



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER March 2020

Upcoming services and events

Thursday, March 5, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm: People's Pantry at St. James Place, [Great Barrington, MA](#). Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Rabbi Cohen barbaracohen14@gmail.com to participate.

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Cohen followed by coffee, tea, sweets and conversation.

Sunday, March 15, 10:00 am [at the synagogue]: Rabbi Cohen will facilitate a group discussion on the book the "Believers: Faith in Human Nature" by Melvin Konner, MD. An RSVP to barbaracohen14@gmail.com would be appreciated.

Monday, March 16, 6:00 pm: CAS Board Meeting. Open to all members of the congregation.

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Cohen followed by coffee, tea, sweets and conversation.

Sunday, March 29, 10:15 am: The group will discuss "Joshua: A Brooklyn Tale" by Andrew Kane. Feel free to contact Helen Radin for further information at hradin1@gmail.com or call 413 443-1349.

This month's newsletter features:

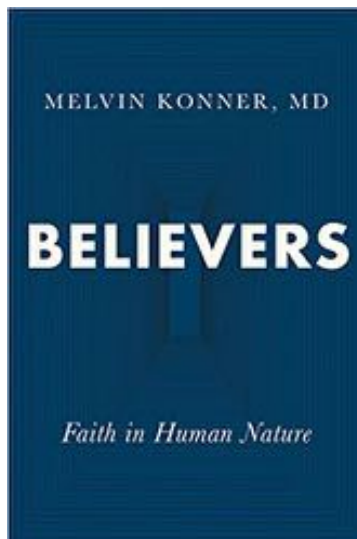
- *Believers*
- A New CAS Creative Arts Series
- Milchidika with Marty: *Some Awfully Good Oxymorons*
- The CAS Book Group
- March Yahrzeits
- March Donations
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Believers

On Sunday, March 15th, at 10 am, Rabbi Cohen will facilitate a group discussion on the book, "Believers: Faith in Human Nature" by Melvin Konner, MD. The gathering will be at the synagogue.

The author explores the basis of faith in the human family, across cultures and across the globe. Born into an Orthodox Jewish family and an atheist by 17-years-old, Dr. Konner explores the question of the organic, social and cultural origins of belief and the use of substances by cultures and the way they contribute to spiritual and other-worldly experiences. Rabbi Cohen is asking anyone who would like to join in this stimulating intellectual and spiritual adventure to find a way to read this book. (Library, Amazon, or Bookstores).

Mark your calendars, read the book, ask your friends to join you in reading the book and bring them along.



"Some people are saying that the book is "dense," "too scientific", "interesting in parts".... Everyone, I want to encourage you to read as much as you desire, even none! and come to talk about "GOD," faith and belief, spiritual hard-wiring or anything in between...just come to talk!!!

Bagels and coffee, of course, will be available. As we get closer an RSVP (barbaracohen14@gmail.com) would be appreciated.

A New CAS Creative Arts Series

Congregation Ahavath Sholom is pleased to announce the continuation of last year's very successful Creative Arts Series. This year's series offers workshops in painting, photography, writing, the premier performance of the CAS Theatre Group and a still-in-the-planning summer event. All workshops and events will take place at our synagogue on North Street.

The series begins on Sunday, April 19th at 1:00 p.m. with **Paint Out The Darkness**, an abstract and representational painting workshop for all levels. Wield your paintbrush to jazz music. Unleash your intuitive freedom and paint your colorful response beyond the object. Directed by Ilene Spiewak, painter, teacher and art therapist. \$20 fee includes material and refreshments. Please contact CASoffice15@gmail.com to reserve a space.



From the September 15, 2019 *Self-Portrait Sunday* workshop led by Ilene Spiewak

On Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 pm, we will be presenting the **CAS Theatre Group's Premier Performance**. This newly formed theatre group will present a program of audition monologues from well-known plays, sketches, skits and vignettes by Jules Feiffer and scenes from "Signs of Life," a modern play based on the story of Abraham and Sarah. Directed by Linda Josephs and featuring, Barbara Janoff, Barry Shapiro and Ellen Axelrod. Admission is free.

Designing Photographs takes place on Sunday, May 31st from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Participants will submit (by email, at least a week before this date) two of their own digital photographs (from a digital camera or phone) for discussion and review. Photographer Arthur Hillman will discuss these images on the basis of content, composition, expression, technical effectiveness and other design considerations. He will also present some alternative image possibilities, talk about picture-taking approaches and demonstrate some basic digital editing techniques. Admission is \$20 at the door and space is limited for this workshop. Some of the photographs will be printed after the workshop for an exhibit at the Upstairs Gallery at CAS. Please email arthurhillman@roadrunner.com for reservations and to submit images.

The Sunday, June 7th workshop, **Memoir Writing**, is led by writer Barbara Janoff and meets at 1:00 pm. Whether you would like to give your family a record of your key experiences or have aspirations to write a book-length memoir, you can make a start in this workshop. Through writing exercises and shared readings, you will begin to identify some of the themes that have threaded through your life. Bring a notebook and a few fast-writing pens. Barbara L. Janoff is an associate professor of English at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York, where she teaches literature and creative writing. Her poetry and essays have appeared in *The Journal of the Columbia College Women's Center*, *Communication Arts Annual*, and *The Berkshire Review*. Admission is \$20 at the door; contact CASoffice15@gmail.com for reservations

Please be sure to check each of our upcoming monthly newsletters for further information about these and other CAS Creative Arts events!

Milchidika with Marty: *Some Awfully Good Oxymorons*

The definition of an oxymoron is two or more words put together and having opposite meanings. I went on-line and found many oxymorons that seem strangely familiar and prepared a listing that is in random order—I hope terribly good and seriously funny.

And of course, have reached a preliminary conclusion, and am cautiously optimistic that you will enjoy them. Years ago, George Carlin, the comedian, did a routine about oxymorons, such as Jumbo Shrimp, Business Ethics, and Military Intelligence. I thought he was pretty cool and clever, but below are some others that I feel are a safe bet.

Thank God, I'm an Atheist
Slightly Overweight
Limited Life Time Guarantee
Plain Buttered Bagel
Reasonable Attorney Fees
Twelve Ounce Pound Cake
Click The Start Button To Shut Down
Pure 100% Orange Juice From Concentrate
Plastic Silverware
A Little Pregnant
Amicable Divorce
Go Ahead, Back Up
Non-Working Mother
Routine Surgery
Roomy Airline Coach Seats
Terrific Headache
Vegetarian Meatball
Original Copy

Civil War

Definite Maybe

Actual Reenactment

Exact Estimate

Incomplete Cure

Inexpensive Car

Personalized Form Letter

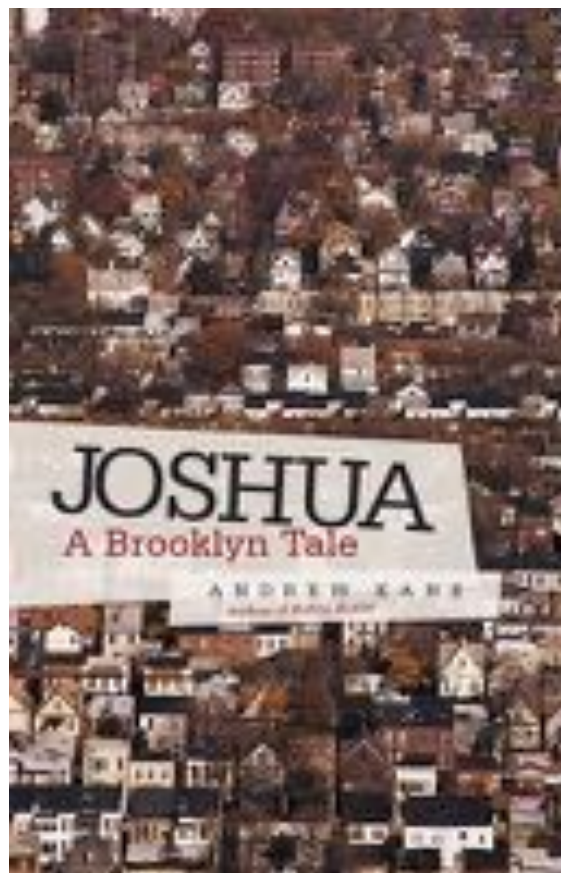
Real Polyester

Kosher Ham

A final word of advice: Eschew Obfuscation

CAS Book Group

The CAS book group will meet on March 29th at 10:15 to discuss “Joshua: A Brooklyn Tale” by Andrew Kane. This historical novel is “set against the backdrop of racial tensions spanning four decades. The lives of three people are intertwined: a young black man struggling to overcome crime, drugs the despair of the streets; a daughter of a Hassidic rabbi wrestling with the insular and restrictive practices of her religion and a young man from a Long Island Jewish family yearning to escape his troubled past.” The story is a page turner filled with plot twists and turns. All are welcome to join the discussion. Feel free to contact Helen Radin for further information at hradin1@gmail.com or call 413 443-1349.



March Yahrzeits

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

	Hebrew date	This yrs date
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	3/1
Emma Mainker Graubard	Adar1 07 5660	3/3
Alan Pomerance	Adar1 08 5749	3/4
Josef Waller	Adar 09	3/5
Hannah Meltzer Greenside	Adar 10 5753	3/6
James Andrew Millimet	Adar1 11 5770	3/7
Joe Enzer	Adar 16 5742	3/12
Wilhelm Brill	Adar1 16 5708	3/12
Roberta Rudin	Adar1 19 5774	3/15
Benjamin Letofsky	Adar2 20 5765	3/16
Ernest Waller	Adar 21 5753	3/17
Meyer Spiegelman	Adar 22 5764	3/18
Sydelle Cohen	Adar 22 5777	3/18
Kenneth Kaplan	Nisan 01 5772	3/26
Raye Steiner Pozefsky	Nisan 4 5734	3/29
Wendy Shifriin	Nisan 05 5775	3/30
John Gellert	Nisan 06 5726	3/31
John P. Hammond	Nisan 06 5763	3/31

March donations

In honor of the Yahrzeit of John Gellert

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In memory of Joe Enzer

Arthur and Louise Hillman

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