



**Jewish Community of Amherst**

**Kolot — JCA Voices | March 2017 | Adar - Nisan 5777**



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## Highlights this Month

**Purim:**

**Pizza, Spiel, and Megillah Reading, March 11**

**JCA Family Purim Celebration, March 12**

**"Brunch" & English Megillah Reading, March 12**

**Bread & Torah Shabbaton, March 17–19**

**Charoset Taste-Off & Potluck Supper, March 31**

## Programs and Events Calendar

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

### March 1, Wednesday

#### LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID SEIDENBERG

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

Continuing its investigation of Halakha, or the tradition of Jewish law, the Lunch and Learn program focuses on the intersection of kashrut (kosher dietary laws) and ethics, with an emphasis on animal welfare, and explores related issues as they arise according to participants' interests. Rabbi David Seidenberg has been a frequent teacher in the JCA community, is the author of *Kabbalah and Ecology: God's Image in the More-Than-Human World*, and he leads the Prayground Minyan based in Northampton.

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### March 1, Wednesday

#### MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN

**5:45 pm – 7:15 pm**

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

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### March 2, Thursday

#### YIDDISH LEHNER'S GROUP

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

We welcome anyone who enjoys reading Yiddish to join us at the JCA the first Thursday of every month. We are now reading Chapter 4 in *Motl Paysie Dem Hazns* by Sholem Aleichem. It can be downloaded from the Yiddish Book Center. We begin with a schmooze in Yiddish as we have lunch (bring your own - no meat or nuts). Everyone takes a turn reading, but the best part is the translating where we get the real "tahn" (taste) of Yiddish from our experts. So – come and join us. It's truly a mechiah. Please send all correspondence to [friedahowards7@gmail.com](mailto:friedahowards7@gmail.com)

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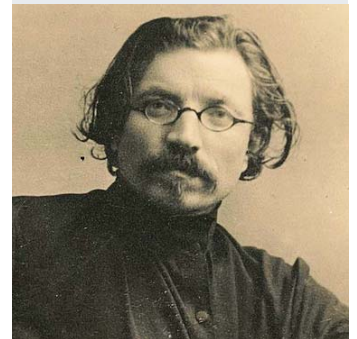
### March 2, Thursday

#### 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 Brooks. 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. 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.

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## Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

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**March 2, Thursday**

### **JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP**

**7:15 pm – 8:45 pm**

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

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**March 5, Sunday**

### **BASICS OF HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY WITH JANE TRIGÈRE**

**2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

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**March 5, Sunday**

### **MAH JONG**

**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

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**March 7, Tuesday**

### **STAYING CONNECTED: JUDAISM'S ONLINE PRESENCE WITH JODY ROSENBLOOM**

**7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

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**March 8, Wednesday**

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

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

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**March 8, Wednesday**

### **MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN**

**5:45 pm – 7:15 pm**

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**March 14, Tuesday**

### **STAYING CONNECTED: JUDAISM'S ONLINE PRESENCE WITH JODY ROSENBLOOM**

**7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

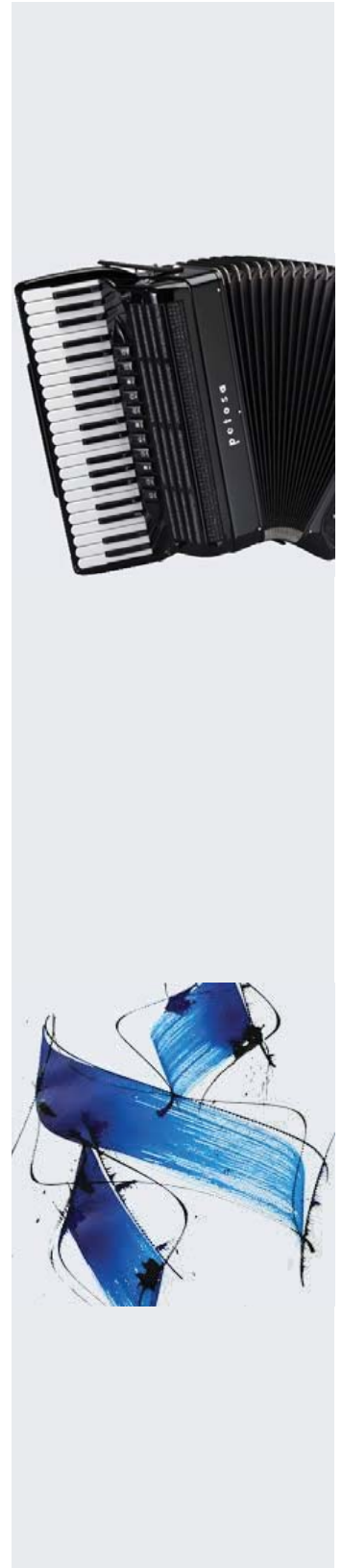
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**March 15, Wednesday**

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

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

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## Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

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**March 15, Wednesday**

**MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN**

5:45 pm – 7:15 pm

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**March 16, Thursday**

**JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP**

7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

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**March 17 – 19, Friday - Sunday**

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

Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein (<http://breadandtorah.org/our-programs>) will join us for an entire weekend of baking, Torah study, and programs for all ages. Help proofread Torah panels, bake the tastiest sweetbread you've ever had, and study Jewish spiritual teachings. Go to: <http://j-c-a.org/bread+torah-shabbaton.pdf> for more information.

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**March 22, Wednesday**

**LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID SEIDENBERG**

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

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**March 22, Wednesday**

**MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN**

5:45 pm – 7:15 pm

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**March 23, Thursday**

**ISRAEL AND PALESTINE: A CLASH OF NATIONALISMS  
WITH AARON BERMAN**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

The purpose of this course is to understand the historical background that the mass media never discusses when reporting on the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. We will examine critical moments in the long history of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, and end with a discussion of recent events and proposed solutions to the clash. Adult Education class. Pre-registration required.

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**March 29, Wednesday**

**LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID SEIDENBERG**

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

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**March 29, Wednesday**

**MODERN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW WITH HENIA LEWIN**

5:45 pm – 7:15 pm

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Rabbi Linda Motzkin  
and  
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein



Aaron Berman

## Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

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**March 30, Thursday**

**ISRAEL AND PALESTINE: A CLASH OF NATIONALISMS**

**WITH AARON BERMAN**

**7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

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**March 30, Thursday**

**JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP**

**7:15 pm – 8:45 pm**

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**March 31, Friday**

**CHAROSET TASTE-OFF AND POTLUCK SUPPER**

**Following Friday evening services**

Charoset, charoses—the sticky, sweet symbol of mortar at the seder, the essential ingredient of the Hillel sandwich, and the tastiest item on the seder plate. Just as charoset holds together matzoh, it can bind us together in community celebration. So we invite you to The First JCA Annual Charoset Taste-Off. To enter, prepare a healthy portion of your favorite charoset, and bring printed copies of your recipe. Celebrity tasters will judge and select winners in the following categories: Ashkenazy, Sephardic, Freestyle, Best Performance in a Hillel Sandwich, The Charoses with the Mostess. No registration needed.

## Upcoming Programs and Events

**April 2, Sunday**

**PASSOVER PREPARATION: A WORKSHOP BASED ON JOANNA**

**MACY'S WORK THAT RECONNECTS - WITH CARA SILVERBERG**

**1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Joanna Macy is a scholar of Buddhism, systems theory and deep ecology, and a respected voice in the movements for peace, justice, and environmentalism. In 2014, Cara participated in the Earth Leadership Cohort program, training directly with Joanna Macy. This workshop will introduce the basic concepts of *Work That Reconnects*, a kehila (community) and a collective process of spiritual preparation for Passover. We will experience successive practices to explore themes of oppression and liberation among our human and ecological worlds. Wear clothing that is comfortable to move around in. Adult Education Registration required.

## Our Community

### Condolences

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

**Monroe Jacob Swerdlow**, beloved Husband of Ruth Swerlow, Father of Linda Reif, Father-in-law of Daniel Reif, Grandfather of Gabriel Reif, Grandfather-in-law of Jennifer Matoney and Great Grandfather of Cassie

### 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 before the publication of the next newsletter to: [news@j-c-a.org](mailto:news@j-c-a.org).

## Message from Randi Stein, Clerk, JCA Board of Directors

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*What does the “community” in our name mean?*

This is the time of year that the JCA board wrestles with allocation of resources (membership dues, gifts and fees) and which activities and functions of our community we can support in the coming year. These range from heating the building and paying our mortgage, to providing food for celebrations and paying staff. The JCA has no endowment from which to draw, and no rich uncle to rescue us when predictions prove to be incorrect. Every year, we look back to see what did and did not work, and estimate what we will need and receive in the coming year. Mostly, we get it right. Sometimes, we have to make adjustments to come out with the balanced budget the community expects to see.

Now that I am on the board, I see many parallels between this process, and one I knew as a member of a community farm in Wilton, NH where I lived before moving to Amherst. Each year, members received the budget and a suggested monthly amount to pay that would support expenditures. No matter what our contribution, we were entitled to go to the farm store each week and help ourselves to what we needed. Just like here at the JCA.

Each year, we were reminded that our monthly “donation” did not represent a “fee for service”. We were not paying directly for our vegetables, as we would in a grocery store. Our money supported a system, a way of living in community, and a relationship to the land and to the food produced through biodynamic and organic agriculture. That’s why we were members. We believed in a healthy way of producing the food we ate.

We all knew the risks of supporting this community. Some years, too many turnips and not enough of the cauliflower that we loved. But all members pledged to support the community of the farm because we believed in what it stood for, irrespective of the particular vegetables we helped ourselves to every week.

It is like that at the JCA. I have a particular activity that interests me-- Sabbath services. But the JCA is much more than that, and because it is, there is a beautiful sanctuary for me to go to each week and people with whom I am grateful to sit and pray. The rabbi -- my rabbi-- is not there right now, but I am still coming to pray, and I have stepped forward, like many others, to lead those services until he returns.

And so it is with other aspects of the JCA community. Some years we have lavish kiddushes, scholar-in-residence weekends, and extensive programming. Other years, it's only wine and challah, potlucks, and fewer choices of activities and gatherings. But we all stay, and we continue to support the basics of our Jewish community-- a school for our children, a sanctuary for our Torah, a cemetery for our loved ones.

I hope all of us will continue to stay here at the JCA, and support it in all the ways we are able. Not only because our particular “vegetable” is in the store, but also because we want to nourish ourselves in, and give nourishment to, our very special community.

*B'shalom,*  
Randi Stein, Clerk, Board of Directors

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### March 1, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee  
7:00 pm

Youth & Family Education Committee  
7:00 pm

#### March 2, Thursday

Board Meeting  
7:00 pm

#### March 6, Monday

Chesed Committee  
7:15 pm

#### March 16, Thursday

Executive Committee  
1:00 pm

Tikkun Olam Committee  
7:15 pm

### 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 [amindir@j-c-a.org](mailto:amindir@j-c-a.org). Shalom, and welcome!

# Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

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

## *Shabbat Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19*

### March 3, Friday

#### COMMUNITY & FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT

**5:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

Tots Storytime and Shabbat Sing-Along

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Community Shabbat Celebration

### March 4, Saturday

#### SHABBAT YOGA

**9:00 am** in the social hall

#### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Yossi Charette

D'var Torah: Jane Trigère

#### RENEWAL SERVICE

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

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

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## *Shabbat Zakhor/Parashat Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10, Deuteronomy 25:17-19*

### March 10, Friday

#### KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein

### March 11, Saturday

#### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Gordon Freed

D'var Torah: To be announced



#### Candle Lighting

March 3 ~ 5:23 pm

March 10 ~ 5:31 pm

March 17 ~ 6:39 pm

March 24 ~ 6:47 pm

March 31 ~ 6:55 pm

Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

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#### Shacharit (morning) Minyan

Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

#### Meditation Minyan

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

#### Ma'ariv Minyan, 3/2, 3/9 Mincha Minyan, 3/16-3/30

Thursdays at 5:30 pm in the small sanctuary

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#### Rosh Hodesh Nisan

March 28, Tuesday

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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)

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### *Purim*

**March 11, Saturday**

**PIZZA AND HAMENTASCHEN**

**5:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

**PURIM SPIEL AND MEGILLAH READING**

**6:00 pm**

**March 12, Sunday**

**"BRUNCH" AND ENGLISH MEGILLAH READING**

**5:00 pm**

In the upside down spirit of Purim, and because of building use conflicts, our traditional brunch and reading of the megillah in English will be happening at 5:00 pm. Adults only.

### **Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors**

If you would like to help with or sponsor a kiddush, please contact Ann Wetherbee, our Administrative Director, at [admindir@j-c-a.org](mailto:admindir@j-c-a.org)

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### *Shabbat Parah/Parashat Ki Tisa* *Exodus 30:11-34:35, Numbers 19:1-22* *Bread and Torah Shabbaton (see page 4)*

**March 17, Friday**

**SHABBAT NE'IMAH**

**6:15 pm**

Service Leaders: Diana Brewer and our musical daveners

**March 18, Saturday**

**SHABBAT YOGA**

**9:00 am** in the social hall

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Yossi Charette

D'var Torah: Rabbis Linda Motzkin & Jonathan Rubenstein

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### *Shabbat Haḥodesh/Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudey* *Exodus 35:1-40:38, Exodus 12:1-20*

**March 24, 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.

**March 25, Saturday**

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**

**10:00 am**

Service Leader: Catherine Madsen

D'var Torah: To be announced



## Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

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### *Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26*

**March 31, Friday**

#### **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES**

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

Service Leader: To be announced

Charoset Taste-Off and Potluck Supper following services (see page 5)

**April 1, Saturday**

#### **SHABBAT YOGA**

**9:00 am** in the social hall

#### **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

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### **Torah Reading Coordination**

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Ruth Love Barer, [ruthlove7@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthlove7@hotmail.com), 413-222-6988 for reading in May. For other times, please contact Aaron Bousel, [abousel@comcast.net](mailto:abousel@comcast.net), 413-253-3544.

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

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### **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: Arnie Alper, Ruth Love Barer, Madeline Berkowitz, Aaron Bousel, Diana Brewer, Moira Clingman, Hadar Grabel, Devorah Jacobson, Catherine Madsen, Jane Myers, Randi Stein, Elaine Walsh

Service leaders: Cantor Elise Barber, Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein, Diana Brewer, Yossi Charette, Eliza Gouverneur and Richard Cohen, Catherine Madsen, Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

D'var Torah givers: Diana Brewer, Jane Trigère

Musicians: Shabbat Musical Daveners, Danielle Kadinoff, David Marks



## Youth and Family Education

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Dear Community,

While the world around us is in much transition, and for some, much distress, I wanted to share with you this month a bit of inspiration: JCA Teens committed to social action and tikkun olam.

The 6th-7th grades b'nai mitzvah class has been working on Tikkun Olam Projects (TOPs). This is a new feature of our b'nai mitzvah program through which students learn about different models of social action; how to conduct informational interviews with organizations; and then build a relationship with an organization over the course of two years. During this time, they contribute 10 volunteer hours per year.

This year's b'nai mitzvah students are working with a variety of organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Kestrel Land Trust, and Jewish Family Service refugee programs. The project concludes with a TOP Fair at our Mitzvah Day & End of Year Breakfast on May 7. While noshing on breakfast, community members will have the opportunity to peruse the 7th graders' presentations and ask questions about their projects.

In October, members of CHAI (9th-12th grades) participated in the Ride to Provide, a charity bike race to benefit the UMASS Hillel House. CHAI raised approximately \$1,800, \$900 of which went to Hillel, while the other half remained with the group. In January, the student board members researched organizations with a particular theme, such as women's rights, environmental action, the arts, or social justice. These were sectioned into three categories: national, local, and Jewish. After pitching their organizations to the general CHAI membership of approximately 30 teens, the group voted for one charity in each category.

CHAI is very proud to be donating to Tapestry Health in Northampton; Ceres, an environmental organization that offers counsel for big businesses trying to go green; and the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief that aids and helps resettle refugees. Altogether, they are donating \$800 to those three, while the remaining \$100 are being invested in a program called Kiva, in which people all over the world apply for loans to start up small businesses and fund inventions in impoverished areas. In six months, Kiva will reimburse CHAI, and the group hopes that they can invest annually in Kiva.

JV Corps, our 8th-12th grades community service program, has been wildly successful. On the first Friday of each month, teens gather with our culinary and food justice educator, Dane Kuttler, to prepare a delicious and healthy dinner for upwards of 70 community members. They help to welcome and serve guests as well as clean up from the event. The teens are not only providing a true service (healthy and robust meals for families on a Friday night at shul!) but also having fun learning about culinary arts and food justice.

May the source of strength continue to give us strength, to listen across divides, and to work for justice and tikkun.

Many thanks,

Cara Michelle Silverberg, *Youth and Teen Programs Coordinator*

### PARENT DISCUSSIONS & WORKSHOPS

#### March 5, Sunday

Koach HaDibu  
(Power of the World)

#### March 26, Sunday

PJ Parents

### March Calendar

**March 1, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

**March 3, Friday**

**TEEN PROGRAM: JV CORPS**

**4:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Participate in community service by preparing and serving dinner for Family Friday Night while learning about food justice issues. *Slots are FULL this month. Check our website for details and RSVP instructions each month.*

**COMMUNITY AND FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT**

**5:30 pm – 6:00 pm**

Tots Storytime and Shabbat Sing-Along

**6:00 – 7:30 pm**

All ages: Enjoy a community Shabbat dinner with singing, blessings, socializing and celebration. Bring a potluck salad topping, (lettuce, salad dressings, and pasta provided). JCA policy requires that all food products must be vegetarian and nut free.

**March 5, Sunday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**10:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**COMMUNITY HAVDALAH**

**10:00 am – 10:30 am**

**March 8, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

**March 11, Saturday**

**JR. CHAI PURIM LASER TAG & ROLLER SKATING**

**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Come dressed in your Purim Costume! Interskate 91 North, Hadley. RSVP on our website.

**March 12, Sunday**

**JCA FAMILY PURIM CELEBRATION**

**10:00 am**

*All families and community members are invited - no membership required.*

Magic, Carnival Games, Hamentaschen Baking, Ice Cream Dance Party, and a Purim Spiel by the 6/7 grade JCA class.

**March 15, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

**March 17, Friday**

**TOTS & FAMILIES: BREAD & TORAH SHABBATON** *(no registration required)*

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Challah Baking and Scribal Show & Tell

**6:15 pm**

Shabbat Ne'imah Service

**March 18, Saturday**

**TEENS 8TH – 12TH GRADES: BREAD & TORAH SHABBATON** *(no registration required; RSVP on our website appreciated)*

**6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

Prepare a hide for a Torah, bake dessert, and enjoy Havdalah.

**March 19, Sunday**

**JCA SCHOOL FAMILIES (K – 12): BREAD & TORAH SHABBATON** *(no registration required)*

**10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Help make a Torah and bake bread to take home.

**March 22, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

**March 26, Sunday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**10:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**SHALOM SUNDAY**

**10:00 am – 11:45 am**

**March 29, Wednesday**

**JCA SCHOOL**

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

*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. 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)*

## Spotlight on Committees

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### Adult Education Committee

#### Adult Education, Spring 2017

For brochure with full program and registration information, go to:  
<http://www.j-c-a.org/adult-ed.pdf>

You may register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/jca-adult-ed-2017> or mail in your Registration Form to Boris Wolfson, 71 Larkspur Drive, Amherst, MA 01002. Checks may be written to JCA with "Adult Ed" on the memo line.

#### Lunch and Learn - *Rabbi David Seidenberg*

Wednesdays, until April 5

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

Bring your own lunch and remember that JCA kashrut laws allow only dairy and pareve foods inside the building – no meat. No registration needed.

#### Hebrew Calligraphy Workshop - *Jane Trigère*

Sunday, March 5

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Registration required

#### Israel & Palestine: A Clash of Nationalisms - *Aaron Berman*

Thursdays, March 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27, May 4

7:00 pm- 8:30 pm

Registration required

#### Charoses Taste-Off

Friday, March 31 after Shabbat services

No registration needed.

#### Passover Preparation: An Experiential Workshop based on Joanna Macy's

##### *The Work That Reconnects* - *Cara Michelle Silverberg*

Sunday, April 2

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Registration required

#### Counting the Omer - *Diana Brewer*

Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

No registration required

### 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, Joan Rabin, Judith Souweine, Susan Zarchin, and Amy Rothenberg 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).

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

### Fundraising and Development Committee

#### Cash For Causes: How To Really Stretch \$100

- Purchase a Stop & Shop Cash for Causes card from the JCA for \$100- you get \$100 of purchasing power and the JCA get \$5 (because we can buy them in bulk at a discount).
- Use your card to buy \$100 worth of groceries and get 10 cents off each gallon of gas on your next fill-up.
- Bag up some of your groceries to donate to the JCA food drive.
- Keep track of your donations for possible tax deductions (only 5% of your card purchase may be deductible - not the whole amount).

Stop by the JCA whenever the office is open to buy your gift cards (cash or check only), or go to: <http://j-c-a.org/cash-for-causes.pdf> for the form to mail in with your order and payment.

### JCA Hall Gallery

#### Works of Marius Sznajderman

Painter and print maker Marius Sznajderman will exhibit paintings and collages, including judaicas. This exhibit consists of early works rooted in a Latin American tradition. Some of the judaicas are collages on panels, mizrachs and menorahs, created in the 1970's. Sznajderman will also show recent acrylics and ink on paper.

This exhibit is his third one-person show in Amherst. He exhibited at the Yiddish Book Center. In 2015, his work was shown in the Garden Room at Applewood, where he is a resident artist. The exhibit runs from February 2 to April 30.

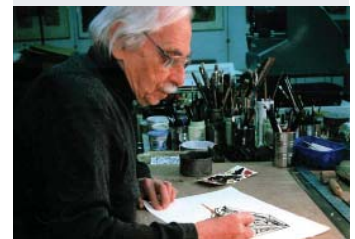
### Tikkun Olam Committee

#### Sending Hope To Syria

**March 12, Sunday**

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (Lander Grinspoon Academy, 257 Prospect St. Northampton)**

The JCA Tikkun Olam Committee encourages you to attend a community-wide event organized by the Valley Syrian Relief Committee. Representatives of the Washington, D.C. based Syrian Emergency Task Force will provide an update on the current tragic conflict in Syria and introduce “Letters of Hope”, an effort to brighten the lives of Syrian people by letting them know they are not forgotten. Following the presentation, materials will be provided to write simple messages of hope to be delivered to internally displaced people in Syria. Children too young to write can simply draw a picture. Also, Andrea Boyko will help us assemble “muck shoes” for Syrian children, made from recycled materials, which she will provide. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for The Wisdom House Project, a school and orphanage in Idlib, Syria. Go to: <http://j-c-a.org/letters-of-hope.pdf> for more information.



## Donations to the JCA

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### Adult Ed

Ashley Nkosi  
Annual Fund  
In honor of Ruth Love Barer  
(Esther Mercer)  
Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser

### General Fund

Austin Cohen  
Sarah Hutcheson  
Noah Goldman  
Addison Gamliel  
In memory of Bob Potash  
(Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit)

In memory of Robert Potash  
(Katherine Vorwerk Feldman &  
Robert Feldman)

In memory of Ethel N. Gill, Rabbi Weiner's  
grandmother and my mom  
(Roslyn Heafitz)

In memory of Frank R. Nutis, Rabbi  
Weiner's great uncle and my uncle  
(Roslyn Heafitz)

In memory of Bob Potash (Diane Chajes)

In memory of Abraham J. Ozer  
(Alison Ozer)

### Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In appreciation of Shabbat Ne'imah and  
the musical daveners (Eileen Rutman)

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In memory of my mom, Mildred Weinstein  
(Susan Cinner)

### World Jewish Concerns

In memory of Bob Potash  
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)  
In memory of Irving Teitelbaum, father of  
Barbara Slovin (Barbara & Ted Slovin)

### Youth & Family Programs

Eric Sommers & Lee Jennings

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## In the Valley

### PIONEER VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**March 18 – April 4**

Now in its 12th season, the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival is a community based arts festival that features two weeks of award-winning, entertaining and thought-provoking films that explore the best of independent cinema through a distinctly Jewish lens. This year, 22 critically acclaimed films will be screened in 9 cities and towns at 16 venues across Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties. Q&A's with visiting filmmakers, panel discussions with local scholars, receptions and special events provide unique opportunities for community discussion and networking. For more information: [pvjff.org](http://pvjff.org)

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### ART, CREATIVITY & COMMUNITY

#### A Weekend of Events at Temple Israel Greenfield

**March 24 – 26**

You are invited to Temple Israel, the center of Jewish life in Franklin County, for a celebration of Art, Creativity & Community in a Jewish context. The weekend will include Shabbat worship, an evening performance with local musicians, many choices of hands-on workshops with area artists, Sunday children's programming, a bagel brunch and panel discussion, a crafts fair and more. Go to <http://templeisraelgreenfield.org/events/art-creativity-community> for more information.

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### YIDDISH BOOK CENTER: THE WORLD OF YIDDISH THEATER

**April 21 – 23**

The Yiddish Book Center is offering a weekend program, The World of Yiddish Theater, with Professor Debra Caplan. It's going to be a lively and fascinating program, as Professor Caplan—who is not only a historian of Yiddish theater, but also a dramaturg, director, and translator—delves into the greatest works and stars of the Yiddish stage, exploring its origins, its movements, and its legacy. The weekend will include four lectures, a song workshop, a film screening, three kosher meals, and plenty of great conversation. For more information and to register now, visit: <http://yiddishbookcenter.org/educational-programs/world-of-yiddish-theater>.



## 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)  
**Education Coordinator:** Shirah Neumann (shirah@j-c-a.org)  
**Administrative Assistant:** Misha Heij Mariano (edassist@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

March 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 Clingman

**Proofreader**  
Reed Alper

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

Deadline for the April issue is March 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.



“Can you play with the Lord?”

“If you could, that might be the most  
extraordinary thing anyone has ever done.”

*Henri de Montherlant*

**PURIM**

**MARCH 12**

**Sunday**

*Page created by Julius Lester  
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