

From the Kesher Center for Jewish Learning

B'nei Mitzvah During Covid

BY NICKY NAIMAN



Elliot Levinson and his parents Regan and Ken.

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah should be a joyous occasion to celebrate your child's accomplishment. There is a lot of preparation that goes into this momentous day, including the child working hard with the Rabbi and Andrea to learn their Torah portion and write a *D'var Torah*, as well as the family organizing a way to celebrate. Doing this during Covid has been challenging, frustrating, and disappointing, yet at the same time it has been a refreshing reminder of

how resilient our children are and how strong and creative our community is.

Parent Sarah DesRosiers writes, "The most challenging aspect of planning a Bat Mitzvah during Covid was the uncertainty. At our first B'nei Mitzvah meeting in the Fall of 2020, everything was still shut down and we really had no idea what to envision as far as the Bat Mitzvah was

Continued on Page 3

FROM THE RABBI

Todah Rabbah!



As Nicole and I took down the *sukkah* a few weeks ago, I felt a sense of calm I hadn't felt in some time. The High Holy Days

were finally over. I could breathe again! At the same time I also felt a sense of fullness as I reflected on this spiritual journey our community had just been on together. While there was much planning and preparation that went into the High Holy Day season, afterwards I was flooded with appreciation for so many people in our community who were indispensable to the success of these sacred days. I am thankful to have this space to express my gratitude to them.

Cantorial Soloist Andrea Shupack: Thank you for blessing us once more with your leadership and beautiful voice. You put in hours upon hours of preparation, coordinating everything music-related with our incredible cellist, Sam Sinai; our vocalist, Naomi Pomerantz; and our sound engineer, Warren Palken. You helped most of our Torah chanters get ready, and you even added some chanting last minute for yourself. There are some stretches of the

Continued on Page 12



INSIDE:

- **Miracles of Lights and Music**, page 6
- **Faces in Our Community:**
- **Katie and David Edelstein**, page 8
- **Back Together Again!**, page 9

From the President...

Listen to Me

Hey, listen. Hear me out. Pay attention.

I don't know about you, but these demanding words have always made me put up my emotional defense. What is worse, I sometimes find I am starting off a sentence with one of these exact phrases. And it's usually when I am trying to make a point. The problem is... it doesn't matter what my point is, in most cases, the person I am talking to is going to quit listening the second I say it.

On Reddit, someone asked, "When someone starts a sentence with 'Listen...' I want to punch them in the face. Am I being too sensitive?"

The answer is yes.

But the point is the act of demanding someone to hear you can really get under people's skins.

It's interesting that one of our most important prayers starts off with this exact command. *Shema*. "Hear, O Israel," although *Shema* translates more powerfully than "listen"; it is closer to "obey." The root of the word *Shema* appears hundreds of times in the Torah. Being told to listen is so different from actually hearing what is being said. We even cover our eyes during the *Shema* to help us block everything out so we can focus on listening.

There is a story about a husband who thinks his wife is losing her hearing or possibly intentionally ignoring him. In order to test his theory, he decides to ask his wife if dinner is ready, and if she doesn't reply, he will make a note of his distance and go closer. He starts at the far side of the house and keeps calling out, but with no reply. He continues this until he is actually in the same room as she is and yells out, "Is dinner ready?" She turns around and says, "for the fourteenth time... YES!"

That joke makes me laugh every time. As I am someone who is a bit hard of hearing, it reminds me to do a quick thank you to the AV committee for improving the sound in the synagogue sanctuary, with extra thanks to David Goldman for improving our cameras and sound on Zoom during high holidays.

Being able to hear and listening go hand in hand, particularly for services.

As a parent, I remember being in awe of people who could talk quietly to their kids and get their attention. My approach was not one you will find in any parenting books, and involved saying the same thing but louder each time as they ignored me. Trying to get my kids out the door on school mornings often sounded like a scene from Bugs Bunny with Yosemite Sam. In case it's not clear... I played the part of Yosemite Sam. Trying to get my kids to really hear me was exasperating. I took the approach of blowing the shofar.

In a time of enormous distractions, being able to get people to listen can be a challenge. We have to fight for attention. I read that the average person in 2021 sees 10,000 advertisements a day! Clearly we are not processing all those ads, or remembering them. But our senses are bombarded in our daily lives by people trying to get our attention. We are forced to filter out the "junk" and decide what deserves our attention. It is no wonder that we sometimes block out the things we need to hear.

I have found that during Covid it has been even harder to listen. Not just because people's mouths are covered by masks and we have social distancing, but because we don't have casual encounters during social events, such as the *Oneg* after a service, when you bump into someone as you reach for the brownies and start with small talk that progresses into a discussion. You learn about each other's lives and what is new.

As I was thinking about listening, I realized I don't have enough opportunities to listen to CBI members like you. As President, it's an important part of my duties. In order to be able to hear you, I would like to ask that you email me at president@bethisraelbellingham.org

When you have time, send me your thoughts. I promise I will read them and process the ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Josh

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751 San Juan Boulevard
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The Shul Shofar
Volume 26, Number 2
November/December 2021
Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5782

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. It is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$35/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

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

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Printed by Lewis Publishing Inc. in
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B'NEI MITZVAH DURING COVID

Continued from Page 1

concerned." The B'nei Mitzvah classes of 2019-20 and 2020-21 have all been impacted by Covid, and we would like to share some of the things going on behind the scenes to make this rite of passage a memorable day.

The first thing that is different is that the students had to meet with the Rabbi and Andrea via Zoom rather than in person to learn and practice. Student Aviva Weinstein says, "Learning the lessons, songs and prayers over Zoom and getting feedback from Andrea was really hard not being in person and singing to a screen." Yet these students persevered and were amazing when delivering their Torah portions.

The B'nei Mitzvah class of 2019-20 was the first group of students to have virtual B'nei Mitzvah. The students in this class were Samuel Donner, Nate Witte, Remy Witte, Laoise Seltz, Tahlia Somers, Elliot Levinson, Aviva Weinstein, Lenny Halpern, and Rebekah Sommers. Regan Levinson remembers, "The most challenging thing was helping Elliot come to terms with not being able to share his Bar Mitzvah with his family and friends. A big part of all B'nei Mitzvah is the feeling of community. He was deeply disappointed not to have a gathering afterwards to celebrate."

Sarah Witte reflects, "The first Covid Bar Mitzvah we had was Lenny's in June 2020. His family was not very connected to the others in our group; we didn't know each other well, and they really forged the path in holding his Bar Mitzvah at home and having Rabbi lead over Zoom. They were way out in Anacortes and we were in the throes of lockdown, having no precedent for how we should help them celebrate. We ended up having a convoy of families, I would guess about 10 of us, drive down to Anacortes immediately after he had completed the Saturday services, and do a car parade of celebration around and around their cul-de-sac, with banners and flags, throwing candy, and with Klezmer music blaring from the Sommerses' speaker in their truck. We ended up with a spontaneous, very distanced *hora* and *Hava Nagila* in the middle of the cul-de-sac with Lenny up on a chair lifted by his family. I will never forget how much I was able to perceive the gratitude his family ex-



Rabbi Samuels with Lucy Naiman.

pressed. It was as close as we could come to a party and it certainly had all the joy of a celebration. I especially remember Lenny's mom's gratitude and imagining myself in her shoes and how much it would mean to have my child supported that way. It was very moving.

"That set the stage. After that, we had established a pattern of providing challah, wine and a child's-choice dessert for the Friday night, as well as a take-out meal that we all pitched in for, and arranged for delivery to the family. On the Saturday morning, we would all traipse out to wherever the service had been Zoomed from, usually the family home or the Temple, and did some variation on the car parade, sometimes on foot, sometimes in cars, sometimes just milling about a convenient space near the home. These would usually involve thrown candy, and always the Sommerses' music (including *Hava Nagila*), often raising the parents and siblings in turn as well as the B'nei Mitzvah. And always lots of distanced and masked chatting and reconnecting. It felt so supporting and affirming."

Another piece that materialized during this time was the B'nei Mitzvah class making a special video for which ever student was having their service. This was spearheaded by Perry Somers. These videos gave words of

Continued on Page 4

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B'NEI MITZVAH DURING COVID*Continued from Page 1*

encouragement for the student to see before going on Zoom and were like a virtual hug from the class.

Until recently, students had their B'nei Mitzvah on Zoom, but this summer things started looking better with Covid, and students are now able to do hybrid services with some people attending in person, while others attend over Zoom. This has become one of the silver linings of Covid, allowing a wider audience to share in our students' special days. People from all over the states, Canada, Australia, Japan, Israel, and England have attended CBI B'nei Mitzvah services in the past two years!

All of us are extremely grateful that technology has allowed people to attend and participate who wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise.

The B'nei Mitzvah class of 2020-21 consists of Natalie Ravitsky, Sonorah DesRosiers, Lucy Naiman, Liza Jane Price, Gabe Witte, and Abby Comstock. As the mother of Lucy, one of my goals for these students was that they had the opportunity to become a very close group. Luckily all of the other parents agreed with me. These students have had several days spending time together at Lake Whatcom, as well as a backyard campout, complete with tie-dyeing and an outdoor movie. The sense of

Continued on Page 14

Top left: Rabbi Samuels at Lucy Naiman's Bat Mitzvah.
Other photos: Current B'nei Mitzvah class (Lucy Naiman, Liza Jane Price, Sonorah DesRosiers, Natalie Ravitsky, Gabe Witte, and Abby Comstock) during various activities.

From the Social Action Committee

Social Action Committee News

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

The High Holiday food drive was very successful. Thank you to all who participated. We raised at least \$900 in funds and collected 152 lb. of food. This donation was appreciated by the Bellingham Food Bank. By the time this column is printed, we hopefully will have completed a successful coat drive ending in October. We continue to support the Interfaith Coalition's Family Promise Program.

The Social Action Committee is introducing the *Schmita Corner*, a biweekly column to celebrate 5782. This is a sabbatical year, or a year of "release" for the land in Israel. The *Schmita* year concerns more particularly the obligation of Jews to rest or lay fallow fields in Israel, and the distribution of produce is given to the poor. There are many opportunities to practice a *Schmita* year, especially in light of the climate crisis and economic instability.

As a faith-based community, we believe it is our obligation to address climate change. We recognize our responsibility to sustain a living planet for future generations. Sukkot became a perfect time for our community to come together to celebrate this sabbatical. Whether we planted perennials or donated produce to the food bank, there was and will continue to be a ritual component to our gathering. It is a time to take care of each other and the Earth. The committee wants to encourage our congregation to focus on how we live in our homes and serve our community to support environmental solutions. This short column will cover different subjects such as energy savings, food waste reduction, plastic use reduction, and regenerative agriculture. We will also share information about local environmental programs and work groups. We are forming a *Chavurah*, a study group for people interested in supporting and learning with each other. Please contact Linda at blackwellbham@gmail.com to become an active member.

Program Committee News: Jews of Color

On December 11, 2021, CBI's Program Committee will hold a Zoom discussion: "Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color," a report published in August by the Jews of Color Initiative.

The report contains statistics and recommendations, and also amplifies the voices of many Jews of Color, including this statement from a woman who describes herself as a Cantonese and Ashkenazi woman in her 40s:

"My parents told me that there were going to be people who questioned me because I'm Chinese and that there



were going to be people who are going to tell me that I'm not as Jewish because my mom converted. So I was never surprised when it came up. They equipped me with tools, sort of like a fire drill, early on."

You can read and download the report here: <https://jewsofcolorinitiative.org/>

The December 11 Zoom event will be structured as a discussion. If you are able, please have the report in front of you so we can take turns reading aloud short sections that we want to talk about. (We will also screen share, but sometimes that appears too small to read.)

If you want to help organize this event, please contact Program Committee Co-Chair, Emily Weiner, at words.numbers@gmail.com.

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Cantor's Corner

Miracles of Lights and Music

BY ANDREA SHUPACK

As I write this, the weather has turned cold and rainy, we've retreated indoors more, and the coats and boots have returned to the entryway. My children are already talking in anticipation of latkes and lighting the *chanukiah*. I cannot claim Chanukah as a favorite holiday, and I will admit that most of the songs don't transport me the way songs for, say, Passover do — Pesach is my favorite holiday after all. Maybe it's because I sang in many choirs growing up, and along with numerous Christmas songs, the token Chanukah song didn't make me feel any better. It was almost assuredly *I Have a Little Dreidel* or *Oh Chanukah*. I wish I could have handed those choir directors choral music to so many better options. At the end of this article, I will share with you a playlist of some of my favorites to offer more musical variety for this holiday.

But there is something magical about the lights from the *chanukiah* against the cold, foggy windows. The family stands together, with our growing collection of menorahs the children have made, the flickering of dozens of little candles lighting faces in the darkness, as we sing the blessings. We follow (from my husband's family's tradition) with a round of *Hanerot Halalu*, which brings a warm peaceful feeling all through me. "*Hanerot halalu anu madlikim...* We kindle these lights to commemorate the saving acts, miracles and wonders which You have performed for our forefathers..."

I would probably like Chanukah a lot more if it had stayed the small, quietly spiritual holiday I think it was intended to be. With lots of good songs to sing, and of course all of the tasty oily food. Chanukah without any proximity to the largeness of Christmas. In fact, one of my favorite Chanukahs went by almost unnoticed. Josh and I went to Israel one winter, and I was delighted with the timing, because it meant no incessant "holiday" music for the entire season. The only real clue that Chanukah was even upon us was the insane amount of *sufganiyot* piled in every shop. I'm not exaggerating, I've never seen anything like those mounds of gorgeous-looking stuffed pastries. It's a good thing I'm not a donut person, or I might have been tempted to try as many flavors as I could over the course of the eight days.

One evening, I was sitting in a cafe by myself reading a book and sipping a latte. As the sun descended, I noticed all the employees had left the counter and gone to the window. All conversations and activity stopped. Everyone stood. After the candles were lit, all of us strangers sang together. An instant sense of community and belonging was created through the power of ritual and music.

No big celebration that winter, and yet a profound moment for me of feeling a part of the whole Jewish people. All of us around the world bringing a little light into the darkest time of the year. Each of our *chanukiyot* broadcasting to the streets across the globe, reminding everyone to pause and step back for a moment, and feel the incredible reality that we are right here at this moment in time. All of us connected through our ancient practices of lighting and singing, and here because of our history and heritage that has sustained us for thousands of years. Recalling this quiet, miraculous moment at a cafe in Jerusalem reminds me that many of our profound miracles are as small and easily missed as a flickering candle.

So this year, as we light the candles in our homes, I hope you'll join me in rededicating this sweet and subtle practice into a spiritual moment that helps us all feel connected to each other, and illuminates the beauty in the world and our place in it. Pause and sing or listen to a favorite song, even if you are lighting alone, and think about what little quiet miracles are happening all around you. As you hold your *shamash* (helper) candle, think about what light you need right now, and what light of holy sparks you can bring to ease the cold and darkness for others.

One of the blessings we recite as we light the *chanukiah* says, "Blessed are You, who accomplished miracles for our ancestors in ancient days, and which we experience, both at this time of the year and throughout every year of our lives."

May we still experience miracles throughout every year of our lives. May the lights and music of Chanukah bring us all peace and light in this season.

Another small miracle to me is that despite my initial disappointment in this holiday's song options, I have discovered there are actually a lot of great ones. Here are eight categories, one for each of the eight days of Chanukah, with my personal choices of winners for each, to keep you in the Chanukah spirit. You can find this playlist at <http://tinyurl.com/cbi-songs>, or on our YouTube channel, on the CBI website. I also invite you to share your "winners" with me and I will add them to the playlist.

1. Best Remake: "Dreidel" performed by Erran Baron Cohen (brother of Sacha Baron Cohen). I never thought I could love the Dreidel song so much. And the Yiddish rapping is phenomenal.

Continued on Page 10

Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2021

11/1 Susan Jay
 11/1 Gerald Manganaro
 11/1 David Ziegler
 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (12th)
 11/2 Lev Shuster (20th)
 11/4 David Schlitt
 11/6 Rodney Shainbom
 11/7 Steve James
 11/8 Rob Grossman
 11/10 Urtica Goldman (8th)
 11/11 Stephanie Korn
 11/11 Wendy Schwartz
 11/13 Peter Auerbach
 11/13 Miriam Schwartz
 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (21st)
 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (21st)
 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (21st)
 11/16 Kristan Brennan
 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 Erin Cohen
 11/20 Willow Corey-DuBow (18th)
 11/24 Liberty Amit Schoelss (10th)
 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (11th)
 11/26 Tamar Clarke
 11/26 Shala Erlich
 11/27 Elaine Beck
 11/27 Elkah Katz
 11/28 Floyd King
 11/29 Arundel Pritchett
 11/29 Xavier Sommers (10th)
 11/30 Orion Dixon (13th)
 11/30 Priscilla Feld
 11/30 Sarah Witte

DECEMBER 2021

12/3 Zach Bastow
 12/4 Rebecca Oliver
 12/4 Susan Cohen Raphael
 12/7 Alyssa Diller (21st)

12/8 Robin Curtis
 12/9 Mira Schott McCurdy (1st)
 12/10 Trisha Adelstein
 12/11 Marvin Wayne
 12/13 Shelly Pravda
 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (16th)
 12/15 Anna Booker
 12/15 Niall Ó Murchú
 12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine
 12/18 David Strich
 12/19 Peter Burkill
 12/19 Cathie Diller
 12/19 Shira Gold
 12/19 Cinda Zemel
 12/22 Jennifer Seltz
 12/23 John Sternlicht
 12/26 David Halpern
 12/27 Philip Buri
 12/27 Jacob Garretson
 12/28 Ella Keefe (8th)
 12/28 Mark Pomerantz
 12/29 Andrew Schwarz
 12/30 Shawn Clarke

The Kvelling Corner



Emily Weiner is very proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, **Eleanor Ruth Witter McGarrity**, who was born on September 21, 2021. Eleanor's parents are Patrick McGarrity and Rachel Witter and her big brother is Niilo

(age 2½). The Witter McGarrity family moved to Bellingham in July and look forward to connecting with CBI (where Patrick celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in 1997). Mazel Tov to the family!

Welcome to our new members!

Jason & Carly Benhaim – Bellingham

Dick & Bonnie Cavell – Camano Island

John Cook – Bellingham

Avi & Corinne Hecht, daughter **Eloise** (age 6) and son **Ansel** (age 5) – Bellingham

Ginger John – Bellingham

Miah & John LaMont, and son **Nate** (age 10 months) – Bellingham

Fredda Robinson – Bellingham

Samantha Sommers and Thalen Cambo – Bellingham

Nathan Tableman – Bellingham

Faces in Our Community: Katie and David Edelstein

BY LINDA HIRSH

Watching a fellow Hadassah National Board member suffer from kidney disease wrenched Katie Edelstein's heart, so Katie donated one of hers. Judaism's tikkun olam inspired her to give the ultimate gift.

Although Katie grew up in an observant Christian home, her husband David wanted to raise his three children as Jews, and along the way, she learned about Judaism and “fell in love with it,” she said.

In 1983, she became a Jew. “While I never insisted that Katie convert to Judaism before we were married, I was very happy when she made this decision herself,” said David, who is a fervent Zionist.

Again and again, Katie has proved that connection to Judaism by her involvement with Hadassah, the World Zionist Organization of America. It is the largest women's volunteer organization in the U.S., with over 300,000 members in the United States. Katie served as board member of the Bellingham Chapter of Hadassah, Pacific Northwest Region President of Hadassah, and on the National Hadassah Board for 10 years, as well as serving in other roles.

Apparently her colleagues agree. Friend Julie Morris of Spokane said,



David and Katie Edelstein.

“Katie is the most talented, kind, smart, dependable volunteer that everyone on the National adored and acknowledged. Working in membership, leadership, presidents' training and strategic planning, Katie educated others, mentored and inspired the many volunteers who were a part of her teams. We all love her.”

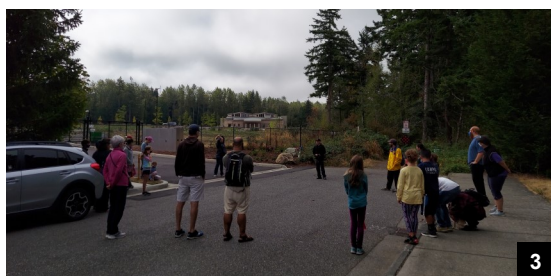
Both Katie and David have also served on the CBI board and on other committees.

Katie was born in Detroit, growing up in Bloomfield Hills, MI, with parents, three siblings, and extended family. Weekly dinners and summer

reunions drew them close. She loved attending sports events, especially for the Detroit Lions football team, where her grandfather was one of the owners. She also enjoyed outdoor recreation — swimming, boating, sailing, fishing, and skiing — at her grandfather's home in the Michigan hills. She graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in zoology, then interned at Glen Cove Community Hospital in Huntington, New York to become a lab technologist.

Continued on Page 10

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!



1. to 3. Keshet hike near the synagogue property.
 4. Sisterhood hike at Big Rock Garden Park, rear from left: Joan Wayne, Mary Knight, Marta Brand, Ann Suloway; front: Fran Levy and Melissa Schapiro.
 5. Sukkot services. 6. Rabbi Samuels blessing the arba'at ha-minim.

CANTOR'S CORNER

Continued from Page 6

2. Best Parodies: It's a tie between "A Star Wars Chanukah" by Six13 & Hasmonean and "A Hamilton Hanukkah" by The Maccabeats.

3. Best Original Song: "Pass the Candle" by Michelle Citrin. Make sure to watch the music video that goes with it - super fun! And after this catchy song gets into your head, you'll always know the proper way to light your *chanukiyah*.

4. Best Traditional and Most Misunderstood Song: "Maoz Tzur" (Rock of Ages). Words written near the end

of the twelfth century, and not at all what the sung English says, this song might not have been intended for Chanukah.

5. Best Performance: "Ocho Kandelikas" by Flory Jagoda, performed by Pink Martini.

6. Best Chanukah Message: "Light One Candle" by Peter, Paul and Mary.

7. Best Simply Silly Songs: "The Chanukah Song" by Adam Sandler and "Hanukkah in Santa Monica" by Tom Lehrer.

8. Best Overall Chanukah Song: "Miracle by Matisyahu."

KATIE AND DAVID EDELSTEIN

Continued from Page 8

After graduating from college, she joined the hospital's chemistry department, becoming supervisor.

Brooklyn born, Long Island raised, David grew up with similar close family connections. David got an early start in the construction business, sweeping houses at the age of five, for his father, who was a contractor. He continued working for him.

Regarding David, Katie says, "You can take the boy out of New York, but you can't take New York out of the boy." Indeed, the city was integral in his life. He displays a large map of Long Island on his office wall, and most of the housing developments he builds are named after New York locations. David graduated from Akron University in Ohio with an economics degree, then joined the Army Infantry for two years.

When Katie moved to New York to finish her internship, she kept her Ohio University sticker on the back of her VW. David noticed the sticker, and struck up a conversation about shared Ohio college experiences. After dating for two years, David and Katie married in 1973. On their honeymoon, they traveled around northern Europe. Riding their motorcycle

on the dikes of the Netherlands and through congested London traffic during a torrential rainstorm made the trip especially adventurous.

In 1978, seeking a quieter place to live, they visited Bellingham then continued south. But California was not to their liking. Bellingham, with its housing boom, beckoned. They moved here in 1979. When the Edelsteins moved to Bellingham, he started Greenbriar Construction, building hundreds of homes in all price ranges.

In 1998, Katie joined David's company, teaming up with him to use her artistic skill in interior and exterior design as well as helping him manage rental properties.

"I am proud to be a second generation builder, following in the footsteps of my father who was a master builder," David said. The Edelsteins have four children: Matthew, 46, lives in Brooklyn; Nathan, 44, in Keaau, Hawaii with his wife and three daughters; Jessica in Bellingham with her husband and three sons; and Joshua, 37, in Bellingham with his fiancée and their daughter. Both Jessica and Joshua work in Greenbriar Construction.

Jessica's sons not only played in an area on the business's grounds that Grandpa reserved for them, but they have also attended school

through Zoom there, "a second home for them," Katie said.

David agrees. "Having my wife, son, and daughter working with us, and now my grandsons visiting our family business, gives me such pleasure," he said.

But life is more than all work and no play. For amusement, David has raced vintage sports cars. Each summer, he aims to better his time at Pacific Northwest tracks with his 1963 or 1968 Corvettes. He also is a board member for the Whatcom County Home Builders Association, the Bellingham Planning Commission, and the Bellingham Public Library.

Katie has always created art, whether sewing clothes and costumes for her kids, painting, or designing and making hats. And she loves travel. She was in eighth grade when her grandmother took her to Europe for three months, visiting nine countries. She and David have continued the tradition.

Katie has visited Israel more than 30 times. "When I step off the plane at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, regardless of the number of times I've visited Israel, it feels like a homecoming."

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IN APPRECIATION TO:

Janis Ban, Hank Levine, Corrine Gimbel-Levine, Sylvia Williams, and the committee for their loving care and support of my parents, Nate and Phyllis Kronenberg (z"l)
From: Jeff Kronenberg (Boise, ID)

The Committee
From: Phyllis Mazur

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack – in thanks for the Rabbi's *drashes*, and for Andrea's singing, during the

High Holy Days

From: Richard Widerkehr

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack – in thanks for CBI's High Holy Days services

From: Myrna Loceff (Bellingham)

Rabbi Samuels, for sharing his ethical will on Yom Kippur

From: Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis

Rabbi Samuels, for his guidance and support

From: Daniel & Sharona Feller

IN HONOR OF:

Our daughter Lucy becoming a Bat Mitzvah

From: Nicky & Jesse Naiman

* Lucy Naiman, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

* Liza Jane Price, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

* Mary Somerville, for her 25th Anniversary at CBI

From: Patrick Crane

Andrea Shupack's leadership and voice

From: Jerry & Marilyn Eisner

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Miriam Davids, in loving memory of Perry

From: Sara Geballe & Steve James

Mrs. Stuart Seiler & Family (San Francisco), in memory of Stuart Seiler

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)

Iris Parker, in loving memory of her mother, Harriet Rosenberg

From: Debra & Bruce Parelskin (Bellingham)

IN MEMORIAM:

In memory of my mother, Flora Feld, and of her long life, with gratitude to Rabbi Samuels for his support

From: Jeffrey Feld

* In memory of my beloved mother, Dora Graff

* In memory of Shelly's beloved mother, Esther Klain Mazur

From: Phyllis Mazur

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Alan Roohvarg (Friday Harbor)

RABBI GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Scot Barker (Golden, CO)

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Emil Hecht – in celebration of his 80th birthday and a lifetime of being a Mensch

From: Mia, Todd, Josie, Vivian & Audrey Ellis

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Joan Wayne – thank you for the delivery of the holiday "goodies"

From: Fredda Robinson

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Linda Blackwell and David Goldman

From: Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting

Roby Blecker

From: Janis & Steve Ban

IN HONOR OF:

Jaime Korner, in celebration of her earning her doctorate degree

From: Sylvia Williams

David Goldman, for his tireless work to source, install and deliver top quality audio/visual options to our congregation in time for the High Holidays

From: Jodi Litt

Liza Jane Price, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. We're so proud of you – Mazel Tov!

From: Alisa Sachs, Mark Price, and Ezra Price

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Iris Parker, in memory of her beloved mother, Harriet Rosenberg

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

Jeff Feld, in memory of his beloved mother, Flora Feld

From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Marta & Craig Brand - for landscaping and acoustic improvements
Richard Widerkehr - for landscaping
Lou & Marcia Lippman

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Geraldine Reitz, for the loan of the book, *Journey of the Soul*

From: Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis



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FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

long services where you just keep singing and singing. It is quite impressive. I want to thank you for being a wonderful clergy partner and for taking our community even higher.

Samantha Sinai: Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us again this year. Your cello playing is something I very much look forward to hearing. I think I echo so many other voices when I express how profoundly moving your playing is.

David Goldman, Asher Suloway-Baker, Warren Palken, and the Audio/Visual team: Wow! We just entered a whole new era with our brand-new setup. We now have the capability to do so many different things in the sanctuary, and I am so impressed by the fact that we got it all working in time for Rosh Hashanah. Minor hiccups aside, I have heard from many people who joined us virtually that they felt a part of the Beth Israel community because of the way they were connected. The multiple camera angles and the video transitions were splendid. Thank you David Goldman, for leading this effort. Now let's find some folks to train so they can assist on any given Friday evening.

Hank Levine, Steve Ban and Stuart Berman: Thank you for leading second-day Rosh Hashanah with me. It continues to be an honor to share the *bima* with each of you. And to all of our Torah and haftarah chanters, *yasher koach!* I think I was the only one who didn't chant in High Holy Day trope this year. I hope you inspired others to want to chant next time around.

David Cohn, Dan Ohms, and Gabe Witte: Thank you for your stellar shofar sounding. Gabe, we are all so proud of you and we all look forward to hearing your shofar sounding for years to come. Thank you for carrying on this sacred tradition.

Sue Mahar, Rita Spitzer and the Membership Committee: Thank you for welcoming everyone with smiling faces and assisting people with questions. I am especially grateful that you helped us make everyone feel comfortable entering the synagogue despite our Covid policies.

Steve Ban, Paul Blum, and the Covid-19 Task

Force: We could not have worshipped in person without your guidance. Thank you for the advice, emails, and meetings that took you away from your families so we could hammer out all the details of creating a safe space to gather in.

Jodi Litt and Karen Sloss: Thank you for organizing so much of what goes on behind the scenes, from setting up the chairs in pods, to the floral arrangements, to handling all of the intangibles. It was a big job, and I appreciate your leadership this year.

CBI Board of Directors: Thank you for your support and for ushering.

So much of what makes all of our experiences possible happens behind the scenes, with people working long hours to ensure we provide a meaningful experience for our members and guests. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Mary Somerville: There isn't enough room in this issue to thank you for all that you do for our community. The weeks leading up to the High Holy Days are hectic, for lack of a better word, and somehow, you manage to keep everything on track and organized. Thank you also for being the friendly voice on the other side of the phone when new and prospective members reach out for the first time. We have welcomed many new families into our community this season and we owe a great deal of gratitude to you for this growth in our membership.

And lastly, I want to thank **Nicole, Eytan, and Shoshana**, for supporting and encouraging me throughout this High Holy Day Season. Thank you for helping me take my mind off sermon-writing and High Holy Day logistics so we could instead play a game, get gelato, or go on an adventure. Those breaks help my productivity. And now that we have entered the month of *Heshvan* with no Jewish holidays, I am looking forward to making pancakes for breakfast once again.

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

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



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Treasurer's Corner

Building Our New Home—a Funding Update

BY KAREN SLOSS

The Building Fund, also known as “The New Synagogue Fund” in recent years, has been a fixture of Beth Israel’s finances since the congregation’s early days. It’s been particularly active the past 21+ years as we designed and built our new campus. Over \$8 million from close to 300 donors has flowed into and out of the Building Fund since the new synagogue was conceived and a formal fundraising program (the “Capital Campaign”) was initiated in early 2000. CBI congregants and CBI friends, with donations of all sizes, have made this new home for the Jewish community of NW Washington possible.

In the past year, the final effort of the Capital Campaign involved an offer to “match” any donations pledged by March 31, 2021 in order to complete various aspects of the New Synagogue Project. To date, extensive landscaping and a memorial garden were installed, new AV equipment and acoustic enhancements have been imple-

mented, and further security measures are underway. The CBI Board intends to focus on the main-floor commercial kitchen and *bima* furniture to complement the new Ark in the coming months.

The Match was successful in funding these key items, but additional contributions are still needed to properly finish and furnish the building, as well as to prepare for future capital needs. Everyone is encouraged to consider the CBI Building Fund in their year-end giving, but your participation and support are welcome anytime! Anyone who has not yet had an opportunity to invest in this project may want to contact Karen Sloss, Treasurer, at karenbham@aol.com or Josh Greenberg, President, at greenbergjoshua@gmail.com, for further details. Donations to the CBI Building Fund can be made by check, credit card, Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA, or transfer of stock/mutual fund shares.

New Books in Our Library

BY JOAN WAYNE

We have interesting new books in our library that you may want to check out:

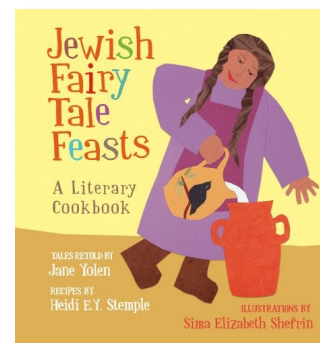


Did you and your children love the *All-of-a-Kind* books? These books about an early twentieth-century family were the first juvenile novels published by a

mainstream publisher to feature Jewish children characters. They are available for check-out in our children’s library. Now the first, and only, biography of beloved author Sydney Taylor is available in the biography section of our adult library. *From Sarah to Sydney: The Woman Behind All-of-a-Kind-Family*, by June Cummins, explores the author’s history and family and how they inspired her classic stories.



We also recommend that you check out a new Gotham City Hero, Willow, a Jewish teen, in the graphic novel, *Whistle*, by E. Lockhart. There have been many Jewish heroes and villains in the comics before, but none where the hero’s Jewish identity and culture so imbue the character and her hero’s journey.



Enjoy Jewish Fairy Tales paired with easy to prepare recipes in *Jewish Fairytale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook*, by Jane Yolen and Heidi E.Y. Stemple. This is a great opportunity to both read and cook with your family, tying two great joys together.

November/December 2021 Shabbat Service Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: All services and Torah study will be accessible on Zoom. Each Friday evening service will be hybrid, allowing fully vaccinated congregants and visitors to worship in the sanctuary, provided they are masked at all times and maintain social distancing. This schedule is subject to change, so please watch the weekly *Timbrel* for updates.

Friday, Nov. 5	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Saturday, Nov. 6	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Toledot</i>) 10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack	Friday, Dec. 10 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Nov. 12	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Saturday, Dec. 11 9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayigash</i>)
Saturday, Nov. 13	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayetze</i>)	Friday, Dec. 17 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Nov. 19	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Saturday, Dec. 18 9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayechi</i>)
Saturday, Nov. 20	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayishlach</i>)	Friday, Dec. 24 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Friday, Nov. 26	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Saturday, Dec. 25 9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Shemot</i>) 10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan
Saturday, Nov. 27	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayeshev</i>) 10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan	Friday, Dec. 31 6:15 pm Fifth Friday "Shabbat At Home." Rabbi will lead blessings over Zoom
Friday, Dec. 3	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet seventh Grade class	Saturday, Jan. 1 9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vaera</i>) 10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Saturday, Dec. 4	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Miketz</i>)	

Anniversaries

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(# 35)
Nov. 7	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#17)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(# 25)
Nov. 23	Iris & Kevin Parker	(# 46)
Nov. 29	Floyd King & Leigh Squires	(# 19)
Dec. 6	David & Annie Kiersky	(# 36)
Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(# 47)
Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(# 41)
Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter- Schlesinger	(# 37)
Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(# 56)
Dec. 21	Corey Welch & Judy Diamond	(# 35)
Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(# 45)
Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(# 17)
Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(# 56)
Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(# 50)
Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(# 24)

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.

B'NEI MITZVAH DURING COVID

Continued from Page 4

community growing among this group has been a beautiful thing to witness. Sarah Witte writes, "It is so cool to have our kids have meaningful relationships with Jewish peers." Now that we are doing more things in person, it is not unheard of for students to pitch in to decorate event venues, light candles together on the bima, or let loose on the dance floor.

Our group of parents have also forged close connections. Sarah DesRosiers sums it up perfectly: "The silver lining was that I felt so much love and support from our B'nei Mitzvah families. I never felt alone in the process of planning. I feel that I was able to form close connections with parents/families in our B'nei Mitzvah cohort. Parents of our B'nei Mitzvah class helped me both with emotional support as well as logistics. They reminded me that it will be wonderful no matter what and that it will all work out. This positive encouragement really helped alleviate some of the stress. I am so grateful!"

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 5

Anna Mae Baker	11/6
Bette Bikman	11/7
Marvin Siegel	11/8
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	11/9
Lenore Shankman	11/9
Lily Swartz	11/10
Irma Stone	11/11
John Paschetag	11/12
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	11/12
Zelda Turovitz	11/12
Otto V. Vohl	11/12

Friday, November 12

Henri Benhaim	11/13
Hyman Bettman	11/13
Dick Eigen	11/13
Louis Groper	11/14
Herman Tabak	11/14
Nathan Thal	11/15
Pam Champagne	11/16
Henry David Weill	11/16
Gladys Bloch	11/17
Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/18
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	11/18

Friday, November 19

Amy Margolis	11/20
Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty	11/20
Samuel M. Pravda	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20
Abram Stolzoff	11/21
Elaine Cohn	11/22
Louise Reese	11/22
Sanford Thal	11/22
Otto Korneck	11/23
Mikel Luster	11/23
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Joseph Koplowitz	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Robin Hoffman	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26

Friday, November 26

Paula Brown	11/27
John Douglas (Doug) Freeman	11/27
Diane Lewis	11/27
Frances Feiger	11/28
Henry Frank	11/28
Rachel Jaffe	11/28
Joseph Robinson	11/28
John Lester	11/29
Nick Schira	11/29
Phyllis Heck	11/30
Elly Kraus	11/30
Lucille Rest	11/30
David Mendelsohn	12/1
Bernard Shuster	12/1
Ida Zderic	12/3

Friday, December 3

Bud Robinson	11/25
Edith Jensen	12/4

Joel Corman	12/5
Burton Jay	12/5
Nathan Loober	12/5
Sarah Patinkin	12/5
Leslie Spitzer	12/5
George Shaw	12/6
Victor Geretz	12/7
Bella Heller	12/7
Ray Redel	12/7
Frank Zderic	12/8
Richard Bloomfield	12/9
Ben Gordon	12/9
Marion Relin	12/9
Benjamin David Glazer	12/10

Friday, December 10

Barry Zell	12/11
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	12/12
Lois Looney	12/13
Cecile R. Gordon	12/15
Richard Kite	12/15
Regina Tein	12/15
George Garmo	12/16
Solomon Schwartz	12/16
Ivan Senzon	12/16
Alice Behrstock	12/17
Haskell David	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17

Friday, December 17

Pearl Turovitz	12/18
Joseph Soode	12/20
Solomon Thal	12/20
Rosalie Yacknin	12/20
Glinda Blackwell	12/21
Stanley Litt	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Jerry Roberts	12/22
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	12/22
Samuel Glazer	12/23
Joseph Kahan	12/24
Ben Thal	12/24
Irwin Wapner	12/24

Friday, December 24

Aimee Lewis	12/25
Arnold Loober	12/25
Anna Winefield Fox	12/26
David Miller	12/26
Aaron Sanger	12/26
Beatrice Weiss	12/26
William Zderic	12/26
Felice Bourne	12/27
Lillian Stiglitz Heller	12/27
Barney Cohn	12/28
Jack Diamond	12/28
Bette Levy	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
Jack Miller	12/29
Jack Siegel	12/29
Sol Rosenberg	12/30

Friday, December 31

(No Shabbat service – will be read on December 24)

Ruth Robinson	12/28
Samuel Altose	1/1
George Bikman	1/1
Rudolf Reitz	1/1
Maurice (Maury) Schwartz	1/2
Rachel Siegfried	1/2
Harry V. Welch, Jr	1/2
Marion Glassman	1/3
Ruth Jacobson	1/3
Philip Studen	1/3
Dale Allison Harriman	1/4
Lynn Shuster	1/4
William Aron Dorfman	1/5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5
Morris Kalman Patinkin	1/5
Frances Poplack	1/5
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5
Martin Katz	1/6
Harry Suslow	1/6
Florence Weintraub	1/6
Victorie Haislip	1/7
Henry Jantzen	1/7
Louis Lebowitz	1/7

In Memoriam

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

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

Daniel Feller on the loss of his mother, **Thelma Feller**, who passed away on September 11, 2021 at her senior-living facility in Scottsdale, Arizona. She was 96 years old.

Iris Parker on the loss of her mother, **Harriet Rosenberg**, who passed away on September 12, 2021.

Jeffrey Feld on the loss of his mother, **Flora Feld**, who passed away on Yom Kippur 5782 — September 16, 2021 — in Effie, Minnesota. Born during the last pandemic in 1918, Mrs. Feld was 103 years old.

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FOURTH NIGHT FOR OTHERS

A Chanukah Social Action Project

Wednesday, December 1
5:30-6:30 pm

Please join the Beth Israel community in observing
Fourth Night for Others.

On the fourth night of Chanukah, consider a break from presents in your house. Instead, bring a donation of new socks, sweatpants, shoes/boots, gloves, mini hand lotions, backpacks, sleeping bags, or \$10 gift cards to CBI that will help clients of local nonprofit Northwest Youth Services. These items will make a huge difference this winter in the lives of many homeless youth in our city.

Bring your donation to CBI, along with your *chanukiyah* and candles so we can kindle the festival lights as a community.

