

Jewish Community of Amherst

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

Candle Lighting

September 5 ~ 6:58 pm
September 12 ~ 6:46 pm
September 19 ~ 6:34 pm
September 26 ~ 6:22 pm

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



Special Events

September 4
New Member Open House

September 7
JCA Clean Up Day

September 13
JCA Meet and Greet

September 20
Selichot

September 21
High Holiday Community
Education Program



Meetings

September 4
Board Meeting

September 8
Chesed Committee

September 23
Tikkun Olam Committee



B'nai Mitzvah

September 6- 10:00 am
Madeline Wise

Message from President

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

As we approach the season of preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I would like to announce that this year's celebration holds a special significance for me, as my daughter is about to enter matrimony. In synchrony with the holidays, I'm experiencing a mixture of sadness at losing my baby girl while at the same time seeing the hope and wonder of the future reflected through her eyes. My memories take me back to a time when Abby and her sister were little, and they attended Hebrew School in the old structure while their big brother assisted the pre-school teacher. Our family joined other JCA members for the High Holiday services, usually in the Bowker Auditorium. It occurs to me that we owe a debt of gratitude to those members who contributed their time, energy,

and skills to making the shift from that large, impersonal place to our wonderful present location. So thank you, Eli Kwartler, Paul Charette, Alan Peterfreund, Steve and Beverly Woolf and Rabbi David Dunn Bauer and all of the other members, too numerous to mention, who were so instrumental in making that move. That kind of community spirit and cooperation is indicative of what makes this congregation so special. Now we have a new generation of adults, like Abby and her husband Tim, who will enter its folds. I feel confident that you will join me in receiving all of them with enthusiasm as they have so much to contribute through their youth, their vitality, and their imagination.

*U'shanah tovah,
John*

5769

L'SHANA TOVA



A Sweet, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year to All!



Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Monday, September 29th

Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 8th

For information about the High Holidays, please see pages 12 - 14

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)

Director of Life Long Learning: Jody Rosenbloom (256-0160 ext. 203)

Teen Program: Rachael Goren (256-0160 ext. 208)

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)

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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, info@j-c-a.org)

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 October issue is September 12th

September 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 8

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

Devarim:**Words from Rabbi David Dunn Bauer**

At the High Holidays, we have no choice but to look inwards, as each of us completes a “cheshbon nefesh” -- an accounting of one’s soul. The challenge is to turn in without getting tangled up in ourselves. It’s an inelegant metaphor, I know, but I think in terms of ‘laundry’: if we’re going to get our souls clean, we can’t be tied up in knots during the wash cycle. (Selichah! Sorry for that one.)

Connection to community is essential in keeping us spiritually open during this process. For this reason, I particularly look forward to our Selichot services again this year, when we’ll study, contemplate, and pray together with members of Beit Ahavah and Congregation Bnai Israel. Speaking personally, it is an honor for me and a gift to my soul that I get to teach alongside my colleagues and friends, Rabbis Riqi Kosovske and Justin David. We’ll meet at 9:00pm on September 20th at Beit Ahavah’s worship space in Florence, MA. Watch the JCA website for more information as we get closer to the date.

It is my hope that the holiday services at the JCA offer everyone who attends an opportunity to relax into the process of “teshuvah” -- repentance and return. Our new ‘no-ticket’ policy is a perfect start. Just attend and be present. Let your spirit feel at home. Each day choose the service where you anticipate your being best able to attend to your soul’s needs. At the same time, be prepared at any service to be surprised and challenged by the liturgy or the ruach (spirit) to a moment of worship that stretches you beyond your expectations. Every year, some moments of Catherine Madsen’s extraordinary cantorial work and of Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser’s spiritual

leadership have carried me to some new level of connection to God. I know this year it will happen again.

This year we will once more be blessed by the presence and voice of Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein, a fellow graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the director of education at the Springfield Jewish Community Center. Rabbi Becker-Klein will be cantoring at our Reconstructionist erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre services, leading Tashlich and the services for our children, and participating in myriad ways throughout the chagim. We welcome him back and celebrate our ongoing and growing relationship with him.

In years past, JCA members Larry Fine, Sam Gladstone, Amy Rothenberg, Batya Perman, and others have contributed their voices, guidance, and religious energies to our services, along with all of our many shofar blowers, poetry readers, Torah leyners, Jonah actors, gabbais..... This year again, we want to enjoy as much leadership from within the congregation as possible. Our connections to each other allow us to unfold our souls to the process of cheshbon nefesh and teshuvah. If you would like to participate in services this year, please let me know.

Community is the essential component to Jewish life and worship. At the High Holidays we have special obligation to connect to others and to let others connect with us.

*L’shanah tovah!
Happy new year!*

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 Shofetim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

September 5, Friday

5:30 PM

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

September 6, Saturday

10:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Bat Mitzvah of Madeline Wise

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Madeline Wise and Rabbi Bauer

10:00 AM- Masorti Service



Shabbat Ki Tetze, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

September 12, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

(see the following page for more information about this service)

September 13, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Ki Tavo, Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

September 19, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service

Service Leader: To be announced

September 20, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

9:00 PM- Selichot at Beit Ahavah

(See the following page for more information)



Shabbat Nitzavim, Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

September 26, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

September 27, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Rosh Hashanah

September 29, Monday- Erev Rosh Hashanah

5:45 PM- Reconstructionist Service

6:00 PM- Teen Service

8:15 PM- Masorti Service

September 30, Tuesday- Rosh Hashanah, Day 1

9:00 AM-Reconstructionist Service

9:30 AM- Masorti Service

4:00 PM- Tashlich at Groff Park

Youth Services and Activities

9:00 AM- Youth Activity Time

10:00 AM- "Tween" Service Learning

11:30 AM- Youth Service

October 1, Wednesday- Rosh Hashanah, Day 2

9:30 AM- Masorti Service



Yom Kippur

October 8, Wednesday- Kol Nidre

5:45 PM- Reconstructionist Service

8:15 PM- Masorti Service

October 9, Thursday- Yom Kippur

9:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

9:30 AM- Masorti Service (*Yiskor at ~ 11:45 AM*)

4:45 PM- Minchah

6:00 PM- Ne'ilah

Break-Fast Following Ne'ilah

Youth Services and Activities

9:00 AM- Youth Activity Time

10:00 AM- "Tween" Service Learning

11:30 AM- Youth Service



Please see pages 12 & 13 for more information about High Holiday Services

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

August 16-

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

September 6-

Michael and Nancy Bean, in honor of their daughter Madeline Wise 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.

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 yahrzeit, 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.

Selichot

For Selichot services this year we will study, contemplate, and pray together with members of Beit Ahavah and Congregation B'nai Israel. Rabbi Bauer will join with Rabbis Riqi Kosovske and Justin David. We'll meet at 9:00pm on September 20th at Beit Ahavah's worship space in Florence, MA. Watch the JCA website for further details.

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 September 19th
The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.
There will be a potluck supper following the service.

Shabbat in the Groove- Friday September 12th

This musical, interactive, and energetic service utilizes new and traditional melodies in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. This unique experience with instrumental accompaniment aims to deepen your spiritual awareness, to put you in touch with your Jewish neshama/soul.

Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein, director of Jewish Life and Education at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, has been performing and writing contemporary Jewish music for over ten years. His music is influenced by bluegrass, folk, rock, klezmer, and world music sound. He is one of the original members of Shabbat Unplugged, a musical troupe formed in 1995 in Philadelphia by six rabbinical students. For over seven years, their original music has shaped and influenced musical Shabbat services throughout the United States. Micah also served as musical director for the Jewish Healing service, Miriam's Well, for several years. He has composed and recorded original liturgical compositions, some of which can be found on "A Night of Questions," a companion recording for the new Reconstructionist Haggadah of the same title. Rabbi Micah is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Following the success of this service last May we are hoping to have Rabbi Becker-Klein here to lead this service on a regular basis throughout the year.

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 Life Long Learning, 256-0160, ext. 203



Life Long Learning and Community Building: The Five-Year Plan

Our programming throughout the JCA is about nurturing Jewish experiences and social connections. Opening programs of JCA School and Teen Programs will reflect this in new ways based on the efforts of the Educational Directions Task Force. We are encouraging everyone to see new paths and links between programs, people and community. Please join us, register your children, and watch the Thursday email for announcements about opportunities at the JCA and in the region. Make this the year you and your family take a step towards doing something new that enhances your Jewish journey. L'Shanah Tovah – To a Happy New Year

Hebrew Reality Check

How do we help our students learn the ancient language of our tradition in an hour a week? Based on our experience and the feedback from our survey - set clear & realistic goals, provide parents with tools to help, provide some study choices and free time for social connections, and encourage everyone to find opportunities to practice, listen and use Hebrew. Parents and students will participate in assessments and goal setting during the first Wednesday of JCA School. Master Teacher **Andrea Olkin** has been hard at work developing rubrics and lesson plans so students will have both structured lessons and Hebrew choice activities each week. The JCA School's Hebrew program focuses on learning to decode Hebrew so students can read basic prayers and blessings used for welcoming Shabbat and participating in prayer services. Students learn to recognize key words and are taught about the basic meanings of the prayers and blessings.

The Educators of the Future: JCA As A Launching Pad

The JCA is helping ensure Jewish connections for the next generation in many ways. For example, many of our teachers go on and continue to grow in their contribution to Jewish education. Most recently, **Kelilah Miller**, who taught 7th grade from 2006-2008, has headed to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College to become a rabbi. But over the last ten years, I have noticed even more examples. Teaching at this year's Conference for Alternatives in Jewish Education are two of our former teachers **Beth Nichols** (who taught 3rd grade) who is now Rabbi Elizabeth Ann Nichols and **Michelle Beller** (who taught 4th grade) who is Education Pro-

grams Manager for The Jewish National Fund. **Ben Nathan** (who taught 7th grade) was hired to teach in New Jersey by the mother of **Rachel Perten** (who taught 1st grade) - Rachel, has gone on to work in young Jewish leadership development. **Ezra Weinberg** (former teen advisor) went on to become a rabbi; **Emily Eisen** (former music specialist), to study for the cantorate. **Ryvka Bar Zohar** (taught 3rd & 7th grades) and **Debra Libson** (taught 4th grade) continue to teach and administer in Jewish schools. **Wendy Aaronson** (former teen advisor) participated in the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and continues to work with Jewish teens and on college campuses. **Rachel Zaslow** (former teen advisor) and **Alan Elefson** (taught 5th grade) work with children in the secular world and are role models of evolving Jewish lives. So just imagine what JCA children who work as CITs at Camp Shemesh and as teaching assistants in our school, may go on to do....



Fundraiser: Sign Up at Big Y

The Education Express Program resumes this fall at Big Y. Shoppers can designate a school to be the recipient of special points that build purchasing power for school supplies and equipment. Watch the community-wide e-mail for more details.

Wish List

The school could use CD disc players for listening to music and/or a digital camera should you be upgrading what you have or want to make a donation.

Thank-You To:

The anonymous donor of children's books in Hebrew Camp Shemesh for craft supplies

Calendar

Wed, Sept. 10	Teen opener, 6-8 pm
Sat, Sept. 13	First Day for 7th Grade w/Parents, 10-11am
Sun, Sept. 14	First Day for Grades 1-6 w/Parents, 10-12:15
Wed, Sept. 17	Alef-Bet Blast Off for grades 3-6 w/Parents, 4pm
Sat, Sept. 20	First Shabbat Shalom class (4-6 year olds) w/Parents, 10:30
Sun, Sept. 21	Elul Invitational Family Program, 10-12:15
Sun, Sept. 28	No Class
Mon, Sept. 29	Erev Rosh Hashanah

Join Us

Sunday Morning, September 21
10:00 am - 12:15 pm at the JCA

**Elul invitational
Activities to Prepare for the New Year**

Wish you knew the melodies of
High Holiday prayers?
Interested in studying the challenging
Torah portions of the New Year?
Enjoy art and need some High Holiday
greeting cards?
Want to learn how to blow the shofar?

- * Choose from Music, Storytelling,
Drama, Crafts, or Text Study *
- * Opportunities for children and
parents or grandparents together *
- * Study group for adults *

JCA Clean Up Day

Sunday September 7th at 2:00 pm

Please join us as we prepare our building and
grounds for the High Holidays and New Year.

All are welcome.

**Feel More at Home in JCA Prayer Services!
Adult Education Class with Rabbi Bauer**

Learn to read the Hebrew of the siddur, the Jewish prayerbook.
Rabbi Bauer will be teaching a multi-session class in Prayerbook He-
brew this fall. Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm, starting September 9
(we'll skip some Tuesdays throughout the fall, but the class will continue
until December 9).

If you've never studied Hebrew before, this is the place to start.

This class is free for JCA Members; \$54 for non-members. All students
will need to purchase the textbook (available at the first class session).

Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Fundraiser 2008-09

Mark your calendars for the start of the third Dean's
Beans Fundraising season at the JCA. Orders will be
due by September 14th (the first day of Sunday School)
for pick up on/after Friday the 19th.

To get on the email list for monthly reminders,
order forms, and ordering instructions, contact Sue
Weinstein: susanweinstein1@yahoo.com, or look for order forms in the
JCA lobby in September.



Bargain prices are as follows:

- Regular blends \$8.50/lb \$9.50/lb (decaf)
- Flavored blends \$8.75/lb \$9.75/lb (decaf)

Dean's Beans Organic Coffee is Fair Trade, roasted locally, offered
at a great price, supports the JCA School and aids in-
digenous coffee farmers around the world (a double
mitzvah). To get an even better appreciation of Dean's
Beans and the coffee industry, read Dean Cycon's re-
cently published book, *Javatrekker*. It may just inspire
you to rethink your coffee buying decisions (if you
haven't done so already). Here's to the start of another great year....



JCA Adult Reading Group

The first meeting of the reading cycle for the JCA Adult Reading
Group will take place on **Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**
in the multipurpose room. **Please note the change of date.** The book for
discussion is *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* by Daniel Men-
delsohn. 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 *Publish-
ers 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.

Join hundreds of folks of all ages at the 3rd Annual Community Festival

Save the Date!

Sweet Harvest
Monday,

October 13, 2008

11 am - 3 pm
(Columbus Day Weekend)

**Community-wide
Celebration of
Sukkes / Sukkot**

**National Yiddish Book Center
Amherst, MA**



**Activities for all ages: music, interactive workshops,
social action, performances, family programming,
kosher food, relay games, and more!**

For more info and to get involved contact
judi@hgf.org

A collaboration of the National Yiddish Book Center,
the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and
synagogues and other Jewish institutions of the Pioneer Valley.

TEEN PROGRAMMING 2008-09

JCAT Programming for 7, 8, and 9th graders

Sunday, Sept 14th 12-1:30pm: First Day of Sunday School Ice Cream Social! Come enjoy sundaes and celebrate the first day of Sunday School. Free to anyone interested in attending. Stay to help decide what events we should have this fall. RSVP to jcateens@gmail.com by Friday 9/12.

Sunday, Sept. 21st 5-7:30pm: Schmooze with the Jewz: Join us for the first schmooze of the school year! We will play games, hang out, and eat dinner. Free to Chai members, \$8 for non-members. RSVP to jcateens@gmail.com by Friday 9/19.

Monday, September 29th 6-7:30pm: Rosh Hashanah Teen Service & Schmooze: Join us on Erev Rosh Hashanah for a teen service, pizza, and schmooze. Free and open to all teens grades 7-12.



Programming for 9-
12th graders

Monday, September 29th 6-7:30pm: Rosh Hashanah Teen Service & Schmooze: Join us on Erev Rosh Hashanah for a teen service, pizza, and schmooze. Free and open to all teens grades 7-12.

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 avihistory@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.

Join us for the first day of class and Open House on Wednesday, September 10th from 6-8pm. Parents are invited to attend to learn more about this exciting new program.

Contact teendir@j-c-a.org with any questions!

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

Teen Programming: Welcoming in the New Year

**By: Rachael Goren,
Director of Teen Programming**

As we welcome in the new year, teen programming hopes to welcome in new members as well. We are very excited to introduce some new staff this year. **Josefa “Shafie” Scherer** will be joining us as the JCAT teen adviser. Shafie was the Assistant Director of Camp Shemesh this past summer and had the opportunity of supervising the CITs and is really excited to meet more of you at events this fall. **Lauren Kanner** will be serving as the Assistant Teen Adviser for JCAT. Lauren is a former JCA teen and is really excited to be back to the community and help out. **Dan Kasal** will continue to assist the BBYO group for his second year. **Avital Nathman** will continue to serve as the Spark! Teen Adviser as well as teach the Judaism, Social Action, and Social Responsibility class for the 11th and 12th graders in the Kehila Program. We are still in the process of hiring for other teaching positions and encourage interested applicants to contact me at teendir@j-c-a.org for more information.

We hope all the teens will join us for the Rosh Hashanah Teen Service on Monday, September 29th from 6-7:30pm. We will have a service, pizza, and schmooze. This is open to 7-12th graders and is a great opportunity to bring in the new year with intentions of building community and coming together.

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. We hope you join us for our first Schmooze with the Jewz on Sunday, September 21st from 5-7:30pm.



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.



BBYO

BBYO (B’nai Brith Youth Organization) is entirely youth led with an adult supervisor. Programs include community service, fundraising, social programming, and programs focused on Jewish values and holidays.

Kehila 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.

Harold Grinspoon Foundation



HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

Without the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Teen Initiative, JCA teen programming would not be possible. JCAT and spark! are largely 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.

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*

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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
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All are welcome, especially new and prospective members.

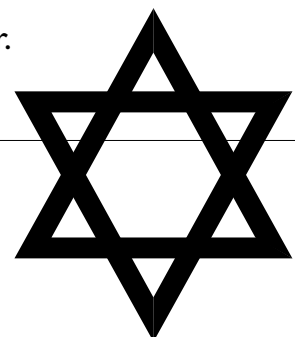
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JCA Services For The Yomim Nora'im (High Holidays) 5769

Fellow Members of the JCA:

We are pleased to provide you with this information about the upcoming 5769 High Holidays. Our service leaders this year include Rabbi Bauer, Catherine Madsen, Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser and Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein.

One service type is the "Masorti" service and will use the Machzor Haddash from the Conservative Movement that we have used for many years. The prayers will be primarily in Hebrew and all traditional parts of the service will be fully covered. The morning services will include full Musaf and full Torah service. The morning services will run for about 4 hours.

The other service is the "Reconstructionist" service and will use the Kol Haneshamah machzor and will have more English and more complete transliteration of the Hebrew prayers. Though shorter, it will still be a full service in every sense and we hope it will enable more people to experience the important distinctive components that come very late in the Masorti service that some people miss. These elements will be integral to the main part of the service, rather than in a separate Musaf, and the Torah service will be very concise. The morning service is planned to run not more than 2 hours.

For the evening services we will again hold the Reconstructionist service

early and the Masorti service later. On erev Rosh Hashana we will be having a special service for the teens including the all-important pizza. The only second-day Rosh Hashana service will be in the Masorti style.

In response to requests from parents and some analysis and debate by the committee, we have restructured the youth-oriented services that are offered in addition to the main service. These will be led by a passionate group of volunteer leaders from our community and the enthusiastic and very musical Rabbi Becker-Klein and they promise to be very appealing to the children. We will be prepared to serve the needs of children from 3 to 13. We will have drop-in supervised free-time starting at 9:00 am which will transition into more organized holiday-focused activity over the course of the morning culminating in a youth service at 11:30 that will allow older children to participate in a leadership role as they wish. By scheduling simultaneous with the two adult services, we hope to allow families to attend and meet all their religious and child-care needs. All children are welcome in the adult services at the discretion of the parents. By having adjacent youth activities, parents will be able to adjust as needed. There will be continuous supervision of the children but we definitely need parents to volunteer to help for whatever period of time they

can. We also ask parents to pre-register for the times they expect their children will attend so we can work out the staffing needs.

Please see the accompanying note about this year's "ticketless" policy. While we will not be using tickets, we still want to receive advance registration of guests and non-members.

If you have not yet volunteered to help in some capacity, we strongly encourage you to get involved in whatever way you find most satisfying. In addition to the satisfaction of being involved, and the opportunity to connect with fellow members, it is also a great mitzvah to support the community. Please consider signing up for a time slot as a Greeter or Usher.

We know parking will be an issue on the first day of Rosh Hashana and on Yom Kippur, which both fall on weekdays this year when we are unable to use the Fort River School parking lot, so plan now to share rides with family and friends. If you can offer a ride to someone please do so.

Post-holidays, we will be interested in feedback on what worked best, what was less satisfying, and ideas for how to improve on this year's experience.

*L' shanah tovah,
Paul Charette &
Marian Wolfsun,
co-chairs, High Holiday Committee*

Wondering Why You Haven't Received Your High Holiday Ticket Form In The Mail? That's Because We're Not Using Tickets For Members This Year!

The fact is that we can comfortably accommodate everyone. Our variety of services, multiple Rabbis and Cantors, and wonderful space all make this possible. The process of using tickets costs a significant amount in terms of printing, envelopes, paper and mailing/postage costs, and staff and volunteer time to handle ticket distribution, pick up, and lots of other associated tasks. So this year, we're doing away with all tickets and just asking that you simply join us!

If you have friends or family who also want to join us for services, or if there are other interested non-members who are unaffiliated with a synagogue or for whatever reason want to participate in the High Holidays, they are also welcome. We only ask that non-members complete a pre-registration form for any of the High Holiday services by either contacting the JCA office (256-0160), going to the JCA office (Tuesday - Friday, 10:30 - 4:00), or registering on the JCA website (www.j-c-a.org).

This is an exciting change. To save resources is enough of a benefit, but many of us are also delighted to do away with the idea of "ticketing" and anything that feels restrictive. In a tangible way, this affirms our "open door" policy and assures that anyone who wishes is able to join our community in prayer.

Whether this continues in the future depends on how it goes this year and what feedback we receive. So we'll be looking to hear how it worked for you.

Marian Wolfsun and Paul Charette, co-chairs, The High Holiday Committee



Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah- Monday, September 29

5:45 PM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

6:00 PM- Teen Service

Open to all post Bar/Bat Mitzvah teens. Led by teens and designed specifically for teens!

For more information contact teen adviser Rachael Goren at rbgoren@gmail.com

8:15 PM- Masorti Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen



Rosh Hashanah, Day 1- Tuesday, September 30

9:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

9:30 AM- Masorti Service (*Shacharit*)

Service Leader: To be announced

Cantor: To be announced

12:00 PM- Masorti Service (*Musaf*)

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen

4:00 PM- Tashlich at Groff Park

Youth Services and Activities

9:00 AM- Youth Activity Time

10:00 AM- "Tween" Service Learning

With Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

11:30 AM- Youth Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein



Rosh Hashanah, Day 2- Wednesday, October 1

9:30 AM- Masorti Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen



Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre- Wednesday, October 8

5:45 PM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

8:15 PM- Masorti Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen

Yom Kippur- Thursday, October 9

9:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

9:30 AM- Masorti Service (*Yiskor at ~11:45 AM*)

Service Leader: To be announced

Cantor: To be announced

12:15 PM- Musaf Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen

4:45 PM- Minchah

Service Leader: To be announced

Cantor: To be announced

6:00 PM- Ne'ilah

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Cantor: Catherine Madsen

Break-Fast Following Ne'ilah

Youth Services and Activities

9:00 AM- Youth Activity Time

10:00 AM- "Tween" Service Learning

With Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

11:30 AM- Youth Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein



The Musaf Service

Catherine Madsen

Kol Nidre is the High Holiday service that attracts the most people, but the Musaf service (which follows the Torah service on all three days, in the main sanctuary) is the best-kept liturgical secret of the season. Some of the most compelling language and beautiful music in Jewish prayer appear there, and should not be missed.

The Amidah or Standing Prayer, which is the core of all services, has special additions for all holidays. In the High Holiday Musaf, one of the most striking is the Unetaneh tokef (from the opening phrase, “Let us relate this day’s great holiness”). This prayer develops into two intensely concentrated pages of extended metaphor. God is imagined sitting on a throne, opening the Book of Remembrance which we have signed with our deeds, and judging us as we pass before him like sheep before a shepherd. This prayer is the source of the sombre refrain, “On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.” The list that follows has gone deep into the Jewish imagination: Who shall live and who shall die, who by fire and who by water, who by famine and who by thirst, who by earthquake and who by plague—dangers from which we are never so far removed as the thin veneer of security

might suggest.

These are realities we generally do not face unless we have to, but the prayer emphasizes the connection between disaster and compassion. It proclaims that teshuvah (“turning” or moral reorientation), tefilah (prayer), and tzedakah (generous deeds) can temper the severity of the decree. It emphasizes that God does not wish the sinner to die, but to turn and live. With a fine wordplay it asserts that God is humanity’s yotzram, their creator, and knows their yitzram, their inclination—the “evil impulse” of Talmudic idiom, which essentially refers to our weaknesses. “Our origin is dust and our end is dust. At the hazard of our life we earn our bread.” “Our” is a free translation; in Hebrew the word is Adam, who stands for us all in his fragility and evanescence.

Scholars of religion call liturgical language “performative speech”—speech with the quality of action—and the Unetaneh tokef is as performative as anything you will ever hear. The art of it is extraordinary: the ritual metaphor that evolves from the plain fact of not knowing the day of our death; the relentless catalogue of the chances that may await us; the powerful intimations of God’s judgment and God’s tenderness; the inescapable knowledge of our own frailty. This is the realest thing anyone will ever tell us in ritual. Sur-

rounded as it is by a liturgical padding of the accustomed, the incomprehensible and the massively dull, this prayer is the lightning-flash that reveals the naked contingency of our lives. Without the padding of dullness we could not endure it. Elsewhere the liturgy says that God suspends the earth over the void; the Unetaneh tokef shows us the thread on which it hangs.

Why should we put ourselves through such a confrontation—particularly if we are ambivalent about God, about prayer, about Jewish community, or about this particular Jewish community? Having now led the service for ten or twelve years (and been ambivalent, every year, about all those things), I have been struck every year by the prayer’s infinite capacity to stand up to experience. The suffering of friends, the death of friends, the unraveling of families, acts of terrorism and of war, the death of trees—the prayer gives relief for the worst of pains by acknowledging them without evasion or apology. It is something like the *King Lear* of the Hebrew liturgy: it multiplies shock and grief until we break through to compassion. The Unetaneh tokef is among the world’s highest examples of the liturgist’s art. To hear it is to have a focal point for all the sorrows of the past year, and for all the uncertainties of the next.

Project Rehovot

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Tikkun Olam Committee

JCA Tzedakah Helps Worthy Programs

One of the Tikkun Olam committee's duties is to distribute the JCA's tzedakah funds semi-annually. These funds come from two sources: (1) donations made by individual temple members, and (2) the tzedakah appropriations in the JCA budget. Here is how the committee distributed the Spring 2008 funds:

Greater Amherst Area:

Amherst Survival Center - provides food, clothing, medical care and community to people in need.

Family Outreach of Amherst - provides advocacy and case management to vulnerable low-income families, ensuring that their basic needs are met and helping them identify ways to improve their lives.

Hampshire Health Connect - connects uninsured and underinsured people with insurance programs and doctors willing to see them at a greatly reduced fee.

Jessie's House - Hampshire County's only shelter that offers emergency housing for families, Jessie's House provides shelter, food, case management, life skills education, referrals to other community services, and assistance in transitioning to permanent housing.

Pioneer Valley:

Open Pantry - provides food and social services to hungry, homeless and other disadvantaged people in the Springfield area. Also operates two shelters, including one for teenage mothers and their children.

Literacy Project - offers adult basic education program through five regional classroom sites, as well as and distance-learning opportunities.

National

Shalom Center - addresses ecological issues from a Jewish perspective, conducts anti-war/anti-violence work, seeks to reinvigorate Jewish spiritual practice, and promotes interfaith harmony.

Jewish Fund for Justice - helps Americans achieve social and economic

security via grant-making and loans, service learning, leadership development, organizing, education, and advocacy.

International

American Jewish World Service - works worldwide (including Darfur) at the grassroots level to help communities move beyond poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease and disasters.

Global Fund for Women - makes grants to seed, strengthen and link women's rights groups based outside the United States that are working to address human rights issues.

International Rescue Committee - provides emergency relief, relocates refugees, and advocates for victims of human and natural disasters worldwide.

The autumn 2008 tzedakah distributions will be posted in a future newsletter. We invite you to donate to the JCA tzedakah fund in honor or memory of a special person, or simply as part of your overall giving. In the meantime, if you'd like to get involved in the JCA's Tikkun Olam/social action efforts, please contact Epi Bodhi at epi@cohousing.com.

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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 interested in the May 2009 trip, please contact Karen Loeb at 413-253-0336 or email at kloeb@comcast.net.

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Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

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

November 13 - 16, 2008 in Boston

Hundreds of Reconstructionists and like-minded 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.

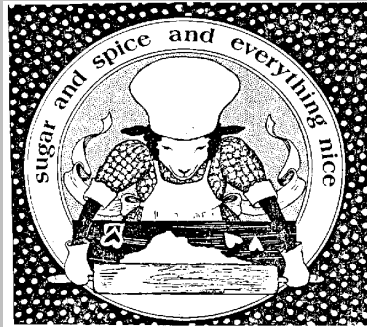
Networking opportunities throughout Convention will facilitate connections between our communities, such as break-out sessions, affinity group meetings, and receptions. Come and contribute your questions and your congregation's best practices to the conversations!

RENA (Reconstructionist Educators of North America) and Harmonyiah--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>

Please Note: If you cannot attend the entire convention,
it is possible to register only for the day(s) you wish to attend.



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Saul Gladstone

In Appreciation of Linda Cooper, whose wonderful Shabbat kiddush has enhanced our sense of community after Shabbat services (Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein)

New Members

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

Scott & Amy Siege and children Claire, Benjamin and Owen

The First Annual WEMA Fest

Golem, Neshama Carlebach and Jewmongous To Headline

The First Annual Western Massachusetts Jewish Music & Arts Festival (WEMA Fest) will take place outdoors at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, Sunday September 21.

The organizers view WEMA Fest as an experience to bring people together throughout the Jewish communities of the Pioneer Valley, the Berkshires, Worcester, Hartford, New Haven, Providence, and others from the region.

The idea for WEMA Fest was born through childhood friends Micah Becker-Klein, Jewish life director at the Springfield JCC; and Howie Schnee, President of Manhattan-based concert promotion company Creative Entertainment Group. When asked about the background, Becker-Klein responded, "When we started talking about ways in which our professional and personal interests could intersect, we came upon the idea of a new Jewish music and arts festival. It was a natural evolution linking what is new and what is old and keeping it fresh. Jewish music and art are well recognized as valuable components to Jewish life and cultural expression historically and in the 21st century."

The music lineup includes headliners **Golem**, **Neshama Carlebach**, and **Jewmongous**.

Golem is a 6-piece Eastern European folk-punk band from New York City. Spending nights in Lower East Side immigrant-owned bagel shops and summers in Eastern Europe, founding member Annette Ezekiel collects Jewish, Gypsy, and Slavic folk songs, and, with Golem, rewrites, adds, edits, and rearranges them along the way.

One of the leading superstars in Jewish music is **Neshama Carlebach** who continues the legacy established by her father Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. His deep spirituality and his love of all humanity filled every song he wrote. He touched every person he encountered as he changed the face of Jewish music. Like her father, Neshama's talent and charisma captivate and endear her to people of all ages and backgrounds as she performs in cities all over the world with her soulful melodies and passionate lyrics.

Jewmongous, a comedy song concert, is the colicky, uncircumcised brain child of Sean Altman, the golden-voiced song-writing wiz behind the pioneering comedy act What I Like About Jew and the founder and former leader of Rockapella. Sean was featured in Time Out New York's cover story "The New Super Jews," and in the New York Times feature about "The Jewish Hipster Movement."

Other acts are expected to be announced later this month. Sponsors include Zeek, The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, The Eugene Ferkauf Foundation, Najman Pierce Family, JCC of Springfield, and Creative Entertainment Group.

Date: Sunday September 21, 2008

Time: Noon – 8pm

Where: Springfield JCC

1160 Dickinson Street

Springfield, MA

(413) 739-4715

www.springfieldjcc.org

Tickets & Info.: www.wemafest.org

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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.

Mothers Circle

Mothers of other faith traditions who are raising Jewish children --- need some support?

Join us for a free, 15 session group on the basics of Judaism and Jewish parenting. The popular Mothers Circle is enrolling women now for a course that begins on September 18, 2008. We meet every other week throughout the year in downtown Northampton, with additional family fun events and special activities. The group is non-judgmental and a good place to ask all your questions and express your concerns in a supportive group of peers. Led by award winning Jewish educator and social worker, Shoshana Zonderman. Mothers Circles are currently run in 26 cities, with a curriculum developed by the Jewish Outreach Institute in New York City (www.themotherscircle.org).

Can't commit to the group meetings? Call to find out about other free resources, social networking, family workshops and a national listserv for chats.

Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Family Service of Western Mass. See <http://hgf.org/families/index.php?page=7513>

For information or to enroll, call Shoshana 413-439-1946 Shoshana@themotherscircle.org

A Reading By Jon Papernick Imagining Redemption in a Secular Age

A reading with Jon Papernick September 18 at 5:30 p.m. Adele Simmons Hall Auditorium Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

Free and open to the public. For more information contact Professor Ra-

chel Rubinstein at rrhacu@hampshire.edu or 413.559.5821.

Posen Foundation Program for the Study of Secular Jewish History and Culture Visiting Writers Series

Jon Papernick was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. His first collection of short stories, *The Ascent of Eli Israel*, was released by Arcade Publishing in 2002.

He is the author of *Who by Fire*, *Who by Blood*, which he is currently adapting into a graphic novel with artist Sandy Jimenez. He recently completed his second collection of short stories, *There is No Other*.

Hillel Ride to Provide

Last September, seventy-five riders participated in the University of Massachusetts Hillel's inaugural Ride to Provide, a community Sukkot bike ride, to celebrate the season and help raise money to support Hillel's community service programs and environmentally-friendly projects.

This year's second annual Ride to Provide will be on Sunday, October 19 and plans are underway to expand the ride with 9, 18 and 36-mile bike routes through the picturesque autumn foliage of Amherst, Hadley and Sunderland - as well as a short walk for family members and non-riders.

People interested in riding, supporting, or volunteering for the "Ride to Provide" can go online to www.umasshillel.org/ridetoprovide or call the Hillel office at (413) 549-1710

Torah Yoga

Hadassah, CBI Sisterhood, and The Institute for Jewish Spirituality present:

TORAH YOGA every month beginning Sunday, September 14th, 2008 from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at

Lander-Grinspoon Academy. Experience Jewish Concepts through Classic Yoga Poses with

Judi Wisch, Educator, and Amy Reed Anusara-Inspired Yoga Instruc-

tor. All levels are Welcome. \$7/session. For information call Rachel Valitt, 549-1212 or rachelvalitt@hotmail.com. Supported in part by a grant from the Jewish Arts & Culture Initiative of The Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

National Yiddish Book Center

The National Yiddish Book Center will present the documentary, Tillie Olsen - A Heart in Action, on Sunday, September 7, 2008 at 2:00pm. (66 min.) Tickets are \$6.

The National Yiddish Book Center will present Rebecca Kaplan and Pete Rushefsky in concert on Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$10. Reservations are suggested.

Vocalist Rebecca Kaplan & tsimblist Pete Rushefsky have thrilled audiences throughout the northeast with performances of their rarely heard Yiddish folksongs.

Children of a Vanished World: Photographs by Roman Vishniac is a traveling exhibition curated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. The photographs will be on view at the National Yiddish Book Center through October 13, 2008

Meditation Group

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"* Meditation Group

Every Thursday in the CBI Library, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

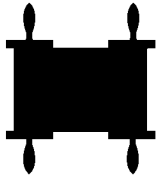
Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and Sheila Peltz Weinberg

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."

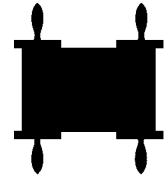
Psalm 65:2



Jewish Community of Amherst

September 2008

1 Elul 5768 ~ 1 Tishre 5769



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ^{1 ELUL} ✠Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 2 🇺🇸 Labor Day	2 ^{2 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	3 ^{3 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study	4 ^{4 ELUL} 5:30 pm New Member Open House, see page 10 7:30 pm Board Meeting	5 ^{5 ELUL} 🕒6:58 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper at Groff Park (weather permitting)	6 ^{6 ELUL} 🕒Shofrim 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service Bat Mitzvah: Madeline Wise 10:00 am Masorti Service
7 ^{7 ELUL} 2:00 pm JCA Clean Up Day see page 7	8 ^{8 ELUL} 7:30 pm Chesed Committee Meeting	9 ^{9 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Rabbi's Adult Ed Class	10 ^{10 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program	11 ^{11 ELUL}	12 ^{12 ELUL} 🕒6:46 Deadline for October Newsletter 6:15 pm Service led by Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein	13 ^{13 ELUL} 🕒Ki Tetze 10:00 am Service 7:00 pm JCA Meet and Greet see page 11
14 ^{14 ELUL} 10:00 am JCA School Opens	15 ^{15 ELUL}	16 ^{16 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Rabbi's Adult Ed Class	17 ^{17 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12 Noon Text Study 7:30 pm Book Group	18 ^{18 ELUL}	19 ^{19 ELUL} 🕒6:34 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	20 ^{20 ELUL} 🕒Ki Tavo 10:00 am Service 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds 9:00 pm Selichot, see page 5
21 ^{21 ELUL} ✠Selichot Begin 10:00 am High Holiday Community Education Program see page 7	22 ^{22 ELUL}	23 ^{23 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam Committee 7:00 pm Rabbi's Adult Ed Class	24 ^{24 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program	25 ^{25 ELUL}	26 ^{26 ELUL} 🕒6:22 6:15 pm Service	27 ^{27 ELUL} 🕒Nitzavim 10:00 am Service
28 ^{28 ELUL} No Religious School	29 ^{29 ELUL} ✠Erev Rosh Hashanah 🕒6:16 For High Holiday Services, see page 13	30 ^{1 TISHRE} ✠Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 Office Closed For High Holiday Services, see page 13				

Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

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L'Shanah Tovah

See pages 12 - 14 for High Holiday Information

September 4

New Member Open House (see page 10)

September 7

JCA Clean Up Day (see page 7)

September 13

Meet and Greet Social Evening (see page 11)

September 20

Selichot (see page 5)

September 21

Community Education Program (see page 7)

