

The Two Faces of Peace and War in Israeli Literature

Sundays: April 10 and 24; 2:00 pm-3:30 pm

We are very excited to have Rabbi Bill Cutter, Ph.D., join our community virtually on the afternoons of April 10 and 24. In these two discussions, Dr. Cutter will be sharing several poems and passages from novels that reflect the changing and dynamic nature of the Israeli dilemma and the Israeli success.

Additionally, Dr. Cutter will address the complex relationship Israelis have with Jewish holidays. With Passover fast approaching, we will examine a couple of ways in which Passover and Jewish liberation are reflected in modern Israeli literature.

Rabbi Dr. Cutter is the Steinberg Emeritus Professor of Human Relations at HUC-JIR's Skirball Campus in Los Angeles, where he held the Paul and Trudy Steinberg Chair in Human Relations, and was Professor of Modern Hebrew Literature and Education. He has taught at HUC-JIR since 1965, and has served in several administrative capacities



Rabbi Bill Cutter

throughout his academic career. In earlier stages of his career he founded three of the ongoing programs of

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FROM THE RABBI

How Strange Is Purim?



In gearing up for Purim this year, my memory took me back to the days when I was a Sunday School student at Congregation Sherith

Israel. I remember the huge Purim carnivals when my one goal was to bring home a goldfish by throwing rings around bottles. I think the only reason my parents had fish bowls in the first place was because of this game. I also remember singing the following ditty and not thinking anything about it:

O once there was a wicked,
wicked man
And Haman was his name, sir.
He tried to murder all the Jews,
Though they were not to blame,
sir.
O today we'll merry, merry be (x3)
And nosh some *hamantaschen*.

What a strange song for children to sing with their class in front of a community. Could you even imagine swapping out Haman for another evil person who also tried to wipe us off the face of the earth?

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From the President...

Fear



Lately I have been thinking more about fear. The stress from the latest Omicron outbreak is hard to avoid when you step outside your home. While the number of infec-

tions is decreasing, the anxiety is hard to dismiss when thinking about being surrounded by people. On top of the pandemic fears last month, we were faced with the synagogue hostage situation in Colleyville, Texas and what that could mean for us. In Hebrew there are 10 nouns and 8 verbs often translated to fear. I am sure part of that stems from the centuries of being attacked.

Fear is a powerful emotion, and while we usually think of it as a negative feeling to be avoided, it also serves to protect us. It can keep us out of trouble or at least help us be prepared for the worst. As Jews we have a long history of persecution. As we celebrate Purim, we retell the story of a plan by Haman to exterminate all the Jews. Since 2016 there has been an increase in hate crimes in the United States overall, and towards Jews specifically, but the good news is that the 2020 statistics show a decrease. Furthermore, the hate crime rates against Jews are proportionally less in Washington State (FBI CDE).

But while fear can be a protective instinct, it can also be crippling and can put us at further risk. Being able to react in the face of fear is critical. We don't want to freeze and do nothing when faced with a threat. Being effective when facing fears is well-illustrated in this Jewish tale:

A rabbi is harboring a secret: She has always wanted to try pork, but is terrified of being caught. One night she drives across town to the furthest restaurant from her shul and orders an entire suckling pig. Just as the waiter sets down the full roast pig with an apple in its mouth, her biggest fear materializes as she sees a group of her congregants walk in staring at her with mouths open. The rabbi widens her eyes. "What kind of place is

this?" she asks. "You order an apple and look how it's served!"

While we can't help but feel the attacks on Jews, we must remember we face dangers every day of our lives. The statistics of active shooter events show that these terrifying episodes occur 15 times more frequently elsewhere (public places, malls, educational facilities and workplaces) than in houses of worship (FBI statistics from the last 20 years). I am not dismissing the dangers or hate towards Jews, but I am reminded we face risks every day of our lives. Perhaps we can use fear in a positive way, rather than let it control us.

Being prepared is important. We have been implementing new and improved security measures every year. We consult with our hired security company and follow practices suggested by federal and state organizations set up to help protect synagogues. We have secured three grants specifically to improve security. We have started programs which train us how to act in a crisis. Many of our children are learning what to do during an active shooter event in public schools. The rabbi in Colleyville, Texas believes prior training helped him rescue himself and the hostages. After the event, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker said, "We have to be hospitable, and we have to be secure. And we have to find ways to strike that balance."

While there are no statistics showing how security measures prevent tragic events, there is plenty of evidence that thoughtful, decisive reaction to attacks can make the difference between life or death.

At CBI we will continue to implement safety measures and increase training programs for our staff, volunteers, and congregants.

We pray we never need these skills, but we will be prepared if we do. My hope is that we don't let fear dictate our lives, but use it to improve our skills and be prepared. And we will continue to be a welcoming place to gather.

Shalom, in the fullest sense of the word,
Joshua

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar

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

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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Keshet Spotlight on Our Newest Teacher, Jason Benhaim

If you've dropped your kids off at Keshet this year, you may have noticed a new face among the teachers, or at least a new mop of hair. Both belong to Jason Benhaim, one of the newest members of our CBI community, and our fourth-grade teacher this year. In addition to teaching at Keshet every Sunday, Jason also leads weekly Hebrew lessons with fifth to seventh graders, and, along with his wife, Carly, has assumed the BAY (Bellingham Area Youth) youth

group adviser role from Amanda Robins and Daniel Zagnoli. Talk about diving right in!

Jason explains that getting involved in his Jewish community comes naturally to him. Growing up, he had the privilege of attending private Jewish elementary, middle, and high schools — first in San Francisco, at Brandeis Hillel Day School, and later in Los Angeles, at Valley Beth Shalom Day School and Milken Community Middle and High Schools.

"Basically everyone I knew was Jewish," he says of his upbringing. In middle school, he often had two or more b'nei mitzvah celebrations to attend on any given weekend. And in high school, Jewish studies and Hebrew classes were mandatory. For one of his college application essays, he wrote about his love of learning — "*lishma*," a Hebrew word meaning either "for its own sake" or "for the sake of heaven" — as opposed to studying for a grade or other tangible reward.

Ultimately, Jason attended Stanford University, where he majored in English and fulfilled all the pre-med course requirements. He thought he might follow in his father's footsteps and become a surgeon, but eventually realized

the medical world wasn't for him. After graduating, he worked at several food co-ops around the country, culminating in seven years at PCC Community Markets in Seattle. "Looking back" Jason said, "it's obvious to me that my Jewish upbringing influenced my decision to work at food co-ops. I felt like I was engaging in *tikkun olam*."

Looking for something more intellectually stimulating, he then took on the role of academic coach at Northwest Educational Services, a small tutoring company in Seattle, where he works alongside a team of coaches helping students meet their academic goals (remotely, these days).

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Jason Benhaim

Synagogue 411

Archives:

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Harriet Markell, (916) 207-9381

Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

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Sue Mahar (360) 319-5314

Library, Scrip:

Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939

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Emil Hecht, (360) 201-4664

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Bar Mitzvah



Gabriel Rhys Edward Witte ("Gabe") will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 26, 2022. He is the son of Todd and Sarah Witte and the brother of Nate, Remy, and Elizabeth. Gabe is a seventh grader at The Franklin Academy, where he is especially interested in math and Spanish. Outside school, he

enjoys studying Kuk Sool Won, snowboarding, and doing anything water-related at the lake. He also loves

riding his OneWheel and bike, learning to play guitar, and playing with his dog, Murray.

The Witte family invites you to join them in celebrating this *Simcha*:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, March 25, 2022 at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 10:00 am

Membership Committee Welcomes Everyone Back!

To correspond with reopening, we will be providing stick-on name tags at the door. We hope this helps us get reacquainted and to know people we haven't met yet. Please give them a try.

Does everyone know about the photo directory on our website bethisraelbellingham.org?

Please submit a photo if you haven't already, to help us recognize one another. Guidelines are easy: just your family, no hats, sunglasses, or masks. Pets welcome.

Wondering about something at CBI? Want to be part of something we do? Please contact Sue Mahar (360-319-5314) or Ann Suloway (360-296-8220) and we'll help get answers and make connections for you.

We can't wait to see you!



Left to right: Eian Snyder, Naomi Schapiro, Melissa Schapiro, Miriam Schwartz, Ann Suloway (membership committee co-chair), Rabbi Samuels

SCRIP – Try It!

The scrip program is Beth Israel's longest-running fundraiser, and the best thing about it is that it costs the user nothing extra! Participation in the scrip program decreased as the pandemic spread, since scrip cannot be used for grocery delivery. Now that the situation seems to be improving, it is the perfect time to resume using scrip and if you've never tried it – why not now? Scrip works just like a gift card. When you purchase the card at face value through the Beth Israel Scrip Program, a portion (usually 4-5%) of that purchase goes to Beth Israel. The most popular cards at CBI are: Haggen/Safeway, Fred Meyer, The Food Co-op, and Starbucks. However, many other gift cards are available for personal use or for making gifts to others! For more information, contact Joan Wayne at jawayne2@gmail.com

Anniversaries

Mar. 15	Isaac & Samantha Konikoff	(# 14)
Mar. 18	Nancy & Don Davis	(# 38)
Mar. 19	Robert & Jody Meltzer	(# 22)
Mar. 21	Jerome Rosen & Katlaina Rayne	(# 34)
Mar. 24	Laura & Cassandra Wolfson	(# 18)
Mar. 26	Leah & Jeffrey Grossman	(# 11)
Mar. 29	Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David	(# 41)
Apr. 6	Kristan & Mike Brennan	(# 26)
Apr. 15	Aline & Sid Wanne	(# 59)
Apr. 16	Michael & Jay Braunstein	(# 22)
Apr. 20	Danny & Marla Finkelstein	(# 36)
Apr. 26	Howard Sharfstein & Mary Francell-Sharfstein	(# 35)

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

From the Social Action Committee

Spring Activities with the Social Action Committee

BY LINDA BLACKWELL

Chametz Collection: As you clean out your cupboards for Passover, remember that you can put your *chametz* to good use in the community. From March 1 through Monday, April 11, you may drop off your not-Kosher-for-Passover and any other nonperishable food items you'd like to donate to our collection bins inside the Social Hall. Please note that drop-off is available only when the synagogue is open for services or Keshet. The Social Action Committee will deliver everything to the Bellingham Food Bank, and you will have performed a double mitzvah.

Plans are set for **Mitzvah Day 2022** on April 24. To those new at CBI, this is a day of community volunteer work. Shimon ben Gamliel teaches, "It is not what one says, but rather what one does that makes all the difference in the world." – Pirke Avot 1:17. We will come together as a community and perform *mitzvot* for our earth and people in need. Due to the pandemic, many of the projects are tentative at present, but we hope to have a Virtual Blood Drive in coordination with Blood Work Northwest. In July, we hope to also have a T-shirt design contest for the Pride parade. The CBI cemetery is due for

maintenance, and a local park adventure is planned. We hope to clean up local yards for the Interfaith Coalition or senior housing. Finally, the preparation of hygiene kits for Northwest Youth Services will return.

The committee continues to partner with the Bellingham Interfaith Coalition. Jerome Rosen now represents CBI on their board. Joan Wayne and Corinne Gimbel-Levine are active in meal preparations for the Family Promise program. The committee will help a family transition into a new home once the flood damage repairs are completed. The Interfaith Coalition is recruiting volunteers to help with sandwich prep and distribution of meals through the C.A.S.T. (Coffee and Sandwiches Together program). Volunteers prepare and serve the meals. CAST serves at the Arch of Healing and Reconciliation behind the downtown Bellingham Library four nights a week, rain or shine, throughout the year. The coalition also needs tutors at the Deemer Family Center on weekday afternoons. Please contact their office at (360) 734-3983 or interfaith-coalition.org/volunteer. Please contact Linda Blackwell to volunteer with the Social Action Committee or with questions at blackwellbham@gmail.com

End of Life Planning: Why It's Important To Plan Now for Later

BY ELSE SOKOL AND GERALDINE REITZ

The pandemic has left a path of destruction in its wake and has brought pain, suffering, and death to the forefront of our lives. People have endured a lot of suffering, and families and friends have lost loved ones.

Something that we can take away from this heightened awareness of the fragility of life is the need to be prepared for our own suffering and death. Learning about options to maintain as much control over our lives and deaths is the first step to getting our plan in place. Crafting an Advance Directive helps guide our loved ones with medical decision-making on our behalf, if we are unable to make those decisions for ourselves. Having these conversations and completing an Advance Directive is an act of loving kindness that we can do for our family and friends. Everyone should have this in place, not just those who are elders.

Please join the Care Committee as we present this 3-part End of Life Planning Workshop Series:

1. Dr. Bill Lombard: Realities of Advanced Medical Interventions

Sunday, February 20, 2:00-3:00 pm (Zoom)

Dr. Lombard, a retired nephrologist, will explain what advanced medical interventions are, such as resuscitation and ICU care, and what their outcomes could mean for patients in the short- and the long-term. His presentation informs important decision-making for completing an Advance Directive and a POLST. Here is the link for attendance: <https://tinyurl.com/3kus26uf>

Meeting ID: 862 6703 0393 Passcode: HnewT6

2. Nancy Simmers and Rabbi Samuels: DWD (Death With Dignity), MAiD (Medical Aid in Dying) and VSED (Voluntary Stopping of Eating and Drinking).

Sunday, March 20, 2:00-3:00 pm (venue TBD)

Nancy Simmers, an RN and Death Doula, is a volunteer for End of Life Washington, and educates individuals and

Cantor's Corner

Sing HalleluYah!

Reflections on Hallel for Passover

BY ANDREA SHUPACK

With Pesach coming in just a month, it's a great time to take a look at this moving piece of the holiday's liturgy, Hallel. Hallel is made up of Psalms 113-118. Traditionally, we sing Hallel on all three pilgrimage festivals, Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot, as well as most other festivals. The word Hallel means "praise." In fact, this is where we get the word "halleluyah." Hallel / praise + Yah - a name for God = HalleluYah, which literally means "praise God."

Interestingly, we do not sing it during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Tradition says that is because of the somber nature of the High Holy Days, while most of the texts of Hallel declare joyful praise. Yet there is seriousness present in Hallel as well, as we recall our struggles and the enemies God delivered us from:

Min hameitzar karati Yah, anani vamerchav Yah.

From the narrow place I called to You; You answered me with expansiveness (Psalm 114).

Jewish tradition teaches that music unlocks the door to divine connection. There are many musical compositions on this particular line. Some are boisterous and happy, others are heart-wrenching and haunting. Both intentions can be healing and important depending on our needs during the particular season. Sometimes I like to mix two opposite melodies into one prayer, tapping into a full range of emotions. I've included a few of my favorites linked at the end of this article. I hope as you listen to these melodies, one of them speaks to you and brings you closer to yourself and the divine spirit within or beyond.

Hallel's connection to Passover is clear, since Psalm 114 talks directly about the Exodus from Egypt. We sing a full version of Hallel on the first two days of Passover, as well as at our Passover Seders, and a shorter version during the remaining days of Passover. The Talmud also instructs us to recite Hallel "upon every trouble that does not come upon them, then when they are redeemed, they recite it upon their redemption," meaning we are supposed to sing it when the Jewish people experience any miracle of deliverance. I like to expand this idea further to make it more personal, and sing parts of Hallel when I feel protected or liberated on some level. It doesn't have to be a major life-saving event. For me, it can be as simple as humming a few bars of Joey Weisenberg's *Min Hameitzar* to pay attention and hold onto the small moment of relief or appreciation that just occurred.

Our Zoom boxes, those tiny portals to the world outside our homes, can feel like narrow, constricted places of oppression. This Passover, I think, we are all ready for some freeing, opening horizons. These past two years' time has

been altered, days blending together. Sometimes I can't remember if an event happened two years ago or two months ago. Hallel is one of our spiritual markers, serving as a signpost to slow us down so we can recall the last time we were here, who we were, and what we were praising or craving the last time we recited Hallel. Jewish music does this, creating different tonal qualities and moods for each festival occasion distinguishing Shabbat from the week, and even evening from morning.

The music of Hallel connects me back to Sukkot. The last time I sang these psalms inside the Sukkah was with many fellow congregants on our synagogue's back patio. At that time, coming back together as a community was new and exciting, and the sun was still bringing warmth. There was a feeling of joy and renewal in the melodies we sang. As I write this in mid-February, we are concluding our most recent building closure. The sun is starting to return again, the days getting a tiny bit warmer and longer. I am anticipating singing these words again in a circle with you, perhaps on our back patio if the weather is particularly lovely.

So I invite you to take in a deep breath, and exhale it on a long-extended Yah. Feel all that life force in you flowing out and connecting with the life force outside you. Then breathe it back in again. That is the divine Yah. And then sing HalleluYah at the top of your lungs. For there is still so much to praise, even in trying times, even if we're not ready or able to cross through the sea just yet.

What is your prayer for Passover this year? What narrow places do you need to walk through to come out into a place of expansiveness in the coming year? How does it compare to the place you were last year at this season? Let us sing HalleluYah together so we can support each other, increasing our resilience and joy through community. That is also the divine Yah.

Hallel song list for Pesach: To listen to this playlist, go to <https://tinyurl.com/hallel-songs>

1. *Min Hameitzar* by Deborah Sacks Mintz. This is my absolute new favorite, I will definitely be singing this one at Shabbat Pesach services this year.
2. Joey Weisenberg's haunting *Min Hameitzar* has been one of my favorite melodies since I heard it almost a decade ago.
3. *Anneini* by Noah Aronson. I've sung this a few times at our Shabbat Pesach morning service.
4. *Min Hameitzer* by Aviva Chernick.

March/April 2022 Shabbat Service Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: All services and Torah study will be accessible on Zoom. Each Friday evening service will be **hybrid**, allowing fully vaccinated congregants and visitors to worship in the sanctuary, provided they are masked at all times and maintain social distancing. This schedule is subject to change, so please watch the weekly *Timbrel* or the Beth Israel website for updates.

Friday, March 4	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Saturday, April 2	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Tazria</i>)
Saturday, March 5	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Pekudei</i>) 10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack		10:45 am All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Friday, March 11	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday, April 8	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, March 12	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayikra</i>)	Saturday, April 9	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Metzora</i>)
Friday, March 18	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet Fifth/Sixth Grade class	Friday, April 15	First night of Passover No Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 19	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Tzav</i>)	Saturday, April 16	9:30 am Torah Study First Day of Passover
Friday, March 25	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from Gabriel Witte	Friday, April 22	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Saturday, March 26	10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Witte – in person and on Zoom	Saturday, April 23	9:30 am Torah Study Eighth Day of Passover 10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan
Friday, April 1	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet Second/Third Grade class	Friday, April 29	6:15 pm Fifth Friday "Shabbat at Home." No service, but Rabbi will lead blessings over Zoom.
		Saturday, April 30	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Acharei Mot</i>)

KESHER SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWEST TEACHER, JASON BENHAIM

Continued from Page 3

He also accepts private clients. When asked what age or subjects he can teach, Jason's answer is always, "All ages, all subjects." Jason's joy for tutoring is to help students develop the skill of learning, whatever the subject is.

Moving to Bellingham last year and becoming a member of Congregation Beth Israel provided Jason with the perfect opportunity to use his Jewish education and love of Judaism to its full potential. Jason's strong Jewish background, and his approach to learning for its own sake has been the perfect fit for this year's fourth-grade class. Jason has led them on a Torah journey that goes way beyond learning the stories of our sacred texts. Students have learned to ask hard questions, *kushiyot* of each

Torah portion, grappling with the deeper lessons within, and becoming their own Torah commentators.

Jason expresses gratitude for his new role as a Keshet teacher: "It really is a privilege to teach these students. By getting involved with Congregation Beth Israel, I do feel like I've come back home."



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Faces in Our Community: Kevin Donner and Angie Lee

BY LINDA HIRSH

Change came quickly for Kevin Donner. One week he served as Activities Director for ninety old folks, calling it “the most rewarding job in his life.”

The next week, “I was just some guy in a small Seattle apartment, taking care of my newborn son, Samuel,” while wife Angie went about her business as a doctor, he said.

That was 2007. Often he mused about his previous and present life. Sitting next to his son’s crib, he put his thoughts on paper, printed them out, and tied the pages together with twine. Years later, he reread them and thought maybe others would be drawn to them as well. He published *Poopy Fingers* on December 4, 2021. It is available through Village Books or Amazon.

That was one step towards being “a big shot screenwriter,” his dream during days at playgrounds and playgroups. The second step happened in 2013, when a thriller he wrote premiered at the Toronto Film Festival.

But this is also a story about how this verbally gifted man and his smart, science-oriented wife arranged their life together so they could raise three youngsters and still accomplish what they wanted to do. This has not gone unnoticed. Sarah Witte, a family friend, said, “Kevin and Angie take the term ‘supportive spouse’ to a whole new level. For most people,



Lea, Kevin, Samuel, Mara, and Angie at Samuel's Bar Mitzvah

that label describes a mostly passive role, but they turn it into an active one. Angie supports Kevin in his interests and Kevin’s staying at home to provide stability for their children so Angie can work is no small thing in a world where that is still not the norm.”

Both Kevin and Angie grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. “Aside from spending a few hours a week at the temple, I was just a kid trying to blend in with the kids around me,” said Kevin, who was a Bar Mitzvah in a Vancouver Reform synagogue. “Being Jewish was always important to me, though I never quite knew how to fit it into my life in a meaningful way until much, much later.”

Angie grew up in a multigenerational house. Her grandparents were Christian, so it was church every Sunday. After she met Kevin, she witnessed her first Chanukah and Passover. At her house, “Everyone knew your business and would gladly share it,” she said. “And everyone spoke Chinese.” They celebrated Chinese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, and two birthdays for each person — one for the lunar and one for the Gregorian calendars.

The two met in 1994, during their senior year of high school. They even went to the prom together...when Angie asked Kevin to accompany her.

Both earned bachelor’s degrees at the University of British Columbia,

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Signs of Spring

BY JASON AND CARLY BENHAIM

"Fogs and rains and warmer suns are gradually melting the snow; the days have grown sensibly longer... I am on the alert for the first signs of spring..."

Like Henry David Thoreau in *Walden*, we too are on alert for the first signs of spring.

Ever since we moved to the Pacific Northwest nearly a decade ago, the two of us have become attuned to a phenomenon we call "the parade of flowers"—and it all starts with the humble crocus. Sometime in February, these petite bellwethers peek their purple, white, or golden petals out from the soil. Daffodils, cherry blossoms, and magnolias follow quickly on their little heels, and from there, the parade rolls on into its annual stream of color and form.

Now, as Congregation Beth Israel's youth group advisers, we're keenly aware of another sign of spring: NFTY-NW's Spring Kallah, a weekend-long gathering of dozens of Jewish teens from around the region. This year's Spring Kallah, which takes place March 4-6 at Camp Kalsman, feels particularly significant, as it suggests an end to the "long, cold, lonely winter" of the pandemic, where social connection, especially on the scale of a Kallah, has so often felt dampened or out of reach. This will be the first NFTY-NW Kallah in well over a year, and while strict safety protocols will be necessary, the fact that we'll be gathering at all is a blessing.

Jason will be attending this event along with teens from BAY, our local NFTY chapter, which should be a special

experience for him. Somehow, despite his Jewish upbringing, he never got to attend a Jewish summer camp! In that sense, he's a bit of a late bloomer. But whether late to the parade, or early, we're so happy to be walking side by side with this beautiful community, and we look forward to our rich and colorful calendar of events for the rest of the year and beyond.

Remember that in addition to regional events like Spring Kallah, there's a BAY event every month. This year, we've already gone apple-picking, we've enjoyed gift-giving and ice-skating, and there's plenty more to come. Please keep an eye on your inboxes for announcements!



Upcoming Holidays

Virtual Second Night Community Seder

Saturday, April 16, 5:30 pm

Gather around the table with your seder plate, Elijah's cup, matzah, and your computer or tablet as Andrea Shupack and Rabbi Samuels lead the community through the *haggadah* until the festive meal. There will be singing, storytelling, and most of all, each other.



Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah: Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day

Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 pm

Please join us for our annual Yom HaShoah Service of Remembrance. This hybrid intergenerational event will include music led by our cantorial soloist, Andrea Shupack, as well as leadership from our eighth-grade Keshet class who have been learning about the Shoah all year.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut: Israeli Independence Day

Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 pm

Please join your CBI community in person as we sing, dance, and eat (we hope!) 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 fifth annual *Hidon haTanakh* (Torah Trivia) so brush up on your Hebrew Bible! Keep watching the *Timbrel* to see whether we will have food. Happy birthday (74!), Israel!

Cemetery Committee: Past and Present

The Cemetery Committee is exploring the possibility of making available a *Shmirah* ritual when we have a death in the community. Most of the things we do around death are a matter of local custom and are not required by law. Taharah is the custom of washing and purifying the body after death. *Shmirah* is the custom of having someone sit with the deceased's body from the time of death until it is buried.

The first recorded burial in our community was in 1915. At that time the community was Orthodox and both the rituals of *Taharah* and *Shmirah* were taken care of by someone in the community. Benjamin Glazer, Diane Garmo's grandfather, started the community's *Yarzeit* book, which is a treasured document of our community. He and his nephew Nathan and probably others did the *Taharah* for men; Rose Glazer, Diane's grandmother, was known as one of the Chevra ladies who did the *Taharah* for women. Nathan Glazer and others did *Shmirah* for many years. According to Diane, there was

always someone to do it. At that time, it wasn't very long between death and burial; usually burial was within 24 hours.

Rabbi Gartner came to lead the community in the early 1950s. He and Nate Glazer used to do the *Taharah* and *Shmirah* for the men. At some point Rabbi Gartner said that *Shmirah* was not

necessary, since its purpose was to protect the body from thieves and wild animals. The custom was dropped. However, the *Kavod V'Nichum* website says that "*Shmirah* is also about guarding the spirit of the person who has died. It is a process of soul guiding; in the hours and days after a death, the deceased hovers in close proximity of the body. Reading of Psalms during the time of *Shmirah* is designed to help the soul move on. Some prefer to call it 'accompaniment' as we are ensuring that the soul does not feel alone during this time in which it is adjusting to not having a body. It is traditionally done from the time of death until burial."

By 1978, through the efforts of Debbie Adelstein and Diane Garmo, both who had recently returned to the community, a women's *Chevra Kadisha* was formed, and the men's *Chevra Kadisha* was more formalized. There were no organized *shomerim*, but on occasion family members would sit with someone. Nick Jerns, a funeral director, and Diane Garmo sat all night with Diane's mother's body, drinking Wild Turkey to honor her — Frances, whose Yiddish name was Feigala, meaning "bird." More recently Jeff Margolis sat with his wife Amy, with friends joining him on Zoom.

The Cemetery Committee would like to know how much interest there is in our community for restarting this custom for those who would like it. Kindly email me before April 1, 2022 at janisban@gmail.com and let me know the following:

1. Would you like for the community to have this *Shmirah* service?
2. Would you be interested in being on the *Shmirah* Team of the *Chevra Kadisha*? (This would probably involve a 2-hour shift of sitting with a *Met* or *Meta* (body) at the funeral home.
3. Would you be interested in heading up this effort and coordinating the team?

Thanks,
Janis Ban, Cemetery Committee Co-Chair



Ben and Rose Glazer and their three children

THE TWO FACES OF PEACE AND WAR IN ISRAELI LITERATURE

Continued from Page 1

the College-Institute: the Rhea Hirsch School of Education, the MUSE program of the Skirball Museum, and the Kalsman Institute on Judaism and Health. He also was the founding director of the Louchheim School of Jewish Studies at USC.

Dr. Cutter has written nearly 200 articles on literary theory, modern Hebrew literature, educational theory, and health and healing as part of the Jewish experience. Dr. Cutter is especially known as a speaker and teacher on topics ranging from "The Rise of Modern Israeli Culture," to "Jewish Health and Healing Issues," and including many aspects of Israeli and American literature.

Zoom links will be in the *Timbre!* and on the website.

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Mary Somerville's 25th
Anniversary at Beth Israel
From: *Bonnie Quam*

CARE COMMITTEE

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, Roby
Blecker, Linda Blackwell,
Marta & Craig Brand, Judy
Diamond, Iris Parker,
Geraldine Reitz, Miriam
Schwartz, Rita Spitzer,
Kristen Sykes-David, Dana
Wayne, Joan & Marv Wayne,
and Sylvia Williams for their
support and kindness.
From: *Ruth Evans*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, with thanks
for being a great rabbi
From: *Nancy Lloyd*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Ellie Lerner (Walnut Creek
CA), in memory of Eugene
Lerner

From: *Fran Levy*
(Carmichael, CA)

COMMEMORATING YAHREZEIT OF:

*My beloved brother,
Fred Graff

*My beloved father,
Isadore Graff

From: *Phyllis Mazur*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Karen Sloss
Stuart & Cinda Zemel

RABBI'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels, for being
such a source of support
during a very difficult time
From: *Samantha Konikoff*

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Josh Greenberg's birthday
From: *Bob & Jane Greenberg*
(Bainbridge Island)

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CONTRIBUTION FROM :

Karen Sloss

MAX GLASS LIBRARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 50th Wedding
Anniversary of my parents,
Joan and Marvin Wayne
From: *Dana Wayne*
(N. Hollywood, CA)

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Solomon family, for their
help during the winter storm
From: *Phyllis Mazur*

David and Carol Robinson,
for their generosity

From: *Steve & Janis Ban*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Anita Meyer – in memory of
her father, Ralph Meyer
From: *Rick & Tracey Levine*

*Samantha Konikoff on the
loss of her father, Stanley
Alper

*Anita Meyer on the loss of
her father, Ralph Oscar
Meyer

From: *Karen Sloss*

Anji Citron & Family – in
memory of her mother,
Elka Fink

From: *Phyllis Mazur*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Larry Hildes

From: *Karen Sloss*

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Marla & Danny
Finkelstein

Karen Sloss

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Purim is a really odd holiday. We chant from a scroll a story that seems more akin to political satire than sacred history. We dress up in costumes, wear masks, and pretend to be who we are not. We eat cookies named after the man who tried to kill us! And some of us feel at liberty to drink so much alcohol that we can't tell the difference between Haman and Mordecai. And yet, according to the rabbis, this is the one holiday we will continue to observe in the world to come.

Over the years I have come to develop a deep appreciation for Purim and now it is definitely one of my favorite Jewish holidays. Aside from its silly and fun customs, deep down it teaches us about the survival of the Jewish people despite the attempts of our enemies to destroy us. Purim is ultimately about the triumph over evil. The story of Esther is also about the human craving for power, and the Jewish

unwillingness to assimilate into secular society. Purim reminds us each year of the dangers of minority status and how hatred of the stranger is prevalent throughout the world.

Lastly, Mordecai and Esther urge us to take moral choices extremely seriously. These are some heavy lessons that are quite relevant today.

In addition to reminding us about all of these points, Purim also cautions us not to take ourselves too seriously. After all, a key part of the holiday is for us to laugh and create a topsy-turvy world for a day. I don't know about you, but I think we could benefit from more lighthearted humor and laughter in our lives. These past several years have been really hard on so many of us, and this is why Purim is just the balm we need to feel a little bit better and brighter. I hope you will join our virtual evening of Purim fun on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30 pm. *Chag Sameach!*

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

KEVIN DONNER AND ANGIE LEE*Continued from Page 8*

“and while I was still figuring things out, Angie moved to Sydney, Australia for medical school,” Kevin said. After two years, he joined her, proposing over dessert at the Sydney Opera House restaurant. After hearing her say “I don’t know,” he enrolled in the Master’s of Professional Writing program at Sydney’s University of Technology, and worked in the cold room at a juice factory.

“I finally agreed to marry Kevin six months later, after considerable thought,” said Angie, who had parental pressure to finish medical school. That was 2004, after 10 years of dating.

Four years later, both of Kevin’s parents were diagnosed with cancer. In 2005, Kevin and Angie moved to Seattle to be nearer to them. Angie settled into her geriatric residency, and Kevin volunteered with the police to aid victims of domestic violence. While Angie was caring for her elderly patients, he drove an unmarked detective car, responding to domestic

trouble. This job helped him realize the luck in his life, he said.

Daughter Lea was born in 2009, the year they moved to Richmond, Indiana. Angie worked as a hospitalist for six years and had a second daughter, Mara, in 2013. They soon felt the call to live near family again, and on October 28, 2014, Lea’s fifth birthday, they landed in Bellingham. Angie now works at PeaceHealth in geriatrics and palliative care.

Kevin called it “the best move of our lives.” It was then that he finally realized how Judaism could fit into his life. He joined Congregation Beth Israel to protect his children from the loneliness he had felt as a child.

“I want them to see CBI as their home and the Jewish community as their family,” he said. Rather than forcing them and creating resentment, he serves as an example to his children by being active, teaching Keshet, now fifth and sixth grades, serving on the Board of Directors, on the Safety and Security Committee, as co-chair of the Facilities, Maintenance, and Management Committee, and until recently, co-chair of the Property and Grounds

Committee. The Korean martial art Kuk Sool Won classes he teaches at the shul are close to his heart. He, Angie and the children enjoy Kuk Sool Won, Angie taking over the class when Kevin has other obligations.

They feel they are a unique family with Jewish, Christian, Chinese, Canadian, and American roots. “We have somehow made this eclectic little family of ours work,” Kevin said.

Angie agreed. “It has been a mish-mash of cultures and trying to find what fits for our family,” she said. “What represents our family best is the *chuppah* we stood under at our wedding. The canopy was Kevin’s *tallis*, which was supported by four lengths of bamboo; both cultures represented at once. We try to continue that to this day.”

CBI co-presents a silent film, accompanied by live music:

The Ancient Law

Sunday, April 3, 1:00 pm

Pickford Film Center,
1318 Bay St, Bellingham

**To pre-purchase tickets (recommended)
and COVID rules:**
www.pickfordfilmcenter.org
(see page 14 for article)

END OF LIFE PLANNING*Continued from Page 5*

their families who wish to explore the use of Washington State’s Death with Dignity Law. She is the co-founder and coordinator of VSED Resources Northwest, a nonprofit that provides information, counsel, and resources about Voluntary Stopping Eating and Drinking, another legal means of hastening death, especially for those people who cannot qualify for Medical Aid in Dying. Nancy will describe and compare these two legal end of life choices

using a prepared presentation, a talk about her experiences of supporting those who have made these choices, and responses to any questions.

Rabbi Samuels will present Reform through Orthodox Jewish views on these options. More information can be found on these websites: www.endoflifewa.org and www.vsedresources.com

3. Adrienne Doucette: Advanced Care Planning-Writing Your Living Will

Sunday, March 27, 2:00-3:00 pm (venue TBD)

Adrienne is an educator, a trained Advance Care Planning facilitator and a Hospice volunteer. Adrienne will guide you through completing your own Advance Healthcare Directive so someone can be prepared to speak for you if you become unable to speak for yourself. You will learn what advance care planning is and why it’s important, about how to select a health care agent, how to express your wishes in a legal document, and then how to share and store it. We will be using the Honoring Choices PNW form, a simple, user-friendly document.

Please visit www.endoflifewa.org to preview the Advance Directive we will be using.

Vermeda M. Fred, MFT, MFA

(415) 518-4321
vmfredo8@gmail.com
Bellingham, WA
Vancouver, BC



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Birthdays

MARCH 2022

3/1 Richard Cavell
 3/1 Tannia Hecht
 3/1 Brenda Miller
 3/2 Ivy Hammerstrom (1st)
 3/2 Nadia Mazonson (17th)
 3/4 Renee Elder
 3/4 Nancy Luster
 3/4 Talya Sanger (21st)
 3/5 Lev Cornwall (16th)
 3/6 Christoph Reitz
 3/6 Mary Somerville
 3/6 Judith Zibbell
 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 (9th)
 3/9 Ryan Goldman (17th)
 3/11 John LaMont
 3/11 Samuel Pomerantz (7th)
 3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley (11th)
 3/13 Carly Benhaim
 3/13 Rebecca Orloff
 3/13 Steve Schwartz
 3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell (20th)
 3/15 Yaniv Attar
 3/15 Esther Horton (10th)
 3/16 Jason Benhaim
 3/18 Jessica Cohen
 3/19 Carol Robinson
 3/20 Jody Meltzer
 3/20 Matthew Schall
 3/21 Naomi Pomerantz

3/21 Bonnie Quam
 3/22 Jonah Attar (12th)
 3/22 Sonorah DesRosiers (14th)
 3/22 Sue Mahar
 3/22 Roy Shankman
 3/23 Camille Keefe
 3/23 Jerome Rosen
 3/24 Ruth Ingberman
 3/24 Michael Korner
 3/25 Tami DuBow
 3/26 Jonathan Mayers
 3/27 Marybeth Taranow
 3/27 Aviva Weinstein (15th)
 3/28 Eileen Miller
 3/28 Nancy Thomson
 3/29 Rick Romito
 3/30 David Kiersky
 3/30 Samantha Konikoff
 3/30 Niilo Witter McGarrity (2nd)
 3/31 Lynn Korner
 3/31 Jeffrey Margolis
 3/31 Gabriel Witte (13th)

APRIL 2022

4/1 Amy Kraham
 4/3 Ethan Oliver (20th)
 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 Steven Cohen
 4/7 Samuel Donner (15th)

4/7 Kevin Parker
 4/10 Katie Comstock
 4/10 Jeffrey Feld
 4/10 Susan Katz
 4/11 Lilah Blum (21st)
 4/12 Cora Boothby
 4/12 Sarah DesRosiers
 4/13 Steve Ban
 4/13 Karen Fisher
 4/14 Jeffrey Probst
 4/15 Gabriel Burkill (1st)
 4/16 Mia Clarke (16th)
 4/16 Elizabeth Witte (10th)
 4/17 Paul Blum
 4/17 Benjamin Sommers (16th)
 4/18 Navah DesRosiers (17th)
 4/18 Ian Horton
 4/18 Liza Jane Price (14th)
 4/18 Linda Read
 4/18 Ruby Simon (13th)
 4/18 Alexandra Verkh
 4/19 Orly Ravitsky
 4/23 Lindsay Roberts (12th)
 4/24 Leah Lippman
 4/24 Aniel Wells-Langley (13th)
 4/25 Margaret Bikman
 4/25 Ian McCurdy
 4/25 Jason Stoane
 4/26 Spencer Jantzen (17th)
 4/27 Philip Wolff
 4/28 Joel David
 4/28 Andrew Orloff
 4/28 Katlaina Rayne
 4/28 Shoshana Samuels (10th)
 4/29 Abigail Comstock (14th)
 4/29 Richard Widerkehr



Kulshan Chorus at CBI

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Richard Simon**, daughter **Ruby** (age 13 in April) and son **Jesse** (age 9) – Bellingham
- **Terrah 'Maayan Lior' Short** – Bellingham



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Movie is Ancient, but Family Drama is Eternal

CBI and The Pickford co-presenting *The Ancient Law* on April 3

BY EMILY WEINER

A teenager wants to pursue a career in the arts, but his parents insist he choose a traditional career. They argue. He goes off on his own. His parents have to deal with the new person he has become.

Sound familiar? Have you been the child in this scenario? Or a parent?

One hundred years ago, a German-Jewish filmmaker, E. A. Dupont, created *The Ancient Law*, a black-and-white silent film about the fictional character Baruch, son of a *shtetl* rabbi. Baruch wants to be an actor. The film portrays how Baruch leaves home against his father's edict, how Baruch handles the different culture he encounters in Vienna of the 1860s, and how his family responds to his transformation.

On Sunday, April 3, at 1:00 pm, Congregation Beth Israel is co-presenting *The Ancient Law* with The Pickford Film Center, in a single showing that will feature live music by violinist Alicia Svigals and pianist Donald Sosin. Their score starts out evoking the sounds and spirit of the Jewish *shtetl* through *nigunim*, or wordless Hasidic songs that fiddlers have been playing for centuries and that are the basis of Klezmer music. Once Baruch ventures into Vienna, the score pivots to the classical aesthetic of the silent film era.

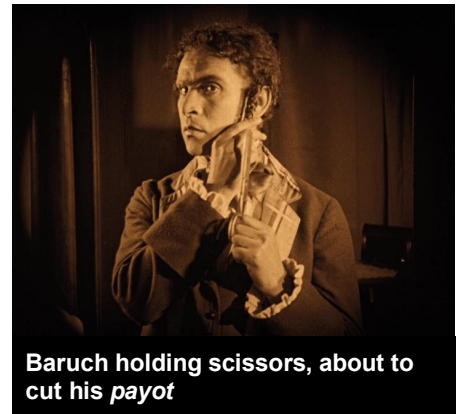
Svigals and Sosin are performing with *The Ancient Law* all over North America and Europe at major venues, including Vancouver the day before the Pickford showing and in Seattle the day after.

The original German version of *The Ancient Law* has been lost. The film we will see was re-constructed through a complex labor-intensive digital process that combined ver-

sions in five other languages found in archives. Censorship cards that resurfaced in 1990 provided the original wording of the German intertitles as well as the structure and sequence of the scenes.

I have previewed *The Ancient Law* and found it to be a lovely film about the tension between tradition and modernity. I identified with the fledgling young Jewish actor: My mother, too, refused to watch my professional acting debut because she didn't approve of the play's subject.

The Ancient Law depicts conflicts of assimilation. The *shtetl* life of many of our ancestors comes alive, as well as the lure of the sophisticated cities that many migrated to. On April 3, CBI members and the broader community will have an enjoyable and rare chance to visit a lost world.



Baruch holding scissors, about to cut his *payot*

Save the Dates for This Summer:

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

An eight-week course with Rabbi Jay Shupack of Temple Shalom in Yakima, WA

Tuesdays, July 12-August 30 at Congregation Beth Israel

Cost and time of the event to be announced in the *Timbrel*

Scholarships will be available

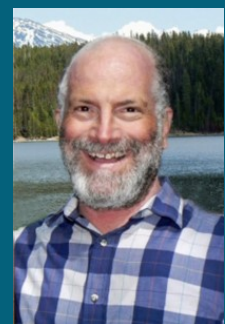
Culture - Beliefs - History - Tradition

includes Music and Humor

Join us for an engaging, often surprising journey from Patriarchs to Prophets as we study the ways these

two religions are intimately linked, sometimes in brotherhood, sometimes in bloodshed.

Rabbi Jay was the spiritual leader of Congregation Shalom Bayit in Bend, Oregon for 20 years and currently is the resident Rabbi of Temple Shalom in Central Washington. He has taught this class at numerous synagogues and churches in Oregon and Washington. For more information, please contact: judyshupack@gmail.com



Yahrzeits

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

Friday, March 4

Henry Edwards	3/6
Fred Fragner	3/7
Barton Frank	3/7
Luise Wikes	3/7
Carole Bajema	3/8
Leon Baron	3/8
Archie Fine	3/9
Floyd Pritchett	3/10
Karen Weill	3/10
Monica Zderic	3/10
Robert W. Lippman	3/11

Friday, March 11

Jessie Edinger	3/4
Thomas Josiah Boothby	3/12
Esther Redel	3/13
Corey Skelton	3/13
Victoria Goldstein	3/14
Max Lazarus	3/14
Irwin Weiner	3/14
Paul Zentner	3/14
Charles Blackwell	3/15
Marcia Landau	3/15
Gea Goldfeder	3/16
Elsa Zentner	3/16

Friday, March 18

Harry Skinner	3/19
Judith Goldstein Zibbell	3/19
Saul Faber	3/20
Mabel Berman	3/21
Raymond DeVries	3/22
Nathan Landau	3/23
Norma Soode	3/23
Anna Kushner	3/24
Sol L. Shure	3/24
Ben Zderic	3/24
Felicia Elizabeth Romito	3/25
Elaine Fox Suloway	3/25

Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26

Marjorie J. Hanley	3/26
June Krauzer Mazonson	3/26
Ezidor Levin	3/27
Herbert Sulkin	3/27
Myron Fink	3/28
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz	3/28
Dorothy Brody	3/30
Helen Sharfstein	3/30
Gordon Eli Stolzoff	3/30
Esther Katz	4/1
Frank McKelvey	4/1

Friday, April 1

Amy Louisa Blank	4/2
Norma Edwards	4/2
Leila Fallet	4/2
Norman Fallet	4/2
Beatrice Lazaroff	4/2
Loren Lund	4/2

Louis Sloss	4/2
Joyce Zvenia	4/2
Robert Korner	4/3
Debbie Raas	4/3
Jimmy Goldstein	4/4
Leonard Price	4/4
Megan Guppy	4/5
Manfred Vernon	4/5
Barry Evans	4/6
William A. Gordon	4/6
Lou Mazel	4/6
Curt Jay Alper	4/7
Naomi Stone	4/7
Fred Oscar Wigren	4/7
Max Wolfman	4/8

Friday, April 8

Naomi Lazarus Barnes	4/9
Arnold Behrstock	4/9
David Benjamin Miller	4/9
Fred Heller	4/10
Leah Rachel Shapiro	4/11
Justin Scharff	4/12
Lois Oksenberg	4/13
Marcelo Lindner	4/14
Michael Tabak	4/14
Yocheved Katz Zimmerman	4/14
Jean Cheever	4/15
Burl Ives	4/15
Ray Schapiro	4/15
Max Swartz	4/15

Friday, April 15

Dorothy M. Fine	4/16
Jennie Shuster	4/16
Arthur Feld	4/17
Glen Myers	4/17
Harry M. Eisner	4/18

Sue Ohms	4/18
Arnold Somers	4/18
Morris Fischel	4/20
Dennis Scharff	4/20
Jack Mazur	4/21
Benjamin Shapiro	4/21
David Alper	4/22
Esther Suloway	4/22
Hy Zimmerman	4/22

Friday, April 22

Emanuel M. Lindheimer	4/24
Joanne M. Lund	4/24
Akiva Schoen	4/24
Violet Shaw	4/25
Ronald King	4/26
Samuel Midwood	4/26
Ethel Berger	4/27
The Fragner Family	4/28
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	4/28
Selma Lebovich	4/28

Friday, April 29

Leila Shavelson	4/30
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	4/30
Leonard Halpern	5/1
Thelma Weiner	5/2
ErmaFlora Haughawout Boothby	5/3
Etta Fine	5/3
Frederick S. (Rabbi) Gartner	5/3
Edward Stone	5/3
Rose Sondik	5/4
William Deas	5/5
Naomi Krauzer Feinberg	5/5
Karleene Press	5/5
Jeanne Schwartz	5/5
Eliezer Strich	5/5

In Memoriam

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

We mourn the passing of two members of the Beth Israel family, and offer heartfelt condolences to their loved ones:

Elka Fink, who died peacefully at home in Bellingham on February 12, 2022. She was 93 years old. A long-time member of Beth Israel, she and her husband Myron (z"l) moved to Bellingham 27 years ago from Albuquerque, NM to be near their daughter and grandchildren. Elka was involved with the Care Committee, and coordinated the monthly meetings of the Golden Girls Lunch Bunch for many years. Her surviving family includes Paul, Anji (Todd), Julia (Kareem), Ezra, Noah (Rachel), and Jasper.

Harold Katz, who passed away peacefully on February 14, 2022 at his home in Arizona, where he had been living part-time for several years. He was 80 years old. He is survived by Susan, his wife of 54 years, daughters Elkah and Deborah, and grandchildren Jenny, Lindsay, Miriam, and Dustin.

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to Victoria Mayers on the loss of her step-grandfather, **John Miller**, who passed away on December 29, 2021 in his Bellingham home when it caught fire due to electrical problems. He was the husband of Victoria's maternal grandmother, Luella Mae, who passed away on June 27, 2021 at the age of 100.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

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Purim Celebration

Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 pm

Purim is a day of joy. On it, we read the *Megillah* (scroll) of Esther, which tells the story of Jewish survival in the face of our foes. Join

us virtually this year (with a drink and *hamentashen* on hand) for our annual *Megillah* reading, performed by your friends at CBI.

There will also be a “choose your own adventure” *shpiel* made for our virtual celebration.

