



**Jewish Community of Amherst**

**Kolot — JCA Voices | January 2017 | Tevet - Shevat 5777**



**Meet our new Board of Directors!**

See inside for more photos and short bios.

Programs and Events Calendar

Our Community

Message from JCA President

Ritual Life Calendar & Notes

Youth and Family Education

Spotlight on Committees

Donations

JCA Administration

## Highlights this Month

**Death Cafe, Sunday, January 8**

**My Date With Havdalah, Saturday, January 28**

## 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.

### January 5, Thursday

#### YIDDISH READING GROUP

**12:00 – 2:00 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, Peyse dem Hazan's* by Sholem Aleichem. If you are able to read Yiddish, you are welcome to join us. Email me ([Friedahowards7@gmail.com](mailto: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.

---

### January 8, Sunday

#### DEATH CAFE

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

The first meeting of the Death Cafe was very successful with 32 folks engaging in meaningful small group conversations around the topics of Death/Dying in a safe, supportive space. We invite you to join us at our second Death Cafe. Refreshments will be served! For more information go to [Deathcafe.com](http://Deathcafe.com) or contact Robin Diamond at [gemmom3@gmail.com](mailto:gemmom3@gmail.com).

---

### January 18, Wednesday

#### LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID SEIDENBERG

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

---

### January 19, 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)

---

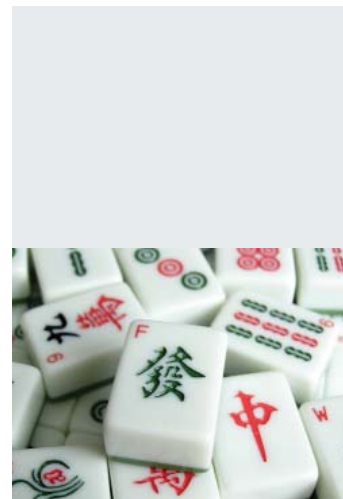
**January 22, Sunday**

### **MAH JONG**

**7:00 – 9:00 pm**

Charlotte Schwab is forming an American Mah Jong group at the JCA that will meet four times, on January 22, February 5, February 19, and March 5. There will be one group for Experienced Players, and if there is enough interest, Charlotte will teach a group for Beginners. Charlotte will bring one Mah Jong set. Please bring your set if you have one, and a current American Mah Jong card. Reservations are requested to know how many people are coming and how many cards are needed. Please call Charlotte at: (413) 253-7910 to reserve and with any questions from 10:00 am-12:00 noon or 2:00-8:00 pm. If no one is home, leave your name and number with message. Charlotte has taught American Mah Jong at the Amherst Senior Center, and in South Florida.

---



**January 25, Wednesday**

### **LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID SEIDENBERG**

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

---

**January 28, Saturday**

### **MY DATE WITH HAVDALAH!**

**7:30 pm in the Social Hall**

Community Havdalah, Dessert Pot Luck and Folk Sing-Along with Lisa Pack and Aaron Kropf! Bring your *Rise Up Singing* book and an instrument if you like! Also, a dessert to share—no nuts! We will provide tea and coffee. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

---

**January 29, Sunday**

### **PEER TALMUD READING GROUP: INFORMATIONAL & PLANNING SESSION**

**10:00 am – 11:45 am**

Adult Education - more information forthcoming.



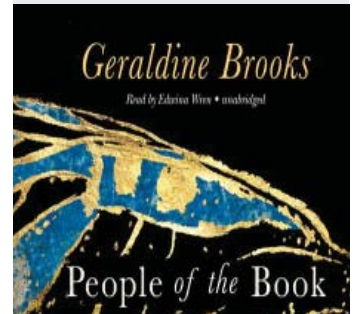
### Upcoming Programs and Events

**March 2, Thursday**

**ADULT READING GROUP**

**7:30 pm**

Join us for the 3rd meeting of the year of the ARG. We will be discussing *People of the Book* by Geraldine Page. This story is about the Sarajevo Haggadah that survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it. The author has turned the intriguing but sparsely detailed history of this precious volume into an emotionally rich, thrilling fictionalization that retraces its turbulent journey. It is in paperback and of course 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 always welcome! Any questions, please call Ken Talan at 413-253-2248.



**March 17-19, Friday - Sunday**

**RABBIS-IN-RESIDENCE: BREAD & TORAH**

Affirming the importance of both spiritual and physical sustenance in Jewish life, Bread and Torah Programs (<http://breadandtorah.org/our-programs>) are creative, hands-on learning experiences that combine traditional Jewish scribal arts and bread making with Jewish spiritual teachings and practices. Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein will join us for an entire weekend of baking and Torah studies. Help proofread Torah panels, bake the tastiest sweetbread you've ever had, and learn Jewish spiritual teachings behind baking and scribal arts. The weekend will include a number of different programs for all ages. Stay tuned for further details!



Rabbi Linda Motzkin  
and  
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein

## Our Community

---

### Welcome to All New JCA Members in 2016

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Jackie Rosenbloom & Jeff Mazur      | Amherst         |
| Richard Rubin                       | Northampton     |
| Josee Goldin & Barbara Goldin       | Northampton     |
| Beth Eisenberg & Paula Gottlieb     | Cummington      |
| Charlotte Schwab                    | Hadley          |
| Ana Villalobos & Ofer Sharone       | Amherst         |
| Mimi Farb                           | South Hadley    |
| Lilith Wolinsky                     | Northampton     |
| Sharon Weizenbaum                   | Amherst         |
| Melanie & Jonathan Lewis            | South Deerfield |
| Mark Esposito & Rachel Currie-Rubin | Easthampton     |
| Paulina Stark                       | Amherst         |
| Ashley Nkosi                        | Amherst         |
| Wim Klooster & Aviva Ben-Ur         | Belchertown     |
| Anne Nusbaum                        | Sunderland      |
| Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen       | Amherst         |
| Monica Goldman                      | Springfield     |
| Ellen & Howard Mentin               | Amherst         |
| Linda Mondschein & Warren Smith     | Florence        |
| Linda McConnell                     | South Hadley    |
| Amy & Nolan Anaya                   | Amherst         |
| Kol Goodstein                       | Northampton     |

---

### Condolences

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

**Eda Rabinovitz**, mother of David Rabinovitz and mother in law of Jordene Hale, and grandmother of Sophia and Chana Rose

### 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

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).

## Message from JCA President

---



Photo: Emily Bilbao

We're excited to announce that we have successfully completed negotiations with our rabbi for a new 7-year contract commencing on July 1, 2017!!! We are pleased and humbled that the rabbi has reaffirmed his commitment to this community and made clear that he sees the JCA as his long-term home.

The board engaged in detailed discussions with the rabbi over a number of months, and with input from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, we arrived at a mutually beneficial contract. Some individuals who heard about this during my president's remarks at the JCA annual meeting communicated their surprise that the community was not informed these negotiations were in process, and input was not sought from the community at large regarding the decision to negotiate a new contract.

In hindsight, I recognize that we inadvertently neglected to inform the community that the board was beginning this negotiation, and I apologize for this oversight. I want to assure the community, however, that the board engaged in a thoughtful and comprehensive process. It was consistent with institutional norms for how congregations typically deal with renewals of rabbinical contracts after a rabbi has successfully completed two previous contracts.

Starting in the summer, and concluding in September, we completed a comprehensive evaluation of the rabbi's work as required in his contract. This included the rabbi's self-assessment, my views as president based on personal observations and experience, and input from others who work closely with the rabbi: chairs of key committees (e.g. Tikkun Olam, Adult Education, Ritual Life), the Administrative Director and our senior educators, and other members of the board. All who work closely with the rabbi spoke of the universal esteem in which he is held and the extraordinary breadth of his rabbinical gifts.

In the absence of concerns brought to the attention of the board, from individuals or committees such as the Rabbi Liaison Committee or Beit Shalom, the board proceeded to establish a contract negotiating committee comprised of the president, first vice-president, treasurer and chairs of the board's Personnel Workgroup to begin preliminary discussions of a proposed contract. We spoke with representatives from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College who confirmed that during a renewal process it is not usual practice to seek wider community input regarding a rabbi's performance, and that rabbinical contracts are normally renewed absent evidence of significant community-wide concerns.

The board reviewed and approved the proposed contract, unanimously and enthusiastically, at its November board meeting. We are extremely happy to have completed this negotiation and are already involved in planning some celebratory events for the weekend of June 2-4, 2017, giving the community opportunities to welcome him back at the conclusion of his sabbatical. These will include an oneg and a fundraising dinner honoring the rabbi and celebrating the beginning of his new 7-year contract. More details will be forthcoming about the weekend's activities.

Hopefully, we will use the period of the rabbi's sabbatical to strengthen our connections to each other, and to sustain a community that is worthy of his commitment and his love.

*B'shalom,*  
Bill Zimmer

# Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

---



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

## *Shabbat Vayiggash, Genesis 44:18-47:27*

### January 6, Friday

#### **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES**

**6:15 pm** in the small sanctuary  
Service Leader: Gordon Freed

### January 7, Saturday

#### **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**  
Service Leader: To be announced  
D'var Torah: To be announced

#### **RENEWAL SERVICE**

**10:00 am** in the small sanctuary  
Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

---

## *Shabbat Vayehi, Genesis 47:28-50:26*

### January 13, Friday

#### **COMMUNITY & FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT**

**5:30 pm** in the social hall

### January 14, Saturday

#### **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**  
Service Leaders: Yossi Charette and Marty Pepper-Aisenberg  
D'var Torah: To be announced

---

## *Shabbat Shemot, Exodus 1:1-6:1*

### January 20, Friday

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

**6:15 pm**  
Service Leader: Diana Brewer and our musical daveners

### January 21, Saturday

#### **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**  
Service Leaders: Yossi Charette and Marty Pepper-Aisenberg  
D'var Torah: To be announced



#### **Candle Lighting**

January 6 ~ 4:13 pm  
January 13 ~ 4:21 pm  
January 20 ~ 4:29 pm  
January 27 ~ 4:38 pm  
Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

---

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

Every Tuesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

#### **Meditation Minyan**

The 7:30 am meditation minyan will resume on April 5.

#### **Ma'ariv Minyan**

Every Thursday at 5:30 pm in the small sanctuary

---

#### **Rosh Hodesh Shevat**

January 28, Saturday

---

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

## Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

---

### *Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Shevat, Parashat Va'era Exodus 6:2-9:35, Numbers 28:9-15*

#### January 27, Friday

##### **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES**

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

Service Leaders: Eliza Gouverneur and Richard Cohen

This will be a service especially geared for those preferring more English.

#### January 28, Saturday

##### **SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Diana Brewer

D'var Torah: To be announced

---

#### **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](mailto:madelineberkowitz@gmail.com) for reading in February.

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/Haftorah readers: Ruth Love Barer, Aaron Bousel, Hadar Gabel, Elissa Rubinstein, Randi Stein, Elaine Walsh

Lay service leaders: Ruth Love Barer, Yossi Charette, Diana Brewer, Eliza Gouverneur and Richard Cohen, Larry Fine, Catherine Madsen, Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley, Randi Stein

Musicians: Danielle Kadinoff, Shabbat Musical Daveners

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

#### **Thank you to our kiddush sponsors for December:**

##### **December 3**

Connie & Chuck Songer, in celebration of Chuck's birthday

---





## Youth and Family Education

---

Dear JCA Community,

Imagine the lights are dim, the table is set, and the candles sit in their holders waiting to become Sabbath lights. The kiddush cup is full, and friends are laughing and hugging as they greet each other. A gentle hum begins, and soon the entire space is full of joyful singing and rhythmic clapping as we welcome Shabbat with *Shalom Aleichem*, *Lecha Dodi*, and all of the Shabbat ritual blessings. Finally, we get to feast on the meal prepared by JV Corps, the teens learning about food justice and community service. After dinner, chairs get pushed away and the Israeli folk dancing begins!

This is our new Friday night program once per month. It is open to families, to tots, and to anyone in the wider community who simply wants to enjoy a ritual Shabbat meal in community. Tots Storytime and Sing-A-Long are from 5:00 - 5:30 pm, followed by a community wide ritual celebration and dinner from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. See photos below from our first Family Friday Night at which we had over 90 people in attendance! We hope you'll join us in January.

Todah Rabah,

Cara Michelle Silverberg  
*Youth and Teen Programs Coordinator*

Keren Rhodes  
*School Principal & Family Education Coordinator*



## January Calendar

**January 1, Sunday - January 11, Wednesday**  
**NO JCA SCHOOL**

**January 13, Friday**

**TEEN PROGRAM: JV CORPS (6th-12th)**

**4:00 – 7:30 pm**

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

**FAMILY PROGRAM: FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT**

**5:00 – 5:30 pm**

Tots Storytime and Shabbat Sing-A-Long

**5:30 – 7:30 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.

**January 13 - 14, Friday/Saturday**

**JR. CHAI SHUL-IN (SLEEPOVER)**

**January 15, Sunday**

**JCA SCHOOL & FAMILY HAVDALAH**

**10:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**January 18, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**January 22, Sunday**

**TEEN PROGRAM: TEVA TORAH**

**9:30 am – 3:30 pm**

A winter wonderland extravaganza! A hike, snowshoe or skiing day, depending on the weather and terrain. View JCA Education website for up-to-date details and to register/RSVP.

**JCA SCHOOL**

**10:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**SHALOM SUNDAY**

**10:00 – 11:45 am**

**January 25, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**January 29, Sunday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**10:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**PARENT DISCUSSIONS & WORKSHOPS**

**January 15, Sunday**

**SHALOM LEARNING CURRICULUM -  
ACHRAYUT**

**January 22, Sunday**

**NEADS (NEW ENGLAND GUIDE DOGS)**

**January 29, Sunday**

**PJ PARENTS**

*\*\*Teens attending JV Corps, Junior Chai, Madrichim or Teva Torah must register online and RSVP in advance. Visit our JCA Education homepage for teen registration and RSVPs. View the JCA Education calendar and website for information on vacation, weather cancellations, and more! [www.j-c-a.org/education.html](http://www.j-c-a.org/education.html)*

### Our New Board of Directors

We are pleased to give the members of the new board the opportunity to introduce themselves to you, and tell you why they have chosen to serve JCA in this way. On behalf of the community, we thank them and send good wishes as they begin their new year together.

**BILL ZIMMER (President)**



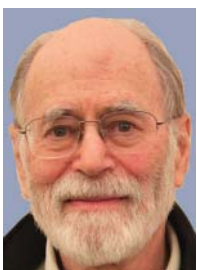
I have been involved in Jewish communal life since I was active in the Reform movement's youth group 50 years ago. I have continued to be actively involved in synagogue life, both at Beit Ahavah in Northampton and at the JCA, since we moved from the Boston area more than 30 years ago. After retiring after 36 years as an administrator in the Commonwealth's Department of Developmental Services in 2012, I have split my time between working on developing a stronger governance culture at the JCA, and spending time with our two grandchildren in Portland, Oregon. I have an academic and experiential background in human services and synagogue management and want to use those skills to strengthen the community we love at the JCA.

**JANIS LEVY (First Vice President)**



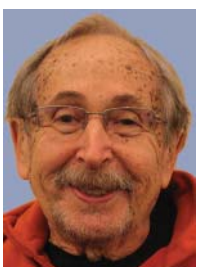
Born and raised in Sheffield, England, I began a career in professional theatre in London but came to the USA for a summer in 1971. I am still here! Moving to MA from CA in 1977 with my family, I became an active member of a local synagogue serving on the board and as president. My professional work includes senior writer for development at Smith College, theatre and public television, strategic planning, development and administration for non-profit organizations, and synagogue executive director. My son and daughter and families live in Seattle. I joined the JCA in 2011 and am grateful for this community. I enjoy contributing my experiences in Jewish communal life and communications to the work of the board and to the well-being of the JCA community.

**BOB SOLOSKO (Second Vice President)**



Prior to moving to the Pioneer Valley in 2009, I was a member of the board and High Holiday coordinator at Temple Shir Tikvah in Winchester, MA. Very shortly after moving to the valley and becoming a member of the JCA, I was appointed co-chair of the High Holiday committee, a position I still hold. For the past four years I've served on the JCA board, first as a member-at-large and currently as one of the vice-presidents and as chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee. Volunteering at the JCA gives me a strong connection with the JCA community, and with my background in both engineering and business, I have skills and experience that help me give back to the community.

**ELI KWARTLER (Third Vice President)**



Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY before it became gentrified, I have lived in Pelham since the 70's and a member of the JCA since the early 80's. I have been active as a volunteer for more than 15 years serving on many committees and as a co-president. I feel that my long involvement and experience add to my value as Third Vice President. My interests include extensive travel, serving as a SHINE Counselor dealing with MEDICARE and MEDICAID for seniors and being on the board of The Learning Project. All of this is in addition to a fervent commitment to the synagogue and its long-term success as both the home of the Jewish Community of Amherst and a House of Worship.

## Spotlight on Committees (continued)

---

RANDI STEIN (Clerk)



I moved to Amherst from southern New Hampshire in 2005, and joined the JCA shortly thereafter. This community feels like home. I love its diversity, its educated members, the ease with which one can become part of the fabric. I am delighted with our rabbi and the ways in which our community has been enlivened by his intelligent and creative presence. . I grew up in a Jewishly-active home, have always loved Jewish music and Hebrew. Had the rabbinate been a possibility for women when I was growing up, I think I would have leaned in that direction. I have lived in Israel (1974-1978) on kibbutz Menara, a small village on the northern border, and that experience cemented my love of the Hebrew language and the principles of egalitarian living. When I am not at the JCA, I am writing, or painting, or photographing, or tutoring children. I am a dance/movement therapist and Waldorf-trained remedial educator. I am a member of the JCA Ritual Life Committee.

MICHAEL BURKART (Treasurer)



I joined the board when I served as Treasurer from 2010 to 2012. After leaving the board, I re-joined again in the spring of 2014. I am excited about the way our board has worked together this year (2016), and I am very much looking forward to what we will accomplish in 2017. We have a talented group of people and we have built a team that works well together.

BARBARA SCHAFFER BACON (Member at Large)



Hailing from Springfield, I have been in the Valley since coming to UMASS as a student in 1973. I was raised in a reform congregation (Sinai Temple) and was very active in the temple youth group and regional [NEFTY] association. This didn't stop me from marrying Roger Bacon, a nice Catholic boy from Amherst 38 years ago. We raised two children in Belchertown where I served on the School Committee for 14 years. I work with Americans for the Arts, a national organization that works to cultivate, promote, and sustain support for artists and the arts in communities throughout the county, and currently serve on the board of our state arts agency, the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Having appreciated much support from the congregation as an adult Bat Mitzvah, I know it is time to give back. This is my second round of board service having served last in the late 80s. I hope to support a JCA community that is welcoming and offers many options and entry points for participating in spiritual, educational, social action and social programming.

CONNIE SONGER (Member at Large)



My husband Chuck and I moved here from south central Pennsylvania after we retired, about two and a half years ago. We wanted to be close to our daughters and their families and hoped to find a Jewish community in which we could both participate. Although Chuck is not Jewish, we had both been very active at Temple Beth Shalom in Mechanicsburg, PA. We were pleased to find a vibrant Reconstructionist community close to our new home in Western Mass. I retired after 30 years as a women's health nurse practitioner, work that I loved and felt passionate about but just as passionate is my love of Judaism. So to make up for a complete absence of Jewish education, I returned to school in Jewish studies. I have loved becoming a part of the Jewish community of Amherst and contributing to its life and future. Continuing to be part of the board is one way that I can continue to give back to a community that has become a significant part of our life.

## Spotlight on Committees (continued)

---

ELIZA GOUVERNEUR (Member at Large)



My husband, Richard Cohen, and I joined the JCA in December 2008. Prior to moving to Amherst, I worked as a librarian at a Jewish day school in Delaware and at the Center for Jewish Life/Hillel at Princeton University. At the JCA, I have been a member of the Ritual Life Committee, the Nominating Committee, and helped make our library more user friendly. Richard and I have occasionally led Friday night services. Outside of the JCA, I volunteer twice a week as Librarian at the Lander Grinspoon Academy. Any living institution is always in flux to some extent. I think that the JCA board is like the man in the circus act who spins dozens of plates on the end of poles. Some are spinning fast, some need a little boost, but they always need tending. As a board member I hope that I can help with the many efforts to keep us thriving. The financial, spiritual, communal life of the community, the whole living institution that is the JCA means a great deal to me.

ERIC WEISS (Member at Large)



I am the father of three sons who have each become bar mitzvah, one in August 2015 at the JCA. Currently, I work as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts's Higher Education Consortium in Amherst. Formerly, I was the Sustainability Director for the Hampshire Council of Governments. I am also a former Chairman of the Belchertown School Committee. I enjoy running, being outside, swimming and skiing. I would like to help guide the JCA into the future.

FLO STERN (Member at Large)



I am from NYC and lived there until I moved to Amherst in 1993 to be with Nancy (now my wife). We moved into the cohousing community in Amherst in 1994. We had one son at the time, and adopted two girls (sisters aged 4 and 5 years old) in January 1995. I am an R.N. and went to graduate school at Columbia University (Teachers College) for Clinical Psychology. My passion was in politics and labor relations. I switched fields and became President of the Social Service Union in NYC. I taught labor relations at Cornell and at Hofstra University as an adjunct in both places. When I moved to Amherst I worked for labor unions and focused on labor history. I joined the JCA in 1996, when my daughters started Sunday School. Currently, we are raising our grandson who is attending Shalom Sunday. I became active on the JCA Tikkun Olam Committee and joined the board a few years later. This is my 2nd term on the board. I think it is important to participate and give to the organization, not only financially but also as an activist.

HANS HERDA (Member at Large)



Phyllis and I moved from Lexington to Leverett in 2010 to be close to our two daughters and their families. We joined JCA shortly after we arrived. I had recently retired from almost thirty years as professor of mathematics at UMass Boston. Most of my time now is happily taken up with helping with our grandchildren (six boys!). I also collect coins, minerals, crystals and especially ancient stone tools that I have even found in Israel. I feel that the JCA gives us so much in so many ways, and I would like to give back. Serving on the board is one way that I can do that.

## Spotlight on Committees (continued)

---

JACKIE KATZ (Member at Large)



I first came to the JCA in 1988 when I returned to Western Mass from my studies in St. Louis. Sheila Weinberg was the rabbi. I found myself returning Shabbat after Shabbat and eventually became a member. I then served on the Chesed Committee, but needed to leave it as my chiropractic/craniosacral practice providing care to the larger Amherst community required more of my time. I am currently a member of the Chevra Kadisha, Shomerim and the Cemetery Committee. I do not want to wait until I retire to serve on the board, or there is more time. I am making the time now because the JCA and community that is growing and thriving is important to me. I want to support its continuance and growth. The best skills that I bring are simple. I am a good listener and I care about the health and wellbeing of things, whether individual people or the community as a whole.

JEFF ROTH-HOWE (Member at Large)



My wife Debbie and I have been members of the JCA since 1982. I have been living in the Valley since 1974, 25 years in Amherst and now 10 years in Leverett. We found the JCA's openness to having families with one Jewish partner and one non-Jewish partner as part of the congregation to be very supportive as we started a family of our own. I am retired from my career in human services where I worked extensively with both state and private agencies, including serving as Executive Director of Children's Aid and Family Service of Hampshire County for 15 years. I volunteer now at the Amherst Survival Center, serve on the Leverett Personnel Committee and now serve as President of the Hampshire Council of Social Agencies (COSA). The best part of my week is being Grandpa to my 3 year-old and 3-month old granddaughters who also live in Leverett. I hope my experience working with and serving on other

boards in the area and my management experience will be useful in assisting the work of the JCA board moving forward.

MARA HAHN (Member at Large)



My family and I have been JCA members for 10 years. We joined when our son was 18 months old looking for a Jewish community that was warm and comfortable. I joined the JCA School Committee several years ago and have served as chairperson for the past 3 years. I have just completed my first year on the board and look forward to the coming year.

## Spotlight on Committees (continued)

---

### Adult Education Committee

Watch for more information about these and other upcoming Spring Adult Education programs. Some dates and times may change.

#### Lunch and Learn

Rabbi David Seidenberg  
Wednesdays, January 18 - April 5  
12:15 - 1:15 pm

#### Peer Talmud Reading Group: Informational and Planning Session

Sunday, January 29  
10:15 - 11:45 am

#### Contemporary U.S. and Israeli Relations

Jesse Ferris  
Sunday, February 26  
10:30 - 11:45 am

#### Today's Changing Jewish Community: Judaism's Online Presence and How to Stay Connected While Standing on Shifting Sands

Jody Rosenbloom  
Tuesdays, February 28, March 7, 14  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

#### Bread and Torah Shabbaton

March 17 - 19

#### Israel & Palestine: A Clash of Nationalisms

Aaron Berman  
Thursdays, March 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27, May 4  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

#### Charoses Taste-Off

Friday, March 31 after Shabbat services

#### Passover Preparation for Courageous Hearts: The Work That Reconnects

Cara Silverberg  
Sunday, April 2  
1:00 - 5:00 pm

#### Counting the Omer

Diana Brewer  
Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24  
12:15 - 1:15 pm

#### Modern Conversational Hebrew

Henny Lewin  
Dates and times to be determined

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### January 2, Monday

Fundraising Committee  
2:00 pm

#### January 4, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee  
7:00 pm  
Youth & Family Education Committee  
7:00 pm

#### January 5, Thursday

Board Meeting  
7:00 pm

#### January 9, Monday

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

#### January 11, Wednesday

Youth & Family Education Committee  
7:00 pm

#### January 19, Thursday

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

#### January 20, Friday

Adult Education Committee  
12:15 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, David Piech and Renee Spring for preparing and delivering meals.

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).

### JCA Hall Gallery

The Hall Gallery is very pleased to be showing the photography of Bob Solosko once again. Come and view his wonderful pictures. His images represent a diverse and eclectic range of subjects, including interesting patterns, old buildings and structures, plants and flowers, small creatures, scenic views, trains, sunsets, and intimate photos of people.

Bob's images have been exhibited in galleries, hospitals and a bank in Western Massachusetts and are in a number of private collections. He is an Adobe Lightroom Certified Expert and teaches Lightroom, camera handling, and photography.

### 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

---

### Adult Ed

Janis Levy  
Thomas Butler

### Annual Fund

Linda & Dan Reif  
Holly Perry & James Seltzer  
Jessica Wolf & Kevin Landau  
Linda Sinapi  
Susan Zarchin  
Jonathan Hirsh  
Josh Goldstein  
Jessica & Eric Wilkinson  
Jordene Hale & David Rabinovitz  
In honor of the congregation's granting  
a sabbatical to Rabbi Weiner (Roslyn  
Heafitz)  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Elissa & Bernie  
Rubinstein)  
Josette Henschel & Joan Saperstan  
Amy & James Sweeting  
Beth Eisenberg & Paula Gottlieb  
Judy Glaser & Robert Stern  
Bina & Ira Addes  
Rona Chayah Conrad  
Tom Plaut  
Susan & Peter Cinner  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner and the JCA  
Board (Barbara & Ted Slovin)  
Ariella Schwell & Roger Magnus  
Natalie Jarmon  
In honor of Haim & Yaffa Gunner  
(Kitty & Ken Talan)  
Hollie Kalkstein & Robert Weitzman  
Ruth & Howard Smith  
Bill & Marsha Zimmer  
Rachel Currie-Rubin & Mark Esposito  
Marina & Josh Goldman  
Jackie Katz  
Moirra & Stephen Clingman  
Zahava Koren  
Danielle Kadinoff  
Janis Levy  
Rosalind Torrey  
Andra Rose  
Amy Rothenberg & Paul Herscu  
Kayla Werlin & Wayne Abercrombie  
Diana & Sara Brewer

Lee Jennings & Eric Sommers  
Dorothy & Robert Pam  
Mara & Harry Hahn  
Eliza Gouverneur & Richard Cohen  
Joan Epstein & Burt Franzman  
Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit  
Barbara Berlin  
Joan Temkin & Paul Goulston  
Kathy & Richard Rubin  
In memory of Alexander Chajes  
(Diane Chajes)  
Jeanne & Robert Potash  
Connie & Chuck Songer  
Rachel & Robert Vigderman  
Jody Rosenbloom & Joel Kaminsky  
Patience & Aaron Bousel  
Amy Mittelman & Aaron Berman  
David Sharken  
Deborah & Jeffrey Roth-Howe  
Helen & Morton Sternheim  
Catherine Vorwerk Feldman & Robert  
Feldman  
Barbara Goldstein & Avi Gladstone  
Sandra Sulsky & Eric Bittman  
Tobi Sznajderman & Joel Harris  
Sharon Dunn & John Clayton  
Joanna & Clay Ballantine  
Janet & Bob Winston  
Kitty Axelson-Berry  
Jane Brodwyn  
Madeline Charney & Rudy Perkins  
Ellen & John Middleton  
Karen Levine  
Gail & Michael Perlman  
Joy Misra & David Mednicoff  
In memory of my brother, father and  
mother (Tamar Shadur)  
Carol Kaminsky  
Joyce Duncan & Sam Gladstone  
Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit  
Linda & Irv Seidman  
Ronnie Janoff-Bulman & Michael Shea  
Bulman  
Paulina Stark  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner  
(Eva & Norman Brown)  
Yaldira & Michael Brown  
Rinat & Ruby Schmerling

Noa Milman & Nicole Doerr  
Joan & Monroe Rabin  
Joan Swerdlow-Brandt & Robert Brandt  
Cara Michelle Silverberg  
Cheryl Zoll & Eric Sawyer  
Amy & Jeff Kalman  
Jane Myers  
In memory of Sid, Elaine & Marvin  
(Anne Krauss & Dennis Rosen)  
Anna Sobel & Brian Bender  
Rachel Schwab Rehorka & Gary Rehorka  
Bonnie Diamond & Daniel Price  
Cailin & Rick Reiken  
Dana & Ed Parrot  
Rachael & Molly Goren-Watts  
Judith Loischild

### Chesed Committee

Barbara Jenkins & Eli Kwartler

### General Fund

In memory of Rabbi Weiner's  
grandmother (Judy & Allen Davis)  
In memory of Esther Lowenstein Weiner  
(Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler &  
Marc Cohen)  
In memory of Rabbi Weiner's  
grandmother (Ruth & Howard Smith)  
In memory of Normand Berlin  
(Elena Sharnoff)  
In memory of the Rabbi's grandmother,  
Esther Lowenstein Weiner  
(Gail & Michael Perlman)  
Ellen & William Lindsey  
In honor Of Rabbi Ben Weiner  
(Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)  
In memory of Eda Rabinovitz  
(Jordene Hale & David Rabinovitz)

### Open Door Donation

In gratitude for the Rosh Hashana service.  
It was so lovely as was the community  
(Rose Ellen Neidish)  
Gail Kainen  
In honor of Gaius & Althea Turner  
(Harold Neidich)  
Becca Bradburd  
Thank you for the beautiful High Holiday  
Services  
(Leah Goldstein-Mosimann & Pearl  
Mosimann)

## Donations to the JCA (continued)

---

On the occasion of attending Rosh Hashanah services with our son, Martin & daughter-in-law Brenda Miller (Goldie & Stanley Miller)

Rita Singer

### Project Rehovot

Reed and Arnie Alper

In memory of my parents, Peppy and Morris Barer (Ruth Love Barer)

In honor of Karen Loeb (Thomas J. Butler and Jody Wax )

In honor of Jerome Liebling and in memory of Anne Halley Chametzky (Jules Chametzky)

Peter and Susan Cinner

In honor of Janis Levy's 70th birthday (David and Doris Cohen)

Allen and Judith Davis

In honor of Aunt Florence's 90th birthday (Alison and Richard Ellis)

Joan Epstein and Burt Franzman

In honor of Marilyn Kushick and in memory of F. G. Brigham Jr. (Scottie Faerbus)

Robert Feldman and Katherine Vorwerk

Arnold Friedmann

Marcia and Sheldon Goldman

Haim and Yaffa Gunner

In memory of Ellie Wiesel (Phyllis and Hans Herda)

Janet Klausner-Wise

Benna Kropf

In honor of Yaffa Gunner and Karen Loeb (Elinor Levine and Scott Nielsen)

In honor of Alice Perschetz (Susan Machala)

Roger Magnus and Ariella Schwab

Naomi and Micha Peleg

In honor of Yaffa Gunner (Diane Palladino and Ellen Koteen)

James and Barbara Pistrang

Robert and Jeanne Potash

In memory of David and Nadia Rozman (David Rozman)

Stephanie Sandler and Austin Sarat

Linda Sinapi

In honor of our granddaughters, Tessa Hoverman and Olivia Royal (Connie and Chuck Songer)

Paulina Stark

Randi Stein

In memory of Batya Katz-Gladstone (Barbara and Ted Slovin)

In honor of Shirley Zalkind for more than 30 years as an elementary school art teacher (Nina and Dan Tetenbaum)

Robert Weitzman

In honor of our grandchildren (Vera and Lawrence Wishnow)

Rabbi Sheila Weinberg

Ruth Wax

In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Guy Wood)

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In honor of Irv Seidman (Patience & Aaron Bousel)

In gratitude for Shabbos Yoga (Jill & Daniel Berlin)

### Yiskor List

In honor of Rabbi Weiner and with thanks to Michael Burkart, Bill Zimmer & the entire Board of Directors (Devorah Jacobson & Margaret Mastrangelo)

### Youth and Family Programs

In honor of Rabbi Weiner's forthcoming birthday from Aunt Barbara & Uncle Marty (Barbara & Marty Winn)



## 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)  
**First Vice President:** Janis Levy (janisrlevy@gmail.com)  
**Second Vice President:** Bob Solosko (rbsolosko@verizon.net)  
**Third Vice President:** Eli Kwartler (elikwartler@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Michael Burkart (maburk47@comcast.net)  
**Clerk:** Randi Stein (randistein@earthlink.net)  
**Members at Large:** Barbara Schaffer Bacon, Eliza Gouverneur,  
Mara Hahn, Hans Herda, Jeff Roth-Howe, Jackie Katz,  
Connie Songer, Flo Stern, Eric Weiss

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

January 2017

**Editor/Graphic Designer**  
Aaron Bousel  
413-253-3544  
fax: 413-253-3846  
news@j-c-a.org

**Co-Editor**  
Janis Levy

**Art Director**  
Moira Clingan

**Proofreader**  
Sarah Thomson

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

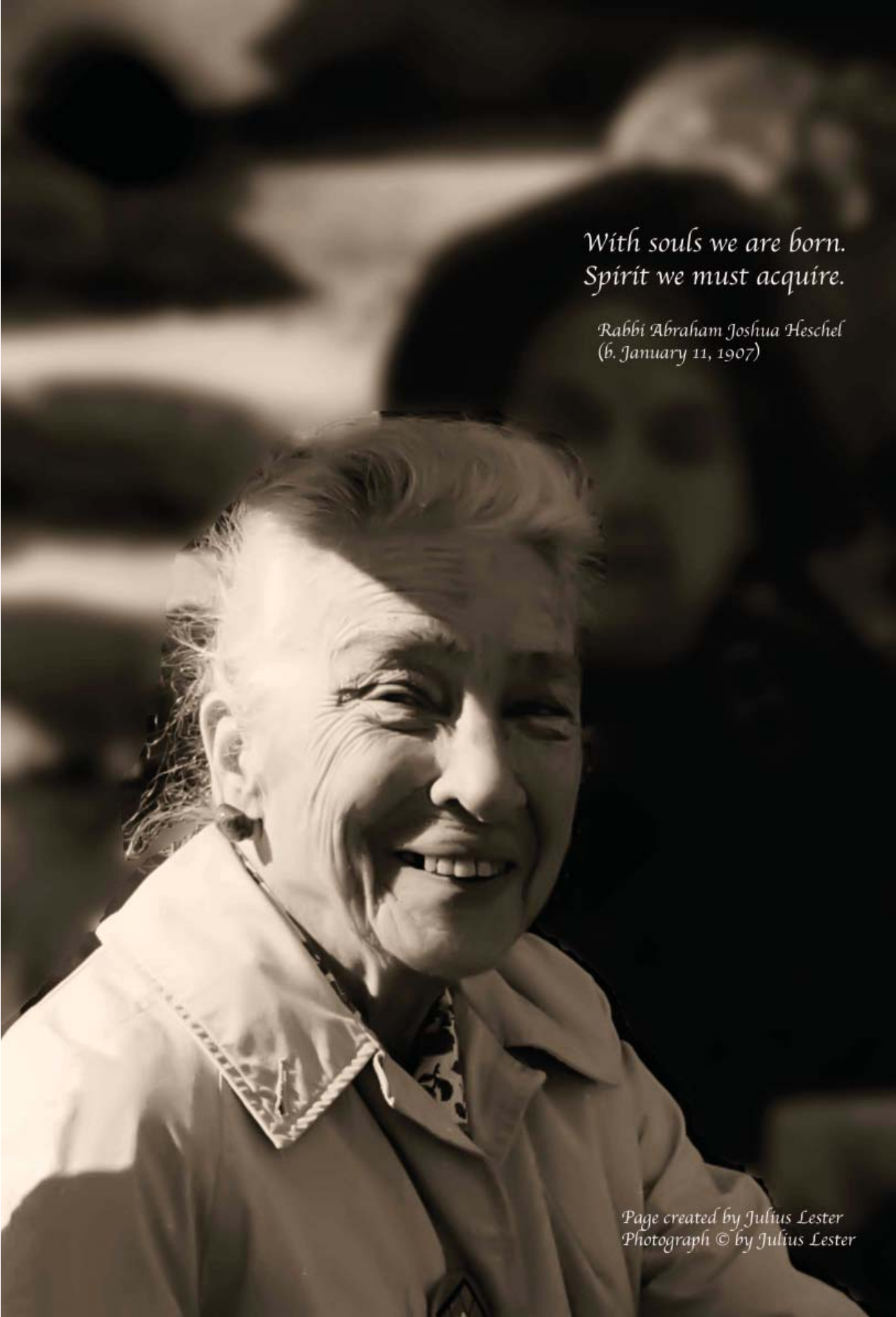
Deadline for the February issue is January 12th.



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.



*With souls we are born.  
Spirit we must acquire.*

*Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel  
(b. January 11, 1907)*

*Page created by Julius Lester  
Photograph © by Julius Lester*