

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 21, NO. 4 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

It's Purim time again!

MEGILLAH & PARTY AT CBI:
6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11
CARNIVAL: 12-2:30 p.m. March 12

Purim is a time to dress up in silly costumes, eat hamantaschen, and be merry. Join in the merriment at our annual Purim Carnival at Bloedel-Donovan Multi-purpose Room, noon to 2:30 p.m. March 12, 2017. The carnival will feature henna, face painting, fortune-telling, carnival games, a juggler and costume parade, and of course, hamantaschen. There will also be pizza by the slice, salad, root beer floats, and popcorn. Tickets (2 for \$1) will be on sale for carnival games, activities, food, and drinks.

Family Discount Cards (25% off), for 1 whole pizza, 4 drinks and 40 tickets good for games, activities and snacks, can be ordered online on the "Purim" page. Deadline to purchase cards is Thursday, March 9.



Join Beth Israel for 2nd night Seder

Plan to join us at the CBI Community Seder on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at Settlemyer Hall on the Bellingham Technical College Campus. This event has been popular for all ages from "bubbies to babies" and has sold out in past years.

Leave the cooking to the pros. Plan to sit with your friends and family or choose to be seated with random guests to expand your friendships. Let the kids join a kid table. We will try our best to accommodate your requests. The seder

will include vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options.

Tickets are on sale for \$40 for CBI adult members; \$55 for adult non-members; \$20 for youths ages 6-12; \$5 for ages 3-5; and free for children 2 and younger.

Register online at www.bethisraelbellingham.org or complete the registration form enclosed. Deadline is Monday, March 27.

If you have any questions contact Amy Whiting, (360) 961-2096 or Nicole Samuels, (310) 691- 6381.

FROM THE RABBI

Building bridges in Bellingham

A couple weeks ago I sat in a tiny office above Copy Source on State Street with 11 other people, most of them local clergy. It was



the third time this group had met. Sitting in front of me was Nadeem, the owner of Copy Source, in addition to also being one of the leaders of Bellingham's

mosque and Islamic Society. The purpose of these monthly meetings is for Whatcom and Skagit clergy to get to know one another, to learn about Islam from Muslims, and to reach out to our neighbors in a confusing time in our nation's history.

After pleasantries and introductions, Nadeem asked a young Muslim woman to share prepared remarks about Islam. In just a brief period, she broke down what the five pillars are and her relationship to them. Her personal story was also fascinating. Originally from Malaysia, she had come to the US years ago. Her father is Sikh and her siblings follow other traditions, including Hinduism. (Talk about inter-faith!) She has Orthodox

Inside:

• **FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY:** Arlene Feld, page 8



• **COMMUNITY SHABBATON:** Make plans to attend annual event, page 16

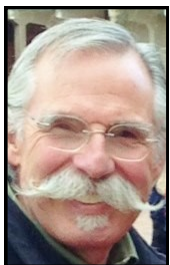
Continued on Page 10

From the President ...

Annual meeting in May to be held at new building

Dear Fellow Congregants,

This year will be marked by important challenges and inspiring transitions. Following the sale of the two lots on J Street in December, our building sold in early January. The money from these sales will go a long way toward helping to complete the new synagogue.



We can expect to see a few changes as we prepare to move from our Broadway shul. We will be taking our beautiful ceiling lights and chandeliers from the sanctuary to the new building. They will be removed early enough to allow upgrades before installation in the new building. We may soon see construction on one of the J Street lots.

When I enter our Broadway synagogue, it is a bit strange to realize that we have turned the page with regard to ownership. I am happy that the sale allows us to focus on our next chapter as a congregation, but I realize we have much work to do, including coordinating our Broadway activities with the new owners. So far, everything has gone smoothly and I am confident that will continue to be the case. Communication with the Kenoyers has been

excellent. We have agreed that our office administrator, Mary Somerville will keep the calendar for both groups. We are a very busy congregation with services, meetings and other gatherings. If you wish to hold an event at 2200 Broadway, be sure to check with Mary regarding availability.

I am frequently asked, "When are we moving?" We are not entirely sure. Our agreement with the Kenoyers allows rent-free co-occupancy until October 15, 2017. We must accomplish a great deal in the next seven months to prepare our new home. With the infusion of the money from the real estate sales, construction is continuing at a rapid pace. Painting, paneling, and trim are underway and restroom facilities will be completed soon. It is harder to give a date for when outside construction will be sufficiently complete to allow occupancy. Driveways, patios, parking, outdoor lighting and signage are required to gain the occupancy permit. We are working hard to raise the funds needed to complete the required items.

We plan to hold this year's annual meeting in May at the new building. I look forward to seeing you at this important event in our beautiful new space.

— Dan Ohms

Sisterhood book group meeting

Sisterhood book group meets monthly at 2 p.m. on a Sunday. The next meetings will be:

March 19, 2017, at Marta Brand's house. We will discuss MIRIAM'S KITCHEN by Elizabeth Ehrlich.

April 16, at Joan Wayne's house. We will be discussing HERE I AM by Jonathan Safran Foer.

May 28, 2017, place TBA. We will be discussing NOTORIOUS RBG: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 21, Number 4
March/April 2017
Adar/Nisan/Iyyar 5777

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.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi: Joshua Samuels
Keshet Director: Sagit Hall
Cantorial Soloist: Andrea Shupack
Office Admin.: Mary Somerville

Executive Board

President: Dan Ohms
Vice Pres: Steven Garfinkle
Vice Pres: Katie Edelstein
Secretary: Paul Blum
Treasurer: Terri Weiner

Board Members

Lynn Korner Deborah Oksenberg
Marcia Lippman Melissa Schapiro
Gaby Mayers Miriam Schwartz
Binnie Perper Todd Witte
David Zimmerman
Youth Rep.: Asher Suloway-Baker

Brotherhood: Isaac Konikoff
Sisterhood: Miriam Zderic, Joan Wayne

Shofar Editor: Melissa Schapiro

You can reach us at:
phone: (360) 733-8890
fax: (360) 733-9842
office@bethisraelbellingham.org

Visit our website at
www.bethisraelbellingham.org

Printed by Lewis Publishing Inc. in
Lynden, WA

Beth Israel is a member of:



SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Rabbi to lead 'Engaging Israel' series

9 Sessions: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 21, 28; April 18, 25; May 2, 16, 23; June 6, 20

Fee: \$50

Through video lectures, text study, and lively group discussion, we are pleased to bring the world-renowned faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute into the Beth Israel community this spring with "Engaging Israel: Foundations for a New Relationship."

Going deeper than the political issues of the day, Engaging Israel re-frames the discussion about the enduring significance of the State of Israel for contemporary Jews worldwide.

The Engaging Israel course elevates the North American conversation about Israel by rooting it in Jewish values and ideas rather than in a response to crisis. We will explore questions such as: What are the benefits of Jewish sovereignty? How should a Jewish state exercise military power ethically? How do we create and maintain a Jewish democracy? Why should American Jews care about Israel? What values should a Jewish state embody? What can Israel offer the world? In this way, Engaging Israel will equip participants with a quintessentially Jewish values-based vocabulary to define and articulate why Israel and Zionism can and

should be fundamental to our Jewish identity.

Each session includes text study and discussion led by Rabbi Joshua Samuels, a video lecture by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, and a video dialogue between Rabbi Hartman and other top scholars and experts. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn from great scholars and from one another as we engage in thinking about the meaning that Israel can have in our lives and what our role might be in envisioning and building the future of the Jewish State.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience so we can order the appropriate amount of materials.

Request for board nominations

The Nominating Committee is now in the process of developing the slate of leaders for the 2017-2018 Board of Directors. This slate will be presented at the congregation's annual meeting in May. Then the congregation will elect the board members and officers up for re-election, as well as new board members to oversee the operation and growth of Congregation Beth Israel. We will also be electing a new president and other Executive Committee Officers.

This year the Board will have three openings. The Board meets monthly and a full job description of this position is posted on the members-only section of our website.

If you have served in a leadership capacity at Beth Israel, and/or on a committee, and have an interest in serving on the board or feel there is a Congregant who would make a good board member, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair at mitch.press@wrldpub.net.

Noemi Ban to speak at WWU

Western Washington University's Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity will host award-winning teacher and Holocaust survivor Noemi Ban for several talks in Arntzen Hall 100. All tickets for the talk set for Wednesday, March 8, have been reserved, but

Mrs. Ban will also speak in April: on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6 p.m. for a Yom HaShoah commemoration and on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available on EVENTBRITE in April.

Planners sought for camping trip

Would you like to have a hand in planning "Torah in the Trees," CBI's first camping trip? If you are interested in helping plan food, logistics, activities, ritual, supply coordination, etc., please contact Barbara Boothby at kavahni@yahoo.com.

Volunteering will NOT mean you will be "on" that weekend. In fact, you don't even have to be going to help out.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker,
(360) 647-7031

Care: Sylvia Williams,
(360) 319-5059

Keshet (Religious School):
Wendy Blum, (360) 733-5883 and
Marcy Probst, (360) 647-1982

Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne,
(360) 676-8939

Membership: Rita Spitzer,
(360) 647-7065;

Ann Suloway, (360) 647-7031
New Synagogue Task Force: Warren
Rosenthal, (360) 961-9772

Scholarship: Emil Hecht,
(360) 733-4825

Social Action: Linda Blackwell,
(360) 647-9519



www.JoyOfPilates.net

Happy New Year To All!

- Classes for all levels – Osteopilates to TRX!
- 3 Private Lessons for only \$120*
- Caring & Trained Instructors
- 50% of any purchase with this ad will go to New Temple Fund!

360.224.1433 • info@JoyOfPilates.net
2130 Grant Street in Sunnyland

Need art? Sales support building

The Beth Israel Board Secretary Paul Blum has oil paintings on display and for sale at the Northwest Gastroenterology Clinic and the staff would be happy for you to look.

All proceeds will be donated to the Beth Israel Capital Campaign to complete the new synagogue! Prices range from \$150-\$500. Contact Paul : (360) 424-1887 or email zak-blum@frontier.com



Brotherhood to meet at Jalapeno's

The Brotherhood will meet at 6

p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Barkley Jalepeno's banquet room. Featured speaker will be Rabbi Samuels, who will talk about his transition to his rabbinic career and his almost five years in Bellingham. We'll be able to order dinner as well.

Brotherhood has a new email list for those who want to join up for social or outdoor activities that can be hosted or attended by anyone interested. Signing up at:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#/forum/cbi-guys/join>

Birthdays

MARCH 2017

3/1 Tannia Hecht
3/1 Brenda Miller
3/2 Nadia Mazonson 12th
3/4 Renee Elder
3/5 Lev Cornwall 11th
3/5 Manuel Emanuel
3/5 Amy Evans 18th
3/6 Christoph Reitz
3/6 Mary Somerville
3/7 Jay Braunstein
3/7 Sara Geballe
3/8 Norman DesRosiers
3/8 Deborah Oksenberg
3/8 K.C. Sulkin
3/9 Leeya Shoshana Genut 4th
3/10 Mark Steinberg
3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley 6th
3/13 Rebecca Orloff
3/13 Joan Sager
3/13 Steve Schwartz
3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell 15th
3/15 Yaniv Attar

3/15 Chanan Suarez
3/19 Carol Robinson
3/19 Noah Taranow 20th
3/20 Jody Meltzer
3/20 Matthew Schall
3/21 Bonnie Quam
3/22 Jonah Attar 7th
3/22 Sonorah DesRosiers 9th
3/22 Roy Shankman
3/23 Camille Keefe
3/23 Rachel Lowenstein
3/24 Michael Korner
3/25 Tami DuBow
3/26 Alex Hall
3/27 Kevin James
3/27 Debbie Raas
3/27 Marybeth Taranow
3/27 Aviva Weinstein 10th
3/28 Celt Schira
3/29 Rick Romito
3/30 Samantha Konikoff
3/31 Lynn Korner
3/31 Jeffrey Margolis

3/31 Gabriel Witte 8th

APRIL 2017

4/1 Amy Kraham
4/1 Amy Margolis
4/3 Ethan Oliver 15th
4/3 Alisa Sachs
4/4 Daniel Feller
4/4 Mary Jo Lewis
4/5 Hannah Levine 19th
4/6 Tammy Dixon
4/6 Katie Edelstein
4/6 Hank Levine
4/6 Daniel Zagnoli
4/7 Lisa Balton
4/7 Samuel Donner 10th
4/8 Laura Ochoa
4/10 Katie Comstock
4/10 Jeffrey Feld
4/10 Susan Katz
4/11 Lilah Blum 16th
4/12 Barbara Boothby
4/12 Sarah DesRosiers

4/13 Steve Ban
4/13 Karen Fisher
4/13 Jeffrey Probst
4/16 Mia Clarke 11th
4/16 Elizabeth Witte 5th
4/17 Paul Blum
4/18 Navah DesRosiers 12th
4/18 Liza Jane Price 9th
4/18 Linda Read
4/18 Alexandra Verkh
4/23 Leora Roberts 7th
4/24 Leah Lippman
4/24 Aniel Wells-Langley 8th
4/25 Margaret Bikman
4/25 Juliet Lloveras 16th
4/25 Jason Stoane
4/26 Spencer Jantzen 12th
4/27 Alan Kendal
4/28 Joel David
4/28 Andrew Orloff
4/28 Shoshana Samuels 5th
4/29 Abigail Comstock 9th
4/29 Richard Widerkehr

Vermeda M. Fred, MFT, MFA



(415) 518-4321
vmfredo8@gmail.com
Bellingham, WA
Vancouver, BC

*Research
Analysis
Concepts
Resolution*

Bearing fruit through communication and change



Warren Rosenthal

BROKER
CERTIFIED NEGOTIATION EXPERT

CELL (360) 961-9772
OFFICE (360) 734-7500

warrenrosenthal@windermere.com

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

From the Social Action Committee ...

Collections for refugees a success

The kitchen and bathroom donations that were collected for refugees in January were delivered to Jewish Family Services in Seattle, just prior to the travel ban. There were a total of four boxes for a complete kitchen and three bathroom boxes for families of four. We also donated six baby blankets, two adult comforters and a backpack of school supplies.

JFS stated that many refugees were still arriving and the items would be used for families who had just arrived. The staff was grateful for this timely donation.

Our collection boxes are for the Food Bank in March and April. Please bring any chametz to the synagogue prior to April 6. No donation of food will be allowed in the synagogue after that date.

Our next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be at 2 p.m. March 5, 2017, at 4731 Morgan St. Want to join the committee? Call (360) 739-1492.

We are looking for new projects as well as planning for Mitzvah Day, which will be May 7, 2017. One upcoming project under consideration is obtaining a Green Shield certification for our new synagogue.

Finally, a huge thank you for your January and February donations to the Whatcom Humane Society, including 40-plus pounds of dog food, lovely blankets and assorted toys.

— LINDA BLACKWELL, CHAIR



Kitchen and bathroom boxes filled with donations from the Beth Israel community on their way to Jewish Family Services in Seattle in January, 2017.

Interfaith's Hope auction

5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25, 2017

Join Interfaith of Whatcom County for a fun and inspirational evening. Our annual Hope auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Interfaith Coalition. It features one of our community's largest silent and live auctions, among friends who believe in the potential of every child and family in our community.

With you as a partner, we can transform the lives of people in need of a fresh start. Together, we can offer emergency and transitional housing, meals, warm clothing, and faith in a brighter day. Thanks to the following Beth Israel friends and travelers to Israel for helping to provide beautiful jewelry that is Beth Israel's auction items: Debbie Adelstein, Janis Ban and Lindsey Genut.



What the Chelm!

Your klezmer (and more) band

For ALL your special gatherings

We can work with DJ's and
we teach dances for all ages
www.whatthechelm.com

Information & bookings: call Dan Raas 676-1621



Melissa Schapiro
Realtor



Talk/text (360) 738-7182
Toll-free (888) 877-9315
Ext. 126
melissa.schapiro@exprealty.com

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

The DesRosiers Family

From: *The Milton & Miriam Waldbaum Family Foundation*

The Sommers Family, for their conversion

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Karen Sloss

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Steve & Janis Ban; Rebecca & Tom Oliver; Debbie & Dan Raas; Karen Sloss; Rena & David Ziegler

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee, for their kind work

From: *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

The Committee, for their great work

From: *Karen Sloss*

Sylvia Williams and the Committee. Thanks for the time you contribute to the welfare of the community

From: *Jeff Kronenberg (Boise, ID)*

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO:

* Jonathan Mayers & family and

* Harriet Fine

Wishing you well during this time of recuperation

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Dr. Steve Ban and Rabbi Samuels, for the bris of Arturo Sherwood Flores

From: *Meg Jacobson & Russell Pritchett*

Steve Ban, for his service

From: *Mark, Michael, Ben & Xavier Sommers*

*Rabbi Samuels, for his patience, kindness and teachings

*The Witte family, for the gift of kindness to everyone they meet

From: *Mark, Teresa, Samantha, Michael, Ben, Rebekah & Xavier Sommers*

Sarah Witte and Amanda Robins, for your love, support and strength

From: *Teresa Sommers*

Joe & Cheryl Feigenbaum (Palm Springs) – Thank you

From: *Peter & Rhoda Samuels*

IN HONOR OF:

* Dory Rose, for her special birthday

* Emma Goldfine, for her Bat Mitzvah

* Eliana Marcus, for her Bat Mitzvah

* Giorgio Berrin, for his special birthday

* Judge Laurence Kay, for his special birthday

* Barbara Fuller – Happy Birthday

* Marilyn Marker – Happy 80th Birthday

* Lisa & Dan Siegel – Happy Anniversary

From: *Peter & Rhoda Samuels*

The wedding of Stephanie & Lewis Koppenhafer

From: *Lewis Koppenhafer (Brooklyn, NY)*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Patrice Merritt – in memory of her husband

From: *Peter & Rhoda Samuels*

COMMEMORATING YAHR-ZEIT OF:

* Fred Graff

From: *Phyllis & Shelly Mazur*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

The Aaron & Marie Blackman Foundation; Carol & David Robinson; Karen Sloss; Stuart & Cinda Zemel

GENERAL

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of our son, Arturo Sherwood Flores, and with special thanks to Rabbi Samuels and Dr. Steve Ban for a lovely brit milah

From: *Art Flores and Arundel Pritchett*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

O. David Farrar

KESHER PROF. DEV.

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Paul Blum & Alison Zak

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN HONOR OF:

The Skagit County Jewish community

From: *Rick & Tracey Levine*

The Sommers family, for their conversion

From: *Paul Blum & Celia Zak; Larry & Melissa Stahlberg*

Rabbi Samuels, with deep gratitude

From: *Nancy Lloyd*

My children, Reva, Raema and Olin Quam

From: *Bonnie Quam*

Roby Blecker, in continued appreciation

From: *Geraldine Reitz*

COMMEMORATING YAHR-ZEIT OF:

* Harold Perper

* Gloria Perper

From: *Binnie Perper*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

...my son Jordan (Los Angeles) - Happy 50th!

...my sister Shelley Diane Ash (Charlottesville, VA)

From: *Bernice Loober*

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Harriet Fine

From: *Anne Brown*

Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Vicki Jaffe, on the loss of her father, Myer A. Goldberg

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My parents, Manu and Hally Vernon

From: *Bonnie Quam*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Saturna Capital

The Milton & Miriam

Waldbaum Family Foundation

Carol & David Robinson

From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning ...

Integrating students' passions, learning

During the months of January and February, Keshet has taken a different format than usual for our third- to eighth-graders. Students chose a *chug* (course) out of 5 options based on their passions and curiosities. Animal-lover students attended



the Judaism, Animals, and Us *chug*, which taught Judaism's stance on the place animals take in our lives. They went to a congre-

gant's family farm and saw, first hand how the Jewish laws of taking care of animals looks like in real life. The Funology *chug* explored science and technology through the study of miraculous events in the Tanakh and discussed the possible scientific and/or spiritual aspects of these stories by conducting scientific experiments, visiting the planetarium, and learning about how Hollywood special effects are made to depict such stories.

The Jewish Kids Rock *chug* revolved around popular music inspired by Torah stories and the learning of Jewish music (including prayer), which the students learned to sing, play the music for, and perform. Shmirat Haguf was a *chug* about sports, fitness and wellness, and was very popular. Students learned from a martial arts master, who is also a Keshet dad, about the Jewish values common to those of martial arts. The more "artsy" students chose Parasha Printmaking, a *chug* that covered a Torah portion from which students chose visual elements that were transferred to a variety of print art media and a workshop at a printmaker's studio in town.

This format of Jewish learning enabled the children to experience the relevance of Jewish learning to their



The Judaism, Animals, and Us group spent time at family farm learning about how Judaism guides us when we care for animals.

PEP Talks

Keshet offers enrichment sessions for parents while their children attend classes on Sunday mornings. Parent Enrichment Program (PEP) sessions are open to Keshet parents as well as CBI members, and are on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

COMING UP:

March 5, 2017

How to Make Sense of the Torah with Rabbi Samuels

April 30, 2017

Hafrashat Challah: The secrets of the Challah making ceremony with Sarah Witte and Joan Wayne

real life passions and interests. The program was led by Keshet teachers but was infused by the teachings of quite a few community members, many of them congregants who taught about their life-long passions and often talked about their Jewish journey to that place. The format also allowed for mixed-age groups to form and collaborative learning.

The feedback I received from students and parents was very positive and we are now considering integrating this learning format in the years to come. Stay tuned!

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

Keshet collaborated with the New Synagogue Task Force on a special

planting day at our new synagogue property in honor of this past Tu B'shvat holiday.

For the first time in the life of our community, Keshet families met at 751 San Juan Blvd and planted 150 native flowering bushes!

Beautiful weather was only a bonus for the simcha-filled day of parents and friends digging the soil together as a symbol of renewal for the trees and for our community.

May these type of moments be plentiful in the future!

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

Faces in our community

Making interfaith connections

Arlene Feld is Beth Israel's new liaison to Interfaith Coalition

BY LINDA HIRSH

Arlene Feld, as program committee chair for Beth Israel's Torah repair, invited local ministers for a talk by the scribe who had repaired the scroll.

She noted the ministers were thrilled to hear about Judaism and asked abundant questions. After all, Torah is part of their background too.

A success! There should be more of this, Arlene decided.

"I've thought a long time about the relationships between Jews and non-Jews and why we are not more connected," she said as she stared into her fireplace one cold morning at January's end. In these times, especially, "I want all religions to band together in friendship and alliance when needed."

When the congregation moves to the spacious new synagogue at 751 San Juan Blvd., she will have the chance to invite even larger crowds for events. "I hope many people from the larger community will attend and come to see CBI as a spiritual and cultural center," she said.

Meanwhile, she grabbed the chance to represent Congregation Beth Israel on the board of the Interfaith Coalition. The Coalition is a group of local faith communities who work together to provide shelter for families in need. It started as an organization to provide health care.

Recently, Debbie Raas resigned as the synagogue's representative after a 12-year tenure. Debbie said CBI and the other faith organizations help with the annual auction, coat drive, a program to provide sandwiches to



Arlene Feld (left) and her grandson, Liam, meet with U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

the needy, and housing. During her long term, she said the Coalition acquired three houses in Ferndale and one in Bellingham. She also worked as the coordinator for the woman's severe weather shelter.

"Interfaith provides a way for Beth Israel to fulfill the mitzvahs of housing, clothing and feeding those in need," Debbie said.

When Arlene heard the position was available, she thought, "You know, I think I'd be right for that."

Debbie thinks so, too. "Arlene is a psychologist and has worked with the homeless population," she said. "and she has been a member of Beth Israel for many years."

Because of Arlene's background as a marriage and family therapist, she was also asked to help train Interfaith volunteers who staff the temporary housing for homeless families.

Volunteering on the Interfaith board will put Arlene in the position of getting to know people of other faiths, a

step she believes can help protect against discrimination. This concerns her because since the presidential election, Arlene said she has heard from witnesses of incidents of public verbal attacks on minorities, so "we also need to protect our citizens," she said.

Much in Arlene's life qualified her to be CBI's representative. Examples of integration among faith communities abounded in Los Angeles, where she grew up. It wasn't always that way. In the 1940s, groups tended to build walls around themselves. In fact, the only religious training she ever experienced as a child was the statement, "You are a Jew and you should be proud of it."

Arlene was born and brought up in Hollywood where film is the industry. Her neighborhood, however, was not filled with families of stars but with families who worked on sets. She grew up in a mostly Christian envi-

Continued on Page 11

TEENS LEARN, EXPLORE AT L'TAKEN



From February 10-13, 2017, I had the pleasure of joining eight of our teens at the Religious Action Center's L'taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Along with nearly 400 other Jewish teens from around the country, our students: learned about government and how policies are made; they delved into hot-button issues; they visited the National Holocaust Museum, the Smithsonian museums, the MLK monument; they had havdalah at the Jefferson Memorial; they toured the Supreme Court and Library of Congress; and socialized with hundreds of other Jews their age.



The trip culminated with lobbying our senators, Murray and Cantwell, and Rep. Larsen on Capitol Hill. Three of the teens spoke about climate change policy, two spoke on the refugee resettlement issue and three spoke about gun violence prevention legislation.

On Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, they had the opportunity to share some of their experiences with the Bellingham community. I hope you are as proud as I am of our incredible teens.

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



Clockwise from top: Touring the Supreme Court; havdalah at the Jefferson Memorial; lobbying at Sen. Patty Murray's office; visiting the MLK memorial.



FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Jewish friends as well as Palestinian friends from college.

Nadeem opened the floor to questions. The one rule: anything goes. I raised my hand first. I mentioned how many Jews identify as Jewish even though they don't believe in God or take the stories in the Torah to be historical fact. Many don't have much of a spiritual practice either. Yet, their connection to Judaism can be quite strong. They might feel a deep sense of pride in Israel and all of her accomplishments. They relish Jewish comedy, from Jackie Mason to Seinfeld. And they feel Jewish when they order pastrami on rye with mustard (never mayo!) in a Jewish deli. Do some Muslims also connect to their tradition in a similar vein, i.e. culturally, or, do faith, creed, and worship determine whether one identifies as Muslim. I was surprised to find out that many Muslims do in fact connect to their heritage in much the same way as do many of us.

Someone asked about where the moderate Muslim response is when it comes to terrorist attacks. Another asked about gender roles and the treatment of women. Nadeem and his co-worker Sameer also talked about their troubles driving across the border and obtaining Nexus cards. Many times Nadeem has been detained for multiple hours at the Peace Arch crossing for no specific reason. Sadly, this is a part of their life.



'Let Love be our Legacy'

Rabbi Samuels is pictured with other faith leaders of Whatcom County in front of Planned Parenthood. Together, this cohort has initiated the "Let Love be our Legacy" campaign, which continues to spread throughout our region.

As you can tell, our conversation got personal. And that's what the point of this group is all about. We can't expect to learn from one another and befriend each other if we can't be honest. I look forward to the sixth meeting when I have the chance to talk about Judaism and field their questions.

These experiences have added much to my growth as a Jew as this type of work (interfaith and social action) was rarely a part of my Judaism until recently. Our Torah teaches us over and over again, to love the neighbor and welcome the stranger.

I invite you to explore these mitzvot and figure out how to actualize these commandments in your own lives. I am happy to help you on this sacred journey.

At the end of our meeting we discussed whether we should have an official name. Unanimously, we decided that Bridge Builders defined who we are and what we seek to do. May all of us build bridges amongst our neighbors and the strangers who reside with us.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels



Marla Finkelstein
REALTOR BROKER

Office (360) 734-7500
Cell (360) 961-2153
Email marlaf@windermere.com

- Complimentary Home Staging
- Design/Remodeling Consultations
- Construction Advisor

Windermere
REAL ESTATE



HANS-RUDOLF
of Switzerland
Master Hairstylist

Visit Hans-Rudolf in his New Location and
Receive 20% Off any Service!
(with this ad)

European Style Environment with an
Internationally Trained Stylist, Caring about Hair
Health as well as Beauty

Working at:

Salon Le Roux

905 Harris Avenue in Historic Fairhaven
Tel: (360) 305-9222

ARLENE FELD*Continued from Page 8*

ronment with a few secular Jews.

Her first interfaith experience: "I would play with kids on the block and have no idea what religion they were," she said. "It just didn't come up."

She participated in the film culture as a child ballerina, performing in shows, movies and television. After graduating Hollywood High School, she went on to University of California, Berkeley, just a couple of years before the '60s stir there. While reading world history, she became enlightened about the history of Judaism. She studied it in earnest on her own.

At 19, she married a man who was not Jewish. She had a daughter, Amy Phillips, now 52, who lives in Baltimore, and a grandson Liam, 19. The 1960 marriage, providing another interfaith experience, lasted 13 years.

She graduated California State University at Northridge, and became a preschool teacher, her first career. Later she attended California Family Study Center at Burbank to train as a therapist. She went into a private therapy practice with five others, two Jewish, three not, her next interfaith experience.

She co-counseled a potentially violent family with a priest who was "extraordinary, really a man of God," she said, adding another to her interfaith experiences.

Arlene married again in 1976, again to a non-Jew. Her second husband was 10 years younger than Arlene. This inspired her in 1981 to co-write a book called "The Age Taboo" published by Little, Brown and Company. It was a study of couples with an age difference between six and 50 years and the social disapproval it provoked.

She had been an English major and had a love for literature and writing. "Now I had something to write about," she said of her 20-year marriage.

When an aunt and uncle moved to Bellingham, she visited them. The more she visited, the more she fell in love with the place, and the sadder she felt when the visit was over.

So in 2006, she sold her California house, bought a vintage 1926 Arts and Crafts bungalow on Broadway and walked around The Lettered Streets, her new neighborhood. Just up Broadway she found the synagogue, "and here I thought I'd be the only Jew around," she said, laughing.

She got a job with the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Crisis Respite, a program assisting people on an emergency basis — a kind of mental health ER. People



Interfaith choir performs Jewish music

Jewish music was front and center at the Feb. 12, 2017, Interfaith Choir Concert in Bellingham. It began with Millie and the Mentshn's spirited songs. CBI members sang with heart and lovely voices. Fourteen faith groups performed, with a finale of Jewish songs by all the religious groups together.

— ARLENE FELD, CBI INTERFAITH LIAISON

in crises could voluntarily stay there from one to five days. The staff would help "get them back on their feet again," she said. Used to normal middle class clients, she said this was new to her. She resigned from the job last summer.

"Doing that work was frustrating," she said. "It made me into an activist. Rather than getting depressed, I got angry."

So she made a list:

1. More hospital beds so people can have longer stays to make sure they were well again.
2. Twenty-four hour emergency care all week with staff qualified to prescribe medication.
3. Counselors to help patients make a transition from hospital to home.
4. Find houses for the homeless "because without housing, none of the other steps have much chance of succeeding."

She took the list to the Whatcom County sheriff, the Bellingham mayor, the Bellingham City Council and finally to Washington state's U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, "the highest I could go," she said.

While in D.C. in January, she and her grandson also spoke to Murray, then participated in the Woman's March the day after the inauguration.

"All my work is about planting seeds," she said. "I don't know when they will bloom but I know they will."

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

The Yenta speaks ...

Asher Suloway-Baker (front row, far right) was elected Communications Vice President on the 2017-2018 NFTY North American Board during NFTY Convention in Chicago Feb. 17. He is the son of **Ann Suloway** and **Tim Baker**.



Marla and Danny Finkelstein announce the birth of their grandson, **Benjamin Emmett Seely**, to Rachel and Bryan Seely. He was born on October 5, 2016.

David Strich, director of the 21st Century Community

Learning Center at Allen Elementary School in Burlington, last year created a Food Backpack Program to help students who might not have enough food



over the weekends. The program has expanded to four of Burlington-Edison School District's five elementary schools, and has become a collaborative partnership between different organizations and individuals in the community. Read more about it in the Skagit Valley Herald online: www.goskagit.com

Welcome to our new members:

* Ann Buzaitis and Dena Petersen of Seattle.

Learn about high school in Israel

Middle and high school students and their parents are invited to an informational meeting to explore a transformative opportunity of spending a high school semester in Israel.

Alissa Hartnig, a representative of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, will give a brief presentation from noon to 12:45 p.m. following Keshet classes, March 26, 2017, in the CBI sanctuary.

Information: amhsi.org or contact Alissa Hartnig, (206) 760-1188.

LGBTQ teen Shabbaton in CA

Keshet is a national organization that works for full LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life. Led and supported by LGBTQ Jews and straight allies, Keshet cultivates the spirit and practice of inclusion in all parts of the Jewish community.

Keshet will have a 2017 West Coast Shabbaton in California, March 17-19, 2017. The event is at Camp Mountain Chai in Angelus Oaks, CA. More information: www.keshetonline.org/teenshabbaton/

Teacher workshop on Holocaust ed

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, the Ray Wolpov Institute will host a free full-day workshop for teachers on Holocaust education and its implications for the present and the future. Participants will be introduced to the "Echoes and Reflections" curriculum by facilitators from the Anti-Defamation League and will learn how to implement these lessons in their classrooms.

Register online: <https://goo.gl/y75IS4>

Anniversaries

March 2017

March 15 Isaac & Samantha Konikoff (#9)
March 18 Nancy & Don Davis (#33)
March 19 Robert & Jody Meltzer (#17)
March 24 Alan & Susan Kendal (#69)
March 24 Laura & Cassandra Wolfson (#13)
March 29 Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David (#36)
March 31 Arona & James Henderson (#19)

April 2017

April 2 Harold & Susan Katz (#50)
April 5 Marty & Kim Moskowitz (#36)
April 6 Kristan & Mike Brennan (#21)
April 16 Michael & Jay Braunstein (#17)
April 20 Danny & Marla Finkelstein (#31)

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

ADAR - NISSAN 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7 Adar 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes 10:30 PEP Talk by Rabbi Samuels: "How to Read the Bible"	6 8 Adar	7 9 Adar	8 10 Adar	9 11 Adar	10 12 Adar 8:51	11 13 Adar <i>Tetzaveh</i> Shabbat Zachor 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
12 14 Adar PURIM NO Keshet classes 12 - 2:30 PM Purim Carnival @ Bloedel-Donovan 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	13 15 Adar	14 16 Adar	15 17 Adar	16 18 Adar	17 19 Adar 8:01	18 20 Adar <i>Ki Tissa</i> Shabbat Parah Shabbaton: 9:30 AM Family Service 10:30AM Learning Sess. 12 PM Luncheon
19 21 Adar NO Keshet classes	20 22 Adar	21 23 Adar NOI	22 24 Adar	23 25 Adar	24 26 Adar 8:12	25 27 Adar <i>Vayakhel-Pekudei</i> Shabbat HaChodesh 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
26 28 Adar 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan) 12 PM Presentation by AM HighSchool in Israel	27 29 Adar	28 1 Nissan	29 2 Nissan	30 3 Nissan	31 4 Nissan 8:22	4 6 Adar <i>Terumah</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL APRIL 2017 NISSAN - IYAR 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5 Nissan <i>Vayikra</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
2 6 Nissan NO Keshar classes	3 7 Nissan	4 8 Nissan	5 9 Nissan	6 10 Nissan	7 11 Nissan ה 7:33	8 12 Nissan <i>Tzav</i> <i>Shabbat HaGadol</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
9 13 Nissan NO Keshar classes 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall	10 14 Nissan	11 15 Nissan PESACH 1st DAY	12 16 Nissan	13 17 Nissan	14 18 Nissan ה 7:43	15 19 Nissan <i>Shabbat Chol</i> <i>Hamoed</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
16 20 Nissan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshar Classes (w/ Gan) 2 PM - Sisterhood Book Grp @ Joan Wayne's	17 21 Nissan	18 22 Nissan 6:00PM Community Seder @ B'ham Tech. College 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's (Kosher4P lunch provided) 7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuel's)	19 23 Nissan	20 24 Nissan	21 25 Nissan ה 7:53	22 26 Nissan <i>Shemini</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
23 27 Nissan 10 AM - 2 PM Keshar Classes 7 PM - Yom HaShoah Svc with 7th Grade class YOM HASHOAH	24 28 Nissan 12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	25 29 Nissan	26 30 Nissan	27 1 Iyar	28 2 Iyar ה 8:04	29 3 Iyar <i>Tazria-Metzora</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
30 4 Iyar 10 AM - 2 PM Keshar Classes (w/ Gan)		7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuel's)		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, March 3

Jessie Edinger	3/4
Mitchel J. Lazarus	3/4
Sadie Gordon Schiller	3/4
Dr. William Schwartz	3/5
Henry Edwards	3/6
Robert W. Lippman	3/6
Fred Fagner	3/7
Carole Bajema	3/8
Ruth Lippman	3/8
Archie Fine	3/9
Irwin Weiner	3/9
Paul Zentner	3/9
Alice Duckworth	3/10
Jack Eigen	3/10
Floyd Pritchett	3/10
Joseph Sonneman	3/10
Monica Zderic	3/10

Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11

Gea Goldfeder	3/11
Joseph Sorkin	3/11
Elsa Zentner	3/11
Thomas Josiah Boothby	3/12
Ida Chia Kahn	3/12
Jack Kahn	3/12
George Schwartz	3/12
Harold Shepard	3/12
Corey Skelton	3/13
Ken Biggin	3/14
Max Lazarus	3/14
Harry Skinner	3/14
Saul Faber	3/15
Marcia Landau	3/15
Walter von Hollander	3/15

Friday, March 17

Emma Gartner	3/18
Benjamin Goldberg	3/19
Sol L. Shure	3/19
Felicia Elizabeth Romito	3/20
Elaine Fox Suloway	3/20
Mabel Berman	3/21
June Krauzer Mazonson	3/21
Muriel Anzman	3/22
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz	3/23
Nathan Landau	3/23
Norma Soode	3/23
Anna Kushner	3/24
Lylyan Wick	3/24

Friday, March 24

Dorothy Brody	3/25
Marcelline Naparty	3/25
Bernice Rappaport	3/25
Gordon Eli Stolzoff	3/25
Harry Zemel	3/25
Morrie Feller	3/27
Eliezer Spiro	3/27
Herbert Sulkin	3/27
Loren Lund	3/28
Ben Zderic	3/28
Lucia Mastbaum	3/29
Leonard Price	3/30
Jerome Greenwald	3/31
Megan Guppy	3/31
Leon Thal	3/31

Friday, March 31

(No Shabbat service, will be read on March 24)

Barry Evans	4/1
William A. Gordon	4/1
Lou Mazel	4/1
Martin Spigelman	4/1
Norma Edwards	4/2
Arthur Koplowitz	4/2
Beatrice Lazaroff	4/2
Naomi Stone	4/2
Fred Oscar Wigren	4/2
Robert Korner	4/3
Manfred Vernon	4/5
Leah Rachel Shapiro	4/6
Justin Scharff	4/7
Jose Weill	4/7

Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8

Lois Oksenberg	4/8
Max Wolfman	4/8
Naomi Lazarus Barnes	4/9
Arnold Behrstock	4/9
Bertha Friedman	4/9
Michael Tabak	4/9
Burl Ives	4/10
Ray Schapiro	4/10
Joyce Zvenia	4/10
Dorothy M. Fine	4/11
Arthur Feld	4/12
Angus Campbell Walker	4/12
Harry M. Eisner	4/13
Sue Ohms	4/13
Marcelo Lindner	4/14
Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	4/14

Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15

Dennis Scharff	4/15
Jack Mazur	4/16
Jennie Shuster	4/16
David Alper	4/17
Glen Myers	4/17
Esther Suloway	4/17
Emanuel M. Lindheimer	4/19
Morris Fischel	4/20
Violet Shaw	4/20
Samuel Midwood	4/21
Benjamin Shapiro	4/21

Friday, April 21

Hy Zimmerman	4/22
Fagner Family	4/23
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	4/23
Selma Lebovich	4/23
Joanne M. Lund	4/24
Leila Shavelson	4/25
Lena Horwitz	4/26
Helen Victoria Richmond	4/27
Max Swartz	4/27
Thelma Weiner	4/27
Rabbi Frederick S. Gartner	4/28
Edward Stone	4/28

Friday, April 28

Karleen Press	4/30
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	4/30
Fay Sosnick	5/1
Manly Spigelman	5/1
Elayne B. Weiner	5/2
Mary Widerkehr	5/2
ErmaFlora Haughawout Boothby	5/3
Etta Fine	5/3
Judy Aikens	5/5
Esther Siegel	5/5

End-of-life talk

For those who were unable to attend the advance directives/ planning for the end-of-life series at Beth Israel last year, the information is being presented once again from 6 to 8 p.m. March 22, 2017, at the St. Lukes Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway.

— The Care Committee

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 180

ANNUAL SHABBATON AT CAMP KALSMAN

Join us May 12-13, 2017
at Camp Kalsman in Arlington

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

*Shabbat services * Four meals throughout Shabbat * Late night Torah study * Kid and family activities * Morning yoga for adults*
*Pre-Lag B'Omer bonfire * Canoeing*
*Giant swing * Hiking * Havdalah*

Arrive: Between 3 and 5 p.m. Friday, May 12, 2017

Depart: After Havdalah, around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2017

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

Registration: By April 2, 2017. Forms are available online or on the Keshet school bulletin board

Cost: \$75 per person. \$50/Keshet student and family members. Space is limited! Scholarships available.



WWW.BETHISRAELBELLINGHAM.ORG * 360.733.8890