



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

CAS Newsletter

March 2024

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, March 6 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, March 9 at 7:15 PM: Community Havdalah at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Monday, March 11 at 5:00 PM: March Board Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, March 15 from 2:00-4:00 PM: Food collection at the synagogue for the People's Pantry

Saturday, March 16 at 10:00 AM: Traditional Shabbat Service at the synagogue

Monday, March 18 at noon: Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom

at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, March 24 at 4:00 PM: CAS/Jewish Museum Tour: *New York 1962-1964* via Zoom

Purim Program at the synagogue soon to be announced

This month's newsletter features:

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

Upcoming March CAS/Jewish Museum Tour: *New York 1962-64*

Ilene Spiewak at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Art in Springfield

Karen Chase's new book: *History is Embarrassing*

March Creative Arts Workshops

Food Collection for the People's Pantry Reminder

March Yahrzeits

March Donations

Community Programs

Advertisers and Sponsors

Last month's Jewish Museum Tour: *Marta Minujín: Arte! Arte! Arte!*

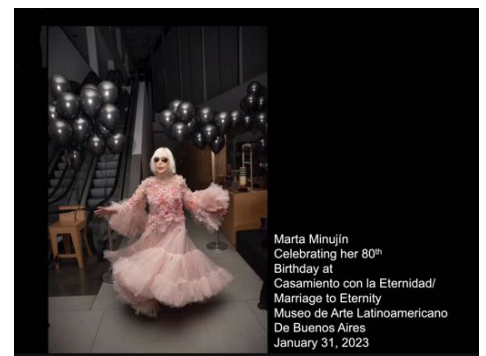
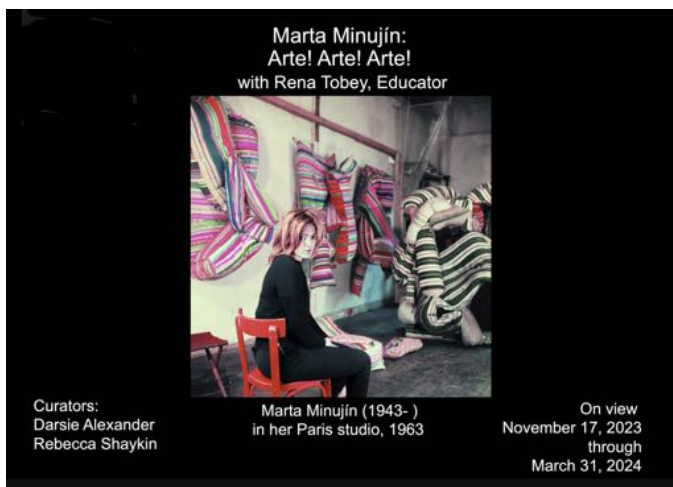
The second of our three online winter tours took place on Sunday, February 25th via Zoom. Rena Tobey presented a program on *Marta Minujín: ¡Arte! Arte! Arte!* This is an exhibition that is currently being featured at the Jewish Museum in New York City and will remain in place until March 31, 2024.

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.

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

Below are a few of the many images that Rena presented:



March Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: *New York 1962-64*

The final CAS/Jewish Museum winter online tour is *New York 1962-64*. The museum's influential role in the early 1960s New York art scene is the jumping-off point for this presentation by Rena Tobey on Sunday, March 24th at 4:00 PM. This program explores a pivotal three-year period in the history of art and culture in New York City. The original exhibit examined how artists living in the city responded to the rapidly changing world through more than 150 works of art. The exhibition included works of art by Diane Arbus, Merce Cunningham, Jim Dine, Robert Indiana, Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Louise Nevelson, Isamu Noguchi, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Faith Ringgold, James Rosenquist, Miriam Shapiro, and Andy Warhol, among many others.



Lee Bontecou, *Untitled*



Kenneth Noland, *Spread*



Marisol, *Self-Portrait*



Installation views of *New York 1962-1964* at the Jewish Museum, NY Photos by Frederick Charles

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's talk at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Art

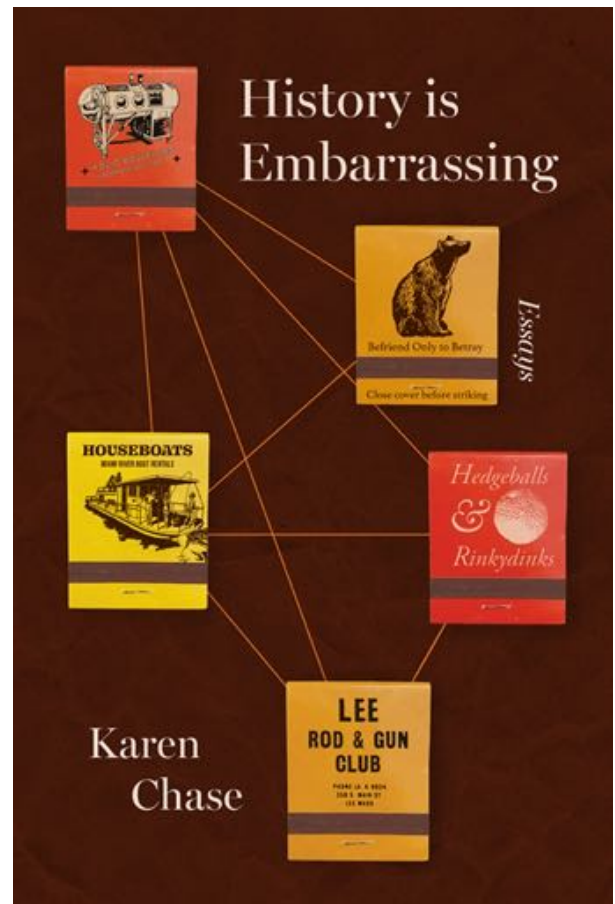
On Thursday, February 29th, Ilene Spiewak, artist, art therapist, art educator, and CAS board member, gave an illustrated talk about her paintings and her studio practice at the D'Amour Museum of Art in Springfield, MA. A large audience at the museum (including a group of enthusiastic CAS members) was joined by 75 Zoom viewers, the largest online audience for one of the museum's *à la Carte* programs. Ilene's wonderful presentation was followed by a lengthy and informative question-and-answer session.



Karen Chase's new book: *History is Embarrassing*

CAS member Karen Chase has a new book coming out in March from CavanKerry Press!

Here is Jeffrey Harrison's blurb for the book: "One of the pleasures of being a writer is that you can explore anything," Karen Chase writes in *History is Embarrassing*, and that's exactly what she does in this vibrant and wide-ranging collection of essays. Her subjects include her experience as a childhood polio victim and her resulting fascination with Franklin Roosevelt; her imaginative journey into the lives, hearts, and voices of two homosexual lovers in 16th century India; a rollicking road trip across the country with her grown son; her baptism and immersion into the world of guns; and her hair-raising investigation into a bear-poaching ring. What binds them all together is her distinct voice, the startling directness, immediacy, and intensity of her writing, and her fearlessness to go wherever her interests and imagination take her. History may be embarrassing, as her title attests, but Chase is not afraid of being embarrassed, or, for that matter, of spending time alone with a slightly menacing man and his arsenal of weapons, if it might lead to the discovery of something she doesn't know. Yet there are no easy conclusions or phony epiphanies here, no designs on the reader, but instead many surprises, and an openness that "clears the air for unexpected forces to breathe." Chase prizes authenticity and has it in spades. Believe me, you've never read essays quite like these. They will make you feel "like a hunter walking deep into the forest of knowledge to find god knows what." Enjoy!"



The book can be pre-ordered:

CavanKerry Press: <https://www.cavankerrypress.org/product/history-is-embarrassing/>

Bookshop.org: <https://bookshop.org/p/books/history-is-embarrassing-karen-chase/20623681>

Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fYC8i7P>

Karen Chase's *History Is Embarrassing* BOOK LAUNCH



with special guest:
Matthew Lippman

3/5/2024
7:00pm EST
Virtual (Zoom)



Karen Chase's *History Is Embarrassing* BOOK LAUNCH



in conversation with
The Bookstore owner
Matthew Tannenbaum

3/10/2024
4:00 pm

at The Bookstore
in
Lenox, MA



For local friends, please come to The Bookstore, in Lenox, Massachusetts on Sunday, March 10, at 4:00 pm. Karen will be in conversation with The Bookstore owner Matthew Tannenbaum and reading from the book.

If you can't be there (or want to be at both), please join the virtual online launch on ZOOM, this coming Tuesday, March 5th, at 7:00 pm EST. Karen will be reading, as will the great poet Matthew Lippman. [Register here.](#)

March Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 18th 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 Vasilis Caravitis on Unsplash

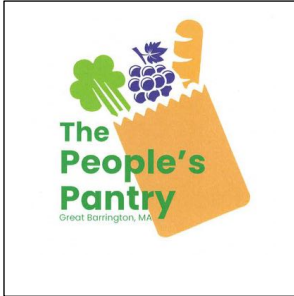
The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, March 18th, but at 7:00 PM. Participants in the workshop can submit any images they would like discussed, regardless of subject matter or content, using phone or camera. They can also share their screen with the group. These workshops are 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 Dim Hou on Unsplash

Food Collection for the People's Pantry



Once a month, we will open the synagogue from 2:00-4:00 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, March 15th.



March 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 Roman Date	This Year's Date
Ernest Waller	Adar 21 5753	3/14/1993	3/1
Sydelle Cohen	Adar 22 5777	3/20/2017	3/2
Michael Sloane	Adar 23 5780	3/19/2020	3/3
Jack Nodiff	Adar 25 5777	3/23/2017	3/5
Irving Toporek	Adar1 30 5711	3/8/1951	3/10
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	3/12/2008	3/15
Martin Sagan	Adar2 07 5771	3/12/2011	3/17
Paul Lippman	Adar2 11 5782	3/14/2022	3/21
Benjamin Letofsky	Adar2 20 5765	3/31/2005	3/30

March Donations

Annual Appeal / End-of-Year fund
Irene Goldman-Price

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops
Bill Barth (Photography)
Ross Bettinger (Memoir)
Csroline Forsman (Photography and Memoir)
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)
Linda Geffin (Memoir)
Arthur Hillman (Memoir)
Louise Hillman (Photography)
Barbara Janoff (Photography)
Carol Killian (Memoir)

General donations
Nettie Hammond

Community Programs

SHARE THE LIGHT

Community Havdalah and Concert

Featuring the Cantelina Chamber Choir

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 | 7:15 P.M.
Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad St, Pittsfield

Join our Berkshire Rabbis and community members from across the county for an inspirational evening of light and song.

Cosponsored by the Jewish Federation and Berkshire Congregations and Organizations

Free Havdalah candle and spice kits while supplies last.

Funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Confronting Antisemitism

Antisemitism in Schools & Academia

With Rabbi Ron Fish, ADL Northeast Division Director of Antisemitism Advocacy and Education

Sunday, March 17 at 12:45 pm
at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

This program is geared towards students, parents, caregivers, and grandparents concerned about antisemitism in **middle school through college**. We will explore the current climate in schools and on campuses and discuss how to respond.

Vegetarian Pizza Lunch Provided.
REGISTER AT: tinyurl.com/ADLSchools



The State of Jewish Hate in 2024

With Rabbi Ron Fish, ADL Northeast Division Director of Antisemitism Advocacy and Education

Sunday, March 17 at 4:00 pm
at Kneset Israel
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Learn how antisemitism is impacting communities locally, regionally, and nationally and how we can respond. Presentation followed by Q & A.

Program open to the entire Jewish community.
REGISTER AT: tinyurl.com/StateOfHate



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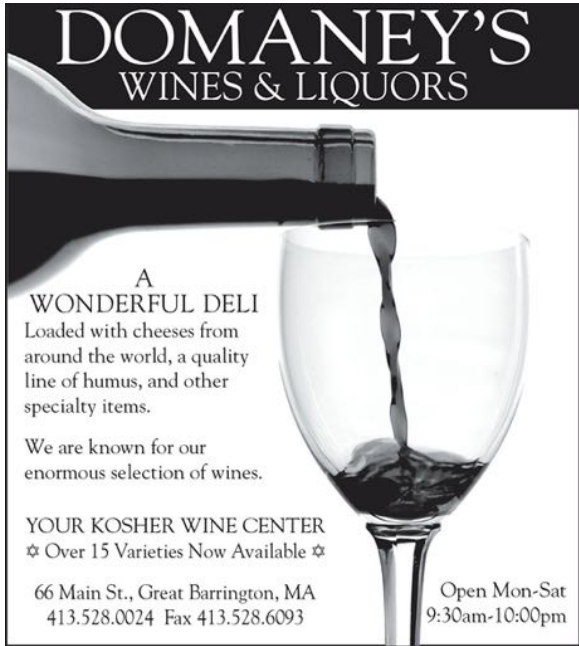
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