

**Bulletin from the Board- Steve Weinstein**

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**Remember the Story and CKS**

An old boss of mine taught me that all it takes is one success story!

All you need is one success story to share and it will be the fuel to power more and more interest, participation, and success. Well, here is my story...



Like many members, I joined CKS when my oldest child was in kindergarten and came because we wanted a warm, welcoming community where as an interfaith couple we could all feel at home and be a part of the school and the community. After a few years, a friend asked if I wanted to join the Education Committee, so I did. What a great experience it was. I learned so much from my other committee members and about how the school worked. A few years later, I received a call about joining the Board and becoming the Financial Secretary. I wasn't sure about this. Me, on the Board? I thought it was a real honor, but I wasn't sure I was ready for this kind of commitment. In the end, I thought of my kids, overcame my fears and said "How could I say no?"

Well, eight years later I am still learning, still amazed at how much our community has been able to accomplish and so grateful to have said yes as I met my best friend because of getting involved...I cannot imagine my life without this friend and I cannot have ever imagined where my life would lead because of volunteering at CKS.

We all have a story! And I would like to hear yours. Please feel free to share what you are grateful for about being a part of CKS. It's easy, I promise! Just send an email to [board@ksnj.org](mailto:board@ksnj.org) with your story. It can be by name or anonymous. We will share them with the community as part of our Grateful Giving campaign.

And, if you have not yet heard, we are off to a great start to the campaign! To date, we have achieved \$12,000 of the \$20,000 matching gift goal - which means that a good portion of our community has increased their donations versus last year. On behalf of the entire Board, I want to shout out a very big THANK YOU to all of you who have already donated this year. For those of you who have not yet donated in CKS's fiscal 2015-16, I hope that you will consider donating before the end of December so that you can enjoy the tax deduction and we can help meet our Grateful Giving goals of providing more activities to and increasing the financial stability of our community.

Thank you in advance to everyone who shares whatever good fortune they can with CKS - be it a story, a financial donation or both!

Happy Hanukkah! Happy Holidays! And I hope you all make many more stories with your families and friends over this holiday season and that you all make it a point to get more involved in 2016!

*Steve Weinstein*, 1st Vice President

## CKS Donations

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

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in memory of Robert Link at the time of his  
yahrzeit

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in memory of Rabbi Evan Jaffe

### High Holiday:

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in memory of my father

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in honor of Hilary's mother, Dorothy P. Kayle

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Karen Rabinowitz

### 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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## Empty Nesters

Finding yourself at loose ends now that autumn is drawing to a close and winter approaches? Looking to join a congenial social group to occupy some of your free time? Craving activities with grownups, activities that are fun, cultural (sometimes) and which always include food? Then Empty Nesters is for you.

We are open to singles and couples. We meet once a month. Each member unit takes a turn at planning the activities. We have visited museums, restaurants, had potlucks and many other activities. We always enjoy being together, talking and sharing.

If you think Empty Nesters is for you, or you have questions about us, please contact Richard and Sheryl Rosenberg at 908-253-7049 or [swellcourt@verizon.net](mailto:swellcourt@verizon.net) (with Empty Nesters in the subject line).

### TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES WINTER COAT DRIVE – AGAIN!

The Tikkun Olam Committee is launching another coat drive. This one starts Saturday night, November 21, and continues through Sunday afternoon, December 13. A labeled box will be on the synagogue porch (and sometimes in the lobby) ready to receive your "gently used" or new sweaters, winter coats, hats, scarves, boots, and gloves or mittens for adults and children. We ask that you label new items as such. This year, donations go to the Rescue Mission of Trenton as well as HomeFront, as appropriate.

Already our nights have been frosty, and it is unknown whether our winter will be a gentle or a brutal one. Please rummage through your closets and drawers to pull out the sweaters, coats, hats, scarves, boots, gloves and mittens you no longer wear, so that someone else can be warm this winter.

Any questions? Please email Richard Rosenberg at [swellcourt@verizon.net](mailto:swellcourt@verizon.net) or phone him at 908-253-7049. (No texts.) Thank you.

## CKS Chanukah Dinner and Celebration

**Friday, December 11 at 6:15 pm**

Bring your menorah, candles and pot luck dish and



celebrate the festival of lights with your family and the entire congregation. CKS will provide latkes, applesauce and sour cream. You will provide a dairy or parve dish to serve eight or more. You need not RSVP but if you need suggestions for what to bring feel free to call the office. A short Shabbat service will follow dinner.

## The Last Miracle: A Chanukah Message



December is here, winter is coming, Chanukah is coming, and yes, Christmas and Kwanzaa are coming too. And until the Winter Solstice arrives, the days keep getting shorter and the nights keep getting longer. It is no accident that all these holidays come at this time of year. On Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights, we light the *Chanukiah*, the nine-branched menorah or candelabra, to commemorate the eight days of Chanukah and the "miracle of the oil". Those who celebrate Christmas decorate their houses and trees with lights and other colorful ornaments. And Kwanzaa, like Chanukah, also features a candelabra, each branch and each light, rich with symbolism and meaning. Indeed, the bonfires of the Winter Solstice have demonstrated for millennia the custom of lighting up the long, dark nights at this time of year.

In most cultures in the world, light is associated with knowledge and joy, while darkness is associated with ignorance and fear. As I write this, it is just days since the terrorist attacks on Paris, and I do not know what is yet to come. So my prayer is that no matter what comes, even as we remain strong and vigilant against these barbarous acts, we do not succumb to ignorance and fear and hatred.

Jewish tradition says that whenever God performed a miracle for our ancestors, they would be sustained by it until its light was extinguished. At that point, God would perform another miracle. But Chanukah, it is said, was the last miracle performed for us. The 19<sup>th</sup>-century Hasidic Master known as the Sfat Emet, says about this teaching: "This means that the light of the Chanukah miracle still shines for us, since God has not yet performed another outright miracle. It must be that we are still sustained by that light.... [Thus] Chanukah contains within it the power to keep renewing.... That is why it is called Chanukah, meaning 'dedication' or 'renewal'."

Perhaps there will never be another "miracle from God" – although there are those who say that miracles happen every day. The first Chanukah was a time to rededicate the Temple. May *this* Chanukah be a time to rededicate and renew our souls. May the Chanukah candles (and all the holiday lights) be the light by which we search out our inner selves. And with this ancient miracle, may we create a world of light and not darkness, compassion not cruelty, love and not hate, knowledge and not ignorance, and peace and not violence. I don't know about you, but that's miracle enough for me. Happy Chanukah!

*Rabbi Susan*



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908-359-0420



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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



### SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON CHANUKAH



The light of the Chanukah menorah is more than a reminder of ancient miracles—it is intended to inspire and illuminate our lives today. The prayers that we say every day and on Chanukah are an important way for us to thank God for the special blessings in our lives. That is why, in the second Chanukah blessing we say: *“Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe who accomplished miracles for our ancestors in ancient days and in our time.”* By looking at the significance of the Chanukah miracles, we can appreciate the blessings in our own lives today.

Chanukah is a time for recognizing miracles and expressing thanks. Take some time to figure out creative and meaningful ways to say **“thank you”** to important people who make you who you are--such as your parents, siblings, grandparents, friends and teachers. It is a special way to count the blessings in your life and appreciate the good things that other people do for you. Your **“thank you”** can be a Chanukah gift in itself.

In fact, the word for **GIVE** in Hebrew is **NATAN** (spelled nun, tav, final nun) is a palindrome - a word spelled the same way backward or forward. It is interesting to consider that when someone gives you something or shares something with you – either a gift or a special thank you -- both people, in a sense enjoy the feeling of giving and receiving at the same time.

On Chanukah, let’s be thankful for our personal blessings and realize that they are priceless gifts.

Wishing you and your family all the very best for a happy and enjoyable Chanukah!



### CHANUKAH IS COMING! SUPPORT OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL’S WALL OF FLAME

Put your name on a flame; put your handle on a candle. Look for the **Wall of Flame**, our Religious School menorah with your name in lights. For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family. Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group. Any way you choose, you are warming up to a great cause—your Religious School. For more information, check the flyer online.

On behalf of the Religious School staff and children we thank you for your support.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have planned many exciting programs for Chanukah. Please join us and help us celebrate Chanukah as a congregational family.

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Friday, December 4:** Shabbat Mishpachah Family services, 7:00pm with Shabbat dinner, 6:00pm  
3rd Grade Naming Service
- Sunday, December 6:** Chanukah art with the Kehiloft teens; Jewish Book Fair concludes, 9:00am-12:00pm
- Friday, December 11:** Chanukah celebration: Pot Luck Dinner & Community Menorah Lighting. 6:00pm
- Sunday, December 13:** **Olive Press Workshop (9:00am-10:00am)** Everyone is welcome to join us as we learn how the Maccabees pressed and refined the Olive Oil for the menorah in the Chanukah story. MUSIC
- Sunday, December 20:** K-2 PACT program: *An Adventure in Jewish Ecology*; COOKING
- Sunday, December 27-** **Sunday, January 3: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: Winter break**  
**Religious school resumes on Sunday, January 10**
- Friday, January 8:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm
- Sunday, January 10:** 4th grade PACT (Parent and Child Together) program: *Saying Goodbye to Shabbat*
- Sunday, January 17:** Regular school session; MUSIC

**TODAH RABAH** to our Jewish Book fair volunteers: **Lisa Ries** and **Jill Fraticelli**. Thanks to all their help and hard work, the book fair was very successful. The proceeds of the book fair benefit the Religious School’s enrichment program.

**THANKS FOR GIVING:** Our school children collect tzedakah money every week. I am proud to report that we have collected a considerable sum of money since early September. It was a privilege, “z’chut” for us to donate a significant amount of money to Jewish Family Services. Our school is happy to support JFS in all their efforts in helping the sick, hungry and poor of our community. Thank you again to our families who generously support our tzedakah program throughout the year.

## Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Shalom everyone! I'm Josh and I am going to talk to you about a teen program called Kehiloft. We have done a lot in this past month, it involved both seriousness, and fun. Firstly, we have had not one, but two meetings with the rabbi. In our second and most recent meeting with the rabbi, we talked about Jewish jokes, and how they were formed, and what they meant. We have

made a compost skit to use inside the religious school classrooms, trying to inspire kids to compost. I think it went pretty well, and hope it will improve the amount the compost is used. We have also had our first Kehiloft Shabbat... I think it went great. It was about Jacob and his many wives! Thank you and see you next month!

*-Josh Goldhammer*





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### DECEMBER

**Wednesday, December 2** - Prep for Chanukkah project in Religious School

**Sunday, December 6** - 9:00 - 12:00 Kehiloft leads Chanukkah project in Religious School

**Sunday, December 13** - 4:00 - 6:00 Chanukkah program at Stonebridge

**Sunday, December 16** - Prep for Shabbat service #2

Winter break December 21- January 4

### JANUARY

**Friday, January 8** - Shabbat service #2 (family service)

**Wednesday, January 13** - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #3

**Wednesday, January 20** - session

**Sunday, January 24** - *Tentative NEW session w/6th graders during Religious School.*

**Sunday, January 24** - Social session (time tba)

*Session time is 6:00 - 8:00 unless otherwise noted. Kehiloft board meets 5:30-6:00 before each Wednesday session.*

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# Jewish LIFE

December is a month filled with many fabulous Jewish LIFE programs...truly something for everyone and of all ages!



The month kicks off with *Bobby Wonderful: An Imperfect Son Buries His Parents* with Robert Morris takes on **Thursday, December 3, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. A special Chanukah cooking event with *Chopped*

Champion Chef Rachel Rubin takes place on Thursday, December 3, 6pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater.



Celebrate Chanukah with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Musical Ensemble in concert **Tuesday, December 8** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. There will be a choice to attend one of two performances – one for young families (5:30pm) and the other for adults (7:30pm). Both groups will enjoy dinner and candle lighting together at 6:30pm, so bring your Chanukiah and candles! *Please consider becoming a Benefactor of this event.*

Join Jewish LIFE for a special free family Chanukah program... *Farmer Kobi's Hanukkah Match* with Rabbi Ron Isaacs and Karen Rostoker **Thursday, December 10 at 10am**. Your kids will enjoy this interactive fun morning of singing and dancing as the authors tell Farmer Kobi's story! Then at **1pm on Thursday, December 10**, Reb Deb Smith presents *Every Tallit Tells a Tale* at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater co-sponsored by Jewish Family Service. Reb Deb will bring a variety of beautiful tallitot from her personal collection. Dr. Laz, best-selling author of *Switchblades n' Skullcaps*, will be speaking on **Friday, December 11, 6:45pm** at Chabad Jewish

Center in Hunterdon County. The evening also includes a community Shabbat dinner. The Jewish Film Series presents *DeliMan: A Freshly Made Documentary* by Eric Greenberg Anjou at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough on **Saturday, December 12 at 7pm**. Discussion and Q & A with film maker Eric Greenberg Anjou will follow the screening. Enjoy some great deli appetizers!



The incomparable Judith Viorst makes a return engagement to Jewish LIFE! Ms. Viorst will discuss her latest book, *Wait for Me and Other Poems About the Irritations and Consolations of a Long Marriage*, on **Wednesday, December 16, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater (program includes luncheon). On **Thursday, December 17 at 12 Noon**, learn

about *The Story of the Music of George and Ira Gershwin...* at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Jewish LIFE rounds out 2015 with *The Irma Horowitz Film Series featuring Falafel and Films* **Thursday, December 17, 6:30pm** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater with short Israeli films from the Ma' Aleh School of Television and the Arts in Jerusalem. Enjoy a falafel dinner while viewing three short Israeli films.

Looking ahead to January... a special event with Alice Eve Cohen, author of *The Year My Mother Came Back (a Memoir)*, will held **Thursday, January 7, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater.

## Additional Adult Education for 2016 at CKS – Save these Dates!

**A Three Part Series: Judaism at the End of Life**  
Taught by Rabbi Susan Falk

**January 17th at 9:30 am - Part 1, Using Jewish Values in Making End-of-Life Decisions**

**February 28th at 9:30 am - Part 2, Prayers of Mourning, Prayers of Healing**

**April 3rd at 9:30 am - Part 3, Body and Soul: Jewish Beliefs about the Afterlife**

# DECEMBER 2015



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 6:00 PM Kehiloft	3 7:30 PM Exec Committee	4 7:00 PM Shabbat Mishpachah	5
6 9:00 AM Religious School 9:00 AM Kehiloft - Chanukah project with religious school	7 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	8	9	10 7:30 PM Board Meeting	11 6:15 PM Chanukah Dinner & Shabbat Services	12
13 9:00 AM Religious School 4:00 PM Chanukah at Stonebridge	14 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	15 7:00 PM Ritual Committee Meeting	16 6:00 PM Kehiloft	17	18 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	19
20 9:00 AM Religious School	21 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 7:30 PM Mah Jongg	29	30 7:00 PM Membership Committee	31		

The CKS office hours are changing. Until further notice the hours are as follows: Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
 Friday: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
 Sunday: 9:00 am - noon

Should you need assistance from the office outside of these hours contact Robin at 908-359-0420 or [admin@ksnj.org](mailto:admin@ksnj.org)

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

**December 2015**

Deadline for next newsletter:  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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