



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

## December 2025

### Upcoming services and events

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

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

**Monday, December 15 at 12:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop with Barbara Janoff

**5:00 PM:** December Board Meeting

**7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop with Arthur Hillman

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

**Saturday, December 20 at 10:00 AM:** Traditional Shabbat

**5:00 PM:** Havdalah/Chanukah

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

**Wednesday, December 31 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

***Note:** Unless indicated, all services & events take place at the synagogue at 15 North Street, Great Barrington*

### This month's newsletter features:

**The Installation of Rabbi Jennifer Rudin: Shabbat, 11/1/2025**

**CAS Hadar Community Group**

**Shabbat Morning at CAS – A Triple Celebration!**

**The People's Pantry: Special Food Drives**

**Our Hanukkah Celebration**

**Notes from the November Board Meeting**

**December Creative Arts Workshops**

**Yahrzeits**

**Donations**

**Advertisers and Sponsors**

## The Installation of Rabbi Jennifer Rudin: Shabbat 11/1/2025





SHABBAT, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 10:00

**INSTALLATION OF  
RABBI JENNIFER RUDIN**

Welcome  
*Religious Spiritual Life Chair*  
Harold Schrager

Shabbat Morning Service  
Rabbi Rudin

Passing of the Torah  
*Executive Committee, Religious Spiritual Life Committee  
Board Members, Past Presidents  
Rabbis Cohen & Rudin*

Torah Reader ~ *Dr. Jeffrey Bornstein*

Aliyah 1 ~ Community Leaders

Aliyah 2 ~ Friends & Family Of Rabbi Rudin

Aliyah 3 ~ In Celebration of New Beginnings

Gabal ~ Lisa Chamberlain

Hagbah ~ John Slote / Gelliah ~ Brenda Butler

Guest Speaker  
Stephanie Rotsky, Social Justice Educator

Final Blessing  
Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Kiddush Lunch in Tent





**INSTALLATION OF  
RABBI JENNIFER RUDIN**

Blessing of Installation ~ All

May the one who blessed our ancestors Sarah, Rebecca,  
Rachel, and Leah, Abraham, Isaac, and  
Jacob, bless and sustain Rabbi Rudin.

Grant her wisdom and compassion in equal measure to  
teach and comfort those in need.

Give her strength to continue work in difficult times and  
generosity to share abundance when life is full.

May she be blessed with a welcoming and supportive  
congregation and community.

May Rabbi Rudin help Congregation Ahavath Sholom  
continue to be a home for celebration and  
exploration of Jewish learning, spirituality, and community.

May Torah and tradition continue to be a source of joy for  
her, and may she be blessed with  
insight and inspiration as she contributes to Jewish  
learning and practice.

May words of wisdom come from her lips and  
compassion fill her heart as we move  
together from strength to strength.

We welcome you as our rabbi. Amen.





## CAS Hadar Community Group

The CAS Hadar Community Group gathered last week for its very first meeting, and what a heartening start it was. We opened together in song, raising our voices in *Al Shlosha D'varim*—"On three things the world stands: Torah, Avodah, and G'milut Chasadim." Those timeless pillars—learning, prayer, and acts of lovingkindness—set just the right tone for our time together.

From there, we turned to a bit of Torah study, diving into the powerful verse *Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*—"Justice, justice shall you pursue." We reflected on what it means to actively chase after justice, not just wish for it, and how that responsibility shows up in our daily lives and in our community.

Both the music and the text study guided our hearts and minds as we began to imagine what a "community of caring" at CAS could look like—something steady, structured, and rooted in the values we hold dear. It was the first step in shaping a framework that helps us support one another more deeply and engage in acts of kindness in a meaningful, organized way.

A gentle beginning, full of spirit and purpose—and just the start of something beautiful.

## Shabbat Morning at CAS – A Triple Celebration! ✨

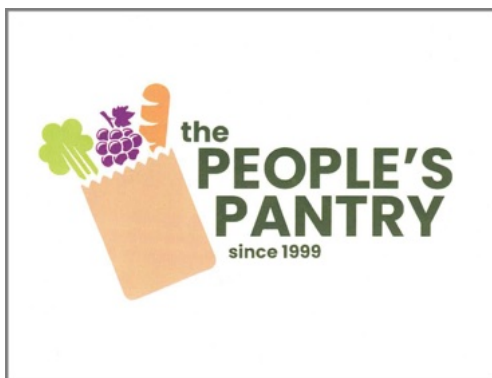
**Saturday, November 20 • 10:00 AM**

Join for a spirited morning of prayer, learning, and celebration. We'll read **Parashat Miketz**, the dramatic continuation of Joseph's story, and mark **Chag HaBanot**, a beautiful North African Jewish tradition honoring women's courage, connection, and Torah learning during the final days of Chanukah.

We'll also welcome **Rosh Chodesh Tevet**, the new month that bridges the light of Chanukah with the winter season. Tevet carries both memory and meaning in Jewish history, and its arrival during Chanukah invites reflection, renewal, and gratitude.

Come for the Torah, stay for the joy—let's bring in Shabbat and the new month together!

## The People's Pantry: Special Food Drives



Susan Weinstein and Alison Adams-Weinberg collected grocery and cash donations for the People's Pantry on Veteran's Day, November 11th. This note was sent from Kai Cimmino, Director of Operations for the Pantry:

*Thank you so much!! Today I weighed the donations from your congregation and it was 150# ! So amazing!! We appreciate that you thought of us and this donation will really help ensure our community stays well fed!*

The need remains great! Alison and Susan will be at CAS on Dec 2 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Come schmooze and bring a bag of non-perishable food or a check addressed to the People's Pantry, Inc.

## Our Hanukkah Celebration

# HAPPY HANUKKAH

Celebrate with your CAS Family  
Saturday, December 20, 2025  
5:00 PM

We will gather at CAS (in the sanctuary) for havdalah,  
candle lighting, food, fun and a silent auction.

RSVP to [casoffice15@gmail.com](mailto:casoffice15@gmail.com)



Please RSVP to [casoffice15@gmail.com](mailto:casoffice15@gmail.com)



## Notes from the November Board Meeting

- Board members described Rabbi Rudin's Installation on Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st as "moving, perfect, inspiring," and overall, a great success. Around 60 people attended both the Friday evening and Saturday morning events in the synagogue. (About ten more could have been accommodated.) The only suggestion was that the tent could have used an additional heater, as the corners were cold.
- The highly invasive Japanese Knotweed behind the synagogue has been sprayed, and will be cut down and removed. A re-treatment will be required next June. Another large tree in the back needs to be taken down, but the birch tree can be saved by cabling.
- Initial efforts are being made to address mold issues in the synagogue, as there is concern about both the health effects on congregants, and on the condition of the Torahs.
- Rabbi Rudin will be attending this year's Reconstructing Judaism Convention in Philadelphia. She encourages other congregants to join her.
- There will be a Hanukkah party at the synagogue on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Items left over from last year's Hanukkah pop-up will be arranged in baskets by Susan Weinstein and raffled off at the party.
- Current finances are considered satisfactory at the moment, but the congregation still needs to address a continuing deficit. An end-of-the-year donation appeal will be made in early December. The Board also discussed the possibility of setting up a schedule of continuing donations through the year at different dollar amount levels.

From Daniel Schenker

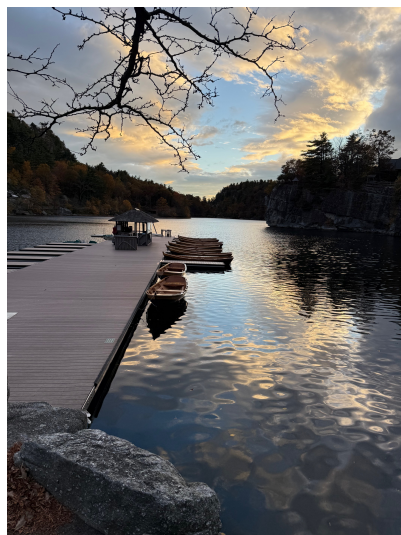
## December Creative Arts Workshops

The next **Memoir Writing Workshop** is scheduled for Monday, December 15th at noon via Zoom. 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. is 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.*

The next **Photography Workshop** will take place on Monday, December 15th, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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 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 Barbara Janoff from the November CAS Photography Workshop

## 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	Secular Date	This Year
Martha Gellert	Kislev 12 5752	11/19/1991	12/2
Harry Fine	Kislev 12 5748	12/3/1987	12/2
Sally Fine	Kislev 12 5756	12/7/1992	12/2
Allan Brown	Kislev 16 5739	12/16/1978	12/6
Barbara Joslyn	Kislev 18 5754	12/2/1993	12/8
Rosa Richard	Kislev 18 5774	11/21/2013	12/8
Monroe Lefkowitz	Kislev 20 5770	12/7/2009	12/10
Vivian Scheinmann	Kislev 25 5783	12/19/2022	12/15
Sallie Slote	Kislev 27 5752	12/4/1991	12/17
Joy Dronge	Kislev 28 5783	11/5/2022	12/18
Bernard D. Aroesty	Kislev 29 5727	12/11/1966	12/19
Louis Kassler	Tevet 02 5751	12/19/1990	12/22
Sylvia Barth	Tevet 02 5759	12/21/1998	12/22
Gertrude Schrager	Tevet 09 5758	1/7/1998	12/29
Burton Elliott	Tevet 09 5774	12/12/2013	12/29

## Donations

### In honor of the Installation of Rabbi Jennifer Rudin

Marla Bornstein  
Irene Goldman-Price  
John Slote and Nancy Cohen  
Ilene Spiewak and Brenda Butler

### In loving memory of Vivian Scheinmann

Roberta Scheinmann

### In support of the Creative Arts Workshops

Ross Bettinger  
Bruce Frishkoff  
Caroline Forsman  
Linda Geffin  
Arthur Hillman  
Barbara Janoff  
Carol Killian  
Marie Rudden  
Stephanie Sloane  
Michele Waldman

### General Donation

Debbie Slater

## Ahavath Sholom Advertisers and Sponsors



Eve Jennings, LMHC

[ejenningstherapy@gmail.com](mailto:ejenningstherapy@gmail.com)

(413) 441-2194

EAST ROCK COLLECTIVE

Stockbridge, MA 01262



**Daniel M. Flannery, CFA**  
President

P: (617) 971-8323

F: (617) 934-2540

[Dan@BalancedRockIA.com](mailto:Dan@BalancedRockIA.com)

252 Roslindale Avenue

Roslindale, MA 02131

[www.BalancedRockIA.com](http://www.BalancedRockIA.com)

**Connect With Balanced Rock:**

on twitter @BalancedRockIA

[facebook.com/BalancedRockIA](https://www.facebook.com/BalancedRockIA)

[linkedin.com/in/danflannery](https://www.linkedin.com/in/danflannery)

[www.BalancedRockIA.com](http://www.BalancedRockIA.com)



<http://allisoncraneinteriors.com/>



ALLISON CRANE  
INTERIORS

**interior design + home staging**

[allison@allisoncraneinteriors.com](mailto:allison@allisoncraneinteriors.com) 413.441.2235







**BEAUTY TIMES**  
SALON & SPA  
(413) 644 - 8968  
beautytimesnailspa.com  
350 Stockbridge Rd.  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**HILLSDALE REPAIRS**  
COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR 24 HR TOWING &  
RECOVERY  
**CHRIS STALKER**  
OWNER



9254 STATE ROUTE 22  
HILLSDALE N.Y. 12529  
518-325-4844  
518-929-7808



**Designs by Jennifer**

## Intriguing Interiors

home furnishings  
lamps  
rugs  
reupholstery / slipcovers  
exciting fabric collection!  
paint/color consults  
original artwork ~ local artists

**IN THE BERKSHIRES**  
6 Railroad Street, 2nd fl  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Phone: 413.528.5800  
designsbyjenn28@gmail.com  
www.DesignsByJenniferOwen.com

**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

**Happy Nails & Spa**  
PROFESSIONAL NAIL CARE FOR LADIES & GENTLEMEN



**413-528-2857**

*Gift Certificate Available!*

Appt. & Walk-ins Welcome  
Mon-Sat: 9am-8pm  
Sunday: Closed

329 Stockbridge Rd. Suite 1  
Great Barrington, MA 01230




**WT**  
**INSURANCE**

413.528.1000 | wheelertaylor.com | SINCE 1871  
Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield, MA  
Canaan, CT



**Dr. John Van Wagner**  
Berkshire Mountain Chiropractic, P.C.

531 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230  
413.644.8989  
www.berkshiremtnchiro.com



## Morgan Stanley

### WEALTH MANAGEMENT

#### John L. Carty, CRPS

Senior Vice President

Financial Advisor

Branch Manager

NMLS #1132172

[john.carty@morganstanley.com](mailto:john.carty@morganstanley.com)

[advisor.morganstanley.com/the-new-england-wealth-management-group](http://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-new-england-wealth-management-group)

#### The New England Wealth Management Group

1500 Main Street, Ste 1900

P.O. Box 15389

Springfield, MA 01115

tel 413 734 7311

direct 413 736 1122

fax 413 736 0361

toll free 800 628 9046

## JUSTICE SHOULDN'T BE JUST FOR THE RICH



Help us bring affordable,  
expert legal services  
to the community.

Click today at:

[berkshirecenterforjustice.org](http://berkshirecenterforjustice.org)

**BERKSHIRE CENTER  
FOR JUSTICE**  
**413-854-1955**

Paula K. Almgren, Esq.

One West Street  
Lenox, MA 01240  
tel: 413-637-5075  
fax: 413-637-5077  
[www.berkshirlawgroup.com](http://www.berkshirlawgroup.com)  
[paula@berkshirlawgroup.com](mailto:paula@berkshirlawgroup.com)

  
**BERKSHIRE LAW GROUP**  
Estate Planning, Elder Law & Life Care

Estate & Tax Planning  
Elder Law & Elder Care  
Life Care Planning  
Life Care Program  
Nursing Home Medicaid  
Community Medicaid  
Home Care Benefits  
Veterans Benefits  
Client Care Plan  
Probate, Trust & Estate Administration

  
**BERSHIRE LAW GROUP**  
Estate Planning, Elder Law & Life Care