



Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | November 2016 | Heshvan 5777



Our new reading table for the small sanctuary (see page 7)

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Highlights this Month

**Annual Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Commemoration,
Saturday, November 5**

Film: Broken On All Sides, Monday, November 14



Photo: Joseph Kushick

Dear JCA,

Just today--that is, the day on which I'm writing this--we began studying a new topic at Lunch and Learn: yarmulkes. (In case you don't recognize the spelling, I'll give you a hint: I'm talking about Jewish beanies.) The particular article we are reading together is called "Yarmulke: A Historic Cover-up?" It raises a question as provocative as the one in the title--how do we know, according to Jewish law, that we are supposed to wear these things as part of our religious duty? The answer is a shocker: we don't. It turns out there are a variety of opinions on the topic, with

sages as illustrious as the Gaon of Vilna claiming that while it might be nice to keep your head covered, it is not a mitzvah, even when reciting the Shema. Please don't tell the Hebrew school kids!

The article is a compelling blend of anthropological study and halakhic literature review, and has already provided us with much food for thought. A number of participants shared their own practices with regard to wearing, or not wearing, kippot in a variety of settings, and their impressions about how their relationship to this particular piece of sacred headgear may have changed over the years. I reminisced about my days living in New York City, many years ago, when I wore a Muslim skullcap, called a kufi, as my yarmulke, mostly because of how snug and form-fitting it was, and had to figure out what to make of repeatedly being greeted with *salam alaykum*. (Once, in a particularly adventurous mood, I answered *aleichem-sholem*.)

What is most striking to me about this ritual haberdashery--whether or not we are required to wear it--is the way that it serves to identify us as Jewish. We are an interesting minority, in the sense that, certain increasingly inaccurate stereotypes about our appearance notwithstanding, we possess the magical power of willful disappearance. There is nothing as evident as skin color, for instance, to link us incontrovertibly to our identity. And that is where the yarmulke comes in. In certain times and places, I have recognized the extent to which having it on my head exposes me as something, and at other times and places I have chosen not to wear it, for precisely that reason. That is, there is a facet to Jewish identity in our time that relates to the phenomena of "passing" and "being in the closet", and wearing a kippah is one obvious way to blow your cover.

The yarmulke itself is therefore a potent symbol, prompting us to consider how we are out to others, and ourselves, as Jews, and how we are concealed.

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

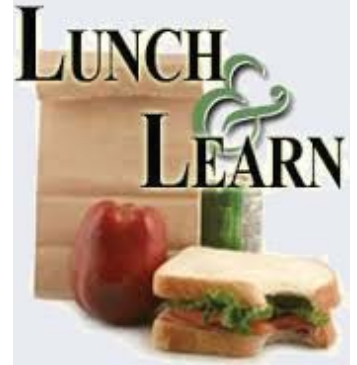
Mark your calendars for community activities, programs, study opportunities, and more. Please see the Ritual Life Calendar for information on Shabbat and other services.

November 2, 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!



November 2, 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.

November 2, Wednesday

QUESTIONING THE HOLOCAUST WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ

7:00 – 9:00 pm

In four sessions, this course will address three central questions about the Holocaust: How could it happen? What happened, where, and when? Why in 2016, among continuing genocides, does the Holocaust matter? We will consider excerpts from Holocaust survivors' writings, video testimony and documentary material.

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

More information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-holocaust.pdf>



Murray Schwartz

November 3, Thursday

YIDDISH READING GROUP

12:00 – 1:00 pm

We meet the first Thursday of the month at noon. You may bring your own lunch (no meat allowed). We are continuing to read *Motl, Peiyse dem Hazan's* by Sholem Aleichem. If you are able to read Yiddish, you are welcome to join us. Email me (Friedahowards7@gmail.com) and I will be happy to send you the link to download the section we will be reading. Please note - we are not a class. Zeit gezunt.

Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

November 5, Saturday

ANNUAL RABIN MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION

6:30 pm Cheese & Crackers/Schmooze

7:30 pm Havdalah

8:00 pm Lecture

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*. More information at: <http://www.j-c-a.org/rabin-lecture.pdf>

November 6, Sunday

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION MODERATED BY RABBI WEINER

1:30 pm

How would you like to continue the conversation about Israel following Rabbi Donniel Hartman's talk on Saturday evening? What are your feelings, suggestions, and questions? Let's have a discussion! Everyone is encouraged to attend. Sponsored by World Jewish Concerns Committee.

November 9, Wednesday

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

November 9, Wednesday

ADVANCED BEGINNER MODERN HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN

5:45 – 7:15 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

November 9, Wednesday

QUESTIONING THE HOLOCAUST WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

November 10, 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.



Donniel Hartman



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

November 13, Sunday

JEWISH FOLKTALES WITH ILAN STAVANS

2:00 pm

This class explores the complex, multifaceted function of folktales in Judaism.

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

More information at: <http://j-c-a.org/adult-ed-2016-folk-tales.pdf>

November 14, Monday

FILM: BROKEN ON ALL SIDES

7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Tikkun Olam Committee is proud to sponsor a screening of the important film, *Broken on All Sides*, which is a compelling documentary addressing racial inequities within our criminal justice system and its devastating collateral consequences. The program will include comments by Lois Ahrens, Director of The Real Cost of Prisons project and website. Refreshments will be served. In lieu of an admission fee please bring a non-perishable food item for the Amherst Survival Center. All welcome. For more information call 413 256-0493.

November 16, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

November 16, Wednesday

QUESTIONING THE HOLOCAUST WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

November 20, Sunday

JEWISH FOLKTALES WITH ILAN STAVANS

2:00 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

November 23, Wednesday

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

8:30 – 3:00 pm

In the JCA Social Hall.

November 23, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm



Ilan Stavans

Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

November 30, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 – 1:15 pm

November 30, Wednesday

QUESTIONING THE HOLOCAUST WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

Upcoming Programs and Events

December 1, Thursday

ADULT READING GROUP

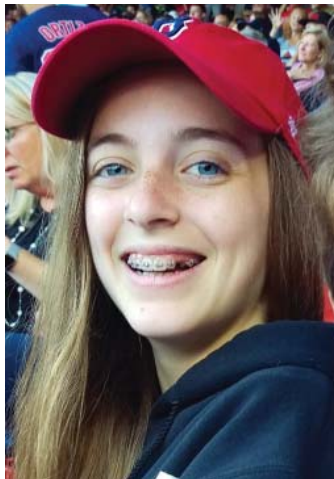
7:30 – 9:00 pm

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.

Our Community

Mazel Tov to November Bat Mitzvah Audrey Davis-Brand

Audrey Davis-Brand will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 19 and will be reading from *Parashat Vayera*. Audrey is the child of Heather Davis and Nina Brand, and the sister of Cole Davis-Brand. She has been a student at the JCA School for the past three years and has attended Camp Shemesh for the past seven years. An important part of Audrey's life for the past four years has been going away to summer camp. For a mitzvah project she will be making a charitable contribution to an organization that provides scholarships to children who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to go to camp. Audrey attends Amherst Regional Middle School. She loves ultimate Frisbee, piano, and traveling.



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:

Paulina Stark
Amherst

Ashley Nkosi
Amherst

Wim Klooster & Aviva Ben-Ur
Belchertown

Anne Nusbaum
Sunderland

Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen
Amherst

Monica Goldman
Springfield

Our Community (continued)

New Torah Table by Stephen Woolf

Volunteering at the JCA, mostly on design and building projects, is my primary Jewish practice. Through these projects I get to experience the JCA as a loving, spiritual, ethical, forward thinking and personally supportive community. It's marvelous how well the JCA supports people to experience themselves as Jews in whatever form that takes.

My Zaydie was a carpenter who immigrated to Boston from Eastern Europe in 1904 speaking only Yiddish. My father realized his father's dream and became a structural engineer. I followed that example and became an architect. When I was about ten, Zadie retired and gave me his toolbox, and for a bar mitzvah gift I begged for a Craftsman electric drill. Woodworking, art and music are my lifelong avocations. As my architecture career becomes less important to me, I pursue those avocations now more than ever.

Last spring, the Ritual Life Committee wanted to replace the "temporary" Torah table we've been using in the Small Sanctuary for the past 15 years, and asked me if I could make something that would be affordable for them. I was thrilled with the question, because ever since designing the Small Sanctuary I've been thinking about how it could be furnished appropriately for both sacred and secular use. Aaron Bousel and I worked closely during the next several months on the design of the table, and with some help from my 15-year old grandson Tao Lin, I built the table in my home workshop over this past summer.

The design process starts with compiling information and objectives — physical dimensions, angles, mobility and storage needed, from what distances and angles it will be viewed, placement, materials, colors and lighting in the rooms, and intangibles such as respect for, and support of, the sacredness of the Torah. It should be visually strong but not distracting, with an obviously modest structure made of material with beautiful natural color and texture, and decorated with the simplest and strongest of Jewish symbols.



Projects by Stephen Woolf at JCA

- 1995 Brass railings on the main Bimah
 - 1996-2001 Major building renovations and addition
 - 2001-2015 Interior and exterior signage*
 - 2005 Bronze Kehila Campaign Donor plaque in the lobby*
 - 2008 JCA logo*
 - 2009-2012 The JCA Guidebook*
 - 2011 Legacy donor plaques in the vestibule*
 - 2011 Stained glass windows in the vestibule
 - 2015 Schemes for Sanctuary egress
 - 2014-2016 Schemes to rebuild or remove the damaged steeple
 - 2016 Torah table for the Small Sanctuary
- * Collaboration with graphic artist and JCA member Moira Clingman

Our Community (continued)

How a design develops is somewhat of a mystery because the designer's particular perspective and experience are involved. I was trained as an architect not to count on flashes of insight or even strong feelings, but rather to nurture a passion to meet all the requirements, that design is not just about making something pretty, that things that work beautifully are beautiful, that simplicity and freshness are delightful. The concept for the table started from a cherry wood tilting drafting table I made in the 1970's and have always loved. I wanted to modify and donate that table, but soon decided it would be better to start fresh with ideas borrowed from that earlier work.

A funny and auspicious thing happened at the lumberyard. For the material I chose Southern Yellow Pine, a plentiful species grown in the southern U.S., strong, durable, easy to work, with a natural golden color (to which I added some stain to enhance it) and striking grain. It's not costly and comes in the form of stair treads, long wide boards a full 1" thick and knot-free. I was able to pick through a large inventory of this material at the local lumberyard. As I loaded a sizable stack of the best boards into my minivan, one of the workers there quipped, "You must be building a Stairway to Heaven!" "Wow, you're so right!" I said, and I explained what I was going to make.

Thank You!

Barbara Freed and **Hadar Grabel** for seeking just the right fabric for a new table cover, and our appreciation to Barbara for making the beautiful new cover in time for Rosh Hashanah.

Iris Rubinfeld, CEO of Master Manufacturing Company (www.mastermfgco.com) for the gift of casters for the table.



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.

Message from JCA President



Photo: Emily Bilbao

I've grown accustomed to his face...

Like so many of you, I have become accustomed to Rabbi Ben Weiner's presence in the daily life of the JCA, and am just now starting to think about what his absence is going to mean to us when he begins his 6-month sabbatical on December 1st.

We all recognize and appreciate the importance of a sabbatical for rabbis and others who minister to congregations, and the concept of a sabbatical in the 7th year of service has gained wide currency throughout the Jewish world. The idea of a sabbatical has biblical roots in

the concept of *shmita*, letting fields lie fallow during the seventh year. And more broadly, it derives from the idea of Shabbat, our weekly desisting from work and renewing of the soul on the 7th day. Unlike academic sabbaticals that are focused on providing opportunities for extensive research, writing, and study, rabbinical sabbaticals have a different and less goal-centered focus.

They are meant to provide a respite and reprieve from the overwhelmingly complex responsibility of ministering to the spiritual, emotional and intellectual needs of diverse synagogue communities. They are meant to give rabbis an opportunity to rekindle their sense of calling, reflect on their vision of sacred community, and recharge their own spiritual batteries. They are a bulwark against the insidious threat of burnout and depletion.

As the JCA president, I have the opportunity to observe up close our rabbi's influence and his commitment on a daily basis to many aspects of our communal life. He is an important contributor to board process, introducing each meeting with a d'var that puts the meaning of our work in a spiritual context. He continues to guide and nurture the staff and content of our Youth and Family Education programs.

Rabbi Weiner supports and stimulates the work of many of our key committees, with a special presence in the work of the Ritual Life Committee, Tikkun Olam and Adult Education. His vision and energy are at the center of our ritual, worship and life-cycle events throughout the Jewish religious year. He functions as a partner and colleague to our Administrative Director, with whom he has developed a remarkably effective functioning team.

And for me personally, Rabbi Weiner provides a sounding board and safe harbor for thinking about the complex leadership dilemmas that those of us on the board are confronted with every day. We challenge each other, share our sometime differing perspectives, and work to create a cohesive organizational approach to issues that arise at the JCA.

The board has ensured that we have plans to cover the essential functions the rabbi serves until he returns on June 1. We have a strong and talented membership who will get us through until his return.

But we will miss him!!!

b'shalom, Bill Zimmer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

November 2, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

Youth & Family
Education Committee
7:00 pm

November 3, Thursday

Adult Ed Committee
12:00 pm

Board Meeting
7:00 pm

November 7, Monday

Fundraising Committee
2:00 pm

Chesed Committee
7:15 pm

November 17, Thursday

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

November 18, Friday

Adult Ed Committee
12:15 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 Noah, Genesis 6:9-11:32

November 4, Friday

FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT

5:30 pm in the small sanctuary

November 5, 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

RENEWAL SERVICE

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

Shabbat Lekh Lekha, Genesis 12:1-17:27

November 11, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

November 12, 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

Shabbat Vayera, Genesis 18:1-22:24

November 18, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

The board will sponsor an Oneg after services to wish Rabbi Weiner well on his upcoming Sabbatical.



Candle Lighting

November 4 ~ 5:19 pm

November 11 ~ 4:11 pm

November 18 ~ 4:05 pm

November 25 ~ 4:01 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

Ma'ariv Minyan

Every Thursday at 5:30 pm in the small sanctuary

Rosh Hodesh Kislev December 1, Thursday

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

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

November 19, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

Bat Mitzvah: Audrey Davis-Brand

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Audrey Davis-Brand

Shabbat Hayyei Sarah, Genesis 1:1-6:8

November 25, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

November 26, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Torah Reading Coordination

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

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/Haftarah readers: Arnie Alper, Ruth Love Barer, Hannah Blau, Aaron Bousel, Yossi Charette, Uri Cohen, Deb Fine, Hadar Grabel, Janis Levy, Catherine Madsen, David Mednicoff, Elissa Rubinstein, Yosef Rumshiskiy, Randi Stein

D'var Torah givers: Judy Davis

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

Musicians: Shabbat Band

Thank you to Jane Trigère for her work on restoring the curtain on the ark in the small sanctuary.

Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors

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

November 18

The JCA Board in honor of Rabbi Weiner

November 19

Nina Brand and Heather Davis in honor of their daughter, Audrey Davis-Brand becoming Bat Mitzvah

Thank you to our kiddush sponsors for October:

October 22

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



Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

Building The JCA Sukkah



Thank You To All Who Helped Put Up Our JCA Sukkah:

Ruth Love Barer, Aaron Bousel, Madeline Berkowitz, Nancy DeProse, Gordon Freed, Phyllis Herda, Ella Jamate, Hannah Jamate, Marla Jamate, Amy Kalman, Sam Kalman, Ashley Nkosi, Tal Schmerling, Xander Smith, Eric Sommers, Jonah Sommers, Randi Stein.

Photos by Tal Schmerling and Randi Stein.

Youth and Family Education

Dear JCA Community,

We are very lucky to have a team of creative and inspired educators leading our school. Cara Michelle Silverberg and Keren Rhodes have continued to explore new and creative ways to expand our educational horizons. This year, in addition to adding Modern Hebrew, weekly Torah study, and a new format to the Learner's Minyan, they have decided to look for ways to engage the parents as well.

Several programs on Sunday morning are opportunities for families to engage in rituals together. Once a month we will be doing Havdalah as a community as well as celebrating holidays together. On other Sunday mornings, they have created programming for parents. Some of these programs will be discussions led by parents that are based on the curriculum. Other programs include classes coordinated by the Adult Education committee, parenting discussions led by PJ Library staff, and discussions led by Rabbi Weiner, Keren and Cara.

I want to invite parents to attend these opportunities to learn. They stimulate thinking while simultaneously giving us a chance to get to know each other and deepen our connections. Parents who have attended the workshops have commented on the richness of the learning and the creation of community.

On the first day of school, as a parent community, we agreed to model commitment and engagement for our children. When we attend these programs, we are actively engaging in our own Jewish learning. What a wonderful way to model engagement and commitment to our children.

I know Sunday mornings are precious and often a great time to catch up on errands or work around the house. I invite you to take a break and join us for some learning and conversation. You may be surprised!

Please come and join us!

B'shalom,

Mara Hahn, *Chair: Youth And Family Education Committee*

November Calendar

Wednesday, Nov 2	JCA School
Friday, Nov 4	Family Friday Night
Sunday, Nov 6	JCA School & Family Havdalah
Wednesday, Nov 9	Social fundraiser after JCA School – Dinner at Bertucci's
Sunday, Nov 13	JCA School & Shalom Sunday JCAT Events (6th-8th Grades & 9th-12th Grades)
Wednesday, Nov 16	JCA School
Sunday, Nov 20	JCA School
Wednesday Nov 23	No JCA School
Sunday, Nov 27	No JCA School

Spotlight on Committees

Adult Education Committee

Fall Programs 2016

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

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

We meet the first Thursday of the month at noon. The next meeting of this group of readers will take place on November 3 at the JCA. You may bring your own lunch (no meat allowed). We are continuing to read *Motl, Peiyse dem Hazan's* by Sholem Aleichem. If you are able to read Yiddish, you are welcome to join us. Email me (Friedahowards7@gmail.com) and I will be happy to send you the link to download the section we will be reading. Please note - we are not a class. Zeit gezunt.

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.

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, Robin Diamond, Ken and Kitty Talan, Reed Alper, Nina Tetenbaum, Kevin and Salle Deans Lake, Susan Zarchin, Amy Rothenberg, Josette Henschel, Jane Trigere, Judi Fonsh, Eliza Gouverneur, Jaymie Chernoff, David Piech and Renee Spring for preparing and delivering meals and to Arnie Alper and Ellen Middleton 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).

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.

Donations to the JCA

Adult Ed

Margaret Canady
Nancy Ratner
James Wald
Barbara Burkart
Linda Terry
Daniel Price
Dennis Rosen
Ruth Love Barer
Diane Chajes
Judy Davis
Alison Ellis
Deborah Epstein
Samuel Gladstone
Cleo Gorman
Robin Harmatz
Jeffrey Kahn
Carol Kaminsky
Cathie Korey
Carol Mardeusz
Anita Page
Joan Saperstan
Ken Schoen
Carole Schweid
Ruth Smith
Suzanne Spencer
Vadim Varshavskiy
Robert Vigderman
Janet Winston
Guy Wood
Fay Zipkowitz

Building Fund

In memory of my mother, Helen Rabin
(Monroe Rabin)

General Fund

Michael Ben-Chaim
In honor of Rabbi Weiner and the JCA
congregation for your kindness &
warmth in welcoming my grandson
Jacob Speaks and his wife to High
Holiday services (Ann Cohn)
In memory of Alex Chajes
(Melanie & Jonathan Lewis)
Open Door Donation
Judith Davidov
Ariella Schwell & Roger Magnus

Anna & Steven Robbins
In memory of Sylvia & Eugene Rodgers
(James Rodgers)
Martha Hoffheimer
Ellen & Peter Berek
In memory of fondly remembered family
& friends
(Barbara Schaffer Bacon & Roger Bacon)
Robert Samet
Anonymous

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In gratitude for all the spirit and joy the
rabbi & congregants manifest and send
to the world
(Nancy Simons & Martin Klein)
Wishing all a happy, sweet and peaceful
New Year
(Shoshana Sokoloff & Jeff Rubin)
In memory of our loved ones
(Marilyn & Jeffrey Blaustein)

Tzedakah

In honor of Jan Levy's celebration of her
special birthday and the marriage of her
daughter, Mia (Carol Jolly)
Jana Silver & Aaron Kropf

Yizkor Donation

Kitty & Ken Talan
Barbara & Michael Burkart
Reed & Arnie Alper
Barbara & David Schimmel
Hilda & Louis Greenbaum
Sam Gladstone
Marilyn & Joseph Kushick
Vera & Lawrence Wishnow
Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit
Madge Clingman
Judy Glaser & Robert Stern
Susan Zarchin
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Linda Mondshein & Warren Smith
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Ruth & Howard Smith
Betsy Broks & John Machta
Suzanne & Marius Sznajderman
Robin & Ted Diamond
Jackie Katz
Deborah Jai Levy
Deborah & Larry Fine
Seth Nemeroff

Condolences

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

Sabina May, mother of Les May and
mother-in-law of Carole May

Concert in Celebration of MANNA

Mak'hela: The Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts will perform Sunday, November 6th at 3:00 pm at Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton in celebration of thirty years of the MANNA Soup Kitchen. There will be ice cream donated by Herrell's Ice Cream after the concert.

No reservations or tickets: Free will donations will be requested to benefit MANNA

The Origins Of Violence And Principles And Practices Of Prevention

Dr. Ervin Staub will speak on Thursday, November 3 at 12:00 - 1:30 pm at Commonwealth Honors College Events Hall - 160 East. Dr. Staub taught at Harvard and is Professor Emeritus and Founding Director of the doctoral program in The Psychology of Peace and Violence at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is past President of the International Society for Political Psychology and of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence. Open to everyone. Refreshments served. For more information: www.umass.edu/peacepsychology 413-545-5957

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
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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)
To be determined (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

November 2016

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<http://j-c-a.org/news/>

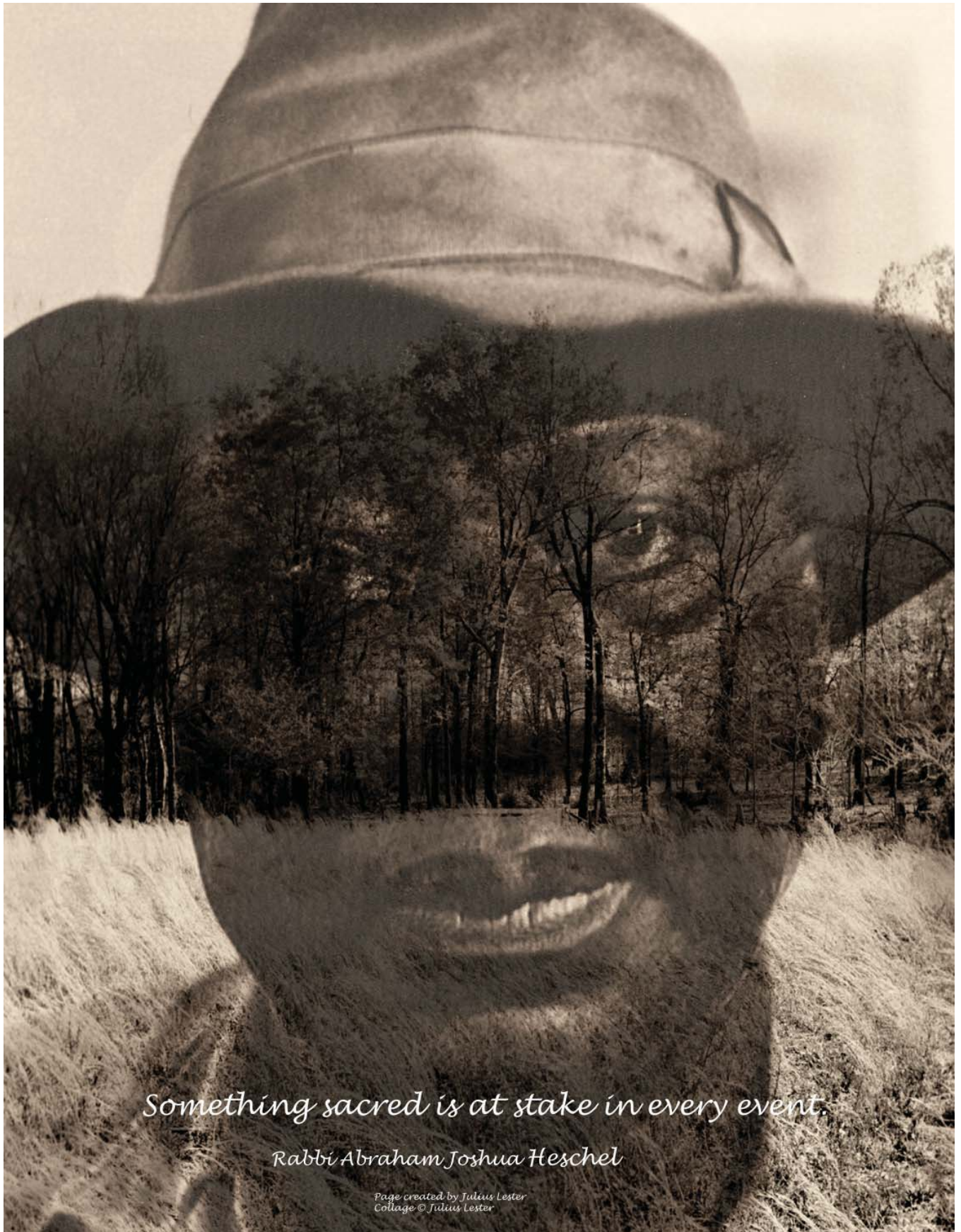
Deadline for the December issue is November 11th.



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.



Something sacred is at stake in every event.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

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