



Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | May 2017 | Iyar - Sivan 5777



Shavuot begins at sundown
on Tuesday, May 30th

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Highlights this Month

Mitzvah Day, May 7

Community Meeting To Discuss The Steeple, May 23

Red Cross Blood Drive, May 24

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, May 30

Shavuot Services, May 31

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.

May 3, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH DIANA BREWER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Join Diana Brewer, High Holy Days Hazzan at the JCA and co-leader of Shabbat Ne'imah services, as she explores the period of the Omer from the basics of the mitzvah of counting each day to developing our own personal practices for the spiritual journey through the sefirot. Each session will start with a short period of quiet meditation, followed by a niggun. The rest of the time will be spent studying texts, discussing Kabbalistic attributes and our personal practices as they develop. No registration needed and all are welcome.

May 4, 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 Patsie 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 "tahm" (taste) of Yiddish from our experts. So – come and join us. It's truly a mechiah. Please send all correspondence to friedahowards7@gmail.com.

May 7, Sunday

MITZVAH DAY

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

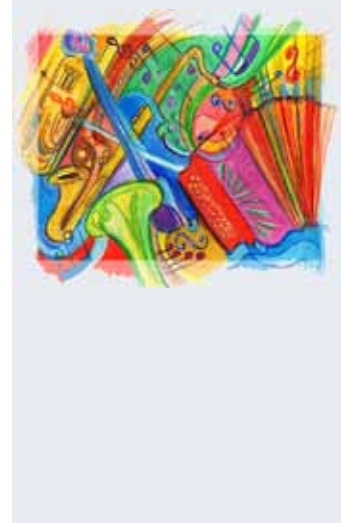
Enjoy community breakfast and the Tikkun Olam Fair at the JCA and then split up into volunteer groups. Project signup is located in JCA Lobby and online at <http://signup.com/go/vDWD8D>. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a potluck breakfast item- no nuts please.

May 11, 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.



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

May 17, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH DIANA BREWER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

May 21, Sunday

HADASSAH FUNDRAISER BRUNCH

11:00 am

Invitations and more details will follow.

May 23, Tuesday

SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE STEEPLE

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Come to a special meeting to discuss the options and decide what the JCA community should do with regard to the steeple and a potential grant from the Town of Amherst.

May 24, Wednesday

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

10:30 am – 4:00 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: 2698 to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

May 24, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH DIANA BREWER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

May 25, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 pm – 8:45 pm



Upcoming Programs and Events

JOIN THE CELEBRATION! WELCOME BACK AND HONOR OUR RABBI

June 2, Friday

6:15 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Rabbi Benjamin Weiner followed by a Community Oneg to greet our rabbi as he returns from his sabbatical.

June 3, Saturday

10:00 am

Shabbat Morning Services led by Rabbi Benjamin Weiner and Sophie Sweeting as she becomes Bat Mitzvah. Kiddush sponsored by the JCA Board of Directors and Amy & Jamie Sweeting to follow. All are invited.

6:30 pm

Reception and Dinner followed by Havdalah and celebratory Program to honor Rabbi Benjamin Weiner and bless his return to the JCA. Cover charge is \$54 per person. Special Sponsorship of this event and additional donations are encouraged. Seating is limited so please return your RSVP/Donation Card as soon as possible and no later than May 24.

June 4, Sunday

10:00 am - 12 noon

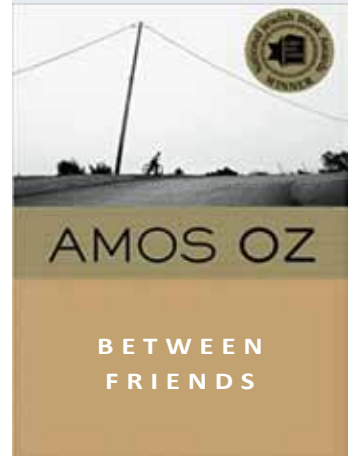
Semi-Annual Meeting of the JCA when the rabbi will be sharing reflections on his sabbatical and the year ahead, in addition to an agenda that includes approval of the JCA budget for the new fiscal year and other important community items.

June 8, Thursday

ADULT READING GROUP

7:30 pm

Join us for the 4th meeting of the JCA Adult Reading Group. We will be discussing *Between Friends* by Amos Oz in which he "returns to the kibbutz of the late 1950s, the time and place where his writing began. These eight interconnected stories, set in the fictitious Kibbutz Yekhat, draw masterly profiles of idealistic men and women enduring personal hardships in the shadow of one of the greatest collective dreams of the twentieth century". It is in paperback and of course available through a library or Kindle. Come join us. 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, 253-2248.



The Jewish Community of Amherst: The Formative Years: 1969-1979 by Irving Seidman

About seven years ago, JCA member, Frieda Howards, recognized that the many boxes of mostly unorganized historic documents in the balcony room of the old social hall had value. She enlisted two more JCA members—Linda Seidman, who had been Head of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Elaine Trehub, Archive Librarian at Mount Holyoke College—to organize the records.

Irving Seidman delved into these papers, and ultimately decided to write a history of the JCA's first decade, complementing the archival research with interviews of current members of the JCA who were also members in 1969 and other early members. He hoped that the reconstructed stories would not only honor those who founded and nurtured the JCA during its formative years, but would also provide the current membership with a more grounded and meaningful connection to the Jewish Community of Amherst. The book is scheduled for publication at the beginning of June and will be available at the JCA Judaica Store.

It is the story of how a widely diverse group of Jews new to Amherst wished to connect to each other for the sake of their children's Jewish identities and their own. It is a story of little and big things, the accumulation of which could seem at times mundane, at other times dramatic, occasionally contentious, and sometimes profound. It tells us:

- How word-of-mouth connections led this diverse group to establish two different Jewish committees that coalesced to form the Jewish Community of Amherst.
- How a Torah carried to safety from a small town in Poland invaded by Nazis became the JCA's first Torah.
- How, without a building, the JCA's wandering in Amherst created the imperative to find a home.
- How the JCA's bid to purchase the sanctuary and parish hall of the Second Congregational Church hung by the thread of a vote by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- How rabbinic guidance helped the JCA meet the challenge of becoming true to its name.
- How the establishment of its cemetery revealed the JCA's developing maturity and its members' willingness to face mortality.
- How the accomplishments of the founders and early members of the JCA established principles, structures and ways of being together that continue to influence the JCA today.

Irving Seidman and his wife, Linda L. Seidman, have been members of the Jewish Community of Amherst since 1972. Their daughter, Rachel, became bat mitzvah at the JCA in 1979 and their son, Ethan, became bar mitzvah in 1981, both with the support of Haim Gunner and Rabbi Yechiael Lander. Irv Seidman is Professor Emeritus, College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the author of *So You Might Know*, a memoir of his parents, as well as *Interviewing as Qualitative Research* and other professional publications.

A signed copy of *The Jewish Community of Amherst: The Formative Years: 1969-1979* by Irving Seidman will be offered as a thank you gift to all who become Sponsors of the celebration on June 3 welcoming back Rabbi Benjamin Weiner. In addition, proceeds of all future sales of the book in the JCA Judaica Store will go to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. The Board of Directors greatly appreciates these very generous donations from Irv & Linda Seidman in support of this event and our rabbi.

Mazel Tov to May Bar Mitzvah Oren Schmerling



Oren Schmerling

Hello, I'm Oren Schmerling. I'm a 7th grade Bar Mitzvah student currently in middle school at Pioneer Valley Performing Arts (PVPA) in South Hadley. We live in Amherst and I have one sibling. Our family joined the JCA about 3 years ago. For my Tikkun Olam Project (TOP) I reached out to a home for the elderly in the area to volunteer my time to work there. I helped with technology, for example, phone, computer etc. and I made conversation. I enjoy art and video games.

Condolences

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

Nigel Sweeting, father of Jamie Sweeting, father-in-law of Amy Sweeting and grandfather to Rory and Sophie Sweeting.

Arnold Trehub, husband of Elaine, father of Craig, Aaron and a daughter, Lorna, who predeceased him.

David Ethan Stein, former husband and dear friend of Randi Stein, and father of Mikhal, Maya, and Adam and grandfather of Teia and Eli Bouganim.

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!

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.



Photo: Emily Bilbao

As I mentioned in last's month column, we face an important decision in regard to the JCA steeple. We anticipate that Amherst Town Meeting will support the recommendation of the Community Preservation Act Committee, and award us the \$245,000 we requested for a complete restoration and straightening of the steeple.

However, we now have to decide whether we would accept or reject the grant from the Town of Amherst. The grant would come with a formal agreement that would commit us to preserve and maintain the steeple and the building in a way that respects their history and importance to the

Historical District of which the JCA is a part.

By the time you read this, you will have received a notice of a Special Meeting of the Community, along with a recommendation from the board and three position papers sharing different perspectives on what we should do in regard to the steeple:

a) accept the grant from the Town; b) reject the grant and repair the steeple with our own resources; or c) take down the steeple altogether. All three of the position papers reflect thoughtful perspectives on the choice before us, and it is important that we consider each viewpoint respectfully and deliberatively.

While the board acts on your behalf in regard to day-to-day matters, including the development and management of our annual budget, our bylaws require that when "major decisions of overarching fiscal or organizational import" arise, it is important to have the maximum degree of participation from members of the community, with a higher than usual quorum and voting threshold, as stipulated in Article VII of the bylaws.

The Reconstructionist movement places special emphasis on the engagement of the whole community in making policy and operational decisions that affect everyone in the community. The JCA Policy Manual states that formal policy [including major decisions] "defines who we are as a community, reflects our core institutional values...and provides clear guidance about how we operationalize our commitment to the mission and vision of the JCA".

Major decisions often engender major emotions. It is critical as we approach this Special Meeting that we remind ourselves of the values embedded in our kavod (civility) code, and that we listen carefully to each other, mindful of the fact that thoughtful and caring people can have genuine differences of opinion, all grounded in legitimate Jewish values and beliefs. Dialogue across differences can be intellectually and spiritually invigorating. At the end of the day, such dialogue can only strengthen our connections to each other and our commitment to the creation and maintenance of *Kehillah Kedoshah*, sacred community.

B'shalom,
Bill Zimmer

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 1, Monday

Chesed Committee
7:15 pm

May 3, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

Youth & Family Education
Committee
7:00 pm

May 4, Thursday

Board Meeting
7:00 pm

May 12, Friday

Adult Education
Committee
12:15 pm

May 18, Thursday

Executive Committee
1:00 pm

Tikkun Olam Committee
7:15 pm

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes



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

Shabbat Aḥarei Mot/Kedoshim, Leviticus 16:1-20:27

May 5, 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

May 6, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Yossi Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced

RENEWAL SERVICE

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

May 12, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein
with Danielle Kadinoff, guitar and David Marks, percussion

May 13, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Yossi Charette

D'var Torah: To be announced

Shabbat Behar Behukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34

May 19, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Diana Brewer and our musical daveners



Candle Lighting

May 5 ~ 7:34 pm

May 12 ~ 7:42 pm

May 19 ~ 7:49 pm

May 26 ~ 7:56 pm

Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

Shacharit Minyan

Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

Meditation Minyan

Wednesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

Mincha Minyan

Thursdays at 5:30 pm in the small sanctuary

Yom HaZikaron

May 1, Monday

Yom HaAtzma'ut

May 2, Tuesday

Lag B'Omer

May 14, Sunday

Rosh Hodesh Sivan

May 26, Friday

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

May 20, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

9:00 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Bar Mitzvah: Oren Schmerling

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Oren Schmerling

Shabbat Bamidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

May 26, 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.

May 27, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: To be announced

D'var Torah: To be announced

Shavuot, Exodus 19:1-20:22, Numbers 28:26-31

May 30, Tuesday

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

7:00 pm in the social hall

Join us for an evening of teaching and desserts.

Please bring a dessert if you can. More details to follow.

May 31, Wednesday

SHAVUOT SERVICES (YIZKOR)

10:00 am

Service Leader: Diana Brewer

Torah Reading Coordination

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Eliza Gouverneur, elizagouv@msn.com, 413-256-6145 for reading in June. For other times, please contact Aaron Bousel, abousel@comcast.net, 413-253-3544.

If you would like to learn to read Torah or would like help choosing or preparing a reading, please contact Batya Perman, 549-4853.

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

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, Aaron Bousel, Diana Brewer, Hadar Grabel, Danielle Kadinoff, Catherine Madsen, Jane Myers, Elissa Rubinstein

Service leaders: Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein, Diana Brewer, Yossi Charette, Gordon Freed, Eliza Gouverneur and Richard Cohen, Catherine Madsen and Marty Pepper Aisenberg

Musicians: Shabbat Band, Danielle Kadinoff, David Marks

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

Youth and Family Education

JCA School for next year! Yes, it is time to think about the next year of school. Enrollment is now open for our all-new Keshet (Connections) program. Please read the details below of the different options, as they are not the same as in past years.

I am very excited to introduce you to our new program that is designed to be flexible, work for families with different scheduling and learning needs, and bring you quality education that will keep your kids engaged in Jewish life.

There are three types of classes available, and you can sign up for as many or as few as you wish:

- 1. Sunday Midot (values) Classes** - K-5th grade. Meets Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:45 am. Students meet in multi-grade classes to build community with their peers, develop a basic foundation of Jewish literacy, and celebrate Judaism together. In these classes, students focus on our Jewish values (midot) curriculum. Each of 7 values is studied over the course of the year, and each value is tied to Jewish holidays, texts, prayers, rituals and weekly Torah portions.
- 2. Sunday Hebrew Classes** - 2nd-7th grade. Meets Sundays from 11:45 am-12:45 pm. Four quarterly sessions, sign up for the parts of the year that are most convenient for you. Hebrew reading classes work to enable students to decode Hebrew prayers, blessings, and songs in the siddur (prayer book), and passages from Torah. Our teachers accomplish this through a variety of games and interactive activities with the students.
- 3. Wednesday JEWL (Jewish Experience, Wisdom, and Lifestyle) Classes** - For grades 2-7, Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 pm. On Wednesdays, students explore and engage with their Judaism through activities that interest them. Using project based learning principles, students get hands on with Jewish texts, history, and values in ways that excite and entice them to continue learning.

Different options are available to different age groups and can include classes such as: Robotics and Programming; Stop Motion Animation; Legos/Building; Cooking; Outdoor Adventure, and more.

If none of these options work for you, we are also offering a new homeshuling option. It is a structured and guided curriculum that can be completed primarily at home. Contact Keren Rhodes for more details about how homeshuling might work for your family.

As always, we have tots programming (Shalom Sunday), and a huge array of family programs throughout the year to bring together families in community. And, of course, we have a full Bar/Bat Mitzvah program.

If you have questions about any of our new programs, or how the flexible options work, don't hesitate to call or email.

Keren Rhodes

Director of Youth and Family Education



Keren Rhodes

May Calendar

May 3, Wednesday

JCA SCHOOL

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

May 5, 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.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY FRIDAY NIGHT

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Tots Storytime and Shabbat Sing-Along

6:00 pm – 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. All food products must be vegetarian and nut free.

May 7, Sunday

MITZVAH DAY

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Enjoy community breakfast and the Tikkun Olam Fair at the JCA and then split up into volunteer groups. Project signup is located in JCA Lobby and online at <http://signup.com/go/vDWD8D>. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a potluck breakfast item- no nuts please.

May 21, Sunday

TEEN PROGRAM (GRADES 6 – 8): JR. CHAI ROPES COURSE

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Morse Hill Outdoor Adventure Center

May 31, Wednesday

SHAVUOT ON THE MOUNTAIN

5:00 pm

Learn the meaning of Shavuot with a community hike up Mt Sugarloaf in South Deerfield. Bring your own picnic dinner and a potluck dairy dessert item to share. Enjoy puppetry, storytelling, and nature activities. All ages welcome for this free event. Meet in the parking lot at 5pm. Contact jca.sonia@gmail.com with questions. Driving to the top is also an option. This hike is recommended for ages 8+ and for active/experienced 5-7 year olds. Parking fee is \$2.



Spotlight on Committees

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 David Piech, Renee Spring, Kitty Talan, and Susan Zarchin for preparing and delivering meals and to Ellen Middleton, Libby Arny, Anne Armon, and Joan Saperstan for providing 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).

JCA Hall Gallery

The Horse Show By Bella Halsted



Opening Reception - Arts Night Out - JCA Hall Gallery May 4, Thursday, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Bella Halsted's HORSE SHOW presents a number of mostly life-sized or larger portraits of horses sketched from life or imagination, with special interest in the shape and interest of the eye. She uses both oil and watercolor. She has exhibited her paintings in the valley over the past decade, and leads painting and writing workshops. Visit the JCA Hall Gallery to see Bella Halsted's work May 4 - July 28, Tuesdays - Fridays 10:00 - 4:00 pm.

Membership Committee

My Dinner With Shabbos

June 23, Friday

The JCA Membership Committee presents this congregation-wide event by organizing communal potluck Shabbat dinners. We need hosts! We need guests! We will be the matchmakers!!! Please RSVP to Ruth Kane-Levit by June 9 with the following information:

Will you be hosting or be a guest; How many adults and kids are in your party; What is your address; Do you have any dietary restrictions; If hosting, do you have a pet; If a guest, do you have any pet allergies? Email rkanelevit@gmail.com or call 413-548-1083.

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

Project Rehovot

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that Project Rehovot in the Ma'alot Meshulam public elementary school in Rehovot, Israel, continues to help children from immigrant backgrounds who live in poverty, succeed in school. This semester, 40 children are working in small groups with "our" teacher/therapist through the arts to improve their Hebrew, and social and behavioral skills.

I want to share with you information sent to me by Tal Kahan, "our" teacher whose part time salary is paid by your donations, about Anat (not her real name), a student in the Project Rehovot program who is going through a difficult period. Anat is in the second grade; her five and a half year old brother has Down Syndrome and is suffering from cancer. Anat's father is often away from home as he stays with her brother at the hospital. The eldest of four children of Ethiopian immigrants, Anat has been thrust into a more adult role at home. She has reacted to the situation with sadness and by withdrawing from interactions with teachers and classmates.

During a 45 minute weekly session, that includes two boys and three other girls, Mrs. Kahan works to help Anat express emotions. When asked by Tal what she likes about herself Anat replied, "I love my heart because it is sad on the inside" and used her hands to make the shape of a heart.

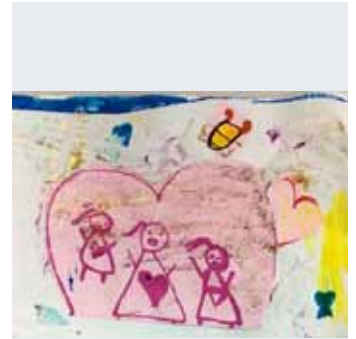
Tal reports that Anat is eager to come to the Project Rehovot classroom, which is providing a place for her to be a child. On the day when her brother had surgery, Anat painted a tunnel with a light at the end, while complaining of stomach pain. Anat drew two pictures of her family: in the pink heart are her pregnant mother, sister and Anat; in the blue heart are her father and her sick brother, and her sick brother alone outside the heart.

Please think of Anat and the other children and make a generous gift to Project Rehovot. It is through your tax-deductible donations that we pay the salary of "our" teacher Tal. Please send your contribution to the JCA Office, or go to www.j-c-a.org/donations1.html, complete the information and select Project Rehovot at the bottom. You may make a gift in honor or in memory of someone dear to you. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Kushick, *Chair*

Project Rehovot Sub-Committee of the World Jewish Concerns Committee: Marilyn Kushick (chair), Neta Bolozky (treasurer), Yaffa Gunner (founder), Karen Loeb, Helena Donovan

Are you planning a Wedding, Party or Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kiddush? Please hire the Project Rehovot Catering Group: Karen Loeb, Chair, Libby Arny, Alison Ellis, Hadar Gabel, Phyllis Herda, Zahava Koren, Rita Kropf, Judith Loischild, Naomi Peleg, Meira Penchina, Tamar Shaddur, Jody Wax. The food is delicious and proceeds go to Project Rehovot. For information: Karen Loeb, 413 253 0336 or kloeb@comcast.net. References are available.



Donations to the JCA

2016 Annual Fund

With appreciation and respect in honor of Rabbi Benjamin Weiner, Judith Souweine, and Ken & Kitty Talan (Sallie Deans Lake and Kevin Lake)

General Fund

In memory of Arnold Friedmann (Susi Friedmann)
Marcie & Richard Sclove
In memory of Batya Katz-Gladstone (Jonina Gorenstein)

In memory of Jonathan Souweine (Judith Souweine)
In memory of Madge Clingman (Pearl-Anne, Nathan Margalit & Family)

Music Fund

In memory of Jules Wiener (Judith Souweine)

Second Seder Meals Donation

Barbara & Ted Slovin
Deborah & Bill Evans

Susan & Marty Pepper Aisenberg
Madeline Berkowitz
Sandy Sulsky & Eric Bittman
Sallie Deans-Lake

Tzedakah

In memory of Ruth Slovin (Barbara & Ted Slovin)
Ruth & Howard Smith

Youth & Family Programs

Jackie Rosenbloom & Jeffrey Mazur

In the Valley

INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITIES NETWORK

Founded in 2005, ION is a lay network that strengthens communication among participating religious congregations for education and collaboration. It has sixteen participating faith communities from the broader Amherst area including the JCA. Please visit www.interfaithamherst.org or www.facebook.com/interfaith4amherst/ for a complete description of the organization and contact information.

MAK'HELA: BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE

May 21, Sunday, 2:00 pm

A concert with Mak'hela: The Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts and members of the Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble will take place at the Community Music School, 127 State Street in Springfield in honor of the New American Program, an initiative of Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Western Massachusetts dedicated to resettling refugees in the local area. 20% of the proceeds from tickets sales will be donated to the JFS program. Suggested donation at the door: \$15.

JEWISH GENETICS 101: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BREAST CANCER AND INHERITANCE

May 24, Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Temple Beth El, 979 Dickinson Street in Springfield

Staff from the Family Cancer Risk Program of Baystate Medical Center will present on the BRCA genes, associated cancer risks, when to test, family history, options for treatment, emotional consequences and insurance concerns. National resources will be available and time set aside for questions and answers with experts in the field. Sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts, Family Cancer Risk Program of Baystate Medical Center and Temple Beth El. Please pre-register at info@jfswm.org or call 413-737-2601.



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

Director of Youth and Family Education:
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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

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Put your ear close down to your soul, and listen hard.

Anne Sexton

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