



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

April 2023

### Upcoming services and events

**Sunday, April 2 at 1:00 PM:** *The Sassoons*, Jewish Museum Virtual Tour via Zoom

**Wednesday, April 5 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Thursday, April 6 at 5:00 PM-6:00 PM:** A Pesach Kiddush Gathering at the synagogue

**Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat of Pesach Study at the synagogue

**Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, April 14 at 5:00 PM:** Shabbat and Pesach Yizkor via Zoom

**Monday, April 17 at 12:00 noon:** Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom

**Wednesday, April 19 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Saturday, April 22 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Morning Service at the synagogue

**Wednesday, April 26 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

**The Jewish Museum Virtual Tour on April 2nd: *The Sassoons***

**Purim Shabbat Celebration**

***Thinking Outside the Matzah Box: A Passover Tasting Event***

**The work of Ilene Spiewak represented in two exhibitions**

**Jayne Benjulian to take part in Berkshire poetry reading**

**April Creative Arts Workshops**

**April Yahrzeits**

**April Donations**

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## The Jewish Museum Virtual Tour on April 2nd: *The Sassoons*

On Sunday April 2 at 1:00 PM Congregation Ahavath Sholom will present “The Sassoons,” the fourth in our series of virtual museum tours, once again conducted by renowned lecturer Rena Tobey. The exhibition is currently at the Jewish Museum in New York City through August 13, 2023.

The “Sassoons “ reveals the fascinating story of a remarkable Jewish family, following four generations from Iraq to India, China, and England through a rich selection of works collected by family members over time. The exhibition highlights the family’s pioneering role in trade, art collecting, architectural patronage, and civic engagement from the early 19th century through World War II using over 120 works—paintings, decorative arts, illuminated manuscripts, and Judaica—amassed by family members and borrowed from numerous private and public collections. Highlights include lavishly decorated Hebrew manuscripts from as early as the 12th century; Chinese art and ivory carvings; rare Jewish ceremonial art; Western masterpieces including paintings by Thomas Gainsborough, and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, and magnificent portraits by John Singer Sargent of various Sassoon family members. “The Sassoons” explores themes such as discrimination, diaspora, colonialism, global trade, and war that not only shaped the history of the family but continue to define our world today.

The cost is \$20 for CAS members and \$25 for non-members. Registration and payment should be made through our website: [www.ahavathsholom.com](http://www.ahavathsholom.com).

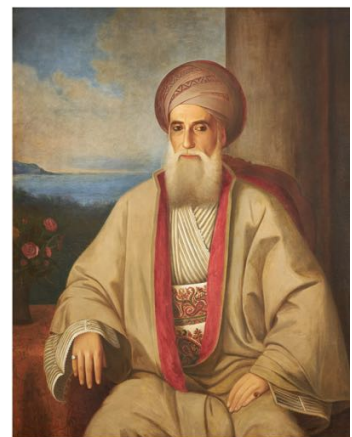
The images below are from an Art Review of the Jewish Museum exhibition in the March 2, 2023 edition of the New York Times written by Jason Farago. The title of the article is “*The Sassoons: A Family Romance at Global Scale.*” Photographs by Karsten Moran for the Times.



Passover Haggadah, which was once in the collection of David Solomon Sassoon.



Torah finials, 1741-42, formerly in the Sassoon Family Collection.



Family Patriarch David Sassoon.



Portraits by John Singer Sargent of dynasty members at the Jewish Museum.



## Purim Shabbat Celebration

On Saturday morning, March 11th, the congregation held a Purim Shabbat Celebration at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse, 280 State Road Great Barrington. We began by studying the Megillah/Book of Esther for Purim and enjoyed a brief Shabbat service, followed by a festive brunch.



Photographs by Michele Waldman



## *Thinking Outside the Matzah Box: A Passover Tasting Event*

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., a group of CAS members each brought a favorite prepared dish (dessert or side) to the tasting where the food was happily enjoyed. This event took place at Michele Waldman's home in Great Barrington, and Michele also provided some photographs to celebrate the occasion.



## The work of Ilene Spiewak is represented in two exhibitions

**Unfinished...**, a Berkshire Art Association Non-Juried Exhibition, March 24-April 6.

In the words of Committee Chairperson and CAS member, Ilene Spiewak,  
There's something so intimate and compelling about unresolved, open-ended work.  
Work that is finished yet incomplete.

Critical to artistic practice, one could ask when a painting is truly finished.

*Unfinished* blurs the line between making and unmaking.

*Unfinished* work allows you to see beyond the surface of the work and into the creative process and psychological state of the maker.

*Unfinished* holds a unique kind of beauty, free from error.

Embrace the unresolved.

Embrace absence.

Embrace unfinishedness.

berkshire art association presents:

# unfinished

embracing the incomplete

opening reception:

**march 24 \* 6-8pm**

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# THE OUTWIN

AMERICAN PORTRAITURE TODAY

OUTWIN BOOCHEVER PORTRAIT COMPETITION

**The Outwin: American Portraiture Today Opening Reception**

Friday, April 7 / 6 - 9pm at the Orlando Museum of Art



## Jayne Benjulian will take part in Berkshire poetry reading

On Saturday, April 22, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, CAS member Jayne Benjulian will join 10 other accomplished Berkshire poets to read at *Inspired by the Berkshires*, an event at the Stockbridge Public Library.

The poster features a central green field with a path leading to a forest. At the top left is the Stockbridge Library Museum & Archives logo, and at the top right is the Chesterwood logo. Twelve circular portraits of poets are arranged around the central text. The text in the center provides the event title, location, cosponsor, and date and time.

**Stockbridge LIBRARY**  
Museum & Archives

**CHESTERWOOD**

**Inspired Berkshires**

at the  
Stockbridge Library  
cosponsored by  
Arts Alive  
at Chesterwood

Celebrating  
Poetry Month  
Twelve Berkshires Poets  
on the Berkshires

**Saturday, April 22**  
**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

## April Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, April 17th at noon. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at [bjanoff1@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



*Photograph by Andrew Neel on Unsplash*



*Photograph by Hendrik Morkel on Unsplash*

The next Photography Workshop will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th. 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](mailto: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.*

## April 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	Original date	This year's date
Edward Alec Weiner	Nisan 12 5766	4/10/2006	4/3
Edith Rosenberger	Nisan 12 5756	4/2/1996	4/3
Lotte Kunstler	Nisan 13 5772	4/5/2012	4/4
Harry Mullen	Nisan 14 5753	4/5/1993	4/5
Jean Kessman	Nisan 15 5759	4/1/1999	4/6
Mal Guralnick	Nisan 21 5779	4/26/2019	4/12
Irma Waller	Nisan 23 5761	4/16/2001	4/14
Clifford Greenside	Nisan 26 5779	5/1/2019	4/17
Jack Osterweil	Nisan 30 5750	4/25/1990	4/21
Rose Clarin	Nisan 30 5741	5/4/1981	4/21
Julius Greenstein	Iyyar 2 5762	4/14/2002	4/23
Frances Schmetterling Innerfield	Iyyar 06 5769	4/30/2009	4/27
Susan McGreevy	Iyyar 8 5782	5/9/2022	4/29
Muriel F. Goldman	Iyyar 8 5757	5/15/1997	4/29
Joseph Fisher	Iyyar 09 5731	5/4/1971	4/30
Helen D. Rawitz	Iyyar 09 5753	4/30/1993	4/30

## April Donations

**In memory of my father, Martin, and grandpa Joseph**  
Deborah Slater

**In memory of John Gellert**  
Barbara Gellert

### **In support of the Creative Arts Workshops**

Ross Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)  
Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)  
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)  
Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)  
Louise Hillman (Photography Workshop)  
Linda Josephs (Memoir Workshop)  
Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)  
Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

### **Passover donation**

Karen and Chuck Schader



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