

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 19, NO. 6

* Congregation Beth Israel

* Bellingham, WA 98225

* www.bethisraelbellingham.org

* (360) 733-8890

Group heads into the wild

BY DAVID STRICH

In late July, a group of Beth Israel men will get together for a Jewish backpacking experience.

They will focus on wilderness in Jewish history by taking a three-day trip July 23-26, 2015, into the mountains. Through an outdoor expedition together, these men hope to build community, explore Judaism from a unique perspective, and have a good time outside. It is also a way for them to slow down and experience Shabbat as a true day of rest.

With low snow pack and easy proximity to Artist Point, the group will be camping in the Bagley Lakes/Iceberg Lake/Mazama Pass area, which is at an elevation of about 5,000 feet. Luckily there won't be too many elevation gains and drops when hiking.

This trip is the first event of its kind at Beth Israel, but it most certainly won't be the last! There are already many ideas floating around such as: B'nai mitzvah students experiencing outdoor Judaism



David Strich (right) shows Kayla Orloff how to make rope from fibrous plants during the Beth Israel Community Hike in October 2014.

and a Sisterhood Jewish backpacking or camping gathering as well.

If you are interested in participating in future opportunities that combine Judaism with the outdoors please contact the Beth Israel office.

David Strich is passionate about fostering an environmental ethic in his students, friends, and community.

FROM THE RABBI

Mourning turns to love

Is there anything better than summer in Bellingham? It's a glorious time filled with sunshine, outdoor concerts, lots of Mallard's Ice Cream, Bells' baseball games, and for my children, many trips to Fair-

haven Park's spray park. There is just so much happening in Bellingham. In the Jewish calendar, however, the opposite holds true.

There isn't much going on at all in

July and August. For a tradition with many festivals throughout the year, it seems Judaism takes a break in the summer months. But of course, Judaism doesn't take a break from special observances. In fact, there are two days in the month of Av (late July this year) that are worth being familiar with.

The first, Tisha b'Av, literally "The ninth of Av" (zero points for originality!) is the Jewish national day of mourning. This day has come to represent nearly every catastrophe that has befallen the Jewish people from the destruction of both Temples (586 B.C.E and 70 C.E.), the smashing of the Ten Commandments, the fall of Beitar ending the Bar Kochba rebellion in 135 C.E., the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290, from Spain in 1492, and the beginning of various pogroms in eastern Europe. Talk about a cursed day!



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- FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY: The DesRosiers, page 6
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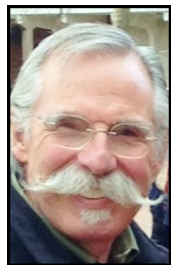
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From the President ...

Dan Ohms takes on presidency

Looks forward to working with new, returning leaders

I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me by allowing me to serve as president. It is a great honor and a sacred trust that I take very seriously. I will endeavor to make my best effort on behalf of the congregation.



Although some say the presidency can be a lonely place, I don't feel lonely. I look around and I see only friends, well-wishers and active participants in congregational life. I want to say "thank you" to the continuing board members and a special "thank you" to Katie Edelstein for being willing to assume a V.P. position. Additionally, I am grateful to Paul Blum, Steven Garfinkle, Gaby Mayers, and David Zimmerman, for being willing to serve on the board.

Many other people are helping to shoulder the work of synagogue leadership. Committee chairs and members are striving to create a vibrant Jewish life in our small corner of the world. Many of you respond to the efforts of the above members by attending and participating in social events, Jewish education, and religious services. I encourage those of you who would like to be more involved to give me a call. We will work together

to find a project or committee that will help you become a more active participant in synagogue life.

With the support of the synagogue and the Union for Reform Judaism, I was able to attend a four-day workshop for new presidents in Atlanta. This event, the Scheidt Conference, allowed me to meet about 100 new presidents from across the nation. From 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day, we worked to increase our understanding of leadership, finance, board and committee work. The conference emphasized that leading a synagogue is sacred work. Our instructors were rabbis, cantors and other experts, including URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs. I returned energized and eager to remain in contact with this inspiring network of new presidents as we face leadership challenges.

I know there are tough issues to resolve and decisions to be made during the next two years that will affect our community for a long time. I look forward to working with others to solve these issues and to make those decisions. As we pray from the *Mishkan T'fillah* each Shabbat, "there is a better place, a promised land; that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness. That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together."

Best regards,

— Dan Ohms

Setting records at Camp Kalsman

This summer Beth Israel is sending nearly 30 children and teens to Camp Kalsman. We have increased the number of attendees each year and by the camp's accounting, we are sending more kids to camp (percentage-wise) than any other synagogue in the Pacific Northwest. Our support of Kalsman goes further than the number of our children who spend anywhere from one to four weeks at the beautiful site. Melissa Schapiro serves on the Camp Commission, and Rabbi Samuels is a new member of the camp's Faculty Commission.

Rabbi Samuels and family will be spending a week at camp this summer,

which happens to be one of the rabbi's favorite aspects of being a congregational rabbi.

He said, "Spending time at camp, surrounded by nature and people of all ages who love living in a close-knit Jewish setting, is a major perk of my rabbinate. I look forward all year to leading sessions and all-camp tefilot, teaching staff and campers, bonding with my colleagues and of course, canoeing with my family. Camp Kalsman is a magical place. It is a center of living Judaism that instills Jewish values and pride into each of its campers. When I come back home after a week at camp, I feel refreshed."

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

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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 September/October issue is AUGUST 14. Call the office for more information.

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Board tackles budget issues as temple grows

More programs needed
as membership tops 230

BY STEVE SPITZER

BETH ISRAEL TREASURER

From a financial perspective, Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) is healthy and on solid footing. Over the last few years, we have hired a new Rabbi (whose second three-year contract begins July 1), a Religious School Director and a cantorial soloist. We have also been building a fantastic new synagogue for the next several generations. Our Religious School has blossomed with about 90 young people attending. In addition, we have also grown in terms of family units. Right now we are hovering around 230 families. While this is great news, the combination of raising funds for the new building, developing more programming and hiring more people, we have felt a slight strain on our monetary resources.

MILLION \$ MATCH UPDATE

- Dollars pledged and/or collected toward the Million Dollar Match (as of June 19, 2015): \$572,891
- What we need: \$427,109
- Days left to donate (July 1, 2015-Jan. 4, 2016): 188
- Who to call: Capital Campaign committee members David Goldman, Karen Sloss, Lynn Korner

A silver lining is that our new building is being constructed debt free. That in itself is a remarkable feat. (If you have not gone to see the new building, do so.)

In the last three years, we have either broken even or have ended the year in the "red" just slightly. In order to meet the needs of our diverse community, our operating income requires additional funding. CBI's operating budget relies heavily on our annual pledges. This accounts for more than 80% of our income. The Finance Committee and Board of Direc-

tors have been in the process of making tough choices — to accommodate all of our needs, and as we all know, some things have to give.

In the upcoming months, you will be receiving CBI's annual pledge letter. It is imperative we all review our personal budgets and try to find some extra dollars for CBI during the upcoming year. It is only with your generosity and commitment to Jewish life in Bellingham that our community will continue to prosper. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Join 5,000 Reform Jews at Biennial Nov. 4-8 in Orlando, Fla.

Two years ago I went to my first URJ Biennial in San Diego. It was a transformative experience, not just as rabbi, but as a Jew. It was the only time, outside of being in Israel, that I felt so connected to Jewish peoplehood. I look forward to going back in November and I hope many of you will join me.

So what is the URJ Biennial? "The URJ Biennial 2015 will bring together 5,000 Reform Jews to strengthen congregational life, celebrate with friends, and explore the most pressing issues of the day. The URJ Biennial will be held at the

Orlando World Center Marriott from November 4-8."

One highlight of this year's convention is that Chuck Todd, moderator of NBC's Meet the Press and NBC News political director, will host, leading 2016 presidential candidates in a forum at 8:30 p.m. on November 7. Candidates will also respond to questions from URJ leadership and Biennial delegates.

In addition, the URJ notes that "Beyond the candidates' forum, Biennial programming will be tailored to congregational leadership (lay, professional, cler-

gy, and up-and-coming leaders), and will feature learning sessions, networking opportunities, and plenaries, bookended by worship and evening entertainment. Four intensive tracks will focus on strengthening congregations, audacious hospitality, tikkun olam (repairing the world), and Jewish learning."

Early bird deadline is Sept. 10. Register at urj.org/biennial

Please let me know if you are interested.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

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, 961-9772

Religious School: Samantha Konikoff, 734-2762

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825

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

University Liaison: Sabrina Freeman, 734-4560; Marcia Lippman, 734-5376



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Bar Mitzvah

Jordan Verkh-Haskell will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on July 11, 2015. He is the son of Todd Haskell and Sasha Verkh, and the brother of Rory Verkh-Haskell. Jordan will be starting eighth grade this fall at Fairhaven Middle School, where his favorite subjects are math and science. In his free time, he enjoys reading; hiking; listening to, playing and composing music; cooking; and working on his karate moves.



For his mitzvah project, Jordan volunteered all year as an apprentice mentor with Wild Whatcom Boys Explorers Club.

He looks forward to celebrating with family, friends and the community.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

July 10, 2015 at 7:30 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

July 11, 2015 at 10 AM

Bar Mitzvah

Caden Tae-Jung Stoane will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on August 8, 2015. He is the son of Chi-Na and Jason Stoane, and the brother of Asher. Caden just finished seventh grade at Whatcom Middle School. He played safety on the football team and ran track. He enjoys making videos, snowboarding, playing viola and bassoon and playing board games with his family. Caden's mitzvah project is raising money and awareness for the victims of the two earthquakes that devastated Nepal recently.



Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

August 7, 2015 at 6:15 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

August 8, 2015 at 10 AM

Bar Mitzvah

Jacob Anderson will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on July 18, 2015. He is the son of Michelle and Joseph Anderson and brother of Elias and Ila Anderson.



Jacob just finished his seventh grade year at Whatcom Hills Waldorf School, where his favorite subjects are chemistry and physics. When not in school (and not studying for his Bar Mitzvah) he enjoys spending time with friends, skiing, rock climbing, drawing, singing and listening to music.

For his bar mitzvah project, Jacob learned the art of baking challah from some of Beth Israel's finest bakers. He

makes and delivers the challah to homebound and elderly congregants most Fridays.

He is looking forward to celebrating his Bar Mitzvah with family, friends and the community.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

July 17, 2015 at 6:15 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

July 18, 2015 at 10 AM

NEW MEMBERS

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

Cari & Tod Asmussen, and sons **Sammy** (age 6) and **Zane** (age 3)

Megan David & Denis Holmes, and daughter **Selah Maxwell** (age 7)

Kevin Donner & Angie Lee; son **Samuel** (age 8) and daughters **Lea** (age 5) and **Mara** (age 2)

Alyson & Brooke Kassen; son **Jacob Bishop** (age 13) and daughter **Julia Kassen** (age 3)

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NFTY-PHAT welcomes new adviser for 2015-16

Jessica Stein brings teaching, camp experience

Shalom, Congregation Beth Israel.

My name is Jessica Stein and I am excited to be the new PHAT adviser for the upcoming 2015-16 school year.

Before moving to Bellingham, I resided with my family in Spokane, where I was an active member of Temple Beth Shalom. Throughout high school I participated as a madricha and tutor, served as USY president, and attended Camp Solomon Schechter for several years as a camper and then a counselor. I also taught Sunday School for one year at CBI, so I may be a familiar face!



sociology. My involvement in the Bellingham Jewish community has been enriching and rewarding. I am currently the Vice President of the student board at the

Currently, I am entering my senior year at Western Washington University and anticipate graduating with a degree in

Chabad on Western's campus where I have organized and carried out many fun events and fundraisers.

Some of my favorite hobbies include scrapbooking, traveling, camping, and music. I especially love road tripping to concerts, and checking out local music shops along the way.

I am looking forward to getting involved with Bellingham's very own NFTY chapter. I intend to pass along my love for Judaism through many fun and creative events! I also hope to create an involved and solid presence for our PHAT members at CBI this year.

See you all in the fall, and until then, enjoy the summer!

—Jessica Stein

Birthdays

JULY 2015

7/1 Sue Guenter-Schlesinger	7/12 Laura Langley
7/2 Meg Jacobson	7/12 Avi Lindner (9 th)
7/2 Brooke Kassen	7/12 Lisa Press
7/3 Jaxon Mann (9 th)	7/13 Jack Fisher
7/4 Sharona Feller	7/14 Olivia Probst (11 th)
7/4 Mark MacDonald	7/14 Shelley Wolfman
7/4 Aaron Sanger	7/15 Rick Levine
7/5 Julie Hunter	7/16 Ali Morrow (17 th)
7/5 Ayla Oliver (9 th)	7/17 Sylvya Glass
7/5 Jaelle Oliver (9 th)	7/17 Helen Morgan Parmett
7/6 Dan Raas	7/17 Jay Saxton
7/6 Josh Shupack	7/18 Gus Evans (20 th)
7/7 Elsa Balton (20 th)	7/18 Ruth Shuster
7/7 Michelle Beller-Siegfried	7/19 Lior Somers (7 th)
7/7 Rabbi Joshua Samuels	7/20 Nicky Naiman
7/8 Gary Lazarus	7/20 Isaac Orloff (11 th)
7/9 Nancy Steiger	7/20 Melissa Schapiro
7/10 Larry Hildes	7/21 Mel Damski
7/10 Nali Lippman Schneider (8 th)	7/21 Elliott Johnson (17 th)
7/11 Max Naiman (5 th)	7/21 Bernice Rappaport
7/11 Naomi Schapiro (17 th)	7/22 Rakefet Richmond
	7/23 Noah Booker
	7/23 David Robinson
	7/23 Lindsay Wells

7/24 Jeff Popp
7/26 Julia Kassen (3 rd)
7/26 Larry Stahlberg
7/27 Jesse Naiman
7/28 Jerry Johnson
7/28 Asher Suloway-Baker (16 th)
7/29 David Edelstein
7/29 Evan Konikoff (6 th)
7/30 Amalia Hall (1 st)

8/11 Andrew Evans
8/12 Victoria Garfinkle
8/13 Mara Donner (2 nd)
8/15 Lilly Weiss
8/17 Esther Kahn
8/17 Betty Schwartz
8/18 Saul Goodman
8/19 Ron Bally
8/20 Jerry Eisner
8/20 Jordan Genut
8/21 Marla Finkelstein
8/21 Janine Shaw
8/22 Wendy Holtzman
8/22 Andrea Shupack
8/23 Aaron Landau (19 th)
8/24 Flora Booker (11 th)
8/24 Donna Solomon
8/25 Vermeda Fred
8/26 Denis Holmes
8/26 Jacob Lebovich (13 th)
8/26 Sylvia Williams
8/27 Megan David
8/29 Leah Voit
8/31 Harold Katz

AUGUST 2015

8/1 Diana Lindner
8/2 Andrea Haas
8/6 Arona Henderson
8/6 Barry Paluch
8/7 Ean Chalfie (16 th)
8/7 Joseph Kahan
8/7 Amy Whiting
8/8 Anne Brown
8/8 Leigh Squires
8/9 Mitchel J. Lazarus (95th)
8/10 Joan Wayne
8/10 Patty Yust

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Faces in our community

DesRosiers keep close to nature

Couple builds earth-friendly custom homes for themselves, others

BY LINDA HIRSH

Sarah and Norman DesRosiers yearned to live close to the land. So in 2009 they built a tiny cabin on an isolated 20-acre property in Everson.

But then their daughters — an infant and a toddler — developed chronic health problems. The house's generator would fail. The lines would freeze. Indeed, nature set challenges for Sarah as a homemaker. But she found it also soothed her.

"It was a dark time," she said, "yet nature was close by. It gave me a space to heal from trauma."

Sarah and her husband, Norman, sold the cabin in 2012. Now they live in a veritable woodland palace they'd dreamed up in a drawing a dozen years ago, then built. And they brought a bit of the Everson experience with them.

It is still close to nature — two dirt roads from a paved one — yet schools, synagogue and town are nearby. Also, this house offers amenities. Sarah and Norman own DesRosiers Construction, which espouses the same philosophy — to build earth-friendly, high-end custom houses.

Nicole Samuels knows the DesRosiers, and cites them as true to the values of the Northwest.

"They're wonderful and genuine people," Nicole said. "They are also down to earth in the most literal sense too, which is what I also love about them. They are conscious of their impact and imprint on the world from how they interact with nature and animals. They don't simply take from the environment, but they interact with it and this is so admirable. I also love talking about healthy, natural and organic (and yummy!) cooking with Sarah, as she's a woman after my own heart. They're all so sweet and also SO Pacific Northwest."

Before one tree was cut or one stone moved on the new property, the family held a little ceremony — reminiscent of native American practice — to thank nature for giving them the land. As they burned sage, they promised to live harmoniously with nature. Daughters Navah, now 10, and Sonorah, 7, were especially aware of not disturbing the local animal kingdom.

How did they accomplish this? By building with materials plucked

Continued on Page 10



KC PHOTOGRAPHY

Norman and Sarah DesRosiers with daughters Navah and Sonorah and dog Sam at the annual Religious School picnic June 7, 2015.



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Religious School plans several summer events

BY SAGIT HALL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Registration for the upcoming school year is under way! Thank you to the many families who have already signed up. Registration deadline is Aug. 1, 2015, so sign up now! For scholarship information or other questions, please call the Beth Israel office.

Check out these fun events that we have planned for this summer:

Get-together at Birch Bay Water Slides

Sunday, July 12, 11 a.m.

Here is a great excuse to get to Birch Bay Water Slides this summer. We will meet at 11 a.m. by the little slide!

Religious School Community Pool Party

Sunday, Aug. 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join the Religious School families for a swim and play at Bayside Pool. Please bring a dish to share (no glass is allowed) as we swim and chat with friends new and old!

Work Party and Rosh Hashanah Card-Making

Sunday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m. to noon

Join us as we clean and tidy our spaces inside and out. We will be working on artwork to be printed on our own Rosh Hashanah cards.

4th Annual Pancake Breakfast & First Day of Religious School

Sunday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited for our annual Pan-



Religious School Gan students enjoy some fun activities on the last day of class June 7, 2015.

cake Breakfast, hosted by the Beth Israel Brotherhood, at 9 a.m. on the first day of Religious School. We all look forward to meeting new friends, seeing familiar ones, and starting the year with a communal breakfast.

New Time for Hebrew School

Fourth- through sixth-grade students and families, please note that Hebrew School will meet on Sundays after Religious School from 12:30 to 2 p.m. (with lunch from 12 to 12:30 p.m.)

We hope that this new time will work better with mid-week extracurricular schedules.

NEW MEMBER SUMMER SOCIAL

The Membership Committee will be sending invitations to new and prospective members to attend the annual Ice Cream Social in August. This is an opportunity to meet people, including board members, have relaxed conversations and learn more about our congregation. It's always a well-attended and fun event.

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From the Social Action Committee ...

100 volunteers turn out for annual Mitzvah Day

BY DEBBIE RAAS AND LINDA BLACKWELL

About 100 people volunteered on Mitzvah Day, May 31, 2015. Special thanks to project leaders: Bonnie and Alan Stone and the Brotherhood, providing bagels, juice and coffee; Miriam Zderic, Debbie Raas and Melissa Stahlberg, making dolls and pillows for kids at the domestic violence shelter; Linda Blackwell and Belle Shalom, packing hygiene products for teens at Northwest Youth Services; Darcie and Sarann Donagan, writing and making cards for the homebound and Jewish service members; Leslie Adelstein, cleaning the cemetery; Esther Faber, gardening at a community garden for farm workers; and Barb Boothby, working on sustainable farming for veterans.

Milk Money

We again raised enough money to give every family visiting the Bellingham Food Bank a half-gallon of milk for a month. Thank you!

School Supplies

Bring school supplies for low-income kids to our baskets outside the social hall by Aug. 28. A list of supplies will be posted online and by the baskets. Or mail a check to the Opportunity Council, P.O. Box 2134, Bellingham, WA 98227.

BUILDING FUNDRAISERS

Bellingham Bay Cruise with Brian Griffin

giving a history of the local and Jewish communities **July 28, 2015**. The pirates of Congregation Beth Israel invite YOU, YOUR FRIENDS and SUMMER-TIME VISITORS to board Ye Olde Island Caper as we steal away for a sunset cruise. Get your grub (Mediterranean cuisine) and grog (part of the registration package) and come aboard. We'll weigh anchor at 5:45 p.m. and have you back at the dock at 8:30 p.m. No need to swab the decks or walk the plank; just have fun with your mates!

Millie & the Mentshn's premiere concert

of Ahoy Vey! Yo Ho Ho & a Bottle of Schmaltz on **November 7, 2015**, at Whatcom Community College's Heiner Theater.

Light Up the Night Auction Evening The event will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, **December 5, 2015**, with a preview, socializing and celebration to be followed by dinner and event activities, at Bellingham Technical College Settlemeyer Hall. Members, prospective members and friends are invited. Watch for more information in the weekly e-news.

Details: www.bethisraelbellingham.org, New Building Fundraisers

Anniversaries

July 2015

July 3 Warren Rosenthal & Amy Whiting (#28)
July 3 Andrea & Josh Shupack (#10)
July 6 Rebecca & Tom Oliver (#18)
July 7 Yaniv & Meredith Attar (#8)
July 9 Mark & Helen Packer (#20)
July 9 Ted & Penny Schuman (#48)
July 10 Anna & Noah Booker (#16)
July 12 Gary & Trisha Adelstein (#28)
July 13 Sara Geballe & Steve James (#7)
July 18 Christoph & Geraldine Reitz (#23)
July 21 David & Katie Edelstein (#42)
July 26 Jack & Karen Fisher (#42)
July 26 Binnie Perper & Themeos Drossos (#34)
July 30 Orly Ziv-Maxim & Tom Maxim (#19)

August 2015

Aug. 1 Alyson & Brooke Kassen (#5)
Aug. 2 Sylvia & John Williams (#1)
Aug. 4 Josh Greenberg & Anita Meyer (#19)
Aug. 5 Karen Katz & Niles Roberts (#14)
Aug. 5 Dan & Debbie Raas (#42)
Aug. 6 Dan Ohms & Janine Shaw (#15)
Aug. 7 Millie & Jerry Johnson (#34)
Aug. 11 Serge Lindner & Deborah Oksenberg (#13)
Aug. 13 Tamar & Shawn Clarke (#15)
Aug. 14 Kevin Donner & Angie Lee (#11)
Aug. 15 Isaac & Wendy Blum (#17)
Aug. 15 Ray Wolpow & Diane Leigh (#14)
Aug. 16 Harriet & Manuel Emanuel (#45)
Aug. 17 Margaret Bikman & Jay Saxton (#40)
Aug. 17 Stephanie Korn & Scott Mann (#13)
Aug. 18 Aaron & Michele Sanger (#18)

Aug. 19 Shala Erlich & Warren Cornwall (#14)
Aug. 20 Laura Langley & Lindsay Wells (#10)
Aug. 20 Ken & Regan Levinson (#9)
Aug. 20 Marc & Elizabeth Weinstein (#10)
Aug. 21 Julia & Joel Bakken (#10)
Aug. 21 Gayle Gordon-Martin & Stephen Martin (#28)
Aug. 25 Warren & Marybeth Taranow (#19)
Aug. 25 Shelley & Jay Wolfman (#45)
Aug. 26 Megan David & Denis Holmes (#4)
Aug. 26 Miriam & Greg Schwartz (#14)
Aug. 27 Daniel & Sharona Feller (#37)
Aug. 27 Emil & Tannia Hecht (#44)
Aug. 27 Barry & Kathi Paluch (#12)
Aug. 29 Steve & Janis Ban (#39)
Aug. 30 Linda & Allan Hirsh (#56)
Aug. 31 McNeel & KJ Jantzen (#13)

Special Fund Donations

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF:

*Elka & Myron Fink – Happy 60th Anniversary

*Harriet Fine – Happy Birthday

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Esther Faber, for her kindness to my sister

From: *John Philipp (New York)*

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Stan Yacknin and family

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rhoda Samuels — Best wishes for her 75th birthday

From: *Edith Familian (Rancho Mirage, CA)*

Ella Bakst (Rancho Mirage, CA)

Patsy Palmer (Los Angeles, CA)

Barbara Siegel (Palo Alto, CA)

Susan Sunkin (Los Angeles, CA)

Arlene Volk (Studio City, CA)

*Shoshana Samuels, on the occasion of her 3rd birthday

*Nicole Samuels, with wishes for a happy Mother's Day

*Rabbi Joshua Samuels, with wishes for a happy Father's Day

*Rabbi & Nicole Samuels, with best wishes for their birthdays

From: *Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)*

Rabbi & Nicole Samuels, on the occasion of their 10th wedding anniversary

From: *Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)*

Rhoda & Peter Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA)

Lee Ann & Paul Steiner (San Francis-

co) – Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary.

From: *Rhoda & Peter Samuels*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

*Everyone who donated funds and support to the MS Walk

*Noémi Ban, for her contributions to life

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Michael & Cookie Goldman (St. Louis Park, MN)

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Elaine Stein (Rancho Mirage, CA), on the loss of her mother

From: *Rhoda & Peter Samuels*

Gracie Rogoff and family (*Mission Viejo, CA*), on the loss of Burton J. Rogoff

From: *Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)*

GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Erlick (Kansas City, KS)

From: *Susan Reeves*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Katie Comstock

Joseph & Elena Nadler

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Warren Rosenthal – thanks for everything

From: *Judy Soicher*

Karen Sloss – in friendship and gratitude for her ongoing support

From: *Bonnie Quam*

*Rachel Sager, in thanks for doing a

great job as WWU Hillel Program Coordinator for 2014-15

*My fellow Hillel community board members – Geraldine Reitz, Wendy Schwartz, Becki Van Glubt, Joan Wayne & Miriam Zderic – thank you for another year of devoted service

From: *Larry Stahlberg*

*Marta & Craig Brand

*The Care Committee

*The Chevra Kaddisha Committee

*Rabbi Samuels

*Mary Somerville

From: *Ruth Evans*

COMMEMORATING YAHREZEITS OF:

My parents, Nathan Lassman and Rose Lassman

From: *Bernice Loober*

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

*Linda Hirsh, for having one of her mosaics accepted by the Berkeley Museum

*Stan & Rosalie Yacknin – Have a blessed 65th Anniversary

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

Steve Martin – Mazel Tov and welcome

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

IN HONOR OF:

Steve Martin, on his conversion

From: *Bonnie & Alan Stone*

Steve & Rita Spitzer

The wedding anniversary of Warren Rosenthal and Amy Whiting

From: *Steve & Rita Spitzer*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Shelley Pravda, on the loss of his wife, Elinor

From: *Larry & Melissa Stahlberg*

Interfaith Coalition seeks volunteers for projects

Interfaith Coalition has opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of people in Whatcom County.

This summer we are doing exterior maintenance and repairs on several of our houses and would welcome a hand if you could offer a couple of hours on things like: painting, tree/brush trimming, general carpentry, etc. Skilled or not

skilled — you can help!

Knitters can begin crafting warm hats and scarves for Project Warm Up to distribute this winter. Call Interfaith at **734-3983** for more information.

In addition, Interfaith helps collect items for Project Homeless Connect, a community one-day event in Bellingham on July 24th, that brings immediate ac-

cess to services for the homeless. If you have clean, gently-used, washable blankets or sleeping bags that you can donate to be given out at the event, they can be placed in the social action baskets outside of the social hall. If you are interested in volunteering before or during the event, contact the Whatcom Volunteer Center at 734-3055.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Tisha b'Av is marked by strict mourning practices and the reading of Eicha, the Book of Lamentations (a book of dirges describing the horrors in Jerusalem during the Babylonian siege at the time of the destruction of the first Temple. — Stuart Berman). Similar to Yom Kippur, many things are forbidden, such as eating, drinking, bathing, wearing fragrances, wearing leather shoes (many don't wear any shoes at all), and sexual intercourse. In addition, studying Torah is forbidden since this is a joyous activity. Many people sit on the floor during services, and it is also forbidden to exchange greetings with anyone.

Tisha b'Av is still observed in many communities worldwide and in nearly all denominations. But many don't see the relevance any more. It is certainly a challenge for modern Jews to connect to the pain that this day symbolizes. The sadness just isn't there. Oftentimes it feels forced to create "moving" services to elicit this response. Having experienced so much hatred and bloodshed throughout our history, spending any more time

reliving the past can feel like a burden. Many would rather celebrate joy and love, especially in the summer months.

And this is exactly what Tu b'Av, The 15th of Av (another original name!) celebrates less than a week after Tisha b'Av. In fact, some consider this the Jewish Valentine's Day. The reason for this comes from its mention in the Mishnah where Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel is quoted saying, "There were no better (i.e., happier) days for the people of Israel than the Fifteenth of Av and Yom Kippur, since on these days the daughters of Israel/Jerusalem go out dressed in white and dance in the vineyards. What were they saying: Young man, consider whom you choose (to be your wife)?" (Ta'anit, Chapter 4) Tu b'Av thus became the Jewish day of matchmaking.

Today, there is no set structure for observing this day of love although many traditional Jews will refrain from reciting confessions of sins and petitions for God's grace and mercy in their daily prayers. In recent years, Israeli culture has promoted festivals of singing and dancing on the night of Tu b'Av. Not surprisingly, Israeli cosmetic and beauty stores do quite well on this day. In a way, Tu b'Av is the mirror opposite of Tisha

b'Av. Instead of mourning, we have rejoicing. After a day devoid of human connection, six days later we have a day promoting love and intimacy.

Perhaps it is no coincidence then that Tu b'Av serves as a transition from the mourning of Tisha b'Av to the renewal of the month of Elul and the New Year. The letters of Elul form an acronym for the words in the verse *Ani le dodi v'dodi li* -- "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Songs 6:3). Believing that "beloved" refers to God, the sages take this verse to describe the loving and close relationship between God and Israel. Just as we are encouraged to repair our own personal relationships before we seek God's acceptance, Tu b'Av encourages us to (re)connect to our loved ones before it's time in Elul to establish this closeness with God.

Whether or not you observe Tisha b'Av or Tu b'Av, I think the message from our tradition is clear: Each of us experiences the full range of emotions throughout the year. And it's healthy to embrace them all, as there is a place for every single one of them. But at the end of the day (and end of the year), as the Beatles sang, "Love is all you need." May each of your lives be filled with love this summer.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

DesRosiers

Continued from Page 6

from land close by.

A stairway of split logs greets the visitor. A soaring ceiling with skylights sending down blocks of illumination beckons the visitor inside. An economical wood stove heats the single space that crowns kitchen, dining room and living room. A 30,000-gallon rainwater catchment system is built into the foundation. Wood is either reclaimed or comes from trees that needed to be axed. And the *creme de la creme*, olivine, a jade green stone found only in the vicinity of the Twin Sisters mountains will cover kitchen counters.

Although Sarah was born in Royal Oaks, Mich., she has spent most of her life near the Cascades. Her family moved to Mukilteo when she was 4. At school, she was the only Jew in her class. Rather than continue to shlep down to Temple deHirsch in Seattle, her parents gathered with several families to found a temple in Everett. That became Temple Beth Or, where Sarah was a bat mitzvah.

The group bought the Orthodox Montefiore shul in 1985 for a penny. Like

Congregation Beth Israel, the Orthodox members merged with the new congregation. She remembers them telling stories about the first time husbands and wives from the old congregation sat together. Unlike Congregation Beth Israel, it did not have an established religious school curriculum. Sarah said she now benefits from her children's religious school experience.

And collaborating with her daughter's third grade teacher at Waldorf, she brings those lessons, such as about the holidays, to class. Classmates tell Navah that she is so lucky to be Jewish.

Norman grew up in Juneau, Alaska, among the Tlingit people. One of only a few Caucasians, he grew to respect the natives' ability with wood-carving, their connection to the earth and their spirituality. Hence the sage ceremony before starting to build the new house. The family also plans a mezuzah-hanging ceremony.

When Sarah and Norman first met in Juneau at a friend's wedding, "it was love at first sight," she said.

They exchanged addresses and wrote

letters. When her father gave her the gift of a trip to anywhere, she chose Sitka, where Norman was working as a commercial fisherman. They married November 7, 2004.

Norman, who is not Jewish, feels comfortable at CBI: "I always learn something new and interesting. I love being a student of Judaism and surrounding myself with such a loving community. I always walk away feeling like I've had a big hug."

Norman's talent with his hands and his love of the earth has combined with Sarah's philosophy about teaching.

Sarah, who has bachelor's and master's degrees from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., said as a teacher in a Portland inner city school, she wanted to inspire her students to make the world better: "None of the kids ever had their hands in the soil. I wanted my own children to be more aware" of how the earth works. "I am conscious of the future and want to invest in the next generation."

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, July 3

Virginia Hunter	7/5
Edward Witte	7/6
Lisa Furth	7/7
May Meyers	7/7
Bernice Shear	7/7
Earnest Ban	7/8
Hannah Samuels	7/9
Harold Korn	7/10
Ralph Weill	7/10

For Friday, July 10 & Saturday, July 11

Syd Goldman	7/11
Seymour Karpas	7/11
Jack Meyers	7/13
Martha Rosenthal	7/14
Willard Brown	7/15
Kathleen Clendenen	7/16
Leaine (Lee) Farkas	7/16
Sandra Wilson	7/16
Alan Mazonson	7/17
Gary Snyder	7/17

For Friday, July 17 & Saturday, July 18

Helen L. Bean	7/18
Sophie Streitman	7/19
Philip Kahn	7/20
Walter Mayers	7/21
Nelson Shkolnik	7/22
David Frantz	7/23
Josefina Pombo de Rubiano	7/23
Alfred Steinmetz	7/23

For Friday, July 24

Berte Fischel	7/25
William Fox	7/28
Ira Benjamin Dement	7/31
Marvin Tartak	7/31

For Friday, July 31 (will be read on July 24)

Nancy Parmett	8/1
Mark Wohl	8/1
Elsie Haas	8/3
Simon Sokol	8/3
Joseph Bernstein	8/4

Goldie Dorfman	8/5
Sol Schneider	8/5
Kaufman Katz	8/6
Shirley Zell	8/6
Bernard M. "Bun" Jaffe	8/7

For Friday, August 7

Daniel Kushner	8/8
Joseph Feiger	8/12
Sadie Goldman	8/13
Sarah M. Gordon	8/14

For Friday, August 14 & Saturday, August 15

Rose Horowitz	8/15
Rose Z. Blecker	8/16
Wally Moritz	8/16
Liam Balton	8/19
Laura Netka	8/19
Keith Baker	8/20
Melanie Smith	8/20
Edna Milnes Walker	8/20
Josef Zimmerman	8/20
Max Glass	8/21
Reta Kahn	8/21
Hella Elaine Weill Lyon	8/21

For Friday, August 21

Dinah Godfrey	8/22
Albert Shkolnik	8/22
Arthur Leventhal	8/23
Rose Leventhal	8/24
Kate Shavelson	8/26
Louis Thal	8/26
Mary Warshal Glazer	8/27
Yitzhak Turovitz	8/28

For Friday, August 28

Lenore Lackowitz	8/29
Rose Lassman	8/30
Joe Lebovich	8/31
Rebecca Shapira de Lindner	9/1
Marian Loober	9/1
Sara Shaw	9/1
Robert Siegfried	9/2
Janet Koplowitz	9/3

Simchat Chochma service a success

Our first ever Simhat Chochma service to honor older women at Congregation Beth Israel was held June 13. Rabbi Samuels orchestrated what became a magical two hours of prayers and poetry, quips and quotes and plenty of song.

Esther Faber gave an introduction to the Shabbat service that said it all:

"So... what is this Simchat Chochma about anyway? Well, we all know that wisdom is NOT a guarantee of being older, so we're not saying, 'We're older so we're wiser.' But we are saying, we're older... and we feel like we are learning as we go along our way."

"The Beatles sang to us, 'Let it be' and we are learning to let it be a little when it's not the way we want it and we can't change it. The Dali Lama and our own Moshe, Hillel and Akiva teach us how simple kindness can bring heaven into our everyday lives with our fellow humans and with all life. And as my hairdresser Judy said to me the other day, 'We need each other.' ... So maybe we are learning a little here and a little there... Sometimes we do have fears but we are learning that we can let them pass and be who we are more than being slaves to our fear..."

Many among the approximately 50 attending expressed their delight with the service and some suggested it become a tradition. About 20 women participated and many brought food for the celebratory lunch afterwards.

Esther and Linda Hirsh would like to thank those wonderful women for their contribution in acknowledging the age of accumulating wisdom.

Oneg host schedule ready for 2015-16

You should have received the Congregation Beth Israel oneg host list in the mail by now.

If you haven't, perhaps you weren't assigned a date. You can check the list on the Beth Israel website in the members' only section.

In Memoriam

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

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to **Mel Damski** and family on the loss of his mother, **Rachel Damski**, who passed away on May 15, 2015 at her home in Palm Springs

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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Service Schedule

Friday, July 3

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service, with potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, July 4

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, July 10

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service with leadership from Jordan Verkh-Haskell

Saturday, July 11th

10 a.m. *Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Verkh-Haskell*

Friday, July 17

5:30 p.m. Pre-service *nosh*

6:15 p.m. Shabbat evening service with leadership from Jacob Anderson

Saturday, July 18

10 a.m. *Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Anderson*

Friday, July 24

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

Saturday, July 25th

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

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 1

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, August 7

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service with leadership from Caden Stoane. Potluck dinner* afterward

Saturday, August 8

10 a.m. *Bar Mitzvah of Caden Stoane*

Friday, August 14

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

Saturday, August 15

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

Friday, August 21

5:30 p.m. Pre-service *nosh*

6:15 p.m. Shabbat evening service

Saturday, August 22

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

Friday, August 28

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

Saturday, August 29

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Shop much?

Beth Israel **Scrip** brings in about \$1,000 every month and costs you nothing! Just purchase Scrip from Beth Israel for stores you already shop at and Beth Israel earns a percentage of each purchase!

Contact Joan Wayne, jawayne2@yahoo.com.

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Both Scrip and Amazon are under the Donate tab at www.bethisraelbellingham.org

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