


# jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

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## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

### CANDLE LIGHTING

October 1 ~ 6:14 pm  
October 8 ~ 6:02 pm  
October 15 ~ 5:50 pm  
October 22 ~ 5:39 pm  
October 29 ~ 5:29 pm

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



### SPECIAL EVENTS

**October 3**

B'Tzelem Elohim

**October 6**

Israel Through a  
Novelist's Lens:  
Joan Leegant, Speaker



### MEETINGS

**October 6**

School Committee

**October 7**

Board Meeting

**October 13**

Teen Advisory Meeting  
Ritual Life Committee

**October 21**

Board Meeting



### B'NAI MITZVAH

**October 16- 10:00 am**  
Fred Goldstein-Rose

### *Message from Co-president*

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

#### **A Welcoming Community:**

Welcome to the New Year 5771! The JCA has hosted some of the most beautiful High Holiday Services ever. Sincere thanks go to the many volunteers and committee members who made our services and kiddushim possible. Without the support and hard work of our fabulous members, we would not have had such a wonderful spiritual experience. Thank you again to everyone who made an incredible difference, and thanks in advance to everyone who will step forward in service to the community in the coming year.

Fall is the time of welcoming especially in an academic community such as ours. This cycle is reflected in the Jewish calendar too. Following the Days of Awe, we observe the harvest festival of Sukkot and as we enter this month, we celebrate Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. These two holidays are commonly thought of as part of Sukkot, but that is actually not the case. These are individual holidays in their own right and don't involve some of the special observances of Sukkot: for example, we don't worship with the lulav and etrog, and our time in the sukkah is more limited.

Shemini Atzeret literally means "the assembly of the eighth (day)." Rabbinic literature explains this holiday as though "our Creator is like a host, who invites us as visitors for a limited time, and when the time comes for us to leave, Adonai has enjoyed our company so much that we are asked to stay another day." This metaphor is particularly relevant as we recently hosted many members and non-members in our spiritual home for services. And like a good host, we hope our guests return to share more events and worship opportunities.

The same welcoming spirit pervades the holiday of Simchat Torah which means "Rejoicing in the Torah." This holiday marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly

Torah readings, when we read the last Torah portion and then immediately begin the first chapter of Genesis, reminding us that the Torah is a circle and never ends. This year we anticipate enough people at our services to unroll the entire Torah scroll from end to end, making the whole Torah accessible and an integral part of all our lives.

If the theme of the Jewish calendar for the fall is welcome, what must we do as a community to ensure that everyone who comes to the JCA feels included? Actually, there are so many ways: Attend services and introduce yourself to someone you have never met – or start a conversation with someone whom you may have been introduced to, but have never gotten to know. Shake hands and say "Yas-har Koach" when someone gets an aliyah and comes down from the bimah –making a connection with someone you may not even know. Contact Barbara Freed and join the Kiddush Committee. Due to financial constraints, we need volunteers to provide food on Shabbat and help set up and clean up afterwards. Kiddush is more than a lunch - it ensures that our services and the religious life of the community continue. Introduce yourself to Rabbi Weiner and offer to help him. As a leader and teacher, he is vital in setting our priorities and moving the JCA forward. Invite someone new to your chavurah or create a new chavurah to celebrate holidays and Shabbat. Volunteer for a committee – whether it's Adult Education, Arts and Culture, the JCA School, Project Rehovot, Not Bread Alone, Ritual Life, and many more, surely there's something here that's interesting and rewarding. The more people who are involved, the greater the outcome, the better we get to know one another, and the more welcoming we can be. That is the message of the Fall holidays as we embark on this wonderful new year. Welcome with an open heart and with love to all.

*B'shalom. Lisa*

**October 2010**

**Tishre/Cheshvan 5771**

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

## 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 Benjamin Weiner

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003-2010)

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989-2002)

Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

**Director of Lifelong Learning: Jody Rosenbloom** (256-0160 ext. 203)

**Director of Teen Programing: Rachael Goren-Watts** (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 Perlbinder** (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:

Richard Cohen, Barbara Freed, Gerald Friedman,  
 Mark Israel, Molly Goren-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 November issue is October 12th**

October 2010, Vol. 9, Issue No. 9

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 Benjamin Weiner****Being Jewish takes a lot of imagination.**

I'm thinking in particular about the holiday of Sukkot, which is still over a week away at the time I'm writing this, but will be over by the time you read it. This is a holiday that asks us to stretch our historical imagination in two distinct directions. Spending lots of time in a temporary dwelling, over the course of a week, is meant to remind us of what it was like for our biblical ancestors to live in the wilderness, in nomadic tents, over the forty years it took them to travel from Egypt to the Promised Land. (The joke goes that it would have been a much shorter trip had they not been too stubborn and stiff-necked to ask for directions.) But a sukkah is clearly not a nomadic tent, equipped for withstanding sandstorms, burning days and chilly nights. Its simple construction—wooden beams, cloth siding, a roof of leafy branches—is instead reminiscent of the other layer of our people's history the holiday is meant to call to mind: the makeshift booths where reapers would reside during the fall harvest.

Like Pesach and Shavuot, Sukkot functions as both a performance of the biblical narrative and a harvest festival, with the distinction of being the last harvest of the year, just before, God willing, the rains come to refresh the earth. This is probably why it merits being referred to in Hebrew as *zman simchatenu*—the 'time of our happiness' or the 'season of our joy'.

I arrived in Israel, four years ago, just in time for sukkot, and it was indeed a joy to see a city festooned with sukkahs, and to go running to a bustling marketplace to buy the *arba minim*, the fragrant and lovely

elements of the lulav and etrog. But I tasted a more profound happiness a few weeks later, out in the olive grove of Kibbutz Gezer, combing the branches with special forks and hearing the fat fall of ripe olives dropping to the tarp we'd spread at the base of the trunk. The city language I knew still carried the metaphor of sowing and reaping, but it was good to be reminded that these terms originated with a real experience—working under a gentle sun to bring in what you have labored to plant, knowing what awaits you is the profit, fruit and savor of honest work.

Granted, I can grasp the non-metaphorical aspect of this language all the time, these days, now that I live in Amherst, where I've seen the corn and sunflower fields along my ride to the JCA go down over the past two weeks. For myself, I'm picking the last of the cucumbers and tomatoes, starting to get a steady crop of florets off the broccoli, and getting ready to put in the garlic for next season. But our holidays still ask us to take a step back from the reality of these experiences, to use our imaginations, and to envision what they might mean to our spirits, no matter how close or far we may be from the earth. So, as we move away from Sukkot, let's do so with an accentuated awareness of the rhythms of labor and yield, knowing that the transience of time means that joy is not always available to us, and so, when its time comes around, we should harvest it with song and thanksgiving.

*b'shalom,*

*Rabbi Benjamin Weiner*

**Rabbi Liaison Committee**

The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to:

- Act as a channel between the rabbi and the congregation for the communication and processing of comments, issues, and complaints,
- Further increase the effectiveness of the rabbi-congregational relationship,
- Provide a way for people who are hesitant about contacting the rabbi directly to do so.

We encourage you to contact any member of the committee whenever you feel there is an issue that you would like them to consider with Rabbi Weiner.

Please be assured that all information is confidential.

Amy Mittelman 256-0883, amGU@hampshire.edu

David Levit 548-1083, dblevit@crocker.com

Aaron Bousel 253-3544, abousel@comcast.net

Barbara Burkart 256-8139, barbruth@comcast.net

Eli Kwartler 253-2929, elikwartler@gmail.com

Ted Slovin 253-3518, tslovin@acad.umass.edu



## Ritual Life Committee

Paul Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, [cyclone411@charter.net](mailto:cyclone411@charter.net)  
 Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, [allset22@verizon.net](mailto:allset22@verizon.net)

### RELIGION CALENDAR

#### Shabbat Bereshit Genesis 1:1-6:8

**October 1, Friday**

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

**October 2, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



#### Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Parashat Noach

**Genesis 6:9-11:32, Numbers 28:9-15**

**October 8, Friday**

6:15 PM

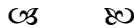
Service Leader: Gordon Freed

**October 9, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette

D'var Torah: Marcia Black



#### Shabbat Lech-Lecha Genesis 12:1-17:27

**October 15, Friday**

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper

Service Leaders: Larry & Deb Fine

**October 16, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Fred Goldstein-Rose

Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Fred Goldstein-Rose



#### Shabbat Vayera Genesis 18:1-22:24

**October 22, Friday**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

**October 23, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



#### Shabbat Chaye Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18

**October 29, Friday**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

**October 30, Saturday**

10:00 AM

Chanting Service (Note: This will be the only service.)

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick & Sara Schley



#### Meditation Minyan

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

#### Shacharit (morning) Minyan

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

Thank You To Santo Alers and Rob Kaufman  
for getting the broken fan in the  
main sanctuary repaired.  
We are very appreciative of all your work.

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.

***Kiddush and Oneg  
Sponsors***

**September 4-**  
Bob & Jeanne Potash

**October 16-**  
Joshua Goldstein & Andra  
Rose, in honor of their daughter  
Fred becoming Bat Mitzvah

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

***Wanted: Torah Reading Co-ordinator***

-- a person who is willing to take on the fulfilling task of calling members of the JCA who have stepped forward to read Torah, and to schedule Torah reading for weekly Shabbat services. The Ritual Life Committee will provide the list of readers. The RLC has funds for one paid reader a month; the remainder are volunteers. Mentoring, and much appreciation, provided for the new co-ordinator.

Call or email Randi Stein (549-0526, randistein@earthlink.net) or one of the Ritual Life Committee Chairs.

***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 services will be on October 15th 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.

***Thank You To All Who Helped Put Up Our JCA Sukkah***

- |                 |                |               |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Ann Armon       | Celia Child    | Rebecca Freed |
| Libby Arny      | Rita Child     | Eliezer Huber |
| Michael Aronson | Helena Donovan | Lydia Powell  |
| Ruth Love Barer | Cheryl Edgerly | Liz Rosenberg |
| Aaron Bousel    | Julia Edgerly  | Sarah Thomson |
|                 | Gordon Freed   |               |

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.

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**Education News**

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



**Introducing our Staff**

**Shalom Sunday**, for 4-6 year olds meets once/month with returning teacher **Melissa Zeitz**. Melissa is in her 8th year teaching at the JCA. She has teaching certification/special education and an MA in Education from UMASS, certification in Jewish Early Childhood Education from Boston Hebrew College and is working on certification as a school technology specialist. She has taught in Amherst & Greenfield and is currently teaching in the Springfield Public Schools. Melissa will be teaching **1st Graders** until class size stabilizes and we determine the appropriate staffing. Many **2nd Graders** recognize their teacher, **Haley Yaglom**, as a counselor from Camp Shemesh the past 2 summers. This is also Hayley’s 2nd year teaching 2nd grade at JCA School. Haley is in the Master’s Degree program at UMASS, pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. **3rd Grade** teacher, **Jocelyn Gordon** grew up in New Hampshire as one of the only Jewish children in her community. After completing Hebrew school, she began working as a teacher’s aid, eventually teaching her own classes in two different synagogues and spent a semester in Israel. Last year she taught 1st grade in our school as well as chaperoned teen programs. She is a senior at UMass working on a Bachelor of Science in Psychology on the Pre-Medical track. **4th Graders** will have their same Sunday teacher as last year - **Amy Epstein**. Amy has a UMASS degree in Sociology, has spent over three years in museum education and excels at “hands on” activities. Amy is passionate about youth development and social change and was active in the Jewish youth movement Hashomer Hatzair for 10 years. **Amelia Mandell**, will be teaching on Wednesdays. Amelia has directed programming at summer camps including at our Camp Shemesh. She is in her senior year at UMass with a major in Anthropology, minor in Jewish Studies and participated in a Birthright Israel trip. **5th Grade** teacher, **Howard (Howie) Feibusch** graduated UMass this past spring with a BA in Pre-Med & Math and will be working in the Resource Center at ARHS this year. In addition, Howard has been a Supplemental Instructor at UMass, Teaching Assistant in the NY public schools and a summer camp counselor. Howard has traveled in Israel and while there, studied in yeshiva as well as art school. He is also an accomplished musician. Over the last few years, Howard has read Torah on Saturday mornings at the JCA. **6th / 7th Grades: Andrea Olkin** returns for the 9th year to teach 6th grade, 7th grade (Wednesdays/History only) and continues with her responsibilities as Master Hebrew Teacher. This summer, Andrea took the distance learning classes, “Inclusion of Students on the Autism

Spectrum in Jewish Education” and “Special Education and Second Language Acquisition: Implications for Hebrew” offered by Boston Hebrew College. Andrea has a MA & teaching certificate from her education at UConn & UMass. In 2005, she was the recipient of both the regional Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education and the national Grinspoon-Steinhartz Award. Piloting a new initiative for 7th graders, will be **Judi Wisch**, currently the national outreach director of the PJ Library, and former Education Director at Beit Ahava congregation in Florence, MA. Judi, a Philadelphia native, has a degree from Hebrew University and many years of experience in Jewish education, camping and graphics/marketing.

**Building Jewish Identity for Children with Special Needs**

**Monthly Parent Support & Education Group Continues Sunday mornings, Oct. 3 & Nov. 21 from 10:15-11:30 at the JCA , Free and open to the community.**

Join other parents of children with special needs e.g.ADD/ADHD, Autism Spectrum that may cause challenges--behavior or emotional, to help identify needs, problems and solutions; to educate ourselves and the community; and to enhance our religious schools, holiday celebrations and home practices for our children to have a fuller Jewish identity. The

*continued on next page*

*Calendar*

Sat, Oct. 3	B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image: Parent Support Group (see above)
Wed, Oct. 6	School Committee at 7:30 pm
Sat/Sun, Oct. 9/10	No Classes (Columbus Day)
Sun, Oct. 17	Coffee Talk/Tea Time for parents of children in grades 1-4.
Sun, Oct. 24	Shalom Sunday for 4-6 yr olds w/concurrent parent program
Sun, Oct. 24	Kedusha LaTorah Workshop for 1st Graders w/ their parents.
Sun, Oct. 31	5th grade Tefilin Workshop w/parents
Fri, Nov. 5	Kedusha LaTorah (consecration) and Family Services 5:30 Followed by Shabbat Family dinner for households with students in Shalom Sunday, 1st & 2nd grades.

*continued from previous page*

group is facilitated by **Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser**. Shapiro-Rieser, a former Special Education teacher, has a D. Min degree in Jewish Spiritual Direction. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and holds a graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders from Antioch University. To register or for further information, contact: Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Lifelong Learning at 256-0160x203. We apologize that no childcare can be provided at this time. This program is offered through a collaboration “In God’ Image/B’Tzelem Elohim” between the Jewish Community of Amherst and Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts with funding from the Family Education Initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

### ***Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee for 5771***

Renew your commitment to support the JCA every morning with a cup of Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee.



Order your favorite blend by **9/24** for the **10/1** delivery or **10/29** for the **11/5** delivery. Order forms (with order dates listed through July) are available on the JCA website, in the JCA lobby, or by contacting susan-weinstein1@yahoo.com.

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Save the date

## JOIN TOGETHER FOR

# SHABBAT B'YACHAD\*

### Visions of “Welcome” in Parashat Vayetze

## Saturday, November 13

Watch The Thursday Emails for more details

Imagine a Shabbat where we all come together  
 A prayer service  
 Experimenting with diverse opportunities for participation  
 For a restful day  
 To study Torah in ways both traditional and eclectic  
 Try Torah yoga  
 In depth text study  
 Bible story time with song & participation  
 Artistic expression of biblical themes  
 To build our community  
 Learn together  
 Share a POTLUCK Shabbat meal  
 Sing zemirot

**\* This program is in place of JCA School on Sunday, November 14.**

Generous funding provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s Family Education Initiative

***Israel through a Novelist's Lens:  
Award-winning author coming to  
JCA Wed. Oct 6***

Award-winning author Joan Leegant will speak about her new novel, *Wherever You Go* (Norton Press) at the JCA on Wed. October 6 at 7:30 PM. Her book explores issues of identity, faith, and violence in the relationship between American Jews and Israel.

As *The Miami Herald* recently wrote, "Leegant's suspenseful and emotionally wrenching indictment of the ruinous seduction of politico-religious fanaticism, her pitch-perfect renderings of individuals torn between earthly and heavenly Jerusalems are the true source of the novel's lingering power.... *Wherever You Go* is a lively, full novel by an elegant, ironic writer who handles the topics of terror and messianic violence as agilely as she does love and redemption."

For her first book, a short story collection entitled *An Hour in Paradise*, Leegant won the PEN New England Book Award, the Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction, and was named a Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. Since 2007, she has lived half the year in Tel Aviv, where she is a visiting writer at Bar-Ilan University and a frequent lecturer for the U.S. State Department.

Leegant's visit is sponsored by the JCA adult educ. committee, the Congregation B'nai Israel adult educ. committee, the Northampton-Amherst chapter of Hadasah, and the Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Dept. at UMass. Amherst.

Books will be available for purchase from Ken Schoen Books of So. Deerfield. Light refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Barbara Burkart at barbruth@comcast.net, or Haim Gunner at haim\_gunner@yahoo.com. All are welcome to attend.

***Scholar in Residence Weekend***

***December 10-12***

with

**Rabbi Arthur Green**

Noted scholar of  
Jewish mysticism and hasidism

Author of the recent book

*Radical Judaism -  
Rethinking God and Tradition*

Registration materials to follow.

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David Sharken, chair of JCA's  
Ldor Vdor committee at  
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ledorvador@j-c-a.org  
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## ***Thank You To All Who Helped With The High Holidays***

THANK YOU, THANK YOU THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped with the High Holidays. We couldn't have done this without the help and support of all of you.

A special thank you to the sub-committee chairs who took on the responsibility to recruit volunteers, and plan and manage the various High Holiday tasks:

- Michael Burkart - security
- Karen Loeb - food
- Lisa Pack and Bev Woolf – ushers and greeters
- Ted Trobaugh - parking
- Tom Butler – grounds and setup
- Ariella Schwell and Andra Rose – childcare
- Hadar Gabel – bimah decorations
- Andra Rose and Sarah Thomson – Yizkor list
- Marian Wolfsun and Sharon Vardatira – the High Holiday Manual that provided guidance to all of us.

How many volunteers does it take? Here's an incomplete list of the volunteers:

**Setup and cleanup volunteers:** Lisa Blain, Seth Blain, Saul Blain, Sarah Thomson, Molly Goren-Watts, David Glassberg, Jean Krogh, Tom Butler, Lisa Perl binder, Phil Weilerstein, David Rabinovitz (who took it upon himself to mow the lawn), Andra Rose, Guy Wood and Bob Solosko.

**Landscaping:** Ellen Kaufman.

**Food set-up and cleanup, honey cakes:** Barbara Freed, Sarah Thomson, Suzanne Arnoplin, Kathy Weilerstein, Kira Weilerstein, Jody Wax, Ann Armon, Hadar Gabel, Libby Arney, Joan Saperstan.

**Parking:** Bill Evans, Tobi Sznajderman, David Gamliel, Jim Seltzer, Clay Ballantine, Mat Lebowitz, Eric Wilkinson, Josh Goldman.

**Ushers and Greeters:** Aaron Bousel, Allie Ryan-Ackerman, Beverly Woolf, Cheryl Zoll, David Levitt, Gordon Diamond, Hannah Trobaugh, Hadar Gabel, Hollie Kalkstein, Jackie Katz, Jaymie Chernoff, Jeffrey Cohen, Jenna Miller, Judi Fonsh, Judy Glaser, Julianna Cinner, Julie Gerstman, Ken Talan, Kip Fonsh, Kira Weilerstein, Kitty Talan, Lisa Pack, Marcia Goldman, Michael Chernoff, Molly Goren-Watts, Nancy Grossman, Nancy Ratner, Pearl-Anne Margalit, Rachael Goren-Watts, Reed Alper, Robin Diamond, Sara Berger, Sheldon Goldman, Spencer Diamond, Ted Diamond, Tom Plaut, Walter Leopold.

**Lobby posters:** Steve Woolf, Moira Clingman.

**Torah readers:** Arnie Alper, Ellen Bernstein, Hannah Blau, Paul Charette, Deborah Fine, Avi Gladstone, Hadar Gabel, Av Harris, Jonathan Hirsch, Devorah Jacobson, Felicia Mednick, David Mednicoff, Lisa Perl binder, Monroe Rabin, Elissa Rubinstein, Guy Wood

**JCA staff:** Jody Rosenbloom, Rachel Goren-Watts, Marcia Howard, Bonnie Webster, Eric Delisle, Karen Loeb, Rob Kaufman, and Santo Alers.

**Tzedaka Table:** Judy Glaser, Arnie Alper

**Hosts for our visiting service leaders:** Joan Saperstan and Josette Henschel, David Levit and Ruth Kane-Levit, and Batya Perman.

And thank you to everyone who helped whose name is not listed.

And Finally, a very special thank you to Andra Rose who did much more than she had intended to and took on so many tasks.

*Thank you all.  
Bob Solosko, Paul Charette and Guy Wood  
High Holiday Committee Co-chairs*



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## ***Update from Israel on Project Rehovot***

Project Rehovot is thriving! Devoted to helping immigrant children or children of immigrants adjust to life in Israel, Project Rehovot operates in a public school in Rehovot, Israel where a part-time teacher works with small groups of children who are taken out of the regular classroom for special help.

Your donations to Project Rehovot pay for the salary of the part-time teacher. The Project Rehovot Volunteer committee does the rest—fundraising, working with the teacher and the principal, etc.

Edna Shuker, our part-time teacher, provided us with an update on September 14. This is her second year on the job and she will be working with 22 children, divided into several small groups. She will be at the Ma'alot Meshulam school three days a week for a total of about nine hours. Edna said that the children, who are in the 1st through 6th grades,

have emotional problems, come from dysfunctional families and suffer from hyperactivity.

She shared her approach: "I try to meet the children at their level and use my own difficult upbringing to guide me. If a student cannot stay with a task, I give a simpler task. Here are some examples of our activities: I give the students a drawing and ask them to add more to the picture; I tell a story and have students continue the story in writing. We do a lot of sculpting and drawing. I use music and singing with the students."

We're lucky to have found Edna. She loves her work and is very qualified for the job. She has had significant training in therapy, self-actualization and positive psychology, and much experience working with emotionally challenged kids. Having grown up in a poor family of seven children she understands the problems of the students in her class.



## ***Project Rehovot***

September, 2010

Dear Friends,

I have good news to report. Despite the economic downturn, Project Rehovot continues to thrive. Our program is helping elementary school children in Israel, who come from Ethiopian immigrant families, blossom into good students and citizens. Thanks to our loyal donors, we can still afford to keep Project Rehovot completely intact, paying the salary of a part-time teacher/art therapist who works with small groups of children on language, acceptable behaviour, study habits and issues specific to each child.

Children from Ethiopian families face particularly harsh conditions at home: poverty is rampant, many parents are unemployed and drug trafficking pervades their neighbourhoods. The children chosen by their classroom teachers for participation in Project Rehovot are the most vulnerable. They struggle with Hebrew, as Amharic is their native tongue, and are raised by parents who are unable to provide their children with the kind of help at home that is vital for success at school.

Project Rehovot works. In our many emails and calls with the Principal and teachers at the Ma'alot Meshulam elementary school where the program takes place, we hear of progress, sometimes incremental, sometimes in huge leaps.

The many volunteers who have been raising money since 1991 for Project Rehovot's programs, know that their work makes a big difference. While we may differ on the difficult solutions to the problems that plague Israel, we all agree on supporting a program that is free of political overtones and seeks only to improve the future for the sweet children at Ma'alot Meshulam.

Please make your contribution reflect your concern for children. Thanks in advance for your financial support! To make your gift, send a check to the JCA, 724 Main Street, Amherst, made out to Project Rehovot.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Massler Kushick, Co-Chair

The Project Rehovot Committee:

Karen Loeb, Co-Chair, Libby Arny, Hadar Grabel, Yaffa Gunner, Elinor Levine, Ellen Middleton, Naomi Peleg, Eva Sartori, Tamar Shadur & Jody Wax

***Change Team update***

To begin the New Year, the Change Team is presenting the feedback gathered at the semi-annual meeting a few months ago. There were approximately 45 people who participated in a group exercise in which folks got into groups and wrote down all the different things they were hoping for in the JCA. These responses were then posted on the wall and folks were given 3 stickers to place next to their top priorities. This was a similar process to the forum in which community members clarified that which was sought in the search for a new Rabbi. The resulting information will be used to focus the Change Team, who will meet with Rabbi Weiner next month, to begin developing plans to create opportunities to meet those needs.

Though 45 people does not encompass all of the diverse needs and desires of this community, it is a continuation of the Board's commitment to understand and actively integrate the expressed needs and hopes for the JCA's evolution.

Of the 114 stickers posted, the majority of them fell in three different, though overlapping, areas. A great many individuals expressed a strong desire to develop a variety of non-religious activities ranging from knitting to foosball to movie nights and, of course, lots of food. There was an emphasis on the need to ensure that these events are well publicized to anyone interested. That is, Jews and non-Jews within and outside the congregation, with the hope of becoming more of

a community center.

This desire was integrally connected to the hope of building community through the development of Chavurot for different age groups, interests and activity. The emphasis here is on making people comfortable and providing more opportunities for smaller groups with common interests to gather and connect with each other.

Of equal importance to Chavurot and developing the range of opportunities at the JCA, was a clearly expressed desire to reach out to former members, new members and Jews in the community of Amherst as a whole to share the process, the wonder and the excitement of growing together. These suggestions emphasized the necessity of learning from each other how the JCA can evolve to represent the diversity of the larger community, thereby creating a home for any and all who may seek to enrich their lives with community.

The vitality of the JCA depends entirely on those who participate in the many cultural, spiritual, or purely social activities which have, thus far, been available. The time is ripe to take action and make the JCA what we want it to be, to unite innovation with tradition, to identify or create meaningful connections, to share, to learn, to play, to sing, or simply to be. We are the community and we can make it all happen.

*L'shana tova.*  
*Peter Wood*

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## JCA Adult Reading Group

The 2nd meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the novel, *Someone to Run With: A Novel* by David Grossman. It is available in paperback. New participants are always welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248.

## Urgent Need for Soup Kitchen Volunteers

The JCA Committee for Not Bread Alone prepares the midday meal at Not Bread Alone, Amherst's local soup kitchen, on one Sunday per month. We need several new volunteers for the cooking crew (9:30-12:00) to replace people who are leaving.

Substitutes are on call to fill in when regular volunteers cannot be there. In addition to the openings for monthly cooking volunteers, we are always seeking additional volunteers for our substitute list.

Volunteering at Not Bread Alone is a mitzvah - and it's fun! Teens are welcome, too!

Please help the JCA continue our twenty-year commitment to this important community effort.

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact:

Barbara Pistrang at <barbara@jpcr.com> or 413-256-1737.

### The Judaica Store at the JCA

#### News from the Judaica Store

We are now affiliated with an on-line source for tons of things Jewish. The site is *Judaica Beautiful* and there is a link on our home page, [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org). It's on the left side of our home page, just click and have fun. The JCA gets 20% of anything you order. Of course there will still be unique and ritual items available at the shul when the office is open. Tallitot, candles, mezzuzot, cards made by our own JCA students, books and much more. Come and browse on line or from our showcase in the lobby. Anything else?? Call Hadar at 253-0597

## The Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 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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## **Annual Yitzhak Rabin Lecture**

### **ISRAEL AS A JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2010 at 10:30 AM**

**at the**

**JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST**

**742 MAIN STREET**

**PROFESSOR FRED A. LAZIN**  
**Ben Gurion University, Israel, &**  
**American University, DC**

**PROFESSOR LAZIN** will discuss the issue of whether Israel can be both a Jewish State and a democracy. Are the two terms compatible? Does the presence of a sizeable non-Jewish minority prevent Israel from being considered a democracy? What does the future hold for Israel as a democratic and Jewish State?

**FRED LAZIN** is Lynn & Lloyd Hurst Family Professor (emeritus) of Local Government, Dept. of Politics & Government, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. 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 U.S., Israel and developing countries, Israel politics and society and is the recipient of the Israel Political Science Association's award for the outstanding English language book on politics in 2005. At present Professor Lazin is Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Visiting Professor of Israel Studies, American University, Washington DC.

#### **HE WILL BE JOINED BY TWO RESPONDENTS:**

**JAY DEMERATH III**, Emeritus Professor of Sociology of Religion, Department of Sociology; Emil Durkheim Distinguished Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**RITA KROPF**, Adj. Professor at Amherst College (now retired), who is a citizen and democracy activist in Israel where she lives for half the year.

#### **THE AUDIENCE WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO PROFESSORS LAZIN, DEMERATH AND KROPF**

This event is co-sponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst and the Northampton-Amherst Chapter of Hadassah.

The event is open to the public. A light lunch will be served. Reservations are desirable. Contributions to the lunch and to the program are welcome.

Contact: Yaffa Gunner, [ybg@comcast.net](mailto:ybg@comcast.net), Ph. 413-549-0447



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

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JCA Member	\$ 180.00	\$ 605.00	\$ 1390.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 151.25	\$ 126.36

**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](http://www.jrf.org/convention)

**Donations**

**Children’s Scholarship Fund**

Holly Perry & Jim Seltzer  
 In Honor of Sue Weinstein (Alan Peterfreund)

**Family Education**

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

**High Holiday/Open Door Fund**

Ariella Schwell & Roger Magnus  
 Eva & Norman Brown  
 Linda Haney & Ross Midler  
 Tom Wolff  
 Elena Sharnoff  
 Jean Krogh & Bob Solosko  
 Vivian Bresnitz

In Honor of Rabbi Ben Weiner on the occasion of his starting at the JCA (Julia Appel & Aaron Wenner)  
 In Memory of my wife Anne Halley (Jules Chametzky)  
 Ellen & Peter Berek

**JCA General Fund**

Holly Perry & Jim Seltzer

**New or Returning Members**

*We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:*

Christine Benvenuto and children Gabriel, Yael, Nasia  
 Adi Bemak & Rob Okun and Jonah  
 Amy Rose & Neil Zagorin and children Cory and Alyssa  
 Suzanne Fogel Spencer & Peter Spencer and Claire  
 Irene Eigner & Bill Simmons  
 Joya Misra & David Mednicoff and children Amina and Rabi

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.

In Memory of my father, Morris Goldman, whose Yahrzeit I observed while visiting my son, Martin Miller (Goldie Miller)

In Appreciation of services at the JCA during our vacation (Rita & John Fogelman)

**Legacy**

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation  
 The Jewish Endowment Foundation of Western Massachusetts

**Prayerbook Fund**

In Honor of Aaron Bousel (Jane Trigere & Ken Schoen)  
 In Memory of Ben Kravetz (Bettie Skole Kravetz)  
 In Memory of Etta Bernstein, mother of Ellen Bernstein (Patience & Aaron Bousel)  
 In Memory of Mortimer B. Pearl, father of Jayne Pearl and grandfather of Ryan Hommel (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**

In Memory of Etta Bernstein (Ellen Bernstein)

**Teen Initiative**

Harold Grinspoon Foundation

**Condolences**

*We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died:*  
 Etta Bernstein, mother of Ellen Bernstein  
 Mortimer B. Pearl, father of Jayne Pearl and grandfather of Ryan Hommel



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## Community Announcements

### *The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and the Yiddish Book Center present Monsters and Miracles*

A Journey through  
Jewish Picture Books

October 15, 2010 – January 23, 2011

Exhibition examines the impact of Jewish writers, illustrators, and cultural traditions on picture book art

### *Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts Bold Visions*

#### **Jewish Life Enrichment Program**

Back by popular demand, Jewish Family Service offers the **Jewish Women's Song Circle**. Join us each month as we explore our Jewish connections through song, chant, and meditation with Felicia Sloin. Singing experience and knowledge of Hebrew are not necessary. Meets monthly on Sundays beginning on October 10, 2010, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Cradle, 3rd Floor of Thorne's Marketplace, Main Street, Northampton. Pre-registration is requested. To register, please contact Jewish Family Service at 413-737-2601 or

JewishLife@jfswm.org.

Explore Judaism with parents of other faith traditions who are raising Jewish children in an interfaith home with Jewish Family Service's **Opening Doors Program**. This bi-weekly, 17 session course will explore the key values of Judaism, the "how-to's" of Jewish parenting, and the resources available in the local Jewish community. No prior knowledge is needed. Meets on Wednesdays, October 20 and 27, 2010, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield. Pre-registration is required, contact Shoshana Zonderman at (413) 737-2601 or s.zonderman@jfswm.org.

**Caring for Our Loved Ones:** It's Not So Easy. Nearly one-third of adults are caregivers. Jewish Family Service invites you to join our panelists as we discuss strategies and resources for caregivers and their families and while we explore the personal experiences of author Gail Sheehy, in her book, *Passages in Caregiving*. This is the first of an ongoing series of community programs supporting caregivers on Thursday, October 28, 2010, 7:30 p.m. This free workshop will be held at the

Springfield Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield. Pre-registration is recommended. To register by e-mail, contact JewishLife@jfswm.org; to register by telephone, please call (413) 737-2601. A collaboration with Temple Beth El, Sinai Temple, Jewish Geriatric Services and Jewish Family Service.

#### **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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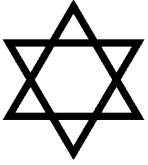
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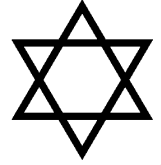




# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

## October 2010

23 Tishre ~ 23 Cheshvan 5771




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 23 TISHRE 6:14 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	2 24 TISHRE Bereshit 10:00 am Service
3 25 TISHRE 10:15 am B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's image see page 6	4 26 TISHRE	5 27 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 6:00 pm JTOV Partners Meeting	6 28 TISHRE 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm School Committee 7:30 pm Israel Through a Novelist's Lens: Joan Leegant, see page 8	7 29 TISHRE 7:00 pm Board Meeting	8 30 TISHRE Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 1 6:02 6:15 pm Service	9 1 CESHVAN Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan - Day 2 Noach 10:00 am Service
10 2 CESHVAN No JCA School	11 3 CESHVAN Columbus Day	12 4 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	13 5 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation JCA School Resumes 6:00 pm Kehila Open House 7:00 pm Teen Advisory Meeting 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	14 6 CESHVAN	15 7 CESHVAN 5:50 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	16 8 CESHVAN Lech Lecha 10:00 am Service Bat Mitzvah: Fred Goldstein-Rose
17 9 CESHVAN	18 10 CESHVAN	19 11 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	20 12 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	21 13 CESHVAN 7:00 pm Board Meeting	22 14 CESHVAN 5:39 6:15 pm Service	23 15 CESHVAN Vayera 10:00 am Service
24 16 CESHVAN 10:00 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds	25 17 CESHVAN	26 18 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	27 19 CESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:00 pm Teen Kehila Program	28 20 CESHVAN	29 21 CESHVAN 5:29 6:15 pm Service	30 22 CESHVAN Chaye Sarah 10:00 am Chanting Service (This will be the only service this morning.)
31 23 CESHVAN						

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*October 3*  
**B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image:  
Building Jewish Identity for Children With Special Needs**  
(see page 6)

*October 6*  
**Israel Through a Novelist's Lens:  
Award Winning Novelist Joan Leegant**  
(see page 8)