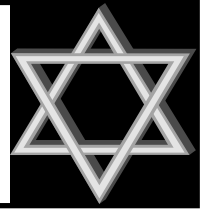




Congregation Knesseth Israel

June 2014/5774

Newsletter



SERVICES

Friday Nights at 8:00 pm

Wednesday, June 4, 7:30 pm

*Shavu'ot Service
with Yizkor*

Friday, June 27, 8:00 pm

*Shabbat Service with
Cantor Roffman*

*Please check
this issue's calendar
for the full listing
of meetings*

MEETINGS

Saturday, June 7 - 7:30 pm

Adult Education: Kabbalah

Sunday, June 8 - 11:00 am

Adult Ed. Committee meeting

Monday, June 9 - 7:00 pm

Calendar meeting

Wednesday, June 11

Wednesday, July 2

Exec Board mtgs - 7:30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, June 14

CKI Luau - 7:00 pm

Thursday, June 19

Sisterhood Dinner - 6:30 pm

Friday, June 20, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 21, 9:30 am

Janine M's Bat Mitzvah

Thursday, July 3, 7:05 pm

Patriots Baseball Game

Sunday, August 3

CKI Picnic

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT:

www.ckibbnj.org and

[www.facebook.com /](http://www.facebook.com/CKI.BoundBrook)

CKI.BoundBrook

The Rabbi's Forum

by Rabbi Jack Kramer

Each June, as we prepare to enter the summer season, I have taken the opportunity to reflect on the year past, our accomplishments, and our goals yet unfulfilled. This is the end of my seventh year at CKI, and I am truly grateful, each day, for the opportunities, friendships, community, learning, and worship that have been so central to my time here.

The year ahead is a year of transition. I thank Co-Presidents Mark S and Pam B who have served this congregation with deep commitment, constant effort and energy for its welfare, and a ceaseless drive to make CKI better. As Pam and Mark leave office, I look forward to working together with the new Co-Presidents, Carolyn K and Lisa S. Serving CKI has been a sacred privilege, and I know that Lisa and Carolyn will help CKI reach new heights as it approaches a century as a bedrock of Jewish life in central New Jersey.

I also want to thank every one of you who has worked – officially and unofficially – for the good of this community. Every year is a new opportunity for growth. As we take a breath during the summer, let us remember that the future of our congregation is as vast as your desires to help us grow. Your ideas, your comments, your support and loving criticism are the nourishment that ensures our future.

So, let us approach our future with optimism and hope, with a sense of adventure and experiment, rooted in the foundation of our beloved heritage. During my seven years at CKI we have worked, studied, worshipped, mourned, hoped, and celebrated together. We have struggled to make the soul of the congregation true to the nature of its members, and we dream of a bright future.

I know that our efforts will be worth the journey, and I believe that a strong congregation is one that faces the hard times and builds on its dreams. I thank everyone for the confidence they have shown in CKI, and the loyalty and helpful suggestions I receive every day.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

B'Shalom u'Vracha (in peace and blessing)



President's Message

I am sitting here at my desk, late at night, after the Annual CKI Congregational Board Meeting and want to provide a brief summary of some of the major items discussed this morning. For the 40+ people in attendance, I want to take a moment to thank you for coming out to hear all the committee reports and vote on the important items that will help shape the 2014-2015 CKI fiscal year as well as the future of our synagogue:

- The Executive Board Slate passed unanimously, and the Board of Trustees Slate passed nearly unanimously. I wanted to take a moment to offer special congratulations to Lisa S and Carolyn K who will be the new CKI co-Presidents, starting on July 1, 2014. Both are extremely capable and have worked very hard for many years, helping to guide the congregation. I also want to offer a special thank you to Pam B who has been co-President with me for almost 3 years. It has been an honor to work with Pam. I have had the good fortune to work with two exceptionally hard-working women as co-Presidents (Robyn G and Pam B) and never could have done this job without their wisdom, support, guidance, and direction.
- Special and heartfelt thanks need to go to Eli G who has stepped down from the Executive Board and Board after several years of dedicated service. Congratulations to our four new board members: Joshua G, Amy S, Marc S, and Lori S. With seven board members stepping down^a the CKI Board will have 26 members starting on July 1st. Thanks to each Board Member who served their time and provided knowledge and talent on such a regular basis.
- Michael G gave a positive update on the various House initiatives that were completed in the fiscal year. I wanted to take a moment to thank Michael for his hard work and dedication. Our building is much drier and much safer than at any point in recent memory.
- Matt and Sandi focused the Ritual Committee discussion on the upcoming High Holidays which start in late September. If you want an Aliyah, please fill out the form that was in the recent Congregational Mailing and give it to Robyn G or Carolyn K.
- Our Education Committee Chairpersons, Carolyn K and Abby R, provided a positive update on our school as well as letting us know that early-bird registration is off to a strong start for next year. CKI is starting a class for 2-4 year olds next year; the class will be attended by a guardian with his or her child. Please let us know if you know someone outside the Congregation who might have an interest as, for this class only, membership is not required.
- Nancy B reported that Adult Education had a very successful year, and that the Adult Education Committee has grown in number and is planning a number of exciting learning experiences for 2014-2015.
- Men's Club and Sisterhood both maintained strong momentum throughout the year and have great events planned for next year. Come out and support their efforts and enjoy time with fellow congregants. Please attend the Luau Event on 6/14.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

- Rich B reviewed the proposed budget, and those in attendance passed it easily. My thanks to Rich for all he does, but especially for his work as Treasurer; this is a true labor of love. The Finance Committee and Executive Board will be focusing on rebuilding the CKI Endowment over the coming years in order to strengthen our overall financial condition. **For the third straight year, CKI had an operating surplus; kudos to all involved as this is a monumental achievement for any synagogue anywhere.**
- **The Board voted on and passed a proposal that will change the gift card quotas starting in the new fiscal year. Full families must now purchase \$2500 and single families must now purchase \$1250 in order to avoid a pro-rated assessment.**
- The Board also voted on and passed a proposal that created a New Member Incentive Program. Please see Mark, Rich, or Lisa if you have any questions.
- Marla L reported that we have 75 families, including 3 Affiliate Members. The Executive Board and Membership Committee will be focusing in 2014-2015 on increasing awareness of CKI and will be running targeted campaigns to attract new members. Membership declined at CKI this year, mostly due to the unfortunate passing of several of our members. We miss them to this day.
- Lisa announced a new fundraising campaign "Reach Chai for CKI" – with the central theme of raising money to help replace our mismatched ceiling tiles throughout the building. For only Chai (\$18), you can sponsor a 'tile' and have your name on our new board. Regarding our RoR (Repair our Roof) Campaign, contributions now top \$16,500, with \$15,000 having gone back into the CKI endowment. Thank you to all members for their generous support of all campaigns this year including Gift Cards, Shalach Manot, Hanukkah Store, and the Rummage Sale.
- Cory S reported that gift card profits for the year now exceed \$14,000, and we have participation from 56 families, our second highest level of participation ever. Profit for the fiscal year should top \$15,000, the highest profit in a single fiscal year from this program. I have to be a father for a minute and state how proud I am of Cory. He agreed to be CKI's first Junior Board Member 5 years ago, and has focused a great deal of time and effort on Fundraising, especially the gift card program.
Cory is moving off to college in the fall.
- All other Committee Chairpersons provided updates for the year. Their volunteerism and efforts on behalf of CKI should be commended.

CKI has had a wonderful and memorable 2013-2014 year. Pam and I thank all of you for the time you spend here, volunteering, worshipping, learning, and socializing.

On a personal note, I have been proud and honored to serve as CKI co-President for five years, more than I ever thought possible when I agreed to help run CKI years ago. For those who have been in leadership positions, you will know the joy, the excitement, and the concern about difficult decisions that have to be made at times. Thank you to each member of the congregation who has given their time, their effort, their support, their praise, and their critiques. I won't be going too far away as I have been asked to maintain the position of Finance Committee Chairman and also will be the Fundraising Committee Chairman for the coming year.

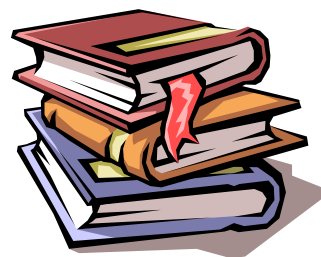
Please remember that we have Shabbat Services each Friday night throughout the summer led by Rabbi Kramer once per month or members of the Congregation on the other Friday Nights.

Have a wonderful, healthy, and relaxing summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark S

Religious School



Wow! Another year of Religious School completed. What a productive and fun year we have had. The teachers did a great job organizing our holiday celebrations, the parents did a great job getting their children to school, the Education Committee did an awesome job developing the emergency procedures, and everyone did a wonderful job working together as a team. Many more goals were accomplished, but the list is too long to cite here. We really have created a positive learning community where a student can gain knowledge, pride, and develop their Jewish identity. Thank you to our entire community for helping to make this year an excellent one.

By now you should have received your child's final report card, reflecting all the great learning that has gone on throughout the year. If you haven't received the report card in the mail, contact Abby or me, and we will re-send a copy.

This newsletter article is bittersweet for me. I have been co-director of the school with Abby for the past two years. I will be moving on next year to the Co-Presidency position at CKI. When Abby and I decided to volunteer to direct the Religious School, we really didn't realize just how exciting and rewarding this position could be. It has been an absolute pleasure watching the students gain knowledge of Judaism as well as develop a sense of pride in being Jewish. Even though I won't be directing the school next year, I will continue my role as a member of the Education Committee.

We welcome Robin G who has generously volunteered to direct the Religious School next year. Robin is a trained, certified teacher with many years of experience teaching children of all ages. We know Robin will be a great addition to our team. Abby will continue as Education Committee Chairperson. If you don't already attend the monthly Education Committee meetings, please come try one. We meet on Sundays during Religious School hours. Your input is so important!

Have a great summer and we look forward to working with you and your children in the coming school year!

Carolyn K'
Education Committee Co-Chairperson

P.S. – If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, please send in your registration form (and deposit). Copies are available on our website at ckibbnj.org/school/registration.html or you can contact either Abby or me at school@ckibbnj.org or call the CKI office to have a hard copy mailed.

CKI ADULT EDUCATION

The Jewish Mystique: Kabbalah

Saturday, June 7, 7:30 pm

In our final Adult Education class before the summer, Rabbi Kramer will lead us in a discussion on the history of *Kabbalah* — the ancient Jewish tradition of mystical interpretation of the Bible — and its central themes.



Adults, Bar & Bat Mitzvah students, and teens are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Nancy B

This Adult Education event is free for CKI members; there is a \$5 fee for guests

The Fundraising Committee gratefully thanks the following businesses who donated merchandise for CKI's Rummage Sale:

Kreations

50 Mount Bethel Road
Warren

Sports Minded Unlimited

165 Washington Valley Road
Warren

Union Avenue Legend Pharmacy

433 West Union Avenue
Bound Brook

TC's Hallmark

722 Union Avenue
Middlesex

CKI LUAU

Saturday, June 14 7:00 pm

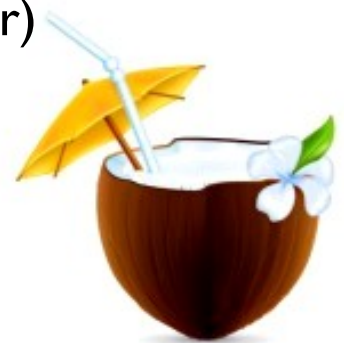
DJ, Karaoke,
Hula contest,
games & prizes!



Island/Hawaiian
apparel welcome!

Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served.
Non-alcoholic beverages will be available
(BYOB - Kosher wine or beer)

\$5 per person;
Non-members & guests: \$10 per person



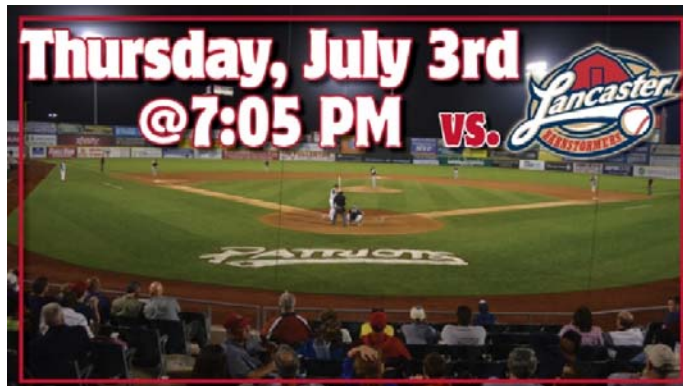
Please RSVP by June 6th

Make checks payable to "CKI Sisterhood"

TIME FOR BASEBALL !

Thursday, July 3rd at 7:05 pm

**The Somerset Patriots take on
the Lancaster Barnstormers**

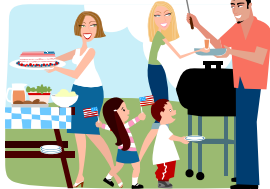


Fireworks after the game!

Tickets are \$10 each

Congregation Kneseth Israel's Annual

PICNIC



**Sunday, August 3, 2014
11 am – 4 pm (Rain or Shine)**



Mountainview Park, Route 28 in Middlesex, NJ

Come enjoy a relaxed, fun-filled day with CKI !
There will be lots of food and activities for everyone.

**Cost: \$10.00 for Adults
\$7.00 for Children in Hebrew School**

.....Please RSVP by **July 15, 2014**

Make checks payable to the CKI Men's Club (with the memo: "Picnic")
and mail to: CKI, Attn: Men's Club
229 Mountain Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Share special moments in your life with your friends at CKI
by sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat!



Sponsor an Oneg to:

- Celebrate an occasion: birthdays, anniversaries, engagements
- Commemorate the birth of a child or grandchild
- Celebrate accomplishments such as a graduation, a new job, or retirement
- Honor and remember the Yahrzeit of a relative or friend

As a sponsor, your name and dedication will be in the CKI upcoming events and announced from the bima during services.

Let us help you celebrate your special Shabbat with the warmth and community that is characteristic of our congregation.

If you choose to sponsor an Oneg, you can contact the Oneg Coordinator, Robin G, at CKIoneg@gmail.com with your date.

Dates will be scheduled up to six months in advance.



GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Howard, Sherry & Charlie H
donated an Automated External
Defibrillator.

Pages for the Ages Campaign

Dennis & Anita R
Madeline & Linda S

In Memory of a loved one's Yahrzeit

Rich B
David & Carol G
Tim & Abby R
David S & Eileen F
Dennis & Anita R

Ceiling Tile Campaign

Rich B
Steve & Debi C
Seth & Justin G
Jeff & Mary M
Mark, Lisa, Rachel, & Cory S

High Holiday Donations

Flowers: Pam B, Mark & Lisa S

Security: Pam B, Phil & Yelena
S, Mark & Lisa S, Micki
S

Hardship Fund: Robyn & Eli G,
Matt & Marla L

Rosh Hashanah Oneg: Matt & Marla
L, Mark & Lisa S, Norton
S

Babysitting: Rich B

Religious School

Pam B
Shelley B & Alan G
Mark & Lisa S

*All donations, regardless of size,
help our congregation and are
greatly appreciated.*

We sincerely Thank You!

**Contributions can be made to
various temple funds, including:**

- **Pages for the Ages**
(prayerbook dedication bookplates)
- **Repair our Roof campaign**
- **Reach "Chai" for CKI - Ceiling Tiles**
- **Hardship Fund**
- **Leaves on the Tree of Life**
- **Plaques on the CBT Tree of Life**
- **Michael Barr Memorial Library**
- **Memorial Board Plaques**
- **Memorial Fund**
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
- **Temple Fund**
(general use for Temple needs)

*If you have any questions
about contributions,
please contact the Temple
Office at 732-469-0934*

Leagrams

*Do you need to send cards for
birthdays, weddings, anniversaries,
get-wells, etc.?*

*No need to go to the card store
and the post office –
Let Sisterhood send a card for you!*

*For \$5.00, send a Leagram
for any occasion, and
help support the CKI Sisterhood.*

**Contact Lori S at
CKI.Leagrams@Gmail.com**

“Refuah Shlema”

Get Well Wishes go out to:

Gail B

Frances C

Alan E

Rich G

Glorya G

Sandi M

Lori N

Sue P

Robin R

Evelyn S

Linda S

Madeline S

Faye S

Martin S

*We pray for their recovery
in body and spirit.*

*Grant them renewed strength
and confidence, and give wisdom
and skill to those who
are helping to bring healing.*

Mazel Tov



**to Janine and her family
in celebration of
her Bat Mitzvah!**

CKI GIFT CARD PROGRAM



GIFT CARD PURCHASES: Over the summer, when you need to purchase gift cards, please contact Richor Mark

Also, please watch for

announcements about several Sundays when CKI will be open for gift card sales.

WE HAVE POSTAGE STAMPS! We are still offering Forever Stamps at 45 cents each, even though the first-class rate has gone up to 49 cents. They are available in sheets of 10, booklets of 20, and rolls of 100 stamps.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF CARDS IN STOCK: including: Shop Rite, A&P, Kings, Whole Foods Market, Wegmans, Stop n Shop, Outback, Red Lobster, Buffalo Wild Wings, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Quick Chek, COSTCO, Walmart, Target, Sears, Kohls, Macys, Lord & Taylor, Sephora, Gap, Old Navy, Bed Bath & Beyond, Staples, Sports Authority, Home Depot, Gamestop, PetSmart, PETCO, Walgreens, CVS, iTunes, Exxon, BP, Sunoco, Shell Gas, and Amazon.com.

SPECIAL ORDER: We can obtain many other cards for you within a week or two of placing an order. Please let us know if you are interested in cards for any of these stores:

The Palm Steakhouse, Cheesecake Factory, PF Chang, Morton's Steakhouse, Legal Seafood, IHOP, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, California Pizza Kitchen, Chilis/Maggianos/Macaroni Grill, Forever 21, Nike, Dick's Sporting Goods, Lululemon, Century 21, Victoria's Secret, Belk (Florida), Bealls (Florida), Dillard's (Florida), Publix (Florida), JC Penney, Joseph A Bank, Men's Wearhouse, Nordstroms, Bloomingdales, Brooks Brothers, Cabelas, Lowes, Marriott, Jet Blue Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Ticketmaster, NFLSHOP.com, Nutrisystem, Fandango, Sears/KMART, Ulta, Sephora, Office Depot, Auto Zone

June 2014

June 2014

July 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
29	30												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 1 8:00am Rummage Sale	2	3 7:30pm Shavuot Service	4	5 8:00pm Shabbat Service led by Janine	6 7:30pm Adult Education - Kabbalah	7
8 11:00am Adult Ed Committee Mtg	9 7:00pm Calendar Meeting	10	11 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	12 8:00pm Shabbat Service	13 7:00pm CKI Luau	14
15 Fathers Day	16	17	18	19 6:30pm Sisterhood Dinner	20 7:30pm Shabbat Service led by Janine	21 9:30am Janine Bat Mitzvah ** Mazel Tov**
22	23	24	25 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	26	27 8:00pm Shabbat Service - with Cantor	28
29	30					

July 2014

July 2014

August 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		July 1	2	3	4	5
			7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	7:00pm Men's Club Baseball	8:00pm Shabbat Service	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting		8:00pm Shabbat Service	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					8:00pm Shabbat Service	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					8:00pm Shabbat Service	
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2014

August 2014

September 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31							29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					8:00pm Shabbat Service	August 1
3 11:00am CKI Picnic at Mountainview Park in Middlesex	4	5	6 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	7	8 8:00pm Shabbat Service	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 8:00pm Shabbat Service	16
17	18	19	20 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	21	22 8:00pm Shabbat Service	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 8:00pm Shabbat Service	30
31						