

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **April 2009** Nissan – Iyar 5769

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Bulletin from the Board- Debbie Tesser

Networking at CKS and Beyond

Like many affected by the economic downturn, I find myself with more time on my hands than ever before. Things are pretty grim out there, you can't turn on the television or read the newspaper without hearing about the economic crisis, layoffs . . . doom and gloom everywhere. With all the bad news, it's very easy to feel isolated, particularly when the daily routine has fundamentally changed -- no schmoozing at the office, going out for lunch, etc. It's also time to take stock in what's really important.



Network, network, network is the new mantra for finding that "dream job" because conventional wisdom says the odds are better if there's a personal connection. With this in mind, last summer I accepted my friend and CKS Treasurer, Mark Goldhammer's introduction to LinkedIn and since my daughter had been having so much fun on Facebook, I decided that it was time to give that a try as well. And I must say, it has been a very interesting journey.

Through LinkedIn, a "professional networking" site, I have connected with former classmates, colleagues and yes, even fellow members of CKS. The premise of LinkedIn is that members enlist their professional and personal contacts to create a huge database with the object of gaining access or biographical information regarding others in the system. Shelley Nord has set up a CKS Networking Group on the site, which could be a useful networking tool if enough of us joined (as I write this, there are only 12 participants). It's also interesting to find out what we all do when not at CKS.

On the social networking side, there are many CKS members on Facebook, from Kehilofters, to empty nesters. By joining and "friending" other members of the Congregation, I have learned all sorts of interesting facts about fellow congregants, from musical tastes to where they attended high school. I have also joined such Jewish groups as "How Many Jewish People Are There on Facebook (54,002 members)", "How Many Jewish Moms Are There on Facebook (11,750 members)", "6 Degrees of Jewish Separation" (97,281 members) and I'm attending a virtual Passover Seder. There is even a Tesser Family network where I've connected with distant cousins and have participated in working on a family tree that extends back to my paternal great-grandfather.

While none of this has resulted in a job, it has been very meaningful to reconnect with old friends and deepen my relationships with my synagogue community in an informal way. For those congregants who may not feel like they have a personal connection to CKS, it may be a first step to experiencing the "haimish" (warm) atmosphere so many of us have found here. If, however, on-line networking is not your thing, there are several opportunities coming up in the next few months. The Nominations Committee led by Ed Krisiloff is looking for congregants to join the Board. If you are interested, please let Ed know as soon as possible as the nominations must be submitted by April 15 in order to be considered. In addition, a group from CKS will be attending Jewish Community Day at TD Bank Ballpark (Somerset Patriots) on Sunday, May 24 and of course, don't miss the special end of year program, BBQ and annual meeting which will all take place on May 31.

Finally, on behalf of everyone here at Congregation Kehilat Shalom, I'd like to wish a happy and meaningful Passover to you and yours!

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

Donations:

General:

Shelley Parish Nord
Herb Milich
Jeff Bachrach and Karen Cohen
John Smulian and Eleanor Donoghue
Shelley Parish Nord
Joseph Weiss and Holly Nelson
In honor of Nancy's Bat Mitzvah
Sheryl and Richard Rosenberg
In honor of Gabe Fridkis' performance in South Pacific at the Hun School
In honor of Lisa Kent being honored by the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women

Congregants Assistance Fund:

Michael Kalison and Debbie Lampf



Mysterious Stranger at the Purim Carnival

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday Evening
June 13th
"Got Talent?"
Hebrew School Talent Show
[K- Kehiloft]
...a project of the 7th grade class

Committee Report

Empty Nesters Enjoy Gathering

Susan and Jeremy Lerner hosted the March event for the Empty Nesters Havurah. More than a dozen members of our group met in Lambertville on a Sunday afternoon of moderate temps, walked across the Delaware into New Hope, PA and chattered our way through a leisurely walk of more than an hour before alighting back at the Lambertville Station Restaurant where seventeen of us enjoyed a delightful dinner and further conversation. Yes, our numbers grew as the afternoon progressed.

Empty Nesters are couples and singles from CKS membership who do not have children at home and, while we won't admit to being seniors, we certainly represent a stratum of congregants beyond the Hebrew School set. We meet monthly, each member unit in the Havurah taking responsibility for event planning one month per year.

The next event will be held Sunday, April 19th, hosted by Richard and Sheryl Rosenberg. If you think Empty Nesters is for you, and you would like more information about this event, or Empty Nesters in general, please contact Richard and Sheryl at 908-253-7049 or swellcourt@verizon.net (with Empty Nesters in the subject line).

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FRIENDS AND STRANGERS



Happy Spring, everyone! Pesach (Passover) is coming, and truly, there is no other holiday that encapsulates who we are as Jews and what we stand for more than this one. Not surprisingly, it is the most beloved and celebrated of Jewish holidays. Why is this so? Well, for one thing, there's all that delicious food! In addition, Passover is the re-enactment of our liberation from slavery. Its central message is the **necessity of freedom**. Specifically, the Passover story reminds us that we were slaves and strangers in a foreign land. Therefore, the Torah regales us repeatedly with this message – no less than 33 times, in fact – to remember to be kind to the strangers in our midst, for we ourselves were strangers in Egypt (as well as the dozens of other countries we have inhabited in the intervening centuries).

I cannot think of a more noble declaration to define us, nor a better ideal to guide us – especially in these troubled economic times in our country and in our world. I am proud and pleased that so many of our children give *tzedakah* each Sunday morning, and that so many of our *bnei mitzvah* students take on projects that will help strangers near and far who they will likely never meet. In this spirit, I hope you will enjoy celebrating Passover this year with friends and family, learn something new about the holiday or add something different and creative to your Passover *seder*, and observe this meaningful holiday with a renewed sense of concern and responsibility for the strangers – and friends – in *our* midst, both near and far, who are in need of aid and compassion.

On another note, last month, the CKS Interfaith Life Group met again as part of this year's adult education programming. This group has now taken on a life of its own, with plans to continue to meet and learn and raise the consciousness of our community about the significance of this topic to all of us. I want to remind each of you again that this is **a community issue and conversation**. CKS is comprised of roughly 40% interfaith families of one stripe or another. These families are decidedly *not* strangers in our midst. They are our fellow members, our partners, husbands, wives, and even sometimes our children.... They are us! So the next time we meet, I urge you to come and join the conversation. At the same time, meet new people and make new friends.

Finally, one of the suggestions I received from the Interfaith Life Group was to start a "Glossary of Jewish Terms", that is, words or phrases in Hebrew or Yiddish that are commonly used, but sometimes not understood – by Jews and non-Jews alike. This month, I will begin with some of the words and expressions I used in this newsletter article. As the glossary grows, it will be compiled and posted on our website.

Pesach – the Hebrew word for Passover, the holiday commemorating our exodus from Egypt.

Seder – literally "order", the Passover *seder* is the telling of the Passover story, usually done around the

dinner table and including symbolic foods and a festive meal.

Tzedakah – often translated as "charity", the Hebrew word is more closely related to "righteousness". In Jewish tradition, then, *tzedakah* is not just randomly giving money to the needy; rather, it is an obligation imposed on all – even the poor – to provide support and social services for the community as a whole.

Stay tuned for more.

A zissen Pesach (a sweet Passover) everyone!

Rabbi Susan



Tree of Life

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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



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




Happy Passover!

Hebrew School Happenings



April

- 5 no class Spring break
- 12 No class Passover
- 19 Observe Yom HaShoah
grades 5-7 Wax Museum-
Reconstructionism with the Rabbi K-4 only
- 25 Saturday k-7 class service with breakfast
- 26 Observe Yom Haatzmaut all grades



This past few weeks has seen so much activity in our halls it is hard to know where to begin.

We celebrated Tu B'shbat with crafts led by Ariel Kramer. The Kiddush cups made by the seventh graders were displayed proudly in the gift shop for the week after Tu B'shvat.

Marissa Applegate volunteered to head up our tutoring, bringing all students to a higher level

of reading by assessing what errors they made when they read on an individual basis and then addressing those errors.

Ariel Kramer and Jeremy Bilotti took a leadership role in teaching Darga, the fifth trope symbol of the year.

Debbie Grauer came in and taught our third and fourth grade class a new song with a game.



The fifth graders wowed us with their reading ability and understanding of the wedding ceremony in a mock wedding created and taught by Robynn Mann.

Morah Shari had the children make a "Mizrach" decoration for their homes and explained that it is intended to be put on the eastern wall of the home so that we

always remember the direction of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Susan taught all classes about values through a



Reconstructionist lens. She also led us in Mock Shabbat. Helping us to learn about the rituals associated with the coming in and the going out of Sabbath.

Wishing you all a Zissun Pesach,

Dori Daus



Kehi-Loft



On March 6th the Kehi-Loft students were scheduled once again to lead services. Since it was the Shabbat before Purim, they decided to plan a fun-filled service. In addition to the traditional Shabbat prayers, they added numerous funny poems and songs. Sprinkled

throughout the service, the read poems from *Haikus For Jews*. The congregation was welcomed with, "Shatner and Nimoy observe Shabbos - "Scotty, Beam me up a minyan." Others haikus included: "Let the door open, for the prophet Elijah. Now our cat is gone." and "Sorry I'm not home, to take your call. At the tone, please state your bad news." Many thanks for Susan Waskow for helping with the Shabbat service and to Ilana Berger, Ariel Kramer, Harry Waskow, and Dan Kaufman for leading the service.

The Kehi-Loft students lent their collective hands to help at this year's Purim carnival too. Many thanks to those who participated.

Tom Berger led a discussion this month about his work as an attorney. Thank you, Tom, for volunteering your time with the class and for bringing the pizza!

Also in March, the students discussed plans for an end of the year field trip. We have tentative plans to see *Irena's Vow* on Broadway in June. *Irena's Vow* opened on Broadway in March after a successful seven week off-Broadway run. Starring Tovah Feldshuh as Irena, *Irena's Vow* is an inspirational story based on the life of Irene Gut Opdyke, a Polish Roman Catholic, who risked her life to save twelve Jews during the Holocaust. The story may never have been told had Irena not received a phone call one day from someone taking a survey asking people if they believed the Holocaust really happened. It was then that this courageous woman began revealing her remarkable story of how she risked her own life to hide a dozen Jews in the basement of a German major's house.

The Kehi-Loft will be meeting on one Sunday in March for an evening of socializing. We hope to have a new (used) loveseat in the loft by the end of the month and will work towards finalizing plans for other furniture. Meanwhile, the students cleared the space of most of the remaining unwanted books and moved the large blackboard off the floor. The space keeps improving every month!

April schedule:

Wednesday, April 1 - Kehi-Loft class
Wednesday, April 8 - no class (Passover)
Wednesday, April 15 - Kehi-Loft class
Sunday, April 19 - Kehi-Loft class
Wednesday, April 22 - no class
Wednesday, April 29 - Kehi-Loft class

Shalom, *Karen Fridkis*, Hebrew High School Chair



Purim Carnival

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Jewish Community

Jewish LIFE

The final Jewish LIFE program of the season will be the community-wide **Yom Hashoah Observance** featuring **Julie Kohner**. This program will be held on **Sunday, April 26, at 7 p.m.** at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. Ms. Kohner's presentation, *Voices of the Generations*, tells the story of survival and love of her parents, Hanna and Walter Kohner, who survived the Holocaust. There is no admission fee for this program. Call Temple Beth-El at 908-722-0674 for further details. *Jewish LIFE thanks all those who supported our programs this year.*

GETTING TO KNOW....

Natalie London

Family

Married 20 years to Richard Yuresko. We have one son, Jonathan, a freshman at The College of New Jersey majoring in Music Education. Jonathan was named at CKS and has had all his Jewish learning and community here. As he puts it, it feels like "home". My mother is nearby, moving from Boston to NJ 5 years ago. Many of you know my brother and sister-in-law, Manuel and Marilyn London, early members of CKS (when it was JCCBM); they moved to Long Island. My sister and her family are in Milwaukee.



Occupation

Rich and I took the opportunity to retire from our first careers at AT&T. 25 years for me, and 30 years for Rich, both having long careers in all aspects of IT Systems Development/Management. In semi-retirement, Rich enjoys tutoring math and statistics at the RVCC tutoring center and privately on occasion. I took on a second career starting NRJY Assistants, LLC, to provide business knowledge and support to small businesses for one-time or recurring projects, all on part-time contract basis.

Community Activities

CKS - currently 1st Vice President, serving on the Board for 8+ years as an officer or Trustee. Hospitality/Oneg committee. Seeking a new owner for this position of over 5 years active duty, call if interested. Currently serve on a number of committees as needed. Involved with the Hillsborough Band Parents while Jonathan was in High School, serving on their board the prior 2 years. Help wherever and whenever needed around the CKS community. Just ask, if I have time, I'll probably do it.

Hobbies

Helping Others, Reading, Needlepoint (just recently picked this up again), Playing games on POGO, Taking factory tours - I love to see how things are made and businesses are run.

Motto

There's a reason for everything, we just don't always know it. Find the root cause and you can fix it.

Bad Habits

Able to lose small objects in a single thought! (mostly phone and keys)

Favorite Movies

Princess Bride, 50 First Dates, Rocky Horror Picture Show (would call this category...weird love stories)

Favorite TV Shows

Monk and Psych, but they conflict with Shabbat services. Not addicted enough to tape them. The early services are great, make it home in time to see end of Monk and all of Psyche. Other nights, I don't watch much, but if I do, it's Ace of Cakes or HGTV or Food Network shows.

Favorite Music

Any Broadway musical, Bruce Springsteen, Meat Loaf, Southside Johnny, Rod Stewart, most Doo Wop

Favorite Books

No one favorite book, I like certain authors: John Irving, Jerzy Kosinski, John Grisham, Chaim Potok. I love the CKS book club because it offers variety, great discussion and books I might not normally pick up.

Favorite Foods

Cracker Jacks, Eggplant Parmesan, Cheese Popcorn, Pizza, Fresh Popcorn, Chicken Piccata, and of course... Popcorn (it's quite addicting).

Best Childhood Memories

Growing up in Boston: Riding the Swan Boats in the Boston Commons, Walking around Boston with relatives giving them tours of the Freedom Trail, Climbing "the wall" to take the shorter walk to temple on the High Holidays, fun years as member and officer of BBG chapter, daring antics with my friend Cindy, years of Jewish Holidays with all the family and cousins.

If I Had More Time

I would volunteer, cuddling new born babies that need holding; get involved in philanthropy, learn how to fix things around the house, paint the inside of my home.

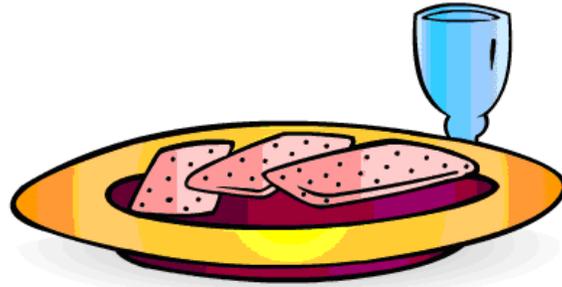
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APRIL 2009



7 Nisan 5769 - 6 Iyar 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 Nisan 6:41AM/7:24PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Hebrew High School/ Kehiloft	2 8 Nisan 6:40AM/7:25PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Hebrew High School/ Kehiloft	3 9 Nisan 6:38AM/7:26PM 7:00 PM - Family Shabbat Services	4 10 Nisan 6:36AM/7:27PM Tzav: Levit. 6.1-7:10. Shabbat Hagadol Malachi 3.4-24. 9:30 AM - Joanna Javeline Bat Mitzvah
5 11 Nisan 6:35AM/7:28PM NO HEBREW SCHOOL	6 12 Nisan 6:33AM/7:29PM	7 13 Nisan 6:32AM/7:30PM	8 14 Nisan 6:30AM/7:32PM EREV PASSOVER NO KEHI-LOFT	9 15 Nisan 6:28AM/7:33PM PASSOVER I Exo. 12.21-51; Num. 28.16-25. Joshua 3.5-7, 5.2-6.1, 6.27.	10 16 Nisan 1 L'Omer 6:27AM/7:34PM PASSOVER II Lev. 22.26-23.44; Num. 28.16-25. II Kings 23.1-9, 21-25. 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	11 17 Nisan 2 L'Omer 6:25AM/7:35PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER I Exo. 33.12-34.26; Num. 28.19-25. Ezekiel 36.37-37.14.
12 18 Nisan 3 L'Omer 6:24AM/7:36PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER II Exo. 13.1-16; Num. 28.19-25. NO HEBREW SCHOOL	13 19 Nisan 4 L'Omer 6:22AM/7:37PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER III Exo. 22.24-23.19; Num. 28.19-25.	14 20 Nisan 5 L'Omer 6:21AM/7:38PM HOL HAMOED PASSOVER IV Num. 9.1-14, 28.19-25. 7:30 PM - Board Meeting	15 21 Nisan 6 L'Omer 6:19AM/7:39PM PASSOVER VII Exo. 13.17-15.26; Num. 28.19-25. II Samuel 22.1-51.	16 22 Nisan 7 L'Omer 6:18AM/7:40PM PASSOVER VIII (YIZKOR) Deut. 15.19-16.17. Num. 28.19-25. Isaiah 10.32-12.6.	17 23 Nisan 8 L'Omer 6:16AM/7:41PM 7:00 PM - Learner's Minyan Shabbat Service	18 24 Nisan 9 L'Omer 6:15AM/7:42PM Shemini: Levit. 9.1- 10:7. II Samuel 6.1-21.
19 25 Nisan 10 L'Omer 6:13AM/7:43PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School Kehi-loft/ / Hebrew High School	20 26 Nisan 11 L'Omer 6:12AM/7:44PM	21 27 Nisan 12 L'Omer 6:10AM/7:45PM YOM HASHOAH	22 28 Nisan 13 L'Omer 6:09AM/7:46PM	23 29 Nisan 14 L'Omer 6:07AM/7:47PM	24 30 Nisan 15 L'Omer 6:06AM/7:48PM ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15. 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service	25 1 Iyar 16 L'Omer 6:05AM/7:49PM ROSH HODESH II Tazria: Levit. 12.1- 13.17. Metzora: Levit. 14.1- 32. Num. 28.9-15. Isaiah 66.1-24. 9:30 AM - Breakfast and Hebrew School Class Shabbat Service, K - 7th grades
26 2 Iyar 17 L'Omer 6:03AM/7:50PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School 10:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School Open House, Yom Haatzmaut Celebration and Kehi-loft Car Wash	27 3 Iyar 18 L'Omer 6:02AM/7:51PM	28 4 Iyar 19 L'Omer 6:01AM/7:52PM YOM HAZIKARON 7:30 PM - Religion Committee Meeting	29 5 Iyar 20 L'Omer 5:59AM/7:53PM YOM HA'ATZMAUT Deut. 7.12-8.18. Isaiah 10.32-12.6. 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Hebrew High School/ Kehi-loft	30 6 Iyar 21 L'Omer 5:58AM/7:54PM		

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B'nai Mitzvah (helpers, celebrations)	Meryl Orlando- 732-329-8945 Shelley Nord- 908-874-8464
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Every effort will be made to publish contributed items, but due to space restrictions, placement and format are at the discretion of the editor.

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April 2009

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