



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Upcoming services and events

- Wednesday, March 3 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom
- Sunday, March 7 at 10:00 AM:** Rabbi Cohen's Study Session
- Monday, March 8 at 5:30 PM:** CAS Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 10 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom
- Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 17 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom
- Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Morning Service via Zoom
- Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 PM:** Creative Arts Workshop, Photography: *Home Bodies* via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 24 at 10:00 AM:** CoffeeTime with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom
- Sunday, March 28 at 4:00 PM:** Passover Service via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 31 at 10:00 AM:** CoffeeTime with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

- Valentine's Day Poetry Reading
- Some Purim Zoom Portraits
- Milchidika with Marty: *Yeah, it's a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there*
- CAS Honors Marty Stransky
- March Creative Arts Workshops: Memoir Writing and Photography (*Home Bodies*)
- "Cooking with Alison", the third CAS cooking program
- March Yahrzeits
- March Donations
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Valentine's Day "Happy Hour" Poetry Reading



The CAS Valentine's Day "Happy Hour" Poetry Reading on February 14th featured five published poets who are members of Ahavath Sholom. Jayne Benjulian, Karen Chase, Barbara Janoff, Lee Schwartz and Stephanie Sloane each read three poems. As a special surprise, Caroline Forsman read an original birthday tribute to Rabbi Barbara Cohen, whose birthday falls on Valentine's Day. A large contingent of Zoom attendees greatly enjoyed this wonderful presentation.

Jayne Benjulian is the author of *Five Sextillion Atoms* (Saddle Road Press 2016). Her poems and essays appear in numerous literary and performance journals, including Agni, Barrow Street, The Cortland Review, Women's Review of Books, Mudlark, and Poetry Daily. She was shortlisted for the 2017 Bridport Prize. Jayne has also served as director of new play development at Magic Theatre. She earned an MFA at the Warren Wilson Program for Writers and currently edits the manuscripts of other writers and teaches the writing and performance of poetry.

Karen Chase lives in Lenox. She 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. *Polio Boulevard*, a memoir, came out in 2014, followed by *FDR on his Houseboat: The Larooco Log* in 2016.

Barbara Janoff Ph.D. is an associate professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York in Manhattan, where she teaches 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.

Lee Schwartz Born in Brooklyn, Lee Schwartz is a native New Yorker. She graduated with advanced degrees in NYU and has never left Greenwich Village. She studied with Sharon Olds and Frida Kahlo is another mentor. Lee is Two-time winner of the Allen Ginsberg, Paterson Literary Prize and served as Artist in Residence at the 92nd St Y in NYC. She has work in TRANS BODIES, TRANS SELVES, Oxford University Press, Writing Fire, Green Fire Press and many Journals. Look for her new book of poems, *GENDER ARTIST*, out soon.

Stephanie Sloane, a native New Yorker, born and raised in the Bronx, now lives in the Berkshires. She has had an eclectic career encompassing many creative endeavors. With a BA in Fine Art and Theatre, and an MS in Education and Art, she started out teaching art and dance. She has acted in commercials, off-off Broadway theater, and in films. As activities coordinator of a psychiatric unit for eleven years, she initiated a program that included art and dance therapies. She went on to become an art dealer. She has written two plays, "Toujours L'Amour" which was staged in NYC last year, and "Bronx Light/Bronx Dark." She was married for fifty-eight years to her husband, Michael, who recently passed away. The loss of her husband at the same time as the pandemic prompted her to write her first, but not her last, book of poetry with photographs, *Dear Me*.

Please note that Jayne Benjulian's book Five Sextillion Atoms, Stephanie Sloane's book Dear Me and six of Karen Chase's books are available through the CAS Marketplace.

A video of the Valentine's Day Poetry Reading is available on the home page of the CAS website.

Some Purim Zoom Portraits



Milchidika with Marty:

Yeah, it's a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there

Do you remember, in the days before the Corona virus, that people went on vacations and traveled? Well, here are some of their comments:

I have recently been around the world and have formed a poor opinion of it – Sir Thomas Beecham

New York is an exciting town where something is happening all the time, mostly unsolved – Johnny Carson

I found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them, than to travel with them – Mark Twain

The Baggage Carousel, where passengers traditionally gather at the end of a flight to spend several relaxing hours watching the arrival of luggage from some other flight – Dave Barry

Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them – Bill Vaughn

The trouble with New York is it's so convenient to everything I can't afford – Jack Barry

I hate small towns because once you've seen the cannon in the park there's nothing else to do – Lenny Bruce

An interesting thing about New York City is that the subways run through the sewers – Garrison Keillor

New York now leads the world's greatest cities in the number of people around whom you shouldn't make a sudden move – David Letterman

Someone did a study of the three most-often-heard phrases in New York City. One is "Hey taxi." Two is "What train do I take to get to Bloomingdales?" And three is "Don't worry, it's only a flesh wound."

Delaware is a state that has three counties when the tide is out, and two when it is in – John James Ingalls

Calling a taxi in Texas is like calling a rabbi in Iraq – Fran Lebowitz

There are a number of things wrong with Washington. One of them is that everyone has been too long away from home – Dwight Eisenhower

Americans like fat books and thin women – Russell Baker

I like Frenchmen very much, because even when they insult you, they do it so nicely – Josephine Baker

In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles. – David Ben Gurion

Contrary to popular belief, English women do not wear tweed nightgowns -- Hermione Gingold

I went to Philadelphia one day; the place was closed – W.C. Fields

CAS honors Marty Stransky

On February 18, our incoming treasurer, Dan Burkhard, delivered a plaque and gift certificate from the congregation's Board of Directors to our outgoing treasurer, Marty Stransky. The plaque, pictured below, names Marty Stransky and Isabelle Weinberg as honorary lifetime members of Congregation Ahavath Sholom.



March Creative Arts Workshops: Memoir Writing and Photo workshops continue

The Memoir Writing Workshop will continue on Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. “Do you wish your parents and grandparents had told you more about their lives? The stories and poems about your life that you will write in our memoir workshop could be legacies for your own children and grandchildren. Maybe you just want to look back through time and acknowledge your experience of history. All perspectives are welcomed. We started in October, but you don’t have to have been there from the beginning to join this stand-alone session. We will be taking a trip down memory lane through short writing and listening exercises. (Please contact Barbara Janoff at barbaraljanoff@gmail.com to reserve a place).



On Sunday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m., Arthur Hillman will offer his fourth photography workshop. Unlike the previous sessions, this one focuses on a particular idea and subject matter. The *Home Bodies* theme, familiar compositions from around each participant’s home, was inspired by Caroline Forsman’s photograph below.



Prior to this Zoom workshop, each participant will submit a group of four of his or her own photographs that will form the basis for a group critique. Technical and design issues will be considered, and the images of other photographers may be contrasted to those of the workshop group. (Please email arthurhillman54@gmail.com by Sunday, March 14th to reserve a place and to submit your photographs). You can participate in this workshop even if you have not attended the previous ones.

A minimum donation of \$10 is requested for each program to support our Creative Arts event

“Cooking with Alison”

The third cooking demonstration from our own Alison Adams-Weinberg’s kitchen is for **Farro Soup**. **We have installed the video on the CAS website along with Alison’s other cooking videos.** Please check it out! The printed recipe is below.



Farro soup

From Mario Batali (with adjustments by Alison)

Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 2 Celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 1 Leek, white and light green part only, thinly sliced
- 1 Cup farro
- 1 Can, red or pink beans
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 5 Cups water, plus more as needed
- 1 1/2 Cups fresh or frozen peas
- 2 Large carrots, cut in 1/4 inch slices
- Fresh basil leaves, cut into chiffonade for garnish
- Freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

Directions

1. In 19-inch Dutch oven or stock pot, heat oil over medium heat until hot, but not smoking. Add onion, celery and leek. Cook stirring occasionally, until soft and light golden brown. About 5 minutes.
2. Add farro, beans and tomato paste. Stir until tomato paste is spread throughout the pan. Add 1 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Add water until mixture is completely covered. Let liquid come to a boil, lower heat and simmer 30 minutes.
3. Add peas and carrots, stirring to combine, and cook for 45 minutes or longer until farro is tender. Add more water as you cook to keep soup from getting dry.
4. Adjust salt and pepper to taste.
4. To serve, ladle into bowls, garnish with basil and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese.

March 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	This year's date
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	2/17
Martin Sagan	Adar2 07 5771	2/19
Mollie Nadelman	Adar1 17 5763	3/1
Roberta Rudin	Adar1 19 5774	3/3
Benjamin Letofsky	Adar2 20 5765	3/4
Ernest Waller	Adar 21 5753	3/5
Meyer Spiegelman	Adar 22 5764	3/6
Sydelle Cohen	Adar 22 5777	3/6
Michael Sloane	Adar 23 5780	3/7
Oscar Slote	Adar2 25 5727	3/9
Jack Nodiff	Adar 25 5777	3/9
Irving Toporek	Adar1 30 5711	3/13
Kenneth Kaplan	Nisan 01 5772	3/14
Raye Steiner Pozefsky	Nisan 4 5734	3/17
Wendy Shifriin	Nisan 05 5775	3/18
John Gellert	Nisan 06 5726	3/6
John P. Hammond	Nisan 06 5763	3/19
Muriel Budnick	Nisan 07 5773	3/20
Irving Nathaniel Barth	Nisan 8 5743	3/21
Edward Alec Weiner	Nisan 12 5766	3/25
Goldy Uslan	Nisan 16 5751	3/29
Jacob Uslan	Nisan 17 5754	3/30
Gordon Scales	Nisan 17 5772	3/30

February Donations

In memory of Roberta M. Rudin

Harold Rudin

In memory of my father, Jack Nodiff

Debra Nodiff

In appreciation of Alison Weinberg's cooking videos

Barbara Janoff

General donations

Beth Moser

Sandra Pontorno

In appreciation of the Poetry Reading

Alison Adams-Weinberg

Laurie Josephs

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In appreciation of the Creative Arts Workshops

Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)

Louise Hillman (Photography Workshop)

Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

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