

Congregation  
**Kehilat Shalom** NEWS

**Editor—Karen Bartels**  
 karen.bartels@verizon.net  
 home phone 609-921-1811

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **August 2009** Av – Elul 5769

Congregation  
 Kehilat Shalom  
 253 Griggstown Rd.  
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502  
 Phone: 908-359-0420  
 Fax: 908-359-8848  
 Regular office hours:  
 M-W-Th 8:30-3:30  
 T-8:30-6pm F-8:30-1pm

**Rabbi**  
 Susan Falk  
 rabbi@ksnj.org  
**President**  
 Matt Rosenthal  
 president@ksnj.org  
**Community Engagement  
 Coordinator**  
 Robin Bengochea  
 admin1@ksnj.org  
 robin@ksnj.org  
**Hebrew School Principal**  
 Shari Rothstein  
 principal@ksnj.org  
**Lay Cantor**  
 Kate Mende-Fridkis

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**Kehilat Shalom Hebrew School Welcomes New Principal  
 ---Plans To Build Upon Strong Foundation**

CKS has named Shari Rothstein as the new Hebrew School principal. Rothstein is a familiar face for many students since she has taught third and fourth grade at CKS for the past year.



Originally from Huntington, N.Y., Rothstein has taught religious school for almost 20 years. She has primarily focused on third grade and is versed in and qualified to teach music, tefillah, holidays and Torah.

The Hebrew school program at CKS focuses on helping children to love being Jewish. In the past few years, cooking, crafts and Israeli dancing have been incorporated into the traditional Hebrew School lesson plans. Rothstein plans to continue with ongoing improvements to the curriculum by integrating a special educational program for Sukkot and strengthening the seventh grade program – a crucial year in Hebrew education.

“After many years of teaching experience, I am extremely excited about this new challenge. I hope to instill my love of Judaism and Jewish education to all the students of CKS. I’m looking forward to partnering with the teachers, parents and staff of CKS to ensure excellence in all aspects of the Hebrew school,” Rothstein said.

Rothstein is a member of NCJW and is on the board of Jewish Federation of Middlesex County. She is vice president of the Anshe Emeth Community Development Corporation, where she spends many volunteer hours collecting and delivering baby equipment to young struggling families of Middlesex County. Shari lives in Kendall Park with her husband Marc and 10th grade twins, Adam and Emily, and is an active member of Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick.

Congregation Kehilat Shalom Hebrew School meets on Sundays from 9 am to 12 pm. CKS offers a family-friendly service at 7 pm on the first Friday of the month. Registration is now being accepted for the 2009/2010 academic year. To take a tour of Kehilat Shalom Hebrew School, email [principal@kehilatshalomnj.org](mailto:principal@kehilatshalomnj.org) or call 908-359-0420.

**TALENT SHOW A SUCCESS**

On a rainy Saturday evening in June (the 13<sup>th</sup>), about 50 CKS congregants and guests were treated to a wonderful evening of diverse talent. The seventh grade class in our Hebrew school organized a “Got Talent?” talent show as part of a group B’nei Mitzvah project. There were about 17 performances by students of all ages- instrumental and vocal performances, dancing, comedy skits, and pogo stick jumping were all part of a very special evening. Admission was charged and the \$250. collected was donated to five different charities (CKS was one of them). Hot dogs, chips, and drinks were sold prior to the performances and during intermission to round out the “theatre” experience. Congratulations to the seventh grade class for a job very well-done (special kudos to Nancy Weiss for the great programs, Dylan Carson for his wonderful signs, Katie Roe and Zoe Gilbard for their fabulous judging, Melissa Javeline for her backstage expertise, and Nicole Meissner for being a super MC). Thanks, too, go to Ariel Kramer, Bonnie Kramer, Nancy Javeline, and Lou Orlando for their assistance that evening. We couldn’t have done it without them!!

**Summer Bagel Cafe**

**Sunday, August 9 - 9:30 - 11:00 am**

Weather permitting both will be held in the outdoor classroom.

Catch up with old friends or make some new friends!

## High Holidays are Coming! Free and Open to All!

### High Holiday Service Schedule

Saturday, 9/12 - Selichot 7:00 pm  
 Friday, 9/18 - Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 pm  
 Saturday, 9/19 - Rosh Hashanah (first day)  
 Morning Service 9:30 am  
 Family Service 11:00 am concurrent with the morning service  
 Tashlich hike 4:15 pm (dress for hike)  
 Sunday, 9/20 - Rosh Hashanah (second day) Non-traditional, alternative service 9:30 am  
 Friday, 9/25 - Shabbat Shuvah 7:45 pm  
 Sunday, 9/27 - Kol Nidrey 6:15 pm  
 Monday, 9/28 - Yom Kippur day  
 Morning Service 9:30 am  
 Family Service 11:00 am concurrent with the morning service  
 Yizkor 1:00 pm  
 Avodah (alternative non-traditional service) 5:00 pm  
 Ne'ilah 5:45pm  
 Sundown Shofar blowing 6:45 pm  
 Break the Fast 6:50 pm

### CKS Donations

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

#### General:

Erna Forster  
 In Memory of Marilyn Krisloff  
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 In Memory of Marilyn Krisloff  
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 Herb Milich  
 Insight Financial Services  
 Shelley Parish Nord  
 Andrew Sokel and Nancy Halpern  
 In memory of Molly Sokel

### From the Rabbi

#### EVERYWHERE HE WENT, HE WAS HEADING FOR HOME



When I make a visit to my mother, I sometimes still say, "I'm going home" – even though I've been living on my own for decades. Other times, I can't wait to be in my own home, in my favorite spot on the couch reading a book, or out on the balcony watching the oak trees swaying in the breeze.

Where do you feel most at home? Is it in a special chair in the corner of your living room, or traveling through the streets of a strange city? Is it walking on the sands of a beach absently listening to the crashing breakers, or sitting around your dining room table with family and friends at Thanksgiving? Do you feel more at home while working on a task with a stated purpose, or pursuing the aimless dreams of leisure? More at home at your mother's kitchen table, or just anywhere as long as it's with a loved one?

Most of us alternate between the journey outward – be it epic or quotidian – and the return to home – wherever or whatever that might be. Indeed, this back and forth is the central story of the Jewish people. Abraham leaves his native land and journeys toward a new home. The ancient Israelites wander the desert in search of the Promised Land. In 1945, at the edge of annihilation after centuries of wandering and exile, Jews miraculously returned home to Israel. And every year, we circumnavigate a calendar of seasons and holidays, returning at last to the same point on the circle: the Days of Awe, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For Jews everywhere, returning to the High Holidays is like coming home.

In his classic work on the High Holidays, *On Teshuvah*, Rabbi Joseph Solovitchik stated that *teshuvah*, which means "turning" or "returning", is the central gesture of the Days of Awe. If you are moving along the circumference of a circle, it might seem at first as if the starting point is getting farther and farther away; but actually, it is also getting closer and closer. On Rosh Hashanah, a new year begins. Every day is one step farther from the starting point. At the same time, every day is a return, one step closer to completing the circle again. The Prophet Samuel circled throughout Israel every year to serve the people, going from Ramah, his home town, to Beth El to Gilgal to Mitzpeh, and then finally back to Ramah again. Rabbi Solovitchik wrote of Samuel: "The moment he left Ramah, he was already returning there. Everywhere he went, he was heading for home."

Congregation Kehilat Shalom is also our home. Whether you are a new or a long-time member, single or partnered, old or young, gay or straight, empty-nester or family with children, whether you've been absent for a while, or come every week to services or to help out on a committee, I hope you consider CKS a destination that brings you spiritual and social nourishment – and one that brings you closer to home.

The Hebrew month of *Elul*, the time when we begin our spiritual journey toward home, toward the High Holidays, begins on August 21<sup>st</sup>. May our journeys individually and collectively give us new insights and challenges, solace and peace of mind.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Rabbi Susan*

*Ed. note:*

Congratulations to Rabbi Susan on her 2nd<sup>d</sup> anniversary at CKS!

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**GETTING TO KNOW....**  
**Meryl & Lou Orlando**

**Family**

Lou was born and raised in Jersey City. Meryl was born in Brooklyn and raised in Iselin, NJ. We have been married for 24 years. Lou was previously married for 10 years. We had met while late-night assisting at a seminar. We had many interesting conversations for a couple of months - but did not date. One day Lou walked up to Meryl and said "What's the story? What's it going to be?", and then walked away. Meryl went home, thought it over, and said "How would it be being married to Lou. It would be great!" The next week, we had a date, announced our "engagement", and 5 months later we were married on Labor Day 1985. Andrew was born on July 4, 1986 (during the fireworks) almost ten months to the day after the wedding. We lost a child (Jordan Taylor) at 28 weeks into Meryl's pregnancy in 1991. Six years later, right after we decided we might adopt, Meryl became pregnant with Jeremy, who was born in 1998. Andrew graduated from Rutgers in 2008 and is employed as an actuarial analyst for NJ Manufacturer's Insurance. He volunteers his time to coach high school boys in a regional volleyball program and plays beach volleyball. Jeremy is going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has just received a Presidential Award for Academic Excellence. He is your "go to" guy if anything needs fixing!! Lou has two grown children from his prior marriage (Matthew and Christopher) and a granddaughter. Meryl has two sisters. Lou has two brothers and a sister.

**Occupation**

Meryl - attended Douglass College and graduated with a degree in Speech Pathology. Along the way, she earned a few other certifications and now teaches

in the Family and Consumer Sciences department at South Brunswick High School. She runs the morning session of the preschool and is responsible for the education of the 24 preschoolers and 80 plus high school students in that morning program.

Lou - in IT for 26 years, Internet Services Lead/Specialist, Information Technology Division, Munich Reinsurance America. Previously Managing Director of IT for Kroll Associates (World's Leading Investigations firm) and also worked as a system development and infrastructure manager at an IT consulting firm.

**Community Activities**

Meryl - is the "B'nei Mitzvah Lady" at CKS (and has been for the last 10 years). She served on the board for three years, too. She has taught Hebrew school at CKS in paid and volunteer capacities. Currently, she is the B'nei Mitzvah project teacher for the seventh graders. In her past, Meryl worked with Earth Day New Jersey and organized state events as well as taught students about recycling. She also started a drop-off paper recycling program in Woodbridge Township (prior to curb pick-up). She volunteers at Jeremy's school whenever possible.

Lou - sings in Kol Ahava, and assists Meryl in many projects!!!!

**Hobbies**

Meryl - is a pretty "crafty" person and enjoys birthday party planning (actually any party planning), interior design, cooking, and being with family and friends.

Lou - Playing guitar, fixing things around the house.

**Mottos**

Meryl - "We don't stop playing because we get old; we get old because we stop playing." (not sure of author)

Lou - "Life is a daring adventure or nothing" - Helen Keller

**Bad Habits**

Meryl - not getting rid of things

Lou - finds it tough being a follower.

**Favorite Movies**

Meryl - While You Were Sleeping, My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Hoosiers, The Odd Couple, Take the Lead, Freedom Writers

Lou - Casablanca, The Mark of Zorro, The Adventures of Robin Hood, Lilies of the Field, Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Stand and Deliver, Star Wars IV, V, VI.

**Favorite TV Shows**

Meryl - without question...The Andy Griffith Show!!!! Reruns of Everybody Loves Raymond, M\*A\*S\*H\*, any oldie but goodie. Supernanny, Live with Regis and Kelly.

Lou - Andy Griffith, McHale's Navy, Hawaii Five-O

**Favorite Music**

Meryl - oldies from the late 60's and early 70's

Lou -Springsteen, Cream, Eagles, CSNY, The Who, Beatles, old Rolling Stones.

**Favorite Books**

Meryl - Who has time to read books????!!!!!! She's lucky if she gets to read anything other than her students' papers...and maybe a magazine article or two.

Lou - "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, novels by Clive Cussler, novels by Jack Higgins

**Favorite Foods**

Meryl - swiss cheese and potato chips (not together!)

Lou - Lobster and King Crab, Sushi, Lasagna, Meryl's Waikiki meatballs and Chicken Kiev.

**Best Childhood Memories**

Meryl - going to her great aunt's bungalow colony in Monticello, New York in the summer for short vacations. Building houses with her wooden blocks and furnishing them with doll house furniture on the living room rug with her sister, Rhonda. Going to her dad's bakery and visiting/working there.

Lou - summers in Seaside Heights, playing stickball on Highland Avenue in Jersey City. Running track in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school.

**If I Had More Time**

Meryl - finish some of the projects in the house that need to be done (sewing, repairing, painting, cleaning out the basement, etc.). Read more, visit more, and FILE, FILE, FILE!!!!!!

Lou - take voice lessons, write songs and perform, act in amateur plays, build a deck/patio. Travel across USA and Europe.

**AUGUST**

11 Av 5769 - 11 Elul 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11 Av 5:55AM/8:15PM Vae't'Hanan: Deut. 3.23-4.40. Isaiah 40.1-26.
2 12 Av 5:56AM/8:14PM	3 13 Av 5:57AM/8:13PM	4 14 Av 5:58AM/8:12PM	5 15 Av 5:59AM/8:11PM TU B'AV	6 16 Av 6:00AM/8:09PM	7 17 Av 6:01AM/8:08PM	8 18 Av 6:02AM/8:07PM Ekev: Deut. 7.12-9.3. Isaiah 49.14-51.3.
9 19 Av 6:03AM/8:06PM 9 - 11:30 AM - Summer Bagel Cafe	10 20 Av 6:04AM/8:05PM	11 21 Av 6:05AM/8:03PM 7:30 PM - Board Meeting	12 22 Av 6:06AM/8:02PM	13 23 Av 6:07AM/7:59PM	14 24 Av 6:08AM/7:58PM 7:30 PM - Shabbat Services	15 25 Av 6:09AM/7:57PM Re'Eh: Deut. 11.26-12.28. Isaiah 54.11-55.5.
16 26 Av 6:10AM/7:55PM	17 27 Av 6:11AM/7:54PM	18 28 Av 6:12AM/7:52PM	19 29 Av 6:13AM/7:51PM	20 30 Av 6:14AM/7:50PM ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15.	21 1 Elul 6:15AM/7:48PM ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15.	22 2 Elul 6:16AM/7:47PM Shofetim: Deut. 16.18-18.13. Isaiah 51.12-52.12.
23 3 Elul 6:17AM/7:45PM	24 4 Elul 6:18AM/7:44PM	25 5 Elul 6:19AM/7:42PM	26 6 Elul 6:20AM/7:41PM	27 7 Elul 6:20AM/7:39PM	28 8 Elul 6:21AM/7:37PM 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	29 9 Elul 6:22AM/7:36PM Kee Tetze: Deut. 21.10-22.21. Isaiah 54.1-10. 4:30 PM Stephanie Travers Bat Mitzvah
30 10 Elul 6:23AM/7:34PM	31 11 Elul 6:24AM/7:33PM					

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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Education 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed.	Lisa Kent- 908-578-2972 lisa@luminationsgroup.com
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*Invitations by Sharon*



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**August 2009**

Deadline for next newsletter: **August 15th**