



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5781

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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A Look at Our Past: Jews in Bellingham 100 Years Ago – Another Age; A Different Pandemic

BY TIM BAKER

As many people have pointed out, the current COVID pandemic brings to mind the flu epidemic of 1918-19. Although it is unclear exactly how the flu epidemic affected the Bellingham Jewish community, the time period – almost exactly 100 years ago – provides an interesting glimpse into the Jewish community here, in part because of the proximity in time to WWI.

The U.S. entered WW I in April 1917, but even before that date, Bellingham Jews were raising relief funds for European Jews. A January 29, 1917 article in the *Bellingham Herald* announced the creation of a synagogue committee to raise relief funds, led by Louis Berolski, with a “tag day” when “many Jewish children will appear on the streets, in restaurants, offices — everywhere — for this high purpose.”

Bellingham Jews also participated in community organizations, including the Bellingham Red Cross, which was created in February 1917. It had 23 branches and 18 auxiliaries in Whatcom County, one of which was organized by Jewish women here. Created in December 1917, the group had 25 members, including Bertha (Schuman) Horwitz, President; Rebecca (Horwitz) Leavitt, Secretary; and Cecile (Lobe) Bettman, Treasurer. Their first meeting took place at the home of Sam and Anna Adelman, 2481 King St., with a note that sewing classes would follow.

Military enlistments or draftees from Bellingham included the grandfather of CBI member Gail Gordon Martin, Henry Gordon, who served in France. He returned to Bellingham to

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FROM THE RABBI

The Festival of Lights



One of my fondest memories growing up was driving around San Francisco neighborhoods with my family during the

holiday season in December and looking at all of the homes decorated in Christmas lights. It was fun trying to find the brightest and most elaborately decorated home. I was never jealous nor even cared to “compete” in this way, and none of our Jewish friends did either. I was always cognizant that Jews didn’t do that. We kept to ourselves and did our best to never bring attention to our homes. Even the string of blue and white lights seemed too “Christmasy” to me. It was one thing to be proud of our Judaism and another to be careless about it.

Years have gone by, and I see things differently now. In fact, I have learned that Jews are supposed to publicize the miracle of Chanukah. Nowadays it has become common for people to place their *chanukiyot* in the window for neighbors to see. Where does this custom come from?

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From the President...

The Broad Brush

The year, 2020, will be remembered particularly for three things: Covid-19, Black Lives Matter, and divisive politics. These events have taken up our collective time and energy, and have raised issues with which we need to come to grips with as individuals and as a society. During the High Holy Days, I found myself focusing on the issue of racial injustice particularly, as our Jewish faith and history speak to it.

This summer, I was saddened, angered, and at times sick to my stomach with events that started (though not really) with the murder of George Floyd. Despite other deaths of Black people at the hands of police, this one set off an unprecedented amount of protests which often became violent events in themselves. As we learn and see what many, perhaps most, Black people contend with every day, we see that society, or at least some parts of it, has painted them with a broad brushstroke. Likewise, the broad brush paints a picture of a 'typical American' as white, and often male (don't get me started on that one). Now, the broad brush paints all police officers as violent, racist, and bad. The broad brush also paints anti-racism protesters as violent anarchists. These interpretations are as inaccurate as any other generalization. What other generalizations do we make? How about Democrats and Republicans?

When we take the time to know people as individuals, we see their details, their hopes, struggles, and flaws. We must beware of the broad brush. It is now time that we help the world to have a more mature sense of societal art. For millennia, Jews were painted with a broad brushstroke: "All Jews are cheats," "All Jews are the cause of plague" (this one has come back!), "All Jews are bad." Antisemitism has not gone away, and in fact it is still out there, and it appears that antisemitism is increasing all over the world. It is in our region, our town. Some of it is overt, and the same vile feelings are directed toward the people of color in our community.

Just as we were slaves in Egypt and have been suppressed, persecuted, and scapegoated for millennia, we should

stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters, and with all people of color who face structural and personal racism. I refer here to the Jewish people as a race because those who are against us see us that way. We do not deserve the racism, hostility, and discrimination that continue to be directed our way. Neither do those in our communities who are Black, Brown, Native, LGBTQ. It is incumbent on us to rout this out wherever we see it, for ourselves and for others. As Hillel said, "If I am only for myself, who am I?"

From *The Gates of Repentance*:

"When will redemption come? When we master the violence that fills our world. When we look upon others as we would have them look upon us. When we grant to every person the rights we claim for ourselves."

"Eternal God, be with our brothers and sisters whose lives are made hard because they are Jews."

May we add: "Be with our brothers and sisters, our siblings, whose lives are made hard because they are Black, Brown, Native, foreign, gay, trans, queer, poor."

We have made a good start at exploring the difficult topics of gender and race, and in the coming year CBI will be offering more learning opportunities regarding race, gender, antisemitism, and the breadth of Jewish culture around the world. I think of myself as an open-minded person, but I know I have a lot to learn.

I encourage you all to try something that may be uncomfortable: Get to know someone you may have painted with your own broad brush. We all have at least one. When we get to know someone unfamiliar, we see them with details, and we find commonalities we may not have expected. This is the way toward real change – it is harder to hate someone if you know they love dahlias as much as you do. Perhaps we can then further our work to make this a world of kindness, equity, and peace.

— MIRIAM SCHWARTZ,
PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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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.

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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Keshet During the Time of the Pandemic



September was a flurry of activity getting ready for Keshet to begin, providing supply bags to 64 students, and conducting staff trainings where we covered things like creating goal-focused lesson plans and creating community online. We have 74 students enrolled in Keshet this year which,

considering we are entirely online, is outstanding! A few of our families with younger students have chosen to wait until we can return to in-person teaching, which is very understandable. We are creating asynchronous material to enhance our shorter Zoom schedule, and to help our students who need to wait until in-person classes begin to stay engaged. We are confident that when we are able to return to the classroom, the Keshet program will be stronger from this experience and will continue to grow.

We celebrated the High Holy Days in school on our first day, then took a break for the holidays. In October we got into our school-year groove. Teachers have been hard at work adapting and being incredibly creative to providing meaningful and hands-on learning despite the challenges of Zoom. We've received a lot of positive feedback. Kids are having fun while being challenged to grow in their understanding of, and connection to, Judaism. We are so proud and appreciative of our families, students, and teachers as we navigate these strange circumstances. We are not merely surviving and making do, we are thriving.

This coming Friday, November 6 at 5:30 will be our first ever Zoom class-led Family Service. The sixth grade

class and teacher Leah Ball have truly stepped up to the challenge of how to create a meaningful service that reflects their learning, even though students can't sing together. We are very excited at what they have been preparing, and we invite everyone to come and experience the innovative new service they will lead. We can't wait to unleash that same collaborative creativity in developing our Chanukah programming next month! More details will be coming out in the *Timbrel* and in the Keshet announcements.

The Keshet Advisory Board has created a bimonthly newsletter, called *Keshet Konekt*, that provides families with at-home activities to do with students based around Jewish holidays. There is one for students PreK-3 and another for students in fourth-eighth grades. These can be viewed on the members-only section of the website under the Keshet tab. Please check them out, as they are beautiful. Thank you to Sharona Feller, Katie Edelstein, and Rita Spitzer for taking on this project and delivering such a beautiful newsletter. The most frequent feedback we received during our summer parent forums was the need for support in helping families celebrate the holidays at home.

We are constantly assessing how we function during Covid to make sure we are reaching out and meeting the needs of as many of our families as possible. Communication is such an essential part of our program in normal times, and we believe we are here for you, and we are listening. As always, if you have any feedback, concerns, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nicky Naiman and Andrea Shupack, your Keshet co-directors.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945
Care: Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381; Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618
Membership: Ann Suloway, (360) 296-8220, Sue Mahar, (360) 319-5314
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Bat Mitzvah



Rebekah Evangeline (Vangie) Sommers will be called to the Torah on November 14, 2020. She is the daughter of Mark and Teresa Sommers, and the sister of Samantha, Michael, Benjamin and Xavier. Rebekah is an 8th grader at Washington Virtual Academies. In her free time she enjoys baking, writing, graffiti art, playing guitar, and spending time with her family and friends. For her Bat Mitzvah Project, Rebekah creates

cards and sends them to senior citizens at a rehabilitation center to help them combat sadness and loneliness.

Rebekah's family invites you to join them in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, November 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 10:00 am

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Maimonides explains in his *Mishneh Torah*

that the Sages of old would kindle the Chanukah lights in the evening at the entrances of their houses every night of the eight nights, to show and reveal the miracle.¹ He goes on to explain that it is a mitzvah to place the Chanukah lamp at the outside of one's home, but if one lives in an apartment, then they should place it in the window that is most viable to the public domain.² While we don't have evidence that Jews during the time of the Sages or Maimonides displayed their Chanukah lights to the public, we do know that Maimonides wrote these words during turbulent times for Jews. In other words, despite virulent anti-Semitism, Jews were nonetheless expected to show their pride for being Jewish. The iconic 1932 picture of the lit *chanukiyah* sitting on the window ledge of a German home across the street from a building decorated with Nazi flags comes to mind. On the back of the photograph, it reads, "Chanukah 5692: 'Death to Judah' so the flag says. 'Judah will live forever' so the light answers." Even during Talmudic times, the rabbis were aware that some Jews would feel uncomfortable showing the world that they were Jewish. They teach that in times of danger, one can place the Chanukah lights on the table to fulfill the mitzvah.³

In another halakhic commentary we learn, "It is a mitzvah to light the menorah in the doorway that opens to the street, in order to publicize the miracle; and it was done in this manner in the days of the *Mishnah* and the *Talmud*. Now, since we live among the peoples, we light the menorah in the house, and if you have a window facing the street, you should light it there; if not, you should light it near the door."⁴

These teachings also remind me of the inspirational story from Billings, Montana. In 1993, a young boy placed a Chanukah decoration on his bedroom window, only to have it destroyed when a rock smashed right through it and landed in his room. In reaction to the anti-Semitic vandalism, a campaign was started to have both Jews and non-Jews decorate their windows with a *chanukiyah* or with a picture of one. Ten thousand people, the vast majority of them not Jewish, joined in this campaign, to fight hatred and stand in solidarity with their Jewish neighbors.

To display Chanukah decorations or a *chanukiyah* to the outside world is a personal decision that each of us must make. While publicizing the miracle is central to the holiday, we should also ask ourselves how we can instill and foster a sense of Jewish pride from within. May the day come when each of us proudly displays the lights of Chanukah for all to see. Until then, may we all thank God for the many miracles around us and rejoice during the Festival of Lights.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



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1 Mishneh Torah, Scroll of Esther and Hanukkah 3:3

2 ibid, 4:7

3 BT Shabbat 21b:8

4 Kitzur Shulchan Arukh 139:7

From the Social Action Committee

Social Action Committee News

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

As we enter the sixth month of social distancing, the Social Action Committee has reached out to take care of the disadvantaged in our larger Bellingham community. Thanks to Corinne Gimbel-Levine and Joan Wayne, we were able to collect food donations at High Holy Days for the Bellingham Food Bank. We also collected coats for the Interfaith Coat Drive, with an extra large box of hats knitted and crocheted by our Tuesday stitchery group. Thank you to all who donated.

The Social Action Committee and many congregants have continued to participate in the Family Promise Program by providing meals in October for families in Interfaith Coalition transitional housing. Andrea Shupack has organized this and also plans on arranging for music and

entertainment for the families. The program is in need of tutors for the children. This will be done either at the learning center or via Zoom. Please contact Carolyn at the Interfaith office (360-734-3983) if you are interested.

Our future plans are to address racial injustice. Following the URJ leadership and their statement from June 2020 to affirming that Black Lives Matter, the committee is drafting a statement for the Board to review, confirming that our congregation also believes in the dignity of all individuals and demanding an end to racism. We plan a panel of speakers on racial injustice. Then we need to formulate concrete plans on how we each, individually and as a community, become antiracists.

Further panel discussions are also planned on antisemitism. Our next book will be covering both of these topics. The book selection is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. You have a few months to read the book, as the discussion is planned for January 2021. More details to follow in the *Timbrel*.

We are hopeful that by the next Mitzvah Day in spring, our focus can return to the reduction of single-use plastics and climate change.

Finally, we are asking at this time for you to make donations to the DVSAS website for their Thanksgiving dinner, as we will not be collecting foodstuff this year. They also have an Amazon wish list. You can learn more on their website at: www.dvsas.org/get-involved/volunteer/

Donating to the Interfaith Coalition

BY LINDSEY MCGUIRK

Volunteer Engagement and Communications Manager

Challenges of COVID aside, the Interfaith Coalition, of which Congregation Beth Israel is a partner, continues to use the Family Promise Program to provide case management and temporary housing to families experiencing homelessness. Family Promise, now two and a half years old, has seen its ups and downs during the pandemic, continually pivoting to address the conundrum that is: How do you house families in congregations when congregations are closed? The answer? A lot of thinking on their feet, volunteers ready to jump into action, providing meals, groceries, and virtual hospitality. They also have generously provided

financial resources to quickly retrofit existing spaces into temporary homes. As 2020 wraps up, the Interfaith Coalition is asking the community to help keep programs such as Family Promise going strong and growing in scope with their Annual Appeal. The ability to help the families they serve increases exponentially when the community works together, pooling resources to help others. Consider making a year-end donation to Interfaith Coalition www.interfaith-coalition.org/donate/online/

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Dr. Joel Hoffman: Scholar-in-Residence

*Hidden Jewels of the
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Three
Sundays at
4:00 pm

November
22, and
December 6
and 13.

Come to one or all three sessions.

Zoom links will be shared closer to the date.

Parshat Toldot and Red Lentil Soup

BY JOAN WAYNE

PARSHAT TOLDOT — *Genesis 25: 29-34* November 21, 2020:

Esau returns from hunting in the fields, exhausted. He comes upon his brother Jacob cooking red lentil soup and demands that Jacob feed him some. Jacob offers to trade a bowl of soup for Esau's birthright, the privilege of the first-born son. Hungry and fatigued, Esau says, "I'm

so tired I'm practically dead, so what use is the birthright to me?" and sells it to Jacob who, in exchange, gives him bread and red lentil stew. We cook our own red lentil soup for *Parshat Toldot*, a reminder of what Esau traded his birthright for. Our family tradition is to make at least two batches of this soup, one for our family and one to share.

Red Lentil Soup

3 Tbl. olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1/3 C dried apricots, chopped
1 1/2 C red lentils
1 32-oz. box vegetable broth
1/2 can 14 oz. canned diced tomatoes
[I like Muir Glen fire-roasted]
1/2 tsp. cumin or more to taste
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
Salt and pepper to taste
Lemon juice

- In a large soup pot, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, and dried apricots. Sauté, stirring occasionally, until the onion is soft, about 12 minutes.
- Pick the lentils over carefully to get rid of any small stones or pieces of grit. Rinse them under running water.
- Add lentils and broth to onion mixture. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer, covered, until the lentils are tender, about 30 minutes.
- Stir in tomatoes, cumin, thyme, salt, and pepper and simmer, covered, for another 10 minutes.
- If you prefer smoother soup, puree half of the soup.
- Serve with lemon juice and more salt and pepper to taste.





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A LOOK AT OUR PAST

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found a successful auto wrecking business on State Street (motto: "We wreck 'em") and was a candidate for mayor in 1933.

Chaim Jaffe, grandfather of CBI members Joel, Jeff, and Roberta Jaffe, was only in Bellingham a few years before entering the Army and serving 12 months in France. He was awarded citizenship papers for his service. He married Esther Shure in 1920, and they eventually moved to Mt. Vernon and then Seattle, but every summer their kids would visit Bellingham, and eventually their son, Bernard "Bun" Jaffe, returned to raise a family here.

A final participant in WW I was Jules Lobe, who was in France before being sent to England for "special duty." Jules was the son of Leon and Estelle (Levy) Lobe, who

came to Bellingham from San Francisco around 1889 and started the Golden Rule Bazaar in the Oakland Building, site of the current Old Town Cafe. Leon Lobe was one of eight signers on Beth Israel's 1908 incorporation papers, and was well-connected here and elsewhere. His sister, Cecile, was married into the Bettman family, one of the earliest pioneer Jewish families in Washington, most of whom settled in Olympia. Leon's brother, Emile, lived in

Seattle, where he helped found Temple de Hirsch in 1901. And finally, Leon and Estelle's son, Carl, was the long-term manager of BB Furniture, which was located in the Flat-iron Building (currently occupied by Faithlife). As a side note, in the 1939 edition of *Washington State Who's Who*, Carl Lobe was listed as a member of the Golf and Country Club, at a time when most Jews were excluded from membership.



Chaim Jaffe



Henry Gordon



Jules Lobe



Chaim Jaffe & Esther Shure

Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2020

11/1 Susan Jay
 11/1 Gerald Manganaro
 11/1 David Ziegler
 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (11th)
 11/2 Lev Shuster (19th)
 11/4 Elinor Hall (15th)
 11/4 David Schlitt
 11/5 Ian James (12th)
 11/6 Rodney Shainbom
 11/7 Steve James
 11/8 Rob Grossman
 11/10 Urtica Goldman (7th)
 11/11 Stephanie Korn
 11/11 Wendy Schwartz
 11/12 Jakob Garfinkle (22nd)
 11/12 Rebecca Garfinkle (22nd)
 11/13 Peter Auerbach
 11/13 Miriam Schwartz
 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (20th)
 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (20th)
 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (20th)
 11/16 Kristan Brennan
 11/16 Ellie Greenberg (22nd)
 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 (17th)
 11/24 Liberty Amit Schoelss (9th)
 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (10th)
 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 (9th)
 11/30 Orion Dixon (12th)
 11/30 Priscilla Feld
 11/30 Sarah Witte

DECEMBER 2020

12/3 Zach Bastow
 12/4 Rebecca Oliver
 12/4 Susan Cohen Raphael
 12/7 Alyssa Diller (20th)

12/8 Robin Curtis
 12/8 Noam Richmond (18th)
 12/10 Trisha Adelstein
 12/11 Marvin Wayne
 12/13 Shelly Pravda
 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (15th)
 12/14 Eli Brennan (22nd)
 12/15 Anna Booker
 12/15 Niall Ó Murchú
 12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine
 12/17 Ruth Philipp
 12/17 Maya Taranow (22nd)
 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 (7th)
 12/28 Mark Pomerantz
 12/29 Andrew Schwarz
 12/30 Shawn Clarke

Faces in Our Community: Kristin and Joel David

BY LINDA HIRSH

The Davids found themselves living in the vast and isolated Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Rather than schlepping their two sons 40 miles on a gravel road to the nearest school, Kristen David simply opened her door.

Before her was high desert containing nearly 188,000 acres of uplands and wetlands that offered a stopover for 320 bird species.

"We learned the basics, then headed outside to dissect owl pellets and do bird surveys and mist netting of migratory birds [for banding and research projects]," Kristin said.

Now son Aaron, 35, and his wife, Michelle, Bellevue residents, are devoted professionally to protecting salmon fisheries. Firefighter son Toby, 31, and wife Megan live in Gig Harbor.

"How lucky the boys were to have Kristin as a home-school teacher! School must have been a blast with so much parkland to explore," Kristin's friend, Lynn Korner, said of the distinctive education.

Kristin's husband, Joel's job as wildlife manager provided that education. He oversaw the habitat using prescribed burning, cattle grazing, mowing of pastures, and water level management. Other duties included



Joel and Kristin David

working on wildlife and vegetation surveys, protecting refuge wildlife, suppressing wildfires and controlling invasive plant species.

"The Refuge is famous for its spectacular concentrations of wildlife, which are attracted to the Refuge's habitats and abundant water resources in an otherwise arid landscape," Joel said. "Malheur is a mecca for birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts."

Kristin, an extrovert living in a secluded place, said one of the people "who saved me from going mad" was the wife of Joel's co-worker, who lived about 18 miles away on, yes, gravel roads. They shared home-schooling curriculum and meals and

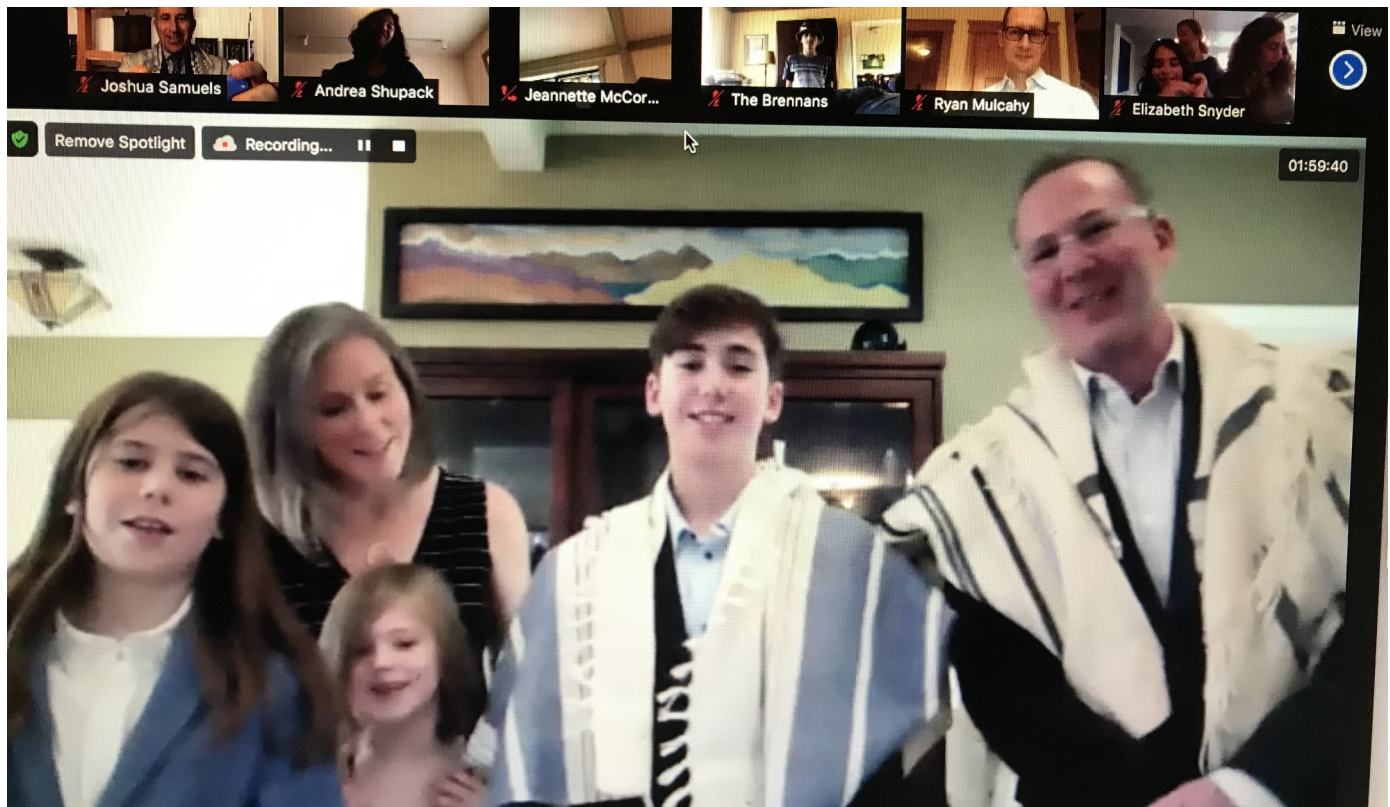
celebrated the environment, backpacking and horse-packing in the mountains.

"The smell of sagebrush after a rain is heavenly. The air was so clear with no light pollution, so viewing the night sky was fabulous," Kristin said.

The David family simply loves the outdoors. Kristin and Joel still stroll miles daily with their beloved yellow lab, Kacey. Kristin also spends time in her garden just above a natural area where wild beasts roam. Shades of Malheur.

She finds much to do indoors as well. Learning to sew at 10 years of age grew into a quilt obsession. She

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Elliot Levinson becomes a bar mitzvah, Zoom-style. Also pictured: Milo, Regan, Willa, and Ken. Mazel tov, Elliot.

The Kvelling Corner



Sarah Ellen Zarrow and David Morrill Schlitt are thrilled to welcome **Jacob Evan Morrill Zarrow** יעקב חיים בן דוד ושרה Yankev Hayim ben Dovid ve'Soreh. Born August 9, 2020 | nineteenth of Av 5780.

Elora Rose Banks Strich was born on September 24, 2020 to Michelle Banks and David Strich. She joins big brother Leo, age 2 ½. Her Hebrew name is Elora Ruchel (pronounced Roo-shel). She is named after David's Saba (Eliezer) and shares her second Hebrew name with Yita Ruchel bat Celia (the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg). Her parents' hope for her is that she follows her own path and considers the strong women in her life who strive for love, balance, and peace.



David and Carol Robinson standing beside Beth Israel's dedication plaque

Kippot: Part 3

BY RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

In the July/August issue of the *Shul Shofar* I discussed the history of head coverings in Jewish ritual practice. In the September/October issue, I wrote about the Reform and Conservative perspectives. In this final article, I will do my best to share what I have learned about the custom of wearing a kippah, specific to Congregation Beth Israel.

While we cannot call on folks to talk firsthand about certain ritual practices in the first half of the twentieth century at CBI, there are several congregants who grew up attending the synagogue during the 30+-year tenure of Rabbi Fred Gartner (1950s-1982). At this time, Beth Israel transitioned from a traditional Orthodox shul to one that followed Conservative practices even though it did not officially affiliate with the Conservative movement. I am told that Rabbi Gartner was adamant about men wearing kippot, though there was no policy, and guests were expected to follow the synagogue customs.

Following Rabbi Gartner's retirement in 1982, the community discussed various paths forward with respect to ritual practice, such as whether the kitchen should be strictly kosher. The congregation ultimately decided that they wanted to be more flexible when it came to ritual practice and affiliated with the Reform movement. However, the leadership made it clear that while Beth Israel was becoming Reform, it would still honor many of the traditions and customs during Rabbi Gartner's tenure. Some things changed, and others stayed the same. One major change was finally allowing women to be called to the Torah for an *aliyah*. In other words, the leadership picked and chose which customs they wanted to maintain. Wearing a kippah was nonnegotiable. All men were still expected to wear a head covering anytime they were in the synagogue.

Beth Israel has been led by several other rabbis since Rabbi Gartner's retirement nearly 40 years ago — nearly all of whom studied at the Reform seminary. And in this time there has been no shortage of discussions pertaining to the congregation's ritual practices. The question that is always at the heart of any ritual discussion is: How do we balance Beth Israel's traditions with the changing make-up of the community? Will obligating the wearing of kippot be offensive to the less traditional members and thus create division, or will not enforcing decades-old customs do the same for the more Conservative folks in the community? How can we preserve our congregation's customs while also allowing people to come as they are and create a more open-tent model of Jewish hospitality?

It is important to remember that wearing a kippah is not a *halakhic* obligation, whereas wearing a tallit is for those chanting Torah, leading a service, or given an *aliyah*. There is a blessing we say before donning a tallit, but not a kippah. Wearing a kippah has always been a choice made by individuals, and the custom to wear or not wear one varies from community to community.

I would be remiss if I did not address the issue of kippot with respect to gender. In short, Jewish gender norms can be a source of immense pain to some and a roadblock to affiliation for others. While this congregation's tradition is for men to wear kippot, we must not only consider, but honor, the sacred journey that some of our friends are on and be aware of the fact that our ancestors did not comprehend the beauty of the full gender spectrum and how it relates to ritual practice.

Where do we go from here? Some of you have already sent me your perspectives on the issue, and the Ritual team and I welcome more of your feedback. Thank you for being a part of this discussion.

Anniversaries

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(# 34)	Dec. 15	Jeff & Amy Margolis	(# 58)
Nov. 7	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#16)	Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter- Schlesinger	(# 36)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(# 24)	Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(# 55)
Nov. 23	Iris & Kevin Parker	(# 45)	Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(# 44)
Nov. 29	Floyd King & Leigh Squires	(# 18)	Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(# 16)
Dec. 6	David & Anniece Kiersky	(# 35)	Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(# 55)
Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(# 46)	Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(# 49)
Dec. 10	Mark & Nancy Luster	(# 43)	Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(# 23)
Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(# 40)			

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.

Special Fund Donations

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack: A huge thank you for all the help and support you gave Avi [Brennan]

From: *Nancy Davis and Family*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Patrick Crane
Terri Weiner &
Rob Lopresti*

CARE COMMITTEE

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Allen Binstock and family, on the loss of Jonathan Binstock

From: *Hank Levine &
Corinne Gimbel-Levine*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels: A huge thank you for all the help and support you gave Avi [Brennan]

From: *Nancy Davis and Family*

Rabbi Samuels and Miriam Davids, for their special help this summer

From: *Vermeda Fred &
Rodney Shainbom*

Rabbi Samuels, for this year's High Holy Day services

From: *Terri Weiner &
Rob Lopresti*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Dan Raas and family, in memory of Debbie

From: *Fran Levy
(Carmichael, CA)*

Perry Davids, on the passing of his father, Billy Davids

From: *Vermeda Fred &
Rodney Shainbom*

IN HONOR OF:

Elliot Levinson, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Patrick Crane*

Eytan Samuels' 11th birthday

From: *Fran Levy
(Carmichael, CA)*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

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GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Laoise Seltz, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

From: *Judy Seltz
(Alexandria, VA)*

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO:

David Schlitt & Sarah Zarrow – Mazel Tov on the birth of Jacob Evan Morrill Zarrow

From: *Jodi Litt*

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

WITH GRATITUDE TO:

Rabbi Samuels, Janis Ban, and Debbie Adelstein—in memory of our beloved Hannelore "Lala" Vernon-Debari, tragically killed in an accident on October 1st.

From: *Bonnie Vernon Quam and Family*

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION:

For the work done to make our High Holiday services a success (to the Landscaping project)

From: *Paul Blum & Alison Zak*

IN HONOR OF:

Avi Brennan, for his Bar Mitzvah and especially his D'var Torah

From: *Richard Widerkehr*

Paul Blum, for bringing beauty to our lives through his art

From: *Amanda Robins &
Daniel Zagnoli*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

*Geraldine Reitz, in memory of her mother, Bea Moss

*Irv Rosenzweig (Scottsdale, AZ), in memory of my last MS friend, Faye Rosenzweig.

From: *Bernice Loober*

Perry Davids – in memory of his father, Billy Davids

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne
Karen Sloss*

COMMEMORATING THE YAHZEIT OF:

*My mother-in-law, Celia Loober

*My beloved son, Nathan Loober

From: *Bernice Loober*

IN MEMORY OF:

My friend, Howard Levy, and cousin, Elsie Lewis, lost to us this year, whose spirits of Tikkun Olam were models for us all.

From: *Harriet Markell*

DONATION FOR LANDSCAPING:

Susan & Harold Katz

NFTY/YOUTH GROUP

IN HONOR OF:

Andrea Shupack, for her beautiful davening on Yom Kippur

From: *Linda Portnoy
(Seattle)*



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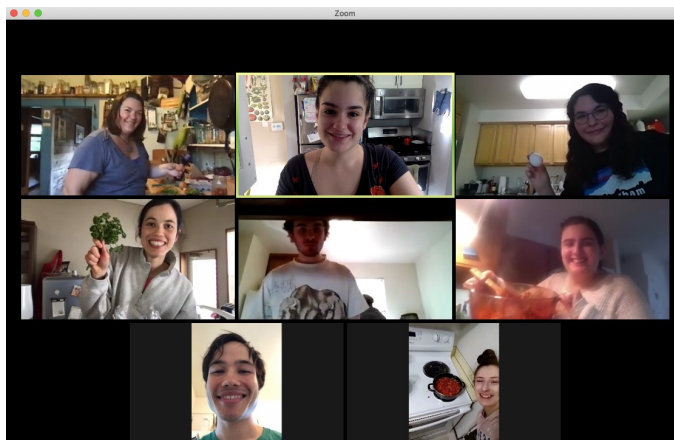
Hillel of WWU Zooms On!

With college classes operating primarily remotely, we at Hillel of WWU are finding creative ways to continue to engage students and help foster a sense of connection and Jewish community. Here is what one of our student leaders says about what Hillel has meant for her:

"During this unprecedented time, Hillel of WWU has been a space of community and warmth. It has allowed me to connect with the amazing people in our community and draw strength from my Jewish heritage. Through Hillel I have learned so much about Jewish tradition and have made genuine friendships. Hillel of WWU has given me a space to explore my identity as a Jewish student, which I have never had before. I am incredibly thankful for the education and community that Hillel of WWU provides."

Since March, the majority of our events have been on Zoom. Our most popular ongoing event is a virtual Cooking Club, which students join from their home kitchens. We walk through new recipes together, each participant creating the dish in the comfort of their own kitchens. Shakshuka and rugelach have been the hands-down favorites so far (recipes available upon request). With food being so central to our culture and having been a big draw for our in-person events, this activity has been an entertaining and effective way to help students feel empowered in the kitchen while also connecting to our rich, shared culture. For Chanukah, we plan to make latkes together over Zoom, with a friendly competition for the best Chanukah sweater or other holiday garb.

Fortunately, we were also able to offer two small, in-person masked and socially distanced events this Fall Quarter. Students were eager to continue for the second year a reverse *Tashlich* tradition started by a Hillel in Florida: Instead of "casting away" what we'd like to release during the High Holy Days, we cleaned up what had been wrongfully cast away along Whatcom Creek. A few students also attended a sukkah-building party at our program coordinator's home, building a beautiful sukkah with materials from the land.



While Hillel of WWU has been thriving during these trying months of Covid-19, we are not without serious needs of support from the CBI community. It is Autumn, the time of our annual fundraising drive, and CBI congregants will soon receive letters asking for your financial support. Additionally, our terrific Community Board of Directors is experiencing a situation that is both a wonderful accomplishment for our small organization, as well as a bit of a challenge: It is time, according to our bylaws, for several of our board members to step down from the board to allow new board members to join and continue to shape and support the direction of Hillel of WWU into the future. How wonderful to have such dedicated members, who have served for many years! We have enjoyed such a positive experience working together, and learning all we can about how to help our local Hillel grow. But now, specifically, we will need a new President, a new Treasurer and a new Secretary by early 2021. Those interested in learning more about both donating and serving on our Community Board, should contact Geraldine Reitz, President at (360) 319-1942, or email at flori121@yahoo.com as soon as possible!



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Endless Opportunities for Older Adults

How do you make new friends when you move to a new city after retirement? How can older people connect to the Jewish community if they do not join a temple or go to services? How do synagogues engage their older members when most programming is geared to families?

These questions and other concerns about retired Jewish community members were brought to the attention of the Jewish Family Service of Seattle in 2006, after many retired people had moved to that area to be near adult children, and long-term community members no longer able to be active were seeking ways to stay connected with old friends.

In response, JFS joined with Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Herzl Ner Tamid in establishing Endless Opportunities, a social and educational program providing week-day meetings for Jewish adults in Seattle and Bellevue. Each meeting included an interesting speaker, often a community member, along with bagels and fruit. An Advisory Board of older adults took on the job of finding and arranging the speakers. The program grew rapidly, with 30 to 100 people attending each session.

Topics for the presentations are as varied as the presenters: Gerard Schwartz, conductor, shared about life with the Seattle Symphony; Joel Migdal spoke on Middle East politics; and a Jewish Studies professor described the history of Sephardic Jews in Seattle. Monthly field trips were organized to such things as the art displays in the new Seattle Light Rail stations, the annual migration of snow geese in Skagit County, and the Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration at the JCC. There were dances featuring a live jazz band. In time, members of the Jewish Russian immigrant community (many of whom are Holocaust Survivors) joined the group.

Nowadays, Endless Opportunities is led by Rabbi Kate Speizer from Temple De Hirsch Sinai and is supported by Temple B'nai Torah, Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Kol Ami, and Jewish Family Service. After Endless Opportunities moved their meetings to Zoom in July, they invited members of Congregation Beth Israel to join. To be included on their mailing list and get all meeting announcements, write Rabbi Speizer at kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org.



KRISTIN AND JOEL DAVID*Continued from Page 8*

makes them for gifts and donations. She experiments with collage quilting. Collage artists arrange a composition with a medley of materials. The collage quilter plays freely with fabric. In one, Kristin fashioned what she calls her “whimsical self-portrait”



— a floral crowned face surrounded by butterflies and words describing virtues printed in black-on-white in the background.

Born in Long Beach, CA, Kristin and her three siblings played games, rode bikes, and visited stables to see and ride horses. Holidays were family-filled. At Long Beach's St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the liberal priest opened Kristin's mind. She made the choice to convert to Judaism before her marriage.

She followed her brother to Humboldt State University, switching from music to home economics. She met Joel in September 1979 when they had both moved into the same house with four other students. The two were engaged three months later.

Joel, a singleton, was born and raised in Westchester, a suburb of Los Angeles. His mother came from Chicago, his father from Rangoon, Burma. Although both were Orthodox

Jews, Joel attended a Reform synagogue. Graduating from Humboldt State University with a bachelor's degree in wildlife management. Joel took a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to Malheur, Joel has worked in Washington State in the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, and Cathlamet, as well as in Deer Lodge, MT; Yellowstone National Park, WY; Cache, OK; Yuma, AZ; and McAllen, TX.

Kristin and Joel moved to Bellingham in 2013 when Joel retired. Already familiar with Whatcom Country (son Toby attended Western Washington University), they joined the synagogue around 2015. Kristin worked on events, joined committees and found more friends like Lynn, who said she enjoys Kristin's camaraderie. Joan Wayne said, "Kristin is a friend you can always count on." She adds, "And I enjoy Joel's quiet sense of humor."

November/December 2020 Shabbat Service Schedule

All services via Zoom link, which is provided in the weekly e-news or by request — contact the CBI office by phone or email. *On the fourth Friday of each month, services begin at 7:30 pm.*

Friday, Nov. 6	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	Friday, Dec. 4	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service
Saturday, Nov. 7	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayera) 10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack	Saturday, Dec. 5	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayishlach) 10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Friday, Nov. 13	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from Rebekah Sommers	Friday, Dec. 11	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, Nov. 14	10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Rebekah Sommers	Saturday, Dec. 12	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayeshev)
Friday, Nov. 20	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday, Dec. 18	5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, Nov. 21	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Toledot)	Saturday, Dec. 19	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Miketz)
Friday, Nov. 27	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Friday, Dec. 25	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Saturday, Nov. 28	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayetze) 10:30 am Conservative-style lay-led minyan	Saturday, Dec. 26	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayigash) 10:30 am Conservative-style lay-led minyan

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 6

Bette Bikman	11/7
Robert (Bob) Farkas	11/7
Anna Schuman	11/7
Anne Enger	11/8
Phillip Fine	11/9
Lily Swartz	11/9
Frances Studen	11/10
Samuel Hecht	11/11
Otto V. Vohl	11/12
Irving Grossman	11/13
Margaret Hamburger	11/13
Hilda Meltzer	11/13
Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff	11/13

Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14

Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/14
May B. Schwartz	11/14
Helen Skinner	11/14
Herman Tabak	11/14
Rose Weitzman Price	11/15
Pam Champagne	11/16
Myer Avraham Goldberg	11/16
Melvin Goldberger	11/16
Esther Mazur	11/16
Henry David Weill	11/16
Julian Lewis	11/17
Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/18
Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty	11/20
Marvin Siegel	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20

Friday, November 20

Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	11/21
Louise Reese	11/22
Otto Korneck	11/23
Irma Stone	11/23
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
John Paschetag	11/24
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	11/24
Zelda Turovitz	11/24
Hyman Bettman	11/25
Dick Eigen	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Louis Groper	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26

Friday, November 27

Bud Robinson	11/25
Gladys Bloch	11/29
Phyllis Heck	11/30
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	11/30
Bernard Shuster	12/1
Samuel M. Pravda	12/2
Abram Stolzoff	12/3
Ida Zderic	12/3
Elaine Cohn	12/4
Edith Jensen	12/4
Sanford Thal	12/4

Friday, December 4

Mikel Luster	12/5
Fred Damski	12/6
Victor Geretz	12/7
Joseph Koplowitz	12/7
Robin Hoffman	12/8
Frank Zderic	12/8
Paula Brown	12/9
John Douglas (Doug) Freeman	12/9
Diane Lewis	12/9
Marion Relin	12/9
Frances Feiger	12/10
Henry Frank	12/10
Rachel Jaffe	12/10
John Lester	12/11
Nick Schira	12/11

Friday, December 11

Elly Kraus	12/12
Lucille Rest	12/12
Irving Baron	12/13
Hannah Glass	12/13
Richard Kite	12/15
Jacob Pecarsky	12/15
Joel Corman	12/16
Burton Jay	12/16
Nathan Loober	12/16
Sarah Patinkin	12/16
Solomon Schwartz	12/16

Leslie Spitzer	12/16
Alice Behrstock	12/17
George Shaw	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17
Ray Redel	12/18
Marvin Richmond	12/18

Friday, December 18

Monica Biggin	12/19
Richard Bloomfield	12/20
Ben Gordon	12/20
Joseph Soode	12/20
Glinda Blackwell	12/21
Benjamin David Glazer	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Max Spigelman	12/21
Jerry Roberts	12/22
Barry Zell	12/22
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	12/23
Morris M. Stone	12/23
Mona Helms	12/24
Joseph Kahan	12/24
Lois Looney	12/24

Friday, December 25

Cecile R. Gordon	12/26
Regina Tein	12/26
Beatrice Weiss	12/26
William Zderic	12/26
George Garmo	12/27
Ivan Senzon	12/27
Haskell David	12/28
Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
Jack Miller	12/29
Pearl Turovitz	12/29
Solomon Thal	12/31
Rosalie Yacknin	12/31
George Bikman	1/1/2021
Stanley Litt	1/1/2021
Rudolf Reitz	1/1/2021

In Memoriam

Zichrono l'vrachah ~ May his memory be for a blessing

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to Perry Davids and family on the loss of his father, **William "Billy" B. Davids**, who passed away on August 28, 2020 in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was 95 years old.

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Chanukah 2020

December 10 - 18

Together, on Zoom, we will light our Chanukah candles and sing holiday songs. Join us on the first and seventh evenings of Chanukah. Zoom links will be provided in the Wednesday *Timbrel* and on our website.

In the spirit of the "***Fourth Night for Others***," we encourage donations to organizations fighting for racial equality.

Chag Urim Sameach!

