

Jewish Community of Amherst

קהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

May 2008
Nisan/Iyar 5768
Vol. 7, Issue No. 5

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

May 2 ~ 7:33 pm
May 9 ~ 7:41 pm
May 16 ~ 7:48 pm
May 23 ~ 7:55 pm
May 30 ~ 8:01 pm

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

Special Events

May 4
Yom Hashoah Program
May 9
Yom Ha'atzmaut
Program



Meetings

May 1
Board Meeting
May 5
Chesed Committee
May 7
Religion Committee
May 13
Tikkun Olam Committee
May 28
Fundraising Committee



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

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

As I write this article for this month's newsletter, I'm preparing for a trip to Mexico to spend Pesach with my family, including all three of my children. What a joy it will be. I can also look forward to participating in upcoming events at the JCA. May 9th will begin a series of events celebrating a special Yom-Ha'atzmaut—Israel's 60th year of Independence! Details are inside the newsletter and you will see a flyer for a family-oriented celebration in Springfield at the Basketball Hall of Fame which has been in the planning for over a year by the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. On June first, following the semi-annual meeting, we will have our second annual Kosher Q in the courtyard of our synagogue. Anyone who went to this event last year can attest to how much fun it was to enjoy an afternoon of schmoozing, eating delicious barbecue, listening to the music of Aaron Bousel and Lise Brown. On that day, our Rabbi was heard to exclaim, "THIS is the Jewish Community I envisioned!" And

The JCA is not just a synagogue, it's a community.

he's right. The JCA is not just a synagogue, it's a community. Participating in these events is the best way we can become part of that community and help strengthen and sustain it.

We are moving in several positive directions. The Educational Direction Task Force will be making its recommendations to the board and then the community at the June 1 semi-annual meeting; through the efforts of Amy Mittelman, we have added more social events; our educational program for adults has been enhanced and even the membership forms have been trickling in. We are in the initial stages of our Rabbinical Assessment Committee process and will be looking toward the community for your input. The Fundraising Committee, now chaired by Jaymie Chernoff has been making incredible strides as has the Building and Grounds Committee.

I am encouraged and I am optimistic. Most of all I am excited by the large number of volunteers and participants that make this community so vital.

b'shalom,
John Loeb

B'nai Mitzvah

May 3 - 4:00 PM
Jacob Schrader
May 10 - 10:00 AM
Isaac Weitzman
May 17 - 10:00 AM
Ian Hutcheson
May 31 - 10:00 AM
Gabrielle Home-Miller

JCA Semi-Annual Meeting June 1st at 3pm

Recommendations from the Educational Task Force along with other business will be discussed.

The meeting will be followed by our 2nd annual **Kosher-Q**. (see page 11)

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 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)

First Vice President: Lisa Perl binder (230-3055)

Second Vice President: Ted Trobaugh (549-5468)

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 June/July issue is May 12th

May 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 5

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**



As we move from Passover to Shavuot, between two of the three pilgrimage holidays of our tradition (Sukkot being the third), counting the Omer as we go, we feel connected to our religious history and to Jews of the past. How does each of us, and how does the JCA, connect to the larger Jewish world of today?

The connection is solid but it is intricate enough to sound like *Had Gadya* all over again. Follow closely.

One tie to the larger Jewish world is our membership in the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), which unites us with over 100 Reconstructionist congregations around North America and even a few overseas. The JRF just became the fourth movement to have full voting rights in the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and was welcomed at the 2008 plenum in Atlanta, Georgia.

And what is the JCPA, you ask?

The JCPA is the umbrella organization of Jewish Community Relations Councils around America. From the JCPA website:

The mission of the Council is to serve as the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community in addressing the principal mandate of the Jewish community relations field, expressed in three interrelated goals:

- To safeguard the rights of Jews here and around the world;
- To dedicate ourselves to the safety and security of the state of Israel;
- To protect, preserve and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic, one that furthers harmonious interreligious, inter ethnic interracial and other intergroup relations.

I'm very proud of being friends with Rabbi Steve Gutow, the Executive Director of the JCPA, who was one of my rabbinical school classmates and my *hevruta* partner in any number of classes. (Some of you may have met Steve when he visited the JCA on a Friday night in 2006.) In a plenary session on Faith and Public Policy, Steve spoke out strongly about the fierce connection between our Judaism and our politics. His words are too good not to share.

“Trying to separate religion and public life is like trying to separate ourselves. It is hard to deny the impact of religion on our political views. If we want moral clarity in our lives, why would we want to diminish a religious or spiritual involvement in public policy making?”

Judaism teaches us that we must walk humbly and hold fast to God. To love God means to love your neighbor – the stranger, the poor, the powerless. The Talmud says that we must support the poor of the non-Jew as much as of the Jew. It is also important to continue to question and never settle. We must listen to the teachings of the tradition and make up our minds.

It is necessary to find common ground across the religious spectrum. When the religions of the world unite, we will see change. Take for instance Darfur – imagine if people of all faiths from all over the world gathered together and called for an end to the genocide. We may not unite on every issue but we certainly can on many.

How can Jewish values help us make decisions in a democratic society? The values offer us a pathway to decision making. We have 2,500 years of Jewish ethics of which we cannot deprive the world.”

I would urge members of the JCA to spend some time browsing the websites of the JRF (www.jrf.org) and the JCPA (www.jewishpublicaffairs.org) to understand the range of social and political endeavors in which we can participate by virtue of the Reconstructionist movement's voice on the wider stage of world affairs.

The JRF national convention is where congregations have a say in the decisions of the movement. This year's convention will be held in Boston, November 13-16. That's as close to Amherst as it will ever get, and we need a large contingent of JCAers to take part. It is how the voice of each congregant and each congregation helps shape the future of our people and the world. Let's mark our calendars now.

*B'virvat 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

May 1, Thursday- Yom Hashoah



Shabbat Kedoshim, Leviticus 19:1-20:27

May 2, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper

May 3, 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

4:00 PM- Mincha Service

Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Schrader

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Jacob Schrader



May 5/6, Monday/Tuesday- Rosh Chodesh Iyar



May 7, Wednesday-

Yom Hazikaron (Israel Remembrance Day)

May 8, Thursday-

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)



Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

May 9, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Program: Israel Independence Day (see page 17)

May 10, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Isaac Weitzman

Service Leaders: Rabbi Bauer and Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

Divrei Torah: Isaac Weitzman and Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Behar, Leviticus 25:1-26:2

May 16, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service

Service Leaders: Larry & Deb Fine

Potluck supper following the service

May 17, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Ian Hutcheson

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Ian Hutcheson and Rabbi Bauer



May 23, Friday- Lag B'omer



Shabbat Behukotai, Leviticus 26:3-27:34

May 23, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

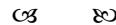
May 24, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

There will be Torah study led by Rhonda Shapiro Rieser following kiddush



Shabbat Bemidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

May 30, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

May 31, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Gabrielle Holme-Miller

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Gabrielle Holme-Miller and Rabbi Bauer



TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT- SUNDAY JUNE 8TH

Join us for an evening of study on the topic of prayer. So far we have Rabbi Eddie Feld and Rabbi Bauer teaching, though there will be others. Look for more information in the next Newsletter.

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

April 5 (Mincha)-

Paul Bobrowski and Abby Coren in honor of their son Timothy Bobrowski becoming Bar Mitzvah

April 12 (Mincha)-

Oran Kaufman and Danielle Barshak in honor of their son Gabriel Kaufman becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 3 (Mincha)-

Diane Berg and Richard Schrader in honor of their son Jacob becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 10-

Hollie Kalkstein and Robert Weitzman in honor of their son Isaac becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 17-

Eva Rosenn in honor of her son Ian becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 31-

Jennifer Holme and Robyn Miller in honor of their daughter Gabrielle becoming Bat Mitzvah

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.

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.

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

FOOT STOMPING MELODIES FOR WELCOMING SHABBAT

The next Carlebach-style service will be on May 16th

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

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

THE PROCESS OF REPLACING OUR CHUMASHIM CONTINUES:

Our only source of revenue for this is from your donations to the prayer-book 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.

YOU ARE NEEDED ON TUESDAY MORNINGS!

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 often 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.

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



Celebrating Israel's 60th Birthday

Students will spend the week of May 4th celebrating Israel's 60th birthday in a variety of ways. All grades are working on a song about Israel during their music time on Sundays. All these songs will be sung during Learner's Minyan on May 4th. Fifth Graders, who have been learning about Israel during the year, will host an afternoon of activities on Wednesday, May 7 including a presentation about Operation Rehovot, our sister community. Following the last day of school, there is a region-wide celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame. There will be buses leaving from the JCA so all who wish to go can share transportation.

Registration for the 2008-2009 School Year

The Education Task Force and the Education Committee have spent the year looking at possible models and financing for education programming for the next few years. During April we prepared a survey, proposals and options to discuss at the May Board meeting. Please watch your mail and email for updates in early May. Registration will likely go out by mid-May. A presentation of the Task Force regarding the school is expected at the semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1.

JCA School Appreciation

At school year's end, we like to acknowledge the caring and dedicated people who make up our school community. Along with our students, parents and congregant support, we thank **Rabbi David Dunn Bauer**; Education Director, **Jody Rosenbloom**, our teaching staff: **Melissa Zeitz** (Shabbat Shalom), **Ruth Love Barer** (1st & 2nd grades), **Carolyn Ware** (3rd & 4th Grades), **Rachel Smith** (5th grade & teen program), **Andrea Olkin** (6th grade), **Kelilah Miller** (7th grade), **Alex Maslow** (tutor), **Av Harris** (music), **Rachael Goren** (Teen Coordinator), **Joanna Katz** (BBYO advisor), **Avital Nathman Norman** (spark!), **Rachel Gold** and **Rachel Smith** (Teen Staff); our teaching assistants: **Jonah Herscu**, **Lena Amick**, **David Gamliel**, **Carla Oppenheimer**, **Daniel Hammond**, **Zachary Oppenheimer**, **Jordan Diamond**, **Spencer Diamond**, **Jacob Mooney** and **Leah Parker Bernstein**; and our office

staff, **Marcia Howard**, **Bonnie Webster**, **Sophie Hale Rabinovitz**, **Kira Taylor** and **Pam Cummings**.

Volunteer Support is Vital to Our School

Our committees are vibrant groups of volunteers whose energies help advocate for the needs of the school, develop policies that guide curriculum, and sustain the vision necessary to nurture our process along the way. Thank-you to: Education Committee members: **Stacy Tobin** (Co-Chair), **Karen Helfer**, **Jim Levine**, **Ted Trobaugh** (Co-Chair & Board Liaison), **Lisa Perl binder** (Education Cluster Coordinator), and Community Education Link: **Andra Rose**. New this year were grade level coordinators who helped facilitate community and grade level projects: **Anna Robbins** (1st/2nd grades), **Lisa Blain** (3rd/4th grades), **Debra Evans** (5th grade), **Cheryl Edgerly** (6th grade), and **Robyn Miller** (7th grade). Our school activities and community building were richer through your efforts.

Thank-You To

- Volunteers who helped with curriculum, subbing and electives this year: **Reed Alper**, **Jodi Levine**, **Felicia Mednick**, and **Andra Rose**.
- Fundraiser Coordinators: **Susan Weinstein** (Dean's Beans), **Suzanne Severin** (Boxtops for Education), **Rachel Flint** (Recycling Ink Cartridges), & **Stacy Tobin** (Purim Carnival).

continued on next page

Calendar

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sun, May 4 | Workshop - 4th Graders w/Parents- Intro to Bar/Bat Mitzvah 10am |
| Wed, May 14 | Last day for 7 th grade |
| Sat, May 17 | Last Shabbat Shalom class (children ages 4-6) 10:30 am |
| Sun, May 18 | Last day for grades 1-6. Parents invited. 10am-12:15pm Following school, everyone is invited to hop on the bus to the Israel Celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame |

continued from previous page

• Purim Carnival helpers: **Stacy, David, Zachary & Kailey Tobin, Cheryl Edgerly, Andrea Keins, Melanie Lewis & Madison Coutoure, Lisa Blain & Lily Blain, Karen Helfer & Rachel Madowitz, Debra & Bill Evans, Suzanne Severin, Lisa & Deb Levheim, Andra Rose, Cheryl Zoll & Lydia Sawyer, Teens: Katherine Kayser Hirsh, Leah Alper, Kyla Amick, Zoe Weizenbaum, Jamie Sharken, Juliana Gensheimer** (and guest, **Sarah McKittrick**). Teachers: **Ruth Love Barer, Andrea Olkin, Rachel Smith, Melissa Zeitz, & Kelilah Miller**; Teaching Assistants: **Daniel Hammond, Jacob Mooney, Jordan Diamond, Spencer Diamond, and Carla Oppenheimer.**

Wish List

- Digital Camera

Interested in Starting Your Child in JCA School?

If you are currently a member of the JCA and have children entering 1st grade or older or if you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, contact the JCA School at 256-0160 x203. Children 4-6 years old (as of Sept. 2008) are eligible to participate in our monthly Shabbat Shalom program.



Teen Programming info on pages 8-9

DEAN'S BEANS SEASON ENDS IN JUNE!!

May and June mark the final two months of season three for the JCA's Dean's Beans Coffee Fundraiser. As of April, profits reached \$1,640.00, already exceeding the \$1,500.00 year-end profits of preceding years!

So, did you remember to place your order for this month? And how about treating yourself to a pound of dark (organic) chocolate covered coffee beans, a/k/a Java Drops? Order forms are available in the JCA lobby or by emailing susanweinstein1@yahoo.com.



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

**The next order date: May 4th
Pick-up (in the lobby): May 11th**

**Dean's Beans Organic Coffee--
it's free trade, kosher, and supports our JCA School.**

A JCA CALENDAR

The fundraising committee of the JCA has a new project in mind – a desk engagement calendar. We have been consulting with Temple Sinai in Longmeadow where they have been producing such a calendar for 59 years! The calendar has room for ads. It contains all the information about Jewish holidays, religious school schedules, synagogue events, etc. It also is possible to include birthdays and anniversaries of members of the congregation.

We think this project has tremendous potential for building community and raising a substantial amount of money on an annual basis. It would be an attractive, useful addition to our desks. Sound like a winner? We think so BUT... We need your help to make this idea a reality. Would you be willing to work on a committee for this project? If so contact John Loeb, JolBioSol@aol.com or Joan Temkin, j.temkin@comcast.net. Help make this happen!



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TEEN PROGRAMMING May 2008

JCAT Programming for 6, 7, and 8th graders

Sunday, May 11th

3-5pm

Interskate & Laserstorm
@ Hadley Mall!

Come rollerskate and play
laser tag with your JCAT
buds!

Snacks and fees provided (bring money to
rent skates).

RSVP to jcateens@gmail.com by 5/8.

Free to Chai members

\$8 for 6th graders and Alef members

\$12 for non-members



Sunday, May 18th

12 noon- 5:00pm

Pickup and dropoff @
JCA



Celebrate Israeli Inde-

pendence Day at the Basketball Hall of

Fame.. Falafel, Israeli Danc-

ing, Meet famous Israeli Bas-

ketball players AND MORE!

Bring cash for food.

RSVP to

jcateens@gmail.com by

5/12.



SPARK!: Partnership for Service

Come volunteer with the elderly- we will be....

WHO: Open to any teen in 7th grade and up.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

DATE: May 4, 2008

TIME: 2-4:30pm

WHERE: Center for Extended Care, University
Drive, Amherst.

Free to anyone inter-
ested.

Make a difference in
someone's life-
volunteer!

RSVP to Avital at [avi-
history@gmail.com](mailto:avi-history@gmail.com).



Confirmation Class MAY Calendar



*=**MANDATORY**

5/4 2-430pm: SPARK (3 credits)

5/4 7pm @ JCA: Holocaust Survivor Speaker (3
credits) RSVP by 5/1.

5/7 5:30pm @ JCA: LAST Confirmation Officers
Meeting

5/7 6-8pm*: Confirmation Class with Rabbi &
Rachael- PARENTS SHOULD ATTEND from 6-
7pm (2 credits, Dinner Provided)

5/18 12-5pm (meet and pickup at JCA): Israeli In-
dependence Day Celebration (4 credits)

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

TEEN PROGRAMMING: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION**By: Rachael Goren, Director of Teen Programming**

It seems that the theme of the past few months with teen programming at the JCA has been social justice in action, as our teens have been involved in numerous ways to fulfill the mitzvah of Tikkun Olam. In March, fourteen teens from the JCA attended Panim el Panim, a seminar that integrates Jewish learning, values, and social responsibility and means Face to Face. While on this trip, they lobbied with Senator John Kerry and State Representative John Olver on issues that were important to them. I was so impressed with our teens on this trip, as they were articulate, responsible, mature, intelligent, passionate, and served as positive role models for the JCA. During the four day seminar with over ninety students from across the country, they learned how to lobby, met with the Jewish Liaison to the President, heard speakers from the National Rifle Association as well as the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, spoke with the homeless in McPherson Park, and debated with other students about who should be the next President of the United States. Every student walked away from the program feeling changed and inspired to make a difference in the Amherst community.

The students attended this trip as part of the confirmation class, an opportunity for 10th and 11th graders at the JCA to learn more about Jewish ethics, social justice, and explore what Judaism means to them. Students were so inspired by this program that they want to continue their education next year with a Judaism, Action, and Social Change curriculum focusing on social justice, advocacy, and service to the community.

Our Spark program has been quite successful this year as

well. Just last month Annie Vernick, Kaia Zimmerman, Zak Tobin, Lena Amick, and Sarah Alper volunteered at the Center for Extended Care by helping the residents make potted plants and then delivering the extras to some of the other residents there. Anyone in grades 7 and up is invited to join spark this month on May 4th. Contact Avital at avihistory@gmail.com for more information.

We also supplied the Survival Center in Amherst with over 40 meals as part of a hunger and homelessness program on April 5th. Zak Tobin, David Gamliel, Addie Gamliel, Kaia Zimmerman, and Zac Oppenheimer volunteered to help make meals for the Survival Center and learned about hunger, homelessness, and poverty in Amherst.

Our teens also went to New Orleans to help clean up as part of a Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief group from the high school. During their April break, they helped to rebuild houses while learning about the importance of Tikkun Olam and discussing liturgy on the topic. Jamie Sharken, Alex Lichenstein, Ben Breger, and Jonathan Harris-Eisen, went on this trip and did their part to make a difference.

Now that spring has arrived, all 6th graders are invited to join us for any JCAT programming. There are a few great events to choose from this month and I encourage you all to check it and bring a friend along. We are also beginning to plan for next year's teen programming and are looking for any interested 6,7, or 8th graders who want to be on the JCAT Teen Board and help decide upcoming events. If you have any questions about teen programming or are interested in leadership, please contact me at teendir@j-c-a.org.



Panim el Panim: Zac Oppenheimer, Charlie Kannel, Lena Amick, Kaia Zimmerman, Hendrix Berry, Gordon Kaufman, Rachael Goren, Jeremy Leiser-Mitchell, Marianne Wald, Jeremy Aronson, David Gamliel, Max Faytell, Sasha Lansky, Mike Friedman, Sarah Alper, and Molly Jackson-Watts

CAMP SHEMESH UPDATE

**Only a few spots remain for Camp Shemesh this summer for 6-11 year olds- Don't be left out!!!!
Sorry, there are no spots left for CITs.**

Registration forms can be found at www.j-c-a.org or email shemesh@j-c-a.org for more information.



HURRY! Before it is too late!

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The Jewish Community of Amherst's Second Annual

KOSHER Q



SUNDAY

JUNE 1st

5—7 PM JCA COURTYARD
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MENU WILL INCLUDE:

- Barbecued Chicken
 - Hotdogs
 - Cole slaw
 - Chips
 - Potato salad
 - Veggie Burgers
- Homemade strawberry shortcake

*Make Reservations by: **May 20th**

For more information

Call or email:

Karen Loeb 253-0336 (kloeb@comcast.net) or

Amy Mittelman 256-0883 (amittelman@hampshire.edu)

Please enclose this form with a check made out to JCA, and send it to
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_____ Adults @\$12 each, JCA Members

_____ Adults @ \$15 each, Non-JCA Members

_____ Children (7-12) @ \$6 each, JCA Members

_____ Children (7-12) @ \$8 each, Non-JCA Members

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OPEN MEETING TO FORM A NEW VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

At the annual meeting this year and at a retreat in January the JCA board and committee chairs talked a lot about wanting to find ways to include more members in projects and programs at the JCA. We're hoping to find a number of people to form a new volunteer group to reach out to as many members as possible to help them figure out ways they can participate in our community. We've seen it over and over again - the more an individual participates at the JCA, the better their experience is of being a JCA member.

This volunteer group would be made up of people who basically enjoy talking to people! Each volunteer committee member would spend a few hours a month calling and reaching out to families and individuals to check in with them, see if there is anything they are intrigued enough by to get involved, and following up to make sure they are having a good experience and getting connected. If we have a strong team of people who believe in volunteering, believe in participation and are willing to be contacts on behalf of the JCA we can connect more members than ever before and really make membership more meaningful and fun for people who belong to the JCA.

We will be having an open meeting for those interested in being involved in this volunteer project on:

Tuesday May 27th at 7:00 PM at the JCA

(Two things to remember! There will be food! And, this is simply an information meeting.)

Please RSVP your intention to attend to Oran.
oran@orankaufman.com by May 22, 2008

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On April 11th, following a lovely Friday night service led by Rabbi Bauer and a delicious potluck dinner, Jill Berlin gave a highly interesting and animated talk about the photographer Bruce Davidson and his portraits of people ranging from African Americans in the Civil-Rights-Era South to Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller to Isaac Bashevis Singer. Jill shared with the audience her personal collection of Davidson's photographs. It was a great evening. We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable people in our community.

On March 30th we held a successful Games Afternoon. In attendance were people from the larger Amherst community who had a great time playing Scrabble, Yahtzee, and Go Fish. There were requests for this to become a regular event. Please let the committee know what games you want to play for the next time.

The JCA's Second Annual Kosher Q will be held on June 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

To put on such a great event we need help. For setup 3:30 - 5 p.m.: 3 people; Kitchen help 3:30 - 5 p.m.: 2 people; Runners during the event 5- 7 p.m.: 2 people; Grill help 5 - 7 p.m.: 2 people; and Cleanup 7-8:30 p.m.: 6 people. If everyone pitches in and helps there will be less work for each person. If you think you can help please contact Amy Mittelman 256-0883 or Karen Loeb 253-0336.

The next Social Committee meeting will be May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the JCA. Come and help with the final details of the Kosher Q as well as plan exciting events such as Family Fun Day, a trip to the mikvah in Newton, and other fun filled times. All welcome.

CELEBRATE YOUR WISDOM YEAR

Would you like to join a group of JCA members celebrating their "wisdom year"? If you are rapidly approaching 60, or are 60, or have just passed 60, and would like to mark this year in a special way in the company of others, join us on **May 18 at 11:00** for a planning brunch at the home of Randi Stein as we look ahead to sharing some months of wisdom in-gathering together, marked with a ritual at the JCA, a "Simchat Chochma", in February, 2009. The February ritual will be preceded by some months of study, support, and fun together. Some of us will want to keep it simple, perhaps journaling or art-

making to mark the year, others will want to engage in a cultural event, tikkun olam, chanting Torah, and leading services. We envision a delicate balance between individuality and the needs of the group, keeping in mind that we will be creating a community during these months of growing our wisdom together. A member of the religion committee has offered us guidance if we desire that.

Please contact Randi Stein (549-0526 or randistein@earthlink.net) or Kitty Axelson-Berry (230-3271 or kitty@modernmemoirs.com) at your earliest convenience.



Commemoration of Yom Hashoah at the JCA

MAY 4TH 7 PM

We have a very special program this year. **Anita Schorr** who survived four years as a teen-ager in concentration and labor camps will present a dramatic presentation of those years. Ms. Schorr has spoken to a number of school and college groups about her experiences. Complimenting the program will be the voices of **Mak'hela** who will include songs written by **Victor Ulmann** while he was in Theresienstadt where Anita Schorr was first sent.

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L'DOR V'DOR: SECURING THE FUTURE FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST JCA ENDOWMENT & LEGACY CAMPAIGN 2008-2009

The best time to plant a tree is ten years ago. The second best time is now. We of the Jewish Community of Amherst have the opportunity to build now on our current strength and stability and “plant a tree” to ensure a fiscally sound Jewish future in Amherst. It is a miracle that we as a Jewish people have survived for so many thousands of years. We are living in a time where the Jewish people have relative wealth compared to most times throughout history. Now is our time to help ensure Jewish vitality for future generations. The JCA not only is a physical synagogue, but a representation of a Jewish community in our town. The proposed L'dor V'dor campaign is a way for us to create fiscal stability and build continuity for the future of the JCA while celebrating the spiritual and religious wealth of our community.

JCA Endowment Fund Goal:

\$1 Million: We propose to reach out to the community to raise multi-year pledges totaling \$1 Million to create a JCA endowment. Growing the JCA endowment to this level will build more fiscal strength into the future of the synagogue, yielding \$50,000 every year in funding to help carry out the JCA's mission.

JCA Legacy Circle: In addition, we propose the creation of a JCA Legacy Circle which would engage our members in placing the JCA in their after-life plans. A JCA Legacy Circle will provide an opportunity for JCA members to pass on their value of Jewish life and support to the community of future Jewish generations.

The JCA Board of Directors has formally approved a comprehensive plan

for the L'dor V'dor campaign. The effort will be chaired by David Sharken, a longtime member of the JCA and a professional fundraising advisor to Jewish communal agencies across the country. Other campaign leadership and advisors along with Rabbi Bauer include: Kitty Axelson-Berry, Clay and Joanna Ballantine, Jaymie & Michael Chernoff, Allen Davis, Rabbi Eddie Feld, Bob Feldman, Josh Goldman, Haim Gunner, Jennifer Holme, Eli Kwartler, John Loeb, Lisa Perl binder, Phil Weilerstein and James Young.

Endowment Fiscal Management:

The JCA Board unanimously selected the Jewish Endowment of Western Massachusetts (JEWEM) to be the fiscal custodian of the JCA endowment funds. JEWEM will also provide investment management and technical support on planned giving vehicles.

Donor Gift Recognition: All donations to the L'dor V'dor campaign at any level will be recognized publicly unless the donor specifically requests anonymity. Public recognition will include listing on a “tree of life” or in another tasteful way on a JCA building wall and in JCA publications (newsletter, website, campaign celebration material etc.)

Campaign Timeline

Stage 1: Leadership & Community Approval - February – June, 2008

Stage 2: Begin campaign with administrative preparation – June-September, 2008

Stage 3: Initial Membership Conversations - September – December, 2008

Stage 4: Community Wide Participa-

tion – December – September, 2009

Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an endowment?

Funds are designated into an investment account in which the principal funds are kept intact permanently and only the interest earned is used to help with on-going year-to-year JCA operating expenses.

2. What is a legacy gift?

A legacy gift (aka planned gift, bequest or deferred gift) is when someone names the JCA as a beneficiary of a certain dollar amount or percentage of their after-life resources. Legacy gifts can be simple wills or bequests, life insurance or retirement benefits or more complex tax-savings vehicles.

3. Who can contribute to an endowment?

Anyone – no matter what income level - can give a gift and pledge of any amount to the endowment and legacy campaign. All levels of pledges and donations are appreciated and celebrated.

4. With a \$1 million endowment, what would the impact be on our budget?

A safe assumption is a 5% annual return = \$50,000 annually. This would become considerable annual support for essential JCA programming.

5. Who decides how the income from the endowment will be used?

Donors may designate their gifts among program areas approved by

continued on next page

Online at www.j-c-a.org

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the Board. Undesignated funds will be allocated through the regular annual budget process.

6. How long will it take for a \$1M endowment to yield income?

Most donations to create the fund will be pledged over a 5 year period with first year donations to be made in 2008 and early 2009, so we can project \$10-15,000 of funds from the endowment in 2009-2010 budget.

7. How will the endowment fund be invested?

After careful research on investment management options, the JCA Board selected the Jewish Endow-

ment Foundation of Western MA to manage our funds.

8. How much of the endowment is likely to come from deferred/planned gifts?

In addition to seeking pledges to build the endowment, we will also be asking JCA members to designate the JCA as a beneficiary in their wills/estate. These funds cannot be counted until after the life of the members and will not be considered a part of the \$1 million endowment fund.

9. What is the cost of creating/raising an endowment for the JCA?

Campaigns of this size usually spend between \$80-100,000 in or-

der to raise \$1 million. Because this campaign will be volunteer driven, we anticipate investing \$30-50,000 in administrative staff support.

10. What do other synagogues do?

There are a wide variety of actions by synagogues across the country and in Western Massachusetts. Some synagogues have done absolutely nothing about establishing endowment funds, while others have been building their endowment for many years. In the next year, there will be a coordinated legacy program for many of the Jewish agencies in Western Massachusetts.



JCA ADULT READING GROUP

The fourth meeting of the reading cycle for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is **Triangle** by Katharine Weber. It is available in paperback.

It is a novel about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York which killed 146 workers, most of them women, and galvanized efforts to reform working conditions in sweatshops. The novel “carefully, and wrenchingly, allows both the reader and Rebecca, the granddaughter of the oldest living survivor of the fire, Esther, to discover the secret truth about Esther and the Triangle without spelling it out; it is a truth that brings home the real sufferings of factory life as well as the human capacity to tell the stories we want to hear.”(Publisher’s Weekly Review).

This is the last meeting of the adult reading group for the year, which goes from September through June. New group members are always welcome.

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

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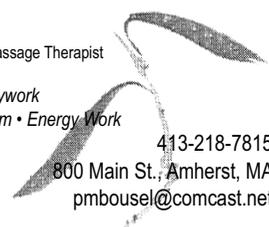
LAG B'OMER RAP

by JCA member Rebecca Fisher

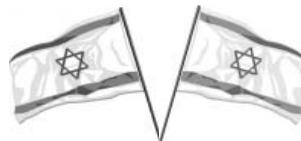
On the second seder we start the count
 'til the Ten Commandments came down from the
 mount.
 The thirty third day is Lag B'Omer,
 to call it well known would be a misnomer.
 On Lag B'Omer we play at archery
 The reason isn't clear to see
 So let's look into collective memory
 to recollect our history.
 The year 132 CE it's told
 the great Bar Kochba led a revolt
 Against the mighty empire, Rome
 The Jews just wanted to keep our home,
 A place to follow the laws of Yah
 and not bow down to Olympia.
 They won for a while but eventually lost,
 Akiva's life was but one of the cost.
 His students were killed by a plague it's said
 But maybe they fought against Rome instead.
 Or maybe as hunters they all did pretend.
 When studying Torah was really their end,
 they went to the woods with their arrows and bows;
 the truth of the matter no one really knows.
 The plague allegedly ceased on this date
 And that is a reason to celebrate.

Akiva's great student Shimon ben Yochai
 Fled the Romans who had condemned him to die.
 For twelve years he lived with his son in a cave,
 They ate from a carob tree, drank from a spring
 and studied as deep as thought could bring
 They left but he didn't know how to behave:
 He regarded those working the land with a stare
 His gaze was so bright people died in the glare.
 And so they went back to the cave for a year
 And when they came out people needed no fear.
 The Romans rescinded the fatal decree
 And once again Shimon ben Yochai was free.
 Rabbi ben Yochai, also called the Rashbi
 From Rabbi Akiva had in secrecy
 Learned the great wisdom which became the Zohar
 And students of Kabbalah came from afar
 the day that he died when the Rashbi revealed
 All of the secrets that had been concealed –
 Just so he could finish the sun stood still
 and with a great glow the room was filled.
 And so on Lag B'omer the bonfires we light,
 and picnic and party late into the night. Yah!

Lag B'Omer is May 23rd

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**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING A SPECIAL
YOM HA'ATZMAUT—
ISRAEL'S 60TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE.
A series of celebratory events are planned:**



Friday, May 9th

6:15 PM- Rabbi Bauer will speak at the Service about what he sees as the achievements of Israel.

7:30 PM, the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee and our co-sponsors, Pioneer Valley Hadassah, will contribute Middle Eastern dishes to the Pot Luck dinner. (We welcome your participation as well.)

8:15 PM We will discuss posters displaying Israel's amazing achievements in technology, medicine, alternative energy sources, irrigation technology and other innovations. Also posters showing shared experiences between Jewish and Arab Israelis will be displayed. Some of our JCA and Hadassah members who have personal knowledge of Israel's achievements will be participating. We will also look at pictures that our congregants have submitted showing them during special moments of their trips to Israel.

Our own Natalie Jarmon will lead us in singing Israeli songs.

Sunday, May 18th, Noon to 4 PM

Ready, set, tip-off, mark your calendar now for a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday at the Basketball Hall of Fame*. The Anna P. Housen Israel Desk of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts will be holding our Hoop It Up for Israel event.

A special exhibit about Basketball in Israel will be featured, focusing on Maccabi Tel Aviv (a premiere team in the European League), basketball clinics and exhibition games, and we will meet two famous Maccabi players (Tal Brody and Miki Berkovitch). There will be notable speakers including Congressman Richard E. Neal and the New England Consul General to Israel Nadav Tamir, Israeli food, Israeli dance, face painting, bounce house, arts and crafts and lots of other activities for people of all ages. Two busses will be departing from the JCA at 12:30 PM to the Basketball Hall of Fame, free of charge. If you have any questions please contact Grae Sibelman, (413) 737-4313 x 143 or at gsibelman@jewishwesternmass.org. (see the flyer on the next page)

*Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1000 West Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01105, 413-781-6500



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Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday at



HOOP IT UP FOR ISRAEL!

Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday at the Basketball Hall of Fame

May 18, 2008

Noon - 4:00 pm

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

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(the two most famous Maccabi Tel Aviv players)

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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 world Jewish affairs. The viewpoints expressed are not intended to represent the opinions of the Committee or of the membership of the JCA.

April 1, 2008, The New York Times In Gaza, Hamas's Insults to Jews Complicate Peace

By Steven Erlanger

GAZA — In the Katib Wilayat mosque one recent Friday, the imam was discussing the wiliness of the Jew.

“Jews are a people who cannot be trusted,” Imam Yousif al-Zahar of Hamas told the faithful. “They have been traitors to all agreements — go back to history. Their fate is their vanishing. Look what they are doing to us.”

At Al Omari mosque, the imam cursed the Jews and the “Crusaders,” or Christians, and the Danes, for reprinting cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. He referred to Jews as “the brothers of apes and pigs,” while the Hamas television station, Al Aksa, praises suicide bombing and holy war until Palestine is free of Jewish control.

Its videos praise fighters and rocket-launching teams; its broadcasts insult the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, for talking to Israel and the United States; its children's programs praise “martyrdom,” teach what it calls the perfidy of the Jews and the need to end Israeli occupation over Palestinian land, meaning any part of the state of Israel.

Such incitement against Israel and Jews was supposed to be banned under the 1993 Oslo accords and the 2003 “road map” peace plan. While

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the Palestinian Authority under Fatah has made significant, if imperfect efforts to end incitement, Hamas, no party to those agreements, feels no such restraint.

Since Hamas took over Gaza last June, routing Fatah, Hamas sermons and media reports preaching violence and hatred have become more pervasive, extreme and sophisticated, on the model of Hezbollah and its television station Al Manar, in Lebanon.

Intended to indoctrinate the young to its brand of radical Islam, which combines politics, social work and military resistance, including acts of terrorism, the programs of Al Aksa television and radio, including crucial Friday sermons, are an indication of how far from reconciliation Israelis and many Palestinians are.

Hamas's grip on Gaza matters, but what may matter more in the long run is its control over propaganda and education there, breeding longer-term problems for Israel, and for peace. No matter what Israeli and Palestinian negotiators agree upon, there is concern here that the attitudes being instilled will make a sustainable peace extremely difficult.

“If you take a sample on Friday, you're bound to hear incitement against the Jews in the prayers and the imam's sermon,” said Mkhaimer Abusada, a political scientist at Al Azhar University here. “He uses verses from the Koran to say how the Jews were the enemies of the prophet and didn't keep their promises to the prophet 1,400 years ago.”

Mr. Abusada is a Muslim and political independent. “You have young people, and everyone has to listen to the imam whether you believe him

or not,” he said. “By saying the same thing over and over, you find a lot of people believing it, especially when he cites the Koran or hadith,” the sayings of the prophet.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, deputy minister of culture in Ramallah, ran the Palestinian Broadcasting Company until 2005. Hamas “uses religious language to motivate simple people for political as well as religious goals,” he said. “People don't distinguish between the two.” He said he found a lot of what Al Aksa broadcast “disturbing and unprofessional.”

Every Palestinian thinks the situation in Gaza is ugly, he said. “But what is not fine is to build up children with a culture of hatred, of closed minds, a culture of sickness. I don't think they always know what they are creating. People use one weapon, language, without realizing that they also use it against themselves.”

Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch, an Israeli group, said Hamas took its view of Jews from what it considered the roots of Islam, then tried to make the present match the past.

For example, in a column in the weekly Al Risalah, Sheik Yunus al-Astal, a Hamas legislator and imam, discussed a Koranic verse suggesting that “suffering by fire is the Jews' destiny in this world and the next.”

“The reason for the punishment of burning is that it is fitting retribution for what they have done,” Mr. Astal wrote on March 13. “But the urgent question is, is it possible that they will have the punishment of burning in this world, before the great punishment” of hell? Many religious leaders

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believe so, he said, adding, “Therefore we are sure that the holocaust is still to come upon the Jews.”

At the end, Mr. Marcus points out, Mr. Astal switches from “harik,” the ordinary word for burning, to “mah-raka,” normally used to connote the Holocaust.

Some Hamas videos, like one in March 2007, promote the participation of children in “resistance,” showing them training in uniform, holding rifles. Recent shows displayed Mr. Abbas kissing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel, under the slogan “Palestine doesn’t return with kisses, it returns with martyrs.”

Programs for Children

Another children’s program, “Tomorrow’s Pioneers,” has become infamous for its puppet characters — a kind of Mickey Mouse, a bee and a rabbit — who speak, like Assud the rabbit, of conquering the Jews to the young hostess, Saraa Barhoum, 11. “We will liberate Al Aksa mosque from the Zionists’ filth,” Assud said recently. “We will liberate Jaffa and Acre,” cities now in Israel proper. “We will liberate the whole homeland.”

The mouse, Farfour, was murdered by an Israeli interrogator and replaced by Nahoul, the bee, who died “a martyr’s death” from lack of health care because of Gaza’s closed borders. He has been supplanted by Assud, the rabbit, who vows “to get rid of the Jews, God willing, and I will eat them up, God willing.”

When Assud first made his appearance, he said to Saraa: “We are all martyrdom-seekers, are we not, Saraa?” She responded: “Of course we are.

We are all ready to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our homeland. We will sacrifice our souls and everything we own for the homeland.”

Along with Mr. Marcus’s group, the Middle East Media Research Institute, or Memri, also monitors the Arabic media. But no one disputes their translations, and there are numerous Palestinians in Gaza — in the hot-house atmosphere of an overcrowded, isolated territory where martyr posters and anger at Israel are widespread among Fatah, too — who are deeply upset about the hold Hamas has on their mosques and on what their children watch.

While the Palestinian Authority of Fatah also causes some concern — its textbooks, for example, rarely recognize the state of Israel — Yigal Carmon, who runs Memri, said Hamas and its media used “the kind of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish language you don’t really hear any more from the Palestinian Authority, which hasn’t talked like that in a long time.”

Abu Saleh, who asked that his full name not be used because of his critical views, is worried about his children. His eldest son, 13, likes to watch Al Aksa, especially the nationalist songs and military videos. “I talk to them about Hamas, but to be honest, it’s scary and you have to watch it over time,” he said. “When kids are 17 or 18, you don’t know what happens. They get enraged and can attach themselves to radical groups.”

Excluding Reconciliation

The Prophet Muhammad made a temporary hudna, or truce, with the Jews about 1,400 years ago, so Hamas allows the idea. But no one in Hamas says he would make a peace treaty with Israel or permanently give up any part of British Mandate Pales-

tine.

“They talk of hudna, not of peace or reconciliation with Israel,” said Mr. Abusada, the political scientist. “They believe over time they will be strong enough to liberate all historic Palestine.”

Saraa, the host of “Tomorrow’s Pioneers,” is the niece of Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman. Some of the language used against other Arabs upsets him, Mr. Barhoum said, but he insisted that Israel was illegitimate. “No one can deny that all this was Palestinian land and Jews occupied the land,” he said firmly. “Therefore the Hamas charter is based on what Israel has committed against our people and our understanding of Israel and its practices.”

The charter is a deeply anti-Semitic document and cites a famous forgery, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, as truth. But “our battle is not with Jews as Jews,” he said, “but those who came and occupied us and killed us.” After all, Mr. Barhoum said, “the Jews who recognized the evil of the occupation stayed outside and refused to come to Palestine as occupiers.”

“The Jews who came, came to occupy and to kill,” he said.

Marwan M. Abu Ras, 50, an imam who taught at Hamas’s Islamic University for 25 years, has an advice show on Al Aksa. He is proud that his show uses sign language for the deaf.

The chairman of the Palestinian Scholars League, and a Hamas legislator, Mr. Abu Ras is popularly called “Hamas’s mufti,” because he is ready to give religious sanction to Hamas political structures.

Last month, he criticized Egypt for closing the Gaza border at Israel’s

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request. He complained, "We are besieged by the sons of Arabism and Islam, as well as by the brothers of apes and pigs."

He tried to distinguish between religious and political language, and then said: "The Israelis can't accept criticism. They overreact, like any guilty person." Israel for him is an enemy. "This is an open war with Israel, with each side trying to press the other," he said. A war? "If it's not a war, what is it?" he asked.

Then he spoke of his son, who tried to volunteer to fight the Israelis at 17. "I convinced him to wait, he had no weapon, until 20," Mr. Abu Ras said. "Now he's a member of Qassam," the Hamas military wing, "and an example for young people."

Promoting an Ethos

Mark Regev, spokesman for Mr. Olmert, called on "Arab leaders who are moderate and believe in peace to speak out more strongly against extremist elements." He called the "incitement to hatred and violence standard Hamas operating procedure," adding, "In Hamas education and broadcasting they turn the suicide bomber who murders the innocent into a positive role model, and they portray Jews in the most negative terms, that too often reminds us of language used in Europe in the first half of the 20th century."

The "serious question," he said, "is what ethos are they promoting?"

Hazim el-Sharawi, 30, the original host of the Farfour character on Hamas television, and known as

"Uncle Hazim," has no doubts. It was his idea to have Farfour killed by an Israeli interrogator, he said. "We wanted to send a message through this character that would fit the reality of Palestinian life."

Israel is the source, he insisted. "A child sees his neighbors killed, or blown up on the beach, and how do I explain this to a child that already knows? The occupation is the reason; it creates the reality. I just organize the information for him."

The point is simple, he said: "We want to connect the child to Palestine, to his country, so you know that your original city is Jaffa, your capital is Jerusalem and that the Jews took your land and closed your borders and are killing your friends and family."

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JEWISH IDENTITY AND ISRAELI REALITY

Under the shared auspices of the Pioneer Valley Hadassah and the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee, the JCA was privileged to hear an exceptional lecture from Professor Justin Cammy on his recent return from a sabbatical in Israel. Professor Cammy spoke of his great impression of what sixty years had achieved in Israel, and indeed, for the Jewish people world wide: the establishment of Israel itself in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds and its rapid evolution into a global player in the world of high tech in virtually every field, punctuated by Nobel Prize awards. Nonetheless, there remains the constant and relentless pressure of the surrounding Arab countries and the overarching enmity of Iran. Most immediately, Israel is confronted by Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Perhaps the one remaining light on the horizon is the presence of two leaders, Abbas and Olmert committed to peace.

In the face of this situation, we are now confronted by the worrisome shift in the identification of a growing segment of younger Jews away from concern with Israel. Ignoring the revolutionary transformation in Jewish life which Israel represents, they are more readily amenable to affiliating with non-Jewish causes attacking social issues. This remains a critical issue in sustaining the connection of the future Jewish community with Israel, both in America and abroad.

Haim and Yaffa Gunner

TIKKUN JRF TEEN-PARENT WEEK OF SERVICE

When: August 10-15

Where: Camp JRF in South Sterling, PA.

Post-B'nai Mitzvah teens and their parents are invited to share a week working together to make a difference. Space is limited! Enrollment is currently open for 20-30 adult and teen pairs, post-B'nai Mitzvah ages 13+ (teams may include one or two parents).

More information and registration form at: <http://www.jrf.org/tikkun-JRF>

You will live for a week in active, participatory community, connecting to local communities and providing much needed support and building work.

To learn more, contact Eve Maslin at (215) 885-5601 or e-mail emaslin@jrf.org. For project information, contact Clifford Goldsmith at (617) 965-7323 or e-mail clifgold@hotmail.com



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.

The response of this community to the passing of Cathy Peterfreund was profoundly moving and continues to be a tremendous source of comfort to our family.

Thank you to our fellow members, the Rabbi, the Chevra Kadisha committee, the Board and the staff for all of the love, support and generosity.

The Peterfreund Family

Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately?

Books by JCA members and others, siddurim, chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot and many lovely gift items.

You can shop whenever the office is open.

GET IT ON LINE!

You can read the JCA Newsletter on line at:
www.j-c-a.org/news/current.pdf

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

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

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
6.25 x 3.875 6 1/4 x 3 7/8

| | 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

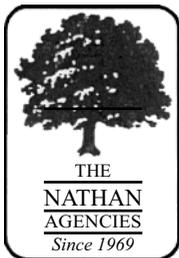
| | 1 issue | 4 issues | 11 issues |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Non-Member | \$ 200.00 | \$ 670.00 | \$ 1540.00 |
| <i>rate per issue</i> | | \$ 167.50 | \$ 140.00 |
| JCA Member | \$ 160.00 | \$ 536.00 | \$ 1232.00 |
| <i>rate per issue</i> | | \$ 134.00 | \$ 112.00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

*Advertise in the
JCA Newsletter*

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

By advertising you can:

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



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Corner Route 9 & Gatehouse Rd

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www.nathanagencies.com

413-256-8351

Community Announcements

B'nai Tzedek Celebrates 10 Years with a Tzedakah Fair

On May 20, young people from our congregation will celebrate their commitment to philanthropy at the annual B'nai Tzedek banquet, to be held at Springfield's Sinai Temple.

This year, in celebration of the tenth year anniversary of B'nai Tzedek, there will be a Tzedakah Fair. Local Jewish non-profit organizations will make their case to the teens one-on-one in a casual market atmosphere, allowing members much more immediate information on which to base their decisions. The 5:30 p.m. fair will be followed by dinner, awards, and a performance by Joel Chasnoff, a cutting-edge Jewish comedian who has been cracking them up on the Hillel circuit.

This event is by invitation only, and space is limited. B'nai Tzedek members and Jewish nonprofits will receive invitations and RSVP cards in the mail; RSVP is due this spring. Please save the date of May 20!

☆☆☆

Beyond Genocide at Smith College

Contemporary illuminated manuscripts reflecting the legacy of genocide

Artist and author: Amy Fagin

April 1 - May 20

Please go to:
www.hgf.org/uploads/140Smith%20flyer.pdf
for more information.

☆☆☆

Welcoming Interfaith Families: A Dialogue with Four Rabbis

Tuesday May 13 7:30pm
Lander-Grinspoon Academy
257 Prospect Street Northampton

Join us for a panel discussion with four congregational rabbis from the Upper Valley:

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer
(Jewish Community of Amherst)
Rabbi Justin David
(Cong. B'nai Israel)
Rabbi Efraim Eisen
(Temple Israel)
Rabbi Riqi Kosovske
(Beit Ahavah).

Each rabbi will share his/her thoughts on how to be more welcoming to interfaith families in our congregations and in our community. Questions from the audience are welcome as part of this dialogue.

Moderator: Shoshana Zonderman,
Coordinator of the Mothers Circle
Shoshana@themotherscircle.org

Handicap accessible; refreshments;
no charge.

Sponsored by the Mothers Circle (a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Family Service of W. Mass.)

☆☆☆

Jewish Historical Society of Western Massachusetts

We are delighted to announce the creation of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Massachusetts, a non-profit organization committed to being the community memory bank.

The Society will collect and maintain an archive of documents, newslet-

ters, sermons, photographs, films, and material culture reflecting the history and development of our communities. Our plans are to retrieve, restore, document and exhibit objects and memorabilia.

We will need your help to make this effort a success. Call us with names of people who should be interviewed. Send us copies of your children's b'nai mitzvah speeches, and other family event ephemera. Do you have documents, photos, objects, and stories you wish to share? Call us to make an appointment. Come visit us at the old firehouse in South Deerfield. And if you are so inclined, come volunteer and work alongside us.

Contact info:
www.jhswm.org, info@jhswm.org
413-665-0066

Old Firehouse 7 Sugarloaf St. South
Deerfield MA 01373

Shalom,
Ken Schoen

☆☆☆

National Yiddish Book Center

Children of a Vanished World: Photographs by Roman Vishniac

This rare collection will be on view at the National Yiddish Book Center from May 4 to August 31, 2008.

Schoolroom Exhibit

The National Yiddish Book Center will display a new exhibit about the traditional Jewish schools of Eastern European, "In the beginning...was the kheyder". The exhibit will run from March to August 2008 and features text, literature, images, and music.

Ruth Behar on Jewish Cuba

Cultural anthropologist Ruth Behar will deliver the annual Melinda Rosenblatt Memorial Lecture on

continued on next page

Online at www.j-c-a.org

continued from previous page

Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 pm. Professor Behar's lecture, entitled "An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba" will explore the very personal story of her journey back to her birthplace and the complex Jewish community of Havana, Cuba.

**Michael Winograd's
Klezmer Ensemble**

Performing on Sunday, May 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m for the annual Helen and Irving Sunshine Memorial Concert. Tickets are \$10. Reservations suggested.

**The Supernatural and Imagination
in Yiddish Theater & Film**

The National Yiddish Book Center will present Dr. Miriam Isaacs, Visiting Associate Professor in Yiddish language and culture at the University of Maryland on Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss The Supernatural and Imagination in Yiddish Theater & Film. Tickets are \$6.



Hadassah

Hadassah Young Women Present:

TORAH YOGA

Sunday, May 4th, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Lander-Grinspoon Academy
Experience Jewish Concepts
through Classic Yoga Poses

with

Judy Wisch,
Educator and Administrator
and
Amy Reed

Anusara-Inspired™ Yoga Instructor

All levels are Welcome.

For information call Rachel Valitt
413-549-1212



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



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

**A LITERARY AND ARTS TRIP TO ISRAEL -
MAY 17TH - 28TH, 2009**

The JCA is planning a very exciting trip to Israel that will focus on the arts, literary and religious innovations of the Jewish State. Participants will engage directly with the artists, writers, and religious innovators that give contemporary Israel its unique vibrancy. Our daily activities will include:

- encounters with authors to discuss their stories, essays, and articles;
- visits to studios and art galleries, talking with artists about their creative process and their life in Israel;
- studying Jewish texts in the new, egalitarian batei midrash (houses of study) that have sprung up in recent years; and
- trips to the Bezalel Art School, stunning historic sites around Israel, the Museum of Islamic Culture,

music and theatrical performances, exploring the unparalleled religious and cultural splendor of the country.

We will combine our immersion in Israel's art and culture with explorations of the geopolitics of Israel as well as daily life in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. There will be plenty of free time to explore on your own. The tentative itinerary is online at www.j-c-a.org and the budget will be on the site within two weeks. This trip is open to any interested person in and outside of our congregation. All individuals residing in Western Massachusetts are eligible for a Harold Grinspoon Foundation grant of up to \$1000 for Israel travel. Go to www.hgf.org to download an application.

If you are at all interested in the May 2009 trip, please contact Karen Loeb at (413) 253-0336 or email at kloeb@comcast.net.

DONATIONS

Adult Education

In Memory of Josef Weizenbaum, father of Sharon Weizenbaum, grandfather of Zoe Weizenbaum (Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit)

Children's Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Evan O. Kane, father of Ruth (Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit)
In Memory of Anna Cohen (Mardelle Cagen)

JCA General Fund

In gratitude for the Wednesday morning meditation service and the leadership of Kitty and Bernie (Tom Wolff)
In Honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Jacob Schrader (Diane Berg & Richard Schrader)
In Honor of Asher Friedman Young's Bar Mitzvah (Robin & Ted Diamond)
In Honor of Timothy Bobrowski's Bar Mitzvah (Robin & Ted Diamond)

In Memory of Jenny Heller's mother (Robin & Ted Diamond)
Amy Fagin

Prayerbook Fund

In Appreciation of meeting and talking with Rabbi Bauer (Barbara Lerner)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Adelina Sinapi, mother and mother-in-law of Linda Sinapi and Cate Carulli (Suzanne Arnopolin & Ronnie Williams)
In Memory of Linda Sinapi's mother (Margaret Mastrangelo)
In Memory of Sidney Myers (Diane & Alex Chajes)
In Memory of Cathy Peterfreund (Ruth Love Barer)
In Honor of the birth of Eli Charney Perkins (Ruth Love Barer)
In Memory of Morris Kleinman (Mardelle Cagen)

Scholar-in-Residence Fund

In Memory of Harold Cagen (Mardelle Cagen)

CONDOLENCES

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

Suzanne Heller, mother of Jenny Heller, mother-in-law of David Hammond and grandmother of Daniel and Zachary

NEW MEMBERS

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

Jonathan Kliman & Norma Hernandez and son Benjamin Hernandez
Martin & Sydelle Horowitz

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF SYDNEY MYERS

Sunday, June 8th at 11:30 at the JCA

There will be a lunch in the social hall following the service

*RSVP: Adam Myers
adammyers33@aol.com*

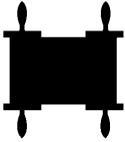
The Deadline for the June/July Newsletter is May 12th

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

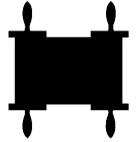
If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact Rabbi Bauer or the Chesed Committee by calling the office (256-0160). Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important for us as a community to be aware of the health and well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



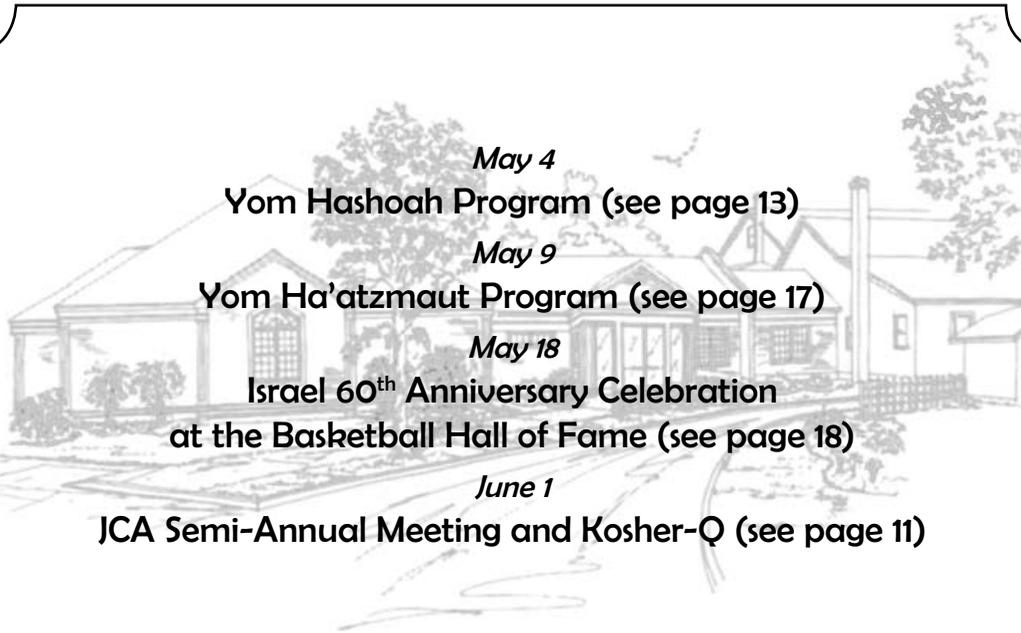
Jewish Community of Amherst

May 2008

26 Nisan ~ 26 Iyar 5768



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 26 NISAN ✠Yom Hashoah 7:30 pm Board Meeting | 2 27 NISAN ⚡7:33 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper | 3 28 NISAN ⚡Kedoshim 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service 10:00 am Masorti Service 4:00 pm Mincha Service Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Schrader |
| 4 29 NISAN 7:00 pm Yom Hashoah Program See page 13 | 5 30 NISAN ✠Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1 7:30 pm Chesed Committee | 6 1 IYAR ✠Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2 7:15 am Shacharit Minyan | 7 2 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class with Rabbi Bauer 8:00 pm Religion Committee | 8 3 IYAR ✠Yom Ha'atzmaut | 9 4 IYAR ⚡7:41 6:15 pm Service, followed by potluck supper and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Program see page 17 | 10 5 IYAR ⚡Emor 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Isaac Weitzman |
| 11 6 IYAR | 12 7 IYAR Newsletter Deadline | 13 8 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee | 14 9 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Adult Ed class with Rabbi Bauer | 15 10 IYAR | 16 11 IYAR ⚡7:48 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper | 17 12 IYAR ⚡Behar 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Ian Hutcheson 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds |
| 18 13 IYAR Last Day Religious School 12:00 Noon Buses leave for Israel 60th Celebration at Basketball Hall of Fame See pages 6 and 18 | 19 14 IYAR ✠Pesach Sheini | 20 15 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan | 21 16 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study | 22 17 IYAR | 23 18 IYAR ✠Lag BaOmer ⚡7:55 6:15 pm Service | 24 19 IYAR ⚡Bechukosai 10:00 am Service Torah Study following kiddush |
| 25 20 IYAR | 26 21 IYAR 🇺🇸Memorial Day | 27 22 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan | 28 23 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:00 pm Fundraising Committee | 29 24 IYAR | 30 25 IYAR ⚡8:01 6:15 pm Service | 31 26 IYAR ⚡Bamidbar 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Gabrielle Holme Miller |
| Sunday, June 1st | | | | | | |
| JCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Kosher Q (see pages 1 and 11) | | | | | | |



May 4
Yom Hashoah Program (see page 13)

May 9
Yom Ha'atzmaut Program (see page 17)

May 18
Israel 60th Anniversary Celebration
at the Basketball Hall of Fame (see page 18)

June 1
JCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Kosher-Q (see page 11)

Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

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