



Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

THE CAS NEWSLETTER January 2021

Upcoming services and events

Wednesday, January 6 at 10:00 AM: Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Friday, January 8 at 5 PM: Friday Night Candle Lighting

Sunday, January 10 at 2 PM: Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Workshop via Zoom

Monday, January 11 at 5:30 PM: Monthly Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, January 13 at 10 AM: Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Sunday, January 17 (TBA): Study Session with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Wednesday, January 20 at 10 AM: Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Saturday, January 23 (TBA): Tu BiShvat with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

Wednesday, January 27 at 10 AM: Coffee with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

This month's newsletter features:

- **January Creative Arts Workshop: *Memoir Writing***
- **Milchidika with Marty: Time Marches On/Time Is No Laggard**
- **"Cooking with Alison" a new CAS program**
- **"Dear Me" book review**
- **January Yahrzeits**
- **January Donations**
- **CAS Advertisers and Sponsors**

“Cooking with Alison”

Our own Alison Adams-Weinberg, a member of the Ahavath Sholom Board of Directors and Executive Committee, is a wonderful cook! She recently filmed a great video for making Chicken Marbella; her husband Steve was the filmmaker and chief kibitzer! We have installed the three-part 17 ½ minute video on the CAS website. Please check it out and let us know how you like it and whether an ongoing series of cooking demonstrations should be continued (and if you would like to contribute a cooking or baking video of your own).



“Dear Me” Book Review

[This book review of “Dear Me” by CAS member Stephanie Sloane appeared in the December 12 issue of the New York Post]

Widow becomes pandemic poet after losing husband during lockdown

By [Mackenzie Dawson](#)

December 12, 2020



Stephanie Sloane's husband, Mike (together inset), died in early March, just as New York lockdowns were going into place. The playwright turned her ensuing grief and loneliness into a collection of poems. *Courtesy of Stephanie Sloane*

On March 19, just three days before the New York state lockdown began, Stephanie Sloane lost Mike, her husband of 58 years, to throat cancer at age 83. All of the things that come with the death of a loved one — the funeral, the planning, and most of all, the people — had to be managed from a distance.

There was a Zoom funeral. “This was at the very beginning and no one knew how to use Zoom properly,” says Sloane, 81. “A lot of people couldn’t get on.”

Her isolation led to despair.

“The day of the Zoom funeral, my three kids were supposed to be alone in their homes. That day I kept saying, ‘I can’t do this.’ One son eventually came and got me and brought me to his house. It was not a good time to be alone.”

She had been with Mike since college; They raised three kids together in the suburbs, then moved to Manhattan “the minute the oldest girl left for college!” And so, the months that followed without him made her Upper East Side apartment feel like a prison. Throughout the spring, it felt impossible to move forward when everything and everyone was stuck in place.



Stephanie in happier times with her husband and family. Courtesy of Stephanie Sloan

“I couldn’t do anything. A lot of people couldn’t,” said Sloane, a playwright. “An old friend from college called a month in and asked how I was doing. ‘Terrible!’ I said. ‘I can’t read, write, cook, watch TV, nothing.’ He said, ‘Why don’t you write another play?’

“I said: ‘Impossible! Out of the question.’

“Then he said, ‘Why don’t you write a poem?’

“And I thought, ‘That, I could do.’ So that was the first poem I wrote. I noticed that it made me feel better to write. And I thought, I’ll just keep writing.”

“[Dear Me: Poems of Loss, Grief and Hope in New York’s Darkest Days](#)” (The Three Tomatoes Book Publishing), out now, is the result of that time. While the poems speak to Sloane’s very personal loss, there is a

universal quality to her verses that will resonate with anyone who experienced the city during those bleak days of spring.

O for the good old days

When all we had to do was show up!

TV ads say Stay Home

On many daily phone calls

I learn some peers take daily walks

Is it safe?

Another poem celebrates the nightly clap for hospital staff:

People on balconies bang pans

Walkers clap, horns honk

Just for a moment, it's my city again.

In August, Sloane traded Manhattan, her home since 1986, for the Berkshires, where she had spent every summer of her life. She knows many people there, and being in a smaller community feels good to her. People stop by unexpectedly to sit on the porch together at a distance. They make time for each other. A recent Zoom poetry reading was a big hit.

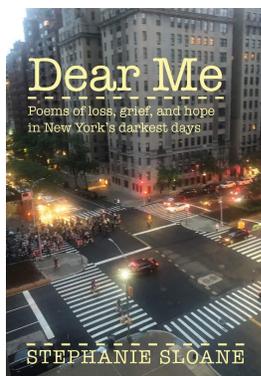
"Plans are made the same day!" she marvels at her new laid-back home, a far cry from the bustle of NYC, where it was so difficult to schedule time with friends.

This year will be a quiet holiday season. Her three married children have given her eight grandchildren, ranging in age from 9 to 27, whom she hasn't seen in months.

For now, she's hoping to memorialize Mike with her family in Great Barrington sometime in the spring, when they can all be together.

"At some point after the beginning, I realized we were all mourning, not just me," said Sloane.

"We still are. We're mourning the loss of the lives that we had."



Please note:
Stephanie's wonderful book is now
available at the CAS Marketplace!

January Yahrzeits

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

	<u>Hebrew Date</u>	<u>This year</u>
Rose London Orenstein	Tevet 23 5731	1/7
Bella Axelrod	Tevet 25 5721	1/9
Robert Scheinmann	Tevet 25 5729	1/9
Hy Radin	Tevet 27 5755	1/11
Rabbi Jacob Axelrod	Tevet 28 5746	1/12
Arthur John Rothstein	Tevet 29 5752	1/13
Herbert Budnick	Tevet 29 5774	1/13
Arnold Kirshen	Tevet (29?)5759	1/13
Helen Dorothy Rothberg	Shevat 01 5660	1/14
Al Alson	Shevat 3 5777	1/16
Rosemary Edelman	Shevat 4 5773	1/17
Frances Letofsky	Shevat 07 5769	1/20
Larry Hillman	Shevat 09 5722	1/22
Diane Rausch	Shevat 10 5752	1/23
Dan Bongini	Shevat 12 5765	1/25

January Donations

In memory Laurie Stransky

Paul and Beverly Silpe

In memory of Lillian “Lakie” Kipnis

Laura Chekow

In memory of Natalie Carole (Hessel) Chekow

Laura Chekow

In memory of Larry Hillman

Arthur and Louise Hillman

The People’s Pantry

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Michele Waldman

The CAS Marketplace

Dan Burkhard

Karen Chase

Paul Graubard

The Creative Arts Series

Barbara Barron

Sandra Flannery

Caroline Forsman

Barbara Janoff

Linda Josephs

A Chanukah gift for Linda Josephs

Lisa and Scott Josephs

The Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Arthur and Louise Hillman

Other donations

Joseph B. Gellert

Stuart Greenberg

Nettie Hammond

Gordon and Susan Josephson

Lee Schwartz

Ahavath Sholom Advertisers and Sponsors

Jayne Benjulian



Manuscript editing
Coaching for writers

jaynebenjulian@gmail.com

Our newest advertiser



18 Franklin Street • Lenox, MA

Phil Cohen, Owner facebook.com/bagelandbrew
413-637-0055 bagelandbrew@gmail.com

Celebrating 60 years



Ward's
WHERE GARDENERS GROW
Great Barrington, MA

Open Daily - 413-528-0165 - www.wardsnursery.com



Wheeler & Taylor
Insurance ♦ Real Estate
SINCE 1871

333 Main St. Gt. Barrington MA 01230 413•528•1000	402 East St. Fittsfield MA 01201 413•448•8224	96 Main St. Sheffield MA 01257 413•229•8064	44 Main St. Stockbridge MA 01262 413•298•5584
--	--	--	--

www.wheelerandtaylor.com

RESULTS

Get the results you're looking for, schedule your print & digital ad today!

Affordable Ad Rates • 57,000 Readers Weekly
18,000+ Direct Mailed in the Tri-State Area



SHOPPER'S GUIDE INC.

Weekly Ad Deadline: Friday 11 am
271 Main Street, Downtown Great Barrington, MA 01230
413-528-0095 • www.shoppersguideinc.com

IN PRINT & ONLINE!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISER

Naomi Alson
Licensed Acupuncturist and Herbalist

11 Quarry Hill Road
413-243-8255 or 413-243-3223
email: Nalson247@hotmail.com



CARR HARDWARE & SUPPLY, INC.

SERVING THE BERKSHIRES SINCE 1928
256 Main St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
52 Park St., Lee, MA 01238
Phone: 413-528-4520 Fax: 413-528-6809
www.carrhardware.com

11

DAVID M. LAZAN Attorney at Law
Lazan Glover & Puciloski, LLP

GT. BARRINGTON
PITTSFIELD
BOSTON

785 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 644-0200 Fax (413) 644-0201
Email: lazan@lazanlaw.com

**THE GREAT BARRINGTON BAGEL
COMPANY INC.**



**WHERE YOU CAN TASTE THE
DIFFERENCE**

SPECIALIZING IN:
• SMOKED FISH • DELI SANDWICHES •
• GOURMET SALADS • PARTY PLATTERS

**LET US HELP YOU PLAN
YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION**

777 SOUTH MAIN ST. GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 413-528-9085 FAX 528-1539

THE SNAP SHOP

14 RAILROAD STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON MA 01230
413-528-4725
TUE - FRI 9-5:30 SAT 9-4
CLOSED SUN & MON
STEVE & TONY

CHARLES J. FERRIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

500 MAIN ST. SUITE 1
GT. BARRINGTON, MA 01230
TEL: (413) 528-8900
FAX: (413) 528-9132

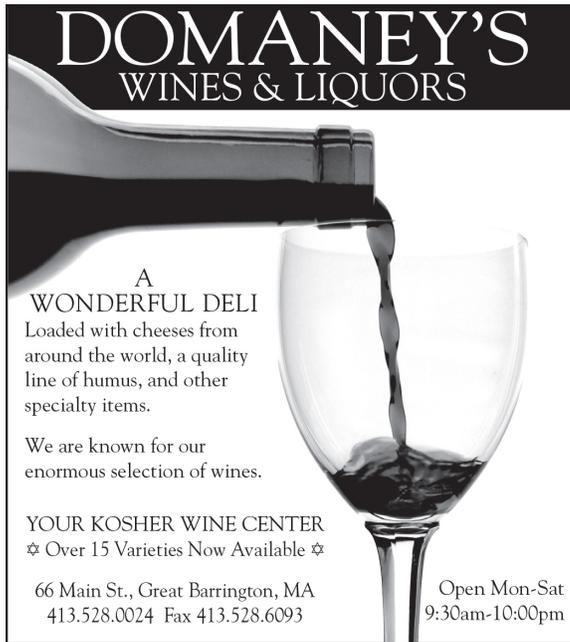
27 HENRY AVENUE
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201
TEL: (413) 443-8900

EMAIL: charles.ferris@verizon.net

MEMBER OF MASSACHUSETTS & NEW YORK BAR

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS

DOMANEY'S
WINES & LIQUORS



A
WONDERFUL DELI
Loaded with cheeses from around the world, a quality line of humus, and other specialty items.

We are known for our enormous selection of wines.

YOUR KOSHER WINE CENTER
✧ Over 15 Varieties Now Available ✧

66 Main St., Great Barrington, MA
413.528.0024 Fax 413.528.6093

Open Mon-Sat
9:30am-10:00pm

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAS ADVERTISERS



Joy Robin Dronge
Juilliard Trained
award winning performer & composer

Music Lessons

flute † piano † recorder † performance
private & groups for ages 2-102 reasonable rates
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com



Joy Robin Dronge
Juilliard Trained Musician

*Wedding Music
Coordinator & Performer*

all instruments—classical & jazz
Arranging live wedding music in the Berkshires since 1974
413.298.3029 • joydronge@yahoo.com

Barnbrook 
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Bringing you home from near and far

Mary White
BROKER OWNER

271 Main St, Great Barrington, MA 01230
27c Housatonic St, Lenox, MA 01240

o 413-528-4423 c 413-329-6342
Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com | www.BarnbrookRealty.com