



# Congregation Ahavath Sholom

The Creative Spirit Dwells Here

## THE CAS NEWSLETTER

August 2021

### Upcoming services and events

**Wednesday, August 4 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, August 7 from 4:00-7:00 p.m:** Elul at the Lake

**Monday, August 9 at 2:00 PM:** Creative Arts Workshop: Memoir Writing via Zoom

**Monday, August 9 at 5:30 PM:** CAS Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday, August 11 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Friday, August 13 at 5:00:** Candle Lighting Service via Zoom

**Wednesday, August 18 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Thursday, August 19 from 4:30-6:00 PM:** High Holy Days prayer book pickup at the synagogue

**Sunday, August 22 from 12:00-2:00 PM:** High Holy Days prayer book pickup at the synagogue

**Wednesday, August 25 at 10:00 AM:** Coffee Time with Rabbi Barbara Cohen via Zoom

**Saturday, August 28 at 10:00 AM:** In-person Service: Selichot/High Holy Days focus

### This month's newsletter features:

- **The High Holy Days: Registration and Yizkor**
- **Elul at the Lake**
- **Milchidika with Marty: *It's library, not liberry***
- **The Chase/Graubard Show**
- ***Go Figure* Exhibition**
- ***Everyone is a Hero* show and events**
- **Cooking with Alison: Strawberry Shortcake**
- **August Yahrzeits**
- **August Donations**
- **CAS Advertisers and Sponsors**

## The High Holy Days: Registration and Yizkor

**ALL CAS members and guests must register for the High Holy Days** (both the two Zoom sessions and the two in-person sessions) by using the button on our website home page.

**To have your Yizkor remembrances included on Yom Kippur**, please use the form in the registration section of the website to list your names. If your list is the same as last year, just indicate that fact on the form. You can make your donation by using the donation button and form or sending us a check. In each case, be sure to indicate what the donation is for Yizkor.



### Erev Rosh HaShanah

Monday September 6, 7 PM-8:30 PM **via Zoom**

### Rosh HaShanah Day 1 in-person Berkshire South Community Center

Tuesday September 7, 10 AM to 12 noon

### Kol Nidrei / Erev Yom Kippur in-person Berkshire South Community Center

Wednesday September 15, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

### Yom Kippur Day

Thursday September 16, 10 AM to 12 noon **via Zoom**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Prayer books for the High Holy Days can be picked up at the synagogue on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM or on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00-2:00 PM.

## Elul at the Lake

Rabbi Barbara invites us to join her for Elul at Laurel Lake on August 7, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. We will have our water ritual as well as an early Havdalah service. Light refreshments will be served. An RSVP is a must if you are planning on being there.

**RSVP to [casoffice15@gmail.com](mailto:casoffice15@gmail.com) or to Alison at [adamsweinberg@gmail.com](mailto:adamsweinberg@gmail.com) by August 3, 2021.**

Directions will be sent when you RSVP.



## Milchidika with Marty: *It's library, not liberry*

*[Note: This article originally appeared in the September 2017 issue of the CAS Newsletter]*

My mother was born in Budapest, Hungary, arriving in the United States as a little girl and was, in later years, very proud that she spoke English without an accent; while the rest of the family who arrived at the same time, spoke with an Hungarian accent and tended to mix up their "v's" and "w's"; pronouncing water as "vater" and vegetables as "wegetables."

So, when I was growing up, I would say to my mother, who was very concerned with proper pronunciation, "Mom, I'm going to the liberry to get a couple of books." She would say to me, "It's library, not liberry." Or when I would say to one of my friends, "Hey, let's play handball," she would say to me that "Hay, is for horses."

But the one thing that I would never forget was her advice, "To always do the right thing and be a mensch."

I usually tried to do the right thing, but I decided that I would try to find the definition of a mensch and see if I really qualified.

Here's what I found. A mensch is someone to admire and to emulate, someone of noble character, with a sense of what is right. A mensch is a particularly good person, a person with the qualities that one would hope for in a friend or trusted colleague.

That's a pretty high bar to get over, so I dug a little deeper to see if I could find some easier standards. But the more I searched, the higher the bar seemed to go. Here are some examples of what you have to do to be considered a mensch.

1. Help others: A mensch would be the person who might go over to a new member of the synagogue and not only introduce them to others, but also keep up with them after everyone else has said "hello" and then gradually walked away. Or you might visit someone who can't drive, is homebound and lonely and offer to take them out to lunch.
2. Do the right thing the right way: How about helping out a friend in a difficult situation or helping them in getting a job, and not bragging about it later, or saying that "you owe me."
3. Be a peacemaker: If you are driving down the road and see someone you greatly dislike standing next to their broken down car, you should not think to yourself, "Ha, that's what he deserves!" and drive on by. Rather you should stop and help him.
4. Strive to be a better person: Take the time to appreciate the gift of another day. Enjoy life to the fullest.

That's a tough list, and although I would like to think of myself as a mensch, I don't really think I qualify. I wonder if there is such a thing as "almost a mensch."

Meanwhile, a mensch joke:

Four Jewish men are playing poker in the condo clubhouse when Meyerwitz loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table.

Finklestein looks around and asks "Now, who is going to tell his wife?"

They draw straws. Goldberg, who is always a loser, picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse than it is.

"Gentlemen! Discreet? I'm the most discreet mensch you will ever meet. Discretion is my middle name. Leave it to me."

Goldberg schleps over to the Meyerwitz apartment, knocks on the door, the wife answers, and asks what he wants.

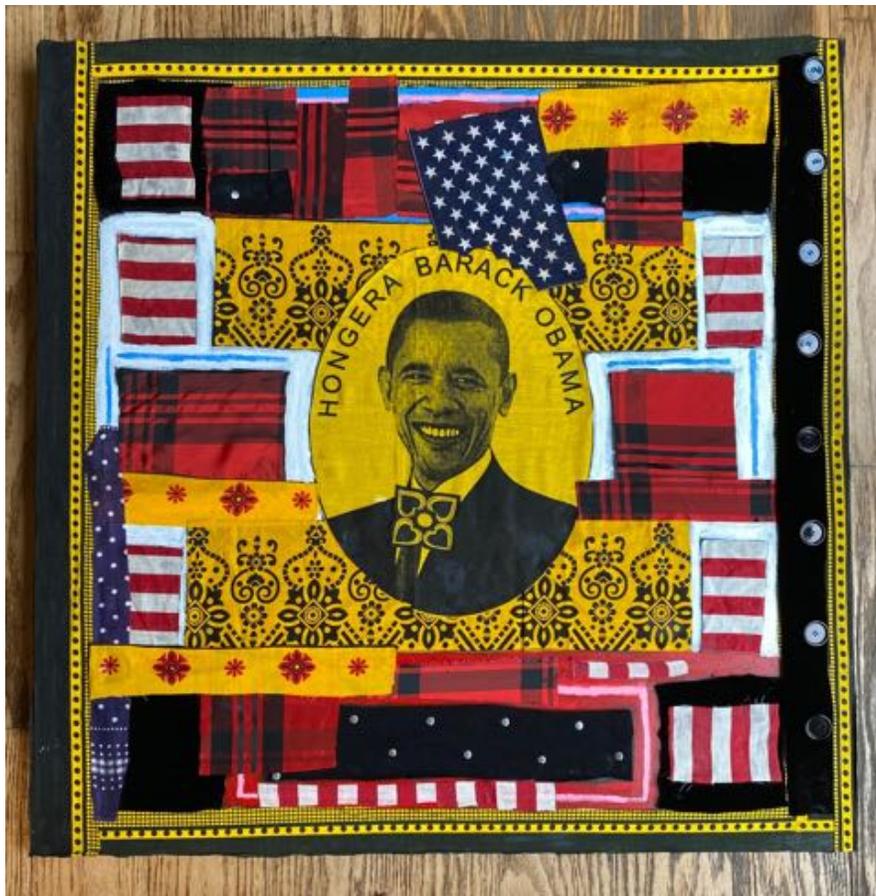
Goldberg declares, "Your husband just lost \$500 playing poker." She hollers, "TELL HIM HE SHOULD DROP DEAD." Goldberg replies, "He just did."

## The Chase/Graubard Show

The Chase/Graubard Show is at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts for the month of September.

Karen Chase is an abstract painter. Paul Graubard paints narrative, visionary works. Their paintings could not be more different. They are married. This show highlights a few of their collaborations, as well as their individual paintings. When they make collaborations, each is free to obliterate or change what the other has done. Chase, primarily a writer and poet, has been painting since she was a little girl. Painting is a basic activity for her, like cooking or washing. Graubard began to paint when he was in his sixties, giving up his practice as a psychologist. A number of museums collect his work.

One of their collaborations, *Hongera Obama, Tanzanian Congratulations*, will be silently auctioned off. (Image and details below) The proceeds will be donated to the restoration for the Clinton AME Zion Church in Great Barrington, the first African American church in Berkshire County, with connections to W.E.B. Du Bois. The silent auction is available in person at the Lichtenstein or contact [slemme@cityofpittsfield.org](mailto:slemme@cityofpittsfield.org) for information on how to bid on the item.



Collage – fabric, buttons, acrylic paint on canvas. 36" by 36"

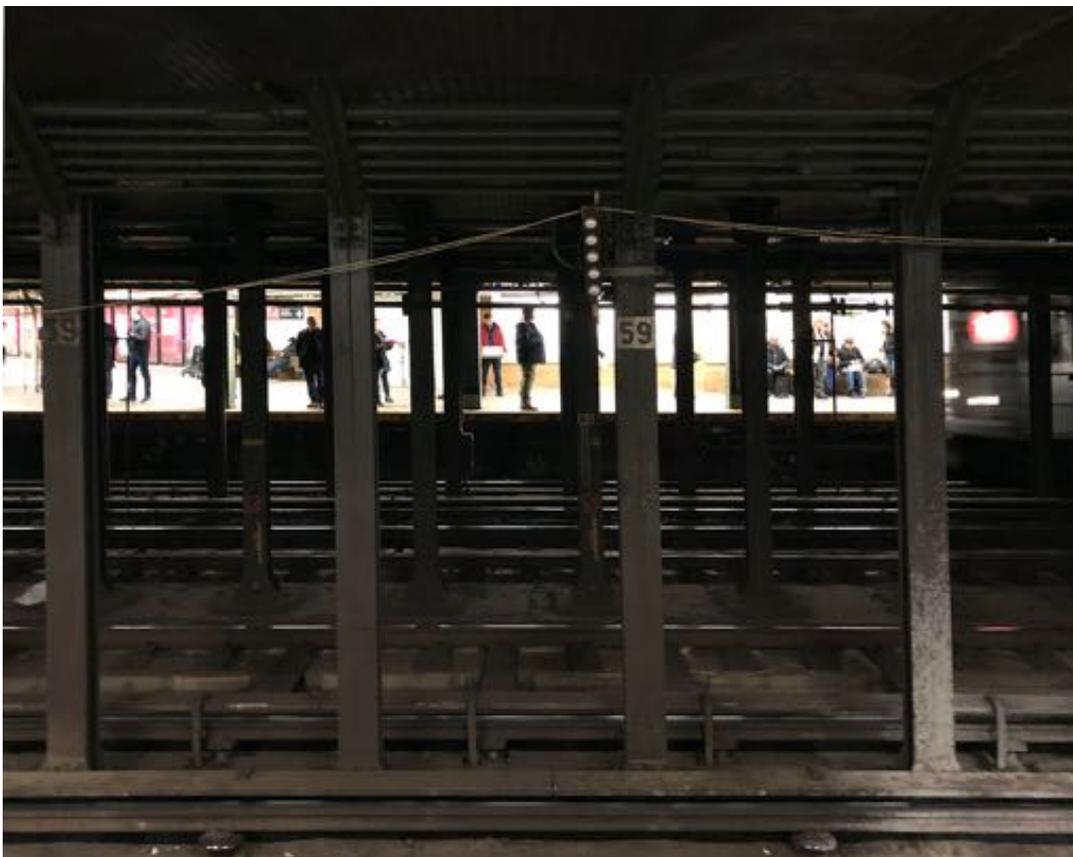
The Opening Reception is Friday, September 3 from 5:00-7:00 (Gallery will stay open until 8:00) during [First Fridays Artswalk](#). On Friday, September 24 at 5:30, *Collaboration: A Conversation with Karen and Paul* moderated by [Jayne Benjulian](#). This event is a part of the county-wide [ArtWeek Berkshires](#) event. Both events will take place at The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Avenue, Pittsfield. 413-499- 9348. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday, 11am-3pm or by appointment.

*Karen, Paul and Jayne are CAS members; you can find Karen and Jayne's books and a selection of Paul's prints and t-shirts within the CAS Marketplace on the congregation's website.*

## **Go Figure exhibition**

The opening reception for the *Go Figure* show at the Meeting House Gallery, Rte. 57, New Marlborough, is on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The reception will be held outdoors, weather permitting; a rain date will be the following day, if necessary.

The title of the exhibition may suggest works of figurative art, from real sources, or works from a process such as figuring things out, or a numerical process. These artists may be using anything from animate or inanimate objects, numerals, or the human figure, as the stimulus for their works. Twenty artists in a variety of media are included in this group exhibition, including photographs by CAS member, Arthur Hillman. The exhibit runs from August 21 to September 12; the gallery is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



*Columbus Circle*

Photograph by Arthur Hillman

## **Everyone is a Hero art show and events**

The Berkshire Art Association (BAA) is hosting an exciting comic and cartoon art show and events this August. "Everyone Is a Hero: A Comic and Cartoon Art Tribute to Our Local Heroes" runs August 6 – 28 at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield, featuring original artwork and signed auction items created by popular Marvel, DC, and Simpsons comic book artists Luke McDonnell, Penim Loureiro, and Bill Morrison. The show and its programs are dedicated to the memory of Pittsfield resident Paul Houston, with gratitude for his years of commitment and service to the BAA.

All are welcome to a sneak peek on Friday, August 6, 5-8pm, during Pittsfield's First Fridays Artswalk. The opening party is Saturday, August 7, from 3-6pm. This festive family friendly event (sponsored by Berkshire Gas) will feature music, art, and comic-making with special guest artists Joe Staton (Green Lantern, Justice Society, and Scooby-

Doo) and Luke McDonnell (Iron Man, Suicide Squad, and Batman) drawing awesome characters and teaching you how to make your own comics. Come dressed in your best comic- and cartoon-inspired costumes!

The show is curated by BAA board member and Pittsfield resident Lawrence Klein, founder of the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art in New York City. "I came up with a few themes, and my idea was to ask American comic book artist Luke McDonnell and Portuguese comic book artist Penim Loureiro to create unique drawings from the same list of subjects," says Klein. "How do two artists from different parts of the world view the same subject matter? They took up the challenge of creating their own visions and the results are amazing." The show also features sketches and autographed items for auction by Bill Morrison, creative director of The Simpsons and Futurama, and Patrick McDonnell, creator of MUTTS. Local Berkshire artists will also show their illustration work. "The show brings together an impressive group of artists and the result is great fun," says BAA member Liz Bevilacqua. "You'll see familiar heroes and heroines like Batman, Iron Man, and Harley Quinn in new and creative ways."

A special fundraising event at the Berkshire Humane Society will feature Joe Staton creating custom art for sale and free hands-on art making activities.

On August 19 at 6 pm, at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield, comics industry veteran Danny Fingerth will present "Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics and the Creation of the Superhero." Fingerth will discuss how many of the most significant comics and graphic novel creators were 1st and 2nd generation immigrants, and how the creators' Jewish origins may have helped make superheroes some of the most familiar popular culture icons of all time. The innovators to be covered include Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, who invented major Marvel superheroes including the Avengers, Hulk, and X-Men; Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, creators of Superman; Bob Kane and Bill Finger, who created Batman in a Bronx apartment, and Will Eisner, who gave the world the landmark superhero The Spirit and pioneered the modern graphic novel. Danny Fingerth is a pop culture critic and historian with a focus on comics and graphic novels especially from a Jewish perspective. He is a longtime executive editor and writer at Marvel Comics, and author of books about comics, including *A Marvelous Life: The Amazing Story of Stan Lee*, which he will be signing at the event. This event is made possible thanks to a Jewish Community Grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and The Wassermann-Streit Y'DIYAH Memorial fund, administered by The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

"Everyone Is a Hero: A Comic and Cartoon Art Tribute to Our Local Heroes" will be open Wednesday through Saturday August 6 - 28 at The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts at 28 Renne Avenue in Pittsfield. The show and its programs are made possible by the generous support of Berkshire Gas, IDW Publishing, Mass Cultural Council, Pittsfield Cultural Council, Acme Archives, Bags Unlimited, Twisted Cedar Wines, and Chiaroscuro Studios. All proceeds from the sale of art created for and during the show will benefit the Berkshire Art Association's programs for art students across Berkshire County, including the high school field trip program and college art student fellowships. For more than 60 years, the BAA has supported artists at all levels of their careers and connected the public with visual art and artists in the Berkshires.

## Cooking with Alison

The eighth cooking demonstration from our own Alison Adams-Weinberg's kitchen is strawberry shortcake. **We have installed the video on the CAS website along with Alison's other cooking videos.** Please check it out! The printed recipe is below.



# Strawberry Shortcake

## Ingredients

- 1 lb washed and hulled strawberries
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 cup or 8 tbsp frozen butter
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 2 tbsp sour cream
- 1/4 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

## Directions

1. Take 1/3 of strawberries and mash. Slice remainder and combine with mashed strawberries and 2 tbsp sugar. Cover and allow to macerate on counter until ready to plate.
2. Preheat oven to 425 degrees; place rack in center of oven. Place parchment paper on bottom of 1/2 sheet pan.
3. Add sifted flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar; whisk or stir with fork.
4. Take stick of frozen butter and place in bowl of flour mixture, roll it to coat and then using a box grater, large grating side, grate butter into flour mixture. While grating occasionally coat stick of butter with the flour mixture; this keeps it from sticking.
5. Mix the butter and flour mixture with fork.
6. In a small bowl mix egg and heavy cream.
7. Add buttermilk to flour mixture. Mix and then make well in center and add cream egg mixture. Mix with fork and then, using your hands, continue till you can form the dough. Lightly flour surface of counter or cutting board and roll into a 3/4 inch disc. Using a 2 1/2 inch biscuit cutter or the rim of a drinking glass, cut individual biscuits and place on baking sheet. Spread out on the baking sheet. Be careful not to twist while cutting. This could interfere with rising. Keep taking scraps and combining to make 6 biscuits.
8. Lightly brush tops with 1 tbsp heavy cream and sprinkle with 1 tbsp. of sugar. Place in oven, baking 10-15 minutes, rotating baking sheet once while baking. Biscuit tops should be lightly browned. Biscuits can be prepped earlier and warmed before using.
9. Combine 1 1/2 cup heavy cream with confectioner sugar, sour cream, white sugar and vanilla. Using a portable mixer whip until soft peaks or consistency you like. This is a make-ahead whipped cream which holds its shape well and can be made earlier in day.
10. To assemble, slice biscuit using serrated knife. Spoon strawberry mixture on top of each half. Place the other half of biscuit on top, spoon additional berries on top and place a large dollop of cream on top.

## August 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
Rebecca Isserson	Av 25 5757	8/3
Beatrice Alson	Av 27 5769	8/5
Ella Schaeffer	Av 29 5762	8/7
Phyllis Kirshen	Elul 02 5772	8/10
Bea Guralnick	Elul 6 5775	8/14
Leo Kaplan	Elul 08 5754	8/16
Benjamin Pilcer	Elul 09 5773	8/17
Chaim Witkowski	Elul 10 5762	8/18
Lillian Kipnis	Elul 13 5780	8/21
Freke Vuijst	Elul 15 5780	8/23
Ruth Levi	Elul 15 5732	8/23
Benjamin Kipnis	Elul 17 5769	8/25
Serena Kaplan	Elul 20 5780	8/28
Denny Edelman	Elul21 5750	8/29
Irving Nadelman	Elul 22 5743	8/30
Lilly Brill	Elul 23	8/31

## August Donations

**In loving memory of Al Silverstein**  
Barbara Janoff

**In memory of Harry Conklin**  
Arthur and Louise Hillman

**In memory of Joan Sussman**  
Gloria Dove for Rosalie Sussman

**In memory of Don Barron** (Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)  
Barbara Barron

**In appreciation of our Board of Directors**  
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**In appreciation of the Creative Arts Workshops**  
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Arthur Hillman (Memoir and Photography Workshops)

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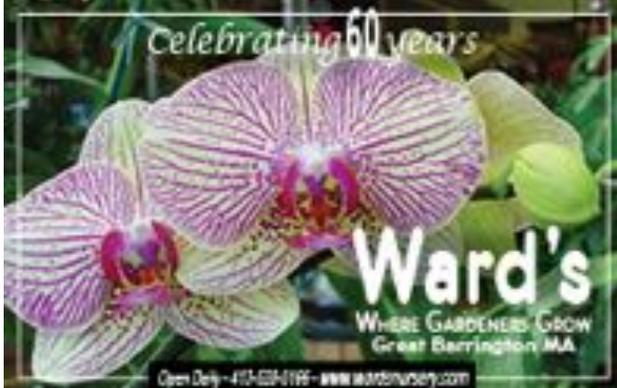
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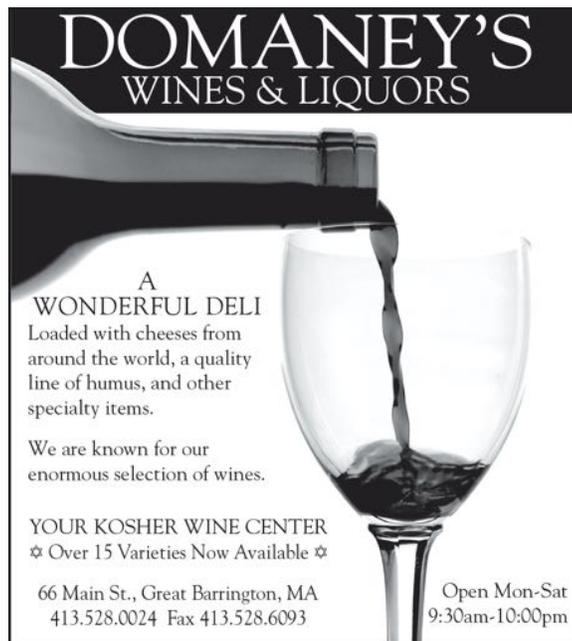
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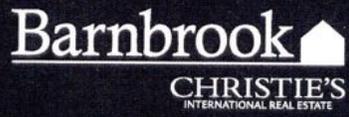
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