Devarim: Words from our Rabbi
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Highlights this Month

Mak'hela Celebrates Music at the JCA, March 1
Community Purim Celebration, March 9
English Megillah Reading and Brunch (adults only), March 10
Shabbat Ne'imah, March 20
50th Anniversary Adult Education Celebration, March 27-29
Dear friends,

I used to consider Purim, coming up this month, to be my favorite Jewish holiday. Maybe I still do, though it probably peaked for me in my first year of rabbinical school when, based on my performance at the annual RRC shpiel-festival, I was anointed the “shpielmeister” for the coming year. (I didn’t put this on my resume when I applied to the JCA, but, over the years, I think this aspect of my rabbinate has become clear enough.)

I suppose it’s my grown-up taste for irreverent humor that draws me to this day, though the delight began in childhood, with the thrill of dressing up in costumes and getting to make an inordinate amount of noise in the synagogue (which, even as late as the 1980s, was a place that still manifested a lot of ambivalence around the frivolity of children).

Over the years, I’ve worked to build an intergenerational Purim culture at the JCA. I think we are getting to a good place, with a celebration that now includes a full megillah reading, music, audio-visual enhancement, carnival games for restless children, shhit, shpils, madlibs, table magic, and, of course, costume parades and graggers to drown out the mention of he-who-must-not-be-named. I try to throw all of my frivolity and irreverence into it, including the ritual I learned in rabbinical school of standing on my head to recite the names of the ten sons of the aforementioned unnamable, which is even more difficult when you are wearing moose antlers. (If anything, I would just like to encourage you to take a few more shots at me, personally. One of the great traditions of Purim is the gentle mockery of the rabbi’s foibles. This has really only happened a couple of times in my tenure at the JCA, once, memorably, when one of the Hebrew school kids led the ma’ariv service as me, complete with two or three different hats on his head, and a stash of water sipped from a mason jar.)

I regret that I will actually miss Purim with you this year—I’ll be in Israel on the JCA trip—though I know I am leaving you in the capable hands of a team of lay leaders. But I still want to encourage you to take advantage of the spirit of this ludicrous day. In recent years, I’ve heard some colleagues question the propriety of devoting a day to such madcap antics when the world around us is so beset by grave challenges. To this, I answer with the same resonant words I use to summon myself to the call of these challenges, knowing that delight is not something we can save in store for ourselves when all our work is done, but something we must continually taste to keep us going.

These are the famous words of Rabbi Hillel: if not now, when?

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.

March 1, Sunday

INTERGENERATIONAL LUNCH
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
People of all faiths are invited to join Jewish Community of Amherst teens for a monthly intergenerational lunch. A program for teens and senior citizens to come together and form meaningful relationships. We enjoy lunch and activities, schmooze, share stories, and have a good time!

MAK’HELA CELEBRATES MUSIC AT THE JCA
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
See page 7 for more information

March 2, Monday

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW LITERACY WITH JANIS LEVY
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
This class is for those of you with exposure to the Hebrew alphabet, whether recently or in your childhood, and who are able to read out loud, however slowly. It is not necessary to have comprehension of the text, although some familiarity is helpful. Also, participation in earlier Hebrew Literacy classes at the JCA is not required. Adult Education Class. Registration required.

March 5, Thursday

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

FAMILY PICTURES: LOOKING AND TALKING ABOUT SNAPSHOTS WITH MICHAEL LESY
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
This class will be based on the family pictures that people bring in and on the stories that accompany them. It’ll be a “show-and-tell” class for grown-ups. People will be asked to look and listen carefully. Empathy, clarity, compassion, and skepticism will be encouraged. Pictures have layers of meaning, wrapped around each other like Dead Sea scrolls. Our job is to carefully unroll them. Our first class will be devoted to looking at and talking about a collection of anonymous snapshots from the 1970s. Adult Education Class. Registration required.
Programs and Events Calendar (continued)

March 12, Thursday
FAMILY PICTURES: LOOKING AND TALKING ABOUT SNAPSHOTS
WITH MICHAEL LESY
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education Class. Registration required.

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.

March 19, Thursday
FAMILY PICTURES: LOOKING AND TALKING ABOUT SNAPSHOTS
WITH MICHAEL LESY
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education Class. Registration required.

March 22, Sunday
ADULT B’NAI MITZVAH CLASS
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Registration required

March 23, Monday
INTERMEDIATE HEBREW LITERACY WITH JANIS LEVY
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Adult Education Class. Registration required.

March 25, Wednesday
LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI WEINER
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
March 26, Thursday

**ADULT READING GROUP**

7:00 – 9:00 pm

The third meeting of the JCA ARG will discuss the book *Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. It got excellent reviews on Amazon and the following particular review: “A luminous, Marquez-esque tale” (O, The Oprah Magazine) “is a forbidden love story set on a tropical island about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to painter Camille Pissarro—the Father of Impressionism. We will learn about his father, a man of Portuguese Jewish descent, his mother, from a French Jewish family, and his maternal grandmother, a pillar of a small refugee community of Jews who escaped the Inquisition.” All are welcome at our next meeting, even if you’ve never come before, and if there are questions, please call Ken Talan 413-896-3372.

**FAMILY PICTURES: LOOKING AND TALKING ABOUT SNAPSHOTS WITH MICHAEL LESY**

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Adult Education Class. Registration required.

**JCA KLEZMER WORKSHOP**

7:15 pm – 8:45 pm

March 30, Monday

**INTERMEDIATE HEBREW LITERACY WITH JANIS LEVY**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Adult Education Class. Registration required.
Our Community

Performance in Memory of Robert Stern
Coro Allegro will perform Robert Stern’s oratorio, Shofar, with libretto by Catherine Madsen, on March 8 at 3:00 pm, at Sanders Theater in Cambridge. This concert titled Shofar: In Memoriam, will also feature work by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Johannes Brahms.

Condolences

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

JCA member Alvin Steiner who passed away on January 15th at the age of 85. We offer our condolences to his wife, Shirley, his daughter Abbie and her husband Myles Jacobson, his son Adam and Adam's wife Ellen Mandel-Steiner, and to Al's grandchildren: Mariel, Will, and Ezra.

Stan Edelson, father of JCA member Rivka Solomon. We offer our condolences to the whole family, including Naomi, Bobbi, Marty, Robert, and Raffi.

Neta Bolozky, a true “force of nature” who contributed immeasurably to the cultural life of the JCA, primarily through her work on the World Jewish Concerns committee. We offer our condolences to her husband, Shmuel, and to her daughters Noa and Michel, and their families.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following people to the JCA community:
Kathryn Lachman & Jesse Ferris
Christy Wood

Mazal Tov to March Bat Mitzvah Camilla Brewer

Camilla Brewer is a seventh grader at JFK Middle School in Northampton. She has been attending JCA school since she was four when she started in the Shalom Sunday program. She will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 7, Shabbat Zachor. In her free time she enjoys music and sports. Camilla has been playing the violin since age seven and started gymnastics at age four, competing as a member of the Hampshire YMCA team for the past five years. She lives in Northampton with her parents, Ḥazzan Diana Brewer and Sara Brewer, beloved dog Flora, and very fluffy cat Willoughby.

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Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 pm

Join us for a special concert offered by Mak'hela, The 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. Elaine Ginsberg is Conductor, with Kayla Werlin as Special Guest Conductor.

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner will MC the event, and members of the JCA Shabbat Ne’imah Band will join with Mak'hela for the concert finale. Suggested optional donation of $10 to be shared between Mak’hela and the JCA. All are welcome. And, yes! The Shabbat Ne’imah Band CD will be available to buy! We are excited to have this ready now, and think you will really enjoy owning a little piece of a great new JCA tradition. All proceeds from these sales will go back to the JCA as donations.

ADULT EDUCATION CELEBRATION
Friday ~ Sunday, March 27 ~ 29

Friday, March 27 ~ 6:15 pm
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE with Rabbi Weiner and Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Edward Feld, followed by dinner for the community.

Saturday, March 28 ~ 10:00 am
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES with Rabbi Weiner and D’var Torah by Rabbi Edward Feld

12:30 pm
KIDDUSH FOLLOWED BY HAVRUTA STUDY

Sunday, March 29
DAY OF LEARNING with ten area scholars and rabbis on the themes of social justice, higher learning, spirituality, creative arts, and Jewish living. Five classes offered at each teaching session. Pre-registration is required for all classes. For descriptions of classes and teachers, see announcements on the homepage of our website at https://jcamherst.org

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CHECK IN AND COMMUNITY LUNCH
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm FIRST TEACHING SESSION
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm SECOND TEACHING SESSION
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm CLOSING RECEPTION


Please note registration does not guarantee participation in a class. We will do all we can to accommodate your requests on first-come-first-serve basis, and may need to shift enrollments around to meet space constraints. Final information about course assignments will be available at check-in.
Greetings,

This month, I want to focus on the coming creation of a JCA endowment. For the past eight months, the JCA Board of Directors, encouraged by Rachel Vigderman, have been working towards creating an endowment, which will be owned and managed by the JCA. This is an exciting change for us, and a real indication of how far we have come from our humble beginnings.

This endowment will be rolled out soon and will be under the full control of the JCA. This will mean that all who want to make a legacy gift or a designated donation may do so by indicating that it be directed specifically to the JCA endowment.

We will be presenting the criteria for the endowment fund in the next couple of months, and I want to recognize all of the efforts made by those involved with doing this well and doing it right. Having our own endowment is a critical part of our identity and strength, and it is one more step we are taking to assure the longevity of the JCA.

It was our intent to get this important work done and formally launched during our 50th anniversary year celebrations. We are reviewing the structure and details now and will get more information out to you very soon. In the meantime, please pay attention to the JCA emails for the 50th anniversary celebrations and events as well as our formal endowment announcement.

The JCA is doing well because of all of our efforts, so let’s all keep working together to preserve this spiritual and supportive environment.

b’shalom, Eric Weiss

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**March 2, Monday**
Chesed Committee
7:15 pm

**March 4, Wednesday**
Ritual Life Committee
7:00 pm

**March 5, Thursday**
Board Meeting
7:00 pm

**March 8, Sunday**
Youth & Family Education Committee
10:30 am

**March 12 Thursday**
Cemetery Committee
5:30 pm

**March 18, Wednesday**
Finance Committee
10:00 am

**March 19, Thursday**
Executive Committee
7:00 pm

**March 20, Friday**
Adult Education Committee
12:15 pm
Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

Shabbat Zakhor, Parashat Tetsaveh

March 6, Friday
FAMILY FRIDAY
5:30 pm
A monthly community Shabbat celebration appropriate for all ages

March 7, Saturday
SHABBAT YOGA
8:45 am in the social hall

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Bat Mitzvah: Camilla Brewer
Service Leader: Ḥazzan Michael Kasper
D'var Torah: Camilla Brewer

Purim

March 9, Monday
COMMUNITY EREV PURIM DINNER & TABLE MAGIC
5:30 pm
Dinner

MEGILLAH READING AND CARNIVAL
6:15 pm
A night of fun and merriment for all ages

March 10, Tuesday
ENGLISH MEGILLAH READING & BRUNCH
11:00 am
Join us for a rollicking adults only reading of the Megillah in English.
Brunch provided.

Kiddush & Oneg Sponsors
March 7-
The Brewer family in honor of Camilla Brewer 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

Ritual Life Calendar and Notes

Check the JCA website at: https://jcamherst.org/calendar/month/ for updated information on services.
Ritual Life Calendar and Notes (continued)

Shabbat Parah, Parashat Ki Tisssa

March 13, Friday
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES
6:15 pm
Service Leaders: Ruth Love Barer, Randi Stein, and Danielle Kadinoff (guitar)

March 14, Saturday
RENEWAL SERVICE
10:00 am in the small sanctuary
Service Leaders: Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES & MUSICAL MISHPUCHA
10:00 am
Service Leaders: Yossi Charette and Marty Pepper Aisenberg
D’var Torah: To be announced

Shabbat Haḥodesh, Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudey

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

March 21, 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

Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1-5:26
JCA 50th Anniversary Adult Education Celebration

March 27, Friday
KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES
6:15 pm
Service Leaders: Rabbi Weiner and Rabbi Edward Feld

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

Candle Lighting
March 6 ~ 5:28 pm
March 13 ~ 6:37 pm
March 20 ~ 6:45 pm
March 27 ~ 6:53 pm
Times shown are 18 minutes before sunset for Amherst, MA

Rosh Ḥodesh Nisan
March 26, Thursday

Shaḥarit Minyan
Tuesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary

Jewish Meditation
Wednesdays at 7:30 am in the small sanctuary
Torah Reading Coordination
If you are interested in reading Torah and would like to schedule a time to read, please contact: Jane Myers, janemyers18@gmail.com, 413-320-7742, for reading in April; Marty Pepper Aisenberg, maisenberg@videntpartners.com, 978-249-8470, for reading in May; Judith Loischild, jloischildrn@gmail.com, 413-303-9434, 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: Joseph Boucher, Aaron Bousel, Richard Fein, Hadar Grabel, Catherine Madsen, Jane Myers, Yosef Rumshiskiy, Randi Stein
- Service leaders: Hazzan Diana Brewer, Danielle Kadinoff, Felicia Mednick and Sara Schley, Marty Pepper Aisenberg, Felicia Sloin
- Musicians: JCA Shabbat Ne'imah Band

A number of our members have allergies to perfumes, colognes and other fragrances. Please try to minimize the use of these products when coming to JCA services and other events, and inform your guests about this policy. Thank you.
Youth and Family Education

School Calendar

March 1, Sunday
JCA SCHOOL
10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Learner’s Minyan this morning

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

March 4, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 – 5:30 pm

March 5, 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.

JCA BAKERY WITH SAM COATES-FINKE
5:00 – 8:00 pm

March 6, Friday
FAMILY FRIDAY
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Generations will come together for a Shabbat celebration of music, singing, puppets, storytelling, blessings, and more. Enjoy a musical family jam with Felicia Soin for young children and an intergenerational Torah discussion with special guest facilitator, Randi Stein, for older children and adults. Programs are followed by a delicious community meal.
Parent/Guardian attendance is required.

March 7, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
10:00 am
Bat Mitzvah of Camilla Brewer
Youth and Family Education (continued)

March 8, Sunday
JCA SCHOOL
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

PURIM SHPIEL
12:00 – 12:30 pm
Families and community members, please join us at the end of school today for a performance. Students in the Kesher Performing Arts Elective present a Wizard of Oz themed look at the Purim story!

March 9, Monday
COMMUNITY PURIM CELEBRATION
5:30 – 6:15 pm Dinner and magic
6:15 – 8:00 pm Family friendly Megillah reading and carnival

March 11, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 – 5:30 pm

March 14, Saturday
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES AND MUSICAL MISHPUCHA
CO-Hosted BY Grades K/1 & 4/5
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services
11:00 am Musical Mishpucha
12:00 pm Kiddush Lunch
JCA School Grades K/1 & 4/5 class will be co-hosting the traditional morning service at 10:00 am. Musical Mishpucha with Felicia Sloin starts at 11:00 am. A luncheon will follow at noon.
This fun intergenerational Shabbat morning is not to be missed!

March 15, Sunday
JCA SCHOOL
10:00 am – 12:3 pm

March 18, Wednesday
ELECTIVES
4:00 – 5:30 pm
March 19, 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.

JCA BAKERY WITH SAM COATES-FINKE
5:00 – 8:00 pm

March 20, Friday
JV CORPS
5:00 – 9:00 pm
SHABBAT NE’IMAH
6:15 pm

March 21, Saturday
CHAI EVENT (GRADE 9-12) OFFSITE
6:00 – 11:00 pm
Check the Chai Facebook page or email chaiteens413@gmail.com for more info, including address.

March 22, Sunday
JCA SCHOOL
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

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

March 29, Sunday
JCA SCHOOL
10:00 am – 12:30 pm
**Spotlight on Committees**

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**Adult Education Committee**

**ADULT EDUCATION SPRING PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE**

For more complete information, see the brochure on the Adult Education page of the JCA website at: https://jcamherst.org/education/adult-education/

You may also register for classes and contribute online by going directly to: https://forms.gle/PYSbmFRwSQGiPWou7

**Lunch & Learn**

*Rabbi Weiner*

Wednesdays • 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

**Intermediate Hebrew Literacy**

*Janis Levy*

Mondays • February 17, 24; March 2, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20 • 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**Family Pictures: Looking and Talking About Snapshots**

*Michael Lesy*

Thursdays • March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, 16 • 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Maidels and Dreidels and Ladles, Oh My!**

**The Journey of a Jewish Children’s Book Writer**

*Lesléa Newman*

Sunday, April 2 • 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

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**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**

**A Line is a Point With Karma:**

*Explorations of the Unseen and Meditations on Connections*

*Artist: Anne Burton*

*Exhibit Dates: February 6th through April, 2020*

*Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Friday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm or by appointment*

The Zohar teaches that we are all connected by a single thread. Each of these one-of-a-kind prints imagines earthly and spiritual connections in time and space. My images emerge as I search for the comfort of a visual construct to make order out of the unknown.

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**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.
Spotlight on Committees (continued)

JCA Green Team

The JCA's Green Team invites you to participate in its 'Pledge to Plant' campaign, whose goal is to encourage the planting of 139 trees on the property of JCA members. Why 139? It's the calculation we recently made of how many mature trees it would take to offset the carbon footprint of the JCA over one year. We know this is a symbolic gesture, but big problems require multi-faceted approaches, and we believe that the actual planting of trees, alongside of concerted efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, cannot but provide encouragement to our spirits and value to our environments.

While it is still too early to plant trees in New England, we want to encourage you to make your pledges now--to visit the display in the main hallway, by the art gallery, and add your pledge--however many trees of whatever kind you plan to add to your property in the spring--to our tree of life. Join us by putting a leaf on our tree. Fill out your name and number of trees you will plant this spring and add it to our tree in the JCA lobby.

Tikkun Olam Committee

Ways To Support Local Asylum Seekers

Order Ghanaian Food!!! Support one of our teens cooking to support asylum seekers. Adam Mazur has been partnering with a local asylum seeker to raise money for the Western MA Asylum Support Network by selling tasty African food. They are now offering our community the opportunity to order their chapati, vegetarian Ghanaian stew, and/or gingerbread squares. All profits will go to the Western MA Asylum Support Network. Place your order by emailing adammazur4elements@gmail.com or filling out the form at https://tinyurl.com/order-ghanaian-food. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 8, and picked up in the JCA kitchen on March 11.

Cooking For A Cause on Tuesday, March 10, 4:15-8:00 pm. Have fun cooking with JCA members and local asylum seekers! Join us in the JCA kitchen in supporting the Western MA Asylum Support Network by helping fill food orders placed by our community. Learn how to make Ghanaian food! Make new friends! Invite old friends! Email Yael Rosenbloom if you plan to participate at jbrosenbloom18@gmail.com

Attend Training On Ways To Support Local Asylum Seekers on April 28, 6:15-8:45 pm. The Tikkun Olam committee has invited the Western MA Asylum Support Network to offer training at the JCA to learn how one can support local asylum seekers. The Western MA Asylum Support Network is a volunteer network dedicated to providing support to individuals navigating the asylum system. The training is designed to provide a solid grounding in immigration justice and introduce the network's history and structure. It helps participants understand the facts and current context about asylum status, and encourages those who attend to think about where their skills and capacities best fit with their ongoing work. The training is informative and inspiring. Don't miss it! If you plan to attend, please fill out the volunteer signup form available at: https://tinyurl.com/WMass-asylum-support

Painting by Max Nestel, age 8
Donations to the JCA

**Annual Appeal**
Gary Rehorka & Rachel Schwab Rehorka
In memory of Paul Olum
(Philippe & Joyce Galaski)
In honor of our wonderful Shabbat yoga teachers, Catherine and Deborah
(Rudy Perkins & Madeleine Charney)
Dyan Wiley
In memory of Michael Kirschenbaum
(Linda Rosen & Lisa Kirschenbaum)
William & Ilana Schmitt
Christine & Frederick Bloom
In honor of Judy Davis officiating the marriage of our son & daughter-in-law
(Donald & Nina Tetenbaum)
In honor of our son’s marriage
(Donald & Nina Tetenbaum)
Irene Eigner & Bill Simmons
Ruth & Howard Smith
Nina Mankin

**Building Fund**
In honor of our father, Hal Zalkind’s 95th birthday
(Donald & Nina Tetenbaum)

**Chesed Committee**
In memory of Ellen Middleton’s mother
(Judith Souweine)

**Endowment Fund**
Eli Kwartler Trust

**General Fund**
Amy & Jeffrey Kalman
In honor of Ronnie Williams for her kindness
(April Mastrangelo)
In memory of my father, Warren Weinberg
(Barbara & Michael Burkart)
Faye Ahlberg

**Music Fund**
In honor of Allen & Judy Davis’ new granddaughter
(Donald & Nina Tetenbaum)

**Project Rehovot**
In honor of Judy Wax on her retirement
(Ellen & John Middleton)
In honor of the adoption of Batya by Rabbi Ben, Elise & Efraim
(Batya Perman)

**In The Valley**

**Arab And Israeli Musicians Defy Fierce Political Divides In West-Eastern Divan Ensemble**

Drawing upon players of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, the West-Eastern Divan Ensemble, led by the orchestra’s concertmaster Michael Barenboim, embarks on its first tour, including a performance in Bowker Auditorium at UMass Amherst on **Monday, March 2 at 7:30 pm**. The Ensemble will perform works by Brahms and Mendelssohn as well as new work by Benjamin Attahir. Before the concert at 6:30 pm, there will be a pre-performance talk titled Music and Inclusion: The West-Eastern Divan Ensemble in the Context of the Middle East by JCA member David Mednicoff, J.D/Ph.D. Chair, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies. Prof. Mednicoff will also moderate a conversation with Barenboim and ensemble members that is open to the public on Music and Cultural Politics in the Middle East in the lobby of the UMass Fine Arts Center from 2:30-4:00 pm.

**Yom Ha’atzmaut Celebration at CBI On April 19 at 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

A very talented Jewish comedian, **Noam Shuster-Eliassi**, will be appearing at Congregation B’nai Israel, 253 Prospect Street in Northampton. This celebration is free and open to the public - with light refreshments, Israeli music and schmoozing pre-performance.

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
In memory of Norma Teitler, Ellen Middleton’s mother
(Susan Zarchin)
In loving memory of Ellen Middleton’s mom, Norma Teitler
(Irene Eigner & Bill Simmons)
In memory of Burt Franzman’s cousin, Howard Kronick
(Irene Eigner & Bill Simmons)
Thank you! (Shirley Steiner)
In memory of Ellen Middleton’s mother, Norma Teitler
(Daniel & Linda Reif)

**Tzedakah Fund**
In loving memory of Abraham Levine, father of Elinor Levine
(Scott Nielsen & Elinor Levine)
In memory of Norma Teitler, beloved mother of Ellen Middleton
(Scott Nielsen & Elinor Levine)
Jewish Community of Amherst

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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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Education Coordinator: Shirah Neumann (shirah@jcamherst.org)
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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.