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CROSSING CULTURES: THE AFRO-SEMITIC EXPERIENCE
Explorations of the Sacred and Secular Music of the African and Jewish Diasporas

<p>Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30PM</p> <p>Student Union Ballroom UMass Amherst</p> <p>Free for Five-College students; \$7 general public at the door</p>	
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In celebration of Black History Month, the UMass Amherst Office of Jewish Affairs and Hillel are proud to present **The Afro-Semitic Experience**, an ensemble dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich cultural and musical heritages of the Jewish and African Diasporas. The music of the group ranges from Eastern European klezmer and South African peace songs to Gospel, blues and hip-hop, to classic jazz standards.

Founded by Jewish bassist and Amherst native David Chevan and African American pianist Warren Byrd, the Afro-Semitic Experience is a cross-cultural band with a positive message about racism, anti-Semitism and Black-Jewish relations.

The Afro-Semitic Experience has twice placed second in *The New Haven Advocate*'s Battle of the Bands, which describes them as "a mind-blowing experience!" *The Jewish Week* says "The Afro-Semitic Experience rocks the house!" *The Valley Advocate* says "Think Jewish wedding, revival meeting and Charles Mingus all at once... This is multiculturalism with its hair down."

Presented by the UMass Amherst Office of Jewish Affairs and Hillel, and cosponsored by Multicultural Student Services, Black History Month Committee, WMUA 91.1FM, Center for Student Development, Student Affairs & Campus Life, and Smith/Amherst Hillel. Funded in part by grants from Debra Abrahams Weiner '81 and the Jewish Arts & Culture Initiative of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Interviews with band members can be arranged by contacting David Chevan at dchevan@snet.net or 203-287-5446. A high resolution photo of the band can be downloaded from www.umass.edu/jewish

For more information contact Larry Goldbaum at the Office of Jewish Affairs 413-545-9642 or Batya Kagan at Hillel 413-549-1710 ext 203.

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