



CANDLE LIGHTING

November 4 ~ 5:22 pm
November 11 ~ 4:14 pm
November 18 ~ 4:08 pm
November 25 ~ 4:03 pm

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

November 4
Kedusha LaTorah
November 19
Shabbat B'Yachad
November 23
Red Cross Blood Drive



MEETINGS

November 2
Ritual Life Committee
November 3
Board Meeting
November 16
Education Committee
November 17
Board Meeting
November 30
School Committee

Message from Co-president

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

The High Holidays this year were for me beautifully done, spiritually significant and fulfilling in my wish to be part of a Jewish community. I hope they were for you as well. I am grateful for Rabbi Weiner and all the others who led them so well.

The talk I gave in the services on Erev Rosh Hashanah is below. I want to share it with you in writing as well as it carries some observations I've had as your Co-President for the last two years and others from being president in the past of another congregation for four years.

Baruchim haba'im. Hebrew for Blessings to those who come, a greeting now used in Israeli homes. Blessing to our guests, to you fellow members and to your families.

On behalf of the JCA Board of Directors, I share in welcoming you, inviting you to fully participate and experience these High Holidays. May this be a sacred time and space for you and your families.

Thank you Rabbi Weiner, Bob Solosko and Paul Charette, the High Holidays chairpersons, and all the others who make these services possible.

I drive by two other synagogues to come here. To say why, simply, the JCA feels like a very large family that I like and I feel at home in this community. *Mashe'hu, mashe'hu*, Hebrew for "it's special". I wish that for you as well.

I challenged myself to think about what makes a speech appropriate for a Jewish audience - a Jewish speech. It was helpful to hear the story of a rabbi who is the head of a Hassidic community who shared that he didn't think he was Jewish enough on some issues of Jewish law and at such times would consult his aunt for a final decision. I believe that this feeling of "Are we Jewish enough" may be out of distress and not reality. I think if we engage in Jewish life, we are qualified to talk about it.

November 2011
Cheshvan/Kislev 5772
Vol. 10, Issue No. 10

When I think of the JCA as a community, there is an expression; I think it is Yiddish, "Life is with people". The JCA is about us sharing how to be fully alive by being a particular people. I invite you to belong here if you don't already.

There is a resource I want to mention, the JCA Guidebook. In it you will find information on why this last year has been so special, a great deal of information about this community, and how it works and who to contact, what businesses support us and are worth supporting. And if next week, you want to call the person sitting next to you this evening, if they are a member, their number is in it. Thanks to all of the team who made it possible.

This JCA community needs your sustained and broad based participation for this community to thrive.

I want to raise a question: why is it apparently so hard for many Jews to participate in Jewish organizations? I believe for many of us it has to do with being in a larger society that trains us to be consumers, and not participants. We need for you to participate in this diverse community.

I have some other thoughts as to what holds some of us back. I ask for you to consider them and as the Jewish philosopher and economist Karl Marx said, "We can rise above our circumstances." I am not saying these thoughts lightly and if they apply to you, I encourage you to talk with others and use our resources to work them through.

I believe for some who have been involved, it is as if they are saying, "I need to leave now", to pull back and distance themselves. As if there is something painful in staying so involved.

Some others might say, "I don't fit in". I believe you do. I've come to think of our name, Jewish Community of Amherst" as

continued on page 11

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

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 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 December issue is November 13th

November 2011, Vol. 10, Issue No. 10

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



There's a great bit in Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues", about Jewish holidays. Eugene Jerome, who has just entered army basic training, anticipating deployment in the Pacific, is trying to get out of eating the unappetizing army fare. He tells his drill sergeant that he has to pass on lunch, because it's a Jewish fast day. "Don't try to con me, Jerome," the sergeant says, "I have an all-religious calendar in my barracks. Rosha Hannah and Yama Kapura are in October."

"It's not one of those," Jerome ad libs. "It's *Almalaguena*. A fast day for Spanish Jews."

You would think there are already enough holidays in our calendar without having to make up any new ones. We've certainly just come through the gauntlet in that regard, bringing the year to a close and starting it up again with an impressive array of festivals. But, indeed, we have arrived now in a kind of celebratory wasteland; a month in which, with the exception of Shabbat, that old standby, there are no Jewish holidays.

This is the month of *Cheshvan*, the second month of the Jewish year. The rabbis called it *Mar Cheshvan*, Bitter Heshvan, as a testimony to its dearth of *yontifs*, though, as I've said here before, bone tired Jewish professionals might refer to it as Sweet *Cheshvan* for the very same reason. It's like this every year—we spend a night and a day dancing with the Torah and then...nothing to write home about till *Chanukah*, un-

less, like Eugene, we decide to make something up for ourselves.

I've never thought before to ask why this is the case. I find myself wondering now if this, like so many other aspects of our yearly cycle, has something to do with agricultural rhythms. Our year derives its character from harvest festivals, culminating in the drama of the arrival of the rainy season: the final ingathering and the rain prayers of Sukkot. At this moment, the earth has given us all it has to offer in the span of one year, and so there is no more reason to beseech or to thank. Now we take a little time off from celebrating, while we wait and see what kind of world is taking shape for the year to come.

Similarly, in our storytelling, we have just said the word *bereshit*—in the beginning—bringing our imaginations back to the recently made universe, the potentiality of things released from their fixed forms, made free to take on new shape. And now we need to have the patience not to rush them into being.

Heshvan can therefore be the month in which we anticipate the lights of *Chanukah*, but not too eagerly—because we need to experience a little bit of darkness to appreciate the fullness of the light.

v'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

Shabbat Lekh Lekha, Genesis 12:1-17:27

November 4, Friday

5:30 PM

Kedusha LaTorah
 Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper
 Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

November 5, Saturday

10:00 AM

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

1:00 PM

Torah Study with Ted Slovin



Shabbat Vayera, Genesis 18:1-22:24

November 11, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
 Speaker: To be announced

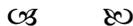
November 12, Saturday

10:00 AM

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

1:00 PM

Torah Study with Steve Marglin



Shabbat Chaye Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18

November 18, Friday

6:15 PM

Carlebach style service followed by pot luck supper
 Service Leaders: Larry & Deb Fine

November 19, Saturday

Shabbat B'Yachad (see page 7)

10:00 AM

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



Shabbat Toledot Genesis 25:19-28:9

November 25, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

November 26, Saturday

10:00 AM

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

1:00 PM

Torah Study with John Clayton



November 27, Sunday- Rosh Chodesh Kislev



Putting up the JCA Sukkah

On Sunday morning, October 9th many people gathered in the JCA courtyard to help put up and decorate our sukkah. There were a lot of people there and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who are listed below (in no particular order), and also to Randi Stein who shopped for food but was unable to be there on Sunday.

Sage Aronson	Summer	Ethan Flint	Matthew Andrews
Allegra Aronson	Sarah Thomson	Rachel Flint	Arin Andrews
Michael Aronson	Barbara Freed	Jay Flint	Irina Andres
Vera Broekhuysen	Ruth Love Barer	Scott Neilsen	Ariella Schwell
Mike Lis	Zachary Frankel	Elinor Levine	Noah Magnus
Tal	Amelia Frankel	Shaina Levi-Neilsen	Roger Magnus
Anne	Suzanne Arnopolin	Sam Brainin	Doug Lowing
Eliza Gouverneur	Ronnie Williams	Philly Brainin	Doug M. Lowing
Richard Cohen	Helena Donovan	Robert Brainin	Karen Lowing
Guy Wood	Ezekiel Flint	Mark Israel	Josh Lowing
Gordon Freed	Emmett Flint	Aaron Bousel	Arnie Alper
Dermot	Elijah Flint	Corinne Andrews	

*Please excuse any misspellings, omissions, or absence of last names.
 We did our best to get everyone's names but, really, our focus was on getting the job done.*

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

September 10-

Martin & Brenda Miller in honor of their daughter Liliya becoming Bat Mitzvah

September 17-

Sarah Thomson & Catherine Madsen in honor of their 36th anniversary

October 29-

Maryann Barakso & Lawrence Martin, in honor of their daughter Ellie Barakso becoming Bat Mitzvah

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

College Students and your Families:

On **Saturday morning, November 26, 2011**, the JCA is pleased to invite all college students home for Thanksgiving to the Shabbat morning service. We will be honoring students with an aliyah during the Torah service.

The process of replacing our chumashim in the sanctuary continues.

Our only source of revenue for this is from your donations to the prayerbook fund. Please consider aiding this effort.

Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted, however a minimum donation of \$65.00 is required for a book dedication plate.

Torah Reading Co-ordination

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact:

Ruth Love Barer, 253-4923, ruthlove7@hotmail.com (for reading in November)
Gordon Freed, 256-0355, g.freed@comcast.net (for reading in December)

Foot Stomping Melodies for Welcoming Shabbat

The next Carlebach-style service will be on November 18th at 6:15 pm.

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

There will be a potluck supper following the service.

First Friday Evening Family Service

Please join us on the Friday November 4th at 5:30 pm for a brief child oriented service followed by a potluck supper. This month there we will honor our newset students with Kedusha LaTorah. 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.

Thank You

Thanks so much to all those who helped out when I came down with a cold just in time for Yom Kippur, and who called and wrote afterward with good wishes. I am blessed to belong to such a kind community. May you all be sealed in the Book of Life.

Catherine Madsen

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

Food Collection

We did a great job of collecting food at Yom Kippur. Now it's time to recognize that there is a desperate need for food donations all year long. The food collection bin is in the JCA entryway. Please help those in need by bringing something for the food collection when you come to the JCA.

THANK YOU!

Desperately needed: peanut butter, jelly, tuna and soup.

Meditation Minyan

Each Wednesday at 7:30 AM there is a morning service of meditation, prayer and singing. This is a very special time to sit in quiet in the beauty of our small sanctuary. You do not have to be a meditator to join the service. Come try it out and see what it can do for the rest of your day and week.

Shacharit (morning) Minyan

The Tuesday morning minyan is a wonderful way to start the day. Join with us in gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. Your presence is a gift that allows those who are in mourning or celebrating a yahrzeit to be able to say Kaddish. Please join us once a month, or **every Tuesday morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m.** Try it! It's amazing how energized your day will be!!

Education News

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



Yom Kippur Humble Pie: A Lesson in Lifelong Learning

Imagine the night of Kol Nidre and this year Yom Kippur happened to fall on Shabbat. My mother was in town, the sanctuary was full, and I was spontaneously asked to lead the candle lighting. I was honored and asked to do so, with my mom. I leaned over to remind her that because it was Shabbat and a holiday, our bracha/blessing needed to be for Shabbat AND I assumed yom tov/literally good day – the regular holiday blessing adaptation. As we started to sing, we realized we had different tunes, but easily shared the Hebrew – we have been celebrating Shabbat together for years. Returning to our seats, I paged through the machzor/High Holy Day prayer book, only to see that Yom Kippur has its own special blessing, ending with “shel yom hakippurim” NOT “yom tov.” Though mortified to make such a mistake, as the director of lifelong learning, on this holy of holy days, I tried to calmly reassure myself that it was also the day of repentance – as teshuvah, my apologies for taking my knowledge for granted as a shaleach tzibur/representative of the community. And to those of you who followed the Jewish value of not unnecessarily embarrassing someone, thank-you for discreetly bringing this to my attention. Ah, to be reminded that our traditions are filled with nuances and rituals that must be regularly checked and practiced to remember – rather than let our mistakes limit our participation, our Jewish community has opportunities for participation and study along the path of lifelong learning.

New Students Sweeten the Study of Torah

Kedushah LaTorah (Consecration) – Friday, Nov. 4

Starting formal Jewish education is something to celebrate and we'd love to have the community join us. At the JCA, we dedicate a Friday night service to this Kedusha LaTorah. 1st & 2nd grade teacher, **Ruth Love Barer** along with teaching assistant, **Rosie Black**, help students prepare songs and a presentation. New 1st & 2nd graders include: **Evelyn Conway, Ezekiel Flint, Matthew Ginzberg, Sylvia Goldman, Tyler McDonald, Nathaniel Ross, Matthew Saewitz, Rachel Tepfer, Japhet Wise & Naomi Zeidenberg**. New 3rd graders include: **Rafael Harper Ash, Sonai Donnell, David Greenbaum, & Eva Greenbaum**. Households with students in Shalom Sunday class and grades 1 & 2 are especially invited to the community on Friday, Nov. 4 at 5:30pm for this service followed by a potluck dinner.

The Gift of Shabbat – For the whole family **Shabbat B'Yachad Returns on Saturday, November 19.**

Last year we had a successful pilot program, when we had two Saturdays with family education hosting Shabbat B'Yachad with attendance of over half the school households, the “regulars” from Shabbat services, and participants from the community. We create a Shabbat morning with a variety of opportunities to relax and connect in new ways based on our ancient traditions. Our JCA School curriculum is built around Jewish ritual and civilization – Shabbat and Torah study connect all the values underlying our Sunday program. Hebrew is the sacred language of our prayer book & Torah. The dvar Torah, a teaching that wrestles with Torah, links us to centuries of Jewish values and discussion. And our students learn in JCA School what evolves into comfort and anticipation of Shabbat community participation with all ages – bring your family, grandparents and friends. The morning ends with a potluck lunch for nosh, mingling and song. Shabbat B'Yachad on Saturday, November 19 is instead of JCA School on Sunday, November 20.

Thank You to:

* **Chris Benvenuto, Cheryl Campbell, Jeanne Friedman, & Ted Trobaugh** for bringing and/or preparing apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah.

* **The Trobaugh family** for donating a table for the school.

Calendar

Fri, Nov. 4	Family Service & Kedushah LaTorah (Consecration) 5:30 pm Service followed by a Potluck Special Guests: Households with 1st & 2nd graders & Shalom Sunday students
Sun, Nov. 6	Daylight Savings Time Change *Shalom Sunday (4-6 yr olds) 10:30-12 *B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image Parent support & education group from 10:15-11:15 am
Sat, Nov. 19	Shabbat B'Yachad – All households gather for programming on Shabbat instead of JCA School on Sunday, Nov. 20.
Sun, Nov. 20 - Sun, Nov. 27	No classes – Thanksgiving Holiday

A NEW YEAR TO JOIN TOGETHER FOR SHABBAT B'YACHAD

Parashat Chaye Sarah: Exploring our ancestors and family stories.

Saturday, November 19, 2011

At the Jewish Community of Amherst

A Shabbat where we all come together

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

8:45-9:45

Shabbat Yoga with Corinne Andrews

10:00-10:45

Services Together

To study Torah in ways both traditional and eclectic, choose from:

10:45 (one hour session)

--Traditional Torah service with Rabbi Weiner

10:45 (half-hour session)

- Art Drash (for all ages)
- A Taste of Torah Study
- Active Storytime

11:15 (half-hour session)

- Art Drash (for all ages)
- A Taste of Torah Study
- Active Storytime
- Play along Shabbat songs and stories for the youngest among us
(6-year-olds and younger with their adult)

11:45-12:30

Conclude Services Together



Followed by a POTLUCK Shabbat meal

And singing *zemirot*/lively Shabbat songs

To make this event more "green," you have the option of bringing your own dishes (plates, silverware, cups, etc.) to use and wash so that we don't have to use paper products.

*For households with children in JCA School, this program is in place of JCA School on Sunday, November 20.

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



**NOVEMBER 2011
TEEN PROGRAMMING**
for Jewish teens in the region



jcateens@gmail.com

jtovteens@gmail.com

413-256-0160 x208

<http://jewishteenprogramming.eventbrite.com/>

The Gleaning Project

A Community Service Project for Jewish Teens of the Valley

**Sunday, October 16, 2011
for grades 6-8**
**Sunday, November 6, 2011
for grades 9-12**

Pick-up and Drop-off at Whole Foods in Hadley
12:30pm Pick-up ~ 4:30pm Drop-off

What will you do?

Teens will travel by bus to a local farm to harvest crops, learn about gleaning, poverty in our area, and conservation. We'll load the produce on the bus and bring it to a local shelter. Please bring a water bottle and make sure to eat lunch before you arrive. Kosher snacks will be provided.

To Register:

<http://gleaning2011.eventbrite.com>

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 38 million Americans are hungry, or at risk of hunger.

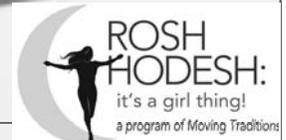
In our region, more than 100,000 people seek food assistance annually, including at least 27,000 children and more than 11,000 senior citizens.

One out of ten residents of western Massachusetts struggle with hunger.

In 2010, the Gleaning Project gathered over 12,000 pounds of produce.

This Month's Events

Rosh Hodesh



Saturday, Nov. 19th 2-4pm for 7/8
Sunday, Nov. 20th for 9/10

Contact group leader for location. Email jtovteens@gmail.com or your group leader with any questions.

JVCorps



Thursday, November 17th
3:45-5:30 or 5:15-7pm
Amherst Survival Center

Teens can volunteer to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal at the Amherst Survival Center. Food donations are also needed. This program is sponsored by the JCA. Please contact jvcorps4teens@gmail.com if you are interested or with any questions.

The Gleaning Project



Sunday, November 6th
12:30-4:30

Drop-off/Pick-up at Whole Foods, Hadley

Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for a community service project. This is sponsored by JTOV. Register at <http://gleaning2011.eventbrite.com>. Email jtovteens@gmail.com for more information.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

This month we continue our focus on community service with our ongoing **JVCorps: Jewish Volunteer Corps for Teens** in grades 7 and above and JTOV's sponsored **Gleaning Project for 9-12th grades**. It is an opportunity to share our thanks for what we have by making a difference in our community.

We will also have a special opportunity for teens to schmooze with an Israeli emissary and learn about what it is like to be a teen in Israel and watch a

thought-provoking film. More information to come.

Lastly, we are looking for teens in grades 10 through 12 who are interested in assisting as chaperones for Dreidel Dance for the 6-9th graders. If you are interested in this event hosted by JTOV, please email jtovteens@gmail.com.

Bee Shally,
Rachael Goren-Watts
Director of Teen Programming & Coordinator of JTOV

Havurot Forming At The JCA

Are you interested in forming or joining a Havurah? A Havurah is a small group of around ten adults or small clusters of families with fixed membership that meets regularly to create deep and lasting relationships over time. Different Havurot will have different activities and emphases but will share common purposes of enriching members' Jewish lives and experiences, and deepening connections with each other and the JCA. Harvurah activities might involve commemorating Shabbat and holidays, study, acts of kindness, socializing, sharing a meal, or other activities decided upon by members. There will be meetings on January 8 and 22 where members of several existing Havurot in the JCA will discuss their experiences, where we can discuss our hopes and expectations, and where we will begin the process forming new Havurot. Also, look for an e-mail in early December that will include a link to a survey that will help the Havurah Steering Committee collect information regarding congregants' interests and priorities.

For more information, please contact
David Rabinovitz at dmrty@yahoo.com
JCA Havurah Committee

From the JRF- Online Learning

“What is Reconstructionism anyway?”

Perhaps you'd like to delve more deeply into Judaism from a Reconstructionist perspective. Or maybe you've been looking for something that can demonstrate to others what you are so excited about—a place to send that cousin who has challenged you for years with, “What is Reconstructionism, anyway?”



Many in the Reconstructionist community have been asking such questions for years. Now the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) is proud to respond with a new interactive, online course. Judaism Through a Reconstructionist Lens is a self-guided program available to anyone who wants to learn more about the movement. You can try a sample unit by visiting www.rrc.edu/distancelearning/reconlens/judaism-through-a-reconstructionist-lens-sample-unit. Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, Ph.D., RRC '82, the director of multifaith studies and initiatives at the College, guides participants through the online program.

A full year of access to the course costs \$4.95, and registration is available online only. Learn more by visiting <http://www.rrc.edu/node/1225>.

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Ever-Hale Family in honor
of Bella Jaeger becoming
a Bat Mitzvah

Ann J. Hastings in memory
of David Therrien
Fran Saed in honor of the
marriage of Susan Mosler
and Alan Peterfreund
Roger Magnus and Arielle
Schwell
Jim and Barbara Pistrang
Jim and Susan Richardson
in memory of Murray and
Rachel Frankel
Sheila and Daniel Rider
Leo and Eva Sartori
Randi Stein in honor of
Hadar Gabel and all she
does behind the scenes at
the JCA

The More Things Change,.....

by David Glassberg

Last summer I was doing historical research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California for a new book on national parks. I was looking at travel diaries written in the nineteenth century, and came across this entry from Amy T. Bridges of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, who visited a synagogue in San Francisco one Saturday morning on her way back east from Yosemite. This is part of her entry from March 21, 1887:

I was interested in watching the congregation. Hardly any of them acted as if it were a holy day and a holy place, as I should think they would being Jews. They came in all through the service and seemed to take no care to enter quietly and they gazed about them and talked even aloud as if it were a theatre and I am sure they would not do it there.

Later Bridges describes a boy reading from a scroll. After he finished reading, the boy "came down from the pulpit to his own pew, went into it, and kissed a lady sitting there, probably his mother--he seemed to secure congratulations and smiles of approval from all around--was it his entrance into a religious life?"

JCA Adult Reading Group

The 2nd meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the novel, *A Pigeon and a Boy: A Novel* by Israeli writer, Meir Shalev. It is in paperback and has received very positive reviews. Come join us; new participants are always welcome!

Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248.

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Co-president's column from page 1

almost a code word for our diversity. And a diverse community that, I think, gets along well with each other. I think many Jews can find a home here.

Others might say, "I don't know how to engage with this community". I might respond with, "You, in your struggle, are in good company". Tell others, and if there is some way you think we can help, say so.

For some, I think there is a struggle to be visible. For probably good reasons, encouragement to be visible has not been a hallmark in many Jewish families. Talk to others and ask for their support.

And the last I have is, "I don't want to take on too much". Find a place for

yourself here, take on what you want and then say no.

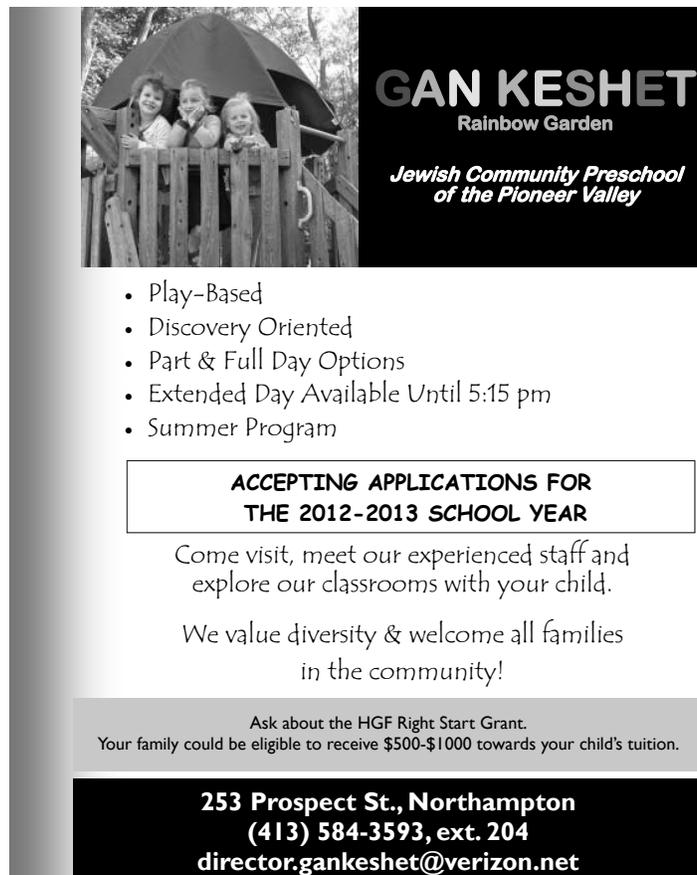
Let me take my talk to two other areas.

I say with humor and truth that part of why I want to talk about women's leadership is because I grew up with five sisters. One of the strengths of the JCA that attracted me initially was that it appeared women were fully equal in leading the services. I want to encourage women, still so visible in leading services in the JCA to take on more visible and key leadership in other areas in this congregation. I don't think it is an easy goal and there is a historical struggle that keeps sexism as an issue in Jewish congregations but I believe it is worth it for all of us and for our children.

The other is money. Money is one of the engines that keep the JCA going. I ask that your financial giving to the JCA reflect a generosity and compassion for this community.

In summation, my gratitude to the founding members who several decades ago made the JCA possible. They are a generation largely before mine; many of them have provided the leadership up until now. We need those of my generation and after to provide us with the sustained leadership in all the many ways that make this a community of so much meaning.

*b'Shalom,
Guy*



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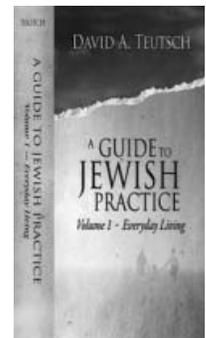
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A New Publication From The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

Based on more than seven decades of cutting-edge scholarship from the Reconstructionist movement, *A Guide to Jewish Practice* is the most comprehensive guide to enriching contemporary Jewish practice ever published. This highly readable work helps us to navigate important contemporary issues ranging from sexual ethics and gender identity to end-of-life decisions. It is an invaluable resource for crafting a personal approach to the important questions that confront us in everyday life: What are my obligations to my community? How should I handle charitable giving in a world overwhelmed by human need?



Resting on millennia of Jewish living and Torah study, *A Guide to Jewish Practice* offers us a rich, relevant and fully modern approach to Jewish tradition. It incorporates Rabbinic and medieval sources alongside approaches from Reconstructionist articles, pamphlets and position papers published since 1941, contextualized for the challenges and circumstances of the 21st century.

For more information, go to :
[http://www.rrc.edu/ethics-center/Publications/
New%20Guide%20to%20Jewish%20Practice](http://www.rrc.edu/ethics-center/Publications/New%20Guide%20to%20Jewish%20Practice)

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 December Newsletter is November 13th

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

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

PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!

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

November JCA Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be back at the JCA for the annual Day-Before-Thanksgiving Blood Drive on Wednesday November 23 from 8:30 am – 2 pm.



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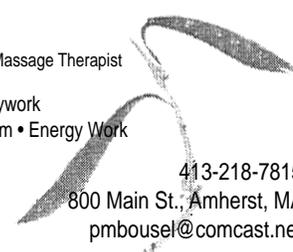
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Chesed

In memory of Beau Diamond, father of Ted Diamond
(Jane & Daniel Giat)

In memory of Beau Diamond, father of Ted Diamond
(Arnie & Reed Alper)

In memory of Beau Diamond, father of Ted Diamond
(Kitty & Ken Talan)

In memory of Beau Diamond, father of Ted Diamond
(Aaron & Patience Bousel)

Children's Scholarship Fund

Aaron & Karen Saiewitz

General Fund

In honor of Kitty Talan's 70th birthday
(Kevin & Sallie Deans Lake)

In honor of Kitty Talan's Birthday (Ted & Barbara Slovin)

In honor of Hazanit Catherine Madsen (Ilana Schmitt)

Jane Brodwyn

In memory of Beau Diamond, father of Ted Diamond
(Judy & Allen Davis)

Guidebook Donation

Norman & Eva Brown

Open Door Donations

Elissa & Bernard Rubinstein

Peter & Darcy Albanese

Norman & Eva Brown

Allen & Judy Davis

Dr. Steven & Jennifer Markow

Deb Neubauer

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of William Hecht

(Marilyn, Jeff, Jeremy & Seth Blaustein)

In memory of Dora (Dody) Goldstein, mother of Joshua
Goldstein (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In honor of the 36th anniversary of Catherine Madsen &
Sarah Thomson (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In memory of Alice Hinden, mother of Janis Wolkenbreit
(Aaron & Patience Bousel)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the 36th anniversary of Catherine Madsen &
Sarah Thomson (Robert Stern & Judy Glaser)

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

In memory of Gene Charette, father of Paul Charette
(Ted & Barbara Slovin)

In memory of Henry Slovin, father of Ted Slovin
(Ted & Barbara Slovin)

Condolences

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

Alice Hinden, mother of Janis Wolkenbreit, mother-in-law
of Steven Wolkenbreit and grandmother of Liana and
Matthew

Gene Charette, father of Paul Charette

Dora (Dody) Goldstein, mother of Joshua Goldstein, mother-
in-law of Andra Rose, grandmother of Solomon and Ruth
Goldstein-Rose

Morris (Beau) Diamond, father of Ted, father-in-law of Robin
and grandfather of Jillian, Spencer and Jordan

Mark Sawula, spouse of JCA member Andrew Rome

Joseph Segal, step-father of Lisa Pack, husband of Jacqueline
Segal and step-grandfather of Elijah and Jenna Miller

Ruth Chalfin, mother of Marge Barnett and Liz Chalfin,
mother-in-law of Sheldon Carroll and grandmother of
Rachel Barnett, Kaye Chalfin Carroll and Lee Chalfin
Carroll

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.

New or Returning Members

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

Henry Lappen

Elaan & Tracey Greenfield & children Seven & Sylvan
Daniel & Shirley Goldlust

Murray & Peggy Schwartz

Adam & Beth Ginsburg & children Matthew & Lexi

Douglas & Karen Lowing

Shari McDonald & children Tyler & Ian

Janis Levy

Celebrating Babies

Know any new babies in the community?

The JCA's Chesed and Membership Committees have
teamed up with Havurah K'tana (Little Friends Circle) to
welcome new babies into our community with a Shalom
Baby Basket.

Please contact us when you learn of families with a new
baby (JCA members or potential members).

We will stop by with a decorated basket containing a me-
norah, PJ Library book, and a card made by children in the
JCA Religious School as well as information about area Jew-
ish resources for families. We'll also bring a meal and a plate
of goodies for the family!

Please contact Ariella Schwell at ariellachef@yahoo.com
or 230-3694 or Reed Alper at reedmangels@comcast.net or
549-0438.

Community Announcements

Gan Keshet Preschool

Accepting applications for the 2012-13 school year: Gan Keshet Jewish Community Preschool of the Pioneer Valley, offers a rich, stimulating play-based indoor/outdoor learning environment. Families partner with us as we introduce our children to the Jewish community and its values. We offer full & part time options, extended day coverage, and a summer program. Remember to ask us about the HGF Right Start Grant and how you may qualify to receive from \$500 up to \$1000 towards your child's first year of tuition. For additional information about our preschool program and/or to arrange a visit, please contact our Director, Wendy Stein at 584-3593 x204.

Hadassah

Sunday, November 20, 2011, 2:00 P.M.

Congregation B'nai Israel
253 Prospect Street, Northampton

You are cordially invited to a
LITERARY CAFÉ

Members of the Pioneer Valley will read their original Stories and Poems (Be prepared to laugh and cry!)

Sponsored by

Northampton-Amherst Hadassah
For the benefit of Youth Aliyah
Co-Chairs:

Henny Lewin and Stephanie Schamess
Refreshments will be served.

For more information call 413-253-8836

Rekindle Shabbat

Make it easy to bring the Shabbat tradition into your home – sign up for Rekindle Shabbat. The program offers 2 kosher catered dinners to share with others (Jan 20 and Mar 2), a Shabbat toolkit (candles, candlesticks, wine cup) for first year participants, and an e-newsletter with program updates, event announcements, and resources. The goal of Rekindle Shabbat is to help connect Jewish families and individuals in the local Jewish community while deepening one's understanding and en-

joyment of the Shabbat experience.

Who can participate? Jewish and interfaith households living in the Pioneer Valley region with school-aged children ; couples & singles as space allows. No previous Jewish knowledge necessary. Two ways to join: Join with one or more households you already know OR ask us to match you with a buddy household in your area. Sign up at www.RekindleShabbat.org by November 15th and tell your friends! Free for first year participants and \$36 for returning households. Participation limited to 3 years and those returning for a 2nd or 3rd year are asked to join with a household NEW to the program.

Rekindle Shabbat is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts with the generous support of William and Lynn Foggie.

Yiddish Book Center

**Dr. Henry Kellerman will discuss
"Yiddish Culture in the Last Half of
the 20th Century"**

Dr. Henry Kellerman will deliver a talk at the Yiddish Book Center on November 3rd at 7 PM. The talk will focus on Kellerman's life in the Yiddish theater.

At the age of seven, in 1945, Henry Kellerman began to perform in Yiddish at shules, reading circles, and venues including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, Madison Square Garden, Manhattan Center, and the Waldorf Astoria. Kellerman's talk will provide a chronicle a of Yiddish culture in the last half of the 20th Century. Dr. Kellerman is a psychoanalyst and the author and editor of more than 20 books.

**Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi perform
a tribute concert**

"Dave Tarras, the King of Klezmer"

The Yiddish Book Center presents Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi in concert at the Yiddish Book Center on Sunday, November 6 at 2 PM.

Hot Pstromi's sound – a fusion of traditional klezmer, new Jewish music, Gypsy, Hasidic, world beat, and Balkan

– is unique and celebrated. Violinist Yale Strom is the world's leading ethnographer-artist of klezmer music, culture, and history. His prodigious klezmer research was instrumental in helping form the repertoire of Hot Pstromi.

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

Charity Knitting Project

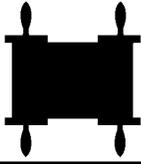
The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous launched a Charity Knitting Project for volunteers to knit and crochet scarves for aged and needy Christian men and women who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. If you are interested in making a scarf for this project, it can be dropped off at the JCA Office during office hours. For more information, please contact Goldie Keehn at 413 625-6882. or go to www.JFR.org

The Harold Grinspoon

Foundation: Open Position

The Grinspoon Institute for Jewish Philanthropy, an award-winning program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, seeks an experienced Mentor for full-time work in capacity building with Jewish nonprofit overnight camps throughout the United States.

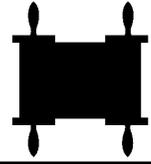
For more information: <http://www.hgf.org/About-HGF/Careers/Mentor.aspx>



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

November 2011

4 Cheshvan ~ 4 Kislev 5772



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	2 5 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	3 6 CHESHVAN 7:00pm Board Meeting	4 7 CHESHVAN 11:5:22 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and Kedusha LaTorah, Shabbat dinner for Shalom Sunday and Grades 1, 2	5 8 CHESHVAN LeCh Lecha 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study 7th Grade
6 9 CHESHVAN Daylight Savings Time Begins	7 10 CHESHVAN 7:00 pm Spirituality and Social Change	8 11 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	9 12 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	10 13 CHESHVAN	11 14 CHESHVAN 11:4:14 6:15 pm Shabbat Services Friday Night Speaker-TBD	12 15 CHESHVAN Vayera 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study 7th Grade
13 16 CHESHVAN	14 17 CHESHVAN	15 18 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	16 19 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 6:30 pm Education Committee	17 20 CHESHVAN 7:00 pm Board Meeting	18 21 CHESHVAN 11:4:08 6:15 pm Carlebach Style Service and potluck supper	19 22 CHESHVAN Chaye Sarah 10:00 am Shabbat Services Shabbat B'Yachad Program (see page 7)
20 23 CHESHVAN No JCA School	21 24 CHESHVAN	22 25 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	23 26 CHESHVAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 8:30 am Red Cross Blood Drive No JCA School	24 27 CHESHVAN Thanksgiving Day Office closed	25 28 CHESHVAN 11:4:03 Office Closed 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	26 29 CHESHVAN Toldot 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study
27 1 KISLEV Rosh Chodesh Kislev No JCA School	28 2 KISLEV	29 3 KISLEV 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	30 4 KISLEV 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation JCA School resumes for grades 3-6 7:00 pm School Committee			

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