



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

## February 2023

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, February 1 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, February 8 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, February 10 at 5:00 PM:** Pop-up Candle Lighting with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, February 15 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Wednesday, February 22 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop via Zoom

**Monday, February 27 at 12:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

**A Quiet February at CAS**

**February Creative Arts Workshops**

**Nominating Committee Looking for Three New Board Members**

**February Yahrzeits**

**February Donations**

**Community Wide Hootenanny Havdalah**

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## A Quiet February at CAS

Rabbi Barbara will be on vacation in Florida during the month of February, returning during the first week in March. As always, she will be available by phone, email, text or Zoom if anyone needs to be in touch with her for any reason...even just to say hello. She's planning a Friday evening candle lighting Zoom session at some point during February, so watch your emails for a date. She will also be continuing our Café Kehillah zoom get-togethers most Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. as well as sending out her regular Constant Contact messages.

We are also making significant progress on renovations and safety and security upgrades during this winter quiet period. Our new water heater has been installed and the walls and floor have been repaired. The area below it on the first floor has also been repaired and painted. The old air conditioner has been replaced by a brand new, more efficient, and quieter unit. The video camera system at the front door has been received, installed and is now ready to go. Other additions to our physical plant are being pursued. If you passed by the synagogue recently you will notice a dumpster out in front as we have begun cleaning out old materials and items we no longer use or need. When the final renovations are completed, we will have a janitorial service do a thorough cleaning in preparation for our reopening on North Street in the spring.

Programs continue to be offered as indicated above, in addition to the Memoir Writing and Photography Workshops. Planning is underway for another Jewish Museum presentation by Rena Tobey to be offered in the coming months.

So, while we seem to be having a quiet winter season on the surface, much is going on behind the scenes!

## February Creative Arts Workshops

The February Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for February 27th at noon. Shared readings and short writing exercises. Each of these sessions is stand-alone. Please RSVP to Barbara Janoff at [bjanoff1@gmail.com](mailto:bjanoff1@gmail.com). Suggested donation to CAS is \$10 to support our Creative Arts Programs.

*Barbara Janoff Ph.D. recently 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.*



Photo by Thought Catalog on Unsplash



Photo by Kim Becker on Unsplash

The next Photography Workshop will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 23rd. 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](mailto: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 50 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.*

## Nominating Committee Looking for Three New Board Members

In order to share the workload of the synagogue and prepare for eventual future leadership, the Board of CAS would like to add three new members.

We do not have a Board President. Rather the structure is a three-person Executive Committee consisting of Alison Adams-Weinberg, Arthur Hillman, and Linda Josephs. Dan Burkhard serves as Treasurer, and Barbara Janoff as Secretary. The Ritual and Spiritual Life Committee oversees services and holiday planning, and several other committees provide arts and cultural enrichment, social justice activities, building maintenance, web site maintenance, communication, membership, and other functions that keep our community running smoothly and warmly attached. Rabbi Barbara is of course our guiding light, our spiritual leader, and she provides pastoral care and plays an active role in most of these functions. It is important to realize that we have no paid administrative staff: all the work, beyond Barbara's, of keeping the community going is done by volunteer labor.



*Photo by The Climate Reality Project on Unsplash*

At this moment the skills most in need are: **accounting and financial skills; Web design, computer, and editorial assistance with the newsletter; building maintenance; provide P.R. for our events; and someone to liaise between the Board and the Ritual and Spiritual Life committee.** Those are the most important skills we seek, but we need others and we welcome whatever talents and expertise you might bring. To that end, the Nominating Committee is reaching out, seeking to know our membership better and to ask if you might consider service to the synagogue at this time. We hope that you will take a little time to answer the following questions, and please feel free to reach out to any of us with your own questions and thoughts.

- What is (was) your professional background?
- What volunteer roles have you played with other organizations?
- Do you have skills that you are willing to share?
- Would you volunteer for a narrowly defined task?
- Do you have suggestions for how the congregation might be more relevant to your life?
- Would you be interested in taking a leadership role in the congregation, perhaps sitting on the Board?

Thank you for your consideration; we welcome your responses and ideas. Please contact any one of us:

Joan Burkhard                      [joanburkhard@roadrunner.com](mailto:joanburkhard@roadrunner.com)

Gail Orenstein                      [ptpca@roadrunner.com](mailto:ptpca@roadrunner.com)

Irene Goldman-Price              [icgp@roadrunner.com](mailto:icgp@roadrunner.com)

## February 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	Original Date	2023 Date
Lawrence Cohen	Shevat 11 5765	1/21/2005	2/2
Dan Bongini	Shevat 12 5765	1/22/2005	2/3
Martin B. Slater	Shevat 22 5767	2/10/2007	2/13
Meyer Osterweil	Shevat 23 5719	2/1/1959	2/14
Joseph Karelitz	Shevat 26 5743	2/9/1983	2/17
David V. Schenker	Shevat 27 5753	2/18/1993	2/18
Seymour Schwartz	Shevat 27 5777	2/23/2017	2/18
Sherwin Fink	Adar1 3 5776	2/12/2016	2/24
Helen Weiner	Adar1 04 5766	3/4/2006	2/25
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	3/12/2008	2/26
Emma Mainker Graubard	Adar1 07 5660	6-Feb	2/28
Martin Sagan	Adar2 07 5771	3/12/2011	2/28

## February Donations

### In memory of Vivian Scheinmann

Susan and Carl Bagnini

### In loving memory of Vivian Scheinmann

### In appreciation of Rabbi Barbara Cohen

Barbara Drosnin

### In memory of Joy Dronge

### In memory of Vivian Scheinmann

Sandra and Bill Flannery

### In memory of Vivian Scheinmann

Fran Leibowitz and Debbie Isser

### In memory of Vivian Scheinmann

Zoe Scheinmann

### In memory of Bud Elliott

Michele Waldman

### Securing Our Second Century

Barbara Barron

Flannery Family Fund

Donald and Arlene Shapiro

Sandra Pantorno

### In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Barbara Barron (Photography Workshop)

Ross Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)

Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)

Arthur and Louise Hillman (Memoir/Photo Workshops)

Linda Josephs (Memoir Workshop)

Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)

Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

### General donations

Ellen Greenberg

Stuart Greenberg

Daniel and Amanda Schenker

Elaine Friedman

Kenneth Stahl

### In appreciation of the Winter Concert

Neal and Nancy Kaplan



## Community Wide Hootenanny Havdalah

# COMMUNITY WIDE Hootenanny Havdalah

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 | 7:00 P.M.**  
**Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield**



Join our Berkshire Rabbis, local musicians, and Hevreh's artist-in-residence, Peri Smilow, for an inspirational evening of singing, jamming and schmoozing.

All ages welcome! Bring your own tambourine, maracas, or musical shaker to join in the fun!



**Livestream at: [Knessetisrael.org/livestream](https://knessetisrael.org/livestream)**



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FAX: (413) 528-9132

27 HENRY AVENUE  
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201  
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