

**Bulletin from the Board- Susan Waskow**

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Published by:

**Calli-Graphics**

Proofreader: Shana Bartels

Shalom,

We look forward to seeing everyone at the "Treasures of the Blue Grotto" event. It will be at CKS on March 14. Plan to enjoy the evening with friends; it will be a great evening.

The CKS Board of Trustees has adopted three new procedures as presented below. Individuals with questions are encouraged to contact a board member or the President.

**Procedure for CKS endorsement of non-CKS events:**

Should CKS take a position as a synagogue on a public event or issue? Recent examples include Israel rally, documentary film showing at area synagogue. The requests are usually time sensitive and may be controversial.

If CKS is approached to take a position, either the President or Rabbi will initiate a series of emails with the board for thoughts, discussion, and consideration. A consensus of board members which is understood to be a majority of the board is appropriate for approval. The president or rabbi should include a date by which response is expected (such as three days). Lack of response is to be considered abstaining.

When appropriate, the Tikkun Olam committee should be involved in the discussions.

**Kvelling/Great happenings:**

- Establish a section to be posted periodically in the weekly email or a separate free standing email to be called: "Kvelling/Great happenings." The purpose is to celebrate all the good things that are happening within the families of our community.
- These items may also be included in the monthly newsletter upon discretion of the board under the direction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president.
- Announcements are about congregants and our families.
- Submissions must be sent to keveling@kehilatshalomnj.org to be monitored by the 2nd vice president for approval.
- Nothing political. Nothing that would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of CKS.
- No advertising.
- Brief (about 50 words max).

**Policy on Fundraising for Outside Organizations**

1. Fundraising = soliciting and gathering voluntary contributions of money or other resources by requesting donation

2. All fundraising activity on Congregation Kehilat Shalom (CKS) property must be approved by the Tikkun Olam Committee, Rabbi, Executive Committee, or Board of Trustees.

3. No fundraising should be allowed for outside organizations unless sponsored by CKS.

*Susan Waskow*, President



## CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

### DONATIONS General

Shari Burack  
Ed & Susan Krisiloff  
Ed & Susan Krisiloff  
Darryl & Susan Waskow

#### 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.

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1 - Purim Spiel and Purim Carnival  
Thursday, March 5 - Purim  
Friday, March 6 - 7:00 pm - Shabbat  
Mishpachah/Family Shabbat service  
Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Thursday, March 12 - Board Meeting  
Saturday, March 14 - "Treasures of the Blue  
Grotto" - Spring Event and silent auction  
Friday, March 20 - 7:30 pm - Shabbat service  
Saturday, March 21 - 9:30 am - Jaclyn Spinrad's  
Bat Mitzvah

## CKS Book Club

Do you love reading new books and sharing what you discover with others?



CKS Book Group meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March at Gayle Holtzman's house at 16 Spruce Lane in Belle Mead beginning at 7:30 PM

**March 19** - *The Angel of Losses* by Stephanie Feldman

**After March**, we will be reading *The Warmth of Our Sons* by Elizabeth Wilkerson but no date set yet.

Please contact Gayle Holtzman [908-281-6294](tel:908-281-6294) if you have any questions or wish to attend.

## Saturday Morning Shabbat Services



In addition to our Friday evening services, you have the option of joining several Saturday morning Shabbat services between January and June 2015, some 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/bat 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 a 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:

March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>  
April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>

For more information, feel free to contact:  
Iris Rubinstein ([igrubinstein@gmail.com](mailto:igrubinstein@gmail.com)) Tracie Goldberg ([tgoldberg10@gmail.com](mailto:tgoldberg10@gmail.com)) or any ritual committee member. **March 14, 2015**

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## Message from the Rabbi

My mother came to Canada from Germany in 1948, at age one. Her parents, both survivors, chose their new home for reasons of necessity: there was no longer a place for Jews in Germany, and though her father was an ardent Zionist, he was also a trained furrier; he and my grandmother imagined snowy Canada would have more use for his skills than the deserts of Israel.



They came over on the *Samaria*, a wartime ship repurposed for immigration. It was a two-week voyage in December, full of seasickness. After landing at Pier 21 in Halifax, they traveled to Toronto, and settled there.

They – the survivors, and my infant mother – came with nothing. But my grandfather Meilech quickly found work as a fur-cutter. When Meilech came home with his first paycheck, he and my grandmother Sally pulled down the window shades before opening the small brown envelope and counting out the money.

My mother, when I asked her recently to share her story of immigration with me, told me proudly that she 'paid for the door' of their first house; Meilech and Sally received a baby bonus from the Canadian government, and put it towards their first home in Canada. Though the family was far from wealthy, my mother never felt impoverished or went hungry. She says, looking back: 'No one expected to become a millionaire.' And, 'They were able to give me a good life.'

My mother's immigration story is one of small hopes and unexpected victories – and this seems representative of many who found a home in Canada. In my experience, the trope of the Promised Land is not a feature of Canadian immigration stories. Whereas Jewish immigrants to America often anticipated a 'Goldene Medineh' – a land whose streets were paved with gold, a land whose promise was embodied in the upraised arm of a 'mighty woman with a torch' – Canadian immigrants dreamed smaller, more quietly.

In one month, Jews across North America will retell another tale of immigration. As we gather together around the seder table, we will imagine ourselves as slaves in Egypt, and then imagine our liberation and entry into a different Promised Land. In thinking about this narrative, I realized that my mother's story of finding home is less known to me than the Passover story, and certainly not celebrated or crystallized into ritual. But it is a story that is sweet in its smallness and its particularity, even as the Passover narrative of collective liberation binds me

to Jews worldwide who have recited 'we were slaves in Egypt' for centuries.

Mary Antin, a Jewish author who immigrated to America at age 13, shared her experiences in her autobiography *The Promised Land* (published in 1894). Antin began writing *The Promised Land* when she was 30, and in it she raises doubts about the timeliness of her undertaking: 'A proper autobiography is a death-bed confession. A true man finds so much work to do that he has no time to contemplate his yesterdays; for to-day and to-morrow are here, with their impatient tasks. The world is so busy, too, that it cannot afford to study any man's unfinished work; the end may prove it a failure, and the world needs masterpieces.'

Whether we live into the lofty promises of a Promised Land, or whether we lead quieter lives, each of us, at every moment, is a masterpiece shaped by stories of our recent and ancient pasts. As we move into the season of our liberation, may we be blessed to know ourselves as precious barges, carrying our particular freights into the future.

*Ora Nitkin-Kaner*

Sabbatical/Student Rabbi



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Questions?  
Susan Waskow 609-333-1113  
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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





## Religious School Reports by Ann Kanarek

Be Happy, It's Adar!

### THE STORY OF PURIM...

...is so full of human interest, of excitement and hair-breadth escapes that we have never grown weary of telling of it. However, the way we tell it may sometimes vary. Whether or not the story is told in prose, rhyme, or performed from door to door it's always a "big shpiel."

With some contemporary phrasing, in a rap format, here's yet another way to tell the Purim tale:



Here's the story I gotta tell,  
About a fine young maiden you know so well.

Her name is Queen Esther, and she was so  
brave,  
Her people, the Jews, she did save!

The story's villain is a man named Haman,  
Who lied about the Jews whom he was  
blamin'!

And, Mordechai, the Jew, now he wouldn't  
bow,  
And Haman, the Agagite, raised such a row.

He thought he would eliminate our race,  
But Mordechai, our main man, put him in his  
place.

Stop! Now look and listen,  
There's more to this Purim edition.

The king, whose name is Ahasuerus,  
Gave Haman the power to scare us.

But when Esther spoke to the king  
He wouldn't hear of such a thing.

And because she was a courageous Esther,  
We retained the freedom to be Jews together.

And every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar,  
(March 5 is the Purim date)  
We go to synagogue and celebrate.  
We have a carnival and a masquerade  
Listen to the Megillah and enjoy the costume  
parade.

So come on all you Jews,  
Get on the move...  
Grab a gragger,  
And get into the groove.

### CELEBRATE

Our school will celebrate the fun filled holiday of Purim Sunday, March 1. All Nesiyot (religious school) students and parents are invited to join us in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for Megillah reading and Purim Shpiel by Kehiloft's "Not Yet Ready for Purim-Time Players." This will be followed by a costume parade and Carnival at 12 noon right after Religious School. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. There will be games, activities, crafts, food and prizes. Come and celebrate Purim and help support our School and Kehiloft program.

### ATTENTION PARENTS OF K-3

If you have a child that is between the ages of 4 and 8 years old who is not yet registered in our Religious School, consider joining our religious school program. It offers activities that develops a child's Jewish identity and stimulates their Jewish involvement through music, art, cooking and storytelling.

We make the most of the hours that your child is with us. The children participate in extensive enrichment programs throughout the year as they get acquainted and become part of our religious school life. Many exciting events are already planned for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

Please call the Religious School office (908-359-0420 x2) if you would like an application to enroll your child in our school.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Sunday, March 1:** Regular school session, Purim is celebrated  
Purim shpiel and Purim carnival sponsored by the Kehiloft teens
- Friday, March 6:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm with Shabbat dinner, 6:00pm
- Sunday, March 8:** Daylight savings time begins, turn clocks ahead one hour  
**7th grade PACT program:**  
**The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Experience** program: 10:00am-12:00 pm --- As a family you will participate in activities that will explore feelings and thoughts surrounding this life cycle event.
- COOKING**
- Sunday, March 15:** Regular school session; MUSIC
- Saturday, March 28:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 9:30 am
- Sunday, March 29:** Passover celebrated in Religious School
- Sunday, April 5 - Sunday, April 12:** NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, *Spring Break and Passover*
- Sunday, April 19:** Religious school resumes

## Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey

Shalom CKS!

Kehiloft is staying very busy, and it only gets busier as we leave the winter months. We've got a lot of exciting stuff coming, and I'll try to hit on all of them so you know what's coming. First, let me go over some of our affairs in the past month so you can stay up-to-date.



On Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, Kehiloft led our first service of the year, and with only one preparation meeting, everything went very smoothly. We enjoyed acting our gameshow-style Dvar Torah for Beshalach about Moses's exodus from Egypt after the plagues, and we had an interesting discussion about the portion afterwards. Our second event since last month was an orientation for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, in which we had a lot of fun playing games and introducing our group to the incoming members. Following that, we met with Rabbi Ora and had a really cool discussion about interfaith dating, marriage, and relationships, a topic of relevance to many of our members.

That was everything for the last month, but Kehiloft has a lot on our calendar that we're preparing and looking forward to. This includes passing our gaga pit plans with the grounds committee and the board, so that we can prepare for construction in the spring. As part of the fundraising for the pit, Kehiloft members will be babysitting on March 14<sup>th</sup> for members going to the CKS auction and Blue Grotto party. If you plan on attending, look out for more information about that, and also keep an eye out for Kehiloft's sweet donation.

The talent show that was scheduled for January now has a new date, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and it will be held during religious school. We hope to have more signups to diversify the show and make it more interesting. I'm using this time to practice my routine because it definitely needed some work. Lastly, almost all of Kehiloft's February meetings are to prepare for our Purim skit on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Make sure to come and watch our reenactment of the story, with a theme that you wouldn't expect. It will be a lot of fun!

See everyone soon,

*Jason Rosenthal*  
Public Relations

## PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGES

### MARCH

**Sunday, March 1** - 9:00 - 12:00. Purim spiel performance and stay to set up for carnival

**Sunday March 1** - 12:00 - 2:00 Purim carnival

**Sunday, March 8** - 12:00 - 2:00 Jewish meditation and yoga with Rabbi Ora. Bring yoga mat

**Wednesday, March 18** - Regular session

**Sunday, March 29** - **NEW date!** Afternoon TS walk at Mercer County Park

### APRIL

**Wednesday, April 1** - **NEW activity!** Tentative 7th grade student orientation

Pesach break - April 5-12

**Wednesday, April 15** - Shabbat service prep

**Friday, April 24** - Shabbat service #3

### RICHARD M. NADLER, DMD, FAGD



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# Jewish LIFE

Upcoming Special Events



Join Jewish LIFE on **Wednesday, March 4** (rescheduled date) 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***. This book is filled with advice and the voices of 150 women and offers an honest, candid and intimate guide. Program and luncheon hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18 in advance or \$22 day of event).



This program is co-sponsored by the Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough Sisterhood, the Temple Sholom Sisterhood and the Brandeis National Committee, Somerset Chapter. **Rebecca Alexander**, author of ***Not Fade Away, a Memoir of Senses Lost & Found***, on **Wednesday, March 11 at 12 Noon**. This memoir details how Rebecca is slowly losing her sight and hearing and yet continues to live life to the fullest. Program and Luncheon hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$18/person in advance or \$22/person day of event.)



Temple Sholom, Bridgewater will host **Originals by an Original: the Artistic World of Mordechai Rosenstein** on **Thursday, March 12 at 7pm**. Artist reception and presentation followed by



"Paint with the Artist". (Free to the community.) The Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough Film Series will be showing ***The Wonders*** on **Saturday, March 14 at 7pm**. (To register contact

Temple Beth-El or e-mail [bakerec@comcast.net](mailto:bakerec@comcast.net).)

The film, ***Three Minutes in Poland, Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film***, will be shown on **Thursday, March 19, 7pm**, followed by a discussion with Glenn Kurtz, whose family is featured in the film. Hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$8/person in advance or \$10/person day of event.)

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Night to Celebrate Israel** will be held on **Thursday, March 27, 6:30pm** at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater. **Distinguished guest speaker Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel**. The event will honor Rabbi Ron Isaacs, spiritual leader of Temple Sholom who is retiring after 40 years, and Aviv Alter, a Rutgers Hillel Student, for their dedication to their communities and the State of Israel. (Fee: \$18/Student and \$50/Adult.)

**Coming up in April...The Irma Horowitz Film Series on Thursday, April 30, 6:30pm at the Birnbaum JCC.** The evening features a Falafel Dinner and Israeli Short Films presented by the Ma'Aleh School of Television Film and the Arts in Jerusalem. Films shown include: ***And Thou Shalt Love, Fair Fight, A Woman Laughed*** and ***Memory Game***. Hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (Fee: \$12/person in advance or \$15/person day of event). The Jewish Film Series presents ***No Place on Earth***, **Monday, April 13 at 7pm**. The film will be followed by a discussion led by **Chris Nicola**, the explorer who discovered the caves featured in the film. Hosted by the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$5/person.) The community wide Yom Hashoah Remembrance Day is Wednesday, April 15. Details to come. The Jewish Film Series presents ***Restoration (Boker Tov Adon Fidelman)*** **Saturday, April 18, 7pm**. Hosted by Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. (To register contact Temple Beth-El or e-mail [bakerec@comcast.net](mailto:bakerec@comcast.net).)

To register for programs unless otherwise noted, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201 or register on line at [www.ssbjcc.org](http://www.ssbjcc.org).



Debbie Golden - Special Projects and Marketing Director  
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# MARCH 2015



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM PURIM CELEBRATION  9:00 AM Religious School  12:00 PM Purim Carnival	<b>2</b> 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	3	4	5	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Shabbat Dinner  7:00 PM Shabbat Mishpachah/Family Shabbat Services	7
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Religious School  12:00 PM Kehiloft	<b>9</b> 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	10	11	<b>12</b> 7:30 PM Board Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	<b>14</b> 7:30 PM Treasures of the Blue Grotto - Spring Party and Auction
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Religious School	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	17	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM Kehiloft  7:30 PM Education Committee	19	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Jaclyn Spinrad Bat Mitzvah
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Religious School  6:00 PM Kehiloft	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	25	26	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Shabbat Mishpachah/Fa mily Shabbat Service
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Religious School	<b>30</b> 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	31				

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**March 2015**

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**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

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