

jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Affiliated with the
Jewish Reconstructionist
Movement



CANDLE LIGHTING

August 3 ~ 7:49 pm
August 10 ~ 7:40 pm
August 17 ~ 7:29 pm
August 24 ~ 7:19 pm
August 31 ~ 7:07 pm

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

August 3
Rekindle Shabbat
August 24
Red Cross Blood Drive



MEETINGS

August 1
Ritual Life Committee
Committee
August 15
Education Committee
August 29
School Committee



Message from Co-President

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

“The Jewish Community of Amherst is dedicated to creating a dynamic, open, spiritual and participatory Jewish community that is central to its members’ lives” (Opening sentence, JCA Vision Statement)

Under the charismatic leadership of Rabbi Weiner, the JCA has, in my opinion, become more observant and more religiously centered. He has, in fact, provided a spiritual focus that a significant portion of the membership has enthusiastically embraced. Some of us in “The Big Tent”, however, are of a “different persuasion”. We are -- deep in our beings —Jewish-- but not observant and religiously inclined. We see ourselves as Secular Jews.

Truth be told, that’s what I am, but I wasn’t exactly sure what that meant, so I did some research and learned that in addition to the main- stream Jewish movements in the USA -- Orthodox, Conservative, Reformed and Reconstructionist --there are at least two additional movements of interest to Secular Jews. Here is a minuscule description of the two main movements:

Humanistic is a movement in Judaism that offers a nontheistic alternative in contemporary Jewish life. It defines Judaism as the cultural and historical experience of the Jewish people and encourages humanistic and secular Jews to celebrate their Jewish identity by participating in Jewish holidays and life cycle events. Judaism is the historic culture of the Jewish people, and religion is only one part of that culture.

Secular Judaism is derived from the philosophy of Moses Mendelssohn in the early 19th century. The international community of Jewish people is generally considered to be an ethnoreligious rather than solely a religious grouping. The term “secular Jewish culture” refers to many aspects, including: Religion and World View; Literature, Media, and Cinema; Art and Architecture; Cuisine

and Traditional Dress; attitudes toward Gender, Marriage, and Family; Social Customs and Lifestyles; Music and Dance. Secular Judaism is a distinct phenomenon related to Jewish secularization -- a historical process of divesting all of these elements of culture from their religious beliefs and practices.

Now, that I’d found these definitions, I needed some more information: Who at the JCA consider themselves Secularists or Humanists? Do they feel included and, if not, how can they feel more included? Do they want to interact with others in sharing their views? How can they participate in the JCA vision?

To obtain this information, I attempted to form a Havurah for people who saw themselves as Secular Jews. I put a notice in the Thursday Community Email and received notes of interest from 11 people. I was amazed! The Havurah committee had tried before and only one other person showed interest.

Nine of us met in June, got to know each other, talked about growing up in different parts of the world under different Jewish influences. It was a remarkable sharing experience since most of us had never met before. As our time together drew to a close, we decided that our first meeting was a reasonable success and that we should meet again. And we are-- in late July.

Here’s some of what we will discuss: How do you define yourself as a Jew? -- What is the purpose of this group? -- How does one/can one fit into the ethos of the JCA? -- What can the JCA provide to make us feel more at ease and included?

As Confucius said, “A long journey begins with the first step.” We have taken the first step. For more information concerning this topic please contact me.

*b’Shalom,
Eli*

August 2012
Av/Elul 5772
Vol. 11, Issue No. 7

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, Donna Baron, Marcia Black, Robert Brainin,
 Molly Goren-Watts, Oran Kaufman, Fred Levine,
 Margaret Mastrangelo, Sara Schley, Andra Rose,
 Sarah Thomson, Phil Weilerstein, 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 September issue is August 12th

August 2012, Vol. 11, Issue No. 7

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

What does it mean to be a member of the JCA?

Open House for New and Prospective Members

Thursday, September 6, 2012
5:30-7:00 PM in the JCA Social Hall

Meet Rabbi Ben Weiner,
Educational Director Jody Rosenbloom,
our board and other members, learn about our community,
educational opportunities, plans for the High Holidays
and for the upcoming year.

Pizza, salad and dessert

742 Main St. Amherst, MA
For more information:
info@j-c-a.org or call Oran Kaufman, 256-1575

Rabbi Liaison Committee

The committee meets monthly with the rabbi.

The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to support and enhance the rabbi-congregational relationship by:

1. Serving as a channel to communicate comments, issues and/or complaints from congregants who would prefer not to contact the rabbi directly.
2. Meeting with the rabbi to help with processing and thinking through issues or concerns that are raised either by congregants or by the rabbi.

All congregants are encouraged to speak to members of the committee about any concerns they may have that they would like to be brought to the rabbi's attention.

All information is shared only with the rabbi and the committee and will be held in confidence.

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
Deb Fine 256-1572, zohar01@comcast.net
Ted Slovin 253-3518, tslovin@acad.umass.edu



Ritual Life Committee

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

RELIGION CALENDAR

Shabbat Nachamu/Parashat Va'etchanan

Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

August 3, Friday

Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper to be held at Groff Park (see page 7).

August 4, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser
 D'var Torah: Daniel Berlin

1:00 PM

Torah Study with Daniel Berlin (see next page)



Shabbat Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

August 10, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: To be announced

August 11, Saturday

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Gordon Freed
 D'var Torah: To be announced



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

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Elul/Parashat Re'eh

Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17, Numbers 28:9-15

August 17, Friday

6:15 PM

Farbrengen Friday (see next page)
 Service Leader: Vera Broekhuysen

August 18, Saturday

10:00 AM

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



Shabbat Shofetim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

August 24, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

August 25, Saturday

10:00 AM

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



Shabbat Ki Tetze, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

August 31, Friday

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

September 1, Saturday

10:00 AM

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



Tuesday Morning Minyan

Every Tuesday morning several people meet in the small sanctuary for a morning service. Often, we are not able to make a minyan and what's frustrating is that more often than not we are eight or nine people. This is a wonderful way to begin your day. The service begins at 7:30 and is over by 8:30. Latecomers are always welcome. Your attendance could make the difference between someone being able to say Kaddish for a loved one or not. Please consider coming when you can.

Wednesday Morning Meditation Service

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.

Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors

June 2-

Jay & Rachel Flint in honor of their son Emmett becoming Bar Mitzvah

June 9-

Catherine Madsen in celebration of her 60th birthday

June 16-

Vera Broekhuysen & Michael Lis in celebration of their aufruf.

June 23-

Judy & Allen Davis, and Patience & Aaron Bousel in celebration of Allen's birthday, Patience & Aaron's anniversary, and Aaron's birthday

June 30-

Rabbi Weiner in recognition and appreciation by the Jewish Community of Amherst for the contributions by Rebecca Meyers and Josh Price to our community during their year in Amherst

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

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 Friday:

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 begins 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 have a potluck supper, and as we sit around sharing our Shabbat meal, we 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:

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

Randi Stein, 549-0526, randistein@earthlink.net (for reading in October)

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

Eliza Gouverneur, 256-6145, elizgouv@msn.com (for reading in December)

If you would like to learn to read Torah, or would like help choosing or preparing a reading, please contact **Batya Perman, 549-4853, batya1818@gmail.com**.

Thank You To Volunteers

The ritual life committee would like to thank those who have given their time and expertise in service to the ritual life of the community:

- our alternative service leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley
- our July service leaders: Yossi Breyer-Charette, Vera Broekhuysen, Richard Cohen and Eliza Gouverneur, Gordon Freed, Catherine Madsen, Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser,
- our May, June and July Torah readers: Arnie Alper, Kitty Axelson-Barry, Ruth Love Barer, Nathan Baron-Silver, Gabriel Benvenuto-Ladin, Yael Benvenuto-Ladin, Hannah Blau, Joe Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Vera Broekhuysen, Richard Cohen, Allen Davis, Liz Denlinger, Emmett Flint, Rabbi Eddie Feld, Sam Gladstone, Hadar Grabel, Eliza Gouverneur, Catherine Madsen, Steve Marglin, Rebecca Meyers, Dan Price, Josh Price, Amy Rothenberg, Elissa Rubinstein, Randi Stein
- Tisha b'Av leader: Marvin Ellin
- Tikkun Leyl Shavuot teachers: Merle Feld, Rabbi Devorah Jacobson, Rabbi Weiner, and blintz makers Andra Rose, Doug Lowing, Barbara and Gordon Freed, Lori Holder-Webb, Helena Donovan, and Esther Mercer.

Torah Study August 4th With Daniel Berlin Understanding The Sh'ma

The Sh'ma expresses Judaism's quintessential teaching and affirmation: G-d is One. For most Jews, the six words that comprise the Sh'ma are the most well known line in all of Torah.

The intent of this Torah study is to unpack the meaning of each of the six words that comprise the Sh'ma and the verse itself. There will be intellectual and experiential learning and discussion.

The hope is that this Torah study will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Sh'ma as a spiritual practice when praying alone or in community.

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.

Education News

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



What Happened This Summer?

Addressing transitions was the dominant theme. **Amy Kroin** replaced Deborah Evans as the chair of the school committee. We are saying goodbye to our administrative assistant, **Eric Delisle** who is moving to Boston and to teachers **Andrea Olkin** as she begins her new position at Lander Grinspoon Academy, **Rebecca Meyers** as she heads to nursing school, **Amy Epstein** was promoted, and **Emily Landau** graduated Mount Holyoke and moved back to Washington State. Returning teachers are on summer adventures: **Melissa Zeitz** (Shalom Sunday) went to the International Technology & Education Conference in San Diego, **Rebecca/Rivka Berger** (4th grade) is in Minnesota as a summer intern in a science lab, **Howie Feibusch** (7th grade) is playing music, **Talia Laster** (3rd grade) is interning in Washington, DC. Teaching Assistant **Lily Blain** was in Israel with the Reconstructionist youth group and **Rosie Black** worked at Camp Shemesh. In the office, much of our time was spent interviewing, hiring, and training so that we can start next month with a strong, creative education team.

Report Card for our 2011-12 Education Priorities

We have completed our final year of our five-year education plan and have taken some time to reflect and project. Following our plan, we focused on 1) **Lilmod B'Yachad** (Learning Together) Building a strong community through learning and Shabbat, 2) **Kol H'Amim** (All Peoples): Linking with Reconstructionism and collaborating in the region. This will be less of an emphasis in the upcoming year as many institutions are in transition both regionally and nationally, 3) **Shalom Bayit** (Peace/Wholeness in the Home): Achieving financial stability and appropriate staff and volunteer resources in education programs and initiatives and 4) **Gevurah** (Structure/Discipline/Focus): Building on the successes and unique strengths of the JCA community. In JCA School we continue with three specific goals: 1) Continuity (children want to get to know teachers, classmates and the material), 2) Flexibility (options other than traditional classes, more community learning activities) and 3) Quality of teachers/learning experience. As we reflect on this past year:

- We **enhanced holiday programs** open to families and adult community members. And built on the influx of families with young children. In November, February & March, we brought the community together for **Shabbat B'Yachad** to include school age children and their families in place of Sunday School. This included a Shabbat morning

family service with multiple approaches to Torah study, music & prayer. **Tot Shabbat** took place each month on the first Friday. **Upcoming:** Enrich holiday connections & Shabbat morning service options with Shabbat B'Yachad. Explore Tot Shabbat offerings on Saturday mornings. Evaluate monthly Havurah Ketana havdallah programming on Saturday afternoons.

- **We integrated supports, assessment & monitoring for Hebrew:** Students in grades 3-6 made significant Hebrew progress. Eligible students were monitored for Hebrew independent study brit limid/learning covenants. Summer review sheets by email encouraged Hebrew learning over the summer. **Upcoming:** Exploring technology tools to address learning needs. Update protocols for grade level parent communication.

- **B'Tzelem Elohim/In God's Image:** We collaborated with the other Jewish schools in the region for professional development and teacher training. We shared an "inclusion" specialist who observed and advised on classroom management. Based on our experience, we conducted a teacher workshop addressing concerns in common.

- We are **building on the resources** we share as part of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. An Israeli Emissary led activities on Sunday mornings in fall of 2011. The school also received \$500 seed money for the upcoming school year.

continued on next page

Calendar

Fri, Aug. 3	Shabbat Family Service at Groff Park at 5:30 followed by a potluck dinner with guest storyteller, David Arfa. Sponsored by Rekindle Shabbat.
Wed, Aug. 15	Education Committee from 5:45-7:00 pm
Wed, Aug. 29	School Committee 7:00-8:30 pm
Fri, Sept. 7	Welcome to the New School Year Intergenerational Service & Tot Shabbat. Concurrent services begin at 5:30 followed by potluck.
Sat, Sept. 8	Opening Day for 7th graders with parents 10:00 - 11:00 am
Sun, Sept. 9	School Opening Day – Students in Grades 1-6 and Shalom Sunday with parents from 10 am-12:15 pm.

continued from previous page

- **Teens:** We are piloting programming to encourage participation in teen programming. Watch for further information about Teva Torah & Shevet Achim programs. This is also a confirmation class year for grades 10-12.
- **Adult Education continues to grow** under the leadership Barbara Burkart and Sam Gladstone.
- **Camp Shemesh** is growing under the leadership of director, Cara Silverberg. **Ongoing:** Clarifying links and supervision within camp and between camp committee and JCA infrastructure.

The Education Committee shares responsibility to build, coordinate and vitalize lifelong education at the JCA and monitor our progress (co-chairs **Andra Rose** and **Ariella Schwell**). The School Committee focuses specifically on formal education in grades PK-7 (chair, **Amy Kroin**).

Thank-You To:

Esther Mercer, Amy Rothenberg, and Karen Helfer for their help in straightening and sorting school books and supplies.

Deborah Evans for her years as School Committee Chair.

Cheryl Campbell for her years of service on the school committee.

Shabbat Under the Sky – August Picnic Series

You're invited! Bring your friends!

Picnic in beautiful outdoor settings, enjoy music, conversation, and kid-friendly performances

August 3: Groff Park—**Amherst**

August 3: Look Park—**Northampton**

August 17: Green River Swimming & Recreation Area—**Greenfield**

5:30-7:30 Rain or shine, open to the public, free (except park entry fee in Northampton unless you bike/walk). Gatherings include shofar blowing practice for upcoming Jewish New Year, family-friendly entertainment and a short, guided musical service to welcome the Sabbath. Bring your own vegetarian picnic dinner. We provide challah bread, juice, and dessert.

For More Information: www.rekindleshabbat.org, or Christine@hgf.org at 413-439-1954.

This series is sponsored by Rekindle Shabbat, a program of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts, supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Bill and Lynn Fogle. Co-sponsors include Beit Ahavah/Florence, Congregation B'nai Israel/Northampton, Gan Keshet Jewish Community Preschool/Northampton, Jewish Community of Amherst, Lander-Grinspoon Academy/Northampton, PJ Library, and Temple Israel/Greenfield

New Havurah Forming

Havurah HaMakom, a newly forming group, seeks JCA members of any age. First Saturday of every month from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in rotating homes. Ritual & discussion, enhanced with song & music. Vegetarian snacks. This is a one-year "pilot." Please commit to attending when you're in town.

For more information, contact Madeleine at 549-5707 or greenzinnia@hotmail.com.

JCA Adult Reading Group

The 1st meeting of the year of the ARG will be on Thursday September 20th at 7:30 PM in the JCA library. We will be discussing the novel, *The Dovekeepers*, by Alice Hoffman. This book is regarded as "her most ambitious and mesmerizing novel, a tour de force of imagination and research, set in ancient Israel" and takes place at Masada. It is available in paperback. New participants are always welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248



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Tikkun Olam News & Opportunities

Ride To Provide

A bike ride, to celebrate the season and help raise money to support UMass Hillel's community service programs and environmentally-friendly projects. This year's ride is on Sunday, October 14, 2012 with planned 9, 18 and 36 mile bike routes through the picturesque autumn foliage of Amherst and surrounding towns. New this year is a Walk to Provide on the beautiful UMass Amherst campus! Sponsorship and participation of groups from synagogues and other community organizations is encouraged! Last year's Ride to Provide raised nearly \$55,000 for UMass Hillel students to participate in tikkun olam (repairing the world).

Ride to Provide



Source to Sea Cleanup

A JCA team is needed for the Source to Sea Cleanup. Saturday morning, September 29th. This event is organized by the Connecticut River Watershed Council. We will be meeting at a nearby spot on the Connecticut River and will spend the morning pulling trash out of the river. It's a great event for families. Contact Judith Souweine (judithsouweine@gmail.com) with questions.



Tikkun Olam Committee Needs Suggestions For Distribution Of Tzedakah Funds.

Did you know that there is a line item allotment in the JCA budget for distribution of tzedakah funds to various organizations? This includes local, regional, national and international organizations. The guidelines address critical issues such as food, shelter and medical assistance. The JCA Tikkun Olam committee is responsible for allocating these funds. If you have an idea for an organization in need that is in the Amherst area or a Jewish organization that is national or international we invite you to present your suggestion before the committee by September 1. Please contact Elaine Walsh at her email address: ewacupuncture@earthlink.net

Not Bread Alone

Urgent Need for Soup Kitchen Volunteers

The JCA Committee for Not Bread Alone prepares the midday meal at Not Bread Alone, Amherst's local soup kitchen, the second Sunday of each month. We need several new volunteers for the prep/cooking shift

(9:30 a.m. - Noon) and the Clean-up shift (Noon - 2 pm.) to replace people who are leaving.

Substitutes are on call to fill in when regular volunteers cannot be there. In addition to the openings for monthly cooking volunteers, we are always seeking additional volunteers for our substitute list.

Volunteering at Not Bread Alone is a Mitzvah -- and it's fun! Teens, families, individuals, those preparing for Bar/Bat Mitzvah -- all are welcome!!

Please help the JCA continue our 22 year commitment to this important community effort.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact:

Devorah Jacobson at devorahj@comcast.net or 413-256-6431

Stop & Shop Food Collection

CONGRATULATIONS!!! to those who helped make the JCA food/money collection at the Stop & Shop in July a great success! Well over **2,000 pounds of food** were collected and brought to the Amherst Survival Center for distribution to those in need. \$300 was collected as well. The food was particularly needed to help stock the Emergency Food Pantry during the summer when collections and contributions slack off but demand does not. Many thanks to volunteers **Aaron Bousel, Doug and Josh Lowing, Judith Souweine, Michael Chernoff, Elaine Walsh, Randi Stein, Danielle Kadinoff, Eli Kwartler, Hill Boss, Ken Talan, Ann Armon, Judi Fonsh, Amy Kroin, Max Radin, Esther Mercer and Arnie Alper.**

CHD



Not Bread Alone



**AARON BOUSEL
PATIENCE MEIGS BOUSEL**

piano & harpsichord technicians

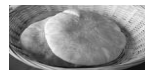
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For sample menus and price quotes contact Karen Loeb at:
phone: 413-253-0336
Email: kloeb@comcast.net

News About JCA Members

Pearl-Anne Margalit Appointed Director of Major Gifts For The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

New England

from Pearl-Anne:

I am happy to share with you the news of my appointment as Director of Major Gifts for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) New England based in Boston. I feel truly privileged to represent and serve such a venerable organization on the cusp of celebrating its centennial year. As you may know, ADL is one of the nation's oldest and most respected civil rights organizations, dedicated to combating anti-Semitism, and all forms of bigotry, defending democratic ideals and civil rights for all. No one offers as many programs for building Israeli respect as ADL.

I hope you will contact me for any information regarding ADL's valuable work.

*With best wishes,
Pearl-Anne Margalit*

Stern And Madsen Announce CD Release

JCA members **Robert Stern**, composer, and **Catherine Madsen**, librettist, announce the release of the CD *Awakenings*, which includes their oratorio, **SHOFAR**, for 4 soloists, chorus and orchestra, performed by Coro Allegro of Boston.

The four sections of the oratorio are structured on the four shofar calls used in the high holy day liturgy, evoking the breakdown of the soul's defenses and the community's return to God. Tekiah, an unbroken blast, signifies wholeness; Shevarim, a shorter triple blast, signifies brokenness; Teruah, a ninefold stammering blast, signifies shattering, and Tekiah Gedolah, a very long blast, signifies the return to wholeness.

In the oratorio, the shofar calls become a metaphor for the experiences of the Israelites at Sinai, from the establishment of the covenant (wholeness), to the golden calf (brokenness), and the aftermath of that infidelity (shattering), and, finally, to the reestablishment of the covenant.

Included on the CD are settings of several poems by Mary Oliver by composer Ronald Perera of Northampton.

The CD will be available on July 31 thru iTunes, Amazon and Naxos of America.

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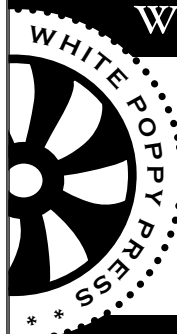


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Pakistani Students Visit The JCA

On July 20 we were privileged to have approximately 16 Pakistani students visit the JCA and attend our Farbrengen Friday. The students are part of a summer program run by UMass. They are here for a few weeks and the goal of the program is to expose them to various aspects of American life. The students come from a variety of backgrounds in Pakistan and did not know each other before entering the program. As far as we know, none of them had ever been to a synagogue before. This is the third year the program has brought students to the JCA, however this is the first year we were able to plan for their visit.

We arranged for them to come at 6:00 pm, 15 minutes before the start of services. Gordon Freed and Yossi Charette met with them in the main sanctuary to give them an introduction to what they were about to experience. Gordon led the service giving just enough ex-

planation to keep the students from getting lost without disrupting the flow of the service, and some JCA members sat with the students to help them along.

Following services we had our usual potluck supper, all sitting around the long table that we have set up for our Farbrengen Friday. After a few words from Yossi, Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser led a discussion during which we were able to answer their questions about Judaism and we asked some questions about Muslim practice. It being Farbrengen Friday we did some singing around the table as well. One of the young women offered to chant some verses from the Koran, and another young man chanted a sample of a Muslim prayer. We had assumed that all the students were Muslim, until one woman told us that she was Christian and then chanted a Psalm in Urdu.

As Rhonda brought things to a close

many of us there felt a great wave of emotion as we considered what had been accomplished. Even though things were "officially" done, the students stayed for quite a while longer talking with all of us. It was clear that they'd had a wonderful experience and will bring that with them when they go back to Pakistan.

Special thanks go to Yossi Charette who was the liaison with the UMass program, Gordon Freed for leading the service, Barbara Freed for making sure the food was organized and plentiful, and to Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser for leading our table talk in a way that made everyone feel comfortable. We also thank all the other JCA members who were there and made our guests feel so welcome. We all look forward to next year's visitors.

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.

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 or Auction Coordinator Maryann Barakso at 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.

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.



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Co-President Areas Of Responsibility

Through this division we hope to respond to your suggestions and concerns more promptly. Please feel free to contact either of us with your concerns and/or suggestions

Richard Cohen	Eli Kwartler
Agendas	Administration
Beit Shalom	Cemetery
Building & Grounds	Finance
Chesed	L'Dor v'Dor
Chevra Kadisha	Membership
Education & School	Nominating
Camp Shemesh	Leadership
Fundraising	Personnel
High Holidays Planning	World Jewish Concerns
Ritual Life	
Shomerim	
Tikkun Olam	

The Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 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

JCA Blood Drive

The JCA blood drive on June 6th did extremely well! The goal was 49. 48 donors presented. 32 pints of whole blood were collected, as well as 16 double red cells, for a grand total of 48 pints of blood donated! Since every pint can help save up to 3 lives, 144 lives were potentially saved! Thank you to all the donors who came out to donate blood!!! Thank you also to the terrific volunteers who helped the Drive run so efficiently: Helen Sternheim, Amy Rothenberg, Kitty Talan, Janet Kannel, Judith Souweine, Rachel and Jay Flint, Hollie Kalkstein, Fay Zipkowitz, Jeanne Potash and Barbara Pistrang.

Announcing the release by Navona Records of the CD

Awakenings
featuring

SHOFAR: an oratorio

by **JCA Members**

Robert Stern, Composer

Catherine Madsen, Librettist

Available July 31 thru iTunes, Amazon and Naxos of America



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 Barbara & Michael Burkart
 Laurie Weinberg
 William Sweet
 A. Esther Mercer
 In honor of Jody Rosenbloom
 (Anna, Steven & Calder Robbins)
 In honor of Aaron Bousel (Anna, Steven & Calder Robbins)
 In honor of Joyce Galaski (Anna, Steven & Calder Robbins)
 In celebration of the anniversary of
 Patience & Aaron Bousel (A. Esther Mercer)
 Chesed Fund
 In appreciation of the Chesed Committee's
 help around Ronnie's dad's death
 (Ronnie Williams & Suzanne Arnpolin)
 In memory of Frances Saed and in gratitude to the Chesed
 Committee (Eva Rosenn, Sarah & Ian Hutcheson)

Children's Scholarship Fund

In memory of Alex Chajes (Judith Souweine)

Combined Building & Annual Fund Campaign

Jackie Katz

Children's Scholarship Fund

In honor of the bar mitzvah of Eli Eckhouse, grandson of
 Judy Glaser & Robert Stern (Linda Nober)
 Jessica & Eric Wilkinson
 Richard Madowitz & Karen Helfer
 In memory of Esther Schneir (A. Esther Mercer)

General Fund

In celebration of the 36th wedding anniversary of Richard
 Cohen & Eliza Gouverneur (Reed & Arnie Alper)
 In memory of my mother, Maralin Weinberg
 (Barbara Burkart)
 In memory of Fran Saed, a spectacular mensch
 (Pearl-Anne & Nathan Margalit)
 In honor of my grandchildren, Abby & Matthew Seltzer
 (Marilyn Spencer)
 To thank Rabbi Weiner for performing the conversion for
 my sons Logan & Harrison Klein (Mike Klein)
 In honor of the Yahrzeit of Stanley Wax (Ruth Wax)
 In memory of Avram Goldstein, father of Joshua Goldstein,
 father-in-law of Andra Rose, grandfather of Solomon &
 Ruth Goldstein-Rose (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner at Rachel & Aaron's
 wedding from the Finer and Wolf/Levy families
 (Rachel & Aaron Levy)

Joan & Monroe Rabin

In memory of Alex Chajes (David & Barbara Schimmel)

In memory of Alex Chajes (Kitty & Ken Talan)

In honor of Deb & Larry Fine's new granddaughter
 (Kitty & Ken Talan)

In memory of Fran Saed (A. Esther Mercer)

Library Fund

In celebration of the 36th wedding anniversary of Richard
 Cohen & Eliza Gouverneur (A. Esther Mercer)

Music, Arts & Culture

In honor of Betty Suher's granddaughter Emily Suher's Bat
 Mitzvah with love (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In honor of Michael Wishnow's 50th Birthday with love
 (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In memory of Adam Wishnow with love
 (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In memory of Fran Saed, who always made us smile
 (Ronnie Williams & Suzanne Arnpolin)

In honor of Allen Davis's Birthday
 (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

Prayerbook Fund

In honor of Catherine Madsen's 60th birthday
 (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In honor of the aufruf of Vera Broekhuysen & Michael Lis
 (Aaron & Patience Bousel)

In memory of my beloved mother, Lucille Inez W. Mercer
 on the occasion of her yahrzeit (A. Esther Mercer)

Parents Association

In honor of Yael Benvenuto Ladin's bat mitzvah
 (Judy & Allen Davis)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Corinne Andrews for her loving and inspired
 leadership of Shabbat Yoga (Alan Kanner)

In memory of Harry Williams, father of Ronnie Williams
 (Richard & Leila Arnpolin)

In honor of the 36th wedding anniversary of Eliza
 Gouverneur and Richard Cohen
 (Irving & Linda Seidman)

In honor of the Rabbi Benjamin Weiner's thoughtfulness
 (Irving & Linda Seidman)

In memory of Harry Williams, father of Ronnie Williams &
 father-in-law of Suzanne Arnpolin
 (April & Vin Mastrangelo)

In thanks for Rabbis Ben Weiner & Devorah Jacobson
 leading Shiva services for Ronnie's dad
 (Ronnie Williams & Suzanne Arnpolin)

continued on next page

continued from previous page

In appreciation for the June 8th Friday night service led by Richard Cohen & Eliza Gouverneur, organized by Aaron Bousel and with oneg help from Judith Loischild for the Shabbat service and Oneg in honor of our son Aaron & Rachel, his fiancée; who were married on Sunday June 10th (Barry Levy & Jackie Wolf)

In honor of Marla Shelasky for her educational honor of excellence (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In honor of Livia Shelasky's graduation from Lander-Grinspoon Academy (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In honor of Dr. & Mrs Sanford Nadelstein; Mazel Tov to Sophia, Sandy & Ben on Ben's Bar Mitzvah (Vera & Laurie Wishnow)

In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner, Richard & Eliza Gouverneur & Kitty Axelson-Berry for my visit to Amherst (Ellen Brosbe)

In memory of Fran Saed (Barbara & Ted Slovin)
 In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner & the wonderful JCA family (Ariella Schwell & Roger, Noah & Sophie Magnus)

Scholar-in-Residence Fund

In memory of Alex Chajes (Barbara & Ted Slovin)

Summer Camp Fund

Robert Brainin & Ruth Hutton
 Eric & Jessica Wilkinson
 Lisa Perlbindler & Tom Porter
 Airlie & Josh Rose
 Gary Rehorka & Rachel Schwab-Rehorka
 John & Andrea Keins

Tzedakah Fund

In memory of the Yahrzeit of Louis Rabin (Monroe & Joan Rabin)

Condolences

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

Avram Goldstein, father of Joshua Goldstein, father-in-law of Andra Rose, grandfather of Solomon and Ruth Goldstein-Rose

Alexander Chajes, husband of Diane, father of Michael and Susan. He was a founding member of the JCA.

Rabbi Marc Rudolph's mother Frances, mother-in-law of Middy Fierro and grandmother of Ariel

Jack Holme, father of Jennifer Holme, father-in-law of Robyn Miller, and grandfather of Mikaela Holme-Miller and Gabrielle Holme-Miller. He is also survived by his son Kevin Holme, Kevin's wife Tammy and their three children.

New or Returning Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Rosalind Torrey
 Lisa & Scott Chasan-Taber

If someone in your family, or someone you know in the community, is ill and/or in the hospital, please contact the Chesed Committee by calling the office (256-0160).

Even if visits or phone calls are not desired, it is important for us as a community to be aware of the health and well being of our members and their families.

We cannot help if we don't know.

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Community Announcements

Hadassah

Save The Date:

OCTOBER 3, 2012, 7 P.M.
at Congregation Bnai Israel

Hadassah's Opening Meeting:

BEFORE ISRAEL: THE JEWS WHO
WERE 'ALWAYS THERE'

Guest Speaker:

Professor Linda Dittmar

This talk is co-sponsored by the Greenfield and Northampton-Amherst Chapters of Hadassah.

The public is cordially invited to this very interesting program.

Linda Dittmar is Professor Emerita of English from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She has also taught at Tel Aviv University and at the University of Paris.

Dr. Dittmar is a descendent of the old Jewish Yishuv community, in what was then Palestine.

Refreshments will be served.

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

Amherst Leisure Services

Community Theater

Amherst Leisure Services Community Theater announces auditions for

Fiddler on the Roof

September 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2012

Bangs Community Center in Amherst Performances in January 2013 at

Bowker Auditorium at UMass Amherst

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<www.alsct.org>

Hancock Shaker Village Presents

"Shalom: Weaving Threads of Peace" Mixed Media Assemblages by Wendy Rabinowitz

Hancock Shaker Village will present "Shalom: Weaving Threads of Peace" mixed-media assemblages by Wendy Rabinowitz in the Poultry House Gallery. This exhibition will open on Saturday, August 4 with a reception from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and run through Sunday, August 26 daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Rabinowitz will also give a gallery talk as part of the Village's Return and Learn series on Saturday, August 11 at 2:00pm. Return and Learn sessions are free to HSV members and included with general admission.

For more information or to make reservations for the exhibition opening reception, call 800.817.1137. Rabinowitz's artwork may be previewed online at www.hancockshakervillage.org.

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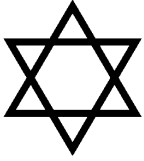
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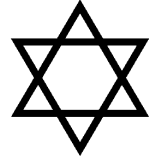
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JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

August 2012

13 Av ~ 13 Elul 5772



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ^{13 AV} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	2 ^{14 AV}	3 ^{15 AV} ✠Tu B'Av 7:49 12:00 pm Adult Ed Committee 5:30 pm Rekindle Shabbat hosts Intergenerational Family Service and potluck supper, at Groff Park (see page 7)	4 ^{16 AV} ✠Va'etchanan 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm Torah Study with Daniel Berlin (see page 5)
5 ^{17 AV}	6 ^{18 AV}	7 ^{19 AV} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	8 ^{20 AV} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation	9 ^{21 AV}	10 ^{22 AV} 7:40 Last Day of Camp Shemesh 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	11 ^{23 AV} ✠Ekev 10:00 am Shabbat Services
12 ^{24 AV}	13 ^{25 AV}	14 ^{26 AV} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	15 ^{27 AV} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 5:45 pm Education Committee	16 ^{28 AV}	17 ^{29 AV} 7:29 6:15 pm ✠Farbrengen Friday	18 ^{30 AV} ✠Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 1 ✠Re'eh 10:00 am Shabbat Services
19 ^{1 ELUL} ✠Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 2	20 ^{2 ELUL}	21 ^{3 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	22 ^{4 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn	23 ^{5 ELUL}	24 ^{6 ELUL} 7:19 10:30 am Red Cross Blood Drive 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	25 ^{7 ELUL} ✠Shoftim 10:00 am Shabbat Services
26 ^{8 ELUL}	27 ^{9 ELUL}	28 ^{10 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	29 ^{11 ELUL} 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn 7:00 pm School Committee	30 ^{12 ELUL}	31 ^{13 ELUL} 7:07 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	

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