

jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING

February 4 ~ 4:50 pm
February 11 ~ 4:59 pm
February 18 ~ 5:08 pm
February 25 ~ 5:17 pm

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

February 5
Shabbat B'Yachad

February 12
Comedy Night



MEETINGS

February 2
Ritual Life Committee

February 3
Board Meeting
Chesed Committee

February 9
School Committee



Message from Co-president

Guy Wood, 802-387-5676, guy@svcable.net

An appreciation of the leadership of women in the JCA, some thoughts on sexism and the current political climate.

My first contact with the JCA was at a few Saturday morning services in the late '90s. I was attracted to this community for several reasons. I was at ease in the sanctuary. The JCA had, through Rabbi Weinberg, a connection with the Reconstructionist Movement (an organization that I saw serve its synagogues in northern New England well), and it was clear to me, even as a visitor, that women were equal partners in the ritual practice. On this last point, it wasn't just that the rabbi was a woman, it was clear that she and other women were fully involved—they weren't "tolerated", they were established leaders at the services. I thought of these experiences as I pulled my thoughts together for this month's Co-president's column. I'd like to comment on the involvement of Jewish women in our synagogue and in our country.

The JCA wouldn't be where it is without the tremendous participation of women in our congregation. I see this occurring in many ways. I am impressed by the skill and commitment of the women who lead services on weekends and on the High Holidays, the consistent positive feedback I hear about the leadership that Jody Rosenbloom and Rachael Goren-Watts provide for us in their roles as Director of Lifelong Learning and Director of Teen Programming, and the closeness and engagement of the women of the Project Rehovot committee at the functions they serve. Women were clearly an equal force in the founding of this community. The Ritual Life committee continues to lead with a strong balance of women and men. Women are equal partners in the financial strength of this community as well.

As a man, I am not in a position to assess how women at the JCA experience it. There

February 2011
Shevat/Adar I 5771
Vol. 10, Issue No. 2

has been recent movement of women and men being equal in their leadership on the board of directors for the JCA. The JCA community, at the December Annual Meeting, elected four new women to be on the board for this year. The board of directors now has nine women and ten men on it.

I believe that the beliefs and practices of Judaism provide a strong imperative to fight against many forms of oppression. However, Judaism has had its own historical struggle with treating women as equals both in the roles they have traditionally been able to play and in its gender specific language. In addition, I believe that we, in our struggle with assimilation, have to some extent brought into the Jewish community oppressive patterns of our larger society.

In my ten years here, I have observed sexism to be at times a struggle in our JCA community. And I have seen women in our beloved community fight well against such sexism. In my opinion sexism is not a "women's" issue; it's an issue for all of us. The best way I've heard this addressed was when someone once said to me that she didn't consider me at fault for the sexism in our society but that I am responsible to help clean it up.

As a leader in our congregation, I want to comment on the issues around a recent tragic event involving a strong Jewish woman leader who is not in our congregation. As I write this, it has been a week since Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, along with others, was shot at a public forum she had been holding in Tucson, Arizona. She is openly Jewish. Her great-grandfather was a Lithuanian rabbi. She has led the fight for justice, fought against the use of hatred and fear as a political tool, and she has integrity. These traits, I understand from a *New York Times* article, are ones that she has attributed to her Jewish heritage and identity. I don't know the motive

continued on page 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 Programming: 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: Guy Wood (802-387-5676)

Eli Kwartler (253-2929)

Co-First Vice Presidents: Ted Trobaugh (549-5468)

Eva Rosenn (549-6672)

Second Vice President: Richard Cohen (256-6145)

Third Vice President: To be announced

Treasurer: Michael Burkart (256-8139)

Members:

Marcia Black, Barbara Freed, Gerald Friedman,
 Molly Goren-Watts, Oran Kaufman, Fred Levine,
 Margaret Mastrangelo, Lisa Perl binder, Andra Rose,
 Sarah Thomson, Phil Weilerstein, Janis Wolkenbreit, Peter Wood

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel

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

Proofreader: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the March issue is February 13th

February 2011, Vol. 10, Issue No. 2

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in membership.

Chesed Committee

The Chesed Committee assists JCA members in times of joy, sorrow and need, coordinating volunteers to help with meals, rides, errands, visits, shiva minyans, and other needs. We also welcome new members and babies! Please contact us if you would like to join the committee or be added to our list of volunteers.

Also, if you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance, please contact us right away. Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important to us as a community to be aware of the health and well-being of our members and their families. We realize that providing this kind of information feels awkward to many people, but it is an important facet of being in community. We cannot help if we do not know.

Contact the Chesed Committee through the JCA office at 256-0160.

Beit Shalom Committee

The Beit Shalom Committee is available to members of the JCA congregation wishing assistance in addressing personal differences that have arisen between individuals, among committees, or with those in leadership positions within the JCA. Accordingly, if you have concerns or disagreements, or feel a desire to enhance communication with another member, a committee, or leader, please contact a Beit Shalom Committee member to facilitate this process. All such communications will be kept strictly confidential unless agreed upon differently by the participants.

Committee members are:

Eva Metzger Brown: 256-8066
 embrown13@comcast.net

Josette Henschel: 213-0186
 josette.henschel@aic.edu

Rob Okun: 253-9372
 raokun@verizon.net

Kitty Talan: 253-2248
 kittytalan@comcast.net

Haim Gunner: 549-0447
 haim_gunner@yahoo.com

Devarim:**Words from Rabbi Benjamin Weiner**

As I write this, sitting on the sofa in the living room of our little house in the woods of North Amherst, evening is settling in over about two feet of fresh snow. It's been an unexpected day off, and a welcome one after the intensity of the beginning of this week, during which the JCA said goodbye to the strong and courageous spirit of Felice Yeskel, the larger Jewish world mourned the sudden loss of liturgist Debbie Friedman, and America reeled from an unnerving act of political violence in Arizona.

My tactic in these notes has been to take a look at the holiday cycle, and draw some kind of insight from whatever holiday falls in the month during which a given newsletter appears. I'm struck now by the fact that this February we are confronted by a phenomenon that only happens sporadically in the Jewish calendar: a phantom holiday. We would normally be celebrating Purim one month after Tu b'Shvat, but this year, because we add a second month of Adar so as to recalibrate our lunar calendar to the sun (and thereby avoid celebrating Yom Kippur, for instance, in June), our fun is pushed off by 28 days. The day that would normally be Purim, in the first Adar, becomes a festival in limbo: it feels like it should be Purim, but it just ain't Purim. We might go so far as to call it: "I Can't Believe it's not Purim."

Time has a way of playing tricks on us. These tricks might be as delightful as a day in the snow that you had calendered in your mind as a workday. But, unfortunately, we often experience them in the form of wrenching loss, a difficult confounding of our expectations, the absence of a presence that provided the foundation to who we thought we were. In a way,

this is what Purim is all about—the world turned upside down—so maybe it makes sense that once every four years Purim itself messes with our minds.

Of course, on Purim we find a way to laugh at the craziness of the world, to revel and participate in it, although the world is sometimes only funny in the sense of the old Yiddish proverb: *a mentsh trakht un got lakht*—a human plans, and God laughs. The rabbis actually taught that in Messianic times only one holiday would be celebrated: Purim. As I wonder now about what they meant, it occurs to me that perhaps we can understand it like this: the more we can adjust ourselves to the unfettered nature of reality, and the unpredictability of time, the more we may have access to a sustaining and redeeming laughter in the core of our beings. *Ken yehi ratzon*—may it be so.

b'shalom,
Rabbi 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
Ted Slovin 253-3518, tslovin@acad.umass.edu



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 Rosh Chodesh Adar I

Parashat Terumah

Exodus 25:1-27:19, Numbers 28:9-15

February 4, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

February 5, Saturday- Shabbat B'Yachad (see p. 7)

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Shabbat Tetzaveh, *Exodus 27:20-30:10*

February 11, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

February 12, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Shabbat Ki Tissa, *Exodus 30:11-34:35*

February 18, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper

Service Leaders: Larry and Deb Fine

February 19, Saturday

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Torah Study with Rabbi Ed Feld following kiddush



Shabbat Vayakhel, *Exodus 35:1-37:16*

February 25, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

Speaker: Cheryl Zoll of the Amherst Survival Center

February 26, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Torah Study following kiddush



In keeping with our new plan for kiddushes, we are asking people attending kiddushes on Saturdays to bring a vegetarian side dish or salad to share, if they can.

The JCA will provide a casserole, challah, drinks and dessert.

If you are not able to bring something, you are still most welcome.

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

You are needed!

Every Tuesday morning several people meet in the small sanctuary for a morning service. Often, we are not able to make a minyan and what's frustrating is that more often than not we are eight or nine people. This is a wonderful way to begin your day. The service begins at 7:30 and is over by 8:30. Latecomers are always welcome. Your attendance could make the difference between someone being able to say Kaddish for a loved one or not. Please consider coming when you can.

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

January 15-

John and Karen Loeb,
in honor of the naming of
their granddaughter,
Mia Danielle Levy

**If you would like to help with
or sponsor a kiddush, please
contact Karen Loeb at:
256-0160 ext. 207**

Wednesday Morning Meditation Service

Each Wednesday at
7:30 AM there is a
morning service of
meditation, prayer and
singing.

This is a very special
time to sit in quiet in
the beauty of our small
sanctuary. You do not
have to be a meditator
to join the service.

Come try it out and
see what it can do for
the rest of your day
and week.

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.

Torah Reading Co-ordination

In Genesis, Abraham's faithful servant Eliezer serves his master without any indication of taking any time off, however, he is also not charged with the task of arranging for Torah readers every week. The JCA's own Eliezer, who has been responsible for co-ordinating Torah reading every week for the past seven years is taking a sabbatical this year. During this time members of the Ritual Life Committee will be sharing this task as follows:

- January and February- Eliza Gouverneur, 256-6145, elizagouv@msn.com, and Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, 774-5796, shapiro-rieser@gmail.com
- March- Ruth Love Barer, 253-4923, ruthlove7@hotmail.com
- April- Randi Stein, 549-0526, randistein@earthlink.com

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 February 18th at 6:15 pm.

The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible.

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

Chemical Sensitivities

A number of our members have allergies to perfumes, colognes and other fragrances. Please try to minimize the use of these products when coming to the JCA. Thank you.

Yasher Koach: May You Have Strength!

Enthusiastic handshakes, accompanied by the Hebrew greeting *yasher koach* for a man, or *yasher kocheych* for a woman are the standard expression of congratulations for those who have had the merit of participating in the public worship of the synagogue, especially the reading of the Torah.

The words *yasher koach/yasher kocheych* translate literally as "May your strength be firm." A benediction of this sort is always timely, but it is a curious one to be introducing on these particular occasions. Are we really concerned that an individual's powers will have been significantly drained after having mounted the lectern and mouthed some blessings?

The origins of this practice are linked to those of a similar blessing that is recited on rarer occasions; i.e., the congregational declaration *hazak hazak venit-hazek* that follows the conclusion of each of the five books of the Pentateuch. The meaning of that Hebrew phrase is analogous to that of *yasher koach*: "Strong, strong, and let us be strengthened!"

From various descriptions of synagogue customs from the medieval period, we learn that the original practice was to wish each participant in the Torah reading *hazak hazak* upon the conclusion of his aliyah. The reason for this, it appears, was a practical one. According to the ancient procedure, the Torah had to be read while it was standing upright and its text visible to the congregation. The reader therefore had to physically support it by taking hold of its posts. Sephardic Torah scrolls are normally housed in a special box that can stand safely on the reading table, but to keep an Ashkenazic-style sefer Torah straight and not allow it to fall demanded some serious exertion.

It is therefore understandable that by-standers would do their best to encourage the reader to maintain the requisite vigor.

As often occurs in the evolution of religious customs, certain routines stubbornly persist even after their original reasons have ceased to be applicable. Though the Torah is now allowed to lie horizontally on the lectern, we still insist that the reader "support" it by symbolically grasping its wooden posts, and the people next to him continue to pray that the reader's strength will suffice for the task.

more at: http://people.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/950615_Yasher_Koah.html

Education News

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



The Gift of Shabbat – For the Whole “Mishpocha” (Family)

Join us for Shabbat B’Yachad #2 on Saturday, February 5.

So successful in November with over 125 attendees of all different ages participating in services and creative study that we are doing this again! School households joined with the minyan regulars, with congregants who were curious and do not attend regularly, with grandparents who came with their children and grandchildren, with a number of Lander Grin- spoon Academy school students and their families, with new folks just walking in the door. All the options for study and prayer were filled with participants actively engaged. There was such energy and connection as children and adults explored prayer through song and movement and studied Torah through drama, art or story. Again, on February 5th, teachers and participants will come together to generate a community connection on Shabbat morning, where students “are Shabbat” rather than just studying about Shabbat.

B’nai Mitzvah Preparation Adapts to the Times

The challenge is to support each other and learn together with the 6th & 7th grades for the next two years with small classes of 5 & 6 students. Thanks to the input from students, their parents, teachers Andrea Olkin, and Judi Wisch, we have a new format. Once a month, families gather in each other’s homes on Friday night to celebrate Shabbat together – students lead the blessings, families bring food, and a guest teacher leads a discussion topic. Once a month, students gather for Torah study on Shabbat morning. Students study Jewish journeys together on Wednesday afternoons. And Rabbi Weiner will be leading 3 workshops this semester: Torah as Narrative (Jan. 30), Community Service (February 27), and The Arc of the Shabbat Service (March 9). As their bar or bat mitzvah date nears, students also work with private tutors and attend Saturday morning services.

Steps Toward Building Inclusion

In reviewing the benefits of our Family Education grant over the last two years, we highlight several steps toward inclusion of a range of learning styles and integrating special needs as a Jewish value. Given that over 10% of our students have diagnosed learning challenges, we are committed to best understanding how to structure our programming. To that end, we have: 1) Facilitated a parent support and education group for raising Jewish children with special needs: The group that was founded in 2009-2010 continued to meet

on their own during the summer, and in the fall resumed monthly meetings with Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser. Several new members joined. Group members discuss options for participation and modification that allow for greater Jewish identity and practice for their families both at home and in the Jewish community. Returning members have been mentoring new members. 2) We developed school admission protocols for children with special needs: As a result of last year’s grant-supported teacher education and principal training, we began the year with an education protocol for children with special needs, including more extensive assessment and communication between parents and teachers. And 3) We model inclusion of households with children with special needs applying Jewish values to the day-to-day interactions in our congregation relative to the complexity of addressing inclusion of special needs students and their families. E.g., at our school learner’s minyan, children with a range of abilities sit either with parents or in class groupings and participate each Sunday morning; stories about inclusion (e.g. *Daniel and the Silver Flute*) were shared as part of a dvar Torah; and during Shabbat B’Yachad, activities were successfully designed with a range of needs in mind.

Thank you to:

Stacy Tobin who stepped down from the Education Committee with over 6 years of leadership as School Committee chair, Purim Carnival coordinator, and Education Committee member.

Karen Helfer, who stepped down from the School Committee after over 3 years of service.

Calendar

Fri, Feb. 4	Family Service at 5:30 followed by potluck
Sat, Feb. 5	Shabbat B’Yachad #2 (see next page)
Sun, Feb. 6	No Class
Wed, Feb. 9	School Committee at 7:00 pm
Sat, Feb. 12	7th Grade Torah Study, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Sun, Feb. 13	Shalom Sunday class, 10:00 - 11:45 am In God’s Image/B’Tzelem Elohim, 10:15 am
Sat, Feb. 19 - Sat, Feb. 26	No Classes-President’s Holiday Week
Sun, Feb. 27	Classes resume for grades 1-6

Save the Date

JOIN TOGETHER FOR
SHABBAT B'YACHAD 2*

"Make a sanctuary for me out of the gifts that are in your heart"

Adapted from Exodus 25:2 Parshat Terumah

Saturday, February 5

Watch Thursday Emails for more details

A Shabbat where we all come together

A prayer service, diverse opportunities for participation, on a restful day

To study Torah in ways both traditional and eclectic

8:45-9:45 am Shabbat yoga with Corinne Andrews

10:00- 10:45 am Services together

10:50 -11:55 am Choice of Torah Service or Study

In depth text study or artistic expressions of biblical themes

12-12:30 pm Conclude services together

Followed by a POTLUCK Shabbat meal & singing zemirot

*** This program is in place of JCA School on Sunday, February 6.**

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

Mornings Go Better with Dean's Beans Coffee

Treat yourself to fair-trade, organic coffee and help indigenous coffee farmers and the JCA with every cup!



Order Dean's Beans Organic Coffee, a JCA fundraiser, on the following dates:

Order due dates: 1/28/11 2/25/11 4/1/11 4/29/11 6/3/11 7/1/11

Pick up on/after: 2/4/11 3/4/11 4/8/11 5/6/11 6/10/11 7/8/11

Order forms may be found in the JCA lobby, on its website or by contacting susanweinstein1@yahoo.com to get on the e list for monthly reminders.



Dean's Beans Organic Coffee
Great Coffee Great Cause Great Price

JCA Adult Reading Group

The 3rd meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday March 9th, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing, *36 Arguments for the existence of God: a work of fiction*, by Rebecca Goldstein. It is available in paperback. New participants are always welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

Visual Arts

We are pleased to welcome JCA member Richard Cohen as our March artist. His pastel landscapes are evocative and draw us into a deeper world of nature. The works of all artists exhibited in the Hall Gallery are for sale and twenty percent of the sale goes to the JCA. The official opening of Cohen's exhibit will be on Sunday, March 6th and the exact time will be announced in the weekly e-mail. Join us to celebrate the work of another talented JCA member.

Music, Art and Culture Committee

Keep the weekend of MARCH 25TH AND 26TH free for the visit at JCA of Galeet Dardashti, a well known Iranian singer. She descends from a long line of performers of Middle Eastern Jewish songs. Her appearance is made possible through profits from art sales in the Hall Gallery as well as the Arts and Culture annual budget.


The Story of Marian Greenberg: The Forgotten Hadassah Activist

Shira Koren, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel

Marian Greenberg devoted the majority of her life, nearly sixty years, to volunteer work at Hadassah, where she worked closely with Henrietta Szold. She was the first chairperson of Youth Aliyah, the organization that saved thousands of Jewish adolescents from the Holocaust, and undertook other management roles, committing herself fully to Hadassah and to the State of Israel. Yet, while Szold received immense credit for her management of Hadassah and Youth Aliyah, Greenberg and other volunteers have been all but forgotten from history. Interestingly, in her books, correspondences and other writings, Greenberg herself ignores her own role in the projects she was involved in, and instead gives all the credit to Szold. This article tries to do justice to Greenberg's legacy by exploring her life's projects and by suggesting why she was overlooked. This explanation may also be applicable for the other female Hadassah volunteers who worked with Szold but were forgotten from history

The above paragraph is the abstract from an article that is too long to publish here. Marian Greenberg lived in Amherst from 1976 until her death. She was very active Zionist and did a great deal of program planning, teaching, etc. at the JCA while she lived here. The complete article can be found on the JCA website at: <http://www.j-c-a.org/marian-greenberg.pdf>

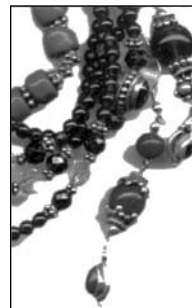
Singer Potito Associates, Inc.

A Registered Investment Adviser
Amherst Cash Flow ModelSM Fee  Only

Howard E. Singer, CFP **413-256-1225**
Michael A. Potito, AVA **413-525-6600**
Terry Singer, CFP Amherst/E. Longmeadow

**Conservative Retirement & Investment Planning
Without Commissions**

www.singerpotito.com



Elegant Adornment

Original designs in sterling silver
& semi-precious stones

Natalie Jarmon

413-256-8898

ElegantAdornment@yahoo.com

expert knotting • re-stringing • restoration of family treasures



Pelham Auto Service

Div. of Pelham Industrial Group Ltd.
1315 Federal St.
Belchertown, Ma. 01007

413-253-9302
413-253-9811 FAX

Foreign Car Repairs Since 1972



HOME HEALTH AGENCY, INC.

409 MAIN STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

256-HOME (4663)

PRIVATE-PAY HOME HEALTH CARE
AMHERST & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Co-presidents column from page 1

of the shooter but I believe we in the USA have a difficult challenge: to acknowledge when anti-Semitism occurs and fight it, to acknowledge when it is not part of an issue, and to educate our non-Jewish friends to be our dependable allies. In the acrimonious political discourse now occurring in this country, I believe anti-Semitism is often being supported, mostly indirectly. I believe we need to be public in challenging the division and hatred that has become part of the political landscape, not just because anti-Semitism may be part of it, but because this divisiveness undermines the political community where we live.

B'shalom, Guy

Co-President Areas Of Responsibility

Through this division we hope to respond to your suggestions and concerns more promptly. Please feel free to contact either of us with your concerns and/or suggestions

Guy Wood	Eli Kwartler
Agendas	Administration
Beit Shalom	Cemetery
Building & Grounds	Finance
Chesed	L'Dor v'Dor
Chevra Kadisha	Membership
Education & School	Nominating
Camp Shemesh	Leadership
Fundraising	Personnel
High Holidays Planning	World Jewish Concerns
Ritual Life	
Shomerim	
Tikkun Olam	

Thank You From Co-Presidents Eli Kwartler and Guy Wood


We, as Co-Presidents of the JCA, want to express our gratitude for the JCA members and the JCA staff who helped prepare and manage the details on Tuesday for the funeral for Felice Yeskel.

It was clear that a great deal of thoughtful preparation had been done ahead of time by the family to have the service go well. However, it was also clear that with the snow storm bearing down on us, many other details were well taken care of within a matter of hours such as car parking for the hundreds of people who came.

Again, a thanks from Eli and me for the JCA members and staff who jumped in and helped the service go well. It was amazing and it reflected well on us as a community.



*B'shalom,
Eli Kwartler and Guy Wood*

MODERN MEMOIRS, INC.
PRIVATE BOOK PUBLISHING SERVICES



*You tell your story.
We do the rest.*

Call 413-253-2353, go to www.modernmemoirs.com, or ask me, Kitty A.B., about our comprehensive services

Ann J. Hastings
REALTOR®, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES
annhastings@comcast.net
Home Office: 413•467•2299

200 Triangle Street
Amherst, MA 01002-2143
(413) 549-3700 Ext. 156
Outside MA: (800) 343-0688



**AARON BOUSEL
PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL**
piano & harpsichord technicians
tuning • repairs • regulation
voice (413) 253-3846 fax
187 Heatherstone Road
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638
abousel@comcast.net



REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN

(413) 253-5384

Spirit Haus

PURVEYORS OF FINE WINE,
LIQUORS, MICRO & SPECIALTY BEERS

38 Years of Service

338 COLLEGE ST.
PO BOX 506
AMHERST, MA 01004

So a Rabbi and a Priest walk into a bar...So you think you're a comedian? Well here's your chance! Tell your one best joke and win... well you'll win borscht!

AMHERST BORSCHT BELT COMEDY NIGHT

— “THAT’S NOT FUNNY!” —

ADULTS
ONLY

AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

DONATION
SUGGESTED

8PM

Sponsored by JCA Membership Committee

\$5



Come spend a night pretending to be a comedian, telling jokes, hearing your friends' jokes and eating borscht, blintzes and all things Yiddish.

ALL JOKES MUST BE UNDER 3 MINUTES 🐍 NOT (TOO AWFULLY) OFFENSIVE (USE DISCRETION)

If you are particularly sensitive to being offended- this may not be the event for you

SATURDAY, FEB 12, 2011

For more information contact Oran Kaufman at 413-548-8139 or oran@orankaufman.com

You're staring right at it! You don't have to search all over town for the right place for your party.

**Jewish
Community
of Amherst
Social
Hall**

You don't have to search all over town for the right place for your party.



*Come and see for yourself.
Call for an appointment today.*

Our events coordinator will help you plan your party and access the resources you need for a truly joyous event
Call Karen Loeb at 256-0160 ext. 207 for reservations and more information.

Thanks For Your Generous Donations To Project Rehovot

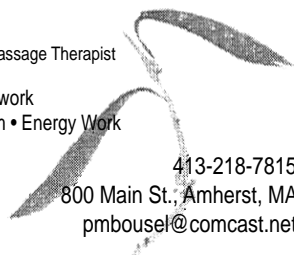
Ann Armon
 Jeffrey and Marilyn Blaustein
 Alexander and Diane Chajes
 Saul Gladstone
 Evelyn Goldenberg
 Yaffa and Haim Gunner in honor of Hannah Zuckerman's 80th birthday
 Yaffa and Haim Gunner in memory of Helen Ellis, mother of Richard Ellis
 Frieda and Irving Howards in honor of Hannah Zuckerman
 Esther Jacobson
 Joel Kaminsky and Jody Rosenbloom
 Ellen Koteen and Diane Palladino
 Rose and Yechiael Lander
 Stephen J. Levine

Julius Lester and Milan Sabatini
 Barbara and Ted Slovin in honor of Project Rehovot Committee for all they do
 Steven and Michele Marantz
 Roberta Navon in honor of Hannah Zuckerman
 Dorothy Nemetz and John F. Todd
 Batya Perman
 Johanna and Tom Plaut
 Monroe and Joan Rabin
 Daniel and Linda Reif
 Mitchell and Janeen Resnick
 A.M. Treston
 Gerda Wald
 Susan Zarchin in honor of Blanche Zarchin
 George and From Zeitlin

Hands of Patience

Patience Meigs Bousel
 Certified Trager® Practitioner, Licensed Massage Therapist

The Trager® Approach • Kripalu Bodywork
 Massage for Pregnancy & Postpartum • Energy Work



413-218-7815
 800 Main St., Amherst, MA
 pmbousel@comcast.net



We can help you move life along

- Do you need to organize your life?
- Get paperwork under control?
- Clear some space?
- Plan a move?

Rethinking Moving Since 1996
 www.movingmentor.com
 413-549-1039

***The Deadline for the March Newsletter
is February 13th***

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

***Seeking: Guidebook Business
Coordinator***

With nearly \$20,000 in annual revenues, the Guidebook Team needs a person to focus on maintaining and building our advertising and donor base during the months of April, May, June and July.

Time commitment flexible depending on your availability

Volunteers welcome!

Compensation can be arranged.

Please respond to Steve Woolf for more information.
549-0806 or stevewoolf@comcast.net

The Judaica Store at the JCA

News from the Judaica Store

Thanks to all who have supported the Judaica Store.

Don't forget to check out our
on-line partner Judaica Beautiful.

Access it from our homepage j-c-a.org and click
on the icon to the left of the screen.



**Amherst
Financial
Services
Agency**

Mutual Funds • Investments
Financial, Tax & Estate Planning
Ronald J. Nathan, CLU, ChFC

Amherst Financial Services Agency provides
Securities & Investment Advisory Services offered through
Capital Analysts Incorporated: Member FINRA • SIPC
Capital Analysts Incorporated & Amherst Financial Services
are independent non-affiliated entities.

413-256-8351

20 Gatehouse Rd
Amherst
Corner Route 9 & Gatehouse Rd

Visit Our Website at
www.nathanagencies.com

***Cheryl Edgerly
Photography***

~ Weddings
~ Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
~ Portraits
~ Still Life



413-519-1728

Cheryl.Edgerly06@gmail.com



877.BOOTH.PROS
NEPHOTOBOOTH.COM

Digital photo booth rentals for every occasion.
A perfect addition to your Bar or Bat Mitzvah!

Housemate With Stipend

Nonotuck Resource Associates is a community-based agency that provides individualized residential services and day programs to adults with developmental disabilities. Each shared living home is a unique arrangement based on the dreams and desires of those people living there. We work with shared living providers who are; in traditional families, alternative families, singles and couples. The shared living provider is responsible for managing and maintaining the health, safety, relationship needs and finances of the individual who lives with you. The shared living provider receives a generous tax exempt stipend as well as ongoing training, supervision and support.

We are looking for 1 to 2 shared living providers to live in a 4 bedroom home in Amherst. They should be interested in supporting an independent young man in his twenties become involved in the Amherst community. He is easy going with lots of interests such as cooking, hiking, kayaking, skiing, watching movies, celebrating Jewish holidays, meditating, meeting new people.

An ideal applicant (or applicants) will enjoy sharing meals, appreciate a clean home environment, enjoy socializing and have strong community connections in Amherst, and/or a desire to develop them.

Available June 2011. If you would like more information, or an application, please contact:
 Christine E. Young, Placement Specialist
 Nonotuck Resource Associates
 40 Main Street, Suite 101
 Florence, MA 01062
 413-586-5256, ext. 107, young@nonotuck.com

Paid Advertisement

Greenfield Imported Cars Inc.

Sales, Service, Parts & Accessories!

Specializing in the Sales & Service of
 Asian, European and other
 Fine Cars Since 1977

John Loeb and Bill Leitner, Owners



335 High Street,
 Greenfield, MA

413-774-5518

www.lalautosales.com

Your Subaru will come
 with an honest deal
and
 an honest dealer!



Subaru Forester
 2009 S.U.V. of the year



Subaru Outback
 2010 S.U.V. of the year



48 Damon Road, Northampton
 1-877-SAFE AWD (TOLL FREE)
 413-584-5355

www.stevelewis.subarudealer.com
SteveLewis@subarumail.com

Donations

Annual Giving

In Memory of Ethel Clingman (Moiria & Stephen Clingman)
Guy Wood

In Memory of Jonathan Souweine (Robin & Ted Diamond)

In Memory of Peter C. Hereld, father (Randi Stein)

Hollie Kalkstein & Bob Weitzman

In Memory of Marilyn Baltz (Rachael & Molly Goren-Watts)

In Memory of Hugo & Frances Leopold and Mordechai Buchwal (Talya & Walter Leopold)

In Honor of Karen Loeb and the Loeb Family (Lisa Perl binder & Tom Porter)

Anonymous

Ronnie Janoff-Bulman & Michael Bulman

Chaia Wolf & Peter Wood

Frieda & Irving Howards

Dyan Wiley

Felicia Mednick & Felice Yeskel

Lisa Ades & James Young

Alison & Richard Ellis

Marcia & Sheldon Goldman

Elaine & Arnold Trehub

In Memory of Eudice Glassberg (David Glassberg)

Robert Brainin

Tobi Sznajderman & Joel Harris

Kayla Werlin

Katherine & Robert Feldman

Barbara Jenkins & Eli Kwartler

In Memory of Muriel Katz (MaryAnn Grim)

In Memory of our parents (Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)

In Honor of my daughter, Alexandra Hoffman and in
Memory of my husband, Lee Hoffman (Karen Hoffman)

Marina & Josh Goldman

Jessica & Eric Wilkinson

Gerda Wald

Barbara & Jim Pistrang

In Memory of my mother Leah and brother Michael on their
Yahrzeits (Anna-Beth Winograd)

In Memory of Roslyn Grobman (Ellen Grobman)

In Honor of Rabbi Weiner (Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit)

Elise Barber & Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Mara & Harry Hahn

In Memory of Alex Temkin and Pauline Brody Weitzman
(Joan Temkin & Paul Goulston)

In Memory of Ellie & Milton Grossman (Nancy Grossman)

Chesed Committee

In Appreciation for support during the shiva for my mother
& father, Lillian & Simon Skolnick (Barbara Skolnick
Rothenberg)

In Appreciation of the love and support of the community
extended to our family (Susan Zarchin)

For your good works (Eva & Norman Brown)

Chevra Kadisha Fund

In Memory of Ann Blaustein (Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)

In Memory of Clara Sadick (Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)

Children's Scholarship Fund

Anonymous

Karen Helfer & Rich Madowitz

General Fund

In Memory of Jonathan Souweine (Joy Bergman)

In Memory of Eileen Bergman (Joy Bergman)

In Memory of Norman J. Bergman (Joy Bergman)

In Appreciation of the Open Door Policy (Joy Bergman)

In Memory of Charles Lubinsky (Marian & Len Lubinsky)

In Appreciation of the work of the JCA (Peggy & Murray
Schwartz)

In Appreciation of the JCA services (Jeanne Weinraub)

In Appreciation of Rabbi Weiner (Dale Schwarz)

In Recognition of Rabbi Weiner who presided over my
mother's (Pearl Sherman) memorial service (Nancy
Sherman)

In Honor of Hannah Zuckerman, on the occasion of her
birthday (Lynn Feinman)

In Honor of Hannah Zuckerman's birthday (Judith
Souweine)

High Holiday/Open Door Fund

Karen Sheingold

In Honor of Lisa Blain (daughter) and family (Edith & Alan
Graber)

With Thanks for the Open Door policy and being able to
join my brother and his family for services (Harry Levit)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Jackie Katz's mother, Muriel Katz (Fran
Saed)

In Memory of Jack Fine, father of Larry Fine (Fran Saed)

In Memory of Elise Barber's grandparents (Fran Saed)

In Honor of Hannah Zuckerman's 80th birthday (Fran Saed)

In Honor of my daughter, Lisa Perl binder (Grayce
Perl binder)

In Appreciation of Rabbi Devorah Jacobson's teaching (The
Chesed Committee)

In Appreciation of the Rabbi making Hannah Zuckerman's
birthday celebration special (Sandra Slipp)

In Recognition of Joan Saperstan's right knee, which
served her admirably for 66 years and will be replaced by
inorganic material on January 5 (Josette Henschel)

In Honor of Hannah Zuckerman's 80th birthday (Natalie
Jarmon)

In Honor of Ted Slovin's 70th birthday (Susan Zarchin)

In Memory of Jack Fine, Larry Fine's father (Susan Zarchin)

In Honor of the marriage of Ann Armon and Eliezer Huber
(Susan Zarchin)

Tzedakah Fund

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

New or Returning Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

- Sharon Weizenbaum and daughter Zoe
- Janet & Bob Winston
- Jessie & Jeff Goebel and children Sarah & Nathan
- Shemariah Blum-Evitts & Robert Friedman
- Deliah Rosel
- Tom Wolff
- John Clayton

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.

Create Your Jewish Legacy...

What will be your legacy?

Bring your charitable dreams to life with a planned gift to the JCA through the Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts program. There are many different ways to leave your own legacy. Your legacy can reflect everything that is most important and meaningful to you. The act of creating a legacy empowers you to complete the work of your heart, and to enjoy the peace that it brings. You are assured that your work will continue and the Jewish future will be bright.

...through a gift in Your Estate

To learn more, please contact David Sharken, chair of JCA's Ldor Vdor committee at 413.297.5500 or ledorvador@j-c-a.org or go to

www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org



Leave a Jewish Legacy

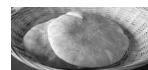
Condolences

We offer our sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have recently died: Felice Yeskel, wife of Felicia Mednick, mama of Shira Ma'ayan Yeskel-Mednick

JCA Chesed Request

The Chesed Committee is updating our list of volunteers who are willing to occasionally prepare and deliver meals for JCA members following surgery, illness, or a birth or a death in the family. We also periodically need volunteers who can visit members who are ill, lonely, or in an extended care facility. If you would like to volunteer for either of these mitzvot, please respond to Reed Alper reedmangels@comcast.net; 549-0438 and specify which opportunity (or opportunities) you are volunteering for. If you, or someone else in our community is in need of meals or visits, please contact the JCA office or any member of the Chesed Committee.

*Thank you!
The Chesed Committee*



Choose our catering team to create a mitzvah!

Our team of experienced caterers has a different take on special events!

We donate 80% of our fee to Project Rehovot and 20% to the JCA

We excel in Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Jewish Cuisine!

*we use high quality food for weddings, Bar and Bat mitzvahs, Garden Parties, Banquets and other events in your home or another location; attractive floral arrangements on every table

For sample menus and price quotes contact Karen Loeb at: phone: 413-253-0336 Email: kloeb@comcast.net



Allen Davis is a Registered Representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and fee-based financial planning services through MML Investors Services, Inc. Member SIPC. 330 Whitney Avenue, Suite 600, Holyoke, MA 01040, Tel:413-539-2000.

Allen Davis, CFP®
Financial Planner

10 Bay Road,
Hadley, MA 01035
tel 413.584.3098
fax 413.584.0160
cell 413.427.2782

ajdavis@finsvcs.com
www.tdgfinancial.com

Community Announcements

Gan Keshet Pre-school

Gan Keshet Jewish Community Pre-school of the Pioneer Valley is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2011-12 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".

Next school year we will be offering both part and full day options until 5:15 p.m. We are a Right Start School. Eligible families can receive a HGF Right Start Grant from \$500-1000. towards their child's tuition. Questions? Please contact our Director, Wendy Stein @ 4 13-584-3593 ext. 204 or at director.gankeshet@verizon.net.

Meditation Group

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"* Meditation Group
Every Thursday in the CBI Library,
from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and
Sheila Peltz Weinberg

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

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

* "To You silence is praise."
Psalm 65:2

Jewish Family Service

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. Singing experience and knowledge of Hebrew are not necessary. Meets monthly on Sundays, February 6,

and March 6, 2011, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Cradle, 3rd Floor of Thorne's Marketplace, Main Street, Northampton. Pre-registration is requested. New members are welcome! To register, please contact Jewish Family Service at 413-737-2601 or JewishLife@jfswm.org.

Jewish Family Service offers a weekly **Caregivers Support Group** in Hampshire County on Tuesdays, 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon in Northampton. Share the challenges and joys of caring for a loved one. Those interested must call JFS first, (413) 737-2601. This program is funded in partnership with Highland Valley Elder Services.

For those who are coping with the loss of a loved one, JFS offers a free **Bereavement Support Group** "Living With Loss" on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 10:30 a.m., at the Springfield Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson Street, Springfield, MA. This program is free and all are welcome. For more information, please contact JFS at (413) 737-2601 or JewishLife@jfswm.org.

Winter Film Series Sponsored by Transition Amherst

At First Congregational Church, 185 Main Street, Amherst. Discussion, refreshments, Suggested donation \$5. For more information: Betsy Krough 413-549-2846

Sunday, January 16, 4pm: *In Transition*. The first detailed film about the Transition movement, filmed by those who are making it happen. The Transition movement is about communities around the world responding to peak oil supply, climate change, and economic instability with creativity, imagination and humor. It shows communities rebuilding their local economies, food supply, transportation, energy-generation, and health care. The film is positive, solution-focused and fun.

Sunday, February 20, 4pm: *The Power of Community*. This film shows clearly how an oil-dependent country can make the transition to life without

oil. Cuba rediscovered living sustainably when the Soviet Union could no longer supply it with oil in 1990. The film tells of the hardships and struggles as well as the community and creativity of the Cuban people during this difficult time. They emerged a resilient, self-sufficient nation.

Sunday, March 20, 4pm: *No-Impact Man*, Colin Beavan decides to completely eliminate his personal impact on the environment for a year. A "guilty New York liberal", he decides to practice what he preaches. He turns off the electricity, stops making garbage, gives up TV, cars and material consumption. He becomes a "Walking, bicycling, composting, tree-hugging, polar-bear saving, local food-eating citizen" taking his wife and baby daughter along with him. Entertaining and educational.

Co-Sponsors: Transition Amherst, The Earth Ministry Team of 1st Cong. Church, The Interfaith Environmental Coalition.

JCC Trip to NYC

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

The Springfield JCC is organizing a trip to see a major textile exhibit in New York City. *A Stitch in Jewish Time: Provocative Textiles* opened at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion Museum in September and closes at the end of June. This large exhibition features 41 international artists who explore Jewish history, culture, prayer, rituals, mores, feminism, sexuality, social justice, war, and biblical texts - all through the textile arts.

Our own Jane Trigère will accompany the group on the bus, sharing information about what we will be seeing in the museum.

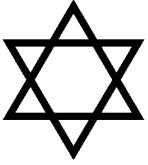
Cost: \$70 general public or \$58 JCC members.

Trip includes roundtrip transportation, driver gratuity and a talk by the curator. There will be free time after the tour until departure time.

Bus departs Springfield at 7:45 am

Bus departs NYC at 6:45 pm

Reservation and information, call:
413-739-4715.



JEWISWH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

February 2011

27 Shevat ~ 24 Adar I 5771



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 27 SHEVAT 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	2 28 SHEVAT 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:30 pm Teen Kehila Program 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	3 29 SHEVAT 7:00 pm Board Meeting 7:30 pm Chesed Committee	4 30 SHEVAT ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 1 ⛪4:50 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	5 1 ADAR I ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Adar I - Day 2 ⛪Terumah 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga Shabbat b'Yachad see page 7 10:00 am Service
6 2 ADAR I No JCA School	7 3 ADAR I	8 4 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	9 5 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm School Committee	10 6 ADAR I	11 7 ADAR I ⛪4:59 6:15 pm Service	12 8 ADAR I ⛪Tetzaveh 10:00 am Service 8:00 pm Comedy Night see page 10
13 9 ADAR I 10:15 am B'Tzelem Elohim	14 10 ADAR I	15 11 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	16 12 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:30 pm Teen Kehila Program	17 13 ADAR I	18 14 ADAR I ✠✠Purim Katan ⛪5:08 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper	19 15 ADAR I ⛪Ki Tisa 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Service 1:00 pm Torah Study
20 16 ADAR I No JCA School	21 17 ADAR I	22 18 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	23 19 ADAR I 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No JCA School	24 20 ADAR I	25 21 ADAR I ⛪5:17 6:15 pm Service	26 22 ADAR I ⛪Vayakhel 10:00 am Service 1:00 pm Torah study
27 23 ADAR I	28 24 ADAR I					

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
742 MAIN STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Amherst, MA
Permit No. 90**

Dated Material - Please Rush - Do Not Delay

