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**Bulletin from the Board - Mike Galkin**

**The Mask Continues....**

I am now unmasked. It recently happened at our very successful MasCKsquerade Party. Masks not only hide our identity, they allow us to do things we would normally not do un-masked. At the party I came to the realization that we bring masks into our everyday life. I have a mask for every situation. I even have a Temple mask; hopefully you liked it. Why do we have so many masks and why did it take a crazy party to realize this?



It is true that we all wear a lot of different masks these days. These masks protect us from a sometimes not-so-nice and unaccepting world. They have become a barrier between us and the world. You meet someone you know; on the street, or at the supermarket or even at Kehilat Shalom and the mask you wear keeps you from making a real connection.

Yet the more we get to know each other, the more masks we take off, getting more comfortable with one another and hiding less from each other. But we think, "I'll never take off that last mask. To let someone see me exactly as I am is just too frightening." We feel if we do that, and then someone doesn't like us exactly as we are, we are ruined. We won't take that risk. So we refuse to remove our masks because we are afraid to tell others who we are. In our community, we are trying to make an atmosphere where you can feel safe to un-mask yourself. We even had a crazy MasCKsquerade Party so we could start the un-masking process.

I think deep down, we all really desire to have that kind of relationship with others, but the fear of rejection or judgment keeps us from doing that. We are afraid to become transparent and vulnerable because as soon as we let our guard down, we might be hurt. At CKS we hope the only mask you need is a party mask. We go to great lengths to create a welcoming and safe place to socialize and worship. Come join us. No mask required.

*Mike Galkin, Trustee*

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annual budget? Please donate.

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## Religious School Requesting...



The Religious School is looking for  
donations of gently used laptops  
and iPads to be used to add technology to the  
classrooms. Drop items off in Shari Rothstein's office  
with the donor's name on the equipment.

### Jay Garg's Bar Mitzvah Project

Dear Congregation Kehilat Shalom,

My name is Jay Garg and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader who is  
doing his Bar Mitzvah project. For my project, I am  
donating food in decorated snack sacks to  
HomeFront for the kids to eat while they are doing  
their activities.

To help with my project I will be collecting donations of  
juice boxes, individual bags of chips, fruit cups in 100%  
juice, granola bars, individual cups of applesauce,  
and individual bags of pretzels. If you would like to  
make a donation to support HomeFront and my  
project, I will have a collection box inside the temple  
during Religious School on Sunday mornings, from  
March 16 (Purim Carnival) to April 6, 2014. Here you will  
be able to put donations of the foods mentioned  
above.

On April 27, 2014, I will have a meeting at 12 o'clock in  
the synagogue for interested Religious School kids to  
help assemble the snack sacks. We will serve pizza,  
hear a brief presentation about Hunger in New Jersey,  
and decorate snack packs and cards.

Thank you for your support,

*Jay Garg*

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."  
Booker T. Washington

#### Requested Donations:

- juice boxes
- individual bags of chips
- fruit cups in 100% juice
- granola bars
- individual cups of applesauce
- individual bags of pretzels



## Message from the Rabbi



Two weeks ago, an Amazon wish list popped up on my Facebook page. The wish list was for a 64-year-old man named Glenn Ford. Glenn's wishes were simple: he asked for 6 bars of Dove soap; 5 denim shirts; pajamas; a watch; 3 pairs of shoes; t-shirts and long-sleeve shirts; underwear; pants. A few days later, more items were added: pencils and a notepad; a reusable to-go cup; and a simple computer, easy to use.

These are the requests of a person who appears to have nothing. But who, in this age and this country, lacks basic essentials for living?

Glenn Ford does. Two weeks ago, he was released from Angola Prison, a Louisiana penitentiary, after 30 years on death row for a murder he didn't commit.

In 1983, Glenn was convicted of the death of a white shopkeeper in Shreveport, LA. He was convicted based on the testimony of a single woman who admitted during Glenn's trial that she had been coerced by police into lying about Glenn's involvement. Despite this and many other obvious miscarriages of justice – that the defense did not ask any experts to testify on Glenn's behalf because they believed they'd have to pay for them themselves; that the 'expert' witnesses the prosecution used were untrained and unqualified – the all-male, all-white jury took three hours to sentence Glenn to death.

Two weeks ago, decades of legal battles paid off, and Glenn's death sentence and murder conviction were vacated based on the overwhelming evidence that he had never had any involvement in the 1983 murder. Two weeks ago, when Glenn was released, he was given \$20 by the State of Louisiana and ushered through the prison gates.

Two weeks from now, we celebrate the holiday of Passover, a holiday whose Hebrew name is *Z'man Cheruteinu*, literally 'the time of our freedom'. Sitting around the Seder table, we Jews recall how our ancestors were enslaved millennia ago in Egypt. In fact, it is a mitzvah on Passover to re-tell the liberation as if we ourselves had been marked by shackles and tasted the salt of our own tears, and as if we ourselves had walked through the archways of the architecture of our confinement into the terrifying expanse of a long-dreamt-of freedom.

Two weeks ago, Glenn Ford walked free alone, but he walked in the footsteps of dozens of men before him. In the 30 years that Glenn spent on Angola's death row waiting to be executed, 36 other men were recognized as innocent and exonerated from the prison. In those same 30 years, hundreds of other men and women across America were also exonerated. And in those 30 years, 26 inmates that shared space with Glenn on Angola's death row were executed.

We are blessed that we must use our imagination to 'remember' our ancestral liberation. For many across this country, however, liberation is a recent, living memory. Right now, Glenn Ford is sitting down to a meal in New Orleans, or sleeping in a bed, and getting used to freedom that began, for him, only a month ago.

As Reconstructionist Jews, it is incumbent upon us to reconstruct our tradition so that it awakens our hearts and rouses us to the power of faith linked with justice. This Passover, when we recite 'we were slaves in Egypt' from the *Haggadah*, I invite you to share Glenn Ford's story of 30 years behind bars. And when we say *dayenu*, 'it would have been enough', ask whether we can be content with one man's recent liberation, or whether we have the power to demand that all who are enslaved today go free.

Chag sameach,

*Ora*

Rabbi Ora can be contacted at [sabbaticalrabbi@ksnj.org](mailto:sabbaticalrabbi@ksnj.org)



**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  
11 am - 12 noon

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



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





# CKS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWS April 2014



Last month we had a wonderful Purim celebration at CKS Religious School. We began our celebration early in March with the baking of Hamantashen in our monthly cooking class – they were DELICIOUS. On Purim, the students watched an entertaining and creative Purim Shpiel presented by our very own Kehiloft students. It was funny and the story was told in a way all the students could understand. It was also well acted and the script was written by the Kehiloft students. What an amazing group of talented teens we have at CKS! This month we will be celebrating Passover with a special Passover Palooza for our students on April 6th. At the end of April we will commemorate the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah. We will hear first hand from a survivor and then the 7th grade students will be leading a special service. 5th and 6th graders will attend and we invite **ALL PARENTS** to join us.

*Some highlights from the Purim Shpiel*



*AND, the Purim Carnival*



Spotlight on Morah Sharon's 5th Grade Hebrew Class: Morah Sharon's students have been learning the prayer—Gevurot. They have been discussing the qualities of a hero. They made "WANTED" posters looking for a hero using those qualities. Look for them on the bulletin board in our school.

## APRIL EVENTS

Friday, April 4, 2014  
Pot luck Shabbat Dinner 6pm  
All School Shabbat Services 7pm

Sunday, April 6, 2014  
Passover Palooza  
Students will participate in an all school event to learn about the 12 steps of the Passover seder.

Sunday, April 13, 2014  
Sunday, April 20, 2014  
Spring Break

Friday, April 25, 2014  
Shabbat services led by Kehiloft 7:30pm

Sunday, April 27, 2014  
- **Yom Hashoah** 10:15  
All parents are invited to join us to commemorate the Holocaust. We will welcome Holocaust survivor, Tova Feldman. Then, the 7th Graders will led us in a special service for 5th - 7th graders.  
- **Music** with Moreh Eric

## Looking Ahead

### SPRING RETREAT

5/2-5/4/14

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Graders: Attend the Regional Retreat held at Camp JRF in the Poconos. This is a great opportunity for your child to experience Judaism, make new friends with students from other Reconstructionist congregations and have a fun weekend away! **FORMS DUE 4/11.**



## KehiLoft

This month KehiLoft has been pretty busy. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we met with Rabbi Ora and talked about Judaism and some of the different rituals in our day-to-day lives. We also met on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> to practice for our Purimspiel. This was an extended meeting. We met from 5:30 to 8:30 and diligently worked to make our production a masterpiece. On Sunday March 16 we performed our Purimspiel for the Religious School students, teachers, and families.



Each of us had our own role in the Purimspiel, which Jason Rosenthal wrote, and the rest of the group helped to edit.

We all performed the Purimspiel for the Religious school students, the teachers, and even some parents. We also staffed and ran the different events at the Purim Carnival.

The Purim Carnival was held from 12:00 to 2:00 on Sunday after Religious School.

There were many different activities featured. Some of them were bean bag tosses, balloon shaving, mini-bowling and shooting hoops, but there were many more activities as well. In addition to fun games to play, students won tickets that they used to get cool prizes. We also served pizza, drinks, and Hamentaschen

*Charlotte Birnbaum*

## KehiLoft Calendar

### APRIL

**Sunday, April 6** - TS Walk at Mercer County Park.

Begins at 1:00

**Wednesday, April 9** - Shabbat service prep

Pesach - No KehiLoft

**Wednesday, April 23** - *tentative NEW EVENT* Session with 7<sup>th</sup> graders

**Friday, April 25** - 7:30 - 9:30. Shabbat service #3

### MAY

**Sunday, May 4** - Social session

**Wednesday, May 7** - Rabbi Susan leads a discussion

**Saturday, May 17** - *HomeFront picnic. CKS*  
*afternoon event*

**Sunday, May 18** - 9:00 - noon. Spring car wash and Religious School siyyum

**All sessions are from 6:00 to 8:00 unless otherwise noted.**

Shalom,

*Karen Fridkis*, Education Director of KehiLoft



## Jewish Community



Jewish LIFE is pleased to present:

**“Second Annual A Night to Celebrate Israel”, Thursday, April 3. Our Community’s Support of Israel and Bond event.** Distinguished Guest Speaker, Israel Ambassador Ido Aharoni. Invited Guest US Senator Cory Booker. Honoring Elaine Dunst, Past President of Jewish Federation; and Rutgers Hillel Student Jacob Binstein. Event will be held at Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Fee: \$50/Adult; \$18/Student includes Dinner (Dietary Laws Observed).

**The Irma Horowitz Film Series**, featuring Falafel and Short Israeli films, **Thursday, April 10, 6:30pm** at the Birnbaum JCC. Films screened include *First Night*, *New Year’s Resolution*, *I’m Ready*, and *Alone*. Fee: 10/person in advance or \$15/person at the door.

**Yom Hashoah Observance and Program, Sunday, April 27, 7pm.** Hosted at Temple Sholom, Bridgewater. At a time of increasing financial need amongst the worldwide Holocaust Survivor community, Jewish LIFE presents a timely program featuring William R. Marks, Esq., and Ellen G. Teller of The Marks Law Firm, PC (“MLF”). They will provide a broad overview of the various compensation programs established by Germany after WWII to benefit Survivors, as well as an analysis of the current status of those -- and related -- programs. To date MLF has assisted thousands upon thousands of Survivors in the U.S. and overseas collect monies rightfully due them given their suffering during the war. The evening is free to the community.

**Rabbi Dayle A. Friedman**, “That Our Hearts May Grow Wise: Cultivating Wisdom as We Age”, **Wednesday, April 30, 12 Noon** at the Wilf Campus for Senior Living, Wilentz Residence Building in Somerset. Fee: \$10 includes Lunch and Program. Please contact the Oscar and Ella Wilf

Campus at 732-568-1155 for information about continuing education credits for social workers. Program co-sponsored by The Wilf Campus for Senior Living and Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties.

*Save the Date* for the **Celebrate Israel Parade, Sunday, June 1** in New York City.

To register for Jewish LIFE Programs, please call the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201, or register on line at [www.ssbjcc.org](http://www.ssbjcc.org).

*Thank you for supporting Jewish LIFE.*

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# APRIL 2014



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	2	3	4 6:00 PM Pot Luck dinner 7:00 PM K - 7 Family Shabbat Services	5
6 Kitchen Cleaning 9:00 AM Religious School 12:00 PM Kehiloft	7	8 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	9 6:00 PM Kehiloft	10 7:30 PM Board Meeting	11 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	12
13 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	14	15	16 7:00 PM Education Committee	17	18 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	19
20 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	21	22	23	24	25 7:30 PM Shabbat Services led by Kehiloft	26
27 9:00 AM Religious School	28	29 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	30			



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**April 2014**

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