



Congregation  
**Kehilat NEWS**  
Shalom

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **November 2018** Kislev–Tevet 5779

COMMUNITY LOVE AT CKS

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Shana Bartels Copy Editor

What a feeling to drive around the corner coming into CKS from Route 206, and see a parking lot as full as it gets on the High Holidays. As you all know, CKS joined the national #ShowUpForShabbat campaign launched by the American Jewish Congress to fill synagogues with community on the Shabbat following the tragedy in Pittsburgh. Rabbi Jake and members of Congregation Kehilat Shalom reached out to our members and to community friends of all faiths to join us for our Shabbat service on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

And what a response there was! The sanctuary overflowed with hundreds of members, guests, and civic leaders, including Montgomery Township Mayor Christine Madrid, Township Committee Members Sadaf Jaffer and Kamran Quaraishi, and former Rocky Hill Mayor Ed Zimmerman. Also present were Montgomery Democratic Organization Chair Victoria “Cookie” Acot, as well as Catherine Gural and CKS member Edward Schuldiner (both of whom would defeat the incumbents to become newly elected to the Montgomery Township Committee members several days later).

Pastor Jeff Knol along with members of his Blawenberg Reformed Church was also in attendance. The beauty of the evening as Rabbi Jake mentioned in his invitation to the community, was that, “While this campaign was created to respond to the deadly anti-Semitic violence perpetrated in Pittsburgh this past Shabbat, this service is not a vigil, or a service of mourning. This is not a time for solemn speeches. This is a Shabbat service. We invite you to join us as we celebrate our day of rest and peace in the way we always do—with joy, reflection, humor, and togetherness.”

As the service progressed with song and prayers, one really felt a sense of community. And how perfect that part of the service included a special Naming Service for three third graders who explained their Hebrew names and what they meant to them: Alana Morrison, Evan Petronella, and Eli Schuldiner. No doubt their families couldn’t have been prouder.

A touching moment came during the “Hoda’ah,” the time during the service when we express thanks for something with particular meaning for us that week. It was lovely to hear the young children be grateful “for everything,” “for a teacher I like,” and so on. Francine Pfeffer and Iris Rubinstein made a point of saying how thankful they were for everyone who joined us that night, especially all of our guests. We were all truly moved by the turnout.

One of the guests stood up, explained that he was from Alabama and said he was thankful for all the Jews who joined the civil rights marches with his people and helped them register to vote in the South. He said that without help from the Jews, he probably wouldn’t have been standing there today.

Susan Waskow also thanked everyone for coming and reminded us that we were a week away from the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht. She spoke eloquently about how her own father, uncle, and grandparents moved to the United States in 1938, but that her great-grandfather had a heart attack and died two weeks after his butcher shop was destroyed during Kristallnacht and that other members of her family who were not lucky enough to escape were murdered in the concentration camps. And then she noted, “In 1938 as a people, we were alone. Tonight, in 2018, we draw strength from all of you who are here with us.”

As we all moved to the back room for an abundant oneg, to share food and drink and schmooze into the night, the sense of support and love was palpable. —*Hilary Crist*

## CKS DONATIONS

*CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.*

### General

- ♥Marc & Harlene Rosenberg  
In honor of Jake & HeeSun Fridkis' marriage
- ♥Jeanne & Laurel Schechter  
In memory of Norman Schechter
- ♥Marc & Harlene Rosenberg  
In memory of Phillip Zaretsky
- ♥Marc & Harlene Rosenberg  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser
- ♥Robin & Brandon Bengochea  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser
- ♥Janis and Alan Todd  
In memory of Bess Berg  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser
- ♥Barbara Lehman  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser
- ♥Debbie Lampf and Michael Kalison  
In memory of Bess Berg  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser

### High Holiday

- ♥Bob Neusner & Helen Pu
- ♥Mike Arons
- ♥Janis & Alan Todd  
In honor of Kate Fridkis Berring, Kol Ahava, and the High Holiday organizers & helpers
- ♥Bonnie & Steve Kramer
- ♥Dr. Howard Weintraub

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- ♥Richard & Lily Siegel  
In honor of Rabbi Jake Adler
- ♥Marc Schulberg & Kerry Anne McGeary  
In honor of Cole's Bar Mitzvah
- ♥Karen & Larry Fridkis  
In memory of Roberta Weisswasser  
In memory of the Tree of Life victims  
In honor of Gabe Fridkis winning the Assistant Principal Flute position with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra



### Remember CKS when you donate:

Dues only cover a portion of the CKS operating budget. Consider a donation in memory of a loved one, honoring an accomplishment, or recognizing a friend or colleague.

## CHEF TO ORDER

*Suzanne Sinclair*

970/274-0403

SPECIALIZED CATERING SERVICE

Available for **holiday meals**

## Empty Nesters

Finding yourself at loose ends now that autumn is here and the secular New Year is upon us? Looking to join a congenial social group to occupy some of that new free time? Craving activities with grownups, activities that are fun, cultural (sometimes,) and which always include food? Then Empty Nesters is for you.

We are open to singles and couples. We meet once a month. Each member unit takes a turn at planning the gatherings. We have visited museums, restaurants, had potlucks, and many other activities. We always enjoy being together, talking, and sharing.

If you are interested in attending future events, think Empty Nesters is for you, or you have questions about us, please contact Richard and Sheryl Rosenberg at 908-253-7049 or [swellcourt@verizon.net](mailto:swellcourt@verizon.net) (with Empty Nesters in the subject line).

Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Concert is open to all music lovers

### Nefesh Mountain

*Melodies of American Blue Grass and  
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Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$10 students, \$20 general admission, \$40 reserved seating, under age 5 free. Become a Silver Friend of the Arts and receive 2 reserved seats and recognition in the program \$150 3 ways to purchase tickets:



<https://adathisraelmosaic.eventbrite.com>

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## BULLETIN FROM THE BOARD—IRA SPERLING



My wife Beverly and I are enjoying our fourth year as members of Congregation Kehilat Shalom. Though I was raised in an Orthodox household, I never realized that synagogues are open other times besides Friday night, Saturday mornings, and holidays. I went to Services because I had to, and no more than that.

In my second year, I joined the Ritual Committee. As I sat in my first meeting on a hot July evening, calendar planning and High Holiday preparations were at the top of our agenda. As the veteran committee members were going over details of what needed to be done, especially for the High Holidays, I had a major revelation. When it came to synagogue involvement, I was a 60+ year old Jewish teenager. Much the way a teenager comes home from school, and his bed is miraculously made, his laundry miraculously folded, his dinner miraculously prepared, I had never given any thought to how Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services just seemed to happen when I got there. (Nor, did I realize, as we discussed the years' upcoming calendar, how many good people, representing, different areas—Social Action, Hebrew School, and myriad other areas and events too numerous to mention—were to be included and consulted in planning the year.)

So, when it comes to the High Holidays, it seems that Siddurim had to be moved out, Machzorim, the High Holiday prayer books had to be moved in, Aliyot and Ark openings assigned, and again, a myriad of other tasks, too numerous to mention, all had to be lovingly attended to. Only then could the two most sanctified holidays on the Jewish calendar culminate in the beautiful way they always had with Cantor Kate, Rabbi Susan, and now with Rabbi Jake, our choir, and our congregants all making each day memorable.

I had mentioned this eye-opening experience to my brother, a rabbi and professor at Hebrew Union College, the Seminary for the Reform Movement, whose wife is a Congregational Rabbi in Westchester. Besides making a comment implying "Well good morning Ira", he brought up another point. In some bigger synagogues, there is more staff, and though much work is performed by congregants, in a shul like CKS, volunteerism is even more vital.

Since joining the Board, I again learned even more about the efforts of all the various standing committees and pop up volunteer efforts in response to community and world events, or for new programming efforts.

As we approach New Years' Day, I am struck by the similarities and differences between our American New Year and Rosh Hashanah, our Jewish New Year. On the eve of January 1<sup>st</sup>, parties, music, and drinking

champagne are annual rituals. Our New Year, Rosh Hashanah, is more a time of self-reflection, with drinking wine at Kiddush the only drinking that is encouraged.

Similarly, both occasions are times for resolutions. I dare say that there is a place on January 1<sup>st</sup> for resolutions of being a better person, parent, listener, etc. Sometimes though, we make resolutions for perhaps less earth-shaking matters. "I'm going to finally take a cruise, read more, lose weight, and clean out the attic." On Rosh Hashanah, hopefully our resolutions are more in the realm of "Tikun Atzmi", self-analysis and improvement and working toward Tikkun Olam.

I'm wishing you all a happy , happy New Year and hoping you'll mix a little of the spirit of Rosh Hashanah in your celebrations by making resolutions to continue doing a little more for our CKS Community, our immediate community, and our world community.

As I said in my opening, it has been a wonderful revelation to me to fully realize that a synagogue can be and should be truly a Jewish Community and World Community Center.

*Ira Sperling, Trustee*

### 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 [irubinstein@gmail.com](mailto:irubinstein@gmail.com)  
or the synagogue office for more information



### WHY CHANUKAH?

We all know the Chanukah story of the Maccabees defeating the Greeks and love the idea that Judah and his brothers fought for the freedom to be Jews. But, the Talmud asks the question "What is the meaning for Chanukah?" Certainly, no one is asking the question of the meaning for Shabbat or Rosh Hashanah?

Chanukah is not a biblical holiday. The Book of the Maccabees is not included in the Bible. The Rabbis, however, wanted to teach the importance of this historical event and created a holiday around it.

The Rabbis turned this rebellion into a holy day because the Jews were celebrating the bloody defeat of the Greeks instead of celebrating the rededication of the Temple. So the Rabbis were forced to re-interpret the Chanukah story and celebrate holiness and dedication to Jewish values.

It is a holiday of light, warmth, peace, and acceptance. We live in a violent world and we are fraught with conflict. The message of Chanukah is as pertinent to us today as it was when it was created 2000 years ago. Peace flows forward with the words we speak and the light we shed. The greatest present we can give ourselves is the gift of peace.

Wishing you and your family all the best for a Chanukah filled with love, light, and peace!



### SUPPORT OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL'S WALL OF FLAME

Put your name on a flame; put your handle on a candle. Look for the **Wall of Flame**, our Religious School menorah with your name in lights. For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family. Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group. Any way you choose, you are warming up to a great cause—your Religious School. For more information, check the flyer online or in your child's book bag.

On behalf of the Religious School staff and children, we thank you for your support.



### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Sunday, December 2: JEWISH BOOK FAIR; Author Dr. Janice Cohn will be our Jewish Book Month guest
- Friday, December 7: Shabbat Mishpachah, 7pm
- Sunday, December 9: Jewish Book Fair continues; Chanukah art with the Kehiloft teens
- Sunday, December 16: PACT: K-3; Cooking; Tefillah with the Rabbi
- Sunday, December 22: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, *Winter break*
- Sunday, December 30: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, *Winter break*
- Saturday, January 5: Shabbat Mishpachah, \*\*\*\*9:30am
- Sunday, January 6: School resumes; 4th grade PACT program
- Sunday, January 13: Camp Havaya orientation (grades 3-7); Tefillah with the Rabbi

Tot Shabbat is at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1. Randi Greenhouse and Rabbi Jake will be co-leading a short service for kids and their families.

## KEHILOFT - THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR JEWISH JOURNEY



I am Paige Kowalski, Kehiloft's Co Vice-President along with Jared Handelman. I have been in Kehiloft for three years and loved every one of them. My participation in Kehiloft has added so much to my life and to me as a person. I have grown tremendously during my years here and I cannot wait to be an active

Kehiloft board member again!

During the month of November, Kehiloft planned to run a Friday Shabbat service and study the Torah portion with Rebecca and Isaac. Our meeting was productive and we studied and discussed the important meaning of this portion and what could be used for a possible discussion. Although the service did not end up happening because of the "Show up for Shabbat" initiative, we still had so much fun planning and creating a song to many tunes of modern songs which encompassed what happened in the torah portion. This song was made by all of the students as a collaborative effort. It was so much fun to make a parody and make a D'Var related to it, it really allowed us to use the creative sides we all have and work together to have fun and make it a special meeting. We have planned to reschedule our service to December 14th and we are looking forward to planning either a skit or song and a meaningful discussion afterwards. Kehiloft ran a craft at Religious School for Sukkot, giving the students an opportunity to create something to hang on the sukkah. These creations were unfortunately not able to hang in the sukkah due to rain and weather problems, but the students had a lot of fun making them!

This month we also met with a life coach and we talked about school and the pressure we had coming from everywhere in our lives. It was eye-opening and really helped to get every Kehilofter engaged and active in the meeting. It also gave us an idea of how to deal with the thoughts about our future and ourselves that put stress and anxiety on us. I thought that this was one of my favorite things that I've done in Kehiloft because it allowed us to connect as a group and to talk about serious issues with an expert at coaching.

Kehiloft is also planning to have another discussion with Rabbi Jake about the recent election and how it feels for minorities and women to be elected and

how that will affect us. It will also give us a look into voter suppression and the way it shows itself in our world today. After our first discussion with Rabbi Jake about his sermons at the High Holidays we came to the agreement that as a group we would love to discuss political events currently happening in our world.

In the month of December, Kehiloft is participating in the Stonebridge Chanukah Service. This is something we look forward to every year because it is always so much fun to eat and converse with the residents of Stonebridge. The service, which is always so great to participate in, will have Kehilofters leading certain prayers. We hope to see as many congregants there as possible! It is always a fun occasion and it really makes telling the story of Chanukah so much fun, along with eating delicious latkes!

*Paige Kowalski*, Co Vice-President,

### DECEMBER

**Sunday, Dec 2 - 11:00 - 12:00** *Not in Our Town in Religious School*

**Sunday, Dec 2 - 6:00 - 9:00** *CKS Hanukkah dinner party celebration*

**Wednesday, Dec 5 - Shabbat prep**

**Sunday, Dec 9 - 11:00 - 12:00 (approx)** Kehiloft leads Hanukkah craft in RS

**Sunday, Dec 9 - 4:00 - 6:00** Hanukkah program at Stonebridge

**Friday, Dec 14 - NEW** Kehiloft leads Shabbat services #1 (rescheduled from Nov 2)

**Wednesday, Dec 19 - canceled**

### JANUARY

**Wednesday, Jan 9 - Shabbat prep**

**Friday, Jan 18 - 7:30 - 9:30** Kehiloft leads Shabbat service #2

**Wednesday, Jan 23 - Rabbi Jake leads discussion #3**

**Wednesday, Jan 30 - Tentative**

**The student board meets on Wednesdays from 8:00 - 8:30.**

***CKS community events listed in italic.***

Shalom,

*Karen Fridkis*, Principal Kehiloft

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Hollywood takes on Antisemitism Presented by Rabbi Jake Best Adler

Sunday, December 16, 10:30 - noon



All are invited attend this 90 minute adult education class on Sunday December 16. It will be held at CKS from 10:30 am - noon. Together we will examine Hollywood's take on Antisemitism. We will take a look at scenes from two great classics: "Gentlemen's Agreement" and "Crossfire." "Gentlemen's Agreement" starring Gregory Peck and Dorothy McGuire is the winner of 1947's Oscar for Best Picture. "Crossfire" also from 1947 is another classic that touches on the theme of anti-Semitism. How has Hollywood changed in the past 70 years? Are these films merely period pieces or can we still learn from them today?

Additional adult education upcoming event dates include:

January 20

February 10

March 17. Learn from congregant Emily Bengels about her studies on Spiritual Resistance in the Holocaust

Sunday, April 14, 9:30 am - Model Seder/Hamilton Haggadah - co-sponsored with Education and Ritual Committees

Sunday, May 5, 9:30 am - Yom Ha Shoah presentation by Scott Strauss.

Sunday, June 9 - Shavuot learning - featuring Lightning Learning again -

Other topics to include:

- Jews and the Civil War,
- Judiasm on One Foot: What are the Elements of a Prayer Service?
- A conversation with the Sisterhood of Salaam/Shalom.



Interfaith Vigil

## CKS JOINS INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY OF PITTSBURGH

Rabbi Jake was joined by 20 members of the CKS community to stand in solidarity with the Jewish Community of Pittsburgh at an event organized by the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. The event was held at Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough and was supported by over 40 organizations, including CKS, representing a wide range of faiths. To see a packed sanctuary of nearly 1000 people united in support was very reaffirming.

Highlights of the event which featured messages of hope and different prayers:

Two haunting chants in Sanskrit for peace and healing from the Sathya Sai Baba Community; a Muslim prayer from the Koran, chanted by Imam Saffet A. Catovic, Muslim Chaplain at Drew University, Madison; and a recitation in Hebrew and English of the 23rd Psalm from Eric Lavitsky, President of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, who ended with an emotional plea to attend Shabbat services that week.

Ardaman Singh, from the Garden State Sikh Association in Somerset, barely held back tears as she movingly read a heartfelt poem about injustice and gave a closing prayer about our common humanity, saying we need to build a new America where all can thrive. Dr. Ali Chaudry, president of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge and a member of the New Jersey Interfaith Coalition, explained how he was the catalyst for the vigil, reaching out to Rabbi Arnie Gluck of Temple Beth-El hours after he heard about the shootings in Pittsburgh. In closing his remarks, he had the entire audience stand and repeat the "Stand Up for the Other Pledge" that he originated (adopted by the CKS board last year).

Various civic and religious leaders spoke, sharing their horror about the Tree of Life event, questioning how such hatred could exist in America in 2018, expressing gratitude for the large and varied turnout for the event. Assemblyman Roy Frieman, a Beth-El congregant, mentioned the Native American legend in which an elder tells a child about two warring wolves - one representing evil and numerous negative qualities; the other representing good and all the positive qualities. When the child asks which one wins, the elder replies "The one we feed." He went on to say that we need a moral compass in our leaders.

While many speakers noted it was a shame that it took a tragedy to bring such a large and varied group together, all took pride in the large and wide-ranging multi-faith turnout.

The Beth-El choir sang throughout the evening, as did several cantors. At the end of the evening, everyone joined in one voice, swaying to the music, some embracing their neighbors, as we sang "Olam Chesed Yibaneh, We Will Build This World from Love," the words of which are a great way to end:

Olam chesed yibaneh	I will build this world from love
Olam chesed yibaneh	And you must build this world from love,
Al-a'lam min ar-rahmah	And if we build this world from love,
Al-a'lam min ar-rahmah	Then God will build this world from love

*-Hilary Crist*

# DECEMBER 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Tot Shabbat 10 am
2 Religious School Not In Our Town – Author Visit (Janice Cohn) Hanukkah Dinner	3 Mah-Jongg	4 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class CKS Knitting & Crafter's Group	5 Kehiloft Kehiloft – Student Board	6	7 Shabbat Mishpachah (Family Shabbat)	8 Julia Fraticelli's Bat Mitzvah
9 Religious School Kehiloft Kehiloft @ Stonebridge Hanukkah at Stonebridge	10 Mah-Jongg	11 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	12	13 Board Meeting CKS Book Club – “Judah” by Amos Oz	14 Shabbat Services	15
16 Religious School Adult Ed (tentative)	17 Mah-Jongg	18	19 Kehiloft Ritual Committee Meeting Kehiloft – Student Board	20 CKS Knitting & Crafter's Group	21 Shabbat Services – Lay-led	22 Torah Study (lay- led)
23	24	25	26	27	28 Shabbat Services – Game Night	29
30	31					

## Chanukah Items in the CKS gift shop

Shop with us – instant gratification, large selection, support your synagogue, shop with your kids!

We are open during religious school hours on DECEMBER 2nd or by appointment (call Iris at 609-947-2633).

We are carrying Chanukah wrapping tape from our member Jodi Mahoney. It's \$3.50 per roll. Be smart – wrap with grocery bags and decorate with tape! We also have guilt free gelt this year. The gelt we eat on Chanukah is a reminder of the freedom our people won many years ago. This Chanukah, we can support the 65,000 member farmers of Kuapa Kokoo, a Fair Trade cooperative in Ghana who are co-owners of Divine Chocolate. Fair Trade standards prohibit the use of child labor. The organization is democratically run, and their children attend school rather than work in the fields. The cost is higher than what you get at the grocery stores – \$2.25 per bag. But it's a great lesson for our kids on this special holiday for kids.

Matches for the Chanukah lights! Don't let your fingers get burnt.

Of course, we have Hanukkahs of all styles, candles of many colors, toys, and lots of beautiful gift items. It pays to do your Chanukah shopping with us. See you Sunday!

Come join the CKS community for our Hanukkah celebrations!

### **Congregation Hanukkah Party on the first night of the holiday, Sunday, December 2 at 6:00 pm**

Bring your hanukkah (menorah) and a parve or dairy dish for Pot Luck dinner. We will provide the latkes, dreidels and gelt.

There will be songs, games and sharing of the Hanukkah spirit. All are welcome, so please bring friends and family.

### **Hanukkah at Stonebridge Senior Living Community Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 pm**

The entire congregation is invited to share some Hanukkah Cheer with the residents of Stonebridge.

There will be songs and lighting of the menorah. Stonebridge provides the refreshments. [*Outside food is not allowed.*]

Come enjoy some of the best latkes in the area!

Stonebridge at Montgomery is a senior living community located off Route 206 in Skillman.

The address is 100 Hollingshead Spring Road, Skillman, NJ.

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

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## December 2018

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CKS Office Phone:

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Deadline for next newsletter:

# December 15<sup>th</sup>

Send photos and contributions to:  
**newsletter@ksnj.org**



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**The CKS Newsletter is published monthly, except July.  
 Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**Every effort will be made to publish contributed items. Due to space restrictions, placement and format are at the discretion of the editor.**

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