



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER December 2019

Upcoming services and events

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Cohen followed by coffee, tea, sweets and conversation.

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am: Poetry Writing Workshop led by Barbara Janoff. Admission is free to CAS members; non-members \$10 at the door. Reservations are required; contact CASoffice15@gmail.com to reserve a space.

Tuesday, December 12: Deadline for delivery of photographs to the synagogue for *Presence, Nostalgia and Memory, Part II*, photographs of our ancestors.

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 pm: 2019 CAS Hanukkah Party is being held once again at our synagogue on North Street! Please RSVP by December 11 (contact Alison Adams-Weinberg at adamsweinberg@gmail.com or call 914-319-1621). We need to know how many are coming and what vegetarian dish you will be bringing.

This month's newsletter features:

- ***Double Dutch***, a very special event
- ***Poetry Writing Workshop*** with Barbara Janoff
- **CAS 2019 Hanukkah Party**
- **Milchidika with Marty: *What would you have done?***
- ***Presence, Nostalgia and Memory, Part II***, photographs of our ancestors
- **CAS Book Group**
- **December Yahrzeits**
- **December Donations**
- **CAS Advertisers and Sponsors**

Double Dutch, a very special event

The program *Double Dutch* was presented at the synagogue on November 17th by two Berkshires-based renowned Dutch journalists, Freke Vuijst and Reinout van Wagtendonk.

The discussion about Immigration in the Berkshires, the US and Europe was based on research as well as personal experiences; a five minute audio segment featured the varied voices of many local immigrants. Reinout and Freke report on American politics and culture for Dutch media. Their podcast, *DoubleDutch*, is listened to by Dutch-speaking people throughout the world. Their talk included the need for immigration laws and examined the human rights violations in practice today. Many questions from the audience were answered and discussed by these two knowledgeable and effective speakers.



Freke Vuijst is American correspondent for the Dutch magazine, *Vrij Nederland*. She is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and the author of four books. Her latest book, *Alias Fortezza, a Hacker's Odyssey*, was released by Audible this year. She has lived in Great Barrington for forty years.

Reinout van Wagtendonk is a freelance journalist. He recently wrote the series called *Accents, the Stories of our Immigrant Neighbors*, in *The Berkshire Eagle*. He was the US correspondent for BNR Nieuwsradio and other Dutch radio outlets.

Poetry Writing Workshop with Barbara Janoff

On Sunday, December 8th, 2:00 p.m. at the synagogue, Barbara Janoff will conduct a **Poetry Writing Workshop**. Admission is free to CAS members; non-members \$10 at the door.

"Writing poems is a process that begins by paying attention to our surroundings and the musings of our minds. This generative workshop will offer writing exercises designed to stimulate our imaginations and a variety of poems meant to inspire revisions. No formal writing experience necessary." Reservations are required; contact CASoffice15@gmail.com to reserve a space.



Barbara Janoff Ph.D. is an associate professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York in Manhattan, where she teaches writing and literature. Before her full-time faculty appointment, she served as interim dean of the college's division of Continuing Education. As writing coordinator for the college, she developed "The Craft of Writing Poetry" for the Presidential Scholars program and coauthored *The Graphic Designer's Guide to Better Business Writing*.

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*.

This workshop is the last event in the CAS Fall Creative Arts Series.

Our 2019 Hanukkah Party

The 2019 CAS Hanukkah Party will be held on Saturday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m. As we did last year, we will be celebrating at the synagogue on North Street!



Our building will be radiating light and will feature a delectable selection of vegetarian potluck dishes. Please bring latkes and/or your favorite dish. **Please RSVP by December 11** (contact Alison Adams-Weinberg at adamsweinberg@gmail.com or 914-319-1621). We need to know how many people are coming and what vegetarian or *pareve* dish you are bringing to the feast. Kindly bring a list of ingredients used in your dish, and please make or bring enough for 10 servings.

We look forward to seeing you at the party!

Milchidika with Marty: *What would you have done?*

I recently watched the movie "Schindler's List" on a Netflix DVD.

I had been avoiding watching this award-winning film for years; since I really knew what it was about, and didn't want to be reminded of the horrors of the Nazi death camps; and the fate of all the victims, not only the Jews.

We may say, "This all happened almost 75 years ago, and why bring up the past?"

I think we should keep these memories alive, with the thought that it could happen again. Probably not in this country, but somewhere in the world. If not to the Jews, then possibly others.

My former mother-in-law and father-in-law (parents of my wife who died) were German Jews living in the small town of "Ansbach" in Bavaria, Germany, during the 1930's.

My father-in-law served as a private, in the German army during the World War 1, was in a battle, and earned a medal for heroism. He theoretically fought against my father, who also served as a private, but in the American army.

My father-in-law, whose name was Karl, and my mother-in-law whose name was Paula, considered themselves good German citizens; who just happened to be Jewish. Germany was the country of their birth and their homeland. Being Jewish was secondary. Their families had lived in Germany for many, many years.

When World War 1 ended, Karl started a wholesale hardware business, that soon was thriving. He could now afford a home in Ansbach, have a live-in-housekeeper, a new car, and a lovely eight-year-old daughter named Marion.

Karl was the owner of the business, and the chief salesman. He would dress the part; leaving home each day to visit his customers, in his freshly pressed suit, and with a flower picked from the garden in his lapel. He was a real Bon Vivant. A likeable guy and a good salesman.

This was 1935 or so. Hitler had come to power, and Karl like many other Jews, believed that Hitler would never last. Paula was frightened by what was going on, and urged him to emigrate. But he, as the head of the family, decided that they should stay.

By the way, just like in the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," Paula let him think that he was the head of the family, but as she always said, "She was the neck that made the head turn." So, she acceded to his wishes and they stayed.

I may have my dates wrong, but basically as we know, the Nazis promulgated a series of anti-Jewish laws around that time.

Jewish children were no longer allowed in the classroom, and soon Marion found she couldn't attend school with her friends. The Jews were then forced to register, and all the Jewish men regardless of their birth name had to take the name "Abraham" and all the women, the name "Sarah." Karl became Abraham and Paula became Sarah. They were not yet forced to wear the "Star of David" on their clothing.

Years later, Karl showed me his registration documents stamped "Juden" and with a big swastika imprinted across it. At that time, Hitler had not yet begun his policy of extermination, but was encouraging the Jews to leave the country by making life difficult for them.

Later, Karl was rounded up with other Jewish men in his town, and sent to a concentration camp, where he was imprisoned for a few months. The local Ansbach mayor ultimately obtained his release as well as the release of others.

At that point Paula "the neck" said, "We're leaving."

In those years, there were very few countries that would accept Jewish immigrants. Some South American countries, mainly Argentina, Cuba and a few others, as well as England, and I believe Shanghai.

In order to emigrate, you first had to obtain an "Exit Permit" as well as give up all your wealth and valuable possessions. Karl had to sell his home, his business, and automobile to non-Jewish bargain hunters, but was not able to take any of the proceeds out of the country. He had to hand over his accumulated wealth to the Nazi government.

They ultimately applied for an "exit permit" which was granted; and were permitted to emigrate to England, where they were accepted.

They were permitted to fill a large wooden container, the size of a small room; with furniture, foodstuffs, bedding, clothing, etc. But no jewelry or any other valuables. Paula in later years described this huge wooden box, as a "Lift." I sense it was because it was lifted by cranes onto the boat that would ultimately take them to England.

They were permitted to take a total of \$500 in currency.

What a decision. Leave the country of your birth, give up most of your possessions, and emigrate to a country where you don't speak the language, and where you don't really want to be.

They arrived in England; and settled in a suburb of London, in a small town known as "Golder's Green."

"Golder's Green" at that time, (and now) had a large Jewish population, and that is probably why they chose it.

Since they did not speak English and were German foreigners, they had difficulty in finding employment. No one would hire them. "After all, they might really be Nazis in disguise."

Karl ultimately became a dishwasher in an English restaurant; and Paula a housekeeper for a wealthy English family.

Three year later, a relative who already lived in the United States, was able to "sponsor" them, guaranteeing that they had a job, and would not be a burden to the United States government. They found an apartment in Astoria, Queens.

Karl was able to get a job as a welder in a factory in Brooklyn that manufactured metal door frames. Every day he would leave for work in his rough overalls, with a flower tucked into his lapel, lunch box in hand and spend the day in a hot, dirty factory welding metal door frames. Karl was my hero. Still a Bon Vivant.

Paula got a job in a factory that manufactured lamp shades, sitting on an assembly line day after day, putting together lamp shades and never complaining. And she was my heroine.

I think to myself, here I live comfortably in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Suppose I was forced to leave this country and decided to emigrate to Portugal; the only country that would accept me. I don't speak Portuguese, don't know the country. How would I survive?

I ultimately married their daughter Marion. Her parents insisted, that for us to begin our marriage properly, we must have a set of Rosenthal China, Sterling Silver tableware, and a comforter for the bed filled with goose down known in German as a "Daunen Decken." They supplied it all.

Presence, Nostalgia and Memory, Part II, photographs of our ancestors

December features *Presence, Nostalgia and Memory, Part II*, a continuation of our current exhibit of photographs of our ancestors in the CAS Upstairs Gallery.

Please deliver photographs of your ancestors to the synagogue by December 12th.

The description below is curator Ilene Spiewak's call for images:

Here it is:

I'm looking for photographs.

Do you have images of your immigrant family from the past?

Evoked by the stillness of photographic portraiture, clouds of memory and relationship will rise to our collective consciousness.

We can share our existence with the perpetual presence of photographs from a time already gone.

Do you see it?

CAS Book Group

The CAS book group will meet on the last Sunday of January 2020 and then every other month throughout 2020. All sessions start at 10:15. For more information contact Helen Radin (email hrad1@gmail.com)

The first three book selections are:

"Irena's Children" by Tilar Mazzeo. From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Widow Clicquot* comes an extraordinary and gripping account of Irena Sendler—the "female Oskar Schindler"—who took staggering risks to save 2,500 children from death and deportation in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

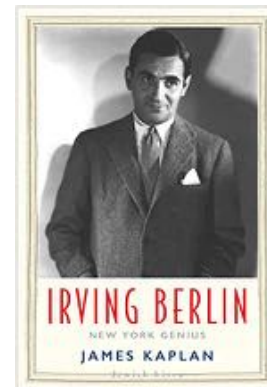
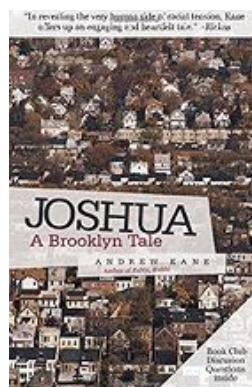
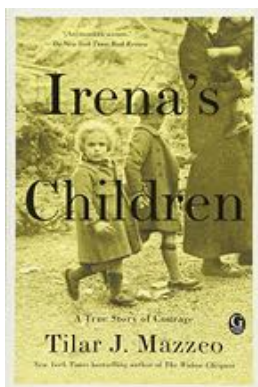
Discussion will be led by Helen Radin on Sunday, January 26th.

"Joshua: A Brooklyn Tale" by Andrew Kane Against a backdrop of racial tensions and spanning four decades, *JOSHUA: A Brooklyn Tale* explores the entanglements of three lives: Joshua Eubanks, a young black man struggling to overcome the crime, drugs, and despair of the streets; Rachel Weissman, daughter of a Hassidic rabbi, wrestling pangs of rebelliousness against the insular and restrictive practices of her religion; and Paul Sims, the product of a privileged Long Island Jewish family, yearning to escape his troubled past.

Discussion will be led by Martha Katz on Sunday, March 29th.

"Irving Berlin: A New York Genius" by James Kaplan. From the prizewinning Jewish Lives series, a fast-moving, musically astute portrait of arguably the greatest composer of American popular music.

Discussion led by Peter Edelman on Sunday, May 31st.



December Jahrzeits

“Much of our experience of divine goodness, grace and love has come to us through those whose lives have touched our own.”

Kol Haneshamah

Frank Rawitz	Kislev 06 5743	12/4
Joyce Victor	Kislev 06 5773	12/4
Mildred Hillman	Kislev 07 5753	12/5
Nechame Soloveichik	Kislev 08 5701	12/6
Gussie Osterweil	Kislev 08 5735	12/6
Martha Gellert	Kislev 12 5752	12/10
Irving Innerfield	Kislev 12 5737	12/10
Harry Fine	Kislev 12 5748	12/10
Sally Fine	Kislev 12 5756	12/10
Freya Maier	Kislev 16 5764	12/14
Barbara Joslyn	Kislev 18 5754	12/16
Susan Parker	Kislev 18 5760	12/16
Monroe Lefkowitz	Kislev 20 5770	12/18
Hilda Isaacs	Kislev 24 5758	12/22
Sallie Slote	Kislev 27 5752	12/25

December donations

In appreciation of Linda Josephs and the CAS Theatre Group
Ellen Axelrod

In memory of her husband Robert
Judith Cohen

In memory of Mildred Hillman
Arthur and Louise Hillman

In appreciation of Linda Joseph's acting workshop
Barbara Janoff

In appreciation of the CAS Theatre Company
Barry and Marjorie Shapiro

Other donations
Stuart Greenberg
Karen and Charles Schader
Lewis Schiller

CAS Advertisers and Sponsors



18 Franklin Street • Lenox, MA
 Phil Cohen, Owner facebook.com/bagelandbrew
 413-637-0055 bagelandbrew@gmail.com



Celebrating 60 years
Ward's
 WHERE GARDENERS GROW
 Great Barrington, MA
 Open Daily - 413-528-1196 - www.wardsnursery.com



Wheeler & Taylor
 Insurance • Real Estate
 SINCE 1871

333 Main St. Gt. Barrington MA 01230 413-528-1000	402 East St. Pittsfield MA 01201 413-468-8224	96 Main St. Sheffield MA 01257 413-229-8064	44 Main St. Stockbridge MA 01262 413-298-5584
--	--	--	--

www.wheelerandtaylor.com



Discover...
 Effective & Affordable
 Advertising for Everyone!

TRI-STATE CIRCULATION 24,500

SHOPPERS GUIDE
 141 West Avenue, Great Barrington, MA 01230
 413-528-0095 • www.shoppersguide-inc.com

Naomi Alson
 Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist

11 Quarry Hill Road
 413-243-8255 or 413-243-3223
 email: Nalson247@hotmail.com



CARR HARDWARE & SUPPLY, INC.
 SERVING THE BERKSHIRES SINCE 1928
 256 Main St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
 52 Park St., Lee, MA 01238
 Phone: 413-528-4520 Fax: 413-528-6809
www.carrhardware.com

11



JK CUSTOM FURNITURE & DESIGN
jkcabinetsandfurniture.org
 413. 429. 6840

DAVID M. LAZAN Attorney at Law
 Lazan Glover & Puciloski, LLP

GT. BARRINGTON PITTSFIELD BOSTON	785 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230 (413) 644-0200 Fax (413) 644-0201 Email: lazan@lazanlaw.com
--	---

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE CAS ADVERTISERS

DOMANEY'S WINES & LIQUORS



A
WONDERFUL DELI
Loaded with cheeses from
around the world, a quality
line of humus, and other
specialty items.

We are known for our
enormous selection of wines.

YOUR KOSHER WINE CENTER
✧ Over 15 Varieties Now Available ✧

66 Main St., Great Barrington, MA
413.528.0024 Fax 413.528.6093

Open Mon-Sat
9:30am-10:00pm

Eco Dry Cleaners & Tailoring

413) 528-0004

165 Main St. Great Barrington MA 01230

Organic Dry Cleaning

- No more Bacteria, No more Odor
- Rinses Clean with No Irritating Residue

Professional Tailoring

- Wedding Dress, Party Dress

Home Decoration

- Custom Made Curtains & Drapery

FUR & RUG Cleaning

- Oriental & Hand-made

Shoe Repair

- 35 Years Experienced

Zipper Fix

	8am ~6pm	Promotions
Mon - Fri	8am ~6pm	
Sat	9am~4pm	Cash Prepaid : Dry Clean <u>10% Off</u>
Lord's Day	Closed	Store Name :



Joy Robin Dronge

Juilliard Trained
award winning performer & composer

Music Lessons

flute † piano † recorder † performance
private & groups for ages 2-102 reasonable rates
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com



Joy Robin Dronge

Juilliard Trained Musician

Wedding Music Coordinator & Performer

all instruments—classical & jazz
Arranging live wedding music in the Berkshires since 1974
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com


Mary White

BROKER OWNER

271 Main St, Great Barrington, MA 01230
27c Housatonic St, Lenox, MA 01240

o 413-528-4423 c 413-329-6342
Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com | www.BarnbrookRealty.com

Barnbrook



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Bringing you home from near and far

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE CAS ADVERTISERS

THE GREAT BARRINGTON BAGEL
COMPANY INC.



WHERE YOU CAN TASTE THE
DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIZING IN:
• SMOKED FISH • DELI SANDWICHES •
• GOURMET SALADS • PARTY PLATTERS

LET US HELP YOU PLAN
YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION

777 SOUTH MAIN ST. GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 413-528-9085 FAX 528-1539

Dino Zabian



LENNOX JEWELERS
D i a m o n d s

165 Main Street
PO Box 261
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Tel. 413.717.4239
Fax: 413.717.4251
mail@lennoxjewelers.com



MIELKE
("MILKY")
CONFECTIONS

— FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1961 —

260 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA

800-345-2462

www.mielkeconfections.com
Like Us on Facebook/mielkeconfections

*Offering Old Favorites and many
New Surprises such as Berkshire Treats...
Gift Baskets of any size filled with
Mielke Confections and other
locally made Berkshire products:*



THE SNAP SHOP

14 RAILROAD STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON MA 01230

413-528-4725

TUE - FRI 9-5:30 SAT 9-4

CLOSED SUN & MON

STEVE & TONY

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE CAS ADVERTISERS