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Bulletin from the Board- Jill Fraticelli

It's hard to believe that April is right around the corner. It seems like just recently (though it was actually May of 2015) that I found out that writing a newsletter article was one of the requirements of becoming a trustee on the board of CKS. I purposely chose April thinking it was far away, but it crept up like the 80 degree weather in March.

It was over six years ago when my family joined CKS. The initial intent was to offer my children a more enriched Jewish education than I experienced growing up. It's hard to put into words how that small step has actually enhanced my life.

I had no idea upon joining CKS that within five years I would experience the death of my mother and shortly thereafter, my father. I had read Rabbi Susan's message that it is not necessary to be acquainted with a family who experiences a loss, as it is a mitzvah to comfort the mourner. It was not until community members of CKS, whom I did not know, arrived at my home to comfort me that these words resonated in a very meaningful way. I felt a connection to CKS and Rabbi Susan that sent me on a path to relate with CKS in a way I never anticipated. Over the past six years, I have taken an active role in several committees. (This is where I take a pause to throw in a plug for the amazing fundraising event, Cruisin' CKS, on April 9th from 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm. It's not too late to RSVP!)

Becoming involved at the synagogue, I developed relationships with new friends and CKS has become like a second home. Whether singing in the choir, attending committee/board meetings or setting up for a catered Shabbat dinner, I feel a kinship with the community. I distinctly remember my son Jared trying to convince me every Sunday as to why he shouldn't have to attend religious school. He persevered and one of my proudest moments was seeing Jared as a Bar Mitzvah this past June. I assumed that this would conclude his Jewish education but I was pleasantly surprised when shortly after that he approached me and said that he had voluntarily decided to continue in Kehiloft, our CKS Hebrew High School. My heart is warmed by the connections I see him continue to make through the amazing program and the CKS community as a whole.

I recently read a definition of the word "meaningful" as "having a serious, important, or useful quality or purpose." That so accurately describes what CKS means to me. From the exterior of the building, I always knew there was a community there. It wasn't until I fully embraced it that it had true meaning in my life. So I ask you this, "What will CKS mean to you?"



Jill Fraticelli, Trustee

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In memory of Ruth Kaufman
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High Holiday

- ♥Robert & Judith Harrison

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.

Robert M. Fass

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CKS Book Club

Thursday, April 28 - All Who Do Not Return - Shulem Deen

Tuesday, May 17 - To be selected

All meetings will be at 7:30pm at CKS

By Dawn's Early Light: Jewish Contributions to American Culture from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War

February 13, 2016 - June 12, 2016

Living in an age when Jews are fully integrated into so much of America's public and popular culture, it is difficult to imagine a time before they shone on the stage and printed page. Such a future for Jews was scarcely imaginable in the crucible years after the birth of the United States. In the colonial period, there was little precedent for Jews speaking for themselves vocally and volubly in the public arena. At the dawn of the Republic, they were new to American public life. In response to the challenges of liberty, Jews adopted and adapted American and Jewish artistic idioms to express themselves in new ways as Americans and as Jews. In the process, they invented American Jewish culture, and contributed to the flowering of American culture during the earliest days of the Republic.

This exhibition, organized by the Princeton University Library, consists of more than 160 books, maps, manuscripts, prints, and paintings, including some of the earliest novels, plays, scientific treatises, and religious works produced by Jews in the United States.

Got Donations?

As we look forward to our annual spring party and fundraiser, Cruisin' CKS, on April 9th, we need everyone's help to make it a big success.

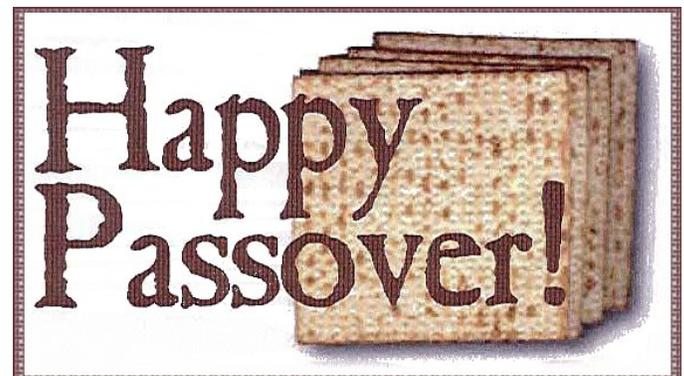
Please consider donating items, gift certificates or services to our silent and live auctions. You can donate artwork or some other item from your "this is lovely but we'll never use it" pile, or something you've solicited from your favorite local business, including restaurants, hair salons, stores, etc. If you have a special talent that you would like to share, consider donating your time!

For questions or to arrange pick up or drop off of items, please contact Natalie London at natalielondon@att.net, Juliet Strauss at jms Strauss@gmail.com or Sue Forster at ekrisloff@yahoo.com.

For more information, please go to our website.

See you on the Cruise!

The Cruisin' CKS Planning Committee



Message from the Rabbi

WE WERE STRANGERS IN EGYPT: A PASSOVER MESSAGE



It's April and Passover is coming. Passover is a special time in the Jewish calendar. A time of family gatherings and story-telling – both from the *Haggadah*, the special book that recounts the story of the ancient Israelite Exodus from Egyptian slavery, as well as from the family's own history. The *Haggadah* teaches us to remember: we were slaves in

Egypt, but now we are free. It charges us up front to “let all who are hungry come in and eat”. And it reminds us that by “a strong hand and an outstretched arm” we were redeemed. Perhaps more than any other holiday, Passover represents our most central values and cherished beliefs. From this one holiday, we might almost say that, as Jews, we learn all that there is to know. We learn that freedom is hard-won and to be cherished, that the stranger among us is to be welcomed in, that the poor and needy and vulnerable must be cared for, and that redemption is possible for all the world.

And so, it is indeed disturbing to watch the national discourse this election season, especially of those candidates who espouse bigotry and stir up fear and hatred and incite violence in the most callous and careless of ways. Right now, I speak most specifically of Donald Trump, and I speak on behalf of myself only, Rabbi Susan Falk, and not on behalf of CKS as a religious institution. I do this because I believe that Trump has crossed a line that makes it my moral obligation to speak out. Perhaps for some of you, you may be wondering: “What took you so long?” Honestly, like many of you, I have been dumbfounded by the daily barrage of insults (both puerile and despotic); of threats of violence toward protestors and members of the press; of demeaning comments about women; and of cruel, bigoted, and irresponsible “policy” statements, such as threatening to deport 11 million people, or banning all Muslims from entering the country, or returning to water-boarding and other forms of torture.

To be clear, this is **not** an endorsement of any other candidate. However, what's happening now, the rhetoric and behavior of Mr. Donald Trump, is not business as usual. Trump is not simply another candidate whose views or policy positions might differ from our own. Trump's general behavior, incitement of violence, and vulgarity of language make a mockery of our most fundamental of Jewish – and American – values: justice, compassion, peace, and freedom. In my opinion, this requires strenuous protest.

The rabbis of the Talmud compared evil speech to murder. As Jews, we know the power of words. We

know all too well the destruction and death that can be caused by words of hatred and violence. We know what happens when people are scapegoated and “othered”. Therefore, at this moment, between the Jewish holidays of Purim and Passover, between the tale of the Hamans of deceit and destruction, and the story of freedom and the redemption of the world, I must speak out and thoroughly denounce the hateful rhetoric and reckless behavior of Donald Trump.

As Passover approaches, let us be vigilant in guarding our most cherished values of justice, compassion, peace, freedom – and kindness toward the stranger – as we remember that we have so often been that stranger ourselves.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Susan

Kindercapers

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





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908-874-8464



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Questions?
Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
or Harlene Rosenberg 908-874-8283



PASSOVER



A Passover Release... Passover can be considered a time of release followed by something positive. We can see this happening on three levels: seasonal, historical, and human. On a seasonal plane, Passover symbolizes a release of the earth from the grip of winter. It starts the time of growth and spring, when we can begin to enjoy the warm weather and reap the first fruits of the season. On a historical level, Passover marks the release of the Children of Israel from the grip of Egypt. The ancient Israelites attained freedom from Egyptian bondage so they could enter into a covenant at Mt. Sinai. It commemorates the birth of a Jewish nation. And, lastly, on a broad human plane, Passover symbolizes the hope for release of all people from physical and spiritual bondage.

FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER IS FRIDAY NIGHT, APRIL 22



HAPPY PASSOVER

The Passover Seder is probably the most commonly celebrated ritual of Judaism. It is an occasion for developing long lasting memories that are carried from childhood into adulthood. The Seder is Judaism's most elaborate meal and it comes with a complete set of do-it-yourself instructions found in the Passover Haggadah. The Jewish home holiday companion, the Haggadah, is a manual for parents to use in teaching their children "how this night is different from all other nights?"

If you would like any suggestions for games or activities on how to keep your children involved and interested throughout the Seder, please call or email me. I am happy to share the information available. As an example, you may do "Word Scrambles." Write each word in scrambled form on 9" x 9" construction paper and periodically during the Seder, hold up a card and have children guess the words. One example is THMAZA (Matzah). Have fun and enjoy your Seders!

Best wishes for a "Zeesen and Freilech Passover!"

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Friday, April 1:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm
(PLEASE NOTE: this will not be a grade sponsored service, but children of all ages are encouraged to attend and participate)
- Sunday, April 3:** Regular School session
- Sunday, April 10:** Regular school session; COOKING
- Sunday, April 17:** Regular school session; Passover activities; MUSIC
- Sunday, April 24:** **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**, Passover holiday

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 2016-2017 school year.

Please call the school office (908-359-0420 x2) or email me (principal@ksnj.org) if you would like an application to enroll your child in our school.

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Happy Purim! All of our meetings in March were dedicated to rehearsing the Purim spiel. This year's theme was superheroes, and it was a huge hit! We had a great script, written by Kehilofters, and a great cast, all Kehilofters. The spiel was a part of the newly created branch of Kehiloft, The Kehiloft Players. We performed the spiel at Religious School on the last day before spring break. We had fun rehearsing it and are glad that the congregation enjoyed the performance.

Meanwhile, we have been organizing another apparel order. This year, we will be getting short sleeve and long sleeve shirts. We will be using the art concept that was designed last year by Ally Rosenthal in which the 'O' in Kehiloft is a pizza, our trademark food we have at meetings.

We also started organizing and working on our annual project. This year, our project will be a Lag B'Omer festival on May 1st. We will be having a gaga tournament and many other outside activities. More to come!

Our next meeting is a 5K walk for Tourette Syndrome (TS) to support Tess Kowlaski, a member of Kehiloft who has TS. Then we have another discussion with Rabbi Susan scheduled for April 6th.

-Dorothy Waskow

Spring is on its way...
so get ready for the all-new
Lag B'Omer Field Day
Outside games and activities for the
CKS Religious School
Food, fun, and (hopefully) sunshine,
all on
May 1 - 11:30 - 1:30
Mark your calendar now!

APRIL

- Sunday, April 3** - 1:00 - 4:00 TS Walk in Mercer County Park
- Wednesday, April 6** - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #5
- Wednesday, April 13* - tentative session
- Wednesday, April 20** - Shabbat service prep
- Passover break
- Friday, April 29** - 7:15 - 9:30 Kehiloft leads Shabbat services

MAY

- Sunday, May 1** - 10:30 - 11:30 Orientation to Kehiloft for 7th grade students during RS
- Sunday, May 1** - 11:30 - 1:30 School-wide First Annual Lag B'Omer Field Day
- Wednesday, May 11** - Rabbi Susan leads discussion
- Sunday, May 15** - 11:00 - 12:00 Kehiloft hosts Talent Show in Religious School
- Sunday, May 22** - 10:00 - 12:00 Siyyum and 7th grade bridge ceremony
- Sunday, May 22** - 12:00 - 2:00 Car wash during annual meeting

Can you sing? Dance? Juggle?
Do a cartwheel? Tell a joke?
Share your skills with the CKS community,
because the annual
Kehiloft Talent Show
is back! **Sunday May 15, 11:00 to 12:00**
Sign up with a Kehiloft teen to participate.

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Jewish LIFE

Please join Jewish LIFE for these upcoming programs in April:



Tired of the "same old" Passover recipes?! Join Chef and cookbook author **Paul Shoyer** as she presents *The New Passover Menu*, **Wednesday, April 6, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC. Passover has never been so easy or delicious! Fee includes program and lunch: \$18/person in advance or \$22 day of the program.

Register Now!... 4th Annual Celebrate Israel, Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30pm to benefit Israel Bonds and the State of Israel. The event will be held at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater. This year's honorees are Marjorie & Jonathan Slass, and Evan Gottesman, a Rutgers Hillel Student. Distinguished guest speaker is Malcolm Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The evening will include a special remembrance of Rabbi Evan Jaffe ז"ל. The registration fee is \$50/Adult and \$18/Student and includes full buffet. Cash bar available. You can register by mailing payment (check payable to "JCC") to the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807, online at www.sbjcc.org, or by calling the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

Looking ahead to May...

The Jewish LIFE **Yom Hashoah Community-Wide Observance and Service** will be held **Thursday, May 5** at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. More details to come.

Join Jewish LIFE for a **Kosher Food Excursion in Brooklyn with Arthur Schwartz, Thursday, May 2**. Nobody knows kosher cooking and shopping like Arthur Schwartz, and we are very fortunate to have him as our guide for the day! We start the morning with breakfast at Arthur's home with Leah Koenig, author of *Hadassah Everyday Cooking*. Tour Crown Heights, a Kosher supermarket, Artisan Bakehouse, and more. Register early...this very special trip is

limited to 12 participants. (Fee: \$150/person) Call the Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

Eddie Shapiro presents **Nothing Like a Dame: Conversations with the Great Women of Musical Theatre, Thursday, May 19, 12 Noon** at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. (Fee: \$5/person)



The **Jewish Film Series at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough** will be showing the film *Three Mothers*, **Saturday, May 21 at 7pm**. Suggested donation \$5/person. Call Temple Beth-El to register at 908-722-1339.

If you have any questions regarding Jewish LIFE, and to register for special events, please contact the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC at 908-725-6994 x201. To register for synagogue-hosted classes and special events, please register directly through the host synagogue.



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Happy Passover!

APRIL 2016



April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1 7 pm Shabbat Mishpachah Services	2
3 9 am Religious School 9:30 am Judaism at the End of Life - Part 3: Body and Soul	4 7:30 pm Mah Jongg	5	6 6:00 pm Kehiloft	7 7:30 pm Exec Committee	8 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	9 7 pm Cruisin' CKS
10 9 am Religious School	11 7:30 pm Mah Jongg	12	13	14 7:30 pm Board Meeting	15 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	16
17 9 am Religious School	18 7:30 pm Mah Jongg	19	20 6:00 pm Kehiloft	21	22 Erev Pesach (first night Seder)	23
24	25 7:30 pm Mah Jongg	26	27 6:00 pm Kehiloft 7:00 pm Membership Committee 7:00 pm Ritual Committee	28	29 7:30 pm Shabbat Services by Kehiloft	30

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

April 2016

Deadline for next newsletter:
April 15th

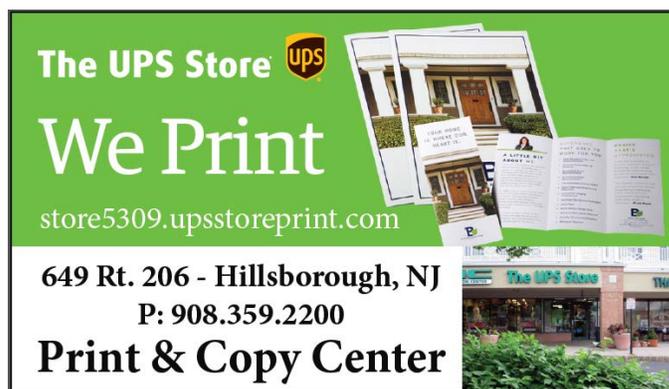
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B'nai Mitzvah	Iris Rubinstein
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