



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

CAS Newsletter

February 2024

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, February 7 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Study with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Monday, February 12 at 5:00 PM: February Board Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 14 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, February 16 from 2:00-3:00 PM: People's Pantry food collection at the synagogue

Monday, February 19 at noon: Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom
at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

Wednesday, February 21 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, February 23 at 5:00 PM: Erev Shabbat Service and candle lighting via Zoom

Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 PM: Online Jewish Museum tour: *Marta Minujín* via Zoom

Wednesday, February 28 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Thursday, February 29 at noon: Ilene Spiewak at D'Amour Museum of Fine Art in Springfield

This month's newsletter features:

Rabbi Barbara to retire

January CAS/Jewish Museum Tour: *Scenes from the Collection*

Upcoming February CAS/Jewish Museum Tour: *Marta Minujín: Arte! Arte! Arte!*

Ilene Spiewak painting and talk at D'Amour Museum of Fine Art in Springfield

February Creative Arts Workshops

Winter Food Collection for the People's Pantry Reminder

February Yahrzeits

February Donations

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Rabbi Barbara to retire

Congregation Ahavath Sholom is announcing that Rabbi Barbara Kipnis Cohen will be stepping away from the pulpit after 20 years as the spiritual leader of our 100-year-old congregation. Founded in 1923 and led by Rabbi Jacob Axelrod for the following 60 years, the congregation has remained in the historic building it occupies on North Street in Great Barrington for its entire history. It is the oldest synagogue building in continuous use in the Berkshires. An affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism, the congregation will be marking its second century in 2024 with a series of special events including educational and social offerings throughout the spring and summer, culminating in a celebration in September 2024 that will also honor Rabbi Cohen. As Rabbi Cohen has explained, “ I have loved every minute as the spiritual leader of this community since July 1, 2005, and I and my family have felt loved, respected, and embraced in return. At this point in my life, and still in good health, I feel the inner call to begin a new chapter. My wish is to have time to focus on and to grow in my spirituality and to pursue my diverse interests . . . wherever that journey leads me. I am not leaving the Berkshires, so my wanderings will remain, as usual, in the inner landscape, and local.”

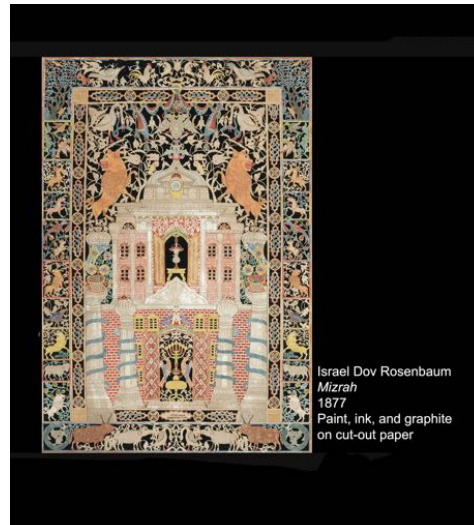


Rabbi Cohen will continue her private practice of meeting with individuals as they explore their spiritual “wonderings” at her office in downtown Lenox. “ I am not retiring in the classic sense of the word . . . just channeling my love of spiritually accompanying individuals of all ages in a new way. I have been a pulpit partner or solo clergy person for 30 years and the time feels right to explore different paths.”

The CAS Board of Directors has met with the Ritual and Spiritual Life (RSL) committee to begin a comprehensive process of evaluating our goals and priorities as a community as we search for a new spiritual leader, while also acknowledging the wonderful twenty years working in partnership with our beloved Rabbi. A working group is being formed that will include Board members, members of the RSL, and members of the CAS community at large. Among the responsibilities of this group will be to engage with the entire congregation, explore options, lay out a timetable and set goals, and provide regular progress reports to our community, as we move forward into our second century.

CAS/Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: *Scenes from the Collection*

On Sunday January 28th, Rena Tobey delivered one of her fabulous online tours. The presentation, the first of three winter zoom sessions, focused on the Jewish Museum's rotating permanent collection exhibition. Below are some of the slides that illustrated Rena's talk.



Upcoming February CAS/Jewish Museum Tour: *Marta Minujín*

On Sunday, February 25th at 4:00 PM on Zoom, Rena Tobey will offer the second of three online tours to be held this winter, *Marta Minujín: Arte! Arte! Arte!* The Minujín exhibition is currently at the Jewish Museum in New York City and will remain in place until March 31, 2024.

Marta Minujín: Arte! Arte! Arte! includes nearly 100 works organized to reflect Minujín's bold experimentation over six decades. The exhibition charts Minujín's influential career in Buenos Aires as well as time spent in Paris, New York, and Washington, DC, through a range of pioneering, mattress-based soft sculptures; fluorescent large-scale paintings; psychedelic drawings and performances; and vintage film footage. The artist's ephemeral works—happenings, participatory installations, and monumental public art—are presented through rarely seen photographs, video, and other documentation.

Born in 1943 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to an immigrant family partly descended from Russian Jews, Minujín established an international reputation as a key artistic voice at a young age. By the early 1960s, she had started to experiment with mattresses, creating colorful soft sculptures that would come to define her signature style. Today Minujín is one of Argentina's most recognized artists and celebrated cultural personalities. She continues to produce multimedia installations, participatory Events, paintings, and sculptures, attesting to her unceasing versatility, well into the twenty-first century, Minujín's art persists with vital force, critical vision, and clarity of purpose.

The Jewish Museum



Marta Minujín inside *Implosion!*, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, 2023
Image: Beto Assém; Courtesy of Marta Minujín archive



Installation view of *Marta Minujín: Arte! Arte! Arte!* at the Jewish Museum, NY
Image: Frederick Charles; Courtesy of Jewish Museum, NY



El Partenón de libros [The Parthenon of Books] Buenos Aires, 1983, Marta Minujín
Image: Marta Minujín Archive. © Marta Minujín, Courtesy of Henrique Faria, New York and Herlitzka & Co., Buenos Aires



The first three images appeared in *stir world*.

The cost for the presentation is \$25 for CAS members and \$30 for the general public. All reservations and payment may be made through the CAS website at www.ahavathsholom.com

Ilene Spiewak painting and talk at D'Amour Museum of Fine Art

On Thursday, February 29th at noon, Ilene Spiewak, artist, art therapist, art educator, and CAS board member, will be giving a talk about her work.

How do we want to see ourselves in the 21st Century? The politics of identity and the presentation of identity to self is important to Ilene, whose work is included in *The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today* exhibition. Her studio practice raises tough questions about aesthetic norms and cultural values. Of her work, Spiewak writes "I am making myself and re-making myself: I do it again and again. I paint with a searching gaze. My gaze is considerate of the human condition and is not based on sameness.

I pay attention. Introspection is profound.

I am not invisible."



Launched in 2006 to support contemporary portraiture in the United States, the National Portrait Gallery's celebrated triennial Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition returns to the Springfield Museums. A major survey of the best American portraits, selected by internationally prominent jurors and curators, *The Outwin: American Portraiture Today* presents 42 works selected from over 2,700 entries, that foreground the vibrancy and relevance of portraiture today.

February Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, February 19th at noon. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at bjanoff1@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

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.



Photograph by Kateryna Hliznitsova on Unsplash

The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, February 19th, but at 7:00 PM. Participants in the workshop can submit any images they would like discussed, regardless of subject matter or content, using phone or camera. They can also share their screen with the group. These workshops are stand-alone sessions, open to all. Please RSVP to arthurhillman54@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

Photographer and printmaker Arthur Hillman has been exhibiting his prints for more than 50 years. He has delivered a variety of lectures and presentations on photography and printmaking, juried many exhibits, and was a founding member of the Berkshire Photography Group. He is Professor Emeritus, Photography, Printmaking and Design, Bard College at Simon's Rock.



Photograph by JESHOOOTS.com on Unsplash

Winter food collection for the People's Pantry Reminder



Once a month, we will open the synagogue from 2:00-3:00 PM to gather items for the People's Pantry. Please drop in for a visit, chat with friends, and drop off items or a donation to the People's Pantry. This month the collection date is Friday, February 16th.

February Yahrzeits

“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	This Year
Martin B. Slater	Shevat 22 5767	2/10/2007	2/1
Meyer Osterweil	Shevat 23 5719	2/1/1959	2/2
Lewis Cohn	Shevat 23 5776	2/2/2016	2/2
Joseph Karelitz	Shevat 26 5743	2/9/1983	2/5
David V. Schenker	Shevat 27 5753	2/18/1993	2/6
Sherwin Fink	Adar1 3 5776	2/12/2016	2/12
Helen Weiner	Adar1 04 5766	3/4/2006	2/13
Emma Mainker Graubard	Adar1 07 5660	6-Feb	2/16
Josef Waller	Adar 09		2/18
Hannah Meltzer Greenside	Adar 10 5753	3/3/1993	2/19
Stanley Clarin	Adar 10 5759	2/25/1999	2/19
Wilhelm Brill	Adar1 16 5708	2/26/1948	2/25
Joe Enzer	Adar 16 5742	3/11/1982	2/25
Mollie Nadelman	Adar1 17 5763	2/19/2003	2/26
Roberta Rudin	Adar1 19 5774	2/19/2014	2/28

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Annual Appeal / End-of-Year fund

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 Stephanie Sloane
 Nancy Cohen and John Slote
 Shirley Ripullone and Kenneth Stahl
 Keren Weiner

Keren Weiner's genealogical program

Daniel Schenker

In memory of my father

Deborah Slater

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Bill Barth (Photography)
 Ross Bettinger (Memoir)
 Csroline Forsman (Photography and Memoir)
 Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)
 Arthur Hillman (Memoir)
 Louise Hillman (Photography)
 Barbara Janoff (Photography)
 Carol Killian (Memoir)

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