



Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | August 2017 | Av – Elul 5777



Devarim: Words from our Rabbi
Programs and Events Calendar
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Highlights this Month

Lunch & Learn Resumes August 2

Shabbat Ne'imah, August 18



Photo: Joseph Kushick

Dear JCA,

My transition back from sabbatical has been immeasurably sweetened by the warm reception I received from so many of you over the days of my return. From the services and formal dinner of my welcome back weekend, to the various opportunities I've had to reconnect individually and rekindle relationships, the love and appreciation I feel from the JCA makes it much easier (despite the occasional pangs of a heart still pining for the fields) to spend so many hours indoors!

At the June Semi-Annual Meeting, I had the opportunity to share a few words about my experiences over my six-month break, and the thoughts in my mind about the road ahead. Though I was pleased to see such a robust turnout at that meeting, I know that many of you were not able to attend, and so I offer this brief synopsis of what I said.

More than anything else, my sabbatical was family time, and I am grateful to the community for giving me this free period to spend with my wife and son. Beyond that, I read, wrote, and reflected, and when the weather became conducive engaged in a very thorough and leisurely planting season.

I was able to clarify that the burden of my own spiritual life, and therefore what I have to offer as a spiritual leader, has everything to do with what it means to be fully alive at this tumultuous moment, a time of political, social, and, most pressing to me, cataclysmic ecological upheaval. I am committed, in the words of an article I recently read, to "living this question", even if I don't have the answer -- to cultivating hope even when I lack optimism -- and look forward both to sharing this challenge with you, and finding space for my own continued spiritual work in the midst of the day-to-day of the congregational rabbinate.

To that end, I stressed that it's time for the JCA to learn to live within its means. The continued effort to elicit more funds from the community can be a wearying distraction. Instead, I will now focus my energy on doing the best I can with what the community makes available.

Finally, I explained that I don't want to try to sell Judaism as if it were a used car. Innovation is important, but it should not just be a matter of tying on a few balloons, or offering a diminished product on cheaper terms. I chose to be a rabbi because our tradition has quality, and I hope to attract people to it going forward, not through gimmicks and easy terms, but by letting that quality shine.

b'shalom, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Rabbi Weiner wants to make sure the community knows he is available and eager to visit at home, or in the hospital, with people who are unwell or otherwise in need of some spiritual support. The important step is to make sure he knows you are in need!

Please don't hesitate to contact him directly at rabiweiner@j-c-a.org, or through the JCA office, if you would like a visit.

Programs and Events Calendar

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

August 2, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

August 3, 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.

August 3, Thursday

JCA GALLERY OPENING RECEPTION

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Past, Present, Perfect: Monotypes from 2014-2017 by Janet Walerstein Winston

August 3, 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.

August 9, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

August 16, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

August 17, Thursday
JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP
7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

August 23, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

August 30, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

Upcoming Events

September 7, Thursday
ADULT READING GROUP
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

At the next meeting of the ARG, we will be discussing *And After the Fire* by Lauren Belfer. As the Canadian Jewish News notes: "Like all good novels, *And After the Fire* joins several colourful threads into one literary cloth of remarkable texture and strength. And in the Library Journal: Blending the gorgeousness of Bach and the horror of anti-Semitism over several centuries should make for unsettling contemplation, and readers of Belfer's . . . know that the author will be meticulous with both fact and fiction."

In the New York Times, Lauren Belfer wrote about her novel: "It (the title) is originally from the Book of Kings in the Hebrew Bible, but I first came upon it in the oratorio *Elijah* by Mendelssohn, who figures in the historical part of the novel. I was thinking about the contemporary characters in the novel who are all, in their different ways, coming to terms with what happened in the war and the Holocaust."

Interested? Join us at our first meeting of the ARG yearly cycle. New participants are always welcome! Our discussions are lively, and you almost always come away with a deeper appreciation of the book you have read. Any questions, please call Ken Talan at 413-253-2248.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

August 2, Wednesday
Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

August 17, Thursday
Executive Committee
1:00 pm
Tikkun Olam Committee
7:15 pm

August 18, Friday
JCA Community Action
Now Steering Committee
10:00 am

August 25, Friday
Adult Ed Committee
12:15 pm



Buy Your Dean's Beans
Coffee Through the JCA
and Support The JCA
School!

Dean's Beans Order Form:
<http://tinyurl.com/jca-coffee>

New Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Nina Mankin
Elizabeth Wilkens-Plumley

Condolences

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

Sylvia Vigderman, mother of Robert Vigderman, mother-in-law of Rachel Vigderman and grandfather of Adam Vigderman, Aaron and Daniel Valitt

Rutilious Benjamin Perkins, father of Rudy Perkins, father-in-law of Madeleine Charney and grandfather of Eli Perkins on May 22nd

Joseph Lewis Horowitz, father of Robert Horowitz, father-in-law of Catherine Nagel, grandfather of Adam S. Horowitz and Sarah S. Horowitz

Leon Madowitz, father of Rich Madowitz, father-in-law of Karen Helfer, grandfather of Rachel and Noah Madowitz

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 amindir@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.



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

Shabbat Nahamu, Parashat Va'et-ḥanan
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

August 4, Friday

COMMUNITY KABBALAT SHABBAT CELEBRATION AT CAMP SHEMESH

2:30 pm

Held at Camp Shemesh (No services at JCA)

August 5, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Shabbat Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

August 11, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

August 12, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Shabbat Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

August 18, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner and our musical daveners

August 19, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



Candle Lighting

August 4 ~ 7:46 pm

August 11 ~ 7:36 pm

August 18 ~ 7:26 pm

August 25 ~ 7:15 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

Tisha B'Av

August 1, Tuesday

Rosh Ḥodesh Elul

August 22/23,
Tuesday/Wednesday

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

Shabbat Shofetim Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

August 25, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm in the small sanctuary

Service Leader: To be announced

August 26, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Torah Reading Coordination

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Madeline Berkowitz, madelineberkowitz@gmail.com, 413-734-3950 for reading in August, Ruth Love Barer, ruthlove7@hotmail.com, 413-253-4923 for reading in September. 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, or Jane Myers, 401-451-6020.

Thank You

The Ritual Life committee would like to thank those who have given their time and expertise in service to the ritual life of the community:

- Recent Torah/Haftarah readers: Arnie Alper, J. Marshall Ash, Michael Ash, Rafael Ash, Zeke Ash, Ruth Love Barer, Aaron Bousel, Diana Brewer, Marvin Ellin, Josh Friedman, Sam Gladstone, Hadar Grabel, David Mednicoff, Jane Myers, Corey Novick, Ilene Rosenfeld, Elissa Rubinstein, Yosef Rumshiskiy, Amy Sweeting, Rory Sweeting, Sophie Sweeting
- D'var Torah givers: Rafael Ash, Diana Brewer, Ken Schoen, Sophie Sweeting
- Service leaders: Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein, Diana Brewer, Yossi Charette, Gordon Freed, Catherine Madsen
- Musicians: Shabbat Band, Mitch Gordon, Danielle Kadinoff, David Marks

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



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

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 for rides and visits.

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).

Cemetery Committee

Green Burial Option Now Available at JCA Cemetery

After years of research and planning, the JCA Cemetery Committee wants to inform you of a new, long-awaited option, Green Burial, in a section adjacent to the existing JCA cemetery. Green Burial is very much in line with our community's values and we are proud to announce that this option is now available. Cemetery prices for all new plots have increased to \$630 due to ongoing care and maintenance of our cemetery. All burial plots (whether in the traditional or green) will be priced the same.

We must emphasize that burial in the Green Section is sequential, meaning that you will not be purchasing a specific plot. Each burial is next to the previous one, in order to preserve the root system in the pine forest. If two plots are desired next to each other, they need to both be purchased at the same time. Also, green burial precludes the use of cement grave liners and cement foundations for grave markers. Stone markers will be laid flat and limited in size to 1x2 feet.

For more details, we encourage you to consult the JCA Green Burial guidelines and the map of the Green Section which are posted on the JCA website. A paper copy is also available at the office for pickup. If you have any questions, please contact the cemetery co-chairs: Linda Sinapi at 413-218-3107 or Devorah Jacobson at 413-519-3169.

Not Bread Alone

Monthly Cooking Volunteers Needed for Not Bread Alone

The JCA Committee for Not Bread Alone prepares the midday meal at Amherst's local soup kitchen on the second Sunday of every month. We would welcome several new volunteers for the cooking crew (9:30 am - 12:00 noon) and the cleanup crew (12:00 noon - 2:00 pm) to replace people who are rotating off. Substitutes are on call to fill in when regular volunteers cannot be there. Do a mitzvah and have fun, and it is a great service project for b'nai mitzvot families. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Hollie Kalkstein at holliekalkstein@gmail.com.

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.

JCA Hall Gallery

Past, Present, Perfect: Monotypes from 2014-2017 by Janet Walerstein Winston will be on display in the JCA Hall Gallery from August 3 - October 27 on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, or by appointment by calling 413-253-9483. There will be an Opening Reception on Thursday, August 3 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm in conjunction with Amherst Arts Night Plus.

Janet Walerstein Winston writes: My forthcoming exhibit in the Hall Gallery will be my first one here in six years. This work will consist entirely of monoprints, a medium I've been steeped in these past seven years and come from several focused series. The first was based on my home/house when renovations were taking place, lots of family coming to visit, the garden and yard receiving plenty of attention, and my long held interest in architecture. The second is based on my interest in particular landscapes that intrigue and inspire, most recently canyons of the American Southwest. The third is a continuing series of prints of butterflies.

My art is not realistic but rather expressionistic, and sometimes abstract, based on my emotional responses to the subject through the colors, energy, compositions and designs found in nature. I am a member of Zea Mays Printmaking in Florence and Gallery A3 in Amherst.



Donations to the JCA

Adult Education

Phyllis Herda
Ruth Smith
Janet Winston
Judy Davis

General Fund

In support of the fiscal health of the JCA
(Phil Weilerstein)
In memory of my mother, Maralin
Weinberg (Barbara Burkart)
In appreciation for all of the lay leaders
who kept our services alive and
heartfelt throughout the rabbi's
sabbatical. Yasher Koach!
(Judy & Allen Davis)
In memory of Catherine Madsen's father
(Judy & Allen Davis)
In memory of Esther Mercer's brother
(Judy & Allen Davis)
Rhoda Morse
In honor of the Morning Minyan at the
JCA Small Sanctuary (Herb Bernstein)
In honor of Rabbi Ben & Elise's Wedding
Anniversary (Barbara & Martin Winn)
In honor of Ken Schoen's 70th Birthday
(Rebecca Cohen)
In honor of Ken Schoen's 70th Birthday
(Barbara & Michael Burkart)
In honor of the marriage of Ted &
Barbara Slovin's grandson Zach to his
beloved Tali (Susan Zarchin)
In gratitude to the JCA community
as we celebrate our 25th wedding
anniversary (Ziva & Mort Harmatz)
In memory of my husband's Yahrzeit,
Herman Janoff (Irene Janoff)

Oneg/Kiddush

In memory of Pearl Hellman Levine,
mother of Elinor Levine
(Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)
In memory of Alex Chajes (Diane Chajes)

Ritual Life Objects Fund

In memory of my father (Alan Feldman)
In memory of Madge Clingman
(Nina & Don Tetenbaum)
In memory of David Ethan Stein
(Nina & Don Tetenbaum)

In memory of Thomas Madsen
(Nina & Don Tetenbaum)

Project Rehovot

In honor of Ken Schoen's 70th Birthday
(Cleo Gorman & Ron Ackerman)
In honor of Ken Schoen's 70th Birthday
(Phyllis & Archie Nahman)
In honor of Elinor Levine & Scott
Nielsen's new grandson Sam Arnold
Nielsen (Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)
Sarina Ergas & Alan Feldman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Welcoming back Rabbi Weiner and his
family (Tetenbaum & Zalkind families)
In honor of Linda & Irv Seidman
(Frieda Howards)
In honor of Irv Seidman (Hadar Grabel)
Steve Woolf
Sheldon Goldman
Diana Brewer
Judy Davis
Barbara Pistrang
Madeleine Charney
Mila Sherman
Anonymous
Bill Simmons
Eliezer Huber
Robin Diamond
Susan Zarchin
Nicky Silver
Jon Lewis
Amy Mittelman
Toby Sznajderman
Jane Myers
Anonymous
Marilyn Blaustein
Marty Pepper Aisenberg
Kitty Axelson-Berry
Judith Souweine
Diana Brewer

Camp Shemesh

Rachel & Jay Flint
Jackie Rosenbloom & Jeffrey Mazur
Rinat & Ruby Schmerling
Ariella Schwell & Roger Magnus

Tikkun Olam

In honor of Alan Weiner's 60th birthday
and the engagement of Jeff Weston's
and Elana Klugman's son Noah to Lane
(Daniel & Jill Berlin, Harry Miller, Jeff
Weston & Elana Klugman)

Rabbi's Welcome Back Dinner

Reed & Arnie Alper
Ann Armon & Eliezer Huber
Libby Arny
Joanna & Clay Ballantine
Ruth Love Barer
Danielle Barshak
Barbara Berlin
Ken Bernstein
Emily Bloch
Patience & Aaron Bousel
Joan Swerdlow-Brandt & Robert Brandt
Diana Brewer
Jane Brodwyn
Eva & Norman Brown
Ronnie Janoff Bulman & Michael Bulman
Barbara & Michael Burkart
Madeleine Charney & Rudy Perkins
Jaymie & Michael Chernoff
Susan & Peter Cinner
Moira & Stephen Clingman
Sarah Cohen & Josh Polak
Judy & Allen Davis
Robin & Ted Diamond
Eileen & Howard Dubner
Merle & Edward Feld
Elsie Fetterman
Sharlene & Richard Finkel
Judy & Kip Fonsh
Eliza Gouverneur & Richard Cohen
Hadar Grabel
Marina & Josh Goldman
Marcia & Sheldon Goldman
Solomon Goldstein-Rose
Yaffa & Haim Gunner
Mara & Harry Hahn
Ziva & Morton Harmatz
Ina & Lewis Heafitz
Roslyn & Mort Heafitz

Donations to the JCA (continued)

Phyllis & Hans Herda
Frieda Howards
Natalie Jarmon
Barbara Jenkins & Eli Kwartler
Danielle Kadinoff & David Marks
Amy & Jeff Kalman
Jackie Katz
Ellen & Rob Kaufman
Oran Kaufman
Lisa Kent & David Glassberg
Lisa Kirschenbaum
Roselyn & Edwin Kolodny
Aaron Kropf
Ruth Kane-Levit & David Levit
Jackie Wolf & Barry Levy
Janis Levy
Melanie & Jonathan Lewis
Caden & Lewis Mainzer
Pearl-Anne & Nathan Margalit
Brenda & Martin Miller
Anita Page
Dorothy & Robert Pam
Ellen & Stephen Parker
Susan & Marty Pepper Aisenberg
Holly Perry & Jim Seltzer
Jeanne Potash
Joan & Monroe Rabin
Marlene Rachelle
Keren Rhodes
Andra Rose
Deliah Rosel
Anne Krauss & Dennis Rosen
Deborah & Jeff Roth Howe
Elissa & Bernie Rubinstein
Rabbi Benjamin Samuels
Barbara Schaffer Bacon & Roger Bacon
Barbara & David Schimmel
Jane Trigere & Ken Schoen
Peggy & Murray Schwartz
Mila & Woody Sherman
Maria Scudere & Eric Weiss
Linda & Irv Seidman
Linda Sinapi
Barbara & Ted Slovin
Ruth & Howard Smith
Jean Krogh & Bob Solosko

Chuck & Connie Songer
Judith Souweine
Randi Stein
Flo Stern & Nancy deProsse
Tobi Sznajderman
Suzanne & Marius Sznajderman
Mazel Tov to Rabbi Ben from his sister,
brother-in-law and nephews!
(Miriam Szubin & the Szubin Family)
Kitty & Ken Talan
Linda Terry
Susan Thomas
Elaine Trehub
Elaine Walsh
Rebecca Stanfel & Jeremiah Weiner
Stephen Weiner & Donald Cornuet
Ann Wetherbee
Ronnie Williams & Suzanne Arnopolin
Barbara & Marty Winn
Janet & Bob Winston
Janis & Steven Wolkenbreit
Guy Wood
Beverly & Steve Woolf
Susan Zarchin
Marcia & Bill Zimmer
Beverly & Franklin Zweiman

Youth and Family Education

In honor of Phyllis Herda
(Diana & Sara Brewer)
In honor of Cara Michelle Silverberg
(Andra Rose)
Marilyn & Joe Kushick
On behalf of Eli Perkins
(Sydelle & Art Charney)
Ruth & Howard Smith
Jen & Brad Turner
In honor of Rabbi Weiner
(Beth Eisenberg & Paula Gottlieb)
In honor of Camp Shemesh
(Rachel & Jay Flint)
In honor of Keren Rhodes
(Judith Soweine)
In honor of Rabbi Ben
(Rachel Schwab-Rehorka & Gary
Rehorka)
In memory of Ruth Hecht & Lewis Hecht
(Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)

Mara & Harry Hahn
Jane Trigere & Ken Schoen
Joy Misra & David Mednicoff
Dorothy & Robert Pam
Nina Makin
Joni Beck Brewer
Reynolds Winslow
Catherine & Jay Alpert
Rona Chaya Conrad
Randi Stein
Amy & Jeff Kalman
Laura Quilter & Michele Markstein
Kerry & Matt Spitzer
Judith & Kip Fonsh
In honor of Ruth Love Barer
(Batya Perman)
Mila & Woody Sherman
Yaffa & Haim Gunner
In memory of Amos Rosenbloom
(Nina & Don Tetenbaum)
In honor of Ilene & Terry Rosenfeld
(Kenneth & Diane Afferton)

