

Congregation Kehilat NEWS Shalom

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

Editor-in-Chief—Karen Bartels
newsletter@ksnj.org
karen.bartels@comcast.net
home phone 609-921-1811

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **August 2018** Av—Elul 5778

Congregation Kehilat Shalom

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

Rabbi

Jake Best Adler
rabbi@ksnj.org

President

Steve Weinstein
president@ksnj.org

Administrator

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

Religious School

Principals

Ann Kanarek (K-7)
principal@ksnj.org
Karen Fridkis (8-12)
kehiloffprincipal@ksnj.org

Lay Cantor

Kate Fridkis -Berring

Board of Trustees 2018-2019

Officers of the Board

1st Vice President
Iris Rubinstein
2nd Vice President
Jill Fraticelli
Past President
Robert Neusner

Treasurer
Amy Rosenthal
Financial Secretary
Bill Ries
Recording Secretary
Francine Pfeffer
Corresponding Secretary
Sheryl Rosenberg

Trustees

Tim Kowalski (2019)
Ira Sperling (2019)
George Cohen (2020)
Larry Spinrad (2020)
Tracey Goldberg (2021)
Scott Strauss (2021)

**Affiliate: Jewish
Reconstructionist
Federation**

Published by *Calli-graphics*

Copy Editor: Shana Bartels

GOODBYE AND HELLO

A FOND FAREWELL-by Hilary Crist

Oh, what a night! First, our cup runneth over with food and drink; then a packed synagogue of members, friends, and invited guests experienced an engaging Mincha service and celebration to honor eleven years with our dear Rabbi Susan, topped off by a bounteous Oneg Shabbat.

The evening began with an impressive spread of food. Thanks to Bonnie Kramer and Barbra Berger for putting that together, and the countless others who cooked and baked. Kudos to grillers Tim Kowalski, George Cohen, and Bob Neusner. There was enough variety to please every palate.



Invited guests shared the night: Pastor Brian Cooper from the Montgomery Evangelical Church across the street; Reverend Jeff Knoll and his family from the Blawenberg Reformed Church; former CKS principal Shari Rothstein; CKS teacher Tracy Weinstein; Princeton Community House's Joan Goldstein; and Montgomery Township councilwoman Sadaf Jaffer and her family. Also on deck, Cantor Carla Reynolds, one of our b'nai mitzvah tutors, and current CKS principal Ann Kanarek.

Following dinner, we all poured into the sanctuary for a Mincha service led by our lay cantor Kate Fridkis and Rabbi Susan, with various members of the congregation participating to read prayers and poems. Most touching: the exceptional blessing Kate gave to Rabbi Susan, remarking on their professional and personal connection, and wishing her the best of futures. Rabbi Susan presented a personal gift to Kate – a lovely yad. *continued on page 2*

BECOMING A RABBI by Hilary Crist

June 10, 2018—a momentous day for Jacob Best Adler, for that day he was ordained and officially became a Rabbi. CKS Board President Steven Weinstein, past President Susan Waskow, Second Vice President Jill Fraticelli, and outgoing Board member Hilary Crist made the trek to Temple Beth-Am in Abington, PA which hosted the ceremony for this year's graduating class of rabbinical students from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC). Great pomp and ceremony accompanied faculty and graduates entering the well-lit and modern sanctuary. After an opening prayer and welcome, Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, shared her thoughts about this extraordinary day. Various leaders of and mentors to the Reconstructionist community earned honors, and the graduating rabbis accepted awards as well. Rabbi Jake received the Fred Louis Stamm Memorial Prize for his essay, "My Grandfather's Experiences in British Mandate Palestine, the Haganah, and the Jewish Brigade." This award is given to the rabbinical student whose written work most contributes to the field of Jewish History and Culture. The highlight of the afternoon was when eight students were officially ordained to become rabbis, each receiving personal words from Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Director, RRC Center for Jewish Ethics and Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Literature, and then all were blessed by Rabbi Deborah Waxman: "You came here to learn, now go and teach." Following the ceremony, everyone in attendance gathered for a reception to celebrate the graduates. How great to connect with Rabbi Jake on this significant day, and how rewarding to hear so many of his colleagues and teachers say what a gem of a person he is and how lucky we are to have him come to CKS. We all second that notion.

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

General

- ♥Mike & Joan Galkin
- ♥Lisa Roe
In memory of Judi Schuman
- ♥Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg
In honor of Merryl & Alan Traub's 60th anniversary
- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
In honor of the Kehiloft graduates – Ally Rosenthal, Charlotte Birnbaum & Lea Goldhammer
In memory of Tammy Goldhammer
In thanks to Scott Strauss & Susan Waskow for organizing the Shavuot celebration
In thanks to Janis Todd for organizing the HomeFront picnic
- ♥Michael & Joan Galkin
- ♥Marc & Harlene Rosenberg
In memory of Harlene's uncle, Ralph Kinberg
- ♥Janis Barondess Todd & Alan Todd
In honor of Rabbi Susan Falk
- ♥Gil & Ellen Gordon
In memory of Joe Wions
- ♥Natalie London
In Memory of Ruth London
In Honor of the Volunteers of the Year – Gary Gartenberg, Lisa Ries and Susan Waskow
Congratulations to Cindy Zimmer and Larry Spinrad on their recent marriage
Congratulations to Merryl and Alan Traub on their 60th Wedding Anniversary
In honor of Rabbi Susan and her many wonderful years serving as our Rabbi
In honor of the birth of Beverly Kling and Ira Sperling's grandson

General donations made at the time of Membership Renewal

- ♥Lisa Kent
- ♥Larry Spinrad & Cindy Zimmer
- ♥Jeff & Jackie Barth
- ♥Diane Wions
- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis
- ♥Susan & Daryl Waskow
In honor of the rabbinic search committee
In honor of Rabbi Jake Adler
- ♥Hinda Greenberg
- ♥Gary & Debbie Gartenberg
- ♥Natalie London
In memory of Ruth London
- ♥Mary Horowitz
- ♥Andy Sokel & Nancy Halpern
- ♥Monica & Jeff Schneider
- ♥Ron & Donna Lubin
- ♥Michael & Lisa Auerbach

Kehiloft Donations

- ♥Janis Barondess Todd & Alan Todd
In honor of the Kehiloft graduates
- ♥Natalie London
In honor of the Kehiloft graduates: Ally Rosenthal, Lea Goldhammer and Charlotte Birnbaum

Cont'd During a special hoda-ah, emceed by Debbie Tesser, many expressed thanks to Rabbi Susan. Leah Bartels presented the Rabbi with a unique, hand-embroidered pillow that her mom, Karen, created from an old reader's table cover. Susan Waskow, on behalf of the ritual committee, surprised Rabbi Susan with a special yad bearing a Star Trek symbol. Meryl Orlando gave the rabbi a scrapbook which she helped organize and put together, composed of pages contributed by congregation members containing words of thanks, memories and artistic design. Heather Ciociola offered Rabbi Susan an official gift from the congregation: A framed, beautifully designed papercut of the Brooklyn Bridge with a saying from *Isiah* 55:12: "You will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; And all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Kehiloft added their piece of the program by singing their original version of "Seasons of Love" from the show *Rent*. Instead of "Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes," their new refrain was: "Five million, Seven hundred eighty-one thousand, six hundred minutes," and then they beautifully described their years with Rabbi Susan in song and verse.

As a close to the emotionally fulfilling service, we all joined Rabbi Susan and Kate in a special version of Indigo Girls Amy Elizabeth Ray and Emily Ann Saliers' "Closer to Fine" interspersed with the words from "Adon Olam."

An Oneg Shabbat ended the night, featuring a large array of desserts. Everyone had a chance to commune, share memories and *schep naches* from our eleven years with Rabbi Susan.

Events as extraordinary as this take a lot of work, planning and coordination. Special thanks to Iris Rubinstein for being in charge of such a well-run and satisfying evening. Thanks also to Ilana Berger who put together a slide show that didn't air due to technical problems. Hats off to Mike Galkin who set up a camera to record the night's events and to those whose contributions put the icing on the cake of this memorable and singular farewell: Robin Bengochea, Andrea Lass, Debbie Tesser and CKS Board President Steven Weinstein.

As Rabbi Susan goes on to a new journey, the events of the night made it clear that we are most grateful for her hard work, her dedication, and her efforts in making us a better community.



Close-up of farewell gift to Rabbi Susan



Members of Kol Ahava sing Rabbi Susan a fond farewell

KOL AHAVA NOTES

by Emily Bengels



Back when CKS was the JCC Belle Mead, Kol Ahava became our congregation's choir with only four singers. Previously under the baton of Diane Wions, Sharon Underberg took the helm for many years. Now, twenty-five years later, the choir is three times the size, and still going strong, with founding member Karen Bartels still on deck. Our repertoire fills a six-inch stack of papers and we circulate songs in and out of High Holiday celebrations. We sing because we enjoy it, and we

come with all different levels of experiences. Former member Sheryl Rosenberg upped the ante by using sign language with the song, "Return Again." This year, we even have a baritone voice joining the ensemble!

About me: I am a teacher, first of people and then of subject matter (languages, gifted education, drama and now reading intervention). I've taught every age from preschool through college and have directed adult theater groups and the Somerset Valley Orchestra. Currently, I am the music director of First Universalist Unitarian Fellowship of Hunterdon County and the pianist for the IL Peretz Community Secular Humanist School. Also, I am pursuing my doctorate in Holocaust Studies, focusing on rescue and resilience. All of this is connected: we are always learning, always creating, always helping one another. That's what Kol Ahava is about.

When I joined this community, I was in my early twenties and I had just learned that my sister's illness was fatal and that my grandmother was dying. At Diane Wions' house, we sang "To Everything There Is a Season" which garnered my strength to support my family through rough times. The choir members and the powerful songs helped me endure. Though I moved away for a while, when I came back to the area, I was grateful to return to the choir. We are all goofy and creative, wise and watchful of one another in the most supportive of ways. I hope we exude that peace and connection to the congregation when we sing.



Rabbi Jake Adler's Ordination 6/10/18

Services

For the remainder of the summer and running through Labor day, CKS will hold Friday evening Shabbat Services on the dates listed below. Rabbi Jake will be leading all of these services.

- Friday, August 10th
- Friday, August 24th

All services will be at 7:30 pm.



Law Offices of Brian M. Cige

*Emphasizing Employment Law,
General Practice & Civil Litigation*

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

• Automobile Accident and Personal Injury Cases



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

CigeLaw@gmail.com

253 Griggstown Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
<http://www.ksnj.org>

Listserve e-mail: contact_admin@ksnj.org

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

August 2018

Deadline for next newsletter:

August 15th

Whom to contact for...	
Adult Education	Susan Waskow susan.waskow@gmail.com
Beautification	Debbie Gartenberg dgart1518@gmail.com
B'nai Mizvah	Iris Rubinstein
Billing/Payments	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Board of Trustees	Steven Weinstein
Building & Grounds	Marty Millman
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Jake Adler 908-359-0420 rabbj@ksnj.org
Education	Christine Witt
Financial Aid	Bill Ries
Fundraising	Debbie Gartenberg dgart1518@gmail.com
Gift Shop	Iris Rubinstein igrubinstein@gmail.com
Hospitality(Kiddush & Oneg)	Robin Bengochea 908-359-0420
Kindercapers	Natalie London 908-874-6955
Kehi-Loft (Hebrew High)	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
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 Jake Adler 908-359-0420
Newsletter	Karen Bartels Karen.bartels@comcast.net
Ritual	Iris Rubinstein igrubinstein@gmail.com
Technology - Website and Social Media	Amy Rosenthal webmaster@ksnj.org
Technology - Computer and Networking	Michael Galkin 908-281-4499



• 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.