

# jca

הקהילה היהודית של אמהרסט

## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST



Affiliated with the  
Jewish Reconstructionist  
Movement

### CANDLE LIGHTING

May 2 ~ 7:33 pm  
May 9 ~ 7:40 pm  
May 16 ~ 7:48 pm  
May 23 ~ 7:55 pm  
May 30 ~ 8:01 pm

*Times shown are 18 minutes  
before sunset for Amherst, MA*

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**May 4**  
Community Mitzvah Day

**May 7**  
Yom Ha'atzma'ut  
Celebration

**May 10**  
The Making of a Mahzor:  
Rabbi Ed Feld

**May 21**  
Red Cross Blood Drive

**June 3**  
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

### MEETINGS

**May 8**  
Board Meeting  
School Committee

**May 9**  
Adult Ed Committee

**May 14**  
Education Committee  
Ritual Life Committee

### B'NAI MITZVAH

**May 3**  
Lily Harris

**May 17**  
Ezekiel Ash

**May 31**  
Max Radin

### Message from Co-President

Eva Rosenn, 549-6672, hestia\_26@yahoo.com

It is with mixed feelings that I write this, my last column as JCA co-president. I am stepping down because I have accepted a job in Boston. While I am thrilled to be able to make Jewish communal life part of my professional life, I am nonetheless sad to leave the Pioneer Valley, which has been my home for the last eleven years.

My journey into active Jewish communal life began years ago in Huntington, West Virginia. I was suddenly home with a toddler. I joined the faculty wives' play group, as it was called, and met two other Jewish mothers. They invited us to attend services with them, and then my family joined the synagogue. Together, we started the Tot Shabbat program, which was terrific fun. But it also taught me an important lesson—you must build the community you want. No one is going to do it for you.

When we moved to the Amherst area years later, we joined the JCA and I helped out a bit with the auction. I then moved on to the Membership committee. I was asked to join the board several times before I finally said yes. I did so in part because I was so enthusiastic about Rabbi Weiner and I wanted to show my support for him in a more tangible way. I thought I was joining the board as a member-at-large, but I was slotted into a vice president position and found myself on the Exec. And here's the weird part: I found

that serving on the Exec was really fun. Here were five people meeting to try to keep the JCA running, but they had a sense of humor.

And when I was offered the chance to serve as co-president with Richard Cohen, I said yes, despite the fact that the timing was not great for me personally. Richard was a terrific mentor, guide, and co-president. He used to say, not entirely jokingly, that the presidency was a "terrific growth opportunity." And it is. But the opportunity to serve as co-president has given me so much more than I feel I have been able to give to the JCA. While I am really proud of the work that the Dues Committee did under my watch, and while I am really excited about the new Administrative Manager role and how that will help institutionalize the dues structure in a very important way, what I ultimately take away from the table is so much more. I am grateful for the lessons I have learned from people who think so differently from me, and how to lead a board to reach a consensus on really difficult decisions. What I really want to say in this, my final column, is thank you. Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you as a co-president. It has been an honor and a pleasure. I leave you in the very experienced and capable hands of Guy Wood.

*B'shalom,  
Eva*

THE JCA TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE &  
FAMILY EDUCATION INVITE YOU TO:

### Mitzvah Day 2014

Sunday, May 4

From 10 AM—2 PM

BEGINS AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

see page 9

### Yom Ha'Atzmaut Israel Independence Day Celebration

Wednesday

May 7, 2014

5:15 – 8:30 pm

see page 11

## JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC.

742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
 (413) 256-0160, fax (413) 256-1588  
 Religious School (413) 256-0160 ext. 203  
 email: [info@j-c-a.org](mailto:info@j-c-a.org); Online at: [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org)

### Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003-2010)

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989-2002)

Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

**Director of Lifelong Learning:** Jody Rosenbloom (256-0160 ext. 203)

### Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 10:30 - 4:00

Wednesday: 4:00 - 6:00 & Sunday 9:00 - 1:00

(When Religious School is in session)

## Board of Directors

### Officers:

**Co-Presidents:** Eva Rosenn (549-6672)

Guy Wood (802-387-5676)

**First Vice President:** Bob Solosko (527-0725)

**Second Vice President:** William Zimmer (582-1810)

**Clerk:** Donna Baron (549-7246)

**Treasurer:** Jonathan Shefftz (256-1101)

### Members:

Jaymie Chernoff, Richard Cohen, Robert Friedman,  
 Hans Herda, Patty Levine, Andra Rose, Flo Stern

**Membership:** Tobi Sznajderman (549-1795)

**Office Administrator:** Marcia Howard (256-0160, [info@j-c-a.org](mailto:info@j-c-a.org))

**Administrative Assistants:** Nora Mariano, Susan Thomas, (256-0160)

For information about using JCA space including  
 renting the Social Hall, contact:

**Events Coordinator:** Rosemary Spear  
 (256-0160 ext. 207, [rosemary@j-c-a.org](mailto:rosemary@j-c-a.org))

For a list of committee chairs and members, go to:  
<http://www.j-c-a.org/committees.html>

Please refer to your Guidebook for contact information.  
 (If you have not received your Guidebook, call the office.)

## NEWSLETTER

**Editor/Graphic Designer:** Aaron Bousel

(Voice: 253-3544, Voice & Fax: 253-3846; [news@j-c-a.org](mailto:news@j-c-a.org))

**Proofreader:** Sarah Thomson

**Deadline for the June/July issue is May 12th**

May 2014, Vol. 13, Issue No. 5

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Subscription price is included in membership.

## Beit Shalom Committee

The Beit Shalom Committee is available to members of the JCA congregation wishing assistance in addressing personal differences that have arisen between individuals, among committees, or with those in leadership positions within the JCA. Accordingly, if you have concerns or disagreements, or feel a desire to enhance communication with another member, a committee, or leader, please contact a Beit Shalom Committee member to facilitate this process. All such communications will be kept strictly confidential unless agreed upon differently by the participants.

Committee members are:

Eva Metzger Brown: 256-8066  
[embrown13@comcast.net](mailto:embrown13@comcast.net)

Josette Henschel: 213-0186  
[josette.henschel@gmail.com](mailto:josette.henschel@gmail.com)

Rob Okun: 253-9372  
[raokun@verizon.net](mailto:raokun@verizon.net)

Kitty Talan: 253-2248  
[kittytalan@comcast.net](mailto:kittytalan@comcast.net)

Have you checked out the  
 JCA Judaica Store lately?  
 Books by JCA members and  
 others,  
 siddurim, chumashim, tallitot,  
 mezzuzot  
 and many lovely gift items.  
 You can shop whenever  
 the office is open

**Devarim:****Words from Rabbi Benjamin Weiner**

By the time you read this, Passover will have passed over, and your gastro-intestinal systems will once again be flowing with *hametz* (with the possible exception of the gluten-free crowd.)

But, according to the ritual calendar, Passover should still be in our guts.

We are now marking the period of time known as the *Omer*—the seven weeks that stretch between *Pesach* (the Hebrew word for Passover) and *Shavuot*. These weeks hearken back to the seven weeks that elapsed for our mythical ancestors between their emancipation from Egyptian slavery and their reception of Torah at Mt. Sinai. It is a time of reflection and spiritual practice, meant to prepare us to once again receive the revelation of our tradition as free and committed people.

In fact, it is meant to be something of a somber time, analogous to the Christian Lent and Muslim Ramadan, in which we renounce certain things in order to clear our spirits for the work of contemplation. Many years ago, when I was not the exemplar of religious behavior that you now take me for, I was embarrassed in conversation with an Orthodox friend when I told him I had seen a movie recently, and he responded, “You saw a movie?! During the *Omer*?!” (The fact that it was “The Big Lebowski” didn’t signify...)

There are many ways to make use of this time, and many subjects that are worth reflecting on. It is a time to lay the groundwork for new thoughts and behavior. We might borrow a page from the Lenten practice of some ecological Christians I know, and use it as a time for contemplating our carbon-footprints and the perilous state of our relationship to the earth. We might think about our friends and families, co-workers and colleagues, and give some thought to the states of our relationships with them, and how we could more fully use them as a means of living Torah.

It has become more and more common to adopt the kabbalistic approach to the *Omer*, and examine

ourselves through the “seven lower sefirot” that are said to represent certain characteristics of the God-head, or the spiritual personality. As each week passes we think about the intertwined qualities of strictness and loving-kindness, force and stability, and consider what it might take to bring ourselves into balance.

I would like to ask you, also, to use it as a time for considering the health and well-being of our community, and to commit yourself to doing what you can to bring the JCA itself into balance. You will be hearing more about this from me in weeks to come, but you need to understand that things are not quite right in this regard at the moment. Yes, we have a vibrant, growing community, with a great variety of opportunities for learning, spirituality, and social action.

But we are suffering from a crisis of leadership. This is not a reflection on those who are currently doing a fantastic job trying to steer us in the right direction, but a recognition that there are not enough of them! Our board of directors is not full to capacity, and our plans for the orderly succession of executive officers has fallen apart. It has been difficult to staff the operational committees—finance, personnel, nominating etc.—that are vital to our proper functioning.

One of my professors at rabbinical school cautioned us against what he called the “Titanic model” of Jewish outreach: “Get on! The ship is sinking!” I assure you that is not what I’m doing here—the ship is quite seaworthy and is taking us to all kinds of interesting places. But it needs more hands on deck.

And so, as we move from slavery to receiving Torah, I want to ask you to think about this as well: what would it take to make space in your life for the liberating hard work of serving our community where it needs it most?

*B’shalom,*  
Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

**Rabbi Liaison Committee**

The committee meets monthly with the rabbi.

The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to support and enhance the rabbi-congregational relationship by:

1. Serving as a channel to communicate comments, issues and/or complaints from congregants who would prefer not to contact the rabbi directly.
2. Meeting with the rabbi to help with processing and thinking through issues or concerns that are raised either by congregants or by the rabbi.

All congregants are encouraged to speak to members of the committee about any concerns they may have that they would like to be brought to the rabbi’s attention.

All information is shared only with the rabbi and the committee and will be held in confidence.

Amy Mittelman 256-0883, amGU@hampshire.edu  
Aaron Bousel 253-3544, abousel@comcast.net  
Barbara Burkart 256-8139, barbruth@comcast.net  
Deb Fine 256-1572, zohar01@comcast.net  
Ted Slovin 253-3518, tslovin@acad.umass.edu



### ***Ritual Life Committee***

**Yossi Bryer-Charette, Co-chair, 860-559-4926, [pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com](mailto:pcharette@lightingaffiliates.com)**  
**Sarah Thomson, Co-chair, 413-253-2930, [allset22@verizon.net](mailto:allset22@verizon.net)**

### RELIGION CALENDAR

#### **April 30/May 1, Wednesday/Thursday**

Rosh Chodesh Iyar



#### **Shabbat Emor *Leviticus 21:1-24:23***

#### **May 2, Friday**

5:30 PM

Intergenerational Family Service and concurrent Tot Shabbat followed by potluck supper

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

#### **May 3, Saturday**

10:00 AM

**Bat Mitzvah: Lily Harris**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Lily Harris



#### **May 5, Monday- Yom Hazikaron**

Israeli Remembrance Day

#### **May 6, Tuesday-Yom Ha'atzma'ut**

Israeli Independence Day



#### **Shabbat Behar, *Leviticus 25:1-26:2***

#### **May 9, Friday**

6:15 PM

Musical Shabbat Service

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

#### **May 10, Saturday**

9:15 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

1:00 PM

Rabbi Ed Feld: The Making of a Mahzor (see page 10)



#### **Shabbat Bechukotai, *Leviticus 26:3-27:34***

#### **May 16, Friday**

6:15 PM

Farbrengen Friday

Service Leader: To be announced

#### **May 17, Saturday**

9:15 AM

L'Chaim Qigong (see next page)

10:00 AM

**Bar Mitzvah: Ezekiel Ash**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Ezekiel Ash



#### **Shabbat Bemidbar, *Numbers 1:1- 4:20***

#### **May 23**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

#### **May 24, Saturday**

9:15 AM

Shabbat Yoga

10:00 AM

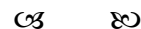
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner



#### **May 30, Friday**

Rosh Chodesh Sivan



#### **Shabbat Naso, *Numbers 4:21-7:89***

#### **May 30**

6:15 PM

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

#### **May 31, Saturday**

10:00 AM

**Bar Mitzvah: Max Radin**

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Max Radin



#### **Meditation Minyan**

The weekday meditation minyan continues to meet every Wednesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

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

The weekday shacharit minyan continues to meet every Tuesday at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary.

## ***Kiddush and Oneg Sponsors***

### **April 5-**

Robert Brainin and Ruth Hutton  
in honor of their son Samuel  
becoming Bar Mitzvah

### **April 11-**

Janis Levy in celebration  
of the community and with  
appreciation for your support  
during my cancer journey

### **April 12-**

Steven and Anna Robbins  
in honor of their son Calder  
becoming Bar Mitzvah

### **May 3-**

Av Harris and Jill Kaufman in  
honor of their daughter Lily  
becoming Bat Mitzvah

### **May 17-**

Michael Ash and Krista Harper  
in honor of their son Zeke  
becoming Bar Mitzvah

### **May 31-**

Robert Radin and Amy Kroin  
in honor of their son Max  
becoming Bar Mitzvah

**If you would like to help with  
or sponsor a kiddush, please  
contact Rosemary Spear at:  
rosemary@j-c-a.org**

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

## ***L'Chaim Qigong***

Join us on Saturday,  
May 17th at 9:15 am for  
the gentle meditative  
movements of L'Chaim  
Qigong - a healing prac-  
tice from the Medicine-less  
Hospital in China adapted  
to offer an awareness of  
YHWH as Moving Life  
Force Energy and so en-  
hance our Shabbat prayer  
experience.

## ***First Friday Evening Family Service***

Please join us on the first Friday of the month at 5:30 pm for a brief child oriented service followed by a potluck supper. Although the service is geared towards young children, it contains all the elements of a regular Friday evening service, including mourner's kaddish. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

## ***Torah Reading Co-ordination***

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

**Randi Stein, 549-0526, [randistein@earthlink.net](mailto:randistein@earthlink.net) (May)**

**Gordon Freed, 265-0355, [g.freed@comcast.net](mailto:g.freed@comcast.net) (June)**

If you would like to learn to read Torah, or would like help choosing or preparing a reading, please contact **Batya Perman, 549-4853, [batya1818@gmail.com](mailto:batya1818@gmail.com).**

## ***Thank You To Volunteers***

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:

- April Torah readers: **Arnie Alper, Kitty Axelson-Berry, Joe Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Sam Brainin, Marvin Ellin, Hadar Gabel, Catherine Madsen, Batya Perman, Calder Robbins, Elissa Rubinstein, Rhonda Shapiro-Rieser, Randi Stein**
- D'verei Torah givers: **Daniel Berlin, Sam Brainin, Calder Robbins**
- L'Chaim Qigong leader: **Deliah Rosel**
- Musicians: **Shabbat Band**

## ***Reminder***

Many JCA members have chemical sensitivities and/or are allergic to perfumes, colognes, and other fragrances. Please avoid the use of these products when you come to the JCA so that no one else there will end up feeling ill and possibly have to leave. If you are bringing guests, please let them know as well. Thank you for your understanding

## ***Tikkun Leyl Shavuot***

We will have a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (study and learning on the eve of Shavuot) on Tuesday, June 3rd. Look for more information in upcoming community emails.

## ***Misheberach List***

The JCA is joining the tradition of having a list of people in need of healing read by Rabbi Weiner during the Shabbat service, so that the energy from the whole congregation will be going out to them. If you would like to have your name placed on this list please contact Rabbi Weiner, Marcia Howard in the office, the Chesed Committee, or send the info to **Mishebarach@comcast.net**. **Deliah Rosel** will be updating the list each week.

For privacy concerns, each person seeking to be included is responsible to add only their own name, in Hebrew or English. The list will be updated weekly by Deliah Rosel. If you know that this support from the healing prayers of our community is for a time-limited situation, please include that information so as to more easily keep the list current.

**A Special "Thank You" to  
Nick Seamon and  
The Black Sheep Deli and Bakery  
for providing us with a  
wonderful lunch on Purim**



## Education News

**Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Life Long Learning, 256-0160, ext. 203**



### *Thanks to Many for School Year Successes*

Providing programming for lifelong learning from tots to teens takes a team effort.

\* **JCA School Appreciation:** We thank the caring and dedicated people who make up our school community. Along with our students, parents and congregant support, we thank **Rabbi Ben Weiner**, Director of Lifelong Learning: **Jody Rosenbloom**, and our teaching staff: **Melissa Zeitz** (Shalom Sunday), **Basha Goldstein Weiss** with assistance from **Rachel Warshaw** (1st & 2nd grades), **Keren Rhodes** (3rd grade), **Noah Slovin & Talia Laster** (4th grade), **Marlene Rachelle & Dov Zeller** (5th grade), **Heidi Diamond Shaffer** (6th Grade) and **Evan Sheinhait** (7th grade), **Av Harris** (music), **Cara Michelle Silverberg** (Camp Shemesh Director, Teva Torah teen & family programs staff); **Amy Epstein & Corinne Andrews** (Shabbat B'Yachad Family Programs), **Rhonda Shapiro Rieser** (B'Tzelem Elohim parent group), and our teaching assistants: **Isaac Goldbaum**, **Sophia Keins**, **Aiden Klotz**, **Aleeza Kropf**, **Sarah Martin**, **Rachel Warshaw**, and our office staff: **Nora Mariano**, **Marcia Howard**, and **Susan Thomas** with help from facilities staff: **Santo Alers & Rob Kaufman**.

\* **Volunteer Appreciation:** Our committee volunteers help advocate for the needs of the school, guide parent initiatives, develop policies, monitor curriculum, and sustain the vision. We gratefully acknowledge:

- Education Committee members – **Andra Rose** (chair), **Ted Trobaugh**, **Talya Kingston & Mara Hahn** (school committee co-chairs), **Ariella Schwell** (Sept. – March), **Felicia Mednick** (at-large), **Rachael Goren-Watts** (families with young children liaison), **Cara Silverberg** (Camp Shemesh director & teen programming), & **Jody Rosenbloom** (director of lifelong learning).

- School Sub-Committee members: **Talya Kingston & Mara Hahn** (acting co-chairs), **Ted Trobaugh**, **Sally Galman**, **Amy Kroin** (Sept-February), **Shari McDonald**, **Holly Perry** and **Jody Rosenbloom**.

- Grade level parents who helped facilitate community and grade level activities: **Emily Bloch**, **Cheryl Campbell**, **Madeline Charney**, **Laura Ginsberg-Peltz**, **Shari McDonald**, **Jill Kaufman**, and **Melissa Ross**.

- Fundraiser Coordinators: **Jodi Levine** (Dean's Beans), **Mara Hahn** (Box Tops for Education), **Lisa Blain/Shari McDonald** (Purim Carnival), **Ted Trobaugh** (Original Art) & **Michael Aronson** (Shoes).

- **Ariella Schwell & Madeleine Charney** for their leadership with Tot Shabbat & the *Havurah Ketana*/Families with young children group.

### *When to Begin JCA Programs for Your Child A Jewish Journey is Lifelong*

Join us for a Tot Shabbat. Consider sending children 4-6 year olds (as of Sept. 2012) to participate in our monthly Shalom Sunday program. Children entering 1st & 2nd grade begin weekly programming on Sunday mornings. Enrolling a child 3rd grade or older? Smooth the way by coordinating with the office. If you know of anyone thinking of joining a synagogue or interested in a Jewish education for their child, suggest they contact Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Lifelong Learning to discuss local Jewish education options at 256-0160 X203. The earlier children are enrolled, the easier it is for planning teacher, space and curricular needs for the year. Classes run from September through May.

### *Returning Students: Registration in May*

In order to plan for the upcoming school year, we need to know how many students will be attending programs. For JCA School, we separate the enrollment process into two stages. The first stage is during the month of May - filling out enrollment, confirming or denying intent to enroll for the upcoming year. There will be a school committee member in the lobby during Sunday school to facilitate this. The second stage, the office will respond by billing tuition payment and information required by the end of August, prior to the first day of class.

*continued on next page*

## Calendar

Fri, May 2	Shabbat Intergenerational Service combines with Tot Shabbat led by Rabbi Weiner. Services at 5:30 pm followed by vegetarian potluck dinner.
Sun, May 4	Mitzvah Day is JCA School for the day.
Wed, May 7	School in session with Yom HaAtzmaut/Israeli Independence Day activities followed by community dinner.
Thurs, May 8	School Committee 7 p.m.
Sun, May 11	B'Tzelem Elohim Parent Support and Education Group
Wed, May 14	Last Day of 7th Grade. Education Committee at 7p.m.
Sun, May 18	Last day for grades 1-6, Shalom Sunday. Special year end programming for parents & their children 10-12:15

*continued from previous page*

### **Thank-You**

To the Purim Carnival, Raffle & Hamantashen Helpers  
**Shari McDonald, Talya Kingston:** coordinators, **Libby Army, Madeline Berkowitz, Lisa Blain, Cheryl Campbell, Maya Campbell-Levine, Cheryl Edgerly, Chuck Edgerly, Jay Flint, Asher Ginzberg, Ava Greenbaum, Nora Harris, Jill Kaufman, Andrea Keins, Julian Keins, Ben Kingston, Sam Kleinman-Eddy, Bruce Klotz, Ben Hernandez Kliman, Nina Hernandez Kliman, Sam Laur, Maya Laur, Jody Levine, Oliver Lindsey, Amina Mednicoff-Misra,**

**Linda Mondschein, Ashley & Emily Nkosi, Holly Perry, Emily Porter, Cailin Reiken, Ariella Schwell, Jonah Scudere-Weiss, Maria Scudere-Weiss, Jim Seltzer, Matthew Seltzer, Ted Trobaugh, Asa Wolfwood.**

Staff helpers: **Amy Epstein, Aiden Klotz, Nora Mariano, Marlene Rachelle, Jody Rosenbloom, Keren Rhodes, Heidi Diamond Shaffer, Noah Slovin, Basha Goldstein-Weiss, Melissa Zeitz and Tavi Wolfwood.**

To Amherst **Stop & Shop** for donating food towards the April & May JVCORPS meals served at the Amherst Survival Center.

## **May B'nai Mitzvah**

### **Lily Hana Harris**

Daughter of Jill Kaufman and Avraham (Av) Harris will be called to the Torah on the occasion of her bat mitzvah on Saturday, May 3, 2014/Iyar 3 reading from *parshat Emor*.

Lily is the sister of Nora. She is the granddaughter of Ruth & Jack Harris and Fran (z"l) & Jack Kaufman (z"l). Lily has attended JCA School for 8 years and has attended Camp Shemesh & Camp Ramah (Palmer). She attends Amherst Regional Middle School. Lily's favorite activities include: singing, reading, writing stories, horseback riding, soccer, basket ball, base ball, hanging out with cousins and sleeping. For her mitzvah projects, Lily made meals, delivered them and checked in on sick neighbors, made challah with Saba Mike, donated to clothing & book drives, and worked with her class to make a meal for the Amherst Survival Center.

*Mazel Tov to Lily  
& her family*



### **Max Radin**

Son of Amy Kroin and Robert Radin will be called to the Torah on the occasion of his bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 31, 2014/Sivan 2 reading from *parshat Naso*.

Max is the grandson of Carol & David Kroin (z"l), Roland (z"l) & Barbara Radin (z"l). Max has attended JCA School and Camp Shemesh for 5 years. He attends Amherst Regional Middle School. Max's favorite subjects in school are French, English & drama. He loves to read, write, draw, listen to music, swim, visit NYC & hang out with friends and family. For his mitzvah projects, Max helped refugees at Jewish Family Service develop math and computer literacy skills. He also donated to both Save Darfur and the Northampton Survival Center; read and commented on the book, *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*; watched and commented on the movie, *Life is Beautiful*; wrote an essay on his relationship to Judaism, and helped bake 15 loaves of challah from scratch.

*Mazel Tov to Max  
& his family*



### **Ezekiel (Zeke) Ash**

Son of Krista Harper and Michael Ash will be called to the Torah on the occasion of his bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 17, 2014/Iyar 17 reading from *parshat Bechukotai*.

Zeke is the brother of Rafael (Rafi). He is the grandson of Bruce & Victoria Harper, Marshall & Alison Ash, and Roberta & Larry Garner. Zeke has attended JCA School for 3 years and was a camper at Camp Shemesh. He attends Amherst Regional Middle School. Zeke's favorite activities include: table, board & card games (especially Magic The Gathering - MTG); piano, Tae Kwon Do, Rock & Roll & Latin. For his mitzvah projects, Zeke conducted a food drive for the Amherst Survival Center, organized a team for the Daffodil Fun Run (CHD/Big Brothers, Big Sisters), contributed to the Sierra Club, read about Jewish science fiction, learned a piano piece by Ernest Bloch, created MTG style cards of biblical figures, baked challah & led motzi regularly at Shabbat dinners, and helped make a tallit.

*Mazel Tov to Zeke & his family*



Contact Rachael Goren-Watts at [tots@j-c-a.org](mailto:tots@j-c-a.org) with any questions about programming for Families with Young Children.



Tot Shabbat will be held on Friday, May 2nd led by Rabbi Weiner. We will gather at 5:30pm and the service will start promptly at 5:45pm. Potluck vegetarian (nut-free) dinner to follow. Hope you can join us!



**Havurah K'tana** will have a gathering on Saturday, May 17, 4-6pm. Email [tots@j-c-a.org](mailto:tots@j-c-a.org) for more information and location. New members always welcome!

Are you looking for a way to honor a new baby? A meaningful way to celebrate the first year? Consider making a donation to our Shalom Baby Basket Program. Proceeds support JCA TOTS programming and help welcome a new baby to our community!

We are looking for members to join our advisory committee and help coordinate programming for Families with Young Children. We are also looking for volunteers to help make food for Shalom baby baskets. Email [tots@j-c-a.org](mailto:tots@j-c-a.org) for more information.

## JCA Teen Programming!



**The Jewish Volunteer Corps for Teens (JVCORPS)** provides dinner at the Amherst Survival Center once a month. If your teen is interested in joining this group of dedicated and interesting teens, please contact JVCORPS Coordinator: Janet Bordwin Kannel at [jvcors4teens@gmail.com](mailto:jvcors4teens@gmail.com).



There are only 2 volunteer openings left for the remainder of our dinners this year. If your teen is interested in volunteering on Thursday, May 15 for the 5:00—7:00 pm shift at the Survival Center, register here at Sign-Up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A4AD2FA4FE3-signup>.

Thanks to our recent JVCORPS teens and families for volunteering this past month: **Jonah Weinbaum, Aviva Weinbaum, Yonatan Ben-Chaim, Sam Randall, Isaac Goldbaum, Nina Wolff Landau, and Kassia Hidas-Robinson**, and parent chaperone: **Olga Gealikman**. Thanks also to **Benjamin Hernandez-Sommer-Kliman**, and the **Flint family** for food donations.



Teva means 'nature in Hebrew. **Teva Torah** is a year-long program for 7th—9th graders that meets once per month with one overnight retreat **to build community, practice earth living skills, and learn about nature-based Jewish traditions and teachings**. Teva Torah is a program of the Jewish Community of Amherst and is open to any teen in the region.

Any questions, email Cara Michelle Silverberg at [jcateengroup@gmail.com](mailto:jcateengroup@gmail.com)



Visit <http://jcateens.eventbrite.com> for registration, dates, and details on all JCA Teen programs.

These programs are largely funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Family & Teen Education Initiatives.



Please join us as we celebrate  
when we are called to the Torah  
Saturday June 7, 2014  
10:00a.m.

Jane Brodwyn  
Rebecca Fisher  
Joni Fraser  
Ziva Harmatz  
Danielle Kadinoff  
Sallie Deans Lake  
Esther Mercer  
Peter Mishkin  
Amy Mittelman  
Dorothy S. Pam  
Barbara Schaffer Bacon  
Linda Sinapi  
Elaine Walsh

All are welcome to join in the kiddush lunch  
following the service.

**The Adult B'Nai Mitzvah Class of 2014/5774**  
**Jewish Community of Amherst**

**THE JCA TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE &  
FAMILY EDUCATION INVITE YOU TO:**

## **Mitzvah Day 2014**

Sunday, May 4

From 10 AM—2 PM

**BEGINS AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST**

**10:00 – “WHAT CAN WE DO? Opportunities for  
Mitzvot & Gemilut Chassadim/ Acts of Kindness”**

Introduction with Rabbi Weiner // Refreshments

**10:45 – Off to mitzvah projects at the JCA & away.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Help the Plotniks in the JCA garden  | • Make cards for welcoming new babies, expressing condolences, wishing a speedy recovery from illness |
| • Cook meals with the Chesed Committee | • Trailwork   |
| • Sing at the Center for Extended Care | • Sew fleece blankets for the Care Center   |
| • Sort food for the Survival Center    |   |

**SIGN UP by Friday, May 2, 2014**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4FA8AD2BA20-mitzvah1>

**FOR QUESTIONS: [jcamitzvahday@gmail.com](mailto:jcamitzvahday@gmail.com)**

Watch the JCA community-wide email for details.

This program is made possible by generous funding through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Family Education Initiative.

## ***JCA Shavuot Fruit Collection***

In late May and in June, in the spirit of bringing Bikkurim (First Fruits) on Shavuot, we ask for your donations to the JCA Shavuot Fruit Collection. The items collected, greatly appreciated but rarely contributed in food collections, will be distributed by the Survival Center to those in need in our community. Please place your non-perishable donations in the boxes as you enter the JCA. Thank you!

**SUGGESTIONS: DRIED FRUIT, JAM & JELLY, CANS & JARS OF FRUIT, FRUIT JUICE & FRUIT SNACKS**

## ***JCA Adult Reading Group***

The 4th meeting of the year of the ARG will be on **Thursday June 19, 2014, at 7:30 PM** in the JCA library. We will be discussing a novel that has received very positive reviews, *The Family: 3 Journeys into the Heart of the 20th century* by David Laskin. It is not in paperback, but it is in used hardbacks and of course available through a library or Kindle. Come join us; new participants are always welcome!

Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 253-2248

# THE MAKING OF A MAHZOR

MAY 10, 2014  
following Shabbat services  
Jewish Community of Amherst



## RABBI ED FELD

What has made Mahzor Lev Shalem a runaway best seller (300,000 copies sold)? How is it different than what has gone before and how does it present the tradition? How has it spoken to people of different Jewish backgrounds? What went into producing it? What were the liturgical discoveries along the way? Rabbi Edward Feld, the senior editor of *Mahzor Lev Shalem*, will share stories and insights about how this mahzor was put together and why this new prayer book seems to speak to everyone in the big tent.



**Yom Ha'Atzmaut  
Israel Independence Day Celebration**

***A joint effort by the World Jewish Action Committee  
and the JCA School***

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 5:15 – 8:30 pm  
Social Hall of the JCA**

**Please join us on this happy occasion --  
the State of Israel's 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

*The celebration is intended for all ages, and will include  
music, dancing, Israeli food, and an Israeli movie.*

**4 - 5:15 - Special activities for JCA School students – including  
crafts, theater improv, geography challenge, all with Hebrew  
and Israel educational components for students in grades 3-7.**

**5:15 pm – open to the whole community**

**5:20 - moment of silent remembrance for fallen soldiers**

**5:30 pm – music and Israeli food for children and adults**

**6 – 7 pm – Israeli folk dancing**

**7 – 8:30 pm – Israeli film “Song of the Siren” (1994, 95 minutes)  
– a romantic comedy set in Tel-Aviv during the 1991 Gulf war**

**The event is free and open to the public.**

Sponsored by the JCA School, the JCA World Jewish Action Committee,  
with additional support from the Northampton/Amherst Chapter of Hadassah.

**For more information please contact Zahava Koren  
zahavakoren@yahoo.com**

## *Compassionate Community*

### Monthly Notes From The Chesed Committee



#### ***Bikur Cholim – Visiting the Sick***

According to the rabbis, the three most important Jewish mitzvot are caring for the corpse, helping a poor couple marry, and visiting the sick. This last mitzvah is called *Bikur Cholim*. It is said that God was the first to have performed this mitzvah when he visited Abraham who was recovering from his (adult) circumcision. Therefore, we are told, that when we visit the sick, we are not only visiting as ourselves and as representatives of the community, but in fact, acting “in the image of God.” Visiting the sick, the rabbis say, “adds life” to the one who is ill.

Rabbi Weiner and the Chesed Committee are hoping that, as a community, we can increase our capacity for this compassionate practice of *Bikur Cholim*.

Here are a few things we can all do:

Check in with our neighbors and friends when they don’t show up in the usual places. Call and see if they are okay. Ask if they need help of some kind, and if they are sick, ask if they would like the rabbi to include them in his weekly prayer for health (the *misheberach*).

Or call the JCA office to register concern, and someone from the Chesed Committee will call and check in on them.

If we, ourselves, are in need of some help—a visit when we are homebound, a meal, a ride to a doctor, someone to pick up groceries, etc., call the office or a Chesed Committee member. Remember: *It is a mitzvah to give another person the opportunity to do a mitzvah.*

Finally, if we are able, we should volunteer to be added to the Chesed Committee’s list of people who can be called on to make a visit, cook a meal, offer a ride, etc.

#### ***Below Is A Description Of The Chesed Committee’s Role, And The Names Of Current Members.***

We meet at 7:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month, usually. Please check with the JCA office to confirm our meeting time.

#### **Chesed Committee**

The Chesed Committee assists JCA members in times of joy, sorrow, and need, coordinating volunteers to help with meals, rides, errands, visits, *shiva minyanim*, etc. We also welcome babies to the community (see below).

If you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance, please let us know right away. Even if no help is needed, it is important for us as a community to be aware of each other’s health and wellbeing. Although it sometimes feels awkward to share this kind of information, it is an important part of being “in community.” We can’t help if we don’t know.

Please be part of the JCA’s growth as a “compassionate community.”

Contact the office at 256-0160 or any of our current members:

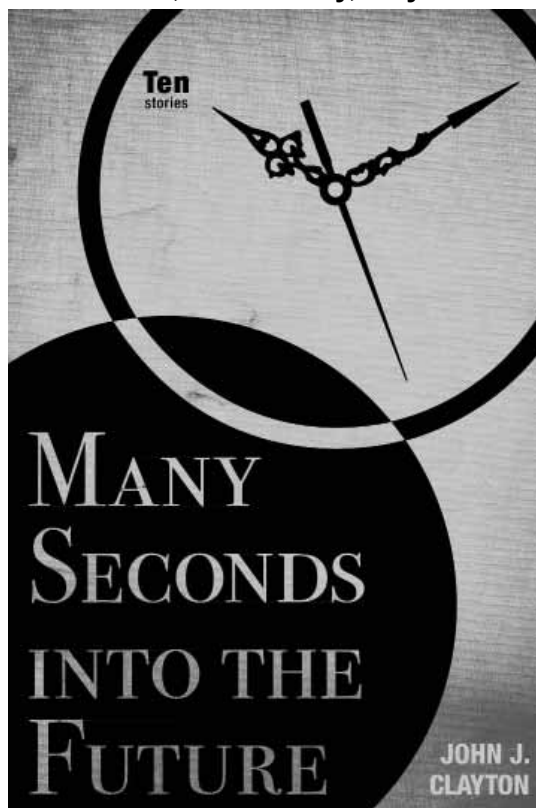
Ellen Middleton	253-3059
Eva Brown	256-8066
Hans Herda	549-1010
Judy Davis	549-0128
Kitty Talan	253-2248
Reed Alper	549-0438
Robin Diamond	253-0660
Susan Myers	532-5839
Susan Zarchin	256-0667

#### ***Celebrating Babies: Shalom Baby Baskets***

Know any new babies in the community? The JCA’s Chesed and Membership Committees have teamed up with *Havurah K’tana* (Little Friends Circle) to welcome new babies into our community with a “Shalom Baby Basket.” Please contact us when you learn of families with a new baby (JCA members or potential members). We will stop by with a decorated basket containing a menorah, a PJ Library book, a card made by children in the JCA Religious School, and, as well, information about area Jewish resources for families. We’ll also bring a meal and a plate of goodies! Please contact Ariella Schwell ([ariellachef@yahoo.com](mailto:ariellachef@yahoo.com) or 230-3694) or Reed Alper ([reedmangels@comcast.net](mailto:reedmangels@comcast.net) or 549-0438).

*continued on next page*

**Now available at Amazon.  
Come to a reading at Amherst Books,  
7 P.M., Wednesday, May 14**



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### ***Celebrating Marriages***

The Chesed Committee commemorates weddings in the JCA community with a card and something sweet. Please contact us through the JCA office if you know of a wedding in our community.

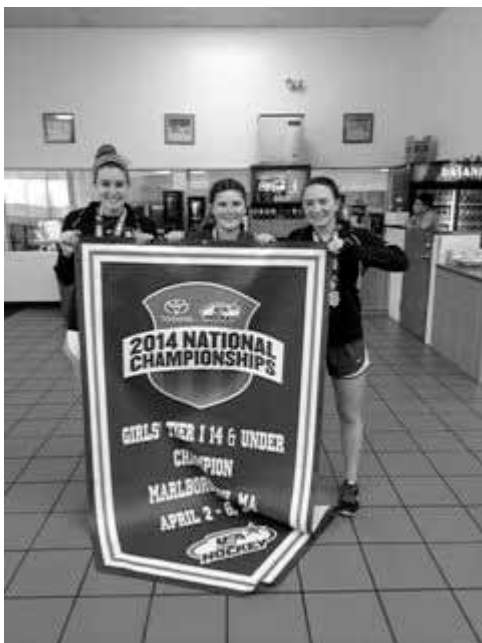
*Mazel tov* to Fred Bloom and Christine Denison on their marriage!

### ***Thank You, Volunteers!***

The Chesed Committee thanks all who have recently provided compassionate support to others in the community.

In particular, thank you to **Joe Kushick** and **Joan Saperstan** for helping with rides and to **Larry Fine** for leading a Shiva service.

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).



Jenna Greenbaum's (daughter of Joel and Lisa Greenbaum, sister of Ava and David) Girls Ice Hockey team, Assabet Valley, won the State and then, National Championship on Sunday, April 6th.

### ***Inaugural Luncheon for Seniors a Success***

On Tuesday April 8th, 17 seniors joined Rabbi Weiner and members of the Chesed Committee for a lovely luncheon (prepared by our wonderful kitchen coordinator Rosemary Spear). The topic of the inaugural gathering was "Passover Traditions Then and Now." Invitations went out to more than 50 households where members aged 70+ were identified, and the attendees included several of the JCA's founding members. The discussion was lively as everyone shared recollections of favorite Seder traditions highlighting the many common threads as well as some distinctive cultural variations. Guests were asked to complete a brief questionnaire to determine how often they would like to meet and what topics they are interested in. The response was overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to hosting many more gatherings in the future!

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## ***Shekel Talk:*** **From Your Treasurer,** **Jonathan Shefftz**

“Is it spring yet?” The question has been asked recently each morning by the JCA’s Chief Financial Officer (i.e., little Micayla Shefftz) as she looks out her bedroom window. Fortunately your JCA Treasurer (aka Daddy) can report that spring does indeed seem to have arrived: we certainly were due for it!

And dues will be theme for this month’s column as Shekel Talk awakens from its winter hibernation over the last two months.

First, some numbers. As of April 1, a total of 264 JCA member units have returned the dues commitment form that was requested by the end of January. Their commitments represent a total of a bit over \$330,000. By contrast, during all of 2013, 324 JCA member units paid a total of \$340,804. The median committed dues amount for 2014 is about \$400 higher than the median paid in 2013, and the average committed amount for 2014 is about \$200 higher than the average paid in 2013.

But who are the missing 60? The majority paid less than \$400 each in 2013. Yet almost half paid more than \$500 each, and almost one-third over \$1,000 each: if their lack of response is just an oversight thus far (despite the looming April 30 deadline), and if their cumulative dues eventually amount even just to what they paid last year, then we’ll be pretty much spot-on for our budgeted \$370,000 in dues.

But what about that majority, specifically 33 member units, who paid less than \$400 each in 2013, from whom we have yet to hear anything? Financially, that impact is relatively small, as these 33 member units paid only a collective \$6,180 last year. Yet finances aside, that impact is otherwise not small, as these members represent about one-tenth of our entire membership.

For some of these 33 non-responding 2013 members, the new dues structure might place them in the new \$180 bracket, which is fairly similar to what these 33 members paid last year (with an average of \$187 and a median of

\$147). However, I suspect that some of them might fall into the new \$1,000 bracket based on income. And although this is becoming increasingly speculative, I suspect that some of them might be turned off by the new dues structure, which calls on them to increase their financial commitment.

Some of my suspicion and speculation is further fueled by a very disturbing phone call I received last night from a JCA member: disturbing both because of the accusations against the JCA and the repeated mischaracterizations of my statements during the call. So I want to set the record straight here, and especially in print.

When the JCA adopted its dues structure, the Fair Share system, in 2004, we were motivated by a desire to reflect the community’s values, including *hachnasat orchim*, the value of being a welcoming and inclusive community, open to people of diverse economic means. In keeping with our values of *b’tzelem elohim* (human dignity) and *tzedek* (justice), we have no formal abatement process. The JCA continues its commitment to maintaining an environment that welcomes all, regardless of economic circumstances and financial contribution.

Actually, the preceding paragraph had already been in print, since I shamelessly plagiarized it verbatim just now from a June 2013 letter to all members. But it still bears repeating. Looking back on the dues form for 2014, I realize that language to that effect ended up being omitted, but the only intention was a shorter dues form, not a retraction of those beliefs. (We’ll reintroduce more language along those lines for the 2015 form, while still limited it to only two pages.)

The caller last night repeatedly accused the JCA of “not getting it” with regard to the presence in our community of those with more limited financial ability to pay. But in sharp contrast to this accusation, our Fair Share system shows that we do indeed get it. As part of the deliberative process involved in the system’s restructuring, the Dues Committee researched the dues systems at other membership-based Jew-

ish congregations in the Pioneer Valley. You can download the report from my <http://tinyurl.com/ShekelTalk> documents folder, but in brief, all the other Jewish congregations in the area start at almost \$1,000 for a family, with our closest equivalent across the river at \$1,800 for a two-parent family.

By contrast, even under our newly restructured Fair Share system, we are asking for only \$180 for a member at up to \$40,000 in income. Unlike all the other membership-based Jewish congregations in the area, no abatement procedure, no questions asked, no financial documentation requested. Just \$180, which can even be spread out over ten payments of \$18 each.

If every member unit was paying only \$180 each, we would need more than six times the number of member units to continue to exist as a congregation with our own physical structure, full-time ordained Rabbi, and Hebrew School, as well as other paid staff and professional-level programming. Yet we still offer full membership at such a low amount because we do indeed get it, and we therefore welcome all members as equals even though individual financial means are anything but equal.

The caller last night also accused the JCA’s Fair Share system of being regressive. Now in economics, “regressive” in this context has a very specific meaning: a higher rate as a percentage of income the lower the income level. The opposite is progressive: a higher rate as a percentage of income the higher the income level. A constant rate throughout all income levels would be proportional.

Examples of a regressive system in the taxation context include a “poll tax” (i.e., same fixed amount regardless of income, so the implicit percentage of income is lower for higher income levels) and the Social Security tax (i.e., 6.2 percent on the first \$117,000 of income, and then zero percent after that). An example of a progressive system in the taxation context includes on paper the brackets for the federal income tax (which range from an effective zero percent to a maximum of 39.6 percent),

*continued on next page*

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although the reality is ... both complicated and controversial. An example of a proportional system is traditional tithing.

The JCA's previous Fair Share structure was almost perfectly proportional on paper (i.e., 1.4 percent, plus a very small fixed amount), although the reality was becoming somewhat messy over time because of the annual renewal process. The revised Fair Share structure is by necessity much "lumpier" with regard to its implicit rates since the number of brackets has been vastly streamlined.

In the accompanying chart, I've calculated the implicit percentage of income that dues represent for an income range of \$25,000 to \$185,000. (Although the highest dues category begins at \$160,000 with no further dues increases after that, we have only a few families in that income bracket, and they often give even more through the Annual Campaign.) As shown in the chart, being at the lower end of a bracket results in a higher percentage of income. But across the entire chart, the variation in the percentage of income is fairly small ... except for those paying only \$180 for incomes under \$40,000.

This is exactly as it should be, and

shows that we do indeed get it: we want the JCA to be as inclusive as possible, and therefore we have structured our Fair Share system so that our dues represent the least burden in percentage terms upon income for those with the least income.

But as a membership-based Jewish congregation, we still do need our members to pay for their memberships. During the month of May, we will have to revisit our membership rolls to see who has actually committed to paying for their memberships, and during June (tied to the automatic withdrawal schedules for many members), we will have to revisit our membership rolls to see who has actually been paying for their memberships.

If even the \$180 amount (or \$18 per month over ten months) is overly burdensome, then I urge you to contact Rabbi Weiner, who has a discretionary fund at his disposal. What does Rabbi Weiner do with his discretionary fund? I don't know. Not only is at his discretion, but it is a separate checking account, which neither I nor anyone else at the JCA ever sees. But I suspect that anyone who has trouble affording \$180 in JCA dues has even more pressing additional financial concerns with even more immediate ramifications. So

to help with both JCA dues and other financial needs, we maintain a discretionary fund for our Rabbi to provide assistance in complete confidentiality. (I've said it before, but I'll say it yet again: yes, we get it.)

Until my next column – or at any other time too – you can always reach me with any questions or concerns at: [Treasurer@J-C-A.org](mailto:Treasurer@J-C-A.org)

Income	Dues	%
\$25,000	\$180	0.7%
\$35,000	\$180	0.5%
\$45,000	\$1,000	2.2%
\$55,000	\$1,000	1.8%
\$65,000	\$1,000	1.5%
\$75,000	\$1,000	1.3%
\$85,000	\$1,500	1.8%
\$95,000	\$1,500	1.6%
\$105,000	\$1,500	1.4%
\$115,000	\$1,500	1.3%
\$125,000	\$2,000	1.6%
\$135,000	\$2,000	1.5%
\$145,000	\$2,000	1.4%
\$155,000	\$2,000	1.3%
\$165,000	\$2,500	1.5%
\$175,000	\$2,500	1.4%
\$185,000	\$2,500	1.4%



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# Camp Shemesh



## Registration is still open!

Camp sessions run June 30 through August 8. Financial aid available. Contact [shemeshdirector@gmail.com](mailto:shemeshdirector@gmail.com) or visit [www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html](http://www.j-c-a.org/shemesh.html) for more information. Camp Shemesh is a program of the Jewish Community of Amherst.

Experienced staff, a nurturing Jewish environment, inclusive community, earth stewardship, gardening, crafts, field trips, swimming in the Amherst College pool, music and more! Lunch and snack provided, featuring organic, non-GMO food.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 8  
3rd Annual We Be Jammin'  
Family Camp Kick-Off!

Pick berries, eat berry treats, play games, schmooze with other camp families and meet this year's summer staff!

Register at  
[www.shemeshdays2014.eventbrite.com](http://www.shemeshdays2014.eventbrite.com)



## Newsletter Advertising Rates

Business Card - 2 x 3.5

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 40.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 300.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 33.75	\$ 27.27
JCA Member	\$ 32.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 242.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 27.50	\$ 22.00

¼ Sheet - 3.5 x 4.75

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 68.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 515.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 56.25	\$ 46.81
JCA Member	\$ 54.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 420.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 45.00	\$ 38.18

½ Sheet - 4.75 x 7

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 124.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 955.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 105.00	\$ 86.81
JCA Member	\$ 100.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 680.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 85.00	\$ 61.82

Full Sheet - 7 x 9.5

	1 issue	4 issues	11 issues
Non-Member	\$ 225.00	\$ 755.00	\$ 1750.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 188.75	\$ 159.09
JCA Member	\$ 180.00	\$ 605.00	\$ 1390.00
<i>rate per issue</i>		\$ 151.25	\$ 126.36



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## Donations

### Adult Ed

Thank you for great yoga on Shabbat and programs (Amy & Jeffrey Kalman)  
Hadar Grabel  
Barbara Burkart  
Frieda Howards  
Saralee Hofrichter

### Chesed

Jane Trigere & Ken Schoen

### General Fund

In memory of Neoma Berger (Patrice Miller)  
In memory of Neoma Berger (Joan & Jim Edzwald)  
Congratulations to Barbara & Normand Berlin on the birth of their granddaughter, GALI (Susan Myers)  
Congratulations to David Berlin on his appointment as Executive Director of The NY City Athletic Commission (Susan Myers)  
Congratulations to Adam Berlin on his appointment to full professor at John Jay College (Susan Myers)  
In loving memory of my sister-in-law, Neoma Berger (Paul Berger)  
On the occasion of my brother Leonard Smith's Yahrzeit (Howard Smith)

### Music, Arts & Culture

In memory of Angela Fina (Yaffa & Haim Gunner)

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In memory of Neoma Berger (Jeanne & Robert Potash)  
In memory of Neoma Berger (Yaffa & Haim Gunner)  
In memory of Anne Bregman (Marcia & Sheldon Goldman)

## Condolences

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

**Neoma Berger**, mother of Susan Atkins, Paul Berger and David Berger and mother-in-law of Peter Atkins and grandmother of Zachary Atkins and his wife Emily.

**Marjorie (Maggie) Silver**, mother of Jim Levine, mother in-law of Cheryl Campbell, and grandmother to Jeremy and Maya Levine.

**Anne Bregman**, mother of JCA member Sheldon Goldman, Emanuel Goldman, and Martin Goldman, and mother-in-law of Marcia Goldman and Naomi Weinshenker,

### Ritual Life Committee

Hilda & Louis Greenbaum

### Second Seder Meals

Lori Holder-Webb & Jeff Cohen  
Kitty & Ken Talan  
Seth Kupferschmid & Mika Inoue  
Deborah Neubauer & Doug Donnell  
Madeline Berkowitz  
Airle & Josh Rose

### Scholar-in Residence

Judy Glaser & Robert Stern  
In honor of Zamir Chorus (Ruth Smith)  
Rona Chayah Conrad  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Anonymous)  
Kayla Werlin  
Kitty & Ken Talan  
In honor of Jemma Greenbaum (Hilda and Louis Greenbaum)  
In memory of Jules Wiener (Judith Souweine)  
In memory of Jonathan Souweine (Barbara & Ted Slovin)  
In honor of Diana Brewer (Catherine Madsen)  
In honor of the Scholar in Residence Committee (Joseph Boucher)  
In honor of the JCA Leyners (Sarah Thomson)  
In honor of Rabbi Weiner (Randi Stein)

### Summer Camp Fund

Rebecca Rogovin & Johanna Hammer  
Sara & Diana Brewer

and grandmother of Ellen Goldman, Jeremy Goldman, Sara Goldman Curley, Regina Goldman, Jay Goldman, Addisa Goldman, Teddy Goldman, Lila Goldman, and the late Tamara Jane Goldman, and great grandmother of Raymond Koehler, William Koehler, Judah Goldman, and Jordan Goldman.

**Judd Blain**, father of Peter Blain, father-in-law of Lisa and grandfather of Lily, Saul and Seth.

**Marion Sulsky**, mother of Sandy Sulsky, mother-in-law of Eric Bittman and grandmother of Sarah and Rachel Bittman, mother of Deborah Sulsky, mother-in-law of Steven, mother of Stan Sulsky and grandmother of Ben.

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, or through the JCA office, if you would like a visit.

### ***JCA Hall Gallery***

Beginning May 1st, **Margaret Jean** will be our exhibitor for May, June and July.

#### **EXPLORATIONS My backyard and the great spaces of the American Southwest**

Artist **Margaret Jean** will show two very different landscapes at the Jewish Community of Amherst. Her focus is on pen drawings, journal entries and small watercolors that culminate with examples of finished paintings.

### ***The Deadline for the June/July Newsletter is May 12th***

All submissions MUST be made either by e-mail or e-mail with a file attached.

If you do not have access to a computer or email, please contact the editor.

**PLEASE RESPECT THE DEADLINE!**

Thank you, Aaron Bousel,  
news@j-c-a.org 253-3544

### ***JCA Administrative Director Job Opening***

The JCA is looking for a full-time Administrative Director. This person will serve as the central administrator of the congregation, and is responsible for all day-to-day operations necessary to support the programs and staff of the JCA. This full-time job includes supervision of the office and administrative staff; maintenance and oversight of the buildings and grounds; management of the financial and business affairs of the congregation; and administrative support of the Rabbi, the Director of Life-Long Learning, the Committees, and the Board. The Administrative Director is the person through whom all of the synagogue's activities and programs are arranged and coordinated. For full description and information about how to apply, please go to <http://j-c-a.org/admin-job.pdf>.



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Contact: Ellen Kaufman 413.230.3828

email: [elroyek@gmail.com](mailto:elroyek@gmail.com)

(garden designer for the JCA gardens)

## Community Announcements

### **Gan Keshet Pre-School**

Accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year: Gan Keshet Jewish Community Preschool, offers a rich, stimulating play-based indoor/outdoor learning environment. Families partner with us as we introduce our children to the Jewish community and its values. We offer an integrated curriculum with emphasis on social/emotional growth; indoor/outdoor-discovery oriented opportunities; flexible schedules: part/full day options until 5:15 p.m., Gardening and a Summer Program. Remember to ask us about the HGF PIP and/or the HGF Right Start Grant and how you may qualify to receive from \$1000 up to \$2000 towards your child's tuition. For additional information about our preschool program and/or to arrange a visit, please contact our Director, Wendy Stein at 584-3593 x204.

### **Meditation Group**

Thursday Morning "Lecha Dumiyah Tehillah"\* Meditation Group  
Every Thursday in the CBI Library,  
from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Led by Rabbi Nancy Flam

Please know this is not an instructional group. Rather, each of us comes with our own silent meditation or prayer practice and draws strength and affirmation for our deep, inner work by being together in community.

- Arrive & Settling In:  
8:00 – 8:15 a.m.
- Setting of Kavvanah/Teaching:  
8:15 – 8:25 a.m.
- Bell to begin silent meditation:  
8:25 a.m.
- Bell to end silent meditation:  
8:55 a.m.

\* "To You silence is praise."  
Psalm 65:2

### **Furnished Room Needed**

Furnished room wanted by my mother, a retired professor, for July and August 2014,\* located in the Amherst, Pelham, Hadley area, with private bathroom, kitchen privileges, television, use of washer/dryer, parking space for her car, non-smoker, no pets.

Please call Rachel or Gary, JCA members, evenings until 8:30 p.m., or on the weekends, or leave a message with your name and phone number at: 978-407-4806, or Email at: [rasr86@mac.com](mailto:rasr86@mac.com).

### **Are You Renting A Room?**

I am a member of J.C.A. and a semi-retired professional, a writer, looking to move to Amherst, or the nearby area.

I'm a quiet person, a proud dad of a grown up son - and am able and willing to help if you have needs around the house.

You can reach me by phone at: (413) 634-5330, or by email at:  
[nathanabraham58@gmail.com](mailto:nathanabraham58@gmail.com)  
Many references available.

Community announcements should be brief and of interest to the local Jewish community. Announcements will be listed as space permits.

(413) 253-5384

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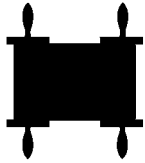
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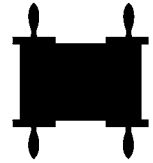
413-218-7815  
800 Main St., Amherst, MA  
[pmbousel@comcast.net](mailto:pmbousel@comcast.net)



# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST

## May 2014

1 Iyar ~ 2 Sivan 5774



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1 IYAR ✠ Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2	2 2 IYAR 7:33 5:30 pm Intergenerational Family Service and concurrent Tot Shabbat followed by potluck supper	3 3 IYAR ✠ Emor 10:00 am Regular Shabbat Services in main sanctuary <b>Bat Mitzvah:</b> Lily Harris
4 4 IYAR <b>Community Mitzvah Day (See page 9)</b> 1:00 pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class	5 5 IYAR ✠ Yom Hazikaron	6 6 IYAR ✠ Yom Ha'atzma'ut 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	7 7 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn 4:00 pm <b>Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration (See page 11)</b>	8 8 IYAR 7:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm School Committee	9 9 IYAR 7:40 12 noon Adult Ed Committee 6:15 pm Musical Shabbat	10 10 IYAR ✠ Behar 9:15 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services 1:00 pm The Making of a Mahzor-Rabbi Ed Feld (see page 10)
11 11 IYAR 10:15 am In God's Image Parent Support Group	12 12 IYAR	13 13 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	14 14 IYAR ✠ Pesach Sheini 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn 7:00 pm Education Committee 7:30 pm Ritual Life Committee	15 15 IYAR	16 16 IYAR 7:48 6:15 pm Farbrengen Friday	17 17 IYAR ✠ Bechukosai 9:15 am L'Chaim Qigong 10:00 am Shabbat Services <b>Bar Mitzvah:</b> Ezekiel Ash
18 18 IYAR ✠ Lag BaOmer Last Day of JCA School	19 19 IYAR	20 20 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	21 21 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b>	22 22 IYAR	23 23 IYAR 7:55 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	24 24 IYAR ✠ Bemidbar 9:15 am Shabbat Yoga 10:00 am Shabbat Services
25 25 IYAR	26 26 IYAR 🇺🇸 Memorial Day	27 27 IYAR 7:30 am Shacharit Minyan	28 28 IYAR ✠ Yom Yerushalayim 7:30 am Shacharit Meditation 12:15 pm Lunch and Learn	29 29 IYAR	30 1 SIVAN ✠ Rosh Chodesh Sivan 8:01 6:15 pm Shabbat Services	31 2 SIVAN ✠ Naso 10:00 am Shabbat Services <b>Bar Mitzvah:</b> Max Radin

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*May 4*

**Community Mitzvah Day (see page 9)**

*May 7*

**Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration (see page 11)**

*May 10*

**The Making of a Mahzor: Rabbi Ed Feld  
(see page 10)**

*May 21*

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

*June 3*

**Tikkun Leyl Shavuot**