


# Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

February 2008  
Shevat/Adar I 5768  
Vol. 7, Issue No. 2

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

February 1 ~ 4:46 pm  
February 8 ~ 4:55 pm  
February 15 ~ 5:04 pm  
February 22 ~ 5:13 pm  
February 29 ~ 5:21 pm

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

## Special Events

**February 3**  
World Wide (Tefillin)  
Wrap

**February 9**  
Grand Auction



## Meetings

**February 4**  
Chesed Committee

**February 6**  
Religion Committee

**February 7**  
Board Meeting

**February 12**  
Tikkun Olam Committee

**February 27**  
Fundraising Committee  
Education Committee



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

John Loeb, 253-0336, JolBioSol@aol.com

**P**ick any night during the week at the JCA and you're likely to find at least five activities going on at the same time. My wife, Karen, described one such evening. She had a meeting with the Auction Committee to stuff envelopes and divvy out last minute assignments. Fifteen minutes before the meeting, she had a short rendezvous with Amy Mittelman in the lobby to talk about the (then) upcoming Hannukah party. She was greeted by Jenny Heller on her way to the Social Hall to attend Robin Diamond's yoga/kinetic activity group. Robin peeked out of the doors and urged Karen to attend. From the Library came the voices of teenagers as they met with the Rabbi's confirmation class. These are the behind-the-scenes activities that attest to the continuing vitality and community spirit at the JCA. It is so heartening.

We had a more optimistic financial report from our Treasurer, Alan Peterfreund, in last month's newsletter, but we are still faced with several difficult tasks: (1) achieving parity with expenses and revenues; and (2) increasing fundraising activities—a giant step in that direction is an enthusiastic response and turnout for the February 9th Auction. And, you know what—the auction is FUN! Invite your friends because you can confidently promise them an evening of en-

***The JCA is many things to many people. Most of all it is OUR community; pray in it, enjoy it, cherish it, criticize it, but most important of all participate in it.***

tering auction choices, good food and wine and great schmoozing. There have been memorable moments at our auctions. Many of us remember when our auctioneer, Stan Rosenberg, mispronounced Zabar's, and a large group of us roared out the correct pronunciation and then dissolved in laughter. It's a great opportunity to enjoy an evening and raise money for the JCA.

We have Israel's 60th Independence Day Celebration to look forward to this Spring. Despite our political differences, all of us can marvel at and take pride in the enormous inroads Israel has made in the fields of computer technology, medicine, academics, agriculture, to name just a few. Several Jewish organizations in the Pioneer Valley are planning events culminating in the Jewish Federation's day-long Yom Ha'atzmaut event at the Basketball Hall of Fame on May 18. Details will follow. Our own World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee is planning an evening event entitled, "Israel - 60 Years of Innovation," commemorating what Israel has accomplished in its short existence.

The JCA is many things to many people. Most of all it is OUR community; pray in it, enjoy it, cherish it, criticize it, but most important of all participate in it. You decide how – You are wanted You are needed and You are welcome.

And by the way now is the time – Please send in your JCA membership form today.

*b'shalom,  
John Loeb*

**CHESED COMMITTEE**

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

*Jewish Community of Amherst, Inc.*

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

**Rabbi David Dunn Bauer**

**Rabbi Emerita Sheila Weinberg**

**Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander** (586-1137)

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

**President: John Loeb** (253-0336)

**Co-First Vice Presidents: Lisa Perl binder** (230-3055), (to be determined)

**Co-Second Vice Presidents: Ted Trobaugh** (549-5468), (to be determined)

**Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler** (253-2929)

**Treasurer: Alan Peterfreund** (253-5485)

**Membership: Robyn Miller** (549-4060), **Oran Kaufman** (548-8139)

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

**Office Administrator: Marcia Howard** (256-0160)

**Administrative Assistants: Bonnie Webster, Pam Cummings** (256-0160)

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

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

**NEWSLETTER**

**Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel**

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

**Proofreader: Sarah Thomson**

**Deadline for the March issue is February 12<sup>th</sup>**

February 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 2  
 Newsletter is published 11 times per year.  
 Subscription price is included in JCA membership.

**BEIT SHALOM COMMITTEE**

The Beit Shalom Committee is available to members of the JCA congregation wishing assistance in addressing personal differences that have arisen between individuals, among committees, or with those in leadership positions within the JCA. Accordingly, if you have concerns or disagreements, or feel a desire to enhance communication with another member, a committee, or leader, please contact a Beit Shalom Committee member to facilitate this process. All such communications will be kept strictly confidential unless agreed upon differently by the participants.

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:  
 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 Mishnah Pei-ah 1:1, the Sages write: “These are the obligations without measure, whose reward, too, is without measure:

To honor father and mother;  
to perform acts of love and kindness;  
to attend the house of study daily;  
to welcome the stranger;  
to visit the sick;  
to rejoice with bride and groom;  
to console the bereaved;  
to pray with sincerity;  
to make peace when there is strife.

*V'talmud torah k'neged kulam...* And the study of Torah is equal to them all, because it leads to them all.”

These are the obligations of individuals, but also of communities. We fulfill some of them with relative ease and spontaneity: boundless rejoicing at the wedding of friends often feels like a privilege rather than an obligation. The mitzvah of *kibud horim* -- honoring our parents -- has (despite its being the endless source of Borscht Belt humor) a clarity and value to it that call us to its fulfillment.

Personally, I get bewildered contemplating some of the others.

“Welcome the stranger” -- Every stranger? All the time? “Visit the sick” -- That’s depressing. Shouldn’t their families be taking care of them? “Praying with sincerity” -- I don’t always feel confident in prayer. If I go through the motions, is that sincere enough?

As I review the list, I realize that all of these mitzvot are easier to accomplish when I’m not alone. The more people at a wedding, the more *freylikh* (joyful) the dancing. The more I share the task of visiting people who are ill, the less awkward or burdened I feel. The more people at services or Torah study, the greater my experience of revelation. The more members of the community who commit to making peace, the greater likelihood I will restructure my life to bring peace wherever I can.

One of the reasons we maintain Jewish community is to keep from feeling isolated in our efforts to fulfill these mitzvot. If engaging in our obligations is lonely, if we derive more suffering than satisfaction, we burn out, and our obligations go completely unmet.

***One of the reasons we maintain Jewish community is to keep from feeling isolated in our efforts to fulfill these mitzvot.***

We need each other in order to reap the rewards without measure that the mishnah promises.

A JCA goal for this year is to increase membership participation in all aspects of our communal and institutional life. The prospect of fuller engagement from all of us is profoundly exciting.

Being present before services to greet newcomers and help orient them to the synagogue is simple and very meaningful work. Welcoming strangers, directing them to the coat room and to the sanctuary, answering questions about the congregation and the building, these are not superficial gestures, they are the essential elements of *hachnasat orchim* -- welcoming guests.

I particularly am looking for more people who are ready to give time and energy towards visiting the sick. A lot of JCAers have spent time in the hospital or have been homebound with illness this past year. I and the Chesed Committee need fuller lists of volunteers who are ready to visit, spend time, and bring love and kindness to members of all ages who are ill and need support.

The JCA benefits tremendously from lay leadership in prayer and study. I love to lead services, but I love to be led as well. Some of the most moving worship experiences I can remember have been while learning Torah from, and sharing prayer responsibility with, members of the JCA. If you think you might like to offer a *d’var Torah* or lead even a single prayer at Shabbat services, please let me know.

*B’virkat shalom - with a blessing of peace,  
Rabbi Bauer*





**RELIGION COMMITTEE**

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

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

**RELIGION CALENDAR**

**Shabbat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1-24:18**

**February 1, Friday**

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper

**February 2, Saturday**

10:00 AM

**Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)**

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

**Masorti Service (small sanctuary)**

Service will be led by community members

D'var Torah: To be announced



**February 6/7, Wednesday/Thursday-**

**Rosh Chodesh Adar I**



**Shabbat Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19**

**February 8, Friday**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

**February 9, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



**Shabbat Tetzaveh, Exodus 27:20-30:10**

**February 15, Friday**

6:15 PM

**Carlebach Style Service**

Service Leader: To be announced

Potluck supper following the service

**February 16, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



**Shabbat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35**

**February 22, Friday**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

**February 23, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



**Shabbat Vayakhel, Exodus 35:1-38:20**

**February 29, Friday**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Service will include installation of the new Board and will be followed by a potluck supper and DansKinetics. (see following page for details.)

**March 1, Saturday**

10:00 AM

**Reconstructionist Service (main sanctuary)**

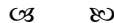
Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

**Masorti Service (small sanctuary)**

Service will be led by community members

D'var Torah: To be announced



**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.

## KIDDUSH SPONSORS

### January 19-

The Slovin family, in honor of Barbara & Ted's anniversary

**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.

Donating a chumash is a wonderful way of acknowledging a special occasion or honoring a loved one while also making an important contribution to the JCA.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING MEDITATION SERVICE

Each Wednesday at 7:30 AM there is a morning service of meditation, prayer and singing. This is a very special time to sit in quiet in the beauty of our small sanctuary. You do not have to be a meditator to join the service. Come try it out and see what it can do for the rest of your day and week.

### It's COMING ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY!

#### FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>- 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.

#### FOOT STOMPING MELODIES FOR WELCOMING SHABBAT

The next Carlebach-style service will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>  
The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

#### 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.

#### 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

#### JOIN US ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH (YES, IT'S A LEAPYEAR!)

##### FOR A SPECIAL SHABBAT PROGRAM:

6:15 PM services and Board installation, followed by potluck supper, and DansKinetics!

DansKinetics is a movement and yoga-based experience taught by Kripalu certified instructor, Robin Diamond. Warm-up with stretching and breathing exercises, dance with simply guided movements and free expression to a variety of world music (with an emphasis on Jewish music, of course!), learn simple yoga postures and cool down with a relaxing meditation. DansKinetics is for EVERYONE, male and female, all body types and levels of conditioning. No dance or yoga experience required. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one. DansKinetics is community-building, healing and a whole lot of fun. Come give it a try!

**EDUCATION NEWS**

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



**World Wide Wrap includes a Tallit & Tefillin Workshop**

*Open to the Community on Sunday, February 3*

The World Wide Wrap – imagine Jews around the world wrapping themselves in tallit and tefillin- our Religion Committee member, **Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser** helps connect us to this effort. In addition, as part of b’nai mitzvah preparation, students learn about a variety of Jewish mitzvot and traditions for prayer observance. On Sunday, February 3 from 10-11:45am, **Rabbi Bauer** will lead a workshop for 6th graders and their parents on the use of the tallit, tying tzitzit (fringes) and the practice of wearing tefillin (phylacteries). Students who have missed this workshop in the past or other interested congregants are welcome to attend. **Needed:** Tefillin we can use or you want to donate to the school.



**Learning to Lead: Divrei Torah by Our 6th Graders**

How to help everyone feel comfortable studying and interpreting Torah? We study bible stories in grades 1 & 2. We begin looking at some of the techniques of Torah study in 3rd grade, and by 6th grade students are learning the prayers, blessings, and some text study for the Torah service. Then we have students share what they are learning with the school. On Sunday, January 6, Sixth grader, **Lily Harris** led the way for her classmates, as she shared her interpretation of Torah with a series of pictures depicting Pharaoh and some of the plagues. Scheduled for January 27 was **Cody Edgerly**. Over the next few weeks, each sixth grader will give a dvar Torah as practice before preparing for leading the congregation, as they become b’nai mitzvah in the upcoming year. The class also includes **Lily Blain, Ben Sarat, Henry Abramowitz, Matty Severin,** and **Madison Coutoure**.

**Be Happy, Its Adar! And Adar...And Purim....**

It’s a Jewish Leap year with two months of Adar during which the Purim story and traditions are full of opportunities for celebration, fun, and study. Start with our PURIM CARNIVAL- Sunday March 16 from 10 am – 1pm. The carnival is open to the community, with games designed by the students, and run by the teachers, teens and volunteers. Cost is \$5/child, \$10/family. Attendees in costume,

who bring Box Tops for Education, or who bring a food donation for the Survival Center get a “shekel!” towards prizes. Refreshments are sold separately. Parents or an adult are asked to accompany all children. Then join the congregation on the evening of Thursday, March 20 for the Megillah Reading and the following morning adult Megillah study session.

**Volunteers Needed**

- \* Want to help with the Purim Carnival? Contact Stacy Tobin at dszktobin@comcast.net.
- \* Interested in teaching an elective on Sunday morning March 23<sup>rd</sup>? Contact Jody at 256-0160 x203 or eddir@j-c-a.org

**Support our JCA School Fundraisers**

And Thanks to Their Organizers

- \* *Box Tops for Education.* Remember to collect these coupons off of select products and bring them to class or the JCA office. Thanks to **Suzanne Severin** for stepping in to keep this going.
- \* *Dean’s Beans* thanks to the tireless efforts of **Sue Weinstein** and her loyal customers. Buy your free trade coffee and support the school at the same time!
- \* *Raffle Baskets:* Thanks to the efforts of students and class parents in the JCA school, we will have 5 baskets of goodies to raffle off. Baskets are filled with items on special themes. Come see them at the Purim Carnival. Raffle tickets can be bought and put towards a drawing for particular baskets.
- \* *Recycle computer printer copier cartridges:* Drop off cartridges in the box in the coat room and we get a few dollars for each cartridge. Thanks to parent, **Rachel Flint** for organizing this effort.



*Calendar*

Sun, Feb. 3	Tallit Tefillin Workshop (10:00-11:45 am)
Sat, Feb. 9	Shabbat Shalom class 10:30 am-12:00 noon
Sat, Feb 16 - Thurs, Feb. 21	No Classes-Presidents' Holiday

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

OK, so you know that Dean's Beans coffee is organic, fair trade, kosher, and offered at a great price, but did you also know that:

- 1) You can order any blend that Dean's Beans offers (in addition to the JCA blend)?
- 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](mailto:susanweinstein1@yahoo.com) or 548-9552.**

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

**The next order date: February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Pick-up (in the lobby): February 10<sup>th</sup>**



**See Teen Programming info  
on the following three pages**

**NORTHAMPTON COT SHELTER**

It is a blessing to coordinate Christmas Eve at the Cot Shelter in Northampton. Providing a hot meal for the shelter guests involves the efforts of many. Thank you to all who prepared the delicious dinner and to those who served--**Johanna Plaut, Libby Army, Hannah Blau, Ruth Love Barer, Elissa Rubinstein, Margaret Mastrangelo, Devorah Jacobson, Barbara Slovin, Elinor Levine, Tobin Family, Felicia Mednick, Shira and Star, Linda Tropp, Barbara Kline, Zoe Henion.** A thank you, also, to Dr. Ratner for providing toiletries for the guests and to Henion Bakery for breads, desserts and breakfast treats.

We missed being serenaded by Saul and his trumpet, but we still managed some holiday singing and fun.

I am wondering if we, as a community, would like to provide a meal for the guests at the Shelter at other times during the six months of their occupancy. Please let me know if you are interested.

*b'Shalom,  
Susan Zarchin*



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## TEEN PROGRAMMING CALENDAR February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3 12:15-4, 9-12th grade Challah off! 	4	5	6 5:30- Confirmation Officers Meeting 5:30-8 7/8th grade only Schmooze 6-8- Conf. Class w/Rabbi	7	8	9 ROCKCLIMB- ING Time TBD 
10 	11	12	13 6-8- Conf. Class w/ Rachael	14		
17	18	19	20			23
24	25	26 	27 6-8- Jewish Art Seminar			

**Sun. Feb. 3- 12:15-4pm @ JCA Challah Off!**– Come learn how to make Challah! Open to 9-12th graders. Free for confirmation class students and Chai members, \$8 for Alef members, \$12 for non-members. (3 credits)

**Wed. Feb. 6th- 5:30pm @ JCA**– Confirmation Class Officers meeting

**Wed. Feb. 6th- 5:30-8pm @ JCA**– 7th and 8th grade ONLY Schmooze with the Jewz! Dinner provided– Free for Chai members, \$8 for Alef members, \$12 for non-members

**Wed. Feb. 6th- 6-8pm @ JCA**- Confirmation Class with Rabbi Bauer. (2 credits)

**Sat. Feb 9th- Time TBD @ Northampton Athletic Club**– Come Rockclimbing on the climbing wall at the Northampton Athletic Club! Open to 7-12th graders. Chai- \$5, Alef- \$25, Non-member- \$36 Obtain waiver from [http://www.nohoac.com/Climbing\\_Waiver.pdf](http://www.nohoac.com/Climbing_Waiver.pdf).

**Sun. Feb. 10th 2-4:30pm**– Center for Extended Care, Amherst– Spark! (3 credits)

**Wed. Feb. 13th- 6-8pm @ JCA**– Confirmation Class with Rachael. (2 credits)

**Wed. Feb. 27, 6-8pm @ JCA**– Jewish Arts and Artists Seminar. Open to 9-12th graders. Free to confirmation students and Chai members, \$8 for alef members. Bring your own dinner (2 credits)

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

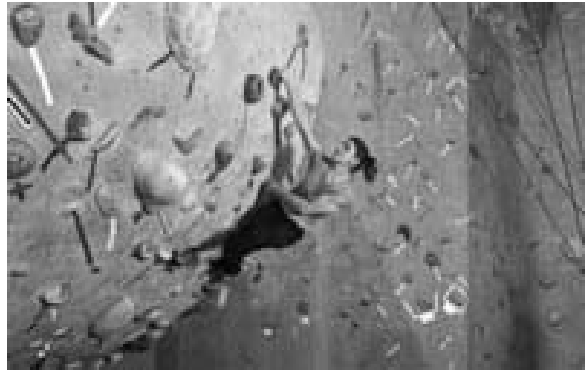


**SATURDAY, Feb. 9th**

**Time TBD**

**@ Northampton Athletic Club  
Open to 7th-12th graders**

**Come Rockclimbing at the Northampton Athletic Club— Bring a friend.**



**Climbing and Havdallah— Time TBD.**

**Costs:**

**Chai members- \$5**

**Alef Members- \$25**

**Non-members- \$36**



# **SAVE THE DATE**

# **Jewish Comedy Workshop**

*with performances by the Late Night Players*

Sunday, March 2, 2008

5-7:30pm

@JCA

Tickets are \$5 (free for Chai members)

Open to 6-12th graders from all over Western Massachusetts!





## CONFIRMATION CLASS WINTER CALENDAR OF CLASSES, ELECTIVES & EVENTS

\*=MANDATORY

### February

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:15-4pm Schmooze & Cooking Seminar (Challah-off); 3 credits, lunch provided

Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6pm- Officers meeting

Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm- Confirmation Class with the Rabbi\* (2 credits)

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4:30pm- spark! (3 Credits)

Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm- Confirmation Class with Rachael\* (2 credits)

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm- Jewish Arts Seminar; BYOD; (2 credits)

### Camp Shemesh Summer Day Camp

Ages 6-11



The Jewish Community of Amherst is pleased to announce the 22nd season of its summer day camp. Located on the Amherst College campus, Camp Shemesh has a tradition of providing children, ages 6-11, with a joyful, creative, spiritually rich and educationally sound Jewish day camp experience. Registration forms for 2008 will be distributed to all JCA Sunday School students in early February. The form is also available in the lobby and on the JCA website: [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org).

Three, two-week sessions are offered as follows:

Session 1, June 30- July 11

Session 2, July 14- July 25

Session 3, July 28-August 8

Tuition is \$450 per two-week session including lunch and snack. A \$20 per family discount is offered to all JCA members, and an additional \$10 per session discount is given to all campers whose registrations are received by March 15th. Partial scholarships are available through the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. For further information, please leave a message on the camp's extension: 413/256-0160 ext. 250. We look forward to another wonderful summer with your children!

*This camp must comply with the regulations of the MA Dept. of Public Health and be licensed by the Board of Health.*

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Co-chairs: Oran Kaufman & Robyn Miller**

*Hardship Policy*

The JCA community recognizes that it is particularly during times of hardship that members and prospective JCA members most need and can use the community and support that the JCA can provide. If you are in the midst of a hardship such as separation, divorce, illness or loss of job and are considering not renewing your membership or not joining the JCA, please contact Rabbi Bauer, our Membership Co- chair Oran Kaufman or our treasurer Alan Peterfreund, to discuss how we can help.

Your membership and participation is valued no matter what the circumstance. The JCA is here for you, please avail yourself of the support and friendship offered by the JCA.

**ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

RUSSIAN FILM , 'DADDY'  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2 pm, JCA

A rare opportunity to see a 2004 Russian film based on a Jewish family, rare in Russian film. Olga Gershenson, Assistant Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, will give a brief presentation about the film DADDY, based on a famous play banned in the USSR. It is the story of a father-son relationship which takes place in the Soviet Union in the 1920's to 1940. A Jewish father dreams of seeing his son become the greatest violinist of his time. But World War II interrupts his brilliant career when the son volunteers to go to the front.

**JCA ADULT READING GROUP**

The third meeting of the new cycle for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is *Joshua Then and Now* by Mordechai Richler. 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 two!

If you have any questions,  
please call Ken Talan at 253-2248.

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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.*

**The Oxford Union's Destructive "Debate"**

By Alan M. Dershowitz  
©FrontPageMagazine.com | 1/11/2008

In October of 2007 I wrote an obituary for the Oxford Union. This student-run group purports to be one of the most distinguished debating societies in the world. Yet its debates have become more one-sided, more absurd, and more trivial than most bar room brawls.

The scheduled debate that led me to write the October obituary was supposed to be on the following proposition: "This house believes that one state is the only solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict." Nothing wrong with that (other than that no one would dream of proposing a similar topic with regard to India-Pakistan-Bangladesh or any of the other divided states in the world today).

The problem was with the debaters selected by the Oxford Union to defend the two-state solution, which is synonymous with Israel's right to exist.

One of the speakers selected to represent the pro-Israel side was Norman Finkelstein, who was recently fired from DePaul University for his lack of scholarship and his ad hominem attacks against pro-Israel writers (including me). The other debater selected to represent the pro-Israel side refused to appear with Finkelstein on the same side and so the debate was cancelled.

Now the Oxford Union has gone even further. It has scheduled a debate on January 24 on whether Israel has the right to exist. Both speakers on the supposed pro-Israel side are virulent Israel-haters and strong supporters of Palestinian terrorism.

One is Norman Finkelstein, who is currently joining hands with the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah, whose goal is the military destruction of Israel. Finkelstein supports Hezbollah and says that this terrorist organization "represents the hope." He has previously regretted not being more supportive of Hezbollah in its military attacks on Israel. And he was selected to be one of the two pro-Israel advocates. With friends like these...

The other invited speaker is just as




bad. He is a philosophy professor named Ted Honderich, who believes that the Palestinian terrorists have "a moral right in their terrorism against Israelis." He analogizes Israel to Apartheid South Africa, which he of course said did not have a right to exist. Yet he too has been selected to speak on behalf of Israel.

The Oxford Union had it within their power to select a genuine advocate of Israel's right to exist, since even in England there are a few of those. I know, because I have been getting outraged letters from Oxford students, alumni and ordinary citizens about the forthcoming debate. For example, one of Great Britain's most distinguished lawyers and writers is Anthony Julius. He could make an effective case for Israel's right to exist, as could many other prominent individuals.

But at the Oxford Union, the only debate permitted is over the means used to end Israel's existence; whether Israel should be destroyed by Palestinian suicide bombers, by Hezbollah rockets or by some other means. This is not a public debate. It is a public execution.



**This is not a public debate. It is a public execution.**

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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.

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**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

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,  
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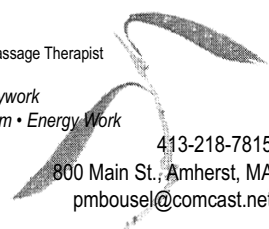
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## Gan Keshet Pre-School

Gan Keshet Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2008-09 school year. For additional information and/or to arrange a visit, please contact our Director, Wendy Stein at 584-3593 x204.



## Celebrate Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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



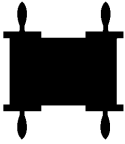
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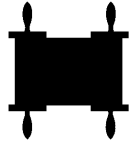
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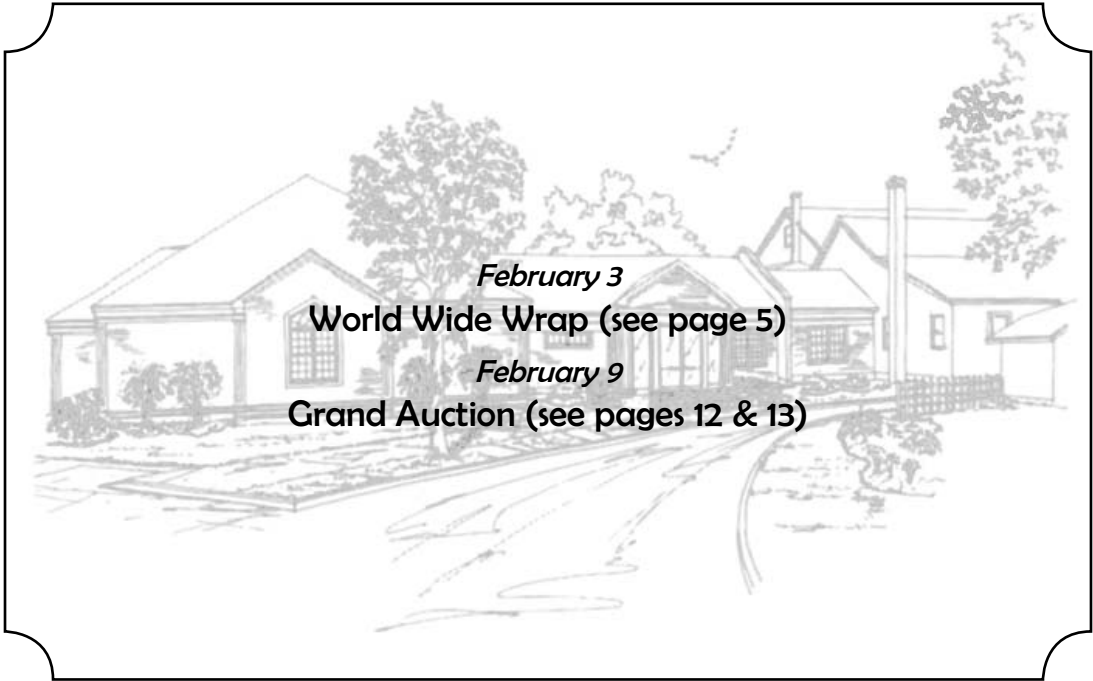
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*Jewish Community of Amherst*  
**February 2008**  
 25 Shevat ~ 23 Adar I 5768



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 25 SHEVAT	2 26 SHEVAT
					11:44:46  5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper	■ Mishpatim 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service  10:00 am Masorti Service
3 27 SHEVAT	4 28 SHEVAT	5 29 SHEVAT	6 30 SHEVAT	7 1 ADAR I	8 2 ADAR I	9 3 ADAR I
10:00 am <b>World Wide Wrap</b>	7:30 pm Chesed Committee	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	✕ Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 1 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:00 Noon- Text Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class with Rabbi Bauer 8:00 pm Religion Committee	✕ Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 2 7:30 pm Board Meeting	11:44:55  6:15 pm Service	■ Terumah 10:00 am Service  10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds  <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>GRAND AUCTION</b>
10 4 ADAR I	11 5 ADAR I	12 6 ADAR I	13 7 ADAR I	14 8 ADAR I	15 9 ADAR I	16 10 ADAR I
7:00 pm Snow Date for Auction		■ Lincoln's Birthday 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee  <b>Deadline for March            Newsletter</b>	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Confirmation Class - Panim Followup		11:5:04  6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	■ Tetzaveh 10:00 am Service  No 7th grade
17 11 ADAR I	18 12 ADAR I	19 13 ADAR I	20 14 ADAR I	21 16 ADAR I	22 16 ADAR I	23 17 ADAR I
No Religious School	■ Washington's Birthday (observed)	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	✕ Purim Katan 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:00 Noon Text Study  No Religious School		11:5:13  6:15 pm Service	■ Ki Tisa 10:00 am Service  7th grade resumes
24 18 ADAR I	25 19 ADAR I	26 20 ADAR I	27 21 ADAR I	28 22 ADAR I	29 23 ADAR I	
Religious School Resumes		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:00 pm Fundraising Committee 7:30 pm Education Committee		11:5:21  6:15 pm Service - Board Installation The service will be followed by a potluck supper and DansKinetics (see page 5)	



*February 3*

**World Wide Wrap (see page 5)**

*February 9*

**Grand Auction (see pages 12 & 13)**

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