



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER **October 2019**

Upcoming services and events

Tuesday, October 1, 10:00 am: Rosh HaShanah Service (at Berkshire South Community Center).

Thursday, October 3, 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.

Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am: Shabbat Shuvah Service (at the synagogue).

Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 pm: Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 am: Yom Kippur Service. 5:30: Ne'ilah, followed by potluck break fast.

Saturday, October 19, 11:00 am: Lay-led Shabbat for Sukkot. Potluck brunch in the sukkah, weather permitting.

Sunday, October 27, 10:15 am: Book Group will meet and discuss *Sisters in Law* by Linda Hirshman. Gail Orenstein will lead the discussion. [Note change of originally scheduled date.] Please contact Steve Radin at sradin1@gmail.com for further information.

Sunday, October 27, 2:00 pm: *Six Jewish Artists*. Arthur Hillman will be showing and discussing the work of Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipchitz, Roman Vishniac, Mark Rothko, David Aronson and Judy Shapiro. Admission free to CAS members; non-members \$10 at the door.

This month's newsletter features:

- Elul in the Pool, this year's edition
- Portrait Sunday
- *Presence, Nostalgia and Memory*, a new exhibit in the Upstairs Gallery
- The Fall Creative Arts Series: *Six Jewish Artists*, a talk by Arthur Hillman
- Milchidika with Marty: *So, you're getting married*
- *The Anniversary of 9/11*, a poem by Ellen Axelrod
- CAS Book Group: *Sisters in Law* by Linda Hirshman
- October Yahrzeits
- October Donations
- Three CAS Member Events: Ilene Spiewak, Karen Chase, Keren Weiner
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Elul in the Pool

On Saturday, August 31, our annual *Elul in the Pool Shabbat* was held at the home of Linda Josephs. Rabbi Cohen and many members of the congregation experienced this beginning of the month of preparation. Services were followed by a potluck vegetarian brunch.

We also honored and said goodbye to Richard and Diana Richter who are moving to New Jersey. They have been involved in every aspect of our community's life for many decades and will be sorely missed.



Self-Portrait Sunday, a studio workshop by Ilene Spiewak

The first program of our "Fall Creative Arts Series," a continuation of last season's very successful Spring series, featured painter Ilene Spiewak leading a studio workshop on Sunday, September 15. Participants were asked to bring a small mirror or cell phone to the workshop.

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!



Presence, Nostalgia and Memory, a new exhibit in the Upstairs Gallery

October features *Presence, Nostalgia and Memory*, our newest exhibition in the CAS Upstairs Gallery. The description below is curator Ilene Spiewak's call for images.

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?

Do come and see the many wonderful photographs from members' pasts.



The Fall Creative Arts Series: *Six Jewish Artists*, a talk by Arthur Hillman

Six Jewish Artists, an illustrated talk by Arthur Hillman, Professor Emeritus, Photography, Printmaking and Design, Bard College at Simon's Rock, will be held on October 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the synagogue. Arthur will show examples and discuss the work of six notable Jewish Artists: painter/printmaker Marc Chagall, sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, photographer Roman Vishniac, painter Mark Rothko, painter/sculptor David Aronson and mixed media artist Judy Chicago. Admission is free to CAS members, with a fee for non-members of \$10 at the door.



Chagall "I and the Village"



Lipchitz "Jacob and the Angel"



Vishniac "School Children"



Rothko "Yellow, Cherry, Orange"



Aronson "Garden of Eden"



Chicago "Dinner Party"

The Anniversary of 9/11, a poem by Ellen Axelrod

September 2019

There were barbaric men, who left their turbans behind, and flew the planes into the towers

They tried to convince us that their horrific actions were sanctioned by God

Those rectangular giant symbols of freedom were a vision of beauty and accomplishment

Those men, those beliefs and those planes punctured a hole straight through the heart of America

The Kamikaze terrorist destroyed a way of life and coerced a nation into declaring war

As the towers fell and our hearts broke, 3,000 lives perished with more death and destruction to follow

The innocent people who went to work that day had families and friends and none had any clue of their impending fates

This incredulous event occurred on a bright sunny day in September where a country fell to its knees in anguish and despair

Destroying forever a level of comfort and a way of life, America became one and formed a common bond of hate for our destructive enemy

Eighteen years after 9/11, the nation's bond is broken and divisiveness leads our current culture

Allow us to embrace our diversity with compassion and understanding and let it guide us back to being a united country

May we honor the memories of those who died from that horrendous act with our renewed unification

Ellen Axelrod

Milchidika with Marty: *So you're getting married?*

I heard that you are getting married. Mazel Tov.

There are a lot of sayings and superstitions about what is good luck and what is bad.

I remember when I was first married, that it rained that day. And I was so disappointed. I wanted the sun to be shining on my special wedding day. An old "Tante" told me that I was wrong to be disappointed; that rain brought good luck and I should be grateful. But she offered no other explanation. So, here are some wedding superstitions, both good and bad.

Rain on the wedding day:

Rain seems to be a good thing on a wedding day. Some say that you are getting the bad weather out of the way so that the rest of your marriage can be bright and sunny. Others say that the rain is cleansing and leads to a more solid union from the start. The superstition is probably based on the Hindu tradition that a wet knot is harder to untie. Also, rain is good for the crops. So, rain on a wedding day symbolizes the future well being of the couple. Since rain was good for the crops it would also mean that the couple would be blessed with children.

All of the above is probably true, except if you are planning an outdoor wedding.

Coins, Coins, Coins:

Coins have been associated with good luck on your wedding day for ages. Wearing them in your shoes tend to be a popular superstition said to guarantee the couple will always have some money in their future together.

Throwing of rice:

Some believe that the throwing of rice was meant to feed the evil spirits and keep them from the happy couple. Also, the throwing of rice was said to mean plentiful crops for the people tossing the rice and the happy couple.

No peeking:

It is very commonly considered bad luck for the groom to see the bride in her wedding attire before the actual ceremony.

Color me happy:

There are sayings about the color of the bride's dress. White generally is a good thing as well as blue. Yellow and green generally are said to mean not such a favorable thing.

Chivalry or prevention:

It is considered a bad omen for the bride to trip on the threshold of the door on entering the marriage home. So, the tradition of having the groom carry her over the threshold was started.

Diamonds not pearls:

Pearls, as pretty as they are, are also said to bring bad luck to a marriage. They are formed by harsh conditions and agitation and are sure to bring the same to a marriage. They are also said to bring tears to the bride.

A stitch in time and good timing:

It is said if a bride makes her own wedding dress she will cry a tear for every stitch she sews. It is said to be good luck to be married when the minute hand of the clock is upward moving and bad luck when downward moving.

Something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue:

We've all heard this common rhyme, but what does it mean? Wearing something "old" represents the bride's past, while something "new" symbolizes the couple's happy future. The bride is supposed to get her "something borrowed" from someone who is happily married in the hope that some of that person's good fortune rubs off on her. "Something blue" denotes fidelity and love.

Wearing a veil:

This superstition dates back to the time of arranged marriages, when people believed that if the couple saw each other before the ceremony, it would give them a chance to change their minds about the wedding.

After reading through the above rules, I understand why there is such a high divorce rate.

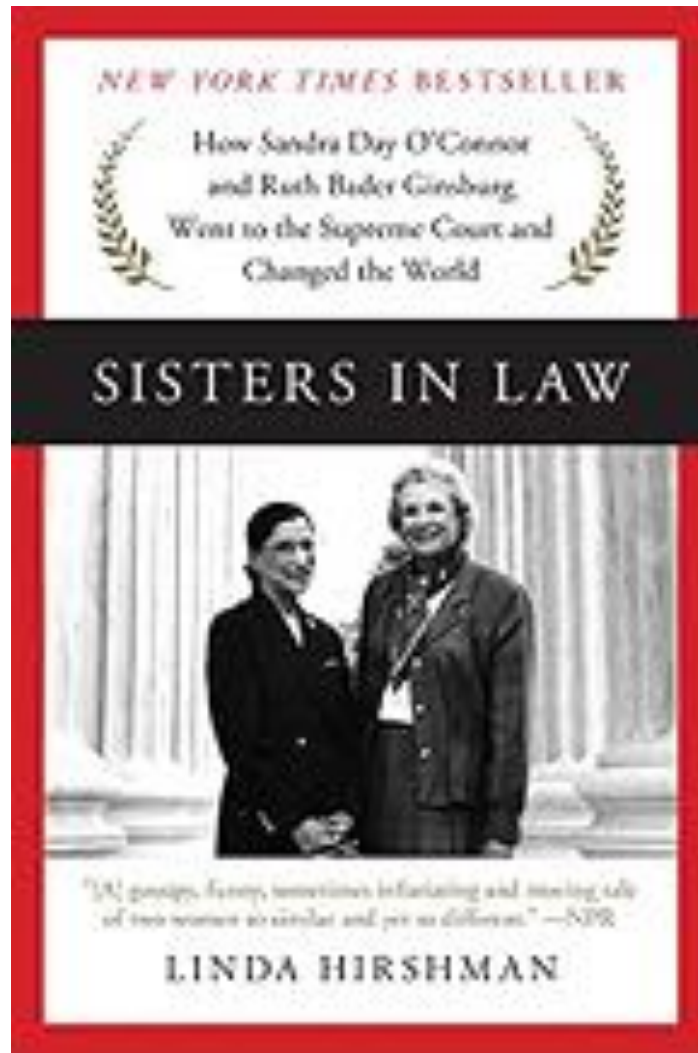
SOMEONE DIDN'T FOLLOW THE RULES.

The CAS Book Group

The CAS Book Group will meet on Sunday, October 27th at 10:15a.m. to discuss Sisters In Law by Linda Hirshman. Gail Orenstein will lead the discussion. Note change of originally scheduled date.

A Summary of the Book:

The relationship between Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg—Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl—transcends party, religion, region, and culture. Strengthened by each other's presence, these groundbreaking judges, the first and second women to serve on the highest court in the land, have transformed the Constitution and America itself, making it a more equal place for all women.



Sisters in Law combines legal detail with warm personal anecdotes, bringing these very different women into focus as never before. Meticulously researched and compellingly told, it is an authoritative account of our changing law and culture, and a moving story of a remarkable friendship.

Please contact Steve Radin sradin1@gmail.com for further information and directions to meeting place.

October Jahrzeits

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

Kol Haneshamah

Diana Fisher Berkowitz	Tishrei 03 5778	10/02
Matilda Radin	Tishrei 03 5754	10/02
Elayne Polly Bernstein	Tishrei 07 5772	10/06
Esther B. Cutler	Tishrei 10 5773	10/09
Herman Felber	Tishrei 14 5747	10/13
Seymour Isserson	Tishrei 18 5747	10/17
Mark Cohen	Tishrei 20 5778	10/19
James Mitsuda	Tishrei 22 2769	10/21
Sidney Yurmark	Tishrei 23 5728	10/22
William Pozefsky	Tishrei 23 5707	10/22
Joseph Richter	Tishrei 25 5722	10/24
Harry Aaron Orenstein	Tishrei 25 5757	10/24
Vivianne Frankel/Chava Miriam	Tishrei 26 5773	10/25
Florence Lipshitz	Tishrei 28 5767	10/27

October donations

In memory of Sheri Lynn Josephs, our beloved sister

Laurie Josephs

In memory of Sheri Josephs

and for the wonderful pastoral care provided by Rabbi Barbara Cohen

Scott Josephs

In memory of Robin Berson's daughter, Jessica Berson

In memory of Ellen Axelrod's mother

In memory of Linda Joseph's stepdaughter

Sandra and Bill Flannery

In memory of Sheri Josephs

In memory of Jessica Berson

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In Celebration of the Marriage of Sophia Slote and Grant Gordy

John Slote and Nancy Cohen

For our new Torah cover

Donald and Arlene Shapiro

Other donations

Steven Rubin


Abigail Rubenstein

Harold Rudin

Three CAS Member Events: Irene Spiewak, Karen Chase, Keren Weiner


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The exhibition includes paintings by Ilene Spiewak



Karen Chase is reading some new work at The Bookstore in Lenox on Thursday, October 10 at 5:30. The poet Patrick Donnelly will be reading as well.



Genealogist Keren Weiner will present "A Match Made in Heaven: Uncovering A Jewish Immigrant's Love Story" Sunday, October 13 at 1:00 p.m. at the Springfield JCC, 1160 Dickinson St.

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