

CALLING ALL CKS CONGREGANTS:

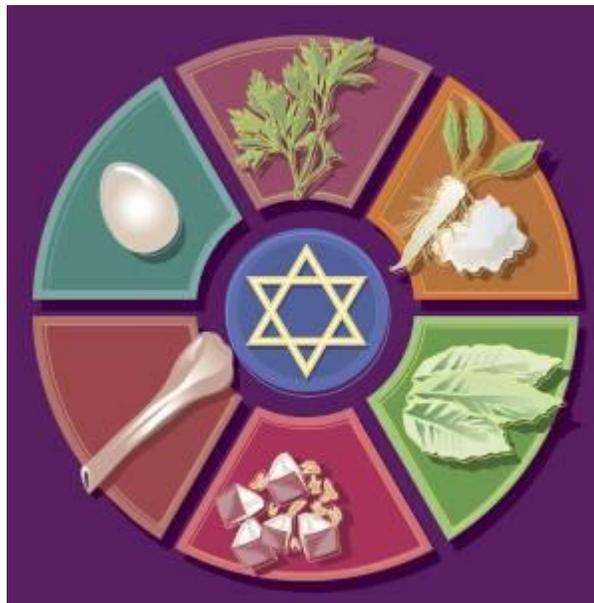
Please SAVE THE DATE!!

We will have a rabbinic candidate
 visiting CKS the weekend of
 March 9th-March 11th

Specific details/itinerary to follow soon but will include

- Friday night Shabbat Service at 7pm
- Saturday morning Torah Study
- Saturday lunchtime Meet and Greet
- Sunday visit with religious school students
 - Sunday visit with Kehiloft

Come meet Rabbi Jake. After the weekend, we will be asking for your feedback.



Congregation Kehilat Shalom

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Kate Fridkis -Berring

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CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

♥Karen & Larry Fridkis

In memory of Larry's grandfather, Meyer Jacob Raboy

In memory of Karen's grandmother, Julia Misko

In honor of Rabbi Susan



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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is open each Sunday

11 am - 12 noon

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Questions?

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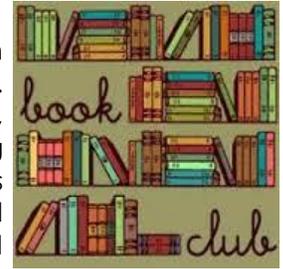
or the synagogue office for more information



CKS Book Club

March 22nd:

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett: 4 stars on Amazon. 384 pages. Award-winning, New York Times bestselling author Ann Patchett returns with a provocative and assured novel of morality and miracles, science and sacrifice



set in the Amazon rainforest. Infusing the narrative with the same ingenuity and emotional urgency that pervaded her acclaimed previous novels *Bel Canto*, *Taft*, *Run*, *The Magician's Assistant*, and *The Patron Saint of Liars*, Patchett delivers an enthrallingly innovative tale of aspiration, exploration, and attachment in *State of Wonder*--a gripping adventure story and a profound look at the difficult choices we make in the name of discovery and love.

April 12th: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel* by Gabrielle Zevin

May 24th: *Janesville: An American Story* by Amy Goldstein

June 28th: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
Some people saw the movie, some read the book, some have not done either...we thought it was a great topic for discussion regardless of the medium. Marilyn said the book goes into a bit more background and detail than the movie... short book and easy read as well.

July 26th: *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann

August - Vacation Break from book club...so we picked a longer September book

September 27th: *Max Perkins: Editor of Genius* by A. Scott Berg

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

Please RSVP if you plan to attend to Natalie London.

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Harry Potter, Jewish Values, and CKS



I recently took a trip to Orlando, Florida with my daughter and nephew for the sole purpose of visiting The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. It was a pilgrimage of sorts for us, as Lea is a passionate fan of the Harry Potter books, and we wanted to make the trip together before she heads off to college. While

standing in line waiting for the Hogwarts Express, we began discussing student diversity at Hogwarts. Not only has J.K. Rowling specifically confirmed there were many Jewish students at Hogwarts, she also assured fans that students from any religion, belief or non-belief system would be welcome (as well as LGBTQ students). How great is Hogwarts! This got me thinking about how often the Harry Potter series captures many Jewish values, such as justice, equality, and standing up for the vulnerable. As I thought on the many things I love about the Reconstructionist Movement and CKS, it didn't take me long to recognize several core Jewish concepts reflected in the Harry Potter books.

Just as CKS has made a commitment to stand up for those in need or who face discrimination, a theme of social justice plays an important part in the world of Harry Potter. In *The Goblet of Fire*, issues of social justice and discrimination are front and center, thanks to Hermione Granger. Hermione finds it outrageously unfair that in the Wizarding World, non-humans are kept powerless because they are forbidden to carry wands. She takes a particular interest in the plight of the house-elf (a creature magically bound to a wizarding family until it dies or is set free) but also giants, goblins, and centaurs. As she finds the treatment of house-elves to be particularly unjust, she goes on to create the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.). Hermione wants house-elves to be given fair wages, and working conditions, but also wants them equally represented in The Ministry of Magic (their governing entity).

Another obvious theme in the Harry Potter universe is one of gender equality, where witches and wizards are equal. The Hogwarts School was founded by two witches and two wizards, the Ministry of Magic is equally mixed, and the sport of Quidditch is played together with girls and boys on co-ed teams. Stay-at-home-witches, like Molly Weasley, are portrayed as fierce and powerful. And

of course, there's Hermione Granger, the main female character, who is intelligent and fearless. Like the wizarding world of Harry Potter, our world at CKS is committed to gender equality, as the Reconstructionist movement has been since its inception, from having the first bat mitzvah to ordaining female rabbis to standing on the side of women's rights and LGBTQ rights for decades. In May 2017, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association approved a resolution affirming the full equality of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals.

I think J.K. Rowling, like the Reconstructionist Movement, makes clear how critical it is to fight for the rights of others as well as your own if we are to live equally. To me, Harry Potter is filled with an ideology of moral and ethical lessons that embody the spirit of progressive Judaism. One of my favorite quotes comes from *The Chamber of Secrets* when Dumbledore tells Harry "*It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities*". I love that our synagogue has made the choice to fight for social justice and is committed not only to gender equality, but equality for all people.

Andrea Lass, Trustee



Now in its 24th 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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Teaching to All: The Four Children in Our Classrooms and in our Homes

As an Educator, it's hard to not talk about the *Four Children* who are described in the Passover Haggadah. Our classrooms, like our seder tables, are filled with children who learn at different paces, through a variety of senses, modes, and intelligences. Our challenge as parents and educators is to be aware of the child who stands before us and attempt to teach them according to their ability.

The Seder serves as a forum for the asking of questions. The narrative in the Haggadah is meant to guide us in the question/answer choreography between adult and child.

The **wise child's** question displays their thirst for knowledge "Therefore you must explain the laws of the Passover..." This implies that you should answer the wise child by teaching him/her everything, down to the last detail.

The **wicked child** asks, "What is this service to you?" implying that this has nothing to do with him/her. By speaking in this way, the child excludes themselves from the Jewish community. It takes extreme patience to deal with a child like this, but it should be our goal to find a way to keep these children engaged and involved at home and in the classroom.

The **simple child** asks, "What is this?" This question reveals a lack of understanding. The parent should give a concise and clear answer to match the child's intelligence and ability to comprehend.

And the **child who does not know how to ask a question**, you shall begin the process for him/her. This is the child who has not begun to learn yet. It is the parent's responsibility to take the initiative and to instruct them, to encourage them and to stimulate them to learn.

On **Friday night (March 30)** at your own seders, I encourage you to look around the table and you will notice that your family and friends, like our classrooms, have a variety of learning styles and behaviors. Just as educators cannot teach in one voice to the entire classroom and expect 100 % reception, neither can we expect our seders to be one-dimensional. We must teach to each individual in a unique way.

Education is a balancing act. We must embrace all of the learning styles represented by the **arba'ah banim** (the four children) and tailor our Haggadah, our telling of Jewish history, to each other's intellectual capacity, attitude and interests. Only then will we all have fulfilled the mitzvah of Passover--that in every generation we must envision ourselves as having been part of the Exodus from Egypt.

Chag Sameach! Have a happy and enjoyable Passover!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Saturday, March 3:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 9:30am
- Sunday, March 4:** Tefillah, PACT 5: *Tzedakah & the Giraffe Connection*/5th grade parent meeting (10/12)
- Sunday, March 11:** Regular school session, **ISRAELI DANCING**; 7th grade orientation to Kehiloft with parents (10:00-11:15)
- Sunday, March 18:** **COOKING**
- Sunday, March 25:** Passover activities in school
- Sunday, April 1:** **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**, Passover and Spring break
- Friday, April 6:** **Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm**
- Sunday, April 8:** **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**, Spring break



Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Hi everyone! I'm Olivia Mahoney and I am a new member of Kehiloft this year. At first, joining Kehiloft seemed a little scary because everyone seemed so close and I didn't know how I would fit in, but once I went to the first meeting I realized how nice, and welcoming everybody was I knew that Kehiloft was going to be

something that I looked forward to every Wednesday. Now, a little bit about me. I am a Girl Scout working on my Silver Award project. My project is about helping the Barnyard Sanctuary and a big part of the project is spreading the word about the organization, which is why I'm putting it in the monthly newsletter, so please donate to the amazing organization and help the Barnyard Sanctuary rescue more and more animals. Back to Kehiloft and the religious school, I am looking forward to being one of the Madrachim next year, and to be able to help the children in the congregation to better understand Judaism and what it means to them.

Recently the Kehilofters led a Shabbat service from the Torah Portion, Mishpatim. Mishpatim is in Exodus 21:1 - 24:18 and it means "laws," so it was difficult for us in Kehiloft to get excited about leading the service. During the planning phase of any Kehiloft led service, we get the Torah's, read the section, talk about its meaning to us, and decide what we want to do with it. Another big part of this process is the sermons that Karen brings in from other rabbis. Now we all know that the Kehiloft skits are something that everybody looks forward to, but we opted to do a game show for this service considering we are planning an amazing Purim Spiel that will blow you all away! Some of the questions were about punishments or slavery, even a phrase that everybody knows, "an eye for an eye." We also had discussion questions ready some of which were: Why is it okay for an Israelite to have a slave, especially since Jews were once slaves? Why does the Torah say that you must free your slaves every seven years? We look back on these rules and they seem silly. What rule of ours may be viewed like that in years to come?

Lastly, I wanted to talk about the Purim Spiel! Our first rehearsal consisted of going over what Ethan, Paige, and Jared H wrote and everyone trying to learn their lines. This year's Purim Spiel is extra special because we added not only a fun twist, but

some music! We don't want to reveal too much so if you want to see what Kehiloft is pretty much known for - the annual Purim Spiel - then you will have to come and watch the Spiel at 10:00 am on Sunday the 25th! Hope to see you there!

Olivia Mahoney

MARCH

Wednesday, March 7 - Shabbat prep

Sunday, March 11 - 10:00 - 11:15 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

APRIL

Passover break

Sunday, April 15 - Yom Hashoah event in Religious School (time TBA)

Wednesday, April 28 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #4

Sunday, April 29 - 7th grade (students only) Kehiloft orientation

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

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, Principal of Kehiloft.

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Adult Education

Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University

Soundscapes of Modernity: Jews and Music in Polish Cities

Date: **Monday, March 05, 2018**

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Kirkpatrick Chapel, 81 Somerset Street, New Brunswick

General Public: \$15 / Rutgers Alumni, Employees, and Seniors \$10 / Students \$5 (Fees may apply)

Ticket information: See Mason Gross Box Office

Jewish inhabitants of Polish cities, like their counterparts elsewhere, responded to the challenges of modernity in diverse ways, which included reshaping the musical soundscapes of their communities. This concert presents music of Polish Jews that is little known to American audiences-choral pieces from 19th-century progressive ("Reform") congregations, compositions associated with Jewish music societies, and avant-garde works by Jewish composers. Featuring the Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir and graduate performance students.

The Bizarre Tales of Yiddishland: What the Yiddish Press Reveals about the Jews

Date: **Monday, March 19, 2018**

Time: 7:30pm

Trayes Hall, Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick

Eddy Portnoy, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

Dr. Portnoy will discuss his new book, *Bad Rabbi: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press*, an alternative history of downwardly mobile Jews that exposes the underbelly of pre-World War II New York and Warsaw. With true stories of Jewish drunks, thieves, murderers, and more, all plucked from the pages of the Yiddish dailies, this irreverent and frequently hilarious compendium of stories provides a window into an unknown Yiddish world.

Out of the Shtetl: Anarchists, Zionists, and Other Dreamers Encounter the World

Date: **Sunday, April 29, 2018**

Time: 4:30pm

Douglass Campus Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Omer Bartov, John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of History, Brown University

Professor Bartov will discuss the fate of some extraordinary individuals who hailed from the small Galician town of Buczacz in the century between the Spring of Nations of 1848 and the outbreak of World War II. This was a time in which new educational, professional, and political opportunities opened up for the inhabitants of poor provincial towns in the borderlands of Eastern Europe. But it was also a time of rising nationalism that eventually identified people as members of ethnic, national, and ideological communities.

Some significant individuals who had roots in Buczacz include:

- Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis (whose grandfathers were rabbis in Buczacz);
- Heinrich Müller, the renowned scholar of Hammurabi's Code, studied as a boy in a Buczacz cheder;
- Siegfried and Max Nacht, the anarchist brothers, whose father was the first university-trained doctor in Buczacz;
- the communist Adolf Langer (later known as the Polish party member Ostap Dluski), whose father taught Hebrew at the Buczacz gymnasium;

- the Nobel Prize laureate Hebrew-language author Shmuel Yosef Agnon (Czaczkes), much of whose writing circled around his hometown of Buczacz, and many others.

These individuals represented the hopes, dreams, and disillusionments of the first generation of Jews who left the proverbial shtetl and went out into the world. This talk is based on many years of research, which have now culminated in Bartov's book *Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz*.



Irma Horowitz Film Series Featuring Falafel & Israeli Short Films by students in the Ma'aleh School in Jerusalem, Thursday, March 8, 6:30 PM, Birnbaum JCC, Bridgewater.

Films include:

Newspapers and Flowers: Carmel is looking for love, but is tired of being judged by appearance and dress code. By the time she meets Miki, the newspaper boy, she is willing to hide certain details about herself in order to put him through the test. Can Miki pass Carmel's defenses?

11 Minutes: A military ambulance is called to evacuate a seriously wounded young soldier and bring him to a helicopter pad where he will be taken to a hospital. Aboard the ambulance there is a young staff member, Karen, who is on her first tour of duty. Faced with life and death situations in the ambulance, Karen will either succeed in bringing her emotions under control, or fail and be responsible for the death of a young soldier.

The Invitation: Noa survived a terrorist attack in which her boyfriend Udi was killed. Five years later, on her wedding day, Noa discovers Udi among the guests.....

Fee: \$15/Person includes falafel dinner. This program is supported by the Irma Horowitz Endowment Fund.

Douglas Stark, *When Basketball Was Jewish*, Sunday, March 11, 2:00 PM, Flemington JCC. Basketball was once referred to as a Jewish sport. Douglas Stark will discuss the history of basketball, and chronicle Jewish basketball throughout the twentieth century, focusing on 1900 to 1960. As told by the prominent voices of twenty people who played, coached and refereed, these conversations shed light on what it means to be a Jew and how the game evolved from its humble origins to the sport enjoyed worldwide by billions of fans today. Fee: \$10 adult.

Jewish Film Series, *Apples from the Desert*, Saturday, March 17 at 7 PM at Temple Beth-El, Hillsborough. Rebecca is an only child, living a cloistered existence with her strictly religious Sephardic parents in Jerusalem. She secretly breaks taboos, attending dance classes where she forms a relations with a secular kibbutznick. Discussion to follow film. Suggested donation: \$5/Person.

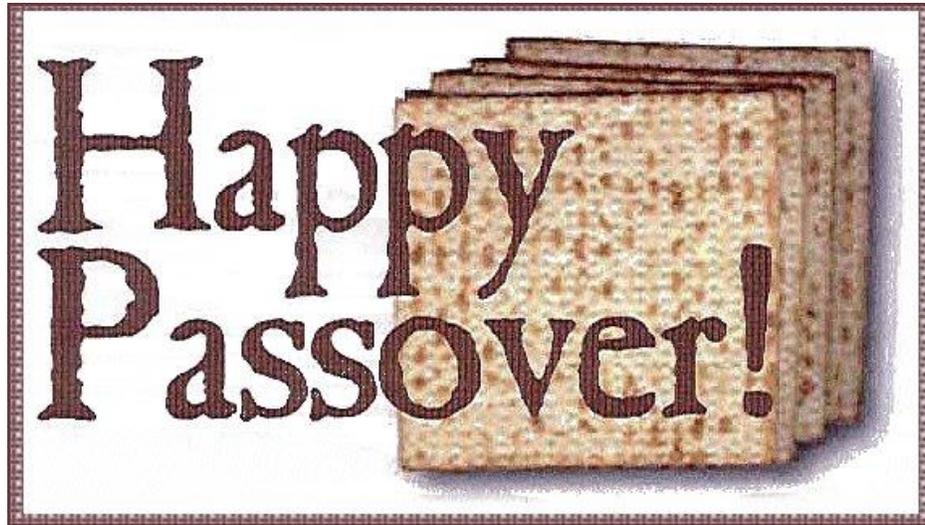
6th Annual a Night to Celebrate Israel, Wednesday, March 21, 6:30 pm, Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater. Distinguished Guest Speaker: Dr. Ralph Nurnberger

Middle East Expert and Internationally Acclaimed Speaker.

Honorees: Irene & Steven Lieberman and Sarah Edery, Rutgers Hillel Student for their dedication to their communities and the State of Israel. Fee includes dinner: \$50/adult; \$18/student

David Kirshner, *Matzo: 35 Recipes for Passover and All Year Long* Sunday, March 25, 1:30 pm, Flemington JCC. A cookbook from the preeminent fine Kosher food company, Streit's, with Jewish recipes for enjoying matzo during the eight days of Passover and all year long. Fee: \$10/Person

MARCH 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 No Shabbat Service	3 Shabbat Mishpachah
4 Religious School	5	6	7 Kehiloft	8 Board Meeting	9 Special Congregational Shabbat service	10 Torah Study Lunchtime Meet and Greet
11 7th grade family workshop for Kehiloft Religious School	12	13	14	15	16 Kehiloft-led Shabbat Service	17
18 Religious School	19	20	21 Kehiloft Education Committee Meeting	22	23 Tot Shabbat	24 Torah Study & Shabbat service
25 Religious School	26	27	28	29	30 No Shabbat Service ErevPesach	31 Pesach

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Deadline for next newsletter:

March 15th

March 2018

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