

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 21, NO. 5 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Getting ready to move!

Building focus now turns to exterior work

As this issue goes to press, our new Congregation Beth Israel building at 751 San Juan Blvd. is just weeks away from completion.

Fundraisers earlier this year raised \$350,000, which when added to what remains of our Million\$Match campaign, is enabling us to finish the contracted work by May 15. Bathrooms are finished, Keshet classrooms and Keshet kitchen are complete (except for a refrigerator!), interior doors are being installed, windows washed and inspections of all systems are under way. Also, lights from the 2200 Broadway building are being refurbished and will be installed in the foyer and *beit midrash*.

We are continuing planning for exterior work, such as drainage, patios and sidewalks that will enable us to gain an occupancy permit and move in this fall. Until the outside work is complete, which is expected sometime in August, some interior items are on hold, such as carpeting the main and



The Keshet kitchen on the lower level is complete, except for a refrigerator.

upper levels.

While the building will be "livable" it won't include everything we hope to have, and fundraising will continue for items such as: design and building of the Ark and completing the main floor commercial kitchen.

Come take a look at our progress during the following events, to be held at the new building:

Lag B'Omer campfire, 6 p.m.
Sunday, May 14.

Annual meeting, 6 p.m. Sunday,
May 21.

FROM THE RABBI

What Ruth teaches us today

One of my favorite books in the Hebrew Bible is Ruth. Not only is it brief, but it is a wonderful story with so many important and



relevant themes for us to think about in our daily lives.

Ruth is traditionally read on Shavuot. There are several compelling reasons for this.

First, the events depicted in the Book of Ruth take place during the harvest season, and the holiday of Shavuot also takes place during that time of the year. Second, Shavuot is when our ancestors received the Torah and entered the covenant at Sinai. Just as they chose to follow Judaism, so too did Ruth, according to some, the first convert.

Two themes, I feel, really permeate this story. The first is that of *chesed*, or loving-kindness. This value can be seen in almost every relationship. We first see *chesed* in the loving loyalty and faithfulness of Ruth, the Moabitess, in how she expresses her commitment to her mother-in-law Naomi, which transcends the claims of religion and national identity.

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CAMPOUT:

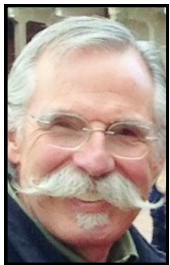
Site picked for July overnight, page 6

END OF YEAR PICNIC: page 16

From the President ...

Stepping into new role after 2 years as president

"I want to thank you, the congregation, for the honor and trust you have placed in me to serve the congregation as president. It is a great honor and a sacred trust that I take very seriously. I will endeavor to always give the congregation my best efforts."



Thus began my first Shofar article in July of 2015.

As I conclude my service as president and look back on the past two years, my thoughts and feelings remain the same as at the beginning. The last two years have been humbling. I can honestly say that I made my best effort. I will treasure the memories of this time; they will be highlights of my life. As I worked to address the needs of our congregation, the presidency became an all-consuming job. Preparing for our future and the health of Congregation Beth Israel were always on my mind. It would have been much more difficult without you, the congregants, who in ways great and small provided the support I needed. Thank you.

I am grateful for a wonderful board of directors. We have had some long but exciting and crucial meetings. I have been able to count on each board member to put forth their best effort in charting a course for

our synagogue. I especially want to thank the executive board. Marcia Lippman, Katie Edelstein, and Steven Garfinkle, our vice presidents, have been wise counselors. I am grateful to Terri Weiner, who came forward when we needed a treasurer. Thanks to Lynn Korner and Paul Blum, our board secretaries, who kept us organized. I also want to acknowledge the immense help that Jeff Jaffe and Mitch Press have provided. As past presidents, they were always available to chat or meet, sometimes at short notice, to help me clarify my thoughts. Finally, I wish to thank Rabbi Samuels for his invaluable contributions.

I'm looking forward to continuing my work with several committees and returning to singing with Ma'ayan Shir. I am excited about my roles as immediate past president and as nominating committee chair. I would like to encourage all of you to consider board service. The board is a wonderful group, and it is very exciting to be part of charting our congregational course. I am encouraged by the next slate of candidates and have great hope for our future. If you are interested in serving on the board, please drop me a note.

Now, on to the next phase! I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting (see story, Page 3).

Todah rabah,

— Dan Ohms

Scholarship from Wolpow Institute

The Ray Wolpow Institute proudly announces The Kohlmeier Mikulencak Scholarship. Made possible by the generous support of Bernhard Kohlmeier and Lisa Ann Mikulencak,

the \$2,000 scholarship will provide support for students studying topics related to Holocaust, Genocide Studies, and/or Crimes Against Humanities. Access the application form here: <https://wp.wvu.edu/raywolpowinstitute/files/2017/04/KM-Scholarship-Application-1zhurwf.pdf> and submit by Friday, May 5, 2017.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar
Volume 21, Number 5
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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 July/August issue is JUNE 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

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

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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

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www.bethisraelbellingham.org

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SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

First annual meeting in new building

Sunday, May 21, 2017
751 San Juan Blvd

6 p.m. Wine & appetizer
social hour

7 p.m. Meeting in sanctuary
Dessert social to follow

All Beth Israel members are encouraged to attend our annual Congregational Meeting and invited to social gatherings before and after the meeting sponsored by the Board of Directors.

The annual meeting is a time to celebrate the many events and accomplishments of the year and a time to give thanks to the many people who have given so generously of their time and energy to enrich the CBI experience. It is also a time to look toward the year ahead for our Keshar children, our CBI adult education and other programming, our new synagogue building, and more.

The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of officers and directors for 2017-18. Congregants will have the opportunity to vote on this slate.

Childcare will be available. Pre-registration is required by May 19. Please contact the office at (360) 733-8890 or office@bethisraelbellingham.org with the number and ages of children.

Plan to attend this important event in the life of our community.

From the Nominating Committee

Current members of the Nominating Committee are: Mitch Press, Chair; Lynn Korner, Board Representative; Tamar Clarke, Tracy Levine, Jodi Litt, Gayle Gordon-Martin, Marta Brand, Isaac Blum and Shelley Wolfman.

We would like to thank Melissa Schapiro for 10 consecutive years on the board, four as board secretary, and Asher Suloway-Baker for four years as youth representative, both of whom have reached their term limits. Dan Ohms will become past president after serving the limit of two years as board president. We are greatly indebted to Dan for his strong leadership and many hours devoted to CBI during these past two years.

SLATE for 2017-2018

Names with (*) are up for election.

President:	Steven Garfinkle*
Vice Pres.:	Katie Edelstein* (2nd term)
Vice Pres.:	Miriam Schwartz*
Treasurer:	Terri Weiner
Secretary:	Paul Blum
Past Pres.:	Dan Ohms

New board members:

Josh Greenberg*
Isaac Konikoff*
Sarah Bauman*
Samantha Sommers* (youth rep.)

Up for election to second 2-year board term

Lynn Korner*
David Zimmerman*
Gaby Mayers*

Continuing board members (not up for election)

Marcia Lippman
Deborah Oksenberg
Todd Witte
Binnie Perper

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker,
(360) 647-7031

Care: Sylvia Williams,
(360) 319-5059

Keshar Parent Committee:
Wendy Blum, (360) 733-5883 and
Marcy Probst, (360) 647-1982

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

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

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WWU hires 1st professor of Jewish history

The history department at Western Washington University is proud to announce the hiring of the inaugural Jaffe Professor in Jewish history. Dr. Sarah Zarrow will start teaching in Fall 2017, beginning a permanent legacy for Jewish History in Western Washington that has been made possible by the hard work and support by many in the CBI community. Beginning in the Fall, Western will be able to offer courses in Jewish history, the history of the Holocaust, and in the history of antisemitism.

The university continues to raise funds for this endowed professorship.

Please contact steven.garfinkle@wwu.edu for details.

Dr. Zarrow is a Research Fellow at New Europe College in Bucharest, Romania. She was previously Visiting Scholar at the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies (CEMS) at New York University. She holds a doctorate (2015) from the joint program of the Skirball Department of Hebrew & Judaic Studies and the History Department at New York University.

She concentrates on Modern European history, with a particular focus on Jews in Eastern and Central

Europe, and on the transition from empire to nation-state following WWI. She is interested in Jewish political and youth movements, the development of Yiddish culture in Europe, and East European historical memory, particularly as it pertains to the Nazi and Soviet occupations. Her current research examines the social role of ethnographic documentation and museums for Jews in interwar Poland (1918-1939).

Among other things, Dr. Zarrow developed online courses in East European Jewish history and folklore for YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Birthdays

MAY 2017

5/2 Richard Trank
5/3 Louis Hunter (21st)
5/3 Kylie Kanze
5/4 Bobbie Jaffe
5/4 Sydney Wolfson (11th)
5/5 Rick Adelstein
5/5 Michael Braunstein
5/5 Russell Sheinkopf
5/6 Gary Adelstein
5/8 Greg Schwartz
5/10 Asher Nathanson (7th)
5/10 Penny Schuman
5/11 AJ Ingberman (17th)
5/11 David Kanze
5/11 Oren Shilo (3rd)
5/12 Warren Cornwall
5/13 Joseph Anderson
5/13 Tim Baker
5/13 David Cohn
5/13 Adam Greenberg (16th)
5/13 Karen Weill
5/26 Max Johnson (16th)
5/17 Lindsey Genut
5/17 Suzanne Fischél Kite

5/18 Kendra Bradford
5/18 Adelle John
5/19 Kathy Grossman
5/20 John Siegfried
5/10 Emily Weiner
5/21 Meredith Attar
5/21 Andrea James
5/21 Ann Suloway
5/22 Danny Finkelstein
5/23 Isaac Blum
5/23 Serge Lindner
5/23 Ezra Carter Price (12th)
5/24 Harriet Fine
5/24 Jeffrey Holtzman
5/24 Stephen Martin
5/24 Becki Van Glubt
5/25 Alan Barney
5/26 Stephen Spigelman
5/26 Cassandra Wolfson
5/27 Fay Farkas
5/28 Francine Hoch
5/29 Kim Moskowitz
5/29 Aline Wanne
5/30 Teddy Ingberman (14th)
5/31 Hannah Rose
5/31 Todd Witte

JUNE 2017

6/1 Steve Spitzer
6/1 Caden Stoane (15th)
6/3 Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger
6/3 Linda B. Hirsh
6/4 Samuel Hunter (17th)
6/4 Laura Leiske
6/4 Judith Osman
6/4 Belle Shalom
6/5 Samuel Comstock (7th)
6/6 Raphael Engle
6/7 Adrienne Champagne
6/7 Frank Champagne
6/7 McNeel Jantzen
6/8 Chris Balton
6/8 Cassidy Jo Kanze (6th)
6/8 Janet Seltzer
6/10 James Prickett
6/11 Diane Garmo
6/11 Marcy Probst
6/11 Galit Shilo
6/11 Aiden Shupack (5th)
6/11 Adin Sokol (15th)
6/12 Ron Walt

6/12 Henry Zemel
6/13 Leslie Shankman
6/14 Susan Kendal
6/14 Willa Wren Levinson (3rd)
6/15 Diane Leigh
6/16 Lee Shapiro
6/16 Stuart Zemel
6/17 Valerie Randolph
6/17 Todd Shuster
6/19 Rena Ziegler
6/20 Phyllis Mazur
6/21 Ruth Schneider
6/22 Milo Levinson (8th)
6/23 Leah Reitz (19th)
6/24 Jill Elkayam
6/25 Mike Brennan
6/25 Julia Schwartz (15th)
6/26 Tracy Diller
6/26 Jeremiah Witte (10th)
6/26 Nathaniel Witte (10th)
6/27 Sid Wanne
6/29 Nicole Samuels



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From the Social Action Committee ...

New projects for Mitzvah Day 2017

Mitzvah Day for the whole congregation will be May 7, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m. with bagels and coffee. The speaker this year will be Dennis Connor from Whatcom Land Trust. We will begin the Mitzvah Day projects at about 11 a.m., and hope everyone will find a project that excites them! This year's projects:

Assist at Stimpson Family Forest to resurface a portion of the trail. They will need help hauling and spreading gravel. This should be a great family-centered project that will show results immediately. Tools will be provided, but folks should bring gloves if they have them. If families have child-size wheelbarrows they want to bring, this would be a perfect opportunity to put them to use.

Join the CBI youth group on an anti-slavery scavenger hunt! Unfortunately, many of the foods we consume have some form of slavery as part of their supply chains. We are

looking for 20 people of any age (younger than 13 need a parent/guardian) to participate in a scavenger hunt of our favorite grocery stores for slavery-free food items. By educating ourselves about our consumer habits, we can make choices that will help to reduce or eradicate slavery. We will do a short presentation about slavery and what symbols and foods to look for before heading out. The goal is to take Instagram photos of the food items we find, which will be compiled and listed on the CBI website as a guide for congregants in the future.

Make cookies to donate to CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together). This ongoing weekly meal program from Interfaith Coalition serves simple meals to hungry people in downtown Bellingham. Parents of participating children required.

Returning projects: Making hygiene kits for Northwest Youth Ser-

vices; cleaning up our congregational cemetery; making homemade cards to be distributed by the CBI Care Committee; and postcards you can address to government officials about public issues of concern.

Also, May and June are when we collect Milk Money for Bellingham Food Bank. As we celebrate Shavuot with blintzes and cheesecake, we hope to collect money to provide a half-gallon of milk to each family visiting the Food Bank during June. Please make checks to Bellingham Food Bank and leave donations in the synagogue office. This year's goal: \$500. Also any donations of baby food and diapers would be appreciated during May and June. Donation bins are by the basement door of the synagogue, 2200 Broadway.

— LINDA BLACKWELL, CHAIR

Sisterhood book group meeting

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

May 28: NOTORIOUS RBG: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RUTH BADER GINSBERG by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik, at the home of Melissa Schapiro.

June 25: IN THE IMAGE by Dara Horn, place TBA.

July 23: TWO SHE BEARS by Meira Shelev, place TBA.

Mishloach Manot a huge success

Now in its third year, Beth Israel's Mishloach Manot fundraiser is a huge success. More congregants participated and more money was raised for our Keshet program than in previous years.

Also we like to think that we put a lot of smiles on a lot of faces! This could not succeed without YOUR help. Thank you to all those who sent greetings to friends, thank you to the 25 delivery volunteers and a BIG thank you to our awesome Purim Mishloach Committee — Deborah Oksenberg, Miriam Schwartz, Miriam Zderic and Happy Purim maven Joan Wayne.



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CBI campout will be at Excelsior Campground

Registration will be open soon for the Congregational Campout July 7-9 at Excelsior Campground just west of Nooksack Falls.

We will have the entire campground to ourselves with a closed gate. Five meals will be provided from Shabbat dinner to Sunday breakfast, with food organized in advance for the group (with "special diet" folks accommodated).

Each family will be asked to help in community to prepare and clean up one meal. Put up your feet for the rest! There are numerous sites in amongst the trees for tents, and a limited number of sites for tent-

trailers-to-RVs (no hookups).

Excelsior is beautiful but primitive! It has (very nice) pit toilets, and no running water — except for the river. Drinking water and handwashing stations will be provided. We have use of a lovely group shelter and fire pit.

The campground is right on the Nooksack and is very flat, so it is both small-kids-on-bikes friendly, and moderately elder/disabled friendly. No pets will be allowed, to keep it simple and pleasant for everyone, and we will ask that no music or video machines be brought, and that folks stay off their phones so we can enjoy the primitive nature of the place

and have a true Sabbath.

We'll have services and Torah study, arts and crafts, music, s'mores, hiking, a slack line, badminton, chucking rocks in the river, board games, etc.

A very generous anonymous donation allows the cost for the entire weekend to be \$25 per person ages 12 and up, \$15 ages 4-11, and free ages 0-3. Cost for Saturday only is \$15, and includes three meals. Scholarships are available.

Contact Barbara Boothby: kavahni@yahoo.com or (360) 527-2704 for details or to help with organization or if you have suggestions.

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

The wedding of Miriam Zderic and Perry Davids
From: Joan & Marv Wayne

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Alan Soicher and family, on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Judy Soicher
From: The Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack and Evan Ingalls — thanks for making our chug fun!
From: Rebekah Sommers & Tahlia Somers

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee — thank you for your kindness and compassion
From: Gayle Gordon-Martin & Steve Martin

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Harriet Fine
From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

COMMEMORATING YAHR-ZEIT OF:

* Isadore Graff
* Jack Mazur
From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

KESHER TUITION

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Beth Israel congregants, for the lovely Purim gift
From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

Beth Israel congregants, with our thanks for the yummy Purim treats
From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Beth Israel Board of Directors and committees
From: Gayle Gordon-Martin & Steve Martin
Rabbi Samuels
From: Toby Sonneman

The CBI community — thank you for your kind gift of Purim treats, and thank you for supporting education in our honor
From: Lisa & Chris Balton

IN HONOR OF:

* The wedding of Miriam Zderic and Perry Davids
* The upcoming wedding of Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom
From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg, Marla & Danny Finkelstein

The marriage of our grandson, Greg Mazur, to Shannon Roche
From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

* Gregg Orlik, on the loss of his father, Gilbert Orlik
* Renee Elder, on the loss of her mother, BJ Elder
From: Lynn & Michael Korner

Linda Blackwell, on the loss of her father, Charles Blackwell
From: Lynn & Michael Korner, Debbie & Dan Raas, Larry & Melissa Stahlberg, Joan & Marv Wayne

Julie Hunter, on the loss of her sister, Amy Louisa Blank
From: Joan & Marv Wayne

Alan Soicher and family, on the loss of their mother and grandmother, Judy Soicher
From: Anne Brown

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Richard Widerkehr

YOUTH GROUP

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Samantha Sommers

From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning ...

Lag B'Omer kumzits: One of life's joys

On the 33rd day of the period between Pesach and Shavuot, we celebrate Lag B'Omer. The significance of the holiday's celebration comprises a few historical events, such as the life and wisdom of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and the Bar Kochva revolt. Both are sources of many *aggadot* (folk tales) be loved by children and adults alike. Although Lag B'Omer is not considered



not considered

a major Jewish holiday in the diaspora, it is indeed one for Jewish kids all over Israel. As Israeli children, my friends and I considered it the most significant holiday on the Jewish calendar! As soon as the Passover school break was over we were let loose by our parents for a town-wide search to collect wood in preparation for our much-anticipated Lag B'Omer bonfire.

The Lag B'Omer's *kumzits* (bonfire) lends itself to be the focal point of a joyous celebration. All of the holiday's traditions — roasting potatoes covered by aluminum foil in the heart of the fire; playing with homemade bows and arrows; parades; weddings; and the first haircut for young children — lend themselves to be a joyous and a communal celebration around what for millennia has brought people together: the campfire. Across temporal, cultural and geographical boundaries the campfire has always nurtured a sense of unity and a common goal: to stoke the fire and keep it alive. I also find it an appropriate parallel metaphor for what we do here at Keshet every Sunday.

In an age when friends are counted on our Facebook page and our popularity is monitored on Instagram by



Mesmerized by the campfire and roasting marshmallows (Lag B'Omer 2014).

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

Kibud Morim: 6:15 p.m. Friday, May 5

Join a special Kabbalat Shabbat honoring our Keshet teachers and madrichim for the joy and enthusiasm they bring with them to the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning every Sunday.

Remembering Judy Soicher

Keshet students and staff mourn the loss of Judy Soicher, who will be forever remembered as an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher. She shared her love for Jewish Education and Hebrew with many students and her lessons will live on through activities such as her legendary Lulav Shake (a milkshake representing the four species we shake at the Sukkah) on Sukkot.

May her memory be a blessing.

יהי זכרה ברוך

the number of “likes” we get, I find it refreshing to go back to basics and gather around the campfire in celebration. Try it out for yourself this Lag B'Omer and meet Keshet and CBI community members at our congregation's first Lag B'Omer celebration

in our new home at 751 San Juan Boulevard, 6 p.m. May 14, 2017.

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

Faces in our community

Life's a wild ride for Naimans

Helicopter pilot, school teacher
make Bellingham their home base

BY LINDA HIRSH

Purim Carnival. Rhinoceros. Borneo. Words no one has ever seen in sequence. Except Jesse Naiman.

In 2014, Jesse's phone interrupted his efforts to razz Haman. The text said a helicopter pilot was needed to rescue a Sumatran rhinoceros in a North Borneo jungle.

"I thought it was a misprint," said Jesse, a utility helicopter pilot for Billings Flying Service.

The endangered rhino, also known as an odd-toed ungulate, had wandered through a pine oil habitat and fallen into a pit.

Jesse flew from the U.S. to Borneo, where he picked up a helicopter.

On the scene, he hovered over the pit extending the plane's extra long 400-foot cable to the earth. Workers attached the animal's extra-large crate to it while a National Geographic journalist snapped photographs. The entire mission, including flying to a rehabilitation center, took 25 minutes, he said.

Nicky, Jesse's wife, nodding, said, "It was pretty cool." And their two children, Lucy, 8, and Max, 6?

"The children were unfazed," she said. "They've heard stories like this all their lives."

It's always been either air or earth for Jesse. He fell in love with flying as a kid while watching Star Wars and decided that airplanes were "the closest thing to space ships."

Born in Tucson, Ariz., in 1971, he and his parents, both academics, moved to Charlottesville, Va., then to Las Vegas, finally settling in Portland, Conn. That's where his mother, Phyllis Zlotnick, a woman known statewide for her activism, became involved in politics as a champion for the handicapped. During his childhood, he attended Hebrew school at a conservative synagogue in nearby Middletown.

As a teen, he still had his head in the air. As soon as he got his driver's license in 1987, he skipped school for a day and headed to the local airport to take his first flying lesson in a small propellor plane called Piper Warrior.

After high school graduation, still dreaming of airplanes, he went to Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn. There he took a demonstration ride on a helicopter. That ride further entranced him.



The Naimans visit the Grand Canyon in December 2016.

At Macalester, he first delved into creative writing. Soon realizing its "burn-out potential," he came down to earth and switched his major to geology. Graduate school for Jesse, however, was flight school, where he earned his private helicopter license in 1992.

He put his undergraduate degree to work, earning enough money to climb out of a student loan hole by running geophysical exploration crews for five years. He covered air over the Arctic, Northern Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Brazil, where the crews used geophysical techniques to search for gold and diamonds.

Over the years he has flown a variety of utility helicopter missions. For instance, twice a year at the beginning and end of winter he would work on a moose capture.

"I would fly a veterinarian/shooter low level to the moose, to shoot a dart into its butt, and fly off for a few minutes while it got sleepy," Jesse said.

Continued on Page 11

Google group helps CBI Guys connect

According to Time magazine's fall 2016 special edition on "The Science of Relationships," guys have a more difficult time, especially as they age, making and maintaining friendships. By age 39, women on average, begin having more friends than men, a trend that continues indefinitely. One in eight men surveyed in a 2015 British poll said they felt "friendless" outside of their family relationships. Other studies report on the importance to our health, as we age, of social interaction and friendships.

This past winter, congregants Kevin Donner, David Strich and Todd Witte went on a fabulous snowshoeing hike at Mount Baker. Afterwards, several guys approached them, saying they would have loved to have joined, if they had known about it — but until now there wasn't a good means to get the word out.

The CBI Brotherhood is one way for our CBI Guys to reach out and form friendships with each other through scheduled events. But recently, dovetailing on the wild success of the Shabbat Dinner Crowd, a new means has sprouted for more spontaneous gathering.



(From left) Kevin Donner, Todd Witte and David Strich at Mount Baker.

Through CBI Guys, hosted by GoogleGroups, if a CBI guy is interested in company/friendship, he can just blast out an email. Examples might be going to a movie, grabbing a beer, meeting at a playground while the kids play, helping with a project around the house, hiking, poker night, etc. The more men who join, the more successful this chavurah-esque group will be.

Interested in joining? Email cbi-guys+subscribe@googlegroups.com or go to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/cbi-guys/join>. Once you are subscribed, you can send out a group-email by sending your message to cbi-guys@googlegroups.com.

Questions? Ask Isaac Konikoff.

Purim Fun 2017



All ages enjoyed dressing up for the annual Purim Carnival at Bloedel-Donovan Park on March 12, 2017. More photos from the event are online at www.bethisraelbellingham.org/worship/holidays/purim

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

We also see *chesed* in the kindness and graciousness of Boaz, expressed in his benevolence and faithfulness to family responsibilities, in regard both to marrying Ruth and to redeeming the field of Elimelech on behalf of Naomi, all of which transcended claims of self-interest.

These acts of *chesed* — and then some — ultimately provide a son to restore Naomi's life and provide for her old age, reversing the death and emptiness that had afflicted her.

The other theme of this book is the central role of foreigners. In choosing a Moabite woman as a protagonist, the author picked someone whom the audience would view negatively from the start for a couple of reasons. First, the Torah portrays the origin of the Moabite people through incest. In Genesis, we might remember the story of Lot. It ain't pretty. His child from this abhorrent relationship is named Moab, from "me-av," which translates to "from dad." (I know, this too is part of our narrative.) And second, the Torah continues to hold Moabites at arm's length. When Deuteronomy lists nations with whom intermarriage is questionable, its most extreme strictures apply to the Moabites, "No...Moabite shall be admitted into the congregation of Adonai; none of their descendants, even in the tenth generation, shall ever be admitted into the congregation of Adonai...You shall never concern yourself with their welfare or

benefit as long as you live..." (Deut 23:4).

Contrary to common opinion, it seems that Ruth stays a foreigner throughout the book. She does not "convert to Judaism." There really was no such procedure anyway at that time. And her famous statement in 1:16 "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God, my God" is rather a declaration of closeness to Naomi.

Ruth's pronouncement does not make her an Israelite. After this declaration the narrator twice uses the phrase "Ruth the Moabite" (2:2, 21), as does Boaz (4:5, 10). Even Ruth calls herself "nochriyah" or "a foreigner" in 2:10.

What I think is really interesting is that Ruth's Moabite status is not held against her. Even as a foreign

woman, Ruth can enter the community. More than that, she becomes the progenitor of King David. Thus, the book illustrates that kindness is far more important than one's ethnic background. The book of Ruth was really ahead of its time as it holds an opposing perspective on attitudes toward foreigners as is seen most clearly in Ezra, where intermarriage is totally forbidden.

Ruth is a gem in our Biblical literature. Whether the events actually occurred is irrelevant. What is relevant is how it still speaks to us today. This beautiful story reinforces how central the value of *chesed* ought to be in our community. It also reminds us that kindness and human decency have no borders or limitations. We are all God's children and deserving of loving-kindness.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Shavuot happenings

Confirmation Service

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 26

Come celebrate shabbat and the culmination of our second-year Confirmation class. Isaac, Raphael, Shoshana, Lilah, Max and Samantha will share their reflections and receive a blessing.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

8 p.m. Tuesday, May 30

It's traditional to stay up all night studying Torah on Shavuot. But since we're in the "City of Subdued Excitement," we'll probably be in bed by 11 at the latest. Come and learn from your friends as various congregants will be presenting 10-minute teachings on anything Jewish. If you are interested in being one of the teachers, let Rabbi Samuels know ASAP. Last year we learned about the Jewish humor of Jackie Mason, the difference between demons and dybbuks, and much more.



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NAIMANS

Continued from Page 8

When they were certain the moose was out, Jesse would land so the vet could attach a GPS radio collar on it. The vet would take hair, teeth and fecal samples and do an ultrasound on the moose's fat layer to see how it had weathered the winter.

A helicopter can serve many functions. Jesse flew one to move logs for a reduced-impact logging operation in Borneo. He flew another to help build pipelines for construction companies. He flew DEA missions for law enforcement.

And he helped firemen fight blazes in Maui, Hawaii, as well as search and rescue missions. He's been on mapping, sampling and invasive-species eradication missions for forestry. A hurricane? He's there for power-line repair, accomplished while wearing a metal suit.

In addition to Maui and Borneo, he has touched down in Australia, Malaysia, Brunei, and Greece.

Jesse earned his commercial helicopter rating in 1993 and was hired to fly glacier tours for Temesco Helicopters, a company located in Skagway, Alaska.

Enter Nicky, office manager for the same company. Born in Seattle, raised in Chugiak, a small town outside Fairbanks, she also lived in Mexico as a foreign exchange student in high school.

She studied business and foreign languages at University of Alaska in Fairbanks. In her 11th year with the company, she realized she had gone as far as she could, so she took her love for children and dived into elementary education. She taught English in Korea. She now teaches Spanish at St. Paul's Academy, a private Bellingham school.

The Naimans were married in 1999.

After telling her story, Nicky drew back a curtain over one house window to show an extensive backyard where she grows all manner of fruits, berries and vegetables. For a while she raised eight free-range chickens and still speaks fondly of them and the fresh eggs they produced. The household also includes a friendly elderly Rhodesian ridgeback, Striker, who greets visitors to the Naiman "farm." Nicky's family now also lives in Bellingham.

The Naimans moved to town in 2008 and joined Congregation Beth Israel in 2012, where they met close friends amongst the plethora of couples of similar age.

One is the Konikoffs. Samantha Konikoff said that when her son Evan was around 5, he was crazy about a helicopter/crane at the airport and loved going to look at it. "When we found out Jesse was the pilot of that heli-



Jesse Naiman fire-fighting from his helicopter in Glacier National Park, 2015.

copter, we started talking," she continued. "We adore the Naiman family. It is an easy friendship and one that feels like we've known them forever, not just a few years. It has always been comfortable and relaxed with them and almost like family. We love how their children play and include ours all the time."

While Nicky works regular hours, Jesse has a staggered schedule: domestic missions 12 days on and 12 days off, and overseas missions, three weeks on and three weeks off. During down time in Greece, he explored Athens so thoroughly that "I know that city like the back of my hand."

On down time locally, "I make sandwiches for my kids," he joked. In addition, he undergoes more training as well as taking part in quintessential Bellingham pastimes such as hiking and boating.

The four Naimans have been known to take off on small family adventures. For example, "We'll load up the car on the spur of the moment and go to Oregon to visit friends," Nicky said. Oh, and the family goes in for big adventures as well, having spent a summer in Greece with a side trip to Turkey for one vacation.

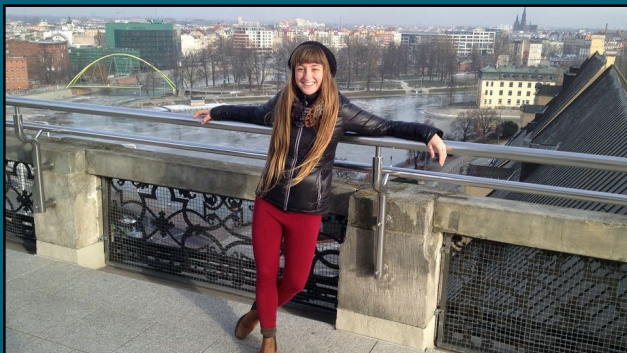
During elections, Jesse finds excitement hearing foreign reactions to America's choices for president. In 2012 everyone he met in Singapore was happy about the Obama campaign and election. On the other hand, when George W. Bush squeaked by Gore, one Indian man in rural Atlanta asked, "Whatever did the citizens of this country think they were doing?" Jesse recalled.

And when asked whether any of his missions scared him, Jesse laughed. On one mission in Tennessee this past election day, "I was more nervous seeing a bunch of hillbillies waving confederate flags," he said.

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

The Yenta speaks ...

Phyllis and Shelly Mazur joyfully announce the marriage of their grandson, **Gregory Mazur**, to **Shannon Roche** on March 21, 2017. The marriage took place in Philadelphia where the newlyweds reside.



Jaime Korner, daughter of Lynn and Michael, is graduating from Brandeis University on May 21, 2017, with a degree in Chemistry, a degree in Women's Gender Studies, and a minor in Judaic Studies. She has applied for a Ph.D. program in Research Chemistry for the Fall. Jaime will be joining Camp Kalsman staff in June as a supervisor for summer 2017. This will be her fourth year working with Camp Kalsman.

Julia Schwartz, 14, will be going to Houston, Texas this summer for six weeks, to participate in the Houston Ballet Academy Summer Intensive. This program auditions young people all over the country for the opportunity to come to this rigorous and well-regarded program. Julia is hoping to get a real taste of what it would be like to be a professional ballet dancer, and to strengthen her technique. She and her sister **Samantha**, as well as **Lev Cornwall**, all participated in a Master Class given by the Director of the Houston Ballet Academy when they were here at the beginning of April, prior to a performance. These three young people all will be dancing in *Alice in Wonderland* at the Mount Baker Theatre the first weekend in June.

Welcome to our new members:

- **David Goldman**; sons **Ryan** (age 12) and **Gilead** (19 months); daughter **Urtica** (3) — Deming
- **Halle Goldner** — Bellingham
- **Mark and Naomi Pomerantz**; sons **Wolf** (5) and **Samuel** (2) — Bellingham
- **Mark & Teresa Sommers**; daughters **Samantha** (15) & **Rebekah** (9); sons **Michael** (12), **Benjamin** (10), and **Xavier** (5) — Mount Vernon

Anniversaries

May 2017

May 1	Mitch & Lisa Press	(#23)
May 1	Richard & Idalina Trank	(#13)
May 7	Steven & Victoria Garfinkle	(#23)
May 8	Elka & Myron Fink	(#62)
May 9	John & Melissa Schapiro	(#24)
May 12	Jeffrey & Wendy Holtzman	(#32)
May 14	David & Kylie Kanze	(#12)
May 16	Larry & Melissa Stahlberg	(#39)
May 18	Rick & Leslie Adelstein	(#42)
May 19	Michael & Patsy Strumpf	(#17)
May 21	Larry Hildes & Karen Weill	(#17)
May 24	Rick & Tracey Levine	(#30)
May 24	Rebecca & Andrew Orloff	(#19)
May 27	Lynne & Mark MacDonald	(#39)
May 29	Darcie Donegan & Phil Buri	(#24)
May 29	Rabbi Joshua & Nicole Samuels	(#12)

June 2017

June 2	Jay & Donna Solomon	(#53)
June 9	Don Fenbert & Valerie Randolph	(#27)
June 10	Frank & Adrienne Champagne	(#5)
June 12	Gaby & Victoria Mayers	(#32)
June 16	Tammy & Daryl Dixon	(#10)
June 17	Cari & Tod Asmussen	(#11)
June 18	David & Jill Elkayam	(#39)
June 19	Miles Bryant & Sarah Bauman	(#41)
June 19	Ann Suloway & Tim Baker	(#24)
June 23	Michelle & Joseph Anderson	(#16)
June 23	Meg Jacobson & Russell Pritchett	(#43)
June 23	David & Rena Ziegler	(#49)
June 25	Peter & Nancy Auerbach	(#51)
June 25	Sarah & Todd Witte	(#17)

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.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

MAY 2017

IYAR - SIVAN 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5 Iyar	2 6 Iyar	3 7 Iyar	4 8 Iyar	5 9 Iyar 8:14	6 10 Iyar <i>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
	6 PM Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration	YOM HA-ATZMAUT 7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuels)		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharf)	6:15 PM Family Service & Teacher Appreciation w/ 2nd Grade class Potluck dinner afterward	
7 11 Iyar 10 AM - 1 PM Mitzvah Day (replaces Keshet classes)	8 12 Iyar	9 13 Iyar	10 14 Iyar	11 15 Iyar	12 16 Iyar 8:24	13 17 Iyar <i>Emor</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study
		6:30PM Board of Directors at 751 San Juan Blvd		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharf)	Shabbaton at Camp Kalsman	
14 18 Iyar LAG B'OMER NO Keshet classes	15 19 Iyar	16 20 Iyar	17 21 Iyar	18 22 Iyar	19 23 Iyar 8:33	20 24 Iyar <i>Behar-Bechokotai</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
3 PM - Text Study Soc.Hall 6 PM - Lag B'Omer event at 751 San Juan Blvd MOTHER'S DAY		7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuels)		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharf)	5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	
21 25 Iyar 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes	22 26 Iyar	23 27 Iyar	24 28 Iyar	25 29 Iyar	26 1 Sivan 8:41	27 2 Sivan <i>Bemidbar</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
At 751 San Juan Blvd: 6 PM - Pre-mtg Social 7 PM - Ann'l Membership Meeting & Bd. Elections Desserts / nosh after		7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuels)		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharf)	7:30PM Shabbat Service and Confirmation w/ Mayan Shir ensemble	
28 3 Sivan NO Keshet classes	29 4 Sivan	30 5 Sivan	31 6 Sivan			
2 PM - Sisterhood Book Grp @ Melissa Schapiro's	12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skyark's Hidden Café	Tikkun Leil Shavuot: 8:00 PM Havdalah & Shavuot study session	- SHAVUOT - 10:30 AM Shavuot Festival Service w/ Yizkor Blintz luncheon afterward			
	MEMORIAL DAY					

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JUNE 2017

SIVAN - TAMMUZ 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7 Sivan No Adult Ed	2 8 Sivan 8:48 6:15 PM Family Service w/ K/1st Grade class Potluck dinner afterward	3 9 Sivan <i>Naso</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Contemplative Service w/ Andrea Shupack
4 10 Sivan 10:00 - 11:30 AM Keshet (w/ Gan) 12:15PM Family Picnic @ Lake Padden Park	5 11 Sivan	6 12 Sivan 7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuels)	7 13 Sivan	8 14 Sivan	9 15 Sivan 8:54 7:30PM Shabbat Service	10 16 Sivan <i>Beha-alotecha</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
11 17 Sivan 3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall	12 18 Sivan	13 19 Sivan 6:30PM Board of Directors at 751 San Juan Blvd	14 20 Sivan	15 21 Sivan 6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	16 22 Sivan 8:57 5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	17 23 Sivan <i>Shelach</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
18 24 Sivan	19 25 Sivan	20 26 Sivan	21 27 Sivan	22 28 Sivan 6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	23 29 Sivan 8:59 7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	24 30 Sivan <i>Korach</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
FATHER'S DAY 25 1 Tammuz	26 2 Tammuz	27 3 Tammuz 7 PM Engaging Israel Adult Ed (Rabbi Samuels)	28 4 Tammuz	29 5 Tammuz 6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	30 6 Tammuz 8:58	
2 PM - Sisterhood Book Grp (location TBA)	12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café			No Adult Ed	NO Shabbat Service "Shabbat at Home" Please welcome Shabbat at home w/ family&friends	

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, May 5

Felicia Keller	5/6
Sergio Shwadsky	5/6
Ray Jay	5/7
Frederick Kullman	5/9
Lloyd Saxton	5/9
Lucie Weis	5/9
Elaine Greenberg	5/10
Barbara Vaughan	5/10
Alan Raas	5/11
Saul S. Spiro	5/11
Sally Warshay	5/11

Friday, May 12

Pearl Albert	5/13
Margaret Horwitz	5/15
Louis Suloway	5/15
Esther Kahn	5/17
Florence Marcus	5/17
Myron Gordon	5/18
Irwin Suloway	5/18
Emanuel Jacobson	5/19
Jack Kleinfeld	5/19

Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20

Maia Haykin	5/20
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Barbara (McNulty) Higham	5/20
Evelyn Renfro	5/20
Jean Dement	5/21
Rebecca Leavitt	5/21
Lloyd Relin	5/21
Arnold Zolotrow	5/21
Rachel Damski	5/22
Rose Thal	5/22
Louis Adelstein	5/23
Rose Block	5/23
Nan Lopresti	5/24
William Stone	5/24
Audrey May King	5/25

Friday, May 26

Samuel Gelb	5/27
Dottie Berelson	5/28
Oscar Evans	5/28
Emil Gartner	5/29
Ethel Sandford	5/29
Samuel Emanuel	5/31
Bertha Gartner	5/31
Louise Hecht	5/3
Henry W. Fenbert	6/1
Marvin Globerman	6/1
Denise Guren	6/2
Rose Millstein	6/2

Samuel Schwartz	6/2
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Friday, June 2

Otto Furth	6/3
David Archie Bauman	6/4
Irene Rosenfeld	6/4
Belle Kaplan Shapiro	6/5
Anne Frank	6/6
Donald Glazer	6/6
Rosalind Kantor	6/6
Dorothy Katz	6/6
Marion Selznick	6/8
Marjorie Fineberg Powell	6/9
Jay Renfro	6/9

Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10

Frances Glazer Garmo	6/10
Gussie Gelb	6/10
David Ohms	6/10
Miriam Shepard	6/10
Marcia M. Morris Yust	6/10
Jack Glazer	6/12
William Robinson	6/12
Jennie Schrader	6/12
Adam Frank	6/13
Edward R. Glazer	6/13

Emma (Weigt) Korneck	6/13
Stanley Schlanger	6/13
Rose Rebecca Glazer	6/14
Vincent Romito	6/14
Esther Bortman	6/15
Bill Lewis	6/15

Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17

Marcella Schapiro	6/17
Irving Edward Shapiro	6/19
Rasela Catz	6/22
Ann Dechter	6/23
Sol Harris Lewis	6/23
Arthur Thal	6/23
Lawrence Witte	6/23
Libby Witte	6/23
Sandy York	6/23

Friday, June 23

Adrienne Benson	6/24
Richard Morrison	6/24
David Horwitz	6/25
Harold "Bud" Blank	6/26
Michael Kendal	6/26
Faye Goldberg-Miller	6/30
Nathan Lassman	6/30

Friday, June 30 (No Shabbat service; to be read on June 23)

Elaine Lev Beller	7/1
Morris R. Hecht	7/1
Alice Lebarsky	7/1
Doris Zemel	7/1
Marcie Janacek	7/2
Mark Sanders	7/2
Stanley Simon	7/2
Rachel Emanuel	7/3
Cora Quiggle	7/3
Sue Groper	7/4
Naftalie Mottel Jaffe	7/4
Leah Tabak	7/4
Virginia Hunter	7/5
Eric O. Sonneman	7/6
Lisa Furth	7/7
Erwin Mayer	7/7

In Memoriam

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

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

Stephanie Korn on the loss of her grandmother, **Betty Goldberger**, who passed away on March 2, 2017, at her home in Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Goldberger was 96 years old.

Gregg Orlik on the loss of his father, **Gilbert Orlik**, who passed away on March 12, 2017, in Los Angeles, California.

Renee Elder on the loss of her mother, **BJ Elder**, who passed away in Kennet Square, Pennsylvania on March 14, 2017.

Linda Blackwell on the loss of her father, **Charles Blackwell**, who passed away on March 15, 2017, at his home in Columbia, Missouri.

Julie Hunter on the loss of her sister, **Amy Louisa Blank**, who passed away at her home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina on March 28, 2017.

David Miller on the loss of his son, **David Benjamin Miller**, who passed away in Bellingham on April 4, 2017.

Our congregation mourns the passing of beloved teacher and former congregant,

Judy Soicher, who passed away following a long illness on April 10, 2017, in Olympia, Washington.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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PLAN TO ATTEND END-OF-YEAR CBI PICNIC



12:15 p.m. June 4, 2017
at Lake Padden Park playground shelter

Come celebrate a successful year of Jewish learning at Keshet! Join us for games and good company following our final Keshet classes of the school year. Keshet will provide barbecued salmon, but otherwise this will be a dairy potluck meal.

Please bring your own plates, cups and utensils.

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