

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **October 2013** Tishrei — Cheshvan 5773

Bulletin from the Board- Gary Gartenberg

Congregation
Kehilat Shalom
253 Griggstown Rd.
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
Phone: 908-359-0420
Fax: 908-359-8848
Regular office hours:
M-W 8:30-4pm T-Th 8:30-6pm
F-8:30-2:30pm

Rabbi

Susan Falk
rabbi@ksnj.org

President

Susan Waskow
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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Published by:

Calli-Graphics

Proofreader: Shana Bartels

A couple of thoughts from the day **after** the Day of Atonement...

It was wonderful seeing every seat in the sanctuary filled, with everyone praying together, listening to Rabbi Susan and Emily Cohen, hearing the lovely singing, enjoying the speeches, and welcoming the New Year. I especially enjoyed Marc Rosenberg's presentation and was amazed to learn how many people have contributed to CKS over the past 30 years.

As Rabbi Susan has repeatedly advised, it is useful to 'cultivate mindfulness', or, to paraphrase Simon and Garfunkel, 'Slow Down, You Move too Fast. So let's stop and take stock of what we have accomplished over the last half dozen or so years. We have:

- Hired Rabbi Susan, a wonderful rabbi
- Improved our building – replaced the roof, added air conditioning, replaced the boiler pipes, added new windows and doors and carpet and lights in the sanctuary, added new sliding doors for the classrooms, added window shades and a coat of paint to the social hall, and, most recently, replaced the CKS sign. Wow! Next up: the bathrooms!
- Increased membership
- Refinanced our mortgage and improved our financial status
- Created an active Tikkun Olam committee
- Reinvigorated our Adult Education program
- Established Kehiloft, an active program for our teenagers who now meet in their own lounge in the balcony
- Reconfigured the instruction for our Religious School, adding an innovative technology component

Perhaps most importantly, I sense a good feeling in the environment at CKS. People here really like each other and support one another. The atmosphere is warm and engaging. We clearly are **not** a synagogue of prima donnas.

It is indisputable that we have come a long way. But as Rabbi Susan also says, our prayers should inspire us to act. Now let's pay it forward. What can I do, what can you do, what can **we** do to build this place for future generations? That is both the question and the challenge. It is wise to pause and reflect. But we must also act.

So, get involved. Participate – in Friday night services, in Adult Ed, in Tikkun Olam (see the information on the upcoming Duke Farms and Homefront event and the Annual CKS Rummage Sale), or bring your idea for something new. We are in this together!

Best wishes, *Gary Gartenberg*



CKS Donations

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

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In memory of Jeanette Chicosky
Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg

Religious School

Sue Orshan

In memory of David Harris, father of Jill Fraticelli
and grandfather of Jared & Julia.

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Leslie Weintraub

Faina Sechzer

Dedication to Gregory Titelman and Jeri Sechzer

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In memory of many loved ones

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In loving memory of Terri Sosinsky, William Poncelan
and Frank Illis

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Dedication to the Schimmel family

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Sixth Annual Rummage Sale

We will be holding our Sixth Annual Rummage Sale on Friday, October 18th and Sunday, October 20th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (not on Saturday). As in the past, this will be an enormous sale including kitchen, household, yard, light furniture, kids' items, clothing, books and more. (Please, NO heavy TVs!!) Please save your 'stuff' for our sale! **We need your donations and help to make this important fundraiser a success!**

Donations will be accepted on Sunday, October 13th after Religious School, and Monday - Wednesday, October 14th - 16th from 1 to 7 p.m. at the synagogue.

This is a very labor-intensive endeavor, and we need your help! Please consider helping with sorting during the week, setting up on Sunday morning, and/or selling on Friday and Sunday mornings. It is a fun event, and a great way to get to know your fellow congregants! If you can help, please contact Debbie Gartenberg at dgart1518@gmail.com with what day and time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone from the Rummage Sale Committee: Sue Krisloff, Nancy Javeline, or Debbie Gartenberg.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteering at CKS brings many rewards. Most importantly, by everyone working together, CKS can continue to support the spiritual, educational and social needs of our members. Additionally, being involved at a deeper level brings many personal rewards. People feel a much deeper and more personal connection to CKS and its community, and many life-long friendships are forged when working together on various projects.

The Fundraising and Tikkun Olam Committees both need support. For information on upcoming events and what you can do to help, even if it's for two hours here and there, please contact Debbie Gartenberg at dgart1518@gmail.com. Give it a try - you and CKS both will both reap many lasting rewards.

Message from the Rabbi

SO, NU? WHAT WILL THE RABBI DO ON HER SABBATICAL?



As I'm sure most of you know by now, I will be taking a four-month sabbatical from mid-December 2013 to mid-April 2014. Many of you have met Ora Nitkin-Kaner, now a third-year student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Ora has already garnered a good amount of rabbinic experiences, among them, serving in an intensive chaplaincy training program at Bellevue

Hospital in New York City; leading Jewish teens on a service trip to India; as well as service leading in different venues. There will be other opportunities to meet Ora this fall, so stay tuned for announcements.

Many of you have asked me what I will be doing with my time off. One of my plans is to take Yiddish classes at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City. The YIVO Institute was founded in Vilna, Poland (now Lithuania) in 1925 by European intellectuals, including Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. As Europe swiftly modernized between the two World Wars, YIVO's founders believed that documenting the history of Jewish communities in Eastern Europe was essential. How right they were! In 1940, YIVO was fortunately able to relocate to New York – just in time, as the Nazis swept through Europe. Today, YIVO has an enormous library, as well as archives that hold over 24 million documents, photographs, recordings, films, and so forth, all documenting a world all but lost in Hitler's Europe. YIVO also runs classes in Yiddish language, Eastern European history, and other specialized topics.

Why am I taking Yiddish? Several reasons. Probably the major catalyst for my decision has been my recent interest in Klezmer music. Over the last few years, I haven't been able to get enough of this special, soulful music from Eastern Europe. Plus, the resurgence over the last 25 years or so of Klezmer (and Yiddish language and culture in general) has produced numerous Klezmer groups, playing both traditional as well as a kind of hybrid Jazz-Klezmer that is both innovative and irresistible.

Moreover, Yiddish is one of the most expressive and colorful languages of Europe, combining elements of Hebrew, Slavic and other languages into its base of Medieval German. No wonder some of the best Jewish literature, theatre, and film are in Yiddish. For centuries, Yiddish was/is the *mammaloschen* (the "mother tongue") of European Jews.

Finally, I have an interest in how Yiddish is still used today – particularly among non-Jews in Germany and other parts of Europe. Although most of the Jewish population was murdered by the Nazis, remnants of the language remain. One of my goals is to research and perhaps write an article on this topic.

What else will I be doing on my sabbatical? Well, you'll probably see me a lot more at the gym... or maybe in a Tai Chi or Yoga class. And I may take a trip or two.

Our Sabbatical committee thought very carefully about my duties here at CKS, and I have great confidence that between Ora and the Board, all will be well taken care of. In the meantime, I'll be around till December 13th. I hope you'll come to Shabbat services that night and see me off!

B'Shalom uvracha/With peace and blessings,

Rabbi Susan

Israel Is Calling You!

Join us for the first Reconstructionist Movement trip to Israel, May 14–21, 2014. Deepen your connection to Judaism as you experience life in Israel today. Learn from leading academics, Israeli thinkers, and political activists in a unique series of stimulating and provocative programs. Take your part in a progressive Jewish conversation—an intellectual, spiritual and political dialogue that will build your knowledge, challenge your perspectives, and broaden your understanding of Israel. Learn more at www.rcc.edu/Israeltrip.



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is open each Sunday
11 am - 12 noon

Questions?

Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
or Iris Rubinstein 609-947-2633



Kindercapers

Now in its 18th 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



Kehi-Loft

October

Wednesday, Oct 9 – Regular session – game night; welcome; and discuss plans for the year

Saturday, Oct 12 – CKS Tikum Olam event at Duke Gardens with HomeFront

Wednesday, Oct 16 – Rabbi Susan leads discussion

Sunday, Oct 20. 9:00 – 2:00. CKS Rummage sale

Wednesday, Oct 30 –Prep for Chanukah project in Religious School

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Nov 6 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion

Wednesday, Nov 13 - Shabbat service prep

Friday, Nov 22 - Kehiloft leads Shabbat service

Sunday, Nov 24 - 9:00 - 12:00. Kehiloft leads program in Religious School

School

L'shana Tovah!

Although the new year has only just begun, Kehiloft has been as busy as ever! My name is Joanna and I am Kehiloft's president this year. I cannot believe how quickly the last four years have gone by, and I can honestly say that Kehiloft has been one of the best parts of my high school journey. I have a feeling that the year ahead is going to be a great one!

The year has certainly been off to an awesome start! On Yom Kippur, we were honored with an aliyah and it was amazing to see the number of members representing our group on the bima. Kehiloft continues to grow every year and this was no exception. Hopefully, we will still be expanding 20 Yom Kippur from now!

Most recently, we got together to put up the Sukkah. We had an outstanding number of volunteers and everyone pitched in! We also put our loft space back together (and in record time too!). Between the physical labor of the Sukkah and loft set up, and the creativity involved in decorating the Sukkah, there was plenty for everyone to do.

The beginning of our Kehiloft year is always jam packed with events and as the year progresses; we continue to keep ourselves very busy.

Over the past few years, Kehiloft has become so much more than what it once was. We are not, simply, a Hebrew high school. We are a part of a warm and supportive community and we actively participate within that community. We are becoming young leaders and we are slowly but surely making a difference in our world. I am so proud to be a part of such a wonderful and unique group, and we hope that members continue to join and experience what Kehiloft is really about.

Kehiloft wishes you and your family a happy and healthy new year!

Joanna Javeline

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Jewish Community



Jewish LIFE: Learning Is For Everyone Begins New Season

Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone), our community wide adult education program, has an exciting new season of programs and special events planned for the coming year. A great lineup of special events are scheduled in addition to a wide variety of classes and films offered at our participating synagogues. The complete 2013-2014 Jewish LIFE brochure will be available on line at www.ssbjcc.org. Printed copies will be available at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater.

Below is a rundown of the special events coming up this fall. We are pleased to also offer two new exciting opportunities for adult learning, The Melton School and iEngage.

- **NEW!!! Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning** (A project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). The Melton School will be offered at the Shimon and Sarah Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater on Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am, from October 2013 through June 2014. Registration Fee: Register by September 10: \$650/person; Register after September 10: \$700/person.
- **NEW!!! iEngage: Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship**, Sundays, 4-6pm: 10/6, 10/27, 11/17, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4 and 6/8 (Hosted at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough).
- **Sun., Sept. 29, 10:30am: Katherine Rosman, *If You Knew Suzy: A Mother, A Daughter, A Reporter's Notebook*** (Hosted by Or Chadash, Flemington)
- **Wed., Oct. 9, 7pm: Rabbi Deborah Prinz**, Author of *On the Chocolate Trail* (Hosted by Temple Har Shalom, Warren)
- **Thurs., Oct. 10, 7pm: Yossi Klein Halevi**, Author of *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israel.....* (Hosted by Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough)
- **Sat., Oct. 12, 5pm: Sholem Aleichem**, *Laughing in the Darkness* (Film Hosted by Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough)
- **Tues., Oct. 15, 9am: *Imagine 2013***. Hosted by Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

Group at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater

- **Sun., Oct. 20, 10:30 am: Fraidy Reiss**, Founder & Executive Director of *Unchained at Last*, (Hosted by Or Chadash, Flemington)
- **Thurs., Oct. 24, 7 pm: *Return Engagement!* Martin Fletcher**, Author of *Jacob's Oath* (Hosted by the JCC)
- **Thurs., Nov. 14, 7pm: Dr. Joel M. Hoffman**, Author of *And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning* (Hosted by the JCC)
- **Sun., Nov. 17, 10:30am: Martin Russ Federman**, Author of *Russ & Daughters: Reflections & Recipes from the Hour that Herring Built* (Hosted by Or Chadash, Flemington).
- **Wed., Dec. 4, 12 Noon: Letty Cottin Pogrebin**, Author of *How to Be a Friend to a Friend Who's Sick*. Program & Luncheon (Hosted by the JCC).
- **Thurs., Dec. 12, 6:30pm: Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel & Films.** *The Breakfast Parliament, The Ranch, The Rabbi's Daughter* (Hosted by the JCC).

Debbie Golden
Special Projects Director
Marketing Director

Shimon and Sara Birnbaum
Jewish Community Center

775 Talamini Rd
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

(908)725-6994 x210
dgolden@ssbjcc.org

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OCTOBER 2013



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	2	3	4 4:00 PM 4-7 Grade Camp JRF Retreat 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	5 9:30 AM Sam Becker Bar Mitzvah
6 9:00 AM Religious School	7	8 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	9 6:00 PM Kehiloft	10 7:30 PM Board Meeting	11 7:30 PM 5 - 7 Shabbat Services	12 Tikkun Olam Project at Dukes Farm with Homefront
13 9:00 AM Religious School 12:00 PM Rummage Sale Drop Off	14 1:00 PM Rummage Sale Drop Off	15 1:00 PM Rummage Sale Drop Off 7:15 PM Spiritual Development Group 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	16 1:00 PM Rummage Sale Drop Off 6:00 PM Kehiloft 7:00 PM Education Committee	17	18 9:00 AM Rummage Sale 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	19
20 9:00 AM Rummage Sale 9:00 AM Religious School	21	22 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Membership Committee 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	23	24	25 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	26
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Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

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October 15th

October 2013

Whom to contact for...	
Adult Education	Meryl Bisberg- 908-874-8970
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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 2 nd Thurs	Stacey Anderson 908-359-0593 president@ksnj.org
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- 908-722-0700 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk- 908-359-0420 ext. 3 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education 1 st Wed.	Andrea Lass 609-799-3536 Judy Weitze 609-466-9214
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Ritual	vacant
Technology- Internet and Marketing	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
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Tikkun Olam	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499 Debbie Gartenberg



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