

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **August 2015** Av - Elul 5775

Bulletin from the Board- Annual Meeting Report

This newsletter article is my first official communication as the incoming President of CKS. So I can't think of a better first phrase to write than "Thank You." Thank you for the trust you have placed in me by choosing me as President of this amazing little synagogue. We are small but we manage to

- ... educate our children
- ... create spiritual and engaging worship services
- ... help our fellow congregants in need
- ... perform acts of public service
- ... and so many other things, while maintaining an intimate and welcoming feeling.

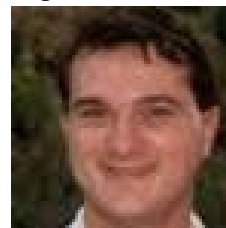
Every year brings new challenges to sustaining our mission, but I am very confidently looking ahead to a phenomenal year. Why? Because I am backed up by a talented board, a dedicated staff, an amazing rabbi and, most importantly, because of YOU. The families of CKS are what motivated me to step up into this role. Even in my relatively few years here at CKS, I have met remarkable people, from whom I have learned much and now count as lifelong friends. Even better, my mixed family has had very much the same experience, while deepening our family connection to Judaism.

This year, I promise to keep things simple. We will focus on two themes throughout this year:

Re-energizing our Mission Rebuilding our Financial Reserves

OK, perhaps not so simple, but very worthwhile and very do-able. In future newsletters, my fellow board members and I look forward to sharing just how we hope to do that, together, as a community. In the meantime, my "door" is always open. I can be reached through the "contact" section of the CKS website, by contacting Robin in the synagogue office or at the home number listed in our synagogue directory. I would welcome hearing your ideas about how we can better serve the CKS community.

Bob Neusner, President



Summer Shabbat Services

Shabbat services this summer will be held at 7:30 pm on the following dates:

August 14th

August 28th

Regular Friday evening Shabbat services will resume the Friday following Labor Day, September 11th.

<p>Congregation Kehilat Shalom 253 Griggstown Rd. Belle Mead, NJ 08502 Phone: 908-359-0420 Fax: 908-359-8848 Regular office hours: M-W 8:30-4pm T-Th 8:30-6pm F-8:30-2:30pm</p>
<p>Rabbi Susan Falk rabbi@ksnj.org President Robert Neusner president@ksnj.org Administrator Robin Bengochea admin1@ksnj.org robin@ksnj.org Religious School Principal Ann Kanarek principal@ksnj.org Lay Cantor Kate Mende-Fridkis</p>
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CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

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in honor of the senior graduates
in memory of Felix Barondess
in memory of Aaron Bisberg
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in memory of Nakhman Zaretsky
Marc & Harlene Rosenberg
in honor of Joanna Todd and Paul Lane
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in memory of Naoma Sohor
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Religious School

Ann & Jack Kanarek
Mazel Tov to the 7th grade religious school class and Kehiloft graduates
Tracey & Marc Weingarten
in honor of the religious school and Kehiloft graduates

Kehiloft

Rena Gitlitz
Bill & Lisa Ries
Hilary & Peter Crist
in memory of Aaron Bisberg

High Holiday

Steve Morrison
Robert Kopp

Rabbis Discretionary Fund

Jill & Roy Fraticelli
in honor of Jareds 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.

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey

Shalom and hello! This will probably be my last time writing to the community from the perspective of a Kehiloft student because college is right around the corner. So this appears to be the perfect opportunity to thank the CKS community and my fellow Kehilofters for an amazing and influential six years that have shaped who I am and who I will become.

As a teenager, you are trying incessantly to discover who you are and where you fit into our complex and unforgiving but amazing world. Whether it be entering a new school, trying to figure out who your real friends are, living with your family, or dealing with stress, every teenager has to make the most of his or her complex worlds. But the complexities only grow when you start to contemplate your religious beliefs and where you fit in a religiously diverse world.

Kehiloft allowed me to flourish rather than just survive teenage years. If it were not for Kehiloft, I have no idea how I would have managed to deal with teenage life. This probably sounds cheesy and overstated, but I truly owe so much to Kehiloft, my fellow Kehilofters, and Karen Fridkis for contributing to making Kehiloft truly an important next step in my Jewish journey.

When leaving Hebrew school following 7th grade, most of my peers and I felt as though Judaism was all about strict rules of sacrifice and Hebrew mumbo-jumbo. However, through our discussions with the Rabbi, talking with one another, and through our various tikkun olam projects, I learned that Judaism is more than a religion. It is a way of life. But I would have just been lost pondering my religious and moral beliefs while stumbling through the infinitely complex world of high school had it not been for the supportive Kehiloft community. Through Kehiloft I learned that to me Judaism is a culture dominated by giving back to the community, giving back to the world and working hard for what you believe in.

Aside from discovering my own religious beliefs, I can't thank Kehiloft enough for being a place to simply relax, de-stress, and enjoy life with a great group of Kehilofters who I am proud to call my friends!

And no matter how much credit and thanks I give to Kehiloft, of course a huge THANK YOU must go out to Karen Fridkis the phenomenal director of Kehiloft without whom Kehiloft would be nothing.

Jason Weitze

RICHARD M. NADLER, DMD, FAGD



Mention you're a
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when you call!!



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

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CKS member Janis Todd pulled together a team of five to volunteer for a United Way event at the Grounds for Sculpture .

We packed up bags of oatmeal, sugar, cinnamon, and apple bits in an assembly line and sealed them in packets that would later be shared with needy families throughout New Jersey. The focus for United Way was on children who depend on school lunch programs so that they could have food during the summer break. 75,000 packets were put together in two shifts for this special "Strike Out Hunger" Event on Tuesday, June 23.



Pictured left to right in front stacks of boxes packed with oatmeal:
Toni Jackson, Janis Todd, Harlene Rosenberg, Hilary Crist, and Lisa Roe

Robert M. Fass
Sales Associate
Relocation Certified



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 Listserve e-mail: contact_admin@ksnj.org
Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

Current resident or:

August 2015

Deadline for next newsletter:
August 15th

Whom to contact for...	
Beautification	Debbie Gartenberg 908-428-7345
Billing/Payments	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Board of Trustees	Robert Neusner president@ksnj.org Andy Sokel 609-466-8749 andsok@aol.com
Building & Grounds	
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Congregants Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk 908-359-0420 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education	Jill Fraticelli and Christine Witt
Financial Aid	Debbie Gartenberg
Fundraising	Debbie Gartenberg 908-428-7345
Gift Shop	Iris Rubinstein
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Natalie London 908-874-6955
Kinderappers	Natalie London 908-874-6955
Kehi-Loft (Hebrew High)	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
Life Cycle (Caring for Each Other)	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net Joseph Weiss josephhobartweiss@verizon.net
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Membership	Matt Rosenthal
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Ritual	Iris Rubinstein
Technology - Website and Social Media	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
Technology - Computer and Networking	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499

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