



MEET THE ROSENBERGS!

By Lexi Shapiro
Photos by Kevin Kennedy and the Rosenberg Family

Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser met his husband Shalom Rosenberg during his second year of rabbinical school in New York City. The two dated for several years, and got legally married in California in June 2008 during the window when marriage equality was legal in the state before Prop 8. They had their “big Jewish wedding” in 2009 with family and friends in Ann Arbor, Michigan!

Adam holds a Bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Michigan, and Rabbinic Ordination from the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion. Over his career he has been the Assistant Rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, CA and Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C. Currently, Adam serves as Senior Rabbi at Temple Emanuel here in Kensington. Shalom has a Bachelor’s in Film from Brooklyn College and a Master of Fine Arts in Film and Electronic Media from American University. He is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Maryland in Comparative Literature.

Adam was always very active in his synagogue growing up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. “I was very involved in the youth group,” he recalls. “I went to Israel and Jewish summer camp as well. I was lucky to have grown up with a wonderful rabbi that became like a mentor and friend to me. Ultimately I decided that I wanted to devote my career to serving the Jewish people and I have been a rabbi for twelve years. I started at Temple Emanuel on July 1st, 2020. I found the job because I was working in Washington, D.C. and I heard great things about Temple Emanuel. I learned that Rabbi Warren Stone, who was there for over 30 years, was retiring. I was attracted to the temple due to its history of social justice activism, tight-knit community and its “DIY” culture where the incredible lay leaders enjoy stepping up and partnering with the work! I think the temple community is wonderful. It is a center of Jewish life in Kensington, Montgomery County, and beyond.”

The temple is dedicated to increasing the sense of community as a whole, along with the well-being of its residents. “We are part of the Kensington-Chevy Chase Ministerium where we work with other churches and local faith-based organizations,” Adam explains. “We also have a community garden that provides food and produce to other organizations. We give *tzedakah* (charity) monthly to different organizations, sometimes local and sometimes global. We also participate in an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service. It takes place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving where we are able to gather with our neighbors to offer gratitude for the blessings in our lives.”

Outside of work, the Rosenberg home is full with their two children: Eliza who is almost five, and Simon who is two and a half, as well as their twelve year old dog Phaedra. Eliza and Simon are happy students at the Temple Emanuel Early Childhood Center. They both enjoy their swim lessons, playing in the backyard, trains, and dinosaurs! Phaedra is a Black Lab/Border Collie rescue from the San Francisco SPCA who loves being active and going on walks. The Rosenberg family like

to have dance parties in the kitchen and have lots of fun together. They also love going to Camp Michigania, a family camp in Northern Michigan on scenic Walloon Lake that Adam has been going to since he was three years old. The family makes sure to visit every summer for a week.

Adam likes swimming, gardening, cooking, theater, music and cheering on his beloved and often beleaguered Michigan Wolverines. Shalom enjoys film and biking. “I like taking cool photos, traveling before COVID, hanging out with the kids and the dog,” Shalom adds. “We all like walking to the Kensington Farmer’s Market on most Saturdays and getting yummy produce. We also go to Kensington Cabin Park often and spend a lot of time playing on the playground. Other than that we like to take walks with our dog to enjoy the beautiful neighborhood and all that Kensington has to offer.”

The Rosenbergs live in Rock Creek Hills and bought their house in September 2020. They moved there because of the beautiful neighborhood, great schools, and the ability to walk to their favorite places. “Everyone is very friendly and the neighborhood is becoming increasingly diverse, with lots of families with young children moving in,” Adam says. “In spite of COVID everyone has been very welcoming.” “We were very lucky and grateful to move to this neighborhood during COVID.” Shalom adds. “We have a very large yard which is great, but ultimately it’s the open space in the neighborhood that has been amazing for us. Coming from Washington, D.C. this has been wonderful - we love having all this extra space for the kids and dog.”

“Overall, adjusting to COVID has been as challenging for us at the temple as it has been for most.” Adam admits. “Temple Emanuel has been able to offer great programming online that we never thought possible. Our ECC was closed for the first few months which was difficult, but reopened last July. We have children from many faiths and backgrounds, aged 18 months to pre-K. We offer five days a week of full day care and we follow the fantastic Reggio Emilia philosophy of play-based and hands-on learning. Our ECC and the greater Temple Emanuel community are friendly, warm, vibrant, and caring. We are located at 10101 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington 20895, and further information is available at <https://templeemanuelmd.org> if you are interested in learning more about us.”



Within the community, the Rosenbergs have begun to get involved and form connections, despite the challenges of COVID. “We have started to meet our neighbors, and during the summer spent some nice afternoons over at North Chevy Chase Swimming Pool.” Adam says. “We are looking forward to the neighborhood events that are beginning to occur. Overall, Kensington has a really lovely small town feel and we are so grateful to be here.”

The official Rosenberg family motto is “Seize the day and then take long naps.” The Rosenbergs are so excited to have moved to Kensington and are always looking to meet new people, especially families with young children. They also extend thanks to the advertisers for being such great supporters of the magazine!



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