# September 2020

5780-5781

All activities are taking place online—details inside

#### SERVICES

Shabbat Services Every Friday at 8 pm

**High Holidays:** 

Community
S'lichot Observance
Sat, Sept. 12, 8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah Fri, Sept 18, 7:30 pm Sat, Sept 19, 9:30 am Sun. Sept 20, 9:30 am

Kol Nidre
Sun, Sept 27, 6:30 pm
Yom Kippur
Monday, Sept 28, 9:30 am

### **ACTIVITIES**

**Book Discussion Group** 

Thurs, Sept. 24, 7:30 pm

Torah Study for Shabbat Shuvah Sat., Sept. 26, 10:00 am

#### **MEETINGS**

**Executive Board** 

Tues, Sept. 8, 7:30 pm

**CKI Board Meeting** 

Sun, Sept. 13, 9:30 am

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Classes

Sun, Sept 13, 10:00 am

**Ritual Committee** 

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm on: September 1, 15, 29

### **VISIT US ONLINE AT:**

www.ckibbnj.org
and

www.facebook.com / CKI.BoundBrook

## Congregation Knesseth Israel

~ an Inclusive Community ~

229 Mountain Avenue Bound Brook, NJ info@ckibbnj.org 732-469-0934

### From Rabbi Wylen

### **COMMUNITY**

My predecessor in Scranton, Rabbi Milton Richman, loved to say: "Don't worry about God. God is doing fine. It's people who need help."

On one level, this wise saying is about the futility of debating with professed atheists. God does not need to be defended. God will still be God, regardless of rejection by whomever. People of faith need to represent Godliness by example, not by being argumentative.

On another level, Rabbi Richman's words reflect the value of religion.

Religion may be centered on belief in God – at least, in Western religion – which may deceive us into thinking that religion is primarily about God. God is the focus of religion, but not the purpose or the mission. Religion is for and about people. Our faith in God – or, if you prefer, the values and virtues and social mission which our religion promotes – is the organizing principle around which we generate communities. Community is the real center of religion.

A community may be organized around blood ties, as with our extended family and, in traditional societies, the clan and the tribe. On a wider level, when people live as members of a global society, community is based on shared principles.

As Jews, we share the myth of common ancestry, the patriarchs and matriarchs. They lived so long ago, this identity is more of a faith than a bloodline.

As Jews, we share a history that binds us to one another and to our principles. "I was a slave in Egypt, and God brought me out of there to freedom, brought me to Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, and granted me a share in my homeland, the Land of Israel."

As Jews, we recite the Shema Yisrael and live by those six words.

As Jews we participate in a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred congregation, of like-minded Jews who live near one another, know one another personally, and commune on a regular basis. Congregation Knesseth Israel is our *kehillah kedoshah*, our sacred community.

The Covid pandemic both challenges and strengthens our sense of community. Challenges, because we cannot get together to see each other in person. Strengthens, because in the loneliness of our quarantine we realize more than ever how much we need our sacred community for our own sanity. No person is an island. We long for one another.

Zoom meetings are a lifeline in this stormy sea of aloneness. A Zoom service is second best to a live service, but it is so much better than nothing. Until we can meet again in person, I look forward eagerly to each time I get to see each of you in your little square on the computer screen. This will sustain us until we can meet again in the real world.

I also find that, with time losing all meaning during quarantine, Shabbat is an anchor which reminds me which day is which. Time is still differentiated in a way that makes human sense.

The Covid pandemic will pass. When it is gone, will our *kehillah kedoshah*, our sacred community, still be here for us? Please support CKI with your virtual presence and with your real means during this difficult period. We shall meet again!

May you all be inscribed and sealed for good in the year to come, 5781.

Rabbi Stephen Wylen

## President's Message

To my CKI family,

I am honored and feel privileged to serve as your president for another year. Over the past few years there have been many changes here at CKI, our Mighty Little Synagogue. This year we have experienced a most impactful change in temple life due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were told to stay home and isolate ourselves from all others for three months until the spread slowed down enough for New Jersey to begin the reopening process by allowing people to start to return to work and meet in very small groups following social distancing guidelines and wearing face masks.

Here at CKI we closed the building and limited access to only essential personnel performing essential business. We implemented a new way to stay in touch with our temple family through our Zoom platform. Now everything we do is through Zoom. We continue to hold Shabbat services every Friday night, led by Rabbi Wylen and our lay leaders from the Ritual Committee. The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee continue to meet virtually to ensure that CKI continues to stay "Mighty".

Our committees meet as normally scheduled through our Zoom connection, along with our monthly Torah study, Adult Education classes, and others. We completed the Religious School year by implementing virtual classes through our Zoom connection and will start the new school year in the same way.

At CKI we are doing all we can to keep all of us virtually connected to each other and to temple life, until the time comes when we can meet safely in person again. I am not sure when this will happen. but I am anxiously awaiting that special day to be face-to-face with all of you. Please continue to attend services, classes, and meetings via Zoom and stay connected. If you have not been to a Shabbat service in a while, you will find easy instructions on how to connect and a link on our newly updated website (www.ckibbnj.org). You can reconnect with CKI by phoning in just to listen while relaxing in your living room, or join through your computer, tablet, or cell phone and see the faces of CKI family members that you have been missing since the stay-at-home orders were implemented.

This year we will hold all of our usual High Holiday services, except they will be streamed through our YouTube channel. All of you should have received a letter from me and Matthew Lecin with the details. Rabbi Wylen and Cantor Roffman will be present in the CKI sanctuary to lead the services, with the support of a few temple officers, including myself, to manage the logistics. Join us, stay connected to your Judaism, and be spiritually lifted for the beginning of the New Year.

Due to the stay-at-home order and closing of our building, we were not able to hold our usual fundraising events this past year, including our annual Rummage Sale – typically one of our most successful fundraisers. I ask that you please be generous with your Yom Kippur Appeal pledges, as our expenses continue even though we cannot be at CKI – general building expenses, maintenance, salaries for our

religious leaders, employees and teachers, etc. Please continue to make good use of our Gift Card program, and purchase gift cards for all of your online shopping and food deliveries. We have Visa, Costco, Amazon, many supermarkets, and gas stations, and can deliver them to you safely.

(continued on next page)

(cont. from page 2)

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has made it possible for us all to stay connected and to continue to keep CKI a "Mighty Little Synagogue". The entire Board of Trustees and committee leaders will continue to do all we can to keep us all connected virtually until we can meet in person again. I cannot express how heavy my heart feels and how much my heart hurts knowing that I need to keep our synagogue closed. Rest assured that when the day comes to open again, we will take all the necessary precautions and follow all the recommended protocols to ensure that we will be SAFE and SECURE when we meet in person again.

Remember our history as a people and how many times we have successfully endured catastrophic events: slavery, 40 years in the desert, the great rains that flooded the entire earth, the Holocaust, and many others. We will continue on, and so will our "Mighty Little Synagogue" – CKI.

L'shana Tovah Tikatevu!

Michael Garber

President of CKI, also known as "Our Mighty Little Synagogue"

## **Religious School**

Religious School will be getting underway soon!

This year our teachers and students will continue to take part in classes virtually on Zoom.



Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns,

#### **Robin Garber**

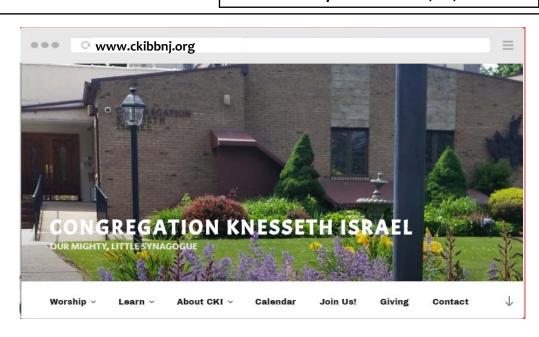
Education Committee Chair school@ckibbnj.org

## Religious School Schedule

Sunday September 13
Sunday October 4, 18, 25
Sunday November 1, 8, 15, 22
Sunday December 6, 13, 20

Please visit our newly redesigned website!

www.ckibbnj.org



### Sisterhood News

During this unprecedented time, as we all cope with the social isolation of the pandemic, we have been unable to meet in person at CKI. The Zoom platform has made it possible to continue to stay in touch with services, Torah study and committee meetings at CKI. We have decided to also hold our Book Discussion Group on Zoom! When we closed in March, the group had read "The Rent Collector" by Camron Wright, but we were not able to meet to discuss it. We will restart on **Thursday, September 24** at 7:30pm, with "The Rent Collector" — you have time to read or reread it, and Nancy Berkenfeld will be our facilitator. I will email out the Zoom info closer to the date, guests are welcome to join in, and there is no fee. When we can finally meet again in person, I promise a wonderful luncheon.

Leagrams are always available, cards sent for you for all occasions. Stay safe at home let Sisterhood send the card for you for \$5.

I ask for your continued support by paying your Sisterhood dues of \$25.

I want to wish you and your families a sweet, healthy happy New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Pam Barr, Sisterhood President



## From the Membership Committee

Traditionally, as CKI events get underway in the new year, the Membership Committee hosts a Welcome Back Friday night Oneg Shabbat at the start of September. Though we are not yet back in the synagogue, this September the message is the same: We welcome our members back to our beloved Congregation and welcome the new members who joined over the summer.

This year has brought so many challenges and concerns that none of us could have ever foreseen. CKI has risen to the challenges that so many synagogues are facing. Thanks to Matt Lecin, our Technology Committee of 1 and chair of the Ritual Committee, we have been able to continue to hold services every Shabbat, along with Torah Studies, Religious School, Adult Ed programs, Committee meetings, and Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes. Huge thanks to Rabbi Wylen and Cantor Eddie, CKI President Michael Garber, the Execu-

tive Board, Board of Trustees and our Congregation. Everyone has stepped up in so many ways to meet the challenges we continue to face. On behalf of the Membership Committee and Board of Trustees, welcome back as we move forward in our 2020-2021 year. May you all stay safe and be healthy. As we prepare for the High Holidays we wish everyone L' Shanah Tovah.

Lori Siegel Membership Committee Chair



### **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

**Shabbat Service Sponsors** 

Thank you to Pam and Rich for donating and mailing out New Year's cards to our congregants.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to CKI by shopping through Amazon Smile!

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

## **CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CKI — DONATE ONLINE!**

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

Visit the "Giving" page of our website: <a href="https://www.ckibbnj.org/giving">www.ckibbnj.org/giving</a>



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

## Stay Connected with CKI, Online!

CKI continues to hold our Friday night **Shabbat services**, Saturday **Torah Study**, and **Adult Education** classes **online**!

We are using the "Zoom" app, which you can install on your computer or mobile device.

Or, you can dial in from any phone and just listen.



### Friday night services—8:00 pm

Connect via Zoom: <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/218266336">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/218266336</a>

Meeting ID: 218 266 336 Password: 186405

--OR--

**Dial in by phone:** 646-558-8656 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 218 266 336

The prayerbook pages will be displayed on the screen. The service includes reciting Kaddish.

### **Torah Study and Adult Education Classes** (see the calendar)

on Saturdays, Adult Education starts with a brief Havdalah ceremony at 7:15 pm The handout sheet is available online: www.ckibbnj.org/Havdalah.pdf

Connect via Zoom: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/2449739120">https://zoom.us/j/2449739120</a>, Meeting ID: 244 973 9120 Password: 207894

--OR--

**Dial in by phone:** 646 558 8656 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID & password

### Zoom Etiquette

- Before joining the meeting:
  - Check the area around/behind you more than just your face will be visible.
  - Angle your camera so your face is on screen, with your eyes centered.
- Services and classes start promptly. You can join the Zoom call 10-15 minutes before the listed start time.
- <u>During services</u>: please keep your microphone muted to avoid echo and feedback. Before and after services you can chat and wish everyone a Shabbat Shalom.
- <u>During studies and classes</u>, to keep background noise to a minimum, please keep your microphone muted until you want to ask a question or make a comment. (On a PC, you can hold down the spacebar to speak.)
- Refrain from eating or chewing on camera, a sip of water once in a while is okay.
- Avoid multi-tasking to stay focused on the meeting or service.

## Join Us Online for the High Holidays!

The Rabbi, Cantor, and Ritual Committee members are working hard to bring this year's High Holiday services to you at your home. We will miss seeing everyone in person this year, but hope that you are able to join us online for a meaningful and spiritual High Holidays!



### **ABOUT SERVICES**

High Holiday services will be available on our YouTube Channel. We will send the video link to all congregants and guests.

Rabbi Wylen and Cantor Roffman will lead the services from CKI's sanctuary. President Michael Garber and two of our officers will also be at the synagogue to assist with services. Those participating in the service — our Shofar blower, Torah and Haftarah readers, and anyone with an Aliyah—will participate from home on the Zoom conference, which will be streamed to YouTube.

### SERVICE DATES AND TIMES

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Rosh Hashanah Day 2
Sun, Sept. 20, 9:30 am

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 (No tickets required)

**Kol Nidre** Sun, Sept 27, 6:30 pm

Yom Kippur Mon, Sept 28

Morning service: 9:30 am Yizkor service: approx.

Vizkor service: approx. 12:30 pm

Afternoon service: 5:00 pm

### HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS

All CKI congregants in good standing will receive tickets with details on how to access the online services.

Congregants may purchase additional tickets for extended family members (\$50 each) or other guests (\$125 each)

We sincerely appreciate your contributions which help to support our congregation!

### HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYERBOOKS

We will be lending out High Holiday prayer-books for services. Because they are out of print and very difficult to replace, we asking families to borrow 1 or 2 books and leave a deposit check of \$118 per book.

We will hand back your check(s) when you return the book(s), in like condition, by October 12th. Please contact Rich Biely to schedule a time to pick up books at CKI.

## Shabbat Shuvah Torah Study— Saturday, September 26, 10:00 am

Rabbi Wylen leads us in a Torah Study for Shabbat Shuvah.

See Zoom connection details on page 6.

## Celebrate

Sukkot Festival Service - Fri, October 2, 8 pm Simchat Torah Service - Fri, October 9, 8 pm (with Yizkor)









# Slichot

Music, Study, Community

Emet V'Shalom — Truth and Peace

**Balancing Values That Sometimes Conflict** 

SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 8PM

VIA ZOOM- CONTACT YOUR SHUL FOR LOGIN INFO

KEHILAT SHALOM, BELLE MEAD
HAR SHALOM, WARREN
KNESSETH ISRAEL, BOUND BROOK
BETH EL, HILLSBOROUGH
TEMPLE SHOLOM, BRIDGEWATER

**Emet, truth,** is a core value of Judaism, one of the qualities of God cited in our High Holy Day liturgy, and one of the thirteen attributes of God revealed at Sinai. And yet, our rabbis also noted that one of the names of God is *shalom*, peace, and that sometimes truth must be compromised for peace to prevail on earth. In these times of intense polarization in our world—in America, in Israel, and in our Jewish communities—how do we find the right balance between these values? Are we all to stand on our own truth, come what may? Or, do we soften our insistence on truth in order to live together in peace?

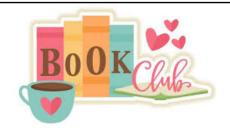
Join us as the rabbis of our community explore what our tradition teaches us about these values and how they apply to our lives today.

The Zoom information will be emailed out in upcoming CKI weekly announcements.

## **CKI Book Discussion Group**

## Thursday, September 24, at 7:30 pm

(via Zoom—info will be emailed out soon)



We will discuss: "The Rent Collector" by Camron Wright

The Rent Collector is a story of hope, of one woman's journey to save her son and another woman's chance at redemption. It demonstrates that even in a dump in Cambodia--perhaps especially in a dump in Cambodia--everyone deserves a second chance.

The book is available for Kindle devices

### CKI Officers 2020—21

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

Membership@ckibbnj.org

Treasurer: Rich Biely

<u>Treasurer@ckibbnj.org</u>

Financial Secretary: Abby Rutka

Finance@ckibbnj.org

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 2020—21

Adult Education: Nancy Berkenfeld

AdultEd@ckibbnj.org

Chesed: Pam Barr <u>Chesed@ckibbnj.org</u>

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

Membership: Lori Siegel <u>Membership@...</u>

Personnel: Michael Garber Personnel@....

Publicity: Marla Lecin <a href="mailto:PR@ckibbnj.org">PR@ckibbnj.org</a>

Ritual: Matthew Lecin Ritual@ckibbnj.org

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

### **CKI Board of Trustees**

Nancy Berkenfeld, Steven Cantor-Sternin, Mark Morgenthal, Jenica Stroock, Leslee Zipper



## Leagrams



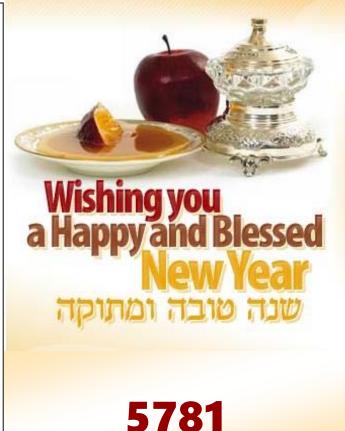
Do you need to send cards for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, get-wells, etc.?

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 Siegel at leagrams@ckibbnj.org



Earn money for CKI when you shop online!



Whenever you shop at Amazon, start at **smile.amazon.com**.

Once you have designated Congregation Knesseth Israel as your charity, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to our synagogue.

Your Amazon shopping cart, Wish Lists, and other account settings will carry over to AmazonSmile.

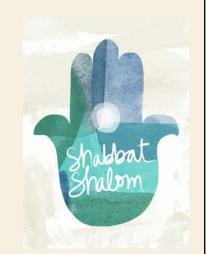
CKI warmly welcomes our newest member

JoAnn C to our congregation!



## Sponsor a Shabbat Service!

Although we can't socialize and enjoy refreshments at an Oneg Shabbat after services, you can still celebrate a special occasion or honor the memory of loved ones by sponsoring a CKI Friday night Shabbat Service.



Please contact Robin Garber at ckioneg@gmail.com

## CKI GIFT CARD PROGRAM

We encourage you to <u>continue your support</u> of CKI through purchasing Gift Cards and Forever stamps. We can send them to you through the U.S. mail or deliver them to your home (They can be left at your front door or another location to maintain "social distancing.")



### **GIFT CARDS WE HAVE IN STOCK include:**

<u>Supermarkets</u>: Shop Rite, Acme, Kings, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, Wegmans, Stop

& Shop

Online shopping: Amazon.com, iTunes

<u>Drugstores & Convenience Stores</u>: Walgreens, CVS, Quick Chek, Wawa

Department Stores: Kohls, Macys, Target, Walmart

Restaurants: McDonalds, Burger King, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Olive Garden, etc.

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!

## October 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 notification to our congregants.

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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