

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Editor—Karen Bartels
karen.bartels@comcast.net
fax 609-921-1899
home phone 609-921-1811

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **September 2010** Elul 5770--Tishrei 5771

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

Administrator

Robin Bengochea
admin1@ksnj.org
robin@ksnj.org

Religious School Principal

Shari Rothstein
principal@ksnj.org

Lay Cantor

Kate Mende-Fridkis

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From the President

Three years ago when I was first elected President of the Board of Trustees, I wrote my first newsletter to the CKS Community. It focused on why one should join a synagogue and not just be an attendant for High Holiday services. I am extremely proud of our policy to not charge tickets for High Holidays and allow unaffiliated Jews in our local area the opportunity pray without pay. As a matter of fact we welcome guests and hope that they feel the community spirit of Congregation Kehilat Shalom and maybe the spirit will move them to become a part of our congregation.



Synagogue life is not about prayer on the High Holidays. You can personally derive from synagogue membership the knowledge that you are contributing to the survival of our faith, our people, and our Jewish community: the knowledge that you are helping to serve the Jewish community by supporting the religious, cultural and social needs of our children, our youth and our adult friends. The knowledge that the synagogue stands ready always to serve our Jewish community not only in times of sorrow, but in all areas of life: The naming of a new born child, the marriage ceremony, a prayer for the sick, the protection of civil liberties and spiritual rights in our community and in our schools, and on all occasions. The knowledge that affiliation with our synagogue offers members an opportunity to enrich their lives – not just through High Holidays, but Friday night Shabbat services and other holiday services throughout the year; through our religious school and Kehi-Loft programs; through its adult lectures and seminars; through its devoted members and their families, our neighbors and fellow Jews who make up this congregation and this community. Finally, you will derive a personal appreciation of the fact that you share with us in the work of building a flourishing synagogue life, and you will be joining those who have determined that the beauty, dignity and inspiration of the Jewish heritage which enriches our life, and the lives of our children.

Matt

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CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

Karen & Lawrence Fridkis

In memory of Ruth London, mother of Natalie London

In memory of Irit Harris, mother of Jill Fraticelli
In memory of Kevin Shabsis, brother of Bonnie Kramer

Harlene & Marc Rosenberg

In memory of Freda Mark, mother of Joyce Orden

Peggy & Bob Fass

For Joe Wions 60th Birthday
For Harlene Rosenberg's retirement
In memory of Freda Mark, mother of Joyce Orden

Shelley Parish Nord

In memory of Ken Nord

Edgewood Middle DC Preparatory

In memory of Larry Froehlich

Diane & Joe Wions

In memory of George Rieger, stepfather of Joe Wions

High Holiday

Delores & Seymour Dansky

Hy Grossman & Kris Olson

Scott Kushner

Sheldon Kleinfeld

Sandra Karis

Dedication to Edward Kraus

Leslie Weintraub

Dee Ann Weir

Dedication to Ruth Weir

CKS would like to thank Peggy and Bob Fass for donating a refrigerator and Bob Neusner for driving his truck to pick up and deliver the refrigerator to CKS. Thank you also to Marc Rosenberg, Al Reichig and Dave Anderson for their able assistance.

CKS would like to thank Jacqueline & Larry Weitzner for donating a Yamaha piano and bench to the congregation.



Committee News

CKS Book Group

Do you like to read books or need a reason to get started again? Do you want to get to know more CKS members in an intimate setting? Come to the CKS Book Group! We read a variety of books and discuss them at our monthly meetings. Our first meeting this year will be held on Monday, October 11th at 7:30 pm at the synagogue. This will be both an organizational meeting where we pick the books and meeting dates for the rest of the year, as well as a discussion of our first book *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Refreshments will be served. Please call Marilyn Plotkin at 908-359-1498 if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome!

NEW - CKS Mah Jong Group

Many people have expressed an interest in a CKS Mah Jong Group. This is your opportunity!! Come on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:30pm at the synagogue to the organizational meeting of this new group. We are looking for people who have never played the game, people who are willing to teach, and we need to find out how many game sets are available for our use. Please join this new group to learn/play this fun game, meet new people, and have a fun night out. Please contact me with any ideas or suggestions! Debbie Gartenberg 908-428-7345 or dgart1518@gmail.com

KVELLING

Ed. note: Keep sending me stuff!!

Cara D'Andrea made the Dean's List for the Spring Semester as a freshman at Hofstra University.

Leah Bartels made Dean's List at Brandeis University four consecutive semesters.

From the Montgomery News:

6 Montgomery Girl Scouts Receive Top Honors

"...Providing additional resources for teens diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes was the goal of **Lyndsey Rosenthal's** project. She compiled, published and distributed more than one hundred copies of her book written to provide advice and insight to diabetic teens. Entitled "The Highs and the Lows," Rosenthal's publication is a compilation of humorous, compelling, and supportive insights written with newly diagnosed teens in mind. Karen Merritt, Montgomery Upper Middle School Teacher and Elizabeth Giardina-Preston, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Mid Jersey Chapter Executive Director served as joint advisors for Rosenthal's project."

SUKKOTH AND TIKKUN OLAM



When you receive this, it is likely we will already be knee-deep in the High Holidays, celebrating the Jewish New Year, and then, on Yom Kippur with more somber tones, turning inward to examine our deeds. Indeed, Jewish tradition holds that we begin preparing for this time a full 40 days beforehand, with the beginning of the month of Elul, and on through the Ten Days of

Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. On Yom Kippur, the work of teshuvah, repentance, or returning, becomes acute and urgent as we deprive our bodies of food, water, and sex. As if to leave the physical world altogether, we strip down to our bare souls.

Then, Sukkoth arrives. Like a breath of fresh air, clothed in the abundance of the fall harvest, the holiday of Sukkoth comes like an antidote to the nakedness of Yom Kippur. We sit in our sukkah, physically acting out our desert past; not depriving, but using our whole bodies to celebrate. Sukkoth is a joyful time that culminates with Simchat Torah, the celebration of, and literal dancing with, our Torah scrolls.

Yet, there is a sly trick in all this joy and celebration. A not-so-subtle reminder that we are still vulnerable to the whimsies and vicissitudes of life, that total control is an illusion. This reminder is the sukkah itself. A shelter with only three walls. A shelter that has no solid roof. A shelter made of wood and palm fronds. A shelter that is by commandment meant to be incomplete, fragile, and temporary. Rabbi Alan Lew (of blessed memory) says that the sukkah "is a parody of a house." In other words, a house shuts out the world, giving us a false sense of security. But the sukkah mocks this idea with its openness, invites the world in, and teaches us that there is no such thing as total security.

The fragility of the sukkah reminds us that there are those who are homeless and hungry. In Haiti, in New Orleans, in Darfur, in New Brunswick. The openness of the sukkah calls upon us to think about issues of inclusion in our society: immigration, racism, marriage equality, healthcare. The earthiness of the sukkah reminds us that we are part of the earth and must take care of it. Who is included in our harvest? Who is welcome in our sukkah?

Sukkoth is a time of year to be joyful and celebrate. Sukkoth is also a reminder that tzedek, or justice, our best Jewish – and American – value can be put to work to help our neighbors and to help our world. More than that, we do not need to work alone. We can use our community – its organizational structures, its members, its resources – to put forward a yearly agenda for tikkun olam, the social and physical

repair of the world. Together we can move forward with any number of projects, whether we go to a soup kitchen in Trenton, build houses with Habitat for Humanity, or find ways to make our own property more eco-friendly. The opportunities are many. The rewards are immeasurable.

If this sounds exciting to you, please contact me or Mike Galkin, our Tikkun Olam Committee Chair. In the meantime, I hope to hear from you and I look forward to seeing you during the holidays.

Leshana tova u-metuka/A happy and sweet New Year!

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 17th 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



Religious School Happenings

Dear CKS Religious School Families,

On behalf of everyone at the synagogue, I would like to welcome you to another exciting year at Congregation Kehilat Shalom Religious School. Thank you for entrusting us with your children -- the future of the Jewish people. We look forward to sharing the awesome experience of helping our students grow and develop to their fullest potential.



A few important items:

- You should have received the Parent Handbook via email. It has been put together to help make things clear and easy for you. Please read through it and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.
- Our first day will be Sunday September 12, 2010. School begins at 9am – please make sure your child is in the classroom ready to learn. If you would like to get breakfast at the bagel café, please plan to arrive a little early.
- This year we will be adding a Family Workshop for each grade. These programs will take place during Religious School hours and are designed as an opportunity for our students and parents to learn together and for the class families to get to know one another. Dates and times will be announced – please check your email.

Grade	Program Name
K-2	Sh'ma Pajama Party
3	What's in a Name
4	Saying Goodbye to Shabbat
5	It's A Blessing
6	Torah, Torah, Torah
7	15 Steps to Freedom

Additionally, we have a theme for the entire year: Making Derech Eretz Matter. Each week the teachers will spend a few minutes on the value of the week all relating to Derech Eretz – *the way we are expected to behave*. On opening day all families will receive the "Family Refrigerator Curriculum." Hang it on your refrigerator and then take some time with your family each week to discuss the value for the week. We hope this will enable you to deepen your knowledge of what it means to be a mensch.

L'shana Tovah,
Shari Rothstein, principal@ksnj.org
Principal

CKS THEME FOR 5771

**MAKING DERECH ERETZ MATTER
ONE WEEK AT A TIME!**

m&m&m:

mISHPACHAH (FAMILY) & **m**LITZVAH (GOOD DEED) & **m**ENSCH (GOOD PERSON)

Opening Day:
Sunday
9/12/10
9am
See you there!

Kehi-Loft



September is here and with it new beginnings. For those incoming 8th grade students, I want to extend you a warm welcome. For the returning high school students, it will be great to see you again after our summer break.

The year ahead will be full of opportunities for all of you. Kehi-Loft is a place for you to reconnect with your Jewish classmates, begin new friendships with other students at CKS, lend a helping hand in our community, learn to be a Shabbat service leader, and discuss a wide variety of topics that you choose to explore.

Kehi-Loft meets weekly on either Wednesday or Sunday evenings, with a handful of activities taking place on Sunday morning or afternoon. Each session runs from 6:00 - 8:00 and begins with free time to sit, relax, and eat dinner.

Kehi-Loft is comprised of four components: social, educational, tikkun olam, and becoming active volunteers in CKS. As a Kehi-Loft student you will lead five Friday evening Shabbat services during the year. Rabbi Susan is scheduled to join us monthly to help prepare you to become Shabbat service leaders. Once a month you will get together for a casual evening of socializing over dinner. Plus there will be opportunities for you to participate in synagogue-wide tikkun olam events and to help CKS throughout the year. This year the Kehi-Loft will take charge of the Purim carnival and volunteer at a soup kitchen.

Kehi-Loft begins its new year with a flurry of activities to help our community prepare for the many holiday celebrations this month. Kehi-Loft will set up the balcony for the High Holy Days, be honored with an aliyah on Rosh Hashanah, run a car wash fundraiser, put the balcony back to its classroom setting, erect the sukkah, and hold its first discussion session - all in September!

There's a lot to look forward to this year! I can't wait to begin! By the way, if you have not yet registered for Kehi-Loft, please do so by contacting Robin in the office at Robin@kehilatshalomnj.org or visiting the CKS website at www.ksnj.org.

Kehi-Loft students who are in grades 9th-12th are invited to apply to work as Madrichim (teacher's aides/guides) on Sunday mornings in our K-7th grade Religious School. Madrichim serve as classroom aides, Hebrew tutors, and office assistants. Most importantly, Madrichim are role

models to our younger CKS Religious School students. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact our Religious School principal, Shari Rothstein at principal@ksnj.org.

The calendar for the year will be email to all registered Kehi-Loft students before the first meeting. If you have any questions about Kehi-Loft, please contact me at kfridkis@comcast.net.

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, Director of Kehi-Loft

Kehi-Loft activities for September and October:

September

Wednesday, Sept 1 - late afternoon work session to set up loft for High Holy Days. Adult volunteers needed

Thursday, Sept 9 - Kehi-Loft students are honored with the second aliyah on Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, Sept 12 - 9:30 - 12:00 - Car Wash! Adult volunteers needed

Sunday, Sept 19 - 4:30 - 6:30/7:00. Erect sukkah

Wednesday, Sept 29 - 6:00 - 8:00 - first class session

October

Sunday, Oct 3 - Social session

Wednesday, Oct 20 - regular session

Wednesday, Oct 27 - session with Rabbi Susan

Sunday, Oct 31 - help out at CKS rummage sale

Robert "Bob" M. Fass
Sales Associate

Henderson
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2161 Route 206 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
c 609.577.8909 t 908.874.0000 f 908.874.5572
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Jewish Community

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 8 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 pm
Sept. 9 Rosh Hashanah 1st Day Service (free tickets required) 9:30 am

Children's Service (concurrent with morning service) 11:00 am

Tashlikh Hike to Pike Creek (dress for hiking) Literally "casting", tashlikh is a lovely ceremony carried out on Rosh Hashanah during which we "cast away our sins" by throwing breadcrumbs into a running body of water. Here at CKS, we are fortunate enough to be able to hike on our own property to Pike Creek. This is a wonderful, short, fun, and meaningful ceremony for adult and child alike. At the conclusion of tashlikh, the shofar is blown.
4:15 pm

Sept. 10 Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day, Non-Traditional Service 9:30 am

Yom Kippur

Sept. 17 Kol Nidre Service (free tickets required) 6:30 pm

Sept. 18 Yom Kippur Morning Service (free tickets required) 9:30 am

Alternative to morning service. Led by Peggy Fass. Meet at the Laurel Avenue parking lot for the Rocky Hill Canal. Casual hiking dress. 10:00 am

Children's Service (concurrent with morning service) 11:00 am

Yizkor Service: A memorial service on Yom Kippur that calls to mind our deceased loved ones through the recitation of special prayers, such as Mourner's Kaddish. Members at CKS have the option of listing their loved ones whose names are then read during the course of the service. Yizkor services are also traditionally held on Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot.
1:00 pm

Non-Traditional Avodah Service followed by Neilah Service The word "Avodah" in this context refers to worship in the form of sacrifices or offerings that were performed in ancient times in the Temple in Jerusalem. In those days, the High Priest performed a special sacrifice on Yom Kippur and made a full range of confessions on behalf of all the people.

Today, naturally, we no longer make sacrifices. We still, however, have offerings to make to God, to each other, and to ourselves. As we did last year, we will hold a non-traditional Avodah service on Yom Kippur afternoon, during which you may bring in your own personal offerings – poems, stories, artifacts, songs – that convey the spirit of the High Holidays: teshuvah, return, repentance, forgiveness, and so on.

Neilah is the final service of Yom Kippur during which our last round of confessional prayers are recited. The ark remains open and we stand (if we are able) throughout most of this deeply spiritual and moving service. Here at CKS, we dim the lights, allowing the words and music to wash over us as we turn inward one last time. The service concludes when the sun has set with a final, long shofar blast.

4:45 pm

Shofar blowing (Break Fast to follow) 7:05 pm

Sukkot

Sept. 24 Pizza in the Hut Sukkot Celebration 6:00 pm

Shabbat services 7:00 pm

Simchat Torah

Sept. 30 Simchat Torah Celebration (featuring music by the Klez Dispensers) 7:00 pm

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CigeLaw@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2010



22 Elul 5770 - 22 Tishri 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:25AM/7:31PM Kehi-loft - 6 - 8:00 pm	2 6:26AM/7:30PM	3 6:27AM/7:28PM No Shabbat Services	4 6:28AM/7:27PM SELIHOT
5 6:29AM/7:25PM	6 6:30AM/7:23PM	7 6:31AM/7:22PM Board Meeting - 7:30 pm	8 6:32AM/7:20PM EREV ROSH HASHANAH Erev Rosh Hashanah Service - 7:30 pm	9 6:33AM/7:18PM ROSH HASHANAH I Morning Service - 9:30 am Children's Service - 11:00 am Tashlikh Hike - 4:15 pm	10 6:34AM/7:17PM ROSH HASHANAH II Non-Traditional Morning Service - 9:30 am No Evening Shabbat Service	11 6:35AM/7:15PM
12 6:36AM/7:13PM Religious School - 9 - Noon Blood Drive - 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Kehi-loft Car Wash - 9:30 am - Noon Welcome Back BBQ - Noon - 3:00 pm	13 6:37AM/7:12PM	14 6:38AM/7:10PM	15 6:39AM/7:08PM Education Committee Meeting - 7:15 pm	16 6:40AM/7:07PM	17 6:40AM/7:05PM EREV YOM KIPPUR Kol Nidrei - 6:30 pm	18 6:41AM/7:03PM YOM KIPPUR (YIZKOR) Morning Service - 9:30 am Meditative Walk - 10:00 am (off site) Children's Service - 11:00 am Yizkor Service - 1:00 pm Non-Traditional Avodah Service followed by Neilah Service - 4:45 pm Shofar Blowing followed by Break fast - 7:05 pm
19 6:42AM/7:02PM Religious School - 9 - Noon Kehi-loft - 4:30 - 6:30 pm	20 6:43AM/7:00PM	21 6:44AM/6:58PM Membership Committee Meeting - 7:30 pm	22 6:45AM/6:57PM EREV SUKKOT	23 6:46AM/6:55PM SUKKOT I	24 6:47AM/6:53PM SUKKOT II Pizza in the Hut Sukkot Celebration - 6:00 pm Shabbat Services - 7:00 pm	25 6:48AM/6:52PM HOL HAMOED SUKKOT I
26 6:49AM/6:50PM HOL HAMOED SUKKOT II Religious School - 9 - Noon	27 6:50AM/6:48PM HOL HAMOED SUKKOT III	28 6:51AM/6:47PM HOL HAMOED SUKKOT IV	29 6:52AM/6:45PM Kehi-loft - 6 - 8:00 pm	30 6:53AM/6:43PM SHEMINI ATZERET (YIZKOR) Simchat Torah Celebration with music by the Klez Dispensers - 7:00 pm		

253 Griggstown Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
<http://www.ksnj.org>
 Listserve e-mail: contact_admin@ksnj.org
Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

Current resident or:

Deadline for next newsletter:
September 15th

September 2010

Inside the Newsletter	
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Whom to contact for...

Adult Education	Meryl Bisberg- 908-874-8970
Beautification	Rhonda Wynston-Kraftt 908-864-0046 Audrey Starkman 908-904-0432
Billing/Payments	Robin Bengochea- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 admin@ksnj.org
B'nai Mitzvah (helpers, celebrations)	Meryl Orlando- 732-329-8945
Board of Trustees <i>2nd Thurs</i>	Matt Rosenthal- 908-874-0787
Building/Grounds/Décor	Andy Sokel- 609-466-8749 andsok@aol.com
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 admin@ksnj.org
By-Laws	Victor Elgort- 908-874-8535 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk- 908-359-0420 ext. 3 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education <i>1st Wed.</i>	Andrea Lass 609-799-3536 Judy Weitze 609-466-9214
Financial Committee	Debbie Gartenberg 908-428-7345 Mark Goldhammer 609-799-3536
Fundraising	Lisa Kent 908-578-2972
Gift Shop	Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Kindercapers	Audrey Starkman 908-904-0432 Mark Goldhammer 609-799-3536
Kehi-Loft	Karen Fridkis- 609-333-1119
Life Cycle (Caring for each other)	Sheryl Rosenberg- 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning	Joseph Weiss josephobartweiss@verizon.net
Membership	Jim Ohls 609-466-1066
Pastoral Emergencies	Rabbi Susan Falk 908-359-0420
Personnel	Dave Campeas 908-904-4917 Jeff Barth Brian Cige
Publicity	Stacey Anderson 908-359-0593
Rabbi's Liaison	Debbie Tesser 908-904-0457 Dave Campeas 908-904-4917 Holly Nelson 609-921-1508
Religion	Richard Rosenberg 908-253-7049
Technology- Internet and Marketing	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
Technology - Computer and Networking	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499
Tikkun Olam	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499

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