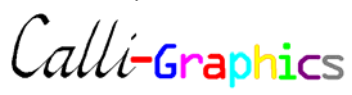


<p style="text-align: center;"> Congregation Kehilat Shalom 253 Griggstown Rd. Belle Mead, NJ 08502 Phone: 908-359-0420 Fax: 908-359-8848 Regular office hours: Mon- Fri 9:00-1:00 </p>
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Published by:



President's Message

Why Join a Synagogue



With CKS fiscal year beginning in July and Rosh Hashanah the "New Year" only weeks away, I wonder why some people join temples and others delay. As an internet generation individual, I "Google'd" around to see what had been said about this, and here what I was able to pull together. Thanks to everyone in cyberspace who helped me cobble this together.

Is it the cost that can not be afforded? There isn't a temple including ours which will turn people away. Sure memberships are expensive and there are those among you that believe that CKS has moved "in line" with the surrounding area temples. Membership is expensive, but so are groceries, homes and cars. It costs a lot of money to run a synagogue. There is payroll for the rabbi, the teachers, the office staff and the cleaning staff. There's building maintenance and grounds maintenance. The list of expenses seems endless and they are always spiraling upwards.

If most congregants paid what they could afford, rather than the minimum dues, then most synagogues might be able to lower the dues structure. But, most temples like ours struggle each and every year to meet expenses.

Yet people in need are never turned away for services.

Perhaps some people haven't joined because they don't like to pray or don't believe in God. A belief in God has never been required for synagogue membership. It's important to be a member of a congregation and join with other Jews in a community setting.

For many Jews, the synagogue serves as a social center. It's the place where people make life long friends. They do not all go to pray. But it's more than just a social group — that you can find in a country club. You come to a synagogue to find a sacred community.

Synagogues are the glue that holds the Jewish people together. For many Jews, the High Holidays is a time when they consider joining or renewing their synagogue memberships. However, what attracts them to synagogues is not always the vast array of services that synagogues and temples provide. It is the intangibles — the atmosphere in the shul or the feeling of community that really attracts people. Rabbi David Wolpe said "People will often join a synagogue, but will only stay if they find a place in the community. Other reasons for not joining a synagogue:

1. "I can't find a congregation that meets my expectations."

Jews have never claimed to be flawless. You'd be hard pressed to find any perfect people in our Torah.
2. "Now that my children are grown, I don't feel the need to join a congregation."

When your children were young and needed a place to learn and study, other people who didn't have children were willing to contribute to the strength of that synagogue so your children could learn and make friends and identify with the Jewish people. Isn't it time now for you to honor them by following their example?
3. "I attended services and people just aren't friendly."

If you go to services and wish people "Shabbat Shalom," no one will be mean to you, and if you say it with a smile, you might even get a hug.

If you haven't yet renewed with us or know someone that hasn't joined a synagogue yet, please don't delay. If for no other reason, join a synagogue to show your support of Judaism, the Jewish community and the Jewish people. Rabbi Janet Marder said, "Synagogues are not supposed to be used instrumentally to fulfill your personal needs. Rather, joining a synagogue should bring us out of the narrow circle of self-concern and help open us to the needs of others."

Have a healthy and happy New Year -- but most importantly, start the New Year off in a synagogue. The doors are open. It is up to you to walk in.

Matt

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CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

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Committee Happenings

Empty Nesters

Finding yourself at loose ends now that the kids are out of the house? Looking to join a congenial social group to occupy some of that new free time? Craving activities with grownups, activities that are fun, cultural (sometimes) and which always include food? Then Empty Nesters is for you.

We are open to singles and couples. We meet once a month. Each member unit takes a turn at planning the activities. We have visited museums, restaurants, had potlucks and many other activities. We always enjoy being together, talking and sharing.

If you think Empty Nesters is for you, or you have questions about us, please contact Richard and Sheryl Rosenberg at 908-253-7049 or swellcourt@verizon.net (with Empty Nesters in the subject line).

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

On September 9, 2007 between 8:30 and 2:00 the New Jersey Blood Mobile will be in the parking lot of the temple to collect both blood and platelets. This is the first day of Sunday school, the temple's annual barbecue. The cafe will also be open. Please stop in and help give the gift of life. Call the temple office and make an appointment with Robin or call me if you have any questions. I and others who are transfusion dependent thank you for saving our lives. *Thelma Canty*

WELCOME BACK BBQ



Sunday, Sept 9 (after the first day of Hebrew School) - **1:00 pm**

The synagogue will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, rolls, drinks, chips and paper goods/utensils. All we ask you to bring is a parve side dish or dessert.

This is a membership event and is open to any person or family interested in synagogue membership, so invite your friends.

Please RSVP to volunteer and/or to attend:

Robin in the synagogue office 908-359-0420 or robin@kehilatshalomnj.org

or

Leslie Kowalski 609-275-4644

or

kowalski1229@earthlink.net



I Am My Beloved's and My Beloved is Mine

Ani Le-dodi, Ve-dodi Li. "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." The Hebrew initials of these words from the Song of Songs, **A**ni **L**e-**d**odi, **V**e-**d**odi **L**i, when read consecutively, read **A**leph-**L**amed-**V**av-**L**amed, spelling *Elul*, the month in the Jewish calendar when we Jews prepare ourselves for the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, our most important holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We take this time to examine our lives, our deeds of the past year, and we allow ourselves to be transformed by the power of *teshuvah*, of returning to our best selves, to love, and to God. In the month of Elul, God and the human soul attempt to return to one another like old lovers renewing their vows. *Ani Le-dodi, Ve-dodi Li.* "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine."

Each year, our lives are filled with moments of joy and sorrow, of triumphs and disappointments, of busyness and dull drudgery – moments of which we are proud and moments that may leave us with deep regret. Many of us have taken on new jobs or new relationships, or felt the pride of the accomplishments of our children or partners or friends. Some of us have been ill, and others of us have been healthy. Some of us have experienced the pain of the loss of a loved one, while still others have felt the joy of bringing new life into the world.

As a community, too, Congregation Kehilat Shalom has gone through changes over the past year, as well as the major transition of losing a rabbi and finding a new one. Our country, and indeed our entire planet, every day experience great blessings, on the one hand, and deep social, political, economic and environmental problems, on the other. These events and circumstances provide a noisy backdrop to our individual lives.

With all the tumult and ups and downs of our daily lives, with all the changes and upheaval in our larger world, is it possible, is it truly possible to sort it all out and to clear a path of return, of *teshuvah*? Is it possible to renew our vows of love and commitment to each other, to ourselves, and to God?

Our tradition tells us that *teshuvah* was created even before Creation itself. This teaches that there is no person for whom *teshuvah* is not possible; nor is there a time or a place where it cannot be obtained. This does not mean, however, that *teshuvah* is easy. On the contrary, *teshuvah* is hard, soul-searching work. And, it is hard mostly because it requires that we bestow upon ourselves not blame, but rather great compassion – something that does not always come easily to us.

Ani Le-dodi, Ve-dodi Li. "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." The ancient Rabbis in their infinite wisdom gave us this gift, this opportunity of *teshuvah* that comes once a year. This is our time to dig deeply into our hearts and minds and souls. This is our time to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off and start afresh. I pray that we will each find the love and compassion to return to our truest and best selves, to return to our friends and family, to our neighbors near and far, and to God.

LeShana tova tikateivu. May we all be inscribed for a year of blessing, health, and fulfillment. I look forward to seeing all of you on Rosh Hashanah.


Happy New Year!

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
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Questions?
Call Peggy Fass 609-466-0146
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Hebrew School Happenings



September 2007

9 Sunday
12 Wednesday *No Class* Rosh Hashana
16 Sunday
19 Wednesday art
23 Sunday-art
26 Wednesday *No Class* Sukkot
30 Sunday

The Hebrew Summer Camp was a great success. Students learned "Hatikva", worked on letter recognition, read stories in Hebrew, learned some of the letters in Hebrew Sign language, played Hangman, Bingo, board games and worked in file folders. We celebrated the last day with ice pops and kid's choice.

September brings the start of Hebrew School on Sunday, the 9th for K-6th grade. Parents are welcome to come a half hour before the end of the day for Back to School information. The Parent Handbook has been emailed to all families and is posted on the website. If you do not have a prayer CD, please see Anna in the office. If your child is a new student, please make sure to pick up your Kehilat Shalom Hebrew School book bag at that time, as well.

Shari Burrack and John Murphy donated a digital camera, sd card, pencils, colored pencils, gluesticks, and folders. These items were needed by the Hebrew School. Thank you for coming to our aid.

Arielle Starkman will be single-handedly running our arts and crafts program this year to earn her silver award through the girl scouts. She is planning the entire program and fundraising to pay for the materials. Keep a lookout on the walls and in your child(ren)'s book bags for the projects that will be created. It is a credit to Arielle that she chose our Temple community as the place to put volunteer effort.



I hope you have all enjoyed your summer.

Shana Tova Tikatavu (May you be written for a good year).

Dori Daus, Principal



Invitations by Sharon

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HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 12
Erev Rosh Hashanah – 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 13
Rosh Hashanah day – 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Family Service – 3:00 – 4:00 PM
Tashlikh hike to Pike Creek – 4:15 PM (dress for a hike)

Friday, September 14
2nd day Rosh Hashanah – 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Shabbat Shuvah services – 7:45 PM

Friday, September 21
Kol Nidre – 6:30 PM

Saturday, September 22
Yom Kippur Morning Services – 9:30 AM
Yizkor – 1:00 PM
Family Service – 3:00 – 4:00 PM
Nielah Service – 6:30 PM
Sundown – shofar blowing – 7:37 PM

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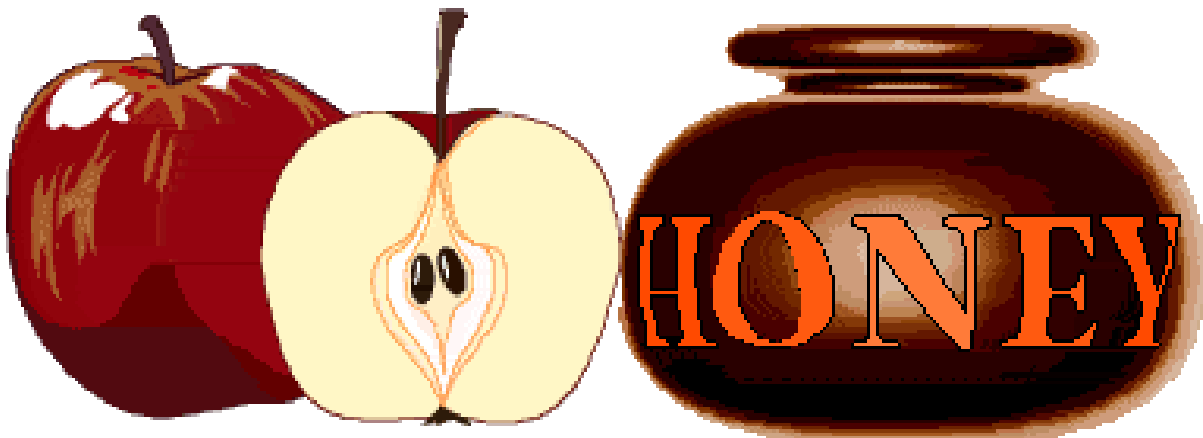
SEPTEMBER 2007

September 2007
18 Elul 5767 - 18 Tishri 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 18 Elul Kee Tavo: Deut. 28:1 - 29:8 Isaiah 60.1-22.
2 19 Elul	3 20 Elul	4 21 Elul	5 22 Elul	6 23 Elul	7 24 Elul	8 25 Elul SELIHOT Nitzavim: Deut. 29.9-30.20. Vayelekh: Deut. 31.1-30. Isaiah 61.10-63.9.
9 26 Elul Hebrew School Starts Blood Drive - 8:30 AM - 2:00PM Membership BBQ - 12:30 PM	10 27 Elul KinderCapers starts	11 28 Elul	12 29 Elul EREV ROSH HASHANAH Erev Rosh Hashanah Services 7:00 PM NO HEBREW SCHOOL	13 1 Tishri ROSH HASHANAH I Gen. 21.1-34, Num. 29.1-6. I Samuel 1.1-2.10. Morning Services - 9:30 AM Family Services - 3:00 PM Tashlikh Hike - 4:15 PM	14 2 Tishri ROSH HASHANAH II Gen. 22.1-24, Num. 29.1-6. Jeremiah 31.1-19. Morning Services - 9:30 AM Shabbat Shuvah Services - 7:45 PM	15 3 Tishri Haazinu: Deut. 32.1-52. Shabbat Shuvah Hosea 14.2-10, Micah 7.18-20 or Hosea 14.2-10, Joel 2.15- 27.
16 4 Tishri FAST OF GEDALIAH Morning: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1- 10. Afternoon: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Isaiah 55.6-56.8. Hebrew School	17 5 Tishri	18 6 Tishri	19 7 Tishri Hebrew School	20 8 Tishri	21 9 Tishri EREV YOM KIPPUR Kol Nidre - 6:30 PM	22 10 Tishri YOM KIPPUR (YIZKOR) Morning: Levit. 16.1-34, Num. 29.7-11. Afternoon: Levit. 18.1-30. Morning: Isaiah 57.14-58.14. Afternoon: Jonah 1.1-4.11, Micah 7.18-20. Morning service - 9:30 AM Yiskor - 1:00 PM Family Service - 3:00 PM Nilah - 6:30 PM Shofar blowing - 7:37 PM Break Fast - 7:45 PM
23 11 Tishri Hebrew School	24 12 Tishri	25 13 Tishri	26 14 Tishri EREV SUKKOT NO HEBREW SCHOOL	27 15 Tishri SUKKOT I Levit. 22.26-23.44, Num. 29.12-16. Zechariah 14.1-21.	28 16 Tishri SUKKOT II Levit. 22.26-23.44, Num. 29.12-16. I Kings 8.2-21.	29 17 Tishri HOL HAMOED SUKKOT I Exo. 33.12-34.26; Num. 29.17-25. Ezekiel 38.18-39.16. Joshua Himelfarb Bar Mitzvah - 4:00PM
30 18 Tishri HOL HAMOED SUKKOT II Num. 29.20-28. Hebrew School						

[;Candle Lighting, §Observance End, Printed August 13, 2007/29 Av 5767 for Belle Mead, NJ USA]

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



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September 2007



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