



Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | October 2016 | Elul 5776- Tishrei 5777



5777

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Highlights this Month

Rosh Hashanah begins Sunday evening, October 2

A sweet, healthy and peaceful New Year to all.



Photo: Joseph Kushick

Dear JCA,

There is something arbitrary about the designation of sacred time and space. Take the *mishkan*, for example, the portable tabernacle that the Torah tells us the ancient Israelites carried with them as they wandered through the wilderness. Imagine an area of empty sand in the midst of a barren desert, no less vacant than any other scrap of the monotonous landscape. One day, people show up and enclose it in a tent of gold, silver, woven fabric, and wood, set up an altar, burn some incense, and slaughter a bullock or two--transforming this nondescript patch of wasteland

into the dwelling place of the Maker of heaven and earth. The next day they decamp, and as soon as the wind is done with their footsteps the site of their shrine and their mysteries is wilderness again.

Now transpose the image into time. The earth moves in a circle through space, spinning and wobbling as it goes, creating an impression of cyclicity and seasonal variation, and giving us the illusion that the sun rises and sets. Cells divide, generations arise and pass, rivers flow into the sea. And then, one day a year, people show up and pitch their camp in a certain angle of the sunlight, and call that moment the birthday of the world and the time of judgment. They sing and pray, they ask forgiveness of each other and themselves, of God and the world. Then they decamp, though, in the end, it is not they but time that marches on.

Fundamentalists no doubt see matters differently. None of this is arbitrary for them--if the Torah says God lives in a particular house that is where God lives, and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall at a certain time in the year not through cultural agency because that is how God wove the fabric of the cosmos. Maybe it's easier this way, living in a model of reality scaled down to the size of human expectation, setting aside the suspicion that our meaning is something we have imposed upon the great formlessness.

But to do so is to surrender responsibility for a tremendous power: the power of creativity itself. We who are not fundamentalists must understand that our task is not just to participate in the High Holidays but to dream them--to project a sanctuary into the wilderness and a season of forgiveness beneath the autumn sun, and then to enter them with the belief that we can commune with the Maker of heaven and earth and find atonement.

Because the truth is these things will not be there for us unless we imagine them.

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.

October 5, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Now in its 4th year, we are continuing our investigation of Halakha or the tradition of Jewish law. If you have not already become part of this meaningful, fun, and oddly exhilarating exploration, it is never too late. You can come and go as you're able, and drop-ins are always welcome. The goal is to hold sessions that are satisfying to all comers. Whether you are a regular or just trying it out, we spend a good portion of each meeting bringing each other up to speed. Please remember that JCA kashrut rules allow only for dairy and pareve foods inside the building – no meat!

October 6, Thursday

BONE DENSITY YOGA WITH JAYMIE CHERNOFF

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Recent research by Loren Fishman, MD has found that just 12 minutes a day of a specific yoga practice can significantly strengthen our bones. In a 3-class session, you will learn how to incorporate classic yoga poses (and how to safely modify them if you have little or no yoga experience) into a daily practice that could yield wonderful rewards.

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

October 9, Sunday

COMMUNITY SING WITH DIANA BREWER

3:00 – 4:30 pm

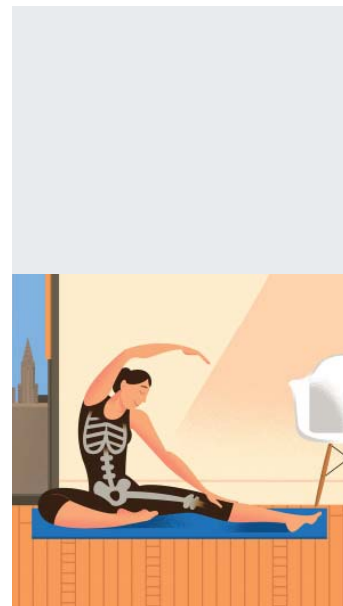
We will explore music for High Holidays familiar and unfamiliar. All are welcome. There is no fee for this session.

October 13, 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.



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

October 15, Saturday

A TASTE OF LUNCH & LEARN

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Have you been interested in the rabbi's weekly Lunch and Learn but unable to attend because of your weekday schedule? You will be pleased to know that this fall we are piloting a Shabbat afternoon version. Like the weekly sessions, the subject matter will be Halakha, the Jewish legal tradition, but the emphasis will be on using halakhic source material as a springboard for exploring issues of contemporary, or perennial, concern.

October 16, Sunday

THE DESTRUCTION OF TANGIBLE HERITAGE IN THE NEAR EAST (AND AROUND THE WORLD) WITH MICHAEL SUGERMAN

10:15 – 11:45 am

Media reports have been filled with stories about the sharp rise in looting and the destruction of antiquities in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq, the Arab Spring, and the ongoing war in Syria. By some estimates, millions of artifacts have been taken from museums and sites in Iraq, Syria, and neighboring countries. In this talk, Professor Sugerman will describe some of what is known about the processes of looting and sale, and some of the local and global responses to it. He will also address questions relating to the connections between tangible cultural heritage and contemporary cultural identities.

October 19, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

October 19, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN

5:45 – 7:15 pm

This class, conducted *Ivrit b'Ivrit*, is intended for people who know some Hebrew, want to increase their vocabulary, and seek an opportunity to practice speaking the language. The text we use is *Ivrit Min Ha'Hatchaia* [Hebrew from Scratch). Previous and new participants are welcome!

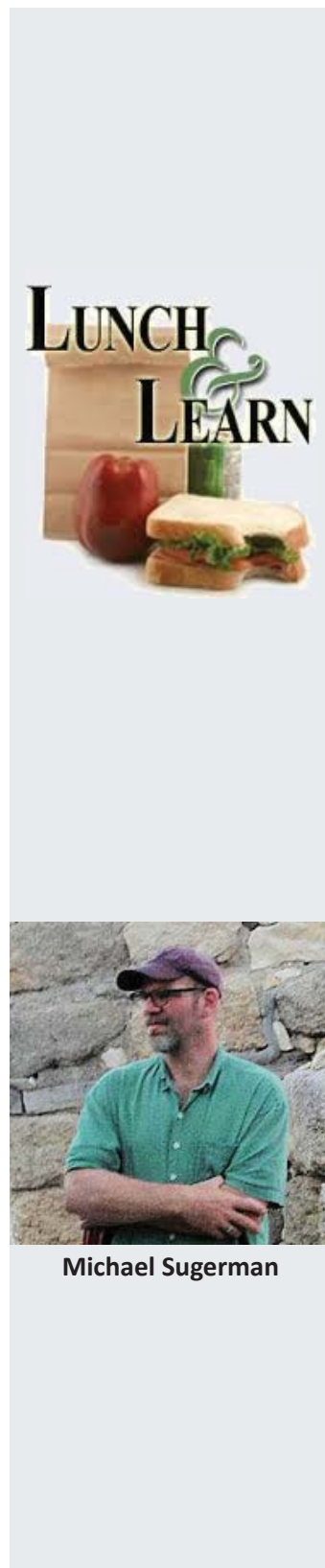
Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

October 20, Thursday

BONE DENSITY YOGA

4:30 – 6:30 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

October 26, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

October 26, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

October 27, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 – 8:45 pm

October 30, Sunday

DEATH CAFE

1:00 – 4:00 pm

A *Death Cafe* is an open forum where people gather to drink tea, eat cake and discuss various aspects of death in a safe, non-judgmental space. The aim is to increase awareness of death through conversation, thereby helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. The first Death Cafe was held in 2011 and since then several thousand have been held in Europe and North America. In this initial gathering at the JCA we hope to both gauge our community's interest and get a sense of what future approaches might be best in helping people navigate this often difficult subject. For more info visit: deathcafe.com

Upcoming Programs and Events

November 5, Saturday

ANNUAL RABIN COMMEMORATION

7:30 – 9:00 pm

The World Jewish Concerns Committee presents the annual Rabin Commemoration with guest speaker Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. The topic of his talk is *From Crisis to Covenant: Foundations for a New Conversation about Israel*.

December 1, Thursday

ADULT READING GROUP

7:30 – 9:00 pm

We will be discussing the novel, *A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman. It is available in paperback. New participants are always welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248.



Donniel Hartman

Our Community

Fourth Wanted For Bridge

Charlotte Schwab and Dennis Rosen, members of JCA, and a third person (not a member of JCA), seek 4th for friendly, social American Standard Bridge game on Wednesday afternoons. Amherst location. Intermediate to advanced player. Please call Charlotte at: 413-253-7910 with any questions or interest. Thank you.

Archival Materials Needed

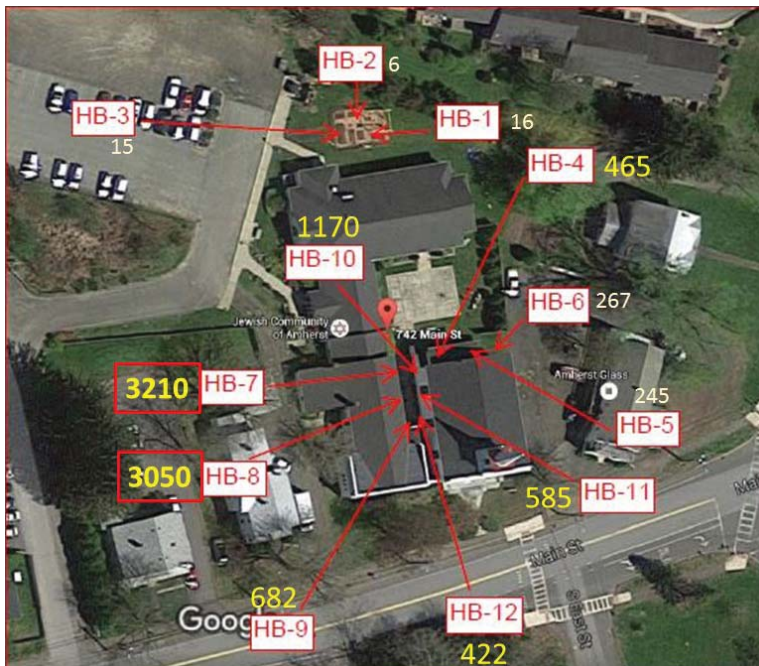
If you have been a JCA board member or a committee chair/member and have minutes from your days of service, please contact **Linda Seidman, lindalseidman@gmail.com** about depositing them in the Archives. Also reports from task force or ad hoc committee work. If you have any newsletters prior to 2000, they, too, might fill a hole in the record. If you were involved in the early years of forming the JCA or its antecedents, please check your closets, attic, file cabinets, or wherever you keep old papers, for materials that might help to tell the story of the JCA. We will be developing a plan for records management so that in the future, materials will go the Archives in a systematic way. Until then, any attempt to have as complete a record as possible, depends upon your "stuff"!

Report On Testing For Lead In The Soil On JCA Property

By Bob Solosko, Vice President & Chair, Building and Grounds Committee:

We want to let you know that the potential lead soil problem that was identified a few months ago at JCA has been thoroughly analyzed by Environmental Risk Advisors, who have determined that no lead remediation is necessary. This article explains why there is lead in the soil, why we were initially alarmed with the first test results, and why we no longer believe that it's a problem.

Sample Test Locations and Results



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!

New Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Ellen & Howard Mentin,
Amherst, MA

Linda Mondschein & Warren Smith,
Florence, MA

Linda McConnell,
South Hadley, MA

Recognizing that most of the outdoor spaces at the JCA are relatively unused, Max Ehrman-Shapiro, a graduate student in Sustainable Landscape Planning and Design at the Conway School of Landscape Design, was invited to study and recommend ways to create multi-use outdoor spaces for gathering, study, and prayer, connect disparate areas of the property, explore resource conservation strategies and address concerns surrounding universal accessibility to the courtyard and garden.

Since lead from paint on old buildings can leach into the soil, Max's study included the evaluation of samples of soil taken on the north and northeast sides of the old sanctuary, some right against the building and some further away. The samples were sent to the UMass Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory for evaluation, which provides general testing and recommendations of soils for gardens and trees and shrubs. Lead is just one of a number of minerals that are included in the tests and testing for lead is not the specific purpose of these tests. But the test result did show a high level of lead in the soil samples. Unfortunately, all of the samples were mixed and a single lead test result was presented so information about specific lead "hot spots" was lost.

In his report, Max said: *Soil testing indicated that lead levels in parts of the courtyard around the sanctuary exceed 1300 ppm. The EPA considers lead concentrations above 1200 ppm to pose a threat to all users of a site, especially pregnant women and children. These results are the product of a test of limited scope and sample size. More in-depth soil testing is highly recommended along with a detailed remediation plan. Until the soil is remediated, community member exposure to this area should be limited as much as possible.*

Subsequently, JCA engaged Environmental Risk Advisors, LLC to specifically test for lead in the soil at various locations around the JCA. They took samples at 12 locations: 3 in the garden area behind the social hall, and 9 on the north side of the sanctuary and between the sanctuary and the library. The results showed very low levels of lead in the garden area, and elevated lead levels around the sanctuary and library. However, in only two locations were the lead levels high enough to be a potential concern.

The report from Environmental Risk Advisors said: *The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) define lead hazards in bare surface soils at levels greater than 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) in play areas and 1,200 mg/kg around the perimeter of a house. Removal would not be required unless lead concentrations exceeded 5,000 mg/kg.*

The average lead concentration for perimeter samples for the site was below the USEPA lead hazard of 1,200 mg/kg (residence). Concentrations of lead do not trigger the removal activities and/or implementation of a soil management for the site. It should be noted however, two samples southwestern portion of the courtyards (which were collected within the stoned area) exhibited elevated levels of lead (3,050 mg/kg and 3,210 mg/kg, respectively).

Low concentrations of lead were detected in the area of the grass. These are well below the USEPA lead hazard of 1,200 mg/kg. The elevated concentrations of lead were detected within the rock beds. It should also be noted that there is approximately three inches of stone above the soil, restricting access. Thus, the conclusion is that no lead remediation is required.

Seeking Your News

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: Emily Bilbao

Trump is the easy case. I have not heard anyone articulate a compelling, Jewishly-informed case for supporting his candidacy.

But in a community that prides itself on our commitment to diversity, I sometimes wonder how truly embracing the JCA is in regard to the toughest challenge to diversity – diversity of belief system. I wonder how I would feel if my political and social beliefs were at odds with what I perceive to be widely held community norms, and how comfortable I'd be expressing my divergent beliefs publicly.

How might I feel at the JCA if I was a registered Republican who supported McCain and Romney over Obama; who is in favor of balancing the budget and lowering taxes, even if it means cuts in social services; who believes income inequality is not a bad thing but the engine of our meritocracy; who believes there should be some restrictions on abortion; who is concerned that the rapid expansion of transgender rights will lead to a harsh backlash; and who feels that Black Lives Matter is a needless and counter-productive provocation?

How might I feel if I believed that the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and the continued expansion of settlements are impediments to peace, are an incitement to the Palestinian people, a violation of international law, and a justification for public criticism and rebuke? How comfortable would I be in openly expressing support for Palestinian rights organizations, or in supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement?

Does it matter if people who hold views that put them in a distinct minority are self-conscious about expressing them, or simply choose to keep them to themselves to avoid needless contention or conflict? Isn't that what we all do as we go through our lives, making social judgments about what it is safe and reasonable to express in different social contexts and with different audiences?

I don't think people's inhibitions about sharing their political views are a problem, per se. But I do think the political and social issues of our time have profoundly important moral and ethical implications that we should dialogue about in a Jewish organizational context, without rancor, and mindful of our commitment to the principles of the Kavod Code. I sometimes worry that we resist having real community conversations about these issues out of fear of jeopardizing a hard-won sense of community where no one is made to feel uncomfortable.

I suggest that we don't give ourselves sufficient credit for the bedrock of good will we have created, that would allow these conversations to exist in a decent and respectful way that would strengthen our sense of community, not weaken it.

Shanah Tovah, Bill Zimmer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October 5, Wednesday

Youth & Family Ed Committee
7:00 pm

October 6, Thursday

Board Meeting
7:00 pm

October 10, Monday

Chesed Committee
7:15 pm

October 14, Friday

Adult Ed Committee
12:15 pm

October 19, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

October 20, Thursday

Executive Committee
7:00 pm

October 27, Thursday

Tikkun Olam Committee
7:15 pm

Please Note:

The JCA is not accepting donations of books or artwork at this time.

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes



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

Shabbat Nitsavim, Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

September 30, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

October 1, 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

Following kiddush, John Clayton will read from his new collection of short stories, *Minyan: Ten Interwoven Stories*.

Rosh Hashanah

October 2, Sunday

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

6:00 pm Ne'imah Service
8:00 pm Lev Shalem Service

October 3, Monday

1ST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

9:00 am Ne'imah Service
Shemesh Family Service (2nd to 5th grades)
9:30 am Lev Shalem Service
Shalom Service for Young Families
10:15 am Junior Chai Service (6th to 8th grades)
4:00 pm Tashlich at Groff Park

October 4, Tuesday

2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

9:30 am Lev Shalem Service
9:30 am Mountain Service at the Notch Visitors Center on Route 116

See the High Holiday Guide at <http://www.j-c-a.org/hh-guide.pdf> for more information about High Holiday services.

Calling JCA Bakers

Please bring your favorite honey cake, candies or Rosh Hashanah dessert to the kitchen before the Erev Rosh Hashanah service you attend on Sunday, October 2.



Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

Shabbat Shuvah, Parashat Vayelekh Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30

October 7, Friday

NO SERVICES THIS EVENING

Family Friday Nights will begin in November.

October 8, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Yom Kippur

October 11, Tuesday

KOL NIDRE

6:00 pm Ne'imah Service

8:00 pm Lev Shalem Service

October 12, Wednesday

YOM KIPPUR DAY

9:00 am Ne'imah Service

Shemesh Family Service (2nd to 5th grader)

9:30 am Lev Shalem Service

Shalom Service for Young Families

10:15 am Jr. Chai Service (6th to 8th grades)

4:30 pm Mincha

5:45 pm Ne'ilah Service

7:00 pm Tekiah Gedolah

Shabbat Ha'azinu, Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52

October 14, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

October 15, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

1:00 pm

A Taste of Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Weiner

Yom Kippur Food Collection

On Yom Kippur, the Haftarah we read includes Prophet Isaiah's words imploring us, as we fast, to share your bread with the hungry.

In Western Massachusetts, more than 200,000 people struggle with hunger. No one should be hungry.

On Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur Day, please bring your greatly needed non-perishable donations, perhaps the equivalent of one day's food, to be distributed by the Amherst Survival Center's Food Pantry to those in need in our community.

A collection box will be in place before and after Yom Kippur if you wish to contribute then. Last year, over 2,200 pounds of food was collected, our greatest total ever. Let's top that total this year.

THANK YOU! Especially needed: tomato products, canned vegetables and fruits, soup, nut butters, breakfast cereal, and healthy kid snacks

Sukkot, Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-29:16

October 16, Sunday

SUKKAH BUILDING

12:00 pm in the JCA courtyard

Come help us construct the JCA sukkah. Bagels, donuts and drinks provided!

October 17, Monday

SUKKOT SERVICES

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

Shabbat Ḥol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 29:26-29:31

October 21, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner and our musical daveners

October 22, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Judy Davis

Shemini Atzeret & Simḥat Torah

Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17, Numbers 29:35- 30:1

October 24, Monday

SHEMINI ATZERET SERVICES

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

SIMḤAT TORAH CELEBRATION

7:00 pm in the social hall

Shabbat Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8

October 28, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

October 29, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Candle Lighting

October 7 ~ 6:02 pm

October 14 ~ 5:51 pm

October 21 ~ 5:40 pm

October 28 ~ 5:30 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

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

Mincha Minyan

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

Rosh Ḥodesh Ḥeshvan

November 1/2, Tuesday/Wednesday

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

Torah Reading Coordination

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



Madeline Berkowitz at madelineberkowitz@gmail.com for reading in November

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

Eliza Gouverneur at elizagouv@msn.com for reading in January

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.

Thank You

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: Aaron Bousel, Nora Harris, Harris family, Elissa Rubinstein, Yosef Rumshiskiy

D'var Torah givers: John Clayton, Nora Harris

Musicians: Shabbat Band

JCA Nut Policy

The board of directors has formalized a policy that individuals refrain from serving nuts in consideration of some members' extreme reactivity to them. The use of these products is explicitly prohibited. We appreciate your compliance with this policy:

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.

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

October 22

Judy and Allen Davis in appreciation of the JCA community and its many kindnesses during Judy's illness

Thank you to our kiddush sponsors for September:

September 17

The Harris/ Kaufman family, in honor of their daughter, Nora, becoming Bat Mitzvah

September 24

Janis Levy, in celebration of her birthday

Youth and Family Education

Dear JCA Community,

My own personal philosophy about Jewish education is that core Jewish identity development cannot happen exclusively in the isolation of a classroom environment. Rather, Jewish education must also include family and a wider community. We are trying to instill our students with a sense of belonging to the greater Jewish people as well as the whole of JCA, and that can only happen when students are regularly exposed to the wonderful feelings that true community can provide.

Following this line of thinking, we have introduced new programs, or modified existing programs, to try and encourage more family and community learning opportunities. Here are some of the ways in which all members of the JCA community (whether you have children in school or not) can be engaged with our students and have an impact on the learning of the next generation of Jews. For all of these new programs, look in the Thursday emails or on our website for times and details.

Family Friday Nights: Beginning in October, instead of the traditional Tot Shabbat and Family Service, we are introducing a new program that centers around a communal meal prepared by teen volunteers. We will sit in multi-family groups and welcome Shabbat together, as a community. Groups will light candles and bless the wine and challah at their individual tables. We will sing songs to welcome Shabbat, and enjoy singing, dancing and socializing.

Community Havdalah: Havdalah is the ceremony that takes place at the end of Shabbat and welcomes the new week. While it typically occurs just after sundown on Saturday night, it is permitted to happen as late as Tuesday each week. One Sunday per month, we will spend the first 30 minutes of school participating in a community Havdalah ceremony.

Holiday Celebrations: The school will celebrate most holidays from 5-5:30 pm on Wednesdays. These celebrations will consist of ritual practice, food and music.

Adult Education: We are striving to provide more learning opportunities for our parents/guardians in school. We will hold a variety of workshops on Sunday mornings covering topics such as Jewish values, Jewish parenting and more. Even if you are not a parent/guardian, please join us and expand your own learning opportunities. We are coordinating with the Adult Education Committee on some of these workshops.

b'shalom,

Keren Rhodes, *JCA School Principal and Family Programs Coordinator*

Youth And Family Education Events

For Youth and Family High Holiday Service information, see the High Holiday Guide

Sunday, October 2

FAMILY PROGRAM: APPLE PICKING

10:00 am - 12:15 pm

ALL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP! Students and parents are headed to Dickinson Farm in Granby for apple picking. Join your friends and family to learn about Jewish agricultural laws around tzedakah and justice.

TEEN PROGRAM: TEVA TORAH TASHLICH KAYAKING *

Approximately 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Come on out for a kayaking trip to welcome in Rosh Hashanah. Besides enjoying paddling, we will create our own tashlich ritual on the water. Watch out for exact details in your email.



Friday, October 7

TEEN PROGRAM: JV CORPS *

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Participate in community service by preparing and serving dinner for Family Friday Night while learning about food justice issues. Snack provided. Watch your email for exact details and RSVP instructions.

FAMILY PROGRAM: FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Enjoy a community Shabbat dinner with singing, blessings, socializing and celebration. Bring a potluck salad topping. (Lettuce, salad dressings, and pasta provided.) Remember that we have community members with life threatening allergies, so all food products must be vegetarian and nut free.

Sunday, October 9

SCHOOL PROGRAM: SHALOM SUNDAY

10:00 am - 12:15 pm (begin in Social Hall for Havdallah)

Our monthly program for 3 and 4 year olds with their parents.

FAMILY PROGRAM: HAVDALLAH

10:00 - 10:30 am (in the Social Hall)

Welcome the new week with a joyful and musical Havdallah service

TEEN PROGRAM: JUNIOR CHAI BOARD MEETING *

12:30 - 2:30 pm (in the Social Hall)

Junior Chai is our new teen program for 6th-8th graders. Interested teens can join a planning meeting to brainstorm events that they would like to do this year. The interests of the teens will guide this group, so make sure to come help make decisions! Pizza provided.

Wednesday, October 19

FAMILY PROGRAM: SUKKOT CELEBRATION

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Join us in the sukkah for a ritual celebration, shaking lulav, and sukkah snacks!

Wednesday, October 26

FAMILY PROGRAM: SIMCHAT TORAH

5:00 – 5:30 pm

A once in a year event - unrolling the Torah in celebration of the holiday!

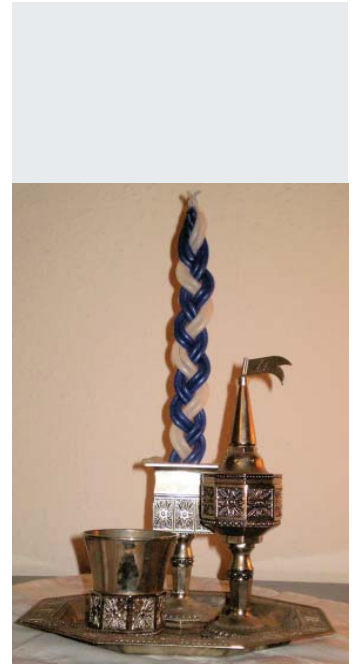
Parent Discussions & Workshops:

Sunday, 10/9 – Intro to Hebrew Through Movement (new Hebrew curriculum)

Sunday, 10/16 – Archeology w/Adult Education

Sunday, 10/30 – Shalom Learning Curriculum Lesson: B'tzelem Elohim (new curriculum)

**Teens attending JV Corps, Junior Chai, Madrichim or Teva Torah must register online. Visit our JCA Education homepage and follow the link for teen registration.*



Adult Education Committee

Adult Education 2016 Fall Programs

Register now for fall adult education classes. You can register and donate online by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/jca-adult-ed-2016>. For the Fall 2016 Brochure, go to <http://www.j-c-a.org/adult-ed.pdf>, or pick up a copy in the JCA Lobby.

Lunch and Learn – Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Every Wednesday
12:00 – 1:15 pm

A Taste of Lunch and Learn on Shabbat – Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Saturday, October 15
1:00 - 2:00 pm
More information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-lunch+learn.pdf>

Destruction of Tangible Heritage in the Near East – Michael Sugerman

Sunday, October 16
10:15 – 11:45 am
More Information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-archealogy.pdf>

Questioning the Holocaust – Murray Schwartz

Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Registration Required
More information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-holocaust.pdf>

Jewish Folktales – Ilan Stavens

Sundays, November 13, 20, and December 11
2:00 pm
Registration Required
More information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-folk-tales.pdf>

Yiddish Reading Group

Date, time and to location to be determined by participants.
For more information, contact Frieda Howards at Howards7@gmail.com, or 413-253-9704, or go to: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-yiddish.pdf>

No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your donation.

JCA Hall Gallery

Illustrator and Printmaker, **Neil Brigham**, presents Block Prints, a selection of linocut block prints at the Jewish Community of Amherst Hall Gallery. The exhibit runs from August 4 - October 27 to coincide with the Amherst Art Walk. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, and Friday and Sunday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Chesed Committee

Thank You, Volunteers!

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

In particular, thanks to Judy Davis, Ellen Middleton, David Piech and Renee Spring for preparing and delivering meals and to Jamie Chernoff for helping with rides

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).

Donations to the JCA

Adult Ed

Judith Souweine
Melanie & Jonathan Lewis
Janice & Steven Wolkenbreit
Barbara Saltz
Sallie Deans Lake
Irene Eigner
Judi Fonsh
Jackie Katz
Jane Brodwyn
Michael Chernoff
Irv Seidman

B'nai Mitzvah Tablecloths Donation

Heather Davis & Nina Brand

General Fund

In memory of Dennis Mosselson, father of
UMass College of Education Professor
Jacqi Mosselson
(UMass Amherst College of Education)
In memory of Robert Solomon
(Marion & Leonard Lubinsky)
Oliver Lindsey
In memory of David Fineberg
(Caden & Lewis Mainzer)

Music Fund

In honor of Judy & Allen Davis' wedding
anniversary (Jackie Katz)
In memory of Victor Arnopolin, father of
Suzanne Arnopolin (Suzanne Arnopolin)

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In memory of Harry Blaustein, father and
father-in-law of Jeff and Marilyn Hecht
Blaustein (Jeff & Marilyn Blaustein)
In honor of Judy & Allen Davis' 50th Wedding
Anniversary (Nina & Don Tetenbaum)
In honor of Judy & Allen Davis' 50th Wedding
Anniversary (Shirley & Hal Zalkind)

Condolences

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

Myra Gitlin Mannheimer, mother of
Jeanie Forray and grandmother of Zack
and Charlie

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.

Great Jewish Books Fall Program

The Yiddish Book Center is hosting a new educational program for adult learners on October 30-November 4 with the theme of Power and Powerlessness. Participants will explore modern Jewish literature through lectures, small-group work, a film series and live performance, and novels, stories, and poems by authors such as Isaac Babel, Franz Kafka, Cynthia Ozick, Dahlia Ravikovitch, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and Anna Deveare Smith. The program will consider how different writers have understood the complex positioning and repositioning of modern Jews vis-à-vis different types of power in works written in Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, German, French, English, and other languages (all available in translation).

Space is limited, so register as soon as possible at:

<http://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Calendar?id=7421&view=Detail>

If you have any questions, call Program Assistant Sylvia Peterson at 413-256-4900, ext. 143.

Jewish Family Service Celebrates 100 Years

For over a century, JFS has addressed the needs of the Jewish community and the community-at-large with responsive services including Jewish life enrichment, elder care support and aging in place, elder guardianship & conservatorship, caregiver support groups, counseling & family therapy, citizenship and naturalization services and refugee resettlement. This major milestone will be celebrated on October 6 at the Carriage House at the Barney Estate in Forest Park, Springfield. Tickets are \$100 and include buffet stations, open bar with wine and beer and a festive program. Visit celebrateJFS.org for sponsorship opportunities, tickets and to learn more about the history of JFS.

Announcements should be brief and of interest to the local Jewish community.

Announcements will be listed as space permits.



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

Rabbi Benjamin Weiner (rabbiweiner@j-c-a.org)
Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003 – 2010)
Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989 – 2002)
Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

School Principal & Family Education Coordinator:
Keren Rhodes (kerenrhodes@j-c-a.org)

Youth and Teen Programs Coordinator:
Cara Michelle Silverberg (cara@j-c-a.org)

Board of Directors
President: Bill Zimmer (wdzimmer@gmail.com)
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Second Vice President: Bob Solosko (rbsolosko@verizon.net)
Third Vice President: Eli Kwartler (elikwartler@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Michael Burkart (maburk47@comcast.net)
Clerk: Sarah Thomson (allset22@verizon.net)
Members at Large: Barbara Schaffer Bacon, Eliza Gouverneur, Mara Hahn, Hans Herda, Jeff Roth-Howe, Jackie Katz, Amy Kroin, Connie Songer, Flo Stern

Just click on any email address to send a message. For further information and a full description of committees with contacts, please refer to your JCA Guidebook.

Administrative Director: Ann Wetherbee (admindir@j-c-a.org)
Financial Assistant: Susan Thomas (susan@j-c-a.org)
Administrative Assistants: Misha Heij Mariano (edassist@j-c-a.org)
Melanie Germaine (adminassist@j-c-a.org)
Kitchen Coordinator: Lauren Smith
Facility & Maintenance: Santo Alers, Rob Kaufman

Office Hours:
Monday: Office Closed
Tuesday to Thursday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
When JCA School is in session on Wednesdays, the office will remain open until 6:00 pm.

Affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities

Kolot — JCA Voices

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

Deadline for the November issue is October 11th.



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.



“I want a teshuva that is about integrating different parts of myself and understanding that the more whole I allow myself to be, the closer I will come to righteousness.”

Tama R. Cohen

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