



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

June 2022

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, June 1 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Sunday, June 5 at 10:00 AM:** Rabbi's Study Session for Shavuot via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 8 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Sunday, June 12 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM:** Federation Jewish Community Day (High Lawn Farm)

**Monday, June 13 at 12:00 PM:** Creative Arts Workshop: *Memoir Writing* via Zoom

**Monday, June 13 at 5:30 PM:** Monthly CAS Board Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 15 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, June 17 at 5:00 PM:** Shabbat Evening Service (in-person at CAS; masks required)

**Monday, June 20 at 7:00 PM:** Jim Frangione Talk via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 22 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Saturday, June 25 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Morning Service (in-person at CAS; masks required)

**Wednesday, June 29 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

- *The Harlem Renaissance* presentation
- Photos from the *Outwin American Portraiture Today* exhibition opening
- A Talk by *Jim Frangione*, Artistic Director of the Great Barrington Public Theater
- Milchidika with Marty: *She cut the sandwich on the diagonal*
- Two New Board Members Needed
- June *Creative Arts Workshops*
- June Yahrzeits
- June Donations
- Shabbat Across the Berkshires
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

## The Harlem Renaissance Presentation

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, art historian Rena Tobey presented a wonderful and insightful program about The Harlem Renaissance via Zoom. Participants were introduced to the Great Migration of African Americans from the South that supported the first generation of photographers, painters, sculptors, and muralists. We learned about writers and others during the 1920s to 1940s whose works influenced and were, in turn, inspired by the creative work being done by these important artists. We then saw how contemporary African American artists stood on the shoulders of these breakthrough individuals. We viewed the work of artists such as painters Aaron Douglas and Jacob Lawrence, muralist Vertis Hayes, sculptor Augusta Savage, and photographers James Van Der Zee, Roy DeCarava, and Gordon Parks. All of this art celebrated Harlem and its people through an impressive flowering of creative works in a variety of styles, methods, and forms.



Jacob Lawrence, *Migration* series exhibition at MOMA in 2015



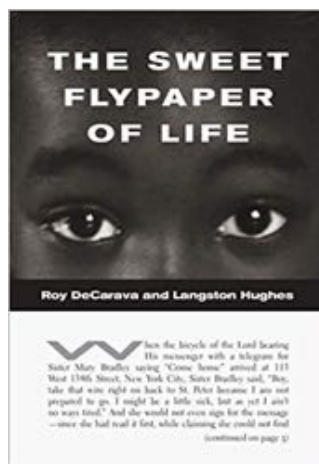
Augusta Savage in her studio



Vertis Hayes, mural, Harlem Hospital Center



Gordon Parks, *Red Jackson, Harlem*, photograph



Roy DeCarava and Langston Hughes



James Van Der Zee, *Couple*

## Photos from the *Outwin American Portraiture Today* Exhibition Opening

CAS board member Ilene Spiewak's self-portrait, *Deeper into the Isolation of Self Information and Gender*, was selected for the *Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today* exhibition.



Anne Marley and Ilene Spiewak in front of the painting



Ilene's painting on the back of the exhibition catalog



Brenda Butler wearing a t-shirt with a familiar image



Exhibiting artists at the opening reception



Admiring Ilene's painting

This is the text from the exhibition label next to Ilene's painting:

For over fifty years, Ilene Spiewak has focused on the relations between color and visual space, painting at the edge of representation and abstraction. The introspection and solitude brought by the pandemic made her compositions more sparse and her palette more restrained. "I realized what I had in my studio was myself always. . . . I began to insert myself in my paintings more than I was conscious of in the past."

In this self-portrait, Spiewak outlines her silhouette in charcoal. Her face and nude torso are rendered in soft shades of white, pink, and gray that push against the yellow background. With frankness, she paints her aging body, countering centuries of idealized, youthful, slender female nudes in art. By placing her figure off-center on the picture plane, with her right arm extended but truncated, Spiewak subtly allows us into the intimate act of observing and painting herself.

*The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today* presents 42 portraits selected through an open call that garnered more than 2,700 entries from artists working across the United States and Puerto Rico. The artists responded with works that engage contemporary society, many providing new insights into the unprecedented reality we have experienced in the time surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

*The selected finalists create artworks in a wide range of media, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, textiles, video, and performance. They demonstrate how capacious and changing the genre of portraiture can be, and illuminate the genre's power to make visible a multitude of life experiences. (From the Smithsonian website)*

## A talk by Jim Frangione of the Great Barrington Public Theater

The Creative Arts Committee is pleased to announce this informal talk on Monday evening, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Jim Frangione is the Artistic Director of the newest theater in the region, the Great Barrington Public Theater (GBPT). The theater's inaugural season was in 2019. Since then, it has garnered much praise and presented many new and established plays, both solo and larger cast performances. Jim will discuss how the GBPT was created and how each season of plays is chosen and comes to fruition. We may get a sneak preview about the exciting things coming this season. Jim will also answer questions from the audience.

There will be no cost for this program. Zoom information: Meeting ID 811 4066 3114 Passcode: 753078



**GREAT BARRINGTON  
PUBLIC THEATER**

New Work • Local Talent • Always Affordable Tickets



Jim Frangione

**GBPT's central mission is to present new work, showcase and create opportunities for local talent, and offer affordable tickets to audiences throughout the Berkshires.**

In 2019, GBPT's inaugural season, we presented the world premiere of the play, *Breakwater*, written by artistic director Jim Frangione and directed by Kelly Galvin. We also introduced our *Wet Ink* series—a full schedule of readings, workshops and solo performances presented to the public as an incubator and launch pad for future development. In 2020, due to COVID and the cancellation of our in-person theater season, we presented a video Solo Festival called *BEAR TALES: Six Feet Together*, and a series of short films with Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative called *Berkshire Outdoor Shorts*.

In 2021, in-person performances resumed with three premieres: the world premiere of Berkshire playwright Mark St. Germain's new play, *Dad*; a world premiere of the Edith Wharton-themed play, *Mr. Fullerton*, by local playwright Anne Undeland; and the East Coast premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Mamet's *The Christopher Boy's Communion*. For our 2021 season we received six Berkshire Theatre Critics Association nominations—Best New Play, Best Director, Best Lead Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress and Best Costume Design. In addition, the *Wet Ink* Series featured readings of work by an all-local slate of authors: Michael Brady, Leigh Strimbeck, and Treat Williams.

In summer 2022—from early June to mid-August—Great Barrington Public Theater is expanding its season to introduce a new Solo Festival with four premiere, full-length, single-actor plays, followed by two new ensemble plays on the mainstage. The Solo Festival lineup includes premiere works featuring Berkshire resident, and internationally celebrated writer/comedienne Alison Larkin, multiple Emmy-nominated actress Sharon Lawrence, as well as new works by actor/writers Will LeBow and James Morrison. The ensemble plays will include a brand-new comedy by Berkshire favorite Mark St Germain, as well as a penetrating new drama of a family coming to terms with unspoken truths.

**Great Barrington Public Theater will bring this exciting run of new plays to the Liebowitz Black Box Theater and the McConnell Theater in the Daniel Arts Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington.**

Keeping with the Public's core mission, the 2022 program features original works and acclaimed new voices, featuring some of the best of Berkshire talent.

## Milchidika with Marty: *She cut the sandwich on the diagonal*

*Note: This article originally appeared in the July 2020 issue of the CAS Newsletter*

Because of the Corona virus, I have been reluctant to do our weekly food shopping in the local supermarket and have been buying many things online and, so far, have been pleasantly surprised at the quality.

Last night I barbecued a steak that we bought online from the Omaha Beef Company and I commented to Isabelle, "This was one of the best steaks that I ever eaten. Further, did she realize that she was married to a steak connoisseur, as well as a roast duck connoisseur, and most importantly a pastrami connoisseur."

I began to wonder, when did I become such a food critic. I do not remember ever having steak at home when I was growing up. My parents were not poor, "they macht a leben" but steak was not in the budget.

If my mother prepared a meat dish, it usually was something swimming in gravy. There was always a basket of rye bread sitting on the kitchen table, and after finishing the meal, you dunked pieces of bread in the gravy to sop it up and wipe the plate clean.

Our dinnerware was what was known as "Depression Chinaware" which were blue glass dishes, cups and bowls that were mass produced very inexpensively. Each time my parents went to the local movie theater during the 1930s the management would give the patrons a free glass dish or a cup to induce them to see the film. Those free dishes soon became our daily dinner ware.

I remember that our drinking glasses were the glassware that originally contained the Yahrzeit candles which seemed to be continuously burning on the kitchen counter, to remember a departed "Tante" or "Oncle".

Juice glasses were the small glasses that once contained a shrimp cocktail. A "schanda".

My parents lived in a two bedroom apartment in Astoria, they shared one bedroom and rented out the other bedroom (my room) to an uncle who I resented; for having not only to give up my room, but also to give him the nice big, comfortable bed, while I slept on a cot. I am sure a psychologist could do a whole study on that one.

I had a cousin who lived nearby whose father was a doctor. They lived in a big corner house, which contained his office. The house had a huge front porch and a big garden. Boy did I envy him because he had his own room, full of toys, electric trains, and most importantly his own big bed.

Occasionally, I would make a play date with him, which also involved his mother making lunch for the two of us. I was so impressed at lunch time. First, they had white china plates, and blue water glasses. Better than Yahrzeit glasses, and besides that, the water glasses were square not round.

In addition, I was always impressed by my aunt who always seemed to wear a beautiful dress on just an ordinary day, while my mother walked around in an old worn "schmatta" house dress.

But lunch was the big thing. She would ask, "What would you like for lunch?" We had a choice. The system in my house was my mother might buy a package of bologna that week, but that was it. When the bologna was finished, she would then buy a package of cheese. But we never had two different things in the refrigerator at the same time.

So, having been asked what we would like for lunch, my aunt further asked, "Would we like white bread or white toast?" We only had rye bread at home.

She then asked, "Would we like a triple decker sandwich?" I did not know what that was until she explained that it was three pieces of bread, with something different in between each layer.

So now I was going to have a triple decker, bacon and tomato sandwich on white toast which was all held together with toothpicks. Not only toothpicks, but they were colored toothpicks.

But the final touch was that she cut the sandwich on the diagonal. My mother always cut it straight across, I never had a sandwich cut on the diagonal and held together with colored toothpicks.

As to how I became a roast duck and a pastrami connoisseur is the topic of another story.

## Two New Board Members Needed

Two of our excellent board members, Sandra Flannery and Michele Waldman, will be stepping down after their terms ends next month. We thank them for their service, particularly Sandra, who has been President and on the Executive Committee and given years of service. New members will be elected at the June annual meeting, Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers who are willing to commit at least three years to serving on the Board. We are particularly looking for people with computer skills, financial skills, and/or a willingness to serve as liaison to the Ritual and Spiritual Life Committee.

### What is expected of a Board member:

- Attend monthly meetings, year round, on Monday nights at 5:30 Meetings have been held on Zoom due to COVID.
- Help out with planning, set-up, break-down of special services, particularly High Holy Days and Pesach
- Be part of decision-making about policy, finances, and other planning for the future of the synagogue
- Might take on (or help with) a particular responsibility, which might include
  - Ritual and Spiritual Life committee
  - Newsletter
  - Website
  - Mail
  - Public Relations
  - Programming
  - Membership
  - Social Action
  - Security

It's important to mention that Board members, while not always agreeing on synagogue matters, are nevertheless respectful of each other and conduct their business in a cordial, friendly way, so that at the end of the process there are no bad feelings.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Irene Goldman-Price at [icgp@roadrunner.com](mailto:icgp@roadrunner.com).

## June Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop will take place on Monday, June 13th 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](mailto: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.



Photo by [Nick Morrison](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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

## June Jahrzeits

“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
Henriette Waller	Sivan 04	
Howard Kanner	Sivan 11 5756	5/29/1996
Regina Levine	Sivan 16 5712	6/9/1952
Dorothy Krantz	Sivan 19 5779	6/22/2019
Bonnie Greenstein	Sivan 21 5723	6/13/1963
William Bannon	Sivan 23 5764	6/12/2004
David W. Goldman	Sivan 25	
Jason Cohen	Sivan 25 5773	6/3/2013
Maurice Innerfield	Sivan 27 5719	7/3/1959
Jeanette Scheinmann	Sivan 29 5741	7/1/1980
Welles Hotchkiss	Sivan 30 5757	7/5/1997
Jim Secundy	Tammuz 01 5754	6/10/1994

## June Donations

### In memory of Irene Linder

Tina P. Linder

### In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Barbara Barron (Photography Workshop)  
Ross and Shira Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)  
Karen and Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)  
Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)  
Barbara Janoff (Photography Workshop)  
Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)

### General Donation

Faith Newmark

## Shabbat Across the Berkshires



**Shabbat**

**Across**

**The Berkshires**

Join with the Berkshire Jewish Community as we come together to celebrate a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat with a musical family friendly service featuring our local Rabbis and the members of the **Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective**, followed by a festive oneg under the tent.

**Friday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

Hosted by

**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire  
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA**

**Sponsored by:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Berkshire Minyan, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Knesset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Berkshire Hills Hadassah



Jewish Federation  
OF THE BERKSHIRES



# JUSTICE SHOULDN'T BE JUST FOR THE RICH



Help us bring affordable,  
expert legal services  
to the community.  
Click today at:  
[berkshirecenterforjustice.org](http://berkshirecenterforjustice.org)

**BERKSHIRE CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE**  
**413-854-1955**



## SHIRA NICHAMAN

Daily Money Manager in the Berkshires  
Your Financial Advocate & CFO

Serving Seniors and Busy Professionals  
BILL PAYMENT, EXPENSE TRACKING AND FINANCIAL  
REPORTING, TAX ORGANIZER, INSURANCE CLAIMS  
MANAGEMENT, FRAUD REVIEW

[shira@everydaymm.com](mailto:shira@everydaymm.com) • 646-872-9842  
[www.EverydayMoneyManagement.com](http://www.EverydayMoneyManagement.com)



Making Your Personal  
Finances Easy and Secure!

# BAGEL & BREW

18 Franklin Street • Lenox, MA

Phil Cohen, Owner  
413-637-0055

[facebook.com/bagelandbrew](https://facebook.com/bagelandbrew)  
[bagelandbrew@gmail.com](mailto:bagelandbrew@gmail.com)



**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS**

**W** **Wheeler & Taylor**  
Insurance • Real Estate  
SINCE 1871

317 Main St. Gt. Barrington MA 01230 413-528-1000	402 East St. Pittsfield MA 01201 413-448-8124	96 Main St. Sheffield MA 01257 413-229-8064	44 Main St. Stockbridge MA 01262 413-298-5584
--	--	--	--

[www.wheelerandtaylor.com](http://www.wheelerandtaylor.com)

# RESULTS

Get the results you're looking for, schedule your print & digital ad today!

Affordable Ad Rates • 57,000 Readers Weekly  
18,000+ Direct Mailed in the Tri-State Area

**SHOPPER'S GUIDE** INC.

**Weekly Ad Deadline: Friday 11 am**

271 Main Street, Downtown Great Barrington, MA 01230  
413-528-0095 • [www.shoppersguideinc.com](http://www.shoppersguideinc.com)



## Naomi Alson

Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist

11 Quarry Hill Road  
413-243-8255 or 413-243-3223  
email: [Nalson247@hotmail.com](mailto:Nalson247@hotmail.com)



**CARR HARDWARE & SUPPLY, INC.**

SERVING THE BERKSHIRES SINCE 1928

256 Main St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230

52 Park St., Lee, MA 01238

Phone: 413-528-4520 Fax: 413-528-6809

[www.carrhardware.com](http://www.carrhardware.com)

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS**

**DAVID M. LAZAN** Attorney at Law  
Lazan Glover & Puciloski, LLP

GT. BARRINGTON PITTSFIELD BOSTON	785 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230 (413) 644-0200 Fax (413) 644-0201 Email: <a href="mailto:laзан@laзанlaw.com">laзан@laзанlaw.com</a>
--	---

THE GREAT BARRINGTON BAGEL  
COMPANY INC.



WHERE YOU CAN TASTE THE  
DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIZING IN:

- SMOKED FISH • DELI SANDWICHES •
- GOURMET SALADS • PARTY PLATTERS

LET US HELP YOU PLAN  
YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION

777 SOUTH MAIN ST. GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 413-528-9085 FAX 528-1539

**CHARLES J. FERRIS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

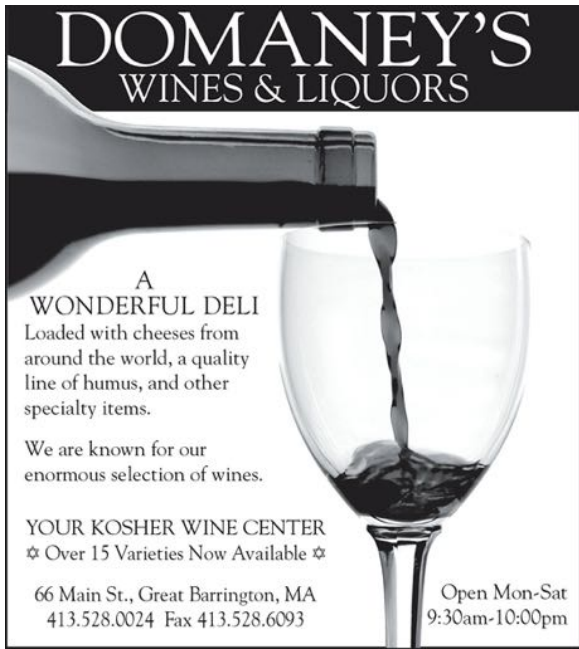
500 MAIN ST. SUITE 1  
GT. BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
TEL: (413) 528-8900  
FAX: (413) 528-9132

27 HENRY AVENUE  
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201  
TEL: (413) 443-8900

EMAIL: [charles.ferris@verizon.net](mailto:charles.ferris@verizon.net)

MEMBER OF MASSACHUSETTS & NEW YORK BAR

**DOMANEY'S**  
WINES & LIQUORS



A  
WONDERFUL DELI  
Loaded with cheeses from  
around the world, a quality  
line of humus, and other  
specialty items.

We are known for our  
enormous selection of wines.

YOUR KOSHER WINE CENTER  
✧ Over 15 Varieties Now Available ✧

66 Main St., Great Barrington, MA  
413.528.0024 Fax 413.528.6093

Open Mon-Sat  
9:30am-10:00pm



*Joy Robin Dronge*  
Julliard Trained  
award winning performer & composer

**Music Lessons**


flute † piano † recorder † performance  
private & groups for ages 2-102 reasonable rates  
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com



*Joy Robin Dronge*  
Julliard Trained Musician

*Wedding Music  
Coordinator & Performer*

all instruments—classical & jazz  
Arranging live wedding music in the Berkshires since 1974  
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com

**Barnbrook**   
CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Bringing you home from near and far

**Mary White**  
BROKER OWNER

271 Main St, Great Barrington, MA 01230  
27c Housatonic St, Lenox, MA 01240

---

o 413-528-4423      c 413-329-6342  
Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com | www.BarnbrookRealty.com