

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 23, NO. 1 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * <https://bethisraelbellingham.org> * (360) 733-8890



Chava Mirel concert

BY MELISSA SCHAPIRO

Jewish singer/songwriter Chava Mirel will perform in concert at Congregation Beth Israel, beginning with Havdalah at 6:30 pm, Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018.

Mirel combines rich, luxurious vocals with deep pocket rhythms to bring a new sound to Jewish music. With themes of gratitude, self-acceptance, balance, and responsibility for each other, Mirel's songs bring comfort and uplift the spirit, according to her website, chavami-rel.com.

From a very young age Mirel has been connecting with multiple generations through performance. She has toured and recorded with Ari Up (The Slits), Reggie Watts, Frankie Paul, and Ashanti Roy (The Congos). She has opened for and collaborated with legendary artists Cachao, Arturo Sandoval, Israel Vibration, and Fishbone. Mirel now plays and tours with reggae artist Clinton Fearon (the Gladiators) and is the featured vocalist for global jazz fusion band Duen-de Libre.

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FROM THE RABBI

Spirituality in 5779

The Beth Israel community participated in a Rosh Hashanah morning exercise two High Holy Day seasons ago. This was a memorable day because it was the very first Rosh Hashanah observed in



our current building on San Juan Blvd. In my sermon, I discussed how our community is multifaceted in that we have a di-

verse congregation where people connect to their Jewish tradition and culture in various ways. The exercise was for each member to vote on the three most important aspects of Jewish life that we should focus on as a community in the near future. Not surprisingly for a Reform synagogue on the West Coast, "Social Action" was the number one vote-getter by a wide margin. What was initially surprising to me, however, was that "Prayer/Worship" came near the very bottom of the list.

What does this mean? I think the answer is obvious. The majority of us do not feel that our synagogue community's central focus ought to be centered around spirituality (I'm consciously using this term to refer to

Chava Mirel concert

6:30 pm Havdalah

7 pm concert

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018

Tickets for the Oct. 20, 2018 Beth Israel concert are available online at bethisraelbellingham.org

CBI Members: adults, \$8;
12 and younger, \$5.

Nonmembers: \$10.

CDs will be available for purchase at the event.

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From the President...

A blessing and a curse?

Dear Fellow Congregants,

When you receive this issue of the Shul Shofar, the Days of Awe will almost be upon us, and we will be preparing to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. For thousands of years, this has been a time of reflection for our people. This year, we have both a tremendous amount of achievement to reflect on over the past twelve months, as well as a great deal to which to look forward.

Last year at Rosh Hashanah, I shared with you how surprised I was to find myself president of a congregation. Of course, this was a riff on the many jokes about temple presidents, and the fact that often the only job description for the president of a synagogue is that someone has to do it. And yet, a bit more than halfway through my term, and with no shortage of issues to attend to, I admit that the position brings with it so much more joy than is advertised.

As I write this, the current Torah portion for August 11 (*Re'eh*) seems particularly apt. In this reading from Deuteronomy, our people stand on the threshold of the land of Israel, and they are reminded of the laws they must keep. Fortunately for our community, we have already crossed the entrance into our new home, and we are learning every day how to best make use of it and how to make rules for its use. This reading is also a profound statement on commitment and leadership. Many of the laws continue to be familiar to us (for example, we must keep faith with G-d; we must heed the commandments and follow appropriate dietary practices), some continue to guide us in our aspirations (for example, there should be no needy among us), and some fell by the wayside long ago (for example, debt remission every seventh year). The statements in Deuteronomy continue to contribute to the core of our Jewish values, honed over thousands of years, which guide our synagogue community today in the 21st century.

The portion begins, "See, this day I set before you blessing and curse," and this seems to capture the possibilities of so many decisive moments in our lives. There are different paths to choose. In Deuteronomy, one was righteous while the other condemned. In our daily lives, the stakes are not always so high, but this line appears to sum up the lot of a synagogue president. In contrast to the many jokes, let's focus this Rosh Hashanah on the blessing and not the curse. The opportunity to help lead our community has been so much more enriching and educational than I could have imagined. I have seen firsthand how much work goes into making CBI thrive, from the hard work put in by our staff to the long hours put in by our many volunteers. I know so much more about the Jewish Northwest than I ever thought I would, and it has been a wonderful journey for me.

In past columns, I have called upon us to think about the long life of our traditions and community. This is, for me, a professional preoccupation. Reflecting on our history reminds us how diverse our community and our experiences have been over the long course of history. Our CBI community reflects this diversity, as does the membership of its board. Serving amongst these dedicated board members is a privilege. Meeting with the chairs of our committees reinforces my sense of awe at the richness of our community and its willingness to work together to achieve great things. In this time of reflection, I encourage all of us to continue to build on this ethic of service. Please consider joining a committee; consider joining the board! The jokes about such service won't go away, but neither will the joy that such service brings.

Wishing all of you a sweet, happy, and healthy New Year!

— STEVEN GARFINKLE,
PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar

Volume 23, Number 1
September/October 2018
Elul/Tishrei/Heshvan 5778/79

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 November/December issue is OCTOBER 11. Call the office for more information.

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SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

From the Social Action Committee

Social action through community

Blood drive

The CBI blood drive is taking place beginning at 10:00 am on Sunday, Sept 16. This is the first day of Keshar, and we are hoping to have 40 people donate. You need to sign up for an appointment time. Sign-up is available through a link on our website under *Tikkun Olam*. You can also call Bloodworks Northwest to schedule an appointment time to donate at 1-800-398-7888.

Giving blood is safe and easy. The actual donation only takes 6-10 minutes but please allow 45 minutes for the entire process. You will need a photo ID. For other questions as to who can donate, please call Bloodworks Northwest at the number above. Your blood donation is life-saving! Each unit of blood collected will benefit up to three people with serious injuries.

High Holy Days food drive

Please help the Bellingham Food Bank with a donation during the High Holy Days. Get a grocery bag on Rosh Hashanah and bring it back full of canned or packaged food you won't be eating on Yom Kippur. Look for a car labeled "Food Bank" outside the synagogue on Yom Kippur, at morning and afternoon services. Do not bring food into the services. Checks should be made out to the Bellingham Food Bank. Food will be collected at the synagogue in the

Social Action nook on the main floor, and in the basement next to Keshar through the month of September.

Winter coat drive

The winter coat drive brings warm coats to people in need countywide. Please bring clean, gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, and mittens to the synagogue in October. More information as to dates will be in future e-news. As a congregation we have volunteered to distribute coats in the past. It would be great to have a larger presence this year with sorting or distribution of coats. If interested, please contact Linda Blackwell or the Interfaith Coalition at (360) 734-3983.

Family Promise program

Finally, this past July, the Family Promise program got off to a great start with volunteers from Beth Israel (organized by Andrea Shupack), supporting a sister organization, the First Christian Church on Bakerview. We were able to supply meals and volunteers at the Day Center, which is at the same location as the church. This program is sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition and offers temporary housing and case management for families who are homeless. There is an ongoing need for volunteers at the Day Center. The shifts are just two hours in length. Anyone interested in participating, please contact

Andrea Shupack, Gloria Lebowitz, or Linda Blackwell.

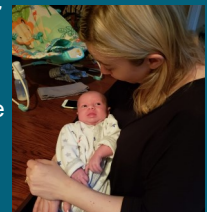
— LINDA BLACKWELL,
COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Yenta speaks...

Sara Geballe and Steve James welcome their new grand-

son! Solomon Andrew Geballe was born in Seattle on June 10, 2018

to Zachary (son) and Kaitlin Geballe (daughter-in-law). He weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz.



Big mazel tov to Sharona and Daniel Feller on the birth of their granddaughter, Dalia Rina Cherem. Parents Rachel and Sigi Cherem and big sister Miri are elated.



Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, (360) 647-7031

Care: Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381; Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

Keshar Parent Committee:

Nora Mazonson, (360) 739-4335

Membership: Rita Spitzer, (360) 647-7065; Ann Suloway, (360) 647-7031

Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939

New Synagogue Task Force: Warren Rosenthal, (360) 961-9772

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, (360) 733-4825

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Cantor's corner

Why do we pray?

BY CANTORIAL SOLOIST, ANDREA SHUPACK

I'm pretty obsessed with this question, as well as its opposite—Why do we not pray?

Have you ever had a transformative experience while praying? Was that transformative experience in a synagogue?

For most of my life, my main reason for attending services was to be part of my community. As the joke goes, Mrs. Goldman went to synagogue to talk to God; I went to talk to Mrs. Goldman. And for many years, that was enough for me. I enjoyed feeling the connection of singing with others, and knowing I was a part of a long chain spreading through time and space. I loved Judaism, even if I found the services somewhat boring. I would sit passively singing along with the congregation, usually letting my mind wander. But once in a while, every few years, something powerful and surprising would happen.

The first time I remember was in middle school with the Beth Israel community at 2200 Broadway, listening to the cello and then the chanting of Kol Nidre. Someone near me was crying, clearly moved by something.

I didn't know what the prayer was about, or why this melody was so moving, but I was completely drawn in by the music and the atmosphere.

The next time was in high school at a NFTY (Northwest Federation for Temple Youth) youth group regional retreat. During this retreat, the staff informed us that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated. My best friend's father had been missing for two weeks, after going sailing, at this point presumed dead. During the service, we were invited to go outside to the lake for the Amidah. I poured out my grief and confusion, while also feeling a sense of awe from the beautiful surroundings.

Six years later, it happened again under much happier circumstances. I was in college at a Hillel Leadership Retreat in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Over a hundred college students attended an Orthodox-style service on Friday night. We were singing and dancing so hard I thought the floor of the large cabin was going to give out. I had also just met Josh, the man I would later marry. I had never felt before what it truly

meant to sing out in joy and praise until that Shabbat.

In each of these services, I discovered myself crying. This reaction surprised me, and the first time at Kol Nidre, even disturbed me. I did not understand what was happening, nor believe these were normal emotions. But by college, I knew prayer should move us, and I craved these prayer experiences, the joyful and the anguished. I would have these incredible moments, and then return to regular services, knowing so much more was possible. I was given glimpses of what prayer could and should be.

Over time, I also appreciated praying because it gave me space to pause and reflect, to go inward as well as outward. All these aspects of prayer are still with me today, but the more I practice prayer, study the liturgical texts, and attend services, the more my prayer deepens. Not every time. There are still many days I have a hard time getting out of my head, experiencing the awe of something bigger, beyond myself. It is diffi-

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Bar Mitzvah



Michael Sommers will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 20, 2018. He is the son of Mark and Teresa Sommers, and the brother of Samantha, Benjamin, Rebekah, and Xavier.

Michael is in the seventh grade and is homeschooled. His favorite subjects are science and history. He is an animal lover, especially reptiles. Outside school he enjoys taking art classes, playing soccer,

building with Legos, and working with his dad. For his mitzvah project Michael volunteers at a food bank, where he meets all kinds of people, and can help them combat hunger and maintain their dignity.

Please join the Sommers family in celebration of this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, October 19, 2018 at 6:15 pm

Pre-service nosh at 5:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 10 am

A Kiddush lunch and reception will follow in the Social Hall

From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וַיְמָה נָעִים שְׂבֵת אֲחִים גַּם יחד

Behold how good and and how pleasing it is when brothers (people) sit together!



Here we are, a moment before the beginning of the new Jewish year in our new home at last! This past summer

was an opportunity to imagine and work together on setting up a learning space for our children and youth. Back in the early spring, during our first Keshet day at our new synagogue, the parents gathered for a KPC meeting and were asked: "What Jewish values would you envision that the Keshet space will embody for our children and youth?" The answers varied and included: *Kehilla kedosha* (holy community), care for others, mitzvot, loyalty, integrity, kindness, tolerance, history, tradition,

Tikkun Olam, *chesed*, loyalty, warmth, and sanctity. One word that may encompass these important Jewish values is that we all want each of our children to be a good person, a *mensh*.

This past summer, staff and community members worked together to create a space that will fulfill this vision. We met for work parties, countless volunteer hours, brainstorming, sorting, cleaning, and sourcing equipment. I look forward to finally meeting on the 16th of Sep-



tember for a festive kick-off and to sit together with our Keshet family!

Shanah Tova u'metuka,

—SAGIT HALL שגית הול
DIRECTOR, KESHER CENTER
FOR JEWISH LEARNING

FUNDrive benefitting Keshet!

We have great news! We've partnered with Value Village to raise funds for Keshet! Starting this school year, and all through April 7, 2019, we will be collecting used clothing and household items. On April 14, we will deliver all the items to Value Village, they will be weighed, and we will be paid by the pound. That's it! The more we bring, the more money we will receive. For example, if we want to make \$1,000.00, we need 4,000 pounds of soft goods, or about 220 bags (calculations are based on 33-gallon trash bags filled with 20 pounds of soft goods each). We challenge every family, even if they don't have a child in Keshet, to bring at least one bag once a week. Tell your friends and neighbors!

We will be collecting any and all cloth items (including bedding and towels, shoes, belts, purses), CDs/DVDs, small electrical items, toys & games, small kitchen items, knickknacks, and sporting goods. Cloth items will need to be in trash bags, and household items will need to be in cardboard boxes. All items must be in good, clean and sellable condition. Your donation is tax deductible.

You can drop off your donations every Sunday during Keshet from 9:30-10:30 am, or any other day by appointment with Sagit (please text her at 360-927-0701). If you have any questions, please contact Nora Mazonson (phone: 360-739-4335; email: nora.shwadsky@gmail.com)



High Holy Days 2018/5779

Schedule of Services

Services led by Rabbi Joshua Samuels and Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack

*All services held at 751 San Juan Boulevard,
except as noted*

Saturday, Sept. 1

- 7 pm Screening & discussion of film,
"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
- 8:30 pm Havdalah & dessert potluck
- 9 pm Selichot Service

Sunday, Sept. 9

- 7:30 pm Rosh Hashanah Evening Service

Monday, Sept. 10

- 9 am Rosh Hashanah Family Service
- 10:30 am Rosh Hashanah 1st Day Morning Service
- 3 pm Tashlich at **Lake Padden Park (at lower shelter by the playground)**

Tuesday, Sept. 11

- 10 am Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Morning Service

Sunday, Sept. 16

- 3 pm Memorial Service **at Beth Israel Cemetery**

Tuesday, Sept. 18

- 7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, Sept. 19

- 9 am Yom Kippur Family Service
- 10:30 am Yom Kippur Morning Service
- 1:30 pm Study Session
- 3 pm Afternoon Service, Yizkor & Ne'ilah

*A Break-the-Fast meal will follow the
conclusion of Ne'ilah*

Nonmember High Holy Day Ticket Policies

Tickets are paperless. Nonmembers who purchase tickets will receive a confirmation and copy of the service schedule by email and will need to check in at the registration tables before each service. Please call the office at (360) 733-8890 if you have questions.

Visiting relatives of Beth Israel members can purchase tickets at 50% of the nonmember guest rate.

Affiliated guests. Out-of-town visitors who provide documentation of current membership at another Reform congregation receive complimentary tickets.

Students and armed forces. Full-time students age 18 or older and active duty military personnel will receive complimentary tickets.

Nonmember guests. Other than above may purchase tickets good for *all* High Holy Days services, at a cost of **\$180/person (adults)**. This fee can be applied toward membership dues if they become members of Congregation Beth Israel by December 31, 2018.

Sukkot

Tuesday, Sept. 25

- 10:30 am Sukkot Festival Service

Simchat Torah

Monday, Oct. 1

- 6:30 pm Simchat Torah Service, which will include the unrolling of a Torah scroll.

CHAVA MIREL CONCERT*Continued from Page 1*

Mirel has Jewish music in her genes—her father is now-retired Rabbi Jim Mirel, who served the Seattle area for 45 years, and her mom, Julie Mirel, is an opera singer who also served as cantorial soloist in Tacoma for a decade. Chava Mirel currently serves as Artist in Residence at Temple de Hirsch Sinai in Seattle and also leads services at multiple other synagogues in the Northwest and nationally.

"I met Chava Mirel a year ago and was mesmerized by her music, voice, and presence on stage," said Andrea Shupack, Beth Israel's cantorial soloist. "She is a genuinely soulful, spiritual person, with profound lyrics, and bluesy style to her original Jewish music that is infectious."

"She brings a new voice to our liturgy and Jewish themes that is much needed in the world of Jewish music. If you sing in our Kol B'yachad group, or attend Selichot services on Sept. 1, you'll get a sneak peak at her music. We will be singing her beautiful version of *Achat Sh'alti* at that service."

After seeing Mirel on stage at URJ's Biennial 2017 in Boston, I reached out to the Seattle-based singer to invite her to perform in Bellingham's new synagogue building. Participating in NFTY-Northwest as a teen, Mirel remembers well Beth Israel's old building on Broadway; her sister, Shoshana, also taught Sunday school there when she was a student at Western Washington University. She is excited and honored, Chava said, to sing with the

Beth Israel community in the new building.

Mirel was selected as a fellow by Joey Weisenberg's Rising Song Institute. Her songs are featured on the URJ "Together As One" Social Justice Music Project album, the Behrman House "Hebrew in Harmony" curriculum, and the "Gift of Music" collection curated by Jewish Rock Radio. She has recorded two full-length albums, "Journey" and "Make the Two Sides Meet," as well as in a duo project, "Josh and Chava," with musical partner Josh Niehaus.

Between performing, composing, and leading prayers, Mirel enjoys life in the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her sweet husband and son, both drummers.

New Conservative-style lay-led *minyan*

BY RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

Beginning this October, following the High Holy Day season, we will be offering a monthly Conservative-style Shabbat morning minyan on the 4th Saturday of each month. Immediately following Torah study at 10:30 am, participants will have the opportunity to *daven* with the Sim Shalom *siddur* and lead parts of the service or be led by fellow congregants.

This service will meet at the same time as Tot Shabbat and serve to offer a more traditional liturgical experience for anyone interested. We are working on a user-friendly system for congregants to sign up to lead various parts of the service. Everyone is welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact Board member David Zimmerman at bellinghamdave@gmail.com.

After Yom Kippur... Break-the-Fast helpers needed!!

We look forward to having you join us for our community Break-the-Fast after Yom Kippur, on Wednesday, September 19 at the conclusion of *Ne'ilah*! If you would like to help set up, clean up, or bring a main dish, juice, or dessert, please contact Lynn Korner at (360) 671-2607; lkmk1@yahoo.com, or Linda Blackwell (360) 647-9519; blackwellbham@gmail.com.



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Analysis
Concepts
Resolution

Bearing fruit through communication and change

Faces in our community

A free spirit well-grounded: A profile of Cora Boothby

BY LINDA HIRSH

Ever dream of meeting a genuine free spirit? One who lived in an off-the-grid cabin without hot water or electricity, who built her own house, fought forest fires, labored at blue-collar jobs then graduated summa cum laude with a Phi Beta Kappa key 23 years after her first college course? Add marriage at age 36, a child at age 40, and your dream comes true with Cora Boothby.

"I've led a circuitous life," Cora said. "I can say 400 times a day how incredibly blessed I am. I'm glad for the good and the bad. The good was good and the bad was... formative."

Circuitous? More like an endless buffet of a life.

As one who knows her well, Esther Faber said, "Cora is a creative and robust woman, deeply committed to raising her son and herself well, and freely giving her many gifts to her community with a full and open heart."

Cora was born in rural Sandy, Oregon, in a homestead complete with cows, a vegetable garden, and enough berries to fill jars of jam. Her father taught grade school. Her mother was a nurse who also worked with the Red Cross, kicking off Cora's lifelong interest in emergency services and preparedness.

In 1978, Cora, the youngest of three daughters and one son, took an Oregon State highway department job — leading a crew of four teens to pick up litter. Finds included a Mercedes hubcap, the head and guts of a deer, and a pipe bomb. She quit the job to sample basic courses at a local community college.

A visit to her brother Brian, who lived in Gold Beach, convinced her to stay for 10 years in his cabin, nine miles up a private road within the Siskiyou National Forest. "The first year was the most idyllic of my life," she said, reminiscing over splitting firewood, watching the fog roll in over the ocean and seeing wild calypso orchids on the way to the outhouse.



Jake Lebovich and Cora Boothby

"Cora knows the natural world, and she invites us to join her in exploring, enjoying, and protecting it," Esther added.

At another community college, Cora learned cabinet-making and drafting. Later, she surveyed roads, drafted blueprints for structures, and measured tree stands to determine size, volume, and quality of timber for the U.S. Forest Service.

She also helped fight forest fires, including one that raged over 100,000 acres. Hearing about Bellingham from a reporter covering the blaze for CNN, she drove up and landed a job as a secretary for a local electrical contractor at the ARCO refinery in 1989. Living on the Lummi reservation, she volunteered at its fire department as a fire fighter/EMT and Medical Services Officer. Native people there taught her to assemble gill nets to catch salmon.

During this time, she participated in the Self-Help Home Program, where nine families constructed houses of their own. Then came work at a nursery and finally

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BUSY SUMMER FOR CBI!



1 and 2. Group shots at Bellingham's Pride Parade
3. CBI behind our banner at the Pride parade 4. Rabbi Samuels with his son, Eytan, and Elan Maxim at Camp Kalsman 5. Kayla Orloff singing a song in front of the whole camp during Maccabiah 6. Rabbi Samuels with Elan Maxim and Isaac Schapiro at Camp Kalsman



Upcoming fall Care Committee workshops!

BY HARRIET MARKELL

Have you ever left the bedside of a very sick friend and wondered if you said the right thing? Did you really help her? Did you make him feel better? Did you feel awkward or uncomfortable? What did you say, where did you sit, how long did you visit? Or have you struggled to know what to say to someone who is grieving a loss and perhaps avoided the situation altogether? We all face these dilemmas, and more, when we live

in family and community with others – it's inevitable. And we are not taught in any reliable way what to do in these moments; most of us just stumble through and hope we did/said the right thing.

The CBI Care Committee hopes to provide guidance for those of you interested in learning more. We have planned two evening workshops, to be held in October on two separate evenings, for two hours each. Partici-

pants will learn about the Jewish underpinnings of *Bikur Cholim* (Visiting the Sick) and support for the bereaved. They will discuss concrete advice and suggestions for what to do in the moment and have a chance to practice what they've learned. We have engaged congregational and other local experts to lead the way.

Please watch for further details in upcoming eNews – location, dates, times, and registration information!

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER 2018

9/1 Nancy Halpern
 9/2 Owen Orloff (9th)
 9/3 Emil Hecht
 9/3 Samantha Sommers (17th)
 9/4 Gabriel Mayers
 9/4 Chi-Na Stoane
 9/5 Marilyn Eisner
 9/5 Elliot Levinson (11th)
 9/6 Judy Berman
 9/6 Harriet Markell
 9/9 Daryl Dixon
 9/10 Kayla Schott-Bresler
 9/11 Steven Garfinkle
 9/11 Eytan Samuels (9th)
 9/12 Miriam Davids
 9/12 Marcia Lippman
 9/12 Sandra Miller
 9/13 Bruce Van Glubt
 9/15 Lucy Naiman (10th)
 9/15 Lydia Sherwood
 9/16 Michele Sanger
 9/16 Elizabeth Sheinkopf
 9/18 Esther Faber
 9/18 Mark Packer
 9/19 Perry Somers
 9/19 Melissa Stahlberg
 9/21 Darcie Donegan
 9/21 Emma Konikoff (6th)
 9/22 Roby Blecker
 9/22 Elliot Probst (12th)
 9/23 Carrie Adelstein
 9/23 Jenny Katz (15th)
 9/23 Angel Raphael (11th)
 9/23 Russell Stolzoff
 9/23 Terri Weiner
 9/24 Howard Cockerham

9/24 Nancy Miller
 9/25 Mark Hunter
 9/25 Ahuva Scharff
 9/27 Nancy Davis
 9/27 Debby Meyers
 9/28 Arlene Feld
 9/29 Noémi Ban
 9/30 Regan Levinson
 9/30 Else Sokol

OCTOBER 2018

10/1 Elena Buri (20th)
 10/1 Isabel Buri (20th)
 10/1 Tracey Levine
 10/1 Bernice Loober
 10/1 Warren Rosenthal
 10/2 Kayla Orloff (16th)
 10/4 Barry Meyers
 10/6 Michael Lewis
 10/6 Michael Sommers (14th)
 10/6 Fred Zell
 10/7 KJ Jantzen
 10/7 Orly Lindner (15th)
 10/7 Niles Roberts
 10/8 Sarann Donegan
 10/8 David Goldman
 10/8 Nancy Lazarus
 10/8 Sheldon Mazur
 10/8 Mary Nathanson
 10/9 Kevin Donner
 10/9 Holly Folk
 10/9 Armando Lindner
 10/9 Gabriel Shaltiel
 10/9 Talia Sheinkopf (20th)
 10/10 Beverly Harrington
 10/10 Amanda Robins
 10/11 James Barney (4th)

10/11 Kaya Sherwood-Bally (17th)
 10/13 Matthew Keefe
 10/14 Ray Wolpov
 10/15 Marta Brand
 10/15 Gayle Gordon-Martin
 10/15 Lucy Greenberg
 10/15 Warren Taranow
 10/16 David Zimmerman
 10/17 Elka Fink
 10/19 Leslie Adelstein
 10/20 George Farkas
 10/21 Gail Shuster (15th)
 10/22 Ila Anderson (7th)
 10/23 Martha Greenstone
 10/26 Rifka MacDonald
 10/27 Jacob Anderson (17th)
 10/27 Perry Davids
 10/27 Renee Relin
 10/28 Lea Donner (9th)
 10/29 Katie Somers
 10/30 Lynne MacDonald
 10/30 Neri Maxim (15th)
 10/30 Jay Solomon
 10/31 Erik Hammerstrom

Welcome to our new members:

- **Leon and Sherry Baron** — Bellingham
- **Daniel Greenberg** and daughter **Lucy** (age 12) — Bellingham

FROM THE RABBI*Continued from Page 1*

Prayer/Worship). Rather, Beth Israel is a Jewish community where people can come together to fight injustices in the world, study sacred texts, create friendships, educate our youth, engage about Israel, *and* deepen spiritual life. CBI is not a single focused Jewish community. Everyone is welcome and hopefully able to find, and then enter, that one door to a richer Jewish life. And for most of us, as the exercise shows, that door does not lead into a minyan.

My friends, with the High Holy Days just a few days away, let us

reconsider what a deeper spiritual life might be like. What does it require of us? Will exploring Jewish prayer in both personal and communal ways deepen our connection to our Jewish roots? The only way to answer these questions is to dive right in.

This year Andrea and I have tried to create an environment where anyone, no matter where on their spiritual journey they may be, will be able to find meaning and comfort in our traditions. It's not always so easy to feel moved by Jewish liturgy, but with a little participation and some *kavanah* (intentionality), I have no doubt that each of us will enter the

new year on a path towards furthering our spiritual development.

There is nothing more I look forward to each year than coming together as a whole Beth Israel community. You lift me up higher each year. I hope your hearts will open wide enough to let the beauty of our rituals and sacred words enter your souls.

May you and your loved ones have a very happy, healthy and spiritual 5779.

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

CORA BOOTHBY*Continued from Page 8*

landscaping. A friend introduced her to realtor and CBI member Marta Brand. Cora's first job was to maintain the grounds of a house for sale. The owner was member Joe Lebovich, a VICO engineer. While away on an assignment in Montana, he called to check on her progress. "His voice was chocolatey, velvety," she said. When his contract was up, she helped him drive back to Bellingham in a blinding snowstorm. It forced them to stay in a hotel, eat Taco Bell, and watch movies for three days.

The two embarked on a trip to Oregon to meet her parents, and on July 5, 1997, they wed in a rabbi-led marriage ceremony. Cora had passed

through Presbyterian, evangelical, and pagan phases, but during the *V'Hafta* in her first CBI service, "Thou shalt love thy God with all thy heart" spoke to her. Still "I felt like I was standing outside a beautiful hand-blown glass vessel," she said, "so I needed to join the tribe." She converted the week of September 11, 2001, the rabbi blending the honor of her conversion with the horror of that day into one service.

After a honeymoon, Joe and Cora moved to Anchorage, Alaska, for 18 months, then back to Bellingham. In her fourth month of pregnancy, they flew to Italy to care for Joe's mother. Jacob, who was born in Milan on his father's 62nd birthday, will be sixteen in August. In Italy Cora studied English and writing through a Washington

State University distance program. She completed her degree at WSU/Vancouver after returning to Washington. The family rejoined the Bellingham community in 2005.

After 18 years of marriage and 11 years of being a dad to Jake, Joe died of prostate cancer. Cora and Jake mourned him together, both attending Our Treehouse Family grief group. Jake still goes to Willey Camp, a summer program for grieving children. Jake has also joined the Civil Air Patrol with his mom and participates in a cadet program with an eye to perhaps becoming a pilot in the future. "He's an astonishing child," Cora said.



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Congregation Beth Israel hosts the Interfaith Coalition annual meeting and celebration

BY ARLENE FELD

The Interfaith Coalition and Congregation Beth Israel have both undergone big changes in 2018. The IC started a new program, Family Promise, that expands the opportunities for temporary housing, using the rooms in its members' buildings. A member congregation can offer space and/or volunteer support.

Our congregation is providing support volunteers. Through our Social Action Committee, we are recruiting people to staff the Family Promise Program at certain times of the year.

And CBI has finally moved to this lovely home. I've long imagined how we might use this awesome space. I'm certain people around us are eager to see it. It seems so right to host the annual Interfaith Coalition meeting in our new building. This organization wants a caring and equitable world, similar to ourselves. They work extremely hard to help others make the transition to permanent housing comfortably and safely.

On October 16, 2018, at 7 pm, we will welcome 80 to 100 Interfaith Coalition supporters to tell stories of hope, and, of course, to celebrate.

Anniversaries

Sept. 5	Kendra Bradford and Todd Shuster	(# 22)
Sept. 5	Gary & Nancy Lazarus	(# 36)
Sept. 6	Jason & Chi-Na Stoane	(# 19)
Sept. 12	Stuart & Cinda Zemel	(# 42)
Sept. 14	Phyllis & Shelly Mazur	(# 66)
Sept. 22	Tami DuBow & Frank Corey	(#17)
Sept. 25	Perry & Katie Somers	(# 13)
Sept. 29	Andi & Kevin James	(# 17)
Sept. 30	Marta & Craig Brand	(# 40)
Oct. 9	Jane & Erik Hammerstrom	(# 3)
Oct. 9	Roy & Leslie Shankman	(# 30)
Oct. 10	Marcy & Jeff Probst	(# 26)
Oct. 10	Mary Somerville and Gary Marzullo	(# 26)
Oct. 14	Mark & Naomi Pomerantz	(# 12)
Oct. 24	Lydia Sherwood and Ron Bally	(# 25)

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.

Sisterhood event reminder!

BY MIRIAM DAVIDS

It's time for our Rosh Hashanah Prep Gathering! Please join us Sunday, September 2, for a Rosh Hashanah Prep Pep Rally, from 2 pm-4 pm in the Beit Midrash Room at CBI. Andrea Shupack will teach and refresh us on some New Year's songs.

Please bring a favorite Rosh Hashanah treat to share, along with recipes (unless they are family secrets). We will provide beverages. There will be a time of sharing stories of our own Rosh Hashanah customs and learning about good luck foods to eat on Rosh Hashanah.

We're happy to welcome all women of the congregation and hope you can make it.

Bringing a treat is not a requirement. We look forward to seeing you there!



Warren Rosenthal

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Pacific Northwest Hillel retreat

BY GERALDINE REITZ

Hillel of WWU is very excited to announce our role in helping to create the first Pacific Northwest Hillel retreat. The date is set for Oct. 19-21 at Camp Solomon Schechter near Olympia. We are working in partnership with the Hillel leadership teams at the University of Washington, Oregon/Oregon State, Portland Area schools, and the University of Utah to create this exciting joint event. We hope to make this an annual fall event for students at any school throughout the region.

Activities at the retreat will be focused around engagement & leadership, Israel, and wellness. Our program

coordinator, Naomi Siegel, has been playing a key role in building this retreat. She will be traveling to Seattle to meet with UW Hillel staff about the retreat this month, and she also organized a conference call with the five other participating Hillels to make this the best possible retreat for students. This retreat is made possible in part by a grant that Hillel of WWU received from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Anyone interested in attending, or in receiving further information, please email Naomi at hillelwwu@gmail.com.

WHY DO WE PRAY?

Continued from Page 4

cult to connect with the divine. Often tapping into feelings of gratitude is as far as I can reach. It takes practice, and I am still learning. But gratitude is always a great place to start to develop a prayer practice.

So why do we pray? Some of us pray to connect with God, some to connect with others in the community. Some pray out of obligation. Some pray for comfort. And there are many more great reasons that inspire us to pray.

I often wonder about everyone else who comes to synagogue to pray. Why do you come to pray? What do you get out of it, and what are you still seeking? And for those whom I don't see—why don't you come to synagogue? Do you prefer to pray outside a synagogue? Or is prayer not compelling?

Two of my favorite quotes about prayer are: "Prayer comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable," and Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "Prayer may not save us, but it makes our lives worth saving." Prayer is for ourselves, not for God. Prayer is supposed to improve our lives. Prayer helps us fill our lives

with meaning, making them worth living. Judaism offers us many road maps to improve our lives and refine our characters.

I feel a sense of urgency to make prayer more accessible and meaningful for all of us.

We need to learn how to pray. Frankly, we Jews are not usually very good at it, because it's not something we learned in Sunday school, and we rarely had good role models of well-developed prayers. Whether we're praying to God, or connecting to our inner soul, praying is hard work.

One thing I've noticed, over the years while practicing at prayer, is that it is much easier to get there when there are lots of people praying together. It takes more effort when we are a small number. The presence of others adds energy to the room, which allows my heart, and others' to soar. Our voices together lift each other up. We need each other. That is one of the reasons we need a *minyan*, a minimum of 10 adults, to say certain prayers.

We are about to enter the High Holy Days and spend more time than any other moment of the year occupied in prayer. Let us use this time well and make it as meaningful as

possible. Let us spend this time we have been given through our ancient Jewish wisdom in self-reflection, slowing down to notice the sacred in our lives and re-establishing our relationship with the divine source. Let's sing loudly together to lift all our voices and spirits in celebration, joy, and praise. Let us use these services to return to our truest, purest essence that allows us to bring our best selves to the world, making positive change. That can be the power of prayer, if we work at it. Let's struggle and practice together, sharing our frustrations and our "wow" moments with each other, as we navigate life and enter the new year.

Shana Tova! Here's to a meaningful and rich new year.

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IN HONOR OF:

Navah DesRosiers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
From: Karen Sloss

All the 2018 CBI graduates
From: Debbie & Dan Raas

CARE COMMITTEE

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jeff, Roberta and Joel Jaffe and their families – in loving memory of their mother, Audrey Jaffe.

From: Susan Jay

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown

From: Susan Aronson (Corvallis OR)
 Howard Cockerham
 John Hirschel (Seattle)
 Susan Jay
 Sylvia Williams

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The First Birthday of my great-grandson, Natie

From: Dr. Nathan Kronenberg (Bellingham)

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN HONOR OF:

Navah DesRosiers, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
From: Patrick Crane

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown
From: Toby Sonneman
 Steve & Rita Spitzer
 Rosalie & Stan Yacknin

*Rhoda Frankel (Evanston, Ill) – in memory of Dr. Jerry Frankel

*Marjorie Greenberg (Washington, DC) – in memory of George Greenberg

From: Peter & Rhoda Samuels

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Michael & Cynthia Kendal
From: Alan & Susan Kendal

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DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

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From: Jay & Shelley Wolfman

THE GENERAL FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jeff, Roberta and Joel Jaffe and their families – in loving memory of their mother, Audrey Jaffe.

From: Aline & Sid Wanne

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown
From: Doris Stiefel (Seattle)

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Mark Steinberg
From: Todd Witte

THE KESHER FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Navah DesRosiers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown
From: Harriet Fine
 Barry & Kathi Paluch

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown
From: Debbie & Dan Raas

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown and the Ice Cream Social tradition she originated.

From: Dan Ohms & Janine Shaw

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Warren Rosenthal, for being a mensch

From: Barry & Kathi Paluch

The Beth Israel community, with thanks for their support and compassion following the passing of my father, Jacob Schlitt

From: David Schlitt

IN HONOR OF:

Shalem Blum, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak

Rena & David Ziegler – Mazel Tov on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

From: Steve & Janis Ban
 Debbie & Dan Raas

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The marriage of Jeremiah Levine and Rachel Light
From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak

The birth of Toby Sonneman's grandchild
From: Debbie & Dan Raas

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Harriet Emanuel, on the loss of her husband, Manny
From: Karen Sloss

Debbie Aylott and family, in loving memory of Anne Brown

From: Steve & Janis Ban
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 Lynn & Michael Korner
 Linda & Efrem Krisher & family (Bellevue)
 Marcia & Lou Lippman
 Bernice Loober
 Phyllis & Shelly Mazur
 Lee Shapiro
 Karen Sloss
 Bonnie & Alan Stone
 Eric & Deb Stone
 Mark & Ellen Stone
 Nancy & Aaron Lichter
 Joan & Marv Wayne
 Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti

Debbie Aylott and family, in honor of Anne Brown's life
From: Arlene Feld

Debbie Aylott and family – in loving memory of their mother, Anne Brown, a matriarch of the Beth Israel community
From: The Vernon Family

Jeff, Roberta and Joel Jaffe and their families – in loving memory of their mother, Audrey Jaffe.
From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak
 Lynn & Michael Korner
 Karen Sloss

Jeff, Roberta and Joel Jaffe and their families – in loving memory of their mother, Audrey Jaffe, a matriarch of the Beth Israel community.
From: The Vernon family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My beloved mother, Rose Lassman
From: Bernice Loober

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

The Donner Family,
 with love

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, September 7 and

Saturday, September 8

Viola Faber	9/9
Helen Hildes	9/9
Harold Lazaroff	9/9
Sarah Hecht	9/10
Art Jensen	9/11
Dora Lebowitz	9/11
Rebecca Miller	9/11
Fannie Thal	9/12
Ron Feiger	9/13
Richard Meltzer	9/14

Friday, September 14 and

Saturday, September 15

Reva David	9/15
Daniel Ramras	9/15
Jack Blecker	9/16
Mary Faber	9/18
Geraldine Witte	9/18
Dale S. Hunter	9/19
Regina Moskowitz	9/19
Carl Paschetag	9/19
John Smith	9/19
Roslyn Wolpow	9/19
Edith Sonneman	9/20
Harry Berman	9/21
Nora Eilenberg	9/21

Friday, September 21

Harriet Korn	9/22
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Crystal Myers	9/22
Jere Donegan	9/26
Jonas Relin	9/27
Sara Sylvia Seid	9/27

Friday, September 28

Edith Lindheimer	9/29
Helen Shure	9/29
Trude Weil Bauman	10/1
Joseph Jay	10/1
Carol Van Glubt	10/2
Jay Harvey	10/4

Friday, October 3

Joshua Louis Adelstein	10/8
Bernard "Barry" Shapiro	10/10
Shirley Adelstein	10/11
Reuben Dechter	10/11
Patricia Jantzen	10/13

Friday, October 12 and

Saturday, October 13

Miriam Mitzman	10/13
Peter Harvey	10/14
Herman Horowitz	10/14
Johanna Vohl	10/15
Dora Graff	10/17
Jack Irwin Moss	10/17
Phyllis Ruth Orlik	10/17
Rob Brown	10/19
Harry Dubonsky	10/19
Ezra Meltzer	10/19

David Robinson, Jr.	10/19
Bernice Sokol	10/19
Maxwell Weiss	10/19

Friday, October 19 and

Saturday, October 20

Gladys Boehi	10/20
Gladys Rose Eisner	10/20
Don Cole	10/21
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	10/21
Judy Greenberg	10/22
Jacob M. Fine	10/23
Elsie Gaudine	10/23
Donald Kite	10/23
Celia Loober	10/23
Aaron Weiss	10/24
George Bernard Levine	10/26

Friday, October 26

Aaron David Schlesinger	10/28
Robert (Bob) Farkas	10/29
Gertrude "Onita" Glasco	10/29
Anne Enger	10/30
Phillip Fine	10/31
Annelise Guenter-Pedersen	10/31
Lily Swartz	10/31
Bernard Feerer	11/1
Edith M. Lazarus	11/1
Sarah Strumpf	11/1
Frances Studen	11/1
Samuel Hecht	11/2
Bruce Phillips	11/2

In Memoriam

Zichrona l'vrachah ~ May her memory be for a blessing

We mourn the passing of long-time Beth Israel congregant **Anne Brown**, who passed away on June 29, 2018 at her home in Seattle. Our deepest condolences go out to her brother, Ernest, and his wife, Vivienne Wolf, her daughter, Debbie Aylott, to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews and their extended families.



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COMMUNITY SUKKAH RAISING

Join us for our
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Members of the community will meet on

Thursday, Sept. 20 at 5 pm

at the CBI patio and will put together CBI's brand
new modular Sukkah to be followed by a Sephardic-
themed potluck dinner at 6 pm.

Join the party!

