



Jewish Community of Amherst

Kolot — JCA Voices | May 2019 | Nisan – Iyar 5779



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Dear Friends,

On a Sunday morning, last month, we held a special community forum to discuss “security.” How best to keep us safe in our building is something the lay leadership has been considering for a while, though the process certainly ramped up quite a bit following the atrocity at the Tree of Life synagogue in the fall. At this particular meeting, we heard about a number of upgrades that have already been implemented, some that are currently in development, and others that we may or may not choose to adopt in the

future. More importantly, we had a chance to speak our minds and our hearts to each other on this very sensitive topic.

Those who attended expressed surprise that there wasn't a better showing and were not sure exactly how to interpret the fact that participation was so light. Are most people feeling secure enough that coming to a special meeting seemed superfluous? Was the meeting scheduled for an inconvenient time? Is this another in the list of topics that make us sufficiently uncomfortable so as to fall prey, whether consciously or otherwise, to emotional aversion?

In any case, I would say to those who weren't there that you missed two opportunities, though I promise I offer this without recrimination!

The first was the chance to process a challenge in community. Perhaps, on first blush, you don't consider this something you should lament. But I'm coming to find more and more power in the opportunity to hold difficult discussions with people that I care about—to hear feelings I hold inside voiced by others and to argue, respectfully, when I have a different idea. I think when a community shares experiences like this it draws closer together. In this case, I found it important to hear just how impacted some people were by the premonition of a synagogue as a vulnerable place—how much this played upon their sense of collective Jewish trauma—even as I did my best to caution that we hold our current circumstances in proper perspective, and respond accordingly. I consider both of these capacities—compassionate listening and principled advocacy—to be core to my responsibilities as a rabbi.

The other thing you may have missed was the excellent strategy the board proposed for “turning a necessity into a virtue.” If, indeed, the time has come to pay more attention to who is in our building, that this need not be done simply in the aspect of suspicion but can also be the springboard for offering our visitors—to say nothing of our regulars—a greater sense of welcome. The main proposal, coming out of this notion of becoming a more “safe and welcoming community” was the plan to institute a regular rotation of trained greeters to be present at all significant events. More information about this will be forthcoming. I sincerely hope you find a way to play a part!

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@jcamherst.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. For more information about Adult Education classes, please go to: <https://jcamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/adult-ed-2019-01.pdf>

May 1, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

May 2, Thursday

YIDDISH LEYNER'S GROUP

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

We welcome anyone who enjoys reading Yiddish to join us.

YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) COMMEMORATION AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The JCA is joining with Congregation B'nai Israel, 253 Prospect Street in Northampton, to commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). On this evening Henny Lewin will be presented with the Oyneg Shabbes Award for Holocaust Education.

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.

May 5, Sunday

MITZVAH DAY

9:30 am

Community Breakfast and Better Together Presentation

10:00 am

Mitzvah Day Projects on and off-site. All projects end by 1:00 pm.

Sign up for a Mitzvah Day project at <http://jcamherst.org/mitzvah-day>.

Better Together & Intergenerational Lunch participants will join Mitzvah Day projects today.



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

May 5, Sunday

INTERGENERATIONAL BREAKFAST

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

People of all faiths are invited to join Jewish Community of Amherst teens for our monthly intergenerational lunch, only this week it will be a breakfast! This is a program for teens and senior citizens to come together and form meaningful relationships. On this, our last week for the school year, we will be participating in Mitzvah Day! We invite you to sign up for a Mitzvah Project when you arrive so you can partner with a teen. We start at 9:30 am with breakfast and a presentation sharing our intergenerational program with the JCA community. At 10:00 am we will join Mitzvah Projects. All projects end by 1:00 pm.

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH CLASS

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Adult Education Class. Registration is required.

May 8, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

May 9, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

May 15, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

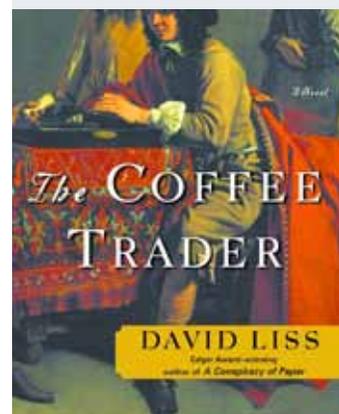
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

GREATEST HITS OF THE TALMUD WITH RABBI DEVORAH JACOBSON

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

End your day with a taste of Talmud! In this class, we will encounter some of the most fascinating discussions of the ancient sages as recorded on various pages of the Babylonian Talmud. Join us in exploring these different “gems” of the Talmud and attempting to wrestle with their meanings in their time and in our own. This class is for beginners and beyond, seekers, and lovers of Jewish learning! No prior experience with Talmud study is needed. Registration is required. See the Adult Education Brochure for more information.

<https://jcamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/adult-ed-2019-01.pdf>



Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

May 15, Wednesday

ISRAEL AND BEYOND: CULTURE CELEBRATION!

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts along with the JCA World Jewish Concerns Committee will be presenting an Israeli cooking event with Partnership2Gether Israel emissaries at the JCA. The World Jewish Concerns Committee is very excited about hosting this event. Children are welcome. The Israeli emissaries will spend the evening cooking fresh food and introducing themselves and the story behind their special dishes. There will be music and participants will have an opportunity to taste starters, mains and desserts while singing and dancing. Admission is free.

For dinner, please RSVP by May 8 at 413-253-0160 ext. 107

May 16, Thursday

ADULT READING GROUP

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

The 4th meeting of the JCA ARG will be on May 16 in the JCA library at 7:00 pm (note earlier time than usual). The book is *The Coffee Trader* by David Liss. It has been described as about “the survival (and even the flourishing) of a small but vibrant Jewish community in Amsterdam and their involvement in the developing commodity's market in the 1600s - a time when these people were unwelcome in many other cities in Western Europe. A highly recommended read - both for its historical descriptions and for its strong storyline”. JCA book group first timers, and old timers, are welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 413-896-3372.

May 22, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

GREATEST HITS OF THE TALMUD WITH RABBI DEVORAH JACOBSON

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

May 23, Thursday

JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP

7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

May 29, Wednesday

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

GREATEST HITS OF THE TALMUD WITH RABBI DEVORAH JACOBSON

6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 1, Wednesday

50th Anniversary
Committee
10:30 am

May 2, Thursday

Board Meeting
7:00 pm

May 3, Friday

Adult Education
Committee
12:15 pm

May 8, Wednesday

Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

May 10, Friday

Adult Education
Committee
12:15 pm

May 13, Monday

Building & Grounds
Committee
4:00 pm

May 16, Thursday

Executive Committee
7:00 pm

May 31, Friday

Adult Education
Committee
12:15 pm

Our Community

The JCA is going on a trip to Israel led by Rabbi Benjamin Weiner! The dates are March 6-16, 2020. Our plans are preliminary right now but, in addition to visiting the classic religious and historical sites, we will venture off the beaten path to explore Israel's agriculture and environmental issues and learn about its groundbreaking water technology. We will keep the community posted on further details. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is offering a \$1,500 grant to each individual, adult or child, going on a guided trip to Israel. You can contact Karen Loeb at kloeb@comcast.net or Richard Cohen at ra_cohen@msn.com for general questions.

Condolences

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

Howard Mentin, husband of Ellen, father of Emily, father-in-law of Dwayne and grandfather of Zion, brother of Nina and her husband Steven, and uncle of Jesse, Simone, Isaac, Kristin, Brooke, Ru, Nolan and Rosie

Albert Geller, husband of Norma Geller, father of Robin Diamond, Howard, David and Daniel Geller, father-in-law of Ted Diamond and Grampy to Jillian, Spencer and Jordan Diamond

Guitta Blau, mother of Hannah Blau, wife of Monte Blau, mother of Saul and his wife, Melanie, and son, Cory

Rose Foster, mother of Bob Weitzman, mother-in-law of Hollie, mother/stepmother to Deborah, Peter, Andy, Mitch & Debbie, grandmother and great grandmother to numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren

Mazal Tov to May Bar Mitzvah Levi Hahn

Levi Daniel Hahn will be called to the Torah on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on May 4, the 29th day of Nisan, 5779. He will read from parshat Acharei Mot, maftir 16:31-34. Levi is the son of Harry and Mara Hahn and the brother of Eden. He currently attends Amherst Regional Middle School. His favorite subjects are science and Latin. He loves to play soccer, rock climb, cycle and ski. Levi attended the JCA School since pre-school and Camp Shemesh for seven years. Levi has worked hard with his tutor, Rabbi Efraim Eisen and would like to thank him for all of his support and encouragement.



Seeking Your News

We would like to hear from you! Please send us your good news or 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@jcamherst.org.

Joining the Jewish Community of Amherst

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the JCA, or you are ready to receive membership application materials, please contact Ann Wetherbee, Administrative Director, at 413-256-0160 or amindir@jcamherst.org. Shalom, and welcome!

Message from JCA President



"Welcoming and Safe" is what we all want the JCA to be. It is a place of sanctuary, a place where we all come to feel safe. Our board of directors has taken on the important task of evaluating what the JCA needs to do to accomplish this. We are not a large inner-city synagogue; we are a quiet place where many people like to come and enjoy the beauty and spiritual nature of the Jewish Reconstructionist lifestyle.

On March 30, we held a Safe and Welcoming community forum in which we explained the steps we have taken to date, the steps we are about to take, and what we are considering for the long term.

While recognizing that an event is highly unlikely, I think all who were present felt that their concerns were heard, and that we all understood this is a complicated and sensitive issue and decision-making process. We are trying to strike a balance between being welcoming and making sure all who enter feel secure. To that end, we have taken the following steps:

- The safety of our building has been assessed by the Amherst Police Department.
- New emergency exits signs have been installed.
- Amherst police have increased their presence and patrols during significant events.
- We have held two safety based "ALICE" trainings and will be holding more in the future.
- Ann Wetherbee, our Administrative Director, has done a great job handling this issue and she is going to additional trainings as needed.
- All employees undergo CORI and SORI checks.
- Parents are present with children at all events and field trips.
- We now have a text notification system if we need to shut the building down for any reason.
- We have an interior walkie-talkie system.
- There is at least one person in the sanctuary with an active cell phone during all services.
- Shades have been installed on all exterior windows.
- At all major functions, there will be trained greeters so we can know who is coming in and out of our building.
- We will keep the door locked in the evenings during regular meeting times, and all committees and other groups using the building will be responsible for letting in those attending.
- We are working with the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts to obtain security training sessions and grants, and to share our concerns with other congregations in the Pioneer Valley.
- We have redone the front doorbell system so it can now be heard throughout the building.
- We will be installing exterior cameras with motion detectors.
- We are looking into how to install an emergency button with a direct line to the Amherst Police.
- We are looking at the installation of an intercom/buzzer front door entry system.
- We are considering putting MYLAR coating on the glass at the front entrance to make it more bullet and shatterproof.
- We are redoing the parking lot lighting.

We want to assure you that the board of directors, with assistance from staff, will continually assess our safety measures to make sure that they are effective. Feel free to contact any JCA board member with your concerns. We appreciate your patience and support during this complicated, important and necessary process.

b'shalom, Eric Weiss

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes



Shabbat Aḥarei Mot, Leviticus 16:1-18:30

May 3, Friday

FAMILY FRIDAY

5:30 pm

A monthly community Shabbat celebration appropriate for all ages

May 4, Saturday

RENEWAL SERVICE

10:00 am in the small sanctuary

Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Bar Mitzvah: Levi Hahn

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Levi Hahn

Shabbat Kedoshim, Leviticus 19:1-20:27

May 10, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Richard Cohen, Eliza Gouverneur, and Danielle Kadinoff (guitar)

May 11, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

8:45 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Batya Perman, in honor of her 70th birthday

Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

May 17, Friday

SHABBAT NE'IMAH

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner, Ḥazzan Diana Brewer, & the JCA Shabbat Ne'imah Band

Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors

May 4

Mara and Harry Hahn in honor of their son Levi becoming Bar Mitzvah

May 11

The family of Batya Perman in celebration of her 70th birthday

May 18

Marilyn and Joe Kushick in honor of Marilyn becoming Bat Mitzvah.

If you would like to help with or sponsor a kiddush, please contact Ann Wetherbee, our Administrative Director, at admindir@jcamherst.org



Check the JCA website at: <https://jcamherst.org/calendar/month/> for updated information on services.

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

May 18, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Adult Bat Mitzvah: Marilyn Kushick

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Marilyn Kushick

Shabbat Behar, Leviticus 25:1-26:2

May 24, Friday

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm

Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer, Randi Stein, and Danielle Kadinoff (guitar)

May 25, Saturday

SHABBAT YOGA

8:45 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Randi Stein and Marty Pepper Aisenberg

D'var Torah: To be announced

Shabbat Behukotai, Leviticus 26:3-27:34

May 31, Friday

SHABBAT SERVICES

6:15 pm

Service leader: Rabbi Weiner

June 1, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

10:00 am

Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Candle Lighting

May 3 ~ 7:32 pm

May 10 ~ 7:39 pm

May 17 ~ 7:47 pm

May 24 ~ 7:53 pm

May 31 ~ 7:59 pm

Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

Yom HaShoah

May 2, Thursday

See page 3 for program information.

Rosh Hodesh Iyar

May 5/6, Sunday/Monday

Lag B'Omer

May 23, Thursday

Shaharit Minyan

Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

Torah Reading Coordination

If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Judith Loischild, 413-303-9434, jloischildrn@gmail.com 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, 413-549-4853, 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:

- Torah/Haftarah readers: Aaron Bousel, Hazzan Diana Brewer, Julia Edgerly, Richard Fein, Sam Gladstone, Hadar Grabel, Catherine Madsen, Linda McConnell, Jane Myers, Elissa Rubinstein, Randi Stein, Jevera Temsky
- Service leaders: Ruth Love Barer and Randi Stein, Hazzan Diana Brewer, Danielle Kadinoff, Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley
- D'var Torah: Julia Edgerly
- Musicians: JCA Shabbat Ne'imah Band



CAMP SHEMESH REGISTRATION

Rates as low as \$290/week!

Space is limited, so please sign up soon to reserve your preferred week/s.
Learn more about Camp Shemesh and register at <https://jcamherst.org/camp>



Meet the 2019 Camp Shemesh Staff - part 2!



Mimi Goodman, *Grade 2 Head Counselor*

Mimi recently graduated from UMass Amherst with a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance. Mimi enjoys running, cooking, word games, and making art of various kinds. Their friends are important to them, as are cats, music, and coffee. If they had to pick a favorite book series, it would probably be Harry Potter, but they have many favorite books. They are excited to return to Camp Shemesh this summer!



Miles Hammerle, *Sports Specialist*

Miles is a student at Amherst Regional High School. His favorite hobbies include playing with his dog, going on nature walks, programming, and foraging. A book he recommends is *Cain* by José Saramago. Three things he can't live without are his dog, trees, and ice cream. This summer Miles is looking forward to having fun outside doing sports with campers!



Seth Blain, *Sports Specialist*

Seth is a student at Deerfield Academy. He teaches Spanish to 3rd graders once a week at Deerfield Elementary School. He enjoys playing soccer, reading, video games, hiking - and Gaga! A book he recommends is *The Martian* by Andy Weir. Seth is looking forward to coming up with fun activities to do during the sports unit that keep campers engaged and active.



Josh Strassman, *Grade 5/6 Head Counselor*

Josh is originally from Seattle, Washington and moved to Amherst to study history and political science at UMass. He has worked in various types of Jewish summer camps and is the Grade 4/5 teacher this year for JCA Keshet. He has a love and appreciation for the different ways people relate to Judaism. He loves sports of all kinds (huge fan of the Seattle Mariners) and is super excited to work with our campers!



Maddy Fordham, *Nature Specialist*

Maddie is a student at the University of Rochester, double majoring in American Sign Language and Theater. She enjoys singing, reading, knitting, Quidditch, and a good pair of sneakers! She admires Malala Yousafzai and says, "I've always thought of my education as a right, not a privilege, and her story reminds me that that's not true for girls in many parts of the world." Maddy loved going to Shemesh as a camper and can't wait to come back as a counselor!

School Calendar

May 1, Wednesday

FAMILY YOM HASHOAH

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Programs for all ages and community dinner

May 2, Thursday

JCA BAKERY

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Come when you can and stay as long as you want!

All JCA households are invited to braid and bake challah & chocolate babka in our wood fired clay oven. Loaves are for sale to the community and all proceeds go to JCA Keshet Tzedakah Fund. <https://jcamherst.org/bakery>.

May 3, Friday

FAMILY FRIDAY

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

A community Shabbat celebration appropriate for all ages from tots to grandparents - Tots enjoy music, stories, puppets and more with Felicia Slein - Torah study with Rabbi Weiner for older children, teens, and adults. All come together for a meal. All are welcome!

Parent/Guardian attendance is required.

May 4, Saturday

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: BAR MITZVAH OF LEVI HAHN

10:00 am

Kiddush sponsored by the Hahn family in honor of Levi's Bar Mitzvah

May 5, Sunday

MITZVAH DAY

9:30 am

Community Breakfast and Better Together Presentation

10:00 am

Mitzvah Day Projects on and off-site. All projects end by 1:00 pm.

Sign up for a Mitzvah Day project at jcamherst.org/mitzvah-day.

Better Together & Intergenerational Lunch participants will join Mitzvah Day projects today.

JCA Family Shabbaton at Camp Ramah

May 24 – 27

Friday – Monday

Join us for a ruach filled experience at JCA Family Camp 2019! Arts, sports and nature workshops will be led by top quality instructors, enjoy numerous camp activities, Jewish learning, family programming, excellent childcare, and more! View the FLYER (<https://jcamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ramah-2019.pdf>) or email kerenrhodes@jcamherst.org for more info.

For updates and complete school calendar listings go to:

<https://jcamherst.org/calendar/category/youthcalendar/>

Spotlight on Committees

Chesed Committee

Thank You, Volunteers!

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

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

Allusion

Artist: Rita Edelman

Exhibition Dates: May 2 - July 26, 2019

Receptions: Thursday, May 2, 5-8 pm & Thursday, June 6, 5-8 pm

This project was important to me. I wanted to keep a memory of what I had seen. I had become spellbound by a building I saw on a trip. I decided to try a drawing of the building, using silverpoint for the medium. Working with silverpoint is very much the way I use paint. All my art seems to be involved with symbols. My plan is to free the image from its previous association. I like to think I set in motion a creative process that the spectator must complete. My work suggests rather than defines. I make layer on layer of marks... a web, if you will. I use marks to convey the ineffable.

Tikkun Olam Committee

Annual JCA Stop And Shop Food Drive

Thursday, May 16, Friday May 17, and Sunday May 19

The JCA has shown a deep commitment to local food justice this year - better than halfway towards our goal of 5,779 lbs. in the first six months of 5779! Please consider joining our marquee spring effort. Volunteers are needed for 2 hour shifts. Food is collected to help stock the Amherst Survival Center's Food Pantry - a vital food resource in our community. This is a great (and easy, fun) Tzedakah project for individuals and families, guaranteed to be productive and appreciated (we collect thousands of pounds of food for the Survival Center pantry). Questions? Contact Harry Hahn at hmlh33@gmail.com

To volunteer, please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094EA8AE2AA1FA7-2019>

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.

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.

Donations to the JCA

Adult Education

Linda Mondschein
Sam Gladstone
Ina Porth
Sylvia Hickman
Eliezer Huber
David Rabinovitz
Caryn Markson
Daniel Berlin
Ruth Love Barer
Dale Schwarz
Shelly Gottsegen
Danielle Kadinoff
Kol Goodstein
Stephanie Osman
Elissa Rubinstein
Sallie Deans Lake

Chesed

In memory of Robin Diamond's father,
Albert Geller (Reed & Arnie Alper)
In appreciation of Chesed, Karen Loeb
& Judith Souweine for their delicious
meals during my recent illness
(Charlotte Schwab)

General Fund

In honor of Randi Stein's wonderful Alef
Bet Book (Ken Schoen)
In honor of Diana Brewer
(Frieda Howards)
In honor of Susan & Marty Pepper
Aisenberg's 23rd Anniversary
(Frieda Howards)
In memory of Adele Sandler
(Stephanie Sandler)
In memory of Hilda Frank
(Stephanie Sandler)
William Dauster
In memory of Howard Mentin
(Katherine Morin)
In memory of Howard Mentin
(Peter Vincent)

In memory of Howard Mentin
(Beverly Blatt)
In memory of Howard Mentin
(Laura Cohen)
In memory of Howard Mentin
(Judy & Allen Davis)
In memory of Howard Mentin
(Saralee Hofichter)
In memory of Howard Mentin
(The Navy Family, The Kakower Family,
The Berman Family, The Sigmund
Family)
In memory of Howie Mentin
(Barbara & Michael Burkart)
In memory of Howard Mentin, father of
friend Emily Mentin-Chamble
(Patricia Riggs)
In memory of Robin Diamond's father
and in appreciation for all that his
daughter does for our congregation
(Judy & Allen Davis)
In memory of my brother Leonard
(Howard Smith)
In honor of Diana Brewer's ordination
(Ruth & Howard Smith)
Nina Sossen
In memory of Ruth Slovin, mother of
Fern & Ted Slovin
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In memory of Howard Mentin, husband
of Ellen Mentin & father of Emily
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In memory of Albert Geller, father of
Robin Diamond (Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In memory of Guitta Blau, mother of
Hannah Blau (Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In memory of Tom Plaut, father of
Rebecca Mautner & David Plaut
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In honor of Hazzan Diana Brewer
(Barbara & Ted Slovin)
In memory of Albert Geller, father of
Robin Diamond (April Mastrangelo)
In memory of Albert Geller, father of
Robin Diamond (Susan Zarchin)

Holiday Meals Donation

Barbara & Ted Slovin
Mila & Woody Sherman
Ken Bernstein

Project Rehovot

In memory of Harold Turobiner
(Marilyn & Joe Kushick)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Diana Brewer's ordination
(Jaymie & Michael Chernoff)
In honor of Batya Perman's birthday
(Rachel & Robert Vigderman & their
children)
In honor of Hadar Gabel (Eli Porth)
In appreciation of Rabbi Weiner for his
caring (Charlotte Schwab)
In memory of David Stein
(Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Robin Diamond's father,
Albert Geller (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of my parents, Morris &
Peppy Barer (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of my grandparents, Abraham
& Minnie Dubroff (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Bob Weitzman's mother,
Rose Foster (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Hannah Blau's mother,
Guitta Blau (Ruth Love Barer)
Ruth Love Barer
In memory of Hannah Blau's mother
Guitta (Reed & Arnie Alper)

Ne'imah Service Recording

Roslyn Heafitz
Ziva Harmatz

Tzedakah

In memory of Albert Geller, father of
Robin Diamond (Judith Souweine)

Looking for Summer Housing

Sarah Feldman, the school librarian at Gann Academy, the Jewish high school in Waltham, MA, is attending the educator summer seminar at the Yiddish Book Center from July 7-August 2, and she is wondering if she might be able to rent accommodation in an area within reasonable distance of Hampshire College where the YBC is located. She is thinking that if anyone in the JCA community is going away during that time, she could rent their home for that period - and will take good care of it! The accommodation does not have to be kosher. However, Sarah grew up orthodox and has a kosher kitchen, so can keep a home kosher if required. Sarah may be contacted at: sfeldman005@gmail.com or by cell phone at 845-625-8084.

Jewish Family Service Blossom Bash!

Thursday, May 16 at 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

RSVP by Monday, May 6

Join us for a fun evening of food, cocktails, and our very first Fund-A-Need event - a special auction that invites you to make a donation in support of specific JFS needs and programs. All bids are accepted as donations to JFS and are fully tax-deductible. Catering by Meital, open bar, and jazz piano with Jeff Bucs. Dietary laws observed. Location: The Barn at Quonquont Farm, 9 North Street in Whately. Tickets are \$50 per person available online at www.celebratejfs.org or call (413) 737-2601. All proceeds benefit JFS programs: New American Program including Refugee Resettlement; Citizenship; ESL Classes; Elder Guardianship; Aging in Place; Behavioral Health Services and Jewish Family Life.

Shavuot Retreat with Rabbi Shefa Gold

Friday, June 7 – Sunday, June 9

Wendell, MA

\$260 per person (includes meals). Limited to 25 Participants. To register, contact andiwaisman@gmail.com.

On our journey to liberation we each arrive at Sinai the Mountain of Revelation on our way to the Promised Land. Shavuot celebrates that moment where we can make ourselves available to the Spirit of Guidance and receive Torah, wisdom for the journey. In our mystical understanding of this day, it is the time when we come under the chuppah, the marriage canopy, and connect ourselves with God through Torah. Torah becomes our Ketubah, our marriage contract or covenant. On this contemplative, ecstatic, experiential retreat, we will each find our Torah, and take it into our own depths so that it can be a guiding force on the journey. The Shavuot Retreat site is unique. Located in the hills of western Massachusetts, on private land, retreatants will either commute or camp, and get to integrate the joys of this special rural location with their Shavuot experience. More Info on Rabbi Shefa: www.rabbishefagold.com

This event is supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

jca

Jewish Community of Amherst

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Rabbi Benjamin Weiner (rabbiweiner@jcamherst.org)

Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003 – 2010)
Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989 – 2002)
Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

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Just click on any email address to send a message. For further information and a full description of committees with contacts, please refer to your JCA Guidebook.

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Monday: Office Closed
Tuesday – Thursday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism

Kolot — JCA Voices

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<https://jcamherst.org/our-community/newsletter-kolot-jca-voices/>

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



Have you checked out the JCA Judaica Store lately?

The Judaica Store features books by JCA members and others, siddurim, chumashim, tallitot, mezzuzot and many lovely gift items.

You can shop whenever the office is open.