


# jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

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## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Jewish Reconstructionist  
Federation 

### CANDLE LIGHTING

April 6 ~ 7:04 pm  
April 13 ~ 7:12 pm  
April 20 ~ 7:20 pm  
April 27 ~ 7:28 pm

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**April 1**  
Nathaniel Deutsch

**April 7**  
JCA 2nd Seder

**April 15**  
Camp Shemesh Day

**April 16**  
JCAT Wild Edible  
Extravaganza

**April 28**  
Yom HaShoah Program

### MEETINGS

**April 4**  
Ritual Life Committee

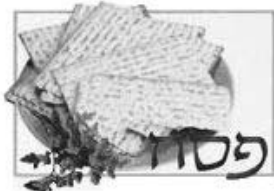
**April 5**  
Board Meeting

**April 11**  
School Committee

**April 25**  
Education Committee

**April 27**  
Adult Ed Committee

### PESACH BEGINS FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6.



### Message from Co-President

Eli Kwartler, 253-2929, [elikwartler@gmail.com](mailto:elikwartler@gmail.com)

#### Community

Not too long ago my wife, Barbara, asked me why the JCA was called Jewish Community of Amherst rather than having temple or synagogue in the title. My response, after being a member for at least 25 years and currently the Co-President was, "I'm not really sure, but I am going to find out." After asking some members and getting mixed answers, I decided to do some research.

I started with the JCA vision statement that includes words such as: participatory, central to members lives, spiritual, deepen our practice of Jewish ritual, importance of Israel, fosters an environment of warmth, joy and peace. While we are thinking about all of these weighty issues, we in this community must also struggle with our understanding of God.

Coincidentally, about the same time, I read an article in *The Wall Street Journal* by author Alain de Botton who began his article:

*One of the losses that modern society feels most keenly is the loss of a sense community. In attempting to understand what has eroded our senses of community, historians have assigned an important role to the privatization of religious belief that occurred in Europe and the United States in the 19th century.*

The time of the shtetls in Eastern Europe was a major period of Jewish life and history -- the world of Shalom Aleichem and Fiddler on the Roof. Rabbi Weiner suggested *Life is with People: The Culture of the Shtetl* by Zborowski and Herzog as a good source for understanding Jewish community. The following quote from the book gives one a sense of the importance of community: "My shtetl means my community, and community means the Jewish community."

Despite countless local variations, the Jews of Eastern Europe had one culture,

possessing the characteristics that mark a culture: language, a religion, a set of values, a specific set of social and institutional procedures. The inhabitants had the feeling that they belonged to one group and they would take care of one other. Reading about the shtetls clarified for me that culture and community are inexorably tied together and that one important aspect of the culture was to take care of one another in community.

As my knowledge of "community" grew, I realized that I needed to go farther back in Jewish history to get a sense of where and how this phenomenon came to be.

In his article *Can the Jewish Community be Reengineered?* (Berman Jewish Policy Archive, Fall, 1977), Steven Sohauder explained the origins of Jewish Community:

*"The concept of community is central to Judaism. The Revelation at Sinai and its subsequent elaboration took place in the collective. Rabbi Judah HaNasi presents an interesting insight into God's covenant at Sinai as a dual commitment that the Jews were making to Him and to themselves concomitantly: 'This was Israel's excellence at Sinai, they were of one accord in accepting joyfully the Kingdom of God. Moreover, they pledged themselves for one another' (Mekhilta to Exodus 20:2).*

*The themes of commonality, responsibility, and fellowship run throughout Jewish writings.*

*'All Jews are responsible for one another' (Shevuot, 39a)*

*'All Jews are friends' (Rabbi Joshua ben Levi, Hagiga, 3 a)*

*'All Jews constitute one soul and one body' (Chofetz Chaim, Shmirat Halashon, on Genesis 46:27)*

April 2012  
Nisan/Iyar 5772  
Vol. 11, Issue No. 4

*continued on page 9*

## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC.

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

### Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003-2010)

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989-2002)

Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

**Director of Lifelong Learning: Jody Rosenbloom** (256-0160 ext. 203)

**Director of Teen Programming: Rachael Goren-Watts** (256-0160 ext. 208)

### Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10:30 - 4:00

Wednesday: 4:00 - 6:00 & Sunday 9:00 - 1:00  
 (When Religious School is in session)

### Board of Directors

#### Officers:

**Co-Presidents: 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: Reed Alper**

**Deadline for the May issue is April 12th**

April 2012, Vol. 11, Issue No. 4

Newsletter is published 11 times per year.

Subscription price is included in membership.

### Chesed Committee

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

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

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

### Beit Shalom Committee

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

Committee members are:

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

Josette Henschel: 213-0186  
 josette.henschel@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***



I threw in a number of highbrow literary references in my last newsletter message, so I thought it might be time to aim a little lower. To that end, I found myself thinking of a famous scene from the 1986 farce *The Three Amigos*. Steve Martin, joined by his partners, Dusty Bottoms (Chevy Chase) and Ned Nederlander (Martin Short), is Lucky Day, a fading silent film star cowboy, who, through a series of misadventures, finds himself defending the Mexican pueblo of Santa Poco from an actual bandit: the sinister, though oddly charming, “El Guapo.”

As the outlaw gang rides furiously toward the village, Martin’s character realizes that it will take more than the Three Amigos to save the day; he has to rally the villagers to their own cause. To that end, he launches into a brief and legendary inspirational speech, “In a way, all of us have an El Guapo to face someday. For some, shyness might be their El Guapo. For others, a lack of education might be their El Guapo. For us, El Guapo is a big dangerous guy who wants to kill us. But as sure as my name is Lucky Day, the people of Santa Poco can conquer their own personal El Guapo, who also happens to be the real El Guapo.”

No doubt you’ve already guessed that I’m about to make a connection to Passover, which we’ll be celebrating just a week into April. Simply substitute Moses for Lucky Day, Mitzrayim for El Guapo, and the Israelites for the people of Santa Poco (literally Saint Not-Very-Much) and, whether you like it or not, you’ll see where I’m coming from.

It has become common to speak of Mitzrayim in a similar vein to Lucky Day’s abstraction of El Guapo,

as not merely a fierce enemy of the moment but a generalized conceptualization of nemesis. The word itself means narrow place” and so lends itself quite willingly to a description of the places where we feel trapped, suffocated, hemmed-in, whether by shyness, lack of education, the devil and the deep blue sea, or a host of other everyday oppressions.

You might think this use of the term is a phenomenon of our therapeutic age, but, in a certain sense, it actually goes all the way back to the original story. On the night before they were to take the daring step of leaving Egypt, Moses instructed the people not just to think of the experience of the moment, but to pledge to remember the event, to abstract it, each and every year of their own lives, and onward into the lives of their descendants.

That is, he told them that although their El Guapo happened to be the real El Guapo, a big dangerous guy that wanted to kill them, it would be a gift to the future to ritualize what the experience had been like, so that whatever subsequent El Guapos might arise, they and their children’s children would have a name for their oppression and a language for describing the experience of liberation. So may it be for us.

*b’shalom,*  
*Rabbi Weiner*

### ***Rabbi Liaison Committee***

The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to:

- Act as a channel between the rabbi and the congregation for the communication and processing of comments, issues, and complaints,
- Further increase the effectiveness of the rabbi-congregational relationship,
- Provide a way for people who are hesitant about contacting the rabbi directly to do so.

We encourage you to contact any member of the committee whenever you feel there is an issue that you would like them to consider with Rabbi Weiner.

Please be assured that all information is confidential.

Amy Mittelman 256-0883, amGU@hampshire.edu  
 David Levit 548-1083, dblevit@crocker.com  
 Aaron Bousel 253-3544, abousel@comcast.net  
 Barbara Burkart 256-8139, barbruth@comcast.net  
 Ted Slovin 253-3518, tslovin@acad.umass.edu  
 Deb Fine 256-1572, zohar01@comcast.net



## Ritual Life Committee

Paul Breyer-Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, [pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com](mailto:pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com)  
 Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, [allset22@verizon.net](mailto:allset22@verizon.net)

### RELIGION CALENDAR

#### Shabbat 1st Day Pesach

*Exodus 12:21-51, Numbers 28:16-25*

#### April 6, Friday- First Seder at Sundown

There will be no services at the JCA this evening.

#### April 7, Saturday- Shabbat / First Day Pesach

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

6:30 PM

2nd seder at JCA. Registration required. Go to the JCA website for a registration form. [www.j-c-a.org/seder-reg.pdf](http://www.j-c-a.org/seder-reg.pdf)



#### 7th Day Pesach

*Exodus 13:17-15:26, Numbers 28:19-25*

#### April 13, Friday

10:00 AM- 7th Day Pesach Services

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner



#### Shabbat 8th Day Pesach

*Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17, Numbers 28:19-25*

#### April 13, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

#### April 14, Saturday

9:15-10:30 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



#### Shabbat Mevarekhim Hachodesh

**Parashat Shemini**

*Leviticus 9:1-11:47*

#### April 20, Friday

6:15 PM

Farbrengen Friday (see next page)

Service Leader: To be announced

#### April 21, Saturday

10:00 AM

L'Chaim Qigong (not part of main service- see next page)

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Deliah Rosel

1:00 PM

Torah Study with Deliah Rosel



#### April 22/23, Sunday/Monday- Rosh Chodesh Iyar



#### Shabbat Tazria/Metsora, *Leviticus 12:1-15:33*

#### April 27, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

Speaker: Julius Lester will speak about his photographs currently on display at the JCA.

#### April 28, Saturday

9:15-10:30 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Catherine Madsen



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

#### 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!!

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

### **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**

## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***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)

**Robert Friedman, 835-5205, robert@jewishfarmschool.org** (for reading in June)

**Gordon Freed, 256-0355, g.freed@comcast.net** (for reading in July)

## ***L'Chaim Qigong™***

Shabbat morning, April 21, Dr. Deliah Rosel will offer the meditative movements of L'Chaim Qigong™ as an embodied way to pray the Barechu through the Amidah, the time in our service for a personal connection with God. This will take place in another space within the JCA, following Pesukei d'Zimra and before the Torah service, while the regular service continues in the Main Sanctuary. It is Parasha Shemini, and according to the S'fat Emet, Nadav and Avihu merged so completely with the Infinite Source that they left their bodies. Join us during that part of the service as we energize our entire being through this healing practice, adapted from the Medicine-less Hospital in China. Experience a deeper connection with God as Life Force Energy and still be around to enjoy Kiddush.

## ***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.

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



**Education News**

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



**Time to Start Thinking Fall of 2012!**

**Registration to Be Mailed Soon**

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

**Interesting in Starting Your Child in JCA School?**

If you are currently a member of the JCA and have children entering 1st grade or older or if you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, contact the JCA School at 256-0160 X203. Children 4-6 year olds (as of Sept. 2012) are eligible to participate in our monthly Shalom Sunday program.

**Thank-you:**

\* For Purim carnival prize donations from the: **Robinson-Hidas, Madowitz/Helfer, Goren-Watts, Levine/Klotz, Rose/Goldstein, Robbins, & ArnoPolin/Williams** households.

\* To helpers that made Purim family education and carnival events possible including Hamantashen bakers, raffle basket preparers and clean-up crews: **Lisa Blain, Carnival Coordinator Darcy Vogel Albanese, Libby Arnie, Joanna Ballentine, Chris Benvenuto, Cheryl Campbell, Deborah Evans, Jay Flint, Beth Ginsburg, Krista Harper, Nina Hernandez, Ruth Hutton, Claire Katz, Jill Kaufman, Andrea Keins, Amy Kroin, Jodi Levine, Sheri McDonald, Holly Perry, Anna Robbins, Jana Silver, Nina Tetenbaum, Stacy Tobin, Ted Trobaugh, Peter Wood, Deborah**

**Zeidenberg, & Cheryl Zoll. Students: Saul Blain, Seth Blain, Yael Benvenuto Ladin, Maya Levine, Lydia Powell, & Lydia Sawyer. TAs and Teens: Ellie Barakso, Gabriel Benvenuto Ladin, Lily Blain, Lily Harris, Jared Kannel, Sarah Martin, Sophia Keins, Kyla Amick, Leah Parker Bernstein. Teachers/Staff: Ruth Love Barer, Rebecca (Rivka) Berger, Eric Delisle, Amy Epstein, Howie Feibusch, David Gamliel, Emily Landau, Talia Laster, Rebecca Meyers, Andrea Olkin, Cara Silverberg, & Melissa Zeitz.**

*Calendar*

Sun, Apr. 1	Shalom Sunday class with parents B'Tzelem Elohim/Parent group Original Art orders arrive
Sat/Sun, Apr. 7-8	NO CLASSES - Passover
Wed, Apr 11	Class for grades 3-7 (Passover food restrictions) School Committee 7:00 pm
Sat, Apr 14- Sat, Apr 21	NO CLASSES - Passover/Spring Break
Sun, Apr 22	Classes resume for grades 1-6
Wed, Apr 25	Education Committee 7:00 pm
Sun, Apr 29	Shalom Sunday K students visit 1st grade 2nd graders visit 3rd grade with an introduction to Hebrew School for parents of 3rd graders.
Sun, May 6	Grade 4 with Parents, 10:00-11:45 am for <i>Becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the JCA</i> B'Tzelem Elohim/Parent group

**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.



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

Order due dates: 4/1/12 4/29/12  
Pick up on/after: 4/6/12 5/4/12

Visit the JCA website for the order form or contact 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**

## **Adult Education Courses - Spring, 2012**

### **Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Weiner The History and Future of Halakha (Jewish Law) Every Wednesday beginning on March 28, 2012 12:15 - 1:15 PM in the Small Sanctuary**

Halakha, Jewish law, is a core aspect of the Jewish tradition, and yet it is a problematic subject for the contemporary progressive Jewish community. How much do we see ourselves as bound by Torah and rabbinic law? Do we understand where it comes from and how it develops? If we define ourselves as non- or post- halakhic Jews does this material still hold relevance for our individual and communal Jewish lives?

Come and explore these topics with Rabbi Weiner in a series of informal, lunch-and-learn sessions. Together we will learn about and study from some of the classic halakhic texts, like the Talmud, the Shulkhan Arukh, and the Mishneh Torah, as well as later writing about the subject, all the while developing an understanding of how Halakhah functions. We will also have ample opportunity to discuss our own relationship toward this way of being Jewish.

*A couple of notes about the Lunch-and-Learn:*

-You need to bring your own lunch. It will not be provided by the JCA (or Rabbi Weiner--except for his own!)

-This is not a class in the traditional sense. Though you may find it a richer experience if you are able to attend consistently, drop-ins are always welcome.

### **Nathaniel Deutsch Minhag and Modernity April 1, 2012 1:00 - 3:00 in the JCA Social Hall**

The JCA is delighted to be welcoming Nathaniel Deutsch, professor of literature and history, and co-director of the Center for Jewish Studies at UC Santa Cruz, for an afternoon talk on the topic of Minhagim, Jewish customary practices.

We may be familiar with Halakha, the body of normative rabbinic law, but Professor Deutsch argues that fewer and fewer Jews are relating to the concept of Minhag, extra-legal religious practices that are, or were, distinctive to families, towns, and regions.

Such customs, learned through imitation of the people around you and subject to a fluid creativity, have lost ground in the course of the Jewish encounter with modernity, among the assimilated and the ultra-Orthodox alike. Studying their fate can teach us a great deal about the nature of this encounter, while at the same time restoring to our hands the power to craft an intimate and vibrant Jewish life.

Nathaniel Deutsch is a professor of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he is also the Co-Director of the Center for Jewish Studies. He is the author of five books, including *The Maiden of Ludmir: A Jewish Holy Woman and Her World* and *The Jewish Dark Continent: Life and Death in the Russian Pale of Settlement*. Along with Yvonne Chireau, he is the co-editor of *Black Zion: African American Religious Encounters with Judaism*. Deutsch also

contributed a commentary to the recently published *New American Haggadah* edited by Jonathan Safran Foer, with a translation by Nathan Englander.

*This program is made possible by a generous donation  
from JCA member Jeff Cohen*

### **Richard S. Ellis Mindfulness of the Torah April 24, May 1, 8, 15 7:30 - 9:00 PM in the JCA Library**

Mindfulness is the calm and direct awareness of what is now happening in our bodies, in our minds, and in the world around us. In the context of Buddhist meditation, mindfulness is a skillful approach to dealing with life and its challenges. As I hope to show in this course, it is also a skillful approach to discovering the profundity of the Torah.

The profundity of the Torah is revealed when it is read with a sensitivity to the original Hebrew, to which a gentle introduction will be given (no background necessary). When we read the Torah in this way, we experience a fertile ambiguity, a fluidity of language, theme, and character pregnant with possibilities and unavailable in any translation. By being mindful of the Torah's artful use of words, literary devices, the interplay of themes, narrative point of view, imagery, and the like, we become aware of the open-endedness, multiple interpretability, and vast reach of the original Hebrew. This discovery inspires us to face our lives with the same awareness of interdependence and infinite possibilities.

Buddhist meditation uses mindfulness to go beyond words. We will use mindfulness to play and wrestle with the words of the holy Torah. In so doing, we become God's partners.

The text for the course is my book, *Blinding Pain, Simple Truth: Changing Your Life Through Buddhist Meditation*. We will read chapter 4 on Jacob and chapter 5 on the creation and the Garden of Eden. The book is available at local bookstores and at amazon.com: <http://alturl.com/ztabb>. Information about the book can be found at <http://RichardSEllis.com>. Please come to class with a translation of Genesis. Different translations will be compared and discussed.

Prerequisites. None. In particular, no knowledge of Hebrew is required. I will provide any information that is needed.

In case of any questions, please email me at [rsellis@math.umass.edu](mailto:rsellis@math.umass.edu).

Here is a summary of the four classes.

- Class 1. Mindfulness and the Torah; introduction to Biblical Hebrew; Jacob's youth
- Class 2. Jacob, Esau, and wrestling with the nameless adversary at the Yabboq River
- Class 3. The creation story
- Class 4. God, Eve, and Adam in the Garden of Eden

*Suggested donation: \$36.00*

*continued on next page*

## *Adult Education Courses - Spring, 2012 (continued from previous page)*

*Josh Price*

### *Introduction to Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture*

**Wednesdays April 25, May 2, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13  
7:00 - 8:30 PM in the JCA Small Sanctuary**

This class will serve as an introduction to Yiddish language, with the goal of reading texts. Grammatical material will come largely from Uriel Weinreich's *College Yiddish* and Dovid Katz's *Grammar of the Yiddish Language*. In addition, this class will offer a broad sketch of Yiddish literature and culture through discussion of primary sources in translation and secondary sources in English.

Josh Price studied Yiddish literature and modern Jewish history at Yale. Now he works as a fellow at the National Yiddish Book Center, overseeing various digitization projects. He is grateful to have found such a *heykish* community at the JCA. This is a one-time opportunity as Josh will be leaving the area this summer.

Below is a rough outline, subject to much change.

1. The Yiddish Alphabet; Differences with Hebrew; Orthographic Traditions; Dialects; Component Languages / *Shmeltsshpakh*
2. College Yiddish text (henceforth CY); Nominative Case; Basic syntax  
Pre-History of Yiddish: Benjamin Harshav *Meaning of Yiddish 1*; Katz *Words on Fire 1-2*
3. CY; Accusative Case; Nominative Personal Pronouns; Present Tense  
Old Yiddish literature: Katz 3-4; selections from Jean Baumgarten *Introduction to Old Yiddish Literature*; Tsene-rene excerpts [in translation]
4. CY; Dative Case; Personal Pronouns in all cases; Negation  
Hasidism: Katz 6; Roskies *Bridge of Longing 2*; Nakhmen Sipurey-mayyses
5. CY; Possessives; Past Tense; Numbers; Analytic Verbs  
Haskalah: Katz 7-8; Howe-Greenberg *Treasury of Yiddish Stories* excerpts
6. CY; Other Tenses: Future, Conditional, Habitual Past, Pluperfect Past, Future Perfect; Prefixed Verbs  
20th century: Katz 9; Chapters from David Shneer *Soviet Yiddish Culture*; Tony Michels *A Fire in Our Hearts*; Harshav's *American Yiddish Poetry* (introduction and selections)
7. CY; Relative Pronouns; Periphrastic Verbs; Comparative & Superlative Adjectives  
Postwar / Beyond: Katz 10-11; Jeffrey Shandler *Adventures in Yiddishland* (selections)

*Pre-registration is encouraged.*

*Contact Barbara Burkhart*

*at 413-687-0316 or barbruth@comcast.net*

*Suggested donation: \$36.00*

*Nancy Flam*

### *Prayer as 'Revelation of the Soul' -- A Contemplation for Shavuot*

**May 20, 2012  
1:30 - 4:30 PM**

We don't usually think of prayer as revelation, but the Piasezniker Rebbe taught about prayer as *gilui nefesh*, as "revelation of the soul." During this afternoon of study and practice, we will investigate the meaning of "prayer as revelation," as well as conditions that would inspire the soul to reveal herself, and what such a revelation might communicate.

Rabbi Nancy Flam is a pioneer in the field of Jewish healing. She lectures widely on the topic of Judaism, Healing and Spirituality, and has written on the issue for such publications as *Reform Judaism Magazine*, *CCAR Journal* and *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility*. She has also contributed to such volumes as *Wrestling with the Angel: Jewish Insights on Death and Mourning*, edited by Jack Riemer, *Jewish Pastoral Care*, edited by Dayle Friedman and *Best Contemporary American Jewish Writing*, edited by Michael Lerner.

She was the founding Series Editor for *LifeLights*, a series of informational, inspirational pamphlets on challenges in the emotional and spiritual life.

Rabbi Flam lives in Northampton, Massachusetts with her husband and two children.

*Suggested donation: \$18.00*

*All donations go toward supporting future  
JCA adult education programming.*

*No JCA member will be denied access to  
programming because of financial need.*

*Your participation in the JCA is more important  
than the amount of your donation.*



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


*'As God is One though his name has seventy ramifications, so is Israel one, though dispersed among the nations' (Zohar, Exodus 16b)''*

My attempt at outlining some of the very many definitions of Community centering on the Jewish experience has decreased some of my historical ignorance, but has raised some questions that are, in my opinion, important for you, my chaverim, to consider:

- What is your definition of Jewish community?
- What should a Jewish community provide to its members?
- What are our expectations of the Jewish individual and family as part of this community?
- Is the Jewish community to be defined by those who actively make use of it as well as by those who make little or no use of it?
- How do we contend with the additional cost -- time or money -- of living "Jewishly"?

As a result of this exploration, I've learned a lot and realize how much more there is to discover.

*b'Shalom,  
Eli*



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## **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.

## **JCA Adult Reading Group**

The 4th meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Thursday June 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the novel, *The Brothers Ashkenazi* by Israel Joshua Singer. 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.

## **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**

## ***Havurot are in the air....and on the ground!!!!***

*The following Havurot are looking for new members. Please consider joining one or starting your own!!!! The Havurah Initiative Committee will help create the make-up of these groups in a way that works for all involved!*

### ***Singing Havurah***

The singing Havurah will emphasize expressing participants' spirituality and connection to Judaism through singing and music. You certainly do not have to be a good singer or a musician to be in the singing Havurah. If you want to learn new Jewish songs and melodies, then this group is for you. All you need is your voice, ears, and perhaps, a musical instrument. We plan on meeting once a month for a Shabbat meal and celebration. The rest will be determined by the interests of members. Contact Dan Price drdanprice@hotmail.com; Bonnie Diamond health@bonniediamond.com

### ***Ritual Havurah***

Participants meet once a month on Friday night for a Shabbat eve dinner with blessings, zimrot (songs) and prayer. Options to meet for Shabbat lunch or Havdalah instead or in addition to Shabbat eve. We hope to create these havurot with adults who want to include children, and adults who would prefer to meet without children. Please let us know what composition you would prefer, and the ages of your kids. Contact: Marcia Black at marciablack@comcast.net

### ***Text Study Havurah***

Participants meet once a month on Shabbat to discuss the parasha of the week, a religious text, a book with a Jewish theme, or Jewish philosophy. Group will be comprised of mainly adult members or families with older children. Havurah may decide to include elements of Jewish Ritual as well as singing, dancing, meals and drinking kosher wine.

Contact: Jan Levy janislevy@verizon.net

### ***Secular Havurah***

Participants meet once per month to socialize, nosh, and just hang out with other Jews in the community. One must eat bagels, lox and cream cheese (preferably all together) in order to join. There will also be opportunities to discuss issues of the day pertaining to Judaism, Jewish Culture, Israel, and Humanism.

Contact: Eli Kwartler elikwartler@gmail.com

### ***Gardening Havurah***

Participants will get together to help in each others' gardens, as well as to can, pickle, make pesto, etc. We will also help out in the JCA Garden as a group activity. We will feast together occasionally on Shabbat with homegrown food, home-made challah, and maybe drink some home-made wine.

Contact: Helena Donovan fhdonovan@yahoo.com

### ***Vision For The Havurah Initiative At The JCA***

*The JCA Havurah Initiative* has two guiding principles, each one important: to form new havurot within our community, and to help strengthen the lived-experience of community within the JCA as a whole. In Rabbi Weiner's words, we

hope to strengthen the **connective tissue** that creates vibrancy and meaning in our community. We hope, through this Initiative, to help you feel like you are among friends when you walk into the JCA.

A **havurah**, from the root of the Hebrew word meaning "friend" is usually a small group of 8-14 adults, or a small cluster of families, who meet together regularly. Although each havurah is different, each shares a common purpose: to build deep and lasting relationships between the members of each havurah.

There are new havurot being formed at the JCA, and there are also pre-existing havurot and Shabbat dinner groups. We hope to include all of these in the Havurah Initiative, as we explore how to create a community where all members feel they are welcomed, and where they belong. We hope, through this Initiative, to help people feel like they are part of a community, not just a member of a synagogue.

**New havurot** are forming at the JCA along the themes of religious observance, musical celebration, text study, Jewish cultural identity, and gardening. Havurot will be formed in an ongoing way as other JCA members come to us with the wish to become part of a havurah. Sharing meals, community/social action, attending JCA events together, planning outdoor activities, gardening, celebrating Shabbat, havdalah, and holidays are all possible activities for havurot.

We encourage all havurot, new and old, to **interact with the larger JCA community**. This can be done in a number of ways, such as hosting a Kiddush, participating in a Shabbat service, leading a Torah study after services, helping in the garden, leading a hike, etc. The possibilities are endless!

**The Havurah Steering Committee will also sponsor activities and events that can bring together people in newly formed JCA havurot, along with JCA members already in pre-existing havurot or Shabbat groups. Some possibilities are shared text study, community service activities, food preservation (canning, pickling), and a yearly celebratory dinner.**

**If you would like to be part of this initiative, please let us know!!!**

If you would like us to know about a havurah/Shabbat group that you are already in, so that we can include your group in future activities, please email Bonnie Diamond or Daniel Price. Please feel free to contact any member with thoughts and ideas, or if you would like to join a havurah or join our committee.

### **Havurah Initiative Committee members**

Marcia Black marciablack@comcast.net

Bonnie Diamond health@bonniediamond.com

Helena Donovan fhdonovan@yahoo.com

Jackie Katz jkatz111@gmail.com

Roger Magnus magnurog@yahoo.com

Daniel Price drdanprice@hotmail.com

David Rabinovitz dmrtv@comcast.net

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

**Gemilut Hasidim....**  
**Todah Rabah,,,,,**

The **Adult Education Committee** thanks members Janis Wolkenbreit, Donna Baron, David Glassberg, Phyllis Herda, Boris Wolfson, Anna Robbins, Margaret Mastrangelo, and Ted Slovin, along with past chair John Clayton. All have generously offered their expertise, imagination, and logistical help to our collective effort in relaunching the JCA's adult education initiative. Andra Rose and Jody Rosenbloom have assisted our thinking and helped us link to other educational programs. We also thank Rabbi Ben Weiner for having been, on his own, a committee of one for sixteen months, and for his invaluable guidance in our mutual work. Barbara Burkart, Sam Gladstone, and Tom Wolff, co-chairs.

The **Cemetery Committee** (Linda Sinapi and Devorah Jacobson co-chairs) would like to thank Sarah Thomson, Karen Hoffman, Sam Gladstone, Ken Talan for their input at the annual committee meeting on February 23, 2012.

Thank you to John Clayton, Sharon Clayton Dunne, Amy Rothenberg, Paul Herscu, Larry Goldbaum, & friends of the JCA, Irma Gonzalez & Ted Parker for volunteering at **Craig's Door** in February.

The **Communications Committee** would like to thank Aaron Bousel and Doug Lowing for working with the website committee to take a comprehensive look at our current website and change it to suit the needs of the membership.

Thank you to all members of the **Chesed Committee** for helping our members in need: Robin Diamond, Kitty Talan, Susan Zarchin, Susan Myers, Susan Richardson, Judy Davis, Jackie Katz, Bonnie Diamond, Barbara Berlin, Eva Brown, Andrea Newman, Reed Alper.

Thank you to Jessica Sproehnl for making a giant plateful of delicious hamantaschen for Tot Shabbat!

**Help Wanted....**

The JCA helps staff the local cot shelter, **Craig's Door** which is open 7 nights a week at the 1st Baptist Church in Amherst. We help prepare, serve and clean up a late dinner and help get the cots and other items set up. Anyone over age 18 is welcome to volunteer. It is a very direct way to give back; we join with other members of local faith communities in doing so.

The JCA signed up for the week of April 23-29th, 9-11 pm. Just hit this link & sign up here: <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. Questions? email Amy Rothenberg at [amy@nesh.com](mailto:amy@nesh.com)

**Second Night Seder** will be April 7th this year. Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation, koshering the kitchen, setting the tables, setting the Seder plates, cleaning up. Anyone interested in helping please get in touch with [kloeb@comcast.net](mailto:kloeb@comcast.net).

The **Communications Committee** needs volunteers to change the information in the sign outside the building every week to include details such as one-time events at the JCA.

The **Communications Committee** needs volunteers to do social networking kinds of things to make our Facebook page active and lively and informative. Contact Kitty Axelrson-Berry at [89stony@gmail.com](mailto:89stony@gmail.com)

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 April please email Robin Diamond at [gemmom3@gmail.com](mailto:gemmom3@gmail.com) or Susan Richardson at [jasc118@gmail.com](mailto:jasc118@gmail.com)

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.

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AARON BOUSEL</b>  <b>PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">piano &amp; harpsichord technicians</p> <p style="text-align: center;">tuning • repairs • regulation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">voice (413) 253-3846 fax</p> <p style="text-align: center;">187 Heatherstone Road          Amherst, Massachusetts 01002-1638  <a href="mailto:abousel@comcast.net">abousel@comcast.net</a></p>  <p style="font-size: small;">REGISTERED PIANO TECHNICIAN</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Choose our catering team          to create a mitzvah!</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Our team of experienced caterers has a different take on special events!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We donate 80% of our fee to Project Rehovot and 20% to the JCA</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">*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 style="font-size: x-small;">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> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>We excel in Middle Eastern,          Mediterranean and Jewish          Cuisine!</b></p>
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## ***JCA Business Owners and Professionals Advertise in the Guidebook***

Our annual Guidebook is a great way to let the community know about your business or profession! Ads are reasonably priced and include listing in the Classified yellow pages section. About 500 Guidebooks go out to all JCA member households, prospective members, and Guidebook advertisers. Members refer to their Guidebooks all year long for member contact info, dates, holidays, committees, and of course, local businesses and professionals who support, and are supported by, the JCA.

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Steve Woolf and Aaron Bousel, for the Guidebook Team.

## ***The JCA Guidebook– Be Part of It!***

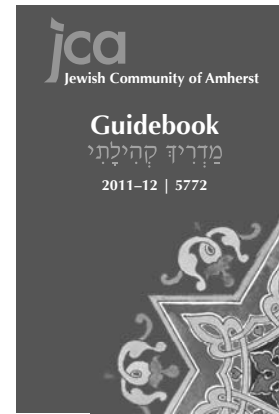
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## Camp Shemesh Registration is NOW OPEN!

**Camp Shemesh is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year** of offering a joyful, creative, spiritually rich and educationally sound Jewish summer day camp experience.

**Dates:**

July 2 – August 10

6 one-week sessions for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades (ages 6 and up)

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



**NEW! 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Tzofim**

A program designed for entering 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders to enjoy the fun and adventure of camp through camp activities, field trips and sleepovers, while also exploring what it's like to be a role model and leader at camp!

**NEW! 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade Bonim**

Our enhanced (CIT) leadership development program, offering workshops on counseling skills, self-designed projects to contribute to camp, and time spent directly with campers.

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

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

Contact [jcateengroup@gmail.com](mailto:jcateengroup@gmail.com) for details or to pre-register. Spaces are expected to fill up quickly!

*A collaboration of Camp Shemesh and JCA Teens.*



Visit [www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html](http://www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html) for more information on age-specific programming and to download registration forms.

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 programming contact:

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

**Sunday April 15 - CAMP SHEMSH DAY:** Come for a day of fun camp activities, learn about our new programs for older campers and teens, and visit with your old camp friends! Located at the JCA from 10am-4pm with an **optional sleepover** for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Download registration forms at [www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html](http://www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html).

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

## ***Holocaust Memorial Observance- Yom Hashoah***

**On Saturday, April 28, 7:30-9:30 pm, We Will Observe Yom Hashoah in the JCA Sanctuary**

After a short candle-lighting ceremony, we will screen the wonderful and uplifting documentary film, "The Final Victory." The documentary describes how Felix Zandman (1927-2011), who lost most of his family during the Holocaust, succeeded not only to survive, hidden in a cave, but also to learn mathematics under these impossible conditions.

After the Holocaust destroyed his world, he managed to rebuild his life and to achieve extraordinary scientific and fi-



Felix Zandman

nancial success as the founder and chief technology officer of Vishay Intertech-nology, one of the world's largest providers of electronic components, among them the temperature-resistant resistor which he invented.

Felix Zandman's story is interwoven with the heroic endeavors of the Righteous Gentiles who saved his life, embodying the triumph of the human spirit.

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

## ***Former U.S. Ambassador Herman J. Cohen Will Tell the Exciting and Little Known Story of the Airlift of the Beta Israel Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1991.***

On May 10, at 7:30 p.m. Ambassador Cohen will reveal the complicated details of this modern Exodus, labeled Operation Solomon, which brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews, many who had been waiting for years under extremely difficult conditions, to the land of their forefathers..

As the official international mediator in the thirty-year civil war between the government of Ethiopian and the Eritrean secessionists, Ambassador Cohen reveals the diplomatic twists and turns, involving international intrigue, arms deals, blackmail, peace negotiations, and ransoms, which led to 36 non-stop airlifts by Israeli aircraft.

Ambassador Cohen is the author of *Intervening in Africa; Superpower Peacemaking in a Troubled Continent* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2000).

The event is free and open to the public. It is cosponsored by the World Jewish Concerns and Action Committee of the JCA, Northampton-Amherst Chapter of Hadassah and the Jewish Historical Society of Western Massachusetts.



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

## JCA Omer Series

"Traditionally, between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot, Jews count the Omer....What is the Omer to you?"

**Thursday, April 5 from 6pm to 8:30pm:**

**A Workshop for Teens: From Pilgrimage to Paycheck**

*The Omer was historically a time for bringing agricultural tithes to Jerusalem to help keep the community running smoothly. In today's world, how can we support our communities and make money at the same time? This workshop will explore how teens can identify and offer their skills and services to the community, and will also introduce how they can submit an ad for their services in the 2012-2013 JCA Guidebook. Pizza dinner (a last bit of chametz before Passover) will be served. Bring a canned food item for tzedakah. Part of the JCA Omer Series.*

**Age:** Current 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders

**Cost:** Free for JCAT members; \$10 non-JCAT members; non-JCA members and friends welcome.

**Location:** JCA

**To register:** RSVP by email to [jcateengroup@gmail.com](mailto:jcateengroup@gmail.com) and specify food allergies. Bring payment day of.

**Questions?** Contact [jcateengroup@gmail.com](mailto:jcateengroup@gmail.com).

*This program is largely funded by the Harold Grinspoon Teen Initiative.*

**Monday, April 16 (Patriots Day, no school) from 10am to 3:00pm:**

**Wild Edible Extravaganza**

*Join us as we harvest the Spring's "first fruits," make and mash tasty wild edible treats, and create plant ID recipe cards to take home.*

**Age:** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders

**Cost:** \$18 JCAT members; \$36 non-JCAT members

**Location:** Meet at the JCA – van transportation to site will be provided.

**To register:** Register at <http://wildedibles2012.eventbrite.com> **NO LATER THAN Sunday, April 8.**

**Questions?** Contact [jcateengroup@gmail.com](mailto:jcateengroup@gmail.com).

*This program is largely funded by the Harold Grinspoon Teen Initiative.*

**Friday, May 4 from 5:30-6:30pm:**

**Tot Shabbat**

*Come explore all of nature waking up around us. Storytelling, movement and a nature exploration will help us observe this Shabbat of the Omer together and appreciate the new life of Spring! Followed by a vegetarian potluck with the JCA community. Please bring a NUT AND SEED FREE dish to share with 10-15 people.*

**Age:** For parents, grandparents and households with children up to 5 years old.

**Location:** JCA.

**Registration:** Free, no pre-registration required.

**Questions?** Contact Ariella Schwell at [ariellachef@yahoo.com](mailto:ariellachef@yahoo.com).

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

**Wednesday, May 9 from 4-5:30pm (during JCA School):**

**Lag B'Omer Celebration!**

*Have you ever celebrated Lag B'Omer? Each class will explore a different aspect of the Omer and its implications for the festival of Lag B'Omer, and then all students will celebrate together!*

**Age:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Location:** JCA.

**Registration:** None required; non-JCA School children welcome.

**Questions?** Contact Jody Rosenbloom at [eddir@j-c-a.org](mailto:eddir@j-c-a.org).

**Sunday, May 27 – Monday, May 28: Shavuot Services**

*Join us for an evening service followed by Tikkun Leyl – a late night study session with teachers from the community. In the morning, we will join together for Hallel, Yizkor, and the reading from the Book of Ruth.*

**Age:** All welcome to attend.

**Location:** JCA.

**Registration:** None required.

**Questions?** Contact the JCA office at 413-256-0160.

## *Passover Rap by Rebecca Fisher*

### **Narrator**

Well settle yourselves,  
Get the pillows just right:  
For here is a story  
For Passover night.

### **Miriam**

I'm Miriam, Moses' sister  
I put that baby in the river  
And watched from the reeds while Pharaoh's daughter  
Pulled out the cradle from the water.  
  
And really things could have gone much worse:  
I fixed it so mother became Moses' nurse.

### **Pharaoh's Daughter**

I raised that boy up like a prince,  
But he found God and I haven't seen him since.

### **Aaron**

And I'm Aaron, Moses' bro  
I gotta do his talking cause he's kinda slow –

### **Slave**

And I ain't nuthin' but a Hebrew slave  
Spend my whole life workin' on Pharaoh's grave.

### **Pharaoh 1**

Well I'm Pharaoh, favored of Ra  
My rule goes down to Nubia,  
And I'm reachin' for Ethiopia  
While I'm tradin' with Mesopotamia.  
  
I got people building statues of me  
That are gonna last till eternity  
(or at least – till a poet named Shelley)[\*Ozymandias]

Well anyway, that Moses cat  
Turned out to be a real brat:  
He kills a guy and runs away  
and then comes back to free the slaves!

### **Tzipporah**

I'm Tzipporah and I come from Midian  
When I saw the stranger I knew he was a cityman  
Egyptian clothes and blood on his hands  
And pretty soon Moses became my man.

That's right, I'm Tzipporah, Moses' wife  
And living with him has been some kind of life.  
  
When the man wants water he beats on a stone  
And I seen him talking to bushes, alone.  
We wandered the desert but what can you do –  
(Sung to the tune of the last line of Beautiful Dreamer)  
It ain't easy being married to a Jew.

### **Moses**

My name is Moses, and I thought it odd  
The very first time I talked to God  
The great Voice spoke from a bush on fire  
The bush didn't burn, but the flames grew higher.  
And He said, "Go get your people free,"  
And I looked back and I said, "Why me?"  
And God said, "When they see what I can do  
Even Pharaoh will listen to you."

So I went back to Egypt land  
And among the slaves I found my clan  
I told Pharaoh to let my people go;  
Everyone knows that he said, "No!"

He told the slaves to make bricks from mud,  
So I turned the Nile water to blood –  
But Pharaoh had a hardened heart –  
So nine more plagues had to start.  
Darkness came without a morn  
And the death of the first born;  
All over Egypt people cried  
When even the first born cattle died,  
So finally Pharaoh relented  
And to our departure consented.

### **Pharaoh 2**

Well I'm Pharaoh, ruler of all  
And releasing the Jews was a tricky call –  
They built our cities, they built our graves –  
Can you raise a monument without slaves?  
But frogs and death and hail and boils –  
I let them go with Egypt's spoils.  
His Yahweh put on quite a show  
After ten plagues they had to go.

*continued on next page*



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*continued from previous page*

I changed my mind and we gave chase  
 To tell the truth, it wasn't much of a race:  
 They were on foot, we in chariots proud,  
 And we would have caught up it if weren't for that cloud.  
 That funny cloud made it hard to see,  
 But we caught up with them finally.  
 They got to the sea and they somehow crossed  
 Even then I didn't know how much would be lost.  
 When I saw the Hebrews on the other side  
 I ordered my army to buck the tide.  
 When I saw them sink beneath the waves  
 I thought, "Maybe I don't need those slaves."  
 I went back alone to Egypt's glory  
 And that's my last part in this story.

**Miriam II**

I walked with our people  
 Right through the sea  
 A miracle  
 That made us free  
 When we reached the far shore  
 I saw my chance  
 And pulled out my timbrels  
 And started to dance  
 And all those years in the desert lands  
 It was I who found water amid the sands.

**Desert Slave**

We were out in the desert and just for a laugh,  
 We made Aaron make us a golden calf.  
 After a lifetime of captivity  
 We thought we were due some festivity;  
 But when Moses saw us going wild  
 He said the law had been defiled.  
 I guess he couldn't take a joke:  
 He threw those tablets and they broke.  
 Then Moses went back up the mount  
 And brought back commandments, ten by some count.

**Desert Slave 2**

We walked in the desert with aching feet,  
 Nothing to drink and nothing to eat  
 And we told Moses to take us back,  
 And Moses gave the rock a whack.  
 Out from the rock did water spew,  
 And we gathered manna with the dew.

**Narrator**

That's all I have for now, my friends,  
 Tho' I wouldn't say the story ends:  
 The people did receive the Law,  
 Still much revered as the Torah.  
 So eat your matzoh  
 And drink your wine,  
 And thank Yah we're free  
 To have a good time!

This Rap and others have been compiled in the book *Rebecca's Raps*.

Please contact Rebecca Fisher (253-3260 - rbccfshr@gmail.com) for more information about obtaining a copy.

***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

***The Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 12th***

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

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

**PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!**

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

***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.

## Donations

### Combined Building & Annual Fund Campaign

In memory of Felice Yeskel

(Rabbi Kevin Hale & E. Ruth Ever)

Hans & Phyllis Herda

Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

Paul Herscu & Amy Rothenberg

Danielle Kadinoff

Gerald Friedman & Deborah Jacobson

Robert & Sigrid Pollin

In honor of the JCA founders (Aaron Kropf & Jana Silver)

Ronnie Booxbaum

Alan Weiner & Mary Whiston

Lori Friedman

Robert & Jeanne Potash

## New or Returning Members

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

Talya & Chris Kingston

Nomi Kluger-Nash

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.

### Camp Shemesh

Robert Brainin

Sara & Diana Brewer

### Chesed

In honor of Oran Kaufman's milestone birthday

(Robin & Ted Diamond)

### General Fund

In honor of Lydia Sawyer's Bat Mitzvah

(Eli Kwartler & Barbara Benda Jenkins)

In gratitude to Paul Charette (Saul Gladstone)

In honor of Sara & Sy Berger as they begin their new life in California (Saul Gladstone)

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Jeff Cohen & Lori Holder-Webb

(Florence Cohen)

## 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](mailto:ariellachef@yahoo.com) or 230-3694 or Reed Alper at [reedmangels@comcast.net](mailto:reedmangels@comcast.net) or 549-0438.

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# Community Announcements

## Looking For a House To Rent

Jacob and Julie Fine (and daughter Meira) are looking for a house to rent. Ideally somewhere within 20 minutes drive of the JCA. We'd like to move in May 1, but June 1 might be OK. Hoping for a 3 bedroom with outside space for a garden.

Please email Julie:  
juliefine@gmail.com

## The Play, "Present Company Excluded" at The Yiddish Book Center

*Present Company Excluded*, is a play based upon the childhood of Herbert Roth, a Jewish teen in Nazi Germany. Herbert Roth is the father of JCA member Deborah Roth-Howe and his story and that of the small Jewish community in his village of birth is illustrated in the exhibit "A Reason to Remember: Roth, Germany 1933-1942," housed at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies at UMass Amherst. "Present Company Excluded" will be performed at the Yiddish Book Center May 4th, 12:00pm; May 5th, 7:30pm and May 6th, 2:00pm. Please reserve tickets online at <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/>. Questions? Call The Drama Studio at (413) 739-1983.

## Understanding Islam

The Hampshire Mosque is sponsoring another in its series to enable the community to better understand Islam. On April 17, at 6:45 pm-8:30 p.m., Dr. Ali Hazratji will talk on the subject of *The Quran: The Words That Changed The World*.

Because of the popularity of this series, attendance has exceeded the capacity of the Hampshire Mosque. This lecture is being offered at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple Street, Hadley. Refreshments will be served.

## Laugh In Peace

Join us for this Free Comedy Event  
Featuring  
Azhar Usman and Rabbi Bob Alper  
April 18th, 2012 at 7:15pm  
UMass Campus Center Auditorium  
Rabbi Bob Alper – *only clergyman doing stand-up comedy...intentionally*  
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*They had the audience convulsing"*  
– New York Times

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– Detroit Free Press

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## Hadassah 1912 – 2012

### Hadassah's Turning 100!

Come celebrate with us  
On Sunday, April 22 at the JCA.  
A delicious luncheon will be followed with entertainment by Wings! Women's Chorus and a very special birthday cake

In honor of Hadassah's 100th birthday we are hoping that 100 Women will donate \$100.00.

Please send your donation to:  
Neta Bolozky  
3 Evergreen Lane  
Amherst, MA 01002

Look for your invitation in the mail  
And Save The Date: April 22nd

## 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

*continued on next page*

 <p><b>We can help you move life along</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Do you need to organize your life?</li> <li>■ Get paperwork under control?</li> <li>■ Clear some space?</li> <li>■ Plan a move?</li> </ul> <p><b>Rethinking Moving Since 1996</b> www.movingmentor.com 413-549-1039</p>	 <p><b>WHITE POPPY PRESS</b></p> <p>whitepoppypress.com 253-2353 Kitty Axelson-Berry, Ali de Groot</p> <p>the sensible way to self-publish</p>
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### **Sacred Trash: The Lost And Found World Of The Cairo Geniza**

The Jewish Studies Program at Mount Holyoke College is pleased to announce a talk by **Peter Cole** and **Adina Hoffman** entitled *Sacred Trash: The Lost And Found World Of The Cairo Geniza*. Monday evening, April 2nd, 7:00PM, Willits Hallowell Faculty Club, Mount Holyoke College

**Peter Cole**, a 2005 MacArthur Fellow, is a distinguished scholar of the Hebrew poetic tradition, a prolific translator and author, and a poet himself. **Adina Hoffman** is the author of *House of Windows: Portraits from a Jerusalem Neighborhood*, and other works. Their talk and slide presentation will be based on their extraordinarily interesting book illuminating the discovery of the Cairo Geniza in the late 19th century. The Geniza, found in the basement of the Ben Ezra synagogue, contained thousands of discarded manuscripts bearing upon the life of medieval Mediterranean Jewry. Reception to follow.

### **New Israel / New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America**

This new book from the University of Massachusetts Press examines the history of colonial New England through the lens of its first settlers' Judeocentric world view. It also tells the stories of Sephardic merchants who traded and sojourned in Boston and Newport starting in the mid-1600s, of the interfaith friendship between Newport minister Ezra Stiles and Haim Carigal, an itinerant rabbi from Palestine and describes many other experiences of interactions between Puritans and Jews never documented before.

Fitchburg State University associate professor Michael Hoberman will read from and discuss his new book at the Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road, Pelham on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. The talk is co-sponsored by the Pelham Historical Society.

Contact Blair Bigelow, 259-1117 / blairf.bigelow@comcast.net or Barbara Jenkins, 253-2929 / bbendaj@msn.com for more information.

### **Yiddish Book Center**

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.

Community announcements should be brief and of interest to the local Jewish community. Announcements will be listed as space permits.

### **Newsletter Advertising**

Did you know that advertising pays for a significant portion of the costs of producing the Newsletter? Please take a few minutes to notice the ads in this issue. If you do business with any of our advertisers, please let them know that you've seen their ad here. Letting them know that you've seen their ad makes a big difference. And if you know of a business or individual who would benefit from advertising in the Newsletter please either put them in touch with me, or let me know and I'll get in touch with them.

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

Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately?  
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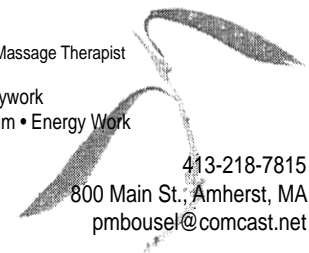
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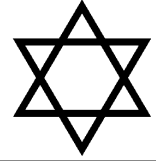
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JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

**April 2012**

9 Nisan ~ 8 Iyar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 NISAN 10:15 am B'tzelem Elohim/In God's Image: Parent support and education group 1:00 pm Adult Ed speaker - Nathaniel Deutsch (see page 7)	<b>2</b> 10 NISAN	<b>3</b> 11 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	<b>4</b> 12 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Weiner (see page 7) 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	<b>5</b> 13 NISAN 6:00 pm JCAT Workshop: From Pilgrimage to Paycheck (see page 15) 7:00 pm Board Meeting	<b>6</b> 14 NISAN ✠✠Erev Pesach ✠✠7:04 1st seder at sundown No services at JCA	<b>7</b> 15 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Day 1 10:00 am 1st Day Pesach/Shabbat Services 6:30 pm JCA 2nd Seder (Registration required. Please go to the JCA website for a registration form)
<b>8</b> 16 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Day 2 No JCA School	<b>9</b> 17 NISAN ✠✠Passover - First Intermediate Day	<b>10</b> 18 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Second Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	<b>11</b> 19 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Third Intermediate Day 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Weiner 7:00 pm School Committee	<b>12</b> 20 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Fourth Intermediate Day ✠✠7:11	<b>13</b> 21 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Day 7 ✠✠7:12 10:00 am 7th day Pesach Services JCA OFFICE CLOSED	<b>14</b> 22 NISAN ✠✠Passover - Day 8 9:15 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am 8th Day Pesach/Shabbat Services
<b>15</b> 23 NISAN No JCA School 10:00 AM Camp Shemesh Day (see page 13)	<b>16</b> 24 NISAN 10:00 am JCAT Wild Edible Extravaganza (see page 15)	<b>17</b> 25 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	<b>18</b> 26 NISAN 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Weiner No JCA School	<b>19</b> 27 NISAN ✠✠Yom HaShoah	<b>20</b> 28 NISAN ✠✠7:20 6:15 pm Farbrengen Friday	<b>21</b> 29 NISAN ✠✠Shemini 10:00 am Shabbat Services L'Chaim Qigong (separate from main service) 1:00 pm Torah Study with Deliah Rosel
<b>22</b> 30 NISAN ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1 JCA School Resumes 12:30 pm Hadassah Luncheon (see page 19)	<b>23</b> 1 IYAR ✠✠Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2	<b>24</b> 2 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	<b>25</b> 3 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Weiner 7:00 pm Education Committee	<b>26</b> 4 IYAR ✠✠Yom HaAtzma'ut	<b>27</b> 5 IYAR ✠✠7:28 12:00 pm Adult Education Committee 6:15 pm Shabbat Services Speaker: Julius Lester	<b>28</b> 6 IYAR ✠✠Tazria - Metzora 9:15 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Yom Hashoah Program (see page 14)
<b>29</b> 7 IYAR	<b>30</b> 8 IYAR					

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*April 1*

**Nathaniel Deutsch (see page 7)**

*April 7*

**JCA 2nd Seder (registration required)**

*April 15*

**Camp Shemesh Day (see page 13)**

*April 16*

**JCAT Wild Edible Extravaganza (see page 15)**

*April 28*

**Yom HaShoah Program (see page 14)**

