



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

Friday, 31 July 2026 / 17th of Av, 5786

Parashat Eikev

This Week @ CAS



This Shabbat

Rabbi Rudin will be visiting Camp Havaya, the Reconstructing Judaism summer camp.

Monday, August 3



6:00 PM

High Holy Day Honors & Aliyah Committee Meeting



Zoom

Wednesday, August 5



No Café Kehilah

Friday, August 7



No Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Please note this calendar change. There will be no Kabbalat Shabbat service this Friday.

Saturday, August 8



10:00 AM

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

We look forward to learning together!

Three Important Things to Do This Week



1. Complete the High Holiday Planning Survey

Please respond today!

We've sent a brief survey to help us prepare for the High Holy Days. Your responses will help us create a welcoming and accessible experience for everyone.

The survey includes questions about:

-  Parking preferences
-  Accessibility for those with limited mobility
-  Hearing accommodations
-  Visual accessibility

Thank you for taking a few moments to share your needs. Your feedback helps us better serve our entire community.



2. Order Your Lulav & Etrog

Order by August 15 to ensure availability!

Believe it or not, it's already time to place your Lulav & Etrog order for Sukkot. This year, we'll be ordering beautiful sets from Modern Tribe.

Cost: \$84 per set

To place your order, please email Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at

RabbiRudinAhavathSholom@gmail.com.

3. Submit Poetry for the High Holy Days

Submissions due August 15

One of Congregation Ahavath Sholom's cherished traditions is weaving poetry throughout our High Holiday services. Like the Torah itself, poetry has the power to express profound truths, invite reflection, and give voice to the emotions of the Days of Awe.

We invite members of our community to submit original poems or published poems that have special meaning to you for consideration. Approximately four poems will be selected for each of our High Holiday services:

- Erev Rosh HaShanah
- Rosh HaShanah Day
- Kol Nidre
- Yom Kippur Day
- Ne'ilah

This year's High Holiday theme is inspired by the closing words of the Amidah:

"Make our days new as they were in the past."

Let this phrase inspire your selection in whatever way speaks to you. Your poem does not need to be a literal interpretation of these words.

Please email your submission to Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at RabbiRudinAhavathSholom@gmail.com by August 15. To ensure a fair review process, all submissions will be blinded before being shared with the Poetry Committee.

This Year's Poetry Committee

- Barbara Janoff
- Jayne Benjulian
- Karen Chase
- Irene Goldman-Price

After the poems have been selected, Rabbis Jennifer Rudin and Jeffrey Eisenstat will thoughtfully place each one within the service where it will have the greatest impact. If your poem is selected, you will have the opportunity to read it during the service if you wish.

The High Holidays invite us to reflect on who we have been, who we are becoming, and how we hope to live in the year ahead. Poetry often reaches places that prose cannot—even in its silences, poetry speaks. We look forward to discovering the words that will enrich our worship and deepen our shared journey through this sacred season.

A Caring Community

Mazal Tov to Jayne Benjulian and the Building Committee for all of their hard work.

Yashar Koach to the Executive Committee for the excellent Annual Meeting.

Kol HaKavod to the CAS Community, lead by Alison Adams Weinberg for the delicious Potluck that followed the Annual Meeting.

Yashar Koach to Dawn Rosenberg McKay for all of the CAS submissions to the Berkshire Jewish Voice.