

Congregation  
**Kehilat Shalom** NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **May 2018** Iyyar — Sivan 5778

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*Please join us on Saturday, June 2, 2018  
to celebrate Rabbi Susan's tenure and  
the impact she has made on CKS.*

*The evening will begin at 5:00 pm with a pot luck/ BBQ dinner  
and will conclude with a kiddush.*



*After 11 years of leading our congregation, Rabbi Susan will be  
departing CKS later this summer. The evening will include tributes,  
music, joy, and feelings of sadness.*

*Please attend, participate, and celebrate with us.*

**Save the Date -  
Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, May 6th starting at 12:15 pm**

- Accomplishments for the past year
- Update on the rabbinical transition
  - Annual budget approval
  - Board of Trustee elections
- Volunteer of the Year recognitions

## CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

### General:

- ♥ Mark Goldhammer & Andrea Lass  
In honor of Josh's bar mitzvah – May, 2015
- ♥ Jeff & Jackie Barth  
In honor of Amelia's upcoming bat mitzvah
- ♥ Barbara Lehman  
In memory of Kurt Albu
- ♥ Lisa Roe  
In memory of Trina Elkin  
In memory of Joni Schuman  
In memory of Rachel Baymann
- ♥ Alan Todd & Janis Barondess Todd  
In memory of Felix Barondess  
In memory of Barbara Pulvers

### Spring Fundraiser Donations:

- Jeff & Jackie Barth
- Jeanne Schechter
- Alan Todd & Janis Barondess Todd
- Jim Ohls & Judy Pollack



### 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

**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 to Natalie London RSVP if you plan to attend.

## Shavuot, Sunday, May 20th!

The Festival of Shavuot is on Sunday, May 20th, the last day of Nesiyot-CKS Religious School.  
Please come to religious school at the usual time!



### Also -

The Ritual Committee, Adult Education committee, and the Religious School/Education committee are planning a special event for all ages.

This will be a day of learning, fun, and food. We will have a new feature: Lightning Learning, along with songs and crafts.

Celebrations will start at 9:00 am and end with a dairy potluck brunch at 11:30 am.

All congregants, family, and friends are invited to join us.

Come celebrate receiving the Torah at CKS!

## Save the Date - HomeFront Picnic



**Saturday, May 19th, 1 - 5 pm**

**More information coming soon**

## Bulletin from the Board —Tim Kowalski

This last year has been a year of change for our family.



Our daughter Tess started college, and her younger sister Paige entered high school. Not having Tess living at home and watching Paige take a step closer towards independence has often been sad and challenging for Leslie and me. I'm sure most people can relate to change within families...not only to our situation

with children, but throughout all stages with parents, siblings, and spouses. Although all major life transitions can be quite stressful, they are often accompanied by the promise of a future that offers opportunities for new beginnings, new joys to embrace, and new challenges. The fond memories we've made with our wonderful daughters are now complemented by watching them experience life in new and exciting ways.

As with our family, our synagogue has experienced a year of change. Our rabbi of 11 years is leaving so she can be closer to her partner and begin the next phase of her rabbinic journey. In doing so, she will continue to touch the lives of others in deeply spiritual, loving, and meaningful ways that we as congregants at CKS have all had the pleasure to experience. Our strong congregational commitment for *tikkun olam*/repairing the world, accepting and welcoming all people in our communities, and improving the welfare of each other, was continually nurtured by Rabbi Susan. I am truly a better person today because of the ways Rabbi Susan has informed my spiritual journey, and I thank her for this gift. I urge all of you to join us on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a celebration of Rabbi Susan.

Transitions can be difficult. I believe, however, that our congregational family is looking at a future, a new beginning, that holds the promise of shared joys and celebrations, starting new relationships and enriching those we've established. And, sharing support for each other during times of need, loss, or despair. As announced last month, we have hired a new rabbi, Jake Best Adler. Many of you have had the opportunity to hear and speak with Rabbi Jake, and have found his values and compassion well-aligned with our welcoming and inclusive community. And if you have not yet done so, we hope you will get the chance to meet him soon after he officially starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We are very fortunate that he and his family will become part of our CKS family. We wish both Rabbi Jake and Rabbi Susan only the best in their transitions—their future, and the future of our congregation, looks bright from where I'm standing.

Tim Kowalski, Trustee



Rabbi Jake Best Adler

## Kindercapers

Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> 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



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](mailto:igrubinstein@gmail.com)

or the synagogue office for more information





## SHAVUOT

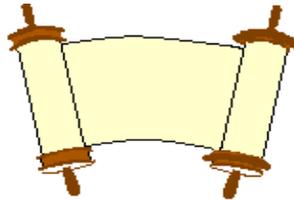


We begin each religious school year at about the time we are celebrating the High Holy Days and end just before Shavuot. This major festival often seems to be overlooked in the rush of last day activities, anticipation of the summer ahead of us and vacation from school. It is, in fact, one of our most important holidays.

Shavuot, which begins on Saturday night, May 19 is when we celebrate the significance of receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai. This holiday usually happens *after* we end our school year, but this year it is the actual last day of school, **Sunday, May 20**.

Shavuot, known both as **Chag Hakatsir** (the Harvest Festival), and as **Yom HaBikurim** (the Day of First Fruits), is a holiday with an emphasis on agricultural themes. Also, known as **Chag Ha'Shavuot**, the Festival of Weeks, we acknowledge the counting of the *Omer*, the offering of sheaves of wheat presented to the Temple for 50 days following Passover.

Today, the most common name is **Z'man Matan Toratenu**, The Time of the Giving of the Torah, signifying this event on Mt. Sinai. In synagogues we read the Ten Commandments, the statements which are among the most significant in Jewish tradition. How we apply those commandments to our lives today is an on-going process for Jewish learning.



As the school year comes to a close, it is gratifying to look back at all that our students have learned and accomplished. It is thanks to our devoted group of teachers and aides that all of our students have had such a successful year.

During this month we also pay tribute to the teachers and aides who are the backbone of our religious school. It is because of their hard work and dedication that the Kehilat Shalom Religious School -Nesiyot, is what it is. They will be honored on **Sunday, May 13 at 10:30**. Please join us to show them that we recognize the importance of their commitment to our school.

### Many thanks to our esteemed faculty:

♦Rabbi Susan Falk   ♦Karen Fridkis   ♦Joanna Javeline   ♦Rena Gitlitz  
♦Sharon Taub   ♦Susan Trager   ♦Tracey Weingarten   ♦Rena Yosevitz

On behalf of the faculty and school, I would like to thank the parents for all your support and most especially, for giving us the pleasure of working with your children.

Thank you to Religious Education Chairperson, **Christine Witt** and her committee for their encouragement, support and efforts all year. Many thanks to all the parent volunteers for helping us with our special activities and programs.

*There is much more on page 6!*

## Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Hello everyone! My name is Julie Edelstein and I am new to Kehiloft this year. Being the new kid is a pretty daunting challenge, especially if you're an introvert like me. It's hard not to worry about feeling out of place or left behind. But after the first few meetings, all of that worry had pretty much evaporated completely. I can assure every 7th grader that Kehiloft is an incredibly

welcoming group of extremely nice individuals. Aside from Kehiloft, I am also currently working on my Silver Award with my Girl Scout Troop. Ever since the trash pile at my school has grown twice the size of the recycling bin, we knew that our school had a problem. Schools should be trying to save the environment, not destroy it! That's why our troop is fighting for better recycling bins at schools, not just those tiny blue cans that are easily dwarfed by towering garbage bins. We are also encouraging the use of environment-friendly products; try using a reusable water bottle instead of a disposable plastic one, or bring your own cloth shopping bags when shopping for groceries. It's the little things that can make a big impact on saving oceans and rain-forests, as well as reducing landfills. Back on the subject of Kehiloft, I look forward to helping with Religious School as a Madrichim next year, being able to have an impact on another child's learning experience as a young Jew in our community.

Recently in our Religious School, all students 5th grade and older were treated to a moving program on the struggles of young Jews during the Holocaust. Our hearts were touched when we came to understand the pain and hardships that Anne Frank and her "best friend," Sarah Weis, went through. Anyone would agree that the presenter did a wonderful job portraying the importance of friendship and grit in the darkest of times. It was truly an unforgettable experience for anyone who was able to attend.

At Kehiloft recently, we spent lots of time planning and organizing fun and exciting events for our congregation. First is the annual Montgomery Earth Day Fair on April 22. We look forward to seeing everyone there, having an eco-friendly blast! We also had to decide what we wanted to discuss with Rabbi Susan at our final session with her. We are all very sad to see her leave, so we wanted our last discussion to be a meaningful one, and about a topic that we all cared about. Another near-future event that we spent time planning for was the HomeFront picnic, which is taking place on Saturday, May 19th. We needed to make sure that everyone who shows up for this event is going to have a fun time—with games, activities, and more! Kehiloft is also going to be leading a selection of Jewish games at "Lightning Learning" on Shavuot,

May 20th during Religious school. After discussing what games we've chosen to play, we can guarantee that students of all ages will have a great time at this event! Speaking of fun, the CKS "Family Fun Night" is coming up, and the Kehilofters have all chipped in to put together a themed gift basket that every family will love. Last but not least in this list of events, Kehilofters will be meeting with 7th graders in Religious School so we can introduce them to Kehiloft. We are really looking forward to getting to know our new additions, as well as making them comfortable in the Kehiloft community!

At our last session with Rabbi Susan, we were able to discuss two very recent and relevant topics—both in America today and for the Jewish community. Our meeting took place on Yom Ha'atzmaut and we read from the May 14, 1948 Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel to mark the occasion. This year is Israel's 70th anniversary. Secondly, we talked about the second amendment in the Bill of Rights, which gives the right to keep and bear arms. I learned lots of very interesting things about guns and gun laws, and how they've been affected by history. Today anyone 18 years old or older can buy a gun at a gun show, faster than a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader can learn their times tables. In 1791, when The Bill of Rights was written, there weren't any semi or automatic guns and life wasn't at all like it is today. These laws were written hundreds of years ago, and when compared to today, everyone needs just a bit of perspective.

*Julie Edelstein*

### 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

***We will try to schedule a Sunday afternoon in May or June to work on the annual project. The date will be set once the best date/s are determined for all. Possibilities are May 6 and May 20 or later in June.***

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

Shalom,

*Karen Fridkis*, Principal of Kehiloft

**SPECIAL "SIYUM" CEREMONY**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 11:15 AM**  
**Seventh grade commencement service**

On Sunday, **May 6**, we all have an opportunity to celebrate with our seventh grade class at their Siyum ceremony. This special service marks the completion of one segment of our students' Jewish education here at CKS, and the beginning of another, the High School - Kehiloft program.

This is an exciting event for which our seventh graders have been eagerly working. As a culmination of their studies, students will be sharing thoughts on how each one of us can be a better person and a proud Jew.

Please join us as our seventh grade students "graduate" from Nesiyot-religious school and share their thoughts with us.

**CONGREGATION KEHILAT SHALOM**



extends heartfelt good wishes to the members of the  
**2018 Religious School 7th grade class:**

**AMELIA BARTH JACK REICHEG REBECCA RIES STEPHEN STRAUSS**

**THANK YOU TO OUR MADRICHIM- OUR KEHILOFT TEENS**

The Madrichim (high school aides) have been excellent role models for our younger children. You can find them around on a Sunday morning either in the school office or in a classroom, or in the kitchen. They have been a wonderful asset to our staff, helping in every capacity. I am really proud of the high level of commitment demonstrated by these fine young people. Despite the complexities of their busy schedules, it's wonderful to see how seriously our *madrachim* take their roles in our school. Our *madrachim* provide our synagogue with a genuine source of pride and joy. This year's *madrachim* are:

**Charlotte Birnbaum Josh Goldhammer Lea Goldhammer Jared Fraticelli Matthew Kent**  
**Paige Kowalski Aaron Orshan Ethan Ries Ally Rosenthal Cecily Weinstein Ellie Witt**

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:**

**Friday, May 4:** Shabbat Mishpachah, 7:00pm  
**Sunday, May 6:** Regular school session; 7th grade siyum & Bridge Ceremony  
**Saturday, May 12:** **Bat Mitzvah REBECCA RIES**, 9:30am  
**Sunday, May 13:** Regular school session; Teacher recognition and Shabbat Minyannaire awards Lag B'Omer field day games, (11:00-1:00)  
**Sunday, May 20:** LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/SHAVUOT  
Regular school day with study sessions and crafts; pot luck brunch with ice cream oneg

**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](mailto: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.

# MAY 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 <a href="#">Shabbat Mishpachah</a>	5 <a href="#">Everybody's a Superhero Party &amp; Silent Auction</a>
6 <a href="#">Kehiloft Religious School Annual Membership Meeting</a>	7	8	9	10 <a href="#">Board Meeting</a>	11 <a href="#">Shabbat service</a>	12 <a href="#">Rebecca Ries' Bat Mitzvah</a>
13 <a href="#">Lag B'Omer Field Day Religious School</a>	14	15	16 <a href="#">Education Committee Meeting</a>	17	18 <a href="#">Shabbat service</a>	19 <a href="#">HomeFront Picnic</a>
20 <a href="#">Congregation and Nesivot religious school Multi-generational Shavuot Celebration</a>	21	22	23 <a href="#">Kehiloft</a>	24	25 <a href="#">No Shabbat Service</a>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Deadline for next newsletter:

**May 2018**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Whom to contact for...	
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**Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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