Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

Friday, 30 October 2026 / 19th of Cheshvan, 5787

Parashat Vayera

Coming Up @CAS

Monday, November 2 **Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Wednesday, November 4 10:00 AM on Zoom **Cafe Kehilah**

Friday, November 6 5:00 PM in Housatonic **Kabbalat Shabbat**

Saturday November 7 10:00 AM in Housatonic **Shabbat Morning Services**

From Rabbi Rudin

Friends,

The hills are on fire this week. Maple and oak, birch and beech, every shade of gold and crimson spread across the ridgelines. There is nothing like autumn in the Berkshires. Nothing. And every year it stops me in my tracks, the way the season asks us to slow down, to look up, to notice.

The leaves have something to teach us, too. They let go together. They fall together. And when the branches are bare, it is the gathering we remember.

So this season, I want to invite you to gather. Come to services. Join us on Wednesdays for Cafe Kehilah on Zoom. Write with us at the Memoir Workshop, look closely with us at the Photography Workshop, and find your words at our Poetry Class, in person. There are so many ways to be together right now — so many doors, all of them open.

And not every gathering needs a program or a sign-up sheet. Some of the most meaningful moments in a community happen around a kitchen table. Invite someone for Shabbat dinner. Light the braided candle for a simple Havdalah, the ceremony of separation that closes Shabbat, on a Saturday afternoon. Or just put on a pot of coffee and call a friend. It doesn't have to be big. It only has to be real.

What makes CAS special? It is the way we reach out. It is the way we show up. It is the way we hold each other — in joy, in loss, and in all the ordinary days in between.

So please, keep reaching out. Keep coming out. Support one another, and you will feel better for it. I promise.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Rudin

🕯️ Prepare for Shabbat

Lean into the joyful celebration of Simchat Torah! Here are three ways to prepare.

🎶 Sing
Ana El Na - אנא אל נא
Nava Tehila נאוה תהילה

Meditate
Ken Y'hi Ratzon by Elana Arian - complete practice

🎧 Learn
For Heaven's Sake, a podcast from the Shalom Hartman Institute