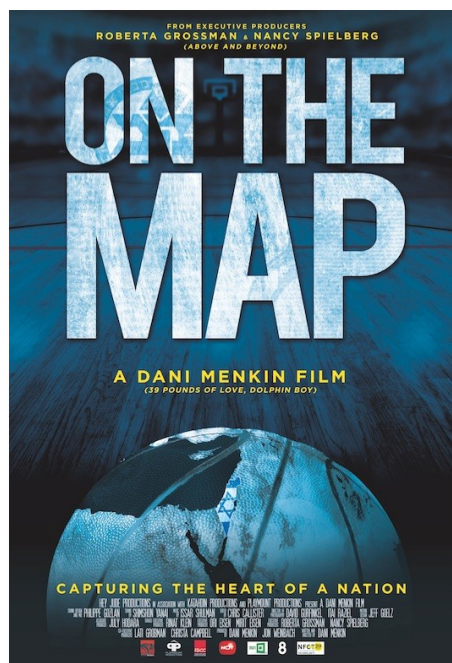


Please Register To Attend “Falafel & Film” Free Showing of *On the Map* May 13

CBI members and friends of all ages are invited to a joyful celebration of Israeli Independence Day (*Yom Haatzmaut*) at 5:30 pm on Monday, May 13.



We will eat a falafel and salad dinner, sing *Hatikva*, and watch *On the Map*, an exciting basketball movie that celebrates the spirit of Israel. *On the Map*, narrated by Hall of Famer Bill Walton, tells the exciting story of the Maccabee Tel Aviv '77 basketball team, which brought the first European Cup to Israel and became “The Team of the Nation.” More details were in the March/April *Shul Shofar* (bethisraelbellingham.org/archived-newsletters/)

The event is free, but please register as soon as possible, so that the Programming Committee will be sure to have enough food for everyone. **To register**, click on the bethisraelbellingham.org website event announcement and then on the **rsvp requested** link to a very short registration form.

Note that there will be security at this event, and it is open to the public.

FROM THE RABBI

A Lesson from Hillel and Shammai on Discussing Israel



Some people enjoy soap operas; others, reality TV. When I am in need of some mindless entertainment to pass a little time, I

look no further than “Piers Morgan Uncensored.” There is no shortage of episodes of guests arguing with each other and Piers, the host, sometimes egging them on. The shows I watch are the ones with the war in Israel and Gaza as the topic. You can imagine how heated some of these conversations get. “Conversations” might not even be the correct word especially when guests are simultaneously yelling at one another. Some of these episodes feel more like a spectator sport than a discussion of an extremely important topic.

Where has our sense of civility gone when we talk about contentious issues? Are we no longer able to have a conversation in good faith with folks who hold dif-

INSIDE:



• **Faces in Our Community:** Roby Blecker, page 8

• **JEMS², New Program for Middle Schoolers** page 11

From the President...

Keeping Us Safe...and an Invitation



In the past several issues, I've touched upon the safety and security for our congregation and for Jews everywhere. Balancing concern with-

out becoming maniacal or losing sight of where we live is a challenge, and in the wake of October 7 it is a persistent voice in my head.

Security is front and center for synagogues and Jewish leadership throughout the world. It is what we talk about during URJ Presidents calls and what I read on Jewish newsfeeds. From a personal viewpoint, in my mind's eye, I see the horrific images of the antisemitic defacement of my childhood synagogue and grounds. I know many of you have experienced first-hand antisemitism as well. As I walk and run the neighborhoods of Bellingham and towns I visit in my travels, I reflect on how different it is in Christian houses of worship. Largely we don't see gates, fences, and paid security there.

Of course, we want to assemble and practice our faith and socialize in peace. We worked hard as a people over the millennia to get here and, locally, many a dollar and many an hour were spent creating our amazing campus. I silently said prayers of gratitude as I listened to Tim Baker's presentation last month highlighting the history of Jewry in Bellingham and those Jewish families who chose Bellingham to create a new life away from the old county back in the late 1800s. I am grateful for all we have and for all of you.

When you next attend an evening meeting or small event/program at CBI, please mentally prepare for security protocols to be slightly different.

Aside from larger events when we have hired security on hand, the gate is scheduled to open and close at specific times making 'dropping by' difficult. Please understand if you arrive later than 20 minutes after the start time for smaller events, you will find the gate locked and you may not be able to enter. Signs at the front door may direct you to use the entrance on the west side of the building; to the right as you face the building. Be prepared for a friendly synagogue member to greet you as you ring the bell and wait for our cameras to see your smiling face and to electronically unlock the door, allowing your arrival into our shared and beloved space.

Of course these measures are in place to keep us safe, and also to decrease the number of false alarms when law enforcement is contacted by our alarm company. We don't want to be the proverbial "Boy who cried wolf" and not receive immediate and rapid emergency assistance if and when the need arises. For these reasons I ask for your full cooperation, so please plan appropriately.

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday 19 May from 3:30-5:30 pm. There will be beer, wine, and lovely snacks provided by your trusty Board of Directors. The program gives you, our community, an opportunity to hear firsthand about the state of our congregation from many leadership perspectives. Please come out and support our Board. Please come and raise your voice as we ask for your input on what you would like to see taking place at CBI. Please come if you are able and envelope yourselves in our shared community.

B'shalom,

JODI LITT
PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar
Volume 28, Number 5
May/June 2024
Nissan/Iyar/Sivan 5784

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. It is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$60/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the July/August issue is JUNE 11. Call the office for more information.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi: **Joshua Samuels**
Keshet Codirectors: **Leah Bordman**
Victoria Mayers

Office Manager/
Bookkeeper: **Sarah Cobb**

Executive Board

President: **Jodi Litt**
1st Vice President: **Erin Cohen**
2nd Vice President: **Jane Relin**
Secretary: **Tammy Dixon**
Treasurer: **Karen Sloss**

Board Members

Steve Ban **Miriam Davids**
Jason Benhaim **Kevin Donner**
Stuart Berman **Josh Greenberg**
Paul Blum **Binnie Perper**
Tamar Clarke **Terry Weiner**

Shofar Coeditors: **Nora Mazonson**
and Holly Witte

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

Visit our website at
bethisraelbellingham.org

Printed by Lewis Publishing Inc. in
Lynden, WA

Beth Israel is a
member of:



From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Keshet Has Had an Exciting Couple of Months!

BY LEAH BOARDMAN

This year’s Purim Spiel and Carnival had one of the best turnouts yet! On Saturday, March 23, the CBI community came together to laugh and shout over the story of Queen Esther through the eyes of Barbie, put on by the fabulous Barbies and Kens of Keshet (the hilarious teachers!). The next morning, the Madrichim joined the teachers to put on the Barbie Spiel again for the Keshet community—great fun was had by all! Following Keshet that Sunday, we continued the celebration with games, pizza, popcorn, henna, massages, costumes, a bounce house, and more!

Throughout the year, we host *Havdallah* potlucks for each Keshet class, with many families attending. We still have two left this year. Rabbi Samuels and Leah Boardman will continue leading these next year, which occur in addition to the Family Shabbat services led by Keshet classes every month.

Although it is already Spring, we still have families registering for Keshet for this year. We currently have 87 children in our school, and that number is continuing to rise. **Registration for Keshet 5785 will open on July 1 with an Early Bird discount**—look for updates on this coming soon!

Lastly, the annual Keshet Shabbaton at URJ Camp Kalsman is coming up on May 18. This event is an opportunity for the Keshet community to spend time together outside, playing on the ropes course, canoeing on the lake, sitting around the campfire, singing and dancing to Shabbat songs, and so much more. Registration for the weekend will open the first week of April, and space is limited. We hope that everyone who wants to attend signs up fast! Reach out to Leah Boardman and Rabbi Samuels with any questions about the weekend.

MASSA Gets Ready To Travel

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

The MASSA program is currently in the final countdown for their upcoming trip to Spain and Portugal. In preparation, guest speaker Jeff Galbraith offered the students a brief lesson on Sephardic culture and heritage. He shared his family’s personal journey from Rhode Island to Seattle. On April 21 the CBI cohort met up with their friends in Everett at Temple Beth Or, where they all learned about Israeli foods and modern Israeli culture.

The students earned over \$3,000 from the Purim silent auction and raffle baskets. We are still collecting items for the Value Village sale. If you have household items, gently used clothes, books, or toys you wish to release please consider donating to MASSA. Our next VV drop-off date will be on May 29; so we are asking that items be delivered to CBI on May 19, Mitzvah Day. Delivery times 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

If you need help please contact Victoria Mayers at victoria.mayers@bethisraelbellingham.org With enough notice we can arrange to come pick up your donations. This bi-annual fundraiser has earned our program over \$4,000 to date. Please consider contributing to us first when you have things to discard.

Watch for the announcement indicating the dates and times for when the MASSA youth will share their traveling experiences with the CBI community.

I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support for our MASSA and now our newly established JEMS² youth programs (*see article on page 11*). Together we can all make a huge difference in the life of a young Jewish person.

Synagogue 411

Archives:

Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

Care:

Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

Sarah Witte, (360) 296-3058

Membership:

Ann Suloway, (360) 296-8220

Sue Mahar (360) 319-5314

Library, Scrip:

Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939

Gartner Scholarship Fund:

Emil Hecht, (360) 201-4664

Carol Robinson, (360) 671-3852

Social Action:

Linda Blackwell, (360) 647-9519



**NORA
MAZONSON**

YOUR REALTOR SERVING
SKAGIT, WHATCOM, ISLAND, AND
NORTH SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

HABLO ESPAÑOL

360.739.4335
nora@noramazonson.com

Let's Go!

The Interfaith Traveling Chavurah

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

Interfaith Traveling Chavurah is preparing for our next trip to Tanzania. Becki Van Glubt is the only soul brave enough to agree to climb Mount Kilimanjaro with me. We will start on June 7 and we will be summiting at 19,341 feet on June 14. All prayers and positive thoughts are welcomed. On June 16 the remaining group will arrive for a safari and tours through natural wildlife preserves. We will end our tour on the island of Zanzibar. Katie Edelstein and I will plan a PowerPoint presentation to share our stories with CBI upon our return.

Hot off the press! We are currently in the preparation stage of our next travel excursion to Cuba in April 2025. During the 8-9 day trip, we intend to visit the local Jewish

community, share a Shabbat dinner with them, and attend their Saturday morning Shabbat services. We are planning to have speakers teach our Chavurah more about the Cuban Jewish culture/history before we embark for the island. If you want more details about this trip, please contact Katie Edelstein at kedelstein49@comcast.net. She will put you on our list, and you will receive a full itinerary as soon as it's completed.

When we return from Africa, we will schedule an informational meeting to invite folks to learn about the Cuban trip. We hope you'll consider joining our Interfaith Traveling Chavurah.

New Men's Group

Men Growing Older, Wiser, and Giving Back

CBI is pleased to welcome a monthly gathering of discussion and camaraderie for middle-aged and older men in the community.

Join other men in a safe and supportive space where participants can talk openly about themselves in relation to various topics. Jerome Rosen will facilitate the group by maintaining focus and bringing themes to talk about each time. Some examples

might be: How Judaism has shaped your identity, being a Jewish partner, giving back, intimacy, and quieting the mind in a world of noise.

Jerome Rosen is a retired couples and family therapist with over 40 years of experience. He has facilitated a variety of groups, and men's groups are his favorite.

Gatherings will be held monthly on the second Thursday from 12 to 1:30

pm in the synagogue's library. (Bring a bag lunch!)

The first group will be on Thursday, May, 9 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Please contact Jerome Rosen: benjam4r@gmail.com 360-914-0524.

Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah: Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day



Sunday, May 5, 7:00 pm

Please join us for our annual *Yom HaShoah* Service of Remembrance. This intergenerational event will include leadership from our seventh- and eighth-grade students. As in years past, these incredible teens, with help from their teachers Daniel Sauter and Ray Wolpov, have created a service packet filled with their poetry and writings. They will also lead us in song with Keshet's song leader, Mikayla Goodkin.

Congratulations to Our 2024 Graduates!



Mia Clarke is graduating from Bellingham High School. She is planning a year of adventures before entering Montana State University in the Fall of 2025.



Rory Verkh-Haskell will be attending the University of Washington Seattle campus in the fall, studying engineering.

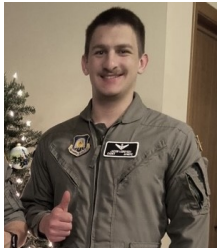


Bella Gentry will attend Chico State University and is interested in studying psychology. She hopes to continue her interests in music and drama as well in student productions.



Sydney Wolfson, child of proud parents Laura and Cassandra Wolfson, is graduating with honors from Sehome High School. After working as a camp counselor at URJ's Creative Arts camp this summer, he will be attending Western Washington University's

Honors Program in the fall. He is planning to study psychology and happy to remain a part of the Beth Israel congregation.



Jake Lebovich graduates *cum laude* from Central Washington University with a BS in computer science, and a minor in mathematics. Also completing four years as a US Air Force ROTC cadet, he will commission into the USAF as a Second Lieutenant. In July he'll begin

his career at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK training as a pilot with the Seventy-First Flying Training Wing.



Avrom Lindner will graduate this spring from Interlochen Arts Academy, where he has attended boarding school for the past four years. In August Avrom is heading to the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance, where he will pursue a Bachelor of

Music in cello performance. Go Blue!

Confirmation Shabbat Service

Friday, June 7, 2024 at 6:15 pm

Every year, in a Confirmation Service, we honor those students in our community who "graduate" from Keshet. These outgoing sophomores have been studying social justice issues through a Jewish lens for the past two years. Some have even traveled to Washington, DC with Rabbi Samuels and lobbied their elected officials on specific issues that resonated deeply with them. Please consider joining us to hear from our students: Liza Jane Price, Sonorah DesRosiers, Lucy Naiman, Gabe Witte, and Natalie Ravitsky. Mazel tov to each of them.

Play piano and/or sing



Gayle Cloud, MT-BC

Piano and/or vocal lessons
for children or adults

gaylecloudmusic@gmail.com
917-345-3144

www.cloudmusictherapy.com
Located close to synagogue

25%
of your first
purchase will go
to Congregation
Beth Israel ♥



#360-224-1433
www.joyofpilates.net
info@joyofpilates.net

Top Ten Plagues

Jason Benhaim

ACROSS

- 1 Word game in which you might draw a blank
- 9 The third and most parasitic plague
- 13 Persian patterns popular in the 60s
- 14 Worker's year-end reward
- 15 Red-handed
- 16 French card game for two
- 18 Time to play golf
- 19 Advanced teaching deg.
- 20 Costner role in 'Dances With Wolves'
- 21 Location
- 22 Air rifle ammo
- 23 Consumed
- 24 Bench ___ (weightlifting staple)
- 26 Stuck in ___ (going nowhere)
- 27 Target muscle for 24-Across
- 28 The tenth and most final plague
- 29 The second and most amphibian plague
- 30 Main setting of Cheryl Strayed memoir 'Wild'
- 31 Medical suffix
- 32 Little Greek letters
- 33 Marine mammal that maims Buster in 'Arrested Development'
- 34 Powerful sports cars

- 35 The first and most incarnadine plague
- 36 White with frost
- 37 Draw
- 38 Voice below soprano
- 39 The sixth and most dermatological plague
- 40 Long in the tooth
- 41 Units named in honor of Alexander Graham Bell: Abbr.
- 42 Like some monuments: Abbr.
- 43 Jewish, in Hebrew
- 45 The seventh and most meteorological plague
- 46 Fire starter?
- 49 Be short with
- 50 Unctuous quality
- 52 Benjamin
- 53 Mine conveyances
- 54 Poet ___ St. Vincent Millay
- 55 The ninth and most invisible plague

DOWN

- 1 Local landform Semiahmoo ___
- 2 Sugar source
- 3 Bat Mitzvah, for one
- 4 Campfire residue
- 5 Small flaw
- 6 The fourth and most wild plague
- 7 Secondary école
- 8 Founded, as a co.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14				
15								16				17
18			19					20				
21							22			23		
24	25					26				27		
28						29				30		
31				32						33		
34			35						36			
37				38				39				
40				41			42					
43		44				45				46	47	48
49						50				51		
52							53					
54							55					

- 9 The eighth and most insatiable plague
- 10 "Gone ___ instant"
- 11 Property's outer attractiveness
- 12 English station wagons
- 14 Mattress invaders
- 17 In a manner both vertical and straight
- 21 Complete collections
- 22 Contemporary art museum in Los Angeles, with "The"
- 24 The fifth and most epidemic plague
- 25 Common classroom signal
- 26 Threepio's buddy in 'Star Wars'
- 28 Tennis balls and tug-of-war ropes, e.g.
- 29 Pays, as the bill
- 32 "All right, tell me more"
- 33 Potting material
- 35 Inaccurate information
- 36 Tasty bit of electric guitar
- 39 One who dips out
- 42 Nigerian currency
- 44 Atop
- 45 Parka part
- 46 Nothing more than
- 47 Believers or adherents
- 48 Snake sound
- 51 Granny, to a Brit

Let's cook!

Two opportunities are coming up to celebrate as families: Israeli Independence Day (*Yom Haatzmaut*) and Shavuot. Perhaps this year especially, the importance of the family around us, as well as our family of Jews around the world, provides a special significance.

As we gather, we often share a meal. Here are some recipes you might include at your table.

For Yom Haatzmaut, here's a wonderful recipe for vegetarian chopped liver made with eggplant, and the whole family can make it together!

Vegetarian Chopped "Liver"

(From *The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen* by Joan Nathan)

Ingredients:

1 medium eggplant
1 medium onion, minced
2 Tbsp (¼ stick) *pareve* margarine or butter
2 hard-boiled eggs
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Adult: Preheat oven to 450°.

Child: Pierce the eggplant with a fork.

Adult: Place the eggplant on a foil-lined baking sheet and cook about 20 minutes, or until soft. Remove from the oven, cool, and peel off the skin

Adult: In a small frying pan, sauté half the minced onion in margarine or butter, turning occasionally with a fork.

Child with Adult: Grind the eggplant, fried and raw onions, and eggs in a food grinder or processor until they are the consistency of chopped liver

Child: Add as much salt and pepper as you like. Refrigerate. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before serving.



For Shavuot, what other than cheesecake! Perhaps the most often-cited reason to celebrate Shavuot with dairy is that it symbolizes the promised land of milk and honey. Whatever the reason, enjoy this recipe:

Cheesecake with Pine Nuts and Orange

(From Faye Levy's *International Jewish Cookbook*)

Ingredients:

Orange scented pastry

2½ cups (10 oz) all-purpose flour

½ cup (4 oz) sugar

Pinch of salt

1 cup (8 oz) cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

2 tsp grated orange rind

1 large egg, beaten

Cheese filling

1 lb cottage cheese

1 lb cream cheese, softened

¾ cup (6 oz) sugar

2 large eggs

2 large egg yolks

½ cup (4 fl oz) whipping cream

5 tsp grated orange rind

⅓ cup (1 ½ oz) pine nuts

Lightly butter a 9-inch springform pan. For the crust, combine flour, sugar, and salt in a food processor. Process briefly to blend, then scatter the butter pieces over the mixture. Mix using on/off pulses until mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Sprinkle with grated rind and pour the egg evenly over the mixture in the processor. Process with on/off pulses, scraping down occasionally, until dough forms sticky crumbs; do not allow them to come together in a ball.

Sprinkle two-thirds of the crumbs evenly in the springform pan. Put the rest of the crumbs in a bowl in the freezer. With floured hands, press crumbs onto the bottom of the pan and 2 inches up the side. Chill the pan in the freezer while preparing the filling. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

For the cheese filling, push cottage cheese through a strainer; set aside. Beat cream cheese with sugar until smooth. Add eggs, one by one, and beat after each addition, then beat in yolks. Stir in cottage cheese, cream, and orange rind.

Pour the filling into the springform pan. Crumble remaining pastry crumb mixture between your fingers and sprinkle on top of the filling. Sprinkle the pine nuts over the crumbs and pat very gently so the topping adheres to the filling.

Set the springform pan on a baking sheet. Bake for about an hour and 15 minutes or until set.

If the topping is not brown enough, broil for about 30 seconds, checking every few seconds, until golden brown. Cool completely. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. (Cake can be kept for 3 days in the refrigerator.) Serve cold.

The
Curated
TRAVEL COLLECTION®

Parent Company of Ears of Experience

919-280-7824

Steven Cohen
TRAVEL CONCIERGE

scohen@curatedtravelcollection.com
www.magicaldestinationsbysteve.com

Faces in Our Community: Roby Blecker

BY HOLLY WITTE

The thing about Roby Blecker is that her story is not a linear story.

Oh, it's possible to trace the chronological steps she took from suburban Philadelphia to Los Angeles to Bellingham, but that could never encompass Roby's essence, her nature, or the enormous capacity of her mind to hold many things within it at once.

A quick look around her home reveals some of the many interests—photos everywhere of the happy life she shared with husband Keith, married for 35 of their 36 years together and, it is obvious, to whom she is still deeply connected although he has been a blessed memory since 2013. Figures of cats populate the bookshelves already filled to overflowing with books. The surface of a table in front of the sofa is covered with more books, papers, a laptop, a collapsible keyboard for a PDA, and a big needlepoint tapestry on a frame that she is in the midst of completing and which will eventually grace the Bima at Beth Israel with five other panels depicting the Creation. A beautiful five-year old Silken Windhound named Dahlia gracefully navigates the inside space while squirrels romp on the railing of the deck, carpeted with sunflower seeds so they stay away from the several hanging bird feeders.

Roby cares about many things. Most of all, she cares about helping people and bringing the full force of her spiritual core to that task.



Roby Blecker holding her first book, *Commencement*.

“Spiritual things are a big deal to me,” she says. Deeper conversation leads her to talk about co-incidences, as she spells them, things that seem to happen to her on the daily plane where we all exist, but on another plane as well, so that she is where she needs to be at that time. And sometimes she can be where others need her to be.

Her compassionate ministrations benefit from a broad skillset. She is a Spiritual and Retreat Director, certified by the Los Angeles Archdiocesan program; a pararabbinic on Jewish issues of death and dying; author of a number of books in the genres of science fiction/fantasy, and historical romance (look those up under her pen name, Roby James); contributor to the *Washington Post*, and *Guideposts*; book editor; Community and Continuing Education Instructor at Whatcom Community College.

She also finds time to serve as the third leg of the *Shul Shofar* editing team, putting her eagle-eye on the content before it is committed to print, a task she has undertaken for ten years, and as an erstwhile volunteer on several committees at CBI.

Roby's first book, *Commencement*, was published in 1996 after an eleven-year hiatus in writing it because, by then, she was married, and her husband needed a lot of attention, which she wanted to make sure he got. Besides the successes of her marriage and the first book, her real reward was Keith telling her just before he died that hers was the only love he truly believed in.

Their rich life together included many journeys: nine trips rafting the Colorado river; a journey of faith as Keith made the decision to convert to Judaism and Roby returned to her

Continued on Page 14

IT'S PURIM!



1. and 2. JEMS² making *hamantaschen*. 3. Finished products! 4. MASSA Students Lucy Naiman and Natalie Ravitsky set up the annual Purim silent auction. 5. The Samuels family celebrating Purim, Barbie style. 6. Chloe Braunstein and Jade Terris. 7. Purim celebration. 8. Kellan Moss making balloon animals.

Birthdays

MAY 2024

5/1 Emily Falk
 5/2 Sophie Fay (12th)
 5/2 Richard Trank
 5/3 Lenny Halpern (17th)
 5/4 Avigail Ravitsky (10th)
 5/4 Bobbie Jaffe
 5/4 Sydney Wolfson (18th)
 5/5 Rick Adelstein
 5/5 Michael Braunstein
 5/5 Oleg Ravitsky
 5/5 Russell Sheinkopf
 5/6 Gary Adelstein
 5/6 Evangeline Cambo (1st)
 5/8 Bonnie Cavell
 5/8 Greg Schwartz
 5/8 Corey Welch
 5/10 Andy Kaplowitz
 5/10 Nathan Kronenberg (7th)
 5/10 Penny Schuman
 5/10 Beth Tableman
 5/12 Warren Cornwall
 5/12 Leah Grossman
 5/13 Tim Baker
 5/13 David Cohn
 5/13 Adam Greenberg (23rd)
 5/14 Laura Wall
 5/15 Anne-Marie Misko-Kennedy
 5/16 Lyla Simmie Attar (7th)
 5/16 Max Johnson (23rd)
 5/16 Ruth San Pietro
 5/16 Natalie Ravitsky (16th)
 5/17 Lindsey Genut
 5/17 Suzanne Fischel Kite
 5/18 Kendra Bradford
 5/18 Adelle John
 5/19 Howard Fuller
 5/19 Kathy Grossman

5/20 Helen Franklin
 5/20 John Siegfried
 5/20 Emily Weiner
 5/21 Meredith Attar
 5/21 Cindy Friedman
 5/21 Ann Suloway
 5/22 Danny Finkelstein
 5/22 Aviva Grossman (13th)
 5/23 Isaac Blum
 5/23 Alexis Gentry
 5/23 Serge Lindner
 5/23 Ezra Carter Price (19th)
 5/23 Holly Witte
 5/24 Harriet Fine
 5/24 Jeffrey Holtzman
 5/24 Stephen Martin
 5/24 Becki Van Glubt
 5/25 Alan Barney
 5/25 Rena Blauner
 5/26 Cassandra Wolfson
 5/27 Fay Farkas
 5/29 Aline Wanne
 5/30 Teddy Ingberman (21st)
 5/31 Todd Witte

JUNE 2024

6/1 Lyra Olivia Curme (2nd)
 6/1 Steve Spitzer
 6/1 Caden Stoane (22nd)
 6/3 Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger
 6/3 Linda B. Hirsh
 6/4 Emily Bastow
 6/4 Belle Shalom
 6/5 Samuel Comstock (14th)
 6/5 Lore Filgueira
 6/5 Brian Gentry
 6/5 Paxton Gentry (10th)
 6/6 Stephanie Druckman

6/6 Kelsey Thomas
 6/8 Chris Balton
 6/8 Cherryne Kravitz
 6/8 Janet Seltzer
 6/9 Harrison Covell (14th)
 6/9 Jeffrey Grossman
 6/10 Oren Benhaim (2nd)
 6/10 James Prickett
 6/11 Diane Garmo
 6/11 Neah Ingram-Monteiro
 6/11 Marcy Probst
 6/11 Aiden Shupack (12th)
 6/11 Adin Sokol (22nd)
 6/12 Ansel Hecht (8th)
 6/12 Ron Walt
 6/12 Henry Zemel
 6/13 Leslie Shankman
 6/14 Willa Wren Levinson (10th)
 6/15 Diane Leigh
 6/16 Lee Shapiro
 6/17 Valerie Randolph
 6/17 Todd Shuster
 6/19 Rena Ziegler
 6/19 Dana Goodwin
 6/20 Phyllis Mazur
 6/21 Sheila Sondik
 6/22 Milo Levinson (15th)
 6/24 Jill Elkayam
 6/25 Mike Brennan
 6/25 Abigail Falk (5th)
 6/25 Julia Schwartz (22nd)
 6/26 Tracy Diller
 6/26 Clair Garretson (12th)
 6/26 Jane Hammerstrom
 6/26 Jeremiah Witte (17th)
 6/26 Nathaniel Witte (17th)
 6/27 Sid Wanne
 6/29 Nicole Samuels



**THOMAS LUTZ
FURNITURE**

Designer and Builder of CBI's Ark



www.thomaslutzfurniture.com | 360.220.5324

Love Where You Live



Melissa Schapiro,

Realtor with



MELISSA.SCHAPIRO@EXPREALTY.COM
 360.738.7182 MELISSASCHAPIRO.COM
 2219 Rimland Dr., Suite 301 Bellingham WA 98226

JEMS² – New Program for Middle Schoolers Launches

JEMS², which launched on March 23 and will meet monthly, focuses on Four Foundational Pillars: Jewish values; Jewish Education and Lifelong Learning; Mentorship; and Service for local and global communities. It will also involve a lot of fun!

The creation of this program was made possible with the support of a generous benefactor who saw the success of our current Jewish Middle School Youth Group (JEMS). Inspired by its core focus on outreach to Jewish youth who had not previously been affiliated or connected with any existing Jewish community, the goal of this outreach is to ensure that every Jewish young person knows that they are each an important part of the Jewish community. Our benefactor challenged us to take that mission of outreach and think bigger. Thus, JEMS² was born.

The exponent of 2 is meant to lift the sense of community we foster even higher. Involvement in our program will nurture a sense of inclusion and belonging, as well as selfless generosity that we hope will last a lifetime.

As we begin, we extend thanks to Rabbi Samuels for his guidance, support, and leadership.

This new youth group program is open to all kids in middle school (sixth-eighth grades), affiliated or unaffiliated with a synagogue, who live in Whatcom, Skagit, or Snohomish Counties. If you have a child who is currently in middle school or will be in middle school in September, they are welcome to participate.

Group leader and facilitator Kevin Donner along with Baking Bubbe Terri Weiner launched the JEMS² program with...food! Specifically, participants learned about the making of *hamantaschens* and cheese *sambousek* (a traditional Purim treat enjoyed by the Iraqi Jewish community) and about the heritage and customs of Jewish communities around the globe. Kids had a chance to vote on baking a Purim treat from the Jewish communities of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, or Libya and the *sambousek* treats did not disappoint.

Not only were the treats enjoyed by participants, arrangements were made for the CBI Care Committee to give a quantity of the baked *hamantaschens* and *sambousek* to members of our community in need.

Contact Kevin Donner at the_kcd@hotmail.com for information about JEMS² and to enroll.

JEMS² Initial Cohort:

Tessa Cherry
Lea Donner
Chiara Horton
Esther Horton
Aspen Kinney
Glen Lertzman
Max Naiman
Wolf Pomerantz

Eytan Samuels
Shoshana Samuels
Nora Seltz
Xavier Sommers
Elie Tilland
Sylvan Weinstein
Elizabeth Witte



Tikkun Leil Shavuot

June 11, 2024, 8:00 pm

Shavuot is one of the original three major festivals in the Jewish tradition. It celebrates the giving of the Torah on Sinai. In honor of this gift, it's customary to spend part of the holiday studying from our sacred texts. Developed by the sixteenth-century mystics in Tzfat, a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is an all-night study session. At Beth Israel, however, we'll start at 8:00 pm.

Some previous topics include: Jewish humor in the Talmud; How LGBTQ+ Jews have reinvented Jewish rituals; Stories and Symbols; The Book of Ruth through the eyes of Yiddish poets; Judaism and the environment; Seinfeld; Jewish paper cutting; the Kaddish; and so much more.

May/June 2024 Service Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Friday evening services and Saturday Torah study will be hybrid, allowing congregants and visitors to worship or study in person, or attend via Zoom. **Except for B'Nei Mitzvah, all Saturday morning services will be in person only.**

Friday, May 3	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family service, featuring the Keshet K/1 grade class with potluck afterward	Saturday, Jun. 1	9:30 Torah Study (<i>Parashat Bechukotai</i>)
Saturday, May 4	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Acharei Mot</i>) 11:00 am Jewish Renewal Services	Friday, Jun. 7	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service-Confirmation Service with potluck afterward
Friday, May 10	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Saturday, Jun. 8	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Bamidbar</i>) 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
Saturday, May 11	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Kedoshim</i>) 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service	Friday, Jun. 14	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Friday, May 17	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Saturday, Jun. 15	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Naso</i>) 11:00 am Tot Shabbat
Saturday, May 18	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Emor</i>) 11:00 am Tot Shabbat-TBD	Friday, Jun. 21	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with potluck afterward
Friday, May 24	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Saturday, Jun. 22	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Behalotecha</i>) 10:30 am Conservative Minyan Service
Saturday, May 25	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Behar</i>) 10:30 am Conservative Minyan Service	Friday, Jun. 28	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Friday, May 31	Fifth Friday-Shabbat at Home	Saturday, Jun. 29	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Shelach</i>)

Anniversaries

May 1	Richard & Idalina Trank (#20)	June 10	Bob & Cindy Friedman (#45)
May 5	Jeff & Rochelle LaPlante (#12)	June 10	David Strich & Michelle Banks (#10)
May 7	Steven & Victoria Garfinkle (#30)	June 12	Andy Kaplowitz & Lore Filgueira (#4)
May 9	John & Melissa Schapiro (#31)	June 12	Gaby & Victoria Mayers (#39)
May 11	Patrick Crane & Rick Peavy (#40)	June 14	Joel & Jessica Cohen (#16)
May 12	Jeffrey & Wendy Holtzman (#39)	June 16	Tammy & Daryl Dixon (#17)
May 18	Rick & Leslie Adelstein (#49)	June 16	Dr. Ben & Betsy Becker (#6)
May 24	Rick & Tracey Levine (#37)	June 18	David & Jill Elkayam (#46)
May 24	Rebecca & Andrew Orloff (#26)	June 19	Miles Bryant & Sarah Bauman (#48)
May 28	David & Ellen Smith (#47)	June 19	Erin & Steven Cohen (#36)
May 29	Darcie Donegan & Phil Buri (#31)	June 19	David & Nancy Halpern (#20)
May 29	Rabbi Joshua & Nicole Samuels (#19)	June 19	Ann Suloway & Tim Baker (#31)
June 2	Jay & Donna Solomon (#60)	June 23	Meg Jacobson & Russell Pritchett (#50)
June 3	Samantha Sinai & Alex Jeffers (#7)	June 23	David & Rena Ziegler (#56)
June 5	John Sternlicht & James Finley (#14)	June 25	Peter & Nancy Auerbach (#58)
June 8	Richard & Bonnie Cavell (#27)	June 25	Sarah & Todd Witte (#24)
June 8	Jeff & Jessica Galbraith (#22)	June 27	Anne-Marie Misko-Kennedy & Scott Kennedy (#26)
June 9	Don Fenbert & Valerie Randolph (#34)	June 29	Mike & Jamie Altman (#5)

Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at

(360) 733-8890 or [emailoffice@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:office@bethisraelbellingham.org) with the month, day, and year of your special day.

Special Fund Donations

BUILDING SECURITY FUND

Thank you to everyone who donated to the additional security costs of the building.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

*Linda Blackwell and David Goldman
Gayle Gordon-Martin and Steve Martin
Lou and Marcia Lippman
Richard and Idalina Trank*

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Michelle Ballan and all of her wonderful achievements.
From: *Anita Weinstein*

CARE COMMITTEE

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Adelle John

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Marc Krandel
From: *Paul Blum and Alison Zak*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels-Thanks for the advice!
From: *Howard and Terri Lichtenstein*

Rabbi Samuels for your assistance in the unveiling of Harold Katz's plot.
From: *Susan Katz*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My beloved husband, Manny S. Emanuel
From: *Harriet Emanuel*

IN MEMORY OF:

Binnie Perper's sister-in-law, Ann Perper.
From: *Linda Blackwell and David Goldberg*

Rita Spitzer's brother, Fred Corman.

From: *Linda Blackwell and David Goldberg*

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Katie and David Edelstein's new granddaughter.
From: *Carol and David Robinson*

GENERAL FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Susan Jay's Family
From: *Joan and Marv Wayne*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Judith Osman
From: *Jack and Karen Fisher
Richard and Annette Whittaker*

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

With thanks to those who organized the wonderful series of Purim festivities.
From: *Arundel and Art Pritchett*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Richard and Idalina Trank

The Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County Wants To Identify Volunteers

The Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County is hoping to identify volunteers from Congregation Beth Israel in several areas. The Coalition's major focus is providing core services for unhoused people. Finding new committee volunteers as well as board members is a priority.

Learn more about the Coalition here:
www.interfaith-coalition.org

For questions and more information about this rewarding opportunity, please contact Jerome Rosen, 360-914-0524 or benjam4r@gmail.com

Oneg Hosting

We'll be creating the list of Oneg dates and hosts for 2024-2025 soon. If you have a special date/time for which you would like to volunteer, please let us know soon. Now that our upstairs kitchen is functioning and stocked with Oneg supplies, hosting is easy.

We understand that many congregants may need more information before deciding if hosting is something you are interested in doing. Please let us know your questions. To volunteer or ask questions, reach us at: [Joan Wayne jawayne2@gmail.com](mailto:Joan.Wayne.jawayne2@gmail.com) or [Sarah Witte snwithe@yahoo.com](mailto:Sarah.Witte.snwithe@yahoo.com)



PERSONAL TOUCH TRAVEL DESIGN

ERIN COHEN 919-280-6419
TRAVEL AGENT erin@personaltouchtraveldesign.com
www.personaltouchtraveldesign.com

Building memories one vacation at a time

an independent affiliate of SGIFED, A VIRTUOSO agency

FROM THE RABBI*Continued from Page 1*

fering views? This is definitely what it feels like in today's world, and it concerns me. I know the show is for entertainment purposes, but I think we all notice our society inching closer and closer to this model.

Dr. Geoffrey Grief, professor at the University of Maryland and author of *Buddy System: Understanding Male Friendships*, writes, "Do you want to engage in a sincere discussion with the person whose views you are unlikely to change? If so, active listening wherein you and he are not defensive and take an inquiring stance to learn each other's thinking is more productive than arguing and holding on to assumptions about each other that may not be true." This all makes sense, but is it an achievable outcome?

The famous rabbinic odd couple, Hillel and Shammai, teach us that this is all possible. These adversaries from 2000 years ago are the Jewish exemplars for civil discourse and conflict. Despite their countless heated debates, these opposing rabbis maintained a peaceful relationship with one another because they engaged in a form of debate called, *machloket l'shem shamayim*, arguments for the sake of heaven. This type of debate is rooted in respect for other people, especially those with viewpoints opposed to our own. Hillel and Shammai did not try and destroy each other with superior arguments, but rather, their goal was to search for the true understanding of Torah by respectfully challenging and questioning one another. And most importantly, they sought to learn from one another.

To be fair, these scholars and their followers were not always civil. Sometimes they were downright brutal and

maniacal. I think this shows us just how challenging it actually is to have a meaningful debate with another person whose worldview seems entirely divergent from our own. And when it comes to Israel and the war in Gaza, good luck on finding people who share your point of view.

Since October 7, I have appreciated congregants who have reached out and asked to meet for coffee to discuss something I said with which they disagree. I am always willing to listen and quietly debate anything I may have said in a Shabbat sermon. I welcome folks to contact me. Those few who have done this are people that I respect greatly and whose views have helped to shape my own. Staged walkouts and other performative gestures, on the other hand, are disruptive and not for the sake of heaven.

As the war continues to get worse before it gets better, coupled with the increasing amount of anti-Israel/Jewish rhetoric rising to seemingly unprecedented levels in our country, we need to ask ourselves whether we are able to look at those who hold polar opposite views from our own with respect. Can we engage in conversation with a sense of humility and in good faith? Can we admit when we might be wrong, or consider opposing views? How can we try and be more like Hillel and Shammai by growing and learning from other people in this trying time?

I hope that when we seek dialogue we will bring thoughtful ideas and be open to new ones. I hope that we will allow ourselves to be vulnerable with one another. And I hope that we will appreciate the lived experiences of those whose opinions are different from our own. I know we are up to the task.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

ROBY BLECKER*Continued from Page 8*

Judaism in a new way: a shared path of humor and deep commitment to each other.

But before that rich life together...there was a little tell-all quality to Roby's life! A Hollywood producer (*The Man from Uncle*) read some of her work and brought her to Hollywood to become a script writer. She wrote a script for a TV series, loved by everyone associated with it except the star of the series. He didn't read it because he said he didn't read scripts from women! Undaunted, she changed her given name (Rhoda) to the more androgynous Roby and launched her own writing career despite him.

Oh, and her first kiss was from Robert Goulet in his dressing room while he was performing in *Camelot*... she says it taught her where the noses go!

Now Roby is committed to how the interfaith nature of her spirituality can help others. In a piece published in the *Washington Post* and in a book of stories about transformation and the soul, she writes of being led to a monastery through a dream and developing a lifelong friendship with a nun, Mother Miriam, who encouraged her to re-explore herself as a Jewish woman. Her self-knowledge, life experiences, and fine intelligence make her someone people want to have at their sides on their own spiritual journeys. "I am astounded and humbled," she says, "to be recognized as someone who helps."

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, May 3

Ethel Berger	5/4
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	5/5
Jeanne Schwartz	5/5
Selma Lebovich	5/5
Gregory Kurman	5/7
Lloyd Saxton	5/9
Lucie Weis	5/9
Raymond Marzullo	5/9
Thelma Weiner	5/9
Barbara Vaughan	5/10
Edward Stone	5/10
Wesley Forman	5/10

Friday, May 10

Nancy Kaufman	5/11
Rose Sondik	5/11
Sally Warshay	5/11
Eliezer Strich	5/12
Karleen Press	5/12
William Deas	5/12
Goldie Kassen	5/13
Elayen B. Weiner	5/14
Mary Widerkehr	5/14
Sharon Gordon Greer	5/14
Esther Siegel	5/17
Florence Marcus	5/17
Judith Teir Kasser	5/17

Friday, May 17

Felicia Keller	5/18
Sergio Shwadsky	5/18
Benjamin Ostry	5/19
Emmanuel Jacobson	5/19
Ray Jay	5/19
Lois M. Welch	5/20
Maia Haykin	5/20
Lloyd Relin	5/21
Rachel DeVries	5/21
Elaine Greenberg	5/22
Evelyn Roberts	5/22
Fred Spector	5/22
Alan Raas	5/23
Frances (Faigie) Morrill Schlitt	5/23
Saul S. Spiro	5/23

Friday, May 24

Alan Stone	5/25
Audrey May King	5/25
Sydell Zemell	5/25
Irene Rosenfield	5/26
Louis Suloway	5/27
Margaret Horwitz	5/27
Esther Kahn	5/29
Walter Miller	5/29
Harold Boehi	5/30
Irwin Suloway	5/30

Friday, May 31

Arnold Zolotrow	6/2
Sam Eilenberg	6/2
Otto Furth	6/3
Louis Adelstein	6/4
Reva Beck	6/4
Belle Kaplan Shapiro	6/5
David Robinson	6/5
Nan Lopresti	6/5
Samuel Beck	6/5
William Stone	6/5
Dorothy Katz	6/6

Friday, June 7

Dottie Berelson	6/9
Howard Terriss	6/9
Ethel Sandford	6/10
Noemi Ban	6/10
Rose Beck	6/10
Esther Friedman	6/11
Louise Hecht	6/12
William Robinson	6/12
Annette Curtis	6/13
Henry W. Fenbert	6/13

Friday, June 14

Harold Rosenberg	6/15
David Archie Bauman	6/16
Monroe Abrams	6/16
Laurence Sharfstein	6/18
Rosalind Kantor	6/18
Audrey Jaffe	6/19
Sadie Rosen	6/19
Marion Selznick	6/20
Nathan Kronenberg	6/20

Friday, June 21

David Ohms	6/22
Frances Glazer Garmo	6/22
Marcia M. Morris Yust	6/22
Miriam Shepard	6/22
Jack Glazer	6/24
Edward R. Glazer	6/25
Stanley Schlanger	6/25
Harold "Bud" Blank	6/26
Lillian Feldman	6/26
Rose Rebecca Glazer	6/26
Stanley Friedman	6/26
Vincent Romito	6/26
Bill Lewis	6/27

Friday, June 28

Gloria Abrams	6/29
Marcella Schapiro	6/29
Bebe Bala Bender Wolff	6/30
Elaine Lev Beller	7/1
Irving Edward Shapiro	7/1
Perry Davids	7/1
Beatrice (Bea) Moss	7/2
Edith Corman	7/2
Howard Kennedy	7/2
Paul Zemel	7/2
Cora Quiggle	7/3
Mark Raymond Witter	7/3
Elaine Meadows	7/4
Rasela Catz	7/4
William Beck	7/4

In Memoriam

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

We mourn the passing of Beth Israel congregant, **Judy Osman**, who died at home on Monday, February 19, 2024. She was 82 years old.

We are saddened by the loss of a member of our Beth Israel family, **Susan Jay**, who died at home at the Willows surrounded by family on Saturday, March 16, 2024. She was 93.

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

Marcy Probst on the passing of her father, **Michael Ramsey**, who passed away peacefully at home with family at his bedside on January 3, 2024. He was 74.

Rita Spitzer on the loss of her brother, **Fred Corman**, on February 23, 2024 in Lexington, KY.

Binnie Perper on the passing of her sister-in-law, **Ann Perper**, on March 10, 2024 in Arlington, VA after a long battle with ovarian cancer. She was 78.

James Finley (Sternlicht) on the loss of his father, **John Howard Finley**, on March 25, 2024 in El Paso, TX. He was 87 years old.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Tikkun Leil Shavuot

June 11, 2024, 8:00 pm

Come spend a couple hours on Erev Shavuot learning some Torah.

If you are interested in leading a 10-minute Jewish teaching, please contact Rabbi Samuels.

See page 11 for more info!