

Shalom Kol Ami!

As incoming President of Brotherhood of Kol Ami, I'm honored to serve our shul in that capacity. Brotherhood is an integral arm of the shul, and I would like to explain to you who we are, and what we do.

What is Brotherhood? Not to sound like a politician, but we are many things to many people. For some, Brotherhood is fun. We offer many social events such as the annual Super Bowl party, Craft Beer Tasting Night, various happy hours/pub nights where we can relax and enjoy a beverage together, our annual Firearm Safety Day (fun AND educational!), our annual Cigars and Scotch night, and more.

Brotherhood is *chavurah* (fellowship). We hold sessions throughout the year called "Hearing Men's Voices", in which we discuss men's issues such as Jewish men, such as how to be a better father, men's health issues, dealing w/ loss and grief, and other important issues in a confidential setting among men. While we are not clergy, nor do we intend to take the place of clergy, we are here for any of our brothers should they need a fellow Brotherhood member to listen to them should they encounter any challenging life issues.

Brotherhood is service and mitzvot. Our Chai Guys team, led by the very capable Darren Kasanetz, helps clean and beautify the shul and the grounds, as well as setting up the chairs for High Holidays, and more.

Brotherhood is Torah, Israel, and davening. During our annual Scholar in Residence/Brotherhood and Sisterhood Shabbat program, which is co-sponsored with Sisterhood involves our members read Torah and help lead services. We also sponsor various lectures dealing w/ Israel, current events, and more. We are working on putting more educational events studying Torah and other sacred texts.

Brotherhood is you. As president, I want to hear from you and get your thoughts and opinions on things you'd like to see us do and how we can improve. I would love to increase our membership. While we do charge for annual membership dues, we do not turn anyone away and will work privately and discretely with anyone working with special circumstances if needed. I'm looking forward to serving our congregation as Brotherhood president and spending time with as many of you as possible.

B'Shalom,

Jon Zimmer  
President, Brotherhood of Congregation Kol Ami