

**CONGREGATION**  
**BETH ISRAEL**

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS**  
**2019 - 2020**  
**5780**

**Sunday, May 31, 2020**  
**Telemeeting on Zoom**  
**5:00 PM**

751 San Juan Blvd.  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
360-733-8890  
[bethisraelbellingham.org](http://bethisraelbellingham.org)  
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**Congregation Beth Israel**  
**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Sunday, May 31, 2020**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

**D'Var Torah – Rabbi Joshua Samuels**

**President's Report – Miriam Schwartz**

**Board of Directors' Slate – Steven Garfinkle & see booklet**

**Announcements**

**Adjournment**

## **CBI BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE for 2020 - 2021**

**Bolded names are up for election.**

### **Officers:**

President: Miriam Schwartz

Vice Pres: Josh Greenberg

**Vice Pres: Harriet Markell**

Treasurer: Terri Weiner

**Secretary: Jane Relin**

### **New Board Members:**

**Tammy Dixon**

**Kevin Donner**

**Binnie Perper**

**David Schlitt**

### **Up for Election to 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-year Board Term:**

**Steve Ban**

### **Continuing Board Members (not up for election)**

Isaac Konikoff

Lynn Korner

Jodi Litt

Paul Blum

# ----NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT----

Nominating Committee Members:

Steven Garfinkle - Chair

Isaac Blum, Tamar Clarke, Marta Brand, Lynn Korner (Board Rep), Vicki Jaffe

## ABOUT THE BOARD NOMINEES:

**Tammy Dixon:** My name is Tammy Dixon and I am married to Daryl Dixon. We have two awesome children, Orion who is eleven and Diana who is six. We have been CBI members for about ten years and are very active in the Kesher program. I am so happy to be part of such a wonderful community and look forward to the day when we can all come together in our beautiful synagogue again.

**Kevin Donner:** I'm honored to be considered for a position to represent our wonderful community as a member of the CBI board of directors. My main passion is helping to foster confidence in our Jewish youth. Nothing is more important to me than ensuring that our youth are proud of who they are, and of the heritage from which they came.

**Binnie Perper:** Binnie Perper was raised on the East Coast and moved westward many decades ago. She and her late husband moved to Ferndale in 1996 to be closer to their extensive family. Happily retired, Binnie worked in both the advertising and financial services industries. She is fond of Golden Retrievers, loves to travel (especially to Italy and Greece), enjoys reading, looks forward to family gatherings and likes walking with friends.

**David Schlitt:** David Schlitt is a Boston, Mass., native who arrived in Bellingham three years ago as the “trailing spouse” of WWU Jewish history professor Sarah Zarrow. He works as Interim Special Collections Manager and Judaica Archivist for Western Libraries Division of Heritage Resources at Western Washington University. As the son of secular Yiddishists who attended Conservative Jewish day school, worked at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and studied (briefly) at the pluralistic Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, David takes an “all-of-the-above” approach to Jewish life and community. He and Sarah are expecting their first kid ([kenehore, tfu tfu tfu](#)) in August.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As always, the entire finance committee thanks all the members of the CBI community for their support in the current, past and future fiscal years. We appreciate your help and trust as we finish one year and budget for the next.

The spreadsheet included here shows CBI's financial status at the end of April 2020. Overall, it seems pretty stable, and mostly as predicted for the fiscal year, which began July 1, 2019 and will end June 30, 2020. But we know that this year is not like other years, and that the past does not guarantee the future.

At this time, we remain unable to enjoy our beautiful home on San Juan Blvd. While that reduces some expenses, it creates new needs, such as an expensive overhaul of the internet capacity so that we can maintain virtual contact with each other in the absence of physical closeness. And we do not know how badly our membership will be struck by the financial damage this virus is inflicting. We sincerely hope that everyone is well and financially secure, but we won't know that until pledges of support are returned by CBI members.

As in difficult years past, we will get through these hard times. If you can do more this year, please consider helping to cover the deficit we will certainly face from the fiscal stresses of the pandemic. If you are among those struggling, please continue to participate in the Beth Israel community. Your membership is more than your dues and we need each other even more in trying times.

No one is denied membership in Congregation Beth Israel for financial reasons. Please, however, do respond to your pledge letter. Without adequate information the budgeting task becomes impossible. Thank you all for your help.

I add my thanks, as well, to the people who make the treasurer's work possible- finance committee members: Marcia Lippman, Dan Ohms, Jeff Jaffe, David Robinson, David Goldman, and Miriam Schwartz.

And ongoing gratitude to Mary Somerville, who in addition to the million other things she does is the keeper of all things accounting at BI.

Terri Weiner,  
Treasurer

**----CBI FINANCE REPORT----**  
**(budgeted and actual as of April 30, 2020)**

<b>Congregation Beth Israel</b>			
<b>BUDGET PROGRESS by</b>		<b>proposed budget- General</b>	
<b>CATEGORY</b>		<b>Funds</b>	
	<b>Budget 19-20</b>	<b>7/1/19-4/30/20</b>	<b>percentage of</b>
<b>BUDGET CATEGORY</b>		<b>83%</b>	<b>budgeted amount</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues	300,000	287,095	96%
RS Tuition & transfer fr Restr.	57,000	42,465	75%
RS Donations & Programs	12,000	620	5%
Donations - General	5,000	8,585	172%
HH Ticket Sales & Donations	8,500	7,195	85%
Program Income	12,000	8,030	67%
Facility rental	7,500	1,573	21%
Solar Reimbursement	4,500	4,851	108%
Fund Raising	12,000	9,694	81%
Shofar Subscriptions/Advertising	750	880	117%
Investment Income	<u>25</u>	<u>83</u>	332%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>419,275</b>	<b>371,071</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Advertising	-	250	#DIV/0!
Bank Service Charges	1,200	1,039	87%
Building Maintenance	25,000	20,146	81%
Security	21,000	15,288	73%
Committee Exp & leadership development	3,000	406	14%

HHD Expenses	3,000	3,399	113%
Donations	1,500	-	0%
Insurance/ legal	6,000	8,238	137%
Licenses & Taxes	3,050	2,640	87%
PR: Rabbi & Administration	210,000	172,949	82%
Postage and Delivery	1,000	678	68%
Programming	3,000	1,967	66%
Programming- Holiday Religious School Expenses	10,000 90,000	- 71,241	0% 79%
Supplies	11,000	9,709	88%
Telephone	4,300	5,438	126%
URJ Dues	18,000	12,134	67%
Utilities	<u>8,100</u>	<u>8,337</u>	<u>103%</u>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>419,150</b>	<b>333,859</b>	<b>80%</b>
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Income after Expenses	125	37,212
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Capital expenditures		2,034
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Balance adj to General Fund		<b>35,178</b>
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**Bank Balances:**

**Non Restricted**

Operating checking	124,114.28
General reserves US Bank	93,978.88

<b>Total non restricted</b>	<b>218,093.16</b>
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**Building Fund  
Accounts**

Key Bank Bld Fund	133,405.76
Key Bank Brick Paver Fund	3,002.27
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>136,408.03</b>

**----KESHER CENTER FOR JEWISH LEARNING----**

**Nicky Naiman and Andrea Shupack, Co-Directors**

Our mission for Kesher is to create enduring experiences that challenge our students and families to engage creatively with their Judaism, and inspire life-long learning. We do this by offering classes for students from birth through high school.

During the 2019/2020 school year, we

- Had a change in leadership in January, where Nicky and Andrea stepped in to help the program. Their immediate actions included offering support to the teachers, specifically in the areas of content and lesson planning, implementing a new Hebrew curriculum, and working to get families properly registered with payment plans.
- Created a new, user-friendly registration platform (with the help of Melissa Schapiro). This was due to several factors, including complaints from families, families slipping through the cracks with payments, and that the TADS program was very time consuming from the administrative point of view. Our new program is through Payquiq, which is the same payment platform that is used when registering for other CBI activities and programs. We have also created an overview of our new curriculum to provide to families with the registration materials.
- Went online during the Covid-19 Shutdown. We only missed one day of school due to the shutdown, which we made up for by adding a day during Spring Break. The virtual classes are taught via Zoom, using teacher created lessons and activities, as well as the Shalom Learning curriculum in grades 3-7. In addition to Sunday classes, students in grades 2-6 have the opportunity to participate in book clubs during the week that



promote reading Jewish related books. Students in grades 3-7 have also been provided with an online Hebrew self-paced study program to work on outside of school hours.

During the 2020/2021 school year, we hope to:

- Continue to revamp the existing curriculum. This is already in process, but it is not yet complete, and it will take much work over the summer to finish before the school year begins.
- Create a meaningful and enriching program for our Madrichim, as they have been underutilized in the past. We realize that these teenagers have so much to offer our younger students, and with adequate support and training, we think they can make a truly positive impact on our Keshet program.
- Offer more support to our teachers by providing them with a complete and well-planned curriculum, materials to support that curriculum, and teacher trainings in areas such as creating a classroom community, classroom management, and lesson planning.

## **KESHER PARENT COMMITTEE**

### **Tammy Dixon, Chair**

This has been quite a year, with a lot of changes, and hurdles to overcome; at times it felt a little overwhelming. But, especially considering all that has happened, this year had actually been quite a successful one for the KPC; until the world came to a screeching halt, that is. The change in administration and curriculum for Keshet was a bit daunting at times, and honestly, I was concerned about losing parental involvement. Over the summer the KAG had come to an agreement that the KPC chair should stick around during Keshet hours, originally to assist Sagit, to help take off some of the pressure. This turned out to be more beneficial than we had originally anticipated as it allowed me to be a constant presence on Sundays. I was there as a fellow parent, to act as a sounding board and a source of information for concerned parents during this time of adjustment. Serving on the KAG, along with the support I received from the Rabbi, Andrea and Nikki, we were able to maintain a high level of parent involvement and mitigate most concerns. In fact, in January we had the largest turnout for a KPC meeting I had ever seen; thanks to Sarah Witte, and her fantastic idea to have a football theme in honor of the Super Bowl. This turnout enabled us to address a wide array of issues, stemming from curriculum and teaching concerns, to setting up a schedule for the Shabbat craft tables and volunteers for Lag B'Omer. It also gave Andrea and Nikki an opportunity to address a large number of parents directly. Coffee and bagels were a welcome addition to our meetings, thanks to Miriam Schwartz, I'm pretty sure this has been part of the increase in the number of parents attending. In addition to being a platform for organizing events and providing information, it is my belief that the KPC meetings should be an opportunity for parents to socialize and get to know each other better. Before the COVID outbreak we were definitely moving in this direction. There were plans to have a yard sale again as well as ideas for Lag B'Omer and input for Mitzvah Day. I do not want to see the energy we were building to completely fizzle out so I've been trying to think of some things we could do in our current situation. Perhaps an evening Zoom get together for some wine and wine, a Havdalah service, or just a simple meeting to check in with everyone; at the very least I would like to send out an email just to keep in touch.

Building on the success we did have this year some ideas for next year include a latke breakfast for the parents while the kids are in Keshet, a parent costume contest around Purim, having the yard sale, and hosting another Super Bowl meeting; and of course we will continue to provide bagels and coffee. Incorporating a social time into the meetings has shown to be quite successful, and with Keshet sessions being longer, this is easier to achieve. I would like to see the KPC meetings continue on a set Sunday every month. The easier we make it for parents to plan, the more likely they are to attend while reducing schedule conflicts with other events

I have been searching for a co-chair, but have been hard pressed to find anyone willing to commit. Hopefully once we get rolling again the idea of committing will be easier. In the meantime, I'm happy to continue as the only chair.

## **KESHER ADVISORY GROUP REPORT**

The Keshet Advisory Group (KAG) is a standing committee responsible for providing direction, guidance, and support of the Keshet Center for Learning. We provide support to the Keshet Director(s) in matters related to educational programming & curriculum, administrative issues, financial oversight and strategic planning. Thus far we have assisted in the following area: creating a Keshet parent handbook, developed anti-bullying policy, planning for opening day of Keshet, weekly parent communication, yearlong planning of Keshet calendar, implemented a Keshet parent & staff survey (fall & spring), assisted with transition of Keshet leadership in January. We are currently in the process of planning for next year's Keshet leadership, potential continued job share (Nicky & Andrea) or a new hire for director.

The KAG members are Tammy Dixon, Robin Curtis, Darcie Donegan, Sharona Feller, Miriam Schwartz, Rabbi Samuels, Katie Edelstein (co-chair), and Rita Spitzer (co-chair)

## **----ADULT EDUCATION----**

### **Rabbi Joshua Samuels, Chair**

2019/2020 was one of our most exciting, yet also unique, years of recent memory with regards to adult education. Our building affords us the space to hold multiple classes at the same time. It is wonderful to be teaching one class on a Wednesday night in the Beit Midrash and see students from another class make their way upstairs to the library and others meet their instructor in the social hall. In total we offered 15 classes. Below are some of the highlights this past year.

The highlight for this year was our first **Fest of Learning** in January 2020. This was a full day of learning, art, music, and food. The synagogue was abuzz with activity as people went from class to class. The day ended with a beautiful Havdalah, catered dinner by Genny Cohn, and a concert by one of our two artists/musicians-in-residence, Laura Berman. Hillel Smith taught a few courses and spent time with our Keshet students the next day making art with them. Thank you to all of our teachers for sharing your knowledge with us. We hope to do this again when we can all be together.

**Torah study** continues to be a well-attended class and the Beit Midrash is a wonderful setting. This weekly text study is open to anyone and is led primarily by Rabbi Samuels and sometimes by guests, including Roby Blecker, Mark Packer, Stu Berman, and Ahuva Scharff. We dissect the Torah portion, try to make sense of it in the context in which it was written, and then attempt to connect its messages and teaching to our own day and

lives.

**Judaism 201** (the Rabbi's intro course) took place in the fall and winter and has once again proven to be a welcoming environment for people from both inside and outside the CBI community. It is not only a refresher course for life-long Jews, but a pre-requisite for students considering conversion. Each session is filled with lively conversation and excellent questions. Many friendships have even been made during this 10-week course.

David Schlitt, is currently teaching **Modern Yiddish Literature in Translation** via Zoom to a full class.

Stuart Berman is about to teach a 5-session course titled, **The House of Ahab and Jezebel**. This look in the Book of Kings will include an exploration of midrash, history and folklore.

Cantorial soloist Andrea Shupack continues to teach several courses. This year she led **Beginning and Intermediate Prayer Book Hebrew**. The class was so loved that it has continued well beyond its end date.

Rabbi Samuels, Geraldine Reitz, and Roby Blecker had intended to teach **Jewish Responses to Christian Questions**, but had to put this on pause due to Covid-19 social distancing and quarantine policies. They hope to lead this course in person soon.

We don't only offer classes to stimulate the mind, but also the body. Michal Retter, once again, led a Sunday Morning Yoga class, titled, **Morning Gentle Yoga**, during Keshet hours in our multi-purpose room on the top floor.

Kevin Donner continues to teach **Kuk Soon Won** (Korean martial arts) to a growing class in the social hall multiple times a week. This class has can be a great way for parents and children to bond while getting a good workout.

Jay Nahani (Braunstein) led a workshop on storytelling (**Wonder of Miracles**) as a lead-up to our Beit Cafe, A Night of Storytelling at the Mount Baker Theatre on December 7.

If you have any ideas for Adult Education classes, please reach out to Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack.

## ----STRATEGIC PLANNING----

Jane Relin

In 2017, the Board of Directors created an extensive vision for the future of CBI in our new building. 2020 marks the completion of this plan period, and this year the Board will be reviewing the plan, evaluating progress on our goals, ensuring that each committee understands its part and determining our priorities for the next 3 years. Suggestions are welcome. Just pass your ideas on to a Board member.

## ----FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE----

**Josh Greenberg, Chair**

The Facilities Maintenance and Management Committee (hereafter FMCM) is a standing committee responsible for the maintenance, management, and rental of the building and grounds belonging to Congregation Beth

Israel (CBI) at 751 San Juan Boulevard. There are a number of sub-committees that meet on specific topics, and the chair of each sub-committee participates in the FMMC. This is a new model started this year and it has helped spread out some of the work done at our amazing facility while still helping ensure good communication and sharing of progress and ideas. The individual sub-committees have end of the year reports so this doesn't need to reiterate all the great work they have done. I will say that we have an amazing group of volunteers and it is the help of many that allows us to keep the building operational but also keep working on the finishing touches.

### **BUILDING FINANCIAL ANALYSIS (Karen Sloss)**

The rough estimate of new building expenses generated 2-3 years ago as a joint effort of the Finance Committee and the NSTF and others turned out to be very close to reality. Even though we are in a much more complex building with 5x the square footage of our old shul on Broadway, the new building annual maintenance expenses are currently only about 2x the expenses in the old building. However, when we add full landscape maintenance (after 2020) and perhaps relieve some of the volunteer efforts with paid staff, expenses are likely to rise by 20-30% over the next few years.

### **INTERIOR DESIGN GROUP (IDG)**

The Interior Design Group (IDG) is a subcommittee of the Facilities, Maintenance and Management Committee and was initially formed to select and oversee interior design finishes during construction of the synagogue but now works in conjunction with other committees or groups regarding interior related issues. The following people serve on this group: Katie Edelstein (Chair), Vicki Jaffe, Vicky Garfinkle, Marla Finkelstein, Miriam Schwartz, Warren Rosenthal.

During the past year, the group has worked in conjunction with several CBI groups including: Keshet; Events & Rentals Subcommittee; Artwork Group; Ark Design Group; Dedications Committee; Library Committee; and the Acoustics Task Force.

In the coming year, the Interior Design Group is available to work in conjunction with any group as it relates to interior design features of the synagogue. The IDG will continue working with the Ark Design Group as it relates to furniture for the bimah, Acoustics Task Force, Kitchen Task Force and any other group in need of input from the Interior Design Group.

### **ARK DESIGN GROUP**

#### **Vicki Jaffe**

*(Ark Design Group includes Vicki Jaffe, Katie Edelstein, Vicky Garfinkle, Miriam Schwartz, Marla Finkelstein, Warren Rosenthal and Dan Ohms)*

The Ark Design group is a subcommittee of the New Synagogue Task Force initiated by Warren Rosenthal four years ago. Our main directive was to create an ark for the new sanctuary in collaboration with a local artisan of choice. The numerous meetings held over the years resulted in a final rendition designed by Tom Lutz which was unanimously approved by the NSTF and CBI Board last Spring. Our next goal was to construct and install the ark. A handful of generous donors made the first phase of construction a reality and the timber portals were

installed March 2020. With the community support of our mezuzah project fundraiser we feel positive that final construction of the cabinet will be completed and inserted prior to the High Holidays.

With the completion of the ark construction in our future sights we move forward with the process of researching options for a Ner Tamid. As well, we hope to instruct Tom to begin work on the bimah furniture design as funding becomes available.

## **ARTWORK DONATION GROUP**

### **Vicky Garfinkle**

The Artwork Donation Group is a subcommittee of the Interior Design Group and is tasked with considering and evaluating potential artwork/furniture donations. The following people serve on this group: Vicky Garfinkle (Chair), Katie Edelstein, Vicki Jaffe, Marla Finkelstein, Miriam Schwartz, Warren Rosenthal.

This year we accepted objects of Judaica from Janis Ban who donated items from Noemi Ban, of blessed memory. In addition, we also accepted donated works of art from Nancy Miller, wife of David Miller of blessed memory. David's mother, Reeva Miller, was a well-known artist who painted and sketched landscapes as well as pictures with a Judaica theme. Reeva Miller's paintings have now been framed and currently hang on the walls in CBI. The other project that was accomplished this year was to collect photographs of members from CBI's early days and convert them to canvas prints so they could be hung on main floor hallway for everyone to view.

Please be aware of the Artwork Donation Group's policy:

*CBI accepts the donation of works of art and objects of Judaica to the extent that they are in good condition and are of value to CBI. Potential donors should understand that we are not able to accept every artwork or objects of Judaica offered to CBI and will evaluate potential donations on a case by case basis. CBI cannot accept works which need repair, conservation treatment or expensive rehousing such as works which must be displayed under glass. All works of art become the sole property of CBI, which reserves the right to display, store, auction or dispose of donated items as it sees fit.*

If anyone is interested in donating a work of art or furniture to CBI, please contact Vicky Garfinkle.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Members of the Safety and Security Committee are: Dan Ohms (Chair), Steven Garfinkle, David Zimmerman, Isaac Konikoff, Brooke Kassen, Joshua Greenberg, Kevin Donner, Miriam Schwartz – ex officio.

There have been several significant changes in the Safety and Security Committee since our last report. First, I want to report that Jeff Jaffe decided to step down as chair of our committee. We want to thank him for his many years of dedication and countless hours of commitment maintaining our safety over many years. Thank you, Jeff!

The second major change is that the Safety and Security Committee is no longer a stand-alone committee but a sub-committee of the Facilities Management Committee. There are many overlapping issues facing each committee and this arrangement provides for excellent communication regarding security infrastructure and monitoring systems.

Our main area of work involves completion of the front gate, key access to the building, and consolidation of our security monitoring to a single company to improve efficiency. Additionally, an application has been made to the Department of Homeland Security for a grant to strengthen our windows.

## **PROPERTY AND GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Miriam Schwartz and Kevin Donner, Co-Chairs**

Members: Cora Boothby, Karen Sloss, Daryl Dixon, Ian Horton (advisory), Mike Braunstein

This group is tasked with the ongoing development and maintenance of the exterior part of the synagogue property, excluding any special construction projects.

In the past year we have accomplished:

- Maintenance of the Stormwater system, both the retention pond and the bioretention cells before the winter.
- In process, the development of an amended plan for the County, and organization of weed suppression and planting to satisfy the conditions of the permit, which are due Feb 2021.
- Removal of fallen tree and repair of fencing.
- Collaborate with Security and the DHS grant writers on improved lighting for the patio.

Next year, we hope to:

- Complete County requirements of the Occupancy Permit without further delays.
- Achieve further improvements to the property, such as finishing the playfield, moving the construction container to a less obtrusive site, and additional improvements to the appearance of the Synagogue property as we are able, dependent on funds.
- Develop a sustainable plan for maintenance of the landscaping.
- Develop a Garden Corps of people who would enjoy tending to parts of the landscaping, as part of a coordinated plan of maintenance. Please contact Miriam Schwartz at [pieface880@gmail.com](mailto:pieface880@gmail.com) or Kevin Donner at [the\\_kcd@hotmail.com](mailto:the_kcd@hotmail.com) if you want to be part of this team!

## **MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Marta Brand and Marcia Lippman, Co-Chairs**

The Maintenance Committee oversees the maintenance and cleaning of the interior of the building, e.g.: replacing light bulbs, annual or semi-annual carpet and window cleaning, weekly professional cleaning, repairs, garbage, extra cleaning of bathrooms before Shabbat and for large events, etc. Oversight also includes ensuring that routine inspections and servicing of systems occurs, e.g.: furnaces, alarm and fire suppression systems (Safety & Security Committee), elevator (Isaac Blum), communication system (Isaac Konikoff), etc.

This year the committee created a list of the tasks that need to happen to keep the synagogue running and in order and when those things need to happen. We have a list of vendors and time tables. And we're keeping a good eye on expenditures.

We're creating a list of folks willing to pitch in to do small fix-it projects and to help with cleaning the entry hall on Friday mornings, freshen bathrooms, take out garbage and basically prepare for Shabbat services (professional cleaning occurs on Mondays).

Goals:

- Expand number of volunteers serving on the Maintenance Committee
- Organize paperwork related to the building construction and maintenance.
- Clean and organize the storage rooms.

## **EVENTS & RENTALS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The Events & Rentals Subcommittee is composed of the following members:

Katie Edelstein (Chair), Dan Raas, Karen Sloss, Josh Greenberg, Steven Garfinkle, Dan Ohms, Miriam Schwartz.

The goal of this subcommittee is to make sure best practices are followed, and, to do this, policies and procedures relevant to rental usage of the CBI facility were adopted when Congregation Beth Israel's new synagogue was opened. In addition, the Events and Rental Subcommittee's goal is to work with every person who is interested in using the facility to ensure their event experience is one that meets their event objectives while maintaining the decorum and sanctity of Congregation Beth Israel.

To ensure that we meet members' event expectations, a survey was sent out to members who used the CBI facility as well as other members who might have contemplated using it but decided not to. The two main issues that the survey identified were: (1) mandatory requirement of purchasing personal liability insurance coverage and (2) lengthy and cumbersome rental packet. After speaking with several other synagogues and insurance companies to see how we might handle rentals differently, we made changes to the overall CBI Rental Agreement.

The revised CBI Rental Agreement has now been streamlined and into 2 parts: (1) CBI Facilities Rental Policy & Procedure Information and (2) CBI Rental Agreement forms. After doing some checking with our insurance company and other synagogues, going forward CBI will offer members the option of not buying event insurance. If members choose the option of not buying event insurance, they will be required to sign/agree that they will be responsible to pay any extra costs that are not covered by their damage deposit. The other option is renters can purchase event insurance if they do not want to be responsible to pay any extra costs that are not covered by their damage deposit. We are still requiring that all vendors provide proof of insurance coverage – this is standard for event rentals.

The Events and Rentals chair will continue to oversee the process and meet with anyone interested in renting CBI's facility for their event. Anyone requesting additional information should contact Katie Edelstein at the following email: [facilities@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:facilities@bethisraelbellingham.org).

We look forward to the day when we can open the doors of Congregation Beth Israel and begin celebrating in person again.

## ----FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2020----

Fundraising Committee Members: Karen Sloss (Chair), Steven Garfinkle, Lynn Korner, and Joan Wayne, with President Miriam Schwartz and Board Member Jodi Litt, Ex-Officio.

The CBI Fundraising Committee was recently recommissioned to oversee all fundraising for CBI, although Kesher does some additional fundraising of its own. For the past 20 years, fundraising at CBI has mainly consisted of the Capital Campaign for the New Synagogue, the occasional fundraising event for a specific project and CBI's Scrip Program.

During the past year, David Goldman (Chair), Jeff Jaffe, Steve Ban and Mitch Press stepped down from the Capital Campaign. We whole-heartedly thank them all for their years of service, especially David Goldman who served as Chair and deftly led the group for many years! The Capital Campaign Committee is reduced in size but still active as several significant projects remain to be completed—campus-wide landscaping and fencing, the main floor kitchen, bima furnishings, and other indoor & outdoor furnishings are the main items planned. The current estimate of funds needed is in the \$700,000 to \$900,000 range, so broad congregational support will be critical. The Capital Campaign focuses on direct solicitation, engaging congregants one at a time, and will continue to reach out to congregants until sufficient funds are collected. We hope that all members will join us in supporting our New Synagogue Project to the extent they can, be it a first-time donation or an additional contribution. Over the past year a total of \$90,000 was raised through these efforts. We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the project and look forward to an even more productive year ahead.

A successful, project-specific fundraiser was organized this spring by Vicki and Jeff Jaffe. It involved the fabrication of mezuzahs from wood salvaged from the construction of the portals which will support our new ark. All funds generated will go towards the completion of the ark. Another scheduled New Synagogue fundraiser, headed by Lynn Korner, was re-scheduled to June 2021 due to Covid-19.

The CBI Scrip Program is an important, ongoing fundraiser coordinated by Joan Wayne that supports overall CBI operations. Please see the detailed report on Scrip that is included in this packet.

The Fundraising Committee hopes to expand the number of events and efforts at supporting CBI over the coming year and is seeking new members who either have fundraising/marketing skills or want to learn them. Besides the New Synagogue Project, the Committee aims to support CBI operations and eventually secure CBI's future with an Endowment Fund.

## ----COMMITTEE and TASK FORCE REPORTS----

### **ACOUSTICS AND VISUAL ENHANCEMENT TASK FORCE**

**Marta Brand, Chair**

Committee Members: David Goldman, Josh Shupack, Hank Levine, Rachel Lowenstein, Anne Marie Kroitzsch, Vicky Garfinkle.



The Acoustics and Visual Enhancement Task Force is working toward improving the sound quality for services, musical events and speaker events as well as everyday conversations in the Sanctuary, social hall, and Foyer. We want to improve the sound for everyone, from those with normal hearing to those who are hard of hearing. Coming up with cost effective solutions to make services more enjoyable for the visually impaired has recently been added to our agenda. We have a wonderful group of knowledgeable committee members who are willing to roll up their sleeves to accomplish our goals.

1. After much research and generosity, a new Bose Speaker System was purchased within the last few months which will be an improvement over our old system.
2. Sound absorption panels have been mounted in the synagogue and we're studying the next steps for acoustical treatments that will be both functional and attractive.
3. The sound at the High Holidays was certainly improved with an additional speaker and different placement of higher quality speakers. We had borrowed augmented hearing devices for the hard of hearing which were wonderful, when they worked. We would like to have our own augmented devices for the High Holidays.

## **DEDICATIONS TASK FORCE**

Mitch Press, Katie Edelstein, Lynn Korner, Karen Sloss, Miriam Schwartz, Steven Garfinkle

Our group is charged with implementing the New Synagogue's Donor Recognition and Dedications Policy. We want to publicly acknowledge the folks whose generous contributions help make our new Synagogue home a reality.

During the past year, this group has researched and recommended for Board approval the specific plaque designs which will honor donors for their contributions to the new Synagogue. The Task Force then reached out to all congregants and New Synagogue donors to confirm their qualifications and desire for a dedication acknowledgement. All donors who contributed \$1,000 and above can be recognized in a community display to be located in the main foyer. Contributors of \$5,000 and above may dedicate a specific room, or piece of furniture as a way to recognize their family contribution or honor a loved one. At this time, we have ordered most of the plaques for the specific dedications. The Task Force will next research and recommend a design for the community display.

## **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair: Tim Baker

Descendants of old Bellingham families continue to contact the synagogue requesting information about the history of the synagogue and family members who were part of Bellingham's Jewish community. But the main activity this year is following the Board's directive to transfer synagogue archive material to WWU for preservation and safekeeping. The process is on hold due to COVID, but will proceed when conditions allow.

## **CARE COMMITTEE**

Current members include Harriet Markell (Co-Chair), Else Sokol (Co-Chair), Sylvia Williams, Geraldine Reitz, Joan Wayne, Corinne Gimbel-Levine, Becky Van Glubt, Ruth Evans, Tracey Levine, Jodi Litt, and Sarah Witte.

The Care Committee has enjoyed another full and meaningful year of practicing G'milut Hasadim and Rachamim in 2019-20. We had a busy year and have had some membership changes. Our collaboration with the Cemetery Committee on providing workshops on end of life planning was very successful and rewarding, and we plan to finish the series when we can all meet in the same room again.

Our work is in keeping with CBI's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Priority II Strategies 2 – *Demonstrate caring for our synagogue congregants as well as Jewish non-members who are unable to go out or need assistance.* This past year we have accomplished the following:

- Provided ongoing assessment and intermittent care as needed for those on our Chavurim list: congregants and greater Jewish community members who are at risk for adverse emotional, spiritual and physical health consequences due to physical ailments, social isolation, or mental or physical disability;
- Conducted a workshop (three of four planned) on End of Life Planning in partnership with the Cemetery Committee;
- Developed a database of members willing to assist with Care Committee activities, which we are calling the Mitzvah Corps;
- Set up and have implemented a plan to keep in touch with all congregants during the COVID-19 "Stay at home" order;
- Routinely checked on First Aid kit to maintain complete and updated supplies;
- Provided bereavement support to multiple congregants;
- Assisted with the delivery of the *mishloach manot* for Purim.

Plans for the coming year include continuation of our routine and COVID-19-related support for the community and completion of the End of Life Planning workshop series. We hope that the virus situation allows us to more fully tap the volunteer support of the Mitzvah Corps, which was established just as we went into "stay at home" mode. We are also planning to secure a wheelchair for the building to assist those who need help getting into services and events, and we will discuss with the Social Action Committee the possibility of sharing permanent bulletin board space for information/education and notices for the congregation.

## **CEMETERY COMMITTEE & CHEVRA KADDISHA SUBCOMMITTEE**

Members of the Cemetery Committee: Debbie Adelstein (Chair of Finances), Janis Ban (Chair), Diane Garmo, Dan Ohms, Cora Boothby

Members of *Chevra Kaddisha*:

Women: Debbie Adelstein, Diane Garmo, Cora Boothby, Janis Ban, Corinne Gimbel-Levine, Lynn Korner, Marcy Probst; Geraldine Reitz, Sarah Bauman

Men: Emil Hecht, Steve Ban, Hank Levine, Frank Champagne, Barry Landau, Dan Ohms, Marc Weinstein, Miles Bryant

The Cemetery Committee:

- Continued ongoing work of maintaining cemetery, responding to inquiries, helping families buy plots and deal with burial issues at time of death, facilitating details around setting headstones, arranging for Chevra Kaddish services, etc. We had 4 burials, sold 5 plots, and had 1 headstone installed.
- Got bids and changed our landscaping contractor to Whatcom Lawns. Our old one sold the business. We also had a new sprinkling system for the shrub garden installed. It should be less likely to be vandalized or eaten by animals.
- Did our first Virtual Tahara.
- Co-sponsored, with the Care Committee, an End of Life Workshop. We were able to complete 3 of the 4 sessions before the shutdown for coronavirus. About 35-40 people attended.
- Future plans include continuing ongoing tasks, completing the 4<sup>th</sup> session of End of Life Workshop, and Update Rules and Regulations for Cemetery.

## **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Team members: Melissa Schapiro (Chair), Isaac Konikoff (Technology), Harriet Markell (Board Liaison). With ongoing input from staff and lay leaders.

Most of the year was spent maintaining the congregational website, adopting new functions and keeping items and pages up-to-date. In 2020, this has been especially important during the Covid-19 facility closure. Also created templates for flyers and correspondence.

Ongoing: Creating payment forms online, making it easier to register and pay for dues, classes, Kesher, and programming events.

Upcoming projects: Centralizing information online and making it accessible to staff, board members and committee chairs (i.e. flyer/email/correspondence templates, photos, marketing materials). Also, an audit of how the synagogue communicates – internally, with congregants and out to the broader community, with a goal of streamlining and improving.

On the tech side: Supporting the growing IT needs of CBI, such as creating and managing email users as well as making recommendations for remote working applications. And working with the FMMC to upgrade our camera system and internet access so that more security/facilities members can remotely monitor the CBI campus as well as have a functional front gate and security system.

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Mitch Press and Rena Ziegler, Co-Chairs Members: Roby Blecker, Josh Greenberg, Bruce VanGlubt

The Governance Committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding ways to improve the organizational structure, communication flow, and operations of the synagogue. The Committee is sometimes tasked by the Board to update an existing Board position description or CBI policy or to develop a specific policy if there is no existing policy document. Our overall goal is to make sure that we have consistent, fair, and consensual governance guidelines for CBI.

Our work this year was focused on three projects:

1. Creation of a new position: Financial Sustainability Director

This exciting project involved creating and defining a position for a person to work with our Treasurer to help reach out to our congregants to clarify membership expectations and follow up with dues commitments and collections. This person serves as an educator and monitors and collects dues for Beth Israel in a helpful, non-pressuring manner. Currently Jodi Litt from the Board serves in this role.

## 2. Revision of the CBI Treasurer Job Description

This revision made clear the Treasurer's responsibilities regarding the CBI Administrative Assistant, the new Financial Sustainability Director position, and the Finance Committee. It also specifies more specific requirements for external audits for our finances and bookkeeping practices.

## 3. Board-Requested Development of a CBI Community Code of Conduct

We studied codes of conduct that other synagogues have developed and created a draft of a possible broad code of conduct for CBI members. But we realized that it would be useful to have further elaboration from the Board before proceeding further. We are deferring work on that project until the Board gives us further direction.

## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members: Joan Sager (chair), Bruce Van Glubt, Paul Blum, Roby Blecker, Dan Ohms.

2020 is a good time to review where our committee is at so I would like to share a bit of history.

Our HR Committee started by submitting the following mission statement at the November 2013 board meeting:

***The HR Committee will work towards facilitating positive employee relations; train to enhance employee skills, performance and job satisfaction and strive to create an atmosphere of professional work environment.***

***Through this focus, the committee will work together to implement systems that would increase organizational effectiveness and promote compliance with federal and state nondiscrimination laws.***

The overall goal of our committee work was to ensure that employees are treated professionally, fairly and consistently at all phases of employment.

We identified the following areas for our committee to focus on:

- *Specific roles and responsibilities*
- *Interview process/hiring*
- *Work place requirement/compliance*
- *Employee handbook*
- *Personnel files/performance reviews*
  - *We have successfully established a yearly schedule for annual reviews and have seen the many benefits of having this review process*
  - *To help us connect the dots between policy and actions*

- *Intent is not to create a bureaucracy but rather identify the pathways of how decisions (policies) intersect with actions*
- Create a pathway to liaison/mediate employee–CBI concerns upon request

The December 2013 board meeting approved the creation of a Human Resource committee. We had our first committee meeting in February 2014 and have met monthly since.

We are now 6 years later and have completed many of our original goals. However, we continue our goal to have the best possible outcome for our employees and be able to provide our staff with support and opportunities for growth.

The Committee will continue to serve as a resource for employees and the Board as needed.

B'shalom, Joan Sager, Chair

May 2020

## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Library Committee: Tim Baker, Tamar Clarke, Julie Hunter, Gloria Lebowitz, Rob Lopresti, David Schlitt, and Joan Wayne (chair).

The Library committee has had a very busy and productive year. We have sorted through thousands of books, shelved them using the Dewey Decimal system, and entered them in an online catalog that can be easily accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/maxglass>. A special thankyou to Rob Lopresti, the brains in this operation. We are about halfway through inventorying the collection to make sure the catalog and the shelves match up. We're all looking forward to being able to use our library.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs: Sue Mahar and Ann Suloway. Members: Becki Van Glubt, Joan Wayne, Kristin David, Marta Brand, Michelle Beller-Siegfried, Rita Spitzer, and Sarah Witte. Board Liaison: Josh Greenberg.

Events: During the last fiscal year the membership committee held an Ice Cream Social to welcome and get to know new and interested members. This event was attended by over 50 people of all ages, and included sharing info about the synagogue community and how to get involved. The committee greeted members and welcomed guests to the four main High Holiday services and provided the Erev Rosh Hashanah oneg. Since it was so successful the first time, we held a second welcome and get to know event during the winter, a soup and bread night with Havdalah. About 50 people of all ages attended. The committee is grateful to the Witte family for hosting this event.

Ongoing: A committee member attends every Friday night service and most Saturday services to welcome and connect with anyone interested in or newly joined to the synagogue community. The committee stays in touch with those who are interested and follows up with new members after they join to help them integrate into the community. All these folks receive an invitation from a committee member to the Community Seder, Purim

Carnival, Hanukah party, Shabbat Dinner Crowd, and other community events that CBI holds. A committee member delivers a welcome bag to each new member. They also receive a welcome email and written information about how things work and who to contact for more information. New members who indicate interest in committee work are referred to committee chairs. We also connect new members with other interests while getting to know them, for example, the Sisterhood Book Group. New members are listed in the Shofar. Since we haven't been able to meet new people during the pandemic, if you know anyone with interest in our community, please share our contact info, direct them to the website, and let them know that they can call the office.

The committee has been pleased to welcome fourteen new member families into our CBI community since one year ago, and thanks Mary Somerville, Rabbi Samuels, and members of the board for their support in the welcoming process. Eight members have left the community: four moved away, one passed away, and three chose not to renew. Total membership at this time is 267.

The committee is grateful to Amy Whiting for her years of service on the committee, and to Rita Spitzer for co-chairing for several years and staying on the committee after stepping down. We also thank Josh Greenberg for his support.

## **ONEG COMMITTEE**

Members: Kristin Sykes-David, Joan Wayne and Sarah Witte

Oneg Committee creates and sends out the *oneg* schedule and reminds congregants when it is their turn to host. They also ensure that there are clean table cloths. Joan Wayne replenishes kitchen supplies as needed.

## **PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE**

### **Jane Relin, Chair**

Members: Stuart Berman, Roby Blecker, Arlene Feld, Bob Goldman, Candace Kiersky, Gloria Lebowitz, Deborah Oksenberg, Nicole Samuels, Rabbi Samuels, Melissa Schapiro, Miriam Schwartz, Andrea Shupack, Ann Suloway, Kristin Sykes-David, Joan Wayne, Emily Weiner, Terri Weiner

The Programming Committee was reformed this year after an extended hiatus. Jane Relin has accepted the position of Chair and 18 people signed up for the committee. The committee agreed to have individuals who would like to sponsor programs complete the Program Committee Proposal Form and play the major role in organizing and presenting the program along with others they have recruited. The committee will review these forms and determine funding if temple funds are needed. The programs presented this year included: Mary Knight discussing Sex Trafficking; Alan Gratz, an author of books for young readers; Laura Berman in concert; and Nefesh Mountain in concert. In addition, there was an excursion to see the play *Indecent* presented at the Seattle Rep that included students from Western, and a Day of Learning, organized by Andrea Shupack.

The committee proposes to present 4 programs each year with a Day of Learning or Scholar in Residence every year or every other year, as conditions allow. A Scholar in Residence program is being planned for next year with Dr. Joel Hoffman, the author of [In the Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language](#) and [And God Said: How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning](#).

## SCRIP COMMITTEE

### Joan Wayne

Scrip (pre-paid gift cards) is available for purchase through Joan Wayne each month. Participating local stores include Fred Meyers, Haggen, Safeway, Community Food Co-op and Village Books. Scrip can also be purchased for many other businesses (check our website for more information). The Scrip program has had several setbacks this year. When Safeway purchased Haggen the return on cards decreased from 10% to 5%. Whole Foods discontinued participation in the scrip program. During the corona crisis many congregants are having food delivered or using Fred Meyer's Click it program which does not accept scrip. Scrip sales have decreased. Hopefully this important fund raiser can be revitalized when we are back to our new normal. Congregants are encouraged to utilize the Scrip program to help raise funds for CBI. Contact Joan Wayne at [jawayne2@gmail.com](mailto:jawayne2@gmail.com).

## RITUAL COMMITTEE

Submitted by Rabbi Samuels (Members include: Roby Blecker, Steve Ban, Rena Ziegler, Andrea Shupack, Geraldine Reitz, Miriam Davids, Dan Ohms)

The Ritual Team has met several times since last year. The main topics of discussion, pre-COVID-19, centered around the *minhag hamakom* (ritual customs) of Beth Israel. The customs we have developed in this community are dear to many of us and should continue to be. We have spoken at length about the customs which define Beth Israel and realize how much they make us who we are. In particular, we have debated the required/encouraged use of *kippot* and *tallitot*.

One question that kept being asked is: how do we weight CBI's customs of the past with the customs it actually follows today. Which deserves our attention more at this time?

In terms of kippot, most committee members believe that it has always been each person's choice to wear/not wear a kippah. Rabbi Leibowitz and Rabbi Enger did not require congregants/visitors to wear kippot, although Rabbi Enger did require Religious School students to wear them in class.

Most members disagree with requiring people to wear a kippah as that could make someone feel uncomfortable. The other argument explains that when we visit the Sikh gudwara, for example, we are asked to follow their customs, and we do. Can we not do the same in our building?

One thought is to have ushers politely offer kippot to every person who enters the sanctuary. If people decline, we leave it alone. After all, Reform Judaism respects people's autonomy. While we cannot and should not force people to wear kippot, we can be more forthcoming about CBI's customs. We should explain why we maintain our traditions as best we can.

One idea is to have signage outside the sanctuary (and perhaps above the siddurim bookcase) that focuses on the following: *Kippah*, *Tallit*, greetings, use of electronics. Another idea is to make sure that our website will also have a section that goes more in depth regarding these customs.

We have also discussed the fact that we are in an age where gender identification is more fluid than ever before, so how should CBI communicate this traditionally male-centric custom without offending people? How can we create a more inclusive community without marginalizing anyone?

The Ritual committee believes that we are doing as much as we should be doing at this time to accommodate our Conservative members. If anyone wants more, they are welcome to help spearhead any efforts under the direction of the rabbi and Ritual team.

Finally, we have spoken about the upcoming High Holy Days. At this time, it seems that we will be joining together via Zoom, although we are aware how things can change. The questions we are dealing with are: How do we get more community participation? How can we sing together? How does the Torah service work? What about tickets which bring in a substantial amount of income?

We plan to continue meeting each month leading up to the High Holy to focus on all of these questions and ideas.

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Volunteers at CBI remain active throughout the year. Congregation Beth Israel is a support congregation for the Family Promise program run by Bellingham Interfaith Coalition. We volunteer by cooking, cleaning, and offering general assistance to a sister congregation that houses homeless families. We will not be housing families at our congregation at this time. During the day, families go to a day center and work with a case manager to access housing, jobs and community resources. The format has been temporarily simplified to self-isolate the families but we plan to restart cooking meals this summer.

Women in the Tuesday stitch group make hats and scarves for distribution to the homeless. The CBI seamstresses recently embroidered panels for 25 Million Stitches, a public engagement art display in CA which documents the overwhelming number of refugees and immigrants in the world today, approximately 25 million people. The project goal is to have each stitch represent a refugee and to engage as many people as possible to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis.

In May and June, we will collect Milk Money for Bellingham Food Bank. As we celebrate Shavuot with blintzes and cheesecake, we hope to collect money 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 office. This year's goal is to meet the increased need in our community. Also, any donations of baby food and diapers would be appreciated later this summer. Donation bins are located in the Social Hall.

Other plans for the summer are on hold, though we have participated in the Pride Parade in the past. Mitzvah Day has been rescheduled to next spring. We hope to have a Blood Bank Drive and food donations for the High Holidays. The Interfaith campaign Coat Drive will occur in October as the weather turns colder.

In November, our Social Action committee helps our congregation collect supplies and food for the WomenCare Shelter's Thanksgiving dinner. We have a Social Action Book Club that meets twice a year. So far books we have discussed covered subjects including racial injustice, homelessness, transgendered youth, and climate change. Please contact us if you have ideas for books, our next book club will meet via Zoom. Our focus this year has been on climate change.

If you have other ideas, if you would like to volunteer with one of our ongoing projects listed above, or you are interested in joining the Social Action Committee, please let us know! You can email the committee / Linda Blackwell, at [blackwellbham@gmail.com](mailto:blackwellbham@gmail.com). If you are interested in The Family Promise program please contact Linda or Andrea Shupack. We need more volunteers to make all this happen!



## **UNIVERSITY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Members: Steven Garfinkle and Marcia Lippman

One of the roles of the University Liaison Committee is to keep in touch with our former CBI religious school students who are in their freshman year in college. Holiday greetings and best wishes for the term were sent on behalf of the CBI congregation, Rabbi Samuels, Sagit Hall, & Andrea Shupack.

A second role of the committee is to keep in touch with HILLEL of WWU to ensure that they know they are welcome to attend any CBI services or events and to support them in any way we can. Several CBI congregants serve on the Hillel Community Board: Geraldine Reitz, Becki Van Glubt, Lindsey Genut, Emily Weiner, Vermeda Fred, Sabrina Freeman, Sagit Hall, and Steven Garfinkle. Joan Wayne is stepping down after many years as the Hillel bookkeeper, and we are grateful for her service to the board and to Hillel. Various donations from our community members are an important supplement to the funding received from the Seattle Federation. CBI's ongoing support (financial and otherwise) of Hillel of WWU plays a role in making Hillel programs available to Jewish college students who wish to connect with other Jews, who wish to celebrate Shabbat or holidays, and who are looking for ways to grow in their Jewish identity.

As a third role, we have been working with Western Washington University to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the task force on responding to and preventing antisemitism. This is especially important in light of the recent vandalism at Wilson Library.

## **HILLEL OF WWU ANNUAL SUMMARY, School Year 2019-20**

**Naomi Siegel, Coordinator**

Despite the current stay at home order, Hillel of WWU has continued to cultivate community and connection for local Jewish college students. Virtual events this quarter have included a cooking club, women's circles, Passover scavenger hunt, and online games. Last week 9 students got together over Zoom to make shakshuka, most for the first time. One student invited his sister who joined us from Japan!

In previous quarters we held a number of tried and true events including our weekly bagel brunches, graham cracker sukkah building, Tu B'Shvat planting party, Rosh Chodesh women's circles, and pizza and game nights. Students coordinated a few new innovative events this past year as well. We joined Hillels across the country in a Reverse Tashlich; instead of casting away our sins, we cleaned them out of the riverbanks at Maritime Heritage Park. We received a prize for the greatest participation of a small Hillel. This past February we hosted our first interfaith Shabbat dinner on campus, with over 40 students of various faiths attending a Mediterranean feast and speed-date style sharing activity eliciting some great crossfaith conversations.

We continue to build bridges between campus and Beth Israel, with 14 students attending High Holidays and six students joining the bus trip to the Seattle Repertory Theater last fall. In addition, students participated in the Feast of Learning and the Nefesh Mountain bluegrass concert.

Despite lower attendance this spring quarter, overall participation increased this year. In the 2018-19 school year, we engaged 78 unique students, with 16 of those students attending 4 or more events. This year we engaged 79 unique students, with 29 attending 4 or more events. We look forward to continuing to grow and engage more students, and we hope to be able to gather in person again soon!

## ----SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING----

### **COMMUNITY SEDER, April 9, 2020**

The 2nd night seder committee this year consisted of Nicole Samuels and Jane Hammerstrom as co-chairs, Linda Blackwell, Gayle Gordon-Martin and Anniece Kiersky. The seder was on Thursday night, April 9. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet in person this year, but instead it turned into a Zoom seder. It wasn't quite the same, but we were happy to see about 200 people joining us virtually. Thank you to Mary Somerville and Melissa Shapiro for their help with registration this year and to all of the generous community members who donated their tickets to help support CBI.

### **HANUKKAH PARTY, December 2020**

The Hanukkah Party was again a huge success, with a fabulous latke-cooking crew and many silly sweaters – organized by Lynn Korner and a huge cast of volunteers

### **PURIM CARNIVAL, March 8, 2020**

This year, the CBI Purim Carnival was hosted by the BAY teen youth group. Attendance was lower than usual due to the beginnings of COVID-19 concerns, but fun was had by all!

## ----CBI AUXILLIARY GROUPS----

### **CBI NFTY CHAPTER, serving 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth**

**Advisors: Amanda Robins and Daniel Zagnoli**

This year has seen some exciting changes for the BAY (Bellingham Area Youth) Group. We have a board of three dedicated teens who help plan and lead events each month for their peers. These teens are all juniors and sophomores. In the past, the group has lost whole rosters of board members as they've graduated; this year we are excited to continue to have these teens' leadership and participation into next year as well.

The teens have hosted fun and meaningful events throughout the year like latke making, preparing "help bags" for those experiencing homelessness in our community, and a Hanukkah party. This year is also the first that BAY has taken on some its own fundraising. The teens hosted a bake sale on a Sunday Keshet morning and raised over \$200! This money was used to buy the supplies for the help bags. One of our most visible activities of the year was hosting the Purim Carnival. Youth Group advisors Daniel and Amanda took on orchestrating the carnival this year, and the teens took the lead on running the games for the event. Even with the beginning impacts of Coronavirus, the carnival was a success! The BAY board and advisors are so thankful to all of the volunteers who helped out for the event. It is the hope of the BAY Board that hosting the Purim Carnival each year can lead to increased visibility for the group, and that as younger kids participate in the carnival, they'll also get to know who "BAY" is in our congregation.

Lastly, our group just like every other, has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The BAY board meetings as well as monthly events have been moved remotely. Our regional NFTY chapter, NFTY-NW, hosted its spring Kallah virtually as well. Five teens, along with the advisors, attending this weekend retreat remotely. The BAY board is planning remote events to continue to engage their peers for the last few months of the school year. BAY traditionally takes a break for the summer as many kids are away at camp or other activities. We are currently thinking through what type of summer engagement we can offer now that camp is officially closed for the summer, and other activities are likely to be canceled as well.

## **SCRIP GIVES BACK**

**What is Scrip?** Pre-paid gift cards that give back 3%-17% to CBI.

Scrip is currently earning CBI about \$600/mo. It could be 3X that amount if everyone participated. It is **easier than you think!!** Really!!

Scrip can be used for **things that you buy already** – like groceries, coffee drinks, books, and clothes. It also makes a **lovely gift** – while **helping CBI get more funds to do more exciting things in the year ahead.**

Scrip is now available for:

Safeway, Haggen, Fred Meyers, Food Co-op, Village Books, and a long list of other stores and vendors – like Amazon, Starbuck’s, Land’s End, and a whole lot more!

Contact Joan Wayne to order, [jawayne@gmail2.com](mailto:jawayne@gmail2.com)

Contact Miriam Schwartz for a testimonial on how easy it is to use:

[pieface880@gmail.com](mailto:pieface880@gmail.com).

## **SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT**

**MAY & JUNE ARE MILK MONEY MONTHS. GOAL: \$750**

**Make check to Bellingham Food Bank and return to CBI Office.**