

jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING

May 7 ~ 7:38 pm
May 14 ~ 7:46 pm
May 21 ~ 7:53 pm
May 28 ~ 7:59 pm

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

MEETINGS

- May 2**
Camp Committee
- May 5**
Ritual Life Committee
- May 6**
Board Meeting
- May 12**
School Committee
- May 26**
Adult Reading Group
- June 6**
Semi-annual Meeting

B'NAI MITZVAH

- May 1- 10:00 am**
Kassia Robinson-Hidas
- May 8- 10:00 am**
Nathan Ellis
- May 22- 10:00 am**
Alex Curran
- May 29- 10:00 am**
Sarah Martin

Shavuot

- May 18**
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
- May 19**
Shavuot Services

Message from Co-president

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

Leviticus Unplugged

Dear Fellow JCA Members, Over the past several weeks and into May, there are numerous holidays, festivals and commemorations that convey what it means to be part of the Jewish people. Whether it's Passover, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), or Shavout, we are reminded of our special covenant with G-d and HaShem's promise to the Jews.

The Torah readings during this period are from Leviticus. It is in these portions that our obligations as Jews are spelled out in terms of how we treat ourselves (the laws of Kashrut), how we treat each other (for example, business and property transactions), how we treat the land (Sabbatical and Jubilee years), and how HaShem treats the Jews if we follow the commandments. Toward the end of May, we read from Leviticus 25:1-27:34, Parsha Behar-Bechukotai - of special significance to our community considering the many ways we as individuals interpret our relationship with the divine.

In this Torah portion, HaShem tells the Israelites that if they obey the laws, "You will have your fill of food, and [you will] live securely in the land", "I will grant peace in the land so that you will sleep without fear. I will rid the land of dangerous animals, and the sword will not pass through your land", and "I will turn to you, making you fertile and numerous, thus keeping My covenant with you."

Please keep in mind that this column represents only my opinion and feel free to disagree (lperl binder@aol.com), but no matter how much faith I have, I am not sure that a universal, unseen, and unknowable power can truly satisfy all Earthly needs and bring peace. It would be wonderful to have that kind of unwavering faith that the Torah is

literal, but if it were, why would we tell the story of Ruth on Shavout where she had to pick up the gleanings from the field when she and Naomi faced starvation? Or if Jews were more observant, would there ever really be peace and would we need to observe a memorial day for the Shoah and a day honoring Israel's fallen heroes? Could these passages in Leviticus be fulfilled at another time, maybe in the Messianic world when the Jews turn back to a pre-Diaspora, pre-assimilation era? Or is there some meaning that can be found right here and now?

When I think over what the pages of Leviticus are trying to tell us, I come up with one answer that truly can hold each of us and our individual needs. That answer is our community. When a member loses a loved one, the Chesed Committee is there. When a congregant has an urgent situation, the Rabbi is available and empowered by the community to contribute to easing their financial burden. When there is a need to find peace and security, there are our beautiful Shabbat services and minyanim. And when someone is hungry, they are welcomed at our Kiddushes and Onegs courtesy of our amazing Kitchen Committee who really needs our help, time and support to make our erev Shabbat and Shabbat services even more delightful. Finally, when I look around on a bustling Sunday morning with school in session and committees meeting, our community is truly numerous, fulfilling HaShem's commitment. Who would believe that in a fairly rural town, we could have such a rich and vibrant Jewish spiritual and cultural life - especially in our own home at the JCA? Yet, if we try and adhere to the Torah and the Commandments, our needs will indeed be met by HaShem and by each other.

*b'shalom,
Lisa*

May 2010

Iyar/Sivan 5770
Vol. 9, Issue No. 5

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)

Members:

Barbara Freed, Gerald Friedman, Mark Israel,

Molly Goren Jackson-Watts, Oran Kaufman,

Fred Levine, John Loeb, Andra Rose, Sarah Thomson,

Phil Weilerstein, Peter Wood

Membership: Robyn Miller (549-4060), **Oran Kaufman** (548-8139)

Office Administrator: Marcia Howard (256-0160, info@j-c-a.org)

Administrative Assistants: Bonnie Webster, Eric Delisle (256-0160)

For information about using JCA space including
 renting the Social Hall, contact:

Events Coordinator: Karen Loeb (256-0160 ext. 207)

For a list of committee chairs and members, go to:
<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

Please refer to your Guidebook for contact information.
 (If you have not received your Guidebook, call the office.)

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel

(Voice: 253-3544, Voice & Fax: 253-3846; news@j-c-a.org)

Proofreader: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the June/July issue is May 12th

May 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 5

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

Devarim:**Words from Rabbi David Dunn Bauer*****Where I've been, where I am, and where I'm going******Shalom!***

The nearly six months of my sabbatical were an extraordinary journey of feeling and learning for me. Let me share the basics of where I have been since it began in November.

Thanks to the congregation's support of me after my father died on November 14, I momentarily felt the privilege of membership in the JCA without the palpable sense of responsibility that accompanies being the rabbi. My gratitude to you all remains boundless. Every time I think of an individual member of the community, I ask myself if I've thanked her or him at all, or thanked anyone adequately for the care, the kindness, and the mandelbrot that was showered on me. I will always love the JCA for that time especially.

In early December I took a two-week vacation in San Francisco, the best vacation of my life. I relaxed, I healed, I ate, I did a lot of yoga, I saw friends, I said kaddish, I ate, did more yoga, and considered my options.

Over New Years I co-facilitated a spiritual retreat in upstate New York for gay and bisexual men. My service as a spiritual leader in that circle as well as in the Jewish world constitutes an important part of my rabbinate. As my circle of friends and teachers expands, I become increasingly certain that the strength I gather in the one context becomes the strength on which I draw in the other. Wholeness, sheleimut, comes from being present to all aspects of myself, knowing they are inextricably connected, no matter how disparate they are or may appear.

In January I taught a mini-course at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, but mostly I followed through on one particular ambition for my sabbatical: serving as the first ever Rabbinical Fellow to the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, a widely acclaimed and much celebrated dance group based in the Washington, DC, area. In their creative work, the Dance Exchange focuses on spirituality and on social justice in the modern world. I was blessed to be there, and I thank various members of this community who generously supported this project. For the most detailed report of my time there, please check out the blog I kept during January, <http://rabbidanceexchange.blogspot.com>.

All my adult life I have had the good fortune to work in the related disciplines of art and religion, surrounded by professionals and laypeople, texts and pictures, movement and song, music and silence, all assembled in the mindful pursuit of an ineffable, unreachable, Divine perfection. In Jewish worship and in community leadership

we strive. In rehearsal and in performance, dancers and choreographers strive. We search for connection to God and we strive to make our personal visions of beauty real for others.

Immersed in the remarkable atmosphere of the Dance Exchange -- talented and generous artists engaged in unique creative work -- I reawakened to the holiness that links art and religion. Jewish life and the rabbinate offer me the opportunity to create art with every blessing I say, every pastoral encounter I have, and every ritual I enact.

Continuing the chronology, I chose a challenging winter to be in Washington, DC. (For those who missed it, Washington, DC, got Amherst's weather this winter.) The snow disrupted activities for the whole area, Dance Exchange included. The rigors of the DC winter exacerbated some back and neck pain I had been experiencing and ultimately led me to return home in mid-February. (You may notice that I will be lifting less and moving more cautiously these days. Know that I am getting the best care I can for my health. I want to ask for your prayers and good wishes, but I prefer not talking about the details.)

In March I taught at a Nehirim Shabbaton for queer Jewish men at Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Connecticut and also co-coordinated (but did not attend) the annual convention of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association in New Orleans.

I am now back in Amherst, engaging with the community (especially the nine b'nai mitzvah!) and also preparing to conclude my service to the JCA at the end of June. Rabbi Benjamin Weiner is an admired friend and colleague, and I am happy to support his transition into the role of rabbi and spiritual leader of this community.

My plans for this coming year take me to Berkeley, California, where I'll study at the Pacific School of Religion in the Certificate Program for Religion and Sexuality, <http://www.psr.edu/certificate-sexuality-and-religion-csr>. I will be the first Jew, let alone rabbi, in the CSR program. It's an area of study and exploration in which Judaism has lagged somewhat behind the curve. For me, it will be a further opportunity to integrate my personal experiences of holiness and community, and therefore a logical next step after my seven years at the JCA.

I hope the next two months for a chance to greet each and every one of you.

*Shalom for now,
Rabbi Bauer*



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 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



May 2, Sunday- Lag B'Omer



Shabbat Behar/Bechukotai

Leviticus 25:1-27:34

May 7, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

May 8, Saturday

10:00 AM

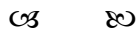
Bar Mitzvah: Nathan Ellis

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Nathan Ellis



May 12, Wednesday- Yom Yerushalayim



May 14, Friday- Rosh Chodesh Sivan



Shabbat Bemidbar, *Numbers 1:1-4:20*

May 14, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

May 15, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service and Kiddush in honor of Saul Gladstone's 90th birthday (see next page)

Service Leaders: Gladstone Family

D'var Torah: Gladstone Family



May 18, Tuesday- Erev Shavuot

8:00 PM- Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

(see next page for details)



May 19, Wednesday- Shavuot

10:00 AM- Service (Yiskor)



Shabbat Naso, *Numbers 4:21-7:89*

May 21, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper

Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer & Randi Stein

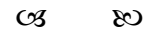
May 22, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Alex Curran

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Alex Curran



Shabbat Beha'alotecha, *Numbers 8:1-12:16*

May 28, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

May 29, Saturday

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Sarah Martin

Service Leader: Rabbi Bauer

D'var Torah: Sarah Martin



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.

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

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

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

May 1-

Tom Hidas & Linda Robinson-
Hidas, in honor of their daughter
Kassia becoming Bat Mitzvah

May 8-

Steven & Debra Ellis, in honor
of their son Nathan becoming
Bar Mitzvah

May 15-

The Gladstone Family, in honor
of Saul's 90th birthday

May 22-

Alison Curran, in honor of her
son Alex becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 29-

Maryann Barakso, in honor
of her daughter Sarah Martin
becoming Bat Mitzvah

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

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.

Foot Stomping Melodies for Welcoming Shabbat

The next Carlebach-style service will be on May 21st 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.

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

Come one, come all to a celebration of Saul Gladstone's 90th Birthday on **May 15**. The Gladstone clan will lead services followed by a luncheon and party. We are asking the community to contribute by bringing a pot luck dish for the luncheon. If you are bringing food, please bring it ready to serve in it's own serving dish. Please do not bring food that has to be "assembled" in the kitchen as that will not be possible. If you bring something that is warm, we will be able to keep it warmed up, but please don't bring anything that needs to be heated or cooked.

Please do not bring gifts-your loving contribution to the luncheon is what will make it special for Saul! If, however, you would like to further honor Saul, a donation to Hadassah in his honor would be most appreciated.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Shavuot celebrates the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai. In anticipation of this celebration the custom of staying awake and learning for part of, or all of, the night before has become increasingly popular in recent years.

Please join us on **Tuesday May 18th at 8:00 pm** for an evening of teaching and refreshment. Please bring a dairy or pareve dessert or snack to share.

Our teachers for this evening will be:

Joy Ladin: *Psalms and Transformation*

Catherine Madsen: *A Heart of Flesh: The Tanakh as a Source of New Liturgy*

Rabbi Bauer: *Topic to be announced.*

Education News

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



As promised, Jody Rosenbloom is now in England with her husband who is on sabbatical there. **Adrian Durlenster** has taken the reins of the JCA School for the remainder of the year. He can be reached at eddir@j-c-a.org or 256-0160 ext. 203. I, **Andra Rose**, am available for any Life Long Learning issues beyond the school; I can be reached at 256-8686 or ar@andrarose.com.

A big Mazel Tov to **Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser** who received recognition for her work in developing and leading the parent support group: Building Jewish Identity for Children with Special Needs. The group that presented this honor is the Interfaith Connection, an organization sponsored by non profit service agencies, faith communities and the Department of Developmental Services.

Thanks to **Ken Bernstein** and **Janet Kannel**, master chefs (who knew matzo brei could be savory or sweet?) and to **Andra Rose**, **Solomon Goldstein-Rose** and **Lisa Perl binder** for their help and clean-up for the Matzo Brei Breakfast.

Two-Stage Registration Process Coordinates with Congregation Dues Billing & Children’s Fund for the 2010-2011 School Year

We are working to coordinate billing and fundraising efforts to ensure the financial well being of JCA School. In order to plan for the upcoming school year, we need to know how many students will be attending JCA School. This year we are separating the enrollment process into two stages. The first stage is sending in a form notifying the office of your intent to enroll and with information about the new Children’s Fund Initiative. The office will respond with the second stage, billing and the forms needed for tuition payment and information required by the end of August and prior to the first day of class. Please watch your mail for the updates.

JCA School Appreciation

At school year’s end, we like to acknowledge the caring and dedicated people who make up our school community. Along with our students, parents and congregant support, we thank **Rabbi David Dunn Bauer** for his years of support to JCA School; Director of Life Long Learning (DL3), **Jody Rosenbloom** and Acting School Principal in her absence these last 6 weeks, **Adrian Durlenster** (Also 7th grade teacher & Music Specialist), Family Educator, **Rabbi Steve Nathan**, and our teaching staff: **Felicia Sloin** (Families with Young Children), **Melissa Zeitz** (Shabbat Shalom), **Jocelyn Gordon** (1st grade), **Hayley Yaglom** (2nd Grade), **Amy Epstein & Sarah Fedder** (3rd Grade), **Emily Ziedman** (4th grade), **An-**

drea Olkin (5th & 6th grades), **Rachael Goren** (Director of Teen Programming); our teaching assistants: **Jonah Herscu, Kyla Amick, Jacob Mooney, Addie Gamliel, Leah Parker-Bernstein, Lily Blain, Lily Harris, & Madison Couture**; our office staff, **Eric Delisle, Marcia Howard, and Bonnie Webster** and facilities staff, **Santo Alers & Rob Kaufman**.

Volunteer Support is Vital to Our School

Our committees are vibrant groups of volunteers whose energies help advocate for the needs of the school, develop policies that guide curriculum, and sustain the vision necessary to nurture our process along the way. Thank-you to:

- Education Committee members –**Andra Rose** (Chair/Community Education/Board Member), **Ted Trobaugh** (School Committee Chair/Board VP), **Stacy Tobin** (At Large), **David Rabinovitz** (Adult Education Chair), **Rachael Goren** (Director of Teen Programming); **Steve Silvern** (At Large), **Ariella Schwell** (Families with Young Children/Havurah Ketana) & **Jody Rosenbloom**, (DL3).
- School Sub-Committee members: **Ted Trobaugh** (Chair & Ed. Committee Liaison, Board VP), **Karen Helfer, Cheryl Campbell, Deborah Evans, Amy Kroin, & Jody Rosenbloom** (DL3).
- Grade level parents who helped facilitate community and grade level projects: **Cheryl Campbell** (1st/2nd grades), **Anna Robbins & Amy Kroin** 3rd grade, **Deborah Zeidenberg** (4th grade), **Jill Shulman & Lisa Blain** (5th/6th grades) and **Deborah Evans** (7th grade).
- Fundraiser Coordinators: **Susan Cinner** (Dean’s Beans), **Norma Hernandez** (Boxtops for Education), **Lisa Blain** (Purim Carnival), **Jana Silver & Dara Hermann Zeirlein** (Greeting Cards).

continued on next page

Calendar

Sun, May 2	Lag B'Omer- Shalom Sunday students entering 1st grade in the fall of 2010 are invited to join JCA School 1st grade from 11:00-11:45 am and come to the Learner’s Minyan. 2nd graders will meet with 3rd grade to learn about the Wednesday Hebrew program from 11:30-11:45 am.
Sat., May 15	Last class for 7th grade
Sun, May 16	Last day for grades 1-6. Parents invited 10:00 am-12:15 pm

continued from previous page

Interested in Starting Your Child in JCA School?

If you are currently a member of the JCA and have children entering 1st grade or older or if you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, contact the Eric Delisle in the main office at 256-0160X209. Children 4-6 year olds (as of Sept. 2010) are eligible to participate in our monthly Shabbat Shalom program.

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, May 2nd
Pick up: on or after Friday, May 7th

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!

The Deadline for the June/ July Newsletter is May 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

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 Semi Annual Meeting, June 6th

Don't miss the JCA Semi Annual meeting, Sunday June 6th at 10:30 am to engage the community in a discussion of the current state of the JCA and where we see our community going in the future.

Topics to be discussed are as follows:

- State of the Union:
- Finance
- Membership
- Building
- Fundraising
- Community Involvement Plan



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May Teen Programming

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



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

JCAT will be joining JTOV for an end of the year celebration.

You are invited to celebrate the end of another fabulous year with Jewish Teens from all over the Valley.

*Sunday, May 23rd
1-5pm*

Look Park, Northampton

Lunch, Ice Cream Sundae Bar, games, and more!
Unlimited use of mini-golf, pedal boats, and the railroad!
Free gift to all those who attend!

Open to 6-12th graders.

Fee: \$10 per teens includes lunch and all attractions.

In collaboration with JTOV, BBYO, and B'nei Tzedek Youth Foundation.



A COLLECTIVE OF UPPER PIONEER VALLEY JEWISH TEENS

Programming for 6-12th graders

Sunday, May 16th

Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing

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



Tuesday, May 11th

5-6:30pm

Yoga Center Amherst
JYoga: Jewish Yoga for Teens

Come to the last Jyoga of the year! All those who attend will receive a free gift! Open to teens in grades 6-12. \$36 for the whole year or \$8 per class



Thursday, May 13th

3:45-7pm

**JVCORPS at
Amherst Survival Center**

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



Arts and Culture Committee

Meeting on Wed., May 5 at 3 PM at JCA

There will be a meeting of the Arts and Culture committee to review the work of the newly created Hall Gallery and make plans for next year's activities. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Anita Page, apage@english.umass.edu or Eva Sartori, leosartori@comcast.net for questions about the committee's work and any suggestions you would like to make.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Committee is pleased to report that three sales have taken place from the Hall Gallery. We are excited about this response to the work of our artists. The twenty percent commission will be used for special projects that are being planned by the Arts and Culture Committee.

Our third exhibit, the works of Lori-Holder Webb, is currently on view.

From Fred Levine and the Guidebook Committee

We are now soliciting advertisements for the 2010-2011 Guidebook. We found last year that ads come from many unexpected places known only to individual members - whether they be friends or people you have done business with - lawyers, accountants, service people around your home, small business owners.

Please contact me with any leads. Advertising revenue from the Guidebook was important to the JCA last year and will be again this year. You can reach me at 230-3320 or email at flevine42@comcast.net.

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.

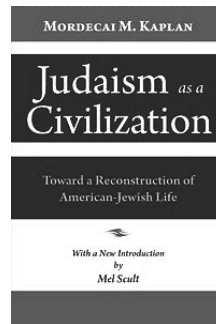
www.jrf.org/convention

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.



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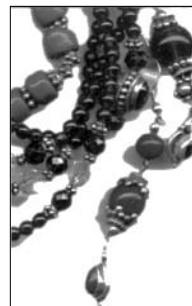
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צאתכם לשלום מלאכי השרת



*Luncheon in Honor
of Rabbi Bauer*

**Saturday, June 12
JCA Social Hall**

You are cordially invited to honor Rabbi Bauer
at a kiddush and community luncheon.

The community is encouraged to attend shabbat services at 10am.
Kiddush and luncheon follow at approximately 12 noon.

*Donations would be appreciated towards the cost of the luncheon.
Checks may be made payable to "JCA"
with "Rabbi Bauer kiddush" written in the memo area.*

*The JCA is also planning a scholarship fund in Rabbi Bauer's name.
There will be more information about this soon.*

Tzetchem l'shalom malachey hashareit — צאתכם לשלום מלאכי השרת
Go in peace, you messengers who serve God.

From the Kitchen Committee:

Have some fun schmoozing and making new friends in the JCA kitchen!!
VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED to provide food and help with kiddushes.
 Please sign up for a future kiddush by clicking on the “Kiddush” button on the JCA website or calling Barbara Freed at 256-0355.

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Aaron Bousel | Judy Glaser | Elissa and Bernie |
| Madeline Charney | Hadar Grabel | Rubinstein |
| Jeff Cohen and | Av Harris | Joan Saperstan |
| Lori Holder Webb | Bob Kumin | Susan |
| Barbara and Gordon Freed | Andra Rose | Dyan Wiley |

Generous sponsorship of a kiddush were made by:
 Jeff Cohen and Lori Holder Webb
 Irv and Linda Seidman

Special thanks go to our Pesach Kashering Crew:
 Paul Charette, the man with the torch
 Eliza Gouverneur and Sarah Cohen
 Elinor Levine
 Andra Rose
 Sarah Thomson

***Donations to
 Project Rehovot***

Anna Treston
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**Sunday, June 6, 2010
 4:00 p.m.**

Buckley Recital Hall
 Amherst College

Suggested Donation - \$10.00
 adults/\$5.00 children

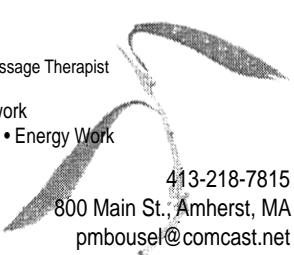
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Join us for our 24th year!

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

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- 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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Call for an appointment today.*

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



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The process of replacing our chumashim
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By advertising you can:

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- Let the community know about your products and/or services.
- Increase your business!

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Annual Giving

Barbara & Gordon Freed

JCA General Fund

In Honor of Kitty & Bernie's leadership of the Wednesday morning minyan and the JCA's support of the Spirituality and Social Change Interfaith Group (Tom Wolff)

In Memory of Lewis & Ruth Hecht

(Marilyn & Jeffrey Blaustein)

In Appreciation of Ruth Love Barer

(Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein)

In Appreciation of Paul Charette for leading services during Pesach (Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein)

In Memory of my mother, Abbie Seaver Jameson

(Ann Hastings)

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor of Ruth Love Barer

(Catherine Madsen & Sarah Thomson)

In Memory of Enrique Kaufman, father of Oran Kaufman, father-in-law of Danielle Barshak and grandfather of Shira and Gabrielle Barshak Kaufman. (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Honor of Paul Charette and in appreciation of his leading services during Pesach. (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Honor of Amy Rothenberg and Paul Herscu.

(Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Memory of James A. Young, father of James E. Young and grandfather of Asher and Ethan Young.

(Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Memory of Abbie Seaver Jameson,

mother of Ann Hastings. (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In Honor of Ruth Love Barer for her leadership during

Rabbi Bauer's sabbatical. (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

New Members

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

Jean Krogh & Bob Solosko

Arnold Friedmann

Condolences

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

James A. Young, father of James E. Young and grandfather of Asher and Ethan Young

Enrique Kaufman, father of Oran Kaufman, father-in-law of Danielle Barshak and grandfather of Shira and Gabrielle Barshak Kaufman

Abbie Seaver Jameson, mother of Ann Hastings

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.

***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

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".

Alex Epstein at Schoen Books

On Sunday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Alex Epstein will read at Schoen Books (The Old Firehouse, 7 Sugarloaf St., S. Deerfield).

Acclaimed Israeli author Alex Epstein has written three collections of short stories and three novels. His first book in English, *Blue Has No South* (translated by Becca Mara McKay), has just been published by Clockroot Books (Northampton).

<http://www.schoenbooks.com>

<http://www.clockrootbooks.com/clockrootwriters/alexepstein.html>

National Yiddish Book Center

Francine Prose

The National Yiddish Book Center will present bestselling author Francine Prose delivering the annual **Melinda Rosenblatt Memorial Lecture** on Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 pm. Prose's lecture, entitled *Anne Frank: The Book, The Life, The Afterlife* will explore the legacy of Anne Frank and her diary. The talk is free and open to the public; reservations are suggested.

They Called Me Mayer July:

Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust

The National Yiddish Book will display *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition curated by Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and the Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, Poland. This exhibit has toured to critical acclaim throughout North America and will be on view at the Yiddish Book Center from April 18 – September 26, 2010.

Jewish Family Service of Western MA

Jewish Family Jam

Wednesdays, 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: 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

Summer Housing Needed

Four female college students are looking for summer housing in Amherst! We will be coming up this summer to intern at the National Yiddish Book Center and need housing for the months of June and July. We are very responsible, neat, and respectful undergrads who attend Barnard College and Columbia University and are looking to sublet cheaply or housesit. We are looking for any housing opportunities you may have for us. Please contact nora.feinstein@gmail.com. We can't wait to spend the summer in your neck of the woods!

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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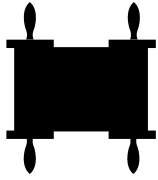


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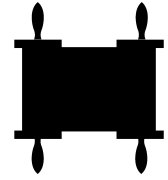


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JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
May 2010
 17 Iyar ~ 18 Sivan



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <small>17 IYAR</small> ■ Emor 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Kassia Robinson-Hidas
2 <small>18 IYAR</small> ✕ Lag BaOmer 10:00 am Camp Committee	3 <small>19 IYAR</small>	4 <small>20 IYAR</small> 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	5 <small>21 IYAR</small> 7:30 am Meditation Minyan 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	6 <small>22 IYAR</small> 7:30 pm Board Meeting	7 <small>23 IYAR</small> ⚭ 7:38 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service followed by potluck supper	8 <small>24 IYAR</small> ■ Behar - Bechukotai 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Nathan Ellis
9 <small>25 IYAR</small>	10 <small>26 IYAR</small>	11 <small>27 IYAR</small> 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	12 <small>28 IYAR</small> ✕ Yom Yerushalayim 7:30 am Meditation Minyan 7:00 pm School Committee	13 <small>29 IYAR</small>	14 <small>1 SIVAN</small> ✕ Rosh Chodesh Sivan ⚭ 7:46 6:15 pm Service	15 <small>2 SIVAN</small> ■ Bemidbar 10:00 am Service Celebration of Saul Gladstone's 90th Birthday
16 <small>3 SIVAN</small> Last Day of JCA School	17 <small>4 SIVAN</small>	18 <small>5 SIVAN</small> ⚭ 7:50 pm 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 8:00 pm Tikkun Leyl Shavuot see page 5	19 <small>6 SIVAN</small> ✕ Shavuot 10:00 am Shavuot Services (Yiskor) Office Closed	20 <small>7 SIVAN</small>	21 <small>8 SIVAN</small> ⚭ 7:53 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	22 <small>9 SIVAN</small> ■ Naso 10:00 am Service Bar Mitzvah: Alex Curran
23 <small>10 SIVAN</small>	24 <small>11 SIVAN</small>	25 <small>12 SIVAN</small> 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	26 <small>13 SIVAN</small> 7:30 am Meditation Minyan 7:30 pm Book Group	27 <small>14 SIVAN</small>	28 <small>15 SIVAN</small> ⚭ 7:59 6:15 pm Service	29 <small>16 SIVAN</small> ■ Beha'alotecha 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Sarah Martin
30 <small>17 SIVAN</small>	31 <small>18 SIVAN</small> 🇺🇸 Memorial Day			Semi Annual Meeting Sunday, June 6th at 10:00 am		

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