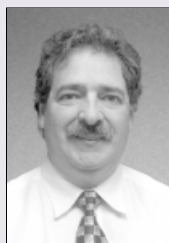


News from...

# The SAM



A Newsletter from The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage



Michael Azeez  
Chairman

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our first year of operation has been very successful. We have exceeded our expectations with over 1200 visitors. Our permanent exhibits are installed with the completion of our Collective Memory Wall in November.

We have been recognized by the local media and are the recipient of two awards from the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce: the Annual Award for Historical Preservation and the Annual Award for Beautification.

I am delighted to tell you that we are developing a school curriculum plan that focuses on various aspects of the heritage of Woodbine, NJ, in conjunction with some of the core educational requirements in New Jersey. They include: United States history, New Jersey history, community development, economic development, and the Holocaust. We are working closely with the Woodbine Elementary School to give the local students an appreciation of the town in which they live and pride in their community.

This coming year we are beginning to promote the Museum by participating in speaking opportunities to various groups. We are also communicating with clubs and organizations to make them aware of the Museum and opportunities for day trips to be combined with other attractions in the area.

All of the above doesn't happen in a vacuum. It required the hard work of many people. I'd like to thank our volunteers for spending their free time greeting and introducing our visitors to the Museum. It also requires funding to keep our operation sound. We are very grateful for the wide-spread support we have received and look forward to your continued generosity. Please make sure to visit the Museum with your family and friends. I am looking forward to our next year.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement. Your words of appreciation have meant much to me.

— Michael Azeez

## Special Events



Ribbon cutting ceremony

## The Museum of Woodbine Heritage dedicated to Sam Azeez

On June 6, 2003, The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage was officially dedicated to the memory of Sidney "Sam" Azeez by his son, Michael. The Museum is located on the ground floor of the newly renovated Brotherhood Synagogue, built in 1896, in Woodbine, NJ. The goal of the Museum is to document and preserve the rich history of the more than 600 Jewish immigrant families from Eastern Europe who settled in Woodbine in the late 1800's and early 1900's and its development as an American Community. Michael Azeez felt the creation of the Museum and the renovation of the synagogue was a fitting memory to his father who grew up in Woodbine and worshipped at the synagogue. Experts from the Philadelphia Jewish Archives worked closely with Michael to properly preserve all of the original donated items featured in the Museum.

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## The SAM unveils Woodbine community memory wall

The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage unveiled a new relief sculpture in December. This sculpture, entitled "A Collective Memory Wall," was designed to collect and preserve the memories of the Woodbine community. Visitors can submit written accounts of their Woodbine memories to be preserved in glass tubes. Commissioned by Museum founder and Chairman Michael Azeez, artist Steven Tucker was awarded the project, and was assisted by Dommert/Phillips, the Philadelphia-based exhibit design and architecture firm that designed the Museum.

The Collective Memory Wall consists of nearly 1000 small glass tubes suspended from wooden arms with interspersed historic photographs of Woodbiners. The bluestone base of the sculpture includes a quote by Elie Wiesel, "I believe in the hope for a future, just as I believe in the irresistible power of memory." This summarizes the sculpture's intent to look to the future and remember the past. "It invites everyone to participate in our profound history and preserve it for generations to come," said Michael Azeez.



*A Woodbine Elementary School student adds his memories to the Wall.*



*Michael Azeez at the dedication of the Memory Wall*

*Rabbi Krauss and Michael Azeez*



*Grand opening guests*



## Museum dedication

*Continued from page 1*

The dedication was attended by more than 500 guests both local and from all over the U.S. The special guest speaker was Vineland, NJ, resident Miles Lerman, Chairman Emeritus of the United States Holocaust Museum Council and Museum in Washington, DC. Among the dignitaries attending were U.S. Congressman Frank LoBiondo; former New Jersey Congressman and former United States Ambassador to Panama, William Hughes; NJ Senator Nicholas Asselta; NJ Congressman Jeff Van Drew; and Woodbine Mayor William Pickolycky.

## New curriculum teaches Woodbine heritage

Oranit Dror, the Program Director of the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, is in the process of completing the Woodbine Teaching Curriculum. This curriculum is designed for 4th to 8th and 9th to 12th grade students, compatible to the grade level, and explores the rich history of Woodbine and its original settlers. Oranit works closely with educators who provide a wealth of information and insight, to instill in students a well-rounded understanding of this region. A PowerPoint presentation is available illustrating the abundance of historical documents, photographs and artifacts found in the Museum. "We hope to reach every student in the tri-state area of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania and expose them to the extraordinary history of Baron de Hirsch and Woodbine," said Oranit. We hope that this newsletter will provide you with an insight into the efforts being made to bring awareness to Woodbine and its unique history.

If you know of any schools that would benefit from this project, or if you have any questions, please call Oranit at 609-646-9400.



**Oranit Dror**  
Program Director

## Focus on volunteers

As the Woodbine Museum's Administrator, Maggie Casey's duties include seeing to the day-to-day operations of the Museum and the building.



**Maggie Casey**  
Administrator

"It is a truly unique experience; it is like being rocketed back in time. The visitors bring life to the Museum. It's a pleasure to have people come in and recognize their relatives on some of the exhibit panels and to hear them reminisce about the 'good old days' of Woodbine," says Maggie.

Her special thanks go to volunteers Lilly and Bud Levine, Marjorie Rosenfeld, Debbie and David Zweigenbaum, Oranit Dror, Larry Levy, and David Unighlict.

*"It's a privilege to serve as a volunteer; to meet the variety of people interested in the Museum."*

— Lilly and Bud Levine

*"It's an honor to help keep the memory of the synagogue alive and open."*

— Debbie and David Zweigenbaum

If you are interested in volunteering, drop by the Museum during visiting hours or call Maggie at 609-861-5355.

## Upcoming Events

### The Second Annual Woodbine Festival

#### Friday night, June 4, 2004

A reunion will be held at the Woodbine Elementary School and include dancing and a buffet.

#### Saturday, June 5

Woodbine will host an outdoor crafts show, complete with guest celebrity.

#### Sunday, June 6

The Museum will hold an event.  
*Details to be announced at a later date.*

*Please contact Rosemary Schalek at 609-861-2679 for more information about the Annual Woodbine Festival.*

### Arrange a bus trip to The SAM!

For your convenience we have arranged with other local attractions to round out a visit to The SAM.

Wheaton Village, Historic Cold Spring Village, Millville Arts District, The Wetland Institute, and the Cape May Zoo are just a few of the local places of interest you can visit.

Call The SAM for help with your arrangements.



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The Sam Azeez  
**MUSEUM OF WOODBINE HERITAGE**

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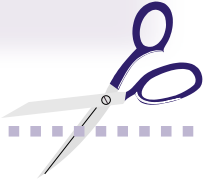


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*Please support our efforts with a contribution.*



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The Sam Azeez  
**Museum of Woodbine Heritage**

*We are very grateful for the support we  
have received to date. Your support and  
contribution are greatly appreciated.*

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