

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 17, NO. 5 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL • BELLINGHAM, WA 98225 • (360) 733-8890 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013 • TEVET-ADAR 5773

Please Take Note:

☆ Important *Shofar* News

Welcome to the first bi-monthly issue of the *Shul Shofar*! If you have questions or comments, please call the office (733-8890)

☆ Shabbat Service Schedule

A complete schedule of services is printed on the back page

☆ Israeli Dancing, CBI Social Hall

3rd Sunday, monthly 6:30/7:00 PM
(see page 6)

☆ Religious School Community Mtg

Wednesday, Jan. 16th 7 PM - Parents of students, and any other interested CBI members, are invited to this presentation & discussion (pg. 6)

☆ Whatcom Museum Tour

Sunday, Jan. 20th 3:00 PM - Don't miss this interesting tour of the visiting "California Impressionism" exhibit at the Lightcatcher Building (pg. 6)

☆ Sisterhood Book Group

Sunday, Feb. 10th 2 pm - The group will discuss *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Erik Larson (pg. 5)

☆ Israeli Film Series

Saturday, Feb. 9th 7:15/7:30 PM - Join us for Havdallah and a screening of *Footnote*, nominated for a 2012 Best Foreign Film Oscar (pg. 6)



Tu B'Shevat at Beth Israel



טו בשבט Tu B'Shevat (the 15th day of the month of Shevat) is our celebration of the New Year of the Trees. This day is sometimes called the birthday of the trees and hints at the beginning of spring and the holiday cycle. It is also an opportunity to explore how care of the environment and repair of our natural world are Jewish issues.

We will observe the holiday with a special **Shabbaton** on **Saturday, January 26**. The Shabbaton will replace the Religious School's Sunday classes that weekend, but **all** Beth Israel members are invited to attend.

9:30 AM Shabbat Family Service

10:40 AM Tu B'Shevat Seder for K-3rd grade students and parents

Group activity/learning session for 4th-9th grade students and parents

11:25 AM Tu B'Shevat Seder for 4th-9th grade students and parents

Group activity/learning session for K-3rd grade students and parents

12:10 AM Shabbat Kiddush lunch for all participants



Purim's Coming — Let the Fun Begin!

Beth Israel will celebrate Purim this year with a little something for everyone:

Purim Shpiel Saturday, February 23 ☆ 7:00 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls — Come One, Come All! The Purim Shpiel will have a one-time show on February 23 at 7:00 pm on the bima. The people of Chelm are just as mixed up as usual and arguing over who should be Queen, King, Wise Man, and Villain; of course there are other mix-ups as well. Maybe it will make sense in the end. Come in costume and bring the kids, so they can watch adult be Purim fools!

*Chelmp! We need **adult** actors to be part of the Shpiel this year. If you've always wanted to take part, but can't memorize lines, this is your chance — act with a script in your hand! Call Debbie Raas and volunteer by January 15, or Debbie may be calling YOU.

Purim at Religious School Sunday, February 24 10:00 - 11:50 AM

Our festivities will begin with a Megillah reading during T'filah. Classes then will meet until 11:50 AM, ending a little early so everyone can get to the Carnival on time.

Purim Carnival Sunday, February 24 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Games! Prizes! Food! Music! Dancing! Frolicking and frivolity! All are in store at the Purim Carnival, held in the **Bloedel-Donovan Multi-Purpose Room**. Put on your dancing shoes and cut loose to the music of *What The Chelm*. Costumes are encouraged — the wilder, the better! Please join us and bring your family, friends and neighbors



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

Inspiration From A Donkey

Jeff LaDow is one remarkable man. An accomplished painter, a worldwide traveler, a hiker, and a skydiver, Jeff was left as a quadriplegic after a diving accident when he was only 18. It could have been so easy for Jeff to simply give up on life. Instead, he dusted himself off and started all over again. In the 36 years since his accident, Jeff has done and seen more than many perfectly healthy people. Jeff is nothing less than an inspiration for all of us*.

We've all been dealt lousy hands from time to time and for some of us it seems that these hands keep finding us. The world around us, too, appears to be in a constant state of upheaval, change, and uncertainty. It is very easy to despair as the economy is still hurting, governments are imploding, and appalling stories continue to hit the airwaves. How many of us have recently asked, "What is

wrong with our world?"

So what can we do? I think there are two options. We can have faith that things will turn around and simply wait out the storm. Or, we can take a lesson from Jeff and not let this ever-changing environment shake us. Of course there are some factors that we cannot control. Students of Kabbalah might even say that there is nothing we can control, but this doesn't bode well with many of us who like to think we are in the driver's seat of our own lives.

These days I am reminded of an Aesop-like fable titled, The Donkey, written by Rabbi Edwin Friedman:

A farmer's donkey once fell into a well. The poor donkey cried piteously for hours as the farmer considered what to do. In the end, the farmer decided that the donkey was too old to be useful and the well was dry and should be sealed up anyway. It was probably best not to retrieve the donkey. The farmer invited his neighbors to come

(See FROM THE RABBI on page 2)



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 17, Number 5
January/February 2013
Tevet-Shevat-Adar 5773

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. As of January 2013, it is published bi-monthly 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; contact the synagogue office for pricing information.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the March/April issue is FEBRUARY 11TH. 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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A Message from the President

As I ascended from town to our new building site recently, I gained just enough altitude to get into the snow zone. I was making a water delivery to our live-in watch-people, as we are not quite there with our city water connections. I was greeted by a large red steel skeleton of a building sticking out of the snow-covered ground — an amazing sight to see. Our building has now taken on a 3-D look.

As of writing this message I have been informed that not only do we now have electricity at the site but running water as well. It may be some time before we have hot running water, but at least we are well on our way. As a side note, our roads on site, even though they are not paved, are so well built that even in our rainy conditions they are mud free. Way to go to all of those who have made this possible!

Tetzlekh,
Jeff

From the Rabbi (Continued from page 1)

and help him. Everyone grabbed a shovel and began to throw dirt into the well. When the donkey realized what was happening, it cried horribly. Then, to everyone's surprise, the donkey quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer leaned over the well to see what was happening and was astonished at what he saw.

As each shovel of dirt hit its back, the donkey would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, the donkey shook off the dirt to take another step up. Not long after, the people were amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

Dirt falls on every life—all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take another step up. Each spot of trouble is a stepping stone and we can trot out of the deepest well if we never stop and never give up. (Rossel, Seymour, ed., *The Essential Jewish Stories*, KTAV Publishing House, Jersey City, 2011)

How we respond to life's challenges is entirely up to us. It is my most heartfelt prayer that this new year brings all of us joy, good health, contentment, and most all, I hope that it brings us the confidence and strength to face and overcome any obstacle. However, may we not only overcome any challenge, but in doing so, may we blossom into people we never thought we'd become.

Happy New Year!

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

* To view an inspiring video of Jeff LaDow painting masterpieces with his mouth, check out http://www.cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp_c2#/video/us/2011/11/29/dnt-paralyzed-painter.witi

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.

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.

~ In Memoriam ~

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to the following individuals and their families:

Sabrina Freeman on the loss of her father, **Doug Freeman**, who passed away on December 7, 2012 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Janis Ban on the loss of her father, **Richard Bloomfield**, who passed away on December 18, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Zichronam l'vrachah ~
May their memories be for a blessing*

~ SPECIAL FUND DONATIONS ~

— Rabbi's Discretionary Fund —

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

☆ Rabbi Samuels and family, on the loss of his uncle, Marvin Siegel

From: Elaine & Ted Stein (R.Mirage, CA)
Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

IN APPRECIATION TO:

☆ Rabbi Samuels, for his officiating of Beth Israel's High Holy Day services

From: Arlene Ehrlich (Seattle)

☆ Todd & Sarah Witte, in thanks for their hospitality

From: Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

— New Synagogue Fund —

IN HONOR OF:

☆ The birth of Toby Sonneman's grandson, Levi Steigmeyer

☆ The marriage of Avi Hecht and Corinne Taraska

From: Anne Brown

☆ Lydia Zibulewsky's 90th birthday

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

IN APPRECIATION TO:

☆ Beth Israel's High Holy Day services

From: Arlene Ehrlich (Seattle)

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

☆ Sabrina Freeman, on the loss of her father, Doug Freeman

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

Rabbi's Professional Dev. Fund

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Anne Brown

YAHREZITS

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

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

William Aaron Dorfman	January 5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	January 5
Sherwood Jacobson	January 5
Dorothea Zimmerman	January 5
Barney Cohn	January 6
Martin Katz	January 6
Florence Weintraub	January 6
Louis Lebowitz	January 7
Richard Oplinger	January 7
Akiva Mohr	January 10
Marion Glassman	January 11
Celia Morton	January 11

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 11 AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Shirley Spiegel Jacobson	January 12
Philip Studen	January 12
Earl Krauzer	January 13
Anne Alpert	January 14
Morris Kalman Patinkin	January 14
Frances Poplack	January 14
Victorie Haislip	January 16
Mary Bayer Koplowitz	January 18
Jerome Selznick	January 18
Reisa Thal	January 18

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Rachel Adirim	January 19
Magda Dorman	January 19
Arielle Chaya Schlanger	January 19
Leo Damski	January 20
Leo Weintraub	January 20
Joel K. Rubenstein	January 21
Morris Faber	January 22
Fred Graff	January 22
Lillian Mauer Pravda	January 22
Florence D. Shain	January 23
Amos Steiger	January 23
Florence Kleinfeld	January 24
Sylvan Rosenthal	January 24
Sandor Garfinkle	January 25
Jerry Kleinfeld	January 25

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Sally Evans	January 26
Rabbi Samuel Gartner	January 26
Norma Schwartz	January 26
Peter Bayliss	January 27
Sarah Mendelsohn	January 27
Celia Zak	January 27
Helen Pecarsky	January 29
Helen Stone	January 29
Claire P. Mayer	January 30
Adam Block	January 31
Laura Ann Bourne	January 31
Frank Kraus	January 31
Deena Leventhal	January 31
Meyer Wolpow	February 1

YAHREZITS

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

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Derek Jeremy Adelstein	February 3
David Shain	February 3
Barbara Steiger	February 3
Simcha Hayim Miller	February 4
Hally Vernon	February 4
Hannah Jacobson	February 5
David Fine	February 6
(George) Gabriel Krauzer	February 6
Rose Schneider	February 6
William Freeman	February 8
Sonia Kohl Krauzer	February 8

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Jean Beverly Blank	February 9
Gloria Perper	February 9
Rochelle Blum	February 10
Isadore Graff	February 10
Michel Oksenberg	February 10
Mel Adelstein	February 11
Clara Lazarus	February 11
Steve Sokol	February 11
Clarence Weiner	February 11
Lillian Heller	February 12
Benjamin Solomon	February 12
Frieda Blank	February 13
Albert Lebovich	February 13
Barton Frank	February 14
Lou Fine	February 15

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Sadie Leon	February 16
Sadie Gordon Schiller	February 16
Cassandra Champagne	February 17
William Schwartz	February 17
Robert W. Lippman	February 18
William E. Whiting	February 18
Robert Baker	February 19
Jerry Glass	February 20
Ruth Lippman	February 20
Irwin Weiner	February 21
Paul Zentner	February 21
Nelson Beller	February 22
Alice Duckworth	February 22
Jack Eigen	February 22
Joseph Sonneman	February 22

TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Elsa Zentner	February 23
Ida Chia Kahn	February 24
Jack Kahn	February 24
Harold Shepard	February 24
Harry Skinner	February 26
Saul Faber	February 27
Walter von Hollander	February 27
Gene Adelstein	March 1

Membership Committee ~ Sara Geballe

As you read this issue of the *Shofar*, photo sessions for the 2013 CBI Photo Directory should be in full swing. Thank you to the many, many members who are participating in the synagogue-wide event and helping make our new directory a big success. Our last directory was published in 2006. Just think of the teens who were little kids seven years ago and are now beyond Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Or consider how in 2012 Rabbi Samuels and his family, along with eighteen other new families, joined our congregation. By any measure, we are way overdue for a new directory — including updated portraits of all of us seasoned members. Once the photo sessions are complete, it takes 3-4 months to publish the directory. Later this spring we'll let you know when they are ready.

The Membership Committee will be honoring the many families who joined Beth Israel last year at our annual **New Member Dinner** on Saturday, March 16th. If you are a new member, please save the date now; invitations will be sent out next month.

Finally, the new 2013 edition of the *CBI Professional Services Directory* will be posted online on the "Members Only" section of our website* later this month. It features more than 50 member businesses and services. Here are a few examples of categories represented: arts and crafts; automotive; financial; home repair; legal; medical; real estate; wellness, and much, much more. Please consider patronizing our members' businesses! * www.bethisraelbellingham.org



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Jesse & Nicky Naiman; daughter Lucy (4) and son Max (2) • Bellingham
(CBI members may call the office for the address & phone number of our new congregant)

~ JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ~

Elias Anderson	Tom Maxim	Jodi Litt
Jeaninne Kahan	Anne Bruegmann	Alan Mazonson
Binnie Perper	Victoria Mayers	Stu Berman
Alison Zak	Diana Oplinger	Joshua Greenberg
Seymour Pecarsky	Helen Feiger	Clarice Cohn
Tobias Reitz	Lou Lippman	Marc Weinstein
Tahlia Somers	John Schapiro	Mitch Press
Julia Bakken	Talia Clarke	Geraldine Reitz
Linda Blackwell	Nora Mazonson	Adam Goldstein
Jeffrey Levine	Kathi Paluch	Leah Tabak
Asher Stoane	Julian Booker	Leah Rochon
David Sager	David Elkayam	Wendy Blum
Isaac Konikoff	Audrey Jaffe	Gib Morrow

~ FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS ~

Bill Freeman	Ted Schuman	Jeannette Stephens
Andrea Evans	Gloria Lebowitz	Alan Stone
Joe Zibulewsky	Edith M. Lazarus	Harriet Emanuel
Elizabeth Weinstein	Dan Ohms	Hanan Soicher
Nicola Morrow	Gordon Friedman	Todd Haskell
Elan Maxim	Rita Gordon	Robert Meltzer
Samantha Schwartz	Tom Oliver	Avi Brennan
Ruth Evans	Sagit Hall	Genny Cohn
Shalem Blum	Aaron Moore	Jackson Helsloot
Gea Goldfeder	Ben Sokol	Orly Ziv-Maxim
Ella Shore	Karen Sloss	Ken Levinson

Photo Directory Reminders/Updates

In 2013 we will be publishing our first synagogue Photo Directory since 2006. There is no cost to members. Professional portraits will be taken at the **Gateway Centre** by Lifetouch photographers on the dates below. If you haven't signed up for a sitting, contact Shelley Wolfman at 360/702-1497 or shellwolfman@gmail.com

WHEN:

Sunday - Wednesday, January 6 — 9, **and** Sunday, January 20 (new date)

WHERE: The Gateway Centre (**NOT** CBI!)
1313 E. Maple Street, Bellingham

WHO: Lifetouch Directories & Portraits

COST: Free; however, you may purchase extra photos if you wish

BONUS: Each participating household receives one free 8 X 10 portrait



Happy Anniversary

Alan & Bonnie Stone (# 60)
David Goldman & Linda Blackwell (# 29)
Richard & Ruth Evans (# 50)
Rob & Kathy Grossman (# 7)
Alan & Nora Mazonson (# 11)
David & Carol Robinson (# 33)
Robert & Jane Sylvester (# 43)



Did we miss your anniversary this month? If so, please call the office at 733-8890 or send an e-mail to bishul@aol.com and let us know the month, day & year of your special day. We want to celebrate with you!



Golden Girls Lunch Bunch —

The Golden Girls will meet at **12:00 PM** on **Monday, January 28** and **Monday, February 25** at *Skylark's Hidden Cafe* in Fairhaven, to enjoy a no-host lunch and have a good time.

For information, please call **Elka Fink**.



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

Archives	Tim Baker
Building	Floyd King
Care	Harriet Fine
“ Co-chair	Sylvia Fragner
Cemetery	Debbie Adelstein
Library	Joan Wayne
Membership	Sara Geballe
New Synagogue Task Force	Warren Rosenthal

Program	Sabrina Freeman
Religious School	Deborah Oksenberg
“ Co-chair	Miriam Schwartz
Scholarship	Emil Hecht
Scrip Program	Joan Wayne
Social Action	Linda Hirsh
“ Co-chair	Debbie Raas
University Liaison	Sabrina Freeman
“ Co-chair	Marcia Lippman

From the Sisterhood

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to everyone who has paid their Sisterhood membership dues. You are helping to support a number of programs, including the annual Yom Kippur Break the Fast, youth scholarships for Jewish summer camp, Kiddush cups as gifts for each Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrant, and the Jewish calendar given away to all members during High Holy Days. There is still time to join us in supporting these important activities - send in your dues today! If you have any questions, give Bonnie Stone a call.

BOOK GROUP

The next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 PM** at the home of Roby Blecker. We will be discussing *In the Garden of the Beasts* by Erik Larson.

The book is a vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his flamboyant daughter, Martha. Dodd's growing misgivings about Hitler's ambitions fall on deaf ears among his State Department peers, while his daughter is at first entranced by the parties, the pomp, and the handsome young men of the Third Reich. Filled with the tense atmosphere of the period, the book "lends a stunning, eyewitness perspective on events as they unfold in real time, revealing an era of surprising nuance and complexity." (*Amazon.com review*)

Brotherhood Meeting

Wednesday, February 6 • 6:30 PM
Location TBA

The Beth Israel Brotherhood will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 6 at 6:30 PM. Details, including the location, were still being worked out at press time and should be available later in January. Check the weekly E-News for updates, or contact Alan Stone or Mark Steinberg.

Shul Shofar Schedule

PLEASE submit items for the March/April 2013 issue to the office by **February 11th**. (Please note the earlier deadline, due to the new bi-monthly format) You may email items to bishul@aol.com.

Your editor thanks you in advance!

Social Action Committee

♦ Thanks for Your Support in December

Thank you to all who donated pillows and made donations to the YWCA of Bellingham. Because of you, the women in the YW's short-term housing program have a soft place to lay their heads.



And toddlers and babies are eating better because of your donations of baby food and formula to the Bellingham Food Bank. We collect food all year for the Food Bank, with several special drives at different times of the year. We thank all of you for caring for the very youngest Food Bank "customers" — they often are forgotten in our food donations.



♦ Hats Off to Our Christmas Volunteers

Six hardy souls came to Beth Israel to sew hats for the needy on Christmas Day. Nancy Lloyd, Linda Hirsh, Geraldine Reitz and her mom, Bea Moss, and Dan and Debbie Raas all came and sewed. Knit hats were created and donated by Joan Wayne and Ruth Evans. We still have lots of fleece and would be happy to supply it to anyone interested in making hats for the homeless. Next year we will still collect hats but will not sponsor a sewing bee. Let us know if you have a great idea for next Christmas.



♦ It's Raining [Gifts for] Cats and Dogs

The Whatcom Humane Society is in need of old towels and blankets for pet bedding. They would also love to receive food donations for kittens and cats, and puppies and dogs. Drop off your donations in our bins outside the Social Hall and we will deliver them to the Humane Society. If you would like to volunteer or adopt a pet, call 733-2080.



♦ Social Action Survey

By now you should have received via email a link to our Social Action survey. Please take a few minutes to complete it (only 8 questions) and tell us what you would like to know more about, and we will get some projects going.



♦ Interfaith Coalition Annual Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Interfaith Coalition on January 28. Come enjoy the fellowship of member congregations and learn about Interfaith's programs that provide homeless housing and health care services. See the notice below ("News from Interfaith") for more details.

♦ Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Bellingham's Martin Luther King Day celebration will be held at the Municipal Court Building on January 21, 2013. Watch your email for more details, and plan to join the community in celebration!



Annual Hope Celebration
Monday, January 28, 2013 • 5:30 PM
Faith Lutheran Church • 2750 McLeod Rd.

This year, we're doing something new...

Come be warmed by food, fellowship and how you're making a difference through Interfaith Coalition! Hear from families and volunteers. See the faces of hope. Together, let's dream how we can do more.

Enjoy soup and conversation at 5:30 PM. The program begins at 6:00

Interfaith Coalition Coat Drive a Warm Success

As the recent chilly weather finds us reaching for a jacket, we're reminded that some of our neighbors are in need of this basic item we take for granted. Thank you for your participation in the Interfaith Coalition Winter Coat Drive by donating coats and bring some much needed warmth to other this fall. We appreciate your commitment to this program and are humbled to experience the gratitude in words or expressions of those who benefit from your efforts. Again this year, wonderful members from Beth Israel volunteered to distribute warm coats. It is so heart-warming to witness coats no longer needed by members of your congregation benefiting people who are delighted to receive them.

May God's blessings be with you,
Laura Harker, Executive Director

Religious School News AND Notes ~ Miriam Schwartz

The **Hanukkah** party, held for the first time at the Squalicum Boathouse, was a tremendous success. Parents performed a Hanukkah miracle by transforming the room into a beautiful festive space, adorned with dreidels, menorahs and lights. After a warm welcome by Rabbi "Dreidel Shark" Samuels, all present feasted on delicious latkes, then listened to the sweet voices of children singing Hanukkah songs. The older children performed Hanukkah-themed skits, including a history lesson (thanks to Julia Schwartz for showing us who really cleaned the temple!) and a Maccabee fashion show. Children made a number of items at the craft tables, including candles, dreidels and menorahs. And of course, no Beth Israel Hanukkah party would be complete without the **Great Dreidel Spin-Off**, won this year by Avi Lindner (age 7 and under), Max Moore (14 and under) and Rabbi Samuels (over 14). Toward the end of the party another Hanukkah miracle occurred: as the children sang "*Sevivon Sov Sov Sov*," an enormous dreidel full of doughnut holes appeared out of nowhere! Everyone rolled home with full bellies and freshly-made Hanukkah decorations. Bravo to everyone who helped make the party so much fun!



Here are some dates to plan for in the coming two months:

- ✧ **Parent/Community Meeting - Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00 PM.** Parents of students and interested members of the greater CBI community are invited to attend a most important meeting. The RS leadership will offer a brief overview of the year thus far and will leave plenty of time to gather feedback and discuss important issues pertinent to the successful future of our Religious School.
- ✧ **RS Committee Meetings - January 6 and February 3** during RS hours
- ✧ **Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shabbaton - Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.** All Religious School families are encouraged to attend this event together. Please note that there is no school on Sunday, January 27.
- ✧ **Adult Learning Day: Linguistics of Hebrew - Sunday, Feb. 10 at 10:15 AM.** Parents and interested CBI members are invited to hear an interesting lecture by **Dr. Amnon Bruck**, who received his Ph.D in Hebrew and Semitic Languages from Bar Ilan University and has taught at various academic institutions in Israel.
- ✧ **Annual Purim Carnival - Sunday, February 24 from noon to 3 PM.** Come have a blast with food, music and games in the Bloedel-Donovan Multi-Purpose Room. (See the front page for more details)

Program Committee ~ Sabrina Freeman

CBI Tour at the Whatcom Museum: Sunday, Jan. 20 at 3:00 PM

Beth Israel is excited to announce its Museum series led by Diana Firestone, Whatcom Museum Docent and Beth Israel congregant. Please plan to join Diana to tour a wonderful visiting exhibit, "California Impressionism: Selections from the Irvine Museum" on **Sunday, January 20 starting at 3:00 PM**. This event is open to all Beth Israel members and is free if they are also members of the Whatcom Museum. Non-members of the museum can attend at the special group-rate entrance fee of \$6, payable to the museum. The tour group will meet inside in the lobby of the of the **Lightcatcher Museum building** at 250 Flora Street. Mark your calendars now!

Jewish/Israeli Film Series

The Program Committee is sponsoring a Jewish/Israeli film series that will take place every other month. The third offering of the series will take place in the Social Hall on **Saturday, February 9**, beginning with Havdallah at 7:15 PM. The film will be screened at 7:30 PM.

This month's film is the 2011 Israeli drama, **Footnote (He'arat Shulayim)**. The plot revolves around the troubled relationship between a father and son who teach at the Talmud department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. It won numerous awards, including the Best Screenplay Award at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, and was nominated for an Academy Award in 2012 in the category of Best Foreign Film.

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

JTNews Available @ CBI

Some Beth Israel members are probably familiar with the bi-weekly newspaper, **JTNews** (formerly the *Jewish Transcript*), published by a nonprofit corporation owned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and available by subscription. The publisher has started doing wider distribution of the paper around the Seattle area, and has generously offered to send copies of each issue — free of charge — to Beth Israel. These copies may be found in the foyer outside the sanctuary, and we hope many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to read this interesting regional paper on a regular basis. Many thanks to **Joel Magalnick**, Editor and Acting Publisher of the **JTNews**, for making this publication available to our members. Check it out the next time you are at the synagogue.



Israeli Folk Dancing

- ✧ **Sunday, January 20, 2013 ✧**
- ✧ **Sunday, February 17, 2013 ✧**
- 6:30/7:00 PM**

It's been a little over a year since we began these monthly dance sessions at Beth Israel, and the fun continues unchanged on the third Sunday of every month. We'd like to invite everyone in the community who loves folk dancing to come out and dance!

The next sessions are planned for Sunday, January 20, and Sunday, February 17, from **7 to 9 PM** in the Beth Israel Social Hall. An early session, from **6:30 to 7 PM**, will get those with NO experience up to speed. This ongoing activity is open to the entire community, so please invite your friends to join you. And even if you don't want to dance, you're welcome to come enjoy the music and give encouragement from the sidelines. The cost is a **\$5 donation**, 100% of which goes to the New Building Fund.

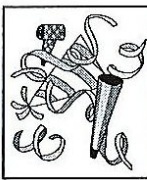
We will begin with the easiest dances first. Requests will be taken also, as long as we have the music and someone knows the dance. If you've never experienced folk dancing before, here's your opportunity to learn. If you have danced before, please bring your expertise (and your CDs)! For more information, please contact Sabrina Freeman. We hope to see you there!



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JANUARY 2013

TEVET-SHEVAT 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 19 Tevet 	2 20 Tevet 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	3 21 Tevet NO Adult Educ. Class	4 22 Tevet 6:15 PM Family Service Potluck dinner afterward	5 23 Tevet <i>Shemot</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
6 24 Tevet 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School	7 25 Tevet	8 26 Tevet HAPPY NEW YEAR!	9 27 Tevet	10 28 Tevet	11 29 Tevet 6:15 PM Family Service Potluck dinner afterward	12 1 Shevat <i>Va'era</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
13 2 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	14 3 Shevat 7 PM Board of Directors 7:30 PM - Mem' ship Comm. @ Rita Spitzer's	15 4 Shevat 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Lynn Komer's NO Stitchery Group	16 5 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School 7 PM - Religious School Community Meeting	17 6 Shevat 7 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	18 7 Shevat 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	19 8 Shevat <i>Bo</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
20 9 Shevat NO Sunday School 3 PM - What.Museum tour: California Impressionism 6:30/7 PM - Israeli Dancing CBI Social Hall	21 10 Shevat M. L. KING, Jr. HOLIDAY	22 11 Shevat	23 12 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	24 13 Shevat 7 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	25 14 Shevat 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	26 15 Shevat <i>Beshelach</i> Shabbaton: 9:30 AM Family Service, Tu B'Shevat Seder and special programming for students & parents ----- TU B'SHEVAT
27 16 Shevat NO Sunday School 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	28 17 Shevat 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	29 18 Shevat	30 19 Shevat NO Hebrew School	31 20 Shevat 7 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class		

SHEVAT-ADAR 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 21 Shevat 8:45 4:49 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 5th Grade Class Potluck dinner afterward	2 22 Shevat <i>Yitro</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
3 23 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School	4 24 Shevat 7:30 PM - Mem'ship Comm. @ Anne Brown's	5 25 Shevat	6 26 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School 6:30 PM Brotherhood Mtg Location TBA	7 27 Shevat 7 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	8 28 Shevat 8:45 5:01 7:30PM Shabbat Service	9 29 Shevat <i>Mishpatim</i> <i>Shabbat Shekalim</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:15 PM Havdallah 7:30 PM Isareli film, "Footnote", BI Social Hall
10 30 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Group @ R. Blecker's 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	11 1 Adar SHOFAR DEADLINE (For March/April 2013) 7 PM Board of Directors	12 2 Adar	13 3 Adar 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	14 4 Adar NO Adult Educ. Class	15 5 Adar 8:45 5:12 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	16 6 Adar <i>Terumah</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
17 7 Adar NO Sunday School 6:30 PM - Israeli Dancing CBI Social Hall	18 8 Adar PRESIDENTS' DAY	19 9 Adar 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Anne Brown's 1:30 PM - Stitchery Group @ Anne Brown's	20 10 Adar 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	21 11 Adar	22 12 Adar 8:45 5:23 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	23 13 Adar <i>Tetzaveh</i> <i>Shabbat Zachor</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
24 14 Adar 10 - 11:50 AM SunSchl / Megillah Reading 12-3 PM Purim Carnival at Bloedel-Donovan 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	25 15 Adar 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	26 16 Adar	27 17 Adar 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	28 18 Adar		Purim Shpiel @ Beth Israel
PURIM						

Note from the Rabbi

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



Camperships Available

Beth Israel's Camp Scholarship Fund will again offer "camperships" for children interested in attending a URJ Summer Camp in 2013.

Camperships are limited to members of Congregation Beth Israel and for use at URJ camps only, such as Camp Kalsman in Arlington, WA. A complete list of camps can be found on the website www.urj.org.

If you would like to apply for a camp scholarship for your child(ren), please send your request to: Camp Scholarships c/o Congregation Beth Israel, 2200 Broadway, Bellingham WA 98225.

**The application deadline is
February 28, 2013.**

Adult Education - Spring 2013

☆ Aleph Bet Ease

Instructors: Sagit Hall and Dr. Lawrence Hall

Are you planning a trip to Israel? Do you want to learn to read, write and speak Hebrew? Do you just want to get more comfortable with the Hebrew side in our prayer book? Whatever your ultimate goal, **Aleph Bet Ease** can be your gateway to the ancient and modern language of our people.

This is a totally different Hebrew reading crash course. In 13 hours, over five days, this unique, multi-sensory, non-threatening intensive class will take the mystery out of the Hebrew aleph-bet. **You must attend all five sessions.** Class meets in the Social Hall

Fee: CBI Members: \$80 Non-Members: \$100

Dates:

Sunday, March 3, from 1—2 PM
Monday, March 4, from 6—9 PM
Tuesday, March 5, from 6—9 PM
Wednesday, March 6, from 6—9 PM
Sunday, March 10, from 1—4 PM



☆ Mussar: Striving for Wholeness and Holiness

Instructor: Rabbi Joshua Samuels

The study of Mussar (known primarily in the Orthodox world) contains approachable and insightful teachings aimed at fostering personal growth and relationships. In six sessions we will examine our own lives in terms of *middot*, or values, that resonate with each of us individually. By the end of the course students will have confronted their less-desired habits and extreme emotions and will be on the way towards wholeness and holiness. The primary text for the course is **Everyday Holiness** by Alan Morinis.

Fee: CBI Members: \$36 Non-Members: \$54

Thursdays: 7 - 8:15 PM

Six sessions: April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9

Registration:

To register for Adult Education classes, please contact Mary Somerville in the synagogue office at (360) 733-8890.

If a scholarship is needed for course fees, please contact Rabbi Samuels directly at the number above or at rabbisamuelscbi@gmail.com.

Camp Scholarships Available

The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle has now opened the **Community Needs-Based Jewish Overnight Camp Scholarship** process for the Summer of 2013. The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle believes that the Jewish overnight camp experience is an integral component in building a child's Jewish identity.



This year, all applicants must apply via the new online scholarship application website at https://www.ckodm.com/jewishinseattle_scholarships/

All applications are due Friday, March 1, 2013 by 2:00 PM PST.

Please go to the Federation website, www.jewishinseattle.org/campscholarships, for more information about the scholarship opportunity and instructions on how to apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Annie Jacobson at anniej@jewishinseattle.org or call (206) 774-2243.

New Synagogue Update ~ Steve Spitzer



The City of Bellingham's Department of Public Works has installed the fire line and the water line. Steel erection within the foundation walls is proceeding.

Please remember that this is an active construction site. Please do not go to the site without Warren Rosenthal.

Thanks.

Hosting a New Member for Shabbat Dinner

The Membership Committee would like to compile a list of those households willing to invite a new Beth Israel family to their home for a Shabbat dinner. This type of hospitality really makes a difference in helping new members feel welcomed into our community. If you would be willing to open your home on Shabbat evening from time to time, please let Membership Chair, **Sara Geballe**, know by phone or email.

The Membership Committee will try to match new members with seasoned members sharing similar demographics. Thank you!

Thank You from Womencare

We received a wonderful Thank You card from the staff of Womencare Shelter in response to our congregation's annual donation of all the food needed to prepare Thanksgiving dinner. We often never know how, or even if, such donations make an impact in the lives of our neighbors in need. We'd like to share with you a sampling of comments included in the card that demonstrate that we do, indeed, make a difference:



"Dear Congregation Beth Israel, Thank you so much for your generosity this Thanksgiving. Because of your support we [were] able to provide a Thanksgiving meal to...18 women and children experiencing domestic violence."

"Wow — thank you so much for making Thanksgiving so special for the women and children of Womencare!"

"Thank you so much for your donation! You helped make our Thanksgiving unforgettable!"

"...You made Thanksgiving fabulous!"

"...Your donation is much needed and appreciated!"

"What a wonderful donation! Thank you for your ongoing support!"

"Thanks for your generosity to our families!"



Trees for Israel

Reminder: If you have a JNF Blue Box to empty, or would like to have a Blue Box to collect change for the Land of Israel, please contact Janis Ban.

In Loving Memory of ...

Normin Rodin • Katherine Urquhart • Katherine Cowan

From: Cinda & Stuart Zemel

✧ HADASSAH CARDS ✧

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ✧ Hannah Yacknin, on her graduation
 - ✧ Isaac and Samantha Konikoff, on the birth of their daughter Emma Suzanne
 - ✧ Bev and David Feldberg, for their 50th Wedding Anniversary
- From:** Bonnie & Alan Stone

CONDOLENCES TO:

- ✧ David Elkayam, on the loss of his father, Eli Elkayam
- From:** Bonnie & Alan Stone

CONDOLENCES TO:

- ✧ Dr. Gerald Rosenthal (*New York*), on the loss of his brother
 - ✧ Sabrina Freeman, on the loss of her father, Doug Freeman
 - ✧ Rita Kerbel (*Ohio*), on the loss of her husband, Bob
- From:** Judy Soicher

REMINDER ~

Hadassah cards are always available for your life-cycle events. Call Bonnie Stone for more information.



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.

- ☆ Western Washington University librarian **Rob Lopresti** is this year's winner of the Black Orchid Novella Award for his novella "The Red Envelope", set in Greenwich Village in 1958. The award is the major prize for mysteries of novella length (15,000 to 20,000 words). It is presented each year by Wolfe Pack, in cooperation with Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine. "The Red Envelope" will appear in the July/August 2013 issue, which will be his 22nd appearance in the magazine. Rob is married to **Terri Weiner**.

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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Beth Israel believes in supporting our local economy. If you are a business owner, consider placing an ad in The Shul Shofar. For only \$20/month (or \$15 with a yearly contract), your business card-size ad will reach hundreds of interested readers throughout the Puget Sound region and will be posted on our website each month. Give our office a call (733-8890) and learn how we can help support **your** local business or service.

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THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel
2200 Broadway
Bellingham, Washington 98225

— Schedule of Services —

Friday, January 4th 6:15 pm Shabbat family service;
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: Family Shabbat service, Tu B'Shevat seder, and programming for students & adults, concluding with a Kiddush lunch



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

Friday, February 1st 6:15 pm Shabbat family service w/
song leader Sarah Philips, featuring leadership from the
Religious School's 5th grade class; potluck dinner*
afterward

Saturday, February 2nd 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, February 8th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service w/
song leaders Miriam Zderic and Rena Ziegler

Saturday, February 9th

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

Friday, February 15th

- **5:30 pm** - Pre-service *nosh*
- **6:15 pm** - Shabbat evening service w/ cantorial soloist Kim Moskowitz

Saturday, February 16th

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

Friday, February 22nd 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service
w/ the Ma'ayan Shir vocal ensemble

Saturday, February 23rd

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