

THE CAS NEWSLETTER July 2017

Upcoming Services and Events

Friday, July 7, 5:30 pm: Erev Shabbat service

Monday, July 10, 5:30pm: Board Meeting. Congregants are welcome to attend. Please email Sandra Flannery at smflann@ix.netcom.com for more information.

Friday, July 14, 10:45am – 12:30pm: Irene Goldman-Price presents Edith Wharton's Anti-Semitism: A Consideration. Held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

Saturday, July 15, 10:00 am: Shabbat service followed by coffee, tea, pastry and conversation

Thursday, July 20, 9am – 1pm: People's Pantry at St. James Place - NEW VENUE
Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

Friday July 21 5:30pm: Erev Shabbat service

Sunday, July 23, 10:30 am: CAS Book Group will discuss *Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss. For More information, please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com.

Monday, July 31, 7:30pm: A Family's Journey to Freedom: Escaping the Holocaust through the Far East.

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Our Spring Brunch (with bonus recipe!)

On June 3, 2017, Linda Josephs hosted our spring kickoff which was the season's members' brunch. We honored our new members and enjoyed one another's company. Unfortunately, Linda had injured her knee and spent the entire time at the emergency room. We hope that by the time you read this she will be back to her usual self. Linda, thank you again. Your home is beautiful and it was the perfect spot for our potluck meal. Potluck functions are a big hit with our congregants. We have fabulous cooks and always have a variety of delicious food.



See the recipe for Blueberry-Stuffed French Toast, one of the Spring Brunch treats, at the end of the newsletter!

The Annual Meeting

The CAS Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, June 25th. After Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen's short opening statement and an uplifting group niggun, Executive Committee member Alison Adams-Weinberg gave a brief summary of this year's congregational

highlights. She mentioned the renovations to our building on North Street, the new online newsletter, some of the year's special programs, the women's group, the book group, Barbara's Sunday study group, and the hope of forming a historical archive about the history of the synagogue.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Diana Richter introduced the two new board candidates, Ellen Axelrod and Ann Dorfman, by reading brief bios. The two nominees were unanimously elected to the board.

Lisa Chamberlain spoke on behalf of the Ritual and Spiritual Life Committee, Treasurer Marty Stransky gave the financial report, Linda Josephs and Arthur Hillman talked about our advertising and fundraising efforts, Vivian Scheinmann and Arthur discussed the new online newsletter and the CAS website, Alison spoke about the membership committee and her activities as our representative to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Sandra Flannery described past and future programs and two upcoming B'nai Mitzvahs, and Linda discussed the building renovations and future needs and projects. All of the reports were thoroughly discussed and many questions from the attending congregational members were answered.

Alison adjourned the meeting, and a wonderful, delicious potluck dinner followed.

CAS 2017-2018 Board of Directors



Front row (left to right): Sandra Flannery, Vivian Scheinmann, Alison Adams-Weinberg, Michele Waldman, new board member Ann Dorfman. Back row (left to right): new board member Ellen Axelrod, Arthur Hillman, Linda Josephs, Richard Richter, Lisa Chamberlain, David Scribner, Marty Stransky.

New Board Members

Ann Dorfman

Ann moved to Great Barrington last year, mostly to be with her son and family. Her granddaughters, ages 16, and 13, attend Great Barrington schools and her son is the middle School, principal.

She lived in Brooklyn for 35 years and then in San Francisco for 15 years following the death of her husband. In San Francisco, she was a member of a Jewish Renewal synagogue. She found Renewal nurturing and joyful and felt that Reconstructionism was close to Renewal so she visited Ahavath Sholom and decided to join the congregation immediately. Ann found that Barbara Cohen and the CAS community was very welcoming.

Ann liked to say that she never decided to grow up and choose a profession, but rather she worked in a variety of fields for 50 years. During that time she taught first grade; was Director/Teacher of a preschool for 10 years; was a radio producer for Canadian Broadcasting (the BBC of Canada); was projects director for the New York City economic development agency; was a sales director for a New York advertising promotions firm; and, in San Francisco, was the Human Resources administrator for an architecture firm.

Ann was very active in the San Francisco OLLI after retirement and continues to participate in the Berkshires OLLI. She does volunteer work for the Jewish Federation and for OLLI.

Ann said that her choice to join CAS was the right one.

Ellen Axelrod

Ellen has been a member of Ahavath Sholom since 2014. She recently moved to Salisbury full time where she has owned a home for over 10 years.

Ellen is excited about serving on the board for a community that stood by her through the most challenging time in her life; the illness and passing of her beloved husband, Jeff.

She enjoys the town of Great Barrington and don't be surprised if you run into her at Crystal Essence where she has taken classes. Her passions include yoga, hiking, biking, and helping others.

Ellen has over thirty years of accounting, finance and human resource experience. She recently retired from her role as Executive Director of Budget, Planning and Analysis at the NYU Stern School of Business. Prior to NYU Stern, she spent over twenty years on Wall Street with Goldman Sachs.

Milchidika with Marty: "YENTL, YENTA AND MATCH .COM"

I know that you're thinking "How can there be any connection amongst those three words". But there is, and you'll see as we go on.

While Isabelle and I were in Florida, our local library had a three week film festival of Barbara Streisand films. We went to see the wonderful movie "Yentl". The story of a young Jewish girl in a small village in Poland in the 1900's, wanting to study in a Yeshiva, and disguising herself as a young Jewish boy with all the problems of her identity. On our way out of the library with my singing "Papa can you hear me?" with tears in my eyes, I said to Isabelle that the movie Yenta was really terrific.

After having been told that the name of the movie was Yentl not Yenta, I began to think about it. I knew that a Yenta referred to a female busybody or gossipmonger and began to wonder if there was a similar word for a man. So, I went on line to research it, but couldn't find a word for a male equivalent. So I guess that a male busybody would also be referred to as a Yenta.

But Yenta in Yiddish really means a woman who is a gentle or noble woman, and not a gossip. Yenta is sometimes incorrectly applied to someone who is a matchmaker, which probably stems from the show Fiddler on the Roof, where the character Yente is the matchmaker in the village of Anatevka.

In Yiddish, a matchmaker is a "Shadcan". Someone who introduces two single Jews to one another in the hope that they will form a couple. Centuries of experience and tradition have shown that a good match is most likely to be formed between two people with similar outlooks, attitudes, beliefs, and backgrounds. Therefore, a matchmaker is most likely to be someone who is familiar with both people and in the position to introduce them to each other.

It is said that God is the greatest matchmaker in the world and his first successful "shidduch" or match, Adam and Eve, were the best match in human history.

In heaven, Adam and Eve asked God why is this so?

"Well" God replied, "Adam, you didn't have to hear about all the men that Eve could have married instead of you, and Eve, you didn't have to hear what a good cook Adam's mother was."

Today, in addition to a shadcan, we now have Match.com; J date; Eharmony.com; and many more.

Isabelle and I met on Match.com when we were in our seventies. After you have registered with the dating service you are given a listing where you can tell all about yourself. You don't use your real name, only a pseudo name. Isabelle was "Puccini Lover" and I was "Easy Going".

It was Isabelle's description of her interests that really attracted her to me. She wrote "That when she sees a stone wall, a meadow behind, with trees and a blue sky, her inner being quivers like an aria from a Puccini opera." And also wrote "That she sees the two of us sitting in a room quietly reading, an occasional chime of a clock, and somehow feeling connected."

How could you resist that? So we started to date and in a few months were married, with our grandchildren walking us down the aisle.

Years later, while sitting in the kitchen, Isabelle said to me, " You know, I really lied a little in my description of myself. I was really two years older than I said. But you really lied when you said you were "Easy Going."

A Family's Journey to Freedom: Escaping the Holocaust through the Far East

Judith Schumer was born in Shanghai, China in October, 1945 - two months after the end of the war with Japan. Her parents survived the Holocaust by first escaping to Lithuania from Nazi-occupied Poland and then getting a special visa which enabled them to get out of Eastern Europe and travel first to Japan and then to China. They spent the war under Japanese occupation in Shanghai and were finally able to get visas to the United States in 1948. In New York, her father, a Yiddish journalist, eventually became the editor of the Yiddish newspaper, The Jewish Daily Forward.

In 2012, Judith published a book about her family's escape and survival titled Esther's Journey – A Holocaust Memoir.



Judith was a teacher for 35 years in New York and New Jersey and has 2 married daughters and 2 grandchildren. She and her husband live in Sheffield, MA and in Reno, NV where she was recently appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust. She is also a member of the Northern Nevada Holocaust Education Task Force. She speaks at schools, universities, and adult groups about her

family's survival as well as her experience and responsibility as a "Second Generation" survivor. Her program is titled "A Family's Journey to Freedom."

Molly Pomerance Exhibition

"Pattern and color are the twin impulses that drive my work. Color, vibrant and true engages me; pastel subtleties somehow rarely match my mood.

Pattern, both as it appears in the arrangement of objects and as it is part of actual design, (be it fabric, wallpaper, or anything else,) fascinates me. I love the interplay of patterns with each other, and I try to use many different ones in the same picture when I can. I also love the variations in pattern that arise from the movement of fabric and light.

Lately I have been drawn to the patterns that arise through the images of our urban environment; New York City and its traffic have proved a valuable source, as has San Francisco.

I hope that when people look at my work they share my vision and the pleasure it gives me.



Green Gourds



Pink Rose



Chinese Robes

Molly Pomerance was born in Warsaw, Poland, grew up in Great Britain, and was educated at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University, where she graduated with a degree in History . She came to the U.S.A. in 1956 and has been a fan of this country ever since. In 1973 she started dividing her time between New York City and Copake Falls, New York, a short ride from the Berkshires.

After some years doing collage and Monoprint, Molly started oil painting, and, occasionally, acrylic. She has studied with Tim Doud, Carla Aurich, and James Sheehan.

Edith Wharton's Anti-Semitism: A Consideration, a talk by Irene Goldman-Price

CAS member Irene Goldman-Price examines disturbing evidence of Wharton's prejudices gleaned from her writings, setting it within the context of her life and times and probing its implications.

The talk takes place on July 14, 2017, 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd, Great Barrington. The cost is \$5 per regular ticket; \$11 per ticket with lunch included.

Edith Wharton (1862-1937), an American author of immense erudition and talent, was born during the Civil War into a wealthy and prominent family of Old New York. She wrote more than forty volumes of stories, novels, poetry, memoir, house decoration, travel, and other subjects, for which she received a number of literary awards, and she is now considered one of America's greatest writers. For her humanitarian service in Paris during World War I, Wharton was honored by both the French and Belgian governments. And, like her good friends Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Adams, and Henry James, she also harbored anti-Semitic prejudices.

In her talk, Dr. Goldman-Price will lay out evidence of this prejudice from Wharton's letters and writings and from other sources and put these beliefs into the social, literary, and intellectual context of her time. The question of how one is to respond to such attitudes in a person of prominence will be open for discussion. Although it is not necessary, because Wharton's most sustained fictional portrait of a Jew comes in her 1905 novel, *The House of Mirth*, listeners might enjoy reading the book before attending the lecture.

This program is presented by the [Jewish Federation of the Berkshires](#). Walk-ins are accepted for this program. A public discussion will follow.



Dr. Irene Goldman-Price earned her PhD in English from Boston University and spent much of her career teaching English and Women's Studies at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where she also headed their women's studies program. She is the co-editor of *American Literary Mentors* and editor of *My Dear Governess: The Letters of Edith Wharton to Anna Bahlmann*, for which she earned fellowships from the Beinecke Library at Yale University and the Edith Wharton Society. Her article "The Perfect Jew in *The House of Mirth*" has been reprinted several times. She has taught American and Women's Literature at

several universities and community forums, including locally for OLLI. Her abiding interest in Edith Wharton has led her to serve on the editorial board of the Edith Wharton Review and as a trustee at The Mount, Edith Wharton's house museum in Lenox.

This program is sponsored by:  **Jewish Federation**
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Quilts and Mixed Media Collage: Motivation, Inspiration and Fabrication

As part of their 2017 Lecture Series, the Becket Arts Center presents "Quilts and Mixed Media Collage: Motivation, Inspiration and Fabrication" with CAS member Robin Berson, Quilter; Marcelene Mosca, Poet and Artist; and Freya Segal, Mixed Media Artist. The Becket Arts Center is at 7 Brooker Hill Rd, off Rt. 8, Becket, MA; the event is on Tuesday, July 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Through our art, we hope to evoke recognition of the humanity, hopes, and vulnerabilities we share with these desperate, beleaguered, exploited people; further, we hope that a response, i.e. both visceral and principled, will inspire effective protest to honor the dead and protect the living.



The CAS Book Group

The CAS Book Group will meet on Sunday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss *Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss.

This historical-mystery novel is set in London in the beginnings of stock speculation and the retreat from a mineral-based currency. It is a sympathetic look at the life of a Jew in that time and place and a vision of the struggle between the Bank of England and the upstart South Sea Company to become the repository of the nation's fiscal faith.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Contact Diana Richter for venue or more information at drpajama1@gmail.com

July Yahrzeits

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

Isador Felber	
Tammuz 12 5766	7/6
Beth Suzanne Steinberg	
Tammuz 13 5709	7/7
Donald Victor	
Tammuz 14 2776	7/8
Benjamin Slaminsky	
Tammuz 14 5745	7/8
James Dinerman	
Tammuz 17 5759	7/11
Fannie Ketay	
Tammuz 18 5713	7/12
Barbara Halberstadter	
Tammuz 19 5774	7/13
Benjamin Uttal	
Tammuz 21 5660	7/15
Max Slaminsky	
Tammuz 22 5713	7/16
Eva Pevzner	
Tammuz 22 5739	7/16
John Armstrong	
Tammuz 22 5763	7/16
Israel Lewis Samel	
Tammuz 24 5660	7/18
Ellis Penziner	
Tammuz 25 5722	7/19
Sara Rapport	
Tammuz 26 5715	7/20
Renee Millimet	
Tammuz 26 5747	7/20
Louise Helman	
Av 01 5742	7/24
Philip Schiffman	
Av 03 5763	7/26
Leo Mayers	
Av 03 5769	7/26
Erwin Millimet	
Av 04 5775	7/27
Fannie Friedman	
Av 05 5722	7/28

Aaron Broverman

Av 06 5732 7/29

Doris Soman

Av 06 5773 7/29

Joan Sussman

Av 8 5766 7/31

Spring Brunch Recipe

Several members at the Spring Brunch requested this recipe, so I thought we could include it in July bulletin. I got this recipe from Maples Inn, Bar Harbor, Maine (1993) Gourmet Magazine

Alison Adams-Weinberg

Blueberry -Stuffed French Toast

Ingredients

- 12 Slices White Bread ,crust removed
- 16 oz Cold cream cheese, solid blocks
- 1 Cup Blueberries,rinsed and picked over
- 12 Large eggs
- 1/3 Cup Maple syrup
- 2 Cups Milk
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Cornstarch
- 1 Cup Water
- 1 Cup Blueberries ,picked over and rinsed
- 1 Tbsp Butter

Directions

1. Butter 13 by 9 glass baking dish.
2. Cut bread in 1 inch cubes, Discarding crust . Arrange 1/2 of bread in baking dish. I used Texas toast, thicker sliced bread.
3. Cut cream cheese into 1 inch cubes and scatter over bread. (2- 8 oz packages)
4. Sprinkle 1 cup blueberries over cream cheese.
5. Arrange remaining bread over blueberries.
6. In a large bowl whisk together eggs,syrup, and the milk. Pour evenly over bread. Cover and chill overnight.
7. Bake French toast covered with foil in the middle of preheated oven. 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake for another 30 minutes until puffed and golden.
8. Make sauce by combining sugar ,cornstarch, and water. Cook over moderately high heat ,stirring occasionally,for 5 minutes until it is thick. Stir in blueberries and simmer for about 10 minutes,stirring occasionally until berries burst. Add butter and serve over French Toast