

## KRISTALLNACHT SHABBAT

by Deb Silverthorn

Anshai Torah member Melanie Kuhr, co-author of *Das Haus in East Berlin*, will share her family's story on Friday, November 9, during dinner after our 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat service as we commemorate Kristallnacht.

This will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of November 9, 1938, when Nazis in Germany torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses and killed close to 100 Jews.

Member Melanie Kuhr, who co-authored *Das Haus in East Berlin* with J. Arthur Heise, will speak about her family's history and the trajectory of the family after Kristallnacht.

"I feel at peace with my truth and that the only people who know what really happened have all passed away. It was up to Art and me to put the past behind us and make peace with it; and we wanted to finish our families' work," said Melanie. "I gave my family a voice that they never had, and that alone gave me great peace —drawing a close to that chapter in a positive way."

Kuhr's great-grandparents built their home in a suburb of Berlin but it was lost to the family when, after Kristallnacht Melanie's grandmother left for England, followed by her mother via the Kindertransport, escaping the Holocaust. It has been 20 years since Melanie first received a call from Heise, who lived in the home as a young boy before his family was forced out by Russian occupation. He introduced her to her family's history and they ultimately agreed to sell the home together and share their combined stories.

Anshai Torah's Rabbi Michael Kushnick says that Kristallnacht is one of the most recognizable events relating to the Shoah and our coming together this year to hear the captivating experiences of close relations allows us to remember the horror that befell our people during WWII.

"As long as we reflect and remind ourselves that *Never Again* is what we must live toward, our personal connection remains," said Rabbi Kushnick.

We look forward to sharing an evening with Melanie. More details will be forthcoming.

