

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 22, NO. 2 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Saying good-bye

Mezzuzot come down from 2200 Broadway

BY RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

Judaism and Hebrew have multiple ways of saying goodbye. Of course we all know “shalom” and “l’hitraot.” Not surprisingly, for a tradition that engages in text study and has a deep respect for books, Judaism also has a way to say goodbye to sacred texts. A professor in rabbinical school taught my first-year class the *hadran alakh* blessing one traditionally recites after studying a whole tractate of Talmud or any pedagogic piece of rabbinic literature. The blessing, meaning “I will return to you” in Aramaic goes something like this:

We will return to you (fill in the text), and you will return to us; our mind is on you (text), and your mind is on us; we will not forget you (text), and you will not forget us — not in this world and not in the next world.

What a lovely way to mark the completion of studying a Jewish text. We acknowledge its spiritual and intellectual influence on us and we pledge to re-visit it again in our lifetime. It’s not so much a “goodbye” as it is a “l’hitraot.” It also



Congregants had a chance to spend a last moment in front of the ark after the Simchat Torah service. More photos on Page 9

treats our sacred texts as living. The pages of the Mishnah or Talmud will remember us as well.

Oddly enough, Judaism does not have a *hadran alakh* equivalent for when we leave a synagogue building. We simply remove the *mezzuzot* (as we did on Oct. 14) and

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FROM THE RABBI

Todah rabbah!

What a year it has already been for our Beth Israel family. As I continue to review the High Holy Days in my mind and with our leadership, I want to take this



opportunity to acknowledge all those who helped ensure that we would be able to gather together to pray, study and celebrate. It certainly takes a village, and I

am full of gratitude for all of you.

This year’s High Holy Days were especially meaningful for me, and I hope you feel the same. The following is certainly not a complete list, so if I have mistakenly omitted anyone, I apologize.

First, I am most grateful to our **Cantorial Soloist, Andrea Shupack**, for blessing us with her leadership and beautiful voice. It was a joy to plan all the services with Andrea and even more of a joy to share the bima and be led by her passion and love for High Holy Day liturgy. I was moved by the vocal ensembles she put together and thank each of our High Holy Day choir members for taking us higher.

Shlomis (Sage) Waters, Susan Blum, Warren Palken, and

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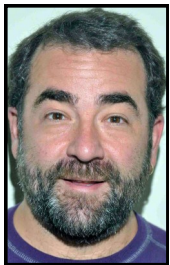
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From the President ...

Ain't no stopping us now

Dear Fellow Congregants,
We're on the move!

This is a time for both excitement and nostalgia. In October we had our last joyous services at 2200



Broadway, and we observed Simchat Torah in the shul that has been our home since 1925. We all have memories of the momentous events celebrated within its walls.

The future on San Juan Boulevard is bright. We are close to achieving occupancy and the culmination of so much work and hope over the last 20 years. We do not have a precise date yet, but we are closing in on one. I recognize, as does the entire board, that this transition between our old home and our new one has required a lot of flexibility on the part of our congregation. The fact that so many of you have embraced these difficult circumstances is a measure of the strength and vitality of our community.

Let me take a moment to celebrate what we have built. We have a new synagogue and campus to serve generations to come, with a sanctuary and social hall that can seat 625 people. We have the largest entertaining space in the area, and we will have parking to match it. We have a 10-classroom school for Keshar. We have outdoor space,

including a large playfield that can host a camp and other activities. In achieving this, we have increased the assets of the community more than 16-fold without incurring debt.

Thank you! You made this possible through your generosity, hard work and patience. Since planning began in the late 1990s, more than 300 donors have combined to contribute more than \$7 million! This includes 169 current members, 58 former members, and 74 non-member friends. The median donation is more than \$5,000. With about 250 member families right now, the campaign has raised more than \$28,000 per member unit.

The board and our congregational committees are at work on a new strategic plan under the leadership of Katie Edelestein. The plan will position us to take advantage of our new synagogue, and of the many strengths of our community. Ultimately, CBI is much more than a building, but now we can dream even bigger in our new home.

With all of our continued help, the New Synagogue Task Force and the Capital Campaign Committee will soon complete their work. Both groups still need our support! Again, please contact me (steven.garfinkle@gmail.com) with any questions, concerns, or offers of help.

— STEVEN GARFINKLE,
PRESIDENT

Sisterhood book group meetings

Sisterhood book group meets at 2 p.m. on Sundays. There will not be a meeting in November.

Dec. 3: We will be discussing *THE INVISIBLE WALL* by Harry Bernstein, at the home of Marta Brand.

Jan. 21: We will discuss *THE LETTERS OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN* by Leonard Bernstein, at the home of Esther Faber.

Feb. 18: We will discuss *THE LOVING KINDNESS* by Ann Roiphe, at the home of Joan Wayne.

Information: Contact Joan at (360) 676-8939.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

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

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You can reach us at:
phone: (360) 733-8890
office@bethisraelbellingham.org

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SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

From the Social Action Committee

Winter brings opportunities to help others

The collection for the Bellingham Food Bank at the High Holy Days was very successful. Thanks to everyone who donated and collected the food. We collected 450 pounds of food and almost \$200. This collection helps the Food Bank bridge their needs between the seasons.

A forum on the new jail tax was held Oct 15, 2017 at the Bellingham Library. Esther Faber and Kirsten Sykes-David were instrumental in getting this organized. The forum was an informative session that helped members of Beth Israel and the wider Whatcom County community decide how to vote on this critical issue. The Social Action Committee is considering how we can further prison reform in Whatcom County.

Boxes of coats, hats and gloves were collected and donated to the Interfaith Coat Drive. These donations help our neighbors in need stay warm through the winter. Thanks to

all the knitters who provided wonderful hats.

Other Interfaith Coalition opportunities to support our neighbors include:

Severe Weather Shelters – some homeless people avoid shelters until the harshest weather. Since 2004, Interfaith Coalition has run two severe weather shelters, one for men and one for women and children. Both are staffed by volunteers who provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment for homeless individuals to come in out of the cold.

CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) – Interfaith Coalition began partnering with CAST, a longtime food outreach program, in August 2015. CAST coordinates a simple food serving program four nights a week in downtown Bellingham. They are always looking for volunteers to assemble and/or distribute food.

Project Homeless Connect – Interfaith Coalition members collect ne-

cessities for distribution through the Project Homeless Connect program every year. On-site services for those experiencing homelessness are offered at this once-a-year event, and the Coalition harnesses the energy and generosity of its member congregations to help.

Congregation Beth Israel helps with the needs for housing in our community by quarterly cleaning a home for families in transition. Please contact Linda Blackwell, (360) 739-1492, or Arlene Feld for information on the Interfaith Programs and how to volunteer.

The Social Action Committee is looking for new ideas and projects for 2018. Please consider coming to the next meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 9, 2017, at Linda Blackwell's house, 4731 Morgan St. in Bellingham.

— LINDA BLACKWELL,
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Julie Siegfried joins with Avodah

This year, Julie Siegfried will be joining the Avodah Jewish Service Corps in New Orleans to spend a year learning about Jewish social justice and working at Crescent Care. Crescent Care is a community health center that offers a full spectrum of quality care at low to no cost

to the entire community with or without insurance. She'll be working in their case management triage, working with patients in crisis. Throughout the year she'll be living with the other fellows, participating in programming, and continuing to learn, in addition to working full-time.

She said she chose this program because it is a perfect blend of her passions for Judaism and social justice.

She has a fundraising campaign with a goal to raise \$1,500 for Avodah. By donating, you will be contributing directly to this experience and making it possible. The link to the fundraiser is: <https://connect.clickandpledge.com/Organization/avodah/Fundraiser/JulieSiegfried106/>

If you are able, any donation would mean so much.



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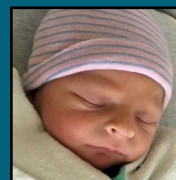
Windermere
REAL ESTATE

The Yenta speaks ...

Tim Baker recently completed a 20-year project as JewishGen's volunteer coordinator for the Yiddish-to-English translation of the Yizkor Book of Rokiskis, Lithuania (Rakishok in Yiddish). Rakishok is one of three towns in NE Lithuania from which a group of intermarried families traveled to Bellingham via chain migration, leading to the establishment of Congregation Beth Israel in the early 20th century. The English translations are available online at www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/rokiskis/rokiskis.html.

Barbara Boothby is now **Coralela HallelYa Boothby**. The name Barbara Jane was originally chosen for her older sister, stillborn and swept away without ceremony or naming, 11 months before Cora's birth. This year, that infant was given the name she should have had, and Cora has taken a name that honors a beloved aunt, and her unwavering belief in God.

Magnus Oscar Morvai, son of Talia and Matt Morvai, grandson of **Danny and Marla Finkelstein**, was born on Aug. 28, 2017. The family is overjoyed.



Welcome to our new members:

- * Derek & Jennifer Binus; sons Josef (10) Weinzierl & Tomie (7) Weinzierl — Bellingham
- * Stephanie Druckman — Bellingham
- * Robert Goldman & Nancy Thomson — Bellingham
- * Leah & Jeffrey Grossman; daughter Aviva (6) — Bellingham
- * David & Nancy Halpern; son Lenny (10) — Anacortes
- * Virginia McKorkle — Bellingham
- * Eileen Miller — Bellingham
- * Sheila Sondik & Paul Sarvasy — Bellingham

Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2017

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11/1 Susan Jay | 11/12 Rebecca Garfinkle (19th) |
| 11/1 David Ziegler | 11/13 Peter Auerbach |
| 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (8th) | 11/13 Miriam Schwartz |
| 11/2 Lev Shuster (16th) | 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (17th) |
| 11/4 Elinor Hall (12th) | 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (17th) |
| 11/5 Ian James (9th) | 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (17th) |
| 11/5 Aaron Weiss (99th) | 11/16 Kristan Brennan |
| 11/6 Rodney Shainbom | 11/16 Ellie Greenberg (19th) |
| 11/7 Steve James | 11/16 Jane Relin |
| 11/8 Rob Grossman | 11/16 Toby Sonneman |
| 11/9 Jaime Lynn Komer (22nd) | 11/17 Nancy L. Lloyd |
| 11/10 Urtica Goldman (4th) | 11/17 Bonnie Stone |
| 11/11 Stephanie Korn | 11/17 Jay Wolfman |
| 11/11 Wendy Schwartz | 11/18 Rita Spitzer |
| 11/12 Jakob Garfinkle (19th) | 11/19 Anita Meyer |
| | 11/19 Patricia Strumpf |
| | 11/20 Willow Corey-DuBow (14th) |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (7th) | 12/11 Marvin Wayne |
| 11/26 Tamar Clarke | 12/13 Sheldon B. Pravda |
| 11/26 Shala Erlich | 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (12th) |
| 11/27 Elkah Katz | 12/14 Eli Brennan (19th) |
| 11/28 Floyd King | 12/15 Anna Booker |
| 11/29 Xavier Sommers (6th) | 12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine |
| 11/30 Orion Dixon (9th) | 12/17 Maya Taranow (19th) |
| 11/30 Priscilla Feld | 12/18 David Strich |
| 11/30 Sarah Witte | 12/19 Cathie Diller |

DECEMBER 2017

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12/4 Eric Leiske | 12/19 Cinda Zemel |
| 12/4 Rebecca Oliver | 12/20 David Miller |
| 12/5 Millie Johnson | 12/22 Michelle Anderson |
| 12/7 Alyssa Diller (17th) | 12/26 David Halpern |
| 12/8 Noam Richmond (15th) | 12/27 Philip Buri |
| 12/10 Trisha Adelstein | 12/28 Ella Keefe (4th) |
| | 12/28 Mark Pomerantz |
| | 12/30 Shawn Clarke |



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Keshar's middle school students (above) participate in the Jr. NFTY Northwest event in Seattle. Kindergarteners and their teachers (below) perform pretend-hakafot in preparation for Simchat Torah.



From the Keshar Center for Jewish Learning

It takes a village

With the location changes that our community is going through, I was a bit nervous before the first day of Keshar classes this past September. I could not help but think about the significance of this moment: for the first time in 92 years, the children and

youth of CBI and their parents/caregivers are meeting in a new location outside of our familiar synagogue. I knew that all the teachers were ready with lesson plans full of activity and enthusiasm, and that the community is informed about

when and where we are meeting — but still, I was worried about the unknown.

The day began a bit early with Brotherhood volunteers providing bagels, juice, coffee, and cut fruit to support Keshar with a generous Bagel Breakfast. The weather was beautiful. Family after family, friends, and teachers came together to form our little Sunday village! It was definitely an opportunity to kvell about our children's keshar (the connection) that pulls us together regardless of location, backdrop, or weather.

Nurturing our kids' Keshar, their connection to community and to Judaism, is what happens every Sunday at our "village." Here are a couple of snapshots of what it looks like.

בברכת שנה טובה ומבשרת,

—SAGIT HUL

DIRECTOR, KESHER CENTER
FOR JEWISH LEARNING

PEP talk at Keshar

10:15 a.m. Sunday,
Nov. 5, 2017

Join us in the gym at the former Larrabee Elementary school during Keshar for this year's first Parent Enrichment Program: *Remembering the Murder, Fighting for Democracy*, a talk and exhibit led by Elad Peleg, the Vancouver Shaliach (emissary) of the Jewish Agency and Dror Israel. He will discuss the days leading up to the murder of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, its implications on Israeli democracy, and the impact on Israeli society.



18 years after the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

Youth group has new name, energy

Our CBI high school youth group has seen some exciting change and growth. At the end of summer the teens voted to change our name from NFTY-PHAT (People Here at Temple) to NFTY BAY (Bellingham Area Youth) and they elected a youth board.

Every NFTY Temple Youth Group (TYG) has a President, who oversees the operation of each event, and a Programming Vice President, who develops ideas for monthly events and executes them with the help of the advisers and other youth board members. In addition to these positions, the teens decided to include a Social Action Vice President to help us stay focused on Tikkun Olam, and a Religious and Cultural Vice President, to bring a Jewish aspect to each event. Teens could nominate themselves and others, and then we held an election. Our NFTY BAY President is Shoshana Schapiro, Programming Vice President is Samantha Sommers, Social Action Vice President is Lilah Blum, and Religious and Cultural Vice President is Anikó Folk. We may soon add a Finance Vice President. We have board meetings at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

In September the full board, along with a few other CBI teens, attended NFTY's Leadership Training Institute (LTI) at Camp Kalsman. They got to spend time with their counterparts



Bellingham Area Youth at the NFTY Leadership Training Institute in September 2017, are (from left): Lilah Blum, Noam Richmond, Isaac Schapiro, Samantha Sommers, Raphael and Shoshana Schapiro.

from other TYGs and learn how to achieve success in their roles.

Also in September the group baked apple pies for Rosh Hashanah, Anikó led us in an interesting discussion of the holiday, and we baked extra pies to donate to a local teen homeless shelter. In October we had a sleep-over under the stars for Sukkot. A very large thanks to the Witte family for allowing us to use their lakeside cabin! Also in October the middle-schoolers took a fieldtrip to Seattle to join the NFTY 678 group for a Sukkot event.

The next event we have planned for NFTY BAY is an afternoon at Trampoline Zone at 2 p.m. Nov. 4, 2017. In December NFTY BAY will participate in 4th Night for Others, and we will plan our main December event at our November BAY board meeting.

Our last bit of exciting news is that NFTY Northwest's regional winter kallah will be held in Bellingham! We don't know many details yet, but the event will be Feb. 2-4, 2018, in our new synagogue building. Youth from the across the Northwest region — Alberta, B.C., Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon — will attend. Last year's winter kallah in Portland had 130 youths. As with all winter kallahs, housing for attendees will be provided by host homes in our community. If you are interested in opening your home to youth for this weekend, please be in touch with Amanda and Daniel, Rabbi, or Abbey Bell, the NW Regional Adviser. Abbey's email is abell@urj.org; you can reach Daniel and Amanda at youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org.

— AMANDA ROBINS AND
DANIEL ZAGNOLI,
NFTY-BAY ADVISERS

Anniversaries

Nov. 2 Lisa & Chris Balton
Nov. 6 Sarah & Norman DesRosiers
Nov. 15 Matthew Schall & Gayle Kay
Nov. 16 George & Fay Farkas
Nov. 29 Floyd King & Leigh Squires
Dec. 9 Stuart & Judy Berman
Dec. 15 Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld
Dec. 15 Jeff & Amy Margolis
Dec. 20 Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger
Dec. 21 Lou & Marcia Lippman

(#31)
(#13)
(#14)
(#21)
(#15)
(#43)
(#37)
(#55)
(#33)
(#52)

Dec. 22 Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti (#40)
Dec. 23 Sagit & Alex Hall (#14)
Dec. 28 Jesse & Nicky Naiman (#13)
Dec. 29 Armando & Diana Lindner (#52)
Dec. 30 Joan & Marvin Wayne (#46)
Dec. 31 Tracy & Cathie Diller (#20)

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

SAYING GOOD-BYE

Continued from Page 1

affix them on our new shul's door-posts. While there is a prayer to put a mezzuzah up, there isn't one to take one down.

For a tradition that marks every occasion, both sacred and profane, with blessings, I find it somewhat confusing that we don't have a formal way to say goodbye to a synagogue. During our final Shabbat at 2200 Broadway, as we unscrewed the mezzuzot, I said the first thing that came to my mind: "May we go from strength to strength!"

As you can imagine, leaving our old building was an emotional experience for many of our congregants. I know some have a deep sense of pain and loss, as that 92-year-old building was our spiritual home and witnessed baby-namings, b'nei mitzvot, conversion ceremonies, weddings, memorial services, holiday observances, and classes. Many of us have a huge vault of memories from inside those walls. One congregant said to me, "Rabbi, our memories travel with us. We'll be just fine." What simple, yet wise words. We will be fine. In fact, we'll be better than "just fine." We are on the brink of moving into a synagogue that our founders never could have imagined. We are moving because we are growing. We are moving because we have a vision for how Judaism is going to be celebrated in Bellingham for the next few generations, and 2200 Broadway can't accommodate our needs anymore.

While we can't say "I will return to you and you will return to us," we can say, "Our mind is on you, Beth Israel on Broadway, and we will not forget you, not in this world and not in the next world."

Send recollections to webmaster@bethisraelbellingham.org for publication on our website, bethisraelbellingham.org/about-us/our-history

Special 'good-byes' from congregants

BY GAYLE GORDON-MARTIN

*Weeping willows weep no more, their branches left the sky.
The curtain of the Ark is down; the Torahs have said good-bye.
They will be read again on a new and different day —
with the breath of Sarah and Abraham curled inside our DNA.
The memories remain inside us, glowing deep within our hearts.
The present and the past are one as we pack up and depart.
Everyone has a memory that keeps us in the fold;
some are sad departures and some are always told;
We have a goal and purpose: to keep the flame alive.
This Jewish light that binds us will surely grow and thrive.
Our ever-changing Exodus keeps us moving ever on;
The V'ahavta guides us as we reach towards the dawn.
An empty palace with room for all stands still with an open door:
awaiting our grand entrance with our chant L'dor v'dor.*

BY CORA BOOTHBY

So incredibly sad to leave this place.

So many celebrations, remembrances, lifecycle events.

So much challah, rugelach, shakshouka, hummus, bagels and lox, hamantashen, sufganiyot, latkes, latkes, latkes, curry, beans and rice, gefilte fish, horseradish, and matzah balls eaten.

So many games of gaga and duck, duck, goose. Virtual, interactive trips to Israel and Ellis Island.

So many prayers for peace and healing.

So many tricky and difficult subjects discussed with respect.

So many Holocaust survivors, and so many survivors of expulsions.

So many who chose this path to God.

So many sederim.

So many lulavim and etrogim shaken in so many sukkot.

So many adults dancing with joy as our precious Torah was carried by.

So many little children dancing

with joy as they were encircled with the fully unrolled Torah scroll.

So many women in the balcony.

So many immersions in the mikveh.

So many arms around so many shoulders as we swayed to *Oseh Shalom*.

So many interfaith families raising so many children in Jewish homes.

So many looks of wonder when something from our history suddenly became clear.

So many chanters of Torah and Megillah.

So many aliyot!

Now, we begin our short trip in the wilderness. How appropriate that this falls on the heels of Sukkot. Unlike our ancestors, we know our objective, and we know we will land in our new home soon. We'll leave this place brimming over with memories and soon will arrive at our new empty vessel.

We'll lament the loss of our old and familiar home, and we will begin filling our new home with memories. May it be so.

Faces in our community

A journey toward leadership

Asher Suloway-Baker finds his place on national NFTY board

BY LINDA HIRSH

Asher Suloway-Baker sports a conservative plaid shirt, trousers and leather shoes. No T-shirts, jeans or sneakers for him. In addition, his neat blond hair and glasses give him a dignified, adult air.

Asher just turned 18.

His maturity is unmistakable, and not just because of the outfit. It's a combination of innate ability and having had more experience on organizational boards than many people twice his age.

When he narrated his journey from being the youth representative on Congregation Beth Israel's Board of Directors, to becoming Communications Vice President on the board of the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), it's adult to adult.

"Voice is powerful and adults value teens' voices," he said. "I am the voice of youth," and of NFTY, he said, "I am up to the challenge that NFTY embodies — the power that we as teens have to make an impact."

It's as if someone had stepped up to him and said, "I have one word to say to you: Leadership." And when Asher, a Bellingham native, says he cares "about Jewish peoplehood, about building community," it is apparent he is a mensch as well. The mix makes for a rare man.

There's a history here. It begins with Asher around age 3 or 4.

He'd see a toddler who wanted to run and he'd show him how, said his mother, Ann Suloway. "It was as if he was saying, 'What can I teach you about being a big kid like me?'" And his father, Tim Baker, said that in school he "would befriend new kids and help integrate them."

Both parents agreed he has always thought big and asked big questions with a very big vocabulary. Plus, he's interested in how to improve the status quo.

Yet his style is unique. Ann said he learns differently from a child who sits and reads. "He's a video learner, likes to watch tutorials, quickly grasps the information then makes connections," Tim said. "He's a non-linear thinker."

"He doesn't go with the program," but finds new ways to work it, Tim added.

In activities both secular and religious he shows qualities that add up to an eloquent and effective leader.

Asher, a born techie, joined Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth (BAAY), a nonprofit children's theatre group, in 2011. He taught himself stage lighting.



The family (from left): Ann Suloway, Asher Suloway-Baker and Tim Baker.

"He was a quick study and soon learned sound design," said David Post, BAAY director emeritus. "Within a year, Asher was the main technical theater director for BAAY, designing, installing, and running both lights and sound for shows at the BAAY Theatre."

"He first worked on shows involving the young kids, ages 5 to 8, and then evolved into the role of technical director for our full-blown 'pro' productions involving students ages 15 to 18. Not only did he work on theatre productions but he also was deeply interested and involved in discussions about the growth and well-being of BAAY. He was and still is a beloved member of the BAAY community."

Tim remembers that most of his son's co-workers were older, but treated him as an equal. He also remembers Asher "herding the children in the production to Mallards after shows."

How do parents raise such a child?

"Expose him to a variety of experiences," said Ann. "Allow him to follow his interests and be creative."

One such experience was the Explorers Club of Wild Whatcom, an outdoor education group based on a joy of

Continued on Page 10

WE WILL REMEMBER YOU

The sanctuary at 2200 Broadway was filled for the last time on Friday Oct. 13, 2017, for Shabbat and Simchat Torah services. After the final Shabbat morning service in the building the next day, the *mezzuzot* were removed.



THE SULOWAY-BAKER FAMILY

Continued from Page 8

nature. There he learned about plants and along with other campers built their own structures. Again, he evolved as a leader.

David Strich, then a mentor for the Explorers Club, became acquainted with Asher during the two years he was in the program and echoed Ann's assessment of Asher helping other children.

"I saw him very much as a connector and organizer," David said. "During group outings he always showed interest and concern for everyone around him and ensuring their safety and comfort."

As Ann said, from the beginning "he was a consistent and regular role model for younger participants. Those younger boys loved hanging out with him and they learned a tremendous amount about how to get along in the woods by following his example. That he chose to spend his time as a mentor in his own right, speaks volumes to his compassion and commitment to his community."

Tim stressed the importance of introducing diversity into Asher's life. Tim, who was brought up in a Mennonite family, was prepared. "Give him an understanding and an acceptance of other people's views because they all have worth," Tim said.

Asher's parents also chose Cedar Tree Montessori School because the philosophy is geared to the individual and stresses that the individual is a citizen of the community and of the world. That means when a problem arises while working together, they discuss it constructively.

"In a way, it's close to Judaism," Ann said.

Indeed, Asher revealed those connecting and organizing skills when he formed a film club, then went on to create Fourth Corner Films, a small production company whose work includes narrative shorts, commercials and even live events.

Now halfway through Running Start at Whatcom Community College, Asher said he will take a gap year to



Holding the banner on the March for Justice in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 28, 2017, are: (From left) Daryl Messinger, URJ Board Chair; Liz Dunst, Commission on Social Action Chair; Zach Herrmann, NFTY President; Asher Suloway-Baker; unidentified; Liz Zeller, NFTY Director of Learning and Innovation; and Steven Portnoy, Men of Reform Judaism president.

focus on his national board term, then finish his associate's degree. He wants to study business and marketing and cited the collaboration of USC with Hebrew Union College for a major in Jewish nonprofit management as an example of possible future studies.

Asher went through bar mitzvah and confirmation, then got the chance to be Congregation Beth Israel's youth representative on the Board of Directors. He leaped at it. While serving on the board, he showed clearly that his leadership qualities are deeply woven into his Judaism.

His enthusiasm for NFTY was kindled in 2015 after he attended L'taken, a seminar run by the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. The organization educates and mobilizes the Reform Jewish community on legislative and social concerns. There he was inspired to connect with other Jewish teens. In 2016, another chance for leadership awaited him — a chance "to translate his experience to the regional NFTY board," he said.

He spoke to NFTY Northwest members about his ideas to forge a closer community — for instance, teens talking to synagogue members more frequently — and being more

inclusive to new members. He's adamant about people getting their voices heard. He believes that each member should contribute according to his or her own skills — say, an article in the *Shofar* if a writer, photos if photography is a talent.

He said NFTY proved to him that Judaism included more than congregational aspects.

Ann noticed this. "He had a sudden awakening at NFTY that he could contribute more to Judaism" as a teenager. "All of a sudden he thought Judaism was pretty cool."

He knew how to get heard. NFTY-Northwest is regional, but the national board also reaches the ear of Union of Reform Judaism, the largest Jewish movement in North America. The URJ, according to its own philosophy, provides vision and voice to build strong communities. If someone has an idea, URJ can be a liaison, Asher said.

In 2016, Asher was elected Communications Vice President on NFTY's national board.

He gave an example of what the national board has accomplished: after Hurricane Harvey the board set up the Green Family Camp Center for refugees and raised funds to cover the cost of the operation.

Continued on Page 11

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

all of our instrumentalists: Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us. Though I didn't attend rehearsals, I knew you were in good hands with Andrea. Services would not have been as spiritually fulfilling for me were it not for your vital roles.

Karen Sloss: Thank you for being the point person in charge of practically everything High Holy Days-related. The services would not run as smoothly without your attention to detail and dedication. We would be lost without your HHD leadership!

Floyd King: Thank you for doing so much behind-the-scenes work that is necessary for us to have services for hundreds of people. I continue to marvel at and trust your system. I look forward to next year when there will be less schlepping for your crew!

Sarah Witte: Thank you once again for organizing child care during Yom Kippur. I know so many parents appreciate everything you do. I hope you know how grateful we are for your generosity and leadership. I have a feeling that next year's HHD child care will be even more wonderful.

Roby and friends (Floyd King, Gabe Witte): Thank you for the delicious smoked whitefish. I know it was a labor of love. Keith would be very proud that this tradition lives on. Be-

sides a good night's sleep, I look forward to eating this delicacy when I step off the bima following havdallah on Yom Kippur.

Ann Suloway, Rita Spitzer and the Membership Committee: Thank you for welcoming everyone with smiling faces and for assisting people with questions. A big reason why our community continues to grow is because of your outgoing and caring personalities. And thank you for hosting the RH oneg.

Mary Somerville: Thank you for everything! There isn't enough room to describe all that you do for Congregation Beth Israel. Sometimes I wonder how you can multitask as well as you do. If it were an Olympic sport, you'd get the gold every time!

Ahuva Scharff: Thank you for leading the Yom Kippur study session again, our largest yet! Your topic "Choosing Life: Three Distinct Paths to Repentance on Yom Kippur" was engaging and enlightening.

Hank Levine, Steve Ban and Roby Blecker: Thank you for leading 2nd day Rosh Hashanah with me on Broadway. It continues to be an honor to share the bima with you.

All of the Torah/haftarah chanters: Thank you for amazing us with your skills. This was the second year in a row that so many people chanted with High Holy Day trope. Kudos to the following: Kathi Paluch, Vermeda Fred, Gayle Gordon-Martin, Ben Fred, Dan Ohms, Steve Ban,

Martha Greenstone, Esther Faber, David Zimmerman, Miriam Davids, Ahuva Scharff, Andrea Shupack, Lilah Blum, Josh Shupack, Hank Levine, David Strich, and Sagit Hall.

David Cohn, Dan Ohms, Diane Garmo and each of our shofar sounders: Thank you for your stellar shofar sounding. Yasher koach!

Lynn Korner and Linda Blackwell: Thank you for organizing the break-the-fast again. What a big job, especially with being uncertain of the location. Because of the two of you, it worked out perfectly.

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

What the Chelm: Thank you for rockin' out during our joyful Simchat Torah service at 2200 Broadway. It's never been so packed and full of such positivity. What a way to say goodbye to our beloved shul.

All of the ushers: Thank you for making sure everyone felt at home in our community, especially the many new faces who joined us this year.

CBI Board: Thank you for all of your support, leadership, schlepping and feedback.

Nicole, Eytan and Shoshana: My gratitude and love for you is boundless.

Todah rabbah! Thank you all so much for supporting Jewish life in our beautiful neck of the woods. You are all blessings to this community.

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

THE SULOWAY-BAKER FAMILY

Continued from Page 10

This year, he anticipates creating a weekly video series with public accessibility from October to June. NFTY's director will oversee the project, and staff will step in when needed. Many of the videos involve interviews with adult leaders advising how to connect with North American youth.

He attended Kutz Camp in New York, run by the URJ, for 3 1/2 months in summer 2017. "It is the summer home of NFTY, a teen-only

camp with a more mature group," Asher said.

There he focused on leadership in the Jewish community. The course ran the gamut from simple aspects like etiquette in email to rabbis' text studies on leadership.

"Kutz is valuable for those who are deeply passionate and for its ability to empower teenagers who are up to the challenge," Asher said. "It gives them the tools to lead."

This year Asher will attend the URJ Biennial in Boston in December, help coordinate Veida, NFTY's midyear

leadership summit, and attend a few conferences in Washington, D.C., as co-chair of NFTY's Israel Engagement committee.

"I want to empower other NFTYites to take leadership positions and speak up on the issues they're passionate about in the Jewish world," he said. "I know my experiences during this term will stick with me. I couldn't be happier with where I wound up."

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham since August 1998. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut.

Special Fund Donations

CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

The Bat Mitzvah of

* Willow Corey-DuBow

* Flora Booker

* Olivia Probst

From: Karen Sloss

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee, in thanks and gratitude.

From: Adelle John

The Committee

From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Barbara Blumenfeld (S.F.) – Thanks for being so special

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels

Rabbi Samuels, for the Selichot service and the warm welcome

From: Mel Malkoff (Kingston, WA)

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack, for our 5778 High Holy Days services

From: Carol & David Robinson

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack, for Orilev's naming ceremony

From: Lindsay Wells & Langley

IN HONOR OF:

Our 65th wedding anniversary!

From: Phyllis & Shelley Mazur

* Jacob Siegel (Menlo Park, CA) – for his Bar Mitzvah

* Steve Able (Orinda CA) – Happy Birthday

* Elaine Morgan – for her special birthday

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Fred Karren (Piedmont, CA), in memory of Beth David Karren

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels

Laurie Riskin - in memory of her husband, and our dear friend, Bill Snow

From: Stuart & Cinda Zema

GENERAL

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Idalina Trank, on the loss of her brother, Jose Pereira Assunção

From: Martha Greenstone

IN HONOR OF:

* Rabbi Samuels' Yom Kippur talk on necessity of resilience.

* Andrea Shupack, in gratitude for her heavenly singing during the Yom Kippur service

From: Mark Packer

KESHER TUITION

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Deborah Magnuson, for her annual Rosh Hashanah well-wishes

From: Idalina & Richard Trank

RABBI GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP

IN HONOR OF:

David Goldman – Happy Birthday

From: Carol & David Robinson

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, Sage Waters, Elkah Katz, Esther Faber, Lynn Komer and Rhonda McMartin – For their kindness following the death of my brother

From: Idalina Trank

Congregation Beth Israel – Thank you for sharing your High Holy Days services with me

From: Arlene Ehrlich (Seattle)

IN HONOR OF:

The marriage of Vermeda Fred & Rodney Shainbom – Mazel Tov!

From: Miriam & Perry Davids
Karen Sloss

Linda Blackwell, for her work as chair of the Social Action Committee

From: Sarann Donegan

* Jaime Korner

* Vivienne Wolf, for her 86th birthday

From: Anne Brown

The memory of our long-departed parents: Ted and Celia Zak, Abe and Rochelle Blum. With great thanks to the New Synagogue Task Force, Capital Campaign Committee,

and all our generous donors.

From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO:

David Goldman – in honor of his milestone birthday (and retirement)

From: Janis & Steve Ban;
Katie & David Edelstein;
Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting; Joan & Marv Wayne

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Debbie Raas

From: Nancy Lloyd

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Leland Hoch, on the loss of his mother, Francine Hoch

From: Leslie & Rick Adelstein

Leland Hoch, in memory of my friend, Francine Hoch

From: Nancy Lloyd

Idalina Trank, on the loss of her brother, Jose Pereira Assunção

From: Lynn & Michal Korner

Patsy Strumpf, on the loss of her husband, Michael

From: Karen Sloss

Gregg Orlik, on the loss of his father, Gilbert Orlik

From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

The Sommers family, in memory of Chase Jimmy

From: Marta & Craig Brand

IN MEMORY OF:

My dear brother, Jose Pereira Assunção

From: Idalina Trank

Vermeda M. Fred, MFT, MFA



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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 2017

CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5778

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|----------------|---|---|
| | | In November, all Friday Shabbat services are at B'ham Unitarian Fellowship (BUF) 1207 Ellsworth St. | 1 12 Cheshvan | 2 13 Cheshvan | 3 14 Cheshvan חג 5:27 | 4 15 Cheshvan Va-yera 9:30 AM Torah Study @Downtown Food Co-Op Connections Room |
| 5 16 Cheshvan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larabee Elem.School) 10:15 PEP talk: Elad Peleg on impact of Rabin's death on Israeli democracy | 6 17 Cheshvan | 7 18 Cheshvan ELECTION DAY REMEMBER TO —▶ VOTE! ◀— | 8 19 Cheshvan | 9 20 Cheshvan | 10 21 Cheshvan חג 4:17 | 11 22 Cheshvan Chaye Sarah 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room |
| DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS | | | | | 7:30PM Shabbat Service | |
| 12 23 Cheshvan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larabee Elem.School) | 13 24 Cheshvan | 14 25 Cheshvan | 15 26 Cheshvan | 16 27 Cheshvan | 17 28 Cheshvan חג 4:08 | 18 29 Cheshvan Tolador 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room |
| | | 6:30P Board of Directors at the Gateway Centre | 7:30PM Deborah Lipstadt Lecture - PAC Main Stage on WWU Campus | | 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service | |
| 19 1 Kisleiv 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larabee Elem.School) | 20 2 Kisleiv | 21 3 Kisleiv 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's | 22 4 Kisleiv | 23 5 Kisleiv | 24 6 Kisleiv חג 4:02 | 25 7 Kisleiv Vayetze 9:30 AM Torah Study @Downtown Food Co-Op Connections Room |
| | | | | THANKSGIVING | 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Maayan Shir ensemble | |
| 26 8 Kisleiv NO Keshet classes | 27 9 Kisleiv 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café | 28 10 Kisleiv | 29 11 Kisleiv | 30 12 Kisleiv | | |

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

DECEMBER 2017

KISLEV - TEVET 5778

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 13 Kislev at BUF 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 4th-5th Grade class Potluck dinner afterward | 2 14 Kislev <i>Vayishlach</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room |
| 3 15 Kislev 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larrabee Elem.School) | 4 16 Kislev | 5 17 Kislev | 6 18 Kislev | 7 19 Kislev | 8 20 Kislev at BUF 7:30PM Shabbat Service | 9 21 Kislev <i>Vayeshev</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room |
| 10 22 Kislev 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larrabee Elem.School) 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Grp @ M. Brand's | 11 23 Kislev | 12 24 Kislev 6:30PM Board of Directors HANUKKAH EVE | 13 25 Kislev 1 st DAY of HANUKKAH | 14 26 Kislev 2 nd DAY of HANUKKAH | 15 27 Kislev at BUF 4th Night for Others 5:30 PM Pre-Svc. Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service 3 rd DAY of HANUKKAH | 16 28 Kislev <i>Miketz</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room 4 th DAY of HANUKKAH |
| 17 29 Kislev 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet @ B.F.P.P. (Larrabee Elem.School) 4 PM Hanukkah Party @ Bloedel-Donovan | 18 30 Kislev | 19 1 Tevet 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's | 20 2 Tevet 8 th DAY of HANUKKAH | 21 3 Tevet | 22 4 Tevet at BUF (Location TBD) 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble | 23 5 Tevet <i>Vayigash</i> NO Torah Study |
| 24 6 Tevet NO Keshet classes | 25 7 Tevet | 26 8 Tevet 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café | 27 9 Tevet | 28 10 Tevet | 29 11 Tevet at BUF NO Shabbat Service Shabbat at Home Please welcome Shabbat at home w/ family&friends | 30 12 Tevet <i>Vayeichi</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study @ Cordata Food Co-Op Roots Room |
| 31 13 Tevet NO Keshet classes | | | | | | |

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, November 3

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Anna Mae Baker | 11/6 |
| George Bernard Levine | 11/6 |
| Bette Bikman | 11/7 |
| Robert (Bob) Farkas | 11/9 |
| Anne Enger | 11/10 |

Friday, November 10

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Phillip Fine | 11/11 |
| Lily Swartz | 11/11 |
| Bernard Feerer | 11/12 |
| Frances Studen | 11/12 |
| Otto V. Vohl | 11/12 |
| Samuel Hecht | 11/13 |
| Lazar Emanuel | 11/14 |
| Herman Tabak | 11/14 |
| Irving Grossman | 11/15 |
| Hilda Meltzer | 11/15 |
| Sadie Neiburger Stoloff | 11/15 |
| Pam Champagne | 11/16 |
| Henry (Hank) Gordon | 11/16 |
| May B. Schwartz | 11/16 |
| Helen Skinner | 11/16 |
| Henry David Weill | 11/16 |
| Rose Weitzman Price | 11/17 |

Friday, November 17

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Myer Avraham Goldberg | 11/18 |
| Melvin Goldberger | 11/18 |
| Margaret (Peggy) Korner | 11/18 |
| Esther Mazur | 11/18 |
| Sam Moskowitz | 11/18 |
| Julian Lewis | 11/19 |
| Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty | 11/20 |
| Sylvia Sulkin | 11/20 |
| Marvin Siegel | 11/22 |

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Leah (Lilly) Kleiman | 11/23 |
| Otto Korneck | 11/23 |
| Frances (Fran) Mishler | 11/24 |

Friday, November 24

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Bud Robinson | 11/25 |
| Rose Wick Eigen | 11/26 |
| John Paschetag | 11/26 |
| Jack Sheinkopf | 11/26 |
| Lanny "Bip" Sokol | 11/26 |
| Zelda Turovitz | 11/26 |
| Hyman Bettman | 11/27 |
| Louis Groper | 11/28 |
| Phyllis Heck | 11/30 |
| Bernard Shuster | 12/1 |

Friday, December 1

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Abraham Andrew Widerkehr | 12/2 |
| Deborah Louise Feinwachs | 12/3 |
| Ida Zderic | 12/3 |
| Edith Jensen | 12/4 |
| Samuel M. Pravda | 12/4 |
| Abram Stoloff | 12/5 |
| Elaine Cohn | 12/6 |
| Victor Geretz | 12/7 |

Friday, December 8

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Fred Damski | 12/9 |
| Marion Relin | 12/9 |
| Robin Hoffman | 12/10 |
| Paula Brown | 12/11 |
| John Douglas (Doug) Freeman | 12/11 |
| Diane Lewis | 12/11 |
| Frances Feiger | 12/12 |
| Henry Frank | 12/12 |
| Rachel Jaffe | 12/12 |

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| John Lester | 12/13 |
| Norma Resnick | 12/13 |
| Nick Schira | 12/13 |
| Elly Kraus | 12/14 |
| Lucille Rest | 12/14 |
| Hannah Glass | 12/15 |
| Richard Kite | 12/15 |

Friday, December 15

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Alice Behrstock | 12/17 |
| Marvin Richmond | 12/18 |
| Monica Biggin | 12/19 |
| Burton Jay | 12/19 |
| Nathan Loober | 12/19 |
| Sarah Patinkin | 12/19 |
| George Shaw | 12/20 |
| Joseph Soode | 12/20 |
| John J. Read | 12/21 |
| Max Spigelman | 12/21 |
| Jerry Roberts | 12/22 |

Friday, December 22

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Richard Bloomfield | 12/23 |
| Ben Gordon | 12/23 |
| Morris M. Stone | 12/23 |
| Joseph Kahan | 12/24 |
| Barry Zell | 12/25 |
| Mary Vermeda Paschetag | 12/26 |
| Beatrice Weiss | 12/26 |
| Lois Looney | 12/27 |
| Ruth Robinson | 12/28 |
| Nicole Russell | 12/28 |
| Cecile R. Gordon | 12/29 |
| Jack Miller | 12/29 |
| Regina Tein | 12/29 |

Friday, December 29 (No Shabbat service — will be read on Dec. 22)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| George Garmo | 12/30 |
| Ivan Senzon | 12/30 |
| Haskell David | 12/31 |
| George Bikman | 1/1 |
| Rudolf Reitz | 1/1 |
| Pearl Turovitz | 1/1 |
| Rachel Siegfried | 1/2 |
| Ruth Jacobson | 1/3 |
| Solomon Thal | 1/3 |
| Lynn Shuster | 1/4 |
| William Aron Dorfman | 1/5 |
| Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh | 1/5 |
| Sherwood Jacobson | 1/5 |
| Dorothy Mazel Spiro | 1/5 |
| Dorothea Zimmerman | 1/5 |

In Memoriam

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

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

Idalina Trank on the loss of her brother, Jose P. Assunção, who passed away on August 25, 2017, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Ruth Shuster, on the loss of her sister, Nancy Zisook, who passed away on August 31, 2017.

We mourn the passing of long-time Beth Israel congregant, **Francine Hoch**, on August 27, 2017. She was 101 years old, and was the oldest member of our congregation. Our deepest condolences go out to her sons, Leland and Jonathan Hoch, and to their families.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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4th Night for Others

Consider a break from presents in your house and instead shop for a new toy or book for a child of any age to be given to the nonprofit PLLAY (Programs to Lighten the Lives of Adults and Youths — pplay.org). They provide women in need the opportunity to “shop” for their children this holiday season. Drop off your contribution to the Attars’ house (2005 Eldridge Avenue) during the week of Dec 11, or bring it to our Shabbat/Hanukkah service Dec 15. We hope you’ll join us in this mitzvah.

Questions? meredithattar@yahoo.com

Community Hanukkah Party

4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017

Bloedel Donovan Pavillion

Celebrate with yummy food, Hanukkah-themed crafts, a Dreidel Spin-off and Dreidel “drop,” Keshet class performances, music and singing, and lighting the Hanukkah candles.



Beginning in mid-November purchase Hanukkah candles on our website (under the “donate” tab), and before and after Keshet classes following Thanksgiving. \$5 for 44 candles; all proceeds help fund the party.

Sponsors and helpers needed: Contact Marcia Lippman, marcia_lippman@yahoo.com, Lynn Korner, lkmk1@yahoo.com, or Nora Mazonsky, nora.shwadsky@frontier.com