

FROM THE RABBI

Mosaic Art by Linda Hirsh To Inaugurate a CBI Exhibition Series

BY EMILY WEINER

Mosaic art will fill the walls at Congregation Beth Israel beginning in September, courtesy of artist Linda Hirsh and the Programming Committee.

This exhibition will be the first in a series to showcase the work of visual artists who are members of CBI. Each exhibition will be up for several months, in a prominent location best suited to display each artist's work.

The official Opening of the Hirsh exhibition is Friday, September 8, at

the Oneg following the 6:15 pm Shabbat service.

Another exhibition-related event will be a free Artist Talk at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 1. For each exhibition, Keshet will explore with the artist how they might bring their expertise to our students.

Linda Hirsh, a native Philadelphian, studied oil painting and art history, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University School of Art, and a Master of Fine Arts from Tulane University. She won a Fulbright fellowship to India in 1962 and a Connecticut state grant in 1975.

She has worked in a variety of painting



Ladies in the Plaza, by Linda Hirsh

A New High Holy Day Era for CBI



All the way back in 2016 I shared several copies of the newly published Reform High Holy Day *machzor*, *Mishkan HaNefesh*,

with CBI's Ritual Committee. We spent a meeting flipping through the pages and talking about the possibility of switching over to this set from the older *Gates of Repentance*. Having been here for just a couple of years, I was hesitant to create big waves by introducing the new *machzor*, but at the same time I knew we needed to seriously consider it. I am overjoyed that we will be using it for the first time this season, and I love how so many have already purchased copies for the shul and dedicated them to loved ones.

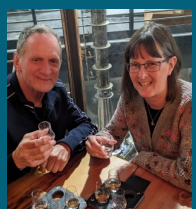
One of the biggest hurdles to connecting with High Holy Day liturgy, according to so many congregants, has been accessibility. GOR's transliteration is inconsistent and hard to find. Not everyone who worships with us can read or even follow along in the Hebrew. The congregant thus becomes a

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From the President...

What I Learned by Listening

There is a CBI walking group that meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am in the parking lot at Lake Padden, above the kid's play area. Occasionally I join this group to chat while we walk around the lake. All are welcome, and it's an easy and fun way to connect outside whether you are new to CBI or have been a member for years.

While walking a few weeks ago, I fell in to rhythm with a couple of long-time CBI members. One congregant congratulated and thanked me for stepping into the role as president. Another congregant voiced the opinion that really most of the work at CBI was done by the committees and that the Board does very little. At first this comment upset me. Having served under Presidents Josh Greenberg and Miriam Schwartz, I've witnessed firsthand how committed and dedicated our Board is to meeting the needs of the congregation. I've noted the long hours individuals spend working on policies to improve how CBI functions. All our Board members act as liaisons between the hard-working committees and the Board, in effect creating a natural and circular communication flow. It is clear to me that both the committees and the Board serve vital functions and that without either we do not work well or make sense.

Once I recovered from the affront, I thought to pause and reflect on the congregant's remarks. I remembered a line from a Proverb that says: "Make your ear attentive to wisdom and incline your heart to understanding." If she, an involved CBI member, thinks the Board does very little work, what might others who are less connected perceive?

I took a deep breath and started thinking about how the Board communicates our actions to the community. Specifically, I wondered how often we "do" work but fail to communicate our efforts! This led me to think about the results of last year's member survey, sent out just after the High Holy Days. While we discussed the results as a Board and talked about them with a few committees, I realized we didn't share the results with the broader congregation. Here was a perfect chance to illustrate part of what we do for the congregation, and more importantly to keep everyone informed of the findings and action plan.

To refresh our memories, the survey asked primarily about your experience as members of CBI.

We had 103 responses to the questions: *What motivates you to continue your CBI membership?* and *How do you want to increase your participation in synagogue life?* The results showed that

most of the respondents want to increase participation in some way at CBI.

Below are the 3 areas where participation drew most interest.

1. The community is craving more Adult Education classes. Rabbi Samuels holds several adult education series each year. He is actively looking for additional teachers so we can offer courses on more topics. On this front, we need your help!

Are you well versed in some Jewish or religious areas and want to share your knowledge? Do you know someone who is an educator (current or former) who can guide a class on topics that might have appeal? It doesn't have to be a full-on course. Even sharing wisdom for an evening or two could be great. Please let me or the Rabbi know this is resonating with you. If you are one of many who want more adult education, please reach out and volunteer to help with spearheading this effort.

2. Many congregants want more opportunities to gather socially with other congregants. This came from both new and long-time members. Specifically, there is expressed desire for the formation of organized *Chavurot*. Members are looking for opportunities to gather in dedicated small groups centered around sharing holidays together or to simply socialize.

I am happy to say that Erin Cohen, Vice President of the Board, is leading an effort to explore establishing *Chavurot* for CBI members. If you are one of the many who said you are looking for this, please contact Erin. Keep your eyes peeled for more on this in the months ahead.

There was also strong interest in restarting the wildly popular Shabbat Dinner Crowd that Melissa Schapiro spearheaded many years ago. See page 10.

3. The third main takeaway from the survey results was that the community wants to know more about the Care Committee and what services are available. To this end, please look for a series of articles, starting in this issue of the *Shofar*, from Co-chair Else Sokol. The Care Committee is more than just the organizers of the highly successful Meal Train program. You will soon learn more about the function of this dedicated group.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey. If you want to talk about the specifics or brainstorm ideas you have to improve CBI, please reach out to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these results with you.

JODI LITT
PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
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The Shul Shofar

Volume 28, Number 1
September/October 2023
Elul/Tishrei/Heshvan 5783/5784

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Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the November/December issue is OCTOBER 11. Call the office for more information.

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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Connect Through Keshet

BY LEAH BORDMAN

As summer is coming to an end, the Keshet staff is hard at work preparing to have an amazing year at CBI. This is a great time to register for the year if you haven't already done so! We currently have 43 students registered for Keshet! This is already more than half of the student count from last year, and it's only August — keep it up!

We now have one new Keshet teacher hired, Samantha Schwartz, and we've rethought the breakdown of our classrooms. This year our structure is: Gan; K/1; 2/3; 4; 5; 6; 7/8; Confirmation. With the addition of Samantha, we have one main teacher for every class, as well as a Hebrew specialist and a music specialist coming in each week, which was a huge success last year. Staff orientation will take place on August 30.

Our second Annual Open House, for Keshet families to join their children at CBI, will take place on Sunday, October 15. We encourage parents and families to come to Keshet that morning to experience our school from 10:00 am-12:30 pm, breakfast included! After breakfast and *t'fillah*, families will join their children in classrooms, meet other Keshet parents, and play in an epic Kids vs. Parents kickball game (weather permitting).

The 5784 Madrichim Program has launched. Teens in grades 9-12 are encouraged to apply with Leah Bordman if they have an interest in assisting Keshet teachers on Sundays. They will be given mentorship and leadership training, as well as experience working with our Keshet students in grades Gan-6.

Madrichim get to choose when they apply whether they will be working for minimum wage or for volunteer hours. Last year our program had 13 teens, and this year's Madrichim group has the potential to have just as many. If you know a teen in grades 9-12, encourage them to reach out and apply!

In addition to the Madrichim Program, Leah is looking for teens to sign up for BAY, CBI's youth group. Teens must register to participate in fun monthly events throughout the year. Last year, we carved pumpkins, went ice skating, had Friendsgiving, and some teens participated in a Habitat for Humanity project. All registered teens will have input on the programs designed for them.

If you have questions about Keshet, Open House, Madrichim, or BAY, reach out to Leah Bordman and Victoria Mayers at keshet@bethisraelbellingham.org

Calling All Keshet Parents

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

To maintain our Keshet program's standard of excellence, the assistance and support of our Keshet families is not only needed but highly encouraged. Our Hebrew school education program is only able to operate at its highest potential with the ongoing involvement of you — our parents and CBI families. Last year, we embarked on a strong campaign to recruit CBI volunteers. Several volunteers answered the call and remain committed to offering continual reinforcement as needed.

Currently, Keshet's administrative team is planning a variety of extracurricular activities and hands-on programs that require regular support in order to operate smoothly and safely. Therefore, we invite you to attend a parent meeting on October 15, led by Parent Committee coordinator Tammy Dixon. We intend to discuss what our new and improved Parent Committee could look like post-Covid. This year we are hoping to establish a strong, functional Parent Committee that is developed from new ideas and powerful mission and vision values.

Please consider aligning with our program's efforts to provide a meaningful and purposeful Jewish education for our Keshet students.

Synagogue 411

Archives:

Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

Care:

Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

Sarah Witte, (360) 296-3058

Membership:

Ann Suloway, (360) 296-8220

Sue Mahar (360) 319-5314

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Carol Robinson, (360) 671-3852

Social Action:

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Bar Mitzvah



Max Leo Naiman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on September 30, 2023. He is the son of Jesse and Nicky Naiman, and the brother of Lucy Naiman. Max will be entering the eighth grade at Fairhaven Middle School. He enjoys playing soccer and running cross country for his school. He also plays the saxophone, competes in Future Problems Solvers, and enjoys taking technology classes. For his mitzvah project, he is hoping to raise money for Blue

Skies for Children, an organization that helps local homeless, low-income, and foster children have access to sports and extracurricular activities.

The Naiman family invites you to join them in celebration of this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, September 29, 2023 at 6:15 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 10:00 am

Bar Mitzvah



Max Nahani Braunstein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 21, 2023. He is the son of Jay S. Nahani and Michael Braunstein, and the caring brother of Chloe. Born in Vancouver, BC, Max's first word was "ball" — he has had a passion for baseball and basketball ever since. An eighth grader at Kulshan Middle School, Max loves playing competitive team sports and collecting sports cards, as well as spending time learning and laughing with friends and family. He enjoys an annual trip to visit family in Florida,

jumping ocean waves, and reading YA books about social justice. At home in the PNW, Max can be seen walking Izzy the Dog, tending to neighbors' yards and animals, playing Xbox, or busting out a creative dance move.

Max's family invites you to join them in celebration of this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, October 20, 2023 at 6:15 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10:00 am

MASSA Updates

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that our MASSA program was awarded another \$20,000 from the \$60,000 Samis Foundation grant. The foundation indicated that they are excited about the MASSA program and continue to monitor its progress.

As we enter into our second year of this three-year course, our team intends to maintain the momentum of the program with ongoing monthly classes and annual get togethers. Over the summer, students were assigned *Letters To Talia* by Dov Indig. When they return to their learning sessions on September 10, they will discuss their thoughts and opinions about this true dialogue between a high school student and an Israeli soldier.

To date, MASSA participants have earned nearly \$6,000 from fundraising, donations, and contracted jobs

from the CBI community at large. If you have any odd jobs or events needing more workers please consider hiring our MASSA youth. Also, if you are currently cleaning out your space, planning on moving, or wanting to downsize, MASSA is collecting used household items, books, and clothing to sell to Value Village. So far, we have earned nearly \$3,000 selling boxed items and bagged clothing to Value Village. Our next drop-off date is planned for Sunday, October 15 from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm. If you are not able to deliver on that date please call the CBI office to schedule a time that works for you.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

From the Social Action Committee

Why Is Congregation Beth Israel Different?

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

I was discussing social action at Congregation Beth Israel with an activist from another Reform congregation in Washington. Her question was how our congregation remains so active and engaged with social justice. What makes us different? My opinion is that we have so many wonderful volunteers. The dedicated volunteers on the Social Action Committee are inspiring, and there are also many congregants who step up for just one event or one cause. The number of projects that we try to address can be overwhelming, and sometimes we spread ourselves thin. We all have our “favorite” cause, whether it’s racial justice, climate change, antisemitism, or LGBTQ+ rights. Whatever our cause is, it gives us a sense of mission. It makes one’s soul burn a little brighter. That one cause can be the reason a person walks in the Pride Parade, marches for gun control, or donates to help refugees.

My hope is that the Social Action Committee and our leadership give you reason to keep showing up. Let us know what wrongs you want to right, but also consider how you can foster and contribute to Beth Israel’s social activism. Ideas are great, but we need engaged and committed volunteers to transform ideas into campaigns.

Another reason we have an abundance of social justice events at Beth Israel is all the nonprofit organizations in Bellingham with which we partner. We were able to collaborate on July 29 with the anti-racism groups Chardi Kala Project, BetterTogether Lynden, and Connect Ferndale to present a One Whatcom event. The goal of the evening was to make connections, and create and deepen friendships between our organizations. We had discussions over a falafel dinner about prejudice and antisemitism. We also honored the memory of Noémi Ban (z”l). An article about the event by Dr. Vernon Damani Johnson appeared in the recent *Salish Current* newsletter.

The Pride Parade was July 12. Rabbi Samuels and congregants marched with our Pride banner. It was great that the parade is finally back from the pandemic, and we participated in large numbers. We are looking for photos anyone may have taken of our group.

Congregation Beth Israel donated over \$800 in gift cards and items to furnish an apartment through the World Relief organization in Bellingham. The items for a kitchen, bath, and bedrooms were collected beginning in February and delivered in July. Much thanks to all who donated. We know the contributions were greatly appreciated. Our social action book group in August discussed the ongoing need to support refugees. Plans are to have a book group discussion on antisemitism in November. We are considering *Antisemitism Here and Now* by Deborah E Lipstadt or *We Need to Talk about Anti-Semitism* by Rabbi Diana Fersko (release date 8/28/23).

Many of the projects that the Social Action Committee undertakes are with the Interfaith Coalition of Bellingham. We were lucky to have the executive director, Devin Connelly, discuss this great organization during the Shabbat service on July 14. Volunteers from CBI continue cleaning up transitional housing, the “Little House” on Texas Street, for the Coalition. The Interfaith Coalition will hold its Annual Coat drive this October. We will be collecting coats around the first two weeks of October so start looking around for gently worn coats to donate.

Looking to the future, we will have a food drive for the Bellingham Food Bank on Yom Kippur, September 25. Further details will follow in the *Timbrel* soon. Please contact Linda Blackwell, linda.blackwell@bethisraelbellingham.org to volunteer for any of these projects.



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Shalom from the Care Committee!

The results of the Board's Member Survey revealed that congregants would like to know more about what, exactly, the Care Committee is and what we do and offer.

The Care Committee is committed to the sacred obligation of *gemilut hasadim*, acts of loving kindness. Our focus is caring for CBI congregants as well as Whatcom County Jewish nonmembers who may need assistance. We carry out these *mitzvot* with joy, compassion, sensitivity, and discretion.

We strive to have eyes and ears out in our CBI community, to be aware when someone may be facing a challenge. Many times, referrals come from Rabbi Samuels. Initially, we'll check in with the person or their family via phone call and do a needs assessment. Then we come up with a plan and implementation strategy.

We have a broad scope of how we can help people. Here are some examples of our services:

- We keep track of those in our community, especially those who are aged, live alone or have chronic health conditions, who are unable to join CBI activities due to health or mobility issues. We visit them on a regular basis. We send cards for their birthdays and holidays. We also send cards to any congregant facing bereavement or acute health challenges.
- We organize Meal Trains to nourish those going through life transitions — birth, death, illness, or hardship (you can find current Meal Train links in the weekly *Timbrel*).
- We attend Shiva Minyans.
- We help deliver *Mishloach Manot* bags for Purim.
- We arrange transportation for anyone who needs it, for things such as medical appointments or synagogue services.

- We provide grants on a case-by-case basis for basics like food and fuel. We've paid for auto maintenance for a community member living in their car. We've even provided cat food and kitty litter to the beloved pet of a congregant facing financial hardship.
- We've coordinated the move of a congregant from one assisted living facility to another.
- We've helped greater Bellingham Jewish community members experiencing mental health crises or homelessness with referrals to community services/outreach teams;
- We've picked up prescriptions, delivered groceries during snowstorms, and provided respite for caregivers.
- During the lockdown phase of the Covid pandemic, we helped organize phone calls to every congregant to make sure they were okay and had the support they needed.
- We support the wellness and well-being of our entire congregation through periodic educational information and programming; proper handwashing instruction for Keshet students, and our End of Life planning series, for instance.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our support, start by contacting the Rabbi or Mary Somerville.

Would you like to get involved? If you're inspired to join the Care Committee or are interested in being someone we can call for occasional *mitzvah* opportunities, please contact Co-Chairs Else Sokol or Sarah Witte. If you are unable to donate your time, we gratefully accept financial donations to support our activities.

Shalom and take good care.

Else Sokol (contact info) sokolbell4@comcast.net

Sarah Witte (contact info) sntwitte@yahoo.com

Rabbi Samuels or Mary Somerville:

office@bethisraelbellingham.org

Anniversaries

Sept. 1	Amanda Robins and Daniel Zagnoli	(# 5)
Sept. 2	Sarah Zarrow and David Schlitt	(# 5)
Sept. 5	Kendra Bradford and Todd Shuster	(# 27)
Sept. 6	Zev & Elle Kronenberg	(# 14)
Sept. 6	Jason & Chi-Na Stoane	(# 24)
Sept. 7	Jason & Carly Benhaim	(# 3)
Sept. 7	Camille & Matthew Keefe	(# 10)
Sept. 12	Gayle Cloud & Jeff Crollard	(# 13)
Sept. 12	Stuart & Cinda Zemel	(# 47)
Sept. 22	Tami DuBow & Frank Corey	(# 22)
Sept. 25	Perry & Katie Somers	(# 18)
Sept. 30	Marta & Craig Brand	(# 45)
Oct. 9	Jane & Erik Hammerstrom	(# 8)
Oct. 9	Roy & Leslie Shankman	(# 35)
Oct. 10	Marcy & Jeff Probst	(# 31)
Oct. 10	Mary Somerville and Gary Marzullo	(# 31)
Oct. 14	Mark & Naomi Pomerantz	(# 17)
Oct. 30	Emily & Zach Bastow	(# 12)

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.

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Mike & Jamie Altman** and son **Leo** (3) – Bellingham
- **Dr. Ben & Betsy Becker**, daughter **Miriam** (3) and son **Max** (1) – Bellingham
- **Kathleen & Larry Bell** – Bellingham
- **Dr. Alex Ellis** – Bellingham
- **Dana & Luke Goodwin**, sons **Levy** (7) and **Herschel** (6) – Bellingham
- **Francine Levy** – Carmichael, CA
- **Augi Moyer** – Bellingham
- **Crow Richards** – Bellingham

MOSAIC ART BY LINDA HIRSH*Continued from Page 1*

and printmaking media, which she left behind due to her allergy to paint and turpentine, when she started creating mosaic art.

Linda has shown her oils in Philadelphia at the Pearl Fox Gallery; and, in Hartford, Connecticut, in a two-person show at Artworks Gallery and at the Wadsworth Atheneum (Hartford's fine arts museum). She has shown her mosaics at the Institute of Mosaic Art in Berkeley, California; at the Lucia Douglas Gallery, in Bellingham; and at the Healing Through Art exhibition at St. Joseph Medical Center, also in Bellingham.

Photos of some of her work are on her website, lindahirsh.wordpress.com

Linda is also the author of two collections of poetry, *Then and Now* and *The Book of Id*, as well as *The Cub's Beat*, a memoir about working for a decade as "the world's oldest cub reporter" for the *Hartford Courant*, Connecticut's largest daily newspaper. She also wrote two cookbooks that include profiles and recipes from CBI members: *To Kugel with Love: Life in the Jewish Kitchen* and *Kugel Lite: Recast Lives/Recast Recipes*. Her writing was also included in *Memory into Memoir, An Anthology*, published in 2016 by the Red Wheelbarrow Writers of Bellingham.

Linda and her husband, Allan, have been married for 64 years and have four grown children and three grandchildren. They moved from Connecticut to Bellingham and joined CBI in 1998.

Our curator for the exhibition series is Dr. Ashley Mask, who has been a CBI member since she moved to Bellingham in 2022 to accept a position at Western Washington University as Assistant Professor, Art & Museum Education. She is an artist, art and museum edu-



Wall With Passerby, by Linda Hirsh

cator, and researcher-scholar. Prior to joining Western, Ashley taught at Columbia University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Museum, all in New York City. Previously, Ashley led the education departments at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City and the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art in Colorado. She holds an Ed.D. from Columbia University, an M.S.Ed. from Bank Street College, an M.F.A. from the University of Delaware, and a B.F.A. from the University of Montevallo.

Art displayed in the exhibitions will not be for sale at CBI, but each artist will have the opportunity to let viewers know how to contact them to discuss possible purchases.

Early in 2024, the Programming Committee will be contacting other CBI artists and scheduling subsequent exhibitions. We know of several artists we hope to include, but with CBI membership expanding so fast we want to be sure we don't miss someone — so if you are interested in participating, please contact the Programming Committee co-chairs:

Emily.Weiner@bethisraelbellingham.org

Melissa.Schapiro@bethisraelbellingham.org

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Faces in Our Community: Melissa and John Schapiro

BY LINDA HIRSH

How does one of the very few Jews in Las Cruces, N.M., find someone to date?

If you are a journalist like Melissa Schapiro, you write a story about the struggle.

"While working at the newspaper in Las Cruces, I would complain to my co-workers about how hard it was," Melissa said. "They thought my explanations were funny and encouraged me to write a features article. It ran with a color photo of me and my three cats in the Sunday paper." That article was circulated through nearby Jewish communities. "Through mutual connections, we had a blind date and that was that!"

That was that means that in 1992 she met John Schapiro, who worked at the El Paso PBS station, accepted his proposal on New Year's Eve in Mexico City, and married him in 1993. *That was that* also meant that three years later they moved to Bellingham, WA, a green landscape which Melissa said she appreciated after growing up in the desert. Finally, *that was that* meant they had their first child, Naomi, in 1998, and triplets Isaac, Raphael, and Shoshana in 2000!

Answering the question what do you consider unique about yourselves, John reports that "having triplets is damn unique." According to the Center for Disease Control, it happens once in 6,889 births.



The Schapiros: back row, Rafi and John; middle row, Melissa and Isaac; front row, Naomi and Shoshana

Also unique was that John was born and raised on the Texas/Mexican border in El Paso and so "my first words were a sprinkling of English and Spanish," he said. "My life on the border was culturally rich. My family would pile into the car and drive over the Rio Grande bridge to Juarez, only a few minutes away."

There, colorful outdoor markets, mouth-watering cuisine, and night-clubs greeted the family. They knew several Jewish families who had shops in Juarez. As a result, "I have a deep appreciation for Hispanic culture, especially the food," he said.

John said his parents were active in an El Paso Reform temple, where his father served as congregation president and his mother joined sisterhood. "I still have my [Bar Mitzvah] photo album and occasionally and amusingly thumb through it with the kids," he said.

While John had a Reform Jewish background, Melissa's family was active in her Tucson, AZ Conservative shul. Born in New York, but raised in Los Angeles and Tucson, Melissa, who was the first girl to become a

Continued on Page 11

LATEST ACTIVITIES AT CBI



1. Rabbi Lenny Thal visiting CBI and his ancestors. 2. CBI at Bellingham Pride. 3. Tot Shabbat is growing. 4. CBI at Camp Kalsman. 5. MASSA youth group visits the Seattle Holocaust Center on March 19.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

passive, rather than active, participant. This was unacceptable to me. While the High Holy Days are significantly different from our weekly Shabbat services, Andrea and I want the same level of *ruach* (spirit) and engagement that we feel from the community week in and week out. Even for folks who only attend occasionally, our thoughts are always on how we can get everyone to engage even more and reach a higher place spiritually. Some synagogues lead study sessions with their congregants in the weeks leading up to the High Holy Days where they show them how to use *Mishkan HaNefesh*. Since we've been using *Mishkan Tefillah* for years, I don't think that will be necessary. I know you will feel comfortable the minute you open the prayer book, as it is structured just like MT. On the right side of each

two-page spread, you will find the traditional liturgy with the transliteration directly next to it and the translation below. This is referred to as *keva*, or fixed prayer. There are also some interesting notes on the bottom of each page. On the left side of the spread, you will see alternative translations, poems, and creative readings that connect with the Hebrew prayer. This is referred to as *kavanah* or focusing prayer. Feel free to let your eyes wander there from time to time, as those passages might help you connect more to the themes and feelings of each section. Lastly, there are blue-tinted pages that

have wonderful meditations or study texts to read. We will utilize all of these when we gather together on Erev Rosh Hashanah on Friday, September 15.

I hope your High Holy Day experience will be elevated this year to incredible heights. Even more than this, I wish you and your loved ones a very sweet and healthy New Year.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



Shabbat Dinner Crowd Is Back!

Beth Israel will be reviving its Shabbat Dinner Crowd — a flash mob Shabbat dinner experience — though the sign-up format will be adjusted a bit.

How it works:

Someone volunteers a location for Shabbat dinner and guests supply the food (a main dish or a side, enough to feed your family). The host provides challah, kiddush wine, and glasses/plates/utensils. The dinner is casual — buffet style, paper plates and jeans are fine. Just come and enjoy. Dinners can be meat, dairy, or vegetarian. Hosts, please let everyone know what the kashrut status of the meal is.

What's new:

Instead of getting an automated email the Sunday before a Shabbat Dinner Crowd, we will be maintaining a Google worksheet with the dates for Dinner Crowd listed. Hosts can peruse the dates and sign up to host, specifying any food rules, number of guests they can handle, and their address and contact information. Once a date has a host, guests can fill in their names, along with the number in their party and their contact information.

The database that was used for the previous setup will not be used, so if you want to participate, you need to check the Google worksheet and sign up. The link for the worksheet will be available in the weekly *Timbrel*, which is distributed to Congregation Beth Israel members. Members are welcome to share the link with friends.

Our first Dinner Crowd will be October 27, and the signup link will be in the *Timbrel*, starting at the beginning of October.

The plan is to hold Dinner Crowd once a month — when Friday night services are at 7:30 pm, an early dinner (5:00 to 7:00 pm) is suggested. When it's an evening without a Friday night service (typically a fifth Friday), dinner can start a little later, usually around 6:00 or 6:15 pm.

Any other questions? Call Melissa Schapiro (360) 738-7182, or email webmaster@bethisraelbellingham.org

Let's keep this rolling by having someone host every time!

MELISSA AND JOHN SCHAPIRO*Continued from Page 8*

Saturday morning Bat Mitzvah there, caused a walkout of the regular *minyan* when they saw her on the *bimah!* Melissa also went to Camp Ramah in California for eight summers, “which really shaped my Jewish practice,” she said.

Being Jewish is an unbreakable bond for these two people, as is their media background.

Melissa has a journalism degree from University of Arizona. Her first job was at the Gallup *Independent*, then the Las Cruces, New Mexico *Sun News* as a reporter and editor. She moved on to the El Paso *Times* and then the Bellingham *Herald* in 1996, where she worked until 2008 when the recession hit.

The Schapiros have long-standing roots, now, in our congregation family. Emily Weiner, who worked with John at Mount Baker Theater, taught the triplets at Keshet, and co-chairs the programming committee with Melissa.

“Melissa trained me as a copy editor at the Bellingham *Herald* and impressed me as having the fastest mind of anyone I had ever known,” Emily said “Now we edit each other’s

draft publicity for events and are regular attendees of the Sisterhood Book Group. She is a dear friend who continually deepens my understanding of Judaism.”

John graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in film and television. He was enthralled by his film professor, “so I hung in his office a lot,” he said. “My dream was to make documentary films, which came true briefly when I traveled to Mexico to make one on the Tarahumara Indians.”

Ann Suloway knows about his talent. “John enjoys photography and has used his skills to fill their home with family portraits,” Ann said. “He also makes slide shows of trips that he and Melissa have taken.”

After college, John worked as a fundraiser for the Dallas Theater Center, a dance company, and public television stations. He recently retired from the Mount Baker Theater, “an exciting place to go to work every day,” he said. Ultimately, Melissa became a realtor. “I had always enjoyed looking at houses. Even as a kid, I would go with my mom to open houses — so I recycled my journalism skills and got my license in 2010.”

How do folks spend their time out from jobs and raising four children?

Melissa knits and raises mason bees — pollinators that don’t make honey but help counter the negative effects of the dwindling honeybee colonies.

Both are active at shul. Melissa has spent 10 years on the CBI Board, serving as secretary for four. She created the CBI website, designed the *Shofar*, chaired the communications committee, co-chairs the programming committee, serves on the membership committee and on the commission of Camp Kalsman, where the children spent their summers. Both Isaac and Shoshana have made *aliyah*. Melissa’s first trip out of the continent was to Israel in 2021 to see Isaac at his Israel Defense Force swearing-in ceremony.

John serves on the Fundraising and Landscape Committees. In addition, travel draws him. “Making PowerPoint photo diaries of our travels is a creative outlet and keeps me out of trouble,” he said.

He listed some travel highlights: “Michelangelo’s David in Florence; a gondola ride in Venice; the Coliseum in Rome; the sights, smells, and sounds of Jerusalem’s Old City; and the Ilana Goor Museum in Jaffa. Don’t miss it!”

Thanks to Melissa’s Jew-dating lament all those years ago, they haven’t missed much together!

Whatcom County Could Lead the Nation in Eliminating Kidney Transplant Waiting Lists

Learn about the advances in this important area of medicine from Dr. Bill Lombard, retired nephrologist, who will talk about LIVING KIDNEY DONATION at a public forum on September 10 from 12:00-2:00 pm at the Squalicum Boathouse. Hosted by the Mount Baker Foundation, lunch will be served, and three \$100 gift cards will be given as door prizes.

In addition to Dr. Lombard, a donor and recipient will appear at the forum. Their stories are sure to be inspiring. Read the article by Dr. Lombard that appeared in a recent edition of *Cascadia*: tinyurl.com/3wwzy273

LIVING KIDNEY DONATION

Join us to learn more about living kidney donation. A panel of kidney donors, recipients, and medical experts will discuss the journey of living kidney donation and transplantation.



OR VISIT: [RB.GY/L6RIB](https://rb.gy/L6RIB)

Lunch provided!
Please RSVP

For more information: maria@mtbakerfoundation.org

September 10, 2023
12PM-2PM

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Bellingham, WA 98225

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Foundation

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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

*Rabbi & Nicole Samuels, in celebration of their 18th wedding anniversary

*Rabbi & Nicole Samuels, with best wishes for their birthdays

*Rabbi Samuels – Happy Fathers' Day

*Lea Donner, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

*Jonah Attar, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

*Eytan Samuels, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Fran Levy*

Eytan Samuels, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Sylvia Williams*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Marla & Danny Finkelstein, with gratitude

From: *Vermeda Fred & Rodney Shainbom*

Rabbi Samuels, for his kindness and support following the death of my husband.

From: *Kathi Paluch*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Kevin Donner and family, on the loss of his beloved brother, Blair

From: *Fran Levy*

IN MEMORY OF:

My beloved husband, Shelly

From: *Phyllis Mazur*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Aline & Sid Wanne

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The life of Michael A. Lebowitz, 11/27/35 - 4/19/23

From: *Gloria Lebowitz*

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Eytan Samuels, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Cynthia Block (Sarasota, FL)*
Norman Fassler-Katz (Carmichael, CA)

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Joan Wayne and Emily Weiner

From: *Richard Widerkehr*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels

From: *Linda Blackwell & David Goldman*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Kathi Paluch, in memory of her beloved husband Barry

From: *Bonnie Stone*
Joan & Marv Wayne

COMMEMORATING THE YAHRTZEIT OF:

Charles Abraham Wolfson
Jules Paul Wolfson

From: *Lisa Rose Distler (Bellingham)*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

John Cook

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

*The birth of Bruce & Becki Van Glubt's granddaughter, Chloe Rose

*The wedding of Bruce & Becki Van Glubt's daughter, Sarah

From: *Phyllis Mazur*

Jay Nahani Braunstein

From: *Richard Widerkehr*

IN MEMORY OF:

*My beloved mother, Rose Lassman

*My beloved mother-in-law, Celia Loober

From: *Bernice Loober*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Lynn & Michael Korner

ISRAEL TRIP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jonah Attar, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

*Eytan Samuels, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Rita & Steve Spitzer*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Nicki & Jesse Naiman

YOUTH GROUP FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Kevin Donner and family, on the loss of his beloved brother, Blair

From: *Erin & Steven Cohen*
Jane Relin

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jane Relin

From: *John Baker (Bellingham)*

The wedding of Joan & Marv Wayne's granddaughter

From: *Aline & Sid Wanne*

CARE COMMITTEE FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Nora and Nadia Mazonson, in memory of your beloved mother and grandmother, Shulamis Fishbein

From: *Ann Buzaitis and Dena Petersen*

Kathi Paluch, in memory of her beloved husband Barry

From: *Steve & Janis Ban*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Sarah Witte and the Committee, in thanks for your support and loving kindness

From: *David Schlitt & Sarah Zarrow*

The Committee, for their kindness and support following the death of my husband.

From: *Kathi Paluch*

RABBI GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Katie & David Edelstein, in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary

From: *Carol & David Robinson*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Joshua Greenberg, for his service as President of the CBI Board

From: *Carol & David Robinson*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Nancy Friedman, in memory of her beloved husband Richard

From: *Carol & David Robinson*

RABBI'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for his support

From: *Ann Buzaitis & Dena Petersen*

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER 2023

9/1 Nancy Halpern
 9/2 Owen Orloff (14th)
 9/3 Samantha Cambo
 9/3 Luke Goodwin
 9/3 Emil Hecht
 9/4 Joel Cohen
 9/4 Gaby Mayers
 9/4 Chi-Na Stoane
 9/5 John Cook
 9/5 Marilyn Eisner
 9/5 Elliot Levinson (16th)
 9/6 Judy Berman
 9/6 Mary Knight
 9/9 Daryl Dixon
 9/10 Kayla Schott-Bresler
 9/11 Steven Garfinkle
 9/11 Eytan Samuels (14th)
 9/12 Miriam Davids
 9/12 Marcia Lippman
 9/13 Bruce Van Glubt
 9/15 Lucy Naiman (15th)
 9/16 Michele Sanger
 9/16 Howard Sharfstein
 9/16 Elizabeth Sheinkopf
 9/18 Esther Faber
 9/18 Mark Packer
 9/19 Perry Somers
 9/19 Gail Tolentino
 9/21 Darcie Donegan
 9/21 Emma Konikoff (11th)
 9/21 Eleanor Witter McGarrity (2nd)
 9/22 Roby Blecker
 9/22 Elliot Probst (17th)
 9/23 Carrie Adelstein

9/23 Jenny Katz (20th)
 9/23 Angel Raphael (16th)
 9/23 Russell Stolzoff
 9/23 Terri Weiner
 9/24 Howard Cockerham
 9/24 Maria Koplowitz-Fleming
 9/24 Ellen Smith
 9/24 Elora Rose Banks Strich (3rd)
 9/25 Mark Hunter
 9/25 Ahuva Scharff
 9/26 Elliorr Burkill (1st)
 9/26 Jerry Witrer
 9/27 Nancy Davis
 9/27 Debby Meyers
 9/28 Arlene Feld
 9/29 Natan Diamond (3rd)
 9/30 Farrell Covell
 9/30 Regan Levinson
 9/30 Else Sokol

10/6 Fred Zell
 10/7 Leslie Garrison
 10/7 Orly Lindner (20th)
 10/8 Sarann Donegan
 10/8 David Goldman
 10/9 Kevin Donner
 10/9 Armando Lindner
 10/10 David Arpi
 10/10 Beverly Harrington
 10/10 Amanda Robins
 10/11 James Barney (9th)
 10/14 Ray Wolpov
 10/15 Marta Brand
 10/15 Gayle Gordon-Martin
 10/15 Lucy Greenberg (18th)
 10/15 Eloise Hecht (9th)
 10/15 Warren Taranow
 10/16 David Zimmerman
 10/18 Shlomis Waters
 10/19 Leslie Adelstein
 10/20 George Farkas
 10/20 Brandon LaChance
 10/21 Gail Shuster (20th)
 10/22 Minda Rae Amiran
 10/22 Benjamin Burkill (4th)
 10/25 Hannah McCurdy (1st)
 10/26 Thalen Cambo
 10/27 Renée Relin
 10/28 Lea Donner (14th)
 10/29 Richard Simon
 10/29 Katie Somers
 10/30 Lynne MacDonald
 10/30 Neri Maxim (20th)
 10/30 Jay Solomon
 10/31 Jamie Altman
 10/31 Erik Hammerstrom
 10/31 Gayle Kinney

OCTOBER 2023

10/1 Tracey Levine
 10/1 Bernice Loober
 10/1 Warren Rosenthal
 10/2 Kayla Orloff (21st)
 10/3 Chiara Horton (14th)
 10/3 Orilev Wells-Langley (6th)
 10/4 Barry Meyers
 10/5 Jeff LaPlante
 10/5 Laoise Seltz (17th)
 10/5 Jessica Wolfson
 10/6 Eli Genut (5th)
 10/6 Ira Kaufman
 10/6 Michael Lewis
 10/6 Koby Ravitsky (13th)
 10/6 Michael Sommers (19th)

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September/October 2023 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. **Except for B'nei Mitzvah, all Saturday morning services will be in person only.**

Friday, Sept. 1 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Family service with potluck afterward

Saturday, Sept. 2 **11:00 am** Jewish Renewal Shabbat Service

Friday, Sept. 8 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, Sept. 9 **9:30 am** Torah Study (*Parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech*)
10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
8:30 pm *Selichot* Service

Friday, Sept. 15 (See High Holy Day Service schedule)

Saturday, Sept. 16 (See High Holy Day Service schedule)

Friday, Sept. 22 **7:30 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble

Saturday, Sept. 23 **9:30 am** Torah Study – on Zoom only (*Parashat Haazinu*)

Friday, Sept. 29 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from Max Naiman

Saturday, Sept. 30 **10:00 am** Bar Mitzvah of Max Naiman (in person and on Zoom)

Friday, Oct. 6 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service & Simchat Torah celebration, with potluck afterward

Saturday, Oct. 7 **9:30 am** Torah Study
10:30 am Yizkor Service

Friday, Oct. 13 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, Oct. 14 **9:30 am** Torah Study (*Parashat Bereshit*)
11:00 am Tot Shabbat service

Friday, Oct. 20 **6:15 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from Max Braunstein

Saturday, Oct. 21 **10:00 am** Bar Mitzvah of Max Braunstein (in person and on Zoom)

Friday, Oct. 27 **7:30 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble

Saturday, Oct. 28 **9:30 am** Torah Study (*Parashat Lech Lecha*)
10:30 am Conservative lay-led minyan

Solution to the September/October Crossword (see insert)



Welcome Back to CBI, Andrea Shupack

CBI is delighted to share the news that the Shupack family is returning to Bellingham after spending a year in Israel. Beginning in September you will find Andrea sharing the *Bima* with Rabbi Samuels for two Shabbat services per month. Additionally, Andrea will help lead us in song and prayer as Cantorial Soloist for the High Holy Day season. While Andrea's role at CBI has shifted, we are excited to have her and her family back within our midst and look forward to hearing her lead us in song again soon.

Andrea may be available to (co)officiate at your family *simchas* or other events. Please feel free to contact her directly at andreashupack@gmail.com

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, September 1

Joe Lebovich	9/2
Robert Siegfried	9/2
Sara Shaw	9/3
Lilian Suslow	9/3
Otis Swindell	9/6
David Diamond	9/7
Henry Gordon	9/7
Brooklyn Keefe	9/7
Nora Keefe	9/7
Sadie Adelstein-Meyerson	9/8

Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9

Louise Greenberg	9/9
Harold Lazaroff	9/9
Ted Zak	9/10
Blossom Becker	9/11
Art Jensen	9/11
Dora Lebowitz	9/11
Rebecca Miller	9/11
Blythe Cole Busch	9/12
Evelyn Kravitz Driscoll	9/12
Rita J. Witte	9/12
Ron Feiger	9/13
Viola Faber	9/15
Catherine A. Hanley	9/15

Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16

Sarah Hecht	9/16
Debra Winegarten	9/16
Fannie Thal	9/18
Irving Goldstein	9/19
Dale S. Hunter	9/19
Eleanor Moritz	9/19
John Smith	9/19
Irwin Weiner	9/19
Roslyn Wolpow	9/19
Richard Meltzer	9/20
Harry Berman	9/21
Reva David	9/21
Harriet Rosenberg	9/21
Jack Blecker	9/22

Friday, September 22

Mary Faber	9/24
Geraldine Witte	9/24
Carl Paschetag	9/25
Jere Donegan	9/26

Edith Sonneman	9/26
Nora Eilenberg	9/27
Jonas Relin	9/27
Sara Sylvia Seid	9/27
Harriet Korn	9/28
Norman Parker	9/29

Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30

Hannelore "Lala" Vernon-Debari	10/1
Edith Lindheimer	10/5
Albert Kravitz	10/6
Aaron Rosen	10/6

October 6

Trude Weil Bauman	10/7
Joseph Jay	10/7
Carol Van Glubt	10/8
Jay Harvey	10/10
Kurt Jerome Koplowitz	10/10
Bernard "Barry" Shapiro	10/10

Friday, October 13

Joshua Louis Adelstein	10/14
Johanna Vohl	10/15
Shirley Adelstein	10/17
Reuben Dechter	10/17
Themeos Drossos	10/17
Miriam Mitzman	10/19
Maxwell Weiss	10/19
Anthony Robert Flores	10/20
Peter Harvey	10/20
Herman Horowitz	10/20

Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21

David Robinson, Jr.	10/19
Leonard Berman	10/21
Gusdeno Gosdis	10/21
Jacob M. Fine	10/23
Dora Graff	10/23
Donald Kite	10/23
Jack Irwin Moss	10/23
Phyllis Ruth Orlik	10/23
Alex Rosen	10/23
Gladys Boehi	10/24
Sue Kodner	10/25
Ezra Meltzer	10/25
Bernice Sokol	10/25
Florence Spector	10/25
Gladys Rose Eisner	10/26
Lillian Konikoff	10/26
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	10/27

Friday, September 1

Aaron David Schlesinger	10/28
Gertrude "Onita" Glasco	10/29
Celia Loober	10/29
John Lopresti	10/30
Annelise Guenter-Pedersen	10/31
Warren Jay Kahn	10/31
George Bernard Levine	11/1
Max Mazonson	11/3

In Memoriam

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

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

Kevin Donner on the loss of his younger brother, **Blair Donner**, who passed away on Friday, June 23, 2023 in British Columbia.

Kathi Paluch on the loss of her husband, **Barry Paluch**, who passed away at home on Sunday, July 23, 2023 with Kathi at his side. He was 78 years old.

Mary Francell-Sharfstein on the loss of her father, **Edward Gilbert Francell**, who died peacefully in Atlanta, Georgia on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at the age of 89.

Nora Mazonson on the loss of her mother, **Shulamis ("Shu") Fishbein**, who passed away at her home in Mexico City on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. She was 78 years old.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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KESHER VOLUNTEER GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

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Presentations start at 6:30 pm and will end by 8:00 pm



Rob Lopresti, October 22 **Which Presidents Owned** **Slaves?**

Rob is a renowned public speaker whose webpage has been cited many times on the subject of our founding fathers owning slaves. In his presentation he will explain the attitudes of the first 18 presidents on slavery and why

it still matters today. Rob was a librarian at Western Washington University for thirty years and is the author of prize-winning fiction and nonfiction.



Gaby Mayers, December 3 **From Bombay to** **Bellingham.**

Gaby is a Squalicum High School History teacher and a long time CBI congregant. Gaby was born into the Bene Israel Jewish community in Bombay, India. He will discuss the theories regarding how Jews arrived in India, share

memories from his childhood in Bombay and his family's experiences as new immigrants in Israel. After his presentation, there will be time allotted for questions.