



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

June 2026

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, June 3 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Friday, June 5 at 5:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Service at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 AM:** Journey Through the Machzor, Session 1, via Zoom

**Monday, June 8 at 5:00 PM:** June Board Meeting

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

**Friday, June 12 at 6:00 PM:** Shabbat Across the Berkshires, Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

**Monday, June 15 at noon:** Memoir Workshop with Barbara Janoff

**Wednesday, June 17 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Sunday, June 21 at 11:00 AM:** Journey Through the Machzor, Session 2, via Zoom

**Monday, June 22 at 6:00 PM:** Summer Book Group: The Last Woman of Warsaw, Session 1, via Zoom  
**7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop with Arthur Hillman via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 24 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Thursday, June 25 at 4:00 PM:** Zoom Cooking Class: Cooking Four Salatim with Rabbi Rudin

**Friday, June 26 at 5:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat Service, at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Saturday, June 27 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Service at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Monday, June 29 at 6:00 PM:** Summer Book Group: The Last Woman of Warsaw, Session 2, via Zoom

*The Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire is located at 1089 Main Street, Housatonic, MA*

### This month's newsletter features

**The Joey Weisenberg Event**

**Journey through the Machzor**

**Summer Book Group**

**Zoom Cooking Class: Cooking Four Salatim**

**Notes from the May Board Meeting**

**CAS High Holidays Planning Opportunities**

**From the CAS Photography Workshop**

**Learn to Chant Torah**

**June Yahrzeits**

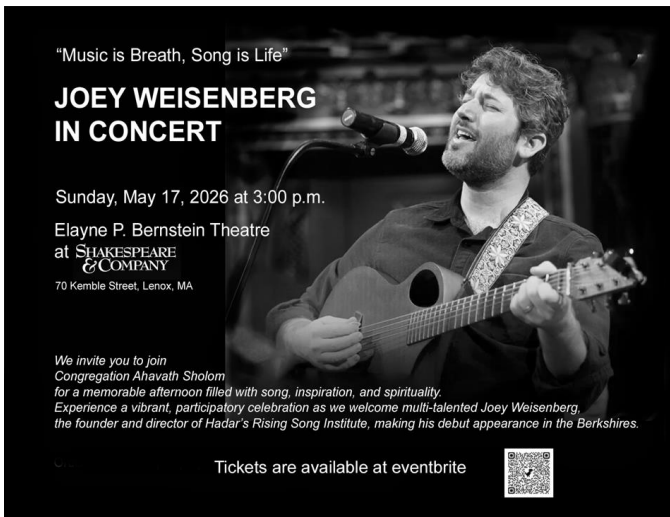
**Donations**

**Jewish Community Day**

**Shabbat Across the Berkshires**

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# The Joey Weisenberg Event

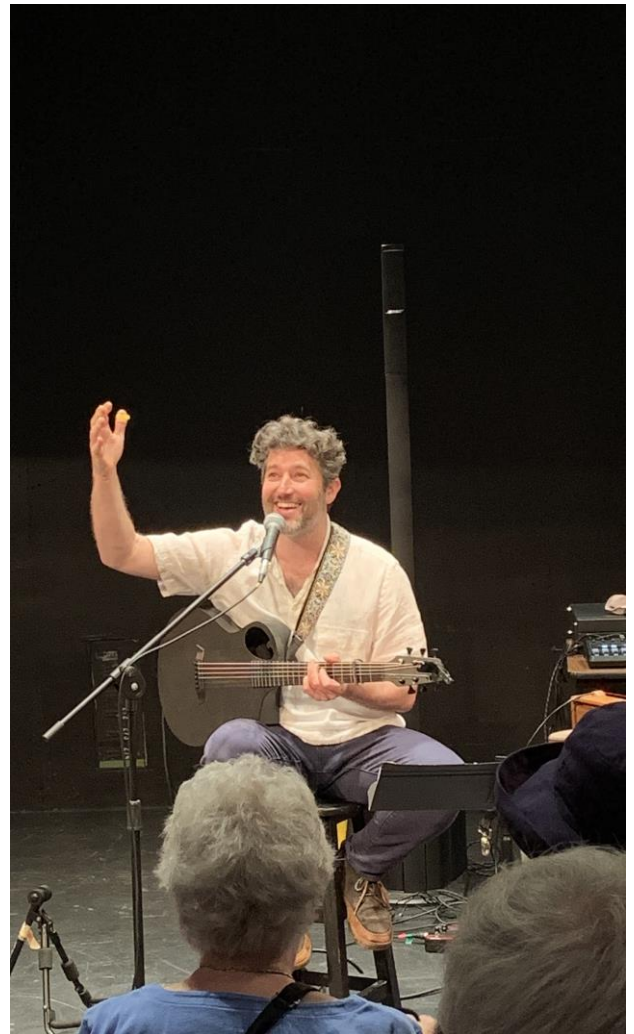
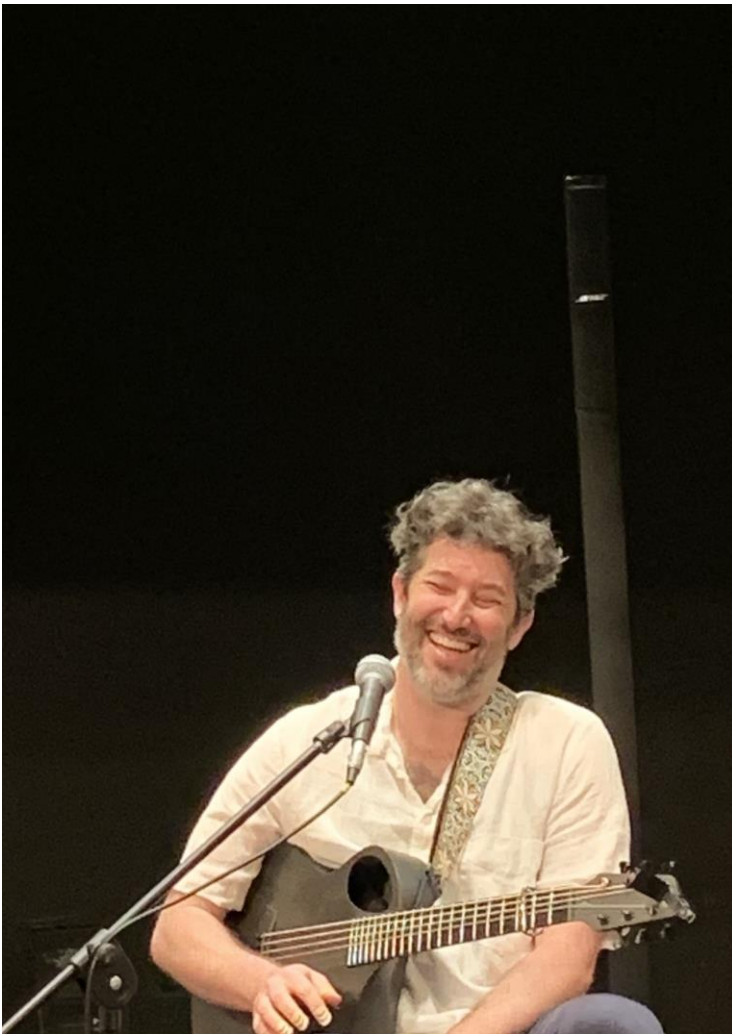


The Joey Weisenberg event on May 17<sup>th</sup> was a very successful concert and fundraiser. We thank all of the Ahavath Sholom members who bought tickets (over 80% of our members), our many friends who attended, and the many members who contributed their time, energy, expertise, and enthusiasm to make this an extremely special afternoon!

## Transported by Love

Yesterday I went to a concert  
Of a musical evocator.  
There was a clarinet set on a pedestal as a lure  
But it wasn't part of the concert.  
Joey came out with an angelic smile  
And began to create magic....  
A simple nigun that starts low,  
As all nigunim do,  
And climbs to heaven  
Before returning to the earth  
Like angels climbing up and down  
Jacob's ladder, he said.....  
This musical evocator gathered us up  
And floating on the power of his love  
We, ourselves, became empowered and in love  
With this ancient music.  
The concert ended with the clarinet untouched,  
But with a promise of an after concert  
For those in love with these ancient tonalities.  
After many had left for dinner or other worldly activities  
Joey sat down with his clarinet.  
His foot working the bellows of an ancient drone,  
He began to play music that transported  
His listeners up into the heavenly realm of transcendent love.

Carol Killian 5/18/26 (from the CAS Memoir Workshop)



Photographs by Ilene Spiewak

# Journey Through the Machzor

## A FOUR-PART SERIES JOURNEY THROUGH THE MACHZOR

Explore the beauty and wisdom of the High Holiday Prayerbook in this enriching four-part series designed for those seeking deeper connection.

SESSION ONE  
JUNE 7, 2026  
11:00 AM - NOON

Introduction to the Machzor and its structure. Discover the themes that guide us through the High Holidays.

SESSION FOUR  
AUGUST 9, 2026  
11:00 AM - NOON

Bringing it all together. Connecting the themes to our daily lives and traditions.

SESSION TWO  
JUNE 21, 2026  
11:00 AM - NOON

Exploring the prayers of Rosh Hashanah. Understanding the significance of renewal and reflection.

OPEN TO ALL

Whether you're new to the Machzor or looking to deepen your understanding, this series welcomes everyone on their spiritual journey.

SESSION THREE  
JULY 19, 2026  
11:00 AM - NOON

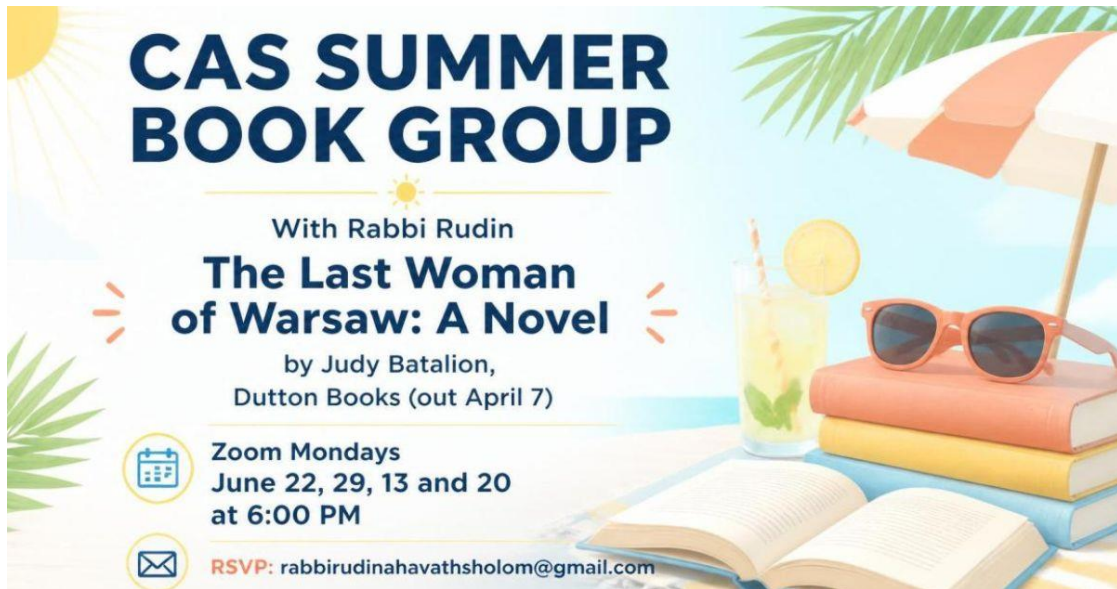
The journey through Yom Kippur prayers and the path to atonement and spiritual growth.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Join others in meaningful discussion and shared learning.

**JOIN US ON THIS MEANINGFUL JOURNEY OF REFLECTION AND CONNECTION.  
REGISTER TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT  
EMAIL: [RABBIRUDINAHAVATHSHOLOM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RABBIRUDINAHAVATHSHOLOM@GMAIL.COM)**

## Summer Book Group





**CAS SUMMER BOOK GROUP**

With Rabbi Rudin

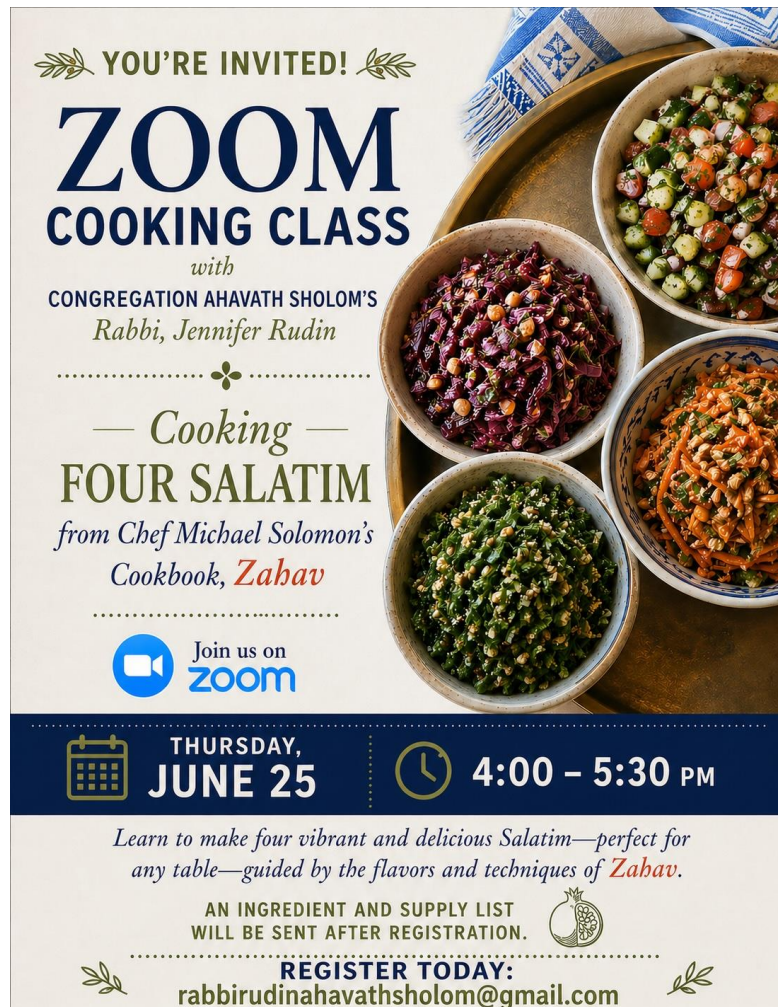
**The Last Woman of Warsaw: A Novel**

by Judy Batalion,  
Dutton Books (out April 7)

 Zoom Mondays  
June 22, 29, 13 and 20  
at 6:00 PM

 **RSVP:** rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com

## Zoom Cooking Class: Cooking Four Salatim



*YOU'RE INVITED!*


**ZOOM COOKING CLASS**


with  
CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM'S  
Rabbi, Jennifer Rudin


— *Cooking* —

**FOUR SALATIM**

from Chef Michael Solomon's  
Cookbook, *Zahav*

 Join us on  
**zoom**

 **THURSDAY, JUNE 25**

 **4:00 – 5:30 PM**

*Learn to make four vibrant and delicious Salatim—perfect for any table—guided by the flavors and techniques of *Zahav*.*

AN INGREDIENT AND SUPPLY LIST  
WILL BE SENT AFTER REGISTRATION.

**REGISTER TODAY:**  
rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com

# Notes from the May Board Meeting

May 11, 2026

- As of the week before the Joey Weisenberg concert on May 17<sup>th</sup> more than 80% of CAS members had purchased tickets to the event.
- The Hadar Caring Committee is working to set up a sustainable support system for members in need. Challenges to doing so include the median age of the congregation and the difficulty of getting around in the winter months.
- The current Religious and Spiritual Life Committee recently announced their decision to disband, citing concerns that their outlook on certain matters of CAS *minhag*—customs and traditions—was no longer in concert with a changing congregation. They affirmed their ongoing commitment to CAS and will assist in a re-envisioning of the Committee. The Board was unanimous in expressing its gratitude to the RSL for their many years of service to the congregation.
- This year's Jewish Community Day will be Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at High Lawn Farm in Lee, MA. The theme for 2026 is "Joy and Kindness." The congregation will give out painted rocks as a souvenir of the event.
- We currently have one Torah that is in usable condition. It's our largest and heaviest, but since much of the upper and lower margins are blank, it could be cut down to reduce the weight. We will seek out a *sofer* who could do this work.
- Members of the congregation recently attended an event conducted by Resetting the Table at Knesset Israel. Resetting the Table is a Jewish-affiliated organization that promotes informed discussion across ideological divides. Sessions emphasized the importance of learning how people's life experiences shape their outlook on contemporary issues. The congregation will look into bringing one of their programs to CAS.
- The Building Planning Committee is continuing to gather information relevant to the future of the North Street building, and plans to make a recommendation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

## CAS High Holidays Planning Opportunities

Planning for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur begins in June, and I would like to include as many people as possible in the process of preparing for the High Holy Days.

There truly is something for everyone to do — whether you enjoy organizing, hospitality, writing, public speaking, Torah chanting, behind-the-scenes work, or hands-on setup.

Please review the opportunities below and email me to let me know how you would like to help.

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### A. Physical Space Team

Help prepare and care for our worship space before, during, and after the holidays.

Responsibilities include:

- Friday morning, September 11:
  - setting out machzorim (High Holiday prayerbooks),
  - kippot and tallitot,
  - supplemental materials,
  - straightening pews and preparing the sanctuary.
- Picking up mum plants for the entrance, sanctuary, and welcome table.
- Straightening the space following Friday evening services.
- Saturday after services:
  - removing plants,
  - collecting kippot and tallitot,
  - boxing machzorim and supplemental materials.
- Resetting and breaking down the space again on:
  - Sunday morning, September 20
  - Monday evening, September 21

Looking for:

- 1 organizer
- 3–4 helpers

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### B. Poems & Personal Prayers Team

This summer I will offer three learning sessions exploring key themes and liturgy of the High Holy Days.

Following these sessions, congregants will be invited to submit original or attributed poems and prayers to be included in a High Holiday Supplement.

Responsibilities include:

- Collecting and organizing submissions

- Meeting with the Rabbi and a small team to select readings for services
- Coordinating printing of the supplement
- Contacting selected readers to confirm participation

Looking for:

- 1 organizer
- 2-3 people

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### C. Torah Readers

I will offer four summer learning opportunities for congregants interested in chanting three verses of Torah during High Holiday services. No prior experience is necessary. Private support and coaching will be provided by the Rabbi.

Looking for:

- 8 Torah readers

No committee meetings required.

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### D. High Holiday Personal Reflections

One of CAS's longstanding traditions is hearing congregants speak during High Holiday services, connecting personal journeys and experiences with the Torah portion and themes of the season.

If you are interested in speaking, I will work with you individually to help craft your reflection.

Looking for:

- 2-3 speakers

No committee meetings required.

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### E. Polish the Silver

A straightforward but important task that helps prepare our ritual items for the holidays.

Looking for:

- 1 volunteer

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### F. Honors & Aliyot Committee

Help assign honors and aliyot during High Holiday services.

Responsibilities include:

- Thoughtfully matching congregants with parts of the service
- Calling participants to confirm honors and participation

Looking for:

- 1 organizer
- 4 committee members

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Thank you for helping make the High Holy Days meaningful, welcoming, and community-centered at CAS. Whether you can offer a few hours or take on a larger role, your participation matters.

Please email me, [RabbiRudinAhavathSholom@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiRudinAhavathSholom@gmail.com) to let me know where you would like to help.

## From the CAS Photography Workshop



*Photographs by Barbara Janoff*

Learn to Chant Torah

# Learn to Chant Torah

For Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur & Beyond.

Join us for this four-part series with Rabbi Rudin.

Questions and registration: email [rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com](mailto:rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com)



#### Session Dates & Times:

- July 23, 5-6 PM
- August 6, 5-6 PM
- August 20, 5-6 PM
- August 27, 5-6 PM

Classes will be in person at a private home. If you are unable to attend a session, they will be recorded for your convenience.



#### What You'll Receive:

- ❖ Torah reading for Rosh HaShanah or Yom Kippur after session 2
- ❖ Text and audio recordings
- ❖ Private support with Rabbi Rudin



Location:  
In Person at a private home.



This four-part series is your opportunity to learn the art of Torah reading with personalized guidance from Rabbi Rudin in a supportive environment.

# June Jahrzeits

*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
Carol Edmonds	Sivan 17 5778	5/31/2018	6/2
Ferdinand Rosenberger	Sivan 17 5702	6/2/1942	6/2
Bonnie Greenstein	Sivan 21 5723	6/13/1963	6/6
David W. Goldman	Sivan 25		6/10
Jason Cohen	Sivan 25 5773	6/3/2013	6/10
Eileen Muriel (Sawyer) Geffin	Sivan 26 5742	6/17/1982	6/11
Ilbert Stahl	Sivan 28	6/7/1975	6/13
Marion Cohn	Sivan 29 5774	6/27/2014	6/14
Jim Secundy	Tammuz 1 5754	6/10/1994	6/16
Murray Paikin	Tammuz 4 5734	6/24/1974	6/19
"Skip" Lloyd Hood	Tammuz 9 5742	6/30/1982	6/24
Dorothy Holiner Rosen	Tammuz 12 5727	7/20/1967	6/27
Donald Victor	Tammuz 14 2776	7/20/2016	6/29

## Donations

### In memory of John Slote's father, Alfred H. Slote

Elaine Friedman  
Arthur and Louise Hillman  
Susan Weinstein

### In memory of Don Victor

Arthur and Louise Hillman  
Barbara Janoff

### In memory of Daniel Eisenstein

### In memory of Sidney Weinstein

Susan Weinstein

### In memory of Zac

### In memory of Skip Hood

### In memory of Philip Pinchos Geffin

### In memory of Eileen Geffin

Linda Geffin

### For Alison Adams-Weinberg help with my birthday party

### For Rabbi Rudin's help with the party

Elaine Friedman

### In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Lauren Behrman  
Ross Bettinger  
Bruce Frishkoff  
Linda Geffin  
Arthur Hillman  
Barbara Janoff  
Carol Killian  
Michele Waldman  
Jeff Zimmerman

### In support of the Joey Weisenberg Concert

Naomi Alson  
Roger Cohn and Patricia Brown  
Nettie Hammond  
Marion Jansen and Tom Murphy  
Irwin and Caroline Kessman  
Gail and Walter Orenstein  
Myrna Rosen  
Marcy Ross  
Lori and Dan Rothstein  
Donald and Arlene Shapiro  
Molly Souede  
Kenneth Stahl

### General Donations

Jayne Benjulian  
Marie Rudden  
Deborah Slater

# Jewish Community Day



**Jewish Community Day**  
**High Lawn Farm, Lee, MA**  
**Sunday, June 7**  
**2 – 4 pm**  
**Free and fun for every age!**

  
Jewish Federation  
OF THE BERKSHIRES



Celebrate the joy and strength of our Berkshire Jewish community with a free, fun-filled day of ice cream, food, music, activities, community tables, cows, a petting zoo, raffles, farm tours, and so much more! FREE AND FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Food available from Baladi. Enjoy High Lawn Farm's magnificent views, explore their historic museum, and farm store.

Registration requested. Get your free ticket(s) by clicking [here](#).

# Shabbat Across the Berkshires



  
**Shabbat** Across **The Berkshires**

**Shabbat Across the Berkshires**

Join with the Berkshire Jewish Community as we come together to celebrate a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat with a musical family-friendly service led by our local Rabbis, followed by a festive oneg.

**Friday, June 12 | 6:00 pm**

Hosted by  
**Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA**  
**Register: [tinyurl.com/ShabbatBerkshires2026](https://tinyurl.com/ShabbatBerkshires2026)**

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