

March
2020 / 5780

Congregation Knesseth Israel

~ an Inclusive Community ~

229 Mountain Avenue
Bound Brook, NJ

info@ckibbnj.org
732-469-0934

SERVICES

Every Friday at 8 pm

Monday, March 9, 7 pm

Purim Megillah Reading

Saturday, March 28,

9:30 am

Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Study & Lunch

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8, 9:30 - 12

Adult Education Program

Saturday, March 21

7:15 pm Havdalah

7:30 pm "The Afterlife"

Book Discussion Group

& Lunch

Sunday, March 15, 12 pm

MEETINGS

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class

Sun. March 1, 8, 22, 29

Thursday, March 5

Sisterhood Shalach Manot

Assembly— 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 10

Exec. Board Mtg 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 15

Board Meeting 9:30 am

Men's Club Mtg 11 am

Tuesday, March 24

Ritual Committee 7:30 pm

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www.ckibbnj.org

and

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

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From Rabbi Wylen

BEAUTIFUL ISRAEL

I have recently returned from my annual visit to Israel to see my children and grandchildren. It was a delightful visit.

When we think of Israel we often think of the natural wonders, like the Dead Sea and the Carmel Mountain, or the historical sites, such as Jerusalem, Caesarea, Beit Shean, etc. We may think of the religiously significant sites for Judaism and also Christianity, like the Temple Mount, Safed, the Jordan River, Capernaum. We may think of the Crusader history in Acco, Caesarea, Belvoir Castle, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and so on. There are Herod's great projects – the Masada fortress, the Western Wall, Herodian.

With so much to think about, we sometimes forget to think of the little things that make Israel a bit of Paradise in the Middle East for her inhabitants. The government is paying a lot of attention to infrastructure. The high-speed rail line that has long tied together coastal cities has finally been extended to Jerusalem. It is an engineering wonder to put such a train through the Judean Hills. Now one can go between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in just twenty minutes, without traffic. There is also a new highway entrance to Jerusalem from the West that bypasses the old entry road traffic jam. The Mahane Yehudah food bazaar in Jerusalem is still thriving as a food market while it becomes a hipster hangout as well, with exciting new restaurants. I have mixed feelings about such changes, but I like the restaurants.

The highway near my daughters' homes, Highway 65, is being rebuilt and expanded – not to meet current need, but to meet anticipated future need as new neighborhoods are built in the region. Israel is attending to the severe housing shortage by putting up new high-rise neighborhoods and whole new towns in available spaces. My daughters' region of Pardes Hannah, once a sleepy village, is becoming urbanized to meet the needs of a growing population. I regret the way that America allows our infrastructure to crumble or become outdated – look at the disastrous aborted attempts to build a new rail tunnel from NJ into NYC – and I wish we could be as forward-looking as Israel. New development undermines our sentimental attachment to charming old views, but the needs of a growing population must be met.

I was constantly aware that only 30 miles away from where I was lies Syria, one of the most miserable places on earth, with millions of refugees living in tents, fearing for their lives. What is the difference between Syria and Israel? It is the spirit of the population. People are the most important natural resource in any country. Israel's Jews from all over the world, and the minority populations of Arabs, Druze, Bedouin and others, work together to make a country strong, prosperous, and blessing to her inhabitants.

The original vision of Zionism has failed in many of its goals. It has not eliminated anti-Semitism, nor has it generated a whole new Judaism for the modern age (maybe it will someday), but Zionism has created a happy home for six million Jews. Israel is still a refuge for Jews suffering persecution in other lands. When we think of the Jewish homeland, Israel, we have much to be proud of and much to be thankful for.

Rabbi Stephen Wylen

President's Message

Last month we celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the day that all trees become one year older. In Israel it is the time of year when the ground has become saturated and the cycle of growth begins. In New Jersey, March is the month in which winter comes to an end and spring begins. This is usually the time of year when the temperatures begin to rise and the precipitation changes from snow to rain. Due to Global Warming this winter has been abnormally warm and very wet with rain. I am not going to complain about this because as all of you know I am usually the coldest one in the room.

Here at CKI we ended the month of February with a special Shabbat Across America celebration. At this event which took place across the US and Canada, Jews got together at synagogues and prayed as a nation, not as individuals. We held our annual Shabbat Across America dinner and service that were open to the entire community. Rabbi Wylen led services with Cantor Roffman after a dinner that was entirely prepared here in our own kitchen, a very special thanks to all who were involved!! Shabbat is a time of rest from the work we do all week and gives all of us a chance for spiritual enrichment.

We are all aware that there are 613 Mitzvot. Here are just a few in regards to the treatment of people:

To love all other Jews, to love converts and not to hate fellow Jews. These three are virtually the same but very different. To love all other Jews keeps the Nation of Israel strong and able to survive for thousands of years. To love converts as you would love all other Jews helps to show that all Jews are equally important regardless of their origin. Not to hate fellow Jews ensures that we do not fight amongst ourselves because that will only divide the Nation of Israel. Over the years there have been many other nations that have tried to wipe out all of the Jews and there will be more in the future so we must stand together and show solidarity for our own people. The next few Mitzvot are for all people, not just Jews. To reprove wrongdoers – scolding or correcting, usually in a gentle way or with kind intent. Not to embarrass others. Not to oppress the weak – do not take advantage of them. Not to gossip or speak ill about others. Not to take revenge or bear a grudge. Words are very powerful and should be used in a positive way to help, not to push down others.

Take some time this month, as we start to see the signs of Spring — the rebirth of vegetation— to brush off the winter doldrums and embrace the sunshine of longer days and shorter nights. In March here at your Mighty Little Synagogue we begin the Purim celebration by sending Shalach Manot packages to our family and friends. The “sending of portions” is meant to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast and to increase love and friendship among Jews and their neighbors. Remember to attend the reading of the Megillah Monday night, March 9, at 7:00pm. Dress in costume, hear the story of Esther and Mordechai, make lots of noise with your graggers and eat some Hamantaschen.

Spring is also a time of change. Spend more time at CKI, volunteer by joining a committee, attend services and events. There is always something interesting going on. Check the calendar at the end of the newsletter.

I am always willing to listen to new ideas and encourage suggestions on how we can make CKI better for you.

Michael Garber

CKI President



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME—Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour — before you go to bed Saturday, March 7th!

Religious School

There are only two short months left of Religious School this year. Please remember to send me an e-mail or call to let me know when your child will be absent from school.

Our Purim Carnival is taking place on Sunday, March 8th (see the flyer in this issue). It is open to the public, so please bring friends and family! If you know of anyone looking for a temple to join, please let them know about the carnival, or e-mail me and I can forward them or you a flyer. Congregants are always welcome to join us at our Religious School events. If you would like to help out at events, please contact Robin Garber at School@ckibbnj.org.



CKI's Rummage Sale takes place in the middle of May and there are always things that children can do to help with set up. Please, let us show our children that volunteering our time is a good thing to do.

As always, please see me if you have any questions or concerns,

Robin Garber
Education Committee Chair

2020 Religious School Schedule

March 1, 8 (Purim Carnival), 15, 22, 29
April 5 (Passover celebration), 19, 26 *no school on 4/12 - Passover*
May 3 *Last Day of School*

Celebrate Purim!

CKI Purim Carnival - Sunday, March 8, 9:30 am to 12 pm

Free Admission

Open to the Community — Bring your family and friends!
Games, Crafts, Snacks, Prizes

Megillah Reading - Monday, March 9, 7:00 pm

Come in Costume and be ready to Make Some Noise!
Rabbi Wylen and Cantor Roffman will lead us in reading
the story and singing Purim songs.
Enjoy Hamantaschen and other treats!



Congregants—pick up your
Shalach Manot gift
at Shabbat services on March 6,
at the Purim Carnival
or at the Megillah reading

COME CELEBRATE PURIM AT OUR ANNUAL

PURIM CARNIVAL

MARCH 8, 2020

9:30AM - 12:00PM

CONGREGATION KNESSETH ISRAEL

229 MOUNTAIN AVE.

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**ADMISSION:
FREE**

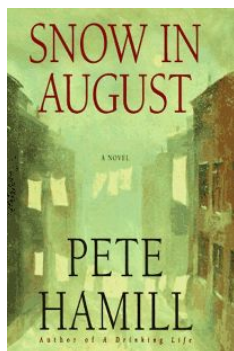
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AND MUCH MORE!**

CKI Book Discussion Group

Sunday, March 15, at 12 noon

A light lunch will be served. Free for CKI members, guests are welcome for a \$5 fee.



We are reading:
Snow in August
by Pete Hamill

In 1946 Brooklyn, an unlikely friendship forms between a Catholic altar boy, Michael Devlin, and the Orthodox Rabbi Judah Hirsch.

Terrorized by a local gang of anti-Semitic Irish toughs, Michael and the rabbi are caught in an escalating spiral of hate for which there's only one way out -- a miracle....

The book is available for Kindle devices

Shabbat Morning Worship, Torah Study, & Luncheon

Saturday, March 28, 9:30 am

Torah Study starts around 11:30 am

WE NEED YOU to attend
and help us make a *minyan*
for the service, to recite Kaddish
and to read from the Torah !

After services, Rabbi Wylen will lead us in Torah study and we will enjoy a light luncheon.

Come for the service, the Torah study, or both. Guests are very welcome!



CKI Adult Education

Saturday, March 21

Havdalah 7:15 pm; Program 7:30 pm



Rabbi Wylen will lead us in a discussion about **ANGELS**

- Do you think angels exist? Do they look like the angels in Renaissance paintings?
 - Who is Gabriel? Rafael? Michael? What are Sefarim? Cherubim? Hayyot Hakodesh?
 - Do you have a guardian angel?
 - What are all those angels doing in the siddur, and why did 18th-century German Jewish reformers remove them? Would you leave them in?
 - Are angels nonsense, spiritual forces, literary expressions, or real immortal beings?
- Become an expert on angels in just one evening. Bring your thoughts and questions.

Free for CKI members; there is a \$5 fee for guests.

GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

We sincerely Thank You!

In Memory of a Loved One's Yahrzeit

Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush sponsors

Thank you to everyone who worked at our recent Vintage Sale and donated items for it.

Thanks to everyone participating in our Shalach Manot fundraiser.

Contributions can be made to various CKI funds, including:

Pages for the Ages

Dedicated bookplates placed in our prayer books

Bereavement Meal Fund

Hardship Fund

Tree of Life Leaves

CBT Tree of Life Plaques

**Michael Barr
Memorial Library**

Memorial Board Plaques

Memorial Fund

Temple Fund

General use for temple needs

For information about making contributions, please contact the CKI office at 732-469-0934

NEW — DONATE TO CKI ONLINE !

You can now donate to CKI online using Paypal or your credit/debit card.

Visit the "Giving" page of our website:

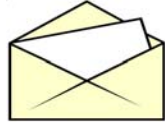
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Please let your friends and relatives know that they can use this method to make donations to CKI.



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anniversaries, get-wells, etc.?
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help support the CKI Sisterhood.*

**Contact Lori Siegel at
or leagrams@ckibbnj.org**

Rabbi Wylen's Office Hours at CKI



**Tuesdays: 2:00 — 4:00 pm
Sundays: 12:30 — 2:30 pm
or by appointment**

Please call, text, or email
ahead of time to
confirm Rabbi Wylen's availability
or to schedule an appointment

We warmly welcome our newest members



Ken M and Judith R

Baruchim Ha-Ba'im !

CKI FOOD DRIVE

During our Fall-Winter food drive, we took in **178 pounds** of non-perishable food donations for the Franklin Food Bank! Thank you for your generosity!

We can easily surpass our goal of 180 pounds during our Spring Food Drive,
because it's **GET RID OF CHAMETZ** season!

Perform two mitzvot for the price of one—as you clean for Passover, bring in unopened packages of pasta, cereal, cake mixes, rice, etc., as well as the usual canned goods. (No glass jars, please.) Drop off your donations in the CKI lobby between March 8th and April 5th.

Our less fortunate neighbors really appreciate it!

THANK YOU!



SAVE THE DATE for *A Night to Celebrate Israel* – an evening of great food and interesting speakers. CKI has a table of members at this event every year. There will be information about investing in Israel Bonds, but no purchase is required. Reserve your tickets at ssbjcc.org

A Night to Celebrate Israel

Thursday, April 23, 2020 • 6:30 PM
Raritan Valley Country Club • Bridgewater, New Jersey

Guest Presenter: Daniel C. Kurtzer, Former US Ambassador to Israel and Egypt

Israel at 72: The Dream, the Reality and the Challenges Ahead


As the most successful movement in our time of national rebirth and liberation, Israel stands strong and proudly as a success story. The state has provided safety and prosperity to its citizens and to the millions of immigrants who have flooded the country since its independence. There is much to celebrate on Israel's birthday. There is also much to be done; to pursue and achieve peace with the Palestinians, to ensure economic well-being and reduce inequalities for all its citizens, and to build bridges of understanding among its diverse citizens.


Honoring: Ellen & Scott Teller and Miriam Waghalter, Rutgers Hillel Student

Full Buffet Dinner
Cash Bar Available
Dietary Laws Observed

Couvert:
\$54/Adult \$18/Student
(Not Tax Deductible)

RSVP by:
April 7
Register at ssbjcc.org

 **Jewish LIFE**



CKI GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The gift card table will be open on Sundays during Religious School.



WE CARRY GIFT CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS, including:

Supermarkets: Shop Rite, Acme, Kings, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, Wegmans, Stop n Shop

Restaurants: McDonalds, Burger King, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Olive Garden & more

Drugstores & Convenience Stores: Walgreens, CVS, Quick Chek, Wawa

Department Stores: Kohls, Macys, Target, Walmart

Online shopping: iTunes, Amazon.com

Plus: Costco, Bed Bath & Beyond, Staples, Home Depot, PetSmart, Barnes & Noble, Gas stations, and more!

We can get cards for many other stores — please let us know what you need!

CKI Officers 2019—20

President: Michael Garber
President@ckibbnj.org
Vice President: Marla Lecin
Fundraising@ckibbnj.org
Vice President: Robin Garber
School@ckibbnj.org
Vice President: Matthew Lecin
Ritual@ckibbnj.org
Vice President: Lori Siegel
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Treasurer: Rich Biely
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Recording Secretary: Tim Rutka
RecSec@ckibbnj.org
Corresponding Secretary: Pam Barr
CorrSec@ckibbnj.org

Men's Club President: Matt Lecin
Sisterhood President: Pam Barr

CKI Committee Chairs 2019—20

Adult Education: Nancy Berkenfeld
AdultEd@ckibbnj.org
Chesed: Abby Rutka Chesed@ckibbnj.org
Education: Robin Garber School@ckibbnj.org
Event Planning: Pam Barr & Robin Garber
Event@ckibbnj.org
Finance: Abby Rutka Finance@ckibbnj.org
Fundraising: Marla Lecin Fundraising@...
House/Aesthetics: Michael Garber & Pam Barr
House@ckibbnj.org
Jr. Congregation: Abby Rutka JCC@...
Membership: Lori Siegel Membership@...
Personnel: Michael Garber Personnel@....
Publicity: Marla Lecin PR@ckibbnj.org
Ritual: Matthew Lecin Ritual@ckibbnj.org

*We encourage you to join our committees !
Please contact the current committee chair, or
CKI President Michael Garber*



Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat !



Celebrate your special Shabbat with your friends at CKI.

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat to celebrate occasions such as
birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, retirement,
or honor the memory of a relative or friend.

Sponsors' names and dedications are listed in the CKI upcoming events
and announced during services.

To schedule a date, please contact the Oneg Coordinator,
Robin Garber, at CKIoneg@gmail.com

Dates will be scheduled up to six months in advance.

April Yahrzeits

Cemetery plots available

CKI has plots for sale in our section of the Washington Cemetery, located at 104 Deans Rhode Hall Road, North Brunswick.

For information, please contact Rich Biely at rbiely@rcn.com or 848-391-9352



When a Death in Your Family Occurs, Please Let Us Know...

When there is a death in your immediate family, we at CKI would like to acknowledge your loss and support you in all ways possible.

Please promptly notify Rabbi Wylen (smwylen@gmail.com, 973-768-3942) and/or the CKI office. We can send out an email notice, including the time and place of the funeral and shiva, so that CKI congregants can help make a minyan for the services.

Even if the funeral and/or shiva is going to be held out of town, please let us know so that we can offer our condolences and add your loved one to the Yahrzeit list.

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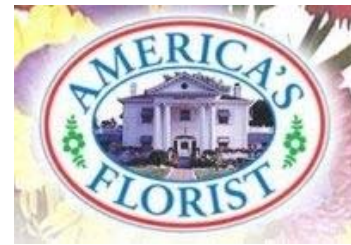
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e_mandell@yahoo.com

Marc J. Friedman

ATTORNEY AT LAW
26 Church Street
P.O. Box 269
Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
(908) 542-1300 Fax (908) 542-1301
FrdmnLaw@gmail.com



640 Promenade Boulevard
Bridgewater Township
(732) 627-0888



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Dr. Leonard Siskin
326 US Highway 22, Suite 6B
Green Brook, NJ 08812 732-752-6606
DrLen@SiskinChiropractic.com
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