



Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **December 2006** Kislev - Tevet 5767

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Kehilat Shalom

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take the time to thank all those congregants who took the time to respond to our questions as part of the synagogue's systemic review process. It was heartening to be in the synagogue and watch as congregants waited patiently for their turn to talk to committee members in person. There were also many congregants who replied via e-mail and some through written responses. All will be taken into account and a special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held early this month to review the findings. Hopefully we will be able to use the information to plan for the future growth of our community.



For those of you who responded passionately to the review, I would challenge you one step further. If you care deeply about the synagogue and you are not yet feeling totally connected, contact me and volunteer for a committee or to sponsor an event. We are always looking for people to get involved. Once you take the first step you will never look back! *Ed*



*Please come to a Chanukah Party
at Kehilat Shalom!!!!
Sunday, December 17, 2006
5 to 7 pm
Food, Fun, Music!!!*

\$5 per family/\$15 per family maximum

Please bring a menorah for a group candle-lighting (candles will be provided)

Please RSVP by Dec 13 to Leslie at lrkowski@verizon.net (or 609-275-4644) or to Andrea at ahllass@hotmail.com (or 609-799-3536)



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The JCC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

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Robert & Peggy Fass, in honor of the Nadlers for their new office
Natalie London & Richard Yuresko for the birth of the grandson of Kristina & Harry Wise

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Natalie London & Richard Yuresko
Lewis & Karen Wolkofsky, in memory of H. Silver, Abe Wolkofsky & Herbert Hoffman

Committee Happenings

Big Thanks!

The Youth Education Committee would like to commend the parents of our Hebrew School students on the outstanding response we have had to our newly instituted volunteer (bond) program. By volunteering a few hours of your time, you are not only providing support for our staff to run a more effective Hebrew School, but you are setting a great example for your children. When our kids see us participating and contributing, they are learning valuable lessons about the importance of both Jewish studies and volunteering. Many of you have already fulfilled your commitment for the school year, but we still have some jobs that remain unassigned. If you have not yet volunteered for an assignment, or have already, enjoyed it, and would like to contribute a bit more, please contact Dori Daus at principal@ksnj.org or leave a message at (908) 359-0420 x 4, or Debbie Grauer at Debbie@ourowndomain.com. Thank you to all the parents for your support!

The Youth Education Committee

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ROBERT "BOB" FASS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Commitment — Dedication — Hanukkah!



One of my favorite Hanukkah songs is *banu choshekh l'garésh*.

We've come to banish the darkness;

In our hands: light and fire.

Each one of us is a small light,
Together we're a mighty light!
Flee, darkness!
Away, black-night!
Flee before the light!

You can listen to the song at a number of places on the web. Try this link for one version of the song:

http://play.rhapsody.com/rachelbuchman/shi_nelittlecandleschanukahsongsfor/banuchoshechig_aresh?didAutoplayBounce=true

In our Northern Hemisphere short winter days Hanukkah brings welcome light to a dark time of the year. As the lonely first night lights are joined in the succeeding days by other lights the gloomy night recedes, giving way to the glow.

Many times in our personal lives we feel the same process: our lonely light is joined by others giving support, strength comfort and warmth. With that support we can accomplish much more than we could alone. So, too, in the life of any group, especially a community: what is impossible to attain alone we can do together.

Our Maccabee ancestors stood up for the privilege of doing Jewish. They fought with their bodies on the line against larger and better organized military forces including some of the best of their time. Alone, they would have been lonely martyrs; together they preserved our sacred teachings and thereby changed the world.

We, too, are called upon to take a stand. Surely, we are in much better times! We do not have to leave our homes, live outdoors, take up weapons and fight a war.

In our times, thankfully, we are not asked to die for our traditions. ***We are asked to live for our traditions.*** Yet in these times this is no easy task. We have strayed far from the wisdom of our ancestors. Many of us are unfamiliar with their ways, and those who are familiar with the customs don't easily feel their power flowing through us.

We need to recommit, to rededicate to finding, feeling and making part of ourselves the power and wisdom to which we have as an inheritance from the past. We need to kindle, each of us for ourselves, that one small light of our Jewish

souls. And then we need to find those others who, like us, have re-lit their lights and come together for mutual support, light and warmth.

And just as the Hanukkah lights could not exist without a hanukkiyah (AKA "menorah") we also need to commit ourselves individually and communally to building up our congregation's physical space to enhance our might light that it may warm us in its glow, and be a light in our communities.

May this be a joyous and luminous Hanukkah!

Rabbi Michael Tayvah



Tree of Life

Purchase a leaf for \$54 to celebrate a **simcha!** Each leaf includes three lines of engraving.

Contact Shelley Nord
908-874-8464

Kindercapers

Now in its 13th full year, the JCCBM's non-sectarian pre-school for children 2-1/2 to 5 years old, offers a unique atmosphere, giving children a chance to explore, create, and, most importantly, learn to think and reason.

For more information, call 908 359-0160.




The JCCBM Gift Shop is open each Sunday 10 am - 11 am

Questions?
Call Peggy Fass 609-466-0146
or Harlene Rosenberg 908-874-8283



Hebrew School Happenings



December

- 3 Sunday *Mock Shabbat - Cooking*
- 6 Wednesday- *Cooking*
- 10 Sunday- **Music- crafts**
- 13 Wednesday- ***Dance***
- 15 Friday K-2 Shabbat service, Channukah candle lighting and potluck
- 17 Sunday Chanukah- **Music Mock Shabbat 5/6**
- 20 Wednesday Chanukah Dance
- 24 Sunday Winter Break No School
- 27 Wednesday Winter Break No School
- 31 Sunday Winter Break No School



The Rabbi gave students a special treat this month. To celebrate Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, the students helped open, unwrap and read from the Torah. Parents helped by taking pictures and holding up the Rabbi's tallit to form a canopy that included all of the children in reading from the Torah. Thanks to Marc Brandwein for taking great pictures. You will be able to see more on our website very soon.



This month's crafts focused on celebrating Shabbat. Students in the K-2 class made b'samim flowers. Third graders decorated siddur covers and received their siddurim. Fourth Graders made tzedaka boxes. Fifth graders painted Shabbat candle holders. Sixth graders created their own Havdalah candles with squeeze gel wax. Seventh graders painted Kiddush cups.



The choir practiced for our visit to Greenwood House on December 17th and an upcoming Shabbat evening service. Please don't forget to sign the permission slip for this trip in Anna's office. We will be leaving for Ewing at 9:15 AM and returning to CKS at 12:30. We will all have pizza and students will be ready to go home at 12:45. All students in fifth grade and older



are welcome and encouraged to visit. We will sing songs, light candles and play dreidel with the residents. I hope everyone will attend the Shabbat service on December 15, 2006 and join in lighting the Chanukah candles for the first time this year with the congregation.

Don't forget to visit the congregation's gift shop for your holiday shopping or stop by the café a cup of coffee or a bagel.



It is wonderful to see our parents adding to our school experience. I would like to personally thank all of the parent volunteers for teaching their children that Hebrew School is important. Mindy Weinberg and Judi Turkheimer acted as substitute teachers. Ed Nussbaum took all of the wonderful pictures of the café, gift shop, and music classes. Marc Brandwein took pictures of Israeli

dance, students describing the charitable causes that they researched, and the Rabbi and students reading Torah together. All K-2 parents volunteer in the classroom at one time or another.



Chag Orim Sameach! (A Happy Holiday of lights)
Dori Daus, Principal

Youth Group News/Hebrew High

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

October was a productive month for the Hebrew High School. In Wednesday's class Susan Waskow lead a discussion about ethical issues which included talking about the difference between "What is ethical" versus "What is legal". The election results were given a Jewish perspective in another discussion. The class had several conversations about other world religions. They also created Hanukkah cards for senior citizens. Thanks to Susan for volunteering her time each week to lead this group of 8th and 9th grade students.

Our other teacher volunteer, Judi Turkheimer, encouraged the class to think about how they would define a "loser" and why. They debated the value of homework and discussed what is meant by a person's work ethic. The class expressed their views on self esteem. The rabbi spoke about religion's influence in politics. Many thanks to all three teachers for leading these stimulating discussions with the teens.

Thursday's class continued its studies of Hebrew with Leslie Weiner. They learned new nouns and pronouns. The rabbi led several interesting discussions with the class.

Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to pick up pizza for Hebrew High during the month. Andrea Bradley, Carrie Fischman, Susan Krisiloff, Elaine Donoghue, Tom Berger, Natalie London, and myself were November's volunteers.

December Calendar

Wednesday schedule	Thursday schedule
Dec 6	Dec 7
Dec 13	Dec 14
Dec 20 - winter break	Dec 21 - winter break
Dec 27 - winter break	Dec 28 - winter break

 DESIGNS FOR DENTAL HEALTH	450 Arnwell Road Suite L Hillsborough New Jersey 08844 tel. 908.359.6655 fax 908.359.1291 rmndmd@aol.com
	Richard M. Nadler, DMD, FAGD

CONGREGATION KEHILAT SHALOM YOUTH GROUP

In November the youth group met for a fun evening on the first Saturday of the month. A dinner at Ya Ya Noodles in Montgomery was first on the agenda for the group. Scheduled next was a movie at Montgomery Cinema. However, the line for *The Illusionist* looked too long and the consensus was it would be more fun to spend the remainder of the evening at the Krisiloff's home. Thanks to the generosity of Ed and Susan and the spontaneity of the youth group, the evening was a great success. An enjoyable night was had by all.

Save the date: Saturday, December 16th. 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

The CKS youth group is scheduled to meet at our synagogue for an evening of socializing at an informal Hanukkah party. The event will begin with dinner. Latkes anyone? Following the meal, the group will be free to participate in any games or activities that they might want to bring. Details about the December youth group event will be emailed to the congregation. Many thanks to Natalie London for offering to chaperone.

Save the date: Sunday January 14 - Snow tubing!!!

Details will be emailed in December. Please save the day for this new exciting outdoor adventure.

Please mark your calendars with these dates for future CKS youth events:

Sunday, February 25

Sunday, March 18

Sunday, April 22

May - to be determined

All post b'nai mitzvah teens are encouraged to participate in the CKS youth group. There is no fee or registration. Simply email me at kfridkis@comcast.net and I will add your name to the email list. Once on the list, you will receive email announcements about planned activities.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST REGIONAL YOUTH GROUP

The regional youth group had their shul-in in November. Youth advisor, Josh Goldsmith, did a wonderful job with the teens in planning this all-nighter at our synagogue. The group had a rollicking scavenger hunt, watched a movie, ate dinner, and had a chance to get to know each other better in this overnight event. Did anyone sleep? Many thanks to John Smulian for helping set up the movie.

November also saw the regional group volunteer at TASK. The day before Thanksgiving the group headed to Trenton to help provide a pre-Thanksgiving meal to the hungry. The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is a charitable organization that provides more than 3,000 free meals per week to people in need in the Trenton area. TASK depends almost entirely on the help of volunteers and the financial support from individuals, and local religious and business organizations. Thanks to all the youth group volunteers who willingly gave of themselves to support this worthwhile organization.

Save the date: December 3rd. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Eating tour of New York.

Ever want to eat your way through New York City? In this tour, you'll have a chance to taste the history of New York's ethnic neighborhoods - one morsel at a time. Back by popular demand after we had a blast doing this two years ago! Cost \$14 for teens, \$19 for chaperones. Let Josh know if cost makes the trip prohibitive. Financial aid may be available. Chaperones are needed.

Save the date: Saturday, January 6th. 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Movie night.

Save the date: Sunday, January 21st. 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Gourmet cooking class and dinner

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, youth group chair, Hebrew High School chair

Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center

Somerset * Hunterdon * Warren Counties



Upcoming Events...

Medicine, Money and Morals - Equity versus Medical Progress

When: Sunday, December 3, 10:30 AM to 12 noon

Where: Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775

Talamini Road, Bridgewater

Fee: \$10.00 for Jewish LIFE members; \$15.00 for guests

Ohr Tikvah and Jewish LIFE welcome Daniel Callahan, author and editor of more than 35 books dealing with bioethics, health care policy and research policy. Cofounder of The Hastings Center and its president from 1969-1996, Dr. Callahan now serves as Director of the International Program, and coordinates discussions with colleagues in different parts of the world.

Dr. Calahan will talk about his current project on medicine and the market, looking at the impact of market theory, thinking and practice on health care systems, with a special focus on issues of equity and health care costs. He also will talk about globalization and its impact on health status in different parts of the world. For more information contact the JCC at (908) 725-6994 x 201.

Visiting the Sick: Making It Easy and Meaningful

When: Sunday, December 10, 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Where: Temple Sholom, North Bridge Street, Bridgewater

Fee: No fee - Donations accepted

Are you reluctant to visit the sick because you are unsure when to visit and what to say? Ohr Tikvah invites you to a special presentation by Rabbi William Horn, Rabbi Emeritus of the Jewish Community Center of Summit, who will show us how easy and meaningful it is to participate in *Bikur Cholim* (visiting the sick).

Rabbi Horn will share engaging, heart-warming and humorous stories from his 43 years experience both as chaplain at Overlook Hospital and as a rabbi. He also will provide practical tips and inspiring lessons. Dr. Kayla Paul, a neurologist trained by Rabbi Horn in this work, will speak about her work with older persons in congregate living. Information also will be provided on how to become involved in our community *Bikur Cholim* programs. Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 for more information.

Jewish LIFE



Jewish LIFE is sponsoring a Family Chanukah Celebration featuring *Yosi & the Superdads*, on Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. at the JCC. Popular children's singer/songwriter Yosi, along with his rockin' three-piece band of Superdads, will perform a lively and humorous family concert. Families are invited to bring their menorah and candles for a family menorah lighting celebration. The fee is \$8/person (infants are free) and includes the concert, and latkes & donuts. To register, please call the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

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DECEMBER 2006

Rededicate! Increase the light! (Happy Hanukkah!)
What's going on at Congregation Kehilat Shalom?

December 2006
10 Kislev 5767 - 10 Tevet 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10 Kislev 11:45:15PM 7 PM Singing & Storytelling Shabbat evening service	2 11 Kislev \$5:18PM Vayetze: Gen. 31.1-32.3. Hosea 12.13-14.7 3:45 PM Shabbat Minhah; Erik Pedinoff's Bar Mitzvah celebration
3 12 Kislev Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Regional Youth Group Eating tour of New York City. 10AM- 6 PM.	4 13 Kislev	5 14 Kislev	6 15 Kislev Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	7 16 Kislev 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	8 17 Kislev 11:45:15PM 7:45 PM Food for thought Shabbat Service	9 18 Kislev \$5:18PM Vayishlah: Gen. 35.12-36.43. Hosea 12.7-12.12.
10 19 Kislev Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	11 20 Kislev	12 21 Kislev 7:30 PM Board of Trustees meeting	13 22 Kislev Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	14 23 Kislev 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	15 24 Kislev 11:45:16PM EREV HANUKKAH 6 PM K-2 Class Shabbat dinner 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	16 25 Kislev \$5:19PM HANUKKAH 1ST DAY Vayeshev: Gen. 39.7-40.23. Num. 7.18-29. Zechariah 2.14-4.7. CKS youth group informal Hanukkah party and dinner 6:30-9 PM
17 26 Kislev \$5:19PM HANUKKAH 2ND DAY Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 PM 5-7 pm Hanukkah Party	18 27 Kislev \$5:20PM HANUKKAH 3RD DAY	19 28 Kislev \$5:20PM HANUKKAH 4TH DAY	20 29 Kislev \$5:21PM HANUKKAH 5TH DAY Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	21 30 Kislev \$5:21PM ROSH HODESH - HANUKKAH 6TH DAY 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	22 1 Tevet \$5:22PM/11:45:19PM ROSH HODESH - HANUKKAH 7TH DAY 6:30 PM Shabbat Dinner and Service	23 2 Tevet \$5:22PM HANUKKAH 8TH DAY Miketz: Gen. 43.11-44.17. Num. 7.54-8.4. I Kings 7.40-50. Zechariah 2.14-4.7.
24 3 Tevet No Hebrew School	25 4 Tevet	26 5 Tevet	27 6 Tevet No Hebrew School	28 7 Tevet	29 8 Tevet 11:45:23PM	30 9 Tevet \$5:27PM Vayigash: Gen. 46.28-47.27. Ezekiel 37.15-28.
31 10 Tevet \$5:28PM FAST OF TEVET 10 Morning & Afternoon: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Hosea 14.2-10, Micah 7.18-20 No Hebrew School						

[; Candle Lighting, \$Observance End. Times are for Belle Mead, NJ]

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Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

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December 2006

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