



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

December 2020

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, December 2 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 9 at 10 AM:** Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, December 11 at 5 PM:** Hannukah Candle Lighting with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Sunday, December 13 at 2 PM:** Creative Arts Workshop: The Digital Darkroom w. Arthur Hillman via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 16 at 10 AM:** Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 19 at 10 AM:** Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 23 at 10 AM:** Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, December 30 at 10 AM:** Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

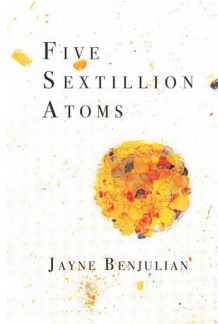
- The CAS Marketplace is open!
- P.G.'s Tees
- December Creative Arts Workshop: *The Digital Darkroom*
- Milchidika with Marty: *Some Funny Personal Ads*
- An Introduction: Stephanie Sloane
- Housatonic Valley Art League Exhibition
- An Introduction: Isaiah Paul Rothstein
- December Yahrzeits
- December Donations
- PJ Library Pajama Drive
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

## The CAS Marketplace is open!

Our CAS community has a wealth of creative talent. Since our current lives have become so different from the norm, we thought we could benefit congregants who are artisans and writers by giving them an opportunity to show and sell their creations. This online marketplace will also benefit those of us who are looking for special gifts for Chanukah, birthdays or get well and cheer up wishes. No going into stores, no wearing masks and we get the warm feeling that comes from appreciating and supporting other congregants and the CAS community, since a portion of each purchase will be donated to the synagogue. This CAS portion will then be donated in its entirety to the local Peoples Pantry!



*Comfort Pens* by Dan Burkhard (Berkshire Pens)



*Five Sextillion Atoms*, book by Jayne Benjulian



*Monterrey Barns*, photograph by Michele Walsman



*Floating*, painting by Joan Burkhard



*Kazimierz Square*, Book by Karen Chase



*Flower Medley II*, photograph by Arthur Hillman



*Tea Dance*, print by Paul Graubard

The art works, craft items and books are posted on the CAS website (with a button on the home page for quick access) and the weekly emails will also have a link to the page. In order to make a purchase, please contact the seller directly and he/she will take care of the entire transaction.

We hope you will explore our online marketplace and consider supporting our congregation as much as possible. [If you would like to join the marketplace, please email Sandra Flannery, [smflann@ix.netcom.com](mailto:smflann@ix.netcom.com).]

## P.G.'s Tees

I'm going into business selling tee shirts. I'm 88 and it's taken me awhile to get here, but I think I was destined to go into the clothing business. The route has been circuitous.

It started when I was 10 with my first job. It dealt with clothing. I became a delivery boy for Mr. Brenner, the tailor. I was proud to be independent and make money — both linked to clothes. I've had lots of jobs since then and at last I'm returning to clothing. Let me describe some of the career steps I've taken before returning to my calling.

Having delivery boy experience, I took a step up on the career ladder and turned to newspapers. Better pay and more fun to ride a bike and throw papers than to walk while carrying pressed pants on a hanger. I dropped out of high school and worked in a potato chip factory. Good money for a kid but not to my liking. I made money playing gin rummy. It was fun but not reliable. Then I was in charge of the hot dog counter at Dave's Delicatessen.



I took the GED and went to college. Dishwashing and playing cards helped with expenses. After college I spent some time in the Army, then taught grade school after my discharge. With the aid of the GI Bill I got my doctorate and became a college professor and author.

I moved from New York City to the Berkshires in the late 60's and opened a private practice in psychology.

On a trip to London in 1996, I saw a sign in a hardware store offering an art class. I took the class and fell in love with painting. Returning home, I rented a studio in Pittsfield, gradually closed my psychology practice and became a 24/7 painter. By now, my paintings have been shown all over. But with the pandemic, galleries and museums have closed. I keep on painting and thinking about outlets for my work. Somehow, from somewhere the idea of making tee shirts came to me. A new venue!

What goes around comes around. I started in clothing and here I am some 78 years later coming back to my calling.

What kind of shirts one might ask? Unique ones —Images will be from my museum paintings - silk screened onto high quality all cotton tee shirts.

Contact: [pgraubard@gmail.com](mailto:pgraubard@gmail.com) 413-499-3928 [www.paulgraubard.com](http://www.paulgraubard.com) (paintings only)

**Please note: Paul's wonderful t-shirts are available at The CAS Marketplace!**

## December Creative Arts Workshop: *The Digital Darkroom*

The December Creative Arts Workshop, *The Digital Darkroom*, will take place on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. In this third photography workshop offered by Arthur Hillman, the focus will be on the use of the computer and smartphone to edit and revise photographs similar to the way a traditional photographer would work in a conventional wet darkroom. Prior to this Zoom workshop, each participant will submit a group of his or hers own photographs that will form the basis of an exploration using a number of image-editing software programs. Traditional techniques such as cropping, dodging and burning, contrast adjustments, color modification and other approaches will be demonstrated. Creating montages and adding and manipulating type to create cards and posters will also be explored. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested to support our Creative Arts programs. (Please email [arthurhillman@roadrunner.com](mailto:arthurhillman@roadrunner.com) by Sunday, December 6 to reserve a place and to submit your photographs.)



A selection of photographs that were submitted by participants in the previous photography workshop.

## Milchidika with Marty: Some Funny Personal Ads

Single black female seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good-looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights laying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work. Call xxx-xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy.

*The ad above turned out to be an adoption offer for an eight week old, female black Labrador retriever from the Atlanta Humane Society. It had 15,000 calls from men from all over the country.*

Young farmer with 100 acres would be pleased to hear from a young lady with tractor. Please send photograph of tractor.

Dating for Seniors Ads found in a Florida newspaper:

FOXY LADY:

Sexy, fashion-conscious blue-haired beauty, 80's, slim, 5'4" (used to be 5'6"), searching for sharp-looking, sharp-dressing companion. Matching white shoes and belt a plus.

LONGTERM COMMITMENT:

Recent widow who has just buried fourth husband, looking for someone to round out a six-unit cemetery plot. Dizziness, Fainting, shortness of breath not a problem.

WINNING SMILE:

Active grandmother with original teeth seeking a dedicated flossier to share rare steaks, corn on the cob, and caramel candy.

MEMORIES:

I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our two heads together.

SERENITY NOW:

I am into solitude, long walks, sunrises, the ocean, yoga and Meditation. If you are the silent type, let's get together, take out our hearing aids and enjoy quite times.

Some others:

Single Jewish male 41, seeking single female, looks not important, must be tall, slim and attractive.

When I was thirty my dates had to be young, tall, handsome, rich, intelligent. Now I'm 64, they only have to know how to read and use the telephone.

Respiratory Therapy Student- Cute enough to take your breath away, smart enough to bring it back.

I'm the kind of girl you can take home to your family I will then get closer to them than you are, and we'll slowly phase you out.

2002 Harley Davidson V-Rod. 12,600 miles, nice bike, fast, pretty, great ride, girlfriend pregnant, wife knows, must sell, lawyer wants money, \$7,800

### A JOKE SORT OF ON POINT ABOUT A CRAFTY MOM

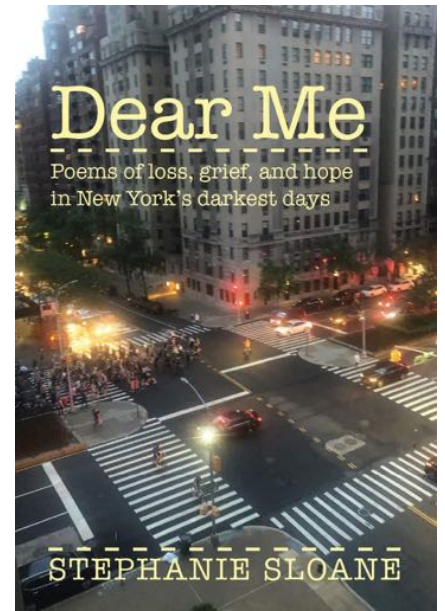
John invited his mother over for dinner one evening. During the meal, she couldn't help but notice how attractive his roommate Judy was. She had been suspicious of a relationship between her son and his roommate for quite some time, but this only made her more curious. She watched the two of them interact over the course of the evening and began to wonder whether there was more between John and Judy than met the eye. Realizing only too well what his mother was thinking, John said "I can see your wheels turning Mom and I know what you're thinking. Rest assured Judy and I are strictly roommates". A few days later, Judy went to John and said, "You know the beautiful silver gravy ladle? Well, ever since your mother came to dinner, I can't seem to find it. You don't think she would have taken it, do you?" "I doubt it, but I'll write her a letter just to be sure", replied John. John then sat down and wrote to his mother the following letter; "Dear Mom, While I'm not saying you 'did' take a gravy ladle from my house, and I'm not saying you 'didn't' take a gravy ladle, the fact remains that ever since you were here for dinner one has been missing. Love, your son".

Several days later, John received a reply from his mother which read "Dear John, while I'm not saying you 'do' sleep with Judy, and I'm not saying you 'don't' sleep with her, the fact remains that she should have found the gravy ladle by now if she were sleeping in her own bed. Love, Mom."

## An Introduction: Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane is a new member of Congregation Ahavath Sholom. She was married for 58 years to her husband, Michael, who recently passed away. They raised three children, Todd, Gregg and Danielle, while living in Suffern, New York. She has eight grandchildren. The loss of her husband at the same time as the pandemic prompted her to write her first, but not her last, book of poetry with photographs.

Like so many others to come, Michael's funeral was on ZOOM. And Stephanie was left to face life alone, in an apartment meant for two, without the comfort of family or friends for hugs and a shoulder to cry on. One morning she took pen to paper to express her feelings, and then did so every day through June 8th when New York City started to open up to life again. Those daily feelings and emotions are now shared in this poignant collection of poems. Accompanied by the authors photos, *Dear Me* beautifully expresses her personal loss and grief and then her realization of the loss and grief of everyone during this time. And then finally... glimmers of hope.



A native New Yorker, born and raised in the Bronx, Stephanie Sloane has had an eclectic career encompassing many creative endeavors. With a BA in Fine Art and Theatre, and an MS in Education and Art, she started out teaching art and dance. She has acted in commercials, off-off Broadway theater, and in films. Several years ago, our own Linda Josephs directed her in a couple of plays in Sharon, CT and Great Barrington. As activities coordinator of a psychiatric unit for eleven years, she initiated a program that included art and dance therapies. She went on to become an art dealer and for seventeen years was associate director of Pace Prints. She has written two plays, "Toujours L'Amour" which was staged in NYC last year, and "Bronx Light/Bronx Dark." She enjoys cooking, knitting, drawing, jewelry-making, moving and decorating.

We welcome Stephanie to the CAS community.

*[Most of this article is reprinted from "About Stephanie Sloane" on the Amazon.com website]*

**Please note: Stephanie's book is now available at The CAS Marketplace!**

## Housatonic Valley Art League Exhibit

*The Housatonic Valley Art League, one of the area's oldest and largest non-profit art organizations, is having its annual Members End-of-Year Art Show online from November 15 through January 3, 2021. CAS members Joan Burkhard (paintings) and Arthur Hillman (photographs) each have three pieces in the exhibit.*

*The show can be seen on HVAL's website at [www.hvalt.org](http://www.hvalt.org).*

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Visit the show from your home, online at [www.hvart.org](http://www.hvart.org), click on the "Shows" menu, then "Members End-Of-Year".

Awards Juror for the show: Ira Barkoff

## An Introduction: Isaiah Paul Rothstein

Hi Everyone,

It has been about one month since Nathan and his wife Angelina had our first grandchild, Isaiah Paul Rothstein. He was born on 10/18/20 and was 8 lb 9 oz at birth. He is doing great.

We were able to see them all in Binghamton, NY on 10/23 after the requisite testing and quarantining.

We are smitten, as you might imagine.

Love to all and we hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving in whatever form that took for your families this year.

Dan and Lori



Angelina – an amazing mom!



Isaiah asleep on grandma's lap



Father and son



Proud grandma



A picture from 2 ½ weeks



Proud grandpa

## December 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	This Year's Date
Miriam Brecher	Kislev 7 5759	11/23
Freya Maier	Kislev 16 5764	12/2
Barbara Joslyn	Kislev 18 5754	12/4
Susan Parker	Kislev 18 5760	12/4
Monroe Lefkowitz	Kislev 20 5770	12/6
Hilda Isaacs	Kislev 24 5758	12/10
Sallie Slote	Kislev 27 5752	12/13
Katherine Tukel	Kislev 28 5719	12/14
Louis Kassler	Tevet 02 5751	12/17
Sylvia Barth	Tevet 02 5759	12/17
Sonya Richter	Tevet 03 5751	12/18
Fannie Radin	Tevet 06 5729	12/21
Gertrude Schragar	Tevet 09 5758	12/24
Burton Elliott	Tevet 09 5774	12/24

## December Donations

### **In memory Laurie Stransky**

William and Sandra Flannery

Linda Josephs

Dr. David Weinberg and Rebecca Perlstein

Alison Weinberg

### **In memory of Lillian "Lakie" Kipnis**

Lawrence and Sondra Klein

Charles and Gayle Mazursky

Wanda Wasserstrom

### **Thanking Barbara for her kindness during Freke Vuijst illness and passing**

John Soursourian and Judith Klein

### **Other donations**

Rachel Silverstein

Charles and Karen Schader

# PJ Library<sup>®</sup> PAJAMA DRIVE

**November 10 – December 16**

During the cold winter months, many children in the Berkshires go to sleep cold, without the comfort of warm pajamas.

To meet this critical need we are running a community-wide pajama drive.

**Pajamas will be distributed to families across the Berkshires by the MA Dept of Children and Families.**



This year we have teamed up with **Carr Hardware** to offer drop off of brand-new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) at these convenient locations:

- Carr Hardware, Great Barrington
- Carr Hardware, Lenox
- Jewish Federation, Pittsfield
- Carr Hardware, North Adams

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Monetary donations towards the purchase of PJs are also welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 [slehrer@jewishberkshires.org](mailto:slehrer@jewishberkshires.org)



PJ Library, in collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is made possible in the Berkshires through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund, and the Jewish Women's Foundation



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