

Liberty Corner PTO

November 2010

A Message from the PTO Co-Presidents ~ Jeanne Starr and Laurie Dobson

It's hard to believe October is over and the first report cards for the year will be coming out soon! The kids seem to be settled into their school day routines and the PTO has made several noteworthy accomplishments this month. Our first annual Halloween parade and the festivities that followed, from the games, to the spooky haunted house, and the music room filled with treats, was a "sweet" success as evidenced by the great attendance and the uncontained glee in the children's eyes. A huge thank you to Davenie Pereira and Maria Mahon and their committee for persevering when presented with unforeseen challenges and paving the way for years of Halloween fun at Liberty Corner School.



The LCS PTO's other newsworthy accomplishment last month was when, on October 22nd, the Board of Education approved our donation of up to \$40,000 for our long anticipated air conditioning project. Many of the parents of 4th and 5th graders remember the tremendously successful Casino Night Fundraiser held almost 5 years ago that raised the seed money for the installation of air conditioning units in the 2nd floor classrooms. These funds, along with the profits earned through our successful coupon and gift wrap fundraisers, will soon be put to good use. The BOE will be putting out a request for proposals for the electrical work shortly. We hope to have the air conditioners in place by the spring, making the months leading up to summer much more pleasant, and productive, for our children and faculty.



Other October events of note included our gift wrap fundraiser, the 5th Grade Car Wash and Red Ribbon Week. New gift wrap vendor Genevieve, earned improved results over last year thanks to the hard work of co-chairs Debra Witt and Cathy Riegler. In such a challenging economic environment, we were thrilled to have such support from the LCS community. Likewise, the 5th Grade Car Wash raised over \$1,500 for the Wellness Community in Bedminster. Many thanks to Mr. Rauschenberger for coordinating this event with PTO chairs Mary Carpenter-Kupsch and Michele Rishty for such a worthy cause. This was a true bucket-filling event! Finally, Red Ribbon week was creatively and effectively brought to life for our children by co-chairs Jennifer Brown and Christine Pietrantuono, for which we are truly grateful.

Lastly, the PTO Board would like to reiterate the importance of attending as many of the Board of Education meetings as possible. Notably, at the November 8th meeting, recommendations regarding next year's budget were presented and some heated public comments followed. As a result of the funding cliff created by the drop in state funds, the 2% property



tax cap, and the \$800,000 in additional cuts being made as a consequence of Bernards Township's school budget being voted down last year, unpopular cuts in programs were recommended, such as partial day Kindergarten and an 8 day period at the high school. The recommendations will be voted on at the November 22nd BOE meeting by the Board. Now is the time, not in the spring, to make your voices heard and call or email the BOE members with your concerns or preferences at BoardMembers@bernardsboe.com. LCS will host two general PTO meetings (morning and evening) on Wednesday, December 1st with several BOE representatives present to summarize the actions taken by the BOE at the November 22nd meeting and answer questions from attendees. All elementary school PTO's will be invited and we will be sending out more information on the meetings shortly.

Regardless of the issues we face, please take time to enjoy the upcoming holidays with family and friends. See you in December!

PTO Board 2010-2011

Co-Presidents: Laurie Dobson (lbobson@msn.com) and Jeanne Starr (eagerstarr@aol.com)

Co-1st Vice Presidents (Programming and Scheduling): Zaida Harrison (zaidaharrison@optonline.net) and Bernadette Taylor (bernietaylor@optonline.net)

Co-2nd Vice Presidents (Fundraising): Barbara Sileo (sileo4@hotmail.com) and Linda Picardo (linnyp@optonline.net)

Treasurer: Bridget Jaeger (BridgetJ@JaegerLumber.com)

Assistant Treasurer: Maggie Gould (mjscala@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Larissa Milligan (larissa_milligan@hotmail.com)

Communications Officer Heather Whyte-Kattas (heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com)

For more information go to www.LibertyCornerPTO.org

From the Principal's Desk ~~ Dr. Pecoraro



We have had a very busy first two months of school and it is hard to believe that it is November already.

A highlight of October was our Fifth Grade Car Wash. The students had a fun time washing cars (and a rather large fire truck from the LC Fire Company) continually for two hours on Friday afternoon, Oct. 8, from 3:30-5:30. This is Mr. Rauschenberger's favorite fund raiser. The fifth graders, along with several teachers and parent volunteers, worked very



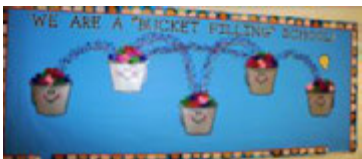
hard that afternoon and because of their efforts, \$1,539.57 was raised. A check was presented to Mrs. Patty Lunny, a former LCS parent and Director at The Wellness Community (TWC) in Bedminster. The Wellness Community provides free support and counseling services to individuals and families who are either battling cancer or have lost a family member to the disease. Mrs. Lunny was very touched by our efforts and expressed her gratitude to our students at our last Character Education Assembly.

Parent Teacher Conferences, in October, gave parents an opportunity to speak with teachers about the progress their children are making in the classroom. Please remember that teachers are more than willing to meet with parents outside of the scheduled conference dates should you have any questions or concerns. Your next opportunity to formally conference with teachers is scheduled for March 22, 23, 24 (evening) and 25. Be sure you have signed up for an appointment.

There has been a good deal of discussion and coverage in the media lately regarding bullying in schools. Our district has been extremely proactive and forward thinking in this area. Administrators have received comprehensive training in the Dan Olweis anti-bullying model. Olweis is a prominent and well-respected expert in Character Education and bullying prevention. We have trained staff members and School Aides in this model and will be expanding that training to include all support staff members including custodians, bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Everyone will receive the same message and have access to similar resources.



There are very few incidents of bullying at LCS, but we never want to assume that it is non-existent. We have zero tolerance for any bullying whether physical, verbal or cyber. When an issue of bullying is brought to our attention, it is acted upon immediately. We speak with both the child being bullied as well as the child who is doing the bullying as both students need our support. This is never done together. The administrators determine if the bullying is repetitive with an unequal balance of power. We work with the children to help them solve bullying issues on their own by providing them with appropriate strategies; walk away, tell the bully to stop, tell an adult. However, if adult intervention is required, we are always here to support the children. Consequences may be indicated depending upon the severity of the problem. Parents of both children are contacted before the end of the school day so they can support our efforts at home.



We feel that our comprehensive Character Education program has been particularly effective when dealing with bullying issues. Having common language (Bucket Fillers, Bucket Dippers) and experiences (for example assemblies, literature, Principal's Journal etc.) really help us when dealing with the children and bullying. A bully is definitely a "Bucket Dipper" and an involved bystander (we call them upstanders) is definitely a "Bucket Filler." Our

theme for the year, "Bucket Fillers," has really had a very positive impact on our students and staff. It gives us, both students and staff members, a wonderful visual along with that common language/experience, which provides us with talking points when speaking with the children.

If you ever have any concerns regarding bullying and how we handle such issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our goal is to eradicate and eliminate all forms of bullying.

Got spirit? We sure do ~ and it shows!

Liberty Corner School students have been spotted sporting the new fall line of LCS fashions everywhere! Our eye-catching lime green and navy color palette has been seen on kids in the hallways, around town and on the playground.

Students couldn't get enough of our spirit-filled gear on Pizza Night, when sales went through the roof! Special orders have also been a great success in preparation for School Spirit Day on Thursday, November 11th.

Entertainment Book Sale Fundraiser Update

We are please to report that the first fundraiser of the school year, the Entertainment Book Sale, has made \$4,500! We would like to thank the teachers for helping us distribute the books, all the families who purchased the books to support LCS-PTO, and Mrs. Debbie Tracy and Ms. Gerry Burns for helping with the organization of the fundraiser.

Gift Wrap Fundraiser is a SUCCESS!

The Gift Wrap Fundraiser was a **GREAT** success!! LCS PTO will receive approximately \$7,000 in profit from the sales. Thank you to all the families that placed orders!! If you submitted your order by order form, distribution will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 11/17 and 11/18 from 3:30 to 6:00 pm in the hallway outside the gymnasium. (Please do not pick up your order while students are being dismissed.) Since the Boston Coffee Cakes were such a popular item, we will have a limited supply of them for sale during distribution. So whether you placed your order online or by order form, come in and pick up a cake for the holidays – while supplies last!! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Debra Witt at pdrl@optonline.net or Cathy Riegler at criegler@optonline.net

Thank You!

Car Wash — **Mary Carpenter Kupsch, Michele Rishty** and **Mr. Rauschenberger** for all their hard work organizing the Fifth Grade Car Wash. The LCS parking lot was alive with buckets, sponges and lots of volunteers which made this such a successful event. Thank you to all the families that participated in the car wash.

Red Ribbon Week — Committee chairs **Jennifer Brown** and **Christine Pietrantuono** for another great job organizing Red Ribbon Week activities this year. The decorations and health fair certainly taught our children a lot about healthy eating habits.

October Food Drive — **Kim McCavera** and **Kate Townsend** for partnering with the teachers to make the “World Cereal Food Drive” a success. The spirit of competition was certainly alive and well at LCS for this event which collected food for needy children in our area.



Halloween Parade & Party — **Maria Mahon** and **Davenie Pereira** for chairing this “spooktacular” event. If you were at LCS on October 29th, you witnessed firsthand the transformation of the gym into a haunted house and activity center. There was no shortage of super heroes, monsters and goblins to add to the festivities. We don’t know who had more fun the children or their parents. A special thank you to LCS Firehouse members **Ken White, Jerry Modugno, John Borchert, Christopher Hurst, Laurie Gazzale** and **Ron DePasquale** for allowing LCS parents to park in their lot.



Gift Wrap — Co-Chairs, **Cathy Reigler** and **Debra Witt**, for co-chairing the ever popular Gift Wrap Fundraiser which was a huge success utilizing a new vendor Genevieve's. Cathy and Debra went above and beyond by providing us with a delicious coffee cake arrangement and gift wrap display at Back to School night in the cafeteria for all to sample. Thanks for your outstanding efforts to support the PTO!

Entertainment Book — Co-Chairs **Sue Kelson** and **Sandra Their** for co-chairing, with great success, LCS's first year offering a coupon book as a fundraiser! Sue and Sandy organized and distributed all the books during their last days of summer so our first fundraiser could kick off the school year. Great Job!

Fifth Grade Car Wash ~ A Huge Success! ~ Mr. Rauschenberger

This year's Fifth Grade Car Wash was a tremendous success! On Friday, October 8th from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm in the LCS parking lot, Fifth graders washed and dried cars to raise money for The Wellness Community (TWC) located in Bedminster, NJ. TWC provides free support and counseling services to families battling cancer or those who have lost a loved one to cancer.

In just over two hours, we raised \$1,539.57 for The Wellness Community!

This car wash would not have been a success without the help of many volunteers. A big thank you goes out to the following people:



Mary Carpenter-Kupsch and Michele Rishty (Co-Chairs)
Dr. Pecoraro and Mr. Oliver
All the Fifth grade parent volunteers
All the LCS teacher volunteers
LCS Fire Department for bringing their truck!
All the LCS Fifth graders!!!



Finally, a big thank you to all LCS families and neighbors for donating supplies and for bringing their dirty cars to our car wash! Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile cause!



Pictures of children have been removed from this Web copy of the newsletter. These pictures are only available to the immediate LCS community (Parents/Faculty/Staff).

If you belong to the LCS community, please see the copy emailed to you for some great pictures of your children!

Halloween Parade and Party -- co-chairs Maria Mahon and Davenie Pereira

On October 29 the LCS students and their families enjoyed our school's first Halloween Parade and Party. Students paraded in their costumes along the school driveway before heading into the gym with their families to play Halloween-themed games and walk through the mini-haunted house set up on the gym stage. Parent volunteers supplied delicious homemade desserts and drinks which filled table after table in the music room. Thank you to Tina Del Giorno for obtaining the wonderful bakery donations from Panera Bread.

We'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our committee members for their work with set up, clean up, managing the refreshment room, and the chaperoning of students before and after the parade: Susan Rascio, Renuka Hegde-Sathe, Christine Pietrantuono, Surekha Latha, Pam Haviland, Isabel Perez, Sherilyn Pastor, Mary Kate Melilli, Lori Velasco, Marie Barnett, Bernie Taylor, Carolyn Martynowski, Donnamarie El Hassan, and Lisa Janjua. Thank you also to all of the middle-school volunteers who ran the games during the party. Your support and help made the festivities a success.

We'd also like to give a special thanks to Brad and Irma Hill for the many Halloween decorations they donated and to Lisa LaTourette for coordinating the decorating for the party.

Thank you also to the Liberty Corner Firehouse for allowing us to park in their lot and to Ann, the crossing guard, for helping out with traffic during the event.

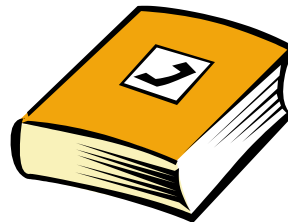
Directory Corrections

Please make the following changes to your 2010-2011 Liberty Corner School Directory:

GALLO, NATALEE (4 – Quinn-Foy)
GALLO, KATELYN (2 - Ray)
766-1995

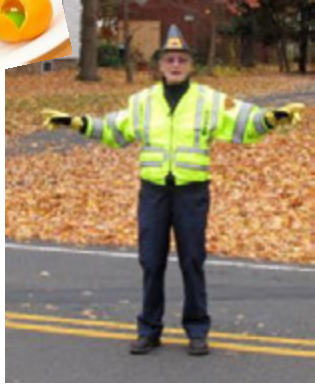
LIU, HELEN (2 - Lillia)
973-223-6014
Jingyuan/Yi Yu
40 Van Holten Road
ariel_yu@hotmail.com

TYAGI, MALLIKA (1 – Testa)
201-916-2731
Ajay/Jayashree
59 Canterbury Way
jayashree.tyagi@gs.com



If you have corrections, please fill out a directory correction form at www.libertycornerpto.org

Halloween Class Parties



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Halloween Parade...

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... and Party



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Your PTO at Work

Look what PTO volunteers and donations have accomplished in the last month:

LCS Volunteer Orientation — Classroom parents attended training to be able to volunteer in the classroom during center times.

Gift Wrap Sale — One of our popular annual fundraisers, featuring gift wrap, treats and coffee cakes for the holidays.

Fifth Grade Celebration Bake Sale — Held during the book sale during Parent Teacher Conference times, this raises the money that will fund the annual Fifth Grade Celebration held at yearend.

Battle of the Books kickoff meetings — For fourth and fifth graders, this kickoff meeting set the teams and framework for the ever-popular Battle of the Books held in April. This program encourages children to read and work together and culminates in a team competition quiz-style 'show'.

Family Game Night kickoff meeting — With this meeting we began planning our January fun filled family game night.

Red Ribbon Week — This healthy habits program was held in October. It encourages children to make healthy choices. Healthy snacks were provided by parent volunteers to each class.

Halloween Party — Our first annual parade and party was a huge success, featuring fun games, treats and a haunted house.

Air Conditioning Project — Our PTO granted \$40,000 to the Board of Education to move forward on adding air conditioning to classrooms on the second floor.

New Playground equipment — New equipment was purchased for the children to use on the playground, including basketballs, kick balls, jump ropes and cones.

LCS Staff refrigerator — A refrigerator was purchased for the break room for the staff.

Food Service Project — The PTO coordinated the committee that worked with Mr. Rauschenberger for the Food Service project.

Update on the usage of Photographs

We will soon have photos once again in the PTO Newsletter and through photo shares from Betsy Aigner, volunteer school photographer extraordinaire! Beginning now, we will publicize the current approach to the usage of photos and your ability to opt out of photos on behalf of your child. Photos of the children will be placed in the PTO Newsletter that is emailed directly to parents. The photos will not be available in the newsletters that are posted on the LCS PTO website. Photos of the children at various school events will also be shared with parents via email. If you do not wish to have your child photographed, you will need to opt out. To do this, please email the LCS PTO Communications Officer, Heather Whyte-Kattas, at heather.whyte-kattas@lexisnexis.com. Please include your children's names and grades.

Thank you to everyone for your patience during this process, and a special thanks to Betsy Aigner for photographing student events up to this point and preserving those memories for us!

Red Ribbon Week



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Book Fair



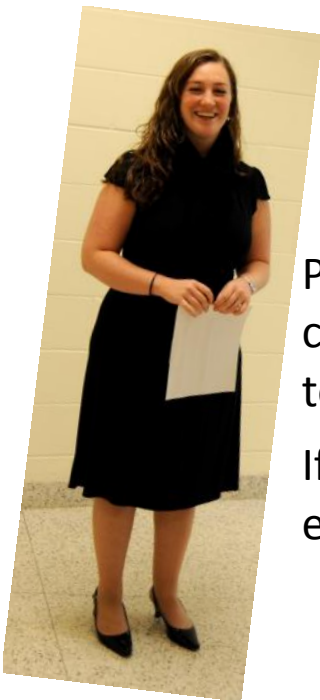
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Grade 5 Bake Sale

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Grade 5 Chorus

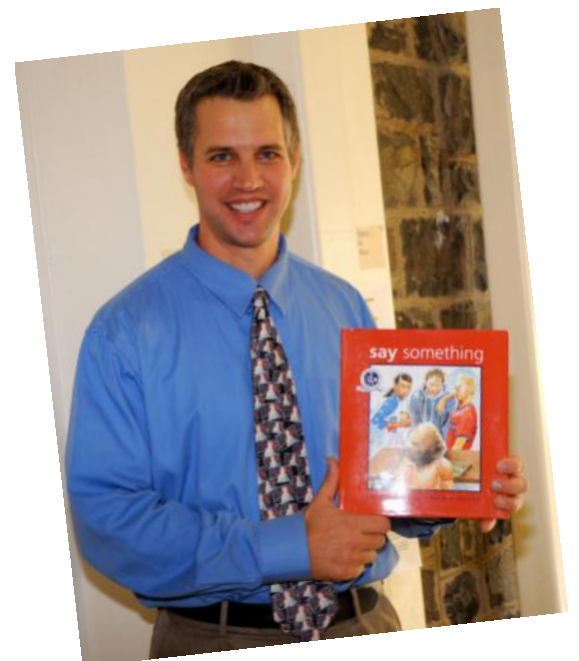
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Character Education Assembly

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Specials Report

Don't forget to check out the teachers' websites for more information. Just go to www.bernardsboe.com and select **Liberty Corner School ORD** in the left hand column. Then scroll down to the teacher's name and click on their Oncourse icon.

PE -- November continues with the theme of coordination activities throughout the curriculum. Grades K - 3 are working on coordination activities with an emphasis on movement education and spatial awareness. Highlights from the end of October were, "I Want Candy", "Brain Zombies", "Great Pumpkin Crossfire", and "Build a Monster". Grades 3 & 4 also explored Track and Field and enjoyed the Halloween games too, which had an emphasis on anatomy and physiology. Ask your child where the femur belongs and how they enjoyed building a skeleton in their laboratory. The fifth graders are in the middle of a Sport Education Unit on Track and Field. The first meet will be finished soon. High jump, Javelin, Shot put, Long jump, Shuttle hurdles are just a few of the events the 5th graders have competed in. The unit will wrap up just prior to Thanksgiving. Social skills are highlighted in order to teach the students how to compete in a healthy way. Ask your fifth grader to tell you how many sportsmanship points their team has earned in their most recent track meet.



At the completion of every lesson we close the class by asking, "What did we work on today?" The answers come from all domains: cognitive, affective, physical, and social. For example, a younger student may say, "we worked on teamwork", "we worked on making our heart muscle healthy" or "we ran a lot and had fun". An older student will answer the same question with a greater understanding of the goals of the lesson. For example, "we cooperated and communicated effectively using teamwork", "we worked on cardio-respiratory endurance for our heart while we were running" "we worked on muscular endurance for our leg muscles". The answers to the question are reinforced throughout the lesson. The students see, hear, and perform the answers while socializing with their peers and enjoying the experience. Leading questions asked to the older students will guide them to a greater understanding of how to exercise, and keep their bodies healthy. It is important for our students to understand not only that exercise is healthy, but also how to make exercise fun and achieve specific goals an individual may have. In the weeks ahead the fourth and fifth grade students will be reviewing these concepts through various physical activities. The fifth grade students will also be asked to visit my On Course site to explore these concepts. Different people learn in different ways, so don't be discouraged if your child has difficulty with the study material on the web. Chances are their learning styles are being addressed in class by listening (auditory) or physically participating (tactile/psycho-motor). In December, we will assess their progress with these concepts in class. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

For those with children in grade 2-5, hopefully you've seen your child's fitness report that went home conference week, and discussed it with your child. Visit my On Course site to download the full report if you have not already.



Happy Thanksgiving!



The PE GUYS

Music — Students will be learning about marching bands in the month of November. They will learn about the history of military and marching bands, about the instrumentation used and about parts of the marching band - Pit, Drum line, Color guard, Drum major, etc. In addition, students will learn basic marching commands while using a roll step. Lastly, they will be able to hear and watch some of the world's best marching bands via the Internet. They should be all set to watch the Thanksgiving games and parades!





Join us for our second annual

Pancakes for Supper!



Thursday,
December 9
6:00-8:00 pm
LCS cafeteria

\$5.00 per person

Come in your pajamas
if you'd like!

Seating is limited. Please send in your order form by November 22.

Questions? Contact Co-Chairs Rob Simon at rmsbis@yahoo.com or Cathy Cheo-Isaacs at catc937092@gmail.com.

Family Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Email address (please write clearly): _____

Number of people attending: _____ x \$5 = _____.

Please enclose form with a check made out to LCS PTO, in an envelope labeled PTO Pancake Supper and return to the school.

We are looking for volunteers to make this event a success. Can you give a half hour or more of your time to help us set up, cook, serve or clean up afterward, from approximately 4:00-8:30 pm?

_____ Yes, I want to help out. Best time for me would be: _____



*2nd Annual
Fundraising Event*

*Precious Pearl Gala
"A Night in Monte Carlo"*



*Saturday November 13, 2010, 7:00 pm
Trump National Golf Club
900 Lamington Farm Road
Bedminster, NJ*

*Supporting Children with
Special Needs and Autism.
For further information contact
bernardspec@gmail.com or visit
our website at www.bernardspec.com*



PEC Fundraiser ~ A Night in Monte Carlo

The greatest gift a person can give another person is to believe in them.

Give the gift of belief and support to the efforts of the PEC (Parents for Exceptional Children). Our efforts are dedicated to the students in Bernards Township who receive special education services - nearly 12 percent of the student body. Our Second Annual Fundraising Event, A Precious Pearl Gala, will be held November 13th at Trump National Golf Club. The invitation with details is on the prior page with the response card shown below.

Please be a part of this wonderful event while supporting an important cause. More information can be found on www.bernardspec.com or contact us at bernardspec@gmail.com.



Trump National Golf Club

PRECIOUS PEARL GALA PRESENTS...

"A Night in Monte Carlo"

R.S.V.P By November 5, 2010



November 13, 2010

Sponsorship Opportunity

- **Royal Flush Event Sponsorship \$10,000**
Your name will be prominently featured on all press, promotional, and event signage and literature. Sponsorship also includes a full-page ad in the program journal, and twenty tickets.
- **Full House Game Table Sponsorship \$2,500**
*Your name will be displayed at one game table and on a dealer's nametag. *Sponsorship also includes a quarter-page ad in the program journal, and four tickets.*
- **Four of a Kind Cashier Sponsorship \$1,000**
*Your name will be displayed at a cashier table and on a nametag worn by a cashier. *Sponsorship also includes a half-page ad in the program journal, and two tickets.*
- **Two of a Kind Sponsorship \$500**
Recognition in the program journal and two tickets.

** Two additional tickets in lieu of ad in the program journal*

Guest Name (s): _____

Guest Address: _____

Attending: _____ X \$175 = _____ Sponsorship: _____

I am unable to attend, please accept my gift of: _____

Total Amount enclosed: _____ (All checks payable to Bernards PEC)

Mail to : Bernards PEC P.O. Box 160, 5 Lyons Mall, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920