

# Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **April 2010** Nissan— Iyar 5770

## Bulletin from the Board- Shelley Nord

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Who is a Yankees Fan?

It is spring when a young woman’s thoughts often turn to baseball. At least, in my case, my thoughts often turn to baseball, that is, Yankees baseball. I know there are some Yankees fans out there in our congregation. And I dare say there are some Mets and Phillies fans too. But they are National League teams, whereas the New York Yankees are an American League, home of the designated hitter, team.



The designated hitter rule came into being in 1973 as the American League decided to reconstruct the baseball rules to boost declining attendance and create some excitement to the offensive display. Admittedly, when a pitcher, who appeared every 4-5 days during the regular season, batted, he usually did poorly and it tended to be a “wasted” spot in the line up.

National League fans often prefer the un-reconstructed, purist baseball that does not include the designated hitter rule and requires the pitcher to take his turn at bat.

So who at Congregation Kehilat Shalom is a Yankees fan?

Sometimes you are born into a Yankees-loving family. Sometimes you come to be a fan through careful examination of the game and choosing for yourself the team to follow. And sometimes, you are a Yankees fan because your spouse or significant other is a Yankees fan. Do you subscribe to the value of the designated hitter rule that brings baseball into the modern era of power hitters and pitching specialists?

At Congregation Kehilat Shalom, we are a Reconstructionist congregation. Not all of us are Reconstructionists, nor do we all know, or agree upon, what it means to be a Reconstructionist. But, just like the American League introduced the designated hitter rule, Mordechai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism, in an effort to bring traditional Judaism into the modern age, made some changes to the interpretation and rules (if you will) of traditional Judaism. Reconstructionist Jews like to say that tradition has a vote but not a veto. All Jews whether by birth or by choice are part of the larger Jewish community which is also welcoming to those persons “of good will from all traditions”.

There was a time that I managed to watch 162 Yankees baseball games a year plus post season games (there were always post season games that tended to coincide with the High Holidays). I went to Yankee Stadium as much as I could and followed the team in the newspapers. As a purist, I have had to reconstruct my baseball devotion to accommodate the realities of modern American life, job and family.

The same goes for my devotion to Judaism and Jewish tradition. To quote from the Reconstructionist Federation, “We Reconstructionists envision a maximalist liberal Judaism. This means Jewish life that is engaged in study, worship and action and yet is completely supportive of a Jew’s full participation in secular life.” Of course, there is much, much more to being a Reconstructionist Jew. I encourage you all to explore what Reconstructionism is and what it does and can mean to you as a member of this Jewish community. I refer you to the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation web site <http://jrf.org/> and especially the article, “Is Reconstructionist Judaism for you?” as a beginning point in your investigation.

Meanwhile, Go Yankees!

Published by:



## CKS Donations

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

### General

Bob and Peggy Fass  
In Memory of Abram Milich  
Ilana Berger  
In Honor of Jason Rosenthal's Bar Mitzvah  
Tom and Laurie Georgianna  
Matt and Amy Rosenthal  
In Honor of Jason's Bar Mitzvah  
Herb and Erika Milich  
In memory of my father, Abram Milich and in honor of Rabbi Susan and fellow congregants who shared their compassion with my family

### Silent Auction/Casino Event

Mike Arons  
Bob Neusner and Helen Pu  
Brad and Dana Mumme  
Bob and Peggy Fass  
Simply Grazin'  
A Little Shop of Comics  
Shari Burack, D.D.S.

### Windows Campaign

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In Honor of Jason's Bar Mitzvah

### Congregant's Assistance Fund

Michael Kalison and Deborah Lampf

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Matt and Amy Rosenthal  
In Honor of Jason's Bar Mitzvah



CKS members braved the storm on March 13<sup>th</sup> to attend "An Enchanted Evening"

### THE MATZAH DILEMMA



Let all those whose hearts so move them bring forward gifts for Adonai: gold, silver, and copper; blue, purple, and crimson yarns, fine linen, and ... acacia wood; oil, spices, incense; lapis lazuli and other stones.... (Exodus 35:5-9)

While the book of Exodus opens with our going forth from Egypt, it closes with the construction of the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary the Israelites built and carried in their wanderings through the wilderness. In the passage quoted above, Moses exhorts the people to give gifts – as their “hearts so move them” – materials for the construction of the *Mishkan*. Apparently, Moses was a very effective fundraiser because not long after he asks for donations, Bezalel and Ohaliav, his chief architects, rush to Moses and tell him: “The people are bringing more than is needed!” Indeed, the Torah tells us, the people donate so much that Moses actually has to call a halt to the campaign because the people have overwhelmed the coffers, bringing more than enough for all the tasks to complete the *Mishkan*.

I write this article on the eve of our first major fundraiser in many years, *An Enchanted Evening* (held last month on March 13<sup>th</sup>). Naturally, I am reminded of this story of the building of the *Mishkan* when Moses has to tell the people: “Stop! We have all that we need!” Over the past several weeks and months, I have witnessed the committee members for *our* event meeting night after night, and sending each other endless emails. They have worked tirelessly on the details: taking in donations for the silent auction and posting them on our website; deciding on decorations and sampling refreshments (and coming up with a recipe for the CKS official cocktail, the Kehilatini!); learning the ropes of casino games; and ensuring adequate in-house and local publicity. Long-time as well as our newest members have been involved in all aspects of planning this fundraiser. And so many of you donated both your time and your material goods to make *An Enchanted Evening* a success.

As of this writing, our RSVP list represents over 80% of the congregation! I do not know, of course, what will be the monetary fruits of our labor. Deborah Tesser, the Chair of this event, I’m sure, will be reporting on that soon enough. Vital as its financial success is, however, *An Enchanted Evening* is about much more than monetary gain. This event is about community spirit, the spirit first captured in the story of the building of the *Mishkan* when our ancestors brought gifts as their “hearts so moved them”.

From this perspective, *An Enchanted Evening* has already been a resounding success. We, too, are building *our Mishkan*. And as we build and grow and

thrive, we must also ask ourselves: Who are we? Who do we want to become? What is the mission of our community, Congregation Kehilat Shalom? What are its values and how will those values guide us into the future?

These are some of the questions our Board and myself will be addressing on April 18<sup>th</sup>, as we continue our process of *Mishkan*-building with our third in a series of Board trainings facilitated by my colleague, Rabbi Elyse Wechterman. But I ask all of you to think about these questions as well. Because, ultimately, it is the entire community that defines – and must approve – its mission. Contact me or a Board member and add your voices, your thoughts, ideas, and opinions “as your hearts so move you.”

B’shalom,

Rabbi Susan



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**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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



## Hebrew School Happenings

April 2010

### SPOTLIGHT ON.... *Toranim*

Each week many Kehi-Loft students have been working in our school. They are extremely vital in the success of our school and are fabulous assistants to the teachers as well as mentors to our students. We are thrilled and grateful to them in helping to make our school the best it can be.



Ariel Kramer – Ariel is a junior at South Brunswick High School. She is our art specialist and has done a few art projects with the school. She has been helping out in the school since 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Ariel can mostly be found in Morah Esther's classroom



Illana Berger – Illana is a senior at South Brunswick High School. She assists Morah Karen in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> year working at our school! She enjoys being with the kids and using her Hebrew skills to help teach them.



Marissa Applegate – Marissa is a sophomore at Princeton Day School. On Sundays you can find Marissa tutoring our students in Hebrew! She works one on one or in small groups to assist students who need a little extra help. She has completely organized our tutoring system.



Joanna Javeline – Joanna is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Montgomery Middle School. Joanna assists Morah Tracey and helps to keep all the K-1s on task. This is her first year and she just loves working with the little kids.



Corey Cochran – Corey is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Hillsborough Middle School. He is our "Jack of all Trades". Corey mostly assists the principal with any tasks that need to be done and often pinch hits for absent toranim.



Sam Kramer – Sam is a junior at South Brunswick High School. She recently joined us and will be working with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades with Morah Sima.

Jeremy Bilotti – Jeremy is a sophomore at Montgomery High School. Jeremy is our "on call" toranim. He fills in when needed and is always a pleasure to have in the building!

### YOM HA SHOAH

This month on 4/11 we will commemorate Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day with our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be teaching us about some survivors and some who perished. We will all gather for a brief memorial service at the end - parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

### YOM HA'ATZMAUT

On 4/18 the entire school will celebrate Israel Independence day. Please make sure your child **wears blue and white** on that day. We will be rotating through stations cooking, seeing artifacts, hearing stories, making crafts, learning songs and much more!

*Shari Rothstein*

### RECIPE Hummus

1 15 oz. can chick peas  
2 cloves of garlic  
1 teaspoon cumin  
1/3 cup water  
Juice of 1 lemon  
5 Tablespoons sesame tahini  
1 teaspoon salt  
Pepper to taste  
Drain chickpeas. Put all ingredients in a food processor and process until smooth. If too thick, add a little more water. Serve with pita bread or raw veggies.



Kehi-Loft had a full month of activity in March. The students led their third service of this school year and had two Wednesday sessions and a Sunday evening social.

The first Wednesday of March focused on preparation for leading the Shabbat service on March 12th. Rabbi Susan and the students reviewed the service order and practiced some of the prayers. In addition we discussed the Torah portion of the week, debated which points to highlight for the D'var Torah, and the students wrote questions to pose to the congregation. The Torah states that: "When the cloud rose up from over the Mishkan, the children of Israel set out in all their journeys. But if the cloud did not rise up, they did not set out until the day that it rose. For the cloud of the Lord was upon the Mushkan by day, and there was fire within it at night..." Some of the questioned during the service included, "What might the "cloud" represent? God? Faith? Community? What are your "clouds"? and "Why do you think G-d felt it necessary to continue marking presence even during the hours of the night while the people slept?" Thanks to Zoe Gilbard, Emily Gartenberg, Corey Bisburg, Marissa Applegate, and Ilana Berger for leading the service and to the congregants who attended to support the students.

Lisa Kent was the discussion leader for the second Wednesday class in March. Lisa's session focused on the economy. Lisa and the students talked about the negative and positive aspects of the current economic situation. The negative aspects that were mentioned included an increase in divorce, family conflicts, and suicide. However, on the positive side, more people have joined the armed forces and there are more volunteers in the United States than ever before. Many thanks to Lisa for leading this interesting discussion about current events.

The final Kehi-Loft class of the month was a social evening for the students. In addition to spending time talking and listening to music, the students and I discussed plans for the future. We brainstormed about the upcoming graduation for the Kehi-Loft seniors and spoke about making plans for a dinner in Princeton at the end of the semester.

Please mark your calendars for the Senior Graduation Shabbat Service on Friday, April 23. Come and support the students by attending their graduation. All are invited!

**April's Kehi-Loft schedule: Please Note Changes**

- Wednesday, April 7 - regular class. Discussion by Judi Turkheimer
- Wednesday, April 14 - regular class
- Wednesday, April 21 - regular class
- Friday, April 23 - SENIOR GRADUATION Shabbat service. All are welcome!

Shalom,  
*Karen Fridkis*, Director Kehi-Loft

# KEHI-LOFT GRADUATION

## Friday, April 23, 2010

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Seniors at Shabbat Services

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## Jewish Community

### GETTING TO KNOW...Lisa and Rich Kent



#### Family:

We have 3 kids: Josh who is about to graduate from Hillsborough High, Allie, a high school sophomore and Matthew, a first grader

Our home is always filled with extra visitors—family, friends, foreign students – and of course our dog, cat and any other visiting animals, too.

#### Education and Occupation:

**Lisa:** Marketing and Strategy consultant – The Luminations Group. Every day is a new challenge, helping startups get off the ground, developing new positioning or marketing plans for existing brands, and brainstorming new products and technologies. The company is made up of part-time talented marketers who want flexibility and big strategic assignments as well. I love my team and my job. I have a bachelors degree from Yale University and a masters in marketing management from Northwestern University.

**Rich:** Medical instrument sales representative for Cook Medical. Working closely with cardiologists and vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists to be sure they have the products they need. I travel around New Jersey covering my territory. I have a bachelors degree from Bentley University and a masters in public management from Rutgers.

#### Community Activities

**Lisa:** Volunteer EMT for Montgomery EMS, Hillsborough Band Parent, Football Team mom, MS Walk organizer, marketing mentor to recent college grads, CKS former Ed Committee Chair and current Fundraising Committee chairperson.

**Rich:** Toastmasters International, Little League Coach, and Hillsborough Band Parent.

#### Hobbies:

**Lisa:** Reading, hanging out with my family, biking, watching movies, and teaching.

**Rich:** Travel to exotic spots—experiencing Carnivale in as many parts of the world as possible, photography, and collecting animation cells. We both take Zumba classes together.

#### Music:

**Lisa:** My iPod is filled with a mix of 70s music, Latin music, current hits, rock and pop.

**Rich:** I love anything Latin, Michael Buble, and Frank Sinatra.

#### TV shows:

We don't agree on any—Lisa loves the dramas like Mercy (in which she had a bit part) and Medium and Rich loves Family Guy.

#### Favorite Foods:

**Rich:** Creole, Spanish and Thai

**Lisa:** Sushi, Popcorn, and any breakfast

#### Best Childhood Memories:

**Rich:** Travelling to the White Mountains with my family, skiing with my brother.

**Lisa:** Just being with my group of friends in a sleepy town in Connecticut not unlike Hillsborough.

#### Things that make them happy:

**Rich:** Travel, my family and having nothing to do on a Saturday afternoon.

**Lisa:** My family, sitting down to dinner together or taking a long family walk. Going to the beach with my extended family and being able to relax at the pool.

#### If I had more time:

**Rich:** travel around the world

**Lisa:** finish all my work, keep my company growing and have unlimited time to be with the kids.

#### Why we joined CKS:

We love the community. The goodness and warmth of the congregants, our Rabbi, and the environment are so welcoming. Although we are a mixed marriage, everyone feels right at home. We wanted an ethical and religious foundation for our kids and they have gotten a wonderful one.

#### Area Blood Drives:

Congregation Kneseth Israel of Bound Brook is planning a blood drive on Sunday, May 2 between 8:30AM and 1:00PM. Temple Beth El in Hillsborough is planning a drive on Sunday, April 25 between 8:00AM and 1:15PM.

### JEWISH LIFE PRESENTS FINAL PROGRAMS OF THE SEASON IN APRIL

Join us for the two remaining Jewish LIFE Special Events scheduled this season. The community-wide **Yom Hashoah Observance** takes place on **Sunday, April 11 at 7 p.m.**, featuring Clara Kramer, author of *Clara's War*. In her story, Clara Kramer recreated in frightening, vivid detail the story of how she and her family survived the Holocaust in a dug-out bunker, under the home of a known anti-Semite. The Yom Hashoah Observance will be held at Temple Beth El, 1489 Hamilton Street in Somerset, and is free to the community. Please call Temple Beth El to register at 732-873-2325. (This program is co-sponsored by the JCC Festival of Books and Culture.) Author **Jeffrey Zaslow** will be the final speaker of the season on **Tuesday, April 20** at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater. Jeffrey Zaslow, known to many for his book, *The Last Lecture*, will be discussing his latest book, *The Girls From Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty-Year Friendship*. A Sponsor Reception takes place at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. The program fee is \$18/person in advance and \$24/person at the door. The Program Sponsor fee is \$36/person and includes a Reception with Jeffrey Zaslow; \$50 includes Sponsor Reception, Lecture and Book. Please call the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 to register for Jeffrey Zaslow. (This program is co-sponsored by the JCC Festival of Books and Culture and Somerset Hadassah.)

# APRIL 2010

17 Nisan 5770 - 16 Iyar 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 HOL HAMOED PASSOVER I Exo. 13.1-16; Num. 28.19-25.	2 HOL HAMOED PASSOVER II Exo. 22.24-23.19; Num 28.19-25. 7:00 PM Shabbat Family Service	3 HOL HAMOED PASSOVER III Exo. 33.12-34.26; Num. 28.19-25. Ezekiel 36.37-37.14.
4 HOL HAMOED PASSOVER IV Num. 9.1-14, 28.19-25.	5 PASSOVER VII Exo. 13.17-15.26; Num. 28.19-25. II Samuel 22.1-51.	6 PASSOVER VIII (YIZKOR) Deut. 15.19-16.17. Num. 28.19-25. Isaiah 10.32-12.6.	7 6-8 PM Kehi-loft	8	9 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service	10 Shemini: Levit. 9.1- 10:7. II Samuel 6.1-21. 6:30 pm - Family Movie Night - "The Princess Bride"
11 YOM HASHOAH 9 - Noon - Hebrew School	12	13 7:30 pm - Board Meeting	14 ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15.	15 ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15.	16 7:00 PM Shabbat Service and Learner's Minyan	17 Tazria: Levit. 12.1- 13.17. Metzora: Levit. 14.1- 32. II Kings 7.3-20. 4:00 pm - David Alexander Mumme Bar Mitzvah
18 9 - Noon - Hebrew School 9:30 am- - Religious School Open House	19 YOM HAZIKARON	20 YOM HA'ATZMAUT Deut. 7.12-8.18. Isaiah 10.32-12.6. 7:30 PM - Membership Committee Meeting	21 6-8 PM Kehi-loft	22	23 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service and Kehi-loft graduation	24 Ahare Mot: Levit. 16.1-24. Kedoshim: Levit. 19.1- 22. Amos 9.7-15. CKS at Communiiversity in Princeton
25 9 - Noon - Hebrew School 6-8 PM Kehi-loft social eveing	26	27 7:00 PM Religion Committee Meeting	28 PESACH SHEINI	29	30 7:45 PM - Shabbat Service	

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**April 2010**

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