THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 20, NO. 2

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

Light Up the Night gala

5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 5, 2015

BTC's Settlemyer Hall

Experience the joy of the holidays with Congregation Beth Israel's Light Up the Night event featuring a night of wonderful opportunities.

We will be looking back at Beth Israel's milestones, recognizing our impact in the greater Bellingham area, socializing with friends, shopping, enjoying great food, spirits, entertainment and an opportunity to help as we make the final push to make our Million\$Match.

Fundraising Committee Chair Katie Edelstein shared some insights about the event:

Million\$Match

Countdown to Jan. 4, 2016 deadline, Page 3

Q. Why did you decide on a gala auction night? It sounds like a lot of work!

A. Congregation Beth Israel has not, to my knowledge, ever had a gala auction dinner event, and we felt this was a wonderful opportunity to raise significant funds for the Million\$Match. We also identified other benefits, including enjoying a social and fun-filled evening with friends,

Continued on Page 12

The Hours Count

FROM THE RABBI

Freedom and miracles

"What is Hannukah?" the Talmud asks. This might seem like a really simple question. Of course it's a holiday commemorating the miracle of the oil that lasted for



not one, but eight days. Or, perhaps it's a festival that remembers the Maccabean victory over the Greco-Syrian forces led by Antio-

chus Epiphanes. According to our sacred texts, it's both. In the book of Maccabees (a book that was not included in the Hebrew Bible and so became part of the Apocrypha), we get the whole story about Judah and his

Continued on Page 15

'The Hours Count' author speaks

12:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015

Join us as at Congregation Beth Israel for this reading from a spellbinding historical novel about a



woman who befriends Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and is drawn into their world of intrigue. Propulsive and suspenseful, The Hours Count is rife with spies, counterspies, and subterfuge. But it is also a powerful story of friendship, hope, and loyalty. Jillian Cantor expertly vivifies history to

paint a deeply affecting portrait of Ethel and Julius

Rosenberg. The event is co-sponsored by Village Books.

Jillian Cantor has a BA in English from Penn State University and an MFA from the University of Arizona. She is the author of award-winning novels for teens and adults, including the critically acclaimed "Margot," a Library Reads pick.

Inside:

- · Where the whitefish comes from, page 9
- FACES IN OUR COM-MUNITY: The Lewis family, page 8
- · Youth fund makes camp possible, page 4

From the President ...

Board adds 2 new members, building construction resumes

Plan to go to upcoming fundraising events

Wow! What a couple of great months we have had as a congrega-



tion. The High Holy
Days were beautiful
and moving. I so
much enjoyed meeting, greeting, and
praying with everyone. I want to thank
Rabbi Joshua Samuels and cantorial soloist Andrea

Shupack who, with our musicians, were truly able to create "days of awe."

Following the High Holy Days, we celebrated the first day of our new Kesher program. The day began with what has become an annual ritual — pancake breakfast sponsored by our Brotherhood. The synagogue was full of laughing, energetic children ready to begin a new year of Jewish learning. It is wonderful that our Kesher program is overflowing with children.

I hope you have saved the dates on your calendar for two important congregational events. On November 7, Millie and the Mentshn will bring us "Ahoy Vey, Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Shmaltz." On December 5, you will not want to miss "Light Up the Night" — our gala dinner and auction. I hope to see you at these exciting programs; both will help us to meet the Million\$Match. Please check the website and the e-news for further details and ticket sales.

There has been some important board activity about which I would like to make you aware. The first is that both Terri Weiner and Binnie Perper have agreed to serve on the board. Additionally, Terri has agreed to become our treasurer, for which we are very grateful. When you see them, feel free to offer a word of support and thanks for their service. It is a busy but exciting time to be on the board.

As we move into the last few months of the year, I can't help but focus on the Million\$Match and the construction of our new building. Our progress with the Million\$Match has been steady because of generous donations. Although the end is in sight, we still have a ways to go and only two months left to accomplish our goal. I ask that you take a moment to consider how you may be able to help. Please be as generous as you possibly can. Please contact David Goldman or Karen Sloss, or click on the "donate" button on our website to help us meet the match before the end of the year.

Although the Leopold has been good to us with the use of the ball-room space, it is my goal to celebrate the next High Holy Days in our new building. Anticipating the generosity of our congregation, the New Synagogue Task Force and the board are moving ahead to resume construction. The following is the text of a resolution recently passed by the board of directors:

The Board supports the NSTF recommendation to re-start construction in November 2015, with the goal of achieving occupancy of the main floor of the new synagogue by High Holy Days, 2016.

My hope is that the dream of moving to our new building for High Holy Days 5777 will become a reality.

Best regards to all,

Dan Ohms

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

2200 Broadway Bellingham, WA 98225

The Shul Shofar

Volume 20, Number 2 November/December 2015 Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5776

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 January/February issue is DECEMBER 15. Call the office for more information.

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SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Million\$Match enters home stretch

Goal is to move in by High Holy Days 2016

What we all do right now will determine the future well-being of Congregation Beth Israel!! And your participation is critical.

There is a limited-time opportunity to qualify for a Matching Grant of \$1 million if CBI can collect \$1 million by January 4, 2016.

The official bank receipts stand at \$713,000-plus, but during the past year, thanks to generous CBI members and some wonderful friends, nearly \$900,000 has been committed to the Match — including those cash receipts. So, reaching our goal is in sight. We cannot afford to fall short!!

With success in this fundraising effort, the total sum will pay for the construction needed to move into the building, hopefully in time to celebrate Rosh Hashanah in our new home in 2016! While additional money will be needed to complete every aspect of the project, the \$1 million raised plus the \$1 million grant will make the pivotal difference in how soon we can hold services, celebrate simchas and run the Kesher school program in our new building.

During this past year, the Million\$Match Campaign has reached out for support from prior New Building Fund donors as well as to many congregants who had not yet donat-



ed to the project, and the response has been great. There are still a number of members who have not received a call or have not responded to a request, and so the calls will continue. Perhaps you have been thinking of giving but needed an extra push or a deadline to actually do it. Right now is the time when your gift can make a huge difference because it will be doubled by the Match. . . . but only for a few more weeks. So please act soon.

We are counting on all CBI members to participate and to give their fair share, not just because the money is seriously needed but also because we want everyone to have a stake in the new synagogue itself and enjoy the mitzvah of having provided for the future of the NW Jewish community. So far more than 200 donors — more than half of them making gifts of \$5,000 or greater — have made all this progress possible. With full participation, we can defi-

nitely "Finish Our Journey Home."

Every CBI member is appreciated for the many contributions made to our community. At this time, we are particularly grateful for your donations to the New Building Fund. You can contribute in several ways:

- Checks payable to the CBI Building Fund can be sent to the synagogue office, 2200 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225
- At www.bethisraelbellingham.org or by calling the office at (360) 733-8890, you can arrange to pay by credit card or bank account debit.
- To make your gift with appreciated securities or direct IRA distributions, please contact Karen Sloss or the synagogue office.

Thank you so much for helping raise the money to trigger the Million\$Match and build our new synagogue.

David Goldman, Chair
 Capital Campaign

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, 647-7031 Building: Floyd King, 223-2538 Care: Sylvia Williams, 319-5059 Kesher (Religious School:) Samantha Konikoff, 734-2762 Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, 676-8939 **Membership:** Rita Spitzer, 647-7065; Ann Suloway, 647-7031

New Synagogue Task Force: Warren Rosenthal, 961-9772

Scholarship: Emil Hecht, 733-4825 Social Action: Debbie Raas, 676-1621; Linda Blackwell

University Liaison: Sabrina Freeman, 734-4560; Marcia Lipp-

man, 734-5376



Camp-Youth Fund needs infusion

Study: Camp boosts adults' participation

By MIRIAM ZDERIC

Some years ago, while I was serving as President of our congregation, we set up our Camp Scholarship Fund. The seed money came from a generous donation from our Sisterhood. Over the years the fund has relied on the support of our community along with continuing support from the Sisterhood. The fund is used to help families sending their children to URJ camps and activities. This past summer we were able to help more than a dozen of our youth attend Camp and NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) events.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER 2016

Camp Kalsman registration is open for new and returning campers! As of mid-October, 300 campers had already signed up for summer 2016! Don't miss your opportunity - register now! www.kalsman.urjcamps.org/register

Many families also receive financial support from the Federation in Seattle.

The following is from a 2011 study, CAMP WORKS: The Long-term Impact of Jewish Overnight Camp:

The influence of summer camp on the ways in which adult Jews choose to engage with the community and the degree to which they associate with other Jews can be felt long after the last sunset of the summer. The impact is striking, especially when

compared to their peers who did not spend their summer months at Jewish camp.

Camp attendance increases the likelihood of adult participation and identification in every one of these areas. As adults, campers are:

30% more likely to donate to a Jewish charity;

37% more likely to light Shabbat

Continued on Page 5

Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2015

11/1 Susan Jay

11/1 David Ziegler

11/2 Lev Shuster (14th)

11/4 Elinor Hall (10th)

11/5 Ian James (7th)

11/5 Aaron Weiss (97th)

11/6 Rodney Shainbom

11/7 Steve James

11/8 Rob Grossman

11/9 Jaime Korner (20th)

11/11 Stephanie Korn

11/11 Wendy Schwartz

11/12 Jakob Garfinkle (17th)

11/12 Rebecca Garfinkle (17th)

11/13 Peter Auerbach

11/13 Miriam Schwartz

11/14 Isaac Schapiro (15th)

11/14 Raphael Schapiro (15th)

11/14 Shoshana Schapiro (15th)

11/16 Kristan Brennan

11/16 Ellie Greenberg (17th)

11/16 Jane Relin

11/17 Nancy L. Lloyd

11/17 Bonnie Stone

11/17 Jay Wolfman

11/18 Rita Spitzer

11/19 Anita Meyer 11/19 Patricia Strumpf

11/20 Willow

Corey-DuBow (12th)

11/25 Sylvan Weinstein (5th)

11/26 Tamar Clarke

11/26 Shala Erlich

11/27 Karen Katz

11/28 Floyd King

11/30 Orion Dixon (7th)

11/30 Priscilla Feld

11/30 Sarah Witte

DECEMBER 2015

Rebecca Oliver

Millie Johnson 12/5

Alyssa Diller (15th)

11/8 Noam Richmond (13th)

12/10 Trisha Adelstein

12/11 Marvin Wayne

12/13 Shelly Pravda

12/13 Rory Verkh-Haskell (10th)

12/14 Eli Brennan (17th)

12/15 Anna Booker

12/16 Corinne Gimbel-Levine

12/17 Maya Taranow (17th)

12/19 Cathie Diller

12/19 Cinda Zemel

12/19 David Miller

12/22 Michelle Anderson

12/16 Manuel Ochoa

12/17 Philip Buri

12/17 Julie Siegfried (21st)

12/28 Ella Keefe (2nd)

12/30 Shawn Clarke

Frances A. Erickson







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Bar Mitzvah

Jacob Isaiah Lebovich will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on November 14, 2015. He is the son of Joe



Lebovich z"l and Barbara Boothby, and younger brother to Jordan and David Lebovich.

Jake is an eighth-grader at Cascades Montessori Middle School, where his favorite subjects are math, P.E. and writing. Outside of school, he enjoys taekwondo, reading, 'Hawks games, and playing piano and Minecraft. For his mitzvah project, Jake has made bread or a treat to

share with the Hospice House families and staff each week for the last year.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE November 13, 2015 at 7:30 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE November 14, 2015 at 10 AM

Bar Mitzvah

Ethan Oliver will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 19, 2015, along with his cousin, Talia Tzarfati of



Colorado, who is also becoming a Bat Mitzvah, on December 19, 2015.

Ethan is the son of Tom and Rebecca Oliver and brother to Jaelle and Ayla. He is an eighth-grader at Fairhaven Middle School. His favorite subjects are science and math. Outside of school, Ethan enjoys oboe, hiking, backpacking, sailing, rocketry, model building, geocaching, and Minecraft. For his Mitzvah Project, Ethan adopted Lake Pad-

den. He spent many hours every week with his family clearing garbage out of the trail, recreation, and shoreline areas.

Please join us in celebrating this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE December 18, 2015 at 6:15 PM

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE December 19, 2015 at 10 AM

Camp-Youth Fund

Continued from Page 4

candles;

45% more likely to attend synagogue monthly or more; and

55% more likely to be very emotionally attached to Israel.

Here's what some Beth Israel members who have received financial assistance through our fund have to say:

"I love Camp Kalsman! I love learning about my heritage. We have lots of fun games and events! My favorite's Maccabiah. GO CAMP KALS-MAN!"

"Camp Kalsman is an amazing opportunity for my daughter to be surrounded by other Jewish kids — it gives her a sense of belonging that she can't get any other place. I know that due to our personal circumstances, if we didn't have the support of the Beth Israel scholarship, it would be extremely hard for me to send her to camp."

"After camp this past summer, (our

'Every summer, (he) comes home energized and changed. He learns so much about himself, about the world around him, about being Jewish, about his relationship with God. I can't imagine his summers without camp'

daughter) told her grandparents that she made 'friends for life.' Since she has been home she has been writing her camp friends at least every other week. She had a great time and wants to go back!!!"

"I don't remember a time when I wasn't having a blast."

"I was smiling at least 88% of the time, even in my sleep."

"It's impossible not to make friends. By the end of the first day, I had made friends with everyone in my bunk." "I'm coming back next year!!"

"Thanks to the scholarship committee for making this experience possible!"

"(My son) met his best friend at Camp Kalsman. Now, THAT is what camp is supposed to be about! They are incredibly close, even though they live 100 miles apart, and they look forward to arranging to be in the same kallah every year. Every summer, (he) comes home energized and changed. He learns so much about himself, about the world around him, about being Jewish, about his relationship with God. I can't imagine his summers without camp."

To continue to support our families and in our own way support the growth and development of strong Jewish identities in our youth (our future), please consider making donations to our Camp Fund. It is one more way we can grow community.

Thanks from the Scholarship Committee: Miriam Zderic, Joan Wayne, Bonnie Stone

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lindsey & Jordan Genut, on the birth of daughter Gabriella

From: Debbie & Dan Raas

HONORING BNAI MITZVAH:

*Kayla Orloff

*Julia Schwartz

*Jacob Lebovich

From: Karen Sloss

CANTORIAL ASSISTANCE IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack

From: David & Katie Edelstein

Andrea Shupack, for her beautiful singing during the High Holy Days

From: Jill & David Elkayam

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for his leadership and thoughtful sermons during High Holy Day services

From: Steve & Rita Spitzer

IN MEMORY OF:

Brooklyn & Nora Keefe

From: Camille & Matthew Keefe

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Phyllis Poplawski (Los Angeles, CA), on the loss of her husband, Ruben

From: Rhoda & Peter Samuels

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

David & Katie Edelstein

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rhonda McMartin, for her acts of loving kindness

From: Richard & Idalina Trank

Richard Trank & Floyd King, for their work in the sanctuary **From:** Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

Joan Wayne

From: Sarann Donegan

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lindsey & Jordan Genut, on the birth of daughter Gabriella

From: Karen Sloss

David & Genny Cohn, on the birth of grandson Evan Shupack

From: Aline & Sid Wanne

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Noémi Ban's birthday

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

Anne Brown's birthday

From: Bonnie Quam Emest & Vivienne Wolf (Issaquah)

- * Elka Fink's birthday
- * Susan Jay's birthday
- * Mitch Lazarus' birthday #95

From: Anne Brown

Steve & Rita Spitzer's "Special" Birthdays

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

Bonnie Stone's birthday

From: Joan & Marv Wayne

Rosalie Yacknin's birthday

From: Bonnie Quam

Lilly Weiss' birthday

From: Sylvia Williams

The anniversaries of:

- * Belle Shalom & Marjorie Lightness
- * Mary Somerville & Gary Marzullo
- * Emily Weiner & John McGarrity

From: Bonnie Quam

IN HONOR OF:

The wedding of Sam Grousz & Saran Cannon

From: Ernest & Vivienne Wolf

(Issaquah)

Jonah Sanders (Eugene, OR), on becoming Bar Mitzvah

From: Melissa & Larry Stahlberg

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Marsha, Judy & Steven Glass, on the loss of their mother, Sylvya Glass

From: Anne Brown; Sarann Donegan; Randy & Sally Elmore; Esther Faber; Aline & Sid Wanne

Lynn Korner, on the loss of her father, James Bourne

From: Paul Blum & Alison Zak; Linda Blackwell & David Goldman; Anne Brown; Sabrina Freeman; Nancy & Gary Lazarus; Debbie & Dan Raas Karen Sloss; Bonnie & Alan Stone; Joan & Marv Wayne; Sylvia Williams

Melissa Stahlberg, on the loss of her mother, Edith DeVisser

From: Nancy & Don Davis Karen Sloss; Aline & Sid Wanne

Ruth Evans, on the loss of her sister, Linda Kleinfeld

From: Nancy & Don Davis

Gloria Somach (Surprise, AZ), on the loss of Abe Somach, a great friend and humanitarian

From: Bernice Loober

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Anne Brown, Get Well Wishes From: Janis & Steve Ban; Elka Fink; Roy & Leslie Shankman; Toby Sonneman; Bonnie & Alan Stone; Joan & Marv Wayne

IN MEMORY OF:

Melissa's mother, Edith DeVisser From: Melissa & Larry Stahlberg

My sister, Linda Kleinfeld From: Ruth Evans

My mother, Frieda Fischer **From:** *Denise Fischer*

My mother, Sylvya Glass **From:** *Judith Glass*

- * My son, Nathan Loober
- * My husband, Arnold Loober

From: Bernice Loober

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Reva Levy (Palm Desert, CA)

KESHER TUITION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Kayla Orloff

From: Rebecca & Andrew Orloff

KESHER LEARNING CENTER

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Andrea Shupack - Thank you for your beautiful singing at our High Holy Days celebration

From: Steve & Rita Spitzer

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CBI members visit Kids4Peace camp

By ESTHER FABER

Four Beth Israel members spent time in August at a Kids4Peace Camp in Mount Vernon and hope that more Beth Israel congregants will join them next summer.

The organization was founded in 2002 by an Episcopal theologian in Jerusalem who wanted to do something meaningful to bridge the gap between Palestinians and Israelis. He started a youth group, consisting of Jerusalem kids, that was one-third Christian, one-third Muslim and onethird Jewish. In summer 2002, they came to the U.S. for a 12-day camp outside Houston. The program has expanded to include U.S. kids from all three faiths and now has eight summer camps in the U.S. and Jerusalem. Campers are 12 to 18 (each camp has one age/grade), and yearround programs in Jerusalem and the U.S. (including in Seattle) deepen the camp experience.

Michelle Beller-Siegfried, her husband, John, daughter Julie, and Esther Faber were fortunate to witness the 12-years-olds at the Mount Vernon camp deeply engaged in a facilitated dialogue activity every morning. They also saw the teens having wonderful times playing sports, doing art work, performing in a talent show, making hummus together, walking on a trail through the beautiful forest while discussing what



Bellingham camper Aviva (in stripes) at Kids4Peace summer 2015.

is happening to our shared Earth. Also, lots of translating of Hebrew, English and Arabic and plenty of joyful and silly moments just having fun.

Adults are welcome as observers and sometimes can lead a group in an activity they are skilled in. Though she mostly just observed, one day Esther Faber led a nature group.

The CBI group felt that the Israeli/ Palestinian kids were discovering friendship, and understanding did trump the ongoing, endless conflict of their everyday lives in Israel. They felt privileged to share this special and wonderful experience with the kids and their remarkable counselors, and also appreciated the courage of the Israeli/Palestinian parents who sent their children to the two-

LEARN MORE

Interested adults are invited to learn more about Kids4Peace at noon Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, at Beth Israel.

Bellingham youths are welcome to participate in the camp. In 2015, one camper was from Bellingham, and the organization hopes to have more in coming years.

Kids4Peace: www.k4p.org

week camp with high hopes for their well-being and personal development while in the care of Kids4Peace staff.

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Faces in our community

Ink is in Lewis family's blood

So far, 3 generations have run Lynden paper

BY LINDA HIRSH

With reverence, Michael Lewis points to an icon hanging on a Lynden Tribune wall atop an ancient manual typewriter. It is a picture of his grandfather, Sol.

Back in 1914 26-year-old Sol Lewis borrowed capital from relatives to buy the newspaper. Since then, it has passed down through two generations.

Since 1992 it's been in Michael's hands. "I never thought of doing anything else. Ever," said Michael, publisher of the weekly established in 1888 as the Lynden Pioneer Press.

As a child he visited the newspaper frequently after school. The linotype machine in particular fascinated him.

"It was also a Lewis family tradition to work in the press room stuffing papers with inserts and my sisters and cousins all shared in this 'wonderful' job!" he said.

In 2014 the family celebrated their 100th anniversary of ownership with a 10-week series looking back on the history of the Tribune and the family.

"It was very popular with our readers and the community," he said. "We also hosted tours of the plant for the community ... and had a wonderful dinner party at the Jansen Art Center for our employees, retired employees and some close friends."

The family's history is entwined with the town's. The Lynden area was first populated by Nooksack tribal members. A wave of English and Scandinavian settlers incorporated the city in 1890. By 1900, dairy farmers, mostly Christian Reformed Church members, arrived to lay the foundation for a Dutch culture.

Since Sol's time, there have been as many as three Jewish families living in Lynden. Now it is down to one: Michael and his wife, Mary Jo, who heads up the advertising department at the Tribune. Despite that paucity, Jews crowd the newspaper's family tree.

Sol Lewis, an Oakland, Calif., native, was among the first graduates of the University of Washington journal-



The Lewis family at Thanksgiving 2014, from left: Adam, Michael, Mary Jo and David Lewis.

ism program. He went on to teach the subject at the University of Kansas, got some practical experience on the staff of the New York City World, then returned to the West Coast. He taught at the University of California at Berkeley, then traveled to Seattle where he heard that the Tribune was up for sale. He headed the paper until 1953.

Lewis became known regionally and nationally for his "Parsnip Corners" radio program and newspaper column, in which he shared his perspective on the region as an editor.

"He always wanted to be a country newspaper editor," Michael said. "He was a good writer, witty."

Sol's son William joined him in 1944 and son Julian, Michael's dad, came aboard in 1948. Michael stresses how naturally those family members assumed their positions.

"One day it was publisher Sol Lewis [on the masthead], the next day it was publishers Sol and William Lewis; three years later, publishers Sol, William and Julian Lewis," he said.

William would extend the Lewis tenure until 1984, and Julian remained through 1991 when Michael, after graduating from Washington State University's journalism department, became publisher in January 1992.

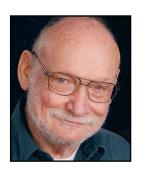
Born in Bellingham, Michael continues Sol's old-

Yom Kippur whitefish: 1 food, 3 meanings

If you attended the Yom Kippur Break the Fast meal, then you might have been fortunate to taste the delicious whitefish. But you may not have known the behind-thescenes story, which involves our congregants Roby Blecker, Floyd King, and Todd and Gabriel Witte.

FROM ROBY BLECKER:

It all started in a Los Angeles deli where Keith and I used to have Sunday morning breakfasts. Instead of ordering the lox platter to share, which we often did, we



Keith Baker, z"l

ordered the mixed fish platter. This was a big step for Keith; although I had been raised with the smoked-fish obsession that often envelops East Coast Jews, Keith (from the Midwest and at that point not yet Jewish) thought all fish was breaded, fried, slathered with tartar sauce, and shoved into a bun. He had been convinced he didn't like fish at all until I introduced him to sushi and then, ultimately, lox.

He gave the mixed fish platter mixed reviews, and what he disliked most was the whitefish. It was too salty, too bitter, too hard, and not well thought out, from his point of view. Keith did all the cooking in our house, so when he said, "I could make better whitefish," I believed him.

We bought a smoker, and he found a recipe. Then we had to find unsmoked whitefish. In Los Angeles, it turned out we could get a fish from Whole Foods. Keith filleted it himself and followed the recipe the first time he smoked the fillets. Then he tinkered with the recipe, and ultimately found the formula he approved. (He also learned we could order the fish already filleted, and that was a delight for him!)

Soon he was smoking whitefish for Pesach and for Break the Fast at our L.A. congregation. He was very popular. When we moved to Bellingham and discovered that there was no Whole Foods, he did the research to find out where *they* got their whitefish from and cut out the middle man. Over the years, we've become known as "the Bellingham customers" by the people in Duluth who fish Lake Superior, and they have consistently provided excellent fish for us.

FROM FLOYD KING:

Each year at Break the Fast I guess I thought the



Gabe Witte helps Roby Blecker pick out pin bones from smoked whitefish for the 2015 Break the Fast.

KEITH BAKER'S WHITEFISH

Buy 12 lbs whitefish fillets. Fresh is best; if using frozen, defrost in refrigerator over several days. Start smoker heating.

In a clean container, mix the brine:

- 4 gallons water
- 5 lbs of Kosher salt
- 1 lb dark brown sugar
- 2 12-ounce Rose's lime juice
- 2 Tablespoons garlic juice (liquid garlic)
- 2 Tablespoons onion juice (liquid onion)

Stir until all ingredients have dissolved.

Rinse fish and let steep in brine for 45 minutes. Remove fish (first round going on smoker) from brine and either pat dry or air dry.

Spray smoker racks with oil to prevent sticking. Use mesquite chips that have been soaking in water, and <u>WET smoke</u>; toss chips directly on heating element, not into water.

When whitefish is golden brown, remove from smoker and let cool (times vary depending on heat of smoker) .

With tweezers, remove pinbones, and cut into serving portions.

Shabbat Dinner Crowd comes to Bellingham

Beth Israel is forming its own Shabbat Dinner Crowd — a flash mob Shabbat dinner experience — based on a successful format operating in Seattle.

How it works:

You'll get an email the Sunday before the third and fifth Fridays of the month, seeking a dinner host. Someone volunteers a location and guests supply the food (a main dish and a side, enough to feed your family). The dinner is casual — buffet style, paper plates and jeans are fine. Just come and enjoy.

Dinners can be meat, dairy, or vegetarian. Hosts, please let everyone know what the kashrut status of the meal is.

The way this works is simple — if you can host, post a note to the email list for your community. If you can attend, then reply to the dinner post so everyone knows. For more details about how it works, go to shabbatdinnercrowd.com

Want to be part of the dinner crowd, but didn't receive an email? Sign up at our website, bethisraelbellingham.org. We welcome non-Beth Israel members to participate! Just sign up online, then contact Rabbi Samuels (360-733-8890).

Any other questions? Call Melissa Schapiro, (360) 738-7182, or email melissaschapiro@gmail.com

Let's keep this rolling by having someone host every time!

The Lewises

Continued from Page 8

fashioned approach, shying from today's digital methods of getting the news even though his own hands can capably swipe, tap and text on his cellphone.

Michael's wife, Mary Jo, entered his life at an early age. That's because their families were close friends, at one point living across the street from each other.

Mary Jo earned an education degree at Western Washington University, majoring in political science. Their first date, playing golf, coincided with her senior year in college. Despite their long-term friendship, they surprised their families by getting married in 1984. When a position opened at the Tribune the following year, she jumped at it.

Michael's grandparents, Myer and Margaret Horowitz, and his mother, Diane, were active in Congregation Beth Israel. It was the site of his own Jewish education and bar mitzvah. Mary Jo's family came from Italian and Irish Catholic stock, and Michael proclaimed, tongue in cheek, that he was never much interested in becoming Catholic.

Rather, "I am comfortable with being Jewish," he said. "It gives me a sense of calm and peace," much needed in the hectic newspaper business.

Also, "I try to fly with its principles in my work," he added.

Alan and Bonnie Stone's close connection to Michael's family goes back as far as his grandparents. They have watched Michael grow from an infant, attended his bar mitzvah, his wedding and the brises of his sons.

"He was athletic, social, a good student and has turned out to be a lovely adult man," said Bonnie, who also is friendly with Mary Jo's family. "He has a deep sense of his own religion. And Mary Jo has carried on many of its traditions. We think a lot of both of them."

Despite the nearly unanimous Christian texture of the town, the Lewises never hid their Judaism. Mary Jo said she was always attracted to it. She converted in 1983. After that, she joined the religious school committee and drove her sons twice a week to religious studies. The couple has maintained membership for almost 30 years.

The synagogue and the children there were significant, the couple agreed. It provided a balance to their school week, where their peers were Christian. Still, close relationships have evolved. For instance, their son's best friend growing up would join the family in celebrating Jewish holidays. Both parents emphasize respect for the religions of others.

The Lewis family noted the evangelism of many Dutch families in the 1930s. Yet Michael seldom hears Jewish slurs — nothing that wouldn't happen in other small towns.

"All in all, it is a wonderful community to do business in," he said.
"We've found a lot of support."

The Lewises' relationship with words is continuing to the next generation. Planning to teach, son David, 28, is working towards an M.F.A. in creative writing. And son Adam, 24, is on the SeattlePl.com sports staff. Michael said it is up to their sons whether they return to Lynden and take over the Tribune. If not, he may sell it in about a decade.

Ink was on their hands from the time they were young boys, meeting their parents at the newspaper after school every day. Their home was fertile ground, too, the Seattle, Bellingham and Lynden newspapers consistently present. Vibrant family discussions around the dinner table added to the zeitgeist. Most of all, though, Michael and Mary Jo say it's because books populate their house.

"We are passionate readers," Mary Jo said. "We all love the written word."

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

Hannukah Party set for Dec. 13

Our annual Hannukah party will take place in a new venue: 1659 Baker Creek Place, off Bakerview Road. We have outgrown the Squalicum Boat House (capacity 80), and Baker Creek Place has a capacity of 200.

WHEN: Noon to 2:30 p.m. Sun-

day, Dec. 13, 2015.

COME CELEBRATE: latkes. donuts, Hannukah-themed crafts, dreidle spin-off, special Kesher class performances, Hannukah Gelt Raffle for adults, a Dreidle "pinata," and more.

NEEDED: More volunteers to help make this a success! Contact: Marcia Lippman 734-5376 or marcia lippman@yahoo.com

Sisterhood Book group meetings

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

November 15, to discuss "The Prime Ministers" by Yehuda Avner, host

December 20, to discuss "The Nightingale" by Kristen Hannah, host TBA.

Yahrzeits	Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless secular date is requested, and are read on the Shabbat prior to the observance date.				
For Friday, Nov. 6 Bette Bikman Irving Grossman Hilda Meltzer Sadie Neiburger Stolzoff Henry (Hank) Gordon May B. Schwartz Helen Skinner	11/7 11/8 11/8 11/8 11/9 11/9	Elaine Cohn Phyllis Heck David Shavelson Fred Damski Joseph Koplowitz Ida Zderic Robin Hoffman Edith Jensen	11/30 11/30 12/2 12/3 12/3 12/3 12/4 12/4	John J. Read Jerry Roberts Cecile R. Gordon Morris M. Stone Regina Tein Alice Behrstock George Garmo Ivan Senzon	12/21 12/22 12/23 12/23 12/23 12/24 12/24
Rose Weitzman Price Melvin Goldberger Esther Mazur Otto V. Vohl Julian Lewis	11/10 11/11 11/11 11/12 11/13	For Friday, Dec. 4 Paula Brown John Douglas Freeman Diane Lewis	12/5 12/5 12/5	For Friday, Dec. 25 Pearl Turovitz Ruth Robinson Nicole Russell	12/26 12/28 12/28
For Friday, Nov. 13 & Saturday, Nov. 14 Lazar Emanuel Pam Champagne Marvin Siegel Henry David Weill Leah (Lilly) Kleiman Margaret (Peggy) Korner	11/14 11/16 11/16 11/16 11/17	Frances Feiger Henry Frank Rachel Jaffe Victor Geretz John Lester Nick Schira Elly Kraus Lucille Rest Monica Biggin	12/6 12/6 12/6 12/7 12/7 12/7 12/8 12/8 12/9	Solomon Thal Dorothy Mazel Spiro Samuel Glazer George Bikman Rudolf Reitz Hannah L. Tall Ben Thal Irwin Wapner	12/28 12/30 12/31 1/1 1/1 1/1 1/1 1/1
Bernard Shuster Irmgard (Korneck) McNulty John Paschetag Lanny "Bip" Sokol	11/18 11/20 11/20 11/20	Hannah Glass David Mendelsohn Marion Relin 12/9	12/9 12/9	Thank Yo	u
Sylvia Sulkin Zelda Turovitz	11/20 11/20	For Friday, Dec. 11 & Saturday, Dec. 12		Dear Beth Israel Friend	
For Friday, Nov. 20		Nathan Loobor	12/12	Our heartbreaking loss	nas been

1 01 1 11day, 140v. 20	
Hyman Bettman	11/21
Louis Groper	11/22
Otto Korneck	11/23
Burton Glazer	11/24
Frances (Fran) Mishler	11/24
Gladys Bloch	11/25
Bud Robinson	11/25
Rose Wick Eigen	11/26
Jack Sheinkopf	11/26
Abraham Andrew Widerkehr	11/26
Deborah Louise Feinwachs	11/27

For Friday, Nov. 27

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Samuel M. Pravda	11/28
Abram Stolzoff	11/29

Nathan Loober Sarah Patinkin	12/13 12/13
George Shaw	12/14
Richard Kite	12/15
Jacob Pecarsky	12/15
Richard Bloomfield	12/17
Ben Gordon	12/17
Benjamin David Glazer	12/18
Marvin Richmond	12/18

For Friday, Dec. 18 & Saturday, Dec. 19

Barry Zell	12/19
M. Vermeda Paschetag	12/20
Joseph Soode	12/20
Lois Looney	12/21

easier to bear with your lovely messages expressing affection and appreciation for our mother, Sylvya. Those who donated to the New Synagogue, the Max Glass Library, and other charities can be assured that she felt a passion for those causes. Her vibrancy, her creativity, her unconditional love will remain in our hearts.

Shalom,

Marsha, Steve and Judy Glass

From the Social Action Committee ...

Upcoming: Thanksgiving dinner collection, hats for CAST

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

The Social Action Committee would like to encourage participation in the Thanksgiving Dinner for the Womencare shelter run thru DVSAS. A sign up sheet is available in the Social Hall. Items must be donated by Nov. 22, 2015.

In December please help donate knitted, sewn or fleece hats for the CAST program. We continue to collect toiletries for the CAST program in baskets downstairs.

A group of Beth Israel volunteers recently cleaned and readied Interfaith's "The Little House" for a new family. We are always looking for volunteers for this program as well as for our committee.

A coat drive ended in October. Patty Yust and Jeff Popp took the coats for distribution, and a number of congregants helped sort and distribute.

Congratulations to Congregation Beth Israel for donating more than 300 pounds of food and more than \$200 to the Food Bank during the High Holy Days food drive.

Debbie Raas has temporarily stepped down from the Social Action Committee. We hope another member will step up to co-chair with Linda Blackwell. The next Committee meeting is in January.

Light Up the Night gala

Continued from Page 1

and providing opportunities for members to personally donate something and feel part of the evening's success. It's also a good opportunity to showcase CBI's long history in Bellingham as well as the partnerships and alliances with non-Jewish organizations that focus and impact key social needs..

- **Q.** Can you tell us some unique or unusual items to be auctioned?
- **A.** The CBI community has been very generous and creative in donating. A few unique items:
- * 8 day guided kayak and camping expedition to Gwaii Haanas National Park with Tofino Expeditions.
- * A summer week (7 nights) for five people at Snowbird Lodge on Silver Star Mountain in Vernon, British Columbia.

- * Whatcom Symphony Experience: Mt. Baker backstage tour, dress rehearsal, 2 tickets for the performance the following day, an after-concert reception and special dinner with hosts.
- * 12th Man Experience! 2 Seahawks tickets in the club level area
- * Gift certificates to Bellingham restaurants
 - * 2 challot per month for a year
- * Bar/Bat Mitzvah Package including help with party planning, Israeli dancing and pre-secured venue
 - Q. What will the entertainment be?
- A. JaKid'Sax Ensemble, an instrumental jazz group, made up of high school students from various schools in Bellingham: Frank Youngblood (Sehome H.S.); Nikole Zieche (Meridian H.S.); Mary Clement (Bellingham H.S.); Lhiam Herwill (Sehome H.S.); Kaleb Harrison (Squalicum H.S./WCC) and led by

GALA EVENING

5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 5, 2015

Bellingham Technical College's Settlemyer Hall

\$50 per person; all proceeds support the new building fund.

Register at bethisraelbelling ham.org, under New Building Fundraisers

To donate an auction item: Linda Blackwell, (360) 647-9519 or fundraising@beth israelbellingham.org.

(director).

- **Q.** When will we know how much was raised?
- **A.** We may have some sense the night of the event but likely within a week.

Mark Kelly



Marla Finkelstein

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School changes promote connections

By Sagit Hall Kesher Director

The new year has started with a very positive atmosphere for our community of learners. Our new name, Kesher (connection or tie in Hebrew) proves to reflect a lot of what is happening in our program: connection between the children; connection to Jewish traditions and history, and; connection between parents and families.

The connections and friendships between our

students are nurtured in various ways. One change that helps build our student community is the new time for Kesher's Hebrew classes! Although that was not the direct intention of the time change (moved to Sundays from Wednesdays), the extended time together at the synagogue allows the children to develop more meaningful relationships with each other. The lunch time between the morning Kesher classes and the afternoon Hebrew classes gives the students the unstructured, free time to "hang out" or play (Gaga, of course).

Another new program is the monthly Class Havdalah night. Every month, a different class meets at a classmate's home for a potluck dinner and a Havdalah celebration. The fourth-graders and their families were the first group to gather for this lovely event. Since it fell on Sukkot, they were invited to enjoy the Sukkah at the home of their host family, as well as a beautiful Havdalah



Community Hike at Squires Lake, October 2015.

ceremony led by Rabbi Samuels.

This year, we are also starting a new baby-caregiver class, Mazal Tots. Babies birth to 30 months and their adults share music, stories, games, and participate in a parent discussion led by expert community members on various subjects such as early childhood, speech development, Jewish ritual at home, and more.

The community is invited to upcoming Kesher events:

Shabbat Family Service. 6:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. Sixth-graders will help lead the service. A vegetarian/dairy potluck will follow.

Family Learning Shabbaton. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. A service followed by Torah study for all ages. We will end our day of learning with a potluck lunch.

Shabbat Family Service. 6:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. Fifth-graders will help lead the service. A vegetarian/dairy potluck will follow.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members of our synagogue community:

David & Kylie Kanze; son Cooper (age 6) and daughter Cassidy (age 4)

Camille & Matthew Keefe and daughter Ella (age 22 months)
Laura & Manuel Ochoa and

daughter **Quinn** (age 2) **Gregg Orlik**

Amanda Robins & Daniel Zagnoli

Matthew Schall & Gayle Kay
Ahuva Scharff

Galit Shilo and son Oren (age 18 months)

Jessica Stein and brother David Stein

Practice Hebrew

Hebrew Circle (Chug Ivri) for Intermediate and Rusty-Advanced Hebrew Speakers!

A few of us would like to start a Chug Ivri that would meet monthly, or more often, depending on interest. This is your chance to become more fluent, and perhaps some fluent speakers willi help us, too.

Call Rena Ziegler: (360) 734-9478.

WHITEFISH

Continued from Page 9

whitefish just fell from heaven as it was always there right on time. I never got to eat any of it, as by the time all the tables and chairs were set up all the fish was gone. So it was a surprise when Roby called me asking me to help smoke the fish. It was the first time I learned of Keith and Roby's gift. Keith's health had been failing, and Roby was concerned that he would try to do it himself. She also wanted to have someone

trained to help keep the tradition going. To accept took me all of a second. I had three reasons to say yes: the honor of being asked to participate in a family tradition; helping Keith as he was always a good friend; and helping carry on the tradition.

'The whitefish this year was all the tastier to me for having learned about and participated in the love that goes into making it, in Keith's memory.'

Leigh and I arrived on the morning scheduled for the smoking, and Keith was busy with his marinade while Roby was trying to slow him down. He gave instructions about where the smoker was and how to set it up and I went about my tasks. Before I knew it, there was Keith, right beside me setting up. Roby continued to try and slow him down, but he just ignored her. This was how it went throughout the day. To be part of a family day, where we are all trying to look after each other, was wonderful — and yes, Keith did overdo it.

I came away feeling I had now been passed the torch, and each year Roby and I would be hauling out the smoker and spending a great day together. Now we have Todd and his sons in training, so we can be sure that Keith and Roby's simple gift will be here in our congregation for a long time to come.

FROM TODD WITTE:

I grew up in New York, where smoked whitefish was a common entity at Jewish functions, often seen near the Ten-Commandments-shaped chopped liver. This is how it came to hold a sacred place for me, and for years I have appreciated smoked whitefish showing up at the Yom Kippur Break the Fast, to remind me of my East Coast roots. I only figured out in recent years the effort that went into getting it there. Thus, I was delighted when Roby remembered my interest in learning to make it, and invited me to learn the secret this year. My youngest son,



From left, Roby Blecker, Gabe Witte and Floyd King smoke whitefish.

Gabriel (6) came with me, and as usual, was a hard worker, his eyes serving better than my own at picking out the little pin bones.

The whitefish this year was all the tastier to me for having learned about and participated in the love that goes into making it, in Keith's memory. Having grown up with sacred family recipes in my own family, I was honored to be let in on the secret of this tradition, and amazed that we could produce smoked whitefish that looked just like and was tastier than what I had grown up with.

L'dor v'dor — from generation to generation — goes our tradition, and passing on our heritage and customs through meaningful food is just a part of it. I diligently took notes during my apprenticeship this year, and, through my children, hope to keep this wonderful Jewish tradition alive for Roby and Keith and generations to come.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

brothers going to battle against the more powerful army. In the Talmud the rabbis change the story to stress a more supernatural element to the narrative. It's about God's miracles, not military might.

When I celebrate Hannukah by stuffing my face with jelly donuts and latkes, and winning the dreidel contest (two out of three years!), I am reminded that the real victory is how the Jews overcame two very serious threats — internal and external.

When the story takes place, there was a serious concern that Judaism was on the brink of extinction. Jews were assimilating into the very appealing Hellenistic culture. In fact, our Hannukah heroes, the Maccabees, completely assimilated themselves not long after their successful revolt! The Greek way of life was attractive and scores of Jews abandoned their Jewish heritage. The resistance of the Maccabees — at the time — to the persuasions of Greek life showed a lot of will power, fortitude and dedication on their part. Had they not succeeded in fighting to preserve Jewish culture, who

knows if we would be celebrating this year (our Hannukah party will be Dec. 13, noon to 2:30 at 1659 Baker Creek Place, off Bakerview Road).

The external threat came from the evil tyrant Antiochus. This threat is just one example from a long list of rulers and kingdoms throughout time who have wished for our complete annihilation. By a combination of luck, military intelligence, spirit and assistance from God (depending on who you ask), against great odds, Jews are still around and thriving today.

So each time I celebrate Hannukah with my family and community, I feel grateful for those who came before us who ensured we would have the opportunity to express our Jewish traditions freely and without worry of peril. Sadly, there are many around the world who do not feel this way, even now. As we kindle our hannukiyot this year, may we see the increasing light from the candles as a symbol of our physical and spiritual opposition to tyranny and assimilation. May we do what is necessary to make sure that those who come after us also have these same freedoms to celebrate the joy and beauty of our rich heritage.

- Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Brotherhood has speaker series

Brotherhood has started a speaker series at its meetings, with a Brotherhood or Beth Israel member giving a 20- to 30-minute presentation about their current or past profession or area of expertise. This is an effort to re-introduce ourselves to each other and get to know our larger Jewish community, while also building existing and new friendships or business connections. All are welcome.

The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, at Bob's on Barkley's meeting room. Steve Spitzer will be the speaker. No-host dinner and drinks are available. RSVPs are needed to reserve the room: isaac.konikoff@gmail.com

Helpers needed to make visits

Do you have one or two hours a month to visit, call, or write a card to a congregant?

The Care Committee needs help meeting the growing needs of outreach to elderly, lonely, or isolated people in our community. Your visit for 30 minutes once a month would matter a lot. If you have special training in social work or nursing and would feel comfortable helping with particular needs of care coordination, this gift is welcomed. If you can transport someone to a doctor appointment or take them out for a cup of coffee, what a smile that would bring!

To speak with a Care Committee member regarding the kinds of services we provide, please call Sylvia (Fragner) Williams at (360) 319-5059, Joan Wayne at (360) 676-8939, or Geraldine Reitz at (360) 527-9611. Your consideration of joining in our work is appreciated.

Anniversaries

November 2015

Nov. 2 Lisa & Chris Balton (#29)

Nov. 6 Sarah & Norman

DesRosiers (#11)

Nov.15 Matthew Schall & Gayle Kay (#12)

Nov. 16 George & Fay Farkas (#19)

Nov. 29 Floyd King & Leigh Squires (#13)

December 2015

Dec. 9 Stuart & Judy Berman (#41) Dec. 15 Jeffrey & Priscilla Feld (#35) Dec. 15 Jeff & Amy Margolis (#53)

Dec. 20 Sue & Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger (#31)

Dec. 21 Lou & Marcia Lippman (#50)

Dec. 22 Terri Weiner & Rob Lopresti (#39)

Dec. 23 Sagit & Alex Hall (#12)

Dec. 28 Jesse & Nicky Naiman (#11)

Dec. 29 Armando & Diana Lindner (#50)

Dec. 30 Joan & Marvin Wayne (#44)

Dec. 31 Tracy & Cathie Diller (#18)

Did we miss your anniversary this month? If so, please call the office at (360) 733-8890. We'd like to celebrate with you!

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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Bellingham, WA 98225

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AHOY VEY! NEW BUILDING FUNDRAISER

7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 at WCC, Heiner Theatre (209)

Millie & the Mentshn present the Premiere of Ahoy Vey! Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Schmaltz!, a Multimedia Music Concert including music in Ladino (ancient Spanish), Yiddish, Hebrew, and English, with translations in the program notes.

Doors open 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 at the door or online at bethisraelbellingham.org (under New Building Fundraisers).

For more information regarding this Raise the Roof benefit concert, contact: fundraising@bethisraelbellingham.org, (360) 733-8890.

Find free parking behind the Syre Student Center and next to the Pavilion.



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