



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER **November 2020**

Upcoming services and events

All previously scheduled CAS events have been cancelled until further notice.

Our Wednesday get-togethers and Shabbat services and events continue on a regular basis via Zoom!

We hope in the days ahead everyone in our Berkshire community stays healthy and safe.

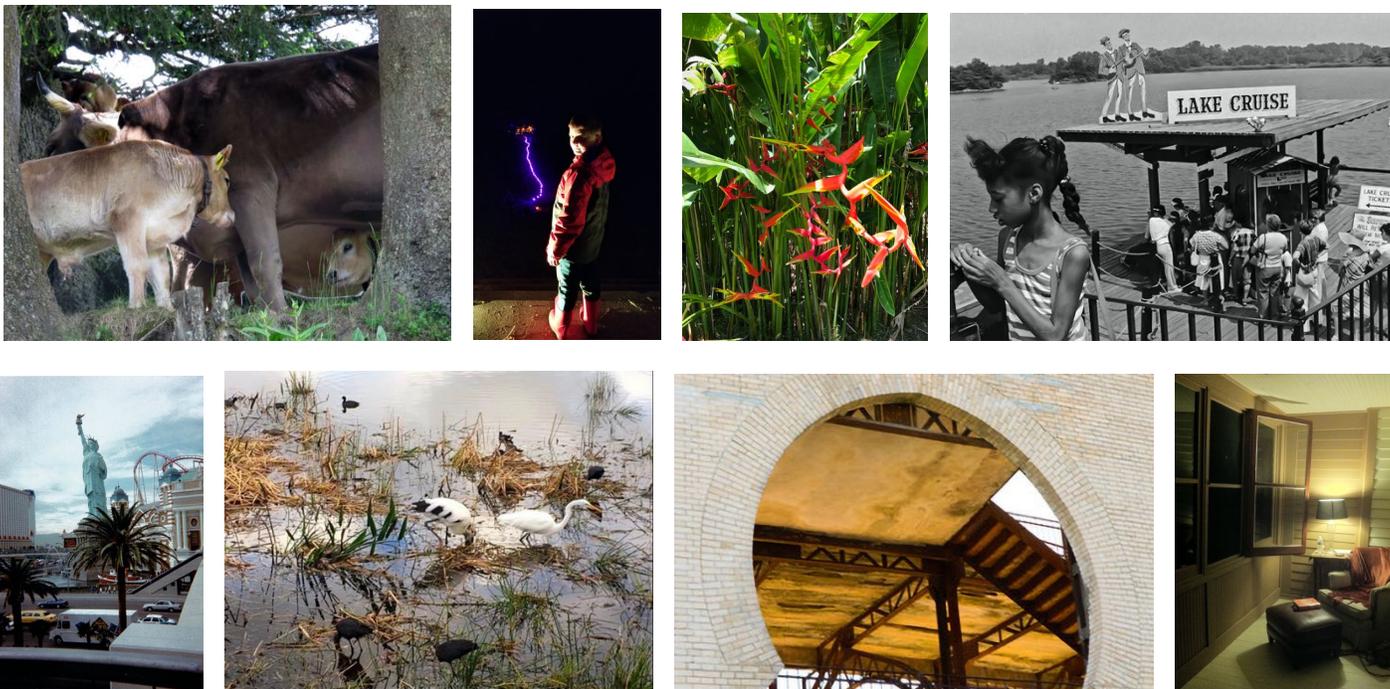
This month's newsletter features:

- Creativity and Community in the Time of Covid
- November Creative Arts Workshops: *Memoir Writing*
- Milchidika with Marty: *See what you learn when you are the treasurer*
- *The City Finally Sleeps*, a poem by Ellen Axelrod
- Our website videos
- Calling all CAS artisans and writers
- Ahavath Sholom's 100th Anniversary
- November Yahrzeits
- November Donations
- PJ Library Pajama Drive
- CAS Advertisers and Sponsors

Creativity and Community in the Time of Covid

I always wanted to become more skilled at photography, but there never seemed to be enough time. When I registered for Arthur Hillman's two-part photography workshop this October, I looked forward to becoming more adept at taking and editing my own pictures. I'd never taken a photography class before, and these two sessions on Zoom seemed like a great opportunity to learn about theory and application. In our first session, we looked at the works of accomplished photographers, as Arthur pointed out their techniques and points of view.

In session two, we participants were invited to submit our own pictures for consideration, and our discussion of angle, frame, and various editing strategies was everything I hoped it would be. But there was more. We got to know one another better through our pictures. It wasn't just a documentation of the trips we took, although that was enlightening. But what I loved most was seeing through the eyes of others, many of whom I thought I already knew well. Through their photographs, I saw how each person views the world, what they focus on, the shapes and shadows that intrigue them. We got to know one another in a new way.



A selection of photographs that were submitted by participants in the second section of the workshop.

We're all doing the best we can under the limitations of Covid, and in the second season of our CAS Creative Arts series we have been inspired to be, well, *creative* in how we present our offerings. First, was our drama group monologues and skits (to be found on the CAS website). Second, our photography workshops on Zoom. Next month, I'll be offering a two-part Zoom workshop on memoir writing. This will be another opportunity to get to know ourselves and others in new ways.

Barbara Janoff

November Creative Arts Workshops: *Memoir Writing*

Whether you would like to give your family a record of your key experiences or have aspirations to write a book-length memoir, you can make a start in this workshop. Through writing, exercises and shared readings, you will begin to identify some of the themes that have threaded through your life. Have a notebook and a few fast-writing pens handy.

The workshops will be held on Sunday, November 8th at 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 22nd at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Please support our Creative Arts Series with a donation of \$10 per session. RSVP to casoffice15@gmail.com if you are interested in registering or if you have any questions.

Barbara L. Janoff is an associate professor of English at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York, where she taught literature and creative writing. Her poetry and essays have appeared in the Journal of the Columbia College Women's Center, Communication Arts Annual, and the Berkshire Review.

Milchidika with Marty: See what you learn when you are the treasurer

I've recently been busy processing checks and emails sent in by both members and non-members paying for admittance to the Zoom High Holiday services or making Yizkor donations.

Many of the non-member names are familiar to me, as I have seen them year after year. But today, I received an email from someone new, who claimed in his email that he was having difficulty in registering on-line, and that he admitted to being somewhat of a "Luddite."

That fascinated me as I had heard the word "Luddite" before and wasn't quite sure as to what it was. So, I went on-line where you can find the answer to probably everything and this is what I found: "Luddite" is a blanket term used to describe people who dislike new technology, but it's origin dates back to the early 19th century labor movement that rallied against the ways that mechanized manufacturers and their unskilled laborers undermined the skilled craftsmen of the day.

The original Luddites were British weavers and textile workers who objected to the increased use of mechanized looms and knitting frames. Most were trained artisans who had spent years learning their craft, and they feared that unskilled machine operators were robbing them of their livelihood. A few desperate weavers began breaking into factories and smashing textile machines. They called themselves "Luddites" after Ned Ludd, a young apprentice who was rumored to have wrecked a textile apparatus in 1779.

There is no evidence Ludd existed-like Robin Hood, he was said to reside in Sherwood Forest-but he eventually became the mythical leader of the movement. The protesters claimed to be following orders from "General Ludd" and they even issued manifestos and threatening letters under his name.

Machine breaking Luddites attacked and burned factories, and in some cases, they even exchanged gunfire with company guards and soldiers. The workers hoped their raids would deter employers from installing expensive machinery, but the British government instead moved to quash the uprisings making machine-breaking punishable by death.

So that is what I learned while processing checks and emails. As I am always looking for the next topic to write about, please use strange new words in your e-mails that I might use in the next story.

The City Finally Sleeps, a poem by Ellen Axelrod

The City Finally Sleeps

October 2020

Walking from what was once a grand central place, I rub my eyes in disbelief

Cars once countless cruise by quickly and effortlessly

Masked people ramble about in the wide open, no need to lurk

Too many stores are boarded up; interiors form black holes

Certain colorful ads remain and call out like a coyote on a full moon night

No compelling need to watch your step amongst the sparse street traffic

This city once thriving, crowded and noisy from dawn to dusk through the endless nights

This city, my city, nurtured me, fed me, entertained and sustained me

She and I shared so much and she is unrecognizable to me now

Tears emerge as my love for her spills out to fill the giant void created by the pandemic

Feeling bewildered, I want to shake and awaken her from her dormant state

Spreading out my arms, I try to hold her and heal her wounds as she did for me over the years

One day a spectrum of beaming lights will penetrate the darkness that now surrounds her

When New York reawakens, her vibrant energy will spark a rebirth where the mystery

of what once was will unfold anew

Our website videos

Videos of all four of the 5781/2020 High Holy Day services are on the Congregation Ahavath Sholom website. Just click the button on the home page.



For those who missed September's presentation by the CAS Theatre Group, Selected Vignettes from *Hold Me* by Jules Feiffer and *Monologues* can be seen on the CAS website under Programs and Events on the top drop-down menu; click on The CAS Theatre Group to access the video. Featuring Ellen Axelrod, Barbara Janoff and Barry Shapiro, the video was directed and produced by Linda Josephs.



Calling all CAS artisans, artists and writers

CAS is considering opening an online store for our artists and writers. We would advertise your creations/books in the weekly constant contacts and create a page on our website to show your work. Your contact information would be listed with the items for sale.



Anyone who chose to purchase an item would contact you directly and make the purchase. On a monthly basis we would ask you to donate 25% of your proceeds to CAS. We are hoping people will purchase for Chanukah and beyond to support our artisan community. The store will remain open as long as you feel it is worthwhile to continue selling. If you are interested in participating please contact me: Sandra Flannery, smflann@ix.netcom.com.

Ahavath Sholom's 100th Year Anniversary

Our 100th Anniversary of CAS begins in 2021. In 1921 plans and fundraising were started to purchase our building on North Street. It took until 1926 for us to receive a charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



We have a lot of history and celebrations to plan. Volunteer and help us! There are cartons of old ledgers, artifacts to sort thru and fundraising to fix up our 100-year-old building. Let's get our Great Barrington community behind us and help us celebrate. There are many different jobs and I'm sure we can find something that you will enjoy doing. The CAS board has formed a committee and we would love our congregants to join us in all of our planning.

Interested?? email casoffice15@gmail.com or call Alison at 914 319 1621

November 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	This year
Irv Rubinstein	Cheshvan 18 5739	11/5
Louis Schaeffer	Cheshvan 18 5759	11/5
Ethel Lipson	Cheshvan 19 5748	11/6
Henrietta Slote	Cheshvan 20 5775	11/7
Judith Weinstein	Cheshvan 23 5765	11/10
Samuel Cutler	Cheshvan 24 5763	11/11
Harry S. Duke	Cheshvan 25 5737	11/12
Thomas Josephs	Cheshvan 26 5769	11/13
Ludwig Maier	Cheshvan 26 5714	11/13
Arthur Rothstein	Cheshvan 27 5746	11/14
Sam Shapiro	Cheshvan 27 5775	11/14
Anshel Tessler	Cheshvan 28 5721	11/15
Jacob Greenside	Kislev 01 5746	11/17
Frank Rawitz	Kislev 06 5743	11/22
Mildred Hillman	Kislev 07 5753	11/23
Gussie Osterweil	Kislev 08 5735	11/24
Martha Gellert	Kislev 12 5752	11/28
Irving Innerfield	Kislev 12 5737	11/28
Harry Fine	Kislev 12 5748	11/28
Sally Fine	Kislev 12 5756	11/28

November Donations

In memory of my dear mother Lillian Kipnis

Ellen Kanner

In memory of Lillian "Lakie" Kipnis

Dr. Alan and Deborah Beck

Vicki and Jeffrey Fields

Faith and Larry Newmark

Michele Waldman

In memory of Mildred Hillman

Arthur and Louise Hillman

In memory of Laurie Stransky

Sandra and Bill Flannery

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Alison Weinberg

For the Creative Arts Program

Joy Robin Dronge

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Linda Josephs

Carol Killian

Alan Model

Michele Waldman

Other donations

Barbara Janoff

PJ Library[®] PAJAMA DRIVE

November 10 – December 16

During the cold winter months, many children in the Berkshires go to sleep cold, without the comfort of warm pajamas.

To meet this critical need we are running a community-wide pajama drive.

Pajamas will be distributed to families across the Berkshires by the MA Dept of Children and Families.



This year we have teamed up with **Carr Hardware** to offer drop off of brand-new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) at these convenient locations:

- Carr Hardware, Great Barrington
- Carr Hardware, Lenox
- Jewish Federation, Pittsfield
- Carr Hardware, North Adams

Monetary donations towards the purchase of PJs are also welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 slehrer@jewishberkshires.org



PJ Library, in collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is made possible in the Berkshires through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund, and the Jewish Women's Foundation

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