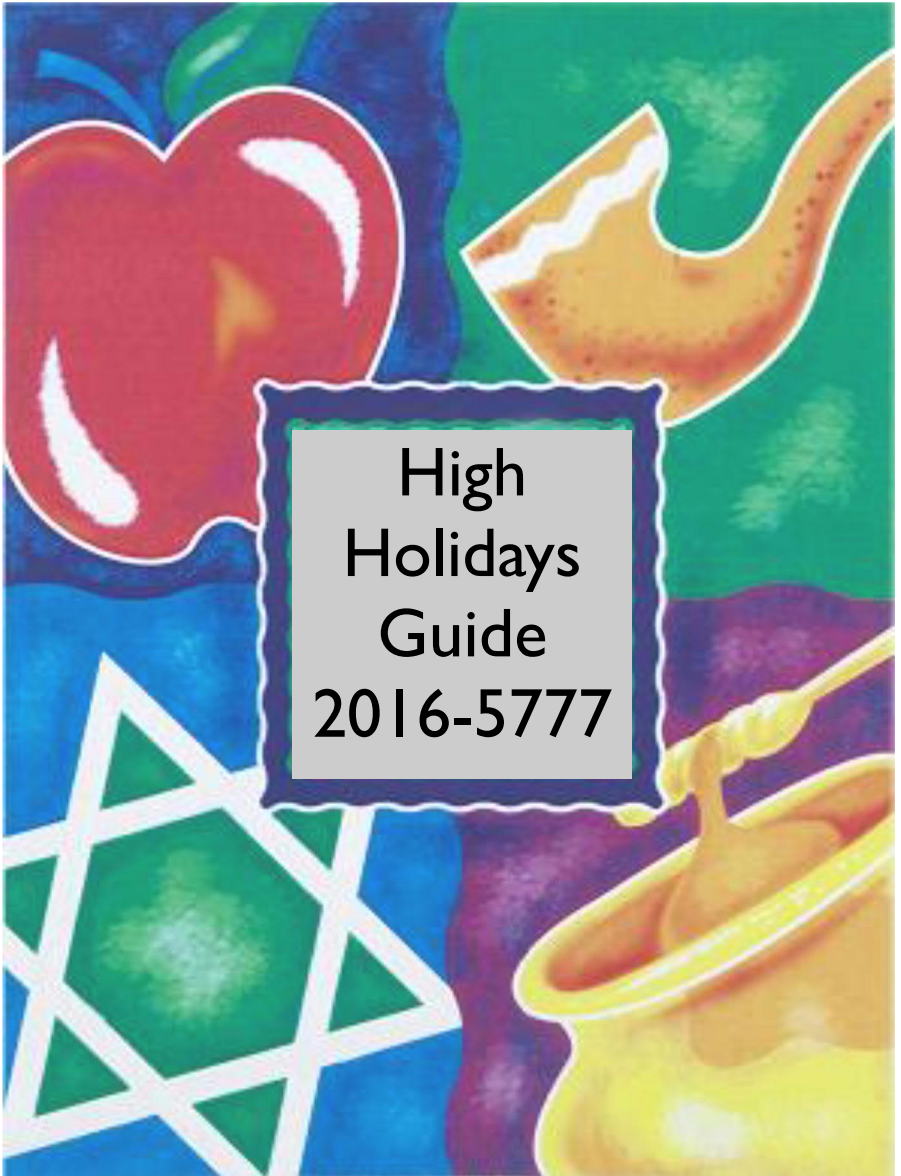


*Jewish Community of Amherst*



**High  
Holidays  
Guide  
2016-5777**

742 Main Street  
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002  
(413) 256-0160  
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# Message from Rabbi Weiner

Welcome to High Holidays 5777 at the JCA!

There is something arbitrary about the designation of sacred time and space. Take the mishkan, for example, the portable tabernacle that the Torah tells us the ancient Israelites carried with them as they wandered through the wilderness. Imagine an area of empty sand in the midst of a barren desert, no less vacant than any other scrap of the monotonous landscape. One day, people show up and enclose it in a tent of gold, silver, woven fabric, and wood, set up an altar, burn some incense, and slaughter a bullock or two--transforming this nondescript patch of wasteland into the dwelling place of the Maker of heaven and earth. The next day they decamp, and as soon as the wind is done with their footsteps the site of their shrine and their mysteries is wilderness again.

Now transpose the image into time. The earth moves in a circle through space, spinning and wobbling as it goes, creating an impression of cyclicity and seasonal variation, and giving us the illusion that the sun rises and sets. Cells divide, generations arise and pass, rivers flow into the sea. And then, one day a year, people show up and pitch their camp in a certain angle of the sunlight, and call that moment the birthday of the world and the time of judgment. They sing and pray, they ask forgiveness of each other and themselves, of God and the world. Then they decamp, though, in the end, it is not they but time that marches on.

Fundamentalists no doubt see matters differently. None of this is arbitrary for them--if the Torah says God lives in a particular house that is where God lives, and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur fall at a certain time in the year not through cultural agency because that is how God wove the fabric of the cosmos. Maybe it's easier this way, living in a model of reality scaled down to the size of human expectation, setting aside the suspicion that our meaning is something we have imposed upon the great formlessness.

But to do so is to surrender responsibility for a tremendous power: the power of creativity itself. We who are not fundamentalists must understand that our task is not just to participate in the High Holidays but to dream them--to project a sanctuary into the wilderness and a season of forgiveness beneath the autumn sun, and then to enter them with the belief that we can commune with the Maker of heaven and earth and find atonement.

Because the truth is these things will not be there for us unless we imagine them.  
L'shana tova,  
Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

# Message from High Holidays Committee

Welcome to our celebration of the High Holidays 5777

Shalom! We are looking forward to joining with the community for meaningful and engaging services this year. We have put special effort under the guidance of Cara Michelle Silverberg into a restructuring of how we offer Family and Young People's services. Please read the service schedule carefully.

We are continuing last year's model with aliyot at services. You will find the details on the Aliyot page of this booklet. There are other honors at the services that are offered to individuals and couples such as opening the Ark, carrying a Torah scroll and lifting and dressing the scroll. New members are especially welcome - help us get to know you better! You might think there is heavy competition but the truth is most people are too humble to request for themselves. These are your services and YOU ARE WORTHY of an honor. There are congregations where these honors always go to the "important" people or people who give large donations - not so at the JCA! (not that we're against donations to help support the services, mind you!). Please contact Yossi Charette if you are interested in a particular honor ([yossi.charette@gmail.com](mailto:yossi.charette@gmail.com)) or you can even walk up to him at service time to request one. Of particular note is the honor of holding a Sefer Torah during Kol Nidre. We have four Sifrei Torah to hold at each of the two services and the only requirement is the ability to hold the scroll for 15 minutes. Please ask if you are interested.

We are indebted to all the volunteers who help with the many tasks required to make our Holiday celebration a success. There is still time to join us as more help is needed as we get closer to the New Year. Many hands make light work and there is a real joy and satisfaction you will feel in helping the community. Ushers and Greeters are always needed and this is a great way to meet other members of the congregation as well as our many guests.

With blessings for a sweet New Year - l'shana tova tikateivu!

Bob Solosko and Yossi Charette, Co-Chairs



# Information About Our Services

**High Holidays at the JCA** provide a singular communal experience in several parts. We offer a variety of ways to worship, geared toward different sensibilities and ages, with services facilitated by Rabbi Weiner, High Holiday cantor Diana Brewer, our youth education staff, and talented lay leaders. The different types of services are listed below. Our "open door" policy means no tickets, payments or reservations are required though we do request that non-members pre-register if possible as described on page 6.

**Ne'imah:** In the vein of our popular Shabbat Ne'imah musical evenings, we offer a service of beautiful, profound and exultant melodies supported by the prayerful incorporation of musical instruments and vocal harmonies. This service takes an excerpting approach to the liturgy, including a partial Torah service, and incorporates English readings and meditations. It uses the Reconstructionist Kol Haneshamah mahzor, and lasts approximately two hours and fifteen minutes.

**Lev Shalem:** This service is geared toward facilitating a deeply soulful engagement with the traditional High Holiday liturgy, including full Shacharit, Torah, and Musaf services, experienced in an ambience of spirited singing, *kavannah*, and learning. It includes an opportunity to gather a half hour before the official start time of the morning service for meditation and *niggunim* (wordless melodies.) The service lasts approximately four hours, and we use the Lev Shalem machzor, edited by JCA member Rabbi Ed Feld. Please visit the website or inquire at the office about purchasing a copy for your personal use or to donate to the JCA.

**Family and Youth Services:** Please see the complete descriptions of the services on page 8.

**Mountain Service:** We meet for this second-day Rosh Hashanah observance at the Notch Visitors Center on Route 116. A hike up a steep trail on Bare Mountain (a short but moderately strenuous climb) is followed by singing and sounding the Shofar at the summit. Dress comfortably, with good hiking shoes, and bring hat and water. Rain or shine, except in severe weather, in which case we will meet for a creative service at the JCA. All ages welcome; youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a shofar, apples, honey, or honey cake to share atop the mountain.

**Tashlich:** This simple ceremony is performed at the water's edge, when we throw bits of bread or lint from our pockets into the stream as a symbolic casting away of our sins. We will do Tashlich at Groff Park.

**Mincha and Ne'ilah Services:** These concluding services for Yom Kippur intertwine Ne'imah and Lev Shalem elements, ending with the sounding of the Shofar and a spirited, musical community Havdalah. Light refreshments to break the fast are served after services.

Sign language interpretation will be available at the Rosh Hashanah evening and morning Ne'imah services, Kol Nidre Ne'imah service, Yom Kippur morning Ne'imah service, and Yom Kippur Minchah and Ne'ilah services.

# High Holidays Service Schedule



## EREV ROSH HASHANAH Sunday, October 2

Childcare Available .....	5:45 – 7:15 PM
Ne'imah Service .....	6:00 – 7:15 PM
Lev Shalem Service .....	8:00 – 9:15 PM

*There will be an oneg following each service.*

## 1st DAY ROSH HASHANAH Monday, October 3

Childcare Available .....	10:45 AM – 12:30 PM
Ne'imah Service .....	9:00 AM – 11:15 AM
Lev Shalem Service	
Niggunim/Meditation .....	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Shacharit .....	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Torah Service .....	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Musaf .....	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
<i>Bagel nosh in Multipurpose Room</i> .....	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Shalom Service for Young Families .....	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Shemesh Family Service (2nd - 5th grades) .....	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Jr. Chai Service (6th-8th grades) .....	10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
Tashlich .....	4:00 PM

## 2nd DAY ROSH HASHANAH Tuesday, October 4

Lev Shalem Service	
Shacharit .....	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Torah Service .....	11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Musaf .....	12:15 PM – 1:30 PM
Mountain Service .....	9:30 AM – Noon

## YOM KIPPUR - KOL NIDRE Tuesday, October 11

Childcare Available .....	5:45 – 7:30 PM
Ne'imah Service .....	6:00 – 7:30 PM
Lev Shalem Service .....	8:00 – 9:30 PM

## YOM KIPPUR DAY Wednesday, October 12

Childcare Available .....	10:45 AM – 12:30 PM
Ne'imah Service .....	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Lev Shalem Services:	
Niggunim/Meditation .....	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Shacharit .....	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Torah Service .....	11:00 AM
Yizkor .....	12:00 AM (approx.)
Musaf .....	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Shalom Service for Young Families .....	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Shemesh Family Service (2nd - 5th grades) .....	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Jr. Chai Service (6th-8th grades) .....	10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
Minchah .....	4:30 PM
Ne'ilah Service .....	5:45 PM
Tekiah Gedolah .....	7:00 PM
Havdalah .....	7:01 PM – 7:10 PM

## High Holiday Aliyot

In the past, the JCA has had the tradition of inviting committees and other groups within the community to rise for special group aliyot throughout the High Holiday Torah readings. Last year we discontinued this practice, though we still deeply cherish and respect all of the people who make our communal life possible through their service. Instead aliyot will be distributed by gabbaim during the services, or called thematically by Rabbi Weiner. If you would like to rise for an Aliyah, please let the usher know when you enter the sanctuary, so the gabbai can check with you and place you on the list or please let Rabbi Weiner know ahead of time ([rabbiweiner@j-c-a.org](mailto:rabbiweiner@j-c-a.org))

We will continue the long-standing Aliyah traditions on the first day of Rosh Hashanah:

\*In both the Ne'imah and Lev Shalem services, the first Aliyah will be reserved for those who have welcomed a new life into their family over the past year.

\*In the Lev Shalem service, the maftir (final) Aliyah will be reserved for Past Presidents of the JCA and Founding Members.



### Open Door for Holidays

JCA members are welcome at any and all services and do not need to register or reserve seats. We ask that non-members make a reservation one of three ways:

1. Call our main office at 256-0160
2. Drop by our office, Tues.-Fri. between 10:30 and 4:00
3. Visit our website at ([www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org)) and register online.

## 2016 - Yom Kippur Yizkor List - 5777

As a member of our community, you are invited to submit the name(s) of deceased loved ones for inclusion in the Yom Kippur Yizkor (memorial) service. *Once again, we are generating a new list. Even if a name has been included in previous years, you must resubmit the name.* All names will be listed in the memorial booklet. Please note the date of death (month and year) if the person to be remembered passed away in the Jewish year 5776. Only the names of those who passed away in 5776 will be read aloud at the Yizkor service, which takes place after the Torah is read in the Lev Shalem service.

It is customary to offer a tzedakah donation in memory of those persons whose names are listed. We suggest a donation of \$18 for a listing. However, all names are welcome as part of our community's Yizkor service, whether or not a donation has been made. To make a donation, please complete and mail this form and a check to the office, or go to <http://bit.ly/JCAyizkor> by October 5th.

### PART I

**Your Name:**

PART II (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY and include pronunciation if necessary)

**Person/s to be remembered:** \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death (if in 5776): \_\_\_\_\_

**Person/s to be remembered:** \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death (if in 5776): \_\_\_\_\_

### PART III (Optional)

I/We would like to offer a tzedakah donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**October 5th is the deadline to ensure inclusion in the Yizkor service booklet. Please sign up on line at <http://bit.ly/JCAyizkor>, or mail this form to YIZKOR LIST, JCA, 742 Main St., Amherst MA 01002.**

# The Holidays For Families



The JCA is delighted to be the Jewish home of a burgeoning young family population, and we offer many ways to help families feel at home throughout this season.

Children are welcome at all JCA services. We also offer special services designed specifically for kids and families. In addition, childcare is available for children

1 through 9 during high demand hours. Feel free to float between these various opportunities, and determine which feels right for you and your family.

- **Shalom Service for Young Families** 9:30 AM 1st Day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. 3 years old - 1st grade w/parents.
- **Shemesh Family Service**, 9:00 AM 1st Day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. 2nd - 5th grades w/parents.
- **Jr. Chai Service** 10:15 AM 1st Day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. 6th-8th grades, no parents.
- **Tashlich**, 4:00 PM 1st Day Rosh Hashanah, meet at Groff Park
- **Mountain Service**, 9:30 AM 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah, meet at Notch Visitors Center on Route 116

## Childcare

Childcare is staffed by experienced care providers who read books, work on holiday related art projects, play games, etc. A healthy (nut-free) snack will also be provided, but you may also provide your own snack so long as it meets the demands of the JCA kashrut policy (no meat products of any kind, but explicit kosher certification not required.)

No-preregistration required

We are pleased to offer DROP-IN childcare during Ne'imah Services. A contribution of \$6 - \$10/child per service is suggested to help cover the costs of providing high-quality childcare staff.

### Childcare hours:

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, October 2:	5:45-7:15 PM
1st Day Rosh Hashanah, Monday, October 3:	10:45-12:30 PM
Kol Nidre, Tuesday, October 11:	5:45-7:30 PM
Yom Kippur Day, Wednesday, October 12:	10:45-12:30 PM

Questions? Please contact Ariella, [ariellaschwell@gmail.com](mailto:ariellaschwell@gmail.com), 230-3694



## Yom Kippur Food Collection

On Yom Kippur, the Haftorah 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.



**THANK YOU!**

**Especially needed: tomato products, canned vegetables and fruits, soup, nut butters, breakfast cereal, and healthy kids' snacks**

## Home Hospitality for Break Fast

Are you hosting a break fast in your home? Would you like to join a break fast? Let us know if you can offer home hospitality to guests who are seeking a place to go. Please call the office if you are able to host or if you are looking for a break fast to join. We will play Yente and match hosts with guests.



## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND SERVICES

**Sukkot – Monday, October 17, 2016 10:00 AM**

**Shemini Atzeret – Monday, October 24, 2016 10:00 AM  
(includes Yizkor)**

**Simchat Torah – Monday, October 24, 2016 7:00 PM**

# Transportation & Parking

## Driving

Please carpool with family, friends and neighbors, particularly on the 1st day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, when parking will be more difficult. Also consider walking and biking if you live nearby.

## JCA Parking

In the evenings, the JCA parking lot is for elderly and handicapped drivers and for people attending the early service. Second evening service attendees should go directly to Fort River School, not the JCA (except for the handicapped and elderly). Absolutely no parking in fire lanes, although passengers may be dropped off at the JCA entrance. Please avoid parking between the entrance signs for the overflow grass lot at the JCA so as not to block cars entering and exiting from the lot. Parking volunteers will help to maximize parking and avoid congestion and potential mishaps in the JCA and field parking lots.

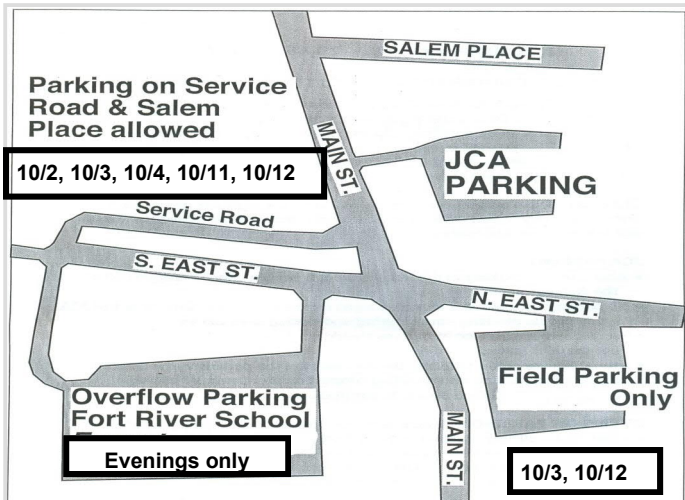
## Overflow Parking (see map below)

Street parking on South East Street Service Road and at Salem Place

Oct. 2, 3, 4, 11 and 12. These streets are posted as “no parking,” but you will not be ticketed. When parking on streets, please do not block driveways.

Fort River School - evenings only.

Field at the Corner of North East and Main Streets (North East Street entrance marked with a sign) - October 3 and 12.



## Public Transportation to JCA

Bus Route 30, N. Amherst/Old Belchertown Road, is the main bus that stops at the JCA. During the school year it runs every fifteen minutes from 7:30 am until 7:00 pm and every half hour thereafter on weekdays, and every hour on weekends. Schedules are online at: [www.pvta.com](http://www.pvta.com).

## Open Door Donations

We open our doors and our hearts not only at the High Holidays, but throughout the year. A critical part of what keeps our doors open is giving from members and friends who believe in our community and sustain it with their gifts of time and money. The Open Door Fund helps cover the costs of our High Holiday services and ensures that no one is turned away from being able to pray with our community. To contribute to this fund, please complete this form and return it with a check to the JCA, or donate online at [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am making a contribution to the JCA's Open Door Fund in the amount of**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

- I am enclosing a check.  
 I am dropping a check off at the office.



## Moving Torah: A Joint Community Selichot Evening & Havdalah

Saturday, Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m.

The joint Upper Valley Selichot service will take place on Saturday evening, September 24th, beginning at 8pm, at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St, Greenfield.

## Chemical Sensitivities

A number of our members have allergies to perfumes, colognes and other fragrances. Please try to minimize the use of these products when attending High Holiday services. Thank you.