

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 21, NO. 2 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Best-selling author Dr. Russell to speak

7 p.m. Nov. 3, 2016

Congregation Beth Israel is thrilled to present author Mary Doria Russell at 7 p.m. Nov. 3, 2016, at 2200 Broadway. She will speak



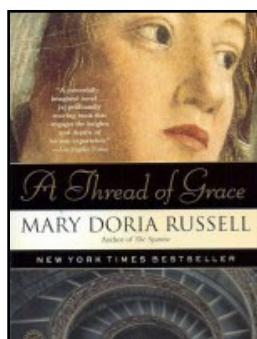
about her Pulitzer-nominated novel, *A Thread of Grace*, about Jewish survival in Nazi-occupied Italy. Book signing (books will be

made available for purchase by Village Books) and reception to follow. The evening is co-sponsored by WWU's Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity.

The event is open to the public. Donations are welcome to help offset Beth Israel's costs.

Dr. Russell also will be speaking at WWU's Fairhaven College Auditorium at 7 p.m. Nov. 2, 2016, about her first novel, *The Sparrow*.

Widely praised for meticulous



research, fine prose, and the compelling narrative drive of her stories, Dr. Russell is the award-winning author of six bestselling novels, includ-

ing the science fiction classics *The Sparrow* and *Children of God*; and a political romance set in 1921 Cairo called *Dreamers of the Day* — one of the few novels about the Middle East praised in both Turkey and Israel. With her latest novels, *Doc* and *Epitaph*, Russell has redefined two towering figures of the American West: lawman Wyatt Earp and dental surgeon Doc Holliday.

Russell holds a Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of Michigan and taught anatomy at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry.

Read more: marydoriarussell.net

FROM THE RABBI

A time to reflect in *mar cheshvan*

After celebrating the "Season of Our Rejoicing" (*z'man sim-chateinu*) by shaking the lulav



and etrog and dancing around the synagogue with our *sifrei torah*, we now enter what is commonly named *mar cheshvan*, or "Bitter Cheshvan." This is the

second month of the Hebrew calendar, and it is referred to as "bitter" for a few reasons. The most recognized reason is that no holidays are celebrated in it. According to a midrash, our matriarch Sarah died in *cheshvan*. And in one obscure 17th-century commentary, the author explains the bitterness of the month due to the beginning of the rainy season. (I wonder how he would have fared in Bellingham!)

With only Hanukkah on the horizon, it seems like the perfect time to reflect on the past month. And what a month Tishrei was! This was my fifth High Holy Days with Beth Israel and it was a joy to observe these awesome days together. Andrea Shupack and I have appreciated your positive responses, as they only validate

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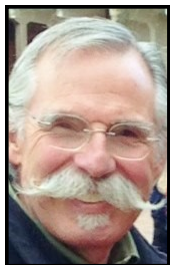
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From the President ...

New year gets a special start in our new building

This year, following Erev Rosh Hashanah, an army of volunteers moved everything from The Leopold



to our new building and worked late into the night setting up. The next morning, the sun peeked between the clouds — no rain! As we navigated the driveway, the façade of our new shul came into view. Volunteer parking attendants in yarmulkes found parking spaces for most of us on the asphalt and a few pioneers lurched off toward the trees and cleared dirt. In all, about 300 congregants and guests worshipped in the new sanctuary that morning. I am smiling right now as I remember the joy on the faces and in the voices of those who gathered to pray, to sing, to hear the shofar and to finally worship in that space. It was so wonderful to hear the excited voices of the children as they ran in and out of the sanctuary.

It was appropriate that the first service was Rosh Hashanah, the birthday of the world. As we read in B'reisheet, after creating the world,

G-d's work was not yet complete; there was more to do before resting. For us as well, our work is not done. We had a glimpse of our future, but we have more to do before we can rest.

After services, I was asked repeatedly: "When can we move in?" To complete the new synagogue will require additional funds. We depend upon the generosity of our congregants and guests. Trust that we are using your donations wisely and that we are building a beautiful and solid shul as quickly as possible. The Capital Campaign continues to coordinate fundraising; the New Synagogue Task Force works diligently to oversee construction and the Board of Directors is very focused on selling our property on Broadway and J Street.

I am confident that we will do this together, gaining wisdom and strength along the way. It is my prayer that this year we will celebrate High Holy Days, from Erev Rosh Hashanah to Break-the-Fast, at 751 San Juan Boulevard. This year, 5777, let us make our dream a reality.

— Dan Ohms

Storytelling at Beit Café is back!

If you love storytelling, then you won't want to miss this event. Last February we heard hilarious, moving, and inspiring stories from CBI congregants. The theme this year is "Adventures."

Come be a part of this experience again. There will be plenty to eat and drink too.

Where: The Encore Room at Mount Baker Theatre

When: 7 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2017.

Donations will be happily accepted to support CBI programming.

If you would like to share a story (under 10 minutes), inform Rabbi Samuels to get on the list.

Sisterhood book group meeting

The next meeting of the Sisterhood book group will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016.

We will be discussing THE HEIST by Daniel Silva, and will meet at the home of Joan Wayne.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar

Volume 21, Number 2
November/December 2016
Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5777

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. As of January 2013, it is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$35/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the January/February issue is NOVEMBER 15. Call the office for more information.

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Strategic planning process continues

BY KATIE EDELSTEIN
BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

In the early 1990s, Congregation Beth Israel's dream was to envision ourselves in a new building designed to meet the changing needs of our membership. As we get closer to that reality, it's time to dream about what that will mean for our community as well as envisioning what this might look like for Congregation Beth Israel in the future.

Congregation Beth Israel's board recognized the importance of guiding our community into the future and voted to institute creation of a strategic plan — especially in light of the opportunities that a new, much larger building will offer. This does not, in

any way, take away from all of the excellent programming and activities that have taken place up to this point. It simply means that we want to consider opportunities to enable our community to continue to grow and prosper.

Over the past several years, a cross-section of congregants and board members came together in several town hall meetings and board retreats to discuss several broad topics of congregational life. This information will be combined with the recent information gathered by Rabbi Joshua Samuels during High Holy Day services to bring us closer to understanding Congregation Beth Israel's current strengths, as well as

opportunities for our community to focus on going forward.

It is vital that the Congregation Beth Israel community feels part of the strategic planning process and contributes ideas during the process. Over the next several months, I will keep you apprised of how the strategic planning is going, but please feel free to share your thoughts on any aspect of congregational life that you feel should be part of our strategic plan. I also hope to plan a town hall meeting in the near future during which members can learn where we are with the process and also give people the opportunity to share their input. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ban to speak at Kristallnacht Commemoration

Beth Israel member and Holocaust survivor Noemi Ban will speak at the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration at Western Washington University at 6 p.m. November 9, 2016. Ban's story is one of loss, tragedy, resiliency, hope and inspiration. During this special event, Ban will share her experience of the Holocaust, including her imprison-



ment at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

A Q&A session and book-signing will follow, giving participants the opportunity to speak first-hand with one of the final Holocaust survivors of our time.

The event, hosted by The Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity, will be in Arntzen Hall 100. The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Reservations can be made at wp.wvu.edu/raywolpovinstitute/kristallnacht-commemoration/, by calling Courtney Baxter at (360) 650-4000 or by e-mailing courtney.baxter@wvu.edu.

Reading at VB ...

Susan Lynn Sloan, author of "Yishar Koach: Forward with Strength, The Story of Shoah Survivor Ferdinand Fragner," will speak at Village Books' Lit Live! event at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016.

Fred Fragner was a long-time Congregation Beth Israel member and a Holocaust survivor. His story is a testimony to personal strength and perseverance in the face of overwhelming hardship.

Sloan lives in Maple Falls. She was born in Chicago and worked as an evaluator and public health professional for many years.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, 647-7031

Building: Floyd King, 223-2538

Care: Sylvia Williams, 319-5059

Keshet (Religious School):

Wendy Blum, 733-5883 and Marcy Probst, 647-1982

Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, 676-8939

Membership: Rita Spitzer, 647-7065; Ann Suloway, 647-7031

New Synagogue Task Force: Warren Rosenthal, 961-9772

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825

Social Action: Debbie Raas, 676-1621; Linda Blackwell



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Bat Mitzvah



Neri Maxim will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 12, 2016. Neri is the daughter of Tom Maxim and Orly Ziv-Maxim, and is the sister of Elan Maxim.

Neri is a seventh-grader at Whatcom Middle School. Outside of school Neri enjoys acting and singing with Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth (BAAY), running on the cross-country team, playing the saxophone, and spending time with family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Neri has been mentoring youngsters at BAAY, helping to get them ready for their winter production.

Please join our family in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

November 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

November 12, 2016 at 10 AM

Welcome to our new members:

- * Leonard Berman
- * Mike & Jay Braunstein; son Max (7) and daughter Chloe (4)
- * Joel David & Sarah Sykes-David
- * Daniel Ingerberman & Renee Elder; sons AJ (16) & Teddy (13) Ingberman
- * Laura & Eric Leiske; son Tristan (18) and daughter Juliet (15) Lloveras
- * Stephen Spigelman
- * Dave Strich & Michelle Banks

Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2016

11/1 Susan Jay
 11/1 David Ziegler
 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (7th)
 11/2 Lev Shuster (15th)
 11/4 Elinor Hall 11th
 11/5 Ian James (8th)
 11/5 Aaron Weiss (98th)
 11/6 Rodney Shainbom
 11/7 Steve James
 11/8 Rob Grossman
 11/9 Jaime Lynn Korner (21st)
 11/11 Stephanie Korn
 11/11 Wendy Schwartz
 11/12 Jakob Garfinkle (18th)
 11/12 Rebecca Garfinkle (18th)
 11/13 Peter Auerbach
 11/13 Miriam Schwartz
 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (16th)
 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (16th)
 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (16th)

11/16 Kristan Brennan
 11/16 Ellie Greenberg (18th)
 11/16 Jane Relin
 11/16 Toby Sonneman
 11/17 Nancy L. Lloyd
 11/17 Bonnie Stone
 11/17 Jay Wolfman
 11/18 Rita Spitzer
 11/19 Anita Meyer
 11/19 Patricia Strumpf
 11/20 Willow Corey-DuBow (13th)
 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (6th)
 11/26 Tamar Clarke
 11/26 Shala Erlich
 11/27 Elkah Katz
 11/28 Floyd King
 11/30 Orion Dixon (8th)
 11/30 Priscilla Feld
 11/30 Sarah Witte

DECEMBER 2016

12/4 Eric Leiske

12/4 Rebecca Oliver
 12/5 Millie Johnson
 12/7 Alyssa Diller (16th)
 12/8 Noam Richmond (14th)
 12/10 Trisha Adelstein
 12/11 Marvin Wayne
 12/13 Sheldon B. Pravda
 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (11th)
 12/14 Eli Brennan (18th)
 12/15 Anna Booker
 12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine
 12/17 Maya Taranow (18th)
 12/19 Cathie Diller
 12/19 Cinda Zemel
 12/20 David Miller
 12/22 Michelle Anderson
 12/26 Manuel Ochoa
 12/27 Philip Buri
 12/27 Julie Siegfried (22nd)
 12/28 Ella Keefe (3rd)
 12/30 Shawn Clarke



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Sign up for array of adult classes

*"The more learning, the more life."
— Pirkei Avot*

Lifelong learning is a central tenet of Judaism, and we are thrilled to offer you various courses which we hope will pique your interest. Whether you are a veteran Adult Ed student or a newcomer, we look forward to engaging with you in Torah and the Jewish tradition and making new friends in the process.

You are encouraged to register ahead of time so we can provide appropriate materials and to ensure that a class will not be cancelled.

Following are some classes meeting in November and December. For a complete list, dates, times and fees, go to www.bethisraelbellingham.org/adults/adult-programs

JUDAISM. 201, taught by Rabbi Joshua Samuels.

This class is an excellent introduction to Judaism or the perfect refresher. The course will cover the following topics: Who is a Jew? What are Torah, Midrash and Talmud? The many Jewish views of God; The Jewish approach to life and death; The Jewish calendar and festivals; Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism; Israeli

history; Jewish life-cycle events; and more.

TORAH TROPE, taught by Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack. Have you ever wanted to learn how to chant from the Torah, or have chanted, but needed a recording to learn from? Andrea Shupack teaches in a simple and clear way, demystifying the art of chanting, and making it achievable for everyone.

KOL B'YACHAD—SING TOGETHER, led by Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack. Gather together to

Continued on Page 12

From the Social Action Committee ...

New project to collect themed baskets for refugees

A big thank you to all who donated 20 backpacks to Opportunity Council this fall. We also donated coats, hats and gloves to Interfaith Coat Drive. These items supply the needy county wide. Our High Holy Day food drive was a success with 450 pounds of food and \$100 donated to Bellingham Food Bank — this may have been an all time high!

Future plans are for a major new project to help refugees. We will be presenting an education meeting in November to discuss needs and collect household items to be packaged for Seattle Jewish Family Services. We will collect themed baskets with much-appreciated necessities — creativity is encouraged!

■ **Kitchen Baskets** that could include flatware; cooking utensils like spatulas, ladles and tongs; a can opener; oven mitts; knives; and, cutting boards. Please save stamps for Haggens recent kitchenware reward program.

■ **Bedding Baskets** that could include a mattress pad, sheet set and comforter. Twin and queen are the most needed sizes. Please note: for health and safety reasons, we can only accept new items in their original packaging.

■ **Backpacks of School Supplies** are always helpful. Pencils, pens, highlighters, crayons, composition books, post-it notes and spiral notebooks are good for most ages.

Graphing calculators, sketch pads and USB drives are items that middle, high school and college students can use. Compact umbrellas.

■ **Cleaning Caddies** filled with items like all purpose-cleaner, glass cleaner, powder cleanser, sponges, cloths or rags, small broom & dustpan, white vinegar and baking soda. Knitters and quilters please note we will also collect any knit/quilted items to make baby/children boxes.

Our ongoing November project is to gather Thanksgiving Dinner fixings for Womencare Shelter. A sign up sheet will be in the synagogue needed by Nov 19. We will collect money for the turkey. You can also donate a gift card through Scrip.

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DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Sharona Feller, on the loss of her mother Rhea Frantz.

From: *Miriam Zderic & Perry Davids*

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Lynn & Michael Korner

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF:

Mary Somerville, on her 20th anniversary of service to the congregation

From: *Rosalie & Stan Yacknin*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

Rabbi Samuels, for his wonderful leadership of High Holy Days services

From: *Stuart & Cinda Zemel*

*Rabbi Samuels, for his encouragement and support for Wendy Blum's conversion

*Steve & Debbie Adelstein, for providing their home and friendship on the occasion of Wendy's mikvah

From: *Paul Blum & Alison Zak*

IN HONOR OF:

Wendy Blum — Welcome to the Jewish Community

From: *Marcia & Lou Lippman*

Mary Somerville, on her 20th anniversary. Thank you for all you've done as part of the CBI community.

From: *Stuart & Cinda Zemel*

*Terry Lubar's birthday

*Patricia Axelrod's "special" birthday

*Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin's anniversary

From: *Rhoda & Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

James Grand, in memory of his father

From: *Rhoda & Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Lynn & Michael Korner
Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting*

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IN HONOR OF:

Noémi Ban, in celebration of her 94th birthday

From: *Leslie & Rick Adelstein*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Donna & Jay Solomon, in memory of Esther Kahn

From: *Leslie & Rick Adelstein*

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN HONOR OF:

*Noémi Ban — Happy 94th Birthday!

*Wendy Blum — Mazel Tov!

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

*Emil Hecht's 75th Birthday

*Stuart & Cinda Zemel's 40th wedding anniversary

*Mary Somerville, for her 20 years of fabulous service to our congregation

From: *Steve & Janis Ban*

Emil & Tannia Hecht — Mazel Tov on the birth of their new granddaughter

From: *Debbie & Dan Raas*

Olin Quam's accomplishments

From: *Bonnie Quam*

Jane & Erik Hammerstrom's Ketubah-signing ceremony

From: *Marc Boman (Mercer Island)*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Roby Blecker

From: *Howard & Janet Davis (Los Angeles)*

Mary Somerville, for her 20 years of excellent service to the congregation and synagogue

From: *Lee Shapiro*

Hank Levine, with thanks for his support of Steve Kahn's unveiling

From: *Richard Kahn (Penngrove, CA)*

IN CELEBRATION OF:

...hearing the sounds of the shofarim in CBI's new spiritual home

From: *Ann Buzaitis & Dena Petersen (Seattle)*

...our beautiful new building

From: *Ella Barney*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Sharona Feller, on the loss of her mother Rhea Frantz.

From: *Nancy & Don Davis
Debbie & Dan Raas
Karen Sloss
Joan & Marv Wayne*

Donna & Jay Solomon, in memory of Esther Kahn

From: *Bonnie Quam*

Aaron Weiss and Family, in memory of Lilly Weiss

From: *Debbie & Dan Raas
Sylvia Williams*

COMMEMORATING YAHREZIT OF:

*My son, Nathan M. Loober, who passed away Dec. 8, 1991

*My husband, Arnold Loober, who passed away Dec. 24, 2013

From: *Bernice Loober*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Arlene Ehrlich (Seattle)



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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning ...

Kid-friendly traditions get a little 'shake'

Both as a kid, and today as mother of young children, I am truly grateful for the kid-friendliness of Judaism.

Many of my happiest childhood memories are connected to the fun I had with my family or friends around



holidays or Shabbat. Some of my vivid memories are: crafting Sukkah decorations for hours on end in preparation for the neighbor-

hood Sukkah contest; eating an unlimited amount of *sufganiyot* in the youth group Hanukkah party; gathering as much wood as possible for the Lag B'Omer bonfire with my classmates, as if our lives depended on it, and then staying up all night by the bonfire; participating in my hometown's Purim *adloyada* (Purim parade) as the Statue of Liberty (!), and so many more.

As an adult, I have a newfound appreciation for these traditions as I realize how well they fit into the cycle of the week, the month, the season, and the year. Some would call these experiences, that repeat at predicta-

Coming up

The whole community is invited to join the Keshet community:

Parent Enrichment Program: Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m.
Hafrashat Challah with Joan Wayne and Sarah Witte.

ble intervals, a routine, which is something that we now know is so important for the development of children.

For the past few years we had a local tradition started by our legendary Keshet teacher Judy Soicher: a lulav shake. Now, Judy's Lulav Shake is not the ordinary lulav shake that you are thinking of, where one holds a bundle of four plant species in the Sukkah and rattles it. It is rather a *milkshake*, consisting of (very) sugary treats that represent the four species of Sukkot (see recipe below).

Last year, for some forgotten scheduling reason, we did not have Judy's lulav shakes for the children. I was actually happy to hear the children's protest as they realized that

our Sukkot treat was not going to happen. I also felt guilty, of course. The reason their reaction made me satisfied was that I discovered that, in that small way, we have created a routine for our Keshet kids. They were looking forward to Sukkot, to the smell of the fall in the Sukkah, and for Judy's Lulav Shake!

As I was writing this, we were gearing up for Sunday in the CBI Sukkah and you can probably guess what was served to the different groups of our temporary Sukkah dwellers...

Recipe for Judy Soicher's Sukkot Lulav Shake floats

Use these ingredients:

Ginger ale — represents the fragrant myrtle

Stalk of celery — represents the lulav/palm branches

Lemon drops/sour lime jelly beans — represent the etrog

Mint chocolate ice cream — represents the willow

—Sagit Hall שגית הול
Director, Keshet Center
for Jewish Learning

Anniversaries

November 2016

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(#30)
Nov. 6	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#12)
Nov. 15	Matthew Schall & Gayle Kay	(#13)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(#20)
Nov. 29	Floyd King & Leigh Squires	(#14)

December 2016

Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(#42)
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Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(#36)
Dec. 15	Jeff & Amy Margolis	(#54)
Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter- Schlesinger	(#32)
Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(#51)
Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(#40)
Dec. 23	Sagit & Alex Hall	(#13)
Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(#12)
Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(#51)
Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(#45)
Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(#19)

Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at (360) 733-8890 or email office@bethisraelbellingham.org and let us know the month, day & year of your special day.

Faces in our community

A spring in her step, a song in her heart

CBI's office administrator is also a choral singer, world traveler

BY LINDA HIRSH

Committee members often sing a refrain when they can't find what they need. It goes like this: Let's ask Mary; she knows everything.

Mary Somerville, Congregation Beth Israel's office administrator, chuckled when she heard that.

"Well not everything," she said. "Just a little bit of this and that."

Modest, Mary is celebrating her 20th anniversary of working as office administrator at Congregation Beth Israel. She has touched nearly every synagogue member during those two decades with her melodic voice, her sprightly manner and her golden presence. Having outlasted every rabbi since she took the job, she is well qualified to serve as the heart of the synagogue's office. And speaking of singing, Mary even directed the synagogue's choir for a time.

Listen to Esther Faber's assessment: "Mary Somerville is a bridge to all of us. She connects us to information and to other members in her own thoughtful and considerate manner, and her own elegant and practical style."

A wide range of experience has made Mary who she is, her music-steeped family and consequent studies, places she has lived and traveled, her jobs and her compassion for people.

Mary's geographic lifeline seems straightforward but has taken a few unexpected turns. Born in Baltimore, MD, and raised in the suburb of Towson, she attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, where she sang in three choirs and later dipped her toes into mime and theater. Telling people she majored in music and religion, "They asked me, 'What are you going to do? Write hymns?'" she said.

Upon graduation in 1973, Mary returned to Baltimore to tend to her mother through her battle with ovarian cancer until she died that September. Then she worked



Mary Somerville with her husband, Gary Marzullo.

as her father's secretary for six and a half years. But she didn't leave music behind. She served as a mezzo-soprano soloist at a large Methodist church and joined her father to sing with the Baltimore Choral Art Society.

The farthest west Mary had been was Indiana University in Bloomington. Enter the sister of a high school friend, who was then executive director of Sun Community Service in Bellingham. She wanted company on her drive to Bellingham to visit her brother in 1979, and Mary joined her. Later that year, the brother offered Mary an administrative assistant's job at Sun, where she later became Administrative Director.

"I uprooted myself," she said. "I felt I needed a break. I told myself I could always move back."

Since then she has visited Scotland, Holland, Germany, Croatia and South Africa. And she celebrates each decade of birthdays with her two sisters at a Kauai, Hawaii, timeshare, among other places. She spent her honeymoon with husband Gary Marzullo in New Zealand. It took place after 10 years of marriage, because as a chemical engineer Gary travels constantly for his

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FIRST SERVICES IN NEW BUILDING



PHOTOS BY DONALD FENBERT

Rosh Hashanah 5777, family and morning services were enjoyed by all ages in our nearly completed sanctuary at 751 San Juan Boulevard.



From the bima

Thanks to all who made High Holy Days happen

Todah Rabah! Thank you very much to everyone who helped organize and participate in the High Holy Days this year. The following is surely not a complete list, so if I have mistakenly omitted anyone, I apologize.

Karen Sloss: Thank you for being the point person in charge of practically everything related to High Holy Days. The services would not run as smoothly as they do without your attention to detail and dedication.

Floyd King: Thank you for assisting in the set-up of our Rosh Hashanah morning service and for putting together the sukkah.

Sarah Witte: Thank you for organizing the child care once again. I know so many parents appreciate everything you do.

Roby Blecker and friends: Thank you for the delicious smoked whitefish. I know it was a labor of love. Keith would be proud.

Ann Suloway, Rita Spitzer and Membership: Thank you for welcom-

ing everyone with smiling faces and assisting people with questions. And thank you for hosting the RH oneg.

Mary Somerville: Thank you for doing so much behind the scenes. There isn't enough room to describe all that you do.

Ahuva Scharff: Thank you for leading the Yom Kippur study session. Our largest one yet! The midrashim you taught us and the conversations that followed were enlightening and wonderful.

Hank Levine, Steve Ban and Roby: Thank you for leading 2nd day Rosh Hashanah with me on Broadway. It was an honor to share the bima with each of you, perhaps for the last time at our soon-to-be-former shul.

All of the Torah/Haftarah cantors: Thank you for amazing us with your skills. This was the first year I can recall where so many people chanted with High Holy Day trope. Kudos to you and Andrea.

Andrea Shupack: *Hiddur mitzvah* means "beautifying God's command-

ment." Your cantorial leadership did just that throughout the High Holy Days.

HHD "Choir": Thank you for raising your voices from your seats and **Dan Ohms, Diane Garmo and each of our shofar sounders:** Thank you for your stellar shofar sounding. The piercing blasts filled the new sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah. What a great way to announce our "arrival."

Lynn Korner and Linda Blackwell: Thank you for organizing the break-the-fast. What a big job!

Joy Garder: Thank you for donating the beautiful floral arrangements.

CBI Board: Thank you for your support and feedback.

Nicole, Eytan and Shoshana: Thank you for keeping me grounded as I prepared for the High Holy Days. As I've said before, thank God they only come around once a year!

You are all blessings to this community.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

the way we both feel about our experiences. While I thoroughly enjoyed the High Holy Days, I sure am glad to be in *mar cheshvan*!

On the topic of High Holy Days, however, I wanted to share the results of the voting that followed my Rosh Hashanah morning sermon. After three separate counts, here are the results in descending order. (The numbers refer to the total votes received for each category.)

164 Social Action; 142 Youth Engagement; 109 Music Enrichment; 103 Jewish Cultural Events; 93 Talmud Torah-Adult Education; 78 Social Services; 66 Interfaith Work; 63 Israel Engagement; 56 Avodah-Worship/Spirituality; 53 Senior En-

gagement; 25 Audacious Hospitality-Outreach.

952 tickets were cast. This corresponds to 317 people participating in the exercise. This is incredible turnout for our community. Thank you!

What does this tell us? First, the results communicate pretty clearly that engaging in *tikkun olam* and social action projects is of the utmost importance to Beth Israel. This is in line with prophetic Judaism and Reform Judaism. Giving a voice to others, feeding the hungry, fighting for equality, etc., is how many of us connect most deeply to our Jewish values.

Supporting and fostering our youth is a close second. With a stagnant youth program (outside of Keshet), this statistic served as a "kick in the tuches" to all of us in leadership positions. We must better serve our youth going forward if we want to

ensure the future of our community. Instilling a meaningful and positive Jewish experience in our children might be the most important task we have as a congregation.

While Outreach, Worship and Senior Engagement received the least amount of support (I'm uncertain whether I'm surprised or not), we also must enhance each of these areas within our community as well. We have a lot of work to do in the coming year and your input is critical.

As we hopefully begin to transition to our new space within the year, let us continue to dream big and imagine what our community might look like if our visions become reality. This is an exciting time for Beth Israel. Let's make it count.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

SOMERVILLE

Continued from Page 8

job.

They now have been married 24 years. Mary, an avid cyclist, met Gary through a fellow member of a local bicycling club. Gary brought to Mary a ready-made family — Bevin, now 35, is a veterinarian, and Joe, now 30, is a guitarist/composer and computer programmer.

Mary's music history takes a more complex route. If ever a gift was transmitted through genes, this was it. Her father, an internist, played piano and trumpet and served as the baritone soloist for 40 years at the Towson Presbyterian church the family attended. He met Mary's mother, a pediatric nurse, at the hospital where they both worked. He was the source of Mary's musical inspiration.

Mary grew up listening to classical music at dinnertime. Following in her father's footsteps, she sang in the church's Youth Choir. She learned to read music in the fourth grade and took piano lessons. The most direct way to produce music for Mary, though, is through the voice. That's because "your voice is the instrument. Still, singing is more complex than people think. You have to think about breathing and visualization to make notes sound a certain way."

She didn't concentrate in voice until her college senior year when Eileen Farrell, the opera diva whose class she took in Indiana, revealed that Mary was neither an alto who loved singing harmonies or the mezzo-soprano she thought she was, but a true soprano. It happened when she sang a Brahms piece in one key, then at Farrell's request sang it again in a higher key. After that she took voice lessons at Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

Mary and her two younger sisters, Ruth, an artist, and Alice, a massage therapist and registered nurse, share an ancestry composed maternally of Greek and Austrian and paternally Scottish and German. Her Greek grandmother worked for the American consulate in Istanbul. Mary's



Mary Somerville sings *Mekhuteneste Mayne (My In-Law)* in Yiddish with Kulshan Chorus and What The Chelm.

mother, who grew up in Istanbul, spoke five languages — Greek, German, Turkish, English and French. Mary is also drawn to foreign languages, but music tempted her more, so she braids the two by singing songs in many languages, including Hebrew.

This led to a third strain in Mary's life — Jewish culture. As a Dickinson College chapel committee member, she participated in interfaith events with Hillel. She attended her first seder there but misjudged how long it would take.

"I was so hungry that I ate most of the horseradish and matzoh that was there on the table," she said. "That's how I came to love horseradish. I stayed until the matzo ball soup, then had to leave" for a previously scheduled rehearsal.

Mary was aware of Judaism long before the college seder. She lived near Pikesville, a Northwest Baltimore suburb with seven synagogues, the largest hired her father to sing during the High Holy Days. That's also where she attended her Jewish 10th grade teacher's wedding and she accumulated Jewish friends in college. After her sister Alice married a Jewish man, she attended his sis-

Thank you

I want to express my deep gratitude to CBI for the wonderful support shown to me in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of my service with the synagogue. Thank you to everyone who attended the lovely reception on Sept. 30, and to all who sent cards and gifts, or made donations to the synagogue on my behalf. I am here because of you. You welcomed me with warmth and friendship, and have made me want to do my best — every single day — to be of service to this community.

— Mary Somerville

ter's bat mitzvah so "Judaism was not a total mystery," she said.

She recalls many incidents crackling with Jewish humor. One involved a college friend engaged to a man who planned to be a rabbi. Mary commented that her parents must be thrilled. "The friend said, 'Are you kidding? Jewish is a doctor. A lawyer. Not a rabbi!'" Mary said.

In college, she was drawn to Judaism itself, calling "its combination of history and philosophy intellectually fascinating."

Most of all, Mary said she feels like and thinks of herself as "a musician, just not working in that job." Among her previous jobs was running a Sun halfway house for people with chronic mental illness. She said it "added another dimension to my life, getting to know people coping with mental illness, getting to see what they faced every day," revealing her empathy with the clients.

When the group bought a property, neighbors protested until Mary invited them to an open house. There, neighbors sat down with clients and board members, "showing the power of 'let's talk'," she said.

Continued on Page 12

The Yenta speaks ...

Six congregation members will be performing in Northwest Ballet Theater's traditional Hanukkah ballet, "The Nutcracker," on Dec. 23 and 24. **Shala Erlich** and **Warren Cornwall** will portray Mr. and Mrs. Stahlbaum, and **Miriam Schwartz** will be one of the partygoers. **Julia Schwartz** will be one of the Spanish Coffee divertissements. This year's performance includes the Legend of Princess Pirlipat, and features

Lev Cornwall as the heroic Nutcracker Prince, and **Samantha Schwartz** as the villainous Lady Mouserinks.

Spencer Jantzen has the role of the Harlequin Doll in Harper and I's production of "The Nutcracker" at the Mount Baker Theater, at 7 p.m. Nov. 26 and at 2 p.m. Nov. 27. He is in other scenes as well with his classes.

Contact Mount Baker Theatre for ticket information.

SOMERVILLE

Continued from Page 11

When an executive director's job opened at the YWCA, Mary took the chance. She gave talks about United Way and did budgeting and grant writing. "It was good training," she said. "So much was hands-on. I discovered I was good at a lot of things."

It even opened up new musical opportunities. As a speaker at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, she met the Kulshan Chorus director. She auditioned and ever since has sung with them and also served as secretary of the board, conducted the Chorus and even did a stint as interim director. She also sings with the Whatcom Chorale.

But fitting her YWCA tasks into a 70-hour week and being a stepmother was a recipe for burnout. She resigned and spent the summer of 1992 "decompressing," she said.

Then one day she looked in the paper and saw Congregation Beth Israel was looking for a half-time administrative assistant. "I thought I'd like to support others," she said. In fact, she told Rabbi Yossi Leibowitz and Jill Elkayam, then Board President, at the interview: "I have no desire to be in charge again."

"What I can tell you is that we were so impressed with Mary that Yossi and I said 'let's call her before she comes to her senses,'" Jill said. "We were on the phone with her husband before she got home."

Her first day Mary found a plant and a card on her desk. As a part-timer, she took on the bookkeeping task from the treasurer, an aspect she has grown to love. She became full time and remains a shining fixture, even attending synagogue celebrations and funerals.

"I've met some really wonderful people here," she said. "People made me part of the family; I felt like I was being included. I'm glad to come to work every day and do something people appreciate. I want to stay here. In fact, 10 years in, I knew I would never have another job."

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham for 16 years. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut.

ADULT EDUCATION

Continued from Page 5

learn new music; this new group is informal, with no pressure to perform.

PIRKEI AVOT: LEARNING FROM OUR SAGES, taught by Dr. Ahuva Scharff. After the destruction of the Second Temple, the rabbis set out to codify our rabbinic laws, first orally then in written form, as a way for Jews to remain congruent and consistent in practice from community to community, with no Temple to unify the people. What came of that effort was the Mishnah and ultimately the Talmud. Pirkei Avot, "Wisdom of our Fathers," is a compilation of sayings to live by, a moral foundation for Jewish life. Synagogue members only; this class is not open to the

public.

CONTEMPLATIVE TEFILLAH, lead by Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack. A few times during the year Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack will lead a special all-music contemplative service. A special siddur packet is used to avoid page calling, and to help inspire us with art and poetry while we lose ourselves in the music and meditative quality of the service.

ALEPH BET EASE, taught by Keshet Director Sagit Hall and Dr. Lawrence Hall. Do you want to learn to read, write and speak Hebrew? Do you just want to get more comfortable with the Hebrew side in our prayer book? This is a totally different Hebrew reading crash course. In 7 hours, over 4 days, this unique,

Registration

To register for Adult Education classes, please contact the main office at (360) 733-8890 or office@bethisraelbellingham.org

If a scholarship is needed for course fees, contact Rabbi Samuels directly at the number above or at rabbi@bethisraelbellingham.org

multi-sensory, non-threatening, intensive class will take the mystery out of the Hebrew aleph-bet. Aleph Bet Ease was developed by Dr. Hall, a master Hebrew teacher and a noted linguist.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 2016

TISHREI-CHESHVAN 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 30 Tishrei	2 1 Cheshvan	3 2 Cheshvan	4 3 Cheshvan חג 5:25	5 4 Cheshvan No'ach 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Contemplative Service w/ Andrea Shupack
		7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	7 PM Adult Education: Torah Trope (Shupack)	7 PM Author Lecture: Dr. Mary Doria Russell	6:15 PM Family Service w/ 6th Grade class & soloist A. Shupack Potluck dinner afterward	6-7 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class
6 5 Cheshvan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes(w/ Gan) 1:30 PM Israel Trip 2017 Informational Meeting 6 - 8:30 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class	7 6 Cheshvan	8 7 Cheshvan ELECTION DAY REMEMBER TO VOTE! 6 - 8:30 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education (Samuels) 7 PM Board of Directors	9 8 Cheshvan	10 9 Cheshvan	11 10 Cheshvan חג 4:15 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Neri Maxim & soloist A. Shupack	12 11 Cheshvan Lech Lecha 10:00 AM Neri Maxim Bat Mitzvah
13 12 Cheshvan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall 5-6 PM Kol B' yachad w/ Andrea Shupack	14 13 Cheshvan	15 14 Cheshvan	16 15 Cheshvan	17 16 Cheshvan	18 17 Cheshvan חג 4:07 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	19 18 Cheshvan Va-yera Shabbaton: 9:30 AM Family Service 10:30AM Learning Sess. 12 PM Luncheon
20 19 Cheshvan	21 20 Cheshvan	22 21 Cheshvan	23 22 Cheshvan	24 23 Cheshvan	25 24 Cheshvan חג 4:00 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	26 25 Cheshvan Chaye Sarah 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
27 26 Cheshvan	28 27 Cheshvan	29 28 Cheshvan	30 29 Cheshvan	THANKSGIVING		
NO Keshet classes	12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	7 PM Adult Education Torah Trope (Shupack)			

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL DECEMBER 2016 KISLEV - TEVET 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 4 Kislev 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes(w/ Gan)	5 5 Kislev	6 6 Kislev	7 7 Kislev	1 1 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	2 2 Kislev 8:00 3:57 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 5th Grade class & soloist A. Shupack Potluck dinner afterward	3 3 Kislev <i>Toledot</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Contemplative Service w/ Andrea Shupack
11 11 Kislev 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall 5-6 PM Kol B' yachad w/ Andrea Shupack	12 12 Kislev	13 13 Kislev 7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	14 14 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education Torah Trope (Shupack)	15 15 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	16 16 Kislev 8:00 3:56 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	17 17 Kislev <i>Vayishlach</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
18 18 Kislev NO Keshet classes	19 19 Kislev	20 20 Kislev 7 PM Board of Directors	21 21 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education Torah Trope (Shupack)	22 22 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	23 23 Kislev 8:00 3:59 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	24 24 Kislev <i>Vayeshev</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
25 25 Kislev NO Keshet classes 4 PM Hanukkah Party @ Baker Creek Place	26 26 Kislev 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	27 27 Kislev 5:30 PM - 4th Nite for Other CBI Social Hall	28 28 Kislev 7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	29 29 Kislev 7 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	30 1 Tevet 8:00 4:05 NO Shabbat Service "Shabbat at Home" Please welcome Shabbat at home w/ family & friends	31 2 Tevet <i>Mikeitz</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
1st DAY of HANUKKAH	2nd DAY of HANUKKAH	3rd DAY of HANUKKAH	4th DAY of HANUKKAH	5th DAY of HANUKKAH	6th DAY of HANUKKAH	7th DAY of HANUKKAH

Yahrzeits

Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless secular date is requested, and are read on the Shabbat prior to the observance date.

Friday, November 4

Miriam Mitzman	11/5
Anna Mae Baker	11/6
Peter Harvey	11/6
Herman Horowitz	11/6
Bette Bikman	11/7
Dora Graff	11/9
Jack Irwin Moss	11/9
Phyllis Ruth Orlik	11/9
Ezra Meltzer	11/11
Gladys Boehi	11/12

Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12

Gladys Rose Eisner	11/12
Otto V. Vohl	11/12
Don Cole	11/13
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	11/13
Lazar Emanuel	11/14
Judy Greenberg	11/14
Elsie Gaudine	11/15
Celia Loober	11/15
Pam Champagne	11/16
Henry David Weill	11/16
Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/18
George Bernard Levine	11/18

For Friday, November 18

Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20
Robert (Bob) Farkas	11/21
Anne Enger	11/22
Phillip Fine	11/23
Otto Korneck	11/23
Lily Swartz	11/23
Bernard Feerer	11/24
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Sarah Strumpf	11/24
Frances Studen	11/24
Samuel Hecht	11/25
Bud Robinson	11/25

For Friday, November 25

Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Irving Grossman	11/27

Hilda Meltzer	11/27
Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff	11/27
Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/28
May B. Schwartz	11/28
Helen Skinner	11/28
Rose Weitzman Price	11/29
Melvin Goldberger	11/30
Phyllis Heck	11/30
Esther Mazur	11/30
Sam Moskowitz	11/30
Julian Lewis	12/1

Friday, December 2

Ida Zderic	12/3
Edith Jensen	12/4
Marvin Siegel	12/4
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	12/5
Bernard Shuster	12/6
Victor Geretz	12/7
Irma Stone	12/7
John Paschetag	12/8
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	12/8
Zelda Turovitz	12/8
Hyman Bettman	12/9
Marion Relin	12/9

Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10

Louis Groper	12/10
Gladys Bloch	12/13
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	12/14
Deborah Louise Feinwachs	12/15
Richard Kite	12/15
Samuel M. Pravda	12/16

Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17

Abram Stolzoff	12/17
Elaine Cohn	12/18
Marvin Richmond	12/18
Joseph Soode	12/20
Fred Damski	12/21
Joseph Koplowitz	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Max Spigelman	12/21
Robin Hoffman	12/22

Jerry Roberts	12/22
Paula Brown	12/23
John Douglas (Doug) Freeman	12/23
Diane Lewis	12/23
Morris M. Stone	12/23

Friday, December 23

Frances Feiger	12/24
Henry Frank	12/24
Rachel Jaffe	12/24
John Lester	12/25
Norma Resnick	12/25
Nick Schira	12/25
Elly Kraus	12/26
Lucille Rest	12/26
Beatrice Weiss	12/26
Monica Biggin	12/2
Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Jack Miller	12/29
Burton Jay	12/30
Nathan Loober	12/30
Sarah Patinkin	12/30

Friday, December 30 (No Shabbat service — will be read on Dec. 23)

George Shaw	12/31
George Bikman	1/1
Rudolf Reitz	1/1
Rachel Siegfried	1/2
Richard Bloomfield	1/3
Ben Gordon	1/3
Ruth Jacobson	1/3
Benjamin David Glazer	1/4
William Aron Dorfman	1/5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5
Martin Katz	1/6
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	1/6
Florence Weintraub	1/6

In Memoriam

Zichronam l'vrachah ~ May their memories be for a blessing

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to the following individuals and their families:

Ahuva Scharff on the loss of her aunt, **Merrie Schriro**, who passed away on Aug. 31, 2016.

Sharona Feller on the loss of her mother, **Rhea Frantz**, who passed away on Sept. 16, 2016 at her home in Los Angeles.

Our congregation mourns the passing of long-time congregant, **Lilly Weiss**, on Aug. 28, 2016, two weeks after celebrating her 94th birthday.

We offer heartfelt sympathy to Aaron, her husband of 73 years, to their daughters, Cara and Laura, and to all of their family.

Beth Israel also mourns the passing of our new congregant, **Arthur Miller**, on Sept. 31, 2016.

We offer deepest condolences to his wife Sandra, their daughter Brenda, and to all members of their extended family.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

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CELEBRATE HANUKKAH WITH BETH ISRAEL

Annual Hanukkah Party

4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 25, 2016
1659 Baker Creek Place, off Bakerview Road

Yes, Dec. 25 is the first day (second night) of Hanukkah!

Food and Activities: Celebrate with latkes, jelly donuts, Hanukkah-themed crafts, Dreidel Spin-off, special Keshet class performances, a Dreidel "Drop" and lighting of the second Hanukkah candle.

Needed: Sponsors! For pizza, craft supplies, balloons, part of venue cost, or general donation. Also, help for set-up and decorating, clean-up, latke cooking, coffee station, and lobby greeters. Contact Marcia Lippman, marcia.lippman@yahoo.com or Samantha Konikoff, samantha.konikoff@gmail.com.

Candle Fundraiser: Purchase boxes of candles on our website (under the "donate" tab), and in the sanctuary lobby before Keshet classes after Thanksgiving as long as supply lasts. Cost: \$5 a box.



4th Night for Others

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2016

Beth Israel Social Hall

Shop for a toy or book for a child of any age, then bring your gift, plus your menorah (if possible), and dinner for your family. We will light candles as a community. Donated items go to the nonprofit PLLAY, which provides the women at Agape Home a chance to "shop" for their children this holiday season. Email Meredith Attar for more information.