



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

January 2023

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, January 4 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Saturday, January 7 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Morning Services at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse, 280 State Road Great Barrington

**Wednesday, January 11 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, January 13 at 5:00 PM:** Shabbat Candle Lighting via Zoom

**Monday, January 16 at 12:00 PM:** Memoir Workshop via Zoom

**Wednesday, January 18 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 AM:** Shabbat Study Session at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse, 280 State Road Great Barrington

**Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00 AM:** Café Kehillah with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 PM:** Photography Workshop via Zoom

### This month's newsletter features:

***Chagall: Love, War and Exile:*** Some images from the Jewish Museum Virtual Tour

***A Concert for a Winter Afternoon*** was a huge success

**In memoriam:** Vivian Scheinmann

**Upcoming CAS sessions at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse**

**January Creative Arts Workshops**

**January Yahrzeits**

**January Donations**

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## Chagall: Love, War and Exile: Some Images from the Jewish Museum Tour

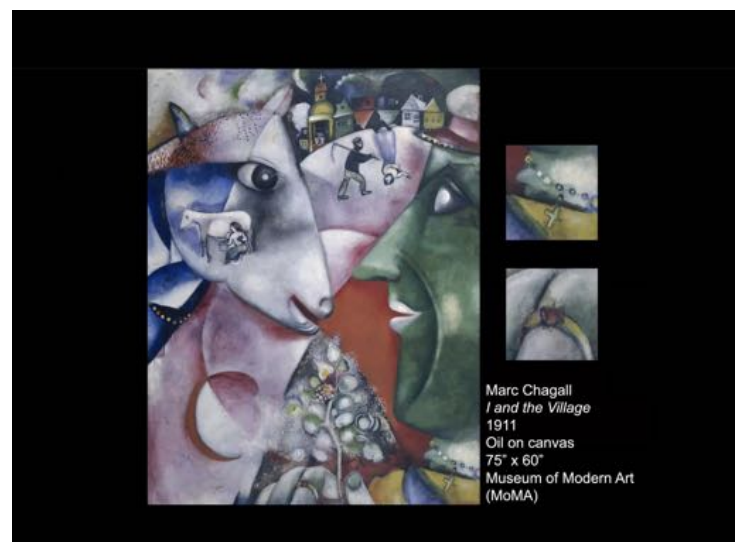
Congregation Ahavath Sholom's third Virtual Museum Tour, "Chagall: Love, War and Exile," with lecturer Rena Tobey, took place on Wednesday evening, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The work in this online tour explored a significant but lesser-known period in the artist's career from the rise of fascism in the 1930s through 1948, years spent in Paris and then in exile to New York. Marc Chagall (1887–1985), one of the foremost modernists of the 20th century, created his unique style by drawing on elements from richly colored folk art motifs, the Russian Christian icon tradition, Cubism, and Surrealism. Beginning with the evocative paintings from his years in France, the exhibition illuminates an artist deeply responsive to the suffering inflicted by war—often expressed with Christian imagery—and to his own personal losses and intimate sorrows. By the late 1940s, Chagall returns to colorful, joy-filled work celebrating love.

This ground-breaking and courageous exhibit tackled what is easily the most vexing subject in the career of the most beloved of Jewish artists, Marc Chagall. Namely, his persistent, indeed obsessive, use of the crucifixion as a symbol of Jewish suffering and persecution. The exhibit traces Chagall's lifelong fascination with the emblem of Christianity, especially in his work created during the Holocaust.

### Please note:

CAS will soon announce Rena's next presentation, in partnership with the Jewish Museum, to be held this spring.





Marc Chagall. *Solitude*. 1933. Oil on canvas. The Tel Aviv Museum.



Marc Chagall. *The Fall of the Angel*. 1923/1933/1947. Oil on canvas. Kunstmuseum, Basel.



Marc Chagall. *Exodus*. 1952-66. Oil on canvas. Pompidou Center.



Chagall painting  
*Bella in Green*  
(Bella 1895-1944)  
1934-35



Marc Chagall  
*Bella in Green*  
1934-35  
Oil on canvas  
Stedelijk Museum,  
Amsterdam



Bella Chagall  
*Burning Lights*  
Memoir  
First published in  
France, 1948



Chagall sketchbook  
1942-1965  
Musée des lettres  
et manuscrits, Paris



Can you hear me—  
My dead bed,  
My dry grass,  
My departed love  
My new-found love,  
Listen to me.  
Chagall poem

Marc Chagall  
*Self-Portrait with Clock*  
1947  
Oil on canvas  
Private collection



# A Concert for a Winter Afternoon was a huge success

Congregation Ahavath Sholom presented a concert on December 26th at 2:30 p.m. at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse at 280 State Road in Great Barrington. Two accomplished young musicians, Philip and Meredith Thompson, performed a program of classical selections and several Klezmer tunes to a series of standing ovations. A reception with light refreshments celebrating the last day of Chanukah followed the performance.



## In memoriam: Vivian Scheinmann

Vivian Scheinman, 87, of Great Barrington MA, originally from the Bronx, NY died on December 19, 2022. Vivian is survived by her daughter Roberta and granddaughter Julia, her sister Mindy Greenside, and many others who loved her. A funeral service was held at Ahavath Sholom Cemetery in Great Barrington on December 21.



Vivian graduated cum laude from Queens College and received a MSLS degree from Columbia University. Among her many accomplishments, from 1978-1983, she was the managing editor of *New Directions for Women*, described as “a national feminist newspaper reaching tens of thousands of women outside the core of the women’s movement.” In 1983, Vivian, along with another staff member from the newspaper, opened a bookstore, *Pandora Book Peddlers*, in Englewood, New Jersey, featuring books focusing on women’s health, fiction, cookbooks, and black studies, all geared specifically to women. The store’s opening was chronicled by an article in the New York Times.

“Vivian was a central figure in our congregation’s life over many years and her commitment, intelligence, directness, and her sense of humor will really be missed.” *Rabbi Barbara Cohen*

A congregant of Congregation Ahavath Sholom for over two decades, a member of the Board of Directors, an editor of this newsletter, Vivian was also a dear friend to many of us and will be sorely missed.

## Upcoming CAS Sessions at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse

While our synagogue building on North Street is undergoing renovations, we have the good fortune to be able to use the main room at the South Berkshire Friends Meetinghouse at 280 State Road in Great Barrington. Those of you who attended our recent Winter Concert know what a lovely space this is, perfect for our Shabbat Morning Service on January 7th at 10:00 AM and the Shabbat Study Session on Saturday, January 21st, also at 10:00 AM.

Our plan is to have our historic synagogue back in action this spring. We’ve already had our water heater replaced, the floor in the utility closet repaired, and the new air conditioner installed. The alarm system and front door camera unit have been ordered and are on their way, while other safety and security measures are being added. The final steps will involve the removal of some old file materials and the better organization of what remains. Finally, we’ll have a professional maintenance crew go through the entire building and do a thorough cleaning.

## January Creative Arts Workshops

The January Memoir Writing Workshop is scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup> 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.*

The next Photography Workshop will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26th. 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.*

## January Yahrzeits

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

	ORIGINAL DATE	ORIGINAL DATE	THIS YEAR'S DATE
Gertrude Schrager	Tevet 09 5758	1/7/1998	1/2
Burton Elliott	Tevet 09 5774	12/12/2013	1/2
Rose London Orenstein	Tevet 23 5731	1/20/1971	1/16
Bella Axelrod	Tevet 25 5721	1/13/1961	1/18
Robert Scheinmann	Tevet 25 5729	1/15/1969	1/18
Hy Radin	Tevet 27 5755	12/30/1994	1/20
Rabbi Jacob Axelrod	Tevet 28 5746	1/9/1986	1/21
Arthur John Rothstein	Tevet 29 5752	1/5/1992	1/22
Herbert Budnick	Tevet 29 5774	1/1/2014	1/22
Arnold Kirshen	Tevet 29 5759	1/17/1999	1/22
Al Alson	Shevat 3 5777	1/30/2017	1/25
Rosemary Edelman	Shevat 4 5773	1/15/2013	1/26
Frances Letofsky	Shevat 07 5769	2/1/2009	1/29
Larry Hillman	Shevat 09 5722	1/14/1963	1/31



## January Donations

### **In memory of Alan Aptner**

**In memory of Tovah Meir**

**In memory of Vivian Scheinmann**

Lisa and Eric Chamberlain

### **In memory of Joy Dronge**

Irene Goldman-Price

### **In loving memory of our dear friend Vivian Scheinmann**

**May her memory be a blessing...**

Katherine Dean and Frederic Gordon

### **In memory of Larry Hillman**

**In memory of Barbara Resnik**

**In memory of Vivian Scheinmann**

Arthur and Louise Hillman

### **In memory of our dear friend Vivian Scheinmann**

Stephen and Helen Radin

### **In memory of Miriam Brecher**

Stephanie Sloane

### **In memory of Vivian Scheinmann**

Roy Smitheimer

### **In loving memory of Vivian Scheinmann**

Keren Weiner

### **Securing Our Second Century**

Alison Adams-Weinberg

Anonymous donation

Joan and Dan Burkhard

Carol Clarin

John Elliott

Caroline Forsman

Joseph B. Gellert

Robert and Marilyn Gellert

Goldman-Price Family Fund

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Deborah Slater

Isabelle Weinberg and Martin Stransky

Susan Weinstein

### **General donations**

Nettie Hammond

Roberta Scheinmann

Nancy Cohen and John Slote

### **In honor of Rabbi Barbara Cohen**

Gail Phillips

### **To a future of spiritual inspiration and a retreat in which to find it**

Carol Cirigliano

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

Ross Bettinger (Memoir Workshop)

Caroline Forsman (Memoir and Photography)

Bruce Frishkoff (Memoir Workshop)

Arthur Hillman (Memoir Workshop)

Linda Josepshs (Memoir Workshop)

Carol Killian (Memoir Workshop)

Michele Waldman (Photography Workshop)

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