



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, in 1990, the City Council began recognizing outstanding contributions of Mercer Island community members and the City has continued this tradition for more than 30 years.

At the March 1, 2024, City Council Planning Session, the City Council selected Cantor Bradlee Kurland as the 2023 Community Member of the Year for his contributions to the Mercer Island community.

Cantor Kurland had a long history of community involvement on Mercer Island as the cantor and music director for Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation from 1984 to up until his passing in 2023. During his 39 years at Herzl-Ner Tamid, he officiated at countless life cycle events for congregants, - including weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, baby namings and funerals.

Brad, as he was affectionately known, was always present and supportive for members of the Jewish community through their times of immense happiness and joy, their successes and challenges, and their grief and losses.

Cantor Kurland had a gift for connecting with adults, children and teens of all ages. He had the ability to make you feel that you were the most important person in the world when he greeted you. His pastoral presence was felt throughout the Island and he would often be seen at local businesses laughing and joyfully connecting with congregants, shoppers and workers, spreading his warmth throughout the greater Mercer Island community.

Cantor Kurland continued to give back to the Mercer Island Community by freely practicing the Jewish custom of hachnasat orchim (welcoming guests) at every opportunity.

Through Cantor Kurland's lifelong passion and contributions, his impact on the Mercer Island community is deep and lasting. With Cantor Kurland's passing in May 2023, the Community Member of the Year award posthumously recognizes his contributions to Mercer Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim Cantor Bradlee Kurland as the

2023 COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

APPROVED, this 18th day of June 2024

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 337