



JCC JBM News

Editor—Karen Bartels
karen.bartels@verizon.net
fax 609-921-1899
phone 609-921-1811

Newsletter of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead **March 2005** Adar I-Adar II 5765

JCCBM

**253 Griggstown Rd.
Belle Mead, NJ 08502**

**Phone: 908-359-0420
Fax: 908-359-8848**

Regular office hours:
Mon- Fri 9:00-4:00

Rabbi

Michael Tayvah
RabbiJCCBM@earthlink.net

President

Ed Krisloff

Administrator

Clara Nelson
admin1jccbm@earthlink.net

Hebrew School Principal

Dori Daus
jccbm_dori@earthlink.net

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 20th, 2005

Today was a rather difficult day for our community. As we gathered together to support the Tesser family and to honor the memory of Harvey Tesser, our hearts were heavy with the burden of the loss of one of our founding members. In the midst of our grief however, there was also a sense of strength as the community gathered together in support of one of our own. As people kept filling into the synagogue and all available seats were taken both in the sanctuary and in the balcony, they simply kept coming, standing wherever there was room. I was honored with welcoming everyone into our home, and as I looked out at all those faces I thought to myself that this is the house that Harvey Tesser helped to build. It is really not about the physical plant itself, the building. It's about the community that fills that space and the way that community functions in giving support to its members in the most difficult of times.



These past few weeks have been stressful for my family as well. Just one day prior to Harvey Tesser's passing, we moved my mother into the Alzheimer's section of Somerbrook, which is the assisted living section of the Central Jersey Hebrew Home for the Aged in Somerset. I can recall several conversations with Harvey during the last year as I tried to coax him into an active role in raising funds for our synagogue and each time he told me that he was very involved with helping to support the Central Jersey Hebrew Home. He was quite proud of what he had helped to create. At the time I didn't realize that what he helped to create was what my family would need in our time of crisis.

As I stood before the gathered community and we gave our support to the Tesser family, I was acutely aware that at the very same moment, the Tesser family, and what they had helped to create was supporting me. This is the essence of community. Our lives connect in many ways and the actions we take ripple out like water droplets in a still pond, reaching each other in ways we cannot imagine.

Ed



Dr. Harvey Tesser of blessed memory
1938-2005

Please make donations payable to the "Harvey J. Tesser Memorial Building Fund"

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B'NAI MITZVAH NEWS

For all readers who don't know me—let me introduce myself. My name is Kate Fridkis. I'm nearly nineteen years old, and a music major at Mason Gross School of the Arts. I'm a freshman now, and after completing my undergraduate studies, I plan on continuing on to cantorial school and becoming a chazzan (a cantor). I've been working at the JCCBM for several years now. I teach B'nai Mitzvah students the prayers they need to know for their services, and also assist Rabbi Tayvah in leading B'nai Mitzvah and High Holiday services. I'd like to share some thoughts with you about my work.

I remember my Bat-Mitzvah with intense clarity. I stood before the bima stairs in my pink, embroidered dress and clenched my hands together to stop them from shaking. The night before I had been practicing desperately, trying to learn the last bit of the final aliyah of my Torah portion. I was afraid it would show. I wasn't very sure where I should stand and for how long. I felt awkward and displaced, as though some huge hand of fate had plucked me unsuspecting from the congregation and deposited me there, before all those watching eyes.

Years later, when I was fifteen, I was asked to help the rabbi lead High Holiday services. That opportunity led to others, and soon I found myself instructing B'nai Mitzvah students in prayer. From the very beginning, I was sure how I wanted to teach. I wanted to encourage these children so that they would feel confident in themselves and comfortable enough to belong on the bima. I wanted to explain the meaning of the ceremony they would take part in, so that it meant more to them than the hassle of multiple lessons and rote memorization in a language they didn't understand. My goals were clear from the start of my teaching experience, and they remain as sharply defined today.

As a prayer teacher for the B'nai Mitzvah students of our congregation, I have a plan for each of my students. I help children I work with to make the service they will participate in their own. I seek to assist each student in comprehending their own unique, important role in their religious community, and encourage them to explore the many meanings of the title "adult."

B'nai Mitzvah is a step on the path to adulthood. I believe that the true growth and sacredness of this tradition is as much in the process as in the service (the final product). The B'nai Mitzvah process places an enormous emphasis on responsibility, and, with guidance, children who take part in this tradition have the experience of feeling great pride in their work. It is an important step towards adulthood, and I continue to feel honored to be able to play a part in guiding children during this special time of their lives.

Kate Fridkis

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

On March 14th there will be a meeting of all those interested in joining the book club. We will discuss selection of books, scheduling and any other suggestions you have for this new and exciting group. The meeting will be held at the home of Gail Shapiro-Scott.

Please contact her at 609-688-0659 or at gssprinceton@patmedia.net to RSVP.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is planning a docent led tour of the Princeton University Art Museum on Sunday, April 10th. This event will be open to all everyone, male and female. More information will be available in the near future. Please contact Judi Edelson, 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.

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

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Karen & Ed Silver	In honor of Karen Wolkofsky's 50th Birthday
Natalie London	Memorial Plaque In memory of Meyer London

Non-Members

Seymour & Rita Miller	In honor of Eric Ephraim Bachrach on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah, Grandson of the late Marjorie and Robert Bachrach
Ethel L. Chidell	In memory of David Chidell

APRIL 16TH

DINNER AT JANIS AND ALAN TODD'S HOUSE

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

CONGREGANTS ASSISTANCE FUND

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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JOAN ALSTER WEISBLATT

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Hebrew School Happenings

March Schedule

Wed 3/2	Dance	Sun 3/6	Dance
Wed 3/9	Craft	Sun 3/13	Craft
Wed 3/15	Joel Chasnoff	Sun 3/20	Dance
Wed 3/23	no class	Sun 3/27	no class
Wed 3/20	cooking		

Hello Everyone! Thank you so much for participating in our school fundraisers. Please feel free to come to our Tefilah sessions that last the first 15 minutes of every Hebrew School day. We would love to have you come learn and pray with us.

Shabbat Superstars for January:

Rachel Spielholz Grade 4

Samuel Cohen Grade 6

Daniel Mynick Grade 6

Michael Stewart Grade 6

Gabriel Fridkis Grade 7

Michael Goldman Grade 7

Aaron Skoultchi Grade 7

Jonathan Yuresko Confirmation Class



Our rabbis taught: parents are obligated to "teach their child Torah and a craft" Some say: To also teach their child how to swim. Some say: Also to teach him how to swim. The reason? The child's life may depend on it.

Rabbi (Judah I, the Patriarch) said: "Parents are also required to teach their children civic obligations. Whatever parents are required to do for their child, should they fail to do it, the child must do it on his own."

Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 29a, 30b; Mekhilta, Bo, Pis'ha, 18.

Our tradition teaches us that it is the responsibility of Jewish parents to provide their children with a Jewish education. Parents may choose to make the congregation's school their agents in this vitally important work. In so doing they commit themselves to supporting the authority of the teachers and administration, and to follow the policies laid out for the smooth running of the school.

With that in mind, the Leeba"h Hebrew School at the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead, NJ offers this updated discipline policy.

A. Discipline Policy

Inappropriate classroom behavior -- which include, but are not limited to, being off-task, disrespectful to peers or teachers or others, or being out of a designated area -- the following consequences will apply:

Part 1 - Classroom teacher's actions (each student starts fresh every class period):

1. First time-warning
2. 30 seconds out in the hall (time out)
3. 60 seconds out in the hall (time out)

4. Phone call home by teacher

5. Student sent to Principal's office

Any behavior that includes the destruction of property or interferes with personal or emotional safety will result in immediate removal from class.

Part 2 - Principal's actions (these responses are cumulative over the course of the school year):

1. Teacher warns student

2. Parent phone call from Principal

3. Parent has to come in to class with student

4. One week suspension from Hebrew School to be ended with a reentry meeting including the parents, Principal, the Rabbi and a member of the Education Committee.

5. One month suspension from Hebrew School. This suspension must be ended with a reentry meeting including the parents, Principal, the Rabbi and a member of the Education Committee.

6. Suspension for the remainder of the School Year. Reentry to the regular program in the fall of the subsequent school year will be determined at a reentry meeting in the first week of June.

In the event of suspension, parents are responsible for keeping their child up to date with the curriculum of the school. The Leeba"h school will maintain a list of possible tutors to help parents fulfill their obligation to teach Torah to their children.

B. Complaint procedure:

1. Set an appointment and meet with the teacher.

2. Set an appointment and meet with the Principal.

3. Set an appointment and meet with the Education Committee.

4. Set an appointment and meet with the Principal, a member of the Education Committee and the Rabbi.

Dori Daus,

Hebrew School Principal

HEBREW HIGH by Jake Fridkis

This month in HH we learned some interesting things and had fun doing so.

With Rabbi Tayvah we read from the direct translation of the magillah and talked about the "commandment to get drunk on Purim". This discussion included a very realistic story about a rabbi who got so drunk on the night of Purim that he slit his friend's throat and then resurrected him in the morning. This lead to a discussion about the dangers of alcohol. We also read the magillah interactively which produced many interesting characters, including Esther with a strangely southern accent, a not so manly Mordachi, and THE HAMANATER.

In Ms. Lehman's class we watched the end of Swing Kids (which we had also watched the beginning and middle of). She is planning on showing us a documentary on the beginning of the Third Reich in the coming weeks. HH is fun and worthwhile. Drop in. It's free and you don't have to sign up.

LIKE RIPPLES IN A STILL POND



Sudden deaths impact on our lives like a stone dropped into a still pond.

The stone hits the water, a splash rises up and then the ripples radiate out from the point of impact. Out the concentric circles move, each one embracing the one inside.

After years of watching families coping with sudden loss I realized that the image of ripples in a pond helps us understand the circles of grief when death comes.

From the life of a community rabbi: It was May and another beautiful Oregon summer was beginning. I received a call informing me of the death of a visiting student at Oregon State University (OSU). He was driving back to Corvallis when his car swerved into oncoming traffic hitting a dump truck. He died instantly in the accident. He was twenty years old.

The university wanted me to assist his family, which was coming up to claim his body for burial back in California. I worked with the local non-Jewish funeral home to honor Jewish customs. I accompanied the parents and younger brother for the 36 hours they were in town making arrangements. I went with the young man's girlfriend and younger brother to the wrecked car to recover personal effects. I led a memorial gathering on the OSU campus before the family brought their son's body home.

The memorial was in the common hall in the young man's dormitory. Over 200 people were in the large space to honor the memory of someone who came to study there for the academic year, a year that was ending as we met. There was a small table on which was placed a picture of the young man along with a yahrtzeit candle. We began with a *niggun*, a wordless melody which the people in the room join in with after a few rounds. After words from the dean, the director of the visiting students program, the resident advisor of the young man's dorm, his father stood up and thanked everyone for all their help in a very difficult time.

As the time for the ceremony drew to a close, I asked the immediate family to join hands around the table. His mother, father, brother and girlfriend formed a circle embracing the candle and photo.

I then asked for those in the room who considered themselves close friends of the young man to form a circle around the family; another ring around the first.

Then his friends formed the third circle. Acquaintances, people who knew him from his dorm floor, classes, the dining hall, gym or from around campus, made up the fourth ring. Then came people who knew him in passing, recognized him from crossing the quad or from around town and were moved to come to the memorial. They were the fifth ring. Finally I asked those who did not know him at all, but came to support someone else present in their grieving to make up the sixth and final ring.

For a moment we stood there holding hands with others in our rings. Separate circles of grief and support; like ripples on a pond after a stone is dropped in.

Then I asked everyone outside of the first (family) ring to drop hands, and then place them on the shoulders of the person in the ring in front of theirs.

The concentric circles radiating out from the loss and grief at the center, transformed into a representation of communal support. The family received the support of their son's/brother's/lover's close friends. They in turn were supported by his friends, who were supported by the acquaintances, who were supported by those who recognized him, who were supported by those who did not know him but knew others closer to the "point of impact."

As we stood with hands upholding those in front of us with hands of others supporting us from behind, we sang the *niggun* and passed our support into those closest in.



I've kept that image in my mind since then. It is how I conceive of how we Jews ought to support mourners after a death. Shiva is an opportunity to reach out to a grieving human being and doing whatever we can to help the

survivors / mourners. It does not matter whether we knew the deceased or not; we all are capable of helping others.

Death reminds us all of our own mortality. While we are living we have the choice of how to respond to others grief. We can turn our backs knowing how busy our lives are and of how many details must be attended to everyday, or we can open our hearts and offer our presence knowing that one day, we too will grieve and look to our community for loving, compassionate support.

What kind of community do we want to be? One of hands reaching forward to support one-another? Or one of people turned away from each other, isolated in our houses and alone in our grief?

By my count, our community has nine members who have experienced the loss of a parent or spouse in the past year. There are more who are grieving for friends or others. Do you know who these fellow members are? Have you offered them a kind word in the past months?

When news of a death comes over the congregational listserv think of where you fit into the circles of grieving and place your hands in support of those in need, if for no other reason than one day we each will stand in the center of those circles sometimes when we least expect it.

Rabbi Michael Tayvah

There at the beginning... Harvey Tesser and the JCC of Belle Mead

A story of the impact of one person on a community

It was 1982 and Harvey & Marian Tesser's eldest child, Debbie, was graduating from Montgomery High School. Of the 120 students in her class *maybe* 5 were Jews. At the public school commencement a minister was invited to do the invocation. He blessed the graduates "in the name of Jesus Christ." For Debbie it was the last straw in a childhood growing up as one of very few Jews in Montgomery Township. There was no synagogue here back then. No Hebrew school, no rabbi to represent the community and to promote Jewish peoplehood in this corner of New Jersey.

This bothered Harvey Tesser. He spoke with Otto Kaufman, a well known local Jew (and Peggy Fass' father). He recommended Bob and Peggy as a start. A few weeks later Harvey & Marian Tesser invited three other Jewish couples from the area — the Fasses, Susie & Ron Horowitz, Kathy & Gerry Siegel — to their home on Tarrytown Terrace. They sat around the kitchen table and talked about starting a shul. Kathy Siegel remembered it this way in 1995:

In the beginning, the JCC/BM consisted of four people and a library of books. In true Jewish tradition, the four always met around a kitchen table on which lay an assortment of delicious snacks and desserts. They studied the books intently. "Do you think "Klug" is a Jewish name?" one of them would ask while swallowing. If the answer was yes, the name was added to the list. The books, you see, were not religious texts but instead local phone books...

(For the record the synagogue archives point to "The" Four Founders as: Harvey Tesser, Bob Fass, Kathy Siegel and Susie Horowitz.)

Each of the families put down \$25 on the table to pay for a mailing to over 100 addresses. Along with a survey the original letter read:

Dear Neighbor,

We have gotten together to explore the need and interest of starting a local Jewish Center. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes of your time to answer the enclosed questionnaire. We have provided a stamped addressed envelope for your convenience and look forward to your ideas and suggestions.

Thank you.
<names of the four founding couples>

Back then Montgomery had a population of about 5,000 people. (By comparison, today over 18,000 people live in this township.) Soon a date was set for the first event, a meet and greet in the cafeteria of Montgomery High school. On Saturday evening, 8:30 PM, on June 26, 1982 an *Incorporation Celebration* was held in the Montgomery Twp. First Aid Squad building. The Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead was born. Harvey Tesser was its first President.

The congregation grew. Most people were content to have a *Havurah* a fellowship circle of local Jews getting together **once a month** for Shabbat services and with hiring a part-time rabbi who happened to live in Hopewell.

But Harvey Tesser thought that the congregation needed to be more than that. It needed a building to be a real presence in this township. He offered a piece of property of his for a very low price (and we're talking 1980's prices!). The congregation said no. "What do we need a building for?"

Then the Montgomery Evangelical Church was selling its facility and building another across the street on Belle Mead – Griggstown Road. Harvey Tesser saw this as an opportunity. He argued. He persuaded. He cajoled. He did everything he could to get this community to take itself seriously as the local public Jewish institution and not only as an informal gathering of local Jews. In the end, he succeeded. Money was asked for and received. The building was purchased and dedicated as a synagogue on March 2, 1986. And we are still in that same building.



HARVEY J. TESSER: 1982-1984 and 1987-1989

At our Temple's beginning, so many noteworthy things happened organizationally, that it is not difficult to write of achievements that occurred during my tenures as President. However, if one were to ask what I was most proud of regarding this Temple, it would certainly be the period of time that Kathy Siegel, Susan Horowitz, Bob Fass and I spent going through phone books, looking for names that sounded Jewish, writing letters, getting responses – some funny, some not so funny - and finally finding seventeen families to join with us as the first members of the Belle Mead Jewish Community Center.

by Harvey Tesser, 1995 reprinted from Knesset Mitzvah booklet

In Remembrance of Dr. Harvey Tesser

1938 - 2005

A eulogy by Louis Wolkofsky

For the last few months, Rabbi Tayvah has been teaching the members of the temple about how congregations grow and evolve. Well, Harvey could have taught such a course, because he had an innate ability to know what an organization needed to move forward.

Harvey was the driving force of the JCCBM in our early years. He was one of our 4 founders, our first president, then our second president, and foremost he was our visionary. He recognized that a Jewish presence was needed in this area. He recognized that we needed a place to send our children for religious instruction, that we needed a solid set of by-laws, strong committees, that we needed to be more than a non-affiliated havurah, and he knew we needed a building that we could call home.

Looking back with 20/20 hindsight, we all might say "but of course, all of those goals are desirable and no-brainers". But that wasn't the case 20 odd years ago. I can remember when Harvey was attempting to convince the naysayers (myself included) that we desperately required a building if we were to survive and truly serve the community. He showed us an older home on a small parcel of land right on Route 206 that he thought would be a perfect "starter" temple. Harvey personally owned this property and he offered it to us at a ridiculously low price. He showed it to about 10 of the board members and we proceeded to come up with at least 20 reasons why we shouldn't move forward. "It's too big"; "What will

we do with an acre of land?"; and if you can believe it, "Do you think Harvey is getting too good a deal, after all he gets a tax write-off for his loss."

Lesser men would have just walked away from us and let us flounder; but not Harvey. He was going to force us to evolve, even if he had to drag us kicking and screaming. Sure enough, through persuasive argument, arm twisting, cajolery, whatever it took, a year later we were looking at the building you are sitting in now – 3 times bigger than that first house Harvey showed us with about 6 acres of property. Harvey stood history on its head – Jewish Temples are usually turned into churches or mosques, however we were the first temple I can remember that took over a building that was previously an evangelical church.

Harvey had a clear vision of where we needed to be. During the 13 years I was on the board I never disagreed with anyone more than Harvey. But invariably 5 years after I argued with him I would find myself telling him: "You know

Harvey, you were right!"

Then there was Harvey's management style. He would put his arm on your shoulder and say, "How about taking that committee position? You know you are the best person for it, you've got the talent, you'd do a great job." And then you'd respond with "Harvey, are you trying to manipulate me?" and Harvey would say, "Yes I am, you know it, I know it, but won't you help?", and you'd take the position and Harvey would move the congregation forward just a little bit at a time.

And no matter how much you might disagree with him, you always respected him. All arguments at the board table always ended up with schmoozing over a piece of cake and a cup of coffee.

There have been many individuals who have made notable contributions to helping the JCCBM prosper over its lifetime - those who arranged financing, benefactors, presidents, board members. But there is no one who was there for our formative years who wouldn't insist that Harvey Tesser is the individual singly most responsible for the existence of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead.

In the last few years, Harvey was less involved with the shul. He had passed on the torch here at the temple to other active board members, including his daughter Debbie, and had found other avenues through which he could give something back to the greater community. I often spoke with Harvey about the JCCBM – sometimes the discussion was a bit stilted because Harvey's hand was in my mouth. He always wanted to know: Who's on the board this year? Where were we going? What were our plans to get there? For someone who wanted to take a less active role, he sure had a very active opinion. I know he was much impressed with Rabbi Tayvah and the congregation's desire to expand. I sincerely hoped that he would renew his active participation in the shul once he retired. Over the last few months I discussed it with him and, unlike other times, he didn't dismiss the idea. Unfortunately, that just adds to our loss today.

We all used to joke with Harvey that because of the large age difference between his first two children and his youngest boys, that he really had two families. But one could argue that he really had at least three families because the JCCBM was indeed another.

Harvey didn't lend us his time, insight, and clarity of vision for the "koved." (Hebrew / Yiddish for honor, particularly honors publicly heaped upon someone). He helped mold a congregation that didn't provide for honors. No testimonial dinners in this temple, it's just not our style and its why many of us belong here. So, perhaps this service will make up for, in his passing, what we didn't give him in life. Accordingly, it is most fitting that this service be held here, in this building.

Goodbye my friend. You will be greatly missed.



Guest Cantor Sam Morganstern, Bob Fass, Harvey Tesser, Harvey Nussbaum, Arthur Steinberg, Rabbi Richard Hirsch

Jewish LIFE

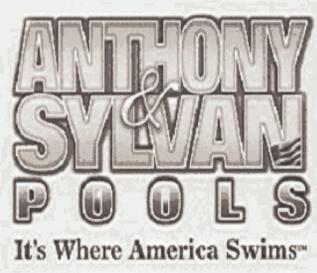
Jewish LIFE March programs include: Rachel Fish, "A Student Activist Reflects on the Zayed Campaign", Wednesday, March 2 at 7 p.m.; and Martin Samuel Cohen, "Politics and Piety in Second Temple Jerusalem" on Sunday, March 6 at 10 a.m. *Coming in April...* Carol Rittner, R.S.M., "Pius XII: The Catholic Church and the Holocaust, Sunday, April 3 at 10 a.m. All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. For further information and to register, contact JCC Assistant Executive Director Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@ssbjcc.org.

Debbie Golden
Marketing & PR Director
Shimon and Sara Birnbaum
Jewish Community Center
775 Talamini Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Phone: 908-725-6994 x210
Fax: 908-725-9753
E-Mail DGolden@ssbjcc.org
website: www.ssbjcc.org

Joe Himelfarb
Design Consultant

Phone (908) 528-3611
Fax (732) 752-2804

jhimelfarb@anthonysylvan.com



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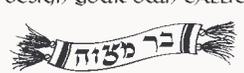
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Youth Group News

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

January's blizzard cancelled the JCCBM's youth group day at the movies on January 23rd, but the other scheduled events went off without a hitch. The Regional Reconstructionist Youth Group met mid-month for a tikkun olam project and the pre-teens had another pizza party. Look below for information about these events and the upcoming March activities.

JCCBM YOUTH GROUP

Barring another blizzard or other unknown obstacle the JCCBM Youth Group will have had a sleep-over at the synagogue on Saturday, February 19th. They can look forward to an evening havdalah service, dinner, a movie or two, and lots of time to socialize. Who knows, maybe they will even clear out the back room to prepare for the next day's painting bonanza? The teens will be chaperoned by Kate Fridkis. Much thanks to Kate, who willingly gave up her weekend to chaperone this event. Did anyone get any sleep?

SAVE THE DATE: March 19th, Saturday evening. In the planning stages now is an evening of laser tag. Please hold the evening open for a rollicking game of laser tag at one of the nearby laser parks. Details will follow via email and list serve. As always, we're looking for chaperones for this event. Call or email if you are available.

REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTIONIST YOUTH GROUP

The Regional Reconstructionist Youth Group met on Sunday morning, February 13th, at The Lord's Table soup kitchen in Trenton. The Lord's Table soup kitchen meets twice a month offering those in need a home cooked meal. Every two weeks an organization volunteers for the two part process. One group prepares a meal and the other groups sets up, serves, and cleans up. The RRYG volunteered for the latter. They set the tables, brought trays to each table and served chili, corn bread, salad, and dessert to the clients, and cleaned up from lunch. While waiting for the guests to arrive, they created Valentine's Day cards for the residents of an area assisted living facility. One of the youth group members commented that, "It was a new experience. It was a good thing to do and I would do it again. I recommend other people do it too." The youth group was also encouraged to bring toiletry items and gently used winter clothes. They came loaded with the above plus armfuls of donated bread and baked goods from ShopRite and Panera. The diners were not only served a hearty lunch, but many left with a supply of needed food and much appreciated winter clothing. Mazel tov to those of you who participated in this worthwhile event. Thanks to the parents who drove their teens and Josh who organized the event.

SAVE THE DATE: March 6. The next Regional Reconstructionist Youth Group event will take place on March 6 in the evening. It looks like it will be some sort

of party at a local spot. Josh will email details to the youth group members.

SAVE THE DATE: April 1-2. Noar Hadash regional Kallah-Shabbaton at Camp Pinemere. Details will follow.

SAVE THE DATE: April 9 - Saturday evening. Yuri Lane concert

PRE-TEEN EVENTS

The 2nd Wednesday of the month is pizza time for the pre-teen set. Thanks once again to Andrea Bradley for purchasing the pizza and drinks for this fun evening of socializing after Hebrew School.

SATE THE DATES: The second Wednesday evening of each month from 7:00 -8:00

MARCH 9 - This pizza social will be coordinated by Lori Konkowski. Thanks, Lori, for stepping in to make this happen for the children.

APRIL 13th - pizza social

May 11th - final pizza party

*Shalom,
Karen Fridkis, youth group chair
kfridkis@comcast.net*

ATTENTION: 8th GRADE STUDENTS NEW THIS SEMESTER ONLY - A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY JUST FOR YOU

SUNDAYS 11:00 to noon

Starting in February students in the 8th grade are invited to join Rabbi Tayvah each Sunday morning from 11:00 to noon for a lively hour of discussion. This class promises to be an exciting peek into the wide world of Jewish education. Rabbi Tayvah has a wealth of information to share. Plus, he is rumored to possess an extraordinary number of Hebrew pop, hip hop, and klezmer CDs, which adds a distinct musical flavor to the experience. Take an hour out of your busy week at a reasonable time on Sunday mornings. Come to spend an hour with other 8th grade teens from our congregation. Come to join in discussions about current events, ethics, Jewish culture, spirituality, Torah, Jewish holidays, etc. Come and broaden your horizons in this important area of your young adult life.

Then in September, join the other teens in their weekly Hebrew High class. Come!



BORDERS
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Kindercapers

Now in its 12th 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.



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



Tree of Life

Purchase a leaf for \$54
to celebrate a *simcha!*
Each leaf includes
three lines of engraving.

Contact Shelley Nord
908-874-8464



Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead

MARCH 2005



What are blessings for if not to be shared?

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

March 2005

20 Adar I 5765 - 20 Adar II 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 20 Adar I	2 21 Adar I Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	3 22 Adar I	4 23 Adar I 5:36PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM Singing & Story-telling Kabbalat Shabbat worship service 7 pm	5 24 Adar I 6:41PM Vayakhel: Exo. 36.7 I Kings 7.40-50 (Sephardi add I Kings 7.13-26). 9:30 AM Shaharit service - Aaron Skoutchi's Bar Mitzvah celebration
6 25 Adar I Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm	7 26 Adar I	8 27 Adar I	9 28 Adar I Education Committee 7:15 PM Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	10 29 Adar I	11 30 Adar I 5:44PM ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15. Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM "Food for Thought" Kabbalat Shabbat Worship service 7:45 PM	12 1 Adar II 6:48PM ROSH HODESH II Pekude: Ex. 38.21-39.21 Num. 28.9-15 Shabbat Shekalim Exo. 30.11-16. II Kings 12.1-17 9:30 AM Shaharit service - Zane Bohrer's Bar Mitzvah celebration
13 2 Adar II Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm	14 3 Adar II	15 4 Adar II Board of Trustees meeting 7:30 PM	16 5 Adar II Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	17 6 Adar II	18 7 Adar II 5:52PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM Musical Kabbalat Shabbat worship Service & honoring the month's birthdays & anniversaries 7:45 pm	19 8 Adar II 6:56PM Vayikra: Levit. 1.1-3.5 Shabbat Zakhor Deut. 25.17-19. I Samuel 15.2-34 9:30 AM Shaharit service - Caryn Brandel's Bat Mitzvah celebration
20 9 Adar II Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - 12:45 pm	21 10 Adar II	22 11 Adar II	23 12 Adar II No Leeba"n School	24 13 Adar II 7:01PM FAST OF ESTHER Morning: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Exo. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. Afternoon: Isaiah 55.6- 56.8 (Sephardi ritual: Hosea 14.2-10, Micah 7.18-20). NO HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS Purim Megillah reading & celebration 7 PM	25 14 Adar II 7:02PM/5:59PM PURIM Exo. 17.8-16. 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 15 Adar II 7:03PM SHUSHAN PURIM Tzav: Levit. 6.1-7.10 Jeremiah 7.21-8.3, 9.22- 23.
27 16 Adar II No Leeba"n school	28 17 Adar II	29 18 Adar II	30 19 Adar II Leeba"n School 5 - 7 pm	31 20 Adar II		

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

Committee Chairs	
Committee	Chair
Adult Education	Rabbi Michael Tayvah 908-359-0420 Rabbi.JCCBM@Earthlink.net
B'nai Mitzvah	Meryl Orlando 732-329-8945
Board of Trustees <i>3rd Tues.</i>	Ed Krisloff 908-359-0560
Building/Grounds/Decor	Andy Sokel 609-466-8749 Andsok@aol.com
By-Laws	Victor Elgort 908-874-8535 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Education <i>1st Wed.</i>	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
Finance	Joan Weisblatt 908-874-3529
Fund Raising	VACANT ☹
Hospitality	Natalie London 908-874-6952
Life Cycle	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning	VACANT ☹
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 <i>4th Tues.</i>	VACANT ☹
Sisterhood	Judy Edelson 908- 281-4293
Social/Activities	VACANT ☹
Technology	Barry Kirsch 908-359-7872
Tikkun Olam	VACANT ☹
Tree of Life Donations	Shelley Nord 908-874-8464
Youth Activities	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119



The Newsletter of Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead

253 Griggstown Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

<http://www.jccbm.org>

Listserve e-mail: jccbm@lists.princeton.edu

*Fulfilling the religious, educational and social needs
of our Jewish community since 1982.*

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March 2005

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