

Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

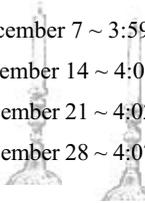


Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

December 2007
Kislev/Tevet 5768
Vol. 6, Issue No. 11

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

December 7 ~ 3:59 pm
December 14 ~ 4:00 pm
December 21 ~ 4:02 pm
December 28 ~ 4:07 pm



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

Annual Meeting

**December 2
10:00 am**



Special Events

**December 9
Chanukah Party**



Meetings

**December 5
Religion Committee**

**December 6
Board Meeting**

**December 11
Tikkun Olam Committee**

**December 20
Fundraising Committee**

MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT

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

This is my last column as president of the JCA—I hope I haven’t been too boring, personal, naïve, or long-winded. It’s been a pleasure to serve the JCA for the last two years. Despite bummers in my personal life that were coincidental during this time, I’ve felt lovingly supported by you all. I look forward to continuing as a board member for a second term because it still feels like my turn to serve this wonderful community.

This is the best group of people imaginable, with a wide range of viewpoints but a common sense of justice, wisdom, and compassion. That includes those who contribute a lot of time and energy, and those who can’t (for reasons of their personality, family, or work, but wonderfully support to those who can) and those who contribute a lot of money, and those who can’t (for reasons of their limited means or unlimited needs, but truly appreciate the generosity of those who can).

In the continuing interests of transparency and in the hope of attracting JCA members under the age of 60 onto the board and into committee leadership asap, here is a wrap-up of the November board meeting, which took place on November 1 and was continued on November 7.

It’s been a pleasure to serve the JCA for the last two years,..... and I’ve felt lovingly supported by you all.

Educational Directions Task Force chair Lisa Perl binder reported that the group is exploring several approaches to Jewish education, including the use of a “master teacher”, as well as grants to pay for an assessment of the JCA community’s educational needs.

Annual Campaign: Jerry Friedman reported on the Annual Campaign: We currently have 119 pledges amounting to at least \$28,332. Board members spend a great deal of their own time to call every member of the community.

Nominating Committee: Eli Kwartler reported that the committee is putting together a slate to present to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Friday Night events: It was reported by **Robyn Miller** and **Rabbi Bauer** that procedures are now in place for committees to hold Friday night events; that Tikkun Olam committee’s Fair Trade shabbat went well; that a visiting rabbi will speak about the JRF camp on an upcoming Friday night.

Fundraising: John Loeb presented a preliminary plan for soliciting funds from (local) businesses; the board gave its nod for the fundraising committee to further develop a plan for presentation to the board. The Rabbi announced a Sophie Tucker fundraising concert on April 22.

B’nai Mitzvah

December 8 - 10:00 am
Eliza Fishman
Gabriel Fishman

continued on page 11

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 January issue is December 12th

November 2007, Vol. 6, Issue No. 11

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

BEIT SHALOM COMMITTEE

Members of the Beit Shalom Committee have been asked by the co-presidents of the JCA to broaden our availability to members of the JCA. We are eager to afford any opportunity for open and productive communications within the congregation. Thus, if you as an individual (or as a committee) have concerns or disagreements, or feel a need to enhance communications with a JCA member or committee or the leadership of the JCA, contact us to facilitate this process. All such communications will be kept confidential, at the discretion of the participants.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Beit Shalom Committee:

Eva Metzger Brown: 256-8066
 embrown13@comcast.net

Josette Henschel: 213-0186
 josette.henschel@aic.edu

Rob Okun: 253-9372
 raokun@verizon.net

Melanie Lewis: 323-4155
 mslewislaw@aol.com

Haim Gunner: 549-0447
 haim_gunner@yahoo.com.

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**

In America, Hanukkah has garnered the nickname “the Festival of Lights,” as candle flames join Christmas lights in piercing the December night. Many cultures have midwinter rituals of fire and light to counter the forces of cold and darkness.



The Hanukkah narrative is political as well as miraculous, though, and that, as much as the religious story of the Temple oil lamp, gives substance to the name of the holiday. “Hanukkah” means dedication.



I find nothing surprising in the human desire to focus on light rather than darkness and to create warmth



of body and spirit for ourselves and those we love.



I personally would rather gaze at candle flames and sa-



vor (perhaps snarf is a more accurate term) jelly doughnuts and latkes than confront harsh political realities that demand my dedication to a dangerous fight for justice in the world. And it is a fight.



I am an American Jew, a Jewish American. As a Jew I have no choice but to engage in the fight, because too much injustice is being enacted in my name as an American. As a descendant of an oft persecuted people, carrying within me my people’s spiritual and chronicled history of enslavement in Egypt under the Pharaoh’s and in Europe under the Nazis, I cannot silently be party to the torture or oppression of others.



I thank God for my good fortune to live where I do and to enjoy the sweetness and light of my life in Amherst, Massachusetts. I get to eat jelly doughnuts and light my hanukkiah in peace. At this festival of dedication, my very pleasures and privileges shine a clear light on my sacred obligation to up-

hold righteousness where I find it and strive for it where it is missing.

Rabbi Eddie Feld, a member of our community, is also the Education Director for Rabbis for Human Rights. He and RHR are leading a Jewish campaign to end U.S.-sponsored torture. To increase our awareness that we are commanded to speak out and take action, he has composed a new version of the traditional prayer of intention as we light our Hanukkah lights. I hope that every member of this Jewish community will recite this prayer this year, share this prayer with every Jew we know, and take action to assure our prayers come true.

I light this flame of Hanukkah remembering the time when my people were oppressed because of their faith. Greeks persecuted us, martyred our people, tortured and killed us. Many of my people stood firm, and I am their descendant. As I celebrate the light of freedom today, I pray that I and my fellow citizens shall not be the source of suffering in others, never persecute others because of their faith, never torture others, never be the instrument of hate. May we all be sources of light in the world, not of darkness.

If any of us has any doubt of the urgency of this issue, come see the film Ghosts of Abu Ghraib, a documentary on torture at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison. We, Rabbis for Human Rights, and the Office for Spiritual Life at Hampshire College, are sponsoring a screening of this HBO film, at 7pm on Sunday, December 2, in the East Lecture Hall in Franklin Patterson Hall on the Hampshire College campus. Rabbi Feld will be there to help us respond to what we see.

We must face the reality. We must see, know, and act. The true lesson of Hanukkah is that we Jews do not willingly remain in the dark.





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

Shabbat Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

November 30, Friday

6:15 PM

The service will be led by Rabbi Bauer and Mak'hela

December 1

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

Masorti Service (small sanctuary)

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



December 4, Tuesday

Erev Chanukah- Light first candle



Shabbat Chanukah, Parashat Miketz

Genesis 41:1-44:17

December 7, Friday

5:30 PM

Kedushah LaTorah, Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

December 8, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Eliza Fishman

Bar Mitzvah: Gabriel Fishman

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



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.

December 10, Monday - Rosh Chodesh Tevet



Shabbat Vayigash, Genesis 44:18-47:27

December 14, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

December 15, Saturday

10:00 AM

Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

Chanting Service (small sanctuary)

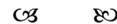
Service Leader: Sara Schley

We will join the service in the main sanctuary for the Torah Service (see the following page for more information)



December 19, Sunday, Asarah B'Tevet

Asarah B'Tevet (the tenth day of Tevet) commemorates the day when the Babylonians began their siege of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E.



Shabbat Chazak, Parashat Vayeichi

Genesis 47:28-60:26

December 21, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service

Service Leader: To be announced

December 22, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Shemot, Exodus 1:1-6:1

December 28, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

December 29

10:00 AM

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



KIDDUSH SPONSORS**December 8-**

Jeffrey Fishman and Sarah Killion in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of their children Eliza and Gabriel

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.

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.

FOOT STOMPING MELODIES FOR WELCOMING SHABBAT

The next Carlebach-style service will be on December 21st
The service is followed by a pot luck supper.

The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

MASORTI LAY-LED SHABBAT MINYAN

The Masorti Minyan continues to meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am.

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

For details contact:
Catherine Madsen
253-2930

CHANTING SERVICE DECEMBER 15TH

Please join us for a Shacharit chanting service on Sat Dec 15th at 10:00 AM in the Small Sanctuary. We will share chants and melodies by Rabbi Shefa Gold for Shacharit and then join the service in the Main Sanctuary for the Torah service. Sara Schley has been studying with Shefa in her "Kol Zimrah" chant leadership group and is bringing these inspired melodies home to the JCA. We'll co-create a delightful morning service, building community and spirit using the chant as a vehicle for prayer and praise, celebration and gratitude.

SIMCHAT TORAH

On Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 PM, we gathered in the Social Hall to celebrate Simchat Torah. We danced hakafot (circles) with several Torah scrolls, singing traditional songs. After each hakafah we sat down for text study, taught by both Rabbi Bauer and Rabbi Edward Feld. Rabbi Bauer opened the Torah study with a teaching on the first verse of Bereshit (Genesis) from Midrash Tanchuma. Rabbi Feld led us in discussion of each of the Five Books, drawing from commentaries by Robert Alter, Michael Walzer, Jacob Milgrom, and Aaron Wildavsky. By this time the family with pre-school-age children had taken them home to bed, but the teenagers made insightful contributions to the discussion. We took a break half-way through to eat delicious chili. The highlight of the second half was Rabbi Feld's energetic rendition of *Mipi El*.

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's service will include Kedushah LaTorah the consecration of our first grade students.

TORAH READERS NEEDED

Looking for Torah readers to read all seven aliyot from the scroll (triennial cycle) once a month. Dates to be determined.

Payment for preparing the reading will be \$150.00 per parasha.

Contact **Felicia Mednick** at **548-9690**
if you are interested or for more information.

Check the JCA website at:

www.j-c-a.org/services.html

for updated religion calendar information.

EDUCATION NEWS

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



The Benefits of Teaching Assistants in JCA School

When teens look at becoming TAs, they come for many reasons: “I like working with kids,” “I wanted a job,” “Do we really get paid?” Each year, as a complement to our teaching staff, we have teens interested in helping in JCA School. Initially, teens are the behind the scenes helpers who take attendance, count tzedakah, make copies, work with individual students, clean up projects, and run errands. Eventually, teens can begin to help plan activities and lead class. The teens are role models for the younger students. And the teens have an opportunity to be part of our JCA community in a new way and begin to learn about having a job.

Teens must be post bar/bat mitzvah and go through an application process. We have been averaging between 6-8 teens/year. This year, we have a waiting list of teens! Supervision of these teens is a joint effort between Education Director, **Jody Rosenbloom** and **Pam Cummings**, School Office Support. Supervision includes helping teens with basic job skills, use of office machines, organizing materials as well as designing tasks in stages that are do-able in the time frame, within known Judaic content, and with appropriate class groupings. In addition, as part of the new Teen Program Electives, Teen Director **Rachael Goran** is providing four training sessions.

Teaching Assistants this year include: **Carla Oppenheimer** (12th Grade), **David Gamliel** (11th Grade), **Lena Amick** (11th Grade), **Zachary Oppenheimer** (11th Grade), **Jonah Herscu** (10th Grade), **Spencer Diamond** (10th Grade), **Daniel Hammond** (9th Grade), **Jordan Diamond** (8th Grade) & **Leah Parker-Bernstein** (8th Grade).

Individualized Learning is a Growing Challenge

Much of the education literature today emphasizes the importance of teaching to multiple intelligences and learning styles. We do our best in our small school, meeting once/week, with teachers of varying skill levels, and ever changing scheduling. Our program design presents unique challenges for students with diagnosed learning challenges, which can include IEPs and special supports in their non-JCA School environments. Add to this, our children with accelerated knowledge of eg. Hebrew, the children who come and go for various other commitments, and our teachers struggle to teach to the

level of any group of students or build continuity and community in the classroom. We are very lucky to have teaching staff and committee members with experience in this area. Taking into account our households and the structure of JCA School, the Education Committee and teaching staff are exploring protocols for setting realistic goals and parameters for our work with families and students. This is especially timely as the Education Review Task Force looks at the overall goals of education programming at the JCA.

Thank –You To:

Tobi Sznajderman for her years on the Education Committee and recently serving as co-chair. We wish Tobi well as she moves on to fundraising and the JCA Auction.

Karin Kayser for her years on the Education Committee as member and former co-chair.

John Loeb for donating his time and resources for our teen elective.

Jim Levine, Education Committee member, for donating his time and expertise as a consulting school psychologist as part of our teacher training.



Calendar

Fri, Dec. 7	5:30 pm Family Service & Kedushah LaTorah (Consecration) Service followed by Chanukah potluck supper
Sat, Dec. 15	10:30-noon Shabbat Shalom (4-6 year olds)
Sat/Sun, Dec.22/23	No Classes- Winter break begins
Sat, Jan. 5	Classes resume for 7th grade
Sun, Jan, 6	Classes resume for grades 1-6



**MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT
THE DEAN'S BEANS ORGANIC COFFEE FUNDRAISER.....**

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- 2) Once the pre-paid orders are delivered and separated, they are ready for pick up in the JCA kitchen anytime the building is open—not just on the official, Sunday pick-up date when they are set out on the lobby bench?
- 3) Gold's Gym members may opt to pick-up their orders at the facility's front desk?
- 4) You may place a standing, pre-paid order for multiple months, eliminating the need to remember monthly order deadlines?
- 5) Chai tea bags and dark chocolate covered beans are also available?
- 6) We've raised over \$3,000 in profits since 2005 to help the religious school meet its budget requirements???



So, what are you waiting for? Get your name on the Dean's Beans email list and order this month! **Contact Sue Weinstein: susanweinstein1@yahoo.com or 548-9552.**

Thanks to all of our supporters for contributing to the success of this fundraiser!

**The next order date: December 9th
Pick-up (in the lobby): December 16th**

**It's COMING ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!
FEBRUARY 3RD- WRAP UP WITH GOD AND
THEN HAVE A BAGEL**

Join us for the annual WORLD WIDE TEFILLIN WRAP. Learn about Tefillin, a spiritual practice that is over two thousand years old. Last year we were one of 5000 congregations and groups that participated in this program. More information—including kids' activities--will follow in the next newsletter.

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 at 548-9053.

See Teen Programming info on the following two pages

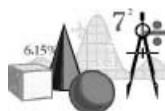


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TEEN PROGRAMMING CALENDAR December 2007

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
2 Schmooze with the Jewz 4:30-7pm	3	4 1st night	5 Confirmation Class with Rabbi 6-8p 2nd night	6 Leadership meeting 5-6 Holocaust & Human Rights 6-8p 3rd night	7 4th night	8 5th night
9	10 7th night	11 8th night	12 Creative Writing & Understanding Tolerance 6-8p	13	14	15
16 spark HeartAction	17	18	19 Creative Writing & Understanding Tolerance 6-8p	20	21	22
23 /	24 /	25	26			
30	31					

Sun. Dec. 2nd, 4:30-7p, Schmooze with the Jewz, JCA Come play some games and hang out with friends at our monthly schmooze with the Jewz. Dinner provided. Open to 7-10th graders. Free to Chai members, \$8 for Alef, BBYO and CC, \$12 for non-members.

Wed. Dec. 5, 6-8p, Confirmation Class, JCA Open to all 10th-12th graders, contact Rachael for more information. (mandatory session for confirmands). Dinner provided.

Thurs. Dec. 6, 5-6p, Leadership Meeting, JCA Come help plan the events that you want to happen! Dinner Provided. New members are encouraged to attend.

Thurs. Dec. 6, 6-8p, Holocaust & Human Rights, JCA Open to all 8-12th graders— 2 credits CC. Free to confirmation class students and chai members, Dinner provided.

Date & Time to be announced, Chanukah Program, JCA Open to all 7-12th graders, Come attend this program that the Confirmation Class will plan— latke making, crafts, and more! Dinner provided. 2 credits CC, Free to confirmation class students and Chai members, \$8 for alef, \$12 for non-members.

Wed. Dec 12 & 19, Creative Writing and Understanding Tolerance, JCA— Open to all 9-12th graders, dinner provided. Contact Rachael for more information. New students welcome!

Sun. Dec. 16, 2-4:30, Spark!, Center for Extended Care— Contact Avital at avihistory@gmail.com to RSVP.

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.

**Join us for the Chanukah Program! Planned and led by the
2007-08 Confirmation Class for all 7-12th graders!**

Enjoy latkes!

Play some wicked dreidle games!

Enjoy other surprises!



**Watch your email
for date & time**

**Open to all 7-
12th graders!**



RSVP to rbgoren@gmail.com by 12/7

Free to chai members & confirmation class students

\$8 for alef & BBYO members

\$12 for non-members

If this is your first time to a program— then it is free!

2 CC credits

Number of 7-12th graders who attended a Jewish teen program since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year— 72

Number of programs that have been held for Jewish teens grades 7-12 since the beginning of the 2007-08 school year— 21

Average number of teens at any given Jewish teen programming event— 14

How much fun teens have when they come to events? PRICELESS

There are some things that stats can measure... for everything else there will always be Jewish Community of Amherst Teen Programming (spark, JCAT, BBYO, Confirmation class, & Pre-confirmation class)

Contact Rachael at rbgoren@gmail.com for more information. New teens always welcome.

JCA Teen Programming

TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE

Great news!

The Oct. 20 concert at Smith College to raise money for Darfur Refugees was a huge success. JCA was one of the many sponsors and many JCA members sang with Makhela which was one of the five groups performing. All in all, the concert raised \$21,000, \$10,000 more than expected. Many thanks to all who attended and participated in singing. Special thanks to Devorah Jacobson from JCA who served on the larger community committee which organized the event.

Event to Support Immigration-Raid Victims

On December 6, Casa Obrera/Anti-Displacement Project of Springfield is sponsoring a fundraising dinner in support of undocumented immigrants in Amherst and the larger Pioneer Valley. The event, to be held at the Amherst Regional High School cafeteria from 6-9 p.m., will feature food and entertainment by local artists. It is hoped that enough monies will be raised to initially offset legal defense expenditures for those facing imminent deportation. Half of the proceeds will be allocated to Amherst residents (many of whom are minors in the Amherst schools) and the remaining half will go to other Pioneer Valley residents.

This event will also serve to launch the “Good Neighbor Campaign,” an ongoing program to raise funds for our immigrant neighbors and to increase awareness of their plight.

You can support the December 6 fundraiser by attending the event, donating food, or contributing financially. For more information, contact Deb Bix at deb.bix@verizon.net or Caroline Murray at caroline@a-dp.org.

ADULT READING GROUP

The second meeting of the new cycle for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is *The World to Come: a Novel* by Dara Horn. It is in paperback.

Each cycle for the Adult Reading Group goes from September to June; four books are read during that time-about two months between each meeting. We focus on Jewish authors, alternating male and female, and the members decide at each meeting what the next book to be read and discussed will be. New group members are always welcome.

Come to one meeting or all remaining three! If you have any questions, please call Ken Talan at 253-2248.

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continued from page 1

Membership: Oran Kaufman reported that the membership committee is revitalized with new members (thanks!) and is devising a policy for divorced and separated households; considering the advisability of publishing profiles of new members in the newsletter; and figuring out good approaches for retaining existing members.

Other business: The religion committee again urged board members to attend services at least three times a year; Eli Kwartler reported that, after

a personal letter was sent to them, non-members who attended High Holidays at the JCA have donated \$1,600 so far.

The meeting was continued to November 8. On November 8, the Finance Committee's proposed 2008 budget was reviewed line by line. The finance committee was congratulated on doing a terrific job figuring things out. Small adjustments were made. (I found it interesting to learn that our building needs to be repainted every seven years at a cost of over \$30,000 each time. Yikes!) The board deferred

to the relevant committees the questions of how the dues increases that the budget is based on should be determined (six percent across the board or income-dependent?) and how the personnel raises included in the budget should be determined (across the board or job-dependent?). The balanced budget was approved by the board for presentation and membership vote at the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30.

b'shalom,
Kitty Axelson-Berry



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Avi Gladstone & Barbara Goldstein
256-0040

See the flyer for the **JCA Chanukah Party** on the next page? Looks like fun, no?
 But without latkes, what's a Chanukah party?
 Please come on December 2nd from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and help us make latkes.
 The More the Merrier. For more information contact Amy Mittelman: 256-0883.



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

**Jewish
Community
of Amherst
Social
Hall**

*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.

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.

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at the JCA
for more information call 256-0160

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Latkes, light food and drinks provided

Gonna Play Dreidel
Gonna Eat Latkes
Gonna Have Lots of Fun

Come play dreidel - young and old
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Everyone bring your menorah and
candles so the room is filled with light.

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An Evening of MUSIC, FOOD, WINE and BIDS!
FEBRUARY 9TH, 2008

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DEADLINE FOR DONATION FORMS IS JANUARY 10TH

Look in THIS newsletter for the tear-out donation form!!

Contact Tobi with questions or to help: tobiandjoel@gmail.com 549-1795

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**JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
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- Cash Contribution (amount \$ _____). Cash contributions will be used to underwrite costs of the auction. Please include your check with this form, payable to JCA.

**Please mail or fax this form before January 10th to the JCA office:
742 Main St, Amherst, MA 01002, Fax: 413-256-1588**

WORLD JEWISH CONCERNS AND ACTION COMMITTEE

Karen Loeb, Chair

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

*The New York Times,
November 3, 2007
Editorial*

That Promised Peace Conference

One month before President Bush's Mideast peace conference — the administration's first serious effort in six years — it's still not clear what will be on the agenda or who, beyond the Americans, Israelis and Palestinians, will show up. Even the date is still up in the air.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is in the region through early next week for what we hope will be more than just another one of her listening tours. If the conference has any chance of success, she needs to be carrying with her creative proposals, a willingness to twist everyone's arms and the stamina to keep at it for as long as it takes.

The issue is less how peace would look than whether leaders — including Mr. Bush — have the political courage to make decisions and finally move forward.

The broad outlines of a deal for Israel and the new state of Palestine have been apparent since President Clin-

ton's 2000 push. The two states would be separated by a line approximating Israel's pre-1967 war border, with small land swaps to permit most Jewish settlers in the West Bank to be part of Israel. There would be some kind of agreed resolution of the Palestinian refugees issue, while the two sides would find a way to split control of Jerusalem. A guarantee to use the full resources of the Palestinian Authority to help protect Israel from future terrorist attacks is also essential.

Nobody expects Israel's prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, both weak leaders, to come to an agreement at this meeting. At a minimum, however, they must launch a serious negotiating process that would point clearly — preferably with a target date — to the end of the conflict and to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

If that happens, then the really hard work starts. The United States would have to be at the bargaining table every step of the way to provide Mr. Olmert with support and political cover to make the tough compromises that could well bring down his government. Leading Arab states would also have to be intensely engaged to bol-

ster and give cover to Mr. Abbas, who faces serious opposition both from Hamas militants and from within his own Fatah party. The Israelis need the Saudis finally at the table, as proof that compromise would also bring regional acceptance. The Saudis aren't known for their political courage, but even the Egyptians are insisting that they won't invest political capital unless they are sure there's something to invest in.

After years of broken promises and bloodshed, Israelis and Palestinians must also agree on concrete steps that would show their people that life is changing for the better — now. These should include a Palestinian commitment to hunt down violent anti-Israeli militants and a halt to Israeli settlements. Laudably, Mr. Bush recently proposed a sixfold increase in aid to the Palestinians, whose government desperately needs the funds to prove that it is a viable alternative to Hamas. The Bush administration is as notoriously weak on follow-through as it is on planning. But it cannot just stage an event and hope that something will materialize. Another failed photo op would just sow more despair and anger in a region already drowning in both.

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After years of broken promises and bloodshed, Israelis and Palestinians must also agree on concrete steps that would show their people that life is changing for the better — now.



ISRAEL ON YOUTUBE!

This is a fabulous short presentation of modern Israel with all its accomplishments. You need about 6 full minutes to watch it. It is definitely worth it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeVvMJdvEX8>



PROJECT REHOVOT

Sincere thanks to those who have donated to Project Rehovot

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From the Judaica Store

Many thanks to Amy Rose and Klezmir for the donation of copies of their CD to the Store

Thank you to all who chose to do your Chanukah shopping at the Judaica Store.

Keep us in mind for gifts for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, births and housewarmings, and ritual items.

Any special needs??? Call Hadar at 253-0597.

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Lighting the Chanukah Lights

The Chanukah Lights should be kindled at nightfall on each of the eight nights of Chanukah beginning with Tuesday night, December 4th. What follows is a brief, step-by-step guide to Chanukah observance.

Who should light the Chanukiah (Chanukah menorah):

All members of the family should be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights. Children should be encouraged to light their own Chanukiah. Some families have a Chanukiah for each family member.

Where to place the Chanukiah:

It is customary to place the Chanukiah on a window sill so it is visible from outside. If two or more Chanukiot are lit, they should not be placed in the same window lest the number of candles lit on any given night be unclear.

How to place the candles and light them:

On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled on the right side of the Chanukiah. On the following night add a second candle to the left of the first and kindle the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

Lighting candles on Friday and Saturday night:

On Friday evening the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles out of respect for the injunction against lighting a fire on Shabbat.

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

The Blessings

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

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

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה:

1

Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam asher kide-shanu be-mitzvotv, ve-tzivanu le-hadlik ner shel Chanukah

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

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה:

2

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

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

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה:

3

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

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

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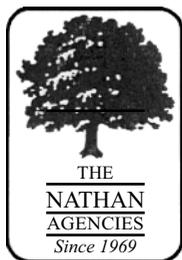
If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact Rabbi Bauer or the Chesed Committee by calling the office (256-0160). Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important for us as a community to be aware of the health and well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

The Deadline for the January Newsletter is
December 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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 In Honor of the JCA Board (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
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 Mardelle Cagen
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 Robin & Ted Diamond
 In Honor of our son Jonathan and JCAT (Rosalie Harris-Eisen & Efraim Eisen)
 In Honor of the State of Israel (Ferne & Burton Finger)
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continued on next page

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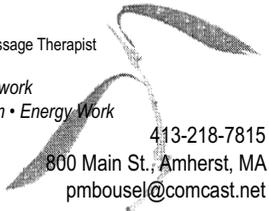
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continued from previous page

In Honor of the JCA not charging for High Holiday tickets (Randi Stein)

Judith & Jonathan Souweine

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Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit

Bev & Stephen Woolf

In Memory of Stephen Ziperstein (Fran Ziperstein)

In Honor of the Tuesday Minyan (Fay Zipkowitz)

JCA General Fund

In Honor of the marriage of Amy Margalit to Drew Ames (Fran Saed)

In Honor of the engagement of Danielle Margalit to Joseph Goldman (Fran Saed)

In Honor of Aaron & Patience Bousel's becoming grandparents (Judy & Allen Davis)

In Memory of our mother Lee Gabel (Judith Goetzmann & Hadar Gabel)

In Honor of Robin Diamond (Cynthia F. & Joseph M. Gensheimer Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City)

High Holiday Donations

In Appreciation of the inspiring services at the synagogue (Manny and Lil Jacobson)

Kenneth Dym

Andrew Gessman

Peter Hereld

Zea Piver

With Thanks for letting us be part of your warm community this past holiday season (Davida Rubin-Baker, Yami Baker and family)

Wendy Chabot & Ken Lieberman

Laura Radwell

With Thanks for the privilege to share the Holiday services with your congregation (Blanche Zarchin)

Karen Sheingold

Ori Staszewski

Music, Arts and Culture Fund

In Memory of Lee and Isadore Zipkowitz (Fay Zipkowitz)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Richard & Barbara Hirsh

In Appreciation of the warm welcome at the JCA (Helen & Jack Kruger)

Scholar-in-Residence Fund

In Honor of Merle Feld (Irving & Frieda Howards)



CONDOLENCES

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

Marcia Flint, mother of Jay Flint, mother-in-law of Rachel, grandmother of Elijah, Emmett, Ethan and Ezekiel

NEW MEMBERS

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

Jill Kaufman & Av Harris and children Lily and Nora
Patty & Fred Levine
Karen Lienkamp & Ori Staszewski

MAZEL TOV

To Aaron and Patience Bousel on the birth of their granddaughter, Geisel Dayana, daughter of Simon Bousel and Yanina Rivas

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.



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Community Announcements

Super Tzedakah Sunday

December 2, 2007

On Super Tzedakah Sunday, more than 100 volunteers come together to build a community based on compassion and justice. It's the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts' annual phone-a-thon, and the impact is enormous.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Debbie Peskin at the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, 737-4313 x121.

☆☆☆

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday-- in Israel!

Yom Ha'atzmaut

*Community Mission to Israel
May 4 - 15, 2008*

Space is limited & reservations will be taken in the order received! For more information, contact Harold Berman, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, at (413) 737-4313 x139 or hberman@jewishwesternmass.org.

☆☆☆

Chanukah Music Jam

Wednesday, December 5, 2007
5:00-6:30 pm

Northampton Community
Music Center
139 South Street
Northampton, MA
585-0001 www.ncmc.net

Families with young children are invited to come move and dance to the klezmer riffs of Yaeko Miranda on violin and Jazer Giles on accordion. Light the menorah, learn new

Chanukah songs, and enjoy a holiday nosh. Suggested donation \$5 / family. Sponsored by the Northampton Community Music Center and The PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

☆☆☆

National Yiddish Book Center

*THE MAGIC DREIDEL
A Chanukah Celebration for the
Whole Family*

Sunday, December 9
at 11:30 am and 2:00 pm
Tickets: \$8 Adults, \$4 Children

Written and directed by Leslie Elias, this exciting performance by the Grumbling Gryphons includes music, masks, storytelling and audience participation as a magic dreidel takes children on a journey through time to learn the story of the Festival of Lights.

~ ~ ~

*1942 film production of
TO BE OR NOT TO BE*

Sunday, December 23, 2007
at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

The classic comedy, To Be or Not To Be, stars Jack Benny and Carole Lombard as a husband and wife acting team who perform with a theater company in Nazi occupied Warsaw.

*1983 film production of
TO BE OR NOT TO BE*

Sunday, December 30, 2007
at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

This is the remake of the 1942 comedy starring Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft, the film sticks almost entirely to the original screenplay.

☆☆☆

Hadassah

*A Special Hadassah-JCA Joint
Program*

Sunday, January 20, 2008
in the JCA Social Hall

ISRAEL AT 60: ZIONISM THEN
AND NOW

Guest Speaker: Dr. Justin Cammy

Refreshments at 10:30 a.m.
Program at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Cammy teaches Jewish Studies and Comparative Literature at Smith College. He is co-director of the Program in Jewish Studies and a member of the college's Program in Middle East Studies for whom he regularly teaches a course on literatures of Zionism.

☆☆☆

Meditation Group

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"* Meditation Group

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Sheila Peltz Weinberg

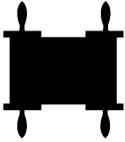
Please know that is not an instructional group. Rather, each of us comes with our own silent meditation or prayer practice and draws strength and affirmation for our deep, inner work by being together in community.

- 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

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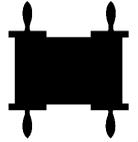
Online at www.j-c-a.org



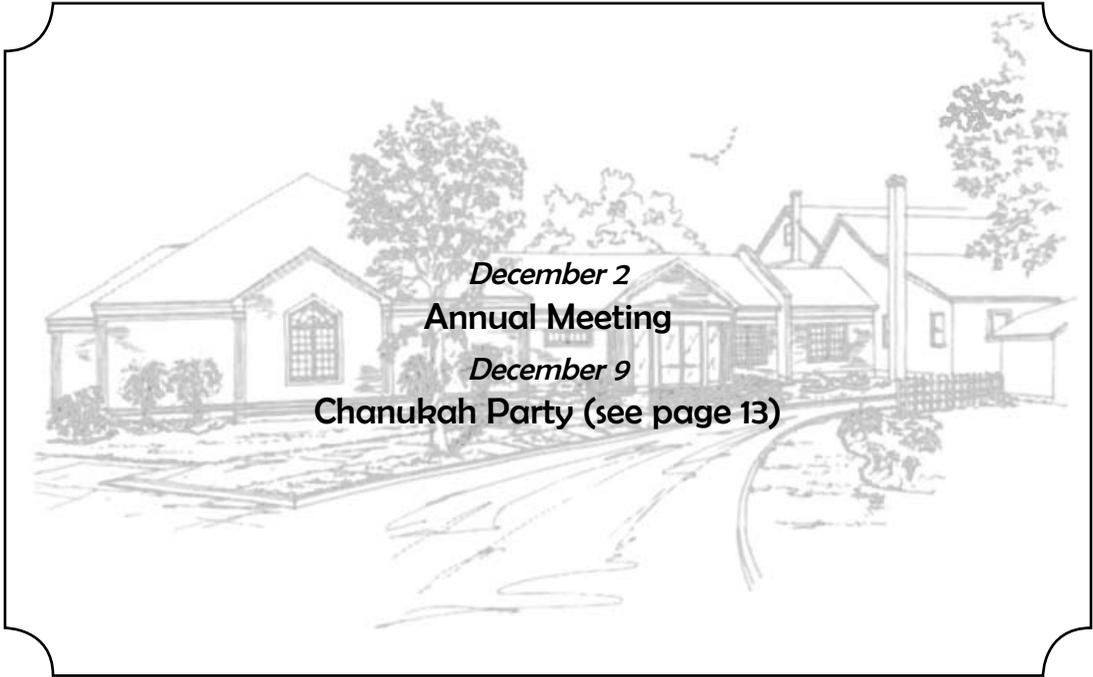
Jewish Community of Amherst

December 2007

21 Kislev ~ 22 Tevet



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 21 KISLEV</p> <p>10:00 am Reconstructionist Service</p> <p>10:00 am Masorti Service</p>
<p>2 22 KISLEV</p> <p>10:00 am Annual Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm Teen Schmooze</p>	<p>3 23 KISLEV</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Prayer Class</p>	<p>4 24 KISLEV</p> <p>7:30 am Schacharit Minyan</p> <p>7:00 pm Yiddish Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Class with Rabbi Bauer</p>	<p>5 25 KISLEV</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 1</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Meditation</p> <p>12 Noon- Text Study</p> <p>6:00 pm Confirmation Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Class</p> <p>8:00 pm- Religion Cttee.</p>	<p>6 26 KISLEV</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 2</p> <p>7:30 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>7 27 KISLEV</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 3</p> <p>11:30 am 5:30 pm</p> <p>K'dushah LaTorah, Intergenerational family service followed by potluck supper</p>	<p>8 28 KISLEV</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 4</p> <p>10:00 am Service</p> <p>Bat/Bar Mitzvah Eliza Fishman Gabriel Fishman</p>
<p>9 29 KISLEV</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 5</p> <p>1:00 pm Strategic Planning Meeting</p> <p>5:30 - 8:00 pm Chanukah Party</p>	<p>10 1 TEVET</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 6</p> <p>✠✠Rosh Chodesh Tevet</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Prayer Class</p>	<p>11 2 TEVET</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 7</p> <p>7:15 am Shacharit Minyan</p> <p>8:30 am Tikkum Olam</p> <p>7:00 pm Yiddish Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Class with Rabbi Bauer</p>	<p>12 3 TEVET</p> <p>✠✠Chanukah - Day 8</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Meditation</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Class with Rabbi Seidenberg</p> <p>7:30 pm Book Group</p>	<p>13 4 TEVET</p> <p>6:00 pm Teen Schmooze</p>	<p>14 5 TEVET</p> <p>11:40 am 6:15 pm</p> <p>Service</p>	<p>15 6 TEVET</p> <p>10:00 am Reconstructionist Service</p> <p>10:00 am Chanting Service</p> <p>10:30-Noon Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds</p>
<p>16 7 TEVET</p> <p>1:00 pm Strategic Planning Meeting</p>	<p>17 8 TEVET</p>	<p>18 9 TEVET</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Minyan</p> <p>7:00 pm Adult Ed Class with Rabbi Bauer</p>	<p>19 10 TEVET</p> <p>✠✠Tenth of Tevet</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Meditation</p> <p>12:00 Noon Text Study</p>	<p>20 11 TEVET</p> <p>7:00 pm Fundraising Committee</p>	<p>21 12 TEVET</p> <p>11:40 am 6:15 pm</p> <p>Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper</p>	<p>22 13 TEVET</p> <p>10:00 am Service</p> <p>No 7th Grade</p>
<p>23 14 TEVET</p> <p>No Religious School</p>	<p>24 15 TEVET</p>	<p>25 16 TEVET</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Minyan</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26 17 TEVET</p> <p>7:30 am Shacharit Meditation</p> <p>No Religious School</p>	<p>27 18 TEVET</p>	<p>28 19 TEVET</p> <p>11:40 am 6:15 pm</p> <p>Service</p>	<p>29 20 TEVET</p> <p>10:00 am Service</p> <p>No 7th Grade</p>
<p>30 21 TEVET</p> <p>No Religious School</p>	<p>31 22 TEVET</p>					



Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

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