

# Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **January 2010** Tevet– Shevat 5770

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## Bulletin from the Board

Just what is a Kehilatini?

Would you like to get away and spend some quality time with your family in the Poconos? Have you ever longed to play golf at Springdale Golf Club on the Princeton University Campus? Do you want to learn how to brew your own handcrafted beer? Would you like to have Kol Avaha sing at your child's B'nai Mitzvah? Have you been meaning to send a contribution to the synagogue but haven't quite gotten around to writing that check?



Then come spend "*An Enchanted Evening*" at CKS on March 13, 2010 from 7:30-11 pm as our building is transformed into a place filled with excitement, festivity...and possibilities.

The event will feature international hors d'oeuvres, beverages and desserts, a silent and live auction and casino games. Some other exciting auction items include an Interior Design Kit from Stewart and Bloom Design Group valued at \$1200, a stunning lithograph from acclaimed artist Edna Hibbel and a choice of a week of summer camp, a children's birthday party or a class for an adult or child at the Arts Council of Princeton. If auctions aren't for you, then you might want to try your hand at casino games like craps, black jack and roulette and maybe "Lady Luck" will reward you with a special prize.

The silent and live auction items will be featured on our website at [www.ksnj.org](http://www.ksnj.org). There is still time to add some more items, donate a bottle of wine for the mystery wine station or to volunteer to help out with the event. Just contact me at 908-904-0457 or at [dbtesser@embarqmail.com](mailto:dbtesser@embarqmail.com) for more information. You should be receiving your invitation in the mail shortly together with raffle tickets for a 32" high-definition flat screen television. (Even if you cannot join us, please consider purchasing and selling some raffle tickets.)

Dress up, roll some dice and take a chance on winning some terrific auction items and prizes! And don't hesitate to bring your friends and any prospective members to what I'm sure will be . . . an *Enchanted Evening*.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Debbie Tesser*

P.S. As far as the Kehilatini is concerned . . . you'll just have to be there to try it out!

## CKS Couple Matches February Donations for Sanctuary Windows

The board is excited to announce that members of the CKS Community have offered to match donations made toward the new Sanctuary windows! This offer will apply to donations received during the month of February 2010, up to a total of \$10,000. This is a terrific opportunity for our community, and it will help us to quickly reach our goal of replacing our current windows with attractive and energy efficient ones.

Because each donation will now be matched, a \$500 donation will pay for one third of a window, a \$750 donation will pay for one half of a window, a \$1000 donation will pay for two thirds of a window; and a \$1500 donation will pay for a full window.

Please make your donation of ANY amount in February so that your donation will be doubled! Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact Matt Rosenthal at [president@kehilatshalomnj.org](mailto:president@kehilatshalomnj.org) with any questions.

Published by:

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## CKS Donations

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

### General

Larry and Julie Spinrad

In Honor of Rachel Spinrad's Bat Mitzvah

Shari Burack and John Murphy

Simon Berring

In Honor of Kate Fridkis whose beautiful voice soars in prayer.

Herb and Erika Milich

In Memory of Helene Milich, Felicja Walkowicz, Leon Wolkowicz and Mark DePalma

Eric and Judy Weitze

In Honor of Jason Weitze's Bar Mitzvah

Natalie London

In Memory of Meyer London

### Windows

George and Louise Travers

Jeff Bachrach and Karen Cohen

Stacey Bachrach

Joe and Diane Wions

Ed and Susan Krisiloff

Marc and Harlene Rosenberg

Sharon Underberg-Davis

Herb and Erika Milich

Rich and Lisa Kent

### Congregant's Assistance Fund

Shari Rothstein

In Honor of Jason Weitze's Bar Mitzvah

### High Holidays

Suzanne Svartz

Daryl and Susan Waskow

In Honor of Rabbi Susan, Robin and Kate

## CKS Adult Education Save the Date

**Sunday, March 14 at 9:30 AM - Understanding and Enjoying Passover and the Seder.**

Details to come.



## CKS Bagel Cafe

Interested in meeting CKS members and helping out the synagogue at the same time?

Find yourself hanging out at the cafe or looking for some way to pass the time while your child is in religious school on Sundays?

Don't have a child in Religious School but would like to get in on some great schmooze time and bagels at the cafe?

**The cafe committee needs volunteers** on Sunday morning, either early shift (8:30 - 10:00) or late shift (10:45 - 12:15) or to help behind the scenes shopping, accounting or scheduling. Come be a part of one of the most fun committees and meet new members, old members, our great religious school teachers and kids, virtually everyone at CKS. If you can help even once a month on Sunday morning, the cafe would be most appreciative.

**Please contact Meryl Bisberg, [mbisberg@comcast.net](mailto:mbisberg@comcast.net), 908-874-8970, if you can help.**

**Robert "Bob" M. Fass**  
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### LATKE OR HAMENTASCHEN: CAST YOUR VOTE



As we leave Chanukah behind and approach Purim, I was wondering: which do you prefer, the *latke* or the *hamentaschen*? Believe it or not, the "Great Latke-Hamentaschen Debate" has been raging for over half a century – and continues to this day. The very first debate was held in the winter of 1946 at

the University of Chicago. Since then, debates have taken place in such diverse academic settings as: Johns Hopkins University; Bowdoin College; George Washington University; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the University of California, San Diego; the University of Wisconsin, Madison; Harvard; Princeton; Mt. Holyoke; and Brandeis University.

Just to make sure we're all on the same page, a *latke* is a potato pancake, fried in oil, traditionally eaten on Chanukah to commemorate the miracle in which, we are told, one day's worth of oil burned for eight days. *Hamentaschen* are triangular pastries with a sweet filling (generally prune, apricot, or my favorite, poppy seeds). These treats are eaten on Purim and remind us of the three-cornered hat worn by the evil Haman, the villain of the Purim story.

Over the years, debaters over the "latke-hamentaschen question" have come from a wide range of academic disciplines: physics, anthropology, psychology, women's studies, literature, economics, and law. For example, criminal lawyer Professor Alan Dershowitz, during a debate at Harvard, accused the *latke* of increasing US dependence on oil. At MIT, Professor Robert Silbey noted that on Google there were 380,000 hits for "latke", but only 62,000 for "hamentaschen". Silbey is also quoted as stating that *latkes* – not *hamentaschen* – comprise the mysterious "dark matter" believed to account for over 21 percent of the mass of the universe (frankly, I would vote for *matzah* on that one!). And a Professor Wendy Doniger asserted in an article entitled, "The Archetypal Hamentasch: A Feminist Mythology", that *hamentaschen* really represent the womb and were worshiped in early matriarchal societies.

So far, that's two votes for the *hamentaschen* and one for the *latke*... I think! In my opinion, when our own Carrie Fischman made *latkes* in Sunday school this past December, I believe they were, hands down, the best *latkes* of all time. On the other hand, the synagogue stank of fried oil for eight days afterward. Miracle or curse, I'm not sure.

Then again, a really well-made *hamentaschen* can be used as a formidable weapon for those skilled in the ancient art of *Jew-jit-su*. On the other hand, poppies and prune-filling can produce some unwanted side-effects in the digestive system.

*Latke* or *hamentaschen*? Salty or sweet? Round or triangular? Root or grain? What do you think? You can read up on the topic in *The Great Latke-Hamentash Debate*, edited by Ruth Cernea, or watch a debate on YouTube – or, maybe come up with an argument of your own. Perhaps we can have a "spirited" debate over some Manischewitz. Until then, see you at Purim!

Rabbi Susan



**Tree of Life**

Purchase a leaf for \$54 to celebrate a *simcha!* Each leaf includes three lines of engraving.

Contact CKS Office  
908-359-0420




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 16th 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



February 2010



At the end of January CKS Religious School celebrated Tu B'shevat. Tu B'shevat is a holiday known as the New Year of Trees. The word "Tu" is not a word but its Hebrew letters make up the number 15 and this holiday falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In Israel, this is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.

All of the students enjoyed Tu B'shevat seders! We had one for the younger group K-4 and another one for the older group 5-7. At both seders we had a chance to eat foods that are grown in Israel and from 3 categories of fruit – fruits with a pit, fruits with a shell or peel and fruits that are entirely edible. We also had 4 cups of grape juice which represents the four seasons: white for the bleak time of winter, white with a bit of red to represent the earth's awakening in early spring, red with a bit of white representing the blossoming of late spring and dark red to represent the fullness of all the growing plants and vegetation along with the heat of summer. We read about nature, the earth, trees, and talked about how we can partake in tikkun olam – repairing the world, specifically in relation to the environment.

We also made Tu B'shevat Fruit cookies with Morah Carrie in our January cooking class (see below). This no bake treat was simple to make and quite delicious! It used all the types of fruits we talked about at our seder.

Our music program began last month with our new music teacher, Abe Stanway. Abe is a student at Rutgers, a wonderful song leader and comes to us with lots of ruach (spirit) and a love of Jewish music. He will be working with our students about once a month during Religious School traveling from class to class with his guitar.

Lastly, all of our tzedakah money in January went to the Jewish National Fund (JNF [www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)) to plant trees in Israel. CKS Religious School is participating in the JNF Tu B'shvat in the Schools program. All students were sent home with JNF Tree forms. It is at this time of year, in Jewish tradition, that we plant trees in Israel in honor or in memory of someone special. For each tree you plant, JNF plants a second tree in honor of your student! Please mail your forms directly to JNF by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once you mail in your form, tree certificates take 4-6 weeks to process. Feel free to contact me with any questions [principal@ksnj.com](mailto:principal@ksnj.com).

### Mark Your Calendar

2/5 Friday evening

Religious School Service featuring K-4th grades

2/21 Sunday 11:30am

Looking for a great summer camp for you child, come hear all about

**Camp JRF** in Sterling, PA. Camp JRF fills your child's summer with fun, friendships, and Jewish living. This camp is a joyful, creative, and inclusive Reconstructionist community. Campers swim; play soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and other sports. They sing and explore other arts. They learn from visiting artists, scholars, and rabbis, as well from talented specialists and dedicated college-age counselors. Campers make lasting friendships, experience a safe and fun summer, explore Jewish tradition, forge their own Jewish identity, and participate in creating a Jewish culture in which our values are lived each day.

2/28 Sunday 9am

Join us for a one hour Purim Shpiel (play) presented by some very talented and entertaining adults from the congregation! Come back at the end of school for the Purim Carnival.

*Shari Rothstein*

### Cooking with Morah Carrie

#### Tu B'Shevat Fruit Cookies

Ingredients: Raisins, pitted dates, dried apricots, chopped nuts (I like walnuts), confectionary sugar, melted chocolate. In class, to avoid nuts for those who may be allergic, we substituted shredded coconut for the nuts and it was great.

Put equal amounts of raisins, dates, apricots and nuts into food processor and process until well mixed (will start to form a ball). Shape heaping teaspoonfuls into small balls and flatten slightly into a circle. Sprinkle with confectionary sugar, or dip one end of cookie into melted chocolate and let dry on waxed paper.



## Kehi-Loft



Kehi-Loft started the New Year with a month full of events. Many thanks to our congregant volunteers and special guests for making this month a memorable one for the students.

In January's first session, Lisa Kent discussed health care, health care reform and reviewed some of the key tenets being debated nationally. Lisa provided general articles about reform (Time Magazine) and some specific articles from varying points of view (small business owners, big business, immigrants, the medical community). The students divided into teams and presented what they believed would be those groups' points of views and the pros and cons to the rest of the class. It was an informative session on a timely subject. Many thanks to Lisa for leading this discussion and to Susan Waskow for helping out.

The second session of the month was a scheduled Kehi-Loft social evening. This month there was a special guest speaker added to the evening. David Gartenberg delighted the group with an hour's presentation of his trip to Israel with Birthright Israel. As images of Israel flashed on the screen, the students listened to David tell about his adventures in Israel last winter. David answered the student's questions about his experience and recommended the trip to all. Thanks to Debbie and Gary Gartenberg for their help in setting up the projector.



The remainder of January was devoted to preparing for Shabbat services on January 29th. I hope we'll see you there!

In February the Kehi-Loft is inviting current 7th grade students to attend a session on Sunday, February 21st. If you are a parent of a 7th grade student (or a 7th grader!), please mark your calendars now and plan to come join Kehi-Loft for an introductory session.

**February's calendar: Classes meet from 6:00 - 8:00**

**Wednesday, February 3** - Regular session. Discussion

**Sunday, February 7** - Social session

**Wednesday, February 17** - Judy Turkheimer returns to lead a discussion of student's choice!

**Sunday, February 21** - 7th graders are invited to Kehi-Loft!

Shalom, *Karen Fridkis*, Director Kehi-Loft

## **ATTENTION** **7th GRADE STUDENTS:**

**You are invited to the LOFT**  
**on**  
**Sunday, February 21**  
**from 6:00 - 8:00**

**Come and meet the Kehi-Loft students**  
**and learn about this exciting program**  
**for 8th - 12th grade students**

Come to Shabbat services  
with KEHI-LOFT on  
Friday, January 29  
*Please join us!*

## Upcoming Adult Education Event

### **Understanding and Enjoying the Passover Holiday & Seder**

Passover is the most observed holiday by Jews worldwide. This Adult Education session is being presented in response to requests made during last year's Interfaith discussion. It will be of special interest to interfaith families and those newer to or returning to Judaism. This session will be led by the Adult Ed Committee and veteran participants and hosts of Passover seders. Topics we expect to cover are:

- An overview of the Passover story
- Basics of the Seder from the first glass of wine to "Next Year in Jerusalem!"
- Themes of Passover that are still relevant today: Freedom on the worldwide, Jewish community, and even individual level; Action on an individual and community level.
- Why we invite a stranger or newcomer to our Seder
- How we evolve our own traditions out of those we experienced growing up; honoring religious and family traditions while creating our own traditions.
- Sharing what works and unique practices from those who have a lot of experience hosting seders.
- Tips for attending/contributing to/hosting a Seder

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**Members - \$5.00, Non-Members - \$10.00, Bagel café included in fee.**

## Jewish Community

### GETTING TO KNOW....



**Andrea Lass & Mark Goldhammer**

#### Family:

2 amazing children, Lea age 10, Joshua age 7.5, 1 elderly, neurotic dog (Theo), 2 very adored cats (Milo and Emmett), 1 goldfish, and 2 guinea pigs on the way.

#### Hobbies:

A - reading, listening to music, singing, playing with my kids, camping, movies  
M - running, hiking, climbing

#### Favorite Movies:

A - Princess Bride, The Jerk, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Star Wars (IV, V, VI) Raiders of the Lost Ark, Amadeus, The Big Lebowski (really anything by the Coen Brothers)

M - Casablanca, Blues Brothers, Life of Brian, Meaning of Life, Airplane, Being There, anything by Mel Brooks, and Woody Allen's early, funny movies

#### Music:

A: REM, Dar Williams, Lyle Lovett, Elvis Costello, The Beatles, Ben Folds, Ani DiFranco, Andrew Bird .... I could go on and on

M: The Who, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Joe Jackson, Elvis Costello, Led Zeppelin, Taj Mahal, Willie Dixon

#### TV shows:

The Daily Show, 30 Rock, The Office, It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia

#### Favorite Foods:

We both love Indian food, Jambalaya, Mexican food (especially good guacamole) Andrea is vegetarian, but Mark can't imagine life without cheese burgers (kosher, of course).

#### Favorite Authors:

A: JK Rowling, Margaret Atwood, Sherman Alexie, Raymond Carver, Kate DiCamillo, Jhumpa Lahiri  
M: Douglas Adams, Jon Krakauer, Bill Bryson

#### Bad Habits:

A: Nail Biter  
M: lack of introspection, honesty, sarcasm

#### Best Childhood Memories:

A: Borough pool in Milltown, rainbow sherbet ice cream at the Ice Cream Depot  
M: Having time to read, Twin Rivers community pools, bike riding

#### Things that make them happy:

A: laughing with my kids, fresh-picked strawberries, a good foot rub  
M: kids, dog, the view from Mt. Tammany (Delaware Water Gap)

#### If I had more time:

A: travel around the world  
M: spend more time with my kids; hike the Appalachian Trail, read Ulysses

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# FEBRUARY 2010



17 Shevat 5770 - 14 Adar 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6-8 PM Kehi-loft	4	5 7:00 PM Religious School K - 4 Shabbat Family Service	6 Yitro: Exo. 19.1 - 20.17 Isaiah 6.1-13.
7 9 - Noon - Hebrew School 6-8 PM - Kehi-loft social eveing	8	9 7:30 PM - Board Meeting	10	11	12 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service	13 Mishpatim: Exo. 22.4 - 23.5 Shabbat Shekalim Exo. 30.11-16. II Kings 12.1-17.
14 ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15. NO HEBREW SCHOOL	15 ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15.	16 7:30 PM - Membership Committee Meeting	17 6-8 PM Kehi-loft	18	19 7:00 PM Shabbat Service and Learner's Minyan	20 Terumah: Exo. 26.1 - 26.30 I Kings 6.1-13. 9:30 AM Bar Mitzvah Jason Rosenthal
21 9 - Noon - Hebrew School 6-8 PM Kehi-loft social eveing	22	23 7:00 PM Religion Committee Meeting	24	25 FAST OF ESTHER Morning: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Isaiah 55.6-56.8.	26 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service	27 Tetzaveh: Exo. 28.31 - 29.18 Shabbat Zakhor Deut. 25.17-19. I Samuel 15.2-34.
28 PURIM Exo. 17.8-16. 9 - Noon - Hebrew School Magillah Reading/ Purim Speil and Purim Carnival						

Whom to contact for...	
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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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**February 2010**

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