

ADULT EDUCATION



SPRING 2017

Jewish Community of Amherst
742 Main Street, Amherst, MA 01002
413.256.0160 ~ www.j-c-a.org

JCA adult-education programs reflect religious, secular, practical, and cultural aspects of Judaism. We hope that you will find something that appeals to you.

Register and contribute online at <https://goo.gl/forms/jlOgmrRxglSADUTs2>
If you prefer to register by mail and contribute via check, please print the registration form at the end of this brochure or pick one up in the JCA lobby.

SPRING 2017 PROGRAMS

Lunch and Learn

Rabbi David Seidenberg

January 25 – April 5

Wednesdays • 12:15 – 1:15 pm

Mah Jong

Charlotte Schwab

January 22, February 5, 19, March 5

Sundays • 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Talmud Peer-Reading Group

Coordinator: Jonathan Lewis

Information and planning session

Sunday, January 29 • 10:15 – 11:45 am

Intermediate Modern Hebrew

Henia Lewin

February 8, 15, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

Wednesdays • 5:45 – 7:15 pm

Contemporary U.S. and Israeli Relations

Jesse Ferris

Sunday, February 26 • 10:15 – 11:45 am

Staying Connected:

Judaism's Online Presence

Jody Rosenbloom

February 28, March 7, 14

Tuesdays • 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Hebrew Calligraphy Workshop

Jane Trigère

Sunday, March 5 • 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Bread and Torah Shabbaton

Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein

Friday, March 17 – Sunday, March 19

Scheduling details forthcoming

Israel and Palestine:

a Clash of Nationalisms

Aaron Berman

March 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27, May 4

Thursdays • 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Charoses Taste-Off

Friday, March 31 after Shabbat services

Passover Preparation:

An Experiential Workshop Based on

Joanna Macy's *Work That Reconnects*

Cara Silverberg

Sunday, April 2 • 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Counting the Omer

Diana Brewer

April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesdays • 12:15 – 1:15 pm

If you would like to suggest future programming, please contact a member of the Adult Education Committee: Barbara Burkart (*chair*), Jane Brodwyn, Judith Finman, David Glassberg, Phyllis Herda, Jonathan Lewis, Melanie Lewis, Ruth Smith, Linda Terry, Boris Wolfson, Janis Wolkenbreit, Rabbi Benjamin Weiner (*ex officio*)

Lunch and Learn

Rabbi David Seidenberg

Wednesdays, January 25 – April 5
12:15 – 1:15 pm

Now in its fifth year, Lunch and Learn continues its investigation of Halakha, or the tradition of Jewish law.

Over the past few years, a variety of topics have been investigated: holiday observance and perspectives on Shabbat, divorce, suicide, death and mourning, purity and impurity, kitniyot, the giving of tzedaka.

This spring, starting January 18th, we will focus on the intersection of kashrut (kosher dietary laws) and ethics, with an emphasis on animal welfare. We will also explore related issues as they arise according to participants' interests.

During Rabbi Ben Weiner's sabbatical, Lunch and Learn will be led by Rabbi David Seidenberg. Rabbi Seidenberg has been a frequent teacher in the JCA community and is the author of *Kabbalah and Ecology: God's Image in the More-Than-Human World*. He also leads the Prayground Minyan based in Northampton.

No registration needed.



Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.

Mah Jong

Charlotte Schwab

Sundays, January 22, February 5, 19, March 5
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Have you been yearning to play Mah Jong? Here's your chance.

Charlotte Schwab is forming an American Mah Jong group at the JCA. There will be one group for experienced players, and if there is enough interest, Charlotte will teach a group for beginners. Charlotte will bring one Mah Jong set, but please bring your own, if you have one, as well as a current American Mah Jong card. There will be copies of the card available if you don't have one.

Charlotte has taught American Mah Jong at the Amherst Senior Center and in South Florida.



Reservations are requested
to know how many people are coming and what levels of players there will be.

Contact Charlotte at (413) 253-7910
if you have questions and to reserve your place at the Mah Jong table.

Please call between 10:00 – 12:00 or 2:00 – 8:00.
If no one is home, please leave your name and number with a message.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center
as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

Talmud Peer-Reading Group

Jonathan Lewis, coordinator

Sunday, January 29
Organizational Meeting
10:15 – 11:45 am

Interested in reading Talmud? Jonathan Lewis is hoping to start a peer-reading group. He has several volumes of the Steinsaltz Talmud (Koren pub.) and would enjoy studying with other people. All reading would be in English. Hopefully the group will meet weekly, perhaps Sunday mornings, or another mutually agreed-upon time.

Jonathan Lewis is a relatively new member of the JCA. He and his wife Melanie are retired psychologists and new to the Pioneer Valley. He would be a novice reader in this venture.



For more information and to express interest,
contact Jonathan at jdlewis647@gmail.com.

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as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.*

Intermediate Modern Hebrew

Henia Lewin

Wednesdays, February 8, 15, (no class February 22),
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

5:45 – 7:15 pm

This class, conducted *ivrit b'ivrit*, is intended for people who know some Hebrew, want to increase their vocabulary, and seek an opportunity to practice speaking the language.

Previous and new participants are welcome! The text we use is *Ivrit Min Ha'Hatchala (Hebrew from Scratch)*; new students need to purchase it.



Henia Lewin is a recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award as an Outstanding Jewish Educator in North America. She graduated from the Jewish Teachers' Seminary as Yiddish Valedictorian, and earned an M.Ed. from the University of Vermont where she became an instructor of Hebrew and Yiddish and director of Hillel. During a sabbatical she taught Hebrew in Jerusalem to new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union. Henia was born in Lithuania and survived the Holocaust as a hidden child.

Registration required.

A course fee \$160 per student has been set by the instructor.

A minimum of five students is needed for the course to run.

For further information about the class, contact Henia directly at (413) 253-8836 or HennyLewin@yahoo.com.

Israel and the United States in the Aftermath of the Election

Dr. Jesse Ferris

Sunday, February 26
10:15 – 11:45 am



The course and outcome of the 2016 Presidential campaign have important implications for the relationship between the United States and Israel, the future of democracy in both countries, and the growing divide between Jews in Israel and in North America. Join us for a discussion of these timely issues with Jesse Ferris, Vice President of the Israel Democracy Institute.



Dr. Jesse Ferris is Vice President of Strategy at the Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem. He holds a B.A. in History from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies from Princeton University. His first book, *Nasser's Gamble: How Intervention in Yemen Caused the Six-Day War and the Decline of Egyptian Power*, was published in 2012 by Princeton University Press.

No registration needed.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.

Staying Connected: Judaism's Online Presence

Jody Rosenbloom

Tuesdays, February 28, March 7, 14
7:00 – 8:30 PM

The internet has transformed many of the traditional structures of Jewish life and has been the inspiration for many new ones. In this three-session class, Jody Rosenbloom will be our guide through thought-provoking blogs, websites, and other social media aimed at the evolving Jewish community. The class will examine sites for Torah study, hevruta/study partners, life cycle rituals, on-line yarzeit minyans, social action, cultural resources and more. Together we will discuss our reactions, concerns and insights as to the application of these tools for community building and explore how we would define Jewish community and identity in light of new trends.



Jody Rosenbloom, M.A., retired in June 2015 as Director of Lifelong Learning after her 18th year serving the Jewish Community of Amherst. Her Jewish education and professional development span Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements. She has taught and administered programming across all age levels, in both formal and informal settings, including two years as a field instructor for Delet (Master of Arts in teaching with specialty in Jewish day school) interns through Brandeis University. She is currently on the board of the Lander-Grinspoon Academy, the advisory committee for the Jewish Film Festival of the Pioneer Valley, and the Friends of Forbes Library garden tour committee.

Registration required.

Minimum of seven and maximum of eighteen participants.

Suggested contribution: \$36

No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your monetary contribution.

Basics of Hebrew Calligraphy

Jane Trigère

Sunday, March 5

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Participants will learn “how to learn” any new font by carefully understanding how *one* font works. The letters are taught incrementally through their parts, starting with *Yod, Vuv, Resh*, and so forth and ending with the two fabulous non-conformists: *Tzadi* and *Alef*.



We will practice precision, centering, patience, focus, and breathing. With each beautiful deliberate black stroke, we will feel the relation of one letter to the other and learn to appreciate the white spaces we create. Additionally, you will hear a bit about the mystical meanings of the letters. If you weren't familiar with the Hebrew alphabet, you will be now!

Please bring to class a snack and \$5.00 for the calligraphy kit.

Jane Trigère is an artist who occasionally teaches calligraphy and embroidery and uses both in her art. She has a B.F.A. from Boston University School of Fine Arts. She was an art bookbinder for many years and then in her 50's studied for an M.A. in Jewish Art from Jewish Theological Seminary. For this, and many other blessings, she is very grateful.

Registration required.
Maximum of ten participants.
Suggested contribution: \$36

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Bread and Torah: a Shabbaton

Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein

Friday, March 17 – Sunday, March 19

Scheduling details forthcoming

Affirming the importance of both spiritual and physical sustenance in Jewish life, *Bread and Torah* Programs are creative, hands-on learning experiences that combine traditional Jewish scribal arts and bread making with Jewish spiritual teachings and practices.

Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein will join us for an entire weekend of baking and Torah studies. Help proofread Torah panels, bake the tastiest bread you've ever had, and learn Jewish spiritual teachings behind baking and scribal arts.

The weekend will include a number of different programs for all ages. Stay tuned for further details!



Rabbi Jonathan and Rabbi Linda with wheat for baking and reeds for scribing.

Israel and Palestine: a Clash of Nationalisms

Professor Aaron Berman

POSTPONED UNTIL FALL 2017

The purpose of this course is to understand the historical background that the mass media never discusses when reporting on the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. We will examine the history of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. First we will study the origins of each nationalism. We will then examine the critical moments in the long history of conflict between these two nationalisms. These will include: World War I; the Jewish refugee crisis of the 1930s; the Palestinian revolt of 1936; World War II and the Holocaust; the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of Israel in 1948; the Palestinian exile and the creation of the refugee crisis; and the 1967 Six Day War and its aftermath. We will end with a discussion of recent events and proposed solutions to the clash.



Aaron Berman is Professor of History at Hampshire College. He has taught courses on the history of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism for many years. His publications include *Nazism, the Jews and American Zionism: 1933-1948*. He is currently writing a book tentatively titled, *First Encounters: The United States and Arab Nationalism 1908-1933*.

Registration required.
Suggested contribution: \$54

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POSTPONED UNTIL FALL 2017

The First Annual Charoset Taste-Off and Pot-Luck Supper

Friday, March 31
After Shabbat services

Charoset, charoses—the sticky, sweet symbol of mortar at the seder, the essential ingredient of the Hillel sandwich, and hands down the tastiest item on the seder plate. Just as charoset holds together matzoh, it can bind us together in community celebration. It's time to give charoset the attention it deserves, so we invite you to....The JCA First Annual Charoset Taste-Off.

To enter your favorite charoset recipe(s), please prepare a healthy portion to share after Friday evening shabbat service on March 31 and have some printed copies of your recipe on hand to share. Celebrity tasters will judge the charoset contenders, and select winners in the following categories:



- Ashkenazy
- Sephardic
- Freestyle
- Best Performance in a Hillel Sandwich
- The Charoses with the Mostess

Come and share the stories that our recipes tell about us and the meaning and spirit of Passover—eat and learn!

No registration needed.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.

**Passover Preparation:
a Workshop Based on Joanna Macy's *Work That Reconnects***

Cara Silverberg

Sunday, April 2
1:00 – 5:00 pm

Joanna Macy's *Work That Reconnects* draws from deep ecology, systems theory and spiritual traditions. It builds motivation, creativity, courage and solidarity for the transition to a regenerative human culture.

This 4-hour workshop will serve as an introduction to the basic concepts of *WTR*, a *kehila* (community) for those who practice the *WTR*, and a collective process of spiritual preparation for Passover. We will experience successive practices to explore themes of oppression and liberation among our human and ecological worlds.

Wear clothing that is comfortable to move around in. Weather permitting, we will spend part of the time outdoors.

Cara Michelle Silverberg directs youth and teen programs at the JCA. In 2014, she participated in the Earth Leadership Cohort program, training directly with Joanna Macy. Cara is passionate about facilitating transformative learning experiences that allow people to explore and express themselves, their relationships with the earth, and their relationships with each other.

Joanna Macy is a scholar of Buddhism, systems theory and deep ecology, and a respected voice in the movements for peace, justice, and environmentalism. Joanna is the root teacher of the *Work That Reconnects*, and is known worldwide for empowering activists in social and ecological justice. (Note: Joanna will not be present at this workshop.)

Registration required.
Minimum of eight and maximum of thirty participants.
Suggested contribution: \$36

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Counting the Omer: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Diana Brewer

Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24
12:15 – 1:15 pm



This Lunch and Learn program will focus on the period of the Omer - a time of preparation. During the seven weeks of the Omer, we are headed towards Shavuot, a festival that, biblically, is about giving. We also understand Shavuot as the commemoration of the receiving of the Torah at Sinai. Either way, we have to prepare, we have to fertilize our garden.

Over these seven weeks, we will explore the Omer from the basics of the mitzvah of counting each day to developing our own personal practices for the spiritual journey through the sefirot.

We will start each session with a short period of quiet meditation, followed by a niggun. The rest of the time will be spent studying texts, discussing the Kabbalistic attributes, and discussing our personal practices as they develop.



Diana Brewer has been a professional singer and instrumentalist for more than twenty years. Several years ago, she was moved to put her musical skills to work in the realm of Jewish spirituality. She is currently a third-year cantorial student in the Aleph Ordination Program. She serves as High Holy Days Hazzan at the JCA, and has been co-leader of the monthly Shabbat Ne'imah services since their inception.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Survival Center as part of the JCA Perpetual Food Drive.

ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION • SPRING 2017

We strongly encourage you to REGISTER ONLINE at

<https://goo.gl/forms/jIOgmrRxglSADUTs2>

Now you can also CONTRIBUTE ONLINE via PayPal / credit card at

<http://www.j-c-a.org/donations1.html>

Select *Adult Education* from the list of funds on the bottom of the page.

If you prefer to use a printed form and contribute via check
(payable to the Jewish Community of Amherst, with Adult Ed
and the name of the program(s) in the memo field), please send both to
Adult Ed Programs, % Boris Wolfson, 71 Larkspur Drive, Amherst, MA, 01002.

Please do NOT mail the form and check to the JCA office or drop them off there.

Participants' names and email addresses (please print)	Indicate programs for which you are registering					
	<u><i>Modern Hebrew</i></u> 8 sessions \$160	<u><i>Judaism Online</i></u> 3 sessions \$36	<u><i>Calli- graphy</i></u> 1 session \$36	<u><i>Israel & Palestine</i></u> 6 sessions \$54	<u><i>Joanna Macy</i></u> 1 session \$36	
Name 1:						
Email 1:						
Name 2:						
Email 2:						
Name 3:						
Email 3:						
Name 4:						
Email 4:						
<i>No one will be denied access to programming because of financial need. Your participation in our community is more important than the amount of your contribution.</i>				Subtotal		
				Additional contribution		
				TOTAL		

For inquiries about **registration** email adultedprog@comcast.net

For inquiries about **programs** email barbruth@comcast.net

Please put the name of the program in the email subject line.