

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 17, NO. 4 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL • BELLINGHAM, WA 98225 • (360) 733-8890 • DECEMBER 2012 • KISLEV — TEVET 5773

Please Take Note:

☆ **Shabbat Service Schedule**

A complete schedule of services is printed on the back page

☆ **Important Shofar News**

The publication schedule of our monthly newsletter is changing (pg 4)

☆ **Israeli Dancing, CBI Social Hall**

Sunday, Dec. 16th 6:30/7:00 PM - Open to the community; come early if you're a beginner. Cost: \$5 donation to the Building Fund.

☆ **Brotherhood Meeting/Poker Nite**

Wednesday, Dec. 19th 7:00 PM - Post-Hanukkah meeting & friendly poker game at Gateway Centre (pg. 6)

☆ **Israeli Film Series**

Saturday, Dec. 22nd 7:15/7:30 PM - Join us for Havdallah and a screening of *For My Father*, nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards (pg. 6)

☆ **Hats for the Homeless**

Tuesday, Dec. 25th 2-4 PM - All members who are handy with a needle and thread are welcome to take part in this annual all-ages Christmas Day activity (pg. 5)

☆ **Sisterhood Book Group**

Sunday, Dec. 30th 2 pm - The group will discuss *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* by Peter Manseau (pg. 5)



Hanukkah Fun & Festivities

Religious School Hanukkah Party – Sunday, Dec. 9th Noon - 3 PM

AT THE Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 Harbor Loop IN ZUANICH POINT PARK

Beth Israel congregants of all ages are invited to our annual Hanukkah Party. This year we will be in a new venue — the **Squalicum Boathouse** — and at a new, earlier time. Get ready for latkes, pizza, crafts, and the annual CBI Dreidel Spin-Off. Bring your own handmade menorah, or make one at the party to show at the “Handmade Hanukkiya Exhibit.” The Religious School would like to invite all CBI members, friends, and Hillel students to join us for music, fun and festivities! Let’s celebrate together!

What The Chelm! – Sunday, Dec. 9th 2:00 PM Old City Hall Building

Our home-town *klezmerim* present their annual Hanukkah concert of joyous, lively music in the Rotunda Room of the Whatcom Museum’s Old City Hall Building at 121 Prospect Street. Everyone is welcome. Admission is **free** for Museum members and a **\$3 donation** for nonmembers.

Shabbat Service & Singalong – Friday, Dec. 14th 6:00 PM

Our Shabbat service on the Seventh Night of Hanukkah will begin at an earlier time, and be followed by a vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner in the Social Hall. After dinner there will be a fun and festive singalong* of Hanukkah songs old and new, led by Rena Ziegler. Come welcome Shabbat with lively music and warm fellowship!

*Anyone who would like to learn the songs ahead of time is welcome to attend a teaching/practice session on **Wednesday, December 12** from 7 - 9 PM in the Social Hall. Contact Rena for more information.



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

Going Green

I bought a pair of shoes recently. They are dark brown loafers that will go well with jeans when I’m lounging around the house or doing errands on my day off. I have not felt this enthused about buying shoes since my parents bought me a pair of Nike “Air Jordans” in the mid 1980’s! How are these shoes different from all other shoes? This pair happens to be **vegan**. That’s right, 100% **vegan**. No animals or animal products were used in any part of their manufacturing. The soles are even made from recycled automobile tires.

It seems like the country today is more concerned about sustainability, waste reduction, ecologically intelligent designing, and going “green” than it ever was. After living here for almost 5 months, it appears that Bellingham takes this all very seriously. This is just one aspect that Nicole and I love about our new home town. (We finally have a compost bin!) In fact, evidence of this

conscientiousness is built right into our new synagogue. Blasted rock from the site is being re-used to create the parking lots, roads into and around the structure and the building’s back-fill. Those in charge of this massive project have even acquired excavated concrete from city projects that will be sent to our new home for similar uses. We might not have solar panels on the roof and walls made from recycled aluminum cans, but believe me, 751 San Juan Blvd is a “green” building in more ways than one.

In recent years, New York City decided to make the huge Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center “green.” Instead of using incandescent bulbs, the tree will be lit with 30,000 multicolored energy-efficient light emitting diodes, or LEDs, which will cut the energy consumption by as much as a 2000 square foot house consumes in a month. The source of the light will come by way of solar panels situated atop a building in the Center. When the tree is brought down after the holidays, the wood will be used to build homes by Habitat for Humanity. I hope this

(See FROM THE RABBI on page 2)



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 17, Number 4
December 2012
Kislev - Tevet 5773

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. It is published monthly except in July, and distributed to all congregation members. Non-members may subscribe for \$35/year (payable to CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL). Advertising space (business card size) is available for \$20/issue, or \$15/issue for an annual contract.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the January/February issue is DECEMBER 15TH. You are encouraged to submit your items via e-mail. Please call the office at 733-8890 for more info.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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You can reach us at:

Congregation Beth Israel
phone: (360) 733-8890
fax: (360) 733-9842
e-mail: bishul@aol.com

Visit our website at
www.bethisraelbellingham.org



A Message from the President

On my first trip back to Israel in five years, I was thrilled to see all of the changes that had taken place. People in the service industry now know that “service” is not just a word. Roads are built to prevent accidents and are not just a place for Israelis to play “bumper cars”. The country has lost a lot of the ancient feel, for both the good and the bad.

On my fourth morning I was made aware that one thing hadn’t changed: the neighbors. Once again the early morning air was disturbed by incoming rocket fire. I knew I was in Israel. Over the next few days I visited long-lost friends and relatives in Be’er Sheva, Ashdod, and the area around Kiryat Malachi and Be’er Tuvia — all places that would become known in the world news in the coming weeks as destinations for rockets coming out of Gaza.

At this moment there is a cease fire in effect, with no clear victor; I can only hope that it will last for some time. Since Israel ran this operation in such a different manner than the last confrontation with Gaza, the world was not as against Israel. I can only hope that the world has come to learn who the real aggressor is, and no, it’s not even the poor Hamas — they are small players in a big game.

Tetzlekh,
Jeff

From the Rabbi (Continued from page 1)

mindset remains in vogue for a long time.

Our Jewish tradition would argue that this way of living is not new, but can be traced back all the way to biblical times. In Deuteronomy 20:19-20 we learn of the mitzvah called *bal tashchit*, or the commandment “not to destroy.” In the context of the Torah, this mitzvah refers to the destruction of fruit-bearing trees during times of war. The rabbis have taken this lesson and expanded it to prohibit destroying anything of value wantonly. This would then refer to objects such as water sources, buildings, food sources, etc. If the destruction of the object is done to prohibit further damage to another person, then it is permitted. But if the destruction serves no other purpose than to destroy, or can be prevented, then the act violates the mitzvah.

We are all lucky to be alive in this beautiful world. And since we are, this then permits us to make use of the environment, as it is rich with resources. But we must also remember that the world does not belong to us. We are just tenants for a brief time. The mitzvah of *bal tashchit* reminds us of this and of just how fragile our home is. It also reminds us that we can make a difference through our actions. It’s not too late to start. From changing light bulbs, eating local produce, insulating our homes with energy-efficient windows, recycling, composting, and cutting down on consuming animal products, we will not only fulfill this mitzvah, but during the Hanukkah season we will be giving our “Landlord” some of the best gifts available.

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

From the Bima — *Rabbi Joshua Samuels*

“There are gates in heaven that cannot be opened except by melody and song.” I couldn’t agree more with the words of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liady. And so, beginning this month, I will be accompanied on the bima almost each week with different lovers of Jewish music. They are sure to help elevate your prayer experience to a new level.

- 1st Friday (Family Shabbat at 6:15 PM): WWU senior, Hillel member, and NFTY song-leader Sarah Philips
- 2nd Friday (7:30 PM): Miriam Zderic and Rena Ziegler
- 3rd Friday (6:15 PM): Cantorial soloist Kim Moskowitz
- 4th Friday (7:30 PM): CBI’s very own vocal ensemble, Ma’ayan Shir

CONTRIBUTIONS

Beth Israel is pleased to acknowledge your donation to special Synagogue funds**, Hadassah, or in honor of a special person, by sending a card to your designee. You may send donations (designated to a specific synagogue fund if desired) along with your message and the recipient's name and address to **Donna Solomon**. For Hadassah cards, contact **Bonnie Stone**. For Hadassah certificates, call **Debbie Adelstein**. For Trees-For-Israel certificates or JNF "Blue Boxes", contact **Janis Ban**. Donations may also be sent to the synagogue office. Contact information for the above individuals is available by calling 733-8890.

**** Synagogue Special Funds:**

Camp Scholarship/Youth Activities Care Committee	Max Glass Library Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	New Synagogue (AKA Building) Fund
Rabbi Gartner Scholarship Fund	*New NFTY Fund
General Fund	*New Rabbi's Professional Development Fund
	Religious School Tuition Fund

~ SPECIAL FUND DONATIONS ~

— Care Committee —
IN HONOR OF:
 ☆ Susan Jay — Happy Birthday
 ☆ Aaron Weiss — Happy Birthday
From: Sylvia Fragner

— Rabbi's Discretionary Fund —
IN HONOR OF:
 ☆ The birth of our grandson, Oliver Ren Zemel
From: Stuart & Cinda Zemel

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:
 ☆ Rabbi Samuels and family, on the loss of his uncle, Marvin Siegel
**From: Anne Brown
 Harriet & Manny Emanuel**

— Rabbi's Prof. Dev. Fund —
CONTRIBUTION FROM:
Marcia Lippman

— New Synagogue Fund —
IN APPRECIATION TO:
 ☆ Rabbi Samuels, in thanks for his beautiful service of unveiling
From: Rita Gordon and Family

— New Synagogue Fund —
IN HONOR OF:
 ☆ The birth of Toby Sonneman's grandson, Levi Zigadene Steigmeyer
 ☆ The marriage of Avi Hecht and Corinne Taraska
 ☆ Samantha & Isaac Konikoff, on the birth of Emma Suzanne
 ☆ Bonnie Stone — Happy Birthday
 ☆ Nancy Lloyd — Happy Birthday
From: Debbie & Dan Raas

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:
 ☆ Mark Hunter and family, on the loss of his father, Dale Hunter
From: Debbie & Dan Raas

☆ Jochen Neuman (Vancouver, BC), on the loss of his daughter, Christiana Neuman
 ☆ Charlotte King (Edmonton, AB), on the loss of her grandmother, Frances Roney
From: Floyd King

☆ Rabbi Samuels and family, on the loss of his uncle, Marvin Siegel
**From: Debbie & Dan Raas
 Joan & Marv Wayne**

~ In Memoriam ~

We offer heartfelt condolences to **Rabbi Joshua Samuels** and all his family on the loss of his uncle, **Marvin Siegel**, who passed away on November 18, 2012 in Palo Alto, California.

Zichrono l'vrachah ~ May his memory be for a blessing

Mission Statement of Congregation Beth Israel

Congregation Beth Israel is a diverse and inclusive synagogue affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism and committed to a tradition that honors both Jewish continuity and innovation. We warmly welcome people into our vibrant community, dedicated to the study of Torah and creative Jewish learning, joyous and meaningful worship, and engaging in the sacred obligation of *tikkun olam*, repair of the world. As inheritors of a rich past and creators of a future full of possibility, we continually seek new opportunities to support each other in participating and growing Jewishly.

YAHARZEITS

Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless the civil date is requested.

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Frances Feiger	December 8
Henry Frank	December 8
Rachel Jaffe	December 8
John Lester	December 9
Marion Relin	December 9
Nick Schira	December 9
Rose Block	December 10
Elly Kraus	December 10
Lucille Rest	December 11
Hannah Glass	December 11
David Mendelsohn	December 11
Sarah Patinkin	December 14

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Richard Kite	December 15
Jacob Peckarsky	December 15
George Shaw	December 15
Max Altose	December 18
Ben Gordon	December 18
Marvin Richmond	December 18
Benjamin David Glazer	December 19
Joseph Soode	December 20
Barry Zell	December 20

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Mona Helms	December 22
Lois Looney	December 22
Jerry Roberts	December 22
Morris M. Stone	December 23
Cecile R. Gordon	December 24
Regina Tein	December 24
George Garmo	December 25
Ivan Senzon	December 25
Pearl Turovitz	December 27
Ruth Robinson	December 28
Nicole Russell	December 28

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Solomon Thal	December 29
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	December 31
Charles A. Wolfson	December 31
George Bikman	January 1
Rudolf Reitz	January 1
Rachel Siegfried	January 2
Ben Thal	January 2
Irwin Wapner	January 2
Ruth Jacobson	January 3
Aimee Lewis	January 3
Anna Winefield Fox	January 4



Membership Committee ~ Sara Geballe

First, my heartfelt thanks to those who have signed up for your family photo session next month. Lifetouch photographers will be taking our pictures on January 6 – 9 at the Gateway Centre. If you haven't already done so, please go to our synagogue website (www.bethisraelbellingham.org), click on the sign up link, and select a time slot that works well for you. If you need any assistance signing up online, please call **Shelley Wolfman**. Remember, each family that participates receives a free 8 X 10 professional portrait and a free copy of the 2013 CBI Photo Directory. We're shooting (*no pun intended* ☺) for 100% participation! See the enclosed yellow insert for more details.

On Sunday, October 28 our committee hosted a "Dessert Social" for our newest members at the home of Anne Brown. After schmoozing and munching on delectable treats, Rabbi Samuels, Vice President Mitch Press, Membership Committee members, and several Board members provided an orientation to new members by describing some of the many activities our congregation offers. From Tot Shabbat to Religious School to Torah Study to Adult Education, there are Jewish learning opportunities that suit all ages. We discussed the benefits of joining Brotherhood and Sisterhood as well as taking part in special events planned by different committees. We heard an update on the construction of our new synagogue, and there was plenty of time for new members' questions. Volunteering for an activity/project or joining a committee is a terrific way to meet other members and quickly become integrated into the Beth Israel community.

Finally, with so many new folks joining our congregation in the last few months, the Membership Committee is looking for seasoned families willing to invite a new member family to their home for Shabbat dinner. If you are able to open your home to a new member, please contact me.

Happy Chanukah!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!
Leah Voit • Bellingham
(CBI members may call the office for the address & phone number of our new congregant)

- DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS -

Leah Sacks	Christine Goodman	Cinda Zemel
Rebecca Oliver	Sheldon Pravda	David Miller
Aaron Goldfogel	Rory Verkh-Haskell	Michelle Anderson
Alyssa Diller	Eli Brennan	Lydia Zibulewsky
Noam Richmond	Anna Booker	Philip Buri
Trisha Adelstein	Corinne Gimbel-Levine	Julie Siegfried
Marvin Wayne	Maya Taranow	Ingrid Rochon
Sabrina Freeman	Cathie Diller	Shawn Clarke

Membership Directory: EMAIL ADDRESSES TO BE ADDED

Please remember that beginning in January 2013, Beth Israel's membership directories will include members' email addresses in addition to phone numbers and mailing addresses. If you **don't want your email address to be included** in the directory, which is available to CBI members only, please "opt out" by sending a written note to the synagogue office by mail or email (bishul@aol.com). Also, please remember that the information in the membership directory is not to be used for solicitation purposes or shared with any outside groups.

Newsletter News!

Beginning in January 2013, the *Shul Shofar* will be distributed **bi-monthly**, that is, every other month. This change will benefit the community in several ways. The first is that the office will run more efficiently, as designing, producing and distributing the newsletter every month takes a lot of time, and time away from other important responsibilities. Since CBI is a relatively small congregation, the need for a monthly newsletter (when there already exists a weekly e-letter to supplement the *Shofar*) is not vital to the communications and operations of the synagogue. Having a bi-monthly newsletter will also encourage committees and other auxiliary groups to plan ahead two months at a time. While there might be some growing pains with this transition, we believe that this new schedule will feel like a habit in no time. Please call the office with any questions.

~ Rabbi Joshua Samuels



Happy Anniversary

- Daniel & Cynthia Roling (# 12)
- Stu & Judy Berman (# 38)
- Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld (# 32)
- Jeff & Amy Margolis (# 50)
- Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger (# 28)
- Lou & Marcia Lippman (# 47)
- Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti (# 36)
- Sagit & Alex Hall (# 9)
- Joan & Marvin Wayne (# 41)
- Tracy & Cathie Diller (# 15)



Shul Shofar Schedule

PLEASE submit items for the January/February 2013 issue to the office by **December 15th**. (*Please note the new bi-monthly format.*) You may email items to bishul@aol.com.

Your editor thanks you in advance.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 411 — A LIST OF WHO TO CALL ABOUT WHAT

Archives	Tim Baker	Program	Sabrina Freeman
Building	Floyd King	Religious School	Deborah Oksenberg
Care	Harriet Fine	" Co-chair.....	Miriam Schwartz
Co-chair.....	Sylvia Fragner	Scholarship.....	Emil Hecht
Cemetery	Debbie Adelstein	Scrip Program	Joan Wayne
Library	Joan Wayne	Social Action	Linda Hirsh
Membership	Sara Geballe	" Co-chair	Debbie Raas
New Synagogue Task Force	Warren Rosenthal	University Liaison	Sabrina Freeman
		" Co-chair	Marcia Lippman

Notes from the Rabbi

New Fund

Recently the Board of Directors approved the establishment of the **Rabbinic Professional Development Fund***. This fund will primarily allow me to take advantage of ongoing learning opportunities, whether online, in the community, and/or abroad. These learning sessions and conferences will help me learn best practices from colleagues and, more importantly, will help me provide the best spiritual, intellectual and pastoral leadership I can to the CBI community. I am thrilled to be your rabbi and I hope to continue to serve as your spiritual leader for years to come.

Thank you for your steadfast support.

* When (it is only a matter of time) CBI grows large enough that we can sustain a part/full-time song-leader, cantor, cantorial soloist or second rabbi, the name of the fund may change to reflect this new position.

Our Children Need Your Support

While I grew up in San Francisco attending Religious School and a Hebrew Day School, my love of Judaism really sprouted from my experiences with NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) and Jewish Camping. It was through these Jewish outlets that I made life-long friends, met my wife, and broke out of my "shell" socially. Since my first year in Rabbinic school I have worked at a URJ camp in various capacities. I plan to serve on the faculty at Camp Kalsman this summer as well. In addition, at my last pulpit I chaperoned groups of teenagers to both the NFTY convention and the L'taken Seminar at the Religious Action Center. Both of these experiences were life changing for all who attended — even me. Seeing "our" children get passionate about their heritage is a sight I will never get tired of watching.

At CBI we have children of all ages who want and ought to have these transformative Jewish experiences. Please consider donating to the Camp Scholarship/Youth Activities Fund as well as the **new CBI NFTY Fund**. I would be remiss not to mention how stellar our Religious and Hebrew school programming is becoming. For many children, this is their connection to Judaism. Please also consider supporting the Religious School Tuition Fund as well.

On behalf of the families and children who will benefit from your contributions, THANK YOU!

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Social Action Committee

♦ Interfaith Coat Drive

Social Action thanks the following people for participating in the Interfaith Coalition Coat Drive in October: Michelle Beller-Siegfried and John Siegfried; Linda Blackwell; Arlene Feld; Victoria and Gaby Mayers; Jeff Popp and Patty Yust; Roy and Leslie Shankman, and Else, Ben and Adin Sokol. They worked hard with volunteers from other faith communities, handing out coats to those in need. If we left anyone out of our thanks, please let us know.



♦ Referendum 74

It passed!! Thanks to all of you who voted "Yes." The following 19 people from the CBI community attended a rally at the Mt. Baker Theatre on October 21 in support of the referendum: Margaret Bikman; Anne Brown; Esther Faber; Elka and Myron Fink; Diane Garmo; Larry Hildes and Karen Weill; Linda Hirsh; Gloria Lebowitz; Jeff Popp and Patty Yust; Dan and Debbie Raas; Rabbi Joshua Samuels; Belle Shalom; Emily Weiner and John McGarrity, and Rabbi Cindy Enger. Again, we apologize if we left anyone who was there off the list.

♦ Womencare Thanksgiving Thanks

We want to thank the following people for their contributions to the Womencare Thanksgiving dinner: Linda Blackwell; the Boothby/Lebovich family; Frank and Adrienne Champagne; Sarann Donegan; Jill and David Elkayam; Richard and Ruth Evans; Elka Fink; Sylvia Fragner; Dan and Debbie Raas; Belle Shalom; Lee Shapiro; Mary Somerville; Joan and Marv Wayne; Patty Yust and Jeff Popp, and Rena Ziegler.



♦ A Pillow Fight? No, A Pillow Drive!

The YWCA of Bellingham houses about 90 women each year in their emergency and transitional housing program. Almost none of them arrive with their own bedding. Beth Israel is hosting a pillow drive this month to give these women something on which to lay their heads. Women who stay at the YWCA are often victims of domestic violence or in recovery from mental illness or addiction; one-third are over the age of 55, and many have chronic illnesses or disabilities.



Please bring **new** pillows to our bins outside the Social Hall. Monetary donations are also welcome; make checks payable to the YWCA and mail or leave them in the synagogue office.

♦ Baby Food

We are also collecting baby food and infant formula for the Food Bank throughout the month of December. While many organizations contribute food for grownups at this time of year, the very youngest Food Bank clients are often forgotten — and the need is there all year round. Please bring your donations to our bins and we will deliver them.



♦ What Are We Doing For Christmas?

...The same thing we do every year: making warm hats for the homeless from 2 — 4 PM. On **Tuesday, December 25**, please bring your sewing machines, scissors, and pins to the Social Hall. We also want hand sewers. Social Action will supply fleece fabric and some hot chocolate and tea. The hats will be distributed through the CAST program that gives out sandwiches, soup and coffee to homeless each week from Monday through Thursday. Please come and work and visit. We will **not** be sewing if it is snowing or very icy.



♦ Interfaith Coalition Housing Partnership

We are looking for volunteers to work in partnership with the Interfaith Coalition Housing program. We would form a core group willing to be responsible for "turn around" and restocking of Interfaith's transitional home every 3 or 4 months when a family moves on. The work would involve inventory of household items and light clean up (no heavy cleaning). Some volunteers with knowledge of home maintenance repairs would be appreciated. We may be sharing responsibility for the home with another congregation. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact **Linda Blackwell** after December 8.

♦ Next Meeting

Anyone who would like to be part of the Social Action Committee is invited to our next meeting on **Sunday, December 16 at 1:30 PM** at the home of Debbie Raas. We are looking for suggestions for Mitzvah Day and other activities. For more information, contact Debbie or co-chair Linda Hirsh.

Religious School News AND Notes ~ Deborah Oksenberg

The Religious School continues to buzz with activity, with children continuing to enrich their knowledge of the Torah through discussion, art and song. The children have also been hard at work furthering their understanding of Hebrew. The K/1 children have even been learning Hebrew letter yoga poses!

The children have begun to raise funds towards the **creation of an outdoor play space** at the new synagogue. A survey was distributed to all the students asking for their design suggestions. Their responses made for interesting — and sometimes amusing — reading. There were many suggestions for computers in the rooms, and also for a student lounge, with snack machines, luxury recliners, a theater (not so crazy, we hear), a bowling alley (maybe crazier), and an espresso machine for the parents (thank you!). A personal favorite was a request for a talking cat. However, there were also a lot of suggestions for outdoor ideas, and for many reasons this will be the focus of the children's weekly giving and fund raising. Now we need a task force to take their great ideas and plan a reality. Anyone interested (we already have a few) should contact Miriam Schwartz or Deborah Oksenberg. More on this next month.

Coming up on December 9 is the **annual Hanukkah party**, which this year is at a new venue — the Squalicum Boathouse — and a new time, 12 to 3 PM. We hope this will make it easier for our out-of-town congregants and families with little kids to attend the party. There will be latkes, pizza, and a gallery of menorahs, as well as music and activities for the kids. Everyone is invited!

New Synagogue Update ~ Steve Spitzer

The utilities for the new building are becoming a reality. The water supply line to the building, and electric power to the site, are each proceeding. Extensive grading has been completed, followed by the spreading of gravel and crushed asphalt. It is no longer necessary to imagine the road network — it is laid out for you to walk on, and is dry and solid.



The site has been winterized in compliance with Washington Department of Ecology requirements. Structural steel should be arriving shortly. As you can see by the scope of activity, we are at a very exciting point in the life of our new home.

This is now a very active construction site and therefore may be dangerous. If you want to visit the site or have any questions, please call Warren Rosenthal.



The Yenta Speaks...

Each month the Yenta brings you "interesting news about Jews" - good news about our members & general glad tidings from our community. Mail or email items for the Yenta to the office.

- ✧ **Stuart & Cinda Zemel** are the proud grandparents of *Oliver Ren Zemel*, born in October to their son Dustin and wife Jane Zemel, who currently make their home in Baton Rouge, LA. Mazel Tov to the Zemel family!
- ✧ **Lilah Blum, Ethan Oliver, Shoshana Schapiro and Julia Schwartz** had their artwork chosen to be among the 350 finalists in the Fifth Annual TIPS 2gether art contest. TIPS (Tuscon Israel Phoenix Seattle) is a "sister city" partnership that in recent years has supported programs that empower youth and young adults. Students submitted pictures based on a popular Israeli children's song, and **Ethan's** drawing was chosen for inclusion in the TIPS 2012/2013 calendar. Congratulations to all these young Beth Israel artists!

Jewish/Israeli Film Series

The Program Committee is sponsoring a Jewish/Israeli film series that will take place every other month. The second offering of the series will take place in the Social Hall on **Saturday, December 22**, beginning with Havdallah at 7:15 PM. The film will be screened at 7:30 PM.

This month's film is *For My Father*, which was nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards. Tarek, a Palestinian forced on a suicide mission in Tel Aviv to redeem his father's honor, is given a second chance when the fuse on his explosive vest fails to detonate. Forced to spend the weekend in Tel Aviv awaiting its repair, Tarek must live amongst the people he was planning to kill. To his surprise he connects with several Israelis on the outskirts of society, and an unlikely love blooms between two people raised to be enemies. When the weekend ends, Tarek must make the decision of his life.

This event is free of charge, however a small donation of \$5 to cover the cost of refreshments will be appreciated

Brotherhood Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 19 • 7 PM
Gateway Centre 1313 E. Maple

The men of Beth Israel are invited to join their brothers on Wednesday, Dec. 19 for a post-Hanukkah meeting, some light refreshments, and a few friendly games of poker. Eyeshades are optional! Questions? Contact Alan Stone or Mark Steinberg.

Sisterhood Book Group

This month the Book Group will meet on **Sunday, December 30 at 2:00 PM** at the home of Shelley Wolfman. We will be discussing the book *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* by Peter Manseau.

Fleeing violent anti-Semitism in Russia and Poland in the 1920s, Yiddish poet Itzik Malpesh arrived in New York at age 16. Now in his 90s, he employs a 21-year-old Catholic religious scholar to translate his memoirs from Yiddish into English. Throughout his life Itzik is inspired by the image of Sascha, the ritual butcher's daughter who saved his life when he was born. Sascha becomes an apt symbol for Yiddish humor, sorrow and idealism in a "rich, often ironic homage to Yiddish culture and language" (*Publishers Weekly* review)

As always, if you haven't read the book, please come anyway and share in an interesting discussion and friendly gathering.

Businesses that advertise in The Shul Shofar help underwrite the cost of publishing and mailing our newsletter. We are grateful to these local companies and service providers for their support of Congregation Beth Israel. If you are interested in promoting your business in the Shofar, please phone the office at (360) 733-8890.

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THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel
2200 Broadway
Bellingham, Washington 98225

— Schedule of Services —

Friday, November 30th 6:15 pm Shabbat evening service
Saturday, December 1st 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, December 7th 6:15 pm Shabbat family service w/
song leader Sarah Philips; potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, December 8th

- **9:30 am** - Torah Study
- **10:30 am** - Shabbat morning service; potluck* Kiddush lunch afterward

Friday, December 14th 6:00 pm Shabbat evening service;
potluck* dinner and Hanukkah singalong afterward

Saturday, December 15th

- **9:30 am** - Torah Study
- **10:30 am** - Shabbat morning service; potluck* Kiddush lunch afterward

Friday, December 21st • 5:30 pm - Pre-service *nosh*

- **6:15 pm** - Shabbat evening service w/ cantorial soloist Kim Moskowitz

Saturday, December 22nd

- **9:30 am** - Torah Study
- **11:00 am** - Tot Shabbat service; potluck Kiddush lunch* afterward

Friday, December 28th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service
w/ the Ma'ayan Shir vocal ensemble

Saturday, December 29th 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, January 4th 6:15 pm Shabbat family service with
song leader Sarah Philips; potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, January 5th 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, January 11th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service w/
song leaders Miriam Zderic and Rena Ziegler

Saturday, January 12th

- **9:30 am** - Torah Study
- **10:30 am** - Shabbat morning service; potluck* Kiddush lunch afterward

Friday, January 18th • 5:30 pm - Pre-service *nosh*

- **6:15 pm** - Shabbat evening service w/ cantorial soloist Kim Moskowitz

Saturday, January 19th

- **9:30 am** - Torah Study
- **10:30 am** - Shabbat morning service; potluck* Kiddush lunch afterward

Friday, January 25th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service
w/ the Ma'ayan Shir vocal ensemble

Saturday, January 26th 9:30 am Shabbaton: Torah study,
Family Shabbat service with programming for students
adults, concluding with a Tu B'Shevat seder



* All potluck meals are vegetarian/dairy only;
NO NUT PRODUCTS at Family or Tot Shabbat services