



CANDLE LIGHTING

January 1 ~ 4:10 pm
 January 8 ~ 4:17 pm
 January 15 ~ 4:25 pm
 January 22 ~ 4:33 pm
 January 29 ~ 4:42 pm

Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA



SPECIAL EVENTS

January 10
 Sharing Shabbat Together

January 23
 Family Education

January 24
 In God's Image



MEETINGS

January 4
 Chesed Committee

January 6
 JCA Business Network
 Ritual Life Committee

January 7
 Board Meeting

January 12
 Tikkun Olam Committee



Message from Co-president

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

Why Moses Said Yes and You Should Too

Shalom 2010, a new year, a new decade, and a fresh start. This month, the new JCA board begins its work on behalf of the community. There are lots of issues to tackle together, including: maintaining a balanced budget, planning a new budget for 2011/2012, hiring a new rabbi, helping things go smoothly during the rabbi's sabbatical, planning a new system for the kitchen that includes a volunteer initiative, staging a Grand Auction in March as well as other fundraising initiatives, maintaining a strong school and education program, supporting Project Rehovot, and many other efforts – large and small. Thank you to every one of our volunteers as well as our incredible staff for all your dedication and enthusiasm.

It's easy, during these dark, cold winter days to want to wait for warmer weather to get reengaged in the community. It is exactly during this time that working together can be so beneficial for yourself and for everyone. Take Moses as an example of a reluctant volunteer who went from ambivalence to become a great leader.

Reading through the upcoming parshiot in Exodus, I realized that Moses was the ultimate reluctant volunteer, but why did he eventually say "yes"? What motivated him to leave the comfort of his home, first in Egypt and then again in Midian, to do things for the betterment of his people? How can we harness that energy to continue to move the JCA ahead?

Moses was raised as a wealthy Prince of Egypt and believed that his life would be one of comfort and riches with very little effort – until things began to change within him. His Jewish mother, the source of many childhood values, as well as many a guilty conscience, raised him as a nurse in the palace. She clearly influenced him to develop into more than

just a warrior prince. Next he saw the injustice of a Hebrew slave being beaten, which forced Moses to respond, based on his inner principles to slay the Egyptian overseer. Banished from Egypt as punishment, wandering in the desert, and finding a home with Jethro and Zipporah, seemed to make Moses complacent after his ordeal. Once in Midian and established with a wife and family he seemed happy as a shepherd until Hashem spoke to him at the burning bush and ASKED him to return to Egypt and free his people. Moses doubted his ability, but Hashem gave him some miraculous signs to perform to convince Pharaoh: a rod that became a snake, a leprous and then cleansed hand, and turning the river to blood. Still doubting, Hashem made it so that Aaron, his brother, could speak for Moses on behalf of the people. By that point, Moses was already the "Chair of the Committee" if not the "Chairman of the Board" itself leading the way out of Egypt and to the promised land.

So what happened and how can we at the JCA relate? Well, we all may not want to leave our warm homes at times, but each of us is directed by that small voice that says "when something needs to be done take action and do it". Second, it is easier to respond if someone asks you to do something, even if there is no burning bush on your front lawn. Finally, Moses was fully engaged once he had his brother – as a companion and a spokesperson. We have all these things at the JCA: We know it's the right thing to do to help the community, we have people who are asking for our help, and we have those we care about to share the work. So each of us is Moses in our own way and by working together, we can accomplish miracles and move the community to the place that's right for us.

*b'shalom,
 Lisa*

January 2010
Tevet/Shevat 5770
Vol. 9, Issue No. 1

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:

Co-presidents: Lisa Perl binder (230-3055),
 Guy Wood (803-387-5676)

First Vice President: To be determined

Second Vice President: Ted Trobaugh (549-5468)

Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler (253-2929)

Treasurer: Michael Burkart (256-8139)

Members:

Barbara Freed, Gerald Friedman, Mark Israel,
 Molly Goren Jackson-Watts, Oran Kaufman,
 Fred Levine, John Loeb, Andra Rose, Sarah Thomson,
 Phil Weilerstein, Peter Wood

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 Coordinator: 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 Guidebook for contact information.
 (If you have not received your Guidebook, 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 February issue is January 12th

January 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 1

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: 549-0447
 haim_gunner@yahoo.com

Rabbi Sabbatical Information

During the period of Rabbi Bauer's sabbatical leave, from early November to mid-April, members of the community will be stepping in to cover most of the rabbinical functions for which he has been responsible. The Sabbatical Committee has been working hard over the last few months to insure that the community's needs will be fully met during this time. Below is a list of people who have volunteered to be available for a variety of functions, and who should be contacted when needs arise.

There will be one slight change in the service schedule during the next 6 months. On Saturday mornings there will be only **one** service, and the various "alternative" services (masorti, chanting, etc.) will continue either monthly or bi-monthly in the "regular" time and space. The Thursday email will be noting the services and service leaders, as usual. We hope the community will avail themselves of this opportunity to experience the variety of minyanim which the JCA has been offering over the last several years, and come out to support those members who are stepping forward to continue to enrich the spiritual life of the community.

Function	Contact	Phone #	Email
General Oversight - Administrative	Eli Kwartler, Board Representative and Sabbatical Committee Co-chair	413-253-2929	ekwartler@msn.com
General Oversight - Religious	Randi Stein, Sabbatical Committee Co-chair	413-549-0526	randistein@earthlink.net
Coordinates Leaders for Friday Evening Services	Ruth Love Barer	413-253-4923	ruthlove7@hotmail.com
Coordinates Leaders for Shabbat Morning Services	Paul Charette	413-598-8598	cyclone411@charter.net
D'var Torah Coordinator	Randi Stein	413-549-0526	randistein@earthlink.net
Torah Reading Coordinator	Eliezer Huber	413-584-1484	lenhuber@gmail.com
Referrals for Weddings	JCA Office	413-256-0160	info@j-c-a.org
B'nai Mitzvah Oversight	Elissa Rubinstein	413-549-5078	elissar01002@yahoo.com
Baby Namings	Religion Committee, JCA Office	413-256-0160	info@j-c-a.org
Funerals	JCA Office	413-256-0160	info@j-c-a.org
Shiva Minyan Leader Coordinator	Aaron Bousel	413-253-3544	abousel@comcast.net
Pastoral Counseling Coordinator	Joan Saperstan	413-213-0135	jsaperstan@gmail.com
Critical Needs Fund	Lisa Perl binder, JCA Office	413-256-0160	info@j-c-a.org
Halachic Questions	Paul Charette, Sarah Thomson, Religion Committee Co-chairs	413-598-8598 413-253-2930	cyclone411@charter.net allset22@verizon.net
Interfaith Community Requests	Eli Kwartler	413-253-2929	ekwartler@msn.com
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	John Loeb, Barbara Burkart	413-575-4195 413-256 8139	jolbiosol@aol.com barbruth@comcast.net



Ritual Life Committee

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, cyclone411@charter.net
Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, allset22@verizon.net

RELIGION CALENDAR

Shabbat Vayechi, Genesis 47:28-50:26

January 1, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Randi Stein

NOTE: The 5:30 Family service will not take place this month.

January 2, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Joseph Boucher

D'var Torah: Joseph Boucher



Shabbat Shemot, Exodus 1:1-6:1

January 8, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Gordon Freed

January 9, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Shevat/Parashat Vaera

Exodus 6:2-9:35, Numbers 28:9-15

January 15, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service followed by potluck supper

Service Leaders: To be announced

January 16, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16

January 22, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leaders: Richard Cohen & Eliza Gouverneur

January 23, Saturday

10:00 AM- Chanting Service

Service Leaders: Sara Schley and Felicia Mednick

D'var Torah: Felicia Mednick

PLEASE NOTE: This will be the only service this morning.



Shabbat Shirah/Parashat Beshalach

Exodus 13:17-17:16

January 29, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

January 30, Saturday- Tu B'Shevat

10:00 AM

Service Leaders: Chochma Group

D'var Torah: To be announced



Check the JCA website at:
www.j-c-a.org/services.html
 for updated religion calendar information.

You are needed!

Every Tuesday morning several people meet in the small sanctuary for a morning service. Often, we are not able to make a minyan and what's frustrating is that more often than not we are eight or nine people. This is a wonderful way to begin your day. The service begins at 7:30 and is over by 8:30. Latecomers are always welcome. Your attendance could make the difference between someone being able to say Kaddish for a loved one or not. Please consider coming when you can.

Wednesday Morning Meditation Service

Each Wednesday at 7:30 AM there is a morning service of meditation, prayer and singing. This is a very special time to sit in quiet in the beauty of our small sanctuary. You do not have to be a meditator to join the service. Come try it out and see what it can do for the rest of your day and week.

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

December 5th-

JCA members in honor of Ruth Love Barer's 60th birthday and with appreciation for all she does for the JCA

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.

Sharing Shabbat Together Meeting

For those looking to share Shabbat evening or Shabbat afternoon with others let's explore what we could do together that would honor our Shabbat needs.

Sunday, Jan 10th at 4:30 p.m.

For more information please call xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If you are looking for information regarding the weekly Torah readings, in particular, the verses that will be read at the JCA, here are two ways to find it.

Our readings are based on the *Luach*, which is published by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. This book is available from the JCA Judaica Store.

There is also an online source which can be found by following a link on the JCA website *Services* page or by going directly to:
<http://www.hebca1.com/sedrot/>

First Friday Night Service and Potluck Supper

There will not be an early Family Service and Potluck Supper this month. The next Family Service will be February 5th.

Masorti Lay-led Shabbat Minyan

During Rabbi Bauer's sabbatical there will not be a separate masorti service.

However, the service that takes place on the first Saturday of the month will have a more "traditional" orientation.

We will use the Reconstructionist Kol Hanesamah siddur for these services.

Foot Stomping Melodies for Welcoming Shabbat

The next Carlebach-style service will be on January 15th at 6:15 pm.

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

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

Chemical Sensitivities

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

Torah Reading

Can you chant Torah? And if you don't know how, would you like to learn? There is now a group of people who are meeting to support each other in developing our skills in this area. Members have a wide range of ability, from experienced to beginners. Our goal is to encourage as many JCA members as possible to learn this skill and participate in chanting Torah at services. For more information please call Randi Stein (549-0526) or Ruth Love Barer (253-4923)

Help Needed During Rabbi Bauer's Sabbatical

Beginning in November, Rabbi Bauer will be on sabbatical for about six months. During this time we will need the help and support of community members. If you can lead services (or even some part of the service), or can give a D'var Torah please contact the appropriate person listed below.

Lead a Friday evening service: Ruth Love Barer (253-4923)

Lead a Saturday morning service (or part): Paul Charette (860-559-4926)

Give a D'var Torah: Randi Stein (549-0526)

Lead a service for a shiva: Aaron Bousel (253-3544)

From Rabbi Bauer to the JCA-

I want to thank everyone at the JCA -- members of the community, colleagues, friends, teachers and students in the JCASchool -- for the gentle and profound chesed you all showed me during the time following my father's death. The visits and kind words, the cards, the food, and the prayers were all of tremendous meaning for me and for Rabbi Steve. Being part of the JCA has always been a source of honor and joy for me; in November it was a necessary source of consolation and healing.

Thanks, love, and blessing to you all.

Rabbi Bauer

Editor's Note: A link to Rabbi Bauer's eulogy for his father can be found on his page on the JCA website.

Education News

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



It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This...

Some mornings, you just have to be around to appreciate the many ways our JCA School community comes together and how many different ways things can go right. Such as December 13, 2009. Parents and volunteers were cooking latkes and preparing the Social Hall for the afternoon's Hannukah party. Some other parents were packing boxes in the lobby for young soldiers serving in Iraq. In another room, Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser was facilitating a support group for parents of children with special needs. The classrooms were filled with teachers, conducting a range of activities to engage their students. I had read their lesson plans and worked with teachers to offer Hannukah themed programming for a variety of learning styles. Students learned history related to Hannukah, listened to & compared traditional and hip hop versions of Hannukah songs, made Hannukah decorations, and listened to stories. Teenage assistants helped in classrooms and the JCA office. "Moreh D" met with each class, taught songs, and used technology to access easy-to-read words for both parents and students. And we ended the morning together in Learner's Minyan. Some weekends, there are many loose ends and distractions, but when we are in the flow, attentive to people bringing their "Torah" to share with the community, it is something special.

Parent Teacher Conferences Scheduled for Wednesday, January 27

At mid-year, we take time for reflection on how the year is going. This process includes teachers writing progress reports, parents of children in grades 3-6 attending a parent-teacher conference, and students surveyed in their classes. Watch your mail for details of scheduling a conference time.

Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Fundraiser

Order Dean's Beans for your home or office. It's what is served at the JCA, and all profits benefit the JCA School as well as indigenous coffee farmers world-wide.



**Order forms are due: Sunday, January 3rd
Pick up: on or after Friday, January 8th**

Order forms are available in the JCA lobby or online by contacting susanweinstein1@yahoo.com.

great coffee, great price, great cause!

Support our JCA School Fundraisers

And Thanks to Their Organizers

*Box Tops for Education. Remember to collect these coupons off of select products and bring them to class or the JCA office. Thanks to Norma Hernandez helping send them off.

*Dean's Beans thanks to the tireless efforts of Sue Weinstein and her loyal customers. Buy your free trade coffee and support the school at the same time!

*Purim Carnival will be early this year. Watch the email for information on when you can help coordinator Lisa Blain. And come to the carnival on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

Thank-You To:

-Jana Silver, Dara Herman Zierlein, Brenda Kellman & Cheryl Campbell for their help in crafting the Greeting Cards and helping sell them.

-The Campbell-Morton household for Wednesday snacks.

In the Event of Inclement Weather

Just a reminder that the school phone line has the latest notification for weather cancellations pertaining to JCA school programming. For weekends, a decision is made by 8 am and weekdays by 2pm. If Amherst Public Schools cancel during the week, we will not have school that day. Dial 256-0160 x203.



Puppet Show & Sing-a-Long

Saturday, January 23 at 5-6 pm in the JCA Library.

Led by musician, singer & puppeteer, Felicia Sloin.

For households with children up to 7 years old and their families.



For more information contact: Madeleine Charney
467-7712 or greenzinnia@hotmail.com

Calendar

Wed, Jan. 6	Classes resume. Grades 3-7 meet from 4-5:30 pm
Sun, Jan. 10	Shalom Sunday class 10:00-11:45 am
Sat/Sun, Jan. 16/17	No Classes - Martin Luther King Weekend Holiday
Sat, Jan. 20	Classes resume
Sun, Jan. 24	B'Tzelem Elohim/Parent Support Group 10:15-11:30 am
Wed, Jan. 27	No Class-Parent/Teacher Conferences

January Teen Programming

There are a lot of programs to choose from this month! Hope to see you at one of them! Contact jcateens@gmail.com or jtovteens@gmail.com with any questions.



Programming for
7, 8, & 9th graders

Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17
8pm-10am

MLK SLEEPOVER!!!!

Join your fellow JCATers for our annual sleepover at the JCA! Movies, games, pizza, what more can you ask for? Free to Chai members and \$18 for non-members.

RSVP to jcateengroup@gmail.com.
Open to grades 7 and above.


SAVE THE DATE

SNOWTUBING with JTOV
Saturday, Feb. 6th evening

PANIM EL PANIM
TRIP for 10-12th graders to
WASHINGTON D.C.
MARCH 14-17, 2010

Check your mail for more information or email jcateens@gmail.com for an application and more information.

Please note: we are looking for 2 parents to volunteer to help organization and/or chaperone this trip. Please email jcateens@gmail.com if you are interested



Programming for
6-12th graders

A COLLECTIVE OF UPPER PIONEER VALLEY JEWISH TEENS

Sunday, January 7th
Rosh Hodesh:
It's A Girl Thing




Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing are groups for girls in grades 7-10 that are fun, cool, and interesting ways to engage with other female-identified teens and increase Jewish identity. Email jtovteens@gmail.com for more information.

Tuesday, January 9th
5-6:30pm
Inspirit Common
JYoga: Jewish Yoga for Teens

Join your friends for a physical and spiritual opening through Yoga. Taught by a licensed yoga instructor and master educator, you will be amazed by how much more relaxed and better you feel! Open to teens in grades 6-12. \$36 for the whole year or \$8 per class

Thursday, January 25th, 4-7pm
JVCorps at Amherst Survival Center

Join teens from the region to help prepare, serve and clean-up dinner. Teens can sign up for a time slot (4-5:30 or 5:15-7). Email jtovteens@gmail.com for more info.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
Board of Directors
Effective January 1, 2010

Position	Person	Term Expires
Co-President	Lisa Perl binder	2010
Co-President	Guy Wood	2011
First vice president	OPEN	
Second vice president	Ted Trobough	2010
Third vice president	Eli Kwartler	2010
Treasurer	Michael Burkart	2011
Ritual Life Chair	Sarah Thomson	2011
Membership Chair	Oran Kaufmann	2010
Personnel Chair	OPEN	2011
At-large board member	Gerald Friedman	2011
At-large board member	Phil Weilerstein	2010
At-large board member	Molly Goren Jackson-Watts	2010
At-large board member	Mark Israel	2011
At-large board member	Fred Levine	2011
At-large board member	Andra Rose	2010
At-large board member	Barbara Freed	2011
At-large board member	John Loeb	2010
At-large board member	Peter Wood	2011

Committees, Chairs and Members

Beit Shalom Committee

Eva Metzger Brown, Chair

Members: Haim Gunner, Josette Henschel,
Rob Okun, Kitty Talan

Building and Grounds

Tom Butler, Chair

Members: Eli Kwartler, Gary Rehorka,
Ex Off cio: Santos Alers, Rob Kaufman

Building Use and Access Committee

Eli Kwartler

Camp Shemesh

Larry Goldbaum, Aaron Kropf, Co- chairs,

Members: Hollie Kalkstein, Jodi Levine

Cemetery Committee

Linda Sinapi and Devorah Jacobson, Co- Chairs:

Members, Sam Gladstone, Karen Hoffman

Chesed Committee

Chair Rotates

Members: Robin Diamond, Dani Faytel, Kitty Talan,
Jackie Katz, Joan Epstein, Susan Zarchin,
Amy Rothenberg, Eva Metzger Brown,
Cheryl Edgerly, Reed Alper

Chevra Bikkur Cholim

Chair, Open

Chevra Kadisha

Joan Saperstan

Childcare Committee

Chair, Open

Communications Committee

Kitty Axelson-Berry, Mark Israel, Co-Chairs

Members: Aaron Bousel, Eli Kwartler
Adjunct Members: Moira Clingman, Steve Woolf

Education Committee

Andra Rose and Ted Trobaugh, Co-chairs.

Members: Rachael Goren (Teens),
David Rabinovitz (Adult Ed), Andra Rose (Family Ed),
Jody Rosenbloom (Dir. of Life Long Learning),
Stacy Tobin

Finance Committee

Josh Goldman, Chair,

Members: Alan Peterfreund, Norman Brown,
Michael Bulman, Bob Feldman, Eli Kwartler,
Michael Chernoff

Fundraising Committee

Fred Levine, Chair-Pro Tem,

Jaymie Chernoff , Chair (resumes April 10, 2010)

Members: Steve Woolf, Eli Kwartler,
Fred Levine, Jaimé Campbell Morton

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High Holy Days Committee

Paul Charette, Chair

Members: Lisa Pack, Beverly Woolf, Libby Army,
Tom Butler, Andra Rose, Guy Wood

Internal Communications

Aaron Bousel

Judaica Store

Hadar Grabel

Membership Committee

Oran Kaufman, Robyn Miller, Co-chairs.

Members: Ruth Kane Levit, Marina Goldman, Lisa Blain

Music, Arts and Culture Committee

Anita Page and Eva Sartori, Co-chairs

Members: Natalie Jarmon, Ann Hastings

Visual Arts Subcommittee

Carol Kaminsky, Chair

Nominating Committee

Jennifer Holme, Chair

Members: Eli Kwartler, Beverly Woolf, Judy Glaser,

Personnel Committee

Members: Ann Nusbaum, Judi Fonsh,
Steve Freedman, Eli Kwartler

Project Rehovot Committee

Marilyn Kushick, Chair

Members: Yaffa Gunner, Jody Wax, Hadar Grabel,
Karen Loeb, Eva Sartori, Ann Armon, Joan Epstein

Ritual Life Committee

Paul Charette, Sarah Thomson, Co-chairs

Members: Aaron Bousel, Gordon Freed, Batya Perman,
Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Randi Stein, Ruth Love Barer,
Eliza Gouverneur

School Committee

Ted Trobaugh, Chair

Members: Deborah Evans, Karen Helfer,
Cheryl Campbell, Jody Rosenbloom

Shomerim

Ruth Love Barer

Social/FUN Committee

Members: Jeff Cohen, Helena Donovan, Karen Loeb

Tikkun Olam Committee

Epi Bodhi, Chair

Members: Johanna Plaut, David Schimmel,
Flo Stern, Saul Gladstone

World Jewish Concerns Committee

Karen Loeb, Chair

Members: Yaffa Gunner, Tamar Shadur, Libby Army,
Jody Wax, Eva Sartori, Rebecca Fisher

Rabbi Search Committees

Coordinating committee:

Lisa Perl binder, Guy Wood

Big Questions Committee:

Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Chair

Members: Aaron Bousel, Barbara Burkart, Jeff Cohen,
Joan Saperstan, Yahara Katzeff, Randi Stein,
Judy Glaser, Rachael Goren Jackson- Watts,
Randall Furash-Stewart

Community Engagement Committee

Janis Wolkenbreit, Chair

Members: Carol Kaminsky, Ellen Middleton,
Frieda Howards, Hadar Grabel, Robert Radin,
Robyn Miller, Natalie Jarmon,

Host Committee:

Margaret Mastrangelo, Josette Henschel, Co-chairs

Members Andrew Rome, Flo Stern, Jackie Katz,
Ronnie Williams, Stephanie Sandler

Rabbi Screening Committee:

Amy Rothenberg, Bil Zarch, Co-chairs

Members: Judith Souweine, Larry Fine,
Cheryl Zoll, David Levit, Jim Seltzer,
Devorah Jacobson, Joan Temkin, Joanna Ballentine,
Richard Cohen, Catherine Madsen, Jean Potash



Celebrating
40
Years of Excellence

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Rabbi Search Meeting Results

The Rabbi Search meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6th was attended by approximately 80 members of the congregation. The responses to “What are you looking for in a new rabbi?” had a great deal of overlap, so the Community Engagement Committee identified common threads and combined similar responses into 15 clusters of characteristics. By adding up the number of “votes” within each cluster, we were able to form a prioritized list of the most desired qualities for a JCA rabbi.

Please note that:

- no one on the Community Engagement Committee is a statistician
- because we participated in the process we felt that we could reliably interpret the intent of some of the comments (e.g. does a “spiritual leader” put the emphasis on spirituality or leadership?)
- not everyone at the meeting voted for 3 items so the numbers do not add up neatly
- items that were written down--but did not have votes--are recorded, but not included in totals.

If you would like to view the raw data, it is available on the JCA website in two forms. One is a list of all the written responses from the meeting in order of the number of votes they received (“Ranked Feedback”). The other is a listing of responses by cluster (“Clustered Feedback”).

The prioritized list of characteristics (with number of votes) follows:

- Builds community within JCA (30 votes)
- Inspiring spiritual service leader (27 votes)
- Rapport with children (20 votes)
- Charisma (14 votes)
- Scholarly type (14 votes)
- Mensch (13 votes)
- Music (11 votes)
- Social justice (11 votes)
- Emotional maturity (10 votes)
- Open-minded (not an ideologue) (8 votes)
- Administrative skills (6 votes)
- Has their own spiritual practice/depth (6 votes)
- Leadership skills (6 votes)
- Strong educator (6 votes)
- Pastoral counseling (3 votes)

The Community Engagement Committee will continue to solicit your input as the Rabbi search process continues. Please watch for notices about visits from candidates and your opportunities to interact with them as we head into the next few months. In addition, please feel free to use jcarab-bisearch@yahoo.com or contact a member of the committee to voice your opinions.

A Few Hours Of Your Time Could Save The JCA Thousands Of Dollars!

The JCA Newsletter is printed and labeled for mailing by JCA member volunteers which saves us thousands of dollars each year in printing costs. We need volunteers to do it. This involves a few hours once a month; however, you don't have to be available every month. The more people we have volunteering, the fewer times per year each volunteer will be needed.

Printing and labeling take place in the evening so as not to interfere with the work that needs to be done in the office during the day.

If this sounds like something you could do, please contact:
Stacy Tobin, 253-4725, dszktobin@comcast.net



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

From the Library:

A group of JCA members has newly banded together to reorganize and refurbish the JCA library. The library is the large room located between the lobby and the main sanctuary. The book collection is kept in the smaller room behind the double glass doors in that room. We have a very nice collection of books, but as with any orphaned library the shelves had become too full and disorder had crept in. We want to make it a more user-friendly and welcoming space, an active resource for the community. We've begun by installing another set of shelves and are in the process of weeding out duplicates, categorizing the books and color coding the different subject headings. Since our library is 'self-serve,' our goal is to make it both easier to find the books you are looking for and, even more important, easy to reshelve the books you are returning. We hope to have some sort of celebration when we finish the process. In the meantime, please forgive the mess--it is a creative one!

If you would like to help out with your time or a small donation for supplies let the office know or call Eliza Gouverneur 413-256-6145.

Watch this space!

Visual Arts Committee

The Visual Arts Committee invites the congregation to view our second exhibit: the paintings of JCA member Peter Mishkin. Peter's goal is to transform everyday objects into art. In fact, they spring to life in wonderful color... Please enjoy this show which will hang in our Hallway Gallery until the end of February.

A reminder: Twenty percent of all the Gallery's sales go to the JCA. Surely you have a spot for that great "Coffee Maker"

Forming a JCA Men's Group

We would like to form a men's group to discuss and share our views and experiences concerning life, the world we live in and other appropriate issues and topics.

If you are interested in participating please contact:

Eli Kwartler at 413 253 2929
or at elikwartler@gmail.com

JCA Adult Reading Group

The 3rd meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the satiric comic novel, *The Believers*, by Zoe Heller. It is available in paper-back. New participants are always welcome.

Any questions,
please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

The JCA as our Spiritual Home

In September a community meeting was held to discuss the JCA as our spiritual home. In the course of the meeting participants broke into small groups and listed some of the things they would like to see happening at the JCA.

If you would like to see the notes from that meeting, please email Michael Burkart at maburk47@comcast.net.

The Deadline for the February Newsletter is January 12th

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

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

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



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MARCH 6TH 2010
SENATOR STAN ROSENBERG, AUCTIONEER

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DONATE TO THE AUCTION!
COME TO THE AUCTION WITH FRIENDS!
HELP US ORGANIZE THE EVENT!

Look on the next page for the tear-out donation form!!!

Tear it out, Fill it out, and Send it in by February 1st!

So? Nu? Vat should I donate?

Here are Auntie Tobi and Uncle Jim's ideas:

- Donate the use of your vacation home.
- Donate a gift certificate from a local business.
- Donate a hand-made item or a piece of art.
- Donate a service (cooking, sewing, garden help, etc).
- Donate tickets to a sporting event.
- Get a friend to donate something.

Contact Tobi Sznajderman or Jim Seltzer

To help make this the BEST JCA AUCTION YET!

Tobi: tobiandjoel@gmail.com 549-1795

Jim: jimseltzer@comcast.net 540-9242

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Donor Information:

Name _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Which name do you wish to appear in the auction catalog? name business name both

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Description of Item/Service donated:

Market/Estimated value of donation \$ _____

Recommended starting bid (optional) \$ _____

Please check all that apply:

- Item or gift certificate accompanies this form
- Item or gift certificate will be delivered by _____
- Please contact me to arrange pick up or to discuss details of donation
- Please make a gift certificate for item/service
- Cash Contribution (amount \$ _____) Cash contributions will directly benefit the JCA.

Please mail or fax this form by February 1, 2010 to:

Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main St.
Amherst MA 01002
Attn: Auction Committee
Fax 413-256-1588

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Chanukah Party Thank Yous

The Chanukah party was a huge success – lots of latkes, crafts, singing and beautiful menorahs with their beautiful light! The planning and implementing of this event could not have been done without the efforts of many volunteers and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them.

The Planning Team helped me put it all together: Jana Silver, Aaron Kropf, Jessica Wilkinson, Jill Shulman

Latke Makers: Debbie Zeidenberg, Karen Helfer, Emily Bloch, Peter Wood, Darcy Albanese, Deborah Evans, Lisa Perl-binder, Av Harris, Bruce Klotz, Ken Bernstein

Set up/Clean up: Libby Army, Krista Harper, Norma Hernandez, Dara Herman-Zieland, Ted and Elizabeth Trobaugh

Special thanks to our musicians Aaron Kropf, Evan Shopper, Joe and Tara Acker, Debbie Zeidenberg; Hayley Yaglom and the singers of Kolot; Israeli folk dancing by Oran Kaufman and a wonderful craft activity led by Jana Silver.

Thanks also to Atkins Farms and Panera Bread for their food donations and to Aaron Bousel, Jody Rosenbloom, Linda Cooper and the office staff Marcia and Eric for their support and help.

I hope that I have not left anyone out! This was a real team effort and a testament to the volunteer drive that the synagogue needs to continue moving forward.

Yasher koach to all of us,

Jody Spitz

New Group Builds Jewish Identity for Children with Special Needs

Sundays, 10:15-11:30 am

December 13, 2009 (Chanukah theme)

January 24, 2010

February 21, 2010 (Purim theme)

March 21, 2010 (Passover theme)

April 25, 2010

A new parent support and education group for parents of children with special needs e.g., ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum. Parents can help to identify needs, problems and solutions; educate families and the community; enhance their religious schools, holiday celebrations and home practices, giving children a fuller Jewish identity.

This program is offered through "In God's Image/B'Tzelem Elohim," a collaboration between the Jewish Community of Amherst and Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts with funding from the Family Education Initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, D.Min.

Cost: Free and open to the public.

We apologize that no childcare can be provided at this time.

Location: Jewish Community of Amherst (JCA), 742 Main Street, Amherst.

Registration: To register or for further information, please contact Jody Rosenbloom, JCA's Director of Life Long Learning at (413) 256-0160, x203.

Create Your Jewish Legacy...

What will be your legacy?

Bring your charitable dreams to life with a planned gift to the JCA through the Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts program. There are many different ways to leave your own legacy. Your legacy can reflect everything that is most important and meaningful to you. The act of creating a legacy empowers you to complete the work of your heart, and to enjoy the peace that it brings. You are assured that your work will continue and the Jewish future will be bright.

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To learn more, please contact David Sharken, chair of JCA's Ledor Vdor committee at 413.439.1955 or ledorvador@j-c-a.org or go to www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org



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Call Linda Cooper at 256-0160 ext. 207 for reservations and more information.

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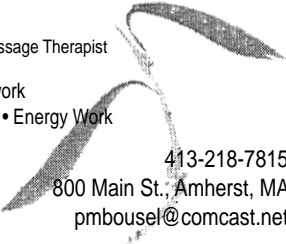
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 Jody Rosenbloom & Joel Kaminsky
 Karen Helfer & Richard Madowitz
 Sara & Sy Berger
 Barbara Slovin & Ted Slovin
 Jaymie & Michael Chernoff
 Robert Horowitz
 In Memory of Abraham Lyon
 (Amy Shulman & Robert Kumin)
 Lynn Peterfreund
 Amy Mittelman & Aaron Berman
 In Memory of Sol Kwartler and Lucille & Ken Benda
 (Barbara Benda Jenkins & Eli Kwartler)
 In Honor of Ted & Barbara Slovin (Karen & John Loeb)
 In Memory of Jack Talan and Jonathan Souweine
 (Kitty & Ken Talan)
 Anita Page
 Kathy & Philip Weilerstein
 Eva & Norman Brown
 Jeanne & Bob Potash
 Yaffa & Haim Gunner
 In Memory of Martin & Sally Epstein and Elsie Franzman
 (Joan Epstein & Burton Franzman)
 In Memory of Dr. Daniel Kliman
 (Norma Hernandez & Jonathan Kliman)
 In Memory of Marcia Flint ((Rachel & Jay Flint)
 In Memory of our mothers and Judi's father
 (Judi & Kip Fonsh)
 Judy Glaser & Bob Stern
 Moira & Stephen Clingman
 Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu
 Ronnie Janoff-Bulman & Michael Bulman
 Eliza Gouverneur & Richard Cohen
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 Dani Pers Faytell & David Faytell
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 Susan & Paul Burnim

Children's Scholarship Fund

To Welcome Tessa Rae Urban, the new granddaughter of
 Ted & Barbara Slovin (Eva & Norman Brown)

High Holiday Donations

Josh Maurer
 Renee Hill & Alan Goldberg
 Kenneth Dym
 Leslie Goldstein

JCA General Fund

In Honor and in Appreciation of John Loeb for his term
 as co-president and his continuing service to the JCA
 (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Honor and Appreciation of the JCA Board of Directors
 (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of Leo Edward Mercer, brother of Esther Mercer
 (Patience & Aaron Bousel)
 In Honor of Ruth Love Barer's 60th birthday and in
 appreciation for all she does for the JCA
 (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Esther Mercer's brother (Fran Saed)

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

in Memory of Steven Bauer, father of Rabbi Bauer:

Susan Myers
 Adam Myers
 Jane & Daniel Giat
 Judith & Allen Davis
 Stephanie Sandler & Austin Sarat
 Ronnie Janoff-Bulman & Michael Bulman
 Barbara & Ted Slovin
 Alan Peterfreund
 Lori Holder-Webb & Jeffrey Cohen
 Judi & Kip Fonsh
 Fran Saed
 Pearl-Anne & Nathan Margalit
 Patience & Aaron Bousel

Condolences

*We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the
 families and friends of those who have recently died:*
 Abe Pollin, father of Robert Pollin,
 father-in-law of Sigrid Miller Pollin

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Community Announcements

Gan Keshet Preschool

Gan Keshet Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2010-11 school year! We offer a rich, nurturing, play-based Judaic/Secular environment where children, families and staff of diverse backgrounds together explore “being a community”.

Yoga With A Jewish Twist

“Yoga with a Jewish Twist” led by Amy Reed, Anusara Yoga Instructor and Judi Wisch, Jewish Educator. “Setting intentions for a yoga practice based on Jewish Wisdom sources, we create an artful blend of yoga postures, contemplation, and community”

Sunday, January 17th, 9:45 to 11:15 at Lander Grinspoon Academy. Fee \$10. Beginners welcome. For info call Rachel Valitt 413.658.5806..

Boston Jewish Music Festival

The First annual Boston Jewish Music Festival is coming!! Save the Dates: March 6-14, 2010, for a new, exciting and meaningful celebration of Jewish music in all its forms. From Klezmer to Cantorial to Classical, from Israel to the Balkans to Brooklyn under ground, the Boston area will ring with music for all ages and tastes—concerts for the whole family, dance parties for the limber, workshops and special school appearances. It'll be the cultural event of the year—a source of pride and enjoyment for the entire Boston community. Find out more about events, the latest news, and how you can help at www.boston-jewishmusicfestival.org.

National Yiddish Book Center

The National Yiddish Book Center is now accepting applications for its Steiner Summer Internship Program and its Graduate Fellows Program. The application deadline for both programs is February 1, 2010.

Detailed information and an application form are available on-line at www.yiddishsummer.org.

NYBC Book Series

The National Yiddish Book Center will host a community reading and discussion series to explore fascinating works of classic and contemporary Jewish writers. Discussions are free and will be led by local scholars. Books are available at the National Yiddish Book Center Store at a 20% discount. Pre-registration is suggested. For more information call 413-256-4900 ext. 124. To order books call 1-800-783-9272 or visit www.greatjewishbooks.com.

The book group schedule is
Thursday, January 14, 7:00 pm
Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, an Exile's Journey by Joyce Zonana
Discussion led by Aviva Ben-Ur,
University of Massachusetts

Thursday, February 18, 7:00 pm
Scottsboro by Ellen Feldman
Discussion led by Jim Smethurst,
University of Massachusetts

Thursday, March 18, 7:00 pm
The Merchant of Venice
by William Shakespeare
Discussion led by Ilan Stavans,
Amherst College

Thursday, April 22, 7:00 pm
One More Year by Sana Krasikov
Discussion led by Olga Gershenson,
University of Massachusetts

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 pm
The End of Everything
by David Bergelson
Discussion led by Aaron Lansky,
National Yiddish Book Center

Meditation Group

Thursday Morning “Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah”* Meditation Group
Every Thursday in the CBI Library,
from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and
Sheila Peltz Weinberg

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

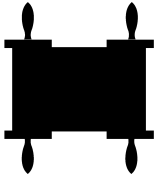
- Arrive & Settling In:
8:00 – 8:15 a.m.
- Setting of Kavvanah/Teaching:
8:15 – 8:25 a.m.
- Bell to begin silent meditation:
8:25 a.m.
- Bell to end silent meditation:
8:55 a.m.

* “To You silence is praise.”

Psalm 65:2

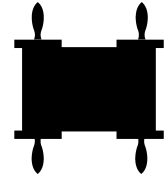
Community announcements should be brief and of interest to the local Jewish community. Announcements will be listed as space permits.

Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately? Books by JCA members and others, siddurim, chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot and many lovely gift items. You can shop whenever the office is open.



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

January 2010



15 Tevet ~ 16 Shevat 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 15 TEVET	2 16 TEVET
					New Year's Day 4:10 6:15 pm Service- (There will be no early family service this month) OFFICE CLOSED	Veyechi 10:00 am Service No 7th grade
3 17 TEVET	4 18 TEVET	5 19 TEVET	6 20 TEVET	7 21 TEVET	8 22 TEVET	9 23 TEVET
No JCA School	7:30 pm Chesed Committee	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:00 am JCA Business Network 7:30 pm Ritual Life Cttee JCA School Resumes	7:30 pm Board Meeting	4:17 6:15 pm Service	Shemot 10:00 am Service
10 24 TEVET	11 25 TEVET	12 26 TEVET	13 27 TEVET	14 28 TEVET	15 29 TEVET	16 1 SHEVAT
10:00 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds 4:00 pm Sharing Shabbat Together see page 5		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:30 am Tikkun Olam 7:00 pm Spirituality and Social Change	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation		4:25 6:15 pm Carlebach style service and potluck supper	Rosh Chodesh Shevat Va'era 10:00 am Service No 7th grade 8:00 pm JCAT Sleepover
17 2 SHEVAT	18 3 SHEVAT	19 4 SHEVAT	20 5 SHEVAT	21 6 SHEVAT	22 7 SHEVAT	23 8 SHEVAT
No JCA School	Martin Luther King Day	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation JCA School resumes		4:33 6:15 pm Service	Bo 10:00 am Chanting Service 5:00 pm Family Education see page 6
24 9 SHEVAT	25 10 SHEVAT	26 11 SHEVAT	27 12 SHEVAT	28 13 SHEVAT	29 14 SHEVAT	30 15 SHEVAT
10:15 am In God's Image Group see page 14		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation Parent-Teacher Conferences - No Classes		4:42 6:15 pm Service	Tu B'Shvat Beshalach 10:00 am Service
31 16 SHEVAT						

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