



JCC JCBM News

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Newsletter of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead **February 2005** Shevat-Adar 5765

JCCBM

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month I have decided to take a stab at a topic that I think every past President has written about and every past Board has tangled with. Even our Mission Statement has attempted to deal with this issue. *Volunteerism!* There, I said the word.

At present, there are a number of important committees that are integral to the healthy functioning of our synagogue that are empty. They are not understaffed. **They are empty!** We need to take a good hard look at the way we function as a community and decide how we are going to encourage and excite congregants to staff these committees. Our Mission Statement clearly states that volunteerism is expected from our community.

Some time was spent at the last Board of Trustees meeting discussing this issue. It was the first time this topic was discussed within this present Board and several good ideas were generated through a rather spirited discussion. It is clear that if we are to grow as a community this issue must be dealt with.

During the next few months I will be continuing this discussion as we formulate concrete ways in which this community can gain strength through volunteerism. Try this one on for size. *Every family unit in the synagogue should be represented on a committee. That means one member of that unit, be it an adult or a post B'nai Mitzvah teen should help out on a committee. We have over 160 family units. That's a lot of volunteers.*



Ed

KOL AHAVA FEATURED IN JEWISH ARTS WEEK CONCERT



Kol Ahava, the temple's own vocal ensemble, will be featured in a free Jewish Arts Week concert, Spirit in Song, at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center on Sunday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Two other area choral groups, Kol El from Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough and Sharim v'Sharot sponsored by Rider University's Hillel, will also appear in the program which kicks off a week of activities at the Center.

The members of Kol Ahava cordially invite you and your friends and family to attend the concert which will be followed by a dessert reception.

Although the concert is free, reservations are required. Please contact Jan Smith at 908-725-6994 ext. 206 or email jsmith@ssbjcc.org.

The SSBJCC is located at 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater, 08807.

Be sure to take a look at the poster in the temple lobby, and pick up a Jewish Arts Week brochure on the counter by the gift shop. And show your appreciation and support of Kol Ahava by attending Spirit in Song.

Published by:

Calli-Graphics

Committee Happenings

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

AVON FUND-RAISER FOR JCCBM

JCCBM had its first Avon Fund-raiser in December. About 25 families participated and we raised \$300.00 for JCCBM. I had lots of good feedback from members who were happy to try something new. The Weinstein family spent the most and therefore raised the most money for the JCCBM and received a \$50.00 Avon gift certificate! Congratulations!

We are looking forward to trying this again in the spring so you can stock up on lots of Skin So Soft sun and bug products, just to name a few. Avon is not just a "cosmetics company," please check out a brochure during the next fund-raiser. You will be surprised to see how many different products are available. It's for a great cause!

Thanks for your help and support.

Lori Konkowski Avon Fund-Raising Chairperson

SISTERHOOD

The sisterhood of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead invites all members and friends to join us for our February 9th 2005 meeting, 7:30 at Kings Crossing Clubhouse. Our speaker is Gary Hoagland Esq., an attorney with expertise in financial matters. He will discuss FOCUS ON FINANCE FOR FEMALES, always a hot topic. So bring your questions for our expert and get February 9th on your calendar.

If you need directions to Kings Crossing call Judi Edelson at 908.281.4253.

Sisterhood is a wonderful place to meet new friends from our temple community and greet old ones. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Edward J. Bilotti, M.D.

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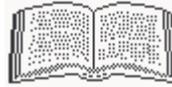
1378 Rt. 206 Skillman (across from Montgomery Ctr.)
www.aroga.yourmd.com



609-279-1339

New Activity: Women's Book Club

If you like to read and are interested in joining a book club this new group is for you. Please contact Gail Shapiro-Scott 609-688-0659 or preferably at Gssprinceton@patmedia.net.



We will have an initial meeting to determine time, place, and book selections. You will get more enjoyment from your reading by seeing books from a different perspective.



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The JCC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

Regular Donations

Members

Lawrence & Jacqueline Weitzner	In memory of Louis and Ellen Weitzner
Dick & Thelma Canty	In memory of Max Shoemson- in honor of KolAhava choir
Robert & Peggy Fass	Building Fund-In memory of Karen Bartels father: Nathan Levine
Michael & Jodi Rosenthal	Donation
Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Michael Kalison & Deborah Lampf	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Jeffrey Meissner	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Edward Krisiloff & Susan Forster	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Michael & Allyson Price	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Michael Kalison & Deborah Lampf	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Tsunami Relief
Joseph & Diane Wions	In memory of Nathan Levine
Norman & Jeanne Schechter	In memory of Alanna Hirschmann
Greg Weitzner	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund-Tsunami Relief
Perry Weitzner	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund-Tsunami Relief
Larry Weitzner	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund-Tsunami Relief
Jeff Bachrach & Karen Cohen	General Fund-In memory of Henry Roth, Majorie Baker, Nate Cohen, and Andres Bengochea
Joel & Joan Weisblatt	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund-Tsunami Relief

Non-Members

Barry Freedman & Roberta Bach Freedman	In memory of Nathan Levine
Barry Freedman & Roberta Bach Freedman	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund In memory of Hank Strauss

HIGH HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Members

Marc & Harlene Rosenberg	HH Donation
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Non Members

Martin & Esther Strassman	HH Donation
Sheila Fleishman	HH Donation

RECOGNITION

In December and into January a member of our community generously donated network routers and wireless networking equipment along with the expertise and time to make the four new computers purchased by the shul into a true local area network. These upgrades greatly help our office staffs (administrative, rabbinic & the Leeba"n School) work more efficiently, and also allowed us to connect the new copy machine to the network and use it as a printer. We should all join the *very happy* office workers in thanks for this anonymous donation!

In the spirit of "What are blessings for, if not to be shared?" this anonymous member hopes that others will join in supporting the technology needs of the community. The cramped offices now have old style monitors for the computers. Lots of space could be freed up if we could get flat-screen monitors. We need 5 monitors. If your office is upgrading from smaller to larger flat-screens, or if you wish to donate one, any or all of these, please contact Clara Nelson or Rabbi Tayvah.

Joe Himelfarb
Design Consultant

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Fax (732) 752-2804

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Hebrew School Happenings

Wed 2/2—Class Dance
 Sun 2/6—Class Music
 Wed 2/9—Class Craft Mishloach
 Manot baskets for CJHA
 Sun 2/13—Class Craft Crowns
 and Masks
 Wed 2/16—Class Dance
SUN 2/20— NO CLASS
 Wed 2/23—Class Cooking
 Hamentashen
 Sun 2/27—Class Cooking Hamentashen



We had much to celebrate when we returned to school on January 2, 2005. Jake Fridkis has been hired to tutor on Sundays and Wednesdays. He is doing a great job! Many thanks to the toranim who have been helping to tutor on Sunday mornings. There are students who had perfect attendance from September to December. They are:

Melissa Javeline	Kindergarten
Dorothy Weiss	Grade 1
Benjamin Applegate	Grade 2
Emma Cohen	Grade 3
Benjamin Winstein	Grade 3
Nancy Weiss	Grade 3
Zachary Burke	Grade 4
Caryn Brandel	Grade 7
Michael Goldman	Grade 7
Lindsey Rosenthal	Grade 7

Tu B'shvat was the central theme for January. Many thanks to Susan Waskow and all of the parents and teens who helped cut fruit, and serve at the Seder. Kindergarteners learned about and built Noah's ark and learned the mitzvah of being kind to animals. Second Graders continued to learn vowel sounds and vowel-consonant combinations and learned about Herzl and the pioneer movement. They also spent lots of time learning about Israel and Tu B'shvat. Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders spent time working on writing in Hebrew script. Fifth, Sixth and Seventh graders did their part to help the environment by planting some plants in school. If these are taken care of, they will yield greens for Carpas at your Passover Seder! Third and Fourth graders went outside and found leaves to make rubbings that are decorating a bulletin board in the hall. Kindergarten, First and Second graders decorated flower pots. Kindergarten through Fourth graders will be making palm shaped sugar cookies, and Fifth through Seventh grades will be making vegetable cookies. Email me for recipes!

Everyone has been learning about the mitzvot of "L'avdah Oo L'shamrah", which literally means "to work and to watch over" and which Babaganewz has translated into an issue on protecting the environment. If you would like to follow up or learn more about this mitzvah or any monthly theme, please go to the parent pages of babaganewz at babaganewz.com and click on the button at the bottom of the page that says "Parents". There are enriching articles and webpages for the kids there, too.

The Seventh Graders did a great job and everyone enjoyed breakfast and the service. There will be a 7th grade Havdalah service on April 29th. The Sixth Graders did a great job at their service also!

Please help support the Hebrew school's fundraising efforts and buy lots of Passover candy and note cards with your child(ren)'s art!

Shabbat Superstars for December are:

Ian Murphy	Grade 1
Rachel Underberg-Davis	Grade 2
Jason Weitze	Grade 2
Scott Weitze	Grade 3
Harry Waskow	Grade 4
Gabriel Fridkis	Grade 7
Daniel Krisiloff	Confirmation Class

Dori Daus, Hebrew School Principal

CONFIRMATION CLASS/HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL CORNER by Jake Fridkis

This month the Hebrew Education committee decided to change the name of our ever popular Thursday night class to Hebrew High School (or H2 for the more mathematically minded). This is a welcome change because now we do not have to worry about annoying details like how to achieve confirmation. The class, whatever the name, continues to be fascinating and fun at the same time (how about that?). Rabbi Tayvah continues to teach half of the class while Ms. Lehman teaches the other (though they haven't quite figured out which takes which half yet). In Rabbi Tayvah's seminar (it's high school now) we have learned about tsunamis, the Jewish response to tragedy, and light speed. With the Rabbi we also watched a documentary about early Jews in America and the beginning of the classic film *Gandhi*.

In Ms. Lehman's class we have been watching the movie *Swing Kids*. This is a film about early nazi (intentionally lower case) Germany. The main character is a defiant young man who is forced to join the HJ (Hitler's Youth). Ms. Lehman, as always, imparts her great knowledge of this time period to us.

I want every one to know that even if you didn't sign up for what was then confirmation class you are welcome to come - even without paying. So come and enjoy. But most of all come.



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 Borders Books & Music
 Sponsor of the JCCBM Bookfair



EXCUSE ME, WHAT SIZE IS YOUR CONGREGATION?



You wouldn't buy a pair of shoes that were too tight or too large. You wouldn't be seen in clothing that didn't fit. English does not have the expression "fits like a glove" for nothing! Size matters.

It wouldn't make sense to use *Robert's Rules of Order* when talking with your lover. Nor would it quite fit to play major league Baseball to the rules of little league softball! No, we must use the right rules for the right situation.

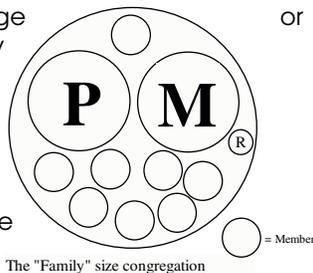
A multinational corporation cannot survive by acting like a family-owned corner store, just as a fawn would not long survive acting like a cougar. Knowing how to live in one's ecological niche may be a matter of life and death.

Religious organizations too have certain "ways of being" which depend on their size. Congregations ignore the lessons of "Congregational size theory" at their peril.

Back in the early 1980's Rev. Arlin J. Rothauge was working for the Episcopal Church as the national staff member for congregational development. He was puzzled why programs and projects that worked so well at one congregation failed miserably at another. After years of work he noticed that the single greatest predictor of success of any membership program was the size of the congregation! He saw four basic sizes of congregations and gave them names based on how they integrated new members. (He published his observations in *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry* (New York: Seabury Press, for The Education and Ministry Office of the Episcopal Church, undated) in 1983.

In Protestant Christian congregations the numbers measured are the average attendance and Sunday (Sabbath) services. When Jews began to apply Rothauge's theory to synagogues the same size correlations were noticed for "member-units", or households, and this became the standard measure for sizes of synagogues. I'll be using these numbers as they apply to Jewish communities.

The smallest size was a "Family" size congregation. In this congregation the relationships are like an extended family. Everybody knows everyone else. People come into the group through birth, marriage or "adoption." Just as every extended family has a patriarch (P) and / or matriarch (M) to whom everyone defers, so do these religious communities. They loom large in these congregational systems. If there is a part-time or visiting rabbi (R) in a synagogue this size her influence is quite small, as represented in the diagram above.

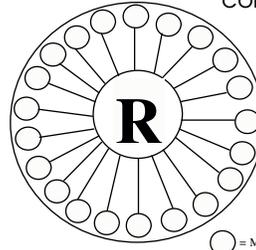


The "Family" size congregation

Once the group grows beyond about 50 households a shift needs to take place in the system to embrace the larger numbers. At about this size communities feel the

need for professional leadership and frequently hire their first full-time (or nearly full-time) rabbi. Around this time the lay leadership in the congregation frequently feel that there is too much work to do for volunteers alone and a paid administrator is hired.

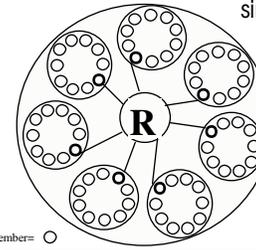
In this "pastoral" size congregation the relationships are centered on the rabbi (R). He is the gatekeeper of the community. New members usually come into the congregation through a personal relationship with the rabbi who is able, at this size, to personally know everyone in the community. In this size system much of the community's day-to-day functioning is on the rabbi's shoulders with a



The "Pastoral" size congregation

proportional lessening of the burden of leadership from the lay Board of Trustees. The rabbi is the sole provider of pastoral care. This arrangement works well until the congregation grows above ±150 member units. Another shift in culture and governance is called for.

Above 150 member households the rabbi can no longer intimately know everyone in the community; there are simply too many people for any one person to hold in their heart and mind! More people need to be brought into the leadership team. The next size is a "Program" congregation. Rather than being attracted to the rabbi, new



The "Program" size congregation

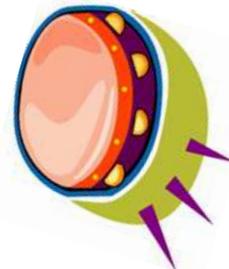
members are drawn by the quality programming directed to various populations (youth, elders, couples, singles, etc. ...) offered by the congregation. The rabbi's task "is to recruit, equip and inspire a small circle of key program leaders — lay and (professional), paid and unpaid," in the words of Fr. Alice Mann in her book *Raising the Roof: The Pastoral to Program Transition* (Alban Institute 2001, p. 7). The professional leaders work together with a group of roughly 50 lay leaders to manage the programming of the community. It is one of the paradoxes of Rothauge's research that at this third size, there is greater lay involvement than in any other size. This involvement often produces greater hands-on work by lay members and a shift in how individual members are known in the community. In the Program congregation caring for one another shifts to a joint lay-rabbinic system where trained lay people take on the critically important tasks of nurturing the community, albeit in smaller segments.

(There is a fourth size — Corporate — which take over at 450 households. Given our current size and our desire to stay smaller, I'll leave it out of our discussion.)

continued on page 10

Deep Spiritual Drumming

A workshop with Akiva Wharton



Come in to **and rewarding world of spiritual music!** *the joyful*

Saturday, February 26 1:30-4:30 PM

Jewish Community Center

722 North 22nd St, Allentown

\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Children 12 and under are free with an adult!

See registration on back

The workshop is sponsored by **Am Haskalah**, the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation of the Lehigh Valley.

Cosponsored by Project Yachad

With support from Moe Jerant and Dave Phillips Music and Sound

This is a “hands on skin” workshop!

No experience necessary

Learn techniques for playing percussion instruments and rhythms from around the world.

There will be drums and other instruments available to borrow, but bringing your own and even some to share will be helpful.

For directions to the JCC, call 610-435-3571 or go to www.allentownjcc.org

Akiva Wharton is a percussionist, composer and singer. Akiva regularly leads workshops at Elat Chayyim, the Jewish Spiritual Retreat Center (www.elatchayyim.org). He has accompanied many of the best artists in the Jewish musical/spiritual world including Shlomo Carlbach, Shefa Gold, Alberto Mizrachi, and Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul and Mary. He leads drumming workshops at synagogues and gives concerts with his band, Mercava. His first CD, Sailing G!d's Wind, will soon be released.

If you would like to “Daven and Drum” with Akiva, come to our Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday night, Feb 25th.

For additional information call Cary Oshins at 610-434-5118 or email to bethcary@rcn.com

To learn about Congregation Am Haskalah and Reconstructionist Judaism, visit www.jrf.org/amhaskpa.

□

Registration form. Return to Am Haskalah, c/o JCC, 722 N 22nd St, Allentown, PA 18104

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Names of other adults _____

Names of children _____

\$12/adult in advance

\$15/adult at the door

Children are free with adult

Cash or checks only (sorry, no credit

cards!). Please make checks

payable to Am Haskalah. Thanks!

Total paid: _____

Jewish LIFE

JEWISH LIFE SPONSORS PROGRAMS ABOUT THE HASSIDIC JOURNEY, KLEZMER MUSIC, AND THE STATE OF THE JEWISH WORLD TODAY

Bridgewater, N.J.- Programs on Hassidism, klezmer music and the state of the Jewish world today are the topics of upcoming Jewish LIFE programs in January and February. Jewish LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) is a collaborative adult education program that serves residents of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater.

Rabbi Moshe Herson, Dean of the Rabbinical College of America, will present "The Hassidic Journey: From the Baal Shem Tov to the Lubavitch" at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 23. The fee for the program, which includes a bagel breakfast, is \$10/Jewish LIFE members and \$15/guests.

Seth Rogovoy, who has been called "a missionary for klezmer," will present "Rockin' the Shtetl: A Multimedia Musical Journey" at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 6. Mr. Rogovoy is a music critic and author of the critically acclaimed *The Essential Klezmer: A Music Lover's Guide to Jewish Roots and Soul Music*. The cost is \$7 for Jewish LIFE members and \$10 for guests.

Steven Schwager, Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, will present "An Update on the Jewish World" at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 27. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, known as "The Joint," has been the overseas arm of the American Jewish community since 1914. It specializes in the relief, rescue and renewal of Jews and Jewish communities worldwide. The fee for the program, which includes a bagel breakfast, is \$10 for Jewish LIFE members and \$15 for guests.

OHR TIKVAH Jewish Healing Center

Somerset * Hunterdon * Warren Counties



Upcoming Events

Sacred Memory: Mourning and Spiritual Mending in Jewish Tradition

Date: Sunday, February 6

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Place: Or Chadash, 149 Foothill Road, Flemington

Rabbi Eric Siroka will lead us in an exploration of Jewish rituals and traditions designed to sustain and guide us during times of loss. In the process, we will discover opportunities for spiritual and personal growth that emerge when we face difficult times. For directions, log on to www.uahc.org/nj/orchadash or call 908-806-2122.

Jewish Meditation

Dates: Thursdays, February 10, 24

Time: 7:30 to 9:00 PM

Place: Temple Sholom, North Bridge St., Bridgewater

Fee: \$26 for two sessions

David Malchman continues the series of Jewish meditation, leading the group in exercises, teachings and discussion designed to help us manage the stress in our daily lives and feel a sense of calm and well-being. No previous experience with meditation required! Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-722-0674, ext. 28 to register.

Rabbi's Message

The following reflection was written by Rabbi David J. Zucker from the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center.

Multiple Verbs Highlight Different Possibilities

The Torah portion *Va-era* (Exodus 6:2 - 9:35) contains some familiar verses that are preserved and expanded in the Passover Haggadah. In verses Exodus 6:6-7 God tells Moses that redemption is at hand for the enslaved Israelites, and in that explanation, God uses four verbs: *v'hotzeiti . . . v'hitzalti . . . v'ga-alti . . . v'lakachti . . .* I will free you . . . deliver you . . . redeem you . . . take you Then, in verse 8 we read an additional verb, *v'heiveiti* – I will bring you Generally, these verbs are understood to mean that God acted, and continues to act, in multiple and cumulative ways to help us.

There is another way to interpret these verbs: they represent different possible approaches to an issue or a problem. God is saying to us, just as I am offering various ways of describing – if you wish, reframing – what I am doing, so it is important to realize that there is more than *just one way* to achieve a goal.

There are multiple valid paths to see a course of action.

Whether at home or in another setting, we often face difficult decisions about care, or about how to adjust to a new, and often unwanted, life situation. At times we are sure that we are on the right path, but then we run up against a roadblock. At these moments, it is hard to believe that there are alternative avenues. Further, others may have ideas or compelling reasons to propose a different solution.

The multiple verbs in Exodus 6:6-8 teach us that though we may not initially understand or appreciate it, often there are many possibilities before us. There are various viable options; the challenge for us is to recognize and consider them, and then to choose from among them.

May the Source of many possible blessings in our lives grant us the patience and wisdom to discern the viable options before us and guide us to make wise choices.

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Youth Group News

January saw the Reconstructionist Regional Youth Group in Crown Heights, the local youth group going to a movie, the 5th, 6th, and 7th graders eating pizza and schmoozing after class, and the confirmation class watching a documentary and discussing the 350 year history of Jews in America. Listed below is more information about each group's activities in January and the scoop on future events.

JCCBM YOUTH GROUP

On December 19th the synagogue youth group enjoyed an afternoon of bowling at the Lawrenceville Lanes. The event was well attended with Jonathan Yuresko, Rachel Burns, Liz Smulian, Elizabeth Bernmel, Andrew Rabinowitz, Jason and Julia Sokel, Dan Krisiloff, and Jake Fridkis rounding out the group. Everyone had a good time socializing while trying to keep the ball out of the gutter. Whether their ending score was 48 or 168, all had a fun afternoon. Bowling was followed by an early dinner at Panera's. Many thanks to John Smulian and Larry Fridkis for chaperoning this event.

The next youth group event is a meal and a movie at a local theater. This event is scheduled for January 23rd in the afternoon.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 to SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Coming up in February is the frequently requested shul-in. Set aside the date now for the sleep over at the JCCBM on Saturday, February 19 to Sunday, February 20. Details will be emailed to the youth group and list serve. Chaperones are needed. If you are interested in spending a night at our synagogue in the delightful company of our teen youth group, let me know. It promises to be a lively evening, though probably not one in which anyone will get too much sleep.

REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTIONIST YOUTH GROUP

The Regional Reconstructionist Youth Group's day in New York was an experience to remember. The youth group met at the Princeton train station at 9:00 a.m. with youth group leader, Josh Goldsmith, and two parents from String of Pearls acting as guides and chaperones. They met Rabbi Daniel in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and together visited various sites. First stop was a small shop to watch a Sofer making Tfillin from a piece of cow's hide. The next activity of the day was a visit to the brand new Jewish Children's Museum where the group was given a tour and had time to explore the interactive displays. An unorganized game of Jewish life cycle miniature golf was one of the highlights. A visit to 770 Eastern Parkway, the home of the World Lubovich Headquarters was next on the schedule. The afternoon was topped off by lunch at a kosher pizzeria. The train ride home to Princeton was an opportunity to discuss all that they had experienced during this eventful afternoon. Teens from our congregation included Laura Smulian, Matt Rosenthal, Jonathan Yuresko, Jake Fridkis, and Danny Lazare.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005

The regional youth group is planning its next event on Sunday, February 6. It looks like it will be a local event. Details will be emailed to the group from youth advisor Josh Goldsmith.

The following dates have been confirmed for the regional youth group. Mark your calendars now for your convenience.

April 1st – 2nd – Friday to Saturday - Noar Hadash regional Kallah-Shabbaton at Camp Pinemere

April 9th – Saturday evening - Yuri Lane concert

The March date is still in the planning stages. It will be listed in next month's newsletter.

PRE-TEEN EVENTS

The Wednesday evening pizza socials continue. Andrea Bradley once again coordinated and chaperoned the pizza party in January. There was a good turn-out of students who opted to remain after Hebrew school for a slice or two of pizza and the opportunity to sit and talk to their Hebrew school classmates. Thank you, Andrea, for creating and distributing the flyer, picking up the juice and pizza, and for chaperoning.

Pizza socials will continue each month through May. To simplify scheduling, the pizza socials will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Andrea Bradley will coordinate February's social and Lori Konkowski volunteered to organize March's party. Thanks to both of you.

Mark your calendars with the dates below for the remaining pizza party dates.

Wednesday, February 9th - 7:00 - 8:00

Wednesday, March 9th - 7:00 - 8:00

Wednesday, April 13th - 7:00 - 8:00

Wednesday, May 11th - 7:00 - 8:00

THE HOMEWORK CLUB

A member of the Hebrew School Education Committee is in the process of trying to coordinate a carpool for children in Wednesday Hebrew school to bring them to the synagogue in time to participate in the Homework Club. Let me know if you are interested in having your child participate and would like to try to arrange carpooling.

Karen Fridkis

Youth Group chair
kfridkis@comcast.net



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GREAT SUMMERS HAPPEN BY CHOICE,
NOT CHANCE!

continued from page 5

What happens if a community grows beyond the size boundary without changing how it manages its community? The system will try to maintain its equilibrium; typically the congregation will shrink down to within the numbers for its mode of operation. Some congregations oscillate back and forth growing beyond the boundary only to bounce back time and again. The stress of growth followed by shrinkage has destroyed many congregations. Most often this happens at the Pastoral to Program border. For some reason this is the most difficult transition of all.

But it can be overcome! All it takes is some knowledge, openness to outside help and a good sense of humor (always a valuable asset!) to grow into being a Program congregation from a Pastoral one. The advantages are many. At a slightly larger size our congregation will be able to do more for all of our members and the surrounding community. At the same time we will be able to restore some the community caring and intimacy that have been hallmarks of this community since its inception.

(If you'd like to learn more about congregational size theory and its impact on congregational life, surf on over to: <http://www.congregationalresources.org/article0132.asp> for an article by Alban Institute Senior consultant Rev. Roy Oswald.)

6 6

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The JCCBM Gift Shop
is open each Sunday
10 am - 11 am

Questions?
Call Peggy Fass 609-466-0146
or Harlene Rosenberg 908-874-8283



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Kindercapers

Now in its **11th** full year, the JCCBM's non-sectarian pre-school for children 2-1/2 to 5 years old, offers a unique atmosphere, giving children a chance to explore, create, and, most importantly, learn to think and reason.

For more information, call
908 359-0160.



FEBRUARY 2005



What are blessings for if not to be shared?

What's going on at the JCC of Belle Mead, NJ?

February 2005

22 Shevat 5765 - 19 Adar I 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 22 Shevat	2 23 Shevat Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm Education Committee 7:15 PM	3 24 Shevat Hebrew High School 5 - 7 pm	4 25 Shevat ;5:04PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM Singing & Story-telling Kabbalat Shabbat worship service 7 pm	5 26 Shevat ;6:08PM Mishpatim: Exo. 21.1-22.3 Jeremiah 34.13-20, 33.25-26
6 27 Shevat Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm RRYG	7 28 Shevat	8 29 Shevat	9 30 Shevat ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15. Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm Post Leeba"n pizza evening	10 1 Adar I ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15. Hebrew High School 5 - 7 pm	11 2 Adar I ;5:12PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM "Food for Thought" Kabbalat Shabbat Worship service 7:45 PM	12 3 Adar I ;6:16PM Terumah: Exo. 25.1-40 I Kings 6.1-13
13 4 Adar I Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm	14 5 Adar I	15 6 Adar I Board of Trustees meeting 7:30 PM	16 7 Adar I Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	17 8 Adar I Hebrew High School 5 - 7 pm	18 9 Adar I ;5:20PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM Musical Kabbalat Shabbat worship Service & honoring the month's birthdays & anniversaries 7:45 pm	19 10 Adar I ;6:25PM Tetzaveh: Exo. 27.20-28.30 Ezekiel 43.10-27. Evening: Teen "Shul-in"
20 11 Adar I Leeba"n School Closed Presidents' weekend Teen Shul-in ends AM JCCBM Painting Party	21 12 Adar I	22 13 Adar I	23 14 Adar I ;6:29PM PURIM KATAN I Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	24 15 Adar I ;6:30PM PURIM KATAN II Hebrew High School 5 - 7 pm	25 16 Adar I ;5:29PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM - "Rekindling the Flame" Shabbat dinner at the JCC of Belle Mead 6:30 pm -- Kabbalat Shabbat worship service 7:45 pm	26 17 Adar I ;6:33PM Kee Tissa: Exo. 30.11-31.17 I Kings 18.20-39 5th grade Leebah school Shabbat morning service 10 AM
27 18 Adar I Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm	28 19 Adar I					

[;Candle Lighting, ;Observance End. Times are for Belle Mead, NJ]

Committee Chairs	
Committee	Chair
Adult Education	Rabbi Michael Tayvah 908-359-0420 RabbiJCCBM@Earthlink.net
B'nai Mitzvah	Meryl Orlando 732-329-8945
Board of Trustees 3rd Tues.	Ed Krisloff 908-359-0560
Building/Grounds/Decor	VACANT ☺
By-Laws	Victor Elgort 908-874-8535 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Education 1st Wed.	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
Finance	Joan Weisblatt 908-874-3529
Fund Raising	VACANT ☺
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Life Cycle	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
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Membership	Hy Grossman 609-466-3859 Sharon Casper 609-430-0421 Debbie Tesser 908-904-0457
Men's Club	Bob Fass 609-466-0146
Newsletter	Karen Bartels 609-921-1811 karen.bartels@verizon.net
Nursery School	Debbie Lampf 908-466-4165 Peggy Fass 609-466-0146
Publicity	Janis Todd 609-799-8384
Religion 4th Tues.	VACANT ☺
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Social/Activities	VACANT ☺
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Tikkun Olam	VACANT ☺
Tree of Life Donations	Shelley Nord 908-874-8464
Youth Activities	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119

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The Newsletter of Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead

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February 2005

Deadline for next newsletter: **February 15th**