

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Saturday, February 11, 10am: Tu B'Shevat morning service and Vegetarian Pot Luck brunch. Details will follow.

Sunday, February 19, 10:00am – 11:30am: Study Session at the home of Spiritual Leader Barbara. Bagels and coffee included so a commitment is needed for planning. Firm RSVP by Thursday before to barbaracohen14@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 19, 5:00pm: Movies at CAS: "As If It Were Yesterday" Come see a movie at CAS: enjoy the company and get some intellectual stimulation. We hope to have some discussion post showing. The event is free. Looking forward to seeing you there. Check your email for snow cancellation. See details on 'Program/Events' webpage.

Thursday, February 23, 9am – 1pm: People's Pantry at Calvary Christian Chapel. Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

ARTICLES

FROZEN SHABBAT

We chose to attend the Shabbat Service and Pot luck dinner on January 6, little did we know that we would become the “Frozen Chosen.”

I arrived at 4:30 for setup, went into the sanctuary to turn up the heat, surprised that it was 40 degrees inside but the thermostat said heat was on. I busied myself in the kitchen and then Barbara arrived at 5 PM and said it was too cold and that the boiler probably wasn't working. We felt it was too late to call people so Barbara said we would not do both service and dinner. We would give everyone a choice whether to take packages home, or eat and run. Barbara called the oil burner service and they said they would come in a half-hour. Still too late to warm up the synagogue.

We ended up sitting around the table with coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Barbara said some inspirational words, we blessed the wine, and challah and ate.

We stayed, hung out and enjoyed each other's company. We even discussed some politics.

The food was amazing: bagels, cream cheese and nova, salmon salad, scalloped potatoes, Moroccan stew with rice, vegetarian chili, butternut squash casserole, stuffed grape leaves, corn salad, biscotti, brownies, cake and more wine. Hope I didn't leave anything out. We said kaddish, oil burner service worked on boiler and I believe we all had an enjoyable evening and the synagogue saved money, we didn't use any oil. LOL!!

Alison Adams-Weinberg

THE FOUR FREEDOMS

On Saturday, January 7, nearly 2000 people marched down North Street in Pittsfield to celebrate FDR's Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The March and rally were organized by the Four Freedoms Coalition, a group of citizens from Pittsfield. Many members from CAS participated in this non-partisan event. It was beautiful.

Here is a link to a wonderful story that describes the event in detail by Marcie Setlow, which appeared in The Berkshire Edge.

<https://theberkshireedge.com/thousands-march-for-4-freedoms-in-pittsfield-protesting-ascendance-of-bigotry-hatred/>

Karen Chase

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER: ELLEN AXELROD

Your CAS board has had some changes in the last couple of months which we would like to share with you. As you likely know, Guy and Pat Pancer have moved from Salisbury, CT back to New York City and sadly, Guy resigned from the board. Luckily, Ellen Axelrod, a former weekender, has moved to the Berkshires fulltime. The board appointed her to take the open board seat until the end of this term on June 30.

Ellen has been a member of Ahavath Sholom since 2013. She recently moved to Salisbury full time where she has owned a home for over 10 years. Ellen is excited about serving on the board for a community that stood by her through the most challenging time in her life; the illness and passing of her beloved husband, Jeff.

She enjoys the town of Great Barrington and don't be surprised if you run into her at Crystal Essence where she has taken classes. Her passions include yoga, hiking, biking, and helping others.

Ellen has over thirty years of accounting, finance and human resource experience. She recently retired from her role as Executive Director of Budget, Planning and Analysis at the NYU Stern School of Business. Prior to NYU Stern, she spent over twenty years on Wall Street with Goldman Sachs.

SOME NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURES

For the February newsletter, the second edition of our online publication, we are including a number of new features.

The "February services and events" listing on our home page is now also the first of the articles you will see when you click on the "February Online Newsletter" button. This allows you to print the event schedule along with the articles appearing in this month's issue.

A new "Donate" button has been placed on the home page. Click on this button and it brings you to a new section that allows you to make a donation to the synagogue, pay your membership dues, or pay for High Holy Day reservations using PayPal or credit cards. Please be sure to indicate in the section right under the amount of your payment (the "Write a note" section) what your payment is for (contributions, dues, membership payment, Yahrzeit donation with name of the person to be remembered, etc.) and also make sure to fill in all of your contact information. We hope this new capability will make it easier to make payments to CAS, but we are still happy to receive checks by snail mail as well!

Your newsletter staff welcomes submissions to this website; short or long articles, photographs, commentary, links to websites and articles of interest, and opinion pieces are all important additions. This February Newsletter contains two such examples by CAS members. Karen Chase submitted a short description, some photographs and a link about the Four Freedoms rally in Pittsfield, and the synagogue's "Frozen Shabbat" was chronicled by Alison Adams-Weinberg, along with a photograph of this unusual event. Reviews by participants at synagogue group experiences, such as the Book Group, the Women's Group, the Movie Minyan, and Barbara's Sunday morning Study Group are especially welcome, both before and after each meeting.

Arthur Hillman