



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

## March 2026

### Upcoming services and events

**Sunday, March 1 at 11:00 AM:** Purim Celebration at a private home. RSVP to [casoffice15@gmail.com](mailto:casoffice15@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 4 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Monday, March 9 at 5:00 PM:** March Board Meeting

**Wednesday, March 11 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 AM:** Lay-led Shabbat Service, at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire, 1089 Main Street, Housatonic, MA

**Monday, March 16 at 12:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop with Barbara Janoff via Zoom

**Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Friday, March 20 at 5:00 PM:** Candle Lighting on Zoom

**Wednesday, March 25 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin via Zoom

**Friday, March 27 at 5:00 PM:** Kabbalat Shabbat at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Torah Study at Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

**Monday, March 30 at 7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop with Arthur Hillman via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

**Some Announcements**

**Gefilte Fish 2026**

**Notes from the February Board Meeting**

**From the CAS Photography Workshop**

**Women in Art Exhibition**

**Our Next Chapter**

**February Yahrzeits**

**Donations**

**Advertisers and Sponsors**

## Some Announcements

### CAS Service and Extended Kiddush honoring Elaine Friedman

Elaine Friedman is inviting everyone to a shabbat service and kiddush to honor her birthday; she will be 95 on April 5th. Since the 5th is during Passover, she will be celebrating with the congregation on Saturday April 11th. Elaine will be reading from the Torah and giving a short talk on the Torah portion, "Shemini." All are invited to attend and help her celebrate; an extended kiddush lunch will be served. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [casoffice15@gmail.com](mailto:casoffice15@gmail.com) so we know how much food to provide.

### The Yiddish Book Center

For programs of interest please explore the Yiddish Book Center's website (<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org>). The Yiddish Book Center is located at Hampshire College in Amherst, Ma. View the events page for public programs on a range of topics related to Jewish Culture. Registration is free for programs available on zoom.

PRESENTATION: Voices from the Yiddish Stage with Christa P. Whitney / Zoom / Thursday, March 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

FILM: *The Man Without a World* with live original musical accompaniment / In person at the Yiddish Book Center / Sunday, March 22 @ 7:00 p.m.

BOOK TALK: *Russ & Daughters: 100 Years of Appetizing* with Niki Russ Federman and Josh Russ Tupper / Zoom / Thursday, March 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

### CAS Community Second Night Seder



### Joey Weisenberg in Concert, a CAS fundraiser

A poster for a concert by Joey Weisenberg. The background is a black and white photograph of Joey Weisenberg playing an acoustic guitar and singing into a microphone. The text on the poster reads: "Music is Breath, Song is Life", "JOEY WEISENBERG IN CONCERT", "Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.", "Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre at SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY", "70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA", "We invite you to join Congregation Ahavath Sholom for a memorable afternoon filled with song, inspiration, and spirituality. Experience a vibrant, participatory celebration as we welcome multi-talented Joey Weisenberg, the founder and director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, making his debut appearance in the Berkshires.", and "Order tickets at <https://joeyweisenberginconcert.eventbrite.com>". The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts, with the venue name in a smaller font.

Purchase tickets at <https://joeyweisenberginconcert.eventbrite.com>

# JOIN OUR GEFILTE FISH CLASS

For beginners and  
experienced gefilte  
fishers

SUNDAY, MARCH 22  
@ 4:00 PM

ON ZOOM

You will need:

- 2 medium yellow onions, peeled
- 2 celery stalks
- 3 large carrots, peeled
- 1 fennel bulb
- 6 black peppercorns
- 2½teaspoons salt, or to taste
- 1½pounds boneless, skinless salmon, whitefish or striped bass fillets, cut into 2-inch pieces
- ½pound boneless, skinless trout, pike or carp (or a mixture of two), cut into 2-inch pieces
- 10chives
- 3tablespoons chopped parsley, tarragon, dill and/or a combination
- 3large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 to 6tablespoons matzo meal
- ½teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1head radicchio or endive, or both, for serving
- Prepared horseradish, for serving

**A FOOD PROCESSOR IS A MUST!**

# Notes from the February Board Meeting

February 9, 2026

- At the congregational retreat on February 1<sup>st</sup> the Executive Committee made the following report about the condition of our building:

15 North Street was built around 1868 and formerly served as both a school and a woodworking mill. It is listed on the Massachusetts (but not National) Register of Historic Places. Such designation does not come with financial support, although it does facilitate applying for grants. Recent major maintenance projects include replacement of both the roof and the electrical system, and removal of trees too close to the building. There is currently a significant mold issue whose underlying cause is water that enters the basement through the dirt floor and foundation walls. Other building issues include the need to replace deteriorating asbestos siding, and upgrades to meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also, the heating system will need replacement in the next 2-3 years. One tentative estimate of the cost of all these improvements is in the range of \$1.1-1.4 million.

- Two ad hoc committees have been created: one will investigate options for renovation of 15 North along with possible alternatives, the other will oversee maintenance of the building in our absence during the next several months.
- The congregation's finances are in good shape. We are now employing an accounting firm to manage transactions and track income and expenses.
- The rabbi and members of the Executive Committee recently met with a *sofer* to review the condition of our five Torahs. One of the Torahs he repaired on the spot because he didn't want the congregation to be without one that was usable. Another Torah is not salvageable, and the remaining three will require expensive repairs. (They could also be sold as is.)
- New *siddurim* and *chumashim* are being ordered. Members are also encouraged to purchase these books for personal use or for the synagogue. The prices are \$80 and \$100, respectively.
- A rental agreement with the Unitarian-Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire in Housatonic has been finalized. For \$1000 per month, we have use of the building through December 2026 for regular shabbat and high holy day services, and at other times of our choosing when the building is not otherwise occupied. The larger space will allow us to consider hosting events like a second night seder, High Holy Days, and an upcoming Shabbat Across the Berkshires.
- Tickets for the Joey Weisenberg concert, Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> at Shakespeare and Company, are now on sale. Weisenberg is founder and director of the Hadar's Rising Song Institute and is known for his participatory celebrations of Jewish music and spirituality. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://joeyweisenberginconcert@eventbrite.com>.

## From the CAS Photography Workshop



Photograph by Karlton Kemerait from the February CAS Photography Workshop.



Photograph by Jeff Zimmerman from the February CAS Photography Workshop

# Women in Art Exhibition

CAS member, Ilene Spiewak is one of the exhibitors at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield.



## A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE ARTISTS IN THE BERKSHIRES

ABBEY KEITH  
ALEXA BERMUDEZ  
ALICIA CANARY  
ANASTASIA DRAYTON  
ANGELI FAGGIONI  
ANNE STUART  
ANNELIESE HOCKER  
APRIL JENKS  
ASHLEY SABIN  
AYNSLEY  
BARBARA HEAPHY  
BARBARA SCHMICK  
BARBARA WOIKE  
CAROLINE KELLEY  
CAROLYN ABRAMS  
CARRIE LOBOVITS WRIGHT  
CHRISTINA HUNT WOOD  
CHRISTINA KOLDYS  
CHRISTINE TYER

CINDY MATHIAS  
CRYSTAL TORO  
DANIELLE ALLARD  
DAWN MARTIN  
DIANA ELVIN  
ELEANOR STEWART  
ELLEN JOFFE-HALPERN  
GAIL GELBURD  
GINA JAMES  
ILENE SPIEWAK  
INGRID RAAB  
IRMARI NACHT  
JESS FREY  
JESSE TOBIN MCCAULEY  
JILL MCLEAN  
JOAN ROOKS  
JOHANNA MERFELD  
JOY RUBEN WELTS  
JUDY EDDY

JUDY FOX  
JULIE LOVE EDMONDS  
JULIE SCHWARTZ  
JULIE WOSK  
KARA SMITH  
KAREN TRIPP  
KATHERINE GUNDELFINGER  
KATHERINE PHILLIPS  
KATIE MALONE-SMITH  
KELSEY LARINA  
MADISON WALLACE  
MARGARET DOTCHIN  
MARGO SERINA  
MARIANA CICERCHIA  
MARION H. GRANT  
MARY BILIK  
MARY DAVIDSON  
MEG COLLIER  
MICHELE RIDGEWAY

MOLLIE KELLOGG  
NICOLE OGG  
PEPPA  
REBECCA WEINMAN  
REGINA WENZEK  
RENÉE MARTIN FAR  
RILEY WILDE  
ROSEMARY COTA  
SHERRY STEINER  
SMITHA PIEDILATO  
STEPHANIE VANBRAMER  
SUZANNE GAMMON  
SUSAN GILBERT  
SUSAN SABINO  
TAYLOR BOTTO  
VIRGINIA DONOVAN  
WREN BERNSTEIN

## A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE ARTISTS IN THE BERKSHIRES

OPENING PARTY ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8TH • 11AM - 1PM

ON VIEW THRU MARCH 27 • LICHTENSTEIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS • 28 RENNE AVE • PITTSFIELD

GALLERY OPEN WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 11AM - 3PM • [LOVEPITTSFIELD.COM](http://LOVEPITTSFIELD.COM)

## Our Next Chapter

*"So long as the Jewish people never stop learning,  
the Jewish heart will never stop beating.  
Never has a people loved a book more.  
Never has a book sustained a people longer or lifted it higher."*

Dear Friends,

As we settle into our temporary home at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Great Barrington, we are excited to share an important and meaningful step in this next chapter of Congregation Ahavath Sholom.

We are purchasing new Kol HaNeshamah siddurim (prayer books) and Etz Chayim chumashim (The Five Books of Moses) for our community. These sacred texts will accompany us in prayer, study, and celebration for years to come.

We invite you to participate in this mitzvah by purchasing a book—or books—in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of a person, family, or meaningful moment. Each donated book will include a personalized bookplate recognizing your dedication.

- **The cost of one Kol HaNeshamah siddur is \$80.00**
- **The cost of one Etz Chayim chumash is \$100.00**

If you previously purchased a book for Congregation Ahavath Sholom and it has been determined that the book is no longer usable, please know that your original dedication will not be lost. That bookplate will be documented and archived, and its dedication will be added to a new book. As a result, some books may include both an archived bookplate and a new bookplate—honoring both past and present generosity.

Thank you for helping us strengthen our sacred community and for ensuring that our shared prayer and learning continue with beauty, intention, and gratitude.

Thank you for participating in the mitzvah of supporting our community's prayer and learning. To donate go to [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFOLP7n0gcweg\\_1p7Fb0ITjKajvP5Rq0bNDQwpag7MCUchdg/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFOLP7n0gcweg_1p7Fb0ITjKajvP5Rq0bNDQwpag7MCUchdg/viewform?usp=header)

## March 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
Joe Enzer	Adar 16 5742	3/11/1982	3/5
Roberta Rudin	Adar1 19 5774	2/19/2014	3/8
Benjamin Letofsky	Adar2 20 5765	3/31/2005	3/9
Martin Cohn	Adar2 21 5771	3/27/2011	3/10
Sydelle Cohen	Adar 22 5777	3/20/2017	3/11
Elaine S. Adams	Adar 22 5778	3/9/2018	3/11
Michael Sloane	Adar 23 5780	3/19/2020	3/12
Oscar Slote	Adar2 25 5727	4/6/1967	3/14
Irving Toporek	Adar1 30 5711	3/8/1951	3/18
John Gellert	Nisan 06 5726	3/27/1966	3/24
John P. Hammond	Nisan 06 5763	4/8/2003	3/24
Muriel Budnick	Nisan 07 5773	3/18/2013	3/25
Irving Nathaniel Barth	Nisan 8 5743	3/22/1983	3/26
Edward Alec Weiner	Nisan 12 5766	4/10/2006	3/30

# Donations

## **In memory of Helen Weiner**

Keren Weiner

## **In memory of Judy, Carol Killian's daughter**

Linda Geffin

## **In memory of her Dad and Grandpa**

Debbie Slater

## **In memory of Barbara Barron**

Linda Geffin

## **In memory of Alison's cousin**

Elaine Friedman

Susan and Tom Hicks

## **In memory of Michael Sloane**

Stephanie Sloane

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Susan and Tom Hicks [In honor of the birth of

Jennifer and Jeff Bornstein's first grandchild, Eva Gu Bornstein]

## **General Contributions**

Susan and Tom Hicks [In honor of the Executive Board  
for their leadership during this especially challenging time]

Marie Rudden

Arlene and Donald Shapiro

Debbie Slater

## **In support of the Creative Arts Workshops**

Ross Bettinger

Bruce Frishkoff

Linda Geffin

Arthur Hillman

Barbara Janoff

Carol Killian

Marie Rudden

Judith Seaman

Jeff Zimmerman

## **Prayer Books**

Lisa Bass

Joan and Dan Burkhard

Brenda Butler

Karen Chase and Paul Graubard

Sandra and Bill Flannery

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Jamie Horwitz

Barbara Janoff and David Birch

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Roberta Scheinmann

Daniel Schenker

Ilene Spiewak

Alison Adams-Weinberg

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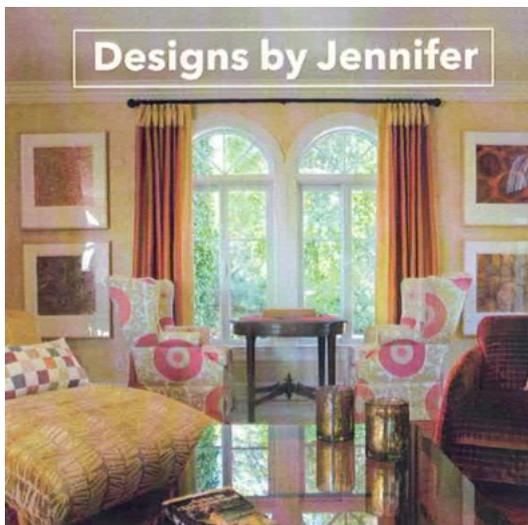
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