



CONGREGATION  
BETH ISRAEL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5783

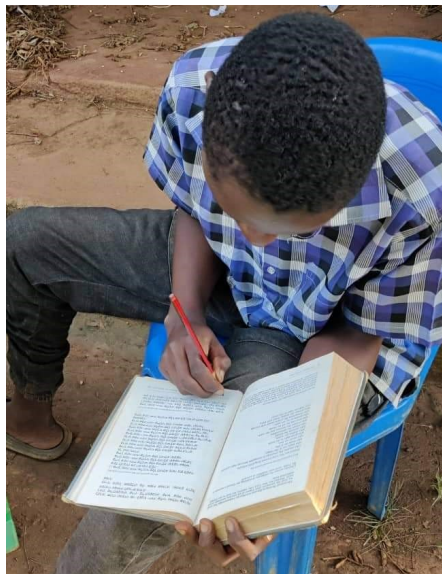
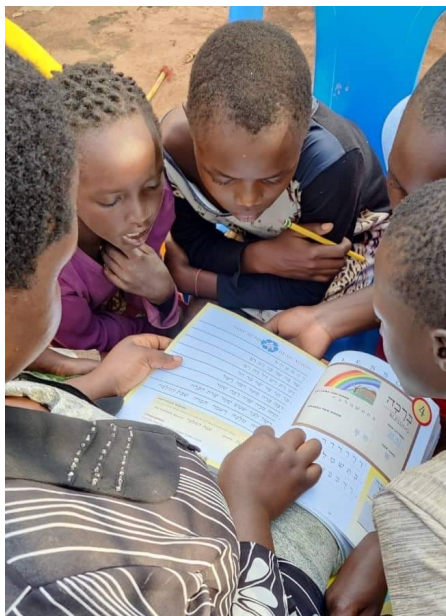
# THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 27, NO. 2 \* Congregation Beth Israel \* Bellingham, WA 98229 \* bethisraelbellingham.org \* (360) 733-8890

## Ready for Some Good News?

BY VICTORIA MAYERS  
CO-DIRECTOR, KESHER

It all started when Andrea Shupack mentioned that there were some Hebrew School books that weren't being used and she wished they would find a worthy home. Then a Facebook message from Rabbi Nelly Altenburger of Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown, CT appeared requesting gently used Hebrew



school materials. She was inquiring on behalf of the Jewish community Nasenyi, in Uganda.

After being filled in on the details, Rabbi Samuels willingly donated money from the Rabbi's discretionary fund so that we could send the materials to Connecticut. The boxes remained there for months waiting for more funding for shipping out of the USA. Finally, our fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, Kevin Donner, worked with his class to help raise

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FROM THE RABBI

## The Doors Are Open



As stressful as it is preparing for the High Holy Days, once I stand on the *bima* and look out, I am instantly filled with happiness and

gratitude. Being in a space with so many congregants at one time is a terrific feeling. I love seeing faces I have not seen in a while and I love seeing multigenerational families together. I know you feel the same way, too. When the community shows up, there's a different energy in the room, the songs sound better, and our spirits are lifted.

In speaking with fellow local clergy and rabbinic colleagues, I've learned attendance is still down across the board. There are good reasons that some choose not to show up in person, and I am so grateful that we have been able to stay connected through Zoom. Years ago, I explained to the Board that we needed to embrace technology in the sanctuary. It finally took a pandemic to get us up to speed. But I also know that there are folks who have grown accustomed to praying and participating from the comfort of their living room couches. It's conven-

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*From the President...*

## Compromise



As I am writing this, we have just finished the High Holy Days. I am exhausted, partly due to my recent Covid infection. I can't even imagine how spent Rabbi and Andrea feel after all their great leadership work.

It was a wonderful set of services that went off without a hitch. It was great to see so many people participating both in person and online. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support us behind the scenes during this special time of the year. It can be hard to know how much time people donate to our synagogue. I have never found a way to keep track of it all. But I know we would not have had such successful events and services without these kind helpers.

You know that I love Jewish jokes, so I feel I should share this one about the High Holy Days:

A Jewish father calls his son in New York and tells him, "I hate to tell you, but your mother and I can't stand each other anymore and we are divorcing. That's it! I want to live out the rest of my years in peace. I am telling you now so you and your sister shouldn't go into shock later when I move out."

The father hangs up and his son immediately calls his sister and tells her the news. The sister says, "I'll handle this."

She calls her father in Florida. She pleads with her father, "Don't do ANYTHING until David and I get there! We will be there Friday night."

The father says, "All right, all right. I'll wait."

When the father hangs up the phone, he hollers to his wife, "They're coming for Rosh Hashanah."

Hopefully no one in our community had to resort to this level of trickery to get family together!

As many of you noticed, our policy for masking changed right before the High Holy Days. I know that decision did not please everyone. I have heard from some of you and appreciate your shared feelings. Please know that the Covid Task Force spent a lot of time debating

and discussing the options before making a proposal to the Board. We are so lucky to have a task force that is composed of doctors, nurses, safety professionals, and others. They carefully review the policies recommended by the CDC and the State of Washington, as well as the statistics from Whatcom and Skagit Counties' health departments, and the local hospitals.

At every meeting we have differing initial opinions, but after lengthy discussion we have been able to come up with a recommendation that everyone can agree to. There is always some compromise, and as you can imagine, this is a challenge. The Covid Task Force proposals are then discussed by the Board. And again, there are discussions and time spent understanding the reasoning behind the proposal.

The emotions around Covid and masks are deep and strong. Our safety and the types of precautions we are willing to take for each other can be heavy topics! So, while it may appear that this was a quick decision, I want to assure everyone that a lot of thought went into this and every mask policy we have had during this pandemic. It doesn't please everyone, and that was also considered when making the policy. It didn't please everyone on the task force either. It meant some would not attend services in person—even some of the Covid Task Force members.

These are the hard decisions a community needs to make, whether it is about when to wear masks or any of the other policies and decisions that have been passed by the Board over the last year. As President, I have learned so much from our committees, task forces and Board this last year. Although there are times I wish we could make quick decisions, I have learned the importance of our long discussions and how they can help find compromise. Compromising is no small task. I want to thank all those people on committees, the Board, and our community.

I am proud to be a part of such an amazing group of people and honored to be President. I hope you all have a wonderful year ahead.

JOSHUA GREENBERG  
PRESIDENT

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98229

*The Shul Shofar*

Volume 27, Number 2  
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**Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the January/February issue is DECEMBER 11.** Call the office for more information.

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*From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning*

# Returning and Change in the New Year

Change can be a challenge. It is not always easy to move somewhere new, start a new grade in school, or even taste a new food. It can be scary to return to something familiar knowing that it won't be exactly the same. The last few months have been a time of great transition. Personally, my family moved back to Washington to make a home in Bellingham after living on the East Coast for four years. I lived here when I was in college, but I wasn't sure what the city would feel like now.

I lived at Camp Kalsman for the summer, after spending four summers away at another camp, and I didn't know whether it would still feel like the home I grew up in. And at the end of August, I finally got to settle into my job here at CBI. I used to teach in Keshet while in college, but I didn't know what working here would be like so many years later.

This has also been a huge transition time for the synagogue and for Keshet. As we move out of restrictive Covid times and back into the beautiful building, we are lucky to be able to use our new space safely. As we come back together in person, the community has said goodbye to a longtime employee as she ventures with her family to Israel and has welcomed Victoria and myself as the new Co-Directors of Keshet. We've been given so much grace and patience as we learn to work together and support the Keshet community, as well as opportunities to bring in new ideas and change. We believe that the year is off to an incredible start!

On the High Holy Days we sang "Return Again," by Shlomo Carlebach which says, "Return again, return again, return to the land of your soul. Return to who you are. Return to what you are. Return to where you are."

Here I am returning to Bellingham and to Congregation Beth Israel—excited to come home, nervous to start

over, and eager to be the best I can be for our students, teachers, and the greater CBI community.

And here we all are, beginning to return to the lives we had before the pandemic—excited to come home, nervous to start over, and eager to be the best we can be for each other. We aren't the same people we once were. I feel lucky that we get to reintroduce ourselves as we all take these beginning steps together.

Shanah Tova.

LEAH BORDMAN  
CO-DIRECTOR, KESHER



## The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Daniel Diamond** and **Ashley Mask**, and daughter **Adina Diamond** (age 5) and son **Natan Diamond** (age 2) – Bellingham
- **Bob & Cindy Friedman** – Ferndale
- **Alexis & Brian Gentry**, and daughters **Bella** (age 16) and **Sabrina** (age 12) and son **Paxton** (age 8) – Anacortes
- **Ira Kaufman** – Bellingham
- **Cherryne Kravitz** – Bellingham
- **Holly Redell-Witte** and **Charles Redell** – Bellingham
- **Eddy Ury** and **Kat David** – Bellingham
- **Wendy Westgate** – Bellingham
- **Jessica Wolfson** and **David Arpi** – Bellingham
- **Catherine Zitzer** – Ferndale

## Synagogue 411

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Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

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# Bar Mitzvah



**Orion Dean Dixon** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 26, 2022.

He is the son of Tammy and Daryl Dixon, the older brother of Diana Dixon, and grandson of Robin and Bert Curtis. Orion is currently an eighth grader at Vista Middle School in Ferndale. He loves playing football and is currently a starting lineman on his middle-school team. He also enjoys reading, learning Kuk Sool Won and having

Nerf battles with his friends. Orion is a strong believer in morality, social justice, and integrity, and hopes to serve in law enforcement one day.

*Orion's family is very excited and welcomes the congregation to join in celebrating this Simcha:*

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**  
Friday, November 25, 2022 at 7:30 pm

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**  
Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 10:00 am

## READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS?

*Continued from Page 1*

money during their class-led family service. That money went directly toward sending the materials from CT to Uganda.

Recently we received pictures of the Nasenyi Jewish School students enjoying Hebrew language workbooks, sharing Jewish ceremonial items, and reading Jewish story books. This mitzvah would not have been possible if not for the united effort by our very own Keshet community. Our work is not done and the rabbi has agreed to support the next shipment to the community soon. Stay tuned.

Our MASSA Israel Studies pilot program currently has twenty-three enrolled students; fifteen are from CBI and eight in Temple Beth Or from Everett. The first day of MASSA class was on September 18. TBO joined us for our "Gear UP" presentation and Keshet's open house. Our Everett guests mentioned how very welcomed they felt by our Keshet team and CBI members! A special thanks to everyone who made the effort to reach out to our new friends.

MASSA classes will continue to be held once a month for the next two years with students earning the opportunity to travel to Israel with their teacher, Gaby Mayers, and Rabbi



Samuels in the summer of 2024. After their trip, students will resume meeting in order to reflect on their traveling experiences and assist in recruiting future potential MASSA candidates. It is our intention to continue this program for Keshet students.

Please consider supporting the various fundraisers MASSA will be conducting over the next few years. They are working toward earning their tickets. Perhaps people might

think about hiring our youth for odd jobs like house cleaning, yard work, or babysitting; people might even contemplate making a donation to the Israel Trip Scholarship Fund. The collected money will be divided among the students. We are determined to take every interested and engaged MASSA teen with us to Israel.

Thank you for your support.

*From the Social Action Committee*

# Successful Food Drive and Welcoming Refugees!

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

The High Holy Days food drive was very successful. Thanks to all the congregants who donated to the Foothills Food Bank in Kendall, WA. The amount of food donated was the most we have ever collected. Three pallets of food were donated with an additional \$361.00 dollars. The executive director, Sam Norris, was very grateful for the donations as winter approaches. Our donations will go toward their "Happy Pantry" which are shelves provided outside the door of the Food Bank and give the community nonperishables 24/7. Monetary donations can still be made to their website at [foothillsfoodbank.org](http://foothillsfoodbank.org). You can also link your Fred Meyer Community Rewards Card to the Foothills Food Bank, and a percentage of your purchases will be donated to them.

The Social Action Committee is now sponsoring an apartment setup for refugees in association with the Refugee Resettlement project of Jewish Family Services in Seattle. JFS is assigned refugee resettlement clients by the U.S. State Department and HIAS (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). In recent years, resettlement clients have primarily come from Bhutan, Burma, East Africa, Iraq, Iran, and the former Soviet Union. JFS has been assigned a few refugees from the Syrian and the Ukrainian conflicts.

There will be a list of needed items in a shared link in the upcoming Timbrel. The list is also posted in the synagogue. CBI will collect these items through December 2022 in the donation baskets at the back of the social hall. If you are not coming into the synagogue at this time, please contact Linda Blackwell (360-739-1492) for pick-up of your donations. You can also review the JFSSeattle website or contact [volunteer@jfsseattle.org](mailto:volunteer@jfsseattle.org) for more detail or for monetary donations.



To sponsor an apartment set-up, we will procure all of the essential household items needed to welcome newly arrived refugees into their homes. Items include: pots and pans, utensils, bedding, and hygiene items. We ask that these items be new for the health and safety of the new clients. Younger children can make "welcome cards"; letters or cards with positive, warm messages are appreciated. These will be left for families once an apartment is set up.

At present we will NOT be collecting food for DVSA's Thanksgiving. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services request that we make donation on their website at [DVSAS.org](http://DVSAS.org). You can also mail a check to DVSA's of Whatcom County, 1407 Commercial Street, Bellingham WA 98225.

Please contact Linda Blackwell ([linda.blackwell@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:linda.blackwell@bethisraelbellingham.org)) if you want to be more involved in social justice activities at CBI.



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# Brand New Opportunities To Support CBI

Flowing from a recent strategic Board review of CBI finances, several needs were identified which led to the development of two new gifting opportunities to complement the array of specific-purpose funds already in existence (Building Fund, Library Fund, Keshet Scholarships, etc.).

The **Rabbi's Circle** was created to assure adequate staffing and robust social and cultural programming to keep pace with our growing congregation. Currently CBI staff is the same as it was 20 years ago when we had half of today's membership and only a fifth of the building size to maintain!

Programming is now re-energized by an active committee, but constrained by budget limits. Both the need for additional staff (administrative and eventually maintenance) and expanded pro-

gramming could be addressed with extra donations. The Rabbi's Circle is aimed at households that are already contributing the target annual amount or more and would like to offer further support to help realize these particular goals. Suggested giving levels are \$1,800+, \$3,600+, and \$7,200+ per year. Participants will receive periodic briefings from the Rabbi and/or Board President, invitations to exclusive social events with the Rabbi, and, with consent, recognition on the CBI website as Rabbi's Circle supporters.

The CBI Board has also approved the formation of an **Endowment Fund** with an eye to longer-term financial stability. All donations to the CBI Endowment Fund will be invested in perpetuity (not spent), monitored, and managed by the Endowment Committee. Over time, the income

generated may be spent on operations or capital projects as outlined in the Endowment Policy and subject to Board oversight. Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be made during one's lifetime or as a bequest (at death), usually indicated in a Will or trust.

Of course, we are deeply grateful for the amazing generosity of our CBI community in the annual pledges and Keshet tuition payments, which cover the majority of our operational budget. We are also thankful for the ongoing donations to the Building Fund which have made possible our debt-free, wonderful new synagogue campus. And we are excited to launch these new ways to support the expanding CBI community. Please contact Karen Sloss (cell/text 360-319-7258 or email [karen.sloss@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:karen.sloss@bethisraelbellingham.org)) with any questions or for more details about these programs.

## How To Donate to CBI:

Most members contribute by cash or credit card, so they may not be aware of several other ways to make donations. And, of note, some of those alternate options may also provide significant tax savings to the donor. So, to clarify, here are the various donation methods:

1. Cash, checks, or direct bank debit by the synagogue office.
2. Charge a credit card (please note that paying by credit card costs CBI approx. 3% of the amount charged so all are encouraged to add extra to the donation to cover the credit card bank fee).
3. Direct a Donor Advised Fund to send a check payable to CBI.\*
4. Transfer shares of highly appreciated stock or mutual funds to CBI's Schwab Account.\*
5. For individuals over age 70 ½ — request a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.\*

6. Name CBI as a beneficiary in your Will, trust, IRA or insurance policy.\*

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

Hopefully, this list offers ideas to make supporting CBI easier and perhaps more tax-efficient. Your contributions mean a lot to CBI no matter how you choose to do them!

\* Please contact Karen Sloss (cell/text 360-319-7258 or email [karen.sloss@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:karen.sloss@bethisraelbellingham.org)) for more details on how to implement these tax-advantaged strategies.

# Supporting the Jewish Community's Next Generation

BY EMILY WEINER

Have you noticed the college students who have been attending services at CBI? Our congregation has been pleased to welcome these young adults, and we're happy that they want to worship with us—at a time when many other congregations are greying. It's easy to feel optimistic about the future of Judaism when college students are interested and active.

Many of these students have been introduced to CBI through Hillel of WWU, a student cultural club affiliated with a community board led by CBI members (currently Geraldine Reitz, Harriet Markell, Wendy Blum, and Emily Weiner).

Hillel of WWU has been creating a vibrant and growing Jewish student community that is open to students at all the Whatcom County colleges, and is welcoming regardless of students' religious education, political beliefs, gender identity, or their families' past affiliations.

In addition to organizing the fun stuff, last year Hillel's student board also did exemplary work providing leadership on campus regarding antisemitism. They

were skillfully and sensitively guided by Hillel's Program Coordinator Elena Buri, who grew up in the CBI community.

In the next few weeks, you will receive mail from Hillel of WWU. Please take a look at the photos of their social and cultural gatherings, both on campus and in Hillel House—which provides both off-campus housing and space for events like the recent Yom Kippur Break-Fast.

You can help Hillel of WWU be a Jewish home away from home:

- When you see young adults at CBI, welcome them, get to know them, and consider inviting them to a Shabbat dinner.
- Volunteer to join the Hillel Community Board (email [Flori121@yahoo.com](mailto:Flori121@yahoo.com))
- Donate to WWU Hillel (P.O. Box 29058, Bellingham, WA 98228, or online at [www.hillel.weebly.com](http://www.hillel.weebly.com))



Leah Berkowitz, Hillel of WWU student coordinator at Hillel Rosh Hashanah picnic.



Seated, left to right, Student Board members Leah Berkowitz, Ian Frank, and Delaney Jarvis at Western's Info Fair.



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# Faces in Our Community: James Finley and John Sternlicht

BY LINDA HIRSH

*Shout many Mazel  
Tovs for James Finley  
and John Sternlicht!*

*In June 2010, they  
married at Georgetown  
University in a small  
outdoor ceremony.*

Three days later, they said their vows illegally at Congregation Beth Ahabah in Richmond, VA. Remember: Marriage for same sex couples was legalized on June 26, 2015—five years later.

“We were the first gay wedding performed at our synagogue,” James said.

And 350 family members and friends were there to cheer them on. “It was an enormous, very welcoming, excited crowd, an amazing experience,” John said.

Member Josh Greenberg knows why. “I personally really cherish how they are both so warm and welcoming every time I see them. They are the type of couple you always look forward to seeing again,” Josh said.

There’s more. At the wedding, Carlton, James’s son, met assistant volleyball coach Yue Liu, and they married two years later on a beach in the Outer Banks, NC. That was equaled only by the marriage of John’s son David to Naama in the same synagogue in 2016. Now the husbands have another generation with whom to ply their love: five-month-old granddaughter Mia Adele, David and Naama’s daughter.



James Finley, John Sternlicht, and granddaughter Mia Adele

“It’s unique being gay grandpas,” said John, who has another son, Jeremy. And “we’re both anomalies if you consider where we grew up”—he in Fayetteville, NC, and James in Hereford, TX.

Texas? North Carolina? Both below the Mason Dixon line? Both have something to say about it. James went to school in Midland, TX, “where a conservative, Christian, racist faction worked together affecting what people think, say, follow, and expect from each other.” As for John, “Growing up in NC was a very interesting and isolating experience. There was a heavy layer of racism

and white Christian supremacy there...and I felt like an oddity.”

Raised Christian, James converted to Judaism as an adult. “As a gay man, I believe Judaism has an expectation of standing up for the underdog, the less fortunate, and anyone being discriminated against.”

James got a degree in range management at Sul Ross State University, then a Master’s in management and leadership from Western Governors University. “Learning and teaching youth drove my career as an educator, coach, and advisor,” he said. “This has kept me hungry to learn,

*Continued on Page 12*



# CELEBRATING AT CBI!



1. Chava Mirel and Deborah Sacks Mintz in concert. 2. CBI's Program Team with Chava and Deborah. 3. New member ice cream social. 4. First day of Keshet. 5. Orion Dixon, Mike Braunstein, & Leah Bordman building the sukkah. 6. Esther Horton and Elizabeth Witte shaking the lulav and etrog. 7. Gan Yeladim families in the sukkah. 8. B'mitzvah class chanting from the Torah.



## FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

ient, especially on a Friday evening after a long day at work or on a Saturday morning when we just want a few more Z's. Plus, there are still concerns about catching Covid-19.

I understand all these reasons for staying home. But I really want to see your faces and hear your voices in person. Even though I welcome virtual attendance, I know that those who participate that way experience services and events differently. Additionally, if most of the attendees are home, then those who do come to the synagogue are not able to engage with as many people as possible. We have so many new members, and I would love for them to get to know our community.

My colleagues Rabbi Josh Brown and Rabbi Danny Burkeman recently wrote an article addressing this issue. They wrote, "Knowing each other well and caring for each other happens best when we are 'back in the building' together, and back 'in person' in each other's lives."

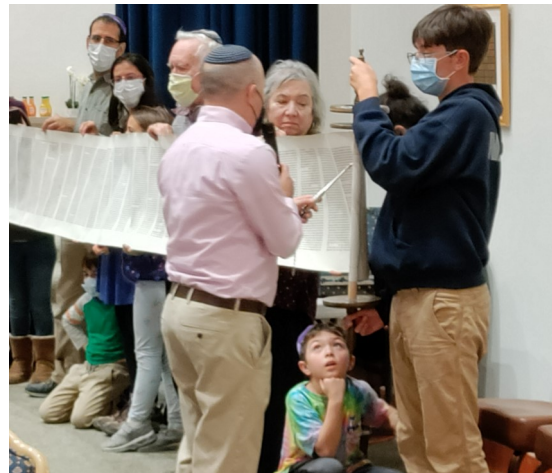
It's true. We form connections when we are in each other's presence. But showing up in person is not just about fostering relationships. We show up to support one another and celebrate simchas. When people have lost a loved one and come to say *kaddish*, it's important they feel the presence of community. And when families celebrate their child becoming a *b'nei mitzvah*, they want to see a packed sanctuary. (Our *b'nei mitzvah* services are open to the whole Beth Israel community. They

aren't invitation only affairs.) And lastly, studying with friends in person is much more engaging than doing it hybrid-style. I am hopeful that the *beit midrash* will once again be filled with learners for Torah study and other adult education classes.

I am eager to see you back in our beautiful building for singing, learning, celebrating, and socializing. Consider sponsoring an *oneg* with a group of friends. Invite your peers to join you when you feel the urge to be at CBI. If you prefer to stay home, invite friends to watch services together or to participate in Torah study with you. Spread the word that we are **open for business!** This sacred space isn't the same without you.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

## Simchat Torah at CBI





# Special Fund Donations

## CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

### IN HONOR OF:

Evan Konikoff, on becoming  
a Bar Mitzvah

**From:** Karen Sloss

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Sarah Witte, in memory of her  
father, Dr. John Booth

**From:** Karen Sloss

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

To Rabbi Samuels, with  
thanks for guiding Milo and  
our whole family through his  
preparation for becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah

**From:** Ken & Regan Levinson

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

\*Judy & Shelly & Brodsky  
(Santa Rosa, CA) in memory  
of Karen Brodsky

\*Jeanne Himy (San  
Francisco, CA), in memory  
of David Himy

\*Reva Levy (Palm Desert,  
CA), in memory of Donald  
Levy

\*Rhoda Wolfe (San  
Francisco, CA), in memory of  
Sheldon Wolfe

**From:** Rhoda & Peter  
Samuels

Sarah Witte, in memory of her  
father, Dr. John Booth

**From:** Fran Levy  
(Carmichael, CA)

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## GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Nancy & Don Davis, in  
memory of their beloved  
cousin, Michael Golden

**From:** Carol & David  
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## GENERAL FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

To CBI for safeguarding my  
belongings

**From:** Nancy Lloyd

## KESHER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

### IN HONOR OF:

Evan Konikoff, on becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah

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

### IN APPRECIATION:

To Andrea Shupack, for her  
leadership, beautiful voice,  
tireless energy, and  
compassion as she guided  
Milo and our whole family  
through becoming a Bar  
Mitzvah

**From:** Ken & Regan  
Levinson

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Sarah Witte, in memory of her  
father, Dr. John Booth

**From:** Sid & Aline Wanne

## NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

To Andrea Shupack, for her  
meaningful High Holy Days  
article in the September/  
October Shofar.

**From:** Sylvia Williams

Miriam Schwartz, with thanks  
for performing Oren's bris

**From:** Jason & Carly Benhaim

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

\*My beloved mother-in-law,  
Celia Loober

\*My beloved son, Nathan  
Loober

**From:** Bernice Loober

Michael Golden

**From:** Marta & Craig Brand  
Sid & Aline Wanne

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Steve & Janis Ban  
Marta & Craig Brand  
Daniel & Sharona  
Feller

Ellen & David Smith  
Sid & Aline Wanne

## ISRAEL TRIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are proud to announce  
the establishment of the  
**Israel Trip Scholarship  
Fund**. All donations to this  
special fund will help support  
our students going on a CBI-  
sponsored trip to Israel in  
June 2024, as participants in  
our exciting new Israel  
studies pilot program,  
"MASSA: a teen journey  
toward Israel and self-  
discovery." For more  
information about the  
program, contact Rabbi  
Samuels or Victoria Mayers.

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Jessica Stein

**From:** Gaby & Victoria  
Mayers

*Vermeda M. Fred, MFT, MFA*



(415) 518-4321  
vmfred08@gmail.com  
Bellingham, WA  
Vancouver, BC

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Concepts  
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*Bearing fruit through communication and change*

## SCRIP: The Gift That Always Fits!

Consider giving gift cards this season. Grocery  
store cards, TJ Maxx, Lands' End, and Starbucks  
are always in stock and for a limited time. Haggen  
\$25 cards are also available.

Questions or to place an order, contact Joan  
Wayne at jawayne2@gmail.com

**JAMES FINLEY AND JOHN STERNLICHT***Continued from Page 8*

improve, and find ways I can help prepare them for their future.” When James worked as a community college and college coach, he gained a business sense. He then owned a health club and owned and ran volleyball camps. He now teaches seventh-grade math at Anacortes Middle School, and works as assistant volleyball coach at the high school.

James and John met in Richmond, VA, online and by phone before meeting in person. Then “we dated for a year and a half before I asked John to marry me,” James said.

“Early on, my ex-wife invited James to my birthday dinner, and the next night our rabbi invited him to my son Jeremy’s Bar Mitzvah. That solidified our relationship,” John said.

John’s family had lived in New York City for generations, but his parents moved to Rhode Island, then Fayetteville, NC.

“My parents had decided when I was very little that I was going to be a lawyer, and sure enough it happened,” John said. He earned a law degree at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, but soon became more involved in economic and community development. “I didn’t see a rewarding future [psychologically speaking]” working for a law firm, he said.

John’s parents were Reform Jews, but in North Carolina they attended a Conservative synagogue (the only option). Then he joined a congregation led by Reconstructionist Rabbi Steven Sager, a significant religious influence. When the rabbi was on sabbatical, John read Torah and chanted *Hafhtarot*. By then, John had learned French and Spanish, he relearned Hebrew, landing in Israel on his twenty-first birthday. He also learned German so he could study the Shoah in the original language.

Moving to Richmond, VA, he worked for Virginia’s Attorney General, then for the Virginia Economic Develop-

ment Partnership as General Counsel. He served in Governor Mark Warner’s cabinet as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and then worked for SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute—developer of Siri) starting new bioscience facilities there.

After Richmond, they moved to Seattle in June 2013, then settled in Anacortes in 2015, shortly after John started as CEO of the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County. “It has been extraordinarily rewarding to modernize and redirect that organization to a very effective community asset,” he said.

“After moving to Anacortes, we joined CBI in 2016. It’s a 45-minute drive, but worth it. Still, we haven’t attended as often as we’d like. We have celebrated some holidays with the Skagit Jews, which is a lot of fun, and have a Skagit *chavurah*,” James said. John agreed. “We have enjoyed particularly our times with the Skagit Jews—the local part of CBI,” he said.

Josh Greenberg said that “John and James have quickly become one of our foundational Jewish families in the Skagit Valley. They have been helping host a *chavurah* discussion group and rarely miss one of our Jewish holiday get-togethers. Of particular note is the amazing cake that John bakes. We all call it Crack Cake because you can’t stop eating it and always want more.”

For fun, John said, he is involved in civil rights organizations, is on both the Anacortes Arts Festival and the Skagit Valley College foundation board of directors. He enjoys working out, practicing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, biking, kayaking, and hiking. “We both enjoy entertaining and socializing with our amazing friends,” he said. “And we both enjoy cooking and baking. It’s nurturing the body, the soul, and our relationships.”

As for travel, they have explored Israel, Europe, Scotland, and Ireland, “and we have emotional ties to Israel and my ancestry in Scotland,” James said.

## Growth of Our Libraries!

CBI’s Max Glass and Youth Libraries continue to grow. There are more than 3,500 books. You can find them in our online catalog ([tinyurl.com/maxglass](http://tinyurl.com/maxglass)) and borrow them in person. Here are a few of the recent additions:

Abramovitsch, S.Y.	<i>Tales of Mendele the Book Peddler</i> – FIC ABRAMOVITSCH
Epstein, Nadine	<i>RBG’s Brave &amp; Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women To Inspire Everyone</i> – CH NF EPSTEIN
Lane, Tamsin	<i>Yael and the Party of the Year (Yes No Maybe So)</i> – CH FIC LANE
Pressler, Mirjam	<i>Treasures from the Attic: The Extraordinary Story of Anne Frank’s Family</i> – SHB FRANK PRESSLER
Stavroulakis, Nicholas	<i>The Jews of Greece</i> - 949.5 STAVROULAKIS



## Birthdays

### NOVEMBER 2022

11/1 Susan Jay  
 11/1 Gerald Manganaro  
 11/1 Rachel Witter  
 11/1 David Ziegler  
 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (13th)  
 11/2 Lev Shuster (21st)  
 11/4 Patrick McGarrity  
 11/4 David Schlitt  
 11/6 Rodney Shainbom  
 11/7 Steve James  
 11/8 Rob Grossman  
 11/10 Urtica Goldman (9th)  
 11/11 Stephanie Korn  
 11/11 Wendy Schwartz  
 11/13 Peter Auerbach  
 11/13 Miriam Schwartz  
 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (22nd)  
 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (22nd)  
 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (22nd)  
 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 (19th)  
 11/23 Zachary Stratton (9th)  
 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (12th)  
 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 (11th)  
 11/30 Orion Dixon (14th)  
 11/30 Priscilla Feld  
 11/30 Rochelle LaPlante  
 11/30 Sarah Witte

### DECEMBER 2022

12/2 Karen Bailor  
 12/3 Zach Bastow  
 12/4 Rebecca Oliver  
 12/4 Susan Cohen Raphael  
 12/7 Alyssa Diller (22nd)

12/7 Eden Kinney (15th)  
 12/8 Robin Curtis  
 12/9 Mira Schott McCurdy (2nd)  
 12/10 Trisha Adelstein  
 12/11 Marvin Wayne  
 12/13 Shelly Pravda  
 12/13 Charles Redell  
 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (17th)  
 12/15 Ginger John  
 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  
 12/22 Jennifer Seltz  
 12/23 John Sternlicht  
 12/26 David Halpern  
 12/27 Philip Buri  
 12/27 Jacob Garretson  
 12/28 Ella Keefe (9th)  
 12/28 Mark Pomerantz  
 12/29 Andrew Schwarz  
 12/30 Shawn Clarke  
 12/30 Wendy Westgate

## Annual Chanukah Party December 11

Come celebrate Chanukah on Sunday, December 11 immediately following Kesher classes. The party is open to the whole congregation and our friends.

**What time:** 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Where:** CBI Social Hall

**Food and Activities:** Celebrate with *latkes*, jelly donuts, pizza, Chanukah-themed crafts and games, and the annual Dreidel Spin-off. (If you have the trophy from last year, please return it).

**Needed:** Sponsors are needed for pizza, craft supplies, or a general donation toward expenses. Help is also needed for setup, decorating, clean-up, latke cooking, etc. Contact Kesher Co-Director Victoria Mayers at [victoria.mayers@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:victoria.mayers@bethisraelbellingham.org) about sponsoring or helping out.

**Chanukah Candle Fundraiser:** Boxes of candles will be for sale at CBI beginning on Sunday November 13 and available as long as supply lasts. Cost: \$5 per box. Total amount goes to help with the party expenses.



## November/December 2022 Shabbat Service Schedule

**PLEASE NOTE:** Friday evening services and Saturday Torah study will be *hybrid*, allowing congregants and visitors to worship or study in person, or attend via Zoom. **All Saturday morning services will be in person only.** It is no longer required to show proof of vaccination or to wear a mask while in the building, although both vaccination and masking are strongly recommended. This schedule is subject to change, so please watch the weekly *Timbrel* or the Beth Israel website for updates.

Friday, Nov. 4	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service, featuring the Keshet 5th Grade class	Friday, Dec. 9	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Nov. 5	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Lech Lecha</i> )	Saturday, Dec. 10	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayishlach</i> ) <b>10:30 am</b> Shabbat morning service – in person only
Friday, Nov. 11	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Dec. 16	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat service
Saturday, Nov. 12	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayera</i> ) <b>10:30 am</b> Shabbat morning service – in person only	Saturday, Dec. 17	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Vayeshev</i> ) <b>11:00 am</b> Tot Shabbat service – in person only
Friday, Nov. 18	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Dec. 23	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Saturday, Nov. 19	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Chaye Sarah</i> ) <b>11:00 am</b> Tot Shabbat service – in person only	Saturday, Dec. 24	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Miketz</i> ) <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative-style, lay-led minyan – in person only
Friday, Nov. 25	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble and Orion Dixon	Friday, Dec. 30	<b>6:15 pm</b> (Fifth Friday) "Shabbat at Home." No service at CBI - please welcome Shabbat in community with family and friends
Saturday, Nov. 26	<b>10:00 am</b> Bar Mitzvah of Orion Dixon – in person and on Zoom	Saturday, Dec. 31	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayigash</i> )
Friday, Dec. 2	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service, featuring the Keshet 3rd/4th Grade class		
Saturday, Dec. 3	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayetze</i> )		

## Anniversaries

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(# 36)	Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger	(# 38)
Nov. 7	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#18)	Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(# 57)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(# 26)	Dec. 21	Corey Welch & Judy Diamond	(# 36)
Nov. 23	Iris & Kevin Parker	(# 47)	Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(# 46)
Nov. 29	Floyd King & Leigh Squires	(# 20)	Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(# 18)
Dec. 3	Carrie Adelstein & Adam Tipps	(# 1)	Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(# 57)
Dec. 6	David & Annie Kiersky	(# 37)	Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(# 51)
Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(# 48)	Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(# 25)
Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(# 42)			

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



# 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 4

Gladys Rose Eisner	11/5
Anna Mae Baker	11/6
Sharon Serne	11/6
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	11/6
Bette Bikman	11/7
Sephora Andresen	11/8
Celia Loober	11/8
John Lopresti	11/9
Warren Jay Kahn	11/10
Lily Swartz	11/10
George Bernard Levine	11/11

## Friday, November 11 and Saturday, November 12

Otto V. Vohl	11/12
Robert (Bob) Farkas	11/14
Anne Enger	11/15
Phillip Fine	11/16
Samuel Hecht	11/18
Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/18

## Friday, November 18

Irving Grossman	11/20
Hilda Meltzer	11/20
Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20
Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/21
Rose Weitzman Price	11/22
Louise Reese	11/22
Myer Avraham Goldberg	11/23
Melvin Goldberger	11/23
Esther Mazur	11/23
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Julian Lewis	11/25

## Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26

Bud Robinson	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Esther Schwarz	11/28
Marvin Siegel	11/28
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	11/29
Lenore Shankman	11/29
Phyllis Heck	11/30
Bernard Shuster	12/1
Amy Margolis	12/2
John Paschetag	12/2
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	12/2
Zelda Turovitz	12/2

## Friday, December 2

Henri Benhaim	12/3
Hyman Bettman	12/3
Dick Eigen	12/3
Ida Zderic	12/3
Louis Groper	12/4
Edith Jensen	12/4
Gladys Bloch	12/7
Victor Geretz	12/7
Donald Waldo Redell	12/7
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	12/8
Frank Zderic	12/8
Marion Relin	12/9

## Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10

Samuel M. Pravda	12/10
Abram Stolzoff	12/11
Elaine Cohn	12/12
Sanford Thal	12/12
Mikel Luster	12/13
Richard Kite	12/15
Joseph Koplowitz	12/15
Robin Hoffman	12/16
Solomon Schwartz	12/16
Harold Sharpe	12/16

## Friday, December 16

Alice Behrstock	12/17
Diane Lewis	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17
Frances Feiger	12/18
Rachel Jaffe	12/18
Joseph Robinson	12/18
John Lester	12/19
Elly Kraus	12/20
Lucille Rest	12/20
Joseph Soode	12/20
Glinda Blackwell	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Jerry Roberts	12/22

## Friday, December 23 and Saturday, December 24

Joseph Kahan	12/24
Stanley Alper	12/25
Joel Corman	12/25
Burton Jay	12/25
Nathan Loober	12/25
Sarah Patinkin	12/25
Leslie Spitzer	12/25
George Shaw	12/26
Beatrice Weiss	12/26
William Zderic	12/26
Bella Heller	12/27
Ray Redel	12/27
Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
Richard Bloomfield	12/29
Ben Gordon	12/29
Jack Miller	12/29
John Miller	12/29
Benjamin David Glazer	12/30

## Friday, December 30

Milton Kaufman	12/31
Barry Zell	12/31
George Bikman	1/1
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	1/1
Rudolf Reitz	1/1
Lois Looney	1/2
Rachel Siegfried	1/2
Ruth Jacobson	1/3
Cecile R. Gordon	1/4
Dale Allison Harriman	1/4
Lynn Shuster	1/4
William Aron Dorfman	1/5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5
George Garmo	1/5
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5
Haskell David	1/6
Martin Katz	1/6
Florence Weintraub	1/6
Ezra Isaiah Wood	1/6

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

## Congregation Beth Israel

751 San Juan Boulevard  
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## FAMILY CHINESE DINNER, MOVIE AND CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

### Save the Date: Sunday, December 25

Come celebrate the last night of Chanukah (December 25) with your friends and family at Beth Israel. Starting at 3:30 pm, come get your snacks and seats. Starting at 4:00 pm, we will have two movies: one for adults and a family-friendly movie.

Bring your *menorahs* to light and dreidels to spin and enjoy a vegetarian Chinese dinner in the social hall after the movie.

Please bring a donation of gift cards to CBI that will help clients of the Safe Housing Program at local non-profit DVSAS. These items will make a huge difference in the lives of many women and families in our city. Bring a gift card from the following list: Winco, gas cards, movie passes, Wendy's, McDonalds, Fred Meyer, or Haggen.

More details to follow in the *Timbrel*.

