HESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5787
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

THE Shul Shofar

VOL 31, NO. 2 • Bellingham, WA 98229 • bethisraelbellingham.org • (360) 733-8890

Welcoming Kim Miller, Our First Executive Director

FROM THE CBI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear CBI Community,

We are pleased to share an important milestone for Congregation Beth Israel: the hiring of our very first Executive Director, Dr. Kim Miller. As we continue to grow, Kim's leadership will provide dedicated professional oversight for our operations, facility, and staff.

Kim has over a decade of leadership experience across educational and nonprofit organizations, specializing in nonprofit administration, operations, and personnel management. Alongside this administrative expertise, Kim's Ph.D. work and dissertation involved Jewish ritual and folklore.

Kim and her husband, Glen Hirshberg, have two grown sons, Sam and Sid. Kim and Glen have made Bellingham their home since 2021.

Please join us in extending a warm Congregation Beth Israel welcome to Kim and her family. If you are at CBI, please do say hello and introduce yourself. We are excited to welcome Kim and her family into the CBI community.

Warmly,
CBI Board of Directors

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FROM THE RABBI

What Makes a Hero?

By now we have all read about the terrifying—and also remarkable—story about the Flydubai flight traveling from Dubai to Tel Aviv on September 30.

While flying over Saudi Arabia, the co-pilot attacked and seriously wounded the captain in an attempt to crash the aircraft and kill over 170 Israelis. The plane began descending rapidly. Somehow, the wounded captain managed to release the cockpit door.

And then something extraordinary happened. People got up.

A mother helping her daughter heard the ruckus and didn't ignore it.

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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar
Volume 31, Number 2
November/December 2026
Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5787

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Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the **January/February** issue is **December 5**. Call the office for more information.

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MESSAGE FROM JODI LITT

L'Dor V'Dor—Ensuring Our Future

Over the past several months, I've had the privilege of meeting with many of CBI's legacy members—our foundational congregants who gave their time, energy, and resources to make the dream of a shul on this land a reality. Without their leadership, we might not be gathered here in this beautiful space today.

That dream took over 20 years. Step by step, our community raised money, purchased land, designed the building, and overcame one obstacle after another. Some early members secretly thought a debt-free building or a large enough Jewish population here was impossible. But thanks to visionary leaders who had reached a breaking point at our old Broadway home, someone finally slapped down a check and said we must start somewhere. Those leaders left it all on the field, creating a culture of generosity and shared responsibility.

Today, eight years after moving into this campus, we find ourselves at another tipping point.

Our annual budget barely covers basic operating expenses. Our small staff is working beyond the scope of their positions to keep our congregation running and our programs thriving. At the same time, important capital projects were left unfinished when we moved in, and deferred maintenance needs continue to accumulate.

We are confronting the same question those earlier leaders faced: **What will it take to ensure that CBI remains a strong and vibrant center of Jewish life for the next generation?**

That realization birthed **L'Dor V'Dor – Ensuring Our Future**, a three-year, $3.6 million campaign.

This campaign will achieve two critical goals:

- **Strengthen Our Financial Foundation and Leadership:** We will expand our Endowment and fund professional leadership—including an Executive Director to oversee operations, allowing our Rabbi to focus fully on spiritual leadership, education, and community-building;
- **Care for Our Campus:** We will complete unfinished capital projects and establish a dedicated maintenance fund so our facility's needs are planned for, rather than continually deferred.

We are already well on our way. Several legacy members who built CBI have once again stepped forward, collectively pledging over $2.5 million. Their gifts are a profound vote of confidence in our future.

Now it is time for all of us to pick up the baton.

Whether you helped build this campus or joined after 2018, we have all inherited something extraordinary: not simply a building, but a home for our growing Jewish community and a renewal of our culture of generosity. To reach our remaining goal, every member will need

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FROM THE KESHER CENTER FOR JEWISH LEARNING

Kesher Moments Worth Saving

BY JASON BENHAIM, KESHER DIRECTOR

Most of us know the pleasure of shaking the *lulav* to hear the satisfying snap of its frond, or of taking in the fragrance of the *etrog*. But to me, the most profound symbol of Sukkot is the *sukkah* itself: a temporary dwelling that we only have so much time to enjoy. Before we know it, the holiday is over and the sukkah is dismantled—all the more reason to savor the moment!

The first day of Kesher, which took place on September 27, was itself a precious moment. Families began the morning together at our annual pancake breakfast, which was a big success. Thank you to everyone who cooked, served, set up, cleaned up, or simply showed up hungry! Then, after our first *t'fillah*, students met their teachers, settled into their classrooms, and eventually made their way, class by class, out to the *sukkah*, where I led them in an exploration of the symbols of Sukkot.

In my last article, I invited members of our community to share their Jewish passions, talents, and areas of expertise with Kesher students as "volunteer specialists." The time I spent with students in the *sukkah* represented my own turn as specialist, and the experience reminded me why this idea matters: Jewish ideas come alive when students can experience them with their own hands. The following week, Rabbi Samuels offered our students a "tour of the Torah," unrolling the scroll on a long table so that students could see its handwritten letters up close. My invitation to you—to be a part of similar experiences for our students—still stands, and I'd love to hear from you.

A new school year also brings some changes worth sharing. Lucy Braginski has joined us as Kesher's new Hebrew Specialist, taking over the role I held for the past three years. Andrea Shupack, our cantorial soloist and a former Kesher Director, has returned to help lead *t'fillah* as well as circle time with our smallest students in Mazel Tots and Gan Yeladim. Andrea will also serve as music specialist for all Kesher students on several Sundays throughout the year—a reflection of the importance of music and song to the Jewish experience.

Behind the scenes, I've been working with Rabbi Samuels and our teachers to create detailed maps of what each class learns, so that a student's years at Kesher consistently build on one another. In kindergarten and first grade, students become familiar with the rhythm of the Jewish year. From there, they grow into Jewish peoplehood and community, followed by text study, Jewish American history, Israel, and finally, in eighth grade, the history and memory of the Holocaust. Building out our curriculum "road maps" is a long-term project, and one I'm very excited about.

There's one more change I think families will especially enjoy: the return of class Havdalah. Over the course of the school year, each Kesher class will gather on a Saturday evening at a family's home to light a Havdalah candle and spend time with each other in a cozy, informal setting. I see these evenings as an important inward-focused counterpart to the outward-facing family Shabbat service that most classes lead each year.

Looking ahead, please save the date for CBI's Chanukah party on Sunday, December 6, immediately following Kesher. Keep an eye on the *Timbrel* for details as the date approaches.

Like a *sukkah*, a school year comes and goes faster than we expect—so let's make the most of it together. If you have an idea for a volunteer specialist session, or anything else you'd like to share, please email me at jason.benhaim@bethisraelbellingham.org or find me at the synagogue on a Sunday morning. Thank you for helping make Kesher a place where our students, and their families, feel at home.

Becoming Someone New— Author Talk With Dr. Alan Morinis

NOVEMBER 22 AT 12:30 PM

BY AMANDA ROBINS

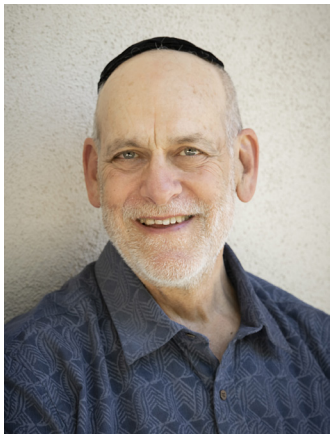
What would it actually take to become someone new? This is the question Rabbi Samuels asked us at Kol Nidre services this year. He referenced Maimonides, who said that on the path to *teshuvah*, you should change your name and change where you live. And while we heard that Maimonides probably didn't mean this literally, Rabbi Samuels shared that if you want to do *teshuvah*, want to become a better person, "you probably have to change something" about your day-to-day life.

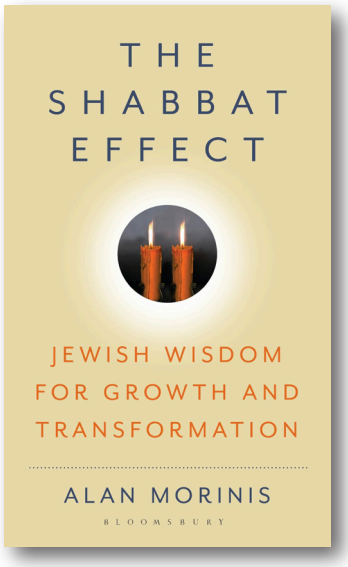
One way to identify what that change is for you and how to make that change is through the practice of Mussar, a centuries-old Jewish tradition that serves as a guide for spiritual development, fostering awareness, wisdom, and personal transformation. Rabbi Samuels has taught Mussar twice as an Adult Education class since becoming our rabbi at CBI, using Dr. Alan Morinis's book entitled *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*.

Dr. Morinis's newest book, *The Shabbat Effect*, explores how the weekly rhythm of Shabbat, combined with Mussar practice, can transform character and deepen the inner qualities that shape who we become. This new book shows how sacred rest opens space for clarity, compassion, and spiritual renewal, offering a practical path toward living with greater purpose, balance, and possibility in everyday life.

On Sunday November 22, Dr. Alan Morinis will join Congregation Beth Israel to discuss his new book, *The Shabbat Effect: Jewish Wisdom for Growth and Transformation*. Join us to learn more about Mussar and how this practice can help you sustain the practice of *teshuva* year-round, not just for Yom Kippur. The talk is at 12:30 pm and you can register on the CBI website, bethisraelbellingham.org/author-talk

Books will be available at the event and in the CBI Library thereafter.





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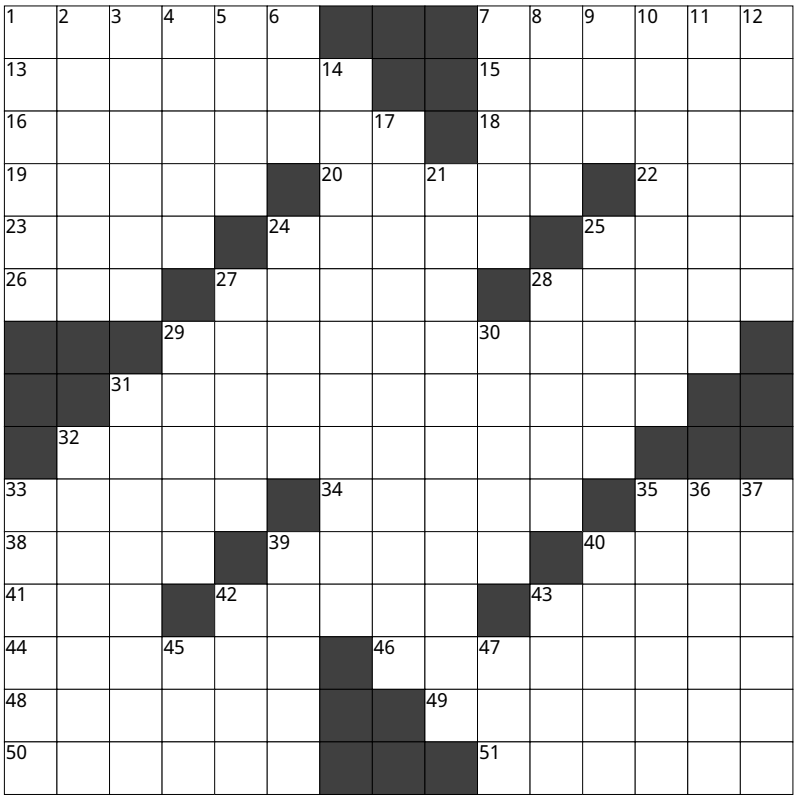
Eight Letters for Eight Nights

Amanda Robins



ACROSS

1 Choir stands
7 When Mother's Day falls
13 Title for a retired professor
15 When mammoths lived
16 *They have shins on one side*
18 Hora and hula, for two
19 Country singer LeAnn
20 Bellinghamster
22 Not trans
23 Performs in a play
24 Some food truck fare
25 Cut with a surgical beam
26 One of the five W's
27 Language of India
28 Borrowers' burdens
29 Where to find Wheaties
31 A tier below the majors
32 Wimbeldon Event
33 From then on
34 Some college students
35 Chinese menu general
38 Buck suffix
39 St. ___ (Caribbean getaway)
40 Comes together
41 Sarcastic laugh syllable
42 Popular payment app
43 Spring ___
44 Banded gemstones
46 *Jelly donut*
48 Sharpen again
49 More prepared
50 Agree
51 Types of dogs

DOWN

1 Sketch again
2 "Jackpot!"
3 "It would ___ me ..."
4 Great Lakes people
5 Clears (of)
6 Sault ___ Marie
7 King with a golden touch
8 Suffix with poet
9 Place to hibernate
10 *Judah the* ___
11 Some unfair hiring managers
12 Affirmatives
14 Elite athlete
17 Expected behaviors
21 Trip for many a high school junior
24 Starchy roots
25 Toyota's luxury division
27 Keyed up
28 Old Venetian rulers
29 ___ de Mayo
30 Loses one's hair
31 *Holiday candle holders*
32 Illusions in 33D
33 African hot spot
35 ___-weenie
36 Totally crushed it
37 Schindler and others
39 Under siege
40 Air freshener brand
42 Type of diagram with overlapping circles
43 Thickening agent
45 "Little piggy"
47 Groundhog Day mo.

Solution on page 13

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from page 1

She screamed and alerted her husband in the front row. Yaniv Hayoun, an Israeli plumber, helped subdue the attacker and briefly took control of the aircraft, pulling back on the controls until qualified pilots could take over. Dr. Shota Musayev, a dentist, helped restrain the attacker and then worked to stabilize the bleeding captain. Others secured the cockpit. Reserve pilots eventually took control and landed the aircraft safely. A catastrophe was averted.

What has stayed with me is how ordinary these people were right up until the moment they weren't. They hadn't boarded the plane expecting to become heroes. They were simply going home. And then suddenly something needed to be done. So they did it. I found myself wondering what I would have done. Would I have gotten up? Would I have known how to help? Would fear have frozen me in my seat? I genuinely don't know.

Perhaps that's one reason I've been thinking about this story as Chanukah approaches. We tend to tell the story of Chanukah as a story about heroes. Judah Maccabee and his brothers stand up to the mighty Seleucid Empire. They refuse to surrender their Jewish identity. Against overwhelming odds, they fight back, recapture Jerusalem, and rededicate the Temple.

We know how the story ends, which makes it easy to turn the Maccabees into larger-than-life figures. But they didn't know how the story would end. They didn't know there would someday be a holiday celebrating what they had done. They simply knew that a moment had arrived when they had to decide what they were willing to do.

Maybe that's something we misunderstand about courage. We imagine courageous people as fundamentally different from the rest of us. Sometimes they are people trained to run toward danger. But sometimes the person who gets up is a plumber. Sometimes it's a dentist.

Most of us, thankfully, will never face anything resembling what happened aboard that flight. Nor are we likely to find ourselves facing an army determined to suppress Jewish life. Our moments are usually much smaller.

Someone walks into the synagogue for the first time and doesn't know where to sit. A friend is grieving and needs someone to show up. A family needs a meal. Someone hears an antisemitic comment and has to decide whether to say something. Our community needs someone to teach, volunteer, visit, cook, drive, listen, give—or simply notice that another person is standing alone.

Chanukah arrives during the darkest part of the year, and we respond in a wonderfully Jewish way. We light something. One small flame the first night. Another the next. And another after that. A single candle doesn't eliminate very much darkness. But that isn't its job. Its job is to provide the light it can. Maybe courage works something like that too.

I still don't know what I would have done aboard that Flydubai flight. I hope I never have to find out. But perhaps the more important question isn't what I would do in some extraordinary moment. It's what I do when the smaller moments arrive. When something needs doing, do I get up? When someone needs help, do I notice? When my community needs me, do I assume somebody else will take care of it—or do I offer whatever light I have?

The heroes of Chanukah remind us that courage doesn't begin with knowing how the story will end. Sometimes it begins simply by refusing to remain in your seat.

BOOK SHELF

Heart of a Stranger—By Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

BY SARA GEBALLE

Welcome to our new feature in the Shul Shofar*! Each issue will feature a Jewish-themed book—fiction, history, nonfiction—selected by Sara Geballe, who will write a snapshot enticing you to read.*

Check the CBI Library!

***Heart of a Stranger* by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl (Viking, 2025)**

The senior rabbi at New York City's renowned Central Synagogue has an unusual backstory. Angela Buchdahl was born in South Korea to a Jewish-American father and a Buddhist Korean mother. Five years later, the family relocated to Tacoma, WA where Rabbi Buchdahl began the Jewish journey that ultimately led to her becoming the first Asian-American rabbi in the United States.

In this memoir she openly shares her spiritual path from childhood on, including her times of self-doubt and feeling like an outsider.

Each chapter describes a significant life experience for Rabbi Buchdahl, coupled with a fundamental Jewish concept:

The awe in visiting Mount Rainier as a child she pairs with *echad*, the feeling of **oneness**;

Filling out college applications and figuring which ethnic box to check she ties with *zehut*, meaning **identity**;

Adjusting to life during Covid she combines with *Shabbat*, a time to **rest**.

Enjoy!

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

11/07	Sarah and Norman DesRosiers	22
11/16	George and Fay Farkas	30
11/22	Jesse Math and Cat Toren	9
11/23	Iris and Kevin Parker	51

DECEMBER

12/09	Stuart and Judy Berman	52
12/15	Jeffrey and Priscilla Feld	46
12/20	Sue and Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger	42
12/21	Corey Welch and Judy Diamond	40
12/21	Louis and Marcia Lippman	61
12/22	Terri Weiner and Rob Lopresti	50
12/24	Dr. Yehuda and Kathi Fox	7
12/28	Matthew and Emma Hawthorne	15
12/28	Jesse and Nicky Naiman	22
12/29	Armando and Diana Lindner	61
12/30	Joan and Marv Wayne	55
12/31	Tracy and Cathi Diller	29

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.

Fall Always Feels Like Change

BY HOLLY REDELL-WITTE

The leaves become vivid, soups turn from cold vichyssoise to comfy chicken, summer clothes become school clothes... this Fall, Shul Shofar *is introducing a change or two.*

First, the format: Nora Mazonson redesigned the publication. We love it and hope you do, too. Second: In this issue at least, we are highlighting some of CBI's programs. As it turns out, this is a feature about volunteering, featuring one of our very active volunteer leaders.

Joan Wayne says her whole volunteering life is CBI. She joined CBI when she was 25 and one of the long-time members invited her to a sisterhood meeting. Quickly, she was volunteering on several committees. "Volunteering," she told me, "makes me feel more included, attached, part of the community."

These are the programs Joan supports and encourages others to consider:

Oneg Shabbat

Shabbat is meant to be a joy and a delight and so it is with the traditional gathering following services. What could be more delightful than friends joining in conversation over cookies? Giving us this lovely opportunity takes planning. Joan maintains the list of congregants willing to bring us together. She and Sarah Witte have been doing this for many years. "In the early days," says Joan, "the Oneg list took up a full half page in the *Shul Shofar*."

Lives are busier now, it's true, so the list is shorter. Joan and her faithful team need help with Friday and Saturday set-up. The tasks are uncomplicated: Set the table with a cloth, place the challah and goodies to enjoy, fill the water dispenser for hot tea. There is now someone hired to clean-up on Friday evenings, so that's covered.

Joan and Sarah reach out to congregants to host. It might seem like a chore… it's really a mitzvah.

CBI Library

Did you know there's a beautiful library at our synagogue? For many years (this seems to be a theme with Joan!), she helped Carol Robinson manage the library and when Carol retired… well, you can guess what happened!

"I am not a trained librarian," Joan says, "but there are several trained librarians in our Congregation, so they selected the computer program we use. We spent many hours selecting which books to include in our collection."

Overall, it is a large and interesting collection with fiction, history, research, cookbooks and craft books available. Among many Jewish texts, there is a huge Holocaust collection. Call Sarah Cobb. She'll arrange for you to browse the shelves.

Joan co-chairs this committee with Rob Lopresti. Reach out to either of them to volunteer.

Read a book!

Scrip

We have written before about the scrip program in the *Shul Shofar*. This is an easy way to support CBI—and maybe make your own life a little easier. In fact, here's the description from our CBI website:

> Scrip is Beth Israel's only ongoing fund-raising program. It's easy to use, and costs you nothing. Just purchase Scrip from Beth Israel, and Beth Israel earns a percentage of each purchase. Local stores contribute 5% to 10%. Because of credit card processing fees, we ask that, when possible, you pay by check, checking account debit or cash, Zelle, or you can choose to increase your payment to cover the 3% credit card processing fee.

Before Covid, this program netted CBI $1000 a month. Maybe we got used to shopping a different way during the pandemic, but now it nets $600. It should really have gone up, since we now do so much online shopping…

It's just like any other credit card you have in your pocket, easy to use. And a way to give back. Do this. It will alleviate

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1 *Jason Ruvelson artist talk.* **2-3** *Blessing students on the first day of Kesher.* **4-7** *Building the sukkah.* **8-12** *Simchat Torah (photos courtesy of Jason Ruvelson).*

Beginning Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Classes

During this two-session class series, several Torah excerpts will be explored featuring the concept of *hineni* ("Here I am"). Participants will look at how these passages and Kabbalistic thought can inform Jewish Mindfulness Meditation.

A vital part of this practice is breath awareness and its connection to the soul in Judaism, opening to allow *Chesed* (loving-kindness) to encompass your body, feelings, and thoughts. In this practice, continually returning to the breath serves as a form of *teshuvah* (returning)—a practice of awareness, noticing, and remaining present.

Sessions will include chanting to prepare for meditation, text study, and group sharing. Both beginners and experienced meditators are welcome, as well as participants from previous classes. Gathering to meditate taps into our collective Jewish soul and shared interconnectedness.

Because meditation is a practice that develops over time, attending both sessions is strongly recommended.

- Dates: Sundays, November 15 and 22
- Time: 10:30 am–11:45 am (Please arrive a few minutes early to settle in.)
- Location: Upstairs in the CBI Library

Please register with the office (office@bethisraelbellingham.org) in advance to attend this free class.

About the Instructor:

Cherryne Kravitz will be leading the class. She has many years of meditation experience and holds a certificate in Jewish Mindfulness Meditation from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She is also a spiritual life coach with a B.S. in Psychology and an M.S. in Adult Education and Religious Studies.

Little Ferraro Kitchen Cooking Class

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
4:00–6:00 PM

We're making Mediterranean-style food again this year! Samantha Ferraro will teach us to make *muhammara*, Mediterranean fried eggplant, and kanafe for dessert. This event is always fun and delicious.

Registration for this members-only event will be in the *Timbrel* soon. Children 14 and over are welcome with an adult. There is only room for 10 cooks, so sign up soon.

L'DOR V'DOR—ENSURING OUR FUTURE

Continued from page 2

to contribute what they can and, at times, stretch beyond our comfort levels.

In the coming months, members of the campaign team will reach out to schedule a conversation. Please answer those calls and emails so we can discuss how you might participate in shaping CBI's future.

As we reflect on what we have received from those who came before us and what we hope to leave for those who come after us, let us embrace our shared responsibility to ensure that CBI remains strong, vibrant, and enduring for generations to come.

To learn more, visit the campaign website: ldorvdor.bethisraelbellingham.org or contact fundraising@bethisraelbellingham.org

Donations

Camp and Youth Activities

IN MEMORY OF:

Joel Saslaw
From: Rick and Leslie Adelstein

Endowment

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Richard and Leslie Adelstein
Ann Buzaitis and Dena Petersen
Lorraine Garfinkle
Diane Garmo
David Goldman and Linda Blackwell
Mark and Helen Packer
Mitch Press
Bruce and Becki Van Glubt
Joan and Marv Wayne

General Fund

IN HONOR OF:

The Bat Mitzvot of Audrey Ellis and Mara Donner. Mazel tov!
From: Jodi Litt

All the hard work done by the Kitchen Task Force and Landscaping Committees
From: Marta Brand

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Dennis Math

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Thank you for performing our baby naming.
From: Rebecca and Tyler Shaddix

For compassionately reaching out to my sister in her time of need.
From: Sue and Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger

Religious School

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Nick Greif and Cat Stevens

Security Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Barry and Jill Levinson
From: Stuart and Cinda Zemel

With gratitude for the honor of the *aliyah*
From: Sylvia Williams

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Jill and David Elkayam
Social Action Fund
Contributions from:
Ira Kaufman

Birthdays

NOVEMBER

11/01 Gerald Manganaro
11/01 Erin Uloth
11/01 Rachel Witter
11/01 David Ziegler
11/02 Henry Honeycutt (14th)
11/02 Max Nahani Braunstein (17th)
11/02 Lev Shuster (25th)
11/04 Samuel Kennedy (21st)
11/04 Patrick McGarrity
11/04 David M. Schlitt
11/06 Rodney Shainbom
11/07 Steve James
11/10 Scott Foss
11/10 Urtica Goldman (13th)
11/11 Sara Dykstra
11/11 Stephanie Korn
11/11 Wendy Schwartz
11/13 Peter Auerbach
11/13 Alex Bokser
11/13 Miriam Schwartz
11/14 Jessica Galbraith
11/16 Kristan Brennan
11/16 Dee Dee O'Connor
11/16 Jane Relin
11/16 Toby Sonneman
11/17 Bonnie Stone
11/17 Jay Wolfman
11/18 Eric Shapow
11/18 Rita Spitzer
11/19 Anita Meyer
11/20 Willow Corey-DuBow (23rd)
11/20 Francisco Leyva
11/20 Avia Payne (6th)
11/22 Ula Fleysher (5th)
11/23 Mike Altman
11/23 Dan Anolik
11/24 Tyler Shaddix
11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (16th)
11/26 Tamar Clarke
11/26 Jonathan Hillel
11/27 Kathleen Bell
11/27 Elkah Katz
11/29 Arundel Pritchett
11/29 Xavier Sommers (15th)
11/30 Orion Dixon (18th)
11/30 Priscilla Feld
11/30 Rochelle LaPlante
11/30 Sarah Witte

DECEMBER

12/01 Juna Blue Martinez (12th)
12/02 Karen Bailor
12/04 Elizabeth (Betsy) Becker
12/04 Rachel LeWitte
12/04 Rebecca Oliver
12/07 Eden Kinney (19th)
12/08 Benjamin Becker
12/08 Robin Curtis
12/08 Levi Goodwin (11th)
12/10 Trisha Adelstein
12/10 Lia Kuenzel
12/11 Marvin Wayne
12/13 Sheldon B. Pravda
12/13 Charles Redell
12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (21st)
12/14 Laurel Peak
12/15 Niall O Murchu
12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine
12/18 David Strich
12/19 Peter Burkill
12/19 Cathie Diller
12/19 Shira Gold
12/19 Cinda Zemel
12/22 Michelle Anderson
12/22 Jennifer Seltz
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12/27 Philip Buri
12/27 Jacob Garretson
12/28 Ella Keefe
12/28 Mark Pomerantz
12/29 Andrew Schwarz
12/30 Shawn Clarke
12/30 Wendy Westgate

Sufganiyot (Jelly Doughnuts)

FROM *THE CHILDREN'S JEWISH HOLIDAY KITCHEN* BY JOAN NATHAN

We're well into the holiday months now... which means our kitchens will soon start to release mouth-watering aromas and tantalizing tastes. Can piles of sufganiyot *be far behind?! Please enjoy this recipe for the rich, soft, jelly-filled treats, dusted with sugar. The treat comes to us from the Polish tradition and is another way to celebrate the Miracle of the Oil.*

This recipe is designed to be made by adults and children, although anyone can do it. And isn't everyone a child when jelly and sugar are involved?

Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 scant tablespoon (1 package) dry yeast
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- ¾ cup lukewarm milk or warm water
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter or margarine, softened
- Apricot or strawberry preserves
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying
- Sugar

EQUIPMENT

- Measuring spoons
- Measuring cups
- Mixing bowls
- Spoon
- Sifter
- Clean dish towel
- Rolling pin
- Juice glass
- Deep fryer or heavy pot
- Slotted spoon
- Paper towels
- Tiny spoon

Makes about 12

Child: Mix together the yeast, 2 tablespoons of the sugar, and the milk. Let sit to make sure it bubbles.

Child: Sift the flour and mix it with the remaining sugar, salt, cinnamon, egg yolks, and the yeast mixture.

Adult with Child: Knead the dough until it forms a ball. Add the butter or margarine. Knead some more, until the butter is well absorbed. Cover with a towel and let rise overnight in the refrigerator.

Adult: Roll out the dough to a thickness of ⅛ inch.

Child: Cut out the dough into 24 rounds with a juice glass, or any object about 2 inches in diameter. Take ½ teaspoon of preserves and place in center of 12 rounds. Top with the other 12. Press down at edges, sealing with egg whites. Crimping with the thumb and second finger is best. Let rise for about 30 minutes.

Adult: Heat 2 inches of oil to about 375°. Drop the doughnuts into the hot oil, about 5 at a time. Turn to brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels.

Child: Roll the doughnuts in sugar.

November/December 2026 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.**

Fri., Nov. 6	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service (Mazel Tots & Gan)
Sat., Nov. 7		No Services at CBI
Fri., Nov. 13	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Sat., Nov. 14	**9:30 am**	Torah Study (*Parashat Toledot*)
	10:30 am	Saturday Shabbat Service
Fri., Nov. 20	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Sat., Nov. 21	**11:00 am**	Tot Shabbat
Fri., Nov. 27	**6:00 pm**	Shabbat Shira
Sat., Nov. 28	**9:30 am**	Torah Study (*Parashat Vayishlach*)
	10:30 am	Conservative Lay Led Minyan
Fri., Dec. 4	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service (K1, grades 2 and 3) Erev Chanukah
Sat., Dec. 5	**10:30 am**	Contemplative Service
Fri., Dec. 11	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Sat., Dec. 12	**9:30 pm**	Torah Study (Eighth Night of Chanukah)
	10:30 am	Saturday Shabbat Service
Fri., Dec. 18	**6:00 pm**	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Sat., Dec. 19	**11:00 am**	Tot Shabbat
Fri., Dec. 25	**6:00 pm**	Shabbat Shira
Sat., Dec. 26	**9:30 am**	Torah Study (*Parashat Vayechi*)
	10:30 am	Conservative Lay Led Minyan

FALL ALWAYS FEELS LIKE CHANGE

Continued from page 8

the guilt and make you feel good when you are in Haggen's or Freddy's and making that impulse buy.

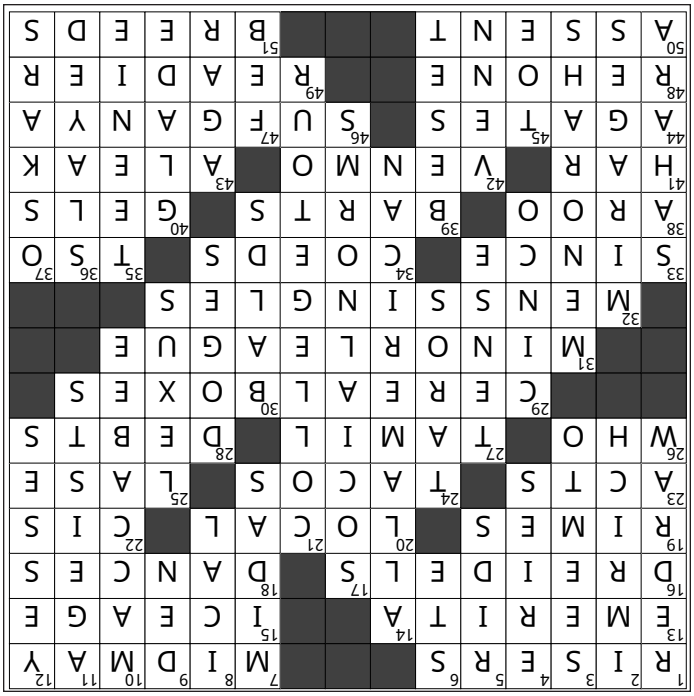
And it makes a great gift. Give your favorite college student a gift to the Food Co-Op, Starbuck's, or other shopping emporia. Give organizations you support a gift card, too, and double your generosity.

Joan Wayne says her current favorite volunteer activity is the Gardening Committee. She picks the ways she volunteers so it fits into her life.

Be like Joan! Volunteer!

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Continued from page 5



Adult Education—School and No Final Exam!

Judaism 201: An Introduction to Jewish Life, Thought & Practice

When was the last time you had the chance to really explore the basics of Judaism—not just what Jews do, but why we do it, where our traditions come from, and what Jews have thought about some of life's biggest questions?

Judaism 201 is a ten-session introduction to Jewish life, thought, history, and practice, taught by Rabbi Samuels. Together we'll explore Torah and Jewish sacred texts, Shabbat, God, prayer, Jewish history and Israel, lifecycle, mysticism, mitzvot, Jewish community, and the different movements of Judaism.

The class is designed for **anyone who wants to learn**. It's especially appropriate for those considering conversion to Judaism; non-Jewish partners or family members who want to better understand the Jewish people in their lives; Jews whose last formal Jewish education may have been around the time of their B'nei Mitzvah; and lifelong Jewish learners who simply want to revisit the fundamentals with adult eyes and adult questions.

No previous knowledge is assumed, and no question is too basic. Come with your questions, your curiosity, and whatever Jewish background—or lack of background—you bring.

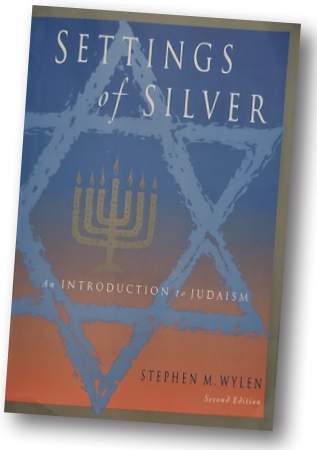
10 Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:15 pm

Nov 11, 18; Dec 9, 16; Jan 13, 27; Feb 3, 17; Mar 3, 17

Open to members and the wider community.

Cost: $36 for CBI members; $72 for nonmembers. Registration includes *Settings of Silver*, our course text, as well as additional readings and handouts.

Please RSVP to office@bethisraelbellingham.org



New *Shul Shofar* Deadline!

We're moving to a new submission deadline: the fifth of the month prior to the issue date.

For example, submissions for the Jan/Feb 2027 issue are due December 5.

This change gives both us and the printer enough time to ensure the newsletter arrives in mailboxes by the first of the month. Send all submissions to Holly Witte: holly.witte@bethisraelbellingham.org

CBI Writer's Group Forming

CBI member Lyssa Anolik has volunteered to facilitate a monthly writers group for CBI members who are writers or aspiring writers, along the lines of a group she co-facilitated in her former congregation (P'nai Or of Portland).

We will meet at CBI either Tuesday or Thursday mornings. We will use Jewish themes as a jumping-off point for stream-of-consciousness free-writing that could take each participant to any subject and any genre.

Go to tinyurl.com/mpwsavtj for more information, to express interest and the day(s) you're available, or to ask questions or comment.

Yahrzeits

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

FRIDAY, NOV 6

Henry (Hank) Gordon	11/07
Bette Bikman	11/07
Helen Skinner	11/07
Rose Weitzman Price	11/08
Sephora Andresen	11/08
Myer Avraham Goldberg	11/09
Melvin Goldberger	11/09
Lily Swartz	11/10
Julian Lewis	11/11
Otto V. Vohl	11/12

FRIDAY, NOV 13

Marvin Siegel	11/14
Esther Schwarz	11/14
Leah (Lilly) Kleiman	11/15
Lenore Shankman	11/15
Josephine D. Reilly	11/16
James T. Reilly	11/16
Lanny “Bip” Sokol	11/18
John Paschetag	11/18
Zelda Turovitz	11/18
Dick Eigen	11/19
Irene Till Hamilton	11/19
Henri Benhaim	11/19
Louis Groper	11/20
Sylvia Sulkin	11/20

FRIDAY, NOV 20

Shirah Tziporah Kronenberg	11/22
Donald Waldo Redell	11/23
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	11/24
Bud Robinson	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Samuel M. Pravda	11/26
Abram Stolzoff	11/27
Arthur Ingberman	11/27

FRIDAY, NOV 27

Judith Kushner Langley	11/28
Elaine Cohn	11/28
Jean Elsa Sloss	11/28
Sanford Thal	11/28
Mikel Luster	11/29
Phyllis Heck	11/30
Marvin Mortimer Wolff	12/01
Bernard Shuster	12/01
Joseph Koplowitz	12/01
Amy Margolis	12/02
Harold Sharpe	12/02
Robin Hoffman	12/02
Diane Lewis	12/03
Ida Zderic	12/03
Martin William Sternlicht	12/03
Edith Jensen	12/04
Rachel Jaffe	12/04
Frances Feiger	12/04

FRIDAY, DEC 4

Lucille Rest	12/06
Aaron Bell	12/06
Victor Geretz	12/07
Frank Zderic	12/08
Marion Relin	12/09
Nathan Loober	12/11
Stanley Alper	12/11
Sarah Patinkin	12/11
Joel Corman	12/11
Leslie Spitzer	12/11

FRIDAY, DEC 11

George Shaw	12/12
Pearl Lilien	12/12
Bella Heller	12/13
Ray Redel	12/13
Ben Gordon	12/15
Richard Kite	12/15
Richard Bloomfield	12/15
Benjamin David Glazer	12/16
Bette Baer	12/17
Alice Behrstock	12/17
Carol Zagnoli	12/17
Barry Zell	12/17
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	12/18

FRIDAY, DEC 18

Lois Looney	12/19
Joseph Soode	12/20
Cecile R. Gordon	12/21
John J. Read	12/21
Max Spigelman	12/21
Glinda Blackwell	12/21
John Jasper McGarrity	12/22
George Garmo	12/22
Ivan Senzon	12/22
Jerry Roberts	12/22
Haskell David	12/23
Bernice Kaufman	12/23
Pearl Turovitz	12/24
Joseph Kahan	12/24

FRIDAY, DEC 25

Beatrice Weiss	12/26
William Zderic	12/26
Stanley Litt	12/27
Ruth Robinson	12/28
Nicole Russell	12/28
Robert Schultheiss	12/28
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	12/28
Jack Miller	12/29
Irwin Wapner	12/30
Ben Thal	12/30
Milton Kaufman	12/31
Arnold Loober	12/31
Aimee Lewis	12/31
Aaron Sanger	1/01
Anna Winefield Fox	1/01
George Bikman	1/01
Rudolf Reitz	1/01

In Memoriam

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

Peter William Auerbach passed away on October 4, 2026, at the age of 84. Born on November 13, 1941, Peter grew up in the Bronx and carried that spirit throughout his life. While attending Cal State University Los Angeles, he met Nancy, who would become his wife and partner of 60 years. Together they built a life grounded in love, curiosity, and a shared commitment to making the world better.

Peter was a man of wide interests and deep convictions. He loved baseball, traveling, reading, and spirited political engagement. His dedication to *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, was not just a value he admired, but a principle he lived.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; his son, Paul (Cheri); and his daughter, Rose. He was preceded in death by his brother, Fred.

Donations in Peter’s memory may be made to: CBI General Fund; Bellingham Food Bank; Whatcom Habitat for Humanity; or City of Hope.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
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Annual Chanukah Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Come celebrate Chanukah with your CBI community. The party is open to the whole congregation and our friends.

TIME
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

WHERE
CBI Social Hall

FOOD AND ACTIVITIES
Celebrate with latkes, jelly donuts, the Third Annual Soup Cook-off, Chanukah themed crafts and games, and the annual Dreidle Spin-off. (If you have the trophy from last year, please return it.)

CHANUKAH CANDLE FUNDRAISER
Boxes of candles will be for sale at CBI beginning on Sunday Nov 1 and available as long as supply lasts. Cost $5 each box. Proceeds help with the party expenses.