



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

CAS Newsletter

July 2024

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, July 3 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Monday, July 8 at 5:00 PM: July Board Meeting at the synagogue

Wednesday, July 10 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, July 12 at 5:00 PM: Erev Shabbat Service at the synagogue

Sunday, July 14 at 6:00 PM: CAS Annual Meeting followed by potluck at the synagogue

Monday, July 15 at 12:00 PM: Memoir Workshop via Zoom
at 7:00 PM: Photography Workshop via Zoom

Wednesday, July 17 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, July 19 at 5:00 PM: Shabbat candle lighting with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, July 21 at 2:00 PM: *Stories My Grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, Told Me*, by Toby Axelrod

Wednesday, July 24 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, July 27 at 10:00 AM: Traditional Shabbat Service with Rabbi Cohen at the synagogue

Wednesday, July 31 at 10:00 AM: Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

CAS Annual Meeting

Some CAS Updates

***Stories My Grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, Told Me*, a talk by Toby Axelrod**

July Creative Arts Workshops

July Yahrzeits

July Donations

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CAS Annual Meeting – Sunday, July 14th

Congregation Ahavath Sholom's annual meeting will take place in-person on Sunday, July 14th at 6:00 PM at our North Street synagogue. The agenda includes a review of the past year. Those members who are leaving the Board of Directors will be recognized and a vote to elect new members will take place. The financial health of our congregation will be discussed, as well as future planning. The business part of the meeting will be followed by a potluck dinner. Please RSVP and indicate what you will be bringing to the potluck by contacting Debbie Slater at dslater@cramermediaint.com

Some CAS Updates

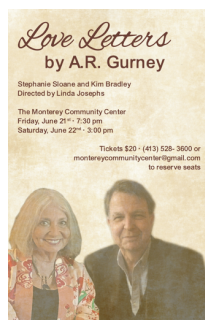
Please make a memorial board donation

Our new memorial board panel will soon be installed in the synagogue. It will be added to the bronze plaque that has the names, birth dates and death dates--in English and Hebrew--of people who shared in our community, our building, and our rituals. The dates on the individual name plaques range from 1921 until this year. When it is the anniversary (yahrzeit) of that person's death, a light is turned on. Lit or unlit, the names remind us of what a community is: a connection that transcends time and space. We ask you to contribute--any amount is welcome--to this act of remembrance and continuity. The new board will cost about \$5,000. A generous donation has gotten us started toward this goal. Now we hope that many more "hands" will contribute and begin a new one-hundred-year journey along with those who came before us. To donate, send a check to Congregation Ahavath Sholom, PO Box 464, Great Barrington MA 01230 or use the online donation portal on our website.



Love Letters production a rousing success

On June 21st and June 22nd, CAS member Stephanie Sloane was joined by Kim Bradley in a wonderful performance of A.R. Gurney's classic play, *Love Letters*. The production, directed by congregation member Linda Josephs, was held in the cozy confines of the Monterey Community Center to a full house on both dates.



The People's Pantry needs your contributions

Please continue to bring your donations of food to support our local pantry. Some suggested items include summer or picnic complements like relish, mayonnaise, ketchup, and mustard. Potato or tortilla chips, salsa and pickles would also be welcome. Help your neighbors; bring items along when you attend CAS services or events.



“Stories My Grandfather, Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, Told Me”

How a Polish rabbi ended up in a 60-year pulpit in the Berkshires and other Tales

A talk by Toby Anne Axelrod

On Sunday July 21st at 2:00 PM, Toby Anne Axelrod, the granddaughter of Rabbi Jacob Axelrod, spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom from 1927 until 1984, will give a talk about the life of her grandfather and her memories of growing up as a part of Congregation Ahavath Sholom.

Ms. Axelrod writes, “My zeyde, an Orthodox rabbi, found the job at this small synagogue in Great Barrington, MA in 1927. He answered an ad in a Jewish newspaper two years after he came to America and was the congregation's Rabbi for 60 years until 1984. He also served as the religious leader and *shochet*, kosher butcher, of Great Barrington's small Jewish community. The synagogue building had been sold to a Jewish junk dealer (Mr. Broverman) who had made a promise to open a shop at that location. Instead, to the chagrin of town officials, the little, white, two-story frame house became Ahavas Sholom - Love of Peace Synagogue.” The historic building on North Street in Great Barrington is still the home of the congregation and is the longest synagogue building in continuous use in the Berkshires.



Rabbi Jacob Axelrod at the Bima
Photograph by Don Victor



Rabbi Axelrod in 1966



An aerial view of Congregation Ahavath Sholom and the butcher shop
Photograph by Don Victor



Rabbi Axelrod at the door of the shop
Photograph by Don Victor



Toby Anne Axelrod

Toby Anne Axelrod is a freelance journalist for JTA (Jewish Telegraphic Agency) based in Berlin, Germany, and lives part-time in Great Barrington.

The talk is free; donations to the synagogue are appreciated.

Please RSVP to casoffice15@gmail.com or 914-319-1621

July Creative Arts Workshops

The next Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for Monday, July 15th at noon. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at bjanoff1@gmail.com. Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

Barbara Janoff Ph.D. 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 JESHOOOTS on unsplash

The next Photography Workshop will also take place on Monday, June 15th, at 7:00 PM. 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. 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 Andrew Neel on Unsplash

July 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	English Date	This Year
David W. Goldman	Sivan 25		7/1
Jason Cohen	Sivan 25	6/3/2013	7/1
Eileen Muriel (Sawyer) Geffin	Sivan 26	6/17/1982	7/2
Maurice Innerfield	Sivan 27	7/3/59	7/3
Ilbert Stahl	Sivan 28	6/7/1975	7/4
Marion Cohn	Sivan 29	6/27/2014	7/5
Jim Secundy	Tammuz 01	6/10/1994	7/7
Murray Paikin	Tammuz 4	6/24/1974	7/10
Anita Bakst	Tammuz 5	7/14/2022	7/11
"Skip" Lloyd Hood	Tammuz 9	6/30/1982	7/15
Dorothy Holiner Rosen	Tammuz 12	7/20/1967	7/18
Donald Victor	Tammuz 14	7/20/2016	7/20
Philip Pinchos Geffin	Tammuz 17	6/29/2010	7/23
John Armstrong	Tammuz 22	7/22/2003	7/28
Esther K. Slater	Tammuz 23	7/29/2005	7/29

July Donations

In honor of Linda Josephs, Director, "Love Letters"

In celebration of Stephanie Sloane and Kim Bradley for their performances in "Love Letters"

Debbie Slater

In memory of my mother on her Yahrzeit

Debbie Slater

In memory of Anita Bakst and Don Victor

Arthur and Louise Hillman

For our new Memorial Board

Laura Chekow

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Barbara Janoff

In celebration of our 55th Wedding Anniversary

Arthur and Louise Hillman

General Donations

Linda Kanter-Josephs

In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Ross Bettinger

Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir)

Linda Geffin (Memoir)

Arthur Hillman (Memoir)

Barbara Janoff (Photography)

Linda Josephs (Memoir)

Carol Killian (Memoir)

Michele Waldman (Photography)

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