

**Congregation
 Kehilat Shalom**

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER!

by Bill Ries

This just in: Everybody **was** a Superhero! Our Ninth Annual CKS Spring Event was held on Saturday, May 5th, and was a complete success! If you attended, you know it was a treat. Congregants and community members socialized throughout the evening, with fun pop music, superhero theme songs, and karaoke as the audio backdrop. We saw all-out costumes, homemade ensembles, outfits with subtle cues, and those who remained at the ready in their civilian garb all evening long. And, of course, there were daring displays of food and beverages, and endless snacks.

Better still, our throng of superheroes came through with galactic-grade generosity for our community! The event raised thousands of dollars to support CKS, thanks in part to dozens of silent auction items and an epic live auctioneering performance from our own Marc "The Motivator" Rosenberg!

No news of this event should omit mention of the enthusiastic volunteers who made it all come to life! It was amazing to see—and enjoy!—the results of their work. There were tables upon tables of silent auction items, stations for food and drinks, room decor, tabletop decor, superhero stickers hand-applied to hundreds of Hershey kisses, a welcome table with rows of auction booklets for guests to peruse, and many more touches large and small. Our thanks to (alphabetically by last name) Jeff Barth, Barbara Berger, Tom Berger, Karen Cohen, Amy Doelling, Susan Forster, Jill Fraticelli, Bonnie Kramer, Natalie London, Ramona Mora, Bill Ries, Harlene Rosenberg, Marc Rosenberg, Amy Rosenthal, Monica Schneider, Adam Schneider, Larry Spinrad, Juliet Strauss, and Christine Witt.

And, of course, we must share our gratitude for the countless contributions of our fearless leader, Debbie Gartenberg. She has helmed many such events over the years, and is passing the baton to others so that she may focus her superhero energies elsewhere. Thank you, Debbie!



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.

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

- ♥Michael & Joan Galkin
 - ♥James Rosenberg
- In honor of Rabbi Falk and the Education Committee

Spring Fundraiser Donations

- Susan & Darryl Waskow
- Mary Horowitz
- Leslie & Tim Kowalski

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
- In memory of Mina Raboy, Larry's grandmother
 In thanks for those who worked on this year's spring fundraiser
 In 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

- June 28th:** *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly
 - 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 to Natalie London if you plan to attend.

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Bulletin from the Board —Amy Rosenthal



Our youngest is graduating high school this month. I look back on all of our years in Montgomery and at CKS, and can't believe that we've made it here. Matt and I moved to town in 2000, took advantage of the long-standing open high holiday policy for a few years, and joined CKS in 2005. At least one member of our household has served on the board for ten of our thirteen years as members. We've served on committees. We've cooked lots of food. We've set up synagogue technology. We've made the world a better place through Tikkun Olam and social action. Our kids have become leaders through Kehiloft. We've taught several classes. We've supported each other in times of need. We've partied and celebrated. Most importantly: We created a family and raised fantastic kids. We helped to grow an amazing community and gained many friends. CKS truly has been an important part of our lives for all this time, and everyone in this crazy little place has played an integral role in that. Thank you.

Over the years I've come to expect that CKS never fails to give back, to share knowledge, and to celebrate. May 2018 was no exception! Our annual Home Front picnic was a success, even if a bit rainy. Close to 30 kids from the Trenton area joined our synagogue volunteers as we had an indoor picnic, playing games, creating gifts, and eating great food. Our Shavuot festival included "Lightning Learning," where members of our community were able share their knowledge in short, interactive sessions. Our annual spring event was also a smashing success, bringing in just under \$9,000 for CKS! Everyone is super to me, but it was exciting to see so many alter egos come to life within our walls at our superhero gala.

We say goodbye to Rabbi Susan this month - which will be an emotional time for all of us! I was one of the first people at CKS to meet her eleven years ago, as I hosted the search committee's regular meetings to find our new rabbi. Over the years, she's been a rock in our community, and she'll be greatly missed. She supported both of our children as they became b'nei mitzvot, and we were honored to have her celebrate with us. I treasure memories of us laughing together and I'm so glad that she has become part of our family.

We'll be celebrating Rabbi Susan with a BBQ dinner on Saturday, June 2, and I hope you can join us to honor the impact she has made on our community. And laugh, and maybe cry a little too.

I originally signed on to write this last newsletter article of the CKS fiscal year, thinking that our daughter's graduation would be time to pass the baton, and it would be the end of the last Rosenthal term on the board. I never expected all of the changes we've seen this year, and that we'd be getting ready to welcome Rabbi Jake. This place has a way of drawing you back, so I've signed on for another term, this time as your treasurer. I am thankful to be a part of this caring community, and I hope you will all join me in continuing to help it grow.

Amy Rosenthal, Recording Secretary

SAYING GOOD-BYE

Chevre/Fellow Congregants:



As my time at CKS comes to a close, I find myself crossing over a series of "Lasts": last bat mitzvah, last Kehiloft session, last Annual Meeting, last Spring Event, last adult education session, last school Siyyum, last holiday or Shabbat – last newsletter article! And most importantly, last conversations, whether caught on the fly or planned,

with many of you. A lunch or meeting in my office, a precious moment off to the side at the Friday night Oneg, words and emails exchanged here and there, as well as much singing, laughter, and sometimes tears. This is the journey of leave-taking.

For eleven years, we have been working together to make Congregation Kehilat Shalom the best spiritual home it can be. As I am called to move on to the next chapter of my life, so, too, will CKS move on to the next chapter of its life. So, in a way, CKS and I – that is to say we – are on parallel tracks. And now, we have to figure out how to say good-bye.

So here's what I would like to say to all of you:

Be Loving. Continue to be the loving community you have always been; enjoy each other when you work together, celebrate together, and when you care for each other in times of need.

Be Bold. Don't be afraid to try new things – new projects, new prayer styles and melodies, new organizational structures or solutions. Don't be afraid to stand out and don't be afraid to take a stand on the issues of our time.

Act Justly, Love Mercy. Do not forget that what we do when we leave the synagogue walls is as important as what we do when we are within them. Following Jewish values and teachings means that we, as individuals and community, are obligated to help create a world of justice and mercy, a world in which all are treated with respect and dignity, and a world in which we care for and protect the vulnerable – and not just people, but all life.

Do these things and know that I will be trying to do them too.

Just as every beginning of one thing means the ending of another, so too, every ending makes way for the beginning of something new. This moment is a moment filled with possibilities. So, before I go, I'd like to share with you one of my favorite poems for moments such as this one:

A Song of Endings and Beginnings

(by Debbie Perlman)

Let us sing of our completions, smooth, round,
Silvered voices to praise Your Name.
Every season holds starts and stops,
Years of trees and spirits and souls,
Days ripe with harmony and turning,
Circled, cycled, to order our lives.
Inside each completion, we hear Your creation;
Inside our creations, we resound with Your voice...
Every season casts away its jagged edges,
Rubs away the torn moments
To rejoice in the realignment of old ways made straight.
Inside each refitting, we renew again Your creation,
Pulling it taut against us,
A firm bound shield of Your affection.
Let us sing of our completions,
Your hand hovers, blesses,
Bids us move to new beginnings.
Your hand moves us forward,
Toward unimagined completions.

*B'Shalom uvracha/Sending peace and blessings,
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
kindercapers

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



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: **Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, Home Front, CHAI (Caring and Helping Animals in Israel), Heifer International, Doctors without Borders, MAZON, (A Jewish Response to Hunger), St. Judes Children's Hospital, and Israeli Defense Force (IDF).**

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 will make in their classrooms today will indeed help to ensure the continuation of our Jewish heritage tomorrow.



All the best wishes to everyone 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. 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. 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.

Kehiloft, the next step in your Jewish journey



Kehiloft has been very busy lately! We recently met with Rabbi Susan twice within the last couple of months. We were able to speak with her about her time at CKS and, recently, Israel's Independence Day. Many Kehilofters (including me!) are especially saddened to see

Rabbi Susan leave CKS, as we have grown up with her as our Rabbi and mentor, but we also are excited for her to have a chance to pursue all of her interests outside of CKS. I personally cannot imagine a CKS or a Kehiloft environment without the guidance and mentorship of Rabbi Susan, and will always cherish the memories I have made here that Rabbi Susan has been a part of.

Moments like these are especially relevant for me and the two other Kehiloft graduates of 2018, because we too will be leaving CKS soon, and heading off to college in the Fall. I have recently had the chance to reflect on my time at CKS. I started as a fourth grade Religious School student, then became a Bat Mitzvah, then joined Kehiloft, and am now a senior member of Kehiloft and in my fourth year of being a Religious School Madricha. Every moment I've spent at CKS has impacted me greatly and I truly feel grateful that my family and I have been a part of this community for the past eight years.

Throughout my time as a member of Kehiloft, I have also been a part of five annual projects! Every year Kehiloft spends a lot of time deciding what our annual project should be. This typically includes ideas we believe will benefit the community and Kehiloft as a

whole. This year we decided to decorate the white wall upstairs in the loft with a tree-like design and attach hand painted squares to it. Each square represents a year in Kehiloft, from 2008 to this year.

We are in the process of painting names of Kehiloft graduates on each tile, along with hand painted designs of our choice. In my opinion, this project is a truly meaningful way to conclude my five years in Kehiloft because the annual project in my first year of Kehiloft was painting the wall along the staircase white, and then decorating it with the handprints of many Religious School students and community members. I am elated that we have chosen another mural painting project to conclude myself, Lea, and Ally's time in Kehiloft and I cannot wait for the community to see how it turns out!

Charlotte Birnbaum

June

Wednesday, June 13 - Tentative - Finish annual project

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

Sunday, June 24 - Date dependent on student's availability for trip to NYC

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

If you haven't already, please remember to register for next year! Registration is online at:

<http://www.kehilatshalomnj.org/education/programs/registration/>



Last Day of Religious School

Superhero Saturday!



JUNE JULY 2018

Have a great



SUMMER!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 Kehiloft Shabbat service	2 Farewell Celebration for Rabbi Susan
3 Kehiloft NYC Trip (tentative)	4	5	6 Kindercapers Graduation	7 Board Meeting	8 Shabbat service	9 Amelia Barth's Bat Mitzvah
10	11	12	13	14	15 Kehiloft Graduation Service Shabbat service	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Shabbat service	23
24 Kehiloft trip (tentative)	25	26	27	28	29 Shabbat service	30
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Calendar Meeting	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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<http://www.ksnj.org>

Listserve email: contactadmin@ksnj.org

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

June-July 2018

Deadline for next newsletter:

July 15th

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