

Congregation Kehilat Shalom NEWS

A Welcoming Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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Newsletter of the Congregation Kehilat Shalom of Belle Mead, NJ **October 2008** Tishrei— Cheshvan 5769

The Remembrance Garden & the Upcoming Dedication

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Kehilat Shalom

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How often can you say that something you'd planned went without a hitch -- and turned out as well as, or even better than expected? That was our experience of the Big Dig -- the planting of the Remembrance Garden on Sunday, September 7.

Actually, great things began emerging well prior to that day. The Empty Nesters were eager to find a fitting way to honor our dear friend Thelma Canty. We wanted to do something that would be beneficial to CKS and that would also be a "Thelma" thing. Thelma loved plants and flowers, she loved painting images of them, and she was often inspired by the view of her garden from her studio. So why not beautify the entrance of our synagogue by planting a garden? And, although the garden was inspired by Thelma, why not dedicate it to the whole CKS community and let it honor everyone we're moved to remember?

Great things continued to emerge. Our congregation includes a creative landscape architect in the person of Holly Nelson. And wouldn't you know, Holly Nelson had dreamed of doing a garden for CKS and was looking for a theme, an impetus. So Holly and the Empty Nesters found each other, and the vision of the Remembrance Garden began to seem even more real.

Then came the actual Big Dig on September 7. Even though the place was buzzing with activity -- the opening of the new school year, the welcomed presence of several new families, and the setting up for the annual cook-out -- more than a dozen people showed up to dig, to plant, and to water. And behold, the Remembrance Garden became a reality!

Thank you so much to everyone who pitched in. The teamwork was a joy and the result is beautiful. Even the weather pitched in to benefit our effort to the max: the soaking rain on Saturday got the soil (fairly) ready, and Sunday was one of those days it was just wonderful to be outside.

What remains now is the Dedication of the Remembrance Garden. This is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 5. It should be a special and loving event. We'd like to have you join us for the festive occasion. We ask that you arrive at around 11:20 that morning. (If you intend to give blood or platelets that day -- it's the First Annual Thelma Canty Blood Drive -- please plan to do so early enough, or afterward, so that you can be with us for the Dedication.)

Jeremy Perlmutter



Dick Canty & Holly Nelson (the Garden was inspired by the recent passing of Dick's wife, Thelma; Holly, a landscape architect, was the designer of the Garden)

CKS Donations

CKS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our members and friends.

High Holiday Donations:

Norman & Jeanne Schechter
John & Shari Burack Murphy
Henrietta Burack

Memorial Garden:

Herbert & Eleanor Tillman

General:

Rich & Lisa Kent and family
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Sherri Kurtz
Richard & Sheryl Rosenberg
In honor of Holly Nelson and her tireless efforts in creating the Remembrance Garden

Hebrew School Fund:

Rich & Lisa Kent and family

Membership Donations:

Harry & Kristina Wise
Andrew Sokel & Nancy Halpern
Mitch & Nancy Javeline
Mike & Lisa Auerbach
Natalie London and family

Committee Reports

Empty Nesters

Finding yourself at loose ends now that the kids are out of the house? Looking to join a congenial social group to occupy some of that new free time? Craving activities with grownups, activities that are fun, cultural (sometimes) and which always include food? Then Empty Nesters is for you.

We are open to singles and couples. We meet once a month. Each member unit takes a turn at planning the activities. We have visited museums, restaurants, had potlucks and many other activities. We always enjoy being together, talking and sharing.

If you think Empty Nesters is for you, or you have questions about us, please contact Richard and Sheryl Rosenberg at 908-253-7049 or swellcourt@verizon.net (with Empty Nesters in the subject line).

Adult Education

Exciting Adult Education programs are starting up in October and November, including the Learner's Minyan, Service Leadership Series and a great movie night we have in store for you. These programs are also part of the community-wide Jewish LIFE series and are open to everyone.

Learner's Minyan. Have you ever wondered why we recite the prayers we do every Shabbat? Do you feel a little at a loss when your fellow congregants are bending and bowing and saying "Amen"? Make your prayer experience more meaningful by joining Rabbi Susan Falk in a learner's service. Study the origins of our prayers, learn how they evolved through time, and discuss what they might mean to you. Discover the differences between the Reconstructionist Siddur (prayerbook) and its Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox counterparts. During each service, we will study a few of the Friday night prayers in detail, progressing through the service during the course of the year.

Monthly on the third Friday, October through June, 7:00 PM in conjunction with Shabbat Services. (Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, April 17, May 15, June 19)

Cont'd on page 6

Giant Rummage Sale Sunday, October 19th 9:30am - 2pm

Emily Gartenberg is helping to coordinate a rummage sale for her Mitzvah project in honor of her recent Bat Mitzvah. Many items will be for sale, including household and yard items, children's clothes and toys, and many other useful things. All proceeds will go to the synagogue for enhancing the sanctuary.

Donations from our congregation as well as the surrounding community will be needed for this giant sale. Please save your "stuff" and drop it by on Tuesday or Thursday, October 14th or 16th from 4 - 7pm. Also, small donations will be accepted on Sunday morning, October 19th.

Many volunteers will be needed to make this fundraiser successful. We will need help during the drop off times as well as on Friday, October 17th to price and sort the donations. People with yard/garage/rummage sale pricing experience are greatly needed!

Volunteers will also be needed to set up and run the sale on Sunday, October 19th. Please consider helping while your child or children are in Hebrew School.

Also on Sunday, please bring a bicycle that you no longer need for Corey Cochran's Mitzvah project - Pedals for Progress. Bicycles plus \$10 will be accepted 9:30am -12:30pm.

Spread the word among your neighbors and friends!

If you have questions, please call the synagogue office or the Gartenbergs at 908-428-7345.

Invitations by Sharon

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THE TORAH IS US



In the Pirkei Avot, a collection of ethical maxims from the first and second centuries, Ben Bag Bag (yes, that was really his name!) said: Hafoch bah v'hafoch bah d'cholah bah, "Turn it and turn it, for all is contained within it." The "it" that Ben Bag Bag was referring to is, of course, the Torah. Is this just more rabbinic hyperbole? Not for the Rabbis! The ancient Rabbis teach us that the Torah existed before the creation of the universe, and that God actually used the Torah as a kind of "blueprint" for creation. In rabbinic texts and in our liturgy, Torah is described as eitz chayim, the tree of life; Torah is likened to light and to water – things that we cannot live without. Indeed, the entire world is said to stand on Torah, along with worship and good deeds.

As time went on, the meaning of the word "torah" expanded to include not only the Torah itself, that is, the Five Books of Moses, but also the entire Hebrew Bible as well as all the commentary down through the centuries. The midrash, the Mishnah, the Talmud, the Shulchan Aruch, and so on. Our tradition says that all of these words, all these layers upon layers of interpretation were revealed at Sinai – not just the Ten Commandments or the Five Books of Moses. In the Jewish imagination, each one of us stood at Sinai and we are standing there still.

Each one of us, then, has our own piece of Torah that has been revealed to us and that is still within us. All that we learn and all that we teach to others is our Torah. So, if you study in our Hebrew school or in one of our adult education classes, you bring a piece of your Torah to our community. If you work on a committee and hammer out new policy for our congregation, you bring a piece of your Torah to us. If you come to services or prepare food for a pot luck dinner or a shiva minyan; or if you change the light bulbs in the sanctuary or help with a synagogue fundraiser, you bring a piece of your Torah to us. In a very real sense, the Torah is us! Turn it and turn it, for all is contained within it. Maybe Ben Bag Bag wasn't exaggerating so much after all.

There's a lot of Torah to learn and to teach at Congregation Kehilat Shalom this year. Just take a look at our schedule of adult education and holiday and social events. Go up to a Board or committee member and find out how you can participate or help.

At this time of year, the holiday of Simchat Torah forms the joyous conclusion of Sukkoth, the eight-day harvest in which we are told to dwell in booths, or sukkoth, as did our ancient ancestors. On Simchat Torah, we lovingly remove the Torah from the ark –and then we dance with it with wild abandon and joy. We read its conclusion, the account of the death of Moses, and then we roll back the scroll to the beginning and read the account of creation. And then we start the year all over again, chanting the Torah each week from beginning to end, ever searching for new meanings and new interpretations.

This year, our Simchat Torah celebration will be on Tuesday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m. I hope to see you there!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Susan

Welcome New Members

Jeff & Jackie Barth, Belle Mead
 Merle & Gil Brown, Kendall Park
 Bryan & Julie Bruder, Monmouth Jct.
 Steve & Melissa Mekler, Hillsborough
 Beth Miller, Belle Mead
 Ed & Karen Silver, Hillsborough
 Morra Spritzer, Princeton
 Karyn Waller, Kendall Park

Kindercapers

Now in its 15th full year, CKS's non-sectarian pre-school for children 2½ 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 908-359-0420



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 CKS Gift Shop
is open each Sunday
10 am - 11 am

Questions?
Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
or Harlene Rosenberg 908-874-8283




Hebrew School Happenings



October

5 art

12

18 Saturday k-4 class service with
Breakfast in the Sukkah

19 Mock Shabbat music k-4/trope
5-7

26 - Reconstructionism with the
Rabbi



The school year got off to a great start! Students were remarkably ready for school. The enthusiasm was contagious as we reviewed our Alef Bet letters, History, Holidays, Israel and Bible stories. I have received rave reviews about our teachers new and old.

Everyone loved making and eating Josh's Honey Apple cake.

The building was a buzz of volunteer activity as the Kehiloft gets its final touches, parents helped out in classrooms, the office, teaching trope, running the café, and leading services.

May this wonderful month bring you peace, health and happiness.

Dori



Hebrew High School/KeHi-Loft



Congratulations to the KeHi-loft students on a dream realized! The students worked together this summer to turn their ideas into reality. Numerous steps have been taken to reach this place. It began last spring with a brainstorming session during Hebrew High School.

What do we want, how can we achieve our vision, who can volunteer to help? The students have been working diligently on this project over the summer. The first step after raising the necessary money was to clear the balcony. In order to store the Hebrew School books from the two bookcases in the balcony the attic closet had to be cleared. Once they organized the overstuffed closet, twenty book filled crates were moved in. The first day of construction saw an eager group of teens and a tireless adult crew tackle the building of the new floor panels. Each section was built outside and schlepped upstairs to the loft. Ariel Kramer, Ilana Berger, Lindsey Rosenthal, Nicole Schaum, Marissa Applegate, Dan Kaufman, Jeremy Bilotti and Gabe Fridkis were the teen crew. Everyone worked long and hard, with Ilana and Ariel putting in 8 hours and Gabe and Jeremy 10 hours! The bulk of the construction was completed in that one day. Still there was more to do. Later that week another teen crew (Josh and Allie Kent, Marris Applegate, Gabe Fridkis) came to carry empty bookcases downstairs along with the books. The sorted books were then shelved and are now easily accessible to the Hebrew School teachers in their new home outside the classrooms. The loft is still a work in progress, with staining to be finished and a carpet to be installed, but by the time the High Holy Days are here, the construction will be completed.

I want to thank our generous congregants who supported this project with their donations. The building materials could not have been purchased without your financial support. Thanks to: the Bergers, the Richard Rosenberg family, the Applegate Tesser Family, the Lerner, the Wions, the Gartenbergs, the Bachrach Cohen family, the Holtzman Kaufmann family, the Cohen Gouverneur family, the Fridkis family, the London Yuresko family, the Matthew Rosenthal family, Bob Sohor, and the Kurtz family. Donations are still being accepted and will be used to furnish the loft.

Thanks too to our tireless construction team. Joseph Weiss designed the new floor and wall, purchased the necessary lumber, and supervised the construction of the removable floor sections and wall. Eric Weitze has been the go to man on the job. His construction expertise allowed the project to flow slowly. Lou Orlando and Matt Rosenthal put in a 12 plus hour day with Joseph and Eric on the first day of construction, measuring, sawing, hammering, and building the wall and floor sections. Steve Fischman helped with the construction on the second day doing everything that was needed to keep the project progressing. It has been a true community effort.

KeHi-loft classes started on Wednesday, September 10th. The first class was a celebration of the work completed thus far plus a brainstorming session on the year ahead. The students outlined plans for the class. They discussed leading Shabbat services during the year (the first one is scheduled

for September 26), their participation in the Yom Kippur service, possible community service projects, and agreed to a time schedule for each session (6:00 - 6:15 - dinner, 6:15 - 7:00 - Rabbi Susan, 7:00 - 7:45 - congregant volunteer, 7:45 - 8:00 clean-up). One class a month (perhaps the first Wednesday of each month) will be designated for social activities, such as watching a movie, eating, playing wii, and hanging out.

The first tikkun olam project will be Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual Walk for a Cure. KeHi-loft students will be collecting donations for JDRF and invites you to join them in the 5K walk on Sunday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m in North Branch at Raritan Valley Community College. As many as 3 million Americans have type 1 diabetes, a disease most often diagnosed in childhood. JDRF's mission is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. About 85% of every dollar raised goes towards research.

KeHi-loft is seeking adult volunteers to come and lead a discussion session. After the High Holy Days they will resume their series on careers. George Cohen has already agreed to come to class to talk about being an attorney. Thanks, George! If you would like to talk to the group about your career, please contact me at kfridkis@comcast.net

If you are a post-b'nei mitzvah student, come check out the new KeHi-loft. They meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 8:00. Pizza (and possibly other dinner foods!) for purchase starts each session. Contact me if you would like to register. I look forward to hearing seeing you!

Shalom,

Karen Fridkis, KeHi-loft (formerly Hebrew High School) committee chair

Dear Kehilat Congregants,

KeHiloft wants to honor all of the donations we received for renovations for the loft. We are going to make a plaque with all names on it and put it on the loft door. We also continue to ask for donations to help out with other projects throughout the year. You still have time to get your name on the plaque so don't panic! :) Thank you again for all your help and generous donations.

Love Always,

KeHi-loft

Ilana Berger

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Jewish Community



Barry Shrage

President of Combined Jewish Philanthropy
of Greater Boston

Sunday, October 19 11:00 AM SSBJCC
The Future of the Jewish Community



Barry Shrage is an experienced Jewish community builder from the Greater Boston Area. After thirty years of work in his community, Barry has developed a unique vision of the future of the American Jewish community, and how that vision might

be achieved in our community. He will discuss how the unique roles played by diverse Jewish organizations in contemporary American communities can

blend together in building the unity in our community. Where do we find the most fertile grounds for Jewish cultural development?

Since 1987, Barry Shrage has served as President of the country's oldest federated charity, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston (CJP). He brings to the position a unique blend of vision, energy, optimism and enthusiasm that has earned him an international reputation. Mr. Shrage led development of CJP's Strategic Plan, a bold initiative that called for CJP to develop communities of learning, caring and social justice through innovative partnerships with communal service agencies and synagogues. The pioneering Me'ah project, which he developed with David Gordis of the Hebrew College, is a unique adult learning program designed to bring universal Jewish literacy to the region. Hundreds are enrolled in classes throughout Greater Boston, and thousands have graduated from the two-year program. A graduate of City College of New York, Mr. Shrage holds a master's degree in social work from Boston University. He has written extensively on Jewish identity, continuity, social justice, and the Jewish renaissance.

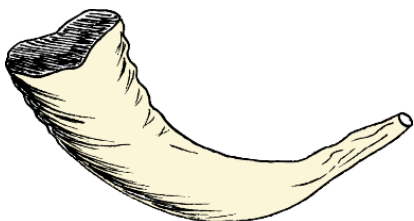
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Upcoming Events...

Hebrew Chanting Circle

When: Thursday, October 30, 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Where: Temple Sholom, 594 N. Bridge Street, Bridgewater

Looking for a way to clear your mind of clutter, relieve yourself of stress, and feel a sense of inner peace and wholeness? Then chanting may be just the thing! Led by Ronnie Weyl, a graduate of Rabbi Shefa Gold's Kol Zimra Chant Leadership Training Institute, the chanting circle learns simple Hebrew phrases from psalms or the Torah and sings them in repetition. The vibration of the words and the energy from singing aloud with others have the power to transform and uplift the spirit. You need no prior knowledge of singing, chanting, or Hebrew language to join us and have fun.

MORE ADULT EDUCATION

Leading a Service – From Lighting Shabbat Candles to Adon Olam! You're already a serious congregant and participate in services. Make that connection stronger and learn to lead the congregation or take charge of certain parts of the service. In four intense sessions, you will have the knowledge and understanding you need to lead services prayerfully and dynamically. Note in order to take this class you must be fairly familiar with the traditional Hebrew prayers and/or be a fairly regular service participant in any Jewish denomination. Post-b'nei mitzvah students are also welcome to attend. A CD of the prayers in various melodies will be handed out at the beginning of this course. Led by Rabbi Susan Falk.

- Sunday mornings, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at CKS on November 2, January 11, February 1, and May 3
- CKS Members -\$18 for the series, Non-members -\$36 for the series. Fee includes bagel café at each session. Please RSVP to the synagogue office if you would like to attend.

Session 1: Friday Night Shabbat Service - The Basics (Nov. 2)

Study the structure and outline of the Friday night service; discuss the elements of Jewish prayer and what prayer means to you.

Session 2: Making it Meaningful (Jan. 11)

Learn to use the Siddur and outside resources to craft a meaningful service; explore the role of music in the service.

Session 3: Leading the Torah Discussion (Feb. 1)

Understand the cycle of *parshiot*; learn how to lead an effective Torah discussion; identify the elements of a good *d'var Torah*.

Session 4: Mourning and Shiva (May 3)

Review Jewish customs and traditions regarding death and mourning; learn how to conduct a meaningful shiva service and be a comforting presence in a house of mourning.

MORE NEXT ISSUE!



Richard M. Nadler DMD, FAGD

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OCTOBER 2008

2 Tishri 5769 - 2 Heshvan 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2 Tishri 6:55AM/6:41PM 9:30 AM - Rosh Hashanah Morning Service	2 3 Tishri 6:56AM/6:39PM	3 4 Tishri 6:57AM/6:38PM 7:00 PM - Shabbat Shuvah	4 5 Tishri 6:58AM/6:36PM
5 6 Tishri 6:59AM/6:34PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School 9:30 - 11:00 AM - Adult Education Hebrew Refresher with writing 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM - Thelma Canty Memorial Blood Drive	6 7 Tishri 7:00AM/6:33PM	7 8 Tishri 7:01AM/6:31PM	8 9 Tishri 7:02AM/6:30PM 6:00 PM - Kol Nidre Services	9 10 Tishri 7:03AM/6:28PM 9:30 AM - Yom Kippur Morning Services 9:30 AM - Meditative Walk (concurrent with morning service) on the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Meet in the larger parking lot off of Laurel Avenue in Rocky Hill. 10:30 AM - Children's Service (concurrent with Morning Service) 1:00 PM Yizkor Service 6:00 PM Neilah Service 7:08 PM - Shofar blast. Break fast to follow	10 11 Tishri 7:04AM/6:26PM 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	11 12 Tishri 7:05AM/6:25PM
12 13 Tishri 7:06AM/6:23PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School 9:00 AM - Sukkah building 12:30 PM - Apple picking at Turhune Orchards. For Montgomery County Food Bank	13 14 Tishri 7:07AM/6:22PM 6:00 PM - Pot Luck dinner in the Sukkah	14 15 Tishri 7:08AM/6:20PM 7:30 PM - Board Meeting COLLECTION FOR RUMMAGE 4-7PM	15 16 Tishri 7:09AM/6:19PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Kehi-loft / Hebrew High School 7:00 PM - Education Committee Meeting	16 17 Tishri 7:10AM/6:17PM COLLECTION FOR RUMMAGE 4-7PM	17 18 Tishri 7:11AM/6:16PM 6:00 PM - Pizza in the Hut dinner 7:00 PM - Learner's Minyan Shabbat Service	18 19 Tishri 7:13AM/6:14PM K - 4th Grade Breakfast in the Sukkah
19 20 Tishri 7:14AM/6:13PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Rummage Sale and Bike Collection	20 21 Tishri 7:15AM/6:11PM	21 22 Tishri 7:16AM/6:10PM 6:30 PM - Simchat Torah Service, Consecration and Odessa Klezmer Band	22 23 Tishri 7:17AM/6:09PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Kehi-loft / Hebrew High School	23 24 Tishri 7:18AM/6:07PM	24 25 Tishri 7:19AM/6:06PM 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	25 26 Tishri 7:20AM/6:05PM 9:30 AM - Bat Mitzvah of Emma Cohen
26 27 Tishri 7:21AM/6:03PM 9:00 AM - Noon - Hebrew School 9:00 AM - take down Sukkah	27 28 Tishri 7:23AM/6:02PM	28 29 Tishri 7:24AM/6:01PM 7:30 PM - Religion Committee Meeting	29 30 Tishri 7:25AM/5:59PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Kehi-loft / Hebrew High School	30 1 Heshvan 7:26AM/5:58PM	31 2 Heshvan 7:27AM/5:57PM 7:45 PM - Shabbat Services	

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

On Yom Kippur morning, Peggy Fass will be leading a meditative walk on the Delaware and Raritan Canal, running concurrent with morning services. Interested people should meet at 9:30 am at the park in Rocky Hill, in the larger parking lot off of Laurel Avenue.

Yom Kippur

Wednesday October 8
Kol Nidre--6 pm

Thursday October 9
Yom Kippur Morning--9:30 am
Children's service--10:30 am (concurrent with morning service)
Yizkor--1 pm
Neilah service--6 pm
Shofar blowing--7:08 pm
Break Fast to follow.



Whom to contact for...	
Adult Education	Meryl Bisberg- 908-874-8970
Beautification	Rhonda Wynston-Kraftt 908-864-0046 Audrey Starkman 908-904-0432
Billing/Payments	Robin Bengochea- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 admin@ksnj.org
B'nai Mitzvah (helpers, celebrations)	Meryl Orlando- 732-329-8945 Shelley Nord- 908-874-8464
Board of Trustees 2 nd Tues.	Matt Rosenthal- 908-874-0787
Building/Grounds/Décor	Andy Sokel- 609-466-8749 andsok@aol.com
Building Usage/Access	Robin Bengochea- 908-359-0420 ext. 1 admin@ksnj.org
By-Laws	Victor Elgort- 908-874-8535 vselgort@nmmlaw.com
Congregants' Assistance Fund	Rabbi Falk- 908-359-0420 ext. 2 rabbi@ksnj.org
Education 1 st Wed.	Lisa Kent- 908-578-2972 lisa@luminationgroup.com
Financial Secretary	Steve Weinstein
Gift Shop	Susan Waskow 609-333-1113
Hospitality (Kiddush and Oneg)	Natalie London- 908-874-6952
Kindercapers	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	Joseph Weiss josephhobartweiss@verizon.net
Membership	Leslie Kowalski 609-275-4644
Men's Club	Eric Applegate 908-904-0457
Pastoral Emergencies	Rabbi Susan Falk 908-359-0420
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