

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 20, NO. 3 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Gender & the Bible

Scholar-in-Residence set for February 19-21, 2016

We are very pleased to welcome **Dr. Beatrice Lawrence**, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible at Seattle University, for a Scholar-In-Residence weekend at Congregation Beth Israel.

Dr. Lawrence grew up in the thriving Jewish metropolis of Moscow, Idaho, and received her Ph.D.



in Hebrew Bible and Jewish Hermeneutics from Emory University in 2009. Her research centers around classical Jewish biblical interpretation and gender as a critical lens.

Dr. Lawrence is an engaging and witty scholar, and was also Rabbi Samuels' professor of Biblical History and Prophets at Hebrew Union College. She lives in Seattle with her two daughters and geriatric dog.

Dr. Lawrence will speak at

Congregation Beth Israel:

Friday, February 19

6:15 p.m. Shabbat service: The Ideal Jewish Wife (Then and Now) — A Deconstruction of "Eyshet Chayil."

Saturday, February 20

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Torah study: On Parshat Tetzaveh.

10:30 a.m. during Shabbat service: Biblical Women Who Broke the Mold, and What They Teach Us

7 p.m. (open to the public): Genesis 1-4 and its Impact on Sex, Marriage and Divorce.

Sunday, February 21

10:30 a.m. Bagel Brunch and lecture: Where M Doesn't Mean 'Male': How Judaism Looks at Modesty, Mikvah and Menstruation.

Please consider being a sponsor to help make this weekend and future ones possible.

Sponsors will be recognized in the program. Make donations to Congregation Beth Israel with "Scholar-in-Residence" in the memo line.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels and Roby Blecker

FROM THE RABBI

URJ Biennial 2015 recap

Two years ago I wrote about my first URJ Biennial experience in the Shul Shofar. I remember telling people that it was an overwhelming, yet unforgettable trip.



Spending five days in a hotel with 5,000 Jews from around the country and Israel, you can imagine, would certainly be overwhelming and unforgettable. So why

did I go back a second time? And more importantly, why will I keep going back — hopefully accompanied by many of you?

Sometimes I forget that there is a huge Jewish world out there, beyond the north Puget Sound area. And we have much to share with each other when it comes to synagogue governance, Shabbat melodies, youth engagement strategies, and fundraising ideas, just to name a few. We can learn from one another so it doesn't feel like we're reinventing the wheel each time we lead a program or write a curriculum. I absolutely love hearing what my colleagues are doing in their communities and then explaining to them what makes

Inside:

- Update on Million\$Match, page 3
- **FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY:** The Shusters, page 8
- Plan to attend Congregational Shabbaton at Camp Kalsman, page 16

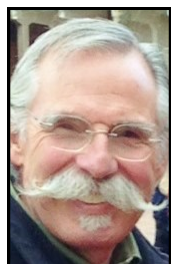


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From the President ...

Community events, efforts at fundraising highlight 2015

As I write this, all of the proceeds from our year of fast and furious fundraising have not been tabulated. There are a few outstanding pledges and even a few bar tabs to settle up from the gala dinner. Like you, I am



filled with hope and anticipation. We have worked very, very hard to meet our goal. By the time this issue of the Shofar is printed, we will know if we made the Million\$Match.

I am still amazed at the atmosphere that filled the hall on the night of the gala dinner. Everywhere I looked, I saw enthusiasm, generosity and camaraderie. The mood was playful, but the bidding was intense.

I am awestruck by the determination to build our new synagogue!

As I reflect on the wonderful events of this year – the Hanukkah party, the b'nei mitzvot, the High Holy Days, the Purim party and more, it is always the sense of a warm, vibrant community that comes to mind. Each event was made possible by committed, hard-working individuals who worked tirelessly. Each event was attended by congregants eager to share in the life of Congregation Beth Israel.

We have celebrated our Jewish heritage in rented spaces and in our small, elderly and beloved synagogue. Next year, God willing, we will dance, cook and celebrate in our new building.

— Dan Ohms

Please return Havurot forms

The Connectivity Committee wishes to thank those who have submitted their completed questionnaires to participate in one of Congregation Beth Israel's upcoming havurot (Friendship Groups), which we will be forming early in the New Year.

We sent the questionnaire again in December. If you did not submit one during the High Holy Days, we would greatly appreciate your returning a questionnaire, even if you do not wish to participate in a group at this time. Your responses will help guide us in future planning!

We are excited to help our members find new ways of connecting with one another! Questions? Please call or email Vermeda Fred, Connectivity Committee Chair (415) 518-4321 or vmfred08@gmail.com

Share love stories at Beit Cafe

If you love storytelling, then you won't want to miss this upcoming Beit Cafe. Last May we heard hilarious, moving, and inspiring stories from CBI congregants. We found out things about our friends that we never knew.

Come be a part of this experience again. We'll have plenty to eat and drink too.

Where: The Encore Room at Mount Baker Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Sunday, February 7, 2016.

If you would like to share a personal love story, inform Rabbi Samuels to get your name on the list. Love stories can be about courtships, locations, hobbies, music, food, anything.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 20, Number 3
January/February 2016
Tevet/Shevat/Adar1 5776

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 March/April issue is FEBRUARY 16. Call the office for more information.

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Looks like we'll make Million\$Match

As I write this article (in mid-December), the amount already collected for the Million\$Match stands at well over \$900,000. Additionally, the amount netted from the gala auction is at least \$60,000. So, with other outstanding pledges and last minute donations, we are confident that Beth Israel will be successful in making our goal of raising the \$1 million by the January 4, 2016 deadline. This is an amazing accomplishment for our small congregation! A huge

Gala was great success: Story, photos, page 9

THANK YOU goes out to all who contributed to this success — donors and volunteer fundraisers.

Making the Million\$Match means we have the cash necessary to continue construction of the new syna-

gogue and prepare the building for occupancy. We may even be able to celebrate High Holy Day services in our new home in 2016!

We offer our tremendous appreciation and gratitude to all the congregants and CBI friends for the first \$1 million and the extremely generous anonymous donor for the Million\$Match. Now, let's "Finish Our Journey Home"!

— David Goldman, Chair
Capital Campaign

From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning Committee ...

New activities spice up kids' learning

Our school year has been going great and the kids are learning a lot and having fun!

The community Shabbaton on Nov. 21, 2015, was a wonderful time. We had an exciting morning at Shabbat service with some fun acting by our very own Moreh Adam Coe and some lovely angels played by Lotem Raymond-Coe and Naomi Schapiro.

The kids completed some neat projects from crafts to putting on a play for the younger kids. The adults gathered for a bibliodrama and had a lively discussion. A wonderful way to spend time with our CBI Community and Keshet!

The Havdalah at Home activity has

been a great success with the Kindergarten and 4th-grade classes.

Everyone has had a lot of fun getting

Continued on Page 12



Confirmation students and Rabbi Samuels after a day at the WWU Outdoor Adventure Course in October 2015.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, 647-7031
Building: Floyd King, 223-2538
Care: Sylvia Williams, 319-5059
Keshet (Religious School):
Samantha Konikoff, 734-2762
Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne,
676-8939

Membership: Rita Spitzer,
647-7065; Ann Suloway, 647-7031
New Synagogue Task Force: Warren
Rosenthal, 961-9772
Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825
Social Action: Debbie Raas,
676-1621; Linda Blackwell
University Liaison: Sabrina
Freeman, 734-4560; Marcia Lipp-
man, 734-5376

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Bat Mitzvah

Maya Cornwall will be called to the Torah as a Bat mitzvah on January 16, 2016. She is the daughter of Warren Cornwall and Shaya Erlich, and big sister to Lev Cornwall. Maya is a seventh-grader at Fairhaven Middle School. She enjoys math, theater, piano, dance and playing clarinet in the middle school band. For her mitzvah project, she volunteered helping the kids and the director in a BAAY production for 5- and 6-year-olds: *Silly Snow White and the Umpfen Dwarves*.



Please join our family in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
January 15, 2016 at 6:15 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
January 16, 2016 at 10 AM

The Yenta speaks

The Siegfried family has several simchas to share:

Dane Siegfried recently graduated with a Master's of Science in Sport and Exercise Science from the University of Northern Colorado, where he will serve as Director of baseball operations until he returns to Bellingham for his third year as assistant coach for the Bellingham Bells.

Julie Siegfried was chosen for the Husky International ambassador program at the University of Washington this past summer. She went to China with a group of UW students to welcome the international students who would be starting UW in the fall. She will continue to mentor these students throughout the year. She also will travel to Haiti with Hillel over winter break, to do service work.

And saxophonist **Jeff Siegfried** will be performing with pianist Angela Draghicescu at Benaroya Hall in Seattle at 7 p.m. Feb. 19, 2016. This recital will be a preview of their upcoming Carnegie Hall performance in July 2016.

Birthdays

JANUARY 2016

1/1 Elias Anderson (10 th)	1/8 Victoria Mayers
1/1 Jeaninne Kahan	1/9 Helen Feiger
1/1 Binnie Perper	1/10 Louis Lippman
1/1 Alison Zak	1/11 John Schapiro
1/3 Tobias Reitz (20 th)	1/12 Talia Clarke (12 th)
1/3 Tahlia Somers (9 th)	1/15 Diana Joyce Dixon (2 nd)
1/4 Julia Bakken	1/15 Nora Mazonson
1/4 Linda Blackwell	1/15 Kathi Paluch
1/4 Jeffrey Levine (21 st)	1/16 Maya Cornwall (13 th)
1/4 Asher Stoane (13 th)	1/17 Julian Booker (14 th)
1/5 David Sager	1/17 David Elkayam
1/5 Jack Schneider	1/17 Audrey Jaffe
1/6 Sammy Asmussen (7 th)	1/17 Jodi Litt
1/6 Isaac Konikoff	1/19 Lauren James (10 th)
1/6 Tom Maxim	1/20 Gayle Kay
1/7 Anne Bruegmann	1/21 Alyson Kassen
	1/22 Stuart Berman
	1/23 Joshua Greenberg
	1/25 Zane Asmussen (4 th)
	1/25 Marc Weinstein

1/26 Mitch Press
1/26 Geraldine Reitz
1/27 Adam Goldstein
1/28 Angie Lee
1/30 Wendy Blum
1/30 Gib Morrow

2/15 Gloria Lebowitz
2/17 Dan Ohms
2/18 Tom Oliver
2/20 Donald Fenbert
2/20 Sagit Hall
2/20 Elijah Wolfson (7 th)
2/21 Gregg Orlik
2/21 Ben Sokol (16 th)
2/22 Frank Corey
2/22 Teva Corey-DuBow (9 th)
2/22 Karen Sloss
2/22 Jeannette Stephens
2/22 Alan Stone
2/23 Harriet Emanuel
2/24 Todd Haskell
2/24 Robert Meltzer
2/24 Isabel Stolzoff (13 th)
2/25 Nancy Auerbach
2/25 Avi Brennan (9 th)
2/25 Genny Cohn
2/26 Orly Ziv-Maxim
2/27 Ken Levinson

FEBRUARY 2016

2/1 William Freeman
2/2 Andrea Evans
2/5 Elizabeth Weinstein
2/6 Nicola Morrow (21 st)
2/6 Laura Wolfson
2/7 Elan Maxim (16 th)
2/8 Samantha Schwartz (11 th)
2/9 Ruth Evans
2/10 Jacob Bishop (14 th)
2/11 Ella Barney
2/11 Shalem Blum (11 th)
2/14 Ted Schuman



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Adult Ed: From text study to Hebrew

The following classes will be taught at Congregation Beth Israel. Sign up through the office by calling (360) 733-8890 or office@bethisraelbellingham.org

The Siddur: Words for the Heart, Wings for the Soul

Instructor: Andrea Shupack

Explore the texts and music of the Shabbat prayer service, engage in the richness of the Hebrew while experiencing the moods and intentions created by various melodies composed for them. Join Andrea Shupack as we deepen our understanding of and personal connection to the music and lyrics of the siddur.

This class is for beginners and long-time davenners, for those who love to pray and those who find it a challenge. Take one or all three 3-week sessions.

Cost: \$15 per session, or \$40 for all three. No one turned away.

Session 1: Shema and its Blessings

Thursdays 7-8:15 p.m. Feb. 4, 11, and 18

Session 2: Amidah

Thursdays 7-8:15 p.m. March 3, 10 and 17

Session 3: Kabbalat Shabbat

Thursdays 7-8:15 p.m. March 31, April 7, and 14

Bibliodrama

Instructor: Andrea Shupack

Starting January 30 with Parshat Yitro, then every 5th Saturday 10:45 a.m.-noon

Join Andrea Shupack for a unique way to experience the Torah. We will explore the weekly portion by stepping into the shoes of the biblical characters, even objects that appear in the texts, and giving them a voice. We will relive the moments, reimagine the scenes, and place ourselves into the texts.

Parashah Yitro is full of amazing moments. From Moses' father in law providing fantastic advice to Moses, to receiving the commandments at Mount Sinai, we will have lots of material to dig into.

No knowledge of Torah necessary. Wear comfortable clothes to move around in.

No sign-up needed for this free class. If there is enough interest, we will find a more regular time to meet, making it once or twice a month.

Learn how to chant Torah & Haftarah

Instructor: Andrea Shupack

Do you want to learn how to chant trope? Whether you've never chanted, or



you did years ago and can't quite remember trope, this class is for you. Andrea Shupack teaches in a simple and clear

way, demystifying the art of chanting, making it achievable for everyone.

Haftarah Trope: Sundays Jan. 10 - March 13 12:45-1:45 p.m. (no class Jan 17 or Feb. 21)

Torah Trope: Sundays April 3 - May 29 12:45-1:45 p.m. (no class on April 24, class May 15 is 1:45-2:45 p.m.)

No previous knowledge necessary, but an ability to read Hebrew is helpful.

Cost: \$36

AlephBetEase - Mastery of Friday Night Siddur Texts

Instructors: Dr. Lawrence Hall, Sagit Hall

Saturday, Jan. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Sunday-Tuesday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Whether your goal is to study Hebrew along with your children or to feel more comfortable at services, this course is your answer. AlephBetEase courses use stress-free, multi-sensory, and intensive methodologies as a foundation of language acquisition.

This course focuses on the Siddur as a practice text for the reading skills acquired in the first AlephBetEase course. It also is for anyone who can read Hebrew but would like to improve and understand the prayers and blessings better.

Cost: Suggested \$100 member/\$120

Anniversaries

January 2016

- Jan. 1** Ella & Alan Barney (#3)
Jan. 4 Jack & Ruth Schneider (#47)
Jan. 4 Alan & Bonnie Stone (#63)
Jan. 6 David Goldman and Linda Blackwell (#32)
Jan. 8 Lindsey & Jordan Genut (#7)

February 2016

- Feb. 3** Raphael & Lynda Engle (#10)
Feb. 17 Rob & Kathy Grossman (#10)
Feb. 17 David & Carol Robinson (#36)
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CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

Jacob Lebovich, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Miriam Zderic & Perry Davids*

*Ethan Oliver, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

*Talia Tzarfati, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

*Maya Cornwall, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

From: *Karen Sloss*

Bonnie Stone – Happy Birthday!

From: *Donna & Jay Solomon*

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Karen Sloss

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels – Thank you
From: *Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting*

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack — For their guidance and support for Julia's Bat Mitzvah

From: *Miriam & Greg Schwartz*

Rabbi Samuels

From: *Karen Sloss*

IN HONOR OF:

* Eytan Samuels' 6th birthday

* Rabbi & Nicole Samuels – Best wishes in their new home.

From: *Fran Levy*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Sylvia Williams, on the loss of her mother, Gladys Boehi

From: *Susan & Burton Jay*

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Dan Ohms & Janine Shaw – in thanks for their friendship and invitation to attend Erev Rosh Hashanah with them

From: *Randi Nathanson (Seattle)*

Thanks to Rabbi Samuels and our congregation

From: *Richard Widerkehr*

Carol and David Robinson

From: *Leslie & Rick Adelman*

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ethan Oliver for his Bar Mitzvah

From: *Bonnie & Alan Stone*

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Steve and Rita Spitzer's birthdays

From: *Gaby & Victoria Mayers*

Ceil Messing's 100th birthday

From: *Jay & Shelley Wolfman*

* Nancy Lloyd's birthday

* Bonnie Stone's birthday

From: *Debbie & Dan Raas*

IN HONOR OF:

Jacob Lebovich, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: *Leslie & Rick Adelman*

Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting

The Bar Mitzvah of our son, Ethan

From: *Rebecca & Tom Oliver*

Miriam Schwartz' birthday

From: *Lee Shapiro*

Bonnie Stone – Happy Birthday!

From: *Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting*

Cassandra & Laura Wolfson

From: *Hinda & Martin Wolf (Stratford, CT)*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Marsha Glass and family, on the loss of their mother, Sylvia

From: *Leslie & Rick Adelman*

Sylvia Williams, on the loss of her mother, Gladys Boehi

From: *Karen Sloss*

Susan Jay, on the loss of her husband, Burt Jay

From: *Bonnie & Alan Stone*

Joan & Marv Wayne
Sylvia Williams

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Debbie Raas – Wishing a speedy & complete recovery

From: *Alison Zak & Paul Blum*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My stepfather, Phillip Fine

From: *Don Fenbert & Valerie Randolph*

My uncle, Alfred Steinmetz

From: *Roy Shankman*

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David & Kylie Kanze

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Mishloach Manot for Purim is back

Last year we introduced the Mishloach Manot project as a fun and easy way to fulfill one of the Purim mitzvot while supporting our religious school, now known as Keshet Center for Jewish Learning.

Mishloach Manot, the sending of food gifts to friends and family, 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 during the week of Purim.

Our first year was a great success – we delivered 'Tea for Two' baskets to EVERY CBI congregant, and raised more than \$5,000 to support Keshet's operating costs and scholarship program!

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 & staff will receive **one** gift bag, along with a

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim Carnival: March 20 at Bloedel-Donovan Multipurpose Room. Shpiel begins at 11:30 a.m.; carnival begins at noon.

Megillah reading and shpiel: March 23 at 7 p.m. at Beth Israel. Drinks and food to follow.

Purim Shpiel: Shushan Apprentice! A Game Show. We need actors and megillah readers. Contact Rabbi Samuels if you are interested.



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 donation 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 Purim greetings.

Although Beth Israel is handling all packaging and delivery, **Happy Purim.com** handles our online or-

dering 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 email instructions on how to participate that will include a personal log-in code.

Please do not share your code with anyone.

Last year, the process went very smoothly. If you have any questions, or if you would like a paper order form, please contact Joan Wayne 676-8939 or jawayne2@gmail.com.

This is Keshet's only fundraiser this year – please support our current community and our future by joining in this fun Purim festivity!

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Faces in our community

Shusters at home on the water

Teaching, boating come together in family's catamaran business

BY LINDA HIRSH

A nationally known sportscaster once said that what he knew about sailing would fit in an eyecup. He should have asked Todd Shuster.

What Todd knows about sailing could fill Bellingham Bay. He knows so much that he has made cruising his business.

"Boating is popular here even with people who don't own boats," he said. "And people in Bellingham have a tight connection to the ocean."

Todd owns and operates Gato Verde Sailing Adventures using a catamaran, which has 2 hulls connected by a bridge deck (a regular boat has one). He laughs easily and is comfortable explaining the delights of his business — the image of a man enthralled with spending time and making money doing what he loves.

His cruising business is in the Ferry Terminal in Fairhaven. As he talked about his history, wails of a foghorn and chuffs of boats provided appropriate sound effects.

Raised in an extremely competitive Chicago suburb, Glencoe, Ill., Todd early on eschewed team sports. Rather, "It was the flow sports — biking, skiing and boating — that suited my character," he said.

In those sports, the athlete competes with him- or herself and learns life skills, he said.

Like the time when, as a 17-year-old, he was windsurfing and he glided farther out than he thought. In the meantime a line broke. He fixed it, but it exhausted him and cramped his legs. He knew he could not give up.

"If I did, I'd have gotten blown across the lake to Michigan," he said, smiling at the memory.

A sailing prodigy, Todd started on his watery path at age 6. At 12, Todd knew he wanted to make a living that way. By 15, he was teaching and by 16 was getting paid for it. During high school he worked weekends doing rescues on Lake Michigan's Chicago beach.

Between freshman and sophomore year at Earlham College, he ran a windsurfing program at a summer



Kendra Bradford and Todd Shuster with their children, Lev and Gail.

camp. That was when he realized he had a knack for teaching — sharing what he loved because he knew the sport would add to his students' confidence.

His interdisciplinary major was human development and social relations, with an outdoor focus. He also accrued college credits by taking classes at the National Outdoor Leadership School or NOLS, an enterprise based in Lander, Wyoming, that is similar to Outward Bound. He called NOLS "the Harvard of outdoor education," an intense experience teaching students "how to succeed outdoors." Then he worked in Alaska as a commercial fishing deckhand on salmon and herring boats learning other aspects of sailing.

All that while he commuted to San Francisco where his girlfriend and now wife, Kendra Bradford, lived.

In 1995 he became an instructor at NOLS and bought his first cruiser boat — 26 feet long, and the height of a Volkswagen van's interior. He couldn't stand up straight.

The next year, he and Kendra married. Kendra's grandparents asked what her new husband did. She

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Light Up the Night Gala

Event raises \$60,000+

As a result of the extraordinary Light Up the Night Gala December 5, 2015, we are now \$60,000-plus closer to meeting the Million\$Match. More than 200 people attended, bidding on silent and live auctions of more than 400 donated items. Also, participants donated their dollars for items such as: \$11,000 for paint (197 buckets) for the new building's interior and close to \$12,000 (333 square feet) for solar panels.

The Fundraising Committee put in hundreds of volunteer hours in planning this gala. Thanks go to Linda Blackwell, Katie Edelstein, Sabrina Freeman, Vicki Jaffe, Victoria Mayers and Mitch Press

Community volunteers included fundraising event planner Susan Simmons, Katie Rose, Dana Brown, and Heather Pavlovsky.

Other volunteers included the CBI youth group PHAT, WWU's Hillel, Vicki Garfinkle, Amy Whiting, Gabby Mayers, Jonathan Mayers, Lynn Korner and Marla Finkelstein.

One attendee remarked: "I've gone to more fundraising events than I care to admit but this was by far the most fun, exciting, energy-packed event of this nature that I have ever attended."

Millie & the Mentshn fundraiser

The Millie & the Mentshn concert on Nov. 7, 2015, brought out 170 people, and raised \$2,500 toward the Million\$Match. A huge thank you to Millie Johnson, Ken Bronstein, Phil Heaven, Lou Lippman, Warren Palken and Susan Blum for donating all the proceeds of the concert to building the new synagogue.



Settlemyer Hall is abuzz with energy as more than 200 guests mingle during the Silent Auction.



Dessert Dashers scramble to get their choices



Linda Read and Rick Romito (center) with Dave Schmalz and Diane Birsner.



John and Sylvia Williams during the Silent Auction.



Amy Whiting (right) with guests Kathy Dooley and Tessa Rawitzer

The Shusters

Continued from Page 8

said he was a sailor.

"And he's a Jew?" they asked.

For them, boats and such were not within a Jewish cultural purview.

Todd said, however, a large Jewish sailing scene exists around Lake Michigan.

Todd spent his early years in his family's North Shore Congregation Israel, the second largest synagogue in the area. He and Kendra joined Congregation Beth Israel shortly after moving to Bellingham in 2001 to give their children, Lev, now 14, and Gail, 12, a Jewish education. Early on, Kendra served as a volunteer on the religious school committee.

Right after the wedding, Todd left to sail for NOLS to Muleje, Baja Mexico, one of NOLS 11 branches around the globe. Two years later, when Kendra finished her graduate degree in molecular ecology at UC Berkeley, they took a belated honeymoon on the boat.

Kendra, a silent partner in the business, said she is more of a landlubber: "But I love many aspects of sailing, especially that you can travel in your own 'home' and the minimalist lifestyle it necessitates," she said. "The cruising we did both before and after kids was incredible, experiences I would never have had without Todd's know-how."

But by 1991, Todd developed back problems from bending to fit under the low height of the boat.

"The doctor wrote me a prescription for a new boat," he joked. And he followed doctor's orders.

Luxuriating in the new boat's dimensions — 35 feet long with 6 feet, 7 inches of headroom — they spent three months on the sea. In 2001, Kendra landed a job at the genetic lab of the famed Chicago Botanical Garden, putting her degree to work.



Kendra Bradford and Todd Shuster's catamaran, Gato Verde, is available for charters March through November. Winter charters are available by special arrangement: www.gatoverde.com



Todd took a job as instructor with USSAILING, the governing body for sailing throughout the country. He trained teachers in effective sailing technique.

In the process of hatching the Gato

Verde Adventure Sailing business plan in 2001, Todd traveled up the West Coast, this time by car, seeking a family-oriented community. They found it in Bellingham, a college town with mountains and an unusually calm bay perfect for cruising.

His offerings are varied. He does day-trips and overnights of any duration. He is the only one who offers overnights of less than six nights in peak season. Customers can choose "Skippered Bareboat," which means they do their own cooking and he worries about the boat. Or they can go full service — meals provided family style with local ingredients by a professional chef. After dropping anchor at a destination, people can explore, taking a hike or arrange for a kayak. Or they can sit in the sun.

Beth Israel members Steve and Rita Spitzer have taken many cruises on the Gato Verde with both family and work associates, including electronics experts from Europe and Asia. Steve said Todd was thrilled to take people from around the world because "he is a little bit of an electronic nerd."

The experts were impressed because, "the boat is unique, well equipped and it's technology to its utmost," Steve said. "And there's not a prettier place in the world than Bellingham at sunset. Todd is a gracious host. He knows his business and he knows the area."

Todd takes them in his pride and joy — a unique boat that gets around the waves powered by the wind. Lacking that, he turns to an environmentally friendly electric hybrid propulsion system he installed in 2006. He now burns half the fuel he did.

"This was written into my business plan," he said. "It's part of my mission."

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham for 16 years. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut.

Yahrzeits

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

For Friday, January 1

Aimee Lewis	1/2
Arnold Loober	1/2
Rachel Siegfried	1/2
Esther Bleher	1/3
Anna Winefield Fox	1/3
Ruth Jacobson	1/3
Barney Cohn	1/5
William Aron Dorfman	1/5
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5
Bette Levy	1/5
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5
Martin Katz	1/6
Florence Weintraub	1/6
Henry Jantzen	1/7
Louis Lebowitz	1/7

For Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9

Brian House	1/10
Joyce Landau	1/10
Celia Morton	1/10
Maurice (Maury) Schwartz	1/10
Marion Glassman	1/11
Shirley Spiegel Jacobson	1/11
Philip Studen	1/11
Anne Alpert	1/13
Earl Krauzer	1/13
Morris Kalman Patinkin	1/13
Frances Poplack	1/13
Lynn Shuster	1/14
Leo Damski	1/15
Victorie Haislip	1/15

For Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16

Henry David Bleher	1/17
Mary Bayer Koplowitz	1/17
Samuel Orloff	1/17
Jerome Selznick	1/17
Reisa Thal	1/17
Rachel Adirim	1/18
Magda Dorman	1/18
Eleanor Scharff	1/18
Arabelle "Chaya" Schlanger	1/18
Libby Hildes	1/19
Harold Earl Perper	1/20
Joel K. Rubenstein	1/20
Lawrence Weintraub	1/20
Morris Faber	1/21
Mary Glazer	1/21
Fred Graff	1/21
Irving Lackowitz	1/21
Lillian Mauer Pravda	1/21
Florence D. Shain	1/22

For Friday, January 22

Florence Kleinfeld	1/23
Sylvan Rosenthal	1/23

Jerry Kleinfeld	1/24
Ely Engle	1/25
Sally Evans	1/25
Sandor Garfinkle	1/25
Rabbi Samuel Gartner	1/25
Edna Kaminsky Hecht	1/25
Peter Bayliss	1/26
Sarah Mendelsohn	1/26
Norma Schwartz	1/26
Celia Zak	1/26
Claire P. Mayer	1/29
Helen Pecarsky	1/29
Helen Stone	1/29

For Friday, January 29 (will be read on January 22)

Adam Block	1/30
Frank Kraus	1/30
Daniel Weis	1/30
Laura Ann Bourne	1/31
Deena Leventhal	1/31
Meyer Wolpov	1/31
Derrek Jeremy Adelstein	2/2
David Shain	2/2
Simcha Hayim Miller	2/3
Hally Vernon	2/4
Hannah Jacobson	2/5

For Friday, February 5

David Fine	2/6
Rita Gordon	2/6
George Gabriel Krauzer	2/6
Rose Schneider	2/6
William Freeman	2/7
Sonia Kohl Krauzer	2/8
Gloria Perper	2/8
Elinor Pravda	2/8
Jean Beverly Blank	2/9
Rochelle Blum	2/9
Isadore Graff	2/9
Michel Oksenberg	2/9
Clarence Weiner	2/10
Lillian Heller	2/11

Clara Lazarus	2/11
Benjamin Solomon	2/11

For Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13

Frieda Blank	2/13
Richard Evans	2/13
Albert Lebovich	2/13
Lou Fine	2/15
Sadie Leon	2/15
Sadie Gordon Schiller	2/15
William Schwartz	2/16
Cassandra Champagne	2/17
David Shure	2/18
William E. Whiting	2/18
Robert Baker	2/19
Ruth Lippman	2/19

For Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20

Jerry Glass	2/20
Alice Duckworth	2/21
Jack Eigen	2/21
Joseph Sonneman	2/21
Nelson Beller	2/22
Jack Kahn	2/23
George Schwartz	2/23
Harold Shepard	2/23
Max J. Schwartz	2/24
Ken Biggin	2/25
Walter von Hollander	2/26

For Friday, February 26

Ida Schwartz	2/27
Emma Gartner	2/29
Gene Adelstein	3/1
Benjamin Goldberg	3/1
Robert Fife	3/2
Herman Weill	3/3
Muriel Anzman	3/4
Jessie Edinger	3/4

In Memoriam

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

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

Gregg Orlik on the loss of his mother, **Phyllis Ruth Orlik**, who passed away at her home in Rossmore, CA on October 21, 2015.

Sylvia Williams on the loss of her mother, **Gladys Boehi**, who passed away on October 24, 2015 at her home in Portland, Oregon.

Don Fenbert on the loss of his stepfather, **Phillip Fine**, who passed away on November 4, 2015.

Our congregation mourns the passing of our friend and fellow congregant,

Dr. Burton Jay, on December 13, 2015. We offer deepest condolences to his wife, Susan, their children Michael, Daniel and Deborah, and to all of his extended family.

Scrip fundraising needs sales boost

Sadly, because of Haggen's financial situation Haggen is no longer selling scrip.

For the last several years the scrip program has contributed about \$1,000 a month to Beth Israel. More than half of this monthly amount came from Haggen scrip sales.

Happily, there are still many merchants that participate in scrip sales. Local stores include FRED MEYER, TERRA ORGANICA, THE CO-OP, SAFEWAY, STARBUCKS, VILLAGE BOOKS (which is good at PAPER DREAMS, too). Scrip can also be ordered for many other merchants including LAND'S END, MACY'S, T.J.MAXX and more.

Scrip is easy to use -- simply purchase scrip and Congregation Beth Israel gets a percentage from every sale, sometimes as much as 10 percent or more.

Please consider participating in this program. Thank you to all of you who have made this program as successful as it has been.

Questions and orders: contact Joan Wayne jawayne2@gmail.com or 676-

8939; or go to the "Donate" tab at www.bethisraelbellingham.org and choose "Scrip."

Sisterhood book group meetings

Upcoming Sisterhood book group meetings, which begin at 2 p.m., will be:

January 17, at the home of Lee Shapiro, *THE MEZUZAH IN THE MADONNA'S FOOT* by Trudi Alexy.

February 28, at the home of Ann Suloway, *HENNA HOUSE* by Nomi Eve.

March 27, at the home of Joan Wayne, *THE MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES* by Alice Hoffman.

April 17, at the home of Roby Blecker, *ALL WHO GO DO NOT RETURN* by Shulem Deen.

Save the date for 4th night Seder

Congregation Beth Israel's Community Seder will be on the fourth night of Passover, Monday, April 25, 2016, at Bellingham Technical College's Settlemyer Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend this

event, led by Rabbi Joshua Samuels and cantorial soloist Andrea Shupack. The seder will include a delicious Passover buffet dinner with vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options, as well as Manischewitz wine.

Join us for a fun, lively and upbeat retelling of the Exodus story, sure to please young and old alike.

Seder will begin at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:15 p.m.) at Settlemyer Hall, 3028 Lindbergh Ave. Free parking; venue is wheelchair accessible.

Cost: \$36 Beth Israel members, through Jan. 31; \$40 starting Feb. 1; \$50 nonmembers; \$20 ages 6-12; \$5 age 5 and younger.

Register through April 10, 2016, online at www.bethisraelbellingham.org.

Information: (360) 733-8890

Hebrew Circle seeks members

A few of us would like to start a monthly Chug Ivri, or Hebrew Circle for Intermediate and Rusty-Advanced Hebrew Speakers. This is your chance to become more fluent. Contact Rena Ziegler, rzeiglermsw@earthlink.net

Kesher Committee

Continued from Page 3

together outside the synagogue to celebrate havdalah. Be sure to look at the school calendar to find out when your class will get a chance!

On Dec. 4, 2015 our fifth-grade class along with their instructor Bette Amir-Brownstein, led the family service. Students participated in a debate as to whether the Torah should be translated into English or kept in the original Hebrew form.

Kesher celebrated 4th Night for Others with a gathering to light candles, say the blessings, share a meal, and contribute gifts, which were donated through locally through the nonprofit group PLAAY. Thank you to the Attar family for helping to organize the event!

The next parent meeting will be Jan. 31, 2016. Hope to see you there!

From Sagit Hall, Kesher director

Kesher is emphasizing a learning experience that goes beyond the classroom: an experience that involves the entire family and the entire CBI community. Kesher parents and interested individuals are invited to join one or all of these Jewish learning opportunities in the upcoming couple of months:

January 3, 2016 at 10:15 a.m.: Camp Kalsman info session led by Camp Kalsman's Senior Assistant Director Max Weinberg and URJ

Camp Service Corps Fellow Sarah Stochel

January 9, 2016 (time TBA):

Third-grade Havdalah night

January 10, 2016: Parent Enrichment Program (AKA PEP Talks) about the subject of **Jewish Meditation** led by Rabbi Samuels

February 5, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.: Family Service with leadership from the fourth-graders


February 20, 2016 (time TBA): Fifth-grade Havdalah night

March 4, 2016 at 6:15 p.m.: Family service with leadership from third graders.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JANUARY 2016

TEVET-SHEVAT 5776

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 20 Tevet 8:00 4:06	2 21 Tevet Shemot 9:30 AM Torah Study
3 22 Tevet 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet (w/Gan) 10:15 AM Camp Kalsman presentation	4 23 Tevet	5 24 Tevet	6 25 Tevet	7 26 Tevet HAPPY NEW YEAR! 7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	8 27 Tevet 8:00 4:14 6:15 PM Family Service w/ Andrea Shupack Potluck dinner afterward	9 28 Tevet Va'era 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service w/ Andrea Shupack 3rd Grade Havdallah
10 29 Tevet 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet (w/ Mazal Tot's) 10:30 PEP talk: "Jewish Meditation" (Rab. Samuels) 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope 3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall	11 1 Shevat	12 2 Shevat	13 3 Shevat	14 4 Shevat 7-8:15 PM Judaism 201 Adult Education class	15 5 Shevat 8:00 4:23 5:15 PM Pre-Svc. Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service w/ Maya Cornwall	16 6 Shevat Bo 10:00 AM Maya Cornwall Bat Mitzvah
17 7 Shevat NO Keshet classes	18 8 Shevat	19 9 Shevat	20 10 Shevat	21 11 Shevat NO Adult Ed	22 12 Shevat 8:00 4:34 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	23 13 Shevat Beshtach Shabbat Shirah 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
24 14 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope	25 15 Shevat M.L. KING, JR. HOLIDAY	26 16 Shevat	27 17 Shevat	28 18 Shevat	29 19 Shevat 8:00 4:45	30 20 Shevat Yitro 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:45 "Bibliodrama" w/ Andrea Shupack
31 21 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan) 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope 5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class					NO Shabbat Service "Shabbat at Home" Please welcome Shabbat at home w/ family&friends	5:30-7:30P AlephBet Ease Adult Education class
	TU B'SHEVAT					

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL FEBRUARY 2016 SHEVAT - ADAR I 5776

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 22 Shevat	2 23 Shevat	3 24 Shevat	4 25 Shevat	5 26 Shevat הח 4:56	6 27 Shevat <i>Mishpatim</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
	5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class	5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Education class		7:30 PM Adult Education Shema & Its Blessing	6:15 PM Family Service with 4th Grade class Potluck dinner afterward	
7 28 Shevat 10 AM - 12 PM Keshet (w/ Mazal Tot) 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope	8 29 Shevat	9 30 Shevat	10 1 Adar I	11 2 Adar I	12 3 Adar I הח 5:08/	13 4 Adar I <i>Terumah</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service led by Andrea Shupack
7-9 PM Beit Café @ Mt. Baker Theatre		7 PM Board of Directors		7:30 PM Adult Education Shema & Its Blessing	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ M. Zderic & R. Blecker	
14 5 Adar I 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet (w/Gan) 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope 3 PM -Text Study, Soc.Hall	15 6 Adar I	16 7 Adar I	17 8 Adar I	18 9 Adar I	19 10 Adar I הח 5:18 Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Dr. Beatrice Lawrence	20 11 Adar I <i>Tetzaveh</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30AM Shabbat Service
				7:30 PM Adult Education Shema & Its Blessing	5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	5th Grade Havdallah
21 12 Adar I 10 AM - 12 PM Keshet classes (NO Haftarah class)	22 13 Adar I	23 14 Adar I	24 15 Adar I	25 16 Adar I	26 17 Adar I הח 5:31	27 18 Adar I <i>Ki Tissa</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
					7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	
28 19 Adar I 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet (w/Gan) 12:45 PM Haftarah Trope	29 20 Adar I 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café					

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Beth Israel such a dynamic Jewish community. And observing Shabbat with 5,000 people, while not as intimate as it is regularly here at 2200 Broadway, is just plain awesome. What's even better is the song session afterwards!

The learning component is another reason why I will continue to go to Biennial. Along with me in Orlando were Ann Suloway and Melissa Schapiro as well as Asher and Naomi. Ann, Melissa and I divided and conquered when it came to all of the learning sessions. Here is just a sampling of what we went to:

- Creating and Sustaining Sacred Lay-Professional Partnerships
- Strengthening Your Congregation's Israel Connection
- Boomer Engagement as Key to Thriving Synagogues
- Beit Midrash: Learning Texts From Leading Scholars
- For Whose Sake Are We Engaging Members: Theirs or Ours?
- Innovative Models of Synagogue-Based Youth Engagement
- Israeli Identity: From the New Jew and Sabra to Contemporary Israeli Voices
- A Tale of Love and Darkness in Israel
- Embracing the Conversation: A Guide for Post-Middle-Age Engagement
- Speaking of Israel: Commitment, Concern, and Criticism
- *My Promised Land* with Ari Shavit
- Speeches from Rabbi David Saperstein, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and from Vice President Joe Biden
- Panel with NAACP President Cornell Brooks and RAC Direc-



Above, Beth Israel congregants (from left) Naomi and Melissa Schapiro, Ann Suloway and Asher Suloway-Baker, and Rabbi Joshua Samuels, enjoy Shabbat morning services with 5,000 others at the URJ Biennial in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 7, 2015.

At left, Rabbi Samuels with Ari Shavit.

tor Jonah Pesner, moderated by NY Times columnist Jodi Kantor

- Panel with Rabbi Eric Yoffie, Ari Shavit (*Haaretz* columnist) and Israeli MK Stav Shaffir

The three of us adults tried to make a concerted effort to attend sessions that focused on Israel, youth and empty-nester engagement, and outreach. I think we did a good job. Now all we need to do is figure out how to integrate much of what we learned into our community.

While I took so much away from this experience, there was one question a presenter asked that has stayed with me. She was talking about engaging synagogue members

and suggested each congregant answer the following question: Which three Jewish values should inspire everything we do at [Beth Israel]? It would be wonderful to engage in this conversation with you over the course of the year. Everything we do *should* be inspired by Jewish values. Perhaps we can create an activity at the High Holy Days where we get to find out what these most cherished values are in our community.

I look forward to strengthening Beth Israel with all of our members in a plethora of ways. May all of us and our sacred community continue to go from strength to strength.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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CONGREGATIONAL SHABBATON AT KALSMAN!

Join us May 20-21, 2016 at Camp Kalsman in Arlington

This will be our third annual joyful overnight community Shabbat! Accommodations include private rooms and bathrooms. Activities will include:

*Shabbat services * Four meals throughout Shabbat*

*Late night Torah study * Kid and family activities*

*Morning yoga for adults * Pre-Lag B'Omer bonfire*

*Canoeing * Giant swing * Hiking * Havdalah*

Special musical leadership from Andrea Shupack.

Arrive: Between 3 and 5 p.m. Friday, May 20, 2016

Depart: After Havdalah, around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21, 2016

Location: Camp Kalsman, 14724 184th St. NE, Arlington, WA

Registration: By April 15, 2016. Forms are available online or on the Keshet school bulletin board

Cost: \$75 per person. Space is limited! Scholarships available.



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