

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Editor—Karen Bartels
karen.bartels@comcast.net
home phone 609-921-1811

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **September 2015** Elul 5775 - Tishrei 5776

Bulletin from the Board- Len Edelstein

Congregation Beth Yeshurun is a conservative synagogue in Houston, Texas with 2,300 members. Looking through their newsletter from May, I see they offer worship services, fundraising events, religious school, adult education, membership events, and social action. Congregation Kehilat Shalom in Belle Mead, New Jersey with about 100 families (roughly 300 members) also offers worship services, fundraising events, religious school, adult education, membership events, and social action. So, with one eighth the number of people, we have managed to serve our community quite well. While our activities are at the heart of who we are, we have achieved considerable things regarding our home, the CKS building, as well. In the past five years we have improved our educational space, installed air conditioning, and beautified the building. Granted there are some things that having 2,300 members will get you, like five rabbis, but that's only one rabbi per 460 members, so we're doing pretty well.



CKS is a small Reconstructionist congregation in central New Jersey, but one of the most welcoming, egalitarian communities I have ever been a part of. I grew up in a synagogue in which, during the high holidays, we sat so far back we couldn't see the bimah. At CKS, we were welcomed with open arms, received an Aliyah at our first high holidays, and I was a board member by our second. CKS holds a truly special place in our hearts and I hope in yours as well.

Like all synagogues, dues only cover a portion of our operating expenses. In particular, the past year has been an expensive one for our community. We renovated antiquated bathrooms and replaced the outdoor play set as mandated by the state to keep our day care center operational. Fortunately, generous donors have stepped forward and offered a remarkable matching grant opportunity for the congregation. This money will be used to secure our financial future and to expand program offerings at CKS. You will be hearing more about this opportunity soon, so please be on the lookout for additional information that will be coming soon. Until then, please have a wonderful summer and my family and I look forward to seeing you at the High Holidays.

Len Edelstein, 2nd Vice President

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

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

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CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

Andy Sokel & Nancy Halpern
Steve Birnbaum & Chris Ferrara
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in memory of Phillip Zaretsky

High Holiday

Susan & Irving Katz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Hal & Jen Rappaport
in memory of Lena Nicole Rappaport

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



Mention you're a
CKS member
when you call!!



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High Holidays 2015 - Schedule & Tickets

Rosh Hashanah:

Sunday, 9/13 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 pm
Monday, 9/14 Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Morning Service 9:30 am
Children's Service 9:30 am
Tashlich 4:15 pm (dress for hike)
Tuesday, 9/15 Rosh Hashanah Day 2
Alternative Service 9:30 am

Yom Kippur:

Tuesday, 9/22 Kol Nidre 6:00 pm
Wednesday, 9/23:
Morning 9:30 am
Children's Service 9:30 am
Yizkor 1:15 pm
Avodah 4:45 pm
Neilah 6:00 pm

Final Shofar Blast 7:15 pm (Break Fast to follow.
This is a pot luck break fast and all are welcome.
We ask that anyone attending bring a dairy or
parve dish to feed 6-8 people.)

Sukkot:

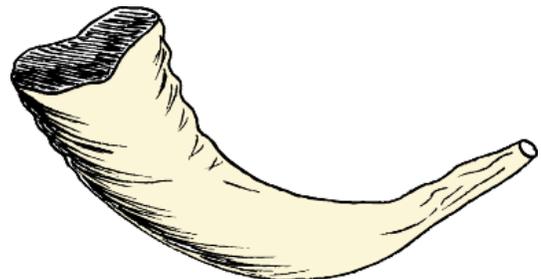
Pizza in the Hut is Friday, October 2 at 6:00 pm
Shabbat Mishpachah services at 7:00 pm

Simchat Torah:

Sunday October 4 at 6:30 pm with a live Klezmer
band.

Tickets:

Our High Holiday services are free and open to the public. Members do not need tickets. If you are not a member and would like to attend please register for tickets by going to the CKS web site - www.ksnj.org. - click on the High Holiday Schedule and Ticket box on the right side of the home page and then click on "request free tickets in advance". Fill out and submit the form. We ask nonmembers to register so that we know the number of people to expect. Should you have questions or need assistance registering for tickets call Robin in the synagogue office - 908-359-0420.



Message from the Rabbi

SMALL STEPS AND SIMPLE GESTURES



As I write this, the Jewish month of Elul has just begun, the period of spiritual preparation for the High Holidays in which we engage in the process of "teshuvah". Scholars believe the word "Elul" comes from ancient Akkadian, meaning "to search". "Teshuvah" is a Hebrew word whose root means "to turn" or "return", and is often translated as "atonement". But "teshuvah" also means "answer". Putting these two words together, we may ask: What are the answers you will seek? At this time of self-reflection, what are the questions you will ask?

Making atonement for wrongs, real or perceived, can seem like an overwhelming task. But, as this lovely poem by Jennifer Hoffman implies, all it really takes is a small step, a simple gesture. I hope you enjoy it and I look forward to seeing you all on High Holidays.

B'Shalom,

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



Raising the Sparks

It could be as simple
as using a good paring knife
and singing, as you peel the apple
from top to bottom, then kissing
your grandson's nose as you drop
the unbroken peel on his head.
It could be checking the herbs
in the outdoor pots, noticing the basil needs water.
It could be wrapping yourself
in a prayer shawl, fingering your beads,
studying the Bible---all the better
to empty the space, prepare the ground
for the silence which offers answers
to questions which never cease.
It could be putting on your hat,
your boots and your gloves
and shoveling Mrs. Cohen's walkway
before you drive her to the doctor.
You wish she would talk less, but you tuck your
impatience
into the pocket of your coat, and it escapes only
once.
It could be as simple as blessing
the newspaper as you open it,
praying for the spoiled and lost ones
on all corners of the earth.
It could be as simple as knowing
that prayer is also love-in-action
or even hate in non-action,
that there is only one you in the entire universe,
that your spark-raising cannot be done
by anyone else, not even by God.



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





**B'RUCHIM HABAYIM
WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

The synagogue has been too quiet during the summer months. During this time, the back rooms and floors have been cleaned and polished, books ordered and supplies made ready. As we were getting everything ready for the start of the school year, there also grew a longing for happy voices and eager faces to fill these empty spaces. As our sages said,

"Let happiness and gladness fill these halls of learning."

So now that the uncanny silence is about to give way to our children's happy presence, we know how much we have really missed you! *B'ruchim Habayim*...Blessed be you, who have come back to us to learn, to grow as girls and boys and as Jews proud of their heritage, and to give us, parents and teachers, the opportunity to teach you the ways of Judaism and the Jewish people. All kinds of exciting new programs and materials are waiting for you. You will have the opportunity to see and use them in the weeks to come.

I wish you all a year that is sweet, rich in learning, and filled with good health, happiness and peace!!

From my family to all of you, best wishes for a *Shanah Tovah!*

**PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
9:00am - 12:00pm**

All are invited, especially new families, to come together for an orientation to our Nesiyot-Religious School program with the Rabbi, Religious School co-chairs, and myself. Bring your children to class at 9:00am and then come to the Sanctuary for a brief orientation, learn about our school program and Shabbat Minyan program, parent volunteer opportunities, and exciting upcoming events. From 10am-11:30am, you will have scheduled time to meet the teachers and become acquainted with the curriculum, books, and special class activities.

I look forward to seeing you then!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, September 13: *Parent Orientation & Reception day and First day of school for grades K-7, 9:00 am*

Special program: High Holiday Sing-A-Long with our music specialist, **Eric Komar**
11:30am

Sunday, September 20: Regular day of school, 9:00am - 12:00pm (5th grade siddur cover project)

Sunday, September 27: Regular school session, COOKING

Kehiloft Sukkot project; Parents are invited to join us and help to decorate the Sukkah.

Friday, October 2: Shabbat Mishpachah, 7pm

5th grade: Hagigat HaSiddur: Special service and prayer book presentation
PIZZA IN THE HUT

Sunday, October 4: Sukkah visitation, regular school session

Join us for Simchat Torah celebration, 6:30 pm

Friday, October 9:- Fall Kallah at Camp JRF for grades 4,5,6,7

Sunday, Oct. 11 Regular school session

Sunday, October 18: Regular school session; rummage sale; MUSIC

Sunday, October 25: Regular school session: COOKING

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Happy Autumn, Congregation Kehilat Shalom! Hopefully you have all spent your time having fun and doing summery things that you enjoy. If you didn't get the chance, or didn't feel like you could stop stressing enough to relax, that's okay too! Don't feel like your chance for freedom and chilling out is dependent on the seasons. You've got plenty of chances to enjoy yourself year-round. For instance, come hang with Kehiloft! We always try to be doing something that's both fun and useful for the community.

Here are some things that are coming up for us. We're going to start off the year by setting up the loft for the High Holiday services. Some groups welcome each other back with a party; some go out for dinner; we do manual labor. Next — and very important for the congregation to be aware of- is our annual car wash fundraiser. It's on Sunday, September 13. Be there or be... in possession of a dirty car. Later in the month (September 20) we'll celebrate Rosh Hashanah at Stonebridge, then a week later do a Sukkot project in the Religious School, and that same day (September 27) put up the sukkah. And that's just what's in September! There's lots more in store for CKS's teen group, and we're all looking forward to getting back together after the summer and having our interesting discussions and meaningful projects. The new board for this year is excited to be serving the group and CKS community, and we hope to continue the great work of our predecessors. See you in the loft!

Thanks,

Gabrielle Rubinstein



SEPTEMBER

- Wednesday, Sept 9** - Welcome and set up loft for High Holy Days
Sunday, Sept 13. 9:00 - 12:00 Car wash fundraiser
Wednesday, Sept 16 - Prep for Religious School sukkah project
Sunday, Sept 20 - *Tentative* 5:00 - 7:30. Rosh Hashanah at Stonebridge
Wednesday, Sept 23 - Yom Kippur aliyah
Sunday, Sept 27. 9:00 - 12:00 Kehiloft runs Sukkot project in Religious School
Sunday, Sept 27 12:00 - 2:30. Erect sukkah/Reassemble loft/Welcome back BBQ

OCTOBER

- Sunday, Oct 4.** 6:30 - 8:30 Simchat Torah at CKS
Wednesday, Oct 14. Rabbi leads discussion #1
Sunday, Oct 18. 9:00-1:00. CKS Rummage sale
Wednesday, Oct 28. Regular session

Session time is 6:00 - 8:00 unless otherwise noted.

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4th Annual Dog Day at the J!

Date: September 20, 2015

Time: 10:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Location:

Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC

775 Talamini Rd

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Phone: 201.725.6995 x201

Free Admission!

Activities Include:

- Animal Rescue and Adoption
- "Ask the Vet"
- Ask the Groomer
- "Barkery" of Pet Treats
- Kids Corner(crafts)
- Dog Blessing
- Contests (Best Costume, pet tricks, & more)
- Free Dental Exams
- Snacks Available for Purchase
- Vendors and More

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- Superior Day Academy

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- Bridgewater Veterinary Hospital

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Please contact Ellen x275 or emcclosky@ssbjcc.org



Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties

Business Networking Event

Build your business network and meet other business leaders in the area. Join us on Wednesday, September 9th, at 5pm for the annual Business Networking Group Poolside BBQ.

Register NOW for the BNG Poolside BBQ!

\$35 in advance -- \$40 at the door

Thank you to our sponsors at PNC Wealth Management & Rich Cohen, JD., CFP(r) Senior Vice President & Wealth Management Director



SEPTEMBER 2015

לשנה טובה תפתחו

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	8	9 6:00 PM Kehiloft	10 7:30 PM Board Meeting	11 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	12
13 9:00 AM Religious School 9:00 AM Kehiloft Car Wash 7:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah	14 9:30 AM Morning Service 4:15 PM Tashlich Hike	15 9:30 AM Non-Traditional Morning Service	16 6:00 PM Kehiloft	17	18 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	19
20 9:00 AM Religious School 4:00 PM High Holidays at Stonebridge	21 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	22 6:00 PM Kol Nidrei	23 9:30 AM Morning Service 1:15 PM Yizkor 4:45 PM Avodah 6:00 PM Neilah 7:15 PM Shofar Blast 7:30 PM Pot Luck Break Fast	24	25 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	26
27 9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Kehiloft 11:00 AM Sukkah Building 12:00 PM BBQ	28 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	29	30 7:00 PM Ritual Committee 7:00 PM Membership Committee			

253 Griggstown Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
<http://www.ksnj.org>
 Listserve e-mail: contact_admin@ksnj.org
Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

Current resident or:

September 2015

Deadline for next newsletter:
September 15th

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Pastoral Emergencies	Rabbi Susan Falk 908-359-0420
Ritual	Susan Waskow susan.waskow@gmail.com
Technology - Website and Social Media	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
Technology - Computer and Networking	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499

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