


Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

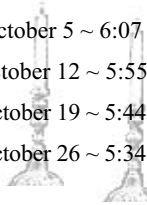
October 2007

Tishre/Cheshvan 5768

Vol. 6, Issue No. 9

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

October 5 ~ 6:07 pm
October 12 ~ 5:55 pm
October 19 ~ 5:44 pm
October 26 ~ 5:34 pm



Times shown are
18 minutes before sunset
for Amherst, MA



Special Events

October 20
Dance Party

October 30
Rabin Memorial Lecture

Meetings

October 1
Building & Grounds
Committee
Finance Committee

October 10
Religion Committee

October 11
Board Meeting

October 15
Finance Committee

October 16
Tikkun Olam Committee

October 18
Fundraising Committee

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT

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

Report from the Board

At the annual meeting a year and a half ago, JCA members said that they wanted to know details about monthly board meetings and decisions, so I've been using this space to provide exactly that, and hope it is working. Board meetings take place (usually) on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the Library and members are welcome to sit in.

Participants at the September 6 meeting were board members John Loeb (facilitator), Kitty Axelson-Berry, Paul Charette, Judi Fonsh, Irv Howard, Oran Kaufman, Eli Kwartler, Robyn Miller, Rhonda Shapiro Rieser, Flo Stern, and Ted Trobaugh. In addition, Jerry Friedman and Bob Feldman made reports.

After Rhonda Shapiro Rieser's d'var Torah and Robyn Miller's gracious offer to be the minutes-taker, the August minutes were approved with an amendment related to the topic (tabled), "What constitutes a political issue? Under what circumstances can or should the JCA take a position on a political issue?" Specifically, is Fair Trade a political issue and should the JCA take an active position on it?

1) Jerry Friedman updated the board on plans for the annual fundraising campaign, which aims to raise \$30,000, with each board member telephoning the JCA members in his/her group beginning Tuesday, October 9th. The newly formed Fundraising Committee will assist the board with the Annual Giving Campaign.

2) Bob Feldman discussed the nuts and bolts of creating an Endowment Fund for the JCA, as approved by the board last winter, to ensure a secure, strong, and permanent future for the JCA by provid-

ing financial stability. The Finance Committee recommended that the endowment be set up and managed by the locally well-known and respected Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts. After discussion the board requested the endowment subcommittee to do further research into this foundation as well as other fund managers, and consult with other synagogues and the JRF (Jewish Reconstructionist Federation), with particular attention to questions of so-

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Paul Charette and Lisa Perl binder unroll the beautiful megillah that the JCA bought on this year's group trip to Israel, as Oran Kaufman, who organized the September 9 retreat for committee chairpersons, looks on.

B'nai Mitzvah

October 6 - 10:00 am
Bat Mitzvah of Julia Rossen

October 13 - 10:00 am
Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Mooney

CHESED COMMITTEE

The Chessed 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 Chessed Committee member will be in touch with you.

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)

Chessed 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 November issue is October 12th

October 2007, Vol. 6, Issue No. 9

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

RETURN OF THE ANNUAL APPEAL

As predictable as the fall foliage and the migration of the monarch butterflies, the Annual Appeal will be in your mailboxes and on your phones soon. Once again, our annual budget assumes a successful Annual Appeal or else we will face a budget deficit that would threaten our community's future viability. Once again, I anticipate that our community will step forward and give to preserve the community into which we have all put so much love into building. We did very well last year, with over 40 percent of the membership contributing. But, frankly, I wish we would do even better this year. Because the level of your contribution to the Annual Appeal is voluntary, I wish that every member would give something, showing in this way that we all can contribute to maintaining our community, and we all will.

We have succeeded in the past because we have all accepted our responsibilities to our community, to each other, and to ourselves. In early October, you will receive a letter announcing the Annual Appeal and then on October 9, 10, 11, a Board member will call you to ask for your contribution. Please give generously.

B'shalom
Gerald Friedman

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

DEVARIM: WORDS FROM RABBI DAVID DUNN BAUER



The piece below is part of an online conversation sent out by email by the Union for Reform Judaism. The question posed was: "Reform Jews are reclaiming Jewish traditions rejected by prior generations. How do you understand and relate to this perception?"

This conversation seems very relevant to our circumstances here at the JCA. Although the author does not refer explicitly to Reconstructionism within this essay, the fundamental Reconstructionist understanding of Judaism as "the evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people" sits at the heart of the discussion. I personally believe the complex, non-monolithic nature of Jewish life and Jewish truth to be at the core of Judaism's appeal and its endurance through the generations. I strongly recommend reading this essay in anticipation of a conversation at Shabbat Kiddush on October 27.

Response to Larry Kaufman

by Ben Dreyfus

In our opening statements, Larry Kaufman and I looked at the question from different angles. Larry focused more on the actual practices that are and are not common in Reform congregations, while I focused more on the theoretical framework for Reform Jewish practice.

In this response I would like to challenge the binary division of practices into "traditional" and non-traditional. A closer look shows that the picture is far more complex. Throughout history, Jewish practices have varied among different times and places. Just as it is inaccurate for some Orthodox Jews (such as Artscroll Publications) to treat "the tradition" as a single, well-defined set of practices that must be observed, it is also inaccurate for some Reform Jews to treat "the tradition" as a well-defined set of practices that must not be observed, and even for other Reform Jews to treat "the tradition" as a well-defined set of practices from which we select some and reject others. We need to look at our practice in terms that make sense for our time and reflect the multilayered nature of Jewish history, rather than comparing our own practice (whether positively or negatively) with what we consider "traditional."

For example, Larry talks about "kippah and tallit" as a

single unit. However, these two articles of clothing have very different stories. Wearing a tallit has roots in the biblical commandment (Numbers 15:38) instructing the Israelites to put fringes on the corners of their garments in order to remember and do the mitzvot. The kippah is much more recent in origin, developing out of a more general custom to cover the head. Reform Jews might choose to wear either, neither, or both of these, and might have different understandings about their purposes, perhaps seeing religious meaning in the kippah or ethnic identification in the tallit. But regardless of what we each choose to wear and why, we should see the different permutations of practice as more complicated than just traditional or non-traditional.

In many parts of my Jewish life, the label of "traditional" doesn't even make sense. Kol Zimrah, my community in New York, is nondenominational but has many participants from Reform backgrounds. Are Kol Zimrah's Friday night services more or less "traditional" than typical Reform services? It's hard to say. Some might see the fact that we do the entire service in Hebrew as evidence

...I would like to challenge the binary division of practices into "traditional" and non-traditional.

of traditionalism. But our use of guitar and percussion accompaniment might make us less traditional (setting us apart from Jewish services older than a generation ago) or more

traditional (echoing the Levites' instrumentation in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem). Add in the fact that we strive to incorporate musical influences from a wide range of Jewish and non-Jewish sources and to innovate musically every time, and if "tradition" has connotations of constancy and familiarity, then Kol Zimrah is decidedly less traditional than the typical Reform congregation where the melodies are essentially the same from week to week.

This week I attended the wedding of some friends. A superficial analysis might have pegged this wedding as "traditional": the liturgical language was Hebrew, the groom was wearing a kittel (a white robe associated with the High Holy Days and other solemn occasions), and

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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

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

October 4, Thursday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

7:00 PM

Simchat Torah in the Social Hall (see also Friday October 5)



Shabbat Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8

October 5, Friday

5:30 PM-

Simchat Torah Celebration & Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Please join us for a Simchat Torah celebration with dancing and torah reading, a kabbalat Shabbat service, all followed by a potluck supper.

October 6, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah of Julia Rossen

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Julia Rossen & Rabbi Bauer



October 7, Sunday

10:00 AM- Sukkah Disassembly



Shabbat Noach/Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Genesis 6:9-11:32, Numbers 28:9-15

October 12, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

October 13, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Mooney

Service Leader: Jacob Mooney, friends & family of the Bar Mitzvah, and Rabbi Bauer

D'ivrei Torah: Jacob Mooney & Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Lech-Lecha, Genesis 12:1-17:27

October 19, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service, followed by potluck supper

Service Leader: To be announced

October 20, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)

Service Leader: Paul Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced

Masorti Service (small sanctuary)

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Vayera, Genesis 18:1-22:24

October 26, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

October 27, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



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.

WEEKDAY MASORTI MINYAN

A masorti minyan meets Tuesdays at 7:30 am.
Latecomers welcome.

MEDITATION MINYAN

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

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

August 11-

Marc Cohen and Gail Finger, in honor of their son Eli Cohen for his service to the JCA and his entering college

October 6-

Michael Rossen & Kate Troast, in honor of their daughter, Julia Rossen becoming Bat Mitzvah

October 13-

Devorah Jacobson, Regina Mooney & Margaret Mastrangelo, in honor of their son Jacob Mooney becoming Bar Mitzvah

October 20-

Merle Feld in celebration of her new book and the blessings of her work

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.



YOU ARE NEEDED!

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

SIMCHAT TORAH AT THE JCA

Responding to the range of religious desires within the community, the JCA will actually celebrate Simchat Torah twice this year!

On Thursday night October 4th at 7:00 pm, we will gather to study, sing, and dance with the Torah. We'll dance our Hakafot (circles), and precede each one with a teaching on the nature of Torah and its meaning in our lives. If you have a one-minute drash on any verse of the Five Books of Moses, bring it with you and share it that night. Torah will be studied, songs will be sung, and cheesecake and blintzes and ice cream will be shared.

On Friday evening October 5th at 5:30, we'll sing and dance and celebrate in a style geared to the youngest members of our community and their families. We'll parade around the room in our Hakafot, dance with the Torah scrolls, and then welcome Shabbat in a brief service. Then our customary potluck, vegetarian and dairy dinner (BRING FOOD!!!!), with lots of ice cream for dessert.

Everyone is welcome either night or both nights! Know that the rhythm and content of the Thursday evening celebration will be more contemplative and text-focused than Friday night, and may not be as much fun for children (no childcare has been organized). We hope that everyone in the community will find a comfortable way to express joy in the gift of Torah.

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE AND POTLUCK SUPPER

Please join us on the first Friday of each month at 5:30 pm for a brief child oriented service followed by a potluck supper. Although the service is geared towards young children, it contains all the elements of a regular Friday evening service, including mourner's kaddish. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. This month there will also be a Simchat Torah celebration. (see above)

AN INTERFAITH INVITATION TO JCA FOR AN OCTOBER 7TH IFTAR DINNER

The Rumi Club (UMass Muslim Graduate Students from Turkey) invites you to an Iftar (breaking of the fast of Ramadan) dinner on October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

This dinner is a friendship gift to the congregations of the Amherst area. It will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant St. Amherst.

A brief program will include an description of what Ramadan is and why it is important in the life of a Muslim, why we are having this dinner in a church and how dialogue between different faiths is important in Islam.

Reservations information will be available from Batya Perman, Batya18@aol.com, JCA Representative to the Interfaith Network.

EDUCATION NEWS

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



**Enrollments Climbed as Holidays Approached
Creative Opening Days to Make Way for Class Counts
and Teaching Options**

The convergence created a challenge. What to do when almost a third of enrollment happens around the High Holidays, teaching staff includes college students, who do not arrive until early September, and High Holidays are early? This year, we designed programming that did not require knowing how many students attend nor who all our teachers would be. Rather we made community the priority and gathered activity leaders to facilitate the Aleph-Bet Blast Off for grades 4-7 and the High Holiday Challah Bakery for grades 1-3. Parents could brush up on or begin to learn the Hebrew Aleph Bet with their children OR bake turban challot that were sent home with each household. We ended the morning with our weekly Learner’s Minyan led by Rabbi Bauer and our new music specialist, **Av Harris**. What a way to bring in the new year!



Introducing our Teachers: A Few at a Time

Our youngest students in Shabbat Shalom class, meet on Saturday mornings with returning teacher **Melissa Zeitz**. Melissa is in her 5th year teaching at the JCA. She has teaching certification and an MA in Special Education from UMASS. She has taught in Amherst & Greenfield and is currently teaching in the Springfield Public Schools. First and Second Grades are beginning as a combined class taught by veteran teacher, **Ruth Love Barer**. Ruth Love is in her 8th year teaching at the JCA. She works in the Leverett Elementary School, and last spring finished her degree at Lesley University and received the Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. We are fortunate to have veteran teachers on staff, who provide a strong framework of support for each other and our students.

Teachers Workshop Emphasizes Using the Arts in Jewish Education

On Sunday, October 28, the JCA teaching staff will join their colleagues from across Western Massachusetts for a morning in Longmeadow, dedicated to professional development. This year’s theme is using the arts in Jewish education, with an emphasis on the visual arts. Teachers explore both teaching methods as well as content. This

opportunity is sponsored by the Resource Center for Jewish Education and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The morning provides teachers and teaching assistants workshops to enrich their skills, and build their network with teachers in the field.

**Linking Curriculum to Practice
Shabbat Kits, Shabbat Dinners and Attending Services**

In pre-school, our toddlers come to Shabbat Shalom class. In first and second grades, students make Shabbat kits and learn blessings to enrich Shabbat in their homes. In grades 3 & 4 we are encouraging households to “Rekindle Shabbat” and host another family for dinner. Each grade level will also be invited to Shabbat dinner at the JCA with Rabbi Bauer. And Learner’s Minyan on Sunday morning gives each class a chance to practice leading a part of the service. By 5th & 6th grades, students will have opportunities to lead blessings and prayers at our congregation’s service.

Thank You To:

- Jackson Katz** for donating several boxes of the trivia book he wrote.
- Camp Shemesh campers** for their tzedakah donation to our scholastic aid fund.
- Linda Cooper** and **Ann Armon** for their advice and support of the school’s High Holiday Challah Bakery.



Calendar

Fri, Oct. 5	Simchat Torah Family Service
Sat/Sun, Oct. 6/7	No Classes-Columbus Day Weekend
Thurs, Oct 11	B’nai Mitzvah Workshop-Community Tzedakah & Beyond, 6:00 - 8:00 pm (for parents and 2008 b’nai mitzvah)
Sun, Oct 14	6th Grade: D’var Torah Workshop 10:00 am - 12:15 pm with parent
Sat, Oct. 20	Shabbat Shalom 10:30 am - Noon (registered 4 - 6 year olds)
Sun, Oct 28	No Classes-Teacher Professional Development Day

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: October 14th.
Pick up will be October 21st, or thereafter
(contact Sue -see above- for more details)



RECONSTRUCTIONIST MUSIC RETREAT:

The First Annual Retreat of
Harmoniyah-Reconstructionist Music Network will be
held November 9-12, 2007, in Philadelphia, PA.

Join us for Shabbat services and a unique opportunity
to learn with Reconstructionist clergy, lay leaders, song
leaders and musicians nationwide:

- music for worship
- vocal and instrumental workshops
- music for children and families
- panel on "Music of the Jewish People" today
with Cantor Rachel Epstein, Rabbis Shefa Gold,
Liz Bolton, Margot Stein and Shawn Zevit
- informal discussions, jam sessions, and more

The end of the retreat also coincides with the annual
RENA (Reconstructionist Educators of North America)
conference also being hosted by Or Hadash in Phila-
delphia, PA. Synergistic workshops have also been
planned between the two retreats.

For more information, contact Rabbi Shawn Zevit at
szevit@jrf.org or call 215-885-5601 ext. 24.

Register online now at
<http://www4.jrf.org/harmoniyah-retreat>

MasterCard

Joining the JCA: \$\$
Tuition for Hebrew School: \$
Trip to Israel: \$\$\$
SENSE OF COMMUNITY:
PRICELESS



Okay, so you joined the synagogue or you're a long time member.

How do you get that feeling of community?
How do you feel connected?

An extremely informal survey of current members found those who felt most connected and happy with their involvement at the JCA were participating in some aspect of the congregation, from bringing kids to Hebrew school to coming to services to contributing to committees or taking a class.

Our committee wants to help you get involved. We're here to help you learn all about the many, many activities going on at the JCA and to see how you might be able to jump in. If committee work is your thing, oh, have we got committees for you! You can come in with lots of ideas

Online at www.j-c-a.org

and energy or just come to a meeting or two and see if it's for you.

Or maybe you're someone who doesn't like committee work but would like a distinct job to do now and again. We can find one for you!

Or maybe you just don't know what you want, but you want to feel more connected and part of this big thing we call the JCA. If you would like someone on this Volunteer Committee to contact you, just send an email or give me a call. This place is big and wonderful and there is something here for everyone.

The JCA thrives on the large and small efforts of many volunteers and the health and vitality of our community is build on the ideas, energy, work, support and participation of us, its members. If you don't like what you're doing at the JCA, you can change it; if you're not hooked in yet, call me because that Sense of Community really is Priceless.

Shana Tova from the Volunteer Committee,
Amy Rothenberg

Call me! 253-5011 Email me! amy@nesh.com



TEEN PROGRAMMING CALENDAR October 2007



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	JCAI JCAT leadership meeting 6-8pm	4	5	6
7 B'nai Tzedek Retreat→→→	8	9	10 Conf. Class 6-8pm	11	12	13 Yoga at Services 9-10am
14 Rachel's Table 12-5:30	15	16	17 Creative Writing & Understanding Tolerance 6-8p	18 Film Series "Freedom Riders" 530-8pm		20 JCA DANCE PARTY!!!!
21 spark HeartAction	22	23	24 Creative Writing and Understanding Tolerance 6-8p	25	26	27
28 JCAI Schmooze with the Jewz 530-8pm	29	30	31 Creative Writing and Understanding Tolerance 6-8p			

Wed. Oct. 3, 6-8p, Leadership Meeting, Rachael Goren's house, 133 Bay Road, Amherst Come help plan the events that you want to happen! Dinner Provided. New members are encouraged to attend.

Sun-Mon. Oct.7-8 B'nai Tzedek Retreat– All B'nai Tzedek members are invited to come on this amazing retreat. Contact Valerie at Valerie@hgf.org for more information.

Wed. Oct 10, 6-8p; Confirmation Class, JCA Open to all 10th-12th graders, contact Rachael for more information. (mandatory session for confirmands). Dinner provided

Sat. Oct. 13, 9-10am; Yoga before services, JCA Open to all 7-12th graders, come practice yoga and engage in a full body praying experience. 1 credit for confirmands.

Sun. Oct. 14, 12-5:30p; Rachel's Table: Gleaning with Gladness, meet and pickup at JCA Come join us for lunch and on this amazing mitzvah project as we glean (harvest) at local farms. Free to any 7-12th grader. 3 credits for CC

Weds Oct. 17, 24 and 31; 6-8p Creative Writing and Understanding Tolerance, JCA Open to any 9-12th grader– 12 credits for all 6 sessions for CC. Free to confirmands and Chai members, \$36 for the series for Alef members; \$48 for non-members.

Thurs. Oct. 18; 5:30-8pm Film Series, JCA We will be watching and discussing "Freedom Rider" as part of our first film in our year-long series. Open to any 8-12th grader. Dinner Provided. 2 credits for CC. Free to confirmands or Chai Members, \$8 for Alef members.

Sat. Oct. 20; DANCE PARTY @ JCA– Come join your friends and dance like you did at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

Sun. Oct. 28; 530-8p Schmooze with the Jewz, JCA. Come hang out with friends, eat dinner, and get to know new people. Free to Chai members, \$8 for Alef, BBYO and CC, \$12 for non-members.

Want more info? Contact the teen adviser Rachael at rbgoren@gmail.com or 256-0160 x208.
 These programs are partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative.



Gleaning with Gladness: Mitzvah Day with Rachel’s Table

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner” (Leviticus 19: 9 – 10)

Spend an afternoon outside in the sunshine... Spend an afternoon doing a mitzvah ...
Spend an afternoon with your friends ...Spend an afternoon with Rachel’s Table!

Meet at the JCA for lunch at 12:15pm on Sunday, October 14th.
The bus will pick up at 1pm and drop off between 5-5:30pm.

The bus will bring JCAT, BBYO, spark and confirmation class students to a local farm to harvest fresh produce and then bring you to an agency that helps the hungry and the homeless so you can deliver what you have picked. You will be returned back to your original location by bus.

R.S.V.P. to rbgoren@gmail.com or 256-0451 by October, 10th, 2007.

*Rachel’s Table is a food distribution agency and a project of the Jewish Federation of Western Mass and WWLP – TV22. This program is sponsored by JCAT, BBYO, and confirmation class and partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative.

Did you know???



Come and check us out to see what your friends are up to!



3 out of 4 Amherst teens attended one or more Jewish teen events or programs* during the year.



*includes JCAT, spark, BBYO & B’nai Tzedek based on 2007 statistics.

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we concluded the festive meal with the full text of Birkat HaMazon (the grace after meals) and Sheva B'rachot (the seven wedding blessings). However, focusing on these details would distract us from a more significant element of this wedding: the couple left out the ritual of kiddushin, which originated in a paradigm in which one partner acquires the other, and instead joined in a b'rit ahuvim, a covenant between equal partners suggested by Prof. Rachel Adler (of HUC-JIR in Los Angeles) and based on rabbinic laws governing business partnerships. Instead of giving rings to one another, they purchased the rings together as joint property, to symbolize the joint venture on which they are embarking. Was this wedding "traditional"? I would suggest that this is the wrong question to ask.

The evolution and diversity of Jewish practices in the past

and in our own time makes it difficult to pin down one set of practices as "traditional" or to distinguish traditional from non-traditional. May we be mindful of Rabbi Meir's teaching that a new vessel may contain old wine and vice versa (Pirkei Avot 4:27), and may we make such categorization even more difficult through our continued innovation.

Ben Dreyfus teaches physics at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, and is a visiting graduate student this year at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a co-founder of Kol Zimrah, an independent Jewish community in New York City, and serves on the board of the National Havurah Committee. He grew up at B'nai Yehuda Beth Shalom in Homewood, Illinois and at the Union for Reform Judaism's Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He blogs at Mah Rabu <http://mahrabu.blogspot.com>.



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Avi Gladstone & Barbara Goldstein
256-0040

continued from page 1

cially responsible investing and oversight.

3) The World Jewish Concerns Committee had reported that Jonathan Souweine has agreed to be responsible for the newsletter column addressing issues related to the Middle East from a variety of viewpoints, which Yaffa Gunner has done with great dedication and success for many years. He asked for board approval before doing so. The board approved and thanks him for volunteering to take on this difficult job.

4) Rhonda Shapiro Rieser of the Religion Committee reported that we do not have enough volunteers to chant Torah on Shabbat, and the chanting is mostly being done from the Tikkun. The committee proposed and the board approved funding (in 2008) to supplement volunteer Torah reading, not to exceed the amount paid for Torah readers at the JCA in the past.

5) Flo Stern announced that October

8th is an Interfaith Fast Day to end the war in Iraq and that more information will follow.

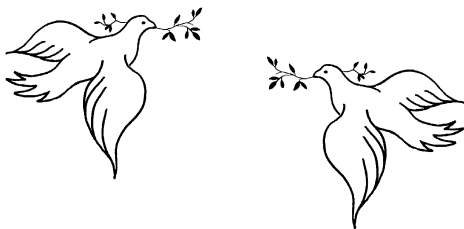
The following weekend, about thirty committee chairs and cluster coordinators met to develop goals and get started on their budgets and budget requests for the coming year.

First, however, came the showing of the synagogue's Megillat Ester (scroll of Esther) It seems that we had not owned one and the Purim story had always been read from a borrowed scroll or a book. On the JCA trip to Israel, Paul Charette (co-chair of the religion committee), Lisa Perl binder (first vice-president and overseeing the Education cluster), and Lisa's mother took a cab to Mea Shearim, perhaps the oldest ultra orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem, to look at scrolls. At a store on the main street there, they found a beautiful scroll— nice parchment, large letters, perfectly spaced lettering— and called John Loeb in Greenfield to make sure we

were authorized by the JCA to negotiate and make the purchase. We now have our own beautiful megillah in a leather case to enjoy every year.

Committees' specific budget requests are due to the Finance Committee on September 30 in order to be included in the 2008 budget considerations (contact Alan Peterfreund soon for more information). Karen Loeb, Rachel Henderson, Jody Wax, Linda Cooper, and Abigail Loeb cooked (served and cleaned up too) a wonderful meal that included fish (barramundi) (delicious! thank you Josh Goldman and Australis for donating it) wrapped in filo dough, homemade French potato salad, fresh tomatoes marinated in balsamic vinaigrette, fresh garden greens, peach cobbler, and homemade chocolate cookies. It was a productive and delicious retreat!

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

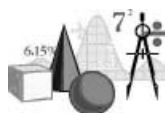


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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building & Grounds Committee

The Co-Chairs of the Building and Grounds Committee, Tom Butler and Marc Cohen, would like to thank all the volunteers who showed up for "Clean Up Day" on August 26th. You graciously gave of your time to clean up the JCA facilities, inside and out, for the High Holidays.

In addition to Board members Kitty Axelson-Berry and Alan Peterfreund, who always do way more than their positions should require, we were assisted by Army and Reed Alper, Libby Army, Hendrix Rose Berry, Lisa, Lily, Saul and Seth Blaine, Robin and Spencer Diamond, Jeanne Fride, Hadar Grabel, Josh Hawkins, and Guy Wood. Thanks also to Santo Alers for developing our list of chores and providing the materials we needed. Your efforts made a difference to all who attended High Holiday services.



Camp Shemesh

Did your kid love Camp Shemesh? Did you love Camp Shemesh for your kids?

You can help the JCA continue to offer this local, fun, Jewish day camp to area children. The Camp Shemesh Committee is looking for a few new members. We meet once a month or so and take care of business to ensure

that the camp runs smoothly, effectively and is fiscally sound. Your energy, your ideas and your enthusiasm are most welcome as we problem-solve and brainstorm to maximize fun, learning & safety for our kids, all with a Jewish twist.

Come join our committee. If interested, please contact Hollie Kalkstein, 548-9642, edelweissjewelry@aol.com, or Sue Weinstein, 548-9552, susanweinstein1@yahoo.com.



Membership Committee

Shana Tova! I want to welcome those who have just joined the JCA and encourage you to call or email me so I can find out a little bit about you and welcome you to our community. I also encourage you to become involved in the many committees and projects that are going on at the JCA. There is no better way to meet people and become part of the community. As I think about the upcoming year, I see the following goals for the membership committee. First, it is essential that we retain our current members. This includes trying our best to make sure we meet our members' needs and expectations. Given the diversity of our community, this is a daunting goal but surely an attainable one. For instance, there are those members who consider themselves

secular Jews, not particularly religious but for whom it is important to have a Jewish community and a place for Jews to congregate. I see it as the membership committee's mission to make these members feel as comfortable at the JCA as those who attend services every Shabbat. At the same time, we have some members who grew up in very traditional Jewish households and those who grew up with little or no Jewish background or who are very committed to alternative Jewish practice. The diversity of our High Holiday services is a testament to the JCA's ongoing attempt to meet these differing needs.

The other important goal of the membership committee is attracting new members or reaching out to members who were once members but are no longer. From a financial standpoint, increased membership is crucial to the financial stability of the JCA. Having more members also means more energy and more activities and more vibrancy. The JCA has a lot going on and a lot to offer. We need to let the wider public know what is going on at the JCA. For instance, does the general public know that the JCA made a decision last year to not charge for High Holiday tickets? If you have expertise and a background in publicity and are

continued on next page



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continued from previous page

willing to help, please contact me.

Finally, membership committee will be focusing on making the JCA as welcoming a community as possible. We can do this as a community by making sure we say hello to a new face, introducing new members to others in the community etc. As a committee we will be working on ways to implement the goal of being welcoming by trying to connect new families with other JCA member families for Shabbat dinners, doing new member profiles in the newsletter (if agreed to by new members!) and having new member events.

The membership committee is also working on the following:

-New dues policy for families who are going through divorce/separation

-reunions for bar mitzvah families in the year post bar mitzvah and senior year of high school

-More comprehensive policy for welcoming new families and following up

To do all of this, we need volunteers! There are many discrete, short term tasks that would be extremely helpful and would not be a large time commitment (for example- delivering challahs to new member families).

If you are interested, email me at oran@orankaufman.com or call me at 256-1575.



Music, Arts and Culture Committee
We Need Your Ideas & Participation

Are you interested in initiating and / or participating in music, arts and culture activities from organizing art exhibits, musical events, dramatic readings, plays, craft workshops, writing book reviews?

Please contact Anita Page, 256-6306, apage@english.umass.edu or Eva Sartori, 467-3626, leosartori@comcast.net



Personnel Committee

Looking for someone who runs a business, manages a workgroup, works in HR, has legal experience or just likes to create policies and make decisions about the workplace. Please consider joining the Personnel committee if you fit the description.

Please call Judi Fonsh-PC chair - 548-9053.



Tikkun Olam Committee

Tzedakah Distribution, Spring 2007

Twice a year, the Tikkun Olam committee selects the organizations which will receive Tzedakh donations from the JCA. In the fall, we allocate the \$2500 which is included in the JCA annual operating budget. In the spring we allocate the funds that have been donated to the JCA Tzedakh fund. This year, that amount was \$1300.

To guide us, we have established four categories of donations:

- Greater Amherst, Basic Human Needs
- Pioneer Valley Basic Human Needs'
- Social Justice, National
- International

We usually select ten recipient agencies. While our donations are relatively small, between \$100 and \$400, we know that agencies find it useful in their own fund-raising efforts to have a large roster of supporters.

We are happy to receive comments about our choices at any time. We regularly invite representatives of the recipient agencies to speak at Friday night services, and we often have bro-

chures and other materials on display in the JCA lobby. We also list brief mission statements in the Newsletter. We welcome any ideas on how we can make these agencies better known within the JCA Community.

Below is a list of Spring 2007 donations; the Fall 2007 donations will be posted later in the fall.

Tzedakah Distribution, Spring 2007

\$1300 to ten organizations. Funds come from the JCA Tzedakah Fund.

Greater Amherst: \$400.

- Amherst Survival Center, earmarked for food: \$200
- Hampshire Health Connect: \$100
- Family Outreach of Amherst: \$100

Pioneer Valley: Basic Human Needs: \$400

- Open Pantry: \$200
- Literacy Project: \$100
- Jessie's House \$100

Social Justice, National: \$200

- Citizens for Tax Justice: \$100
- Jewish Fund for Justice: \$100

International: \$300

- American Jewish World Service \$100, earmarked for Peace and Justice
- Global Fund for Women \$100
- International Rescue Committee \$100

Do you have a b'nai mitzvah, yahrzeit, or other occasion for which you'd like to make a JCA donation? Please consider the JCA Tzedakah Fund as a way to both honor someone you know and to help out many in need.

* Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 16, 8:30-10 a.m. in the JCA library. New members are always welcome.



REPORT ON COMMITTEE RETREAT SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

What does it take to entice 26 people to attend a retreat (i.e. - long meeting) on a late summer Sunday afternoon? Commitment to the JCA is probably one answer but Karen Loeb's amazing cooking is a close second. On Sunday September 9, 2007 about 26 people representing various JCA committees, cluster chairs and board members gathered for a retreat to coordinate and plan committee work for the year, create connection and collaboration between committees, and coordinate committee budgets for the year. We discussed the budget process and how committees can better plan their budgets and we worked on a master JCA calendar of events. Committee chairs helped each other in cluster groups plan committee goals and priorities for the year and we brainstormed ideas for our new Friday evening programs. **Karen Loeb** and company (**Rachel Henderson, Jody Wax, Abigail Loeb** and **Linda Cooper**) put on as good a gourmet dinner as you would get from any caterer in town.

We have many many committees and need volunteers to help. **Amy Rothenberg** agreed to act as volunteer coordinator. Contact her about volunteer needs and opportunities at amy@nesh.com

The other significant need that was discussed at the retreat is for someone to coordinate publicity. We need to publicize all the wonderful activities going on at the JCA. If you have expertise or experience in this field, have no experience but are willing to coordinate this task, please contact me at oran@orankaufman.com

GET READY FOR...

THE GRAND JCA AUCTION!!!

COMING FEBRUARY 9TH, 2008

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- GET OFF YOUR TUCHES!
- JOIN THE COMMITTEE!
- DONATE AN ITEM OR SERVICE.

Look in THIS Newsletter
for the tear-out donation form.

Please contact Tobi to help make this the
BEST JCA AUCTION YET!

tobianjoe@gmail.com

549-1795

Dont Miss This!

It's another...

DANCE PARTY!!!

Pure fun!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

7:30 pm

JCA Social Hall

**Music provided by:
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Open to the public!

All ages welcome!

-Alcohol free-

-Light snacks and drinks will be provided-

\$5/person \$15 max/family

questions? Call Oran: 256-1575 or Tobi: 549-1795

THE GRAND JCA AUCTION
SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2008

Calling all JCA members with special talents!

Your donation will help make this a truly special event!

~Are you an artist?

~Can you offer a service?

~Can you donate a week(end) at your vacation home?

~Do you own a business that can make a donation?

~Can you donate a home-cooked meal?

BE CREATIVE!!!

AUCTION 2008 DONATION FORM

(no used or recycled items, please)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Best time to call: _____

E-mail address: _____

Item/Service to be donated: _____

Detailed description of donation (a photo is appreciated, if applicable):

Estimated value: _____ Minimum bid (optional): _____

Extra comments/concerns: _____

Please return this form to the JCA office.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE JCA!

Please contact Tobi to help with any aspect of our Auction:

tobiandjoel@gmail.com 549-1795



CHESED: CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY



The Hebrew word, *chesed*, is usually translated as “grace” or “loving kindness,” but sometimes also as “mercy” or “love.” An act of *chesed* is an act of kindness done neither to repay a debt nor for the sake of gain, but freely and purely out of love. Doing acts of *chesed* - *gemilut hasadim*- are considered to be one of the most important things by which the world is sustained, and is a core mitzvah in our ethical tradition. While *tzedakah*- the giving of charitable donations, is also an honored mitzvah, *chesed* is more far-reaching, in that it involves not only giving money to those in need, but giving of one’s self in a way that recognizes the common humanity of rich and poor, and builds community in a powerful and caring way.

The Chesed Committee at the JCA focuses its efforts on providing support to JCA members in a number of traditional areas of *chesed*, such as during times of illness, during the initial period of mourning, and at times of acute stress and isolation in people’s lives. For example, we provide visits and companionship to those who are ill or housebound; provide meals or perform simple errands for people who are incapacitated in other ways; provide food, prayer books, and kipot for Shiva minyans. The JCA’s Chesed Committee also welcomes new members with a Challah and new babies with a Menorah. *Chesed* is provided on a transitional basis during times of crisis. In cases of longer-term need or chronic illness, the Chesed Committee will attempt, when needed, to initiate an on-going support network within the community.

We are heavily dependent on volunteers to actually carry out short-term tasks of *gemilut hasadim*; while members of the Chesed Committee are also volunteers, we function more as a steering committee to coordinate activities. *Chesed* is a means for developing and sustaining a connection among the members of the JCA. The more people who are involved in these activities, the deeper will be the contribution to building the community.

The new form for volunteer sign-up on the next page is made available during Rosh Hashanah every year. Each year, depending on your other commitments, you will be able to reconsider whether you wish to remain a volunteer. We hope this shorter time commitment will make it easier for many people to volunteer.

On the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet, you may indicate those activities you would be willing to do, as well as the times, in general, you are most likely to be available.

A special note for those in need of assistance. The Chesed Committee encourages members to ask for assistance when in need. Requests are not impositions or burdens; they provide us with opportunities for service and community-building, which we cherish.

We also encourage you to consider becoming a Chesed Committee member. If you would like to find out more, please check the “I am interested in becoming a committee member” box on the sign-up sheet and we will contact you with further information.

New and current volunteers please see the next page for volunteer sign-up/update form.

Watercolors by Sarah E. Thomson

Interfaith Bookstore of Amherst (LAOS)
233 North Pleasant St. (Carriage Shops)

Tuesday-Saturday 11-2

Artist’s reception, Thursday, Oct. 4, 5-8 p.m.



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

Chesed Volunteer Sign-Up

2007 - 2008

5768

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone# (day): _____

(evening): _____

E-mail: _____

Please check all that apply

AVAILABILITY

day

evening

weekend

STATUS

I am a new volunteer

I would like to continue to volunteer

I am interested in becoming a committee member

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

meals (homebound, illness, new parents)

shopping/errands

chores

transportation assistance

visiting/companionship

emergency child care

new member challah delivery

shiva visits (to help make a minyan)

other _____

Thank you for updating this form.

Please return it to the JCA.

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

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Social
Hall**

*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.

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@mreforchange.org) Names will be kept confidential, unless released by the complainant. Further information regarding the grievance process and the issue of confidentiality is available from Eva.

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TWO EVENTS FROM THE TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE

VOICES FOR DARFUR

A vocal concert and fundraiser

Sunday, October 21, 2007, 3 to 5 PM

SMITH COLLEGE - Weinstein Auditorium in Wright Hall

The CBI Darfur Action Group invites you to join us for Voices for Darfur, a vocal concert and fundraiser to honor, remember and provide support to the victims of the continuing crisis. The conditions in Darfur remain desperate for the millions of people who are living in squalid refugee camps, and the need to provide them with food, water, and medical care is still urgent.

Performers include:

- Amandla Community Chorus, known for performing international songs of justice and celebration
- 5-Alone, the award-winning PVPA jazz a cappella group
- Evelyn Harris, internationally renowned singer formerly of Sweet Honey in the Rock
- Mak'hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Mass
- and an accomplished Sudanese vocal duo from New York.

Smith College Professor Eric Reeves, a leading national activist working to end the violence in Darfur, will provide an update on the humanitarian conditions there, Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins will make brief remarks, and New York photographer Richard Levine will speak of his recent trip to Darfur. Several of his acclaimed photos will be on display at the event and an exhibit of his work will be at the Jones Library from Oct. 21- Nov. 17.

Admission to the concert is free. But please bring your checkbook and prepare to give generously to the Sudan Aid Fund of the Community Foundation of Western Mass, which was started by Professor Reeves. Smith College has donated use of the concert site and the B'nai Tzedek Youth Foundation awarded a grant to underwrite the costs of the event.

The CBI Darfur Action Group began in April 2006 following a presentation at CBI by Professor Reeves. For more information, please contact Sara Weinberger at spw128@comcast.net. Donations may be sent to the Community Foundation of Western Mass, P.O. Box 15769, Springfield, MA 01115-5769. Checks should be earmarked to the Sudan Aid Fund.

Please mark the date and plan to join us as we open our hearts and RAISE OUR VOICES for the people of Darfur.



SUPPORT THE ARTS AND FAIR TRADE IN AMHERST!

There will be a combined **Art and Fair Trade Walk** in Amherst on **Thursday October 4 from 5 to 8 PM**. Free and open to anyone. There are 15 locally owned businesses that offer Fair Trade products and 4 Corporate Businesses that do, all in Amherst. Come to any gallery and you will be guided.

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WORLD JEWISH CONCERNS AND ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS BRIEF

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

Attachment to Israel Declining Among Young American Jews

Anthony Weiss | Wed. Sep 05, 2007
The Jewish Daily Forward

American Jews' connection to Israel drops off with each subsequent generation, a new study suggests.

The authors of the study, sociologists Steven M. Cohen and Ari Kelman, found a consistent increase in alienation in each younger generation, with middle-aged Jews less attached to Israel than older Jews, and younger Jews less attached than middle-aged Jews.

"Every measure indicates a decline of attachment to Israel from one generation to the next", Kelman, a sociologist at the University of California, Davis, told the Forward.

While the waning relationship between American Jews and Israel has been documented in past studies, the new survey, entitled "Beyond Distancing," provides the most in-depth statistical picture to date of American Jewish attitudes toward Israel and the extent of the disaffection.

Cohen and Kelman used a broader variety of questions than past studies have to gauge attachment and alienation among different generations of Jews. They found that young adult Jews were less attached to Israel than any other living generation of Jewish adults. This low level of attachment was consistent across the political spectrum, independent of party affili-

ation or ideological attachment. The authors concluded that the changes are likely generational and permanent.

"Insofar as younger Jews are less attached to Israel," the authors wrote, "the inevitable replacement of the older population with younger birth cohorts leads to a growing distancing in the population overall."

Cohen and Kelman used a series of questions about Israel to gauge connection. Eighty percent of Jews over age 65 said that "caring about Israel is an important part of being Jewish," compared with 72% of those 50-64 years old, 64% of those 35-49, and 60% of those under 35. From these responses, the authors compiled an index of overall attachment. They found that nearly 40% of Jews over 65 were found to be highly attached, compared with just over 20% of Jews under 35. The numbers are almost exactly reversed for low attachment, with more than 40% of Jews under 35 registering low attachment, compared with 20% of Jews over 65.

The one life-cycle event that Cohen and Kelman did point to as significant was intermarriage of Jews with non-Jews. Cohen, who has been an outspoken opponent of intermarriage, said that much of the rise in alienation and decline in attachment among younger generations could be accounted for by the rising levels of intermarriage.

The survey did make some unusual choices, particularly by choosing to exclude the responses of Orthodox Jews, who tend to have the closest connection to Israel. Cohen explained that this was done for two reasons:

first, because the statistical sample of Orthodox responses was too small, and second, because Jewish policy-making's focus is on non-Orthodox Jews.

Ted Sasson, a senior scholar at Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, said the study was "important and interesting." He objected, however, to the author's prediction of what the findings might mean for the future. Sasson said that the data underpinning the study provided a snapshot of current attitudes, not a trend.

One finding that Cohen, Kelman and Sasson could all agree upon was the positive influence of a trip to Israel. Cohen and Kelman's study found that attachment levels increased dramatically, particularly among young Jews, after a trip to Israel. This confirmed previous studies, including one co-authored by Sasson, that had documented the rising sense of Jewish attachment among participants in Birthright Israel's free trips to Israel.

Cohen and Kelman's Israel study is one in a series of studies they will be writing for the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies to explore various aspects of identity among young American Jews. The Bronfman Philanthropies are a founder and sponsor of Birthright Israel.

Roger Bennett, vice president of the Bronfman Philanthropies, has long advocated the importance of understanding the identities of young Jews on their own terms and creating programs that respond in kind.

Bennett said that though the find-

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Online at www.j-c-a.org

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ings of the study were dramatic, he saw no cause for alarm. “It’s a rallying call to roll up our sleeves and move to action,” he said.



Debate Essential to Arab-Israeli Peace

Amy Goodman

I sat down with former President Carter last week at the Carter Center in Atlanta. The center was hosting a conference of human-rights defenders, people at the front lines confronting repressive regimes around the globe. After a quarter-century of humanitarian work through the Carter Center, monitoring elections, working to eradicate neglected tropical diseases and focusing on the poor, Jimmy Carter now finds himself at the center of the storm in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

After more than three decades of work on the Middle East, Carter released a book titled “Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.” The book’s title alone has created a furor. But Carter is undeterred:

“The word ‘apartheid’ is exactly accurate. This is an area that’s occupied by two powers. They are now completely separated. Palestinians can’t even ride on the same roads that the Israelis have created or built in Pal-

estinian territory. The Israelis never see a Palestinian, except the Israeli soldiers. The Palestinians never see an Israeli, except at a distance, except the Israeli soldiers. So within Palestinian territory, they are absolutely and totally separated, much worse than they were in South Africa, by the way. And the other thing is, the other definition of ‘apartheid’ is, one side dominates the other. And the Israelis completely dominate the life of the Palestinian people.”

Carter lays much of the blame for the lack of momentum toward a solution on the absence of debate in the U.S.: “It’s a terrible human-rights persecution that far transcends what any outsider would imagine. And there are powerful political forces in America that prevent any objective analysis of the problem in the Holy Land. I think it’s accurate to say that not a single member of Congress with whom I’m familiar would possibly speak out and call for Israel to withdraw to their legal boundaries or to publicize the plight of the Palestinians or even to call publicly and repeatedly for good faith peace talks.”

As president, Carter brokered the 1978 Camp David Peace Accords, creating a lasting peace between Israel and Egypt. President Clinton, who officiated over the failed 2000 Camp David Summit between Israel and the Palestinians, has been highly

critical of Carter’s perspective. Clinton blames the Palestinian leadership for rejecting Israel’s “generous offer.” It’s interesting that Israel’s chief negotiator, former Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, told me in 2006, “If I were a Palestinian, I would have rejected Camp David as well.”

While we were in Atlanta, DePaul University in Chicago reached a settlement with professor Norman Finkelstein. Despite hailing him as a “prolific scholar and an outstanding teacher,” DePaul denied him tenure, many believe because of his outspoken criticism of Israeli policy toward Palestinians. The son of Holocaust survivors himself, Finkelstein has been praised by leading scholars.

Just months before he died, Raul Hilberg, revered founder of the field of Holocaust studies, praised Finkelstein’s work: “That takes a great amount of courage. His place in the whole history of writing history is assured and that those who in the end are proven right triumph, and he will be among those who will have triumphed, albeit, it so seems, at great cost.”

Open debate on Israel-Palestine should not come at such a high cost. It is essential to Middle East peace. The Iraq Study Group, in its bipartisan Baker-Hamilton Report, stated,


continued on next page

PROJECT REHOVOT
Sincere thanks to those who have donated to Project Rehovot

Petula Bloomfield in honor of Hannah and Assaf Pollin Galay
 Yaffa and Haim Gunner in honor of Kitty Axelson-Berry and in memory of her mother Doris Lebow
 Esther Mercer, in memory of my beloved mother Lucille Inez Mercer
 Thomas Porter and Lisa Perl binder

UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND THE NEW ISRAEL FUND
The work of UJC and NIF helps strengthen Israel and world Jewry. Many thanks to those who generously contributed:

Eleanor Quint
 Joel Halpern
 Norton and Irene Starr
 Bob Stern and Judy Glaser



continued from previous page

“The United States will not be able to achieve its goals in the Middle East unless the United States deals directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict.”

Carter’s book cover has a picture of the “Separation Barrier.” Israel originally designed the wall to run along the internationally recognized 1967 border. Carter noted that Israel decided to “move the wall from the Israeli border to intrude deeply within Palestine to carve out some of that precious land for the Israeli settlers to occupy.” The International Court of Justice has ruled it illegal. It is more than half completed, with plans to snake more than 400 miles, mainly through the West Bank. In places the wall is more than 25 feet high and made of concrete.

Carter describes it as “much worse”

than the Berlin Wall. Elder Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery writes:

“When my friends fall prey to despair, I show them a piece of painted concrete, which I bought in Berlin. It is one of the remnants of the Berlin Wall, which are on sale in the city. I tell them that I intend, when the time comes, to apply for a franchise to sell pieces of the Separation Wall.”

That barrier stands in the United States as well -- metaphorically -- around any kind of rational debate for a fair and just solution in the Middle East. My suggestion: Tear down that wall.

Amy Goodman is the host of “Democracy Now!,” a daily international TV/radio news hour



SHELTER SUNDAY

Shelter Sunday is an annual door-to-door solicitation of Amherst area residents organized by Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. Last year our efforts generated more than \$25,000.

On Sunday October, 21st volunteers will gather on the Amherst Town Common and will be sent in groups to different neighborhoods in Amherst, Pelham and Hadley.

Proceeds go to Human Service Agencies that provide for those in need in our community.

To volunteer, please contact Johanna Plaut at 549-6151

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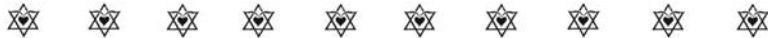


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TWO GREAT ISRAEL PROGRAMS THIS FALL AT THE JCA



ITZKHAK RABIN MEMORIAL LECTURE: POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: AN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT

SPEAKER: Professor N. Gordon Levin

WHEN: Sunday, October 28, 2007, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

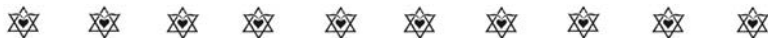
The complicated and constantly shifting strategies and goals of the many players in the Israel-Palestinian conflict are difficult to follow. To help us understand the current situation, Professor N. Gordon Levin of Amherst College will discuss the peace process since the Oslo agreement and review current American-Israeli relations, Israel's relations with surrounding countries, and the relations between Hamas and Fatah. A question and answer period will follow.

Professor Levin is the Dwight Morrow Professor of History and American Studies at Amherst College. He received his B.A. from Yale and the PhD from Harvard. He teaches American diplomatic history, the history of Israel, and the concepts of citizenship and national identity.

Please join us for light refreshments at 10:00 AM at the JCA.

The event is free and open to the public.

For further information, contact Eva Sartori at (413) 467-3626 (leosartori@comcast.net).



AMERICAN JEWS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS: AN ISRAELI JEWISH PEACE ACTIVIST SPEAKS OUT

SPEAKER: Yonatan Shapira

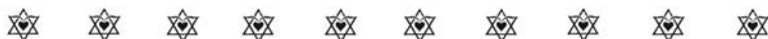
WHEN: Sunday, November 18, 2007, 2:00 PM

Yonatan Shapira, a former Captain in the Israeli Air Force Reserves, authored the famous "pilots letter" in which 27 Israeli Air Force pilots refused to fly attack missions on Palestinian territories in 2003. He was a founding member of Combatants for Peace, <http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/> in which Israeli former soldiers and Palestinian former fighters have laid down their arms and travel the world encouraging dialogue and peace. Yonatan Shapira spoke in Northampton in Fall 2006 and welcomes the opportunity to speak in synagogues with fellow Jews.

This event is free and open to the public.

Light refreshments will be served

Sponsored by the Western Mass chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom and the JCA



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.

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.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE JCA COMMITTEE FOR NOT BREAD ALONE

The JCA Committee for Not Bread Alone is seeking regular and substitute volunteers. Our committee is responsible for the cooking and cleanup of the midday meal at Not Bread Alone, Amherst's local soup kitchen, on one Sunday per month. There are two shifts, cooking and cleanup, each lasting about 1-1/2 hours. Substitutes are on call to fill in when regular volunteers cannot be there. Working at Not Bread Alone is a mitzvah - and it's fun! Teens are welcome, too!

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact: Barbara Pistrang at <barbara@jpcr.com> or 256-1737.

The Deadline for the November Newsletter is **October 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

Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately?
Books by JCA members and others, siddurim, chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot and many lovely gift items.

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DONATIONS

JCA General Fund
 In Gratitude to the JCA for making community High
 Holiday tickets available (Lois Bass)
 Leslie Goldstein
 In Memory of my Father Rabbi Sanford Saperstein
 and Mother Leah Saperstein (Reena Saperstein-
 Stuckey)

Prayer Book Fund

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of my sister Lois Helene Litt
 (Allan Feldman)
 In Memory of Maureen Ryan, sister of Jeanne Ryan,
 sister-in-law of Marjory Ackerman and aunt of Jack
 and Allie (Aaron and Patience Bousel)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Clio Stearns

Tzedakah

In Honor of the marriage of Isaac Souweine and
 Andrea Pinkney (Jane and Daniel Giat)

CONDOLENCES

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

Maureen Ryan, sister of Jeanne Ryan, sister-in-law of
 Marjory Ackerman and aunt of Jack and Allie
 Milton Zwerling, father of Marjorie Trust and
 grandfather of Sonya Trust

NEW MEMBERS

*We warmly welcome the following new members to the
 JCA community.*

Susan and Kathleen Connor-Kirshbaum and daughter
 Ayla
 Adam and Rachel Siegel and children Isaac and Esme
 Steven and Anna Robbins and son Calder
 Andrew Rome
 Alan Goodman and Chaia Heller and daughter Ruby
 Melissa Zeitz
 Bud and Kathy Lichtenstein and children Matt and
 Alex
 Janet and Craig Kannel and children Charlie, Ethan
 and Jared



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card 3.125 x 1.7857
 (Standard business card, reduced ~ 10%)

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 35.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 270.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 30.00	\$ 24.55
JCA Member	\$ 28.00	\$ 96.00	\$ 216.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 24.00	\$ 19.64

¼ Sheet
 3.125 x 3.875 3 1/16 x 3 7/8

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 60.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 462.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 50.00	\$ 42.00
JCA Member	\$ 48.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 370.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 40.00	\$ 33.64

½ Sheet
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	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 110.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 847.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 93.75	\$ 77.00
JCA Member	\$ 88.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 75.00	\$ 61.82

Full Sheet
 6.25 x 7.75 6 1/4 x 7 3/4

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 200.00	\$ 670.00	\$ 1540.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 167.50	\$ 140.00
JCA Member	\$ 160.00	\$ 536.00	\$ 1232.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 134.00	\$ 112.00

Community Announcements

Hadassah

Hadassah Donor Luncheon
 Sunday, November 4, 2007
 12:00 Noon

Butternuts Restaurant, Rt. 9, Hadley
 Guest Speaker:

State Senator Stan Rosenberg

The senator will talk about his several trips to Russia and his meeting with the Jewish communities there. Look for your invitation in the mail; Contact Bobbye Hertzbach (256-3388) to receive an invitation or for other information.

Guests are very welcome!



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." Psalm 65:2



National Yiddish Book Center

There are too many programs at the Yiddish Book Center to list them all here. Please go to their website: www.yiddishbookcenter.org for more information.



Hillel

Hillel is Sponsoring a Prospective Student Shabbat Weekend

Friday - Sunday, October 19-21
 High school juniors and seniors who are interested in coming to UMass are invited to be the weekend guest of a Jewish UMass student. High school students may sign up for this Prospective Student Shabbat on the UMass Hillel website, www.umasshillel.org). The registration fee for the weekend is \$75 and includes a free UMass Amherst Hebrew tee-shirt. Spaces are limited and registration ends Thursday, October 11.



The Mother's Circle

The Mothers Circle is now forming for its twice a month, Thursday night sessions in downtown Northampton. Beginning in October 2007. This eight month curriculum is for women of other religions who are raising Jewish children. (see www.themotherscircle.org). Taught by Shoshana Zonderman, experienced Jewish educator and clinical social worker, the course provides a safe place to learn the "how-to's of parenting a Jewish child, to share experiences, and to ask any question without embarrassment. Current JCA Mothers Circle members are available to speak

with prospective Circle members. For more information, please call Shoshana at 413-439-1946 Shoshana@themotherscircle.org.



Tony Kushner at UMass

Artist talk: "A Conversation with Tony Kushner"

Tuesday, October 9th at 7:00PM
 Rand Theater, Fine Arts Center

Film: "Wrestling with Angels"
 Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:00PM
 School of Management Auditorium,
 Room 137

Events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Larry Goldbaum in the Office of Jewish Affairs, 545-9642 or visit our website at umass.edu/jewish/program



Florence Melton Adult Mini School

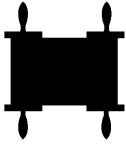
New classes are forming for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School this fall. The School offers weekly meetings with instructors who are rated for their excellence and teach the most important primary texts of Jewish tradition.

Courses are offered at three locations:

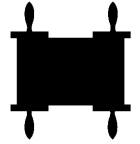
The Springfield Jewish Community Center, Mondays at 7:00 p.m. beginning October 22th; the Lander-Grinspoon Academy in Northampton, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning November 7th; and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires in Pittsfield Tuesday nights, Starts October 30th 6:30-8:50 pm.

To register, contact Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein at the Springfield JCC, 413-739-4715 ext. 344, or mbecker-klein@springfieldjcc.org.





Jewish Community of Amherst
October 2007
 19 Tishre ~ 19 Cheshvan 5768



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 19 TISHRE ✕ Succot - Third Intermediate Day 6:00 pm Building and Grounds 7:30 pm Finance Committee	2 20 TISHRE ✕ Succot - Fourth Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	3 21 TISHRE ✕ Hoshanah Rabbah 11:6:11 ✕ Succot - Fifth Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study	4 22 TISHRE ✕ Shemini Atzeret 10:00 am Service Office Closed 7:00 pm Simchat Torah Celebration (see also Friday at 5:30 and page 5)	5 23 TISHRE 11:6:07 ✕ Simchat Torah 5:30 pm Simchat Torah Celebration, Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper	6 24 TISHRE Bereshit 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah Julia Rossen No Religious School for 7th graders
7 25 TISHRE 10:00 am Sukkah Disassembly No Religious School	8 26 TISHRE Columbus Day	9 27 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	10 28 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:00 pm Religion Committee 6:00 pm Confirmation Class with Rabbi Bauer	11 29 TISHRE 7:30 pm Board Meeting	12 30 TISHRE ✕ Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 1 11:5:55 6:15 pm Service Newsletter Deadline	13 1 CHESHVAN ✕ Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 2 Noah 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah Jacob Mooney
14 2 CHESHVAN	15 3 CHESHVAN 7:30 pm Finance Committee	16 4 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee	17 5 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study	18 6 CHESHVAN 7:00 pm Fundraising Committee	19 7 CHESHVAN 11:5:44 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	20 8 CHESHVAN Lech Lecha 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service 10:00 am Masorti Service 7:30 pm JCA Dance Party
21 9 CHESHVAN	22 10 CHESHVAN	23 11 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	24 12 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	25 13 CHESHVAN	26 14 CHESHVAN 11:5:34 6:15 pm Service 3rd/4th grade dinner with the Rabbi	27 15 CHESHVAN Vayera 10:00 am Service
28 16 CHESHVAN No Religious School (Teacher Education Conference) 10:30 am Rabin Memorial Lecture (see page 23)	29 17 CHESHVAN	30 18 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	31 19 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation			



October 4
Shemini Atzeret

October 4 & 5
Simchat Torah (see page 5)

October 20
Dance Party

October 28
Rabin Memorial Lecture

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