


# jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

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## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

### CANDLE LIGHTING

March 2 ~ 5:24 pm  
March 9 ~ 5:32 pm  
March 16 ~ 6:40 pm  
March 23 ~ 6:48 pm  
March 30 ~ 6:56 pm

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**March 7 & 8**  
Purim

**March 11**  
Purim Carnival

**March 17**  
Soulful Shabbat

**March 24**  
Shabbat B'Yachad

### MEETINGS

**March 4**  
Board Meeting

### BAR MITZVAH

**March 24- 4:30 pm**  
Harry Wolff Landau



**March 7**

Family Service followed  
by Megillah Reading

**March 8**

English Megillah  
Reading and  
Brunch



**March 11**

Purim Carnival

### *Message from Co-President*

**Richard Cohen, 256-6145, ra\_cohen@msn.com**

When the month of Adar arrives it feels as if Spring is approaching. At least it did when we lived in Delaware. Adar is a month, the rabbis say, when joy increases, when the most joyous holiday of the year, Purim, is celebrated. The exhilaration of Purim belies its dire historical context. The First Temple has been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, many Jews are living in exile, and the Persians under King Ahashverosh are now in control. Ahashverosh's prime minister, Haman, is determined to exterminate the Jewish people. As we recite at the Passover seder, "in each age some have risen against us to annihilate us", and this time around it's Haman.

Haman is described in the Megillah as an Agagite, a descendent of the Amalekite kings. In early February we read in parshat Beshallah about how the Amalekites fought with the Israelites at Rephidim, shortly after the crossing of the Sea of Reeds. Despite the 600,000 armed Israelite men, the outcome of the battle was far from certain. Whenever Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed, and when he let them down, Amalek prevailed. Ultimately, Aaron and Hur supported Moses's hands, and Joshua overwhelmed the Amalekites. But the Amalekites are not simply the first enemy of Israel after the flight from Egypt. They are much worse than that. As described in Deuteronomy 25:18, Amalek "surprised you [the Israelites] on the march, when you were famished and weary, and cut down all the stragglers in your rear." Because of the particularly reprehensible conduct of the Amalekites, God commands the Israelites to "blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!" Later, the Amalekites prove to be a thorn in the side of both King Saul and King David. It is not until the reign of King Hezekiah (715-687 BCE) that the last surviving Amalekites are destroyed, as related in I Chronicles 4:43. Later, the Amalekites come to represent the

implacable enemies of of Israel, such as Haman and later Hitler

Putting aside the unfortunate history of the Amalekites, for many years I was baffled by the paradoxical statement about remembering to forget Amalek. My present interpretation of this paradox (I'm continuing to grapple with it) is that God, on the one hand, is warning us to remember the danger that Amalek and its successors through the generations have posed to the existence of the Jewish people, to be ever vigilant and protect ourselves from those who would do us harm. Today, as in the past, existential threats are more than theoretical when we hear the words of Ahmadinejad or Hamas. So if the Jewish people is to survive as a nation, we need to continue remembering, continue being alert to the dangers facing us and defending ourselves appropriately.

On the other hand, God commands us to blot out the memory of Amalek, to forget Amalek. I believe this means that we must not be obsessed with the risks, albeit very real, confronting us. Given our often tragic history, it would be easy to descend into paranoia, to allow the threats of the Amaleks of this world to dominate our thinking, our concerns and our daily life. We must not let Amalek define who we are as a people. So to that extent, we must forget Amalek, or at least keep Amalek in perspective. After all, Judaism at its core is a religion that affirms life and the joy in living. Ultimately, we need a balance between remembering the real threats to the Jewish people in order to ensure our safety and preservation, and forgetting or maintaining a perspective on evil so that we do not allow it to define us. When we wear costumes on Purim, we are choosing to define our identity in an affirmative way, and not by reference to our enemies.

*continued on page 9*

**March 2012**

**Adar/Nisan 5772**

**Vol. 11, Issue No. 3**

## 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: Richard Cohen** (256-6145)

**Eli Kwartler** (253-2929)

**Co-First Vice Presidents: Eva Rosenn** (549-6672)

To be announced

**Second Vice President: Michael Burkart** (256-8139)

**Third Vice President: To be announced**

**Treasurer: Jonathan Shefftz** (256-1101)

### Members:

Maryann Barakso, Marcia Black, Robert Brainin, Molly Goren-Watts,  
 Oran Kaufman, Fred Levine, Margaret Mastrangelo,  
 Sara Schley, Andra Rose, Sarah Thomson, Phil Weilerstein,  
 Janis Wolkenbreit, Guy Wood, William Zimmer

**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 April issue is March 12th**

March 2012, Vol. 11, Issue No. 3

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@gmail.com

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***



If you can remember back to Yom Kippur, and were paying attention at the time, you may recall that I gave my Kol Nidre talk on the relationship between Yom Kippur and Purim, arguing for the presence of an unexpected gaiety at the heart of the most solemn day of the year. With Purim coming around this month, I want to offer the counterargument that there is something serious lurking beneath our early spring frivolity.

I find the idea of masks very compelling. When I mull over this concept in my mind, I think of a few things. One is a line from T. S. Eliot's *The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock*: "There will be time, there will be time/to prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet." Another is a notion from William Butler Yeats (look, I have two degrees in literature, get used to it...). Yeats suggested that masks, rather than merely being instruments of dissimulation, were actually tools for the focusing of power and intention. A human being is a vague concatenation of impulses and whims until he or she 'isolates character with a deed', takes a face from the ancient gallery and acts with singular purpose.

Purim is, of course, our holiday of masks; the Jewish day--analogous to similar days across the spectrum of world culture--on which we play, prank, and dress-up, tipping over the sacred with the first giddy stirrings of spring. The story of Esther is remarkably suited to be the text for such a holiday, with its absurd reversals and vaudevillian cast of characters. But, in two particular passages, it also offers profound commentary on what it can mean to wear a costume or a mask.

The first comes in the form of the title character, a beautiful woman who, from the moment we encounter her, must take the time to prepare a face to meet the faces that she meets. Her drama resides in the effort to keep a mask held close to her face. Her emergence as a heroine happens precisely at the moment that she lets it fall crashing to the floor, revealing a fullness of character that no one mask could encapsulate.

The other lesson comes to us through Mordechai. We may recall the part of the story where he dresses up in the king's clothing, and is led on horseback through the streets by his archenemy. He also wears a costume at another time, putting on the sackcloth of mourning and wailing in public when he learns of the decree against the Jews. But this is a Yeats-variety mask, used by Mordechai to express a singularity of purpose so blunt and blatant that it terrifies his niece Esther, who pulls him in off the street, at which point he wrings a bargain from her: "I'll take off my mask and start pretending again, if you take off yours and stop!"

The seriousness of Purim is that it is the day on which we most acutely acknowledge our mask wearing. It may be all in fun, or it may be that the plastic face we put on for the occasion leads us to some profound realization about the flesh face we prepare every morning. Either way, the intent is to overthrow the world.

*b'shalom,*  
*Rabbi Weiner*

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***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](mailto:pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com)  
 Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, [allset22@verizon.net](mailto:allset22@verizon.net)

### RELIGION CALENDAR

#### Shabbat Zachor, Parashat Tetzaveh *Exodus 27:20-30:10*

##### March 2, Friday

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper  
 Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

##### March 3, Saturday

10:00 AM

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



#### Purim

(see page 9 for more information)

##### March 7, Wednesday

5:00-6:30 PM

Community Education Program

6:30-7:15 PM

Purim Story and Family Service

7:15 PM

Megillah reading, shpiel, and service

##### March 8, Thursday

11:30 AM

English Megillah Reading and brunch. (adults only)



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

##### March 9, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

##### March 10, Saturday

9:15-10:30 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

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

1:00 PM

Torah Study



#### 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.

#### Shabbat Parah, Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudey *Exodus 35:1-40:38, Numbers 19:1-22*

##### March 16, Friday

6:15 PM

Farbrengen Friday (see next page)  
 Service Leader: To be announced

##### March 17, Saturday

10:00 AM

Soulful Shabbat in the small sanctuary (see next page)

10:00 AM

Regular Shabbat Service in the main sanctuary  
 Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner  
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



#### Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Nisan, Shabbat HaChodesh, Parashat Vayikra *Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Numbers 28:9-15, Exodus 12:1-20*

##### March 23, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leaders: Rabbi Ezra Weinberg & Rabbi Weiner

##### March 24, Saturday

#### Shabbat B'Yachad (see page 8)

9:00-10:15 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leaders: Rabbi Ezra Weinberg & Rabbi Weiner & the  
 Shabbat B'Yachad Band  
 D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

4:30 PM

Minchah Service  
 Bar Mitzvah: Harry Wolff Landau



#### Shabbat Hagadol, Parashat Tzav *Leviticus 6:1-8:36*

##### March 30, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

##### March 31, Saturday

10:00 AM

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



## ***Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors***

### **February 11-**

Cheryl Zoll and Eric Sawyer, in honor of their daughter Lydia becoming Bat Mitzvah

### **March 10-**

Dyan Wiley, on the occasion of the yahrzeit of her mother Lucille K. Wiley

### **March 31-**

Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein, on the occasion of the yahrzeit of Elissa's father Sidney T Sway

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

### **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!!

### ***Chumashim***

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.

## ***New Motives in Jewish Prayer, in the Post-Denominational Age***

--a shabbat of davenning and learning with Rabbi Ezra Weinberg

Romemu, Bnai Jeshurun, Hadar: Elite communities or places where prayer works?

Come get a taste of the kinds of prayer that are energizing hundreds of people and making people hungry and curious to connect to G-d via tefila. Come spend a Shabbat with Reb Ezra Weinberg, former JCANick and affiliated as a Ba'al Tefila /prayer leader in a variety of settings in the Jewish world. If you are curious about the kinds of settings that the next generation of engaged Jews might find themselves, come participate and reflect as we co-create a few different prayer spaces over the course of a Shabbat and help to figure out what kind of flavors of davening do we want to consider as we continue to evolve.

### ***Soulful Shabbat***

Please join Sara Schley and Felicia Mednick this Shabbat morning, Saturday March 17th, at 10 AM in the small sanctuary at the JCA as we co-create a Soulful Shabbat: chanting, contemplative prayer and Torah service. Though central to the experience, chanting is not the goal of this practice, but rather a vehicle for accelerating our connection with the Divine. We follow the structure of the Shabbat morning service including traditional prayers and Torah. What is different is the use and experience of chanting, contemplation, and dialogue to arrive, via a Jewish path, to sacred states of consciousness. We're delighted to share this time with you!

### ***First Friday Evening Family Service***

Please join us on Friday March 2nd 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.

### ***Farbrengen Fridays:***

The Kabbalat Shabbat ("Welcoming the Sabbath") service formerly known as the "Carlebach Service", is now "Farbrengen Friday."

With this name change, we are both clarifying and enhancing the original mission of the "Carlebach Service", and developing it into a full Shabbat evening of song, Torah, and celebration, taking place at the JCA on the third Friday night of every month.

The tradition of a farbrengen, a joyous gathering for melody and learning in honor of holy Jewish time, comes out of Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidism. The JCA's farbrengen will begin with a Kabbalat Shabbat service in which we emphasize the singing of, and absorption in, Jewish liturgical music over and above excessive words of orientation and explanation--something that can captivate the spirit even if you don't happen to be an expert in this music.

Following the service, we will have a potluck supper, and as we sit around sharing our Shabbat meal, we will sing zemirot and niggunim, (songs and wordless melodies) and invite people to offer words of Torah and wisdom, and maybe even explore other ways to experience our creativity in celebration of Shabbat.

We hope you will join us in the evolution of this program.

### ***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.net** (for reading in April)

**Ruth Love Barer, 253-4923, ruthlove7@hotmail.com** (for reading in May)

### ***Can You Lead Shabbat Torah Study?***

Does the idea of leading one of our Shabbat Torah study sessions intrigue you? If you would like to lead a session, please contact Rabbi Weiner. If you're not sure that you can do this, Rabbi Weiner can help you get started.

We meet for an hour on Shabbat following kiddush (~1:00 pm) twice a month and welcome new voices to the discussion.

**Education News**

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



**Puttin’ on Purim**

**Laughter & Merriment in the Month of Adar**

Prepare for Purim at our Community Education sponsored evening just prior to megillah reading on Wednesday, March 7 – from 5:00-6:30 create a shpeil to share, make a mask, box some treats for mishloach manot, make a grogger, and have some pizza. Next it is time to join the costume parade and family service at 6:30pm. By 7:15, Hear the Megillah/The Scroll of Esther.

\* **The PURIM CARNIVAL** is Sunday morning, March 11 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Teachers & teens will be hosting games and activities designed by students. Cost is \$5/child, \$10/family. Attendees in costume, who bring Box Tops for Education, or who bring a food donation for the Survival Center get a “shekel” towards prizes. Refreshments sold separately. Parents or an adult are asked to accompany all children.

\***Mishloach Manot/Sharing Portions:** We will have baskets to raffle off to raise money for the school. Students in each grade have a theme for their baskets (e.g. Shabbat, recreation, travel, kitchen). Tickets can be bought the evening of the megillah reading or during the carnival (then raffle drawing at noon).

**Toolbox for Teachers and Mentors:**

**Moving Madrichim to Mentor Teachers and Beyond**

Times are changing and how do we change with them? One approach is to help our students and their families through stronger teaching. To do that, the **Partnership for Effective Learning and Innovative Education (PELIE)** has funded a course sponsored and administered through the auspices of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, that guides participants through a new range of tools that enhance “In-Service” teacher training. The class is seven weeks of webinars and assignments, undertaken by Director of Lifelong Learning, **Jody Rosenbloom** along with 20 other Reconstructionist, Reform and Conservative affiliated educators and principals in Jewish supplementary schools from across the United States. The tools span two categories, one a review of lesson planning philosophies and the second, an introduction to the use of technology (Gmail, Moodle, Skype, Facebook, Google Docs) to build learning communities of practice. The direct application of this work will begin with a joint teacher training for staff of the upper valley synagogue schools on Sunday, March 25, in collaboration with Rabbi Charney Flame Selch of Congregation B’nai Israel.

**From Strength to Strength - Shabbat B’Yachad #3 Saturday, March 24 with Rabbi Ezra Weinberg**

We are on a roll – In November & February, each Shabbat B’Yachad with over 125 attendees of all different ages participating in Shabbat yoga, services, making music and creatively engaged in Torah study - In March we will have the pleasure of welcoming Ezra Weinberg, now a rabbi, to lead us in song and prayer. Come celebrate Shabbat together with the whole family. (see page 8)

**From People to Purpose:**

**Changing Patterns of Jewish Engagement**

A delegation from the JCA is planning to join representatives from other synagogues in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut in an evening with Professor Steven M. Cohen. The session will focus on his research of emerging forms of Jewish community, engagement and identity, among younger Jews in the U.S. Professor Cohen will explore in what ways younger Jews are both less and more engaged in the Jewish community – and look at how this research can inform our challenges and the responses we choose in helping syna-

*continued on next page*

**Calendar**

Fri, Mar. 2	Intergenerational Family & Tot Shabbat Services at 5:30 pm, followed by a vegetarian potluck supper Special Guests: Households with 3rd & 4th graders
Sun, Mar. 4	The B'nai Mitzvah Timeline. For the parents of 5th graders from 10:15-11:15 am.
Wed, Mar. 7	Classes in session 4-5:30. 5-6:30 Community Education – Purim Preparation 6:30 Purim Family Service, Megillah Reading & Costume Parade
Fri, Mar. 9	7th Grade Shabbat Dinner at the Baron-Silvern household
Sun, Mar. 11	Daylight Savings Time Change Purim Carnival 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Sun, Mar. 18	Shabbat Shalom class B'tzelem Elohim group meeting
Sat, Mar. 24	Required: Shabbat B’Yachad (see flyer page 8)
Sun, Mar. 25	No class – Teacher Training Day

*continued from previous page*

gogues and Jewish educational programs plan for the future. Professor Steven Cohen is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at HUC-JIR.

### **Thank You To:**

- **Madeleine Charney** for her musical accompaniment and **Leah Mosimann** for her help with February's Tot Shabbat.
- **Hadar Grabel** for the laptop that will help us in the office and school.
- **Ronnie Williams** for ribbons & wrapping paper to be recycled as art projects.
- **The Benvenuto household** for books.

### **JCA Adult Reading Group**

The 3rd meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the novel, *Heir to the Glimmering World* by Cynthia Ozick. 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.

### **Visual Arts Committee**

The Visual Arts Committee announces that the Hall Gallery will be joining the Amherst Art Walk on the first Thursday of April to open the exhibit of Tamar Shadur and her mother, Yehudit Shadur to the larger Amherst community. Our intention is to do this with each new show. Our artists exhibit for 3 months at a time so we will tie in with the Art Walk accordingly, once every 3 months. The committee will be on hand to discuss the work with those that venture down this far on Main Street and we will be included in the Daily Hampshire Gazette's art listings. Look for information about the April 5th event. We have such a talented congregation that sharing the Gallery's exhibits seems like a logical next step.

*Co-President's Column, continued from page 1*

A deeper understanding of the evil of Amalek arises from Gematria (Hebrew numerology). The letter values of the name "Amalek" equal 240. The letter values of the Hebrew word for doubt, *safek*, also equal 240. Coincidence? The sages thought not. They have taught that Amalek represents the quality of doubt. In that respect, we all have an element of Amalek in us that must be overcome. With doubt can come passivity, a reluctance to act, coldness and ultimately evil. An absence of the passion that Judaism requires. Rather, we need to strive for faith in God's creation, and the optimism, energy and joy that is essential to *tikkun olam*.

It is that optimism, energy and joy that is embodied in the holiday of Purim. And if it takes alcohol to achieve the desired mental state, so be it. As the Talmud quotes Rava in tractate Megillah, "A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he does not know the difference between 'cursed be Haman' and 'blessed be Mordechai.'" Rabbi Schneur Zalman (1745-1812), founder of Chabad Chassidism, remarked that "Even if all the festivals become obsolete, Purim will remain. In the Messianic era, the joy and tranquility of the festivals will be like that of a candle in the light of day. Yet even in that spiritually advanced climate, the loftiness of Purim will still be something to celebrate." So don that costume, lift a glass of schnapps (or two), watch a Purim shpiel and embrace the joys, optimism and energy of Purim. And be sure to remember to blot out the memory of Haman, the Amalekite, with the loudest grogger you can find.

*b'Shalom,  
Richard*

### **Mornings Go Better with Dean's Beans Coffee**

Are you ordering your coffee through the JCA? If not, why not start now? We offer Dean's Beans fair trade organic coffee at a great price and the profit goes directly to support the JCA School. Season 6 is in full swing and we're (hopefully) free of holiday and weather-related disruptions. We offer a variety of blends and can special order any blend that Dean's Beans offers—cocoa and Java Drops, too!! If you've been meaning to help support this great fundraiser there's no better time than the present. We look forward to keeping you well supplied



Please be sure to get your orders and payments in on time!

Order due dates: 2/26/12 4/1/12 4/29/12

Pick up on/after: 3/2/12 4/6/12 5/4/12

Visit the JCA website for the order form or contact [wildchildtiedyes@comcast.net](mailto:wildchildtiedyes@comcast.net) 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**

# JOIN TOGETHER FOR SHABBAT B'YACHAD #3

with Special Guest Rabbi Ezra Weinberg

Rabbi Weinberg is currently serving as the rabbi to Mishkan Ha'am in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. He served a rabbinic internship at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (BJ) in NYC. He is also the son of Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg and was the JCA Teen Advisor in the late 1990s.

## Saturday, March 24, 2012

*Parashat Vayikra*

\*For households with children in JCA School, this program is in place of JCA School on Sunday, March 25.

At the Jewish Community of Amherst

A Shabbat where we all come together

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

**9:00-10:15**

Shabbat Yoga with Corinne Andrews in the Social Hall/Bring your own mat

**10:00-10:45**

**Services Together**

Led by Rabbi Weiner with Rabbi Ezra Weinberg and  
Cara Silverberg, Av Harris and friends

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

**10:45—12:00**

~~A Taste of Torah Study—*hevruta*/partnered study with  
Rabbi Weiner & Rabbi Ezra Weinberg

**Mini-Sessions 10:45-11:20 & 11:25-12:00**

~~Storytelling, Art Midrash, Meditation & Movement

**12:00-12:30**

**Conclude Services Together**



## Followed by a POTLUCK Shabbat Meal

Including 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.

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





# BE HAPPY—IT'S ADAR CELEBRATE PURIM AT THE JCA!



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

“GET YOUR PURIM ON” COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

5:00-6:30PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Make a grogger, design a mask, prepare your shpeil, enjoy a pizza dinner, and get ready for the...

PURIM STORY AND FAMILY SERVICE

6:30-7:15PM

Bring your own grogger, noisemaker, or box of macaroni to shake!

We will start with a costume parade, read the megillah, and do some shpeiling.

THE WHOLE MEGILLAH

7:15PM

Megillah reading primarily in Hebrew for adults. Bring your schnapps.

## ENGLISH MEGILLAH READING



THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 11:30AM

Adult study session and brunch.



## ANNUAL PURIM CARNIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

10:30AM-12:30PM

Dress like a queen, twirl a grogger, nibble a hamantasch!

Playful and educational activity booths for ages 3-12. Attendees who come in costume, bring Box Tops for Education, or bring food for the Amherst Survival Center will receive an extra shekel for prizes.

**\$5/child or \$10/family\***

Refreshments available at additional cost. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

### PURIM BASKET RAFFLE

Raffle Baskets assembled by the JCA School.

**Raffle tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5\*.**

Tickets on sale during school hours, on Wednesday, March 7 and at the Purim Carnival.

Baskets on display Wednesday, March 7 at the Megillah Reading.

Drawing at the Purim Carnival at noon.

For more information, contact The Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst, 413-256-0160 or [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org)

\*All proceeds go to JCA Children's Fund

## ***Trader Joe's and The Coalition of Immokalee Workers Sign Fair Food Agreement***

The Fair Food Agreement is a groundbreaking approach to social responsibility in the US produce industry that combines the Fair Food Code of Conduct with a small price premium to help improve harvesters' wages.


**THE JCA WAS PART OF THIS VICTORY!!!**

Thank you to all those who signed letters to Trader Joe's on Human Rights Shabbat

## ***JCA Auction- 2012***

**WE NEED YOU!** Calling one and all - please help with the JCA's Grand Auction! The Auction is a FUN fundraiser and a very important one for us. To pull it off we will need many volunteers for many different types of tasks. You can volunteer to do a little or a lot - anything from helping with a mailing to creating the catalog to helping on the night of the event.

Please email Volunteer Coordinator Marcia Black at [marciablack@comcast.net](mailto:marciablack@comcast.net) or Auction Coordinator Maryann Barakso at [m.a.barakso@gmail.com](mailto:m.a.barakso@gmail.com). They will tell you more how you can meet great people and support the JCA by participating in this event.



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## ***JCA Member News***

**Solomon Goldstein-Rose**, a JCA School alum and current ARHS senior, was appointed to the Amherst and Regional School Committees in February to fill a vacancy for 2 months. His election was the topic of several articles and an editorial in the Gazette and Bulletin. At age 18 and 2 months, he is apparently the youngest elected official in Massachusetts, possibly in state history.

Solomon is the son of Joshua Goldstein and JCA Board member Andra Rose, and brother of Ruth (better known as Fred). He was already a familiar character to School Committee members and school administrators for his advocacy about the elementary instrumental program, High School electives, and bus idling in front of schools.

With his friend and JCA classmate, Josh Wolfsun, Solomon attended every town and regional school meeting two years ago during a contentious budget battle. For years, Josh has led the campaign for student representation in School Committee decisions. Solomon hopes his election and service will help that effort.

## ***Create Your Jewish Legacy...***

### ***What will be your legacy?***

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

### ***...through a gift in Your Estate***

To learn more, please contact  
David Sharken, chair of JCA's  
Ldor Vdor committee at  
413.297.5500 or  
[ledorvador@j-c-a.org](mailto:ledorvador@j-c-a.org)  
or go to  
[www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org](http://www.jewishlegacywesternmass.org)



**Leave a  
Jewish Legacy**

**From JCA Volunteer Coordinator Marcia Black  
413-256-4715, or at [marciablack@comcast.net](mailto:marciablack@comcast.net).**

*In Pirkei Avot, we read, that Shimon HaTzaddik used to say,  
On three things the world stands.  
On Torah,  
On service [of God],  
And on acts of loving kindness.*

**Acts of loving-kindness.... Will you volunteer to help members of the JCA?**

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in his book **To Heal a Fractured World**, writes that in the diaspora, “Hessed in its many forms became synonymous with Jewish life and one of the pillars on which it stood. ...Jews performed kindnesses to one another because it was ‘the way of God’ .... It provided an access to grace in dark times....Through hessed, Jews humanized fate as once..... God’s hessed had humanized the world. (To Heal a Fractured World, pp. 49-50).

Our **Chesed Committee** helps those in need by delivering meals, arranging for rides, and visiting the sick. This is unsung work that goes on night and day to help members of our community who are ill stay connected to the larger community. From this connection, arises hope and optimism in the face of life’s challenges. Can you join in this work? Join the committee, or commit to making a meal a month, or being on call for transportation ..... whatever you can offer will be greatly appreciated. The Chesed Committee chair rotates each month. For the month of March please email Kitty Talan at [ktalan@comcast.net](mailto:ktalan@comcast.net).

The Chesed Committee is restarting a **Bikur Cholim** working-group, which

will include study regarding Jewish approaches to visiting the sick, skill-building in spiritual direction, as well as visits to people who are ill at home and in the hospital. Please email Marcia Black at [marciablack@comcast.net](mailto:marciablack@comcast.net) if you would like to become involved with the Bikur cholim working-group.

**Darkhei shalom..... Will you volunteer to help our neighbors?**

Our tradition asks us to bring acts of loving-kindness to those who are not Jewish as well as those who are Jewish, and teaches that these are the ‘ways of peace,’ darkhei shalom. The JCA is involved in these ways of peace through **Not Bread Alone**, the Cot Shelter **Craig’s Door**, and an ongoing food collection for the **Survival Center**.

Volunteers are needed this month at **Craig’s Door**. **Craig’s Door** is open 7 nights a week at the 1st Baptist Church in Amherst. Our work is to help prepare, serve and clean up a dinner meal and help to get the cots and other items set up. Men and women over age 18 are welcome to volunteer. It is a very direct way to give back; we join with other members of local faith communities to do so. We need 2 JCA volunteers/night for one week a month. We work with paid staff & other volunteers. We have signed up for the weeks of March 12-18th and April 23rd-29th, 9-11PM

You can sign up at this link: <http://jcavolunteers.pleasebringit.com/public/5OM+o70wI5c>. No need to join or create a login. Sign up with your name only; if you add an email you will get a reminder. You can see who else

has signed up- sign up with a friend or partner! Who knows maybe you will need to sign up in a hurry, all slots will be filled. Hwei Ling Greeney coordinates much of the effort, she says if more than two people want to come on a given night, she can always put us to work. Questions? email Amy at [amy@nesh.com](mailto:amy@nesh.com)

**Study is one of the pillars on which the world stands.....**

The School Committee is organizing the Purim Carnival again this year, and is looking for **VOUNTEERS** to help out. People can contact Lisa Blain at [blains@comcast.net](mailto:blains@comcast.net). For each grade, a parent is needed to coordinate the Purim Basket for the annual raffle. This involves collecting donations from the class as per a theme, putting it all into a decorated “basket”. The School Committee is also looking for **NEW MEMBERS** to help Jody R. craft a survey to help the next visioning process, and engage with discussion of class dynamics, teacher support, programming, logistics of the school, making connections with the larger congregation. - please contact Deborah if you are interested!!! Please contact Deborah Evans at [bcdevans@comcast.net](mailto:bcdevans@comcast.net)

**Todah rabah....thank you!!**

The Scholar-in-Residence Committee brought us Nigel Savage, founder of Hazon, in January. We were fed nourishing ideas and food throughout this weekend. Savage’s topic was “Environment, Food & Sustainability through

*continued on next page*

 <p><b>AARON BOUSEL PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL</b> piano &amp; harpsichord technicians tuning • repairs • regulation voice (413) 253-3846 fax 187 Heatherstone Road Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638 <a href="mailto:abousel@comcast.net">abousel@comcast.net</a></p>  <p>REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN</p>	 <p><b>Choose our catering team to create a mitzvah!</b></p> <p>Our team of experienced caterers has a different take on special events!</p> <p>We donate 80% of our fee to Project Rehovot and 20% to the JCA</p> <p><b>We excel in Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Jewish Cuisine!</b></p> <p>*we use high quality food for weddings, Bar and Bat mitzvahs, Garden Parties, Banquets and other events in your home or another location; attractive floral arrangements on every table</p> <p>For sample menus and price quotes contact Karen Loeb at: phone: 413-253-0336 Email: <a href="mailto:kloeb@comcast.net">kloeb@comcast.net</a></p>
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Torah” - a topic that continues to be discussed by JCA members as we think about ways to follow-up on this weekend.

**Todah rabah** to the entire SIR Committee: Barbara Burkart, Michael Chernoff, Margaret Mastangelo, Judith Souweine, Ronnie Williams, Fay Zipkowitz. Many other JCA members helped the SIR committee, including Aaron Bousel, Karen Loeb and Project Rehovot, and others. Local farms also donated healthy, organic food: Australis Aquaculture, Mountain View Farm, Simple Gifts Farm, Swartz Farm, and Wheatberry. Thank you to all!

THANKS go to Danielle Barshak and Gabe Kaufman, Robyn Miller and

Gabrielle Holme Miller, Steve, Donna and Nathan Silvern, Lydia Sawyer, Cheryl and Cody Edgerly, Hollie Kalkstein and Susan Reisman for helping out at Not Bread Alone in January. Devorah Jacobson organizes the volunteers. Thank you Devorah!

THANKS go to Jaymie and Michael Chernoff, Paul Herscu and Amy Rothenberg, Robin and Ted Diamond, Deb Neubauer, Eric Delisle and Devorah Jacobson for helping out at **Craig's Door**. Amy Rothenberg organizes the volunteers. Thank you Amy!

THANKS go to Stacy Tobin and Reed and Arnie Alper for **newsletter** help. Thanks to Fay Zipkowitz and Joan Rabin for help in the **office**.

THANKS go to Amy Rothenberg,

Danielle Barshak, Ariella Schwell, Christine Benvenuto, Marilyn Kushick for making extra meals for **Chesed** this month.

THANK YOU to Madeleine Charney for her musical accompaniment and Leah Mosimann for her help with February's **Tot Shabbat**.

And todah rabah to all the volunteers on committees, and all the people who help out behind-the-scenes who weren't mentioned - the JCA wouldn't run without you! For a full list of Committee members, check out the JCA website. If you know someone who deserves a thank you, **please** let Marcia Black, JCA Volunteer coordinator know, so we can thank them in the next newsletter.

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# Camp Shemesh Registration is NOW OPEN!

**Dates:**

July 2 – August 10

6 one-week sessions for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades

3 two-week sessions for 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade



**PLUS! August 13-17: 5-day Adventure Trip Camp for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders**

A series of day trips to rock climb, paddle, hike and more! With a one-night campout.

*A collaboration of Camp Shemesh and JCA Teens. Registration details soon.*

**Visit [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org) for more information on age-specific programming and our enhanced leadership development program!**

Download registration forms at [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org). Partial scholarships are available through generous grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the JCA.

*Financial hardship should not deter anyone from applying to camp.*

**Save the date! SHEMESH DAY on Sunday, April 15** at the JCA with a sleepover for 6th graders and older. Teens welcome to attend as madrichim and learn about the enhanced Bonim (CIT) program.

\*\*\*\*\*

For questions regarding registration and scholarships contact:

Camp Registrar Eric Delisle at [edassist@j-c-a.org](mailto:edassist@j-c-a.org) or 413-256-0160 x250 (voice message line only).

For questions regarding camp programming contact:

Camp Director Cara Michelle Silverberg at [shemeshdirector@gmail.com](mailto:shemeshdirector@gmail.com).

*Camp Shemesh is a program of the Jewish Community of Amherst.*

### ***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

#### **Richard Cohen**

Agendas  
Beit Shalom  
Building & Grounds  
Chesed  
Chevra Kadisha  
Education & School  
Camp Shemesh  
Fundraising  
High Holidays Planning  
Ritual Life  
Shomerim  
Tikkun Olam

#### **Eli Kwartler**

Administration  
Cemetery  
Finance  
L'Dor v'Dor  
Membership  
Nominating  
Leadership  
Personnel  
World Jewish Concerns

### ***Volunteers Needed for Cot Shelter***

The JCA has agreed to help volunteer staff the local cot shelter. **THE HOURS are 9-11 PM only, it is not an overnight.** Craig's Door is open 7 nights a week at the 1st Baptist Church in Amherst. Our work is to help prepare, serve and clean up a dinner meal and help to get the cots and other items set up. Men and women over age 18 are welcome to volunteer. It is a very direct way to give back; we join with other members of local faith communities to do so. We need 2 JCA volunteers/night for one week a month. We work with paid staff & other volunteers. We have signed up for the weeks March 12-18th and April 23rd-29th, 9-11PM.

If you have questions email me, otherwise, just go to this web address & sign up:

<http://jcavolunteers.pleasebringit.com/public/5OM+o70wI5c>

No need to join or create a login. Sign up with your name only; if you add an email you will get a reminder. You can see who else has signed up- sign up with a friend or partner! Who knows maybe you will need to sign up in a hurry, all slots will be filled. Hwei Ling Greeney coordinates much of the effort, she says if more than two people want to come on a given night, she can always put us to work.

Questions? email me at [amy@nesh.com](mailto:amy@nesh.com) Amy Rothenberg

### ***Thank You For Your Generous Donations To Project Rehovot***

Tom Butler and Jody Wax in memory of Stanley Wax  
Yaffa Gunner in memory of Mary Levy  
Bernie and Elissa Rubinstein

### ***Don't Forget The Food Collection Box***

As you enter the JCA, between the outside and lobby doors, there is a food collection box. The next time you're going shopping, why not pick up a few extra non-perishable items for the box. Items will be delivered to The Amherst Survival Center.

### ***The Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 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](mailto:news@j-c-a.org) 253-3544



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# JCA SECOND SEDER led by Rabbi Weiner Saturday, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2012



**Place:** JCA Social Hall      **Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Price:** Members - \$32 for adults; \$22 for children 8-12 (under 8 free)  
 Non-Members - \$40 for adults; \$30 for children 8-12 (under 8 free)

**Payment MUST be included with your reservation and is non-refundable**  
**The Seder is open to all regardless of ability to pay. Please contact Paul Charette in confidence before sending the registration if you need to pay a lower amount**  
**pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com (860)-559-4926.**

Please indicate your entrée selection. Complete menu will be posted later.

**NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER TUESDAY, APRIL 3rd**  
**We exceeded capacity last year – please respond now to ensure a space.**  
**Food is Kosher for Pesach under JCA Kashrut standards, chicken is certified Kosher. Prepared on premises, not mashgiach supervised.**

## JCA SECOND SEDER REGISTRATION

Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a note if you have specific dietary restrictions. We regret we cannot promise to accommodate all restrictions but we can inform you of ingredients. No peanuts used.

**Make Checks Payable to JCA. Write “Second Seder” on memo.**  
**Mail to 742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002**

<u>Members</u>	CHICKEN	FISH	VEGAN	# Seats		Line Cost
ADULT					x \$32	
Child 8-12					x \$22	
Child Under 8					x 0	
<u>Non-Members</u>						
ADULT					x \$40	
Child 8-12					x \$30	
Child Under 8					x 0	
			# IN PARTY:		TOTAL:	

## Donations

### Combined Building & Annual Fund Campaign

In honor of our new Rabbi, Benjamin Weiner  
(Alexander & Diane Chajes)  
Daniel & Jane Giat  
In memory of Ellie & Milton Grossman (Nancy Grossman)  
In memory of Beatrice Kellman (Alan & Brenda Kellman)  
In memory of Rosalyn & Barney Ash  
(Michael Ash & Krista Harper)  
Lewis & Caden Mainzer  
Guy Wood  
Thomas Hidas & Linda Robinson Hidas  
Maryann Barakso  
John Clayton & Sharon Dunn  
Jennifer Holme & Robyn Miller  
Jonathan Shefftz & Andrea Newman  
In memory of our parents: Harold, Estelle & Anna  
(Judi & Kip Fonsh)  
In memory of Joe Schneider  
(Rachael & Molly Goren-Watts)  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Clay & Joanna Ballantine)  
Burt Franzman & Joan Epstein  
Harry & Mara Hahn  
Bill & Marcia Zimmer  
Robert Magnus & Ariella Schwell  
Richard Cohen & Eliza Gouverneur  
John Stothoff & Mallorie Chernin  
In memory of Lee Hoffman, husband of Karen and  
father of Alexandra (Karen Hoffman)  
Fay Zipkowitz  
Arnold Friedmann  
In memory of Ruth Levenson and Louis Seidman  
(Linda & Irv Seidman)  
Michael & Jaymie Chernoff  
Richard & Alison Ellis  
Jim Seltzer & Holly Perry

### General Fund

Janis Wolkenbreit  
In memory of Steven Tabor (Beth Lev)  
In memory of Elle Wolff, Tom Wolff's mother  
(Norman & Eva Brown)

In memory of Paul Charette's parents  
(Norman & Eva Brown)  
Mathew Jacobson  
Theresa Sandle  
In honor of our daughter, Lydia Jasmine Sawyer, becoming  
a Bat Mitzvah (Eric Sawyer & Cheryl Zoll)  
Julius & Marilyn Gundersheim

### Oneg/Kiddush in Honor of Sara & Sy Berger

Michael & Barbara Burkart  
Ronnie & Michael Bulman  
Lisa Pack  
Catherine Madsen & Sarah Thomson  
Michael & Jaymie Chernoff  
In honor of Sy & Sara Berger and wish them a good  
adjustment to their new life in California  
(Bob & Jeanne Potash)  
Elissa Rubinstein  
Lewis & Caden Mainzer  
Kathy & Bob Feldman  
Robert Stern & Judy Glaser  
Hannah Blau  
Judy & Allen Davis

### Parents Association

Judy Davis

### Prayerbook Fund

Anna Treston  
In memory of Fay Katz (Anita Page)  
In honor of Nathan Baron Silvern, our grandson on  
becoming Bar Mitzvah (Chana & Michael Baron)  
In honor of and in gratitude to Rabbi Benjamin Weiner  
for being a guiding light to our grandson Nathan Baron  
Silvern (Chana & Michael Baron)  
In honor of our grandchildren Nathan Baron Silvern, Noah  
Amichai Bayer, Samuel Boaz Bayer (Chana & Michael  
Baron)  
In honor of Donna Baron, Steven and Nathan Silvern.  
Yasher Koach! (Chana & Michael Baron)  
In honor of our daughters Donna, Lisa and Jennifer. We love  
you! (Chana & Michael Baron)  
In honor of Ruth Love Barer, a role model, mentor  
and true mensch (Chana & Michael Baron)

*continued on next page*

# Spirit Haus

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In honor of Michael Baron's 75th Birthday  
(Chana Baron & family)

In honor of our children Donna, Steven, Nathan, Lisa, Billy,  
Jennifer, Rob, Noah and Sammy. We love you!  
(Chana & Michael Baron)

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Lisa Pack  
Jeffrey & Marilyn Blaustein

**Scholar-in-Residence Fund**

Randi Stein  
In memory of Jonathan Souweine (Kitty & Ken Talan)  
In memory of Jack Talan (Kitty & Ken Talan)

In memory of Eudice Tontak Glassberg (David Glassberg)  
In memory of my beloved father, Jabez Ezekiel Mercer  
(Esther Mercer)

In honor of Sara & Sy Berger (Ted & Barbara Slovin)  
In honor of Hazon's good work  
(Mark Liebowitz & Nancy Katz)

Gordon & Barbara Freed  
In memory of Jonathan Souweine (Robin Diamond)  
In honor of the Scholar-in-Residence Committee  
(Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In honor of Rabbi Ben Weiner (David Rabinovitz)  
Aron Goldman  
Frances Saed  
Robin & Morton Harmatz

**Condolences**

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

Mary Levy, mother of Timothy, Peter and Jared Levy and mother-in-law of Abigail Levy (daughter of John and Karen Loeb), wife of Dr. Benjamin F. Levy and grandmother of Mia.

Ellen Wolff, mother of Tom Wolff, mother-in-law of Peggy, grandmother of Rebecca and Emily and great grandmother of Jonah and Liora.

Frank G. Sardo, father of MaryAnn Grim, grandfather of Jennifer, Jonathan and Andy and great-grandfather of Rubystarr Grim.

Kathy Perlmutter, mother of Barbara Goldstein and grandmother of Gabriel and Jordan.

Daniel Schaffer, father of Barbara Schaffer Bacon, father-in-law of Roger Bacon and grandfather of Amy and Aaron.

**New or Returning Members**

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

Alexander & Erica Wise

**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 menorah, PJ Library book, and a card made by children in the JCA Religious School as well as information about area Jewish 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.

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.

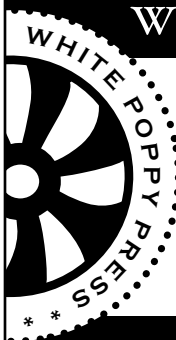
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## Community Announcements

### *Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival*

Coming Soon! The 7th Annual Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival, March 14-29, 2012. Celebrate the best in Jewish Cinema with 20 Films in 8 Towns: movies that entertain, educate, and inspire. More info at [www.pvjff.org](http://www.pvjff.org)

### *The Harold Grinspoon Foundation: Open Positions Senior Software Developer (Full-Time)*

Senior Software Developer to participate in the creation of a new software platform. The individual must exhibit a passion for leading edge software development in a dynamic and demanding team environment. The ideal candidate will be able to implement complex Enterprise service, participate in all phases of the development cycle: concept, technical design, prototype, code development, testing, release to QA and implementation.

### *Web Communications Intern (Part-Time (16-20 hrs.))*

If your college or university is willing to award you academic credit for your internship with The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, our organization will support you.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is looking for a reliable, sharp individual for an on-site, part-time (16-20 hours) Web Communications Intern position. The Web Communications Intern will assist the Director of Web Communica-

tions in formatting and updating site content and managing a variety of Web assets. The position aims to provide a paid opportunity for hands-on experience in a variety of e-communications areas.

For all positions apply to: [JOBS@HGF.ORG](mailto:JOBS@HGF.ORG) No phone calls please.

More information about these positions can be found at:  
<http://www.hgf.org/about-hgf/careers.aspx>

### *Queen Esther's Drag Ball & Dance Party*

Beit Ahavah, the Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton, celebrates the spirit of Purim and the signing of the Massachusetts Transgender Rights Bill with the fourth annual Queen Esther's Drag Ball and Dance Party. This event will take place on Saturday, March 10, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Diva's, 492 Pleasant St., in Northampton. It is open to the public, ages 21 and over, and will include full cash bar. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in drag, come in costume, or come as they are.

### *Yiddish Book Center*

A Purim celebration for all ages will take place Sunday, March 4th at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. The day will include a 12 PM workshop led by Leslie Elias, artistic director of the award-winning Grumbling Gryphons Theater, a costume contest, and a 2 PM performance of Esther: A One Act Opera for the whole family. Guests are invited to dress in costumes. Prizes will be awarded after the performance

in several categories.

Join us for **Sabbath Days and Extinguished Stars: The Life and Work of Chaim Grade** at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, April 20 - 22, 2012. The weekend course will explore the literary legacy of Chaim Grade, considered one of the most influential writers of Yiddish poetry and prose.

### *Hadassah 1912 - 2012*

#### **Hadassah's Turning 100!**

Please save the date: Sunday, April 22nd to celebrate Hadassah's 100th birthday with a special luncheon and unique entertainment at the Jewish Community of Amherst. Look for your invitation in the mail.

### *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 Rabbi Nancy Flam

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



200 Triangle Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-2143  
(413) 549-3700 Ext. 156  
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**Ann J. Hastings**

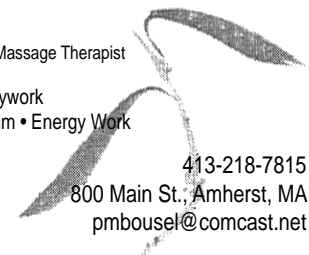
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## *Hands of Patience*

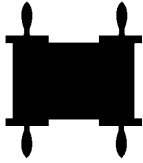
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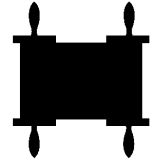
413-218-7815  
800 Main St., Amherst, MA  
[pmbousel@comcast.net](mailto:pmbousel@comcast.net)



# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

## March 2012

7 Adar ~ 8 Nisan 5772



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 ADAR	2 8 ADAR 11:5:24 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and Potluck Supper includes Shabbat Family Dinner for grades 3 and 4 Tot Shabbat	3 9 ADAR Tetzaveh Parashat Zachor 10:00 am Shabbat Services
4 10 ADAR 12:30 pm Board Meeting	5 11 ADAR	6 12 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7 13 ADAR Fast of Esther 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:00 pm Purim Family Program (See page 9) 7:15 pm Megillah Reading	8 14 ADAR Purim 11:30 am English Megillah Reading and Brunch	9 15 ADAR Shushan Purim 11:5:32 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	10 16 ADAR Ki Tisa 9:15 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services
11 17 ADAR 10:30 am Purim Carnival (See page 9)	12 18 ADAR	13 19 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	14 20 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	15 21 ADAR	16 22 ADAR 6:40 6:15 pm Farbrenge Friday Service and Potluck Supper (See page 5)	17 23 ADAR Vayakhel - Pekude Parashat Parah 10:00 am Regular Shabbat Services (main sanctuary) Soulful Shabbat (small sanctuary)
18 24 ADAR 10:00 am In God's Image Parent Support and Education Group	19 25 ADAR	20 26 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	21 27 ADAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	22 28 ADAR	23 29 ADAR 6:48 6:15 pm Shabbat Services with Rabbi Ezra Weinberg	24 1 NISAN Rosh Chodesh Nisan Vayikra Parashat Hachodesh Shabbat B'Yachad 9:00 am- Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services with Rabbi Ezra Weinberg 4:30 pm Bar Mitzvah: Harry Wolff Landau
25 2 NISAN NO JCA SCHOOL	26 3 NISAN	27 4 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	28 5 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	29 6 NISAN	30 7 NISAN 6:56 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	31 8 NISAN Tzav 10:00 am Shabbat Services

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST  
742 MAIN STREET  
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