

Congregation
Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **January 2015** Tevet – Shevat 5775

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Bulletin from the Board - Len Edelstein

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015. New Year's is a great opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and where we hope to go next. This is where New Year's resolutions come in. The trouble is, most of us then proceed to set entirely unrealistic resolutions that we ultimately fail. There are, however, methods to create resolutions you can stick to, and we can apply these methods to our resolutions regarding CKS:



- (1) Focus on *one* resolution. Join one committee. Help out at one event. Participate in one activity.
- (2) Set specific goals. Not "I'm going to get more involved". More like, "I have some ideas about the spring fundraiser; I'm going to help out." I'm sure there's something for CKS you can make happen.
- (3) Piggyback with existing habits. "I'm already there every Sunday dropping my kids off; I can help out while I'm there."
- (4) Forgive yourself. So you missed a few meetings. That's okay, come to the next one.
- (5) Start NOW. Just do it. There are lots of ways to help out and anything you can do to help CKS is necessary and appreciated.

While deciding on a topic for this month's newsletter, I was searching through the old newsletters available on the website and I found the one from January, 2010 written by Joseph Weiss. In it he lists all the completed and ongoing projects in the synagogue at the time. He also mentions projects "still requiring attention" including: (1) new dividers in the social room, (2) air conditioning in the classroom wing, (3) new lighting in the sanctuary, (4) replacing the walkways, (5) a new sign in front, and (6) new windows for the classrooms. Most of these have been accomplished. And it serves as evidence of the progress we are making as a community and the progress we have yet to achieve. I once saw a poster that read: "Fast, Inexpensive, Good, pick two." Most of the time, CKS picks Good and Inexpensive, which is why things take time. With your help (either monetarily or physically), we can accelerate the pace. We've accomplished a lot in the past year: new bathrooms, new playground, new educational program, student rabbi, new sign, and a beautified back room. There's so much more we could do.

Len Edelstein, Trustee

Happy 2015!

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

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High Holiday

Juliet & Scott Strauss

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Kate Fridkis & Simon Berring – in honor of Eden's
baby naming
Jen & Hal Rappaport – in honor of Bella's and Lily's
baby namings

Remember CKS when you donate:

Dues only cover a portion of the CKS operating budget. Consider making a donation in memory of a loved one, honoring an accomplishment, or recognizing a friend or colleague.

Save the Date for the Spring Event!

March 14, 2015

Please join us for our 6th annual spring event! **"Treasures of the Blue Grotto"** will be held on Saturday, March 14. If you can't envision what this themed party will be like, then you should come and enjoy a special evening with friends and fellow congregants, and experience being surrounded by many treasures in beautifully decorated cave-like surroundings.

It is never too late to join our planning committee! If interested, please contact Debbie Gartenberg at dgart1518@gmail.com

CKS Visits Stonebridge

On the second night of Hanukkah, CKS congregants, choir members, and Kehilfoft teens all joined to share the second night of Hanukkah at Stonebridge, the retirement community in Montgomery Township. The event was coordinated by Natalie London and included songs, readings, and stories between CKS members and Stonebridge residents. A special thank you to Meryl Bisberg who played piano. Thank you also to congregants including members of Kehiloft who attended.

Hanukkah Dinner a Success

A thank you to the Education and Ritual committees for coordinating yet another successful Hanukkah celebration at CKS on the fourth night of Hanukkah.

CKS Benefits from Eagle Scout Project

Justin Corsan of Scout Troop 46 in Montgomery Township has just completed his Eagle Scout project at CKS. His project consisted of two components: (1) a **custom designed shelving unit** for the School Principal's office, and, (2) installation of **new wooden base moulding** in the hallway of the temple to replace the old vinyl moulding with something more attractive. The project began many months ago when a need was identified for a more stable shelving unit for the small office of the Principal of the Religious School. Additionally, CKS was overdue to replace the floor moulding in the hallway. Justin planned the entire project from scratch which included the use of CAD drawings to design the shelving unit, creation of a budget, and purchase of the materials. As an Eagle candidate, Justin headed up the entire project and led a group of Scouts, adult volunteers, and friends to assemble and install the finished product. Well over 200 man hours of work went into completing the project.

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Happy New Year and Warm Regards from Your Ritual Committee:

As you develop your **New Year's Resolutions**, please consider setting a goal for service attendance. In addition to our Friday evening services, you have the option of joining in at several Saturday morning Shabbat services between January and June 2015, many at which you will experience the additional mitzvah of being present and wishing a mazel tov to one of our latest bar or bat mitzvah students. **These are beautiful and meaningful Shabbat services which are for everyone.** Come and help the bar mitzvah family feel the warmth and support of their congregation. Please mark your calendars as a reminder to attend. Plan to come to at least one service each month... and experience an oasis from the business of everyday life. Hope to see you! These are some of our Saturday morning services for the first half of 2015:

January 24th February 21st
 March 21st and March 28th
 April 11th and April 18th
 May 2nd and May 16th
 June 6th, June 13th, and June 27

For more information, feel free to contact: Iris Rubenstein (igrubenstein@gmail.com) or Tracey Goldberg, (tgoldberg10@gmail.com) or any ritual committee member.



Important Message from the Ritual Committee:

We have a variety of services during the year which sometimes have a special focus, such as Shabbat Mishpachah (Family Service), or a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, for example.



Please know that **everyone is welcome** at all Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. All services are for the entire congregation, and we encourage you to attend. Each person's presence enhances the Shabbat experience for everybody, an experience we hope is peaceful, meaningful and joyful for all.

For more information, feel free to contact:

Iris Rubenstein (igrubenstein@gmail.com) or Tracey Goldberg, (tgoldberg10@gmail.com) or any ritual committee member.



Tree of Life
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 908-359-0420



The CKS Gift Shop is open each Sunday
 11 am - 12 noon
 Questions?
 Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
 or Iris Rubenstein 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



Reconstructionist Education Day

For Jewish Reconstructionist Communities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and surrounding areas:
 A Day of Learning around the themes of "Reconstructionism 101" and Tikkun Olam
 Sunday, February 1, 2015
 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Society for the Advancement of Judaism
 15 West 86th Street
 New York, NY 10024
 Phone: 212.724.7000

The program for the day will include a workshop in the morning, lunch and a keynote given by Rabbi Deborah Waxman (President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities) followed by another workshop in the afternoon. Workshops will be led by Rabbi David Teutsch and Elsie Stern, Ph.D., from RRC as well as area rabbis including Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, Rabbi Lee Friedlander, Rabbi Marc Margolius and Rabbi Ariann Weitzman. The cost is \$25 per person, which will cover food and materials. We hope you will attend this great program! For more information, please contact Jackie Land at jland@rrc.edu or 302.500.0863. CKS synagogue president is hoping to carpool to this event with fellow congregants. Email susan.waskow@gmail.com if you are interested in sharing the ride.

Religious School Reports by Ann Kanarek



FAMILY EDUCATION PACT: Parents and Child Together

Our grade level PACT programs for families with students in the Religious School are off to a great start. During the school year you will all be invited to attend school with your child for your grade level PACT programs. For you, our parents, we hope that these programs will become annual events and something to experience. The name **PACT** (Parents and Child Together), is an indication that the program allows for families to DO SOMETHING TOGETHER.

Since the advent of family education in congregational religious schools, this kind of programming has become an integral part of our curriculum. Through family experiences, whether learning a new song, engaging in discussion, doing an art project or dramatic production, the goal of transmitting some aspect of Judaism in a meaningful manner to the whole family is realized.

We hope that participating in these programs will inspire families to take the opportunity to do more together Jewishly. Please join us when your child's class is scheduled for its PACT program. Come on time, be prepared to participate and to learn and have a wonderful time doing so.

UPCOMING PACT PROGRAMS:

Sunday, January 11, **4th grade:**

Saying Goodbye to Shabbat, 10:00-12:00

Sunday, January 25, **6th grade:**

Torah, Torah, 10:00-12:00

Sunday, February 22, **5th grade:**

Tzedakah and the Giraffe Connection, 10:00-12:00

Sunday, March 8, **7th grade:**

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Experience, 10:00-12:00

WHAT DID YOU DO IN SCHOOL TODAY?

Parents often want to discuss with their child events that happened in school, but don't know what to ask or say other than "What did you do?" which often elicits a "Nothing" response. Here is a short list of questions/statements designed to facilitate discussion:

1. Teach me something that you learned today.
2. Show me what pages you read in school today.
3. What question did you ask today?
4. Let's read one of your Hebrew pages together.
5. What prayer did you discuss today?
6. What does that prayer mean to you?
7. What story did you read in the bible today?



WINTER WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel school due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to ensure that school closing announcements are made on WCTC 1450AM and WMGQ 98.3FM and on their website (www.wctcam.com). Click on storm closings and "C" for CKS. In addition, you will receive a phone call from your class representative to alert you of a school cancellation. My appreciation to the class parents who volunteered to make the phone calls. Thank you.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy
"secular" new year.

The faculty and I look forward to the rest of the school
year with continued excitement and enthusiasm.

Ann Kanarek

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, December 28 - Sunday, January 4:

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: Winter break

Religious school resumes on Sunday, January 11

Friday, January 9: Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm

Sunday, January 11: 4th grade PACT program: *Saying Goodbye to Shabbat*

Sunday, January 18: Regular school session; MUSIC

Sunday, January 25: 6th grade PACT program: *Torah, Torah; Cooking*

Saturday, January 31: Shabbat Mishpachah followed by a BREAKFAST oneg

Scenes from the 2nd grade "MY SYNAGOGUE" PACT PROGRAM (12/7/14)



Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Happy Hanukkah, CKS! I'm Gabi Rubinstein, the Kehiloft scribe (because "secretary" is just too mainstream). Now is the season of light, and I want to shed a little light about the goings-on of Kehiloft. Your friendly neighborhood teenagers have been pretty busy. We've been leading services, having discussions with Rabbi Susan, getting ready for Hanukkah, and planning our Talent Show. Speaking of which, everyone should make sure to sign up for an act! I'm sure all of you are very talented, and we would love to see you perform, whether you are a kid or an adult. Even if you aren't performing, you show go to the show. It's on Saturday, January 10, at 7pm, and it starts with a Havdalah service.

Aside from the Talent Show, we've been doing a lot of other planning. We're developing our annual project, so stay tuned for more information on that coming up. We've also designed sweatshirts! They truly embody the spirit of our group, as you will soon see when you start seeing a bunch of people wearing the word "Kehiloft" with a pizza pie as the "O."

Kehiloft helped make some pretty rad Hanukkah crafts in the religious school, including candle boxes, dreidels, and dreidel-spinners. We are continuing our volunteering at Stonebridge by leading a Hanukkah program, and look forward to leading more Shabbat services at CKS, including one on January 30. As I'm sure anyone who has been to a Kehiloft service knows, we're kinda funny, so it'll probably be a good time. Chag Sameach, and we'll see you at the talent show!

Gabi Rubinstein

JANUARY

Wednesday, Jan 7 - Prep for Talent Show

Sunday, Jan 11. 12:00 - 2:00. Session with Rabbi Ora

Wednesday, Jan 21 - Shabbat service prep

Friday, Jan 30. 7:30 - 9:30. Kehiloft leads Shabbat services

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb 4 - Purim spiel rehearsal

Sunday, Feb 8 - 11:00 - 12:00 7th grade family workshop intro to Kehiloft

Sunday, Feb 8 - 12:00 - 2:00 Session with Rabbi Ora

Wednesday, Feb 18 - Purim spiel rehearsal

Wednesday, Feb 25 - Purim spiel rehearsal

Got Talent? Sure You Do!

***Calling all: singers, dancers,
actors, musicians, comedians etc.***

***Come one, come all to the
Kehiloft Talent Show
Saturday, January 10
7:00 - 9:00***

***We'll begin with a short havdalah service
and end with a nosh.***

Sign up here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/arqBPkkG24>

Invitations by Sharon

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Jewish LIFE

Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Upcoming Special Events include:

We are pleased to announce that two guest speakers are returning to Jewish LIFE this winter: Fraidy Reiss and Iris Krasnow. Fraidy Reiss, Founder and Executive Director of *Unchained at Last*, will appear on **Tuesday, January 13, 12 Noon** with a program and luncheon hosted at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18 in advance or \$22 day of event).



Join Jewish LIFE on **Wednesday, February 4 at 12 Noon** for the return engagement of author **Iris Krasnow**, discussing her new book, *Sex After...Women Share How Intimacy Changes as Life Changes*. Program and luncheon hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18 in advance or \$22 day of event).



Also coming up in February...Jewish LIFE will be showing the film, *Little White Lie*, **Wednesday, February 11 at 7pm.** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. The film will be followed by a discussion with **Lacey Schwartz**, the subject of the film. (Fee: \$5/person.) *This program is sponsored by Wendy and Stephen Offen.* Congregation Or Chadash will host the **Irma Horowitz Film Series** featuring **Falafel & Films** on **Friday, February 20 at 6:30pm.** Films shown will be *Jeptah's Daughter*, *Cornerstone* and *Mika*. (Fee: \$12/person in advance or \$15 day of.)





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The Liberation of Auschwitz: 70th Anniversary, An Event to Commemorate Those Who Perished and to Honor



Survivors will be hosted at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater on **Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30pm.** Guest speaker, **Tovah Friedman, LCSW.** *This program is sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties.* (Fee: \$10/adult and free to students.) For more information, please contact JFS at 908-725-7799. To register for all programs, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 or register online at www.ssbjcc.org.

Holocaust Survivor



"I thought I was the last Jewish child alive." — Tova Friedman

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JANUARY 2015



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	3
4	5 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	6	7 6:00 PM Kehiloft	8 7:30 PM Board Meeting	9 7:00 PM Shabbat Mishpachah/ Family Services	10 7:00 PM Talent Show
11 9:00 AM Religious School 6:00 PM Kehiloft	12 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	13	14	15	16 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	17
18 9:00 AM Religious School	19 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	20	21 6:00 PM Kehiloft 7:30 PM Education Committee	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM Religious School	26 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	27 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	28	29	30 7:30 PM Shabbat Services led by Kehiloft	31

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

Current resident or:

January 2015

Deadline for next newsletter:
January 15th

Whom to contact for...	
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