

**Congregation
 Kehilat Shalom**

253 Griggstown Rd.
 Belle Mead, NJ 08502
 Phone: 908 -359 -0420
 Fax: 908 -359 -8848

Rabbi

Susan Falk
 rabbi@ksnj.org

President

Robert Neusner
 president@ksnj.org

Administrator

Robin Bengochea
 admin1@ksnj.org
 robin@ksnj.org

Religious School Principal s

Ann Kanarek (K-7)
 principal@ksnj.org

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

Lay Cantor

Kate Mende-Fridkis

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CKS FUNDRAISER BIG SUCCESS

by Hilary Kayle Crist

All attendees to our April “College Days at CKU Back to Campus” event passed with flying colors! We had a record turnout of 104 people and the evening went off without a hitch. The food and drink were fabulous, there were fun games to play, the DJ spun terrific music, the auction – silent and in person- offered great items for us to bid on, and the whole event netted \$10,880, important funds to support our programming and educational and spiritual growth. Plus a great time was had by all!

Evenings like this take a lot of work and special thanks go to Debbie Gartenberg, master coordinator of it all, who has been one of the masterminds behind all of our special themed fundraisers since 2010. This year, kudos to home brewer Tim Kowalski, who made three kegs of different kinds of beer. Karen Cohen, Jeff Barth, Barbara Berger, Bonnie Kramer, and Juliet Strauss made the delectable food. Decorations that made us feel like we were back on campus were created by Jill Fraticelli, with the help of Bill Ries and Monica Schneider.

Special thanks to the tireless efforts of the auction committee: Natalie London, Juliet Strauss, Harlene Rosenberg, and Ramona Mora, and the well-designed baskets were put together by Christine Witt. Marc Rosenberg gets a standing ovation for his cap and gown auctioneering! Amy Rosenthal handled the auction closeout. Larry Spinrad came up with the College Days at CKU theme. Amy Doeling and Susan Forster helped with our fundraising bottom line with their business solicitations for donations and ads. A note of thanks to Ilana Berger who captured the evening with great photographs. Have an idea for next year’s big bash? Debbie Gartenberg would love to hear from you at dgart1518@gmail.com.



Photo credit: Ilana Berger

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The Board has approved a CKS Shabbat Sacred Time/Sacred Space Policy. The policy was presented by the Ritual Committee. It acknowledges the rituals and customs of Jewish law and, at the same time, respects the communal values of the diverse community of Congregation Kehilat Shalom. The policy clarifies guidelines for prayer service and building use on Shabbat and holidays. The full text is available on the CKS website <http://www.kehilatshalomnj.org/about/policies/>

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

- ♥ Greg & Suzanne Corsan
For Spring Event
- ♥ Lisa Roe
In memory of Joni Schuman
- ♥ Marvin Schuldiner & Francine Pfeffer
- ♥ Michael & Joan Galkin
- ♥ Janis Barondess Todd & Alan Todd
In memory of Felix Barondess
- ♥ Barbara Lehman
In memory of Elly Albu
- ♥ Bob Sohor
In memory of Naoma Sohor
- ♥ Michael Kalison & Debbie Lampf
In memory of and at the yahrzeit of Arthur Goldfield
- ♥ Larry and Jackie Weitzner
In memory of Michael Kalison's brother-in-law
- ♥ David Wise
At the 30th anniversary of his bar mitzvah

Designated for repaving of the CKS parking lot:

- Michael Kalison & Debbie Lampf
- Marty & Ilene Millman
- Al & Cathy Reichg
- Lisa Kent
- Matt & Amy Rosenthal
- Janis Barondess Todd & Alan Todd
- Shelley Parish Nord
- Andy Sokel & Nancy Halpern
- Jeff Bachrach & Karen Cohen
- Gayle & Nelson Roger

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.



Larry Fridkis and Rabbi Susan at the Fundraiser

Photo credit: Ilana Berger

CKS RECYCLING/ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The first meeting of our Recycling/Environmental Team was held on Sunday, April 2nd with Rabbi Susan Falk and members of the Social Action Group. Jackie Barth and Tim Kowalski agreed to be chairs of this committee and we thank them! CKS members can always join in or contribute in some way.

We were able to get our building's recycling in place before the Spring Fundraiser on April 29th. This included getting the appropriate disposal pails and bins for recyclables and waste, as well as bins for paper generated by classrooms and offices. All bins are labeled, and Jackie held meetings with all of the community's constituents to ensure that everyone who uses the building is informed and educated.

Other topics that came up in terms of recycling and making our building more environmentally-friendly were: Restarting the use of our compost bin; exploring the prices of biodegradable cutlery; researching the possibility of a dishwasher for the kitchen; ensuring that light bulbs, electric, heating, insulation, etc., are all as efficient as possible; and exploring the possibility of purchasing solar panels.

Regarding other environmental work, we will be looking into partnerships with various local organizations such as Food and Water Watch, NJ, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, and others.

Please send us your ideas, or any way or ways you wish to be involved in these various projects. We all need to pitch in.

Rabbi Susan, Jackie Barth, Tim Kowalski

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Bulletin from the Board- Francine Pfeffer



At this time of year, I am once again working outside; trying for the third summer living in my house to successfully grow some vegetables. The first year we did it, our yield was two small peppers. We planted in containers and almost nothing lived. Last year, we did plant a garden, but

I planted the seeds too late; our soil turned out to be full of rocks; and while we got a few beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes, our yield was disappointing.

To give our garden a better chance at success this year, we gave it a better foundation: we made a raised bed and bought soil, I started my plants indoors much earlier, and we're planning on drip irrigation for reliable, steady watering. I don't know yet what kind of yield we'll have, but the richness of the soil, and our advance preparation (we're not waiting until mid-June to plant) give me hope.

Plants and flowers remind me of being part of a community. We are all members of more than one community or circle. Some communities require no work, like the one defined by our address and zip code. They exist regardless of us, like the wildflowers that always popped up in my mother's back yard. Other communities need our care to grow and flourish. My vegetable garden needs attention, just like the community of CKS.

My husband Marvin and I decided to join the CKS community two years ago. Our previous congregation was too far from our new home as our son, Eli, would be starting kindergarten and religious school. When we came to CKS for an open house, Eli's takeaway was that the sanctuary "looks like an upside-down boat." Mine was the warm welcome we received, repeated when we went back for services on a Friday evening. We joined at the end of the summer.

Knowing no one, we went to Rosh Hashanah services. As I got a nametag, I thought to myself, "Wow. They really want people here to know each other." And we have come to know and love this community -- the friendly people, the choir at high holidays, the wonderful religious school, the potluck break fast after Yom Kippur, the warm services with Rabbi Susan and her guitar.

We all have different reasons for joining a synagogue, whether it's religious school, going to services, finding a social outlet, attending adult education and Jewish programs, or being part of a local Jewish community. Marvin and I looked at CKS as a place to send our son to religious school. But then we looked beyond that and found a great community.

This community is only as strong as we, its members, make it. We can strengthen our community by becoming a little more involved. During the summer, I encourage you to reflect upon your reasons for being part of CKS, and pick something new to add to your experience in the fall. Help strengthen and grow your community. Religious school parent who attends family services? Volunteer at the rummage sale, or try an adult education program. Empty nester? Come to family services. Almost never come? Try the welcome back barbecue, services, or a social action program. You get the idea.

When more of us are more engaged, we grow our community. And as our community grows, it has more to give.

I look forward to seeing you at more things next year.

Francine Pfeffer, Trustee

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



kindercapers



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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LEARNING HOW TO GIVE

Teaching our students about the mitzvah of giving is very exciting. The Jewish value of tzedakah involves the whole child: heart, mind and body. It is a wonderful concept to teach. At a young age, children have a need to believe that the world is fair and just and giving tzedakah fits into their view of the world. Our students learn that even a small amount of money can make a difference in the quality of someone's life.

This year, each class in our Religious School chose the organization(s) that would be the recipient of their contributions. The choices were made after much exploration and discussion of various institutions in need of help. We had the great privilege – z'chut – to donate to the following organizations: MAZON (A Jewish Response to Hunger), St. Jude's Children Hospital, Israeli Defense Force (IDF); Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind and several others.

The Talmud says, "As tiny scales join to form a strong coat of mail, so little donations combine to form a total good." I am certain that the contributions our children make in their classrooms today will indeed help to ensure the continuation of our Jewish heritage tomorrow.



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 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 2017-2018 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



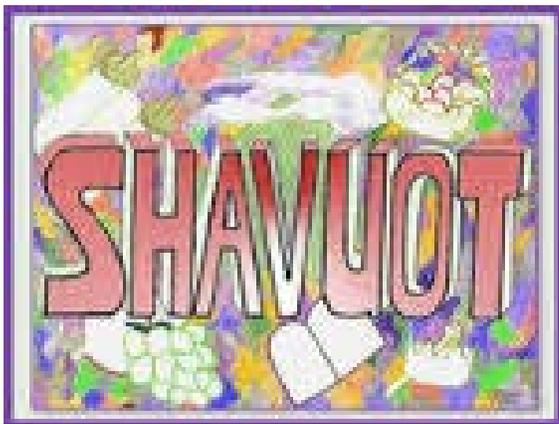
As my final months as a senior draw to a close, I have begun to reflect on my past year and all the wonderful experiences I have had at CKS. Kehiloft has been a major part of my high school years, and I feel blessed to be a part of the community up in the loft.

This year I have taken on the role of Kehiloft's president, along with Jack Weitze. I have always enjoyed my years at Kehiloft, but being able to take on a more active role in the planning and orchestrating of what we do has been even more fulfilling. I love the community here at CKS and I am glad that my last year here as a student has been such a positive one.

This year Kehiloft has put forth many fun projects and events, such as writing and performing the Purim Spiel, reinstating a CKS movie night, and continuing the Lag B'omer festival, which was a great success! I remember going to movie nights with my family and friends as a younger student. Being able to bring back such a fun event, which I had fondly remembered, is something I was very ecstatic to do. This annual project has definitely been one of my favorites and I am excited to see what Kehiloft chooses to do next year.

As I head off to college next fall I will be sending warm thoughts and wishes to all of my friends back at Kehiloft as well as the whole CKS community. In the current state our world is in, I feel very blessed to have grown up in the supportive and open environment of CKS. I will always take with me the values and love I have received from my many years here, and I will take comfort in always knowing I have a family back in Belle Mead, New Jersey. Thank you.

Tess Kowalski



JUNE

Friday, June 2 - 7:30 - 9:30 Kehiloft graduation Shabbat service

Saturday, June 3 - CKS hosts HomeFront BBQ/games

Sunday, June 11 - 9:00 -6:00 (approximate)trip to Lower East Side, NYC and Tenement Museum tour

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR ON THE CKS WEBSITE.

Shalom,
Karen Fridkis, Principal of Kehiloft

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Flashback

Editor's note: Next month marks Rabbi Susan's ten year anniversary with CKS. The column below is the very first she wrote in the newsletter, in August of 2007. *Mazel tov* to the rabbi on this milestone, and may her warm and personal relationship with us continue for many more years to come.

Relearning Torah Together



Our ancient Rabbis said that each of us is conceived with the Torah's 613 *mitzvot*, or commandments, imprinted on our minds, but that during the trauma of birth, we forget them. Thus we spend our whole lives relearning the Torah lost from our memories when we were born.

I like this story, first because it teaches us that a lifetime of learning is a desirable – and a necessary – way of living. I also like it because it implies that each generation, and that each individual within that generation, must relearn the Torah. Moreover, each will see the Torah and interpret it through a very particular and personal lens. This notion ensures that growth, change, and flexibility will be as much a part of our tradition as will adherence to a fixed set of laws, customs, and ritual practice. It is this Rabbinic legacy of observance coupled with interpretation that forever breathes new life into our Judaism.

Learning Torah is a process of give and take between text and student. It is a sacred journey of struggle with the sometimes archaic and arcane, and of openness to the sometimes mysterious and unknowable. It is a journey of searching for and finding meaning, and then of re-searching and finding meaning anew. We are, all of us at Congregation Kehilat Shalom, about to embark on a journey together – two journeys, in fact. One, a personal, inward journey of *teshuvah*, the turning and returning to our best selves, the hard work of self-reflection that will culminate on Yom Kippur. The other, a public, outward journey of a new partnership between congregation and rabbi that will take us through the year – and hopefully beyond.

This past May, I signed a contract that officially made me your new rabbi – and I am thrilled and honored to be among you at last. The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (of which our congregation is a member) calls the rabbinic contract a *brit*, or a covenant, implying a sacred relationship. We should take this language to heart. Like Torah study, a covenant is about give and take. Like Torah study, a covenant is a sacred journey of partners who are open to each other's

inner truths. And, it applies not only to the congregation and the rabbi, but also to each separate member of the community.

May our journey together be a sacred journey – whether we are engaged in worship or study, hammering out new policies for our community, or stuffing envelopes with flyers regarding a fundraiser. May the community we build together be a sacred community, a *kehillah kedoshah*. I invite each one of you to take part in this journey. Join a committee, come to Shabbat services, become a member of the choir – bring your individual talents to the community, or just come and learn. (If you're already doing these things, then bring a friend!) I also invite each one of you to stop by my office, give me a call, or send me an email with any concerns or suggestions – or just drop by and say hello. I look forward to meeting you.

As our ancient Rabbis taught, let this year be a year of learning and spiritual growth for all of us. Let us find ways to combine new ideas with ancient traditions that will inspire us to renew our commitment both to our Judaism and to our congregation.

B'Shalom u-vracha,

Rabbi Susan Falk

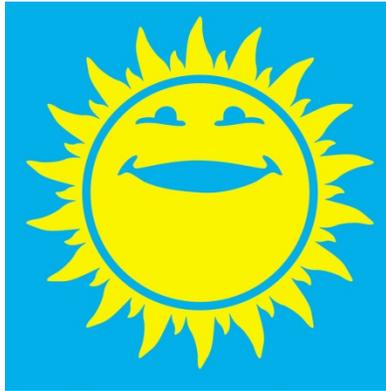
Mazel tov to

RABBI SUSAN FALK

10 Years

WITH CKS

JUNE-JULY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Board Meeting	2 Shabbat Mishpachah Kehiloft Graduation	3 HomeFront Picnic & BBQ
4	5 Mah Jongg	6	7	8	9	10
11 Kehiloft Field Trip to NYC	12 Mah Jongg	13	14	15 Calendar Meeting	16	17 Evan Suraci's Bar Mitzvah
18	19 Mah Jongg	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Mah Jongg	27	28 Ritual Committee	29 CKS Book Club: "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead	30	1 JULY
2	3 Mah Jongg	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Mah Jongg	11	12	13 Board Meeting	14	15
16	17 Mah Jongg	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Mah Jongg	25	26 Ritual Committee	27	28	29
30	31 Mah Jongg					

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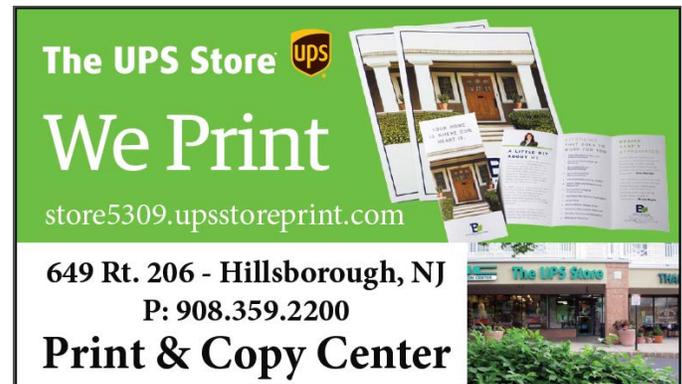
Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs of our Jewish community since 1982.

June/July 2017

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
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Congregants Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk 908-359-0420 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education	Lisa Ries
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Gift Shop	Iris Rubinstein grubinstein@gmail.com
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Robin Bengochea 908359-0420
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Life Cycle (Caring for Each Other)	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
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Newsletter	Karen Bartels karen.bartels@comcast.net
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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