

# Jewish Community of Amherst

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

## Candle Lighting

August 1 ~ 7:51 pm  
August 8 ~ 7:42 pm  
August 15 ~ 7:32 pm  
August 22 ~ 7:22 pm  
August 29 ~ 7:10 pm

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



## Special Events

**August 9**  
Erev Tisha B'Av

**August 12**  
JCA Blood Drive

**September 4**  
New Member Open House

**September 13**  
JCA Meet & Greet



## Meetings

**August 7**  
Board Meeting

**August 20**  
Religion Committee

**August 25**  
Finance Committee

**August 26**  
Education Committee

## Message from President

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

Being in my second term as JCA President of this ever-evolving, vibrant and busy congregation has taught me an important lesson—that the learning curve is never-ending. I constantly have to readjust my expectations, visions and goals to reflect new concerns and needs of the community and individual members. The one constant, though, is that we care about the well-being of not just our members but the people outside our community who are in need. That fact was brought to my attention just a few weeks ago when a stranger in trouble called me for our help. He was sick, out of money and had no family. He was calling religious institutions and since my name is on our message machine to call in emergencies, he reached me. Apparently, the organizations he called previously were not responsive to his needs so I picked him up in Hadley, drove him to Northampton, got him a motel room and to the hospital emergency room. It was very clear to me that it was part of my responsibility as a leader of the JCA to link our values of empathy with getting involved in a responsible way.

I do not ask for accolades or medals—I did what any one of us would have done in our community because that's what we do—we act to try and make things better. Our Chesed Committee reaches out to people who are sick (as indicated by the committee's recent outreach) so that we can act in any supportive way we can, whether it is in making meals or sitting by someone's bedside. The Tikkun Olam Committee members contribute their time, energy and talents to helping people outside our JCA community who are in trouble. Members of Project Rehovot work hard to help troubled immigrant

children adjust to life in Israel and ease their home life in whatever way they can. There are so many other examples of ways people in our congregation act to make things better for people in need. We do not pay lip service to tzedakah; we use our Jewish learning and traditions to act for social justice and healing.

The one important caveat is that we have to have knowledge of who is in need—when we are aware, we respond. I know it's difficult to talk to people about our problems, but we have multiple channels of communications for people to pursue. Whether it's calling Rabbi Bauer, calling the office and getting the contact information

**We do not  
pay lip service  
to tzedakah; we  
use our Jewish  
learning and  
traditions to act  
for social justice  
and healing.**

for Jewish Family Services or the Hebrew Free Loan Society, the Chesed Committee or calling another member who can reach out on your behalf, we want to help. These are difficult times and WE have to work together on this – If YOU need help, please let us know, if YOU know someone that needs help, let us know. And by all means, feel free to call me!

*b'shalom,  
John*

August 2008

Tammuz/Av 5768

Vol. No. 7, Issue No. 7

## *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)

**Teen Program: Rachael Goren** (256-0160)

### **Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday: 10:30 - 4:00

Wednesday: 4:00 - 6:00 & Sunday 9:00 - 1:00

*(When Religious School is in session)*

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Officers:**

**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)

#### **Members:**

Kitty Axelson-Berry, Michael Chernoff, Paul Charette, Judi Fonsh,  
 Gerry Friedman, Mark Israel, Molly Jackson-Watts,  
 Oran Kaufman, Judith Loischild, Robyn Miller,  
 Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Randi Stein, Marian Wolfsun

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

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

**Administrative Assistant: Bonnie Webster** (256-0160)

For information about using JCA space including  
 renting the Social Hall, contact:

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

For a list of committee chairs and members, go to:  
<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

Please refer to your Membership Directory for contact information.  
 (If you have not received your Membership Directory, call the office.)

### **NEWSLETTER**

**Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel**

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

**Proofreader: Sarah Thomson**

**Deadline for the September issue is August 12th**

*August 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 7*

*Newsletter is published 11 times per year.*

*Subscription price is included in membership.*

## **Chesed Committee**

The Chesed Committee assists JCA members in times of joy, sorrow and need, coordinating volunteers to help with meals, rides, errands, visits, shiva minyans, and other needs. We also welcome new members and babies! Please contact us if you would like to join the committee or be added to our list of volunteers.

Also, if you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance, please contact us right away. Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important to us as a community to be aware of the health and well-being of our members and their families. We realize that providing this kind of information feels awkward to many people, but it is an important facet of being in community. We cannot help if we do not know.

Contact the Chesed Committee through the JCA office at 256-0160.

## **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.

Committee members are:

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

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

Rob Okun: 253-9372  
 raokun@verizon.net

Kitty Talan: 253-2248  
 kittytalan@comcast.net

Haim Gunner:  
 haim\_gunner@yahoo.com.

## Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

### JRF 42nd Convention-Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century

November 13 - 16, 2008 in Boston

*Hundreds of Reconstructionists and likeminded friends will gather at the 42nd Convention of the JRF to learn, daven, and celebrate together. Join a diverse community of North American and Israeli rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators and members of JRF affiliate congregations as we explore the theme Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century.*

Be moved, inspired, and challenged for four days in the company of other open-minded, lively folks who are as dedicated as you are to a progressive, vibrant approach to Judaism. Learn from leaders from across the spectrum of Reconstructionism.

Workshops will be offered on just about every imaginable area of Jewish communal life, including education, congregational development, tikkun olam, leadership, ritual and liturgy, youth, Israel, spirituality, and the arts. There's something for everyone!

#### **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

*A Plenary Session on Identity, Community and Leadership* is a dialogue between the generations — those involved today in creating “emerging communities” and those who were shapers of the Havurah movement in the ‘60s and ‘70s, now serving as leaders of the Reconstructionist Movement. Participants will include Rabbi David Teutsch, Zachary Teutsch, and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld.

*Four special Forums* will immediately follow the opening plenary, giving us an opportunity to explore the themes raised as we engage in conversations with leaders in their fields:

- \* Building the Jewish Identity of the Next Generation with Jonathan Woocher and Jerry Silverman
- \* Strengthening and Transforming Congregational Life with Rabbi Hayim Herring and Amy L. Sales
- \* Rethinking the Role of Movements in the 21st Century with Rabbi Joy Levitt and Rabbi Sid Schwarz
- \* What is the Forefront of Tikkun Olam? with Rabbi Toba Spitzer and others

*Professor Jonathan Sarna*, the foremost expert on American Jewish history, will join us on Thursday evening with a talk entitled American Judaism at a Crossroads: A Perspective on Reconstructionism from a Jewish Historian.

*Shabbat services* filled with ruach (spirit) and kavannah (intention) will bring us together as an extended Reconstructionist family.

*Beit Midrash sessions* on Shabbat afternoon include informal text study, creative exploration of Reconstructionist liturgy, and a celebration of the arts.

*A special screening of Praying with Lior*, an award-winning film by Ilana Trachtman. The film celebrates the Reconstructionist Bar Mitzvah of Lior Liebling, who has Down Syndrome, and explores themes of disability and spirituality.

*Networking opportunities* throughout Convention will facilitate connections between our communities, such as break-out sessions, affinity group meetings, and receptions. Come and contribute your questions and your congregation's best practices to the conversations!

*RENA (Reconstructionist Educators of North America) and Harmoniyah--the Reconstructionist Music Network* will be participating in our Convention again this year.

Visit sights of Jewish interest in Boston or participate in a tikkun olam service opportunity on Sunday.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO: <http://www.jrf.org/convention>**

#### **Rabbi Liaison Committee**

The Rabbi Liaison Committee's charge is “to provide an effective process that will expand and enhance both the functional and personal relationships between the Rabbi and the JCA community.” If there is an issue that you would like the committee to consider with Rabbi Bauer, please contact a Rabbi Liaison Committee member:

Aaron Bousel (253-3544), Judy Glaser (253-9607), Haim Gunner (549-0447),  
Ruth Kane-Levit (548-1083), Eli Kwartler (253-2929).



## Religion Committee

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, cyclone411@charter.net

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

## RELIGION CALENDAR

### Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Av, Parashat Masei

*Numbers 33:1-36:13, 28:9-15*

#### August 1, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper at Groff Park (weather permitting)

#### August 2, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser  
D'var Torah: To be announced



### Shabbat Hazon, Parashat Devarim

*Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22*

#### August 8, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

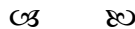
#### August 9, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

8:00 PM- Erev Tisha B'Av

Service and reading of Lamentations



#### August 10, Sunday, Tisha B'Av

No Services



### Shabbat Nachamu, Parashat Va'etchanan

*Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11*

#### August 15, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service  
Service Leader: To be announced

#### August 16, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen  
D'var Torah: Elissa Rubinstein



### Shabbat Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

#### August 22, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

#### August 23, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



### Shabbat Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

#### August 29, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

#### August 30, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



## Start Your Day In Community

The Tuesday morning minyan is a wonderful way to start the day. Join with us in gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. Your presence, is a gift that allows those who are in mourning or celebrating a yahrtzeit, to be able to say Kaddish. Please join us once a month, or every Tuesday morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Try it! It's amazing how energized your day will be!!

## 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.

***Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors***

**June 7-**

Tom Porter and Lisa Perl binder, in honor of their daughter Addison Rose becoming Bat Mitzvah

**June 14-**

Arnie and Reed Alper, in honor of their daughter Leah becoming Bat Mitzvah

**June 21-**

Lyndall and Charlie Miller, in honor of the JCA Community in appreciation of their support of Kelliah Miller and Sean Leber.

Randi Stein, In celebration of a first Torah leyning and her 60th birthday

**June 28-**

Alan and Gail Black, in honor of their son Jacob becoming Bar Mitzvah

**July 5**

Richard Madowitz and Karen Helfer, in honor of their daughter Rachel becoming Bat Mitzvah

**July 12-**

Joseph and Maury Bohan, in honor of their son Aidan becoming Bar Mitzvah

**August 16-**

Bernie and Elissa Rubinstein, in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary and Bernie's 70 birthday

**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.**

***Tisha B'Av***

Tisha B'Av, the Fast of the Ninth of Av, is a day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people, many of which coincidentally have occurred on the ninth of Av. Tisha B'Av means "the ninth (day) of Av."

Tisha B'Av primarily commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av (the first by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E.; the second by the Romans in 70 C.E.).

Although this holiday is primarily meant to commemorate the destruction of the Temple, it is appropriate to consider on this day the many other tragedies of the Jewish people, many of which occurred on this day, most notably the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

Tisha B'Av is the culmination of a three week period of increasing mourning, beginning with the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, which commemorates the first breach in the walls of Jerusalem, before the First Temple was destroyed.

The traditional restrictions on Tisha B'Av are similar to those on Yom Kippur: to refrain from eating and drinking (even water); washing, bathing, shaving or wearing cosmetics; wearing leather shoes; engaging in sexual relations; and studying Torah. Many Jews today have modified these observances in acknowledgment of the existence of the modern State of Israel.

Our community observance of Tisha B'Av will take place on Saturday, August 9th at 8:00 pm. There will be a service and the chanting of Lamentations.

***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 will resume on Saturday, September 6th at 10:00 am. All, including families with children, are welcome to attend 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 August 16th  
The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.  
There will be a potluck supper following the service.

***Chemical Sensitivities***

A Number of our members have allergies to perfumes, colognes and other fragrances. Please try to minimize the use of these products when coming to JCA services and other events. Please inform your guests about this policy as well.

***High Holidays Help Needed!***

It takes a big, active, happy village to organize and ensure that the High Holidays at the JCA are everything we all want them to be. We need members who are willing to be ushers during the service, greet people as they arrive at the JCA, help set up onegs, help with childcare, parking, signs, set up chairs and seating in the sanctuary and social hall, help with an inside and outside "clean up day" to get ready and help afterwards restoring the back-up parking grounds to their former glory (and even this list isn't all of it). Come be part of the holiday prep this year. Every volunteer hour and chair unfolded helps. It's fun to be a part of making it all happen; it's important, it's meaningful, and you'll make your own High Holidays experience even richer.

Please contact Marian Wolfsun by e-mail if you have any time and energy to spare. Improv12@aol.com. Thanks and I'm looking forward to working with you!

## Education News

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



### Education Directions Task Force: Priorities for Education

As presented at the community meeting in June, over the next five years we will focus on the following priorities: 1) **Lilmod B'Yachad** (*Learning Together*) -Building a strong community through learning and Shabbat, 2) **Kol H'Amim** (*All Peoples*): Linking with Reconstructionism and collaborating in the region, 3) **Shalom Bayit** (*Peace/Wholeness in the Home*): Achieving financial stability and appropriate staff and volunteer resources in education programs and initiatives and 4) **Gevurah** (*Structure/Discipline/Focus*) Building on the successes and unique strengths of the JCA community.

The first steps are for JCA School, Teens and Family Education. From the forums, the survey and talking with parents we heard three main issues: 1) Continuity (children want to get to know teachers, classmates and the material), 2) Flexibility (options other than traditional classes, more community learning activities) and 3) Quality of teachers/learning experience (interested in master teacher overseeing Hebrew, community members sharing their expertise through electives).

We will begin to address these issues with some changes next year:

- As part of family education, we have received a generous grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to enhance our family education programs. We will offer Holiday and/or Tikkun Olam programs on several Sundays throughout the year - these programs will be open to families and adult community members and include the region-wide Sweet Harvest Festival.
- Parents will have the opportunity to learn about their child's curriculum as we move through the year.
- A contingent of teachers and community leadership will be attending the national Conference for Alternatives in Jewish Education (CAJE) focused on "*Jewish Congregational Education: Evolution & Revolution.*"
- Since survey results showed no definite "favorite" on the Wednesday format, for next year we will try the following: Each child will have a set of Hebrew goals for the year and homework will be closely monitored. There will be quiet and active learning opportunities and a snack/recess time offered each class.
- To expand the experiential options and utilize our resources, electives will be offered for a portion of some

Sundays (the school day will remain the same length) and open to the entire community. The electives will be taught by congregant volunteers with teacher support, in their areas of expertise. Once or twice a year, attendance and participation at a designated Shabbat morning family service will take the place of Sunday classes.

- We will pilot a Camp Shemesh Day and/or a Shemesh Shabbat.
- The JCA Teen Programming has also received a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to help cover the cost of our Teen Program staff. In addition to our basic JCAT program, we will work on outreach to students from 6th grade, we will collaborate on a series of teen workshops with the other synagogues in the region, and we will pilot regular Jewish study classes for grades 8-12.

### Students Contribute Tzedakah and Community Service

As a school wide lesson in *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, students were encouraged to bring either food for the food shelf, money for their class *pushke* or a description of a mitzvah they performed. For projects Sixth Graders filled a food basket, First & Second Graders collected toiletries, and Purim Carnival attendees made treat bags for children-all to be distributed by the Amherst Survival Center. Third and Fourth Graders collected paper in their class to recycle and made collection boxes for the other classrooms to participate.

Each class voted on where their tzedakah money went, and were encouraged to choose both a Jewish organization and a non-Jewish organization. This year, students' funds went to: The Children's Defense Fund, Doctors Without Borders, Earthworks, Daiken Animal Shelter, Safe Passage, Operation Rehovot and Mazon (A Jewish Response to Hunger). The thank-you notes that arrived over the summer will be posted in the school at the beginning of the year.

*continued on next page*

## Calendar

Sun, Sept. 14	Opening Day for Grades 1 - 6, 10:00 am - 12:15 pm
Sat, Sept. 20	Shabbat Shalom begins (4 - 6 year olds), 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
<b>Opening Programs are for students with parent(s)</b>	

continued from previous page

### **Recruitment and Registration for Next Fall**

The sooner we know who will be attending JCA School in the fall, the better. Lots of planning happens over the summer. We meet new families and consider placement of their children. We hire teachers, set up rooms and make adjustments to curriculum. We consider class composition; smaller classes may be combined, larger classes may be split. Registration information was sent to families with students currently enrolled in JCA School in June. If you are interested in beginning JCA School, call 256-0160 for registration information. Registration is processed only if you are current in fulfilling your financial obligations to the JCA. So take the time to get your registration in as soon as possible. Encourage any of your friends or acquaintances that may be interested in starting their children in JCA School, to contact the office. Students typically begin regular Sunday school attendance in 1st grade. Students beginning after 3rd grade are required to meet with the Education Director prior to placement. Admit packets will be sent in late August to families with students registered for school. Watch your mail for more details.

### **Dean's Beans Profit Scores!**

Whether you enjoyed your beans regular or decaffeinated, light/dark, medium or dark roasted, whole, ground or covered in dark chocolate, your choices all added up to a winning season for the Dean's Beans Organic Coffee fundraiser!



Our 2008 season closed just over \$2,200! Considering that the first two seasons netted \$1,500 each, that's quite a jump in sales and consumption. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this fund raiser which will resume in September.

If you would like to become a Dean's Beans customer, simply email [susanweinstein1@yahoo.com](mailto:susanweinstein1@yahoo.com) for monthly reminders, order forms and updates. Order forms are also available in the JCA lobby.



So, think Dean's Beans Organic Coffee for the 2008-09 season. It's pesticide-free, Fair Trade, kosher, a real bargain, and supports the JCA school. See you in September!

## **Upcoming Events At The JCA**

### **JCA Summer BLOOD DRIVE:**

**Tuesday, August 12th. 11 AM-6 PM** at the Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main St. Once again, the American Red Cross has asked the Chesed Committee for help in responding to a critical need for blood during the summer months. Please consider donating. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) Volunteers are needed to help at the Drive. If you cannot give blood this year, please consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to help at the Drive. For more info Contact Robin Diamond [gemmom3@aol.com](mailto:gemmom3@aol.com)

### **Adult Reading Group**

The first meeting of the reading cycle for the JCA Adult Reading Group will take place on Wednesday, **September 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** in the multipurpose room. The book for discussion is *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* by Daniel Mendelsohn. It is available in paperback.

"As a boy in the 1960s, Mendelsohn

could make elderly relatives cry just by entering the room, so much did he resemble his great-uncle Shmiel Jäger, who had been "killed by the Nazis." This short phrase was all Mendelsohn knew of his maternal grandfather Abraham's brother, who had remained with his wife and four daughters in the Ukrainian shtetl of Bolechow after Abraham left for America. Long obsessed with family history, Mendelsohn (*The Elusive Embrace*) embarked in 2001 on a series of journeys to learn exactly what had happened to Shmiel and his family. The result is a rich, ruminative "mythic narrative... about closeness and distance, intimacy and violence, love and death." Quote is from Publishers Weekly.

This is the first of four meetings 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.

### **New Member Open House**

**– September 4, 2008**

**from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Dinner will be provided!**

Please join us in welcoming new and prospective members to our community! Experience shows that the success of this event depends on two ingredients that community members provide:

- Inviting and coming with new and prospective members.
- Joining the welcoming process by being present and sharing your passion for our community with others.

New members run the gamut from singles, families of various ages, folks new and old to the valley and our own family members. The program is informal and allows for people to get to know us, see our synagogue, and eat! If you have time to help or know of someone that should be invited contact us at [membership@j-c-a.org](mailto:membership@j-c-a.org) or call Oran Kaufman at 256-1575.

## TEEN PROGRAMMING 2008-09

### JCAT Programming for 7, 8, and 9th graders

Be sure to register for JCAT before August 10th to receive the early registration discount!

Join us for White Water Rafting  
The date will be changed since the schools are starting earlier this year— email [jcateens@gmail.com](mailto:jcateens@gmail.com) for more information.



BBYO Programming  
for 9-12th graders

Mazal Tov to the  
New BBYO Board— more information  
to come on BBYO events this year!

### SPARK!: Partnership for Service



Make a difference in someone's life— volunteer!

Spark! Is a program that volunteers once a month at the Center for Extended Care, Amherst on Sundays 2-4:30pm. This program is open to 8th and 9th graders from all over the Valley. Spark graduates can apply to be assistants (contact Avital for more information).

Join us for the SPARK! Orientation on Sunday, September 14, from 2-4:30 at the JCA.

For more information or to RSVP contact Avital at [avhistory@gmail.com](mailto:avhistory@gmail.com).

### KEHILA קהילה Program

The brand new Kehila program starts this fall and is open to 8-12th graders in the regional Amherst community. The twice monthly Wednesday evening Kehila program is an opportunity for students in grades 8 through 12 to connect with Jewish friends and to continue on a journey experiencing and exploring their Jewish heritage, culture, and identity.

Early Registration deadline has been extended to August 10th! Send in your registration to ensure your teen a spot!

Contact [teendir@j-c-a.org](mailto:teendir@j-c-a.org) with any questions!

Want more info? Contact the Director of Teen Programming, Rachael Goren at [jcateens@gmail.com](mailto:jcateens@gmail.com) or 256-0160 x208. These programs are partially funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative.



## Teen Programming: Getting Started for a New Year

By: Rachael Goren,  
Director of Teen Programming

It is hard to believe that September is just around the corner. I hope you are all enjoying the last days of summer and preparing for an amazing year in Jewish Teen Programming! JCAT, spark!, BBYO, and now the new Kehila Program have been preparing for your arrival with amazing new and exciting programs for 7th-12th graders. We are excited to introduce our new teen adviser, Josefa Scherer, who will be the adviser for JCAT this upcoming year. Josefa (or Shafie as she likes to be called) was the Assistant Director of Camp Shemesh this summer and is really excited to continue her involvement with the 12+ crowd through the teen program. I hope that all teens at the JCA and beyond will get involved in one of the many amazing programs we will offer this year.

### JCAT



JCAT (Jewish Community of Amherst Teens) is open to Jewish teens in grades 7-9 in the Amherst and surrounding areas. We have a leadership board that meets monthly and helps to plan all the events and programs. JCAT's programs include social events, leadership opportunities, community service mitzvah days, and programs on Israel, Jewish values, and holidays. I hope you join us for our annual White Water Rafting trip at the end of the summer (specific date to be announced). If you have not had a chance to register yet, do so before August 10th to save money with the early registration discount!

### Spark! Partnership for Service



Spark! Partnership for Service is a volunteer opportunity for 8th and 9th graders from all of the Valley. This year we are partnering with Congregation B'nai Israel and Beit Ahavah for this program. Once a month teens volunteer at the Center for Extended Care in Amherst on a Sunday from 2-4:30pm. Avital Nathman will be continuing to lead this group and is really excited to be back for another year. The Spark! Orientation will be held at the JCA on Sunday, September 14th from 2-4:30pm. Any spark graduate 10th grade or older can apply to assist Avital in leading the spark sessions. All questions about spark should be directed to Avital at [avihistory@gmail.com](mailto:avihistory@gmail.com).

### BBYO

BBYO, and the JCA will continue to collaborate in this coming year. BBYO is co-sponsored by the B'nai Brith International and the JCA and entirely youth led with an adult supervisor. Programs include community service, fundraising, social programming, and programs focused on Jewish values and holidays.



### Kehilah Program

Teens in grades 8-12 are eligible to attend Kehila, an informal educational program that meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings from 6-8pm. The evening includes a dinner and schmooze time, core curriculum class, snack break, and choice of electives. The core curriculum classes are as follows: 8-10th graders choose between Holocaust and Human Rights or Comparative Religions and Comparative Judaism (both of which include a day long field trip), and 11-12th graders can be part of the Judaism, Social Action, and Social Responsibility class which will culminate in a Tikkun Olam project of their choosing. Students can choose from a number of electives, including (but not limited to): Hebrew, Jewish Values through Theatre, Jewish Arts and Culture, and Jews in Film. Be sure to register before August 10th to get the early registration discount.



### Harold Grinspoon Foundation



HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

Without the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative, JCA teen programming would not be possible. JCAT, BBYO, and spark! are partially funded by the HGF Teen Initiative. For more information about Bnai Tzedek Foundation and other opportunities for teens available through HGF, please visit their website at [www.hgf.org](http://www.hgf.org).

With so many great opportunities, there is certainly something for everyone. It is important for teens to be involved in Jewish teen programming as it helps to create a strong community for them to have as they enter and move through their adolescent years. Get your teen involved and help him or her make the connections that will last a lifetime.

Bee Shally (B'shalom)  
Rachael

### ***Kosher Que Report***

The highly successful and delicious second annual Kosher Que was held on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The weather proved to be sunny but not too hot; it was lovely to dine in the courtyard and to have live music provided by Lise Brown and Aaron Bousel. The food was delicious and plentiful. The event was very well attended (many coming from the semi-annual meeting held just prior to the barbeque). It was a pleasure to see the courtyard used and to have an event that drew from all the generations in the congregation.

Many helped this event take place but the fundraising committee would especially note the leadership of the co-chairs of the social committee – Karen Loeb and Amy Mittelman. Karen's family members were notable in their constant presence at the grill; others joined her in the kitchen throughout the afternoon. Many others did a little work in clean up which made the tasks lighter for all. Do remember this (and the latkes party in the fall) and make your reservations early next year!

Laurie Nisonoff for the Fundraising Committee

### ***From The Chesed Committee***

Dear Community Members,

Last month we told you about our new system of using community-wide Chesed emails to ask for help with spe-

cific situations as needs arise. We had an opportunity to use this system in June and we were touched by the generous response we received. Many new volunteers came forward to make sure a community member had support during a difficult time. Thank you to those who responded! We will continue to use this system to ask for volunteers when necessary.

We are also actively recruiting new Chesed Committee members who will join us as we meet monthly and work together to meet the needs of the community for acts of chesed (loving kindness). This is a way to get involved at the JCA with a welcoming and friendly group of people and to do work that is important & gratifying. Responsibilities are shared in an equitable way and are flexible based on your own scheduling needs! If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact any of the committee members listed below or come to our next meeting on Monday, August 4 at 7:30 at the JCA.

### ***B'Shalom,***

Reed Alper:  
reedmangels@comcast.net

Eva Metzger Brown  
embrown13@comcast.net

Robin Diamond  
gemmom3@aol.com

Cheryl Edgerly  
cedgerly24@comcast.net

Irene Eigner  
irenenbill@hotmail.com

Jackie Katz  
jkatz111@gmail.com

Amy Rothenberg  
amy@nesh.com

Kitty Talan  
kittytalan@comcast.net

Susan Zarchin  
susanz18@aol.com

### ***Mak'hela: The Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts***

Open Rehearsal

Prospective Members Welcome

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Lander-Grinspoon Academy in  
Northampton

7:30 pm

Join us for our New Season!

Mak'hela seeks choral singers on all voice parts. We perform music representing a diversity of Jewish Heritage. Our music embraces the classical tradition, sacred and secular music, folk and world music. We perform in synagogues and concert halls throughout the Pioneer Valley.

For more information, contact Bonnie Mikesh at: bpmikesh@comcast.net or 413-567-3927.

Visit us online at  
www.makhela.org



## **Amherst Financial Services Agency**

**Mutual Funds • Investments  
Financial, Tax & Estate Planning  
Ronald J. Nathan, CLU, ChFC**

Securities & Investment Advisory Services offered through  
Capital Analysts Incorporated: Member FINRA, SIPC

20 Gatehouse Rd  
Amherst  
Corner Route 9 & Gatehouse Rd

Visit Our Website at  
www.nathanagencies.com

**413-256-8351**



# JCA MEET AND GREET

Saturday September 13, 2008  
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
JCA Social Hall



Let's all get together before the  
New Year and spend an evening  
reconnecting with old friends and meeting new people.  
All are welcome, especially new and prospective members.

Havdalah

Beer, Wine, and Light Refreshments

First Drink Free Come talk, eat, and get to know each other.

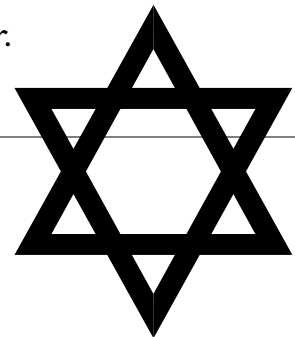
---

**Jewish Community of Amherst**

742 Main St.

Amherst

413-256 -0160



## ***Reflections On My Trip to Israel***

**Barbara Z. Perman, Ph.D.**

*June, 2008*

I have just returned from a trip to Israel where I participated in the celebration of its sixtieth birthday. Only after I returned home could I articulate what I felt in my heart. I had been searching for the words that are the distillation of my experience of Israel on this trip. Finally, I know what they are and can say them out loud, though in some circles they will be unpopular: *I am smitten with Israel*. This is not a political statement, it is a spiritual one. It is a statement of my soul.

Israel is a country of contrasts, a wide range of groups and practices with multiple identities, a very modern, western society and yet deeply rooted in the past. There is a lot to celebrate, plenty to worry about and ponder, things to be embarrassed about and much room for reflection. On Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, every person on every street and in every shop came to a halt while the chilling sound of sirens was heard around the country. There is no one who hasn't felt the loss of someone dear. But that very same day, in the evening, the streets of Jerusalem were filled with music, crowds and flag-draped children celebrating Israel's independence. This is a remarkable display of collective emotion, rare to witness in that country. Memorial services were held at the Western Wall and many other locales to honor and acknowledge all who have given their lives and to console their families. While attending the service, I noticed a stream of ultra-orthodox men going back and forth to their places of study across the plaza as if no ceremonies were taking place in their midst. This group does not recognize the State of Israel, no less commemorate the lives of those who have been lost in its defense. There is plenty that I could say about what is in my mind about Israel, but it is what I hold in heart that I wish to share here.

On this trip my heart was inspired by a visit to a community in the north,

home to both Israeli and Arab disabled adults and founded by a woman who survived the Holocaust and used her reparations money to fund this project. The adults participate in all manner of creative arts projects and sell their wares. I felt a sense of excitement and possibility seeing a floor at Hadassah Hospital devoted to translating medical techniques used there into innovations to be used to save lives around the world. In the north I gazed upon swampland that has become agricultural land and barren mountains and valleys that have become vineyards, growing as many as 22 different kinds of grapes. I recalled Psalm 107: "They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield fruitful harvest." Visiting an immigrant absorption center, I snapped a photo of a recently arrived school aged Ethiopian boy dressed in western garb with a backpack on his back standing in front of the type of hut he lived in in his village of origin. The boy made a comic face for the camera. Some things are universal! I also met a few of the 1.5 million Soviet Jews who are learning to take their place in Israeli society. I could feel the collective determination to help Jews from every part of the world become part of the whole and felt the ongoing nature of the Exodus from Egypt.

A fellow traveler recalled making her first trip to Israel with her grandmother who had also never been there before. My heart was moved as she told of her grandmother's first moments at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The elderly lady, her eyes welling up with tears, explained that she never thought she would see a Jewish homeland, no less be standing on such sacred ground as a witness to her prayers (and those of two millennia of Jews) being answered.

I found a highly developed respect for the past articulated in the careful excavations that are being done before groundwork for the future can be laid in any given area of the country. It opened my heart to the multiple perspectives that inform everyday life there. I was also grateful for the adventure of an off-the-beaten-track jeep tour that ended in a magnificent barbeque din-

ner served to us at linen-covered tables set up in a forest against a backdrop of the ruins of an ancient synagogue.

As I traveled this tiny geographical area which is flourishing despite being surrounded by hatred and threats with no end to the violence in sight, I felt mixed emotions--sadness at all the loss and hope at the abundance of possibilities. It is amazing to see skyscrapers rising toward heaven, to find corporations from all parts of the globe investing in office space and in products and services developed in Israel. Clearly much of the world considers Israel a good financial risk, no matter what political statements they may make on the world stage.

On this 60th anniversary trip, my heart embraced the wonderful feeling of having my Judaism be harmonious with the everyday life of a place; to have the whole society engaged in the consciousness that Shabbat is coming, even if not all individuals celebrate it in a religious way. My heart also opened to the remarkable experience of visiting ancient sites and listening to our guide quote from the Bible about what happened there with the supporting evidence for the event standing before our eyes.

This trip brought back memories of two prior trips to Israel. The first was in 1960 when I was eleven years old; it was the summer after my brother's bar mitzvah ceremony and we went as a family, all of us first-timers, to live there for a month. Looking back, I can see that there is something special about going to Israel as a child; it makes me want to encourage families with children to make the trip. It is an opportunity for youngsters to experience Israel in their own hearts and also to see it through their parents' eyes. On this current trip I found myself having flashbacks of the divided city of Jerusalem and the guards marching back and forth at the border which was right behind our hotel. I remember the pride my father had in seeing the Hula Valley in the north converted from swamp into fields producing food. It is a real learning opportunity to stand in a place that

*continued on next page*

*continued from previous page*

one has seen long ago and to continue to witness the development of this young country. It has also brought me closer to my parents and to the collective unknown ancestors some of whom must have walked the land and others who only got to pray that one day Jews would have a place to call their own.

This current visit also brought back memories of my second trip, made in 1973 before the war of that year. I was a graduate student and went to give a paper about my work. I had the opportunity to go south into the Sinai desert to what they think is Mount Sinai. It was an incredible trip. That land has now been given back to Egypt. Recalling that trip brings home the reality that Israel's borders are uncertain. It makes me want to shout: "Don't wait to plan a trip, all we have is *now*."

While traveling in Israel I started my sixtieth year of life. I planned my trip to mark the beginning of this next phase of life. It will take me some time to really comprehend, no less appreciate that our People has survived through all these centuries and that we are digging up the long gone civilizations who sought to destroy us. It raises important questions for me: How has this been possible? What is enduring about what we have and how do we preserve the best of it and hand it down to our children and grandchildren? We talk about incorporating sustainability into our every day consciousness, how do we ensure Jewish sustainability?"

As I reflect on how ten days of intense travel in Israel has affected me, the answer seems simple, and yet it is also profound: the trip has increased the yearning of my heart for what is

holy and sacred in life. It has heightened my determination to learn more about the situation there, to educate others about what I experienced there, to find personal and concrete ways to promote peace, to redouble my efforts to strengthen our Jewish community here which is so vital to Israel's future and to keep working diligently at translating into my everyday life the biblical mandate that Israel and the Jewish People be a "light among the nations".

*Footnote: Barbara (Batya) Periman went to Israel in May, 2008 with The Federation of Western Massachusetts group. Additional trips are being planned by Federation and by local area synagogues and organizations during the rest of 2008 and in 2009. Feel free to email Batya at Batya1818@gmail.com for more information about upcoming trips to Israel.*

### ***A Literary and Arts Trip to Israel - May 17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kloeb@comcast.net).

**We help ease the way for you through every step of the moving process.**

**NEED HELP DOWNSIZING OR MOVING?**

- Possession Dispersment
- Home Sale Preparation
- Packing/Unpacking
- Floor Planning
- Downsizing

**Moving MENTOR®**  
Moving Management Consultants

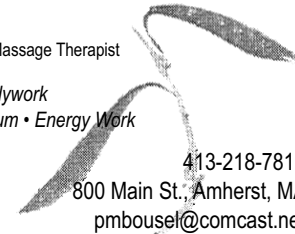
413-549-1039  
[www.movingmentor.com](http://www.movingmentor.com)

*Hands of Patience*

**Patience Meigs Bousel**  
Certified Trager® Practitioner, Licensed Massage Therapist

*The Trager® Approach • Kripalu Bodywork  
Massage for Pregnancy & Postpartum • Energy Work*

413-218-7815  
800 Main St., Amherst, MA  
[pmbousel@comcast.net](mailto:pmbousel@comcast.net)



## 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.*

June 15, 2008, The New York Times

### A Year Reshapes Hamas and Gaza

By Ethan Bronner

GAZA — Cursing God in public here — a fairly common event in this benighted and besieged strip of Palestinian land — can now lead to prison. So can kissing in public. A judge ruled last week that a bank could not collect its contracted interest on a 10-year-old loan because Islam forbids charging interest.

One year ago, gunmen from Hamas, an Islamist anti-Israel group, took over Gaza, shooting some of their more secular Fatah rivals in the knees and tossing one off a building. Israel and the West imposed a blockade, hoping to squeeze the new rulers from power. Yet today Hamas has spread its authority across all aspects of life, including the judiciary. It is fully in charge. Gazans have not, as Israel and the United States hoped, risen up against it.

“The Palestinian criminal code says there should be no improper behavior in the streets,” the new chief justice, Abed al-Raouf Halabi, explained in an interview, pulling the code book from his breast pocket.

“It is up to judges to interpret what that means,” he said. “For us that means no cursing, no drinking and no kissing in public. In the past these things were ignored.”

Gaza has always been poor and pious, distinct from the more secular and better off West Bank. But a year of Hamas rule has made it more so. The notion of Gaza as an enduringly separate entity is solidifying, making it less likely that Palestinians might agree even among themselves on peace with Israel.

Compared with a year ago here in Gaza, more women are covered, more

men are bearded, Internet sites are filtered and non-Hamas public gatherings are largely banned. With the Israeli closure greatly reducing the supply of fuel, spare parts and other vital goods, less sewage is treated and more fish are contaminated. Gazans feel trapped and helpless.

But assessing exactly how bad it is — how angry or loyal people feel, how effective or cruel the closure has been, how truly impoverished Gaza has become — is a delicate and politically fraught activity as three recent days of reporting here and dozens of interviews showed.

Those who reject Israel’s policy as evidence of its ill will make it sound like Gaza has turned into Somalia. It has not. At the same time, those who consider it their role to defend Israel in all it does make it sound as if the 70 truckloads of goods that Israel permits in daily have prevented any real suffering. They have not.

Even more politically complicated is the question of how the closure has affected Hamas’s authority and popularity. Many in the West and Israel would very much like to believe Hamas is in trouble. And it is easy to find people here who hate the government and its black-clad police, even among some who voted for Hamas in the January 2006 elections that gave it a majority in the Palestinian legislature and led to 18 months of tense power sharing before the takeover.

But those in Israel who watch most closely — Arabic speaking security officials — say that while the closure is pressing Hamas, it is not jeopardizing it.

“Gaza is totally under Hamas’s control,” said one of three such major officials, all of whom agreed to speak only if identified in this vague manner, and all of whose assessments were the same.

“What happened in Gaza a year ago was not really a coup,” a second official said. “Hamas’s takeover was a kind of natural process. Hamas was so strong, so deeply rooted in Palestinian society

through its activities in the economy, education, culture and health care, and Fatah was so weak, so corrupt, that the takeover was like wind blowing over a moth-infested structure.”

For months before the takeover, life in Gaza, with its 1.5 million inhabitants, was deeply insecure as Fatah and Hamas gunmen fought for control of the streets and institutions. Hamas had a parliamentary majority but Fatah, through the presidency of Mahmoud Abbas, still officially controlled the security apparatuses and ministries.

Now, even many of those who detest Hamas say that security has returned to daily life as a result of its takeover.

“Hamas is strong and brutal but very good at governing,” observed Eyad Serraj, a British-trained psychiatrist who runs a group of mental health clinics and is a secular opponent of Hamas. “They are handing out coupons for gas. They have gotten people to pay for car registration. They are getting people to pay their electricity bills after years of everyone refusing to. The city and the hospitals are cleaner than in many years.”

While the West Bank-based government of President Abbas bars its nearly 80,000 employees from showing up at work in Gaza to protest the takeover, it continues to pay their salaries here. With no work and a steady wage, there is a once-a-month rush on the A.T.M.’s and a fair amount of disposable income spent in handsome coffee shops surrounded by Poinciana trees now in bloom. New restaurants have opened recently to take advantage of this phenomenon.

The relative scarcity of goods makes it both harder and easier for Hamas to maintain control. It is harder because the basic role of government, to provide for its people, is a challenge. It is easier, however, because what little comes through is inevitably channeled through Hamas, which collects a tax on it.

Many of the goods in Gaza now come through smuggler tunnels from the Egyptian Sinai. There are scores of

*continued on next page*

*continued from previous page*

such tunnels and while the Israeli and American authorities have complained that the tunnels provide a pathway for arms, their more central role is for computers, cigarettes, gasoline and clothing. Hamas taxes everything that comes through.

At a Gaza City clothing store for women and girls, the owner, Wael, 31, who considered it unsafe to give his last name, said that while he used to get his goods from Israel and Turkey, now everything in his shop comes from Egypt in flour sacks smuggled in the tunnels. The markup on a bundle of \$5,000 worth of goods is \$3,000, he said, some of it for the smuggler, some of it for taxes to Hamas.

“Everything that has happened here has been a terrible mistake,” he says of the election victory and subsequent takeover. “It is a mistake for Islamists to get into power. But what can we do? Hamas is even stronger than a year ago. They can take me and put me away whenever they want.”

That is apparently what happened to Mohamed Zughbur, a Fatah supporter who was taken from his home two months ago by Hamas forces, imprisoned and tortured and accused of collaboration with Israel, according to Moustafa Ibrahim, a researcher for the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens’ Rights.

He said that when his organization complained to the Hamas authorities, they pointed to the United States and the Guantánamo Bay prison; a collaborator, they said, can not be treated with kid gloves. He and other advocates say that Gaza was not exactly a model of individual liberty when Fatah was in power, but the changes of the past year are real and likely to get worse.

While few dispute that Hamas has

changed Gaza, a more complicated question is whether ruling Gaza has changed Hamas. Many in the movement and even outside it say that it is less ideological than it was at its founding or even a year ago.

Whereas Hamas says it will never recognize Israel, its leaders say that if Israel returned to the 1967 borders, granted a Palestinian state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem and dealt with the rights of refugees, Hamas would declare a long-term truce. This is not that different from what the rest of the Arab world says or the Fatah position in peace talks with Israel.

Jawad Tibi, a health minister under the Fatah government and a Fatah advocate in the southern Gaza town of Khan Yunis, is angry at Hamas. Still, he said, “Hamas is talking about a 30-year truce which is no different really from what we want. Hamas is Fatah with beards.”

Sayed Abu Musameh is one of the founders of Hamas and now a member of the legislature. One of the old guard moderates, he is also on the board of Hamas’s first research organization just opening here. It is called Beit al Hikma, the House of Wisdom, and seeks to build bridges with the West.

“We are not seeking all of Palestine, only the ’67 borders,” he said. “Then there would be a truce for a very long period to pave the way for the next generation to resolve the issues we are paralyzed to resolve.”

He added that Hamas’s rocket attacks on southern Israeli communities are a mistake and that the group’s links to Iran are out of necessity, not desire. He said that while the top Hamas leadership did not agree on these last two points, he was not the only advocate to believe them and more would do so if there were encouragement.

Americans who have visited the top Hamas leader in Syria, Khaled Meshal, including former President Jimmy Carter and Henry Siegman of the U.S./Middle East Project, say a real change is under way, especially regarding the group’s willingness to live next to Israel. So far, few American or Israeli officials have taken their assertion seriously.

Indeed, Israel’s security officials who seem realistic about Hamas’s control in Gaza dismiss the idea that Hamas has changed in any fundamental way worth Israel’s time. They see the talk of a truce as tactical, not strategic, especially given the toxic words of its leaders and media and the continuing rocket and mortar attacks on Israel.

As a result, Gaza seems set to continue as is for some time — isolated, polluted, unhappy, days filled with waiting on line for provisions, but not explosive.

Noha Abu Ramadan, an office manager, typifies Hamas’s supporters. Covered in Muslim modesty, she efficiently works a telephone, fax machine and cellphone while greeting a pair of visitors.

“Isn’t it nice to have such light traffic?” she joked about the lack of fuel. “It keeps the accident rate down.” Asked her view on how things were going, she grew more serious.

“Israel is trying to pressure us to make us forget that the real problem is the occupation,” she said. “Hamas was elected like any government and never given the chance to govern. Life is hard here but it has never exactly been perfect. We can take it. The Koran teaches that in the end we will be victorious.”

Taghreed el-Khodary contributed reporting.

©The New York Times

---

### ***Project Rehovot Thanks You For Your Generosity***

Haim and Yaffa Gunner in honor of Ellie Quint’s 90th birthday

Haim and Yaffa Gunner in honor of Neoma Berger’s 95th birthday

Haim and Yaffa Gunner in memory of Jenny Heller’s mother

Marilyn Kushick in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Addison Gamliel and her dedication to Project Rehovot

Leo and Eva Sartori in memory of Jenny Heller’s mother  
Project Rehovot Committee is making a donation in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Asher Young

### The Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 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

### Newsletter News Aaron Bousel, editor

This month we inaugurate some design changes for the Newsletter. Most apparent is that we've gone to a regular 8½ x 11 size page. This should make the Newsletter easier to read, and will also save us some money on mailing costs.

We would like to express our gratitude to Kitty Axelson-Berry and Moira Clingman for giving their time and design expertise in making this transition.

### Condolences

*We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:*  
Charles Bloom, father of Carol Bloom Friedman and grandfather of Melissa and Michael Friedman

### New Members

*We warmly welcome the following new members to the JCA community:*  
Michelle Horowitz and daughter Brielle  
Abigail Loeb and Timothy Levy  
Brenda & Alan Kellman and children Wyatt, Cameron & Dane

### Mazel Tov

To Madeleine Charney and Rudy Perkins,  
and their son, Eli  
Madeleine and Rudy were married Sunday June 8th. The wedding was officiated by Rabbi Amita Jarmon

## Greenfield Imported Cars Inc.

**Sales, Service, Parts & Accessories!**

Specializing in the Sales & Service of  
European and other Fine Cars Since 1977

John Loeb and Bill Leitner, Owners



335 High Street,  
Greenfield, MA

413-774-5518

[www.lalautosales.com](http://www.lalautosales.com)

Your Subaru will come  
with an honest deal  
*and*  
an honest dealer!



Steve  
Lewis



48 Damon Road, Northampton  
1-877-SAFE AWD (TOLL FREE)  
413-584-5355

[www.stevelewis.subarudealer.com](http://www.stevelewis.subarudealer.com)  
SteveLewis@subarumail.com



**Donations**

**Arts & Culture**

In Honor of Paulina Stark (Mak'hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts)

**Chesed**

In Memory of Jordene Hale's mother (Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu)

**Children's Scholarship Fund**

In Honor of the 5768 B'nai Mitzvah (Jody Rosenbloom & Joel Kaminsky)

In Honor of Eva Brown's birthday (Judith & Jonathan Souweine)

In Honor of Eva Brown (Alan Peterfreund)

In Honor of Abby Loeb & Tim Levy's marriage (Alan Peterfreund)

**Fundraising Committee**

In Honor of Karen Loeb and Amy Mittelman for their work on KosherQue (Jaymie & Michael Chernoff)

**JCA General Fund**

In Memory of Herman Hy Janoff (Irene Janoff)

In Honor of Ellie Quint's 90th birthday (Elsie Fetterman)

In Memory of my mother, Maralin Weinberg (Barbara Burkart)

In Gratitude to Amy Mittleman and Karen Loeb's leadership for the KosherQue (Judith & Jonathan Souweine)

In Honor of Eva Brown's birthday (Kitty & Ken Talan)

In Honor of the milestone birthday of Eva Metzger Brown (Phyllis & Henry Lippmann)

In Honor of Ellie Quint's special birthday (Jeanne & Robert Potash)

Amy Fagin

In Gratitude to Judith Young and Catherine Madsen for chanting at our son Aidan's Bar Mitzvah (Maury & Joseph Bohan)

In Memory of our dear friend, Sidney Myers (Audrey & Harris Yett)

**Prayerbook Fund**

In Memory of my father, Irving Feldman, at the commemoration of his Yahrzeit (Allan Feldman)

In Memory of Honey Gordon (Andrea DeSharone)

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Neil Hofrichter

In Memory of the fathers of Barbara and Michael Burkart and the mother of Jordene Hale and of Cathy Peterfreund (Jody Rosenbloom & Joel Kaminsky)

In Honor of Isaac Weitzman's Bar Mitzvah (Hollie Kalkstein & Robert Weitzman)

With Appreciation for the time, effort and commitment the Rabbi has shown this class (The Students and Parents of the 2008 Confirmation Class)

With Appreciation for the Rabbi's support to family and friends and for leading the beautiful memorial service for Bob Covan (Joan Schaffer & Alan Berkenwald)

In Honor of Addison Gamliel's Bat Mitzvah (Laurie & Ofer Gamliel)

In Honor of Gabrielle Holme Miller's Bat Mitzvah (Jenny Heller & David Hammond)

With Much Appreciation for Rabbi Bauer's assistance in the planning of Sidney's Memorial Service (Susan & Adam Myers)

In Memory of Sid Myers (Judi & Kip Fonsh)

**Tzedakah**

In Memory of Cathy Peterfreund (Saul Gladstone)

In Memory of Robert Burkart, father of Michael Burkart and in memory of Warren Weinberg, father of Barbara Burkart (Saul Gladstone)

In Memory of Robert Rubin, father of Judy Young (Saul Gladstone)

**Thank You!**

תודה רבה

We would like to give our thanks for the generous donation of professional engineering services by Teresa Wong Neyhart and Timothy Neyhart. We would also like to thank Scott Nielsen and Steve Woolf. These friends and members of the JCA addressed our concerns and repairs of the floor in our sanctuary.



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



**Ann J. Hastings**

REALTOR®, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES  
annhastings@comcast.net  
Home Office: 413•467•2299



Financial Services for Individuals and Small Businesses

**Allen J. Davis**

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

4 Bay Road, Suite 101 | Hadley, MA 01035

tel:413-584-3098 | fax:413-387-6792

email:ajdavis@finsvsc.com

www.allendavis.com

Newsletter Advertising Rates

Business Card - 2 x 3.5

	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 - 3.5 x 4.75

	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 - 4.75 x 7

	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 - 7 x 9.5

	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

*Support our Advertisers!*

If you use the services of any of our advertisers, please tell them you saw their ad in the Newsletter. That way they will know that their ad brought results.

If you know of a business that would benefit from advertising in the Newsletter, please let me know, or have them contact me.

Thank you,

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

(413) 253-5384

# Spirit Haus

PURVEYORS OF FINE WINE,  
LIQUORS, MICRO & SPECIALTY BEERS

*35 Years of Service*

338 COLLEGE ST.  
PO BOX 506  
AMHERST, MA 01004



AARON BOUSEL  
PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL

piano & harpsichord technicians

tuning • repairs • regulation

voice (413) 253-3846 fax

187 Heatherstone Road  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638  
abousel@comcast.net



REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN

## WARM AND TOASTY WINDOWS

### Insulated Window Shades

- Save up to **75%** of the Heat you are losing through your **Windows**
- **Saves More** than Replacement Windows and **Costs Less!**
- **Add Beauty** to Your Home and **Decrease Global Warming**
- **Increase Your Comfort!**

**Avi Gladstone & Barbara Goldstein**  
256-0040

# Community Announcements

## Gan Keshet Preschool

Gan Keshet Preschool has a space available in our three year old classroom 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.

## National Yiddish Book Center

### The Sala-Manca Group

The National Yiddish Book Center will offer a special performance by The Sala-Manca Group on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.

The Sala-Manca Group is an artistic collaboration between Lea Mauas and Diego Rotman, artists born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who now live and work in Jerusalem. They come from different fields of artistic expression (performance, video, installation & new media) and work together to explore the poetics of translation and the tensions between low tech and high tech aesthetics, as well as social and political issues.

## The Yiddishkeit Ensemble

The National Yiddish Book Center will offer a special performance by The Yiddishkeit Klezmer Ensemble on Sunday, August 10, 2008 at 2:00 pm. Reservations are suggested. Tickets are \$10.

The Yiddishkeit Klezmer Ensemble, led by Brian Bender, performs traditional Eastern European Jewish folk music including freylekhs, bulgars, horas, khusidls, Yiddish folksongs, Hungarian-Jewish repertoire and original compositions. Brian Bender (trombone, vocals, melodica), Miamon Miller (fiddle), Christina Crowder (accordion, vocals), Jim Guttmann (double bass), Grant Smith (drums)

## Yiddish Singer, Vira Lozinsky

The National Yiddish Book Center will offer a special concert by Vira Lozinsky on Sunday, August 17, 2008 at 2:00 pm. Reservations are suggested. Tickets are \$10.

Vira Lozinsky is one of the freshest young voices in a new generation of Israeli singers cultivating Yiddish culture. Born in Beltz, Moldova (Bessarabia), to a family of Yiddish artists, she has been mentored by the great Yiddish singer Nechama Lifshitz. Her unique repertoire includes new material, Yiddish folk songs, and songs of classical and modern Yiddish poets.

## 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

**Singer Potito Associates, Inc.**  
 A Registered Investment Adviser  
 Amherst Cash Flow Model<sup>SM</sup> Fee  Only

**Howard E. Singer, CFP**      **413-256-1225**  
**Michael A. Potito, AVA**      **413-525-6600**  
**Terry Singer, CFP**              Amherst/E.Longmeadow

**Conservative Retirement & Investment Planning**  
**Without Commissions**

[www.singerpotito.com](http://www.singerpotito.com)

*Brenda Moore Miller*

Professional pianist & piano instructor, faculty, UMass Amherst & Deerfield Academy accepting students of all ages and levels in home studio.  
 Please call: 413.253.7855  
 EMAIL: [BMMILLER@MUSIC.UMASS.EDU](mailto:BMMILLER@MUSIC.UMASS.EDU)



*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**

*You don't have to search all over town for the right place for your party.*



*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.

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.




**SHARE YOUR CELEBRATION  
COMMEMORATION  
MEMORIAL**

**WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.  
SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH**

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

**MODERN MEMOIRS, INC.  
PRIVATE BOOK PUBLISHING SERVICES**



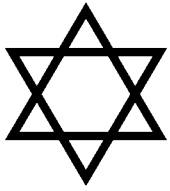
*You tell your story.  
We do the rest.*

Call 413-253-2353, go to [www.modernmemoirs.com](http://www.modernmemoirs.com), or ask me, Kitty A.B., about our comprehensive services



**Pelham Auto Service**  
Div. of Pelham Industrial Group Ltd.  
1315 Federal St.  
Belchertown, Ma. 01007

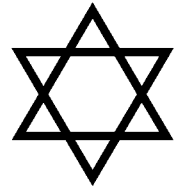
413-253-9302  
413-253-9811 FAX Foreign Car Repairs Since 1972



Jewish Community of Amherst

August 2008

29 Tammuz ~ 30 Av 5768



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 29 TAMMUZ 7:51 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper. Held at Groff Park, weather permitting	2 1 AV Rosh Chodesh Av Masei 10:00 am Service
3 2 AV	4 3 AV	5 4 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	6 5 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	7 6 AV 7:30 pm Board Meeting	8 7 AV 7:42 6:15 pm Service	9 8 AV Devarim 10:00 am Service  8:00 pm Tisha B'Av service and reading from Lamentations
10 9 AV Tisha B'Av	11 10 AV	12 11 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee 11:00 am to 6:00 pm JCA Blood Drive	13 12 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	14 13 AV	15 14 AV 7:32 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	16 15 AV Tu B'Av Va'etchanan 10:00 am Service
17 16 AV	18 17 AV	19 18 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	20 19 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Religion Committee	21 20 AV	22 21 AV 7:22 6:15 pm Service	23 22 AV Ekev 10:00 am Service
24 23 AV	25 24 AV 8:00 pm Finance Committee	26 25 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:30 pm Education Committee	27 26 AV 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	28 27 AV	29 28 AV 7:10 6:15 pm Service	30 29 AV Re'eh 10:00 am Service
31 30 AV Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 1						

*Jewish Community of Amherst*  
*742 Main Street*  
*Amherst, MA 01002*

**Return Service Requested**

**Dated Material - Please Rush - Do Not Delay**

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Amherst, MA**  
**Permit No. 90**

