

**Congregation
 Kehilat Shalom**

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

Rabbi

Susan Falk
 rabbi@ksnj.org

President

Steve Weinstein
 president@ksnj.org

Administrator

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

Religious School Principals

Ann Kanarek (K7)
 principal@ksnj.org
 Karen Fridkis (812)
 kehiloftprincipal@ksnj.org

Lay Cantor

Kate Fridkis-Berring

Board of Trustees

201 7-201 8

Officers of the Board

1st Vice President

Iris Rubinstein

2nd Vice President

Jill Fraticelli

Past President

Robert Neusner

Treasurer

Larry Spinrad

Financial Secretary

Bill Ries

Recording Secretary

Amy Rosenthal

Corresponding Secretary

Sheryl Rosenberg

Trustees

George Cohen

Hilary Crist

Tim Kowalski

Andrea Lass

Francine Pfeffer

Affiliate :

**Jewish Reconstructionist
 Federation**

Published by *Calli-graphics*

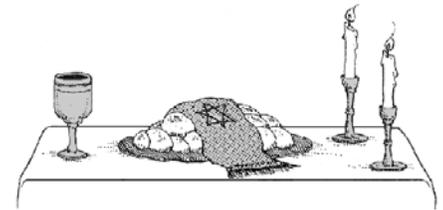
Copy Editor: Shana Bartels

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH DINNER A SUCCESS

by Jill Fraticelli

We had a record turnout at the January Shabbat Mishpachah!

Frigid January temperatures and snow days did little to deter a huge turnout at the CKS January 5th Shabbat Mishpachah family dinner and service. The majority of the Nesiyot CKS religious school student body and their families were in attendance. They were joined by many fellow congregants and family guests who do not have kids in religious school. The event featured a cross section of international food catered by the religious school families. Indian food came from Cross Culture, Chinese from YaYa Noodles and pizza and salad was from Joe's Pizza. Thank you to Amy Doelling for coordinating the food with assistance from the Petronellas and Fraticellis.



The family service was led by Susan Waskow and members of the adult bat/bar mitzvah class, with energetic assistance from the Nesiyot religious school students. Highlights included an extremely enthusiastic rendition of V'Shamru and L'cha Dodi.

The next Shabbat Mishpachah is scheduled for Saturday morning, February 5th at 9:30 am. Hope to see you all there!



CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

- ♥Marilyn Plotkin
In honor of Ira Sperling & Beverly Kling's wedding
- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
In honor of Ira Sperling & Beverly Kling's wedding
In honor of Jake & Hee Sun Yang's engagement
- ♥Ann & Aaron Gavzy
In honor of the wedding of Ben Gavzy to Sharon Tompa on June 18, 2017
- ♥Barbara Lehman
In memory of Ruth Albu
- ♥Lisa Kent
- ♥Natalie London
In honor of Beverly Kling & Ira Sperling's wedding
In honor of Gary Gartenberg's birthday
In honor of the birth of Andres Miles Bachrach Mazel Tov to new parents, Peri & Andrew Orlando and mazel tov to Meryl & Lou Orlando on the birth of their grandson
In memory of the yahrzeit of Julian Galvan
In memory of Kristina Wise
In memory of Sol Holtzman
In memory of Arthur Schuldiner

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Karen & Larry Fridkis



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.

Law Offices of Brian M. Cige

*Emphasizing Employment Law,
General Practice & Civil Litigation*

- Wrongful Termination •Severance
- Discrimination •Unemployment
- Harassment •Breach of Contract

-
- Automobile Accident and Personal Injury Cases



7 East High Street
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-685-3775

CigeLaw@gmail.com



CKS Book Club

February 22:

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

Jackie's recommendation for March:

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

The Book Club meets at CKS at 8:00 pm on the dates listed above

Please RSVP to Natalie London.



STAND UP FOR THE OTHER PLEDGE

"While interacting with members of my own faith, or ethnic, or gender community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the other and speak up to challenge bigotry in any form."

For more information and to take the pledge go to www.njifc.org

Bulletin from the Board- William Ries



Our family has returned to the demands of work and school after a holiday break with a lot of downtime—and I mean A LOT. ☺ I had a minor surgery right before the break to address a lingering lower back issue, so we had planned to make the holidays a

quiet time with few commitments so as to relax and recover. I was so touched and pleased with the many calls and inquiries that members of our CKS congregation made as to my progress.

It reminds me that whether it's the one-to-one connections across the community, such as I experienced after my surgery, or the group connections that we build and reinforce at services and social gatherings, it is a wonderful feeling to be a part of a community that really cares. To that end, I'd also like to share highlights about a few CKS events we can look forward to in the coming months.

Family Movie Night and Purim Carnival

Kehiloft, our post-b'nei mitzvah leadership group, is hosting another fun family movie night! It's on Saturday, February 24th. The teens will lead a Havdalah service at 6:30 p.m., with the movie to follow. The movie selection is Disney's Big Hero 6 - one that kids love (and grownups too!). It's a free event, with popcorn and refreshments as well.

Our annual Purim celebration will be held on Sunday, February 25th! The Purim spiel starts at 10:15 a.m. and with the Kehiloft teens presenting their creative theme, it is sure to entertain. The Purim carnival in our sanctuary starts at 11:00 a.m., and the Kehiloft teens create and run games for kids big and small. All CKS community members are most welcome to join the Purim celebration. And, parents, guardians, families, and friends, if you are dropping off a child (or two! or three!) for religious school at 9 a.m., we hope you'll stay and spend the morning with us. It's a great opportunity to socialize and have a coffee or a bagel before the Purim spiel begins.

Spring Event

The Ninth Annual CKS Spring Event will be held on Saturday, May 5th. If you haven't been to the annual CKS spring event before, you're in for a treat. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with congregants you haven't met before. With food, a range of beverages, music, dancing, and other activities, you'll certainly find something you like. And because it is the biggest fundraiser of the year for CKS, it's a great way to support the community - and take home exciting purchases or winnings from the silent and live auctions!

People who have attended annual CKS spring events in past years know that there is a fun and different theme each time. This spring, we'll find out that "Everybody's a Superhero!"

- Do you have a favorite superhero from the movies or comics? Come as that character! You can do an all-out costume worthy of Comic Con, or just include a couple of key elements or hints in your garb that evening.
- Or perhaps you're finally ready to uncover your own personal superhero identity! There are Defenders, Protectors, and Champions in our midst, and perhaps they will be revealed to an adoring public on Saturday, May 5th!

Please be on the lookout for further communications from CKS with information about attending, as well as ways to volunteer and donate. And, save the date on your calendars now - I know I'm already looking forward to it!

Rabbinic Search Committee

I would also like to provide an update on a significant topic. At this point, I'm sure you've all heard the bittersweet news that Rabbi Susan will be leaving Congregation Kehilat Shalom at the end of June 2018. Although we are sad that she eventually won't be a part of our everyday lives, we are glad that she is able to embark on a new chapter in her life, and we want to enjoy many more good moments together through winter and spring as we celebrate her central role in our community.

In the meantime, a committee has assembled to focus on the important work of searching for a new Rabbi to lead our congregation. Many congregants volunteered to serve in this important capacity, and we are grateful for their strong desire to contribute. However, in consultation with leaders and advisors in the larger Reconstructionist community, it was determined that the ideal committee would be relatively small. Thankfully, with so many qualified volunteers, we knew we could form a committee that would reflect the diversity of our community, and include members with a range of capabilities, experiences, and perspectives.

We are pleased that our Rabbinic Search Committee has **Jill Fraticelli** and **Francine Pfeffer** as its co-chairs, with a strong and diverse set of members as follows (alphabetized by last name): **Tom Berger**, **Amy Doelling**, **Lea Goldhammer**, **Abby Grayson**, **Randi Greenhouse**, **Tim Kowalski**, **Jennifer Rappaport**, **Lisa Ries**, **Ira Sperling**, **Scott Strauss**, and **Christine Witt**.

The committee is in contact with the congregation to solicit input, answer questions, and provide updates on status. If needed, please don't hesitate to reach out to the committee at rabbisearch@ksnj.org.

William Ries, Financial Secretary



PURIM

A Celebration for the Whole Family

Our children celebrate two holidays in which they dress up in costumes: one is American, the other Jewish, and there are important differences. Halloween is about taking; Purim is about giving. Halloween is fun, and Purim is fun and meaningful.



This most joyous holiday is a good opportunity for the entire family to affirm the uniqueness of being Jewish, the values that we cherish, and the values that set us apart. Even in the midst of celebration, we remember the obligation to do good deeds and to stand up to tyranny.

On Purim (**Sunday, February 25 at 10:15am**) CKS is the place to be for the whole family, with everyone in costume. We will read the Megillah, make lots of noise at the mention of Haman's name, enjoy a fun Purim shpiel, nosh on Hamantaschen, and participate in carnival festivities and games sponsored by our Kehiloft teens.

CHAG SAMEACH!

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Saturday, February 3: **Shabbat Mishpachah**, 9:30am
- Sunday, February 4: **COOKING**
- Sunday, February 11: Special program with *Tova Halpern*
- Sunday, February 18: **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**, *President's Weekend*
- Sunday, February 25: Purim Shpiel (10:15-11:00) & Purim games (11:00-12:00) with Kehiloft teens
- Saturday, March 3: **Shabbat Mishpachah**, 9:30am
- Sunday, March 4: Tefillah, PACT 5: *Tzedakah & the Giraffe Connection*/5th grade parent meeting
- Sunday, March 11: Regular school session, **ISRAELI DANCING**;
7th grade orientation to Kehiloft with parents (9:45-11:00)

Purim

פורים





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 igrubinstein@gmail.com
or the synagogue office for more information



Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Hello everyone at CKS. My name is Jared Handelman and this is my second year of being a member of Kehiloft, the post b'nei mitzvah leadership program at CKS. During the course of several weeks we have been doing many activities and creating ideas about the ones coming up. Such activities we did include having a Hanukkah service for the seniors at

Stonebridge. Also, there will be events coming up that we are planning for which include the Purim spiel, Purim games for religious school, more Kehiloft-led Shabbat services, Lag B'Omer field Day, and a family movie night.

One of the activities we participated in was having a Hanukkah service for the seniors at Stonebridge. This event consisted of a brief Hanukkah service, great food, and communication with the residents. Kehiloft participated in the service by reading excerpts on the story of Hanukah. Each of the students read a different part of the Hanukkah story. The Kehilofters who attended the Chanukah celebration were Paige, Lea, Josh, Charlotte, Jared F, Leila, Julie, Ellie and me. Some of the food that was there included yummy latkes, jelly donuts, and smoked salmon crostini. It was great to sing Hanukkah songs with the residents and to see a smile on each of their faces. Every year going to Stonebridge for me is a great time to speak with the people and have a wonderful conversation.

Coming up in the near future there will be some fun events for everyone to come to in 2018. These events are always fun to plan and it is great to play with the students. The Purim spiel and games are an annual thing. Kehiloft creates a script that overviews the story of Purim. Our Shabbat services are kid friendly and everyone is invited to attend. The Lag B'Omer field day consists of many outdoor games to play and prizes to win. Lastly there will a family movie night on Saturday, February 24. Everyone is invited! We decided to continue the family movie night this year because it worked out so well last year as our annual project and as a fundraiser for Kehiloft.

All of these activities and events are great to plan and create. It is always good to gather around and hear everyone's ideas. Kehiloft has been positive for me and I look forward to continuing on with my time there. Everyone is welcoming and I hope to have another great year with Kehiloft.

Sincerely,
Jared Handelman



FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 7- Purim spiel rehearsal #1
Friday, February 9 - 7:30 - 9:30 Kehiloft leads Shabbat services
Wednesday, February 14 - Purim spiel rehearsal #2
Wednesday, February 21 - Purim spiel rehearsal #3
Saturday, February 24 - 6:30 - 9:00. CKS Family Movie Night/Havdalah
Sunday, February 25 - 10:15 - 11:00 - Kehiloft Players perform Purim Spiel
Sunday, February 25 - 11:00 - 12:00 Kehiloft runs Purim games

MARCH

Wednesday, March 7 - Shabbat prep
Sunday, March 11 - 9:45 - 11:00 7th grade family workshop intro to Kehiloft
Friday, March 16 - 7:30 - 9:30. Kehiloft leads Shabbat service #3
Wednesday, March 21 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #3

The Student Board meets on Wednesdays from 8:00 - 8:30.

Karen Fridkis, Principal of Kehiloft.

College Entrance Edge

Be a Cut Above the Rest

- A Standout College Essay and Interview
- Work With A Professional Writer, Editor, Interviewer and Actress

HILARY KAYLE CRIST
www.CollegeEntranceEdge.com

(609) 397-7967
hkcrist@CollegeEntranceEdge.com

Adult Education



The Messiah in Jewish Tradition,

Sunday, February 4th, 2018, 9:15 am

The great Jewish writer, Franz Kafka, wrote: "The Messiah will come only after he is no longer necessary.

He will come only the day after his arrival; he will come, not on the last day, but on the very last." Does Kafka's enigmatic statement accurately reflect the Jewish viewpoint on the concept of the Messiah? Come and learn about this fascinating topic as we ask and answer questions such as: What is the origin of the Messianic idea? How does the Jewish concept differ from the Christian one? What can we learn about our values from studying this ancient belief?



Abigail Pogrebin, *My Jewish Year, 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew*, Thursday, February 8, 7:00 pm, Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater. Whether you're seeking an accessible, digestible roadmap for Jewish Life, or a fresh take on what you have been practicing for a lifetime,

Abigail's journey will leave you educated, charmed and inspired. Abigail Pogrebin is a former producer of *60 Minutes*, and moderates her own interview series at the JCC Manhattan. Fee: \$10/Person.

Joseph (JB) Bensmihen, MSW, RG, *A Story of Courage and Perseverance...*,



Friday, February 9, 6:45 PM services, 7:30 PM Dinner & Speaker, Chabad Jewish Center, Hunterdon County.

Joseph (JB) Bensmihen was born in Montreal in 1969, the child of Moroccan-Jewish immigrants. Diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy, Bensmihen was not expected to walk. Years later he would become the first

Canadian student with disabilities to be mainstreamed in a public school. Join us as we hear his story and recognize February as Jewish Disability Month. Fee: \$18 adults, \$10 children at the door (\$15/\$8 pre-paid)

The Book Thief –Film Event, Saturday, February 10, 8:00 pm, Flemington Jewish Community Center. In 1938, young orphan Liesel (Sophie Nelisse) arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans (Geoffrey Rush) and Rosa (Emily Watson). When Hans, a kindly housepainter, learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Liesel grows to love books, even rescuing one from the Nazi bonfire. Though Liesel's new family barely scrapes by, their situation becomes more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy whose father once saved Hans' life. Fee: \$5/Person.

Purim Carnival, Sunday, February 25, 12:30- 4:00 pm, JCC Bridgewater. Sensory Friendly Hour: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. Inflatables, unlimited games and activities, DJ, Rutgers Scarlet Knight, Sparkee, Entertainment, pony rides and tons of fun! Games, inflatable, DJ, Costume Party, Sparkee, Animals, Rides, Prizes and more! Food for purchase, great family fun! *Please bring a non-perishable food donation to benefit local food bank. Fee: \$20/Child includes unlimited activities. Adults are free. Food available for purchase. Free Shuttle and additional parking provided at 685 Route 202/206, Bridgewater – right around the corner from the JCC!

Marilyn Simon Rothstein, *Lift and Separate*, Thursday, February 22, 7:00 pm, Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater.



This novel tells the story of a Jewish mother of three grown children whose husband left her for a younger model. She tries her best to conquer weddings by herself, dividing loyalties and the news that her husband's pretty young "chippy" is now pregnant....oy!! It's time to pull herself up by her lacy bra straps and find a way to begin life again, second time around! Marilyn Simon Rothstein has

owned an advertising agency for 25 years, became an adult bat mitzvah, and happily married a nice Jewish man. Great program for area Book Clubs! Fee: \$10/Person.

Coming in March...

Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel & Israeli Short Films, Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm at the Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater.

Douglas Stark, *When Basketball Was Jewish*, *Voices of Those Who Played the Game*, Sunday, March 11, 2 pm at the Flemington Jewish Community Center.

6th Annual Celebrate Israel Event, Wednesday, March 21, 6:30 pm, Location: Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Honoring Irene and Steve Lieberman and Sara Edery, Rutgers Hillel Student. Guest Speaker to be announced.

FEBRUARY 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Shabbat Mishpachah Services
4 Religious School Adult Education – The Messiah in Jewish Tradition	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9 Tot Shabbat Kehiloft	10 Torah Study & Shabbat service
11 Religious School	12	13	14 Kehiloft	15	16 Shabbat service with a Social Action Theme	17
18 No Religious School	19	20	21 Kehiloft Education Committee Meeting	22	23 Potluck Dinner Silly Shabbat service	24 Family Movie Night
25 Religious School Purim Spiel Purim celebration	26	27	28 Erev Purim			

253 Griggstown Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

<http://www.ksnj.org>

Listserve email: contactadmin@ksnj.org

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

Deadline for next newsletter:

February 15th

February 2018

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 908359-0420
Board of Trustees	Steven Weinstein
Building & Grounds	Marty Millman
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea 908359-0420
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk 908-359-0420 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education	Christine Witt
Financial Aid	Bill Ries
Fundraising	Debbie Gartenberg dgart1518@gmail.com
Gift Shop	Iris Rubinsteingrubinstein@gmail.com
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Robin Bengochea 908359-0420
Kinderappers	Natalie London 908-874-6955
KehiLoft (Hebrew High)	Karen Fridkis 609333-1119
Life Cycle (Caring for Each Other)	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning	Ron Lubin
Marketing & Publicity	Jen Rappaport
Membership	Matt Rosenthal
Pastoral Emergencies	Rabbi Susan Falk 908-359-0420
Newsletter	Karen Bartels Karen.bartels@comcast.net
Ritual	Iris Rubinsteingrubinstein@gmail.com
Technology-Website and Social Media	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
Technology-Computer and Networking	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499



Red Barn Printing

- Flyers & Brochures • Custom Stationery
 - Business Cards • Posters • Yard Signs
 - Letterhead • Banners • Booklets
- Design & Editing Service • B&W and Color Copies

30 Vreeland Drive, Unit 7 - Skillman, NJ 08558
P: 908.264.5700 - orders@redbarnprint.com
www.redbarnprint.com

© 2018 by CKS. All rights reserved. Permission required for reuse.

The CKS Newsletter is published monthly, except July. Deadline is the 15th of each month.
Every effort will be made to publish contributed items, but due to space restrictions, placement and format are at the discretion of the editor.
Advertising Policy. You can advertise in this newsletter to inform the community of your business or profession. Advertising is accepted based on its interest and applicability to our readership. Location in the newsletter is at the editor's discretion. CKS does not necessarily endorse or vouch for the products and services of our advertisers. The newsletter is published 11 times per year (no issue in July). E-mail a file with the art to the editor, or provide camera-ready art on clean, white background. Advertiser responsibility to meet deadlines. Rates are low and must be paid in advance. For information and a rate sheet, please contact the temple office.