


jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING

March 5 ~ 5:27 pm
March 12 ~ 5:35 pm
March 19 ~ 6:43 pm
March 26 ~ 6:51 pm

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 6
JCA Grand Auction
March 21
In God's Image
March 30
2nd Seder at JCA

MEETINGS

March 3
JCA Business Network
Ritual Life Committee
Book Group
March 4
Board Meeting
March 10
School Committee
March 24
Education Committee
March 25
Sabbatical Committee

B'NEI MITZVAH

March 13- 10:00 am
Ethan Friedman Young
March 27- 10:00 am
Asa Parker-Bernstein

**PESACH BEGINS
AT SUNDOWN ON
MONDAY,
MARCH 29TH**

Message from Co-president

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

Choices

Dear Chaverim,

Even though Purim falls in February this year, I thought the Purim themes would still be appropriate – hence I am defying convention and writing about the relevance of this holiday in March. In a further unconventional twist, the Purim story can be viewed as much about choices as about God, prayer, and accepting one's identity. And like religion and spirituality in the Purim story, choice plays a large role right now at the JCA as our community selects a new rabbi.

The Purim story is a dichotomy between free will versus fatalism in human choice. Is one's path determined by deliberate, planned actions or are choices made based on instinct – or both? If you believe Malcolm Gladwell in "Blink", a decision is often made in just a few seconds and often it leads to the correct answer. Human nature is to second-guess expressed by a litany of clichés, including "Act in haste, repent in leisure." And that is one aspect of the Purim story as Queen Esther has her doubts about exposing her Jewish identity to the king and risking death.

At the JCA, we are about to make one of the most significant choices we have made as a community in a long time; that of choosing our next rabbi. The entire community has been engaged in developing criteria, questions, attending meetings, interviews and as March begins, providing and reviewing feedback about the rabbi candidates who have visited. More than forty of our fellow congregants have served on committees to shepherd this process as well as keep the synagogue running during Rabbi Bauer's sabbatical – a truly amazing effort for which we are all grateful in preparation for this final choice.

But once all the data is crunched, how will our diverse community choose a single candidate to be our rabbi? How did King Ahasuerus choose Esther to be his Queen?

I asked my most reliable Jewish source, my kids, and they said that he selected her because she was pretty. Her beauty might have gotten the king's attention, but a good choice is usually based on more than appearance. I dug deeper and found that Ahasuerus needed a queen who was obedient because Vashti's defiance was seen as a threat to the rule of husbands over their wives – imperiling all the princes of the realm. Maybe Esther was chosen because she was submissive, but our community wants someone who is unique, a community builder and a leader, not someone who will just do as we say.

Going back to the Megillah provided the answer I had not seen before: Esther was both a pleasing person and she was well prepared. When she was taken into the "House of Women" with the other virgins, she befriended Hegai, keeper of the women. "She pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her ointments . . . he advanced her and her maidens to the best place in the house of the women" and "when the turn of Esther was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed."

Esther figured out what it would take to get such a powerful person as Hegai to advance her to the king. She got the interview; she was prepared, made relationships and lasting impressions, and got the job. So initially it looked as though Ahasuerus chose Esther, but in another respect, it was Esther who chose the king. And that is how, dear community, our choice of a new rabbi will likely be made - by us choosing him and him choosing us – just like Purim with the best possible outcome.

*b'shalom,
Lisa*

**March 2010
Adar/Nisan 5770
Vol. 9, Issue No. 3**

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)

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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 April issue is March 12th

March 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 3

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 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	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 Parah/Parashat Ki Tisa **Exodus 30:11- 34:35, Numbers 19:1-22**

March 5, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergeneration Family Service followed by potluck supper
 Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

March 6, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette
 D'var Torah: Catherine Madsen



Shabbat HaChodesh/Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudey **Exodus 35:1-40:38, Exodus 12:1-20**

March 12, Friday

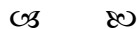
6:15 PM

Service Leader: Gordon Freed

March 13, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Friedman Young
 Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer,
 Catherine Madsen, Judy Young
 D'var Torah: Ethan Friedman Young



March 16, Tuesday-

Rosh Chodesh Nisan



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

Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26

March 19, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper
 Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer & Randi Stein

March 20, Saturday

10:00 AM

Chanting Service
 Service Leaders: Sara Schley & Felicia Mednick
 D'var Torah: Felicia Mednick

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



Shabbat HaGadol/Parashat Tzav **Leviticus 6:1-8:36**

March 26, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

March 27, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Asa Parker-Bernstein
 Service Leader: Rabbi Steve Nathan
 D'var Torah: Asa Parker-Bernstein



Pesach

March 29, Monday- First seder begins at sundown

March 30, Tuesday

9:30 AM- First Day Pesach Services

6:00 PM- 2nd Seder at JCA (see next page for details)



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.

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

February 20th-

Alan Peterfreund, in memory of
Cathy Peterfreund

**If you would like to help with
or sponsor a kiddush, please
contact Barbara Freed at:
256-0355**

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.

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 March 19th at 6:15 pm. The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible. There will be a potluck supper following the service.

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)

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 the JCA. Thank you.

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)

2nd Night Seder at the JCA Tuesday, March 30th at 6:00 pm

Please join us for a delicious meal and spiritually uplifting experience in the JCA Social Hall. All are welcome: members, non-members, extended family, out-of-town friends, students, and interested non-Jews who wish to experience the joy of this central Jewish event.

The meal will be strictly Kosher for Passover.

All items pareve with the exception of the chicken entrée which has proved to be quite popular!

The cost will be \$28.00 if you register by March 19th.

After March 19th the cost will be \$35.00

Accommodation will be made for reduced price or free meals if requested.

Please email now if you have any interest in attending.
Questions? Requests? Contact Paul Charette (860) 559-4926

Email to: cyclone411@charter.net



Education News

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



From Andra Rose, Education Committee Chair

Jody Rosenbloom was unable to prepare the regular Education column for this newsletter because of the death of her father-in-law. In her 13 years as our Education Director, and now Director of Life Long Learning, she has never before missed writing her column. That means she has written more than 140 pieces for the JCA newsletter. I decided, as chair of the Education Committee, I would fill her accustomed place in this issue with some thoughts on the critical role Jody plays at JCA, and how much we will miss her when she takes her long-planned leave from April to June.

In many ways, Jody is the glue that holds this place together. I am particularly aware of this in the past few months, with Rabbi Bauer on sabbatical and the transition of the Events Coordinator role from Linda Cooper to Karen Loeb, as well as the rabbinical search process, the brand new activities of the Kitchen Committee, the transition to a new treasurer, and the introduction of the Literacy Project as renters sharing our space. January and February 2010 has been one of the most complicated periods JCA has been through.

In a normal year, the Rabbi would have played a leading role in addressing many of the issues that have come up. In the Rabbi's absence, it falls to Jody as our leading educator

and all-round knowledgeable professional. Jody works behind the scenes making the Jewish Community of Amherst a place for learning and growth for all ages.

Since before this year began, Jody has been planning for her own time off so she can join her husband who has been in England this semester. She will leave the school in the able hands of our 7th grade teacher, Adrian Durlenster, who ran a Hebrew school before he moved to Amherst. We will have the opportunity to notice how many gaps she usually fills beyond her role as principal while she is gone. We send our deepest condolences to Jody and Joel, and wish Jody a much deserved rest and great fun in her travels this spring. We will miss her.

Calendar

Sun, Mar 7	Shalom Sunday for 4-6 year olds
Wed, Mar. 10	School Committee meets at 7:00 pm
Sun, Mar. 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sun, Mar. 21	In God's Image/B'Tzelem Elohim Group
Wed, Mar. 24	Education Committee meets at 6:15 pm
Wed, Mar. 31	Class in session. Passover snack provided.

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, March 7th
Pick up: on or after Friday, March 12th

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

Special request: If you are dropping off your order at the JCA (versus mailing Sue directly), please contact her so she knows to expect it.

great coffee, great price, great cause!



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

Library Committee

The Library Committee has been hard at work sorting and removing duplicates. We have developed a system of subject categories that you'll see posted, so it should be easier now to find your way around the shelves. We are in the process of labeling and fine-tuning, and hope to have a re-opening party in the spring (but you need not wait until then to borrow a book!).

Included in the collection are a number of old cassette tapes and records that would be much more usable if they could be transferred to cd format. Is there anyone out there who would be interested in taking on that project? Please let Eliza know at eliza-gouv@msn.com or 256-6145.

Also, we've given the children's collection a going over and removed bagsfull of old, broken and unappealing books. We will be getting a selection of books from the PJ library, and Rachel Flint is donating some newer children's titles. The children's books will be organized using a simple color-coded system in line with the school's curriculum topics. We would love to get some more recent, clean, bright Jewish kidbooks, so if you have some that your children have outgrown please consider bringing them in.

But that's not all, oh no, that's not all (as the fish said in *The Cat in the Hat*). Ultimately we'd like to replace the old bookcases that currently house the kids' books, and buy covers for the bright new books we'll be getting. And maybe a rug! So at the time of the great re-opening party we will be putting the best of the duplicate books on sale to generate a little money. We also welcome donations to the Library Fund, and would be happy to make suggestions of books that we would like to see added to the collection. So please keep us in mind. And stop in and see our progress.

From the Kitchen Committee:

The new system of volunteers supplying food and help for Kiddushes is working! Thank you to everyone who has helped at our Friday night onegs or Saturday Kiddushes. To sign up for a future Kiddush, go to the JCA website or call Barbara Freed at 256-0355.

Below are those who brought food, helped, or donated money to a January Kiddush or oneg:

Reed Alper
Kitty Axelson-Berry
Aaron Bousel
Betsy Brooks
Michael Burkart
Robin Diamond
Joan Epstein
Barbara and Gordon Freed
Judy Glaser
Eliza Gouverneur and Richard Cohen
Hadar Grabel

Jackie Katz
Elinor Levine
John and Karen Loeb
Esther Mercer
Jacob Mooney
Anita Page
Lisa Perl binder
Batya Perman
Andra Rose
Sarah Thomson and Catherine Madsen
Phil and Kathy Weilerstein

Guy Wood
Peter Wood and Chaia Woolf
Ted and Barbara Slovin (donation)
Eli Kwartler (donation)
Sara Berger (donation)
Suzanne Arnopolin and Ronnie Williams (donation)
Carol-Ann Smalley and Jeanne Friedman (donation)

JCA Guidebook

We will soon be starting work on the 2010-2011 edition of the JCA Guidebook. Our first Guidebook fulfilled its mission as a resource for the JCA membership and as a fundraising vehicle. We hope the 2nd edition will do the same, but we need some help. We need a volunteer with Excel skills and additional volunteers to solicit advertisements.

If you can help, please contact Fred Levine at 230--3320 or flevine42@comcast.net.

JCA Business Network

At the February meeting of the JCA Business Network Catalina Arrubla gave a fantastic and inspiring demonstration of the power of google adwords and how simple it is to create a blog, create a video for youtube and other internet based promotion ideas. It was fantastic and maybe we will ask Catalina to do it again in the future. Our next meeting will be on March 3 at 8:00 AM. when Kathleen Lugosch will do the presentation.

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

World Jewish Concerns

The World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee would like the JCA membership to be aware of the following event:

The United States and Israel: Facing a New Decade of Middle East Challenges

Featuring

Ben Marchette

New England Area Director for AIPAC -
the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Ben has a masters degree in Middle East and National Security Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Rochester and has lived throughout the Middle East, including stints in Israel and Kuwait.

AIPAC is the only American organization whose principal mission is to lobby the U.S. government about legislation that strengthens the relationship between the United States and Israel.

Find out more by going to www.aipac.org
Boston office 617-399-2562
Local contact: Henia Lewin 413-253-8836

We hope you can attend this off-the-record briefing from a seasoned expert.

Wednesday, March 3rd, 7:30 p.m.
at Congregation B'nai Israel

Thank You For Your Generous Donations to Project Rehovot

Rabbi David Bauer
Richard Schrader and Diane Berg in memory of Linda Goodman
Sarina Ergas and Allan Feldman
Deb and Larry Fine in honor of Aaron Fine's birthday
Alice Friedman
Jody Spitz and Larry Goldbaum
Evelyn Goldberg
Hadar Grabel in honor of her grandmother Esther Wisotsky
Haim and Yaffa Gunner in honor of Rabbi Bauer
Irving and Frieda Howards
Esther Jacobson
Natalie Jarmon in honor of her granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Robert Weitzman and Hollie Kalkstein
Danielle Barshak and Oran Kaufman
Susan Perschetz Machala and Pavel Machala in memory of David Perschetz
Betsy Brooks and Jonathan Machta
Lewis and Caden Mainzer
Steven and Michele Marantz
Nomi Kluger Nash
Ellen Koteen and Diane Palladino
Thomas and Johanna Plaut
Robert and Jeanne Potash
Eleanor Quint
Monroe and Joan Rabin
Jody Rosenbloom in honor of Ruth Love Barer's contribution to the education of JCA schoolchildren
Stephanie Sandler in memory of Ellen Sandler
Shoshana Sokoloff and Jeff Rubin in memory of Susan Stayman Bembenek
Marjorie Ackerman and Jean M. Ryan
Arthur and Susan Stern
Rabbi Sheila Weinberg
Guy Wood
Fay Zipkowitz

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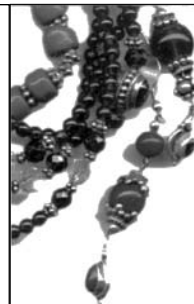
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Update on Rabbi Search Process

We would like to recap our rabbi search process. To date we have received 16 applications from Reconstructionist rabbis. From that group we conducted phone interviews with 8 and invited 3 in for further in-person interviews, one applicant we interviewed using Skype. We invited two candidates, Rabbi Nathan Martin and Rabbi Ben Weiner to return to the JCA for full weekends. In addition to the services, teachings and question and answer sessions, the candidates met with smaller constituencies such as the JCA Board, Education committees (school, teens, adult ed, camp), office staff and Ritual Life committee. The Community Engagement Committee is currently tabulating your feedback on the candidates.

Once this has been done, a decision will be made as to whether or not the position should be offered to either Rabbi Martin or Rabbi Weiner.

If you have not already submitted your feedback, please do so as soon as possible. You can:

- return your feedback form to the box in the JCA foyer.
- send it by mail to the JCA: Attention Community Engagement Committee.
- fill out the form online in the rabbi search section of www.j-c-a.org.
- send your comments by email to jcarabbisearch@yahoo.com.

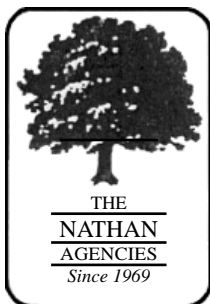
Thank you for your continued involvement and support of this process. The ongoing effort of the various committees and the enthusiastic contributions of members in general underscores and reflects the commitment and interest to revitalize the JCA at this time of transition.

Sincerely,
Janis Wolkenbreit and Amy Rothenberg,
 for the Rabbi Search Coordinating Committee

Visual Arts Committee

The Visual Arts Committee is pleased to announce our next exhibit which will be on view at the beginning of March. The artist is **Lori-Holder Webb**. We are so pleased to be able to show her wonderful collages. Make a note to come to the Hall Gallery to see them. Lori has written a mission statement to introduce her work:

My work uses the medium of handmade papers from around the world, mixed with the written word, brushed india ink, oil pastels, and metallic leaf. I make use of color, texture, and shape to capture emotional impressions of events and sights that affect me profoundly. The words, which may at times be hidden to the observer, are central to the inspiration and execution of the piece. I prefer to make use of my own words and poetry, but have on occasion integrated the words of others as they have inspired me. Works in the collection were developed between 2003 and 2007, while I was in residence in Madison, Wisconsin



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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, March 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.

The Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 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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Jewish Reconstructionist Federation News



2010 JRF Convention

Mark your calendar for November 11-14, 2010 for the 2010 JRF Convention; the largest gathering of Reconstructionists and likeminded friends in North America. Our convention will take place at the stylish Hyatt Regency in sunny Newport Beach, California.

Plan to join us for four informative and uplifting days as we engage with experts and emerging leaders in the Jewish world. Experience a joyful, meaningful

Shabbat together with lively, inspiring services and opportunities for Torah study, networking, and a wealth of Jewish learning.

Want to learn more? Please visit the JRF Convention Website.

www.jrf.org/convention

The JRF Strategic Plan

JRF is pleased to share its Strategic Plan with you. In addition to statements of our mission, general vision and programmatic vision, it contains 3-5 year goals relating to education, strengthening congregations, strengthening the Reconstructionist Movement, as well matters relating to operations, governance and administrative systems.

We would particularly bring your attention to four themes:

1. Developing data base and technological tools to provide sophisticated support for networking among our congregations based on shared circumstances and challenges.

2. Focusing our programmatic work on what our congregations have consistently identified as their key challenges: growth, branding, governance, rabbi-congregational relations.

3. Building on the success of Camp JRF and our expanding support for congregational schools, with innovative work connecting the programs and methodologies of informal and formal education.

4. Exploring new relationships between the JRF, the RRC the RRA and rabbis collectively to foster collaboration on movement-wide initiatives to support movement-wide goals.

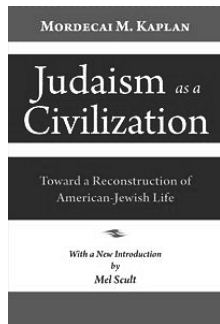
You can view/download the full plan from the JRF website: <http://jrf.org/node/2395>

Judaism as a Civilization

The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation is proud to have partnered with the Jewish Publication Society to reprint the book that inspired the birth of the Reconstructionist movement. Many consider this work to have contributed more than any other to the shaping of contemporary North American Judaism. JRF is grateful to Mel Scult, Kaplan's principal biographer, for providing this edition with a new introduction. This edition is dedicated to one of Kaplan's closest and most influential disciples, Rabbi Jack Cohen, in celebration of his 90th birthday.

You can order the book from the Reconstructionist Press's online bookstore: <http://stores.jrfbookstore.org/>.

Affiliate members receive 20% off after checkout. You can also order copies from JPS.



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Jewish Community of Amherst Social Hall

742 Main Street • Amherst • MA 01002

Saturday March 6th 7–10pm

Silent Auction 7–9:30pm; Live Auction 8–9pm

Auctioneer: Senator Stanley Rosenberg

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The Jewish Museum	Amherst Chinese Medicine	Tom Plaut, MD, Asthma Consultants
Amherst Cinema Arts Center	Inspirit Common	Aaron Bousel,
Old Sturbridge Village	Integrity Development	Registered Piano Technician
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Skera Gallery	Hickory Ridge Country Club	Michael Cohen, Cohen Tiles
Linda J. Levine, D.C.,	Pioneer Arts Center of East Hampton	Kip Fonsh, Photographer
Hadley Family Center for	(PACE)	Jiminy Peak
Back and Neck Pain	Jon Kent, Mediation and Training	The Shea Community Theater
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Thornes Marketplace	Boston Red Sox	
Mt Holyoke College Art Museum	Hampshire Bicycle Exchange	

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Join us for our 24th year!

The Jewish Community of Amherst's Camp Shemesh



Summer Day Camp for Kids ages 6-11

June 29th – July 30th

Five one-week sessions, M-Th 8:30- 4, Fri 8:30 - 3:30

Located at Amherst College, and providing a joyful, creative, spiritually rich and educationally sound Jewish summer day camp experience.

- Arts & Crafts with Jewish Themes
- Song, Theatre, Yoga, Dance and Science Electives
- Swimming in the Amherst College Pool
- Group Games & Sports, including the beloved “Gaga”
- Tikkun Olam and Environmental Projects
- 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

For further information, contact us at: 413-256-0160 x250 or 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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Cheryl Zoll & Eric Sawyer

Elizabeth & Ted Trobaugh

In Memory of Selma Holme (Jennifer Holme & Robyn Miller)

In Memory of my father, Morris Barer (Ruth Love Barer)

In Honor of Rabbi David Bauer (Stephanie Sandler & Austin
Sarat)

Karen Helfer & Richard Madowitz

Johanna & Tom Plaut

Children's Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Ted and Barbara Slovin's new granddaughter
Tessa Rae Urban (Ruth Love Barer)

JCA General Fund

In Honor and in Appreciation of Alan Peterfreund for his term
as Treasurer and his continuing service to the JCA (Ruth
Love Barer)

In Loving Memory of Abraham Levine (Elinor Levine & Scott
Nielsen)

In Memory of Clara Sadick (The Blaustein Family)

In Honor of the birth of Micayla Shefftz to Jonathan Shefftz
and Andrea Newman (Claire & Melvin Shefftz)

In Honor of Jacob Myers' Bar Mitzvah, grandson of Susan and
the late Sid Myers (Judi & Kip Fonsh)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Steven Bauer (Ruth Love Barer)

New Members

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

Jonathan Shefftz & Andrea Newman and baby Micayla
Leslie Goldstein & John Mosimann and child Ava

Condolences

*We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the
families and friends of those who have recently died:*

Elliott Kaminsky, father of Joel Kaminsky
and father-in-law of Jody Rosenbloom

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.

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What footprint will you leave for future generations? Will the Jewish Community of Amherst be here to enrich their lives? Please, invest in our future.

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 visit www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org

Community Announcements

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”

Sundays, March 21st & April 18th, 9:45 to 11:15 at Lander Grinspoon Academy. Fee \$10. Beginners welcome. For info call Rachel Valitt 413.658.5806.

Hadassah

Watch for your invitation in March
For

Hadassah's Gala Event

A Parody of Parodies

Anna Russell Meets

Gilbert and Sullivan

With members of the

Valley Light Opera

And Mary Jane Disco as Anna Russell

Sunday, April 18, 2:30 p.m.

Lander Grinspoon Academy

There will be an elegant DESSERT BUFFET following the performance! (This is a benefit performance for the Hadassah Medical Organization)

Five College Learning in Retirement

The Five College Learning In Retirement organization, a non-profit group of several hundred intellectually and socially active area seniors, will give a talk and show a short film about the group's activities on Wednesday, March 17 from 7 to 8 PM in the JCA library. One major focus of 5CLIR is its bi-annual seminars on various topics, about which members take turns making presentations. Jewish content has often been the theme of seminars; and members can become seminar facilitators, recommending topics on which they have expertise. For further information, call Jeff Kaplan, a member of the 5CLIR Public Relations Committee, at 586-2378 or caplanjeff@comcast.net

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

Habitat for Humanity

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is looking for low-income families to become homeowners. An information session will be held on Sunday, March 21st at the Jones Library in Amherst. At that time, potential applicants will learn about Habitat's selection criteria and how to prepare to be successful in the process. The selection criteria include need, ability to make modest mortgage payments, and willingness to partner with Habitat, such as participating in the construction of the home. Attendance at an information session is required to receive an application. Please help to spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested. For further information, including income guidelines, call 413/586-5430 or visit the website www.pioneervalleyhabitat.org.

Jewish Family Service of Western MA

Jewish Family Jam

Wednesdays, , March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, and 26, 2010

10:30-11:15 a.m.

Leader: Felicia Sloin

Cost: Free

Location: Lander Grinspoon Academy

Jewish Women's Song Circle

Sundays: March 14, April TBA, May 16 and June 13, 2010, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Leader: Felicia Sloin

Cost: Free

NEW Location: Cradle, Thornes Marketplace, 3rd Floor

Passover Cooking for Parents and Teens

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 6:30-

8:30 p.m.

Rain date: Thursday, March 11, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Instructors: Shoshana Zonderman, Dawn LaRochelle and Jim Lambert

Cost: \$10 per adult or \$15 for parent and teen (13 years or older)

Location: Whole Foods, 327 Russell Street (Route 9), Hadley, MA

Registration: Pre-registration is required by March 8. To register by e-mail, contact JewishLife@jfswm.org; to register by telephone, please call (413) 737-2601.

Please visit our website at
www.jfswm.org

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”.

Meditation Group

Thursday Morning “Lecha Dumiyah

Tehillah”* Meditation Group

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

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and

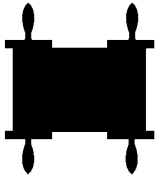
Sheila Peltz Weinberg

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

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

* “To You silence is praise.”

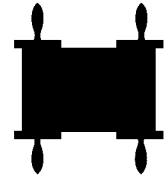
Psalm 65:2



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

March 2010

15 Adar ~ 16 Nisan 5770



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 15 ADAR ✠ Shushan Purim	2 16 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	3 17 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:00 am Business Network 7:00 pm Book Group 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	4 18 ADAR 7:30 pm Board Meeting	5 19 ADAR ⚡ 5:27 Office Closed 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	6 20 ADAR ⚡ Ki Tisa ⚡ Parashat Parah 10:00 am Service 10:00 am 7th grade class 7:00 pm JCA Auction see pages 12-13
7 21 ADAR 10:00 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds Snowdate for JCA Auction	8 22 ADAR	9 23 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	10 24 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm School Committee	11 25 ADAR	12 26 ADAR ⚡ 5:35 6:15 pm Service	13 27 ADAR ⚡ Vayakhel - Pekude ⚡ Parashat Hachodesh 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Friedman Young
14 28 ADAR Daylight Savings Time Begins	15 29 ADAR	16 1 NISAN ✠ Rosh Chodesh Nisan 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	17 2 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	18 3 NISAN	19 4 NISAN ⚡ 6:43 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	20 5 NISAN ⚡ Vayikra 10:00 am Service 10:00 am 7th grade class
21 6 NISAN 10:15 am In God's Image Group, see p. 10	22 7 NISAN	23 8 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	24 9 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:15 pm Education Committee	25 10 NISAN	26 11 NISAN ⚡ 6:51 6:15 pm Service	27 12 NISAN ⚡ Tzav 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Asa Parker-Bernstein
28 13 NISAN	29 14 NISAN ✠ Erev Pesach ⚡ 6:55 1st seder begins at sundown	30 15 NISAN ✠ Passover - Day 1 9:30 am Service 6:00 pm 2nd Seder at JCA see page 5 OFFICE CLOSED	31 16 NISAN ✠ Passover - Day 2			

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