

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 24, NO. 2 \* Congregation Beth Israel \* Bellingham, WA 98229 \* [bethisraelbellingham.org](http://bethisraelbellingham.org) \* (360) 733-8890

## Storytelling is back at the Beit Cafe!

If you love storytelling, then you won't want to miss this event. We've had stories of adventure and stories of love. The theme this year is "Miracles." Hear personal stories from fellow Beth Israel congregants about anything miracle-related. Learn things about your friends you never knew.

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

## Wonder of miracles: Find your truth, tell your story

**A Workshop To Get Your Story Out, facilitated by Jay S. Nahani (Braunstein)**

**Sunday, November 17, 2:00-4:00pm, at CBI.**

Do you have a story longing to be told? A story that wants to come out, but just needs an invitation or some direction? Do you wonder, once your story is written how to share it out loud?

**Where:** The Encore Room at Mount Baker Theatre

**When:** 7:30 pm on December 7. (Please note the Adult Ed brochure incorrectly says 6:30 pm.)

If you would like to share a story, inform Rabbi Samuels or Andrea Shupack ASAP to get your name on the list. There will be a limited number of spots.

Join Jay S. Nahani for a generative workshop where you will receive writing prompts, get open mic tips, and write 1-2 stories in a nonjudgmental, supportive setting. This workshop is designed for both novice and experienced writers. This is a great opportunity for those who wish to participate in the December 7 Beit Cafe storytelling event. Bring your own journal or notebook and pen.

FROM THE RABBI

## Todah rabbah!

The Jewish value of gratitude, translated into Hebrew as *hakarat ha-tov* "recognizing the good," is of such importance in our tradition that we are supposed to give thanks at least 100 times a day.



Coming on the heels of our High Holy Day season, I feel the strong urge to express my deepest appreciation to so many for

helping to make our communal observances so meaningful.

This was my eighth year leading the Beth Israel family into the New Year, and I can't wait to do it all over again! OK, perhaps that's a stretch, but I truly loved the experience and I am looking forward to being with our whole community next year.

I want to take this opportunity, once again, to acknowledge all those who helped ensure that we would be able to gather together to pray, study, and celebrate. It takes a village, and I am full of gratitude for all of you.

First off, I want to thank Nicole, Eytan, and Shoshana for supporting me as I was preparing by giving me space, but also making



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*From the President...*

## High Holy Days reflections

I am writing this the day after our High Holy Days are completed. For me, it was a happy, *haimish* time, with moments of joy, sadness, and beauty. There was also a pang of concern for our congregants on Yom Kippur morning, upon hearing about the shooting in Germany earlier that day. I wonder if you noticed a few things we did to increase our security during these High Holy Days. I hope you noticed a little, but not a lot—just enough to feel easier being in the synagogue. What a world it is that we even have to think about this.

Rabbi Samuels, Andrea, and the musicians and vocalists did a wonderful job of creating a spiritual sense of community. The teachers for the afternoon sessions, Ahuva Scharff and Jay Nahani, gave us thought-provoking intellectual and emotional exercises.

As I watched the aspen leaves dancing in the sun, I reflected on the words I shared on Rosh Hashanah about focusing on community more than the building. I must confess that the building is much on my mind. We have three months to complete tasks for our permanent occupancy permit. This involves some things like fixing the driveway entrance to the property (won't we all be glad when that is done!), and some degree of landscaping. I'm sure we will come to a successful resolution by the deadline, but it is still a work in progress.

I ask myself, "What can I do in the short term to increase a sense of community?" What I came up with was ... information.

In the last year, we have welcomed 54 new people to CBI! I'm guessing they could use some help in finding out more about what CBI has to offer. But I think a lot of people who have been around longer could also use more information, and there are some things that I would like to update everyone about.

It is in the nature of committees to evolve, and I am grateful to share with you some new committee leadership. Josh Greenberg, one of our vice-presidents, has stepped up to head the

Facilities Management and Maintenance Committee, and he is doing great work already in organizing this crucial function into an efficient and integrated system.

Dan Ohms has agreed to lead the Security Committee in not only fine-tuning our security measures, but also to bring his expertise from the Fire Department to make CBI better prepared for medical and other emergencies.

Finally, Steven Garfinkle, who should have been allowed to retire after serving as president, has graciously agreed to lead the New Synagogue Task Force as we make the final run to our permanent occupancy permit. We are fortunate to have these people giving their time and expertise to these crucial functions.

I also want to encourage all members, new and old, to take a good look at the CBI website, which is maintained and nurtured by Melissa Schapiro. Make a cup of something tasty, and spend some time poking around on [bethisraelbellingham.org](http://bethisraelbellingham.org). If you have not logged on as a member, think of a clever user name and password, and find more great information, such as Policies, Board Documents, and the Membership Directory. There is a great deal of information, and there will be even more to come, as we update committee information over the next few months.

And finally, please read the weekly e-mail! I am surprised to hear that folks sometimes don't! It doesn't take long, and it's great for keeping up with what is going on. Keshar news will be included in this weekly report, so there is one less email, and it will come earlier in the week. The yartzeit list is published every week, upcoming programming and social action events are listed, and also upcoming services and simchas.

Please contact Mary Somerville, if you are having any problems accessing the eNews.

Stay tuned! More to come! Happy 5780!

— MIRIAM SCHWARTZ,  
PRESIDENT

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98229

*The Shul Shofar*

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**Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the January/February issue is DECEMBER 11.** Call the office for more information.

### CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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*From the Social Action Committee*

# Past and upcoming events

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

Our community was very generous in helping our social programs this High Holy Day Season! The collection for the Bellingham Food Bank at the High Holy Days continues to grow each year. Thanks to everyone who donated and collected the food. We collected two very full carloads of nonperishable items, and many people donated money. This collection helps the Food Bank bridge their needs between the seasons.

Boxes of coats, hats, and gloves were also collected and donated to the Interfaith Coat Drive at the end of October. Thanks to Patty Yust and Jeff Popp, who delivered the coats for distribution. These donations help our neighbors in need to stay warm through the winter. A big thanks also goes out to the CBI Stitchery Group. This group donated more than 40 hats, scarves, and fingerless gloves! Please join them on Tuesdays between 2:00-4:00 pm in the Beit Midrash to keep this tradition going! Donations of knit items will continue throughout the year to social programs. We want to also thank Bernice Loober and the Spring Creek Retirement and Senior Living Community for their generosity in donating knitted items and coats this year.

Another opportunity to support the Interfaith Coalition and our neighbors is the Family Promise Program. Congregation Beth Israel continues to be a support congregation by supplying meals. The First Christian Church of Bellingham offers overnight accommodations through the program. Many thanks to the families Ban, Reitz and Garfinkle, as well as Gloria Lebowitz and Minda Rae Amiran for making this program a success. Wonderful volunteers from CBI also help with transitional housing in our community by quarterly cleaning of a home for families in need. The Family Promise Project is also in need of diapers, especially in larger sizes.

These can be dropped off in the Social Action baskets in the social hall at any time.

Please contact Linda Blackwell or Andrea Shupack if you are interested in volunteering with the Family Promise Program.

We will be collecting money and food for DVSA for their Thanksgiving Dinner. Further announcements will be in the eNews about signing up and making donations.

Please consider attending the next Social Action Committee meeting in early November. Contact Linda Blackwell at (360) 739-1492, for the date and time.



## Synagogue 411

**Archives:** Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

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

**Membership:** Rita Spitzer,  
(360) 647-7065; Ann Suloway,  
(360) 296-8220

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

**Scholarship:** Emil Hecht,  
(360) 733-4825

**Social Action:** Linda Blackwell,  
(360) 647-9519

## Love Where You Live



**Melissa Schapiro,**  
Realtor with



MELISSA.SCHAPIRO@EXPREALTY.COM  
360.738.7182 MELISSASCHAPIRO.COM  
2219 Rimland Dr., Suite 301 Bellingham WA 98226

## From the Care Committee

# Talking turkey over turkey

*(Adapted from an article by Micki Jackson, coordinator for The Realities of Advanced Medical Interventions programming through PeaceHealth.)*

Who gets the wishbone in your family? What better time to “make your wishes known” about your end-of-life healthcare choices than at a family and friends Thanksgiving gathering?

Believe it or not, the holidays and advance care planning (ACP) for your end-of-life healthcare wishes go together. I encourage you to seize the opportunity when *Bubbie* and *Zaydie*, Aunt Rachel and Uncle Mort, you, your kids, your friends, your multiple generations are united at the table, and “talk turkey over turkey” about your wishes, goals, and values. A little-known fact: Advance directives are intended for all adults 18 years of age and up.

To ease into your conversations, you may want to explore the online version of the game ‘Go Wish,’ or purchase a deck of cards from [gowish.org](http://gowish.org).

Our Bellingham community is setting the standard in Washington State for promoting the benefits of medical ACP, but we can do better. Accepting death’s inevitability, let us sort out the significant from the trivial, the spiritual from the material, to better focus on the time we have, to live and love. One healthcare provider has

described a completed advance directive as “a love letter to those we adore.”

Given today’s medical landscape, the less prepared we are, the more unpleasant, traumatic, and protracted our last days are likely to be. Preparing to the extent possible to lessen stress and gain greater peace of mind when a crisis hits that may signal the end of life is also a gift to those we care about.

Beginning Sunday, February 23, 2020, the Care and Cemetery Committees will be presenting a 3-part workshop. During the first session, we will hear from medical professionals about the Realities of Advanced Medical Interventions, which will be followed up a week later with an Advance Care Planning workshop, where we’ll have the opportunity to complete the Honoring Choices advance directive document. The third session, on March 15, will focus on planning for after life ends, including Jewish burial rituals and options in Bellingham. The presentation and workshop are free, including notary service for those who complete their advance directive.

The outcome of this important activity is to say to those you love, “I care about you.” So, let’s talk turkey over turkey, while we can still speak for ourselves.

For questions, contact Geraldine Reitz at (360) 319-1942 or [flori121@yahoo.com](mailto:flori121@yahoo.com).

## The Yenta speaks...

### News from the Beller-Siegfried family:

Dane and Lauren Siegfried welcomed their beautiful daughter Noah Elaine Siegfried into the world on September 4, 2019. Noah Elaine is the granddaughter of John Siegfried and Michelle Beller-Siegfried, and the niece of Jeff Siegfried and Julie Siegfried.

Jeff Siegfried graduated with a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Michigan in June 2019 and has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Saxophone at the University of West Virginia in Morgantown.

Julie Siegfried received a Master's Degree in Social Work in June 2019 from the University of Washington, and has accepted a job as a school-based counselor at Valley Cities Mental Health Clinic in Seattle.

Welcome to our new members:

- **Rena Blauner** – Bellingham
- **Nancy Fisher-Allison** – Anacortes
- **Iris & Kevin Parker** – Bellingham
- **Orly & Oleg Ravitsky; daughters Natalie (age 11) and Avigail (age 5) and son Jacob (age 9)** – Bellingham
- **Andrew Schwarz & Leslie Garrison** – Bellingham
- **Noni Schultheiss** – Blaine
- **Howard Sharfstein & Mary Francell-Sharfstein** – Bellingham



From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

## Hiddur Mitzvah — How simple choices make a better world



The start of the new year is always an opportunity to reevaluate our definition of our true selves, to get closer to the intentions that nurture our souls and get us closer to the people we would want to be. Keshet's new year of *Tav Shin Feh* (5780) began with a revised curriculum, new schedule, and also

with what I hope are renewed and improved intentions that we set for ourselves as a community. Last year, Keshet introduced its Three Golden Rules:

**Be safe** *Shmirat Haguf v'Halashon* שמירת הגוף והלשון

**Be respectful of others** *Kvod Hazul* כבוד הזול

**Use your best manners in all you do** *Derech Eretz* דרך ארץ

This year, our staff and students will be working on putting these values into practice both in the classroom and in our lives elsewhere. One way we are setting our Kavanah that will embody these three Jewish values is through a conscious rejection of disposable dishes. Our effort to reduce the use of disposable dishes and plastic began with the move to the new building, and this year we will be taking a more proactive and organized approach to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

I have recently read an article about a petition published by leading Rabbis in Israel who belong to a wide array of communities, from Ultra-Orthodox through Israeli Judaism and Reform communities. In their petition, this group of Rabbis all expressed a feeling of a rabbinic, religious, and ethical calling to reduce the use of disposable dishes and the use of plastic. The petition calls for a general use reduction, but highlights the need to be conscientious about this issue, especially in preparation and during the celebrations of Jewish festivals. Anyone who has ever hosted a Passover Seder would agree that using disposable dishes for a table of 40 makes the task much easier but in the petition, the Rabbis recall the mitzvah of *Bal Tashchit* — “do not destroy,” as well as the midrash from Kohelet Raba that says: “Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you” (*Midrash Kohelet Rabbah* 7, 1:13).



”תן דעתך שלא תקלקל ותחריב את עולמי, שאם קלקלת, אין מי שיִתקן אחרִי.”

Personally, I feel that the extra effort we put into celebrating our festivals, including the use of a special set of dishes like our grandmothers used to do, also adds a sense of *Hiddur Mitzvah* – adding splendor to a mitzvah makes our Shabbat dinners, our Sukkah, or our study that much more special and memorable. The Rabbis’ petition has inspired me to adopt this Jewish lens into resource conservation and I hope that we, as a community, will find ways to live through the mundane with this added sense of safety, respect, and good manners.

—SAGIT HALL  
DIRECTOR, KESHER CENTER  
FOR JEWISH LEARNING

## Bar Mitzvah



**Avi Lindner** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on November 9, 2019. He is the son of Serge Lindner and Deborah Oksenberg, brother of Orly Lindner, and grandson of Armando and Diana Lindner. Avi is in the eighth grade at Fairhaven Middle School. In his free time, he loves playing cello and piano, fencing, playing chess, reading, spending time outdoors in

Bellingham and the Methow Valley, and hanging out with friends and family. For his mitzvah project, Avi will be doing trail work with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association.

Please join Avi's family in celebration:

### SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

**Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 10:00 am**

Light Kiddush nosh to follow.

## Bar Mitzvah



**Benjamin Daniel Sommers** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on November 16, 2019. He is the son of Mark and Teresa Sommers, and brother of Samantha, Michael, Rebekah, and Xavier. In school Ben enjoys math and science. Other favorite pursuits include bowling, rock climbing, and soccer. For his mitzvah project, Ben is volunteering at a rehabilitation center in Bellingham,

spending time with seniors who are suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. They read together, play games, watch TV, and just sit and chitchat. Ben chose this as his project because he believes that caring for others helps make the world a better place, and makes each person better too.

Ben's family invites you to join them in celebration of this simcha:

### SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Pre-service nosh at 5:30 pm

**Friday, November 15, 2019 at 6:15 pm**

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

**Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 10:00 am**

Vegetarian Chinese luncheon afterward.

## Anniversaries

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(# 33)	Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(# 39)
Nov. 7	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#15)	Dec. 15	Jeff & Amy Margolis	(# 57)
Nov. 15	Matthew Schall & Gayle Kay	(# 16)	Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter- Schlesinger	(# 35)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(# 23)	Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(# 54)
Nov. 23	Iris & Kevin Parker	(# 44)	Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(# 43)
Nov. 29	Floyd King & Leigh Squires	(# 17)	Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(# 15)
Dec. 6	David & Anniece Kiersky	(# 34)	Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(# 54)
Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(# 45)	Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(# 48)
Dec. 10	Mark & Nancy Luster	(# 42)	Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(# 22)

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

# So you want to make a donation to CBI...

BY KAREN SLOSS

Since CBI's annual budget and completion of the New Synagogue relay almost 100% on its membership, your donations are extremely important to the community's survival and success! Annual membership commitments (sometimes referred to as "dues") sustain CBI's annual operations budget. The New Synagogue project still needs to complete the landscaping, the commercial kitchen, the sanctuary-social hall divider, as well as other projects and furnishings, and the sooner the better! A significant amount of landscaping is required just to get our permanent occupancy in the coming months.

Most members contribute by cash or credit card, so they may not be aware of several other ways to make donations. And, of note, some of

those alternate options may also provide significant tax savings to the donor. So, to clarify, here are the various donation methods:

1. Cash, checks or direct bank debit by the synagogue office.
2. Credit card (please note that paying by credit card costs CBI approximately 3% of the amount charged, so all are encouraged to add extra to the donation to cover the credit card bank fee).
3. Direct a Donor Advised fund to send a check payable to CBI.\*
4. Transfer shares of highly appreciated stock or mutual funds to CBI's Schwab account.\*
5. For individuals over age 70½: request a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.\*

All of these options work for potentially tax-deductible donations such as membership commitments, general or targeted donations and New Synagogue contributions. However, purchases such as Keshet tuition, tickets to events, or prayer books need to be paid by cash, bank debit or credit cards, because they are technically not "donations," but rather "payments for value received."

I hope this list offers ideas to make supporting CBI easier and perhaps more tax-efficient. Your contribution is crucial to CBI no matter how you choose to do it!

*\*Please contact the synagogue office (360) 733-8890 or Karen Sloss, cell/text (360) 319-7258, for more details on how to implement these tax-advantaged strategies.*

## The sound of progress

BY MARTA BRAND, CHAIR  
ACOUSTIC TASK FORCE

Almost 100 people responded to our survey on hearing and sound issues within the first 24 hours.

This was a remarkable response and indicative of how much people care!

We have sought out experienced musicians and sound engineers, who have graciously donated their time to educate us. We've heard from knowledgeable congregants and heeded their advice about placement of speakers, and we've utilized community resources who

have lent us hearing assist equipment. In order to dampen echoes, we constructed and installed sound-absorbing panels.

The task force aimed, short-term, to improve the High Holy Day listening experience for our members and guests. With the help of Rachel Lowenstein, we were able to borrow 10 personal receivers and headsets from the Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center for use during the High Holy Days. Judging from the positive feedback we received and the pure delight on the faces of those using the assisted listening devices on Yom Kippur, we're headed in the right direction! Warren Palken, our High Holy Days sound engineer, and his assistant, Susan Blum, pulled out all the stops by bringing in speakers and microphones and utilizing new computer technology that greatly helped to optimize the sound quality.

Moving forward, we want to improve the sound and acoustics for our everyday events and activities, and we will keep you posted about our plans and progress.



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*Challah*



# Faces in our community: Shelly Pravda

BY LINDA HIRSH

*Shelly Pravda called Brooklyn home for his first 22 years. Relatives lived within blocks of his family. He graduated from Brooklyn College in 1965 and got married. His father hoped Shelly would join his display advertising business. He left town in 1966 to do graduate work at Duke University — all achievements tied to middle-class expectations of the time.*

Shelly worked in two respectable research positions using his major in plant ecology, one at Brookhaven National Laboratory researching the effect of radiation on trees and animals. Then a flight to the country's opposite shore changed him.

"I made some choices away from the straight and narrow," Shelly said. "I became committed to NOT making it. I learned to live on almost nothing. I learned to be happy with my lot, and I never envied rich people."

He entered California's hippie domain, where he plunged into communal life, sharing rooms and houses, cultivating food, and contributing



Shelly Pravda and his family in 1987 on Greenfield Ranch



Shelly and Ann Chaikin, 2018

money that he earned from learning various trade skills.

"Nothing was rocket science," he said. "I worked at it and was successful." He also explored hobbies—for instance, joining the Oakland Beekeeper Society while immersed in that interest.

"It's the story of my life," he said. "I take hobbies as far as I can. Trained as a scientist, I think that way."

Looking back, he said the experience expanded him. He learned self-sufficiency, as well as how to work in a team. "It was all about people and doing things cooperatively. It was very altruistic."

His friend Joan Wayne describes the result: "Sweet, interesting person, best hugs ever!"

The switch to an off-the-grid lifestyle started when Shelly divorced

his first wife and met a woman who wanted to head to California. Their first stop was in Oakland at a commune called Asphalt Farm. It was 1971. They slept in a room with six other couples. He supplemented the commune's income by cleaning out attics and rebuilding a Volkswagen engine. A print shop on the premises published commune poetry that they distributed to passersby.

The second stop was The Circus in downtown Berkeley. The year, 1974. This time each couple had their own room in a space of one city block. Odd jobs there included installing kitchen cabinets and making furniture and tools for weaving. There he met his second wife, Elinor. "Couples who went in didn't necessarily come out as couples," he said.

*Continued on Page 13*



# BUSY TIMES AT CBI!



1. Norman DesRosiers and the CBI Gaga pit builders. 2. The brave individuals who went on the lovely Keshar hike in September along Lake Whatcom. 3. Students and families being blessed on the first day of Keshar. 4. *Tashlich* at Lake Padden. 5. Mike Braunstein, Ilius Priska, and Josh Shupack building our *sukkah*. 6. Andrea Shupack, Kevin Donner, and Nicole Samuels overseeing the building of the *sukkah*! 7. Twenty-five young adults at pre-fast meal at D'Anna's.

# Celebrate Chanukah with Congregation Beth Israel!

**When: 12:30-2:30 pm, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019**

**Where: 751 San Juan Blvd.**

**Food and activities:** Celebrate with latkes, jelly donuts, pizza, and more, Chanukah-themed crafts for kids, the annual Dreidel Spin-off, special Keshet class performances, music and singing, and by symbolically lighting the first night Chanukah together.



**Candle fundraiser:** Beginning in November, purchase Chanukah candles on our website (under the "donate" tab), and pick them up at CBI, or purchase them before or after Keshet classes starting in mid-November. \$5 for 44 candles; 100% goes to help fund the Chanukah party.

**Help needed:** Sponsors for pizza, craft supplies, etc., would be appreciated. Also, help with set-up and clean-up, latke frying (cook at your home and bring to Beth Israel), coffee station, and greeters. Contact Lynn Korner, [lkmk1@yahoo.com](mailto:lkmk1@yahoo.com) or Tammy Dixon [curtitt@yahoo.com](mailto:curtitt@yahoo.com)

## Sustainability tips

BY SAMANTHA SCHWARTZ

I'm a freshman at Bellingham High School, and I'm passionate about protecting the environment and bringing sustainability and a conscious mindset into my day-to-day life. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing a few tips on how to make sustainable decisions in your daily life.

You can reuse your old waxed-paper milk cartons as a compost bin instead of buying a compost bin or throwing food away. The carton can be composted with its contents. Ice cream cartons work as well.

## Birthdays

### NOVEMBER 2019

11/1 Susan Jay  
11/1 Gerald Manganaro  
11/1 David Ziegler  
11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (10th)  
11/2 Lev Shuster (18th)  
11/4 Elinor Hall (14th)  
11/4 David Schlitt  
11/5 Ian James (11th)  
11/6 Rodney Shainbom  
11/7 Steve James  
11/8 Rob Grossman  
11/10 Urtica Goldman (6th)  
11/11 Stephanie Korn  
11/11 Wendy Schwartz  
11/12 Jakob Garfinkle (21st)  
11/12 Rebecca Garfinkle (21st)  
11/13 Peter Auerbach  
11/13 Miriam Schwartz  
11/14 Isaac Schapiro (19th)  
11/14 Raphael Schapiro (19th)  
11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (19th)  
11/16 Kristan Brennan  
11/16 Ellie Greenberg (21st)  
11/16 Jane Relin  
11/16 Toby Sonneman

11/17 Nancy L. Lloyd  
11/17 Bonnie Stone  
11/17 Jay Wolfman  
11/18 Rita Spitzer  
11/19 Anita Meyer  
11/20 Willow Corey-DuBow (16th)  
11/21 Nancy Fisher-Allison  
11/24 Liberty Amit Schoelss (8th)  
11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (9th)  
11/26 Tamar Clarke  
11/26 Shala Erlich  
11/27 Elaine Beck-Bruns  
11/27 Elkah Katz  
11/28 Floyd King  
11/29 Arundel Pritchett  
11/29 Xavier Sommers (8th)  
11/30 Orion Dixon (11th)  
11/30 Priscilla Feld  
11/30 Sarah Witt

### DECEMBER 2019

12/3 Zach Bastow  
12/4 Rebecca Oliver  
12/4 Susan Cohen Raphael  
12/7 Alyssa Diller (19th)

12/8 Robin Curtis  
12/8 Noam Richmond (17th)  
12/10 Trisha Adelstein  
12/11 Marvin Wayne  
12/13 Shelly Pravda  
12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (14th)  
12/14 Eli Brennan (21st)  
12/15 Anna Booker  
12/15 Niall Ó Murchú  
12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine  
12/17 Ruth Philipp  
12/17 Maya Taranow (21st)  
12/18 David Strich  
12/19 Cathie Diller  
12/19 Cinda Zemel  
12/20 Leon Baron  
12/22 Michelle Anderson  
12/22 Jennifer Seltz  
12/23 John Sternlicht  
12/26 David Halpern  
12/27 Philip Buri  
12/27 Jacob Garretson  
12/28 Ella Keefe (6th)  
12/28 Mark Pomerantz  
12/29 Andrew Schwarz  
12/30 Shawn Clarke



## FROM THE RABBI

*Continued from Page 1*

sure I took my mind off the Holy Days in order to have fun in the process.

There is nothing I like more than looking into the sea of Beth Israelites and making eye contact with you. My love and appreciation for you knows no bounds. Thank you all for embracing my family as well.

Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack: Thank you for blessing us once more with your leadership and beautiful voice. Leading services with you felt seamless. Thank you for all of the preparation you put into the musical aspect of the Holy Days by organizing the vocal ensembles and arrangements. You certainly took us higher.

Shlomis Waters, Susan Blum, Warren Palken, Samantha Sinai, David Bean, and all of our vocalists: Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us this year and for ensuring that everyone could hear the profoundly moving music. There were plenty of times when I was lost in thought listening to the beauty of your voices and instruments and hoping that the moment could last just a bit longer.

Miriam Davids: Thank you for being the point person in charge of practically everything High Holy Day-related. The services would not run as smoothly as they do without your attention to detail and dedication. We would be lost without your HHD leadership! And thank you for chanting so much Torah!

Sagit Hall: Thank you once again for organizing Keshet *Chaverim*, or child care, during the High Holy Days. I am grateful for all of the teens and adults who helped out and created a fun learning environment for our youngest members. I know so many parents were appreciative of having alone time to experience the longer services.

Roby and friends (Floyd King, Witte and Sommers families): 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. It was especially tasty this year. I always 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 assisting people with questions. Thank you for hosting the Rosh Hashanah *oneg*.

Rachel Lowenstein: Thank you for organizing the headset rentals. Because of your leadership, so many more people could hear better than in previous years. And thank you Marta and Craig Brand for making and hanging the sound panels. Every single thing we do helps.

Mary Somerville: Thank you for everything! There isn't enough room to describe all that you do for Congregation Beth Israel. And on top of all this, you joined the vocalists and helped make our services even more beautiful.

Jay Nahani (Braunstein) and Ahuva Scharff: Thank you for leading the Yom Kippur study session. I loved having two facilitators this year. Both sessions were engaging and left us wanting more!

Hank Levine, Steve Ban and Stuart Berman: Thank you for leading the second day of Rosh Hashanah with me. It continues to be an honor to share the *bima* with each of you. (You can find Stuart's thought-provoking sermon on our website.)

All of the Torah/Haftarah chanters and readers: Thank you for amazing us with your skills. Kudos to the following: Kathi Paluch, Vermeda Fred, Ben Fred, Dan Ohms, Steve Ban, Martha Greenstone, Nicole Samuels, David Zimmerman, Miriam Davids, Andrea Shupack, Lilah Blum, Josh Shupack, Hank Levine, Gaby Meyers, Alisa Sachs, Miriam Buckman, Cora Boothby, Beverly Harrington, and Meredith Attar.

**Save the date** for the annual CBI Community Seder on April 9 at 5:30 pm. More information on registration will be in the next *Shul Shofar*.



David Cohn, Dan Ohms, Diane Garmo, Gabe Witte, and each of our shofar sounders: Thank you for your stellar shofar sounding. The final *tekiah gedola* was very memorable. *Yasher koach!*

Lynn Korner and Linda Blackwell: Thank you once again, for organizing the break-the-fast meal. What a big job. There is nowhere else I'd rather be after *Neilah*.

Joy Gardner: Thank you for donating the beautiful floral arrangements on Yom Kippur.

All of the ushers and security personnel: Thank you for making sure everyone felt at home and safe in our community.

Josh Shupack, Mike Braunstein, Yaniv Attar, Kevin Donner, Dan Greenberg, and Ilius Priska: Thank you for engaging in the mitzvah of building our community sukkah.

*Todah rabbah!* Thank you all so much for supporting Jewish life in Bellingham at Congregation Beth Israel. May we all go from strength to strength!

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



# Special fund donations

## CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack, for her work with Jaelle and Ayla to prepare for their B'not Mitzvah.

**From:** *Rebecca & Tom Oliver*

### IN HONOR OF:

Jaxon Mann's Bar Mitzvah

**From:** *Patrick Crane*

*Stephanie Korn*

Andrea Shupack – Happy Birthday!

**From:** *Teresa Sommers*

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

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### IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee, for all their good work

**From:** *Karen Sloss*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for all his work with Jaelle & Ayla for their B'not Mitzvah

**From:** *Rebecca & Tom Oliver*

Rabbi Samuels – Thank you for a wonderful job officiating Noémi's funeral

**From:** *Steve & Janis Ban*

Rabbi Samuels

**From:** *Maria Koplowitz & Family*

### IN HONOR OF:

Jaxon Mann's Bar Mitzvah

**From:** *Stephanie Korn*

Adam Elijah Celniker – Shana Tova

**From:** *Stephen Celniker (San Diego)*

Peter & Rhoda Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA), for their 50th Anniversary

**From:** *Doris Rose (Minnetonka, MN)*  
*Ken & Elizabeth Atterman (Cordova, TN)*  
*Mary & Tom Bernstein (Omaha, NE)*  
*Joe & Cheryl Feigenbaum (Palm Springs)*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Janis Ban, on the loss of her mother, Betty Bloomfield

**From:** *Stuart & Cinda Zemel*

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### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Binnie Perper – in memory of her mother, Mary Ann Perper

**From:** *Nancy & Don Davis*

## NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Stuart Berman – Thanks for sharing your knowledge and leading a fun and interesting class on King David

**From:** *Teresa Sommers*

Emil Hecht, Dan Ohms, Lynn Korner, Eileen Miller, and Ruth Evans – Thank for your kind assistance on Kol Nidre

**From:** *Bernice Loober*

Rabbi Samuels

**From:** *Richard Widerkehr*

Kevin Donner & Angie Lee – Thanks for organizing Weeding Day

**From:** *Anonymous*

### IN HONOR OF:

\*Jeff Siegfried, on receiving his Doctorate in Music from the University of Michigan

\*Julie Siegfried, on receiving her MSW degree from the University of Washington

\*The birth of our granddaughter, Noah Elaine Siegfried

**From:** *Michelle Beller-Siegfried & John Siegfried*

Deborah Oksenberg

**From:** *Armando & Diana Lindner*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Janis Ban – in memory of her mother, Betty Bloomfield

**From:** *Joan & Marv Wayne*

Karen Sloss – in memory of her father, Louis Sloss

**From:** *Charles Ziegler (Mill Valley, CA)*

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

\*Elaine Lev Beller

\*Nelson Beller

\*Rachel Siegfried

**From:** *Michelle Beller-Siegfried & John Siegfried*

My beloved son, Nathan Maury Loober

**From:** *Bernice Loober*

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**SHELLY PRAVDA***Continued from Page 8*

They moved to Ukiah to satisfy their desire to go back to nature. The term "far out," as in "awesome," was also a description of where they located ... four plus miles from the nearest county road. The 200-acre hippie subdivision was dubbed Greenfield Ranch. Its association met once a month. Its task was to maintain 25 miles of roads, bridges, and driveways. And luxury! Each couple had their own house. Social life was lively, with roadwork parties, potlucks, hot tubs and fun in the summer 4-acre pond. The Pravdas were married in 1981 by a rabbi on the porch of Sunhouse, a museum containing art, history, and anthropology collections within an authentic Arts and Crafts structure.

But they found the ranch literally too far out, so they moved to Mendocino, where their lifestyle altered even more. They bought a wreck of a

house on a beautiful one-acre plot, where the Pravdas' daughter, Elke, once fell through the porch boards. "We thought it was great," Shelly said. "You turn on a switch and get electricity!" There was also more culture than expected in a small town. And he spent hours off-road biking and flying kites.

When his mother died, Shelly recited Kaddish for her. He was no stranger to the observant Judaism in which he had been raised. Everywhere he lived, he sought out opportunities to worship, whether with a Shabbat group who "cobbled together a service" or a rent-a-rabbi congregation for the High Holy Days.

And he was no stranger to business. He had managed hot tub, jewelry, and tool enterprises. So when a friend started a brewery and asked him to do the books, he accepted. He remained employed there for 18 years, only retiring after an accident that left him temporarily blind.

Earlier, in 1971, Shelly had been diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder that causes loss of peripheral vision.

He and Elinor sought a place to retire that offered advantages to ease his day-to-day life. On a visit to Elinor's nephew in Seattle, they traveled north to Bellingham. They liked it, bought a Fairhaven condominium close to bus stops, and joined Congregation Beth Israel. Elinor passed away on February 18, 2015.

Although his anti-establishment lifestyle must have seemed peculiar to the folks back home, Shelly said his family visited him. His sister, who had married a man with a PhD and settled in suburban New Jersey, came. His parents came. Once, while touring the hippie subdivision, his dad had witnessed a naked woman floating on a tire at the pond, and "he appreciated it," Shelly said.

## Weeding volunteers

**BY LYNN KORNER**

Big thanks to all who joined together to trim, cut back, and pull weeds around our beautiful synagogue. It was a heart-warming display of community. Seeing different generations working side by side was a powerful reminder that this brand new building, our spiritual home, will be passed down from one generation to the next.

Many individuals, families, and groups of friends have volunteered to maintain areas and keep the weed growth down. You are invited to join in this effort.

Just chat with Joan Wayne jawayne2@gmail.com or Lynn Korner lkmk1@yahoo.com and pick an area of your choosing to keep the weeds down, at your convenience, for the few months of the year that weeds grow.



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## Adult Education in November/December

Check out all of the offerings we have just for you!

- **Gentle Yoga** with Michal Retter  
Nov 3, 17; Dec 15  
Sundays: 10:30-11:50 am
- **Judaism 201** with Rabbi Samuels  
Nov 6, 13, 20; Dec 4, 18; Jan 8, 15, 29; Feb 5, 12  
Wednesdays: 7:00-8:15 pm
- **Beginner Prayer Book Hebrew** with Andrea Shupack  
Nov 7, 14; Dec 5, 12, 19; Jan 9, 16, 23  
Thursday: 5:00-6:00 pm
- **Crafting a D'var Torah** with Roby Blecker  
Nov 10, 24  
Sundays: 11:00 am-12:30 pm
- **Finding Your Story** with Jay S. Nahani  
Nov 17  
Sunday: 2:00-4:00 pm
- **How's and Why's of Jewish Genealogy** with David Schlitt  
Dec 8  
Sunday: 2:00-4:00 pm
- **Extraordinary Women of the Hebrew Bible** with Dr. Ahuva Scharff  
Nov. 6 Women as Protectors: Jael and Rahab  
Dec. 4 Motherhood: Hannah (Maccabee) and Hannah (mother of Samuel)  
Jan. 8 Villains? - Delilah and Vashti  
Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00 pm  
Open to CBI members only

Register soon through the main office before spaces fill up. More information about each course can be found on our website or in the Adult Education brochure. Happy learning!

## Taste of the Town! - Save the date for this FUN-Raiser!

**When:** June 7, 2020

5:00-6:00 pm VIP Wine and Beer Tasting with special appetizers (\$54 for both events)

6:00-8:00 pm Taste of the Town Event (\$36)

**Where:** 751 San Juan Blvd.

**Who:** All Congregation Beth Israel adults and family, friends, co-workers. Childcare will be provided.

**Why:** Congregation Beth Israel is having its first Taste of the Town event to raise money for things we need to do at CBI, like finishing the commercial kitchen. The event will showcase 20 eating and drinking establishments - the best of the best in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. With admission, you can sample tastes and

sips from our wonderful area restaurants, wineries, and breweries.

There will also be FUN "Pay to Play" games, including Balloon Pop, Wine Toss, Giant Jenga, and more! The decorations will be Hawaiian-themed, so dress is casual or Hawaiian-style prints.

We would appreciate anyone's help for part of the evening! You can do set-up/decorations, sell tickets, serve wine/beer, help with food tables, or clean up. Contact Lynn Korner lkmk1@yahoo.com or Candace Kiersky candacekiersky@gmail.com



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# Yahrzeits

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

## Friday, November 1

Miriam Mitzman	11/2
Bruce Phillips	11/2
Peter Harvey	11/3
Herman Horowitz	11/3
Max Mazonson	11/3
Anna Mae Baker	11/6
Dora Graff	11/6
Jack Irwin Moss	11/6
Phyllis Ruth Orlik	11/6
Bette Bikman	11/7
Rob Brown	11/8
Ezra Meltzer	11/8
Bernice Sokol	11/8

## Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9

Gladys Boehi	11/9
Gladys Rose Eisner	11/9
Anthony Robert Flores	11/9
Don Cole	11/10
Robert Grant Marks	11/10
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	11/10
Judy Greenberg	11/11
Elsie Gaudine	11/12
Celia Loober	11/12
Otto V. Vohl	11/12
Aaron Weiss	11/13
Lazar Emanuel	11/14
Warren Jay Kahn	11/14
Herman Tabak	11/14
George Bernard Levine	11/15

## Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16

Pam Champagne	11/16
Henry David Weill	11/16
Robert (Bob) Farkas	11/18
Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/18
Anne Enger	11/19
Phillip Fine	11/20
Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20
Lily Swartz	11/20
Bernard Feerer	11/21
Sarah Strumpf	11/21
Frances Studen	11/21
Samuel Hecht	11/22
Louise Reese	11/22

## Friday, November 22

Otto Korneck	11/23
Irving Grossman	11/24
Margaret Hamburger	11/24
Hilda Meltzer	11/24
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff	11/24
Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/25
Bud Robinson	11/25
May B. Schwartz	11/25

Helen Skinner	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Rose Weitzman Price	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Myer Avraham Goldberg	11/27
Melvin Goldberger	11/27
Esther Mazur	11/27
Sam Moskowitz	11/27
Julian Lewis	11/29

## Friday, November 29

(No Shabbat service – will be read on November 22)

Phyllis Heck	11/30
Bernard Shuster	12/1
Marvin Siegel	12/2
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	12/3
Ida Zderic	12/3
Edith Jensen	12/4
Irma Stone	12/5
Fred Damski	12/6
John Paschetag	12/6
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	12/6
Zelda Turovitz	12/6

## Friday, December 6

Hyman Bettman	12/7
Victor Geretz	12/7
Louis Groper	12/8
Marion Relin	12/9
Gladys Bloch	12/11
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	12/12

## Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14

Samuel M. Pravda	12/14
Richard Kite	12/15
Jacob Pecarsky	12/15
Abram Stolzoff	12/15
Elaine Cohn	12/16
Solomon Schwartz	12/16
Sanford Thal	12/16
Alice Behrstock	12/17
Mikel Luster	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17

Marvin Richmond	12/18
Monica Biggin	12/19
Joseph Koplowitz	12/19
Robin Hoffman	12/20
David Rosenberg	12/20
Joseph Soode	12/20

## Friday, December 20 and Saturday, December 21

Glinda Blackwell	12/21
Paula Brown	12/21
John Douglas (Doug) Freeman	12/21
Diane Lewis	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Max Spigelman	12/21
Frances Feiger	12/22
Henry Frank	12/22
Rachel Jaffe	12/22
Jerry Roberts	12/22
John Lester	12/23
Nick Schira	12/23
Morris M. Stone	12/23
Joseph Kahan	12/24
Elly Kraus	12/24
Lucille Rest	12/24
Irving Baron	12/25
Reisel Gartner	12/25
Hannah Glass	12/25
David Mendelsohn	12/25
Beatrice Weiss	12/26

## Friday, December 27

Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
Joel Corman	12/29
Burton Jay	12/29
Nathan Loober	12/29
Jack Miller	12/29
Sarah Patinkin	12/29
George Shaw	12/30
George Bikman	1/1
Rudolf Reitz	1/1
Richard Bloomfield	1/2
Ben Gordon	1/2

## In Memoriam

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

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

Janis Ban on the loss of her mother, **Betty Bloomfield**, who passed away in her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio on August 27, 2019 at the age of 93.

Binnie Perper on the loss of her mother, **Mary Ann Perper**, who passed away in Boca Raton, Florida on August 30, 2019 following a brief illness. She was 96 years old.

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

## Congregation Beth Israel

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## CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH BETH ISRAEL!

### *Chanukah Party*

**Sunday, December 22, 12:30 to 2:30 pm**

Latkes, jelly donuts, annual Dreidel Spin-Off, music, singing, and more - fun for the whole family!

### *Fourth Night for Others*

**A Chanukah Social Action Project**

**Wednesday, December 25, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

Please join the Beth Israel community in observing Fourth

Night for Others. On the fourth night of Chanukah, consider a break from presents in your house. Instead, shop for a new toy or book for a child of any age. These unwrapped gifts will be given to a local nonprofit. Bring a donation to CBI, along with your Chanukiah and candles, so we can kindle the festival lights as a community. There will be an Asian-themed potluck. Some Chinese food will be provided.

