

Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

December 2005

Cheshvan/Kislev 5766

Vol. 4, Issue No. 11

Candle Lighting Times

- December 2 ~ 4:00 pm
- December 9 ~ 3:59 pm
- December 16 ~ 4:01 pm
- December 23 ~ 4:04 pm
- December 30 ~ 4:09 pm

*Times shown are
18 minutes before sunset
for Amherst, MA*



Special Events

December 4
Annual Meeting
Camp JRF Program

December 27
Chanukah Party

Meetings

December 1
Board Meeting

December 6
Rabbi Liaison Committee

December 7
Religion Committee

December 13
Tikkun Olam Committee

December 14
Education Committee
Membership Committee

Message from Co-President

Sara Berger, 253-2217, sara.berger@the-spa.com

Wow! This my last Presidential column. My year as your co-president is almost over. It has been both an interesting and a frustrating year as we dealt with a variety of problems.

The Board has been studying our revenues and expenses with hopes of bringing a balanced budget this year. It is understood that the amount of money we have to work with will likely mean fewer services for members. We were asked to give the Finance Committee guidelines on what could be cut, and we spent a fair amount of time on that. When you get the final budget at the Annual Meeting, you will see what the Finance Committee and the Board accomplished. Right now, I have little idea how it will work.

We also have discussed the Parlor Meeting process and the Rabbinic Evaluation process. The Fund Raising Committee is being reborn and will do some interesting stuff, I'm sure. All of these discussions take time, as we really care and have to talk things out.

By now, you will all have heard about the generous gift we received from the anonymous donor. I sent a handwritten thank you note, but since I do not know who this is, Michael Chernoff, our Treasurer, was asked to address the blank envelope.

In response to some of the concerns heard at

the Special Meeting in October, we are looking into the possibility of a list-serve, there was a wonderful Family Service and Potluck on the first Friday night of November (as there will be every month), the Childcare committee has increased in size, and the Rabbinic Evaluation has begun. You will get some feedback from the evaluation, I just don't know what or how, and I won't be on the Board to supervise it. Please know that the Board was listening to you, and the presidential column is one way to let you know what is happening.

We are now entering the bleak and cold winter season. It is a time when nature puts many plants and animals to sleep to get the strength to start anew in the spring. The JCA also needs strength for the spring, but we will not be sleeping. There will always be interesting things to do here. Take advantage of the season to learn something new, meet someone new. As the Board changes on New Year's Day, so do many committees. This is your chance to join a committee with other new members. Get involved, make new friends.

I wish all of you a good holiday season. It's time to figure out what to give children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for Chanukah.

*b'shalom,
Sara*

Happy Chanukah

תְּנִיחָה שֶׁמֶחַ



*Light first candle
Sunday evening
December 25th*

Book Fair

*Hosted by the National Yiddish Book Center
To benefit the JCA Religious School*

Sunday, December 4 – Sunday, December 11, 2005

Shop in-store or on-line and the JCA will receive 15% of your purchase. Includes: books, compact discs, videos, and Judaica.

Please bring this card with you to identify yourself as a JCA member or supporter. To shop on-line, type in JCA on the check out screen.

Book Store hours: Monday– Friday, 10 am – 3:30 pm, Sunday 11-4.

Located off Rte. 116 S, on the Hampshire Campus, or

Call 1-800-783-9272 for directions.

Or shop 24/7 at www.greatjewishbooks.com.

Jewish Community of Amherst, Inc.

742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 256-0160, fax (413) 256-1588
Religious School (413) 256-0160 ext. 203
email: info@j-c-a.org; On line at: www.j-c-a.org

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer

Rabbi Emerita Sheila Weinberg

Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander (586-1137)

Education Director: Jody Rosenbloom (256-0160 ext. 203)

Co-Presidents: Sara Berger (253-2217), **Jim Wald** (549-0629)

Co-First Vice Presidents: Paul Herscu (253-5011), **Kitty Axelson-Berry** (367-9581)

Second Vice President: (To be determined)

Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler (253-2929)

Treasurer: Michael Chernoff (256-0500)

Membership: Anna Pearce (253-7525), **Alan Peterfreund** (253-5485)

Chesed Committee: Please call the office (256-0160)

Office Administrator: Marcia Howard (256-0160)

Administrative Assistant: Bonnie Webster (256-0160)

Events Co-ordinator: Linda Cooper (256-0160 ext. 207)

A complete listing of committees and chairs can be found on the JCA website at:
<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel

(Voice: 253-3544, Voice & Fax: 253-3846; news@j-c-a.org)

Proofreader: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the January issue is December 13th

December 2005, Vol. 4, Issue No. 11

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in membership, \$25 per year for non-members.

The Book Fair is back!

Look for this postcard in the mail soon. Use it to buy great books and other items and raise money for the JCA Religious School. If you have any questions contact Stacy Tobin at dtobin@rcn.com.

Rabbi Liaison Committee

The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to:

- Further increase the effectiveness of the rabbi-congregational relationship.
- Act as a reliable channel for ensuring that the rabbi hears about the needs and experiences of the JCA membership.
- Provide a conduit so that people who are hesitant about contacting the rabbi directly will have a channel to do so.
- Help the rabbi prioritize anticipated tasks and the unexpected situations that occur daily.
- Expand the range of communication and provide the rabbi with a consistent representative partner with whom to discuss the many decisions and interactions that compose the rabbi congregation relationship.

We encourage you to contact any member of the committee whenever you feel there is an issue that you would like them to consider with Rabbi Bauer.

Aaron Bousel 253-3544

Judy Glaser 253-9607

Haim Gunner 549-0447

Ruth Kane-Levit 548-1083

Eli Kwartler 253-2929

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Devarim:

Words from Rabbi David Dunn Bauer

{Rabbi Bauer's column this month is his "Al Cheyt for a citizen of a country at war" which he read at Kol Nidre.}

For the sin of.....

- Not knowing the numbers of our own dead.
- Not knowing the number of Iraqi dead.
- Being relieved on a day when only four marines were killed.
- Remembering the dead and not the wounded and maimed.
- Failing to imagine the horror of witnessing comrades in pain and death.
- Closing my mind to the soldiers' plague of post-traumatic stress.
- Being silent about an entire Iraqi country plagued by post-traumatic stress.

For all of these, God of pardons, forgive, pardon, atone.

For the sin of...

- Not seeking out the loved ones of soldiers here in my community to offer them comfort and support.
- Building neither compassion nor respect for those who have enlisted in our armed forces.
- Being silent when our National Guard was sent overseas to war.
- Not feeling responsible for our women and men in uniform, because I don't know any of them.
- Feeling superior to those who have volunteered.
- Being pleased at the failure of policies I do not support.
- Saying "Maybe this will finally make them stop."

- Saying "I told you so."
- Saying "He's not my president."
- Saying "It's not my war."
- Not teaching a true and passionate sense of patriotism.

For all of these, God of pardons, forgive, pardon, atone.

For the sin of...

- Giving in to a blanket suspicion of those of Arab nationality or descent, or who just "look" Arab.
- Still saying and thinking "Arab."
- Being shockingly ignorant of what is happening in Afghanistan.

For all of these, God of pardons, forgive, pardon, atone.

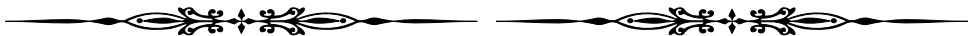
For the sin of..

- Hoarding and squandering the benefits of living in a 1st world country.
- Being too busy at work to work for peace.
- Being too comfortable at home to work for peace.
- Not writing to Washington or the press more often.
- Not taking to the streets.
- Not foreseeing how the poorest in our land would again suffer the worst, whether they went to battle or not.

For the sin of ...

- Shying away from language of God and sin, for fear of looking foolish.

For all of these, God of pardons, forgive, pardon, atone.





Religion Committee

Judy Young, Co-chair, 549-5139, young@astro.umass.edu

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, cyclone411@charter.net

Shabbat Toledot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

December 2, Friday, Rosh Chodesh Kislev

5:30 PM - Kedusha laTorah

Family service and pot luck supper in the Social Hall

December 3, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen, Suzanne Arnopolin, and Judy Young will join Rabbi Bauer for a musical Shabbat.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Vayetze, Genesis 28:10-32:3

December 9, Friday

8:00 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Program: The ethics and legalities of needle exchange programs

December 10, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

December 16, Friday

6:15 PM

Regular Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Service Leader: Joseph Boucher

December 17, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

Torah discussion following kiddush



Shabbat Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

December 23, Friday

8:00 PM

Service Leader: Marvin Ellin

December 24, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen

D'var Torah: To be announced



December 25, Sunday

Chanukah begins at sundown.



**Shabbat Chanukah, Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Parashat Miketz**

December 30, Friday

8:00 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

December 31, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced

You are needed!

Every Tuesday morning several people meet in the small sanctuary for a morning service. This is a wonderful way to begin your day. The service begins at 7:30 and is over by 8:30. Latecomers are always welcome. Your attendance could make the difference between someone being able to say Kaddish for a loved one or not. Please consider coming when you can.

Meditation Minyan

The weekday meditation minyan continues to meet every Wednesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

Check the JCA website at:

www.j-c-a.org/services.html
for updated religion calendar information.

Religion Committee, continued

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

November 12

Barbara & Ted Slovin, in honor of Ted's 65th birthday

Contact Info:

Torah Reading:

Eliezer Huber-
259-9994
lhuber@gpsk12.org

D'var Torah:

Gene Stewart-
413-687-9049
gas86_4u@msn.com

Special Weekday Service:

Saul Gladstone-
253-0631
Aaron Bousel-
253-3544
abousel@comcast.net
JCA Office-
256-0160
info@j-c-a.org

Rosh Chodesh in Amherst

A significant number of women at the JCA want a come-back of Rosh Chodesh (new moon) women's gatherings: ritual, song, personal talk, intellectual talk, creative arts.

Please e-mail Judy Glaser, judyglaser@comcast.net, if you could possibly take co-responsibility for making this happen. Among other things, this is a great opportunity for older and younger women to connect with and learn from each other.

New Chumashim Coming

After considerable deliberation and community input, the Religion Committee has decided to increase the number of Chumashim (Torah with commentary) we have in the sanctuary. We are purchasing 25 copies of the Plaut chumash, and a similar number of the Etz Hayim. As soon as the texts arrive, they will be placed in the sanctuary for your use during Shabbat services. We thank all who participated in the community discussion regarding the comparison of the different texts.

Musical Shabbat

Prayer leading trio Catherine Madsen, Suzanne Arnopolin, and Judy Young will join Rabbi Bauer for a musical Shabbat on Saturday Dec. 3.

Come to services prepared to sing, harmonize, and be lifted by the music.



For those with young children....

Friday, December 2nd at 5:30 pm

Following the success of our summer picnics the first Friday of each month will now consist of a short service, beginning at 5:30 pm followed by a pot luck supper. As with all pot lucks at the JCA we ask the you bring only vegetarian, dairy or fish dishes. No meat, please.

These were wonderful events during the summer and we hope to keep that feeling alive throughout the year.

.....and for those without young children

At the recent community meeting many members expressed their joy in seeing young children at the JCA. This is a great opportunity to see and meet our young children and their families. Although the event is geared for those with young children, it can also be a real opportunity to make some intergenerational connections and build community.

ALL JCA members and guests are encouraged to attend.

**SHARE YOUR CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATION
MEMORIAL**

WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH

Linda Cooper, Events Coordinator will make all the arrangements. Call her at 256-0160 ext. 207

Education News

Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Education, 256-0160, ext. 203



Growth, Choices, Changes and Continuity

As we prepare the budget and anticipate the annual meeting in early December, I think of the balancing forces playing out in our school. We shrunk in enrollment, so made the choice to change to one session on Sunday (for grades 1-6) and one weekday session on Wednesday (for grades 3-7). The continuity on Sunday mornings is enhanced with a weekly Learner's Minyan at the end of each session. The weekly gathering of grades 1-6 has improved communication and is developing a warm closer-knit community. There is room on Sunday morning for a once/month parent group that has given voice to issues of shared concern to parents. Our parents with young children group is growing and as children mature, some members are joining the synagogue and sending their children to our school. Our Shabbat Shalom class is up to 11 students, the largest in 4 years. Our family education programs continue to offer ways for parents and their

children to learn together. Some of these programs are funded by grants. This year, as both a savings and efficiency measure, Education Director Jody Rosenbloom assumed the additional role of Family Educator. We helped host the "Sweet Beginnings" festival at the National Yiddish Book Center as well as introduced Tarbut Yachad ("culture together" offerings at Learner's Minyanim) and Tikun Olam ("repairing the world" service projects). We also have a growing and vibrant teen program with significant grant funding. We have on-going discussions about the costs of each program. How we staff, fund, and program for all our needs is a juggling of priorities and realities as each year unfolds thanks to the hard work of the Education Committee, Family Education Committee and Education Director in conversation/negotiation with the Finance Committee and Board. Parents are encouraged to have their voices heard through these committees and at the annual meetings.

New Students Honored at Family Services: Friday Evening, December 2

What better time to honor the beginning of formal Jewish education than during family services!?! Kedishah LaTorah honors new students, First Graders **Shira Yeskel-Mednick, Harrison Wolff Landau, Esme Rubinstein, Emmet Flint,**

Nathan Baron Silbern and Second Graders **Schuyler Lemal-Brown, Julia Wise, Anna Ryack, Victoria Ryack.** These students will help lead songs and be the recipients of Torah scrolls and certificates to consecrate this journey. Congregants of all ages are invited to join us for family services at 5:30 with potluck dinner following.

Tallit & Tefillin Workshop for 6th Graders and Their Parents

As part of b'nai mitzvah preparation, students learn about a variety of Jewish mitzvot and traditions for prayer observance. On Sunday, December 11 from 10-11:30am, Rabbi Bauer will lead a workshop on the use of the tallit, tying tzitzit (fringes) and the practice of wearing tefillin (phylacteries). Students who have missed this workshop in the past or other interested congregants are welcome to attend. **Needed: Tefillin we can use or you want to donate to the school.**



JCAT Rocks

In November, teens went rock climbing at the Northampton Athletic Center, some weekends our teens hang out and watch a movie. Our teen offerings include Shmooz with the Jewz, community-wide events, and now, shmooz.edu (mini-courses). All teens are welcome to sign up for either an all inclusive \$118 membership or pay/event plan. Mailings and emails include announcements of non-JCA regional opportunities for Jewish teens. For more information on upcoming programs, check with Rachael Goren at rbgoren@gmail.com or 256-0160 ext. 208.

In Case of Inclement Weather

Call the JCA School extension 256-0160x203 to find out about classes or school related events. The decision to have class or cancel will be made by 8 am on the weekend and by 2 pm on Wednesdays. If the Amherst Public Schools have cancelled class or dismissed early due to weather, we will not be having class that afternoon.

Thank You

Tobi Sznajderman, for organizing the Craft Fair in November. **Susan Richardson**, for compiling the School Directory. **Susan Weinstein**, for coordinating the Dean's Beans fundraiser. **The Robinson-Hidas family**, for donating an Alef-

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Calendar

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Bet game. **Sara Berger**, for donating painting/paper pads. **Lora Simon**, for donating the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. **Ann Armon** for donating an easel/display board. **Felice Yeskel and Class Action** for enriching our school Tikkun Olam program. **Melanie Lewis, Susan Richardson**, and **Robin Diamond** for volunteering their help to staff the office during Sunday school hours.

Fri, Dec. 2	Family Service & Kedushah LaTorah (Consecration) 5:30 pm
Sun, Dec. 4	Camp JRF special guest, Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat
Sat, Dec 10	Shabbat Shalom (class for 4-6 year olds) 10:30 AM-12
Sun, Dec. 11	Tallit & Tefillin Workshop for 6th graders w/ parents 10-11:30am
Wed, Dec. 21	No Class-Winter Break begins
Sat, Jan. 7	Classes resume



Buy JCA Café for the Holidays

Dean's Beans Organic Coffee & More

A JCA Education Committee Fundraiser



Order by: Friday, 12/09/05 for pick up on Sunday, 12/18/05

For December try:

organic hot cocoa mix

organic dark chocolate covered coffee beans

chai tea (24 bags in a box; unsweetened; contains some caffeine- delicious)

Also:

dark roast coffee (regular & decaf) available in whole bean only

Questions/comments: Contact Sue Weinstein (548-9552 susanweinstein1@yahoo.com)
(detach order form and save the above as a pick up reminder)

Dean's Beans JCA Holiday Order Form - Due by 12/09/05

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

____ Send my order home with my child _____ grade _____

Qty.			Subtotal
	regular whole beans	@ \$8.00/16 oz	\$
	regular ground	@ \$8.00/16 oz	\$
	decaf whole beans	@ \$9.00/16 oz	\$
	decaf ground	@ \$9.00/16 oz	\$
	dark roast whole bean	@ \$8.00/16 oz	\$
	dark roast decaf whole bean	@ \$9.00/16 oz	\$
	chai tea	@ \$4.00/24 bags	\$
	hot cocoa mix	@ \$5.00/12 oz	\$
	chocolate covered beans	@ \$8.00/16 oz	\$
		TOTAL	\$

Committee Reports

Adult Education Committee

Deb Levheim, Chair

A Season of Learning and Noshing awaits you at the Jewish Community of Amherst!

Greetings JCA-ers—

I am Deb Levheim, the new chair of the Adult Education Committee. I would like to introduce all of you to our new concept of Adult Education and invite everyone to join in the celebration of learning.

To begin, I would like to say that I have never been involved in a congregation that has such incredible riches of knowledge, expertise and emphasis on education. Returning to the valley, after my stint in Eastern Massachusetts, I am often filled with joy when I think that the tallest building in this valley is the W.E.B Du Bois library. This statement is unparalleled in most of the world. It means that our tallest edifice is not an homage to commerce, nor to housing, but a wonderful (if slightly impractical) love-letter to books and knowledge, writ high across our landscape! So, it is an honor that my committee might help to organize our Adult Education programs, in a community where most adults are incredibly educated already.

So now the plan...

We envision Thursday as weekly Education night. This means that, with a few exceptions, all of our classes will be taught on the same night. There will be two sessions: An early session, possibly with some cross-pollinations with Adults and older children, followed by a break for eating and community engagement, and finally a later session to end our evening. We see this as a night of learning, community and eating. Three things that the Jewish people hold the most dear. An embarrassment of riches, if you will.

Here is where you, the community, come in...

First, we must go forth and name our night. I started by calling it Shavuot Katan (mini-shavuot), but was immediately denied. That's ok, I can take criticism. However, we still need a catchy title for this wonderful weekly gathering. So, if you have a creative name for our Adult Education night, please email it to me at: deb@gigahurts.com.

Second, we are looking for a few good folks to step forth with their incredible knowledge and background to teach some of our classes. The following are lists of classes that we would like to have during the spring semester, but do not, as yet, have teachers:

- * Hebrew language reading fluency
- * What is Reconstructionism? Or: Works of Heschel or Kaplan
- * Text study, in addition to the ongoing lunchtime group
- * An ongoing family friendly course, such as Jewish Year through Holidays
- * Foundational courses on Judaism (e.g. prayer, history, etc.)
- * How to lead a service
- * Offering a d'var Torah
- * Jewish Perspectives on World Affairs/Ethics from Jewish perspective
- * Alternative liturgical tunes

If you have a background in any of these areas and are willing to teach a class please contact me at: deb@gigahurts.com. We welcome both teachers who have taught at the JCA in the past as well as new teachers. This is a great opportunity to work out some of your curriculum or teaching practices in a learned, welcoming community.

Third, we are looking for groups or individuals who might want to host the noshing part of our evening. Make it a theme-nosh, a chance to introduce your committee to the community. A chance

to ensure that Atkins cider donuts meet their intended hosts! Whatever your motivation, sign up for a night and watch how interested well-fed learners will be in what you have to say! Be creative and get some feedback on that new bean dip recipe you've wanted to try.

And finally, come join us! Be you learner or teacher, nosh-er or fast-er. A Hillel scholar or a new learner. You will leave filled with learning, good food and the naches of a warm, welcoming community. We are also always looking for more members on the Adult Education Committee. If you have an interest, please, come and join us.

In community and study.

B'Shalom-

Deb Levheim, Barbara Burkart, John Clayton, Judith Loischild, and Margaret Mastrangelo—The Adult Education Committee



Art Committee

Ann Hastings, Co-chair

Judy Young, Co-chair

The Silent Art Auction was a grand success, raising over \$1000 for the JCA. Thank you to the artists and JCA members who donated art work, and thanks to all who participated in the bidding.

The current exhibit in the JCA Gallery is entitled "The Body as Landscape", by Emily Kalina, daughter of JCA member Jane Brodwyn. This exhibit will continue until mid-January.

Any JCA members who want to schedule a show in the JCA Gallery should contact Judy Young (549-5139).



Membership Committee

Alan Peterfreund, Co-chair

Anna Pearce, Co-chair

Membership directories will be available in early December at the JCA for

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those who want a copy. This directory will include the names of adult members, addresses and phone numbers. For next year we would like to produce a more detailed directory with names of children, e-mail addresses (where people want them listed) and names of businesses of members. Also, we would like to list services available to members such as babysitting, snow removal, mowing etc. If possible we would like to offer ad space. To do this we need a couple of volunteers to support this specific project. Please contact Alan Peterfreund at 256-6169 or alan@peterfreund.com.



Parlor Meeting Committee

We are excited to announce that Parlor Meetings have begun and will continue through March. In meetings thus far, fruitful conversation has occurred, and members have been glad to participate. All JCA members will receive invitations sometime between now and January, so watch your mail for a bright yellow postcard! Each meeting will be hosted by a JCA member and will have a facilitator and a recorder, one of whom will usually be a Board member. Rabbi Bauer will attend as many meetings as possible and we appreciate the leadership and wisdom he has contributed as this program has unfolded. We on the committee have also been delighted by, and want to take this opportunity to

thank, the many members of our community who have stepped forward to help make this happen -- those who are offering their homes, those who have stepped up to contribute by training or facilitating, and those who have committed themselves to recording and transmitting the thoughts and feelings community members express in the course of these meetings. We also wish to thank those community members who have gone or will go to meetings, taking the time to enhance our JCA community through talking and listening to other members about your experience at the JCA. This process cannot happen without you !

Please RSVP using e-mail parlor@j-c-a.org ; otherwise you can call 256-0160 ext 253. We know this can be hard to remember to do, but it is really helpful for the hosts to know how many of you will attend. We hope that you will take this opportunity to connect and reconnect with other members of the JCA and to lend your voice to the conversation about where we are and where we will go in the future.



Tikkun Olam Committee

Epi Bodhi, Co-chair
Felice Yeskel, Co-chair

The JCA is once again sponsoring the Christmas Eve "Cot Shelter Program" in Northampton. We need volunteers to help make the evening successful. Children are welcome! We must pre-

pare food, including turkey, soup, salad, vegetable dishes, and dessert for 16-20 people. We'll serve the meal and socialize with guests. Also, we need someone to sleep over at the shelter that night. If you can help out in any way, please call Susan Zarchin at 256-0667 or Saul Gladstone at 253-0631.

If you're looking for a way to teach your children that the holiday season is a time to give as well as receive, we have one word for you: tzedakah! This is a great time of year to help your kids donate money, clothing, food or services to those in need. The mitzvah of tzedakah will surely brighten the holidays for both the givers and receivers!

In particular you may want to consider a donation to the Hurricane Katrina Amherst Relief Fund. The funds contributed here go directly to Amherst's sister city, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

How can you help in this effort?

If you are planning any kind of event, having a meeting, doing anything that involves bringing a group of people together, we request that you consider "passing the hat" or donating a portion of your "gate" to the Hurricane Katrina Amherst Relief Fund. This fund is set up through the Town of Amherst and funds can be sent to John Musante in Amherst Town Hall. If you have a business where people come in to your establishment, we are setting up a can collection so we hope you will say yes

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 <p>Ann J. Hastings REALTOR®, GRI, CRS</p>	<p><i>Real estate questions? Call me.....</i></p> <p>413-467-2299 annhastings@comcast.net</p>	 <p>AARON BOUSEL PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL</p> <p>piano & harpsichord technicians</p> <p>tuning • repairs • regulation</p> <p>voice (413) 253-3846 fax</p> <p>187 Heatherstone Road Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638 abousel@comcast.net</p>  <p>REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN</p>
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when asked to put a can on the counter. What will happen to these funds?

We have developed a timeline for collecting and distributing funds. The first phase is to collect funds for teachers to use to purchase school supplies for their classes. We would like to deliver these funds soon after Thanksgiving. The next phase will be a focus on providing funds for holiday gifts. We're calling this "Add one more to your list" and would like to be able to deliver either gifts or funds just before the holidays begin in December. The last phase is collecting funds for a service trip to Bay St. Louis in April.

I've already given a lot. What's differ-

ent about this effort?

I know that many or even all of you have already given generously to various organizations involved in Hurricane Relief and the list of disasters has grown. Thank you for your generosity. The exciting thing about this drive is that these funds are being collected to aid one particular community and will be used for specific purposes that other relief organizations don't address. There is a display of photographs at the Jones Library and we are developing a power point presentation about Bay St. Louis, before and after. The funds we collect will help teachers in Bay St. Louis buy supplies for their classes and families buy gifts for their children and loved ones.

I want to help. Who do I contact?

If you can help with our fundraising efforts, please call Susan Wennemyr at 413-687-8755 or onceware@yahoo.com.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13, 8:30-10 a.m. in the JCA multi-purpose room. New members are always welcome.



Please Note:

Committee and board meetings are open to all JCA members. You need not be a member of a committee to attend a meeting. Please see the front page and the calendar to see when meetings are scheduled.



JCA FUNDRAISER: Khach Card's deep discounts at local restaurants, services, retailers

Buy a Khach card for \$10

One lightweight card provides awesome discounts all year long at local places like Atkins, Amherst Optical Shoppe, Barts, Black Sheep, Bueno y Sano, and Boltwood Tavern—and that's only the A's and B's!

Ask at the office. Even better would be to volunteer to sell the cards -- and pay-in-advance Stop and Shop scrip--during pick-up from school Wednesdays and Sundays. Perhaps mind the boutique for Hadar at that time, too!

THE JUDAICA STORE WILL BE OPEN SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m

CHANUKAH begins December 25th

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Candles, Menorahs, Cards, Books, Chocolate Gelt, Cookies, Aleph Bet Cookie Cutters, Cake Pans: Noah's Ark, Chanukiot, Star of David, gorgeous mugs, beautiful shawls, toys and games for kids, and more.....

Watch the weekly e-mails for other hours when we'll be open or just call Hadar 253-0597 to make an appointment.



The Deadline for the January Newsletter is
December 13th

All submissions MUST be made either by e-mail or e-mail with a file attached. If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor.

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

Thank you, Aaron Bousel, news@j-c-a.org 253-3544

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Chanukah party

Jewish Community of Amherst
Tuesday, Dec. 27th 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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Gonna Have Lots of Fun

All ages welcome

Latkes and drinks provided.

Bring whatever else you want to eat.

Live Music! Singing! Dancing!

Klezamir will play roots rockin' klezmer dance music, lead kid's games and teach easy dances.

The Valley Klezmer Orchestra, supported by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, will also perform.

Come play dreidel - young and old - and listen to stories.

If you want to get the attention your world famous latkes deserve bring a batch and try to convince a judge to say they are the best.

Everyone bring your menorah and candles so the room is filled with light.

featuring music by



and

The Valley Klezmer Orchestra



Camp JRF at JCA!

Come see what the magic of Camp JRF is all about! **Rabbi Jeff Eisenstat**, the Director of Camp JRF, will be coming to our synagogue on **Sunday, December 4th**. Families are encouraged to join their 4th-6th graders from 11:00 to 11:30am to hear about the excitement of camp. Come hear camp melodies and tunes from 11:45 to 12:15pm when Rabbi Jeff leads our learners' minyan. Teens are welcome to have lunch and meet Rabbi Jeff at 12:30 followed by a fun, camp-like program from 1:00 to 2:00pm. We hope to see you there!

Reconstructionist Slate to Run in World Zionist Organization Elections

The JRF has received confirmation to run an independent Reconstructionist slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections. Please go to the JRF website (www.jrf.org/wzc/index.html) to learn more about this and to find out how you can vote in this election.

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***From the Volunteer Committee, a
HELP WANTED COLUMN:***

Helping out at the JCA is a true mitzvah...and it's also fun. We hope each member will find a way to contribute their time and skills in a way that helps the community continue to be the vibrant place we love, and at the same time gives them a chance to meet other members and have fun working together. *(for more information on these and other volunteer positions, contact Judy Glaser at 253-9607 or judyglaser@comcast.net)*

If You like to write: Working with our new P.R. committee you will get the news about all that the JCA has to offer on the screen inside and outside of the organization. Exciting work! Contact Eli Kwartler, 253-2929 . ekwartler@msn.com.

Lots of fun.....Going Once.....The JCA Auction has for years been an event to which we all look forward as a ton of fun and a great fundraiser for our JCA. We are looking for leadership for the next Auction, to be scheduled by the committee when it begins its work. All the information about how to do the planning and execution is in place from Ellen Kooten, who has so magnificently chaired the past few auctions, (thank you, Ellen!!) and past committee members, several of whom are willing to work on the committee again. If you might be interested, contact Judy (see above for her info)

Grants-writers/administrators needed : There are several wonderful ideas floating around for which the JCA might be able to get a grant.. We need a person with skills and experience in writing grant applications and doing whatever is necessary to follow up. Contact Kitty Axelson Berry, 253-2353, kitty@modernmemoirs.com. (This volunteer job is just right for the person who doesn't want to have a regular, ongoing responsibility.)

Or...Does a routine task needed only once a month seem like something you could do for the JCA?? *The JCA can save big bucks in our beleaguered budget if we do the copying of our newsletter in-house...* and we now have a copy machine that can handle it! We will begin the copying in December for the January newsletter. We need two teams of three each month to run off the newsletter. We have enough people and just need a couple more to account for illness, etc. !!! Sign up now and complete the team. Call Judy. (see above for her info)

Do you know a lot of people in the JCA? Can you help us match volunteer and the jobs that need doing? The volunteer committee is looking for a few more people. You might be the right person for this job! Contact Judy Glaser. (see above for her info.)

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World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee News Brief

The World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee submits articles each month with the intention of presenting varying viewpoints on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The viewpoints expressed are not intended to represent the opinions of the Committee or of the membership of the JCA.

In anticipation of the JCA's trip to Israel next June and the fact that we are going to be staying for a couple of days at Kibbutz Sassa, whose founders include Yaffa and Haim Gunner, we are sharing an account of the earliest days of the kibbutz which Ken Schoen unearthed for us. The article written in 1949, the year of the kibbutz's founding, gives a picture of the idealism and commitment of the members of the kibbutz and of the times and the difficulties which had to be confronted and overcome.

Northward to Sassa

By Yehuda Stampfer

"How about a lift, man? My kibbutz is going on Hityashvut!"

"You an American? Where you going?"

"S.! Can you beat that? If they had gone any farther north I would bring along a pair of skis."

"Jump on!"

The American hooked his elbows over the side and swung his body onto the army truck as it picked up speed northward, northward from Hachshara at Nirim, the most advanced kibbutz in the Negev, where the settlers have successfully battled sandstorms and Egyptians for the last three years, northward toward S., on top of a rain-swept, rocky mountain three

miles from the Lebanese border. Shmuel, the dreamer from Brooklyn, engineer on illegal refugee ships, and plowboy in the Negev, was still flying to extremes, and this time it was Sassa.

"Can't this truck travel any faster? I've got to be there, man. This is going to be the first all-American Kibbutz in the country."

The trail led through the Darom (South) and the Sharon plain, across the Carmel range and the Jezreel valley, up the winding highway from Tiberias to Safed, and across the mountain ranges of central Galilee, to the foot of the highest mountain in Israel, the Atzmon. He arrived late the next night, by the light of the stars, after the speeches and celebrations were over, pushing into the tiny dining hall, where the American kibbutzniks were eating their first collective meal. "Hey, what do you know? Shmuel's here. He made it." And the celebration practically took place all over again.

They were a young kibbutz, with an average age of twenty four. There were about 120 members, with eighty in Israel and fifty participating in the first Hityashvut. The others were still in America or on Hachshara at Ein Hashophet and Shaar Hagolan. Those here averaged three to fifteen months in Israel, but all had received agricultural training in America at Hightstown, New Jersey, so they knew what collective farming involved. From the beginning each man busied himself

setting up his branch, the cook planning how to concoct collective meals on a few benzine primuses, the defense man where to set up guard posts against surprise attacks from Arab border sorties, the housing man where to put fifty beds out of the rain. This was the real test of their training.

That evening they gathered over brushwood fires in the primitive fireplaces of a few deserted Arab buildings, and listened to the rain begin outside. They talked about blizzards in New York and whiskey parties in Missouri and a Partisan Review passed from hand to hand. So far S. was nothing but an amorphous mass of rocks, mountains, and mud. The personality of the place had to grow on them yet.

The next few days were continuous rain. They were building the foundation for a new dining hall, and would rush out for a half hour of work between the terrific downpours. They dragged wheelbarrows of rocks that got stuck in the mud soup and spilled their contents on the lawn. Meanwhile one of their members went around with water experts looking for sources of water. That was a part of the incongruous joke of the American kids at Sassa to hunt for water in a pouring rain.

Teams of the settlers were busy cleaning their weapons. This was going to be as important as agricultural efficiency; and Yak, the former United States ma-

continued on next page

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rine, was laying plans for the defense of the area. Specialists in various weapons were training others; while every member had to know his rifle as well as he knew his plow and his pick axe. But just as important in the defense job was making friends with their Arab neighbors. Scarcely able to speak Hebrew yet, one of their members was already assigned the task of learning Arabic. Formal visits were exchanged with the Mukhtar of the neighboring Druse village. The Arabs came to show the kibbutzniks how to make their buildings rainproof Arab style. Arabs were already hitching rides on kibbutz trucks; and formal conversations in pidgin Hebrew-English-Arabic marked the desire of both sides to live at peace with one another.

The first week was a period of far-reaching organization. Decisions were made that would last a lifetime. Since fruit trees were expected to provide the main source of income, one member was im-

mediately sent on a full year's course in tree culture. Assignments for the heads of each branch of the kibbutz economy were made. Negotiations with one of the bus cooperatives were begun to have a bus line run through to Sassa. Decisions were being made too fast for the members to grasp their import, paper decisions, while they were wearing themselves out dragging stones in the rain. So they called a Kumsitz to rekindle their group spirit. It was like building a fire in the rain. At first they sat in two rows in their dimly lit dining hall half-heartedly singing the old songs to each other. Finally Chaim, the carpenter, who walks around in his rain hat like the label of a sardine can, jumped to his feet and called them to dance. They began dancing, and grew less and less tired as they flew about the circle.

Over all the other problems rode the problem of Hebrew. As an all-American kibbutz, they would have no native element from whom they could absorb the

language. Whatever they would learn, they would have to acquire the hard way, through painful lessons and study groups.

Finally, after a week of almost continuous rain, the sun came out in a beautifully clear day, and their rain-drenched spirits came to life again. They suddenly began to realize on what a beautiful spot that they had "spent the last week – as well as they would the rest of their lives, mountains rolling beyond mountains deep into Galilee on every side.

On Shabbat they went on long exploratory hikes to get acquainted with their neighborhood. Then they got the all important word they had been waiting for: two springs had been discovered at a reasonable distance from their site. They would have water. By now plans were ready to bring over the rest of the kibbutz; as they dug in for their first year on the land.



United Jewish Communities and New Israel Fund

Many thanks to Evelyn Goldenberg for her contributions to both the UJC and the NIF in memory of Betty and Louis Baker.



Christmas Day Volunteers Needed for Not Bread Alone

One or two more volunteers are still needed for the clean-up shift (12:00-1:30) at Not Bread Alone on Christmas Day.

We are also always looking for additional substitutes for our regular monthly commitment to Not Bread Alone on the second Sunday of each month.

To volunteer for Christmas Day or for information about joining the substitute list, please contact Barbara Pistrang at 256-1737 or <barbara@jpcr.com>.



Chesed Committee

The Chesed Committee assists JCA community members in times of joy, sorrow and need. We coordinate volunteers who provide the following services to the community: welcoming new JCA members with a Challah; welcoming new babies with a menorah; providing meals, rides to appointments, errands, and visits for those who are ill or in need. In addition, when there has been a death, we transport prayer books for Shiva minyans and provide a fruit platter or bagels and cream cheese. If you have a need, know of someone in need, would like to join our Committee or be added to our list of volunteers, please contact the JCA office at 256-0160 and a Chesed Committee member will be in touch with you.

JCA Bed & Bagel Raises \$550 in October

The revived Bed & Bagel fundraiser provides hospitality to area visitors and raises money to the JCA. How do people find out about us? So far we've had four sets of guests, three last month and another reserved for next June. David Roberts and Sue Fischlowitz came with their son Max from St. Louis to check out Amherst College. Dave is on the board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and had contacted Rabbi Bauer about lodging. The closest hotel room they could find had been in Springfield! They were charming and interesting guests and even brought us flowers and challah (as well as a check). Another couple, Elaine and Allan, are Orthodox and when they came for Jeff Cohen's wedding, they wanted to be able to walk to shul on Shabbat and eat from their own provisions. I enjoyed seeing them celebrating Shabbat at our table as we went out that evening. A single guest who also came for the wedding wanted to be able to walk from the train station, arriving from NYC. In June a distinguished neurologist at Georgetown Medical is coming for his 50th reunion at Amherst College. He's become "more religious" over the years and wrote to the JCA to find a spot where he could walk to services and to the college. I asked him to make an extra donation in return for the long-in-advance reservation and he was generous.

The activity can be a great fund-raiser for the JCA and meet a need for visitors. They are so grateful! I have informed the local Hillels and will have a regular notice in the newsletter from now on to remind you to recommend the B&B to your friends and family. Not all guests will need to walk to shul (!) but it seems that in-town lodging is desirable to many, so, if you live in-town, please consider being an occasional host and give me a call to talk about it (413-256-0500). The hosts' responsibilities are quite light. OK, you have to clean up the room, but after that, clean sheets and towels, a key and literally only a bagel and tea or coffee is it. Your interaction with the guest can be more or less as you are inclined. When I get a request for a room, I will call you and see if that particular date(s) will work for you. The guests write their checks (preferably in advance) to the JCA (\$50/pp per night) and give it to you. Please call me to be a host or to refer your guests!

Thank you this month to Jeff Cohen, Wendy Chabon, Toby Sznajdarman, and Rabbi Bauer for recommending the JCA Bed & Bagel to visiting friends and family!

Jaymie Chernoff, Bed&Bagel Coordinator, bedandbagel@j-c-a.org, 413-256-0500.

JCA to Celebrate 36th Anniversary in 2006

More news about special events in our 36th anniversary year will be forthcoming. In the meantime, here's a short quiz about the early history of the JCA. The questions were compiled from information provided by Frieda Howard who is a founding member of the JCA.

- The JCA was formed in what year:
(Hint: 2006 is the 36th anniversary)
 - 1966
 - 1968
 - 1969
 - 1970
- At the time of its founding the original name of the JCA was:
 - Jewish Community of Amherst (JCA)
 - Amherst Jewish Community (AJC)
 - Amherst Jewish Center (AJC)
 - Amherst Jewish Association (AJA)
- How many founding memberships were there:
 - 39
 - 45
 - 51
 - 70
- Which of the following was NOT an activity of the JCA at its founding:
 - Sunday School Classes
 - Hebrew School
 - Shabbat Services
 - High Holy Day Services
 - Special Meetings
 - Social Activities
 - All of these were activities of the original JCA.
- When the JCA was founded we did not own a building and activities were held in several venues around Amherst. Which of the following venues was NOT used by the JCA at the time of its founding:
 - Johnson Chapel (Amherst College)
 - Newman Center (UMass)
 - Masonic Hall
 - First Congregational Church
 - School of Business (UMass)
 - Lutheran Church
 - Member's homes

Answers: 1c, 2b, 3a, 4g, 5d

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Yaffa Gunner, Co-chair
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 Norman and Eva Brown in honor of Project Rehovot and
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“What Crisis? Jewish Identity in the Diaspora in the 21st Century”

Ilan Stavans, Lewis-Sebring Professor of Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, was the keynote speaker at the JCA Annual Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture held at the JCA on October 30. Fellow Pioneer Valley scholars Professor James Young, Chair of the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, UMass, Amherst, and Professor Emeritus Jules Chametzky, Department of English, UMass, Amherst responded.

JCA World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee hosted the event, in conjunction with the UMass Office of Jewish Affairs, Congregation Sons of Zion, the Hillel Foundations of Amherst and Smith Colleges, UMass, Amherst, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

A more detailed review of the event can be found on the JCA website at www.j-c-a.org/rabinlecture.pdf

Mak’hela in Concert Sunday, December 18th

Join Mak’hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts, along with guest performers, all clergy from the Pioneer Valley, in a Mak’hela first: an All-Valley concert, Sunday, December 18 at Northampton High School.

Sampling treasures from the world of Jewish music, the concert promises a richness in voices and composition styles. Secular and liturgical music in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English, from Eastern Europe, Israel, the Sephardic diaspora, and the United States are included. Pieces as diverse as “Fiddler on the Roof,” and “Hiney MaTov Abaudaya,” from the Ethiopian Jewish Community will be featured.

Joining with Mak’hela will be Hazzan Steven Berke, Cantor Elizabeth Berke, Rabbi Justin David, and Rabbi David Dunn Bauer, all Clergy of the Pioneer Valley’s Jewish community.

The Chorus, led by Music Director Kayla Werlin, was founded in 2002, and is dedicated to performing works from all of the Jewish world. Mak’hela has grown to over 60 singers, and has performed extensively in the Western Massachusetts area.

Kayla Werlin is an accomplished conductor and soloist, and choral music teacher at Longmeadow (MA) High School.

The Concert begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for Students and Seniors. For further information, contact 256-1737.



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 If you can help, please contact
 Judy Glaser at
 253-9607 or judyglaser@comcast.net

Beit Shalom: Preserving Harmony in the JCA

The Beit Shalom Committee was created to provide a place to resolve rare and particularly difficult conflicts that impact the life of the JCA Community and its members. It is available to hear complaints of any individual or group with a grievance that cannot be resolved through the normal (formal and informal) channels. Any individual or groups of individuals with such a concern can contact any Committee Member: **Eva Metzger Brown**, chair: (256-8066; embrown13@comcast.net); **Haim Gunner** (549-0447; haim_gunner@yahoo.com); **Josette Henschel** (549-5059; jhenschel@verizon.net); **Melanie Lewis** (323-4155; ivechos@aol.com); **Rob Okun** (253-7918; raokun@mrcforchange.org) Names will be kept confidential, unless released by the complainant. Further information regarding the grievance process and the issue of confidentiality is available from Eva.

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 In Honor of our three children and their wives, and our grandchildren (Barbara & Jerome Weidenfeld)
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 In Memory of Shirley Gladstone (Joyce Duncan & Sam Gladstone)
 Anne-Marie Lemal & Scott Brown
 In Memory of Estelle & Harold Samuels and Alma Fonsh (Judi & Kip Fonsh)
 In Honor of Rabbi Bauer officiating at our wedding (Lori Holder-Webb and Jeff Cohen)
 Jody Wax & Tom Butler
 Linda Sinapi
 Caden & Lewis Mainzer
 In Honor of Ross Midler and Tom Plaut and in Memory of Francis Lehan, father of Janet Bloom (Linda & Dan Reif)
 In Honor of Saul Gladstone, teacher extraordinaire (Madeleine Charney)
 In Honor of the upcoming wedding of the daughter of Alan and Cathy Peterfreund (Shoshana Sokoloff and Jeff Rubin)
 Stan Rosenberg
 Deborah & Bill Evans

In Honor of the JCA office staff (Linda Haney & Ross Midler)
 Adi Bemak and Rob Okun
 Joan & Monroe Rabin
 Judy Glaser & Bob Stern
 Amy Shulman and Bob Kumin
 Hollie Kalkstein and Bob Weitzman
 Jane & Dan Giat
 Natalie Jarmon
 In Memory of Joe and Bertha Berg (Rachel & Jay Flint)

Chesed Committee

With Hopes for continued good healing for Jonathan Souweine in the New Year (Blanche Zarchin)

High Holy Day Flowers

In Honor of Gene Stewart (Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)

JCA General Fund

In Honor of Ann Hastings for her wonderful help in finding a house (Patricia Yosov)
 In Gratitude to Phyllis Miller for all her work for the JCA (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Honor of Batya Perman for her hospitality during the High Holidays (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Memory of Francis Lehan, father of Janet Bloom (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Honor of Gene Stewart for all her work as High Holy Days Committee Chair (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Honor of Jeff Cohen & Lori Holder-Webb on the occasion of their marriage (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Memory of Marvin Peltz (Rabbi Sheila Weinberg & Maynard Seider)
 A Kol Nidre contribution in honor of my children, Bob Weitzman and Hollie Kalkstein and family (Rose Foster)

Membership Committee

Fran Saed
 Sam Gladstone
 Alan Peterfreund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Saul Gladstone (Sharon Lazerson & Steve Bohrer)

Religion Committee

In Honor of my having an aliyah and an opportunity to hear my daughter, Elissa Rubinstein, read Torah (Dorothy Sway)

World Jewish Concerns

Stephen Levine

New Members

Nina Wishengrad and her daughter Zoe

Condolences

We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:

Francis Lehan, father of Janet Bloom, father-in-law of Fred Bloom, grandfather of Alex and Jason Bloom

Joseph Shadur, father of Tamar Shadur
 Max Wald, father of Jim Wald, father-in-law of Jane and grandfather of Marianne
 Ida Jacobson Brandt, mother of Robert Brandt, mother-in-law of Joan Swerdlow-Brandt and grandmother of Alexis and Jessica.

Lighting the Chanukah Lights

The Chanukah lights should be kindled at nightfall on each of the eight nights of Chanukah beginning Sunday, December 25th. On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled on the right side of the Chanukiah (Chanukah Menorah). On the following night, add a second candle to the left of the first and kindle the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

On Friday evening the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles.

On Saturday evening the Chanukah candles are lit after Havdalah, that is, after the end of Shabbat.

Say all three blessings on the first night only. Recite the first two blessings on all other nights.

NOTE: The blessings appear here in the traditional formulation. Some people use different formulations to be reflect their personal beliefs and theology.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְּךָ הָעוֹלָם,
 אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
 וְצִוְּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

1

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam, asher kideshanu be-mitzvahtov, ve-tzivanu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who has made us holy with your mitzvot, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְּךָ הָעוֹלָם,
 שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
 בְּיָמֵים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

2

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim la-avotenu, ba-yamim ha-hem ba-zeman ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who wrought wonders for our ancestors in former days at this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְּךָ הָעוֹלָם,
 שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ
 וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה.

3

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam, she-hecheyanu, ve-kiyemanu, ve-higiyanu, la-zeman ha-zeh.

Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who gave us life and kept us strong, and brought us to this season.

Community Announcements

Shabbat Lesbian Potluck

The next Friday night Lesbian Potluck will be held on December 1st at the home of Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, 43 Vernon Street, Greenfield. The monthly potlucks are open to all Jewish lesbians in the area (and their families) in order to gather and celebrate Shabbat. The Potluck begins at 6:30. For more information, or for directions call Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser at 413-774-5796. The January potluck will be January 6th at the home of Randi Stein.



National Yiddish Book Center

The National Yiddish Book Center will present the film *Divided We Fall*, on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00.

This Oscar-nominated comedy (2000) is set in a Nazi-occupied Czech town during the waning years of World War II

The National Yiddish Book Center will present a slide-illustrated talk entitled *The Wooden Synagogue Project* by Rick and Laura Brown of Handhouse Studios, on Sunday, December 11, 2005, at 2:00 pm.



Hurricane Survivor Needs Support

Charlotte Schwab, Ph.D., mother of JCA congregant Rachel Schwab-Rehorka, a psychotherapist for thirty years and a former professor at Hunter College is a hurricane Wilma survivor from Delray Beach, Florida. She is looking to re-locate to Amherst. She needs housing. Possibilities are: a mother-in-law apartment, a house share, be a live-in companion, or some other suitable situation. She can be reached on her cell phone: 561-716-3572.

Charlotte Schwab, Ph.D. a psychotherapist

for twenty five years in Manhattan, and five years in Delray Beach, Florida is the mother of JCA congregant Rachel Schwab-Rehorka. She is a Hurricane Wilma survivor. She needs to re-locate in Amherst and needs employment. Please call her on her cell phone, 561-716-3572, if you can help.



Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival

Amy Dryansky of the Grinspoon Foundation is looking for people interested in working on the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival which will take place March 18-April 9, 2006

If you are interested in helping, please email Amy at adryansky@comcast.net.



Renewing the Flame of Divine Love:

A Hanukkah Workshop in Group Spiritual Direction, offered by

Marcia Black and Daniel Berlin

Through meditation, prayer, chant, contemplative listening, and group spiritual direction, Drs. Marcia Black and Daniel Berlin will guide the group toward an experience of Hanukkah as a time of re-connecting with God's Eternal Light.

As one candle lights another, we unite our flames to join the Divine Flame of all Becoming

Where: 29 C Cottage Street

When: Sunday, December 4, 2005 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

For more info, call Marcia Black, 253-4102 or Daniel Berlin, 549-2773

Workshop is free



Hadassah

National Hadassah Mitzvah Day

Sunday, December 11, 2005

The Northampton-Amherst Chapter

will visit residents at the Sunbridge Nursing Home, Maple St., Hadley. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Celebrating Hanukkah and Baking Cookies will be part of the program.

Please call Barbara Goldstein (549-0555) for information and to let us know that you are coming.

Al Galgalim – Jewish Education for Parents and Pre-schoolers

December 19, 2005 9:30 a.m.

at the home of Rachel Valitt, 243 Amity St., Amherst (549-1212) Call for information and reservations.

Gift Wrapping Booth

December 18 to December 23, 2005

Hampshire Mall, Hadley

Please call Naomi Peleg (256-0106) or Zahava Koren (253-7756) to sign up to work at the booth.

bhgoldstein@comcast.net



Frolicking in the Garden of Paradise: Gershon Winkler & Miriam Maron

Sunday, December 18th, 7-9 p.m. at Temple Israel in Greenfield

Drawing from lesser-taught ancient and early-medieval kabbalistic wisdom, Gershon will both enlighten us and entertain us with teachings from our rich tradition that help us grapple with the mystery of existence and the paradox of being. Miriam will guide us in movement and song to help us grasp what the heck Gershon is talking about.

Rabbi Winkler was initiated in 1978 by the late Kabbalist Rabbi Eliezer Benseon and is co-founder of the Walking Stick Foundation in New Mexico, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the recovery of aboriginal Judaism.






Miriam Maron is a spiritual healer in private practice and leads workshop intensives on Jewish shamanic healing across the U.S., Europe, and Israel.

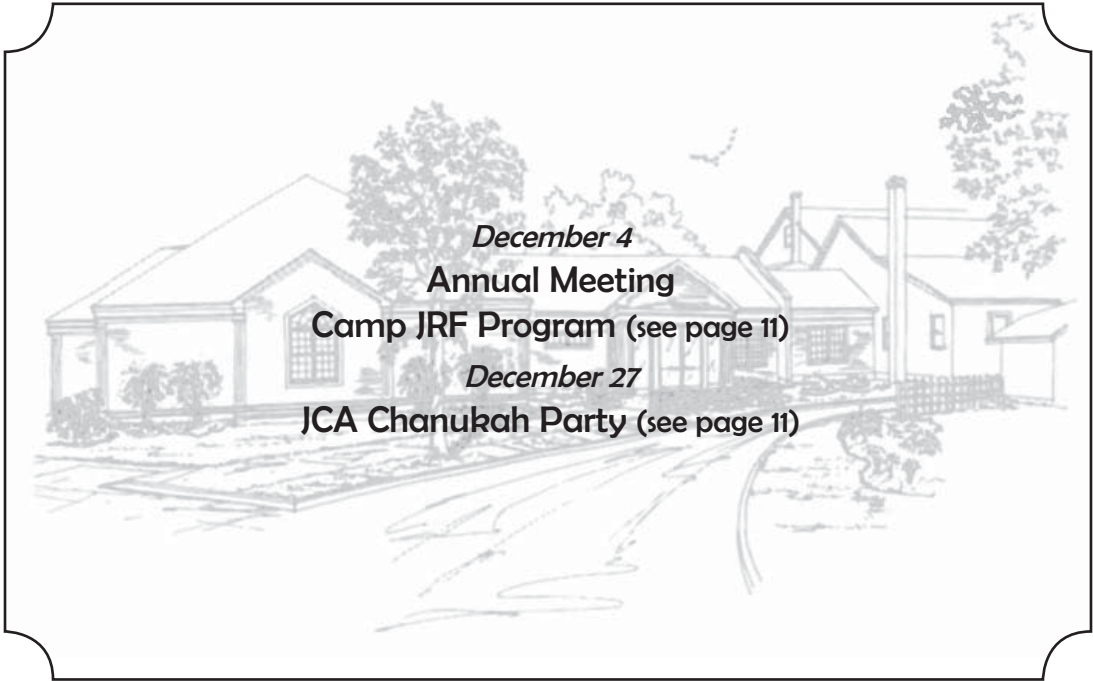


Jewish Community of Amherst

December 2005

29 Cheshvan - 30 Kislev 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 29 CHESHVAN Noon-1 Text Study 7:30 Board Meeting 7:30 pm Book Group	2 1 KISLEV ✕✕Rosh Chodesh Kislev  4:00 5:30 pm Short Family service, followed by pot luck supper Kedushah LeTorah	3 2 KISLEV Toldot 10:00 am Service
4 10:00 am-Noon Annual Meeting 11:00 am-12:15 pm Camp JRF Program	3 KISLEV 5	4 KISLEV 6 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:30 pm Rabbi Liaison Committee	5 KISLEV 7 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Religion Committee	6 KISLEV 8	7 KISLEV 9  3:59 8:00 pm Service	8 KISLEV 10 Vayetze 10:00 am Service 10:30-noon Shabbat Shalom 4-6 year olds
11	10 KISLEV 12	11 KISLEV 13 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee	12 KISLEV 14 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Membership Committee 7:30 pm Education Committee	13 KISLEV 15 Noon-1 Text Study	14 KISLEV 16  4:01 6:15 pm Service	15 KISLEV 17 Vayishlach 10:00 am Service Torah Study following Kiddush
18	17 KISLEV 19	18 KISLEV 20 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	19 KISLEV 21 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No Religious School	20 KISLEV 22	21 KISLEV 23  4:04 8:00 pm Service	22 KISLEV 24 Vayeshev 10 am Service No Religious School
25 No Religious School	24 KISLEV 26 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 1	25 KISLEV 27 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 2 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 4:30-8:00 pm Chanukah Party	26 KISLEV 28 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 3 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No Religious School	27 KISLEV 29 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 4	28 KISLEV 30 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 5  4:09 8:00 pm Service	29 KISLEV 31 ✕✕Chanukah - Day 6 ✕✕Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Day 1 Miketz 10:00 am Service No Religious School



December 4
Annual Meeting

Camp JRF Program (see page 11)

December 27

JCA Chanukah Party (see page 11)

Jewish Community of Amherst

742 Main Street

Amherst, MA 01002

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