

Congregation  
Kehilat Shalom  
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M-W-Th 8:30-3:30  
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Published by:

**Bulletin from the Board- Shelley Parish Nord**

**So why did you join a synagogue?**

A good question. As a long time member, I have heard numerous responses over the years. I am sure you have heard them too.

If you asked a typical CKS congregant why they joined this particular synagogue, quite often they would respond, "I liked the people." Who are these people they liked and why did they have to join a synagogue to hang out with them?

**Another Good Question.**

Why should anyone have to pay money (otherwise known as dues) to hang out with a bunch of nice people on occasion and for some, three days a year? After all, joining a synagogue is not like joining the gym. When you join the gym, the benefits you expect are to get your body in shape and to keep it that way. But joining a gym does not automatically confer those benefits upon you. You actually have to go there and work out.

Joining a synagogue is a bit different; you still have to go there and participate but it benefits you in ways you may not expect. You think you are joining to educate your kids in Jewish traditions, to prepare those kids for their bar or bat mitzvahs, to have a place to say kaddish. But truly, joining a synagogue is simply not a function of maximizing the benefit for you with those dollars spent.

I would argue also, quite simply, that the active step of joining a synagogue is to proclaim that you live in a larger society, one that you wish to benefit with your love and support as this society benefits you with its love and support. While there might be a real tendency for individuals to look out for number one, when you join a synagogue, when you support that synagogue with your dues, your donations of time, money and love, you are supporting the larger community.

Not only would I urge you to give generously to this, our Jewish community, to build friendships and networks, but to encourage other Jewish families who are not affiliated to join our community here at Congregation Kehilat Shalom. We need active participation at all levels in order to keep our doors open. Quite often this means money. But more importantly this means members. We all know you can see your friends without joining a synagogue, but how much richer would all our lives be if we could bring in more families, singles, young and older, Ashkenazi and Sephardic, interfaith, searchers and seekers to our home at CKS. Come to Shabbat services. Invite a friend or two or three.

But above all, join us; we are all *landsmen* here.

B' Shalom.

*Shelley Parish Nord*

**Hands of Healing**

Last year at the Princeton Community event CKS created an image of cut out fabric hands next to and layered on top of each from passers-by at the day's event. Almost all of the fabric for this project was donated by Thelma Canty. Thelma was a wonderful person who promoted the synagogues' annual blood drive because of her own blood transfusion dependency. With great sadness Thelma passed away this summer. At the dedication ceremony of the Remembrance Garden for those within the CKS family that have passed, I pledged to frame the Hands of Healing and have it hung in our Oneg room.

## CKS Donations

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

### General:

Barbara Lehman

In honor of the birth of my grandson, Daniel Alex Lehman

Nancy and Mitch Javeline

In memory of Joseph Isenberg

Lisa and Rich Kent

Sharon Underberg-Davis

Michael and Lisa Auerbach

Gitta and Howard Greenberg

Shelley Parish Nord

Herb Milich

Renee Bauer

In honor of Rabbi Falk

Greta Stanton

Kristina Wise

thanks to Natalie London

Debbie and Gary Gartenberg

Ann and Aaron Gavzy

Morra Spritzer

### High Holiday:

Harlene and Marc Rosenberg

Mindy and Fred Melmid

### Bike Rack:

Jeremy Perlmutter

Karen Cohen and Jeff Bachrach

Judith Pollack and Jim Ohls

Stacey Roth Backrach

### Congregant's Assistance Fund:

Lin and Maung Min

## CKS BOOK CLUB -

Monday, February 9, 7:30 PM

Sue Lerner's home

15 Downbury Ct, Hillsborough

RSVP: 908-904-0228

Book: **Rich Man, Poor Man** by Irvin Shaw

Monday, March 9, 7:30 PM

Eleanor Tilman's home:

17 Brookside Dr., Skillman

RSVP: 609-466-1833

Book: **March** by Geraldine Brooks

April - TBA

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ANY BOOK CLUB MEETING  
- PLEASE RSVP**

**HAVE A BOOK YOU LOVED AND WANT TO DISCUSS,  
PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL to: [BOOKCLUB@KSNJ.ORG](mailto:BOOKCLUB@KSNJ.ORG)**

## Committee Report

### ADULT EDUCATION

Congregation Kehilat Shalom

In conjunction with

Jewish LIFE, a Community Adult Education Program,  
Presents

**Interfaith LIFE: A guided discussion of issues facing individuals, interfaith couples, parents of interfaith couples, Jews by choice, and Jews by birth who grapple with the meaning of Judaism and Jewish observance.**

*If you missed the first session on December 7, you are still welcome to join us on March 1 for a fascinating session!*

- **Sunday, March 1, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at CKS**
- CKS Members -\$5 Non-members -\$10 for the series (unless you already paid on December 7). Fee includes bagel café.

### Contemporary Judaism – Are We All Jews by Choice? – March 1

As Judaism has moved through the millennia from its roots as a people of ancient Israel, through the Diaspora and into a post-modern secular world, how have we all, in a sense, become Jews by choice? What implications does that have for Jewish practice and the incorporation of “non-Jews” into it, especially in the most liberal branches of Judaism? Led by Rabbi Susan Falk.

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Would you like more news from CKS? Sign on to our weekly e-bulletin! Contact Robin at [admin1@ksnj.org](mailto:admin1@ksnj.org) to be added to the list.

OF ANGELS AND STARDUST



This month in our Torah cycle, we chant the *shirat ha-yam*, the Song of the Sea, an ancient Israelite poem re-enacting that mythical moment of the splitting of the Sea, and of our Redemption from slavery. In the Torah scroll itself, the poem stands out, the Hebrew words sprawling boldly across the parchment in three distinct columns meant to resemble the sea walls on either side with the

Israelites marching up through the middle. Roughly halfway down the page, if you look carefully, you will find the words: *Mi chamocho ba-elim Adonai, mi kamocho ne-e-dar ba-kodesh, norah tehilot, oseh fele*, "Who is like You among the gods, Adonai, who is like You, splendid in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders!" We chant these famous words not just on Shabbat, but in the daily liturgy as well. So profound is the moment of Redemption in the mind and heart of the Jewish spirit!

The Torah text states that Moses and the children of Israel sang the entire Song of the Sea when they, in awe and joy and incredulity, witnessed this moment of their oppressor crushed beneath the waves. Our ancient Rabbis, however, tell another story about this moment. Their story, their midrash, concerns not what happened on earth, but what happened in the heavens, in the minds and hearts of God and the angels. The Rabbis said that when the angels saw the sea walls collapse upon Pharaoh's army, they too, like their human counterparts, began to burst into songs of praise. But God rebuked them instantly saying, "The works of My hands are drowning in the sea, and you would utter song in My presence!" With these words, God appeals to the angels' better nature. In telling this story, the Rabbis appeal to the "better angels of our nature" (to borrow a phrase from Abraham Lincoln's first Inaugural Address in 1861). While all deserve liberty, we do not rejoice at the destruction of our enemies.

I write these words on a snowy Martin Luther King Day, and on the day before the inauguration of our new President, Barack Obama – may he be blessed with the wisdom and strength to lead us. I write these words as a new cease-fire is implemented between Israel and Hamas – may it be of long-lasting, eternal effect.

These are hard times. We are all concerned with the violence and acts of terror that exist in Israel and Gaza, in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Sudan and Zimbabwe – and right here on our own city streets. I know also that some of you have lost your jobs, and that most of us have watched our hard-earned savings diminish.

These are hard times. But our ancient Rabbis also teach us that we human beings have a dual nature – part earthly, part heavenly; or if you prefer, part dust-

of-the-earth, part stardust. And the human condition, the human struggle, is the constant search for the "better angels of our nature". Our country – and our world – are in search of these angels right now.

May our own little corner of the world, Congregation Kehilat Shalom, be a place where we can search out and find those better angels in ourselves and in each other. May it be a safe haven where we can pray and eat and learn together – and create a vibrant, healthy, peaceful, and unified *kehilah kedoshah*, a sacred community.

*Keyn yehi ratzon*. May it be so soon and speedily in our time.

With blessings for peace and prosperity,

*Rabbi Susan*



Now in its 15th full year, CKS's non-sectarian pre-school for children 2½ 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 908-359-0420



### 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



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

Questions?  
Susan Waskow 609-333-1113  
or Harlene Rosenberg 908-874-8283



## Hebrew School Happenings



### February

- 1st Adult Ed
- 6 Friday K-4 class service with dinner
- 8 music k-4/trope 5-7
- 15 No class President's weekend
- 22 Reconstructionism with the Rabbi

January was a very short month.

The students in K-4 learned new songs with Debbie Grauer. The third and fourth graders learned a song that Debbie wrote in Hebrew that taught the words, "The cups go to the right, to the right. The cups go to the right, left, right." Students were given cups which they had to pass to the beat in the proper direction. It was a lot of fun. The K-2 class also learned a new song that had associated actions teaching the words for "sit down" and "stand up".

The fifth, sixth and seventh graders learned the trope, Pazer. It is a very difficult trope with lots of notes, but all of the students were able to sing it to its name, the word "watermelon" and the word, "Baboker" which occurs in the story of the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael and means "in the morning". Kehiloft students Marissa Applegate, Jeremy Bilotti, and Ariel Kramer took a very active role in teaching this trope. Jeremy brought his guitar, figured out the correct notes for our congregation (with the help of Marissa), and played the notes for Pazer over and over until the students were able to sing it properly.

Report cards went out at the end of January. The following students had 100% attendance as of January 11: Matthew Kent ( K), Vivien Milich( 2), Andrew Galkin(3), Kaela Milich(3), Kelly Anderson( 4), Melissa Javeline(4), Ian Murphy(5), Zachary Anderson(6), Paul Galkin (6), and Joanna Javeline(7).

Yasher Koach to the students and parents who helped make this possible.

## Kehilat Shalom's Purim Carnival

March 8, 2009

12:30PM-2:30 PM

**Games, Crafts, Prizes, Pizza, Refreshments,  
Hammentaschen and lots of fun!**

**\$5 per child**

**(maximum \$15 per family)**

**Please contact**

**Rhonda Wynston-Kraft with any questions or to volunteer**

**Cell (908) 938-0151 [rhonda@executivity.com](mailto:rhonda@executivity.com)**



## Kehi-Loft



For this month's newsletter I thought I would share some of the presentation that I gave to the Board of Trustees at their January meeting. Committee chairs were asked to update the board on their committee's activities for the first half of the year. Kehi-Loft has had numerous

successes that I thought would interest the congregation. Here's a sampling:

### Accomplishments for the first semester of Kehi-Loft:

1. established bonded group of CKS teens who want to meet weekly to see each other, learn about Judaism, and work on projects for Kehi-Loft and CKS
2. new friendships have formed between students, existing friendships strengthened
3. presented Jonah story to congregation on Yom Kippur
4. wrote thank you notes to congregants who donated money to Kehi-Loft
5. fundraiser - car wash in September
6. construction of loft classroom completed
7. dismantled new construction for High Holy Day services
8. reassembled loft after High Holy Day services
9. stained exterior walls (facing sanctuary)
10. created committees for various class functions
11. created a Facebook group
12. reached out to 7th graders to invite to January 28 class
13. lead Shabbat services with rabbi September 26, sponsored oneg
14. lead Shabbat services with rabbi November 14, sponsored oneg
15. moved bookcases from loft to board room for Hebrew school
16. moved Hebrew school books from loft to board room
17. cleaned attic closet
18. helped w/miscellaneous CKS projects - i.e. moving reader's table on bima, etc
19. students earned community service hours for participating in Kehi-Loft events - i.e. construction of classroom
20. through their participation in Kehi-Loft many students have become more involved with CKS, i.e. helping in Hebrew school, participating in services, attending CKS events

### A sampling of the projects that the students will be involved with for the second semester:

1. complete loft promotional video of Kehi-Loft to present to Hebrew school students
2. set up schedule of Kehi-Loft events for 7th grade students
3. lead Shabbat services on January 30
4. install plaque to acknowledge donations from congregants
5. create design and paint interior wall (this is the new wall. front is stained and faces sanctuary, back of wall faces Kehi-Loft classroom)
6. have carpet installed

7. furnish loft
8. lead two additional Shabbat services after January 30th service
9. graduation ceremony in Spring

### New changes in Kehi-Loft program:

1. Meeting once a month on Sunday evening. Students will substitute one Sunday evening class for a Wednesday session. This will enable students who have other commitments on Wednesday evening to attend.
2. One adult led discussion or project a week instead of two.
3. More time for students to work on group Kehi-Loft projects, such as promotional video, fundraising ideas, and painting wall.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped make the first half of the year a success for the Kehi-Loft. I would especially like to acknowledge Hebrew High School committee members Lisa Kent, Tom Berger, and Gayle Holtzman. Thanks, too, to the congregants who volunteered their time to help lead a session or work on the construction, especially Joseph Weiss, Eric Weitze, Lou Orlando, Matt Rosenberg, Steven Fischman (our construction team) and Rabbi Susan, George Cohen, Lisa Kent, and Susan Waskow for leading discussions. Kehi-Loft is grateful for your support.

*Shalom,*

*Karen Fridkis, chair Hebrew High School committee*

*Invitations by Sharon*

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## Jewish Community

# Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE presents **Bob Wechsler**, *Day by Day in Jewish Sports History* on **Sunday, February 22 at 10 a.m.** Bob Wechsler is author of *The Ultimate Jewish Sports History and Trivia Book*. The morning includes brunch, presentation and book signing. Renowned scholar of Torah, **Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman** will offer *A New Look at Sibling Relationships in the Book of Genesis-Reality and Renewed Possibilities*, **Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m.** Both programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. The fee for each program is \$10/Jewish LIFE Member and \$15/Non-Member. Call 908-725-6994 x201 to register.

## Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center

Somerset \* Hunterdon \* Warren Counties

### Upcoming Events...



#### **Purim Mitzvah on March 15th:**

#### **Do You like Wearing a Costume?**

Ohr Tikvah will once again sponsor a Purim Program for the residents of Martin and Edith Stein Assisted Living Residence in Somerset, NJ. Mauri Tyler, a Drum Facilitator, will bring a range of instruments that the residents can enjoy and play. We are looking for religious school students to join us, and perhaps wear a Purim costume. This is sure to bring a smile to the residents. Contact Carrie Hydro at 908 507 8455 if you have religious school students that are interested in joining us for about an hour at the Center to share a Purim mitzvah.

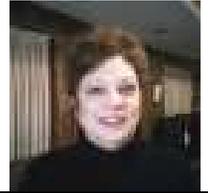
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ROBERT "BOB" FASS  
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE

## GETTING TO KNOW....

Morra Spritzer



Occupation	Entire "career" is general liability insurance claims; 21 years with CNA Insurance Company; for past 8 as a Reinsurance Analyst for the Law Department, Environmental and Asbestos/Mass Tort Claims
Family	Not married, no kids. My mother, sister, and brother live in the area. I have an almost 15 year old nephew, Jordan. My 8 year old niece, Sara, is my favorite person in the whole world.
Community Activities	<u>Montgomery Woods Homeowners Association</u> : Chair of the Architecture Committee; Block Captain, Neighborhood Watch Committee <u>CKS</u> : Sanctuary Beautification, Adult Ed Leading Services class
Hobbies	Reading literary fiction and "nesting" magazines; cooking and having dinner parties (allows me to channel my grandmother by wearing her apron); movies and eating out.
Motto	My mottos are more like self-pep talks: Your instinct is ALWAYS right; When in doubt, stick with Plan A.
Bad Habit(s)	Sugar sugar sugar and I should get to the gym more often
Favorite Movies	I never miss The Godfather (all 3), Gone with the Wind, The Way We Were, To Live and Die in L.A., Pride & Prejudice (A&E version)
Favorite TV Shows	I am still mourning the end of The Sopranos. The Newshour, Dog the Bounty Hunter ( I get homesick for Hawaii where I lived from 1978 - 1981), In Treatment, Survivor
Favorite Music	<u>Songs</u> : A Song for You, Leon Russell; <u>Like a Rolling Stone</u> , Bob Dylan <u>Albums</u> : Paul Simon, Live Concert at Central Park; A Concert for George (Harrison) with various artists; Modern Times, Bob Dylan <u>Artists</u> : Dylan, Michael McDonald, Neil Young, Hendrix, Stevie Wonder
Favorite Books	<u>Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse</u> by Louise Erdrich; <u>Life in the Time of Cholera</u> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; <u>Any Human Heart</u> by William Boyd "Last Report" has made it to the top 10 lists of everyone to whom I've recommended it.
Favorite Foods	Seared Tuna; broccoli salad from the Amish Market in Kingston
Best Childhood Memories	Time with Dad: our Saturday mornings just the two of us "going to the office" and our drives to and from Hebrew school. As an adult when I underwent treatment for breast cancer (2001) it was déjà vu as he drove me to and from my daily radiation therapy.
If I had more time	I'd volunteer more: breast cancer support; hospice

# FEBRUARY 2009

7 Shevat 5769 - 4 Adar 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7 Shevat 7:07AM/5:18PM 9 - 11:30 am Leading a Service - From Lighting Shabbat Candles to Adon Olam! Part 3: Leading the Torah Discussion 9:00 - Noon - Hebrew School	2 8 Shevat 7:06AM/5:19PM	3 9 Shevat 7:05AM/5:20PM	4 10 Shevat 7:04AM/5:22PM 6-8 PM Hebrew High School/KeHi-loft	5 11 Shevat 7:03AM/5:23PM	6 12 Shevat 7:02AM/5:24PM 6:00 PM - K-4 Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner 7:00 PM Family Shabbat Service	7 13 Shevat 7:01AM/5:25PM Beshalah: Exo. 15.1 - 16.10 Judges 5.1-31. 6-11PM Tu B'Shavat Progressive Dinner
8 14 Shevat 7:00AM/5:27PM 9:00 - Noon - Hebrew School	9 15 Shevat 6:59AM/5:28PM TU B'SHEVAT 7:30 PM - CKS Book Club at the home of Sue Lerner	10 16 Shevat 6:57AM/5:29PM 7:30 PM - Board Meeting	11 17 Shevat 6:56AM/5:30PM	12 18 Shevat 6:55AM/5:31PM	13 19 Shevat 6:54AM/5:33PM 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	14 20 Shevat 6:52AM/5:34PM Yitro: Exo. 19.1 - 20.17 Isaiah 6.1-13. 9:00 AM Nancy Weiss Bat Mitzvah
15 21 Shevat 6:51AM/5:35PM	16 22 Shevat 6:50AM/5:36PM	17 23 Shevat 6:49AM/5:37PM	18 24 Shevat 6:47AM/5:39PM 6-8 PM Hebrew High School/KeHi-loft	19 25 Shevat 6:46AM/5:40PM	20 26 Shevat 6:44AM/5:41PM 7:00 PM - Learner's Minyan Shabbat Service	21 27 Shevat 6:43AM/5:42PM Mishpatim: Exo. 22.4 - 23.5 Shabbat Shekalim Exo. 30.11-16. II Kings 12.1-17.
22 28 Shevat 6:42AM/5:43PM 9:00 - Noon - Hebrew School	23 29 Shevat 6:40AM/5:44PM	24 30 Shevat 6:39AM/5:45PM ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15. 7:30 PM - Religion Committee Meeting	25 1 Adar 6:37AM/5:47PM ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15. 6-8 PM Hebrew High School/KeHi-loft	26 2 Adar 6:36AM/5:48PM	27 3 Adar 6:34AM/5:49PM 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	28 4 Adar 6:33AM/5:50PM Terumah: Exo. 26.1 - 26.30 I Kings 6.

cont'd from page 1



The next time you are in the synagogue think about the power of the many that can take care of the few, the power of prayer to heal and the little things that can make a big difference when you see the "Hands of Healing" framed in honor and remembrance of Thelma Canty. I would like to thank Allan Swisher of FastFrame picture framing located in the Montgomery Center who generously donated his time and material in support of CKS by framing "Hands of Healing" at no cost to our community. Please consider FastFrames for your future framing projects. *-Matt Rosenthal*

THANK YOU to all those who have purchased from Amazon using the links on our website <http://www.kehilatshalomnj.org>! Amazon had its biggest sales day ever this past year, and Kehilat Shalom was able to earn a portion of those sales. A total of \$3,200 in purchases were made on amazon.com in 2008 by the Kehilat Shalom family (up from \$1,900 in 2007). We receive between 4 and 8 percent of every order placed on Amazon (when clicked through from Kehilat Shalom), so keep those orders coming!

Whom to contact for...	
Adult Education	Meryl Bisberg- 908-874-8970
Beautification	Rhonda Wynston-Kraftt 908-864-0046 Audrey Starkman 908-904-0432
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B'nai Mitzvah (helpers, celebrations)	Meryl Orlando- 732-329-8945 Shelley Nord- 908-874-8464
Board of Trustees 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.	Matt Rosenthal- 908-874-0787
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Life Cycle (Caring for each other)	Sheryl Rosenberg- 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
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**The CKS Newsletter is published monthly, except July. Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**Every effort will be made to publish contributed items, but due to space restrictions, placement and format are at the discretion of the editor.**

**Advertising Policy.** You can advertise in this newsletter to inform the community of your business or profession. Advertising is accepted based on its interest and applicability to our readership. Location in the newsletter is at the editor's discretion. CKS does not necessarily endorse or vouch for the products and services of our advertisers. The newsletter is published 11 times per year (no issue in July). E-mail a file with the art to the editor, or provide camera-ready art on clean, white background. Advertiser responsibility to meet deadlines. Rates are low and must be paid in advance. For information and a rate sheet, please contact the editor.

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