•(360) 733-8890 • NOV/DEC 2013 • CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 57 **VOL. 18, NO. 2** CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL • BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

ease Take Note:

A complete schedule of services is printed on the back page

Be sure to mail or turn in your ballot by Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Saturday, Nov. 16th 10:00 AM Isaac, Raphael & Shoshana Schapiro will be called to the Torah (pq. 5)

☆ Affordable Care Act Presentation

Sunday, Nov. 17nd 10:15 AM Elya Moore of Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement will explain the ACA and answer questions. (pg. 5)

☆ Religious School Hanukkah Party

Sunday, Dec. 1st 12-3 PM CBI members are invited to this annual party at the Squalicum Boathouse (pp.4+6)

❖ Sisterhood Book Group

Sunday, Nov. 10th 2:00 PM The group will meet at the home of Joan Wayne to discuss <u>Ten Thousand</u> Lovers by Israeli author Edeet Ravel

Sunday, Dec. 15th 2:00 PM Join your sisters at the home of Bettina Fisher for a discussion of Ex Librus by Anne Fadima

Adult Education at Beth Israel 2013-2014

Beth Israel is committed to teaching ludaism as a living religion. Our sacred texts and lessons still speak to us today in the modern world and have the potential to enlighten every facet of our daily lives. Lifelong learning is a central tenet of Judaism and we are thrilled to offer you various courses which we hope will pique your interest. May your participation in one or multiple courses continue to either nurture your commitment to the Jewish community or bring you closer to this beautiful tradition. You are encouraged to register ahead of time so that we may provide appropriated materials and to ensure that a class will not be cancelled. Complete information is also available on our website at www.bethisraelbellingham.org.

\$\$ **Judaism 201** Thursdays 7 - 8:15 PM beginning October 17

10 sessions: Oct. 17, 24; Nov. 7, 14, 21; Dec. 5, 19; Jan. 9, 16, 30 **Instructor:** Rabbi Joshua Samuels



What's the deal with black hats, kabbalah water, braided bread and eco-kashrut? This class is an excellent introduction to Judaism or the perfect refresher. The course will answer the questions above as well as cover the following topics: Who is a Jew? What is Torah, Midrash and Talmud? The many Jewish views of God; the Jewish approach to life and death; the Jewish calendar and festivals; Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism;

Israeli history; Jewish life-cycle events, and more.

The fee covers the cost of the primary text, Settings of Silver, and other texts.

CBI Members: \$36 Non-Members: \$72

4 sessions: Nov.9, 6-6:45 PM; Nov.10, 6-8 PM; Nov.11, 6-8 PM; Nov.12, 6-8 PM Instructors: Sagit Hall and Dr. Lawrence Hall



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 7 hours, over 4 days, this unique, multi-sensory, non-threatening intensive class will take the mystery out of the Hebrew aleph-bet. Through this innovative program you'll be reading

Hebrew in just four days! It is highly encouraged to attend all sessions. Class meets in the Social Hall. [> This class will be repeated in March 2014] CBI Members: \$60 Non-Members: \$80

MESSAGE FROM THE RAB



The Results Are In

I remember when the High Holy Days lasted for 4 days only. I showed up to synagogue with my family, prayed, and then went home. This was back before I entered rabbinical school. Since my first year at Hebrew Union College, the High Holy Days take up quite a bit of time; from planning, writing, studying, writing, calling

on people to participate, reviewing previous HHD experiences, more writing and then reviewing the current year. All in all, the High Holy Day experience for a rabbi might last 11 months out of a year.

This year has been no different. As many of you are aware, I sent out a post High Holy Day survey to get your feedback from your experience this past September. All the results are in and 100 of you filled out the SurveyMonkey. I am pleasantly shocked by the numbers, as community-wide surveys traditionally do not garner this high rate of response. I'd like to break down the data for you:

Question 1: Reflecting on all the High Holy Day experiences you have had in your life, what made some of

them become the most fulfilling? 78 people answered "Rabbi's sermons"; 50 people answered, "musical leadership"; 44 people answered, "being with family." Location and "meaningful children's services" received the fewest votes.

Question 2: I found the High Holy Days this year: 73%

answered "somewhat/very fulfilling" and 27% answered "not very/not at all fulfilling." More people responded "very fulfilling" than either of the latter choices.

Question 3: I found the use of music this year: 62% answered "somewhat/very enjoyable" and 38% answered "not very/not at all enjoyable." Twice the amount of people responded "very enjoyable" than "not at all enjoyable" $(2\overline{1}-1\overline{0})$.

Question 4: In the future I would prefer services to be led by: There was a tie between "the rabbi and an ordained Reform cantor" and "the Rabbi and CBI Congregants." Second place (not that far behind) went to "the rabbi and a songleader/musical soloist." Fewer people responded that they would like an ordained Conservative cantor.

Question 5: I found the majority of the rabbi's sermons **this year to be:** 5 people responded "not political enough" and 3 responded "too political." The overwhelming majority were pleased with the message and length of each sermon. (Phew!)

(See FROM THE RABBI on page 2)



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar

Volume 18. Number 2 November/December 2013 Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5774

The Shul Shofar is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. As of Janaury 2013, it is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregationmembers. Non-members mav subscribe Advertising space (business \$35/year. card size) is available; contact the synagogue office for pricing information.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the Jan./Feb. issue is DECEMBER 12TH. Please call the office at 733-8890 for more

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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Visit our website at www.bethisraelbellingham.org

Beth Israel is a member congregation of:



A Message from the President

Last month the newly formed Fundraising Committee organized an open house at our New Synagogue site. This event was organized to give all our congregants a first-hand opportunity to visit their future home. Despite heavy rains and wind, over 150 folks turned up to see the almost completed building shell.

I was deeply touched by the excitement that I saw from folks taking the personal tours enthusiastically offered by members of the New Synagogue Task Force, Board members and Capital Campaign Committee. Most folks seemed awestruck by the progress that had been made on this building over the past year.

I truly believe that this project, which many thought was unachievable, seemed very real for the first time. You could get a clear sense of the spaciousness of this structure and could now envision what Synagogue life will be like once we move in. This building and its surrounding campus will truly become a "mecca" for Jewish Life in Northwest Washington.

This new synagogue provides a symbol of our ability, desire and commitment to make the Beth Israel community and our local Jewish community a great place. Thousands of hours have gone into planning our new home. The current members of our New Synagogue Task Force, Capital Campaign Committee, Fundraising Committee, and Grant Writing Committee have spent much of their free time working to raise money and build the building. Dozens of other volunteers over the past 20 years have put in just as much time, if not more. Many of these folks are no longer active in this effort or have moved away, but they were critical in making this dream a reality.

Over 175 families have given monetary contributions to raise over \$4 million for our new home. These contributions range from under \$500 to over \$1,000,000. 15 families have donated \$50,000 or more towards this project. Many families have donated multiple times. Each and every donation of any amount is important and helps us achieve our goal of finishing the building.

Even though there are some who have given large sums of money, there are scores

of congregants who have given regularly and generously to the best of their ability or

(See PRESIDENT on page 9)

From the Rabbi (Continued from page 1)

Question 6: I found the balance of traditional music/prayers and contemporary music/prayers: 55% answered "too contemporary" and 42% answered "just right."

Question 7: How do you feel about learning new melodies? 48% prefer singing familiar melodies and 52% are either "somewhat" or "very open" to learning new melodies.

Question 8: What have you found most personally meaningful about services you have attended in the past? In no specific order, the following were the most frequent fill-in responses: sermons, music, time to reflect, participation, being w/family, instruments, singing, congregational participation, blend of contemporary and traditional music, relevance to life, thoughtful readings.

Question 9: What have you found most frustrating/troubling about services you have attended in the past? In no specific order, the following were the most frequent fill-in responses: A musical performance from the bima, unfamiliar music, too much Hebrew, too much "feel good" music, lack of seriousness, political sermons, use of outside people, a choir.

Ouestion 10: I am: 65% of the respondents were female: 31% were male. (Some did not fill in a box.) Of those that answered this question, the overwhelming majority are 56-70 years old. 60 People identify as being a Reform Jew and 16 identify as being a Conservative Jew.

So now what? Where do we go from here? As you can clearly see, our community is pretty diverse in many regards. My ultimate goal is to provide you with a meaningful High Holy Day experience, but I know that what might be fulfilling to one person will have the opposite affect on another. With the help of a new Ritual Committee, along with the Religious Practice Leadership Committee, I will do my very best to accommodate our many needs. While much of the onus is on me, we all have a part in creating a meaningful High Holy Day experience. If something does not work for you, focus on what does work. Meditate on something else. Close your machzor, tune me out and pray from your heart. Be an active pray-er. Prepare for the High Holy Days before you enter our sacred space. As your rabbi, I will help you do just that.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions. If anything is on your mind, please call me or schedule an appointment (I always have lots of dark chocolate in my office). May this year continue to be one filled with blessings, gratitude, and sweetness for you and your family.

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

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

** Synagogue Special Funds:

Camp Scholarship/Youth Activities Care Committee

Rabbi's **D**iscretionary Fund

Rabbi Gartner Scholarship Fund General Fund Max Glass Library Fund New Synagogue (AKA Building) Fund NFTY Fund * Rabbi's Professional Development Fund * Religious School Tuition Fund

~ Special Fund Donations ~

— Care Committee —

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

⇒ Roy Shankman, on the loss of his uncle, Alfred Steinmetz

From: Nancy Lloyd

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Debbie Raas - Get Well Wishes
 From: Nancy Lloyd

- Camp Scholarship Fund -

IN HONOR OF:

From: Nancy Lloyd

Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

★ Mary Somerville - Mazel Tov on her 17 years at Congregation Beth Israel From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

- General Fund -

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

⇒ Barbara Boothby and Jake Lebovich, on the loss of beloved husband and father, Joe Lebovich

From: Lee Shapiro

— Rabbi's Discretionary Fund —

IN APPRECIATION TO:

From: Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

☆ Rabbi Joshua Samuels

From: Faye Gordon Samuels (Portland)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund —

IN HONOR OF:

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels

— Religious School Fund —

IN HONOR OF:

- New Synagogue Fund -

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

From: Frank & Adrienne Champagne

Nancy & Don Davis Corinne Gimbel-Levine

Karen Sloss

Richard Widerkehr

Barbara Boothby and Jake Lebovich, on the loss of beloved husband and father. Joe Lebovich

From: Frank & Adrienne Champagne

Nancy & Don Davis Corinne Gimbel-Levine Cliff & Andrea Haas Rick & Tracey Levine

Dan & Debbie Raas

Karen Sloss Richard Widerkehr

Nora and Nadia Mazonson, on the loss of beloved husband and father, Alan Mazonson

From: Rick & Tracey Levine Karen Sloss

- New Synagogue Fund -

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

From: Corinne Gimbel-Levine

IN MEMORIAM:

* New fund

From: Sharon Fierstadt (1000 Oaks) Mark Holzband (B'ham)

IN HONOR OF:

n: Nancy & Don Davis Dan & Debbie Raas

From: Anne Brown

From: Shelley Wolfman

♯ Esther Faber

★ Martha Greenstone
 From: Idalina Trank

IN APPRECIATION TO:

☆ Katie Edelstein - thank you **From:** *Nancy Lloyd*

books!
From: Nancy Lloyd

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Sylviane Levy-Boyd (Arcata CA) Aviva Weinstein, who donated her tzedakah box collection

~ SPECIAL THANKS ~

I want to thank and honor the congregation for their generous and unfailing support of me and of Keith's family. I am truly grateful that you have accepted and embraced us at this painful time. ~ Roby Blecker

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

Program(In transition)Religious SchoolDeborah Oksenberg" Co-chairRebecca OrloffScholarshipEmil HechtScrip ProgramJoan WayneSocial ActionDebbie RaasUniversity LiaisonSabrina Freeman" Co-chairMarcia Lippman

Membership Committee ~ Rita Spitzer & Ann Suloway

Wow — September and October were very busy months for our committee! We were pleased to be able once again to host the Rosh Hashanah Oneg. A big thanks goes to everyone who helped make this event so successful. This was also our first time using the new "paperless" check-in system for the High Holy Day services for our members, and we received very good feedback. It was very special for us to greet and meet all those who came to High Holy Day services.

We are currently working on making a few minor changes to our membership application that we hope to roll out soon. Also, we will be updating the Professional Services Directory; watch for more information which should be out in the January/February Shofar.

 ${f T}$ he Membership Committee meets on the first Monday of each month.

Many new families have joined our community recently (see below). Please be sure to say hello and get to know these new members — and remember to wear your name tag!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

- Meredith & Yaniv Attar and son Jonah, age 3
- Perry Davids
- Dr. Alan and Mrs. Susan Kendal
- Drs. Armando & Diana Lindner
- Leah Lippman and daughter Nali Lippman Schneider, age 6
- Ruth & Jack Schneider
- Bruce & Sharyn Stern

~ NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS ~

Susan Jav Miriam Schwartz Rita Spitzer David Ziegler Ian Boarnet Anita Mever Lev Shuster Isaac Schapiro Svlvan Weinstein Elinor Hall Raphael Schapiro Tamar Clarke Aaron Weiss Shoshana Schapiro Ieffrev Zucker Steve James Kristan Brennan Karen Katz Rob Grossman Ellie Greenberg Floyd King Jaime Korner Jane Relin Judy Soicher Stephanie Korn Nancy Lloyd Orion Dixon Wendy Schwartz Bonnie Stone Priscilla Feld Jakob Garfinkle Jay Wolfman Sarah Witte Rebecca Garfinkle

~ DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS ~

Rebecca Oliver Rory Verkh-Haskell Cinda Zemel Alvssa Diller Eli Brennan David Miller Noam Richmond Anna Booker Michelle Anderson Trisha Adelstein Corinne Gimbel-Levine Philip Buri Marvin Wavne Mark Greenberg Julie Siegfried Christine Goodman Maya Taranow Shawn Clarke Cathie Diller Sheldon Pravda



Trees for Israel

In Loving Memory of .. Golden Larsen

From: Cinda & Stuart Zemel

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 Honor of ...

Isaac Schapiro's Bar Mitzvah Raphael Schapiro's Bar Mitzvah Shoshana Schapiro's Bat Mitzvah

From: Martha Greenstone



Sunday, December 1 12:00 - 3:00 PM Squalicum Boathouse, Zuanich Point Park

Celebrate with menorah lighting, dreidle spinning, holiday crafts, singing, pizza, latkes, jelly donuts, and more.

All Congregants Welcome!



Happy Anniversary

Lisa & Chris Balton (# 27) Sarah & Norman DesRosiers (#14) Mark & Kathy Greenberg (# 18) Shelly & Elinor Pravda (# 32) George & Fay Farkas (# 17) Cliff & Andrea Haas (# 31) Nancy Steiger & Jackson Helsloot (# **36**) *Floyd King & Leigh Squires (#11)* Daniel & Cynthia Roling (# 13) Stuart & Judy Berman (# 39) Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld (# 33) Jeff & Amy Margolis (# 51) Ruth & Lynn Shuster (# 46) Sue&Hans-RudolfGuenter-Schlesinger (29) Lou & Marcia Lippman (#48) *Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti (# 37)* Sagit & Alex Hall (# 10) Jesse & Nicky Naiman (# 9) Armando & Diana Lindner (#48) Joan & Marvin Wayne (# 42) *Tracy & Cathie Diller* (# **16**)

~ In Thanks ~

Dear Friends.

Your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards and wonderful meals have been greatly appreciated by the both of us. With this help from our Beth Israel family, our road to recovery, though not completed, has been made easier.

~ Bonnie & Alan Stone

Shabbat at Home

During my Rosh Hashanah morning sermon I discussed how "Relational Judaism" can positively impact nearly every thing we do at Beth Israel. The main message of this approach to Jewish living is, "It's all about relationships." Enjoying a meal together is one way that we can develop stronger bonds within our community. A shared meal combines both nourishment and connection. Each week we have an opportunity to do just this at the Shabbat table.

Each 5th Friday of the month will be a Shabbat at Home evening. Shabbat is really a home observance, so let's bring the experience of Shabbat to our homes. Invite friends, neighbors, and CBI congregants to a relaxing Shabbat dinner. Use your nicest dishes; light the candles; recite the kiddush; sing the motzi;

(See Shabbat on page 6)

B'nei Mitzvah

and Raphael Shoshana Isaac, **Schapiro** will be called to the Torah as B'nei Mitzvah on November 16, 2013.

They are the children of John and Melissa Schapiro.



and he enjoys football and hanging out with friends. His mitzvah project was helping younger children play sports at the Boys and Girls Club.

◄ Raphael is a 7th-grader at

Fairhaven Middle School, where he plays violin in orchestra, is on the school track team, and will play football in the spring. His favorite subjects are math

and language arts, and he enjoys reading, sports and hanging out with friends. His mitzvah project was helping kids play sports at the Boys and Girls Club.



⋖ Shoshana is a 7th-grader at Fairhaven Middle School, where she plays violin in orchestra and is on the school's gymnastics team. Her favorite subject is language arts, and she likes reading, swimming

hanging out with friends. Her mitzvah project was volunteering at a community garden for Northwest Youth Services.

Please join us in celebrating this *simcha*:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE November 15, 2013 at 6:15 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE November 16, 2013 at 10:00 AM

Social Action Committee

Election Day

Your ballot has been mailed - please be sure to vote before or on Tuesday, November 5.



Obamacare Speaker

On Sunday, November 17, the Social Action Committee will host Elya Moore, the Deputy Director of Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) to speak about the Affordable Care Act at 10:15 am in the sanctuary during Religious School. We urge everyone to come learn about this program. especially invite those with adult or college-age children, and those in need of insurance. Feel free to bring friends and neighbors who may have questions. The presentation will take about an hour, and there will be time for your questions.

WAHA is a Bellingham-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting access to health care services for all members of our community.

Womencare Thanksgiving

Every November for many, many years Beth Israel has donated all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal to Womencare, a shelter for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. We supply the ingredients and the residents prepare a meal for themselves and their kids.



There will be a list of needed ingredients posted at the synagogue and also on the Beth Israel website. Please sign up for the item you want to bring on the list posted above our collection baskets outside the Social Hall, or call the CBI office and Mary will put your name on the list (and ensure we don't have any duplications). We also collect money for scrip, which is given to Womencare to purchase a turkey and fund other celebrations at the shelter. Please make checks payable to **Debbie Raas**, who will buy the scrip. All food must be at the synagogue, in the collection baskets (non-perishable items) or labeled "Womencare" in the refrigerator or freezer, by noon on Sunday, November 24. We can't accept any donations after this date.

December Baby Food / Formula Drive

While many people donate to the Bellingham Food Bank at this time of year, most of the food is for adults and school-age children. But our youngest community members also are hungry! We are doing a special drive for baby food and formula during **December**, and you may drop off donations to our baskets throughout the month.

O: What Has Four Wheels and Feathers?

A: A pillow "drive" (OK, we were kidding about the wheels, and foam, cotton or other filling is acceptable). The YWCA of Bellingham houses about 90 women a year in its emergency and transitional housing programs, and most arrive without their own bedding. These women are often victims of domestic violence or in recovery from mental illness or addiction; one third are over the age of 55. We are asking for donations of **NEW** pillows for these residents, or a check made out to the YWCA, to be dropped off at Beth Israel.

Severe Weather Shelters

Interfaith Coalition is getting ready to open its two severe weather shelters when the coldest days of winter arrive. There will a training in early December for volunteers who would like to staff these shelters. Watch your weekly email for more information on how you can get involved.



Hats for the Homeless

For some time we have held a sewing party on Christmas Day to make hats for the homeless. Participation has dwindled down to a tiny crew over the past few years, so this year we urge you to have a hat-making party of your own. We will collect your hats after January 1st and give them to CAST to distribute to the homeless. If you don't sew or knit, please feel free to donate hats you have purchased.

Many Thanks!

You donated 533 pounds of food to the Food Bank during the High Holy Day drive, boxes of Books for Prisoners, and lots of coats for Interfaith Coalitions' Special thanks go to Linda Blackwell and Emily Weiner for Coat Drive. collecting and delivering the High Holy Day food donations.



Religious School News and Notes

SUPER NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The Religious School year is off to a great start! Over the High Holy Days, our students reflected on the past year and ushered in the new one by creating beautiful new year's cards, decorating the sukkah, and witnessing the unrolling of the Torah scroll on Simchat Torah. The new students were consecrated in a lovely ceremony, and the greater community joined in for our annual hike. On our first Shabbaton of the year on October 19, parents and children came together to explore how middot – Jewish values – can enrich our daily lives. Special thanks go to Isaac Konikoff and the Brotherhood for hosting a delicious pancake breakfast on our first day of school!

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES

Please join us for our upcoming Family Shabbat services on Friday, November 1, featuring the Sixth Grade class, and on Friday, **December 6**, featuring our Fifth Graders. Services will commence at 6:15 PM and be followed by a vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner in the Social Hall. Please make sure that all potluck items do not contain nut products of any kind.



HANUKKAH'S COMING — GET READY TO PARTY!

Hanukkah is approaching quickly (in fact, the first day falls on Thanksgiving!), and we have a fantastic party planned at the Squalicum Boathouse in Zuanich Point Park (2600 Harbor Loop). Please join us on **Sunday**, **December 1** from noon to 3 PM. This fun



event will have great activities for all and delicious food. Bring your friends and family!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Religious School Committee meetings will be held on Sunday, November 17 and Sunday, December 15 in the Social Hall following the t'filah service. All religious school parents are welcome to attend. For more information, contact committee chairs Deborah Oksenberg or Rebecca Oliver.



Hillel of WWU is a place where Jewish college student can come together and experience this exciting time in their lives with each other. It is so important to have a space where Jewish students can feel comfortable with their history, their culture, and their religion.

This year we've had the exciting opportunity to have our very own Hillel House (shared with four Jewish students), and we have most of our events there, such as our potluck Shabbats and Café Hillel. Having our own space has been such a blessing, and we hope to sustain this situation for years to come. Eventually we'd love to have a bigger space for an office, more storage, and more room to fit our ever-growing membership.

This year at our first event, Sukkot, we had the highest attendance of any event for the past four years. We tried our best to fit all 60 students under the Sukkah, but we'll definitely have to build a bigger one next year! Our first Shabbat was a great evening. The new students were extremely grateful for a homemade meal, and we even did a little bit of speed dating, which was quite entertaining. Hillel has big plans for the rest of the year. We'll be doing a camping Shabbaton, visiting Vancouver, having our own Passover seder, and many more exciting adventures.

We at Hillel always appreciate Congregation Beth Israel's support and love being a part of your community. As we grow we hope to give back more to Beth Israel, to Bellingham, and to the greater Northwest community. We are small, but mighty, and are having an absolutely fantastic time.

Shabbat at Home (from page 5)

engage in conversation about your lives, the world around us, or anything that interests you. Observe Shabbat however you choose. There is no "right way" to do Shabbat. For some, it just might be lighting the candles and having a nice dinner. No one is grading you on how you celebrate this wonderful gift called Shabbat. (For those of you that would like to learn how to chant the typical blessings, check out our website for some instructional videos with transliterations.)

By spending Shabbat at home just a few times a year (November 29, January 31, May 30, and August 29) my family and I will get the opportunity to develop relationships with you outside of the synagogue walls. This is tremendously important to me.

If you would like to attend a Shabbat at Home dinner, please let the office know and we will try and connect you with a member that is hosting and has extra seats at his/her table.

Yism'chu v'malchut'cha shomrei Shabbat v'korei oneg. Those who keep Shabbat by calling it a delight will rejoice in Your realm.

Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Camp Scholarship Fund

~ Miriam 7.deric

Jewish camping experiences are an important part of growing and sustaining Jewish identity as our young people mature into adulthood. According to a recent study, as adults, campers are 26% more likely to be members of a synagogue.

Several years ago the CBI Camp Schol**arship Fund** was started with seed money from Beth Israel Sisterhood. Donations from individuals and proceeds from special events have sustained the fund ever since.

Many families that apply for CBI "camperships" have also been able to seek and receive additional funds from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. However, due to a recent policy change the Federation will no longer give assistance to children seeking to attend overnight camp, focusing instead on funding day camp attendance only. This is unfortunate, since it is geographically unfeasible for our children to take advantage of Jewish Day Camps in the Seattle area, and the loss of support for overnight camping will place an additional financial burden on many of our families.

It is more important than ever to support our Camp Scholarship Fund! This past year we awarded scholarships to 10 children. Please consider making a donation to grow this fund and help secure its financial stability.

CONGREGATION BETH		ISRAEL	K	2013	CHESHVAN-KISLEV	ISLEV 5774
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 28 Cheshvan	2 29 Cheshvan Ki Tissa 8:30 AM Torah Study
					6:15 PM Family Service w/ 6th Grade Class and Kim Moskowitz Potluck dinner afferward	
3 30 Cheshvan	4 1 Kislev	5 2 Kislev	6 3 Kislev	7 4 Kislev	8 5 Kislev	9 6 Kislev
10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School 1-3 PM Jewish Writing Grp		ELECTION DAY REMEMBER TO VOTE! ←				9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
Adult Education class DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS	7 PM - Membership Comm. @ A. Brown's		4:15 PM - Hebrew School	7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	7:30PM Shabbat Service 6-6:45 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class	6-6:45 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class
10 7 Kislev	11 8 Kislev	12 9 Kislev	13 10 Kislev	14 11 Kislev	15 12 Kislev	16 13 Kislev
NO Sunday School 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Group @ J. Wayne's 3 PM -Text Study, Soc. Hall					68 4:13 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh	Vayishlach 10:00 AM Raphael, Shoshana & Isaac Schapiro B'nai Mitzvah
6-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class	6-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class VETERANS' DAY	6-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class 7 PM Board of Directors	4:15 PM - Hebrew School	7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	6:15PM Shabbat Service w/ Raphael, Shoshana & Isaac Schapiro	
17 14 Kislev 10 AM - 12 PM	18 15 Kislev	19 16 Kislev	20 17 Kislev	21 18 Kislev	22 19 Kislev	23 20 Kislev
Sunday School (Gan) 10:15 AM - Presentation on Affordable Care Act 1-3 PM Jewish Writing Grp		12 PM - Sisterhood Lunch Bunch @ Anne Brown's 1:30 PM - Stitchery Group @ Anne Brown's	4:15 PM - Hebrew School			9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
Adult Education class			6 PM Post-Confirmation Religious School class	7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	
24 21 Kislev	25 22 Kislev	26 23 Kislev	27 24 Kislev	28 25 Kislev	29 26 Kislev	30 27 Kislev
10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School	12 PM - Golden Girls			Beth Israel office closed		9:30 AM Torah Study
3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall	@ Skylark's Hidden Café		NO Hebrew School	THANKSGIVING		
					NO Shabbat Service	
			HANUKKAH EVE	1st DAY of HANUKKAH	2 nd DAY of HANUKKAH	3" DAY of HANUKKAH

CONGREGATION BETH	TION BETH IS	ISRAEL	DECEMBER 2013	2013	KISLEV - TI	 TEVET 5774
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 AM - 12 PM 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (Gan) 12-3PM RS Hanukkah Party	2 29 Kislev	3 30 Kislev	4 1 Tevet	5 2 Tevet	3 Tevet	7 4 Tevet Vayigash 9:30 AM Torah Study
@Squalicum Boathouse 1-3 PM Jewish Writing Adult Education class			4:15 PM - Hebrew School	7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	6:15 PM Family Service w/ 5th Grade Class and Kim Moskowitz	
4th DAY of HANUKKAH	5th DAY of HANUKKAH	6th DAY of HANUKKAH	7th DAY of HANUKKAH	8th DAY of HANUKKAH	Potluck dinner afterward	
S 5 Tevet	9 6 Tevet	10 7 Tevet	11 8 Tevet	12 9 Tevet	13 10 Tevet	14 11 Tevet
Sunday School				SHOFAR DEADLINE		10:30 AM Shabbat Service
3 PM -Text Study, Soc. Hall	7 PM - Membership Comm.		4;15 PM - Hebrew School	(For Jan/Feb 2014)	7:30pm Shabbat Service	
	@ A. Brown's	7 PM Board of Directors				
15 12 Tevet	16 13 Tevet	17 14 Tevet	18 15 Tevet	19 16 Tevet	20 17 Tevet	21 18 Tevet
10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (Gan) 1-3 PM Jewish Writing Grp Adult Education class		12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Anne Brown's 1:30 PM - Stitchery Group @ Anne Brown's	4:15 PM - Hebrew School		10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 -	9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
2 PM - Sisterhood Book Group @ B. Fisher's			6 PM Post-Confirmation Religious School class	7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service w/ Eve Smason-Marcus	
22 19 Tevet	23 ²⁰ Tevet	24 21 Tevet	25 22 Tevet	26 23 Tevet	27 24 Tevet	28 25 Tevet
NO Sunday School 3 PM -Text Study, Soc. Hall			NO Hebrew School		7:30PM Shabbat Service	9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
29 26 Tevet	30 27 Tevet	31 28 Tevet				
NO Sunday School 1-3 PM Jewish Writing Grp Adult Education class	12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café					

President's Message (from pg 2)

means. For some, giving \$100 is just as big of a stretch as others giving \$10,000. This includes families with young kids, or putting their kids through college and saving for retirement.

There are numerous examples of folks giving selflessly to make this building a reality. They range from the family that donated all the labor costs for constructing the foundation and building shell (exterior including walls and roof) to those that have given \$10 per month over several years. This building will belong to all of us and we all need to take part in helping in this effort. When it is built, it will be a home that we all share equally.

After taking the tour at the open house, a congregant expressed frustration at our struggles to collect funds to winterize the building, put up siding and to begin working on the building's interior. This person committed to match the pledges of all new donations until \$50,000 in new funds is collected from others. This act of matching will result in bringing in double the amount of this personal donation. This is the kind of commitment that will make completion of this project a reality.

It is a gift for me to be working with all of you who believe in this building becoming a reality. Your commitment and positive attitude provides a role model for me and for others. I'd like to thank each and every person who has contributed his or her time and money to get our new Synagogue to this stage.

Please join me as we begin the rest of the journey to finish the building and to occupy and enjoy our new home.

Mitch Press

Looking Ahead to Pesach



Back by popular demand — Beth Israel's Community Seder for the Second Night of Pesach!

Mark your calendar now for **Tuesday**. April 15, 2014 and plan to enjoy an evening with your family and friends.

More details to come in the January/ February Shofar and on the website. Stay tuned...



New Building: Legacy Path to the Future



On November 13, 2013, Congregation Beth Israel will roll out a new and meaningful opportunity for you to take part in the celebration of a lifetime building the new Beth Israel Synagogue by placing your name and names of your loved ones on a brick in the Legacy Path 🍱 to the Future.

The Legacy Path to the Future brick walkway will surround the new synagogue building and will serve as a legacy of what has been, and what can be, because of your support. In recognition of a donation, a name or names will be inscribed on a brick commemorating participation in building Beth Israel's new synagogue. Two levels of participation will be offered:

\$250 donation: 4" x 8" brick, three lines, 15 spaces per line \$500 donation: 8" x 8" brick, six lines, 15 spaces per line A beautiful certificate will be sent to the donor or to the donor's designee.

Your participation in this program will be an opportunity to show your continued support of the new synagogue in addition to your pledge or donation already made. Become a part of this extraordinary celebration and join the Congregation Beth Israel community as we commemorate the past and pave the path to tomorrow. (More details to follow).

Adult Education (continued from page 1)

☼ Jewish Writing Group Sundays 1 - 3:30 PM

6 sessions: Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 1, 15, 29; Jan. 5

Instructor: Linda Hirsh

Enrollment: Limited to 5 people

This creative writing havurah welcomes writers at all levels, from novice to published author. This is a non-critique group. Each writer will volunteer prompts to get participants started in writing spontaneous prose. The refined results may be used for readings, for the CBI website or for possible readings at services. There is no fee for this course.

Instructor: Mark Packer

Join biblical text enthusiast Mark Packer for a close examination of the Hebrew Bible. You will delve into what the text appears to be communicating and how it goes about communicating through choice of style, vocabulary and grammar. No knowledge of Hebrew is required. There is no fee for this course.

Diving Room Learning Thursdays 7 - 8:15 PM (beginning February 2014) □ **Instructor**: Rabbi Joshua Samuels

What Jewish topic do yu want to learn about or discuss? What text have you always wanted to explore but never had the opportunity? What current Jewish issue is on your mind?

With Living Room Learning you open up your home to a small group (around 8) of friends and neighbors, come up with a Jewish topic and Rabbi Samuels will bring the materials to study. We can sit around your living room noshing on sweets, and discuss any number of Jewish topics that pique your group's interest. Please schedule all dates with Rabi Samuels. There is no course fee.



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.

🌣 In mid-October, **Jonathan Spitzer** (son of **Steve & Rita Spitzer**), led an expedition trip to Ama Dablam, one of the most famous peaks in the Nepal region. The mountain has an elevation of over 22,000 feet.

YAHRZEITS

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Melvin Goldberger	November	2
Esther Mazur	November	2
Sam Moskowitz	November	2
Bruce Phillips	November	2
Max Mazonson	November	3
Janet Camp	November	4
Isaac Israel Krupot	November	4
Isaac Israel Krupot Julian Lewis	November November	4
_		
Julian Lewis	November	
Julian Lewis Anna Mae Baker	November November	

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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Bernard Shuster	November 9
Irma Stone	November 10
Lanny "Bip" Sokol	November 11
Zelda Turovitz	November 11
Florence Fenichel	November 13
Louis Groper	November 13
Lazar Emanuel	November 14
Nathan Thal	November 14
Burton Glazer	November 15
Nathan P. Schuman	November 15

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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Pam Champagne	November 16
Elka Rudolf	November 16
Henry David Weill	November 16
Abraham A. Widerkehr	November 17
Peggy Korner	November 18
Samuel M. Pravda	November 19
Alfred Saul	November 19
David Schuman	November 19
David Dubonsky	November 20
Irmgard K. McNulty	November 20
Sylvia Sulkin	November 20
Elaine Cohn	November 21
Sanford Thal	November 21
Regina Gartner	November 22
Richard Gartner	November 22

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Helen Bunks	November 23
Otto Korneck	November 23
Fred Damski	November 24
Joseph Koplowitz	November 24
Bud Robinson	November 25
David Rosenberg	November 25
Paula Brown	November 26
Rose Wick Eigen	November 26
John Douglas Freema	November 26
Diane Lewis	November 26
Jack Sheinkopf	November 26
Frances Feiger	November 27
Henry Frank	November 27
Rachel Jaffe	November 27
John Lester	November 28
Nick Schira	November 28
Elly Kraus	November 28
Lucille Rest	November 29

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 (WILL BE READ ON NOVEMBER 22)

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Reisel Gartner	November 30
Hannah Glass	November 30
Simon Levitan	November 30
David Mendelsohn	November 30
Esther Olshen	November 30
David Shavelson	December 2
Ida Zderic	December 3
Edith Jensen	December 4
Sarah Patinkin	December 4
George Shaw	December 6

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Victor Geretz	December 7
Max Altose	December 8
Richard Bloomfield	December 8
Ben Gordon	December 8
Benjamin David Glazer	December 9
Marion Relin	December 9
Barry Zell	December 10
John J. Read	December 11
Mona Helms	December 12
Lois Looney	December 12

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Cecile R. Gordon	December 14
Morris Tall	December 14
Regina Tein	December 14
Alice Behrstock	December 15
George Garmo	December 15
Richard Kite	December 15
Jacob Pecarsky	December 15
Ivan Senzon	December 15
Pearl Turovitz	December 17
Marvin Richmond	December 18
Solomon Thal	December 19
Jospeh Soode	December 20
Henry Stern	December 20
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Abraham Sanft	December 21
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	December 21
Charles A. Wolfson	December 21
Samuel Glazer	December 22
Jerry Roberts	December 22
Morris M. Stone	December 23
Hannah L. Tall	December 23
Ben Thal	December 23
Irwin Wapner	December 23
Katherine Zucker	December 23
Aimee Lewis	December 24
Anna Winefield Fox	December 25
Jack Stein	December 25
Barney Cohn	December 27
Bette Levy	December 27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

FRIDAT, DECEIVED	ER Z/	
Ruth Robinson	December	28
Nicole Russell	December	28
Samuel Altose	December	31
George Bikman	January	1
Marion Glassman	January	1
Celia Morton	January	1
Rudolf Reitz	January	1
Charles Wilner	January	1
Shirley Spiegel Jacobson	January	2
Rachel Siegfried	January	2
Philip Studen	January	2
Ruth Jacobson	January	3

ഴ HADASSAH CARDS 🗞

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- *Noemi Ban, on receiving an honorary Doctorate from WWU
- 券Ean Chalfie, on his Bar Mitzvah
- *Aaron and Lilly Weiss, for their 70th Wedding Anniversary

From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

CONDOLENCES TO:

*Barbara Boothby and Jake Lebovich, on the loss of her husband and his father, Joe Lebovich

From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

CONDOLENCES TO:

- *Steven Schacter (Vancouver, BC), on the loss of his mother
 - From: Bonnie & Alan Stone
- *Michelle Goldberg (Seattle), on the loss of her best friend

From: Nancy Lichter

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO:

❖ Sarann Donegan- Happy 75th Birthday
 From: Esther Faber
 Linda Hirsh
 Bonnie Stone

~ In Memoriam ~

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

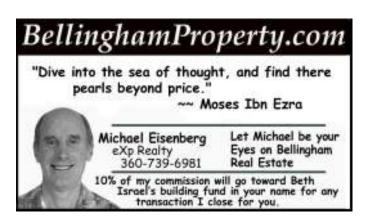
Leila Shavelson, on the loss of her sister, **Norma Glassman,** who passed away on September 25, 2013

Jerry Eisner, on the loss of his mother, Gladys Rose Eisner, who passed away on October 14, 2013

Zichronam l'vrachah ~ May their memory be for a blessing. Businesses that advertise in <u>The Shul Shofar</u> 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.

















THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel 2200 Broadway Bellingham, Washington 98225



Schedule of Services

Friday, November 1st **6:15 pm** Shabbat family service with leadership from Religious School 6th Graders and music from Kim Moskowitz; potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, November 2nd 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, November 8th 7:30 pm - Shabbat evening service Saturday, November 9th

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

Friday, November 15th

- 5:30 pm Pre-service nosh
- 6:15 pm Shabbat evening service with leadership from Isaac, Raphael & Shoshana Schapiro

Saturday, November 16

B'nei Mitzvah of Isaac, Raphael & Shoshana Schapiro

Friday, November 22nd 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service with vocal ensemble Ma'ayan Shir

Saturday, September 23'

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

Friday, November 29th 6:15 pm NO SHABBAT SERVICE Saturday, November 30th 9:30 am Torah Study

Friday, December 6th 6:15 pm Shabbat family service with leadership from Religious School 5th Graders and music from Kim Moskowitz; potluck dinner* afterward **Saturday, December 7**th **9:30 am** Torah Study

Friday, December 13th 7:30 pm - Shabbat evening service Saturday, December 14th

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

Friday, December 20th

- 5:30 pm Pre-service nosh
- 6:15 pm Shabbat evening service; musical leadership from Eve Smason-Marcus

Saturday, December 21^s

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

Friday, December 27th 7:30 pm Shabbat evening service with vocal ensemble Ma'ayan Shir **Saturday, December 28**th

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



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