

Jewish Community of Amherst

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

Candle Lighting

October 3 ~ 6:09 pm
October 10 ~ 5:58 pm
October 17 ~ 5:46 pm
October 24 ~ 5:36 pm
October 31 ~ 5:26 pm

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

Special Events

October 5
Sukkah Building

October 24
Film: Miss America

October 26
Sukkah Dismantling

November 2
Trip to Mayim Hayim

November 2
Rabin Memorial Lecture

Meetings

October 2
Board Meeting

October 6
Fundraising Planning

October 15
Religion Committee

October 22
Education Committee

October 27
Finance Committee

B'nai Mitzvah

October 25- 10:00 am
Ezra Orlinsky

Message from 1st Vice President

Lisa Perl binder, 230-3055, lperl binder@aol.com

I would like to interrupt your "regularly scheduled President's Column" to discuss something remarkable. The Jewish Community of Amherst was founded as a place to educate the children of the membership ensuring Jewish continuity in Amherst and beyond. I am deeply proud to announce that this founding principle has been achieved and has expanded to include the entire JCA community in addition to the school. A whole year of programs and special events are scheduled for all JCA members and members of the Upper Valley community - from toddlers to teens, from individuals to families to empty nesters, "Learning is what's happening at the JCA".

This year's JCA Religious School got underway Sunday, September 14th. So many enthusiastic faces filled the halls, all embarking on the next phase of their Jewish educational journey informed by the new five year strategic plan initiative supported by the JCA Ed Task Force and our incredible professional staff led by the Director of Lifelong Learning, Jody Rosenbloom. Under the auspices of the Five Year Strategic Plan, efforts will be concentrated in four main areas across all age groups, inclusive of JCA members as well as non members, providing Jewish experiences for all who seek them. Efforts will be directed toward building a strong learning community, Reconstructionist and regional collaborations, maintaining financial stability and maximizing volunteer resources, and building on successes.

The school kick off began with returning students and new students and their families gathering in the Social Hall. Family pictures were taken and family bios were collected to help teachers get better acquainted with their students. Next, students went to their classrooms while parents met in the sanctuary to discuss their expectations for the school as well as their own learning objectives for this year.

A lively discussion ensued facilitated by Jody and Rabbi Bauer. Ideas ranged from classes for parents held at the same time as school on Sunday to book group discussions to basic Hebrew. The emphasis was on inclusiveness and making sure all parents and students feel welcome while learning new things at school to build on Jewish practices at home.

As part of the implementation of the plan, the new Hebrew program on Wednesdays was discussed in detail. Children will be encouraged to learn Hebrew at their own pace in class, individually, and with partners led by Andrea Olkin, our Master Teacher. The goal of the Hebrew program is to familiarize students with the language of Jewish literacy (alphabet, sounds, vowels, and basic vocabulary), the ability to decode prayers, and follow services. Assessments will be made along the way to make sure each and every student comes away with some Hebrew knowledge as well as an appreciation of Jewish tradition and the possibilities of prayer in community.

The excitement was contagious. Parents, students, Teaching Assistants, Teachers, and the office staff were enthusiastic at the end of the first day. Next Sunday will be equally if not more compelling. The school will host its first Family Education program of the new school year, the Elul Invitational, written and produced by Rabbi Steve Nathan and led by Jody and the teachers. All are welcome to experience the High Holidays in a new way by doing arts and crafts, shofar blowing, text study and tikkun olam. Once again, this event is designed to include all ages, so feel free to come and make a card and send it to someone you care about in the JCA community or anyone who is special in your life. The JCA is the launch pad for you and your families as you seek personal meaning for your Jewish journey. Wishing each of you a special L'Shanah Tovah and I hope to see you soon.

October 2008

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5769

Vol. No. 7, Issue No. 9

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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 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 November issue is October 12th

October 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 9

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 min-yans, 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



The 42nd JRF Convention in Boston
Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century

Join the largest gathering of Reconstructionists in North America for four enriching days of learning, building connections, and sharing best practices to grow ourselves and our communities as we explore the theme Transformative Judaism for the 21st Century.

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, Sarah Liebman, 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 Cindy Shulak-Rome, Jerry Silverman, and Jonathan Woocher

Strengthening and Transforming Congregational Life
 with Rabbi Hayim Herring, Amy L. Sales, and Rabbi Elliott Tepperman

Rethinking the Role of Movements in the 21st Century
 with Rabbis Joy Levitt and Sid Schwarz

What is the Forefront of Tikkun Olam? with Rabbis Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Brant Rosen, and Toba Spitzer

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*.

Noah Feldman, recently named by New York Magazine as one of “the influentials” in ideas, will be our special guest speaker during Shabbat lunch. Feldman’s expertise is on the

relationship between law and religion in the West and Middle East.

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.

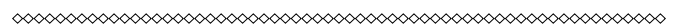
A special screening of Praying with Lior, an award-winning film by Ilana Trachtman. The film celebrates the Reconstructionist Bar Mitzvah of Lior Liebling, who has Down Syndrome, and explores themes of disability and spirituality.

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.

And much more!



Yes, the convention is expensive. I wish it weren’t, but to provide all the opportunities that it does, it costs.

Please look at all the different options on the registration page on the website [start at <http://www.jrf.org/convention> and then click “Register now.”]. There are single-day and Shabbat-only options that cost much less. Staying with friends or family in the Boston area will lower the costs, also.

Especially in this year of distressing global awareness -- war, economic weakness, and violent storms around the globe -- realizing that we are happily, wonderfully connected to Jews and congregations around the continent and in Israel is an important spiritual gain. I hope many of you will come to the convention for at least a day, if not more.

Kol tuv,
Rabbi Bauer

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 Shuvah, Parashat Vayelech

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

October 3, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper

October 4, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Catherine Madsen



October 5, Sunday

10:00 AM- Sukkah Building (rain date- October 12th)



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)

5:15 PM- Mincah

Break-Fast Following Ne'ilah

Youth Services and Activities

9:00 AM- Youth Activity Time

10:00 AM- Shofarot Program

11:15 AM- Family Service



Shabbat Ha'azinu, *Deuteronomy 32:1-52*

October 10, Friday

6:15 PM- Shabbat in the Groove

Service Leader: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

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

October 11, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



Sukkot

October 14, Tuesday

10:00 AM- Services at Hillel



Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 29:23-31

October 17, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service

Service Leader: To be announced

October 18, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

October 21, Tuesday

9:30 AM- Service with Yiskor

Service Leaders: Catherine Madsen and Rabbi Bauer

7:00 PM- Simchat Torah Celebration



Shabbat Bereshit, *Genesis 1:1-6:8*

October 24, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

The service will be followed by a potluck supper and a showing of the film *Miss America*. (see page 14 for more information)

October 25, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Ezra Orlinsky

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

Divrei Torah: Ezra Orlinsky and Rabbi Bauer



Shabbat Noach, *Genesis 6:9-11:32*

October 31, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

November 1, Saturday

10:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced

10:00 AM- Masorti Service



Please see page 12 for more information about High Holiday Services

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

September 6-

Michael and Nancy Bean, in honor of their daughter Madeline Wise becoming Bat Mitzvah

October 25-

Gary Orlinsky and Karen Koehler, in honor of their son Ezra becoming Bar 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.

Chanting Service

Come celebrate Shabbat at the JCA with chanting and silence

Chanting is an ancient form of devotional prayer that is particularly powerful when practiced in community. Join us at the JCA in November (date to be announced) to celebrate Shabbat through chanting and silence, and discover a new relationship to our beloved prayers and psalms.

The service, the first in a bimonthly series, will be led by Sara Schley, a long-time JCA member. Sara's teacher, Rabbi Shefa Gold, is a leader in Aleph: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and is known for her beautiful Jewish spiritual music and liturgies. Sara writes, "As you know, Shefa has been a very important teacher of Jewish spirituality and soul path for me and many others. Kol Zimra, her 2 year course in chant leadership has influenced my life in countless beautiful ways." The service begins at 10:00 AM in the small sanctuary.

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, November 1st 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 October 17th

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

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

Shabbat in the Groove- Friday October 10th

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.

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.

New Chumashim

The process of replacing our chumashim in the sanctuary continues.

Our only source of revenue for this is from your donations to the prayerbook fund.

Please consider aiding this effort.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted however a minimum donation of \$65.00 is required for a book dedication plate.

Education News

Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Life Long Learning, 256-0160, ext. 203



Introducing our Teachers

Our youngest students in Shabbat Shalom class meet on Saturday mornings with returning teacher **Melissa Zeitz**. Melissa is in her 6th year teaching at the JCA. She has teaching certification and an MA in Special Education from UMASS. She has taught in Amherst & Greenfield and is currently teaching in the Springfield Public Schools. First and Second Grades are beginning as a combined class taught by veteran teacher, **Ruth Love Barer**. Ruth Love is in her 9th year teaching at the JCA. She works in the Leverett Elementary School, and is a recipient of the Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Grades 3 & 4 are beginning as a combined class being taught by **Rachel Smith**. Last year Rachel taught 5th grade at the JCA. She has worked as a camp counselor and program specialist for children ages 10-15 in the United States and in Africa. Originally from New York, Rachel is a Div3 student at Hampshire College studying education. **Andrea Olkin** returns for the 7th year to teach 6th grade. Andrea has an MA, teaching certificate, and passion for history. Andrea has also tutored b'nai mitzvah students and is also a past recipient of the Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. We are fortunate to have veteran teachers on staff. They provide a strong framework of support for each other and our students.



Connecticut for a morning dedicated to professional development. The Deborah & Morton Mitnick Jewish Education Conference "4-in-One" is a new concept in professional development teacher conferences. Teachers will spend three hours with a nationally known master teacher who will present her subject in enough depth for teachers to take away real knowledge and workable classroom techniques. Each track is designed to the presenter's specifications: "Personal Theology of the Jewish Educator- is the Bible True?" with Cherie Koller-Fox, "Parents as Partners in Learning: Building the Home-School Connection" with Shellie Dickstein, "Hebrew: The Key to the Jewish People's Heart" with Dina Maiben and "MaGadlu Ma'asecha Yah: Integrating the Arts" with Nancy Katz and Felicia Sloin. There is also a special track for high school teaching assistants.

Throughout the morning teachers and teaching assistants will enrich their skills and build their network with teachers in the field. This opportunity is jointly sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, the Commission on Jewish Education and Leadership, the Resource Center for Jewish Education and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

continued on next page

Sweet Harvest: A Community Education Effort

Share in a fun-filled family celebration of Sukkes/Sukkot at Sweet Harvest on Monday, October 13 as we gather at the National Yiddish Book Center with Jews from across the Pioneer Valley. Following the highly successful 2005 High Holidays Sweet Beginnings and the previous 2006 Sweet Harvest, this festival hosts a variety of activities, performances and workshops on Sukkes/Sukkot related themes. The JCA Family Education Program is sponsoring the booth where you learn about the lulav and etrog. Connect this holiday with Jewish sources and mitzvot linked to providing shelter and food and caring for the environment. Mark your calendar. See the following page for more information.

Teacher Professional Development: Collaboration with Connecticut

On Sunday, Nov. 2, the JCA teaching staff will join their colleagues from across Western Massachusetts and Western

Calendar

Wed, Oct 1	No Classes- Rosh Hashanah
Sun, Oct 5	Coffee Talk/Tea Time With Parents of 1st/2nd graders, 10:00-11:00 am
Wed, Oct 8	No Classes- Kol Nidre Yom Kippur
Sat/Sun, Oct 11/12	No Classes- Columbus Day Weekend
Monday, Oct 13	SWEET HARVEST/ Sukkes/Sukkot FESTIVAL, 11:00 am-3:00 pm at NYBC
Sat, Oct 18	Shabbat Shalom (registered 4-6 year olds) 10:30am-12:00 pm
Tues, Oct 21	Simchat Torah Family Service, 7:00 pm
Sun, Oct 26	Coffee Talk/Tea Time with Parents of 3rd/4th graders, 10:00-11:00 am
Sun, Nov 2	No Classes- Teacher Professional Development Day

continued from previous page

Fundraisers


- *Dean’s Beans: Order forms in the lobby.
- *Boxtops for Education: Next deadline is the end of October.
- *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 a Hebrew aleph-bet puzzle



Please bring in all your clipped Box Tops for Education to the JCA. The large plastic container will be in the JCA lobby. It’s an easy way to make \$\$ for our Synagogue!

Make a Coffee Date with Dean’s Beans

What better way to support the JCA and start your day, than with a cup of Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee? Whether you drink regular, decaf, medium or dark roast, Dean’s Beans has something for you. By ordering through the JCA, you are guaranteed a great product at a great price!



Ordering and pick up dates for this season are:
 Order Due Dates: 10/12/08, 11/9/08, 12/7/08, 1/4/09, 2/1/09, 3/1/09, 3/29/09, 5/3/09, 5/31/09, 6/28/09
 Pick up on/after the following Friday

Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee is Fair Trade, roasted locally, offered at a great price, supports the JCA School and aids indigenous 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 recently published book, *Javatrekker*. It may just inspire you to rethink your coffee buying decisions (if you haven’t done so already).



**Sweet Harvest Festival
 Monday October 13, 2008**

Join in a community-wide celebration of Sukkes / Sukkot on Monday, October 13, 2008 from 11 am to 3 pm at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. A festival with activities for all ages: Musical Performances, Poetry Open Mike, Harvest Olympics, Lulav Shakes, Folk Dancing, Family Art Projects, Sukkot Memory Interviews, Jewish Energy Healing, Environmental Activities, Storytelling, kosher food for sale, and more.

The outdoor stage will host an array of local Jewish performers: Conscious Hip Hop ~ Kind-Groove, Gospel & Blues ~ Marla BB, Jewish Soul ~ Felicia Sloin, Contemporary Folk ~ Rabbi Micah, and Jewish Rhythms ~ Adrian Durlerster.

Tickets for the day are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 3-12 with an \$18 max for families.

Rain or Shine!!

Bring a non-perishable food donation for Rachel’s Table and get entered in the Sweet Harvest raffle.

This event is a collaboration of the National Yiddish Book Center, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s Arts & Culture Initiative and The PJ Library, the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Community of Amherst, and LGA Schechter.

For more information:
 413-439-1973 or judi@hgf.org

תודה רבה **Thank you** to the Perlbinder Porter Gamliel family for a special donation to the JCA Religious School in honor of the efforts of Jody Rosenbloom, Rachael Goren and the Ed Task Force .

Save the date...Please join us for a presentation and discussion of

Jewish Rituals of Death and Mourning

Sunday, November 23rd from 2-4pm in the Social Hall

We’ll learn about the wealth of Jewish rituals and practices surrounding death and the grieving process, including:

- * Shomerim... watching and honoring the body;
- * Tahara ... purification ritual before burial;
- * Shiva and beyond ... the Jewish process of mourning;
- * We will also provide information about practical matters such as securing a plot at the JCA cemetery.

Come join us for this informal and informative presentation!

TEEN PROGRAMMING October 2008



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

**Sunday, October 19th, 12-5pm:
GLEANNING WITH GLADNESS**

Join us for the second annual Gleaning with Gladness- we will pick the extra crops from local farms and donate it to Rachel's Table to help distribute it to those in need. Spend a few hours and help make a difference. Free to JCAT members, \$5 for non-members. Meet and pickup at the JCA. RSVP to jcateens@gmail.com by Friday 10/10.



**Friday-Sunday, October 24-26th, Camp JRF,
South Sterling, PA:
JRF TEEN KALLAH!**

Join us for a fabulous weekend of fun, engaging programming, making new friends, late night snacks, discussions, services, exploration, dancing, singing, playing games, building community, deep conversations, enjoying the outdoors and hanging out! We will be sending at least one car load to this amazing Kallah that is open to 8-12th graders from the EAST COAST. Check out www.noarhadash.org or email teendir@j-c-a.org for more info. Cost \$185 plus transport- up to 50% can apply for funding through HGF. Parent(s) are needed to volunteer.

Other Local Jewish Teen Events....

B'nai Tzedek Retreat Sun-Mon Oct. 12-13th: B'nai Tzedek teens are invited to attend the annual Retreat to learn about Tzedekah, tikkun olam, and social change, as well as learn about ecoJudaism. For more information, email Valerie@hgf.org.



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).

The first spark! session will be held on
Sunday, October 5th, 2-4:30pm at the
Center for Extended Care, Amherst.

For more information or to RSVP contact Avital at avihistory@gmail.com.

KEHILA קהילה Program

Have you heard about the Kehila Program?

This amazing new program is open to 8-12th graders from all over the Valley who are interested in being in a chillax nonjudgmental environment to explore Jewish issues and Jewish identity.

Classes for this month are from 6-8pm on:
Wed. Oct. 15th
Wed. Oct. 29th

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: Enjoying the Harvest

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

As we enter into October and the harvest holiday of Sukkot, I am pleased to announce that we will be offering for the second time our **Gleaning with Gladness Program** on Sunday, October 19th. This program is a great opportunity to make a difference in someone's life by gleaning, or collecting the extra harvest from a local farm and donating the food through Rachel's Table to those who need it. I hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to start our Rosh Hashana resolutions right.

I also encourage any teen that is interested in meeting some other really cool Reconstructionist teens from the East coast to attend the **Teen Kallah at Camp JRF** on Oct. 24-26 in South Sterling, PA. We will be putting together a car load of teens to travel down and back (we are looking for a parent to volunteer) and you will for sure have a weekend to remember. **B'nei Tzedek** is having their retreat on Oct. 12-13th— so there are many opportunities this month to do something different, get out of the Valley, and help out others.

This year has started off to a great start. We had over 25 teens attend the **Kehila Open House** in September, and our numbers are looking good to be able to continue to fund the program. There are still a few more slots for 8th graders, so if you are interested, email teendir@j-c-a.org to come check out the next class. Our teachers for this program include: **Amy Epstein (8th-Holocaust and Human Rights & Electives)**, **Rabbi Steve Nathan (Comparative Religion and Comparative Judaism & Electives)**, **Avital Nathman (11/12th— JUST)**, **Andrea Olkin (Hebrew Elective)**, and **Rachel Smith (Theatre Elective)**.

Our first JCAT events have gone well— we had 13 teens at our Ice Cream Social event, and even more attending the

Schmooze and Rosh Hashana teen services. Teens should plan on attending the Gleaning with Gladness this month to see their friends.

A Note About BBYO

Many parents have inquired about the relationship between BBYO and the JCA. I just wanted to provide you with the facts about the relationship and recent history. About two years ago, BBYO approached the JCA because they had issues with keeping their volunteer advisers and wanted our help. We opened our arms and assisted them with their staffing issue by forming a collaboration. They assisted in financially supporting their adviser, and we supervised the advisers and the teens to keep the program alive. For two years the collaboration went as such and we were able to build the BBYO group to be much bigger and successful. BBYO has decided to pull out of this relationship due to financial constraints and is returning to their volunteer adviser model without the JCA's supervision. The JCA hopes to continue to collaborate on specific events with the BBYO group and wishes them luck this year. Any questions about BBYO events or programs should be directed to the BBYO board or the regional office in New Haven, CT. Given this recent split, the JCA will continue to offer its programming for JCAT for 7-9th graders, spark for 8-9th graders, the Kehila Program for 8-12th graders, and periodic programming for 9-12th graders in conjunction with BBYO, other local synagogues, and other affiliated organizations.

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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Committee Reports

Arts and Culture Committee

We welcome paintings, prints, photos on our walls in the corridor leading to the sanctuary. In order to coordinate exhibits on those spaces, we ask anyone who would like to hang visuals first to contact Natalie Jarmon, art exhibit coordinator. You can contact her at njarmon@verizon.net or 256-8898. Thanks for your cooperation.

Chesed Committee

The Chesed Committee assisted the American Red Cross on Tuesday, August 12th at the 3rd Annual JCA Summer Blood Drive. As always, it was a great success, collecting 78 pints of precious Blood! Thank you to the following Volunteers who made this Drive run so smoothly: Cheryl Edgerly, Susan Myers, Susan Reisman, Judy Davis, Jeanne Friedman, Kitty Talan, Hollie Kalkstein, Kayla Werlin, Sara Berger, Barbara Pistrang, Fran Ziperstein, Fay Zipkowitz, Marilyn Kushick, Suzanne Severin and Linda Reif. And of course THANK YOU to all the donors who gave the GIFT OF LIFE. Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Blood Drive on Weds., November 26th. See you there!

Communications Committee

The recently formed Communications Committee has been busy over the past several months. This is what we've been up to:

JCA directory, mailed to all members, with plans for phasing in other information in next year's directory

JCA newsletter redesign for saving money and making it more concise, logical, and user friendly, without changing the general look and feel.

JCA signage (almost in place) for front of building, providing identity and a sense of history and stability to the community.

JCA media list and public relations guide, given out at retreat for all committee chairs and posted several times on committee chairs' listserv.

JCA policy manual for all board members and committee chairs (about two months from completion, being reviewed by Sarah Thomson), providing membership with clear documentation of all JCA policies.

JCA new listing for Social Hall in Business West's annual Resource Guide (free), expanded write-up for synagogue in All Things Jewish.

JCA Social Hall brochures designed, formatted, and produced (~150 copies to start, 100 now being reprinted) to

publicize the Social Hall and give interested people an attractive document to refer to.

Membership Committee

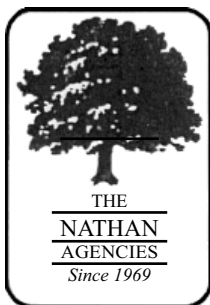
JCA hosts open house.

On September 4, 2008 about 30-40 people were present for a new and prospective member open house. Present at the open house were long time members, new members, people considering the JCA, board members, Rabbi Bauer and educational director Jody Rosenbloom.

There was a lot of great energy in the air as people mingled, ate pizza, salad and dessert, met new people and re-connected with friends. That afternoon we discovered that one of our members once lived in Wassila, Alaska (and her name is not Sarah), two people discovered that they grew up in same town in New Jersey, one JCA member had been in Israel that morning and at the JCA that night and one member talked about how wonderful the JCA had been for her when she had a death in the family.

Among other things, the JCA is about connecting with others. We hope to facilitate more connections and opportunities for our members and prospective members to meet and get to know one another. Let us know how we can help and shana tova.

Please see page 13 for an important report from the Fundraising Committee



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***Abayudaya Jewish Leader from Uganda
Coming to The Jewish Community of Amherst
Wednesday, November 12***

Israel Siriri, head of the executive committee for the Abayudaya Jewish community in Mbale, Uganda, will speak about his community at the JCA on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm.

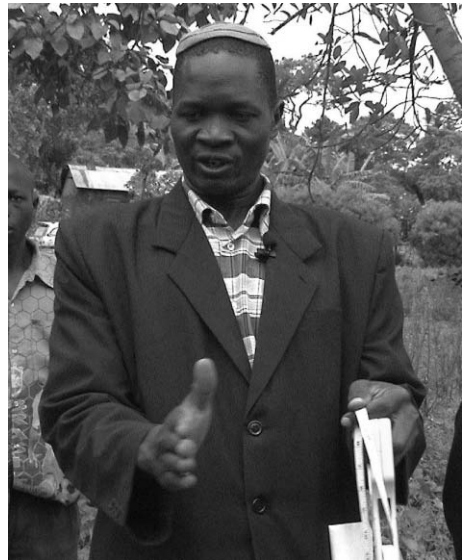
Mr. Siriri is visiting as part of a national speaking tour sponsored by U.S.-based Kulanu, Inc., which is dedicated to reaching out and assisting lost and dispersed remnants of the Jewish people.

Mr. Siriri will be speaking about the 700-member Abayudaya community (established in 1919) and their struggle to maintain their Jewish identity in Uganda. He will share the latest news of the joint Abayudaya/Kulanu sustainable development mitzvah projects working to help this struggling African Jewish community. He also will discuss how the crisis in Kenya is adversely affecting these projects in Uganda.

He will update audiences on the Kulanu-supported Abayudaya primary and high schools, feeding and educating 500 Jewish, Muslim and Christian children studying together in peace. Mr. Siriri will report on the child hunger project, public health education and women's empowerment programs; on-going classroom, dorm and school kitchen construction; as well as the village micro-finance, crafts, music CD, coffee, dried fruit and eco-tourism self-help projects.

For more information about Kulanu and the Abayudaya, please visit www.kulanu.org.

Singer-songwriter and ethnic folklorist **Laura Wetzler**, who has served as Kulanu.org Coordinator for Uganda for 7 years, will be also be on hand to answer audience questions with Mr. Siriri about the 20 different Kulanu-Abayudaya projects at work in rural Uganda. Laura Wetzler and Abayudaya farmer JJ Keki created the award winning "Delicious Peace" fairtrade, organic, kosher, halal coffee project recently featured in Oprah Magazine, bringing together 700 Jewish, Muslim and Christian Ugandan farmers working together in peace."



KULANU
"All of Us"

***Please join us in welcoming Israel Siriri
at a light buffet supper at 6pm followed by
his presentation about the Abayudaya community at 7pm.***

All are welcome at both portions of the evening.
We ask you to consider a free-will donation as you are able to support the costs of the dinner and Mr. Siriri's presentation.
Please let us know of your plans to attend the dinner or presentation to help us plan for food and seating.
You may email the coordinator Paul Charette at cyclone411@charter.net or call him at 860-559-4926.
Paul can also answer any questions you may have.

***Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002 413-256-0160***



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- Shofarot Program

With Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

11:15 AM- Family 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

9:30 AM- Nature Hike & Worship

Meet at Notch Parking Lot, Route 116



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

5:15 PM- Minchah

Service Leader: To be announced

Cantor: To be announced

6:15 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- Shofarot Program

With Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

11:15 AM- Family Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein



Sukkot

Sunday, October 5- Sukkah Building

Tuesday, October 14- Sukkot

10:00 AM- Services at UMass Hillel



Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Tuesday, October 21

9:30 AM- Shemini Atzeret Services with Yiskor

7:00 PM- Simchat Torah Celebration



Fundraising Update

There is a little “publication” debuting this new year, a donation envelope that makes it more convenient for members and guests to thank, to honor, to commemorate, or to share a joy, anonymously or not. The envelope’s text also has a check-off for visitors who want more information about the JCA. (See Steve Woolf’s design below).

Making donation envelopes available at services and holidays was one of the simpler actions recommended by the “JCA Fundraising Strategic Plan Task Force” in 2006. The strategies that the Task Force came up are guiding the current Fundraising Committee, because they still make sense. We still need to fill the gap between dues membership revenue and what it costs to run the kind of JCA that we want.

We have a small Fundraising Committee now (Steve Woolf, Laurie Nisonoff, Eli Kwartler and myself) whose task is not to raise funds (as you might think), but rather to help the JCA maintain a focus on fundraising, to develop and help launch a major annual event tied to a regular and repeatable business sponsorship program, and to support JCA volunteers with resources and institutional memory. The main strategies recommended by the 2006 Task Force were:

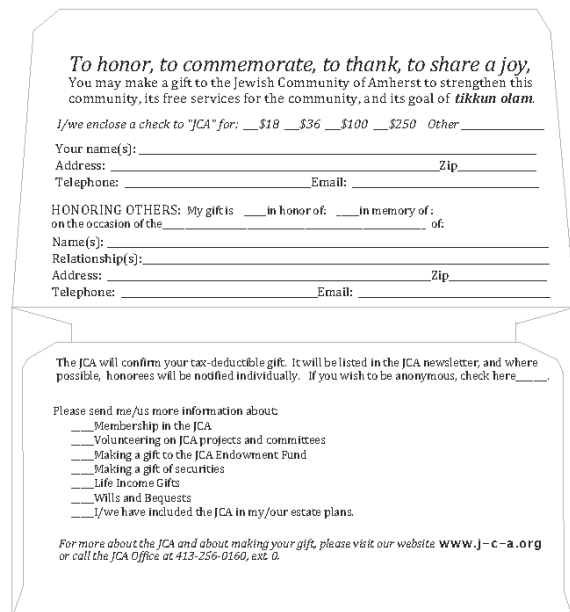
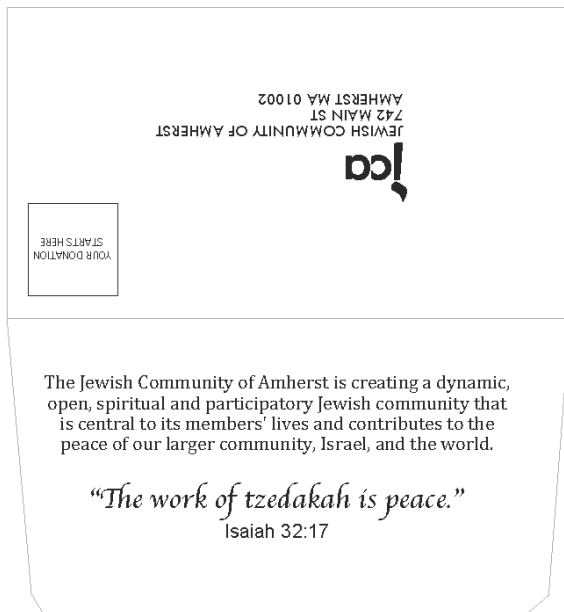
1. Limiting the number of fundraising events to one major event per year, plus 2-4 smaller activities.
 2. Making intentional fundraising activities more productive (bring in more money for the effort expended!)
 3. Simplifying and publicizing the giving of unsolicited donations.
 4. Emphasizing the importance of the Annual campaign and the Board’s leadership of it; raising usually the other 50% of the income from fundraising)
 5. Planning for a \$1 Million Endowment campaign and including planned (end-of-life) giving opportunities
- [As you know, this year the JCA has moved on #4 and #5 already and is launching an endowment campaign, in league with major Jewish organizations in Western Massachusetts, under the volunteer leadership of David Sharken and his Endowment and Legacy team.]

Doing one major fundraising event/program each year is critical to reach our goal. Last year’s auction is a spectacular example of what we can achieve: the auction raised \$19,000 net, fully 2/3 of our events goal. Almost 19% of that came from business and individual sponsorships and that is the part that we would like to expand this year, offering more opportunities for visibility to sponsors throughout the year. We don’t have an auction leader for 2009 (but hope that Tobi Sznajderman and her team will

be back in 2010!) and it might be more effective to do it every other year, for donors and buyers alike. We have talked to a lot of you and are thinking of a **different, repeatable event for the alternate years starting spring 2009 that would accomplish some community goals as well as provide the occasion for a publication (program book) that could feature the sponsors, as well as other content that would make it a useful booklet for JCA members to hang on to throughout the 2009-2010 year.** We need your thoughts and ideas for this activity and we’d like to try out some of ours with you. And we surely need volunteers to lead and be part of a team to make it happen. But let’s shape the idea first. **Please come to a Major Event planning meeting on Monday, October 6, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Library at the JCA. The meeting is not only for people who would work on the event, but also for those who just want the major event to be a success.**

In the meantime, please call or email me (413-835-5370), jaymiechernoff@yahoo.com with your comments. (If some of you want to meet Sunday morning, Oct. 5 at the JCA, while kids are in the religious school, we can meet informally then too.)

Jaymie Chernoff,
Fundraising Committee chair



Upcoming Special Events

Friday Night Film- *Miss America*

On **Friday, October 24th**, after Friday evening services at 8:00 pm, we have the rare opportunity of seeing a film by a director who will be present for a discussion and questions and answers after the viewing. If your family was anything like mine, you watched the Miss America pageant every year. Lisa Ades's film, *Miss America*, is a wonderful sociological slice of American life as it chronicles what it means to be Miss America and how that meaning has changed along with the role of women in American society. It's a fun-to-watch documentary that follows the evolution of the pageant as it was transformed from a beachfront cakewalk to a "respectable" contest that included a scholarship program and a talent competition. Forty years ago the first major demonstration of the emerging women's liberation movement was held at the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City. The film contains an interesting segment on Bess Myerson, the first and only Jewish Miss America.

Sponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee

The Friday evening service begins at 6:15 and will be followed by a potluck supper before the film.

Trip to Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters

Please note in your calendars that the JCA will be sponsoring a trip to visit Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters in Newton on **Sunday, November 2, 2008**. Mayyim Hayyim reclaims the ancient tradition of mikveh and reinvents the rituals of immersion to serve the needs of a diverse 21st century Jewish community. Since their opening, they have provided more than 4,700 immersions to women, men, girls, boys and infants—all marking transitional moments in their lives. Mayyim Hayyim provides two sparkling, kosher pools (mikvaot) where Jews of all backgrounds and descriptions can explore water as a source for spiritual renewal and healing. We will carpool from the JCA at approximately 10:30 AM and we expect to return at approximately 5 PM. We will have a tour of facilities and an educational program from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM. You can set up appointments for an immersion following the tour. Information about this wonderful Mikveh is available at www.mayyimhayyim.org Further information will be disclosed as we get closer to the date but if you have any questions please feel free to contact Jeff Cohen (cohen@bc.edu) or Amy Mittleman (amGU@hampshire.edu).

Annual Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture-

Rabbi Andrew Davids of AZRA (Association of Reform Zionists of America)

Embracing Ambivalence: Exploring the complexities of our relationship to Israel

November 2, 2008, 10:30 AM

Sponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst and the Northampton-Amherst chapter of Hadassah

The event is free and open to the public

Why are many progressives ambivalent toward Israel? In his talk, "Embracing Ambivalence: Exploring the complexities of our relationship to Israel," Rabbi Andrew Davids will discuss some of the reasons American Jews, who grew up supporting the need for a Jewish homeland both financially and politically, are searching for a new paradigm that will define their relationship to the Jewish state in the light of changed cultural and political conditions. He welcomes questions from the audience. There will be an opportunity for small-group discussion after lunch.

Rabbi Davids leads AZRA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He has been involved in Jewish organizations for more than 20 years. In addition to his ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, he holds a Masters in Public Administration, has served as Director of the Union for Reform Judaism's Youth Division, as a camp director, and as an organizational management consultant.

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You'll find that the fees we charge you are very reasonable.

For sample menus and price quotes contact Karen Loeb at 413 575 0774 or kloeb@comcast.net.

We can provide you with the names and numbers of many very satisfied customers. Kudos from some of our customers:

Once again I must tell you that I was thrilled with the Kiddush and hear over and over that people thought it was the best Kiddush they had ever attended!

Christine Benvenuto

The Kiddush could not have been more delicious nor more beautifully presented; all of our guests felt so well-fed and happy that day!

Lisa Perl binder

I know that I already told you how much we appreciated the wonderful spread you prepared for our post-wedding party. You took pains with the menu and the choices of food were perfect.

Joan Rabin



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.

Please sign up for this trip sooner rather than later. There are already 15 people who have committed to the trip!

Kidney Donor Needed

Bryan Knapp, the son of Susan and Richard Knapp of Belchertown, has a rare kidney disease called Alport Syndrome. Bryan is a grad student at Wash. U in St. Louis. He is married and has a two-year-old son. Currently, his kidneys are functioning at 18%, and soon he will need a transplant. If you are interested in finding out how to become a donor, please contact Elissa Rubinstein at (413) 549-5078 or Susan Knapp at (413) 323-9738. There is no age limit nor blood type requirement.

The Deadline for the November Newsletter is
October 12th

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

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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.

We Need Your Guestroom, October 24-25

If you have a guestroom available for both nights, you can raise funds for the JCA, not to mention do a mitzvah for visiting parents who are out of luck. All four private colleges in the area have their Parents weekends on the same dates this fall, Oct. 24-25, and the Valley hotels are already full up. A grandparent couple from NYC has booked a JCA Bed&Bagel weekend to visit their granddaughter at Mount Holyoke. They are so grateful! And they will write a check for \$240 to the JCA (\$60 per person/per night is our requested donation).

The JCA Bed and Bagel program is listed on the websites of both Amherst and Smith Colleges and alumni offices and Jewish student leaders will be passing the word. We need more JCA hosts to make this program a success. Would you be a host for this weekend? Please call Jaymie Chernoff at 413-835-5370 or jaymiechernoff@yahoo.com with your response or for questions.

It's easy to host; you don't need to socialize; the guests are usually so busy they don't even have time for the proverbial bagel, in my experience. A clean room, a bath for the use of the guests, is all they ask for.

The Bed & Bagel fundraiser (providing a guestroom in return for a donation to the JCA) is going to operate for the college families for only two weekends a year, Parents Weekend in the Fall and Commencement in the Spring. We will solicit hosts from the whole JCA membership each time. In the past the B&B has been more of a service than a fundraiser, but we are trying this focused approach to get better results. This is the model that the Jones Library B&B operates on.

Nili Sneh Exhibit at the JCA

Nili Sneh is an Israeli multidisciplinary artist, who is currently visiting Amherst.

In her abstract work Nili uses a variety of oil colors, expressing her inner world. The textures and shapes are intertwined into a creative harmony on canvas.

She said: "We grow into our own rightful shape."

Her work is diverse; in some of her paintings the movement of the brush strokes form layers of colors indicating her Jewish strength, others show a poetic minimalism of her own joy and of Zen influence.

Nili is known for her art installations and Zen meditation gardens. Currently, she is devoting herself to oil painting and has had successful exhibitions in Israel (recently: Tel Aviv 2008, Jerusalem 2007).

Her paintings are inviting to reveal a poetic dialogue between softness and strength; simplicity and complexity.

If you would like to purchase her work please contact:

Nili Sneh

Tel: (413) 835 1215,

E-Mail: baruchs@tauex.tau.ac.il

3 Menuchin St., Rehovot, Israel 76655

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Donations

Arts & Culture

In Gratitude to Judy & Allen Davis for your love and support this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

Bikor Cholim

In Honor of the Bikor Cholim for healing support (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

In Gratitude to Chris Benvenuto for your help and compassion this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

Chesed

With deepest thanks for the kindness of the Chesed Committee (Patty & Fred Levine)

In Honor of the Chesed Committee for all the meals you brought this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

In Celebration of the birth of Kaleb Eisen, Efraim & Rosalie's new grandson (Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu)

JCA General Fund

In Honor of the seventh anniversary of the Interfaith Spirituality and Social Change Group (Herb Bernstein)

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of my sister, Lois Litt, at the commemoration of her Yahrzeit (Allan Feldman)

In Memory of Harry Blaustein (Marilyn & Jeffrey Blaustein)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Tim Levy and Abigail Loeb's marriage (Karen & John Loeb)

In Gratitude to Reed & Arnie Alper for your help and love this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

Religion Committee

In Gratitude to Saul Gladstone and Esther Schneier for your love and friendship (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

In Gratitude to Aaron and Patience Bousel for your help and love this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

In Gratitude to Batya Perman for your generosity and love this year (Judy Young & Gene Stewart)

Tzedakah

In Gratitude for Rabbi Feld's coming through his accident without more serious injury (Esther Schneier & Saul Gladstone)

In Gratitude for Hadar Grabel coming through her car accident without serious injury (Esther Schneier & Saul Gladstone)

New Members

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

Edith Perman Allen

Chaia Wolf & Peter Wood and children Tavi and Aza

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Not Bread Alone Board Opening

Not Bread Alone, Amherst's Soup Kitchen, is seeking a JCA member to serve on their board, as a replacement for a JCA member who has recently stepped down.

The Not Bread Alone Board meets monthly September-June and works on projects to support Not Bread Alone.

Anyone who might be interested in serving on this board should contact Barbara Pistrang at:
barbara@jpcr.com or 413-256-1737.

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Community Announcements

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

Hadassah

GALA LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 19-- 12:00 Noon
At the new Courtyard by Marriott
423 Russel St. (Route 9), Hadley

“PEARLS, POLITICS AND POWER:
HOW WOMEN CAN WIN AND
LEAD”

Keynote Address by
Madeleine M. Kunin,
Former Governor of Vermont

All are welcome but
reservations are required.

For more information call Henia Lewin
413-253-8836

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” should contact Ted Diamond at gemvet1@aol.com, team captain for the JCA, register online at 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 Instructor. 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 Lucette Lagnado in conversation with Ilan Stavans on Sunday, October 5th at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$6. Reservations are suggested.

Egyptian refugee Lucette Lagnado will discuss her memoir, *The Man in the*

White Sharkskin Suit, with author and cultural critic, Ilan Stavans. Lagnado's memoir is the story of her Jewish family's life in Egypt, their 1962 exodus to New York by way of Paris, and their search for reinvention and a land that would welcome them.

The National Yiddish Book Center will present an author's talk entitled, *Gilded Lions and Jeweled Horses: The Synagogue to the Carousel* with Professor Murray Zimiles on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$6.

The National Yiddish Book Center will host a community reading and discussion series to explore the fascinating works of contemporary Jewish writers. Discussions are free and will be led by local scholars. Books are available at the National Yiddish Book Center at 20% discount. For more information call 413-256-4900 ext. 124. or go to the National Yiddish Book Center website ; www.yiddishbookcenter.org.

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.”

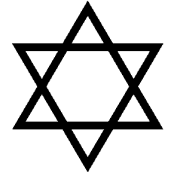
Psalm 65:2



Jewish Community of Amherst

October 2008

2 Tishre ~ 2 Cheshvan 5769



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2 TISHRE ✠✠Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 Office Closed For High Holiday Services, see p. 12	2 3 TISHRE ✠✠Fast of Gedalyah 7:30 pm Board Meeting	3 4 TISHRE ⚡⚡⚡6:09 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	4 5 TISHRE ⚡Vayelech 10:00 am Service
5 6 TISHRE 10:00 am Sukkah Building (rain date, October 12th)	6 7 TISHRE 4:30 pm Fundraising Planning	7 8 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Spirituality and Social Change 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Class	8 9 TISHRE ✠✠Erev Yom Kippur ⚡⚡6:01 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No Religious School For High Holiday Services, see p. 12	9 10 TISHRE ✠✠Yom Kippur Office Closed For High Holiday Services, see p. 12	10 11 TISHRE ⚡⚡⚡5:58 6:15 pm Shabbat in the Groove with Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein	11 12 TISHRE ⚡Ha'azinu 10:00 am Service No 7th grade
12 13 TISHRE No Religious School Dean's Beans orders due Newsletter Deadline	13 14 TISHRE ⚡⚡⚡5:53 11:00 am Sweet Harvest at National Yiddish Book Center (see page 7)	14 15 TISHRE ✠✠Succot - Day 1 Office Closed 10:00 am Sukkot Service at UMass Hillel	15 16 TISHRE ✠✠Succot - First Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation Religious School Resumes 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program 6:30 pm Religion Committee	16 17 TISHRE ✠✠Succot - Second Intermediate Day	17 18 TISHRE ⚡⚡⚡5:46 ✠✠Succot - Third Intermediate Day 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper Dean's Beans pickup	18 19 TISHRE ✠✠Succot - Fourth Intermediate Day 10:00 am Service 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds
19 20 TISHRE ✠✠Succot - Fifth Intermediate Day	20 21 TISHRE ✠✠Hoshanah Rabbah ⚡⚡⚡5:42 ✠✠Succot - Sixth Intermediate Day	21 22 TISHRE ✠✠Shemini Atzeret 9:30 am Shemini Arzeret Service Office Closed 7:00 pm Simchat Torah Celebration!!!	22 23 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Education Committee	23 24 TISHRE	24 25 TISHRE ⚡⚡⚡5:36 6:15 pm Service, followed by potluck supper and film (see page 14)	25 26 TISHRE ⚡Bereshit 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Ezra Orlinsky
26 27 TISHRE 10:00 am Sukkah Dismantling	27 28 TISHRE 8:00 pm Finance Committee	28 29 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Class	29 30 TISHRE ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 1 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program	30 1 CHESHVAN ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 2	31 2 CHESHVAN ⚡⚡⚡5:26 6:15 pm Service	

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L'Shanah Tovah

See page 12 for High Holiday Information

October 5

Sukkah Building

October 24

Film: Miss America (see page 14)

November 2

Trip to Mayyim Hayyim in Newton (see page 14)

November 2

Rabin Memorial Lecture (see page 14)

