



Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **April 2007** Nissan – Iyar 5767

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Kehilat Shalom

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SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Rabbi Search Committee has been very active since our last update. We have continued our process of gathering input and feedback from the congregation through directed conversations with most of the committees and other groups within the synagogue. In addition, we received a tremendous amount of feedback from the congregational survey that was conducted. All of this input has been very helpful in providing direction and guidance in terms of the characteristics and traits that are most important to the congregation as a whole.

We have also made progress with the process of interviewing potential candidates. We have conducted initial interviews with all of the candidates supplied to us by the JRF. We have conducted additional interviews with several of the candidates. Based on these interviews, we will be inviting selected candidates to continue the process by coming to CKS for an opportunity to meet congregants and conduct services for us.

The first candidate to visit will be Rabbi Susan Falk. Rabbi Falk will be conducting Friday night services on April 20. Also, we will be scheduling an additional service on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning, we will be asking Rabbi Falk to lead one of the children's services during Hebrew school. Surrounding these services, we will be scheduling additional opportunities for congregants to meet and talk with Rabbi Falk. Our goal is provide all congregants an opportunity to get to know the candidate, and pose any questions they may have.

Following the candidate's visit, the search committee will be reaching out in a variety of ways (direct communications, a web questionnaire, email, etc.) in order to solicit feedback and input from the community.

Please try to make time during the weekend of April 20th to participate in the Rabbi's visit. We will be sending out further details. If you have any questions, please contact the search committee at searchcommitte@kehilatshalomnj.org.



Fifth Grade Students interviewed Jeremy Lerner (a member of CKS) and residents at Stone Bridge as a part of their Lifecycle Curriculum on Wednesday March 14 at Congregation Kehilat Shalom.

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

NAME	DEDICATION
Eric Weitz	Donation towards lights & other building materials
N.J & Elizabeth Rieur	Donation
Mitchell Javeline	In memory of Joseph Isenberg
Natalie London & Richard Yuresko	In memory of Meyer London & Thoraya Alberolla
Milich Herb	Donation
Amy Rosenthal	Hebrew School Fund
Deborah Lampf & Michael Kalison	Donation CAF, in memory of Seymour Kalison's Yartzheit
Joel & Joan Weisblatt	Congratulations to the Underberg-Davis & Konkowski families on the occasion of their children's B'nai Mitzvah
Joel & Joan Weisblatt	CAF
Stacey Bachrach	In honor of Sheryl Rosenberg's 60 th birthday & Sheryl & Richard's 12 th anniversary
Bob & Peggy Fass	Sheryl & Richard's 12 th anniversary & Sheryl's birthday
Bob & Peggy Fass	Jaclyn Konkowski's & Rebecca Underberg- Davis's Bat Mitzvah & in memory of Irvin Fass, Ruth Kaufman & Adele Kaufman
Dick & Thelma Canty	Temple Donation in memory of cousin Irving Gorman & family. On the happy occasion of Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg, wedding anniversary & Sheryl's big birthday



Committee Happenings

ADULT HEBREW LEARNERS:

Meryl Bisberg began with a class of 6 beginning adult Hebrew students at the end of January, which has now grown to 8. They meet from 9 AM to 10 AM in the balcony and speak, read, and write Hebrew together. Starting with those who never had any Hebrew training, the class is gradually adding more students, those looking to refresh or learn anew their Hebrew skills. The text is self-paced, but by coming together weekly to recite, ask questions, get background, etc., Hebrew knowledge is really growing. Also, they are making friends with each other as they practice reading and speaking with the group or in pairs outside of class. Meryl is enormously proud of the students, who have made a commitment to themselves and to their children to learn Hebrew. The group will finish the text (the cost of which was subsidized by the café) by the end of March and will then take stock of what comes next, whether there are any intermediate Hebrew students who would like to join in, etc. If there is interest in repeating the beginner class in the fall during late session, or in starting an intermediate class at any time, please contact Meryl Bisberg at mbisberg@patmedia.net, or 908-874-8970. Meanwhile, mazel tov to Iris Rubinstein, Ellen Nusbaum, Michael Galkin, Elizabeth Ravitz, Eric Applegate, Lou Orlando, Nancy Javeline and Jeremy Perlmutter for working through the lessons and improving week to week! Kol ha k'vod!

PURIM CARNIVAL

A fun time was had by all who attended the annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 4th! Kids and their families came out dressed in costumes such as Queen Esther, Batman, and dinosaurs to celebrate and honor Purim. The afternoon began by having pizza, hamentaschen, and then moving onto the exciting carnival games. Basketball, golf, bowling, and the candle shooting race were just a few of the various games that kids (and adults) got to play. Face painting by Lindsey and guessing how much candy was in the jar added some fun to the afternoon as well! The winner of the bike raffle and rode away with a brand new trick bike! All of the kids seemed to have a great time collecting their tickets and redeeming them for their prizes. Thanks to all of the Hebrew High and visiting teens, and parents for helping out with the games and clean up. Remember to save any prize tickets for next year's Purim carnival!

Invitations by Sharon

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Kiddush: consecrating time, making our lives holy



When we start our Passover seders our first ritual act is to say *kiddush*. Have you ever stopped and thought about what we are doing when we recite these words?

To say *kiddush* is to solemnly dedicate the time to a particular goal, setting it apart from ordinary times, and to declare that the day's purpose is sacred or holy. These dedications and declarations can only make sense if we believe **that human beings can make holiness in this world**. Making holiness is an awesome responsibility. It means that we have it in our power to consecrate a day, to make time holy. In our tradition we are taught that we can make holiness through speech.

That words can have a profound effect should not be surprising from a tradition where God creates by speaking: "Let there be light!"... We Jews take words seriously because they can create or destroy; they can heal or they can harm.

Many people stand during *kiddush* since saying *kiddush* or even just answering "Amen!" to it is a way of testifying to holiness in our world. Even today when witnesses are sworn in they stand; in the ancient world, all testimony was taken from standing witnesses. In starting our Passover seder with *kiddush* we, humble humans, pick up a cup of wine and say a few words making the day holy. We declare God as "the one who makes [the People] Israel and times holy." I like that. While God made Shabbat holy (Genesis ch. 2), only we can make the festivals holy **by doing** them.

Kiddush is from the Hebrew root "**q-d-sh**" (*qoof, dalet, shin*) meaning, as a noun, apartness, sacred, holy; as a verb it embraces shades of meaning from making holy, setting-apart, and to consecrate.

In my home we do lots of 'setting-apart' before Passover. We thoroughly clean out our kitchen, replace the dishes and pots and pans with our Passover sets, cover surfaces, clean the oven and stove all while banishing all traces of *hametz* from our space. In the past years the task of the final changing over of the kitchen has fallen to me. Every year, I feel the deeper, spiritual power of these acts: making distinctions; paying close attention; thinking carefully through the implications of what I do and taking the time to act with care. For me, this cleaning is an act of consecration; it is holy work since I understand holiness as whatever brings greater appreciation of the creation and all creatures and affirms admiration of and connection with all people.

We are given the power to consecrate and we possess the free will to choose to be agents for holiness in our world. We each have the power to declare something holy — be it time, an object, a relationship, even a community — and so to dedicate it to a purpose greater than ourselves. In so many ways, Passover is a reminder of this awesome responsibility and an opportunity to practice attention to details, thinking things through and acting with care. May we all choose well and "be Holy for the ONE our God is Holy.

Rabbi Michael Tayvah

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 logo for Kindercapers features the word "kindercapers" in a stylized font. To the right of the text is a square icon containing a silhouette of a person jumping or dancing with arms raised.

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

A decorative scroll with intricate patterns, positioned vertically on the left side of the text.
A decorative scroll with intricate patterns, positioned vertically on the right side of the text.A stylized black silhouette of a tree with many leaves, representing the Tree of Life.

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

Hebrew School Happenings



April

- 1 Sunday- no school spring break
- 4 Wednesday Passover No School
- 8 Sunday- No School Passover
- 11 Wednesday- *Cooking*
- 15 Sunday Yom Hashoah- *Cooking- crafts*
- 18 Wednesday *Mock Shabbat 7*
- 22 Sunday Yom Haatzmaut- **Music** – *Mock Shabbat k-6*
- 25 Wednesday
- 29 Sunday **Dance**



March was a great month in Hebrew School. The fifth grade students interviewed several residents from Stone Bridge, who came to Kehilat Shalom. Jeremy Lerner allowed himself to be interviewed, as well. The students were excited to learn about the lifecycle from people who had experienced some or all of the milestones in their text books. Students were photographed and wrote out the answers to their questions and presented them to the people that they interviewed. If you would like to see these reports and photos, please check the hallway bulletin boards.

Many congratulations are in order for the sixth grade students who prepared and executed a Passover program for all of the students in the school. With the help of their teachers, Robynn Mann and Eli Ungar, the students created five different stations to teach about the parts of the Seder. They created "stained glass" seder plates, made charoset and the maror sandwich, sang the four questions and silly Passover songs, said many blessings, and listened to the Miriam's story. It was an example of fantastic co-teaching and team building.

Fifth and Sixth grade students are working on learning the blessings before and after the Haftarah. They should be calling their mentor groups regularly to practice their Hebrew reading.

Dori Daus, Principal

Shabbat Superstars!

2/3/07:
Gabrielle Rubinstein 3
Rachel Spielholz 6
Jason Rosenthal 4
Allison Rosenthal 1
2/16/07:
Dorothy Waskow 2
2/24/07
Dylan Carson 5
Nicole Schaum 6
Jason Weitze 4
Scott Weitze 5
Jacob Varga 5
Joanna Javeline 5
Harry Waskow 6
3/2/07
Allson Kent 7
Josh Kent 4
Susan Rosenthal 4
Zach Anderson 4
Jeremy Bilotti 6
3/9/07
Emily Campeas 7
Jackie Konkowski 7
3/10/07
Harry Waskow 6
Monica McNamara 7



The K-2 class created groggers in anticipation of Purim.



Toranim Jeni Burke and Lindsey Rosenthal help Josh in the kitchen.



Melissa Javeline and Allison Rosenthal wait eagerly to cook with Josh. This month's matzoh brie was a big it.

Cooking With Josh

This month we made Matzo Brei in Hebrew School. We discussed the meaning of Passover and why we eat matzo. The kids enthusiastically crushed matzo and scrambled eggs.

Ingredients:

- 3 matzot
- 2 eggs
- salt to taste
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- Margarine for frying

Break up the matzo and put in lukewarm water for a few minutes. Drain on paper towels and squeeze dry.
Beat the eggs.
Mix the eggs with the salt, honey, cinnamon and matzo.
Heat margarine in a frying pan.
Fry 2 tablespoons of batter, patting down slightly into pancakes.
Turn over and fry til golden.

Have a happy Passover!
Josh Fischman

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL

Hebrew High school zipped through March amid the rising and falling outside temperatures. One week the temperature was in the 70's and the next it was snowing!

For Wednesday's class, three of our teachers offered their comments about the month.

From Judi Turkheimer:

As winter merges to spring and dark yields to light, the students in Hebrew High transition to better understanding themselves and the world around them in the group coaching forum led by Judi Turkheimer. This month's explorations included a question of lies...what is a lie? When is it ok to lie? Is a lie of omission still a lie? The students wrestled with the moral implications of choices made. Also considered this month was the idea of change and transition. The class discussed their emotional responses to changes including relationships gone sour and school testing. They looked at how they could reduce negative responses and manage change positively. As always, the Hebrew High students were insightful and profound.

From Susan Waskow:

Susan Waskow and the class have had some interesting discussions in the past few weeks. Our topics have included:

- "If you could meet any one person from any point in history, who would you meet? Why?"

- What guides you in making life decisions.

- What is respect? Is it reasonable for us to be treated with respect? What does that mean to each of us? How do we show respect for others?

We invite recent bar and bat mitzvahs to join us. Our class begins with pizza and Susan promises no homework.

From Karen Fridkis:

This month the students were once more up and out of their seats helping out with shul activities. In March they helped prepare the sanctuary for guests from our congregation and Stonebridge who were coming to be interviewed by the 5th grade class. They carted tables and folding chairs from the community room to the sanctuary, arranged cookies on platters and set the table with refreshments for the guests. Afterwards, they deserved a well earned break with the boys tossing around a football outside while the girls helped Josh make matzoh brie in the kitchen with the 7th grade students. Later we discussed ways to encourage the graduating 7th graders to register for Hebrew High school.

Thursday's class:

Eli continues to teach the history of Israel and conversational Hebrew during the first hour of the upper level Hebrew High school class. The students are being taught how to conjugate verbs. Eli has brought energy and enthusiasm to his new position as a teacher of the Hebrew High school. Thanks, Eli.

Rabbi Tayvah discussed various topics during the month of March with the class during the second hour.

As always, the HHS committee is grateful to our teachers for making this program possible.

Seeking parent volunteers

As the Hebrew High school committee looks ahead toward next year, we are seeking input from parents with children in the program. We appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have. If you would like to join the Hebrew High school committee, please email me at kfridkis@comcast.net. New members are always welcome.

Shalom, *Karen Fridkis*, Hebrew High School chair

CONGREGATIONAL KEHILAT SHALOM YOUTH GROUP

The CKS youth group set aside another Saturday evening in March to get together at our shul to share an evening meal and socialize together in the synagogue. Parents were invited to sit and chat while the teens played cards and board games in the community room. Since this event was planned for March 24th and this column was written before the event took place hopefully all went as planned and another late winter storm didn't force the group to reschedule.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 28, evening

To be announced. Watch the weekly email for details in early April.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST REGIONAL YOUTH GROUP

March brought sun, wind, sleet, and snow and with it youth group events came and went. The sleet storm on March 16 postponed Yuri Lane's performance in Trenton when his flight from Chicago was cancelled. But, never fear, the concert was rescheduled for the following Friday, and hopefully, the show went on! Jewish beatboxer extraordinaire, Yuri Lane, returned to The Passages Theater in Trenton with a brand new show called Soundtrack City. Soundtrack City offers a lens into the daily lives of an array of urban inhabitants as Yuri Lane generates a distinct soundtrack for each character through the art of human beatbox. Each beat represents a different community and shows how various beats clash and are harmonized in the urban environment. The performance philosophy is hip-hop, spinning something new out of recycled pieces of culture. After the show, the youth group will be having a private reception with Yuri.

The other March event was Fondue and Jewish Comedy Night. The teens met at the Skillman home of one of the members of String of Pearls for a night of fondue and funnies. They watched film clips from great Jewish movies, skits, and pieces from across the generations. A good time was had by all. Thanks to youth advisor, Josh Goldsmith, for organizing both events.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 15. 2:00 - 5:00

Scavenger hunt and ice-cream party

SAVE THE DATE: Friday to Sunday, April 27 - 29 - North

American Noar Hadash Teen Kallah

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, Youth Activities chair.

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Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center

Somerset * Hunterdon * Warren Counties

Upcoming Events...



Healing Waters: The Mikveh as a Source of Renewal for Men and Women

When: Thursday, April 26, 7:30 to 9 PM

Where: Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater

Fee: Donations welcomed

Rabbi Robin Nafshi will provide an overview of the ancient Jewish ritual of immersion in sacred water, and lead a discussion about ways we can mark significant life transitions with traditional and new immersion ceremonies. In the months ahead, Ohr Tikvah will sponsor a visit to a local mikveh. Rabbi Robin Nafshi was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2005. Her rabbinical thesis explored the ancient Jewish ritual of hand washing, and from doing this research, she developed a general interest in Judaism's sacred uses of water.



Jewish LIFE



The Jewish LIFE community-wide Yom Hashoah Observance takes place Sunday, April 15, 7 p.m. at Temple Shalom, Bridgewater (908-722-1339). The evening will include the showing of the documentary *Surviving Auschwitz, Children of the Shoah*. A discussion will follow with Tova Friedman and her daughter, Taya Friedman, whose visit to Auschwitz is featured in this documentary. The final Jewish LIFE program of the season will feature headliner, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on Sunday, April 22, 7 p.m. at the JCC. Rabbi Telushkin is the author of several books that have made Jewish philosophy, theology and history accessible to the broad public. His books include *The Book of Jewish Values* and *The Ten Commandments of Character*. The fee for the program is \$15/Jewish LIFE members and \$20/Guests. A reception for Jewish LIFE Patrons & Benefactors and program sponsors will take place at 6 p.m. (The program sponsor fee is \$100 and includes two tickets to the event, preferred seating and the Reception with Rabbi Telushkin.)



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APRIL 2007

What's going on at Congregation Kehilat Shalom?

April 2007
13 Nisan 5767 - 12 Iyyar 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 13 Nisan No Hebrew School, School break	2 14 Nisan יז 7:07PM EREV PASSOVER	3 15 Nisan ש 8:11PM PASSOVER 1ST DAY Exo. 12.21-51; Num. 28.16-25. Joshua 3.5-7, 5.2-6.1, 6.27 (Sephardi ritual: Joshua 5.2-6.1). 5:30 PM CKS Congregational Second Night Sedar	4 16 Nisan 1 L'Omer ש 8:12PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER 1ST DAY Lev. 22.26-23.44; Num. 28.19-25. No Hebrew School No Hebrew High School	5 17 Nisan 2 L'Omer HOL HAMOED PASSOVER 2ND DAY Exo. 13.1-16; Num. 28.19-25. No Hebrew High School	6 18 Nisan 3 L'Omer יז 7:11PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER 3RD DAY Exo. 22.24-23.19; Num. 28.19-25. 7 PM Singing & Storytelling Shabbat evening service	7 19 Nisan 4 L'Omer ש 8:15PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER 4TH DAY Exo. 33.12-34.26; Num. 28.19-25. Ezekiel 37.1-14 10-11:30 AM Torah Study Pesah
8 20 Nisan 5 L'Omer יח 8:16PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER 5TH DAY Num. 9.1-14, 28.19-25. Pesach - No Hebrew School	9 21 Nisan 6 L'Omer ש 8:17PM PASSOVER 7TH DAY (YIZKOR) Exo. 13.17-15.26; Num. 28.19-25. II Samuel 22.1-51. Congregation Kehilat Shalom Office Closed	10 22 Nisan 7 L'Omer 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Mtg.	11 23 Nisan 8 L'Omer Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	12 24 Nisan 9 L'Omer 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	13 25 Nisan 10 L'Omer יח 7:18PM 7:45 PM Food for thought Shabbat Service	14 26 Nisan 11 L'Omer ש 8:22PM Shemini: Levit. 11:20- 11:47 II Samuel 6.1-21 9:30 AM Shabbat Shaharit Service; Marissa Applegate's Bat Mitzvah celebration 4:00 PM Shabbat Minhah Service; Jamie Thompson's Bar Mitzvah celebration
15 27 Nisan 12 L'Omer Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Yom Hashoah Wax Museum	16 28 Nisan 13 L'Omer ש 8:24PM YOM HASHOAH	17 29 Nisan 14 L'Omer	18 30 Nisan 15 L'Omer ROSH HODESH 1ST DAY Num. 28.1-15. Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	19 1 Iyyar 16 L'Omer ROSH HODESH 2ND DAY Num. 28.1-15. 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	20 2 Iyyar 17 L'Omer יח 7:25PM 7:00 PM Shabbat Service	21 3 Iyyar 18 L'Omer ש 8:29PM Tazria: Levit. 13:29- 13:59 Metzora: Levit. 15:1- 15:33 II Kings 7.3-20. 9:30 AM Shabbat Shaharit Service; Morgan Roger's Bat Mitzvah celebration
22 4 Iyyar 19 L'Omer Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Yom Haatzmaut Day program	23 5 Iyyar 20 L'Omer ש 8:32PM YOM HAZIKARON	24 6 Iyyar 21 L'Omer ש 8:33PM YOM HA'ATZMAUT Deut. 7.12-8.18. Isaiah 10.32-12.6.	25 7 Iyyar 22 L'Omer Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	26 8 Iyyar 23 L'Omer 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	27 9 Iyyar 24 L'Omer יח 7:33PM 7:45 PM Shabbat Service	28 10 Iyyar 25 L'Omer ש 8:37PM Ahare Mot: Levit. 18.6- 18.30 Kedoshim: Levit. 20.1- 20.27 Amos 9.7-15 5:15 PM Shabbat Minhah Service; Dylan Lazare's Bar Mitzvah celebration
29 11 Iyyar 26 L'Omer Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	30 12 Iyyar 27 L'Omer					

[יז]Candle Lighting, [ש]Observance End. Times are for Belle Mead, NJ



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Kindercapers	Susan Schatzman, director- 908-359-0160 Debbie Lampf-908-466-4165 Peggy Fass- 609-466-0146
Life Cycle (Caring for each other)	Sheryl Rosenberg- 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning / New Building / Capital campaign	Natalie London- 908-874-6952 Joseph Weiss josephhobartweiss@verizon.net
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April 2007



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