



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

August 2025

### Upcoming services and events

**Friday, August 1 at 5:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin

**Sunday, August 3, 11:00 AM:** Tisha B'Av Study

**Wednesday, August 6 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Monday, August 11 at 5:00 PM:** CAS Board Meeting

**Wednesday, August 13 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Thursday, August 14 at 5:00 PM:** Practical Training with SCN (Secure Community Network)

**Friday, August 15 at 5:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin

**Saturday, August 16 at 10:00 AM:** Traditional Shabbat Service

**Monday, August 18 at 12:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop with Barbara Janoff via Zoom

**7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop with Arthur Hillman via Zoom

**Wednesday, August 20 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Saturday, August 23 at 10:00 AM:** Welcoming Elul

**Sunday, August 24 at 11:00 AM:** Bagels and Conversation: *Who by Fire, Who by Water*

**Wednesday, August 27 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

*Note: Unless indicated, all services & events take place at the synagogue at 15 North Street, Great Barrington*

### This month's newsletter features:

**The High Holy Days**

**CAS Partners with Simcha-Services to Launch Jewish Educational Programs**

**Practical Training with (SCN) Secure Community Network**

***The Beach*: A poem by Carol Killian**

**Notes from the July Board Meeting**

**August Creative Arts Workshops**

**Summer Book Group**

**Two events at Chesterwood**

**August Yahrzeits**

**Donations**

**Advertisers and Sponsors**

## The High Holy Days

We have all seen the ways that transition continues to be invigorating to our Ahavath Sholom community. When our beautiful Berkshire summer turns to fall, we look forward to celebrating the High Holy Days together again at Berkshire South. For this year's services, our Emerita Rabbi Barbara Cohen will lead us through the Days of Awe and will be joined by our Rabbi Jennifer Rudin on Erev Rosh Hashanah and the afternoon of Yom Kippur and Break Fast. We hope you join with our community in welcoming the New Year 5786.

For CAS members, High Holy Day costs are included in your membership, but you still need to register. Non-members are always welcome. For non-members the cost is \$75 per person for each of the four services or \$218 for all four services; please register through the CAS website. (Note that any amounts paid for HHD services can count towards a CAS membership for the current year).

It is a High Holy Day tradition to make a donation in memory of your loved ones for Yizkor. We ask that you donate a minimum of \$10 for each name you submit. Please send your complete list of Yizkor names to [arthurhillman54@gmail.com](mailto:arthurhillman54@gmail.com). If there are no changes from last year, simply indicate "same."

**Register through our website: [www.ahavathsholom.com](http://www.ahavathsholom.com)**

Payments for High Holy Day services and/or Yizkor donations can be made by sending a check to Congregation Ahavath Sholom, P.O. Box 464, Great Barrington, MA or by clicking the **Donate** button on our website and processing your payment through PayPal or by using your credit card.

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Monday, September 22, 7:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah: Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 AM

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre: Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 PM

Yom Kippur: Thursday, October 2, 10:00 AM

Neilah 5:00 PM, followed by Pot Luck Break Fast

All High Holy Day services are held at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Rd, Great Barrington



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom Partners with Simcha-Services to Launch Innovative Jewish Educational Programs for All Ages

Great Barrington, MA- July 29, 2025 – Congregation Ahavath Sholom is proud to announce a new partnership with Simcha-Services to offer dynamic, flexible, and inclusive Jewish educational opportunities for children and adults, beginning this September.



## New Program Offerings Include:

### **Jewish Education for Children (Kindergarten – 5th Grade):**

Beginning in September and running through May, children will have access to engaging online classes held twice a month. Classes are offered three times each week at different times, allowing families to choose the day and time that best fits their schedules. *In-Person Social Justice Experiences:* Four special in-person gatherings throughout the year will focus on Jewish values and social justice, building community and hands-on learning for young students and their families.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Preparation for Children and Adults:**

One-on-one guidance and preparation with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin ensures a personalized and meaningful journey toward becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

### **Hebrew Reading Instruction:**

Tailored one-on-one Hebrew instruction is available for both children and adults, helping learners of all levels grow in confidence and skill.



“This partnership with Simcha-Services reflects our deep commitment to inclusive, accessible, and meaningful Jewish education,” said Rabbi Jennifer Rudin of Congregation Ahavath Sholom. “We are especially excited to offer opportunities that meet people where they are—whether online, in person, young or old.”

Enrollment is now open. For more information or to register, please contact Rabbi Jennifer Rudin at [rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com](mailto:rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com).

## Practical Training with (SCN) Secure Community Network

The CAS Board of Directors has been working with Secure Community Network, (SCN), a national organization sponsored by the Jewish Federation, to elevate our security at the synagogue.



We invite members of the congregation to join us for a practical training on Thursday, August 14 at 5:00 PM. At this training, we will get up on our feet and enact ways of countering dangerous situations at the synagogue.

### **Active Threat Training: Thursday, August 14, 5 PM @ CAS**

Just a reminder: if you have occasion at any time, for medical or threat or any other reasons, to call 911, know our address— 15 North Street, Great Barrington —and be sure to say it to the 911 operator.

If you are interested in pursuing information about safety, the SCN site has numerous resources.

Go to <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/>

Click "TAKE ACTION" at the top of the page ... and then click ACCESS RESOURCE LIBRARY.

## ***The Beach, a poem by Carol Killian***

I love the beach  
Walking just at the edge  
Where an occasional wave  
Will bless my feet  
And the rocks....!  
Some years I look for smooth black ones  
Some years white, or egg shaped rocks  
Or traveling/blessing rocks.  
This year I said I will be more discerning  
And yet, soon my pockets are full.  
This morning my eye was drawn to  
A dark red rock, not smooth and yet not rough  
About the size of a half of grapefruit.  
I picked it up and turned it over.  
Embedded in the darker rock was  
A heart, the color of drying blood.  
How was it formed?  
Perhaps a foot print in volcanic mud?  
A cosmic heart turned to stone  
By the wars and inhumanity of men  
But held in the hand of a cosmic mother  
Who loved the world  
Even with all its inhumanity.

*From the CAS Memory Writing Workshop*

## Notes from the July Board Meeting

- In advance of services and other events, a Board member will now be stationed at the entrance to vet visitors. The door will be locked 15 minutes after the start of services.
- All services and events have been scheduled through the 2026 High Holy Days.
- Instead of the Ellul in the Pool event of past years, there will be a Shabbat morning service on Saturday, August 23rd, at 10:00 a.m.
- CAS will partner with Rabbi Rudin's Simcha Services to offer religious instruction to children of interested families. These services will be free to any family that joins the congregation.
- The High Holy Day cost for non-members will be \$75 for attendance at a single service or \$218 for all services.
- The Executive Committee currently consists of three members: Alison Adams-Weinberg, Daniel Schenker, and Joan Burkhard. In the interest of preserving continuity now that we have a new rabbi, Alison will serve through June 2027, Daniel through June 2028, and Joan through June 2029. The Board will fill vacancies as each of them rotates off the Committee.
- Work has begun for a program on October 19th with the memoir group that will include dramatizations with actors. Ilene Spiewak will offer another painting class beginning November 2nd.
- Planning has begun for a concert fundraiser next May. More information will be forthcoming at the next Board meeting.
- A plaque will be ordered for the garden in memory of Gail Philips who did so much to beautify it.
- A new Sukkah is in the process of being ordered.
- The Board will be working with a building consultant to help us prioritize our various repair and upgrade issues.
- The Board is especially pleased to announce that Rabbi Rudin's three-year contract through June 2028 has been finalized.
- An ad hoc committee consisting of Susan Weinstein, Debbie Slater, and Barbara Janoff has been formed to plan an installation ceremony for Rabbi Rudin.

## August Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, August 18th at noon via Zoom. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at [bjanoff1@gmail.com](mailto:bjanoff1@gmail.com). Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

*Barbara Janoff Ph.D. is 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 Getty Images on Unsplash*

The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, August 18th, but at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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](mailto: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 60 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 Caroline Forsman from the CAS Photography Workshop*

## Summer Book Group

There's no better time than the summer to read a great book! This summer at CAS, we'll be reading three very different and compelling titles. After reading each book, we'll gather in person at CAS to enjoy a meal and discuss the book. You can read one, two, or all three books. There will be additional opportunities to talk about the books on Zoom.

### **A SUMMER OF GREAT BOOKS & CONVERSATION**

CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM



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AUGUST 23, 2025 BAGELS & CONVERSATION  
WHO BY FIRE, WHO BY WATER: UN'TANEH TOKEF  
RABBI LAWRENCE A. HOFFMAN

## Two Events at Chesterwood

**August 2, 5:30, at Chesterwood, Glendale, MA.** Victoria Lewis, assistant concertmaster of the Israeli Symphony Orchestra, will be the guest artist with the Sherman Chamber Ensemble in a concert of chamber music.



Historic Sites

# Chesterwood

**August 21, 5 pm, Chesterwood, Glendale, MA.** Reading from *A Prayer of Six Wings*, by Owen Lewis. The poetry collection documents Lewis' experiences here and Israel in the year post October 7. A book review was recently published by the Jewish Book Council-- <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/a-prayer-of-six-wings>. Lewis will be reading with Chesterwood's poet in residence this summer, Jessica Jacobs, founder of *Yetzirah*, an organization of Jewish poets and author of *Unalone*.

For both events, please register at : [www.chesterwood.org](http://www.chesterwood.org), Events under the auspices of Arts Alive/Words Alive.

## 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	Secular Date	This Year's Date
Rose Y. Beigh	Av 10 5773	7/13/2013	8/4
Meyer David Graubard	Av 13 5660	8/8/1900	8/7
Ira Rogovin	Av 15 5763	8/13/2003	8/9
Mitsue Mitsuda	Av 15 5768	8/16/2008	8/9
Doris Deborah Kassler	Av 20 5730	8/22/1970	8/14
Al Silverstein	Av 21 5767	8/5/2007	8/5
Rebecca Isserson	Av 25 5757	8/28/1997	8/19
Beatrice Alson	Av 27 5769	8/17/2009	8/21
Marjory Horwitz	Av 28 5776	9/1/2016	8/22
Barbara Deweerd Lemmen	Av 28 5778	8/9/2018	8/22
Conrad H. Yarmoff	Elul 3 5776	9/6/2016	8/27
Bea Guralnick	Elul 6 5775	8/21/2015	8/30
Nathan Horwitz	Elul 6 5754	8/13/1994	8/30

## Donations

**In loving memory of my mother, Esther**  
Deborah Slater

**In memory of Irv Adams**  
Alison Adams-Weinberg

**In memory of Mitsue Mitsuda**  
**In support of the 2nd Floor Art Gallery**  
Arthur and Louise Hillman

**In support of the Creative Arts Workshops**  
Ross Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)  
Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)  
Linda Geffin (Memoir Workshop)  
Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)  
Barbara Janoff (Photography Workshop)  
Linda Josephs  
Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)  
Marie Rudden (Memoir Workshop)  
Stephanie Sloane (Memoir Workshop)

**In support of the Gala and the "Raise the Roof" campaign**  
John L. Carty, Morgan Stanley  
Shoshi Kaganovsky

**General donations**  
Joan and Dan Burkhard  
Linda Geffin  
Arlene and Don Shapiro

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