outside of, religious school hours and become involved in special projects for the children. Please email her at office@koldorot.org.

Religious School Calendar: Fall 2019/5780

Visit koldorot.org/school-registration for the full religious school calendar. Please note the grade-specific and all-school dates when parent participation is requested.

October 13	Family Sukkot Program
October 18	Shabbat Dorot* Consecration – Welcoming All Our New Students
October 20	Family Simchat Torah Program
November 3	3 rd Grade Parent-Student Program & 7 th Grade Kehillah
November 15	Shabbat Dorot* & 4 th Grade Siddur Ceremony
November 24	Parent Enrichment Program (details TBA)
December 8	2 nd Grade Parent-Student Program
December 20	Shabbat Dorot* - Chanukah Shabbat - Bring Your Menorah!

* Shabbat Dorot is a monthly family-friendly Friday night service that features participation by religious school students. Specific grades are assigned to many Shabbat Dorot services, but we hope these will be a monthly tradition for all of our students and families!



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DROP-OFF LOCATION & DATES:

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56 Ridgewood Road, Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Sunday, November 3 (9am - 1pm)

Tuesday, November 5 - Thursday, November 7 (9am - 5pm)

Friday, November 8 (9am - 3pm)

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Please tell us when you can help. Contact Sarahjane Nacht
(LSADL@optonline.net or 201-951-9579)
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RUMMAGE SALE DATES:

Saturday, November 9 (7pm - 9:30pm) &

Sunday, November 10 (9am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm)

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions made to Kol Dorot: A Reform Jewish Community.

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Anonymous in honor of Cantor's concert

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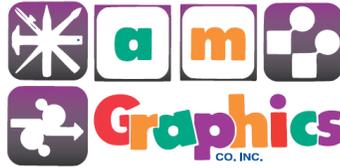
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POTLUCK DINNER

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RSVP & sign up for a dish below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084DAAAD2BA4F49-potluck2>

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October 26, 12:00PM

@ 87 Haviland Rd, Highland, NY

RSVP for fall foliage followed by lunch below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084DAAAD2BA4F49-walkway>

MEET BOB MANKOFF

November 24, 5:30PM @ Tenafly JCC

Sign up to meet former New Yorker cartoon editor
& acclaimed author of "Have I Got A Cartoon For

You!" at the link below:

<http://www.jccotp.org/jewish-book-month>

JULIE SATOW BOOK BRUNCH

December 11, 10:30AM @ Tenafly JCC

Link to follow to meet the "The Plaza" author!

Any questions? Email ilisalansey@optonline.net

High Holy Day Schedule of Services

Saturday, September 21

Selichot

7:30 p.m. New Machzor Study Session
and Dessert Reception

9:00 p.m. Selichot Service

Sunday, September 29

Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday, September 30

Rosh Hashanah

8:45 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Early Service

11:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Late Service

2:30 p.m. Shofar Kids*

2:30 p.m. Family Service*

4:00 p.m. Tashlich (Directions on Last Page)*

Tuesday, October 1

Rosh Hashanah — 2nd Day

10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service - 2nd Day*

Tuesday, October 8

Erev Yom Kippur

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidrei Service

Wednesday, October 9

Yom Kippur

8:45 a.m. Yom Kippur Early Service

11:30 a.m. Yom Kippur Late Service

2:00 p.m. Shofar Kids*

2:00 p.m. Family Service*

3:30 p.m. Afternoon Service*

5:00 p.m. Yizkor, Ne'ilah and Havdallah*

6:30 p.m. Break-the-Fast*

*Open to the community—call Temple office to request tickets.



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WEEKLY CLASSES START OCTOBER 27TH AT 11AM
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Recharged and Ready by Barbara Weinberg, Director of the Kol Dorot Early Learning Center



I hope your summer was wonderful and now you find yourselves relaxed, recharged and ready for a great new school year at the Kol Dorot Early Learning Center (ELC).

After all the planning and preparing for your children to arrive this month, our skilled and devoted teachers are THRILLED to see so many adorable smiling faces. Between our enthusiastic office team and conscientious custodian Maria, everything is well organized and spotless from top to bottom! And our parent committee is busy welcoming families, providing volunteer opportunities, and actively planning special events and programs for the year. (Save the date for our biggest night of the year! Thursday, October 24 is back-

to-school night.)

Our students at the ELC represent the very first and youngest generation of our Kol Dorot community. I am truly delighted to help enrich their lives by nurturing their emotional, physical, intellectual and social development. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in early education. The entire ELC staff and I look forward to a fabulous year with you and your children!

Fondly, *Barbara*

Rabbi Noah, Rabbi David, and Cantor Sarah want to be helpful to you and your family whenever possible. Please let them know if there's an illness, a death, a birth; any happy or sad occasion.

Please call the Kol Dorot office or email them directly:

rabbinoah@koldorot.org
rabbidavid@koldorot.org
cantorsarah@koldorot.org

COUPLES COMMUNITY
OF KOL DOROT

Fall Activities

- community blood drive
- apple picking for Rosh Hashanah
- wine tasting in the Hudson Valley
- potluck Thanksgiving Shabbat

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
@KDCOUPLESCOMMUNITY
OR EMAIL US AT COUPLES@KOLDOROT.ORG.

The Couples Community of Kol Dorot connects couples in their 20s and 30s. Interfaith, LGBTQ, Jews of color and Jews by choice welcome!



Kol Dorot: A Reform Jewish Community

56 Ridgewood Road
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Phone: (201) 664-7422
E-mail: office@koldorot.org

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Paramus, NJ 07652

Permit No. 658

Join us at these upcoming holiday events

We look forward to worshipping together at Kol Dorot

SELICHOT

Study session & dessert reception (7:30PM) followed by
Selichot service (9:00PM).

**SAT
21
SEP
7:30PM**

**SUN
13
OCT
6PM**

SUKKOT

Join us in the Kol Dorot sukkah as we celebrate this fall
harvest holiday.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Celebrate in song and dance! We unroll an entire Torah scroll, rejoicing
the end the annual Torah-reading cycle and its new beginning.

**SUN
20
OCT
4PM**