



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, May 7 at 5:00 PM: Candle Lighting Service

Monday, May 10 at 5:30: CAS Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, May 12 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 AM: Study/Shavuot/Yizkor/Kaddish

Wednesday, May 19 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, May 22 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Morning Service via Zoom

Sunday, May 23 at 10:00 AM: Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing via Zoom

Wednesday, May 26 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, May 30 at 2:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: Photography: *Introduction to Photoshop*

This month's newsletter features:

- ***Gender Artist*, A new book of poems by Lee Schwartz**
- **Milchidika with Marty: *I'll Have a Two-Cents Plain***
- **May Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing**
- **Writers Reading**
- ***The Great Outdoors*, a Photographic Portfolio from the CAS Workshop**
- **May Creative Arts Workshop: Photography – *Introduction to Photoshop***
- **“Cooking with Alison” – *Cheese Blintzes***
- **May Yahrzeits**
- **May Donations**
- **CAS Advertisers and Sponsors**

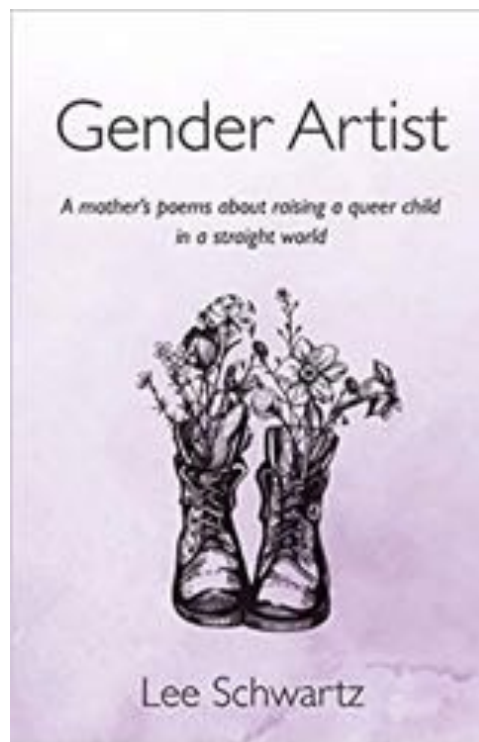
Gender Artist: A mother's poems about raising a queer child in a straight world

CAS member Lee Schwartz's new book is available through Amazon.com.

"At once brilliant and brave, tender and gut-raw, Lee Schwartz's *Gender Artist* explores and documents a mother's response to her child's gender transformation. These are poems that shatter and satisfy, convincing us that the deeply-examined life is the only kind worth living. *Gender Artist* is a must-read."

Robin Greene, author of *The Shelf Life of Fire* and *Real Birth, Women Share Their Stories*

"Schwartz uncovers the hard-fought fullness of herself as the mother of someone "not he or she, but all of it." Each poem unlocks a new door, leading us down an unexpected passageway of struggle and understanding."
Susie Kaufman, retired hospice chaplain and author of *Twilight Time: Aging in Amazement* (Wipf and Stock).



"We all fear for our children. What if our beloved daughter began to wear men's underwear and declared, "I feel more like a man than a woman"? *Gender Artist* by Lee Schwartz traces the intimate journey of mother and child in moving, beautifully-rendered poems."

Sonia Pilcer is a poet, playwright, and the author of six novels including *The Holocaust Kid*.

"In Lee Schwartz's storied poems one gender artist is the child "trekking out to pitcher's plate, / leaving her cello on the floor," while the other is the mother, who goes on to find "the man in me." This mother shudders and marvels as her daughter "becomes a man" — her "child as Houdini on 'Who am I?' day" in second grade. Packed with similes and metaphors, these are startling poems that will linger and foment."

Elaine Sexton, author of *Prospect/Refuge* (from the Amazon.com website)

Born in Brooklyn, Lee Schwartz is a native New Yorker. She graduated with advanced degrees in NYU and has never left Greenwich Village. She studied with Sharon Olds and Frida Kahlo is another mentor. Lee is Two-time winner of the Allen Ginsberg, Paterson Literary Prize and served as Artist in Residence at the 92nd St Y in NYC. She has work in *TRANS BODIES*, *TRANS SELVES*, Oxford University Press, *Writing Fire*, Green Fire Press, and many Journals.

Milchidika with Marty: *I'll Have a Two-Cents Plain*

[Note: This article originally appeared in the January 2017 issue of the CAS Newsletter]

When I was growing up in Astoria, Queens, it seems that all the local stores in our neighborhood were always referred to by the owner's last name, not the name of the store. The local fruit market was owned by an Italian man named Albano, the candy store was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz, the bakery was owned by The Walken family, and the drug store was Genovese Drugs.

So when my father wanted me to go and pick up a newspaper for him, he would say, "Go to Schwartz's and get me a copy of the Daily News." Or my mother would send me to Albano's for two onions.

Schwartz's candy store was a throwback to the past. They had a soda fountain, where for four cents you could have an egg cream, which contained no eggs, nor cream, but was two pushes of chocolate syrup from the soda fountain dispenser, a "splash" of milk and seltzer. While a "two-cents plain" was simply a glass of seltzer.

Outside of the store was a wooden news-stand where you could buy the Daily News or the Daily Mirror for two cents, or the Journal-American for a nickel. No one in my family ever read the New York Times.

But most importantly, inside the usually dark and gloomy store (Schwartz rarely turned on the electric lights in order to save money) was a glass fronted wooden candy show case, where for a penny, you could buy such delicacies as Tootsie Rolls, Black Licorice Laces, Bubble Gum, Mary Janes, and Raisinettes.

I think that was my first lesson in decision-making, and it took a long time. Mr. Schwartz seemed to have a lot of patience then. All for a one-cent sale.

He also sold wax mustaches, wax monster fangs, and big red wax lips, which I'm sure only the boys would buy.

On Saturday mornings, the local movie theater would offer something called "Kid's Special." It would begin with the "Fox Movie- Tone News with Lowell Thomas" and it showed black and white films about Germany and something called Nazis. It didn't mean too much to us then.

The newsreel was then followed by three or four comic shorts; followed by the weekly installment of the adventures of the "Lone Ranger," or "Jack Armstrong-All American Boy," or "Buck Rogers in the Twenty-Fifth Century," followed by two feature films.

We would love to see such scary movies as "Frankenstein," "Son of Frankenstein," "Daughter of Frankenstein" all of them starring Boris Karloff, as well as "Dracula" with Bela Lugosi, and finally "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" with Charles Laughton.

I remember watching most of those movies turned to the rear of the theater, away from the screen, with my hands over my ears. Boy, was I scared. Boy, did I love them.

My mother would give me a couple of empty soda bottles to cash in for the deposit at the grocery store, and off I would go to the movies, to sit for the next five hours or so with my friends. We were ten or eleven at the time, and somehow I remember only boys in the theater, but I would guess here and there were a couple of girls.

Initially, before the movie began, there would be a lot of throwing of popcorn, and wrestling in the aisles. But somehow the ushers would manage to quiet the over-energetic boys and the show would begin.

When the show was finally over, the theater manager would open the side door of the theater and as we filed out, he would hand each of us a comic book and a chocolate ice cream pop. All this for eleven cents.

Hadn't yet discovered girls, but that's another story.

May Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing

Our next memoir writing session will take place on Sunday, May 23rd from 2:00-4:00. Short writing exercises and shared readings. Each session is stand-alone. RSVP please to bjanoff1@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.



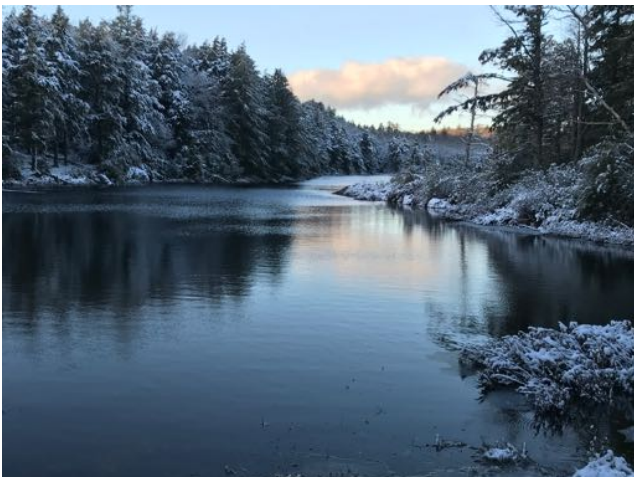
Barbara Janoff Ph.D. is an associate professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York in Manhattan, where she teaches writing and literature. Her poetry and essays have appeared in a number of journals, including Communication Arts, Women's Work: TheJournal of the Columbia College Women's Center and the Berkshire Review.

Writers Reading: A Call for Submissions

CAS is planning a Zoom reading for late spring/early summer and invites members of the congregation to submit their poems or excerpts from fiction or non-fiction (memoir) writing. We are interested in showcasing our talented members. The Creative Arts Committee will review and choose a selection of proposed pieces and ask those writers to read their creations during a Sunday afternoon program. Each reader will begin with a short introduction to their work, placing their piece in perspective. At the conclusion of the readings an open question and answer session will take place. Any questions the contact person is Barbara Janoff. Her email is bjanoff1@gmail.com

The Great Outdoors, a photographic portfolio

These photographs were among the group of images that were submitted for discussion and critique during the April Creative Arts Photography Workshop. The topic was "The Great Outdoors."



Photograph by Barbara Janoff



Photograph by Barbara Barron



Photograph by Caroline Forsman



Photograph by Michele Waldman



Photograph by Louise Hillman



Photograph by Sandra Flannery



Photograph by Arthur Hillman

May Creative Arts Workshop: Photography – Using Photoshop

This workshop will take place on Sunday, May 30 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. The session will start with a general introduction to the Adobe Photoshop software package, identifying working approaches, tools, and a variety of basic editing procedures. Each of the participants will be sent, in advance, a single image to work with on their own, using whatever tools and programs are available to them. Each person attending the workshop will also submit one image that they wish to edit during the class. Together, we will explore the possibilities inherent in Photoshop, using each person's two images as starting points.



(Please email arthurhillman54@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 26 to reserve a place and to submit your two photographs). You can participate in this workshop even if you have not attended the previous ones.

A photographer and printmaker, Arthur Hillman has been exhibiting his prints for more than fifty years. His work has been presented in over twenty one-person shows and in many national print exhibitions and group exhibits. Arthur taught at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston before joining the visual arts faculty of Simon's Rock in 1974 and taught there until retiring in 2011. He is Professor Emeritus, *Photography, Printmaking and Design*, Bard College at Simon's Rock. Additional work can be seen online at arthurhillman.net.

Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

“Cooking with Alison”

The fifth cooking demonstration from our own Alison Adams-Weinberg's kitchen is Cheese Blintzes. **We have installed the video on the CAS website along with Alison's other cooking videos.** Please check it out! The printed recipe is below.



Cheese blintzes

I got this recipe from Joan Nathan

Ingredients

- 1 lb Farmers cheese
- 1/4 cup brick style cream cheese
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 5 large eggs
- 2 cups flour (All Purpose)
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp salt, for filling

Directions

1. In medium bowl mix together farmer cheese, cream cheese, egg, sugar and salt. Set aside in refrigerator for at least 1/2 hour.
2. Now make batter:
Put water, milk, eggs, in blender or use portable mixer. Mix and then add flour and salt and blend till smooth. Let it rest for half an hour. Does not need refrigeration.
3. Use electric crepe maker or heat non-stick 8 inch skillet or omelet pan. Add scant tsp butter. Lift pan off heat and pour about 1/4 cup batter onto pan. Tilt pan so batter covers bottom of pan. Return to heat and cook until it blisters, 1-2 minutes. Turn crepe onto waxed paper or parchment paper, cooked side down. Continue making crepes.
4. Take one crepe and add 3-4 tbsps of filling leaving space around edges. Fold up two sides then fold and roll.
5. Refrigerate or freeze blintzes.
6. When ready to serve, melt butter in frying pan or skillet, add blintzes leaving room around them. When brown, flip and brown other side. Serve with a dollop of sour cream or serve with fresh fruit.
7. If using frozen blintzes, defrost then fry.
You can fry, brown and then freeze too.
If frying first and freezing them, reheat frozen blintzes in a 425 degree oven for 30 minutes.

May Donations

In honor and memory of my father, Alfred Dronge, and my daughter, Risa Graubard

Joy Robin Dronge

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In appreciation of the Creative Arts Workshops

Caroline Forsman (Photography and Memoir Workshops)

Louise and Arthur Hillman (Photography and Memoir Workshops)

Barbara Janoff (Photography Workshop)

May Yahrzeits

“Much of our experience of divine goodness, grace and love has come to us through those whose lives have touched our own.”

	Hebrew Date	2021 Date
Risa Graubard	Iyyar 26 5775	5/8
Irene Linder	Iyyar 26 5760	5/8
Hilda Krasner Radin	Sivan 01 5777	5/12
Henriette Waller	Sivan 04	5/15
Howard Kanner	Sivan 11 5756	5/22
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