

# jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

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## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

### CANDLE LIGHTING

February 5 ~ 4:51 pm

February 12 ~ 5:01 pm

February 19 ~ 5:10 pm

February 26 ~ 5:18 pm

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



### SPECIAL EVENTS

**February 21**

In God's Image



### MEETINGS

**February 3**

JCA Business Network  
Ritual Life Committee  
School Committee

**February 4**

Board Meeting

**February 10**

Education Committee



**February 27**

Megillah Reading and  
Costume Parade at  
Congregation B'nai Israel

**February 28**



Purim  
Carnival  
English  
Megillah  
Reading  
and Brunch

### Message from Co-president

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

#### Exodus, Heroes and the JCA

Chaverim, what makes a hero? Is your definition from classical literature where a hero is a brave warrior or noble who fights for their own advancement or glory? Admired for their fame and fortune, they are extolled in ballads, and images preserve their memory. In modern American culture, heroes seem much the same, frequently athletes or public figures identified as much by what they "possess" as by what they do for others.

In the Hebrew tradition, a hero is someone different, usually from simple beginnings who accomplishes a great deal with little or no thought to their own personal gain. Rather, they embody the attributes of humanity, empathy and humility, performing acts of loving kindness, caring for others, sheltering the stranger, the widow, and the orphan. Clothed in plain garments, they appear throughout the parshiot this month, as we get to know Moses, his father-in-law Jethro, Joshua, and Aaron. Significantly, not all "Jewish heroes" are Jews. Jethro, a Midianite, comes to the aid of Moses with advice, guidance, and even sacrifices to show his support. He is one of the many Righteous Gentiles that Jews throughout our history have encountered.

One such hero passed away on January 11, 2010, Miep Gies, the last survivor among protectors of Anne Frank, her family, the van Pels family and Fritz Pfeffer who all hid in the secret annex sustained by Ms. Gies and five others until their arrest by the Gestapo. She is the woman who rescued Anne Frank's diary ensuring that the world will always have an enduring "testament to the human spirit in the face of unfathomable evil".

What makes Ms. Gies extraordinary in my view is that she came from modest circumstances yet she risked so much. A Roman Catholic refugee from Austria, she did not have an easy life, first moving to Leiden and then Amsterdam. As Otto Frank's employee, she and her husband became friends of the

Frank family, but only an amazing person would agree to care for the daily needs of eight people in hiding as well as hide an anti-Nazi university student in her own apartment.

Her devotion was beyond incredible. In addition to providing daily sustenance, she brought books and news of the outside world and provided emotional support, bringing Anne her first pair of high-heeled shoes, baking a holiday cake, and even spending a night in the annex. After the war when only Otto Frank returned, he lived with the Gieses and worked with Miep to publish Anne's diary so that the world would know about the Shoah and Anne's voice would not be lost.

Miep Gies always scoffed about being called a hero saying "Imagine young people would grow up with the feeling that you have to be a hero to do your human duty. I am afraid nobody would ever help other people, because who is a hero? I was not. I was just an ordinary housewife and secretary."

One message in Exodus, exemplified by the life of Ms. Gies, is that anyone can be a Jewish hero including every person who puts their time and energy into the Jewish Community of Amherst. You are all heroes whether you work in the kitchen, volunteer for a committee, or perform an act of chesed for another member and we thank you. In the words of Bertolt Brecht's "Galileo", one of his students says, "Unhappy the land that has no heroes," and Galileo responds, "No, unhappy the land that needs heroes." The JCA is the happiest of lands because we need and have our own heroes who give to their community every day.

*b'shalom,  
Lisa*

### RABBI CANDIDATE VISITS

**January 29-31-** Rabbi Nathan Martin

**February 19-21-** Rabbi Ben Weiner

See page 8 for more information.

**February 2010**

**Shevat/Adar 5770**

**Vol. 9, Issue No. 2**

## *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: Karen Loeb** (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 March issue is February 12th**

*February 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 2*

*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: 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.

<b>Function</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email</b>
General Oversight - Administrative	Eli Kwartler, Board Representative and Sabbatical Committee Co-chair	413-253-2929	elikwartler@gmail.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, Ritual Life Committee Co-chairs	413-598-8598 413-253-2930	cyclone411@charter.net allset22@verizon.net
Interfaith Community Requests	Eli Kwartler	413-253-2929	elikwartler@gmail.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 Yitro, *Exodus 18:1-20:23*

#### February 5, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergeneration Family Service followed by potluck supper  
 Service Leader: Rabbi Efraim Eisen

#### February 6, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leaders: Catherine Madsen & Judy Young  
 D'var Torah: To be announced



### Shabbat Shekalim/Parashat Mishpatim

*Exodus 21:1-24:18, Exodus 30:11-16*

#### February 12, Friday

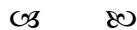
6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service followed by potluck supper  
 Service Leaders: Larry & Deb Fine

#### February 13, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser  
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Ed Feld  
 NOTE: Rabbi Feld will lead Torah study following kiddush.



#### February 14/15, Sunday/Monday-

Rosh Chodesh Adar



### Shabbat Terumah, *Exodus 25:1-27:19*

#### February 19, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Ben Weiner (candidate for JCA rabbi)

#### February 20, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Ben Weiner  
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Ben Weiner



### Shabbat Zachor/Parashat Tetzaveh

*Exodus 27:20-30:10, Deuteronomy 25:17-19*

#### February 26, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen

#### February 27, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Efraim Eisen  
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Efraim Eisen



### Purim

#### February 27, Saturday

6:30 PM

Megillah reading and celebration at Congregation B'nai Israel

#### February 28, Sunday

10:00 AM

English Megillah reading and brunch



Check the JCA website at:  
[www.j-c-a.org/services.html](http://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***

### **January 16th-**

Jonathan Shefftz & Andrea Newman, in honor of the baby naming of their daughter, Micayla Fay Shefftz

### **January 23rd-**

Barbara & Ted Slovin

### **February 20th-**

Alan Peterfreund

**Please see page 9 for information about sponsoring a kiddush. You can also email [kitchen@j-c-a.org](mailto:kitchen@j-c-a.org), or contact Karen Loeb at [kloeb@j-c-a.org](mailto:kloeb@j-c-a.org)**

## ***Upcoming Rabbi Candidate Visits***

### **January 29-31**

Rabbi Nathan Martin

### **February 19-21**

Rabbi Ben Weiner

See page 8 for more information.

## ***Weekly Torah Readings***

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.hebcal.com/sedrot/>

## ***First Friday Night Service and Potluck Supper***

Please join us on the first Friday of each month at 5:30 pm for a brief child oriented service followed by a potluck supper. Although the service is geared towards young children, it contains all the elements of a regular Friday evening service, including mourner's kaddish. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

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

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 February 12th 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)

## ***PURIM at the JCA (and elsewhere)***

This year we will combine forces with Congregation B'nai Israel for our Purim celebration and Megillah reading on Saturday evening February 27th starting at 6:30 pm. Purim at CBI boasts something for everyone, the Megillah is read, there is a costume parade, some schtick, and of course, lots of hammentaschen at the end.

On Sunday February 28th we'll have two events at the JCA. At 10:00 am we'll have our English Megillah reading and brunch. The brunch is donated by The Black Sheep Deli. Please be aware that this is an adult gathering and not for children.

BUT, The JCA Purim Carnival will be happening from 10:30 am-1:30 pm so children need not feel left out. See Jody Rosenbloom's column on the following page for more details.

**Education News**

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



***Make the Time! Join Us for Family Services Friday, February 5 at 5:30 pm followed by a potluck dinner***

If you were to ask me what one weekly touchstone links me to the Jewish community, it is making time for Shabbat in some way. Much of our curriculum, community and ritual evolve around Shabbat, our day of rest. We work with our students to master reading the prayers & blessings, practice *kabbalat Shabbat*/welcoming the Sabbath, and make many of the ritual objects. The important integration of all the learning is in the actual DOING...some of us “make” Shabbat at home. But there is a special connection through joining the community in celebration together. At the request of many families, the Ritual Life Committee has offered this first of the month family service for our households with children. **Rabbi Efraim Eisen**, will be our guest service leader, storyteller & niggun/melody maker, for a service with the multiple generations in mind.

***For Our Students: The Layers of Professional Development***

Our teachers care about Judaism and want to create and facilitate a program for our students that builds curiosity, exploration, and knowledge. Not just knowledge of facts, but integrated being – that our students identify as Jewish and have Jewish ritual and knowledge that inform their daily life. Some of JCA School teachers are certified educators. Some of us see teaching as our profession, others as an avocation, and some, just a job to do. Regardless, we all participate in workshops that help enhance our understanding of our own Jewish journeys as well as skills to teach our students in the classroom. Our teaching staff gets together once/month to share concerns and what is working well in each class. The Teaching Assistants get together with Teen Advisor and 3rd

grade teacher, **Amy Epstein**, to share their interests and learn more about having a role to play within a classroom or the JCA. Once in awhile, such as on Sun. Jan. 10, our staff learns with colleagues – we hosted the staff of Congregation B’nai Israel’s school to a joint workshop on children with special and all needs in our classrooms. As principal, I meet monthly with the principals of Jewish supplementary schools in the region at the **Resource Center for Jewish Education** – in January we met with **Diane Troderman**, who toured the schools listed in the “Best Practices in Jewish Supplementary Schools” literature. There is an effort at many levels to keep teachers supported and improving, in order to enrich our Life Long Learners of many ages.

***Be Happy, Its Adar: Purim Carnival Fundraiser for School***

Join us for the PURIM CARNIVAL-Sunday morning, February 28. 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. Fun filled Purim games designed by JCA School students and a mitzvah booth to box treats for the Survival Center. Cost is \$5/child, \$10/family. Attendees in costume, who bring Box Tops for Education, or who bring a food donation for the Survival Center get a “shekel” towards prizes. Refreshments sold separately. Parents or an adult are asked to accompany all children.

***Shabbat Bear Began His Visits***

How do we link what we do in JCA School with what our students do in their homes? For Second and First Graders, they take turns hosting Shabbat Bear. He comes with his own little house and visits each student for a week. Students and their families help the Shabbat Bear keep a journal of his adventures and create household items to enrich his life (e.g. student/parent made mezuzah, poncho, tallit and kippah). Shabbat Bear enriches the class unit on Shabbat by bringing student lessons home.

***Calendar***

Wed, Feb. 3	School Committee at 7:00 pm
Fri, Feb. 5	Family Service at 5:30 pm followed by a potluck supper
Sun, Feb. 7	Shalom Sunday for 4-6 year olds
Wed, Feb. 10	Education Committee
Sat, Feb. 13- Sat, Feb. 20	No Classes - President's Holiday Week
Sun, Feb. 21	Classes resume for grades 1-6 In God's Image/B'Tzelem Elohim Group
Sun, Feb. 28	No Classes: Purim Carnival 10:30 am-1:30 pm

***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 31st  
Pick up: on or after Friday, February 5th**

Order forms are available in the JCA lobby or online by contacting [susanweinstein1@yahoo.com](mailto:susanweinstein1@yahoo.com).


*great coffee, great price, great cause!*

## February 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](mailto:jcateens@gmail.com) or [jtovteens@gmail.com](mailto:jtovteens@gmail.com) with any questions.



Programming for  
6, 7, 8, & 9th graders


**SNOWTUBING!**  
**Sunday, February 21st**  
**12:45-5:00pm**  
**Pickup and drop-off at the JCA**  
 Join JTOV teens for snow tubing at Berkshire East! Email [jtovteens@gmail.com](mailto:jtovteens@gmail.com) for more information & registration form. \$18 per teen— includes snacks, transportation, tubing rental and fees.



**SAVE THE DATE**

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

*We have room for two more teens to attend this trip!  
 Email [jtovteens@gmail.com](mailto:jtovteens@gmail.com) ASAP for more information.*




Programming for  
6-12th graders

A COLLECTIVE OF UPPER PIONEER VALLEY JEWISH TEENS


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**Sunday, February 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](mailto:jtovteens@gmail.com) for more information.




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**Tuesday, February 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



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**Thursday, February 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](mailto:jtovteens@gmail.com) for more info.



## ***Important Information on the Rabbi Search Process***

January 18, 2010

*Dear JCA Community,*

Mark your calendars! We have two rabbi candidates coming to town. On the weekend of January 29, 30, 31, 2010, Rabbi Nathan Martin will be coming to the JCA and on the weekend of Feb 19, 20, 21 Rabbi Benjamin Weiner will be with us. We are continuing to interview by phone and in person a number of others so there may well be one or two more candidates. A full weekend of activities is planned for the candidates and there will be many chances for you to offer your feedback. These candidates have already been through two interviews by the screening committee. Now it is your turn. Please join us in welcoming them to the JCA.

**Rabbi Nathan Martin** is a 2006 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He holds a BA in Political Science from Stanford University (1988) and an MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University (1991). He is currently the Assistant Director of the University of Michigan Hillel in Ann Arbor, MI and has also served as a Rabbinic Intern and an Interim Rabbi at various congregations. Prior to becoming a rabbi he was a Scientific Engineering Associate at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. Rabbi Martin's stated rabbinic goals are:

- *Support the growth of a spiritually vibrant and engaging Jewish congregation.*
- *Create an intellectually stimulating environment for Jewish learning and practice.*
- *Nurture a culture of caring in which congregants celebrate and support each other.*
- *Help strengthen our communal capacity to act as 'shomrei adamah,' guardians of the earth and 'rodfei shalom,' pursuers of peace."*

**Rabbi Benjamin Weiner** is a 2008 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He holds a BA in English Literature from Columbia College (1995) and an M.Phil. in Irish Literature from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland (1999). He is currently the rabbi and Director of Education at Mishkan Ha'am in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. and has also served as a High Holiday cantor, Rabbinic Intern, and chaplain. Prior to becoming a rabbi he worked as a journalist, book reviewer, and essayist on Jewish philosophy, communal politics, finance, culture, and comparative religion. In Rabbi Weiner's letter of interest he says the following about his philosophy:

*My Reconstructionist orientation has ... helped me to re-envision how a rabbi serves a Jewish congregation. The fact that you have named yourselves a 'Jewish Community', as opposed, for instance, to a temple or synagogue, is very telling and very in keeping with my own sensibilities. Though I love those aspects of spiritual leadership that can emanate from the bimah of a synagogue, including exegesis of Torah and the musical facilitation of prayer, I have never been entirely comfortable with the term 'pulpit rabbi.' The pulpit, whatever it looks like, is one element of a larger phenomenon: one facet of the deeper task of creating a robust and welcoming Jewish communal home. For this reason, I've taken to referring to myself as a 'communal rabbi', one who seeks to engage individual Jews where they are, and lead them through their own gateways into larger Jewish fellowship.*

THE SCHEDULE OF TIMES FOR THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE TO MEET THE CANDIDATES IS AS FOLLOWS.

**Friday night services at 6:15 PM.** The candidates will conduct the service and offer a brief d'var torah. Oneg to follow service and informal time with the rabbi

**Saturday morning services at 10:00 AM.** The candidates will lead services, read from the Torah and present divrei torah. There will be a Kiddush following services and Rabbi Nathan will lead a short teaching on TuBishvat, the birthday of the Trees.

**Sunday morning 11:45 – 12:15.** Hebrew School Learners' Minyan which is open to all.

**Sunday 12:45 - 2:00.** Open meeting for the congregation – question and answer session with the candidate.

Feedback forms will be available to you at all services and congregational meetings during the candidate weekends. Your voices are essential to our process, so please come, meet the candidates and give us your feedback.

*Sincerely,*

Amy Rothenberg	amy@nesh.com	Screening Committee
Bil Zarch	bilzarch1@gmail.com	Screening Committee
Janis Wolkenbreit	jhwolk@comcast.net	Community Engagement
Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser	shapiro.rieser@gmail.com	Big Questions
Josette Henschel	josette.henschel@aic.edu	Host Committee
Margaret Mastrangelo	mastrangelom@comast.net	Host Committee



## *From the Kitchen Committee*

*Dear JCA Members,*

In these difficult economic times, the JCA, like so many other organizations, has had to make several painful budget cuts. To continue to thrive as a vibrant, creative, and spiritually uplifting community, the JCA Board believes that it is necessary for every able member to contribute some of their time to guarantee that the vital tasks of the institution will continue. We hope that contributing time will result in a positive, community-building experience and expect that almost all of our members will participate.

The volunteer options are many and varied, some taking no more than 2 hours per year, others involving monthly tasks or meetings. Below we are asking for help with one of the easiest, but also vital, volunteer opportunities.

Following every Saturday morning Shabbat service, the JCA has offered a Kiddush luncheon. This has developed into a wonderful, precious time for members and families to socialize and to study. Because of the budget cuts, there is no longer money to pay for food or for someone to staff the Saturday Kiddush or the Friday night Oneg. The Board has asked a recently formed Kitchen Committee to organize a new system in which you, the members of the JCA, will share Saturday Kiddush responsibilities (the Kitchen Committee members will take care of Friday nights for now).

The Kitchen Committee's plan is that each week three or four households host the Kiddush. These households will provide a main dish, some side dishes, and dessert for 25 to 30 people, as well as set up and clean up. The Kitchen Committee will coordinate each Kiddush with the host households and will provide guidelines and suggestions for dishes. Coffee/tea, wine/juice, and challah will be provided by the JCA. The Kiddush usually starts at about 12:15 and people stay for an hour or less. A Kitchen Committee member will provide on-site assistance to the host households for both set up and clean up.

If physically helping on a Saturday is not possible for you, please consider making a donation to the Kiddush Fund for us to prepare food on your behalf. To sponsor a Kiddush for a special occasion such as a yahrzeit, anniversary or baby naming, please contact Karen Loeb at 256-0160, ext. 207.

On the JCA website you will find a list of dates when we need hosts. Follow the link to an online sign up sheet. If you prefer, you can call us (Barbara at 256-0355) or email us your preferred date to host at [Kitchen@j-c-a.org](mailto:Kitchen@j-c-a.org).

We are grateful to you for your help and hope that your gift of time to the JCA is fun and fulfilling.

*B'shalom,*

*Barbara Freed, Karen Loeb, and Andra Rose and the JCA Board*

## *JCA Business Network*

The next meeting of the JCA Business Network will be on **February 3, 2010 at 8:00 AM** at the JCA.  
Catalina Arrubla will demonstrate how easy it is to create a youtube video for your business!.



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## Membership Appeal

The JCA presently has approximately 290 member units (individuals/families). This number is down from a height in our membership of approximately 350 families. The silver lining might be that being smaller allowed us to move High Holiday services to the JCA and this has been hugely successful and by all accounts a positive step. Regardless of our size, we are now committed to keeping High Holidays at the JCA. Nevertheless, from a budgetary standpoint, we must increase our membership. Our budget relies heavily on dues and our current membership numbers are simply not enough to sustain our budget. At about 330 membership units we would be able to have a yearly balanced budget. At the present we have a deficit every year. There are other obvious benefits to increased membership in addition to more revenue. Higher attendance at events and services feels better and in general with more members, the community feels more vibrant and there is simply more energy by way of people-power for more events and activities.

So here is where you come in. It should not be difficult to attract members. We have an impressive number of activities at the JCA ranging from religious events, educational activities for all ages, cultural events, opportunities for tikkun olam and opportunities to shmooze, have fun and be a community.

If you know individuals or families who might be interested in joining the JCA, invite them to an event, and send us their names and contact information so we can invite them and notify them about all of the great activities at the JCA.

If you know people who are former members who might be interested in rejoining, please let us know.

If you have ideas about who we can reach out to please let us know.

If each member came up with 5 individuals or families who might be potential members and just a small percentage of those joined the JCA, we would meet our goal.

So- please take a few minutes, think of all the people you know who might be possible members and any ideas you have about this and send them to us at:

membership@j-c-a.org.

## Building Jewish Identity for Children with Special Needs- A Support and Education Group for Parents

The next meeting of the newly-formed Parent Support and Education Group called *Building Jewish Identify for Children with Special Needs: A Support and Education Group for Parents* will take place on Sunday, February 21, 2010, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

In God's Image/B'Tzelem Elohim workshops are aimed at parents of children with ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum, and other special needs which may cause learning, behavioral or emotional challenges. Parents have an opportunity to hear from each other and help to identify needs, problems and solutions. In particular, this group is to help families strengthen their Jewish experience at home and in our community and to give children a fuller Jewish identity. Note: Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare at this time.

**Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser** is a former special education teacher who has a Doctor of Ministry degree in Jewish Spiritual Direction. She is also a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Upcoming Meetings: Sundays, March 21, April 25, 2010

Location: Jewish Community of Amherst,  
742 Main Street, Amherst, MA

Cost: Free and open to the Jewish community.

For registration and further information contact:  
Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Life Long Learning,  
at 413-256-0160x203 or eddir@j-c-a.org.

## 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"



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To learn more, please contact David Sharken, chair of JCA's Ldor Vdor committee at 413.439.1955 or ledorvador@j-c-a.org or visit [www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org](http://www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org)

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Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at the JCA  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

***Support The Troops***

The JCA's response to the call for Hanukkah/Holiday packages was wonderful! We were able to send 17 small and medium boxes. Many people donated items anonymously. For those of you who donated money for mailing, we really needed it for all those packages. There was enough gelt for everyone to get their own bag, as well as a good quantity of dreidles (with instructions). Along with a few small gifts, home-baked cookies, and lots of good snacks. The Bet class (2nd grade) helped out by making cards for the guys.

We are planning on sending another shipment mid-February. Again, snack foods (granola bars, cheese crackers, canned fruit, instant oatmeal, tuna packets, etc) are appreciated. Little notes as well as homemade items are good too. Please pack homemade goods in plastic containers so they don't get crushed.

We also need more funds for shipping. Make checks out to JCA with "support the troops" in the memo line.

The donation box will be back on the table in the lobby. Also, please feel free to contact me if you need a pick up or have questions.

Helena,  
[fhdonovan@yahoo.com](mailto:fhdonovan@yahoo.com) or 549-2841

***JCA Adult Reading Group***

The 3rd meeting of the year of the ARG will **now** be on Wednesday, March 3, 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 paperback. New participants are always welcome.

Any questions,  
please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

***The Deadline for the  
March Newsletter is  
February 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](mailto:news@j-c-a.org) 253-3544

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**Silent Auction: 7-9:30 PM**  
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*Please check all that apply:*

- Item or gift certificate accompanies this form
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- 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 IMMEDIATELY to:**

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

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- **Daily Snack & Lunch in the Amherst College Dining Hall**
- **Weekly Family Kabbalat Shabbat Event**

Registration Forms may be downloaded at: [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org)

For further information, contact us at: 413-256-0160 x250 or [shemesh@j-c-a.org](mailto:shemesh@j-c-a.org)

*Partial scholarships available through the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation*

*Camp Shemesh is affiliated with the Jewish Community of Amherst, and not Amherst College.*

*Camp Shemesh must comply with the regulations of the MA Dept. of Public Health and be licensed by the board of health.*



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Call Karen Loeb at 256-0160 ext. 207 for reservations and more information.

***Get it on line!***

You can read the JCA Newsletter on line at:

[www.j-c-a.org/news/current.pdf](http://www.j-c-a.org/news/current.pdf)

Many of our members have elected not to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter and read it on line instead (or print their own copy from the on line edition). This helps reduce the cost of producing the Newsletter each month.

Please contact the office if you no longer need to have the Newsletter mailed to you.

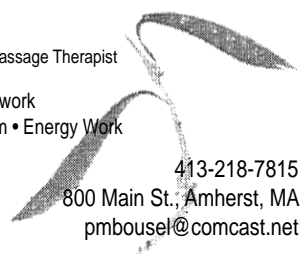
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 In Memory of Rosalyn & Barney Ash (Krista Harper & Michael Ash)  
 In Memory of Lillian Radler, parent and grandmother (Karen Hoffman)  
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 Marilyn & Joseph Kushick  
 Kayla Werlin  
 Jacqueline Katz  
 Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit  
 Hollie Kalkstein & Robert Weitzman  
 In Memory of Leah, Carl & Michael Winograd (Anna-Beth Winograd)  
 In Honor of Cheryl Zoll (Marcie & Richard Sclove)  
 In Honor of Rabbi Bauer (Fay Zipkowitz)  
 In Memory of David & Gordon Rodetsky (Hannah Zuckerman)  
 Barbara & David Schimmel  
 In Memory of Jonathan Souweine (Beverly & Stephen Woolf)  
 In Honor of Ruth & Stanley Wax (Jody Wax & Thomas Butler)  
 Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit  
 Rachel Schwab Rehorka & Gary Rehorka  
 Alison & Richard Ellis  
 Joan & Monroe Rabin  
 Hollie Kalkstein & Robert Weitzman  
 Edythe & Marvin Ellin  
 In Honor of all the people who help the JCA run – the officers, board members, staff and dedicated volunteers (Suzanne Arnopolin & Ronnie Williams)  
 Nancy Cohen  
 Kathy & Bob Feldman  
 In Memory of Flora Garay, Harry's grandmother (Mara Kaplan Hahn & Harry Hahn)  
 In Honor of Rabbi Bauer's years of service (Joan Swerdlow-Brandt & Robert Brandt)  
 In Honor of my havurah – the Talans, Fines & Chernoffs (Judith Souweine)  
 Nina & Donald Tetenbaum  
 In Honor of Josh, Noah & Leah Danoff (Susan Zarchin)  
 Donna Baron & Steven Silvern  
 Reed & Arnie Alper  
 Ellen & John Middleton  
 In Honor of Rabbi David Bauer (James Young)  
 In Honor of Ruth & Monroe Swerdlow (Linda & Daniel Reif)  
 In Honor of the work of the Chesed Committee (Jane & Jim Wald)  
 Mark Israel

In Memory of Hal Armon, Barry Huber, and Esther Dibner (Ann Armon & Len Huber)

### **Arts & Culture Committee**

Susan Pepper Aisenberg

### **High Holiday Donations**

Barbara & Murray Schuman  
 Linda Miller  
 Karen Sheingold  
 Harry Levit  
 Martha Hoffheimer  
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### **Kiddush/Oneg Fund**

In Honor and in Appreciation of Linda Cooper for all the wonderful kiddushes and onegs she prepared for the JCA community (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

### **JCA General Fund**

I. L. Cohen Foundation  
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 Gabriel Gladstone B'nai Tzedek Fund  
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 Barbara & Richard Alpert  
 In Memory of Charles Lubinsky (Marian & Len Lubinsky)

### **Prayerbook Fund**

In Memory of Esther Yasney Furash, grandmother of Randall Furash-Stewart (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In Memory of Steven Bauer (Linda Sinapi)  
 Austin Cohen B'nai Tzedek Fund  
 In Memory of Rabbi Bauer's father (Caden & Lewis Mainzer)  
 For a speedy recovery for Madison Couture, daughter of Melanie Lewis (Fran Saed)

### **Tzedakah Fund**

In Memory of Tara Michelle Katzner (Ruth & Donald Katzner)

## ***Condolences***

*We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:*  
 Esther Yasney Furash,  
 grandmother of Randall Furash-Stewart

If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact 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.

## 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, February 21st, 9:45 to 11:15 at Lander Grinspoon Academy. Fee \$10. Beginners welcome. For info call Rachel Valitt 413.658.5806.

### **Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival**

March 11 - 24, 2010

Find out more at  
www.ValleyJewishFilm.org.  
Follow us on Facebook at  
www.facebook.com/pvjff

### **PJ Library Pals**

February 26, 1:00-2:00 pm

Puppets, music, art, theatre...PJ families are having fun all year! The PJ Library invites parents and preschoolers, 2-4 years old, to enjoy fun Jewish-themed stories and activities each month. Lots of friends come at 12:30pm to have a brown bag lunch together, too! More activities scheduled for 3/19, 4/16, 5/14, and 6/11. Location: Lander~Grinspoon Academy, 257 Prospect St., N'ton. For info or to receive e-mail reminders contact Marla at 584-6622, or mshelasky@lgaschechter.org.

### **Lander~Grinspoon Academy**

Lander~Grinspoon Academy is accepting applications for all grades, Jr.K-6. Apply to junior kindergarten or kindergarten by our January 29 deadline and meet other parents and applicants at our Kindergarten Visit Day, Feb. 8. \$2500 Grinspoon Tuition Incentive, Amherst van, financial aid, and after-school programs are available. Call to schedule a tour today or visit our website to download application materials: 584-6622, www.LGASchechter.org.

### **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

### **Hadassah**

Please Save the Date for a  
Special Hadassah Event  
Sunday April 18, 2010

We can't disclose the details yet, but we will let you know as soon as everything is finalized.

## **United Jewish Communities and New Israel Fund**

*The work of UJC and NIF helps strengthen Israel and world Jewry. Many thanks to those who generously contributed:*

Marilyn & Jeffrey Blaustein  
Robert Brooks  
Irving & Frieda Howards  
David Levit & Ruth Kane-Levit  
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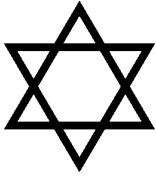
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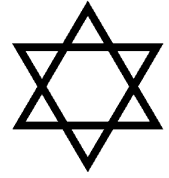
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# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

## February 2010



17 Shevat ~ 14 Adar 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 17 SHEVAT	2 18 SHEVAT	3 19 SHEVAT	4 20 SHEVAT	5 21 SHEVAT	6 22 SHEVAT
		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:00 am JCA Business Network 7:00 pm School Committee 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	7:30 pm Board Meeting	11:45:51 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	Yitro 10:00 am Service
7 23 SHEVAT	8 24 SHEVAT	9 25 SHEVAT	10 26 SHEVAT	11 27 SHEVAT	12 28 SHEVAT	13 29 SHEVAT
10:00 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:15 pm Education Committee		Lincoln's Birthday 11:5:01 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	Mishpatim Parashat Shekalim 10:00 am Service No 7th grade
14 30 SHEVAT	15 1 ADAR	16 2 ADAR	17 3 ADAR	18 4 ADAR	19 5 ADAR	20 6 ADAR
✠Rosh Chodesh Adar - Day 1 No JCA School	✠Rosh Chodesh Adar - Day 2 Washington's Birthday (observed)	7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No JCA School		11:5:10 6:15 pm Service led by Rabbi Ben Weiner, candidate for the position of JCA rabbi	Terumah 10:00 am Service led by Rabbi Ben Weiner No 7th grade
21 7 ADAR	22 8 ADAR	23 9 ADAR	24 10 ADAR	25 11 ADAR	26 12 ADAR	27 13 ADAR
JCA School Resumes 10:15 am In God's Image Group, see p. 10		7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	✠Fast of Esther	11:5:18 6:15 pm Service	Tetzaveh Parashat Zachor 10:00 am Service  6:30 pm Megillah Reading and Celebration at Congregation B'nai Israel
28 14 ADAR						
✠Purim 10:00 am English Megillah Reading and Brunch 10:30 am Purim Carnival - No JCA School classes						

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST  
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