

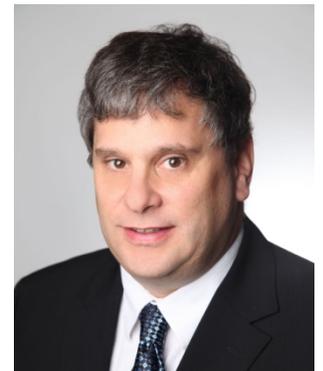
Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **June/July 2016** Iyyar — Tamuz 5776

Bulletin from the Board-Mike Galkin



Legacy. It's a simple word with many deep connotations. This will be my last newsletter article as a board member. After eight or nine years (I lost count), I have relinquished my trustee duties and will be stepping down from the board. I'm still staying on a committee or two though. I thought I would review what the board has accomplished throughout this time.

Building improvements: air conditioning the sanctuary and main Kindercapers room; roof replacement; new audio system; closed circuit audio and video to the overflow sanctuary; new folding room dividing walls; Kehiloft loft space; new sanctuary lighting; new doors and windows in the sanctuary; and lastly, new bathrooms. I'm sure there are others. Oh yeah, a new phone system too...

I have worked with four presidents, two rabbis and countless volunteers.

I have worked with everyone involved with the land sale to help ensure the financial stability of CKS.

When the bagel café was started, I was an original volunteer and I am really happy to see this legacy continue.

So it is fitting now for me to thank everyone who helped me along the way in order to pay it forward to the next generation of CKS. But just know I'm not going away so fast and expect great things to continue.

Mike Galkin, Trustee



Kehiloft Talent Show 5/22/16

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rabbi@ksnj.org

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principal@ksnj.org
Karen Fridkis (8-12)
kehiloftprincipal@ksnj.org

Lay Cantor

Kate Mende-Fridkis

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CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

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- ♥Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg
In memory of Rita Ben-Or
- ♥Marc & Harlene Rosenberg
In honor of Gabe Fridkis' graduation
- ♥Bob Sohor
In memory of Bob's mother, Naoma Sohor
- ♥Robin Bengochea & Brandon Bengochea
In memory of Andres Bengochea
In memory of Aileen and Henry Roth

Religious School

- ♥Jared & Christine Witt
In honor of Ellie's bat mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♥Laura Leibowitz
In honor of Matt Kent'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.

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Shabbat Community-Wide Dinner

The Kent family will be hosting an Italian dairy dinner (pizza and pasta buffet) for the entire congregation on **Friday, June 24th at 6:30 pm** in honor of their son Matthew's bar mitzvah. Services begin at 7:30 and the Kents are also sponsoring the Oneg after services. We would love to have you join us. In order to have enough food we request that you kindly RSVP to Terry@Luminationsgroup.com no later than June 17th with the number of dinner guests. If you or one of your family members have special diet restrictions please call Lisa Kent before the RSVP date of June 17th.

Matt's bar mitzvah will be a lovely Mincha service the following afternoon, June 25th at 4 pm. Please join us on Saturday too. We are happy to have you at any and all events!

CKS Book Club

June 16 - The Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny by Laura Schroff

July 20 - The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

All meetings will be at 7:30pm at CKS

Rabbi Ora

Our own student intern, **Ora Nitkin-Kaner**, will be officially conferred the title of Rabbi and Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters at the Reconstructionist Rabbincal College Graduation Ceremony on **Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 2:30 pm** at Temple Sinai, 1401 N. Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA.



No tickets are necessary, but if you are interested in attending and carpooling with others, please contact Robin in the office: admin@kehilatshalomnj.org or 908-359-0420.

Message from the Rabbi

Finding Your Own Revelation on Shavuot



It's a great story: a rag-tag group of slaves escape the mighty Egyptian Empire, as it is written, "with signs and with wonders", and flee into the desert of the Sinai peninsula. Now what?

Freedom from slavery is no small thing, but as joy and exuberance fade, one must find a purpose in life. Without purpose, without responsibility, as the great Janis Joplin sang, "freedom's just another word for nothin' left to lose" – a state of being that might seem liberating at first, but then eventually can end up feeling a lot like slavery. No purpose, no choices, no nothin'.

And so, our story brings us to the foot of Mount Sinai, trembling before God, to receive the Laws of Torah. Legend has it that not a person spoke, not a baby cried, not a bird chirped, nor a wild dog howled. All was in a hush when the first words ushered forth from cloud and smoke, thunder and lightning: "Anochi Adonai Eloheinu, I am Adonai your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

This is the mystical moment of our collective Revelation, and this is what Shavuot is all about. We are taught that the Revelation at Sinai is not a one-time event, but an ongoing, ever-unfolding process as we each, from one generation to the next, peel back the layers of meaning of our sacred texts – Torah, and all the writings of the Bible, as well as the great works that follow, the Mishnah, the Talmud, the Zohar, and all the thousands of midrashim, tales and interpretations of our ancestors.

But what about individual revelation? In Judaism, it's true, so much is centered on community experience, worship, and celebration. Is there room for the individual in Judaism?

Scholars and commentators teach that Moses had his own private moment of revelation when he "meets" God at the burning bush. They point to the Hebrew word used for the bush, the "sneh" and its close linguistic relationship to the word "Sinai". Not to mention that Moses' life is forever changed from that moment on with a singularity of purpose to lead a people to freedom and a new life. One midrash (rabbinic tale or interpretation) teaches that the bush was there all along, indeed from the time of Creation, but that it took a Moses to finally see it. Moses goes

deep into the wilderness, chasing after a stray from the flock, when he sees a strange light. And "he turns aside" the text tells us. He looks with deliberation, stopping to climb the mountain to take in this wonder, this bush that burns, but is not consumed.

Shavuot falls on June 11th this year and goes through the 13th. On these days, make room for yourself. Take some time to "turn aside" like Moses, and discover the thing, thought, emotion, person, or activity that you have somehow been rushing past, ignoring, or pushing away. May what you find be your own personal revelation. May what you find, like the burning bush, not consume you, but rather be the light and warmth of knowledge and love, comfort and a renewed sense of purpose in life. Chag Shavuot Sameach!

B' Shalom uvracha/In peace and blessing,

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



Tree of Life

Purchase a leaf for \$54 to celebrate a *simcha!* Each leaf includes three lines of engraving.

Contact Shelley Nord
908-874-8464



The CKS Gift Shop
is open each Sunday
10 am - 11 am

Questions?

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





SHAVUOT

Z'man Matan Torahteynu

"The Season of the Giving of our Torah"

Judaism is often broken into three component parts: G-d, Torah, and Israel (meaning the whole Jewish people, not only the modern state). At the beginning of the year, during the High Holidays, we focus on G-d. At Chanukah and Purim, we concentrate on Israel, on the courage and victories of the Jewish people. Pesach celebrates both the beginnings of the People of Israel and the redemption granted by G-d. We wait until Shavuot, however, to celebrate Torah. At Shavuot, we remember receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Shavuot is also known as *Yom HaBikkurim* when the first ripe fruits of the harvest were brought as an offering to the Temple. According to the Midrash, Mount Sinai suddenly blossomed with flowers in anticipation of the Torah's arrival. For this reason we beautifully decorate our synagogue and our homes with greenery and flowers and leafy branches.

On this Shavuot (June 12 and 13) may you enjoy the study of Torah and look forward to the promise and beauty of summer.

All the best wishes to you for a relaxing and safe summer!

See you in September!

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/>

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 develop 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

I cannot believe that it is the end of the school year already. The world feels like such a transitional place right now. Maybe it's because I'm graduating high school, maybe because as a madricha for the 7th grade I'm watching them graduate religious school, because it's an election year, or just because it's spring. All of these things contribute to a feeling of change.

Kehiloft has changed a lot, too. We have sweatshirts *and* t-shirts now. We built a gaga pit. We run a talent show, a Lag B'Omer field day, and the annual Purim spiel. Sometimes, instead of pizza, we eat falafel. A majority of us work in the religious school, and we all lead craft projects with the students. We volunteer at Stonebridge and Homefront events.

Everyone I knew in my first year of the program, four years ago, has gone off to college now. They built my experience in Kehiloft, and I am so grateful for the lessons they have taught me: confidence, accountability, innovation, responsibility, leadership.

The Kehilofters of today have taught me just as much. They take on projects without hesitation. They work hard to make our group cohesive across five years of age and several different schools. They make everything fun. Literally everything.

I think I've changed a lot too in the past five years. Kehiloft has helped me grow into myself, and feel at home within the CKS community. I am more comfortable taking on leadership in other areas of my life. I continue to find Torah study discussions an integral part of how I learn. They have constructed the way I interpret literature and philosophy better and led me to see the world with a broad perspective, considering new outlooks on Judaism and life. Kehiloft has taught me that supporting the community with time and effort should not be limited to formal service events, but should be a part of everyday life. Our principal, Karen, has taught me that seemingly enormous projects can be done with teamwork, passion, good planning, and enthusiasm.

Speaking of fun things, here are some of our upcoming events: the bridging ceremony for the seventh grade religious school class will be from 9 to 12 on May 22, during the Siyyum. The Kehiloft graduation Shabbat service is on Friday June 17.

While a lot has changed, some things have stayed the same. We still eat pizza at a majority of the meetings. We still meet up in the loft. At the beginning of each meeting, we still go around in the circle and tell the story of one good thing that happened to us in the past week. We still lead Shabbat services and take pride in our skits and D'var Torah discussion questions. We still have deep conversations with the rabbi and we still plan an annual project each year. We still have inside jokes and turn every meeting with an extensive agenda into an excuse to hang out and have fun.

We have grown in a good direction. Stay tuned.

Gabrielle Rubinstein

June

Wednesday, June 1 - Dinner in Princeton

Wednesday, June 15 - (NEW date)

Kehiloft final session in loft

Friday, June 17 - Kehiloft graduation
Shabbat service #4



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Jewish LIFE

Show your Israeli spirit and support...the annual **Celebrate Israel Day Parade in NYC is Sunday, June 5.**

HISTORY OF CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

In 1965, thousands walked down Riverside Drive in support of the young State of Israel. This impromptu walk evolved into the Salute to Israel Parade on Fifth Avenue.

In 2011 the name of the Parade was changed to focus on celebrating the vibrant and diverse country of Israel. The Parade features over 30,000 marchers from many organizations. Hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic spectators watch American and Israeli community leaders and dignitaries, entertainers, artists, musicians, dancers, celebrities, floats, and marching bands.

2016 Theme – Sight, Sound & Spirit

Israel, a small country about the size of NJ, is bursting with energy, has an amazing variety of climates and geographical contrasts – mountains, valleys, deserts – and is filled with an incredible variety of flora and fauna. Everywhere you go, there are ultra-modern cities with towering skyscrapers alongside ancient, Biblical cities. With more than 8.4 million people from over 30 regions and countries in the world, Israel is a model of diversity. Israelis are warm and friendly, happy to have coffee with you and then invite you home for dinner! Celebrated as the Start-Up Nation, Israelis think out of the box to solve problems and are at the cutting edge of science, technology, and invention. Israel speaks to our history and to our hearts. In Israel, there is so much to see, so much to do, so much to feel and embrace.

2016 ENTERTAINERS

- Performers
- Broadway Cast of Fiddler on the Roof
- SOULFARM
- Israel Dance Institute – Paprim Ensemble Dancers
- DJ LT
- Jewish Rock Radio DJ Lee Epstein
- Maccabeats
- Milk & Honey
- Areyvut Mitzvah Clowns
- Celebrate Israel Performers

Marching Bands

- NYC Police
- Cadets
- Fusion Core
- Saint Brigades Drum & Bugle Corps
- Connecticut Hurricanes
- Bushwhackers Drum & Bugle Corps
- Long Island Sunrisers Drum & Bugle Corps
- Upper Schuylkill Marching Band
- Raiders Drum & Bugle Corps
- Excelsior Drum & Bugle Corps
- Skyliners

When is the Parade?

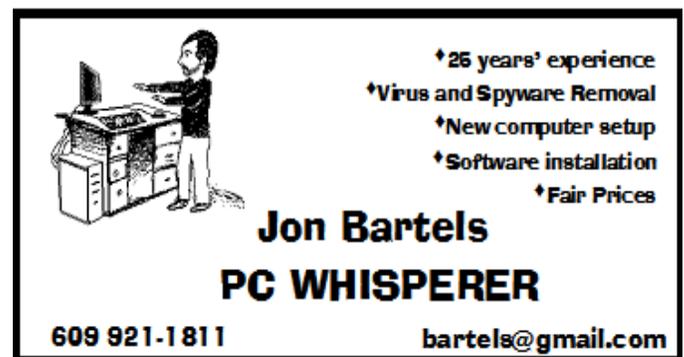
The Parade will be Sunday, June 5, 2016, from 11AM to 4PM.

When is it on TV and the Website?

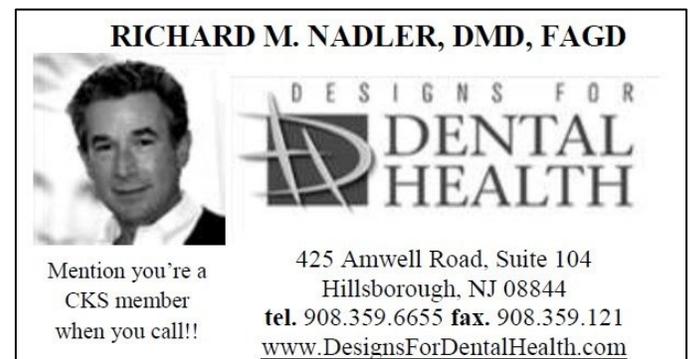
The Parade will be on FOX MY9 from 12 to 2PM. It will be livestreamed on the website from 12 to 3PM.

What is the route for the Parade?

The Parade will go up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets.

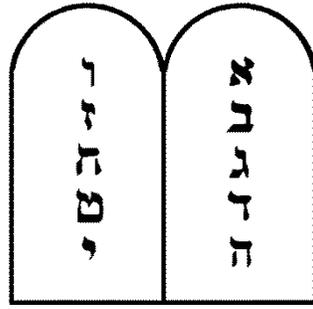


Advertisement for Jon Bartels PC Whisperer. The ad features a cartoon illustration of a man standing next to a computer desk. The text lists services: 25 years' experience, Virus and Spyware Removal, New computer setup, Software installation, and Fair Prices. The name Jon Bartels and the title PC WHISPERER are prominently displayed. Contact information includes the phone number 609 921-1811 and the email address bartels@gmail.com.



Advertisement for Richard M. Nadler, DMD, FAGD. The ad features a portrait of Richard M. Nadler. The text includes the name RICHARD M. NADLER, DMD, FAGD and the logo for DESIGNS FOR DENTAL HEALTH. The address is 425 Amwell Road, Suite 104, Hillsborough, NJ 08844. Contact information includes the phone number tel. 908.359.6655, fax. 908.359.121, and the website www.DesignsForDentalHealth.com. A note says: Mention you're a CKS member when you call!!

JUNE 2016



Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2 Exec Committee 7:30 pm	3 Shabbat Mishpachah Services 7 pm	4
5	6 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	7	8 Kindercapers Graduation 6:30 pm	9 Calendar Meeting 7:30 pm	10 Tot Shabbat 6 pm Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	11
12 Shavuot	13 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	14	15	16	17 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Kehiloft Graduation	18
19	20 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	21	22 Ritual Committee 7 pm	23	24 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	25 Matthew Kent Bar Mitzvah 4 pm
26	27 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	28	29	30		

JULY 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	12	13	14 Board Meeting 7:30 pm	15 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	16
17	18 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Mah Jongg 7:30 pm	26	27 Ritual Committee 7 pm	28	29	30
31						

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

June-July 2016

Deadline for next newsletter:
July 15th

Whom to contact for...	
Adult Education	Susan Waskow susan.waskow@gmail.com
Beautification	Debbie Gartenberg dgart1518@gmail.com
B'nai Miztvah	Iris Rubinstein
Billing/Payments	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Board of Trustees	Bob Neusner president@ksnj.org
Building & Grounds	Marty Millman
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk 908-359-0420 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education	Lisa Ries
Financial Aid	Debbie Gartenberg
Fundraising	Debbie Gartenberg dgart1518@gmail.com
Gift Shop	Iris Rubinstein
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Natalie London 908-874-6955
Kindercapers	Natalie London 908-874-6955
Kehi-Loft (Hebrew High)	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
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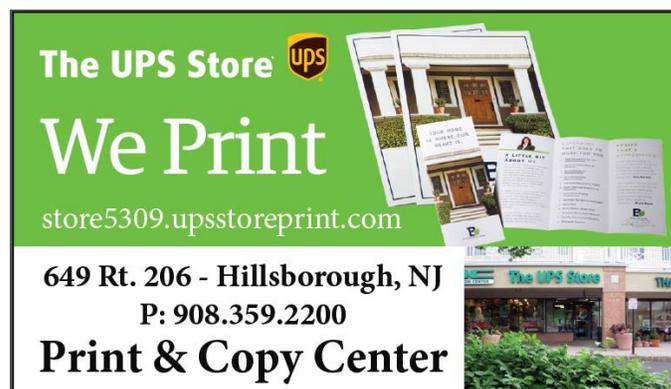
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