

# Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **August 2008** Tammuz— Av 5768

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## President's Message

Since the last CKS newsletter was mailed, the school year has ended. Camp has begun and family trips have been made or planned. I hope you all have been enjoying your summers as much as I have. For me, the special part about summer days lies in their simplicity. It's enjoying the end of the day that runs into evening as the sun sets and the temperature begins to fall. During that time, hopefully I will have grilled dinner on the barbeque and for dessert, the family will roast marshmallows over the fire pit. However, the summer can be more than just relaxing at home; it can be a season to try something new.

On a recent long weekend away I attempted to water ski for the first time. I can honestly say that I couldn't do it. At least not the way it's supposed to be done. The pictures shown here are all the proof you need. What have you done this summer so far? Go anywhere, do anything, see something interesting? Perhaps your special event hasn't happened yet and will take place in August.

The next CKS newsletter will be at your door or in your email box in one month, just prior to the synagogue's Welcome Back barbeque. In the spirit of community and great conversation starters, please send pictures of things you and/or your family did over the summer to our newsletter creator Karen Bartels [karen.bartels@verizon.net](mailto:karen.bartels@verizon.net) by August 15th. They will be published next month. It would great to fill our next newsletter with pictures of the fun things our extended CKS family did over the summer. Enjoy the summer!



*Matt*



Pictured: Stacey Anderson, Andrea Lass, Amy Rosenthal, Debbie Tesser and Eric Applegate

**High Holidays are Coming!  
Free and Open to All!  
Stay Tuned.....**

**High Holidays Children's Service and  
Child Care**

High Holidays will be here before you know it! For families with younger children, we'd like to let you know that we are planning to have a Children's Service in the back room for an hour during morning services, rather than separately in the afternoon. If you wish, you may attend this service with your children, or remain in the sanctuary for the main service.

In addition, in past years, we have had organized child care so that parents can attend all of morning services while their kids are occupied and happy. We can look into doing that again for the remainder of the morning, if there is enough interest.

Please email Robin if you are interested in organized child care during High Holidays. Also, if you are interested in helping to plan the Children's Service, please email as well.

Thanks! The Religion Committee



**CKS WALKWAY CAMPAIGN**

*Help Make The Temple More Beautiful*

By now, you've undoubtedly had a chance to admire and use the new front walkway. Each inscription in the walkway adds beauty to the temple not only by honoring friends or family, but by honoring our commitment to the Congregation Kehilat Shalom community.

Please help to join us to make the temple even more beautiful by reserving an inscribed brick in honor or memory of someone special to you or your family. The cost of a brick is \$200. You can pay by check or credit card (through Pay Pal) – see the website for these links.

Please don't hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions.

Holly Grace Nelson  
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Robert Neusner  
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, July 20** - Bagel Cafe at CKS, 9:30 to 11 am. Bagels, coffee, tea and schmoozing!

**Friday, July 25** - Shabbat service, 7:45 pm

**Friday, August 8** - Shabbat service, 7 pm

**August 17** - Bagel Cafe at CKS, 9:30 to 11 am. Bagels, coffee, tea and schmoozing!

**Friday, August 22** - Shabbat service, 7:45 pm

**Sunday, September 7** - First Day of Hebrew School (9 am), and Welcome BBQ (12 to 4 pm)

**Sundays, September 21 and October 5** - Adult Education: Hebrew refresher (9:30 to 11 am)

**Friday, September 26** - Special Teen Lead Service, 7 pm

**Monday - Wednesday, September 29, 30, October 1** - Rosh Hashanah services

**Wednesday and Thursday, October 8-9** - Yom Kippur services

**Monday, October 13** - Sukkot Pot Luck Dinner, 6 pm

**Friday, October 17** - Sukkot "Pizza in the Hut", 6 pm, Learner's Minyan Shabbat, 7 pm

**Tuesday, October 21** - Simchat Torah service with Klezmer Band, 6:30 pm

Our regular service schedule resumes September 5, 2008: first service (Family Service) and third service (Learner's Minyan) of the month, 7 pm; second and fourth service of the month, 7:45 pm.

**BOOK CLUB**

Strong reviews and one of the most popular books right now...

ALL ARE WELCOME ....

Come talk about it...

August 11 *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. 7:30pm at the home of Eleanor Tillman.

Please RSVP to [bookclub@ksnj.org](mailto:bookclub@ksnj.org) and let us know if you need directions.

If you want to be on our distribution list as well, please send a note to [bookclub@ksnj.org](mailto:bookclub@ksnj.org) and we will add you.

Hello Congregation friends:

Many of you know that my mom passed away last October. I intend to have a memorial plaque put up for her, as I did for my father who passed away over 20 years ago (tells you how long I've been at the Temple). The last time I was in the Temple I walked over to the Memorial Plaque area to look at the plaque for my dad. I was very saddened to see how empty the area was. This was only because I know many congregants have lost parents or other family members they would like to remember. I've often wondered how prospective members would view this, perhaps feeling that our members have been fortunate to not lose family members. However, when they consider that the Temple has been here for 25 years, they might see that as strange. I would encourage any congregants who have lost family members to have a memorial plaque put up, hopefully before this year's High Holiday Services late in September. The fee is \$250 and Shelley Nord is the contact person.

On a totally different note:

Please remember that it is always possible to shop online on Amazon and have a percentage of the sale donated to the Temple. The link is on the website:

<http://www.kehilatshalomnj.org/store>

*Janis Baroness Todd*

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## From the Rabbi

### RENEWING OUR DAYS



*Hashiveynu Adonai  
eylecha v'nashuva.  
Chadesh yameynu  
kekedem.*

Return us to You, Adonai, and we will return. Renew our days as of old.

These words that conclude the book of Lamentations, or *Aicha*, are read on Tisha B'Av, literally, the ninth of Av, the date commemorating the destructions – roughly 500 years apart – of both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. *Aicha*, the first Hebrew word of the book, which translates as an imploring “How?”, takes us on a journey of emotions, see-sawing between anger and remorse, despair and forgiveness. In graphic detail almost too painful to read, *Aicha* recounts the tale of the first destruction by the Babylonian Empire in 586 BCE. On Tisha B'Av, we fast from sundown to sundown; we enter our sanctuaries and sit together on the floor – a sign of mourning – and we listen as the plaintive tones of the Book of *Aicha* are chanted.

Return us to You, Adonai, and we will return. Renew our days as of old. What does this mean? How do we emerge from this valley of tears, from the trauma of destruction and exile that forever changed our destiny as a people?

Two ways. First, in the short term, we emerge during the seven weeks that follow Tisha B'Av, leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Known as the “seven weeks of comfort”, the *haftarot*, or prophetic readings for these seven weeks prophecy Israel's redemption and a world of peace, justice, and mercy. Each of these readings helps us to climb from the depths of Tisha B'Av up to the renewal of Rosh Hashanah, the birth of the world, and the chance at *rebirth* for each individual.

In the long term, we emerge through faith in the Rabbinic decree that the Messiah will be born on Tisha B'Av. Tisha B'Av, then, raises us up out of the ashes of destruction and gives us hope. Hope for a rebuilding of community; hope for *tikkun olam*, the repair of our broken world; and hope for the conviction that human social progress is possible. Rabbi Arthur Waskow teaches that the words, “renew our days as of old” do *not* mean “give us back the good old days.” Rather, they mean to “make our days full of newness as You did

long ago.” After the long lament, the end of *Aicha* means to fill us with the hope, strength, and intelligence to imagine new ideas and discover bold solutions to our problems. The end of *Aicha* means to fill us with a renewed sense of energy with which to rebuild our communities, care for ourselves and our loved ones, and participate in the betterment of the larger world. Renew our days as of old.

Tisha B'Av falls this year on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Whether you choose to read Lamentations, sit on the ground and fast or not, take a moment that day to remember the despair that gripped our people so long ago. And take a moment to think about how this year you will harness your *own* hope and potential for our community, Congregation Kehilat Shalom. Join our new fundraising committee; come to movie night, adult education classes or Friday night services; teach a class for Kehi-Loft, our new student-designed Hebrew High School; or just come and hang out at our Sunday morning bagel café and get to know your fellow congregants. I hope to see you all soon. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

*B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Susan*

#### **Ed. note:**

**Congratulations to Rabbi Susan on her 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary at CKS!**

### CKS Donations

*CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.*

5/16/08 – 6/15/08

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In honor of the Hebrew High School graduates

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**Congregant's Assistance Fund:**  
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In Memory of Fannie Lampf and to thank Rabbi Susan for her healing prayers for Estelle Lampf  
Joan Montanari

BAGEL BREAKFAST 7/20/08



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