



JCC JCBM News

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Newsletter of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead **September 2005** –Av - Elul 5765

JCCBM

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Sunday, September 11th 2005

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



WELCOME BACK BARBECUE

12:45 – 2:30 pm

Please RSVP to Pam to re:bringing a pareve side dish or dessert

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we enter the fall season the synagogue will be coordinating a major membership drive. A number of different committees will be involved in planning and getting the word out to the greater community that we exist here in Belle Mead. I believe that we offer something unique in this part of central New Jersey, and once the word is out, a good number of families will be giving us a look. Our first event will be the Open House/Blood Drive and Barbecue scheduled for September 11th. It will be a nice opportunity to catch up with old friends after the summer and to meet new families as

they come to look at our shul.

Our current membership stands around 150 or so families. With our membership drive we would hope to start back toward 200 or so family units (our top figure 5 or 6 years ago). Past surveys have shown that most members would be comfortable with a community of 200-250 families. I think it goes without saying that an increase in membership would make additional programming and Building expansion much easier.

The new Board of Trustees has had two monthly meetings at this point. We are determined to work hard in following through on a commitment to grow the community and to continue to offer a unique Jewish experience in our neck of the woods. Feel free to call any of the Board members with questions, concerns or best of all, an offer to help with an event or serve on a committee.

During the coming year, the front page of this newsletter will not be showing my face each month. (After two years you must be tired of it anyway!). We would like to offer a column from different Board members each month. This will give our membership an opportunity to hear from all of their Board members during the year.

Finally, a big "thank you" to all those painters who helped on August 7th. The activity room and the front of the synagogue look great for the start of the year! **Ed**



• 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

Committee Happenings

YARD SALE ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16

The JCCBM will hold a Yard Sale on Sunday morning, October 16. Now is the time to begin cleaning out your attic and your spare rooms to identify stuff that needs to find a good home!

Members can sell from their own tables or rent tables from the JCCBM. They will set their own prices, with the JCCBM making money from the table rentals and a percentage of the sales. If your child is in Hebrew School, this will be a nice opportunity to sell unwanted stuff while your child is learning.

Love all your stuff? This will be a great chance to buy more, while your child learns. In addition, we'll advertise in the local papers to ensure a good turnout of buyers from outside the organization. Questions or want to help? Want to sign up for a table? Call Simon Laufer at 609 937 4934.

High Holiday Volunteers Needed

The Religion Committee is looking for a few good members to volunteer as Greeters for High Holiday services. They are looking for members to welcome people to services and make members/newcomers feel like they are part of the community. Please contact either Debbie Tesser at 908-904-0457, Joan Weisblatt at 908-874-3529 or John Smulian at 908-874-7562 if you would like to help out in this way.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE EXPANDS AND PREPARES FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS



Kol Ahava has recruited 5 new members and is busily rehearsing for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The group is learning several new pieces and polishing old favorites. The singers this year are: Stacey Bachrach, Karen Bartels, Leah Bartels, Rachel Burns, Debbie

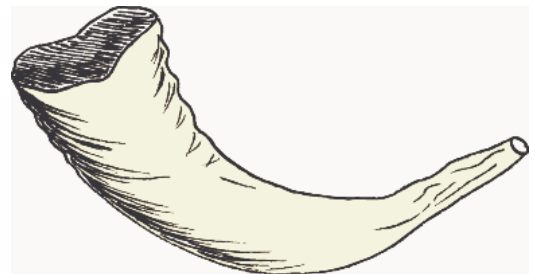
Grauer, Leslie Kowalski, Andrea Lass, Sheryl Rosenberg, Liz Smulian, Debbie Tesser, and Sharon Underberg-Davis, who also serves as conductor. Jeff Israel will once again accompany certain pieces on guitar. Kol Ahava will sing at services on Rosh Hashana morning, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur morning.

HELP!

Our nursery school Kindercapers, needs your help! We are in desperate need of some major items that the temple cannot afford to purchase.

1. computer
2. printer
3. television
4. VCR or VCR/DVD combo

We are also looking for donations of puzzles, books and manipulative toys for ages 2½ through 5. Please contact our wonderful new Director Tina Geslak at 908-359-0160 as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your help. Peggy Fass and Debbie Lampf (Kindercapers Board)



Dates of Upcoming High Holidays

Erev Rosh Hashana	Monday, October 3 rd
Rosh Hashana	Tuesday, October 4 th
Kol Nidre	Wednesday, October 12 th
Yom Kippur	Thursday, October 13 th

JCC Donations

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

Regular Donations

Members

Rich & Elise Kent	Building Fund
The Javelines	In honor of Yahrzeit for Bernard Javeline
Joel & Joan Weisblatt	Membership Campaign

PRAYER BOOK DONATIONS

Jeff Bachrach & Karen Cohen	In memory of J, Harold Garfunkel In honor of our marriage In honor of the bar mitzvah of Eric Ephraim Bachrach In honor of the bar mitzvah of Adam Clifford Bachrach
Solomon & Marina Klinger	Khaya Trakhtman
Peter & Hilary Crist	In honor of Dorothy & Milton P. Kayle
Michael & Lisa Auerbach	
Marilyn Nusbaum	In memory of Harvey J. Nusbaum
Iris, Saul & Gabrielle Rubinstein	In memory of Sidney Rubinstein, our beloved Father & grandfather. In memory of Ann Berger Ganeles, our beloved Mother and grannie.
The Todd Family (Janis, Alan, Leah & Joanna)	In memory of Felix Barondess
Audrey & Sol Starkman	In memory of Dora Starkman In memory of David Spivak
Michael & Allyson Price	
Lauri & Jess Rosenthal	In honor of Alli and Lindsey Rosenthal

NAME CHANGE SURVEY DUE

If you wish your name change survey to be considered, please be sure it is submitted by Rosh Hashana.

The Somerset Art Association will hang a juried exhibit of seascapes and nautical paintings at the Shirnon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center on Talamini Road in Bridgewater. The works will be on display from September 27th through November 6th, 2005.

Temple member Thelma Canty has two paintings in the show and invites all members to the opening reception on Thursday, September 29 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

TIPS ON TRIPS and CAMPS

*A free consulting service specializing in
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ROBERT "BOB" FASS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Hebrew School Happenings

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- Tallit making
project- 7th grade and up



The Leeba"n has undergone some structural changes over the summer. In an effort to help students attend the maximum number of classes, all Sunday classes will be offered in the early and late sessions. Kindergarten through Second grade will be taught in one classroom with one teacher.

If you are out shopping at Office Depot for school or other supplies, please give them the following number (70208856). That is the Leeba"n Hebrew School's code and Office Depot will donate 5% of your purchase to our school.

As always, parent are welcome and encouraged to attend craft and cooking project days, as well as any other day to help out, hang out, or both. Let me know how you would like to be involved.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Back to School either Wednesday September 9th at 6:30 or Sunday September 11 at 10 AM and 12:15 PM

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HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Plans are progressing for the Hebrew High school coming year. The Hebrew High Education committee met over the summer to solidify the tentative plans that had been under discussion. The meeting was an exciting brainstorm session of ideas and goals for the high school.

Below is the calendar for September:

Wednesday, Sept 21 - 1st day of class for 8th and 9th graders

Thursday, Sept 22 - 1st day of class for 10th-12th graders

Wed, Sept 28 - 8th and 9th graders

Thursday, Sept 29 - 10th-12th graders

Classes are from 5:00- 7:00.

The Wednesday class will be taught by Rabbi Tayvah for the 1st hour. Congregant Susan Waskow will lead the class in a discussion during the 2nd hour. We are grateful to Susan for her willingness to share her talents with the Hebrew High School. The class will participate in discussions of their choice as well as be involved in tzedekah projects, helping with temple events, and hands-on activities. Barbara Lehman will also have an active role in Wednesday's class, stepping in to teach at various times during the year.

The Thursday class will be taught by Rabbi Tayvah with congregants contributing from time to time to lead a special mini session.

We thank Meryl Orlando and Jim Ohls for agreeing to participate in the classes.

Registration is still open for both sessions. Prices are \$180 for enrollment, with current 8th grade students receiving the first year of Hebrew High school free.

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, chair Hebrew High School Committee

kfridkis@comcast.net

ENROLL NOW IN

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL

8TH - 9TH GRADE TEENS – WEDNESDAYS from 5:00-7:00

10TH-12TH GRADE TEENS – THURSDAYS from 5:00-7:00

Class begins Sept 21 and 22
Contact the temple administrator to register

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HE GAVE-UP GOLD FOR BLACK FIRE

I am grieving for a teacher and a friend who died the second week of July. Rabbi Eric Ray was my teacher in sofrut (Jewish scribal arts) as well as a friend to me, my parents and my family. Never in good health, around Shavu'ot in June he developed pneumonia in both lungs and died after a long hospital stay.



He was an exceptional individual with an amazing life story. Rabbi Ray was born in London, England, in 1926. His father was a hair-dresser to the royal family. This connection served Rabbi Ray well when, during WWII, he secured a commission at age 16 with the Imperial Frontiersmen, a subsidiary of the Household Cavalry, which guarded the Royal residences during the London Blitz.

Even before the war, his artistic talent budded and bloomed. He learned Chinese brush calligraphy at age 16 in London, and before he turned 18 he studied some Hebrew, English and Latin calligraphy from William Walman (the featured calligrapher at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London). Later in the war, he was transferred to the Admiralty's Maps and Charts Department of the Royal Navy where his artistic gifts were put to work.

Following the war, he was recruited to work with the underground "Aliyah Bet" operation of the European Zionist movement to move Sho'ah survivors out of Europe to the Land of Israel-Palestine. He was smuggled into Dachau to use his calligraphic and artistic skills to forge documents to get sick survivors into France and displaced persons out of the camps.

Dr. Ray joined survivors on the "Altalena," the historic Irgun arms smuggling ship, sailing to the newly born state of Israel, arriving just after the declaration of the State. In a conflict over competing armed groups in the young state, the ship was shelled by the Israel Defense Forces (under the command of Yitzhak Rabin) and sunk in Tel Aviv Harbor. Lightly wounded, Eric Ray swam ashore, shoeless, and walked into Tel Aviv. Seeing a tall young man, dripping wet and bare-foot, a fellow Jew took pity on him. He took him to a shoe store and bought him a pair of shoes. Such was his first arrival in Israel.

During the War of Independence he served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces and later created

the first map department for all of the military services under the auspices of the Chel HaYam, the Israeli Navy. During the course of his service he was wounded a second time. He also had the opportunity to do "vacation" fighting under General Yigal Yadin in the taking of Beersheba. Through his friendship with Dr. Yadin, he later studied archaeology in Los Angeles.

Dr. Ray received his Bachelor's Degree in England from the St. Martin's School of Art where he earned National Diplomas (B.A.) in Design and in Architecture. He earned a Master's Degree in Art History and a Doctorate in "Symbolism in the Arts of Ancient Religion" from the London College of Applied Science of London University. His Doctoral dissertation proved the authenticity of the Magen David the six pointed "star of David" as pre-Solomonic in religious art in Biblical Archaeology, another of his specialties.

During his degree studies he also learned Renaissance techniques in cutting quills, preparing parchment, gold-leaf illumination and artwork from Donald Jackson (Royal Scribe to Queen Elizabeth II). He also studied with George Mansell, Roman alphabet expert at St. Martin's School of Art.

All this time he held to his father's vehemently secular Jewish upbringing, a true British-Jewish free-thinker, son of a Hungarian Jewish hair stylist.

Then something began to change in him when he moved to California in the early 1950's. His Jewish self was awakening around the time that he and his wife, Lali, met and wed in 1956.

For 25 years Eric worked at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, for the last 15 years as the Director of Visual Arts. During that time he met Rabbi Shemu'el Zadok. Rabbi Zadok, descendant of a long line of Yemenite Torah scribes as well as from the Zadokite family of Kohanim, approached Eric Ray in Los Angeles having heard that there was someone in town who knew gold-leaf illumination techniques. Eric was delighted to teach him, in exchange for learning from Shemu'el the art of a traditional sofer.

By 1970, when Eric was 44 years old, Rabbi Zadok sponsored his application for s'meekha (authorization or ordination) as a Sofer STA" M – a certified scribe, which he received from the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem that year. In 1976 he was awarded the title of "Master Scribe" by the Jerusalem Rabbinate for his ability to write all of the two-thousand of the letter designs in Hebrew developed through history. *continued next page*

Rabbi Eric Ray, cont'd

His rabbinic credentials were reaffirmed by the London Orthodox Court in 1990 while Eric and Lali were living and working in England for four years. In 1978, Eric was commissioned by Rabbi Mordechai Waxman, the recently deceased senior rabbi of Temple Israel of Great Neck, to repair and largely re-write an Italian Torah scroll. He, Lali and Ken moved to Great Neck, NY. That's what first brought Eric into my life; at the time I was a senior in High School.

It wasn't until many years later when I moved to the island of Curacao to become the rabbi of the oldest congregation in the Americas that I really entered Eric's Sofrut world. Let me share with you that discovery as a way of holding before you both Eric's unique approach to Jewish Scribal Arts, or Sofrut, and how he brought kedusha – holiness to his work.

When I first opened up a Torah scroll to read that the scrolls of congregation Mikve Israel-Emanuel, the Portuguese – Sefardi synagogue on Curacao, I saw they were special. The lettering was different, making it hard to pick out certain words. I also saw in those scrolls messy, botched corrections previously done. When it became apparent that the scrolls in Curacao needed work, I wouldn't let anyone but Eric Ray touch them. After a number of Eric's all too frequent illnesses, he and Lali, ever the hard-working scheduler, assistant, and travel companion, flew down to the island. In a mere nine days in January 2001, Eric, assisted by Lali, myself and volunteers from the community, examined all of the congregation's twenty-one scrolls.

As we rolled the scrolls, Eric would merely glance at a scroll and say, "Steer parchment, Portuguese script, written in Holland in about the early 1700's." I would look at him in surprise: "How could you possibly know that, Eric?" "Why, it's all right here!" he would reply, and so would start a mini-lecture on how to tell the age and provenance of a Hebrew manuscript.

As far as I know, no one, until Eric Ray, put together the worlds of academic art history and Sofrut. Eric did his homework: trips to the Jewish Theological Seminary and the British Museum rare book collections to see known and dated sample manuscripts. He realized that Jews all over the world wrote out their copies of the Hebrew Bible in the same scripts that they used for their Torah scrolls. In fact, he even noticed that the same scribe's hand was seen in an old scroll and in a Bible manuscript of the same age and location. The Bible manuscript, of course, had vowels and cantillation marks often added by another hand and in another ink.



By knowing the style of the lettering and the decorative markings called taggin, he saw where it was written. By seeing the color of the fading special Torah ink he knew the age of the writing. By the shape of the lettering he could tell you whether a feather quill or a reed pen was used to write the scroll. The style of sewing used to join the sheets also gave clues to the age of the scroll. Eric could tell you the physical size of the scribe -- how tall, how short, how fat, how thin -- by the layout and spacing of the columns. By seeing the parchment, and feeling it, he knew what kind of animal skin it was made from, how it was processed and, in exceptional cases confirming a production locale from a rare technique of making the parchment.

We'd been rolling scrolls for days. One afternoon after lunch and a rest in my air-conditioned office, we returned to our workspace and took out another scroll. We opened it and Eric felt the thin, nearly translucent parchment. The letters had faded to the color of a red-head's hair, a reddish – orange hue. As Lali and I chatted Eric, was absorbed in his work. I looked over and saw shock on his face. "Eric," I asked, "What is it?" He said in a stunned voice: "Antelope skin parchment, early fourteenth century, Spanish." "Oh, Come on Eric!" Lali exclaimed. "No, really, it's all there!" and he proceeded to show us what he already saw. He had never found another scroll written end to end by one scribe as old. It had a Spanish technique in finishing the parchment, with confident, clear, beautiful Spanish lettering from before the oppressions that ended the Jewish Golden Age in Muslim Spain. A nearly 700 year old scroll, and still kosher for public reading!



There was always a sense of awe in working with Eric on Torah scrolls. Being a sofer was Eric's livelihood, but it was never merely a job. It was his sacred vocation – the work he felt blessed to be called to do in this world. He was exceptionally proficient in his techniques, and he never allowed them to become mere technicalities. He used his hands to sanctify the Blessed Holy One, "Ha-Shem" the name, as he frequently said. He loved the craft and strove to keep it pure from the intrusions of un-necessary modern and chemical additives and instruments. I have learned from other sources that the sofrut I and his other handful of students were taught is

significantly more traditional and preserving of ancient traditions than that practiced by contemporary ultra-Orthodox scribes. If those venerable, ancient techniques could produce a scroll as beautiful and long lasting as the old Spanish scroll on Curacao, that was good enough for Eric.

I don't want you to assume that since Eric staunchly supported a traditional approach to writing and repairing scrolls that he was opposed to any innovation. Eric also trained a number of women in various parts of scribal arts. They include my Reconstructionist colleagues Rabbis Yocheved Heiligman and Rachel Schoenberg. Rabbi Linda Motzkin who has been experimenting with making parchment, and in the last year he met with Aviel Barkley, a Soferet in Seattle who is currently writing her first scroll.

In the last years of Eric's life a not-for-profit corporation was formed to help Eric preserve the knowledge of Jewish Scribal Arts he had assembled during his life. It was named The Ray Torah Institute. With Eric's passing, the Ray Torah Institute takes on a renewed importance in preserving the written legacy of Rabbi Ray. I will be helping his widow organize his writings so that the Institute may posthumously publish some of what he knew.

I'm not yet ready to write a Torah scroll, but I can repair scrolls. Sometimes the letters need some more ink, "need some help" in Eric's words. Other times the parchment simply cannot hold another re-inking, or one more pass of a silver needle in sewing the sheets together. In his last days I visited Eric in the hospital I felt the image of an old scroll: the parchment was giving way.

For Sofer Eric Ray, the letters on the scrolls were not mere ink on parchment; they had a life of their own. It was our privilege as scribes to write them – in holiness – to repair them – with holiness – and to help our fellow Jews and others to connect with their intrinsic holiness. In that sense, when a Torah is beyond repair, and it comes time to bury the scroll, we are not burying the living words of Torah, but rather we are honoring the vessels that held their holiness on this earth-plane for a time. When a scroll can no longer be repaired, we honor the residual sanctity in the parchment, the ink, the sinews by burying them in the earth. Yet the letters themselves live on! They live on whenever a Jew reads from a Torah scroll, be it a new scroll or one that has lasted seven-hundred years. They live on in how we live our lives and how we interact with all our fellow humans and how we care for all our fellow creatures and this Earth. They live on in passing on the knowledge of how to write, repair and care for Torah scrolls.

Torah scrolls are buried the same way and with very similar rituals that we did for the vessel that held Eric's life for the past 79 years.

The parchment gives out, but the letters... the letters soar free.

Donations in memory of Rabbi Ray may be made to: The Ray Torah Institute, P.O. Box 86, Leeds, MA 01053

Jewish Community

Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center

Somerset * Hunterdon * Warren Counties



Coping with Loss

Place: Jewish Family Service, 150 West High St., Somerville

Time: Mondays, September 12, 19 and 26 - 10:30 AM to Noon **OR** Thursdays, September 8, 15, 22 and 29 - 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Fee: \$ 30 for all three sessions / \$ 40 for all four sessions

Rabbi Evan Jaffe, spiritual leader of Flemington Jewish Community Center, and **Lillian Swickle**, LCSW, will co-lead support groups designed to provide spiritual and emotional support for individuals coping with loss, whether it occurred one month ago, one year ago, or many years ago. Participants will share their stories and learn how Jewish text, prayers and rituals can help them through the process of coping, healing and renewal. Please call Ohr Tikvah at 908-722-0674 ext. 28 to register for either the morning sessions or the evening sessions.

Support Group for Parents Caring for Children with Eating Disorders

Place: Jewish Family Service, 150 West High St., Somerville

Time: Tuesdays, August 23, September 27, and October 25 - 7:30 to 9:00 PM

Fee: Donation

Ohr Tikvah has formed a support group for parents caring for children with eating disorders. Clinical psychologist **Dr. Sally Wright** facilitates the group and welcomes all members of the community to join. Please share this information with those who you think might benefit from this program. For more information, call Ohr Tikvah at 908-722-0674 ext. 28.

Beginning the Circle of the New Year: A Labyrinth Walk

Place: Labyrinth Circle, North Drive, Warren Township (Meet at Temple Har Shalom, 104 Mt. Horeb Road, Warren at 4:00 PM)

Time: Sunday, September 18 - 4:00 to 6:00 PM (Rain date: Sunday, September 25 - 4:00 to 6:00 PM)

Fee: None

In a beautiful, peaceful setting, join us for a walking meditation - - in a circular labyrinth - - to quiet the mind, open the heart, and gain insight as we prepare for the Jewish New Year and engage in *teshuvah*, returning to ourselves. A rabbi and/or cantor will guide us in our walk and share Jewish insights on the healing aspects of the circle, of nature, and prayer and meditation. Walking in a circular labyrinth is an ancient practice that dates back 4000 years, and people of different cultures and religious traditions have used the labyrinth as a symbol of their search for meaning and spiritual guidance. Join us at this unusual garden gem, as we reflect on the past year - - its joys and sorrows - - feel gratitude for the blessings in our lives, and meditate on our aspirations for 5766.

For directions to Temple Har Shalom, log on to www.templeharshalom.org or call Ohr Tikvah at 722-0674 ext. 28.

Auditions for Sharim V'Sharot: Central New Jersey's Select Jewish Chamber Choir September 6 and throughout October by Appointment

Sharim V'Sharot, Central New Jersey's 24-voice select Jewish chamber choir, is seeking new members for the 2005-6 season. **Sharim V'Sharot**, whose name means "People of Song," was founded in 2000, is sponsored by Rider University's Hillel, and is under the direction of Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman, former director of New York's Rottenberg Chorale. After our acclaimed premiere this July at the North American Jewish Choral Festival, we have superb events planned, including a joint concert of Jewish music with Princeton Pro Musica in May 2006. Sharim V'Sharot has sung throughout the Philadelphia-to-New York metropolitan area, at choral festivals, synagogues, interfaith events, and celebrations. This *a cappella* chamber choir performs all styles, including Ashkenazic, Sephardic, Israeli, concert, folk, and liturgical music in many languages and historical eras, in four (or more) parts, sometimes with instruments. Singers come from Mercer, Burlington, and Middlesex counties and the Philadelphia suburbs.

Auditions will be held on Tuesday, September 6, and throughout October by appointment in the Lawrenceville, N.J., area. We meet Tuesday evenings at Rider University in Lawrenceville. For more details, see our website at www.sharimvsharot.org or contact our President, Dr. Stephen Cohen, at (609) 371-9036 or by e-mail at drstevecohen@earthlink.net

FEDERATION SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Division:
Women & Wealth Seminar on September 21

Pacesetters Gala October 30

Please call the Federation office for details 908-725-6994 x:204

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COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE
ANNUAL AUTUMN

**CAR WASH
AND
BAKE SALE**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

*FUNDRAISER FOR THE JCCBM
ORGANIZED
BY THE YOUTH GROUP*

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS
JCCBM YOUTH GROUP**

The first event for the youth group is scheduled for Sunday morning, September 11. The youth group will be holding their annual autumn car wash and bake sale. The youth group welcomes 8th grade students to join them for a getting-to-know-you breakfast at 8:00. Car wash and bake sale begin at 8:30.

We are looking for an adult coordinator for this event. Please email me to let me know if you can help. Also needed are teens and/or their parents to bake. Please let me know if you can participate in this sweet and wet fundraiser.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, October 23, 2005

What: Annual Crop Walk

When: Sunday afternoon, October 23, 2005

Where: Meet at our synagogue

Who: All teens plus any adults who would like to help

More details to follow in October newsletter. Natalie London will co-ordinate this annual event.

REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTIONIST YOUTH GROUP

Josh Goldsmith will be contacting the JCCBM teens with the next regional event. Look ahead for some exciting, educational events with other Reconstructionist teens from String of Pearls and the Bordentown Reconstructionist synagogue. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me.

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

**JCCBM YOUTH GROUP
WELCOMES 8th GRADE
TEENS**

*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
JCCBM YOUTH GROUP*

**THE FIRST EVENT OF THE YEAR IS THE
ANNUAL AUTUMN CAR WASH/BAKE SALE.
A 'GETTING TO KNOW YOU' BREAKFAST
FOR NEW YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS
BEGINS AT 8:00.**

Call or email Karen Fridkis, youth group chair,
to let us know that you'll be coming
609-333-1119 or kfridkis@comcast.net

Invitations by Sharon

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SAVE THE DATE

2005 Art Auction

Saturday evening, November 5th
at the JCCBM (details to follow)

SEPTEMBER 2005

What are blessings for if not to be shared?

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

September 2005

27 Av 5765 - 26 Elul 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 27 Av	2 28 Av 7:12PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM NO Shabbat eve service: Happy Labor Day weekend!	3 29 Av 8:13PM Re'eh: Deut. 11.26-12.28 Isaiah 54.11-55.5. 9:45 AM Shaharit service @ Doral Forrestal (Princeton) - Ross Robey celebrates becoming a Bar Mitzvah
4 30 Av ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15.	5 1 Elul ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15.	6 2 Elul	7 3 Elul Leeba"n School 5 - 7 PM	8 4 Elul	9 5 Elul 7:00PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM 7 PM Story-telling Shabbat service	10 6 Elul 8:01PM Shoftim: Deut. 16.18-18.13 Isaiah 51.12-52.12.
11 7 Elul Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. BLOOD DRIVE give the gift of LIFE on 9/11 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open House for Prospective Leeba"n students & new members 10 a.m. - Noon	12 8 Elul	13 9 Elul Board of Trustees meeting 7:30 PM	14 10 Elul Leeba"n School 5 - 7 PM	15 11 Elul	16 12 Elul 6:48PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM "Food For Thought" Kabbalat Shabbat worship service 7:45 PM	17 13 Elul 7:50PM Kee Tetze: Deut. 21.10-22.21 Isaiah 54.1-10 9:30 a.m. Shaharit service - Gabe Fridkis celebrates becoming a Bar Mitzvah
18 14 Elul Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	19 15 Elul	20 16 Elul	21 17 Elul Leeba"n & 8/9 Hebrew Chai Schools 5 - 7 PM	22 18 Elul 10 - 12 Hebrew Chai School 5 - 7 PM	23 19 Elul 6:37PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM Musical Kabbalat Shabbat worship Service & honoring the month's birthdays & anniversaries 7:45 pm	24 20 Elul 7:38PM SELIHOT Kee Tavo: Deut. 26.1-28.6 Isaiah 60.1-22. 6:15 - 9 p.m. Leeba"n school 7th grade Minhah / havdalah / s'leehot service. All are welcome!
25 21 Elul Leeba"n School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	26 22 Elul	27 23 Elul	28 24 Elul Leeba"n & 8/9 Hebrew Chai Schools 5 - 7 PM	29 25 Elul 10 - 12 Hebrew Chai School 5 - 7 PM	30 26 Elul 6:25PM Shabbat @ Acorn Glen 5 PM SPECIAL Kabbalat Shabbat service "Preview of the liturgy & music of the Days of Awe" 7 PM	

[;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 <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	Joan Weisblatt 908-874-3529 Debbie Tesser 908-904-0457
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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 <i>4th Tues.</i>	John Smulian 908-874-7562
Sisterhood	
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


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The Newsletter of Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead

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September 2005

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