



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER

August 2019

Upcoming services and events

Friday, August 2, 5:30 pm: Shabbat Evening Service led by Rabbi Cohen.

Sunday, August 4, 8:00 am: The BiddingForGood/CAS online fundraising auction begins (biddingforgood.com/cas).

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am: Shabbat Morning Service with Tishe B'Av learning and discussion.

Monday, August 12, 6:00 pm: CAS Board Meeting.

Thursday, August 15, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm: People's Pantry at St. James Place, Great Barrington, MA. Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

Sunday, August 18, 10:00 pm: The BiddingForGood/CAS online fundraising auction ends.

Friday, August 23, 5:30 pm: Shabbat Evening Service led by Rabbi Cohen.

Saturday, August 31, 10:00 am: Elul in the Pool at the home of Linda Josephs.

This month's newsletter features:

- A review and photos from the **Marvelous Ms. Macher Event**
- The **CAS Creative Arts Workshops** begin again in the Fall
- The **Auction** is here!
- **Milchidika with Marty: I'M CHIQUITA BANANA**
- Our new **Board Member: Dan Burkhard**
- **Call for Art: Presence, Nostalgia and Memory**
- **Area exhibits featuring CAS members**
- **CAS Book Group**
- **The CAS Annual Meeting Minutes**
- **August Yahrzeits**
- **August Donations**
- **B'Shalom Chorale**

Marvelous Ms. Macher Fun-Rai\$ing Mixer!

What a Funrai\$ing party!!! What a marvelous group of Ms. Machers!!! On Sunday, June 30th, the women of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, along with friends and family, gathered at the home of members, Ilene Spiewak and Brenda Butler, for the party of the year. The cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts prepared by our hosts and the members of the Marvelous Ms. Macher committee, all arrayed and enjoyed in the gorgeous home of our hosts, fed our bodies while the sense of community and commitment to our beloved synagogue fed our souls. The suggestion to 'dress like you mean it' brought out a stylish and sophisticated side of all of us and our request to be in an attitude of giving and receiving brought out the generosity of our attendees in both offers of donations and time. This end of fiscal year fundraising event helped us to finish up the year without a deficit and our goals were gratefully exceeded both in attendance and donations received. Even those who could not attend made contributions in honor or memory of Marvelous Ms. Machers women who made a real difference in their lives.

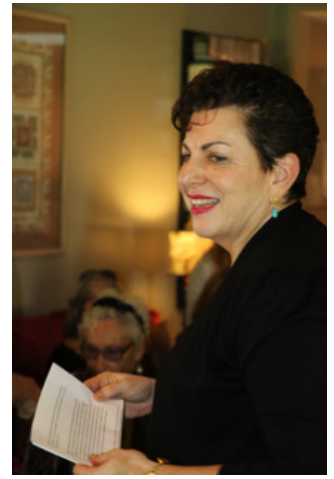
Our thanks to the Marvelous Ms. Macher committee: Lisa Chamberlain, Linda Josephs, Michele Waldman, Ilene Spiewak, Brenda Butler and Alison Adams Weinberg, who worked hard and honestly had a blast, planning this great event...the meetings were as much fun as the party!!!

Thank you to all of you who attended, contributed and supported our efforts and just a word to say... it's not too late to donate for a Marvelous Ms. Macher who is or has been important in your life.

With gratitude to all and for this wonderful Ahavath Sholom community,

Yours truly!! Barbara





The CAS Creative Arts Workshops begin again in the Fall

SELF PORTRAITURE SUNDAY

Paint what matters
Self-portraits matter
Paint beyond your mere likeness
We are looking
We want to be looked at
How do you want to show yourself?
Turn your gaze on yourself and paint

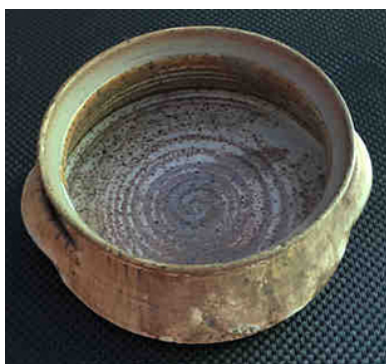
2:00 pm September 15
Art supplies, wine and snacks provided

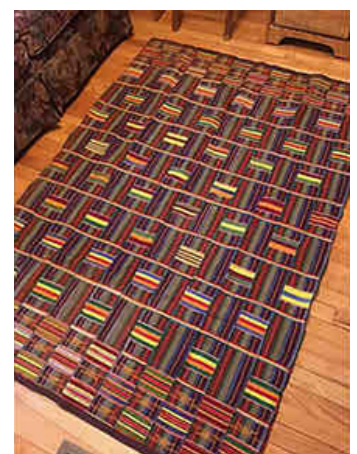
Ilene Spiewak

Here comes the Auction:

The beginning of the BiddingForGood/CAS auction officially opens on Sunday, August 4th at 8:00 a.m. We have a collection of 124 items as of August 1, with more on the way! The photographs below give you an idea of the variety of interesting possibilities you can bid on – art work (from local, national and internationally known artists), jewelry, a deluxe playground set, books, household items, Judaica, collectibles, gift certificates from local businesses and cultural venues, and many more wonderful things.

Please go online and register to bid on our auction webpage BiddingForGood.com/CAS – have fun, discover great bargains, and help the synagogue!





Check out (and bid) on these items and over 100 more on our webpage at

biddingforgood.com/c

Milchidika with Marty: I'M CHIQUITA BANANA

I was roaming around the kitchen an hour or two after dinner looking for something to eat, since I was still slightly hungry. Some crackers with cheese? A slice of bologna? A piece of leftover cake? Nah. None of those snacks enticed me.

I couldn't decide what I really wanted. Then I spotted a banana in the fruit bowl that looked like it was ready to be tossed into the garbage can. Past its prime. Not the greenish yellow looking banana that you see in the super-market, but turning brown in spots. Ready to go.

Seeing that spotted brown banana in the fruit bowl, prompted me to start singing a commercial jingle to myself from the 1940's.

"I'm Chiquita Banana, and I've come to say-bananas have to ripen in a certain way-When they are flecked with brown and have a golden hue-bananas taste the best and are the best for you-You can put them in a salad-You can put them in a pie aye-Any way you want to eat them-It's impossible to beat them-But, bananas like the climate of the very, very tropical equator-So never put bananas in the refrigerator-No, no, no."

I couldn't believe that after so many years, I could still remember the jingle. So, I took a chance and peeled the banana to see what it looked like. Not bad. Ate it, instead of tossing it.

I vaguely remember Carmen Miranda with a hat that looked like a fruit bowl making that jingle famous. It probably was the most successful commercial jingle of all times. It was written in the office of an ad agency using office talent, an old piano and a box of paper clips shaken to sound like maracas.

It was written in 1944 to teach Americans how to ripen and how to use bananas which were, at that time, an exotic tropical fruit. At its peak, the jingle was played 376 times a day on radio stations all across the United States. No wonder that I still remember it.

And just a reminder from Dinah Shore:

*See the USA in your Chevrolet
America is asking you to call
Drive your Chevrolet through the USA
America's the greatest land of all.*

Life seemed simpler then.

Not quite on point, but I saw an ad for a tee shirt with the following inscription:

**DEAR GOD
MY PRAYER THIS YEAR IS FOR A
FAT BANK ACCOUNT
AND A THIN BODY
PLEASE DON'T MIX THESE UP
LIKE YOU DID
LAST YEAR**

Our New Board Member: Dan Burkhard

"I have lived in locations in upstate New York, New Mexico, Arizona, Connecticut, and, finally, Massachusetts. Following a degree in electrical engineering from UConn, I settled in the Berkshires in 1969. I married Joan in 1970 and shortly afterward went into public education in Great Barrington, a direction which lasted for 28 years. After a stint at Berkshire Farm, I retired. I have since then worked as a computer consultant, book indexer, electrician's helper, and now, as a pen turner.

In 1975, Joan and I became employed at Riverbrook Residence in Stockbridge. This association lasted until 2017. The building at Riverbrook is designated as a "Berkshire Cottage." During that time, I was responsible for maintenance issues, bookkeeping, IT, and any other thing the CEO, my wife, Joan, asked of me.

Starting in 1974, we were involved in the founding of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. I served for 11 years as treasurer, and spent a lot of time in the renovation of Hevreh's first building on Mahaiwe Street. During that time, I had the privilege of building the first ark that Hevreh used for its services.



Joan and I have two children and five grandchildren. We are lucky to have them near enough to us to easily enjoy their company.

Joan and I joined CAS in 2009. Since then we have enjoyed the company of its members and its leadership. I look forward to being a board member and being on the Building Committee.”

Dan Burkhard

Call for Art: Presence, Nostalgia and Memory

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?

Please contact ilenespiewak@gmail.com

Area exhibits featuring CAS members

Ilene Spiewak is showing two paintings at a juried MFA Alumni Show at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts this summer. The Opening Reception is scheduled for August 7th, and will close on September 7th. If anyone is planning a visit to Philadelphia, please stop by the Hamilton Building at PAFA and see the exhibition.

An exhibition of Ilene's recent still-life paintings are on view this summer at District Kitchen and Bar on 40 West Street in Pittsfield. They are open everyday from 4:00 - 10:00 PM. Bring an appetite for truly great food and art. Haven't been there yet? Check it out!

This summer, Arthur Hillman has photographs in three Berkshire group exhibitions. Three prints from Paris are in the Housatonic Valley Art League (HVAL) Invitational Exhibit at the Masonic Temple, Main Street, Great Barrington (through August 23; Thursdays-Sundays from 11:00 am to 5 pm). Three other compositions are at the Meeting House Gallery in New Marlborough, MA in the "Water Works" exhibit (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am to 4 pm, and following *Music and More* events). The "Portfolios" exhibition in the Stationery Factory includes nine of his architectonic prints taken in a number of

museums; this exhibit features the work of the twelve photographers that comprise the Berkshire Photography Group.

CAS Book Group

Here are the remaining 2019 book meetings:

SEP 8: *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz

OCT 20: *Sisters in Law* by Linda Hirshman

NOV 17: Annual book selection and calendar

The CAS Book Group meetings are always on a Sunday, but the time varies. Make sure to check the newsletter each month.

The Book Group usually meets at a member's home. Contact **Steve Radin** for venue - and you should always check for changes as this group occasionally changes date/time.

For further information, contact Steve at sradin1@gmail.com.

CAS Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, June 23rd at 5:04 p.m. by Alison Adams-Weinberg.

Rabbi Cohen is celebrating her one-year anniversary as the Rabbi and 15 years at CAS. The congregation is doing very well in the Spiritual Energy Department.

The executive committee acts as officers of the board and also fulfills all of the office functions for CAS. The committee consists of Alison Adams-Weinberg, Linda Josephs, and Arthur Hillman. Marty Stransky assists with money issues.

The terms of the following Board Members have expired: Vivian Scheinmann, Michele Waldman, Sandra Flannery, Arthur Hillman, and Marty Stransky. They each agreed to continue in their positions. This was unanimously approved by the members present.

The congregation consists of 70 members, 32 families, and 38 individual members.

The need for a new mini split heating / AC unit for the sanctuary was discussed. The units are quieter. The cost is approximately \$6000-7000.

A stair lift was investigated but it was determined that in case of fire it would be too hazardous.

Building safety issues were discussed. Looking into sensor lights on the outside staircase and around the building. Lisa and Eric Chamberlain will donate and install.

The RSL Committee meets every 4 weeks. The members are Harold Schragar, Diana Richter, and Richard Richter, John Slote, Lisa Chamberlain, Andi Goodman, and Rabbi Cohen. Replacements are needed for the Richters and Andi Goodman, who are moving away.

Summary of events for the year:

Party celebrating the ordination of Rabbi Barbara Cohen

Elul at the pool at the Flannerys

HHD at the Berkshire South Community center

Creative arts series at CAS

Arthur Hillman, Jewish Graphic Artists

Ilene Spiewak, Still Life Sunday workshop

Barbara Janoff, Poetry workshop

All three to repeat in the fall

Linda Josephs Acting Workshop, classes continue.
Rabbi Cohen, "The False Messiah"
Second Night Seder

Fall programming in planning stages.

The Marvelous Ms. Macher fundraiser June 30 to end our fiscal year. Hosted by Ilene Spiewak and Brenda Butler. Jewish women working together to support each other and the community.

Looking for pledges not only of money but of doing things that are needed.
The idea is to be more responsive to the congregation.

Bidding for Good auction in August. Soliciting gift certificates from local restaurants and retailers would be helpful. Donations of jewelry, antiques and other interesting items are needed as well.

People's Pantry: Walter Orenstein coordinates our participation. We staff it every six weeks. Two shifts 9:15- 11:15 and 11:15 to 1:15. Volunteers are needed as well as a new coordinator since Walter would like to retire.

Board members were recognized for their service. Board members are Lisa Chamberlain, Sandra Flannery, Ann Dorfman, David Scribner, Michele Waldman, Ellen Axelrod, Vivian Scheinmann, Ilene Spiewak, Marty Stransky, Richard Richter, and Alison, Linda and Arthur.

Annual Financial Report given by Marty Stransky. We ended the year in the Black by \$1,776. Hooray!

Submitted
Nettie Hammond

August Yahrzeits

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

Kol Haneshamah

Louise Helman	Av 01 5742	8/2
Philip Schiffman	Av 03 5763	8/4
Leo Mayers	Av 03 5769	8/4
Erwin Millimet	Av 04 5775	8/5
Fannie Friedman	Av 05 5722	8/6
Shirlee Robbins	Av 05 5775	8/6
Aaron Broverman	Av 06 5732	8/7
Doris Soman	Av 06 5773	8/7
Joan Sussman	Av 8 5766	8/9
David Maskowsky	Av 13 5731	8/14
Milton Diamond	Av 13 5758	8/14
Meyer David Graubard	Av 13 5660	8/14
Samuel Kalin	Av 15 5703	8/16
Ira Rogovin	Av 15 5763	8/16
Mitsue Mitsuda	Av 15 5768	8/16
Abraham Moskowitz	Av 18 5714	8/19
Ethel Rosen Shusterman	Av 20 5722	8/21
Betty Smith	Av 20 5749	8/21
Doris Deborah Kassler	Av 20 5730	8/21
Al Silverstein	Av 21 5767	8/22
Rebecca Isserson	Av 25 5757	8/26
Beatrice Alson	Av 27 5769	8/28
Alvin Ketay	Av 27 5717	8/28
Frances Bannon	Av 28 5751	8/29

August Donations

In memory of my dear husband Al Silverstein

Barbara Janoff

For the **Marvelous Ms. Macher Fun-rai\$ing Event**

Ellen Axelrod-in honor of Dorothy Krentz
Lisa Chamberlain
Carol Cirigliano
Ann Dorfman
Denise Fogarty
Karen Chase Graubard
Linda Josephs
Ellen Kanner- in honor of Lillian Kipnis's 95th birthday
Lillian Kipnis-in honor of my three daughters
Francine Licata
Lynn Maier
Linda Mitchell
Roberta Nussbaum
Lucy Prashker
Steve and Helen Radin
Myrna Rosen
Barbara Rubin
Cory Schifano
Marcie Setlow
Rachel Silverstein
Susan Sklar
Alison Adams Weinberg

Other donations

The family of Rabbi Jacob Axelrod
Robin Berson
Ann Dorfman
Peter Edelman – Greatly enjoyed the discussion event at Barbara's house
William and Sandra Flannery
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Judith Lerner
George Menken
Charles and Karen Schader
Donald and Arlene Shapiro
Holly and Larry Steinberg

B'Shalom Chorale





B'Shalom Chorale

Jack Brown, *Conductor*

Joe Rose, *Accompanist*

2019 Concert

From Salamone Rossi's Baroque era settings of Jewish liturgy to Kurt Weill's haunting, jazz inspired "Kiddush," you won't want to miss this concert!

**Wednesday evening, August 14th, 7:00 pm
Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA**

Admission: \$15 at the door

