



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, March 2 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, March 6 at 10:00 AM: Rabbi's Study Session via Zoom

Monday, March 7 at 12:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: *Memoir Writing* via Zoom

Wednesday, March 9 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Morning Service via Zoom

Sunday, March 13 at 1:00 PM: Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: *Hare with the Amber Eyes* via Zoom

Monday, March 14 at 5:30 PM: Monthly CAS Board Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, March 18 at 5:00 PM: Purim Celebration via Zoom

Monday, March 21 at 7:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: *Photography*

Wednesday, March 23 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, March 27 at 10:00 AM: Rabbi's Study Session

Wednesday, March 30 at 10:00 AM: Café Kahillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

- Sips and Sonnets: Our Valentine's Day Event
- We Have a Winner: Ilene Spiewak
- Have you ever seen a Hare with Amber eyes?
- Milchidika with Marty: *Why Is It called...*
- March Creative Arts Workshops
- March Yahrzeits
- March Donations
- Sharing the Light: Community Wide Musical Havdalah and Storytelling
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Sips and Sonnets: Our Valentine's Day Event

On Sunday February 13th, the CAS Creative Arts Committee presented a zoom event, "Sips and Sonnets: An homage to love, friendship and art" in celebration of Valentine's Day. Linda Josephs spoke about the details of the program and Barbara Janoff introduced each of the readers. Poems and sonnets, from a variety of different times and places, were read by eight members of the congregation. After the poetry section of the program, the paintings of the late Moe Brooker, were shown, while Ilene Spiewak spoke about her former teacher and friend.

On our website you can also find a variety of cocktail recipes, a baked alaska recipe from Alison Adams-Weinberg (along with an instructional video), and information about the poets and the artist. And, to spread the love, all donations from this performance will go to our local People's Pantry.



Wild Nights-Wild Nights! (269), by Emily Dickinson,
Late Fragment, by Raymond Carver,
read by Helen Radin



New Face, by Alice Walker,
Another Valentine, by Wendy Cope
read by Stephanie Sloane



i carry your heart, by e e cummings,
read by Alison Weinberg



Recuerdo, by Joy Harjo,
read by Harold Schrager



I Ask My Mother to Sing, by Li-Young Lee,
read by Carol Killian



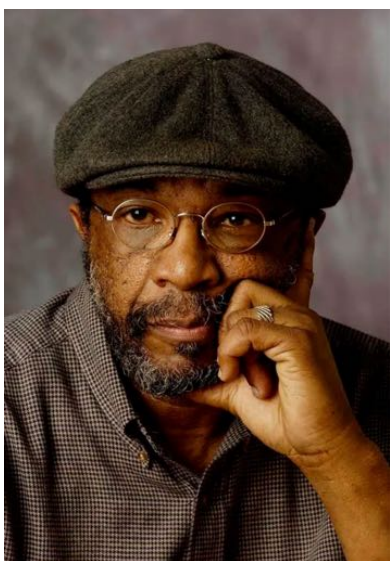
Sonnet 116, by William Shakespeare,
read by David Scribner



Abrazo, by Pablo Neruda,
translated and read by Ellen Kanner



Aimless Love, by Billy Collins,
read by Caroline Foresman



Moe Brooker



On The Way To Somehow, c. 2010, oils & mixed media on canvas



I Can't Keep From Singing #2, 2001, oil painting



Personal Perspectives #9, 2018

We have a winner!

Ilene Spiewak, a painter and member of Congregation Ahavath Sholom has been selected as a finalist in the 2022 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition sponsored by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. The title of the competition is *American Portraiture today*. Ilene was one of 42 finalists in a field of 2700 submissions. Her self-portrait will hang in the exhibition premiering at the National Portrait Gallery from April 30, 2022, through Feb. 26, 2023, before traveling to other cities in the United States. The Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition encourages artists to submit work that challenges traditional definitions of portraiture.

Ilene has a B.A. in Art Education and a Masters degree in Art Therapy. In 2017 she received her MFA in painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Before moving to the Berkshires Ilene worked as an art teacher in an alternative high school in Philadelphia and then as an art therapist in a psychiatric hospital. Since moving to this area, she has worked at the College Intern Program (CIP) in Lee with young adults, and at the Brien Center as an art therapist with children and adolescents.

Painting is now Ilene's full-time occupation and commitment. In reflecting on her paintings, she said "The context of my paintings is relational to other people, to other things and to myself. My compositions are constructed to move beyond a mere likeness of the subject."

Ilene's paintings have been shown in solo and group exhibitions. Some of these galleries include the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Berkshire Museum, the Good Purpose Gallery, the Lichtenstein Center, the MCLA Gallery, the Guild of Berkshire Artist shows, the Berkshire Art Association, River Bend Café, District and Public Eat and Drink in North Adams. Her work is also in private collections throughout the U.S.



Ilene Spiewak in her studio

Below is a quote from Ilene's personal statement:

I love the gestural feel of the paint...the feel of a thickly loaded brush in my hand.
 I use my hand and my brush in fearless narrative isolation.
 Visceral, muscular handling of paint on canvas matters to me. Paint is matter.
 Paint is alive and responsive.
 Paint is sensual.
 Color is emotive.
 Melancholic.
 Paint has no age biases.
 No gender biases.
 No race biases.

The studio Ilene works in is located in West Stockbridge. Visits are by appointment only. She can be reached on Instagram@Spiewakilene and at llenespiewak@gmail.com.

Have you ever seen a Hare with Amber eyes?

Our second Jewish Museum Virtual Tour

You will be able to see one if you join our private zoom tour of the exhibit with the same name at the Jewish Museum in New York city. Those of you who joined our last tour know how fascinating the exhibit was and how knowledgeable our docent was.

The new exhibition: *The Hare with Amber Eyes* tells the story of the Ephrussi family—celebrated in the 2010 memoir and *The New York Times* bestseller of the same name by Edmund de Waal—and showcases the breadth and depth of the Ephrussi's illustrious collection. The exhibit explores the family's rise to prominence and splendor in the first half of the nineteenth century, followed by a focus on the prolific collector and historian of art, Charles Ephrussi, through the inter-war years, and finally during World War II, when the family lost its fortune and collection to Nazi looting.



The museum has created an interpretive installation using family and loaned artifacts that trace the turbulent history of their movements through place and time. The architecturally distinguished homes the Ephrussi family inhabited over the course of generations will be evoked within the domestic setting of the Jewish Museum and brought to life through excerpts from de Waal's memoir.

Don't miss this extraordinary exhibit on zoom Sunday, March 13. Sign up on the CAS website

<https://www.ahavathsholom.com>

And read the book if you have time- it is a great story!

Sandra Flannery

Milchidika with Marty: *Why is it called...*

[Note: This article originally appeared in the January 2020 issue of the CAS Newsletter]

An Egg Cream:

When I was a young boy, which seems a very long time ago; if you went into the local candy store; one that had a soda fountain, you could order a delicious soda called an "egg cream." The egg cream consisted of a few squirts of "Fox's U-Bet" chocolate syrup, a splash of milk, and then a spritz of seltzer, which left a frothy topping; but no egg and no cream. It was delicious, and it only cost a nick



If you didn't have the 5 cents, you could order a "2 cents plain" which was just a glass of seltzer.

It had been assumed that the egg cream originated among Eastern European Jewish immigrants in New York City, and in those days the egg cream was made with chocolate syrup, real cream, and seltzer to give it some fizz.

One accepted theory is that the word "egg" is a corruption of the German word "echt" meaning genuine or real; and this was therefore a "real cream."

The other theory is that the Yiddish actor Boris Thomashefsky requested a drink that he had in Paris which was called "Chocolat et creme" and with his heavy accent morphed into something like "egg cream."

By the way, a five cent coin is called a "nickel" because that was what it was made of in those earlier days.

I haven't had an egg cream in years. Fox's U-Bet chocolate syrup is still around, and I'm going to try making my own and see how it comes out.

Seltzer:

I have a few friends with the last name of Seltzer. Did someone in their family come up with the idea of injecting water with carbon dioxide to make something which we now drink and call club soda, or sparkling water, or seltzer? I doubt it.

The name probably comes from the fact that there are artesian wells that produce this bubbly water in the German Taunus mountains, in a town with the name of "Selters."



We now buy seltzer in cans and bottles in the supermarket. But I remember that the parents of some of my wealthier friends had something called a "Seltzer Bottle." It was a blue glass bottle with a release valve and a spout for dispensing pressurized soda water and was the center piece on the dining table at all events. The bottles were pre-charged with water and gas. I remember adults having a "scotch" with a spritz of seltzer. The bottles were not thrown away when empty, but returned to the retailer who charged a deposit to make sure that they were indeed returned to him.

Hot Dog:

Wait till you hear where this name originates.

When my grandson was much younger, we went to a baseball game and while seated in the stands, I asked him if he wanted a frankfurter. He looked at me and said, "What's that?" I realized that we were from two different generations and then said, "How about a hot dog?" "Sure."

I probably call that long red skinny thing; either a frankfurter, a frank, a hot dog, and infrequently a weiner.



The word "frankfurter" comes from Frankfurt, Germany, where pork sausages originated since the 13th century. A butcher in Vienna, Austria added beef to the mixture, and it was then called a "weiner."

The frankfurters in those days were served hot and without a bun. You had to keep jiggling it in your hand while biting into it, to avoid burning yourself.

A German immigrant named Feuchtwanger sold hot dogs on the street in St. Louis, Missouri, and provided gloves to his customers so that they could handle the sausage without burning their hands. Losing money when the customers didn't return the gloves, Feuchtwanger's wife suggested serving the sausages in a roll instead. And that's how it began.

There was at times a rumor that some unscrupulous vendors would add a little chopped up dog meat to their concoction, and that's how it got the name "hot dog." I hope that's not true.

Swiss Cheese:

I know that we all realize that "Swiss Cheese" must have originated at some time in the past in Switzerland. In fact it originated in the area around Emmental, Switzerland. Now it's manufactured in the United States, often in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



We know it as the cheese with small holes or "eyes". Swiss cheese without holes is called "blind". In the process of manufacturing the cheese, certain bacteria used in the process release carbon dioxide which slowly forms bubbles that develop the "eyes." It was also thought that in the earlier days when the sanitation in the manufacturing process was not so strict that bits of debris such as "hay" played a roll in creating the eyes in the cheese.

In general, the larger the eyes in the Swiss cheese, the more pronounced its flavor, because a longer fermentation period gives the bacteria more time to act. This poses a problem, however, because cheese with large eyes does not slice well and comes apart in mechanical slicers. As a result, industry regulators have limited the eye size by which Swiss cheese receives the grade A stamp.

February Creative Arts Series

The next Memoir Writing Workshop will take place on Monday, March 7th at 12:00 p.m. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at bjanoff1@gmail.com.

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.

Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.



Unsplash photography by Aaron Burden



Unsplash photograph by Kim Becker

The next Photography Workshop will take place on Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. Participants in the workshop can submit any images they would like discussed, regardless of subject matter or content, using phone or camera. It would be useful to send "before and after" files of any photos that are edited in Adobe Photoshop or any other image editing software. These workshops are stand-alone sessions, open to all. Please RSVP and send digital files to arthurhillman54@gmail.com.

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.

Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

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	Original Date	This Year
Irving Toporek	Adar1 30 5711	3/8/1951	3/3
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	3/12/2008	3/8
Martin Sagan	Adar2 07 5771	3/12/2011	3/10
Benjamin Letofsky	Adar2 20 5765	3/31/2005	3/23
Oscar Slote	Adar2 25 5727	4/6/1967	3/28

March Donations

In memory of Michael Sloane

Stephanie Sloane

Sips and Sonnets for the People's Pantry

Joan and Dan Burkhard
Bill and Sandra Flannery
Caroline Forsman
Nettie Hammond
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Carol Killian
Harold Schrager and Cathy Kogan
Helen and Stephen Radin

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Shira Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)
Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)
Arthur Hillman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)
Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)
Linda Lee (Memoir Workshop)

General donations

Stuart Greenberg

SHARING THE LIGHT

COMMUNITY WIDE
MUSICAL HAVDALAH AND STORYTELLING



Join your Berkshire Rabbis and storyteller Allison Lerman-Gluck for an inspirational evening featuring two original stories of finding light in the darkness.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 | 7:15 P.M.
Knesset Israel
16 Colt Rd, Pittsfield

All ages welcome. Proof of vaccination required. Masking and social distancing will be observed. Free Havdalah candle and spice sets while supplies last.

Livestream at: [KnessetIsrael.org/livestream](https://knessetisrael.org/livestream)

Funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation



Ahavath Sholom Advertisers and Sponsors

JUSTICE SHOULDN'T BE JUST FOR THE RICH



Help us bring affordable, expert legal services to the community.
Click today at:
berkshirecenterforjustice.org

**BERKSHIRE CENTER
FOR JUSTICE**
413-854-1955

Jayne Benjulian



Manuscript editing
Coaching for writers

jaynebenjulian@gmail.com

SHIRA NICHAMAN
Daily Money Manager in the Berkshires
Your Financial Advocate & CFO

Serving Seniors and Busy Professionals
BILL PAYMENT, EXPENSE TRACKING AND FINANCIAL
REPORTING, TAX ORGANIZER, INSURANCE CLAIMS
MANAGEMENT, FRAUD REVIEW

shira@everydaymm.com • 645-872-9842
www.EverydayMoneyManagement.com

**EVERYDAY MONEY
MANAGEMENT**

Making Your Personal
Finances Easy and Secure!

**BAGEL
& BREW**

18 Franklin Street • Lenox, MA

Phil Cohen, Owner facebook.com/bagelandbrew
413-637-0055 bagelandbrew@gmail.com

Celebrating 60 years



Ward's
WHERE GARDENERS GROW
Great Barrington, MA

Open Daily - 413-528-1111 • www.wardsnursery.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS

W **Wheeler & Taylor**
Insurance • Real Estate
SINCE 1871

333 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230 413-528-1000	432 East St. Pittsfield MA 01201 413-448-8224	96 Main St. Sheffield MA 01257 413-229-8064	44 Main St. Stockbridge MA 01262 413-298-5584
---	--	--	--

www.wheelerandtaylor.com

RESULTS

Get the results you're looking
for, schedule your print &
digital ad today!

Affordable Ad Rates • 57,000 Readers Weekly
18,000+ Direct Mailed in the Tri-State Area

SHOPPER'S GUIDE INC.

Weekly Ad Deadline: Friday 11 am
271 Main Street, Downtown Great Barrington, MA 01230
413-528-0095 • www.shoppersguideinc.com

**IN PRINT
& ONLINE!**



Naomi Alson
Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist

11 Quarry Hill Road
413-243-8255 or 413-243-3223
email: Nalson247@hotmail.com

**CARR
HARDWARE**

CARR HARDWARE & SUPPLY, INC.

SERVING THE BERKSHIRES SINCE 1928
256 Main St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
52 Park St., Lee, MA 01238
Phone: 413-528-4520 Fax: 413-528-6809
www.carrhardware.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS

DAVID M. LAZAN Attorney at Law
Lazan Glover & Puciloski, LLP

GT. BARRINGTON
PITTSFIELD
BOSTON

785 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 644-0200 Fax (413) 644-0201
Email: lazan@lazanlaw.com

THE GREAT BARRINGTON BAGEL COMPANY INC.



WHERE YOU CAN TASTE THE
DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIZING IN:

- SMOKED FISH • DELI SANDWICHES •
- GOURMET SALADS • PARTY PLATTERS

LET US HELP YOU PLAN
YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION

777 SOUTH MAIN ST. GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 413-528-9085 FAX 528-1539

CHARLES J. FERRIS ATTORNEY AT LAW

500 MAIN ST. SUITE 1
GT. BARRINGTON, MA 01230
TEL: (413) 528-8900
FAX: (413) 528-9132

27 HENRY AVENUE
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201
TEL: (413) 443-8900

EMAIL: charles.ferris@verizon.net

MEMBER OF MASSACHUSETTS & NEW YORK BAR

DOMANEY'S WINES & LIQUORS



A WONDERFUL DELI

Loaded with cheeses from
around the world, a quality
line of humus, and other
specialty items.

We are known for our
enormous selection of wines.

YOUR KOSHER WINE CENTER
✧ Over 15 Varieties Now Available ✧

66 Main St., Great Barrington, MA
413.528.0024 Fax 413.528.6093

Open Mon-Sat
9:30am-10:00pm

Joy Robin Dronge
Juilliard Trained
award winning performer & composer


Music Lessons

flute † piano † recorder † performance
private & groups for ages 2–102 reasonable rates
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com

Joy Robin Dronge
Juilliard Trained Musician

*Wedding Music
Coordinator & Performer*

all instruments—classical & jazz
Arranging live wedding music in the Berkshires since 1974
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com

Barnbrook 
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Bringing you home from near and far

Mary White
BROKER OWNER

271 Main St, Great Barrington, MA 01230
27c Housatonic St, Lenox, MA 01240

o 413-528-4423 c 413-329-6342
Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com | www.BarnbrookRealty.com