



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Upcoming services and events

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

Friday, February 4 at 5:00 PM: Candle Lighting Service via Zoom

Monday, February 7 at 5:30 PM: Monthly CAS Board Meeting

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

Sunday, February 13 at 4:00 PM: ***SPECIAL EVENT*** - Sips and Sonnets via Zoom

Monday, February 14 at 12:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: *Memoir Writing*, led by Barbara Janoff

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

Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 AM: Shabbat Morning Service

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

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

Monday, February 28 at 7:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: *Photography*, led by Arthur Hillman

This month's newsletter features:

- **Afterlives:** our first Jewish Museum Online Tour
- **Save the date –** Our next Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: *The Hare with Amber Eyes*
- **Sips and Sonnets:** An homage to love, friendship and art
- **Cooking with Alison:** *Baked Alaska* (a special Valentine's Day treat)
- **Milchidika with Marty:** *What would you have done?*
- **February Creative Arts Workshops**
- **February Yahrzeits**
- **February Donations**
- **Sharing the Light:** Community Wide Musical Havdalah and Storytelling
- **CAS Advertisers and Sponsors**

Jewish Museum Online Tour

Our virtual tour of ***Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art*** at the Jewish Museum was a rousing success! Thirty-four registered households enjoyed a comprehensive online experience on Sunday January 9th, the last day of the actual exhibition. Below are some screenshots from the event.

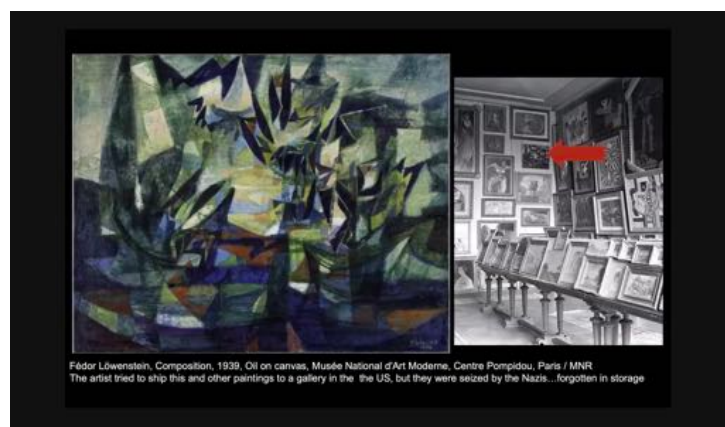


Gallery view of *Afterlives*.

The online tour, led by Sylvia Laudien-Meo, was a live event arranged for our group and traced the fascinating timelines of individual objects as they passed through hands and sites before, during, and after World War II.



Our tour leader, Sylvia.



Painting by Fedor Lowenstein (1939) Seized by the Nazis...forgotten in storage

During World War II, untold numbers of artworks and pieces of cultural property were stolen by Nazi forces. After the war, an estimated one million artworks and 2.5 million books were recovered. Many more were destroyed. This exhibition chronicled the stories of the objects that survived, exploring the circumstances of their theft, their post-war rescue, and their afterlives in museums and private collections.

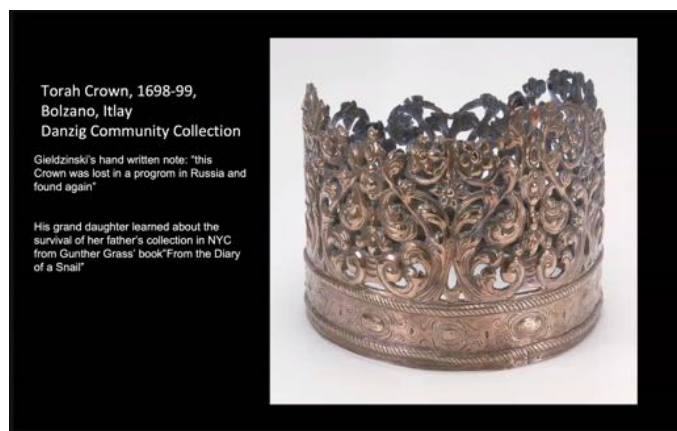


David David-Weill. Nazis looted more than 2,000 art works from him.



Henri Matisse paintings (left) taken by Goring; (right) remained in Paris.

Treasured pieces of Judaica, including rare examples of Jewish ceremonial objects from destroyed synagogues, were also on view, as well as rarely seen archival photographs and documents that connect the objects to history.

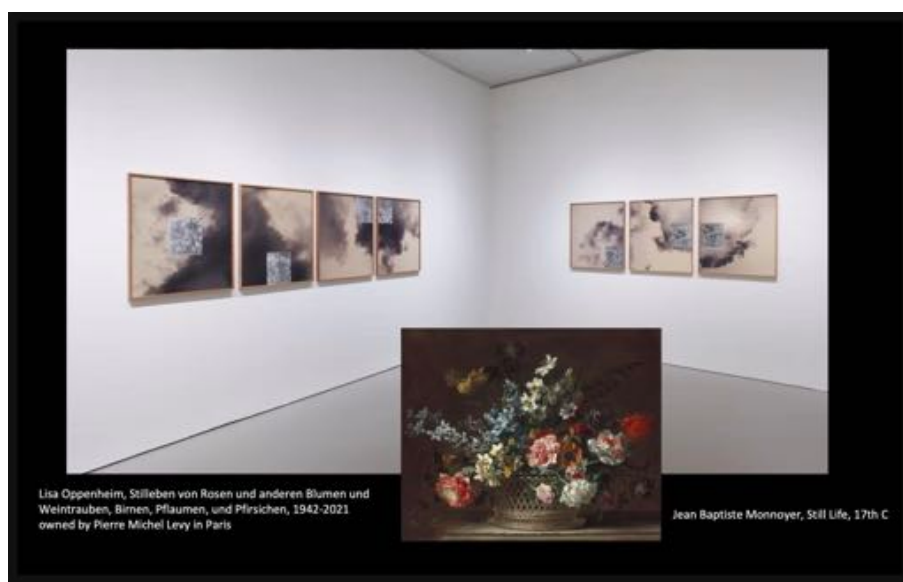


Torah crown (1698-99) ...lost in a program in Russia and found again.



Hans Vogel diary (1940-41)

The Jewish Museum has also commissioned four contemporary artists to create new works that address the resonance of the exhibition's themes: Maria Eichhorn, Hadar Gad, Dor Guez, and Lisa Oppenheim.



Series of paintings by contemporary artist, Lisa Oppenheim

Save the Date!

Our second Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: *The Hare with Amber Eyes*

The second online tour sponsored by Congregation Ahavath Sholom will be a guided tour of the exhibition, *The Hare with Amber Eyes* at the Jewish Museum, to be presented on Sunday, March 13th at 1:00 p.m. The exhibit evokes 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 their illustrious collection. The exhibition explores the family's rise to prominence in the first half of the nineteenth century, followed by a focus on the prolific collector and historian of art, Charles Ephrussi, to the inter-war years, and finally, World War II, when the family lost its fortune and collection to Nazi looting.

As with our first Jewish Museum Tour, note this is a private tour for our group only, and it is live with a member of the Education Department staff. It is not pre-recorded.

Click on the [blue bar](#) of the CAS website www.ahavathsholom.com on the front page of our site to register. You can make payment by clicking on the website's [Donate](#) button or sending us a check (CAS, P.O. Box 464, Great Barrington, MA 01230). The cost for Ahavath Sholom members is \$20; for non-members \$25.

Copies of book *The Hare with Amber Eyes* are available from Amazon.com in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle versions.

Sips and Sonnets: An Homage to love, friendship and art

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love" and Congregation Ahavath Sholom plans to help with their Creative Arts "Sips and Sonnets" Zoom reading on Sunday February 13 at 4:00 pm. We will be celebrating the day with a recital of sonnets and other poems from different times and places. To make the day even more festive, we offer drink recipes encouraging people to join us for a talk back and virtual cocktails.

And, to spread the love, all donations from this performance will go to our local People's Pantry.

Sips and Sonnets Zoom information: Meeting ID 873 9506 0388 Passcode: 406868

The Program

Wild Nights-Wild Nights! (269, by Emily Dickinson, read by Helen Radin

New Face, by Alice Walker, 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

Another Valentine, by Wendy Cope, read by Stephanie Sloane

Aimless Love, by Billy Collins, read by Caroline Foresman

Late Fragment, by Raymond Carver, read by Helen Radin

Paintings by Moe Brooker, with an introduction by Ilene Spiewak

My Funny Valentine, by the Gerry Mulligan Quartet, featuring Chet Baker

About the Poets

Raymond Carver (May 25, 1938 – August 2, 1988) was an American writer who contributed to the revitalization of the American short story during the 1980s. Although better known for his short fiction, Carver published eight poetry collections. He's been praised for his ability to forge solid beginnings and endings: "A Carver poem instantly establishes its presence."

Billy Collins (born March 22, 1941) is an American poet, appointed as Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003.¹ Collins also served as Poet Laureate for the State of New York from 2004 until 2006. During the stay-at-home confinement period necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020, Collins appears daily on Facebook Live offering his art to a worldwide audience, reading poems and talking about poetry.

Wendy Cope, (born 21 July 1945) is an English poet. Five collections of her adult poetry have been published, *Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis* in 1986, *Serious Concerns* in 1992, *If I Don't Know* in 2001, *Family Values* in 2011, and *Anecdotal Evidence* in 2018. In 2013, after 19 years of living together, Cope married poet Lachlan Mackinnon in a register office, although she has stated that she would have preferred a civil partnership.

Edward Estlin Cummings or **e e cummings** (October 14, 1894 – September 3, 1962), was an American poet, painter, essayist, author, and playwright. He wrote approximately 2,900 poems, two autobiographical novels, four plays, and several essays. He is often regarded as one of the most important American poets of the 20th century. Cummings is associated with modernist free-form poetry. Much of his work has idiosyncratic syntax and uses lower-case spellings for poetic expression.

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886) was an American poet. Little-known during her life, she has since been regarded as one of the most important figures in American poetry. Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts. While Dickinson was a prolific writer, her only publications during her lifetime were 10 of her nearly 1,800 poems. The poems published then were usually edited significantly to fit conventional poetic rules. Her poems, unique for her era, predated modernist poetic strategies. The poem contains short lines and often use slant rhyme as well as unconventional capitalization and punctuation. It was not until after her death in 1886 that her work became public. Her first collection of poetry was published in 1890.

Joy Harjo (born May 9, 1951) is an American poet, musician, playwright, and author. She is the incumbent United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold that honor. She is also only the second Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to serve three terms. Harjo is a member of the Muscogee Nation. She is an important figure in the second wave of the literary Native American Renaissance of the late 20th century. Harjo is the author of nine books of poetry, and two award-winning children's books. Her signature project to date as U.S. Poet Laureate is called "Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry," which focuses on "mapping the U.S. with Native Nations poets and poems.

Li-Young Lee (born August 19, 1957) is an American poet. He was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, to Chinese parents. Lee's father, who was a personal physician to Mao Zedong while in China, relocated his family to Indonesia. In 1959 the Lee family fled Indonesia to escape widespread anti-Chinese sentiment and after a five-year trek through Hong Kong and Japan, they settled in the United States in 1964. Lee is the author of **four books** of poetry and a prose poem memoir.

Pablo Neruda (12 July 1904 – 23 September 1973) was a Chilean poet-diplomat and politician who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971. Neruda became known as a poet when he was 13 years old, and wrote in a variety of styles, including surrealist poems, historical epics, overtly political manifestos, a prose autobiography, and passionate love poems such as the ones in his collection *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924).

William Shakespeare (bapt. 26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616)^[a] was an English playwright, poet and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. His extant works consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, three long narrative poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.^[2] Published in 1609, the Sonnets were the last of Shakespeare's non-dramatic works to be printed. Scholars are not certain when each of the 154 sonnets was composed, but evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote sonnets throughout his career for a private readership.

Alice Walker (born February 9, 1944) is an American novelist, short story writer, poet, and social activist. In 1982, she became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, which she was awarded for her novel *The Color Purple*. Over the span of her career, Walker has published seventeen novels and short story collections, twelve non-fiction works, and collections of essays and poetry.



On The Way To Somehow, by Moe Brooker, oil and mixed media on canvas

About the Artist

Moe Brooker (September 24, 1940 – January 9, 2022) was an American artist. Working in painting and fabrics. Brooker employed bright colors such as "saturated pinks, mellow yellows and lime greens (that) are feasts for the eyes," as well as stripes and checked patterns. He was nationally known and received a number of awards and honors, including the James Van Der Zee lifetime achievement award.

His work is displayed at the Studio Museum in Harlem, Montgomery Museum of Art, the Musee des beaux-arts de l'Ontario, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He is represented by The Sande Webster Gallery in Philadelphia and the June Kelly Gallery in New York City. He was a member of *Recherche*, an African-American artists group whose works are known for "active engagement with life and a zestful manipulation of color and pattern". He died on January 9, 2022, at the age of 81.

"If you are given a gift, using that gift in its fullest sense is true worship."

--Moe Brooker

Some Valentine's Day Suggested Cocktails

Kir Royale

Splash of Cassis topped with Champagne

Garnish with fresh strawberry or Luxardo cherry

Lola 2022

2oz Vodka

Splash of Godiva chocolate liquor

Splash of raspberry puree (optional)

Garnish with fresh raspberries

or

Hershey's chocolate kiss

Crush

2oz Vodka

2oz Godiva chocolate liquor

1oz Grand Marnier or Cointreau

Garnish with candied orange rind

Sidecar(ish)

2oz Gin

1oz Brandy or Cassis

Dash of lemon juice

Garnish with candied lemon rind, fresh raspberry

Or

Hershey's chocolate kiss

Spirited Mocktails

Sweet Heart

Ginger beer

Grapefruit juice

Pinch of cinnamon

Garnish with blackberries

Cold Fashioned

Apple cider

Splash of pomegranate or Cranberry juice

Garnish with orange slice

It's never too early for a cocktail.

-Noel Coward

Cooking with Alison: *Baked Alaska* (a Valentine's Day treat)



Individual Baked Alaskas

Ingredients

- 4 flower pots (optional)
- 4 slices of pound cake
- 2 pints Ice cream (two flavors)
- 4 egg whites
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1-2 paper straws
- 4 flowers, trimmed

Directions

1. Place a slice of pound cake in bottom of clay pot - or using a 2 1/2 inch biscuit cutter, cut cake and place on wax paper.
2. Soften ice cream and using a 1/2 cup size ice cream scoop, scoop both flavors and place on top of pound cake. Freeze flower pots or individual cakes.
3. After 1-2 hours (or even a day later), prepare meringue using the whites of 4 eggs. Beat until soft peaks and then gradually add powdered sugar. Beat until stiff peaks. Take ice cream cakes from freezer and cover with meringue. Seal edges on flower pots and seal edges on individual cakes. Place a small piece of paper straw into ice cream thru meringue. Place in freezer until serving time. This can be done a day ahead too.
4. Preheat oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Place cakes on a sheet pan and place in oven for approximately 5-10 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven, place on a serving plate and place a flower in the straw.
5. You can make a flower arrangement for your dining table using the same types of flowers you used in the baked Alaskas.

**Watch Alison's cooking video on the CAS website www.ahavathsholom.com.
Just click the button on our home page.**

Milchidika with Marty: *What would you have done?*

[Note: This article originally appeared in the December 2019 issue of the CAS Newsletter]

I recently watched the movie "Schindler's List" on a Netflix DVD. I had been avoiding watching this award-winning film for years; since I really knew what it was about and didn't want to be reminded of the horrors of the Nazi death camps; and the fate of all the victims, not only the Jews.

We may say, "This all happened almost 75 years ago, and why bring up the past? I think we should keep these memories alive, with the thought that it could happen again. Probably not in this country, but somewhere in the world. If not to the Jews, then possibly others.

My former mother-in-law and father-in-law (parents of my wife who died) were German Jews living in the small town of "Ansbach" in Bavaria, Germany, during the 1930's. My father-in-law served as a private, in the German army during the World War 1, was in a battle, and earned a medal for heroism. He theoretically fought against my father, who also served as a private, but in the American army. My father-in-law, whose name was Karl, and my mother-in-law whose name was Paula, considered themselves good German citizens, who just happened to be Jewish. Germany was the country of their birth and their homeland. Being Jewish was secondary. Their families had lived in Germany for many, many years.

When World War I ended, Karl started a wholesale hardware business, that soon was thriving. He could now afford a home in Ansbach, have a live-in-housekeeper, a new car, and a lovely eight-year-old daughter named Marion. Karl was the owner of the business, and the chief salesman. He would dress the part; leaving home each day to visit his customers, in his freshly pressed suit, and with a flower picked from the garden in his lapel. He was a real Bon Vivant. A likeable guy and a good salesman.

This was 1935 or so. Hitler had come to power, and Karl like many other Jews, believed that Hitler would never last. Paula was frightened by what was going on and urged him to emigrate. But he, as the head of the family, decided that they should stay. By the way, just like in the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," Paula let him think that he was the head of the family, but as she always said, "She was the neck that made the head turn." So, she acceded to his wishes, and they stayed.

I may have my dates wrong, but basically as we know, the Nazis promulgated a series of anti-Jewish laws around that time. Jewish children were no longer allowed in the classroom, and soon Marion found she couldn't attend school with her friends. The Jews were then forced to register, and all the Jewish men regardless of their birth name had to take the name "Abraham" and all the women, the name "Sarah." Karl became Abraham and Paula became Sarah. They were not yet forced to wear the "Star of David" on their clothing. Years later, Karl showed me his registration documents stamped "Juden" and with a big swastika imprinted across it. At that time, Hitler had not yet begun his policy of extermination, but was encouraging the Jews to leave the country by making life difficult for them.

Later, Karl was rounded up with other Jewish men in his town, and sent to a concentration camp, where he was imprisoned for a few months. The local Ansbach mayor ultimately obtained his release as well as the release of others. At that point Paula "the neck" said, "We're leaving."

In those years, there were very few countries that would accept Jewish immigrants. Some South American countries, mainly Argentina, Cuba, and a few others, as well as England, and I believe Shanghai. In order to emigrate, you first had to obtain an "Exit Permit" as well as give up all your wealth and valuable possessions. Karl had to sell his home, his business, and automobile to non-Jewish bargain hunters, but was not able to take any of the proceeds out of the country. He had to hand over his accumulated wealth to the Nazi government.

They ultimately applied for an "exit permit" which was granted; and were permitted to emigrate to England, where they were accepted. They were permitted to fill a large wooden container, the size of a small room, with furniture, foodstuffs, bedding, clothing, etc. But no jewelry or any other valuables. Paula in later years described this huge wooden box, as a "Lift." I sense it was because it was lifted by cranes onto the boat that would ultimately take them to England. They were permitted to take a total of \$500 in currency.

What a decision. Leave the country of your birth, give up most of your possessions, and emigrate to a country where you don't speak the language, and where you don't really want to be. They arrived in England; and settled in a suburb of London, in a small town known as "Golder's Green." Golder's Green at that time, (and now) had a large Jewish population, and that is probably why they chose it.

Since they did not speak English and were German foreigners, they had difficulty in finding employment. No one would hire them. "After all, they might really be Nazis in disguise." Karl ultimately became a dishwasher in an English restaurant and Paula a housekeeper for a wealthy English family.

Three year later, a relative who already lived in the United States, was able to "sponsor" them, guaranteeing that they had a job, and would not be a burden to the United States government. They found an apartment in Astoria, Queens. Karl was able to get a job as a welder in a factory in Brooklyn that manufactured metal door frames. Every day he would leave for work in his rough overalls, with a flower tucked into his lapel, lunch box in hand and spend the day in a hot, dirty factory welding metal door frame. Karl was my hero. Still a Bon Vivant. Paula got a job in a factory that manufactured lamp shades, sitting on an assembly line day after day, putting together lamp shades and never complaining. And she was my heroine.

I think to myself, here I live comfortably in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Suppose I was forced to leave this country and decided to emigrate to Portugal; the only country that would accept me. I don't speak Portuguese, don't know the country. How would I survive?

I ultimately married their daughter Marion. Her parents insisted, that for us to begin our marriage properly, we must have a set of Rosenthal China, Sterling Silver tableware, and a comforter for the bed filled with goose down known in German as a "Daunen Decken." They supplied it all.

February Creative Arts Series

The next Memoir Writing Workshop will take place on Monday, February 14th 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 Ailbhe Flynn

The next Photography Workshop will take place on Monday, February 28th 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. 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.

February 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	This year
Sherwin Fink	Adar1 3 5776	2/4
Helen Weiner	Adar1 04 5766	2/5
Emma Mainker Graubard	Adar1 07 5660	2/8
Alan Pomerance	Adar1 08 5749	2/9
Josef Waller	Adar 09	2/10
Hannah Meltzer Greenside	Adar 10 5753	2/11
Stanley Clarin	Adar 10 5759	2/11
Wilhelm Brill	Adar1 16 5708	2/17
Joe Enzer	Adar 16 5742	2/17
Mollie Nadelman	Adar1 17 5763	2/18
Roberta Rudin	Adar1 19 5774	2/20
Ernest Waller	Adar 21 5753	2/22
Meyer Spiegelman	Adar 22 5764	2/23
Sydelle Cohen	Adar 22 5777	2/23
Michael Sloane	Adar 23 5780	2/24
Jack Nodiff	Adar 25 5777	2/26

February Donations

In memory of Joe Enzer

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In memory of Jack Nodiff

Ruth Nodiff

In memory of Roberta Rudin

Harold Rudin

In memory of Helen Weiner

Keren Weiner

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Shira Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)

Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)

Arthur Hillman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)

Linda Josepfs (Memoir Workshop)

Jane Kavanau (Memoir Workshop)

Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)

Richard Reiss (Memoir Workshop)

Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

General donations

Nettie Hammond

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

Funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

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