

# BET CHAVERIM

(206) 577-0403 December 2017

“To provide a forum for news and editorials relevant to  
Bet Chaverim and its Jewish Community”

Editor: Barbara Roessler Proofreader: Carrie Bagatell  
Services with Rabbi Emily Meyer  
Always at 7:30 p.m.



## From Our Rabbi

Emily Meyer [emilymeyer18@gmail.com](mailto:emilymeyer18@gmail.com)

The great Hanukkah debate of the Talmud asks how we kindle the Hanukkah lights. “Bet Shammai says: On the first day one lights eight and from then on one continues to decrease, and Bet Hillel says: On the first day one lights one and from then on one continues to increase.”

When we see this argument, we might feel dismayed, bemoaning the decisiveness and disagreement. We might imagine people choosing sides, putting down those who disagree, or refusing to listen to them. But that is not what our sages have seen.



Throughout this argument, Hillel and Shammai are the epitome of respectful discourse. They argue for the sake of heaven, meaning they debate not to win, but to elevate the argument and deepen understanding. They are open to each other's perspectives, listen respectfully to one another, and honor their differences.

Both Hillel and Shammai argue about how to best embody the miracle of Hanukkah in the rituals in which we participate. This shared goal helps us see this tug of war not as one meant to topple the other side, but one meant to raise the rope between them.

As we enter this season of light, may we remember the beauty of different perspectives and see how each can reflect the light we bring into the world.

## From Our President:

Melissa Brooks [melissabrooks25@gmail.com](mailto:melissabrooks25@gmail.com)

I am feeling grateful for being able to spend Thanksgiving with my family and am trying to work off the bounty.

The **Finding God** class taught by Rabbi Emily is challenging me to identify my personal concepts about God. The big idea that I have learned from the class is that the Jewish view of God is evolving. There is no set doctrine; it is o.k. to have your own personal concept of God. I like the concept that I am a “Partner in Creation”. Some of the God attributes that fall under this category include:

- God gave human beings free will.
- God re-creates the world continually.
- We are made in the image of God.
- I am God’s partner; we have a covenant.
- I can argue with God.

I also like the idea that God has to do with connection. I am in touch with God when I am connected to the best that is in me; when I am connected to our Jewish heritage and rituals and when I am connected to nature.

The name *Israel* literally means “God wrestler”. If you are interested in creating your own God concept I would recommend reading the book that we are using for the class **Finding God Selected Responses Revised Edition** by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel Syme . Another recommended book is **The God Upgrade Finding Your 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Spirituality In Judaism’s 5,000-Year-Old Tradition** by Rabbi Jamie S. Korngold.

In December we have Friday night services on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, instead of a Saturday morning Shabbat service we will have Havdalah and our Hanukkah party – it begins at 4 P.M. in the large room in the Lighthouse (the building behind the main building). There will be games, songs and latkes. Please bring your menorah and candles.

# Bet Chaverim Havdalah and Hanukkah Party

Happy Hanukkah



When: Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: 4:00 pm

Come join us for candle lighting, latkes, games, and fun.

Please bring your menorah and candles



Happy Hanukkah



Here's a traditional Latke recipe to try – serves 6

10 medium potatoes	¼ tsp. salt
2 medium onions	2 cups oil
2 eggs	¼ cup + 2 tbsp. flour divided

Grate onions and potatoes. Press out as much liquid as possible. Blend the potato/onion mixture with the eggs and ¼ cup flour. Heat 1 inch of oil in a medium size pan. Drop about 1 tablespoon of the mixture for each latke into the skillet and fry turning once.

Drain on paper towels. If mixture falls apart, add the additional 2 tablespoons of flour.

Serve with sour cream and applesauce.

## Jewish Festival on Diversity:

<http://www.limmudseattle.org/>

Limmud Seattle is a unique experience of engaging, hands-on learning in a community that celebrates Jewish diversity. Join our festival on January 13-14, 2018 - Saturday 6:00-11pm and 8:30am-6:00pm Sunday - at the spacious and convenient [Shoreline Conference Center](#).

We've got an amazing line-up of exciting [presenters](#) - performers, activists, scholars, even cookbook authors/educators confirmed from around the country and Israel.

AND, at Limmud we believe that everyone should be a student and anyone can be a teacher, so we encourage YOU to [be a presenter](#).

[Register NOW!](#) Become a [volunteer](#)! And join the mailing list via the [home page](#) to stay up-to-date.

### This month we remember:

- 12/5 Betty Kaplan, grandmother of David Kaplan
- 12/6 Gladys Freidenrich, mother of Anne Locascio
- 12/12 Anne Morris, aunt of Melissa Brooks
- 12/12 Anna Maus, grandmother of David Kaplan
- 12/13 Bernard Kaplan, father of David Kaplan
- 12/13 Muriel Zalman, sister of Carol Lym
- 12/27 Frederick Bernstein, father of Brenda Bernstein

### December Birthdays

- 12/1 Michael Burns
- 12/2 Melissa Brooks
- 12/4 Nancy Blase
- 12/10 Carmi Brooks
- 12/12 Owen Meaker
- 12/13 Rose Berman
- 12/14 Evelyn Meyer
  
- 12/15 Jacob Kornberg
- 12/16 Christina Sher
- 12/30 Hannah Steinman
- 12/31 Jonathan Harkness

### December Wedding Anniversaries

We didn't seem to have any anniversaries on our list for December. I apologize in advance if there is a mistake and would ask you to please email Barbara Roessler at [bnpapa@me.com](mailto:bnpapa@me.com) for any corrections or additions.



*Happy Hanukkah*



*May your home be bright  
with love and happiness  
this Hanukkah.*

**Coming: February 24, 2018**

In the November bulletin you read about the event we're holding in February, our Priceless Auction. I'm sure you have some questions so here is our plan. We're asking congregation members to donate events or experiences that they can share with others. Here are some examples:

- Meals
  - A food specialty, Mexican, Indian, etc. for a certain number of people - you would host the event at your home
  - Wine Tasting for a certain number of people - you would host at your home
- Gift Certificates
  - Movies
  - Theater
  - Getaways
  - Perhaps you have a cabin or a timeshare you can share
- Classes/Lessons you can teach
  - Cooking
  - Sewing
  - Scrapbooking
- A guided hike or tour



These are just examples, please be creative! The costs you incur can be treated as a donation-in-kind to the temple. We will auction them all off at the event on February 24th. The expectation would be that the event or lesson would have to be redeemed within one year.

The Auction will be February 24th, 2018 at Bet Chaverim. Look for a flyer soon.

If you are interested in providing something for our auction, please respond to [ksteinman@comcast.net](mailto:ksteinman@comcast.net).

**Stay in touch with a Sunshing Card!**

You can order a hand stamped card for any occasion: birthday to bar mitzvah, births to funerals, get well and greetings!

Support Sisterhood with Sunshine cards for only \$3.00; this covers the card and postage.

To order, contact Vickie Burns by phone, 206 878-6926 or email [mvblburns@comcast.net](mailto:mvblburns@comcast.net). Just tell her the name and address of the recipient, the occasion and how you want the card signed.

Send payment to Sisterhood treasurer, Judy Schainen.

Our services are held at:  
Saltwater Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
25701 14th Pl. S.  
Des Moines, WA 98198

**Caring Committee**

Some of you might not be aware that our synagogue has a "caring committee". The purpose of the committee is to help coordinate assistance to any congregation members who might need additional support due to illness or other life events. Judy Schainen is the current chair of this committee.

If you are in need of assistance: please e-mail: [caringcommittee@betchaverim.org](mailto:caringcommittee@betchaverim.org).

**Our Temple Board:**

<b>President:</b>	Melissa Brooks
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Banks
<b>Secretary:</b>	Robyn Alpert
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Archie Levine
<b>Members at Large:</b>	Jack Kornberg
	Eytan Olivier
	Judy Schainen
	Rick Siegler
	Peter Smith

Dzeczber 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm with Rabbi Emily  Torah Reading: Parshat Vayishlach  Candle Lighting 4:01 pm	2
3	4	5  <b>Finding G-d Class</b> 7:00 – 8:30 pm	6	7	8 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm with Rabbi Emily  Torah Reading: Parshat Vayeshev  Candle Lighting 3:59 pm	9
10	11	12  <b>Finding G-d Class</b> 7:00 – 8:30 pm	13  Temple Board Meeting 7:30 pm	14	15  Torah Reading: Parshat Miketz  Candle Lighting 3:59 pm	16  Hanukkah Party and Havdalah 4:00 pm In the Lighthouse
17	18	19	20	21	22  Torah Reading: Parshat Vayigash  Candle Lighting 4:02 pm	23
24	25	26	27	28	29  Torah Reading: Parshat Vayechi  Candle Lighting 4:08 pm	30
31						