

Established in 1892



CONGREGATION
KNESETH ISRAEL

Lifelong Learning

Embracing Diversity

Building Community

Meaningful Observance



From the Rabbi's Study

As I write this, we are in the middle of counting the Omer. 50 days from Passover to Shavuot. I am writing about joy every day as my "Omer Project." Judaism has a lot to say about joy. Yet, joy is fleeting. We are not supposed to feel it all the time. We notice it, we give thanks for it, and it may flit away. That's OK.

Shavuot represents the giving of the 10 Commandments at Sinai. Like we all were freed from Egypt, we all stood at Sinai. What does we all mean? All of us. Men, women, and children.

Israelites and the mixed multitude that left Egypt with us.

It sometimes leads to the question, "Who is a Jew?" Let's start with, "This is Judaism, so there is no easy answer." The most traditional answer is someone is Jewish whose mother is Jewish. That became the normative Jewish law by the time of the Talmud.

Yet, in the Reform and Reconstructing Movements, they recognize patrilineal descent. Children who are raised as Jews whose father is Jewish are considered Jews.

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President's Message

As we move into May, I want to take a moment to highlight an important opportunity for all of us to come together as a community: our upcoming Annual Membership Meeting.

This meeting is one of the most meaningful ways to participate in the life and future of CKI. At this year's gathering, members will be asked to vote on both our proposed budget and a set of bylaws changes. I strongly encourage everyone to attend and make your voice heard.

The proposed bylaws updates are

especially important. They are designed to help position our congregation for continued growth and long-term sustainability, while also ensuring that our governance structure reflects the needs of our evolving community. Your participation in this process matters.

In addition, the proposed budget reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach to our financial stewardship. I am pleased to share that there will be no increase in membership costs for the coming year.

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SAVE THE DATE!

May 12—CKI Annual Membership Meeting
May 17—Shalom Connections
May 22—Shavuot

RABBI MARGARET FRISCH KLEIN

rabbi@ckielgin.org

HEATHER BAUMANN WEISER, Director of Education

cki.educator@gmail.com

JOSH STOBER, President

jcstober36@gmail.com

PEG LEHMAN, Office Manager

cki@ckielgin.org

From the Rabbi's Study Continued...

While I understand the underlying desire to be warm and welcoming, it has complicated how the State of Israel and the Israeli rabbinate considers someone. I often tell couples and conversion candidates that if they are considering making aliyah, they might want to have three male witnesses or rabbis sign any documents. That alone does not guarantee that you will be considered Jewish by the State of Israel.

There remains a controversy between the State of Israel and the Chief Rabbinate. Israel's Law of Return grants citizenship to those with a Jewish parent or grandparent even if they are not observant. The rabbinical courts use halachic rules for marriage and often require Orthodox conversion for those without a Jewish mother. This has led to conflicts with individuals who may have been "caught" in this controversy and with other movements of Judaism.

Another way to be Jewish is to become Jewish through the process of conversion. This is not an instantaneous, "born again" type of decision. It requires at least a year of study, and many people spend years thinking about it, studying, reading before they even call a rabbi or enter a formal process. That process might include an "Intro to Judaism" class, and then completing some essays about how the candidate got to this point, an appearance before a beit din, (court of three rabbis), immersion in a mikveh or natural body of water, and circumcision, if male. It is up to the sponsoring rabbi to declare a candidate Jewish. In this congregation, it is up to me as the mara d'atra (master of the place, halachic decision maker) to rule on someone's

Jewishness, either as a conversion candidate or a new member.

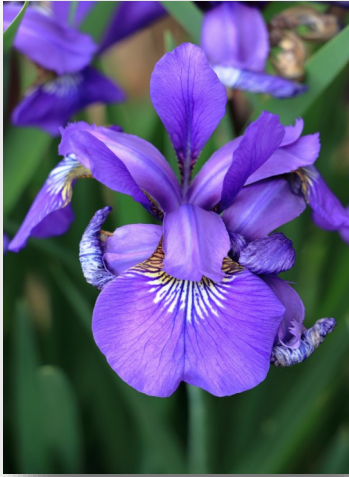
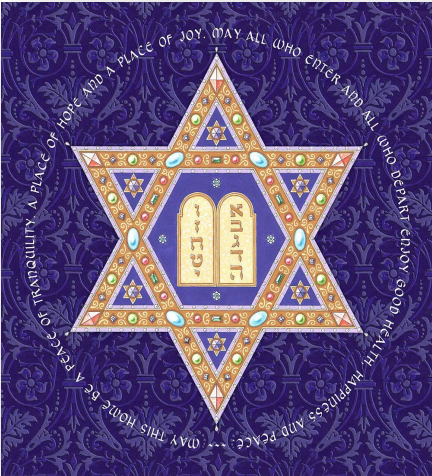
And yet, in the old days there was a tradition of a rabbi pushing away a candidate three times before accepting them. Not so warm and welcoming! Partly to make sure they were serious. Partly because becoming Jewish can be a little scary. It wasn't particularly safe then and it feels that way, perhaps, again now. In Nazi Germany, someone just had to have one Jewish grandparent to be declared Jewish. How can we welcome someone into the tribe if it is dangerous? (Trust me, before I call a beit din, this is a concept that we discuss, and the candidate has thought through their decision carefully!)

I am very excited about Shavuot this year. We have five candidates for conversion who have been studying for a long time. We are hoping to welcome them warmly into the fold as they take the Torah for the first time and proclaim the Sh'ma proudly. And while we all witness this wonderful moment, we never again remind them of their conversion status.

It is said, "A convert is dearer to God." It is a significant concept within our Jewish tradition, originally found in the Midrash Tanchuma (Lech Lecha 6), which states that converts are more beloved to God than the Israelites who stood at Mount Sinai. This perspective emphasizes that converts voluntarily accept the yoke of heaven without experiencing the miracles of Sinai.

Come stand with me, and them, as we welcome them to Judaism. We all stood at Sinai!

—Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein



To reach Rabbi Margaret, please call her cell number after 8:00 am except on Mondays or Shabbat: 978-590-8268.

In case of emergency (hospitalization or death) please call, leave a message, and Rabbi will get back to you promptly.

If there is an illness in the family or the loss of a loved one, call CKI @ 847-741-5656, so that your CKI family can reach out and be of help.

CKI BOARD OFFICERS

President – Josh Stober

Past President – Risa Cohen

Executive Vice-President – Josh Raben

VP Ritual Chair—Gene Lindow

Treasurer – Jerry Niederman

Recording Secretary – Melissa Margason

VP Men’s Club—Ken Jacoby

CKI MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Terms expire 2026:

Gale Jacoby

Maureen Manning

Jenny Trygar

Open

Terms expire 2027:

Kara Morgan

Malcolm Morris

Jana McFarlane

Barbara Edelstein

Terms expire 2028:

Michelle Gomberg

Morgan Williams

Jessica Raben

Barb Razowsky

To contact, call CKI at 847-741-5656

President’s Message Cont.

At the same time, the budget does include a modest increase in Torah School fees to support the continued strength and quality of our educational programming.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to CKI. I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting as we take these important steps together.

—Josh Stober



May 5th @ 9:00am

Check your email or contact Rabbi Margaret at rabbi@ckielgin.org for more information.

CKI Office Hours

Peg is in the office Monday—Friday:
10:30 AM – 3:30 PM @ 847-741-5656
When writing a check, make it payable to
Congregation Kneseth Israel, NOT CKI.

Please note what the money
is intended for.

Thank you!

CKI Book Club Schedule 2025—2026

Date	Book	Author	Time
October 21 (Tues.)	The Auschwitz Violinist	Jonathan Dunsky	10:00 am
November 18 (Tues.) at Library	Beyond Dispute	Daniel Taub	1:00 pm
December 16 (Tues.)	The Boys in the Light	Nina Willner	10:00 am
January 20 (Tues.)	On Her Own	Lihi Lapid	10:00 am
February 17 (Tues.)	The Confidante	Christopher Gorham	10:00 am
March 17 (Tues.)	Landsman	Peter Charles Melman	10:00 am
April 21 (Tues.)	The Midwives Escape	Maggie Anton	10:00 am
May 19 (Tues.)	On Democracies & Death Cults	Douglas Murray	10:00 am
June 16 (Tues.)	The Last Dekrepitzer	Howard Langer	10:00 am
July 21 (Tues.)	When We Were Arabs	Massoud Hayoun	10:00 am
August 18 (Tues.)	A Calculated Restraint	Richard Breitman	10:00 am

Generous Donations

GENERAL FUND

Donations

- Steve Sirin
- Olive Poliks

Donations towards plumbing repair

- Raul & Cathy Aron
- Judi & Vern Tepe'
- Barbara Njus
- Jerry Niederman & Phyllis Guth
- Brad Burkner & Anita Hornung
- Paul & Risa Cohen
- Douglas Bakley
- Earl & Debbie Sternfeld

In honor of Elijah Morgan being recognized as one of JUF's 18 Under 18 Jewish Teens

- Brad Burkner & Anita Hornung

Donations for Security Fund

- Anonymous
- Gene & Sandy Lindow
- Ed & Tina Wolf

In honor of Helen Lindow

- Mary Marine

In memory of the yahrzeit of Leah Liss, Debbie's mother

- Earl & Debbie Sternfeld

MEN'S CLUB YELLOW CANDLE

- Shira Coffee
- Barbara Maring
- Mark & Robin Seigle
- Bill & Jana McFarlane
- Stew Levin
- Michael Finger
- Peg Lehman
- Liza Bachrach & Dan Marshall
- Nancy & Bob Protter
- Barbara Edelstein
- Ellen Levy
- Maralee Gordon

SELTZER MUSIC FUND

Donation for Nefesh Mountain Concert

- Gene & Sandy Lindow

Special Funds

The following funds are available to receive your generous donations:

- **Clara Wechter Education Fund** – Supports Torah School and Adult Ed
- **General Fund** – For multi-purpose use
- **Jerome & Lillian Roth Scholarship Fund** See the President.
- **Building Security Fund** — EPD security for special CKI events
- **Memorial Plaques** – \$300
- **CKI Youth Fund** – Supports programs for our synagogue youth
- **Prayer Book Fund** – Siddur is \$36; Chumash is \$60
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** – Needs decided by Rabbi
- **Seltzer Music & Cultural Arts Endowment Fund** – Jewish cultural enrichment programs
- **Simon C. & Ruth L. Kaplan Torah Fund**— Repair of Torah scrolls
- **Sisterhood** – Supports women's group's 1various projects
- **Blossom Wohl Flower Fund** – Pulpit flowers
- **Sisterhood Vision Fund** – Large-type Siddur \$50
- **Tree of Life** – Leaf \$125; Dove \$500; Rock \$1,250
- **Major Gifts** – \$5,000 and up. See the President

Hadassah Performs Complex Robotic Surgeries on Children, a First in Israel

Abdominal pain is one of the most common complaints in pediatric medicine. In most cases, it is a transient phenomenon, but at times, the pain signals a deeper underlying problem. This was the case for Noor, an 8-year-old girl living with her family in Jerusalem, who repeatedly presented to physicians with severe upper abdominal pain and difficulty eating — without a clear diagnosis.



The girl, who comes from a family of six children, suffered from intense pain for several weeks. Following repeated complaints, her parents took her for further medical evaluation.

Initially, she was examined by a pediatrician at her health maintenance center, who identified abnormal liver enzyme levels.

She was referred for further diagnostic workup, including an ultrasound examination. Once a bile duct cyst was suspected, she was referred to Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, where she completed the diagnostic process and underwent an innovative robotic surgery — the first of its kind in Israel.

Dr. Ashraf Imam, a senior surgeon specializing in liver, pancreas and bile duct surgery in both children and adults and director of the Liver Transplant Service at Hadassah hospitals, explains that a bile duct cyst is an abnormal — usually congenital — dilation of the ducts that carry bile from the liver to the digestive system. This condition disrupts normal bile flow and may cause pain, infections, and cumulative liver damage.

“This is a medical finding that does not allow for prolonged delay,” said Dr. Imam. “Without treatment, bile duct cysts can lead to recurrent infections, progressive destruction of liver tissue, development of cirrhosis and even bile duct cancer later in life.”

“When they told us what it was, I was extremely frightened,” the girl’s mother

recounted. “The thought of the liver surgery and future complications was terrifying. But then the team explained in great detail the surgical approach they had chosen. We understood that this was a new procedure in Israel, and despite the fear, I truly trusted the team. The explanations and conversations beforehand really reassured us.”

Noor’s medical team decided to remove the cyst using an advanced and innovative approach: instead of open surgery, which involves a large incision, significant pain and prolonged recovery, a minimally invasive robotic-assisted technique was chosen, performed for the first time in Israel.

Robotic surgery is a minimally invasive surgical method performed through several small incisions in the abdominal wall. Through these incisions, a camera and robotic arms are inserted, allowing the surgeon to view the internal organs and operate with great precision. The technique results in less pain, fewer complications, and smaller scars compared to open surgery. Recovery time is shorter, and the return to a normal routine is faster.

“In most parts of the world these operations are still performed using the open approach, which requires a much longer recovery period and involves higher risks,” explained Dr. Imam. “We have the capability to perform very complex surgeries, particularly in children, where the challenge is greater due to the smaller anatomical working space. “This new type of surgery is transforming the world of medicine, particularly surgical capabilities,” he stressed. “Pain and recovery following open surgery are extremely difficult, all the more so for children.”

During the operation, the robot is fully controlled by the surgeon and allows for exceptionally high precision, delicate movements, and magnified three-dimensional visualization — features that are critical in delicate bile duct surgeries.

“In the operating room, we perform a

complete excision of the bile duct cyst and the gallbladder while preserving the blood vessels supplying the liver. The procedure also includes reconstruction of the bile ducts, which is a very essential part of the operation. The reconstruction creates a new, proper pathway for bile flow from the liver to the digestive system, enabling long-term normal liver function.”

The second case treated by the team involved a 17-year-old boy from Jerusalem, who also suffered from recurrent abdominal pain. At first, his family thought the pain was ‘routine,’ but when it kept recurring, they sought medical evaluation and were referred to Hadassah hospitals’ specialists. When they came to Dr. Imam, following diagnostic tests, he informed them that the surgery could be performed using the innovative robotic approach, which allows for a shorter and more comfortable recovery.

The day after the first robotic surgery of its kind in Israel, a second successful robotic operation was performed at Hadassah hospitals on the 17-year-old patient.

One day after her surgery, Noor was already back on her feet and feeling well. Typically, patients undergoing such operations are transferred to intensive care, but with this method, the girl spent only three hours in recovery before being transferred to the pediatric ward and was discharged home shortly thereafter.

Concluded Dr. Zghair, “The robotic approach is preferable even to laparoscopy because the surgical field is visualized in three dimensions, allowing the surgeon to operate from different angles through the same incision.”

“I’m very happy that I chose to trust the medical team,” Noor’s mother said with a smile. “My daughter was back on her feet one day after surgery, after months of suffering when we didn’t know how to help her.”

Ritually Speaking

Makom—A Place

I want to share with you a place that represents to me the story of humankind and to what we can aspire. Please be patient with what you read below. You may think I have lost my mind, and that can be, but please don't ask my family.

There are many facets to this magical place. It starts with a **foundation**. This foundation is not perfect, in fact no two bricks are the same. Yet they come together to be a support for the rest of the story.

Once a foundation is in place, it is able to provide an infinite number of **paths** a person could take. They are straight ones, curved ones, wavy ones, incline, and ones that intersect. Yet all these paths don't have definitive signs for your guidance. Rather they are facilitators, allowing you access to the next level of enlightenment.

The **enlightenment** comes from various interactions you have on the path that you are currently traveling. Here you can see your path whether by sun or moon. With intensity of lighting or by fire. By the soothing rays from a candelabra or a menorah. When there is some combination of the various enlightenment options, you are impacted to another level. You become engrossed with the experience and ready for more.

You hear **sounds**, which can be faint and deafening, all in one note. The beautiful music being provided for you at first, the strumming of a harp, is then deafening as you are bombarded by the sounds of many horns of all different sizes and pitches. Depending on where you are in your life, each sound has a purpose, and hopefully you are blessed with comprehension.



The paths are still taking you on a journey, and the next stop is that of **guidance**. What provides you with effective direction? Is it human laws and regulations? What about the basics of human kindness? Then there are the ten utterances that were given to us by G-d. To keep us in check, we are provided with a compass. The compass works to combine your heart and mind into a single point of oneness, with yourself and G-d.

The numerous adjectives above are tools for what we seek, and hopefully we are **blessed**. The blessings can be from G-d, our family, friends, generation to generation. May we all be open to recognizing and receiving the blessings bestowed upon us.

When the next generation is born, the new brick for the foundation is laid with infinite possibility. Some of you may think I have officially gone off my rocker, and that may be so. This magical place I am talking about is the CKI sanctuary--**the stained glass windows of CKI!**

It has been a privilege and honor to be a member of Congregation Kneseth Israel for many years. Not only has CKI been a guiding light in my life, but it has also been so for past and present members and will be for future members, too. May we continue "to infinity and beyond!"

Gene Lindow
CKI Ritual Chair
cki.ritual@gmail.com

Yahrzeits P. 1

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrzeits are commemorated during the coming weeks, and those whose names are read in the synagogue at Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services during May. It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.

Name	Date Observed	Date of Service	Name	Date Observed	Date of Service
Joseph Nerove*	May 2	May 1 & 2	Allen H. Steinberg	May 14	May 8 & 9
Emil Simon*	May 2	May 1 & 2	Larry Lipsky	May 14	May 8 & 9
Lyle L. Miller	May 2	May 1 & 2	Jack Lisagor*	May 14	May 8 & 9
Molly Morris	May 3	May 1 & 2	Bella Goldman	May 14	May 8 & 9
Diane Weisner*	May 3	May 1 & 2	Harriet (Shevelenco) Kass	May 15	May 8 & 9
Sylvia Greenfield	May 4	May 1 & 2	Robert Friedman	May 15	May 8 & 9
Sarvelle Lorsch	May 5	May 1 & 2	Gladys Fox	May 15	May 8 & 9
Seymour Salstone*	May 5	May 1 & 2	Bryan Adam Rozansky	May 16	May 15 & 16
Henry Harris*	May 5	May 1 & 2	Harry Weiser	May 16	May 15 & 16
Albert Goodman*	May 5	May 1 & 2	Michael Fosco*	May 16	May 15 & 16
Seung A Kim	May 6	May 1 & 2	Jenny Brazner*	May 16	May 15 & 16
Abraham Wohl*	May 7	May 1 & 2	Rose Sohn	May 16	May 15 & 16
Frank Podolsky*	May 7	May 1 & 2	Edith J. Mendel*	May 16	May 15 & 16
Herman Goldstein*	May 8	May 1 & 2	Evelyne Sternfeld	May 17	May 15 & 16
Ruth Zimble*	May 8	May 1 & 2	Norton T. Burstein*	May 17	May 15 & 16
Anne Mell*	May 8	May 1 & 2	Capt. Irene N. Wirtschafter* Usn	May 18	May 15 & 16
Marcia (Mendelson) Spies	May 9	May 8 & 9	Melvin Frisch	May 18	May 15 & 16
Sarah Rosengarden*	May 9	May 8 & 9	Irene Barrow	May 18	May 15 & 16
Bessie Fisher*	May 10	May 8 & 9	Allen Mintzer*	May 19	May 15 & 16
Anna Kowitz*	May 10	May 8 & 9	Sarah Stern*	May 19	May 15 & 16
Sam Goldman*	May 11	May 8 & 9	Jay Birdwell	May 19	May 15 & 16
Edward T. Brody	May 13	May 8 & 9	Elaine Friedman	May 20	May 15 & 16
Alexander Seltzer	May 13	May 8 & 9	Abraham Brody*	May 20	May 15 & 16
Ruth Bialson	May 13	May 8 & 9	John William Phelan	May 20	May 15 & 16

There are two dates listed above on our yahrzeit list. The **first** is the **actual date of the yahrzeit, and memorial candles should be lit on the preceding evening.** The **second** are the **days of the services at which the name is read.** An **asterisk** after a name indicates that a plaque is affixed to the Memorial Tablet.

Kindle the Shabbat Candles		and HAVDALAH Candles	
Fri May 1	7:33pm	Sat May 2	8:43 pm
Fri May 8	7:41 pm	Sat May 9	8:51 pm
Fri May 15	7:48 pm	Sat May 16	8:58 pm
Fri May 22	7:55 pm	Sat May 23	9:05 pm
Fri May 29	8:01 pm	Sat May 30	9:11 pm

NOTE: Shabbat ends 50 minutes after candle lighting time on Saturday nite

Yahrzeits Continued P. 2

We recall with loving memory those whose yahrzeits are commemorated during the coming weeks, and those whose names are read in the synagogue at Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services during May. It is appropriate for members of their families to be present when these names are read.

Name	Date Observed	Date of Service	Name	Date Observed	Date of Service
Ron Burstein	May 21	May 15 & 16	Ruth Phelan	May 29	May 22 & 23
Joseph Polis*	May 21	May 15 & 16	Gertrude Winner*	May 30	May 29 & 30
William Goldstein*	May 21	May 15 & 16	Allen Mitzenmacher	May 30	May 29 & 30
Ruth Bachrach*	May 23	May 22 & 23	Florence Ginsberg*	May 30	May 29 & 30
Herb Friend*	May 23	May 22 & 23	Richard Kenneth Johnson	May 30	May 29 & 30
David Goodman	May 23	May 22 & 23	Sam Pevan	May 30	May 29 & 30
Herbert J. Epstein	May 23	May 22 & 23	Rose I. Schwartz*	May 30	May 29 & 30
Sidney Lewis	May 23	May 22 & 23	Sarah Dinah Mell*	May 31	May 29 & 30
Captain Bernard Sohn*	May 23	May 22 & 23	Ed Simon*	May 31	May 29 & 30
Isaac Cohien*	May 23	May 22 & 23	Lillian S Nach	Jun 1	May 29 & 30
Morris Hartzman*	May 24	May 22 & 23	Nathaniel Saul*	Jun 1	May 29 & 30
Maurice Hymen*	May 25	May 22 & 23	Lena Sievers*	Jun 1	May 29 & 30
Harry A. Jaffe*	May 25	May 22 & 23	Tessie Rose	Jun 2	May 29 & 30
Max Fishman*	May 25	May 22 & 23	Anna Rosengarden*	Jun 2	May 29 & 30
David Abraham Nerove*	May 25	May 22 & 23	Bill Kass	Jun 3	May 29 & 30
Rose Meza	May 26	May 22 & 23	Lorraine Schwartz	Jun 3	May 29 & 30
Howard Hymen	May 26	May 22 & 23	Etta ("Cookie") LeVine*	Jun 4	May 29 & 30
Alyce Lesser	May 26	May 22 & 23	Don Lesser*	Jun 4	May 29 & 30
Burt Friedman	May 26	May 22 & 23	Julius Kreeger*	Jun 4	May 29 & 30
Morris Rosengarden*	May 26	May 22 & 23	Loraine Zaler	Jun 5	May 29 & 30
Roland Finston	May 27	May 22 & 23	Benjamin Bear*	Jun 5	May 29 & 30
Sidney T. Kramer*	May 28	May 22 & 23	Charles Vopner*	Jun 5	May 29 & 30
Al Zeman*	May 29	May 22 & 23	Bessie Turek Solomon*	Jun 5	May 29 & 30

There are two dates listed above on our yahrzeit list. The **first** is the **actual date of the yahrzeit**, and **memorial candles should be lit on the preceding evening**. The **second** are the **days of the services at which the name is read**. An *asterisk* after a name indicates that a plaque is affixed to the Memorial Tablet.

Kindle the Shabbat Candles		and HAVDALAH Candles	
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Fri May 8	7:41 pm	Sat May 9	8:51 pm
Fri May 15	7:48 pm	Sat May 16	8:58 pm
Fri May 22	7:55 pm	Sat May 23	9:05 pm
Fri May 29	8:01 pm	Sat May 30	9:11 pm

NOTE: Shabbat ends 50 minutes after candle lighting time on Saturday nite

Torah School

Shalom!

Congregation Kneseth Israel strives to create meaningful Jewish memories through Torah School. We focus on building experiences that leave lasting, positive impressions for our students and families.

Our memories from this year began even before the school year started. In August, our teachers joined other educators from across the greater Chicago area for shared learning. It is always inspiring to connect with others who share the same passion, and a wonderful way to begin the year.

We officially kicked off the school year in September with Havdalah and challah baking with Miss Nikki. Baking challah became a monthly tradition that continued throughout the year.

As the fall continued, we celebrated with round challahs, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. There were apple-themed stories and games, storm-making activities, and our Honey Fest. A beekeeper visited, we tasted different types of honey, and everyone voted for their favorites. We also participated in Tashlich and heard the sound of the shofar—so many special moments together.

In November, we prepared for Thanksgiving with a meaningful trip to Jewel. Students worked together to plan, budget, and shop for a family Thanksgiving meal. All the items were donated to the Community Crisis Center, where we also learned more about the important work they do.

Hanukkah brought our "Hanukkah Extravaganza." The highlight for many was watching our students perform on stage with Director Stew—they sounded fantastic! Families came together to provide latkes, art activities, and even a bubble performer. Yes—even Rabbi Margaret got inside a bubble!

In January, we celebrated Tu B'Shevat with a seder, art projects, and planting. Our lettuce made it all the way to our Community Passover Seder, though the parsley didn't quite survive—maybe next year!

February brought a special family Havdalah hosted by the Castro family. We gathered in their home for an evening filled with friendship, food, and meaningful ritual. The laughter and joy shared by the children made it a night to remember.

March featured our "Queen Esther's Mad Science Masquerade." Students packed lunches, experimented with slime, and enjoyed plenty of hamantaschen. We baked and sold 80 dozen hamantaschen and donated many more—an incredible community effort! As we prepared for Passover, students cleaned, practiced the Four Questions, sampled different charoset recipes, and participated in a model seder. These hands-on experiences created lasting learning and memories.

Torah School Continued

Looking ahead, May 3rd will be our final day of Torah School for the year. We will celebrate with another performance with Hatikvah, a bonfire, edible "fires," and a closing Havdalah to mark the end of a wonderful year.

Our First Friday Family Shabbat gatherings continued each month, bringing families together for stories, challah, and connection. We look forward to continuing this special tradition next year.

As Pirkei Avot teaches: "I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from my students."

Thank you for entrusting us with your children—they have taught us so much this year.

If you are interested in continuing your child's Hebrew coaching over the summer, please let me know. We are in the process of finalizing details and would love to include your family.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible teaching team: Rabbi Margaret, Mel Margason, Jordana Salinas, Sam Steinberg, Lila Chavez, and Earl Sternfeld.

We are already beginning to plan for next year! Please keep an eye out for a survey coming your way. And if you know anyone who would be interested in our hands-on, memory-making Torah School, we would love for you to send them our way.

Shalom

Heather



Queen Esther's Mad Science Masquerade

Soup Kettle Scoop



We had a wonderful group of volunteers for our March Soup Kettle. Thank you to Jerry and Phyllis, both of whom can always be counted on, Shira Coffee, whose generous spirit just lights up the kitchen, and Samantha Newby who was a tremendous help and just a really sweet and impressive young lady.

Soup Kettle would not be possible without our CKI volunteers.

Our next Soup Kettle date is June 30th.

To volunteer, please contact Judi at juditepe@gmail.com or Barb Razowsky at barbrazowsky@gmail.com

ACTS OF CHESED

Thank you to those who have pitched in to make CKI warm and welcoming (and safe). Many times, things are done very quietly and anonymously, so if you did something that isn't acknowledged, please know that your deed was greatly appreciated.

Nikki for helping to clean out and kasher the kitchen for Passover

Anita, Sarah B., Cathy, & Rabbi for setting up Seder tables

Nina & Stew for a wonderful Oneg Shabbat

Peg, Gene, & Josh for discovering the leak in the basement and getting the broken pipe repaired and the affected area remediated

Josh for cooking and preparing our Community Seder.

Nina, Helen, Adrienne, & Gene for cleaning up the kitchen

Anita & Nancy for laundering our tablecloths

Gene for working on repairing the men's toilet and all the building maintenance he routinely does

Jerry & Phyllis, Shira, Sam, & Judi & Vern who volunteered at the Soup Kettle on March 31

Jerry for tending the community garden





Fun at Nefesh Mountain Concert



Elijah Honored as JUF's 18 Under 18



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE



The synagogue would like to remember those who served in the Armed Forces both on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Flags are placed at the grave of each brave member of CKI in recognition of their duty.

Please review the list for any errors or omissions. You can email the corrections to us at fredturtle@comcast.net, or text to 847-347-6810.

--Larry & Elaine Steinberg, Cemetery Committee Co-Chairs

Thank you to our brave congregants. May their memories be for a blessing.

Barrow, Louis
Barrow, Morris
Burstein, Robert I.
Burstein, Samuel M.
Fisher, H. Josef
Fisher, Sam
Franks, Sheldon
Friend, Herb
Gale, Henry T.
Ginsberg, Milton
Glotzer, Jacob
Goldstein, Jerry
Goodman, Al
Greenfield, Rabbi Morris
Haffron, Daniel
Hass, Alvin
Harris, Richard
Hyman, Herman
Iseberg, Samuel B.
Kessler, Irving
Knell, Henry
Kornstein, Martin
Lascoe, George
Lesser, Donald

Lisagor, Ben
Lisagor, Jack
Mariasis, Saul
Miller, Albert
Miller, Albert S.
Miripolsky, Jacob
Osmansky, Samuel
Rifken, Ben
Rifken, Howard
Rifken, Roy R.
Rubnitz, Warren
Schreibman, Sidney
Sharf, William
Simon, Albert
Simon, Sol
Simon, Wilbur
Singer, Harold
Steinberg, Louis
Turek, Maxine
Turek, Philip
Tutuer, Werner
Winner, Leonard
Wohl, Milton

Shalom Connections



SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

6:00-8:00 PM

REC HAUS IN ST. CHARLES

Join us for food, drinks, and/or games! Separate checks and individual game cards will be available. Time-based games (like bocce ball or shuffleboard) are charged per person per hour and can be arranged that evening.

****Please RSVP to Jenny Trygar by May 10th****
Jendonintendo@gmail.com



Putter Pong

Pinball

Table Games



**CONGREGATION
KNESETH ISRAEL**
330 Division Street
Elgin, Illinois
60120-5685

Building Community
Embracing Diversity
Meaningful Observance
Lifelong Learning

Return Service Requested



c

May 2026 Shabbat Services: Fridays @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays @ 9:30 AM

May 1	First Friday Family Shabbat	5:30 PM	May 15	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:00 PM
	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:00 PM	May 16	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM
May 2	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM	May 17	Shalom Connections @ Rec Haus	6:00 PM
May 3	Last Day Torah School	9:00 AM	May 19	CKI Book Club	10:00 AM
May 5	Java & Jews	9:00 AM	May 21	Erev Shavuot & Tikun L'eil Shavuot	8:00 PM
May 7	Torah Study	4:00 PM	May 22	Office Closed for Shavuot	
May 8	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:00 PM		Kabbalat Shabbat Zimrah Service	7:00 PM
May 9	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM	May 23	Shabbat & Festival Service with Yizkor	9:30 AM
May 12	CKI Board Meeting	6:00 PM	May 25	Office Closed for Memorial Day	
	CKI Annual Membership Meeting	7:00 PM	May 28	Torah Study	4:00 PM
May 14	Torah Study	4:00 PM	May 29	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7:00 PM
May 15	Ha Kol Submissions due		May 30	Shabbat Services Hybrid	9:30 AM