

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, August 1, 12 noon: At CAS synagogue. Please bring your vegetarian bag lunch and treat yourself to some deep conversation. We are using ethical values, highlighted in the Mussar movement of Judaism, as the catalyst for our group discussion. Why are we doing this? Because self reflection and personal growth are at the heart of our potential as human beings and by a willingness to share our lives with others in trusting community we can make true progress. For more information, please contact Barbara Cohen at info@ahavathsholom.com.

Saturday, August 4, 10:00am: Shabbat Service with Rabbi Barbara Cohen, followed by coffee, tea, pastry and conversation.

Saturday, August 11, 10:00am – 12:00pm: Elul in the Pool Shabbat Service & Potluck Brunch hosted by the Flannerys. This is a special “kick off the High Holiday Season” service in the Pool. Please RSVP by Wed. Aug 8 to Sandra SMFlann@ix.netcom.com. Directions available when you RSVP. For more information go to www.AhavathSholom.com or call 413-528-4197.

Friday, August 17, 5:30: Erev Shabbat Service

Sunday, August 19, 10:15am: Book Group: The Two Family House by Lynda Cohen Loigman led by Helen Radin. Please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com for location of this meeting. Check for changes as this group occasionally changes the date or time.

Thursday, August 23, 9:00am – 1:00pm: People's Pantry at St. James Place. Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

Sunday, August 26, 10:30am – 12:30pm: Study Session at CAS. On the Threshold of the New Year: Opening the Gates (study session and pot luck brunch). For more info or to RSVP, please contact Alison Adams-Weinberg at adamsweinberg@gmail.com or 914-319-1621.

Articles/Information

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The Ordination of Rabbi Barbara Cohen

On the evening of Saturday, June 30 our beloved Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen became Rabbi Barbara Cohen at an ordination ceremony in Stony Point, New York.





The Congregation's Party for Barbara

On Sunday, July 8 at 5:00 p.m. at the Apple Tree Inn in Lenox, Congregation Ahavath Sholom hosted a cocktail party honoring the ordination of Rabbi Barbara Cohen. This is the venue where we previously held Barbara's 10-Year Anniversary Party and our recent Passover events.

The ordination celebration for Rabbi Barbara was a huge success. A wonderful time was had by all. There was a small and hard working committee who organized the party. We owe them a heartfelt thank you for all their work, their time and their efforts. Todah Rabah to: Ellen Axelrod, Arthur Hillman, Vivian Scheinmann and David Scribner.

After the 100 attendees enjoyed much food and drink, Harold Schragar, representing the congregation, delivered a wonderful introduction to the event and Barbara's pathway to ordination, before introducing Rabbi Steven Blane, founder and dean of the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute, who continued the tribute to Rabbi Cohen. Barbara then talked about her journey in her own words.

Rabbi Blane (playing piano) and Barbara sang a number of songs. Rabbi Blane then played and sang from the American Songbook throughout the rest of the evening.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to write messages to our new Rabbi in a beautiful wooden-bound Celebration Book that was then presented to Barbara as a gift from the congregation.





Photographs by Karen Chase, Steve Moritz and Arthur Hillman

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Milchidika with Marty: "No, Grandma Smells"

When I was a little boy living in Astoria in Queens, my two grandmothers each lived in the Bronx on Tremont Avenue. The Bronx at that time in my life, seemed to be so far away--like another country.

Every other weekend my parents would visit one or the other grandmothers, and I was always amazed that my father could drive the car from Astoria all the way to the Bronx and never get lost. I couldn't understand, "How did he know his way?" I remember asking him, "How did he know how to go?" To which he replied, "I just know." Which somehow never really explained anything.

Those were the days when "children were to be seen and not heard," so that neither grandmother paid much attention to me. I remember that each of them seemed very, very old, had wrinkles all over their faces, always wore long black dresses that reached down to the floor, didn't seem to take a bath too often, and had chin whiskers.

When we would arrive at Grandma's house, my mother would tell me, "Go run over and kiss Grandma." To which I would reply, "No, she smells." So, that didn't really enhance my relationship with either of them. But, what I do remember was each one of them telling me scary stories about ghosts, evil spirits, and the devil. Also, what would happen to me if I walked under an open ladder, let a black cat cross my path, or by being careless spilled salt from the salt shaker onto the kitchen table. They sure scared this little boy with their old wives' tales or "Bubbe Meises."

I don't think that I was particularly superstitious, but still avoided walking under an open ladder, and tried to avoid black cats. You know, "It

couldn't hurt."

Years went by, I grew up, got married, had children, and bought a house. Living the American dream. Unfortunately, tragedy struck, and my wife died at an early age. Funerals and death were certainly not a thing that a young man was familiar with.

Coming home from the cemetery, my various "Tantes" would not allow me to enter the house, until they had brought out a basin of warm water, soap, and a towel. I had to wash my hands while standing on the front steps, or else they feared, I might bring death into the house.

Then the first thing that I noticed when I entered the house was that they had covered all the mirrors with sheets, since tradition said that "the mirror image of the person who has died is trapped in the mirror and you must cover it or the spirit will cause damage or will harm you."

So even today, in the days of electric cars and smart phones, we still might observe superstitions that date back to medieval times. "Just in case. It couldn't hurt."

As a footnote in researching "Bubbe Meises" on the internet, I found a few that I had never heard of before, such as:

A young lady wrote that her mother always cautioned her, "Don't cross your legs or you will marry a tailor." She followed her mother's advice and married a doctor.

Superstition also suggests that you shouldn't boast about your good health or great wealth lest you be stricken with an illness or see your investments take a nose dive.

But, here's a real life recent event. Although I say, "I don't believe in those superstitions and Bubbe Meises." On New Year's Day, I sent an email to my children and granddaughter who was expecting her first child. I wished them all a "Happy New Year" and was about to sign the email "Love from Dad, Grandpa, and Future Great Grandpa." Then I thought about it. "Why tempt luck? Maybe if I signed future Great Grandpa, something bad might happen to the baby" and so I signed "Love from Dad and Grandpa." Superstitious? Maybe. How would you have signed it?

As a footnote, my great granddaughter Lila Rose was born in March and, of course, she is the most gorgeous baby.

An ending joke

Sam was crossing a busy street in Manhattan and didn't see the taxi coming. The taxi side-swiped him, and Sam was knocked down. Someone called 911, and soon the emergency team was on the scene. One of the medics put a blanket over Sam and a pillow under his head and asked, "Are you comfortable?" To which Sam replied, "I make a living."

Upstairs at CAS: Textile Works by CAS Members Barbara Barron, Robin Berson, Sandra Flannery and Helen Radin

Barbara Barron

I have always loved handcrafts. Since childhood I have embraced hand embroidery. In later years I became a certified teacher of the Embroiderers' Guild of America. When retiring from my fiber gallery after 24 years, I began quilting.

My first projects were simple and friends and family enjoyed my efforts. After a while I began using machine embroidery, including thread painting and painting on fabrics. I have entered the world of contemporary artistic quilt-making. It has been a great blessing for me to have been given the opportunity to create artwork for sanctuaries. For me it is an "hiddur mitzvah." I love the colors and textures of fabrics and am a great collector of hand-dyed batiks. Currently, I have been accepted as a volunteer at Shakespeare & Co's famed Costume Department and am learning tailoring. This is a very exciting new adventure for me.



Barbara Barron is a fiber artist who specializes in Judaica and works with quilted machine applique, using photo transfer techniques, hand-dyed batiks, Dupioni silks and metallic threads. She lives in Lenox, MA. and Delray Beach, FL. and received her BA from Hunter College, her MA from Teacher's College at Columbia University, and studied fiber and ecclesiastical embroidery at Oxford University and the Royal School of Needlework in London, England. She operated Barron Designs, a fiber art gallery in Deer Park, N.Y., for 24 years, creating commissioned wall hangings for commercial and residential interiors.

Working in the tradition of her faith, she has created over 50 Judaic curtains, Torah covers and wall hangings. Her Torah cover won the prestigious Avis Lee & Abraham Neiman Judaica Prize Competition by the Jewish Museum of Florida in Miami Beach and was purchased for its permanent collection. In addition, she has had numerous one-person and group exhibits throughout the United States and Japan, including Pindar Gallery in Soho, N.Y.

Robin Berson

My grandmother taught me to knit and crochet when I was five years old, and I haven't stopped since. I challenged myself to learn all (well, almost) the needle crafts, so I've done a variety of embroideries, needlepoint, weaving (floor loom, inkle loom, card-weaving), and even tatting. (I have also taught history, edited a small scholarly journal, written three books, and run a high school library.) My current passion is for large quilts that memorialize and honor endangered workers and others in crisis situations. The newest project, just getting underway, is for a quilt honoring women with metastatic breast cancer.

Sandra Flannery

I started learning to quilt in 2000 when we bought our house in the Berkshires. I love bright colors and contemporary designs. It took me quite a while to learn that it was okay to mix colors and designs that don't go together in a classical way.

I usually machine quilt as I don't have the patience to sit and hand quilt for months at a time. I often make quilts to give to family and friends for special occasions. Most quilts I make because I love working with the materials, colors and designs.

[The quilt in the show, Stepping Stones, I made in 2003. It was the first one in which I hand sewed the appliques. The sides were quilted on the machine. The top and bottom designs were hand quilted.]

Helen Radin

Helen Radin has been a Berkshire resident and CAS member since 1995. Her mother was a designer and dressmaker who delighted in creating fashion using diverse fabrics. Helen chose to define her medium using a variety of threads.

In prior years Helen lived in New York City and Englewood, NJ. She is a retired Jewish Community Center Pre-school director, teacher and camp director.

Her embroidery and needlepoint work began when she was a stay at home mom for several years in the late 1960's and early 1970's. (Chagall Window Needlepoint). In the 1980's and early 1990's while working full time Helen found embroidery to offer her a relaxing outlet and joined a weekly group led by an Embroidery Guild master teacher. The Victorian houses, Manhattan landscape and samplers were created during that period.

Currently, Helen prefers hand knit projects which are portable--a knitting bag generally accompanies Helen to meetings and events. The projects then find their way to the homes of friends and family.

Molly Pomerance's Paintings at the Becket Arts Center

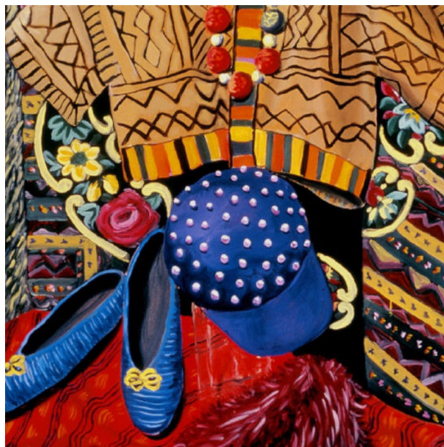
"Pattern and color are the two impulses that drive my work."

CAS member Molly Pomerance's oil paintings (along with the art work of four other artists) will be featured in a show at the Becket Arts Center(7 Brooker Hill Road, Becket, MA 01223) from August 25 to September 9, Thursday through Sunday, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Opening reception is on August 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Molly was born in Warsaw, Poland, grew up in Great Britain, and was educated at St. Hilda's College, Oxford University. She came to the USA in 1956 and in 1973 she began dividing her time between New York City and Copake Falls, New York, a short distance from the Berkshires.

After some years of creating collages and monoprints, Molly started working with oil and, occasionally, acrylic paint media. She has studied with Tom Doud, Carla Aurich and James Sheehan.

Molly has exhibited in a number of one-woman shows in the area and in group exhibits in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Florida.



"Wardrobe" by Molly Pomerance

"Keep Smiling!" More Photo Memories from Don Victor (This month in honor of Barbara)



CAS Book Group

The CAS Book Group will meet on Sunday, August 19 (postponed from July 22) at 10:15 a.m. to discuss *The Two Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman. Helen Radin will lead the discussion of this family saga set in post-war Brooklyn. It focuses on two families that are inextricably linked by blood, marriage, and a long-held secret. Please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com for location of this meeting.



August 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

Ethel Rosen Shusterman Av 20 5722	8//1	Miriam Hinda Gans Elul 07 5701	8/18
Betty Smith Av 20 5749	8/1	Leo Kaplan Elul 08 5754	8/19
Doris Deborah Kassler Av 20 5730	8/1	Jacob Slaminsky Elul 09 5688	8/20
Al Silverstein Av 21 5767	8/2	Chaim Witkowski Elul 10 5762	8/21
Rebecca Isserson Av 25 5757	8/6	Esther Kaplan Elul 12 5714	8/23
Joseph Weinstein Av 26 5752	8/7	Sam Kaplan Elul 13 5687	8/24
Beatrice Alson Av 27 5769	8/8	Gail Baron Kaplan Elul 13 5741	8/24
Alvin Ketay Av 27 5717	8/8	Joseph Teich Elul 15	8/26
Frances Bannon Av 28 5751	8/9	Ruth Levi Elul 15 5732	8/26
Esther Altschuler Sydlosky Av 29 5755	8/10	Miriam Reiss Elul 16 5761	8/27
Henrietta Millimet Elul 02 5741	8/13	Benjamin Kipnis Elul 17 5769	8/28
Phyllis Kirshen Elul 02 5772	8/13	Bernard Karp Elul 18 5686	8/29
Miriam Friedman Baron Elul 04 5743	8/15	Frances Goodman Elul 18 5717	8/29
Bea Guralnick Elul 6 5775	8/17	David Shocket Elul 19 5733	8/30
		Joseph Brickman Elul 20 5724	8/31

August Donations

In honor of Barbara Cohen's ordination as Rabbi

Elizabeth Kanter (Love Josh, Elis, Hersh, and Eli)

In honor *Kol ha kavod* of Barbara Cohen

John Slote and Nancy Cohen

In honor of our dear friend Rabbi Barbara J Cohen's ordination. With admiration and love

Dr. Alan and Debby Beck

In honor of Rabbi Barbara Cohen's ordination with much love and nachas

From her mother Lillian Kipnis, and her loving family, Ellen Kanter, Linda Mitchell, Giora Witkowski and their children

In honor of Barbara's ordination

Bill and Sandra Flannery
Dr. Alan and Brenda Gold
Gayle and Charles Mazursky
Stephen and Helen Radin
Barry and Donna Schüler
Keren Weiner

In honor of the marriage of Barbara Janoff to David Birch

Irene Goldman Price

In remembrance of Mark Cohen

Barbara P. Turner Hart

In loving memory of Al Silverstein

Barbara Janoff

Other donations

William and Sandra Flannery
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Mike and Kaye Jaffe
Gordon and Susan Josephson
Diana and Richard Richter
Charles and Karen Schader

Paul Graubard's Studio Moving Sale

Take this opportunity to see (and buy) CAS member Paul Graubard's wonderful paintings!



STUDIO MOVING SALE

Graubard paintings at prices YOU can afford!

Saturday, August 4 - 10-4

Sunday, August 5 - 10-4

141 North Street, Pittsfield - First floor - Room #2

or by appointment - pgraubard@gmail.com

B'Shalom Chorale 2018 Concerts



B'Shalom Chorale

Jack Brown, *Conductor*

Joe Rose, *Accompanist*

2018 Concerts

With Special Guest, Clarinetist Paul Green

Tuesday evening, August 14th , 7:00 pm

Knesset Israel

16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Wednesday evening, August 15th , 7:00 pm

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA.



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B'Shalom Chorale, Inc. is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.