

Jewish Community of Amherst



קהילה היהודית של אמרסט

Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation

April 2007
Nisan/Iyar 5767
Vol. 6, Issue No. 4

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

April 6 ~ 7:03 pm
April 13 ~ 7:11 pm
April 20 ~ 7:19 pm
April 27 ~ 7:27 pm

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

Special Events

April 3
JCA Seder

April 8
Matzo Brei Breakfast

April 15
Community Education-
Bagels from Benny

April 15
Yom Hashoah Holocaust
Memorial Observance

Meetings

April 5
Board Meeting

April 11
Religion Committee

April 17
Tikkun Olam Committee

April 25
Education Committee



*Pesach
begins
Monday*

April 2nd at sundown.

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT

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

Surely we're all lifelong learners...and love to share. I hope you don't mind my sharing two amazing Jewish concepts that were new to me until this month.

The first is that doing an aliyah on the bima (for me, it's about connecting energetically with the Torah and our community, local and global, as well as current, ancestral, and future, and about witnessing and being witnessed) is a useful ritual that can be used often; it's not just for other people or hugely significant occasions! I did an aliyah to mark, in a ritual way, connecting with Torah and community, witnessing and being witnessed, the end of my own year of mourning after moving from my marriage and old house to my "independence" and new house. Thus, an aliyah helps us cross personal borders.

The second is the concept of *marit ayin*, literally something like "creating a bad vision before the eyes", confusing and misleading others by (innocently) appearing to behave inappropriately. It's steeped in awareness of our responsibility to other people and what we're communicating.

Looking forward, by the time you read this, the second night of Passover will be over so we'll be taking account of our days (49 of them) by counting the omer (barley offerings), which is as heavy on mystery as you want it to be.

Looking back, March was another great month at the JCA, starting with a terrific Purim spiel

and family service plus adult reading of the megillah and lunch. We had our first simultaneous services, this time a mostly Hebrew "masorti" service at the same time as a Reconstructionist service, and then joined for kiddush. Frederique Marglin gave a wonderful talk one Friday night, co-organized by Music, Arts, and Culture committee (and/or Tikkun committee) about Fair Trade coffee and socially responsible consumption, based on her ongoing relationship with the people of a Peruvian coffee-growing community. The Montessori school in Amherst held their auction here and I imagine it was a success. Tobi Snajderman and Oran Kaufman organized a very intergenerational dance party at the end of February; everyone danced their heads off or enjoyed watching. Basherte held a dance party here for Jewish singles that was apparently excellent. Classes on Ezekiel, spirituality, and Yiddish, as well as groups that meet about spirituality and politics, reading scripts, reading books—all appear to be on track. On the calendar is the popular Carlebach-style service; two yoga events; Rosh Chodesh celebration of the new moon, text and Torah discussions, a writing workshop with Merle Feld, and a talking workshop with Sheila Weinberg, a Camp Shemesh reunion, a JCA viewing at the Amherst Cinema of the film *Live and Become* with a talk the next day at the JCA.

REPORT FROM THE JCA BOARD

* We want to acknowledge Alan Black, who resigned from the board for now but continues to be actively involved in the JCA.

B'nai Mitzvah

April 14 - 10:00 am
Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Weiner

continued on next page

continued from previous page

- * The Strategic Planning Committee is currently parsing the minutes—your many many opinions!—from the Parlor Meetings and mapping out a sensible proposal that will update the 1992 Strategic Plan.
- * A retreat for all committee chairs is being planned for this spring.
- * The office is changing computer systems, which isn't easy.
- * We'll try using consensus rather than Robert's Rules of Orders to decide issues.

Also, we need help in so many ways but here are two. Can someone help Eva Goldwater and me create a database of members' volunteer interests and skills? Can someone help with publicity and marketing for all JCA events, announcements, and publications?

b'shalom,
Kitty Axelson-Berry

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 Yechiel 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: Lisa Perl binder (230-3055), (to be determined),

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: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the May issue is April 12th

April 2007, Vol. 6, Issue No. 4

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

JCA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TASK FORCE

The JCA board, at its February meeting, voted to authorize a task force named the JCA Educational Programs Task Force. The task force will study the present educational program structure at the JCA, especially our Sunday school but also family and adult education.

After significant input from JCA members as well as non-members with an interest in Jewish education, and with significant participation from JCA members, we will undertake a needs assessment and a comparison of our programs with other communities' programs.

Our goal is to analyze and ultimately revamp and/or continue our educational programming.

At the time of this writing, educational consultant Billy Mencow of Gribetz- Mencow Consultants of Lexington, Massachusetts, is scheduled to spend March 22 at the JCA interviewing various key members of the JCA community with an interest in our educational program. He will issue preliminary findings and analysis, plus recommendations as to how to move forward. The task force will then determine how to proceed and whether we should continue working with the consultant or go it on our own.

The members of the JCA Educational Programs Task Force include John Loeb (Interim Chair), Merle Feld, Lisa Perl binder, David Rabinovitz, Andra Rose, Jim Seltzer, Stacy Tobin, and Ted Trobaugh. Rabbi Bauer and Jodi Rosenbloom are Ex Officio (non-voting) members. Several other community members have already expressed their desire to help in this effort and will most certainly be called upon; please contact me (John Loeb) if you would like to help, too.

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.

Online at www.j-c-a.org

DEVARIM: WORDS FROM RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER



The Omer period - the seven weeks from Pesach to Shavuot - in ancient times marked the time span from the barley to the wheat harvest. In the present day we experience the Omer as a wonderful opportunity for Jewish mindfulness.

Pesach is our most ritually intricate holiday - cleaning house, changing dishes, changing our recipes and diet, acting out the drama of the seder - Shavuot our simplest - a single night of more expansive study and prayer. The themes of revelation and redemption speak to our intellectual and emotional connection to God and to our tradition.

Perhaps this year each of us can use the period of the Omer to gain clarity about where in the spectrum of Jewish experience we are most engaged. Do we respond most to enacted ritual or to text study? Does synagogue membership lead us to a sense of redemption from a personal Mitzrayim - place of narrowness or constriction? How does it bind each of us more closely to our people? So many possibilities.

The Reconstructionist understanding of Judaism as a civilization can itself liberate us from a mistaken fear that we have to be Jewish in one particular way. It is not obligatory that we love all of Jewish civilization equally, but I believe that all of us are obliged to seek out and embrace the aspects we can love most fully.

The expansion of our Shabbat service offerings has already begun successfully. On the first Shabbat of March, between

the Masorti and Reconstructionist minyanim, 60 of us were present at 12:30pm for kiddush and Torah study together. (While I am very pleased with the success so far, I am also mindful of the awkward aspects of our expansion as we distribute our resources of Torah scrolls and Torah readers and minyan numbers between two sanctuaries. I truly believe the system will get smoother over time.) Our first Feminine God Language minyan comes at the end of this month. What form of Jewish prayer draws each of us most strongly at this moment in our lives?

On a less solemn religious note, the Purim festivities this year were ideally exuberant and irreverent, thanks to the efforts of so many people. Yasher ko'ach especially to Andrea Olkin for putting together the shpiel and to Paul Charette for seeing to all the details. And on a celebratory secular note, the Yiddish classes offered through the Adult Ed program have lifted up a powerful cultural component for many people in the community.

So use the days of the Omer to identify the facets of Jewish civilization that are most engaging, be they religious or secular, traditional or brand new, emotional or intellectual, revelatory or redemptive. Then find the corresponding activity at the JCA. It's probably there.



**A Special "Thank You" to
Nick Seamon and
The Black Sheep Deli and Bakery
for providing us with a
wonderful lunch on Purim**

RABBI LIAISON COMMITTEE

The charge of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is:

"To provide an effective process that will expand and enhance both the functional and personal relationship between the Rabbi and the JCA community"

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



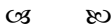
RELIGION COMMITTEE

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

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

April 1, Sunday- Search for Chametz



April 2, Monday- First Seder

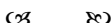


April 3, Tuesday- First Day Pesach

9:30 AM- Service

Service Leaders: Rabbi Bauer & Paul Charette

6:30 PM- 2nd Seder at the JCA



Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesach

Exodus 33:12-34:26, Number 28:19-25

April 6, Friday

5:30 PM

Family Service for everyone: Intergenerational, child-centered service and potluck supper (see below for more information)

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

April 7, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service in the main sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Eliezer Huber

Masorti Service in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Joseph Boucher

(see next page for more information)



April 9, Monday, 7th Day Pesach

9:30 AM- Service with Yiskor

Service Leader- Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Shemini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47

April 13, Friday

8:00 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Program: D. Dina Friedman will speak on her new book *Escaping Into the Night*

April 14, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Weiner

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Eliana Weiner, Rabbi Bauer



April 15, Sunday- Yom HaShoah

7:00 PM

A program of dramatic readings and songs from the Holocaust



April 18/19, Wednesday/Thursday- Rosh Chodesh Iyar



Shabbat Tazria/Metzora, Leviticus 12:1-15:33

April 20, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach-style service

April 21, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

Torah Discussion led by Kelilah Miller following kiddush



April 22, Sunday- Yom HaZikaron

Israel Remembrance Day



April 23, Monday- Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Israel Independence Day



Shabbat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim

Leviticus 16:1-20:27

April 27, Friday

8:00 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

April 28, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service in the main sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

Feminist Shabbat Service in the small sanctuary

(see next page for more information)



Friday, April 6th Potluck Supper:

Because this is happening during Passover we ask that all food be packaged, marked "Kosher for Pass-over" and brought in its original packaging. Thank you.

Religion Committee, continued

KIDDUSH AND ONEG SPONSORS

March 24-

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

April 14-

Alan Weiner & Laura Roberts, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eliana

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.

UPDATED INFORMATION

on services and other events can be found on the JCA website:
www.j-c-a.org

FEMINIST SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN

On April 28, Saturday morning, come join in a new feminist minyan at the JCA. We will daven using many sources: *Birkat Shalom*, Marcia Falk's *Book of Blessings*, *Kol HaNeshamah*, our own lives, etc. We will focus on bringing our bodies as well as our minds into prayer; on including feminine as well as masculine, as well as non-gendered, language to speak to the divine; on praying through the white spaces surrounding the text as well as the black print of the texts. This minyan is open to all people, and open to the creative energies that we all bring to it.

MASORTI LAY-LED SHABBAT MINYAN:

This month's egalitarian masorti minyan will meet on April 7th in the small sanctuary.
(a masorti service means an older, "traditional" liturgy and includes Haftarah and Musaf.)

The service will be led by Joseph Boucher

The service begins at 10:00 am and joins with the rest of the congregation for Kiddush at 12:15.

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 APRIL 21ST

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 April 21st when Kelilah Miller will lead the discussion. It will be the week of parashat Tazria/Metzora.

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 Thursday, April 19th as we celebrate Rosh Chodesh for the Jewish month of Iyar. 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. 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 April 20th at 6:15 PM. We have transliterated prayerbooks and buddies to help you. The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

EDUCATION NEWS

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



Passover Party: Matzo Brei Breakfast and “Pick your Own” Program

Sunday, April 8. 10-12:15 am

JCA School with a Passover twist invites you to join an open classroom morning-have a treat and then choose from Passover activities for students of all ages. Story time for young children, art projects, or an adult study group. Topics include “Sharon’s Adventures in Israel, Manga Midrash with Andrea, Ashkenaz dancing with Dobele, video shorts and stories with Sammy Spider and Melissa. Breakfast will be served from 9:30-11:30. There will be two activity sessions beginning at 10 and 11. End the morning with Learner’s Minyan at 11:45-12:15. The morning is open to the community-suggested donation \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$10/household.

Preparation for Bar and Bat Mitzvah to Begin Earlier

This year, both 4th and 5th graders will participate in the “Introduction to Bar/Bat Mitzvah” with Rabbi Bauer. The decision to start preparation in 4th grade is in response the growing need for longer lead time in assigning dates, reserving party space, and preparing families. This year’s workshop will be for households with children in grades 4 & 5 on Sunday, April 29 from 10-11:45.

Time to Start Thinking Fall of 2007!

Registration to Be Mailed

Registration information will be sent to families with students currently enrolled in JCA School by the end of April. We ask that you make every effort to register your children by June 1. We have begun planning for school next year and

need to know student enrollment numbers to best plan for teachers, room size and supplies.

Interesting in Starting Your Child in JCA School?

If you are currently a member of the JCA and have children entering 1st grade or older or if you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, contact the JCA School at 256-0160 X203. Children 4-6 year olds (as of Sept. 2007) are eligible to participate in our monthly Shabbat Shalom program.

Thank-You To

- *Purim Carnival helpers:* **Stacy, Zachary & Kailey Tobin, Reed Alper, Lisa Perlbinder, Lisa Sussman, Susan & Jim Richardson, Cheryl Edgerly, Tobi Sznajderman, Andrea Keins, Melanie Lewis, Karen Helfer, Debra Evans, Susan Weinstein, Suzanne Severin, Cheryl Zoll & Lydia Sawyer, 7th graders: Katherine Kayser Hirsh, Julia Rossen, Leah Parker Bernstein, Solomon Goldstein Rose, Kyla Amick. Teachers: Andrea Olkin, Sharon Goldberg, Sarah Danson, Debra Caplan, Melissa Zeitz, Kelilah Miller, Ellen Gatozzi; Teaching Assistants: Eli Cohen, Lena Amick, David Gamliel & Daniel Hammond.**
- **Elizabeth Trobaugh** for helping with the raffle (omitted from last month’s thank-yous)
- **Reed Alper** for help as a substitute teacher in school.
- **Joe Boucher** for computer tech support.

Wish List

- Digital Camera

Calendar

Sun, April 1	No Class - Passover Preparation
Mon, April 2	Erev Passover- First Seder
Wed, April 4	Classes Resume
Sat, April 7	Shabbat Shalom Class (10:30 - Noon)
Sun, April 8	Matzo Brei Breakfast “Pick You Own” Program
Sat, April 14 - Wed, April 18	NO CLASSES - Spring Break
Wed, April 25	Education Committee 7:30 pm
Sun, April 29	Grades 4 & 5 with Parents, 10-11:45 am “Introduction to Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the JCA”
Sat, May 5	Shabbat Shalom Class (10:30-Noon)
Sun, May 6	Lag B’Omer: Class in Groff Park/Portrait Day

JCA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS
IN BLACK AND WHITE

By Locally Famous Photographer
ELLEN AUGARTEN

Two Dates in May:
FRIDAY, MAY 4TH, 2:30-5:30
SUNDAY, MAY 6TH, 9:30-12:30

LOCATION: GROFF PARK
(there will be a rain date)

SITTING FEE (100% donated to JCA): \$36

PRINTS ARE PURCHASED DIRECTLY FROM
ELLEN AUGARTEN
(print prices available—call Tobi)

CALL TOBI TO RESERVE A TIME SLOT: 549-1795

BAGELS FROM BENNY—

a morning of bagel baking and storytelling

For children 6 years and younger and their parents

Sunday, April 29th from 10 – 11:30am

Learn how to make a bagel from scratch! Get your hands in the dough! Taste that fresh bagel right out of the oven! We'll spend the morning actually making the bagels and reading the wonderful PJ Library book, Bagels from Benny. Many of our children are familiar with this wonderful book. This will be an opportunity to explore, thru activities, songs and bagel baking, the deeper issues revealed in the story



For more info contact Liz Friedman, Family Educator
at lizfriedm@gmail.com

Major funding provided by The Grinspoon Foundation

**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.

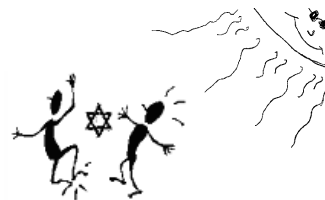
You don't have to make a commitment right now, just let me know you want to go.

CAMP SHEMESH 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.

MICHIRAT CHAMETZ: SELLING OF CHAMETZ

This procedure is usually carried out by a rabbi on behalf of the seller. After the Festival, the chametz reverts to original ownership. Please send in the attached form below if you wish to have your chametz sold through the JCA.

[CONSIDER BRINGING CHAMETZ TO FOOD COLLECTION FOR SURVIVAL CENTER]

(Please return to JCA by March 30)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

“We empower Rabbi Bauer as our agent to sell all chametz in our possession for the period Sunday, April 1, 2007 (13 Nisan) through dark on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 (22 Nisan)

Signature _____ Date _____

It is traditional to give Tzedakah to the synagogue at this time.

Visitors need a place to stay?

Don't forget the JCA Bed & Bagel program

For information contact Jaymie Chernoff
413-256-0500 jaymieathome@yahoo.com

TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to transport food donations collected at the JCA to the Survival Center.

Please call Flo Stern 687 1549

LOOKING FOR APARTMENT

Looking for a one bedroom apartment with full bath in Amherst. Can pay rent up to \$900. I have one ten year old cat who is both indoor and outdoor. Please contact me via phone or e-mail. Thank you.

Marian Goldhamer
(845) 679-0673 ~ mgoldhamer@yahoo.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

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Lander~Grinspoon Academy

THE SOLOMON SCHECHTER SCHOOL OF THE PIONEER VALLEY
257 Prospect St, N'ton, www.lander-grinspoonacademy.org

PRE-K SING-A-LONG
Mon, 4/23, 9:30-10:30am

Join Morah Amy and Kindergarten friends, 9:45-10:15!
Meet 9:30 in the library for social time, stay after for snack!

OPEN HOUSE TOURS
Mon, 4/23, 9am-3pm

Outstanding K-6 curriculum, environment of respect, family and religious diversity.

Everyone Welcome!

LEARNING WHILE LEARNING TO CARE. (413)584-6622

THEATER TRIP TO NEW YORK

The JCA will be running a theater trip to New York on Sunday, June 3rd to see the matinee performance of A Jew Grows in Brooklyn. The cost of the trip is \$79 and includes tickets, transportation and a box lunch. For more information please feel free to contact Jeff Cohen at the following email address: jeffroystella@comcast.net

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: April 1st.

Pick up will be April 8th, or thereafter (contact Sue -see above- for more details)

ANNUAL FOOD COLLECTION AT STOP & SHOP

The JCA will be conducting its Annual Food Collection at the Amherst/Hadley Stop and Shop on Thursday, May 3, Friday, May 4 and Sunday, May 6. JCA volunteers are needed in 2 hour shifts to make this effort a success as it has been in the past. Food is collected to help stock the Amherst Survival Center's Emergency Food Pantry at a critical time, as summer approaches. Food collections and donations to the Survival Center are reduced significantly during the summer but the need continues, especially for children out of school meal programs. These monthly collections by the different faith communities in town are a main source of food for the Pantry and the JCA's collection was last year's largest. We need your help to continue this outstanding Community project.

Please call Arnie Alper at 549-0438.

MUSIC, ART AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Upcoming Events

April 13th – 8:00 pm service - D. Dina Friedman will speak on her new book Escaping Into the Night, recently named an Association of Jewish Libraries Notable Book for Older Readers.

April 15th - 7:00 pm Yom HaShoah program of dramatic readings and songs from the Holocaust.

Sponsored by th World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee



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



Ann J. Hastings

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REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN



YOM HASHOAH RALLY

The JCA, led by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee, and joined by others, will mark Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, **Sunday April 15, 2007** with a rally and activities on the **North end of the Amherst town Common beginning at 11 AM**. All JCA members, Jews, and like minded residents concerned about: remembering the past, protesting current anti-Semitic threats to destroy Israel with weapons of mass destruction; and denouncing all Holocaust deniers are invited to attend and participate. Speakers will include Jonathan Souweine and Haim Gunner from the JCA. Call Yaffa Gunner (549-0447) or Karen Loeb (253-0336) for more information.



YOM HASHOAH

Holocaust Memorial Observance

5767—2007



April 15, 2007 at 7 PM
In the JCA
Sanctuary

Dramatic readings of stories and poems as well as songs from the Holocaust era will be presented by JCA members and Rabbi David Dunn Bauer

Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony,
 Azkorah and Kaddish

Sponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee
Refreshments served after program

Friday, April 13, 8:00 PM — **D. Dina Friedman** will talk about her novel for young adults, **Escaping Into the Night** about Jewish children who survived in the woods in encampments organized by Jewish partisans.



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

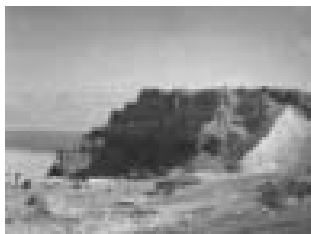


This is a fabulous opportunity to experience with members of your own Jewish community a very exciting, educational and fun trip. Highlights include:

- 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.

Olmert's Confessions

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed

Sunday 11 March 2007

After the war in Lebanon ended last summer, Israelis begun investigating the causes of the political and military damage obtained during the war through a process of internal evaluation and accountability that the Israelis usually carry out after every war they are involved in. Recently, it was time to call Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to account, since he was the Israeli official who launched this war. In his testimony, he confessed to three points that we had already heard of or rather expected. He said that he had warned the Lebanese government of the consequences of any attempt to kidnap Israeli soldiers, following a foiled kidnap attempt. He also said that he had ordered the Israeli army to plan for an attack in case Hezbollah or any other party carried out any abduction. He confessed that the American Secretary of State had contacted him after the first day of the war on Lebanon and warned him against striking the infrastructure of Lebanon so as not to weaken the central government.

It is futile to return once again to the previous controversy that warring Lebanese parties that sought to disguise, silence and denounce those who stated that Hezbollah's actions were merely a tactless risk that resulted in the death of over 1000 Lebanese for the sake of liberating three prisoners of Hezbollah detained in Israeli prisons. Even Hezbollah's Secretary General himself had publicly and courageously admitted that had he known that any harm at all would have been inflicted upon Lebanon as a

result of his actions, he would never have allowed the kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers to take place. However, these parties had deliberately silenced Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by omitting his statements from their discussions and insisting upon the claim of victory that was received with jubilation among Arab publics who, like always, support any fighting that does not harm their own children, see their homes destroyed or the stability of their countries affected. The war left Lebanon in ruins and in a state of political dissolution. Lebanon is currently divided between German forces that are stationed at the airport and inspect it inside out, French troops that are inspecting ports and Israeli air forces stationed in Lebanon's skies in addition to the forcing out of Hezbollah's forces from a third of Lebanon for the first time, which transformed the confrontation between Hezbollah members and Israel into the occupation of central Beirut on the pretext that if you can't beat the enemy, confront the weak.

Ever since the uncouth kidnap, Lebanon is no longer the same Lebanon. Thousands of Lebanese citizens have immigrated to different countries, many Lebanese economic facilities were shut down and many emigrants had lost their life savings that they earned from Africa, Australia and America.

What is really surprising is that Israelis admit their mistakes and defeats and that they call themselves as well as their leaders to account. Yet, in Lebanon they are still fighting one another and brashly refuse to admit their mistakes. For that reason, we can understand why Israel can surpass us and why we continuously fail. Has there ever been a single disaster that befell Arabs whether natural or organized that was followed up by investigations, the results of which would have the guilty parties brought to account and punished? There have never been such investigations ever since the series of

defeats that began with the defeat of the 1948 war, where only scapegoats were convicted so as to save the real perpetrators from the anger of the people and disguise the scandal.

Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed is the the general manager of Al -Arabiya television. Mr. Al Rashed is also the former editor-in-chief of Asharq Al- Awsat, and the leading Arabic weekly magazine, Al Majalla. He is also a senior Columnist in the daily newspapers of Al Madina and Al Bilad. He is a US post-graduate degree in mass communications. He has been a guest on many TV current affairs programs. He is currently based in Dubai.



What's missing from the Saudi initiative

Shlomo Avineri, The Jerusalem Post
March 13, 2007

One key element is missing from the Saudi initiative and from the March 2002 Beirut declaration of the Arab League - negotiations. In the flurry of current activity surrounding the Beirut declaration, this aspect has been almost totally overlooked.

What did the Beirut declaration stipulate? It "called upon Israel to affirm" three points: full and unequivocal withdrawal from all the occupied territories; achieving a "just solution" to the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 194; and acceptance of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as its capital.

If Israel "affirms" these demands, "consequently, the Arab countries will affirm that they consider the Arab-Israeli conflict ended and enter into a peace agreement with Israel" and establish "normal relations with Israel in the context of this comprehensive agreement."

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Despite some ambiguities in the language, one thing is clear. The Arab League does not offer negotiations with Israel, nor does it suggest that its demands (which are the conventional Arab ones) will become a basis for negotiations. What the declaration demands is that Israel "affirms" - accepts the Arab demands and then, only then ("consequently") the Arab countries will "affirm" the end of conflict.

It would be unfair to characterize the Beirut declaration as an ultimatum to Israel: Accept our demands - or else. But the one most crucial ingredient in any serious diplomatic move - the willingness to negotiate with Israel - is missing here.

In anticipation of the Arab summit meeting later this month, Israel has already made it clear that the call for accepting the "right of return" of the Palestinian refugees (which is the Arab interpretation of Resolution 194) is not acceptable. What the Israeli response

has to date failed to do is very simple: call upon the Arab summit to transform its declaration into a proposal for negotiations.

This is what the Arab summit should do; not just issue an amended set of demands to Israel, but express, clearly and unequivocally, the willingness of the Arab League to initiate negotiations with Israel. To these negotiations the Arab side would naturally come with its position, and so, undoubtedly, would Israel.

Out of such negotiations an agreement may emerge. It would also be helpful if the Arab League clarified who would be Israel's interlocutor on the Arab side.

Would all Arab countries be represented separately, or would there be one united delegation? This might not be easy, but since the Beirut declaration speaks about what all Arab countries would be ready to do, one needs a clearly-designated representative authorized to speak in their name.

The Beirut declaration envisages an overall Arab change in attitude toward Israel, not just bilateral Israeli and Syrian and Palestinian agreements, so one needs to know who speaks for the Arab side.

One may wonder whether all Arab countries would be ready for such a move. If, however, the Arab League got its act together and offered negotiations with Israel on behalf of all the Arab countries, it would be a real breakthrough.

A mere repeated declaration of demands aimed at Israel, without mention of any willingness to negotiate over them, would be just another PR exercise, not a serious attempt to seek a diplomatically negotiated agreement.

There can be no peace without negotiations, yet until now the Arab League has avoided this basic tenet of international diplomacy.

The author is former director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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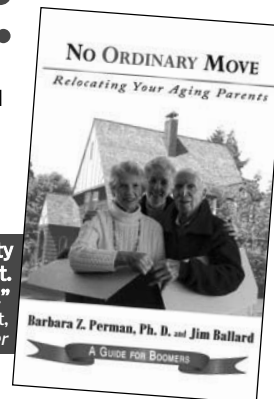
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at homes in and around Northampton:

Scott Borg – Cyber-terrorism expert, economist.
Hosted at the Florence home of Geri Kleinman and James Katz.*

Dean Cycon – Lawyer, entrepreneur, founder of Dean's Beans.
Hosted at the Haydenville home of Karen and Saul Kuhr.

Lawrence Douglas – Scholar of war crimes trials, novelist.
Hosted at the Northampton home of Sara Weinberger and Mordi Kamel

Susan Jahoda – Interdisciplinary artist, art editor of Rethinking Marxism.
Hosted at the Whately home of Mette Gustavsen and Jonathan Kohrman.

Aaron Lansky – Founder and president of the National Yiddish Book Center.
Hosted by Joanna and Clay Ballantine at the home of Peggy and Murray Schwartz.*

Julius Lester – Author, civil rights activist, photographer.
Hosted at the Amherst home of Yaldira and Michael Brown.

Robert Stern – Composer of Jewish music.
Hosted at the Amherst home of Judy and Allen Davis.

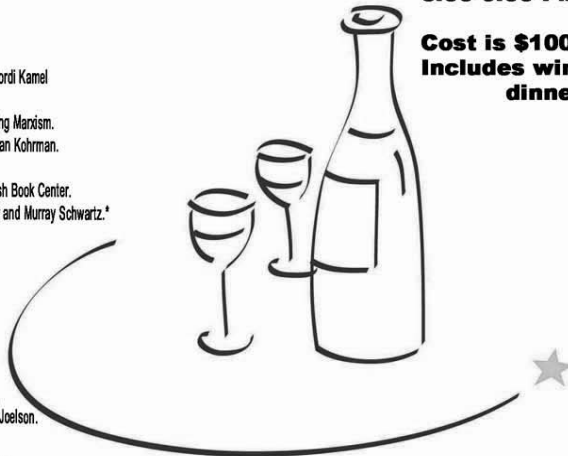
Jane Yolen – Author of books for children and young adults.
Hosted at the Northampton home of Joanne Levin and John Joelson.

Andy Zimbalist – Sports economist, author, NPR commentator.
Hosted at the Florence home of Steve Frank with Amy Sharff.

Dinners and Conversations with Local Luminaries

**Sunday, April 29, 2007
6:00-9:00 PM**

**Cost is \$100 Per Person
Includes wine, hors d'oeuvres,
dinner and dessert**



*This home is using a kosher caterer. Meals at other homes will be vegetarian or fish according to the kashrut policy of LGA.

**Seating is limited
RSVP by April 10 to the LGA office: 584-6622**

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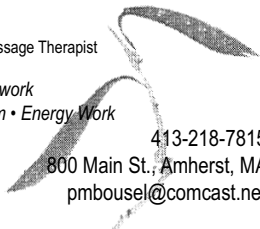
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Community Announcements

Child Holocaust Survivor to Speak at Mt. Holyoke College

On Wednesday, April 18, from 11 to 12, Holocaust survivor Anita Schorr and poet Stephen Herz will make a presentation in the Holyoke Community College Cafeteria.

In her early 70's, Anita Schorr is among the youngest Holocaust survivors, a generation of witnesses that is disappearing. Anita was a child when she and her family were interred in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Of the 15,000 children sent to Theresienstadt, 100 survived; Anita is one of those 100 survivors. Exuberant, optimistic, and committed to peace, Anita is an inspiration to all who hear her speak. The April 18th presentation will include poet Stephen Herz reading from his collection of Holocaust poetry, *Whatever You Can Carry*



Lander-Grinspoon Academy,

PRE-K MUSIC & SOCIAL TIME, Monday, April 23, 9:30-10:30am. Please join Kindergarten and music teacher Amy Meltzer for a special Jewish music sing-a-long at Lander-Grinspoon Academy, The Solomon Schechter School of the Pioneer Valley, 257 Prospect St., N'ton, 413-525-3572. Meet in the library 9:30, music program is promptly 9:45-10:15. Snack and social time after music.

OPEN HOUSE TOURS, Monday, April 23, 9:00-3:00pm, LANDER-GRINSPOON ACADEMY, The Solomon Schechter School of the Pioneer Valley, 257 Prospect St., N'ton, 413-525-3572. Tour our beautiful building, visit classrooms, see how 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, call 413-525-3572, or visit www.lander-grinspoonacademy.org.



Cantabile to Perform at JCA

April 1st - 3:00 pm Cantabile and Friends – Vocal group with harpsichord and strings featuring music of Salamone Rossi, a Renaissance Jewish composer



National Yiddish Book Center

An Author's Talk with Ben Katchor
The National Yiddish Book Center will present an author's talk and readings from a series of recent picture-stories on the subjects of architecture and urban design by the famed author/cartoonist Ben Katchor. The talk entitled, "The Deep Tub" and other Stories is presented in conjunction with his exhibit, *The Backlit Word: Picture: Stories and Drawings* on Sunday, April 1, 2007 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$6.

Storyteller Mark Binder

The National Yiddish Book Center will present author and storyteller Mark Binder on Sunday, April 8, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in a special Passover program for the entire family including Tales from Chelm, Passover tales, and more in this entertaining presentation for all ages. Tickets are \$6.

Brave Old World

The National Yiddish Book Center will present a Lazarus Family Concert in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. *Brave Old World's* unique musical-theatrical work, *Song of the Lodz Ghetto*, will be presented on Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 2:00 pm. Reservations are suggested. Tickets are \$18. A special lecture

by music director, Alan Bern, exploring the history of the Lodz ghetto and its music will be offered on Sunday, April 15 at 11:30 am. Tickets are \$5.

For more information, call (413) 256-4900, email yiddish@bikher.org, or visit our website at www.yiddishbook-center.org.



Herbert L. Roth to Speak at the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center

Holocaust refugee Herbert L. Roth will speak at the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center in Springfield on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 7:00pm. His family's story is illustrated in Hatikvah's permanent exhibit *A Reason to Remember: Roth, Germany 1933-1942*. Mr. Roth will be available to answer questions and elaborate upon his experience as a teenage Jewish boy in Nazi Germany. Adults \$3; Seniors \$2; Students \$1. Questions? Call 413/734-7700.



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



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Food for the Survival Center

There is a food collection box in the entrance to the JCA. Please remember those among us who are hungry and bring non-perishables to leave in the box when you are coming to the JCA.

Thank you



Karen Loeb to be Honored by Western MA State of Israel Bonds

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

as the Western MA State of Israel Bonds pays tribute to our own

Karen Loeb

at a Cocktail Buffet with guest speaker Dr. Kenneth Stein

Tuesday, June 5, 2007
6 P.M.

at Chez Josef in Agawam

Invitation to follow

For information call the Israel Bonds office at 800-916-1918



Upper Valley Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

Yom Ha'atzmaut is coming...so mark your calendars! This year the Upper Pioneer Valley* will be celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut on Monday, April 23rd 2007 on the Amherst Town Common from 5-8pm.

In case of rain the celebration will be held at Amherst Regional High School.

Bring your friends and family....the event is free!

Live music and dancing, authentic Israeli food, activities for children, tzedakah project, and much more! We'll see you there!

* Upper Pioneer Valley Yom Ha'atzmaut Committee includes representatives from: Hadassah, UMass Hillel, Smith College Hillel, Amherst College Hillel, Mt Holyoke College Hillel, and Hampshire College Hillel, UMass Student Alliance for Israel, Congregation B'nai Israel, Lander-Grinspoon Academy, and Jewish Community of Amherst, with additional support provided by the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts,

a committee of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts.



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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.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members to the JCA community:

F. Helena Donovan and child Ariel Wigdor

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 May Newsletter is April 12th

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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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.



Jewish Community of Amherst

April 2007

13 Nisan ~ 12 Iyar 5767



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 13 NISAN No Religious School Search for Chametz	2 14 NISAN ✕Erev Pesach 11:6:59 First Seder this evening	3 15 NISAN ✕Passover - Day 1 9:30 am Service OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm JCA Seder	4 16 NISAN ✕Passover - First Intermediate Day Shacharit Meditaion	5 17 NISAN ✕Passover - Second Intermediate Day 12:00 Noon Text Study 7:30 pm Board Meeting	6 18 NISAN 11:7:03 ✕Passover - Third Intermediate Day 5:30 pm Family Service for Everyone followed by potluck supper <i>Please bring only packaged food marked "Kosher for Passover" in its original packaging.</i>	7 19 NISAN ✕Passover - Fourth Intermediate Day 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service 10:00 am Masorti Service 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds
8 20 NISAN 11:7:05 ✕Passover - Fifth Intermediate Day 10:00 am Matzo Brei Breakfast and Passover Activities	9 21 NISAN ✕Passover - Day 7 9:30 am Service - Yizkor	10 22 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	11 23 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Religion Committee	12 24 NISAN 7:30 pm Personnel Committee Deadline for May Newsletter	13 25 NISAN 11:7:11 8:00 pm Service Program: D. Dina Friedman will speak on her new book "Escaping into the Night"	14 26 NISAN ■Shemini 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Weiner No 7th grade
15 27 NISAN ✕Yom Hashoah No Religious School 10:00 am Community Ed- Bagels from Benny 7:00 pm Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial Observance	16 28 NISAN 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Prayer	17 29 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee	18 30 NISAN ✕Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No Religious School 7:00 pm Rosh Chodesh Yoga	19 1 IYAR ✕Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2 12:00 Noon Text Study 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Group	20 2 IYAR 11:7:19 6:15 pm Carlebach-style service	21 3 IYAR ■Tazria - Metzora 10:00 am Service 7th grade resumes
22 4 IYAR	23 5 IYAR ✕Yom HaAtzma'ut	24 6 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Social Committee	25 7 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Spirituality and Social Change 7:30 pm Adult Ed - Prayer 7:30 pm Education Committee	26 8 IYAR	27 9 IYAR 11:7:27 8:00 pm Service	28 10 IYAR ■Acharei Mot - Kedoshim 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service 10:00 am Feminist Shabbat Service
29 11 IYAR	30 12 IYAR					



April 2
Pesach begins at sundown

April 3
2nd Seder at the JCA, 6:30 pm

April 8
Matzo Brie Breakfast & Passover Activities

April 15
Community Education- Bagels & Benny (see page 7)
Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Program
7:00 pm (see page 10)

Jewish Community of Amherst
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