THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 19, NO. 4

* Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98225 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Long ago in Shushan ...

Re-envision Purim tale in 2 spiel performances

Every year, Congregation Beth Israel shares the story of Purim, a funny little tale told in a funny little way. If you don't know the story of Purim - of King Ahasuerus, Mordecai, Esther, Vashti and Haman — or even if you do, you'll never see anything like this. Debbie Raas has done it again and has written a silly Purim spiel for 2015. "A Shushan Fairy Tale" features various and sundry characters, borrowed from Disney, who are accompanied by two flopping soccer players, because, well, just because.

Audiences will be entertained by veteran and first time spielers. Jacob Ander-

son plays King Ahasueras. Lilah Blum plays Esther, Anna Booker plays Vashti, Isaac



play a number of roles. And Mary Somerville has created some entertaining choreography — you'll be tapping your toes and singing along before you know it! Performances are at 7 p.m. March 4 at

Congregation Beth Israel, and 11:30 a.m. March 8, at Bloedel Donovan Park's multipurpose room, followed by the Carnival.

Deadline nears for seder signup

From babies to bubbies and everything in between....that's how our sold-out 2014 Seder was described! Don't miss our 2015 Community Seder, led by Rabbi Joshua Samuels with musical accompaniment by Millie Johnson.

Leave all the work to us, and join us on the second night of Passover, April 4, 2015, at Bellingham Technical College in Settlemyer Hall. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and the seder will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Invite family and friends for this fun and relaxed seder. With tables of up to 8, we will do our best to accommodate you and your guests so you can sit together.

Don't wait till the last minute - the event sold out last year. Price for members is \$40, non-members \$50, youth (6-12) \$20, and children younger than 6, \$5. Register online at bethisraelbellingham.org or by calling the office at (360) 733-8890. Deadline is March 21.

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 FACES IN OUR COM-MUNITY: The Eisners. page 6



 Else Sokol shares a hamantaschen recipe, page 9

FROM THE RABBI A vote for Israel

In 1897 at the First Zionist Congress, convened by Theodor Herzl, delegates ratified the text of The



Basle Program which reads. "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in Palestine secured by public law." It was at this

conference that the Zionist Organization was founded. (It wasn't until 1960 that the name was changed to World Zionist Organization.) Today, the WZO continues to promote Herzl's vision through Israeli education by working with communities all over the world.

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is the highest legislative body of the WZO. It is basically the parliament of the Jewish people representing all of world Jewry. It meets every five years to discuss important issues such as Jewish identity, anti-semitism, civil society in Israel, and much more.

One very important action we can take, even though we live half-way around the world from Israel, is to vote in this year's 37th World Zionist Congress. Your vote will help send delegates to the WZC to represent your voice.

From the President ...

Volunteers power community events; learn how you can help

Spring is a month away! As the weather gets nicer, we are seeing a flur-



ry of activity in our synagogue community. Our community Purim celebration will be in the first week of March. I am thankful for all the hard work of the Religious School Committee, headed by Rebecca Orloff and

Samantha Konikoff, in making our celebration at Bloedel Donovan Park a reality. This is one of several events they have coordinated during the last year.

A month later, we celebrate Passover with an awesome community seder at Bellingham Technical College. This event involved months of planning by a tireless group of volunteers coordinated by Nicole Samuels and Amy Whiting. Again, we give our thanks to these folks.

In the planning stages are more Fundraising Committee events, such as a Jewish Boat Tour of Bellingham Bay and a Plant Potting Party at the Garden Spot. I want to thank Katie Edelstein and her devoted and creative team of volunteers for their efforts in making these events happen.

The Fundraising Committee's highly successful Raise the Roof estate sale was the result of Lynn Korner's close connection with a client and her belief that this project would be successful and fun. She got the Fundraising Committee to buy into this project, which was the result of many hours of blood, sweat, tears, and camaraderie.

This very newsletter that you are now reading requires the dedicated efforts of Melissa Schapiro, our Communications Committee chair, to pursue folks for submissions, edit their works, and lay out the document.

More activities are being worked on by other committees: Social Action, Programming, Human Resources, Membership, Care, Building Maintenance and many more.

Without the hours of effort put in by these groups, many of our community events and services would not be possible. All these folks are unpaid. Why do they do it? Community, sense of belonging and a need to contribute are some reasons. My guess is that, for many folks, our Jewish community here in Bellingham has become a major part of their lives. This place is truly their home. Our congregants are truly family. Many believe that if you put effort into something you believe in, you will be rewarded in many ways.

As you read this, my hope is that you may be inspired to become more involved. How? Call me, the rabbi or anyone on our board. We'd love to see more folks helping to make more things happen.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these upcoming events and discussing ways you can become more involved in our Beth Israel community.

Mitch Press



Taglit-Birthright Israel provides a gift of a peer group, educational trip to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 from around the world. One of the primary objectives of these trips is to motivate participants to explore their Jewish identity through a peer educational experience of historic and contemporary Israel. Registration for Summer 2015 is now open. Go to the Taglit-Birthright Israel website, www.birthrightisrael.com, and learn more about this unique opportunity.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar Volume 19, Number 4 March./April 2015 Adar/Nisan/Iyyar 5775

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. As of January 2013, it is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$35/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the May/June issue is <u>APRIL 13</u>. Call the office for more information.

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1,000 teens + 5 days = Experience of a lifetime

Beth Israel teens journey to NFTY Convention

BY NAOMI SCHAPIRO

NFTY people are very different. Everyone is so free to express themselves and be who they want to be. Everyone is so



friendly, and you will get hugged on a regular basis by people you don't know. They are people who love to dance, and learn new things, and aren't afraid to state their opinion, even if it is different. You make friends in the weirdest

places, like waiting for the elevator, or in a very long line waiting for the bathroom.

Being at NFTY Convention 2015, held in February in Atlanta, Ga., with more than 1,000 of these kinds of people was amazing! I made friends with people from all over the United States, from New Mexico to New York and California. I also learned so many new things.

We had tons of amazing speakers. A survivor of the Virginia Tech shooting was one of my favorites because what he said was so powerful. It's very hard to get 1,000 teenagers to be quiet, but Colin Goddard managed to do it. He talked about his experience in the shooting, and why the time is now to stop gun violence.

Another thing that was amazing were all the concerts. Dancing and singing with 1,000 other Jewish kids my age was so great. Dan Nichols, Alan Goodis, and Guster were just a few of the amazing concerts we had. I also got to tour Emory University, and I'm glad that I had the



North American Federation of Temple Youth's Northwest Region was well represented at the convention, held in Atlanta from Feb. 13-17, 2015. See archived video at www.nftyconvention.org/live/

chance to do that while I was in Atlanta. It was a very nice college, and I got to hear all about the Hillel program there.

At the convention, we could choose from three tracks to learn about and specialize in: Madrichim (teaching), Social Action, and Songleading. I decided to do Madrichim, and specifically kids with special needs. It was a very interesting program, and I learned a lot from it.

I had such an amazing, life changing experience, and if anyone ever has the oppotunity to go to a NFTY convention, I strongly suggest you do – you'll have an amazing experience!

BY ASHER SULOWAY-BAKER

NFTY convention was an amazing experience. I got to meet new people, make new friends, and participate in my Jewish community on an incredible scale.



I was able to attend seminars and lectures hosted by some of the most prominent minds in the Reform Jewish community, and celebrate NFTY's 75th anniversary with more than

1,000 other Jewish teens.

My favorite speaker was Colin Goddard, who spoke about the Virginia tech shootings, and how we need to make a change in how we legislate firearms. His speech was insightful and empowering, and he provided an unmatched perspective on gun violence in America.

I couldn't have asked for a more incredible experience. What I was lucky enough to be part of was not only a monumental event for NFTY as an organization, but it is a memory I will treasure for ever.

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, 647-7031 Building: Floyd King, 223-2538 Care: Sylvia Williams, 647-1670 Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, 676-8939

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Rosenthal, 714-9244

Religious School: Rebecca Orloff, 306-8432; Samantha Konikoff, 734-2762

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825 Social Action: Debbie Raas, 676-1621; Linda Blackwell University Liaison: Sabrina Freeman, 734-4560; Marcia Lippman, 734-5376



From the Religious School Committee ...

Hosts sought for more Party Book events

The Religious School Committee is our parent association that supports the activities of the school, sponsors events and organizes parent participation.

BY SAMANTHA KONIKOFF AND REBECCA ORLOFF, CO-CHAIRS

In the past few months we have had some wonderful Party Book events. Thank you, Rabbi Samuels and family as well as Miriam Schwartz, for opening your homes and hosting these amazing parties. Thank you also to all who attended. A great time was had by all. If you are interested in hosting an event please contact Samantha Konikoff, samantha.konikoff@bethisraelbelling ham.org or Rebecca Orloff, rebecca. orloff@beth israelbellingham.org.

Purim is around the corner and we hope to see you at the spiel and carnival, March 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (carnival is noon to 2 p.m.) at Bloedel Donovan Park. It's going to be an amazing Carnival with many new games and activities. We will have a henna artist, photo booth and more!

Thank you to all who have been using the link to Amazon and please keep using it (go to bethisraelbellingham.org, it's under the "Donate" tab)!



Sushi rolling with Rabbi Samuels and his family.



Religious School students and their families enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating Feb. 22, 2015.



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Lecture on ethics during & after Holocaust

WWU presents lecture by Professor John Roth

7 p.m. March 10, 2015 at Bellingham City Council Chambers

Western Washington University's Office of the Provost invites the Bellingham community to this free talk by John K. Roth, the Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College.

Professor John Roth is the author of "The Failures of Ethics: Confronting the Holocaust, Genocide, and Mass Atrocities" (forth- coming from Oxford University Press).

His lecture will draw on topics discussed in the book: *The Holocaust did not have to happen. It emerged from* human choices and decisions. Those facts mean nothing human, natural, or divine guarantees respect for the ethical values that are most needed in contemporary life, but nothing is more important than our determination to defend them, for they remain as fundamental as they are fragile, as precious as they are endangered.

Classes on Talmud, trope & 'Jewish Roots of Christianity'

Downtown Talmud (in English)

Tuesdays, from noon to 1 p.m. Community Food Co-Op's Connection Room, April 21 & 28, and May 5, 2015

For beginners and veterans alike. Join Rabbi Samuels for lunch as we discuss passages that touch on contemporary issues, and learn more about the Talmud and why it continues to be the central text of our tradition. Bring a brown-bag lunch to these weekly sessions.

Learn how to chant from the Torah!

Every Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 16 through June 4, 2015

Whether you've never looked inside a Torah before, or you chanted years ago and don't quite remember trope, this class is for you. Andrea Shupack will teach you in a simple and clear way, demystifying the art of chanting, making it achievable for everyone.

In this eight-week class, you will gain all the tools you need to chant Torah at Shabbat services.

No previous knowledge necessary, but an ability to read Hebrew is helpful.

Sign up through the CBI office. Cost: \$10 for members \$25 for non-members.

'Jewish Roots of Christianity'

Tuesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. June 23 through Aug. 11, 2015

This summer we will be hosting a special class taught by visiting Rabbi Jay Shupack called "The Jewish Roots of Christianity." Over the course of eight weeks, Rabbi Jay will lead an in-depth exploration of early Jewish history from Abraham to Constantine — and how it relates to the way we practice



Judaism today and the founding (beginnings?) of Christianity. Both Jews, Christians — and anyone else interested in how these great religions are intimately linked —

will get a lot out of the class, and intermarried couples will likely find it particularly enriching.

Cost for the entire series is \$49; make checks out to Rabbi Jay.

Rabbi Jay has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Shalom Bayit in Bend, Ore., for the past 15 years and has been teaching the course in both churches and synagogues in the region for several years. He's the father-in-law of Beth Israel's Cantorial Soloist, Andrea Shupack.

To register, call the Beth Israel office. Reach Rabbi Jay at jshupack@juno.com or (541) 389-2068.





Faces in our community Call of the wild brings Eisners west

By LINDA HIRSH

What do dermatology, birding, astronomy, photography and mushrooming have in common?

Jerry Eisner, the Renaissance man who practices all five, has the answer: They are all visual. In other words, each one gives his eyes a workout.

And what drives Brooklyn-born Eisner to engage in this array of mostly rustic activities?

"I read about them and ask can I do that?" he said. "And part of me says, I can do that! It's the opposite of thinking about what I'm supposed to do."

Eisner, 68, bred on Far Rockaway, N.Y. and in Roslyn on Long Island, attended Cornell University then left New York to study medicine at Wayne State University in Detroit. He did his internship and residency in internal medicine in The Bronx at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center.

"My father used to say I was a jack-ofall-trades," he said. "I buckled down with medicine but I remained a jack-of-alltrades with everything else."

Still, Eisner's sidelines are not superficial. He investigates. He plunges into these activities with fervor as seen by Paul Blum, a close Mount Vernon friend who has accompanied him on fungi treks.

"I have enjoyed a few mushroom hunting hikes with Jerry and Marilyn, but I am not as obsessed with edible fungi the way they are," Blum said.

Paul also has admired Eisner's eye for nature.

"And you should see his photographs!" he said. "He is a real artist, and a master of some really good photographic equipment. He has created some really spectacular photographs."

He may be East Coast born and bred, but it was granola that drove him to the West in 1968.

"I tasted it in medical school for the first time and said 'I must go where this is made,' " he recalled.



Marilyn and Jerry Eisner during a trip to Switzerland, where their oldest daughter, Rivka, lives with her family.

That summer, while others headed for Woodstock, he bought a canvas tent and outdoor gear and, after dipping his left foot in the Atlantic, took off solo on a cross-country camping trip. He had never slept in a bag on the ground before.

He aimed to explore national parks. Along the way he popped into bars to play his harmonica. This was a skill he learned at the age of four in preschool, his mother serving as a metronome by tapping rhythms on the table. He now performs in an Orcas Island band called Crab Bait.

During his East to West Coast journey, he slept anywhere — inside the hollow stump of an ancient redwood, a tree trunk, in a Berkeley, Calif., tree house, atop a mountain. When he got home, he couldn't sleep in his bed so he took his sleeping bag into the backyard of his suburban home. His mother came out and told him it was too dangerous, he said. Three years later, he traveled to Washington State for a medical school elective at the Lummi's Indian Health Center. Seeking a short-term rental, he answered a newspaper ad for a place in Fairhaven.

"I came to the door, with long hair and wire-rim glasses," he said. "I walked in and saw two beautiful women sitting at a table, talking."

One of those women was Marilyn, whom he married in 1973. They have three children: Rivka, 39, who lives with her husband and son in Zurich, Switzerland. Avram, 35, and Tovah, 33, make their home in Seattle. The Eisners joined Congregation Beth Israel in 1975, just before Rivka was born. Religious education for their children gave them a strong connection with the shul.

Eisner returned to the West Coast for his first practice at a clinic on Orcas Is-

Interfaith's Hope Auction supports shelters

Tickets available for annual event set for March 28, 2015

Do you ever wonder how to reach out to those in need in our community? As a member of the Interfaith Coalition, Congregation Beth Israel has the opportunity to lift up our most vulnerable neighbors with homes, warmth and hope. Interfaith's annual Hope Auction raises money to support its 11 homes for homeless families here in Whatcom County, and it supports two Severe Weather Shelters. You can help us do this essential work. How? Donate items for Hope Auction. A homemade craft or artwork, a service your business offers, weekend or vacation home getaways, gift cards, live performance tickets, a themed party or specially prepared dinner...endless unique options help Interfaith reach out to those in need. A big thank you to Deborah Oksenberg and Serge Lindner for donating a necklace from Israel to Beth Israel's Israeli Jewelry Collection to be auctioned.

The second way you can help is by attending the auction. It's an evening of fun, community spirit and pure inspiration for people of faith. Put together a table of your fellow congregation members. Tickets (\$45 each) include a plated dinner.

Two simple ways: donate and attend. Make a difference in the lives of our neighbors and affirm your commitment that everyone deserves a home, warmth and hope. To donate or purchase tickets, contact Debbie Raas, Beth Israel's Interfaith board representative, or call Interfaith at 734-3983. But don't wait: this event sells out annually!

> — Laura Harker, Interfaith Executive Director

From the Social Action Committee ...

Learn how congregations combat global warming

BY DEBBIE RAAS AND LINDA BLACKWELL, CO-CHAIRS

Support Sustainability

The environment is the focus of social action this year. We are bringing several speakers to Beth Israel to educate the congregation about this important issue.

Jessie Dye and Jessica Zimmerle from Earth Ministry will speak at 1 p.m. March 22, 2015, about what congregations in the state are doing about global warming and current legislative priorities around this issue.

For more than 20 years, Earth Ministry has been the statewide leader in engaging the religious community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. Through education, outreach, organizing, and training, Earth Ministry builds a powerful moral constituency of people of faith taking action for the health of our communities and the environment.

Jessie Dye is also lead program staff for Washington Interfaith Power and Light, part of a network of organizations from around the country working on a faithful response to climate change.

Greening Our New Building

At our meeting on Jan. 4, 2015, Warren Rosenthal came to talk to us about the greening of the new synagogue. He told us that the siding is the highest quality building wrap. There is a donation for the insulation and the synagogue is trying to get the best insulation for the amount of money that we now have. An insulation expert is being consulted about both interior and exterior insulation. If the exterior insulation is approved, it would be installed before the siding.

erful moral constituency of people of faith We also talked with Warren about findtaking action for the health of our commu- ing an investor to finance solar panels in

our retaining pond for income and having solar power for the hot water heater.

Humane Society

Thanks for your contributions of old towels, blankets and pet food!

Chametz come to Shul

We will collect your unopened Chametz and other food left in our baskets by Sunday, March 29, 2015, and make sure it gets to the Bellingham Food Bank.

Children's Books and DVDs

We are collecting gently used children's books and family-friendly DVDs for Interfaith Coalition homes. Families come to these homes for three months to one year. They come with few possessions, moving out of cars, tents, or motel rooms. Please leave your donations in our basket.





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The Yenta speaks ...

Mazel tov to **McNeel Jantzen** who was awarded tenure at Western Washington University in January 2015. She is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience.



Victoria and Gaby Mayers are overjoyed to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Elia Avery Mayers, born on January 3, 2015 at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, weighing 7 pounds, 14.5 ounces. Elia's proud parents are Jaymie and Joshua Mayers of Bothell, WA. We're giddy with joy and delight!



Eisners

Continued from Page 6

land. He and his family moved to Mount Vernon in 1980 to work in a clinic there. In the late 80s he made the move, unusual for a doctor, of adding a dermatology specialty to his practice.

But in 1992 a rare tracheal tumor brought his life-on-the-go to a standstill. He read in a medical journal about a doctor who had worked with those tumors at Boston General Hospital in Massachusetts. It took two operations including the removal of one lung before he was cancer-free.

Craving cheer, he visited National Public Radio's Click and Clack, the Dear Abbys of automotive advice where he played his harmonica at a party. Click and Clack stars, Tom and Ray Magliozzi befriended him and stayed in touch. Tom's death last year greatly saddened Eisner.

"They are friendly, open, honest guys who are full of laughter," said Eisner, who sent them tulips from Skagit County.

In turn, the Magliozzi brothers must have appreciated Eisner's humor.

Blum again: "In certain situations, he will come up with an Eisnerism: a pithy declaration that he refers to as Eisner's Law Number 237. He's a pretty witty dude, that's for sure."

Once home, though, depression set in when he realized he couldn't continue his former profession the way he had done before. His vigorous athletic activities also had to be curtailed.

Little by little he adjusted, focusing more on dermatology, a specialty he

loved. He said, for him, it is the most intellectually stimulating experience in medicine. He called himself a practitioner of "skin-ternal" medicine.

"The disease is looking right at you," said Eisner, who retired last year. "Yet it is challenging."

He traded swimming, windsurfing and biking for a vast array of less strenuous pastimes.

A golden eagle with a broken wing impressed him at his first birding class, where Bud Anderson of Bow "was infused with the love of teaching about it," Eisner said.

A telescope for birding also came in handy for another passion, astronomy. He joined Whatcom Association for Celestial Observance, a club for lovers of the stars.

Mushrooming started while he and Marilyn were hiking through the Catskills. Their sharp eyes discovered a cache of a species that looked like sponges on a stick. He backtracked to a bookstore, looked them up in a book and found they were edible and delicious morels. He and Marilyn filled several shopping bags full.

And photography is a means of capturing all those wonders.

"Photography sharpens my vision," he said. "It makes me stop and look, to see beauty where I didn't notice it before."

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham for 16 years. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut and has written two story/cookbooks and two poetry chapbooks.

Beit Cafe

An Evening of Storytelling at Mount Baker Theatre

It's almost here! Congregation Beth Israel's First Ever Beit Cafe (Coffee House) is planned for May 2, 2015.

Storytelling will be the theme of our Beit Cafe. In the spirit of "The Moth" and other storytelling venues, get ready to cry, laugh and be amazed while listening to Jewish themed personal stories from fellow Beth Israelites.

We are lucky to be hosting this event at Mount Baker Theatre's Encore Room. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the show will begin soon afterwards.

The event will include a no-host bar, appetizers, desserts, coffee and teas and table games. Suggested donation: \$5.

Simchat Chochma service June 13

All Jewish women age 65 and older are invited to join in creating a Simchat Chochma service on June 13, 2015. Simchat Chochma is a traditional ritual to celebrate women who have reached the age of accumulating wisdom. We welcome you to participate in our ritual in any way that feels comfortable:

* Opening the ark, carrying, blessing, reading or dressing the Torah

* Reading drashes, original writing, poetry or song

* Bringing food for the lunch celebrating this joyous occasion.

To participate contact Linda Hirsh or Esther Faber at hirshykiss@earthlink.net

A seasonal recipe: Heavenly Hamantaschen

SHARED BY ELSE SOKOL

My first-ever hamantaschen was from a deli in New York. While it was perhaps the most curious cookie I had ever eaten, it tasted a little stale and mealy, and as a baker I knew I could do better.

Flash forward nearly 30 years, and I'm quite pleased with my current favorite.

It's from Faye Levy's International Jewish Cookbook, which was given to me by a dear friend.

Over the years I've played around with the filling- chocolate truffle cream, small Reese's peanut butter cups, chocolate chips, all sorts of jams, lemon curd, and of course the traditionals, like poppyseed and prune. You should experiment with your own.

In my opinion, the most important ingredient is the orange zest; it's not to be omitted. Also, these always taste best fresh; resist the urge to make ahead and freeze.



Hamantaschen

One Two Three Cookie Dough

Makes enough for 3 dozen hamantaschen

Ingredients:

 egg plus 1 yolk
 3/4 c. all purpose flour
 1/2 c. confectioner's sugar
 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/4 tsp. salt
 c. (2 sticks) plus 5 Tbsp. cold unsalted butter or margarine, cut into pieces
 1/2 tsp. grated orange rind
 Tbsp. orange juice

Method:

Beat egg with yolk to blend. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in food processor fitted with a metal blade.

Process briefly to blend. Scatter butter pieces over mixture and pulse to resemble coarse meal (I don't use a food processor. It's just fine to do it by hand, as if you're making pie dough). Sprinkle with grated rind and pour eggs over mixture in center of processor. Process with on and off motion, scraping down occasionally until dough begins to form a ball. If too crumbly, add a Tbsp or two of orange juice.

Transfer dough to work surface and knead lightly. Shape into a disc and wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 3 hours or up to 3 days.

Using 1/4 dough at a time (keep the rest refrigerated), roll onto a lightly floured surface until about 1/8" thick. Using a 3" round cookie cutter (I use a drinking glass), cut dough into circles. Brush edges lightly with water. Place 1 tsp. of filling of your choice in the center of each circle. Pull up the edges of the circle in three arcs that meet in the center above the filling. Pinch edges together firmly to seal. Place on greased cookie sheet or parchment and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake for 14 minutes or until light golden at edges. Cool completely on a rack before eating (filling can be hot)! Store for 4 days in an airtight container.

This recipe (along with poppy seed and prune filling) can be found online at Google books.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Kevin & Andi James, their daughter Lauren (age 9) & son lan (age 6).



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From: Joan & Marvin Wayne Miriam Zderic & Perry Davids
* Marvin Wayne, on the loss of his sister, Robin Hoffman
From: Jay & Donna Solomon Miriam Zderic & Perry Davids

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

* Dr. Donald Somerville, on the 94th anniversary of his birth **From:** *Mary Somerville*

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

* Sylvia Williams and the ladies of the committee, for their kind and cheerful visits **From:** *Aaron & Lilly Weiss*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

* Rabbi Samuels, for his warm calls & visits

From: Aaron & Lilly Weiss

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

* Marvin Wayne & family, on the loss of his sister, Robin Hoffman
From: Jerry & Marilyn Eisner
* Rabbi Samuels, in memory of his grandmother, Hannah Samuels
From: Gene & Susan Kaufman (San Rafael, CA)

IN HONOR OF:

* Keith Baker **From:** Frank McKelvey Jr. (Lucerne, CA)

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* Rabbi Samuels and Sagit, Elinor & Amalia Hall – Thanks for sharing the lights of Hanukkah with Emeritus
* Katie Edelstein – Thank You
From: Nancy Lloyd

IN HONOR OF:

 * Hila Saxe's grandparents: Judy & Stanley Saxe, and Annette & Morris Bode
 From: Tova Bode Saxe

* The DesRosiers Family

From: Milton & Miriam Waldbaum Family Foundation

* Harriet Fine – Happy Belated Special Birthday

From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

* Good game; good friends. #12 From: Jay & Shelley Wolfman

* Becki Van Glubt – Congratulations on graduating from WWU School of Nursing

- From: Anne Brown
- * Marc Weinstein Happy (Very
- Young) Birthday
- * Francine Hoch, with love
- From: Nancy Lloyd

* Debi Loober – Happy Birthday to my daughter

* Tami & Marvin Greenstein *(Beverly Hills, CA)* – Celebrating their February birthdays

* Rachel & Andy Markovitz (Anaheim, CA) Mazel Tov on the birth of their daughter, Aria Jane

* Marielyn Loober - Mazel Tov to my daughter–in-law on a successful heart transplant

From: Bernice Loober

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

* Steve Globerman – Get Well Wishes From: Steve & Rita Spitzer

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

* Lynn Shuster From:Todd Shuster & Kendra Bradford

* Frances Mishler **From:** *Tom & Rebecca Oliver*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

* Marvin Wayne & family, on the loss of his sister, Robin Hoffman

From: Steve & Janis Ban, Anne Brown, Nancy & Don Davis, Katie & David Edelstein, Martha Greenberg, Hank Levine & Corinne Gimbel-Levine, Tom & Rebecca Oliver, Debbie & Dan Raas, Karen Sloss, Bonnie & Alan Stone, Sylvia Williams, Shelley & Jay Wolfman

* Frank Champagne, on the loss of his mother, Monica Biggin

From: Anne Brown

Debbie & Dan Raas

* Esther Faber, on the loss of her sister, Miriam Mitzman

From: Karen & Jack Fisher

* George Farkas, on the loss of his father, Bob Farkas **From:** Anne Brown

IN COMMEMORATION OF:

* The yahrzeit of Harold Perper **From:** *Binnie Perper*

* The Joe Lebovich unveiling From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

CONTRIBUTION FROM: Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

THANK YOU

Thank you to John Siegfried & Michelle Beller-Siegfried, for donating a protective cover for our new grand piano in the sanctuary, "in Loving Memory of Nelson Beller and Elaine Lev Beller."

From the Care Committee ... Properly dispose old RXs

BY ELSE SOKOL

Unsecured medications can get into the wrong hands and cause injury, even death. Please keep all medications, even overthe-counter ones, under lock and key if you have young children or memory impaired loved ones in your household. Keep narcotics and medications that might be sought by visitors or teens locked up as well. Also keep medications inaccessible to pets.

This is a great time to discard unused/expired medications. But don't throw them in the garbage or down the toilet -- medications that end up in the sewer system or landfill pollute water and soil.

Proper Medication Disposal

* Unused or expired non-narcotic medications, including overthe-counter and prescription meds, vitamins/supplements, medicated lotions, pet medications, inhalers and unopened EpiPens (keep in original containers) can be taken to a participating pharmacy, including Haggen (Fairhaven, Meridian or Barkley), Hoagland's (2230 Yew St.) or Interfaith Pharmacy (218 Unity St.), which will properly dispose of them.

* Narcotic medication/controlled substances such as Codeine, Hydrocodone, OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, Ritalin, and Xanax may be brought to the Bellingham Police Department for disposal during regular business hours.

More information: www.cob.org/services/environment/ med-return-program.aspx

Happy Anniversary

March 2015

March 14	Aaron & Lilly Weiss	(#72)
March 15	Isaac & Samantha Konikoff	(#7)
March 18	Nancy & Don Davis	(#31)
March 19	Robert & Jody Meltzer	(#15)
March 24	Alan & Susan Kendal	(#67)
March 24	Laura & Cassandra Wolfson	(#11)
March 31	Arona & James Henderson	(#17)

April 2015

April 2	Harold & Susan Katz	(#48)
April 6	Kristan & Mike Brennan	(#19)
April 20	Danny & Marla Finkelstein	(#29)

Did we miss your anniversary this month? If so, please call the office at 733-8890 or send an e-mail to office@ bethIsraelbellingham.org and let us know the month, day & year of your special day. We want to celebrate with you!

Birthdays

MARCH 2015

3/1 Tannia Hecht 3/2 Nadia Mazonson (10th) 3/4 Talya Sanger (14th) 3/5 Lev Cornwall (9th) 3/5 Manuel Emanuel 3/5 Amy Evans (16th) 3/6 Christoph Reitz 3/6 Mary Somerville 3/7 Sara Geballe 3/8 Norman DesRosiers 3/8 Deborah Oksenberg 3/8 K.C. Sulkin 3/9 Leeya Genut (2nd) 3/10 Susan Schnell 3/10 Alan Soicher 3/10 Mark Steinberg 3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley (4th) 3/13 Rebecca Orloff 3/13 Joan Sager 3/13 Steve Schwartz 3/14 Daniel Shankman (22nd) 3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell (13th) 3/15 Yaniv Attar 3/19 Carol Robinson 3/19 Noah Taranow (18th) 3/20 Jody Meltzer 3/21 Bonnie Quam 3/22 Jonah Attar (5th) 3/22 Sonorah DesRosiers (7th) 3/22 Roy Shankman 3/24 Michael Korner 3/26 Tami DuBow 3/26 Kathy Block 3/26 Alex Hall 3/26 Rachel Sager 3/27 Clifford Haas 3/27 Debbie Raas 3/27 Marybeth Taranow 3/27 Aviva Weinstein (8th) 3/28 Celt Schira 3/29 Rick Romito 3/30 Samantha Konikoff 3/31 Lynn Korner 3/31 Jeff Margolis

3/31 Gabriel Witte (6th)

APRIL 2015

4/1 Amy Kraham 4/1 Amy Margolis 4/2 John McGarrity 4/3 Ethan Oliver (13th) 4/3 Alisa Sachs 4/4 Daniel Feller 4/4 Mary Jo Lewis (17^{th}) 4/5 Hannah Levine 4/5 Ayla Soicher (5th) 4/6 Tammy Dixon 4/6 Katie Edelstein 4/6 Hank Levine 4/7 Lisa Balton 4/10 Katie Comstock 4/10 Jeffrey Feld 4/10 Susan Katz 4/11 Lilah Blum (14th) 4/12 Barbara Boothby 4/12 Sarah DesRosiers 4/13 Steve Ban 4/13 Karen Fisher 4/14 Jeffrey Probst

4/16 Mia Clarke (9th) 4/16 Elizabeth Witte (3rd) 4/17 Paul Blum 4/18 Navah DesRosiers (10th) 4/18 Liza Jane Price (7th) 4/18 Linda Read 4/18 Sasha Verkh 4/21 Teresa Allison 4/23 Nicole Boarnet 4/23 Lindsay Roberts (5th) 4/24 Leah Lippman 4/24 Ariel Wells-Langley (6th) 4/25 Margaret Bikman 4/25 Jason Stoane 4/26 Spencer Jantzen (10th) 4/27 Alan Kendal 4/28 Avi Buri (21st) 4/28 Elisha Goodman (13th) 4/28 Andrew Orloff 4/28 Shoshana Samuels (3rd) 4/29 Abigail Comstock (7th) 4/29 Richard Widerkehr

Million \$ Match: Time to 'Double Down'

BY KAREN SLOSS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

As of mid-February, between cash received and short-term pledges, we have secured half of the million dollars needed to claim the matching million! But the effort is not close to finished. More than half of this came from just four donor families. That means we will need several additional large donations as well as many more modest gifts to raise the full Million \$ Match by January 4, 2016.

Many of the donors to the Million \$ Match Campaign are "repeat" donors who are now DOUBLING or even TRI-PLING their original New Synagogue Pledge. Many of the original donors from the year 2000 doubled their gift in the 2006-2007 Campaign and some are now doing it again! If most CBI members would double or triple that original pledge, the ensuing charitable wave would carry us neatly to the finish line!

For those families with outstanding original pledges who may not be ready to consider an increase, we hope they will seriously consider paying off the balance of their pledge this year. Every dollar that comes into the New Synagogue Fund

ONGOING FUNDRAISING

Donate your old car, receive a charitable tax receipt and help the new building fund at the same time! Frannie Erickson of Eartha Kitty (she donated her services for the "Raise the Roof" tag sale that raised \$6,400 for the new building fund) will help. Call her at (360) 647-1847.

April 30: Potting Party at the Garden Spot Nursery featuring Miriam Schwartz

July 28: Bellingham Bay Cruise with Brian Griffin giving a history of the local and Jewish communities

November 7: Millie & the Mentshn's premiere concert of Ahoy Vey! Yo Ho Ho & a Bottle of Schmaltz at Whatcom Community College's Heiner Theater

right now counts towards the Million \$ Match. Many donors have the cash or appreciated securities available to make their donation in a single payment. Others need to budget it over time. Monthly or quarterly payments, by check, bank account draft or credit card, can be easily arranged via the CBI web site or by calling the synagogue office (733-8890). We greatly appreciate all those donors who have accelerated their payment schedule to help with this fundraising challenge.

The support to date is very encouraging but we are looking for far wider participation by our membership, so expect a call from a Campaign volunteer in the near future. And please consider at least "doubling down" on what you originally thought you could do for the new synagogue.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

At this time, the American Zionist Movement (AZM) has 145 seats in the Congress, or roughly 29% of the delegates, compared to 38% from Israel and 33% from the rest of the world. And these 145 seats are up for grabs. You may cast your vote for one of 11 groups, such as: Mercaz USA: The Zionist Arm of the Conservative Movement; Herut North America: The Jabotinsky Movement; or ARZA: Representing Reform Judaism. I encourage you to read all of the different platforms. (You can find them at www.myvoteyourisrael.com.)

ARZA (American Reform Zionists of America) represents our movement and nearly 1.3 million American Jews. Many of my colleagues and other distinguished Jewish leaders are on the ARZA slate.

A vote for ARZA is a vote for gender equality; religious equality; peace through a two-state solution and an end to settlement building in the West Bank; civil marriage unions without having to involve the Chief Rabbinate; egalitarianism at the Kotel; anti-poverty activism and equality to all ethnic groups as stipulated in Israel's Declaration of Independence --- "THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions;

and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Please take a few minutes to cast your vote. You must be at least 18 years old and there is a fee (\$5 for Jews 18-30; \$10 for Jews older than 30). Open registration and voting will end April 15, 2015.

Sometimes it feels that as Diaspora Jews, we have very little say over what goes on in the Jewish State. However, a vote in this year's election is an important step that we can take to support Israel's democracy and our shared values. Voting in this year's election is perhaps the strongest way we are able to help promote equality and a level playing field in our homeland.

For more information and to vote, please visit either www.reformjews4 israel.org or www.myvoteyourisrael.com.

- Rabbi Joshua Samuels

CONGREGATION BETH		ISRAEL	APRIL	2015	NISSAN - IYAR 5775	YAR 5775
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			12 Nissan	2 ¹³ Nissan	3 14 Nissan 88 7:26	4 15 Nissan
						PESACH 1st DAY 9:30 AM Torah Study
			4:15 PM - Hebrew School		rvice	
					First Seder EREV PESACH	6 PM Congregationl Seder @ B'ham Tech. College
5 16 Nissan	6 17 Nissan	7 18 Nissan	8 19 Nissan	g ²⁰ Nissan	10 21 Nissan	11 22 Nissan
NO Sunday School						PESACH 8th DAY
PESACH 2nd DAY			NO Hebrew School			9:30 AM Toran Study 10:30 AM - Shabbat Service with Vi-kor
					7:30PM Shabbat Service	w/ soloist A. Shupack
12 ^{23 Nissan}	13 ²⁴ Nissan	14 ^{25 Nissan}	15 ^{26 Nissan}	16 ^{27 Nissan}	17 28 Nissan	18 ^{29 Nissan}
10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School			ҮОМ НАЅНОАН			9:30 AM Torah Study 10:30 AM Shahhat Service
3 PM -Text Study,Soc.Hall			4:15 PM - Hebrew School			w/ soloist A. Shupack
			U	5:30 PM Adult Education	6:15 PM Family Service	
		7 PM Board of Directors	with 7th Grade class & soloist A. Shupack	trope class w/ A.Shupack	w/ soloist A. Shupack Potluck dinner afterward	
19 ³⁰ Nissan	20 ^{1 Iyar} 21	21 ^{2 lyar}	22 ³ lyar	23 4 lyar		25 6 Iyar
10 AM - 12 PM		12 PM - Lunch Bunch				9:30 AM Torah Study
Sunday School (w/ Gan) 11AM Adult Bnai Mitz.class		group @ Joan Wayne's 12PM "Downtown Talmud"	NO Hebrew School	YOM HA-ATZMAUT		11:00 AM Tot Shabbat
		Adult Education class		5:30 PM Adult Education		
				ITOPE CLASS W/ A. Shupack	uope class w/ A.Shupack / :30PM Shabbat Service w/ Ma'ayan Shir ensemble	
26 ⁷ Iyar	27 ^{8 Iyar}	28 ⁹ lyar	29	30 11 lyar		
10 AM - 12 PM Sunday School (w/ Gan) 2 PM - Sisterhood Book	12 PM - Golden Girls @ Skylark's Hidden Café	12PM "Downtown Talmud" Adult Education class	4:15 PM - Hebrew School			
Grp @ Melissa Schapiro's		@ Co-Op Connection Rm		5:30 PM Adult Education trope class w/ A.Shupack		

Yahrzeits

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

April 2

April 3

April 3

April 3

April 3

April 3

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Friday, March 6

Ken Biggin Fred Fragner Harry Skinner Carole Bajema Saul Faber Walter von Hollander Archie Fine Floyd Pritchett Lena Wilner-Golub Monica Zderic Emma Gartner Thomas Josiah Boothby Freda Casserd Benjamin Goldberg Sol L. Shure Felicia Elizabeth Romito Corey Skelton Elaine Fox Suloway

Friday, March 13 & Saturday, March 14

March

Max Lazarus June Krauzer Mazonson Luke Friedman Marcia Landau Charles B. Koplowitz Ariel Thal Lylyan Wick Robert J. Block Dorothy Brody Marcelline Naparty Gordon Eli Stolzoff Harry Zemel Eliezer Spiro

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21

Mabel Berman Loren Lund Ben Zderic Sidney Leon Lucia Mastbaum Nathan Landau Leonard Price Norma Soode Anna Kushner Leon Thal Barry Evans William A. Gordon

Lou Mazel Arthur Koplowitz March 7 Naomi Stone March 7 Fred Oscar Wigren March 7 Herbert Sulkin March 8 March 8 Friday, March 27 March 8 Claire Leinow March 9 Leah Rachel Shapiro March 10 Jerome Greenwald March 10 Harry Leon March 10 Lois Oksenberg March 11 Norma Edwards March 12 **Beatrice Lazaroff** March 12 Michael Tabak March 12 Burl Ives March 12 Robert Korner March 13 Ray Schapiro March 13 Jennie Shuster March 13 Joyce Zvenia

Friday, April 3 (will be read on March 27)

	(will be read on March	∠ ()
March 14	Ben Block	April 4
March 14	Arnold Behrstock	April 5
March 15	Arthur Feld	April 5
March 15	Manfred Vernon	April 5
March 16	Angus Campbell Walker	April 5
March 17	Harry M. Eisner	April 6
March 17	Sue Ohms	April 6
March 18	Max Wolfman	April 8
March 18	Naomi Lazarus Barnes	April 9
March 18	Jack Mazur	April 9
March 18	David Alper	April 10
March 18	Esther Suloway	April 10
March 20	Samuel Thal	April 10

Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11

21	Leon Julius Mendelsohn	April 11
21	Emanuel M. Lindheimer	April 12
21	Bella Farber	April 13
22	Violet Shaw	April 13
22	Marcelo Lindner	April 14
23	Samuel Midwood	April 14
23	Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	April 14
23	Norma H. Bernstein	April 15
24	The Fragner Family	April 16
24	Harold Kaplowitz	April 16
25	Selma Lebovich	April 16
25	Glen Myers	April 17
		•

March 25 Friday, April 17 & March 26 Saturday April 18

	Saturuay, April 10	
March 26	Mark Joseph Turovets	April 18
March 26	Lena Horwitz	April 19
March 27	Morris Fischél	April 20
	Thelma Weiner	April 20
March 29	Rabbi Frederick S. Gartner	April 21
March 30	Benjamin Shapiro	April 21
March 31	Edward Stone	April 21
April 1	Hy Zimmerman	April 22
April 1	Karleen Press	April 23
April 2	Joanne M. Lund	April 24
April 2	Eridov April 24	

Friday, April 24

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Mary Widerkehr	April 25
Abraham Morton	April 27
Helen Victoria Richmond	April 27
Judy Aikens	April 28
Kenneth Altose	April 28
Esther Siegel	April 28
Felicia Keller	April 29
Sergio Shwadsky	April 29
Ray Jay	April 30
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	April 30
Herman Rudolf	May 1
Fay Sosnick	May 1

In Memoriam

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

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

Linda Hirsh on the loss of her mother, Gladys Bloch, who passed away at age 100 on Dec. 5, 2014, at her home in Philadelphia.

Katie Comstock on the loss of her father, Brian House, who passed away on Jan. 10, 2015, in Madison, Wis.

Our congregation mourns the passing of our friends and fellow congregants, Elinor Pravda, on Feb. 18, 2015, and Richard Evans, on Feb. 23, 2015. We offer deepest condolences to Elinor's husband Shelly, Richard's wife Ruth, and to all the members of their extended families.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel 2200 Broadway Bellingham, WA 98225

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Service Schedule

Friday, March 6

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service with leadership from Religious School's 3rd Graders, and music from Andrea Shupack; potluck dinner* after

Saturday, March 7 9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, March 13

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack

Saturday, March 14

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

Friday, March 20

5:30 p.m. Pre-service *nosh* **6:15 p.m.** Shabbat evening service; musical leadership from Andrea Shupack

Saturday, March 21

9:30 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with musical leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

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

Friday, April 3 NO SERVICE Erev Pesach – First Seder

Saturday, April 4

9:30 a.m. Torah Study Friday, April 10

7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

Saturday, April 11 9:30 a.m. Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with Yizkor; musical leadership from Andrea Shupack. <u>Kosher-for-</u> <u>Passover</u> potluck Kiddush lunch after

Wednesday, April 15

7 p.m. Yom HaShoah service with leadership from the Religious School's 7th Grade students, and music from Andrea Shupack.

Friday, April 17

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Family service; music leadership by Andrea Shupack; potluck dinner* after

Saturday, April 18

9:30 a.m. Torah Study **10:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service with music leadership from Andrea Shupack; potluck* Kiddush lunch after

Friday, April 24 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening

service featuring vocal ensemble Ma'ayan Shir

Saturday, April 25 9:30 a.m. Torah Study 11 a.m. Tot Shabbat; potluck Kiddush lunch* afterward

* All potluck meals are vegetarian/dairy only; <u>NO NUT PRODUCTS</u> at Family or Tot Shabbat services

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