MARCH/APRIL 2020 ADAR/NISAN/IYYAR 5780

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 24, NO. 4 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890



Purim Spiel and Megilah Reading Monday, March 9th 6:30 PM

A community extravaganza with musical retelling of Purim all the way from Skid Row, food, music, dance, and full of silly absurdities.

Be there or be square, but whatever you do, DON'T FEED THE PLANT!

Written by Naomi and Mark Pomerantz

The opening acts for the Purim Spiel are: Chanting of *Megillat* Esther, costume contest (winner gets a trophy) and the second annual latke/ *hamentaschen* debate (this year we're adding *sufganiyot* to the mix). Come dressed up and ready to shake your grogger. Tasty food and beverages available for all.



INSIDE:

- Faces in our community: Minda Rae Amiran, page 8
- Landscaping news, page 4
- Adult education classes, page 6 _____
- CBI/Kesher Purim Carnival, page 12

FROM THE RABBI

The journey makes all the difference



In the last stanza of his poem "The Road Not Taken," Robert Frost writes, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the

one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." This is arguably one of the most familiar lines in all of American poetry. It has been used in television commercials for Ford and Mentos. It has been sung by musicians and there has even been a self-help book titled after this verse. And when I read it, all I can think of is Pesach.

In our Exodus narrative, we read about how the Israelites quickly escaped out of Egypt only to begin a 40-year wandering journey through the desert en route to the Promised Land. When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the Philistines, although it was nearer. God led the people roundabout, by way of the wilderness at the Sea of Reeds (*Exodus* 13:17-18). Instead of taking them on a direct path from point A to point B, God led our Page 2

The URJ Biennial – A once in a lifetime experience, every two years

In mid-December Rabbi Samuels, Ann Suloway, Melissa Schapiro, Terri Weiner, and I attended the five-day URJ Biennial in Chicago. I had been told that the Biennial was amazing, like nothing else, and lifechanging. It was also, for me, very renewing.

Approximately 5000 Reform Jews gathered to learn, teach, worship, eat, sing, and dance, reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Before the convention the five of us met for lunch along with Bryant Heinzelman (our local URJ celebrity) to go over the various offerings so we could attend different programs and choose areas of learning that were particularly relevant to our congregation and our roles here.

The days started early, with t'fillah at 7:30 and various breakfast meeting opportunities. Programs ran through the day and into the evening, and in the late night there were concerts and a few comedy shows. We got to hear Nefesh Mountain, who were just here at CBI, and to meet Eric and Doni. I ran into Rabbi Cindy Enger, who sends her best regards to the congregation, and met Rabbi Lennard Thal. I caught up with friends from the Scheidt Seminar that I attended in February for new and incoming synagogue presidents. It was helpful and inspiring to talk with colleagues about their experiences of leading congregational boards, and I've brought home some great ideas.

I went to programs on engaging families with young children, several on developing leadership, one on mission and values-driven security, and met Michael Smith of the Secure Communities Network. I stumbled across a program by Anat Hoffman, a fabulous speaker, who opened my eyes further to the experience of Reform Jews in Israel. A highlight was getting to see Bryant at one of several sessions on diversity – he's a great speaker!

In the Exhibit Hall I saw gorgeous Jewish art and connected with Claude Riedel, who makes exquisite *Ner Tamids*. He has since met with the Ark Design Task Force, and we may choose to work with him when the time comes for that next part of the *Bima* project. The plenary sessions were well done. There were great speeches and music at every one of these huge gatherings. Like in concerts, screens showed the action on the stage up close, and there we got to see our own Asher Suloway, Naomi Schapiro, and Eian Snyder, all of whom worked at the conference, receiving honors.

Shabbat was the highlight. Imagine feeding around 5000 people a sit-down dinner! And yes, the food was good! The worship services were even better. The big screens projected the readings and lyrics, which I liked more than I thought I would, and I wonder if someday this might be something for us to consider at CBI. We enjoyed new melodies and a band for musical accompaniment, with some of the notables in contemporary Jewish music creating an amazing amount of *ruach*!

All in all, I was amazed at how personal a convention of 5000 people could feel. It was refreshing to get my mind beyond the nitty-gritty of "getting things done" and think bigger. Where are we headed? How can we do things better? What more can we do to offer programs and activities that offer meaning and impact to people's lives? In what new ways can we continue the work of *tikkun olam*? I have some ideas...

At the same time I was moved to see how much we are already doing well, especially in a congregation of our size. Case in point – the End of Life series that is being co-sponsored by the Care Committee and the Cemetery Committee. I am excited to see improvements to our committee structure taking shape, to assure we move forward with a sustainable framework for the next stage of CBI. We are on the right track! And all of us who attended have come back with renewed spirits and ideas. The next Biennial is December 2021 in Washington, DC. Think about joining us!

> --- MIRIAM SCHWARTZ, PRESIDENT

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar Volume 24, Number 4 March/April 2020 Adar/Nisan/Iyyar 5780

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of **Congregation Beth Israel**. It is published bimonthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for **\$35/year**. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the May/June issue is <u>APRIL 11</u>. Call the office for more information.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi:	Joshua Samuels
Kesher Interim	Nicky Naiman and
Co-Directors:	Andrea Shupack
Cantorial Soloist:	Andrea Shupack
Admin. Assistant:	Mary Somerville

Executive Board

President:	Miriam Schwartz
Vice Pres:	Gaby Mayers
Vice Pres:	Josh Greenberg
Treasurer:	Terri Weiner
Secretary:	Paul Blum

Board Members

Steve Ban	Jodi Litt
Steven Garfinkle	Harriet Markell
Isaac Konikoff	Jane Relin
Lynn Korner	David Zimmerman
Marcia Lippman	

Shofar Coeditors: Vermeda Fred and Nora Mazonson

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



From the Kesher Center for Jewish Learning Kesher news

Kesher has a new leadership team that started in January. Andrea Shupack and Nicky Naiman are now the co-directors of our religious school program. Andrea brings much



knowledge of Judaism and has run religious schools in the past. She is focusing on updating our curriculum, while supporting the teachers with their goals and lessons. Nicky has a background in administration and foreign language education. In addition to administrative tasks, she has been working with Andrea to review Hebrew language curricula.

As Kesher continues to grow and

thrive, we are excited by the new programming and curriculum we are developing. Students in grades K-2 have already started participating in Hebrew Through Movement, which is a language acquisition strategy by which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands. The program will expand to include grades 3 and 4 in the coming weeks. The students are responding positively to the new Hebrew curriculum, and we think it will be a very successful addition to our Kesher program.

Kesher school had two special events in January and February. First, Hillel Smith visited several classes as part of his Scholar/Artist-in-Residence weekend. He elevated art for the 3rd-6th graders, helping them create stunning *challah* covers. Students thought about images to represent Shabbat and designed stencils. Then they used spray ink to splash shades of color all over the cloth around the stencils. The results were something exciting and beautiful for students to take home and use at their Shabbat dinner table. Hillel also brought his Parashah Posters program to the B'nei Mitzvah class. Watching them pore over biblical texts together and then come up with creative symbols and imagery to create unique interpretations of scenes from the Torah was inspiring. The Torah came alive for these students as Hillel shared his process and encouraged them to dive in.



Then for Tu B'shevat this year, Kesher had a special school-wide program. Students went all over the building and grounds, learning about different parts of this special environmental holiday. The youngest kids planted parsley and used sensory boxes to feel various items from nature. The older students studied Jewish texts on the environment and spent time planning how we can make small yet significant improvements in our community. Other highlights were creating "Tree Poetree" by using images from nature and Jewish texts of gratitude for prompts. Kesher celebrated this holiday by experiencing, on a deep level, the wisdom of our Jewish teachings to protect the environment, and appreciating all the gifts we receive from nature. The day culminated in a nature walk where students took time to "meet" specific trees, to xperience prayer in nature, and to walk the trails. We paid attention to the sights, smells, and sounds around us and used blessings to notice what is miraculous in our backyard. Now we're getting super-excited for our Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8, at 12:30 pm after Kesher classes!

Nicky and Andrea are enjoying working together and collaborating with the community and teachers. It's been a successful and great start to 2020. Kesher Parent Committee meetings have been fun and lively, generating lots of great input and ideas. We look forward to sharing future developments and to hearing from you. Please contact us at kesher@bethisraelbellingham.org.

> SINCERELY, ANDREA AND NICKY

Synagogue 411

Archives: Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945 Care: Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381; Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618 Membership: Ann Suloway, (360) 296-8220, Sue Mahar (360) 319-5314

Library, Scrip: Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939 Scholarship: Emil Hecht, (360) 733-4825 Social Action: Linda Blackwell, (360) 647-9519 Samantha Sinai Cello Lessons Wedding and Event Music



samanthasinai@gmail.com www.samanthasinai.com

Beyond the occupancy permit: landscaping, the final frontier

BY MIRIAM SCHWARTZ

On February 4, the final documents needed for our permanent occupancy permit were signed, sealed and delivered to the Whatcom County Planning and Development Office. This completes, in an important sense, the work that was begun almost 20 years ago. However, we still have some work ahead of us, as we need to complete landscaping and stormwater work that we have promised and are bonded to do by February 10, 2021. It is important that we all are informed about what is coming in the next year.

When I got involved with the permitting process, I learned that the landscaping part is more complicated than I would have thought. For starters, landscaping is actually a requirement of occupancy. This was news to me! There has to be a county-approved plan, and we have to stick to it unless we get a change to the plan approved by a county reviewer.

Next I found out that having rain gardens – technically, called bioretention cells – is a somewhat separate process and comes with its own set of rules and regulations. The rain gardens are a good thing, expensive to put in, but they allow us to have a smaller retention pond (meaning more usable land), since the rain gardens themselves help reduce stormwater runoff as well as serving a filtration function that reduces pollution in the bay and groundwater. This is *tikkun olam* in a very biologic sense!

One of the elements of the 2007 plan, an evergreen buffer, is no longer required, as the city is not planning to extend San Juan Blvd. A hedge that was planned along the fence where the gravel service road goes up to the patio from the Kesher roundabout would be a security risk, and the city and county are willing to let go of this requirement. This is good news, as we will save a lot of money, but there is a process to go through, and this will start now. I've also found out that we have a LOT of square feet that we must landscape—many parking bays, nine bioretention cells, the area near the gate entrance and along the drive, the spaces around the building, and on the far side of the patio. We must have all of these planted by February 10, 2021, and we have to post a bond that assures that we keep these things alive for the next two years. So we are involved in a next generation of permit requirements until early 2023.

We have wonderful congregants who have kept parts of the landscape tidy, weeded, and looking nice, and it has been suggested that maybe we can rely on congregant labor to get the planting done. This is way more than we can do ourselves. There are some noxious (and obnoxious) weeds that may pose a threat to people who are hand-weeding, like poison hemlock (thanks to Kristin Sykes-David for pointing this one out). Several of the rain gardens have not been weeded at all and are a dense carpet of robust and well-established weeds. The areas around the building are compacted earth and gravel, which are very hard to plant. This is, truly, a job for professionals.

HERBICIDE! Yikes! This does not sound good to my organic gardener's heart! But hear me out on this. Those areas, especially on the far end of the parking lot and along the driveway (anywhere with a notched curb is a rain garden) would be impossible to weed effectively by hand in one season. What we do plant will survive much better if they are not competing with a solid mat of weeds, so we will save money not having to replant the whole thing in a few years. The herbicide we will be applying is approved by the Washington State Department of Agriculture for use in areas that connect with groundwater and must be applied by people who are specially

Continued on Page 5



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

HABLO ESPAÑOL

360.739.4335 nora@noramazonson.com



Continued from Page 4

trained in its proper and safe application. In subsequent years, we are NOT planning on using herbicides. We will be mulching and handweeding—and this will be much more effective if we are starting with a relatively clean slate.

So here are our next steps:

- Develop an updated planting plan and get county and city approval.
- Get bids for the planting and weed mitigation.
- Over the spring and summer, have professional application of the WSDA-approved herbicide to the rain gardens and possibly the other planting areas.
- Planting to commence in the fall, after the hot weather stops and the rains start. Mulch to be applied as well.
- In December have the county folks come out for a final inspection.

Dear gardening friends, read this next part carefully: **DO NOT DO ANY WEEDING THIS SPRING OR SUMMER!** This is important. The herbicide needs to be absorbed by living plant matter! If we weed away all the green, the weed roots will not be affected by the herbicide, and they will just come back. The plan is to apply herbicide when plants start to come out of dormancy in the spring, again in early summer to get weeds that have germinated in the interim, and probably one final application in late summer to get anything that has survived the first two treatments, if needed.

What you can do: Sit on your hands 'til the fall. Sign up to help with weeding and mulching starting in the winter of 2021. Get a group of friends to adopt an area, as is done with the highway. Several areas have been adopted already. Look in the weekly eNews or on the CBI website for a link to sign up if you are interested in helping. I'm trying to think of a catchy name for us. Let me know if you have an idea for one! Consider donating money to the Building Fund. At this time the cost of the landscape is projected at \$200,000, but I am working, as noted above and in other ways, to reduce this overall cost significantly. Watch for some special opportunities to help with this or just go ahead and give!

If there is interest, I will be happy to give a presentation on the planting plan and answer questions in the spring. You are always welcome to ask me questions by email at pieface880@gmail.com.

Sustainability tips BY SAMANTHA SCHWARTZ

Buying food and household items, (shampoo, detergent, etc.) in bulk is a great way to cut back on your consumption of singleuse plastics.

Hillel of WWU donor appreciation event

Thursday, April 30, 7:00-9:00 pm Mt. Baker Theater Encore Room

Please join us for Wonderful Wine, Choice Chocolates and Decadent Desserts (and beer and non-alcoholic beverages) from local producers and enjoy enriching entertainment. The Hillel of WWU is deeply thankful for all of the support from the CBI community, and we welcome all past and present donors to share in this fun evening! Leave your checkbooks at home. Please RSVP to Geraldine Reitz, flori121@yahoo.com, (360) 319-1942.

The Kvelling Corner

On Sunday morning, January 26, 2020, Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack officiated at a baby-naming ceremony for the new son of Abby Sussman and August Allen, who are new to the Bellingham community. Kesher students and parents were in attendance for this special event. Afterward, Abby sent this note of appreciation:

"Thank you to the entire CBI community for welcoming Elias Leo Sussman Allen into the world at his naming ceremony. The participation of the Kesher students made the day extra special. Gratitude to Rabbi Samuels and Andrea for leading the ceremony and to Mary for answering all our emails leading up to the event. We're looking forward to engaging with the community more as Elias grows! *Todah Rabah*, Abby Sussman and August Allen."

Elias was born on January 3, which happens to be his father's birthday as well. Mazel Tov to the family, and welcome to the community!



FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

ancestors on the road less traveled. But why?

The rabbis try to answer this question in classic *midrashic* style. They teach us the following: God taking Israel on a roundabout path can be understood through the following parable: There once was a king who had a son whom the king wanted to give an inheritance. The king said to himself, "If I give my son the inheritance now when he is still young, he will not know how to look after it. Rather, once my son has studied and learned, only then will I give him his inheritance." And this is what The Holy One said, "If I bring them into the Land of Israel now, they will still not observe the commandments...

rather, I will give them the Torah, and then I will bring them into the land" (*Exodus Rabbah* 20:14).

The rabbis teach us that the Children of Israel were not ready to enter the Promised Land. In order to appreciate freedom and all that comes with achieving this freedom, they needed to go through a lengthy process and transition from their past life to their new life. An instantaneous change would have backfired. The long, circuitous route taken was necessary for them to ultimately form a community, cleave to God, and accept the *mitzvot*. The Israelites had to show why they deserved to enter the land. One can imagine God, like a parent, saying "All good things come to those who wait."

When we gather with our friends, neighbors, and loved ones on *Erev*

Pesach (and wait patiently to eat our meal!), perhaps we can discuss why God led us on a lengthy journey instead of teleporting us to the Promised Land. Have we ever experienced waiting a long time for some reward? Looking back, do we appreciate what we had to endure?

The story of the Exodus teaches us that taking the longer path to our desired destination just might be a more profound experience since, oftentimes, the harder we work for something and the longer we wait, the more opportunities there are for transformation, and ultimately, appreciation once we arrive at our destination.

May you have a joyful and meaningful Pesach.

- RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

Adult Education classes offered this Spring

• Freedom of expression, poetry style Instructor: Jay S. Nahani (Braunstein) Sundays: 10:30 am-12:00 pm *March 15, 22, 29* Fee: \$72

In this class we will explore poetry that focuses on the theme of freedom. We will reflect on a myriad of poetic voices that have come out of bondage and/or disempowerment, in their many forms, and have found a way to freedom through creative expression. This class will be generative in nature, and for all levels, so whether you are new to poetry or a seasoned poet, your voice will be supported and encouraged both on the page and out loud. Please bring a journal and a pen to class. Snacks will be provided.

 Modern Yiddish literature in translation Instructor: David Schlitt Wednesdays: 7:30-9:00 pm *March 18, 25; April 1* There is no fee

Derided for much of its history as a primitive *"zhargon*" (jargon), Yiddish, the language of Ashkenazic Jewry, bloomed into a vital world literature during the 19th and 20th centuries. Between 1860 and 1940, Yiddish publishers released 3,000 different periodicals and over 50,000 book titles. Join David Schlitt for a three-part study session on modern Yiddish literature in translation. Selections will include poetry and prose from all corners of the Yiddish-speaking world and material from figures both well known and overlooked .

Jewish responses to Christian questions Instructors: Rabbi Samuels, Roby Blecker, and Geraldine Reitz Wednesdays: 7:00-8:15 pm April 29; May 6, 13, 20 Fee: \$36

Judaism and Christianity are very similar in some respects, yet vastly different in others. In a predominantly Christian country, Jews are sometimes confronted with questions about faith that are rarely ever discussed in a synagogue setting, yet are quite popular in Christian circles. This four-session course will cover the following topics by looking at them through a Jewish lens: Afterlife, Suffering, Jesus/Messiah, and Sacred Texts as Proof Texts.

From the Social Action Committee

Social Action Committee news

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

The Social Action Committee will be accepting food donations for the Bellingham Food Bank during the months of March and April. *Chametz* will be collected until April 1. Please do not bring any food into the synagogue after that date, or during Passover.

Volunteers from CBI continue to care for the homeless of Bellingham. Our congregants worked for one week in December cooking meals and staying overnight with families at a local church. We shared responsibilities with First Christian Church. The Interfaith Coalition Family Promise Program has served families for two years this April. Most families were able to transition to permanent housing. We will be participating again March 15 through 21 and would enjoy help from more volunteers. Please contact Andrea Shupack for training information. Linda Blackwell and Gloria Lebowitz can also share information. Congregant knitters are making hats every Tuesday for Project Warm-Up. Hats are distributed through shelters and the CAST program.

The Interfaith Hope Auction will be held on Saturday, March 28. It is nice when CBI congregants sit together as a group. Tickets are \$70 each. You can sign up online, and please note that you would like to sit with other CBI guests. Buy tickets online at www.interfaith-coalition.org/getinvolved/hope-auction/ or contact Geraldine Reitz.

Mitzvah Day is May 3 at 10:00 am! While this is a Kesher event, it is also intended for the wider CBI community. Everyone can participate, not only families with children! Bagels and nosh will be available. This year Mitzvah Day will be during Kesher, and projects will begin with children and their parents after t'fillah. This is a family participation day. We hope to have each class working on projects that interest and energize them. There will also be opportunities for all to participate with the cemetery cleanup and/or the Blood Drive. The Blood Drive will be held between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm in the library. A link will be available soon in the eNews for appointment times, or you can sign up now at the Bloodworks Northwest website, bloodworksnw.org.

In February the Social Action Book Group discussed *How to Give Up Plastic: A Guide to Changing the World, One Plastic Bottle at a Time* by Will McCallum. This book is a really practical, nonjudgmental guide describing how to systematically reduce single-use plastics in your own life. Going room by room through your home and workplace, you can take it step by step. An easy way to start is picking one plastic item from your grocery list, your household



purchases, or take-outs from your favorite restaurants that you will refuse to use for one month (and hopefully, into the future). The challenge is to refuse and reduce plastic consumption instead of just recycling. Our discussion also centered on how we can write letters, vote, and pressure our vendors to reduce plastic packaging. For example, there is a petition on change.org to reduce packing material from Amazon. One of our members made contact with the CEO of Costco to voice the need for less plastic packaging and alternatives. Of note, the statewide plastic bag ban is up for vote again during this Washington State legislative session. This bill has passed the senate before and now must pass in the House. Contact your state representatives and let them know you support it.





Marla Finkelstein

Office (360) 734-7500 Cell (360) 961-2153 Email marlaf@windermere.com

- Complete Marketing Plan Including Home Staging.
- Repair and/or Updating Referrals.
- Smooth and Sucessful Process...to the Closing Day.

Faces in our community: Minda Rae Amiran

BY LINDA HIRSH

Page 8

After sixth grade in 1940s Mexico City, middle-class girls could proceed to the American School which had a so-so reputation, as well as to a Catholic school where French nuns taught secretarial skills.

Neither of these options suited Minda Rae Amiran, whose family lived there at the time. So she continued her education in Chicago. And what an education it was!

After her sophomore year of high school, she took a test to see if she qualified for a novel early-entrance program. College began at age16 when she entered the halls of the University of Chicago. Its radical program exposed small classes of teens to great books, Socratic dialogue, comprehensive exams — a general education without textbooks.

"It was the best education, the most stimulating education" she said, "and I lucked into it."

Thus began a pedagogical history that produced a professor of modern American literature. From Mexico to the United States to Israel, she collected languages and cultivated her love of learning.

Minda Rae — Minda from her paternal grandfather, Mendel, and Rae from her maternal grandmother,



Minda Rae, her son and daughter-in-law

Rachel — was born in Gary, Indiana. At age two, she and her family moved to Chicago where her father worked as a civil engineer. World War II meant fewer jobs for civil engineers, so the family headed to Mexico City, where her father was put in charge of building a power station. Living there from 1942 to 1946, the family learned Spanish.

She returned to the USA for 7th and 8th grades, then graduated from high school and university. Trouble was, no graduate school would accept students who didn't have a major. So a professor directed her to Swarthmore College near Philadelphia, where she majored in psychology to prepare for social work. Her education included two seminars per semester and two papers to write and discuss each week.

During summers she worked at Hull House, one of the country's first settlement houses, where residents got classes in health and English as a second language, as well as advice on negotiating city bureaucracy. At Hull House Minda Rae ran a summer play group for children from five to seven years of age.

However, she discovered she did not have the temperament for social work. It was too disheartening.

Much later, here in Bellingham, she returned to those early roots by joining Congregation Beth Israel's Social Action Committee. Chairwoman Linda Blackwell said of her, "Minda Rae has dived into the social action projects with great energy and commitment. She has researched groups that help refugees and participated in county-wide meetings. She has stepped up to provide Family Promise Program meals. I appreciate her enthusiasm."

Always a reader, Minda Rae switched her major to modern American literature. Harvard University seemed an appropriate place for a

MEMBERSHIP EVENT IN FEBRUARY 2020











1. Steve Spitzer with Becki and Bruce Van Glubt. 2. Craig Brand, Tim Baker. 3. Robin Curtis, Tammy Dixon, Sarah Witte. 4. Marta Brand, Ann Suloway, Sarah Witte. 5. Marv Wayne, Isaac White with son Zev, Todd Witte. 6. Membership co-chairs Ann Suloway and Sue Mahar. 7. Kristin Sykes-David, Joan Wayne, Sarah Witte, Becki Van Glubt, Michelle Beller-Siegfried, Rita Spitzer, Marta Brand, Ann Suloway, Sue Mahar. 8. Rabbi Samuels and Miriam Schwartz.



Get to know BAY! Bellingham Area Youth

BY WILLOW COREY-DUBOW

Page 10

Hey all! We are BAY (Bellingham Area Youth), a group of high-school-aged Jewish teens in the Bellingham area. This year so far we have been working on recruiting members and getting more community involvement. We have had five events so far, including game night, Friendsgiving with havdalah, a Chanukah party with latke making, and a pumpkin-carving event. Recently we have been incorporating more social justice projects into our plans for this coming year. For our March event we are making help bags to distribute to our extended community, who may not be as fortunate as we are. We are trying to get more involved in our CBI community, and one way we are doing that is by helping run the Purim Carnival.

If you want to get involved, or know someone highschool-aged and Jewish who would want to participate, email us at youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org. You can also follow us on Instagram at @bethisraelbay. BAY is youth led, and we have an active board of three teens: Willow Corey-DuBow is our marketing and communication vicepresident, Adin Sokol is our fundraising vicepresident, and Orly Lindner is our religious and cultural vicepresident.

Social action is important to all of us and is something we work on together. Please feel free to chat with any of our board members if you want to learn more about BAY.

Taste of the Town

Sunday, June 7, 2020 **Congregation Beth Israel**

Join us for this Hawaiian-themed FUNdraising party! Dress casual or Hawaiian. Enjoy food that will be multiple choices of veggie-dairy-fish selections. Adults 21 and older. Onsite childcare available.

We will be showcasing 20 of the "Best of the Best" restaurants, wineries, and breweries in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Sample tastes and sips while enjoying pay-to-play games including Giant Jenga, Wine and Beer Ring Toss, Balloon Pop, Giant Dice game, Plinko, and more!

5:00-6:00 pm Pre-event: VIP wine and beer tasting with

appetizers. Early bird price \$15 (after May 1, \$18) 6:00-8:00 pm Main Event: taste and sip (includes 12 sip tickets). Early bird price of \$34 (after May 1, \$36)

Games and Prizes:

- Game tickets are \$5 each. Prize table includes gift cards from Mt. Bakery, CasaQuePasa, Colophon Café, Pizzazza, and more!
- 52 Card Game (\$50) Prize: Two Seahawks Club Level Seats with Lounge privileges and separate entrance! \$600 value.
- · Play Heads and Tails (tickets between \$15-\$25) for a chance to win: Two \$400 Merry Maid gift certificates! Luxury Condo in California near Long Beach State University for 7 and 4 nights! Whatcom Symphony tickets!

Bellingham Bay Cruise! 24" Vizio Smart TV, and more! Participating restaurants, wineries, and breweries:

Fork at Agate Bay, Fairhaven Poke, Hilltop Restaurant & Catering, Marketstreet Catering, Bagelry, Pepper Sisters, Community Co-op, Westside Pizza, Fools Onion Catering, Evolve Chocolate & Café, Panda Palace, My Rancho, Goji Bistro, Boundary Bay, Café Akroteri, Delille Cellars, Dunham Cellars, and more!

Buy now to get an early bird discount and SAVE! Tickets now available online with a credit card or check at bethisraelbellingham.org

Questions? Email or call Lynn Korner, lkmk1@yahoo.com (360) 671-2607 or Candace Kiersky at CandaceKiersky@gmail.com, (360) 420-1279.

Resolution







Bearing fruit through communication and change

vmfred08@gmail.com Bellingham, WA Vancouver, BC

Special fund donations

CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

IN HONOR OF: Teacher Ahuva Scharff From: Anonymous

The birth of Elias Leo Sussman Allen From: Deborah Finkel (Phoenix AZ)

IN MEMORY OF:

My beloved brother-in-law, Chuck Collins From: Mary Somerville

Cantorial Assistance Fund

IN APPRECIATION TO: Rob Lopresti – thanks for playing your Nachson song at Kesher! From: Xavier Sommers

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

David Goldman & Linda Blackwell Shlomis Waters

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF: The Committee From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

COMMEMORATING THE YAHZEIT OF: *Dr. Burton Jay

*Elly Kraus From: Susan Jay

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

*Harriet Fine – in memory of her brother, Dick Eigen *Jodi Litt – in memory of her father, Stanley Litt **From:** Dan & Debbie Raas

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO: Rabbi Samuels, for the *brit milah* of our grandson Ander Laurence Bainter-Spiegler From: Jan & Bruce Spiegler (Oak Harbor)

Rabbi Samuels, for the 4th Night Hanukkah festivities From: Ann Buzaitis & Dena Petersen

Rabbi Samuels, for the babynaming of my grandson Elias Leo Sussman Allen **From:** Barbara Sussman (Santa Fe, NM)

Linda Hirsh – Thank you From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

Todd, Remy, Gabe & Nate Witte – Thanks for your help with a mitzvah **From:** *Linda Hirsh*

IN HONOR OF:

Peter & Rhoda Samuels (Rancho Mirage, CA), for their 50th Anniversary From: Cookie & Michael Goldman (St. Louis Park, MN) Fran Levy (Carmichael, CA)

COMMEMORATING THE YAHZEIT OF: *Fred Graff *Isadore Graff, beloved father From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Jerry & Marilyn Eisner Shlomis Waters Jean Wharton (La Conner) Bonnie & Fred Zell

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF: The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel From: Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Anne Pollack & Bob Kuenzel Greg Peterson

KESHER FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO: Sagit Hall – in gratitude From: The Balton Family

Rabbi Gartner Scholarship Fund

IN HONOR OF: Debbie Adelstein – congratulations on your retirement From: David & Carol Robinson

RABBI'S PROFFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO: Steve & Rita Spitzer – condolences on the loss of Steve's sister, Leslie Spitzer From: Jay & Shelley Wolfman **NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND**

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for his High Holy Days *drashes* **From:** *Richard Widerkehr*

Rabbi Samuels, Andrea Shupack, and Mary Somerville **From:** *Mark & Nancy Luster*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Steve & Rita – in memory of Steve's sister, Leslie Spitzer From: Steve Globerman Joan & Marv Wayne

Jodi Litt – in memory of her father, Stanley Litt From: Nancy & Don Davis Joan & Marv Wayne

Kay Silverstein & Family (Beverly Hills, CA) – in memory of your beloved husband and father, Rabbi Harry Silverstein **From:** *Bernice Loober*

COMMEMORATING THE YAHZEIT OF:

My husband, Phil Miller **From:** *Eileen Miller*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Amanda Robins & Daniel Zagnoli



Windermere REAL ESTATE

Warren Rosenthal

BROKER CERTIFIED NEGOTIATION EXPERT

Cell(360) 961-9772Office(360) 734-7500Fax(360) 676-4694

warrenrosenthal@windermere.com warrenrosenthal.mywindermere.com

Birthdays

MARCH 2020

3/1	Tannia Hecht
3/1	Brenda Miller
3/2	Nadia Mazonson (15th)
3/4	Renee Elder
3/4	Nancy Luster
3/4	Talya Sanger (19th)
3/5	Lev Cornwall (14th)
3/5	Lyra Davis (2nd)
3/6	Christoph Reitz
3/6	Mary Somerville
3/7	Jay Braunstein
3/7	Sara Geballe
3/8	Norman DesRosiers
3/8	Deborah Oksenberg
3/8	K.C. Sulkin
3/9	Bert Curtis
3/9	Leeya Shoshana Genut (7th)
3/9	Ryan Goldman (15th)
3/10	Mark Steinberg
3/11	Samuel Pomerantz (5th)
3/12	Sivan Wells-Langley (9th)
3/13	Rebecca Orloff
3/13	Joan Sager
3/13	Steve Schwartz
3/14	Jordan Verkh-Haskell (18th)
3/15	Yaniv Attar
3/15	Esther Horton (8th)
3/15	Chanan Suarez
3/18	Jessica Cohen
3/19	Carol Robinson
3/20	Jody Meltzer
3/20	Matthew Schall
3/21	Naomi Pomerantz
3/21	Bonnie Quam
0/00	

3/22 Jonah Attar (10th) 3/22 Sonorah DesRosiers (12th) 3/22 Sue Mahar 3/22 Roy Shankman 3/23 Camille Keefe 3/23 Rachel Lowenstein 3/24 Ruth Ingberman 3/24 Michael Korner 3/25 Tami DuBow 3/27 Kevin James 3/27 **Debbie Raas** 3/27 Marybeth Taranow 3/27 Aviva Weinstein (13th) 3/28 Celt Schira 3/28 Nancy Thomson 3/29 **Rick Romito** 3/30 David Kiersky 3/30 Samantha Konikoff 3/31 Lynn Korner 3/31 **Jeffrey Margolis** 3/31 Gabriel Witte (11th)

APRIL 2020

- 4/1 Amy Kraham
- 4/1 Amy Margolis
- 4/2 Sherry Baron 4/3 Ethan Oliver (18th)
- 4/3 Alisa Sachs
- 4/4 **Daniel Feller**
- 4/4 Mary Jo Lewis
- 4/6 Tammy Dixon
- 4/6 Katie Edelstein
- 4/6 Hank Levine
- 4/6 Daniel Zagnoli
- 4/7 Lisa Balton
- 4/7 Samuel Donner (13th)
- 4/10 Katie Comstock

Annual CBI/Kesher Purim Carnival

12:30-2:30 pm, Sunday, March 8

Purim is a time for all ages to dress up in silly costumes, eat hamantashen, and be merry. This year's Purim Carnival will feature carnival games with prizes, a costume parade, face-painting, henna art, a fortune teller, balloon animals, two jugglers who do magic, chair massage, and a teen ping pong/game room.

PLUS: Adults-only casino room with beer and wine available for purchase.

Pizza by the slice, salad, sundaes, popcorn, hamanatashen, and beverages will be available for purchase with carnival tickets.

Tickets for activities and food are two for \$1 at the door. Or purchase a FAMILY DISCOUNT CARD (25% off) by March 3: Includes 1 whole cheese pizza, 1 salad, 4 drinks (nonalcoholic), and 40 tickets - good for games, activities, and food. Order your Family Discount Card online at bethisraelbellingham.org/purimfamily-discount-card/

4/10	Jeffrey Feld
4/10	Susan Katz
4/10	Asher Nathanson (10th)
4/11	Lilah Blum (19th)
4/12	Cora Boothby
4/12	Sarah DesRosiers
4/12	Jonah Velsher (13th)
4/13	Steve Ban
4/13	Karen Fisher
4/14	Jeffrey Probst
4/16	Mia Clarke (14th)
4/16	Elizabeth Witte (8th)
4/17	Paul Blum
4/17	Benjamin Sommers (14th)
4/18	Navah DesRosiers (15th)
4/18	lan Horton
4/18	Liza Jane Price (12th)
4/18	Linda Read
4/18	Alexandra Verkh
4/19	Orly Ravitsky
4/23	Lindsay Roberts (10th)
4/24	Leah Lippman
4/24	Aniel Wells-Langley (11th)
4/25	Margaret Bikman
4/25	Shemaia Kountouros
4/25	lan McCurdy
4/25	Jason Stoane

- 4/26 Spencer Jantzen (15th)
- 4/27 Alan Kendal
- 4/28 Joel David
- 4/28 Andrew Orloff
- Shoshana Samuels (8th) 4/28
- 4/29 Abigail Comstock (12th)
- 4/29 **Richard Widerkehr**



Your vote counts in Israel until March 11 — Vote now in the World Zionist Congress election

BY ANN SULOWAY

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020 in the World Zionist Organization election, held every five years. Now is your chance to have your voice heard and make a difference in Israeli society. A vote for the Reform slate is a vote for the values we care about: religious freedom, equality for women and minorities, for LGTBQ people, and many more.

Every Jew 18 years and older living anywhere in the world can vote. It only takes a few minutes and it's easy to do: Go to ARZA.org. Click the blue VOTE button. Click on Register to Vote.

It will ask you for a user name (email address) and to set a password. It will send you a personal code in your email right away.

Pay \$7.50 with a card or PayPal. This is the "tax" that supports this election.

Use the code to vote REFORM: ARZA representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism.

The World Zionist Congress is the World Zionist Organization's legislative body that meets every five years in Jerusalem. The Congress is the only body in which all of world Jewry is represented democratically, and, therefore, your only democratic opportunity to influence Israeli society. It determines policy in Israel, designates the course of action, and chooses the leadership of three important institutions (the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish National Fund, and the Jewish Agency for Israel) with a combined budget of more than \$1 billion! Vote today and tell your friends.

MINDA RAE AMIRAN

Continued from Page 8

doctorate. Harvard's Ph.D. program requires students to pass language tests — either Greek or Latin and a choice of German, Italian, or French. She taught herself Latin from a friend's textbook and took Italian, because it was close to Spanish, the language she had learned in Mexico.

After her rarefied education, Harvard was a shock. "It was very 'old school,'" she said. "Not terribly satisfying."

Harvard had just absorbed students from its sister school, Radcliffe. In the wake of this, Minda Rae found rampant sexism. One professor wouldn't even allow women in his class. "When he was asked 'why?' 'because' was the answer," she said.

She started her Ph.D. at age 21, but it was interrupted by a fortuitous visit to Israel in 1955. She saw grandfather Mendel, who had fled Belarus in the 1880s to work in a vineyard there. "It was an egalitarian society," she said. "He lived with meager means, but did important work, as I saw it."

She also met her future husband's parents on that visit. A few months

later, she met their son Nahum while he was visiting the United States as a tourist. The two married in 1956.

Meanwhile, all she had left of her Ph.D. were orals and her dissertation. But "I was learning Hebrew, adjusting to a new world, running a household, so it didn't compute that I would go back to Harvard," she said.

While in the Israeli Defense Force, Nahum worked on a degree in geology at Hebrew University. Minda Rae finished her doctorate and taught there from 1956 to 1966. She taught at Tel Aviv University from1966 to 1976.

In 1959 Minda Rae returned to the states with Nahum. He took a master's degree in business at the University of Chicago. This seemed an appropriate time to start a family. They wanted two children and got them, both at once! Edoh and Eyal were fraternal twin boys. She found it fascinating that they were "different from the start."

The family returned to Israel in 1961 when the twins were 11 months old. Minda Rae hired a dedicated helper and went back to work. When the twins reached age 15, their parents wanted them to choose whether they wanted to stay in Israel, in which case they would need to join the army, or move to the USA. They returned to America in 1976. Now Edoh teaches mathematics at Western Washington University, and Eyal teaches comparative literature at the University of California at Irvine.

Minda Rae landed a teaching spot at State University of New York at Fredonia, where she became academic dean and taught classes in her specialty. She retired in 1999. Nahum died in 2010. She moved to Bellingham in May 2019 because "I felt it was time to be near my sons, the most important people in my life," she said.

Remembering the Tetiev pogrom

Saturday, April 4, 1:00 pm

Following the 10:30 am Contemplative Shabbat service and luncheon on April 4, congregants are welcome to gather to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Tetiev pogrom in Kiev. Congregant Shlomis Waters, whose family lived in Tetiev at the time, will briefly share some history of the event before welcoming everyone to join in a sing-a-long in memory of those who perished.

Anniversaries

Mar. 15 Isaac & Samantha Konikoff Mar. 18 Nancy & Don Davis	(# 12) (# 36) (# 20)
Mar. 19 Robert & Jody Meltzer Mar. 24 Alan & Susan Kendal	
Mar. 24 Laura & Cassandra Wolfson	(# 16)
Mar. 26 Leah & Jeffrey Grossman	(# 9)
Mar. 29 Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David	(# 39)
Apr. 2 Harold & Susan Katz	(# 53)
Apr. 5 Marty & Kim Moskowitz	(#39)
Apr. 6 Kristan & Mike Brennan	(# 24)
Apr. 15 Aline & Sid Wanne	(# 57)
Apr. 16 Michael & Jay Braunstein	(# 20)
Apr. 20 Danny & Marla Finkelstein	(# 34)
Apr. 21 Mel Velsher & Adam Regan	(# 2)
Apr. 26 Howard Sharfstein & Mary Francell-Sharfstein	(# 33)

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.

Save the date for teens

NFTY NW Spring Kallah April 17-19 at Camp Kalsman

Consider sending your teen to the final NFTY Northwest event of the year! NFTY (formerly the North American Federation for Temple Youth) events are fun, energetic gatherings when Jewish teens can be together in community with over 100 others from the region. At this final action-packed event of the year, we will be welcoming 8th graders and saying goodbye to seniors. On Friday, April 17, at 6:00 pm, attend *Asefah* to help elect our new regional board!

For more information and to register, please visit: northwest.nfty.org. Registration opens February 26.

Annual Shabbaton at Camp Kalsman

Join us May 8-10 for our seventh annual CBI Shabbaton at the lovely URJ Camp Kalsman in Arlington. Accommodations for adults and families include private rooms and bathrooms. Activities will include: Shabbat services in the outdoors, five meals, child and adult programming, morning yoga for adults, sports, climbing the tower, campfire and s'mores, evening wine and cheese, talent show, and *havdalah*.

Cost: \$100 per person. Registration is open through our website or by contacting the office. Space is limited.

Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah: Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day

Monday, April 20, 7:00 pm

Please join us for our annual *Yom HaShoah* Service of Remembrance. This intergenerational event will include music led by our cantorial soloist, Andrea Shupack, as well as remarks from Ray Wolpow and Toby Sonneman.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut: Israeli Independence Day

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00 pm

Please join your CBI community as we sing, dance, and eat in celebration of *Medinat Yisrael*. Our evening will begin with a *Yom HaZikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day) siren and moment of silence, followed by *"Hatikva."* Rabbi Samuels will lead the third annual *Hidon haTanakh* (Torah Trivia), so brush up on your Hebrew Bible! Please bring an Israeli dish to share.

Interfaith Coalition Annual Hope Auction

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 pm Four Points by Sheraton

For over 25 years, Interfaith's Hope Auction has brought fellowship, inspiration, and hope to our community while raising awareness and support for our neighbors in need. Please join us for an evening that pulls together heart and effort in eliminating family homelessness and poverty. There are many ways to participate: donate an auction item, purchase tickets, or consider sponsorship of the event. Call or go to our website for more info or to purchase tickets: 360-734-3983, www.interfaith-coalition.org.



Yahrzeits

3/7

3/7

3/7

3/7

3/8

3/8 3/8 3/8

3/9

3/9

3/9

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/10

3/11

3/12

3/12 3/12 3/13

3/13

3/13

3/13

3/14

3/15

3/15

3/15

3/16

3/17

3/17

3/18

3/18

3/19 3/19 3/20

3/21 3/21

3/22 3/22

3/23 3/23

3/23

3/23 3/23

3/23

3/23

3/23 3/24

3/24

3/25

3/25

3/25

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

3/25

3/26

3/26

3/26

3/27

3/27

3/27

3/28

3/29

3/30

3/30

3/30

3/30

3/31

3/31

3/31

4/1

4/2

4/2

4/2

4/2

4/3

4/3

4/4

4/5

4/5

4/5 4/6

4/7

4/7

4/8

4/8

4/8

4/9

4/9

4/9

4/9

4/10

4/10

Friday, March 6

Jessie Edinger
Fred Fragner
Irwin Weiner
Paul Zentner
Carole Bajema
Alice Duckworth
Jack Eigen
Joseph Sonneman
Archie Fine
Gea Goldfeder
Elsa Zentner
David Boman
Phyllis Goldin
Ida Chia Kahn
Jack Kahn
Gilbert Orlik
Floyd Pritchett
George Schwartz
Harold Shepard
Celia Strang
Monica Zderic
Max J. Schwartz
Thomas Josiah Boothby
BJ Elder
Harry Skinner
Saul Faber
Colleen Koplowitz
Corey Skelton
Walter von Hollander

Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14

Max Lazarus
Charles Baron
Charles Blackwell
Marcia Landau
Emma Gartner
Benjamin Goldberg
Sol L. Shure
Felicia Elizabeth Romito
Elaine Fox Suloway
Shirley Boman
June Krauzer Mazonson
Muriel Anzman

Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21

Mabel Berman
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz
Raymond DeVries
Lylyan Wick
Dorothy Brody
Nathan Landau
Marcelline Naparty
Bernice Rappaport
Helen Sharfstein
Norma Soode
Gordon Eli Stolzoff
Harry Zemel
Anna Kushner
Ben Zderic
Morrie Feller
Esther Katz
Frank McKelvey

Eliezer Spiro Amy Louisa Blank Loren Lund Louis Sloss Myron Fink Lucia Mastbaum Herbert Sulkin
Friday, March 27 Leonard Price Megan Guppy Barry Evans William A. Gordon Lou Mazel Zelda Schuman Arthur Koplowitz Naomi Stone Fred Oscar Wigren Martin Spigelman Norma Edwards Beatrice Lazaroff David Benjamin Miller
Joyce Zvenia Fred Heller Robert Korner
Friday, April 3 Leah Rachel Shapiro Justin Scharff Manfred Vernon

Leah Rachel Shapiro
Justin Scharff
Manfred Vernon
Jose Weill
Lois Oksenberg
Curt Jay Alper
Michael Tabak
Burl Ives
Ray Schapiro
Max Wolfman
Naomi Lazarus Barnes
Arnold Behrstock
Dorothy M. Fine
Sam Strang
5
Arthur Feld
Angus Campbell Walker
• ·

4/11 4/11 4/13 4/14 4/14 4/14 4/15 4/15 4/15 4/16 4/17 4/17
4/18 4/19 4/20 4/20 4/21 4/21 4/21 4/21 4/22 4/23 4/24 4/24
4/25 4/26 4/26 4/27 4/27 4/28 4/28 4/28 4/28 4/30 4/30 4/30 5/01 5/01

In Memoriam

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

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

Steve Spitzer on the loss of his sister, **Shirley Spitzer**, who passed away on December 29, 2019 in Forest Hills, New York.

Jodi Litt and sons Elliott and Max Johnson on the loss of father/grandfather, **Stanley Litt**, who passed away on January 13, 2020 in Seattle. He was 87 years old.

Mary Somerville on the loss of her brother-in-law, **Chuck Collins**, who passed away on February 1, 2020 in Bethesda, Maryland, two weeks before his 69th birthday.

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

COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER ON APRIL 9, 2020

Register by Thursday, March 26, for the Community Seder. Space is limited.

Join us for a fun, lively and upbeat retelling of the Exodus story. This event has been popular for all ages... from babies to *bubbes*. The *seder* will include a dinner buffet with vegetarian, gluten-fee, and dairy-free options, as well as plenty of singing and the great *afikomen* search.

You can register now online at bethisraelbellingham.org. We welcome donations to help cover catering costs. Thank you!



BETHISRAELBELLINGHAM.ORG * 360.733.8890