

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 17, NO. 6 CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL • BELLINGHAM, WA 98225 • (360) 733-8890 • MARCH/APRIL 2013 • ADAR-IYAR 5773

Please Take Note:

☆ 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)

☆ A Service for Yom HaShoah

Sunday, Apr. 7th 7 PM - Rabbi Samuels will lead a special commemorative service in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day (pg. 6)

☆ Yom Ha-Atzmaut Celebration

Monday, Apr. 15th 6:30 PM - Come celebrate the 65th anniversary of Israeli independence with music and great food. (pg. 6)

☆ Israeli Film Series

Saturday, Apr. 20th 7:15/7:30 PM - Join us for Havdalah and a screening of *Infiltration* (pg. 6)

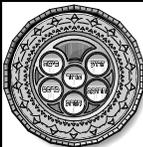
☆ Community Hike

Sunday, Apr. 21st 9 AM - Carpool from the synagogue for a gentle hike along the Clayton Beach trail (pg. 6)

☆ Lag B'Omer Bonfire

Sunday, Apr. 28th 11 AM - Join us for a traditional bonfire plus crafts and a falafel lunch (pg. 6)

Holiday Office Closures: In observance of Pesach, the synagogue office will be closed on the following Festival Days:
Tuesday, March 26 • Wednesday, March 27 • Monday, April 1 • Tuesday, April 2



CREATING LASTING PESACH MEMORIES

~ SHARING THE SEDER ~

Passover happens to be my favorite Jewish holiday. It's my favorite because I have so many memories of observing it with my family over the years.

The one Passover story I will never forget happened when I was no more than seven or eight years old. I was in Palm Springs, California with extended family at my grandmother's home. After our seder concluded, I went for a walk outside in the warm desert weather with my father and uncle. As we walked around the neighborhood I recall noticing how many homes were celebrating Pesach — you could smell the holiday as you walked down the street. As we approached one house, I saw that their front door was open. They had just opened it to welcome Elijah into their home to sip from his wine glass. Well, something struck me and I ran into the house, took a sip of the wine and said, "Elijah's here!" and then bolted back to the street to hide behind my dad. To this day I have no idea what came over me, but it makes me laugh each time I remember it. The family whose house I ran into had a good laugh about it, too.

While I'm not so sure I want to encourage my children to run into random people's homes, I do know that I look forward to creating lasting memories of celebrating our holiday of freedom with my family, at home (my house or yours).

This year I want to make sure everyone has a home to go to for first or second night seder. Next year, I look forward to observing Pesach with the whole CBI community, as I know the community seder has been a hit in the past and an event to look forward to.

Please fill out the form on page 9 and return to the synagogue office (by mail, in person or by emailing to bishul@aol.com) so we can make the best possible matches. I hope you all have a memorable, spiritual, fulfilling and delicious Passover this year.

Chag Sameach!

~ Rabbi Joshua Samuels



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

The Season of Children

The season of children has officially arrived! A little over a week ago we made noise, laughed and had fun during Purim and *Erev Pesach* is later this month. Purim—the Jewish Mardi Gras—is the festival where everything is topsy-turvy and, in recent years, has arguably become the Jewish holiday most associated with children in Reform communities. We have Purim carnivals, costumes, noisy gragers, and my favorite Jewish sweet treat: apricot *hamantaschen*. Passover, too, is centered on children. A seder is not a seder without the Four Children, the Four Questions, and the search for the *afikomen*. Passover is linked with children primarily because of the importance it places on conveying the story and meaning of Passover to the youngest generations. Many seders will not even begin until a child asks a question. Thus, teaching our children is paramount to Passover.

But *how* do we teach our children? You may recall countless stories in the news about the "Tiger Mother." Amy "Tiger Mother" Chua is a Yale Law professor and renowned

author whose second book, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother" (Penguin Press, 2011) has raised many eyebrows. In this shocking memoir Chua describes the benefits of her authoritarian—and some might say oppressive—parenting style. For instance, Chua and her husband (a Jewish Yale Law professor) forbid their two daughters to have sleepovers, watch television, have dates with friends, play video games or receive anything below an A on homework assignments. Chua even describes rejecting a homemade birthday card her 4-year-old daughter gave her one year because it wasn't adequate. This all might seem ridiculous; however, according to the "Tiger Mother," this is traditional Chinese parenting and it works.

Jewish clinical psychologist, Wendy Mogel, might just be the antithesis to Chua. Mogel, also an accomplished author, has written multiple books on parenting: "The Blessings of a B Minus: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Resilient Teenagers" (Scribner, 2010); and, "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children" (Scribner, 2008). Mogel thinks parents should set standards for their children but then back off, allowing the children to experience life's ups and downs. She teaches, "You have to recognize that they (children) can't be good problem solvers unless they have problems to solve. They have to make dumb mistakes to get

(See FROM THE RABBI on page 2)



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 17, Number 6
March/April 2013
Adar-Nissan-Iyar 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 May/June issue is APRIL 12TH. You are encouraged to submit your items via e-mail. Please call the office at 733-8890 for more info.

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A Message from the President

Now that we have passed Purim, and with Pesach just around the corner, the warmer weather can't be that far away. And with the warmer weather coming, the speed with which our new building will progress will increase.

The outer wall framing will be under way as you read this, and I have been told that by the time my term as president comes to an end there will be a roof over the building. I'm not sure what makes me more excited - a new roof or a new president. It's a good thing I don't need to choose, so...I'll take one of each.

The annual Board retreat is coming up in April. The improvement in the Board's functioning seems evident after last year's retreat, and I'm sure we'll see even more upgrades down the road. Work goes on behind the scenes, creating a new slate of officers and board members so that when the Annual Meeting comes around in May we will be ready. So our community is being built both in a physical and in an organizational manner, readying ourselves for the moment when we make "THE BIG MOVE".

Tetzlekhu,
Jeff Jaffe

From the Rabbi *(Continued from page 1)*

smart. You (parents) need to be alert, but not alarmed." Mogel and Chua's methods are about as opposite as they can get, yet they do share the belief that "helicopter parenting"—hovering over your child's every move—is perhaps more harmful than helpful.

And what does the Torah teach us on this subject? Very little. The fifth commandment, however, instructs us to honor our *parents*. There is no commandment telling us to honor our children and no mitzvah illustrating how to raise our children. We are commanded to "teach these words to our children" and to recount our Passover narrative every year, but that's about it. In Proverbs 22:6, we get a little more clarity about parenting styles: "Educate a child according to his/her own path." Therefore, a parent must have patience and unconditional love. A little more Mogel than Tiger mom.

After I became a parent, a friend gave me and Nicole a book called, "The Parent's Tao Te Ching" (Da Capo, 1999). Based on the legendary Chinese sage, Lao Tzu's "Tao Te Ching," which is a masterful work venerated for its philosophical and practical wisdom, this contemporary version delicately teaches parents how to raise children according to Taoist philosophy, or "The Way." Here's an excerpt from the book:

There are only three qualities you must teach your children: Compassion, patience, and simplicity. Some would say this is absurd. They would teach instead, ambition, drive, and consumption, and say it is the way of success.

But if they learn patience, they see the world as it truly is. If they learn simplicity, they see themselves as they truly are. And if they learn compassion, they heal themselves and the world.

This ancient *Chinese* teaching is actually very Jewish—it resembles the lessons our great Mussar rabbis taught many years ago. (If you want to learn more about Mussar practice and philosophy, register for my 6-session class now.)

As we find ourselves in the middle of the season of children—regardless of which method you prefer, and whether or not you have children of your own—let's think about how we teach those we care about and love. If we demand excellence, are we also encouraging patience and simplicity? Are we patient when we teach? And if we expect specific results, are we also teaching according to that person's own unique path? We all have many lessons and skills to pass on to others, at every stage in our lives. May those who learn from us grow in multiple ways and may we, more often than not, become the students in these sacred relationships.

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

Yahrzeits

Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless the civil date is requested, and are read on the Shabbat prior to the observance date.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1		Fred Oscar Wigren	March 17	Max Wolfman	April 8
Robert Fife	March 2	Robert J. Block	March 18	Naomi Lazarus Barnes	April 9
Emma Gartner	March 2	Claire Leinow	March 20	Lena Horwitz	April 10
Benjamin Goldberg	March 3	Benjamin Schwartz	March 20	Thelma Weiner	April 11
Sol L. Shure	March 3	Mabel Berman	March 21	Rabbi Frederick Gartner	April 12
Herman Weill	March 3	Leah Rachel Shapiro	March 21	Edward Stone	April 12
Jessie Edinger	March 4	FRIDAY, MARCH 22		FRIDAY, APRIL 12	
Elaine Fox Suloway	March 4	Harry Leon	March 23	SATURDAY, APRIL 13	
Fred Fragner	March 7	Lois Oksenberg	March 23	Karleen Press	April 14
Charles "Bud" Koplowitz	March 7	Norma Soode	March 23	Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	April 14
Carole Bajema	March 8	Bertha Friedman	March 24	Mary Widerkehr	April 16
Ariel Thal	March 8	Michael Tabak	March 24	Glen Myers	April 17
Lylyan Wick	March 8	Burl Ives	March 25	Abraham Morton	April 18
FRIDAY, MARCH 8		Ray Schapiro	March 25	Judy Aikens	April 19
SATURDAY, MARCH 9		Joyce Zvenia	March 25	Ken Altose	April 19
Dorothy Brody	March 9	Sophie L. Berenstain	March 26	FRIDAY, APRIL 19	
Archie Fine	March 9	Arthur Feld	March 27	SATURDAY, APRIL 20	
Marcelline Naparty	March 9	Herbert Sulkin	March 27	Morris Fischel	April 20
Harry Zemel	March 9	Angus Campbell Walker	March 27	Felicia Keller	April 20
Floyd Pritchett	March 10	Harry M. Eisner	March 28	FRIDAY, APRIL 26	
Monica Zderic	March 10	Sue Ohms	March 28	Ray Jay	April 21
Eliezer Spiro	March 11	FRIDAY, MARCH 29		Benjamin Shapiro	April 21
Thomas Josiah Boothby	March 12	Jerome Greenwald	March 31	Herman Rudolf	April 22
Freda Casserd	March 12	Jack Mazur	March 31	Hy Zimmerman	April 22
Ben Zderic	March 12	David Alper	April 1	Elaine Greenberg	April 24
Sidney Leon	March 13	Esther Suloway	April 1	Alan Raas	April 25
Lucia Mastbaum	March 13	Samuel Thal	April 1	Saul S. Spiro	April 25
Max Lazarus	March 14	Beatrice Lazaroff	April 2	Victor Thal	April 25
Marcia Landau	March 15	Leon Julius Mendelsohn	April 2	Helen Victoria Richmond	April 27
Leon Thal	March 15	Robert Korner	April 3	Harry Cohl	April 28
FRIDAY, MARCH 15		Emanuel M. Lindheimer	April 3	Margaret Horwitz	April 29
SATURDAY, MARCH 16		Violet Shaw	April 4	Louis Suloway	April 29
Barry Evans	March 16	Samuel Midwood	April 5	Emma Wolfsachs	April 29
William A. Gordon	March 16	Manfred Vernon	April 5	Rachel Kaplan Tartak	April 30
Rose Grieff	March 16	FRIDAY, APRIL 5		Irwin Suloway	May 2
Lou Mazel	March 16	Norma H. Bernstein	April 6	Etta Fine	May 3
Arthur Koplowitz	March 17	The Fragner Family	April 7	Jack Kleinfeld	May 3
Naomi Stone	March 17	Selma Lebovich	April 7	Mary Mueller Thal	May 3

~ In Memoriam ~

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

Linda Read on the loss of her father, **John J. Read**, who passed away on December 21, 2012.

Jeffrey Zucker on the loss of his mother, **Katherine Zucker**, who passed away on January 2, 2013.

Diana Oplinger on the loss of her father, **Jack Stein**, who passed away on January 4, 2013.

Nicole Samuels on the loss of her grandmother, **Bette Levy**, who passed away on January 6, 2013.

K. J. Jantzen on the loss of his brother, **Henry Jantzen**, who passed away on January 7, 2013.

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

~ In Memoriam ~

The Beth Israel community mourns the loss of our long-time congregant **Rita Gordon**, who passed away on February 7, 2013.

We offer deepest condolences to her daughters **Gayle Martin** (Bellingham) and **Jennifer Engstfield** (Snohomish), her sister-in-law, **Faye Gordon Samuels** (Portland), and all of their family members.

Zichronah l'vrachah ~ May her memory be for a blessing.

Membership Committee ~ Sara Geballe

Whew! All the Lifetouch photo sessions are finally done, and we are now awaiting our proof copy of the **2013 CBI Photo Directory**. A total of 135 member families participated in the directory. Thank you to all those families for showing your solidarity and commitment to this important synagogue-wide project. Those who participated will be receiving a free copy of the photo directory later this spring. We'll let you know as soon as they are ready.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us with the enormous task of producing the photo directory. First, let me acknowledge everyone on the Membership Committee: Michelle Beller-Siegfried, Anne Brown, Marla Finkelstein, Elinor Pravda, Rita Spitzer, Bonnie Stone, Ann Suloway, Becki Van Glubt, Joan Wayne, Amy Whiting, Sarah Witte and Shelley Wolfman. You all stepped up big time and helped out in ways too numerous to mention that best matched your skills. A heartfelt and very special thank you goes to Melissa Schapiro. Even though Melissa is not on the Committee, she created the directory's layout and design single-handedly. I don't know what we would have done without her. Thank you to Mary Somerville for preparing our roster in as many different ways as Lifetouch required. And special thanks to Rabbi Samuels for his two excellent "robo-calls" that I believe helped a lot in getting folks to sign up. I also want to thank the many additional folks who kindly served as hosts at our six days of photo sessions at the Gateway Centre: Linda Blackwell, Marta Brand, Harriet Fine, Elka Fink, Sylvia Fragner, Bettina Fisher, Linda Hirsh, Gloria Lebowitz, Marcia Lippman, Vicki Mayers, Debbie Raas, Belle Shalom, Judy Soicher and Miriam Zderic. And finally, a big shout-out to Jay Solomon for providing the Gateway Center — the perfect place to hold our photo shoots!

As of this writing we are preparing for our March 16th *New Member Havdalah Social*, at which we will be celebrating the 19 families who joined our congregation in 2012. They represent a total of 32 adults and 20 children. What an amazing year of growth!

And just one more thing...the *2013 CBI Professional Services Directory* is now posted online on the "Members Only" section of the synagogue website*. More than 50 member-owned businesses and services are listed there. Let's all support our members! * www.bethisraelbellingham.org

~ MARCH BIRTHDAYS ~

Tannia Hecht	Susan Schnell	Michael Korner
Nadia Mazonson	Alan Soicher	Kathy Block
Talya Sanger	Mark Steinberg	Alex Hall
Deborah Wolfsachs	Max Stahlberg	Rachel Sager
Manuel Emanuel	Rebecca Orloff	Clifford Haas
Amy Evans	Joan Sager	Debbie Raas
Christoph Reitz	Steve Schwartz	Marybeth Taranow
Mary Somerville	Daniel Shankman	Aviva Weinstein
Sara Geballe	Jordan Verkh-Haskell	Keith Baker
Norman DesRosiers	Allison Zibulewsky	Celt Schira
Deborah Oksenberg	Carol Robinson	Rick Romito
K.C. Sulkin	Noah Taranow	Samantha Konikoff
Mason Zibulewsky	Jody Meltzer	Lynn Korner
Zachary Zibulewsky	Sonorah DesRosiers	Jeff Margolis
Kenny Adelstein	Roy Shankman	Gabriel Witte

~ APRIL BIRTHDAYS ~

Amy Kraham	Lisa Balton	Linda Read
Amy Margolis	Jeffrey Feld	Sasha Verkh
June Mazonson	Susan Katz	Teresa Allison
John McGarrity	Lilah Blum	Nicole Boarnet
Des Rochon	Barbara Boothby	Lindsay Roberts
Ethan Oliver	Sarah DesRosiers	Margaret Bikman
Alisa Sachs	Ethan Landau	Jason Stoane
Daniel Feller	Steve Ban	Spencer Jantzen
Mary Jo Lewis	Karen Fisher	Avi Buri
Hannah Levine	Mia Clarke	Elisha Goodman
Ayla Soicher	Elizabeth Witte	Andrew Orloff
Tammy Dixon	Paul Blum	Shoshana Samuels
Katie Edelstein	Navah DesRosiers	Marcus Swed
Hank Levine	Liza Jane Price	Richard Widerkehr

From the Sisterhood

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 PM** at the home of Linda Blackwell. We will be discussing *The Bones and the Book* by Jane Isenberg.

In 1890, Aliza Rudinsk, a young Orthodox Jewish immigrant from the Ukraine, came to Seattle via New York's Lower East Side expecting to build a good life for herself. In 1965, her bones turn up in Seattle's underground streets, along with a book written in Yiddish. Recently widowed Rachel Mazursky offers to translate the book. Aliza's poignant story compels Rachel to search for the identity of Aliza's murderer, unearthing disturbing secrets about her own past in so doing. The reader is carried back to a remote outpost of the Jewish diaspora where gold, good table manners, and assimilating often trump Torah, tribe, and tradition.

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



Happy Anniversary

- Mar. 12** *Roby Blecker & Keith Baker* (# 35)
Mar. 14 *Aaron & Lilly Weiss* (# 70) ♥♥
Mar. 15 *Isaac & Samantha Konikoff* (# 5)
Mar. 18 *Nancy & Don Davis* (# 29)
Mar. 19 *Robert & Jody Meltzer* (# 13)
Mar. 26 *Leah & Jeffrey Grossman* (# 2)
Mar. 31 *Arona & James Henderson* (# 15)
Apr. 2 *Harold & Susan Katz* (# 46)
Apr. 6 *Kristan & Mike Brennan* (# 17)
Apr. 20 *Danny & Marla Finkelstein* (# 27)



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, March 25** and **Monday, April 29** at *Skylark's Hidden Cafe* in Fairhaven, to enjoy a no-host lunch and have a good time.

For information, please call
Elka Fink

From the Bima . . .

Soon after the High Holy Days last year I reached out to Cantor Sharona Feller, inquiring about the possibility of her leading services with me this fall. Cantor Feller recently alerted me that she will be officiating at her synagogue in Arizona once again this year.

Like many of you, I am saddened that we will not have the privilege of singing with her beautiful and engaging voice during the High Holy Days. Daniel and Sharona will be in town for much of the spring and summer, and I welcome any opportunity to share the bima with the cantor.

But fear not — I have been in touch with the ACC (American Conference of Cantors) and we are well ahead of schedule for hiring a cantor this year. I am heading a small group whose mission is to select the best possible candidate — one who will serve our community's needs based on conversations and feedback I have received from many of you.

This High Holy Day season should be a memorable one. If all goes according to plan we will be ushering in the New Year in our new, yet unfinished building. This will certainly add to the meaning of *kehillah kedusha*, a holy community.

Thank you for your sustained support.

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Brotherhood Meeting

Thursday, April 11 • 6:30 PM
 Bellingham Bar & Grill
 1408 Cornwall Ave.

The Beth Israel Brotherhood will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 PM at the Bellingham Bar and Grill. Come join your brothers for a short meeting, socializing and even a few rounds of pool for those who wish to play. Please RSVP to Alan Stone or Mark Steinberg.

Shul Shofar Schedule

PLEASE submit items for the May/June 2013 issue to the office by **April 12th**. (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

♦ Cats and Dogs

Thanks to all who donated towels, blankets and pet food for the Whatcom Humane Society shelter. The dogs and cats also thank you! Remember that you can volunteer to play with the animals at the shelter — call them at 733-2080.



♦ Chametz-B-Gone

Are you wondering what to do with your unopened *chametz* as you clean before Passover? Bring it to the synagogue before March 22nd and we will pick it up and deliver it to the Bellingham Food Bank. If you have other canned or packaged food to donate, feel free to bring it at the same time. Our collection bins are located downstairs outside the Social Hall.



♦ Children's Books

New and gently used children's books are given to children who visit the Interfaith Health Clinic. We are collecting children's books for March and April. This is a wonderful way to recycle those books our children have outgrown or to share a new book with kids when they visit the clinic. They get to be healthy and literate — what could be nicer? Our bins are waiting....



♦ Mitzvah Day

Mitzvah Day is **June 2nd** this year, and we would like every member to take part! Bring willing hands and minds and volunteer to improve the world. We are looking for project ideas, project leaders, and lots of willing volunteers. Be ready to sign up as more information comes your way in early May.

♦ Interfaith Coalition Annual Meeting

The Interfaith Coalition Auction is coming on **Saturday, March 23rd** (see article, below) The Coalition works to support healthcare and housing for all. Come to the auction and support this great organization. Beth Israel is one of 44 faith communities in the Coalition, and we hope to have a table or two this year. Tickets are \$45/person for dinner and both a silent and live auction. Come and be part of the fun! Reserve a seat by **March 11** — call Debbie Raas for tickets.

♦ Milk Money

May is the month we provide \$750 for a month's supply of milk at the Bellingham Food Bank. Your donations are welcome. Please watch for more details in the weekly E-News and in the next *Shofar*.

♦ Social Action Survey

So far 41 people have answered our survey. The leading issue was healthcare, which includes mental and physical health. The runners-up were housing and hunger, and the environment wasn't far behind. Help us come up with ideas that we can put into action — let us know your suggestions by contacting Social Action chairs Linda Hirsh or Debbie Raas.

♦ Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at **2:00 PM on Sunday, March 10th** at the home of Linda Hirsh. We will be discussing the survey, Mitzvah Day, and other projects. Everyone who would like to be involved is invited to the meeting. Call or email Linda for directions.



Annual Hope Auction

Saturday, March 23, 2013 5:30 p.m.

At Interfaith's Annual Hope Auction you will enjoy an evening of fun and community spirit, and the proceeds will support housing for homeless families and healthcare for those in need. The auction is Interfaith's biggest fundraising event, and raises more than one-third of Interfaith's annual income. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. at the **Best Western Lakeway Inn** in Bellingham. Tickets are on sale now for \$45 each, which includes a sit-down dinner.

You also may support the event by contributing an item to be auctioned. If you can provide a service, getaway home, or other sought-after item, then you have something to offer that would raise money to assist local people in need. For more information, tickets, or to make a donation, please call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983, or contact **Debbie Raas**, who represents CBI on the Coalition board.

Religious School News AND Notes ~ Miriam Schwartz

The Religious School community has been quite busy over the past two months. Many of the activities were for the benefit of parents, starting with a **Community Meeting** on January 16, where teachers gave presentations about the curriculum and parents had the opportunity to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the Religious School.

On January 26, students and parents took part in a wonderful **Tu B'Shevat Shabbaton**. Students created art projects and engaged in discussions about environmentalism and conservation, while parents listened to a fascinating talk by Aaron Sanger about his work with ForestEthics. All present took part in a Tu B'Shevat seder, complete with dates, kiwis, and pomegranite seeds, then shared a falafel lunch. Everyone left the Shabbaton with hearts full of gratitude for trees!

During Sunday School on February 10, parents were invited to participate in the second **Adult Learning Session** of the year, "The Linguistics of Hebrew." Dr. Amnon Bruck gave an interactive and thought-provoking talk about how different English and Hebrew are from each other today, but how they evolved from the same root language thousands of years ago.

And, last but not least, the entire Religious School community celebrated **Purim** on February 24. Many students took part in a festive Megillah reading at Beth Israel in the morning, and then the party moved to Bloedel Donovan. Highlights of this year's Purim Carnival included stilt walkers, a bewigged clarinetist (was that *really* What the Chelm?), excited children BEGGING for more tickets, hamantashen to die for, and eerily accurate fortune telling. It truly does take a village — or at least a congregation full of generous and energetic folks — to throw a Purim Carnival!

The next **Religious School Committee** meeting will be held on **March 3 at 10:15 AM**. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Immediately following will be the first meeting of the **New Synagogue Outdoor Space Task Force**. Again, all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Here are some dates to plan for in April (more details at left →):

- ☆ **Religious School Committee Meeting** - Sunday, April 14 during RS hours
- ☆ **CBI Community Hike** - Sunday, April 21, 9 AM (replaces Sunday School)
- ☆ **Lag B'Omer Celebration** - Sunday, April 28 at 11:00 AM during RS



Program Committee ~ Sabrina Freeman

Jewish/Israeli Film Series

The Program Committee is sponsoring a Jewish/Israeli film series that will take place every other month. The fourth offering of the series will take place in the Social Hall on **Saturday, April 20**, beginning with Havdallah at 7:15 PM. The film will be screened at 7:30 PM.

April's film, **Infiltration**, is an adaptation of one of Israeli literature's most celebrated novels. Set in 1956, it follows a boot camp of aspiring Israeli soldiers comprised of conscripts from Ashkenazi Jews, new immigrants from North Africa and Europe, Holocaust survivors, and both secular and religious individuals. Set over ten years before the Israeli army's epochal victory in the 1967 war, **Infiltration** offers a series of vignettes designed to show an array of Israeli attitudes and mores and ultimately the challenges of creating a homogenous society from so many disparate pieces. Everything from Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* to Oliver Stone's *Platoon* gets referenced in this entertaining, thought-provoking tale, which won Best Photography at the 2012 Israeli Academy Awards. In Hebrew with English subtitles. There will be discussion of the film afterward for those interested in staying.

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

Israeli Folk Dancing: Sunday, March 17 • Sunday, April 21

This dance group meets on the third Sunday of each month from 7 - 9 PM in the Social Hall. If you've never tried folk dancing before, come early at 6:30 for an introductory lesson. The group is open to the entire community, so feel free to invite your friends to join you. If you don't want to dance, you're still welcome to come and enjoy the music! Admission is a \$5 donation to the Building Fund. Contact Sabrina Freeman for more details.

Yom HaShoah 5773

Sunday, April 7, 2013 ☆ 7:00 PM

Yom HaShoah is Holocaust Remembrance Day. Through our prayerful remembrance and reflection, we honor the memory of those who died and those who survived, and we renew our own commitments to healing and hope.

On Sunday, April 7 at 7:00 pm, we will gather together in community to remember the Shoah. This year, our service will include the participation of the 7th and 8th grade classes of Beth Israel Religious School. Please make every effort to be present with the synagogue community at this important service of remembrance.



Yom HaAtzmaut 5773

Monday, April 15, 2013 ☆ 6:30 PM

Come celebrate the 65th anniversary year of the State of Israel! Beth Israel will hold a celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut — Israel Independence Day — at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 15. To help get into the spirit of celebration, we suggest you dress in blue and white that evening.

The festivities will include Israeli cooking demonstrations (and eating!), Israeli music and much more. Mark your calendars now, and watch the weekly E-News for more details as the date draws near.



Community Hike

Sunday, April 21, 2013 ☆ 9:00 AM

In honor of Earth Day, the CBI community is invited to join in a gentle hike along the Clayton Beach trail.

We will gather at the synagogue at 9:00 AM and carpool to the trailhead off Chuckanut Drive. Please wear appropriate walking shoes and bring along some water. The hike will take place rain or shine, Sunday School will not be held that day. Watch for more details in the E-News.

Lag B'Omer Bonfire

Sunday, April 28, 2013 ☆ 11:00 AM

Celebrate Lag B'Omer and enjoy our very own bonfire — a Lag B'Omer tradition — in the backyard of the synagogue, plus arts and crafts activities and a falafel lunch.



The program begins at 11:00 AM, with lunch served at noon. More details coming in April.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL MARCH 2013 ADAR - NISSAN 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 21 Adar 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 1-2 PM Aleph Bet Ease Adult Education class	4 22 Adar 7 PM - Membership Comm. @ A. Brown's 6-9 PM Aleph Bet Ease Adult Education class	5 23 Adar 6-9 PM Aleph Bet Ease Adult Education class	6 24 Adar 4 PM - Hebrew School	7 25 Adar	8 26 Adar 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 4th Grade Class Potluck dinner afterward	9 27 Adar 9:30 AM Torah Study, Family Service and special programming for students & parents w/ concluding luncheon <i>Shabbatton:</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study, Family Service and special programming for students & parents w/ concluding luncheon
10 28 Adar NO Sunday School 2 PM SocActionComm. Meeting @ L. Hirsh's 3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall	11 29 Adar 7 PM Board of Directors	12 1 Nissan 1 Nissan	13 2 Nissan 4 PM - Hebrew School	14 3 Nissan 4:30 PM Care Committee Beth Israel Social Hall	15 4 Nissan 7:30PM Shabbat Service	16 5 Nissan 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service <i>Vayikra</i>
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 17 6 Nissan 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Group @ L. Blackwell's	18 7 Nissan	19 8 Nissan 12 PM - Sisterhood Lunch Bunch @ Anne Brown's 1:30 PM - Stitchery Group @ Anne Brown's	20 9 Nissan 4 PM - Hebrew School	21 10 Nissan	22 11 Nissan 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	23 12 Nissan 6:00 PM New Member Haydalah and Dinner <i>Tzav</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat <i>Shabbat HaGadol</i>
24 13 Nissan 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall	25 14 Nissan 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Cafe	26 15 Nissan PESACH 1st DAY Festival Day Beth Israel office closed	27 16 Nissan PESACH 2nd DAY Festival Day Beth Israel office closed	28 17 Nissan	29 18 Nissan 7:30PM Shabbat Service	30 19 Nissan 7:30PM Shabbat Service
31 20 Nissan NO Sunday School	First Seder 1st NIGHT of PESACH		NO Hebrew School		6:15PM Shabbat Service	<i>Chol Hamoed Pesach</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study <i>Shabbat</i>

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL APRIL 2013 NISSAN - IYAR 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 21 Nissan PESACH 7th DAY Festival Day <i>Beth Israel office closed</i>	2 22 Nissan PESACH 8th DAY Festival Day <i>Beth Israel office closed</i>	3 23 Nissan NO Hebrew School	4 24 Nissan 7 PM Mussar study Adult Education class	5 25 Nissan 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 2nd/3rd Grade Class Potluck dinner afterward	6 26 Nissan 9:30 AM Torah Study <i>Shemini</i>
7 27 Nissan NO Sunday School YOM HASHOAH 7 PM - Yom HaShoah Service w/ 7th-8th Grade	8 28 Nissan 7 PM Board of Directors	9 29 Nissan	10 30 Nissan 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	11 1 Iyar 6:30 PM Brotherhood Mtg @ Bellingham Bar & Grill 7 PM Mussar study Adult Education class	12 2 Iyar SHOFAR DEADLINE (For May/June 2013) 7:30PM Shabbat Service	13 3 Iyar 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service <i>Tazria-Metzora</i>
14 4 Iyar YOM HAZIKARON 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	15 5 Iyar YOM HA-ATZMAUT 6:30PM Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration	16 6 Iyar 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Anne Brown's 1:30 PM - Stitchery Group @ Anne Brown's	17 7 Iyar	18 8 Iyar	19 9 Iyar 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	20 10 Iyar 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service <i>Acharei Mot - Kedoshim</i>
21 11 Iyar NO Sunday School 9 AM - Community Hike, Clayton Beach Trail 6:30/7 PM - Israeli Dancing in CBI Social Hall	22 12 Iyar	23 13 Iyar	24 14 Iyar 4:15 PM - Hebrew School	25 15 Iyar	26 16 Iyar 7:15 PM Havdalah 7:30 PM Israeli film, "Infiltration", Bi Social Hall	27 17 Iyar 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat <i>Emor</i>
28 18 Iyar 10 - 11 AM Sunday School 11 AM - Lag B'Omer Bonfire & Program 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall LAG B'OMER	29 19 Iyar 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	30 20 Iyar		7 PM Mussar study Adult Education class	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Malayan Shir ensemble	

In the Community —

Theater: "The Legacy"

Life is what happens when you're making other plans. Set in the 1960's, this powerful drama is the story of the Estanitskys — the only Jewish family in an isolated Texas town — during an intense and challenging chapter in their lives. It explores questions dealing with "...life and death, God and man, Jew and Gentile, human suffering and the eternal 'Why?'" Directed by Marla Bronstein, *The Legacy* will run from **February 28 thru March 17** at the Claire vg Theatre in Lynden.

Marla writes that, for her, "the most important message of [the play] is the need for tradition and community in one's life. Tradition is that thread that you get from your parents and grandparents and give to your children...The support of community will help get you through all of the challenges life can throw."

Tickets are available online at www.clairevgtheatre.com or by calling 354-4425 between 1:00 and 3:00 PM.

Film: Seattle Jewish Film Festival

From **March 2 through March 10**, the 18th Annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival will be presenting over 20 Jewish/Israeli themed films of all types in six different Seattle venues. For more details, go to <http://www.seattlejewishfilmfestival.org> or phone 206-388-0832

Looking Ahead

Whatcom Museum Tour

The second event in our museum series will take place on **Sunday, May 5 at 3 PM**, when Diana Firestone leads a tour of the retrospective exhibit *Jim Olson: Architecture for Art*. Save the date and watch more more details in your E-News.

Annual Membership Meeting

Mark your calendar now and watch the mail for your official invitation to Beth Israel's Annual Meeting and Board Elections on **Monday, May 19**, starting with food and socializing at 5:45 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00. Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our congregation.

Religious School Yard Sale

Start collecting those treasured items for the Religious School's annual yard sale on **Sunday morning, May 19** during Sunday School (exact hours TBA). Gently used household items in working order, books, kitchen gizmos and similar items are welcome. Kids clothes in good condition are OK, but no adult clothes, please. More details to come in the May/June *Shofar*.

Adult Education - Spring 2013

☆ **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 the Mussar class, please contact Mary Somerville in the synagogue office at (360) 733-8890 or [email bishul@aol.com](mailto:bishul@aol.com).

If a scholarship is needed for course fees, please contact Rabbi Samuels directly at the number above.



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.

☆ **Lynne and Mark MacDonald** are first-time grandparents! Granddaughter *Sloan Dahl Willows* was born to their daughter **Shultzie** and son-in-law Spencer Willows in February. Mazel Tov to all the family!

— Sharing the Seder —

Please complete this form, checking all items that apply, and return it to the synagogue office. You may also email the information to bishul@aol.com.

I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A SEDER:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I am a family of _____ # people I have _____ # children ages: _____

I would like to attend a seder with other children

I prefer: First Night seder Second Night seder

I prefer: A short seder A long seder

I prefer a seder that has plenty of vegetarian options

I prefer to attend a seder in a neighborhood close to mine

I WOULD LIKE TO HOST GUESTS AT MY SEDER:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I have room at my seder table for _____ # more people

My home is available for the: First Night seder Second Night seder

I would be happy to have children at my seder

There will be children at my seder ages: _____

I plan to lead: A short seder A long seder

I plan to have plenty of vegetarian options at my seder

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.

~ SPECIAL FUND DONATIONS ~

<p>— Rabbi's Discretionary Fund —</p> <p>IN APPRECIATION TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Rabbi Samuels, for his beautiful home dedication service From: Nancy Lloyd ✧ Roby Blecker, for leading Torah study From: Richard & Idalina Trank <p>DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Rabbi Samuels and family, on the loss of his uncle, Marvin Siegel From: Patricia Axelrod (San Francisco) The Davis & Brennan Families ✧ Nicole Samuels and family, on the loss of her grandmother, Bette Levy From: The Davis & Brennan Families <p align="center">- Camp Scholarship Fund -</p> <p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Dr. Donald Somerville, on the 92nd anniversary of his birth From: Mary Somerville <p>IN HONOR OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Emma Suzanne Konikoff, in celebration of her naming ceremony From: Miriam Zderic 	<p>- Camp/Youth Activities Fund -</p> <p>✧ IN HONOR OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Bonnie & Alan Stone, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary From: Donna Solomon <i>Joan & Marv Wayne</i> <i>Stan & Rosalie Yacknin</i> <p align="center">— New Synagogue Fund —</p> <p>IN HONOR OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Bonnie & Alan Stone, on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary From: Debbie & Dan Raas <i>Bess Leavitt & Howard Solomon (Seattle)</i> <p>DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Janis Ban, on the loss of her father, Richard Bloomfield From: Joan & Marve Wayne ✧ Linda Read, on the loss of her father, John J. Read From: Debbie & Dan Raas <p>IN HONOR & LOVING MEMORY OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ The Gordon family From: Faye Gordon Samuels (Portland) 	<p>— New Synagogue Fund —</p> <p>DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Nicole Samuels and family, on the loss of her grandmother, Bette Levy From: Debbie & Dan Raas <i>Joan & Marv Wayne</i> ✧ Sabrina Freeman, on the loss of her father, Doug Freeman From: Jodi Litt & Brad Johnson <i>Debbie & Dan Raas</i> ✧ Jennifer Engstfield, Gayle Martin, Faye Gordon Samuels and their families, on the loss of their mother/sister-in-law, Rita Gordon From: Anne Brown <i>Ettie, Sheri & Julie Davis (Philadelphia)</i> <i>Debbie & Dan Raas</i> <i>Joan & Marv Wayne</i> ✧ Marilyn & Larry Richardson, on the loss of their son, Mark Richardson From: Anne Brown <p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ My brother, Richard Meltzer From: Robert & Jody Meltzer <p>CONTRIBUTION FROM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Jon & Dvora Siegel (Saint Louis, MO)</i> <i>Terri & Bart Ketover (Rancho Mirage, CA)</i>
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SPOTLIGHT ON: Camp Scholarship Fund

The Camp Scholarship [& Youth Activities] Fund was started with donations from the Sisterhood, along with proceeds from Religious School yard sales. Over the years the fund has grown thanks to ongoing Sisterhood support, along with generous donations from members of the congregation. Along with awarding financial assistance for our children who attend URJ camps, the fund has also provided support for members of our teen youth group to attend NFTY events.

Consider the following:

"The impact of Jewish camp is immediate— campers return home connected to a community and friends that will last them a lifetime. And it doesn't stop there. Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities." (<http://www.jewishcamp.org/why-camp>)

In short, it has been a joy and a pleasure to help our families! Please consider making the occasional donation to our Camp Scholarship fund...the future is in our hands!

Toda Raba — Miriam Zderic, Joan Wayne and Bonnie Stone

~ In Thanks ~

I want to thank all the people who celebrated with me when Rabbi Samuels officiated at the dedication of my home. It was a very special occasion and it meant so much to me. Truly, it was a blessing, and I am so grateful to everyone for their support.

~ Nancy Lloyd

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

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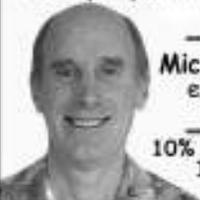

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**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH**

Remember to set clocks ahead
1 hour on Saturday night

— Schedule of Services —

Friday, March 1st 6:15 pm Shabbat family service with leadership from the Religious School's 4th grade class; potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, March 2nd 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, March 8th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service

Saturday, March 9th 9:30 am Shabbaton: Torah Study, Family Shabbat service and programming for students & adults, concluding with a Kiddush lunch

Friday, March 15th

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

Saturday, March 16th

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

Friday, March 22nd 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service

Saturday, March 23rd

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

Friday, March 29th 6:15 pm Shabbat evening service

Saturday, March 30th 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, April 5th 6:15 pm Shabbat family service with leadership from the Religious School's 2nd/3rd grade class; potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, April 6th 9:30 am Torah Study

Sunday, April 7th 7:00 pm Yom HaShoah service

Friday, April 12th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service

Saturday, April 13th

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

Friday, April 19th

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

Saturday, April 20th

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

Friday, April 26th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service with the Ma'ayan Shir vocal ensemble

Saturday, April 27th

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



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