

**Congregation
 Kehilat Shalom**

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**CALL FOR 2017-2018
 BOARD NOMINATIONS**



This is an exciting time in the life and growth of our community. In order to continue to sustain our positive direction, we ask for everyone's participation and support. Consider nominating yourself or someone you know for a Board position. If you join, you will have fun while making a truly important contribution to Congregation Kehilat Shalom. The Board meets once per month and we have the following opportunities open at this time:

- **Treasurer** The treasurer does not need to have a professional financial background. Besides sitting on the Board/Executive Committee, you will contribute by helping ensure that the board has the right financial and budget priorities in place and is on budget.
- **Trustee (2-3 openings):** You will help to set strategic direction for the community so that we fulfill the CKS mission and participate in long and short-term planning and oversight activities. See more at www.kehilatshalomnj.org/about/mission/

If you or someone you know might have interest, please contact us to discuss without commitments. Our nominating committee is: Judy Forster, Tim Kowalski, George Cohen, Iris Rubinstein and Bob Neusner, chairperson, (908)431-9514, Rneusner@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE CHOOSES CANDIDATE

The Rabbinic Search Committee and CKS Board unanimously agreed to enter into negotiations with Rabbi Jake Adler. We appreciate all of your assistance in the Rabbi search process. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the various planned activities recently and appreciate the meaningful feedback we received through the surveys.

It was a pleasure to read all of the positive comments about Rabbi Jake and we will use suggestions that were made to help guide him during his transition as Rabbi at CKS. As always, you can reach out to us if you have any questions at rabbisearch@ksnj.org.

Jill Fraticelli and Francine Pfeffer
 Co-Chairs, Rabbinic Search Committee

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General:

- ♥Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison
In memory of Sandra Cige
- ♥Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison
In memory of Norma Link Goldfield
In memory of Seymour Kalison
- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
Mazel Tov to the Kehiloft Players on their successful musical spiel
Mazel Tov to new parents, Peri & Andrew Orlando on the birth of their son
- ♥Sheryl & Richard Rosenberg
In honor of Larry Spinrad & Cindy Zimmer's marriage
In honor of Sharon Underberg for her many years as director of Kol Ahava

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
Thanks to Rabbi Susan for her leadership and social action work



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.

CKS Book Club

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.

Bulletin from the Board -Francine Pfeffer



Passover has always been my favorite holiday. Even though I quickly tire of eating matzah, there is something I love about the holiday. Perhaps it was the feeling that it was a "fancy" occasion growing up -- we took out the china and silver and opened up the table to fit the entire family (even if some of them extended into the hallway.)

Maybe it was the matzah ball soup, brisket, and homemade applesauce. Or maybe it was that everyone came: aunts, uncles, cousins, and even my math teacher one year!

I've changed my observance of Passover as time has passed. Growing up, my mother put all the *chametz* (food that's forbidden during Passover) on a few shelves, with a big masking tape x over them. Today, because some of my husband's family keeps kosher, and we have been having a family Seder, we are kosher for the holiday. This means changing over the dishes, silverware, and pots and pans for Passover. It also means cleaning out the refrigerator and the pantry. We don't throw away the *chametz* -- that would be wasteful, so it goes in the basement. But cleaning for Passover does have a benefit. It forces us to throw away those condiments that linger in the back of our fridge and the food we forgot is in the pantry.

Something else that's changed since my childhood is the Haggadah we use. When we first hosted Passover, we looked for a new Haggadah. The one my family used growing up is no longer in print; the one Marvin's family used isn't gender-neutral and is too long for children. We considered several, from basic children's versions to lengthy Haggadah that provide multiple options for a Seder. Looking at a variety of Haggadah and the discussion about which prayers need to be included (various family members have different opinions) led me to think about why we have a Seder.

The back cover of the 1999 version of *The New American Haggadah*, the Haggadah developed for the Reconstructionist Judaism movement—says "In each generation we tell and retell the story of our ancestors' exodus as though we ourselves had been there. Indeed their story is echoed by our own -- by our modern stories of escape to freedom's shores and by spreading Passover's message of liberty and justice around the world." To me, this is the heart of the holiday and the message I want to impart to my son.

I don't need a Seder that includes every ritual and complete prayer if Eli (age 7) finds it so boring he loses interest. Aren't we, in part, observing the holiday to teach our children about their history and religion? We settled on a children's haggadah for now because we want Eli to feel the connection to his religion, history, and people. We joined CKS and became active for the same reason.

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Enlarging Upon the Passover Tale: Behold, This is Praiseworthy! A Passover Message from Rabbi Susan



Maybe it's the great food, or maybe it's the Passover messages of freedom and welcoming the stranger that keep us returning to the beautiful tradition of sitting down for the Seder, telling the Passover story, and sharing a meal together. Perhaps, however, it's also because the Passover Haggadah operates like the world's first "interactive narrative" – and that makes it unpredictable and fun.

The Passover Seder is filled with ritual and symbolism. But the Haggadah that we read during the Seder also asks lots of questions, giving us ample opportunity to pause, think creatively and broadly about the Passover themes, maybe even go off track a bit and just have fun! And it's not just the famous Four Questions, but there are questions throughout the Haggadah, starting with those about the symbolic foods placed on the Seder plate: the shank bone, the egg, the bitter herb, the charoset, and of course, the matzah.

Over the years, many of us have added items to our Seder plates in order to continue our story of freedom by "enlarging upon it", that is, adding to it, making it relevant to others who still search for freedom and inclusion today. Indeed, the Haggadah is designed to be interactive and flexible, even asking us to do this, saying: "Whoever enlarges upon the tale of going forth to freedom, *harei, zeh meshubach!*/behold, this is praiseworthy!" Items that have been added to the Seder plate over the past few decades include an orange, to represent rights for women; a tomato, to represent the rights of agricultural workers; and an olive, to represent the rights of Palestinians, too many of whom have lost their olive groves to Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

Other innovations to the Seder include placing a "Miriam's Cup", filled with water, alongside Elijah's Cup which is filled with wine. Tradition has it that Elijah will come on Passover to announce the coming of the Messiah, or the future Redemption of the world. Miriam's cup is meant to symbolize the daily redemptions that come into our lives in the here and now: food on the table, a kind smile or helping hand, the birth of a newborn, and so forth. Additionally, contemporary readings, drawing our attention to specific issues, can be valuable supplements to the traditional text. Back in the seventies, many of us remembered the plight of Jews trapped in the Soviet Union. Today, one issue clearly related to the Passover story is the worldwide refugee crisis and the increasing number of nations, including our own, closing their doors to people

fleeing war, violence, persecution, and famine. During the telling of the Passover story, we recite the words: "*Arami oved avi*/My ancestor was a wandering Aramean." This is an ancient reminder of our own status as refugees throughout most of our history – and of our obligation to help others who find themselves in a similar situation.

To help us do this, HIAS, a Jewish international refugee organization committed to helping refugees all over the world, has created a new 2018 Haggadah that you can download from their website, www.hias.org. In it, you will find stories of refugees from around the world. You will also find a new ritual that I would like to recommend here. The ritual is for all participants to go to the door before the beginning of the Seder and place a pair of shoes there to symbolize the tens of millions of refugees displaced in our world today. (Perhaps, I would add, when you open the door for Elijah later in the Seder, you could bring those shoes in, welcoming in the stranger, as it says in the Haggadah, "Let all who are hungry or needy, come in and eat.")

This year, add something new to your Passover table, read a new poem or story, or put shoes on your doorstep. Enlarge upon the Passover tale for *harei, zeh meshubach!*/behold, this is praiseworthy!
A zisn Pesach/A sweet and happy Passover to all!
Rabbi Susan

Kindercapers

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



Tree of Life

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

Contact CKS Office
908-359-0420



“Israel was not created in order to disappear - Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave..... It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.”

-John F. Kennedy



Spring is a Jewish holiday roller coaster. It is filled with emotional highs and lows. There are four separate holidays—each having significance in our history and each celebrated or remembered by Jews all over the world. First we get wild and wacky on Purim; then a month later, we tell the essential Jewish story and partake in the rituals of the Passover Seder. Then we descend to the depths of human suffering as we remember the Holocaust, and then trumpet our joy in the modern miracle of the State of Israel. It is important that we, as American Jews, and the students in our Religious School learn about them and understand their significance

As we approach Israel's Independence Day, ***Yom Ha'Atzma'ut***, each year, it is a good time to emphasize the centrality of Israel in the life of a Jew. Israel, while it is physically distant from North America, is an integral part of Jewish life here. Our students recognize that Israel is the heart of the Jewish people. The celebration of ***Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*** helps all of us to focus on Israel and be reminded of its importance in the total scheme of Jewish life. Our hope is that the attachment between Israel and our students continues to grow.

The anniversary of Israel's independence, on the 5th day of Iyar, 5708—May 14, 1948, is observed annually as a national holiday in Israel and throughout the Diaspora. In Israel it is celebrated by special congregational services in synagogues, parades, parties, and other festive activities.

Seventy years later, we continue to celebrate ***Israel's Independence Day*** (this year it's on Thursday, April 19), as does all world Jewry. We rejoice in the fact that a tiny minority of people, who survived centuries of persecution, have their independence and their own homeland. For us, Jews who are living in the Diaspora, this day gives us a chance to think about the importance of Israel in our lives.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Sunday, April 15: | Yom HaShoah commemoration, LIVING VOICES: <i>Through the Eyes of a Friend</i> |
| Sunday, April 22: | Yom Ha'Atzma'ut celebrated in school; ISRAELI DANCING; Open House |
| Sunday, April 29: | 7th grade Kehiloft orientation (students only); COOKING |
| Friday, May 4: | Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm |
| Sunday, May 6: | Regular school session; 7th grade siyum & Bridge Ceremony |

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. We are already planning many exciting events for the upcoming **2018-2019** school year.

Please call the Religious School office (908-359-0420 x2) or email me at principal@ksnj.org if you would like an application to enroll your child in our school.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It's not too early to start planning for the **2018-2019** academic year. We are already in the process of putting together next year's registration materials which will be ready to go out at the end of this month. All of us at CKS look forward to you joining us again next year, so kindly fill out your registration materials as soon as possible. Thank you.

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Hello everybody! I'm Leila Rose, one of the newer Kehiloft members. I've been a part of Kehiloft for about half a year so far, and I'm really enjoying it. We spent a lot of this time writing and practicing our Purim spiel, and planning

the activities afterwards. In case you didn't see it, the spiel was Hamilton themed which meant we rapped or sang a lot of the time. We held a lot of practices so we could be sure that everyone knew the songs and choreography. Ethan, Ally, and Paige worked really hard on writing a very clever and funny script. They also had roles of characters in the spiel, along with Lea, Jared H, Jared F, Aaron, Josh, Olivia, Julie, Charlotte, and me. After the spiel, the Kehilofters ran activities for the Religious School kids. The favorite game seemed to be "steal the bagel", but some other activities were a scavenger hunt, decorating bags, a costume contest, parade, and the technical challenge in which we had to build a stool out of newspapers and tape. The winning stool could balance six books and a person on top of it! I think the Purim spiel and activities were a huge success this year!

In addition to Purim, another event that happened this month was a visit by Rabbi Jake, the Rabbinic candidate. He led a couple services for the Religious school and met with Kehiloft, which I, unfortunately, was unable to attend, but I heard they were great. Our most recent Kehiloft meeting was preparing for Shabbat service. The Parsha was Vayikra, and I don't want to reveal anything, but it covered a lot of interesting material. We are really excited to lead Shabbat services, and we love to see you there too!

Shalom

Leila Rose



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

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

Sunday, April 29 - 12:00 - 2:00 **NEW tentative** - work on annual project

May

Wednesday, May 2 - Rabbi Susan leads discussion #5

Sunday, May 6 - 11:00 - 12:00 7th grade bridge ceremony

Sunday, May 13 - 10:30 - 12:00. Third annual Lag B'Omer Field Day

Wednesday, May 23 - 6:00 - 8:00 Dinner in Princeton

June

Friday, June 15 - 7:30 - 9:30 Kehiloft graduation

Shabbat service

TBA - Tentative trip to NYC

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

Karen Fridkis, Principal of Kehiloft

Julia Fraticelli's Bat Mitzvah Project

PLEASE DONATE

to support

Special Olympics Flag

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Spring Season 2018

All monetary donations will be used to purchase flag football pinnies, flags and footballs (coaches and refs are all volunteers!). Excess donations will support future Special Olympics activities

To make a donation and for more information please contact:

Julia Fraticelli at

juliafraticelli@gmail.com





Daddy Daughter Hair Factory event at CKS

Bulletin from the Board - Francine Pfeffer

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Being a member of the community here at CKS has deepened Eli's connection to Judaism. Every time he walks into the building, whether for religious school, services, or other events, his ties to the Jewish community deepen and grow. I invite you to think about your ties to this community, and deepen them just a little bit. Every time an individual decides to get a little more involved, the entire community benefits and grows stronger. So consider coming to a service you wouldn't normally attend. Contact the office to volunteer on a committee. I look forward to seeing you.

Francine Pfeffer, Trustee

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APRIL 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 No Religious School Pesach 2 Omer 1	2	3	4	5	6 Shabbat service Pesach 7	7 Pesach 8
8 No Religious School Religious School Omer 8	9	10	11	12 Board Meeting	13 Shabbat service	14 Jack Reichg's Bar Mitzvah
15 Yom Ha Shoah Event Kehiloft Religious School	16	17	18 Education Committee Meeting	19	20 Shabbat service	21 3rd Grade Religious School Pot Luck Dinner
22 Religious School Open House Religious School	23	24	25 Kehiloft	26	27 Shabbat service	28 Stephen Strauss' Bar Mitzvah
29 Kehiloft Adult Ed Religious School	30					

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:

April 2018

April 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 908359-0420
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Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk 908-359-0420 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education	Christine Witt
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Gift Shop	Iris Rubinsteingrubinstein@gmail.com
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Robin Bengochea 908359-0420
Kinderappers	Natalie London 908-874-6955
KehiLoft (Hebrew High)	Karen Fridkis609-333-1119
Life Cycle (Caring for Each Other)	Sheryl Rosenberg 908253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning	Ron Lubin
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Technology-Website and Social Media	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
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Every effort will be made to publish contributed items, but due to space restrictions, placement and format are at the discretion of the editor.

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