

THE CAS NEWSLETTER February 2018

Thursday, February 8, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm: People's Pantry at St. James Place. Generally 2 hour shifts: contact Walter Orenstein at ptcpa@roadrunner.com to participate.

Saturday, February 10, 10 am: Shabbat service followed by coffee, tea, pastry and conversation.

Saturday, February 10, 7 pm: Community-wide Havdalah at [Temple Anshe Amunim](#), 26 Broad St, Pittsfield.

Wednesday, February 14, 12:00 pm: Nosh and Drosh at CAS * Bring a vegetarian lunch!

Monday, February 19, 5:30 pm: Board Meeting. Congregants are welcome to attend. Please email Sandra Flannery at smflann@ix.netcom.com for more information.

Saturday, February 24, 10 am: Shabbat service followed by coffee, tea, pastry and conversation.

Sunday, February 25, 10:15 am: Book Group: "The Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish. Please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com for location of this meeting. Check for changes as this group occasionally changes the date or time.

Wednesday, February 28, 12:00 pm: Nosh and Drosh (on Purim) at CAS * Bring a vegetarian lunch!

Articles/Information

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- CAS Renovations Continue
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2017 Chanukah with a Twist

Our Festival of Lights celebration this year was marked not by a CAS party but by a combined celebration with the Unitarian Universalist Meeting of Southern Berkshire (UUs) and with the UU Church of Pittsfield. Members of the three congregations met in the spacious function room adjacent to the UUs' church in Housatonic. It was a bitterly cold night so coming into the bright, warm and welcoming space was a wonderful feeling. There must have been close to a hundred people who turned out for a vegetarian dinner and lighting of the Chanukah candles. Our Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen led a Havdalah service and the lighting of the candles. Toward the end of the gathering, Reverend Carol Allman-Morton, the UU minister, led the crowd in some lovely carols. It was a delightful way to meet our neighbors and share our thoughts and hopes for the new year.



CAS Renovations Continue

Thanks to the generous contributions by the congregation and the community to our annual end-of-year fundraising efforts, we have been able to continue work on the renovation of our historic building. We recently focused on repairing our building's foundation walls and replacing the old, rusted Bilco basements doors with new ones. The support of our many donors has allowed us to continue to move forward on these projects while we also support the day-to-day functioning of our synagogue as a distinctive spiritual and community presence in the Berkshires.



Milchidika with Marty: "Are you sure?" "Sure I'm sure"

When I was 15 I had obtained my "working papers" and had a summer job in the garment district of Manhattan at a small factory that made ladies leather belts.

I was to be the shipping clerk, and boy, was I excited to be actually working and earning money. I wasn't sure how you were supposed to act at "work." I knew there was no fooling around, but do you walk or run when called to do something? If you run will they think you're a hard worker and maybe pay more money? I remember the owner of the business finally saying to me after my running around the factory all day and driving everyone crazy, "Martin, you don't have to run. It's OK to walk."

It was my job as the shipping clerk to pack the orders that were received from department stores and leather goods stores, and then ship them out. I would have an order picking form for each customer, and in addition to putting the leather belts into the cartons, I would have to make sure that the invoice was included.

On the first day that I reported to work, the bookkeeper who was very stern, approached me and said, "I want you to check each invoice that I give to you and to make sure that all the arithmetic, etc. is correct; and I'm going to make deliberate errors just to see if you are paying attention. It's a test and you better be sure to pass the test. This is just between you and me, so I don't want you to tell anyone about the test."

So, I would carefully check each invoice for quantities and amounts, and if I found a mistake, I would gleefully bring it to the bookkeeper who would then say, "Good, I can see that you are really paying attention. That was just one of my tests, and there will be many more in the future. And remember the tests are just between the two of us." It probably didn't dawn on me until 20 years later, that she really wasn't testing me.

The job paid 50 cents an hour, and I worked five days a week, and until noon on Saturday, for a grand total of \$21.50. After the taxes were deducted, I had \$18.75 left. I gave five dollars to my mother, who opened a passbook savings account for me; paid ten cents each day for the subway fare back and forth from home; 25 cents for lunch which always consisted of two frankfurters and an orange drink at the Nedick's Orange Juice Stand; and still had about \$11 remaining which was the most money that I ever had in my life.

So, with my newfound riches, I decided to splurge and take my first girl friend, Marion, to a restaurant. I also had never been to a restaurant without my parents and wasn't too knowledgeable about tipping and other mundane things.

I asked Marion where she would like to go, and she suggested pizza. I wasn't sure what a pizza was since I had never seen one, but there was a neighborhood Italian restaurant that had a small statue of a chef in the front window. He wore a large chef's hat and had on a red and green apron. In his outstretched hands was a small, flat, round tomato covered looking thing, which I assumed must be a pizza. It was probably 12 or 15" in diameter.

Since I was now a man of the world, I didn't want to admit to Marion that I had never seen or eaten a pizza. I'm not so sure that she ever had one either. So, when we sat down in the restaurant, and the waitress came over to take our order; like the cosmopolitan man that I had now become, and not wanting to appear cheap, I said "We'll have two pizzas."

The pizza in the window seemed so small, and I also wanted to impress Marion, so two pizzas seemed to make sense. The waitress said to me, "You mean two slices of pizza?" I said, "No, no, two pizzas" to which she replied, "Are you sure?" "Sure, I'm sure".

"OK, if you're sure." We waited for 20 minutes or so, and I was pretty nervous as this was a first date, but I wanted to appear very worldly and sophisticated. I occasionally glanced towards the kitchen door and watched the waitress coming in and out. Suddenly, I saw her emerge with two giant silver circular trays and wondered what they might be, and to which table was she going to bring them.

To my horror she approached our table and put down these two huge pans. They took over most of the space on the table leaving very little space for our sodas. She made some comment like, "Well, here they are." I tried to appear nonchalant, as if this was really what I had expected and said, "Thank you."

How many slices of pizza do you think a suave 15-year-old could eat, before admitting he might have made a mistake?

In addition, that suave part of me didn't know you were supposed to leave a tip.

Thank You to the Jaffes

Last time you sat in the CAS sanctuary and had trouble hearing the guest speaker, did you ask him/her to speak up? Or when you saw a movie at CAS, was it difficult to understand what was being said? Well, all that has changed due to the generosity of Mike and Kay Jaffe. Mike has been running the projector for movies this year and decided he and Kay would step up. They purchased a wonderful sound system and microphone setup for the synagogue. And even better, they delivered and installed it! The CAS board and community gratefully acknowledge their gift and look forward to enjoying the improvements for many years to come.

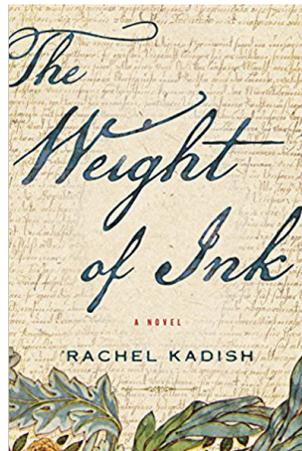
Thank you Kay and Mike.



The CAS Book Group

The CAS Book Group will meet on Sunday, **2/25 at 10:15 a.m.** to discuss **The Weight of Ink** by **Rachel Kadish**. Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, **The Weight of Ink** is an historical fiction about two women separated by centuries: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the

plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. Paul Graubard will lead the discussion of the the choices and sacrifices these women must make in order reconcile the life of the heart and mind. Please contact Diana Richter at drpajama1@gmail.com for the location of this meeting.



February Yahrzeits

Jeff Axelrod	Shevat 19 5775	2/4
Irving Krantz	Shevat 21 5765	2/6
Max Gans	Shevat 22 5733	2/7
Louis Radin	Shevat 23 5703	2/8
Meyer Osterweil	Shevat 23 5719	2/8
Celia Fink	Shevat 25 5750	2/10
Semour Schwartz	Shevat 27 5777	2/12
Jacob Cohen	Adar 03 5712	2/18
Sherwin Fink	Adar1 3 5776	2/18
Aaron Fisher	Adar2 03 5725	2/18
Helen Weiner	Adar1 04 5766	2/19
Samuel Penziner	Adar2 04 5746	2/19
Sonia Ziperkowski Witkowski	Adar2 05 5768	2/20
Emma Mainker Graubard	Adar1 07 5660	2/22
Sol Uttal	Adar1 08 5660	2/23
Frances Duke	Adar1 08 5764	2/23
Alan Pomerance	Adar1 08 5749	2/23
Josef Waller	Adar 09	2/24
Max Shenkman	Adar 09 5699	2/24
Hannah Meltzer Greenside	Adar 10 5753	2/25
James Andrew Millimet	Adar1 11 5770	2/26
Martin Goodman	Adar1 12 5763	2/27
Morris Stern	Adar1 12 5774	2/27
Louis Rollnick	Adar2 12 5733	2/27
Ethel Shocket	Adar1 13 5733	2/28
Clara Brickman	Adar 13 5701	2/28

February Donations

In memory of Mark Cohen

Richard A. Greene and Lindsay Crampton

Nettie Hammond

E. Bonnie Silvers

In memory of Larry Hillman
Arthur and Louise Hillman

In memory of Diane Rausch
Robert Rausch

Annual Year-End Fundraising Campaign

Lisa and Eric Chamberlain
Joel and Cathy Cohen
Sarah Cohen
Ann Dorfman
Richard Feenstra
Joseph Gellert
Stuart Greenberg
Linda Josephs
Patricia Lipman
Sandra Pantorno
Vivian Scheinmann
Marcie Setlow and David Scribner
Donald and Arlene Shapiro
Barbara J Silverstein
John Slote and Nancy Cohen

Community Havdalah

COMMUNITY WIDE
HAVDALAH
Sharing the Light

Join with the entire Berkshire Jewish Community as we bid farewell to Shabbat with good company, soulful melodies, warm hot chocolate and treats.

SATURDAY, FEB 10 | 7:00 P.M.
Temple Anshe Amunim
26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Sponsored by

Berkshire Minyan
Congregation Ahavat Shalom
Knesset Israel
Congregation Beth Israel
Hevreh
Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES
HADASSAH