

# Jewish Community of Amherst

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

## Candle Lighting

December 5 ~ 4:00 pm  
December 12 ~ 4:00 pm  
December 19 ~ 4:02 pm  
December 26 ~ 4:06 pm

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

## Special Events

**December 5**  
Kedushah LaTorah

**December 7**  
Annual Meeting

**December 12**  
Judith Roberts:  
of The Literacy Project

**December 21**  
Family Education and  
Chanukah Party

## Meetings

**December 4**  
Board Meeting

**December 10**  
Religion Committee

**December 17**  
Education Committee



## Message from President

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

Dear Fellow JCA Members:

It is once again the time of year to announce our JCA Annual Meeting. It will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 10:00 AM in our social hall.

This year we face a particular set of circumstances that most of us have never seen before. Amidst two wars and the worst economic challenges since the Great Depression, we as a nation have chosen to look forward and have elected a young, vibrant and highly intelligent man as our nation's President. In addition we celebrate our progress as a nation in electing our first African-American President. For all of these accomplishments and more we can look to the future with new hope and carry the "Yes We Can" mantra.

2008 has proven to be an extremely successful year at the JCA. We will be ending the year with a balanced budget despite quite a few challenges. In terms of program and finances our staff, committees and board have worked hard to make this year successful and to all of them we owe a great deal of gratitude and thanks. The same holds true for all of our dedicated and wonderful JCA members. "Yes We Can".

As we look forward to the coming year we find that the JCA is by no means immune from the outside economic and social pressures of the world. As we see all around us and within our own families people are pulling back and contemplating how to get along with less while struggling to maintain the basic elements of our lives that are so important to us. For so many of us the JCA is high up on the list of importance.

The budget presented to the community for 2009 and 2010 reflects these realities. With a great deal of struggle and hard work by the Education and Religion Committees in particular in conjunction with the board, we have

attempted to alter program costs while trying to minimize the effect on quality and content and maximize the savings. It would be nice to think that we could change the revenue side to cover these costs but history and common sense dictate that we are fiscally conservative, especially in times like we are presently experiencing. Please study the proposed budget carefully. We expect healthy discussion and questioning at the Annual Meeting. We welcome any ideas and suggestions that you have to ensure another successful year for our community. "Yes We Can".

This year's annual meeting will include:

1. A final report from the Strategic Planning Committee and the plans for implementation of the Strategic Plan.
2. A progress report from the Rabbinical Assessment Committee
3. A High Holiday Committee Report
4. A discussion and adoption of our 2009 & 2010 budgets.
5. Election of JCA officers and board members for 2009.

We want to recognize the many members and committees that have conducted cultural, religious, educational and social events that have enhanced both the personal and intellectual richness of our community. In addition we want to acknowledge the committees that support our financial, administrative and physical plant needs; without their contributions we would be unable to carry on the many daily activities we have all come to expect and enjoy.

Please join your fellow JCA members at the annual meeting and participate in our continuing success. I wish to once more extend my many thanks to all of you for making this possible.

*b'Shalom,  
John Loeb*

**December 2008**

**Kislev/Tevet 5769**

**Vol. No. 7, Issue No. 11**

## *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)

#### **Members:**

Kitty Axelson-Berry, Michael Chernoff, Paul Charette, Judi Fonsh,  
 Jerry Friedman, Mark Israel, Molly Jackson-Watts,  
 Oran Kaufman, 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 Assistants: Bonnie Webster, Eric Delisle** (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 January issue is December 12th**

*December 2008, Vol. 7, Issue No. 11*

*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**

I'm just back from the Jewish Reconstructionist Convention in Boston and I feel very proud to be both part of the JCA and of the JRF. There was a lot of learning and a lot of inspiration to be had by all of us at the Boston gathering. Conventions are a bother, they're expensive to hold and to attend. But they make a point and make a difference.

Our communal identity is shaped by our various affiliations: We are who we are because we are part of the town of Amherst, because we're part of the Jewish community of Pioneer Valley. We are who we are because of our affiliation to the Reconstructionist Movement, as well. Through them, we are part of larger conversations about the Jewish past and the Jewish future, and thank God for these opportunities.

Throughout the year, I share thoughts with other Reconstructionist rabbis to whom I am linked through our movement affiliation. We teach Torah to each other online, over the phone, and in person. We exchange sermon ideas, insights on synagogue policy, advice on educational and pastoral challenges, references to Torah and Talmud, Israeli poetry and art, and ways in which the Jewish community influences world politics and vice versa. Marcia in the JCA Office is linked to other Reconstructionist synagogue administrators, and our Board turns to other Reconstructionist lay leaders and to the movement office for counsel on countless issues.

Gatherings like this year's convention in Boston, though, remind me that all these connections are personal. It's not an organizational affiliation, it is true community. And the Reconstructionist community boasts of some of the sharpest minds and most passionate spirits in American Judaism.

A brief, incomplete list of what I absorbed from fellow community members (rabbis and lay leaders):

- New songs, new expressions of Jewish prayer
- Radical re-evaluations of synagogue membership

and Jewish educational strategies

- Techniques for making trips to Israel more attractive, meaningful, and memorable
- Awareness that we are part of tikkun olam on a very big scale
- Ways in which the JCA can be a national leader in rescuing the environment
- A more sophisticated way to understand the United States' diplomatic engagement with Israel and Iran
- Tools for more productive dialogue with other movements and communities in American Judaism
- Deeper and more personal understanding of the Hashkivenu blessing from the Friday night service
- A reminder of the role of artistic innovation and a focused aesthetic sense in shaping Jewish worship
- How Jewish ritual can generate communal awareness and spirit among hundreds of people who may never have met before

Among the many strangers there, it meant a lot to me personally to share the convention with JCA members John and Karen Loeb, Suzanne Arnopolin and Ronnie Williams, Catherine Madsen, Aaron Bousel, and Amy Fagin.

I happily promise the community to bring my learning from the convention to my work as rabbi of the JCA in the coming months and years. It was a powerful week, and I'm saying a shehechyanu for the opportunity.

*Kol tu,  
Rabbi Bauer*

***...I feel very proud to be both part of the JCA and of the JRF.***

**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](mailto:cyclone411@charter.net)

Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Co-chair, 413-774-5796, [shapiro-rieser@comcast.net](mailto:shapiro-rieser@comcast.net)

### RELIGION CALENDAR

#### Shabbat Vayetze, Genesis 28:10-32:3

##### December 5, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service  
Kedushat LaTorah followed by potluck supper

##### December 6, Saturday

10:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

10:00 AM- Masorti Service

There will be Torah study led by John Clayton following kiddush



#### Shabbat Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

##### December 12, Friday

6:15 PM

Shabbat in the Groove with Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein  
Speaker: Judith Roberts of The Literacy Project (see below)

##### December 13, Saturday

10:00 AM- Reconstructionist Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer

10:00 AM- Chanting Service

(see below for more information)



#### Shabbat Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

##### December 19, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper  
Service Leader: To be announced

##### December 20, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



##### December 21, Sunday

Light first Chanukah candle in the evening



#### Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Tevet/Chanukah,

#### Parashat Miketz,

#### Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15, 7:42-47

##### December 26, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

##### December 27, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Rabbi Bauer



### Special Speaker for a Special Shabbat

To celebrate International Human Rights Shabbat, December 12-13, the JCA will host Judith Roberts, executive director of The Literacy Project, as our speaker at the Dec. 12 Shabbat services. In conviction that education is a human right, Ms. Roberts will describe the Literacy Project's work as the largest provider of free adult basic education services in Western Massachusetts.

Human Rights Shabbat is the Shabbat following International Human Rights Day on December 10. Human Rights Day marks the anniversary of the United Nation's passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, part of an international response to the Holocaust. This year is the 60th anniversary of the declaration.

### Come Celebrate Shabbat With Chanting and Contemplative Silence Sat. Dec. 13

Chanting is an ancient form of Jewish prayer that is particularly powerful when practiced in community. Please join us at the JCA on Saturday, December 13 to celebrate Shabbat through chant, contemplative prayer, silence, and connection, and discover a new relationship to our beloved prayers and psalms. The service will follow the traditional Shabbat structure, and will include a Torah service.

The second in a bimonthly series, the service will be co-led by Sara Schley and Felicia Mednick, both long-time, beloved JCA members. We'll be sharing Rabbi Shefa Gold's majestic melodies for the prayers. The service begins at 10:00 AM in the small sanctuary of the Jewish Community of Amherst. Future chanting services are planned for January 24 and March 14. All are welcome.

***Kiddush and Oneg  
Sponsors***

**December 13-**

Andra Rose and Joshua Goldstein celebrating a year of health

**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.

***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.

This month the service will include Kedushah LaTorah, the consecration of our new 1st and 2nd grade students.

***Masorti Lay-led Shabbat Minyan***

The next Masorti Minyan will be on Saturday, December 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 December 19th. The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible. There will be a potluck supper following the service.

***Next Shabbat in the Groove- Friday December 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. Led by Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein.

***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.

***Want To Learn How To Lead Parts Of Services?***

Having lay leaders of services adds a wonderful community kavanah to the JCA, we learned at the parlor meetings a few years ago.

Are you interested in learning how to lead services or parts of them? How about now?

Right now is a perfect time to really learn prayers, blessings, psalms, and songs that we use in the Reconstructionist prayer book, from the pronunciation of every letter, to their sequence and meaning, to their gorgeous melodies.

Ruth Love Barer, who is a wonderful teacher, is already sharing her appreciation for and knowledge of services with me, at my request--we're still just on the early parts of morning services--and would welcome any JCA member who wishes to join in. Fee is dependent on class size.

For more information call me, Kitty Axelson-Berry (230-3271) or Ruth Love Barer (413-222-6988).

## Education News

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



### ***New Students Ready for Kedushah LaTorah***

Starting formal Jewish education is something to celebrate. At the JCA, we dedicate a Friday night service to this Kedushah LaTorah. New students in 1st & 2nd grade, participated in a special workshop with their parents on Sunday, November 23 to prepare for the special recognition at services. Together they created an Aron HaKodesh (Holy Ark) for the miniature Torah scroll each student will receive. They talked about their Hebrew names and where the names come from. And together reviewed the songs and blessings they will share. New 1st & 2nd graders include **Sophie Acker, Sage Aronson, Seth Blain, Wyatt Kellman, Maya Laur, Sam Laur, Max Levheim, Maya Levine, Emma Rae Risch, Abby Seltzer, Mathew Setzler, Benjamin Hernandez-Sommer, Gabriel Trobaugh** and 3rd graders **Savian King** and **Tavi Wolfwood**. All congregants are encouraged to join us on Friday, Dec. 5 at 5:30pm for services and a potluck!

### ***"A Brachot Kind of Day" - Shemesh Day Collaboration a Success***

On the school holiday, Veteran's Day, we tried something new and offered a day of camp-like programming to the 6-12 year olds in the community. Campers spent the day going on a bracha/blessing scavenger hunt, making placemats with blessings, cooking veggie matzo ball soup, acting out stories, and playing games. They also helped with two community service projects by cleaning up all around the JCA grounds and helping fold & stuff a mailing for the Amherst Survival Center. Planning the day's activities were **Rachael Goren**, Teen Director & 2008 Camp Shemesh Director, **Josefa Scherer Williams**, Assistant 2008 Camp Shemesh Director and **Jody Rosenbloom**, Director of Life Long Learning. Helping staff the day were Camp Shemesh Junior Counselors and CIT's **David Gamliel** (also a JCA School Teaching Assistant), **Benno & Ezra Orlinsky**, and **Jared Freedman**. Campers were **Sam & Maya Laur, Max Levheim, Isadore Donnelly, Sadie Mager, Emily Porter, Benjamin Schwab Rehorka, Ben Hernandez-Sommer**, and **Jonah, Aviva & Ruthie Weinbaum**. This collaboration between JCA School and Camp Shemesh grew out of the Five Year Plan developed by the Education Directions Task Force, with current priorities to build on our successes, enhance community, and weave new connections between JCA programs and community outreach.

### ***Shabbat Shalom Teacher, Melissa Zeitz Nominated for Award***

Nominations were solicited from Jewish schools across

Western Massachusetts, Western Connecticut and Southern Vermont, resulting in over 20 nominees gathered at the home of Harold Grinspoon and Diane Troderman in early November to learn about this year's Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Our veteran, 6th year Shabbat Shalom teacher, **Melissa Zeitz** was among the nominees. To quote Melissa, "Teaching Shabbat Shalom has given more to me than I think I have given them. At a time where I was trying to figure out how to get involved in Judaism you hired me. Since then I have learned so much about Judaism through you, the school, the kids, the people, the synagogue and so on...It has meant a lot to me. Plus I get the kids when they are excited about learning something new and doing something fun!!! What more can I ask for?" The journeys to becoming educators in Jewish schools are as varied as their personal rewards. Melissa 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. She was part of the JCA delegation to the Conference for Alternatives in Jewish Education this summer in Burlington, VT. Once nominated, teachers are invited to apply for the award. The award selection process includes submitting sample lesson plans, writing a description of your educational background, and a teacher observation by representatives of the Selection Committee. Winners will be announced in May of 2009. Previous award winners from the JCA include **Ruth Love Barer** (2007), **Andrea Olkin** (2005), **Jody Rosenbloom** (2003), and **Lara Temkin Pisani** (1999).

*continued on next page*

## Calendar

Fri, Dec. 5	Family Service & Kedushah LaTorah (Consecration) 5:30 pm Service followed by a Potluck Special Guests: Households with 1st & 2nd Graders
Wed, Dec. 10	Tefillin Workshop - 6th Graders with parents 4:30 - 5:30
Sat, Dec. 20	Shabbat Shalom (registered 4-6 year olds) 10:30am-12:00 pm
Sun, Dec. 21	Chanukah B'Yachad - Family Education
Wed, Dec. 24 - Sun, Jan. 4	No Class - Winter Break
Wed, Jan. 7	Classes Resume

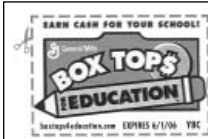
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**Thank you to:**

**Schwab/Rehorka** family for the Hannukah Craft for Shabbat Shalom class

**Yeskel/Mednick** family for books

Learner’s Minyan helpers: **Sara Schley** (chanting), **Larry Goldbaum** (chanting), **Peter Wood** (prayer leading) & **Ted Trobaugh** (drumming)



Don't forget to bring in your **Box Tops for Education**. Each one you bring in helps to support our Synagogue!

**What Can You Do With Those Old Ink Cartridges?**

Bring them to the JCA. There’s a box for them in the coat room. The cartridges will be returned for recycling and the JCA Religious School will receive payment for them. You get rid of those old cartridges, they get recycled, and the school makes money! It’s a win, win, win situation!

**Think Dean’s Beans for the Holidays**

A pound of Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee or Java Drops (dark chocolate covered beans) could be the perfect choice for some of those folks on your Holiday gift list. Remember, when you purchase Dean’s Beans for the Holidays, it has triple value:



1. It’s a high quality, organic product grown without pesticides
2. Each purchase supports the JCA School
3. Each purchase supports fair trade and humanitarian projects that benefit indigenous coffee farming communities across the globe

*Of course, you can treat yourself as well!*

So get those orders in by **December 9th** for pick up on/after the 16th. For order information, contact [susanweinstein1@yahoo.com](mailto:susanweinstein1@yahoo.com) or pick up an order form in the JCA lobby.



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JCA Religious School  
Family Education  
Hanukkah Program

# Bringing Light into the Darkness

A Program for JCA Religious School  
Families and All Pioneer Valley  
Jewish Families

Featuring Crafts, Learning and  
Tikkun Olam Projects

Sunday December 21

4:00 pm

(prior to the JCA Community  
Hanukkah Party at 5:30)

This program is in place of regular classes.  
There will be **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASSES**  
**ON SUNDAY DEC. 21**

For more information please contact Rabbi Steve Nathan,  
Family Educator for School and Community Programs  
at [spn1007@gmail.com](mailto:spn1007@gmail.com)

This program made possible in part by a generous Sulamot  
Family Education Grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation



**News....About Us!**

**Nathan Ellis**, JCA member and 6th grader at Lander~Grinspoon Academy, attended the Teva Learning Center with his classmates November 17-20. Teva, located in Falls Village, CT, integrates outdoor environmental education with Jewish concepts and values and connects Jewish youth from all over New England. For more information about Lander~Grinspoon Academy, contact Marla Shelasky, Director of Admissions, 413-584-6622, mshelasky@lgaschechter.org, visit [www.LGASchechter.org](http://www.LGASchechter.org), or attend the upcoming Open House, Dec. 18, 9-11am.

*Two members of the JCA were recently honored by their field for outstanding work.*

*We join in publicly acknowledging Robert Pollin and Daniel Giat for their professional accomplishments*

**Robert Pollin:**

The University of Massachusetts selected Robert Pollin to deliver the Distinguished Faculty Lecture on his work for the United States to create long-term term prosperity, equity and

growth in an economy built on renewable energy and conservation. Pollin will also receive the Chancellor’s Medal--the highest honor bestowed on individuals for exemplary and extraordinary service to the University.

**Daniel Giat:**

Since 1974, HUMANITAS has honored feature film and television writing that explores the human condition, affirms our individual and collective dignity, and reveals our common humanity. Daniel Giat recently won the HUMANITAS award for his film,

*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* for its intricately woven tale of a doctor, a Lakota chief and a U.S. Senator in the midst of the bloody Sioux victory over General Custer at Little Big Horn.

*Do you know of someone in the JCA community whose special achievements, accomplishments or awards should be shared with all of us? If so, please let us know so we can put it in the Newsletter.*

*Send your news to: [news@j-c-a.org](mailto:news@j-c-a.org)*

**Membership Committee**

I am sure if you have been to the JCA lately you have seen a new bulletin board with a profile of one of our new member families. We hope to have new profiles every month. Please take a minute to look at the profiles and introduce yourself next time you see new members at the JCA. One of our goals for the JCA for the next year and the future is to make the JCA a welcoming and warm place. Making new members feel part of the family will go a long way towards that end. If you are a new family or member and would be willing to have a profile of you and your family posted please contact me, Oran Kaufman, at 256-1575 or [oran@orankaufman.com](mailto:oran@orankaufman.com).

**Annual Mitzvah for the Community**

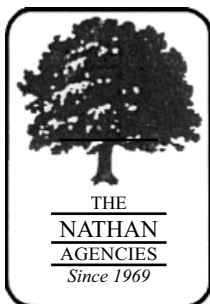
Once again, we are providing the Christmas Eve meal at the Cot Shelter in Northampton. Providing the hot meal for the shelter guests involves the efforts of many volunteers. We are looking for people to prepare the food---including turkey, soup, lasagne, vegetables, salad, appetizers; a few people to serve on Xmas Eve and someone who plays an instrument to lead us all in song.

Please contact

Susan Zarchin:

[susanz18@aol.com](mailto:susanz18@aol.com) or 256-0667

or Saul Gladstone 253-0631.



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Years of Excellence

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## Team Forming Now to Create “JCA Yearbook”

We are recommending that the JCA create a new book that we’ve dubbed the “JCA Yearbook” until we choose an official name. The new publication will include a membership directory, guide to people and activities at the JCA, and Jewish calendar with holiday traditions and more. Members will refer to it frequently, prospective members may look at it as a “picture” of the JCA, and, equally important, advertisers can make themselves visible to members over the whole year that the book is in use. We should publish it annually, with the initial year taking more work than following years. We will raise money by selling advertising and sponsorships to a wide range of people and organizations that want to bring their products and services to the repeated attention of JCA members through the book. And, if we as members let advertisers know frequently that we saw their ad in the JCA Yearbook, we will get repeat busi-

ness year after year.

The Fundraising and Membership Committees are enthusiastic about this project and are eager to be part of the project team needed to make the JCA Yearbook a reality for the 2009-2010 Jewish/Academic Year. It’s not a ‘committee of one’ by a long shot. The work will get done between December 2008 (this month!) and June or July 2009, 6-7 months total, so it’s not an endless committee job either. But just like the country, leadership counts, and we need a couple of them: (1) “editor and chief” of the book, and the other as (2) advertising czar. They are different jobs and we have people willing to work on both with the leaders--- who could be you!

Additional attractive features of these volunteer roles include:

- We’ve done a lot of work to define and organize the project so you would not be starting from

scratch.

- We are open to the need to hire help for some defined tasks, e.g., design implementation, extensive advertising solicitation.
- This being the first year, there’s a lot of room for your creative energy to make a difference.

We urge you to take action by 1) Nominating yourself or another JCA member for one of these critical roles; or 2) Joining the project teams. We can make this a reality and bring blessings to the JCA community, and we need to act soon. Please contact any of these representatives of the Fundraising Committee for more information: Jaymie Chernoff (256-0500 or jaymiechernoff@yahoo.com), Steve Woolf (549-6036 or stevewolff@comcast.net), or Eli Kwartler (253-2929 or ekwartler@msn.com).

## JCA Tzedakah Fund Redirected Inward

Because tzedakah begins at home, and because the economy threatens new financial hardships this season, the Tikkun Olam committee has redirected its fall tzedakah allocations. This time, all money will be used to meet critical, urgent needs within our congregation and within the Pioneer Valley community. No money will be given to national or international organizations until the spring.

Half of our fall tzedakah funds will be allocated to the rabbi’s discretionary fund and will be earmarked specifically for emergency fuel (heating) assistance and other critical needs of our members. Any JCA member whose needs include fuel, grocery or other urgent matters is encouraged to make a confidential request directly to Rabbi Dunn Bauer.

The other half of our fall tzedakah funds will be allocated to local agencies that provide food, fuel and other crucial assistance to area households.

The Tikkun Olam committee invites members who are more financially fortunate to make a donation to the JCA Tzedakah Fund. This will help replenish our ability to meet the critical needs of our temple members, our local community and the larger world community.

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Come play dreidel - young and old - and listen to stories.

Everyone bring your menorah and candles so the room is filled with light.

### ***Thank You For Your Generous Contributions to Project Rehovot***

Yaffa and Haim Gunner:

in celebration of the marriage of Abby Loeb and Tim Levy  
in honor of John Loeb for his long term and sustained  
commitment to the JCA  
in honor of Karen Loeb and the Project Rehovot Catering  
Committee

From Project Rehovot

in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Madowitz  
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Addie Rose Gamliel  
in honor of Joe Kushick's beautiful photos of Abby Loeb's  
and Tim Levy's wedding

John and Karen Loeb:

in honor of Haim and Yaffa Gunner for witnessing Abby  
Loeb's and Tim Levy's Ketubah  
in honor of Jody Wax

Joe and Marilyn Kushick:

in honor of Tara Wolman's 60th birthday  
in honor of Haim Gunner

David and Iris Berkman

Peter Blumberg and Joyce Thatcher

Marvin and Edythe Ellin

Sarina Ergas and Allan Feldman in memory of Mary Ergas

Alice Friedman

Brian Harvey and Lynn Griesemer in honor of Lori

Friedman's MBA

Marcia and Sheldon Goldman

Allen F. Hershfield

Irene Janoff

Eli Kwartler and Barbara Jenkins

Susan Meyers in memory of Sidney Meyers

Barbara and James Pistrang

Lawrence and Susan Schiffman

Linda Sinapi in honor of Rabbi Bauer and his teaching the  
adult beginners Hebrew class

Arthur I. Stern and Susan A. Stern

Robert L. Stern and Judith S. Glaser

A. M. Treston

Susan Weinstein and Peter Cinner in honor of Daniel  
Weinstein's Bar Mitzvah

Susan Zarchin in memory of Irving Zarchin

Fay Zipkowitz in honor of her parents Isadore and Lee  
Zipkowitz

Apologies for a late acknowledgement of the following  
donors

Susi and Arnold Friedmann

Haim and Yaffa Gunner in memory of Judy Hale mother of  
Jordene Hale

Esther Mercer in memory of my beloved mother Lucille  
Ines W. Mercer

Jim and Susan Richardson

Henry Seftel Siegel in honor of Anita Siegel



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## High Holy Days Guests—what's next?

The JCA's Open Door Policy for the High Holy (HH) Days brought over 135 guests to worship with members this year, and nearly \$3000 in donations to date. In early November we wrote to every single guest in a letter signed by John Loeb and Lisa Perl binder, to thank them for choosing the JCA, to express our joy in worshipping with them, and to offer some step(s) to bring them closer to us:

**To "Prospective Members" (our term and the largest group by far):** we thanked them, etc., but also said we'd like to see them again. We asked them to consider 1) becoming a member, 2) attending another JCA event or service, and/or) making a donation.

**To Former JCA Members:** we thanked them for worshipping with us again, told them of other things new at the JCA and invited them to join us again and, if they wish, to donate to sustain the Open Door.

**To Guests Who Live at a Distance:** we thanked them for coming, invited them to come again when they are in Amherst, and asked for their donation in any amount to sustain the Open Door policy and support our services.

**To Guests Who Have Already Made a Donation (from the three groups above):** we thanked and thanked!

To all except the last group, we included a list of fall JCA services and activities and a new blue JCA donation envelope.

This follow up to guests was initiated by Marian Wolfsun, HH Coordinator, and implemented by joint action of the Fundraising and Membership Committees.

The Membership Committee wants to make a follow up phone call to all 90 prospective members and needs more help to do this.

**Please contact Oran Kaufman  
(413-256-1575, oran@orankaufman.com)  
if you could make 3 or more quick calls to  
prospective members in early December.**

## Arts and Culture Committee Events Explore the World of Sephardic Culture

Anita Page and Eva Sartori, co-chairs of the committee, are delighted to report that JCA and Congregation B'nai Israel of Northampton are the recipients of a Grinspoon grant to fund several events on Sephardic Culture from March 29th through April 5th. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and enjoy aspects of a Jewish culture which is less known than the more prevalent Ashkenazi one. We are planning the following:

**March 29th 5 PM, CBI-** A Sephardic music concert by Mak'hela and a talk on Sephardic cooking by Lisa Andes and a food tasting.

**April 3, 8 PM, JCA-** Talk on Sephardic Culture by a member of the Judaic Studies Department, UMASS, following Friday night services

**April 4, 8 PM, JCA-** Performance by Flora Jagoda, an internationally known Bosnian Sephardic singer

**April 5, 1 PM, JCA-** Workshop by Flora Jagoda on Sephardic music

The area chapter of Hadassah will be helping with organization and planning and we welcome participation from all volunteers. We will report on more events that may happen during that week.

***Keep These Dates on Your Calendar!***

# Look Here!!!



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## Newsletter Advertising

Did you know that advertising pays for a significant portion of the costs of producing the Newsletter? Please take a few minutes to notice the ads in this issue. If you do business with any of our advertisers, please let them know that you've seen their ad here. Letting them know that you've seen their ad makes a big difference. And if you know of a business or individual who would benefit from advertising in the Newsletter please either put them in touch with me, or let me know and I'll get in touch with them.

Thank you,  
Aaron Bousel, Newsletter editor  
253-3544, news@j-c-a.org



### *A Literary and Arts Trip to Israel - May 17<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

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

Our daily activities will include:

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

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



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

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

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

The Deadline for the January Newsletter is  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

All submissions MUST be made either by e-mail or e-mail with a file attached. If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor.

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

Thank you, Aaron Bousel, [news@j-c-a.org](mailto:news@j-c-a.org) 253-3544

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256-0040

## *Lighting the Chanukah Lights*

The Chanukah Lights should be kindled at nightfall on each of the eight nights of Chanukah beginning with Sunday night, December 21st. What follows is a brief, step-by-step guide to Chanukah observance.

*Who should light the Chanukiah (Chanukah menorah):*

All members of the family should be present at the kindling of the Chanukah lights. Children should be encouraged to light their own Chanukiah. Some families have a Chanukiah for each family member.

*Where to place the Chanukiah:*

It is customary to place the Chanukiah on a window sill so it is visible from outside. If two or more Chanukiot are lit, they should not be placed in the same window lest the number of candles lit on any given night be unclear.

*How to place the candles and light them:*

On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled on the right side of the Chanukiah. On the following night add a second candle to the left of the first and kindle the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

*Lighting candles on Friday and Saturday night:*

On Friday evening the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles out of respect for the injunction against lighting a fire on Shabbat.

On Saturday evening the Chanukah candles are lit after Havdalah, that is, after the end of Shabbat.

*The Blessings*

Say all three blessings on the first night only. Say the first two blessings on all other nights.

NOTE: The blessings as they appear here are in the traditional formulation. Some people use different formulations to better reflect their personal beliefs and theology.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה:

*Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam  
asher kideshanu be-mitzvotv, ve-tzivanu le-hadlik ner  
shel Chanukah*

1 Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who has made us holy with your mitzvot, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ  
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזְמַן הַזֶּה:

*Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam  
she-asah nisim la-avotenu, ba-yamim ha-hem ba-ze-  
man ha-zeh*

2 Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who wrought wonders for our ancestors in former days at this time of year.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁחָיָנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ  
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזְמַן הַזֶּה:

*Baruch atah Adonai, Elohenu melech ha-olam  
shehecheyanu, ve-kiyemanu, ve-higyanu la-zeman  
ha-zeh.*

3 Blessed are you, Eternal One, our God, sovereign of all worlds, who gave us life and kept us strong, and brought us to this time.

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 Fred & Patty Levine  
 In Memory of Lou Jacobson (Esther Jacobson)  
 Danielle Barshak & Oran Kaufman  
 Cheryl Campbell & James Levine  
 In Honor of my family (Bettie Kravetz)  
 In Honor of the Tuesday minyan (Fay Zipkowitz)  
 Milan Sabatini & Julius Lester  
 Edith Perman Allen  
 Ruth Ever and Kevin Hale  
 Judy Glaser & Bob Stern  
 Caden & Lewis Mainzer  
 In Memory of Joseph Magnus, Roger's father, on the anniversary of his death (Ariella Schwell & Roger Magnus)  
 Joanne Jaffin & David Sharken  
 In Honor of Aaron Fine's 30th birthday (Deb & Larry Fine)  
 In Honor of Judi Fonsh (Edythe & Marvin Ellin)  
 Robyn Miller & Jennifer Holme  
 In Memory of David and Gordon Rodetsky (Hannah Zuckerman)  
 In Memory of Fred Pozarik (Daniel Berlin)  
 Jana Silver & Aaron Kropf  
 In Honor of my children (Natalie Jarmon)  
 In Memory of Ron Davis (Sara Elinoff & Peter Acker)

**Chesed Committee**

In Honor of Robin Diamond and Judy Davis for their support following the passing of Ella Zipser, mother of Renee Spring, mother-in-law of David Piech and grandmother of Derek and Hilary Piech (Renee Spring & David Piech)

**Member Critical Need Fund**

In Honor of Robin Diamond (Cynthia & Joe Gensheimer)  
 Ann Hastings

**High Holiday Donations**

Norma Teitler  
 Rabbi David Bauer  
 Leslie Goldstein  
 Peter Elbow  
 In Honor of Susan Zarchin (Blanche Zarchin)  
 In Honor of Merle & Ed Feld (Fran Saed)

**JCA General Fund**

Gabriel Gladstone B'nai Tzedek Fund  
 In Honor of the birth of my grandson, Alexander Anthony Assad (Kitty Axelson-Berry)  
 In Honor of my daughter Joselyn and her boyfriend, Eddie, as they enter into parenthood together (Kitty Axelson-Berry)  
 In Honor of Lisa Pack, for all of the help she provided before, during and after the birth of Alexander Anthony Assad (Kitty Axelson-Berry)

**Prayerbook Fund**

In Memory of Jason Webb (Lori Holder-Webb & Jeffrey Cohen)

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In Honor of our children, Martin and Brenda and grandchildren Aaron and Liliya and for letting us share services with your congregation (Goldie & Stanley Miller)  
 In Honor of Saul Gladstone, Madeleine Charney's baby and Rabbi Bauer (Suraya Rose Sarae)  
 In Honor of opening up JCA services to all at no cost (Randi Stein)

**To Honor, to Share a Joy.....**

I love the way that we all honor, commemorate, thank, share a joy to acknowledge someone dear to us by making donations to the JCA. It's one of the first sections of the newsletter that I read because in the brief list I learn more about what is going on in people's lives. Designating a donation is even easier now with the new blue donation envelopes available in the basket on the big table in the foyer. I've taken a few home to mail in when I have the thought. Help yourself!

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

**New Members**

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

Dyan Wiley  
 Anna-Beth Winograd

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## Community Announcements

### **Loner Car Needed**

Long-time JCA member, Emma Morgan, is returning to the Valley the 1st week in Dec. and would be very grateful to borrow a car (for a week or so), until she secures a used car to purchase.

Please call her at (928) 778-0986 or email emmaloo@earthlink.net, if you can help.

### **Apartment Needed**

A quiet, responsible female Jewish writer (former grantwriter for UMass graduate school) is looking for an affordable apartment in greater Amherst. Wood/tile floors; good natural light; smoke/mold/dampness free; laundry hook-ups; off-street parking. One flight of stairs okay. Positive tenant references; guaranteed rent. Move-in toward the end of December ideal, but will consider a somewhat later date.

Please call Julie, 256-6706.

### **Gan Keshet Preschool**

Gan Keshet Preschool is accepting enrollment applications for the 2009-10 school year. Please note your family might qualify for a grant from the HGF Right Start Program. "The Harold Grinspoon Foundation knows that early childhood education is essential to launching your family's Jewish journey. It will help pay the tuition of the first child in each family to enroll in a Jewish preschool." The eligibility guidelines are few. Visit the HGF website, [www.pjlibrary.org/rightstart.php](http://www.pjlibrary.org/rightstart.php) to learn more. This year four of our families qualified and received grants from \$500 to \$1000 towards tuition. For additional information and/or to arrange a visit, please contact our Director, Wendy Stein at 584-3593 x204.

### **Torah Yoga at LGA**

Torah Yoga, December 7, 2008 and January 11, 2009 from 9:45 to 11:15 at Lander-Grinspoon Academy, 257

Prospect Street, Northampton. Experience Jewish concepts through classic yoga poses with Judi Wisch, Educator, and Amy Reed, Anusara-Inspired Yoga Instructor. All levels welcome. \$7/session.

For information call Rachel Valitt, 549-1212

### **Bond With Your Baby Through Jewish Ritual and Song**

Are you a new parent raising your child in a Jewish home? Are you interested in deepening your connection to Judaism through songs, prayers and rituals that you can do with your baby and your family? Come join other new parents and babies as we explore Jewish rituals that can be practiced daily, weekly, and throughout the year. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required, only an open mind and an open heart!

Instructor: Felicia Sloin. Free! New members are welcome! Meets at LGA-Schechter, 257 Prospect Street, Northampton on Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

### **Opening Doors: A Discussion for Interfaith Couples**

This group will explore the challenges and joys of living in an interfaith couple for partners who are Jewish and of other faith traditions. Topics to be discussed will include acknowledging one's spiritual journey, navigating religious differences in decision making, relating to family and friends, understanding the Jewish community, the basics of Jewish parenting and other topics of interest to participants. An optional potluck for families can be scheduled after the last session.

Group Leader: Shoshana Zonderman. Free! Meets at the JFS Office, 16 Armory Street, Northampton on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., November 11, 18 and December 2, 9 and 16.

### **Opportunities for Singles**

*A Perfect Saturday Night for Single Jewish People*

Felicia Sloin, rocking, rapping cantorial soloist and Eric Phelps, guitarist with a voice as sweet as James Taylor, will fill the evening with great music. Meet new friends and share some great food and wine. What could be better? Saturday night, December 6th. at 7:30 P.M. at the NACUL Center, corner of 592 Main Street (Corner Main & N. Whitney) in Amherst. Just \$10

*"Closing the Deal" for Single Jewish People with Basherte*

*Sunday, December 28, 2008 at The National Yiddish Book Center*

See a film about an elegant, eligible bachelor (played by Leo Fuch, known as "the Yiddish Fred Astaire") who could never seem to "close the deal." Optional Tour of The National Yiddish Book Center at 12:30; Movie begins at 2:00; Nosh & Conversation after the movie with other area Jews you want to meet. 1021 West St. in Amherst-on the campus of Hampshire College.

For more information on these events: [www.basherte.org](http://www.basherte.org) . 413-253-5071

### **Meditation Group**

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"\* Meditation Group

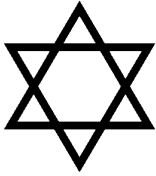
Every Thursday in the CBI Library, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and Sheila Peltz Weinberg

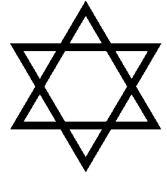
Please know that is not an instructional group. Rather, each of us comes with our own silent meditation or prayer practice and draws strength and affirmation for our deep, inner work by being together in community.

- 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*  
**December 2008**  
 4 Kislev ~ 4 Tevet 5769



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4 KISLEV	2 5 KISLEV	3 6 KISLEV	4 7 KISLEV	5 8 KISLEV	6 9 KISLEV
		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Class	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program	7:30 pm Board Meeting	⛔4:00 5:30 pm <b>Intergenerational Family Service with Kedusha LaTorah (Consecration) followed by potluck supper</b>	🕒Vayetze 10:00 am Reconstructionist Service 10:00 am Masorti Service Torah study led by John Clayton following kiddush
7 10 KISLEV 10:00 am ANNUAL MEETING	8 11 KISLEV	9 12 KISLEV	10 13 KISLEV	11 14 KISLEV	12 15 KISLEV	13 16 KISLEV
		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Class	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm Religion Committee		⛔4:00 6:15 pm Shabbat in the Groove <b>Speaker: Judith Roberts of The Literacy Project (see page 4)</b>	🕒Vayishlach 10:00 am Service 10:00 am Chanting Service
14 17 KISLEV	15 18 KISLEV	16 19 KISLEV	17 20 KISLEV	18 21 KISLEV	19 22 KISLEV	20 23 KISLEV
		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program 7:30 pm Education Committee		⛔4:02 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	🕒Vayeshev 10:00 am Service 10:30 am Shabbat Shalom for enrolled 4-6 year olds
21 24 KISLEV	22 25 KISLEV	23 26 KISLEV	24 27 KISLEV	25 28 KISLEV	26 29 KISLEV	27 30 KISLEV
4:00 - 5:00 pm Community Education (see page 8) 5:30 - 8:00 pm Chanukah Party (see page 11)	⛔Chanukah - Day 1	⛔Chanukah - Day 2 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	⛔Chanukah - Day 3 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation <b>No Religious School</b>	⛔Chanukah - Day 4 <b>Office Closed</b>	⛔Chanukah - Day 5 ⛔4:06 6:15 pm Service <b>Office Closed</b>	⛔Chanukah - Day 6 ⛔Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Day 1 🕒Miketz 10:00 am Service
28 1 TEVET	29 2 TEVET	30 3 TEVET	31 4 TEVET			
⛔Chanukah - Day 7 ⛔Rosh Chodesh Tevet - Day 2 <b>No Religious School</b>	⛔Chanukah - Day 8	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation <b>No Religious School</b>			

*Jewish Community of Amherst*  
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*December 5*

**Kedushah LaTorah (see page 6)**

*December 7*

**JCA Annual Meeting at 10:00 am**

*December 12*

**Friday Evening Speaker:  
Judith Roberts of The Literacy Project  
(see page 4)**

*December 21*

**Family Education Chanukah Program (see page 8)  
Chanukah Party (see page 11)**