



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

CAS Newsletter

August 2024

Upcoming services and events

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

Saturday, August 10 at 10:00 PM: Tisha b'Av Study Session at the synagogue

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

Friday, August 16 at 5:00 PM: Erev Shabbat Service at the synagogue

Monday, August 19 at 12:00 PM: Memoir Workshop via Zoom

at 5:00 PM: August Board Meeting at the synagogue

at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

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

Saturday, August 24 at 10:00 AM: Traditional Shabbat Service with Rabbi Cohen at the synagogue

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

This month's newsletter features:

Shabbat at the synagogue

CAS Annual Meeting

Toby Axelrod's talk, "*Stories My Grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, Told Me*"

Recent books by CAS members

August Creative Arts Workshops

August Yahrzeits

August Donations

Community Events

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Shabbat at the Synagogue

CAS member Debbie Slater documented the June 29th Shabbat gathering at the synagogue with this series of great photographs.



CAS Annual Meeting

Congregation Ahavath Sholom's annual meeting took place at our North Street synagogue on Sunday, July 14. An excellent turnout of members attended and heard a review of the past year from moderator Alison Adams-Weinberg.

Thanks were given to Arthur Hillman and Linda Josephs for their years of service on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Those members who are leaving the Board (Irene Goldman-Price, David Scribner, and Arlene Shapiro) were recognized for their fine work, and the Religious and Spiritual Life Committee (Brenda Butler, Lisa Chamberlain, Chairman Harold Schrager, John Slote, and Rabbi Cohen) received thanks for their continued dedication to the congregation's spiritual life.

A report by the Nominating Committee chaired by Joan Burkhard followed. Board members whose terms expired (Dan Burkhard and Ilene Spiewak) were renewed. Linda Geffin and Debbie Slater, two new candidates for the board, each gave a summary of their backgrounds and professional experience and were elected by a vote of those present. The Building Committee (Dan Burkhard and Jane Stepman) continues its work and the formation of a new committee, the Development Committee, consisting of Joan Burkhard as Chairperson, Sandra Flannery, Linda Josephs, Susan Weinstein, and Keren Weiner as a consultant, was announced.

The RSL report was delivered by Harold Schrager confirming the dates of our High Holy Day services at the Berkshire South Community Center. The agreement with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin to serve as our Interim Rabbi from November 1, 2024 to June 15, 2025 has been drawn up and approved by all parties.

The financial health of our congregation was discussed by current treasurer Arthur Hillman and our former treasurer and current consultant Dan Burkhard. A budget for the fiscal year 2024-2025 was presented along with figures from the past two fiscal years for comparison. After three years of running a deficit, our goal is to achieve a balanced budget by the end of this fiscal year. It was announced that Irene Goldman-Price and Arlene Shapiro will continue to serve as members of the Finance Committee. Membership invoices have been sent out to congregants and it was mentioned that members who can contribute more than their billed dues would be of great help and support to the congregation.

A Search Committee report was given by Alison Adams-Weinberg. This committee currently consists of John Slote, representing the RSL, Daniel Schenker, representing the Executive Committee, and Jamie Horowitz, representing the general congregation. A formal application will be sent to Rabbi Elliot Skiddell of Reconstructing Judaism by the end of August.

A Survey Committee was announced consisting of Irene Goldman-Price and Jayne Benjulian to formulate a series of questions to present to congregants to help guide the rabbinical search and our future planning. The committee will summarize the results and present it to the search committee.

Dan Burkhard gave a brief explanation of our door video equipment and procedures along with some other security details.

Linda Josephs reviewed this year's Creative Arts offerings and mentioned on-going and new programs for the coming year.

Rabbi Cohen made some final comments in this, her final Annual Meeting as our Rabbi.

The business part of the meeting was followed by an impressive potluck dinner coordinated by Debbie Slater, on the second floor of our historic building.

A talk by Toby Anne Axelrod: “Stories My Grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, Told Me”

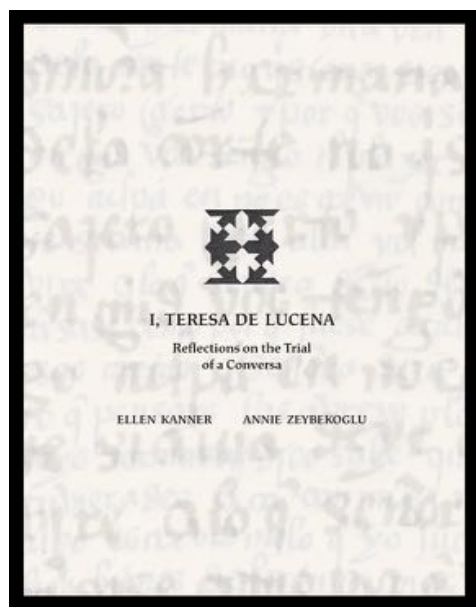
On Sunday July 21st at 2:00 PM, Toby Anne Axelrod, the granddaughter of Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom from 1927 until 1984, gave a talk about the life of her grandfather and her memories of growing up as a part of Congregation Ahavath Sholom. A large audience attended the event that was held at the South Berkshire Friends Meeting House on State Road in Great Barrington. A number of attendees then proceeded to North Street to tour the synagogue.

Ms. Axelrod writes, *“My zeyde, an Orthodox rabbi, found the job at this small synagogue in Great Barrington, MA in 1927. He answered an ad in a Jewish newspaper two years after he came to America and was the congregation's Rabbi for 60 years until 1984. He also served as the religious leader and shochet, kosher butcher, of Great Barrington's small Jewish community. The synagogue building had been sold to a Jewish junk dealer (Mr. Broverman) who had made a promise to open a shop at that location. Instead, to the chagrin of town officials, the little, white, two-story frame house became Ahavas Sholom - Love of Peace Synagogue.”* The historic building on North Street in Great Barrington is still the home of the congregation and is the longest synagogue building in continuous use in the Berkshires.

Toby Anne Axelrod is a freelance journalist for JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency) based in Berlin, Germany, and lives part-time in Great Barrington.



Recent Books by CAS Members



I, Teresa de Lucena

Translations and Reflections by Ellen Kanner

Book Design and Illustrations by Annie Zeybekoglu

I, Teresa de Lucena tells the story of a complex chapter of Spanish history through an intimate lens: the testimony of a woman who faced the Spanish Inquisition twice. Here, Kanner, the translator and Zeybekoglu, the illustrator join forces with the protagonist: Teresa de Lucena's trial testimony is translated in her own voice and accompanied by original drawings and the translator's reflections. The result is an intimate portrait of one woman's life in tumultuous times.

The book may be ordered from:

<https://www.levellerspress.com/product/i-teresa-de-lucena/>

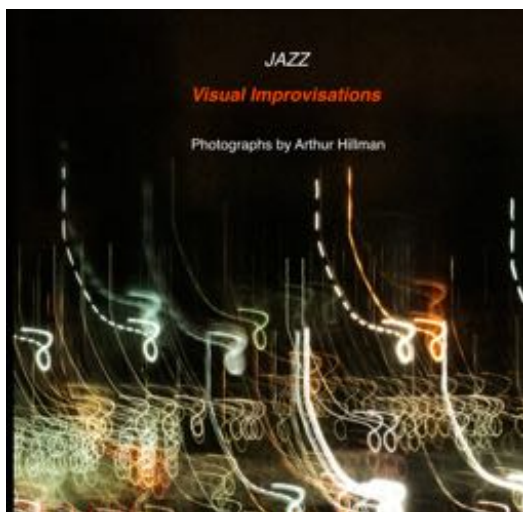
Louise's Garden

Photographs by Arthur Hillman

The compositions in this book/portfolio of garden images are not realistic portrayals, nor are they total abstractions. The intent was to merge these two aspects and to interpret these natural elements using line, shape, color, texture, and especially, movement to accentuate the dynamism and essence of these familiar garden/landscapes.

The book may be ordered from:

<https://www.blurb.com/b/11978806-louise-s-garden>



JAZZ: Visual Improvisations

Photographs by Arthur Hillman

The photographs in this book/portfolio were taken over a number of evenings in Boston, using the lights and darks of the city as a palette and a moving camera as an image maker. They are not a reflection of any one jazz musician, song, theme, or motif. Rather, they are a series of abstract visual improvisations in the spirit of the music.

The book may be ordered from:

<https://www.blurb.com/b/12064062-jazz-visual-improvisations>

August Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, August 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. 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 Toa Heftiba on Unsplash

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The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, August 19th, 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 60 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 Redd F on Unsplash

August Yahrzeits

Much of our experience of divine goodness, grace and love has come to us through those whose lives have touched our own.

	ORIGINAL HEBREW DATE	ORIGINAL DATE	THIS YEAR'S DATE
Rose Y. Beigh	Av 10 5773	7/13/2013	8/14
Meyer David Graubard	Av 13 5660	8/8/1900	8/17
Ira Rogovin	Av 15 5763	8/13/2003	8/19
Mitsue Mitsuda	Av 15 5768	8/16/2008	8/19
Doris Deborah Kassler	Av 20 5730	8/22/1970	8/24
Al Silverstein	Av 21 5767	8/5/2007	8/5
Rebecca Isserson	Av 25 5757	8/28/1997	8/29
Beatrice Alson	Av 27 5769	8/17/2009	8/31

August Donations

In loving memory of Al Silverstein

Barbara Janoff

In honor of Rabbi Barbara Cohen

Stu Lemmen and Jen Margo

In honor of Linda Josephs

Stephanie Sloane

In honor of Toby Axelrod

Alison Adams-Weinberg

In appreciation of Toby Axelrod's presentation

Eric Marcus

For our new Memorial Board

Alison Adams-Weinberg

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of CAS

Bernard and Lynn Kinlan

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography)

Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)

Linda Geffin (Memoir)

Arthur Hillman (Memoir)

Linda Josephs (Memoir)

Carol Killian (Memoir) with special thanks to Barbara Janoff

General donations

Joan and Dan Burkhard

Sandra and Bill Flannery

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Debbie Slater

Kenneth Stahl and Shirley Ripullone

Noah Aronson and Band – Live in Concert

AUGUST 4 @ 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\$13 – \$30



COMMUNITY CONCERT

NOAH ARONSON

AND HIS POWERHOUSE BAND

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

7:30 PM at Lenox
Memorial High School



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Advanced tickets required.

Register and Purchase Tickets at:

<https://jewishfederationoftheberkshire.regfox.com/noah-aronson-in-concert>

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TEL: (413) 528-8900
FAX: (413) 528-9132


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