



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

CAS Newsletter

December 2024

Coming services and events

Sunday, December 1 from 11:00-3:00 PM: Chanukah Pop-Up Shop at the synagogue

Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah via Zoom

Friday, December 6 at 5:00 PM: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at the synagogue

Saturday, December 7 at 10:00: Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at the synagogue

Wednesday, December 11 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah via Zoom

Friday, December 13 at 10:00 AM: Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at the synagogue

Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Study with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at the synagogue

Monday, December 16 at 12:00 PM: Memoir Workshop via Zoom
at 5:00 PM: December CAS Board Meeting via Zoom
at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

Wednesday, December 18 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah via Zoom

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

Chanukah Pop-Up Shop & Creative Arts Showcase

An Announcement about Pastoral Care

***Tissot and the Hebrew Bible*, photos from the Jewish Museum Tour**

January Painting Workshop with Ilene Spiewak

***The Little Schul*, a poem from Linda Geffin**

December Creative Arts Workshops

December Yahrzeits

December Donations

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Chanukah Pop-Up Shop

On Sunday, December 1st, Congregation Ahavath Sholom's first Chanukah Pop-Up Shop and Creative Arts Showcase took place at the synagogue on North Street. The event was part sale and part social occasion as many congregants and guests shopped, talked, and generally had a great time. Organized by our new and very active Development Committee, it was supported by CAS members totally underwriting the event. Below are some scenes from the day's activities which was successful in many ways, including raising nearly \$2,000. We all look forward to next year's extravaganza!





An Announcement about Pastoral Care

"The Board and Rabbi Rudin are pleased to announce that an arrangement has been with our Rabbi Emerita, Barbara, to continue to provide pastoral care for the congregation starting on December 1st through June 1, 2025. Rabbi Barbara will be available, as before, in-person (when possible), by email, phone, or Zoom meeting when the need arises for a conversation or pastoral emergency response. Rabbi Rudin is also available on a limited basis. You can reach out to either Rabbi directly. Our Rabbis will share information confidentially, with your permission, so that everyone can feel cared for and responded to promptly.

We are grateful to be able to provide this meaningful level of care to our Ahavath Sholom community. Thank you for your support during this time of transition."

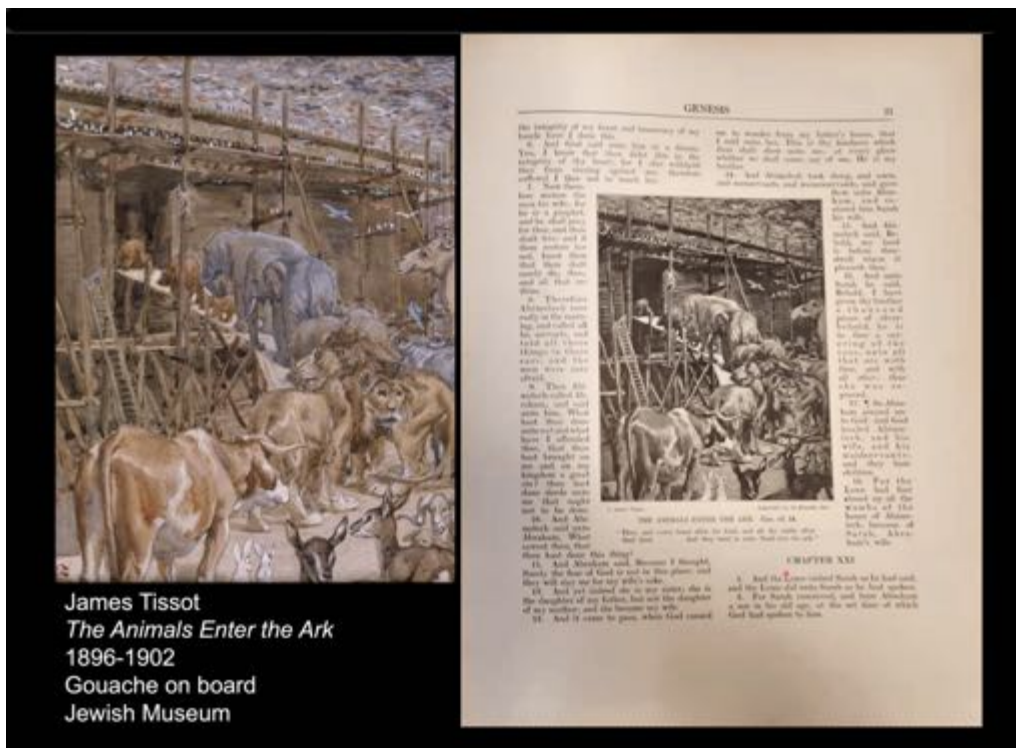
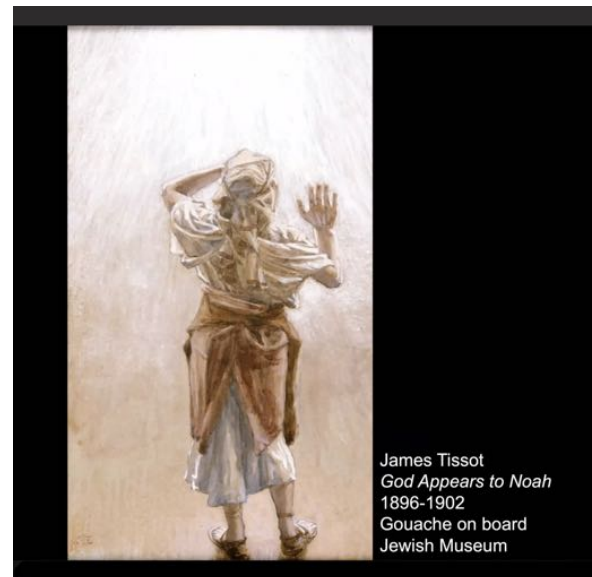
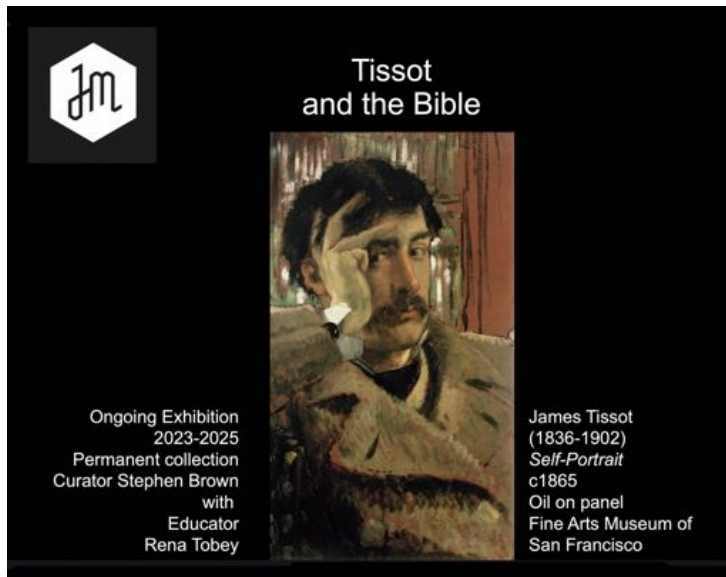
The CAS Board of Directors

***Tissot and the Hebrew Bible*, photos from the Jewish Museum Tour**

Congregation Ahavath Sholom was pleased to offer another virtual tour from the Jewish Museum, led by CAS's favorite lecturer Rena Tobey, on November 10th. This latest tour, titled "Tissot and the Hebrew Bible," showcased original designs by the French painter James Tissot (1836-1902) from a collection of over 350 paintings depicting stories from the Hebrew Bible. Tissot's watercolor illustrations cover all the books from Genesis to the Prophets and are highly cherished in the Jewish Museum's collection. These illustrations, presented as cinematic vignettes, have had a significant influence on popular culture for many years.

After receiving great praise for his illustrations of the Christian Bible, Tissot embarked on a project to illustrate the Hebrew Bible. In 1896, he visited Palestine multiple times to seek inspiration, immersing himself in the landscapes relevant to the biblical stories to ensure historical accuracy in his illustrations.

Tragically, Tissot passed away suddenly in 1902 while working on the project. His studio artists continued the series, either completing his unfinished works or creating new pieces in his style.





James Tissot. *Abram's Counsel to Sarai*. 1896-1902
Gouache on Board. Jewish Museum.



James Tissot
*Isaac Bears the Wood
for his Sacrifice*
1896-1902
Gouache on board
Jewish Museum



James Tissot
*Isaac Bears the Wood
for his Sacrifice*
1904, Published
French edition
Heliogravure (Photogravure)



James Tissot
*Isaac Bears the Wood
for his Sacrifice*
1904, Published
French edition
Photomechanical color print



James Tissot. *The Offering of Abraham*. 1896-1902.
Gouache on board. Jewish Museum.

Installation
views



English edition



James Tissot. *Jacob's Last Moments*. 1896-1902. Gouache on board. Jewish Museum.

January Still Life Painting Workshop with Ilene Spiewak

Ilene Spiewak, painter, educator, and art therapist will offer a studio painting workshop on Sunday, January 26, 2025, from 1:00 - 3:00, upstairs at CAS.

“Things are whatever we imagine them to be. Engage yourself and your color sense in an intimate conversation. Sting your senses and charge your paints with energy!”

Come join us and make your very own still-life masterpiece.
All levels of art enthusiasts are welcome!

The workshop is limited to twelve painters. The cost, which includes all materials and supplies, is \$75.
Pre-registration is required: email casoffice15@gmail.com



The Little Schul

The Little Schul

You might miss it, if you weren't looking, but shouldn't we always look?

Look and be seen.

This little house belies what lies inside, for inside these walls, you'll feel the spirit of community, learning and love. Emet and Ahavath.

A welcoming.

Community as multi-faceted as the rarest gem, as vibrant as a rainbow and flowers that bloom year after year and, peace and love.

Sholom Ahavath

Come inside and then you will know because you feel it, the essence of possibility, the life-force of love, the diamonds in the dust as light streams through the windows and journeys through us. A quickening of spirit, that rarest of things that you did not know you had within, and then, crossing the threshold, you feel and know and connect.

Come in and connect.

The little schul has withstood nature's storms, snow and rain, tempests from natural phenomena and unnatural, unexpected and vast, seemingly unsurvivable but,

You do survive and you do thrive, when you do come in.

Come in, the little schul welcomes you, whomever you are or wish to be, with Ahavath.

Linda Geffin

December Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, December 16 at noon. 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. is 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 Kateryna Hliznitsova on Unsplash

The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, December 16th, at 7:00 PM. 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 60 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.



Photograph by Caroline Forsman from last month's CAS Photography Workshop

December 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
Frank Rawitz	Kislev 06 5743	11/22/1982	12/7
Mildred Hillman	Kislev 7 5753	12/2/1992	12/8
Miriam Brecher	Kislev 7 5759	11/26/1998	12/8
Faye Paikin	Kislev 7 5742	12/3/1981	12/8
Gussie Osterweil	Kislev 08 5735	11/12/1975	12/9
Martha Gellert	Kislev 12 5752	11/19/1991	12/13
Irving Innerfield	Kislev 12 5737	12/4/1976	12/13
Harry Fine	Kislev 12 5748	12/3/1987	12/13
Sally Fine	Kislev 12 5756	12/7/1992	12/13
Allan Brown	Kislev 16 5739	12/16/1978	12/17
Freya Maier	Kislev 16 5764	12/11/2003	12/17
Barbara Joslyn	Kislev 18 5754	12/2/1993	12/19
Rosa Richard	Kislev 18 5774	11/21/2013	12/19
Monroe Lefkowitz	Kislev 20 5770	12/7/2009	12/21
Vivian Scheinmann	Kislev 25 5783	12/19/2022	12/26
Sallie Slote	Kislev 27 5752	12/4/1991	12/28
Joy Dronge	Kislev 28 5783	11/5/2022	12/29

December Donations

In honor of Rabbi Barbara Cohen in recognition of her dedicated spiritual service and guidance to the members of CAS and the Berkshire community
Helen and Steve Radin

In honor of our new Rabbi, Jennifer Rudin
Irene Goldman-Price
Arthur and Louise Hillman

In loving memory of Vivian Scheinmann
Julia and Roberta Scheinmann

In memory of Mildred Hillman
In memory of Vivian Scheinmann
Arthur and Louise Hillman

In memory of Harold Rudin
Joan and Dan Burkhard
Karen Chase and Paul Graubard
Bill and Sandra Flannery
Linda Geffin
Irene Goldman-Price
Melissa Hertzfel
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Barbara Janoff
Brook and Charlotte Jason
Carol Killian
Elyse Nagler
Gail Altman-Orenstein and Walter Orenstein
Marilyn Scheinblum
Deborah Slater
Sherry Stekloff
Norman and Martha Weisberg

in support of the Creative Arts Workshops
Ross Bettinger (Memoir)
Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography)
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)
Linda Geffin (Memoir)
Arthur Hillman (Memoir)
Barbara Janoff (Photography)
Linda Josephs (Memoir)
Stu Lemmen (Photography)
Jen Margo (Photography)
Marie Rudden (Memoir)
Michele Waldman (Photography)

Memorial donation
Irwin and Caroline Kessman

In appreciation of our Museum Tours
Barbara Janoff

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Linda Geffin

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