

jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist
Federation



CANDLE LIGHTING

June 3 ~ 8:04 pm
June 10 ~ 8:08 pm
June 17 ~ 8:11 pm
June 24 ~ 8:13 pm
July 1 ~ 8:13 pm
July 8 ~ 8:11 pm
July 15 ~ 8:07 pm
July 22 ~ 8:02 pm
July 29 ~ 7:55 pm

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

SHAVUOT

June 7 & 8
See page 13

SPECIAL EVENTS

June 12
Parlor Meeting

June 17-19
Lawrence Bush

MEETINGS

June 1
Ritual Life Committee

June 2
Board Meeting

June 5
Semi-annual Meeting

June 29
School Committee

July 6
Ritual Life Committee

BAT MITZVAH

June 11, 4:00 PM
Hannah Lebowitz

Message from Co-president

Eli Kwartler, 253-2929, elikwartler@gmail.com

Wow – A Six Month Honeymoon!

By the time you read this, I will have been your Co-President for six months. That's generally the length of a "honeymoon". Now, the challenge is to keep the "romance" going.

I want to tell you about some exciting things/events that have gone on at your JCA during this period. I think it's important for you to know that these happenings could not have occurred without the close cooperation and interaction among the Rabbi, UMass, The Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION), staff, and many, many volunteers. (More about volunteers later.)

The year was kicked off in grand style with the welcoming dinner dance for Rabbi Weiner and his wife, Elise Barber. Looking back to that night it's hard to comprehend all that has been created during the short time since then. Time and space preclude me from mentioning all the innovative programs that have followed; I'm going to pick out a few that I think merit mention.

February -- Courtesy of Oran Kaufman and his jokesters, we had *The Comedy Show*, which was MC'd by Stan Rosenberg and that brought back memories of the Borscht Belt. Unfortunately, I missed it, but I was told that the jokes ranged from slightly spicy to more so. Without putting down any of the story tellers, it was reported that Fran Saed brought the house down with her joke, delivery and timing.

March -- As a result of cooperation between Rabbi Weiner, the JCA Scholar in Residence Committee and UMass we were entertained by Galeet Dardashti's lecture/performance, *Piyutim: The Poetry of Middle Eastern Prayer* as well as learning about Iraqi, Sephardi-Yerushalmi, Moroccan, and Iranian Jewish traditions.

April – We had a multitude of events; by far the major happening was our Passover Seder thoughtfully and elegantly conducted

by Rabbi Weiner. I must happily point out that the event was sold out, but unfortunately, people had to be turned away. This significant month also provided us with the prospect of hearing our own Merle Feld, who shared poems from her new book of poetry *Finding Words* followed by a conversation about themes of the poems.

Lastly, in this month we memorialized *Yom haShoah- Holocaust Memorial Observance*. A significant part of the observance was viewing films by Holocaust survivor and award-winning documentary filmmaker Marian Marzynski and having the opportunity to have conversations with him. This unforgettable program was co-sponsored by The Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at UMass, by Michal and Nicole Katcher along with Neta and Noa Bolozky. It was hosted by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the JCA and the Northampton-Amherst Chapter of Hadassah.

May -- The month featured *Jay Michaelson*, a writer, scholar, and activist whose work focuses on the intersections of spirituality, Judaism, sexuality, and law. He led Friday evening services and spoke on the topic: *A Sacred Practice of Radical Inclusion*. Mr. Michaelson was sponsored by the JCA Adult Education committee and funded by donations to the Rabbi David Dunn Bauer fund.

I also want to inform you of the important more day-to-day organizational things that you may not have been aware of or participated in:

The JCA, with Rabbi Weiner's strong support, has become an active member of ION (Interfaith Opportunities Network); our representative is Judy Glaser. As a result of this association, we have been invited to and attended a presentation at the Hampshire Mosque. We encourage you to take advantage of future invitations to meet with some

continued on page 11

June/July 2011
Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5771
Vol. 10, Issue No. 6

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: Susan Thomas, 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 August issue is July 12th

June/July 2011, Vol. 10, Issue No. 6

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 a teacher, I have a fondness for trick questions, or at least questions whose answers are not as obvious as they might seem on the surface. I trot out one of my favorites, all too frequently, when teaching about the traditions of Jewish prayer. After explaining that we have a morning, afternoon, and evening prayer, I ask, “Which is the first prayer of the day?” The answer I hope to hear is, “the morning prayer, duh!” because then I can lean back in smug satisfaction and explain that since the Jewish day starts in the evening (“and there was evening and there was morning on the first day”) the first prayer of the day is actually *ma’ariv*, the evening prayer. This kind of smartness has made me very popular, and won me many friends.

I’m also fond of the question, “What is Torah?”, which seems a particularly relevant thing to ask as we prepare to celebrate Shavuot, the holiday on which we relive the experience of the revelation at Mt. Sinai. Here, the trickiness lies not in some technical detail, but in the fact that there are a number of ways to answer the question. Torah is the scroll we read from during services on Shabbat and holidays, and also the first five biblical books that are written on that scroll. Torah can refer to a specific teaching that is to be found within the text of those five books, and can also mean the totality of Jewish wisdom, including midrash, Talmud, and later commentaries. I’ve even heard the word applied to secular matters, or to a piece of knowledge you gain from a particular individual. “That’s the Torah of hitting a curveball.” “So, tell me, what’s your Torah?”

In addition to trick questions, I also like clever answers. For instance, we have two holidays in our calendar that celebrate Torah—Shavuot and Simchat

Torah—so the question would be: what’s the difference? Why two? The answer I like is: “Because they celebrate two different aspects of Torah. Shavuot is about REVELATION, and Simchat Torah is about NARRATIVE.” That answer was so clever, that for a long time it didn’t make any sense to me at all. But I think I’m starting to get it.

Torah itself is tricky, and it appears to us, like the texture of life itself, in a number of ways. We can be reading along in the story, according to our narrative habits, and then suddenly be punctured by insight, whether positive or negative. These are the moments we call revelation, when a new wisdom makes us feel more at home in the world, or when the foundation of our security is challenged by the perception of some unpleasant new truth that we must somehow come to terms with; somehow weave back into the story we were telling. And if Simchat Torah is the day for singing and dancing, knowing we have the power to tell the cyclical stories that sustain us, Shavuot is the more awe-inspiring day, when we stand at the foot of the mountain wondering what unexpected answers might emerge from the dark clouds.

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
 Deb Fine 256-1572, zohar01@comcast.net



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

June 3, Friday- Rosh Chodesh Sivan



Shabbat Naso, Numbers 4:21-7:89

June 3, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper
 Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

June 4, Saturday

10:00 AM

Regular Shabbat morning service in the main sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Chanting & Contemplative Service in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick & Sara Schley

1:00 PM

Torah Study



June 7, Tuesday- Erev Shavuot (see page 13)

4:00 - 6:00 PM

JCA Garden Opening Event

6:30 PM

Service and Confirmation

8:30 PM

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot



June 8, Wednesday- Shavuot

10:00 AM

Shavuot Services (Yizkor)



Shabbat Beha'alotekha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

June 10, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

June 11, Saturday

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

4:00 PM

Mincha Service

Bat Mitzvah: Hannah Lebowitz

Service Leaders: Hannah Lebowitz and Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Hannah Lebowitz



Shabbat Shelach, Numbers 13:1-15:41

June 17, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service and potluck supper

Service Leader: To be announced

Speaker: Lawrence Bush

June 18, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

1:00 PM

Torah Study



Shabbat Korach, Numbers 16:1-18:32

June 24, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

June 25, Saturday

8:45-9:45 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, Parashat Chukat, Numbers 19:1-22:1

July 1, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper

Service Leader: Sam Gladstone

July 2, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Balak, Numbers 22:2-25:9

July 8, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Randi Stein

July 9, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leaders: Ellen Bernstein & Ruth Love Barer

D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

July 15, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach Style Service and potluck supper
Service Leader: To be announced

July 16, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette
D'var Torah: To be announced



July 19, Tuesday- Fast of the 17th of Tammuz

The Fast of Shivah Asar B'Tammuz (17th of the month of Tammuz) commences the period known as the Three Weeks, culminating on Tishah B'Av. This fast marks the day the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem leading to the destruction of the Second Temple.



Shabbat Matot, Numbers 30:2-32:42

July 22, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Randy Furash-Stewart

July 23, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen
D'var Torah: To be announced



Shabbat Masei, Numbers 33:1-36:13

July 29, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

July 30, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Paul Charette
D'var Torah: To be announced



Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

May 28-

Maryanne Barakso in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Lebowitz

June 4-

Alan Peterfreund and Susan Mosler in honor of their engagement

Rabbi Weiner and Elise Barber in honor of Elise's graduation from cantorial school

Ellin Bousel in honor of her son Aaron's 60th birthday, and Aaron & Patience's wedding anniversary

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

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**

Foot Stomping Melodies for Welcoming Shabbat

The next two Carlebach-style services will be on June 17th and July 15th at 6:15 pm. The melodies are beautiful, the spirit/ruach is incredible. There will be a potluck supper following the service.

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.

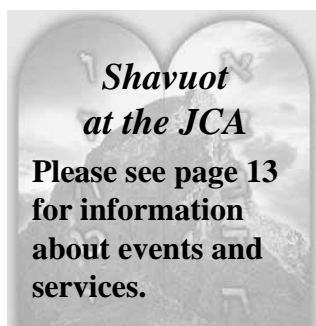
Chemical Sensitivities

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.

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.

Education News

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



Building Jewish Identity: Viewing “The Tribe”

Take a series of images about Jews, their journeys, America today and the history of the Barbie Doll, and parents of JCA School students were challenged to explore what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century after viewing “The Tribe”. Rabbi Weiner led a discussion about topics touched on by the brief film from assimilation to gender roles, God to re-mix multiculturalism, insiders and outsiders, stereotypes and cultural icons. Parents were encouraged to think about their own relationship to the JCA, Judaism, and building Jewish identity with their children. Director of Lifelong Learning, Jody Rosenbloom, picked up on the theme of “outsourcing” Jewish education and the implications for our households. As parent, Peter Wood, proposed – having “potluck” gatherings, where we shared information, experiences and perspectives, we create the backbone of our JCA community. This was the final gathering and parent discussion scheduled for the school year.

5771 Tzedakah Totals Close to \$200

Hmm, what does this look like broken down for the school year? This is as if each student brought 10 cents per week. But 3rd grade, in fact contributed over half and were acknowledged for bringing the most both as total of over \$100 and per student \$6.60. All classes raised tzedakah with 6th/7th and 3rd grades averaging about \$2.30/student and grades 1, 2 & 5 about \$1.50/student during the course of the year. In addition, classes received a first time match by the JCA Tikkun Olam Committee! Classes voted on where their tzedakah money goes, including immigration support through HIAS, Daiken Animal Shelter, and Japan relief efforts.

Summer Support Makes a Difference

Over the summer months, families are encouraged to reinforce the lessons of the school year. Here are five easy ways: 1) Pick a Jewish book to read together (For book suggestions, check out <http://barbarabookblog.blogspot.com>), 2) When you travel, visit Jewish sites (a synagogue, museum, Jewish book store/neighborhood), 3) Join us for our summer family picnic and Shabbat in Groff Park (1st Friday in August), 4) Reuse your child’s Hebrew text and make games for reading practice to maximize retention of the Hebrew alphabet and of course, 5) Jewish summer camp is a great way to blend summer play with enhancing Jewish identity.

Recruitment and Registration for Next Fall

The sooner we know who will be attending JCA School in the fall, the better. Lots of planning happens over the summer. We meet new families and consider placement of their chil-

dren. We hire teachers, set up rooms and make adjustments to curriculum. We consider class composition; smaller classes may be combined, larger classes may be split. Registration information was sent to families with students currently enrolled in JCA School in May. If you are interested in beginning JCA School, call 256-0160 for registration information. Registration is processed only if you are current in fulfilling your financial obligations to the JCA. So take the time to get your registration in as soon as possible. Encourage any of your friends or acquaintances that may be interested in starting their children in JCA School to contact the office.

Summer Hours

Director of Lifelong Learning, Jody Rosenbloom, is in Israel from June 1-20; and the remainder of June-July, she checks email and voicemail weekly. For day to day assistance, contact education administrative assistant, Eric Delisle at 256-0160 or edassist@j-c-a.org.

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.

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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**

Dean's Beans Coffee Fundraiser- Important Updates



Only 2 more ordering dates for season 5 of the JCA's Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Fundraiser. August is a vacation month, and season 6 will resume in September with Jodi Levine taking over as the fundraiser's coordinator. Jodi has been bagging the orders with Sue for the past year, and is looking forward to keeping you well supplied.



Also, we just heard from Dean's Beans that "...coffee prices have gone through the roof on the international market. They are the highest they have ever been in recorded history. As a result, we have to raise our fundraiser prices."

Although Dean's Beans coffee prices have increased by \$1.00, we will honor our existing JCA prices until the end of season 5. For those of you who are renewing your prepaid, standing orders, please do not exceed July.

Remaining dates for Season 5:

Order due dates: 6/3/11 7/1/11 Pick up on/after: 6/10/11 7/8/11

Visit the JCA website for the order form or contact susanweinstein1@yahoo.com for more info and/or to get on the e list for monthly reminders.

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

JCA Annual Stop & Shop Food Collection

The JCA's Annual Food Collection at the Amherst/Hadley Stop and Shop is **Thursday, July 7, Friday, July 8 and Sunday, July 10**. JCA volunteers are needed for 2 hour shifts to make this effort a success as it has been in the past. We collect food to help stock the Amherst Survival Center's Emergency Food Pantry for the summer, a critical time. Food collections and donations to the Survival Center are reduced significantly during the summer but the need continues, especially for children out of school meal programs. These collections by the different faith communities in town are a main source of food for the Pantry and the JCA's collection was last year's largest. We need your help to continue this outstanding Community project.

To volunteer please contact Arnie Alper at arnoldalper@comcast.net or 549-0438. Thank you



Invitation To An Evening At The Hampshire Mosque

Thursday, June 9, 6:45-8:30 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 final evening of learning at the Mosque.

Please join me in taking advantage of this opportunity to meet with some of our Muslim neighbors and learn more about Islam. Those of us who have attended the past two sessions had an interesting and rewarding evening of learning and fellowship.

In keeping with the sanctity of the Mosque as a place of worship, please dress modestly...full sleeves, and comfortable long skirt/pants, as many will be sitting on the floor. Some seats will be available. Women will be provided with scarves.

Judy Glaser, JCA representative, Interfaith Organizational Network

Iftar at the Synagogue

The JCA will be playing host to the annual interfaith Iftar, which this year will be "Iftar in the Synagogue" on August 21.

Please contact Judy Glaser (253-9607, judyglaser@comcast.net) if you would like to help with/at this popular event.

Teen Programming June 2011

You are invited to join our 5771 Confirmation Class



Juliana Gensheimer
 Rachel Madowitz
 Aaron Miller
 Jovanna Robinson-Hidas



on the 7th of June (5th of Sivan) at 6:30pm
 for Service to celebrate Shavuot
 and honor their commitment to continuing Jewish learning
 with a reception following the service
 hosted by the families of the confirmands.

All are welcome to join us in honoring this year's confirmation class.
 For more information, contact Rachael at teendir@j-c-a.org.

**Todah Rabah to all the parents and teens
 who volunteered with JVCORPS: Jewish Volunteer Corps
 at the Amherst Survival Center.
 Thanks to you we were able to offer over 200 meals!**

Madrichim: Tess Domb Sadof & Zak Tobin

Jessie (Ballantines' Babysitter)

Kimberly Broderick

Karen Kuhr

Janet Kannel

Felicia Mednick

Elizabeth Stordeur Pryor

Kathy Weilerstein

Jessica Wolff

Stacey Tobin

TEENS

Caleb Ballantine

Hannah Ballantine

Ellie Barakso

תודה רבה
Thank You

Harel Broderick

Jared Kannel

David Kuhr

Jordan Kuhr

Hannah Lebowitz

Aaron Miller

Asa Parker-Bernstein

Leah Parker-Bernstein

Lil Stordeur

Kailey Tobin

Murray Wan

Kira Weilerstein

Nina Wolff Landau

Shira Yeskel-Mednick





מזל טוב

Mazel Tov

JULIANA GENSHEIMER

RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 UNSUNG HERO AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING TEEN LEADERSHIP
FROM THE HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION.

The Unsung Hero Award honors western Massachusetts residents whose leadership in the Jewish community and commitment to Jewish values inspires others and improves life in the region. Juliana is a member of the B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program, JCA Confirmation Class, B'nai Brith Youth Organization, and has been involved in JCAT and JTOV programming.

Mazel Tov to Juliana for this wonderful honor!

**JCA Teen Programming thanks ALL
teens and parents for a great year!**

**Have an adventurous, safe, and wonderful summer!
We look forward to seeing you in the Fall. Keep an eye on your
email for upcoming programs and early registration discounts.**

**Thank you to our amazing teen staff: Amy Epstein, Becky
Lederman, Dan Epstein, Hayley Yaglom, Jocelyn Gordon,
& Shafie Scherer-Williams!**

**Dan, Hayley & Jocelyn-
Yasher Koach and good luck in your future endeavors**

B'shalom- Rachael G-W



***The Legacy and Future of Jewish Secularism:
A Weekend of Learning with Lawrence Bush***
June 17th-19th

The early to mid-20th century saw a flowering of secular (non-religious) Jewish life, rooted in political commitments to socialism and Zionism, to Yiddish language and literature, and to an understanding of Jewish identity as a force of transformation, somehow different from the American mainstream.

Even as the institutions of this secular Jewish culture have declined, new questions have arisen: Why has our secular heritage been largely ignored or forgotten? Are the lines between religious and secular still as clear as they used to be? Is there still a meaningful difference between a secular Jew and an assimilationist? What aspects of Jewish secularism can form a platform for a rich Jewish identity today?

Lawrence Bush is an ideal person to help us start thinking through these issues. A writer, poet, and artist, he is the editor and sustaining force of *Jewish Currents*, a 65-year-old publication that seeks to apply the progressive ethical content of Jewish thought, and the lessons of Jewish history, to the political challenges of today, and also labors to keep the spark of Yiddishism and secular Jewish identity alive through art and culture.

His visit to the JCA, co-sponsored by the National Yiddish Book Center, will feature conversations on "Judaism as a counter-culture" and "defining spirituality" — and opportunities to experience the loving playfulness with which he delves into the Jewish experience.

Stay tuned for full details, which will be sent out to the community as soon as they are finalized.

Join Rabbi Weiner for the Last Parlor Conversation of the Season

June 12, 2011 4 - 6 PM

Secular Jewish Identity in the 21st Century.

To register, call Janis Wolkenbreit at 253-2059.

Please leave a message with your name and phone number.

You will be called with location details and to confirm your space.

Parlor Conversations will resume in the fall.

If you have a suggestion for a future topic, please call the above number and leave a message.



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Co-president's column from page 1

of our Muslim neighbors and learn more about Islam.

The JCA Board has decided its objective for this year is to:

“Strengthen a sense of community so that all members will feel involved, valued, wanted and appreciated. There will also be major emphasis on Chavrut”

The Board has acquired five new members -- please get to know them: Richard Cohen; Margaret Mastrangelo; Eva Rosenn; Janis Wolkenbreit; and Marcia Black.

Bonnie Webster, who has been a vital part of our office team for eight years, has retired. Please join with me in wishing her a wonderful retirement. We have two new additions to our administrative staff: Susan Thomas, Administrative Assistant and Bridget Hale, Bookkeeper. Please welcome them when you interact with them in person or on the phone.

By now you have received notice of our semi-annual meeting. The issue of the bus pull-off and its effect on the historic appearance of our building is very important.

PLEASE ATTEND, SPEAK YOUR PIECE, AND VOTE YOUR PREFERENCE

We have scheduled four Parlor Conversations with Rabbi Weiner. You only have one more chance to join in stimulating conversation about important topics, meet other JCA members and get to know Rabbi Weiner better. In each session Rabbi Weiner gives a short teaching, and then facilitates a lively discussion about the theme. Barbara and I attended one very well-attended meeting. We found the topic and style interesting, stimulating and helpful in a way that encouraged conversation among the attendees.

As I said earlier, it's been a great trip so far. We have several new volunteers on board—BUT—we must have more volunteers to travel farther and faster. We will have a volunteer interest table at the semi-annual meeting beginning with the coffee and bagel introduction. Please stop, chat and investigate where you can help. I look forward to seeing you there.

I welcome comments, recommendations and/or words of wisdom.

*b'shalom,
Eli*



Camp Shemesh Summer Day Camp



Just a Reminder!

Join us for the 25th Season of Camp Shemesh. Located on the Amherst College campus, Camp Shemesh provides children ages 6-11 with a joyful, creative, spiritually rich and educationally sound Jewish day camp experience. The camp incorporates traditional camp activities (daily swims at the state-of-the-art Amherst College pool, arts and crafts, drama, music, and sports) into its Jewish-themed programming.

We offer five one-week sessions from June 27 through July 29 accommodating 35 campers per session. The camp operates Monday through Thursday from 8:30am-4:00pm and on Fridays from 8:30am-3:30pm.

Please send in your Camp Shemesh registration ASAP!

For more information or to print out a registration form, visit www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html or call 413-256-0160 ext.250

Partial scholarships available through the generosity of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the JCA.
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 JCA Guidebook– Be Part of It!

Be a Guidebook Friend! Support the Guidebook with a donation, or by posting your personal Tribute and important calendar Dates - birthdays, anniversaries, yahrzeits.

It's easy to donate online. Go to www.j-c-a.org/guidebook or just Google "JCA Guidebook Donation Form".

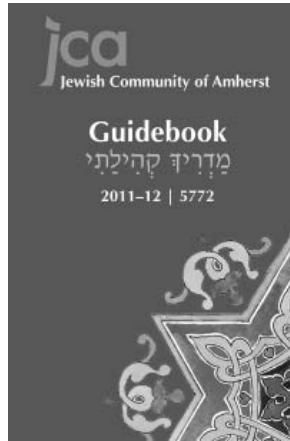
Guidebook production is fun and a great way to learn more about the JCA and the greater community -- Join the Guidebook Team! Email guidebook@j-c-a.org for more information.

Steve Woolf, for the Guidebook Team

The Guidebook is distributed free to all JCA Members and all advertisers.

To reach the Guidebook Team, send email to guidebook@j-c-a.org.

www.j-c-a.org/guidebook



Thank you to all those who helped with the JCA 2nd Seder

The Second Seder Committee would like to thank the following people for contributing to make a beautiful, fulfilling congregational Seder for 100 people on April 19th:

Rabbi Ben Weiner – for leading a spiritually uplifting community Seder rich with stories and song

Esther Mercer and **Helena Donovan** – for helping to clean and Kasher the kitchen and assist in cooking

Judith Loischild – for spending two days baking sponge cakes

Hadar Grabel, Jackie Katz, and Libby Arny for staying to help in the kitchen for the entire Seder

Sue Cinner for helping in the kitchen and creating along with **Ellen Kaufman** a beautiful Social Hall replete with fresh herbs and edible flowers

Jacob Mooney, Shira Kaufman, and Nikita Geovanis for assisting in the kitchen and Social Hall

Fran Saed – for contributing her luscious and beautiful dipped strawberries and greeting guests

Our deepest thanks and gratitude,

Paul Charette

Karen Loeb

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SHAVUOT at the JCA

This year, we are delighted to be offering a number of ways to celebrate Shavuot, drawing upon its rich legacy as a harvest holiday, a holiday involving a mountain, and as the day we receive and commit ourselves to Torah.

Erev Shavuot: June 7th-

4 to 6pm: Come and celebrate the opening of the JCA Garden.

The Plotniks have been laboring through the rain all spring to prepare the ground, and now the time has come to plant! Bring your spades and seedlings and drop in any time in the late afternoon--this will be an "open house" event, so you don't need to come for the whole thing. We will have additional seeds and seedlings available. You can even do some trading and take something home for your own garden!

Everyone is welcome, and we are particularly hoping it will attract young children and their families! Stay tuned for more information about this program, as it is still under development. There may yet be some special guests and activities to make it even more fun, if you can imagine that...

6:30pm: Erev Shavuot Service featuring Confirmation Ceremony

We officially welcome in the holiday with Ma'ariv, the evening prayer. On Shavuot, we tell two stories: standing at Sinai to receive Torah as a group, and Ruth's individual and idiosyncratic reception of Torah on her own terms. Our confirmands-

Juliana Gensheimer, Rachel Madowitz, Aaron Miller, and Jovanna Robinson-Hidas, have been meeting all year to explore their own Jewish identities, and the way they receive Torah collectively and individually. During the service, we'll have a chance to hear from them a little, learn about their special Tzedakah project, and honor them as the inspirational young learners that they are.

The families of the confirmands will host a reception following the service. PLEASE NOTE that this is not a special service for the confirmation students, but a communal Shavuot service in which the students will be confirmed. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



8:30pm: Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Come and spend the evening of the holiday learning Torah from some of the great teachers in our community. The roster is still being set, but we know for sure that we'll have a teaching from Catherine Madsen on the ethical approach to Judaism of French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas, and a teaching from Daniel Berlin on the sacred meaning of the Shema prayer, as well as a teaching from Rabbi Weiner.

Shavuot Day, June 8th-

6:30am: Shavuot Morning Hike up Bare Mountain

Join JCA Rabbinic Intern Ellen Bernstein for an early morning hike up Bare Mountain, with a short holiday teaching at the top. This hike should wrap up by around 8am. Please stay tuned for more details.

10:00am: Shavuot Morning Services at the JCA

Led by Rabbi Weiner, this service will feature Hallel, Yizkor, and the chance to encounter some of the remarkable texts we read on Shavuot.





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Email: kloeb@comcast.net**

JCA Adult Reading Group

The 4th meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the highly regarded novel by David Grossman, *To the End of the Land*. It is not yet available in paperback, but it was so highly recommended that the ARG decided to break precedence and read a book not yet in paperback. New participants are always welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

***Mak'hela to Premier "Hope Burns A Flame" by Local Composers
Karen A. Tarlow and Frederick C. Tillis***

June 5 Concert at National Yiddish Book Center to Feature Local Storyteller Rona Leventhal

Mak'hela, the Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts, will present its final concert of the season, "Hope Burns a Flame: Stories from Our Lives," on June 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The concert, which will also feature local storyteller Rona Leventhal, will be held at the National Yiddish Book Center in the Kligerman-Greenspun Performance Hall.

The title of the concert is inspired by "Hope Burns a Flame," a newly commissioned song for Mak'hela. The song, which was composed by local musician and composer Karen A. Tarlow, is set to the words of a poem entitled, "A New Lease," by Amherst resident Frederick C. Tillis, who is also a well-known composer, musician, and poet.

"In writing the song, I was thinking of the many 'rebirths' that occurred after the Holocaust," states Tarlow, who recently retired from her position as Assistant Professor of Music Theory at the University of Massachusetts. "In addition to repopulation, the term 'rebirth' can be applied to rediscoveries of culture, finding a new home (whether in America, Israel, or elsewhere), the birth of Israel as a modern nation, or re-thinking of Judaism. All of that was embodied in the optimism and energy that flowed in the post-World War II years and into the late 20th century, even as many people endured some hard times."

"At the same time, I was thinking how this same optimism in America also energized African-Americans in the mid-20th century, and how aligned Jewish- and African-

Americans were during the early days of the civil rights movement," Tarlow continued. "Fred's text really allowed me to make those connections, right to the modern day, right now. That's why I was attracted to this poem. It just felt right to me."

Tarlow found "A New Lease" in Dr. Tillis' 1992 book of poems, *In Celebration*. With permission from Dr. Tillis, who is Professor Emeritus of Music and former director of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Tarlow used the last line of the second stanza of the poem as the song title.

Joining Mak'hela on stage will be Rona Leventhal, who will tell stories from her show, *Oy Vey! Stories from the Jewish Tradition*. Leventhal has been engaging audiences with her stories for over twenty years, performing not only at local festivals, schools and libraries, but also as part of the National Storytelling Network and at international venues. Imbued with her dramatic touch, humor, and down-to-earth style, Leventhal's stories give insight into life's ups and downs, leaving her audiences with joyous hearts.

"Hope Burns a Flame: Stories from Our Lives" is the fifth and final concert in Mak'hela's eighth season, and is the chorus's once-yearly fundraising concert. Tickets are available at a price of \$8.00 for National Yiddish Book Center members, \$5.00 for students, and \$10.00 for the general public.

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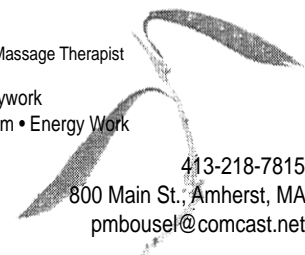
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Co-President Areas Of Responsibility

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	

The Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 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

Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately? Books by JCA members and others, siddurim, chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot and many lovely gift items. You can shop whenever the office is open. You can also shop online at: <http://jca.judaicabeautiful.com/>

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(Marilyn & Jeffrey Blaustein)

General Fund

In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Joy Ladin)

In memory of Rose Salomon

(Leonard & Marian Lubinsky)

In memory of Ruth Lubinsky

(Leonard & Marian Lubinsky)

In memory of Sylvia Winston (Bob & Janet Winston)

Sara Berger

With appreciation to Rabbi Weiner for his advice in
choosing a rabbi for the wedding of David Reisman and
Lynn McIntyre (Susan Reisman)

In memory of Jonathan Souweine and Jules Wiener
(Judith Souweine)

Chesed Committee

In honor of the marriage of David Reisman & Lynn
McIntyre (Susan Reisman)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Barbara and Ted Slovin

Lori Holder-Webb & Jeffrey Cohen

John Clayton

Frances Saed

In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner
(Judith & Clifford Fonsch)

In memory of Larry Fine's father, Jack Fine
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)

In memory of Ruth Slovin, mother of Ted Slovin
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)

Scholar-in-Residence Fund

In memory of Jonathan Souweine (Barbara and Ted Slovin)

Condolences

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

Samuel Zoll, father of Cheryl Zoll, father-in-law of Eric Sawyer and grandfather of Lydia

Stanley Wax, husband of Ruth Wax, father of Jody Wax, father-in-law of Tom Butler and grandfather of Audrey and Elana.

New or Returning Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Boris Wolfson & Amanda Walling & son Benjamin

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.

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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 @ 413-584-3593 ext. 204 or at director.gankeshet@verizon.net.

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Family Service is offering two new programs in June, as part of our BOLD Visions initiative.

On Thursday, June 2, 2011 from 7:00-8:30 p.m., we will host a workshop for adoptive families with children ages 5-18.

In collaboration with the Alzheimers Association, we will offer a five-session program for families and elders to learn about Alzheimer’s and dementia, beginning on Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

Pre-registration for both events is requested. Flexible registration option for one or more programs. To register, please contact Jewish Family Service, (413) 737-2601 or JewishLife@jfswm.org

The above programs are free and open to the public and will be held at our new office at the JCC.

Ayelet Waldman at Congregation B’nai Israel June 5 at 7:30 PM

Bestselling essayist and novelist Ayelet Waldman will be giving a talk and signing books at 7:30 PM in the social hall at Congregation B’nai Israel. The event is free and open to the public. There will be a wonderful raffle of a tote bag filled with Random House best-sellers and donations from local merchants. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Gan Keshet preschool. Ayelet Waldman is a sought-after speaker as she is hilarious, frank, wise, and intellectual provocative. Her newest book is the novel RED HOOK ROAD, which is just out in paperback. She’s also really well-known for her bestselling collection of essays on motherhood, BAD MOTHER.

New Book by JCA Member Richard S. Ellis

On June 16, 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 7:00 p.m. at Odyssey Bookshop, 9 College Street, South Hadley.

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://bit.ly/fFIHS5>.

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.

Meditation Group

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

Led by Rabbis Nancy Flam and
Sheila Peltz Weinberg

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

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

* “To You silence is praise.”
Psalm 65:2

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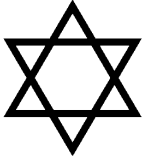


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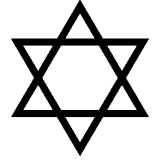
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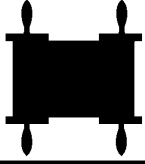
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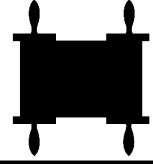
28 Iyar ~ 28 Sivan 5771



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 28 IYAR Yom Yerushalayim 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:30 Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	2 29 IYAR 7:00 pm Board Meeting	3 1 SIVAN Rosh Chodesh Sivan 8:04 5:30 pm Intergenerational Shabbat Family Service and potluck supper	4 2 SIVAN Naso 10:00 am Chanting and Contemplative Service 10:00 am Regular Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study
5 3 SIVAN 9:30 am Semi-annual meeting	6 4 SIVAN	7 5 SIVAN 8:06 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan 5:30 pm Shavuot Program at JCA Garden 6:30 pm Service + Confirmation 8:30 pm Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (see page 13)	8 6 SIVAN Shavuot 10:00 am Shavuot Services Office Closed	9 7 SIVAN	10 8 SIVAN 8:08 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	11 9 SIVAN Beha'alotecha 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services 4:00 pm Mincha Service Bat Mitzvah: Hannah Lebowitz
12 10 SIVAN 4:00 pm Parlor Meeting (see page 10)	13 11 SIVAN	14 12 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	15 13 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Adult Reading Group	16 14 SIVAN	17 15 SIVAN 8:11 6:15 pm Carlebach Style Service and potluck supper Speaker: Lawrence Bush The Legacy of Jewish Secularism Programs throughout the weekend (see page 10)	18 16 SIVAN Shelach 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study
19 17 SIVAN	20 18 SIVAN	21 19 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	22 20 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	23 21 SIVAN	24 22 SIVAN 8:13 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	25 23 SIVAN Korach 8:45 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services
26 24 SIVAN	27 25 SIVAN	28 26 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	29 27 SIVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:00 pm School Committee	30 28 SIVAN		



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
July 2011
 29 Sivan ~ 29 Tammuz



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 29 SIVAN 8:13 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper	2 30 SIVAN Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1 Chukat 10:00 am Shabbat Services
3 1 TAMMUZ Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2	4 2 TAMMUZ Independence Day	5 3 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Minyan	6 4 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	7 5 TAMMUZ	8 6 TAMMUZ 8:11 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	9 7 TAMMUZ Balak 10:00 am Shabbat Services
10 8 TAMMUZ	11 9 TAMMUZ	12 10 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Minyan	13 11 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Meditation	14 12 TAMMUZ	15 13 TAMMUZ 8:07 6:15 pm Carlebach Style Service and potluck supper	16 14 TAMMUZ Pinchas 10:00 am Shabbat Services
17 15 TAMMUZ	18 16 TAMMUZ	19 17 TAMMUZ Seventeenth of Tammuz 7:30 pm Shacharit Minyan	20 18 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Meditation	21 19 TAMMUZ	22 20 TAMMUZ 8:02 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	23 21 TAMMUZ Matot 10:00 am Shabbat Services
24 22 TAMMUZ	25 23 TAMMUZ	26 24 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Minyan	27 25 TAMMUZ 7:30 pm Shacharit Meditation	28 26 TAMMUZ	29 27 TAMMUZ 7:55 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	30 28 TAMMUZ Masei 10:00 am Shabbat Services
31 29 TAMMUZ						

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