

## Jerusalem Talmudic Scholar Gila Fine Talks about Her New Book

BY ANDREA SHUPACK



**Talmudic scholar Gila Fine speaks at CBI November 19, 7 pm about her new book**

*Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic: Rereading the Women of the Talmud*

Before I took Gila Fine's Talmud classes at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, I have to admit that I was indifferent at best to the Talmud. In fact, it was my feelings towards the Talmud that for many years kept me from considering becoming a Rabbi. I often found myself irritated at the rabbis' treatment of women, or bored with the long, rambling circles they spun around laws that seemed to have little bearing on my life, or the life of any liberal Jew. Then I attended Gila Fine's "Talmudic Heroines" class, and I quickly fell in love with the Talmud. Fine helped me see the brilliance of the rabbis and understand how relevant their insights are even today. I had the privilege of studying for a semester the material that went into Fine's new book. All of us in the class have been eagerly awaiting the

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FROM THE RABBI

## We Are Commanded To Remember



*Excerpts from Rabbi Samuels' opening remarks delivered at the October 7 memorial event.*

Thank you all for coming

together this evening with your Beth Israel community. We are a year removed from the worst pogrom our Jewish family has experienced since the Holocaust. Pure evil descended on the south of Israel a year ago, and there are still no words for what our people, and our extended Jewish family in Israel, is going through. Our hearts are forever broken. October 7 changed the course of history for the Jewish people. We will never be the same.

Tonight, we come together to honor the memories of those whose lives were cut short. We think about those peaceniks who just wanted to enjoy music and dancing. We think about the families waking up to sheer terror in their homes. We come together to send love to their immediate loved ones.

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*From the President...*

## Generosity and CBI's Future



**On Erev Rosh Hashanah I spoke about CBI's future and our collective giving. Below is an excerpt from the address.**

CBI is a welcoming home for Jews from Reform to Conservative, and everything in between for NW Washington. Our openness and acceptance of diverse Jews is a great strength and frankly a quality I wish our country could mirror. As congregants, we don't all agree on politics, whether here or abroad. We may have differing viewpoints on Israeli leadership, the settlements, the role of the Chief Rabbinate, and who should be elected U.S. president. But we all agree that supporting Judaism here, where we can choose when and how to participate in our shared or adopted heritage, is vitally important. We set aside our differences because the commonality between us rises, and we know that our shared Judaism is paramount over that which divides us. What better lesson is there on Rosh Hashanah than to be living out that very quality we aspire to embody daily. You wouldn't be here, or on Zoom, or reading this address if CBI weren't important to you — and if strengthening our Jewish gathering place — where we live, work, and call home — wasn't a priority.

To strengthen our collective Jewish home, we need to look deep into our current and future financial situation. We waited 20 years after purchasing this property to begin construction. We saved and saved and even argued about saving, but in the end, we didn't break ground until we had funds raised, and we completed the building without a red line in the balance sheet. This building, all the property, is ours completely. 100%. What a good feel-

ing that is. We've been good stewards of the donations given to sustain CBI and careful about where and why we spend.

To grow and evolve our campus, our collective Jewish home and safe space, we need to step up our collective giving. The membership dues pledged at the start of the fiscal year cover day-to-day operation of the building, pay our staff, and operate Keshet. The dues, however, don't allow for forward planning or provide a safety net for the what if. And if October 7 taught us anything it is that planning for the what ifs will help us be prepared and better able to withstand the unknown.

There are many ways to contribute to CBI. I want to recognize that many of you contribute spontaneously year after year and beyond yearly dues required of CBI membership. To those of you who already give spontaneously, thank you! You are the model I hope many more will emulate — additional yearly gifts above and beyond your dues.

Here are the donation options on the card you received when you entered;

1. We've established a CBI Endowment, allowing donations made now to be invested and grow for our future needs. This fund will produce proceeds ensuring steady revenue for CBI in the future. Think of it as an IRA for CBI. The fund is set up and ready for donations. Additionally, gifts to the endowment can be made as part of a will or estate plan.

2. Donations to our building fund for "Finishing and Furnishing" will allow us to purchase new and more comfortable flexible sanctuary seating and finish the Bima with a size-appropriate lectern and built-in technology to match the beautiful ark and complete the most sacred part of the building.

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98229

*The Shul Shofar*  
Volume 29, 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.

### CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

# Updates from Keshet

Keshet has had a very productive year so far. As of the end of September 2024, we have 88 students enrolled! Of those, 14 students are brand new to Keshet. After the High Holy Days we will also be starting our weekday Zoom Hebrew classes, which are mandatory for our fifth- and sixth-grade students and optional for seventh graders. These classes will have approximately 26 children participating.

On September 8 we had our annual Staff Orientation. During the 4-hour training session, teachers got to know each other, received resources on lesson planning, reviewed program procedures and policies, and toured the Keshet spaces.



Rita Spitzer shares lesson planning ideas with teachers at staff orientation.

September 15 was our first day of school. Excited students arrived with their families to enjoy a pancake breakfast with their friends and teachers. Several volunteers cooked, cleaned, and managed the food. We continue to express our appreciation toward all volunteers who help during the academic year. We couldn't do it without our dedicated volunteers!



Keshet first day back in school, learning about Jonah and the whale.

On September 22, we had our annual Open House event, hosted by the CBI Board of Directors, several of whom engaged with Keshet parents over bagels and coffee. Parents had the opportunity to pop into the classrooms and see what Keshet



Volunteers making pancakes for Keshet first day.

really looks like. This meet and greet was so successful that we are considering offering it again soon.

Currently, Keshet is settling into our normal routine. Every class has a set schedule, and each grade will

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## Synagogue 411

**Archives:**

Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

**Care:**

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Sarah Witte, (360) 296-3058

**Membership:**

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**Library, Scrip:**

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**Gartner Scholarship Fund:**

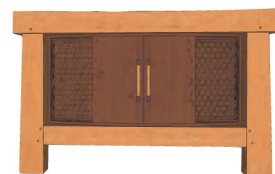
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## Bat Mitzvah



**Sivan Hale Wells-Langley** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 9, 2024. Sivan is a seventh grader at Shuksan Middle School, where she enjoys being incredibly social, supporting peers and staff who need an energetic boost, and playing unified basketball and soccer. When she's not socializing, Sivan loves riding her bike around the neighborhood,

making fairy dust with chalk, hiking with her Explorers group, and listening to music, especially musicals. For her mitzvah project, Sivan is making cards for residents at a local memory care home, where her Nanny lives.

Sivan is the daughter of Litav Langley and Lindsay Wells and sister to Aniel and Orilev.

*The Wells-Langley family welcomes you to join them for this simcha:*

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**

**Friday, November 8, 2024 at 6:15 pm**

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**

**Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 10:00 am**

**Followed by Kiddush lunch in the Social Hall.**

**These services are designed to be accessible, open-hearted, and sensory-friendly.**

*Please RSVP to [sivanbatmitz@gmail.com](mailto:sivanbatmitz@gmail.com) if you will attend Saturday services and Kiddush lunch*

## Bat Mitzvah



**Brenda Miller** will be called to the Torah as an adult Bat Mitzvah on December 14, 2024. Brenda is a Professor Emerita at Western Washington University, where she served for 25 years as a professor of English and Creative Writing. She is the author of several books of personal essays, as well as two instructional books, and a book of poetry. She is active as a singer in

the Bellingham Threshold Singers and as a volunteer with Whatcom Hospice; she also serves as a foster mom for dogs who need to find their forever homes. She enjoys cooking, yoga, hanging out with good friends, and hiking with her dog Barnaby. Her Bat Mitzvah represents

a turning (returning) point in her spiritual path. If you are interested in helping out with the Friday night *oneg* or the Saturday Kiddush lunch, please email her at [Madone2@comcast.net](mailto:Madone2@comcast.net) for the sign-up link. Thank you!

*Please join Brenda in celebrating this simcha:*

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**

**Friday, December 13, 2024 at 6:15 pm**

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**

**Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 10:00 am**

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# CBI Jewish Cuban Couple – How We Continue To Help

A Jewish Cuban refugee couple, Francisco and Damaris, has resettled in Bellingham with the help of CBI congregants. With generous donations of furniture and supplies, they now have a furnished apartment. Many people have served meals and offered them rides to the synagogue. Francisco and Damaris enjoy our services and wish to continue participating in our community.

Francisco and Damaris left their home in Santiago, Cuba this summer with sponsorship from the World Relief Organization. Their housing and finances are subsidized for 3-6 months as they look for employment. Francisco most recently worked as an auditor and knows computer hardware and software. He has hands-on skills in plumbing, electrical, and painting. He would like to work as a handyman or carpenter. Francisco is taking lessons to obtain a driver's license. It would be great if

we could assemble a toolbox for him. Damaris has worked as a beautician and is an excellent cook. They have 3 children still in Cuba with a grandmother, but are hopeful for their arrival next summer. Both are becoming proficient in English with multiple classes a week. They enjoy video games, dominoes and board games. They are salsa dancers, and we are hoping for a few lessons. Francisco and Damaris will discuss their life in Cuba at the synagogue early in 2025. This would be especially interesting for anyone going on the trip with Victoria and Katie next year.

Francisco can be reached at [leyvafrancisco182@gmail.com](mailto:leyvafrancisco182@gmail.com) for home improvement jobs. At present he would need transportation or a bus line near the location. For toolbox donations or any other questions, please contact Linda Blackwell ([blackwellbham@gmail.com](mailto:blackwellbham@gmail.com))

## UPDATES FROM KESHER

*Continued from Page 3*

prepare and practice leading a family service. Each week, in addition to lessons taught by classroom teachers, students enjoy learning new songs and familiar prayers from our Music Specialist, Mikayla Goodkin; grades K-sixth are taught to read Hebrew by our Hebrew Specialist, Jason Benhaim; and students are brought to the Keshet library to read with Keshet volunteers.

On November 17 Camp Kalsman's professional staff will come and host a fun-filled day of camp activities, bringing some summertime magic into the school year.

Teachers will be offering hands-on support that day by following their students to each station.

The Keshet Chanukah Party is on December 15. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up as a volunteer (see back cover). More information will be available as we get closer to the event. Thank you for everyone's support.

And finally, we are raising money for Keshet by selling swag this year! We are offering four items – mugs, tote bags, t-shirts, and crewneck sweatshirts. These items each have the new drawing of our building printed on them, and the clothing items have our CBI logo as well. Consider making a purchase to help financially support our school.

## Anniversaries

Nov. 2	Lisa & Chris Balton	(#38)	Dec. 20	Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger	(#40)
Nov. 7	Sarah & Norman DesRosiers	(#20)	Dec. 21	Lou & Marcia Lippman	(#59)
Nov. 16	George & Fay Farkas	(#28)	Dec. 21	Corey Welch & Judy Diamond	(#38)
Nov. 22	Jesse Math & Cat Toren	(#7)	Dec. 22	Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti	(#48)
Nov. 23	Iris & Kevin Parker	(#49)	Dec. 24	Debbie & Fay Whitney	(#21)
Nov. 25	Solomon & Emily Falk	(#17)	Dec. 28	Jesse & Nicky Naiman	(#20)
			Dec. 28	Matthew & Emma Hawthorn	(#13)
Dec. 3	Carrie Adelstein & Adam Tipps	(#3)	Dec. 29	Armando & Diana Lindner	(#58)
Dec. 9	Stuart & Judy Berman	(#50)	Dec. 30	Joan & Marvin Wayne	(#53)
Dec. 12	Natalie & Steven Schram	(#9)	Dec. 31	Tracy & Cathie Diller	(#27)
Dec. 15	Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld	(#44)			

*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.*

## GILA FINE TALK

Continued from Page 1

publication of the book so we could enjoy the lessons all over again. I am beyond thrilled that we are able to bring Gila Fine to our community.

I hope everyone will attend this very special opportunity to learn from one of the leading, and most unique, scholars of the Talmud. This event is for everyone — whether you have never opened a page of Talmud in your life, if you're angry about how the Talmud describes women, if you have never considered studying Talmud, or if you already love and can't ever get enough of learning from erudite Talmudic scholars.

One of the extraordinary accomplishments of the book *The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic*, is that the reader doesn't need to be a Talmudic scholar — or any sort of scholar — to follow Gila Fine's reasoning. Whether you pick up a copy of her book and read ahead of time, or show up to listen to Fine speak about her work on November 19, you will come away with a new appreciation for the rabbis of the Talmud and the messages they hid within the stories.

As noted in promotional material about the book and many of the reviews, we learn that *The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic: Rereading the Women of the Talmud* explores the stories of the only six named heroines in the Talmud (all the other women are marginalized and anonymous, mentioned only as the daughters, sisters, or

wives of prominent rabbis). Fine devotes a chapter each to Yalta the shrew, Homa the femme fatale, Marta the prima donna, Heruta the madonna/whore, Beruria the overreacherix, and Ima Shalom the angel in the house.

As their epithets suggest, every one of these women appears to embody an antifeminist archetype. Yet in each case, Fine guides us through her careful, scholarly rereading, to reveal “that there is a great deal more to the heroines of the Talmud than initially meets the eye; and that the rabbis had some surprising — so as not to say, proto-feminist — ideas of marriage, childbirth, female sexuality, and what it means to be a woman in the world.”

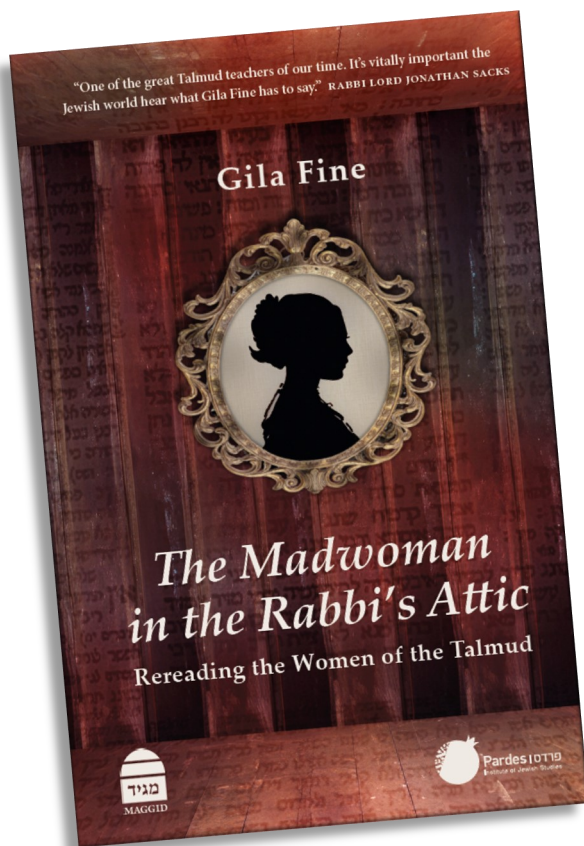
These heroines' stories are from rabbinic legends that appear in the *aggada*; Fine tells us that “while *halakha* is the part of the Talmud that deals with the fine detail of the law, *aggada* is concerned with the big questions of God and religion and morality.” In the *aggada*, “We have tales of simple folk criticizing rabbis, of non-Jews putting Jews to shame, and — most notably for our purpose — of women showing up men.”

Gila Fine is a favorite teacher at Pardes. Her room was always bursting because word among students was that if you had a chance to study with Gila, you had to take her class. She is a funny, sharp-witted, engaging, and brilliant teacher, turning what you thought a story was about on its head. Each chapter's ending reveals what I think of as “the mic-drop moment,” revealing new insights that are so relevant for ours and any other generation of readers.

Gila Fine is a lecturer of rabbinic literature at Pardes, where she explores the tales of the Talmud through philosophy, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, and pop-culture. She serves on the faculties of the Nachshon Project, Amudim Seminary, the Tikvah Scholars Program, and the London School of Jewish Studies, and has taught thousands of students at conferences, campuses, and communities across the Jewish world. As editor in chief of Maggid Books, Gila edited and published over a hundred titles of contemporary Jewish thought, including several bestsellers and eight National Jewish Book Award winners. Her work has been featured on the BBC, and in *Haaretz*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Jerusalem Report*, *Tradition Journal*, *Jewish News*, and *The Jewish Chronicle*.

*Haaretz* has called her “a young woman on her way to becoming one of the more outstanding Jewish thinkers of the next generation.” Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks said “Gila Fine is one of the great Talmud teachers of our time. It's vitally important that the Jewish world hear what she has to say.”

Copies of *The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic* are available for purchase in the CBI office.



Judaica

Jason Benhaim

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Am \_\_\_ brother's keeper?"
- 4 Grind to \_\_\_
- 9 Reason d' \_\_\_ (reason for being)
- 13 Hurricane tracking org.
- 15 Lively Cuban dance
- 16 Polo competitor
- 17 Sabbath goblet
- 19 Upscale candy brand founded in 1921
- 20 Hydrocarbon suffixes that denote double bonds
- 21 Barely managed, with "out"
- 23 Get into
- 26 Sister of Venus
- 28 Men In Black accessory
- 29 Bit of video
- 30 1000 make 1MB
- 33 Kind of sax
- 34 Like a mensch, but Christian
- 35 Aladdin's alter ego
- 36 Overhaul
- 37 Sukkot citron
- 38 Comparative word
- 39 Digital comm. system?
- 40 Glorify
- 41 Derrière dimensions described in the intro to "Baby Got Back"
- 42 'To Kill a Mockingbird' author Harper \_\_\_
- 43 \_\_\_-majesté (high treason)
- 44 When Romeo meets Juliet

- 45 "Long time the manxome foe he \_\_\_": Lewis Carroll
- 47 Cajoles, but gently
- 48 Yarn
- 49 Game that begins with a break
- 50 Seller's caveat
- 52 Dish with egg and herbs
- 58 Computer clickers
- 59 Qualifying words
- 60 "I sound my barbaric \_\_\_ over the roofs of the world": Walt Whitman
- 61 Scroll holders
- 62 Hearts and diamonds, e.g.
- 63 ... --- ...

**DOWN**

- 1 Calligrapher's medium
- 2 Miss Piggy, to Miss Piggy
- 3 Synagogue stylus that protects 1-Down
- 4 Take stock of
- 5 Derisive laughs
- 6 Wine label letters
- 7 Baton Rouge sch.
- 8 Getting to the point?
- 9 Scholar and former Jewish Theological Seminary chancellor Arnold \_\_\_
- 10 Like a collection plate, but Jewish
- 11 Future fish
- 12 Magazine VIPs
- 14 Zip-dah interval
- 18 Family name associated with the Indy 500
- 22 Didn't spoil

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61					62						63		

- 23 Stellar
- 24 Ingredient to omit from your kosher burger
- 25 Wick holder holder
- 26 Like some fevers or tanagers
- 27 'Middlemarch' author George \_\_\_
- 31 Northernmost city on Interstate 5
- 32 Burns, but gently
- 34 Secret supply
- 37 Technical term for scriptural interpretation, including midrash
- 38 100%
- 40 Final month of the Hebrew calendar
- 41 Mallard serving size
- 44 Future oaks
- 46 Watering holes
- 49 Kind of moss
- 50 Reddit interview acronym
- 51 Round Table title
- 53 The world's second tallest living bird
- 54 Workplace initiatives sometimes dismissed as "woke"
- 55 They may not be included
- 56 Number of tablets Moses smashed
- 57 Short albums, for short



# Not Empty Nesters, but Free Birds: Wendy and Isaac Blum

BY MINDA RAE AMIRAN

*Isaac Blum was a freshman at WWU when his friend Jim told him that some girls he'd met were giving a party. Arriving too early, Isaac was met at the door by Wendy in a bathrobe and avocado face mask.*

It was December 5, 1992, and they have been together ever since. Back in 1992, Wendy, at 19, was hanging out with friends, studying at Whatcom Community College, and waitressing in Bellingham, escaping from her “too colorful” family in the Seattle area, while Isaac was playing football for WWU and not thinking about his choice of a major. Their situation was different six years later, when they married, but not that completely different.

For some people, life is like a ride on a train. They know where they're going and pass all the regular stations from high school through college and professional studies to a job, marriage, a family. For other people, life is more like a river delta where they start feeling their way, with unexpected side-channels and discoveries. That's how life has been for Wendy and Isaac, with spirit and worries and laughter and great success.

Wendy didn't think of a profession at first. Some time after meeting Isaac she transferred to Western and graduated with a major in history and a minor in English. At first, she held a



Wendy and Isaac Blum

number of temporary jobs, and when her children were young, she developed a dog-walking business, which gave her the flexibility she needed for mothering and homemaking. In 2016 she earned an MS in clinical mental health, and now has a flourishing private practice, dealing mainly with ADHD.

Isaac saw himself primarily as an athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball in high school and football at WWU. When he had to declare a major, he chose cultural anthropology, and also women's history and feminist studies, which turned out to be an excellent preparation for a future he didn't yet envision. After graduation, like Wendy he worked in restaurants and volunteered at the Whatcom Museum and the Health Department until, after applying at the Lummi Nation for a job he didn't get, he was asked to liaison between their collection of tribal artifacts and

the one at WWU. As it happened, a native cemetery had just been uncovered beneath a sewage treatment plant that Blaine was working to expand. Isaac was part of the group that arranged for a field recovery team to identify the remains and, three and a half years later, the Lummi won a \$3.5 million settlement from Blaine. Isaac's work, together with that of others, led to an ordinance requiring that tribal leaders be consulted before any native American artifacts are disturbed.

Isaac left his job with the Lummi in 2005, worrying Wendy, who was about to give birth to their son, Shalem. But since then he has held several successful HR positions in biotech companies, where his anthropological skills have helped him build productive teams. His latest job is with the well-known firm Abbvie, which has just bought a start-up

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1. Blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashana (photo by Jason Ruvelson). 2. Jodi Litt and Rabbi Samuels with Congressman Rick Larsen on October 7. 3. Jesse Naiman and Mike Braunstein building the *sukkah*. 4. Community members building the *sukkah*. 5. Lyla Attar decorating the *sukkah*. 6. The Moroccan stone mosaic *bima* table gifted by Beverly Harrington and family.

## November/December 2024 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, Nov. 1	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family service	Friday, Dec. 6	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service
Saturday, Nov. 2	<b>11:00 am</b> Contemplative Services	Saturday, Dec. 7	<b>11:00 am</b> Renewal Service
Friday, Nov. 8	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Dec. 13	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Nov. 9	<b>10:00 am</b> Bat Mitzvah Sivan Wells-Langley	Saturday, Dec. 14	<b>10:00 am</b> Brenda Miller Bat Mitzvah
Friday, Nov. 15	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Dec. 20	<b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Nov. 16	<b>11:00 am</b> Tot Shabbat	Saturday, Dec. 21	<b>11:00 am</b> Tot Shabbat
Friday, Nov. 22	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Shabbat Shira ensemble	Friday, Dec. 27	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Shabbat Shira ensemble
Saturday, Nov. 23	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative Minyan Service	Saturday, Dec. 28	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative Minyan
Friday, Nov. 29	Fifth Friday, Shabbat at home		

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 2*

We could finish the multipurpose room in the lower level for our kids to play in on rainy days and provide a space where we can hold movement or yoga classes. Most importantly, perhaps, is that we will replenish our reserve account ensuring that we have monies set aside for the inevitable what if. We have steadily been checking off items on the list and have neared the end of our available monies to complete the finishing and furnishing of the building.

3. The average cost to send a school-aged child to Keshet is \$750.00. That expense coupled with Membership dues, a requirement of being a CBI member, is financially challenging for many families, especially when there are multiple school-age children. A donation to the Keshet scholarship fund would help families offset these costs and allow their children to either join Keshet or continue their Jewish education. Currently we have a list of families waiting for scholarship assistance... the need is real.

4. Our security costs and needs have increased. As our congregation grows, so do our security needs. We want to all be able to gather safely, and donations to this fund

make us able to avoid making difficult decisions about which events to hold or not hold.

All four of these need areas are centered around strengthening CBI and looking forward. CBI is where we can turn when we want to be understood without having to explain our religion or heritage or belief system. It is where we celebrate holidays and *simchas* and grieve at loved ones' passings and come together to remember those who came before us... it is where we come together to be with other Jews.

We recently commemorated the tragic and utterly painful anniversary of October 7. We gathered and remembered and took some comfort and solace in our sanctuary and in being around one another. In the spirit of supporting our future and our collective Jewish home, please join me in donating to the best of your abilities.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for being members of Congregation Beth Israel.

JODI LITT  
PRESIDENT



# We Are Not Strangers at Village Books

November 21 at 6:00 pm



Seattle area author and artist Josh Tuininga will be in Bellingham on Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 pm for a book reading at

Village Books. His new graphic novel, *We Are Not Strangers*, has been nominated for this year's Washington State Book Award and has also been awarded the American Library Association Sophie Brody Medal for distinguished contribution to Jewish literature.

*We Are Not Strangers* opens at Josh's grandfather's funeral at

Sephardic Bikur Holim synagogue in Seattle's Seward Park neighborhood. Josh is astonished to see so many Japanese-Americans coming to pay their respects to his late grandfather. We soon learn the true story of how Josh's grandfather helped many Japanese Americans in the Seattle area when they were forced into internment camps during World War II after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The graphic novel's striking illustrations accurately depict Seattle of the 1940s and later, focusing especially on the city's multicultural Central District. The book also traces the story of how Josh's Sephardic ancestors fled Turkey to build new lives for themselves in America.





*Jerome Rosen, M.Ed*

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Solution to the crossword on page 7

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28	S	H	A	D	E	S			29	C	L	I	P		30	K	B	32	S
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**FROM THE RABBI***Continued from Page 1*

We come together to hold each other up when it feels as though the world wants to take us down. If history has taught us anything, it's that we will survive, but the healing will take time.

We come together to pray for the remaining hostages living in what can only be described as hell on earth. We remember those like Hersh Goldberg-Polin who were killed in cold blood as their loved ones never gave up hope. We think about the babies and the grandparents. We send strength to their loved ones. Their names and faces are on the pictures taped around the foyer.

And we come together and send support and courage to our Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze siblings all fighting for the survival of the lone Jewish country in the world. Whether or not we support Israel's leaders, we can express gratitude to the many young Israelis from all religious and ethnic backgrounds who are on the front lines right now. They need our solidarity.

I know this gathering won't bring peace. It certainly won't bring people home safely. And it won't bring the dead back to life. But I do know that there are times when we just need to feel held by our friends and community, and this is such a time.

To our non-Jewish friends and allies here this evening, your presence means the world to us at this moment in time when we feel utterly alone in the world. Antisemitism is a shape-shifting disease that seems to have affected our country with abandon. Jews everywhere are being intimidated on campus and in the streets and even

blamed for the actions of a sovereign country. It is easy to fall prey to the forces behind all this Jew hatred. And it is hard to stand up to it. It's exhausting. They are relentless. But know this, we see you and appreciate your support. We can't do this on our own. Your friendship is keeping us afloat.

Cantor Sharona Feller and I are humbled to lead this memorial service. All of those participating besides us are Israelis in our community. We will hear from them shortly about how they are struggling and surviving being so far from home. They are not monoliths. They are all unique individuals with differing backgrounds and lenses through which they experience the world. We will center their voices this evening.

We are going to begin with the lighting of our *yahrzeit* candle. *Yahrzeit* means "anniversary" in the Yiddish language and is the anniversary date of someone's passing in the Jewish calendar. To honor our loved ones, Jews light a candle and say the mourner's *kaddish* prayer.

We are a people of memory. We are commanded to remember. The flame from the *yahrzeit* candle carries our memories. We remember them. We will remember the 1,200 beautiful souls who were taken from us. And we will remember the hostages who were killed in captivity. We will also remember the 101 hostages who are still held captive one year later. Even if the world has forgotten, we remember. To our family that we lost, may your memories always be a blessing for us. We will remember you. We will remember you. We will remember you.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

**ISAAC AND WENDY BLUM***Continued from Page 8*

dealing with Parkinson's disease and epilepsy. Isaac has been with them for five years.

Wendy was not born Jewish. She found the churches her family attended frightening, even "terrifying," and never practiced a religion after she left home, though she did study Buddhism for some years. Isaac's parents, both nurses, had moved to Skagit County from Chicago, drawn by our area's beauty. There were no other Jewish students in Isaac's high school, but CBI wasn't far away, and Isaac had his Bar Mitzvah here. Wendy relished the warmth and stability of his Skagit home. His sense of family was grounding for her. Isaac never asked her to convert, and when their children were little, they celebrated Christmas, but their daughter, Lilah, "dragged" them to Judaism and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at CBI.

Later, Shalem was one of the first to celebrate a Bar Mitzvah in our new synagogue. Meanwhile, Wendy had taken Judaism 101 and was drawn by Rabbi Samuels's explanation of its many doors. She converted in 2016.

Today their children are grown and independent. Lilah, taking a break from college, works with seniors and people with disabilities and is involved with community theater. She has volunteered in assisted living facilities and at a summer camp for disabled children, work she loves. Shalem is a sophomore at the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication at WSU. Wendy and Isaac feel they are rediscovering themselves individually and as a couple, while continuing to build their careers. They love to read, garden, hike, cook, and travel. They spent three weeks in Italy for their twenty-fifth anniversary in 2023. Close to their much-loved children, they are still, as they say, free birds, not empty nesters. Many streams in their delta still beckon.

# Special Fund Donations

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Thank you to everyone who donated to the additional security costs of the building

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Eytan Samuels on the occasion of his 15th birthday  
**From:** *Fran Levy*

**IN MEMORY OF:**  
Nancy Lloyd  
**From:** *Toby Sonneman*  
Phyllis Mazur  
**From:** *Susan Katz*

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
LeeAnn Steiner

Nancy Lloyd. Nancy was wonderful with my father and she will be dearly missed.  
**From:** *Bonnie Quam*

In loving memory of my parents, Albert Kravitz and Evelyn Kravitz Driscoll.  
**From:** *Cherynne Kravitz*

**IN APPRECIATION OF:**  
Thank you for letting us join High Holy Day services via Zoom. We enjoyed every minute of it!  
**From:** *Suzanne and  
Jeff Feder*

Thank you for all you do, Rabbi Samuels  
**From:** *Bonnie Quam*

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## GENERAL FUND

**IN MEMORY OF:**  
Nancy Lloyd  
**From:** *Joan and Marv Wayne*

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Celia Loober  
Nathan Loober, Beloved son  
Arnold Loober, Beloved husband  
**From:** *Bernice Loober*

## WITH GRATITUDE:

Thank you for welcoming us during our visit. We loved our visit to Bellingham and CBI  
**From:** *Jennifer Tucker-Maudsley*

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# Birthdays

## NOVEMBER 2024

11/1 Gerald Manganaro  
 11/1 Rachel Witter  
 11/1 David Ziegler  
 11/2 Henry Honeycutt (12)  
 11/2 Max Nahani Braunstein (15th)  
 11/2 Lev Shuster (23rd)  
 11/4 Samuel Kennedy (19th)  
 11/4 Patrick McGarrity  
 11/4 David Schlitt  
 11/6 Rodney Shainbom  
 11/7 Steve James  
 11/8 Rob Grossman  
 11/10 Urtica Goldman (11th)  
 11/11 Stephanie Korn  
 11/11 Wendy Schwartz  
 11/13 Peter Auerbach  
 11/13 Alex Bokser  
 11/13 Miriam Schwartz  
 11/14 Jessica Galbraith  
 11/14 Isaac Schapiro (24th)  
 11/14 Raphael Schapiro (24th)  
 11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (24th)  
 11/16 Kristan Brennan  
 11/16 Jane Relin  
 11/16 Toby Sonneman  
 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 (21st)  
 11/23 Mick Altman  
 11/23 Nina Stein  
 11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (14th)  
 11/26 Tamar Clarke  
 11/26 Shala Erlich  
 11/26 Jonathan Hillel  
 11/27 Elaine Beck  
 11/27 Kathleen Bell  
 11/27 Elkah Katz  
 11/29 Arundel Pritchett  
 11/29 Xavier Sommers (13th)  
 11/29 Ellianah Tilland-Stafford (16th)  
 11/30 Orion Dixon (16th)  
 11/30 Priscilla Feld  
 11/30 Rochelle LaPlante  
 11/30 Sarah Witte

## DECEMBER 2024

12/1 Juna Blue Martinez (10th)  
 12/2 Karen Bailor  
 12/3 Zach Bastow  
 12/4 Betsy Becker  
 12/4 Rebecca Oliver  
 12/4 Susan Cohen Raphael  
 12/7 Alyssa Diller (24th)  
 12/7 Eden Kinney (17th)

12/8 Benjamin Becker  
 12/8 Robin Curtis  
 12/8 Levi Goodwin (9th)  
 12/9 Mira Schott McCurdy (4th)  
 12/9 Micah Parker (13th)  
 12/10 Trisha Adelstein  
 12/11 Marvin Wayne  
 12/13 Shelly Pravda  
 12/13 Charlie Redell  
 12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (19th)  
 12/15 Anna Booker  
 12/15 Niall Ó Murchú  
 12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine  
 12/18 David Strich  
 12/19 Peter Burkil  
 12/19 Cathie Diller  
 12/19 Shira Gold  
 12/19 Cinda Zemel  
 12/22 Michelle Anderson  
 12/22 Jennifer Seltz  
 12/23 John Sternlicht  
 12/26 David Halpern  
 12/27 Philip Buri  
 12/27 Jacob Garretson  
 12/28 Mark Pomerantz  
 12/28 Ella Keefe (11th)  
 12/29 Andrew Schwarz  
 12/30 Shawn Clarke  
 12/30 Wendy Westgate

## Men Growing Older, Wiser, and Giving Back

CBI is pleased to welcome a monthly gathering of discussion and camaraderie for middle-aged and older men in the community.

Join other men in a safe, open, and supportive space where participants can talk openly about themselves in relation to various topics. Jerome Rosen will facilitate the group by maintaining focus and bringing themes to talk about each time. Examples might be: How Judaism has shaped your identity, being a Jewish partner, giving back, intimacy, and quieting the mind in world of noise.

Jerome Rosen is a retired couples and family therapist with over 40 years of experience. He has facilitated a variety of groups and men's groups are his favorite.

Gatherings are held monthly on the second Wednesday from noon-1:30 pm in the Beit Midrash.

We have had six group meetings, and we have openings for 1 to 2 men. If interested please contact Jerome Rosen, [benjam4r@gmail.com](mailto:benjam4r@gmail.com) 360-914-0524.

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# 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 1

Shirley Adelstein	11/03
Reuben Dechter	11/03
Max Mazonson	11/03
Miriam Mitzman	11/05
Sharon Serne	11/06
Anna Mae Baker	11/06
Bette Bikman	11/07
Gusdeno Gosdis	11/07
Sephora Andresen	11/08

## Friday, November 8

Phyllis Ruth Orlik	11/09
Jack Irwin Moss	11/09
Lily Swartz	11/10
Bernice Sokol	11/11
Ezra Meltzer	11/11
Sue Kodner	11/11
Florence Spector	11/11
Gladys Rose Eisner	11/12
Otto V. Vohl	11/12
Cantor Pinchas Spiro	11/13
Celia Loober	11/15

## Friday, November 15

John Lopresti	11/16
Josephine D. Reilly	11/16
James T. Reilly	11/16
Warren Jay Kahn	11/17
George Bernard Levine	11/18
Irene Till Hamilton	11/19
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20
Robert (Bob) Farkas	11/21

## Friday, November 22

Phillip Fine	11/23
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Samuel Hecht	11/25
Bud Robinson	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff	11/27
Hilda Meltzer	11/27
Irving Grossman	11/27
Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/28
Helen Skinner	11/28
Rose Weitzman Price	11/29

## Friday, November 29

Phyllis Heck	11/30
Myer Avraham Goldberg	11/30
Melvin Goldberger	11/30
Bernard Shuster	12/01
Julian Lewis	12/02

Amy Margolis	12/02
Ida Zderic	12/03
Edith Jensen	12/04
Marvin Siegel	12/05
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	12/06
Lenore Shankman	12/06
Aaron Bell	12/06

## Friday, December 6

Victor Geretz	12/07
Frank Zderic	12/08
Marion Relin	12/09
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	12/09
John Paschetag	12/09
Zelda Turovitz	12/09
Dick Eigen	12/10
Henri Benhaim	12/10
Hyman Bettman	12/10
Louis Groper	12/11
Ella M. Swindell	12/11
Pearl Lilien	12/12
Shirah Tziporah Kronenberg	12/13

## Friday, December 13

Gladys Bloch	12/14
Donald Waldo Redell	12/14
Judith F. Swindell	12/14
Richard Kite	12/15
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	12/15
Solomon Schwartz	12/16
Alice Behrstock	12/17
Samuel M. Pravda	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17
Abram Stolzoff	12/18
Arthur Ingberman	12/18
Elaine Cohn	12/19
Jean Elsa Sloss	12/19
Sanford Thal	12/19
Joseph Soode	12/20
Mikel Luster	12/20

## Friday, December 20

John J. Read	12/21
Max Spigelman	12/21
Glinda Blackwell	12/21
Marvin Mortimer Wolff	12/22
Joseph Koplowitz	12/22
Jerry Roberts	12/22
Bernice Kaufman	12/23
Harold Sharpe	12/23
Robin Hoffman	12/23
Diane Lewis	12/24
Martin William Sternlicht	12/24
Joseph Kahan	12/24
Rodger E. Whitney	12/24
Joseph Robinson	12/25
Rachel Jaffe	12/25
Frances Feiger	12/25
John Lester	12/26
Beatrice Weiss	12/26
William Zderic	12/26
Lucille Rest	12/27

## Friday, December 27

Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
John Miller	12/29
Jack Miller	12/29
Milton Kaufman	12/31
Nathan Loober	01/01
Stanley Alper	01/01
Sarah Patinkin	01/01
George Bikman	01/01
Joel Corman	01/01
Leslie Spitzer	01/01
Rudolf Reitz	01/01
George Shaw	01/02
Rachel Siegfried	01/02
Ruth Jacobson	01/03
Bella Heller	01/03
Ray Redel	01/03

## In Memoriam

*Zichronam Lvra'achah ~ May their memories be for a blessing*

**Nancy Lee Lloyd** passed away October 3 2024. Nancy enjoyed sailing, skiing, and her career in the medical field until MS prevented her from these activities. Nancy loved being a CBI member.

She is preceded in death by her parents, James and Mary Ann Lloyd and two siblings, James Lloyd and Sandra York, all of Wyoming. She is survived by sisters Carol Trujillo (Riverton WY), and Barbara McCarthy (Cody, WY), and niece Donna Cullia (Las Vegas, WY). She was dearly loved and will be missed.

Donations in Nancy's name can be made to Congregation Beth Israel.

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We need volunteers!

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