



הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 2 ~ 6:59 pm

April 9 ~ 7:07 pm

April 16 ~ 7:15 pm

April 23 ~ 7:23 pm

April 30 ~ 7:31 pm

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 4

Matzah Brei Breakfast

April 11

Library Grand Re-opening
& Book Sale

Yom HaShoah Program

April 25

In God's Image Group

Yom HaAtzma'ut
Celebration

MEETINGS

April 1

Board Meeting

April 5

Chesed Committee

April 7

JCA Business Network
School Committee
Ritual Life Committee

April 28

Education Committee

B'NAI MITZVAH

April 17- 10:00 am
Connor Evans

April 24- 10:00 am
Allie Ryan-Ackerman

Message from Co-president

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

The longest journey begins with a single step

Dear Chaverim, it's unusual to introduce a synagogue newsletter column with a proverb attributed to the Chinese Philosopher Lao-tzu (c 604-c 531 B.C.E.) especially around Passover when there is so much to talk about. Yet at the start of this particular spring season, I am reminded of the journey we have embarked on together as a congregation. I am not referring to wandering in the wilderness although I feel like we've "been there, done that" and are just coming out the other side.

Whether you are a long time member or have recently joined the JCA, whether you regularly attend services or just come for the latkes at Chanukah, something is happening this spring that dramatically and positively impacts the entire membership. It's not just the kitchen kaschering or the matzoh brei breakfast – both of which I look forward to seeing you at, but I am speaking of the many bar and bat mitzvahs we will be celebrating over the next several months. The JCA 7th grade class will prepare 15 new adults to enter into the community between mid-March and November 2010. Almost every weekend, we will be able to share the journey and the mitzvah of becoming an adult and fulfilling one of the most important commandments with our friends and neighbors and special guests.

The actual day of the service is a unique and precious moment, but the journey is so much more significant. It represents the years of religious school training and commitment on the part of the young adult and their family to prioritize Judaism over all other things – especially in these times when so many conflicts exist like soccer practice or theater. Our kids have chosen to say that their Jewish identity comes first and they are willing to do

whatever it takes to study, read from the Torah, write their own prayers and do a teaching for the community. There is also the family's journey, which is equally significant. Parents have sacrificed time and precious resources to provide their children with training and emotional support throughout the process, being role models, helping with mitzvot, and even just listening to the same line over and over until their child gets it down. Their love and faith is written on their faces as they stand on the Bimah while the priestly blessing is chanted. There are also the siblings who have had to endure the months of not getting any attention as the emotions of the household ride up and down with the arrangements. Nervous grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends share in the process as well. And there are all the talented professionals and volunteers who work together to reach the special day including the Rabbi, all of the tutors and teachers, the Ritual Life Committee, Elissa Rubinstein, and especially Jody Rosenbloom who last week I saw gazing with pride as two of her students, the bar mitzvah and his brother, stood on the Bimah together.

In closing, how lucky we are as a community especially in the freedom of America to be a part of this process. As members, in some ways, we have the most important role to play in this passage. We, dear friends, are the ones keeping our beloved JCA and Jewish traditions alive for future generations as well as lending our support to our fellow congregants and friends as their children make the transition into adulthood. I hope to see you in services where we can all be together as a community sharing this most important journey of all of our lives.

*b'shalom,
Lisa*

April 2010

Nisan/Iyar 5770

Vol. 9, Issue No. 4

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 (802-387-5676)

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 May issue is April 12th

April 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 4

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

Pesach

March 29, Monday- First seder begins at sundown

March 30, Tuesday

9:30 AM- First Day Pesach Services



Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach

Exodus 33:12- 34:26, Numbers 28:19-25

April 2, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service

Service Leader: To be announced

NOTE: Because it is Pesach we ask that no food be brought to the JCA. There will an oneg of light snacks.

April 3, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced



April 5, Monday- 7th Day Pesach

9:30 AM- Service with Yiskor



Shabbat Shemini, *Leviticus 9:1-11:47*

April 9, Friday

6:15 PM

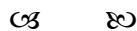
Service Leader: Rabbi David Seidenberg

April 10, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leaders: Rhonda Shapiro-Reiser

D'var Torah: To be announced



April 11, Sunday-

Yom HaShoah- see page 11 for program information



April 14/15, Wednesday/Thursday-

Rosh Chodesh Iyar



Shabbat Tazria/Metzora, *Leviticus 12:1-15:33*

April 16, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper

Service Leaders: Larry & Deb Fine

April 17, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Connor Evans

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Connor Evans



April 18, Sunday-

Yom HaZikaron (Israel Remembrance Day)

April 19, Monday-

Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day)



Shabbat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim *Leviticus 6:1-8:36*

April 23, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

April 24, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Allie Ryan-Ackerman

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Allie Ryan-Ackerman



Shabbat Emor, *Leviticus 21:1-24:23*

April 30, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

May 1, Saturday

Bat Mitzvah: Kassia Robinson-Hidas

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Kassia Robinson-Hidas



Shacharit (morning) Minyan

The weekday shacharit minyan continues to meet every Tuesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

Meditation Minyan

The weekday meditation minyan continues to meet every Wednesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

March 13th-

James Young & Lori Friedman,
in honor of their son Ethan
becoming Bar Mitzvah

March 27-

Ken Bernstein & Marian Parker,
in honor of their son Asa
becoming Bar Mitzvah

April 16th-

Jaymie & Michael Chernoff,
Deb & Larry Fine,
Kitty & Ken Talan,
in memory of
Jonathan Souweine

April 17-

Bill & Deborah Evans, in honor
of their son Connor becoming
Bar Mitzvah

April 24-

Marjory Ackerman & Jeanne
Ryan, in honor of their daughter
Allie becoming Bat Mitzvah

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

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.

Join Us In Celebrating Saul Gladstone's 90th Birthday!

Come one, come all to
a celebration of Saul Glad-
stone's 90th Birthday on **May
15**. The Gladstone clan will
lead services followed by a
luncheon and party. We are
asking the community to con-
tribute by bringing a pot luck
dish for the luncheon. Please
do not bring gifts-your loving
contribution to the luncheon
is what will make it special
for Saul!

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. This month, because it will be Pesach, we are asking that food not be brought to the JCA. An oneg of light snacks will be provided. 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 April 16th 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.

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/>

You Are Needed on Tuesday Morning!

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.

**A Special "Thank You" to
Nick Seamon and
The Black Sheep Deli and Bakery
for providing us with a
wonderful lunch on Purim**



Education News

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



Reflections As I Head Out On Sabbatical...

My last day for this school year is Wednesday, April 7. I am looking forward to being with my husband on his Sabbatical in Durham, England through June. I plan to take some time to explore Jewish England and improve my computer tech skills. I am grateful to the Board and JCA for allowing me the time to do so. There has been a lot of preparation to ensure that JCA School is covered during my absence. As Education Committee Chair, **Andra Rose**, mentioned last month, **Adrian Durlister** will be Acting Principal of JCA School for the final 6 weeks of the school year. Mr. Durlister has prior experience running similar programs and was most recently Director of Education and Congregational Life at Bethesda Jewish Congregation before moving to Amherst in 2008. He will be supervised by School Committee member, **Cheryl Campbell** and assisted by **Eric Delisle** in the office. On Wednesdays, a School Committee member will be in the office to assist as **Andrea Olkin** continues as Master Hebrew teacher, facilitating Hebrew classes while Adrian teaches 7th grade. Issues related to the larger role of Director of Life Long Learning, will be handled as needed by Andra Rose and the Education Committee.

Amidst the transitions this spring, I am grateful to **Rachael Goren** for sharing the responsibilities of programming as always and in particular, during Rabbi Bauer's Sabbatical absence; the office staff, **Eric, Marcia & Bonnie**, for their dedication to keeping all the pieces together and **Michael Burkart**, our new treasurer, who has "hit the ground running;" to the Education and School Committees for their support, time & commitment; to the parents for the many tasks they have pitched in to enrich our school programs; and to the terrific teaching staff this year that has really been responsive to our children and dedicated to creating Jewish community in their classrooms. Together we have been able to share learner's minyan, create artistic holiday cards, participate in a rabbinical search, pilot new programs like the 7th grade Saturday Morning Live, build our *Havurah Ketana*, trail blaze a regional teen collaboration (JTOV), and provide training for greater sensitivity to inclusion of households with special needs through *B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image* initiatives with our Harold Grinspoon Foundation funding. We worked with regional colleagues and agencies (Congregation B'nai Israel, Jewish Family Service, and the Resource Center for Jewish Education) to leverage better programming not only for the JCA but the region. I look forward to my return in July and all the possibilities for the upcoming year. *L'hitraot/See you soon, Jody*

Passover Matzah Brei Breakfast and "Pick your Own" Program, Sunday, April 4

JCA School with a Passover twist invites you to join an open classroom morning -have a treat and then choose from Passover activities for students of all ages including making chocolate covered matzo; best of Passover UTube videos; songs of the seder; Sammy Spider story & play for young children; and more. Breakfast will be served from 9:30-11:30. There will be two activity sessions beginning at 10 and 11. End the morning with Learner's Minyan at 11:45-12:15. The morning is open to the community-suggested donation \$3/child, \$5/adult, \$10/household.

Becoming B'nai Mitzvah: A Conversation for 4th Graders and Their Parents

Sunday, April 25 from 10-11:45 am

Our congregation is delighted to have students formally become b'nai mitzvah by leading services, chanting Torah and/or Haftarah, and doing mitzvah projects towards *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. Students and their parent (s) are required to participate in a series of workshops to help in formally introducing this process of becoming b'nai mitzvah at the JCA. JCA School and Lander Grinspoon Academy Fourth Grade students are invited to join Rabbi Bauer for this initial meeting of exploration and information. Fifth graders and parents who did not attend last year are welcome.

Thank You To:

* The **Madowitz/Helfer** family for donating the lovely children's table and chairs – now in room 1.

* **Lisa Blain**, Carnival Coordinator and all the Purim Carnival helpers, Hamantashen bakers & raffle basket preparers:

Parents: Darcy Vogel Albanese & Jason Albanese, Mary-

continued on next page

Calendar

Sun, Apr. 4	Matzo Brei Breakfast begins serving @ 9:30, "Pick Your Own" Program, 10:00 am -12:15 pm
Wed, Apr. 7	School Committee meets at 7:00 pm
Sat, Apr. 17 - Sat, Apr. 24	NO CLASSES - Spring Break
Sun, Apr. 25	Classes resume, Shalom Sunday Class, Introduction to Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 10:00-11:45 am, Grade 4 with parents
Wed, Apr. 28	Education Committee meets at 6:15 pm

continued from previous page

Ann Barakso, Cheryl Campbell, Rachel & Jay Flint, Annette Herda, Norma Hernandez, Jill Kaufman, Andrea Keins, Melanie Lewis, Anna Robbins, Jill Shulman, Tobi Sznajderman, Debra Zeidenberg, Dara Herman Zierlin, Cheryl Zoll. Students: Hannah Leibowitz, Hannah Ballantine, Hannah Trobaugh, Ethan, Elijah & Ezekiel Flint, Liliya Miller, Lydia Sawyer and friend Emma, Asa Parker-Bernstein & Connor Evans. **TAs and Teens:** Lily Harris, Sarah Martin, Madison Couture, Lily Blain, Sophia Keins, Jacob Mooney, Kyla Amick, Leah Parker-Bernstein, Jonah Herscu. **Teachers:** Andrea Olkin, Adrian Durlerster, Emily Ziedman, Sarah Fedder, Amy Epstein, Jocelyn Gordon, Hayley Yaglom & Friend.

Winners at the Purim Carnival

* JCA School raised about \$250 on the raffle & \$400 on the carnival.

* Basket Winners were: Shabbat/Holidays basket for the **Olkin Family**, Pets/Animal Appreciation basket to **Abigail Morris**, the Kitchen/Snacks basket to the **Flint Family**, the Garden/Outdoors mega basket to **Donna Baron** and the Games basket to the **Barakso/Martin Family**.

The Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 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

How Are You Starting Your Day?

A Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Update

The good news is that there are still 4 months left to order coffee during the fourth season of the JCA Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Fundraiser. The bad news is that sales of Dean's Beans have been significantly lower than last year. While this may be partly due to the fact that most local elementary schools in the area have jumped on the bandwagon with similar fundraisers, other factors are likely at play. Whatever the reasons, here is a recap of some of the benefits of purchasing Dean's Beans coffee through the JCA:

- Consumers are not restricted to the preselected coffee blends listed on the order form, but may purchase any of Dean's Beans offerings for a small additional cost (50 cents).
- Coffee may be picked up in the JCA kitchen any time the building is open, or at the Leading Edge Gym on University Drive (you don't need to be a member).
- Consumers may prepay their orders for any number of months which eliminates the need to remember to order or to write multiple checks.
- The kitchen is able to purchase Dean's Beans coffee at cost (for events, meetings, kiddushes).
- Dean's Beans profits support the Parent's Association which helps the JCA School.

So, please get those orders in for April through July, and tell your friends and colleagues. Remember, at these prices (\$8.50/lb regular, \$9.50/lb decaf), you are doing them a favor!

Order forms are available online or in the JCA lobby.

Contact Sue Weinstein Cinner to get monthly reminders: susanweinstein1@yahoo.com or 413.548.9552.

Next order due date: 4/4/10 for pick-up on/after 4/9/10.



Dean's Beans Organic Coffee

Great Coffee Great Price Great Cause



JCA Adult Reading Group

The 4th meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter: A Novel*, by Peter Manseau. It is available in paperback. New participants are always welcome.

Any questions,
please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

JCA Business Network

We had another wonderful presentation this morning—this time from Kathleen Lugosch. Kathleen gave us an introduction into the various aspects of her architecture business, green technology, current projects, upcoming new website and other services she offers (interior designing, web designing and more). As usual 30-40 minutes was not quite enough time but was a fascinating insight.

Our next meeting will be on **April 7 2010 at 8:00 AM**. Joan Temkin will do a presentation about her work with the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce. Please join us. If you can think of someone who might be interested in coming to our meetings please encourage them to come to this next meeting.

Arts and Culture Committee

Our committee will be holding an annual meeting to make plans for next year on Sunday, April 18th at 11 AM. We invite anyone with interests in arts and cultural activities to join us and contribute your ideas and talents. For information, please contact Anita Page at apage@english.umass.edu, 256-6306 or Eva Sartori at leosartori@comcast.net, 1-413-467-3626. Please join us.

Visual Arts

We would like to remind everyone that Lori Holder-Webb's exhibit is now on view in The Hall Gallery. We are sure that you will enjoy her brilliantly colored collages and the messages written within them. There is a posted price list for anyone interested. Twenty percent of sales benefit the JCA. Holder-Webb will discuss her work at the Oneg Shabbat on April 16th after services. We hope you can join us. -----

JCA Guidebook Offers Networking Opportunity!

Have fun meeting new and interesting people throughout the community while selling ads for the Guidebook over a three month period! (April – June) Can yield positive results for you, too -- both personally and professionally. Last year we sold over \$15,000 in ads, tributes and calendar entries. This year we intend to double this amount!

Prize to high seller! Good for your resume!!

Contact:

Steve Woolf stevewoolf@comcast.net or

Fred Levine flevine42@comcast.net

Library Committee

Come to the JCA Library's Grand Re-Opening and Terrific Used Book Sale! Sunday, April 11, from 10am to 1 pm in the library.

After a lot of work on the part of the library committee, the JCA library is spruced up and once again ready for browsers and borrowers. Come see the new color coded categories and sign out sheet, designed to make it easy to find and return books to the proper shelves.

Snap up some great bargains from the sale of excellent duplicate and removed books that now need new homes. Most are in very good condition. And the price is right: mostly \$.50 per book! The proceeds will be used toward new shelves and books for the children's collection. This is win-win and not to be missed.

Plus, there will be snacks. Mark your calendar now. We are still accepting donations in good condition so keep us in mind as you do your Passover cleaning.

See you at the library.

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World Jewish Concerns

Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration, April 11th at 6 PM

This year's commemoration will explore the topic of resistance by Jews to the Germans during World War II. We will be showing the film *DEFIANCE* (2009) which depicts the true story of the Bielski brothers who organized a partisan unit in the Ukrainian woods and saved the lives of almost 1200 Jews. JCA member Eva Sartori whose family was rescued by Russian partisans will lead a discussion after the film about the difficulties the Bielski encampment faced and the moral issues these partisans were forced to make.

Joining Eva Sartori in the conversation will be local author Dina Friedman, who has written a young person's novel, *Escaping Into the Night*, about an adolescent couple in a secret forest encampment such as the Bielski unit during World War II. Her novel is based on the book *Defiance* by Nechamah Tec who will be speaking at Hampshire College, Monday, April 12th, partly sponsored by JCA.

Gershon Baskin To Speak At The JCA Thursday, April 22nd, time to be announced

Gershon Baskin, Ph.D., is the Israeli Co-Director and founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) - a joint Israeli-Palestinian public policy think tank. Dr. Baskin initiated the founding of IPCRI in 1988 following ten years of work in the field of Jewish-Arab relations within Israel, in Interns for Peace, the Ministry of Education and as Executive Director of the Institute for Education for Jewish-Arab Coexistence (established by the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Prime Minister's Office). Dr. Baskin has published books and hundreds of articles in the Hebrew, English and Arabic press about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Dr. Baskin meets regularly with Israeli and Palestinian policy makers at their invitation as well as similar people from the international diplomatic community and international organizations.

Lecture

Israel's Changing Collective Identity by

Fred A. Lazin
Ben Gurion University
of the Negev, Israel
Thursday, April 1, 2010
7:45 p.m.

Jewish Community of Amherst

Fred A Lazin, Lynn & Lloyd Hurst Family Professor of Local Government, Department of Politics and Government, Ben Gurion University, will speak on Israel's changing collective identity--the evolution from Sabra culture to a more multicultural society.

He is the author of over sixty scholarly articles and chapters in books and has written and edited ten books dealing with public policy in the United States, Israel and developing countries, Israel politics and society, among others. He is also the recipient of the Israel Political Science Association's Award for the outstanding English language book on politics in 2005 for his book, *The Struggle for Soviet Jewry in American Politics: Israel versus the American Jewish Establishment*.

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

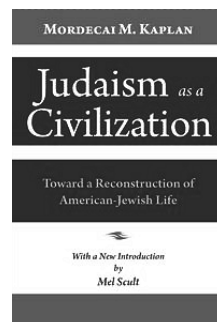
leaders in the Jewish world. Experience a joyful, meaningful Shabbat together with lively, inspiring services and opportunities for Torah study, networking, and a wealth of Jewish learning.

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

www.jrf.org/convention

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.

From the Kitchen Committee:

Volunteers are needed to provide food and help with kiddushes. Please sign up for a future kiddush by clicking on the “Kiddush” link on the JCA homepage or calling Barbara Freed at 256-0355.

Many thanks to those who contributed time, food, money and energy to our February Friday night onegs and Saturday kiddushes. Your help is very much appreciated.

Ann Armon & Eliezer Huber	Mara and Harry Kahn	Andrea Olkin
Hannah Blau	Elinor Levine	Andra Rose
Aaron Bousel	Karen Loeb	Sarah Thomson
Helena Donovan	Catherine Madsen	Ted Trobaugh
Barbara and Gordon Freed	Esther Mercer	Hannah Zuckerman
Hadar Gabel	Susan Myers	

A special thanks to Alan Peterfreund for the kiddush he sponsored in memory of Kathy Peterfreund (may her memory be for a blessing).

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 Identity for Children with Special Needs: A Support and Education Group for Parents* will take place on Sunday, April 25, 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 Meeting: Sunday, 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.



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**TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS at the Jewish Community of Amherst:
A YOM HA'SHOAH COMMEMORATION on April 11,
A YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION on April 25, 2010**



To Commemorate the Holocaust there will be a Candle Lighting ceremony followed by the film **DEFIANCE** on **Sunday April 11, 6pm**

During World War II, the Bielski brothers, Tuvia, Zus, and Asael, chose to fight the Germans by organizing a partisan unit in the Ukrainian woods. Their unit was unusual because it welcomed all Jews, young and old, men and women, sick and well. In so doing, they saved the lives of almost 1,200 Jews. The film *Defiance* (2009) depicts the true story of the Bielski unit and gives us insight into the difficulties they faced and the choices they were forced to make.

The cast includes Daniel Craig as Tuvia, Liev Schreiber as Zus, and Jamie Bell as Asael. The movie is based on the book *Defiance* by Nehama Tec.

A discussion of the moral issues these Jewish partisans faced will be facilitated by Eva Sartori whose family was rescued by Russian partisans operating in the Ukraine.



**Sunday,
April 25,
7 PM**

**DOCTORS
BARBARA AND
GORDON FREED**
will speak about
their work as dental
volunteers in
Jerusalem.

**RABBI SAUL PERLMUTTER AND
UMASS HILLEL STUDENTS**
will speak about their work as
community service volunteers with a
local group, Friends By Nature at
Shapira, — a mostly Ethiopian Israeli
community in Gedera, Israel.



RANDI STEIN
will lead Israeli
dancing

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Community of Amherst, the Northampton-Amherst Chapter of Hadassah
All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

THE JCA GRAND AUCTION COMMITTEE

THANKS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Senator Stanley Rosenberg, our AMAZING AUCTIONEER!

All of the JCA Members who DONATED!

Marcia, Bonnie and Eric in the JCA OFFICE!

Aaron Bousel, Becky Miller and Allen Davis of HU-TSA-TSA!

**Karen Loeb, Libby Army, Rebecca Fisher, Ann Armon, Tamar Shadur,
Bruce Mills, Jody Wax, Eva Sartori, Naomi Peleg and Linda Cooper of the
PROJECT REHOVOT CATERING COMMITTEE!**

Suzanne Arnopolin and Erica Loeb, our Fantastic BAR TENDERS!

Lily, Lily, Sarah, Jacob and Brett, our TEEN HELPERS!

And...

Moira Clingman, who created the lovely posters and newspaper ads
and who served as a liaison with the newspaper!

Aaron Bousel, for putting the catalogue up online and creating online donor forms!

Susan Weinstein, for late night help cleaning up!

Ken Talan, who created all of the gift certificates!

Stacy Tobin, who created all of the silent and live auction bid forms!

Barbara Pistrang, who helped pick up the donated goods!

Lisa Blain, who helped proofread and edit the enormous catalogue!

Reed Alper, who took the live auction by the horns!

And...**Jim Pistrang, Tom Plaut, Beverly and Steve Woolf, Julie Gerstman, Cheryl Campbell, Peter Blain, Tom Porter, Alan Kellman, Mat Liebowitz, Joel Harris, Robin Diamond, Rob Kaufman, and Santo Alers**

Also, Thank you to all of the envelope stuffers and to everyone whose name we failed to mention.

MOST OF ALL, THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO CAME! IT WAS FUN!

Jim Seltzer and Tobi Sznajderman, Grand Auction Committee Co-Chairs

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Six Flags New England
Harold Grinspoon
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- Group Games & Sports, including the beloved “Gaga”
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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

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.

Counting Omer to Shavuot

by Rebecca Fisher

For seven weeks of seven days
 We're bid to keep to keep the count
 So that we can remember
 Moses coming down the mount.
 Moses fasted while he did his work
 The people watched in awe
 the lightning flashing at the top
 while Yah proclaimed the law.

Although we had just left slavery
 we still didn't know what was going to be,
 and when we saw we were really free
 it was a time of great anxiety.
 The Israelites waited by Har Sinai
 For the holy word to come down from on high
 so for forty-nine days we partially mourn –
 Can't get married and can't be shorn,
 in trepidation waiting but
 On Lag B'omer you can get a haircut!

Shavuot marks the first fruits of the land
 And the day when in front of Sinai we stand
 In ancient times it was the harvest of wheat
 it's got some traditions that make it sweet –
 On Leil Shavuot you can stay up all night
 and study Torah till the morning light.
 For just one moment heaven opens wide
 and that's when a prayer can get inside.

The following day we read the Book of Ruth
 a story of love between age and youth –
 a mother with a daughter-in-law so loyal –
 the top of the line of David royal.
 Through famine and harvest the two made their way
 They say that King David was born on this day,
 And Shavuot is also when he passed away.
 So to commemorate David the King
 On Shavuot his psalms we sing.
 And because it's a celebration of learning
 Many students their degrees are earning.
 We decorate with roses and greens
 to replicate ancient harvest scenes.
 We sprinkle the floor with flowers and spice
 to make the synagogue fragrant and nice.
 You can cut up paper to make a design
 and for your meals on dairy dine.
 There are seven attributes of the divine
 and seven times seven is forty nine
 So we count the omer for forty-nine days
 a time of meditation that leads to praise.
 Then the moment that starts with liberation
 Culminates in the revelation.
 The Torah to all the Jewish people speaks
 And we celebrate the Feast of Weeks.

*A collection of poems by Rebecca Fisher
 is available at the JCA Judaica Store.*

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Annual Giving

In Memory of Justin Margolskee
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Chesed Committee

In Honor of Amy Rothenberg’s milestone birthday
(Robin & Ted Diamond)

Children’s Scholarship Fund

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Barbara & Michael Burkart
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Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu
Robin & Ted Diamond
Jennifer Holme & Robyn Miller
Jane & Daniel Giat
Reva Rosenbloom

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor of my mother, Thilla Mayer Sussel (Lora Simon)

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members to the JCA community:
Robin Harmatz

Condolences

We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:
Jeanne Dolores Ryan, mother of Jeanne Ryan, mother-in-law of Marjory Ackerman, and grandmother of Allie and Jack Ryan-Ackerman

The process of replacing our chumashim in the sanctuary continues. Our only source of revenue for this is from your donations to the prayerbook fund. Please consider aiding this effort. Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted, however a minimum donation of \$65.00 is required for a book dedication plate.

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.

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

Leave a Footprint That Will Guide Future Generations.



Create a Jewish Legacy.

We walk in the footprints of those who came before us. We benefit from their thoughtful investment in the future of the Jewish Community of Amherst.

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 Ldor 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”

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

Hadassah

Please reply by April 9 for
Hadassah’s Benefit Concert

The Valley Light Opera Company will perform

A Unique Musical Program:

**A Parody of Parodies:
How To Write Your Own
Gilbert And Sullivan Operetta**

Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.
Lander~Grinspoon Academy
Auditorium

An elegant Dessert Buffet Reception will follow the program.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25.00 each.

For more information call
Barbara Goldstein 413-549-0555.

National Yiddish Book Center

**The Alexander Fiterstein Trio
Music of the
European Jewish Wedding**

The Yiddish Book Center offers its first program of the spring season on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 2:00 pm. The renowned Alexander Fiterstein Trio will perform music of the European Jewish Wedding. Tickets are \$10. Reservations suggested.

Jewish Family Service of Western MA

Jewish Family Jam

Wednesdays, 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: 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

Please visit our website at

www.jfswm.org

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

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

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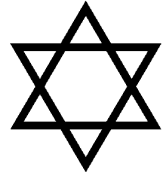
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JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

April 2010

17 Nisan ~ 16 Iyar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 17 NISAN ✕✕Passover - Second Intermediate Day 7:30 pm Board Meeting	2 18 NISAN ⚡⚡6:59 ✕✕Passover - Third Intermediate Day 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service An oneg will be provided. Please do not bring food.	3 19 NISAN ✕✕Passover - Fourth Intermediate Day 10:00 am Service
4 20 NISAN ⚡⚡7:01 ✕✕Passover - Fifth Intermediate Day 9:30 am Matzah Brei Breakfast 10:00 am- JCA School 10:00 am- Camp Cttee 10:30 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds	5 21 NISAN ✕✕Passover - Day 7 9:30 am 7th Day Pesach Service (Yiskor)	6 22 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7 23 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:00 am Business Network 7:00 pm School Committee 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	8 24 NISAN	9 25 NISAN ⚡⚡7:07 6:15 pm Service	10 26 NISAN ⚡Shemini 10:00 am Service
11 27 NISAN ✕✕Yom HaShoah 10:00 am Library Grand Re-opening and Book Sale, see page 8 6:00 pm Yom HaShoah Program see page 11	12 28 NISAN	13 29 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	14 30 NISAN ✕✕Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	15 1 IYAR ✕✕Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2	16 2 IYAR ⚡⚡7:15 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	17 3 IYAR ⚡Tazria - Metzora 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Connor Evans
18 4 IYAR ✕✕Yom HaZikaron No JCA School	19 5 IYAR ✕✕Yom HaAtzma'ut	20 6 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	21 7 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No JCA School	22 8 IYAR	23 9 IYAR ⚡⚡7:23 6:15 pm Service	24 10 IYAR ⚡Acharei Mot - Kedoshim 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Allie Ryan-Ackerman
25 11 IYAR JCA School Resumes 10:15 am In God's Image Group, see page 10 7:00 pm Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration see page 11	26 12 IYAR	27 13 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	28 14 IYAR ✕✕Pesach Sheini 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:15 pm Education Committee	29 15 IYAR	30 16 IYAR ⚡⚡7:31 6:15 pm Service	

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April 4

Matzah Brei Breakfast

April 11

Library Grand Re-opening and Book Sale

(see page 8)

Yom HaShoah Program (see page 11)

April 25

In God's Image (see page 10)

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Celebration

(see page 11)

