



2023

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Upcoming services and events

Sunday, October 1 at 11:00 AM: Sukkah Decorating - BYO snack (Rain date: October 2 at 11:00 AM)
Outside the synagogue

Wednesday, October 4 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, October 7 at 10:00 AM: Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah Study and Yizkor at the synagogue

Wednesday, October 11 at 10:00 PM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, October 13 at 5:00 PM: Erev Shabbat Service at the synagogue

Monday, October 16 at noon: Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom

Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

Wednesday, October 18 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 PM: *I, Teresa de Lucena: How We Built the Book* at the synagogue

Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 AM: Traditional Shabbat Service at the synagogue

This month's newsletter features:

2023 High Holy Day Services

***It's still September*, a poem by Carol Killian**

A reminder about *Our Genealogist in Residence* Opportunity

I, Teresa de Lucena: How We Built the Book

Philip Thompson performing at *Close Encounters With Music*

October Creative Arts Workshops

October Yahrzeits

October Donations

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2023 High Holy Day Services

Starting off with a full house on Erev Rosh HaShanah (we had to bring in an additional twenty chairs for the following morning), the congregation and our many guests were once again treated to a wonderfully eloquent and uplifting service by Rabbi Barbara Cohen. The Berkshire South Community Center was filled with a rich blending of enthusiastic and powerful voices. Prayer services were supplemented by inspiring poetry readings. Keren Weiner and Daniel Schenker each gave thoughtful and moving D'var Torahs. Yom Kippur observances included our Yizkor service and the traditional reading of remembered names and was joyously concluded with the ceremonial blowing of the shofar. Our Yom Kippur food drive to benefit the People's Pantry in Great Barrington was a great success. Our first break fast since before the pandemic was a potluck feast.



We thank Rabbi Barbara, our Board of Directors, the Spiritual and Religious Life Committee and all the many volunteers who helped make these High Holy Days such a memorable and meaningful event.

It's still September, a poem by Carol Killian

NOTE: Written for the CAS Memoir Writing Workshop

It's still September
Yet it's dark when I awake.
Somedays
The temptation to stay in bed is great.
It's still September
And my feet notice the cold, wet dew on the grass.
Soon it will be snow or ice
And I will need the comfort of my boots.
It's still September
And the ritual of Rosh Hashana
Wraps around me like a rag blanket
Soft and bumpy pieces of memory or past intentions
Scraps of dresses that I remember
Or hope someday to wear.
Memories that bubble up
Like the slow plop of hot oatmeal on the stove
Or like a soft mist on a mountain meadow.
Some memories are from a life I know I have lived
Some from a deeper place, yet clearly mine.
It's still September
And my year, 2023, is moving toward completion
Yet my other year, 5784, is just beginning.
And
It's still September.

Carol Killian 9.16.23

[If you would like to comment on Carol's poem, please contact her at revckillian@aol.com]

A Reminder about *Our Genealogist in Residence Opportunity*

Sit with an experienced genealogist and discover new information about your family history.

Keren Weiner, a genealogist with 19+ years of experience assisting families with family history research will work with you, in real time, to find documents for your family. With you as co-pilot, she will guide you to the sources where you are most likely to find results. Various databases at her disposal will be used to solve mysteries, break through brick walls, or simply get a start as you walk in the footsteps of your ancestors. The records discovered will be saved to a thumb drive you can take home, save, print, and share with family.

Keren is offering this service for our congregation members with the request that a one-time donation be made to Congregation Ahavath Sholom in the amount of \$100 for this genealogical journey.

To schedule an appointment with Keren, email her at kweiner2@gmail.com

"Sitting together, we located documents I had never seen before. This renewed interest in the family history, stimulated memories and sharing, and gave me the idea to look further – for myself and generations to come. During the process Keren explained how to "mine" the documents for information. She also provided some historical context. It was a revelation, and it was fun."

I, Teresa de Lucena: How We Built the Book

I, Teresa de Lucena: Reflections on the Trial of a Conversa is the result of a unique collaboration between a translator, an artist and a rabbi who joined forces and their respective talents to tell the story of Teresa de Lucena (1467-1545), a woman who faced the Spanish Inquisition twice.

I, Teresa de Lucena is a work of microhistory, a nonfiction genre that places an individual at the center of the narrative and then zooms out to create the larger context of her life and times. Where did she live? How old was she when her father fled from Spain? Who were the witnesses against her? The book, based on Kanner's translations of the original Inquisition transcripts, Zeybekoglu's evocative illustrations and Rabbi Cohen's insights into Jewish culture, creates an intimate portrait of a conversa and her tumultuous times.

"This is an astonishing work, historically rigorous and profoundly affecting" according to Kirkus Reviews.

Join author Ellen Kanner, illustrator Annie Zeybekoglu and Rabbi Barbara Cohen of Congregation Ahavath Sholom for a conversation about their work on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00PM at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, 15 North Street, Great Barrington. Using examples from the book, they will illustrate the interplay between text, interpretation and design and lead what promises to be a lively conversation about the creative process, book arts and Jewish tradition.



Ellen Kanner and Annie Zeybekoglu working on their book

Ellen Kanner is an independent scholar and teacher who has lived and studied in Spain for many years. In her career as a nonprofit professional, she led development and strategic planning initiatives in Boston and the Berkshires, where she and her family lived for many years.

Annie Zeybekoglu is an artist and book designer with extensive commercial and teaching experience. Her work appears in collections in the United States and abroad.

Rabbi Barbara Kipnis Cohen has served as the spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Great Barrington, MA since 2005. She is a life-long student and teacher of Torah and Jewish mysticism.

The personal nature of their collaboration also deserves special mention: Kanner and Zeybekoglu were classmates at Smith College; Kanner and Rabbi Cohen are sisters.

Philip Thompson performing at *Close Encounters With Music*

Philip Thompson, seventeen-year-old grandson of CAS member Carol Cirigliano, will be playing cello in the first concert of the season of Close Encounters with Music, *Virtual and Virtuosity*, at the Mahaiwe Theater on Sunday, November 5. Philip and his sister, Meredith, performed for our congregation at our fundraising concert earlier this year. Philip is a student of Yehuda Hanani. He is also assistant principal cellist of the New York Youth Symphony Orchestra and a member of their Chamber Music Program.

Virtue and Virtuosity



This program features music by Sarasate, Saint Saëns, Russian/Ukrainian composer Nikolai Kapustin (whose Preludes offer a "Red and Hot" fusion of jazz and classical forms), and culminates with the emotionally compelling and ineffably beautiful Brahms Piano Trio Op. 8.

Giora Schmidt, violin; Adam Golka, piano; Yehuda Hanani, cello; Philip Thompson, cello

**November 5 from 4:00-6:00 PM at the
Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington**

For information and tickets (both live and virtual) visit <https://cewm.org/event/virtue-and-virtuosity/>

October Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th 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 Jess Bailey on Unsplash

The next Photography Workshop will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17th. 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 Desola Lanre-Ologon on Unsplash

October 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's date
Seymour Isserson	Tishrei 18 5747	10/21/1986	10/3
Mark Cohen	Tishrei 20 5778	10/10/2017	10/5
Nettie Eisenstein	Tishre 20 5769	10/19/2008	10/5
James Mitsuda	Tishrei 22 5769	10/21/2008	10/7
Sidney Yurmark	Tishrei 23 5728	10/26/1967	10/8
William Pozefsky	Tishrei 23 5707	10/18/1946	10/8
Joseph Richter	Tishrei 25 5722	10/5/1961	10/10
Harry Aaron Orenstein	Tishrei 25 5757	10/8/1996	10/10
Florence Lipshitz	Tishrei 28 5767	10/20/2006	10/13
LeRoy Brecher	Cheshvan 1 5750	10/30/1989	10/16
Solomon Clarin	Cheshvan 3 5743	10/20/1982	10/18
Joseph Kogan	Cheshvan 10 5752	10/18/1991	10/25

October Donations

In memory of H. Thomas Josephs and in honor of Linda Josephs
Laurie Josephs

In honor of Linda Josephs whose tireless devotion to the Congregation, as in Elul by the Pool, combines spirituality with fun
Scott Josephs

In memory of Louise's brother, James Mitsuda
Arthur and Louise Hillman

In support of the garden
Barbara Janoff Siverstein

In appreciation of Café Kehillah
Philip and Ann Becker

Thanking Rabbi Cohen for her help and to wish the congregation well
Brenda Brod

High Holy Day donations
Barbara Barron
Stuart Greenberg
Rachel Silverstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Irene Goldman-Price

General donations
Lisa and Eric Chamberlain
Nancy Cohen and John Slote
Barbara Janoff Siverstein

in support of the Creative Arts Workshops
Ross Bettinger (Memoir)
Caroline Forsman (Photography and Memoir)
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)
Barbara Janoff (Photography)
Carol Killian (Memoir)
Arthur Hillman (Memoir)
Louise Hillman (Photography)

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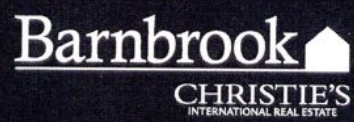
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