



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER July and August 2022

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, July 6 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, July 8 at 5:00 PM: Candle Lighting Service via Zoom

Monday, July 11 at 5:30 PM: July Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 13 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, July 16 at 10:00 AM: In-person Shabbat Service at the synagogue (masks required)

Monday, July 18 at 12:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing

Wednesday, July 20 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, July 24 at 10:00 AM: In-person Study Session at the synagogue (masks required)

Wednesday, July 27 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Wednesday, August 3 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, August 5 at 5:00 PM: In-person Shabbat Service at the synagogue (masks required)

Wednesday, August 10 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, August 13 at 10:00 AM: In-person Shabbat Service at the synagogue (masks required)

Monday, August 15 at 12:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing

Monday, August 15 at 5:30 PM: August Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 17 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, August 27: Elul Celebration (Time and location to be determined)

Wednesday, August 31 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

- An Evening with Jim Frangione, Artistic Director of the GBPT
- The CAS Annual Meeting
- Introducing Our New Board Members
- In memory of Kay and Mike Jaffe
- July and August *Creative Arts Workshops*
- Milchidika with Marty: I Loved the Boy Scouts Until I Discovered Girls
- July and August Yahrzeits
- Donations
- Community Concert
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

An evening with Jim Frangione of the Great Barrington Public Theater

On June 20th, Jim Frangione, the Artistic Director of the Great Barrington Public Theater (GBPT), gave an informal Zoom talk about this new theater during a Zoom event sponsored by the CAS Creative Arts Committee. Jim discussed how the GBPT was created and how each season of plays is chosen and comes to fruition. He discussed GBPT's central mission of presenting new work, showcasing and creating opportunities for local talent, and offering affordable tickets to audiences throughout the Berkshires. He then answered questions from the audience.



The GBPT season opened in the Daniel Arts Center's Liebowitz Black Box Theatre at Simon's Rock with a Solo Fest running June 3 thru July 10. This four-show series began with *Grief the Musical...a Comedy*, written and performed by Alison Larkin, with music by Gary Schreiner and directed by James Warwick (June 3 – 12). Next in the series (June 16 – 19), was Robin Gerber's new play, *The Shot*, based on the remarkable life of Katherine Graham, renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning publisher of *The Washington Post*. *The Shot* was directed by Michelle Joyner and starred Emmy-nominated and award-winning actress Sharon Lawrence in the role of Katherine Graham.

Leave Your Fears Here (June 30 – July 10) is a profound and insightful memoir written and performed by acclaimed stage and screen actor James Morrison. The play will be directed by Housatonic resident Robert Egan, Artistic Director of the internationally renowned Ojai (CA) Playwright's Conference, where this piece was developed. The final play in the Solo Fest was *The Bard The Beat The Blues*. This new solo piece featured a punchy compilation of Shakespeare monologues, Beat poetry and live music composed and performed by Will LeBow. This piece will run throughout the Solo Fest (June 8 – July 8). Jim Frangione directed this offering, and he also provided a block of complimentary tickets to CAS members.

The McConnell Theater mainstage at Simon's Rock springs to life July 14 with the premiere of *Public Speaking 101*, a new comedy by Berkshire playwright Mark St. Germain, running through July 24. From August 4th thru August 14th audiences will be drawn in and touched by *Things I know to Be True*, by award-winning playwright Andrew Bovell (Broadway—*When the Rain Stops Falling*). A sweeping, powerful midwestern family drama, it was first presented by Milwaukee Rep in 2019 to rave reviews and was headed for Broadway until Covid intervened. GBPT will present the East Coast premiere of this brilliant new play. Judy Braha, who helmed the theater's 2021 hit *Mr. Fullerton*, will direct.

More information on the ten-week, two-stage season go to the [Great Barrington Public Theater](#) website. Tickets are affordable to all, but seating is limited.

See a video of Jim's talk on the CAS website!

The CAS Annual Meeting

The CAS Annual Meeting was held on Monday, June 27th on Zoom. After Rabbi Barbara Cohen offered some opening remarks, meeting leader Alison Adams-Weinberg of the Executive Committee (Alison Adams-Weinberg Arthur Hillman, Linda Josephs) gave a review and commentary about the year's events (July 2021-June 2022).

1. Online High Holy Day services
2. Friday night candle lighting and Saturday morning services on Zoom
3. Wednesday Café Kehillah coffee hours
4. Study sessions
5. Upcoming in-person services and events at the synagogue
6. The continuing Creative Arts workshops in Memoir Writing and Photography
7. The Sips and Sonnets poetry readings and People's Pantry donation; future programs
8. The series of Jewish Museum and the Harlem Renaissance virtual tours



Harold Schrager gave a report on the structure, function, and planning of the RSL, the Religious and Spiritual Life Committee (Brenda Butler, Lisa Chamberlain, Rabbi Barbara Cohen, Harold Schrager, John Slote)

Treasurer Dan Burkhardt gave a financial report and review

Barbara Janoff reviewed the programs and events organized by the Creative Arts Committee (Arthur Hillman, Barbara Janoff, Linda Josephs, Stephanie Sloane, Ilene Spiewak, Michele Waldman)

Irene Goldman-Price gave a report on the work of the Nomination Committee (Irene Goldman-Price, Gail Orenstein)

Arthur Hillman and Vivian Scheinmann were re-elected as members of the Board of Directors

Sandra Flannery and Michele Waldman, who are stepping down, were applauded for their outstanding work

Jayne Benjulian and Arlene Shapiro were nominated, elected, and welcomed as new Board members

Sandra Flannery, speaking for the Security and Safety Committee (Alison Adams-Weinberg, Dan Burkhardt, Sandra Flannery, Arthur Hillman, Linda Josephs, Michele Waldman), gave a report on the research done by the Committee which included considering a report from the RSL Committee, reviewing online programs sponsored by the SCN (Secure Community Network), viewing CJP Communal Security Initiative zoom program, meeting with security consultant for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Len Schiller at CAS, and meeting at the synagogue with Great Barrington Chief of Police Paul Storti and police security specialist Adam Carlotto.

The Committee endorsed the following suggestions:

1. Be aware of people and activities around the building that are unusual or suspicious
2. Be aware of your surroundings, and ask synagogue neighbors to also "be aware"
3. Schedule safety drills coordinated by the GB Fire Department
4. Schedule a session coordinated by the GB Police Department on the use of silent 911 calls
5. In any emergency, dial 911 immediately

The CAS Board of Directors voted to approve and finance the following safety and security measures:

1. Install a video/audio camera at the entrance of our building with an interior monitor; have a "script" available for greeters
2. Install emergency alarm buttons in appropriate places
3. Install brighter motion detector lights around the building and at the top of the fire escape
4. Replace old door hinges with ones with non-removable pins; replace the fire escape door if necessary
5. Cut back shrubs and overgrowth
6. Raise the level of the current bannisters or install an additional one to make travel up the stairs safer and easier
7. Install a new air conditioner in the sanctuary for comfort and the ability to close the windows and blinds

The meeting was adjourned with the hope that next year's session can be held in-person.

Introducing our new Board Members

Jayne Benjulian



Jayne Benjulian is the author of numerous essays and two poetry collections. Her careers have been as varied and many as places she has lived: she served as chief speechwriter at Apple, investigator for the public defender in King County, Washington, and director of new play development at Magic Theater. She was a teaching fellow at Emory University; lecturer in the Graduate Program in Theater at San Francisco State University; and Fulbright Teaching Fellow in Lyon, France. She earned an MA at Emory University and an MFA from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers.

Jayne is an inspired editor and coach for artists and writers. She founded the Berkshire Writers Projects, where she helps writers and artists develop their book projects and teaches occasional workshops.

Jayne was a founding board member of Apple's child care center. She belonged to a synagogue in California, where she lived for two decades, but was deeply disappointed when rabbis she admired began to present themselves in the manner of corporate CEOs. A full-time Berkshire resident for seven years and a member of Ahavath Shalom for two, her attraction to the synagogue is its intimacy. She would like to amplify that sense of closeness by developing ways for new members to feel a sense of welcome and belonging here.

Arlene Shapiro



I first joined CAS about 22 years ago when my husband and I purchased our first home here in the Berkshires. We had been Reconstructionists for many years and my husband was on the Board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. It was natural that we would join a Reconstructionist synagogue where we had our second home.

My first experience as a Treasurer of a synagogue was at Kehillath Shalom, a Reconstructionist synagogue in Cold Spring Harbor on Long Island. I had taken accounting courses at Baruch College towards an accounting degree but changed to a finance major when being an accountant was no longer of interest. The synagogue was small and I did all of the entries in the books and kept all the records.

When I moved into New York City, I joined West End Synagogue, which at the time was the premier synagogue of the Reconstructionist movement. It was a thrill to go to services to hear the leaders of the movement discuss the Parsha of the week. I was happy to help in the finance department and became the Treasurer of the synagogue a few years later. We had a bookkeeper who entered all the checks and paid the bills, but I prepared the financial statements and the budget.

When we moved from New York to Naples, FL, we joined a Reform congregation, Temple Shalom. There I took on the role of Financial Secretary, keeping track of delinquent dues and preparing the annual budget. During this time, we still have kept our affiliation with our other synagogues. I look forward to working with the Treasurer and the other members of the Board of CAS.

The CAS Board of Directors

Alison Adams-Weinberg
Jayne Benjulian
Dan Burkhard
Irene Goldman-Price

Arthur Hillman
Barbara Janoff
Linda Josephs

Vivian Scheinmann
David Scribner
Arlene Shapiro
Ilene Spiewak

In Memory of Kay and Mike Jaffe

Sadly, news of the deaths of Mike and Kay Jaffe recently reached the Berkshires. Mike passed away March 5th at age 97 and Kay, age 95, his wife of 72 years, passed away at the end of May.

From the December 2018 CAS Newsletter:

On Friday, November 30th, the congregation honored Kay and Mike Jaffe at a special Shabbat service. The Jaffes have been very active, long-time members of CAS who are moving to Florida in December. They have been an integral part of the book club, attended Barbara's Torah study sessions at the synagogue, and were volunteers for many organizations in the larger community, including the People's Pantry. They attended most CAS programs and events and were always willing and ready to help support the congregation. They will be truly missed.

They had relocated to Tallahassee FL to be near family.

Condolences may be sent to son Sandy. (Sandy Jaffe and Jaffe family, 6272 Crestwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32311)



Kay and Mike Jaffe at a CAS potluck dinner 2004



Mike working at the People's Pantry 2018

July and August Creative Arts Workshops

The next two Memoir Writing Workshops will take place on Monday, July 18th at 12:00 p.m. and on Monday, August 15th at 12:00 p.m. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at bjanoff1@gmail.com.

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.

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

The Photography Workshop will be taking a break during the summer, resuming in the Fall. Please take this time to produce a lot of great photographs that can be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting!

Milchidika with Marty: *I Loved the Boy Scouts Until I Discovered Girls*

Note: This article originally appeared in the April 2021 issue of the CAS Newsletter. At the time, this was Marty Stransky's 62nd consecutive monthly newsletter article. Since that April, we have reprinted many of those articles. We thank Marty for his many funny, often irreverent, always interesting, writings.

As many of you may know, I am an avid enthusiastic gardener, with a garden which is just a little too big for me to manage. So, I am out there on most days, weeding and dead heading and trying to get ahead. It is not a chore, I love it. Now at the end of the season, when I bring in the cucumbers and tomatoes that I personally grew, I feel so proud of myself "the farmer."

My gardening routine is to work for an hour and then sit down on a lounge chair that is on our deck, under a tree; sip some iced tea and maybe even take a snooze. One day while lying there, looking up at the tree's branches and the blue sky; I thought to myself, "This tree is a pin oak tree."

I began to think, "How do I know that?" and realized that I had learned to identify different trees while at "Nature Study" in Boy Scout camp. That was when I was 12 years old and my first time away from home.

I remembered the Boy Scouts so fondly and being so impressed with their teachings of the Scout oath of duty, helpfulness, and being morally straight. Pretty heavy stuff for a 12-year-old. I asked some of my old boyhood friends who were in the scout troop with me, "What do they remember?" And they all replied what a positive effect it had on them. So, I decided that I would go on-line and see if I could find a Boy Scout Handbook from the 1940's and maybe find out what impressed me so much at that time of my life.

I found a handbook in perfect condition, on whose cover was an idealized picture by Norman Rockwell of three scouts in their scout uniforms: a cub scout, a boy scout and an older sea scout. The "Handbook for Boys" cost 50 cents at that time, which also happened to be the hourly rate for a baby-sitter.

It was so interesting to read through it, as it represented an era which in my mind no longer exists. There was the "Scout Oath" which every young boy had to memorize and be able to repeat to the Scout Master. "On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

I was not too sure at that time, being only 12 years old; how do you do all those things? But I would try.

There was also this "Scout Law" which also had to be memorized and repeated back to the Scout Master. A scout is loyal, trustworthy, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. That is serious stuff when you are 12. I wondered, do I have to do all those things every single day or was it all right if I missed a few? But best of all was going to boy scout camp for eight weeks in the summer. My parents really could not afford to pay the entire fee, and our boy scout troop helped with some extra monies.

A month or two before camp started, my mom would be busy sewing name tags onto my shirts, pants, underwear, socks: a nightly affair that would take a few days to accomplish. Finally, the big day was approaching and the night before departure, everything was thrown into a duffle bag, along with a lot of parental advice.

Since we lived in an apartment building, the thought of spending eight weeks sleeping in a tent, using an outdoor latrine, being with the boys; being on my own was, was going to be an adventure.

We boarded a bus in the local school yard, waved "good-bye" to our parents who were either slightly nervous as to how could we possibly manage on our own; or were glad to finally have the apartment to themselves. Off we went to the camp which was located near the Delaware river in upstate New York.

I loved camp. Eating with the boys in the mess hall, not bathing too often, learning all about the wonders of nature, learning to paddle a canoe and going on hikes.

"Visitor's Day" was a Sunday in mid-season when parents could come and visit their sonny boys. I remember telling my mother when she would first see me in camp, "Please don't kiss or hug me in front of the other fellows, as I was now a grown-up man." I think I hurt my mother's feelings.

And finally, the camping season was over and time to get on the bus to go back home. I was so sad at the thought of being back in an apartment building and not outdoors in a tent.

I still remember the drive from the greenery of the country with the trees gradually disappearing as we approached the George Washington Bridge and crossed over to the Bronx. All the apartment buildings seemed to be so drab and so close together. I did not want to be home.

A few years later I discovered a girl who wore white "bobby sox," "penny loafers," and a plaid skirt. That ended my scouting career.

July and August Yahrzeits

“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 Hebrew date |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Murray Paikin | Tammuz 4 5734 | 6/24/1974 | 7/3 |
| Paul Edelman | Tammuz 13 5778 | 6/26/2018 | 7/12 |
| Donald Victor | Tammuz 14 2776 | 7/20/2016 | 7/13 |
| John Armstrong | Tammuz 22 5763 | 7/22/2003 | 7/21 |
| Doris Soman | Av 06 5773 | 7/13/2013 | 8/3 |
| Joan Sussman | Av 8 5766 | 8/12/2016 | 8/5 |
| Jessica Berson | Av 10 5779 | 8/11/2019 | 8/7 |
| Meyer David Graubard | Av 13 5660 | 8/8/1900 | 8/10 |
| Ira Rogovin | Av 15 5763 | 8/13/2003 | 8/12 |
| Mitsue Mitsuda | Av 15 5768 | 8/16/2008 | 8/12 |
| Doris Deborah Kassler | Av 20 5730 | 8/22/1970 | 8/17 |
| Al Silverstein | Av 21 5767 | 8/5/2007 | 8/18 |
| Rebecca Isserson | Av 25 5757 | 8/28/1997 | 8/22 |
| Beatrice Alson | Av 27 5769 | 8/17/2009 | 8/24 |
| Ella Schaeffer | Av 29 5762 | 8/7/2002 | 8/26 |
| Phyllis Kirshen | Elul 02 5772 | 8/20/2012 | 8/29 |

July and August Donations

In memory of Kay and Mike Jaffe
Louise and Arthur Hillman

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops
Karen and Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)
Carol Killian (memoir Workshop)

General Donations
Stuart Greenberg
Deborah Slater

In memory of Mitsue Mitsuda
Louise and Arthur Hillman

Community Concert

Community Concert



Rick Recht

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Kids 18 and under: Free, but ticket is required.**

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