

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

Services and Events

Monday, March 6, 5:30pm: Board Meeting. All members welcome to attend.

Saturday, March 11, 10am: Purim Shabbat followed by Hamentaschen and Schapps

Saturday, March 25, 10am: Shabbat service followed by coffee, tea, pastry and conversation

Sunday, March 26, 10:30am: Book Group - NEW DATE: 'Fabulous Small Jews' by Joseph Epstein. Place to be announced. For further information, please contact Diana Richter (drpajama1@gmail.com)

Sunday, April 2, 10:00am – 11:30am: Study Session with Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen. Home of Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen. Email for address barbaracohen14@gmail.com. Firm RSVP needed Thursday before event.

CAS Renovation: the process continues

Many of you are aware that we have started some interior renovations of the CAS building, and things have been moving ahead quickly at the synagogue.

The first step was to sort and discard the many items that have been accumulating in the upstairs closet and the back hall. Then, Barbara and I met with Thom Whaley, a local contractor, someone I have worked with for years. We both were happy with what he suggested and his knowledge of an older building.

The two bathrooms are newly painted and the walls of the back hall on the lower level have been prepared and are ready for painting. By the time you read this article, the work on the downstairs areas will be nearing completion, the carpentry work and the painting of the upstairs closet should be finished, and the front door to the synagogue should have a better seal and a new coat of paint.

Of course, once you start working there is always something else to be done, but this was a major step in cleaning up and revitalizing some important secondary spaces in our historic building.

Linda Josephs

Welcome: a poster from the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities

Dear friends across the Reconstructionist movement,

These are challenging and uncertain times. One of the things we've been hearing a lot from lay leaders and rabbis in many of our communities is the desire to reaffirm and strengthen our shared Jewish values of diversity, inclusion, respect, and welcoming. During the recent meeting of the Plenum, for example, some participants spoke about their congregations' desire to stand up to bigotry and intimidation in light of the recent increase in acts of hate against various minority communities, including our own.

One small step that congregations can take is to post messages of welcome and inclusivity at the entrances or passageways of their meeting places. Of course, posting a message isn't a substitute for the study, work, and growth involved in deeper change. But it can make an important difference, even for a single person, and the conversations it can spark can build bridges of compassion and solidarity.

Our Affiliate Support department, with help from our Communications and design staff, has created a mini-poster that expresses these progressive Jewish values in an overt message of welcoming.

The essence of the poster is the foundational Jewish belief that all human beings are created in the Divine image. A final thought, from Elie Wiesel, z'l: "We must not see any person as an abstraction. Instead, we must see in every person a universe with its own secrets, with its own treasures, with its own sources of anguish, and with some measure of triumph."

In shalom and hope,

The Department of Affiliate Support

WELCOME

THIS SYNAGOGUE HONORS
THE DIVINE IMAGE IN EVERY
HUMAN BEING.

You are respected, appreciated and warmly
welcome here whether you are...

- ★ Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu or any other religion or no religion.
- ★ gay, straight, bi or anywhere on the spectrum of sexual orientation.
- ★ transgender, non-binary, cis-gender or anywhere on the spectrum of gender identity and expression.
- ★ a person of any racial or ethnic identity whatsoever.
- ★ a person with a disability, whether visible or not.
- ★ a person who was born here, who has moved to live here or is just visiting.

בואכם לשלום,
צאתכם לשלום.

MAY YOU
ENTER IN PEACE
AND RETURN
IN PEACE.



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
www.jewishrecon.org

LEFT vs RIGHT: The Battle for Israel's Soul



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

LEFT vs RIGHT

The Battle for Israel's Soul

Is Israel locked in a tragic dispute between two peoples claiming the same land - or a global conflict between Western democracy and Islamist terrorism? Is partition into two states the only way to ensure Israel's survival - or is it the surest path to ever-increasing bloodshed and possibly even endangering Israel's survival?



J.J. GOLDBERG

Editor-at-large of the
Forward newspaper



JONATHAN TOBIN

Senior online editor and chief
political blogger of *Commentary*
Magazine

Wednesday, March 29 at 7 p.m.
at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Programs are free & open to the public

Moderated by Albert Stern, editor of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*

This program is free & open to the public