

Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

March 2 ~ 5:30 pm

March 9 ~ 5:31 pm

March 16 ~ 6:39 pm

March 23 ~ 6:47 pm

March 30 ~ 6:55 pm

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

Special Events

March 3

Purim Megillah Reading

March 4

Purim Carnival
English Megillah
Reading

March 18

WJC Speaker
Yitzhak Shavit

March 25

Camp Shemesh
Reunion

Meetings

March 1

Board Meeting

March 8

Personnel Committee

March 12

Finance Committee

March 13

Tikkun Olam Committee

March 14

Religion Committee

March 29

Education Committee

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT

Kitty Axelson-Berry, 230-3271, kitty@modernmemoirs.com

March in the Jewish world is complicated, partly because it spans the months of Adar and Nisan and partly because its parashiyot seem to jump around between Deuteronomy, Exodus, and Numbers, with “special maftir readings.” Be that as it may, the Jewish holiday of unbridled merriment (our pre-spring Mardi Gras), Purim, is March 4-5, when we are encouraged traditionally to “dress up, drink and be merry while remembering how the Jews of Persia narrowly escaped annihilation thanks to the bravery of Queen Esther” (www.aish.com). If you’re more comfortable fasting than feasting, or prefer the amazing balance of doing both, it is also traditional to observe a serious fast (the Fast of Esther) on March 1.

John Loeb Accepts Co-President Appointment

This column should focus on JCA news, however; and we do have good news! WE HAVE A CO-PRESIDENT! You might recall that the nominations committee had been unable to find a qualified volunteer to serve as co-president with me. John is a well-trained JCA member. JOHN LOEB—last seen with shovel and rake repairing overflow parking with several other volunteers and directing the parking lot for the High Holidays. He has served as president and then co-president during a rough period several years ago, as well as on many JCA committees. He has most graciously agreed to serve again as co-president. Thank you John and welcome! John will handle the executive, finance, fa-

cilities, and education clusters, while I take on community-building, religion, and social justice clusters.

February Board Meeting Report

The following initiatives were proposed and passed:

LEADERSHIP—that John Loeb be appointed co-president to fill that vacancy;

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTION—that a task force, called the JCA Educational Programs Task Force, be set up to develop a vision for education at the JCA that encompasses both children and adults, and to develop tactics for implementing the vision; and that educational consultant Billy Menkow be hired to visit the JCA under the direction of the JCA Educational Programs Task Force, and meet with key lay leaders and staff to begin envisioning the educational needs for the JCA.

FINANCIAL—that a sub-committee be set up to develop an endowment fund for the JCA, with a plan to be presented at the April board meeting; that the old CAS (Conversations About Economic Sustainability) committee be revived to review the impact of our Fair Share dues structure on membership revenue. They are requested to make recommendations to the board by the May board meeting on any suggested changes. Those recommended changes will then be considered by the community at our semi-annual meeting in June.

Most of the board dedicated Sunday afternoon February 11 to a retreat to get to know one another better (almost half of our board members are new to it). We decided about processes

continued on next page

B'nai Mitzvah

March 24 - 10:00 am

Bat Mitzvah of Jovanna Robinson-Hidas

continued from previous page

we'll use, such as whether we prefer consensus or voting (consensus was decided), how people should make proposals (by writing to the executive committee), what it means to be on the board (especially listening and working on behalf of the membership), and so on.

Please remember that all JCA members are welcome at board meetings, which take place the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.

We especially need volunteers for the following: Publicity/Marketing, planning Social/Fun Raising events, planning Fundraising events, organizing potential volunteers, and organizing Torah chanters. E-mail John (JolBioSol@aol.com) or me (kitty@modernmemoirs.com) if you can help

make this community work by participating in any of these or other efforts.

b'shalom,
Kitty Axelson-Berry

CO-PRESIDENTS' AREAS OF SPECIAL ATTENTION

KITTY AXELSON-BERRY	JOHN LOEB
Religion	Education
Social Justice	Executive
Strategic Planning	Facilities
Community Building	Finance

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: Kitty Axelson-Berry (230-3271), **John Loeb** (253-0336)

Co-First Vice Presidents: Alan Black (586-6667), **Lisa Perl binder** (230-3055)

Second Vice President: Randall Furash-Stewart (253-9754)

Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler (253-2929)

Treasurer: Alan Peterfreund (253-5485)

Membership: Jenny Heller (253-6786), **Oran Kaufman** (548-8139)

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

Office Administrator: Marcia Howard (256-0160)

Administrative Assistants: Bonnie Webster, Pam Cummings (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: Reed Alper

Deadline for the April issue is March 13th

March 2007, Vol. 6, Issue No. 3

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

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

DEVARIM: WORDS FROM RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER



I wrote last month about a plan for broadening our Saturday morning tefillah (prayer) options. This month, I want to talk about Friday nights. This second discussion begins with the same underlying question, *How do we as an institution best provide for ourselves as a community in observance and celebration of Shabbat?* The answer may look quite different for Friday night than it did for Shabbat morning.

Already our Friday night service calendar reflects the breadth of our community and its interests. The first Friday of the month is geared towards families with young children, with 5:30 services followed by a potluck dinner. In February, that service coincided with Tu Bishvat, and over 50 people of many generations enjoyed great food, song, prayer, and holiday celebration. The third Friday of the month is our Carlebach-style service, with worship mostly expressed through song. That 6:15 service regularly sees 50 people. Other Friday nights we congregate at 8:00 for a service built of songs, poetry, and prayers in English, Hebrew, and occasionally Yiddish, and enhanced with some formal programming, whether a guest speaker, a reading from Jewish literature, or a teaching from Jewish history. Those services regularly draw about 20+ attendees, more when the programming has been advertised in advance.

The range of our offerings is wonderful. The range of our start times for services is genuinely problematic. There are people who have been frustrated by arriving eagerly at the JCA at the wrong time on the wrong Shabbat. I personally have to double-check my memory every week to make sure I am clear about what time services will begin.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that “a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds,” but having easily predictable start times for our Friday services strikes me as **wise** consistency. In the Talmud (Tractate Shabbat, 127a), R. Judah b. Shila teaches in R. Assi’s name in R. Johanan’s name, that ‘[one] fruit we enjoy in this world, the principal of which stays for us in the next world, is our coming early to the Beit haMidrash (the house of study).’ From this text, I would learn that our facilitating each other’s experience of synagogue on this most practical level -- making our schedule more consistent and reliable -- is a profound spiritual gift we can give to each other. We have a sacred obligation to foster community around services. We need to be there ourselves and to smooth the path for others to be there with us.

The challenge we need to address is *knowing for sure what time most of us want services to begin.*

For communities like the JCA that orient service times around the secular work week rather than around Friday sunsets, it is not automatically clear what is the best hour. What is easiest for folks who work? What is easiest for families with children? What’s best for singles or other adult households? Dinner before prayers, dinner afterwards? Services as the main event of Friday night, or services as the prelude to other activities?

Here is one possible outline to consider:

Services for young families continue at 5:30 on Friday nights, with the potluck beginning at 6:15. The hour remains early for children who need to eat and go to bed at an early hour.

All our other Shabbat services would begin at 6:15. We could follow some with a pot luck dinner at 7:15, and on a regular schedule, offer a range of programming at 8:15. This could include the speakers and readings we already feature. It could also include other communal activities that either temporally or stylistically cannot easily be inserted into Shabbat services -- lengthy discussions of important issues, screening Israeli or other Jewish movies, Kabbalat-Shabbat themed yoga or movement.

I see in this plan the following advantages: Services would begin at a consistent time. Those who wanted to pray and then go home or elsewhere for dinner could do so. Those who want to pray and eat with others in the community could do so. Families with teenagers could spend some part of Shabbat together before their teens went off to other activities. The JCA can better welcome those who want Jewish community and experience on Shabbat but don’t necessarily want to pray. Those who want only to pray in community can do so without interruption. The great speakers we schedule can have more than 15 minutes to present.

This style of Friday night programming has been implemented at many synagogues around the country through the *Synaplex Initiative* (check out <http://www.synaplex.org>) and, I think, could be very satisfying for us in Amherst.

I invite everyone in the community to join in a discussion of this on Friday night, March 23rd. Services will start that night at 8:00, and we will move to a discussion of this concept during our *oneg* at 9:00pm.

continued on page 5



RELIGION COMMITTEE

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, Cyclone411@charter.net

Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Co-chair 413-774-5796, shapiro-rieser@verizon.net

RELIGION CALENDAR

March 1, Thursday- Fast of Esther



Shabbat Zakhor, Parashat Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10, Deuteronomy 25:17-19

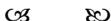
March 2, Friday

5:30 PM
 Family Service and potluck supper
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

March 3, Saturday

10:00 AM
Regular JCA Service in the main sanctuary
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer
Masorti Service in the small sanctuary
 Service Leader: Arny Rosenberg
 D'var Torah: John Clayton
 (see next page for more information)
Torah Discussion led by John Clayton following kiddush

6:30 PM- PURIM - Megillah Reading



March 4, Sunday- PURIM

10:00 AM- Purim Carnival
 12:00 PM- English Megillah Reading and Lunch



Shabbat Parah, Parashat Ki Tissa
Exodus 30:11-34:35, Numbers 19:1-22

March 9, Friday

8:00 PM
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 Program: Frederic Marglin: *The Possibilities of Free Trade*

March 10, Saturday

10:00 AM
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Hachodesh, Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudey
Exodus 35:1-40:38, 12:1-20

March 16, Friday

6:15 PM
 Carlebach-style service

March 17, Saturday

9:00 AM
 Torah Yoga with Rachael Goren
 10:00 AM
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



March 20, Tuesday- Rosh Chodesh Nisan



Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

March 23, Friday

8:00 PM
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 Discussion on religious services at the JCA
 (see Rabbi Bauer's column on page 3)

March 24, Saturday

10:00 AM
 Bat Mitzvah of Jovanna Robinson-Hidas
 Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer
 Divrei Torah: Jovanna Robinson-Hidas, Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Hagadol, Parashat Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36

March 30, Friday

8:00 PM
 Service Leader: Marvin Ellin

March 31, Saturday

10:00 AM
 Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser
 D'var Torah: To be announced



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Torah Reading:
 Eliezer Huber-413-687-4650
 lhuber@gpsk12.org

Special Weekday Service:
 Aaron Bousel-253-3544, abousel@comcast.net
 JCA Office-256-0160, info@j-c-a.org

Religion Committee, continued

KIDDUSH AND ONEG SPONSORS

February 23 & 24-

David & Stacy Tobin, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zachary

March 23 & 24-

Thomas Hidas & Linda Robinson Hidas, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jovanna

Please make sure you speak to Linda Cooper and fill out a Kiddush/Oneg sponsor form to assure that the date you want will be reserved.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Tuesday mornings there is a traditional minyan meeting at 7:30 am. Please come and help make the minyan. Latecomers welcome.

MEDITATION MINYAN

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

MASORTI LAY-LED SHABBAT MINYAN:

This month's egalitarian masorti minyan will meet on March 3rd in the small sanctuary. *(a masorti service means an older, "traditional" liturgy and includes Haftarah and Musaf.)*

The service will be led by Arny Rosenberg with a d'var Torah given by John Clayton

The service begins at 10:00 am and joins with the rest of the congregation for Kiddush at 12:30.

We will use the Silverman siddur because the JCA has copies, but feel free to bring another siddur if you wish.

All are welcome to attend, including families with children, and to take leadership roles.

For details contact Catherine Madsen, 253-2930.

SHABBAT TORAH DISCUSSION MARCH 3RD

Our Shabbos series of once-a-month post-kiddush discussions of the week's parasha continues. We invite you to bring something veggie for a light potluck kiddush lunch. We will meet next on March 3rd when John Clayton will lead the discussion. It will be the week of parashat Tetzaveh.

We look forward to seeing you then.

ROSH CHODESH

Rosh Chodesh, the ancient new moon festival for women, has been revived in modern times. Come join our next gathering on Wednesday, March 21st as we celebrate Rosh Chodesh for the Jewish month of Nisan, and the coming of spring. We will meet at 7:30 PM in the JCA's small sanctuary, behind the social hall.

As we celebrate the cycles of time, we like to nosh afterwards on round foods that echo that theme. Please bring something to share. There is a nominal fee of \$1 which helps us cover incidental costs. You may contact me, Barbara Burkart, at barbruth@comcast.net with questions or ideas.

FOOT STOMPING MELODIES FOR WELCOMING SHABBAT

The next Carlebach-style service will be on March 16th at 6:15 PM. We have transliterated prayerbooks and buddies to help you. The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

Rabbi's column continued from page 3

There are some contexts in which I feel confident about what the JCA wants. *This is not one!* I need to hear from you -- we *all* need to hear from each other.

In the meantime, think seriously about what time you and others in your household or in your life are most inclined to come to services on Shabbat. What start time really works or really *doesn't* work for you? Is 5:30 really good for families with children? Is 6:15 a good base line for other weeks? Do

you find 8:00pm actually the most inviting hour for Shabbat prayers? Please bring your thoughts to the meeting on the 23rd, or email them to me afterwards (rabbibauer@j-c-a.org) if you cannot be there.

In *mah tovu* we pray to God for an *eyt ratzon*, a time of desire, a time of pleasantness. What is the JCA's *eyt ratzon* for Kabbalat Shabbat?



EDUCATION NEWS

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



Our Variety of Purim Mitzvot

- * Hear the Megillah, so come to the costume parade and family service on Saturday, March 3. Bring your grogger: If you need one, bring a box of macaroni and cheese or some food that can shake noisily in a box, and after services you can put it in the donation box for the Survival Center!
- * Be Happy, It's Adar so a reminder to join us for the PURIM CARNIVAL -Sunday morning, March 4, 10 am – 1pm. Cost is \$5/child, \$10/family. Attendees in costume, who bring Boxtops for Education, or who bring a food donation for the Survival Center get a “shekel” towards prizes. Refreshments sold separately. Parents or an adult are asked to accompany all children.
- * Mishloach Manot/Sharing Portions: We will have baskets at the carnival to raffle off to raise money for the school. Students in each grade had a theme for their baskets (e.g. snacks, games, the kitchen, pets). Tickets can be bought during the carnival and during school hours on Wednesday, March 7 and Sunday, March 11. The drawing will be on March 11.



Brett Evans, Isaac Goldbaum, Adin Klotz, Aleeza Kropf, Clara Lemal-Brown, Noah Madowitz, and Miriam Tess Trobaugh.

Tweens & Teens

Going from JCA School to adulthood in the congregation, what are some of the steps along the way? As students become b'nai mitzvah and finish 7th grade, they become eligible for our exciting teen programming. Teen Advisor, **Rachael Goren** and some JCAT members will visit with 7th graders on Wednesday, March 7 with the 411 (information) on JCAT, spark!, BBYO, B'nai Tzedek, and Teen Initiative.

Thank You to

- Rachael Goren** for donating books and resources
- Reed Alper** for sewing alterations on our Learner's Minyan “healing” banner
- Everyone who made a donation to the raffle baskets and to parents **Tobi Sznajderman, Karen Helfer, Reed Alper, Cheryl Edgerly, and Lisa Sussman** for helping with the basket raffle

Tzar Baali Chayim/Caring for Animals

Cooking aroma wafted from the kitchen. First graders were learning about the Jewish value of Tzar Baali Chayim/Caring for Animals, by cooking up some dog biscuits. On Sunday, February 11, teacher **Miriam Rubin** prepared the “healthy” biscuit dough and students created the shapes. Biscuits will be on sale during the Purim Carnival to raise money for an organization that cares for animals to be voted on by the class. JCA students in 1st Grade include: **Michael Curran,**

Calendar

Sat, March 3	Purim Family Service, 6:30 pm Megillah Reading & Costume Parade
Sun, March 4	No Classes - Purim Carnival 10 am - 1 pm
Fri, March 9	Grades 5 & 6, Shabbat Family Dinner with Rabbi Bauer at 6:15 pm
Sat, March 10	Shabbat Shalom class 10:30-12
Sun, March 11	Daylight Savings Time Change
Thurs, March 29	Education Committee 7:30 pm

COMING IN MAY...

JCA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS IN BLACK AND WHITE

By Photographer ELLEN AUGARTEN

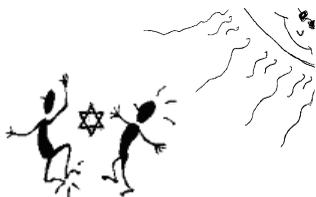
LOOK IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER FOR INFO ON SIGNING UP!

CAMP SHEMESH 2007

Registration forms for JCA's Camp Shemesh 2007 season will be distributed this month and will be available online. Camp will be held at Amherst College and is open to campers ages 6-11. **To provide optimal accommodations for family schedules, an 8 week program will be offered this year**, and campers now have the option to sign up for a one week session or more.

One week sessions available this summer are:

- Week 1: June 25th
- Week 2: July 2nd
- Week 3: July 9th
- Week 4: July 16th
- Week 5: July 23rd
- Week 6: July 30th
- Week 7: Aug. 6th
- Week 8: Aug. 13th



Registration forms are available online on the JCA website www.j-c-a.org. You may print out and mail in or drop off forms at the JCA office. For further information, please leave a message for Julie Rosenshein, Camp Shemesh Director, on her voicemail: 253-0561 x 250.

ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Tully Lake, Royalston, MA (45 minutes away)
July 20th - 22nd

Join us for a wonderful weekend of storytelling, singing, and convening with nature and friends. Those of us who went last year had a fantastic time and our children have been talking about it ever since. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to spend time with each other, relax, splash in the water and celebrate Shabbat.

David Arfa, a dynamic storyteller and environmental educator dedicated to celebrating Judaism's vibrant storytelling heritage and ancient environmental wisdom, will be joining us for the weekend with his fantastic tales.

If you have participated in the Havdallah Gatherings for Families with young children (or have wanted to) then this is for you!

Cost: approximately \$60.00 per family

RSVP your interest to

Liz Friedman, JCA Family Educator at lizfriedm@gmail.com by March 30th.

You don't have to make a commitment right now, just let me know you want to go.

CAMP SHEMESH REUNION & NEW CAMPER INFORMATION SESSION

**Sunday, March 25th!
12:30-3:30 pm at the JCA**

Come to connect with old campers and new. We will be having a challah bake-off to raise money for our art and culture fund and other group activities.

Shemesh Campers and those interested in learning more about us are all welcome!

There will also be the DVD's for sale of the movies made during the summer.

RSVP: leave message in Shemesh mailbox 253-0561 x 250



HEY EVERYBODY!

WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN!!!

(and raise a little money for the JCA Religious School!)

THEME BASKETS RAFFLE

Raffle starts at the PURIM CARNIVAL, Sunday March 4
Drawing on Sunday March 11 during Learner's Minyan
Tickets: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

COME AND BUY SOME RAFFLE TICKETS!

Each class voted on a theme to fill their basket:

Basket Themes by Grade:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st grade: Pets (Cats & dogs) | 4th grade: Toys and Games |
| 2nd grade: Baking/The Kitchen | 5th grade: Sports & "Movie Night" |
| 3rd grade: Games | 6th grade: Snacks |

Raffle tickets can be bought during the Purim Carnival and during school hours, Wednesday March 7 & Sunday, March 11.

Each basket will have its own drawing so tickets can be put toward a specific basket in designated containers.

PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL "FUN" RAISER!

Sponsored by the JCA Education Committee



MARCH 2007 JCA TEEN PROGRAMMING

Thursday, March 1st, 6-8pm, Leadership Meeting, Rachael Goren's house, 133 Bay Road, Amherst
Come help plan upcoming events, eat dinner, and hang out with the crew. Free to anyone interested.

Sunday, March 4th, 5-7:30pm Schmooze with the Jewz- JCA

Come and hang out and learn more about your friends. . Dinner will be provided. Chai-free, Alef- \$8, new members- free

Sunday, March 11th, 2-4:30pm; Center for Extended Care, Amherst: spark!

Volunteer for the Center for Extended Care. RSVP to Erik at ebenau@comcast.net.

Sunday, March 18th- 4-7pm- Jewish Comedy Workshop, JCA

You will not want to miss this. The LATE NIGHT PLAYERS are coming back to perform and lead a comedy workshop. Check out their demo at www.latenightplayers.com/watch.html This event is open to all teens in Western Massachusetts- so bring along friends! Snacks provided and there will be a raffle to raise money for comic relief in hospitals. \$5 for all teens.



RSVP to any of these awesome events by contacting Rachael at 256-0160 x208 or rbgoren@gmail.com

Sunday, March 25th, Jewish Film Festival, Smith College

More information to follow- a very cool free for teens community wide event. hosted by B'nai Tzedek.

These programs are partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative & spark! and Sponsored by JCAT, SPARK & BBYO.

Lander~Grinspoon Academy

THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER SCHOOL OF THE PIONEER VALLEY

257 Prospect St., Northampton, 413.584.6622
www.lander-grinspoonacademy.org

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS, '07-08!

- LGA...OFFERS an outstanding K-6 curriculum** in general studies, Modern Hebrew, and Judaics.
- LGA...RESPECTS the wide diversity of Jewish practice** among families while rejoicing in a shared history.
- LGA...CULTIVATES community connections** through curriculum and many community service projects.
- LGA...EMPOWERS children** with a strong sense of self.
- LGA...INVITES you to visit** to see teachers integrate intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual lessons in a lively and kind atmosphere.

LEARNING WHILE LEARNING TO CARE.



Financial Aid and Amherst van available.

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE... Organic, Fair trade, Kosher, Fresh, and a Such a Deal!

Support the JCA by ordering Dean's Beans Organic Coffee each month (September through June). It's a fundraiser for us and a bargain for you (\$8.50/lb and \$9.50/lb for decaf). Chai tea and chocolate covered coffee beans are also available.



For details, pick up an order form in the JCA lobby or contact susanweinstein1@yahoo.com (413-548-9552) to get on the e mail list. The next order date is: March 11th.

Pick up will be March 18th, or thereafter (contact Sue -see above- for more details)



36TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

In February's newsletter, because of the deadline, we could only list the names of all who were involved in making our 36th anniversary weekend so wonderful. We would like to expand on the report so that the JCA could know how much time and effort, blood, sweat, and tears were involved.

First and foremost the wonderful committee: **Joe Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Robin Diamond** and **Amy Rothenberg**. Their commitment and expertise made this all possible. In all my years doing organizational work I've come to learn it's not quantity but quality that gets the job done. They are truly an asset to our community.

The timing and content of each day's schedule could not have been more enlightening and entertaining.

Thank you to **Rabbi Weinberg** for explaining what inspirational and fulfilling work she is doing now. Her love for her present job came through with every word.

Thank you to **Sara Berger** for her

warm and knowledgeable history of the JCA on Friday evening – as always it was a delight listening to her.

To **Rabbi Bauer** thank you for conducting such an inspirational service Saturday morning. Your introduction to each aliyah made our returning founding mothers and fathers feel wanted and loved and needed. We hope they will continue to be with us so that we can benefit from their life experience.

To our culinary divas headed by **Karen Loeb** and her crew who baked for Friday oneg and who cooked and prepared for Saturday Kiddush – Delicious – Delicious – Delicious. How lucky we are!

To all who did such a super job decorating our Social Hall for Saturday's gala – it was a twinkling fairyland. To **Stan Rosenberg** who set the festive tone and honored us with a beautiful citation and to all in **Hu-Tsa-Tsa** who set our feet "a dancing" – thank you. To **Noble Feast** who catered our dinner and to **Steve Freedman of Amherst Wines and Spirits** and **Marvin Spence of Spirit Haus** you helped send our "spirits" flying.

To **Jody Rosenbloom** and the Religious School staff, thank you for making Sunday morning special for our children – they are a large part of our community. They will be the ones to chair our next anniversary special.

To **Joe Boucher** who taped and is selling our concert CD, thank you. Also to **Kayla Werlin, Mak'hela** and our talented singers and musicians, what a rollicking and inspirational way to end our weekend. Rabbi you really sent us "over the rainbow." To **Jeff Cohen** and **Amy Mittelman** raffle, raffle, raffle brought in money, money, money. You also put us over the monetary rainbow.

To all who came and supported the weekend, Yasher Koach. There would have been no weekend without you.

And last but certainly not least, it was a joy co-chairing with **Eva Rosenn** – she is a very special lady.

May we continue l'dor v'dor from generation to generation.

**Fran Saed, Co-chair,
36th Anniversary Committee**

MUSIC, ART AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

We continue our series of short talks during Friday evening services:

March 9- Frederique Marglin: *The Possibilities of Free Trade*. Frederique Marglin has just returned from an extended stay in Peru where she has been giving workshops on free trade.

Please contact Anita Page, 256-6306, if there are programs you would like to see happen at JCA and are willing to participate in their preparation.



200 Triangle Street
Amherst, MA 01002-2143
(413) 549-3700 Ext. 156
Outside MA: (800) 343-0688



Ann J. Hastings

REALTOR®, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES
annhastings@comcast.net
Home Office: 413•467•2299



**PIANO
TECHNICIANS
GUILD**
REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN

**AARON BOUSEL
PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL**

piano & harpsichord technicians

tuning • repairs • regulation

voice (413) 253-3846 fax

187 Heatherstone Road
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638

abousel@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan Peterfreund, Treasurer,
treasurer@j-c-a.org 253 5485

Closing out 2006 – Last year we had a net surplus of ~\$28,000. That included a single donation of \$49,300 (without this we would have seen a deficit of ~\$22,000.) The annual campaign raised ~\$30,000. Our total amount of donation in 2006 was just over \$104,000 demonstrating an enormous support for our community.

During the past year we reduced our debt by \$117,000 primarily by paying off member loans that were established five years ago. Membership dues were \$266,000, \$4000 less than in 2005 and \$34,000 less than budgeted. We entered into a new contract with the Rabbi that carries an average increase of 3% a year. We saw a change to the school budget starting this past fall reflecting lower enrollment and lower costs. Overall expenses, thanks in large part to our dedicated staff, were kept lower than the previous year.

Looking to 2007, the response by members has been much better than last year in completing membership forms in a timely manner. Overall, we appear to be ahead of last year in commitments and revenue. At the February Board meeting, we voted to ask the Conversations About Economic Sustainability (CAS) committee to reconvene to look at the financial impact of the fair dues policy instituted at the beginning of 2005. Their recommendations for 2008, if any arise, will be shared with the community.

The book every Boomer needs.

Moving Mentor Barbara Perman, Ph. D. weaves an accessible, intergenerational story about one of our generation's great challenges: relocating our aging parents.

Be enlightened -- and lighten up!

"Making the most of every opportunity is what this book is all about. If only I'd had it when I moved my mother."

-- Ken Blanchard, business consultant, author of *The One-Minute Manager*

Order your copy today!

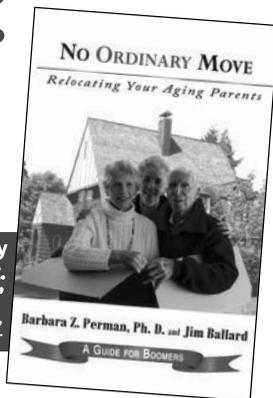
Available at:

www.AuthorHouse.com/Bookstore

www.NoOrdinaryMove.com

413-549-1039

www.movingmentor.com



We are introducing some new practices that we hope will reduce costs and work in the office this year.

- 1) We are asking committees to anticipate costs to events ahead of time and request an advance to cover minor expenses. This will help the office reduce paperwork and costs associated with the incredible number of small expenses.
- 2) Payment to speakers and others will be done through payroll allowing for a 1099 form. Requests must be submitted three weeks prior to when the check is required.
- 3) Letters back to JCA donors acknowledging their donations will be done annually along with recognition of amount paid for dues. Donations made by non-members will be made acknowledged immediately. We will still list donations each month in the newsletter.

Finally, we are looking for new members for the finance committee, someone willing to be an assistant treasurer (provide back up to me), and someone with QuickBooks expertise to be available to help answer questions when needed. Please contact me.

NEWS FROM THE TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE

The Tikkun Olam Committee is the JCA committee charged with working on critical social justice issues outside of the synagogue. In the past year we have worked on the issue of fair trade (ensuring that all coffee, tea and chocolate served at the JCA is fair trade), walked in the Gay Pride March, and distributed tzedakah fund money to 10 agencies.

This year we're interested in focusing on issues of economic justice, the environment, and Darfur. We're looking for energetic members interested in joining our committee or working with us on one of these issues.

In addition, we have a JCA banner stored at the JCA. It would be great to have a JCA presence at local rallies. Please ask for the banner if you're going to a demonstration or rally. Also, please let us know about your event, so we can encourage other JCA members to attend.

If there are issues you are interested in working on, please let us know that as well. Contact Flo Stern at flo@cohousing.com or (413) 687-1549.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13th, 8:30-10 a.m. in the JCA library. New members are always welcome.

**SECOND NIGHT SEDER AT THE JCA
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2007 AT 6:30PM**

Please join us for a delicious meal and spiritually uplifting experience in the JCA Social Hall led by Rabbi Bauer.

All are welcome: members, non-members, extended family, out-of-town friends, students, and interested non-Jews who wish to experience the joy of this central Jewish event.

The meal will be strictly Kosher for Passover, cooked under supervision of a mashgiach.

All items pareve with the exception of the chicken entrée.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh made Gefilte Fish • Matzah Ball Soup • Assorted Salads • Entrée • Potato Kugel • Honey Glazed Carrots • Dessert | <p>Entrée choices are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuffed Filet of Sole
<i>(Asparagus, Mushroom, Sun-dried Tomato)</i> • Vegetarian Moussaka
<i>(Eggplant, Mushrooms, Tomatoes)</i> • Boneless Breast of Chicken
<i>(savory fruit stuffing)</i> <p>*served according to JCA kashrut guidelines*</p> |
|--|---|

Adults: \$29

Children: \$18 (same entrees in half portion, choice of gefilte fish OR soup)

Accommodation will be made for reduced price or free meals if needed.

Please indicate the amount you are able to pay on the form (held in confidence).

Your response and full payment is due immediately!

Please don't put this off if you plan to attend.

The caterer must order sufficient Kosher for Passover ingredients.

We have a deadline of March 22nd for entering our order!

Questions? Requests? Paul Charette (860) 559-4926 cyclone411@charter.net

JCA Passover Seder - Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 6:30 pm **RSVP by MARCH 22nd**

ADULT ENTREES:	\$29	CHILD ENTREES:	\$18
QTY	TOTAL	QTY	TOTAL
___ Filet of Sole	\$ _____	___ Filet of Sole	\$ _____
___ Chicken	\$ _____	___ Chicken	\$ _____
___ Vegetarian Moussaka	\$ _____	___ Vegetarian Moussaka	\$ _____

NAMES(S): _____ GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Send checks (made out to Paul Charette) and this form to:

JCA Passover Seder, c/o Paul Charette, 21 Arlington St., Chicopee, MA 01020

ADULT EDUCATION AT THE JCA

LATE WINTER AND SPRING:

Friends:

Please, please read this list of wonderful opportunities and seriously consider taking advantage of at least one. You'll get a valuable education at very little cost, and you'll get better acquainted with fellow-congregants.

The Kavannah of Prayer

Instructor: Joan Saperstan

Dates and Times: 7:30 to 9:00 pm, Monday March 5, March 12, Wednesday March 28, April 25, May 2

This long-term class has just finished most of the prayers in the prayer book. This spring we will focus on the kaddish, the aleinu prayer and the commandment to love God. Our goal continues to ask questions about the nature of prayer, our relationship to God and the prayers themselves.

Newcomers are welcome!

Joan Saperstan is a therapist and spiritual director in Amherst. She has had a life long interest in prayer.



A Writing Workshop in Preparation for Pesach

Instructor: Merle Feld

Date and Time: Sunday afternoon, March 25, 2 – 4 PM

Whether we view the approach to Passover as preparing to reunite and celebrate with family and friends, or as preparing to go out from mitzraim/the narrow places, it can be a fruitful time for introspection and exploration. A spiritual writing practice can enable us to find and nurture our truest voices,

articulate and integrate the experiences that constitute our personal religious journey. By writing down our thoughts and feelings about our journeying, and envisioning our dreams and hopes for the promised land, we approach the destination we crave – a deeper self-understanding and inner coherence. To enhance and focus spiritual preparation for Passover, participants in this workshop will be guided through a series of simple yet powerful exercises, writing and sharing with each other. In this over-busy season, we'll have the unique gift of quiet time to explore our spiritual selves. (All are welcome, no previous journaling experience is necessary.)



A Workshop With Rabbi Emerita Sheila Weinberg

Date and Time: Sunday, March 11, 2 – 4 PM

This session will be in recognition of the 100th anniversary of Abraham Joshua Heschel's birth. It will include study and reflection on some of Heschel's work and his inspiration to us as a person who combined social activism and spirituality.

Your contributions and those of the JCA will go to the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.



We're continuing our post-kiddush discussions, once a month. On March 3rd it will be John Clayton leading a discussion of Parashat Tetzaveh.

*There is no pre-registration required.
Just come to the classes you'd like to attend.*



THEATER TRIP TO NEW YORK

Save the date-The JCA is planning a trip down to New York City on **Sunday June 3rd** to see the play, *A Jew Grows in Brooklyn*.

The tentative cost is \$79 and includes bus transportation, tickets to the show and a box lunch.

Hands of Patience

Patience Meigs Bousel

Certified Trager® Practitioner, Licensed Massage Therapist

*The Trager® Approach • Kripalu Bodywork
Massage for Pregnancy & Postpartum • Energy Work*

413-218-7815

800 Main St., Amherst, MA

pmbousel@comcast.net

AMHERST TIRE CENTER

292 COLLEGE STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002



(413) 256-8365



Get Involved!

Did you know???

2 out of 3 JCA teens are involved in something Jewish* post- B'nai Mitzvah.

**includes JCAT, spark, BBYO & B'nai Tzedek based on 2006 statistics*

Your Subaru will come with an honest deal and an honest dealer!



48 Damon Road, Northampton
1-877-SAFE AWD (TOLL FREE)
413-584-5355

www.stevelewis.subarudealer.com
SteveLewis@subarumail.com

Meet Allen Davis



You may know Allen as a devoted musician, or as the co-founder and president of Mak'hela, a regional Jewish chorus which aims to inspire and connect with the community through choral music. Or, you may know him as a lifelong entrepreneur who brings a wealth of wisdom and business experience to his financial planning practice.

Allen's passion for new ideas helps him develop creative financial strategies that are customized to your unique needs. Meet Allen Davis today to assemble an advisory team you can trust to help take care of your financial matters.

THE DAVIS GROUP
financial services for individuals and small businesses

100 Venture Way, Hadley, MA 01035
413-584-3098

Allen Davis is a registered representative of and offers securities, financial planning and investment advisory services through MML Investors Services, Inc. Member SIPC. 1500 Main Street, Suite 1200, Springfield, MA 01115. 413-781-6850. The Davis Group is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, Inc. 079922

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS!!
“LIVE AND BECOME” Amherst Cinema
AND
YITZCHAK SHAVIT OF
UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF AMERICA
 Jewish Community of Amherst

“Live and Become,” recipient of many awards will be shown at the Amherst Cinema beginning Friday, March 16. The film tells the story of a young Ethiopian Christian boy sent by his mother to escape the hardships of Ethiopia, airlifted to Israel, and chronicles his struggles as he tries to adapt to life in middle-class Tel Aviv. It is a powerful drama of what it means to be a black Jew in Israel who further suffers from not being true to his own identity.

Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 7PM*

Please join JCA members at the Amherst Cinema for a viewing of this film.

*For the 7 PM showing, call to confirm exact theater time.



SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007
2PM

Please join us at the JCA for a talk by Yitzchak Shavit, Vice-President of the United Jewish Communities of North America, on the problems of absorption and integration of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel.

In 2006 a delegation of the UJC of North America visited Ethiopia and the Falash Mura who are Ethiopian Jews whose ancestors converted to Christianity. They visited facilities set up by the Joint and other American Jewish groups to sustain the Falash Mura until their emigration to Israel. Shavit will share with us the UJC plans for the expedited immigration and absorption of the Falash Mura, and for the integration of Ethiopian Jews already living in Israel.



Yitzchak Shavit

- The talk is free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst.
- For additional information, please call Yaffa Gunner (413) 695-7410



Jewish Community of Amherst TRIP TO ISRAEL, leaving July 1 and departing Israel July 13, 2007 Led by Rabbi David Dunn Bauer



This is a fabulous opportunity to experience with members of your own Jewish community a very exciting, educational and fun trip. Highlights include:

- A visit to Kibbutz HaGoshrim, situated in a Nature Reserve in the heart of the Hula Valley between the tributaries of the Jordan River. Meet and talk with kibbutzniks.
- Descend via cable car to view the natural grottos hewn in the cliffs at Rosh Hanikra.
- Participate in a special seminar at Givat Haviva on Arab & Jewish co-existence in the Galilee. Lunch in an Arab-Israeli village.
- Visit Masada and the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Float in the Dead Sea.
- Take part in a dialogue on Israel's Political Reality with a Senior Lecturer from the Hebrew University Political Science Department.
- Take part in an active archeological dig at the Beit Guvrin caves.

The complete itinerary and budget is online at www.j-c-a.org. Click on JCA trip to Israel from menu on the left-hand side of the home page.

This is a family-friendly trip. Non JCA members welcome



Subsidy grants from the Grinspoon Foundation for up to \$1000 are available to each adult participant from Western Mass. Go to <http://www.hgf.org/> and click on incentive grants.

Group air fares are being explored. Meetings of interested participants will be scheduled in the near future.

For more information or to receive itinerary updates, contact Karen Loeb at: kloeb@comcast.net or call (413) 253-0336.

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.

This month we present two articles concerning the new Palestinian unity government.

ANALYSIS: New PA government creates a real problem for Israel

*By Avi Issacharoff,
Haaretz Correspondent*

The new Palestinian unity government creates a real problem for Israel. It will be headed by a senior Hamas figure, Ismail Haniyeh. Moreover, it will not recognize Israel and does not pretend to meet the Quartet's conditions, as one Hamas leader said.

Yet at the same time, it is not a Hamas government, and Hamas will not have a majority in the cabinet. The finance minister-designate, Salem Fayad, is the White House's darling. The foreign minister-designate, academic Ziad Abu Amar, has lectured at many American universities and does not have extremist positions on Israel. And the interior minister, who commands the security forces, will be an independent rather than a Hamas member, though he will be appointed on Hamas' recommendation.

Under these circumstances, Israel and the U.S. will have trouble demanding that the international economic boycott of the Palestinian government remain in place.

The other members of the Quartet - the European Union, the United Nations and Russia - have been annoyed for some time by Washington's opposition to a unity government, and once one is in place, in another few weeks, some or all of these parties are liable to announce the resumption of relations with the Palestinian Authority.

Although Hamas leader Khaled Meshal and Fatah's leader, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, accepted the principles of the Mecca agreement about 10 days ago, only this week did their last doubts vanish, when they realized that the Mecca summit was their last chance to end the internecine warfare in Gaza. Almost 100 Palestinians have been killed in this fighting over the last two months, and the combination of the violence and their sense of losing control led Abbas to brave American displeasure and Meshal to abandon his dream of exclusive Hamas control.

The agreement gave something to each of them: Meshal did not have to abandon Hamas' political platform and recognize Israel, while Abbas got a cabinet Hamas does not control. But many Palestinians are angry at both men.

No one reading the agreement could fail to wonder why it was delayed for many bloody weeks over a mere word or two: For instance, the final text states that the government will "respect" previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements; Abbas originally wanted "adhere to."

In Gaza, residents rejoiced that the civil war had ended. But the celebrations might be premature. With armed militias in Gaza, some lunatic could easily rekindle the fighting. And those who lost relatives will not so quickly abandon their desire for revenge.

Pacifying Gaza will be the new government's first task. But, at best, it will be difficult - and it may prove impossible.



Palestinian Deal Troubles U.S.

*By Anne Gearan
The Associated Press*

Thursday, February 8, 2007

WASHINGTON -- A power-sharing deal between the secular, U.S.-backed Palestinian leader and his Islamic militant rivals complicates an emerging U.S.

effort to invigorate dormant peace prospects with Israel. The deal announced Thursday between warring Palestinian factions does not expressly commit the new government to conditions the United States has called essential first steps toward any political accommodation between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Bush administration said little in public about the agreement, but officials were troubled at the prospect of a unified Palestinian government that will not renounce violence or recognize Israel. "We're going to have to see," said White House press secretary Tony Snow. "At this juncture they are very preliminary reports and we have not had any opportunity to study what may have been worked out there." U.S. officials dismissed any suggestion that the deal would scuttle a planned peace summit among Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Late Thursday, the State Department issued a cautious statement that avoided judgment on the reports of a deal, saying officials had not yet seen the details of either the composition or the political program for the new government. "We remain committed to the president's vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, and to the roadmap as the way forward toward that goal," spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said.

Olmert had announced the Feb. 19 three-way meeting one day before the Palestinian deal emerged. Rice plans several days of diplomatic meetings in the Middle East surrounding the summit, which she has described as a way to build confidence between Palestinians and Israelis, who have not held serious peace talks for six years. Rice is set to report on the meeting days later at a

continued on next page

continued from previous page

separate gathering of would-be international peacemakers. The United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia are shepherds of a dormant peace proposal that would lead to an eventual independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

That plan predates the Palestinian elections of a year ago in which Hamas militants trounced Abbas' Fatah Party, setting up a political impasse and causing most other governments to stop international financial aid to the cash-strapped Palestinians.

The four-member peacemaking group set out conditions for Hamas last year that Hamas has never met. Besides demanding that Hamas swear off violence and accept Israel, the peacemaking group said Hamas must agree to abide by international agreements, including those with Israel, made by the previous

secular Palestinian government. The slim details available about the deal reached Thursday included a promise that the new government would "respect" peace deals with Israel. It was not clear whether that would be enough.

The United States, European Union and Israel consider Hamas a terrorist organization, and U.S. law forbids direct dealings with it.

Rival Palestinian leaders signed the agreement after emergency talks brokered by Saudi Arabia. Abbas said the deal would "satisfy our people ... and bring us to the shores of peace. ... This initiative has been crowned with success."

Abbas was elected separately and retains office. He is the only top Palestinian official with whom the Bush administration will deal, and it is unclear whether the new power-sharing arrangement would change that. It also

is unclear whether the bargain with Hamas will strengthen Abbas or weaken him, affecting his ability to negotiate with Israel.

Martin Indyk, ambassador to Israel under former President Clinton, said the deal may also increase international pressure to relax the terms for Hamas to gain legitimacy. "It's going to present a real problem for the United States and Israel" if the government does not meet the three conditions, he said. Indyk raised the possibility of a U.S. split with Russia and Europe. At a news conference with Rice last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made a point of expressing opposition to international isolation of Hamas. Russia and European nations "may now say, 'This is what the Palestinians have produced, now we have to work with them,'" Indyk said.



UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND THE NEW ISRAEL FUND

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, March 18, at 2 pm Yitzchak Shavit, Vice-President of the United Jewish Communities of North America, will speak at the JCA about the problems involved in the absorption of the Falash Mura, Christians of Jewish Ancestry, into the body politic of Israel. He will also describe the problems of the Ethiopian Jews already living in Israel and the plans of the UJC and Israel to further assist in their integration.



For more information, please refer to the flyer on page 14. There, details of the viewing of the film on March 17th of "Live and Become," dealing with the life of an Ethiopian Christian refugee child in Israel, can also be found.

We look forward to your joining us at both events.

PROJECT REHOVOT

Sincere thanks to those who have donated to Project Rehovot

- Jeff and Marilyn Blaustein in memory of Frances Baker
- Thomas Butler and Jody Wax
- Saul Gladstone
- Evelyn Goldenberg
- Frieda and Irving Howards
- Devorah Jacobson and Margaret Mastrangelo
- Jewish Community of Amherst Discretionary Fund, Rabbi Bauer
- Elinor Levine and Scott Nielsen
- Abby Loeb
- Steve and Joan Levine in memory of Irene Kagan
- Betsy Brooks and Jonathan Machta
- John Todd and Dorothy Nemetz
- Rabbi Saul Perlmutter and Shoshana Zonderman
- Joan and Monroe Rabin in memory of Helen Rabin
- Jody Rosenbloom and Joel Kaminsky
- Judith Gaser and Robert Stern
- in honor of the birth of Hadassah Weinmartin
- M.K. Whaples
- Eleanor D. Quint
- Fay Zipkowitz in honor of Yaffa Gunner
- Joalie Davie
- Rita Rubin in honor of Yaffa Gunner



You're staring right at it! You don't have to search all over town for the right place for your party.

**Jewish
Community
of Amherst
Social
Hall**

You don't have to search all over town for the right place for your party.



*Come and see for yourself.
Call for an appointment today.*

Our events coordinator will help you plan your party
and access the resources you need for a truly joyous event
Call Linda Cooper at 256-0160 ext. 207 for reservations and more information.




**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



music for your celebration

Jewish music
and
Jazz standards

contact:
Allen Davis (413) 549-0128
Aaron Bousel (413) 253-3544

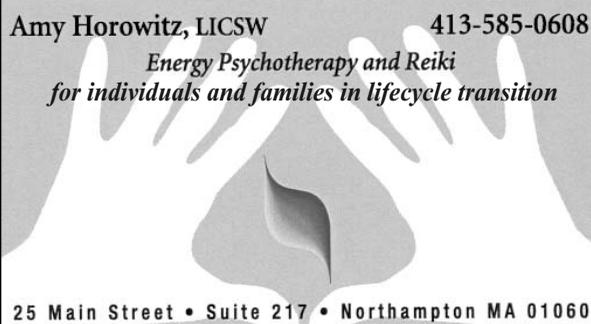


Pelham Auto Service
Div. of Pelham Industrial Group Ltd.
1315 Federal St.
Belchertown, Ma. 01007

413-253-9302
413-253-9811 FAX Foreign Car Repairs Since 1972

Amy Horowitz, LICSW 413-585-0608

*Energy Psychotherapy and Reiki
for individuals and families in lifecycle transition*



25 Main Street • Suite 217 • Northampton MA 01060

JCA MEMORIAL TABLET REQUEST FORM

1. Tablets may be installed in memory of a JCA member or in memory of a relative or a friend of a member.
2. Tablets are of solid brass, 8 7/8 x 2 1/2 inches.
3. Tablets will include the name of the deceased in English, the name of the deceased and his or her parents in Hebrew, the date of death in English, and the date of death on the Jewish calendar in Hebrew. (Some information may be omitted if not known or desired, but no additional information may be included. We will assist in getting Hebrew names and dates if necessary.)
4. Annual reminders of the Yahrzeit will be mailed out by the JCA office if desired.
5. A minimum donation of \$100 per tablet has been set by the Board.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY:

Name of donor: _____ Tel. Day: _____

Address: _____ Evening: _____

Do you want an annual reminder of the Yahrzeit? Yes _____ No _____

Name and address of reminder if different from above: _____

NAME OF DECEASED in English: _____

in Hebrew (or transliterated): _____

DATE OF DEATH: _____

(English)

(Jewish Calendar, if known)

TIME OF DEATH (before or after sundown): _____

PARENTS' FIRST NAMES (in Hebrew if known; otherwise in English)

FATHER: _____ MOTHER: _____

Return this form with your check to the JCA office. Mail should be sent to:

JCA YAHRZEIT
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Call the JCA office (256-0160) or Saul Gladstone (253-0631) if you have questions.

GET IT ON LINE!

You can read the JCA Newsletter on line at:

www.j-c-a.org/news/current.pdf

Many of our members have elected not to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter and read it on line instead (or print their own copy from the on line edition). This helps reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter each month.

Please contact the office if you no longer need to have the Newsletter mailed to you.

HELP US REPLACE OUR CHUMASHIM

The process of replacing our chumashim in the sanctuary continues.

Our only source of revenue for this is from your donations to the prayerbook fund.

Please consider aiding this effort.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted, however a minimum donation of \$65.00 is required for a book dedication plate.

BED AND BAGEL REMINDER

Think JCA B&B for spring simchas and visiting relatives and friends! Commencement and alumni weekends are full at area hotels. A great answer is the JCA B&B lodging in comfortable homes in and around Amherst and Northampton.

Talk it up in your own networks and call for questions or reservations to Jaymie Chernoff, 413-256-0500 or jaymieathome@yahoo.com.

*Advertise in the
JCA Newsletter*

By advertising you can:

- Help support the cost of producing the newsletter
- Let the community know about your products and/or services.
- Increase your business!

Contact Aaron Bousel
253-3544, news@j-c-a.org
for more information

JCA OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 10:30 - 4:00

Wednesday 4:00 - 6:00 pm &

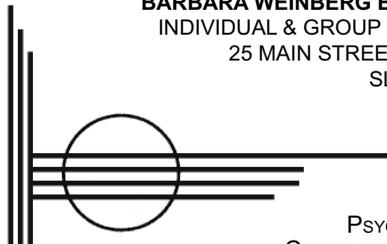
**Sunday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
for Religious School support.**

Have you checked out the
JCA Judaica Store lately?

Books by JCA members and others,
siddurim, chumashim, tallit, mez-
zuzot and many lovely gift items.

You can shop whenever
the office is open.

BARBARA WEINBERG BURKART, L.M.H.C.
INDIVIDUAL & GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY
25 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON
SLIDING SCALE FEE



WOMEN'S ISSUES
LIFE TRANSITIONS
PSYCHOSPiritUAL ISSUES
COPING WITH CHANGE AND LOSS
CALL 253-2041 FOR MORE INFORMATION

(413) 253-5384

Spirit Haus

PURVEYORS OF FINE WINE,
LIQUORS, MICRO & SPECIALTY BEERS

34 YEARS OF SERVICE

338 COLLEGE ST.
PO BOX 506
AMHERST, MA 01004

DONATIONS

Annual Giving

In Memory of Stephen Ziperstein (Fran Ziperstein)

JCA General Fund

In Honor of Alice Friedman's 85th birthday (Elsie Fetterman)

In Memory of Elaine Greenberg (Ruth Cushing Fishman)

In Honor of Mort Sternheim for helping the WJAC with their photo problem (Yaffa & Haim Gunner)

In Honor of the 36th anniversary planning committee and all the volunteers who made the weekend so memorable (Yaffa & Haim Gunner)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Nathan Margalit's mother (Fran Saed)

In Honor of Barbara Freed (Marilyn Kushick)

In Memory of Luisa Kreisberg, sister of Paulina Stark (Judy Glaser & Bob Stern)

Tzedakah

In Memory of Elaine Greenberg (Bettie Skole Kravetz)

In Honor of the Wednesday morning meditative minyan (Herbert & Mary Bernstein)

CONDOLENCES

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

Pauline Cohen, mother of Marc Cohen, mother-in-law of Gail Finger, and grandmother of Eli, Matthew and Michael

BEIT SHALOM COMMITTEE

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 (253-9372; 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.

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.

If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact Rabbi Bauer or the Chesed Committee by calling the office (256-0160). Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important for us as a community to be aware of the health and well being of our members and their families. We cannot help if we don't know.

The Deadline for the April Newsletter is
March 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

ADULT READING GROUP

The third meeting of the year for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, March 14th, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. The book is available in paperback. New group members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please call Ken Talan at 253-2248.

Community Announcements

Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts

On-Going Support Group Offerings

Caregivers Support Group: Offering emotional support, resources and information for caregivers of a spouse, parent or loved one. Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 Jewish Family Service, 16 Armory Street, Northampton 582-6790 please call for information or to register

Bereavement Group: Offering support for those coping with the loss of a loved one. Mondays 1:15-2:30 Jewish Family Service, 16 Armory Street, Northampton 582-6790 please call for information or to register



Lander-Grinspoon Academy,

The Solomon Schechter School of the Pioneer Valley, is currently accepting applications for the '07-'08 school year, K-6. We welcome visits to our classrooms to see how our teachers integrate intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual lessons in a lively and kind atmosphere. LGA is committed to "learning while learning to care". Financial aid and Amherst van available. For more information contact Marla Shelasky, Director of Admissions, at 413-584-6622, mshelasky@ssdspv.org, or visit www.lander-grinspoonacademy.org.



UMass Office of Jewish Affairs

The UMass Office of Jewish Affairs will be showing two films by Israeli directors, in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival:

Walk on Water (2004, 105 mins) is the most popular Israeli film ever shown in the U.S. This thriller about an Israeli intelligence agent assigned to track down an aging Nazi war criminal challenges

our beliefs about sexuality, vengeance, and the morality of killing. Predominantly in English, with some Hebrew and German with subtitles. Cosponsored by the Stonewall Center and Hillel.

Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

Encounter Point (2006, 85 mins) tells the extraordinary story of ordinary people who have chosen peace over revenge: Palestinians and Israelis who risk everything—their social standing, their relationship to their families, and even their lives—to pursue a nonviolent end to the conflict. English, Hebrew, Arabic with subtitles. Cosponsored by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom.

Sunday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.

Both films will be shown in the Flavin Auditorium, Isenberg School of Management, Room 137. Free, open to the public, wheelchair accessible.

More information online at www.umass.edu/jewish



Panache Productions Presents: *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*

Panache Productions presents the 1997 Tony Award Winner, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, by Alfred Uhry (Driving Miss Daisy) **March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18** in the Winifred Arms Studio Theater at CityStage, One Columbus Center, Springfield. Directed by award winning local director, Sondra Radosh of Amherst the cast includes **Vivien Weiss** and **Ellen Reich** (Northampton), **Kip Fonsh** (Leverett), **Charlotte Parker** (Westhampton), **Kiara Perico** (Pelham), **Aaron Feinstein** (Worthington) and **Dan Desrochers** of Chicopee.

The setting is December 1939. *Gone With The Wind* is having its world premiere in Atlanta; Hitler is invading Poland and Ballyhoo, the social event

of the season for the elite Jews of Atlanta, is taking place. There is plenty of comedy, romance and revelation along the way as the characters are forced to deal with personal issues . . ."it is a delightful comedy freighted with an uncomfortable message" . . .The New York Post

Productions are Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm. Tickets are \$18 general and \$16 students/seniors (group rates are available). Includes free parking.

Reservations call: 413-283-5980.



Meditation Group

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"* Meditation Group

Every Thursday in the CBI Library, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by **Rabbis Nancy Flam** and **Sheila Peltz Weinberg**

Please know that is not an instructional group. Rather, each of us comes with our own silent meditation or prayer practice and draws strength and affirmation for our deep, inner work by being together in community.

Arrive & Settling In: 8:00 – 8:15 a.m.
Setting of Kavvanah/Teaching:
8:15 – 8:25 a.m.

Bell to begin silent meditation: 8:25 a.m.
Bell to end silent meditation: 8:55 a.m.

* "To You silence is praise." Ps. 65:2



Community announcements should be brief and of interest to the local Jewish community. Announcements will be listed as space permits.



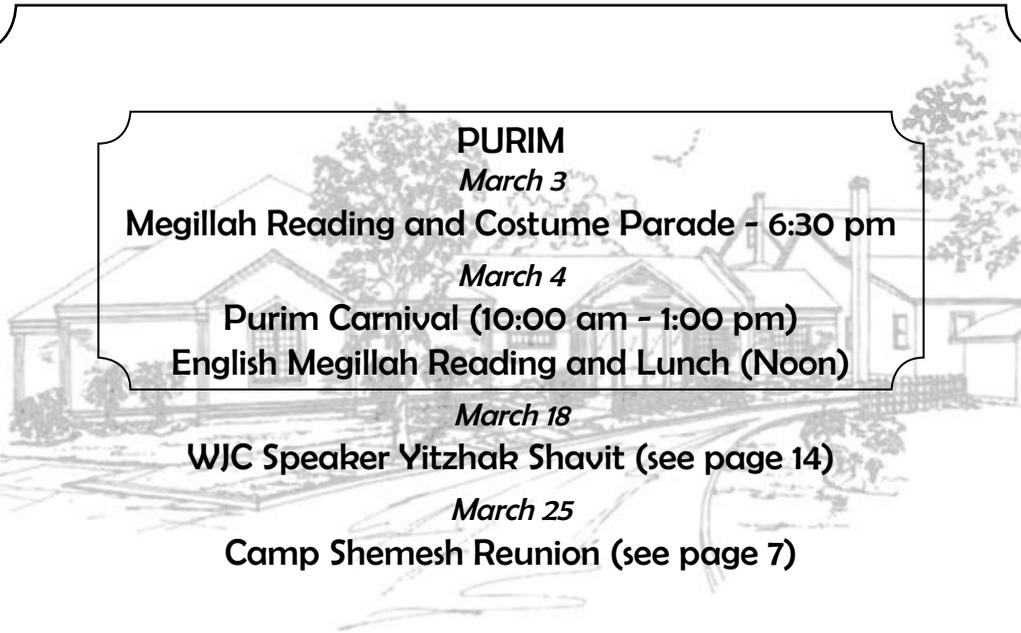
Jewish Community of Amherst

March 2007

11 Adar ~ 12 Nisan



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11 ADAR 12:00 Noon Text Study 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Plays 7:30 pm Board Meeting	2 12 ADAR 11:5:23 5:30 pm Family style service and Potluck Supper	3 13 ADAR Tetzaveh Parashat Zachor 10:00 am Regular JCA service Masorti Service Torah Discussion led by John Clayton following kiddush 6:30 pm Megillah Reading
4 14 ADAR Purim 10:00 am-1:00 pm Purim Carnival 12:00 Noon English Megillah Reading and Lunch 2:30 pm Strategic Planning Committee	5 15 ADAR Shushan Purim 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Prayer	6 16 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 6:00 pm Adult Ed - Beginner Yiddish 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Intermediate Yiddish	7 17 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Ezekiel	8 18 ADAR 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Plays 7:30 pm Personnel Committee	9 19 ADAR 11:5:31 6:15 pm Grades 5-6 Shabbat Family Dinner 8:00 pm Service Program: Frederique Marglin, "The Possibilities of Free Trade"	10 20 ADAR Ki Tisa Parashat Parah 10:00 am Service 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds
11 21 ADAR Daylight Savings Time Begins 2:00 pm Adult Ed - Workshop with Rabbi Weinberg	12 22 ADAR 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Prayer 7:30 pm Finance Committee	13 23 ADAR Deadline for April Newsletter 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm Beginner and Intermediate Yiddish	14 24 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Book Group 7:30 pm Religion Committee	15 25 ADAR 12:00 Noon Text Study	16 26 ADAR 11:5:39 6:15 pm Carlebach-style Service	17 27 ADAR Vayakhel - Pekude Parashat Hachodesh 9-9:50 am Torah Yoga with Rabbi Bauer and Rachael Goren 10:00 am Service
18 28 ADAR 2:00 pm WJC Speaker Yitzhak Shavit See page 14 4:00 pm Teen Program Jewish Comedy Workshop	19 29 ADAR	20 1 NISAN Rosh Chodesh Nisan 7:15 am Shacharit Minyan 6:00 pm Adult Ed - Beg. Yiddish 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Yoga 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Inter. Yiddish	21 2 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Group	22 3 NISAN 7:00 pm Adult Ed - Plays	23 4 NISAN 11:5:47 8:00 pm Service Discussion of JCA religious services	24 5 NISAN Vayikra 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah of Jovanna Robinson-Hidas
25 6 NISAN 12:30 pm Camp Shemesh Reunion 2:00 pm Adult Ed - Writing Workshop with Merle Feld	26 7 NISAN	27 8 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 6:00 pm Adult Ed - Beginner Yiddish 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Intermediate Yiddish	28 9 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Prayer	29 10 NISAN 7:30 pm Education Committee	30 11 NISAN 11:5:55 8:00 pm Service	31 12 NISAN Tzav 10:00 am Service



PURIM

March 3

Megillah Reading and Costume Parade - 6:30 pm

March 4

**Purim Carnival (10:00 am - 1:00 pm)
English Megillah Reading and Lunch (Noon)**

March 18

WJC Speaker Yitzhak Shavit (see page 14)

March 25

Camp Shemesh Reunion (see page 7)

*Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002*

Return Service Requested

Dated Material - Please Rush - Do Not Delay

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Amherst, MA
Permit No. 90**