



JCC JCBM 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 **August 2005** Tammuz - Av 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

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Ed Krisiloff

Administrator

Deena Nagy
admin1jccbm@earthlink.net

Hebrew School Principal

Dori Daus
leebah@earthlink.net

2004-2005

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Several months ago I spoke about volunteerism at the JCCBM. During the next few months there will be plenty of opportunity to lend a hand at the synagogue. There are a number of events that can only be successful if congregants pitch in and donate their time and effort.



The first opportunity is right around the corner. On August 7th there will be a painting party and late summer clean-up at the JCCBM. We could use any able-bodied painter and painter's helpers to make the task easier. Look for additional e-mail notices. (Contact Andy Sokol or Audrey Starkman if you can lend a hand.)

We are also scheduling an Open House at the synagogue on Sept. 11th as part of a coordinated membership drive. The significance of the date is obvious and we would like to run a blood drive during the open house. This will be in partnership with our Christian neighbors across the street. The Township has also shown interest in helping coordinate and advertise the blood drive, and so it promises to be a busy day. We could use your help. Contact any Board member if you can give your time.

The High Holidays are also drawing near. We would like to offer additional programming for the congregation during these Days of Awe, and we could use additional help in coordinating and carrying through those tasks necessary to ensure a meaningful holiday experience for all congregants.

Last, but not least, if you have not yet returned a form to help in our Shabbat book drive, do so now as we are about to order.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I hope to see you at some of the events taking place in the next few weeks. **Ed**

Sunday, September 11th 2005 at our shul

- Prospective member and *Leeba* School open house 10 AM – Noon



- GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE ON 9/11!

Blood drive 9 AM – 2 PM



(If you cannot donate blood, consider helping out as a volunteer!

E-mail blooddrive@jccbm.org for details.)

Published by:

Calli-Graphics

End of Summer – Welcome Back Barbeque
12:45 – 2:30 PM

Committee Happenings

Prayer Book Donation List

Kristina Wise	In honor of Clara Nelson
Barry & Gail Weichman	In loving memory of Murray Burka
Ken & Shelley Nord	In honor of Fraylie Nord In honor of Seymour & Julia Nord In honor of Rose & Morton Parish
Mitchell & Ruth Brandel	In memory of Isadore Lerner (Ruth's Father)
Norman & Jeanne Schechter	
Stacey Roth Bachrach	In memory of Andreas Bengochea In memory of Henry Roth
Matt & Amy Rosenthal	
Shari Burack-Murphy	Arthur Burack (3 prayer books) Shirley Kleinman Irving Kleinman
David I. Scott, MD & Gail Shapiro Scott	In loving memory of our parents (2 prayer books)
Rich & Lisa Kent	Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Kent Martha Barnett's 97th Birthday
Jeffrey & Susan Carson	
Michael J. Arons	
Irene Silver	In memory of Bernard Davis
Richard M. Nadler	
Andrew Pedinoff	David & Louise Pedinoff
Debbie Lampf & Michael Kalison	In memory of Seymour Kalison In memory of Fannie Lampf
Deborah Tesser	In memory of Harvey J. Tesser
Eric Applegate	In memory of Harvey J. Tesser
Marissa Applegate	In memory of Harvey J. Tesser
Benjamin Applegate	In memory of Harvey J. Tesser
Meissner Family	In memory of our mother, Doris Gansler In memory of our father, Werner Meissner In memory of our sister, Melanie Gansler In honor of our children, Nicole & Devon Meissner In honor of our children, Nicole & Devon Meissner In honor of our children, Nicole & Devon Meissner
Mary Wasserman	Bruce P. Wasserman Al & Regina Stein
Steve & Mary Weinstein	Sam & Rose Kohel
The Weitze Family	Eric O. Forster
Mindy Weinberg & Dirk Van Peenen	Alan Weinberg
John C. Smulian	In honor of Liz Smulian In honor of Laura Smulian
Mitch & Nancy Javeline	Ms. Carol Zoiner
Bob & Peggy Fass	Otto & Ruth Kaufman Ernest & Adele Kaufman
Jeff & Susan Carson	In memory of Albert Carson, beloved Father of Jeffrey Carson, Grandfather of Josh, Jenn, Rachael and Dylan Carson.
Jeff & Susan Carson	In memory of Jacqueline Zeitz, beloved Mother of Jeffrey Carson, Grandmother of Josh, Jenn, Rachael and Dylan Carson.
Larry & Karen Fridkis	In memory of Bernard Fridkis
Natalie London & Richard & Jonathan Yuresko	In memory of Meyer London
Abraham & Debra Gerstenfeld	Carroll Gerstenfeld

Women's Book Club

August meeting:

Monday, August 8, 7:45 pm

Book: The Outside World, by Tova Mirvis

For the meeting's location,

Contact Natalie London, 908-874-6955

natalielondon@att.net

Joe Himelfarb
Design Consultant

Phone (908) 528-3611

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SAVE THE DATE

2005 Art Auction

Saturday evening, November 5th

at the JCCBM (details to follow)

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JCC Donations

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

Regular Donations

Members

Joel & Joan Weisblatt	In honor of Michael Goldman on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah. Natalie London, Kate Fridkis and the Youth Group for the great car wash
Richard & Lori Konkowski	In memory of Nathan Liebeskind from the Konkowski Family
Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg	In honor of Jake Fridkis's acceptance into the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, his winning the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra Concert Competition & his magnificent flute solo at the Princeton Pettoranello Spring Concert
Michael & Allyson Price	In honor of Danica's Bat Mitzvah
Larry & Jackie Weitzner	In honor of Sarah Van Peenan's Bat Mitzvah
Joel & Joan Weisblatt	In honor of the Milich family on the occasion of Lindsey's Bat Mitzvah. In memory of Joshua J. Grauer. In honor of Clara Nelson for all her years of dedicated service.
Michael & Lisa Auerbach	Tree-of-Life Plaque in honor of Jennifer Auerbach's Bat Mitzvah
Dirk Van Peenen & Mindy Weinberg	In honor of Sarah's Bat Mitzvah
Marc & Harlene Rosenberg	In memory of Myra D'Andrea's father Julis Berlin
Lawrence & Karen Fridkis	In honor of Clara Nelson



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rmndmd@aol.com

TESSER MEMORIAL FUND

Marilyn & Morris Plotkin	In memory of Harvey Tesser
Lewis & Karen Wolkofsky	Harvey Tesser Memorial Build Fund
Amy B. Cook	Harvey Tesser Memorial Build Fund

Prayer Book Donation List

Carol & Frank Jones	In memory of Ben Shaw In memory of Ursula Shaw
Sharron Reed and Children	Walter Reed Jr.
Ellen & Victor Elgort	In honor of Dr. Dan Elgort & Lieutenant Ken Elgort In memory of Aaron & Sylvia Zonderman In memory of George Elgort
Al Spielholz	Dr. & Mrs Barney Spielholz
Joseph Weiss & Holly Nelson	Jerry L. Weiss Nancy H. Weiss
Andrew Sokel & Nancy Halpern	In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Julia Belle Sokel
Jim Ohls	
The Weisblatt Family	In memory of Virginia & Nathan Lutzer In memory of Clara & Harry Lutner In memory of Rickel & Sam Weisblatt In memory of Jack & Stella Alster In memory of Laurie Lubow In memory of Harold Weisblatt & Marc Weisblatt
Deborah Grauer	In memory of Joshua Grauer
Joseph & Diane Wions	In memory of Carole Sherling
Louis & Meryl Orlando	
The Anderson Family	In loving memory Herman "Papa Hy" Busch March 29, 1918 - July 6, 2003 In loving memory Selma Feldman February 5, 1916 - August 15, 2000
Michael & Mary Bohrer	In honor of Jacob Bohrer In honor of Chelsea Bohrer In honor of Zane Bohrer
Robert & Eileen Epstein	
Thelma & Dick Canty	In honor of our children: Craig, Don and Roberta, Jay and Lola Hatcher
Lewis & Karen Wolkofsky	In memory of Harry M. Silver In memory of Abe Wolkofsky In memory of Herbert Hoffman
Robert Sohor	Paul Sohor Naoma Sohor
Andres & Patrick Bradley	
Gayle Holtzman	
Susan & Jeremy Lerner	In memory of Arthur Lerner In memory of Dr. Charles Kimmel
Alan & Randi Rosenberg	Max Rosenberg
Judi (Turkheimer) Burke	In honor of Matthew, Jeni Rose and Zachary Burke

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JOAN ALSTER WEISBLATT

40 Paterson Street, Box 480 Tel: (732) 545-4717
New Brunswick, NJ 08903 Fax: (732) 545-4579
E-Mail: Joan_Weisblatt@HoaglandLongo.com

Hebrew School Happenings

School starts again on September, please mark your calendars:

9/7 class Wed Back to School 5-7
9/11 Class Sun Back to School K-4
9/14 Class Wed Craft
9/18 Class Sun Craft
9/21 Class Wed cooking
9/24 7th grade Mincha service and Slichot
9/25 Class Sun cooking
9/28 Class Wed



YOUTH GROUP NEWS JCCBM YOUTH GROUP

Our local youth group had a rip roaring time at their last Sunday event on June 12th. The Smulians organized an afternoon paddling trip on the Griggstown Canal. The weather cooperated and the trip was a boatload (kayak or canoe) of fun for all. Teens included Liz Smulian, Jon Yuresko, Jake Fridkis, Martin Zorde, Rachel Burns, and Andrew Rabinowitz. Many thanks to John and Elaine for their paddling expertise and willingness to coordinate this trip. The day was such a success that Liz and Jake decided to try to organize one final event before summer. They effectively coordinated a dinner at a local Japanese restaurant on Thursday evening, June 16th. A lively meal complete with flying food ended another triumphant year for the JCCBM youth group.

Looking ahead to September the youth group will be helping out once again at the JCCBM open house. They'll be on hand to wash your car and feed your sweet tooth as our congregation welcomes prospective members to our open house on the morning of Sunday, September 11. We need a coordinator for this event. Please contact me if you are able to help.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, September 11, 2005 - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Attention: Incoming 8th grade students: The youth group welcomes the incoming 8th grade class to join them at the car wash. There will be a "getting to know you" breakfast for new youth group members beginning at 8:00. If you have had your b-mitzvah this past year or are currently preparing for an autumn b-mitzvah, you are eligible to join the youth group. They meet monthly for a wide variety of fun activities. Why not join them? Contact me to let me know that you will be able to come to the breakfast/car wash.

REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTIONIST YOUTH GROUP

The regional group will be organizing its calendar over the summer and planning ahead for monthly activities with other Reconstructionist teens from the area. Josh Goldsmith will be returning in September as youth advisor. He will be joined by a teen advisory group, comprised of several of our teens, to plan an exciting assortment of youth events. Check the newsletter and your email for updates. If you would like to join this group, contact me.

PRE-TEEN EVENTS

If you have a child in 5th-7th grade or would like to assist in coordinating activities for this age group, now is the time to step forward to help prepare monthly events for pre-teens. Getting involved in extra-curricular activities at our synagogue sends a positive message our children and serves as a role model to them. Besides that, it's fun and rewarding. Email or call to let me know if you can coordinate a monthly activity, be it a pizza party on Wednesday after Hebrew school or any other idea you may have.

Karen Fridkis, youth group chair

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Letters were mailed to teens in June informing them of our new Hebrew High School programs. Modeled after adult-education classes, the new Hebrew High School will feature a wide array of topics for discussion. Each class will begin with an optional informal dinner giving the participant time to sit and chat with fellow classmates. The two-hour class will be split into two sections each with a separate focus. The year will be divided into mini-courses, some of them taught by the rabbi and some by JCCBM congregants. Course ideas currently under discussion include: Jews in the news, book discussions/films, stereotyping, Jewish cooking, ethics, Torah study, conversational Hebrew and more. Registration is currently taking place for both sessions. The fee is \$180 for Hebrew (chai) High. Incoming 8th grade students receive the first year of Hebrew High School free. If you are going into 8th or 9th grade, you will be attending HHS on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00. Grades 10th-12th meet on Thursday at 5:00-7:00.

The teen years are the time to begin focusing on areas for extracurricular credit because, as you may know, colleges look favorably at students with a well-rounded background. When you enroll in Hebrew High you will be building an impressive record of service and study - one that colleges will recognize as exhibiting continuity of interest and commitment. As one of our current Hebrew High students stated in our June newsletter "...Hebrew High School has been both fun and meaningful." Why not give it a try? Contact me for more information.

Attention: Adult Congregants - The Hebrew High School is currently seeking interested adult to "share their blessings" by teaching a mini-course at the Hebrew High School. Several congregants have already stepped forward to teach, but we need more of you. Are you interested in ethics, cook a mean noodle kugel, speak conversational Hebrew, current on Jewish news, capable of demonstrating Israeli dancing or sharing Jewish music, knowledgeable about Jewish history, Torah, the rules of kashrut, the formational of Israel, or Jewish traditions? (Other topics welcome!) If so, come and share your blessings with our teens on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. I look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Fridkis, chair Hebrew High School Committee
kfridkis@comcast.net

Invitations by Sharon

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



NAGASAKI



Dan Grossman, son of Hy Grossman and Kris Olson, is a midshipman at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. As part of his training this past December, he sailed to Japan and visited Nagasaki. His reflections are below. On this sixtieth anniversary of the may these reflections and other recollections encourage us to

make sure that those two events remain the only use ever of nuclear weapons

There is a Peace Park a few blocks north of the museum and the hypocenter of the blast. It is on a hill, but I can't see it from the busy main road. There is only a broad stone staircase rising from the sidewalk. Though it is Christmas Day and quite cold, flowers bloom in the garden that runs up the center of the stairs. As I climb, I feel a deep but inexplicable sense of awe, that I am making some kind of *aliyah*, going up and touching something profound and powerful. I don't know what it is, perhaps the souls of the people that died here, perhaps the great and terrible responsibility that fell on the fellow Americans who had to do something so evil for what they hoped to be the greater good, perhaps the yearning of the human spirit to realize its infinite potential to do good, to build and learn and love instead of hate and destroy.

At the top of the staircase I reach a great fountain in the shape of two wings reaching up toward the heavens. It is the phoenix, risen from the ashes, the dove of peace, and an offering of water to the victims who died so wretchedly, calling out in thirst. Beyond it is a courtyard, ringed with beautiful statues and monuments, too numerous to name, donated by cities and nations around the world. Each country expresses, in its own way, its grief for the souls killed in that and every war and its hope for a better world. I am particularly affected by the many statues, so moving and sincere, from terrible dictatorial and communist regimes. Most of the statues were donated in the mid 80s, so they are a surprising glimpse of the forces of change and liberation that were at work in the world at that turbulent age, despite the darkness of the Cold War.

Near the fountain, a part of the courtyard is not paved with flagstone like the rest. Here, rising from the grass, are the burned and crumbling foundations of two rooms of the prison that once sat on the hilltop. They simply look like old bricks, but where the ground has been excavated, I see in the layers a record of what happened and consider the irony that a prison should become the site for a temple to peace.

But crowning the top of the hill, overshadowing the Buddhist bells and granite columns covered in golden Japanese calligraphy and the marble maidens and children and abstract constructions (without a note to explain it, I really wouldn't have guessed that the red sphere sitting on top of the three randomly stacked gray cubes represented the triumph of peace over war) is the mighty statue that reigns over the park. I learn that he was completed in 1955 and installed on the tenth anniversary

of the bombing by a famous Japanese sculptor, one of the first concrete (though I think he's bronze) signs of the new Nagasaki and the new Japan that were rising. He is tremendous, sitting atop an even greater obsidian block inscribed with graceful kanji, which all rises from a sort of raised reflecting pool, water flowing down its black stone sides. I need to read the plaque to see the meaning of this gentle colossus, but it is clear once I know. The greenish giant sits cross-legged with his left hand outstretched, pointing to the danger and terror of nuclear war, and his left hand raised and reaching for peace. His shirtless, muscled form embodies human nobility and perfectibility while his serene face, eyes closed in meditation, calls to mind Buddha but also the God of Abraham on the throne of mercy.

It is a beautiful symbol, both uniquely Asian and universal, and as I approach it I feel shamed at what we brought into the world, that we should need such a place, and at the same time I feel honored to be doing what little I can to build that better world, and proud to live in it. The faces around me are all Japanese. Rather than the accusation or anger I might have feared, I see only the same reverence and humility in them. As I look from them, to Chris, the other midshipman, to the countless chains of tiny, brightly colored origami cranes which hang under shrine-like roofs to either side of the statue and remind me of wreaths placed on graves or prayers left before the wailing wall, and as I imagine the young schoolchildren folding them as their teacher explains what they mean and not only what it means to be Japanese but what it means to live in the world, the only world we have, and ours to shape for good or ill, I feel a rare sense of unity with them all. We are, after all, all human. And that's all that really matters.

As I begin my descent, I can't help but whisper to myself, "Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalomaleyenu, v'al kol yoshvey tevel" *May the One who makes Shalom in the heights, make Shalom for us and all who dwell on earth.*

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.

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JEWISH LIFE KICKS OFF NEW SEASON WITH LECTURE

**FEATURING REUVEN FIRESTONE
SEPTEMBER 11TH**

The first Jewish LIFE program of the new season will be held on Sunday, September 11 at 7 p.m. Dr. Reuven Firestone, Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, will compare the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qur'an when he discusses "Whose Jerusalem?". This is the first lecture in the three-part "Sister Faiths" series. The lecture fee is \$10 Jewish LIFE members and \$15/Guests. Please RSVP to JCC Assistant Executive Director Laura Friedman at 908-725-6994 x213; LFriedman@sbjcc.org. The Jewish LIFE brochure detailing programs and events for the 2005-2006 season will be mailed.

Women's Book Club

September meeting: Monday, September 12, 7:45 pm

Book: Omaha Blues: A Memory Loop, by Joseph Lelyveld

For the meeting's location,

Contact Marilyn Plotkin, 908-359-1498

mbplotkin@patmedia.net

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Tish'ah b'Av

The national date of Jewish mourning

586 BCE Destruction of the first Temple by the Babylonians

70 CE Destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans

137 CE Fall of Beitar at the end of the Bar Kokhba revolt; martyrdom of the ten rabbis c. 1095 CE Jews in the Rhine valley massacred by rampaging Christian soldiers of the 1st Crusade 1492 CE Jews (and Muslims) expelled from Spain

"All who mourn over Jerusalem, will merit to witness her joy."

Joy and grief are part of the same continuum. As we delve into sadness and mourn our losses, we increase our ability to experience future joy. The wisdom of our people gave us these summer weeks to re-experience the calamity of the loss of the spiritual focus of our people, culminating on the 9th of Av (which falls this year on Saturday night 13, and Sunday 14 August 2005). To learn more about this important season of the Jewish year see: <http://www.myjewishlearning.com:80/holidays/TishaBav.htm>

This year is also an opportunity to experience a unique way of observing this date. Portuguese-Sefardi Jews have a unique liturgy and melodies sung only once a year. As the commemoration this year falls on a Sunday, it is easy to set-aside the time to attend this hauntingly beautiful service. (You can listen some of the melodies by ordering "Jewish Voices in the New World" from: <http://www.milkenarchive.org/cds/cds taf?cdid=10>)

Rabbi Tayvah welcomes you to join him in attend the services for Tish'a b'Av morning at New York's oldest congregation, Shearith Israel The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue (<http://www.shearithisrael.org/>). Service starts at 8 AM and last between 3.5 and 4 hours. Please contact Rabbi Tayvah if you'd like more information, to arrange a ride or to travel together.

**TIPS ON TRIPS
and CAMPS**

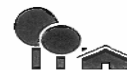
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**ROBERT "BOB" FASS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

AUGUST 2005



What are blessings for if not to be shared?

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


August 2005

25 Tammuz 5765 - 26 Av 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 25 Tammuz	2 26 Tammuz	3 27 Tammuz	4 28 Tammuz	5 29 Tammuz ii 7:53PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM	6 1 Av §8:55PM ROSH HODESH Mase: Num. 33.1-49 Num. 28.9-15 Jeremiah 2.4-2.28, 3.4 (Optional: 4.1-2 may replace or supplement 3.4).
7 2 Av Painting party 9 AM	8 3 Av	9 4 Av	10 5 Av	11 6 Av	12 7 Av ii 7:44PM "Shabbat under the stars" 7:45 PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM	13 8 Av §8:44PM Devarim: Deut. 1.1-38 Isaiah 1.1-27.
14 9 Av §8:43PM FAST OF TISHA B'AV AM: Deut. 4.25-40. PM: Ex. 32.11-14, 34.1-10. AM: Jeremiah 8.13-9.23. PM: Isaiah 55.6-56.8 Tish'ah b'Av services at Congregation Shearith Israel (70th & Central Park West, NYC) 8 AM [see newsletter for details]	15 10 Av	16 11 Av	17 12 Av	18 13 Av	19 14 Av ii 7:33PM	20 15 Av §8:35PM TU B'AV Vaet'Hanan: Deut. 3.23- 4.40. Isaiah 40.1-26.
21 16 Av	22 17 Av	23 18 Av	24 19 Av	25 20 Av	26 21 Av ii 7:23PM "Shabbat under the stars" 7:45 PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM	27 22 Av §8:24PM Ekev: Deut. 7.12-9.3. Isaiah 49.14-51.3.
28 23 Av	29 24 Av	30 25 Av	31 26 Av			

[iiCandle 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 Krisiloff 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 1st Wed.	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
Finance	Joan Weisblatt 908-874-3529
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Life Cycle	Sheryl Rosenberg 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
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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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The Newsletter of Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead

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Deadline for next newsletter: **July 15th** ☐