

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 21, NO. 3 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Book club on social action

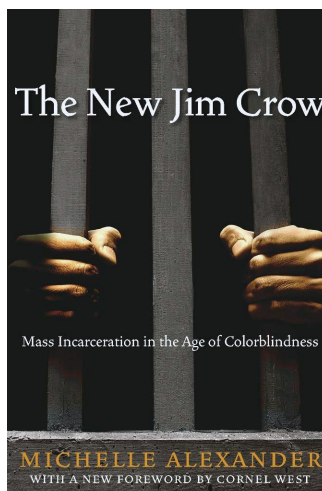
2 p.m. Feb. 26, 2017

"Social action" was the top vote-getter in the rabbi's Rosh Hashanah sermon activity.

Learning that this facet of synagogue life is most important to you, we have thought of different ways we can be engaged in more justice work. One idea was to start a Social Action Book Club where each book focuses on some aspect of a current issue in our society. As you know, racial justice has been one such issue that has kept people up at night wondering why America isn't a land where all are equal.

In our first meeting, we will be discussing Michelle Alexander's seminal best seller, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

If this topic interests you, or social justice in general, you are welcome to join us at 2 p.m. Feb. 26, 2017, in the Social Hall. The next books and meeting times will be determined at a later date.



Beit Café returns with 'adventure'

7 p.m. January 7, 2017

The Encore Room at Mount Baker Theatre

If you love storytelling, then you won't want to miss this Beit Café event. The theme this year is adventure stories. Hear about world travels and more personal adventures

from fellow Beth Israel congregants. Learn things about your friends you never knew.

Be a part of this experience again. We will have some music and plenty to eat and drink too.

If you would like to share a story, inform Rabbi Samuels ASAP to get your name on the list.

FROM THE RABBI

A student becomes the teacher

A few weeks ago I watched my alma mater, University of Wisconsin-Madison Badgers,



play Penn State for the Big Ten championship. Right by my side was my 7-year-old son, Eytan, who like his old man, loves following the Badgers, as well as many

other teams. Eytan is such a Badger fan that he has learned the team's fight song as well as the school hymn, "Varsity." In other words, he's a fan.

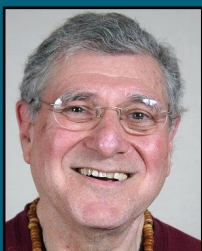
The game ended up being a come-from-behind victory for the Nittany Lions. While I was shouting at the television (I'm not the only one who does this, right?) and tearing out the last remaining hairs on my head, Eytan stayed cool the whole game. Afterward, when I turned off the television I attempted to console my son, thinking that he would be upset. He said to me, "Don't worry. It's OK. They'll play again." And that's when I realized he was consoling me.

The day after Eytan was born, I received a note from my rabbi and teacher, Lawrence Kushner. He wrote, "God sends us

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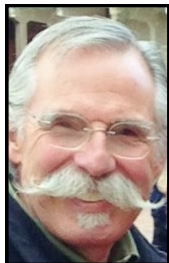
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From the President ...

Construction continues on new synagogue site

Dear Beth Israel family,

Thank you for the many generous donations to the



November \$75,000 match. The congregation raised this significant sum in one month! We now have an additional \$150,000 in the building fund. That is really an incredible

effort and is so helpful in continuing the construction of our new building.

As for the actual construction, it is moving along with visible changes from week to week. Currently, interior doors are being installed and the trim is going up. There is light at the end of the tunnel. It is no longer a dim light but much brighter; I hope that you can see it as well. If you were last at the new building at Rosh Hashanah, you owe it to yourself to see what has changed. Please call Warren Rosenthal or Lynn Korner for a tour. I think you will be very favorably impressed.

The board has spent countless hours discussing the best timing and method of sale of our old synagogue

and adjacent lots. A few months ago, the board entered into an agreement with a commercial real estate agent to sell the building and property. We are continuing in our efforts to sell these assets and plan to deposit the proceeds into the building account. The board is working well with the Realtor and, given the current real estate market, we are hopeful of a sale in the future.

You have helped build a beautiful new house of worship. The new building represents our commitment to the future of the Jewish community of Bellingham. I am grateful to Katie Edelstein for stepping forward to assume leadership of strategic planning; this project will help chart the course of our congregation for the next five years. To those of you who have already participated in a strategic planning session, thank you. To those who have not yet participated, we welcome your input. I hope that you will help guide the dreams of Congregation Beth Israel.

— Dan Ohms

Photos of progress, page 9

Share thoughts on strategic planning

Congregation Beth Israel's board has embarked on a strategy development process to guide our community for the next five years. This strategic framework will allow for discretion in implementation, reflect our values, and be responsive to changes in our community. It also will provide a context for making choices about how we spend our resources, what capabilities we develop, and how we adapt.

We are well on our way as a result of the information collected over the

last few years on several broad-based congregational issues. To ensure we are successful, we need YOU. During the next several months, you will have opportunities to share your thoughts either as a member of the greater CBI community, a committee or as staff. A special thank you to the congregants who participated in the town hall meeting Dec. 4, 2016.

As we face the challenges of meeting our congregation's programmatic and financial needs, it is time to consciously choose our path and make plans to pursue it.

— Katie Edelstein

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar

Volume 21, Number 3
January/February 2017
Tevet/Shevat/Adar 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 March/April issue is FEBRUARY 15. Call the office for more information.

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Sikh community hosts interfaith service

The Sikh Community of Whatcom County has invited Congregation Beth Israel as well as other faith communities to participate in an Interfaith Prayer Service, 3:30 to 6 p.m. Jan. 7, 2017 at the Sikh Temple, Guru Nanak Gursikh Gurdwara, 176 E. Pole Road, Lynden.

Beth Israel member and Holocaust

survivor Noemi Ban will be the keynote speaker. Whatcom County faith leaders and civic leaders also will be sharing prayers and peace in multi-cultural community.

As the event progresses it will become an informal open mic, with people taking two to three minutes for a message of peace, unity and

sharing. The intent is not to have any political discussions, rather people sharing with people and respecting everyone's beliefs and faith.

Please bring your families, friends and congregations! A free vegetarian meal will be served.

From the Social Action Committee ...

Participate in WHS, refugee aid

Thanksgiving thanks: Thanks to all who contributed to the Women-care Shelter Thanksgiving. We were able to provide generous food and monetary contributions, which were greatly appreciated.

A number of projects are planned for January and February:

Whatcom Humane Society: As always we will be collecting old towels and blankets for dogs and cats at the WHS. They would also like kitten, cat, puppy and dog food.

Donations for Refugees: Our big project this winter will be Jan 21-22, when we will make donation boxes for refugees who have been relocated to Seattle. The boxes will be distributed by Jewish Family Services in Seattle to refugees who are from Syria, Afghanistan, Burma, Bhutan, Iran, Ukraine and East Africa. Most families settle in the Kent area, but JFS also will start settling families in Tacoma. We have decided to concentrate on kitchen and bathroom boxes with hygiene items included.

Kitchen Baskets will include flatware; cooking utensils like spatulas, ladels and tongs; a can opener; oven mitts; knives; and cutting boards.

Bathroom Baskets will include new towels, washcloths, shampoo, toothpaste, disposable razors, deodorant, shower curtains and hooks.

A sign-up sheet is next to the basement door in the synagogue. Please DO NOT bring items to the synagogue until Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017. We will box up items for distribution starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. All congregants are invited to participate. Scrip donations would be appreciated as well. We also will donate any quilted or knitted items.

Tu B'Shvat documentary: A viewing of an environmental documentary for Tu B' Shvat will be at 3 p.m. Feb 12, 2017. The film, *Before the Flood*, was directed by Fisher Stevens in collaboration with Leonardo DiCaprio; discussion to follow.

Community Seder set for April 11

The annual CBI Community Seder will be on the second night of Passover, at 6 p.m., Monday, April 11, 2017. The location again will be Bellingham Technical College's Settemyer Hall.

Tickets, which will go on sale Feb. 1, will be: \$55 for non-members; \$40 for members; \$20 for youths (age 6-12); \$5 per child (ages 2-5); free for children younger than 2.

CBI campout in planning stages

"How beautiful are your tents, O, Jacob!"

Save the dates for Torah in the Trees.

The first annual Beth Israel congregational campout will take place July 7-9 at Excelsior campground near Glacier. More details will be revealed in the coming months. Information: Barbara Boothby, kavahni@yahoo.com.

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



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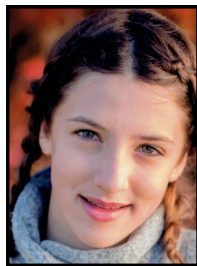
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Bat Mitzvah



Talia Clarke is a seventh-grader at Whatcom Middle School. She loves new outdoor adventures, whether ski camping in Canada or backpacking in the North Cascades. Most afternoons, you'll find Talia racing her kayak around Lake Padden as part of the Bellingham Canoe and Kayak Sprint team. When not racing on water, Talia enjoys running on local trails as part of her school's cross-country team. Talia also loves to create and sew. For her mitzvah project, she sold Hannukah napkin sets, proceeds of which support the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning.

Please join our family in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

January 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

January 14, 2017 at 10 AM

Please join us for a kiddush luncheon following the service at Squalicum Boathouse, 2600 N. Harbor Loop Dr., Bellingham.

Welcome to our new members:

(families live in Bellingham unless otherwise indicated)

- * Aaron Brickman & Ashlie Shuman; son Ian Blacklaw (6) of Mount Vernon
- * Jay Ramras & Mary Nathanson; daughters Madison Nathanson & Jewels Ramras; son Asher Nathanson (ages not provided)
- * Gabriel Shaltiel
- * Dorothy & Ron Walt (Clearlake)

Birthdays

JANUARY 2017

1/1 Elias Anderson (11th)
 1/1 Jeaninne Kahan
 1/1 Binnie Perper
 1/1 Alison Zak
 1/3 Tobias Reitz (21st)
 1/3 Tahlia Somers (10th)
 1/4 Julia Bakken
 1/4 Linda Blackwell
 1/4 Jeffrey Levine (22nd)
 1/4 Asher Stoane (14th)
 1/5 David Sager
 1/5 Jack Schneider
 1/6 Sammy Asmussen (8th)
 1/6 Isaac Konikoff
 1/6 Tom Maxim
 1/7 Anne Bruegmann
 1/8 Victoria Mayers
 1/9 Helen Feiger
 1/10 Lou Lippman

1/11 John Schapiro
 1/12 Talia Clarke (13th)
 1/15 Diana Dixon (3rd)
 1/15 Nora Mazonson
 1/15 Kathi Paluch
 1/16 Maya Cornwall (14th)
 1/17 Julian Booker (15th)
 1/17 David Elkayam
 1/17 Audrey Jaffe
 1/17 Jodi Litt
 1/19 Aaron Brickman
 1/19 Lauren James (11th)
 1/20 Gayle Kay
 1/21 Alyson Kassen
 1/22 Stuart Berman
 1/23 Joshua Greenberg
 1/25 Zane Asmussen (5th)
 1/25 Marc Weinstein
 1/26 Mitch Press
 1/26 Geraldine Reitz
 1/28 Adam Goldstein
 1/28 Angie Lee
 1/30 Wendy Blum

1/30 Gib Morrow

FEBRUARY 2017

2/1 William Freeman
 2/2 Andrea Evans
 2/5 Elizabeth Weinstein
 2/6 Nicola Morrow (22nd)
 2/6 Laura Wolfson
 2/7 Elan Maxim (17th)
 2/8 Samantha Schwartz (12th)
 2/9 Ruth Evans
 2/10 Jacob Bishop (15th)
 2/11 Ella Barney
 2/11 Shalem Blum (12th)
 2/14 Ted Schuman
 2/15 Gloria Lebowitz
 2/17 Dan Ohms
 2/18 Tom Oliver
 2/20 Donald Fenbert
 2/20 Sagit Hall
 2/19 Tristan Lloveras (19th)

2/20 Susan Schneider
 2/20 Elijah Wolfson (8th)
 2/21 Gregg Orlik
 2/21 Ben Sokol (17th)
 2/21 Kristin Sykes-David
 2/22 Frank Corey
 2/22 Teva Corey-DuBow (10th)
 2/22 Karen Sloss
 2/22 Jeannette Stephens
 2/22 Alan Stone
 2/23 Harriet Emanuel
 2/24 Todd Haskell
 2/24 Robert Meltzer
 2/24 Isabel Stolozoff (14th)
 2/25 Nancy Auerbach
 2/25 Avi Brennan (10th)
 2/25 Genny Cohn
 2/26 Orly Ziv-Maxim
 2/27 Ken Levinson



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'Exotic' theme for Mishloach Manot

Question: What's sweet and fun and shows up at your door at Purim?

Answer: Mishloach Manot!

For the third year, CBI presents the Mishloach Manot project as a fun and easy way to fulfill one of the Purim mitzvot while supporting our religious school, Keshet Center for Jewish Learning. Mishloach Manot, the sending of food gifts to friends and family, is one of the four mitzvot traditionally performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday and to create meaningful connection within our own community at the same time. Through this project, you can send a lovely gift bag to your friends and family that will be delivered during the week of Purim.

Our first two years were very successful in raising significant funds to support Keshet's operating costs and scholarship program! Both years we sent Mishloach Manot baskets to EVERY CBI congregant! The first year's theme was "Tea for Two," and last year's theme was "Berries and Chocolate." What will this year's theme be? A hint — it will be a bit more exotic — but have no fear, there will be delicious Leah's Hamentashen included!

Here's how it works:

For just \$3 per recipient, you can participate in sending a Purim gift bag to anyone on our membership list and Beth Israel staff. Every

Purim Shpiel and Megillah Reading

6:30 p.m. March 11, 2017

Calling all wannabe thespians! We need you to act in this year's Purim Shpiel. No acting experience is required. Actually, it's frowned upon! What is required, however, is a desire to have fun while telling the story of Esther, Mordecai and Haman (boo!) on stage. Rehearsal dates are on Sunday afternoons (1/15, 22, 29; 2/5, 19, 26; 3/5). Don't worry if you can't make them all. If you want to be in the shpiel, you've got a part! Please contact Andrea Shupack if you are interested.

Purim isn't really Purim without the boisterous chanting of the Megillah. We will give you all the tools and materials you need in order to chant a verse from Megillah Esther. Please contact Andrea Shupack if you are interested.

membership unit on the list and staff will receive one gift bag, along with a Purim scroll that lists all the people who participated in their package. For example, if you are sent a Mishloach Manot bag from more than one individual, you will receive one bag, and all those people sending you the Mishloach Manot will be listed on the scroll. By making a generous donation of \$360 your name will be listed on every scroll. Our list has almost 250 names — this is a tremendous discount.

Members who do not live within our delivery area will receive a festive card wishing them a Happy Purim and noting those who are sending them Purim greetings.

Although Beth Israel is handling all packaging and delivery, Happy

Purim.com is handling our online ordering; credit card charges will be from HappyPurim.com. Please be assured your email address and other personal information will not be shared with any other entity, and your financial information is secure.

You will soon receive instructions by email on how to participate, with a personal log-in code. Please do not share it with anyone.

If you have any questions, or if you would like a paper order form, please contact Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939 or jawayne2@gmail.com.

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



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* Neri Maxim
* Talia Clarke

From: Karen Sloss

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Steven & Victoria Garfinkle;
David Goldman & Linda Blackwell;
Gayle Gordon-Martin & Steve Martin;
Serge Lindner & Deborah Oksenberg; Joan & Marv Wayne

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Committee

From: Nancy Lloyd

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Ted Schuman, for his neighborly kindness

From: John Kirk

IN HONOR OF:

Mary Somerville, for her many years with Beth Israel

From: Linda Blackwell & David Goldman

COMMEMORATING YAHRTZEIT OF:

* Dora Graff
* Esther Mazur

From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

GENERAL

IN APPRECIATION:

Happy 5777 and many years to come

From: Jacob Rosenblum

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Ken Sussman

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN HONOR OF:

Orly Lindner, for her Bat Mitzvah

From: Ruth Shuster

Mary Somerville, for her 20 years of service to our congregation

From: Nancy Lloyd
Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

Rabbi Samuels

From: Susan Jay

Marla & Danny Finkelstein – Mazel Tov on the birth of their new grandson

From: Nancy & Don Davis

Naomi & Morley Wolfman, on the occasion of their 60th anniversary

From: Shelley & Jay Wolfman

Beth Israel is pleased to acknowledge your donation to special Synagogue funds**, Hadassah, or in honor of a special person, by sending a card to your designee.

You may send donations, along with your message and the recipient's name and address to Shelley Wolfman.

For Hadassah certificates, call Debbie Adelstein.

For Trees-For-Israel certificates or JF "Blue Boxes," contact Janis Ban.

Contact information for the above individuals is available by calling (360) 733-8890.

Synagogue Special Funds:

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Rabbi Gartner Scholarship
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Max Glass Library
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New Synagogue (Building)
Youth Group (PHAT)
Clergy Professional Development
Keshet (Religious School) Tuition

* Linda Hirsh – Congratulations on the inclusion of your poem in the Red Wheelbarrow Writers' anthology, *Memory into Memoir*

* Alan & Bonnie Stone – best wishes in your new home
From: Nancy Lloyd

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

...Lois Forman (*Beverly Hills*), my very best friend

...my dear daughter, Debi

...Tami and Marvin Greenstein (*Beverly Hills*)

From: Bernice Loober

GET WELL WISHES TO:

Dan & Debbie Raas

From: Nancy Lloyd

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

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

From: Nancy & Don Davis

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Herman Tabak

From: Susan Jay

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Rick Wasserman
(Sacramento CA)



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From the Kesher Center for Jewish Learning ...

Activities aim to keep teens engaged

Youth engagement is one of the most challenging aspects of Jewish education and is the subject of many discussions among Jewish educators and lay leaders. Teens are the “big kids” that younger children look up to and so are vital to the health of communities like ours. Without even knowing it, they bring so much to the table by just being their own, sometimes goofy selves.

But teens want to hang out with their friends, who, in small communities like ours, are usually not from the same social circles as their peers from the synagogue. This may make synagogue/religious school activities less relevant to their social life and personal interests, resulting in large dropout numbers post-Bar/Bat mitzvah. So is there a magical formula to make congregational life relevant to this age group? How can the community support these efforts?

Much of Kesher's program development focused this year on youth engagement and post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah student retention. For example, the sixth- through 10th-grade curricula included an early Fall trip to Seattle to visit the Holocaust Museum for Humanity, combined with a visit to the Seattle Center and the Space Needle. This group also spent a day at the Western Washington University's Challenge High Ropes Course where the group engaged in physical challenges that put goal setting, leadership, effective communication, trust, and other valuable group and individual skills to the test.

Learning from best practices of other congregations, Kesher now oversees more teen activities than ever, providing one umbrella for the



local NFTY youth group, Hadracha program (in-class teaching assistant program), and some aspects of the Bnei Mitzvah program. This enables a more effective flow of information to this age group, more synchronization between the different activities offered to them, and allows for a clearer developmental vision of this age group looking forward.

The Hadracha program now offers the teens a substantial experience that will give them real world skills. For example, the madrichim had to submit an official resume and cover letter in order to be accepted for the job and gain experience in applying for a job. Throughout the year they are offered a wide array of training opportunities such as teaching methods workshops, CPR and First Aid certification, as well as applying these skills during Kesher. The Hadracha program is now partially integrated with the Confirmation class, demonstrating the concept of simultaneous lifelong learning and teaching. Led by Rabbi Samuels, the class is scheduled to participate in the Social Action L'Taken project in Washington, D.C., this winter.

Kesher is adopting an alternative

learning mode for three Sundays in January tailored to the youth of our community, a program we call Jewish Journey Project. It is modeled after a successful program in New York City. The third- through eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to engage in educational experiences outside the classroom, taking advantage of local Jewish knowledge, facilities, and community members.

In December, each participant chose *chug*, a subject which best matches his or her passions and curiosities. The courses offer a range of subjects such as Judaism and Animals, through exploration of popular music and their references to the Torah, to exploration of science through stories of miracles in the Torah. Some of the courses will take participants on field trips.

Inspired by our teens, we strive to think outside the box and create meaningful bonding experiences that will make a difference in their lives and in ours.

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

Faces in our community

World traveler settles in S.V.

KC Sulkin organizes concerts to support South Whatcom library

BY LINDA HIRSH

KC Sulkin has a knack for amusing folks. When he introduced the acts he booked in his London jazz club, even an expert like Spike Mulligan, Peter Sellers's partner in the Goon Show, told him how funny he was.

KC remembers demurring. Mulligan insisted, repeating the compliment.

"Well, you gotta keep your audience happy," KC said. He paused, then added, "Maybe it was my American accent!"

It was then he discovered that what he was doing for his club was his "forte," he said.

A talent combining entertainment and organizational skills is a rare combo, and that is what he used to raise thousands of dollars for the Music Builds a Library Fund, a program run by the Friends of the South Whatcom Library.

In addition to a Sudden Valley fan, who called KC "an impresario," two Friends of the South Whatcom Library spoke of his gifts and contributions.

Mary Haslan said that KC approached the Friends to put on a jazz concert in the Dance Barn to benefit the library. "That first concert was such a huge success that we decided to have a 4-concert series in 2012. We are now going into our sixth year of jazz series. He has great local and national jazz world contacts. His efforts have raised thousands of dollars."

Sue Parsons, another Library Friend, agreed. "KC has a passion for jazz music which is very contagious."

"KC's familiar red trousers and bustling demeanor make him the easily identifiable organizer at events, but few know how many hours he spends making contacts and arranging for the performers, sound technicians and lighting experts, as well as locating instruments such as the piano that currently resides at the



KC Sulkin (center) with his step-daughter, Elizabeth and his son, Alec.

Dance Barn. KC sets up advertising and finds artists to create low-cost brochures and posters to spread the news about the events. KC also has worked with musicians to lower their fees so that the Friends can afford to hire them. And keeping the entrance fee to \$20 allows many more local residents to get acquainted with the jazz music genre, many for the first time."

Sue adds that KC's contributions add to the enhancement of the community itself. The concerts have led to the resurgence of a focus on the Sudden Valley Dance Barn as a "viable music venue. The Friends of the South Whatcom Library owe him a huge debt of gratitude for developing a culturally enriching experience for our little corner of Whatcom County," she said.

KC didn't jump into show business as a prodigy. Before he met what he calls his first real success as a jazz club owner, he went through a peripatetic journey teaching at international private schools and trying his hand at business.

Born in Brookline, Mass., he was a member of the synagogue where singer/songwriter Debbie

Friedman was the cantor. The Sulkin home breathed music, too. His father, a Boston bandleader from 1946-86, took him to his b'nei mitzvah, debutante and wedding gigs. He would call KC onto the stage so frequently that KC said he was never hounded by a fear of speaking in public.

Although KC didn't play an instrument, he dabbled at singing. His parents used to wake their 4-year-old and bring him down in his Doctor Dentons to sing "White Christmas" for company. At a New England jamboree, the 8-year-old sang "Buttons and Bows" wearing cowboy chaps with a toy pistol at his hip. Later he met the song's aging composer, Ray Evans, who said, "Hearing your story, I felt 10 feet tall," KC remembers. Next in his repertoire was "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts," which he performed at age 12. Even as an adult, he sang for a time in the Kulshan Chorus. He regrets not joining a Boston choir that sang once a year with the Boston Symphony led by his hero, Aaron Copeland.

But he plays down his singing, maintaining that "I would not book myself" as

Continued on Page 11

MAKING PROGRESS AT 751 SAN JUAN



PHOTOS BY LYNN KORNER

Clockwise from left: trim is being installed around doors and windows in the sanctuary; cabinetry awaits installation in Kesher kitchen downstairs; drywall is complete in an upstairs bonus space; main floor bathroom floor is tiled and awaiting fixtures.



New advisers lead NFTY chapter

BY AMANDA ROBINS
AND DANIEL ZAGNOLI

Our vision for NFTY-PHAT is to empower and grow young leaders from within the CBI community to organize and execute meaningful, challenging, and fun Jewish events on a monthly basis.

As advisers, our role will be to first perform outreach to CBI youth and invite them to events; as time proceeds and youth involvement increases, we hope to progressively transfer leadership responsibility to the youth.

Some ideas for future events could include rock climbing, hiking, a cooking event, movie night, or a camping trip during warmer weather. Most importantly, we will strive to incorporate the Jewish values held by the URJ, our synagogue, and the youth involved into all of our events.

We very much value our youth's input for these events going forward, and welcome parent input as well.

Regional and national events:

NW-NFTY Winter Kallah: January 20-22, 2017 in Portland, Ore.

National NFTY Convention: Feb. 17-20, 2017 in Chicago, Ill. Registration ends Jan. 5, 2017.

NW-NFTY Asefah and Elections: April 20, 2017 at Camp Kalsman

NW-NFTY Spring Kallah: April 21-23, 2017 at Camp Kalsman.

Information and registration:
northwest.nfty.org/

About Amanda Robins and Daniel Zagnoli

Hi there! We are excited to introduce ourselves as the new NFTY youth group advisers. We are thrilled to be stepping into this role within our synagogue community, and look forward to collaborating with the teens and parents of our congregation to bring relevant and engaging Jewish youth programming to CBI.



We both grew up outside Philadelphia in religious households. Amanda grew up in Conservative Judaism, while Daniel was raised in the Protestant church and is currently exploring a path to Jewish conversion. We both attended Cornell University where Daniel studied engineering, and Amanda focused on biology and international development. After college, Daniel continued his engineering studies as a Masters student at Ohio State University, and Amanda earned her Masters in Nonprofit Management at University of Washington. Currently, Daniel works for a small engineering consulting firm in Ferndale, and Amanda is the Street Outreach Program Manager for Northwest Youth Services.

In our spare time, we love to go skiing, backpacking, rock climbing, and mountaineering. We hope to incorporate our love for the outdoors and social justice into some of the upcoming NFTY events. We are open to hearing feedback and suggestions from our Beth Israel family, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us at youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org

Rabbi Samuels, 8 teens to lobby in D.C.

From Feb. 10-13, 2017, eight of our teenagers will be participating at the L'taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, D.C., with more than 300 other Jewish teens from around the country.

They will learn about various topics such as gun violence prevention, homelessness, reproductive rights,

and economic justice, all through a Jewish lens. The seminar culminates in their lobbying congressmen/women and senators on "the Hill" about issues which resonate most personally with them.

Other than learning about lobbying, the teens also will visit the Holocaust Museum, Georgetown, have

havdalah at the Jefferson Memorial, and walk along the Mall.

Rabbi Samuels is excited to chaperone CBI's second L'taken trip. Please be on the lookout for the shabbat when Rafi, Isaac, Shoshana, Max, Elan, Samantha, Lilah and Julia share some of their experiences with the community.

KC SULKIN*Continued from Page 8*

an act.

A gift for entertainment is in the genes. KC's son Alec, executive producer of the cartoon show "Family Guy" on Fox TV, is a successful comedy writer who has a talent for singing. He awed the crowd at KC's 75th birthday party with his rendition of "The Rainbow Connection."

After KC graduated from Brookline High School, he attended Harvard University. He found the ambiance somewhat anti-Semitic and "snobbish," he said, "and it was contagious." He took a Masters degree in social studies at Wesleyan University. He did it for free by agreeing to teach for a year the inner-city Weaver High School in Hartford, Conn. He also knows that teaching is tricky. A teacher must present both pros and cons.

"History is written by the winners," KC said. So he taught about the Japanese internment at Weaver High. On the other hand, during a trip to Russia, he took one look at their textbooks and saw that they needed to add some positive to their negative interpretation of American history.

After Weaver, he taught for a year in Asuncion, Paraguay, under a Fulbright program. "It was a wild place. They were still looking for [Nazi doctor] Mengele. I played tennis with a man who wrote 'Memoirs of a Nazi Air Ace.' He had one leg and a prosthetic and he still beat me!" he said.

His next stop was Sweden under a Ford Foundation program. One of his Stockholm students liked him so much that he moved to London, the boy's father found him a job in a school there so his son could keep KC as his teacher. KC stayed in London for several years.

But getting married made him realize that teaching would not provide enough money to support a wife, step-daughter and son. Working for his father-in-law would. Eight years of that was enough to make him see "I never had a grasp of, a feel for or an interest in the shoe business."

When an American friend sold him on running a London jazz club, "It all fell into place." He jumped at the chance, but because his wife didn't want to move, they went their separate ways.

KC dove into his new career and was successful enough to get an offer from another club as music director and part owner. It was there that he tasted celebrity. He said, "Not a lot of people like jazz, but the right people do." Among those he counts as jazz buffs are newscaster Walter Cronkite, author Norman Mailer and actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Coming back from London, he continued to work in assorted jobs for FEMA, the Postal Service and as a travel manager for a Wooster, Mass., company. He arrived in Bellingham in October 2005, a date he remembers because it was when he signed up for Social Security. He was drawn to the town because the AARP magazine rated it second best place in the country to retire and "because of the moderate climate," he said. "It's just like London. Not too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter."

With no hesitation, he got involved in two communities, Congregation Beth Israel and Sudden Valley. CBI members, especially Warren Rosenthal and Anne Brown, welcomed him. KC, knowing his bent by then, participated in several Purim Spiels.

In Sudden Valley, a bookmobile visited twice a week. It got so crowded that it was obvious the area needed a permanent library. KC sent a check for \$500 toward that library, but stipulated that rather than ask him for more, they could tap him to raise money through the jazz concerts he offered to organize.

He claimed that with \$20 tickets he could raise \$850 a concert. "I lowball figures," he said. "I don't want people to get huge expectations."

The concerts never raised less than \$1,000 each, sometimes hitting \$2,000 a concert. Giving four concerts a year, that adds up to a good amount, he said.

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

Anniversaries

January 2017

- Jan. 1** Ella & Alan Barney (#4)
Jan. 4 Jack & Ruth Schneider (#48)
Jan. 4 Alan & Bonnie Stone (#64)
Jan. 6 David Goldman and
 Linda Blackwell (#33)
Jan. 8 Lindsey & Jordan Genut (#8)

February 2017

- Feb. 3** Raphael & Lynda Engle (#11)
Feb. 17 Rob & Kathy Grossman (#11)
Feb. 17 David & Carol Robinson (#37)

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.*

Adult Ed classes begin in January

Two adult education classes begin in January (registration required):

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

Session 1: Kabbalat Shabbat
 Session 2: Birchot HaShachar

Cantorial soloist Andrea Shupack will explore the texts and music of the Shabbat prayer service, deepen our understanding of and personal connection to the music and lyrics of the siddur. For beginners and long-time daveners. Take one or both 3-week sessions, beginning Jan. 25, 2017.

Cost is \$36 or \$70 for both.

Mastery of the Friday Night Siddur Texts

Instructors Dr. Lawrence Hall and Sagit Hall present a session of AlephBetEase focusing on the Siddur as a practice text for the reading skills acquired in the first AlephBetEase course. Suggested fee per student \$100 per member/ \$120 per nonmember. Register by Jan. 15 for the four-session class, which begins Jan. 28, 2017.

To register please contact the main office at (360) 733-8890 or office@bethisraelbellingham.org. Scholarships available; contact rabbi@bethisraelbellingham.org.

More Co-op scrip available in Jan.

Beginning January 1, 2017, Community Food Co-op scrip will be available. Co-op scrip is available in \$50, \$100 and \$250 cards and pays Beth Israel 5 percent.

Scrip from these other local stores is always available: Fred Meyer, Safeway and Whole Foods, 4 percent (CBI's return), Terra Organica, 5 percent, Village Books and Haggen, 10 percent.

You can order Scrip on Beth Israel's website under the "Donate" tab; or email jawayne2@gmail.com

Donations sought for camper fund

Please consider making a contribution to the CBI Camp and Youth Activities Fund. Each year scholarships to attend URJ camps are awarded to children of members, as well as for attending URJ NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) events.

We all understand the importance of supporting our families and our future members and Jewish leaders. Attending camp and regional youth group events is expensive! We should all be proud that so many of

our families make camp attendance a priority in spite of the costs.

Any contributions you can make directly impact our own Jewish community. We are stronger together!

Sisterhood book group meeting

The next meeting of the Sisterhood book group will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, at the home of Joan Wayne.

We will be discussing *STIR, MY BROKEN BRAIN AND THE MEALS THAT BROUGHT ME HOME* by Jessica Fechter.

The Yenta speaks ...

Linda Hirsh has part of her memoir, about her decade in the newspaper business, published in The Red Wheelbarrow's anthology *Memory into Memoir*. It is available at Village Books and sales benefit in part the Whatcom Literacy Council.

Leah Lippman and **Dieter Brandyberry** were married Dec. 19 at Silver Star Resort, B.C., while on a family winter snow get-a-way. They will continue to live in Sudden Valley with their children, Denali (age 9) and Oliver (age 9).

Congregation Beth Israel's previous rabbi, **Rabbi Cindy Enger**, has accepted the position of Direc-

tor of Rabbinic Placement as the newest member of the CCAR senior staff. She will assume that position on July 1, 2017, succeeding Rabbi Alan Henkin. Enger brings a wealth of experiences to this position and, with her unique background, she understands the views of both rabbis and lay leaders in congregational life and in Jewish organizations. Her skills and capacities derive from her work as a rabbi and an attorney who, before she entered HUC-JIR, served as a temple president when her temple entered into a search for its first rabbi.



FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

children to teach us what God's given up trying to teach us in other ways. Be good students!" I didn't fully understand the meaning of this until much later. And what has my son taught me? More than I can write at this moment. However, after the game I understood what Eytan was teaching me: Life is full of ups and downs, so don't sweat the small things.

And that's exactly what a Badger loss is (sorry, fellow fans): a small thing in life. There will be another

game, another opportunity to be crowned champion. In the meantime, there are many more important issues to get upset about, to cry out loud about, to be unnerved about. And each of us has our own private list. Some of these concerns keep us up at night. Some feel so big we just don't know how to respond, and that's why it's sometimes easier to dwell on less significant matters in life.

Eytan has taught me that some things can be ignored and some things need to be engaged in. As we enter (another) new year, may each of us have the clarity to discern what

is important and what can be let go of. What needs our immediate involvement and what can wait for us. Who needs us now and who can get by without us until later. These aren't easy questions to answer, but with some perspective on life and a tradition chock-full of wisdom, I trust that each of us will choose wisely. This year I sure hope to re-channel some of my energy usually directed at athletes on a screen and focus it on what really matters. Perhaps some of our efforts will meet. And this somehow seems more thrilling and meaningful than another Badger victory.

— Rabbi Joshua Samuels

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

JANUARY 2017

TEVET - SHEVAT 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3 Tevet (NO Keshet classes) 	2 4 Tevet	3 5 Tevet	4 6 Tevet	5 7 Tevet	6 8 Tevet החג 4:13	7 9 Tevet Vayigash 9:30 AM Torah Study
HAPPY NEW YEAR!				6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	6:15 PM Family Service Potluck dinner afterward	7-9 PM Beit Café @ Mt. Baker Theatre
8 10 Tevet 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan)	9 11 Tevet	10 12 Tevet	11 13 Tevet	12 14 Tevet	13 15 Tevet החג 4:22	14 16 Tevet Vayechi 10:00 AM Talita Clarke Bat Mitzvah
3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall 5-6 PM Kol B' Yachad w/ Andrea Shupack		7 PM Board of Directors		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ soloist A. Shupack and Talita Clarke	
15 17 Tevet NO Keshet classes	16 18 Tevet	17 19 Tevet	18 20 Tevet	19 21 Tevet	20 22 Tevet החג 4:32	21 23 Tevet Shemot 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
		M.L.KING, JR. HOLIDAY	7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	5:30PM Pre-Service Nosh 6:15PM Shabbat Service	3rd/4th Grade Havdallah
22 24 Tevet 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan)	23 25 Tevet	24 26 Tevet	25 27 Tevet	26 28 Tevet	27 29 Tevet החג 4:43	28 1 Shevat Va'era 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
2 PM - Sisterhood Book Grp @ Joan Wayne's			7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	7 PM Adult Education Siddur: Kabbalat Shabbat	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	5:30-7:30P AlephBet Ease Adult Ed class (Hall)
29 2 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes	30 3 Shevat	31 4 Shevat				
5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Ed class (Hall)	5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Ed class (Hall)	7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)		

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL FEBRUARY 2017 SHEVAT - ADAR 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5 Shevat 5:30-8 PM AlephBet Ease Adult Ed class (Hall) 7 PM Adult Education Siddur: Kabbalat Shabbat	2 6 Shevat 6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	3 7 Shevat 6:15 PM Family Service Potluck dinner afterward	4 8 Shevat 9:30 AM Torah Study
5 9 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan)	6 10 Shevat	7 11 Shevat	8 12 Shevat	9 13 Shevat	10 14 Shevat	11 15 Shevat <i>Beshalach</i> <i>Shabbat Shirah</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
12 16 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (Tu B'Shevat special prog.) 3 PM - "After the Flood" film, CBI sanctuary 3 PM - Text Study, Soc. Hall 5-6 PM Kol B' Yachad w/ Andrea Shupack	13 17 Shevat	14 18 Shevat 7-8:15 PM Adult Educ. Judaism 201 (Samuels)	15 19 Shevat	16 20 Shevat	17 21 Shevat	18 22 Shevat <i>Yitro</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shabbat Service
19 23 Shevat NO Keshet classes	20 24 Shevat	21 25 Shevat 12 PM - Lunch Bunch group @ Joan Wayne's	22 26 Shevat	23 27 Shevat	24 28 Shevat	25 29 Shevat <i>Mishpatim</i> 9:30 AM Torah Study 11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
26 30 Shevat 10 AM - 2 PM Keshet Classes (w/ Gan) 10:20 PEP talk: "Jewish Shamanism" (A.Scharff)	27 1 Adar	28 2 Adar		6 PM Adult Education: Pirke Avot (A.Scharff)	7:30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	7th/8th Grade Havdallah

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, January 6

Mona Helms	1/7
Henry Jantzen	1/7
Louis Lebowitz	1/7
Lois Looney	1/7
Cecile R. Gordon	1/9
Regina Tein	1/9
George Garmo	1/10
Brian House	1/10
Joyce Landau	1/10
Ivan Senzon	1/10
Haskell David	1/11
Joseph Kahan	1/11
Pearl Turovitz	1/12
Earl Krauzer	1/13

Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14

Dorothy Mazel Spiro	1/16
Irwin Wapner	1/18
Aimee Lewis	1/19
Arnold Loober	1/19
Ella Mahlin Toft	1/19
Esther Blehert	1/20
Anna Winefield Fox	1/20
Lawrence Weintraub	1/20

Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21

Felice Bourne	1/21
Irving Lackowitz	1/21
Barney Cohn	1/22
Bette Levy	1/22
Sandor Garfinkle	1/25
Norma Schwartz	1/26
Celia Morton	1/27

Maurice (Maury) Schwartz 1/27

Friday, January 27

Marion Glassman	1/28
Shirley Spiegel Jacobson	1/28
Philip Studen	1/28
Helen Stone	1/29
Anne Alpert	1/30
Morris Kalman Patinkin	1/30
Frances Poplack	1/30
Daniel Weis	1/30
Laura Ann Bourne	1/31
Leo Damski	2/1
Victorie Haislip	2/1
Henry David Blehert	2/3
Mary Bayer Koplowitz	2/3
Jerome Selznick	2/3

Friday, February 3

Rachel Adirim	2/4
Magda Dorman	2/4
Eleanor Scharff	2/4
Arabelle Chaya Schlanger	2/4
Anna Schwartz	2/4
Hally Vernon	2/4
Libby Hildes	2/5
Hannah Jacobson	2/5
David Fine	2/6
Harold Earl Perper	2/6
Joel K. Rubenstein	2/6
Morris Faber	2/7
Fred Graff	2/7
Lillian Mauer Pravda	2/7
Sonia Kohl Krauzer	2/8
Florence D. Shain	2/8
Jean Beverly Blank	2/9

Florence Kleinfeld	2/9
Sylvan Rosenthal	2/9
Jerry Kleinfeld	2/10

Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11

Ely Engle	2/11
Sally Evans	2/11
Samuel (Rabbi) Gartner	2/11
Clara Lazarus	2/11
Sidney David Resnick	2/11
Peter Bayliss	2/12
Sarah Mendelsohn	2/12
Celia Zak	2/12
Frieda Blank	2/13
Albert Lebovich	2/13
Lou Fine	2/15
Claire P. Mayer	2/15
Frank Kraus	2/16
Dorothy Ramras	2/16
Cassandra Champagne	2/17
Meyer Wolpow	2/17

Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18

William E. Whiting	2/18
Derrek Jeremy Adelstein	2/19
Robert Baker	2/19
David Shain	2/19
Jerome Glass	2/20
Simcha Hayim Miller	2/20
Nelson Beller	2/22
Rita Gordon	2/23
William Freeman	2/24

Friday, February 24

Gloria Perper	2/25
Elinor Pravda	2/25
Rochelle Blum	2/26
Isadore Graff	2/26
Michel Oksenberg	2/26
Mel Adelstein	2/27
Ruth "Bubbles" Berman	2/27
Steve Sokol	2/27
Clarence Weiner	2/27
Lillian Heller	2/28
Benjamin Solomon	2/28
Gene Adelstein	3/1
Richard Evans	3/2
Robert Fife	3/2
Barton Frank	3/2
Herman Weill	3/3

In Memoriam

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

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

Else, Ben & Adin Sokol on the loss of their mother-in-law and grandmother, **Bernice Sokol**, who passed away Nov. 11, 2016.

Vicki Jaffe on the loss of her father, **Myer A. Goldberg**, who passed away Nov. 29, 2016, in Vancouver, B.C.

Our congregation mourns the passing of long-time congregant, **Herman Tabak**, who died on November 15, 2016 at the age of 94.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

2200 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225

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STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CBI ISRAEL TRIP

Let's do Israel together!

June 24 to July 4, 2017

There is still room on the bus and seats on the plane. Join Rabbi Samuels this summer for the first congregational trip to Israel in many years. We will visit all the main sites, learn from university professors, raft down the Jordan River, stay on a kibbutz, support a fellow congregant as he conducts a symphony, and so much more.

This trip is specifically designed for people of all ages, including families. There are a number of times when participants will be able to choose between different activities (chocolate or wine tasting; Tel Aviv walking tour or beach time, etc.) in order to experience Israel the way they want.

Registration has been extended, and if you are on the fence, please contact Rabbi Samuels. (One update to the trip is that the more people in your party, the less your land-only fee will be.)



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