

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 22, NO. 5 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * www.bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Torah, Cheesecake, Annual Meeting, Oh My!

A few weeks ago the Beth Israel community came together and took part in one of the oldest and most widespread Jewish rituals still around today: participating in a Pesach seder. All of us “relived” the experience our ancestors went through, including eating matzah and recalling the ten plagues. Seven weeks later we have the opportunity to come back together to celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai during Shavuot. This festival, which also marks the agricultural cycle in ancient Israel, was considered one of the three main festivals in the Hebrew calendar. While it’s lost some of its popularity with American Jews, Shavuot is still a good time to ask important questions, such as: How do we find ourselves in the Sinai story? How are we able to connect to our rich heritage?

One way we connect to our heritage is by coming together and marking these special festivals in meaningful ways. On Sunday, May 20, our sacred community is going to hold its annual meeting. How can



listening to updates about our synagogue be special, you might ask? Congregation Beth Israel is the hub of Jewish life in Bellingham and our surrounding areas. And Torah is at the heart of all that we do. The values and lessons we glean from Torah guide us in our committee work, in our Keshet program and in the many ways each of us expresses our Jewishness. Our annual meeting is a way for the community to see and hear how we’ve been guided by Torah this past year.

We will begin with a cheesecake competition in honor of Shavuot! Please bring your cakes, and make

Continued on Page 11

FROM THE RABBI

A Lesson from Our Students

In a recent New York Times article¹, *Holocaust Is Fading From Memory, Survey Finds*, reporter Maggie Astor shares some alarm-



ing statistics about the lack of knowledge Americans have about the *Shoah*. According to the survey conducted by the Claims

Conference², with input from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem, “31 percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust” and a surprising “41 percent of Americans, and 66 percent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was.”

It’s clear that the farther we get from these horrific events, the more likely it is that people will feel indifferent about learning the details and discussing this topic with one another. However, with approximately 400,000 *Shoah* survivors still living around the world, annual *Yom HaShoah* services and Holocaust Remembrance ceremonies as well as higher educa-

Continued on Page 11

INSIDE:

• FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Richard Widerkher, page 8

• SHAVUOT HAPPENINGS, page 10

• SHOAH REMEMBRANCE WINDOW, page 12



From the President...

Tradition, tradition!

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Together with our fellow Jews everywhere, we recently celebrated the miracles of Passover, one of the longest-running traditions on the planet. Passover is a season for freedom, thanks, drinking, and eating (pretty much the four foundations of my Jewish soul). The celebration was sweeter for our community this year as it coincided with our move home, the culmination of one of the longest-running and most successful synagogue building campaigns outside of ancient times. Our doors are open for all of our operations. We have celebrated *simchas* on San Juan Boulevard, and our children have run up and down a set of staircases that would make Tevya proud. Please stop by if you have not yet had the opportunity to worship or play at the campus you all built.

To coincide with the Passover season, a museum recently posted pictures of a slave bible from its collection. Slave bibles are exactly what you might imagine. They were the holy books given to slaves by their masters in the antebellum slave states. Much was missing from a slave bible, including most references to freedom. Indeed, the book of Exodus is absent from the slave bible on display at the Museum of the Bible. For the slaves of our American past, there was to be no Passover. At that time, and in those places, there was no day of rest where both master and servant could stand in contemplation as equals. Freedom, as has so often been the case in our history, was denied to so many on the basis of invented categories of race.

This year we have also been reminded, here in our own corner of the world, that hatred is alive and well. As many of you know, Western's campus was the scene of re-

cent acts of antisemitic vandalism. A number of books related to the American Jewish experience were destroyed in the stacks at Western's main library. The coward, or cowards, who did this left no mistake about their intent as some of the damaged books were inscribed with messages of hate. I will hurry past the obvious symbolism here of attacking the people of the book in a house of books. Instead, I sigh as I write this and acknowledge that antisemitism is also one of the longest-running traditions on the planet. Sighing, of course, is not a response. Our generation, like those before us, must stand in the way of this pernicious tradition.

Western held a standing room only event to highlight the replacement and re-shelving of the destroyed books, and to display donated books to increase the size of the Jewish Studies collection at the library. The event was capped off by remarks from Sandra Alfes, the inaugural director of the Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity. She concluded, "Commit yourself to being engaged, to actively, thoughtfully, and respectfully building bridges not walls, and creating much needed change... as we stand up in unity against antisemitism, hate, and bigotry." Sandra's words show, in our people's season of freedom, that we must remain active participants in the fight against hatred and oppression.

At Congregation Beth Israel our doors are open and so are our minds; however, we must close the door on hate wherever we encounter it!

— STEVEN GARFINKLE,
PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar
Volume 22, Number 5
May/June 2018
Iyyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5778

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

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

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Pride Parade

Join your Beth Israel family in marching to support the LGBTQ community at Bellingham's Pride Parade on Sunday, July 15.

This will be our third consecutive year marching as a community in solidarity behind a banner at the Pride parade. Last year we had a huge turnout. Let's try to increase our numbers and show the greater Bellingham LGBTQ community that they have an ally in Congregation Beth Israel.

Details about our gathering place and route will be in the e-news as we get closer to the date.

For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)



From the Social Action Committee

CBI's First Blood Drive, Relay for Life, and More

Thanks to all the great volunteers who made Mitzvah Day happen! A special thanks to project leaders Esther Faber, Victoria Mayers, Corrine Gimbel-Levine, Kristin Sykes-David, Joan Wayne, Gloria Lebowitz, Wendy Miller, Amanda Robins, Daniel Zagnoli, Andrea Shupak and Sarann Donegan.

During spring, we celebrate Shavuot by making donations to the Bellingham Food Bank. We also plan, as a congregation, to walk and contribute to the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life**, July 6th and 7th.

In May and June, we will collect Milk Money for the **Bellingham Food Bank**. As we celebrate Shavuot with blintzes and cheesecake, we hope to raise enough funds to provide a half-gallon of milk to each

family visiting the Food Bank during June. Please make checks to Bellingham Food Bank and mail donations to the synagogue office. This year's goal: \$500. Also, any donations of baby food and diapers would be appreciated during May and June. Donation bins are located on both floors of the synagogue.

Finally, CBI will have our first **Blood Drive** this fall! Donating blood is simple. If you've never donated blood before, here are a few things to know:

- Sterile, disposable equipment is used for each donation — you can't catch anything from donating blood. The entire process takes about 45 minutes. You get a mini check-up where they check your pulse, blood pressure, and iron. The actual do-

nation only takes about 10-15 min. In less than one hour, you can help up to 3 patients in hospitals throughout the Pacific Northwest.

- Adults must be over age 18 and weigh more than 110 lbs.
- Minors age 16-17 can donate with parental permission, if weight is over 110 lbs. (male) or over 125 lbs. (female). You can generally donate if you have diabetes or a stable chronic disease. You cannot donate blood for 12 months after travels to areas endemic to malaria.

Please contact us to find out the date and time of our next meeting in May. We welcome new volunteers!

— LINDA BLACKWELL,
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, (360) 647-7031

Care: Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381;
Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

Keshet Parent Committee:

Nora Mazonson, (360) 739-4335

Membership: Rita Spitzer,
(360) 647-7065; Ann Suloway,
(360) 647-7031

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

New Synagogue Task Force:

Warren Rosenthal, (360) 961-9772

Scholarship: Emil Hecht,
(360) 733-4825

Social Action: Linda Blackwell,
(360) 647-9519



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Bar Mitzvah



Isaac Sol Orloff will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 19, 2018. He is the son of Rebecca and Andrew Orloff, and the brother of Kayla and Owen.

Isaac is an eighth grader at Fairhaven Middle School, where his favorite subjects are science and math. Isaac has many interests outside school, but his main passions are the trombone and games such as Dungeon & Dragons and Magic

the Gathering. Isaac's mitzvah project was his work as an Explorers Mentor Apprentice for Wild Whatcom.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

May 18, 2018 at 6:15 pm
at Congregation Beth Israel
751 San Juan Blvd.

Pre-service nosh at 5:30 pm.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

May 19, 2018 at 10:00 am
Kiddush and reception
to follow in the Social Hall

Bar Mitzvah



Ezra Carter Price will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 2, 2018. He is the son of Alisa Sachs and Mark Price and the brother of Liza Jane Price.

Ezra is a seventh grader at Whatcom Middle School, where he enjoys devouring books and solving challenging math problems. He plays soccer, runs cross-country and is a member of the TSA Club, the Dungeons and Dragons Club and the QSA Club. Ezra likes reading,

building with Legos, playing the violin, cheering for the Seattle Sounders and adventuring with his Explorer's Club. For his mitzvah project, Ezra has been volunteering to help mentor a younger Explorer's Club member and is organizing a trail work party this summer.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

June 1, 2018 at 7:30 pm
at Congregation Beth Israel
751 San Juan Blvd.
with an oneg to follow.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

June 2, 2018 at 10:00 am
A Kiddush luncheon will follow
in the Social Hall.

Bar Mitzvah



Spencer Gordon Jantzen will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 9, 2018. He is the son of McNeel and KJ Jantzen and grandson of Myron z"l and Barbara Gordon.

Spencer is in the seventh grade at Whatcom Middle School, where he participates in the leadership club. Outside of school Spencer spends most of his time dancing Hip Hop at Harper and I Studio in Belling-

ham, and is a member of their advanced Hip Hop competition team, Subdued Beat Dance. He also enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and his dog Mitzi and cat Oreo. For his mitzvah project, Spencer has been teaching dance and serving as a mentor to young children interested in Hip Hop.

Please join our family in celebration:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

June 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm
at Congregation Beth Israel
751 San Juan Blvd.
with an oneg to follow.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

June 9, 2018 at 10:00 am
A Kiddush luncheon will follow
in the Social Hall

From the Kesher Center for Jewish Learning

Our Children, Our Peacebuilders

אמר רבי אלעזר אמר רבי חנינא תלמידי חכמים מרבים שלום בעולם
שנאמר וכל בניך למודי ה' ורב שלום בניך אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך
שלום רב לאוהבי תורתך ואין למו מכשול (מסכת ברכות ס"ד)



"Rabbi Elazar said in the name of Rabbi Haninah: Torah scholars increase peace in the world. As it says, 'All of

Your children (בְּנֵיךְ) are students of God; great is the peace of Your children' (Isaiah 54:13). Read this not — בְּנֵיךְ 'Your children' — but rather בּוֹנֵיךְ — 'Your builders'." (*Berachot* 64a).

The gift of the Talmud is the insight that it gives us into Torah interpretations by Chazal, our sages. Thousands of years after it was written I find a great deal of comfort reading a passage from the Torah or Talmud that resonates with me today. The passage above, quoting Rabbi Haninah's words, came to me as the missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle that I have been struggling with — namely, the need for supplementary Jewish education in communities such as those of Reform Judaism in North America.

In this passage, Rabbi Haninah's suggests that the way we read the word *banayich* — "your sons/ children" should be with a *cholam* vowel, which will make the word read *bonayich* — "your builders" and that is because as students of Torah, our children are the true builders of peace. But isn't it counterintuitive? To our modern ear, what comes to mind when we hear of "peace builders" is probably diplomats! Heads of



The priestly blessing over our children, our peacebuilders. Kesher's first day at 751 San Juan, March 11, 2018.

states shaking hands! Or... John Lennon! Wait... John Lennon?

John Lennon was the one who wrote:

Imagine there's no countries/ It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion too/ Imagine all the people living life in peace...

Sounds like Lennon certainly didn't think that peace will be built from our children's Jewish education...

So how will the study of Torah give our children what is needed to help them become peacebuilders? I see the answer on the faces of our Kesher students who come to the synagogue every Sunday and, in an

age-appropriate way, struggle with ethical issues from Torah stories, such as "to eat or not to eat [the apple]"; children working together to explore human qualities such as "righteous man," "honest woman" (including or excluding Esther?) or "hero."

I agree with Rabbi Haninah. Our children are our peacebuilders and it is our timeless duty to gift them the study of Torah in a way that we hope will promote the building of peace and *Tikkun Olam* in the world.

—SAGIT HALL שגית הול
DIRECTOR, KESHER CENTER
FOR JEWISH LEARNING

Message from the Interfaith Coalition

The Interfaith Coalition thanks Congregation Beth Israel for your generosity to our 2018 Hope Auction. In addition to what those of you in attendance contributed through ticket or auction item purchase, your generous response through your congregational gifts of beautiful jewelry from Israel helped us reach a record total auction amount of over \$200,000! Know that every day families and individuals in Whatcom County are lifted up and experience hope because of you. Thank you!

Sisterhood Book Club News

The CBI Sisterhood enjoys a thriving book club! On Sunday, May 6th at 2 pm, we will read and discuss *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* by Nathan Englander. The meeting will be held at the home of Roby Blecker.

On Sunday, June 10th at 2 pm, we will read and discuss *Eternal Life* by Dara Horn. Meeting will be at the home of Emily Weiner.

— JOAN WAYNE

Birthdays

MAY 2018

5/2 Richard Trank	5/17 Suzanne Fischél Kite
5/3 Lenny Halpern (11th)	5/18 Kendra Bradford
5/3 Louis Hunter (22nd)	5/18 Adelle John
5/4 Bobbie Jaffe	5/19 Kathy Grossman
5/4 Sydney Wolfson (12th)	5/20 John Siegfried
5/5 Rick Adelstein	5/10 Emily Weiner
5/5 Michael Braunstein	5/21 Meredith Attar
5/5 Russell Sheinkopf	5/21 Andrea James
5/6 Gary Adelstein	5/21 Ann Suloway
5/8 Greg Schwartz	5/22 Danny Finkelstein
5/10 Asher Nathanson (8th)	5/22 Aviva Grossman (7th)
5/10 Penny Schuman	5/23 Isaac Blum
5/11 AJ Ingberman (18th)	5/23 Serge Lindner
5/11 Oren Shilo (4th)	5/23 Ezra Carter Price (13th)
5/12 Warren Cornwall	5/24 Harriet Fine
5/12 Leah Grossman	5/24 Jeffrey Holtzman
5/12 Virginia McCorkle	5/24 Stephen Martin
5/13 Joseph Anderson	5/24 Becki Van Glubt
5/13 Tim Baker	5/25 Alan Barney
5/13 David Cohn	5/26 Stephen Spigelman
5/13 Adam Greenberg (17th)	5/26 Cassandra Wolfson
5/13 Karen Weill	5/27 Fay Farkas
5/16 Lyla Simmie Attar (1st)	5/29 Kim Moskowitz
5/26 Max Johnson (17th)	5/29 Aline Wanne
5/17 Lindsey Genut	5/30 Teddy Ingberman (15th)
	5/31 Hannah Rose
	5/31 Todd Witte

JUNE 2018

6/1 Steve Spitzer	6/13 Leslie Shankman
6/1 Caden Stoane (16th)	6/14 Halle Goldner
6/3 Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger	6/14 Susan Kendal
6/3 Linda B. Hirsh	6/14 Willa Wren Levinson (4th)
6/4 Saml Hunter (18th)	6/15 Diane Leigh
6/4 Judith Osman	6/16 Lee Shapiro
6/4 Belle Shalom	6/16 Stuart Zemel
6/5 Samuel Comstock (8th)	6/17 Valerie Randolph
6/6 Stephanie Druckman	6/17 Todd Shuster
6/6 Raphael Engle	6/19 Rena Ziegler
6/7 Adrienne Champagne	6/20 Phyllis Mazur
6/7 Frank Champagne	6/21 Ruth Schneider
6/7 McNeel Jantzen	6/21 Sheila Sondik
6/8 Chris Balton	6/22 Milo Levinson (9th)
6/8 Janet Seltzer	6/23 Leah Reitz (20th)
6/9 Jeffrey Grossman	6/24 Jill Elkayam
6/10 James Prickett	6/25 Mike Brennan
6/11 Diane Garmo	6/25 Julia Schwartz (16th)
6/11 Marcy Probst	6/26 Tracy Diller
6/11 Galit Shilo	6/26 Jane Hammerstrom
6/11 Aiden Shupack (6th)	6/26 Jeremiah Witte (11th)
6/11 Adin Sokol (16th)	6/26 Nathaniel Witte (11th)
6/12 Ron Walt	6/27 Sid Wanne
6/12 Henry Zemel	6/29 Nicole Samuels

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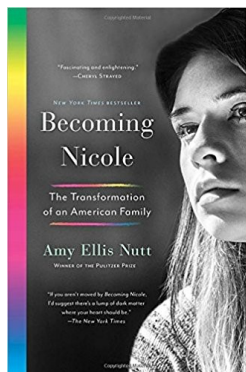


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Social Action Book Club

On Sunday, June 24 at 3 pm, we will be discussing Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist Amy Ellis Nutt's *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of An American Family*. This incredibly moving story is not only about gender identity and transgender rights, but it's also a story about a family initially responding to and eventually embracing their son becoming their daughter.

Amy Ellis Nutt spent four years researching and reporting on this family's journey. According to Random House, "*Becoming Nicole* will resonate with anyone who's ever raised a child, felt at odds with society's conventions and norms, or had to embrace life when it plays out unexpectedly. It's a story of standing up for your beliefs and yourself — and it will inspire all of us to do the same."

Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

Kibud Morim: 6:15 pm Friday, May 4

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

Recognizing Donors to Our New Synagogue

With the move into our new and much larger building, many new policies are needed but one which is already in place is the "Policy for Donor Recognition." It spells out how a donor may select a dedication for our new home and is now posted on the CBI website along with the current List of Dedications.

Eventually, as finances and volunteer time allow, donors will be recognized in tangible ways in and around the new synagogue. On a central wall, likely in the form of a Tree of Life, all new synagogue donors of **\$1,000 or more** will be acknowledged.

In addition, donors of **\$5,000 or more** are welcome to select specific items to be dedicated in their name, such as rooms, furnishings or other building features (stairwells, drinking fountains, etc.). Small plaques near each item dedicated will serve to

honor the donor. All signage will be modest and tasteful, in keeping with the culture of CBI and the interior design of the building.

Another form of "dedication" with broad support is our Legacy Brick Program. For either **\$250 or \$500** congregants and friends of CBI can purchase a brick inscribed with the donor's name or message. Bricks not only help fund completion of the new synagogue project; they also make dedications accessible to all. **But time is running out—Brick orders must be submitted by May 31st!** Bricks can be ordered on the CBI website or by submitting an order form and check.

Todah Raba to all for the generous support of our new synagogue!

Revamped Programming Committee

With the new building come exciting possibilities for programming! It has been quite fun to imagine all the ac-

tivities that our community can share in our new space. The revamped Programming Committee is in the process of setting priority areas for growth, with the goal of offering a wide variety of ongoing activities that appeal to all ages and interests. Growth areas include (but are not limited to): Jewish/Israeli cooking, outdoor exploration, handiwork, local and regional Jewish history, music and dance, off-site field trips, films, games, and literature.

Events will be advertised in the Shofar, the weekly e-news, on the BI Google calendar, and on a physical calendar near the main entrance to the synagogue. It is our hope that congregants will get in the habit of checking one or all of these calendars on a regular basis.

Please note that the Programming Committee meets every one to two months, generally on Sundays. If any congregant has interest in joining the committee, has ideas for programming, or (better yet) has interest in taking the lead on planning an activity, please contact Deborah Oksenberg (doksen@yahoo.com).

Faces in our community

Profiles as Poetry, a Profile of the Author Richard Widerkehr

BY LINDA HIRSH

“Since you left us, all doorways are porous/ Tell me, in the next life, has the sea made peace/ with the incessant shore?”

That’s a poem called “Doors” speaking. Its creator, Richard Widerkehr, questions his father about existence after death.

To read his work is to know those he writes about. To read his work is also to know Richard, whose voice breathes behind the words.

“Writing is one of the things I’ve lived for,” he said. “When it goes well, not many things beat that feeling.”

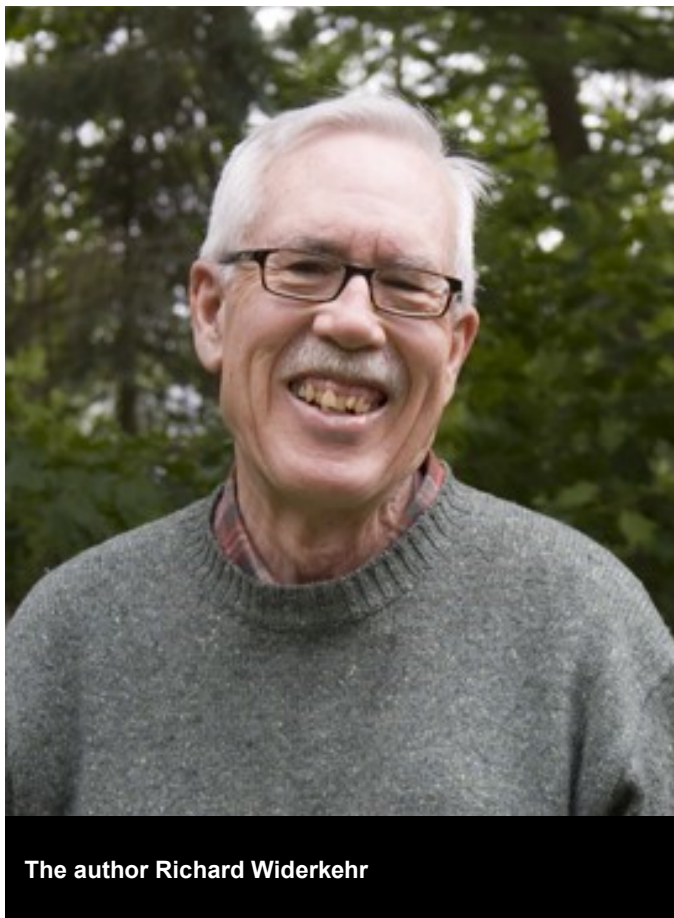
His book *The Way Home* explores his father, who often resides inside Richard’s poetry. In his new book, *The Presence of Absence* — out in 2017 and available at Village Books or from Richard — he expands his cast of characters. He mourns his mother, savors his relationship with his partner Linda Ford, and confronts his own cancer surgery and recuperation.

Richard and his parents were born in New York City. His father, raised Orthodox and secular most of his life, went to work at age 16. He supported the family in the 1930s while attending night school to become a CPA. His mother, originally Christian but a convert to Judaism, worked as a secretary. Richard also has a younger sister.

The family moved to Detroit when Richard was 14. He attended the University of Michigan and earned his masters degree at Columbia University. He moved to Bellingham in 1978 to take writing classes from novelist Annie Dillard. There he met Linda, a mental health counselor, at a folk dancing event. They have been together since 1979.

How does one evolve from a secular Jew to an active member of Congregation Beth Israel? When Richard’s father died in 2006, he recited *Kaddish*, “thinking he’d want me to do that,” he said. “The service was moving and beautiful. This re-engagement of Judaism moved my spirit.”

That spirit stirs in the many poems that Richard wrote, mourning his father. For instance: *“the same way the*



The author Richard Widerkehr

minyan/ stands when we say Kaddish/ as if blessing were both call/ and answer.” Or “I can’t divide zero into you and not get infinity.”

Lines like that, says poet Peggy Shumaker, author of *Gnawed Bones*, “take us far away/ not on a road, maybe deeper.” And poet James Bertolino, author of *Finding Water, Holding Stone*, said “The entire book can be read as a loving, troubled prayer.”

The reader especially gets to know Richard’s love for his father, a difficult but endearing man with a disarming sense of humor, in this bombshell: “the time when I told you I planned to major in English/ and you spit out your inimitable word, ‘Puh!’”

Soon Judaism captured Richard’s spirit. He had his bar mitzvah at age 65, working intensively with Steve

Continued on Page 10

MEZZUZAH HANGING CEREMONY, PURIM, AND PASSOVER



Time to celebrate at CBI!
First row, Mezzuzah hanging ceremony;
second and third row, Purim festival;
and last row, our Passover Seder



Shavuot happenings

Confirmation Shabbat

May 18, 2018

Everyone is invited to celebrate as our 10th grade students complete their formal Jewish education at Beth Israel. Our Confirmation service will include speeches by each student on specific social justice topics, many blessings and gifts from Keshet. A big Mazel Tov to Jacob Anderson, Julia Schwartz, Jake Lebovich, and Jordan Verkh-Haskell. The service will begin at 6:15 pm.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

May 19, 2018

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 16th century mystics in Tzfat, a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is an all-night study session. At Beth Israel, however, we'll be out the door by 10!

In the past couple years we've learned from several teachers in our community on topics such as: Does



Judaism Have a Devil; Torah Calligraphy; and The Jewish Humor of Jackie Mason.

Come spend a couple hours on May 19 at 8 pm, engaged in learning some Torah with friends.

Moroccan Jews believe staying up all night guarantees you life for the next year. How can you possibly turn this down?!?

RICHARD WIDERKEHR

Continued from Page 8

Hoffman, former religious school principal, and with then-Rabbi Cindy Enger.

"Before, I said a Jew is what I am," he said. "Now I really feel it."

Richard sings in the synagogue choir, *Ma'ayan Shir*, and attends weekly Torah Study, where he met member Belle Shalom.

"Richard writes beautifully and movingly from his heart," Belle said. And member Esther Faber described how Richard's poems affect her: "They have an uncanny way of gently opening my internal world. His verbal descriptions of casual observations often resonate with my own."

Poetry entered his life early on.

Indeed, what does a poet do to support himself? This poet taught at community colleges and universities. After moving to Bellingham, he taught in Upward Bound. Jobs

that drew him were becoming a case manager and a counselor at mental health organizations. Retired, he now enjoys "singing, playing guitar, walking, reading, and spending time with Linda," he said, "and going to synagogue, something I've come to look forward to."

His life plan has worked. In addition to his two books of poetry, he has produced a novel, *Sedimental Journey*, and several poetry chapbooks. Garrison Keillor read one of his poems on the radio. His poetry has appeared in literary journals. Richard also won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and first prize for a short story at the Pacific Northwest Writer's Conference. He won awards from The Bridge's and Sue Boynton's poetry contests.

"Writing is most important to me," he said. "And the jobs have just kept me afloat over the years, but they all contributed something to my growth."

And they kept him writing.

Linda Hirsh has lived in Bellingham since August 1998. She spent 10 years reporting for The Hartford Courant in Connecticut.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

tion courses on the subject, it's hard to comprehend how so many of us do not know the basics when it comes to the worst atrocities committed by humans in modern times. Seventy-three years separate us from the liberation of Auschwitz. In the grand scheme of time, this is just a blip. The command to "Never Forget" is surprisingly not being heeded.

Yet, it's not all doom and gloom. While Americans might be lacking some of the basic facts about the Holocaust, the vast majority (93 percent), according to the study, feel that all students should learn about the Holocaust at school. Additionally, 96 percent of respondents believe the Holocaust actually happened. At the very least, there is a strong feeling that children must be taught about this dark chapter in our world's history. And thankfully, very few doubt its historicity.

For those who attended our *Yom HaShoah* service in early April, I am positive that, like me, you left the synagogue with hope after listening to our 7th graders share their reflections about what they have been learning in Kesher. They understand that the responsibility to share and educate about the Holocaust is now on them. These incredible young adults are committed to passing on the stories of Noemi Ban, and all the lessons they've learned about intolerance, hatred, bigotry, and anti-semitism from their teacher Rifka MacDonald, who passed down the knowledge she attained from Ray Wolpow.

Beth Israel is fortunate to foster a culture that is determined to reverse the trends revealed in the Times article. While we might live in our own bubble and feel that the task to is too great, our tradition, nevertheless, teaches us, *Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hivatel*

mimena—"You are not expected to complete the task, but neither are you free to avoid it" (Rabbi Tarfon, *Pirkei Avot* 2:21). May each of us follow the lead of our 7th graders and double down on (re)learning about the Shoah, speaking with Noemi, and sharing our knowledge with anyone willing to listen. In memory of the 6 million who perished and in honor of those 400,000 still living, this chapter in our long narrative must be given the prime attention it deserves.

¹ Astor, Maggie. "Holocaust Is Fading From Memory, Survey Finds." *New York Times*, 12 Apr. 2018

² The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, or Claims Conference, represents the world's Jews in negotiating for compensation and restitution for victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs.

— RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

TORAH, CHEESECAKE,
ANNUAL MEETING, OH MY!

Continued from Page 1

sure to label them. The cheesecake kickoff will be at 5:30 pm and the annual meeting will start at 6 pm.

Part of the meeting will include the election of new Board members. Those up for (re)election include:

Steven Ban, Marcia Lippman, Deborah Oksenberg, Paul Blum, Terri Weiner, and Gaby Meyers. The Executive committee slate is: Steven Garfinkle, President; Miriam Schwartz, Vice-President; Gaby Meyers, Vice-President; Terri Weiner, Treasurer; and Paul Blum, Secretary.

We hope to see all of you up at 751 San Juan Boulevard for our first annual meeting since we received occupancy at our new home. Come and see where we have been over the past year, and where we are going in the next year — we want you to be part of the growth of CBI in our new home.



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Shoah Remembrance Window

BY RAY WOLPOW

In November 1998, the 50-year anniversary of the *Krystallnacht*, Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz and I thought it relevant that we remember the beginning of the Shoah.

We met with Rick Adelstein, and asked if he would create a window we could break into many pieces to represent the shattered glass, and then reassemble as a symbol of community healing at a public event.

Thank you, Rick, for this beautiful window. And thank you Rev. Chris Berry and Klaus Lohse of the Lutheran Campus Ministry, and congregant Mark McDonald, for this sturdy frame. At the time, this window and the event made front page of the *Bellingham Herald*.

With the window are two framed documents listing the names of those

who placed pieces of broken glass back into the frame. One short paragraph describing their memories is included for each person. This list includes **Fred Fagner, Noémi Ban, Manfred Vernon, Anne Brown, Elka Fink, Denise Fisher, and Toby Sonneman**.

The plaques also acknowledge other members of the community who placed pieces of glass with family who were victims of the *Shoah*, including **Jonathan Berry, Wayne Berry, David Schuman, Jane Hinton, and Rachel Young**.

Finally, this window acknowledges the names of others with family who were victims of hatred unrelated to the Holocaust. **Susan Kincaid** (her grandmother was on the Cherokee Trail of Tears), **Jim Wilson** (Lummi Elder sent to BIA schools as a child), **Pauline Hillaire** (whose mother was punished severely for speaking her native language in a BIA School), **Chris Matsumoto** (his grandfather was placed in a Japanese Internment Camp during WWII) are included here.

The bottom paragraph of the second plaque reads:

This window, restored, symbolizes a united community, yet one still scarred by past bigotry and hate. May this window serve as a symbol of our commitment, as free peoples, to never again permit such occurrences.



Noémi Ban, Ray Wolpow, Rabbi Samuels, WWU President Sabah Randhawa and his wife Uzma standing behind the Holocaust stained-glass window that will hang in our library.

What Is Scrip?

What is Scrip? Scrip is Congregation Beth Israel's longest ongoing fundraiser and it costs the user absolutely nothing! Scrip is a substitute for money. CBI purchases Scrip at a discount and sells these gift cards to congregants. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Haggen's card, CBI receives \$10. See below for other area discounts:

- Fred Meyer gives a 4% return on \$50, \$100, and \$200 cards.
- Haggens's gives a 10% return on \$50, \$100, and \$200 cards.
- Whole Foods gives a 3% return on \$100 cards.
- Starbucks gives a 7% return on \$25 cards.
- Village Books gives a 10% return on \$25 cards.

These cards are almost always available from Joan Wayne at jawayne2@gmail.com or by calling (360) 676-8939.

Lunch Bunch

The dates for Lunch Bunch are May 15th and June 19th, both at 12 pm at Joan Wayne's home.



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The Yenta speaks

Welcome to our new members:

* **Liz Bernstein** — Bellingham

* **Susan Cohen Raphael** and daughter **Angel** (age 10) — Bellingham

* **Kayla Schott-Bresler** and **Ian McCurdy** — Bellingham

Mazel Tov to **Yaniv Attar**, Music Director of the Whatcom Symphony, who has been named a recipient of the 2018 Mayor's Arts Award by the City of Bellingham for his artistic excellence. The Mayor's Arts Awards honor a broad range of artists, advocates, organizations, and performances that have significantly contributed to the arts in our community. A reception and awards ceremony honoring all the awardees is scheduled for 5:30 pm Wednesday May 2, 2018 at the Mount Baker Theatre in the Walton Theatre, and is open to the public.

First Annual CBI Intergenerational Camping Trip

The first annual Beth Israel Intergenerational Camping trip will be June 22-24 at the Excelsior Group Campground on the Nooksack River just below Nooksack Falls. Come and enjoy true Shabbat *menucha* (rest) in community, play board games, make art, hike, bike, and explore. The cost includes campground rental, compostable plates, flatware, cups, and napkins, and all food—two dinners, two breakfasts, one lunch, and abundant snacks—with gluten-free (celiac friendly) and vegan options.

Facilities are minimal, but very nice, with potable water and clean, bright vault toilets. There are numerous camping sites, many of which have sandboxes for perfect tent set-up, and many are very private. We'll also have room for a few RVs or tent trailers, but be forewarned that there is no electricity and no hookups, and generators are discouraged.

This will be a community effort, so a list of kitchen and housekeeping

equipment—from firewood to tarps to stoves—will be provided so everyone can pitch in and volunteer equipment they may have. Each family will be required to volunteer at least one person to help prepare, serve, and clean up one meal. Other than that, you are off the hook. All reservations must be received and paid for in full by June 5.

Age 12 and over: \$25 paid before May 15;
\$35 May 15-June 5
Age 6-12: \$15 paid before May 15;
\$20 May 15-June 5
Age 5 and under: FREE!

We ask that you please leave all pets at home.

Registration forms will be available at services and religious school, and online. Watch the e-news for updates! If you have questions, please contact Cora Boothby: kavahni@yahoo.com, or (360)527-2704.

Anniversaries

May 1	Mitch & Lisa Press	(#24)	June 2	Jay & Donna Solomon	(#54)
May 1	Richard & Idalina Trank	(#14)	June 9	Don Fenbert & Valerie Randolph	(#28)
May 7	Miriam & Perry Davids	(#1)	June 10	Frank & Adrienne Champagne	(#6)
May 7	Steven & Victoria Garfinkle	(#24)	June 10	David Strich & Michelle Banks	(#4)
May 8	Elka & Myron Fink	(#63)	June 12	Gaby & Victoria Mayers	(#33)
May 9	John & Melissa Schapiro	(#25)	June 16	Tammy & Daryl Dixon	(#11)
May 11	Patrick Crane & Rick Peavy	(#34)	June 18	David & Jill Elkayam	(#40)
May 12	Jeffrey & Wendy Holtzman	(#33)	June 19	Miles Bryant & Sarah Bauman	(#42)
May 16	Larry & Melissa Stahlberg	(#40)	June 19	David & Nancy Halpern	(#14)
May 18	Rick & Leslie Adelstein	(#43)	June 19	Ann Suloway & Tim Baker	(#25)
May 21	Larry Hildes & Karen Weill	(#18)	June 23	Michelle & Joseph Anderson	(#17)
May 24	Rick & Tracey Levine	(#31)	June 23	Meg Jacobson & Russell Pritchett	(#44)
May 24	Rebecca & Andrew Orloff	(#20)	June 23	David & Rena Ziegler	(#50)
May 27	Lynne & Mark MacDonald	(#40)	June 25	Peter & Nancy Auerbach	(#52)
May 29	Darcie Donegan & Phil Buri	(#25)	June 25	Sarah & Todd Witte	(#18)
May 29	Rabbi Joshua & Nicole Samuels	(#13)			

Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at (360) 733-8890 or email office@bethisraelbellingham.org with the month, day & year of your special day.

Special Fund Donations

CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

*Samantha Schwartz, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
 *Nadia Mazonson, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
 *Shay Blum, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
From: Karen Sloss

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Sylvia & John Williams, Binnie Perper & Themeos Drossos, and Joan Wayne – Thank you for all your help.
From: Nancy Lloyd

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels and the Beth Israel congregation, for their kindness
From: Lisa & Chris Balton

Rabbi Samuels
From: Kim Moskowitz and Family

Rabbi Samuels, for performing the Brit Milah for our son Leo
From: Michelle Banks & David Strich

Rabbi Samuels, for Samantha's Bat Mitzvah
From: Miriam & Greg Schwartz

Rabbi Samuels, for all his help with Nadia's Bat Mitzvah
From: Nora Mazonson

IN HONOR OF:

*Samantha Schwartz, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
 *Nadia Mazonson, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
 *Shay Blum, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
From: Patrick Crane

COMMEMORATING THE YAHRZEIT OF:

Jack Mazur
From: Phyllis & Shelley Mazur

THE KESHER FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

CBI congregants - Thanks for the wonderful bag of Purim goodies
From: Phyllis & Shelley Mazur

CBI – Thank you for the lovely Purim gift
From: Bonnie & Alan Stone

SPECIAL GREETINGS:

Happy Purim to all!
From: Carol & David Robinson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Jack Eigen, Lylyan Wick & Etta Fine – Beloved Father, Aunt, and Mother-in-Law
From: Harriet Fine

NEW SYNAGOGUE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

*Rabbi Samuels
 *Andrea Shupack
 *The New Building Committee
From: Richard Widerkehr

Miriam Schwartz, for performing the brit milah for our son Leo
From: Michelle Banks & Dave Strich

Andrea Shupack, for her help in preparing Nadia for her Bat Mitzvah
From: Nora Mazonson

IN HONOR OF:

Samantha Schwartz, on becoming Bat Mitzvah
From: Anne Brown

The birth of my grandson, Leo Alexander Banks Strich
From: Sheryl Strich (Laguna Woods, CA)

*Bonnie & Alan Stone's 65th wedding anniversary
 *David Goldman & Linda Blackwell's 34th wedding anniversary
From: Bonnie Quam

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Lynn Korner
From: Anne Brown

Nancy Lloyd
From: Bonnie Quam

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The receipt of the new synagogue building's occupancy permit
From: Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Kim Moskowitz, on the loss of her father, Leonard Berman
From: Nancy & Don Davis
 Lynn & Michael Korner
 Debbie & Dan Raas
 Karen Sloss
 Larry & Melissa Stahlberg
 Joan & Marv Wayne

Kim Moskowitz and family – Sincere condolences to the family of my Spring Creek friend, Len Berman
From: Bernice Loober

Larry Stahlberg and family, on the loss of his mother, Ronnie Stahlberg

From: Linda Blackwell & David Goldman
 Miriam & Perry Davids
 Nancy & Don Davis
 Lynn & Michael Korner
 Gaby & Victoria Mayers
 Debbie & Dan Raas
 Karen Sloss
 Joan & Marv Wayne

Anne Brown, on the loss of her son, Rob
From: Bonnie Quam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Our mother/mother-in-law, Ronnie Stahlberg
From: Larry & Melissa Stahlberg

COMMEMORATING THE YAHRZEIT OF:

My beloved father, Nathan Lassman
From: Bernice Loober



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Yahrzeits

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

Friday, May 4

Naomi Krauzer Feinberg	5/5
Esther Kahn	5/6
Myron Gordon	5/7
Irwin Suloway	5/7
Jack Kleinfeld	5/8
Frederick (Freddy) Kullman	5/9
Lloyd Saxton	5/9
Lucie Weis	5/9
Jean Dement	5/10
Sam Eilenberg	5/10
Rebecca Leavitt	5/10
Barbara Vaughan	5/10
Arnold Zolotrow	5/10
Rachel Damski	5/11
Arthur Markell	5/11
Rose Thal	5/11
Sally Warshay	5/11

Friday, May 11

Louis Adelstein	5/12
Rose Block	5/12
Pearl Albert	5/13
Nan Lopresti	5/13
William Stone	5/13
Dottie Berelson	5/17
Oscar Evans	5/17
Florence Marcus	5/17
Ethel Sandford	5/18

Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19

Emanuel Jacobson	5/19
Maia Haykin	5/20
Louise Hecht	5/20
Barbara (McNulty) Higham	5/20
Evelyn Renfro	5/20
Rachel DeVries	5/21
Henry W. Fenbert	5/21
Marvin Globerman	5/21
Lloyd Relin	5/21
Denise Guren	5/22
Rose Millstein	5/22
David Archie Bauman	5/24
Irene Rosenfeld	5/24
Audrey May King	5/25

Friday, May 25

Anne Frank	5/26
Donald Glazer	5/26
Rosalind Kantor	5/26
Marion Selznick	5/28
Walter Miller	5/29
Frances Glazer Garmo	5/30
David Ohms	5/30
Miriam Shepard	5/30

Marcia M. Morris Yust	5/30
Samuel Emanuel	5/31
Jack Glazer	6/1

Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2

Adam Frank	6/2
Edward R. Glazer	6/2
Stanley Schlanger	6/2
Samuel Schwartz	6/2
Otto Furth	6/3
Rose Rebecca Glazer	6/3
Vincent Romito	6/3
Bill Lewis	6/4
Belle Kaplan Shapiro	6/5
Dorothy Katz	6/6
Marcella Schapiro	6/6
Irving Edward Shapiro	6/8

Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9

Edith Corman	6/9
Jay Renfro	6/9
Rasela Catz	6/11
Ann Dechter	6/12
Sol Harris Lewis	6/12
William Robinson	6/12
Arthur Thal	6/12
Lawrence Witte	6/12
Libby Witte	6/12
Sandy York	6/12
Adrienne Benson	6/13
Emma (Weigt) Korneck	6/13
Richard Morrison	6/13
David Horwitz	6/14

Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16

Chase Jimmy	6/18
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Faye Goldberg-Miller	6/19
Nathan Lassman	6/19
Morris R. Hecht	6/20
Doris Zemel	6/20
Marcie Janacek	6/21
Mark Sanders	6/21
Stanley Simon	6/21
Friday, June 22	
Lillian Markell	6/22
Sue Groper	6/23
Naftalie Mottel Jaffe	6/23
Leah Tabak	6/23
Eric O. Sonneman	6/25
Harold "Bud" Blank	6/26
Lillian Feldman	6/26
Michael Kendal	6/26
Erwin Mayer	6/26
Myer Horwitz	6/29
Albert Shankman	6/29

Friday, June 29

(No Shabbat service – will
be read on June 22)

Elaine Lev Beller	7/1
Alice Lebanksy	7/1
Edward Witte	7/2
Rachel Emanuel	7/3
May Meyers	7/3
Cora Quiggle	7/3
Bernice Shear	7/3
Michael Strumpf	7/3
Earnest Ban	7/4
Hugo M. Fisher	7/4
Cynthia Kendal	7/4
Goldie Bettman	7/5
Virginia Hunter	7/5
Hannah Samuels	7/5
Harold Korn	7/6
Ralph Weill	7/6

In Memoriam

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

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

Naomi Pomerantz on the loss of her father, **Ray DeVries**, who passed away on March 22, 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Samantha Konikoff on the loss of her brother, **Curt Jay Alper**, who passed away on April 7, 2018 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

We mourn the passing of Beth Israel congregant, **Manuel (Manny) Emanuel**, who passed April 19, 2018 at the Mount Baker Care Facility. He was 90 years old. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife, Harriet; their children Stewart, Jeffrey, and Susan; grandchildren Chelan, Molly, Sasha, and Miles; and great-grandchild Ava.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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PLAN TO ATTEND END-OF-YEAR CBI PICNIC

***June 3, 2018 from 12:15 pm
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Cornwall Park shelter***

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

Please bring your own plates, cups and utensils.

