

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **September 2014** Elul 5774--Tishrei 5775

Congregation Kehilat Shalom

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Bulletin from the Board – Susan Waskow

Shalom, Peace

At CKS we look forward to a productive fall. The Jewish year, like the school year, begins in the fall. We welcome our new religious school principal, Ann Willig Kanerek. We also look forward to the return of Ora Nitkin-Kaner. Ora will be joining us during the year as student rabbi. She will again take the role of Sabbatical Rabbi when Rabbi Susan Falk completes the second half of her sabbatical in the year ahead. Here are a few upcoming events.

September 7th, Noon - Welcome Back Picnic

All congregants are invited to our Welcome Back Picnic on Sunday, September 7th at noon. The day marks the first day of religious school. There will also be a blood drive and Kehiloft-sponsored car wash throughout the day. All are welcome, whether or not you have a child in religious school. Bring a side or dessert to share (no dairy please). Burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and fixings will be provided by the synagogue.

High Holiday Honors

Our Ritual Committee is still contacting congregants regarding the awarding of honors for our upcoming services. We know our fellow congregants are a modest group. Please accept the honor when asked. It is your opportunity to perform the mitzvot of High Holiday services together while we recognize and thank each other for making our congregation the special place that it is.

High Holidays Services

Services begin with Erev Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, September 24th and conclude with break the fast on Saturday evening October 4th. Join us for our newest CKS traditions including our non-traditional second day Rosh Hashanah service and Yom Kippur afternoon Avodah service.

Rummage Sale

Congregants are encouraged perform the mitzvah of Shalom Bayit (peace in the house) by de-cluttering and clearing away the unused items in your homes. You can donate these items to CKS in October for our rummage sale. Information will be available in the October newsletter.

New Bathrooms

We are excited that our bathroom renovation project will be complete by the time this newsletter is mailed to you. We thank all who have donated for this special project.

A few items in closing: First, CKS welcomes the return of our tenants, the Sunflower Academy, a Chinese language and culture after school program. Second, I'd like to thank everyone who helped fellow congregants in times of need by offering a ride, helping hand, meal delivery, and moral support. Finally, we sent a record 10 CKS children to Camp JRF (the Reconstructionist Movement's camp) this year.

I write this update in mid-August with a prayer that the most recent cease-fire in Israel will lead to a long-term end to the fighting. I hope you join me as we pray for a lasting peace in Israel and throughout the world.

May you be written in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy and productive 5775.

L'Shana Tovah

Susan Ellis Waskow, President



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Did you know that dues only cover half of the CKS
annual budget? Please donate.

RICHARD M. NADLER, DMD, FAGD



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Sunday, September 7th



Religious School starts - 9:00am -
Noon

Blood drive in the CKS parking lot -
9:00am - 1:00pm

Kehiloft Car Wash - 9:00 am - Noon

Welcome Back BBQ - starting at
12:15pm CKS will provide hot dogs,

hamburgers, turkey burgers, veggie burgers and
condiments. Those attending should bring a non-dairy
side dish or dessert to feed 6 - 8 people. Please RSVP
to the synagogue office if you plan to attend.

High Holiday Tickets and Schedule

**Synagogue Members do not need tickets. Non members
or guests of members should register for free tickets. Free
tickets can be obtained starting next week on the CKS
web site: www.ksnj.org. If you have any difficulty
registering for tickets please call Robin in the synagogue
office - 908-359-0420.**

ROSH HASHANAH:

Wednesday, 9/24: 7:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah services

Thursday, 9/25: 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Day 1 morning
service

9:30 am Children's service

4:15 pm Tashlich

Friday, 9/26: 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Day 2 morning
service

YOM KIPPUR:

Friday, 10/3: 6:00 pm Kol Nidre

Saturday, 10/4: 9:30 am Yom Kippur morning service

9:30 am Children's service

1:15 pm Yizkor

4:15 pm Alternative Avodah service

5:30 pm Neilah

7:00 pm Final Shofar blast followed by Break Fast

(Those attending the Break Fast should bring a parve or
dairy dish to serve 6 - 8 people. Please RSVP through the
synagogue office.)

SUKKOT:

Friday, 10/10: 6:00 pm Pizza in the Hut

7:00 pm Shabbat Mishpachah / Family Shabbat Services

SIMCHAT TORAH:

Thursday, 10/16: 6:30 pm Simchat Torah service and
celebration with dancing and live Klezmer music by the
Klez Dispensers.

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Message from the Rabbi

COMFORT, COMFORT, MY PEOPLE: A MEDITATION



As I write this, we are, in our Jewish calendar, in the second week of what are known as the Seven Weeks of Comfort. These seven weeks begin after Tisha B'Av, the saddest day of the Jewish year, commemorating the destruction of both Temples and our Exile, and lead us up to the High Holidays. The hallmark texts we read each Shabbat are taken mainly from Isaiah, beginning with the poignant words, "*Nachamu, nachamu, ami* – Comfort, comfort, My people."

I know most of you are probably deeply concerned about recent events in Israel and Gaza, the destruction, fear, and loss of life on both sides; the reports of a rise in anti-Semitism around the world. You may be watching, too, with horror, the brutality of the group known as ISIS, sweeping across Syria and Iraq. And here at home, we see our city streets filled anew with racial unrest. Among many other heart-wrenching and frustrating things, personal or political, that can make us feel hopeless... and utterly without comfort.

Where is God in all this? It is an important question to ask, I think, at this time. If there were ever a time for comfort, it is now.

Many post-modern, post-Holocaust Jewish (and Christian) theologians have said we live in a time in which God is hidden from us. Yet, after the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70, after the Exile when the Jewish people were scattered to the far corners, our Ancient Rabbis debated this same question. Their conclusion: "God is in Exile too and God weeps with us." One thousand years later, in the heart of impoverished and frequently anti-Semitic Eastern Europe, the Hasidic Masters said, "God's face is veiled. But God is wherever we let God in."

God – whether one thinks of the Eternal One, Source of All, Mysterious One, Holy One, Compassionate One, or simply whatever you hold to be sacred – God's face is hidden until we remove the veils of injustice and violence, enmity and apathy, *from our own eyes*.

Begin small. Try to find God's presence in the face of your beloved partner or child; in the act of lighting Shabbat candles or gardening; in a stranger's smile perhaps in the dairy aisle of the ShopRite. Take it from there. Think "Comfort, comfort, My people" in ever-widening circles.

It isn't easy when we get to the stranger, or the loved one we are estranged from, or the one

we perceive to be – or who is indeed – our enemy. But lifting the veils does not necessarily mean we accept the actions of those bent on hatred and violence. It just means seeing what is, in this moment. In our own hearts and minds.

Comfort, comfort, My people. This is *teshuvah*, the process we engage in as the High Holidays approach. The process of turning and returning to our best and truest selves; the process of unveiling God's face wherever and whenever we can.

I look forward to seeing you all in 5775. Le Shana tova.

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
11 am - 12 noon

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



Kindercapers

Now in its 21st 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



Kehiloft

The days are growing shorter and the temperatures are getting cooler. Summer is winding down, which is sad, but there's a lot to look forward to as we head towards September.

Kehiloft will kick off the new year with its annual autumn car wash on Sunday, September 7 from 9:00 to noon. Be prepared to get wet while raising money for this year's activities! Directly following the car wash is the annual Welcome Back Bar-B-Q from noon to approximately 2:00. Stay to schmooze with friends, feast on the culinary delights prepared by fellow congregants, and enjoy a short welcoming meeting with other Kehiloft students.

Next up in September will be a work day to set up the loft for the upcoming High Holy Days. We'll meet on Wednesday, September 10 to lift the floor boards and ready the balcony for congregants. Please wear closed toed shoes and bring work gloves. We welcome assistance from all adult volunteers. Many hands make quick work! We will also brainstorm craft ideas for the K-7 Religious School Sukkot decorations.

The following Wednesday, September 17, Kehiloft sets to work prepping for its first event in the Religious School. Sunday morning, September 28, Kehiloft will be working in the Religious School with each class to create decorations for the sukkah.

October finds Kehiloft students returning the balcony back into our private loft, celebrating Simchat Torah together, helping at the CKS rummage sale, and having our first discussion with Rabbi Susan. Check out the calendar below for dates to all these sessions.

Kehiloft is open to all students in grades 8 through 12. Kehiloft is a welcoming community where you will create friendships that last through and beyond your high school years, take on the challenges of working with a group, grow into leadership positions, and be proactive in creating the program that best fits your needs and desires. If you haven't registered yet, please go online to the CKS website.

2014-2015 promises to be a year of adventure, learning, leadership opportunities, and fun. We will begin it with a car wash in September and end with a field trip to a destination of the students' choice in June. In between, you will create the Purim spiel, meet for discussions with Rabbi Susan and Rabbi Ora, lead Shabbat services, participate in tikkun olam events, socialize with an expanded group of friends, and much more!

I look forward to sharing the exciting activities that are scheduled for the new year and in helping you sustain this vibrant and growing community.

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis

Kehiloft Director of Education



KEHILOFT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

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

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 - 9:00-12:00. 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

Invitations by Sharon



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Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Jewish LIFE is pleased to begin a new season of Jewish Learning! Please see the information below for details on our two year-long course offerings, and films scheduled for early fall. Special event speakers commence in November. The complete Jewish LIFE brochure -- detailing all special events and synagogue courses -- will be available in September and will be posted on the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC website: www.ssbjcc.org.



The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School is an innovative adult Jewish learning experience. It enables participants to achieve a strong foundation of Jewish knowledge in just two years. Students of varying backgrounds form a community of learners who explore Jewish texts and begin to understand how Judaism developed and what Judaism means to them. The pluralistic approach fosters an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and mutual understanding.

Two courses are offered during 2014-2015:

The Dramas of Jewish Living throughout The Ages (30 Lessons): What are the lessons and dilemmas of Jewish history, from the earliest wanderings of Abraham to the modern experiment in Jewish statehood? How do the turning points in Jewish history influence our lives today? This course investigates how the Jewish past gives meaning to the Jewish present.

The Ethics of Jewish Living (30 Lessons): How do Jewish teachings shed light on contemporary issues such as the environment, inter-personal relationships, end-of-life decisions, and stem-cell research? This course explores the wisdom of ancient and modern rabbis, scholars and thinkers, offering multiple Jewish approaches to conducting our lives in the communal and private spheres.

Registration includes both courses, which will be taught at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. Please register for one of the two following course meeting dates/times.

Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Beginning October 20 through June 1

Instructors: Rabbi Richard Fagan & Rabbi Michael Jay

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am

Beginning October 21 through June 9

Instructors: Rabbi Richard Fagan & Rabbi Eli Garfinkel

Fee: \$675/person when you register by September 8 or \$725 after September 8.

To register, call Rhonda Lillianthal at JCC MetroWest: (973) 530-3519

Engaging Israel: Foundations For A New Relationship



Engaging Israel is a video lecture and discussion series from the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, focusing on the great questions raised by Jewish statehood. It represents a shift from the often rancorous debate about what Israel does or doesn't

do right, to an engaged dialogue about the challenges, opportunities and possibilities of Jewish sovereignty and empowerment. Engaging Israel will be led by Rabbi Arnie Gluck at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough on Sundays from 4-6pm. Each two-hour session will include a video featuring a leading scholar from the Hartman Institute and lively group conversation. Book and materials fee: \$50

The 9 -Session Sunday schedule is as follows: October 26: From Crisis to Covenant; November 16: Religion and Peoplehood; December 14: Sovereignty and Identity; January 25: Power and Powerlessness; February 22: War and Occupation; March 22: Morality on the Battlefield; April 22: Jewish and Democratic State; May 17: Religious Pluralism and Human Rights; June 7: Values Nation.

Hunting Elephants, Saturday, October 18, 7:00 pm at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough.

Opening of the Temple Beth-El Jewish Film Series. Sir Patrick Stewart and an impressive cast of Israeli top talent give a bravura comic performance in *Hunting Elephants*, a bank heist caper and coming-of-age tale from writer-director Reshef Levi. Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards including Best Film. Wine and cheese will be served. Running Time: 107 minutes. RSVP to Simona Rivkin: bakerec@comcast.net



The Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel & Films, Thursday, October 23 at 6:30pm.

Israeli Short Films presented by Ma'aleh School of Television Film & the Arts in Jerusalem. Three short films with subtitles will be shown, with discussion to follow. Films include: **Sister of Mine...** Like all young ultra-orthodox girls, Ruchi, the favorite daughter of a Jerusalem family, dreams of becoming a wife and mother. But the young man who has been chosen for her is not in any sense her equal. Ruchi's younger sister, who has Down's syndrome, asks searching and uncomfortable questions about the match, underlining for Ruchi the extreme limitations on her freedom. **Addes...** The renovations of a 100-year-old Jerusalem synagogue on the occasion of its upcoming centennial celebrations ignite a conflict over old and new, identity and obliteration of memory, the living and the dead. **Persian Lullaby...** Dafna, the 40-year old single mother of a newborn boy, arrives at her parents' home a few days before her baby's brit (circumcision). In the week leading up to the brit, past conflicts between Dafna and her father are revisited, and new tensions are heightened. Will Dafna's father agree to be the sandak (godfather) of his first grandson? Fee includes films and falafel dinner: \$12/person in advance or \$18 the day of the event. Location: Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, Bridgewater.



SEPTEMBER 2014



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	3	4	5 7:00 PM Shabbat Mishpachah/Family Shabbat Services	6
7 9:00 AM Religious School 9:00 AM Blood Drive 9:30 AM Kehiloft Car Wash 12:00 PM Welcome BBQ	8	9 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	10 6:00 PM Kehiloft	11 7:30 PM Board Meeting	12 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	13
14 9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Pre HH Synagogue Clean-Up	15	16 7:30 PM Mah Jongg 7:30 PM Ritual Committee	17 6:00 PM Kehiloft	18	19 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	20
21 9:00 AM Religious School	22	23 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	24 7:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah	25 9:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Children's Service 9:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Morning Service 4:00 PM Tashlik	26 9:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Morning Service	27
28 9:00 AM Kehiloft 9:00 AM Religious School	29	30 7:30 PM Mah Jongg				

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September 2014

Deadline for next newsletter:
September 15th

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