

jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation 

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 1 ~ 6:58 pm
April 8 ~ 7:06 pm
April 15 ~ 7:13 pm
April 22 ~ 7:21 pm
April 29 ~ 7:29 pm

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 3
Reception for Artist
Richard Cohen

April 10
Parlor Meeting

April 24
Poetry Reading and
Conversation with
Merle Feld

April 30
Yom Hashoah Program

MEETINGS

April 6
Ritual Life Committee

April 7
Board Meeting

April 13
School Committee

PESACH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN ON MONDAY, APRIL 18TH

There will be a
2nd seder at the JCA.

See Pages 7 & 15

Message from Co-president

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

In the last 15 months, I have been to Israel twice, for a total of a little over three months there. I have had a number of conversations here about my trips which leads me to pursue this as the subject of the co-president's column. I believe many members of the JCA have a strong interest in that Jewish state. It is clear to me that the "health and welfare" of Israel is important for all of us.

Why would one go to Israel? For me, there are many answers. I like being in such a diverse community of Jews: Ashkenazim (Jews from Europe), Mizrachim (Jews from Arab countries), and Ethiopian. I like being in a country that is set up to be a home for Jews. It is, like other countries, trying to figure out how to meet the challenges of a changing world. It feels both European and Middle-Eastern to me. It has so many histories. Some very dear friends live there. And it is warmer!

For both trips, I participated in a four-week Ulpan (an institute or school for intensive study of Hebrew, especially by immigrants to Israel) at the University of Haifa. The teachers are Israelis and very good or better in their role. Why study Hebrew? There are many reasons, such as knowing what we are saying in services, and I consider it an expressive, very direct, and wild language. All languages and their written forms reflect, carry, and shape the cultures they are from. It is a fascinating journey to discover how this is true with Hebrew, Judaism and Israel. I also think that the knowledge of Hebrew helps to tie the Jewish people together. I encourage its study at the JCA. (If you want to help me make this happen, contact me).

I have heard many people in the USA state that you can get along just fine in Israel without knowing Hebrew. To an extent this is true. Many Israeli children start learning English at the age of about 9. But in the day to day, as you develop friendships with Israelis, most of them appreciate very much us "moving in

their direction", our learning as much as we can to converse in their language.

The classes each week were from 0830-1300 Sunday "yom rashon" through Thursday, "yom hahmishon". As Rutie, my Israeli teacher said it, "This (intensive language study) is hard for everyone including me". There are 5-6 levels of Modern Hebrew for this program and I was in the class that is one up from stark beginners. There were 14 students in our class to start with and we ended with 11. Almost all of the students in the program are of college age, over two-thirds are women, and most are from the USA (at registration, I sat next to a woman I didn't know from Brattleboro, Vermont and another woman showed up in class one day with a U-Mass Amherst T-shirt that her boyfriend had given her), as well as from Hungary, Austria and Australia. Maybe because of the age of the majority of the students and that many of them had worried parents a long way away, in order to stay in the program we had to sign a statement the first day promising that we would never be late or miss a class (which is about as meaningless as it would be in a US classroom. The good students don't need such a document and the others don't pay attention to the statement). In a similar vein, all one hundred of us in the program had a half hour lecture the first day from the Dean of Haifa U's International School in which he mostly spoke on a theme of "there are people out there who want to hurt you" (so stay out of the West Bank). Our class worked hard and participated fully. Well almost: one student refused to come on time because she didn't like the bus schedule and a third of the class came late the morning after the Superbowl, which I understand ended after 5 AM Israeli time. I have a hunch that watching the game was an occasion for many a party at our school.

b'shalom, Guy

April 2011
Adar II/ Nisan 5771
Vol. 10, Issue No. 4

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC.

742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002
 (413) 256-0160, fax (413) 256-1588
 Religious School (413) 256-0160 ext. 203
 email: info@j-c-a.org; On line at: www.j-c-a.org

Rabbi 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)

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

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

For a list of committee chairs and members, go to:

<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

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

NEWSLETTER

Editor/Graphic Designer: Aaron Bousel

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

Proofreader: Sarah Thomson

Deadline for the May issue is April 12th

April 2011, Vol. 10, Issue No. 4

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in membership.

Chesed Committee

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

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

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

Beit Shalom Committee

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

Committee members are:

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

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

Rob Okun: 253-9372
 raokun@verizon.net

Kitty Talan: 253-2248
 kittytalan@comcast.net

Haim Gunner: 549-0447
 haim_gunner@yahoo.com

Devarim:**Words from Rabbi Benjamin Weiner**

As we make the turn toward Passover, I've discovered two songs playing over and over again in my mind. One of them is obvious enough. I heard it first when I was a child at my family's seder, and only realized much later on that it wasn't an indigenous Jewish melody: "Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land. Tell old Pharaoh to Let My People Go." (I can only really sing it in anything approaching its Paul Robeson grandeur if it's early enough in the morning for my baritone to still be hunkered down in the bass section.)

The other one may be less familiar, and also, in the context of Passover, somewhat counterintuitive. It was written by that legend of 20th century popular music who Jewish hipsters are fond of referring to as Rabbi Zimmerman:

*You may be an ambassador to England
or France*

*You may like to gamble, you might like
to dance*

*You may be the heavyweight champion
of the world*

*You may be a socialite with a long string
of pearls*

*But you're gonna have to serve some-
body, yes indeed*

You're gonna have to serve somebody.

The two sets of lyrics, the one a proud demand for freedom and the other a world-weary insinuation that none of us is ever truly free, seem to add up to a contradiction. We might even imagine the Bob Dylan (aka Rabbi Zimmerman) lyrics as a cynical Phara-

onic answer to Paul Robeson's Moses. "You want me to let your people go? Sure. Why not? But they're gonna have to serve SOMEBODY."

But, it just so happens that in telling the story of the Exodus the Torah argues that this seeming contradiction is precisely the paradox at the heart of true freedom. Many will recognize that the phrase "Let my people go" is a direct translation from the Biblical Hebrew "*Shlach et ami*". What may be less familiar is the fact that this phrase is only about a quarter of the verse, Exodus 7:17, which continues "*v'ya'avduni bamidbar*"—"so that they may serve me in the wilderness." It would seem then that Dylan, rather than being Pharaoh, is, as many have argued before me, a little closer to God. It's not just for socialites, ambassadors, and heavyweights, says the Deliverer of Israel. Yes, indeed, even emancipated slaves are gonna have to serve somebody. Because otherwise they'd just be out there in the wilderness, without organization, guidance, or purpose.

We do not learn from our tradition lessons of unlimited freedom. The kabbalists teach that *hesed*, absolute expansiveness, must inevitably, and sometimes with great pain, be met by *gevurah*, restriction, in order to form *tiferet*, splendor. Here in this verse of Torah we are taught that true freedom does not come in the moment of release from slavery, but when this release makes possibly a new kind of commitment. It's not a matter of whether you're serving or not, but who (or what) that SOMEBODY is, and whether it is served in slavery, or covenant.

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

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Ritual Life Committee

Paul Breyer-Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com
 Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, allset22@verizon.net

RELIGION CALENDAR

Shabbat HaChodesh/Parashat Tazria *Leviticus 12:1-13:59, Exodus 12:1-20*

April 1, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper
 Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

April 2, Saturday

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



April 5, Tuesday- Rosh Chodesh Nisan



Shabbat Metzora, *Leviticus 14:1-14:32*

April 8, Friday

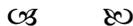
6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

April 9, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner
 Torah Study with Marcia Black following kiddush



Shabbat HaGadol/Parashat Acharei Mot *Leviticus 16:1-18:30*

April 15, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper
 Service Leaders: To be announced

April 16, Saturday

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Pesach

April 18, Monday- First Seder at Sundown

April 19, Tuesday- First Day Pesach

10:00 AM- Services

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

6:30 PM

JCA Community Seder (see pages 7 & 15)



Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach *Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 28:19-25*

April 22, Friday

6:00 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

April 23, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner
 Torah Study with Rabbi Efraim Eisen following kiddush



April 25, Monday- 7th Day Pesach

10:00 AM- Services (Yiskor)

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner



Shabbat Kedoshim, *Leviticus 19:1-20:27*

April 29, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 Speaker: Paula Green will be speaking about the Karuna
 Center for Peace Building. She is the Director of the Center.

April 30, Saturday

10:00 AM

Regular Shabbat morning service in the main sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Chanting Service in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick & Sara Schley



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

***Kiddush and Oneg
Sponsors***

March 5-
Michael and Barbara Burkart, in honor of Barbara's birthday

March 19-
Kathy and Phil Weilerstein in honor of their daughter Kira reading Torah

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

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.

**Shacharit
(morning) Minyan**

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

Meditation Minyan

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

Torah Reading Co-ordination

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact **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 April 15th 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.

תודה רבה Thank You!

Todah rabah, a sheynem dank, and a great thank you to **Eliezer Huber** for his service to the ritual life of the JCA. Reading Torah is a central and essential part of the Shabbat morning service and it is not an easy task. It requires knowledgeable readers--and somebody to find and coordinate them, another not so easy task. This Eliezer did for us for seven years. The Ritual Life Committee is deeply grateful to him for his time, effort and dedication in providing Torah readers for services.

***Leave a Footprint
That Will Guide
Future Generations.***



Create a Jewish Legacy.

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

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

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

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



Education News

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



Hiddur Mitzvah with Artist, Nancy Katz

Beautifying ritual objects, hiddur mitzvah, was the conversation for the family education workshop for 6th & 7th graders and their parents on Wednesday, March 9. The specific topic of exploration was the tallit/prayer shawl with guest artist, Nancy Katz, who specializes in fabric arts and stained glass design. Nancy shared her work, presented a brief slide show on tallit through the generations and guided students through her technique of silk painting. Together, students **Elie Barakso, Nathan Baron Silvern, Saul Blain, Emmet Flint, Yael Benvenuto-Ladin, Harry Wolff Landau, and Hannah Leibowitz** created a beautiful piece they plan to use as a drape to cover the Torah during each of their b'nai mitzvah as well as for the community to use. This program was made possible by a Family Education grant through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Helping Teens Make a Difference in Our School

Children in grades K through 5 have role models close to their age – our teaching assistants or TAs! Currently **Kyla Amick, Lily Blain, Jordan Diamond, Addie Gamliel, Lily Harris, Sophia Keins and Leah Parker Bernstein** work as TAs. Thanks to the monthly training sessions facilitated by teacher, **Amy Epstein**, TAs have the chance to discuss their successes, ask their questions, and struggle with the challenges of working in one of our classrooms, collaborating with a teacher, guiding a student, designing an art project, or using the copy machine. Teens receive an honorarium, begin to develop job skills, and have the opportunity to contribute to our community as growing adults. If your teen is interested, contact Jody Rosenbloom – we will soon be signing up TAs for next fall.

B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image - The Ripple Effects

A core group of dedicated parents and the caring facilitation by Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, have steadily made an impact on improving inclusion of students with a variety of needs in our programming at the JCA. While the support and education group meets monthly for parents, they have shared their concerns and wisdom with a variety of community representatives, who in turn, are able to “pass it on.” Over the last few months, the group has invited Rabbi Weiner, a representative from the Camp Shemesh committee, and the Director of Life-long Learning to their meetings. In turn, there is more understanding and discussions resulting in policies, staff training

modules, and parent communication. This pilot program has successfully run for two years thanks to the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Learning to Lead: Divrei Torah by Our 6th Graders

How to help everyone feel comfortable studying and interpreting Torah? We study bible stories in grades 1 & 2. We begin looking at some of the techniques of Torah study in 3rd grade, and by 6th grade students are learning the prayers, blessings, and some text study for the Torah service. Then we have students share what they are learning with the school. Over the next few months, each sixth grader will give a dvar Torah as practice before preparing for leading the congregation, as they become b'nai mitzvah in the upcoming year. The class includes: **Harry Wolff Landau, Saul Blain, Nathan Baron Silvern, Emmet Flint, Lydia Sawyer and Yael Benvenuto-Ladin.**

Time to Start Thinking Fall of 2011!

Registration to Be Mailed Soon

Registration information will be sent to families with students currently enrolled in JCA School by early May. We ask that you make every effort to follow the registration process in a timely manner. We have begun planning for school next year and need to know student enrollment numbers to best plan for teachers, room size and supplies.

Interested in Starting Your Child in JCA School?

If you are currently a member of the JCA and have children entering 1st grade or older or if you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, contact the JCA School at 256-0160 X203. Children 4-6 year olds (as of Sept. 2011) are eligible to participate in our monthly Shalom Sunday program.

Calendar

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sun, Apr. 3 | Grade 4 with Parents, 10-11:45am for "Introduction to Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the JCA" |
| Sun, Apr. 10 | Shalom Sunday class B'Tzelem Elohim/Parent group |
| Wed, Apr. 13 | School Committee 7:00 pm |
| Sat, Apr. 16 - Sun, Apr. 24 | NO CLASSES – Spring/Passover Break |

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: 4/1/11 4/29/11 6/3/11 7/1/11

Pick up on/after: 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.



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Invitation To An Evening At The Hampshire Mosque

April 5, 7-8:30 p.m.

As part of its efforts to reach out to the interfaith community, the Hampshire Mosque has especially invited the JCA community to a talk by its leader, Dr. Ali Hazratji.

Please join me in taking advantage of this opportunity to meet with some of our Muslim neighbors and learn more about Islam. Dr. Hazratji will engage us in thinking about Abraham, our mutual ancestor.

Space at the Mosque, on the 2nd floor of the Carriage shops, is limited.

In order to be sure that we don't exceed space limitations, please contact me, Judy Glaser, 253-9607, judyglaser@comcast.net, if you would like to share the experience of this special evening.

Judy Glaser, JCA representative, Interfaith Organizational Network

JCA SECOND SEDER led by Rabbi Weiner

TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2011 6:30pm

Please join us for a delicious meal and spiritually uplifting experience led by Rabbi Ben Weiner in the JCA Social Hall. All are welcome: members, non-members, extended family, out-of-town friends, students, Jewish or not! The meal will be strictly Kosher for Pass-over, prepared by Second Seder Committee and served according to JCA kashrut guidelines. We will have a choice of a fish, chicken or vegetarian entrée.



Accommodations will be made for reduced price or free meals if requested (held in strict confidence).

Questions? Contact Paul Bryer-Charette, email: pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com or phone 860-559-4926

Time: 6:30 pm (Minyan for Mincha at 6 pm)

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Price: Adult JCA Members - | \$27 |
| Adult non-Members - | \$36 |
| Children 6 to 18 - | \$18 |
| Children under 6 - | FREE |

Payment MUST be included with your reservation.

**See Registration form on page 15 of the Newsletter and at www.j-c-a.org
NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER TUESDAY, APRIL 12TH.**

You are invited to
Parlor Conversations with Rabbi Weiner

Only three more chances this spring to join in stimulating conversation about important topics, meet other JCA members and get to know Rabbi Weiner better. In each session Rabbi Weiner will give a short teaching, then facilitate a lively discussion about the theme.

Sign up now for an interesting, relaxed get-together in an intimate, inviting home setting.

April 10, 2011 4 - 6 PM

Topic: Do you want to feel more comfortable and personally engaged during services? Join in a discussion of how to meaningfully participate when you don't understand what is going on.

May 22, 2011 3 - 5 PM

Topic: Spring is in the air and the ground is renewed. What does it mean to be a Green Jew? What does Judaism say about living in harmony with and preserving our environment? How can you increase your connection to the natural world?

June 12, 2011 4 - 6 PM

Topic: Explore secular Jewish identity in the 21st century. What does it mean to be a Jew in America? How do we integrate our Jewish identity with the larger layers of culture in which we live?

To register, call Janis Wolkenbreit at 253-2059

Holocaust Memorial Observance - Yom haShoah

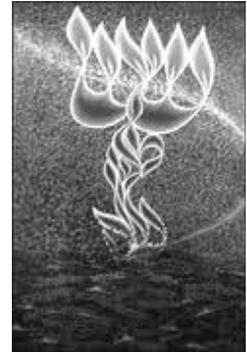
On Saturday, April 30, at 7:30-9:30 pm we will observe Holocaust memorial day in the JCA sanctuary.

After brief candle-lighting ceremony, Holocaust survivor and award-winning documentary filmmaker Marian Marzynski will screen two of his films A JEW AMONG GERMANS and JEWISH BLUES. The first explores the attitudes of young Germans toward the crimes of their ancestors, and the second documents the Klezmer Music Festival in Cracow, Poland. Following the films he will give a brief talk, after which he will take questions from the audience.

Smuggled out of the ghetto at age five, Mr. Marzynski survived the Holocaust in Poland as a Jewish child hidden by Christians. He has contributed documentaries to such PBS series as The American Experience, Nova, and Frontline.

The event is co-sponsored by The Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and by Michal and Nicole Katcher, with additional support from Neta and Noa Bolozky, in memory of their dear great grandfather, grandfather, and father, Max Borten (1916-2010), a survivor of World War II, who lost his whole family in a concentration camp. We will miss him forever.

It is hosted by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the Jewish Community of Amherst and the Northampton-Amherst Chapter of Hadassah.



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"How Do We Really Move Toward Freedom?"

a poetry reading and conversation with Merle Feld
April 24, from 1 to 3

Merle will be sharing poems from her new book of poetry *Finding Words* followed by a conversation about themes of the poems especially relating to Passover and to our longing for freedom.

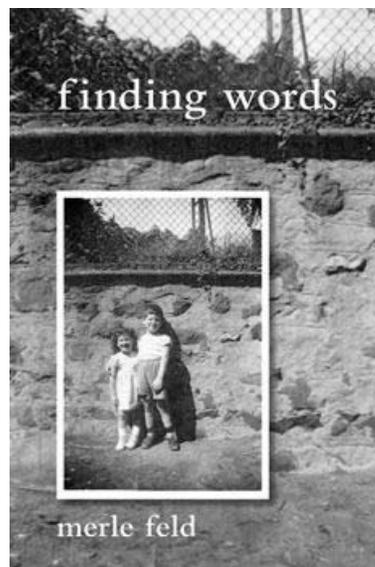
PRAISE FOR *Finding Words*, a new book of poetry with an old soul—

A book of memory and desire, ... hopefulness, celebration, elegies for loved ones lost, moments of joy and love, scrupulous self-examination. I am gripped by Feld's honesty... [these poems] held me captive like the stories of my own life. —Alicia Ostriker

These poems pour from the heart... with wisdom and grace —Anita Diamant

You read Merle Feld's poems and wonder: Has this woman been alive for a thousand years? How can she know so much, contain so much? How can she continuously pierce my soul with these words she has found?
—Rabbi Lawrence Kushner

*Merle Feld's *Finding Words* is really a book about finding people. Her poems are filled with evidence of a caring heart, a great sensitivity to the nuances of personal connections... This is poetry to be savored, not just read. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did* —Rabbi Arthur Green



THE 17TH ANNUAL TEVA SEMINAR ON JEWISH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Teva Seminar May 31-June 3, 2011
Teva Shabbat Retreat In Nature June 3-5, 2011

The Teva Seminar draws over 150 diverse participants, including Torah scholars, farmers, educators, students, social justice advocates, urban planners, scientists and more!



NEW in 2011:

- Early Childhood Education Option
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- Advocacy & Leadership Training
- Shabbat Program

Focus on one of 4 distinct curricular tracks:

Congregational Education, Camp and Wilderness, Eco-Change Makers, and Educational Gardening

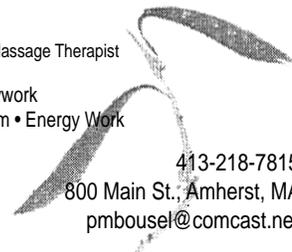
Visit www.tevacenter.org/seminar, call the
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**The Jewish Community of Amherst's
Camp Shemesh**



Summer Day Camp for Kids ages 6—11

June 27th – July 29th

Five one-week sessions,

Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

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

- Arts & Crafts with Jewish Themes
- Song, Theatre, Yoga, Dance, and Science Electives
- Swimming in the Amherst College Pool
- Group Games & Sports, including the beloved “Gaga”
- Tikkun Olam and Environmental Projects
- Daily Snack & Lunch in the Amherst College Dining Hall
- Weekly Family Kabbalat Shabbat Event

Registration forms may be downloaded at: www.j-c-a.org.

For more information, contact us at: 413-256-0160, ext. 250, or at shemesh@j-c-a.org.

Partial scholarships available through the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Camp Shemesh is affiliated with the Jewish Community of Amherst, and not Amherst College. Camp Shemesh must comply with the regulations of the MA Dept. of Public Health and be licensed by the Board of Health.

The Jewish Community of Amherst's Camp Shemesh



Is Now Hiring!

Head, Senior, and Junior Counselors Wanted

Camp Shemesh is a Jewish summer day camp for kids ages 6–11
June 27th – July 29th

Five one-week sessions, Mon.–Thurs. 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
(Counselor training will be held the week before camp starts.)

Located at Amherst College, Camp Shemesh provides a creative, spiritually rich, and educationally sound Jewish summer day camp experience.

We're interested in finding counselors who can help us provide programming in the following areas:

- Arts & Crafts with Jewish Themes
- Song, Theatre, Videography, Yoga, Dance, and Science Electives
- Group Games & Sports
- Tikkun Olam and Environmental Projects
- Weekly Family Kabbalat Shabbat Event

Applications may be downloaded at: www.j-c-a.org.

For more information, contact us at: 413-256-0160, ext. 250, or at shemesh@j-c-a.org.

*Camp Shemesh is affiliated with the Jewish Community of Amherst, and not
Amherst College.*

*Camp Shemesh must comply with the regulations of the MA Dept. of Public
Health and be licensed by the Board of Health.*

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of Amherst
Social
Hall**

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

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Contact Aaron Bousel
253-3544, news@j-c-a.org
for more information

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 |
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| Beit Shalom | Cemetery |
| Building & Grounds | Finance |
| Chesed | L'Dor v'Dor |
| Chevra Kadisha | Membership |
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The Jewish Farm School Opens an Office in Western Massachusetts!

The Jewish Farm School (JFS) is an environmental education organization whose mission is to practice and promote sustainable agriculture and to support food systems rooted in justice and Jewish traditions. Through our programs, we address the injustices embedded in today's mainstream food systems and work to create greater access to sustainably grown foods, produced from a consciousness of both ecological and social well being.

We educate participants through farm-based service learning experiences, practical skills trainings, Jewish text study, and outreach and consulting. Our programs provide avenues of engagement for both highly involved and previously unaffiliated Jewish youth and adults and are a catalyst for lifelong learning in Jewish, environmental, social justice, and food related issues.

The Jewish Farm School manages the farm at Eden Village Camp in Putnam Valley, NY and runs programs across the country. JFS' Rabbi and Director of Programs, Jacob Fine, recently opened up a new office in Amherst and is excited to bring JFS' work to the Jewish Community of Western Massachusetts. To learn more about the Jewish Farm School and to discuss potential collaborations please contact Rabbi Jacob Fine at jacob@jewishfarmschool.org.

Rabbi Jacob Fine, Rabbi and Director of Programs

A graduate of Vassar College, Jacob was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Prior to joining JFS, Jacob served as Rabbi and Assistant Director at the University of Washington Hillel as well as the Director of Jconnect, Seattle's largest Jewish community for young adults. Under Jacob's leadership, Jconnect gained national recognition as a leading innovator serving post-college Jewish young adults, and received awards from Slingshot and Great Nonprofits, among others. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Jacob has served as a rabbi and educator for a number of leading Jewish environmental organizations including the Teva Learning Center, the Adamah Fellowship, where he also served as Farm Manager, and Hazon, where he co-led a beit midrash on the topic of food and Judaism. Jacob recently moved to Amherst, Massachusetts with his wife Julie and their daughter Meira. -- Rabbi Jacob Elisha Fine Rabbi and Director of Programs Jewish Farm School www.jewishfarmschool.org Join our mailing list and make a tax deductible donation to JFS. Check out the new program Anafim: Sustainable Food and Farming Internship. The Jewish Farm School is a resident group of Bikkurim: An Incubator for New Jewish Ideas.



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New Book By JCA Member Richard Ellis

April 14th: JCA-member Richard S. Ellis talks about his new book
Blinding Pain, Simple Truth: Changing Your Life Through Buddhist Meditation.
Amherst Books, 8 Main Street

On April 14, Richard S. Ellis will talk about his new book, *Blinding Pain, Simple Truth: Changing Your Life Through Buddhist Meditation*. The talk will take place at 8:00 p.m. at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street.

Drawing upon his experience with recurrent headaches, Richard will discuss how meditation can empower people who suffer from physical and emotional pain to let go of the image of themselves as victims and eventually to transform their suffering into healing.

One reviewer wrote that *....this book is a mindful and wholehearted exploration of the nature of pain, suffering, and healing that reveals surprising discoveries of simple, yet challenging pathways to equanimity.* It also draws fascinating connections between the practice of Buddhist meditation and the study of Torah.

Further information about the book is available at:

<http://www.math.umass.edu/~rsellis/Buddhist-book-files/Blinding-Pain-Simple-Truth.html>.

Richard is a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and an adjunct professor in the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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Linda Robinson Hidas & Thomas Hidas
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General Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Saul Perlmutter receiving an award for his years of service at UMass Hillel (Vera & Lawrence Wishnow)

Music, Arts & Culture

Judy Glaser & Robert Stern
 Merle & Ed Feld
 Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Barbara Burkart's 60th birthday (Judy Glaser & Robert Stern)

New or Returning Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Sara & Diana Brewer & daughter Milly
 Jan Eidelson

The Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 12th

All submissions MUST be made either by e-mail or e-mail with a file attached.

If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor.

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

Thank you, Aaron Bousel,
 news@j-c-a.org 253-3544

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.



Choose our catering team to create a mitzvah!

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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

Northampton-Amherst Hadassah

GALA BENEFIT CONCERT
Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
Lander Grinspoon Auditorium

Featuring
GREEN STREET BREW
An amazing musical ensemble
With a repertoire that includes
Jazz, Swing, Pop, Folk and Blues
An elegant buffet with homemade
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program.

Proceeds from this concert will help Hadassah continue its medical research and teaching in Israel as it has done for the last 99 years.

Contributions at the Donor Level (\$50) or higher entitle you to

Two admissions to the concert.
Please mail your contribution to:
Neta Bolozky, 3 Evergreen Lane,
Amherst, MA 01002

Questions:
Henny Lewin (413-253-8836) or
Barbara Goldstein (413-549-0555)

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.

Campers Pioneering a Sustainable World!

Come meet the founding director's of Eden Village Camp and hear about a new magical Jewish summer overnight program:

You are invited to a potluck dinner to come learn about Eden Village Camp: the innovative non-profit Jewish farming, wilderness & arts sleepaway camp in New York's Hudson Valley.

Thursday, April 7, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

The Ballantine home
223 Pomeroy Lane
Amherst, MA, 01002

RSVPs appreciated to Joanna at
clay.joanna@comcast.net.

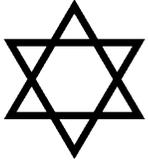
for more information check out
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Need a House Sitter?

Seeking a house/pet/plant-sitting situation for my parents for 1-4 weeks anytime beginning late May through June.

They are a quiet, neat, reliable and respectful couple with references available. Amherst preferred but will consider other offers.

Madeleine Charney greenzinnia@
hotmail.com or 413-549-5707



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

April 2011

26 Adar II ~ 26 Nisan



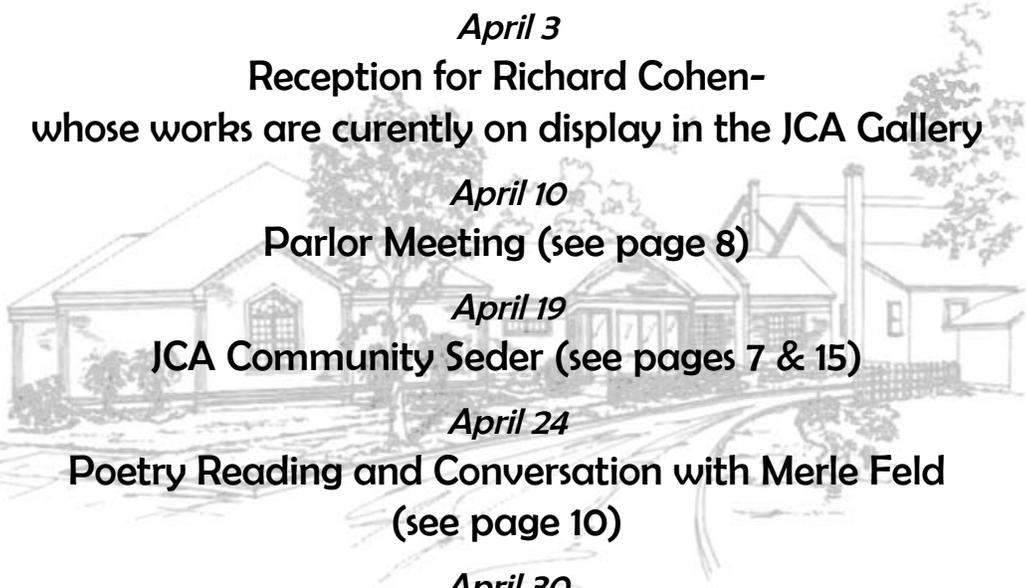
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 26 ADAR II 6:58 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper | 2 27 ADAR II Tazria Parashat Hachodesh 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services |
| 3 28 ADAR II 2:30 pm Reception for artist Richard Cohen | 4 29 ADAR II | 5 1 NISAN Rosh Chodesh Nisan 7:15 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Basic Judaism Class | 6 2 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee | 7 3 NISAN 7:00 pm Board Meeting | 8 4 NISAN 7:06 6:15 pm Services | 9 5 NISAN Metzora 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study with Marcia Black |
| 10 6 NISAN 10:00 am Shalom Sunday for enrolled 4-6 year olds 10:15 am B'Tzelem Elohim 4:00 pm Parlor Meeting (off site- see page 8) | 11 7 NISAN | 12 8 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 7:00 pm Basic Judaism Class | 13 9 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm School Committee | 14 10 NISAN | 15 11 NISAN 7:13 6:15 pm Carlebach style service followed by potluck supper | 16 12 NISAN Acharei Mot 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services |
| 17 13 NISAN No JCA School | 18 14 NISAN Erev Pesach 7:17 1st Seder at Sundown | 19 15 NISAN Passover - Day 1 10:00 am First Day Pesach Services 6:00 pm Minyan 6:30 pm JCA 2nd Seder see page 15 Office Closed | 20 16 NISAN Passover - First Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation No JCA School | 21 17 NISAN Passover - Second Intermediate Day | 22 18 NISAN 7:21 Passover - Third Intermediate Day 6:15 pm Services | 23 19 NISAN Passover - Fourth Intermediate Day 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study with Rabbi Efraim Eisen |
| 24 20 NISAN 7:24 Passover - Fifth Intermediate Day 1:00 pm Poetry Reading and Conversation with Merle Feld see page 10 No JCA School | 25 21 NISAN Passover - Day 7 10:00 am 7th Day Pesach Services (Yiskor) | 26 22 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan | 27 23 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation JCA School Resumes 5:30 pm Confirmation Class | 28 24 NISAN | 29 25 NISAN 7:29 6:15 pm Services Speaker, Paula Green | 30 26 NISAN Kedoshim 8:45 am- Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Regular Shabbat Services (main sanctuary) Chanting Service (small sanctuary) 7:00 pm Yom Hashoah Program, see p. 9 |

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April 3
Reception for Richard Cohen-
whose works are currently on display in the JCA Gallery

April 10
Parlor Meeting (see page 8)

April 19
JCA Community Seder (see pages 7 & 15)

April 24
Poetry Reading and Conversation with Merle Feld
(see page 10)

April 30
Yom Hashoah Program (see page 9)