



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER **April 2020**

### Upcoming services and events

All scheduled CAS events have been cancelled until further notice.

**See the article below about our “Virtual” services  
and other CAS online events.**

We hope in the days ahead everyone in our Berkshire community  
stays healthy and safe.

### This month's newsletter features:

- CAS Online – or ‘Good Morning’ from Bolton Drive
- *Tea Leaves*, a poem by Lee Schwartz
- Milchidika with Marty: *Some Thoughts About Life and Marriage*
- April Yahrzeits
- April Donations
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

## CAS Online – or ‘Good Morning’ from Bolton Drive

On Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m., 28 households attended CAS shabbat services. This was our congregation and Rabbi Barbara Cohen’s first online adventure using Zoom video conferencing software. Hosting the service from her home on Bolton Drive, the experimental event was a rousing success. That Shabbat morning gathering was followed by an informal coffee/tea online get together the following Wednesday morning when a group of 16 individuals joined with one another “to talk and share isolation stories which makes us all feel so good and connected in this time of increasing challenge.” The final service for March was held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and again a large number of households participated.

As we continue to use the internet as a conduit to seeing and sharing with one another, we will continue to offer Shabbat services, mid-week get-togethers and possibly some other options such as an occasional Friday evening service. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Rabbi Cohen (413-637-0667, [barbaracohen14@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracohen14@gmail.com)) for our Zoom meeting number and to arrange to safely borrow a prayer book for use during our home services.

## Tea Leaves, a poem by Lee Schwartz

This is a poem written by CAS member Lee Schwartz, who lives in New York City, as a gift to the congregation.

### Tea Leaves

Lee Schwartz

My Grandmother used to sip  
tea with a sugar cube lodged  
between her front teeth,  
Russian style from a scolding  
hot amber glass of black tea.

Maybe this is the elixir  
we need now, to put  
out the fire of the virus  
burning through our lungs,  
cutting off our breath.

Outside my window  
the windows across  
are black as tea,  
there used to be light,  
classes in dance and art,  
drama and song,  
now dark as death.

Everyone home on a shelf  
feeling safe and lonely,  
using a light screen  
to find connection,  
behind a mask  
that locks lips  
and hide smiles.

Mostly we keep washing  
our hands like Lady Macbeth,

keeping our distance,  
hoping to return  
to the comfort  
of another's arms,  
pressing flesh and gripping hands.

The tea is cooling now,  
like my grandmother  
I drink to feel calm,  
the present only a dream.

## **Milchidika with Marty: *Some Thoughts About Life and Marriage***

It is never too late to have a happy childhood. Anonymous

After winning an argument with his wife, the wisest thing a man can do is apologize. Anonymous

The value of marriage is not that adults produce children, but that children produce adults-Peter DeVries

A girl must marry for love and keep on marrying until she finds it. Zsa Zsa Gabor

If there is a 50-50 chance that something can go wrong, then nine times out of ten it will. Paul Harvey

I was going to buy a copy of "Positive Thinking," and then I thought what the hell good would it do? Ronnie Shakes, comedian

A friend of mine contemplating the English department, "There are plenty of vacancies, but they're all filled" Christopher Ricks

Never have children, only grandchildren. Gore Vidal

The wife should be inferior to the husband. That is the only way to insure equality between them.  
First Century A.D.

When a man brings his wife flowers for no reason-there's a reason-Molly McGee

If you are a parent, it helps if you are a grownup. Eda LeShan

Success has ruined many a man. Benjamin Franklin

Personally, I think if a woman hasn't met the right man by the time she's 24, she may be lucky-Deborah Kerr

We all wanted babies, but did we want children? Eda LeShan

The thing about being attracted to unavailable men is that they are always available-Meg Tilly

If married couples did not live together, happy marriages would be more frequent. Friedrich Nietzsche

## April Jahrzeits

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

NAME	HEBREW DATE	THIS YEAR'S DATE
Muriel Budnick	Nisan 07 5773	4/1
Edward Alec Weiner	Nisan 12 5766	4/6
Mary Swigost	Nisan 16 5724	4/10
Goldy Uslan	Nisan 16 5751	4/10
Jacob Uslan	Nisan 17 5754	4/11
Gordon Scales	Nisan 17 5772	4/11
Dora Soloveychik Felber	Nisan 19 5772	4/13
Sarah Victor	Nisan 20 5731	4/14
Mal Guralnick	Nisan 21 5779	4/15
Joseph Soloveichik	Nisan 22 5693	4/16
Irma Waller	Nisan 23 5761	4/17
Clifford Greenside	Nisan 26 5779	4/20
Israel Baron	Nisan 27 5733	4/21
Jack Osterweil	Nisan 30 5750	4/24

Edward Goldstein	Iyyar 03 5752	4/27
Lynne Cutler	Iyyar 06 5767	4/30
Frances Schmetterling Innerfield	Iyyar 06 5769	4/30

## April donations

### In memory of my father, Ed Weiner

Keren Weiner

### In memory of Harold Schragers's father, Aaron Schragers

Arthur and Louise Hillman

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Judith Lerner

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