

**REGISTRATION 2011-2012**

Dear Parent,

We'd love to see you and your child(ren) participating in education programs at the JCA. Enclosed is the information to register for the coming school year. Along with Rabbi Weiner and our staff we provide a variety of Family Education programming as our long-range planning process unfolds. As approved by the JCA Board and annual meetings in 2008, the Education Committee is working on priorities that were set for five years, and the committee is due to review our progress and reframe the upcoming goals. We based our decisions on our research, survey responses from school households, and discussion with staff and committees. Enclosed is a brief description of next year's programs. Each year we send home detailed and up-to-date information with our admit packet in early September, but to review last year's parent handbook and school calendar, check out our website: [www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org). Briefly, the highlights include:

- If you have children ages 4-6, Shalom Sunday meets on Sunday mornings each month, and we have Family Education, support, and outreach to families with children 6 years old and younger.
- We are continuing with the same sessions and time frames for grades 1-7. We have sufficient space to accommodate our current enrollment. We will have Family Education for Shabbat programming.
- Our Teen Programs have separate enrollment materials. If you would like them but did not receive them, contact [edassist@j-c-a.org](mailto:edassist@j-c-a.org). Teen programming has both Jewish study and social components.
- Education at the JCA is a community effort. We ask each household to volunteer to help in some way; please submit the Education Volunteer Form and use this opportunity to meet people, build community, and help our congregation of learners.
- Our school will be financially and socially stronger with 10-15 students in each grade. Encourage your friends and acquaintances to come to JCA School or Teen Programs.

**PLEASE** send in your registration as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly with teacher hiring, supply ordering and space allocation.

- Notice that we offer an early bird discount if completed registration is submitted by July 15 or within a month of becoming a JCA member.

I look forward to seeing you and your children in the coming school year. Over the summer, from mid-June through the end of July, I am in only once a week to check email and phone messages. By August, I will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you need immediate assistance, contact the Education Assistant, Eric, at [edassist@j-c-a.org](mailto:edassist@j-c-a.org).

B'Shalom,

Jody Rosenbloom, Director of Lifelong Learning

# 2011-2012 JCA Education Programs\*

## Preschool/Kindergarten Program: Shalom Sunday

Age level: 4 years old (By September 1, 2011) - 6 years old (Kindergarten)

Shalom Sunday meets one Sunday morning a month from 10:00-11:45. This program is designed as an introduction to the richness of our Jewish heritage. Through songs, games, stories and crafts, children celebrate Shabbat and holidays with blessings, customs, and community. A minimum of 6 children must be enrolled to offer the class. Concurrent parent gathering every other month.

Registration required.

## JCA School: Grades 1 & 2

Sunday mornings. 10am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: An introduction to Judaism and key concepts associated with holidays, prayer and mitzvot. We place special emphasis on Shabbat. Students participate in Kedushah LaTorah (consecration), a service in honor of beginning their formal Jewish education.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Students expand their knowledge of Jewish holidays and values through learning about the associated stories, ritual objects, and basic blessings. Students explore the synagogue as a spiritual home and physical space. Basic bible stories and Hebrew letters are introduced.

## JCA School: Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6

Sunday mornings (10 AM-12:15 PM) AND Wednesday afternoons (4-5:30 PM).

Students expand their knowledge of cycles to include lifecycle events, the weekly Torah portions, and key historic periods. Students learn to read Hebrew in order to become familiar with our prayer book, the basic order of the service, and a bit of modern Hebrew.

Text study includes an introduction to prophets, Torah study and commentary. Mitzvot (commandments/deeds) are practiced in the context of holidays, acts of kindness, and tzedekah. Students have the opportunity to attend grade level family Shabbat dinners, to help with a class tzedekah project, and to lead a prayer during Learner's Minyan, a brief prayer service at the end of each Sunday session (parents are invited).

**Children who enter our school after 3rd grade:** Our JCA School/Sunday program begins for all children when they are in 1st grade.

As of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students come on Wednesdays as well and Hebrew is formally introduced. If you wish to enroll your child in our school but your child is older than 3rd grade, please contact the Director of Lifelong Learning (256-0160) for an interview to assess your child's knowledge of the topics studied. If necessary, families may be asked to make special arrangements to bring their child up to grade level.

## JCA School: Grade 7

Students meet Saturday mornings (10-11am) AND Wednesday afternoons (4-5:30 pm). On Saturdays, the emphasis is on exploring communal prayer, individual beliefs, and the spectrum of Jewish practice. During the week, student activities address "teen issues," community service, and leadership opportunities in the school. Families gather 4-6 times a year for Shabbat dinner together. Formal Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation is done on a private basis with an individual tutor, family workshops and meetings with the rabbi.

## JCA Teens (JCAT) – See separate mailing

Teens can sign up for different levels of participation. Some programs are regional in conjunction with participating synagogues (Jewish Teens Of the Valley—JTOV). A schedule of meeting dates is provided monthly. Most communication is on-line. Youth advisors facilitate programs with activities, community service projects, discussions and snack. Confirmation class is offered every other year for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and will NOT be offered this year. Registration and fees.

## Intergenerational Community Education

All ages are invited to attend these workshops intended to enrich Jewish practice and understanding for each family. This year, our topics are: 1) Saturday Shabbat *B'yachad/Together* on Shabbat and 2) the Jewish value *B'tzelem Elohim/In God's Image*. As a community, we explore Judaism through study, the arts, and a variety of activities. Workshops build relationships within the congregation and empower participants to continue learning in their homes. Open attendance, occasional fees charged.

## Adult Education

A brochure or Thursday emails notify about course offerings, workshops and events. Open to the community, classes are usually taught by the rabbi, JCA members or staff. Registration and fees. Many opportunities are also available in the larger community. Refer to [www.jewishcultureconnect.com](http://www.jewishcultureconnect.com) or sign up for their e-newsletter.

**\*JCA School requires membership, school registration & tuition payment.**

**Welcome to JCA School**

**Please return these completed forms to the JCA office by  
August 31, 2011 (or ASAP) along with your check for 50% of the total tuition.**

Questions? Please contact Eric Delisle, Education Assistant at 413-256-0160 or edassist@j-c-a.org

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

**Parent/Guardian 1**

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian 2**

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

Address (if different from Parent/Guardian 1)\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Check box if both households should receive mailings

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

**1) Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Secular School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Has child attended a Jewish summer camp? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which one(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Secular School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Has child attended a Jewish summer camp? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which one(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Secular School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Has child attended a Jewish summer camp? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which one(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE INFORMATION (See Education Fund Brochure)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING STUDENT NEEDS

In order to help us plan for your child's experience in JCA School, please provide information regarding household and/or learning style situations that would affect your child's participation. In our experience, the following situations are often relevant: parent job change, recent move to a new home or community, student or family member illness, new sibling, death of a family member, divorce and/or custodial arrangements, environmental needs, and/or secular school dynamics.

\*If your child specifically has an IEP or an accommodation plan at school, we ask that you provide us with a copy of the relevant information.

1. Child's

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

Information \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Child's

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

Information \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Child's

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

Information \_\_\_\_\_

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## POLICIES FOR TUITION AND FEES:

1. All tuition and membership dues from the prior year must be paid in full, and the current year Dues Form with payment (as per your family's plan) must have been received, before registration can occur. 50% of total tuition (as indicated on the JCA Household Tuition Invoice: p. 3) is due by August 31, 2011. For Shalom Sunday students, full tuition is due by August 31. Payment for the remaining tuition and fees is due by December 15, 2011.
2. We refund all but \$150 in the case of withdrawal (e.g., move, we cannot meet a child's needs) within the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the beginning of school. THERE IS NO REFUND AFTER YOUR CHILD'S FIRST MONTH OF SCHOOL.
3. We pro-rate a reduction in tuition in the case of "late" enrollment for NEW members after October 30 as per the Treasurer's schedule.
4. Additional tutorial fees for students receiving extra assistance will be charged. Families will be contacted should this apply to their children.
5. JCA dues renewal information must be submitted in January 2011 to maintain membership and finish the school year.
6. If any of the financial terms pose a hardship at this time, please contact the Educational Assistant for a Scholarship Request Form at 413-256-0160 or edassist@j-c-a.org. The JCA has a limited amount of funds available for students in the JCA School. If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please turn in your registration forms ASAP. Scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis. Scholarship funds will be extremely limited for registrations turned in later than SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>.
7. All financial arrangements must be settled by August 31, 2011 or within 30 days of enrollment for new members/students.



**MEDICAL RELEASE /MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION**

*Due August 31, 2011*

**List allergies, pertinent medical information and any current medications/medical conditions for which this child is being treated.**

1. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY PHYSICIAN'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSURANCE COMPANY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY HOLDER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POLICY NO.:** \_\_\_\_\_

This permission is given with the understanding that the school will, if possible, attempt to reach me prior to any action. In the event of an emergency requiring medical attention, I authorize a representative of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST SCHOOL (JCA) permission to administer first aid on site, and authorize emergency transport of my child(ren) for medical treatment to the nearest medical care facility and to secure for my child(ren) the necessary treatment or first aid in the event I cannot be reached. I give permission for my child to be evaluated, diagnosed, treated, and/or given medication in accordance with the standard medical practice by licensed medical personnel. I relieve (JCA) of all responsibility and consequences that may arise as a result of this treatment. I will not hold the JCA liable in the event of injury. Further, I agree to accept any and all financial responsibility as a result of scheduling medical treatment.

**PARENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

**List 3 people as backup in case of an emergency, illness, or transportation issue during the times while your child(ren) are attending JCA school.**

			Available	
			Sun	Wed
Name: _____	Relationship: _____	Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____	Relationship: _____	Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____	Relationship: _____	Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SCHOOL SNACK: FOR PARENTS OF 3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

For 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders, snack is an important feature of Wednesday afternoons at JCA School. It provides a short break and time to socialize with peers. We request that 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade households contribute by either bringing snack on one Wednesday during the year or making a contribution to the snack fund. The amount of snack needed will depend on enrollment, but last year two bags of chips/crackers and 2 liters of juice was sufficient.

**Here is my contribution of \$20 to the snack fund**  
(check is attached)

**OR**

**I will provide snack**  
(The Education Assistant will contact you to confirm a date,  
and you will receive a reminder email a week in advance)

## PHOTO RELEASE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

- YES, I hereby grant the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, Amherst, MA, and its employees, the right to photograph my dependent and use the photo and or other digital reproduction of him/her or other reproduction of his/her physical likeness for publication purposes, whether electronic, print, digital or electronic publishing without further consideration, and I acknowledge the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST's right to crop or treat the photograph at its discretion. I also acknowledge the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST may choose not to use the photo at this time, but may do so at its own discretion at a later date.
- NO, The JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST may not use photographs of my child(ren).

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS VOLUNTEER FORM

We ask that all households have at least one parent volunteer to do something to support their child's Jewish education at the JCA.

### **VOLUNTEER**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact:

Best times to reach us: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone       Email

**Check which of the following you are interested in:**

#### **1. Big Picture**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Join the Education Committee:** Overview of programs spanning all ages, review concerns, develop budget, policy and procedure as needed. (Meets monthly for 2 hours)
- \_\_\_ **Help with grant development/writing**
- \_\_\_ **Teen Parent Representative**
- \_\_\_ **Community/Family Education Liaison**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Adult Education – Help develop programming and policy**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **School Committee:** Focus on JCA School programming, fundraisers and policies (Meets monthly up to 2 hours)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help with developing updated 5-year vision 2013-2018**

#### **2. Community Building**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Be a JCA School grade level parent coordinator:** Set up grade level communication. Be a point person for grade level activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help design and implement community service projects for children:** Do you know of community organizations locally and nationally that need help? Build the connection for our teachers and students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help lead a prayer or song during Learner's Minyan on Sunday morning.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Coordinate Shabbat family dinners**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help with special Family Shabbat programming on any of 4 designated Saturdays (9am-1pm) this coming year.**

#### **3. Focused Effort**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Be a contact person for new school families.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help with the Purim Carnival**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Talk to a class about your trip to Israel.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help ensure safety with parking lot duty in the winter months (Wed 5:20-5:40p.m.)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Snack coordinator or set-up for Wednesdays (4:30-4:45).**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Fundraiser for grades 1&2: Count Box Tops for Education**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Fundraiser for grades 3&4: Greeting cards**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Fundraiser for grades 5&6: Help with Dean's Beans sales/distribution on one Friday and one Sunday morning each month.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help with Bingo fundraiser**

#### **4. Other**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Do you have a talent or interest to share that we have not mentioned? Please describe:**

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**Thanks. A member of the Education Department staff or  
Education Committee will be contacting you.**