

# Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **August 2014** Av— Elul 5774

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## Bulletin from the Board – Marc Rosenberg

### Home Improvements

Fulfilling the spiritual needs of our community has always been the top priority for CKS. These needs are not just about worship or pastoral emergencies. They are also about our members being able to gather in a space that is inspiring, aesthetically pleasing, and user-friendly. Today, there are a number of projects underway to make our building more usable, more comfortable, and as safe as possible.

A few years ago, we replaced our windows, added new doors, and upgraded the lighting in our sanctuary. The sanctuary and social hall were air-conditioned. Last year, as you know, we installed new sturdy, sound resistant, movable walls in our social hall to make new classroom space for our religious school and our Kindercapers nursery school. We also unveiled our new and gorgeous CKS sign, a very welcoming addition indeed.

This year, three new projects are underway. First, we are upgrading the storage space in the back classroom of the social hall to make it more usable and safe for children. We are also upgrading our playground to meet new State safety requirements. Over the next year, you'll see a new playscape installed along with an improved and safer mulch bed.

The biggest project by far is the "reconstruction" of our restrooms. There is no getting past it – the current restrooms are pretty uninviting (a polite term). They've been around for decades, and cosmetic touch-ups won't do it, so we are planning a complete "gut job." These new facilities, which will be appreciated by congregants for years to come, will include nicer décor, enhanced ventilation and improved handicapped access.

Our goal is simple: to have the restrooms completed by the High Holidays.

If you've ever remodeled a bathroom, you know it's not cheap – and we're doing two of them! We've solicited bids from several contractors and we expect a cost of around \$38,000. This is not an expense that can be borne solely by our operating budget or even our building fund. That is why you recently received a special appeal for donations for this project in the mail.

We are looking for 100% participation from our community in this project. We ask that you give what you can, but please give something. We'll continue to keep you updated. For years we have heard from you that we have to do something about the restrooms; now we are. Please help; we are counting on you. There's still some time left, so if you haven't already done so, please send in your contribution today.

We also are aware that you just received your annual dues statement, which we hope you will attend to as soon as you can. We understand that sending you two requests for money – restrooms and dues – so close to each other is not the best timing. But we had no choice. When you use our new restrooms this fall, you will instantly know that it was well worth it.

We are "flush" with excitement about where CKS is going this year and we're glad you are with us. Enjoy the rest of your summer.



*Marc Rosenberg, Trustee*

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## CKS Donations

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

### General

Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison  
in memory of Estelle Lampf and Fannie Lampf  
Natalie London  
in memory of Ruth London  
Harlene, Marc & Brian Rosenberg  
in honor of Jake Fridkis' graduation  
in honor of Josh Kent's graduation  
in honor of Alyssa Gartenberg's graduation  
Gil & Ellen Gordon  
in memory of Joe Wions  
Jodi Mahoney  
Stacey Bachrach  
Hilary & Peter Crist  
Jen & Hal Rappaport  
Diane Wions  
George Cohen & Lesley Germaine  
Karen & Larry Fridkis

### Religious School

Natalie London  
in honor of and in thanks to Shari Rothstein  
Natalie London  
In honor of Karen Fridkis

### Restroom Reconstructonist

Brian Cige  
Martin & Ilene Millman  
Daniel & Liz Roth  
Merryl & Alan Traub  
Bill & Lisa Ries  
Diane Wions  
Shelley Parrish Nord  
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Bob Sohor  
Michael & Joan Galkin  
Al & Cathy Reichg  
Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg  
in honor of Emily Bengel's special birthday  
in honor of Jake Fridkis' graduation  
in memory of Sheryl's father, Daniel Weisswasser  
Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison  
Susan & Darryl Waskow  
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Robert Neusner & Helen Pu

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### Tikkun Olam

Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Marilyn Plotkin  
in memory of Matilda Falk  
Larry Weitzner  
in memory of Matilda Falk  
Barbara Lehman  
in memory of Edwin Nusbaum

### Kehiloft

*"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."* Winnie the Pooh

Flashback to five years ago. I had just become a bat mitzvah and was beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I was shy, awkward, and honestly not very keen on joining a group of older kids whom I hardly knew. But little did I know, becoming a member of Kehiloft would be one of the best decisions I made throughout my high school years.

Kehiloft has become so much more to me than just a Jewish group for teenagers. Not only is it a place where I have grown as an individual and as a leader, but Kehiloft is also a family. Although every strong family is unique, they all possess six common characteristics. First, strong families spend time together. Over the years, I have spent many wonderful hours with fellow Kehilofters in heated debates over Jewish ideology, working on community service projects, or simply playing board games. Second, strong families practice effective communication. Whether we are discussing the D'var Torah for an upcoming service or catching up on each other's latest news, Kehilofters listen to one another and value everyone's opinion. Third, strong families appreciate one another. Kehiloft has formed a tight bond over the years and it would simply not be the same if any one of us were missing! I truly appreciate all of my fellow Kehilofters for who they are because they all add something unique to our group. Fourth, strong families show commitment. Although leading a D'var on sacrificial rites may not be everybody's first choice, Kehiloft is committed to the welfare and unity of our group. We know how to compromise when we disagree (which is often) and the reason the group has grown so much is because we put each other first. Fifth, strong families use good coping skills. If a member of Kehiloft is going through a rough patch, they can always go to the rest of the group for support and advice. And most importantly, we maintain a positive outlook no matter how hard times may be! Finally, strong families practice deep



values and morals. If that doesn't describe Kehiloft, I'm not sure anything does.

Being a member of this incredible "family" for the past five years has made me a better student, friend, and leader. As I begin my new chapter, I will spend countless hours studying to become a teacher and I already know I will reflect back to my times in Kehiloft to help me along the way. Of course, there are many people who have helped to make Kehiloft such a wonderful experience for me. Thank you to my parents for pushing me into Kehiloft in the first place and for always supporting me no matter what. I love you guys. Thank you to my little sister Melissa for being my best friend. Thank you to Rabbi Susan and all of the other adults who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to come and lead discussions with us or help us with projects. Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you to our amazing director, Karen Fridkis. Karen, you do so much to make sure the group runs smoothly and that we enjoy every session. Thank you for all of your support, encouragement, and hard work over the years. And last but certainly not least, thank you to all of my fellow Kehilofters. Each of you is so unique and incredible. I see so much passion, ambition, and potential in all of you and I know you will do great things. It has been a true blessing getting to know each and every one of you. As hard as it is to say goodbye, I am lucky to have these wonderful memories to cherish and experiences to learn from. I cannot wait to see where it all goes from here.

Farewell and yours truly,  
*Joanna Javeline*

**Robert "Bob" M. Fass**  
Sales Associate

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# AUGUST 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	6	7	8 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	9
10	11	12 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	13	14 7:30 PM Board Meeting	15	16
17	18	19 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	20	21	22 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	23 9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service
24	25	26 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	27	28	29	30

## KEHILOFT CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, Sept 7** - 9:00-12:00 Car wash. Stay for the CKS Welcome Back BBQ (approx 12:00)

**Wednesday, Sept 10** - Kehiloft welcome and set up loft for High Holy Days

**Wednesday, Sept 17** - Prep for Religious School sukkah project

**Friday, Sept 26** - 4:00 - 6:00 Tentative date/time for Stonebridge Rosh Hashanah program

**Thursday, Sept 25** - tentative Aliyah for Rosh Hashanah OR Yom Kippur Aliyah on Oct 4

**Sunday, Sept 28** - 9:00-11:20:00. Kehiloft runs Sukkot project in Religious School

### OCTOBER

**Sunday, Oct 5** - 10:00 - 12:00/1:00. Raise sukkah and reassemble loft

**Saturday, Oct 11** - Tentative date for CKS HomeFront event

**Thursday, Oct 16** - 6:30 - 8:30 - Simchat Torah celebration at CKS

**Wednesday, Oct 22** - Rabbi Susan leads discussion

**Sunday, October 26** - 9:00 - 2:00. CKS annual rummage sale

Mark your calendars now for Kehiloft's dates in September and October. Tentative dates will be confirmed later this summer. **Register for Kehiloft online at the CKS website if you haven't done so already!**

Shalom, *Karen Fridkis*, Director of Education at Kehiloft

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*Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.*

Current resident or:

Deadline for next newsletter:  
**August 15<sup>th</sup>**

**August 2014**

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