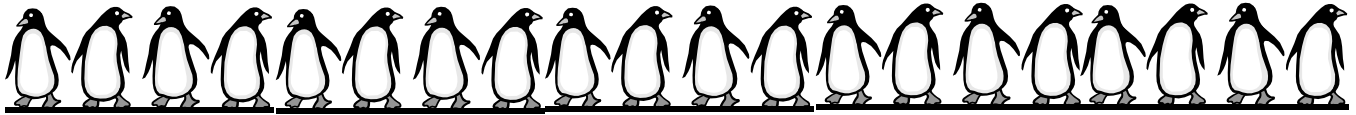


Burns Park Press



September 2006 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mark your Calendars: October 2: Burns Park Bucks Order Forms Sent Home October 3: Sally Foster Orders Due October 3: Burns Park Players Fall Meeting					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5 First Day of School	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Curriculum Night , 6-8 pm	20	21 PTO Meeting, 7pm, Free childcare October Burns Park Press Articles Due	22 Grades 2-5 Field trip: Ballet Folklorico de Mexico Sally Foster packets sent home	23
24	25	26 Fall Festival, 5:30-8 pm	27	28	29	30

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Burns Park Mission Statement:

All of our children will become confident, secure, caring individuals of a diverse community who are lifelong learners and achieve personal success.

Check out the websites for the PTO: www.burnsparkpto.org and Penguin Talk : www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/

From our Principal

Dear Families,

We're off and running, and I'm looking forward to another great year! Please join me in welcoming some new faces to Burns Park School. New to our staff this year are:

Candyce Rozelle-Williams - Secretary,
Elizabeth Selimi - First Grade, and
Janet Bork - Computer Lab.

Thanks BP Alumni Association!

Special thanks go to the Burns Park Alumni Association who under the direction of Bill Godfrey donated 4 new trees to the school. Thanks goes to Elisa Frye and alumni friends that decided to carry on with the tradition of service by repainting the 4 square and hopscotch stencils on the playground blacktop. This active Alumni Association continues to have fond memories of the time they spent in our school. I'm sure that our children too, will have fond memories of playing hopscotch, 4 square, and enjoying the shade of the trees they planted. We also thank Mike and Cindy Bott, of our PTO playground committee, for working with this group to get the trees planted in time for their reunion.

School Snacks

In order to give us an opportunity to develop plans for all students that may have life threatening food allergies, we ask that during the first 2 weeks of school parents send only fruit or vegetables as snacks. We will then let you know if your child is in a class with a child with food allergies, and we will provide you with a list of acceptable snacks. We thank you, in advance, for your help.

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night will be here before we know it. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend on the evening of Tuesday, September 19.

For parents and guardians of students in grades K, 1, and 2, the evening begins at 6:00 in your child's classroom with an opportunity to meet the teacher and acquaint yourselves with the classroom. From 7:00 to 7:20 K-2 parents, guardians and teachers will meet in the auditorium to review the Annual Report and meet the rest of the teaching staff.

Parents and teachers of 3rd-5th grade students will join the early elementary parents from 7:00 to 7:20 in the auditorium for staff introductions and a short explanation of the School's Annual Report. They may then meet their children's teachers in their classrooms from 7:20 until 8:00.

I also encourage all parents to stop by and introduce yourselves to the Art, P.E., Music, ESL and Media Center teachers. But because this evening is designed for parents only, we ask that you please leave your children at home.

SIT Updates

Throughout the summer Ms. Alice Kim, Ms. Molly Crankshaw, Ms. Sandy Kreger and Ms. Carrie Dworkin updated our **Community Circle** lesson plans. We will continue to meet in these cross-level groups on Wednesday mornings. During Community Circles this year our theme will be **Courage to Stand**. We will begin the year with each teacher teaching the **Take a Stand**, anti-bullying curriculum, with their students. Then on October 4th at 2:30, we will kick off our **Courage to Stand** theme with an assembly.

We will continue to stress that recess is a time to reach out, make new friends, have fun (but not at the expense of others) and be physically active so that when students return to their studies they are refreshed and

ready to learn. Children will continue to be encouraged to play games that are cooperative and competitive as we make the most of 6 *Steps to a Trouble-free Playground* that has been so successful in building friendships among our students.

We are once again happy to report that our June benchmark achievement scores were great. This means that most of our children will begin the year close to or above grade level reading targets. I continue to be impressed by the achievement of our students on the math section of the MEAP tests; more and more of our students are not just meeting the standards, they are exceeding them. The state of Michigan **MEAP** assessment will be given beginning October 9th to grades 3,4, and 5. With our strong June data in both reading and math, we expect that our students will do well and make us proud of their efforts.

PTO

The first **PTO** meeting is Thursday, September 21st beginning at 7:00 PM in the Media Center. Free childcare is provided at all PTO meetings. If you missed the Welcome Back Coffee, this is another opportunity to volunteer to help with any of the many events the PTO sponsors. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fall Festival

In conjunction with the PTO we invite all families to the **Fall Festival** on Tuesday, September 26th from 5:30 to 8:00. Plan to bring a picnic and enjoy the evening. More information on the Festival will be coming from the PTO.

School Start Time

School hours will be adjusted slightly from last year. The start time remains as it was last year, beginning at 8:48, but the school day will end at 3:42; six minutes later. Morning Kindergarten ends at 11:51, and afternoon Kindergarten begins at 12:39. We will ring the first bell, as we did last year, at 8:45 to ensure that students have plenty of time to get to their lockers and into the classroom on time. Since we have no supervision of students prior to this time, we encourage families to time their arrival at school in the morning for 8:45.

If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to call or come in to visit with us. We strive to make sure that your children receive the best education possible. The staff and I extend to each of you an invitation to work together with us to make this a rewarding year for your child. Please feel free to contact us if you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Educationally yours,

Kathy Morhous
Principal

**Ann Arbor Public Schools
Non-Discrimination Policy**

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The Ann Arbor Public School District will provide reasonable aids and accommodations to individuals who desire information regarding the education of District students.

Welcome back to all returning families and to all new families, we're delighted to have you as a part of the Burns Park Elementary School community. Hope everyone had a great summer!

Our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) sponsors numerous events for students and their families throughout the year. There are plenty of ways for you to volunteer your time and talents; please use the Volunteer Sign Up sheet that came home in this packet and get involved! Remember, the PTO is made up of parents in our school community. You don't have to join or audition. You're already a part of it!

One easy way to participate is to come to the monthly PTO meetings. We are going to try some new things this year, including:

- ◆ limiting meetings to one hour
- ◆ focusing on just one topic, publicized well in advance
- ◆ meeting at alternate times to be sure meetings are convenient to as many people as possible.

We'll be looking for your feedback on all of these things, and a great way to provide that feedback is in our own web based discussion forum, Penguin Talk. Check it out at <http://www.burnsparkpto.org/confer/>.

We value your input and encourage all parents to attend meetings, log on, email, or find a way to let us know what you're thinking and how we can involve you! FREE, fun child-care is available in the gym during PTO meetings, so bring your kids along. Our first meeting will be held Thursday, September 21 at 7pm. We meet in the school library, and we'll be reviewing and approving the PTO's budget for the 2006-07 school year.

You can look forward to PTO communication about the goings-on at

your child's school in the form of a weekly email to all people listed in our school's database. You can be sure you're included by completing the purple Family Contact Information Form which came home today in your child's backpack ASAP. Our school newsletter, the Burns Park Press (which you are currently reading), is issued monthly. This year we will be asking you to opt-in for a printed copy and otherwise receive an online version. This will save us both money and volunteer time, as well as save paper and trees! We plan to begin issuing the Press online in October, but stay tuned for more details as we are still working this one out.

Hope to see you at the PTO meeting as well as the following upcoming events;

- ◆ Curriculum Night, Tuesday, September 19
- ◆ Fall Festival, Tuesday, September 26

We are looking forward to serving as your President and President-Elect this year. Between the two of us, we have children in almost every grade (Helen's son is in second grade and her daughter is in fifth grade; Kelly's son is a first grader and daughter and son are in third grade). We hope to see you around school and encourage you to contact us with questions and ideas. It's going to be a great year!

Kelly Bumgarner, President
761-5439
skbum@sbcglobal.net

Helen Starman, President-Elect
994-8553
hstarman@comcast.net

PTO Fundraising

PTO fundraising benefits our children and school in many ways. Profits (about \$25,000 per year) go into the PTO's general budget, which funds:

- ♦ generous subsidies to classroom & special teachers for equipment and activities;
- ♦ Golden Apple grants for performances and enrichment activities;
- ♦ field trips;
- ♦ programs such as Fall Festival, Math/Science Night, Walk & Talk, Lunchtime Choices, March is Reading Month, Science Olympiad, 5th Grade Graduation; and
- ♦ much more!

We know that parents want fundraisers to be as easy and useful as possible, and we try to plan accordingly. Based on feedback we've gotten, we're offering the same four fundraisers as last year, with slight modifications. Please see below for details and schedule information:

1) Sally Foster Gift Wrap

High quality gift wrap and other products can be purchased from the catalog, as well as online at sallyfoster.com.

- ♦ Packets go home **Friday, September 22**
- ♦ Orders due **Friday, October 3**
- ♦ Delivery **Thursday, Nov. 2**

Major fundraiser -- profits in the \$10,000 range.

Chairpersons:

Jill Stanevich (213-6777, jill@stanevich.com) and Leila Surratt (369-4625, lyimsurratt@comcast.net)

2) Burns Park Bucks

Scrip program selling certificates/cards from local grocers and national retailers. PTO purchases certificates at a discount and sells them to families at face value; families use certificates at

full face-value for gifts and/or regular purchases, and PTO earns profits.

- ♦ Monthly, beginning in October
 - ♦ Online orders available at www.burnsparkpto.org
- Last year's profits in the \$7,000 range.

Chairpersons:

Lynda Norton (761-1478, lnorton@okno.com) and Helen Starman (994-8553, hstarman@comcast.net)

3) Burns Park Run

5K, 10K, and 1-mile Fun Run in Burns Park and nearby streets. Wonderful community event! Lots of students, parents, and staff participate, as well as runners from nearby areas.

- ♦ Next spring: first Sunday in May

Major fundraiser -- profits close to \$10,000

Chairpersons:

Jackie and Joel Dalton (747-6952, jdalton@cch.org, daltonjd@gmail.com) and Jill Hunsberger (741-4792, jill.hunsberger@emich.edu)

4) Note Cards

Children bring home materials to create individualized note cards, which will be attractively packaged in sets of 20. This fundraiser is scheduled for late winter. Profits in the \$1000 range; this fundraiser is offered mainly because people like the cards!

Chairpersons:

Victoria Booth (327-0172, victoria_booth@yahoo.com) and Cynthia Sheng (973-1395, csheng@cisco.com)

In addition to participating in these fundraisers, you can also help raise money for Burns Park by doing the following:

- ♦ Cut out BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION labels from General

Mills packages and submit them to the library

- ♦ If you shop at MEIJER, get a Meijer card (it's *not* a credit card) and designate Burns Park to receive proceeds each time you swipe your card
- ♦ If you shop at TARGET, consider getting a Target credit card and designate Burns Park to receive proceeds from all charged sales.

Questions? Know of other businesses that will provide financial support to our school based on purchases? Let the PTO know. We appreciate your fundraising support!

Lost and Found News

Our Lost and Found system has been working smoothly for two years now. So, for your review:

Items found in or around Burns Park can be dropped in the box (just down the hall from the Library Media Center) labeled "Items Found This Week". These items will then be sorted and hung for easy retrieval.

All items will be packed and donated to the PTO Thrift Shop on the last day of each month. MANY wonderful and new items were donated last year!

Items found in the last week of each month will be held over and donated the following month to assure that families have adequate time to get to school and retrieve lost items.

Questions can be directed to Judy Wier at 663-3184.

Volunteer Officers & Chairpersons

Burns Park PTO 2006-2007

Executive Board	Officer	Phone	Email
President.....	Kelly Bumgarner.....	761-5439.....	skbum@sbcglobal.net
President-Elect.....	Helen Starman.....	994-8553.....	hstarman@comcast.net
Vice President.....	Jennifer Kiely.....	477-0046.....	kielywoodburn@comcast.net
Treasurer.....	David Lowenschuss.....	623-9877.....	david.lowenschuss@pfizer.com
Secretary.....	Raleigh Sadlier.....	327-0534.....	sadlierfam@yahoo.com

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Academic Enrichment.....	Katie Chosid.....	662-9955.....	kchosid@yahoo.com
Books on Tape.....	Julie Halpert.....	995-0920.....	jhalpert@comcast.net
Bulletin Boards.....	Julie Cohen.....	741-7451.....	jggico@hotmail.com
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.....	Helen Starman.....	994-8553.....	hstarman@comcast.net
Burns Park Press.....	Anne Gilbert.....	761-6584.....	agilbert@surovell.com
Burns Park Press Production.....	Sue Burke.....	930-2655.....	saburke@umich.edu
Burns Park Run.....	Jackie Dalton.....	747-6952.....	jdalton@cch.org
.....	Joel Dalton.....	747-6952.....	daltonjd@gmail.com
.....	Jill Hunsberger.....	741-4792.....	jill.hunsberger@emich.edu
Directory.....	Barbara Peitsch.....	302-7723.....	bpeitsch@umich.edu
.....	Ginny Rogers.....	747-7937.....	vrogers@umich.edu
Fall Festival.....	Sara Meingast.....	741-1723.....	herbandsara@peoplepc.com
Family-to-Family Giving.....	Sara Figueroa.....	930-1581.....	sarerfigueroa@yahoo.com
.....	Theresa Reid.....	369-3919.....	theresa@theresareidbooks.com
Fifth Grade Graduation.....	Kristen Freshley.....	996-0557.....	kristen@freshley.net
.....	Helen Starman.....	994-8553.....	hstarman@comcast.net
Field Day.....	Ellen Rambo.....	741-9640.....	ellenrambo@comcast.net
Friends of Library.....	Elizabeth DeRose.....	677-0882.....	ederose@comcast.net
Friends of Music.....	Janice Lieberman.....	761-7431.....	liebermanjanice@yahoo.com
Gift Wrap.....	Jill Stanevich.....	213-6777.....	jill@stanevich.com
.....	Leila Yim Surratt.....	369-4625.....	lyimsurratt@comcast.net
Hospitality.....	Kim Mass.....	213-5255.....	nkhmass@selectivityinc.com
.....	Patricia Silverman.....	998-1156.....	boczar@umich.edu
Ice Cream Social.....	Lynda Norton.....	761-1478.....	lnorton@okno.com
.....	Nancy Vettorello.....	668-0619.....	vettorel@umich.edu

Committee	Chairperson	Phone	Email
Information Technology	Steve Norton.....	761-1478.....	snorton@okno.com
.....	Ginny Rogers	747-7937	vrogers@umich.edu
Lost & Found	Judy Wier	663-3184.....	edwier@aol.com
Lunchtime Choices.....	Elizabeth DeRose.....	677-0882.....	ederose@comcast.net
.....	Niki Wardner	973-8039.....	wardner35@msn.com
Lunches with Love.....	Sara Meingast.....	741-1723.....	herbandsara@peoplepc.com
.....	Nancy Upchurch.....	622-0335.....	nemupc@comcast.net
Math/Science Night	JoLeen Felkey.....	996-1359.....	jafelkey@hotmail.com
.....	Pam Ibrahim	528-8946.....	pjkibrahim2@hotmail.com
Middle School Transition	Steve Norton.....	761-1478.....	snorton@okno.com
Multicultural	Janice Lieberman	761-7431	liebermanjanice@yahoo.com
New Families	Kathy Sample	332-1131	kesample@umich.edu
Note Cards.....	Victoria Booth.....	327-0172.....	victoria_booth@yahoo.com
.....	Cynthia Sheng.....	973-1395.....	csheng@cisco.com
Parent Education.....			
Playground.....	Mike Bott.....	913-0650.....	bottmc@yahoo.com
.....	Cindy Bott.....	913-0650.....	bottmc@yahoo.com
PTO Council.....	Andy Thomas.....	996-8476.....	athomas@med.wayne.edu
Read-a-thon	Jimena Loveluck.....	477-9355.....	jimena@comcast.net
.....	Sherry Moravy-Penchansky.....	663-5337.....	ssmorpen@umich.edu
Service Learning - Kids Care Club.....	Joel Dalton	747-6952.....	daltonjd@gmail.com
.....	Julie Lawson Timmer	761-5214.....	jlzimmer@hayes-lemmerz.com
Salvation Army Drive.....	Mary Hampton	761-6587	lorencjackson@ameritech.net
Science Olympiad	Steve Brown.....	994-9052.....	stephen.brown@pfizer.com
.....	Margie Morris	769-0718.....	margiermorris@earthlink.net
Special Interest Fair	Agnes Jensen	622-0682.....	ajense17@sbcglobal.net
Teacher Appreciation	Carolynn Hayman.....	213-2917	cjhayman@rocketmail.com
Teacher PTO Representatives.....			
Volunteer Coordinator	Janice Lieberman	761-7431	liebermanjanice@yahoo.com
Walk & Talk.....	Marci Ammerman.....	662-7812.....	mbammerman@comcast.net
Yearbook.....	Kristen Freshley	996-0557.....	kristen@freshley.net

Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for the annual Burns Park Fall Festival.

Date: Tuesday, September 26
(Rain date: Wed. Sept. 27)

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Place: Burns Park School grounds

Bring: a picnic dinner, a blanket, and a dessert to share

Buy: Drinks from the 5th graders to help raise funds for their graduation ceremony!

Catch up with old friends after the summer and make some new friends as well! Enjoy live entertainment and dinner under the stars. A great way to kick-start the school year.

Hope to see you there!

Sara Meingast

Walk and Talk to Begin!

Tie up those tennis shoes and come on over to the park for this fall's season of Walk and Talk. Walk and Talk is an activity where the students come to the Burns Park area and walk or run with each other around a specified loop. The kids earn "toe tags" for a certain number of loops around the park and really are motivated by the fresh air, their friends and the encouragement of the parent volunteers.

We are hoping to start up the week of Sept. 18th if we can get our parent volunteers in place by then. If you can help out on Monday, Wednesday or Friday during lunch time (approximately from 11:15 – 1:10), please contact Marci Ammerman at 662-7812 or mbammeman@comcast.net.

We would also like to encourage parents to come and walk and talk with the kids – enjoy each other and the added bonus of modeling/inspiring physical fitness too!

Readers Needed!

Do you enjoy reading stories to your children? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity at Burns Park school that is fun, and that you can do when it's most convenient for you? Then I have the perfect assignment for you. It's books on tape. The books on tape project helps children who are just beginning to read and grasp the text of books. We're looking for people to record the books onto a cassette tape, as well as organize the tapes that have already been recorded. You can be creative and record books with others you know, or even your children.

So if this interests you, please e-mail me, Julie Halpert, the books on tape chair, at: jhalpert@comcast.net or phone me: 995-0920. I look forward to hearing from you!

Please Come To The Burns Park Players Fall Meeting

WHEN:

Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

7-7:30: Informal welcome/get acquainted for newcomers to meet BPP Board members and learn about the ways you might be able to participate.

WHERE: Burns Park School Auditorium

WHAT: To discuss our musical, **OLIVER**, to be performed February 9,10,15,16, and 17, 2007

WHY: If you're interested in meeting new people, having fun and livening up your winter evenings.

WHO:

◆ EVERYONE interested in trying out (Auditions for adults will be held in mid-October – specific dates TBA). No theater experience required.

◆ EVERYONE interested in working backstage, on sets, costumes, props, orchestra, child care etc.

◆ You don't have to be a BPS parent to be involved, so please tell your neighbors, too. Specific skills such as sewing, building, painting and playing a musical instrument are especially needed.

If you can't make the meeting, but would like to volunteer, or if you want more information, visit

BurnsParkPlayers.org or call Susan Hurwitz (Producer and former BPS parent) at 994-3508, or email SusanH22@aol.com

Crew members are expected to give a minimum of 30 hours effort toward the production, and cast members must adhere to the attendance policy which will be reviewed at the meeting.

*The Burns Park Players is comprised of adult residents of the Burns Park School community (geographical boundaries defined by the school district) who may be, but are not necessarily parents of Burns Park School students. Although we happily include the first through fifth grade children of cast/crew in our chorus numbers, the group was founded in 1984 to provide adults (parents, teachers and others) with the opportunity to produce and perform a musical or play in a relatively relaxed setting. Having fun is our primary goal! Proceeds of our productions go to support the Burns Park School, Tappan Middle School, and other school district functions.

Thanks a Million

Even though school has just begun, we have many people to thank for their efforts in making the back to school transition a smooth one. We'd like to recognize the following:

Our Exec Board, **VP Jennifer Kiely, Secretary Raleigh Sadlier, and Treasurer David Lowenschuss**, for meeting during the summer to discuss ideas and draft the budget.

Steve Norton, Ginny Rogers, and Janice Lieberman, for more brainstorming and implementation of ideas to better PTO communication through the use of technology.

Various friends and PTO Chairs who helped assemble the first day packets – we appreciate your willingness to do this tedious job!

Kelly Lohnes, Kim Mass, Patricia Silverman, Gretchen Spreitzer, and Nancy Vettorello, for organizing wonderful back-to-school get-togethers for the kids in kindergarten through third grade.

Our New Families Chair, **Kathy Sample**, for helping to pull together the folders for New Family Orientation.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, **Janice Lieberman**, for filling PTO positions and preparing paperwork for volunteer sign-ups.

Kim Mass and Patricia Silverman, Hospitality Chairs, for organizing and arranging refreshments for the Welcome Back Coffees, and for providing refreshments and flowers for the Staff Lounge for the first day back. Also, thanks to the Starbucks on South U, specifically Troy the manager there, for donating the coffee for our Welcome Back Coffee. Let's show them we appreciate it with our patronage!

Anne Gilbert, BP Press Editor, for getting the Press pulled together under fairly tight time constraints.

The year would not have started off as well without all your time and energy. Thanks for helping to make Burns Park a great place to go to school!

Kelly Bumgarner & Helen Starman

PTO Executive Board

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morhous@aaps.k12.mi.us

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Enfoque multicultural en países de habla hispana

Para complementar la instrucción en castellano en Burns Park, este año nuestro enfoque multicultural (*PTO's Multicultural focus*) será en países de habla hispana. Nuestro primer evento será una excursión al Hill auditorium, para los grados dos al cinco, el viernes 22 de setiembre, para la actuación del UMS Youth Performance del Ballet Folclórico de México. Con seguridad será una magnífica actuación; estamos muy agradecidos a los "Burns Park Players" por su generosidad al solventar nuestra participación en este evento.

Nuestro comité planeará varias actividades a lo largo del año. Si usted está interesado en participar, por favor anótese en la hoja de voluntarios incluida en el paquete enviado el primer día. Por favor conctácese con Janice Lieberman (liebermanjanice@yahoo.com or 761-7431) si tiene preguntas. Si quiere hacer las preguntas en castellano por favor conctácese con Andrea Rojo (213-0005)

Multicultural Focus on Spanish-Speaking Countries

To complement Burns Park's Spanish language instruction, our PTO's Multicultural focus this year will be on Spanish-speaking countries. Our first event will be a field trip for Grades 2-5 on Friday, September 22 to Hill Auditorium for the UMS Youth Performance of Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. This should be a great performance, and we are very grateful to the Burns Park Players for generously funding our participation in this event.

Our committee will be planning various activities throughout the year. If you're interested in joining us, please sign up on the volunteer sheet included in the first-day packet. Please contact Janice Lieberman (liebermanjanice@yahoo.com or 761-7431) with questions and ideas.