



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER December 2022

Upcoming services and events

Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Services at the synagogue

Wednesday, December 7 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, December 9 at 5:00 PM: Candle Lighting Service via Zoom

Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

at 7:00 PM: Jewish Museum Virtual Tour via Zoom
Marc Chagall: *Love, War and Exile*

Wednesday, December 21 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Monday, December 26 at 2:30 PM: A Concert for a Winter Afternoon at the South Berkshire Friends Meeting House, 280 State Road, Great Barrington

Wednesday, December 28 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Thursday, December 29 at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop

This month's newsletter features:

- *Chagall: Love, War and Exile*, a Jewish Museum Virtual Tour
- CAS presents: A Concert for a Winter Afternoon
- The new CAS Online Gallery exhibition: *Three Photographers*
- December *Creative Arts Workshops*
- Autumn Spirits – People's Pantry fundraiser
- December Yahrzeits
- December Donations
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Chagall: Love, War and Exile, a Jewish Museum Virtual Tour

Congregation Ahavath Sholom is proud to announce their third Virtual Museum Tour, "Chagall: Love, War and Exile," with renowned lecturer Rena Tobey. The Zoon presentation takes place on Wednesday evening, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The work in this online tour explores a significant but lesser-known period in the artist's career from the rise of fascism in the 1930s through 1948, years spent in Paris and then in exile to New York. Marc Chagall (1887–1985), one of the foremost modernists of the 20th century, created his unique style by drawing on elements from richly colored folk art motifs, the Russian Christian icon tradition, Cubism, and Surrealism. Beginning with the evocative paintings from his years in France, the exhibition illuminates an artist deeply responsive to the suffering inflicted by war—often expressed with Christian imagery—and to his own personal losses and intimate sorrows. By the late 1940s, Chagall returns to colorful, joy-filled work celebrating love.

This ground-breaking and courageous exhibit tackled what is easily the most vexing subject in the career of the most beloved of Jewish artists; Marc Chagall (1887-1985). Namely: his persistent, indeed obsessive, use of the crucifixion as a symbol of Jewish suffering and persecution. The exhibit traces Chagall's lifelong fascination with the emblem of Christianity, especially in his work created during the Holocaust.

The voice of the artist rings loud and clear as he links his controversial images to specific events: Berlin anti-Semitic riots (1930), Hitler's takeover (1933), deportation of Polish Jews (October 1938), Kristallnacht (November 1938), massacre of the Vitebsk Jews (1941), among many other Holocaust horrors. Seen here, his work using the crucifixion dates from the early masterpiece, *Calvary* (1912), to late in his career, *In Front of the Picture* (1971). Questions immediately arise: why did Chagall use this potentially painful symbol of the Jews persecutors to symbolize Jewish suffering itself?



Installation view of the exhibition Chagall: Love, War and Exile. The Jewish Museum, New York. Photo: David Heald.

About Rena Tobey

Rena values learning, creative possibility, and fun and dedicates her energy to sparking lively minds. Building on an academic and organizational career, she is passionate about engaging people with all forms of visual expression and filling the spoken word with verve. She has a PhD in Human and Organizational Studies, with 14 years experience as an organizational coach, trainer, and consultant. Recently, Rena completed her MA, art history program at Hunter College, with a thesis on [Elizabeth Okie Paxton](#) and her provocative 1910 painting *The Breakfast Tray*. Her recent virtual tours for CAS included *The Hare with Amber Eyes* and the *Harlem Renaissance*.

**The cost for CAS members is \$20 and \$25 for non-members.
Please register and make payment on our website at: www.ahavathsholom.com.**

Congregation Ahavath Sholom presents
A Concert for a Winter Afternoon

Congregation Ahavath Sholom will be presenting a concert on December 26th at 2:30 p.m. This event will be held at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse at 280 State Road in Great Barrington. We are privileged to have two accomplished young musicians, Philip and Meredith Thompson, performing a program of classical selections. Light refreshments to follow for the last day of Chanukah.



Philip and Meredith Thompson, born and raised in NYC, started studying music at a very young age as part of their homeschool curriculum. Both are students of Ronn Yedidia at The New York Piano Academy, having won numerous competitions and played on various well-known stages.

Philip studies cello with Yehuda Hanani and is a member of The New York Youth Orchestra and Mannes precollege program.

Meredith studies violin with Elizabeth Faidley. For the last several years they have participated in the annual The High Peaks Music Festival at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA.

Philip and Meredith are grateful to be performing and honoring their Jewish heritage.



We would love you to tell us if you are coming. Please RSVP to casoffice15@gmail.com. Donations can be made on our website ahavathsholom.com, with a suggested donation of \$20; please specify that this is for the concert. Donations can also be made at the door.

The new CAS Online Gallery presents: *Three Photographers*

This month we've added a new feature to our website, the CAS Online Gallery. Our first virtual exhibition is "Three Photographers," the images of Barbara Janoff, Michele Waldman, and Van Forsman. An outgrowth of the CAS Photography Workshops led by Arthur Hillman, the gallery slide show is accompanied by a video conversation between the three Photographers.

A black button on the website home page (www.ahavathsholom.com) connects you to the gallery. Please check it out!



Photograph by Barbara Janoff



Photograph by Michele Waldman



Photograph by Van Forsman

December Creative Arts Workshops

Check the upcoming CAS email blasts for the date of the next Memoir Writing Workshop. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at bjanoff1@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

Barbara Janoff Ph.D. recently retired from the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York in Manhattan, where she taught writing and literature. Her poetry and essays have appeared in a number of journals, including Communication Arts, Women's Work: The Journal of the Columbia College Women's Center and the Berkshire Review.

The next Photography Workshop will take place at 7:00 p.m. on December 29th. Participants in the workshop can submit any images they would like discussed, regardless of subject matter or content, using phone or camera. They can also share their screen with the group. These workshops are stand-alone sessions, open to all. Please RSVP to arthurhillman54@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

Photographer and printmaker Arthur Hillman has been exhibiting his prints for more than 50 years. He has delivered a variety of lectures and presentations on photography and printmaking, juried many exhibits, and was a founding member of the Berkshire Photography Group. He is Professor Emeritus, Photography, Printmaking and Design, Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Autumn Spirits – People's Pantry fundraiser

On Sunday, October 30th at 4:00 pm, via zoom, CAS presented "Autumn Spirits," a reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season. Some of the writers featured were Keats, Oliver, Paley, Poe, Sexton, and Octavio Paz. CAS members Caroline Forsman, Barbara Janoff, Ellen Kanner, Carol Killian, and Stephanie Sloane read. Our guest reader was Jim Frangione, Artistic Director of the Great Barrington Public Theatre. A video of the event can be seen on the home page of the CAS website.

This event was a fundraiser for the People's Pantry. If you haven't already made a donation, please do so, using the website's DONATE button; the need is great!



December Jahrzeits

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

	ORIGINAL DATE	ORIGINAL DATE	THIS YEAR'S DATE
Mildred Hillman	Kislev 07 5753	12/2/1992	12/1
Miriam Brecher	Kislev 7 5759	11/26/1998	12/1
Faye Paikin	Kislev 7 5742	12/3/1981	12/1
Gussie Osterweil	Kislev 08 5735	11/12/1975	12/2
Martha Gellert	Kislev 12 5752	11/19/1991	12/6
Irving Innerfield	Kislev 12 5737	12/4/1976	12/6
Harry Fine	Kislev 12 5748	12/3/1987	12/6
Sally Fine	Kislev 12 5756	12/7/1992	12/6
Freya Maier	Kislev 16 5764	12/11/2003	12/10
Barbara Joslyn	Kislev 18 5754	12/2/1993	12/12
Monroe Lefkowitz	Kislev 20 5770	12/7/2009	12/14
Hilda Isaacs	Kislev 24 5758	12/23/1997	12/18
Sallie Slote	Kislev 27 5752	12/4/1991	12/21
Louis Kassler	Tevet 02 5751	12/19/1990	12/26
Sylvia Barth	Tevet 02 5759	12/21/1998	12/26
Sonya Richter	Tevet 03 5751	12/20/1990	12/27
Fannie Radin	Tevet 06 5729	12/27/1968	12/30

December Donations

In memory of my father, Louis Kassler
Sandra Flannery

In memory of Mildred Hillman
In memory of Joy Dronge
Arthur and Louise Hillman

Autumn Spirits - In support of the People's Pantry
Bill and Sandra Flannery
Jim Frangione
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Linda Josephs
Carol Killian
Susan Weinstein

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops
Ross Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)
Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)
Linda Josephs (Memoir Workshop)
Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)
Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

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Nancy Cohen and John Slote

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