

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

We are offering an enhanced approach to High Holiday youth and family programs this year, based in a dual philosophy of providing meaningful programming throughout this period—and not just on the ‘synagogue days’ themselves—and integrating our young people more fully into communal services on those days when we are all gathered at the JCA.

In particular, we believe that the Ne'imah services, with their musicality, liveliness, and relative brevity, provide as rich an environment for kids and their parents as anything we could offer by way of a specific family service, and so, rather than offering such a service this year, we are encouraging you to share the Ne'imah experience as a family. You will find more information about timing in the general service calendar included in this booklet.

Enriched childcare, as described below, will be available simultaneously, and we graciously invite you to go back-and-forth, should your kids need a break. Please also familiarize yourself with, and consider attending, those opportunities scheduled throughout this time by our youth and family educators, such as the ones mentioned below.

Tashlich: Monday, September 30 at 4:00 pm (first day of Rosh Hashanah) at the **Mill River Recreation Area** located at 95 Montague Rd., Amherst. Led by JCA member, Judith Loischild. Please note the change in location from Groff Park where it has been held in the past.

Hike & Mountain Service: Tuesday, October 1 at 9:30 am (second day Rosh Hashanah). We are delighted to welcome Cara Michelle Silverberg back to the JCA to lead this service. We will 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. Please bring a shofar, apples, honey, or honey cake to share atop the mountain.

Community Gleaning: Sunday, October 13 at 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. Transportation will be provided from the JCA. Co-sponsored by JCA Keshet & Tikkun Olam Committee.

Pizza in the Sukkah: Sunday, October 13 at 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.

Simchat Torah: Monday, October 21 at 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 as we celebrate this wonderful holiday.

CHILDCARE

Registration is strongly requested to enable us to provide adequate care.

Please complete the form at <https://jcamherst.org/hh-childcare>

First Day Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 30

9:00 - 11:30 am

Yom Kippur Day, Wednesday, October 9

9:00 - 11:30 am

The JCA is delighted to provide childcare during High Holiday services to allow adults some time and space to participate in the community prayer experience, and to give children who need a break from the sanctuary a safe and fun place to be. While we provide this service, we strongly encourage you to include your child in JCA ritual life. By experiencing High Holiday services in small increments each year, children will learn to participate more fully as they grow older.

Our childcare is staffed by experienced care providers who read books, work on holiday related art projects, play games, etc. A healthy (nut-free) snack on first day of Rosh Hashanah is provided, but you may also provide your own snack so long as it is dairy/vegetarian and contains no nuts of any kind.

While there is no charge for childcare at the JCA, we would appreciate any donation you are able to make to help us offer this service to the community. Please go to <https://jcamherst.org/payments-and-donations/donations> and choose “High Holiday Childcare” from the pull-down menu. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

At pickup, please make sure to check in with a staff person, before leaving with your child.

Children are expected to behave in a way that is generally considered appropriate in any public group setting.

If a child’s behavior is dangerous or overly disruptive to the activities to other children, we will come and get you from the sanctuary, and your child may not return to childcare again that day.

Our staff is unable to change diapers, or assist in changing clothing. Children who cannot toilet themselves are welcome to join our babysitting room, but we will come and get you from the sanctuary if a toileting need arises.

On Rosh Hashanah (but not on Yom Kippur), we will provide a variety of healthy snacks for children. If you choose to provide your child with a snack from home, please make sure that it complies with the JCA Kashrut and Nut policies.

If you have any questions, please contact Shirah Neumann at shirah@jcamherst.org or call 413-256-0160 ext. 208.