

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 20, NO. 4 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Get your Purim on!

2 chances to see spiel with dose of reality TV

Join us for a night of Megillah reading and our annual Purim Spiel! This year it's *Shushan Apprentice*, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2016, in the Beth Israel sanctuary.

We'll be celebrating Purim with a mashup of reality TV competitions, including "Iron Chef," "American Idol," and "So You Think You Can Dance!" There will be singing, dancing, and tons of fun. Can you really resist King Ahashveros sporting a Donald Trump wig and shouting, "You're fired!"?

So make sure to join in the fun as CBI folks get totally silly on the bima in this wild rendition of the story of Esther.

Spiel and Carnival

Get a preview of the spiel at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20, 2016, followed by the Purim carnival from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Bloedel-Donovan Park.

This year the carnival will feature



2 henna artists, a juggler, face painting, a costume parade, carnival games (including toilet paper roll tossing - Haman's Throne) with prizes. Plus: hamantashen, pizza, salad, root beer floats and popcorn. There will not be live music this year because of space and noise issues at

Bloedel. We hope to have live music back at the carnival in 2017, when we are in our new building.

Family discount cards (food and game tickets) can be ordered on our website through March 17.



FROM THE RABBI

She said *what* on the bima!?

Just a couple weeks ago we hosted Dr. Beatrice Lawrence as our Scholar-in-Residence. It was a fantastic weekend filled with humor, "NC-17"-rated discussions, serious learning and a tremendous sense of community. Af-

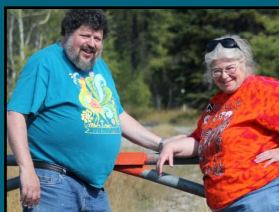
ter Dr. Lawrence's final lecture on Sunday, a number of people approached me and demanded that we bring her back every year! I think this feedback is a good indicator that we succeeded in filling a spiritual and intellectual need in the community. Personally, I would love hosting a scholar every year.

While Dr. Lawrence's lecture topics might not have spoken to each and every one of us (she did speak quite bit about the role of women in Judaism, which, I would argue, actually speaks to all of us), I think the teachings underlying each of her subjects were extremely relevant to our lives. And those could be summed up the following ways: Judaism is an ancient tradition



Inside:

- WWU creates Jewish History position, page 3
- **RECIPES:** Gefilte fish, Passover cookies, page 5



- Attend our congregational seder, page 16
- **FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY:** Weill/Hildes family, page 8

Continued on Page 15

From the President ...

Building sale, safety plan and food guidelines in the works

The days are getting a little longer, the crocuses are up, and I am filled with hope for the new year.

As a board, we have been busy on several fronts. We received an offer to purchase our building on Broadway. Over the course of several months we have had face-to-face conversations and email exchanges with a potential buyer. We had offers and made counteroffers. We have not reached a conclusion. The board will work hard to sell our old synagogue at a price and at a time that are in the best interests of the congregation. This is a work in progress, and I will do my best to keep everyone informed.

In addition, the board is working on a food policy for synagogue events. The food policy is in the draft stage. When completed, the policy will provide dietary guidelines for our many gatherings.

We continue to refine the nomination process for board and executive officers. Mitch Press's article in this Shofar outlines the nomination pro-

cess; please be sure to read it.

We are developing a safety and security plan. The plan will be a comprehensive approach to the security needs of our congregation. The preliminary plan has board approval, but needs revision before final acceptance.

Spring is on the way. The new year holds the promise of challenges and improvements in how we function as a board and as a congregation. Board meetings are open to all congregants and are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.; they are listed on the synagogue website. Meetings begin by asking visiting congregants if they would like to address the board.

I would like to close by saying how much I will miss Alan and Bonnie Stone. Alan and Bonnie represent all that is good about Congregation Beth Israel. They are warm, cheerful and dedicated individuals. They provided leadership to the congregation for many years. I know they will enjoy being closer to their children in Seattle, but their departure is a loss to our synagogue family.

Best regards,

— Dan Ohms

Care Committee sets up Meal Trains

Among the many things the Care Committee does is organize Meal Trains for members going through a challenging time due to birth, adoption, illness or injury.

During significant life events, schedules and routines are often disrupted, and cooking a healthy meal can be very difficult. A Meal

Train helps ensure that a nourishing meal is provided to those in need. The Meal Train allows for friends, family, co-workers, congregation members, neighbors, and community to sign up online to provide meals. Consider hopping aboard. It's a wonderful mitzvah!

We currently have one Meal Train going. If you are interested in participating, or know of someone in need, contact Else Sokol: sokolbell4@comcast.net

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
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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 May/June issue is APRIL 15. Call the office for more information.

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WWU creates Jewish history post

Permanent position to provide consistency

BY LINDA HIRSH

Some children grow up knowing Jewish history.

Western Washington University's provost and history department wants to make sure every public school student in the state learns about it, as well as about the trauma that was the Holocaust.

To do so, their teachers must be articulate in the subject. That is one reason why Steven Garfinkle, a pro-

fessor of ancient history at WWU and a CBI board member, is working to fund a position in his department for a professor of Jewish history.

They must eventually raise \$2 million. They have already raised more than \$800,000.

"It is no longer a question of if it happens; now it's a question of when," Steven said. "We will advertise for a tenure-track position. It happens to be an active field of study, so there is no question we can tap a pool of wonderful applicants."

The university graduates more secondary school teachers than any oth-

er school in the state. That is one reason why the provost, dean, department chairman and professors believe this position is vital.

In the past, the university has offered courses in Jewish history and the Holocaust. The courses garnered a strong enrollment, but stopped due to retirements. Students have wondered why and have asked that they be offered again.

Proof of their interest in Jewish studies lies in the attendance at [Noemi Ban's lectures at the university. When she shares her Auschwitz

Continued on Page 12

Adult education classes

'Jewish Taboos,' beginning Hebrew offered

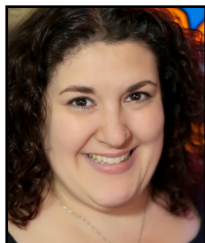
PEP talks March 6

"Jewish Taboos: Transforming Your Life by Talking about the Unspeakable," presented by Ahuva Batya

(Constance)

Scharff, PhD, is the topic for the next Parent Enrichment Program at Keshet Center for Jewish Learning, at 10:20 a.m. Sunday, March 6, 2016, in the Beth Israel sanctuary.

There are many topics Jews don't like to discuss in public, especially



regarding mental health: addiction, child abuse, and infertility chief among these taboo subjects. Custom suggests that we keep these problems "in the family," but doing so limits opportunities for help and growth. This conversation will look at these taboo subjects and discuss the healthy ways we can improve our lives and relationships by shedding light on what may be the darkest experiences of our lives.

Hebrew course April 16

Hebrew for the Absolute Beginner

Instructors: Dr. Lawrence Hall, Sagit Hall

Whether your goal is to study He-

brew along with your children or to feel more comfortable at services, this course is your answer! AlephBet-Ease uses stress-free, multisensory, intensive methodologies as a foundation for language acquisition.

This course focuses on the Siddur as a practice text for the reading skills acquired in the first AlephBet-Ease course. It will help those who can read Hebrew to be able to read better and understand the Friday night service prayers and blessings. Classes are 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 16; 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 17-19. Suggested fee: \$100 member/\$120 nonmembers. Sign up by April 4.

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

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676-1621; Linda Blackwell

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Freeman, 734-4560; Marcia Lipp-
man, 734-5376



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Bar Mitzvah

Noam Richmond will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 12, 2016. He is the son of



Rakefet Richmond and Itamar Richmond. Noam is a seventh-grader at Whatcom Middle School. He is involved in theater at BAAY, he is a soccer goalie with the Rangers, and he loves snowboarding. For his Mitzvah project, Noam volunteered at Keshet B'Ivrit Hebrew School at Beth Israel helping the younger children with learning Hebrew through fun

games.

Please join our family in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

March 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM

The Yenta speaks

Ahuva Scharff has just opened a new business in Ferndale, **Horses for Health**. Horses for Health offers programs and events that transform lives through human/equine interaction. Activities are social, with year-round groups for adults and summer camps for kids. For more information, go to www.horsesforhealth.com.

Welcome back to returning members **Martin & Kim Moskowitz**

From **Bonnie and Alan Stone**: We want to thank everyone for the lovely Shabbat in our honor. We treasure your friendship and love, and hope you come to visit us in Seattle. We will always be a part of Beth Israel.

Birthdays

MARCH 2016

3/1 Tannia Hecht
3/2 Nadia Mazonson 11th
3/4 Talya Sanger 15th
3/5 Lev Cornwall 10th
3/5 Manuel Emanuel
3/5 Amy Evans 17th
3/6 Christoph Reitz
3/6 Mary Somerville
3/7 Sara Geballe
3/8 Norman DesRosiers
3/8 Deborah Oksenberg
3/8 K.C. Sulkin
3/9 Leeya Shoshana Genut 3rd
3/10 Susan Schnell
3/10 Mark Steinberg
3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley 5th
3/13 Rebecca Orloff
3/13 Joan Sager
3/13 Steve Schwartz
3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell 14th
3/15 Yaniv Attar

3/19 Carol Robinson
3/19 Noah Taranow 19th
3/20 Jody Meltzer
3/20 Matthew Schall
3/21 Bonnie Quam
3/22 Jonah Attar 6th
3/22 Sonora DesRosiers 8th
3/22 Roy Shankman
3/24 Michael Korner
3/25 Tami DuBow
3/26 Kathy Block
3/26 Alex Hall
3/27 Kevin James
3/27 Debbie Raas
3/27 Marybeth Taranow
3/27 Aviva Weinstein 9th
3/28 Celt Schira
3/29 Rick Romito
3/30 Samantha Konikoff
3/31 Lynn Korner
3/31 Jeffrey Margolis
3/31 Gabriel Witte 7th

APRIL 2016

4/1 Amy Kraham
4/1 Amy Margolis
4/2 John McGarrity
4/3 Ethan Oliver 14th
4/3 Alisa Sachs
4/4 Daniel Feller
4/4 Mary Jo Lewis
4/5 Hannah Levine 18th
4/6 Tammy Dixon
4/6 Katie Edelstein
4/6 Hank Levine
4/6 Daniel Zagnoli
4/7 Lisa Balton
4/7 Samuel Donner 9th
4/8 Laura Ochoa
4/10 Katie Comstock
4/10 Jeffrey Feld
4/10 Susan Katz
4/11 Lilah Blum 15th
4/12 Barbara Boothby
4/12 Sarah DesRosiers

4/13 Steve Ban
4/13 Karen Fisher
4/13 Jeffrey Probst
4/16 Mia Clarke 10th
4/16 Elizabeth Witte 4th
4/17 Paul Blum
4/18 Navah DesRosiers 11th
4/18 Liza Jane Price 8th
4/18 Linda Read
4/18 Alexandra Verkh
4/21 Teresa Allison
4/23 Lindsay Roberts 6th
4/24 Leah Lippman
4/24 Aniel Wells-Langley 7th
4/25 Margaret Bikman
4/25 Jason Stoane
4/26 Spencer Jantzen 11th
4/27 Alan Kendal
4/28 Elisha Goodma 14th
4/28 Andrew Orloff
4/28 Shoshana Samuels 4th
4/29 Abigail Comstock 8th
4/29 Richard Widerkehr



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Some Passover recipes ...

Homemade gefilte fish is in the details

BY JANIS BAN

My Passover memories are mixed — ranging from the unbearably long seders of my childhood to the fun of being with my cousins from Toronto. As an adult, I remember wonderful trips to Cleveland with our children, who delighted in being with *their* cousins for seder. I remember really fun and meaningful child-oriented seders with friends and with our grandchildren.

And I do have a story to tell about making gefilte fish with my cousin, Sandy, when she was visiting Bellingham. As we prepared the fish, we felt so connected to our beloved Grandma. She was not educated past eighth grade, but was as witty and as wise as the world. She was married at age 16, emigrated from Poland to Canada around 1933, and lived to age 103. She always made the best gefilte fish from scratch. We had a recipe for gefilte fish from long-time congregant Rose Thal, z"l, and got down to it. We neglected to read the part about how "you ask the fish seller to give you fish heads without the eyeballs." So, we made our fish broth, and after it simmered awhile, we opened the lid to see all of these eyeballs floating and looking up at us! We screamed, but channeled our dear grandma's energy and carried on to completion. Needless to say at Passover that year, and every year since, my gefilte fish comes out of a jar.

If you still want to make your own gefilte fish, the recipe follows. For everyone else, here is a favorite Passover recipe from my mom, for farfel cookies. She handed it to me many years ago, saying, "The girls should love these." And they did.

**Passover Farfel Cookies**

¾ cup or less of sugar	½ cup walnuts coarsely chopped
½ tsp cinnamon	1 cup matzah meal
1/3 cup oil	pinch of salt
½ cup raisins	1 cup matzah farfel (cracked pieces of matzah)
2 eggs	

Beat eggs. Add sugar and oil. Add matzah meal, farfel, and other ingredients.

Drop from teaspoon onto oiled cookie sheet 3" apart. Bake in 350 degree oven for 15 minutes.

Rose Thal's Gefilte Fish

(makes 20 balls)

3 pounds of fish (salmon plus some white fish like red snapper, sole, halibut, cod)

2 fish heads; take eyes out and split the heads

4 big onions	2 T sugar
garlic powder	3-4 whole carrots
salt	1/3 cup matzo meal
pepper	3 eggs

Cover bones and fish heads with water. Add 2 onions, carrots, salt, pepper, garlic powder and 1 T sugar and simmer. Meanwhile, saute 2 onions in butter. Put in food processor with 1/3 of the fish, chop for a couple of turns, add the next 1/3, a couple turns, and then rest of fish and 3 eggs, salt and pepper, 1 T of sugar (I leave out the sugar) and garlic powder. Put in a bowl and mix thoroughly with 1/3 cup matzo meal. Wet hands and shape into balls the size of a small apple (add water if needed). They get bigger.

Drop balls gently into the simmering broth. Shake pot as you put them in. Cover and bring to a boil, then simmer for 2 hours. Let it sit in broth until cooled. Take out fish balls with a slotted spoon. Put the rest of liquid through a strainer and pick out the carrots to save. Pour liquid over the fish and keep in fridge. Serve with carrot slices.

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*Trudy Somerville, on the 100th anniversary of her birth

From: Mary Somerville

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Sylvia Williams and Janet Hughes

From: Lilly & Aaron Weiss

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Stan Yacknin's 90th birthday

From: Debbie & Dan Raas

IN HONOR OF:

Bonnie & Alan Stone

From: Sylvia Williams

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jeannine Kahan, on the loss of her beloved husband, Joseph

From: Sylvia Williams

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels – Thank you

From: Susan Jay

Rabbi Samuels – Thank you for the wonderful Shabbat service in our honor

From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

IN HONOR OF:

Our new grandson, Levi

From: Stuart & Cinda Zemel

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Joseph Feigenbaum (Palm Springs)

The Siegel Family Philanthropic Fund

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IN APPRECIATION TO:

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Rabbi Samuels, for his support of the 2016 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class

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Our anonymous Million\$Match donor

From: Diane Garmo

Hank Levine, for his support of the Kahn family

From: Richard Kahn (Penngrove CA)

IN CELEBRATION OF:

*Lou & Marcia Lippman's 50th Anniversary

*Lou Lippman's 75th birthday

From: Nancy & Don Davis
Joan & Marv Wayne
Shelley & Jay Wolfman

Stan Yacknin's 90th birthday

From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

IN HONOR OF:

Jacob Lebovich, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

From: Frank & Adrienne Champagne

Bonnie & Alan Stone, for being the matriarch & patriarch of our community, and wonderful people

From: Bonnie Quam

Bonnie & Alan Stone – best of luck in your move to Seattle

From: Leslie & Rick Adelman
Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

Bonnie & Alan Stone – best of luck in your new home. Keep

them laughing!

From: Shelley & Jay Wolfman

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Susan Jay, on the loss of her beloved husband, Dr. Burt Jay

From: Steve & Janis Ban
Betty Lou, Fred & Lynn

Berman

Anne Brown

Frank & Adrienne Champagne

Nancy & Don Davis

Elka & Myron Fink

Merri & Mitch Gelbard (Lafayette, CA)

Debbie & Dan Raas

Karen Sloss

Susan Jay – in memory of her beloved husband and my beloved brother, Dr. Burt Jay

From: Judith Jay, MD (Briarcliff Manor, NY)

Susan Jay – in memory of our dear cousin, Dr. Burton Jay

From: Morty & Rita Green (Chapel Hill, NC)

Susan Jay – in loving memory of my father, Dr. Burton Jay

From: Deborah Levy (Walnut Creek, CA)

Susan Jay – In memory of her beloved husband Dr. Burton Jay. He was a wonderful, compassionate, loving man - a 'Man For All Seasons'

From: Michael S. Stotsky, M.D. (New York, NY)

Elaine Jay – in memory of her brother, Dr. Burt Jay

From: Mr. & Mrs. James Wachtel (Boynton Beach FL)

Debby Levy – in memory of her father, Dr. Burt Jay

From: Susan & Arnold Levy (Walnut Creek, CA)

Jeaninne Kahan, on the loss of her beloved husband, Joseph Kahan

From: Leslie & Rick Adelman

Steve & Janis Ban

Anne Brown

Nancy & Don Davis

Debbie & Dan Raas

Karen Sloss

Joan & Marv Wayne

Lynn Korner, on the loss of her mother, Felice Bourne

From: Anne Brown

Nancy & Don Davis

Debbie & Dan Raas

Karen Sloss

Joan & Marv Wayne

Laura Kahn & family, and Dr. & Mrs. Rick Kahn, on the loss of their brother, Steven

From: Anne Brown

Sylvia Williams, on the loss of her mother and her uncle

From: Debbie & Dan Raas

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Harriet Fine – Wishing a speedy recovery

From: Anne Brown

COMMEMORATING THE YAHREZEIT OF:

My father, Harold Perper

From: Binnie Perper

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Joseph Feigenbaum (Palm Springs CA)

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

IN MEMORY OF:

Lynn Korner's mother and father, Felice and James Bourn

From: Carol & David Robinson

Want to be on the board? Here's how

BY MITCH PRESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Each year the Nominating Committee presents a slate of board members and officers for a congregational vote at the annual meeting in May. According to our bylaws, the board may have as many as 16 representatives of the congregation. A member of our youth group may serve as an additional member. The Nominating Committee makes every effort to constitute a board that represents the divergent demographics and interests in our congregation.

The Nominating Committee is constituted each fall by the committee chair, in consultation with the board president. Mitch Press, immediate past president, is the committee's chair. Other members are Josh Greenberg, Tamar Clarke, Tracey Levine, Jody Litt, Geraldine Reitz and board representative Marcia Lippman. This committee may have as many as nine members, they

must be approved by the board and may serve a maximum of 2 three-year terms (a new change).

The committee follows the Nominating Policies and Process (board adopted 2014; revised Feb. 2016). It lays out a process that provides checks and balances that involve seeking nominations from the board, the rabbi, and congregation, as well as from members of the committee. Also, input is sought from the board about what specific skills are needed and what demographics need more representation. For example, a few years ago we had few younger parents on the board. We sought out new board members who fit this criterion. The slate is presented first to the board at its April meeting, then to the congregation in May.

The board has no openings for 2016-2017. However, two board members are up for re-election to a second (final) term: Todd Witte and Miriam Schwartz. Three who were

appointed to fill vacant positions during the year also will be up for election: Binnie Perper, Deborah Oskenberg, and Terri Weiner (treasurer). Continuing board members, not up for election are: Dan Ohms (president), Marcia Lippman (vice president), Katie Edelstein (vice president), Lynn Korner (secretary), Floyd King, Paul Blum, Melissa Schapiro, Steven Garfinkle, David Zimmerman, Gaby Mayers, and Youth Representative Asher Suloway-Baker. If any officers need replacing for 2016-2017, those names will be on the slate at the annual meeting. Our bylaws specify that board officers must come from the board.

The Nominating Committee invites congregants to suggest candidates for committee and board membership. We are always searching for future candidates. Contact Mitch Press, mitch.press@wrldpub.net, with recommendations for board and Nominating Committee membership.

Anniversaries

March 2016

- March 14** Aaron & Lilly Weiss (#73)
- March 15** Isaac & Samantha Konikoff (#8)
- March 18** Nancy & Don Davis (#32)
- March 19** Robert & Jody Meltzer (#16)
- March 24** Alan & Susan Kendal (#68)
- March 24** Laura & Cassandra Wolfson (#12)
- March 31** Arona & James Henderson (#18)

April 2016

- April 2** Harold & Susan Katz (#49)
- April 5** Marty & Kim Moskowitz (#35)
- April 6** Kristan & Mike Brennan (#20)
- April 20** Danny & Marla Finkelstein (#30)

Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at (360) 733-8890 or email office@bethisraelbellingham.org and let us know the month, day & year of your special day.



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Faces in our community

Pair shares passion for civil rights

Larry Hildes, Karen Weill
guided by *tikkun olam*

BY LINDA HIRSH

Karen Weill wanted to see Attorney Larry Hildes “in action.”

So she accompanied him on a foray to investigate slurry mining — a process that uses water to force coal through a pipeline — on sacred land between Navajo and Hopi nations’ ground in the Arizona desert. The only one in the country, the mine threatened the water table for the region. And one elder’s *hogan* was in the path of the bulldozer.

Karen and Larry rented a Dodge Neon and were warned not to go on any reservations. But they went anyway. Navajos are matrilineal, so the grandmother directed comments to Karen. In turn Karen directed the grandmother to Larry, who got information about the man blocking the bulldozer in front of her house.

“She thought I was the power,” said Karen, laughing, adding that was okay with Larry, who is a feminist. “But I vouched for him.”

There’s more.

It rained and they found mud up to the windows of the car, and rivers where ditches had been. That ride was so precarious that they then realized why the car rental dealer had warned them to not go on reservations.

But it was worth it. “What we do is rooted in Judaism,” Larry said.

Both Larry and Karen, now his legal assistant, believe so deeply in *tikkun olam* that they have devoted their professional lives to the commandment. They joined Congregation Beth Israel as soon as they moved to Bel-
lingham in 2002.

Attorney Dan Raas has known Larry and Karen for almost as long.

“Over the years, I have observed that, as a legal team, they are committed to holding local, state and federal governments to the ideals of justice and fair play that are enshrined in our Constitution and laws,” Dan said. “Often their clients are individuals whose actions may not be popular, but Larry and Karen know and carefully observe



Larry Hildes and Karen Weill at the end of the West Side Road in Glacier National Park, Montana, at a closed Canadian border checkpoint.

the ethical line between attorney and client. They do not cross the clear line separating the client’s actions and beliefs and the attorney’s defense of that client.”

Larry defends protestors who use civil disobedience and who march, demonstrate, organize sit-ins and do Critical Mass, a demonstration where bike riders take over car traffic lanes to ensure consciousness of bike safety. He has such a strong feeling for the little guy that his somewhat rare legal specialty is a combination of protecting the First Amendment for freedom of speech and the Fourth Amendment for the rights of people to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Born in the Bronx, Larry grew up on Long Island, N.Y. His father was a teacher, his mother a librarian. While a journalism major at Northwestern University in Chicago, he was tapped to take part in a debate on the draft on CBS’s “Sunday Morning” show. In addition to getting national exposure, he met some friendly left-wingers, who had as strong an opinion against the draft as he did.

Continued on Page 10

From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning ...

Making the Hebrew Connection

I am always curious to explore the connection American Jews have to the Hebrew language. The Hebrew consonants, words, and sentence structure are so different from English that I often wonder what deep emotions the sounds of our ancient language evoke in native English speakers during services, holidays, and Hebrew lessons. Are these feelings ones of comfort or unease? One would argue that the Hebrew language is what keeps Jewish people around the world connected: Whether in Bellingham, Mumbai, or Jerusalem, whenever you enter a synagogue you will always hear Hebrew and, most likely, those of us who had a positive Hebrew life experience will find solace in a synagogue, wherever we are.

One of the main goals of our Keshet program is to provide these pleasant, first “Hebrew moments” to our young learners, so that when they grow up, Hebrew will sound like a soothing and familiar lullaby sung by a loving grandparent. And this place of comfort may even lead some of them to study Torah in its original form — an experience that reveals an unparalleled depth and meaning of this central Jewish text. In the early childhood classes, the young students experience the

learning with their parents or caregivers, and in the later grades with their classmates. At Keshet classes, we learn Hebrew through songs, games, and art without a dull moment in sight.

In the past couple of months I paused and took note of some of

the learning experiences that I hope will bloom into a lifelong love of and curiosity about the Hebrew language and Jewish studies. Check out these snapshots of such fun and enriching learning moments.

Bivvacha,

—Sagit Hall שגית הול
Director, Keshet Center
for Jewish Learning

Teachers needed

Enthusiastic about Jewish learning? Love Hebrew?

Keshet Center for Jewish Learning is looking for Sunday Keshet teachers for next year.

Interested?
Send your resume to:
keshet@bethisraelbellingham.org



Gan Yeladim children and their parents, dressed up “fancy” and enjoying songs and blessings around a “Shabbat dinner” during class



Toddlers at Mazal Tots learn Hebrew with their parents through songs, movement and art. Here they are painting a tree for Tu B'Shvat.

From the Keshet Parent Committee ...

Spring is around the corner, and we have so much to look forward to! On March 4 our third-grade class will help lead Shabbat services and on March 5 our fifth-graders will be having Havdalah. Our third PEP talk will be on March 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.: “Jewish Taboos” with Dr. Ahuva Scharff. Don't miss it!

Purim is coming and we are looking for lots of volunteers! If you have time to give, your efforts will be greatly appreciated! Contact Samantha Konikoff, Marcy Probst or Wendy Blum if you are interested in signing up. Also please note that there will be no class on March 20 so we can all help get ready for Purim.

— Wendy Blum, co-chair.

Weill/Hildes

Continued from Page 8

"I liked [those radicals] a lot," he said. "They were smart, funny and thoughtful."

Meeting them helped set his future direction.

A fellow journalism student at Northwestern was a niece of talk show host Phil Donahue. She got him invited to the show. They sent a limo for him, a not very radical perk.

Eventually he transferred from Northwestern to Evergreen College in Washington State for his senior year and changed his major to political science with an emphasis on Native American studies. Evergreen also gave him perks in the form of credits for having organized sit-ins.

He also joined the anti-apartheid movement. During a sit-in at the state Capitol in Olympia, asking that the state get rid of all investments in South Africa, he was arrested. Representing himself, he argued that divestment was necessary to prevent the occurrence of a greater crime — that of funding slavery and bigotry.

And he won. At the end of the trial, Court Judge Kip Scills told him in no uncertain terms to go to law school.

Instead, New York City hired him as an urban park ranger. But Mayor Ed Koch fired him when he refused to kick the homeless out of the city's parks. After that, he attended a protest of an Aryan Nation neo-Nazi march in Olympia. Later, he supported other demonstrators against the Nation as a lawyer. In one, the city of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, tried to stop demonstrators. Larry said to do so, officials had to have some evidence that a protestor would break the law. The case he won has been cited more than 100 times.

After Olympia, Larry went to Chicago as a tour guide. And he protested non-native infringement on fishing. The Boldt decision reaffirmed fishing rights of Native Americans achieved through treaty — the case having

repercussions nationwide.

After a move to the Bay Area where he took a series of part-time survival jobs, "a light went off in my head," he said. "I was going to go to law school."

At San Francisco's New College, the country's oldest public-interest law school, he realized that representing demonstrators is what he wanted to do. No one offered him a job, but clients overwhelmed him. So he shared an office with several other independent attorneys and got to work. One of his most important cases is the ongoing *Panagacos v. Towery*, challenging the U.S. military's spying on its own citizens and tactics of infiltrating political groups.

* * *

Karen, born in Champagne-Urbana, Ill., to a professor father and a librarian mom, did not have Larry's extensive history of protest. She grew up in Boston and Rhode Island, attended high school and two years of college in Huntington, West Virginia, then the University of Minnesota.

A journalism major, she dropped out in her last quarter. Two years later, her mom paid her to finish. That's when she took a woman's consciousness-raising class that introduced her to activism. She went on to earn a master's degree in counseling in 1994. She joined the Association for Women in Psychology. At age 32, she accompanied members to her first-ever demonstration.

"I couldn't imagine myself standing on a street corner and chanting with a sign in my hand," she said. "But [afterwards] I realized the difference between the image I had been taught and the truth."

She moved to the Bay Area. From 1985 to 1995, a time the United Nations declared "The Decade of Women." She was among 40,000 women who attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and it was a "life changing experience" to see so many women leaders. Afterward she traveled through China,

including Guilin and the Lijiang River area, the land that looks like Chinese ink drawings, she said. Then, in Guilin, she was in a bus accident.

At home, she underwent surgery for third-degree burns on her legs. Resting up, she amused herself by studying personals. After making up an ad looking for feminist, Jewish men, she got a call from a man who said he was a Cohen and wouldn't be happy with someone who was not!

Then, Larry, having broken up with a longtime partner, applied. It was 1996 when they got together for "a cute, romantic date" in Oakland, Calif. Karen said it was clear he was not over the breakup with his partner, so they decided to be friends. In 1998 she went back to live with her mother in West Virginia, but she kept in touch with Larry, and they found they missed each other.

"What would you say if I asked you to marry me," Larry asked over the phone in 1999. She answered, "You'll have to find out," but "he sounded so crestfallen, I added: You'll probably like the answer."

Over a Memorial Day weekend, he visited her for five days, and she waited three of those days for the proposal. It came, overlooking three states at the Cumberland Gap. Before a group of giggling teenyboppers and one of Larry's oldest friends photographing the event, he asked for Karen's hand. They were married a year later in 2000.

The 1998 win against the City of Coeur d'Alene was enough to buy an engagement and two wedding rings, but they did not have enough money to linger in the Bay Area. They moved to Bellingham in 2002.

"It feels good to have established roots," Karen said. "I love the mountains and I intend to live out the rest of my life here! And the synagogue plays an important part in why that's true for me."

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, March 4

Henry Edwards	3/6
Lylyan Wick	3/6
Fred Fragner	3/7
Marcelline Naparty	3/7
Harry Zemel	3/7
Carole Bajema	3/8
Morrie Feller	3/9
Archie Fine	3/9
Eliezer Spiro	3/9
Floyd Pritchett	3/10
Monica Zderic	3/10
Mel Adelstein	3/11
Ida Mae Simon	3/11
Steve Sokol	3/11

For Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12

Thomas Josiah Boothby	3/12
Corey Skelton	3/13
Barton Frank	3/14
Max Lazarus	3/14
Marcia Landau	3/15
Robert W. Lippman	3/18

For Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19

Mabel Berman	3/21
Irwin Weiner	3/21
Paul Zentner	3/21
Gea Goldfeder	3/23
Nathan Landau	3/23
Norma Soode	3/23
Joseph Sorkin	3/23
Elsa Zentner	3/23
Ida Chia Kahn	3/24
Anna Kushner	3/24

For Friday, March 25

Harry Skinner	3/26
Saul Faber	3/27
Herbert Sulkin	3/27
Jerome Greenwald	3/31
Sol L. Shure	3/31
Felicia Elizabeth Romito	4/1
Elaine Fox Suloway	4/1

For Friday, April 1

Norma Edwards	4/2
Beatrice Lazaroff	4/2
June Krauzer Mazonson	4/2
Luke Friedman	4/3
Robert Korner	4/3
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz	4/4
Manfred Vernon	4/5

Dorothy Brody	4/6
Gordon Eli Stolzoff	4/6
Max Wolfman	4/8

For Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9

Naomi Lazarus Barnes	4/9
Loren Lund	4/9
Ben Zderic	4/9
Sidney Leon	4/10
Lucia Mastbaum	4/10
Leonard Price	4/11
Megan Guppy	4/12
Leon Thal	4/12
Barry Evans	4/13
William A. Gordon	4/13
Lou Mazel	4/13
Arthur Koplowitz	4/14
Marcelo Lindner	4/14
Naomi Stone	4/14
Fred Oscar Wigren	4/14
Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	4/14

For Friday, April 15

Glen Myers	4/17
Benjamin Schwartz	4/17
Leah Rachel Shapiro	4/18
Justin Scharff	4/19
Morris Fischel	4/20
Harry Leon	4/20
Lois Oksenberg	4/20
Benjamin Shapiro	4/21
Michael Tabak	4/21
Burl Ives	4/22
Ray Schapiro	4/22

Jennie Shuster	4/22
Hy Zimmerman	4/22
Joyce Zvenia	4/22

For Saturday, April 23 (no service Friday, April 22)

Dorothy M. Fine	4/23
Eli Altose	4/24
Arnold Behrstock	4/24
Arthur Feld	4/24
Joanne M. Lund	4/24
Angus Campbell Walker	4/24
Harry M. Eisner	4/25
Sue Ohms	4/25
Helen Victoria Richmond	4/27
Dennis Scharff	4/27
Jack Mazur	4/28
David Alper	4/29
Esther Suloway	4/29
Samuel Thal	4/29

For Friday, April 29

Leon Julius Mendelsohn	4/30
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	4/30
Emanuel M. Lindheimer	5/1
Fay Sosnick	5/1
Violet Shaw	5/2
Etta Fine	5/3
Samuel Midwood	5/3
Norma H. Bernstein	5/4
Fragner Family	5/5
Naomi Krauzer Feinberg	5/5
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	5/5
Selma Lebovich	5/5

In Memoriam

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

Our congregation mourns the passing of our friend and fellow congregant **Mitchel J. Lazarus**, on February 15, 2016, at his home in Bellingham. Mr. Lazarus celebrated his 95th birthday this past August.

We offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences to his son Gary Lazarus and his wife Nancy, to Gary's brothers David and Mark Lazarus, and to all of their extended family.

Our congregation mourns the passing of our friend and fellow con-

gregant, **Joseph Kahan**, on December 24, 2015.

We offer deepest condolences to his wife of 61 years, Jeaninne, their son Fred, and to all of their extended family.

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to **Lynn Korner** on the loss of her mother, **Felice Bourne**, who passed away at her home in Apple Valley, CA on January 3, 2016 at the age of 87.

Jewish History post

Continued from Page 3

experience, the event fills the large auditorium to standing room only.

Since the revised code of Washington state recommends that social studies teachers be able to teach the Holocaust, the university thus fulfills its public mission through the endowed position.

Steven said the campaign for the position — a rarity in regional public universities — kicked off in November 2014. As soon as the total hits \$1 million they can hire a professor, and the university will provide bridge funding until they raise the rest of the money. The Jaffe Professorship in Jewish History will become a permanent position.

The majority of donors come from Bellingham, but many make their homes in the Seattle region and a few are from out of state.

New Wolpow Institute

Steven called this “an auspicious time at Western,” because two other projects — not connected, but related to the position — also are under way.

One project pays tribute to the work of another member of Congregation Beth Israel, Ray Wolpow, retired professor of secondary education. Before Ray retired, as a labor of love, he gathered a slew of material about the Holocaust and other genocides.

Faculty plan to continue his work and name the result the Ray Wolpow

Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes against Humanity. The Provost's office supports this effort and will provide funding for the center. Its goal is to advance knowledge about the Holocaust and other genocides, including ethnic and religious conflict, and the

“The Holocaust is integral to our undergraduate curriculum in German; it's also integral to undergraduate education at liberal arts institutions across the country.”

human rights abuses that attend them.

“I am honored that the Institute of the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity will bear my name,” Ray said.

“The Institute has its WWU origins in Northwest Center for Holocaust Education, which I founded in 1998 with the guidance of Shoah survivors Noemi Ban, Fred Fragner, and Magda Dorman. It was their courage, their willingness to bear witness to unfathomable events, their dedication to the pursuit of truth, and their generous assistance in the dissemination of knowledge that inspired me, my colleagues and our students to more deeply value remembering the past, learning from the present, and learning for the future.”

Ray said he feels confident this new Institute “will expand upon this

important work.”

Holocaust/Genocide minor

Faculty in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are creating a minor in Holocaust and Genocide studies. Sandra Alfes, a professor of German, who has published a German-language book on a German-Jewish activist and survivor and has focused on poetry written in the Theresienstadt ghetto, will coordinate faculty and courses across campus to establish the minor.

This means reaching out to faculty from different departments and colleges to see which courses could contribute to the minor. She aims to start in the 2016-17 academic year, she said.

“We have a number of faculty members with a research focus and teaching interest in Holocaust/Genocide Studies, and there is also immense student interest. Whenever my colleagues and I teach about the Holocaust in German..., our students tell us how much classes like these are needed in English. The Holocaust is integral to our undergraduate curriculum in German; it's also integral to undergraduate education at liberal arts institutions across the country.”

Steven Garfinkle says that he shares with his colleagues a concern for the current absence of the course from the curriculum, but in addition to that, on a personal level, “as a Jew in America, I feel it's important to understand our traditions and how we fit into the society,” he said.

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Barbara Boothby (above) shares her story of a romantic Italian love affair.

Jeff Margolis and Mary Somerville (at right) perform "Do You Love Me?" from "Fiddler on the Roof."



The stories we could tell ...

On February 7, 2016, our community came together, once again, for a delightful evening of storytelling at the Mount Baker Theatre.

The theme was "Love Stories." Nine people moved us with their personal stories of love. One was about coffee, another about Lucille Ball and one was about a romantic Italian love affair. We sang the Beatles, ate great food and were simply entertained by so much raw talent.

Thank you to all of the storytellers, singers and most importantly, to the audience. The next Beit Cafe will be after the High Holy Days.

Interfaith Auction set for March 19

As a member of the Interfaith Coalition, Congregation Beth Israel has the opportunity to lift up our most vulnerable neighbors with homes, warmth and hope. Interfaith's annual Hope Auction raises money to support 11 homes for homeless families and two Severe Weather Shelters in Whatcom County.

You can help us do this essential work by donating items for the auction. A homemade craft or artwork, a service your business offers, weekend or vacation home getaways, gift cards, etc.

Thank you to Sagit Hall and Dawn Landau for their contributions to the auction -- jewelry from Israel.

To donate or purchase tickets, contact Debbie Raas, Beth Israel's Interfaith board representative; or Interfaith Coalition, (360) 734-3983, www.interfaith-coalition.org.

The auction will be 5:30 p.m. March 19, 2016 at Four Points by Sheraton, 715 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham). Tickets are \$50 and include dinner.

Brotherhood meeting March 24

The next Brotherhood meeting will be 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday March 24, 2016 in the Gateway Centre's 3rd floor Rainier Room.

Our speaker will be Dr. Mark Steinberg -- Everything you ever wanted

to know about Naturopathic Medicine/Cycling/Snow Shoeing as well as 5 healthy habits toward preventing chronic diseases of men. Feel free to bring your questions about nutrition, supplements and herbal medicine.

Food and beverages will be available, so please RSVP to isaac.konikoff@gmail.com if you plan to attend. The meeting is open to everyone, members of the Brotherhood or not.

We would also like to thank everyone who participated in our recent survey and encourage anyone who has not yet had a chance to fill it out, to please do so:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3RCXYXY>

Honey, guess who's coming to dinner...

Bellingham's Shabbat Dinner Crowd has been a hit the last six months! On third and fifth Fridays, we've been enjoying the "flash mob Shabbat dinner experience" at members' homes, and attendance is growing.

Here are some comments from previous hosts:

We loved the spontaneity of the dinner. We had guests come that had never been to our house for dinner before and everybody had a good time. It was great to visit with so many different members and see them all interacting and having fun. Would do it again in a heart beat! — Amy Whiting

Hosting is fun and easy. No need to struggle with who to invite and providing challah & beverages is effortless. — Joan Wayne

It was an easy, fun way to get to know other members of the synagogue. I like that it can be a little different at each gathering. — Arlene Feld

Valerie and I had a terrific time hosting .. it seemed like a good time was had by all, especially our cats. — Don Fenbert

What is a Dinner Crowd?

We modeled our Dinner Crowd on a successful format operating in Seattle, modifying it to fit Congregation Beth Israel's needs. On third Fridays, the dinner follows at about 7:15 p.m., after the 6:15 p.m. service; on fifth Fridays, Beth Israel does not have a service, and dinners have been starting around 6:15 p.m.

If you're on the list, you'll get an automatic email the Sunday before the third and fifth Fridays of the

month, seeking a dinner host. Someone volunteers a location and guests supply the food (it's a potluck!). The dinner is casual -- buffet style, paper plates and jeans are fine. Just come and enjoy. Dinners can be meat, dairy, or vegetarian. Hosts, please let everyone know what the kashrut status of the meal is.

It's simple — if you can host, post a note to the e-mail list. If you can attend, reply to host's post so everyone knows. Please use the email list only for this purpose. If you have questions about Shabbat Dinner Crowd, email Melissa Schapiro directly at webmaster@bethisraelbellingham.org.

If you're not getting the emails and want to join in the fun, the sign up is on the Beth Israel web site. Non-Beth Israel members are welcome to participate! Invite them (and please let webmaster know).

Under-35s sought for Havurot

The Connectivity Committee, together with Rabbi Samuels, has finally begun to organize some Havurot from the questionnaires we received.

Not everyone has been placed just yet, as we are still working on some of the groups, but we are at least under way! We are now especially interested in forming an "Under 35 Havurah" for members between 18 and 35. We have some interest, but not enough to actually form a group. Singles, couples, married, with or without kids, all are welcome! If we receive enough responses, more than one group in this age range could be formed.

Any questions, or if you'd like to suggest a member in this age group, or if you are in need of a Havurah Questionnaire to complete and sub-

mit, please email Vermeda Fred, Connectivity Committee Chair at medamaree@gmail.com.

Sisterhood book group meetings

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

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.

Brick campaign continues

How do you build a new synagogue? Brick by brick! Congregation Beth Israel's brick campaign, Legacy Path to the Future, continues to provide a unique opportunity to help

build the new synagogue.

So far, we have raised \$59,000 through the sale of bricks, and there is room for more.

Pay tribute to someone special, in honor of a special occasion, or leave a personal message. You can purchase a brick yourself or get a group of friends together to leave your mark! All funds will help build our new synagogue and will be placed outside the new synagogue entrance.

Bricks come in two sizes. The small brick — 4"x8" — with one to three lines of type and 15 spaces per line costs \$250. The large brick — 8"x8" — with one to six lines of type and 15 spaces per line costs \$500.

Donate online at www.bethisraelbellingham.org or contact Katie Edelstein, fundraising@bethisraelbellingham.org for more information.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

and culture, and while some practices might seem outdated or far from the original intention put forth by the rabbis, there is still meaning and wisdom to be gleaned from them. Another take-away that I can't stop thinking about is that much of how we view gender roles and sexuality in today's social milieu comes from our sacred texts and the way we've been interpreting them for thousands of years. Finally, and this is perhaps one of my favorite quotes of Dr. Lawrence's from the weekend, "Consistency is for pudding, not the Bible." So true!

Dr. Lawrence took us through some challenging texts in our tradition, from the Garden of Eden story in the Torah (not Eve's fault) to the Talmud and midrashim, and we wrestled with them. We looked at these ancient words through a critical lens, attempting to get at the essence of what some of our most confusing and misogynistic texts are really all about. Who wrote them and why did they present a worldview in a particular fashion? She turned them on their heads, and we couldn't help but see the beauty and also the ugliness in them all. At times I felt proud to be the recipient of this tradition and other times I wished I could trade some aspects of Judaism with other religions. And this just might be the kernel of truth of it all: Judaism is not about a world of perfection but about the world as it is, in all of its messiness.



Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Beatrice Lawrence, assistant professor of Hebrew Bible at Seattle University, speaking at Beth Israel (above) and with Rabbi Joshua Samuels (at left).

In the end, I appreciated the way Dr. Lawrence challenged us to look at our practices and our inheritance in new ways. I felt emboldened to continue to wrestle with our sacred texts, knowing that doing so is the Jewish way. But I also felt saddened that so much of the richness of our heritage has been exclusive to one segment of our people. It's encouraging to know, however, that we are

a community who embraces the conflation of progressive values and gender equality with the whole array of mitzvot. If you are interested in chatting more about Dr. Lawrence's topics, please drop me a line. I'd love to continue the conversations we had together.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported this special weekend.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Books collected for prisoners

Books to Prisoners provides books to people who are incarcerated, who have written in with requests. From our small library behind the music

store at Champion and State streets, we send history books, Westerns, classics, how-to-draw books, photography books and whatever is requested. Most wanted is the dictionary; people are interested in increasing their knowledge.

We need soft-cover books in all

categories. We pack on Monday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. Join us — we need volunteers and money for shipping the books.

Please bag and leave your soft-cover books in the social hall for pickup. Call Belle Shalom for more info at (360) 820-0631.

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CONGREGATIONAL 4TH NIGHT SEDER

Come on down to Matzo-ville!

Everyone is welcome to attend Congregation Beth Israel's Community Seder, which will be on the Fourth Night of Passover, Monday, April 25, 2016.

** Delicious Passover buffet dinner **

** Vegetarian, gluten free, dairy free options **

** Manischewitz wine **

Join us for a fun, lively and upbeat retelling of the Exodus story, sure to please young and old alike, led by Rabbi Joshua Samuels and cantorial soloist Andrea Shupack. We hope to see you there!

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

Cost: \$40 Beth Israel members; \$50 nonmembers; \$20 ages 6-12; \$5 age 5 and younger. Register online at www.bethisraelbellingham.org or by calling the office.

