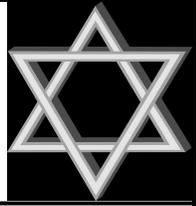


Congregation Knesseth Israel

September 2014/5774-5775 Newsletter



SERVICES

Friday Nights at 8:00 pm

Friday, Sept 19

Learning Service - 7:30 pm

Selichot

Sat., Sept. 20 - 8:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah

Wed., Sept. 24 - 7:30 pm

Thurs., Sept 25 - 9:30 am

Fri., Sept 26 - 9:30 am

Shabbat Shuvah

Sat., Sept. 27 - 9:30 am

Kol Nidre

Fri., Oct 3 - 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Sat., Oct 4 - 9:30 am

Sukkot service w/Yizkor

Fri., Oct 10 - 8:00 pm

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

MEETINGS

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Sept. 3 - 7:30 pm

Board Meeting

Sun., Sept. 7 - 9:30 am

Adult Education

Saturday, Sept. 20 - 7:30 pm

Melodies (Nusach) of the
High Holidays

SPECIAL EVENTS

CKI Clean Up Day

Sun., Sept. 14 - 9:30 am

**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

Dickens begins his *Tale of Two Cities* with the famous quote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The dichotomy and tension between good and evil, right and wrong, hopes and aspirations has rarely been more stark for me than it is today in mid-August as I write my opening newsletter article for the synagogue year.

Yesterday, my first grandchild was born in New Orleans to my son Adam and daughter-in-law Molly. Beyond the obvious love, joy, and gratitude I feel at this moment, I am overwhelmed by the hope that this precious new life embodies. All the possibilities and dreams that his parents feel are mirrored (or even magnified) by grandparents, and I am proud to fall into this stereotype.

The backdrop and contrast to this new hope is the world we wake up to each day with the morning news. The war between Hamas and Israel is paused today, but the last month has been devastatingly tragic and frustrating. The perception of Israel in the world as aggressor has morphed into overt anti-Semitism throughout Europe and even here in the U.S. Non-Jewish friends and colleagues have posted messages and pictures on Facebook and elsewhere that portray Israel and Jews as a blight and sickness that must be eliminated.

Meanwhile, the true evil of the radical Islamic State, Hezbollah, Boko Haram, Muslim Brotherhood and others is ignored, despite their specific and often repeated calls to eliminate Israel and rid the world of Jews. Not only Jews are their target however. Christians, other Muslim factions, and ancient local sects have all been subjugated to the demand of "convert, leave or die," yet the world remains oddly silent. The UN has formed commissions to condemn Israel, yet the atrocities and genocide perpetrated by these groups in Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Nigeria, and elsewhere are – at best – "regretted" and otherwise ignored.

So, what type of world is my grandson born into? Will it be receptive and open, or will he have to step cautiously through the minefields of growing anti-Semitism? I don't know, and my hopes and fears have kept me up at night arguing with each other. History is being written. I make no predictions.

The High Holidays also balance our hopes and fears, our assessments of the past years' mistakes and failures juxtaposed against the hope that we can do better, be forgiven, and make the world better for those we love in the year ahead.

My dreams and blessings for the year 5775 are that we can truly overcome the despair and fears that overwhelm us as we see the world as it exists. In 5775 may we begin a journey of healing and growth based on our best inclinations rather than driven by the over-cautiousness of our fears.

This has been a very difficult year for many in our congregation, as well as in the world around us. Let us try to be more sensitive to those in need during this time of difficulty. Let us try to live up to the ideals of our Prophets, to make this world deserving of the peace and security that is our promise and heritage.

Once again, I extend my hand to each of you and ask forgiveness for my shortcomings. I will try my hardest to do better this year.

L'Shana Tova,

Rabbi Jack Kramer



Presidents' Message

On July 1st, we officially became CKI's co-presidents. We are both honored and humbled to assume that role, and we are committed in earnest to perform the many duties associated with it to the best of our abilities. Our doors are always open, and we welcome any suggestions you have regarding all areas of CKI operations and activities.

The tasks surrounding running a synagogue are too numerous to mention. However, one thing is very clear: without the support of all of the talented volunteers, CKI would not be the vibrant community that it is today. We look forward to working with the Executive Board, the Board, the Committee Chairs, Rabbi Kramer, and Cantor Roffman as we continue to build momentum at CKI for this year and many years to come.

We all lead busy lives and have many responsibilities in our daily lives. We also have a responsibility to support each other and to keep our Jewish community alive and well. We encourage everyone to come and rejoice in attending Friday night services and the other Shabbat and Yom Tov services that we have throughout the year, whether it be with the Rabbi and Cantor, or one of our talented lay congregant volunteers. Help us to nurture the warm, welcoming community that is so important to you. By doing so, together we can strengthen the bonds within our own congregation and within the Jewish Community at large.

One of the keys to keep CKI moving forward is to increase our membership. The past year has been one of difficult losses of congregants that we held so dear. Please bring any suggestions to Lisa as to how to reach out to unaffiliated Jews in the surrounding towns. Our fee structure for membership has undergone several changes to encourage membership. Without question CKI's rates are the lowest in the area for Membership, Building Fund, and Religious School. So bring your friends to CKI to tour the Hebrew School, attend a service, or enjoy a social event. Stop by the temple to visit or just relax. Consider how you can help in our fundraising efforts to keep our synagogue viable and growing. Enhance your Jewish faith by attending an Adult Education Class. Socialize with your community at one of our many Sisterhood and Men's Club events. Volunteer to participate in services and feel more connected to your faith. Whatever you put into CKI you will receive back many times over.

We both want to wish you a very sweet and healthy New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Respectfully Submitted – Lisa and Carolyn

Shabbat Shuvah - September 26 & 27

The Saturday (Sabbath) between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a special Sabbath known as *Shabbat Shuvah*. Literally, this means the “Sabbath of Return,” but also takes some root in the phrase *Shabbat Teshuva* (“Sabbath of Repentance”).

For many observant Jews, this is the most sacred Sabbath of the year, a time for reflection leading up to the atonement of Yom Kippur only a few days away. Words to several prayers (especially during the Amidah) are changed slightly to reflect asking for forgiveness, repentance, and to be “sealed” in the Book of Life for the upcoming year.

We chant a special Haftarah dealing with the importance of heartfelt repentance and praising G-d for His mercy toward us.

Please come pray with us at CKI on Friday evening, September 26th at 8:00 pm, and Saturday morning, September 27th at 9:30 am. Recite the blessing with us for health and well-being; ask for repentance; hear the Haftarah thanking G-d for his compassion; enjoy some quiet reflection and spend time with your friends.

We will have refreshments on Saturday morning for all those who attend services.

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood is looking forward to an active and exciting year for in 5775! At our meeting in May we elected this year’s officers: Pam B and I as co-Presidents, Maxine E and Madeline S as Vice Presidents, and Betty Y as Treasurer. Lori S is continuing as our “Leagram Lady,” and Robin G is coordinating the Oneg sponsorships. We also discussed many ideas for upcoming meetings and events, including Movie Night, a cooking class at Shop Rite, and getting involved in charity work in the community. If you have any suggestions for Sisterhood activities, please let one of the officers know!

Last June we wrapped up the year with our annual Sisterhood dinner held at the Stoney Brook Grille. It was well-attended and everyone had a lovely time. Sisterhood and Men’s Club also co-hosted a CKI Luau, which was a fun and entertaining night out for all, with great decorations to set the mood, dancing, and Karaoke singing.

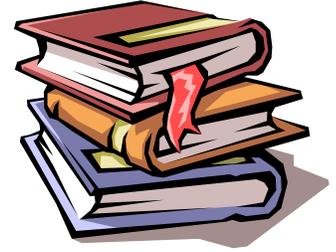
I would like to encourage more of our women congregants to become members of Sisterhood. Our events are more fun when we have a larger group there to enjoy them! The dues we collect help us to provide the refreshments after Rosh Hashanah services, along with supporting CKI in other ways.

Please watch the calendar for our upcoming events. I hope to see you at many of them!

Marla L
Sisterhood co-President



Religious School



Welcome back to the Religious School at CKI! We look forward to a great year of learning and fun.

We volunteers would not be able to continue running the school without consistent help from parents and committee members. We so appreciate that assistance, but can always use more help!

- Can you tutor students in Hebrew? We Need You!
- Can you help with school events? We Need You!
- Can you set up or clean up for Tot Shabbat or Learning Services? We Need You!
- Do you have Jewish friends with children between 8 and 16 who are not in Religious School? We Need You!
- Do you like going to productive and fun meetings? We Need You!

We are thrilled with our returning teachers, and look forward to introducing them to you on the first day of school.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 14th!

Note: on the calendar you'll see that we will now have Learning Services rather than Family Services. Our goal is for these services to be not only practice for our students, but learning experiences for our entire congregational family. Please join us as we pray and learn together!

School Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, September 14	9:30 am	First Day Religious School PTO Meeting Temple Tots class
Friday, September 19	7:30 pm	Learning Service
Sunday, September 21	9:30 am	Religious School Teen Class
Sunday, September 28	9:30 am	Religious School Temple Tots class

Replace with PDF file
RS Fall 2014 calendar

Have Questions? Want to Learn? See What CKI Has to Offer!

Celebrating Our Tots!

Special Events and Services for our youngest members and friends

Tot Sukkah Celebration! Sunday, October 12, 3:30 pm

Join us as we share a story, make a craft and enjoy a snack in the Sukkah! Stay after to join the congregational Sukkah Supper!

Tot Shabbat Services - Fridays, November 21 and December 12 at 6:45 pm

Join us for a short service designed for our youngest members and friends. This will be followed by a Shabbat service at 8pm.

Learning Services

Our learning services involve our students, and incorporate teaching components so that all our congregants can develop a deeper understanding of the service and prayers.

Friday, September 19, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 am

Friday, December 12, 7:45 pm

Adult Education

Melodies of the High Holidays - Saturday, September 20, 7:30 pm

How do the melodies of the service change to indicate the coming of the holidays? Join us for a talk and lessons about the High Holiday “nusach” (melodic themes), which will be followed by an 8:30 evening service for Selichot.

Sukkah Supper, Sunday, October 12, 4:30pm

Join us for a vegetarian (dairy) potluck dinner in our synagogue’s Sukkah. Partake in the mitzvot of shaking the lulav and etrog as Rabbi Kramer instructs us in the proper way to say the blessings. Please contact us at info@ckibbnj.org for our pot-luck food policy.

Families with small children are invited to arrive at 3:30 pm for our **Tot Sukkah Celebration**. Join us as we share a story, make a craft and share a snack in the Sukkah!

Kabbalah and the Aleph Bet, Saturdays, November 22 and January 10 at 7:30 pm

Join our discussion of the meaning of the Hebrew alphabet and symbols within the context of the Kabbalah.

Talmudic Structure, Saturday, December 13, 7:30 pm

Curious about the structure of the Talmud, and what its significance is? Join us as we discuss and review examples of the texts.

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

Mark & Lisa S donated postage and printing for the summer CKI mailing.

Pam B donated a metal shelving unit for the kitchen.

Pages for the Ages Campaign

Dennis & Anita R

In Memory of a loved one's Yahrzeit

Pam B

Eileen B

Alan & Cynthia E

Robin & Michael G

Eleanor G

David & Carol G

Dennis & Anita R

Phil & Yelena S

Mark & Lisa S

Ros S

Ceiling Tile Campaign

Kurt & Ada H

Marta M

Linda S

Rita & Leo S

High Holiday Donations

Security: Lori 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 AT
CKI.Leagrams@Gmail.com**

“Refuah Shlema”

Get Well Wishes go out to:

Frances C
Alan E
Rich G
David G
Sandi
Sue P
Robin R
Evelyn S
Linda S
Madeline S
Faye S
Martin S
Michele 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.*

**CKI warmly welcomes
our newest member**

Anne B

(Shelley B's mother)



**Wishing you
a Happy and Blessed
New Year**
שנה טובה ומתוקה

September / October Yahrzeits

Read at August 29 service

In Memory of	Relationship/Observed by	Yahrzeit Date
		9/1/2014
		9/1/2014
		9/3/2014
		9/3/2014

Read at September 5 service

In Memory of	Relationship/Observed by	Yahrzeit Date
		9/11/2014

Read at September 12 service

In Memory of	Relationship/Observed by	Yahrzeit Date
		9/12/2014
		9/12/2014
		9/12/2014
		9/12/2014
		9/13/2014
		9/17/2014
		9/18/2014

Read at September 19 service

In Memory of	Relationship/Observed by	Yahrzeit Date
		9/19/2014
		9/21/2014
		9/21/2014
		9/21/2014
		9/21/2014
		9/22/2014
		9/24/2014
		9/24/2014
		9/25/2014
		9/25/2014
		9/25/2014
		9/25/2014
		9/25/2014

Read at September 26 service

In Memory of	Relationship/Observed by	Yahrzeit Date
		9/26/2014
		10/1/2014
		10/1/2014
		10/1/2014
		10/1/2014