



**Jewish Community of Amherst**

**Kolot — JCA Voices | April 2016 | Adar II/Nisan 5776**



**Happy Passover!**

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## **Highlights this Month**

**World Jewish Concerns Film at Amherst Cinema,  
Monday, April 4**

**Passover Begins, Friday Evening, April 22**

**JCA Community 2nd Seder, Saturday, April 23**



Photo: Joseph Kushick

**P**olitics are in the air. I knew I smelled something...

One of the questions I wrestle with as a congregational rabbi is the extent to which a synagogue community should engage in the political issues of the day. You are probably aware that we are forbidden from certain kinds of engagement, particularly the endorsement of specific candidates for office. We can't publicly decry them either, no matter how much they make our blood boil. To do so would be to sacrifice the tax-exempt status that "houses-of-worship" are still, for better or worse, afforded by the "powers-that-be."

Then there are particular causes that are enmeshed in political wrangling that I don't actually consider matters of politics, and therefore feel no compunction in mentioning. You are probably aware that I am reasonably outspoken about ecological issues, which, far from a matter of political partisanship, I consider to be one of biophysical reality, and so don't feel I am violating any doctrine of fairness and equity by bringing to light.

We are not barred from expressing our values as a community—and we can speak out of that sense of shared values for or against the movements and policies that are shaping the contemporary political landscape. But this right comes with some heavy responsibilities: how do we determine what our shared values are? How do we judge that there is enough consensus on a matter to take a position as a community? How do we safeguard a sense of welcome and safety for our political outliers?

I was given helpful language for these dilemmas in rabbinical school, by a teacher who said that a rabbi must plot his or her course between the poles of the "pastoral" and the "prophetic." In the pastoral mode, my greatest concern is that the largest number of people experience the community as a place of sanctuary and refuge, and not an arena for ideological challenge and debate. When I presume to speak in the prophetic voice, it is to remind us that we have the mandate from tradition to discern what is right, and to do it.

My prejudice is that an effective congregational rabbi needs to err on the side of the pastoral. At the same time, I am haunted by these words from Martin Luther King: "If the [synagogue] does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

As the world convulses around us, we are certainly faced with the challenge of determining how we, as a community, will react in a way that retains our moral and spiritual authority, and our capacity to find refuge and sanctuary in each other's company. This will require a good and clear conversation, which it is my hope we will learn to have with each other.

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](mailto:rabiweiner@j-c-a.org), or through the JCA office, if you would like a visit.

## Programs and Events Calendar

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

### 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. This uplifting drama is 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.

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### April 6, 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!

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### April 6, Wednesday

#### ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

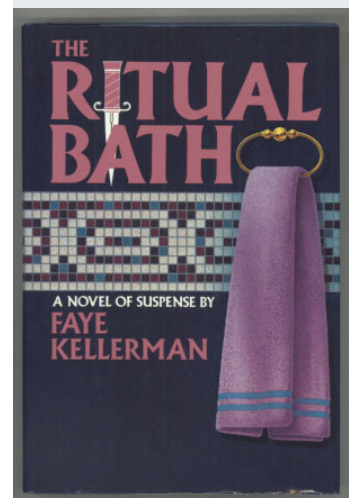
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### April 7, Thursday

#### ADULT READING GROUP

7:30 – 8:30 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.



## Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

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**April 10, Sunday**

### **COMMUNITY LIFE SAVER TRAINING**

**7:30 pm – 8:45 pm**

Adult Education class. (see page 10)

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**April 12, Tuesday**

### **A HISTORY OF DENOMINATIONAL JUDAISM**

**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Adult Education Class with Rabbi Weiner (see page 10)

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**April 13, Wednesday**

### **LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER**

**12:15 – 1:15 pm**

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**April 14, 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.

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**April 19, Tuesday**

### **A HISTORY OF DENOMINATIONAL JUDAISM**

**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Adult Education Class with Rabbi Weiner (see page 10)

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**April 20, Wednesday**

### **LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER**

**12:15 – 1:15 pm**

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**April 27, Wednesday**

### **LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER**

**12:15 – 1:15 pm**

In observance of Passover we ask that no food be brought into the JCA.

### **Thank You!**

Knock Knock! Who's there? Orange. Orange who? Orange you glad you came to the Borscht Belt Comedy Night?!

We had another successful, hilarious, fun-filled night at the 6th Annual Borscht Belt Comedy Night, and we raised over \$500.00 for the JCA to boot. I want to thank our amazing emcee Tobi Sznajderman AKA "Maude Baumstein Bergowitzmikoff". Many thanks go to the Borscht Belt team - Ruth Kane Levit, David Levit and Danielle Barshak for organizing and making the delicious borscht and, of course, thank you to our drummer extraordinaire - our very own Rabbi Weiner. Finally, thank you to our wonderful audience.

Oran Kaufman

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



### Upcoming Programs and Events

May 8, Sunday

#### **JEWES, ARABS, AND ISLAMOPHOBIA**

*A Panel Discussion Led by Professor David Mednicoff*

**2:00 pm**

This 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 Amherst. 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.

### Our Community

#### Welcome to New JCA Members

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

Mimi Farb	South Hadley
Lilith Wolinsky	Northampton
Sharon Weizenbaum	Amherst

#### Mazel Tov to Bar Mitzvah Ethan Lawrence Wilkinson



**Ethan Lawrence Wilkinson** will be called to the Torah on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 9, 2016. He will read from parshat Tazria. Ethan is the son of Jessica and Eric Wilkinson and the brother of Josh Wilkinson. He currently attends the Bement School and has been playing hockey in the Amherst Hockey League since first grade. He also has attended Hebrew School at JCA since first grade, Camp Shemesh for six years, and Camp Young Judaea in Amherst, New Hampshire for four years. He will be joined in celebration by all eight of his grandparents.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:news@j-c-a.org).



Photo: Halley Gmeiner

Dear Chaverim,

Bill Zimmer has suggested that a board member periodically contribute to the president's column in the newsletter. I jumped at the chance to talk about the many organizational changes that have taken place since 2010.

I remember when the JCA parking lot would have, at best, half a dozen cars in it during the workweek. Other than Wednesdays during Hebrew school hours, the building felt pretty empty. That changed in 2010, when the Literacy Project began renting the Library weekdays from 9 am until 2:00 pm for ten months of the year.

One of the priorities that the board gave to Rabbi Weiner, in his first year, was to revitalize Adult Education. We now have Lunch & Learn every Wednesday at noon. Beginning in 2012, the Adult Education committee has sponsored a full schedule of events each fall and spring semester bringing people to the JCA on weeknights and weekends. We also have a yoga class twice a month on Shabbat mornings in the social hall.

On Thursday nights, the Amherst Art Walk brings people to our hallway to see the current display of a local artist, often a JCA member. Our very own Klezmer Band practices every other week in the main sanctuary. World Jewish Concerns sponsors multiple programs every semester. In addition to committee meetings, we have many individuals and organizations that rent various rooms at the JCA for a variety of reasons.

As you can imagine, this level of usage requires a sophisticated scheduling system just to keep track of all these bookings, and identify the varied set-up requirements (projector, sound system, table arrangements, etc.). By 2013, we found there are 15 different protocols for scheduling and setting up rooms. This increased usage of the building necessitated an upgrade in our capacity to plan, coordinate and administer this level of activity.

In 2014, the board hired an Administrative Director to oversee the office staff, maintenance staff, and the kitchen coordinator. Karen Bell functioned for a year as the Administrative Director and these responsibilities have now been taken over by Ann Wetherbee who works closely with the Executive Committee on this essential function. This new position provides us with what is essentially a Chief Operations Officer who supervises staff in the office, kitchen and maintenance departments. Having one person do this ensures uniformity across three essential departments.

Keren Rhodes and Cara Michelle Silverberg now co-lead an education department that plans and administers all programs for school, camp, teens, tots and families.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication, hard work and time given by staff and community members. My deepest appreciation to all of you!

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

b'shalom, Michael Burkart

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### April 4, Monday

Fundraising Committee  
2:00 pm

Chesed Committee  
7:15 pm

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#### April 6, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee  
7:00 pm

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#### April 8, Friday

Adult Ed Committee  
12:15 pm

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#### April 13, Wednesday

Youth & Family  
Education Committee  
7:00 pm

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#### April 14, Thursday

Cemetery Committee  
5:30 pm

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#### April 14, Thursday

Board Meeting  
7:00 pm

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#### April 15, Friday

Adult Ed Committee  
12:15 pm

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#### April 21, Thursday

Board Meeting  
7:00 pm  
Tikkun Olam Committee  
7:15 pm

## Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

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

### *Shabbat Parah/Parashat Shemini* *Leviticus 9:1-11:47, Numbers 19:1-22*

**April 1, Friday**

#### **TOT SHABBAT**

**5:45 pm**

**April 2, 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

#### **RENEWAL SERVICE**

**10:00 am** in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

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### *Shabbat Haḥodesh/Rosh Ḥodesh Nisan/Parashat Tazria* *Leviticus 12:1-13:59, Numbers 28:9-15, Exodus 12:1-20*

**April 8, Friday**

**THERE WILL BE NO KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES DUE TO THE  
COMMUNITY-WIDE SHABBAT DINNERS**

**April 9, Saturday**

#### **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**

**Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Wilkinson**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Ethan Wilkinson

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### *Shabbat Hagadol/Parashat Metzora* *Leviticus 14:1-15:33*

**April 15, Friday**

#### **SHABBAT NE'IMAH**

**6:15 pm**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner with The Shabbat Band



#### **Candle Lighting**

April 1, 6:59 pm

April 8, 7:06 pm

April 15, 7:14 pm

April 22, 7:22 pm

April 29, 7:30 pm

Times shown are 18  
minutes before sunset  
for Amherst, MA

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#### **Shacharit (morning) Minyan**

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

#### **Meditation Minyan**

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

#### **Mincha Minyan**

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

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#### **Rosh Ḥodesh Nisan**

April 9, Saturday

## Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

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**April 16, 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

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### *Shabbat Pesah Day 1* *Exodus 12:21-51, Numbers 28:16-25*

**April 22, Friday**

**FIRST SEDER. THERE WILL BE NO KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES**

**April 23, Saturday**

### **SHABBAT/1st DAY PESAḤ SERVICES**

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

**6:00 PM**

JCA Second Seder

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### *Pesah Day 7* *Exodus 13:17-15:26, Numbers 28:19-25*

**April 29, Friday**

### **7th DAY PESAḤ SERVICES**

**10:00 am** in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

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### *Shabbat Pesah Day 8* *Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17, Numbers 28:19-25*

**April 29, Friday**

### **SHABBAT SERVICES**

**6:15 pm** in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: To be announced

**April 30, Saturday**

### **8th DAY PESAḤ SERVICES (YIZKOR)**

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

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### **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](mailto:admindir@j-c-a.org)

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### **Torah Reading**

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

Randi Stein at [randistein@earthlink.net](mailto: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.

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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: Madeline Berkowitz, Hannah Blau, Joseph Boucher Aaron Bousel, Hadar Grabel, Yosef Rumshiskiy, Rabbi Weiner

Lay service leaders: Gordon Freed, Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

Musicians: Shabbat Band



Hebrew school. As one of our insightful sixth graders recently pointed out, “we should call it Jewish school since we don’t actually learn any Hebrew.” How right that is. Traditionally, Hebrew school is a place where we have asked children to learn to read a language with no context or understanding. We even call it “decoding”, implying no meaning behind the words – just a series of sounds that the student must string together in the correct order. Being able to read is not necessarily the same as “learning Hebrew.” Reading Hebrew is often seen as a chore that must be accomplished rather than as an instrument for a meaningful connection to people, history, and culture.

I am passionate about finding a way to bring meaning, understanding, and context to the students’ Hebrew language studies so that when we ask them to read and pray in Hebrew, it will be joyful and not painful. It will show the students that Hebrew is a vibrant and living language, connecting them to their people around the world and throughout history.

Beginning in the school year 2016/17, the JCA will be adopting a new Hebrew language program called *Hebrew Through Movement*. The program draws inspiration from the way children naturally acquire language and literacy skills in their primary language. It is based on the work of Professor James Asher who developed the language teaching method called Total Physical Response (TPR). In TPR, students are given a command in the target language, and they respond with full body movement. For example, the teacher says, “stand up and run,” and the students do just that. The method is considered an example of the “comprehension approach” to language. The program has the flexibility to be adapted to be fun and exciting for students of all ages, needs, and abilities.

Younger grades will learn the basics of modern spoken Hebrew. They will learn to run, jump, and sit in the classroom along with related nouns and adjectives, such as chair, table, window, fast, slow, and more. Much of the vocabulary they will learn will have commonalities with the words found in Hebrew prayers, thus helping prepare students to understand the Jewish liturgy.

In addition to learning modern Hebrew, students will continue to learn to speak and chant the prayers of the *Shacharit* (morning) service and common blessings, using both transliteration and memorization in place of reading the Hebrew letters. The focus of our prayer studies in the early grades will be to understand the *Kavanah* (intention) behind the prayers we are saying.

Students will still learn to read Hebrew once they reach the fifth grade. By that age they will have a full vocabulary base, as well as a solid repertoire of prayers they have memorized. This will allow students to learn how to read in a more natural developmental progression.

My hope is that we will begin to see B’nai Mitzvah students with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Hebrew language. A higher level of Hebrew reading competency should help to reduce the anxiety and stress often associated with B’nai Mitzvah preparation. In the end, a Hebrew program that is fun and rewarding will hopefully help our children feel a deeper connection with their Jewish roots, their Jewish world, and their Jewish traditions.

*Today* (thank you) and *b’shalom* (in peace),  
Keren Rhodes - JCA School Principal and Family Education Coordinator

### Calendar

#### April 1, Friday

Tot Shabbat

#### April 3, Sunday

School, Shalom Sunday,  
Parent Discussion Group,  
Teva Torah

#### April 6, Wednesday

School

#### April 10, Sunday

School, Intro to B’nai  
Mitzvah Workshop

#### April 13, Wednesday

School

#### April 17, Sunday

No School

#### April 20, Wednesday

No School

#### April 24, Sunday

Family Passover Program

#### April 27, Wednesday

No School

Visit [www.j-c-a.org/education.html](http://www.j-c-a.org/education.html) for calendar, news, program information, registration, and more.



### Adult Education

#### **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. Suggested donation: \$18.00

#### **A History of Denominational Judaism**

Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Tuesdays, April 12, 19, May 3, 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. Please register. Suggested donation: \$54.00

#### **Jews, Arabs, And Islamophobia**

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 Amherst. 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.

#### **JCA NUT POLICY**

The board of directors has recently formalized its long-standing request that individuals refrain from serving nuts in consideration of some members' extreme reactivity to them. The recently developed policy more explicitly prohibits the use of these products. We appreciate your compliance with this policy, which is quoted below:

*The JCA adheres to a strict no-nut policy in all public spaces within the JCA, including the kitchen, social hall, library, classrooms, and lobby. Staff of the JCA are not permitted to purchase, store, or serve peanuts, tree nuts or nut-based products at JCA events or in JCA spaces rented for private use. All caterers, contractors, community members and guests must adhere to this policy. This applies to b'nai mitzvah meals, meals that accompany JCA programs, onegs, kiddushes, ritual events and potluck meals.*

Bill Zimmer  
President

### 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 Devorah Jacobson, Stephanie Sandler, Jane Brodwyn, Danielle Kadinoff, Karen Loeb, Kitty Talan, Batya Perman, Moira Clingman, Linda Sinapi, Marilyn and Jeff Blaustein, Randi Stein, Barbara Freed, Barbara Pistrang, Susan Zarchin, Ann Armon, Marcie Sclove, and Janet Winston for preparing and delivering meals to members in need; to Linda Sinapi, Amy Rothenberg, and Robin Diamond for rides; and to David Levit for helping at a shiva minyan.

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).

### Fundraising Committee

The new JCA Fundraising Committee is up and running -- and we need your help! Right now we're busy brainstorming ideas and would love to get more members involved.

For more information, please contact Chuck Songer at [ccsonger@comcast.net](mailto:ccsonger@comcast.net).

### 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

### Project Rehovot

#### Thank you for your generous donations to Project Rehovot

Diane Berg and Rich Schrader

Sarina Ergas

Julius Lester

Steve Levine

Martin and Brenda Miller and Family in honor of

Marilyn and Joe Kushick's grandson Max

Joan and Monroe Rabin

### 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](mailto: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.

## Donations to the JCA

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### Adult Ed

Hannah Blau  
Patience Bousel  
Barbara Burkart  
Robert Dashevsky  
Sharon Dunn  
Richard Ellis  
Alison Ellis  
Judith Finman  
Phyllis Herda  
Deborah Levenson  
Judith Loischild  
Carol Mardeusz  
Dorothy Pam  
Susan Reisman  
Ilene Rosenfeld  
Rachel Schwab Rehorka  
Ruth Smith  
Jane Trigere  
Vadim Varshavskiy  
Elaine Walsh

### Annual Fund

Judy & Kip Fonsh

### General Fund

In memory of Danielle Barshak's mom  
(Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu)

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In memory of Edward Lammer  
(Patti & Harvey Gould)

In memory of Janice Rose Goldman  
(Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu)

### Music Fund

Eileen Rutman

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In memory of Regine Winder Barshak  
(Danielle Barshak & Oran Kaufman)

### World Jewish Concerns

Neta Bolozky  
Northampton-Amherst Hadassah  
Congregation B'nai Israel

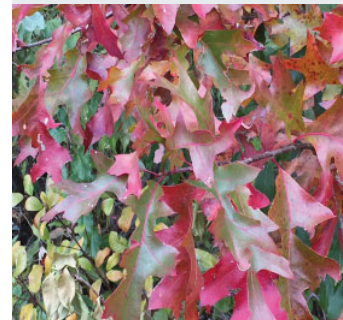
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### Condolences:

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

**Regine Winder Barshak**, mother of Danielle  
Barshak, mother-in-law of Oran Kaufman  
and grandmother of Shira and Gabriel

**Janice Rose Goldman**, mother of Josh  
Goldman, mother-in-law of Marina, and  
grandmother of Noah and Jakob



Red Oak  
by Sandy Sulsky

## In the Valley

### Ethiopian Refugee Family

A refugee family from Ethiopia has recently settled in the Springfield area. They arrived with 9 children and the mother just gave birth to triplets--3 boys! The family is greatly in need of newborn diapers, wipes and clothing. Please drop contributions off at the JCA office, and I will deliver them to Jewish Family Services of Western MA who oversees their well-being. Many thanks!

Deborah Roth-Howe

### Looking For Home To Rent In Summer

Friends from NYC are looking for a home to rent in Amherst for about four weeks this summer, preferably in July. Please contact Larry Fine, 256-1572, [lfine@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:lfine@mtholyoke.edu)





## Jewish Community of Amherst

742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
413-256-0160 | fax 413-256-1588  
info@j-c-a.org | www.j-c-a.org

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Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003 – 2010)  
Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989 – 2002)  
Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

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**Education Administrative Assistant:** Misha Heij Mariano (edassist@j-c-a.org)  
**Administrative Assistant:** Dan Reynolds (dan@j-c-a.org)  
**Facility & Maintenance:** Santo Alers, Rob Kaufman

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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

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## Kolot — JCA Voices

April 2016

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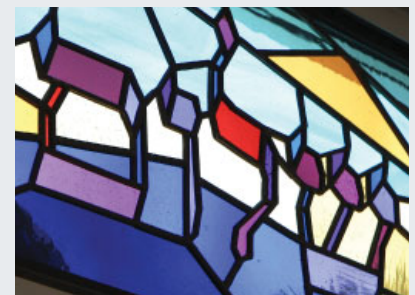
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Deadline for the May issue is April 12th.



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