

Congregation
Kehilat Shalom
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President's Message



Change is once again in the air. As your new President, I welcome all of you back to our community and look forward to seeing and speaking to each of you. Congregation Kehilat Shalom steps towards the future with Rabbi Susan Falk who joins our community as our new spiritual leader, while we reflect and celebrate our Silver Anniversary throughout the year. Rabbi Falk's inaugural service will be August 3rd. If you are not away on summer vacation, please come and show your support.

Have you noticed any of the changes that have been taking place around our temple?

Recent Changes

Lobby

- The copier has been permanently removed from the lobby, freeing up space and improving the lobby appearance.
- The "hanging rack" that was on the floor has been removed from the lobby and new wooden hanging racks have been added by the gift shop.

Community Outreach

- We participated in a fundraiser by sponsoring a booth at the Montgomery Fireworks.
- Our revamped Web site has been launched: www.kehillatshalomnj.org. It will always be a work-in-progress as we continue to add more content. We appreciate any feedback about what type of content should be included.

Branding

- We have created an updated temple logo, which is proudly displayed on our new Web site, letterhead, and banner.

Enhancements for the near future

Lobby

- We will paint the lobby in a warm, welcoming color
- We will replace the large table holding the kipot and papers with smaller space-saving furniture.

Outside property

- The Entrance Walkway Fundraiser will be kicked off soon, allowing us to replace the bricks leading from the parking lot to the front entranceway.
- The front slate steps will be replaced or repaired.
- Many trees and branches hanging over the building will be pruned

We are always looking for individuals to help make projects happen, by contributing resources, information, or your time. Please contact me at president@kehillatshalomnj.org if you know of resources that can be helpful to Kehilat Shalom.

Planning has begun for our Welcome Back Barbeque, which is scheduled for September 9th after the first morning of Hebrew School. On that day, we will once again be co-coordinating our annual blood drive and anticipate advertising with the township to maximize its effectiveness. Please set aside that day and watch for further announcements for details. We're looking forward to seeing you then.

In addition, High Holidays - the Days of Awe, arrive only days after the barbeque. We could use additional help in coordinating and performing tasks necessary to ensure a meaningful holiday experience for all congregants. Please let us know if you can help out during this time.

Thanks very much for your support so far. I'm looking forward to a great year.

-Matt

Sisterhood

Our second CKS Sisterhood meeting was a big success with 20+ women attending and lots of fun plans in the making. We will plan at least 4 social events/year and the first two are underway (a pizza/pool get together and a cooking demo/dinner). We decided to call ourselves something other than "sisterhood" but haven't chosen a name yet—suggestions are welcome. Two subcommittees were formed to address areas of interest from the group: a women's spirituality subcommittee and new member welcome wagon subcommittee. We elected Lisa Kent and Leslie Kowalski as Co-chairs of the Sisterhood. Amy Rosenthal will be our Recording Secretary. Harlene Rosenberg has graciously agreed to fill the Treasurer role for a few months but we are seeking volunteers to take on this role so if interested, just let us know. Most importantly, the group promises to be a fun, engaging opportunity to get to know a bunch of lovely women, so please join us.

Future meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm at CKS unless a special event is planned offsite. For the meetings, bring along your knitting, your needlepoint, a craft project, or just something you need to get done (like photos and an empty photo album)—that way we can get things done while we talk (and eat, of course). Want more info? Email Lisa Kent at lisa@luminationsgroup.com or Leslie Kowalski at lrkowsk@verizon.net or simply check our CKS website.

Book Club

August 13: "Q & A" by Vikas Swarup
hostess is Thelma Canty

September 24: *Intelligencer* by Leslie Silbert

hostess is Kristina Wise

October 22: *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
hostess Marilyn Plotkin

RABBI FALK BEGINS HER TENURE AT KEHILAT SHALOM

The great Rabbi Hillel taught us not to separate ourselves from community. Already before I have even started as spiritual leader and rabbi of Congregation Kehilat Shalom, it is clear to me that its membership has absorbed this important teaching. I have been warmly welcomed by the Board, committee members, congregants, and staff. I truly look forward to all of us beginning our journey together of Jewish learning and growth, and of building sacred community.

Rabbi Susan

Rabbi Susan L. Falk, MA, BA, formerly served as the Hospice Director for the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia, providing pastoral care and education to the Jewish community. While a rabbinical student, she worked as a Chaplain, taught Hebrew school, and for three years served as the student rabbi for Congregation Beth Ahavah in Philadelphia. Before attending rabbinical school, Rabbi Falk directed a women's HIV/AIDS and health education program in New York City. In addition to her work at Jewish Family and Children's Service, Rabbi Falk gives talks and conducts workshops on how the Jewish tradition views nature and environmentalism; illness and end of life; sex and gender; science and religion; as well as a variety of other topics. It is Rabbi Falk's overall hope and mission to give an authentic religious and spiritual voice to liberal and progressive individuals of all religions and from all walks of life.

Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE looks forward to bringing our community another lineup of exceptional programs and speakers. The new season kicks off on Tuesday, September 18 with Janet Falon, who presents on Jewish Journaling. Coming in October... Jill Rogoff, "The Voice of the Wanderer: Traditional Jewish Music from Around the World" (Sunday, October 14); Rabbi Lawrence Kushner (Sunday, October 21); and Rabbi Ron Isaacs, "Lovenotes, Packages and Mandelbread - Grandparenting for Jewish Identity" (Wednesday, October 24). The full Jewish LIFE calendar including times and program fees will be included in the 2007-2008 Jewish LIFE program guide.

 <p>DESIGNS FOR DENTAL HEALTH</p>	<p>425 Arwell Road Suite 104 Hillsborough New Jersey 08844 tel. 908.359.6655 fax 908.359.1291 rmndmd@aol.com</p>
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Relearning Torah Together

Our ancient Rabbis said that each of us is conceived with the Torah's 613 *mitzvot*, or commandments, imprinted on our minds, but that during the trauma of birth, we forget them. Thus we spend our whole lives relearning the Torah lost from our memories when we were

born.

I like this story, first because it teaches us that a lifetime of learning is a desirable – and a necessary – way of living. I also like it because it implies that each generation, and that each individual within that generation, must relearn the Torah. Moreover, each will see the Torah and interpret it through a very particular and personal lens. This notion ensures that growth, change, and flexibility will be as much a part of our tradition as will adherence to a fixed set of laws, customs, and ritual practice. It is this Rabbinic legacy of observance coupled with interpretation that forever breathes new life into our Judaism.

Learning Torah is a process of give and take between text and student. It is a sacred journey of struggle with the sometimes archaic and arcane, and of openness to the sometimes mysterious and unknowable. It is a journey of searching for and finding meaning, and then of re-searching and finding meaning anew. We are, all of us at Congregation Kehilat Shalom, about to embark on a journey together – two journeys, in fact. One, a personal, inward journey of *teshuvah*, the turning and returning to our best selves, the hard work of self-reflection that will culminate on Yom Kippur. The other, a public, outward journey of a new partnership between congregation and rabbi that will take us through the year – and hopefully beyond.

This past May, I signed a contract that officially made me your new rabbi – and I am thrilled and honored to be among you at last. The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (of which our congregation is a member) calls the rabbinic contract a *brit*, or a covenant, implying a sacred relationship. We should take this language to heart. Like Torah study, a covenant is about give and take. Like Torah study, a covenant is a sacred journey of partners who are open to each other's inner truths. And, it applies not only to the congregation and the rabbi, but also to each separate member of the community.

May our journey together be a sacred journey – whether we are engaged in worship or study, hammering out new policies for our community, or stuffing envelopes with flyers regarding a fundraiser. May the community we build together be a sacred community, a *kehillah kedoshah*. I invite each one of you to take part in this journey. Join a committee, come to Shabbat services, become a member of the choir – bring your individual talents to the community, or just come and learn. (If you're already doing these things, then bring a friend!) I also invite each one of you to stop by my office, give me a call, or send me an email with any concerns or suggestions – or just drop by and say hello. I look forward to meeting you.

As our ancient Rabbis taught, let this year be a year of learning and spiritual growth for all of us. Let us find ways to combine new ideas with ancient traditions that will

inspire us to renew our commitment both to our Judaism and to our congregation.

B'Shalom u-vracha,

Rabbi Susan Falk

Kindercapers

Now in its 14th 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



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Contact Shelley Nord
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