



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

July 2021

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, July 7 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, July 9 at 5:00 PM: In-person at the synagogue - Shabbat Evening Service

Monday, July 12 at 12:00 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing via Zoom

Monday, July 12 at 5:30 PM: CAS Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, July 14 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 AM: In person at the synagogue – Focus on Tisha B'Av

Wednesday, July 21 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, July 23 at 5:00: Candle Lighting Service via Zoom

Sunday, July 25 at 10:00 AM: Rabbi Cohen's Study Session via Zoom

Wednesday, July 28 at 10:00 AM: Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

- CAS Annual Meeting
- The Reopening
- Save the date: Elul at the Lake
- Milchidika with Marty: Wow! What Chutzpah!
- HVAL "Reawakening" Open Juried Show
- Miranda Cohen Jewelry
- Cooking with Alison
- July Yahrzeits
- July Donations
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

CAS Annual Meeting

Congregation Ahavath Sholom's Annual Meeting took place on Monday, June 28th at 5:30 p.m. After Rabbi Cohen's opening remarks, a review of the year (July 2020 to June 2021) was given. Our very successful High Holy Days, broadcast from the synagogue on Zoom, Friday evening candle lighting services, Saturday morning services, Wednesday coffee hours, the Rabbi's study sessions and the creative arts series were all online programs that were mentioned. The CAS website and newsletter continued to expand, with Alison Adams-Weinberg cooking series a popular monthly feature. The Valentine's Day poetry presentation was also highlighted.

Plans for the upcoming High Holy Day services, with both in-person and Zoom sessions, were discussed. Our new treasurer, Daniel Burkhard's financial report for the fiscal year was presented. Incumbent Board of Directors members Linda Joseph, Dan Burkhard and Ilene Spiewak were reelected. Irene Goldman-Price was elected as a new board member. Outgoing board members Lisa Chamberlain and Ellen Axelrod were acknowledged and thanked for their outstanding service to the congregation.

The Reopening

On the morning of June 19th, the doors of our synagogue were opened for the first Ahavath Sholom in-person service since the pandemic struck. About 30 people, congregation members as well as a number of guests, attended the gathering. At the service, masks were not required for vaccinated individuals, but masks were required for non-vaccinated individuals. There was a heightened atmosphere to the wonderful service and a generally grateful feeling as we welcomed "old faces as well as new ones" in the beautiful, jewel-like space of our sanctuary. As one attendee commented, "The sense of community was wonderful."



Ahavath Sholom will also continue to offer worship, learning and social opportunities on Zoom, understanding that not everyone is comfortable to return to in-person events at this time. We will continue to offer Friday candle lighting services, Wednesday Coffee and Conversation and Sunday Study and Creative Arts sessions on Zoom. High Holy Days have been planned with both Zoom and in-person options.

Please note: You are now able to access information and register for the High Holy Days (both the two Zoom sessions and the two in-person sessions) by using the button on our website home page.

Save the date: Elul at the Lake

Please save the date for a special event "Elul at the Lake" on Saturday, August 7th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Details to follow. Check our Constant Contact emails for further information.



Milchidika with Marty: *Wow! What Chutzpah!*

[Note: This article originally appeared in the April 2017 issue of the CAS Newsletter]

How often have you heard, "Boy, does he (or she) have chutzpah." Is that good or bad? Is it something to be proud of, or ashamed of?

Chutzpah is a Yiddish term that means gall, audacity, nerve. But the word can also be defined as guts, the ability to act in many ways that might be negatively perceived and still require a certain amount of bravery.

So there seems to be both good and bad chutzpah, and occasionally "not so smart" chutzpah. I'll make my point with two old chutzpah jokes.

A little old lady gets onto a crowded bus and stands in front of a seated young girl. Holding her hand to her chest, she says to the girl, "If you knew what I have, you would give me your seat." The girl gets up and gives up the seat.

The girl takes out a fan and fans herself. The woman looks up and says "If you knew what I have, you would give me the fan." The girl gives her the fan.

Fifteen minutes later the woman gets up and says to the bus driver, "If you knew what I have, you would let me out here." The bus driver pulls over and opens the door to let her out.

As she's walking out of the bus he asks, "Madam, what is it you have?"

"Chutzpah," she replies.

I think we would agree that's not a good kind of chutzpah.

Second joke:

A little old Jewish lady sold pretzels on a street corner for 25 cents each. Every day a young man would leave his office building at lunch time, and as he passed the pretzel stand, he would leave her a quarter, but never take a pretzel.

And this went on for more than three years. The two of them never spoke. One day, as the young man passed the old lady's stand, and left his quarter as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him.

"Sir, I appreciate your business. You are a good customer, but I have to tell you that the pretzel prices have gone up to 35 cents."

I'm not sure if that's good or bad chutzpah.

Of course, there are examples of good chutzpah that goes all the way back to biblical times.

When we read the story of God and Abraham discussing the fate of Sodom, and God's decision to destroy it; Abraham speaks up and challenges God's decision.

"Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are 50 righteous within the city; will you indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous ones who are in it?"

That's probably good chutzpah and bravery.

During World War II, the German army had surrounded the town of Bastogne in France, which the American army was defending at the time.

The Germans sent an emissary to the American commander, General Anthony McAuliffe, with a written message demanding that the U.S. forces in and near Bastogne surrender since they were encircled by strong German armored units.

McAuliffe's famous written reply was the one word, "Nuts."

Strangely enough, when the German general received the written reply, he didn't understand the American slang and had to ask an aide "What is this word nuts?"

Good chutzpah and brave.

An example of not so smart chutzpah:

A man was arrested in Georgia for breaking into the sheriff's office to steal guns.

So the next time you hear someone say something that you think is really nervy, you'll have to ask yourself, "Is that good or bad chutzpah?"

In doing research for this article I came across a legal chutzpah story:

A man goes to a lawyer and asks "How much do you charge for legal advice?"

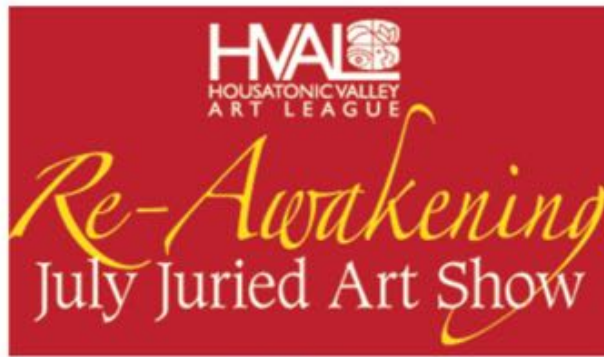
"One-thousand dollars for three questions."

"Wow! Isn't that kind of expensive?"

"Yes it is. What's your third question?"

HVAL Reawakening Open Juried Show

The Housatonic Valley Art League is returning to a live venue, after a one-year hiatus, with an exhibition at the Masonic Temple on 232 Main Street in Great Barrington. This will also be the first time the show will run concurrently online (www.hvart.org). The in-person exhibit runs throughout July (Thursday through Sunday); the online exhibit runs through August. CAS members Joan Burkhard and Arthur Hillman have work in the show. Joan received an Honorable Mention for her painting "Caffenated" and Arthur received an Award of Excellence for his photo image "Magic Landscape I."



See it in-person
at the Masonic Temple,
232 Main St., Great Barrington, MA
July 1 – July 31
Thurs. – Sun., 10 a.m – 5 p.m.
or
See it online at www.hvart.org
July 1 – August 31.

Miranda Cohen Jewelry

Concepts of Art in Lenox is featuring the work of Miranda Cohen, daughter of CAS members John Slote and Nancy Cohen. Miranda is a jewelry maker, graphic designer and artist who grew up in Lenox and was bat mitzvahed at CAS. Miranda recently moved back east after living in Austin, Texas for five years, and will attend the MFA program in Graphic Design at the Maryland Institute College of Art this fall.



Miranda designs and cuts her jewelry components on a laser-cutter, a machine that uses a high-power laser to cut through and engrave material. Through her use of contemporary materials and processes, she creates Judaica that is a reflection of her own personal connection with Judaism, and hopes her designs will speak to a new generation of Jews.

Miranda also sells her jewelry on Etsy, at "mirandacohenmakes."

Cooking with Alison

The seventh cooking demonstration from our own Alison Adams-Weinberg's kitchen is a blueberry tart. **We have installed the video on the CAS website along with Alison's other cooking videos.** Please check it out! The printed recipe is below.

Blueberry Tart



I got this recipe from Karen Bennett

Ingredients

- 1 cup white flour
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 tbsp white sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature (1 stick)
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tbsp white flour
- Dash cinnamon
- 4 cups blueberries

Directions

1. Using a food processor, mix the flour, salt, sugar, butter, vinegar. Mix till it comes together. Place in a springform pan and go about 1/2 way up the sides. Use your fingers to spread. When I wear a latex glove, it is easier to spread. Do not grease pan.

Mix in a bowl, using a spoon, the sugar, flour, cinnamon, and 3 cups of blueberries.

Pour into the crust and bake at 400 degrees for approximately 45 min to one hour. You can tell when it is done when it has a nice brown color (be careful that the edges of the crust don't burn).

Cool for 10 minutes and, using a knife, go around edges so that you can then release the springform pan. When completely cool, spread 1 cup of blueberries on top and, if you like, sprinkle with confectioner's sugar and serve.

July Donations

In memory of Don Barron

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Arthur and Louise Hillman
Barbara Janoff

In memory of my mother, Doris Kassler

Sandra Flannery

In memory of Don Victor and Joan Sussman

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In memory of Mitsue Mitsuda, Louise's mother

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In appreciation of the Creative Arts Workshops

Arthur and Louise Hillman

General donations

Joseph B. Gellert
Milton Lestz and Neil Irick
Paul and Frances Lippmann
Anthony and Susan Pupo

July 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	2021 DATE
John Armstrong	Tammuz 22 5763	7/2
Doris Soman	Av 06 5773	7/15
Joan Sussman	Av 8 5766	7/17
Jessica Berson	Av 10 5779	7/19
Meyer David Graubard	Av 13 5660	7/22
Ira Rogovin	Av 15 5763	7/24
Mitsue Mitsuda	Av 15 5768	7/24
Doris Deborah Kassler	Av 20 5730	7/29
Al Silverstein	Av 21 5767	7/30

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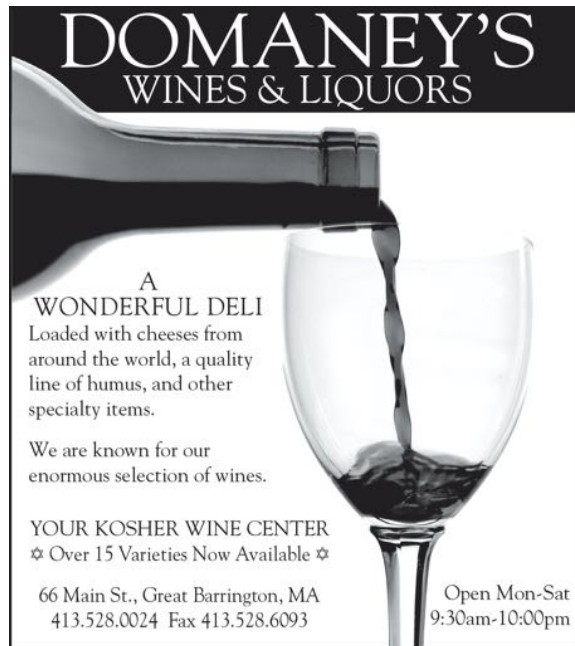
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