

# Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **June/July 2015** Sivan – Av 5775

## Bulletin from the Board - Annual Meeting Report

On Sunday, May 17, 2015, Congregation Kehilat Shalom held our annual meeting. Thank you to the many members who made the time to attend. The congregation was provided with a recap of the year. Rabbi Susan Falk presented photos highlighting her experiences while on sabbatical. An update on the ongoing negotiations to sell part of CKS's land as open space was presented by Trustee Gary Gartenberg. The new board was elected and the 5776/2015-16 budget was approved. Volunteers of the year were honored. Kehiloft members Jason Rosenthal and Jason Weitze presented an entertaining slide show highlighting the construction of the new gaga pit. (Gaga is a sport sometimes called the Israeli version of dodgeball). Student Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner was thanked and recognized for being a part of the CKS community for the past two years. We all wish her well as she completes her rabbinic studies.



**New board elected:** The 5776/2015-16 Board of Trustees was elected, with new terms starting on July 1. Bob Neusner is stepping into the role of President. Steve Weinstein will serve as First Vice President and Len Edelstein will serve as Second Vice President. Amy Rosenthal will be Recording Secretary. Greg Corsan will be the Treasurer. Debbie Gartenberg will be Financial Secretary. They will be joined by new Trustees Jill Fraticelli and Bill Ries. Marc Rosenberg, Iris Rubinstein, Ron Lubin, and Mike Galkin will also continue to serve as trustees. Outgoing board members (Stacey Anderson, Gary Gartenberg MD, and Tom Berger) were all recognized and thanked for their service to CKS.

**Volunteers of the year honored:** The following individuals were honored as "Volunteers of the Year," not only for their commitment to CKS this past year, but also for their commitment to our community. We recognize and thank Vitaly Brukhman, Larry Spinrad, Christine Witt, and Matt Rosenthal.

**Budget approved:** The annual budget was approved. It includes a 5% increase in dues as CKS works to rebuild our operating reserves. CKS is also in the process of launching a fundraising campaign, with the goal to reenergize our mission as we rebuild our financial reserves. Several congregants have already stepped forward with pledges to challenge the rest of the community to increase our annual giving. More information will be available for congregants as we approach the high holidays.

**Mailing of newsletter:** Looking ahead, this monthly newsletter will be sent via email with a link to the PDF, which will be posted on the website. Congregants who would like to have a paper newsletter mailed to them may request it through the synagogue office. This change will become effective for the August issue of the monthly newsletter.

It has been my privilege to serve as president for the past two years. We are a great community. Thank you.

*Susan Waskow*  
President

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Kehilat Shalom  
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F-8:30-2:30pm

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rabbi@ksnj.org

### President

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president@ksnj.org

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robin@ksnj.org

### Religious School Principal

Ann Kanarek  
principal@ksnj.org

### Lay Cantor

Kate Mende-Fridkis

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

### General

Myrna & Max Spinrad  
in honor of their granddaughter, Jackie Spinrad's  
bat mitzvah  
Michael Kalison & Debbie Lampf  
in honor of Arthur Goldfield at the time of his  
yahrzeit  
Edward Parrish and Shelley Parrish Nord  
in memory of Rose Parrish  
Natalie London  
in memory of Ruth London & Meyer London  
Marc & Harlene Rosenberg  
in memory of Rose Parrish

### Kehiloft

Greg & Suzanne Corsan  
in honor their son Jason's high school graduation  
and Kehiloft graduation  
Gary & Beverly Schneider  
in honor of the high school and Kehiloft  
graduation of their grandson, Derek  
Matt & Amy Rosenthal  
in honor of all the Kehiloft graduates  
Susan & Darryl Waskow  
in honor of all the Kehiloft graduates  
Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison  
Stacey & Dave Anderson

### Religious School

Susan & Darryl Waskow  
in honor all the 7<sup>th</sup> grade religious school  
graduates

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Al & Cathy Reichg  
in honor of Scott's bar mitzvah

### 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.

## RICHARD M. NADLER, DMD, FAGD



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## LASHIR SINGS IN PRINCETON ON JUNE 7

LaShir, the Jewish Choir of Princeton, will present its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 7 at the Princeton Jewish Center, 435 Nassau Street, in Princeton, NJ. The program will feature musical settings spanning the breadth of the Jewish choral repertoire, and will also feature a guest appearance by members of HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir. Admission is free. For more information about the program, contact [info@lashir.org](mailto:info@lashir.org)

## 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:

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)), Tracey Goldberg ([tgoldberg10@gmail.com](mailto:tgoldberg10@gmail.com)) or any ritual committee member.

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## Message from the Rabbi



The English term 'rabbi' derives from the Hebrew *rav*, which historically has meant 'teacher' or 'great man'. But *rav* is also a homonym that means 'many' or 'abundant'. (You might be familiar with the song that asks for '*shalom*

*rav al Yisrael*' – that is, 'abundant peace for Israel'.)

Over the past two years, I have had the enormous pleasure and honor of serving as a *rav* at Congregation Kehilat Shalom. It has been a joy to sing alongside you, learn Torah with you, teach and question and laugh and dance with you. And you, as a community, have provided a safe and warm space in which I could grow as a rabbinical student. You have been gracious when I made mistakes, good-humored and forgiving when I forgot names, and you have welcomed me into your community with a profound generosity of spirit.

Even as I have been 'Rabbi Ora' at CKS, each of you, separately and together, have served as my rabbis. You have embodied the multiple meanings of the word *rav*; you have been teachers, and people of great stature, and all of you together are a holy community of abundant caring – a *kehilla kedosha rav rachamim*.

During my rabbinical studies, I have visited many diverse synagogues. And so, I believe I can say with some authority that CKS is not a typical shul, and you are not typical members. As I prepare to leave, I want to reflect back to you some of what I have witnessed during my time at CKS:

You are committed to building and sustaining community in all its forms. You feed and support each other when sick or hurting or grieving. You care about the appearance and upkeep of your holy space. You are generous with your time, and with your money. You love each others' children, and share joyfully in each others' simchas. You are committed to learning, and are deeply curious about Judaism. You are welcoming to strangers. You seek out joyful moments. You support each other in your work. You are committed to rebuilding the world with more justice and love.

I leave you with this *bracha*:

May this *kehilla* continue to be a place of meeting:  
meeting in warmth and joy and openness;  
meeting in courage and love and trust.  
May all who enter here trust one another so surely  
that they may share the deep fires  
that burst into anger  
as much as the sweet spring waters  
that swell into laughter;  
the slow erosion of wounded tears  
as much as the soaring song.

You are more than you know,  
and more beloved than you know.  
Be the blessing you already are.

*Ora Nitkin-Kaner*

Sabbatical/Student Rabbi



**Tree of Life**

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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 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





## LEARNING HOW TO GIVE

Teaching our students about the mitzvah of giving is very exciting. The Jewish value of tzedakah involves the whole child: heart, mind and body. It is a wonderful concept to teach. At a young age, children have a need to believe that the world is fair and just and giving tzedakah fits into their view of the world. Our students learn that even a small amount of money can make a difference in the quality of someone's life.

This year, each class in our Religious School chose the organization(s) that would be the recipient of their contributions. The choices were made after much exploration and discussion of various institutions in need of help.

The Talmud says, "As tiny scales join to form a strong coat of mail, so little donations combine to form a total good." I am certain that the contributions our children will make in their classrooms today, will indeed, help to ensure the continuation of our Jewish heritage tomorrow.



## SUGGESTIONS FOR JEWISH LEARNING DURING THE SUMMER VACATION

Although formal Jewish education for the students in our Religious School is at a hiatus until September, there are many things that you can do Jewishly that are educational, interesting, and lots of fun.

Here are some suggestions:

\*While on vacation, search out the local synagogue wherever you might be.

\*Spend some time in a local Jewish museum and those of any city you are visiting.

\*Check out the Jewish book section in your local book store, or in the public library.

\* Buy a new Jewish cookbook and experiment with a recipe you've been meaning to try out.

\*Make your family tree—see how many generations back you can go.

\*If a child in your family is approaching Bar/Bat Mitzvah, complete the 13 Mitzvot program. (6<sup>th</sup> graders—you know who you are!)

\*Make a list of all things you always wanted to do Jewishly, never had a chance to do, and try some of them.

\*Brush up on your Hebrew.

\*Do a mitzvah at least once a week.



And, above all, whatever your family's plans for the summer,

I hope that it will be a wonderful one.

Best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

## AN UPDATE ON RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Even though Religious School is not in session, work at the synagogue goes on as we are busy planning next year's programs, revising curriculum and staffing, etc. We are also finalizing our class lists! You have all been emailed registration forms. If you have not yet registered, please fill out the forms and return them as soon as possible. The link to the forms is

<http://www.kehilatshalomnj.org/education/school/registration/>

## Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey

Shalom Congregation Kehilat Shalom!

By now I hope everyone knows that we are Kehiloft, our congregation's religious youth group. Unfortunately, our year is coming to a close, but we were lucky enough to have had an extremely fun and productive year!

Even though the year is almost over there are still a few more events in our future, one of which is the last Kehiloft-led service which will take place on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to attend, as the graduating seniors will be doing the d'var. We will also be taking a trip, on June 28<sup>th</sup>, which promises to be an exciting day spent visiting the Tenement Museum as well as other fun locations in the lower east side.

If you have been following our recent activities, you have probably heard about our annual project, the gaga pit. It is now open and ready to be used by anyone in our community, so please use it! Fortunately, if you don't know how to play there are rules posted on the pit, so you can learn. We would never have been able to create the gaga pit without the support and generosity of our community, so thank you all for being so amazing!

While it has been great to finish the gaga pit, it is also a reminder that we, the present seniors will be leaving for college soon. This year this article's authors, our current seniors, will be graduating high school and Kehiloft. As we prepare to leave, we are all realizing how much we will miss Kehiloft.

We will miss talking with the rabbi about things such as interfaith marriage and the true value of money. We will miss planning fun skits for Shabbat services and Purim. We will miss fun projects like building the gaga pit, putting hand prints on the wall, and building the compost. Lastly we will miss the socials, eating pizza while playing air hockey, and just hanging out with all the amazing people in Kehiloft. That's the thing we're all going to miss the most: seeing our now close friends almost every Wednesday and Sunday.

*Invitations by Sharon*

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Yes, we will be graduating and starting a new chapter in our lives, but Kehiloft will never leave us. We will always remember the fun times we had here and the incredible people we met.

College Bound...

- Zach Anderson: Allegheny College, PA. Going to be part of the varsity tennis team. Double majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology
- Jason Weitze: New York University Stern School of Business. Double majoring in Business and Mathematics.
- Jason Rosenthal: Rutgers Honors College. Majoring in Mathematics.
- Derek Schneider: Dickinson College, PA. Majoring in Archeology.

### JUNE

- Wednesday, June 3** - 6:00 - 8:00 Dinner in Princeton  
**Friday, June 19** - 7:30 - 9:30 Kehiloft graduation  
Shabbat service #4  
**Sunday, June 28** - Trip to Lower East Side and tour of Tenement Museum

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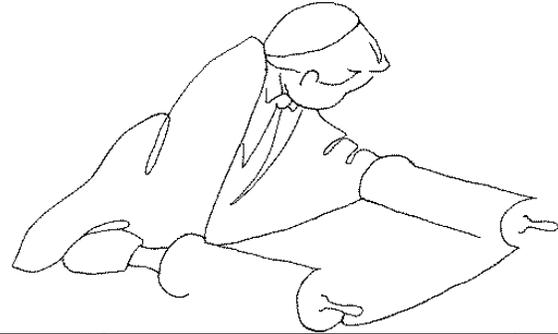
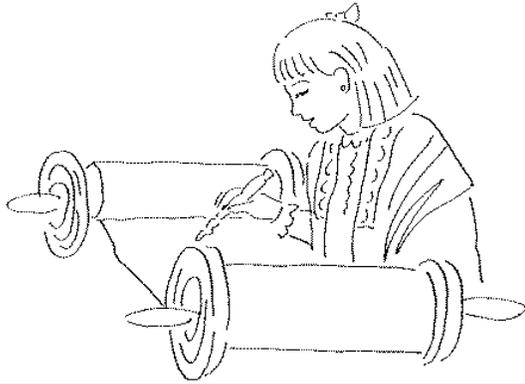
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# JUNE 2015



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	2	3 6:00 PM Kehiloft Dinner in Princeton	4	5 7:00 PM Family Shabbat Services	6 9:30 AM Jared Fraticelli Bar Mitzvah
7	8 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	9	10	11 7:30 PM Calendar Meeting/Board Meeting	12 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	13 9:30 AM Heather Suraci Bat Mitzvah
14 Sunflower BBQ (for Sunflower only)	15 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	16	17 7:30 PM Education Committee	18	19 7:30 PM Shabbat Services and Kehiloft Graduation	20
21	22 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	23 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	24	25	26 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	27 9:30 AM Ethan Ries Bar Mitzvah
28	29 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	30				

# JULY 2015



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 4:00 PM CKS at Montgomery Township Fireworks	2	3	4
5	6 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	7	8	9 7:30 PM Board Meeting	10	11
12	13 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	14	15 7:00 PM Education Committee	16	17	18
19	20 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	28 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	29	30	31	

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**June-July 2015**

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