

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 19, NO. 3 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Early Jewish merchants focus of MOHAI exhibit

Group trip set for January 11

Our newly formed Programming Team is organizing a group trip to Seattle, where the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), is exhibiting "Shalom! Open for Business: Tales of Jewish Merchants in Washington State." The group trip will be Jan. 11, 2015 (the exhibit will be on display through January 20, 2015)

Museum admission is \$14 per person, for groups of 10 or more (children 14 and younger are free!). A minimum of 10 adults are needed to make this event happen.

Teens are welcome to come! We will be arranging carpooling, leaving Bellingham at about 10 a.m. Please contact the office if you'd like to be part of this trip, and if you'd like to carpool.

For more information about the museum, which is located at 860 Terry Ave. N., off Westlake, go to www.mohai.org



Here's a description of the exhibit (we'll be able to see the other exhibits as well):

"From the mid-19th century through the early-20th century, Jewish immigrants from Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean arrived in Washington state. Many left their homelands to escape religious persecution, political turmoil or military conscription. Isolated from each other by the diversity of their origins, customs and languages, their common faith provided the

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FROM THE RABBI

'Serial' & Torah

In early December I discovered the most popular podcast of all time — "Serial." I was hooked instantly



after listening to the first episode. Over the next few weeks I binge listened every moment I had to myself. For those of you who have not checked it out, "Serial" is

a podcast from the creators of "This American Life." Over 12 episodes we follow one journalist's 15-month investigation of a 1999 murder case. What drew me so much into Sarah Koenig's reporting was her persistence in turning over every shred of evidence again and again, in the hopes of getting closer to the truth. The minute she (or the listener) believed the suspect would not have committed the crime, doubt begins to set in and, coupled with new evidence, her (and our) position flip flops. And this goes back the other way time and time again.

Koenig and the millions of listeners are simply seeking the truth. Yet, it evades us and we are left to come to our own conclusions.

Being part of the "Serial" experience (and a rabbi), I could not help but think of the connections to Torah. In *Pirke Avot* (*Ethics of our Fathers*) 5:26, the text states, "[Yohanan] ben Bag Bag says: Turn it and turn it for everything is in it.

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From the President ...

New building will enable us to serve diverse congregation

One of the things I am most fond of during my tenure as president of Beth Israel has been meeting and getting to know many of you — the people who make up the CBI community and family. I especially love learning about what has brought people to Bellingham and Beth Israel. Many of you (including myself) came from other parts of the country and have moved here either for a job or for the incredible lifestyle that this area offers. Some of you grew up here and have always called Bellingham home. This is a diverse community made up of folks from all walks of life and backgrounds. Some people volunteer with what precious time they have and others—actually everyone—supports the community in other ways.

It is amazing to be surrounded by such a diverse group of individuals. It is easy to forget how truly varied we all are in our daily lives and even with regard to our Jewish practices. Despite the many differences we might have, we pride

ourselves here at Beth Israel in being as inclusive as possible and in offering programming that will speak to each member in a meaningful way. It is only through your voluntary contributions that we can operate in such a way. Thank you very much for all that you do to help promote Jewish life here in Bellingham.

Another thing I have loved about being president is the opportunity to witness and experience much of what we do here. The completion of our new synagogue has been one of my top priorities. I truly hope that at this time next year we can announce our success in raising the funds needed to gain an occupancy permit to our new home on San Juan Blvd. This home, when complete, will totally reshape the way we meet all of our diverse needs. This will serve as a meeting place for group activities and will be physically accessible to all.

As this calendar year comes to a close I am thankful for all we have accomplished and am hopeful for our congregation's future. All of this would not be possible without you. Here's to a joyful and prosperous 2015.

— Mitch Press

Commemorate special occasions with inscribed Legacy Path brick

In celebration of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, imagine the name of your son or daughter on a brick on the Legacy Path to the Future surrounding the new synagogue. Your pride in your child's accomplishments will be remembered forever.

For a donation of \$500, your child's name can be inscribed in the following manner:

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HIS OR HER NAME
DATE OF BAR (OR BAT) MITZVAH
BY RABBI SAMUELS**

All you have to do is let the office know that you would like to have your son's or daughter's name included on a brick along with your method of payment, the details about his/her name and date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (note: if you're interested, payment plans are also available).

Now is the perfect time to donate a brick to take advantage of a matching fund that has been generously offered by an anonymous donor.

For questions, contact Katie Edelstein (360) 676-1799 or kedelstein49@comcast.net.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 19, Number 3
January/February 2015
Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5775

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. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$35/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the January/February issue is FEBRUARY 13. Call the office for more information.

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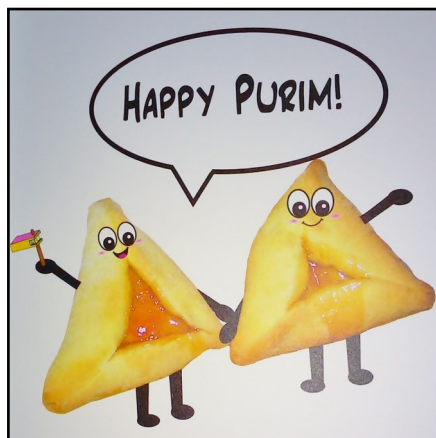
Share Purim cheer with *mishloach manot*

Watch your email for ordering instructions

We invite you to participate in the mitzvah of **Mishloach Manot** — sending food gifts to friends and family. Mishloach Manot is one of the four Mitzvot traditionally performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday and to create meaningful connection within our own community at the same time. Through this project, you can participate in the sending of a lovely gift bag to your friends and family that will be delivered during the week of Purim.

It's a mitzvah, it's fun and with CBI Religious School, it's easier than ever! Here's how it works:

For just \$3 per recipient, you can participate in the sending of a Purim gift bag to anyone on our membership list and Beth Israel staff. Every membership unit



on the list and staff will receive one gift bag, along with a Purim scroll that lists all the people who participated in their package. For example, if you are sent a Mishloach Manot bag from more than one individual, you will still receive only one bag, and all those people sending you the Mishloach Manot will be listed on the scroll. By making a generous dona-

tion of \$360 your name will be listed on every scroll. Our list has more than 200 names — this is a tremendous discount!

Members who do not live within our delivery area will receive a festive card wishing them a Happy Purim and noting those who are sending them greetings.

Although Beth Israel is handling all packaging and delivery, **HappyPurim.com** is handling our online ordering and credit card charges will be from HappyPurim.com. Please be assured that your email address and other personal information will not be shared with any other entity.

You will soon receive instructions by email on how to participate. Your email will include a personal log-in code.

Please keep your personal code and do not share it with anyone.

Should you have any questions or if you would like a paper order form, please contact Joan Wayne 676-8939 or jawayne2@yahoo.com

January 30 — Shabbat at Home by neighborhood

From Rabbi Joshua Samuels

In my Rosh Hashanah sermon ("Relational Judaism") from 2013, I stressed the importance of fostering relationships in our community. The most important function of CBI, aside from preserving and teaching Jewish traditions and educating the younger generations, is connecting people to people and families to families.

Following are excerpts from my sermon:

"When Shabbat lands on the 5th Friday of the month, I would like all of us to

celebrate by inviting friends and community members to our homes for a Shabbat meal. Let's bring the experience of Shabbat at temple to our homes. After all, Shabbat is primarily a home observance."

"A shared meal combines nourishment and connection. Once you have shared a meal with someone at your home, your relationship deepens immensely."

"In the weeks leading up to the specific Shabbat dinner, Mary and I will try to place you if you want a home to go to, and similarly, we will connect you with

people if you are hosting and looking for people to fill your table."

"Should there be a desire, I would welcome a lay-led service for these 5th Fridays."

The next Shabbat at Home is January 30. This time let's celebrate Shabbat by neighborhoods. If you would like to host and live in Columbia, South Hill, Edgemoor, Silver Beach, Samish, Sunnyland, Sudden Valley, Happy Valley, or any other, let us know and we will put the word out that your home is the one to go to.

Let's create community together.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, 647-7031

Building: Floyd King, 223-2538

Care: Sylvia Williams, 647-1670

Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, 676-8939

Membership: Rita Spitzer, 647-7065; Ann Suloway, 647-7031

New Synagogue Task Force: Warren

Rosenthal, 714-9244

Religious School: Rebecca Orloff, 306-8432; Samantha Konikoff, 734-2762

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825

Social Action: Debbie Raas, 676-1621; Linda Blackwell

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From the Religious School Committee ...

Creative events help families socialize, raise funds

The Religious School Committee is our parent association that supports the activities of the school, sponsors events and organizes parent participation.

BY SAMANTHA KONIKOFF AND
REBECCA ORLOFF, CO-CHAIRS

Happy 2015! We had such a blast at the Hanukkah party and are glad so many of you came out to celebrate. The party could not have happened without all the many volunteers who helped. Special thanks to Marcia Lippman, Sarah Witte and Perry Somers for all your hard work and dedication to making this party a success.

Amazon fundraiser

We have a new **fundraising strategy** for the new year — an advertising affiliation with **Amazon!** This program earns money for the school when shoppers make purchases after clicking on CBI's Amazon link. This link is right on the CBI website; shoppers can click on the Donate tab and pick the Amazon option. The RSC is grateful for all the Hanukkah business and looks forward to attracting many more purchases throughout the year. Check out the link and come back often!

Party series

Our **party fundraising series** continues with Rabbi Samuel's sushi rolling party just around the corner. These events are proving to be a fantastic way to raise



The Maccabees are on the scene during class presentations at the annual Hanukkah party Dec. 21, 2014. For a gallery of photos from the Beth Israel event, go to www.bethisraelbellingham.org

money for the Religious School while getting to know members of our community. We'd love to add new events for this spring, so please let Rebecca Orloff, rebecca.orloff@bethisraelbellingham.org or Samantha Konikoff, samantha.konikoff@bethisraelbellingham.org know if you would like to host one! New events will be announced in the weekly Temple E-News -- and registration is now online!

Purim Carnival

Purim will be here before you know it. The **Purim Carnival** is on **Sunday, March 8, 2015**, from 11 a.m. to 2 pm, so save the date. Volunteers are key to the suc-

cess of this event, so if you are interested in helping, please let Samantha or Rebecca know.

Committee meeting

Parents, please mark your calendars for the **next RSC meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 10:20 a.m.** Besides enjoying each other's company over bagels and coffee, we have important business to discuss, including Purim, Tu B'Shvat, and the status of our fundraisers. Plus, a New Synagogue Task Force member will be updating us on the new building — and answering your questions. See you there!

Jewish Merchants

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basis for a community — albeit not always a cohesive one.

In search of opportunities within a new frontier, they set up shop — and shops — to build better lives for their families. Wholesalers and retailers, these enterprising immigrants — most speaking little or no English — served the unique needs of the Jewish community and met the

commercial demands of a growing region.

Early Jewish merchants did everything from peddle fish at Pike Place Market to supply goods to Alaska gold prospectors. They made livings as butchers, bakers and luggage makers. They dealt in scrap metal and fine jewelry. They ran corner groceries, tailor shops and movie theaters. As generations passed, several of the once-modest family businesses have grown into companies of national and

international reputation.

This exhibit of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society features uplifting and universal tales of family triumph. They are intended to evoke a flavor for the people and a taste of the community.

The conclusion is yours to reach, but one point is certain: Jewish merchants have contributed successfully to the economic and cultural fabric of the state of Washington."

Building, fundraising moving ahead

New Synagogue Task Force building update

Work on our new building at 751 San Juan Boulevard is about to start up again soon!

Exterior Siding: Our contractor has finalized plans with the architect, and will order materials and install siding on the east, south and west walls. This will completely winterize the building shell. Funds for this project are in the bank.

Religious School entrance: We have finalized plans for the retaining walls and stairs at the northwest and southwest corners of the building. Funds for this project are in the bank. The entrance to the Religious School will be enhanced through the creative, functional, cost-effective design of the retaining walls and stairs. Completion of this project will allow visitors to walk safely around the building.

NSTF will focus on the **interior Fire Suppression System** and the **Electrical System** in the coming weeks.

Our goal is occupancy. Your generosity will allow us all to enter our new home soon. Questions? Please call. I would be happy to show you around.

— Warren Rosenthal, chair

Capital Campaign Million\$Match Update

Since Rosh Hashana, the Million\$ Match has received payments of more than \$168,000 and firm commitments of another \$171,000 for 2015, so we are one third of the way toward our goal of \$1 million in donations to the Building Fund by January 4, 2016!

A huge thank you is due to those who have spontaneously paid off pledges and/or just sent in money during the past few months. Likewise, much gratitude goes out to those who have responded with new commitments when approached by Capital Campaign volunteers. Such support lends a tremendous boost to the momentum and morale of the Campaign,

so “todah rabah.” Most of these recent commitments have come from about 30 families, both congregants and non-member friends of Beth Israel, many of whom have previously supported the project but also some who gave for the first time.

While this progress is encouraging, we can't lose sight of the need to raise a lot

more! For some people that means digging into savings or investments and giving in one or two installments. For others, a pledge needs to be paid out of income, over time. However, for the Million\$Match time is very limited — only 12 months remain. We therefore strongly encourage congregants to get on a

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The warehouse on Division Street was packed with items for the Raise the Roof sale Dec. 13-14, 2014. Leftover items were donated to charities..

RAISE THE ROOF SALE RAISES \$6,400

The Raise the Roof Estate-style sale was a huge success — we raised \$6,400 to put toward the Million\$Match — Finish Our Journey Home campaign. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped. Of note:

- David and Katie Edelstein provided use of their 2,000 square foot warehouse, plus donated lots of furniture to sell.
- The Fundraising Committee, including Katie Edelstein, Linda Blackwell, Sabrina Freeman and Vicki Jaffe, were involved in every stage of planning, gathering donations, assisting with organizing the items, helping on sale days and with clean up after.
- Frannie Erickson of Eartha Kitty's Estate Sales organized, displayed, and priced all donations, and was cashier. Her professional guidance was a tremendous help. She generously waived her commission.
- Floyd King, Rick Romito and Gary Lazarus made many trips to people's homes to pick up furniture. Floyd also loaded his van at the end and took leftover sale items to Goodwill.
- Victoria Mayers went above and beyond from gathering donations to cleaning up.
- Sylvia and John Williams for all your help, including taking children's items to the consignment store and the last load to Goodwill.

— Lynn Korner, Event Coordinator

Faces in our community

Mayers share love of world travel

By LINDA HIRSH

Gaby Mayers was born in India. He chortles at people who raise their eyebrows upon hearing that. They tell him they had no idea there were Jews in India.

Then he tells them, "and I went to school on my elephant!"

They also want to know whether their marriage was arranged, adds Victoria, a Sitka, Alaska, native and Gaby's wife of 29 years, chuckling with him.

Gaby is not surprised. He says people associate India with elephants, curries and the Taj Mahal, but not with Jews. Still, Jews are born and live in places all over the globe. The Mayers have visited synagogues in Brazil, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, even in villages near Bombay.

The Mayers' friend Rick Romito learned about Indian Jews upon meeting Gaby. He learned even more on a trip the Mayers led to Israel, where Gaby lived for ten years, Victoria for six.

"My eyes were saucers," Rick said. "It was a magical experience. (They) were so comfortable there and so excited to show us the history."

Gaby led a trip to Israel in 1995 with 15 students from Congregation Beth Israel's Sunday School. Victoria led two trips, one in 2000, another in 2006. The Mayers say that every Jewish person should visit Israel at least once in their lives and hopes their tours would inspire participants to visit Israel on their own.

Rick knows of Gaby's love for India and wishes he would lead a tour to that country, too.

Roots in India

The Mayers' Sudden Valley home, filled with the colors of Indian appliques, attests to a multicultural identity and involvement.

Gaby, 51, grew up in a quiet Bombay neighborhood where many Bollywood stars made their homes. He and his siblings were the only Jewish children; Jews did not gather in ghettos there.

Gaby's family attended one of the eight synagogues in town to celebrate



KATIE COMSTOCK PHOTO

Gaby and Victoria Mayers have called Bellingham home since 1991.

holidays and major life events, but observed Shabbat with dress up, dinner and candles at home. And his father, a car dealer, insisted that his five children marry within the religion.

Making aliyah

Gaby's mother wanted to immigrate to Israel. His father, at first reluctant, came to see it as a fresh start. As an aside, Victoria added: "the kids were getting ready to date, so that also might have convinced him."

They arrived in 1978. Gaby was 14.

"It was one rich country," Gaby said of his first impression of Israel. "Every single taxi was a Mercedes. In India, only the very rich drive them."

The family had to adjust to having no help to clean house. The children had to pitch in with chores. They all learned Hebrew together in an immersion course as they settled in Neve Ya'akov, a Jerusalem suburb.

Gaby said during the '50s and '60s, Israel recruited Jews over the world. Indian Jews "heeded the call." Many had few skills and were directed to small towns in

the Negev where they worked in factories and faced discrimination. Some actually wanted to return to their homeland. Gaby's family, arriving later, did not experience any such bias.

"Israel is a hub," he said. "I had friends from the United States, South Africa, English Rhodesia, all English speaking countries. We hung out together."

Now that they were surrounded by Jews, his father became even fussier, insisting that his children marry Jews from India. The result? The oldest, Samuel, married a woman from Russia, then Gaby married Victoria, who hails from Sitka, Alaska; then Sara and Jonathan married Iranians and Suzie, the youngest, married a Yemeni.

Love at first sight

For 11th and 12th grades, Gaby transferred to English language school, where he met Victoria, an exchange student. She recalls a dark-skinned, mustached teenager, wearing jeans, a blue military coat and boots sauntering out of the

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Capital Campaign

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monthly payment plan if that would make giving more manageable. **At \$150 per month your gift would amount to \$1,800 by the Match deadline!** Of course, donations will gladly be accepted after the deadline, but the current focus is on securing the Million\$Match.

Pledges can be paid by cash, check or credit card. Beth Israel can also accept appreciated stock or mutual fund shares as a form of payment. Please contact the synagogue office or Karen Sloss for more details.

If you haven't recently toured the project, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible — words cannot fully convey the feeling of standing in our future sanctuary. As part of a tour, you will hear a bit about the history of the project and project finances, and what remains to be constructed. A Campaign team member can also discuss how to structure a gift.

Clearly, we need both broad and deep participation to make this Campaign a success. It is really up to our congregation to make sure we earn this Match, so every donation and every single donor is important. We are fortunate to have support from friends of Beth Israel, but there are no outside grants or institutions to help us. So, for the coming year, we hope that everyone will really stretch beyond their usual giving patterns and dedicate more than ever to the New Synagogue Building Fund. This is a rare opportunity to make a big difference, as the founders of Beth Israel did for us. Your gift is a mitzvah!

— Karen Sloss, Capital Campaign member



STIMPSON RESERVE COMMUNITY HIKE

The annual community hike, in late October 2014 at the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve, had a good turnout despite a consistent drizzle. Adults and children learned a lot about native plants and animals with the guidance of outdoor adventure and trekking guide, David Strich.

Men's retreat informational meeting

Noon Sunday, February 8, 2015

Outdoor enthusiast and adventure guide, **David Strich**, is excited to lead a multi-day backpacking retreat for the men of Beth Israel. David has led numerous retreats for all age groups and in nearly every part of the U.S. We are very excited to offer this unique 2-3 day experience for all able-bodied men in July 2015.

If you are interested, David will be leading an informational meeting at noon on Sunday, February 8 in the sanctuary.

This trip is also open to the adult and teen sons of our members.

Recently, David worked as the Boy's Explorer Club Mentor for Wild Whatcom. His biography is on their website.

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The Yenta speaks ...

Jeff Siegfried, son of **Michelle Beller Siegfried** and **John Siegfried**, will be the **featured performer** at the Bellingham Festival of Music's 5th annual **Welcome Home Concert, Saturday, January 3, 2015**. The concert will be at 7 p.m. at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive.



Jeff began studying saxophone at age 10. He was a finalist at the 2012 International Saxophone Symposium and Competition. He won second place in the 2014 Carmel Music Society Young Artist Competition and 2nd prize at the NASA and MTNA chamber competitions. He is a Luminarts fellow in classical music. Admission: \$15 suggested donation to the festival's Music in the Schools Programs; all students free. More info: www.bellinghamfestival.org

Becki Van Glubt graduated from WWU with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing on December 13 with a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree. Husband Bruce and the whole family are all very proud of her, and quite frankly, happy and relieved that this part of the journey has been completed.

Daniel and Sharona Feller welcomed their first grandchild Dec. 6, 2014. Elana Miriam Feller, 6 pounds 13 ounces, is the daughter of Jessie Weiser and Avi Feller of Cambridge, Mass. The Fellers and fellow first-time grandparents Cindy and Paul Weiser are "simply in love."



A selection of **Linda Hirsh's** mosaics can be seen at St. Joseph Hospital in a project called "Healing Through Art," which shows through January 31, 2015.

Mayers

Continued from Page 6

classroom. "It was instant recognition that this was the one," she said.

Gaby recalls a beauty with long hair, to him the essence of femininity. He asked her name, then promptly launched into a discourse on Queen Victoria and the British occupation of India.

Agreeing to marry was easy. Getting married was not. It required yeshiva study, a year for her Orthodox conversion and a month's army leave for him.

They finally married on June 12, 1985, and moved to the United States. Their son Joshua was born in 1985, Jonathan in 1989.

Settling in Wenatchee, then Bellingham in 1991, Gaby earned a history degree at Western Washington University and they joined Congregation Beth Israel.

One day at Western's career office, Victoria spotted a poster of a beautiful island. Saipan was calling for teachers to help raise educational standards, and they hired the couple on the spot.

"We had the time of our lives," Gaby said. "It was a tropical paradise with white sand beaches. We snorkeled with the kids and were invited to fiestas — a good life."

The Saipan experience lent them a multicultural awareness that helped prepare Victoria for teaching at Lummi High School starting in 1998. Gaby, having

earned his master's degree, landed a job teaching history at Squalicum High School in 2002. In 2011, Victoria, with certification in special education, became an educational advocate for the tribes in Nooksack Valley, Lummi and Mount Baker school districts.

The Mayers cherish their memories of Saipan, where Victoria said teachers were respected: "People were poor but at parent conferences, they'd bring food and gifts to show gratitude for teaching their children to read. I felt appreciated."

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham for 16 years. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut and has written two story/cookbooks and two poetry chapbooks.



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Free Seattle concert commemorates anniversary of Auschwitz liberation

5 p.m. Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at Benaroya Hall

On Jan. 27, 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated by the Soviet army. Seventy years later, on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, Music of Remembrance (MOR) will present a community-wide free concert to honor this important moment in history.

The musical program features works by composers whose lives were cut short by Nazi persecution: Hans Krása, Gideon Klein, Viktor Ullmann, Ilse Weber, Carlo Taube, Robert Dauber, David Beigelman and Dick Kattenburg. Although they perished, their music remains as witness to their extraordinary courage.

With this concert, Music of Remembrance joins organizations around the world in commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The free concert is an opportunity for the entire Seattle community to come together in honor of this milestone anniversary, and to experience a small part of the musical legacy left by those who continued to create inspired music even while in the hands of their Nazi captors.

The concert will be at 5 p.m. at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall. Admission is FREE, but a complimentary ticket is required. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Benaroya Hall ticket office at (206) 215-4747 or by visiting the Benaroya Hall ticket office in person. The Benaroya Hall ticket office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 1 to 6 p.m.

More information: www.musicofremembrance.org/upcoming-concerts.

ISRAELI ARTIST CONNECTIONS

An upcoming show at the Mount Baker Theatre includes work by Israeli artists:

Repertory Dance Theatre, 8 p.m. Jan. 16

Among the award-winning Israeli artists participating in this dance company are: Noa Zuk, performer/choreographer and Ohad Fishof, artist and musician, who created one of the pieces commissioned for the show, "The Snake," and Zvi Gotheiner, violinist, dancer/choreographer and founder of ZviDance. All three have worked with Israel's Bat Sheva Dance Company.

Happy Anniversary

January 2015

Jan. 1 Ella & Alan Barney (#2)
 Jan. 4 Jack & Ruth Schneider (#46)
 Jan. 4 Alan & Bonnie Stone (#62)
 Jan. 6 David Goldman and Linda Blackwell (#31)
 Jan. 8 Lindsey & Jordan Genut (#6)

February 2015

Feb. 2 Richard & Ruth Evans (#52)
 Feb. 3 Raphael & Lynda Engle (#9)
 Feb. 17 Rob & Kathy Grossman (#9)
 Feb. 17 David & Carol Robinson (#35)

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

Seder Registration

Join us for a community seder on the Second Night of Pesach 2015, open to Beth Israel members and nonmembers.

The event will be at at Settlemyer Hall, Bellingham Technical College, which has free parking and is wheelchair accessible.

Early-registration is \$36 for members. Starting Feb. 1 the price will go up to \$40 for members. Price for non-members is \$50, youths (ages 6-12), \$20; and children younger than 6, \$5.

Register at bethisraelbellingham.org or call (360) 733-8890.

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Special Fund Donations

CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

Ian Boarnet, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Bonnie & Alan Stone*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Joan Wayne, for everything she does.

From: *Ruth Shuster*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for the wonderful luncheon

From: *Anne Brown*

Rabbi Samuels, for the High Holy Days *aliyah*

From: *Darren & Nicole Boarnet*

IN HONOR OF:

Becki Van Glubt's graduation from WWU School of Nursing

From: *Shelly & Phyllis Mazur*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

The Aaron & Marie Blackman Foundation

Karen Sloss

Bonnie & Fred Zell

MAX GLASS LIBRARY

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Esther Faber, on the loss of her sister, Miriam Mitzman

From: *Sylvia Glass*

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Lynn Korner – thanks for picking up my items for the Raise the Roof Sale

From: *Bernice Loober*

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, along with your message and the recipient's name and address to Shelley Wolfman. For Hadassah cards, contact Bonnie Stone. For Hadassah certificates, call Debbie Adelstein. For Trees-For-Israel certificates or JF "Blue Boxes," contact Janis Ban. Contact information for the above individuals is available by calling (360) 733-8890.

Synagogue Special Funds:

Camp Scholarship/Youth Activities Care Committee

Rabbi's Discretionary

Rabbi Gartner Scholarship

General

Max Glass Library

Musical Leadership

New Synagogue (Building)

NFTY

Rabbi's Professional Development

Religious School Tuition Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Ian Boarnet, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

Anne Brown

From: *Judith Osman*

HAPPY CHANUKAH TO:

Shelley Ash

Debi Loober

Jordan & Marielyn Loober

From: *Bernice Loober*

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Shelly Mazur – Get Well Wishes

Judy Soicher – Get Well Wishes

From: *Debbie & Dan Raas*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My son, Nathan Loober

My husband, Arnold Loober

From: *Bernice Loober*

My dear husband, Robert

From: *Sue Mendelsohn (Ketchum, ID)*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Esther Faber, on the loss of her sister, Miriam Mitzman

From: *Nancy & Don Davis, Sarann Donegan, Debbie & Dan Raas, Joan & Marv Wayne, Richard Widerkehr, Shelley & Jay Wolfman*

George Farkas, on the loss of his father, Bob Farkas

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

Larry Greenberg & Family, on the loss of his mother, Judy Greenberg (Livingston NJ)

From: *Ruth & Richard Evans*

Rebecca Oliver, on the loss of her mother, Fran Mishler

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

Marvin Wayne, on the loss of his sister, Robin Hoffman

From: *Noémi Ban*

Rabbi Samuels on the loss of his grandmother, Hannah Samuels

From: *Barbara Leopold of Greenbrae, CA*

In Memoriam

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

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

Esther Faber on the loss of her sister, **Miriam Mitzman**, who passed away on October 28, 2014

Ruth Evans on the loss of her cousin, **Judy Greenberg**, who passed away on November 6, 2014

George Farkas on the loss of his father, **Bob Farkas**, who passed away on November 13, 2014

Rebecca Oliver on the loss of her mother, **Fran Mishler**, who passed away on November 22, 2014

Marvin Wayne on the loss of his sister, **Robin Hoffman**, who passed away on December 14, 2014

Frank Champagne on the loss of his mother, **Monica Biggin**, who passed away on December 19, 2014.



PHAT at Fall Kallah

Bellingham teens represented the PHAT Youth Group at NFTY Northwest's Fall Kallah. About 165 teens from across the Northwest attended the event, held in November 2014 at Camp Casey, on Whidbey Island. From left: Hannah Levine, Naomi Schapiro, adviser Rachel Sager and Asher Suloway-Baker.

Birthdays

January 2015

1/1 Elias Anderson (9th)
 1/1 Jeaninne Kahan
 1/1 Binnie Perper
 1/1 Alison Zak
 1/3 Seymour Pecarsky
 1/3 Tobias Reitz (19th)
 1/3 Tahlia Somers (8th)
 1/4 Julia Bakken
 1/4 Linda Blackwell
 1/4 Jeffrey Levine (20th)
 1/4 Asher Stoane (12th)
 1/5 David Sager
 1/5 Jack Schneider
 1/6 Isaac Konikoff
 1/6 Tom Maxim
 1/7 Anne Bruegmann
 1/8 Victoria Mayers

1/9 Helen Feiger
 1/10 Lou Lippman
 1/11 John Schapiro
 1/12 Talia Clarke (11th)
 1/15 Diana Dixon (1st)
 1/15 Nora Mazonson
 1/15 Kathi Paluch
 1/16 Maya Cornwall (12th)
 1/17 Julian Booker (13th)
 1/17 David Elkayam
 1/17 Audrey Jaffe
 1/17 Jodi Litt
 1/22 Stuart Berman
 1/23 Joshua Greenberg
 1/25 Marc Weinstein
 1/26 Mitch Press
 1/26 Geraldine Reitz
 1/27 Adam Goldstein
 1/27 Leah Tabak

1/30 Wendy Blum
 1/30 Gib Morrow

February 2015

2/1 Bill Freeman
 2/2 Andrea Evans
 2/5 Elizabeth Weinstein
 2/6 Nicola Morrow (20th)
 2/6 Laura Wolfson
 2/7 Elan Maxim (15th)
 2/8 Samantha Schwartz (10th)
 2/9 Ruth Evans
 2/11 Ella Barney
 2/11 Shalem Blum (10th)
 2/14 Ted Schuman
 2/15 Gloria Lebowitz
 2/17 Dan Ohms
 2/18 Tom Oliver

2/20 Sagit Hall
 2/20 Elijah Wolfson (6th)
 2/21 Ben Sokol (15th)
 2/22 Frank Corey
 2/22 Teva Corey-Dubow
 2/22 Karen Sloss
 2/22 Jeannette Stephens
 2/22 Alan Stone
 2/23 Harriet Emanuel
 2/23 Hanan Soicher (11th)
 2/24 Todd Haskell
 2/24 Robert Meltzer
 2/24 Isabel Stolzoff (12th)
 2/25 Nancy Auerbach
 2/25 Avi Brennan (8th)
 2/25 Genny Cohn
 2/26 Jackson Helsloot
 2/26 Orly Ziv-Maxim
 2/27 Ken Levinson

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FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Reflect on it and grow old and gray with it. Don't turn from it, for nothing is better than it."

What this teaches us is that through constant examination of the text, the student will discover new facets of Torah every time he or she studies it. In other words, the Torah is an endless well of wisdom and even a lifetime of study is not enough to master it, let alone figure out what much of it means. We are always left asking questions.

This is specifically what I love about the podcast and — you got it — Torah study. The deeper you delve into the case or text, the higher the probability you will come to new conclusions that might contradict your original positions.

As you may know, our annual cycle of the reading of the Torah brings us back year after year to the ancient stories of our tradition. And right now we are finishing the book of Genesis with its great narratives and family dramas and entering Exodus, the book which is full of miracles, wonders and a theme of freedom. As we return to this epic part of our collective story we find ourselves older, but the stories never grow old. Thousands of years after they were written, we continue to relate to the hopes and fears of the characters and we proceed to ask new questions. Our sacred text is timeless and mysterious.

Even if you have never read the Torah before, I encourage you to do so this year. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions. Come to one of our Saturday morning sessions (no Hebrew knowledge required!) or ask a friend to meet you for a little Torah-talk and coffee. Or go online and study in cyberspace. I am happy to steer you in the right direction. Exodus is full of rich Torah portions, so if you are considering exploring the Torah, this is a great time to begin. I look forward to turning over the words and verses with you in hopes of getting a little closer to the truth.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels



Rabbi Samuels and students on the slopes in March 2014.

Sunday School on the Slopes

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015

On Sunday, February 22, 2015, the Religious School will go up to the Mount Baker Ski Area as a group. You may either meet others at the synagogue and caravan up the mountain or meet us there. Look for more details in upcoming E-News.

From the Membership Committee ...

RITA SPITZER & ANN SULOWAY,
CO-CHAIRS

The updated Member Services Directory is now available in the members-only section of the Beth Israel website. Take a look to learn more about our amazing community!

This voluntary listing, provided by the Membership Committee, is updated yearly. Formerly called the Professional Services Directory, the name was

changed to better reflect the wide variety of services and skills offered by our members.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members who have joined our synagogue community:

Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom

Russell Stolzoff and daughter Isabel

From the Social Action Committee ...

DEBBIE RAAS AND
LINDA BLACKWELL, CO-CHAIRS

Thanks to all who donated for **Women Care** Thanksgiving, made hats for **CAST** and donated baby food and formula for the **Bellingham Food Bank**.

And thank you to **Meredith and Yaniv Attar** for collecting toys for needy children during Hanukkah on **Fourth Night for Others**. The toys were distributed to the nonprofit, **PLAAY**.

Animals also need food and warmth. For January and February, we are col-

lecting old towels and blankets for the dogs and cats at **Whatcom Humane Society**. They would also like kitten, cat, puppy and dog food.


All of the above organizations are always open for cash donations and may need volunteers. Check out their websites or ask a member of the Social Action Committee about them.

Our **next meeting** is **January 4, 2015** at 1 p.m. at the home of Debbie Raas. New members and ideas for future projects welcome!

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JANUARY 2015

TEVET - SHEVAT 5775

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 10 Tevet  | 2 11 Tevet חג 4:07 6:15 PM Family Service w/ songleader A. Shupack Potluck dinner afterward | 3 12 Tevet Vayechi 9:30 AM Torah Study |
| 4 13 Tevet NO Sunday School | 5 14 Tevet | 6 15 Tevet | 7 16 Tevet 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 8 17 Tevet 7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class | 9 18 Tevet חג 4:16 7:30PM Shabbat Service | 10 19 Tevet Shemot 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack |
| 11 20 Tevet 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (w/ Gan) 11AM Adult Bnai Mitz class 1-2:45 PM Jewish Writing Adult Education class 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall | 12 21 Tevet | 13 22 Tevet | 14 23 Tevet 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 15 24 Tevet 7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class | 16 25 Tevet חג 4:25 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack | 17 26 Tevet Va'era 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack |
| 18 27 Tevet NO Sunday School 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Group @ Roby Blecker's | 19 28 Tevet | 20 29 Tevet 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's | 21 1 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 22 2 Shevat | 23 3 Shevat חג 4:36 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Mayan Shir ensemble | 24 4 Shevat Bo 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat |
| 25 5 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (w/ Gan) Gan TuB'Shevot mini-seder | 26 6 Shevat 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café | 27 7 Shevat | 28 8 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 29 9 Shevat | 30 10 Shevat חג 4:47 NO Shabbat Service "Shabbat at Home" Please welcome Shabbat at home w/ family&friends | 31 11 Shevat Beshlach Shabbat Shirah 9:30 AM Torah Study |

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

FEBRUARY 2015

SHEVAT - ADAR 5775

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 12 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School Tu B'Shevat seder | 2 13 Shevat | 3 14 Shevat | 4 15 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School TU B'SHEVAT | 5 16 Shevat 7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class | 6 17 Shevat 6:15 PM Family Service w/ 4th Grade class & songleader A. Shupack Potluck dinner afterward | 7 18 Shevat 9:30 AM Torah Study Yitro |
| 8 19 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (w/ Gan) 11AM Adult Bnai Mitz class 1-2:45 PM Jewish Writing Adult Education class 3 PM - Text Study, Soc.Hall | 9 20 Shevat | 10 21 Shevat 7 PM Board of Directors | 11 22 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 12 23 Shevat | 13 24 Shevat 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack | 14 25 Shevat 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack |
| 15 26 Shevat NO Sunday School | 16 27 Shevat | 17 28 Shevat 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's | 18 29 Shevat 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 19 30 Shevat | 20 1 Adar 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service w/ songleader A. Shupack | 21 2 Adar 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service |
| 22 3 Adar "Sunday School on the Slopes" ski trip No classes @ CBI | 23 4 Adar PRESIDENTS' DAY | 24 5 Adar | 25 6 Adar 4:15 PM - Hebrew School | 26 7 Adar | 27 8 Adar 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble | 28 9 Adar Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat |

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, January 2

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Alice Behrstock | January 3 |
| George Garmo | January 3 |
| Ruth Jacobson | January 3 |
| Ivan Senzon | January 3 |
| William Aron Dorfman | January 5 |
| Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh | January 5 |
| Sherwood Jacobson | January 5 |
| Pearl Turovitz | January 5 |
| Dorothea Zimmerman | January 5 |
| Martin Katz | January 6 |
| Florence Weintraub | January 6 |
| Henry Jantzen | January 7 |
| Louis Lebowitz | January 7 |
| Solomon Thal | January 7 |
| Dorothy Mazel Spiro | January 9 |

Friday, January 9 & Saturday, January 10

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Joyce Landau | January 10 |
| Edwin Arthur Fischer | January 11 |
| Ben Thal | January 11 |
| Irwin Wapner | January 11 |
| Aimee Lewis | January 12 |
| Arnold Loober | January 12 |
| Esther Blehert | January 13 |
| Anna Winefield Fox | January 13 |
| Earl Krauzer | January 13 |
| Barney Cohn | January 15 |
| Bette Levy | January 15 |

Friday, January 16 & Saturday, January 17

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Sarah Glazer | January 17 |
| Samuel Altose | January 19 |
| Celia Morton | January 20 |
| Maurice (Maury) Schwartz | January 20 |
| Lawrence Weintraub | January 20 |
| Charles Wilner | January 20 |
| Marion Glassman | January 21 |
| Shirley Spiegel Jacobson | January 21 |
| Irving Lackowitz | January 21 |
| Philip Studen | January 21 |
| Morris Kalman Patinkin | January 23 |

Friday, January 23

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Lynn Shuster | January 24 |
| Sandor Garfinkle | January 25 |
| Victorie Haislip | January 25 |
| Norma Schwartz | January 26 |
| Henry David Blehert | January 27 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Mary Bayer Koplowitz | January 27 |
| Jerome Selznick | January 27 |
| Reisa Thal | January 27 |
| Rachel Adirim | January 28 |
| Magda Dorman | January 28 |
| Arabelle (Chaya) Schlanger | January 28 |
| Leo Damski | January 29 |
| Libby Hildes | January 29 |
| Helen Pecarsky | January 29 |
| Helen Stone | January 29 |

Friday, January 30

(will be read on January 23)

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Harold Earl Perper | January 30 |
| Joel K. Rubenstein | January 30 |
| Daniel Weis | January 30 |
| Laura Ann Bourne | January 31 |
| Morris Faber | January 31 |
| Mary Glazer | January 31 |
| Fred Graff | January 31 |
| Deena Leventhal | January 31 |
| Lillian Mauer Pravda | January 31 |
| Florence D. Shain | February 1 |
| Amos Steiger | February 1 |
| Florence Kleinfeld | February 2 |
| Sylvan Rosenthal | February 2 |
| Jerry Kleinfeld | February 3 |
| Ely Engle | February 4 |
| Sally Evans | February 4 |
| Rabbi Samuel Gartner | February 4 |
| Edna Kaminsky Hecht | February 4 |
| Hally Vernon | February 4 |
| Peter Bayliss | February 5 |
| Hannah Jacobson | February 5 |
| Sarah Mendelsohn | February 5 |
| Celia Zak | February 5 |
| David Fine | February 6 |
| (George) Gabriel Krauzer | February 6 |
| Rose Schneider | February 6 |

Friday, February 6

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Sonia Kohl Krauzer | February 8 |
| Claire P. Mayer | February 8 |
| Jean Beverly Blank | February 9 |
| Adam Block | February 9 |
| Frank Kraus | February 9 |
| Meyer Wolpow | February 10 |
| Clara Lazarus | February 11 |
| Derrek Jeremy Adelstein | February 12 |
| David Shain | February 12 |
| Barbara Steiger | February 12 |
| Frieda Blank | February 13 |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Albert Lebovich | February 13 |
| Simcha Hayim Miller | February 13 |
| David Wilner | February 13 |

Friday, February 13 & Saturday, February 14

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Lou Fine | February 15 |
| Rita Gordon | February 16 |
| Cassandra Champagne | February 17 |
| William Freeman | February 17 |
| Gloria Perper | February 18 |
| William E. Whiting | February 18 |
| Robert Baker | February 19 |
| Rochelle Blum | February 19 |
| Isadore Graff | February 19 |
| Michel Oksenberg | February 19 |
| Mel Adelstein | February 20 |
| Ruth Berman | February 20 |
| Jerome Glass | February 20 |
| Steve Sokol | February 20 |
| Clarence Weiner | February 20 |

Friday, February 20 & Saturday, February 21

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Lillian Heller | February 21 |
| Benjamin Solomon | February 21 |
| Nelson Beller | February 22 |
| Barton Frank | February 23 |
| Sadie Leon | February 25 |
| Sadie Gordon Schiller | February 25 |
| William Schwartz | February 26 |
| Robert W. Lippman | February 27 |

Friday, February 27

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Gene Adelstein | March 1 |
| Ruth Lippman | March 1 |
| Robert Fife | March 2 |
| Irwin Weiner | March 2 |
| Paul Zentner | March 2 |
| Alice Duckworth | March 3 |
| Jack Eigen | March 3 |
| Joseph Sonneman | March 3 |
| Herman Weill | March 3 |
| Jessie Edinger | March 4 |
| Gea Goldfeder | March 4 |
| Joseph Sorkin | March 4 |
| Elsa Zentner | March 4 |
| Ida Chia Kahn | March 5 |
| Jack Kahn | March 5 |
| George Schwartz | March 5 |
| Harold Shepard | March 5 |
| Henry Edwards | March 6 |

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Service Schedule

Friday, January 2

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck dinner* after

Saturday, January 3

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, January 9

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

Saturday, January 10

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, January 16

5:30 p.m. Pre-service *nosh*
6:15 p.m. Shabbat evening service with songleader Andrea Shupack

Saturday, January 17

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, January 23

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service featuring vocal ensemble Ma'ayan Shir

Saturday, January 24

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Tot Shabbat; potluck Kiddush lunch* after

Friday, January 30

NO SHABBAT SERVICE
Please welcome Shabbat at home with family & friends

Saturday, January 31

9:30 a.m. - Torah Study

Friday, February 6

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service with leadership from the Religious School's 4th Graders, and music from Andrea Shupack; potluck dinner* after

Saturday, February 7

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, February 13

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service; musical leadership from songleader Andrea Shupack

Saturday, February 14

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, February 20

5:30 p.m. Pre-service *nosh*
6:15 p.m. Shabbat evening service with songleader Andrea Shupack

Saturday, February 21

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, February 27

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service featuring vocal ensemble Ma'ayan Shir

Saturday, February 28

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Tot Shabbat; potluck Kiddush lunch* after

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

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