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CKS SOCIAL ACTION GROUP GOES TO WASHINGTON

On Saturday, January 21, sixty CKS congregants and friends traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the Women’s March on Washington. CKS congregants also attended marches in Trenton and New York.

The CKS Social Action Group has been meeting to organize, prepare posters, and to determine priorities in speaking out on other social issues. The group is dividing into four sub-groups to focus on different areas of concern. They are Interfaith Connections, Human Rights, Immigration/Refugees, and Recycling Eco-Efficiency. More information is available on the CKS Social Action – Facebook page.



Members of the Social Action Committee and friends prepare to march on Washington



More Washington pictures inside.

Published by:

Calli-Graphics

Copy Editor: Shana Bartels

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

- ♥Harlene & Marc Rosenberg
In memory of Joan Davidson
- ♥Jim Ohls
- ♥Harlene & Marc Rosenberg
In memory of Stuart Rosenthal
- ♥Natalie London
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- ♥Sharon Underberg Davis
- ♥Lisa Kent
- ♥Mara Isaacs & Seth Mellman
- ♥Natalie London
In memory of Stuart Rosenthal, Dwight Halpern
and Samuel Shapiro
In memory of those whose yahrzeits occur this time
of year – Julian Gelvan
Meyer London, Nathan London, Della Gorovitz,
Lillian Mahler, Shirley Berg
and Thoraya Alborella
In honor of the 18+ CKS families represented,
including those from Kol Ahava, Kehiloft, Mah
Jong group, Tikkun Olam and Ritual Committee
who helped make the Stonebridge Hanukkah
celebration a wonderful afternoon. Many thanks
for all who organized and participated!

Memorial Plaque Donation

- ♥Amy & Matt Rosenthal
In memory of Stuart Rosenthal

High Holiday

- ♥James Rosenberg
- ♥Debbie & Gary Gartenberg
- ♥Jill & Roy Fraticelli

Religious School

- ♥Amy & Matt Rosenthal

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♥Sharon Underberg-Davis

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.

WOMEN'S MARCH 1/21/17



View of the rally on Independence Avenue taken from the garden next to the Air & Space Museum. There is a stage back there somewhere. The crowd was estimated to reach close to a million people by day's end. (photo credit: Karen Bartels)

Stonebridge Chanukah Celebration.

On Friday, December 30, CKS congregants joined residents of Stonebridge Retirement Community to celebrate the seventh night of Chanukah. A short meaningful service with songs and readings was led by Karen Fridkis and Meryl Bisberg. The service was followed by a delicious meal which included latkes, sufganiyot, and other treats. A special recognition goes to Natalie London for coordinating the event. Thank you to all who attended and helped out.



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Bulletin from the Board- William Ries



Greetings to our CKS community! As I'm writing, I feel the chill of winter upon me, and am thinking of warmer days ahead. In fact, I wish I could fast-forward to pleasant spring weather and good memories of fun college days brought to life at our annual spring event! Save the date and plan to join us on Saturday, April 29 at "College Days at CKU: Back to Campus" - an evening of college-themed fun, food, and entertainment! I can't do the handsprings I used to do down my dormitory hallway, but I may still beat you at beer pong! Stay tuned to learn more about how you can help CKS by donating items for our silent and live auctions, and if you have the time, dig out a great old photo from those days... we'll be gathering them for display at the event!

I'd also like to share that board membership continues to be a rewarding way to both give back to the CKS community, and to learn and grow in the process. The board has a mix of long-standing and new members, bringing both experience and fresh perspective to every conversation. It's a chance to work towards community goals in partnership with a diverse group of people from non-profit, corporate / professional, legal, medical, and artistic professions. And, our guest speakers bring new ideas about deepening engagement with the retiree community, young families, and teens. The good news for you? There may be an opportunity to join this group later this year, so please contact Susan Waskow to learn more.

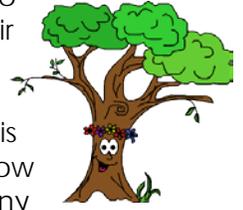
Bill Ries, Financial Secretary

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Shabbat Mishpachah Services	4
5 Religious School On One Foot: Basic Judaism, Part 2	6 Mah Jongg	7 Meditation and Chanting	8 Kehiloft	9 Board Meeting	10 Shabbat Services	11 Tu B'Shevat Progressive Dinner
12 Religious School Kehiloft	13 Mah Jongg	14	15 The Sabbath: Why We Need it Now More Than Ever	16	17 Shabbat Services	18
19 Religious School	20 Mah Jongg	21	22 Kehiloft Ritual Committee	23	24	25 Torah Study
26 Religious School	27 Mah Jongg	28				



Children are just “naturally” more open than adults to the wonders of creation, and not just because they are that much closer to the ground! They truly take the time to smell the flowers, watch the ants, and examine a rock. The newness of their experiences makes it seem as if the world itself was just made, and they respond with interest and excitement. We can provide many opportunities that can play on this interest in the natural world to make Tu B’Shevat (this year it falls out on February 11) meaningful for young family members. Below are just a few suggestions – your fertile imaginations can come up with many more!



 Sit near a window with a view of trees and ask your child what he or she sees. Point out the trees if they are not mentioned. Have your child look at the branches and talk about what they look like (straight, bent, tangled, etc.). Try to help your child see beauty in the bare branches and the tree shapes you can see when no leaves are in the way. Then imagine together what grows on trees – leaves, flowers, fruits – and then look at the winter trees again. We can enjoy the trees in any season!

 Go on a “**tree-sure**” hunt. Walk through the house with your child and look for things that come from trees. She or he may be surprised to learn that wood and papers are tree products. The chair she or he sits on, the pencil used for drawing, are all products of trees. Even the books we read were once growing in a forest! Have lots of fun to discover and talk about as your exploring adventure ends in the kitchen or dining room fruit bowl.

 Have your own Tu B’Shevat seder! Go together to the grocery store and find all the fruits you can that come from trees. Figure out a way to eat them using the ideas of the Kabbalists – grouping together those with peels that need to be removed, those with pits, and those that can be eaten entirely. Alternatively, you may wish to put together those which grow in Israel, such as oranges, grapefruits, pomegranates, figs, grapes, olives, and dates.

 Use Tu B’Shevat as a time to renew your commitment to conservation and protection of the earth. Have a family talk about using resources carefully, such as not leaving the water running unnecessarily (plants may need that water) or not using paper plates very often (because they use up trees).

 Think together about how trees help us on holidays through the year, not just on Tu B’Shevat. On Rosh Hashanah, we eat apples. On Sukkot, we cover the Sukkah with sekhakh, we hang fruits from the Sukkah, use the etrog and wave the lulav - parts of trees - in the air! On Hanukkah, many of us eat latkes with applesauce. Purim brings us hamentaschen filled with cherries, apples and plums. On Pesach, we eat haroset made from apples and nuts from our friends, the trees. On Shavuot, we talk about the Torah, the **TREE of Life**, something we can learn about and hang onto forever!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS AND SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Friday, February 3: | Shabbat Mishpachah service 7pm with Shabbat Dinner, 6:00pm. |
| Sunday, February 5: | JRF Camp orientation for students in grades 3-7 and their parents (11:30)
Join us for a special presentation by Rabbi Isaac, Director of Camp JRF (the Reconstructionist summer sleep-away camp); MUSIC; Adult Ed program |
| Sunday, February 12: | COOKING; Tu B’Shevat celebrated in school; 7 th grade orientation to Kehiloft program with parents (10:45-12:00); Tefillah with the Rabbi |
| Sunday, February 19: | NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, <i>President’s weekend</i> |
| Sunday, February 26: | 5th grade PACT program: Tzedakah and the Giraffe Connection;
5th grade parent meeting |
| Saturday, March 4: | Shabbat Mishpachah, 9:30am |
| Sunday, March 5: | SPECIAL PROGRAM: Comic Book writer and illustrator, DOV SMILEY visits. |

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



In Kehiloft, we discuss many interesting things, this past month we spoke with the Rabbi about Israel. I love having discussions with the Rabbi because I get to listen to, and engage, with all my peers as we discuss new ideas and points of view.

This month we also held services and put on a skit about Pharaoh and Moses. To prepare for this service,

we discussed the ways to turn the Torah portion Sh'mot into a skit or educational performance. Sh'mot is the portion in which Moses is born and he has an encounter with G-d. This portion includes lots of strong women in the Bible like Moses' mother, Miriam, and the brave midwives who defy Pharaoh's orders. At the services Kehilofters performed a skit, and then followed up with questions. Although I was, unfortunately, unable to attend the service, I know the Kehilofters who could attend the service put on a great show. Mazel tov to all of them.

In the upcoming month we will be speaking with the rabbi about guns and gun control in our world. I am very excited for this event because it is always fun to speak with the rabbi. Many of the Kehilofters bring up such thoughtful and interesting points that are amazing to listen to.

Back in December we discussed what it's like be a Jew in a Christmas dominated season. It was very eye opening and fun to discuss! After this discussion the Kehilofters had a Chanukkah party in which we ate our pizza and some other snacks, as we made our movie night promotions signs.

In December we also had a service at Stonebridge Retirement Community, this annual celebration was a great hit. The Kehilofters and residents of Stonebridge both look forward to this event every year. They sang Chanukkah songs and ate latkes and donuts.

Kehiloft is such a wonderful experience because it is a place where people can freely share their opinions. I'm so glad that I joined!

Paige Kowalski



Kehiloft and SAC marchers in DC

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Feb 8 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #4

Sunday, Feb 12 - 10:45- 12:00. 7th grade family workshop intro to Kehiloft

Sunday, Feb 12 - 12:00 - 2:00. Purim spiel rehearsal #1

Wednesday, Feb 22 - Purim spiel rehearsal #2

MARCH

Wednesday, March 8 - Purim spiel rehearsal #3

Sunday, March 12 - 10:00 - 11:00. Purim games led by Kehiloft during RS

Sunday, March 12 - 11:00 - 12:00. Purim spiel performance

Wednesday, March 22 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #5. Tentative

Student board meetings from 5:30 - 6:00 before each Wednesday session.

Shalom,
Karen Fridkis, Principal of Kehiloft

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Adult Education

The Sabbath: Why We Need it Now More Than Ever

This multi-session class is a book discussion of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's masterpiece, "The Sabbath." For centuries, the Sabbath has been the centerpiece of Jewish life. As we read and discuss sections of the book together we are learning about the history and development of this remarkable concept. We are examining the value of rest and the sacredness of time in our lives. The first session held on January 11 featured both an introduction to the book's key concepts and an introduction to life and works of Abraham Joshua Heschel. The series continues 2/15/17. Other dates for this series are 3/15/17, 4/5/17 (Wednesdays at 7:00 pm). In our final session, we will incorporate our new perspectives into a Sabbath experience on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 9:30 am. Suggested donation \$5.00 per session for non-members. All are encouraged to attend, even if you were unable to attend the first session.

Leading Services:

From Lighting Candles to Adon Olam

This four-session series is designed to prepare participants to become service leaders at CKS – but is open to anyone who just wants to understand Shabbat services and prayer more deeply.

Session 3: Leading a Torah Discussion

Friday, March 17, 2017, 6:00 pm dinner; 7:30 services

Session 4: Putting it All Together

Friday, April 28, 2017, 6:00 pm dinner; 7:30 services

For further details on these or other adult education sessions, check our website, www.ksnj.org.

Meditation and Chanting

Led By: Rabbi Susan Falk
February 7, March 7, April 4
Time: 7:15 pm

Is "mindfulness" Jewish? Is there such a thing as "Jewish meditation"? Absolutely! Through sitting, walking, and chant, learn how to practice mindfulness meditation and discover Judaism's rich history with this ancient practice.

On One Foot: Basic Judaism, Part 2

Don't know your Torah from your Talmud? Do you find yourself searching for an answer when someone asks you a question about a Jewish

custom? Whether you've had a Jewish education or not, or just feel like you want to "brush up", this class will provide a basic overview of Jewish history, holidays, and sacred texts. A follow-up to Session 1, this class will focus on Judaism's sacred texts and the historical periods that inspired them, concluding with modern and contemporary trends and the development of the various denominations.

February 5th, 2017, 9:15 am

Wrestling with God: What Do Jews Believe?

From our Biblical forebears to the Medieval philosophers to modern-day Jewish feminists, Jews have been struggling to understand God's nature and how that understanding can provide meaning in our lives. In this class, we will learn about Jewish perspectives on God through history. We will discuss questions including: What is God? Is God all-knowing or all-powerful? Does God hear our prayers? If I don't believe in God, am I still Jewish?

March 5th, 2017, 9:15 am

Kindercapers

Now in its 23rd 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



The CKS Gift Shop
is open each Sunday
11 am - 12 noon
when Religious school is in session or by special request

Questions?
Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
or Iris Rubinstein irubinstein@gmail.com
or the synagogue office for more information





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CKS SUPPORTS AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Rabbi Falk alerted us to the fact that January was Human Trafficking Awareness month and that the National Council of Jewish Women and T'ruah: A Rabbinic Call to Human Rights put together a values statement on Human Trafficking to be submitted to congress on January 11th, which was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. She asked the CKS board to sign on to the measure, which happened fairly quickly, so that we could be part of the effort to make this vision a reality.

What follows here is the full introduction and bullet points from the statement.

If you would like to see the full measure, you can go to

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=29D6F2E1A99FAEF9!203&ithint=file%2cdocx&app=Word&authkey=!AD0iyBXUJnKyq4q>

Ending Human Trafficking: A Jewish Statement of Values

This year we are slaves; next year, may we be free. (Passover Haggadah)

No one should be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all forms. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4)

The Jewish story is one of both slavery and redemption. Every year, we recount the Exodus, the journey of our ancestors from bondage to freedom. This retelling forms the core of Jewish empathy for the most vulnerable, and our moral imperative to uphold the right of every individual to be free. Even though forced labor is illegal, the United States continues to grapple with the reality of human trafficking — modern-day slavery — at home and abroad. No industry is immune to the scourge of human trafficking, and even state-sponsored “guest worker” programs have been found rife with abuse and cases of forced labor. While trafficking happens in all 50 states, survivors often find themselves locked up in the criminal justice system and isolated from the support they need.

As the Jewish community prepares to work with the new Congress and administration to combat human trafficking — including the 2017 Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act — these will be our guiding values. We hope you will work with us in making them a reality.

1. Every human being is deserving of respect and dignity.
2. Every human being has the right to make their own decision about their body, life, and future.
3. The fight to end human trafficking must be rooted in both justice (*tzedek*) and compassion (*chesed*).
4. Survivors of trafficking are the experts of their own experience.
5. Survivors of trafficking are not criminals.
6. We must address the root causes of trafficking in the United States.
7. We must dismantle our culture of sexual violence and objectification. Sex trafficking happens in the context of our society.
8. We must commit to changing the dynamics of an economic system where the constant demand for cheap goods and cheap labor directly contributes to modern-day slavery.

We are hopeful that you will work with us to build a world where all are free.

Sincerely,

The CKS board on behalf of our congregation was proud to support such a worthy cause.

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

February 2017

Deadline for next newsletter:
February 15th

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