

## Black Lives Matter

BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At its first fall meeting late in August of 2020, the Social Action Committee reflected on the incidents of violence against African Americans that had been occurring in our country and on the injustices they revealed. In response to a suggestion by President Miriam Schwartz, who reported the encouragement of the Rabbi, the Committee decided to propose that the Congregation adopt a statement rejecting racism and supporting equal justice for all.

Like members of the Congregation at large, members of the Committee had varying views as to how strongly this statement should be worded. Drafts by several members of the Committee were combined, discussed, revised, and revised again. Among the issues considered were whether to denounce police brutality, whether to mention people of color besides African Americans, and how to address Black Lives Matter. At the October CBI Board Meeting, Committee Chairperson Linda Blackwell presented the Committee's latest draft for comment. Board members raised various concerns, and the Committee revised its draft yet again. This

latest revision was approved by the Board at its November meeting. Here is the statement the Board approved:

Congregation Beth Israel, centered in Bellingham, Washington, stands with Jews all over the world in affirming the principles of equal justice and equal respect underlying the declaration that Black Lives Matter. Believing in the dignity of every individual, we deplore the structural racism that has denied people of color the rights and opportunities enjoyed by their fellow citizens. We strongly support the Constitutional right to peaceful assembly and condemn all forms of violence against peaceful protestors.

Our Bible and our sages, our liturgy and our vision of a just society, teach us the value of every human being. The centuries of defamation and oppression Jews have suffered help us understand the suffering which people of color have endured in

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FROM THE RABBI

## Purim and the Topsy Turvy-ness of 2020



The year 2020 will go down in the history books as one of the most challenging years in human history. The global pandemic alone

has created a world in which so much has changed. The rhythms of daily life have possibly been forever altered. What once we thought was normal has now been upended, and as we get ready for a new year (finally!), we face new challenges. I don't think it's a stretch to say that 2020 was the year when topsy-turvy became normal.

Just as we settle into 2021 with vaccines on the horizon and discussions of in-person gatherings again, the Jewish community gets another dose of topsy turvy-ness as we celebrate Purim. We play out this topsy-turvy theme by changing our appearances with costumes, changing our drinking habits, and creating Purim spiels where we make fun of anyone and everything. And, unlike other

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*From the President...*

## New Year, New Opportunities

Here we are at the beginning of 2021. Thank goodness, a lot of us are saying. 2020 was a stinker of a year, most particularly because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The health departments and national public health scientists are saying that Covid-19 has a way to go yet. Heavy sigh.

Every January, as at every Rosh Hashanah, I look at my life and my actions and see in what ways I want to do better. It is with a little chagrin that I find myself often facing the same challenges, needs, and changes each year. Every year, I set out to lose that five pounds and to make time to exercise. Does that ever happen to you?

I looked at my *Shofar* article from a year ago, and at that time I asked for your help in funding the completion of our required landscaping. Throughout this year, I have asked you all to stay strong and take good care of yourselves and each other in this pandemic time. I have also asked you all to stay connected to CBI during this time when we must be physically apart.

It could be rather discouraging that these needs have circled back or haven't gone away. But I try to see it as the universe, or G-d, giving us another chance. It would be nice if we could have a 'do-over' for 2020. But we can't, so maybe we need a 'make-over'! Albert Einstein said that insanity was doing the same thing and expecting different results. This year, let's approach some old familiar challenges with some new tweaks.

SO – for the things I have asked of you over the last year, I offer some tweaks:

- For the landscaping and the other projects that remain to be completed at CBI: It is a mitzvah and a joy to support the place that our congregation calls home. The tweak this year is a "matching campaign" that will magically double your gift! Maybe your finances have been a bit under pressure recently (me, too!), but until March 31, we have the opportunity to make a bigger impact with our contributions! I find this motivating. I hope you do as well and will join me in rising to this challenge!

- For staying strong and taking care of yourselves: For a lot of us, Winter is not an inspiring time for exercising and eating healthfully. It is likely even truer than usual this year, due to the pandemic. The tweak: Get FIERCE! See a plan for exercise and healthy eating as a sharp stick in the eye of the pandemic! "Covid-19, I will not let you hurt my health any longer! When the vaccine is widely available and we have our herd immunity, I will be prepared! Strong and svelte and ready to be back out there in the world!" I can be more specific...let me know if you'd like to hear more. Please know that the Covid Re-opening Task Force is preparing for the joyous re-opening of the synagogue, when it is safe to do so!
- For staying connected: The months after the holidays are often a time of let-down. In a way, the whole darn year has been like that for a lot of us, and we may feel adrift. The tweak: I hope you look to CBI to be an anchor for you. I know many of us are Zoomed out, but it is what we have, for now, to stay connected. If you can't travel physically, travel in your mind, explore a new topic, or perspective, or aspect of Judaism, learn something you did not know before, stretch your brain. Feel the inspiration of finding something new in the familiar, whether that is Judaism or cooking or gardening! There are many offerings coming from CBI in the months ahead, in both our comfy and familiar Zoom Shabbats, and in new experiences, too.

The days are lengthening. Hope in times of despair is one of the legacies of our Jewish heritage. As I write this at Chanukah, I am reminded of the words that Judah the Maccabee lived by, spoken by Moses to Joshua: "Be strong, and of good courage." Together may we grow in strength and courage, and come back together in person this New Year!

— MIRIAM SCHWARTZ,  
PRESIDENT

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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Bellingham, WA 98229

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*From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning*

# A New Approach to Hebrew Instruction in Keshet

BY ANDREA SHUPACK AND NICKY NAIMAN  
KESHER CO-DIRECTORS



Last year, when we were hired to lead the Keshet program, one of the first things we wanted to re-vamp was how we teach Hebrew. Nicky has a strong background in foreign language instruction and education, while Andrea has a strong background in Jewish Studies, Hebrew, and education.

Together, we looked at a variety of curriculums and theories, met with those who develop and teach specific curriculums, and used our own background to create a new direction for Keshet's Hebrew instruction.

Last February, we introduced our youngest learners to the Hebrew Through Movement Curriculum. We currently have three Hebrew-speaking teachers: Orly Ravistky, Josh Shupack, and Miriam Buckman are teaching this program to students in Gan-third grade. The Hebrew Through Movement program utilizes games and movement to internalize and learn basic common Hebrew words and phrases in a nonthreatening manner. This age-appropriate curriculum sets the foundation, in a fun and active way, for Hebrew decoding and prayer skills, which begin formally in fourth grade. It also allows the children to develop an ear for Hebrew, using repetition and comprehensible input.

In third grade students also add learning Hebrew letters to this curriculum, through the Hebrew and Jewish Values from Alef to Tav curriculum. This program teaches a value each week while learning a new Hebrew letter, along with other vocabulary words that start with the same letter. Students will retain their knowledge of the letters through this practical, active, and engaging curricu-

ulum that connects each letter to important stories, lessons, and art projects. By fourth grade, we shift our focus to decoding and prayer-chanting skills. For a full description of each grade's Hebrew curriculum, and which prayers they learn each year, you can visit the Keshet page on our CBI website.

We believe that this new curriculum will help our students successfully master Hebrew reading, while also having fun and learning some basic Hebrew vocabulary. There is much research which supports beginning instruction with aural learning, and postponing reading until students are older. Preparing students to read Hebrew is a constant challenge for supplementary schools. In many schools, when students are not learning the proper skills by their B'nei Mitzvah year, the response is to increase the Hebrew instruction time. Yet studies have shown that this does not improve Hebrew reading outcomes. Often we start a new year in September and find that students have forgotten much of the *alef-bet*, and teachers are forced to review or start over. To tackle this issue, we must look at how we teach Hebrew. Experts and linguists have been suggesting this methodology for over a decade, and the curriculum has finally caught up. Andrea first heard a compelling argument for delayed decoding around 2007 from our recent Scholar In Residence, linguist, Bible scholar, and Jewish school director, Dr. Joel Hoffman. Hoffman argued for waiting until around fifth grade to switch from aural teaching to Hebrew in print. When children learn to read in their native language, they have already had years of meaningful aural input. While we cannot create a Hebrew immersion program

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## Synagogue 411

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## Bat Mitzvah



**Aviva Joy Weinstein** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 16, 2021. She is the daughter of Mark Weinstein and Elizabeth Snyder, the sister of Sylvan Weinstein, and the granddaughter of Alix and Gary (ז"ל) Snyder and Anita and Richard Weinstein. Aviva is in the eighth grade at Whatcom Middle

School. In her free time she enjoys reading, music, art, and hanging out with friends. The entire 2020-2021

B'nei Mitzvah class is doing a group Mitzvah project to help reduce single-use plastic.

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

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**  
Friday, January 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**  
Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 10:00 am

## Bar Mitzvah



**Samuel Donner** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 20, 2021. He is the son of Kevin Donner and Angie Lee, and the older brother of Lea and Mara. His proud grandparents are Martin Donner and Merle Sandbrand. Some of the things that Samuel does in his spare time include playing Dungeons &

Dragons, practicing his viola, going on hikes with friends, and training in martial arts. For his Mitzvah project, Samuel is writing cards and preparing gift

packages for seniors in nursing homes. He is also participating in the group B'nei Mitzvah project of reducing single-use plastic.

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

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**  
Friday, February 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**  
Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 10:00 am

### KESHER

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with one day a week, we have changed our curriculum to model how children learn languages.

There will be challenges along the way, and we will continue to reassess what is working and what needs tweaking. It is our goal that by the time students reach their B'nei Mitzvah year, they can read Hebrew and chant prayers with confidence, while also understanding what the prayers are about. They will have enough vocabulary and knowledge of Hebrew to find many words they know in each prayer they lead. Our hope is this new approach will help students stay excited about Hebrew and want to continue learning beyond their Confirmation year.

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*From the Social Action Committee*

# Social Action Committee News: On Becoming Anti-Racist

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

How does our congregation become anti-racist? The Social Action Committee, along with the Board of CBI, believes that Black Lives Matter. The paragraphs adjacent by Minda Rae Amiran summarize how the statement of support was developed and approved. Now we want to take steps to move our words into actions. Our congregation has read and discussed a number of books on racism. Now we want to promote equality in our community. As the Rabbi addressed in his Yom Kippur sermon of 2016, we have to be in this dialogue, and we must listen to black and brown voices. We cannot ignore or walk away from the most important civil rights issue of our day.

Over the next few months, a task force will be making a road map for a long-term plan on how to move forward. We want to have time to listen to our congregants' opinions and

viewpoints. We want to educate ourselves on how to show up to benefit all minorities in our community. There are many ways to do this, and it will not happen tomorrow. Initial discussion will happen at the book group meeting on *Caste*. Further time for discussion will be allotted in the future as well.

The Social Action Committee also plans to deepen our study of how anti-semitism is often a common denominator behind the racism of white supremacy and hate crime violence. We will examine how anti-racist learning can further our Jewish identity.

Please take note of these upcoming relevant educational activities:

- The Whatcom Human Rights Task Force is again presenting an MLK event (online) on January 15-17. "Recapturing the Revolutionary Spirit: Dangerous Unselfishness."

- The Kulshan Chorus will participate in the City of Bellingham-sponsored MLK event on January 18. Please see further announcements in the *Timbre!* on how you can enjoy this event virtually (as several CBI members sing in this chorus), and learn more about what is happening in other corners of our community.

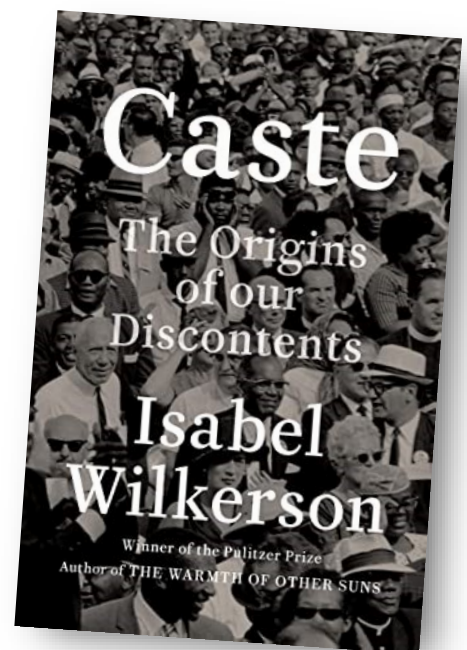
Also, The Academy of Lifelong Learning at WWU has a course in February on Institutional Racism (\$90).

The committee welcomes new members. We also have formed a task force on climate change and the environment. We are still active in the Family Promise Program and will have a meal train in March. Please contact Linda at [blackwellbham@gmail.com](mailto:blackwellbham@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## Social Action Book Club

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**  
**4:00 pm**

Continuing the theme of racial justice, the next Social Action Book Club will discuss *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson is a National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning author who also wrote *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. *Caste* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, NPR, and the *Oprah Magazine* have all named *Caste* as one of 2020's best books. Rabbi Samuels says, "*Caste* is an exquisitely written book that forces the reader to confront an unseen phenomenon that has plagued America since its founding. Along with *The New Jim Crow* (by Michelle Alexander), I can't recommend this book enough to those who are seriously invested in understanding and then tearing down racial inequality." The Zoom link will be in the *Timbre!* the week prior to the discussion.



## Cantor's Corner

## Move and Be Moved

BY ANDREA SHUPACK

I grew up with lots of music. My dad had CDs and records bursting from his office shelves. Daily I selected albums randomly and took them to the privacy of my room to listen. For hours the music would take over, moving my body all around my room, and had me swaying, eyes closed, feeling the music transport me.

If you had asked me before my twenties, I would have denied a single spiritual bone in my body. I wavered back and forth between atheist and agnostic. But if you'd engaged me in conversation about music, particularly when coupled with dance, I could not have denied the power and transcendence I felt. In those days, I lacked a language to describe where I went, but I recognized a connection to something beyond myself.

At some point in the busy chaotic life that is adulthood, music was limited to the car and Shabbat services. I stopped dancing entirely. Ironically, my most powerful mode for spirituality ended, just at the time I started seeking the Divine. Since those expansive childhood days, I've experienced many glimpses into that feeling of oneness, both from music and while being in nature. But with my body removed, I now realize what is lacking. I long thought music was the best vehicle, and I've focused all of my efforts on crafting melodies for prayer. In my memories of those days of solitude in my bedroom, listening and dancing, it was the music that created those powerful moments. Now I understand that simply sitting and listening to the music would not have created those deeply transcendent moments. The music is important, of course. That is what inspired my body to move. But we need both for the fullest experience. It was the combination of music and dance that allowed my soul to travel beyond the bounds of my physical body. I'm convinced we need to get out of our chairs and let our vessels break free. We should feel free to dance in joy, sway in despair, to move in any way we are moved to move.

Years ago at a renewal congregation, I watched with simultaneous humor and discomfort as a handful of people left their chairs and started moving around ecstatically—arms flailing, bodies contorting with complete abandon, as if something had taken them over. Now I realize they were onto something we can all learn from. Our Judaism is often experienced on an intellectual level. We may even be fortunate enough to feel moved emotionally at times. One goal of prayer is to go beyond ourselves and return altered in some way. If we are stuck in our heads and our hearts, it's unlikely we will get the most out of our time in prayer, or ascend very far.

Moving during prayer is certainly not a new concept. We all move when we stand up for the *Amidah*, and when we bend our knees and bow at several prescribed times. Many Jews practice shuckling, a sort of meditative swaying/rocking motion. Our tradition has always known the importance of getting our bodies involved while praying. I'm not proposing we all dance across the room, as many Hasidim do, but we can do a lot more than stand and bow. If you've ever practiced a full prostration in the *Aleinu* at Yom Kippur, you've probably had a taste of what larger motions can do.

We only need look in our liturgical texts to find a strong case for getting our bodies more involved. In *Nishmat Kol Chai* (the Soul of Every Living Being), the opening words speak of our souls, our breath. Yet the very next words speak of us as beings of "flesh." The long text contains lists of all the ways we attempt to praise God, encompassing every aspect of our bodies. The list begins with the parts we would expect, and what we are so familiar with using in prayer—our mouths, lips, and tongue. But read on, and we get a picture of full body movement, utilizing outspread hands, feet, organs, knees, spine, and finally "all my bones." How do we

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# Birthdays

## JANUARY 2021

1/1 Elias Anderson (15th)  
 1/1 Jeaninne Kahan  
 1/1 Binnie Perper  
 1/1 Alison Zak  
 1/3 Tahlia Somers (14th)  
 1/4 Julia Ban  
 1/4 Linda Blackwell  
 1/4 Wolf Pomerantz (9th)  
 1/4 Asher Stoane (18th)  
 1/5 Jewels Ramras (5th)  
 1/5 David Sager  
 1/6 Isaac Konikoff  
 1/6 Tom Maxim  
 1/8 Candace Kiersky  
 1/8 Victoria Mayers  
 1/9 Helen Feiger  
 1/10 Lou Lippman  
 1/11 John Schapiro  
 1/12 Talia Clarke (17th)  
 1/15 Diana Dixon (7th)  
 1/15 Nora Mazonson  
 1/15 Kathi Paluch  
 1/16 Maya Cornwall (18th)  
 1/17 Julian Booker (19th)  
 1/17 David Elkayam  
 1/17 Jodi Litt  
 1/18 Miriam Buckman

1/18 Dashka Garretson  
 1/21 Arturo Flores (4th)  
 1/21 Alyson Kassen  
 1/22 Stuart Berman  
 1/23 Joshua Greenberg  
 1/25 Marc Weinstein  
 1/26 Leo David Cohen (8th)  
 1/26 Mitch Press  
 1/26 Geraldine Reitz  
 1/28 Angie Lee  
 1/30 Wendy Blum  
 1/30 Gib Morrow  
 1/31 John Bruns

## FEBRUARY 2021

2/1 Bill Freeman  
 2/4 Bonnie Zell  
 2/5 Elizabeth Snyder  
 2/6 Laura Wolfson  
 2/7 Elan Maxim (21st)  
 2/8 Samantha Schwartz (16th)  
 2/9 Ruth Evans  
 2/10 Jacob Bishop (19th)  
 2/11 Ella Barney  
 2/11 Shalem Blum (16th)  
 2/11 Leo Banks Strich (3rd)  
 2/14 Bob Goldman  
 2/14 Ted Schuman

2/15 Gloria Lebowitz  
 2/16 Aniko Folk (20th)  
 2/17 Dan Ohms  
 2/18 Tom Oliver  
 2/18 Sarah Zarrow  
 2/19 Anne-Marie Kroitzsch  
 2/20 Don Fenbert  
 2/20 Sagit Hall  
 2/20 Susan Schneider  
 2/20 Elijah Wolfson (12th)  
 2/21 Gregg Orlik  
 2/21 Ben Sokol (21st)  
 2/21 Kristin Sykes-David  
 2/22 Frank Corey  
 2/22 Teva Corey-DuBow (14th)  
 2/22 Arthur Ingberman  
 2/22 Karen Sloss  
 2/22 Jeannette Stephens  
 2/22 Alan Stone  
 2/24 Todd Haskell  
 2/24 Robert Meltzer  
 2/25 Nancy Auerbach  
 2/25 Avi Brennan (14th)  
 2/25 Genny Cohn  
 2/26 Orly Ziv-Maxim  
 2/27 Conor Keefe (2nd)  
 2/27 Ken Levinson  
 2/27 Teresa Sommers  
 2/28 Lillia Ingram-Monteiro

## Sisterhood Book Group

The Sisterhood book group continues to meet monthly. We are presently meeting by Zoom, on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm. Upcoming books and dates are:

**January 3** *The Human Stain* by Philip Roth

**February 7** *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky

**March 7** *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann

We have a purchasing arrangement with Village Books. If you mention that you are buying one of these books for the Beth Israel Book Group, you will receive a 15% discount on that book. Please contact Joan Wayne (jwayne2@gmail.com) with any questions.

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# Faces in Our Community: Miriam and Perry Davids

BY LINDA HIRSH

*You might meet Miriam Davids through her voice, when she sings with Ma'ayan Shir or chants Torah. That voice is true, has strength and seems to radiate from an inner conviction.*

A Jew by choice, "I felt a pull towards the teachings," said Miriam, who taught herself to chant the tropes when practicing for her "grown-up Bat Mitzvah. I loved learning the melodies, how they connect and how the chanting can help tell the stories. Chanting helps me connect with the portions in a deeply meaningful way."

Perhaps that is why her voice can transport you. She also sings with the Kulshan Chorus, where she is a board member.

"We all look forward to singing together, shoulder to shoulder again," Miriam said, "Everyone from sopranos to basses excel when they feel the value of working together."

Her talent is just one of many generous contributions she gives to Congregation Beth Israel. Neither Miriam nor her husband Perry name any jobs of professional import. Maybe that's because their avocational lives are full to bursting with significance — for instance, Miriam has served as president of the CBI Board, and on almost every shul committee and several task forces in her nearly 40 years here. "Miriam is a special per-



Miriam and Perry Davids

son," said Vermeda Fred, another magical voice in Ma'ayan Shir. "She is my inspiration. She ties our CBI community together."

Born and raised in Tacoma, a town close to her heart, Miriam says it was "a great place to grow up, lots of parks and the best views of Mount Rainier." Miriam, the tenth of eleven children, attended Catholic parochial school, where she was lucky to have "excellent and demanding choir teachers." She graduated Washington State University with a degree in microbiology and public health. Around age 20, she wandered from her birth religion. She became a Jew by Choice after her first marriage. Her son by that marriage, Joel, now

32, went through religious school and became a Bar Mitzvah in 2001. Miriam moved to Bellingham with her first husband in 1982. Joining CBI in 1993, she plunged into an active Judaism, joining the Sisterhood and Membership Committee. She has served as Religious School co-chair, as board member in 2001 and as board president for four years.

Miriam met Perry on J-Date in 2012. "We connected immediately," Perry said. "And we live happily together with deep respect for each other." It was a coincidence that Perry grew up with CBI member Gea Goldfeder (z"l) in Alberta, related by

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**MIRIAM AND PERRY DAVIDS***Continued from Page 8*

marriage to Perry's mother. Miriam said, "It was wonderful to have a connection with a woman I admired for her spunk, candor, intellect, inner and outer beauty and who was a fellow dog lover. I think our connection through Gea has been a glue for us. We can share that deeply." Miriam moved to Bellevue with Perry in 2013, and soon they moved to Bellingham, buying a house where they can share their love of their animals.

Born in Lethbridge, Alberta and raised in Calgary, Perry lived in small, close-knit communities. His was not a religious family, although his father was active in and fund-raised for B'nai Brith. He graduated from the University of Calgary with a business degree. He has two children, Ben, 38, a Microsoft designer, and Cory, 40, CFO for a Canadian furniture chain.

Having a lifelong interest in cars—all types, models and years—he built scale models. His other interests in gardening, animal care, and home improvement round out Perry's life. "The satisfaction of doing a good job and learning" is what he says is important to him.

Miriam shares Perry's interest in gardening, along with taking care of her three Australian Shepherds, (Zeva, Bo, and Sydney), caring for Cassie the horse, and the goats



**CBI's bowling group, left to right: Steve James & Sara Geballe; Lynne & Mark MacDonald; Perry & Miriam Davids; Rodney Shainbom & Vermeda Fred; Jeffrey & Wendy Holtzman**

Molly and Bruce, and spending time with her great-nieces. Wait, there's more! A runner, she has participated in 19 marathons, among them Boston, New York City, Chicago, and Minnesota/St. Paul. She also enjoys handiwork, volunteering, goat-herding, horse-walking, and bowling!

Vermeda Fred tells a story about first meeting Miriam and Perry: "When [husband] Rodney and I first came to Bellingham, we were curious to see if we would find our Jewish home here. We had visited CBI and found we really liked Rabbi Samuels, but what about making new friends? Then, during one Friday night service in September 2014,

when we were asked to meet the people around us, we met Miriam and Perry. When I said, as we were leaving, how nice it was to meet them, and I hoped our paths would cross, Miriam said, 'Oh, we will definitely get together.' And she was true to her word. We've been friends ever since! And because of Miriam, we have been included in her bowling friendship group! Having gone to other synagogues over the years, this is the first and only time a congregant has said these words to me, and I will remember them always."

## The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Erin & Steven Cohen** – Bellingham
- **Henry Curme & Karen Bailor** – Bellingham
- **Andy & Neah Ingram-Monteiro** and daughter Lillia (age 23 months) – Bellingham
- **Andy Kaplowitz & Lore Filgueira** – Seattle
- **Phil Wolff & Gail Tolentino** – Bellingham

Mazel tov to Kayla Schott-Bresler and Ian McCurdy on the birth of their daughter, **Miriam (Mira) Schott McCurdy!** Mira was born on December 9 at 10:57 am.



## January/February 2021 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, Jan. 1	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	Saturday, Jan. 30	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Bishalach )
Saturday, Jan. 2	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Va-y'chi) <b>10:45 am</b> All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack	Friday, Feb. 5	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet 3rd Graders
Friday, Jan. 8	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat,	Saturday, Feb. 6	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Yitro) <b>10:45 am</b> All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Saturday, Jan. 9	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Sh'mot)	Friday, Feb. 12	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Jan. 15	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from Aviva Weinstein	Saturday, Feb. 13	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Mishpatim )
Saturday, Jan. 16	<b>10:00 am</b> Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Weinstein	Friday, Feb. 19	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat, Shabbat, with leadership from Samuel Donner
Friday, Jan 22	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Saturday, Feb. 20	<b>10:00 am</b> Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Donner
Saturday, Jan. 23	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat Bo) <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative-style lay-led minyan	Friday, Feb 26	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Friday, Jan. 29	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat	Saturday, Feb. 27	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study (Parashat T'tzaveh ) <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative-style lay-led minyan

### BLACK LIVES MATTER

*Continued from Page 1*

the United States from the founding of our country to the present day. Those of us who are white Americans may have wittingly or unwittingly contributed to that suffering. We will work to eradicate any traces of racism in our lives as a congregation and as individuals, and will take any steps within our power to promote the equality our founding documents proclaim as the right of all people.

The Social Action Committee will be considering ways of putting the principles of the statement to work in a series of open meetings for the Congregation. It will consult with members of the Program Committee as it moves forward.



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# Special Fund Donations

## CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack – You're the best!

**From:** *Rebekah Sommers*

### IN HONOR OF:

Rebekah Sommers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**From:** *Patrick Crane*

## CARE COMMITTEE

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee, for all you do to care for those in need

**From:** *Alan & Susan Kendal*

The Committee and Rabbi Samuels – Thank you for all you have done for Amy and myself

**From:** *Jeff Margolis*

### COMMEMORATING THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Dr. Jacob Fine

**From:** *His loving family*

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels & Andrea Shupack, for all the inspirational and positive teaching you provided to Elliot Levinson in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah

**From:** *Ken & Regan Levinson*

Rabbi Samuels, for excellent High Holy Days services

**From:** *Jane Relin*

Rabbi Samuels – Thank you for the great High Holy Days services and sermons

**From:** *Henry Zemel*

Rabbi Samuels, in thanks for officiating at our mother's service

**From:** *Roy & Leslie Shankman*

Rabbi Samuels – Thanks for all the Torah lessons!

**From:** *Rebekah Sommers*

Rabbi Samuels, with thanks

**From:** *Beth Margolis*

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

\*Joanne Able (Orinda, CA) – in memory of her husband Steve

\*Jeff Feder (Rancho Mirage, CA), on the loss of his brother  
**From:** *Rhoda & Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)*

Dan Raas and family, in memory of Debbie

**From:** *Toby Sonneman*

### COMMEMORATING THE YAHRZEIT OF:

\*Dora Graff, our beloved mother

\*Esther Mazur, our beloved mother

**From:** *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Patrick Crane  
Yolanda Lerner  
(Grass Valley, CA)  
Cinda & Stuart Zemel*

## RABBI GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Emil & Tannia Hecht*

## GENERAL FUND

### IN MEMORY OF:

Louise Greenberg

**From:** *Bob & Jane Greenberg (Bainbridge Island)*

## KESHER FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

Andrea Shupack, for excellent High Holy Days services

**From:** *Jane Relin*

Patrick Crane – You're a mensch, Mr. Crane!

**From:** *Rebekah Sommers*

This year's B'nei Mitzvah class – Thanks for the support and fun!

**From:** *The Sommers family*

\*Elliot Levinson, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

\*Rebekah Sommers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**From:** *Karen Sloss*

## MAX GLASS LIBRARY FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

Joan Wayne, for her diligence and skill in bringing the libraries and their websites into fruition

**From:** *Ann Buzaitis & Dena Petersen*

## NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

To Rebecca & Tom Oliver, for rescuing a damsel in distress. We are so grateful!

**From:** *Miriam & Greg Schwartz*

### IN HONOR OF:

All the B'nei Mitzvot of 2020!

**From:** *Paul Blum & Alison Zak*

Our daughter, Elora Rose, as we celebrate her joining our family

**From:** *David Strich, Michelle Banks, and big brother Leo*

Sarah Witte – Happy Birthday!

**From:** *Aly Kassen, Angie Lee & Teresa Sommers*

### COMMEMORATING THE YAHRZEIT OF:

My beloved husband, Arnold Loober

**From:** *Bernice Loober*

### DONATION FOR LANDSCAPING:

*Cora Boothby  
Hank Levine &  
Corinne Gimbel-Levine  
Binnie Perper*

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Marta & Craig Brand  
Joel David &  
Kristin Sykes-David  
Lorraine Garfinkle  
Sylviane Levy-Boyd (Arcata, CA)  
Phyllis & Shelly Mazur  
Dan Raas  
Jerome Rosen &  
Katlaina Rayne  
Sylvia Williams  
Jerry Witler &  
Mary Knight  
Rena Ziegler*

## NFTY/YOUTH GROUP

### IN HONOR OF:

Amanda Robins & Daniel Zagnoli, for keeping the teens engaged

**From:** *Teresa Sommers*

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### IN HONOR OF:

Roby Blecker – Happy Hanukkah. We love and miss you!

**From:** *The Sommers Family*

**FROM THE RABBI***Continued from Page 1*

holidays, on Purim, we read a text which does not mention God even once. Purim is the holiday in which we declare that life is chaos, where God seems absent, and where none of us knows what is right or wrong. However, at its heart, Purim is a story about the triumph of life over darkness, and that is why it is a time to rejoice with abandon.

While I do love the silliness of Purim and appreciate the deeper meanings behind the holiday, the one custom I really admire is the mitzvah of *matanot levyonim*, giving gifts to those in need. In spite of, or perhaps because of, our topsy-turvy silliness, Purim remains a holiday about doing good in the world and sharing our joy with others, and so the commandments to eat, drink, and be merry are accompanied by this mitzvah.

It is my hope that 2021 will be the opposite, in many ways, of 2020, and I pray that the lessons we learn from Purim will accompany us as we settle into this new year. May we strive to support and practice life-affirming measures. May we embrace a world in which things may not appear to resemble what we once imagined them to look like. May we celebrate the gift of life in the face of devastating loss around us. May we act as if God is absent and it's all up to us, yet pray for strength, humility, compassion, and wisdom from the Source of it all. And may we continue to practice the mitzvah of helping those in need.

Purim may seem to be all about *hamentaschen* and carnivals, but it's clear to me that this holiday has a lot to teach us about how to navigate through turbulent and unpredictable times. May we all go from strength to strength. *L'chayim!*

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

## BAY News!

BY AMANDA ROBINS AND DANIEL ZAGNOLI

What a 2020 it has been! All of the BAY Youth Group events moved online, and each month we meet via Zoom. The teen board gets together monthly to plan fun events for their peers, and then once a month, the youth group hosts an event as well. Our last two events were a great success with nearly 10 teens coming to each one!

In November, BAY hosted a virtual Among Us event (an online video game). This event was held on a Saturday night, and Ben Sommers, our Religious and Cultural Vice President, led the group in *havdalah* blessings.

In December, we hosted a Chanukah event: we made latkes together and lit candles, again with Ben's stellar song leading. The teens also decided they wanted to give back to the CBI community during Fourth Night for Others. With this in mind, the teens decided to write letters to individuals in our community who may be facing isolation or just in need of some cheer during this difficult time. Our hope is that some of these letters will develop into pen-pal relationships to help stay connected during the pandemic.

Looking to 2021, our first event in January will be in partnership with

the Boise, Idaho temple youth group, CABI. Board members from both youth groups will work together to plan an event that all of our teens can enjoy together. As the weather improves in the spring, we hope to be able to engage teens with some outdoor activities as well.

At these events, we had attendance from our "regulars," but also welcomed three new teens to youth group participation! If you or your teen have questions about BAY, want to learn more or how to get involved, please feel free to reach out to us at [youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org)

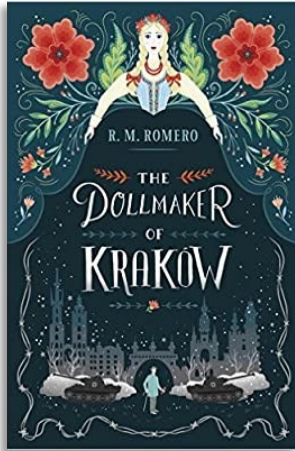
## Anniversaries

Jan. 1	Ella & Alan Barney	(# 8)	Jan. 8	Lindsey & Jordan Genut	(# 12)
Jan. 4	Alan & Bonnie Stone	(# 68)	Feb. 17	David & Carol Robinson	(# 41)
Jan. 6	David Goldman and Linda Blackwell	(# 37)			

*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.*

# Library News

We have an amazing collection of adult, young adult, and children's books in our library. Please peruse the following reviews by ninth grader **Sydney Wolfson** to pique your curiosity for great winter reads:

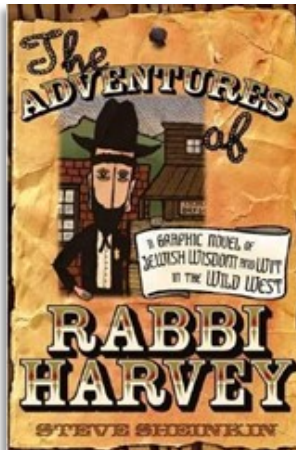


## ***The Dollmaker of Krakow*** by R.M. Romero

This book combines fantasy and historical fiction, blending fairy tales, folklore and WWII history. Karolina is a living doll, living in the Land of Dolls where her queen and king have recently been overthrown. A strange wind blows her to the human world, to Krakow, Poland, during WWII, where she finds herself in the home of a mysterious dollmaker whose Jewish friends' lives are at risk. Find out what happens next in this wonderfully written story set in a painful era, yet which brims with hope and even a touch of magic.

## ***The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*** by Steve Sheinkin

A graphic novel with the tag line, "Jewish Wisdom and Wit in the Wild West" is a high bar to set, but *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey* most certainly delivers. Rabbi Harvey lives in the frontier town of Elk Springs, Colorado, serving as both Rabbi and Sheriff. Sometimes this includes being a chicken. Sometimes it includes engaging in battles of wit to save a town. Whatever the case, it's bound to be absolutely hilarious, and in many cases, thought-provoking. And lucky you, there's a whole series for your enjoyment!



You can check out all of Rabbi Harvey's adventures, along with oodles of other books from the Max Glass Synagogue Library. These and many more wonderful books are waiting for you. You can see the whole collection of adult, children's, and teen titles including graphic novels, online at [www.librarycat.org/lib/CongBethIsraelBham](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/CongBethIsraelBham). To check a book out, email your request to Joan Wayne at [jawayne2@gmail.com](mailto:jawayne2@gmail.com) with the title(s). One of Beth Israel's librarians will look for the book(s) on a Friday and bring them to Joan's house the following week for you to pick up, by appointment. The book will be in a paper bag by the front door. Happy reading!



The Max Glass Synagogue Library

# A Way To Connect: Purim *Mishloach Manot* Project

BY LINDSEY GENUT

For the past five years we've been doing the *Mishloach Manot* project as a fun and easy way to fulfill one of the Purim mitzvot while supporting Keshet, our religious school. *Mishloach Manot*, the sending of food gifts to friends and family, is one of the four mitzvot traditionally performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday, and to create meaningful connections within our own

community at the same time. Through this project, you can participate in the sending of a lovely gift bag to your friends and family to be delivered during the week of Purim.

This year it feels even more meaningful than ever! Check your email invitation for instructions on how to participate. Questions? Contact Lindsey Genut via email: [lindsey.genut@gmail.com](mailto:lindsey.genut@gmail.com) or by phone: (978) 578-1076.

## CANTOR'S CORNER

Continued from Page 6

reach ultimate connection to the Divine? By trying as fully as we can to bring every part of our complete being into the process. *Nishmat Kol Chai* teaches that even when we bring every part of ourselves—"all hearts," "all our innermost feelings and thoughts" every emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and physical essence that we possess—our praise will be insufficient. This is to remind us that we need every part of ourselves present in prayer. This text (based on Psalm 35:10, "All my bones shall say: Who is like You?") is telling us...don't think your mind, or speaking words is enough. Our bodies are not just a vehicle which holds our true being, our intellect or our soul. Everything is part of the larger whole. The physical flesh is a part of the holy whole.

Dance therapist Ali Schechter, who has brought dance and creative movement rituals into many Jewish spaces, said of dance, "As a tribe, we desperately need this. There is so much fear on a cellular and collective level. Fear of breaking the rules. Fear of being Jewish. Fear of simply being. We need more spaces to play and experience our joy, freedom, and belonging. In movement, we remember our wholeness and infuse our cells with that new imprint."

If we grew up in synagogues full of movement, this would come naturally. We'd most likely be stretching our arms out wide at the words "*v'yadeinu frushot k'nishrei shamayim*," ("our hands as outspread as eagles of the sky"), among so many other possibilities. I, too, have been disconnected from my body and find the prospect of moving around the sanctuary terribly uncomfortable. Sometimes we need to experience discomfort to grow, and that is what prayer is attempting to achieve. Until we free ourselves to move, however our souls guide us, to feel the full power of the words and melodies of our liturgy, we need to prescribe new, bigger choreography to help us bring this missing part of ourselves into our worship.

I am committed to trying this out, even though I have plenty of discomfort using my body. In fact, I was so inspired by this prayer, that for a final project at AJR in a Shabbat liturgy class, I just studied *Nishmat Kol Chai* in depth and created movements for this prayer. I'm going to try some of these with you during our next Contemplative service, which I lead on the first Saturday of each month. I hope you'll experiment and take this new prayer journey with me, and know that I am also pushing myself to try something new.

## Interfaith Coalition is Seeking New Location

BY JANE PEMBLE, OUTREACH MANAGER, INTERFAITH COALITION

Interfaith Coalition, a local nonprofit that works to get families out of poverty and into homes (website: [www.interfaith-coalition.org](http://www.interfaith-coalition.org)), is seeking a new home itself: 6,000 to 8,000 square feet, within walking distance to bus stops, and ideally near parks and grocery stores.

Interfaith has nine employees, five of those part-time, but manages 1,499 volunteers and seven programs. Currently, its staff is in two locations on opposite sides of town. "It's way too much time lost in transit for meetings, and inefficient for communication among staff," said Barbara Mathers-Schmidt, chair of Interfaith's property acquisition committee. "We need those people in one building. This kind of work involves challenging and complex conversations, and that is best handled in person."

In addition to staff offices, the building would house the Family Promise Day Center. It also would include some emergency housing for families served by the Family Promise program, meeting spaces for families and service providers, and

space for workshops open to the community. Please contact Deanna Wildermuth with questions or information at: 360-734-3983 or [deanna@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:deanna@interfaith-coalition.org).

### In Memoriam

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

We mourn the passing of two members of the Beth Israel family, and offer heartfelt condolences to their loved ones:

**Lenore Shankman**, who passed away at home in Bellingham on November 21, 2020 at the age of 94. She is survived by her son Roy Shankman and his wife Leslie, her son Robert Bruntel, and a large extended family that includes 23 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

**Amy Margolis**, who died at home in Van Zandt on December 2, 2020 at the age of 79. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Jeff Margolis, daughters Elea Plotkin and Beth Anna Margolis, and an extended family.

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to Stu Berman and family on the loss of his brother, **Leonard Berman**, who passed away at his home in Massachusetts on October 21, 2020. He was 87 years old.

# Yahrzeits

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

## Friday, January 1

Ruth Robinson	12/28
Rachel Siegfried	1/2
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	1/2
Ruth Jacobson	1/3
Dale Allison Harriman	1/4
Lynn Shuster	1/4
Ben Thal	1/4
Irwin Wapner	1/4
William Aron Dorfman	1/5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5
Aimee Lewis	1/5
Arnold Loober	1/5
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5
Anna Winefield Fox	1/6
Martin Katz	1/6
David Miller	1/6
Aaron Sanger	1/6
Florence Weintraub	1/6
Felice Bourne	1/7
Lillian Stiglitz Heller	1/7
Henry Jantzen	1/7
Louis Lebowitz	1/7
Barney Cohn	1/8
Bette Levy	1/8

## Friday, January 8

Jack Siegel	1/9
Sarah Glazer	1/10
Brian House	1/10
Joyce Landau	1/10
Miriam Cohen	1/12
Earl Krauzer	1/13
Simon Rosen	1/13
Maurice (Maury) Schwartz	1/13
Marion Glassman	1/14
Shirley Spiegel Jacobson	1/14
Philip Studen	1/14

## Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16

Morris Kalman Patinkin	1/16
Harry Suslow	1/17
Victorie Haislip	1/18
Sylvia Goldman	1/19
Mary Bayer Koplowitz	1/20
Samuel Orloff	1/20
Jerome Selznick	1/20
Lawrence Weintraub	1/20
Magda Dorman	1/21
David Kaplowitz	1/21
Irving Lackowitz	1/21
Eleanor Scharff	1/21
(Arabelle) Chaya Schlanger	1/21
Anna Schwartz	1/21
Libby Hildes	1/22

## Friday, January 22

Harold Earl Perper	1/23
Joel K. Rubenstein	1/23
Morris Faber	1/24
Fred Graff	1/24
Lillian Mauer Pravda	1/24
Sandor Garfinkle	1/25
George Markell	1/25
Florence D. Shain	1/25
Florence Kleinfeld	1/26
Sylvan Rosenthal	1/26
Norma Schwartz	1/26
Jerry Kleinfeld	1/27
Sally Evans	1/28
Rabbi Samuel Gartner	1/28
Peter Bayliss	1/29
Celia Zak	1/29

## Friday, January 29

Leona Chorney Sondik	1/30
Daniel Weis	1/30
Laura Ann Bourne	1/31
Judy Holtzman	2/1
Claire P. Mayer	2/1
Frank Kraus	2/2
Meyer Wolpow	2/3
Hally Vernon	2/4
Derrek Jeremy Adelstein	2/5
Hannah Jacobson	2/5
David Shain	2/5

## Friday, February 5

David Fine	2/6
(George) Gabriel Krauzer	2/6
Simcha Hayim Miller	2/6
Steven R. Rivkin	2/6
Rhoda "Ronnie" Stahlberg	2/7
Roy Athol Thomas	2/7
Sonia Kohl Krauzer	2/8
Paul Sondik	2/8
Jean Beverly Blank	2/9
Rita Gordon	2/9
William Freeman	2/10
Burton Sklar	2/10
Sarah Baron	2/11
Clara Lazarus	2/11
Gloria Perper	2/11
Elinor Pravda	2/11
Rachel Zacharia	2/11
Rochelle Blum	2/12
Isadore Graff	2/12
Michel Oksenberg	2/12

## Friday, February 12

Mel Adelstein	2/13
Ruth "Bubbles" Berman	2/13
Frieda Blank	2/13
Albert Lebovich	2/13
Judith T. Sklar	2/13
Steve Sokol	2/13
Clarence Weiner	2/13

Beth R. Curtis	2/14
Linda Kaplowitz Copeland	2/14
Benjamin Solomon	2/14
Lou Fine	2/15
Ken Biggin	2/16
Richard Evans	2/16
Barton Frank	2/16
Betty Goldberger	2/16
Dorothy Ramras	2/16
Luise Wikes	2/16
Cassandra Champagne	2/17
Mitchel J. Lazarus	2/18
Sadie Gordon Schiller	2/18
William E. Whiting	2/18
Robert Baker	2/19
William Schwartz	2/19

## Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20

Jerome Glass	2/20
Robert W. Lippman	2/20
Nelson Beller	2/22
Ruth Lippman	2/22
Phil H. Miller	2/22
Irwin Weiner	2/23
Paul Zentner	2/23
Alice Duckworth	2/24
Jack Eigen	2/24
Joseph Sonneman	2/24
Gea Goldfeder	2/25
Elsa Zentner	2/25
David Boman	2/26
Phyllis Goldin	2/26
Ida Chia Kahn	2/26
Jack Kahn	2/26
Gilbert Orlik	2/26
George Schwartz	2/26
Harold Shepard	2/26
Karen Weill	2/26

## Friday, February 26

Max J. Schwartz	2/27
BJ Elder	2/28
Harry Skinner	2/28
Judith Goldstein Zibbell	2/28
Gene Adelstein	3/1
Saul Faber	3/1
Colleen Koplowitz	3/1
Walter von Hollander	3/1
Robert Fife	3/2
Charles Baron	3/3
Howard Little	3/3
Herman Weill	3/3
Jessie Edinger	3/4
Emma Gartner	3/4
Dora Schuman	3/4
Gussie Zoberblatt	3/4
Benjamin Goldberg	3/5

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

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**JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEGILLAH READING!**

## ***Purim 2021***

*Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 pm*

Purim is a day of joy. On it, we read the *Megillah* (Scroll) of Esther, which tells the story of Jewish survival in the face of our foes. Join us (with a drink and *hamentashen* on hand) for our annual *Megillah* reading, performed by your friends at CBI. If you are interested in chanting this year, contact Rabbi Samuels.

