

THE CAS NEWSLETTER **April 2017**

Services and Events

Saturday, April 1 - May 31: Art Exhibit by Lee Rogers and Nancy Maurice Rogers. See Art Shows page on website.

Sunday, April 2, 10:00am – 11:30am: Study Session with Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen. Home of Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen. Email for address: barbaracohen14@gmail.com. Firm RSVP needed Thursday before event.

Sunday, April 2, 3 - 5 pm: *"Where do WE go from here?"* Opening reception of hand-made paper artwork and photography by Nancy Maurice Rogers and C. Lee Rogers. The exhibit will be on view throughout April and May at The Upstairs Gallery at Congregation Ahavath Sholom. See Art Shows page on website.

Monday, April 3, 5:30pm: Board Meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Tuesday, April 11, 5:30pm: CAS community 2nd Night Seder at Apple Tree Inn.

Thu, April 13, 9am: People's Pantry at St. James Place - **NEW WONDERFUL VENUE--** Saint James Place 352 Main Street Great Barrington, MA. Generally, 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

Tuesday, April 18, 9 am: Yizkor for Pesach

Friday April 21, 5:30: Erev Shabbat service

Sunday, April 23, 11:00am: Women's Group special potluck brunch at Diana Felber Gallery, 6 Harris St., West Stockbridge, MA 01266. RSVP by April 19 to Gail Orenstein: ptcpa@roadrunner.com or 413- 229-0105. See Programs & Events on website for more information.

Saturday, April 29, 10 am: Brief Shabbat service followed at 10:30 by Talk by Karen Chase, author of "FDR On His Houseboat".

Sunday, April 30, 10:30am: Book Group: 'Out of Egypt: A Memoir' by Andre Aciman. Please contact Diana Richter (drpajama1@gmail.com) for details and venue or check website.

Sunday, April 30, 5pm: CAS Mini Film Series, Part I: "Strange Fruit" (51 minutes). For more info, call Michele Waldman at michelewaldman@rcn.com or check website.

Articles/Information

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- **Talk by Karen Chase, author of "FDR On His Houseboat"**
- **CAS Book Group: Out of Egypt: A Memoir by Andre Aciman**
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- **Milchidika with Marty: Wow! What Chutzpah!**
- **CAS at the People's Pantry**

Art Exhibit by Lee Rogers and Nancy Maurice Rogers

The exhibition by Lee Rogers and Nancy Maurice Rogers runs from April 1 through May 31, 2017 in the The Upstairs Art Gallery at Congregation Ahavath Sholom. Access is available during events and after religious services at Ahavath Sholom and by appointment.

Lee Rogers has been active as a photographer for 45 years. In 2012 he received an Artist Grant from the Martha Boschen Porter Fund, which is directed by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. This grant award was in recognition of his project, "Black and White Landscape Photography Project", which is centered on creating unique representations of the natural landscapes of the Northeastern and Southwestern United States.

Lee's work consists of prints that are a combination of photograph and photogram both of which he creates in the darkroom. A photogram is a photographic print made by placing objects on light sensitive paper and then exposing them to light. The whole process of producing Lee's landscape photographs begins by capturing the imagery using black and white negative film. The final prints are created by combining the two methods, resulting in a unique rendering of the landscape in which the objects that are found within the terrain blend with the scene itself. Lee sometimes hand colors prints with colored pencils to enhance the image.

The prints that Lee creates are unique and moody representations of the natural world, incorporating his respect and affection for that world. The creative process for this type of work is lengthy and involves a great deal of thought and attention to detail

Nancy Maurice Rogers has created art most of her life. She studied art at Hamilton College where she received a B.A. degree; in Florence, Italy where she studied printmaking, drawing and painting; and at the Arts Student League in NYC. Nancy served as Executive Director of Wooster Community Art Center in Danbury, CT., a visual arts organization, for over a decade before coming to the Berkshires. She finds her inspirations through nature and responds by making artwork informed by the various environmental issues that we all face.

Her medium in this exhibit is handmade paper that she uses as a base to manipulate and build upon using found objects to create three-dimensional artwork. Nancy approaches each piece as an opportunity to share environmental concerns with the viewer. The pieces are abstract and are left up to the viewer to interpret. They are not created to be solely aesthetically pleasing; instead Nancy sets out to tell a visual tale. Nancy also writes poetry to accompany some of the pieces, as she finds the written word and visual art accessible vehicles to further her exploration on that particular environmental theme. Nancy has been with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for over nine years, serving as Program Director.

All are welcome. Admission is free.

Talk by Karen Chase, author of "FDR On His Houseboat"

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, award winning author and CAS member Karen Chase will give a talk on her writing and her new book "FDR On His Houseboat." There will be a brief Shabbat service beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by Ms. Chase's talk at 10:30AM. All are welcome. The event will be held at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Great Barrington; admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Karen Chase is the author of two collections of poems, Kazimierz Square and BEAR as well as Jamali-Kamali, a book-length homoerotic poem which takes place in Mughal, India. Her award-winning book, Land of Stone, tells the story of her work with a silent young man in a psychiatric hospital where she was the hospital poet. Her memoir, Polio Boulevard, came out in 2014, followed in 2016, by FDR On His Houseboat: The Larocco Log, 1924-1926.

During the Roaring '20s, a politically ambitious young man who had been crippled by polio bought a houseboat so he could cruise the warm waters of the Florida Keys and try to cure his damaged legs. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was stricken with the disease in 1921, he withdrew from public life. He spent three winters aboard his houseboat, from 1924 to 1926. While on the boat, he kept a log in longhand in a three-ring binder, writing in it almost every day. Sometimes he used black ink, sometimes turquoise, pages full of playfulness.

For more information on Karen Chase visit: www.karenchase.com

CAS Book Group: Out of Egypt: A Memoir by Andre Acima

The CAS Book Group will meet on Sunday, April 30th at 10:30 a.m to discuss Out of Egypt: A Memoir by Andre Aciman. This memoir follows the exploits of a flamboyant Jewish family, from its bold arrival in cosmopolitan Alexandria to its defeated exodus three generations later.

Please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com for more information and location of meeting.

Part I of the CAS Mini Film Series: "Strange Fruit"

On Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 5:00 PM, the film "Strange Fruit" (51 minutes) will be shown. This is Part I of the CAS Mini Film Series to be shown at the synagogue at 15 North Street, Great Barrington.

Most people assume that the song "Strange Fruit" was written by Billie Holiday herself---but it was originally conceived as a poem by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx. Meeropol wrote the painful lyrics and brooding melody in reaction to a photograph of a lynching. The song was first performed at a meeting of his New York teachers' union. When Billie Holiday began performing "Strange Fruit" and later recorded it, the song reached Number 16 on popular music charts shortly after it was released---despite or because many radio stations labeled it "subversive."

The film includes footage of Holiday herself performing this haunting, bitter song. In a strange twist of history, Abel Meeropol and his wife adopted the two young sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg after the pair was executed. And with a further twist of the strands of history: Meeropol met the Rosenberg children at a holiday party in the home of W.E.B. Dubois.

All are welcome.

Admission is free and a general discussion will follow the film.

Milchidika with Marty:

WOW! WHAT CHUTZPAH!

How often have you heard, "Boy, does he (or she) have chutzpah." Is that good or bad? Is it something to be proud of, or ashamed of?

Chutzpah is a Yiddish term that means gall, audacity, nerve. But the word can also be defined as guts, the ability to act in many ways that might be negatively perceived and still require a certain amount of bravery.

So there seems to be both good and bad chutzpah, and occasionally "not so smart" chutzpah. I'll make my point with two old chutzpah jokes.

A little old lady gets onto a crowded bus and stands in front of a seated young girl. Holding her hand to her chest, she says to the girl, "If you knew what I have, you would give me your seat." The girl gets up and gives up the seat.

The girl takes out a fan and fans herself. The woman looks up and says "If you knew what I have, you would give me the fan." The girl gives her the fan.

Fifteen minutes later the woman gets up and says to the bus driver, "If you knew what I have, you would let me out here." The bus driver pulls over and opens the door to let her out.

As she's walking out of the bus he asks, "Madam, what is it you have?"

"Chutzpah," she replies.

I think we would agree that's not a good kind of chutzpah.

Second joke:

A little old Jewish lady sold pretzels on a street corner for 25 cents each. Every day a young man would leave his office building at lunch time, and as he passed the pretzel stand, he would leave her a quarter, but never take a pretzel.

And this went on for more than three years. The two of them never spoke. One day, as the young man passed the old lady's stand, and left his quarter as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him.

"Sir, I appreciate your business. You are a good customer, but I have to tell you that the pretzel prices have gone up to 35 cents."

I'm not sure if that's good or bad chutzpah.

Of course, there are examples of good chutzpah that goes all the way back to biblical times.

When we read the story of God and Abraham discussing the fate of Sodom, and God's decision to destroy it; Abraham speaks up and challenges God's decision.

"Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous within the city; will you indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous ones who are in it?"

That's probably good chutzpah and bravery.

During World War II, the German army had surrounded the town of Bastogne in France, which the American army was defending at the time.

The Germans sent an emissary to the American commander, General Anthony McAuliffe, with a written message demanding that the U.S. forces in and near Bastogne surrender since they were encircled by strong German armored units.

McAulliffe's famous written reply was the one word, "Nuts."

Strangely enough, when the German general received the written reply, he didn't understand the American slang and had to ask an aide "What is this word nuts?"

Good chutzpah and brave.

An example of not so smart chutzpah:

A man was arrested in Georgia for breaking into the sheriff's office to steal guns.

So the next time you hear someone say something that you think is really nervy, you'll have to ask yourself, "Is that good or bad chutzpah?"

In doing research for the article I came across a legal chutzpah story:

A man goes to a lawyer and asks "How much do you charge for legal advice?"

"One-thousand dollars for three questions."

"Wow! Isn't that kind of expensive?"

"Yes it is. What's your third question?"

CAS at the People's Pantry

Early in March I went to services at CAS. I had worked at the People's Pantry the Thursday before, and I remarked to no one in particular that the shelves there were alarmingly bare, and that there was no cereal at all. By the end of the service people had pressed more than \$80 into my hands. Thanks to all you generous souls, I was able to deliver a case of Oatmeal and one of Raisin Bran; I will buy one more case for delivery next week.

By the time you read this, the Pantry will have moved from its location at the Calvary Christian Chapel on North Plain Road to the newly refurbished St. James Place in downtown Great Barrington. This move has been contemplated for a long time and the new location will make it easier to access for people without cars.

CAS is scheduled to staff the Pantry next on Thursday, April 13th, between 9:15am and 1:00pm. Please consider working for a few hours to help our neighbors. If you want to volunteer, contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com.

Thanks again for your generous support.

Irene Goldman-Price