

Why CBI Invited Kulshan Chorus To Sing

BY EMILY WEINER AND ANDREA SHUPACK



CBI's Programming Committee's goals for 2022 include both continuing to help the congregation explore how to increase equity, and to bring the community together for joyful activities, especially through music, and in person when possible. The

focus of our equity work has been the "Jews, Race and Justice" series, for which we are planning additional events. The committee was discussing musicians we might invite to

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FROM THE RABBI

Gathering Religiously in Pandemic Times

This is an edited version of an article Rabbi Samuels had published in the November La Conner Times.



In last year's Pew Research Center survey on religion in America, we learned that the Covid pandemic actually bolstered one's religious

faith. Nearly 30% of those surveyed reported a strengthening of their faith because of the pandemic. This number was almost double that of most other developed countries. In the early days of the pandemic, you might recall an uptick in our Friday night Sabbath observance numbers, even though we had gone entirely virtual. It was clear that congregants and friends of CBI wanted to feel connection even if they were not able to stand shoulder to shoulder with one another. This is not all that unusual, as people tend to become more religious, or at least show up to their houses of worship with more regularity, following a shared

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From the President...

Do You Remember?



Now is often the time we reflect on the past year before starting on the one ahead. Perhaps, like me, you are seeing reminders from your online apps,

sharing pictures and songs of the past year, quick reviews of all you have experienced in 2021.

In our house we are spending lots of time sharing memories, as we grieve the loss of one parent and discover the level of dementia in the surviving parent. Remembering all of the great lessons and experiences we had with my father-in-law brings us so much joy in our sorrow. We carry his memory in our hearts. At the same time, I am struck with how critical memory is for daily function as I witness my mother-in-law's inability to hold onto her short-term memories. I have even been waxing philosophical about how much of who we are is really the memories we hold. Things we have learned, experiences we have had, people we have met are all stored magically in that mushy organ, the brain. Memory is how we move from being entirely reflexive to being intelligent.

As we get older, many of us panic about losing our memory. If you read the title of this article and started humming the Phil Collins song, you are likely in that group. Even young people stress about remembering everything they have learned as they sit down for a test. I am thankful we have tricks to help us. My password application to keep track of my online passwords brings me much comfort.

It's a bit like the old Jewish joke about two older couples who are getting together for dinner:

One of the men asked the other, "Moishe, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?"

"Outstanding," Moishe replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques, like visualization, association, and so on. It was great. I haven't had a problem since."

"Sounds like something I could use. What was the name of the clinic?"

Moishe went blank. He thought and thought, but couldn't remember.

Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?"

"You mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's it!"

Moishe turned to his wife, "Hey, Rose, what was the name of that memory clinic?"

This hits close to home for me. I have always had a hard time remembering and have had to use tricks.

In reflecting on memory in Judaism, I have found more meaning in the end of our Kaddish prayer זיכרוננו לברכה (*Zichrono Livrach*): "May their memory be for a blessing." Being able to have memories at all is a blessing. The ability to remember events, whether they are painful or joyful, define who we are and shape what we do with our time. It allows us to improve. Our lessons from those no longer with us are often the most profound recollections.

I appreciate all of the time our CBI Dedication Committee members (chaired by Katie Edelstein) have been spending on helping us to establish our institutional memory. Creating plaques, bricks, and art throughout our building reminds us who helped make our new building possible. Thank you to those who have made generous donations. They will soon be working on our new *Yahrzeit* wall, and I am looking

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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From the Keshar Center for Jewish Learning

Keshar Winter Highlights

BY ANDREA SHUPACK AND VICTORIA MAYERS

Keshar has been busy, and we are having fun engaged in Jewish learning in the building, and twice on Zoom since September. Here are some highlights of the amazing work of our teachers and staff over the past two months: We had a super-fun Chanukah Day with various rotations of mixed-age groups. Rotations included an arts and crafts table, obstacle course, dreidel tournaments, Chanukah Jewpardy game, and an exciting Chanukah-themed scavenger hunt for fourth-eighth grades.

Our Zoom Days, occurring four times over the course of the school year, have allowed us to travel the world and meet new people.

The fifth/sixth-grade class is learning about other Jewish cultures and communities around the world. Victoria connected teacher Kevin with *Kulanu*, a Jewish non-profit outreach organization, and together for our Zoom Day they set up a video conference with three Jewish children from Zimbabwe. The students shared some of their life experiences and Jewish learning with each other. A couple of weeks later, Kevin's class made a very sweet Chanukah greeting video for the students in Zimbabwe they had met, and they plan to connect again in the future.

Fourth grade is learning to decode Hebrew and how to study and interpret Torah on a deeper level. Andrea reached out to an old friend in England, Avielah Barclay, the first woman to be certified as a Torah scribe. Avielah visited with the fourth-grade class on our Zoom Day, showing her tools, talking about her craft as a *soferet*, and even showing them a Torah from the Holocaust that she is currently repairing. The students had so many amazing questions for her that she was very impressed.

Eighth graders took a virtual tour of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibit they viewed was "Americans and the Holocaust." Also, teacher Leah and Steve Ban are negotiating how to integrate a curriculum program he's developing, which includes videotaped presentations of his mother, Noemi Ban. Ray Wolpov is also working with us to plan a visit, as well as incorporating Noemi's book, *Sharing is Healing*, for the spring.

Second and third graders took a virtual tour of Israel and K/1 took a virtual tour of a zoo in Israel while they learned about the Noah story.

Starting after winter break in early January, fifth-seventh graders will get an extra Hebrew boost. During the week, students will meet in very small groups

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Gan Yeladim students show their Chanukah art.

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FROM THE RABBI

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calamity. For example, our Friday evening Shabbat service immediately after the 2018 Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh was packed to High Holy Day numbers. Traumatic events, whether caused by humans or nature, clearly propel congregants of various faiths to seek out the comfort and wisdom which their respective religious traditions provide. In other words, in times of crisis, people show up.

Now that we have settled a bit more into the current state of living amidst a pandemic, it seems as though religious service attendance has begun to decline past pre-Covid numbers. Even after opening to in-person services, following a hybrid model, attendance at the shul appears to be lower than I can ever remember. Most weeks, far more congregants show up virtually than at the synagogue itself. And many people who once attended with regularity, before and during the beginning of the pandemic, are nowhere to be found. This is not unique to our community, but is a trend in many faith institutions across the country. What is going on here? Are people not wanting to gather in person or have we become too accustomed to staying home? More distressing is to

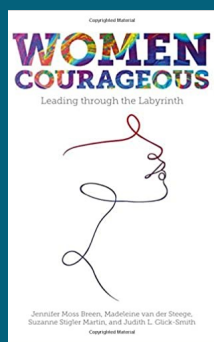
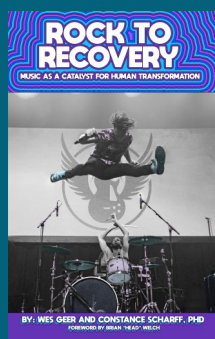
think that people are not finding religion to be a necessary component in their lives.

In a recent *Atlantic* article, "My Church Doesn't Know What To Do Anymore," Elizabeth Felicetti, rector of an Episcopal church in Virginia, writes, "After a year of trying to assure people that we were still the church even when we weren't in the same room, I don't know how to convince them now of the importance of gathering in person. In 2020, no one could come to church. Now some of my parishioners are choosing not to."

I very much hope that this dip in religious service attendance is just a current side effect of the pandemic, which has been disruptive to nearly all facets of life since March 2020. Perhaps my clergy colleagues and I are not being patient enough. In time, our sanctuaries and holy spaces will slowly fill back up. Despite all the changes we've made to adapt to this new world, it seems as though many congregants are not quite ready. Whatever the reason, we want them to know we miss them, and religious communal life isn't the same without them.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

The Kvelling Corner



Two recently published books feature chapters about CBI's own Dr. Ahuva (Constance) Scharff. The book she coauthored, *Rock to Recovery: Music as a Catalyst for Human Transformation* discusses the ways in which music can help people recover from addiction, trauma, and mental health

issues. *Women Courageous: Leading Through the Labyrinth* describes Dr. Scharff's leadership of the organization Rock to Recovery and the difficulties women face leading in male-dominated organizations and industries. In each of the books, Dr. Scharff's story is shared in chapter 18 — the number of life. Both books are available on Amazon.

Welcome to our new members!

Rochelle & Jeff LaPlante, daughter **Audrey** (age 13) and son **Toby** (age 11) — Arlington

Patrick McGarrity & Rachel Witter, son **Niilo** (age 2¾) and daughter **Eleanor** (age 3 months) — Bellingham

From the Social Action Committee

The *Shmita* Year in Environmental and Spiritual Practice

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

The Social Action Committee is exploring how the congregation can incorporate the teachings of the *Shmita* year in our environmental and spiritual practices. We now meet in a *Chavurah* to support and educate ourselves on why we need a time to rest and seek balance as a community, and how to strive for a more equitable society. Andrea Shupack recently presented a summary of the *Shmita* year to our local Multifaith Network for Climate Justice (MNCJ) in Bellingham. Some of the information below is from her discussion and also from the website The *Shmita* Project (shmitaproject.org).

According to the Torah, every seventh year is to be a *Shnat Shmita*, a year of release. As every seventh day is a day of rest, the *Shmita* year is a Shabbat of all Shabbats. This is the year of release from debts, the release of slaves, and the release of the land to rest. All land is to be left fallow. One is not allowed to sell or to make a profit from the fields and only take what they need to eat.

Shmita is mentioned seven times in the Torah, and there are seven rules of the *Shmita* year in the text:

1. The land should rest also.
2. Preferential treatment for foraging is given to the needy.
3. The land is allowed to return to the wild, once again allowing access to wild animals.
4. Debts are forgiven, helping to close the gap between the wealthy and the destitute.
5. Slaves are freed.
6. Upon release, freed slaves should be compensated for their slave labor.
7. All the people should gather for a public reading of the Torah.

The *Shmita* Project was developed by Hazon and partners to explore the intersection of the *Shmita* wisdom teachings with contemporary Jewish life, both in America and in Israel, in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute.

"The goal of the *Shmita* Project is to significantly raise awareness of the concept of *Shmita* and a way to learn about an extraordinary and rich Jewish tradition. Of biblical origin, the land is left fallow, debts are forgiven, agricultural and economic adjustments are made to ensure the maintenance of an equitable, just, and healthy society." There are questions about how the *Shmita* year worked or how long it was actually practiced in ancient Israel. The present-day practice in Israel was more fully

developed by Rabbi Abraham Kook in 1909 when *Shabbat Haaretz* was published.

In 2014, the Israel Knesset made a *Schmita* Israelite Declaration:

"During *Shmita*, property assumes less importance, time is less pressured, and nature becomes much more than a resource to be exploited. *Shmita* presents an alternative to the race of modern life and is characterized by love of the people and Land, a heightened sense of social responsibility, and a framework for environmental practice. *Shmita* invites us to renew quality of life in all spheres of reality, through a unique public effort. It is a year of social involvement, spiritual and ethical renewal, and deep environmental reflection; it is a year of brotherhood and sisterhood, culture, spirit, family, and community. It is a gateway in time — once in seven years, a renewal of the covenant between humans and the Earth. It is a year that leaves a distinct impression on the subsequent six years."

The laws concerning *Shmita* were given in the context of living in Israel but many Jews in and outside of Israel are taking up the spirit of the laws to advocate for justice, equality, and the repair of the Earth.

More to the point in our present lives, this could be a year to pause and observe how we interact with the Divine. To interrupt and consider social justice and climate change, we can reassess where our priorities are for a new normal. We can take a break to change our patterns of consumption. We can offer aid for food equity.

The Social Action Committee is encouraging everyone to consider some changes to their homes and in the Bellingham Community as presented in the biweekly *Shmita* Corner in the *Timbrel*. We want to share the little steps we are taking and inspire others to try something new. Please contact Andrea Shupack or Linda Blackwell to participate in the *Chavurah* or on the Social Action Committee.

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Cantor's Corner

Tu B'shevat & Genesis — Helping Us Connect to the More-Than-Human World

BY ANDREA SHUPACK

Tu B'shevat is the Jewish holiday for the trees and the calendar's way of counting when we can enjoy eating their fruits, since we are commanded not to eat the fruit of a tree for its first three years. It has also become for many like an Earth Day, as environmentalists lift up this holiday to remind us how we can better take care of God's creation. With Tu B'shevat just around the corner, beginning on Sunday night, January 16, and given that we are currently in a year of *Shmita* (see this issue's Social Action Committee article for more information on what the *Shmita* year is), I want to share with you some of the learning and inspiration I received in a recent class at my seminary, AJR, called "Judaism and the Earth."

We know the Genesis story of Noah, and the rainbow which marked God's covenant with Noah and his descendants. The Torah says, "I will establish My covenant with you, and never again will all flesh be cut off by the flood waters, and there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth" (Gen. 9:11). But I previously glossed over the striking piece from the previous verse, "And with every living creature that is with you...of all the living creatures of the earth" (Gen. 9:10), and an even more surprising line a couple of verses later, "...it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Myself and the earth."

In his article "A Sentient Universe", Everett Gendler makes a compelling case that Judaism's sacred texts begin with an assumption that all of creation is sentient and has a covenant with God. Gendler says, "To accept seriously God's covenant with other living creatures as well as with the earth itself raises questions that are disconcerting, yet exciting." What are the implications of our place on this earth if humans are not the only ones who have this special covenantal relationship with the Divine? What if every hawk, centipede, even plant and rock is also made *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of the Divine? If all the earth has a covenant with the Divine, then is it a stretch to think that all life is sentient? And even if that is going too far, surely the story of Noah is teaching us that all creation has intrinsic value, not just a purpose to serve humans.

"In the beginning"—the very first words of the Torah, when each part of the universe was created, "God saw that it was good." Only when everything was created on the sixth day, and everything began working as a collective, interconnected ONE, did it move from "good" to "very good." When we begin to notice that interconnectedness among all things, and how we are each depend-

ent upon everything else (trees to breathe, and so on), this can have a profound impact on how we regard and behave in the world. When we cease to see non-humans as "other," or a lower form of creation, we cannot continue to relate to the rest of creation (or as David Abrams coined the term, the "more-than-human world") in the same way.

Rabbi David Seidenberg, the creator of neohasid.org, and one of the world's foremost experts on Judaism and ecology, wrote in his book *Kabbalah and Ecology: God's Image in the More-Than-Human World*, "Creation is inherently whole or moving toward perfection, with every species (past, present, and future) being an essential part of that wholeness of movement." Humans are a crucial piece, but no more or less so than every other piece in the universe.

These are the deepest messages I took away from my "Judaism and the Earth" class, and how I strive to walk in the world. I still struggle, as I expect I always will, with how to apply this to real life, such as in the fact that I eat animals. I still believe that eating cow is very different from eating broccoli, but if I should not put a hierarchy on the value of any creature, shouldn't I at least approach plants with similar respect and appreciation as I must with meat? And even if I learn to lift up all creation equally, I am still left with the struggles of being a meat-eater. My commitment to eat only pasture-raised animals still leaves so many issues unresolved, such as having dominion over other creatures, valuing an animal's soul, the larger impact on the planet of raising them, and more. If, as Rav Kook and many other sages interpreted Torah as saying that permission to eat meat was a temporary concession to humans to pacify our violent urges, should this practice end? One helpful clue might be a quote in Talmud from Pesachim 49b, "Only a scholar of Torah may eat meat, but one who is ignorant of Torah is forbidden to eat meat." Perhaps we can eat meat, but we need deep honing of our spirituality in order to fully comprehend and honor the lives we take. Only then can we eat meat while caring for all creation and resisting becoming violent creatures.

Ultimately, I was left with more questions than clarity after taking this class. But what has become clear for me personally is that compassion and awareness are essential to developing more wholesome and unified

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January/February 2022 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* or the Beth Israel website for updates.

Saturday, Jan. 1	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vaera</i>)	Friday, Feb. 4	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet Fourth Grade class
	10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack	Saturday, Feb. 5	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat T'rumah</i>)
Friday, Jan. 7	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet Fifth/Sixth Grade class		10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Saturday, Jan. 8	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Bo</i>)	Friday, Feb. 11	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Jan. 14	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Saturday, Feb. 12	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat T'tzaveh</i>)
Saturday, Jan. 15	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat B'shalach</i>)	Friday, Feb. 18	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, Jan. 21	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Saturday, Feb. 19	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i>)
Saturday, Jan. 22	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Yitro</i>)	Friday, Feb. 25	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
	10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan	Saturday, Feb. 26	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayak'heil</i>)
Friday, Jan. 28	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble		10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan
Saturday, Jan. 29	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>)		

Anniversaries

Jan. 1	Ella & Alan Barney	(# 9)
Jan. 6	David Goldman & Linda Blackwell	(# 38)
Jan. 8	Lindsey & Jordan Genut	(# 13)
Feb. 17	Rob & Kathy Grossman	(# 16)
Feb. 17	David & Carol Robinson	(# 42)

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

Golden Girls Lunch Bunch

Until Covid came along, the Golden Girls met on the last Monday of the month at noon at a local restaurant. Now they're considering starting up again, perhaps in March, depending on updates about variants and safety precautions. Call Rose Hurowitz at (360) 656-6508 if you're interested in joining the group and want to talk about restarting this friendly gathering.

Faces in Our Community: Stuart and Judy Berman

BY LINDA HIRSH

Imagine trekking through a Borneo jungle to stay with a tribe of headhunters, no longer practicing cannibalism, just to see how they lived. Judy Berman did that and more.

"It was my first awakening to the world as such an incredibly diverse place with very different people, each with very different ideas about how to live and what to believe — and yet, having so much in common."

Divergencies meeting commonalities is a theme in Judy's life. She and her husband, Stuart, are a prime example.

"We have differing origin stories, but we've been married for 48 years," Stuart said, proving that couples with varying backgrounds can be compatible. "We are both family-centered, enjoy music and search for meaning in this chaotic world."

When matching up the facts of the Bermans' early lives side by side, the contrast is clear. Stuart grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, once a middle-class Jewish neighborhood which evolved into a Hasidic ghetto. He remembers playing basketball and attending Dodger games. His father was a doctor, and their home was above his father's office.

Judy's home was on the opposite coast in Los Angeles, where she wandered its streets, roller-skated, picked flowers, and fitted her feet



Judy and Stuart Berman.

into the footprints of the stars on the then Grauman's Chinese Theatre forecourt. Then, when the family moved to San Jose, the cooler weather took her inside, playing records, sewing and watching old movies with her sisters.

Stuart attended a Conservative Jewish day school, then public school, Boston University, Hofstra College, and finally San Francisco State, where he studied English literature. He counts among his intellectual influences Joseph Campbell, I.B. Singer, Gerson Scholem, and Thomas Mann. Despite being raised in a Conservative household, he said he was alienated from Judaism until his thirties because "the Judaism I

grew up with was one in which you accepted everything and didn't question anything." He returned to Judaism when Judy decided to convert. He now leads Torah Study as a substitute for Rabbi Samuels, writes and delivers sermons, and teaches stories about the great rabbis.

Jay Wolfman acknowledged Stuart's intellectual contributions. "I have always found Stu to be a fount of knowledge, always willing to explain things clearly," he said.

Judy, who graduated from high school in San Jose and attended San Jose State University as a psychology major, was raised in a

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CHANUKAH, B'NEI MITZVAH, AND BOOK SIGNINGS



1. to 4. Chanukah, Fourth Night for Others. 5. Dreidel spin-off winners: Max Naiman, Lucy Naiman, Norah DesRosiers, Max Braunstein. 6. Witte family and the curly fry cart. 7. Hot and oily curly fries. 8. Kevin Donner signing books. 9. Nora Seltz receiving her *siddur* at the sixth grade Family B'nei Mitzvah night. 10. Max Braunstein receiving his *siddur*.

WHY CBI INVITED KULSHAN CHORUS TO SING

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perform when we were delighted to receive a proposal from Kulshan Chorus to perform at CBI in January.

We are welcoming Kulshan Chorus to CBI because the concert will be a joyful gathering, and also because they celebrate and advance equity through their music. We decided that all proceeds from concert

donations will go to Kulshan Chorus to honor and support their long-time contributions to Whatcom County, and to help them recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. (Kulshan Chorus is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.)

COVID protocols will be robust: Masks are required for both performers and attendees throughout the event. Attendees need to register, and bring proof of vaccination (for all ages) and photo ID (of adults and

teens) for check-in at the door. Attendance is limited to 300 so there is room for social distancing by family/friend pods. Although CBI tries to include a remote option for in-person events, in this case we cannot because Zoom doesn't produce acceptable sound quality for a choral performance.

CBI and Kulshan Chorus member Vermeda Fred has written the following article about this upcoming concert.

Why We Sing

BY VERMEDA FRED

Through nearly 24 months of the Covid-19 pandemic to date, everyone's way of life and how we interact with others has drastically changed. Performing artists, especially, have been shuttered and silenced. Whether we might be singers, actors, or dancers, we could not rehearse together, let alone perform indoors. Performers and audiences alike have all been pleading: When can we safely come together again for the love of the performing arts?

We are answering that question with: Now's the time. Through the generous collaboration of Congregation Beth Israel, led by the CBI Programming Committee, and Bellingham's historic Kulshan Chorus, congregants and the general public will soon be treated to an in-person concert in our sanctuary. Dustin Willetts, the chorus's Artistic Director, has shared his thoughts about this show in his interview with me:

Why is the program titled "Why We Sing," and why is the Kulshan Chorus performing now?

"Beginning in September, our singers have been coming together every week to sing in person as a family. In 2020-2021, we sang from our homes on Zoom. Now we have been singing as one. We are all wearing masks, and we are all vaccinated. We have been working on our music with no idea if we'd even have a concert to perform. And then this opportunity came about, this joint venture between Congregation Beth Israel and the Kulshan Chorus. It is a joint gift from us to this congregation and to the wider community, and is certainly their gift to us. We are not selling tickets. We hope for donations. But most of all, we just want to sing for those who are ready to listen, in person! It is a big step forward to sing during this time. It is a bold step, but an important one. We are headed in the right direction."



What thoughts do you have about the repertoire the chorus will perform?

"These songs are a combination of some old Kulshan Chorus favorites as well as new songs that I have discovered during the many hours I have had available to do research during the pandemic. There are two songs about Peace, or Shalom. One is titled, "Shalom," which invites us to nourish peace from within, and the other is "Al Shlosha D'Varim," which urges us to spread peace among others. These describe the two symbiotic parts of the whole required for a full understanding of what Peace means. The topic of Peace is central to the mission of the Kulshan Chorus. Also, the songs "For Everyone Born" and "MLK," speak to the equality each human has with every other human, and affirm another facet of Kulshan Chorus's mission: that we celebrate the common bonds of humanity through music."

The Kulshan Chorus is a self-supporting nonprofit, raising the majority of its funding through concerts, and would not be able to afford to rent a venue, having not performed since January 2020. While the chorus has more than just a few CBI members in its ranks, we hope

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Patrick Crane

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, in thanks for his services at the funeral of Sylvia Katz

From: Rick & Leslie Adelstein
Steve & Debbie Adelstein

IN HONOR OF:

Phyllis Mazur – Happy Chanukah!
From: Glen Mazur and family

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Stuart & Cinda Zemel

GENERAL FUND

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Ahuva Scharff
Gregory Peterson

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

IN REMEMBRANCE:

To George and Steven Ban, in loving memory of their mother, Noémi Ban
From: Holocaust Educational Publications

KESHER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The students and their teacher, for the gifts they brought
From: Bernice Loober

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Samantha Konikoff, on the loss of her father, Stan Alper
From: Jodi Litt

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

David Goldman
From: Sylvia Williams

IN HONOR OF:

Liza Jane Price, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
From: Ivor & Joan Sachs (Lynnwood, WA)

Sonorah DesRosiers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
From: Jerry & Cheryl Waldbaum

The birth of our first grandchild!
From: Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David

Paul Blum's great artwork
From: Josh Greenberg & Anita Meyer

IN MEMORIAM:

* In memory of my beloved son, Nathan
* In memory of my beloved husband, Arni
From: Bernice Loober

In memory of Noémi Ban

From: Holocaust Educational Publications

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Else Sokol, on the loss of her sister, Sharon Serné
From: Sylvia Williams

Samantha Konkoff on the loss of her beloved father, Stanley Alper

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

IN REMEMBRANCE:

To Else Sokol, in loving memory of her husband, Bip
From: Sylvia Williams

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Paul Blum & Alison Zak
Michelle Beller-Siegfried & John Siegfried
Josh Greenberg & Anita Meyer
Lynn Korner
Hank Levine & Corinne Gimbel Levine
Jeff & Wendy Holtzman
Harriet Markell
Dan Raas
John Sternlicht & James Finley
Joan & Marv Wayne

A note about the next issue:

Our next bulletin (March/April) will be about a week late. Please check the *Timbrel* and website for any new announcements. The deadline to submit articles (February 11) will remain the same. Thank you!



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STUART AND JUDY BERMAN

Continued from Page 8

Presbyterian household. The teachers presented Bible stories using dolls dressed like Bible characters. "In college I abandoned religious affiliation and proclaimed myself agnostic," she said. Later the differences between her upbringing and Judaism piqued her curiosity. She converted just before the birth of her second daughter.

Judy worked in a hospital and a doctor's office, having learned medical parlance through nursing courses. Once her daughters were in high school, she earned credentials to teach elementary school. Stuart worked in Berkeley's Parks and Recreation, but said he "felt like his life began when he retired." Once retired, he did more volunteer work and became more active in Beth El in Berkeley. He served as their board president and enjoyed leading Torah study and teaching classes there. Stuart also ran a health food store in San Jose, and that is where the commonalities began. One time, Judy stopped in the store for a purchase. Two months later, she met him at an encounter group. "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?" she asked him.

They dated, moved in together, and two years later, in 1973, they married. Their oldest daughter, Jennifer, now a lactation consultant with three daughters, was born in 1974. Rebecca, born in 1976, pursues acting as her passion.

The Bermans lived in San Jose for two years, then moved to Point Richmond in the Bay Area for the next 45 years, raising their daughters there. For a while, they

spent summers in Bellingham, the closest Jewish community to Anacortes, where Judy's mother lives. She is now 98 and needs care, so Stuart and Judy sold their Point Richmond home and moved here in 2020. Judy's mother now lives with them.

Rounding out the similarity of their divergent experiences, Stuart traveled in Europe for two years, mostly in Spain. Upon returning he found his friends had settled down to raise families. "Instead, I moved to San Francisco and lived the hippie life-style, but eventually married and had kids." He's also visited Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica. The couple has traveled together to Mexico and Europe.

Stuart, a synagogue board member, served as a hospice volunteer for about twenty years. He has delivered food for the Bellingham Food Bank. For fun, he likes listening to folk and country music and going to the theater, as well as hiking and fishing. Judy also hikes, plays the guitar, and gardens. They also parent a rescue dog, Anabel.

"Judy can manage so many things at once that I think she must have learned to juggle while in utero," friend Corrine Gimbel-Levine said.

Judy also attends the Lunch Bunch at Joan Wayne's house. "We all bring a sandwich to share and get to exchange news with each other," she said. "Of course, when Covid became an issue, we started having monthly meetings on Zoom. Not as tasty, but a way to stay in touch."

WHY WE SING

Continued from Page 10

that other singers from the synagogue and the Bellingham community might feel now is the right time to join. Rehearsals begin again in February. For more information, please search the chorus website, kulshanchorus.org, which offers video clips, descriptions of past concerts and links on how to join/donate, or email Miriam Davids, Kulshan Chorus Board President, at info@kulshanchorus.org

We hope this concert brings delight to our audience and gives us all a bright night to remember, even in the middle of winter!

Congregation Beth Israel presents Why We Sing

Performed by the Kulshan Chorus
Saturday, January 15, 7 pm
751 San Juan Boulevard, Bellingham

- Event is non-ticketed, but registration is required.
- Please register by Thursday, January 13, at www.bethisraelbellingham.org or call the CBI office: (360) 733-8890.
- Proof of vaccination (for all ages) and photo ID (of adults and teens) will be checked before admittance.
- Suggested donation: \$20 adults/\$10 students or children 18 years or younger.
- Doors open at 6:30 pm for check-in.

Birthdays

JANUARY 2022

1/1 Jeaninne Kahan
 1/1 Binnie Perper
 1/1 Alison Zak
 1/2 Cierra Burkill
 1/3 Tahlia Somers (15th)
 1/4 Julia Ban
 1/4 Linda Blackwell
 1/4 Wolf Pomerantz (10th)
 1/4 Asher Stoane (19th)
 1/6 Isaac Konikoff
 1/6 Tom Maxim
 1/8 Judy Diamond
 1/8 Candace Kiersky
 1/8 Victoria Mayers
 1/9 Helen Feiger
 1/10 Lou Lippman
 1/11 John Schapiro
 1/12 Talia Clarke (18th)
 1/15 Diana Dixon (8th)
 1/15 Audrey LaPlante (13th)
 1/15 Nora Mazonson
 1/15 Kathi Paluch
 1/16 Maya Cornwall (19th)
 1/17 David Elkayam
 1/17 Jodi Litt
 1/18 Miriam Buckman

1/18 Dashka Garretson
 1/21 Arturo Flores Pritchett (5th)
 1/21 Alyson Kassen
 1/22 Stuart Berman
 1/23 Joshua Greenberg
 1/24 Nathan Tableman
 1/25 Marc Weinstein
 1/26 Leo David Cohen (9th)
 1/26 Nate LaMont (1st)
 1/26 Mitch Press
 1/26 Geraldine Reitz
 1/28 Angie Lee
 1/30 Wendy Blum
 1/30 Gib Morrow

FEBRUARY 2022

2/1 Bill Freeman
 2/4 Bonnie Zell
 2/5 Elizabeth Snyder
 2/6 Laura Wolfson
 2/8 Samantha Schwartz (17th)
 2/9 Ruth Evans
 2/11 Ella Barney
 2/11 Shalem Blum (17th)
 2/11 Leo Banks Strich (4rd)
 2/14 Bob Goldman
 2/14 Ted Schuman
 2/15 Gloria Lebowitz

2/16 Aniko Folk (21st)
 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 (13th)
 2/21 Gregg Orlik
 2/21 Kristin Sykes-David
 2/22 Frank Corey
 2/22 Teva Corey-DuBow (15th)
 2/22 Corinne Hecht
 2/22 Arthur Ingberman
 2/22 Karen Sloss
 2/22 Jeannette Stephens
 2/24 Todd Haskell
 2/24 Robert Meltzer
 2/25 Nancy Auerbach
 2/25 Avi Brennan (15th)
 2/25 Genny Cohn
 2/26 Robin Kodner
 2/26 Orly Ziv-Maxim
 2/27 Conor Keefe (3rd)
 2/27 Ken Levinson
 2/27 Teresa Sommers
 2/28 Lillia Ingram-Monteiro (3rd)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 2

forward to how we display the names of community members we have lost. It will be a beautiful tribute and reminder.

Other groups working on memories is the Document Retention Committee, chaired by Harriet Markell, and the Technology Committee, chaired by Isaac Konikoff. They have taken on our move to a digital world so that we can store and search old documents. This will be a nice complement to the great work that Melissa Schapiro does with our website. Having access to historical policies, agreements, and decisions is important to the governance of our synagogue.

Efforts like these help us save the memories of the past and present for future generations at CBI.

I hope this coming year brings opportunities to make many happy and heartfelt memories together. Please take a moment to be thankful for the memories you have.

May they be a blessing.

JOSHUA GREENBERG, PRESIDENT

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 Vancouver, BC



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 Resolution*

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KESHER WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 3

arranged by level to get more individualized attention to enhance our Sunday Hebrew lessons.

Just before winter break, teachers did two trainings, one with Victoria Mayers on classroom management tools that benefit all types of learners, and one with visiting teacher-trainer Batsheva Frankel on creating games for deep learning.

We're so excited to be coming back after winter break with lots of fresh ideas and energy. We hope all Keshet families are excited to be returning as well, and that everyone had a wonderful winter vacation!



Reading time at Gan Yeladim.

Meet the Keshet Advisory Group

The Keshet Advisory Group (KAG) was formed a few years ago with the intent of providing support for Keshet in a number of ways. KAG's mission is to support the Keshet Directors and Keshet community in creating a meaningful educational experience by collaborating and giving guidance with an overview of policies, curriculum, and effectiveness of programs. It also fosters opportunities for connections between Keshet and the greater CBI community.

There are a number of ways KAG is currently providing support to the Keshet program. The group has collaborated and provided guidance on the Keshet Parent Handbook, as well as having reviewed and provided input on Keshet's Annual Plan. Members will continue to assist with outreach and marketing of Keshet programs to both Keshet families and the larger synagogue community.

The current members of the Keshet Advisory Group are Robin Curtis, Tammy Dixon, Katie Edelstein (co-chair), Darci Donegan, Sharona Feller, Victoria Mayers, Nicky Naiman, Rabbi Samuels, Miriam Schwartz, Andrea Shupack, and Rita Spitzer (co-chair).

CANTOR'S CORNER

Continued from Page 6

relationships with the more-than-human world. It doesn't stop with animals, but encompasses the plants that I eat more frequently as well. That awareness-building tool is present in our *b'racha* (blessing) system. Saying a blessing before eating is a new practice for me, and at least for now I still forget much of the time. I am taking this practice on in the hope that it will remind me to pause before enjoying that first bite, to acknowledge not just gratitude for the sustenance, the life-giving food in front of me, but also to heighten my awareness of exactly what I am eating. You have to take a moment and think about which blessing is the correct one to say for the particular food you are about to eat. In this pause I try to think about where the food came from, and what its life was before I claimed it.

The shift starts off small, with a simple formula of words, but I believe it will continue to have ripples from each meal that will flow out into how I fundamentally view and interact with the world. It will start to appear with shifts in how I walk outside and notice different aspects of creation, how I appreciate parts of creation I thought lower-than in the past. I expect it will begin to ripple out in how I relate to the world around me in ways I cannot yet imagine. That is how I will honor the sentient life all around me, as I am connected to and dependent on all of it. Then, to borrow from Rabbi Seidenberg, I will be able to see God's image reflected in all, and reclaim aspects of my own being that unite me with all life, and with the Divine.

Happy Tu B'shevat! May the teachings of this holiday and our sacred texts help you on your own journey of discovering this magical and amazing earth we are a part of.

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 7

Sylvia Goldman	1/8
Mary Bayer Koplowitz	1/9
Samuel Orloff	1/9
Jerome Selznick	1/9
Magda Dorman	1/10
Brian House	1/10
David Kaplowitz	1/10
Joyce Landau	1/10
Eleanor Scharff	1/10
(Arabelle) Chaya Schlanger	1/10
Anna Schwartz	1/10
Miriam Cohen	1/12
Harold Earl Perper	1/12
Joel K. Rubenstein	1/12
Morris Faber	1/13
Fred Graff	1/13
Earl Krauzer	1/13
Lillian Mauer Pravda	1/13
Simon Rosen	1/13
George Markell	1/14
Florence D. Shain	1/14

Friday, January 14

Florence Kleinfeld	1/15
Sylvan Rosenthal	1/15
Jerry Kleinfeld	1/16
Sally Evans	1/17
Rabbi Samuel Gartner	1/17
Peter Bayliss	1/18
Celia Zak	1/18
Leona Chorney Sondik	1/19
Lawrence Weintraub	1/20
Judy Holtzman	1/21
Irving Lackowitz	1/21
Claire P. Mayer	1/21
Mishra Stephen Suloway	1/21

Friday, January 21

Frank Kraus	1/22
Meyer Wolpow	1/23
Mark Luster	1/24
Ruth Philipp	1/24
Derrek Jeremy Adelstein	1/25
Sandor Garfinkle	1/25
David Shain	1/25
Norma Schwartz	1/26
Debbie Haskell	1/27
Rhoda "Ronnie" Stahlberg	1/27
Paul Sondik	1/28

Friday, January 28

Leonard Berman	1/29
Rita Gordon	1/29
William Freeman	1/30
Burton Sklar	1/30
Daniel Weis	1/30
Laura Ann Bourne	1/31
Gloria Perper	1/31
Elinor Pravda	1/31
Rachel Zacharia	1/31
Rochelle Blum	2/1
Isadore Graff	2/1

Michel Oksenberg	2/1
Ruth "Bubbles" Berman	2/2
Judith T. Sklar	2/2
Clarence Weiner	2/2
Linda Kaplowitz Copeland	2/3
Beth R. Curtis	2/3
Benjamin Solomon	2/3
Hally Vernon	2/4

Friday, February 4

Richard Evans	2/5
Betty Goldberger	2/5
Hannah Jacobson	2/5
David Fine	2/6
George Gabriel Krauzer	2/6
Steven R. Rivkin	2/6
William Schwartz	2/6
Mitchel J. Lazarus	2/7
Sadie Gordon Schiller	2/7
Roy Athol Thomas	2/7
Sonia Kohl Krauzer	2/8
William Schwartz	2/8
Jean Beverly Blank	2/9
John H. Bruns	2/11
Clara Lazarus	2/11
Ruth Lippman	2/11

Friday, February 11

Frieda Blank	2/13
Alice Duckworth	2/13
Jack Eigen	2/13
Albert Lebovich	2/13
Joseph Sonneman	2/13
David Boman	2/15
Lou Fine	2/15

Phyllis Goldin	2/15
Jack Kahn	2/15
Gilbert Orlik	2/15
George Schwartz	2/15
Harold Shepard	2/15
Celia Strang	2/15
Max J. Schwartz	2/16
BJ Elder	2/17
Colleen Koplowitz	2/18
Walter von Hollander	2/18
William E. Whiting	2/18

Friday, February 18

Robert Baker	2/19
Jerry Glass	2/20
Emma Gartner	2/21
Nelson Beller	2/22
Benjamin Goldberg	2/22
Phil H. Miller	2/22
Shirley Boman	2/24
Eduardo Filgueira	2/24

Friday, February 25

Lylyan Wick	2/27
Abraham Blum	2/28
Marcelline Naparty	2/28
Bernice Rappaport	2/28
Harry Zemel	2/28
Gene Adelstein	3/1
Morrie Feller	3/2
Robert Fife	3/2
Eliezer Spiro	3/2
Howard Little	3/3
Mel Adelstein	3/4
Steve Sokol	3/4

In Memoriam

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

We mourn the passing of Beth Israel congregant **Larry Hildes**, who passed away peacefully at home on Saturday morning, November 20, 2021, with his sister Liz at his side. He was 56 years old. In his personal life and through his law practice, which was rooted in Judaism and devoted to the concept of *tikkun olam*, Larry was a fierce warrior for justice and the voiceless and touched many lives through his enthusiastic advocacy. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Karen Weill, in March 2020.

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

Else Sokol on the loss of her sister, **Sharon Serné**, who passed away on November 6, 2021 at her home in the Netherlands.

Andrew Schwarz on the loss of his mother, **Esther Schwarz**, who passed away on November 8, 2021 at home in Hawai'i. She was 94 years old.

Anita Meyer on the loss of her father, **Ralph Oscar Meyer**, who passed away on November 23, 2021 at his home in Post Falls, Idaho, surrounded by his children and his wife of 60 years, Marie Meyer. He was 84 years old. Mr. Meyer was a career Forest Service Ranger who loved the outdoors, gardens, and trees.

Samantha Konikoff on the loss of her father, **Stan Alper**, who passed away on December 5, 2021, in Nederland, Colorado, with his son Ross and family and close friends at his side. He was 80 years old. Mr. Alper, an avid history buff, loved talking politics, and loved his family more than anything.

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CBI BOOK CLUB

CBI Book Club: *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*

Sunday, January 9, 2022
2:00-3:30 pm

Join Rabbi Samuels for an afternoon discussion of one of his favorite books that he read while on sabbatical this past summer. Yossi Klein Halevi's *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* is a gripping book that was a *New York Times* nonfiction best-seller in 2018. Halevi's writing combines a commitment to Israel's legitimacy while expressing a deep empathy for Palestinian suffering.

Ultimately, it's a book about one Jewish person's complex feelings about family and neighbors.

