



Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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

Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **November 2006** Cheshvan - Kislev 5767

Congregation
Kehilat Shalom

**253 Griggstown Rd.
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
Phone: 908-359-0420
Fax: 908-359-8848**

Regular office hours:
Mon- Fri 9:00-1:00

Rabbi
Michael Tayvah
rabbi@jccbm.org
President
Ed Krisiloff
president@jccbm.org
**Community Engagement
Coordinator**
Michelle Brown
michelle@jccbm.org
Administrator
Sofie Uppal
sofie@jccbm.org
Hebrew School Principal
Dori Daus
leebah@jccbm.org

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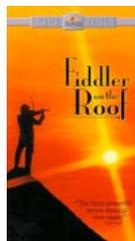
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the next few weeks we will be engaging the community in a process of introspection. Basically, we will be taking a good hard look at ourselves to try to determine how we are fulfilling our job as a synagogue community and how we function as a whole. We will be asking the congregation to respond to a set of carefully designed questions. The questions will cover issues such as the way the synagogue functions on a structural level, ie.: board function, committee structure, etc... We will also be asking congregants about their needs and how we come together to meet those needs. We will be asking about the future direction of the synagogue and whether we need to adapt to meet new demands. Congregants will be able to respond by letter, or by telephone, or even e-mail.



In order to appropriately handle responses with discretion, Rabbi Tayvah and I have asked three congregants to be the recipients of the input from the congregation. Frank Jones, Andrea Bradley and Heidi Zorde have agreed to help with this sensitive and important task. These three members of the "**Receiving committee**" will also have the help of Carl Sheingold, Ph.D, the Exec. Vice President of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, who has volunteered his time for this effort. This group will be responsible for receiving the feedback from congregation and report back to myself, Rabbi Tayvah and the Board of Trustees in a manageable form.

Every family will be receiving a letter in the next few days with the formulated questions. I would encourage all congregants to respond thoughtfully to these questions. The process can only be successful if we hear from as many of you as possible. A small sampling of the community will not serve the interests of the synagogue. *Continued on p. 7*



Maybe you haven't seen it since you were 10 years old...
Or, maybe you've seen it 100 times...
But, you know all the words anyway!

Enjoy some fond memories. Come and sing with your friends
at a fun community event!

"Sing-Along Fiddler on the Roof"

Saturday, November 11, 2006

Starting with a 5:30 pm Havdalah service and pizza/pot luck dinner (\$5.00 per person/ \$15.00 maximum per family – payable at the door)

Please note: If you wish to come for the movie only, there is no charge.
Please bring a dairy/parve salad or dessert to share.

Movie to begin at 6:30.

RSVP to the Temple office at 908-359-0420 by Wednesday, November 8.

Any questions, please call
Sheryl Rosenberg at 908-253-7049.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

JCC Donations

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

Clara Nelson, longtime office manager of the JCC, wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and donations in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Corre-deira. She was very touched by the amount of people that remembered her in her grief.

In honor of Rabbi Goldie's Mitzvah Workshop:

Sharon Underberg
Alan Gilbard & Pauline McNulty
Patrick & Andrea Bradley
Debbie Tesser & Eric Applegate
Edward & Susanne Bilotti
Aaron & Ann Gavzy

In memory of:

Ken Nord *by K. Tauber & E. Oppenheimer*
by Marc & Harlene Rosenberg

Herman Mende *by Joel & Joan Weisblatt*
by Richie Gary Venezia

In honor of:

Weisblatt children & grandchildren *by David & Judith Alster*
Alisa & Chris Talke *by Robert & Shirley Sussman*

Congregants' Assistance Fund:

Jaqueline & Howard Guttman The Joe Wions Family-CAF
Gil & Ellen Gordon The Joe Wion's family-CAF

General Synagogue Donation *by Maxine Simon*

RDF *by Shelley Nord with Deepest Gratitude to Rabbi Tayvah*

High Holiday Donations:

Eleanor & Alan Moskowitz
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	<p>Richard M. Nadler, DMD, FAGD</p>

Committee Happenings

Can you help?

We are looking for a laptop for administrative use at the synagogue. If you have one to donate, please let Michelle know.

908-359-0420, ext. 1 or michelle@jccbm.org

Thanks!!

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"Please, tell me your name..."

(Jacob to his all-night wrestling opponent. Genesis 32:30)

We are a tradition of names. In the first creation story in Genesis, God creates by naming. Shortly thereafter we read the first of many genealogy lists: from Adam / *Earthling* down to Noah / *Comfort*. Then after the flood story we have a list naming the generations from Noah to Abraham / *father-of-a-throng (of nations)*.

And so the Torah continues to give us lists of names: of the descendents of Yishmael / *God-Hearkens*, of Esav / *Rough-one*, and of course of his brother Yaakov / *Heel-holder / Heel-Sneak* and his daughter and his twelve sons.

As you see above, most Biblical names have their literal meaning, as well as the significance of their story and the place that those characters have in the Bible.

And names have power: power to teach, to inspire, or to make us aspire to something greater, to connect us to our ancestors and to our national past. Names link us up, make us think and work on us when we least suspect it.

Names convey an essence of the person. Some of us were given a Jewish name by our parents, others of us choose our Jewish for ourselves when we choose Judaism as our own.

And many of us in our recently re-named congregation do not have a Jewish name.

We will take the Shabbat morning of January 13, 2007 to celebrate all those adults and children who wish to take on or add a Jewish name. It is an auspicious week in the Torah reading cycle: it is the Shabbat when we begin reading from the second book of the Torah, the one that begins with, "And

these are the names of the Children of Israel ..."

Jewish cultures have preserved many Biblical names, but also added names from outside our own civilization. Most notably is the name of "Alexander" which entered Jewish circles after Alexander the Great marched through the Land of Israel in 322 BCE and ushered in a time of cooperation between Jews and Greeks. But outside names are rare.

More common has been having a double name: *Ze'ev Wolf*, or *Tzvi Hirsh* in Yiddish. The first name is Hebrew and the second the Yiddish word: 'wolf' in the former and 'deer' in the latter.

There are hundreds of Jewish names to choose from. If you want to add or take on a Jewish name, please contact me so we

can take the time to explore this together. Even if you have a name in mind, please contact me so I can add you to those who will be taking on a new name in January.

SAVE THE DATE!!
 9:30 AM
 13 January 2007
 Shabbat morning when we read
 ואלה שמות
 "And these are the names..."
 Exodus 1:1
A Naming Service
 for choosing, adding or changing
 Jewish names

Kindercapers

Now in its 13th 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.

kinder  capers



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

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



Hebrew School Happenings



November

- 1 Wednesday- *Cooking*
- 5 Sunday- *Cooking- Dance-*
- 8 Wednesday NJEA conferences No School
- 12 Sunday NJEA conferences No School
- 15 Wednesday *Mock Shabbat 5/6*
- 19 Sunday- **Music- crafts**

- 22 Wednesday Thanksgiving No School
- 26 Sunday Thanksgiving No School
- 29 Wednesday

This month has seen the advent of a vibrant choir under the direction of Debbie Grauer. Debbie has spent endless hours putting together a repertoire of songs for the Kehilat Shalom Youth Choir, designing a t-shirt logo, and practicing with



the choir, which sounds beautiful. The choir, which will be performing with other area choirs on November 21st, is comprised of 20 or so Hebrew school students from fifth through ninth grade.



The specialists were excellent this past month. Josh made Challah. Lindsey Rosenthal made sukkah decorations. Vera Gallied spent time with every age group practicing "Turkish Kiss" and "Yesh Lanu Taish". If you have a chance to do so, please join in one of Vera's dance classes. They are lots of fun and very easy to follow.



Rabbi Tayvah led students down to the creek so they could practice tashlich, the ceremonial throwing away of sins from the past year. The students enjoyed seeing the property. Rabbi Tayvah also provided an opportunity for all of the fifth through seventh grade students to shake the four kinds (Palm, myrtle, willow



and citron) before we celebrated our first Mock Shabbat. Thanks to Susan Corsan for bringing Challah and juice, setting up and cleaning up after our first Mock Shabbat. Mock Shabbat condenses the 25 hours of Shabbat into one class session. We start with lighting the candles (led by Marissa Applegate and Becca Underberg-Davis). Then, we say the blessings over the wine (the long version ☺). After the wine (grape juice) has been drunk, we say the blessing over the Challah and eat Challah. Teachers add something about Shabbat to their lesson plans. The class ends with Havdalah (the blessings over wine, the spice box, and the havdalah candle) as we separate Shabbat from the rest of the week.

Thanks also go out to:
 our volunteers in October
 the Bartels family for the donation of a wonderful video series
 the Rabbi for his time and leadership during this very busy time of year
 Jonathan Yuresko, for spreading himself thin
 Judi Turkheimer for substitute teaching
 Ilana Berger, for assisting Lindsey Rosenthal with the crafts
 Dori Daus, Principal

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Youth Group News/Hebrew High

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The Hebrew High School program had a successful start to the New Year. Wednesday's 8th and 9th grade class began on September 13th and Thursday's 10th-12th grade class started two weeks later on September 28th. Both classes have enrolled new students and the 2006-2007 school year promises to be a year of growth for both groups.

Due to the flexible schedule of Hebrew High School, new students are welcome to register throughout the school year. Those with commitments in the fall, often begin Hebrew High after their sports or music season has ended. Please contact the administrative office or me at kfridkis@comcast.net to register. Tuition is free for incoming 8th grade students and those who have recently become a b'nai mitzvah; 9th-12th graders pay a bargain \$180.00 for the year.

Wednesday's program enthusiastically welcomes a new teacher. Judi Turkheimer has joined the volunteer staff for Hebrew High School on Wednesday. Judi led her first discussion in October after the High Holy Days. The students pondered the question, "What is God?" and discussed their personal concepts of the divine. Judi has volunteered to lead other discussions with the Wednesday class on a monthly schedule. The Hebrew High School Committee is grateful for Judi's participation in the program and thanks her for her time, energy, and spirit.

Susan Wascow, our veteran volunteer teacher, led numerous free form discussions in Wednesday's class. As usual, her leadership provided structure to the group's conversation as she guided the discussion through a wide range of topics. In one class discussion a student posed the question, "Should marijuana be legal?" This question led to others such as, "If we're created in God's image, how would that impact your answer?" and "What does it mean to be created in God's image" and "If you don't believe in God, can you still be Jewish?" In addition to these deeper debates, the students socialized over pizza and played several invigorating games of Frisbee.

Rabbi Tayvah led a discussion about Sukkot and talked with the students about Torah.

Many thanks to the parents who purchased pizza for the class during the months. I want to especially thank George Cohen who came to the rescue at the last minute by taking my turn when I unexpectedly left to visit my father. Andrea Bradley and Tom Berger generously gave of their time in volunteering for pizza duty during the month. Thanks to all three.

Thursday's class got off to a successful beginning. Leslie Wiener, our new teacher, reported for duty for the first class and again in October for three additional classes. Leslie will be leading a discussion with Thursday's group three times during the month. She will be teaching two one hour sessions and one two hour session. Leslie shares Thursday's teaching duties with Rabbi Tayvah.

Leslie reports that the first week of class was spent getting to know each other and working through some ideas about what and how the students want to learn. In the second class, the students dabbled in some Hebrew phrases and decided to pursue their Hebrew studies by learning pronouns and verbs. A year-end survey from this

class showed a keen interest in learning conversational Hebrew. Leslie has willingly agreed to teach this subject.

Subsequent classes had discussions about the deeper meanings of Sukkot and as well as conversations about forgiveness and happiness. We thank Leslie for her willingness to guide this older group.

Rabbi Tayvah also began the New Year asking the students what they wanted to learn. The following week he led an interesting discussion with the students about civil liberties. The rabbi spoke about the recent passage of the Enemy's Combatant bill, which generated much discussion. And, of course, there was time to socialize and play a couple of games of Frisbee.

Thank you to Natalie London for organizing the pizza pickup for Thursday's class. Thanks to Natalie, Susan Krisiloff, Elaine Donoghue, and Carrie Fischman for purchasing the pizza for this past month.

November's Calendar

Wednesday's schedule Thursday's schedule

Nov 1	Nov 2
Nov 8 - no school	Nov 9 - no school
Nov 15	Nov 16
Nov 22 - no school	Nov 23 -no school
Nov 29	Nov 30

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, Hebrew High School chair

CONGREGATION KEHILAT SHALOM YOUTH GROUP

October's youth group activity is scheduled to take place on Sunday, the 22nd. The youth group plans to spend the afternoon at Pine Creek Golf, making their way through the scenic 18 hole course. After meeting at the synagogue at 1:00, the group will be driven to West Amwell for a hopefully sunny day of golf followed by a meal either at the golf course or in a near-by restaurant. Pick up will be back at Kehilat Shalom at 5:00. Keep your fingers crossed that the weather cooperates!

November's event is scheduled for Sunday, the 19th. Please save the date and mark your calendars now for November's youth group activity.

Schedule for Kehilat Shalom youth group:

Sunday, November 5

Sunday, December 17

Saturday - Sunday, January 14-15 - Shul-in!

Sunday, February 25

Sunday, March 18

Sunday, April 22

May - to be determined.

All teens are encouraged to join this friendly, welcoming youth group. There is no fee or registration. Just email me at kfridkis@comcast.net and I will add your name to the email list. Once you are on the youth group email list, you will receive announcements about planned activities.

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, youth group chair.

cont'd on page 6

Ohr Tikvah Jewish Healing Center
Somerset * Hunterdon * Warren Counties



Upcoming Events...

Coping with Loss - Bereavement Support Group with Rabbi Robin Nafshi and Lillian Swickle, ACSW

When: Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 PM – November 2 and 16
Where: Jewish Family Service, 150 West High Street, Somerville, NJ
Fee: \$20.00 (\$10.00 per session)

Medicine, Money and Morals - Equity versus Medical Progress sounds familiar

When: Sunday, December 3, 10:30 AM to 12 noon
Where: Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC
Fee: \$10.00 for Jewish LIFE members; \$15.00 for guests
Ohr Tikvah and Jewish LIFE welcome Daniel Callahan, co-founder of The Hastings Center, and author and editor of more than 35 books dealing with bioethics, health care policy and research policy, and equity and health care costs. For more information contact the JCC at (908) 725-6994 x 201.

**Visiting the Sick:
Making It Easy and Meaningful**

When: Sunday, December 10, 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Where: Temple Sholom, North Bridge Street, Bridgewater
Fee: No fee – Donations accepted

Rabbi William Horn, Rabbi Emeritus of the Jewish Community Center of Summit, will share engaging, heart-warming and humorous stories from his 43 years experience both as chaplain at Overlook Hospital and as a rabbi, and will also provide practical tips as well as inspiring lessons about visiting people who are ill or isolated.

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GREAT SUMMERS HAPPEN BY CHOICE,
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Jewish LIFE upcoming events include **Ruth Messinger**, President & Executive Director of American Jewish World Services, on **Sunday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m.** Ms. Messinger will speak on "Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World". **Daniel Callahan** will be the featured Jewish LIFE speaker on **Sunday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.** Mr. Callahan's talk, "Medicine, Money and Morals", will focus on Equity versus Medical Progress. Save the date for the annual Jewish LIFE **Family Chanukah Party!** This year we are pleased to present a family Chanukah rock concert featuring "Yosi & the Superdads" on **Sunday, December 17 from 4-6 p.m.** Bring your menorah and candles for a family lighting celebration, and enjoy latkes and donuts! All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC in Bridgewater. Please refer to the Jewish LIFE brochure (available on line at www.ssbjcc.org/Jlife.htm) for more details and fees, or call the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

cont'd from page 5
RECONSTRUCTIONIST REGIONAL YOUTH GROUP

The Regional Youth group had their first scheduled event in October. Thanks to the Rosenthal family for hosting the reverse scavenger hunt and New Year's party at their home on Saturday evening, October 14th. Participants were asked to bring 20 items that might be found around the house. When they came to the party instead of going in search of items as in a traditional scavenger hunt, the process was reversed in this fun twist to a favorite game. The event was an opportunity for socializing, catching up with old friends, and making new ones.

The group has billed it's second event as Reflections on a Summer in the West Bank. Scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 29th at the Culter-Kreutz home in Princeton, the afternoon will offer the group an opportunity to discuss the West Bank with Alissa Wise. Alissa was last semester's regional youth leader and is currently a student at the Reconstructionist College in Philadelphia. She spent several months this summer volunteering in Arab villages throughout the West Bank. She will speak about her experiences, answer questions, and share how each student can make a difference in this tension-filled part of the world.

Regional youth group calendar:
Saturday, November 18 - Sunday, November 19 - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Shul-In
Wednesday, November 22 - 3:00-5:30. Volunteering at TASK
Sunday, December 3 - Eating tour of New York City
Saturday, January 6 7:30-10:00 - Movie night
Sunday, January 21 4:00-6:30. Gourmet Cooking class and dinner
Shalom,
Karen Fridkis, youth group chair.

NOVEMBER

Practice gratitude! Happy Thanksgiving!

November 2006

What's going on at Congregation Kehilat Shalom?

10 Heshvan 5767 - 9 Kislev 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 Heshvan Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	2 11 Heshvan 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	3 12 Heshvan ?_4:36PM 7 PM Singing & Story-telling Shabbat evening service	4 13 Heshvan _5:38PM Lekh Lekha: Gen. 16.1 - 17.27 Isaiah 40.27-41.16 4 PM Shabbat Minhah service; Bar Mitzvah celebration of Brian Papsin
5 14 Heshvan Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. CKS Teen group activity	6 15 Heshvan	7 16 Heshvan	8 17 Heshvan NO HEBREW SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL	9 18 Heshvan NO HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL JRF biennial convention in Philadelphia	10 19 Heshvan ?_4:29PM 7:45 PM Food for thought Shabbat Service JRF biennial convention in Philadelphia	11 20 Heshvan _5:31PM Vayera: Gen. 21.5 - 22.24 II Kings 4.1-17 5:30 PM Havdalah & Sing-Along Fiddler on the Roof screening JRF biennial convention in Philadelphia
12 21 Heshvan NO HEBREW SCHOOL JRF biennial convention in Philadelphia	13 22 Heshvan	14 23 Heshvan 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Mtg.	15 24 Heshvan Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	16 25 Heshvan 10 - 12 Hebrew High School 5 - 7 PM	17 26 Heshvan ?_4:23PM 7:00 PM Shabbat Service Hebrew School 4th & 5th grade service	18 27 Heshvan _5:25PM Haye Sarah: Gen. 24.53 - 25.18 I Kings 1.1-31. 10 - 11:30 AM TORAH STUDY: family relationships 5 PM Regional Reconstructionist Teen SHUL-IN
19 28 Heshvan 8 AM Shul-in ends Hebrew School 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	20 29 Heshvan	21 30 Heshvan ROSH HODESH I Num. 28.1-15.	22 1 Kislev ROSH HODESH II Num. 28.1-15. NO HEBREW SCHOOL / CHAI SCHOOL Regional Recon. Teen mitzvah project at TASK 3-5:30 PM	23 2 Kislev Happy Thanksgiving! NO HIGH SCHOOL	24 3 Kislev ?_4:18PM 7:45 PM Shabbat Eve Service	25 4 Kislev _5:21PM Toledot: Gen. 27.28 - 28.9 Malachi 1.1-11. 9:30 AM Shabbat Shahrith service; Aaron Goldstein's bar mitzvah celebration 3:45 PM Shabbat Minhah; Kimberly Reed's Bat Mitzvah celebration
26 5 Kislev NO HEBREW SCHOOL	27 6 Kislev	28 7 Kislev	29 8 Kislev Hebrew School & 8/9 Hebrew High Schools 5 - 7 PM	30 9 Kislev		

[?_Candle Lighting, _Observance End. Times are for Belle Mead, NJ]

President's message from p. 1

As many of you are aware, the Trustees will also need to make a decision in December whether to enter into negotiations with Rabbi Tayvah to extend his service to our community. Rabbi Tayvah is now in the third and final year of his current contract. When Rabbi Tayvah and I sat down several years ago to negotiate his original contract we planned to engage in this type of inward reflection on the community on a yearly basis, but the daily business of running a synagogue always seemed to get in the way. This type of review would obviously be best planned apart from a decision regarding a rabbi's contract and in that context would truly be focused on the community. As it is, the process of introspection discussed above will obviously include reflecting on the rabbi's time with us so far. However, it must be stressed that this process is all about us: the community and the way we see ourselves and how our community functions. In order to make a decision regarding rabbinical leadership, we need to understand who we are and what is important to us as a community. Only then can we make a decision about who might be the best long-term match for us as a rabbi. I cannot stress this point enough. The review is designed for us to look critically at ourselves, and by doing so, determine a future course for the synagogue.

Ed Krisiloff

Whom to contact for...	
Billing/Payments	Sofie Uppal- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 sofie@jccbm.org
B'nai Mitzvah (helpers, celebrations)	Meryl Orlando- 732-329-8945
B'nai Mitzvah (training, service questions)	Rabbi Tayvah- 908-359-0420 ext. 2 rabbi@jccbm.org
Board of Trustees <i>2nd Tues.</i>	Ed Krisiloff -908-359-0560
Building/Grounds/Décor	Andy Sokel- 609-466-8749 andsok@aol.com
Building usage/access	Michelle Brown- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 michelle@jccbm.org
By-Laws	Victor Elgort- 908-874-8535 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Tayvah- 908-359-0420 ext. 2 rabbi@jccbm.org
Dues	Joan Weisblatt- 908-874-3529
Hebrew High School	Karen Fridkis 609-333-1119
Hospitality (Kiddush and Oneg)	Natalie London- 908-874-6952
Kinderappers	Susan Schatzman, director- 908-359-0160 Debbie Lampf-908-466-4165 Peggy Fass- 609-466-0146
Life Cycle (Caring for each other)	Sheryl Rosenberg- 908-253-7049 swellcourt@verizon.net
Long Range Planning / New Building / Capital campaign	Natalie London- 908-874-6952 Joseph Weiss- josephhobartweiss@verizon.net
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Pastoral Emergencies	Rabbi Michael Tayvah- 908-359-0420 Emergency # 315-382-2606 rabbi@jccbm.org
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Tree of Life Donations	Shelley Nord- 908-874-8464
Youth Activities	Karen Fridkis- 609-333-1119
Youth Education <i>1st Wed.</i>	Lisa Kent- 908-578-2972 lisa@illuminationsgroup.com Debbie Grauer- 609-466-2206

Congregation Kehilat Shalom News

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

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

November 2006



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