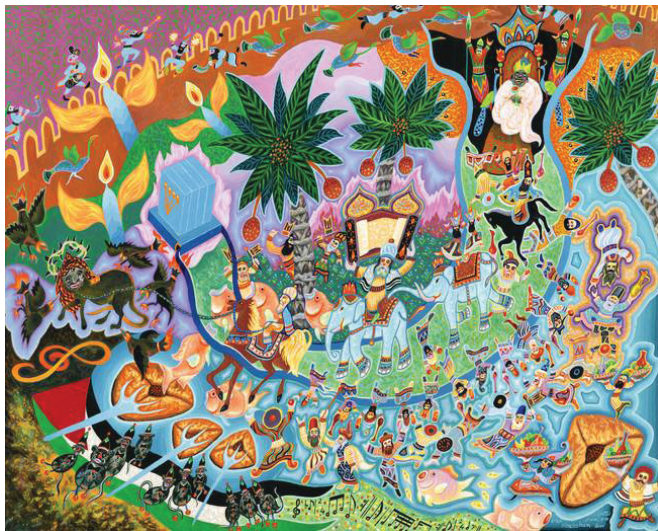




Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | March 2016 | Adar I/Adar II 5776



Happy Purim

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Highlights this Month

Borscht Belt Comedy Night, Saturday, March 12

Purim Carnival, Sunday, March 20

Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading, Wednesday, March 23

English Megillah Reading and Brunch, Thursday, March 24



Photo: Joseph Kushick

Dear JCA,

As I write this, in mid-to-late February, we have just begun reading a section of Torah that is close to my heart. The unit, composed of five *parshiot*, tells about the building of the *mishkan*, the sacred tent that the Israelites carried with them in the wilderness, from Sinai onwards. First God gives the instructions to Moses, then Moses relays this information to the people, and then they carry out the plan. Along the way there is also an exhaustive list of building materials, a description of various artisan skills, and a golden calf. Taken all together, it is a meditation on

the construction and meaning of sacred space—possibly the richest story ever told about a set of blueprints.

I like this *parsha* in part because it makes me nostalgic. You may recall, if you've been here long enough, that it was six years ago at the start of this unit of Torah that I "auditioned" for the role I now occupy as rabbi of the JCA. I remember the weekend well—the exhaustive preparation I undertook in the tiny apartment Elise and I inhabited in Brighton, the stomach bug that beset me on Thursday night, the warm hospitality we received from Joan Saperstan and Josette Henschel, and the crescendo of success I felt, despite my illness, as the weekend progressed and I realized that this was the right place for me. (I'm glad the community thought so, too.)

Coming back to this story six years down the road gives me the opportunity to reflect on all the work we've done together in that time to create and rededicate our sacred space, from the rehabilitation of certain committees and a renewed focus on issues of governance, to the exploration of various types of davening and study, and the wonderful work currently being done in the areas of youth and family experience that I can't stop talking about.

But the *parsha* also means a great deal to me on a personal spiritual level. A striking midrash compares the creation of the world and the construction of the *mishkan* and suggests that the world wobbled on its foundation from the moment it was created until the *mishkan* was finished, at which point it came to rest.

Of course, I don't believe this literally, but I nonetheless find this formulation to be a perfect expression of the role of spiritual practice in a wobbling world. Where do we find stability in a world that does not really possess it at the best of times, to say nothing of our own? We have to make it for ourselves out of the materials that come to hand, a project in which the intangibles—song, breath, prayer, faith—prove more durable than gold and silver.

b'shalom, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Rabbi Weiner wants to make sure the community knows he is available and eager to visit at home, or in the hospital, with people who are unwell or otherwise in need of some spiritual support. The important step is to make sure he knows you are in need!

Please don't hesitate to contact him directly at rabiweiner@j-c-a.org, or through the JCA office, if you would like a visit.

Programs and Events Calendar

Mark your calendars for community activities, programs, study opportunities, and more. Please see the Ritual Life Calendar for information on Shabbat and other services.

March 1, Tuesday

HEBREW POETRY OF FAITH AND DOUBT

7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Adult Education class with Rabbi Ed Feld. (see page 11)

March 2, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch and Learn continues its investigation of *Halakha*, the tradition of Jewish law. We have been studying the laws and customs relating to death and mourning, working out of a 19th century text called the *Kitzur Shulkhan Aruch*. The discussion has helped us get a better handle on the Jewish way at the end of life, and has also provided opportunity for sharing personal feelings and experiences. If you have not already attended, it is never too late. You can come and go as you're able, and drop-ins are always welcome. Please remember that JCA kashrut rules allow only for dairy and pareve foods inside the building—no meat!

March 2, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

March 3, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 – 8:45 pm

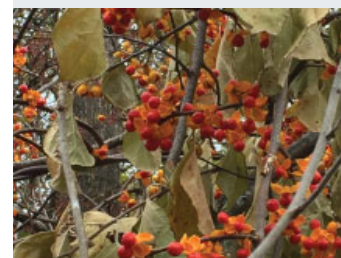
This is an ongoing workshop, meeting every other Thursday, for instrumentalists who are interested in learning how to play Klezmer music. Instructor Brian Bender (Wholesale Klezmer Band, Yiddishkeit Klezmer Ensemble, Little Shop of Horas) teaches Klezmer repertoire and style in a fun, relaxed setting. All instruments welcome. The workshop periodically performs as an ensemble for JCA events. Fee is \$15/class.

March 6, Sunday

GIRLS IN TROUBLE

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Adult Education Class (see page 11)



Bittersweet
by Sandy Sulsky

Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

March 8, Tuesday

HEBREW POETRY OF FAITH AND DOUBT

7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Adult Education class with Rabbi Ed Feld. (see page 11)

March 9, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

March 9, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

March 12, Saturday

6TH ANNUAL BORSCHT BELT COMEDY NIGHT

7:00 pm

Here's the punch line...What's the joke? Come to this great JCA event and find out. Eat borscht, bring your jokes and your potty mouth. No kids under 18 but you can act like one. All jokes should be under 3 minutes. If you are particularly sensitive to being offended – this may not be for you. For more information, contact Oran Kaufman at oran@orankaufman.com or call 413-256-1575. Suggested donation: \$10.

March 15, Tuesday

HEBREW POETRY OF FAITH AND DOUBT

7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Adult Education class with Rabbi Ed Feld. (see page 11)

March 16, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

March 16, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

March 17, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 – 8:45 pm

Request for Images for the Kolot Photo Library

As part of the new design for Kolot – JCA Voices, we would like to build a digital photo library that we can call on for editions of our newsletter throughout the year.

We are interested in photos, both personal and artistic, you may have taken of folks at JCA programs or events, or of special times of the year, holidays, celebrations, study sessions, valley visuals – whatever you think would be interesting or fun to help personalize our community publication and make it more visually appealing.

We will credit your photos whenever we use them, so don't forget to give us your contact details. Please send jpegs up to 1MB in size to: news@j-c-a.org

Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

March 20, Sunday

PURIM CARNIVAL

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

See a Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk, followed by the Carnival with balloon animals, games, crafts, hamentaschen-baking and a Tots Puppet Show with Anna Sobel. Children's Megillah Reading of the story of Purim is next, and finally a festive Lunch and Party! Cost for Carnival & All Activities: \$10/child, max \$20/family. Lunch: \$5/person, max \$15/family.

March 20, Sunday

GIRLS IN TROUBLE

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Adult Education Class (see page 11)

March 23, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

March 23, Wednesday

PURIM CELEBRATION AND MEGILLAH READING

6:30 – 8:00 pm

March 24, Thursday

ENGLISH MEGILLAH READING AND BRUNCH

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Join us for a raucous reading in English of the Megillah complemented by a delicious brunch courtesy of The Black Sheep Deli. (adults only)

March 30, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

March 30, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

March 31, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 – 8:45 pm



Upcoming Programs and Events

April 4, Monday

AMHERST CINEMA: *ONCE IN A LIFETIME*

7:00 pm

In anticipation of our Yom HaShoah program on May 4th, The Jewish Community of Amherst is co-sponsoring a film about a dedicated history teacher at a French high school who offers lessons of the Holocaust in an effort to motivate her troubled, apathetic students in this uplifting drama based on a true story. *Once in a Lifetime* is a potent and moving antidote to the devaluation of education in an age of ignorance and demonstrates the enduring impact of the Holocaust in transforming future generations. More information about the May 4th program will be forthcoming.

April 7, Thursday

JCA ADULT READING GROUP

7:30 pm

Come join us for our third meeting of the year to be held in the JCA library. We will be discussing a mystery fiction book; a bit lighter than our usual fare but reports are that it is very interesting. The book is *The Ritual Bath* by Faye Kellerman. It is in paperback and available through a library or Kindle. Our discussions are lively, and you almost always come away with a deeper appreciation of the book you have read. New participants are welcome! Any questions, please call Ken Talan at 413-253-2248

April 8, Friday (Erev Shabbat)

**MY DINNER WITH SHABBOS II:
A CONGREGATION-WIDE SHABBAT HOSTING EVENT**

The Membership Committee is organizing congregation-wide communal potluck Shabbat dinners in members' homes. WE NEED HOSTS! WE NEED GUESTS! If you are able to host or would like to be a guest, please contact Ruth Kane-Levit BY MARCH 15th at rkanelevit@gmail.com or 413-548-1083. We will be the Matchmakers! Rabbi Weiner will provide a congregation-wide topic of discussion based on the week's Torah portion.

Our Community

Welcome to New JCA Members

Ana Villalobos Sharone & Ofer Sharone

Joining the Jewish Community of Amherst

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the JCA, we encourage you to get in touch with Tobi Sznajderman of the Membership Committee at membership@j-c-a.org. If you are ready to receive membership application materials, please contact the JCA Office at 413-256-0160 or admindir@j-c-a.org. Shalom, and welcome!

Seeking Your News

Many people who responded to the survey last year said they would like our newsletter to be more personal. So, we would like to hear from you! Please send us your good news. Maybe a new baby or addition to your family, a wedding, an award, an achievement, public recognition, anything significant you would like to share. We welcome your announcement up to 120 words and an accompanying jpeg photo up to 1MB in size. Please send by the 12th of the month for the upcoming newsletter to: news@j-c-a.org.



Photo: Halley Gmeiner

The February 1 deadline for people to send back dues forms has passed, and unfortunately we've only heard from 60% of members. While this reflects a historical pattern, it is much more significant this year because we are developing a full year budget to begin on July 1 and it is essential that we have accurate information on which to base revenue projections. The budget development process has already begun, and has to be completed by April, so PLEASE, if you haven't already sent your information in, get that back to us quickly.

Parentetically, a congregant recently raised concerns about how we structure the Fair Share dues form and system, and suggested other approaches for us to consider. His questions were thoughtful and entirely legitimate, and we responded with an explanation of how we ended up with the structure we're using. But it raised an important question about whether we have a well-understood and articulated process for reopening an issue that has been decided by the board and voted on by the community. Even if the process we used to elicit community input into the decision was thorough, and even if the outcome made sense at the time we voted on it, under what conditions does the board consider revisiting the issue?

There are two principles in tension here – the need to reinforce the role of the board in developing policy and support the process used to make the initial decision, versus the acknowledgement that new information and the passage of time may merit the community rethinking something it has previously decided. The making of policy should provide predictability and continuity, but it needs to remain dynamic and open to change.

At the board level, we have developed guidelines about how a member of the board can ask for us to revisit an issue we've previously made a decision about – it simply requires raising the issue under new business and having a majority of the board agree to revisit it. But no analogous process exists for members of the community. When a community member raises an issue, the president and/or other member of the board always responds personally to the member. Sometimes we think the issue is significant enough to warrant discussion at a board meeting. But unless a majority of the board argues to bring it back to the community, there is no further action on it.

The only place in the bylaws there is any reference to this is in the section where it indicates that Special meetings of the members can be called upon the written request of 20 members of the community. Presumably feedback at such a community meeting might persuade the board that revisiting a previous decision is warranted.

Is that a sufficient answer to the question of how we revisit previous community decisions? Are there other processes we should consider? Or is this the most feasible and practical mechanism?

We are, as always, open to your feedback and thoughts.

b'shalom, Bill Zimmer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 2 Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

March 3 Thursday

Board Meeting
7:00 pm

March 7 Monday

Fundraising Committee
2:00 pm
Chesed Committee
7:15 pm

March 10 Thursday

Cemetery Committee
5:45 pm

March 11 Friday

Adult Ed Committee
12:15 pm

March 17 Thursday

Executive Committee
7:00 pm
Tikkun Olam Committee
7:15 pm

March 24 Thursday

Tikkun Olam Committee
7:15 pm

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes



All services are in the main sanctuary unless a different location is specified.

Shabbat Shekalim/Parashat Vayakhel *Exodus 35:1-38:20, Exodus 30:11-16*

March 4, Friday

TOT SHABBAT

5:45 pm

March 5, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

RENEWAL SERVICE

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

Shabbat Pekudey *Exodus 38:21-40:38*

March 11, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

March 12, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 – 10:00 am in the social hall

Teachers: Deborah Evans and Catherine Nagel

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Shabbat Zakhor/Parashat Vayikra *Leviticus 1:1-5:26, Deuteronomy 25:17-19*

March 18, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner with The Shabbat Band



Candle Lighting

March 4, 5:24 pm

March 11, 5:33 pm

March 18, 6:41 pm

March 25, 6:49 pm

Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

Shacharit (morning) Minyan

Every Tuesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

Meditation Minyan

The meditation minyan has been temporarily suspended. The community will be informed when it resumes.

Mincha or Ma'ariv Minyan

Every Thursday at 5:30 pm in the small sanctuary.

Rosh Hodesh Adar II

March 10/11, Thursday/Friday

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

March 19, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Purim

March 23, Wednesday

PURIM CELEBRATION AND MEGILLAH READING

6:30 pm

March 24, Thursday

ENGLISH MEGILLAH READING AND BRUNCH (ADULTS ONLY)

11:00 am

Shabbat Tsav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36

March 25, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

March 26, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 – 10:00 am in the social hall

Teachers: Deborah Evans and Catherine Nagel

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

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:

Recent Torah readers: Arnie Alper, Aaron Bousel, Sam Gladstone, Joel Greenbaum, Anne Greenberg, Ethan Nestlebaum, Yosef Rumshiskiy, Aaron Valitt, Howard Vigderman

D'var Torah giver: Ziva Harmatz, Aaron Valitt

Musicians: Shabbat Band

Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors

If you would like to help with or sponsor a Kiddush, please contact Ann Wetherbee, our Administrative Director, at admindir@j-c-a.org

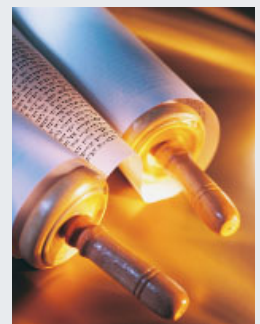
Torah Reading

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

Robert Friedman at info@robariah.com for reading in March

Randi Stein at randistein@earthlink.net for reading in April

If you would like to learn to read Torah, would like help choosing or preparing a reading, or would like to schedule a reading for a month when there is no designated coordinator, please contact Batya Perman, 549-4853.



Education

In *The Jewish Life Cycle: Rites of Passage from Biblical to Modern Times*, Ivan G. Marcus explains the commonly agreed upon anthropological framework for rites of passage.

“Each rite of passage...has a three-part structure...there is a stage of “separation,” in which the individual is removed or taken away from the group or identity in which he or she has been living up to this point. The person then is taken through some type of “transition” from the earlier stage of life to a new stage...Finally the individual goes through the third stage of “incorporation” during which he or she is made part and parcel of the new stage of life...At each stage of development a person stops being what he or she was, travels along a path of change, and then adjusts to living a new pattern of living.”

Judaism is full of rites of passage that we generally call life cycle events: brit milah, b’nai mitzvah, etc. As of late, the education leadership team has been giving particular attention to b’nai mitzvah. To what extent are we serving the deepest potentialities of this rite of passage? To what extent are our b’nai mitzvah teens coming out of this experience as different people? To what extent does our community receive them as different people? Can we do better?

A trend we see is that immediately upon becoming b’nai mitzvah, many of our young people disappear from our classrooms, our hallways, our programs. They just had an experience that they worked so hard for, and for which their friends, family, peers, teachers, rabbi, and community showed up to witness and support them. Then suddenly, they’re gone. Why? Is it because they need a break from organized Jewish learning? Is it because for years they’ve been prioritizing their Jewish learning and now families make hard decisions about prioritizing other things? Is it that our program isn’t stimulating enough to keep them engaged? Whatever the combination of reasons, we’ve set out to change the trend.

This winter, we have been completely revamping our b’nai mitzvah curriculum. We want it to be deeply meaningful. We want it to empower participants to take agency over their learning and make connections with the rest of their lives and the world. We want it to include exploration of the question: What happens after I step onto the bima as a bar/bat mitzvah? What comes next? The new curriculum will be a two-year program in which 6th and 7th graders learn and prepare together for b’nai mitzvah. It will include modules that the students themselves help to design in order to select topics of interest and relevance to them. It will include personalizing ritual objects so that they actually want to use them. It will include modern Hebrew. It will include field trips. It will include nuts and bolts preparation for the service they will lead and the Torah they will read from. It will include elements that are very personal and elements that are communal.

We sometimes hear from JCA community members that they do not attend services on b’nai mitzvah mornings because they do not want to “crash the party” of the teen and family whose “day” it is. In echo of Bill Zimmer’s column a couple of months ago, please know that you are not only invited, you are encouraged to celebrate these milestones with our families.

Many thanks, Cara Michelle Silverberg, *Youth and Teen Programs Coordinator*

Calendar

March 2, Wednesday
School

March 4, Friday
Tot Shabbat

March 6, Sunday
School

March 9, Wednesday
School

March 13, Sunday
School and Shabbat Shalom

March 16, Wednesday
School
JVCorps at the JCA

March 17, Thursday
JVCorps at the
Amherst Survival Center

March 20, Sunday
Purim Carnival

March 23, Wednesday
School

March 27, Sunday
No School

March 30, Wednesday
School

Visit www.j-c-a.org/education.html for calendar, news, program information, registration, and more.



Look for this on the household items you buy. Cut it out, bring it to the JCA, and help raise money for our school.

Adult Education

Girls in Trouble:

Exploring the Complicated Lives of Biblical Women through the Arts

Developed by Mimi Farb and Alicia Jo Rabins (requires registration)

Sunday, March 6	The Story of Judith	10:00 – 11:45 am
Sunday, March 20	The Story of Eve	2:00 – 4:00 pm

Part of the Girls in Trouble series, these sessions will explore the stories of Judith and Eve, using classical texts and various artistic media to tease out their resonance with our own lives. Participants will engage with the concept of midrash as a personal, artistic mode of Torah interpretation, and have the opportunity to create their own midrashim.

Hebrew Poetry of Faith and Doubt

Rabbi Ed Feld

Tuesdays, March 1, 8, and 15

7:30 – 8:45 pm (requires registration)

From Biblical times to the present, Hebrew poetry has both expressed belief in God's protection and struggled with that belief, voicing anguish and anger over God's absence. In this 3-session course we will engage in a close reading of Biblical, medieval and modern poems that wrestle with faith. Poems will be presented in both Hebrew and English, and no prior knowledge is needed.

Community Life Saver Training

Instructor: Matt Wolkenbreit

Sunday, April 10

2:00 – 3:30 pm

This 90-minute class will teach necessary life saving information and techniques so you are better prepared to identify and respond to a medical emergency. You will learn to:

- Address choking and other life-threatening emergencies
- Identify signals of life-threatening emergencies
- Understand Good Samaritan Laws
- Respond when a conscious adult or child with obstructed airway becomes unconscious
- Respond to someone showing signs and symptoms of a medical emergency
- Practical training with mannequins including:
 - Hands-only CPR
 - Clearing obstructed airways
 - General AED awareness.

This is not a CPR certification class, but if there is interest, one could be arranged at a future date.

There is still time to register for Adult Education programs. For more information on the programs listed here, see the Spring Adult Education booklet at <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed.pdf>.

You may register online at <http://tinyurl.com/jca-adulted> or mail in your Registration Form to Boris Wolfson, 71 Larkspur Drive, Amherst, MA 01002. Checks may be written to JCA with "Adult Ed" on the memo line.

Adult Education (continued)

A History of Denominational Judaism

Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Tuesdays, April 12, April 19, May 3, and May 10

7:00 – 9:00 pm (requires registration)

Over four sessions we will explore the origins, development, and current state of denominational Judaism, both for general interest and also to consider the nature of the JCA as a Reconstructionist affiliated congregation. Areas covered will include: the development of multiple Jewish ideologies in the transition from pre-modernity to modernity, the European social and intellectual trends out of which Orthodoxy and Reform developed, the emergence of American ‘brands’ of Judaism, including Conservative and Reconstructionist, and the basis for the claim that we are now living in a “post-denominational” era.

Jewish Understanding of the Contemporary Muslim World

A Panel Discussion led by Professor David Mednicoff

Sunday, May 8

2:00 pm

The purpose of this panel discussion, led by Professor David Mednicoff, is to help people better understand contemporary Islamic political, legal, and spiritual diversity. Panelists will present a variety of perspectives on the topics. David Mednicoff is Director of Accelerated Programs for the Center for Public Policy and Administration, as well as Director of Middle Eastern Studies in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Massachusetts. He has a broad background in international law and politics and focuses on interdisciplinary connections between legal and political ideas and institutions at the national and transnational levels, particularly the Middle East.



From a painting by
Richard Cohen

Chesed Committee

Thank You, Volunteers!

The Chesed Committee thanks all who have recently provided compassionate support to others in the community.

In particular, thank you to Jane Brodwyn, Randi Stein, Barbara Freed, Barbara Pistrang, David Piech, Renee Spring, Susan Zarchin, Ann Armon, Libby Arny, Hadar Grabel, Marcie Sclove, Judith Souweine, Barbara Slovin, and Joan Rabin for preparing and delivering meals to members in need; to Amy Mittelman for visits; to Ellen Middleton, Karen Loeb, and Reed Alper for rides; and to Ellen Middleton and Kitty Talan for helping at a funeral.

And thanks, again, to everyone who has made a meal, provided a ride, lent a sympathetic ear, visited a person in need of companionship, or performed other acts of chesed (loving kindness).

World Jewish Concerns Committee

World Jewish Concerns Committee needs a person who can help with the audio and visual equipment for our events. This paid job will require setting up screens, microphones, a lap-top computer and sound equipment and whatever else necessary for a particular event and it will require the individual to be available to operate the equipment during the event. At the end of the event, the individual will be responsible to take apart the equipment and put it away. If interested, contact nbolozky@gmail.com or Karen Loeb, kloeb@comcast.net, 253-0336.

JCA Hall Gallery

We are pleased to announce that February 1 – May 1 the following artists will be represented in the JCA Hall Gallery:

The Natural (and Sometimes Unnatural Landscapes of New England)
Watercolors by Nancy Ratner

The Unforgiving and Unpredictable Nature of Water Color
Watercolors by Diane Schlappi

A Compassionate Community

The Chesed Committee assists JCA members in times of joy, sorrow, and need, coordinating volunteers to help with meals, rides, errands, visits, shiva minyans, etc. We also welcome babies to the community.

Please let us know if you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance. We can't help if we don't know. Contact the Chesed Committee by email at jcachesed@gmail.com or by calling the office at (413) 256-0160 or by contacting a committee member (current members are listed on the website).

We encourage you to be a part of the JCA's growth as a compassionate community. New committee members are welcome at any time to participate in this mitzvah.

Tikkun Olam Committee

The Tikkun Olam Committee thanks all those who volunteered to make the Soup for Syria event such a great success! To quote Rabbi Weiner: *We put the JCA forward as a leader for meaningful action in the larger community.* There was a full sanctuary with inspiring, informative speakers and fantastic music, followed by three delicious soups from the cookbook in the social hall. JCA member, David Mednicoff offered an inspiring talk on the Syrian refugee crisis followed by Michel Moushabeck, the publisher of the Soup for Syria cookbook. Fabulous music by musicians Kinan Idnawi, Ilene Stahl, Paul Arslanian and Michel enthralled the audience. Michael Kane of the Valley Syrian Relief Committee presented information on the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). The community came together to benefit Syrian refugees, a crucial cause.

Over \$6,000 was raised for the Syrian American Medical Society, providers of critical medical care for the sick and injured where the medical care system has collapsed. Syrian refugees were further supported by 100% of the profit from the sale of the Soup for Syria cookbook.

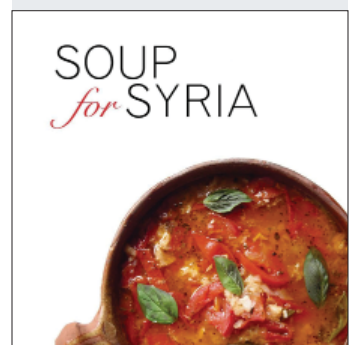
For those who wish to contribute but were unable to attend, please send a check payable to SAMS to the JCA office. The cookbook is sold out but more copies are being printed and will be available through the JCA office in March.

Thanks to our soup makers:

Ronnie Danoff-Bulman	Cheryl Zoll
Gail Perlman Epstein	Dennis Rosen
Amy Rothenberg	Suzanne Spencer
Jenifer McKenna	Marci Sclove
Devorah Jacobson	Sallie Deans Lake
Danielle Kadinoff	Kitty Talan
Judi Fonsh	Nina Tetenbaum
Randi Stein	Beth Eisenberg
Nancy Ratner	Randi Stein
Reed Alper	Ellen and Jack Middleton
Mary Bernstein	Frieda Howards
Frances Kadinoff	

Thanks to the folks who organized, set up, ushered, cleaned up and served the soup:

Arnie Alper	Ted Trobaugh
Irene Eigner	Ken Schoen
Harry Hahn	Jane Trigere
Susan Zarchin	Robin Diamond
Amy Mittelman	Aaron Kropf
Emily Mortimer	Lisa Kent
Jeff Cohen	Helen Grabel
David Marks	Josette Henschel
Aaron Bousel	Judith Souweine
Diane Chajes	



Donations to the JCA

Adult Ed

Jackie Wolf

Annual Fund

Robert & Sigrid Pollin

Chesed

In loving memory of Abraham Levine,
father of Elinor Levine
(Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)

General Fund

In honor of David Glassberg & Lisa Kent's
Wedding (Barbara & Michael Burkart)

In memory of Janis Wolkenbreit's father
(Barbara & Michael Burkart)

In memory of my dear friend, Irv Howards
(Hill Boss)

In honor of Judith Souweine's grandson,
Jacob Geiger's bar mitzvah
(Jennifer Trynin)

In memory of Ruth Smith's mother, Helen
Perlman, on her Yahrzeit
(Ruth & Howard Smith)

In memory of Howard Smith's brother,
Leonard Smith, on his Yahrzeit
(Ruth & Howard Smith)

In honor of Aaron Samuel Valitt on the
happy occasion of his Bar Mitzvah
(Caden & Lewis Mainzer)

Music Fund

In honor of Kitty & Ken Talan: Mazel Tov on
your milestone Anniversary!
(Robin & Ted Diamond)

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In gratitude for leading the shloshim service
for my father, Maynard Hinden
(Janis & Steve Wolkenbreit)

In memory of Hannah Zuckerman
(Rabbi David Dunn Bauer)

Condolences:

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

Maynard Hinden, father of Janis
Wolkenbreit, father-in-law of Steve
Wolkenbreit, and grandfather of Liana
and Matthew

Joseph Cherkas, father of Edythe Ellin and
father-in-law of Marvin Ellin

Longtime JCA member Ellie Quint, mother
of Janet and David

Ronnie Seidenberg, Rabbi David
Seidenberg's mother, Rabbi Riqi
Kosovske's mother-in-law and Chanina's
grandmother

In the Valley

Being Mortal Book Discussion at a Library Near You

On Saturday, March 19 from 2:00-3:00 pm, Jones Library in Amherst will host a community discussion of Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*. For more information, contact Linda Wentworth at 259-3090. This acclaimed bestseller has started a national conversation about the deep flaws in the way our society treats people with serious illness and those who are facing end of life. Using Dr. Gawande's book as a springboard, participants in the community conversation will be assisted by members of the Cooley Dickinson Hospice and Palliative Care team to identify goals for end-of-life care and better outcomes for ourselves and our loved ones. The book discussion is part of a larger collaboration between Cooley Dickinson and libraries throughout the Pioneer Valley. For more dates and locations, see <http://tinyurl.com/beingmortal-gawande>.

All discussions are free and open to the public.

The 11th Annual Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival

March 31 – April 14

We are proud to continue our tradition of presenting two weeks of award-winning films from around the world. This year, we have 24 films from 14 countries – including many regional premiers – that provide audiences with a multifaceted exploration of Jewish Identity, community, history and politics. Films are screened across Western Massachusetts in Amherst, Chicopee, Easthampton, Greenfield, Longmeadow, Northampton, Shelburne Falls, Springfield and West Springfield. Post-screening discussions with visiting filmmakers and local scholars add depth and perspective to the film programs. We hope you'll join us and be entertained, inspired and enlightened. See you at the movies! For full schedule or to make a donation and receive complimentary tickets: www.pvjff.org



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Tuesday to Friday: 10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Wednesday: 4:00 – 6:00 pm & Sunday: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm when
JCA School is in session

Kolot — JCA Voices

March 2016

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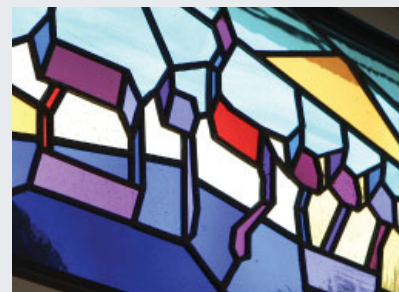
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An archive of previous editions
may be found at:
<http://j-c-a.org/news/>

Deadline for the April issue is
March 13th.



Have you checked out the
JCA Judaica Store lately?

The Judaica Store features books
by JCA members
and others, siddurim,
chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot
and many lovely gift items.

You can shop whenever
the office is open

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