Devarim: Words from our Rabbi
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Highlights this Month

Memories and Music, September 15
Shabbat Ne'imah, September 20
Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on September 29
Dear JCA,

I want to use my space this month to give you a brief update on the accomplishments of the JCA’s “Green Team.” This working group was formed following the Jewish Climate Action Network’s conference in Boston, in late March, and has been working diligently ever since to raise the profile of climate and general ecological activism at the JCA. If you follow environmental news as closely as I do, then you no doubt are similarly aware of the urgency, and have probably also lost some of the same sleep...

First a big accomplishment! Thanks to the recommendation of a Green Team member, and the focused work of our administrative director, Ann Wetherbee, who is also a dedicated member of the team, the JCA now contracts with a composting company to keep our paper waste and food scraps out of the landfill, where they would only rot to no end and release additional methane into the atmosphere. When you attend kiddish and other functions in the social hall, you will find specialized bins devoted to the collecting of compost, as well as clear instructions for their use.

The ongoing work consists in theorizing and implementing significant reductions in the carbon footprint of the JCA’s physical plant. We have a fantastic mix of people on the team, including some real specialists in the fields of green building and retrofitting. Under their guidance we have set “getting to zero” as our aspirational goal, with the realizable, practical steps along the way consisting of improving our lighting and weatherization, working to diminish and eventually transition away from our use of natural gas for heating, and exploring options for the greening of our electricity.

We hope to inspire the community with this work, and, in fact, some members of the team are preparing publicity for a High Holidays awareness campaign, through which community members will be encouraged to take a variety of steps to address the climate and extinction crises in their own spheres of influence, spanning the range from personal choices to more impactful forms of political activism.

With regard to the later, I want to make sure you are aware of the major global demonstration, known as the “Climate Strike” that has been called for September 20th, just three days prior to the United Nations Climate Summit in New York. So much of the energy around this event, and climate activism in general these days, is youth led, and I believe we owe it to our children and grandchildren to show up and fight with them—and for their future!

I will send more info about this as it becomes available, and I also encourage you to look it up for yourself in the meantime.

b’shalom, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner
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.

September 4, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

September 5, Thursday
YIDDISS LEYNER’S GROUP
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
We welcome anyone who enjoys reading Yiddish to join us.

September 8, Sunday
ADULT B’NAI MITZVAH CLASS
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Adult Education Class, registration required.

September 9, Monday
LEARN TO CHANT TORAH WITH JANIS LEVY
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
This class is for those with familiarity with Hebrew pronunciation who can read aloud, however slowly. Neither text comprehension nor ability to read music is required. Adult Education class, registration required.

September 11, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

September 12, Thursday
ADULT READING GROUP
7:00 – 9:00 pm
For the first meeting of the 2019-2020 cycle of the JCA ARG, the book is Gateway to the Moon by Mary Morris. It has been described as follows in the Kirkus review: “A ..history of suffering and oppression, traced from the Spanish Inquisition to modern day New Mexico, is exposed through the generations of a single family. At its best, this historical novel achieves affecting poetic notes, (with) its vignettes illuminating one thread of the Jewish diaspora.” JCA Book Group first timers, and old timers, are welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 413-896-3372.
Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

September 15, Sunday
MEMORIES AND MUSIC
2:00 pm
For the opening event of our 50th anniversary year, Irving and Linda Seidman will discuss and read from Irv’s book, *The Jewish Community of Amherst: The Formative Years, 1969-1979*, with key stories from interviews with many of the founders. Following the talk, enjoy afternoon tea and a special concert by the JCA Klezmer Ensemble made up of JCA members and musicians from the local community.

September 16, Monday
LEARN TO CHANT TORAH WITH JANIS LEVY
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education class, registration required

September 18, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

September 19, Thursday
JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP
7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

September 23, Monday
LEARN TO CHANT TORAH WITH JANIS LEVY
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education class, registration required

September 24, Tuesday
HEALING ACROSS THE DIVIDES:
*Building Peace through Health in Israel and the Palestinian Territories*
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Join Dr. Norbert Goldfield, Northampton resident and founder of Healing Across the Divides (HATD), to learn about the inspiring and successful grassroots public health initiatives supported by HATD serving vulnerable populations in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Hear participants of Healing Across the Divides’ Study Tours to Israel and the Occupied Territories share their experiences. Sponsored by the JCA Tikkun Olam Committee.

September 25, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
JCA 50th Anniversary Events

50th ANNIVERSARY
1969 - 2019

CELEBRATING THE JCA!
SEPTEMBER 2019 - JUNE 2020

We are celebrating the founding of the Jewish Community of Amherst by offering programs and events highlighting the different aspects of our community that our founders considered so important, and that are our vibrancy and strength today: education, spirituality, culture, community activities and social action.

MEMORIES AND MUSIC
Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm
For the opening event of our anniversary year, Irving and Linda Seidman will discuss and read from Irv’s book, The Jewish Community of Amherst: The Formative Years, 1969-1979, with key stories from interviews with many of the founders. Following the talk, enjoy afternoon tea and a special concert by the JCA Klezmer Ensemble made up of JCA members and musicians from the local community with soulful clarinet, weeping fiddles, playful trombone, old-world accordion, thumping bass, driving percussion and Yiddish vocals.

CELEBRATE YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION
Friday, November 1, 2019 at 5:30 pm
The generations at the JCA will come together to honor and support our youth and family education with a Shabbat celebration of music, singing, puppets, storytelling, blessings and more. Enjoy a musical family jam with Felicia Sloin for young children, and an intergenerational Torah discussion with the rabbi for older children and adults. The programs are followed by a delicious community meal. Open to all.

JCA SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION
Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 10:00 am
A morning Shabbat service will honor JCA School alumni with a festive community kiddush luncheon to follow. RSVP Rachel Vigderman: rachelvig@comcast.net

COMMUNITY SHABBATON
Friday & Saturday, December 13/14, 2019
To celebrate the spiritual life of the JCA, we will come together for a musical Ne’imah service at 6:15 pm on Friday evening, followed by an oneg with discussion and singing after the meal. Our Shabbat morning service begins at 10:00 am. The d’var Torah will be given by Rabbi Deborah Waxman, noted scholar of Mordechai Kaplan’s writings and legacy, and current president of the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement. Kiddush lunch will follow with opportunities to explore the arc of Reconstructionist Judaism with Rabbi Waxman and Rabbi Weiner.
REMINISCING WITH THE RABBIS
Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 4:00 pm

This past summer, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner conducted wide-ranging interviews with two previous JCA spiritual leaders, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg (1989-2002) and Rabbi David Dunn Bauer (2003-2010). Both sessions were filmed and edited by JCA member and videographer, Jeff Weston. Come and watch these intriguing, profound and fun conversations, and enjoy a winter soup supper in between the showings.

AT HOME WITH OUR MUSICIANS
Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm

We are blessed to have members of the JCA with a wide range of skills, and some with professional experience, in the arts. Come and enjoy performances by our Shabbat Ne’imah Band, and other talented and exciting JCA musicians, for a wonderful evening of music at home.

MAK’HELA CELEBRATES THE JCA
Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Join us for a special concert offered by Mak’hela, Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts, in honor of their founders and Mak’hela alumni who are also JCA members. Enjoy their voices raised in song, and learn more about the vital role that the JCA had in the development of this group that has so much meaning for so many in our region. Suggested optional donation of $10 to be shared between Mak’hela and JCA. All are welcome.

ADULT STUDY CELEBRATION
Friday-Sunday, March 27-29, 2020

An integral part of the Jewish journey is learning in community. To taste of the richness of Jewish thought and experience, the Adult Education Committee has planned a variety of approaches for our celebratory weekend. Join us for Friday evening services, Shabbat morning with a d’var Torah by a guest scholar, followed by luncheon and havruta study, and continuing with a rich and varied day of learning on Sunday with a series of classes.

YOM HA’ATZMAUT PROGRAM
Sunday, April 26, 2020

The World Jewish Concerns Committee will present a program of Israeli songs and dances in celebration of Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. We will also hear from congregants about their recent trip to Israel where they learned about agricultural and environmental innovations in Israel. There will be Israeli refreshments prepared by Project Rehovot Catering Group.

MITZVAH DAY AND MONTH OF MAY
Sunday, May 3, 2020

The Tikkun Olam Committee always welcomes new and returning members. Our main goal of contributing to social justice locally and beyond is accomplished by creation of or participation in initiatives that help create a more just world. May 2020 will be a month where we celebrate and highlight the work of our Tikkun Olam Committee. We will kick off with our annual Mitzvah Day, in collaboration with Youth & Family Education, followed by our participation at the Gay Pride Parade. And, we will have more Tikkun Olam activities to join during the month of May.
COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY SHABBAT
Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10:00 am

The JCA has a long history of caring for each other at different times in our lives, and for those in need in the larger community. Join us for a special Shabbat morning service when we will honor members of the following committees who are fulfilling this mitzvah: Cemetery, Chesed, Chevra Kadisha, Project Rehovot, Shomerim, and Tikkun Olam. Stay after kiddush and talk with your fellow congregants to learn more about who is doing this compassionate work in our community, and why.

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Saturday, June 6, 2020

A gala is a large, lively, party usually celebrating something special, often involving music and dancing, and eating, of course, a fabulous dinner by Project Rehovot Catering. In other words, it’s our 50th Anniversary Grand Celebration. Come help launch us into the next 50 years with elegance, energy, and joy.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have some wonderful events happening throughout the year, and we are relying on each of you to make all this possible! There will be opportunities for you to sign up to help with one or more of these activities. More information will be made available via email, on our website, and in the lobby. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping with a particular program, just let us know by sending a message to anniversary@jcamherst.org. Let’s all come together to honor and celebrate the JCA.

50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR PLANNING

Barbara Berlin, Eliza Gouverneur, Mara Kahn Hahn, Janis Levy, Ina Porth, Jeff Roth-Howe, Stan Rosenberg, Connie Songer, and with thanks to Rabbi Benjamin Weiner, Administrative Director, Ann Wetherbee, and Director of Communal Life and Learning, Keren Rhodes.

The participation of a number of JCA committees and groups, as well as many individual members, is greatly appreciated. This celebratory year is being made possible by your encouragement, support, and hands-on assistance. Thank you.

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

לבחת macOS

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!
Our Community

The JCA is going on a trip to Israel led by Rabbi Benjamin Weiner! The dates are March 6-16, 2020. 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. 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. To see the itinerary, go to: https://jcamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Environment-Agriculture-tour-V3.pdf

Condolences

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

Barbara Earl Thomson, mother of JCA member Sarah Thomson. We offer our condolences to Sarah, Catherine Madsen and Joseph Boucher, her brother Gregg Thomson and his wife Maurilia Flores, and her sister Barbara M. Thomson.

Eli Kwartler, longtime JCA member and Third Vice-President of the current Board of Directors. We offer our condolences to his wife, Barbara Jenkins, and also to his son Jonathan and his wife Rochelle, his daughter Dianne Jensen, his stepdaughter Eve Jenkins and her husband John Monch, his grandchildren Megan Sher and her husband Adam, David Kwartler, Wesley Jensen, George Mock, Kevin Mock, and Elliot Davey. We also share our sympathies with Eli’s brother-in-law, James Benda, and his great-grandchildren: Eli, Noah, and Kevin Jr.

Mazal Tov to September Bat Mitzvah Isabelle Mondschein

Isabelle Micah Hanh Mondschein, daughter of Linda Mondschein and Warren Smith, and sister to Nathan Mondschein, Matthias Smith and Devan and PJ Tonelli, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on September 7, the 7th of Elul, 5779. She will be reading from Parashat Shoftim. Isabelle prepared joyously for her Bat Mitzvah this past year, and wishes to thank her tutor, Ruth Love Barer, for her expert guidance, Rabbi Weiner, and the JCA community. She counts her B’nai Mitzvah year with teacher, Joelle Simon, as extra special due to their engagement in the Prism Project, Better Together and Baking with Sam of Backyard Breads. Isabelle has been dancing with the Pioneer Valley Ballet for four years, playing the flute since first grade, and singing with various choral groups. She loves to ski, read, work with children, play music with Nathan, spend time with cousins, Noah and Ava, and her nephew Michael, and hang out with her friends. Isabelle cares deeply about the ethical treatment of all humanity, and continues to participate in a multitude of marches raising her voice in hopes of changing the negative into something positive.

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 admindir@jcamherst.org. Shalom, and welcome!
As we write this, we are concluding the observance of Tish’a B’Av, the saddest day of the Jewish year and reaching the end of the Dog Days of summer. Those days have lived up to their reputation. More mass shootings based on hatred and fear, immigrant children being separated from their parents en masse in Mississippi, hot days of distress for our planet and the loss of a beloved member of our community and vice president, Eli Kwartler. Our board president, Eric Weiss, lost his father this past month as well, leaving the remaining vice presidents to write this column as he gathers his family together and grieves. It is a sad time and yet....

We have much to be grateful for as well. We have a truly remarkable community. Visitors come and marvel at our inclusiveness and depth of connection. Our rabbi and professional staff are gifted in their roles, adaptive to changing needs, and consistent in their efforts to support the well-being of the community.

Keren Rhodes has begun her new role as Director of Communal Life and Learning, supported by the community to develop and integrate a unified vision of learning. Ann Wetherbee has recruited, and is in the process of training, a new administrative team. The Green Team has begun to develop practices that will help us to minimize the impact we have on our planet by establishing composting procedures and exploring additional ways to reduce our carbon footprint. The many volunteer committees and workgroups sustain our Jewish values. Many hands make light work, or so the saying goes, and we have many hands sharing the work of this community.

We are also reaching an important milestone in our history. Fifty years!!! The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee has developed a year of programming that is truly remarkable in its depth and breadth. These events will help us reflect on the past and look forward to the future, with many opportunities to pave the way for future generations. Just as our community is made up of people with many interests and affinities, so will the celebration of our first 50 years. There will be something (probably more than one thing) for everyone to participate in, enjoy, and support in the coming year, culminating with a big party (of course!).

As we enter the High Holy Day season, we have much to reflect upon and much to be grateful for.

With gratitude and affection,
Boris Wolfson, 1st Vice President
Ziva Harmatz, 2nd Vice President
Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

Shabbat Shofetim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

September 6, Friday
NO SERVICES THIS EVENING

September 7, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Bat Mitzvah: Isabelle Mondschein
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D’var Torah: Isabelle Mondschein

Shabbat Ki Tets, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

September 13, Friday
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES
6:15 pm
Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner and Danielle Kadinoff (guitar)

September 14, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D’var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Shabbat Ki Tavo, Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

September 20, Friday
SHABBAT NE’IMAH
6:15 pm
Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner, Hazzan Diana Brewer, & the JCA Shabbat Ne’imah Band

September 21, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D’var Torah: Rabbi Weiner
S’LIHOT PROGRAM AND SERVICE AT CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL
8:30 pm
Led by Rabbi Justin David (CBI), Rabbi Riqi Kosovske (Beit Ahavah), Rabbi Andrew Cohen-Keiner (Temple Israel of Greenfield), Rabbi Benjamin Weiner and Hazzan Diana Brewer (JCA).

Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors
August 3
Eli and Ina Porth, in honor of their anniversary

September 7
Linda Mondschein and Warren Smith in honor of their daughter Isabelle, 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)

Shabbat Nitsavim, Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

September 27, Friday
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES
6:15 pm
Service Leader: To be announced

September 28, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D’var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Rosh Hashanah

September 29, Sunday
EREV ROSH HASHANAH
6:00 pm
Ne’imah Service
8:00 pm
Lev Shalem Service

September 30, Monday
ROSH HASHANAH, DAY 1
9:00 am
Ne’imah Service
9:30 am
Lev Shalem Service

October 1, Tuesday
ROSH HASHANAH, DAY 2
9:30 am
Lev Shalem Service

Please see page 13 for a schedule of all High Holiday services.

Torah Reading Coordination
If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Marty Pepper Aisenberg, masienberg@videntpartners.com, 978-249-8470 for reading in October. 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: Ruth Love Barer, Hannah Blau, Joseph Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Sam Gladstone, Linda McConnell, Elissa Rubinstein, Randi Stein
- Service leaders: Marty Pepper Aisenberg, Ḥazzan Diana Brewer, Danielle Kadinoff, Isabelle Mondschein
- Musicians: JCA Shabbat Ne’imah Band

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation
Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30 am

Mindfulness meditation helps us to develop awareness without judgment by paying attention to how our thoughts and emotional states can effect our interactions and responses to everyday stimuli and others. The practice allows us to build greater acceptance and compassion with whatever we encounter in our day. Many have found a regular meditation practice has had a transformative effect on their lives and enjoy the support that comes with practicing in a group setting.

Over the past 14 months, JCA member, Leslie Lorber, has participated in the 5th cohort of the Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training program offered through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg was one of the initial leaders of this program, and was a faculty member at both of the residential 6-day retreats. This cohort was taught also by Rabbi Nancy Flam and Rabbi Jeff Roth. Leslie is finishing her final project for the program, and is now leading weekly meditation sits here at the JCA.
### SERVICES SCHEDULE

**COMMUNITY SELICHOT** - Saturday, September 21  
(This year at Congregation B’nai Israel, Northampton)  
8:30 - 10:30 pm

**EREV ROSH HASHANAH** - Sunday, September 29  
* Ne’imah Service (Oneg follows service)  
6:00 - 7:15 pm  
Lev Shalem Service (Oneg follows service)  
8:00 - 9:15 pm

**FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH** - Monday, September 30  
Childcare Available  
9:00 - 11:30 am  
Bagel Nosh in Multipurpose Room  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
* Ne’imah Service  
9:00 - 11:15 am  
Lev Shalem Services  
9:30 am  
• Shacharit  
9:30 - 11:00 am  
• Torah Service  
11:00 am - 12:15 pm  
• Musaf  
12:15 - 1:15 pm  
Tashlich  
4:00 pm

**SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH** - Tuesday, October 1  
Lev Shalem Services  
9:30 am  
• Shacharit  
9:30 - 11:00 am  
• Torah Service  
11:00 am - 12:15 pm  
• Musaf  
12:15 - 1:30 pm  
Mountain Service  
9:30 am - noon

**KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR** - Tuesday, October 8  
* Ne’imah Service  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Lev Shalem Service  
8:00 - 9:30 pm

**YOM KIPPUR DAY** - Wednesday, October 9  
Childcare Available  
9:00 - 11:30 am  
* Ne’imah Service  
9:00 - 11:15 am  
Lev Shalem Services  
9:30 am  
• Shacharit  
9:30 - 11:00 am  
• Torah Service  
11:00 am  
• Yizkor  
12:00 noon  
• Musaf  
12:30 - 2:15 pm  
* Minchah  
4:15 pm  
* Ne’ilah Service  
5:45 pm  
Tekiah Gedolah  
7:00 pm  
Havdallah  
7:01 - 7:10 pm

* American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation available at these services
The kayitz (summer) is winding down, and it’s time to start thinking about JCA Kesher (connections) school again. If you are a returning family and have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible so that we can figure out our class sizes, and staff them accordingly. If you are a new family who has not yet participated in our education or family programming, don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have. It is never "too late" to start thinking about formal Jewish education for your children or grandchildren.

Some highlights for the upcoming year:

1. Our 3-5 year old Shalom Tots program has had an update. The first part of class (10:00 -11:30 am) will now be a drop-off class, and parents are only asked to join again in time for recess, snack, and closing circle at 11:30 am.

2. On Wednesday afternoons, our wonderful program coordinator Shirah Neumann will be offering an amazing art elective, Felicia Sloin will be offering an elective on puppetry and drama, and of course baker Sam Coates-Finke will be returning to run his ever popular baking elective. Also new this year, we are adding to our staff Mammi-ama Ofori. She is an accomplished musician, and is also the music teacher at the Common School. She will bring her love of music, yoga, and movement to a brand new, exciting elective this fall.

3. We will be offering a selection of parent/adult electives on some Wednesday afternoons, for those parents/adults who want to get in on the action and fun that all the kids are having. Stay tuned for further details.

4. We have expanded our JCA Thursday night bakery program to twice a month. So you now have twice the opportunity to purchase clay oven baked challahs and chocolate babka bread. And, you have twice the opportunity to drop by and learn to bake from Sam of Backyard Bread.

5. We look forward to welcoming back our seniors to the Better Together, intergenerational program, and hope they will be joined by more members of the JCA community for the opportunity to connect with our B’nai Mitzvah class, share stories, and create community.

6. We will be introducing a digital, web based, escape room game that integrates Jewish education with an exciting mystery that needs to be solved. This game will be open to all who wish to join, just contact me for more details.

We have many more exciting plans for the coming year, too many to list here. Stay tuned to our emails and website to get the most up to date information on upcoming events and programs.

b'shalom, Keren Rhodes
Youth and Family Education

School Calendar

September 5, Thursday
JCA BAKERY
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Come when you can and stay as long as you want!
Open to all. Come to braid and bake wood fired challah and babka in the outdoor clay oven with Sam Coates-Finke. Loaves are for sale to the community for $5.

September 15, Sunday
FIRST DAY OF MIDOT & SHALOM TOTS
10:00 am – 12:30 pm
KESHER PARENT ORIENTATION
10:00 am
Required for all Sunday JCA School Parents/Guardians

September 18, Wednesday
FIRST DAY OF ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

September 19, Thursday
JCA BAKERY
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

September 20, Friday
JV CORPS
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
SHABBAT NE'IMAH
6:15 pm
We encourage your children to join for all or part of the service. Free childcare is provided during this service for those who need a break.

September 22, Sunday
MIDOT & SHALOM TOTS
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

September 25, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Mark your calendar for these upcoming family holiday programs:

October 1, Tuesday
Second Day Rosh Hashanah Hike & Mountain Service

October 4, Friday
First Family Friday of the School Year!

October 13, Sunday
Gleaning with Rachel's Table followed by wood-fired pizza dinner in the JCA Sukkah

October 21, Monday
Simhat Torah Program with Rabbi Weiner & Felicia Sloin

For updates and complete school calendar listings go to:
https://jcamherst.org/calendar/category/youthcalendar/
FALL 2019 ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Registration is now open for all the programs, and we encourage you to sign up soon so that you do not miss the opportunity to participate. When registering, please be sure you’ve pressed "Submit" to ensure your form goes through.

For more information, a copy of the fall brochure, and links to registration and payments:
https://jcamherst.org/education/adult-education/

Learn to Chant Torah
Janis Levy
Mondays: September 9, 16, 23; October 28; November 4, 11, 18, 25 • 7:00-8:30 pm

Illuminating Sacred Text
Amy Fagin
Sundays: October 6, 13, 20, 27 • 1:00–2:30 pm

The Holocaust: History and Experience
Murray Schwartz
Tuesdays, October 15, 22, 29 • 7:00–8:30 pm

Lunch & Learn
Rabbi Benjamin Weiner
Every Wednesday • 12:15–1:15 pm

Sacred Listening: An Exploration of the Six Words of the Sh’má
Daniel Berlin
Wednesdays: October 23, 30, November 6, 13 • 7:30– 9:00 pm

Wood-Fired Babka
Sam Coates-Finke
Sunday: November 10 • 1:30– 4:00 pm

Gett: The Trial of Vivian Amalem (part of the AEC’s occasional Israeli film series)
With guest panelist Lisa Kent
Sunday, January 5, 2020 • 2:00–4:00 pm

Register and contribute online at https://forms.gle/92ZP97u2suhNWZAe8

No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need.
We welcome your participation in our community.
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).

Not Bread Alone

Monthly Volunteers Needed

The JCA Committee for Not Bread Alone prepares the midday meal at Amherst’s local soup kitchen on the second Sunday of every month. We would welcome several new volunteers for the cooking crew (9:30 am-12:00 pm) and the cleanup crew (12:00-2:00 pm) to replace people who are rotating off.

The commitment for new volunteers will begin in October 2019. Substitutes are on call to fill in when regular volunteers cannot be there. Do a mitzvah and have fun. It is a great service project for b’nai mitzvah families. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Hollie Kalkstein at holliekalkstein@gmail.com

Yom Kippur Food Collection

On Yom Kippur, the haftarah we read includes Prophet Isaiah’s words imploring us, as we fast, to share your bread with the hungry (58:7). In Western Massachusetts, more than 200,000 people struggle with hunger. No one should be hungry. On Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur Day, please bring your greatly needed donations of non-perishable food, perhaps the equivalent of one day’s food, to be distributed by the Amherst Survival Center’s Food Pantry to those in need in our community. A collection box will be in place before and after Yom Kippur if you wish to contribute then. Last year, almost 2,600 pounds of food was collected, our greatest total ever. Let’s top that total this year! THANK YOU!

Especially needed: canned vegetables and fruits, tomato products, pasta, breakfast cereal, kids’ healthy snacks, toilet paper

In The Valley

Mak’hela – Come Sing With Us!

Open Rehearsals on Tuesdays, September 3, 10, 17, 24 at 7:15–9:00 pm
Lander-Grinspoon Academy, 257 Prospect Street, Northampton

Mak’hela is open to all singers, regardless of music expertise or cultural background. If you can carry a tune, you’re welcome! For more information: visit www.makhela.org or email MakhelaWMA@gmail.com

A Compassionate Community

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

Please let us know if you, someone in your family, or someone in the community is ill, hospitalized, or in need of assistance. We can’t help if we don’t know.

Contact the Chesed Committee by email at jcachesed@gmail.com or by calling the office at (413) 256-0160.

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
In honor of Frieda Howards’ 95th birthday (Judith Helburn)

Building Fund
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Judith Souweine)

Chesed Fund
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Robin Diamond)

General Fund
In honor of Frieda Howards (Roberta Navon)
Thank you very much for the honor of the Fourth Aliyah for parsha Chukat on July 13. It is wonderful to be a part of our community. Thank you for helping us build it together.
(Krista Harper & Michael Ash)
In memory of Normand and in honor of Barbara Berlin. As you know, wonderful people.
(Susan Riter and Sally Neely)
In memory of Sarah Thomson’s mother, Barbara Earl Thomson (Joy Ladin)
Thank you to Benjamin Braude and Lois Dubin for the generous donation of a piano for the Rabbi’s office.
In memory of Sarah Thomson’s mother (Judith Davis)
In celebration of Jayne Pearl’s 65th birthday (Judith Davis)
In honor of the 50th anniversary of Eli & Ina Porth (Deborah Jacobson & Margaret Mastrangelo)
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Pearl Strong, son of Jena Schwartz & River Strong (Deborah Jacobson & Margaret Mastrangelo)
In memory of Barbara Earl Thomson (Margaret Mastrangelo & Deborah Jacobson)

In memory of Eli Kwartler (Susan Thomas)
In celebration of Janis Levy’s new granddaughter
(Pearl-Anne & Nathan Margalit)
In honor of the birth of our grandson, Dennis Levi Nielsen
(Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)
In honor of Frieda Howards’ 95th birthday (Steve & Lorie Wertheimer)
In memory of Sarah Thomson’s mother (Frieda Howards)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Frieda Howards)
In memory of Merle & Rabbi Ed Feld’s 50th wedding anniversary (Frieda Howards)
In honor of Ina & Eli Porth’s 50th wedding anniversary (Frieda Howards)
In memory of Eric Weiss’ father (Frieda Howards)
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Marcia & Sheldon Goldman’s grandson (Lewis & Caden Mainzer)
In memory of Robert Chalif’s father and Kathleen Murphy’s father who both died within weeks of each other (Lewis & Caden Mainzer)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Joni Beck Brewer)

Project Rehovot
In honor of Ben Wolfson’s Bar Mitzvah (Haim & Yaffa Gunner)
In honor of Frieda Howards’ 95th birthday (Pearl-Anne & Nathan Margalit)

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In memory of Hannah Blau’s parents, Monte & Guitta Blau (Edward & Merle Feld)
In honor of Frieda Howards, cherished & remarkable nonagenarian (Edward & Merle Feld)
In honor of Rabbi Weiner on the occasion of Ben Wolfson’s bar mitzvah (Boris Wolfson)
Misheberach for Sarah Marcia bat Chavah (Judith Davis)
In honor of Merle and Ed Feld’s 50th anniversary (Nathan & Pearl-Anne Margalit)
In celebration of the “Pooks Pedalers” ride in the PMC (Ruth Love Barer)
In honor of the birth of Janis Levy’s granddaughter, Alma Esther (Ruth Love Barer)
In honor of Aaron Bousel’s commitment to the JCA (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Hannah Blau’s parents (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Howie Mentin (Ruth Love Barer)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Marilyn & Jeff Blaustein)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Aaron & Patience Bousel)
In memory of Eli Kwartler and his love and dedication to the community (Susan Zarchin)

Ritual Life Objects Fund
In honor of Ruth Love Barer on the occasion of Ben Wolfson’s bar mitzvah (Boris Wolfson & Amanda Walling)
In loving memory of Pearl Hellman Levine, mother of Elinor & Ira Levine (Elinor Levine & Scott Nielsen)
In memory of my sister, Lois (Allan Feldman & Sarina Ergas)

Tzedakah
In memory of my father, Louis Rabin (Monroe Rabin)
In memory of my beloved father, Morris Greenblatt (Joan Rabin)
Rabbi Benjamin Weiner (rabbiweiner@jcamherst.org)
Rabbi Emeritus Yechiael Lander

Director of Communal Life and Learning:
Keren Rhodes (kerenrhodes@jcamherst.org)

Board of Directors

President: Eric Weiss (eweiss0022@gmail.com)
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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.

Administrative Director: Ann Wetherbee (admindir@jcamherst.org)
Financial Assistant: Diane Miller (diane@jcamherst.org)
Education Coordinator: Shirah Neumann (shirah@jcamherst.org)
Administrative Assistant: Erica Torrellas (erica@jcamherst.org)
Facility & Maintenance: Santo Alers

Office Hours

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

Affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism

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.