Devarim: Words from our Rabbi
Programs and Events Calendar
Our Community
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Highlights this Month
Rosh Hashana, September 30, October 1
Yom Kippur, October 9
Sukkot, October 14
Shabbat Ne'imah, October 18
Shemini Atzeret & Sim’hat Torah, October 21
Here's a straightforward question: what is it that we do to the New Year?

I ask this in the service of my own wordsmithing. I'm trying to figure out which verb will best fill in the blank in the following simple sentence: “We ______ the New Year.” If Jewish practice let us write on holy days, I might hand out golf pencils in services, and invite you to a game of yontif madlibs. Instead, I'll just mull over a few options myself.

Do we CELEBRATE the New Year? The phrase calls to mind the bacchanalia of December 31st, the one night of the year when, as kids, my siblings and I got to stay up past midnight, lying in front of the television to watch the big red ball fall on Times Square. This followed a run to the supermarket, where each of us had selected the junk food of our choice—another rarity in my childhood home. If it is “celebrating” we do on the High Holidays, it's clearly without this kind of gluttony. Still, the same word applies, as if to suggest there is something to this time intended to fill us with a comparable delight in being alive, albeit achieved through prayer and ritual, rather than mass media and high fructose corn syrup.

What about OBSERVE? This is one of those fustian old words that showed up in a certain era of the translation of Judaism into English. Maybe, when taken in the literal sense of “watching” or “regarding with attention”, it actually still holds some relevance. I know more than a couple of Jews who, despite a habitual lack of association with the synagogue, show up for the High Holidays and spend a fair amount of time gaping. Beyond that, “observation” in the meditative sense—a state of being in which we regard with compassionate non-judgment the achievements and misdeeds of the past while opening our hearts to the healing potentialities of the present—might be a noble capacity to aspire to over this holiday season.

A couple of others come to mind. How about FEAR? Trepidation has always been a compelling element in the emotional texture of the High Holidays, particularly when the words of our prayerbook demand that we perceive in the passing of time the tenuousness of our very being. How much more so, in an era of galloping ecological devastation and socio-political upheaval, must we tremble at the specter of a future that is not our friend. But then, in a more proactive vein, there is the word ANTICIPATE, in the sense of readying ourselves—preparing for the righteous labor, and spiritual tenacity, that will be called for in the days to come.

Maybe some of these work for you, though let's remember that it's not my job to choose your word. I'll do my very best to hold that empty line steady. You fill in the blank for yourselves.

I'shana tova, 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 rabbiweiner@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 High Holiday information, please see the High Holiday Guide (https://tinyurl.com/jca-hh-2019). For more information on Adult Education classes, please see the Adult Education brochure (https://tinyurl.com/jca-adult-ed-fall-2019).

October 3, Thursday

YIDDISH LEYNER’S GROUP
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
We welcome anyone who enjoys reading Yiddish to join us.

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.

October 6, Sunday

ILLUMINATING SACRED TEXT WITH AMY FAGIN
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Lessons will include a brief introduction to the history of Hebrew manuscript illumination and hands-on workshops with instruction of basic skills in the techniques of hand-lettering Hebrew and English calligraphy; use of ornamental design with watercolors and gouache; drafting and application of gold leaf to paper. No experience necessary.
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 13, Sunday

SUKkah BUILDING
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Please come and help us put up the JCA sukkah.

ILLUMINATING SACRED TEXT WITH AMY FAGIN
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 15, Tuesday

THE HOLOCAUST: HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
A study of central events of the Holocaust from three perspectives, with an eye toward their interrelationships. Adult Education class. Registration required.
Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

October 16, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

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

October 20, Sunday
ILLUMINATING SACRED TEXT WITH AMY FAGIN
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 22, Tuesday
THE HOLOCAUST: HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 23, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
SACRED LISTENING: AN EXPLORATION OF THE SIX WORDS OF THE SH’MA YISRAEL WITH DANIEL BERLIN
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
The focus of these four class meetings will be to delve inside the Hebrew letters and roots of each of the six words of the Sh’ma to unpack their spiritual meanings. Through discussion, contemplation, and recitation of the SH’MA YISRAEL, participants will learn the wisdom of this text from the inside out. Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 27, Sunday
TAKING DOWN THE JCA SUKKAH
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Please come help us take down and put away the JCA sukkah.
ADULT B’NAI MITZVAH CLASS
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
October 27, Sunday
ILLUMINATING SACRED TEXT WITH AMY FAGIN
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 28, 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.

October 29, Tuesday
THE HOLOCAUST: HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE WITH MURRAY SCHWARTZ
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 30, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
SACRED LISTENING: AN EXPLORATION OF THE SIX WORDS OF THE SH'MA YISRAEL WITH DANIEL BERLIN
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Adult Education class. Registration required.

October 31, Thursday
JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP
7:15 pm – 8:45 pm
Upcoming Events

November 3, Sunday
RABIN MEMORIAL LECTURE
1:00 pm Lunch
2:00 pm Lecture
Assaf Elroy from the Jewish Agency Israel Fellows program at UMass Hillel, Amherst, will speak on the topic, “How We Talk About Peace.” He will address questions such as: Is peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis realistic? What is a practical vision for bringing the two populations together? Assaf is a fellow of The School for Peace, which promotes future politicians to be agents for peace in Israel and Palestine. Please let Karen Loeb (kloeb@comcast.net) know by October 31st if you will be joining us for lunch. The event and lunch are free and open to the public.

December 12, Thursday
ADULT READING GROUP
7:00 pm
For the second meeting of the ARG, we are doing something new and will discuss two books at that meeting. Both books have had good reviews and are fairly short. You may come for both books or just one. The first book we will discuss is The Aleppo Codex, by Matti Friedman. It is a nonfiction thriller about the most perfect ancient copy of the Hebrew Torah and how it survived and wound up in Israel. The second will be Dumbfounded, by Matt Rothchild. It is a “delightful and funny” autobiography. In telling his story, the author “recalls every child’s search for identity, rebellion against commonsense, and the quest for love that has always been there”. JCA book group first timers, and old timers, are welcome. Any questions, please call Ken Talan, 413-896-3372.
JCA 50th Anniversary Events

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE “MEMORIES AND MUSIC” POSSIBLE

Irv and Linda Seidman were wonderful presenters at the event on September 15. Irv’s descriptions of the first years of the JCA, and Linda’s telling of stories and sharing the voices of early members made us marvel, laugh, and even get a bit teary-eyed. Most of all, as we learned more about our founding generation and the challenges they overcame, we were able to appreciate and honor them, as we had hoped would be possible at this event.

The slap-up* afteroon tea was fabulous. Huge thanks for creating and preparing to Hadar Grabel, Libby Arny, Madeleine Charney, Helena Donovan, Melissa Mairella, Ina Porth and, as always, for her help with facilitating the tea and other aspects of the event, Ann Wetherbee.

The JCA Klezmer Ensemble was a joy and offered us a generous and terrific concert. Thank you to Sam Gladstone, Aaron Bousel, Paul Charette, Joanna Morse, Anna Sobel, Brian Bender, Judith Gutlerner, and Dan Muscat.

* Slap-up is British slang for food that is grand, lavish or exceedingly good. It was all three!

Dear Community,

I am excited to share the details of the three separate events we will be hosting to highlight youth and family education as part of the 50th anniversary celebration. These events will recognize our past, celebrate our present, and look towards our future.

On **Friday, November 1**, we are inviting the larger community to attend the Family Friday Night program at the JCA. In addition to the usual activities, we will display a variety of projects from the electives including note cards, artwork, and photography. We also hope to share the legacy of past education leaders in our community.

On **Saturday, November 9**, we are inviting the community to join us for **Musical Mishpucha** with Felicia Sloin on Shabbat morning. And we will honor former and current teachers, community members and education leaders during the services in the sanctuary.

And finally on **Saturday, November 30**, we are hosting a **JCA school reunion**. We welcome all graduates of our education program to join us for Shabbat morning services and luncheon afterwards. If you are an alum and planning to attend, please RSVP to rachelvig@comcast.net.

We hope you will join us at one or more of these events.

*b’shalom,
Mara Hahn (on behalf of the 50th Planning Committee)
50 Years!
The JCA is 50 this year. That is amazing and wonderful. I attended the kick off event at which Irv and Linda Seidman gave a wonderful review of the early history of the JCA, followed by a concert by the JCA Klezmer Ensemble. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the 50th Planning Committee for putting together a series of events throughout the year to celebrate who we are. The board of directors and I are honored to help guide the JCA at this important time in our history.

We are unique as a growing Jewish organization, and I appreciate being part of the Jewish Community of Amherst. We are inclusive and diverse, and we work well with our brothers and sisters from other faiths in the valley.

This month’s message is short and sweet. Please participate in as much of our 50th celebration as you can, and it would not hurt to make an extra donation too, if you can, while you are at it. The upcoming year will be a good one for the JCA, and we can reflect on how great 50 years is as we contemplate our lives in community over the high holidays!

I’shana tova, Eric Weiss

Our Community

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!

New Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:

Jennifer and David Wells          Susan Hogan
Barry and Catherine Solomon      Brianna and Marc Maier

Condolences

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

Martin Stanley Weiss, husband of Helen Ginandes Weiss (his beloved wife of 69 years), father of Richard, Ira, Jerry, Eric (JCA president) and Alan, grandfather of 11, and great-grandfather of 5.

Phil Ellin, beloved father of Marvin and Edith Ellin, and husband of Susan Ellin.

Kaia Savolainen, daughter of Jinny and Keijo Savolainen, brother of Mikko, and a beloved relative and friend to so many others.
# HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EREV ROSH HASHANAH</strong> - Sunday, September 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Ne‘imah Service (Oneg follows service)</td>
<td>6:00 - 7:15 pm</td>
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<td>Lev Shalem Service (Oneg follows service)</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:15 pm</td>
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<td><strong>FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH</strong> - Monday, September 30</td>
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<td>Childcare Available</td>
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<td>Bagel Nosh in the Library</td>
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<td>* Ne‘imah Service</td>
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<td>Lev Shalem Services</td>
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<td>• Shacharit</td>
<td>9:30 - 11:00 am</td>
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<td>• Torah Service</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:15 pm</td>
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<td>• Musaf</td>
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<td>Tashlich</td>
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<td><strong>SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH</strong> - Tuesday, October 1</td>
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<td>Lev Shalem Services</td>
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<td>• Shacharit</td>
<td>9:30 - 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Torah Service</td>
<td>11:00 am - 12:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Musaf</td>
<td>12:15 - 1:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mountain Service</td>
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<td><strong>KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR</strong> - Tuesday, October 8</td>
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<td>* Ne‘imah Service</td>
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<td>Lev Shalem Service</td>
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<td><strong>YOM KIPPUR DAY</strong> - Wednesday, October 9</td>
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<td>Childcare Available</td>
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<td>* Ne‘imah Service</td>
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<td>Lev Shalem Services</td>
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<td>• Shacharit</td>
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<td>• Torah Service</td>
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<td>• Yizkor</td>
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<td>• Musaf</td>
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<td>* Minchah</td>
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<td>* Ne’ilah Service</td>
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<td>Tekiah Gedolah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Havdallah</td>
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* American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation available at these services

Please see see the High Holiday booklet (https://tinyurl.com/jca-hh-2019) for more information.
Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

**Shabbat Vayelekh, Deuteronomy 31:1-30**

October 4, Friday  
**FAMILY FRIDAY**  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

October 5, Saturday  
**RENEWAL SERVICE**  
10:00 am in the small sanctuary  
Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**  
10:00 am  
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

**Shabbat Ha’azinu, Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52**

October 11, Friday  
**KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES**  
6:15 pm  
Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner and Danielle Kadinoff (guitar)

October 12, Saturday  
**SHABBAT YOGA**  
8:45 am in the social hall

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES**  
10:00 am  
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

**Sukkot,**  
*Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-29:16*

October 13, Sunday  
**SUKKAH BUILDING**  
10:00 am  
Come help put up the JCA sukkah

October 14, Monday  
**SUWKOT SERVICES**  
10:00 am  
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner  
D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

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**Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors**  
September 21-  
Marty & Susan Pepper Aisenberg in celebration of Marty's 70th birthday  
If you would like to help with or sponsor a kiddush, please contact Ann Wetherbee, our Administrative Director, at admindir@jcamherst.org

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Check the JCA website at: https://jcamherst.org/calendar/month/ for updated information on services.
Shabbat Ḥol Hamo'ed Sukkot
Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 29:26-29:31

October 18, Friday
SHABBAT NE'IMAH
6:15 pm
Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner and Ḥazzan Diana Brewer

October 19, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner

Shemini Atzeret & Simḥat Torah

October 21, Monday
SHEMINI ATZERET SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

SIMḤAT TORAH
5:30 pm
Help unroll the Torah and take a “tour” with Rabbi Weiner. Also, enjoy dinner and holiday themed activities. Dance with a Torah to music provided by our own JCA Klezmer Ensemble.

Shabbat Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8

October 25, Friday
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES
6:15 pm
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner

October 26, Saturday
SHABBAT YOGA
8:45 am in the social hall
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Service Leader: Rabbi Weiner
D'var Torah: Rabbi Weiner
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, jloischildrn@gmail.com, 413-303-9434 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: Joseph Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Hadar Grabel, Devorah Jacobson, Danielle Kadinoff, Catherine Madsen, Linda McConnell, Isabelle Mondschein, Linda Mondschein, Michelle Morris, Jayne Pearl
- Service leaders: Ḥazzan Diana Brewer, Richie Davis, Danielle Kadinoff, Aaron Kropf, Isabelle Mondschein, Marty Pepper Aisenberg
- D'var Torah: Isabelle Mondschein
- Musicians: JCA Shabbat Ne'imah Band
Dear JCA Families,

On October 13, the JCA community will be partnering with Rachel’s Table to go on a gleaning trip to a local farm. Below is some interesting history about gleaning, and important information about food waste and food need in the United States, and our local area. I hope that you will be able to join us for this important work.

I’shana tova, Keren Rhodes

GLEANING

Gleaning is the gathering of grain or produce left after harvest. The practice of gleaning dates back to the biblical tradition of leaving the corners of the fields for those in need to harvest.

Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10

For a long time, it was common practice for those in need to collect from the corners of fields or other agricultural leftovers to feed themselves. In the 1970s, non-profit organizations, community groups, religious groups, and even some states began to bring back the practice of gleaning excess produce from farms.

Gleaning is a great way to make use of food that would otherwise go to waste. Farmers often grow more than they can sell in order to ensure that they will have enough for their customers. When a crop has been picked, there is often food left in the fields because it is not ready to harvest, but it is not worth sending workers to harvest once it is ripe. There is also often excess produce that farmers cannot sell because it is slightly imperfect in appearance, but perfectly edible.

Each year, approximately 40% of the valuable food produced in the U.S. is lost. Rachel’s Table salvages food from stores and bakeries too in order to make use of as much food as possible to feed those in need. By doing so, they are making use of an already existing resource, reducing landfill waste, and thereby helping the environment.

More than 38 million Americans are food insecure, hungry, or at risk of hunger. In our region, more than 100,000 people seek food assistance annually, including at least 27,000 children and more than 11,000 senior citizens. One out of ten residents of Western Massachusetts struggles with hunger. Rachel’s Table helps to address these issues in the greater Springfield area by supplying food to over 40 shelters and food pantries.

The fresh produce from the Gleaning Project offers an important contribution of fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables for agencies. Shelters, meal sites, and pantries have been very grateful to receive the produce — a donation that they rarely get. Over the past ten years, the gleaning project has harvested and donated over 100,000 pounds of produce. This year, we hope to collect and donate at least 10,000 pounds!
October 1, Tuesday

2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH MOUNTAIN HIKE & SERVICE
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Leader: Cara Michelle Silverberg. Meet at the Notch Visitor Center on Route 116. Group introduction and hike up a trail on Bare Mountain (a short but moderately strenuous and steep climb) followed by singing and sounding the shofar at the summit. Dress comfortably, wear good hiking shoes, and bring water and whatever sun protection you prefer. Rain or shine, except in severe weather. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a shofar, apples, honey, honey cake, or other sweet treat to share atop the mountain.

October 2, Wednesday

ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

October 3, Thursday

JCA BAKERY
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

October 4, Friday

FAMILY FRIDAY
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
A monthly community Shabbat celebration appropriate for all ages - from tots to grandparents. Tots enjoy music, stories, puppets and more with Felicia Sloin. Torah study with Rabbi Weiner for older children and adults. All come together for a community meal. All community members, friends, and families are invited! Parent/Guardian attendance is required.

October 6, Sunday

SHALOM TOTS, Midot, & B’NAI MITZVAH
10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Parents are encouraged to stay for Learner’s Minyan from 10:00-10:45 am today!

BETTER TOGETHER (B’NAI MITZVAH CLASS/INTERGENERATIONAL LUNCH)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

B’NAI MITZVAH PARENT WORKSHOP
10:00 am – 11:45 am

For updates and complete school calendar listings go to:
https://jcamherst.org/calendar/category/youthcalendar/
October 9, Wednesday
NO ELECTIVES TODAY - YOM KIPPUR

October 12, Saturday
MUSICAL MISHPUCHA WITH FELICIA SLOIN
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Families start out in our traditional morning service, stay for the taking out of the Torah...AND THEN follow Felicia Soin into another room to enjoy a musical kid-focused Shabbat morning celebration. We will return to the sanctuary to join the rest of the community for kiddush and a light luncheon. This is a monthly service recurring on the 2nd Saturday each month. This family service is appropriate for kids of ALL ages. Adults must remain with their children throughout.

October 13, Sunday
Instead of School - Celebrate Sukkot by gleaning for those in need.
GLEANING WITH RACHEL'S TABLE
12:00 pm
Join the JCA and Rachel's Table to travel to a local farm and help to harvest produce that will be donated to the Food Bank of Western MA. Appropriate for ages 6 and up. Transportation will be provided from the JCA and back. Co-sponsored by JCA Kesher & Tikkun Olam Committee.
PIZZA IN THE JCA SUKKAH
5:00 pm
Join the JCA community in fulfilling the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah. Make your own wood fired pizza in our outdoor clay oven, and join in the celebrations.

October 16, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

October 17, Thursday
CHALLAH & JAM WITH FELICIA SLOIN AND SAM COATES-FINKE OF BACKYARD BREAD
10:00 - 11:30 am
Explore Jewish holidays, language, culture and values through music, movement and drumming. Meet other families, braid some challah, make some music and have some fun! Come weekly or drop-in. There is a $25 annual registration fee for this program. Please register online at www.jfswm.org/jewish-family-jam.
Youth and Family Education (continued)

October 18, Friday
JVCORPS
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
SHABBAT NE’IMAH
6:15 pm

October 20, Sunday
SHALOM TOTS, MIDOT, & B’NAI MITZVAH
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

October 21, Monday
SIMHAT TORAH CELEBRATION WITH RABBI WEINER & FELICIA SLOIN
5:30 pm
Enjoy a community dinner, and then help unroll the Torah and take a "tour" with Rabbi Ben and Felicia Sloin, participate in a holiday related craft activity, and for those who can stay later - the evening will continue with singing and dancing accompanied by the JCA Klezmer Ensemble as we celebrate this wonderful holiday.

October 23, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

October 27, Sunday
SHALOM TOTS, MIDOT, & B’NAI MITZVAH
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

October 30, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
FALL 2019 ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For detailed information about these programs go to:
https://tinyurl.com/jca-adult-ed-fall-2019

Lunch and Learn
Rabbi Benjamin Weiner
Wednesdays • 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
New participants are always welcome.

The Holocaust: History and Experience *
Murray M. Schwartz
Tuesdays • October 15, 22, 29 • 7:00 – 8:30 pm
A study of central events of the Holocaust from three perspectives, with an eye toward their interrelationships.

Sacred Listening: An Exploration of the Six Words of the SH’MA YISRAEL *
Daniel Berlin
Wednesdays • October 23, 30; November 6, 13 • 7:30 – 9:00 pm
An examination of these Hebrew letters and roots of the words of the SH’MA to unpack their spiritual meaning.

Wood-fired Babka *
Sam Coates-Finke
Sunday • November 10 • 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Join in on learning to make babka from scratch from mixing to shaping to baking in the JCA wood-fired oven.

*Registration required. Go to https://jcamherst.org/education/adult-education/

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).

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.

Tikkun Olam Committee

This year, in addition to organizing the donation of hundreds of pounds of food to the Survival Center- thank you Harry Hahn for once again spearheading this effort- the Tikkun Olam Committee is also supporting an Underwear Drive for the Survival Center in response to a need expressed by new Executive Director, Lev Ben Ezra. For more information: https://jcamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/asc-underwear-2019.pdf. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. If you have any questions, contact Amy Rothenberg, Co-Chair Tikkun Olam Committee: amy@nesh.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

ThAnk yOu!

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Donations to the JCA

**General Fund**
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Michael & Barbara Burkart)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Robert & Katherine Feldman)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (William Wiley)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Barbara Tabbert)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(John & Maureen Sheehan)
In loving memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Barry & Annette Pfannebecker)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Daniel & Susan Leimberer)
In honor of Rachel & Icek Aizen for 
their help with translation work for 
the Gombin Jewish Historical and 
Genealogical Society 
(Anita Greenbaum-Brush)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (James Benda) 
With gratitude for Rabbi Weiner’s 
shloshim teaching 
(Sarah Thomson & Catherine Madsen)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Leslie & Bryan Lorber)
In memory of Martin Weiss, father of Eric 
Weiss (Leslie & Bryan Lorber)
In memory of Sarah Thomson’s mother 
Barbara Thomson 
(Barbara & Michael Burkart)
In memory of Eli Kwartler (Joseph 
Gerleman & Rita Brosnahen-Gerleman)
In memory of Mort Harmatz, who loved 
music (Ziva Harmatz)
With gratitude for Rabbi Weiner’s 
shloshim teaching 
(Sarah Thomson & Catherine Madsen)
In honor of my late husband Alex Page 
(Anita Page)
In memory of Eli Kwartler 
(Jaymie & Michael Chernoff)
Wishing Elise a speedy recovery 
(Yaffa & Haim Gunner)
Jules Chametzky
**Tikkun Olam**
Jeffrey Kahn
**Tzedakah**
Jeffrey Kahn

**In The Valley**

**Standing Together: Restoring Goodwin**
The JCA is a member of the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) in the valley, and we are encouraging your support at this time of another member of the ION. The Goodwin Memorial AME Zion Church in Amherst is raising funds for a restoration project to enable it to continue serving the local African American community for many years to come.

ION is holding a fundraiser to support the building restoration fund on Saturday, October 26 with a festive harvest meal at 5:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, followed by a concert at 7:00 pm at First Church of Amherst. Performers include Goodwin Memorial Choir, Amherst Area Gospel Choir, Leverett Community Chorus, Annie Patterson & Friends, and others.

Tickets for either the dinner or the concert are available in the JCA office (or Grace Church or A.J. Hastings). You can also mail donations to Goodwin Church earmarked for “Restoration Fund” to Roger Wallace, 41 Jenks Street, Amherst 01002. If you can volunteer to help with these events, please contact Judith Souweine (souwaine@gmail.com,) chair of Tikkun Olam Committee, or Frieda Howards (friedahowards7@gmail.com) JCA representative on ION. More details are available at www.interfaithamherst.org.

**Looking For a Room To Rent**
My name is Ruth Gold and I work at the Yiddish Book Center. However, I live in Eastern Massachusetts. I come to the Center on Tuesday morning and I stay over Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. I return to Chestnut Hill, MA on Thursday after work. I had a comfortable and very nice place to stay in Northampton for a year and a half, however that accommodation is no longer available to me. I am a member of Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA and I know Rabbi Weiner’s mother. I am looking for a room where I could stay two nights/week. (Of course I am willing to pay). One or two weeks/year I need a few extra nights. Sometimes I travel, so there are times when I wouldn’t be there at all. I am very low maintenance – I just need a bedroom and a bathroom for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Thank you in advance, Ruth Gold, Major Gifts Officer, Yiddish Book Center, rgold@yiddishbookcenter.org
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)
First Vice President: Boris Wolfson (bywolfson@comcast.net)
Second Vice President: Ziva Harmatz (rharmatz@comcast.net)
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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.